



Nagasaki, Japan—If you don't have the skill to swim in deep water, stay out of it. A PO3 didn't, and now he's dead.

The victim was on a base-sponsored MWR tour to a waterfall. When the tour bus stopped for supplies, he bought some alcoholic beverages. He stayed out of the water at first because he wasn't comfortable with his swimming abilities, but, after a few hours, shipmates coaxed him into trying a rope swing at the waterfall.

He grabbed the rope, swung out, dropped into the water, and immediately went under. When he didn't surface, a friend, who already was in the water, realized something was wrong and started looking for him. A bystander on the shore alerted a nearby Navy diver, who, along with other bystanders, entered the water and helped search.

The Navy diver eventually found the victim, who had been underwater for about 10 minutes. He had no apparent pulse and wasn't breathing, so bystanders started CPR until emergency-services personnel arrived. They took him to a local hospital and connected him to life-support equipment, but a doctor pronounced him dead five hours later.

Was the alcohol the victim bought a factor in this mishap? No one knows for sure, but it could have been. Another factor was the lack of lifeguards and medical personnel at the scene. ❏

Accomac, Va.—A Sailor en route to see his girlfriend was changing lanes when he lost control of his car and hit the median on the left shoulder of the road. His car went airborne, landed in a lane of oncoming traffic, and crashed into another vehicle. He died at the scene from massive head trauma and other injuries.

According to eyewitnesses, driving conditions were bad at the time of the mishap. They said there was a glare on the road, caused by the setting sun. ❏

King George County, Va.—Severe head injuries, a collapsed lung, and liver and spleen damage from a single-vehicle mishap were more than a PO3 could overcome. He survived the crash but died later in a hospital.

The PO3 was a passenger in a car that left the highway and rolled about four times. According to a state trooper, alcohol wasn't involved. ❏

Jacksonville, Fla.—

Whether it was seeing an ex-girlfriend, drinking too much booze, driving recklessly, or a combination of all three, no one ever will know, but a PO3 is dead. Witnesses related they had seen the victim drink three or four glasses of beer and a shot of whiskey at a bar. While playing pool with several squadronmates, two others arrived with his ex-girlfriend, and the witnesses said he then became disturbed.

About 0130, two squadronmates decided it was best if the PO3 left the bar, so they drove him home. On the way to his apartment, he was quiet and somewhat depressed. When he had been home a while, he went outside to smoke a cigarette, then came back into the apartment, took his car keys, and started to leave again. The two squadronmates asked him what he was doing, and he said he was going to get a pack of cigarettes from his car, but he never returned.

According to witnesses whom the PO3 had passed on an interstate, he was driving about 100 mph when he tried to maneuver his car onto an off-ramp. The car ran off the road into a grassy area beside the offramp and hit a tree, then vaulted into the air, where it burst into flames. It then rolled before coming to rest near a drainage ditch.

No one saw the victim leave the vehicle, but authorities found his body in thick brush near the final resting place of his car. An autopsy revealed he had a BAC of .17. ❏