



LOOKOUT

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HMCS SASKATCHEWAN diving accident claims two

The bodies of two ship's scuba divers missing since Thursday were recovered Saturday evening by clearance divers from Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific). A/SLt. Nicole Patricia Schiele, 22, and AB Sandy Jacob Schreurs, 21, both members of HMCS SASKATCHEWAN, failed to resurface during a training dive near the mainland coastal community of Gibson's.

SASKATCHEWAN's ship's diving team had been diving in the late afternoon, Thursday, when an incident involving three divers occurred. The third diver, who has not been named, was able to resurface and alert the dive safety team.

Numerous vessels and aircraft from the RCMP, the Coast Guard and the military participated in the initial search for

the divers.

The commander of Maritime Forces Pacific, Rear-Admiral Richard Waller, has convened a board of inquiry to look into the deaths. The bodies were turned over to Gibson's RCMP who have jurisdiction in this matter.

HMCS SASKATCHEWAN returned to port early Sunday, and sailed again yesterday to carry on with her operational taskings.

A Critical Stress team headed up by Regional Social Worker Officer LCdr. Freeman, joined the ship to offer help to those who must cope with the tragedy. According to Capt. Dave Wong, an Area Social Work Officer, the team consists of social workers, padres and a medical officer.

"The function of the team would have been to talk about the people involved with the [diving and rescue] operations, and their experience," he said. "The team will let those involved (members of the ship's company) know what they could do to deal with the stress, put them in touch with resources to help them deal with it, diffuse it and carry on with their jobs."

Up until last year when she began her training in the Maritime Surface and Sub-surface classification, A/SLt. Schiele was a regular contributor to the Lookout. A graduate of Royal Roads Military College in May 1993 she served as the Cadet Wing Public Information Officer and liaised regularly with the base newspaper.

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