



OFFENSE REPORT  
MCSO07OFF002362

MONROE COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE  
Printed On: 03/26/2007 @ 10:50

Hgt Wgt Eyes Hair I.D. No. St Type  
5'10" 0 BRO BRO S81266946309512 NJ

Residence: **Within country**

Victim/Offender Relationship: Offender Known To Victim: No

Extent of Injury: **Terminal** Verify For Rape Exam: **No** Treated For Rape Injury: **No**

General Appearance:

Demeanor:

Clothing:

Clothing Description:

Probable Destination:

Birth Location: City: County: State: Nation: Citizenship:

Addresses:

149 HARRISON AVE. Apt/Lot: WESTFIELD NJ 07090 Phone: 908-232-4783 Entered: 3/20/2007

Occupation:

\* none found in MNI \*

[ V / VICTIM ]

MNI ID: MCSO07MNI005208

[ SSN : ]

Last First Middle Title H R S DOB Age  
COUGHLIN KEVIN N W M 07/19/1955 51

Hgt Wgt Eyes Hair I.D. No. St Type  
0

Residence: **Within country**

Status: Victim On ALL Offenses

Victim/Offender Relationship: Offender Known To Victim: No

Extent of Injury: **Terminal** Verify For Rape Exam: **No** Treated For Rape Injury: **No**

General Appearance:

Demeanor:

Clothing:

Clothing Description:

Probable Destination:

Birth Location: City: County: State: Nation: Citizenship:

Addresses:

171 HILLSIDE AVE. CHATTUM NJ 07928 Phone: 973-879-9265 Entered: 3/19/2007

Occupation:

\* none found in MNI \*

[ WA / WITNESS ]

MNI ID: MCSO07MNI005361

[ SSN : ]

Last First Middle Title H R S DOB Age  
CIANCULLI MARK N W M 09/28/1971 35

Hgt Wgt Eyes Hair I.D. No. St Type  
5'06" 145 BRO BRO

Residence: **Within jurisdiction**

Extent of Injury: **N/A** Verify For Rape Exam: **No** Treated For Rape Injury: **No**

General Appearance:

Demeanor:

Clothing:

Clothing Description:

Probable Destination:

**OFFENSE REPORT**  
**MCSO07OFF002362**

**MONROE COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE**  
Printed On: **03/26/2007 @ 10:50**

Birth Location: City: County: State: Nation: Citizenship:

Addresses:

63 BAHAMA AVE. KEY LARGO FL 33037 Phone: 305-587-9844 Entered: 3/20/2007

Occupation:

\* none found in MNI \*

[WB/WITNESS]

MNI ID: MCSO78MNI259962

[ SSN : - - ]

Last	First	Middle	Title	H	R	S	DOB	Age
MCCOUN	SCOTT	M		N	W	M	07/09/1976	30
Hgt	Wgt	Eyes	Hair	I.D. No.	St	Type		
0'00	0							

Residence: **Within jurisdiction**

Extent of Injury: N/A

Verify For Rape Exam: **No** Treated For Rape Injury: **No**

General Appearance:

Demeanor:

Clothing:

Clothing Description:

Probable Destination:

Birth Location: City: County: State: Nation: Citizenship:

Addresses:

56 SE MARLIN AVE KEY LARGO FL 33037 Phone: 305-453-0823 Entered: 7/14/2003

Occupation:

Business: REEF ADVENTURES, Job Title: DIVE MASTER, Phone: (305)942-6223 Entered: 7/14/2003

Suite:

**CHARGES/OFFENSES**

Statute: **406.11.1a** Counts : **1** UCR: **9000** NCIC :

Charge : **DEATH INVESTIGATION**

Desc : **AUTH TO INVESTIGATE A DEATH**

General Offense Code... (GOC) : **N Not Applicable**

Arrest Charge Level.....(ACL) :

Arrest Charge Degree...(ACD) :

Arrest Offense Number.(AON) :

**OFFENSE REPORT**  
**MCSO07OFF002362**

**MONROE COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE**  
 Printed On: **03/26/2007 @ 10:50**

Weapon  
 Location Category  
 Location Type  
 Location Description  
 Location Status  
 Number of Premises Burglarized **0**  
 Target  
 Entry Method  
 Point of Entry (POE)  
 POE Visible From  
 Point of Exit  
 Suspect Actions  
 Circumstances  
 Weather  
 Lighting Condition  
 Security Used  
 Crime Scene? : **No**  
 If NO, Explain :  
 Crime Scene Officer:  
 Physical Evidence Collected: **0**

