

**Oceania Regional Response Team
Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2010, Standing Meeting
ASPA Tafuna Facility
PEACESAT BLDG
American Samoa**

Attendees:

American Samoa –

CAPT William Marhoffer – USCG, D14
Chris Curatilo – ERRG, Inc
Lance Richman – USEPA R9
Elizabeth Robnett – ERRG, Inc.
Ruth Yender – NOAA
Judith McCoy – ASDHS
LCDR Joe Zwack – USCG, D14
Jacinta Brown – ASDHS
MAJ Evelyn Ahhing – USAR
LT Ted Harre – USCG, MSD American Samoa
William Sili – AS, EPA
LT Stacey Crecy – USCG D14
Robert Brown – GSA

Saipan –

John Peterson – USCG
Marvin Seman - DEQ

Honolulu –

Jeff Farris – HFD
LCDR Joe Herrador – USCG
CDR Amy Cocanour – USCG
Scott Mitchem – DHS
Curtis Martin – DOH

San Francisco –

Robert Knowles – ATSDR
Kathryn Lawrence – USEPA R9
Alvan Phillip – USDOL/OSHA
Patricia S. Port –DOI/OEPC
Dan Meer – USEPA R9
John Woytak – FEMA
Nolan Jones – DOI
Tana Alert – USEPA R9
Michael Ardito – USEPA
Norwood Scott – USEPA R9
Chris Weden – USEPA R9
Michelle Rogow – USEPA R9

Guam –

Chip Guard – NOAA NWS
LCDR Felton Gilmore – USCG
Terry Summers – USCG
LCDR Gina Freeman – USCG

Samoa –

Anthony Talouli – SPREP

Meeting Started (1105 American Samoa Standard Time): VTC Locations included Honolulu, San Francisco, Samoa, Saipan, and Guam

Introduction: Mr. Lance Richman, USEPA, Co-Coordinator, (Acting) Co-Chair

Mr. Lance Richman began the ORRT Standing Meeting by thanking all of the individuals for attending the meeting in American Samoa or by VTC. He then prompted a round of introductions by each attendee at the different locations. Mr. Richman then introduced Jacinta Brown to provide welcoming comments.

Welcoming Comments: Jacinta Brown, TEMCO Manager, Department of Homeland Security, American Samoa

Ms. Brown said good morning to everyone and welcomed the ORRT members to American Samoa.

Updates from USCG Co-Chair: CAPT Bill Marhoffer, D14 Chief of Prevention Division

CAPT Marhoffer began by echoing the welcoming comments. He announced that, 61 years after the *USS Chehalis* sank, all of the oil has been removed, thus removing threats to human health and the environment from American Samoa soil. CAPT Marhoffer also announced that he, LCDR Joe Zwack, and Lance Richman would be attending the NRT conference the following week, immediately after their visit to (Western) Samoa; these will be the last meetings attended by either CAPT Marhoffer or LCDR Zwack because they are both retiring soon. The relieving officers will be well briefed on the status, policies, and procedures of the ORRT, and CAPT Marhoffer is confident that the USCG will be represented well. Lance Richman took this opportunity to thank both CAPT Marhoffer and LCDR Zwack for their outstanding dedication and commitment to the ORRT. Mr. Richman then presented an ORRT appreciation plaque to each of the outgoing representatives, with well wishes for both of them for continued success.

Kathryn Lawrence announced that Dan Meer (current USEPA ORRT R9 Co-Chair) has taken a temporary assignment as Deputy Director of the Superfund Division and, for the time being, will not be doing any ORRT-related activities.

Updates from Co-Coordinator: LCDR Joe Zwack, USCG D14, Marine Environmental Protection, and Lance Richman, USEPA Region 9, Emergency Preparedness and Prevention

(EX) USS Chehalis Status – LCDR Joe Zwack, USCG D14

The status of the *USS Chehalis* will be covered in more depth by Sector Honolulu, but the last week of this project seems to be going very smoothly.

February 2010 Tsunami Response Efforts – Mr. Lance Richman, USEPA Region 9

Overall, 2009 was a devastating year and some painful lessons were learned. USCG, USEPA, and FEMA are currently working on an SOP to minimize future conflicts encountered with obtaining Stafford Act Funding that may arise during an emergency.

2010 ESF Conference Seattle - Mr. Lance Richman, USEPA Region 9

During the two day conference, we learned the value of creating an SOP/checklist that can be followed to coordinate proper funding for an incident of any magnitude once an JFO is activated and the president has declared the incident.

2009 ORRT End of Year Report – LCDR Joe Zwack

The 2009 Annual Report has been signed and posted on the website. In looking forward for 2010, please think about photographs that may be used for the next annual report and related stories. If you have anything that you feel should go into the annual report, please do not wait until the last minute to make your contributions. Photographs are appreciated and really bring the annual report to life.

