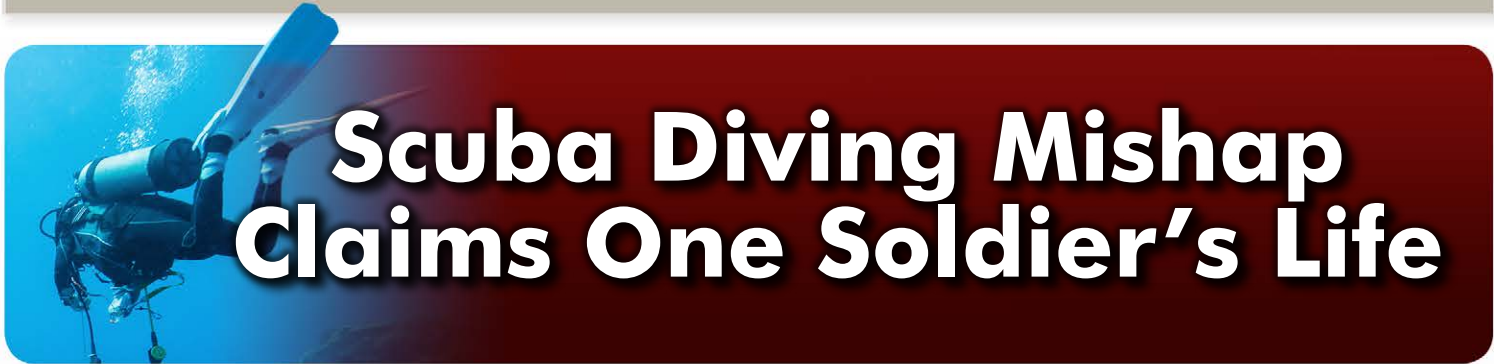




20-028



A Staff Sergeant assigned to Okinawa, Japan, died in a scuba diving mishap 2 February 2020 at 0959 local. The Soldier was reportedly handing the ship's captain his oxygen tanks when he began yelling and submerged below the water. The Japanese coast guard was notified to conduct the recovery and located the Soldier's body the following day.

Since FY16, the Army has lost an average of 15 Soldiers a year to off-duty Personal Injury Other (PIO) mishaps. This was the first fatal PIO water-related mishap in FY20 compared to two PIO water-related fatalities this time last year. If history teaches any lessons, expect the number of PIO water mishaps to rise with the spring and summer temperatures. Now is the time for leaders to emphasize safety during off-duty water activities.

PLRs are intended to be used as an engagement tool for leaders to discuss the hazards and trends impacting Soldier safety and readiness. The PLR contains only basic information but provides sufficient background to allow leaders an opportunity to communicate risk at the Soldier level. More detailed information on this and other Army mishaps can be found on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center website at <https://safety.army.mil/lessonslearned>.

To access current U.S. Army accident statistics and reports, visit <https://safety.army.mil/STATISTICS>.

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Additional U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center PLR resources can be found on the USACRC website at <https://safety.army.mil/PLR>.

