

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Man Drives Jeep Liberty Into Ocean At Altona Lagoon To Escape Gunfire

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ST. CROIX -- A couple who were at the Altona Lagoon on Tuesday night having a meal took drastic measures in an attempt to escape gunfire from unknown assailants, VIPD Public Information Officer Kevin Jackson has announced.

According to the report, at approximately 8:05 p.m., the 911 emergency call center received notification from the Port Authority's Police Unit concerning a Jeep Liberty that was in the ocean at the Altona Lagoon with no occupants in it. Moments later the call center received a second notification making known that the occupants of the abandoned vehicle were victims of a shooting incident that occurred at the lagoon, and had traveled to the Juan F. Luis Hospital for treatment.

Detectives met with the victims as part of their investigation at the hospital, where the man described what took place.

According to the male victim, while he and his girlfriend were having a meal at the lagoon, two men approached their vehicle and opened fire. The victim said he then drove the vehicle into the ocean to escape fire and swam, along with his girlfriend, to another area of the beach.

As the couple emerged from the ocean, the male victim realized that he was struck by a bullet in the left forearm, and was transported to the hospital by a passing motorist who offered assistance. The female victim was not harmed during the incident.

Detectives are continuing their investigation into the matter, according to Jackson.