2010 ORRT Annual Planning Meeting, 20 January, San Francisco, CA – LCDR Joe Zwack

This was a very successful meeting. The agenda items included the 2009 Annual Report, the Operations Manual updates, ORCP status review, and a schedule on the calendar for the upcoming year (2010).

Use of Dispersants at Night Approval – CAPT William Marhoffer, USCG, D14

Coast Guard Sector Honolulu has requested an amendment to the Area Contingency Plan regarding the use of dispersants at night because spills may occur at night during single-point mooring operations. The ORRT looked into the issue and has determined that, based on Sector Honolulu's intended procedures and review within the ORRT membership, the ORRT has no objections to this condition and it may be incorporate the use of dispersants at night into Sector Honolulu's Area Contingency Plan.

2010 Standing Meeting Schedule – Mr. Lance Richman, USEPA

The next standing meeting will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, on July 20. In addition to the meeting, four Inspector Outreach Workshops for facilities will be conducted that fall under SPCC, EPCRA, FRP, and USCG facility regulations. Each workshop will last 1 day; two of the workshops will be held on Oahu, one will be held on Maui, and one will be held on Hawaii.

The ORRT standing meeting on October 28, 2010, will be held in Saipan and will also include VTC locations as before.

2010 NRT, Phoenix, AZ (issues for NRT attention) – LCDR Joe Zwack

Joe Zwack, William Marhoffer, Kathryn Lawrence, and Lance Richman will be attending this meeting (April 13–15). The entire schedule is available online. They will focus on sunken ships, where they will discuss the (ex) *USS Chehalis* and the benefits of the ORRT's use of VTC.

Pago Pago ORRT-Related Activities for the Week of 5 April – LCDR Joe Zwack

- Kim Beasley is concurrently holding HAZWOPER training.

- ERRG gave G191 – ICS/EOC Interface training yesterday at the Tradewinds Hotel.
- Lance Richman is doing inspections for USEPA.
- (ex) USS Chehalis removal work is ongoing this week.
- Pre-staging equipment for BCP training.
- The DRAT Team is present and will be assisting with any boom deployment.
- Friday there will be a meeting with SPREP (Samoa).

ORRT Approval of Oceania Regional Contingency Plan Appendices – Mr. Christopher Curatilo, ERRG

With the help of the ORRT membership, ERRG was able to complete the appendices portion of the ORCP, and it is expected to be signed today by the Co-Chairs as a “Final ORCP” for 2010. The original “Interim Draft” was signed in 2009, but without the appendices. Mr. Curatilo said that he appreciated everyone’s support and responsiveness to his inquiries and feels confident that the ORCP will be an excellent product because of the hard work by many from the ORRT that contributed to it. Future revisions and updates are expected to occur as per Part 300 of the NCP. Following the meeting will be an official signing.

Presentations

Recent EPA Planning and Response Activities in the Pacific: Mr. Chris Weden, USEPA, Federal On-Scene Coordinator

At the last ORRT meeting, Chris Weden mentioned that he had presented a slide show on HazMat removal conducted under ESF 10 in Saipan. A similar chemical cleanup project was planned for American Samoa; however, it was postponed because of the tsunami. In January, during response to the tsunami, a major cleanup was conducted and a combined shipment of hazardous materials from the cleanup and hazardous materials resulting from the tsunami were sent out. A brief video of the related ESF 10 work was taken by FEMA and can be found at: http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/media_records/1844.

USCG Pollution, Prevention & Response Activities in American Samoa: LT Teddy Harre, USCG MSD American Samoa

During the last quarter, American Samoa has had roughly 20 reported and 25 non-reported incidents of discharges. The most notable being discharges related to the recent tsunami. American Samoa is still recovering from the effects of the tsunami, which took place in September.

As far as prevention, a long-time troubling leak was found at Lions Park, where petroleum was found in the soil. The leak was traced back to a government-run facility. The source was controlled, and mitigation efforts have begun.

At Manua, on Ofu Island, an estimated 200 barrels of a petroleum product was found. Two to three meetings on the situation have been held, and the Coast Guard MSD is working with Solar

Inc. to come up with a solution. ASPA, the responsible party, has filled barrels on their site; however, USEPA has sited them for this containment and they currently have no way of disposing of the material. ASPA is not yet making any progress on this problem.

USCG Pollution, Prevention & Response Activities in Hawaii: LCDR Joe Herrador, Chief, Incident Management Division, CG Sector Honolulu

The events and incidents from this quarter are summarized below.

