



For Immediate Release
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Alaska Air National Guard Assists Seaman Injured in British Submarine

Oxygen tank explodes aboard submarine; injured crew member flown to Anchorage

CAMP DENALI, Alaska – The Alaska Air National Guard came to the aid of a British seaman who was injured onboard a Royal Navy submarine in Prudhoe Bay Tuesday night. The man is receiving medical care in Anchorage today.

The British submarine HMS Tireless is in Prudhoe Bay, more than 800 miles north of Anchorage, participating in a bi-national United States-United Kingdom exercise ICEX 2007. Just after 10 p.m. Tuesday night, the Rescue Coordination Center at Camp Denali received word from the exercise's Joint Task Force that a self-contained oxygen generator exploded on the HMS Tireless, injuring one seaman and killing two others onboard.

The Joint Task Force requested assistance in transporting the injured seaman to Anchorage for medical attention. Less than an hour later, an Alaska Air National Guard HC-130 aircraft from the 211th Rescue Squadron with pararescuemen aboard from the 212th Rescue Squadron was enroute to Deadhorse to pick up the injured man.

According to the RCC, a civilian helicopter already on the North Slope transported the man to Deadhorse from Ice Camp at Prudhoe Bay. The HMS Tireless was about 170 miles north of Deadhorse.

The patient and a doctor were brought onboard the HC-130 aircraft around 2 a.m. Wednesday morning. They were flown to Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage, where an ambulance was waiting on scene to transport the man to a local hospital.

Reports indicate that the explosion did not disable the submarine, and the vessel was able to resurface from ice under its own power.

The RCC awarded one save to the 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons.