

FORMAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE COMMERCIAL DIVING ACCIDENT ABOARD
THE MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNIT CLIFF'S DRILLING RIG NO. 12 ON
4 MARCH 1996, WITH LOSS OF LIFE

23. Commandant should require dive casualty investigation training for all marine safety casualty investigators.
24. Commandant should consider tasking Coast Guard divers to assist in the investigation of diving casualties. In this case, the IO was assisted by a former Coast Guard diver and a U.S. Navy Master Diver, both with exceptional insight. However, previous investigators to this casualty did not have those valuable resources. The Marine Safety Manual recommends that an IO investigating diving casualties have diving experience, but there are few IO's available with that background.
25. Commandant should consider seeking an agreement with the Navy Experimental Diving Unit and the U.S. Navy Diving School to provide assistance in Coast Guard diving casualty investigations.
26. Commandant should establish a working group of industry experts to examine ways to improve safety practices in the commercial diving industry. The working group should consider whether the Coast Guard should adopt by reference the ADC Consensus Standards for commercial diving operations where they do not conflict with Coast Guard regulations. The group also should consider whether the Coast Guard should require oil-free compressors be used on commercial diving operations. During this investigation, industry experts made many excellent recommendations to improve safety in the industry, many of which could not be included in this report because they were beyond the scope of the investigation. If a group is convened, it should seek input from Marine Safety Office Houston-Galveston, which recently initiated a commercial diving safety awareness and compliance program.
27. Commandant should forward a copy of this investigation to OSHA for consideration.
28. Commandant should forward a copy of this investigation to the Association of Diving Contractors.
29. Commandant should forward copies of this investigation to all Eighth Coast Guard District Coastal OCMI's.
30. This casualty investigation should be closed.

Investigating Officer