

[REDACTED]

Below is a summary of interview of [REDACTED] Science Party, conducted by the AIM informal board on August 22, 2006 concerning the diving incident which resulted in two deaths on August 17, 2006. AIM board member present at the interview was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that he is a Russian scientist and is involved with the sediment study aboard HEALY. He spent the morning of 17 August working on a project collecting samples from coolers placed on the ice. He reported that it had been a terrific day both weather and science wise. He had hoped to continue to collect samples, but did not object when the idea of ice liberty surfaced.

He said that when he got to the ice, some of the other scientists joked about starting a polar bear swim. [REDACTED] said it didn't seem like a great idea at first, but after a couple of beers he warmed up to the idea. He was the first to jump into the open water area, later used by the divers. He said he was in the water for about a second, before jumping out and toweling off. Other scientists and crew members later followed. They borrowed a spool of line from the divers.

[REDACTED] said that he was curious about the dive operation, and decided to watch. It was taking a long time so he went back onboard. Later, while walking down the passageway, he saw people running and shouting to each other and thought that there might be an emergency on the ice.

[REDACTED] is a graduate of a mountain rescue school in the former Soviet Union, and worked mountain rescue for many years. He said he has extensive trauma experience, and was certified in CPR in 1985. He went to aid what he learned were injured divers.

He followed LT HILL and BM2 DUQUE to sickbay, where they were being taken by stretcher. He heard that there was a re-compression chamber in the hanger, and went to find it with some crewmembers. They brought the chamber to sickbay. Once in sickbay he began administering CPR to BM2 DUQUE. He said he was disappointed with the lack of a medical evacuation plan, or any plan at all. He described the medical operation as personnel working hard, but it was disorganized.

He said it seemed there was very little trauma training, and even less equipment. There was no adequate recompression chamber and they were too far from any real help. The crew and scientists did the best with what they had, given the circumstances. After an hour of CPR, it was eventually determined that there was little anyone could do. The divers were pronounced dead.