



*Melissa, Texas*—A PO1 traveling northbound in a government car decided to pass another vehicle on the right shoulder. He was OK until he tried to re-enter the paved highway. His car fishtailed, and he lost control, skidding sideways into oncoming traffic.

The other vehicle (traveling at a high rate of speed) hit the passenger side of the government car at a 90-degree angle, killing the PO1. The driver and his wife in the other vehicle were airlifted to a hospital for medical treatment. ❏

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*Smyrna, Del.*—A seaman and two shipmates were returning from a family visit in New York when their vehicle hit a utility pole on the opposite side of the road. The force of the crash embedded the pole 4 feet into the driver's side of the vehicle, killing the seaman. One of the shipmates suffered serious injuries. State police estimated the car's speed at 70 to 75 in a 45-mph zone. ❏

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*Port Orchard, Wash.*—Two-and-a-half hours of partying with friends were enough for a PO2 and a PO3. For one, it would be his last party ever.

After they left the prom-theme dinner and dancing, the PO2 lost control of his car in a curve, crossed the centerline, and struck a van nearly head-on at a high rate of speed. The PO3, who wasn't wearing a seat belt, was thrown from the car, and police found him lying in brush near the side of the road. Both Sailors were flown to a local hospital, where the PO3 was declared dead on arrival. The PO2 was hospitalized for seven days with broken ribs, a punctured lung, a bruised spleen, and back injuries. Doctors then put him on 30 days of convalescent leave. All five people in the van were driven to a hospital, treated and released.

Toxicology results were negative on both Sailors for drugs and alcohol. ❏

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*Jacksonville, Fla.*—It was a typical pool party until some of the guests saw a self-confessed non-swimmer, a PO3, lying motionless on the bottom of the pool. The guests pulled him out and started CPR, which they continued until the paramedics arrived. Their efforts failed, though.

What went wrong? Guests said they had seen the PO3 with "a couple of drinks" during the day, and we all know the dangers of mixing alcohol with any kind of activity. There also was no certified lifeguard on duty. ❏

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*Redding, Calif.*—A PO3 and his fiancée (an unlicensed driver) had been traveling for 18 hours, with very few stops, when she lost control at 70 mph and hit the west guardrail on an interstate highway. The car then went airborne, flipped several times, and landed on its wheels at the bottom of a 20-foot embankment.

The PO3 died from a broken neck and major internal injuries. His fiancée spent one day in a hospital with minor facial cuts and bruises. She admitted she was driving while fatigued. Police records showed she had been involved in another at-fault collision.

This accident slowed traffic on a busy highway and caused three more crashes, but no one was injured seriously. ❏

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