PROPERTY ITEMS [ S ]=Stolen [ \* ]=Stolen/Recovered [ M ]=Missing [ L ]=Lost [ D ]=Damaged/Destroyed  
 [ F ]=Found [ Z ]=Seized [ C ]=Counterfeited/Forged [ U ]=Unknown

Code	Article	Description	Serial No.
<b>F</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>SUNGLASSES</b>	
Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code
	<b>MAUI JIM</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	
			Owner Applied Number
			<b>1</b>
			Quantity

Code	Article	Description	Serial No.
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>SCUBA REGULATOR W/SUUNTO COMPUTER</b>	<b>203282</b>
Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code
	<b>POSEIDON</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	
			Owner Applied Number
			<b>1</b>
			Quantity

Code	Article	Description	Serial No.
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>DIVE MASK</b>	
Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code
	<b>OCEAN MASTER</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	
			Owner Applied Number
			<b>1</b>
			Quantity

Code	Article	Description	Serial No.
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>BOUANCY COMPENSATOR</b>	
Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code
<b>CHUTE 3</b>	<b>OCEANIC</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	
			Owner Applied Number
			<b>1</b>
			Quantity

Code	Article	Description	Serial No.
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>SCUBA TANK AND REGULATORS</b>	<b>2201310</b>
Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code
<b>DELTA 3 &amp; ALPHOCEANIC</b>		<b>\$600.00</b>	
			Owner Applied Number
			<b>1</b>
			Quantity

Code	Article	Description	Serial No.
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>DIVE FINS "BLADES"</b>	
Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code
	<b>US DIVERS</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	
			Owner Applied Number
			<b>2</b>
			Quantity

Code	Article	Description	Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
<b>F</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>VERIZON CELL PHONE</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
<b>V325</b>	<b>MOTOROLA</b>		<b>\$200.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>1 WEIGHT BELT &amp; 2 6LB. WEIGHTS</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
			<b>\$20.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>RED DUFFEL BAG (STANLEY)</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
			<b>\$50.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>SCUBA REGULATOR INSIDE MESH BAG</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
<b>MISTRAL</b>	<b>AQUALUNG</b>		<b>\$300.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>CLEAR PLASTIC GEAR BAG</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
	<b>AKONA</b>		<b>\$25.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>MESH BAG CONT. MASK, SHOES, MISC. ITEM</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
			<b>\$100.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>SCUBA TANK AND REGULATOR</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
<b>DELTA 3</b>	<b>OCEANIC</b>		<b>\$200.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>U/W STROBE LIGHTS</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
			<b>\$60.00</b>			<b>2</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>DIVE FINS</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
<b>BLADE</b>	<b>US DIVER</b>		<b>\$60.00</b>			
<b>F</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>SUITCASE CONT. MISC. CLOTHING (STANLE</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
	<b>AMERICAN TOURI</b>		<b>\$150.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>BACKPACK CONT. EYEGLASSES, MISC. ITEM</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
	<b>EASTPACK</b>		<b>\$50.00</b>			<b>1</b>

<b>F</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>LEATHER WALLET W/ MISC. CARDS (COUGL</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
			<b>\$30.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>COMPUTER EQUIP</b>	<b>BLACKBERRY PHONE W/ EAR MIC</b>			<b>PRD-07109-002</b>	
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
			<b>\$300.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>SCUBA TANK AND REGULATOR</b>			<b>0001222140</b>	
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
<b>DELTA 3</b>	<b>OCEANIC</b>		<b>\$200.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>SCUBA TANK</b>			<b>P437417</b>	
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
	<b>LUXFER</b>		<b>\$100.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>GEAR BAG W/ MISC. CLOTHING (COUGHLIN</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
	<b>AKONA</b>		<b>\$200.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>N.J. DRIV. LIC. FOR STANLEY</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
			<b>\$1.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>SCUBA TANK AND REGULATOR</b>			<b>0098EN250</b>	
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
<b>TX50</b>	<b>APEKS</b>		<b>\$200.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>SCUBA TANK</b>			<b>P632747L</b>	
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
<b>80 C/F</b>	<b>LUXFER</b>		<b>\$100.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>BLACK NYLON DUFFEL BAG (COUGHLIN)</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
			<b>\$50.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>SPORTS EQUIPMEI</b>	<b>DIVE MASK</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
	<b>SCUBA OPTICS</b>		<b>\$40.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>N.J. DRIV. LIC. FOR COUGHLIN</b>				
Model No.	Brand		Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
			<b>\$1.00</b>			<b>1</b>
Code	Article	Description			Serial No.	

