

ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: [GSF 1999.08.23](#)

DATE: Monday August 23, 1999

LOCATION: The incident took place in the North Pacific Ocean at Majetto Island, Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.

9°19'0"N, 166°52'60"E

(Lat: 9.316667 Long: 166.8833)

NAME: Jeffery Joel

DESCRIPTION: He is a 23-year-old Marshallese male.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was overcast

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, August 27, 1999

ENVIRONMENT: Kwajalein Atoll is part of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). It is one of the world's largest coral atolls as measured by area of enclosed water.

Comprising 97 islets, it has a land area of 16.4 km², and surrounds one of the largest lagoons in the world, with an area of 2174 km². The southernmost and largest island in the atoll is named Kwajalein Island. The atoll lies in the Ralik Chain, 2,100 nautical miles (3900 km) southwest of Honolulu, Hawaii. The Marshall Islands were officially granted independence from the United States, and became an independent republic in 1986. Eleven of the 97 islands are leased by the United States, including Kwajalein atoll which is still used by the United States for missile testing and various other operations.

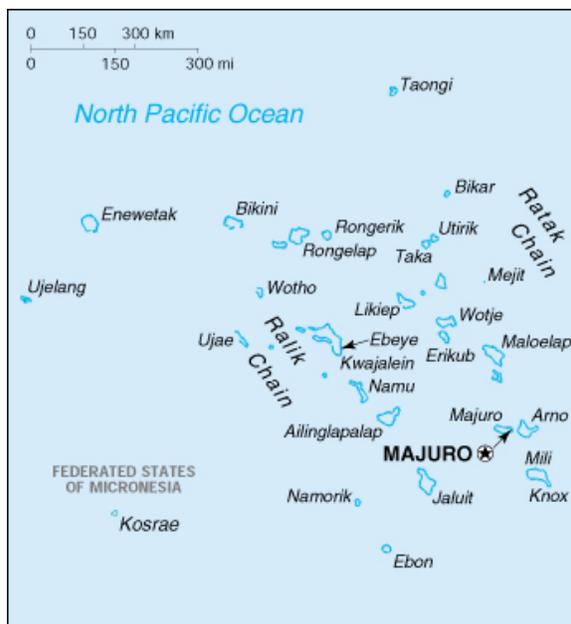
TIME: Morning

NARRATIVE: According to Joel, he was carrying fish with him, which may have attracted the shark.

INJURY: "The injuries were mostly confined to the man's left leg."

FIRST AID: Dr. Jill Horner, along with a nurse, Glen Ogeltree, and USAKA Fire Department paramedic Jeremy Weible, flew up to Majetto Island Monday afternoon on the medevac mission. Horner said the victim was originally taken to the Majetto dispensary, where a health assistant managed to stop most of the bleeding. "His main lacerations were sewn shut without anesthesia because the clinic had run out of Lidocaine," Horner said. "On our arrival at Majetto, he was still actively bleeding but we managed to apply compression dressings to stop the bleeding and give him pain medication before the helicopter flight."

According to Joe Johnston, rotary wing chief pilot Capt. Roy Howard and co-pilot Charlie Hinson flew out to Majetto, about 75 miles away, on the medevac around 1 p.m. "We flew up there, got him and brought him back," Johnston said. The crew also returned with the victim's wife. "We usually bring one family member with the injured party," he explained. Lt. Col. Steve Beal said the actions by Aviation Dept. and the Kwajalein Hospital are an



example of the good relations between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). "These medevacs are a highly visible activity that shows our support for the RMI within this atoll and cements our image as a good neighbor," Beal said.

TREATMENT: Joel was listed in stable condition in Kwajalein Hospital on Ebeye.

SPECIES: Not identified. According to Joel, the shark was seven feet in length.

SOURCE: Peter Rejcek, Kwajalein Hourglass, Friday, August 27, 1999