The BULK TRADER ran aground at Barber's Point. Sector Honolulu stood up an ICP and worked with NOAA to mitigate the situation. Divers assessed the damage and came to the conclusion that the #1 fuel tank had been cracked. PENCO was contracted to remove equipment from the boat, patch the crack, and float the vessel back to the port. No oil was reported in the water.

The HORIZON HUNTER had a problem due to severe weather. No hazardous materials entered the water and the 27 containers aboard remained intact. PENCO removed all containers and chemicals from the vessel to minimize any potential issues.

In February, an 8.8 earthquake created a potential tsunami for the Hawaiian Islands. An ICP was stood up, and a pre- and post-impact assessment was successfully completed. The COTP ordered all of the commercial vessels to get underway, which resulted in over 200 vessels departing port as a precaution. All bulk storage and oil facilities were notified and put on alert to prepare their facility. There was no significant impact from the tsunami.

Matson had an internal container leak, which resulted in the release of less than 1 cup of hazardous materials, but nothing reached the water. PENCO was hired to assist with the response.

Discharge from a pleasure craft, the ARYSSA, into the Ala Wai was contained and cleaned up by PENCO.

BROKEN VTC CONNECTION..... REGAIN CONNECTION

(ex) USS Chehalis – on behalf of CAPT Compagnoni, he would like to thank everyone for the Chehalis effort. A very good head start was made on the project thanks to the Port Authority in American Samoa, the Government officials, and LCDR Rehnquist. On March 25, the personnel for the final stage of the project flew to American Samoa. On the March 26, a systematic preparation and unpacking and preliminary dives commenced. Everything was prepped by March 30, and the removal project began on April 1. Diesel tanks and AVGAS tanks were drained. The AVGAS required a significant amount of increased security because of its high volatility, meaning no spark-producing equipment was allowed near the area, as well as cell phones or digital cameras, and air monitoring was done more frequently. On Monday, April 5, the draining of the final AVGAS tank began. In total, 25,000 gallons of AVGAS was removed. This operation should be finishing up April 6. The barge will leave American Samoa, refuel in Honolulu, and arrive in San Francisco. The products will then be shipped to Kansas. Full oversight of the transit process will be performed.

CDR Cocanour added that because they will be finishing the (ex) *USS Chehalis* project early, they expect to realize a cost savings. Also, thanks to SUPSALV, MUDSU, LT Harre, and all of the local equipment operators and support for this project, it is finally coming to a conclusion.

1215-1225 Break

USCG Pollution, Prevention & Response Activities in Guam/CNMI: LCDR Felton Gilmore, Chief Prevention Division, CG Sector Guam

This has been a light quarter, with only seven pollution incidents. During March, however, an Oiled Wildlife Training session was held, but was quickly turned into an actual response when roughly 28 pounds of tar balls were found on the beach during the field portion of the training. NOAA assisted with their collection.

A cement carrier was sighted for using detergent to clean up a tank oil leak. Fourteen sunken vessels have been identified throughout Guam. Identifying the owners of these vessels is proving to be very challenging. In addition, 35 vessels, which are potential typhoon risks to the port, have also been identified. There is an issue with a large population of abandoned vessels throughout the area. Sector Guam certainly sees a need to aggressively push to prepare for typhoons; certain buoys around the CNMI are not typhoon-strength but need to be. It would be helpful to have an exercise with the strike team to work out potential problems that could arise from hurricanes or typhoons.

Terry Summers also reported on the more recent field exercises, including the boom deployment that took place in conjunction with the last ORRT meeting in Saipan. As mentioned before, a Oiled Wildlife Training was held in March, which turned into a response because tar balls were found on the beach. Booming strategies continue to be worked out by completing some real world applications.

The ACP needs to be updated with the ORCP. USCG Guam/CNMI looks forward to hearing recommendations from Chris Curatilo.

CAPT Marhoffer asked about OSRO classification, which is still pending.

LCDR Zwack was curious to find out how Michelle Rogow's interactions with the CUC are progressing:

Michelle Rogow (FOSC R9) indicated USEPA and CUC had a joint conference with the judge in March, which resulted in new administrative orders for CUC to take care of eight specific items before the beginning of typhoon season. Four million dollars have been approved for CUC to come into compliance, and they have completed four of the eight required task items. CUC has hired William Sword from American Samoa as a technical manager for oil; he will begin on April 15. CUC has been working on tank 104, but they are awaiting the proper ISO containers necessary for transport and storage. The containers will be shipped to GRSL (Guam's OSRO) every 2 to 4 weeks and will remain there for 2 to 3 months. P.O. Thomas has been monitoring the entire process and is awaiting secondary containment to arrive from the mainland. We are not allowing the transfer of any container until the ISO and its secondary containment arrive. The Judge has set a deadline in June, but Ms. Rogow is not confident that this will be kept.