Code	Article	Description	Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
E	SPORTS EQUIPMEI	DIVE COMPUTERS				
	Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
	VERSA-PRO	OCEANIC	\$400.00			2
F	MISCELLANEOUS	N.J. DRIV. LIC. FOR WALSWEEER				
	Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
			\$1.00			1
E	SPORTS EQUIPMEI	DIVE KNIFE				
	Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
		OCEANIC	\$30.00			1
F	CURRENCY/NEGO	CASH FROM COUGHLIN'S PROPERTY				
	Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
			\$8.00			
E	SPORTS EQUIPMEI	SCUBA REGULATOR W/ OCEANIC COMPUTE				
	Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
		POSEIDON	\$500.00			1
F	MISCELLANEOUS	BLUE PLASTIC BOX CONT. C/CARDS FOR WA				
	Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
		OTTER	\$15.00			1
F	COMPUTER EQUIP	PALM PILOT IN PLASTIC CASE				
	Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
		VERIZON	\$300.00			1
E	SPORTS EQUIPMEI	BLACK DIVE GLOVES				
	Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
			\$20.00			1
F	SPORTS EQUIPMEI	BLACK DIVE BAG				
	Model No.	Brand	Value	NCIC Code	Owner Applied Number	Quantity
		AQUALUNG	\$30.00			1
<b>TOTALS - S: \$0.00 *: \$0.00 M: \$0.00 L: \$0.00</b>						
<b>D: \$0.00 F: \$1,841.00 Z: \$0.00</b>						

< NARRATIVE >

DATE	TIME	TYPE	OFFICER REPORTING	CALL #	REP TAKER	EDIT DATE	EDIT TIME
3/19/2007	08:43	INITIAL	SMITH, TERRY L	S461	S8451	3/21/2007	09:38

CAD INCIDENT DISPOSITION CODE: [55-2] [ R ] [ 2-1 ] [ 0 ]

03-19-07  
07off002362

07off002362

Death Investigation (SCUBA Related)

On 03-16-07 I received a telephone call from Sgt. Mixon in reference to a SCUBA diving accident victim that was being brought to shore by the United States Coast Guard. The Coast Guard was bringing the victim, Kevin Coughlin, to the homeowner's park in Port Largo. Sgt. Mixon was at the park waiting for them to arrive. The victim was found unconscious and not breathing underwater on the Spiegel Grove dive site. He had been diving from the dive boat Scuba-Do and had been brought to the surface by two divers from another dive boat. I responded to the park.

Upon arrival I met with Sgt. Mixon and learned that Mr. Coughlin had been taken to Mariner's Hospital in Tavernier. Mr. Coughlin's dive gear had been secured by Sgt. Mixon. I took custody of the dive gear. It was placed in my car and documented on MCSO Property Receipt #'s 110139 and 110140. I contacted Det. Coleman who was in the area of Mariner's Hospital. He responded to Mariner's. We began receiving information that Mr. Coughlin was in a party of four diver's that had been on the Spiegel Grove diving together. One diver, later identified as Howard Spialter, was on the surface and accounted for. Two divers were still missing. The Sheriff's Office, FWC and The United States Coast Guard had surface vessels on the scene attempting to locate the divers. The dive boat Scuba-Do was still on the scene. I then responded to Mariner's Hospital to relieve Det. Coleman as he was organizing The Monroe County Sheriff's Dive Team to respond if needed.

While at Mariner's I received a telephone call from MCSO Dispatch advising that FWC had called and the dive boat Scuba-Do was returning to the dock with the surviving diver, Mr. Spialter. Det. Coloeman, dive team member Dep. Higgins and I responded to the Ocean Diver's dock at the 100 mile marker to meet the boat. After the boat docked I made contact with Mr. Spialter, he was visible upset but agreed to speak with me. Mr. Spialter stated that he and his friends had made previous dives on the Spiegel Grove and were familiar with the dive. On this dive they were using a 28% to 29% Nitrox mix in their SCUBA tanks. They had dove the wreck twice on the previous day and had dove there during past visits to the Keys. They had used mooring ball SP #5 during this dive and descended to the port side crane area of the wreck. He said that they did not have a set plan for the dive. He also told me that on previous dives they would split into pairs but on this dive they dove all four together. This was the first time that the four of them stayed in a group. They entered the ship through a hatch below the crane area on the port side. They used stage bottles to descend to the ship and then switched to their main tanks on their backs after entering the ship. The stage bottles were left in the first area they entered. He stated that they moved down into the ship two the three levels and then entered a passageway that crossed the ship below the well deck. They crossed over to the starboard side and entered an area he described as the pump room. They had line reels with them but they used permanent lines that had been previously placed by other divers. They also placed strobe lights at various places during their entry into the ship as a guide for their exit. After reaching the pump room area, Mr. Spialter told me they separated and the other three divers moved forward down a passage and he lost sight of them for a period of time. He then saw them returning to the area were he was located. The visibility was initially good but with the four of them in the confined area the silt began to stir up and visibility became poor. Mr. Spialter stated that it became crowded in the area where they were. As he was starting to run low on air he moved past the other divers and found the hatch they needed to use to return to where their stage bottles were located. He descended through the hatch and waited for the others to follow. When they did not follow him he returned to the hatch and saw a gloved hand come through the hatch. He grabbed the hand and tugged on it in an effort to get them to follow him. He said the person pulled away but did not descend through the hatch. Mr. Spialter waited as long as he could then left the area crossing back through the passageway to the port side of the ship. After reaching his stage bottle he was undecided if he should try and take the other stage bottles to his friends. He was concerned that if he missed seeing them along the way they may reach the area expecting to find the stage bottles and then be out of air because he had moved the bottles. He decided to return to the surface and alert the dive boat captain that his friends were in trouble and needed help. He returned to the boat long enough to alert the captain but then had to descend back into the water to complete a decompression stop for his own safety.

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3/20/2007 14:47 SUPPLEMENT COLEMAN, MARK S462 S8179 3/23/2007 09:44  
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On 03-16-07 at approximately 1015 hours, while in the Special Operations Office, I was notified by U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Andrew Babione of a search for three missing divers at the Spiegel Grove wreck-site, offshore Key Largo. USCG was commencing a search. Within several minutes, I was advised that two divers had surfaced with an unconscious diver, who required medical attention. It was initially believed that these were the three missing divers, then discovered that the two divers who brought the unconscious diver to the surface

surface were actually from another vessel. USCG personnel transported the unconscious diver to shore where an ambulance transported him to Mariner's Hospital. During this time, Det. T. Smith responded to the Port Largo Park to retrieve the diver's equipment. The unconscious diver, identified through the charter boat records and by his New Jersey drivers license as Kevin M. Coughlin, d.o.b. 07-19-55, was pronounced deceased upon arrival at Mariner's Hospital at 11:50 am, by Dr. Horowitz. USCG Officer Babione confirmed that there still two divers missing believed to be inside the sunken ship.

The Spiegel Grove is a 510-foot Navy Landing ship that was scuttled and intentionally sunk as an artificial reef in 2002. The bottom depth is 130 feet; however, the wash-out in the sand around it reaches approximately 138 feet. Excluding the well-deck, the interior section of the ship below the main deck was not intended for diver entry due to the extreme dangers of disorientation, lack of ambient light, and entanglement hazards. During the past few years, divers have removed closed hatches to access these interior sections.

I began making notifications to Dive Team members to prepare for a search and recovery operation. Sgt. Dally and Capt. Thomson were made aware of the situation. While enroute, I contacted Officer C. Mattson of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) who was responding to the scene by water, and requested that officers with the surviving diver, later identified as Howard Spialter, interview him for information on the missing divers last seen location and intended route in the ship. While enroute, I spoke with Capt. Rob Bleser of Key Largo Volunteer Fire Department's Water Emergency Team and he was organizing a search of the ship for the missing divers. I advised him that MCSO Dive Team members would also be responding as well. It was learned at the time that the missing divers had chartered the "Scuba-Do" vessel out of Key Largo and that they, along with the Mr. Spialter, were the only divers aboard the Scuba-Do, which remained at the scene. The deceased diver already recovered, Mr. Coughlin, had been brought to the surface by two scuba instructors from a vessel operated by Capt. Slate's Atlantis Dive Center. I also learned that CPR was performed on Coughlin by crew members on an Ocean Divers Charter vessel.

