



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Pacific Area Office
2570 Dole Street, Room 106
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396
PH: (808)973-2940 FAX: (808)973-2941

April 21, 1997

Detective Michael Kaho'ohanohano
Criminal Investigation Division, Wailuku
Police Department
County of Maui
55 Mahalani Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Detective Kaho'ohanohano:

This is in reference to your request of March 19, 1997, to assist the Maui Police Department in analyzing damaged clothing recently recovered off Keanae Peninsula, Maui. The specific request was to ascertain if the known owner(s) of the clothing had been a victim of a shark attack.

It is my understanding that on the afternoon of January 30, 1997, several individuals were pulled into the water by large waves at Keanae. Four of the men were lost and the five items of clothing recovered by rescue divers were from the two individuals who were never located. The clothing was mailed to Mr. George Balazs at the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in Honolulu. Mr. Balazs and I have worked on a number of similar requests from county police departments throughout Hawaii, and, because of his present busy schedule conducting sea turtle field work, has asked me if I would provide analysis of this case.

The following is an analysis of the five articles of clothing recovered, including my conclusions as to what might of caused the noted damage to these items. My review is based on over twenty-five years experience examining stomach contents of sharks in the Pacific, as well as numerous surf boards, body boards, pieces of diving equipment, wet suits, clothing, and human remains showing evidence of being attached by sharks. (Also attached are sketches of the five damaged articles of clothing).

1. Black and white Hilfiger brand men's shorts:

Series of single tooth cuts ranging in width from 1" to 1.5". Split open in front where shorts were separated from the body. Incomplete split (tear) in back. Tooth cuts are classic bite marks from a shark of approximately 12 feet in length. Confirmed shark attack.

2. Blue button-down shirt with collar:

Holes in front and back of shirt ranging in diameter from 1.5" to 3.75". Edges appear to be "chopped" as if by shark bite. Small tear in the back collar. Cannot confirm shark attack.

3. White tanktop undershirt:

Series of rips and tears in bottom-front of shirt. Several small holes and punctures in back. Tear in right shoulder of tanktop strap. Some "chopped" edges of tears, particularly in the area of the shirt bottom-front. However, cannot confirm shark attack.



4. Blue-jean men's cut-off shorts:

Right leg appears to have been removed by shark bite at juncture with thigh. Right front section of shorts torn away (see #5 below). Classic tiger shark tooth impressions along cut off right leg (can identify because the tiger shark has such unique cockscomb-shaped curved teeth with heavy serrations). Individual tooth cuts of roughly 1" each and distance between tooth tips also at 1". Confirmed shark attack.

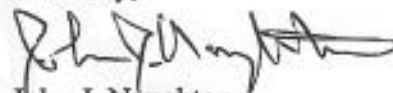
5. Right-front section of blue-jean men's cut-off shorts (from #4 above):

Again, tiger shark tooth impressions where right leg removed by shark. Much shredding of material and a number of individual tooth cuts ranging in width from 1" to 1.1". This section of shorts probably ripped away by typical twisting, shaking, and rolling manner in which a tiger shark dismembers a large animal. Confirmed shark attack.

In my opinion, the individual(s) wearing the two men's shorts was attacked by a shark (or sharks), most probably a tiger shark of approximately 11 to 12 feet in total length. The evidence strongly suggests that the bite marks and cuts could not have been made by a shark attacking the clothing drifting in the water. Instead, the clothing would have to be on or surrounding something solid, such as a human body. At this time there is no way to positively determine whether the shark had actually killed the individual or whether drowning had occurred and the body subsequently was attacked.

The articles of clothing which you sent to NMFS for analysis will be returned shortly by Mr. Balazs. Should you have any questions on this report, please call me at our Pacific Area Office (973-2940) in Honolulu.

Sincerely,



John J. Naughton
Fishery Biologist

Attachments

cc: F/SW02, Slawson
F/SWC2, Balazs ✓
DLNR/DAR, Devick



POLICE DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF MAUI



LINDA CROCKETT LINGLE
MAYOR

55 MAHALANI STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793
(808) 244-6400
FAX (808) 244-6411

HOWARD H. TAGOMORI
CHIEF OF POLICE

OUR REFERENCE
97-06252
YOUR REFERENCE

THOMAS PHILLIPS
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

March 19, 1997

Mr. George Balazs
National Marine Fisheries
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

Dear Mr. Balazs,

During a recent conversation with you it was indicated that you would be assisting our Department in analyzing some of the clothing recovered, to ascertain if the owner of the clothing had been a victim of a shark attack after being swept into the waters off of the Keanae Peninsula on Maui.

The following is a brief synopsis of the events that occurred that afternoon on January 30, 1997:

Three visiting couple from Georgia had stopped at the Keanae Peninsula during the afternoon of January 30, 1997 at about 2:15-2:30 p.m. One of the males of this group had gone to the waters edge to take photographs, when he either slipped or was pulled into the ocean by one of the large waves that was hitting the shore line.

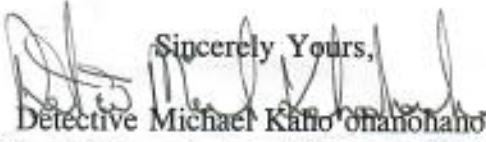
After this male was pulled from the water, several others attempted to assist in either support or administering of CPR, when another rouge wave hit the shoreline and swept several individuals into the water. All person(s) swept into the water, were later located and survived with the exception of four males. Two of these males, Mitesh BHAKTA and Donald ARENDS were located in the water apparently dead from drowning. The two other males, Bhupendra BHAKTA and Meghal SHAH were not located at all, even after an exhausting search by fire rescue personnel. During follow up searches of the area, several items of clothing (shorts and shirts) were recovered in the area that rescue personnel observed a tiger shark that had an approximately length of ten feet.

These items, one size medium blue colored multi designed polo shirt, one size medium white colored tank top, one blue denim men's shorts and one blue and black swimming shorts were recovered from this area where the shark was seen. All of these pieces of clothing were later identified as worn by Bhupendra BHAKTA, with the exception of the swim shorts, that could have been beneath BHAKTA's denim shorts.

These items have been dried and are being forwarded to you to examine as needed, in an attempt to ascertain if BHAKTA could have been a victim of a shark attack, as of this time, neither his body or Meghal SHAH's body has been located.

Also being submitted with this report is a copy of the police report for you to review as necessary.

Detective Michael Kaho'ohanohano has been assigned to assist you in this case and he can be contacted at 244-6425.


Sincerely Yours,
Detective Michael Kaho'ohanohano
Criminal Investigation Division, Wailuku

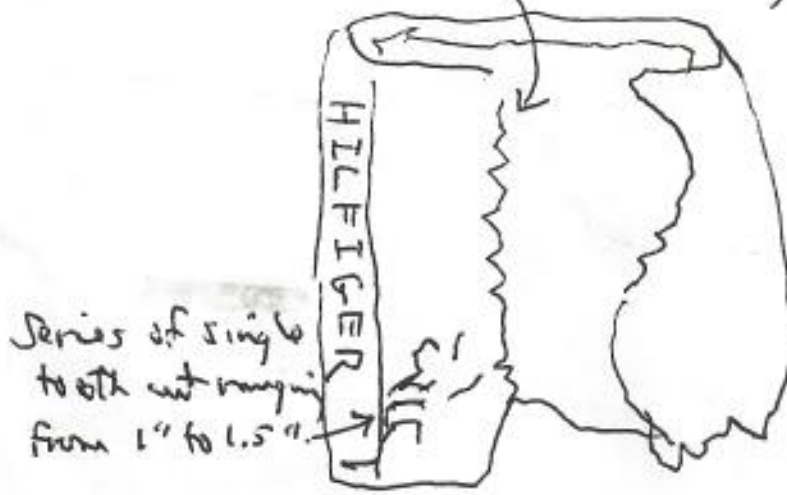
FORM CD-14 (2-76) Prescr. by DAO 214-2		U.S. DEPT. OF COMM.	DATE 4/16/97
TRANSMITTAL SLIP			
TO:	George Balazs	REF. NO. OR ROOM, BLDG.	HL
FROM:	John Naughton	REF. NO. OR ROOM, BLDG.	PAO
ACTION			
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> PER OUR CONVERSATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN TO ME	<input type="checkbox"/> PER YOUR REQUEST		
<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN WITH MORE DETAILS	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR APPROVAL		
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND SEE ME ABOUT THIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR INFORMATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE ANSWER	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR COMMENTS		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR MY SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> INVESTIGATE AND REPORT		

COMMENTS:

George: Attached is my analysis of the five pieces of evidence. Blue jean pieces especially valuable. (For your files & our discussion). John

Keanae, Maui Incident 1/30/97

① Black & white Hilfiger brand mens shorts
 Split open in front. Body probably removed here.
 Recovered by Firefighter R. Macadangdang 1/31/97



Incomplete split in back.

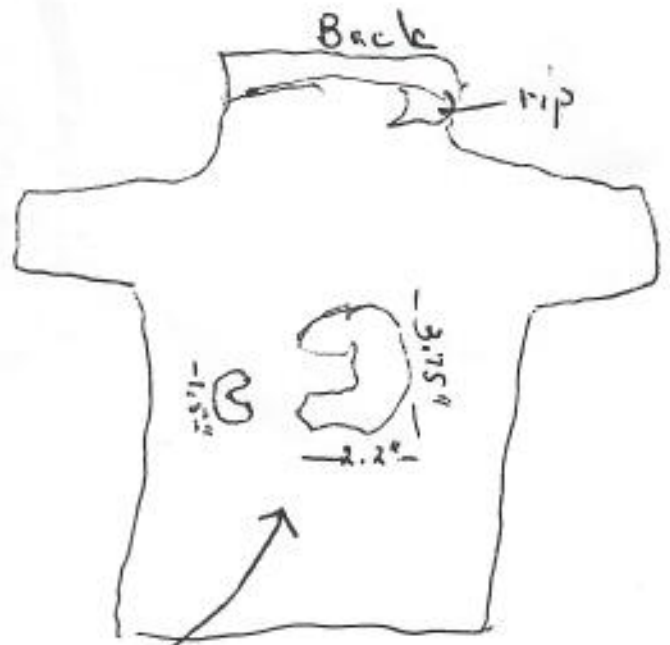
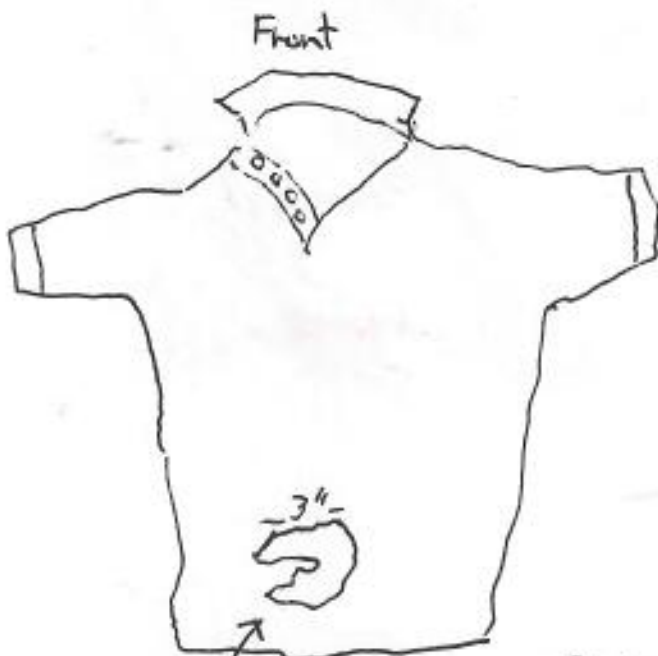
Many tooth cuts of classic type:



~ 1" to 1.5" tooth width.

Confirmed shorts bitten.

② Blue button down shirt with collar
 Recovered by Firefighter B. Blam 2/1/97.



Chopped edges to holes in shirt but cannot confirm shark bites.

Analysis by:
 John Nanghton,
 NMFS (4/15/97)

Keanae, Maui Incident 1/30/97

③ White undershirt (tank top): Recovered

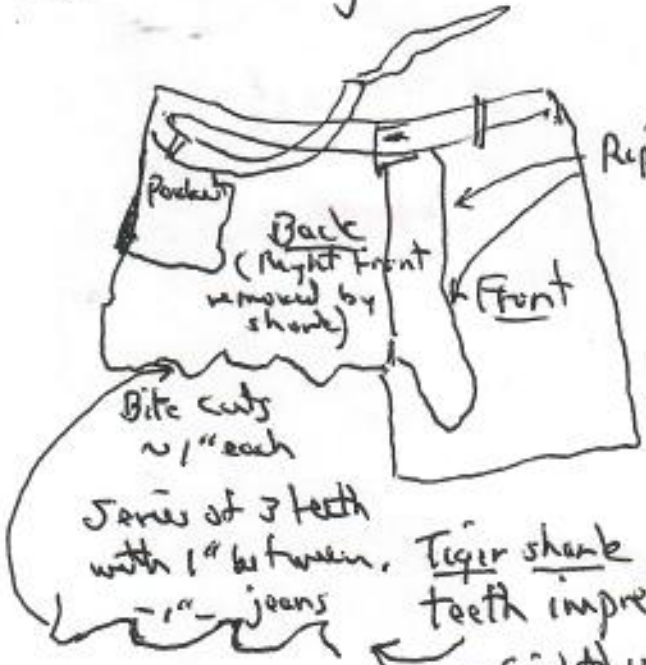
by Firefighter Blair
2/1/97



Analysis by:
John Naughton,
NMF3 (4/15/97)

cuts appear to be chopped or
shank bitten, however cannot confirm.

④ Blue jean shorts, Mens cut-offs: Recovered by
R. Macadangdang 1/31/97



Ripped ⑤ Right front section of Blue jean
shorts (#4): Recovered by
B. Blair 2/1/97

#445: Confirmed
shank bitten.



13'7" tiger
has 1.25"
between teeth.

Tiger shank
teeth impressions.
Leg (right) removed
Appears to be from tiger shank
approx. 12' in length.

MAUI COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT PROPERTY REPORT

FORM 137

REPORT NO.

44

TYPE OF PROPERTY	PRISONER PROPERTY RECEIPT		DATE ARRESTED	CHARGE	REPORT NO.	
	NAME OF PRISONER LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE		OFFICER CONDUCTING SEARCH		97-06252	
	PRISONER SIGNATURE		DATE PROPERTY TAKEN - TIME	WITNESS TO SEARCH		
	PROPERTY RECEIPT		OFFICER RECEIVING PROPERTY		PROPERTY REPORT NO.	
	NAME OF OWNER (IF KNOWN) LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE		ADDRESS		97-0212-03	
	EVIDENCE RECORD		CLASSIFICATION	DATE OCCURED	RECOVERED BY NAME	DATE RECOVERED - TIME
	COMPLAINANT LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE		MISC ACCIDENT	1/30/97	MACADANGDANG, Rory Fire F 8	1/31/97 16:00
	NAME OF OWNER LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE		ADDRESS		ADDRESS	
	LOCATION/PERSON RECOVERED FROM LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE		ADDRESS		ADDRESS	
	WITNESS TO RECOVERY LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE		ADDRESS		ADDRESS	

ITEM NO.	QTY.	ITEM/ARTICLE	DESCRIPTION (TRADEMARK, COLOR, SIZE, ETC.)	SERIAL NO.	\$ VALUE	WHEN/HOW MARKED (EVIDENCE ONLY)
1	1	Shorts	Blue jean shorts, mens cut-offs	None	\$0.00	97-06252
2	1	Shorts	Black & white Hilfiger brand mens	None	\$0.00	1/31/97 1601
					Total	\$0.00

CHAIN OF CUSTODY / PROPERTY TRANSFER						
ITEM NO.	RECEIVED FROM SIGNATURE	RECEIVED BY SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME		
1&2	MACADANGDANG, Rory	<i>[Signature]</i> 10056	1/31/97	16:01		
1&2	<i>[Signature]</i>	10056	2/2/97	20:30		
1+2	<i>[Signature]</i> 10056	<i>[Signature]</i>	02/24/97	07:50		
1+2	<i>[Signature]</i> 1035	<i>[Signature]</i>	03/19/97	16:45		

REPORT WRITTEN BY	<i>[Signature]</i>	DATE	1/31/97	TIME	19:59	SUPERVISOR APPROVAL	<i>[Signature]</i> 10056	DATE	02/02/97	TIME	20:30
RECEIVED OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE, PER OFFICER							THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY.				
SIGNATURE			ADDRESS	STREET	CITY/TOWN	STATE	DATE	TIME	DATE	TIME	
FINAL DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY											

MAUI COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT PROPERTY REPORT

FORM 139

REPORT NO.

44

TYPE OF PROPERTY

PRISONER PROPERTY RECEIPT

NAME OF PRISONER LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE

OFFICER CONDUCTING SEARCH

97-06252

DISTRICT REPORT NO.

97-0212-D3

PRISONER SIGNATURE

DATE PROPERTY TAKEN - TIME

WITNESS TO SEARCH

PROPERTY RECEIPT

OFFICER RECEIVING PROPERTY

DATE PROPERTY REC. - TIME

NAME OF OWNER (IF KNOWN) LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE

ADDRESS

EVIDENCE RECORD

CLASSIFICATION

DATE SECURED

RECOVERED BY

NAME

DATE RECOVERED - TIME

COMPLAINANT LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE

BIAN, Ben FireFight 2 2:11, 97 10:00

BHAKTA, Jyotsna

NAME OF OWNER LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE

3227 N. Woodlake dr., Duluth, GE

BHAKTA, Bhupendra

LOCATION/PERSON RECOVERED FROM LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE

4155 Ivy Run Cir., Duluth, GE

Ocean Off Keanae Landing

WITNESS TO RECOVERY LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE

Keanae

BRIEF FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF RECOVERY

Additional clothing of victim found on second day of air search.

IT. NO.	QTY.	ITEM/ARTICLE	DESCRIPTION (TRADEMARK, COLOR, SIZE, ETC.)	SERIAL NO.	\$ VALUE	WHEREHOW MARKED (EVIDENCE ONLY)
1	1	Shirt	White undershirt	None	\$0.00	97-06252
2	1	Pants section	Right front section of pants previously recovered.	None	\$0.00	2/1/97 1720
3	1	Shirt	Blue button down T-shirt with collar	None	\$0.00	
					Total	\$0.00

CHAIN OF CUSTODY / PROPERTY TRANSFER

ITEM NO.	RECEIVED FROM SIGNATURE	RECEIVED BY SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME
1-3	BIAN, Ben Firefighter 2	<i>[Signature]</i> 10056	2.1.97	17:20
1-3	<i>[Signature]</i> 10056	D. G. MORGAN 8402	02-01-97	10:30
1-3	D. G. MORGAN 8402	<i>[Signature]</i>	02.18.97	08:00
105	<i>[Signature]</i> 6535	D. G. MORGAN 8402	03.19.97	10:00

REPORT WRITTEN BY *[Signature]* 10056 DATE 2.1.97 TIME 2:50 SUPERVISOR APPROVAL *[Signature]* 8402 DATE 02.02.97 TIME 20:30

RECEIVED OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE, PER OFFICER I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I AM THE LEGAL OWNER OR LEGAL AGENT OF OWNER OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY. THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY.

SIGNATURE ADDRESS STREET CITY/TOWN STATE DATE TIME

FINAL DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY DATE TIME



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

PACIFIC ISLANDS AREA OFFICE
2570 DOLE STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96822-2396

September 21, 1998

Officer Scott Perry
Maui County Police Department
55 Mahalani St.
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Officer Perry:

This is in reference to your letter received on September 8, which was included in the box containing diving equipment from a missing free diver. It is my understanding that the diver was last seen spear fishing off LaPerouse Bay, Makena, Maui about 1100 hours on September 1, 1998. I have examined the equipment and offer the following analysis of damage to the gear, per your request.

The single swim fin, snorkel, and dive knife/sheath all have several small scrapes and cuts. However, the cause of these cuts could not be determined.

The webbed weight belt was completely severed in a semi-circle pattern, consistent with a shark bite. Three of the six plastic coated 2-3 pound weights have clear tooth imprints, with the teeth revealing serrated cutting edges which occur in both the plastic coating and the lead weights. The maximum tooth imprint width was approximately 1 inch, with 1 millimeter between serrations. In the damaged blue plastic coated weight there is an imprint of what strongly resembles an individual tiger shark tooth penetration. (Tiger sharks have unique teeth which are easily distinguished from other species).

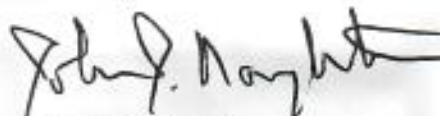
The face mask has a few cuts in the seal which are consistent with shark tooth imprints. The mask strap was severed and a piece of the severed strap shows strong evidence of being cut by an individual serrated tooth.

In my opinion, the bite marks and cuts in the above equipment were made by a shark or sharks attacking the individual wearing the gear. Other than a large shark, the only explanation for the severed heavy duty web belt would be a collision with a high speed power boat. The individual tooth imprints, however, clearly indicate that a shark attacked the gear. The shark involved was most probably a tiger shark of approximately 12 feet in total length. However, as with the majority of these non-witnessed cases which I have examined, there is no way to positively determine whether the shark actually killed the individual or whether he had drowned and the body subsequently was attacked.



The diving equipment which you sent to NMFS for analysis will be returned shortly. Should you have any questions, please call me at our Pacific Islands Area Office (808/973-2940) in Honolulu.

Sincerely,



John J. Naughton
Pacific Islands
Environmental Coordinator

cc: F/SWRx1 - C. Karnella
F/SWC2 - G. Balazs
DLNR/DAR - W. Devick

FORM CD-14 (2-76) Prescr. by DAO 214-2		U.S. DEPT. OF COMM.	DATE 10/1/98
TRANSMITTAL SLIP			
TO:	George Balazs		REF. NO. OR ROOM, BLDG.
FROM:	John Naughton		REF. NO. OR ROOM, BLDG.
ACTION			
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> PER OUR CONVERSATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN TO ME	<input type="checkbox"/> PER YOUR REQUEST		
<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN WITH MORE DETAILS	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR APPROVAL		
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND SEE ME ABOUT THIS	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR INFORMATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE ANSWER	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR COMMENTS		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR MY SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> INVESTIGATE AND REPORT		

COMMENTS:
 George: Can't remember if I gave you a copy of attached report. This is a clean copy. Had to send equipment back to Mass PD & insurance company.
 John