



**John J. Tomlinson**

# City sailor dies in training

From Mirror and AP reports

An investigation is continuing in the death of an Altoona man who died Monday in San Diego, Calif., while participating in the Navy's basic underwater-demolition school.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class John Joseph Tomlinson, 22, of 1613 22nd Ave., died after passing out as he neared completion of a 5.5-mile training swim off San Clemente Island, according to the public affairs office for the U.S. Pacific Fleet in San Diego.

Tomlinson was within 50 yards of completing the swim when he had to

be pulled from the water about 8:55 a.m. by his swimming companion and a navy corpsman on the beach.

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Cardiopulmonary resuscitation was begun immediately and continued until nearly 11 a.m. when a Coast Guard helicopter transported him to the University of California Medical Center at San Diego, according to Lt. Chief Steve Hiney of the Navy Public Affairs Office. Hiney said a helicopter was unavailable until that time to transport Tomlinson.

At the hospital's emergency room, Hiney said surgeons attempted a heart bypass on Tomlinson and tried to raise his body temperature, but they were unsuccessful.

Tomlinson had been in the water a little over three hours, not unusual for this program, when his difficulty began, Hiney said. The victim was dressed in the standard wet suit covering almost all of his body except his legs.

Tomlinson graduated in 1983 from Altoona Area High School.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Tomlinson.

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