

Nixon Helps Out

Camp Pendleton

Former President Nixon tried vainly for an hour to save the lives of three Marines at a fatal traffic accident Thursday, a base spokesman said yesterday. 17 JUL

"Mr. Nixon took charge of the accident scene," said Marine Captain Lou Chatell.

"He directed his Secret Service men to call for a medi-vac unit and one of his aides tried to help one Marine who was still alive."

A spokesman at Mr. Nixon's seaside home in nearby San Clemente confirmed the incident and said the former chief executive stayed at the scene for

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an hour, directing the operation.

A spokesman for Camp Pendleton gave this account:

Mr. Nixon was returning with his son-in-law and daughter, Edward and Tricia Cox, from a Marine Corps golf course Thursday afternoon when the head-on accident took place on the base directly in front of his car.

A Secret Service agent driving the Nixon car stopped and Mr. Nixon asked him to radio for medical aid.

Mr. Nixon and Cox then tried to free a Marine pinned in the wreckage where two other men were dead. Cox used a crowbar, but the third man was pronounced dead at the base hospital five hours later.

Details of the accident were unclear and the incident is under investigation, a base spokesman said.

The dead Marines were identified as Sergeant Davis A. Vandal, 28, of nearby Oceanside; Corporal Ramiro A. Delgado Jr., 20, of San Antonio, Tex., and Sergeant Larry W. Grise, 24, of San Clemente.

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