I notified Medical Examiner Investigator Mike Bates of the incident, and arrived at Mariner's Hospital at 1220 hours to conduct the death investigation. I examined the decedent, Mr. Coughlin, and noted that he was wearing a black wetsuit which had been partially cut away to allow medical intervention. He was intubated for oxygen delivery, had a defibrillator pad on the right side of his chest, another on his left side, and four EKG pads placed about his upper body. Rigor Mortis was beginning in the extremities and Livor Mortis was just beginning to be evident. I obtained photographs of the decedent and updated Medical Examiner Investigator Mike Bates, who arranged for CST Gary McCullough to retrieve the decedent for the Medical Examiner's Investigator. I contacted dispatch and asked that they send a teletype to Chatham, New Jersey requesting notification of the decedent's next of kin (unknown at the time).

Det. Smith met with me at Mariner's Hospital and after completing the initial death investigation, we responded to the dive boat docks at 522 Caribbean Drive in Key Largo, where the Scuba-Do was returning. I notified USCG Investigator Jeff Manion that the charter boat was returning and he was enroute as well.

Det. Smith contacted the surviving diver, Mr. Spialter, and began interviewing him at the Scuba-Do dock. Deputy W. Higgins arrived and assisted with the investigation. USCG Investigator Manion obtained written statements from the Scuba-Do's Captain, Mark Cianculli, and divemaster/mate, Scott McCoun. Mr. Spialter appeared distraught over the loss of his friends. During the interview with Mr. Spialter, I asked about their dive plan, and he replied that they didn't have one. Mr. Spialter stated that he and his three acquaintances, Kevin Coughlin, Jonathan Walsweer, and Scott Stanley, descended to the wreck with stage bottles (extra tanks) and placed them, along with strobe lights, at the entrance where they entered the ship. He described this as a hatch on the port side. Carrying a single 80 cubic-foot tank each as their air supply, they descended to the interior to find the pump room at then realized that they were lost. When asked if they had used line reels, Spialter stated no, that there were other existing lines that they followed. He realized that his air supply was low, and tried to signal the other divers to follow him as he believed he knew the way out. Spialter grasped one of the other divers, trying to motion him to follow; however, the other divers moved in the opposite direction. Spialter then continued in his direction and ultimately made his way to the stage bottles at the entrance. He thought about taking the stage bottles back to the area where he last saw his friends, but was concerned that they might make it back through another route and find that the extra tanks weren't there. He then ascended to the dive boat, yelling to the crew that his three friends were lost within the ship. Spialter stated that he then descended to 20 feet to decompress. He checked his computer and gave his total bottom time of 52 minutes, of which includes his

nine or ten minute decompression time after surfacing.

Mr. Spialter emphasized that they are experienced divers and had made two dives on the Spiegel Grove during the previous day (03-15-07), with the last dive ending at about 4:45 pm. According to Spialter, their Nitrox dive tanks were provided by the Scuba-Do Dive Charter. Spialter and his friends checked the air with an oxygen analyzer, noting that their dive tanks had between 28 and 29 percent oxygen. Spialter did not complain of experiencing any symptoms of air contamination while at depth. After the interview, he appeared clearly distraught and mentioned the need to talk to someone. I then contacted dispatch and requested a that a Victim Advocate respond. Within several minutes, V/A Sally Crawford arrived to assist Mr. Spialter.

After gaining this information, I met with KLVFD Dive Team leader, Rob Bleser, to plan a recovery operation. His dive team members wished to work on the recovery, with the understanding that they would not be directed by MCSO to do so, and that their efforts were voluntary. It was determined that the amount of time required to plan and organize the recovery, the operation should be conducted on the following morning. I then contacted USCG asking for assistance in protecting the site, which was closed to civilians until the operation was complete.

After obtaining the necessary information on the missing divers, I contacted dispatch and asked that teletypes be sent to Westfield, New Jersey, requesting notifications to their next of kin of the situation. I provided my cell phone number for the families of the decedents to contact me. Throughout the evening, I received calls from relatives and friends of the missing divers, and assured each that the search was continuing early the next morning.

On 03-17-07 at 0700 hours, MCSO dive team members Dep. W. Higgins, Dep. N. Sanchez, Reserve Sgt. Bob Jason, Auxiliary Support Bob Guhl, and I attended a briefing at Quiescence Dive Center in Key Largo. The briefing included personnel from KLVFD, FWC, NOAA, Monroe County Marine Resources, and various civilian divers experienced in wreck penetration. The operation was divided into six phases in which the original team (Jason Nunn and Steve Campbell) would follow the line they had left upon finding the deceased divers, access one of the divers, remove his tank & regulator to facilitate transport through the narrow passageways, and move the decedent horizontally to a pre-designated location at the port side of the ship. This team would then surface to avoid decompression problems while a second team would enter the ship to the point of the victim diver, transfer him vertically to the open room where they had originally entered, then surface to avoid decompression problems. The third team, consisting of three MCSO Dive Team members, would then descend to the victim diver, video and photograph the decedent for evidence, then secure the decedent in a body bag. MCSO divers would then use a lift bag to bring the decedent to the surface. This operation was predicted to take place throughout the morning. After a three-hour surface interval, the operation would be duplicated during the afternoon to recover the second victim diver.

MCSO Dive Team members were transported to the scene by Deputy Lee Cowart and Deputy Sever Hustad aboard each of the MCSO 25' patrol vessels. Seas were in the 2' to 4' range, choppy, but smaller than predicted. The wind, blowing from the northwest at 20 to 25 knots early, calmed to 15 knots by 1100, then down to 10 to 12 knots by 1200 hours. Underwater visibility outside the ship was an estimated 80' with very little current.

The recovery operation was conducted as planned, with the first decedent brought to the surface at 1150 hours by Reserves Bob Jason and Bob Guhl. Dep. Sanchez video-taped the recovery underwater. The decedent's buoyancy control device and wetsuit were left on the body, and the weight belt was removed, then secured around the body bag. The body bag was temporarily placed on the dive platform of the Island Ventures before being transferred to an FWC vessel. FWC then transported the decedent to USCG Islamorada. The second recovery was conducted as the first, with the second decedent brought to the surface at 1545 hours by Reserves Bob Jason and Bob Guhl. I video-taped the second recovery, and the footage has been saved on DVD for evidence. The second decedent recovered wore a dive mask, BCD, and wetsuit. His weight belt was removed and secured around the body bag, and was transferred just as the first. Both decedents were turned over to the Medical Examiner's Office.

A team of KLVFD volunteer divers then entered the wreck and recovered the decedent's tanks and regulators. The decedent's dive equipment is to be turned over to Bob Jason and will be analyzed. The video footage and photographs are being retained for evidence.

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The investigation of the three fatalities to this point has established the following:

- The divers various levels of experience and at least two were instructors.
- It is unknown if either had certification or experience in cave diving.
- Each diver made his own decision to enter the wreck.
- Line reels were carried but not used.
- Each diver carried only a single 80 c/f tank into the wreck, being well aware of the depth prior to penetrating.
- An organized dive plan was not activated prior to the dive.

After the recovery operation I contacted Scott Stanley's wife, Mary-Ann Stanley (908-232-4283), and son, David Stanley (908-377-3347), informing them of the recovery. I also contacted Jon Walsweer's Stepfather, Sam Muscanero (908-233-0869), advising him of the recovery. I provided family members with contact information for the Medical Examiner's Office. I spoke with Mr. Spialter, advising him as well, and he advised that he would be flying back to New Jersey and did not know what to do with his deceased friends' property. I advised Mr. Spialter that I would meet with him during the following morning and retrieve the property for safekeeping.

On 03-18-07 at 1000 hours, I met with Mr. Spialter at the Key Largo Suites Hotel, 201 Ocean Drive, Key Largo, and secured luggage and clothing bags belonging to Stanley, Walsweer, and Coughlin. This property is logged into MCSO on property receipts 110142 and 110138. Other property from the decedents is logged on P.R.s 110098, 110231, 110099.

On 03-18-07, I faxed copies of the decedents' drivers licenses (for photo I.D.) to the Medical Examiner's Office. On 03-19-07, I scanned the D.L.s and e-mailed them to the M.E. Preliminary findings show that each of the three fatalities were due to saltwater drowning.

Written statements are being obtained from the divers who discovered the decedents. Case pending the Medical Examiner's investigation.

< END OF NARRATIVE >

Offense Status <b>Pending</b>	No -- Cleared # Clearances <b>0</b> Clearance Date Clearance Type Except. Clear. Type Age Classification	Reporting Officer <b>S461 SMITH, TERRY L</b> <b>MCSO\SPEC. INV. SECT 1</b>
Warr./Arr. No.		*Forward for Approval / Followup To : <b>MCSO\SPECIAL OPS - INVESTIGATIONS</b>
Date Entered NCIC:		Date Removed NCIC:
Supervisor <b>NOT APPROVED</b>	Case Screening Supv.	Investigator <b>S462</b> <b>COLEMAN, MARK</b>
Date	Time	No Concur PtF/U No Date Time No InvF/U No
Report Last Modified 03/23/2007 14:23		