Another action item for the CUC is the design and replacement of the tank pipelines. This should be contracted and replaced by the end of the year. Rota and Saipan need to have all upgrades complete by June 31.

The CUC is trying to meet the deadline to complete their FRP, but they are running behind. Multiple conference calls to determine their status have been conducted.

For Saipan, Ms. Rogow had nothing more to add. She believes both Saipan and Guam received Oiled Wildlife Training.

USCG Pollution, Prevention & Response Activities D14 AOR: LT Stacey Crecy, Supervisor, CG D14 DRAT

Her PowerPoint presentation is available on the ORRT website.

Regional and State Agency Updates

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP): Mr. Anthony Talouli, Marine Pollution Adviser

Mr. Talouli just returned from visiting the Federated States of Micronesia where SPREP conducted an environmental assessment and a National Marine Pollution Advisory Workshop. The FSM has four state contingency plans, however jurisdiction is often unclear in the more remote islands. SPREP may want to mirror the ORCP Dispersant Approval Checklist. It is likely that the United States would be the first to respond to an emergency situation. Even though the United States has a severe lack of oil spill response equipment and limited alternative resources, Mobil does have assets throughout the states and is the primary oil supplier for the FSM. A large gap in training and equipment maintenance has been identified; therefore, SPREP would like to coordinate training for isolated states and countries. Waste oil is a big issue in most countries throughout the Pacific. The Marshall Islands electric company has 400,000 gallons of waste oil and is trying to rid themselves of the oil. Similarly, Cook Islands and Fiji (steel plants) export some waste to New Zealand, but excess waste oil still remains a common problem for many of these counties.

The Japanese Government would like to remove human remains from WWII wrecks and Heritage society wrecks to provide a proper burial. Because these are historical sites, there is a conflict and no specific actions are being taken currently.

A Spill Conference and further workshops are being scheduled next week in Melbourne.

Big thanks go to Chris Curatilo for adding a Checklist to the ORCP Waste Disposal Plan. SPREP will be incorporating some of this into the PAC Plan.

Mr. Talouli will be heading to Kiribati soon for a training regarding boarding and recognizing oil discharge. Also, in May and June, a committee meeting will be held to discuss pollution issues in Samoa. It would be ideal to have an oil spill response exercise during this time. SPREP would like to coordinate the exercise and would like help doing so.

American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency: Mr. William Sili, Air and Land Program

Due to public complaints of strong odors of petroleum near Lyons Park, ASEPA inspected all nearby facilities. Laboratory results show a high level of unleaded gas in the water. With the help of Chris Weden (EPA FOOSC) and START (federal contractor), the pollution was traced back to the Department of Public Works property. Several of the fluid lines were found to be faulty even after tightness testing and other facility tests were completed. Unfortunately, this facility failed many tests and was then put on hold while several lines were replaced and secondary samples collected.

In another event, ASEPA and USEPA were in agreement on the enforcement approach for the Tafuna Village scrap metal yard. ASPA is to submit a plan for disposal. Because of the scale of this project, Chris Weden will most likely need to provide technical review and support once this gets started.

At Manua on Ofu Island, the ASPA transfer station was damaged during the tsunami, causing the hazardous material held at this station to be released. This release was brought to the attention of ASEPA by local people, which is typical because of the lack of presence of the ASEPA on the outer islands. ASPA has since covered contaminated soil with new material as a corrective measure; however, excavation and bioremediation should follow.

For the purpose of prevention, ASEPA is conducting routine facility checks (e.g., hazardous materials, secondary containment, etc.). ASEPA is implementing an UST/AST inspection program.

Thanks to Chris Weden for a proper response to some of the situations in American Samoa, and for some of the response equipment he left behind.

Territory Emergency Management Coordinating Office (TEMCO): Ms. Jacinta Brown, TEMCO Manager

Prior to September 29, the day of the tsunami, TEMCO had a full schedule of training and exercises prepared; an exercise was scheduled for September 29, but it turned into an actual event. A common statement in the review of the incident is that the training and drills that had been done in the past were helpful to this response. During the last quarter, several near misses have occurred in which the necessary plans were executed—everyone worked well together.

Some challenges to be addressed relate to tsunami detection buoys—are the warning buoys equipped with the necessary technology, in order to be more effective? Ms. Yender (NOAA) stated that buoys are in place with the necessary warning technology, but she is not an expert on the matter. The earthquake that triggered the tsunami may have been in such close proximity to American Samoa that the buoys would not have been of help to provide sufficient warning.

Other challenges relate to the need to upgrade equipment, siren system, facilities, and roads to improve response time. During the tsunami incident, communications were hindered because of American Samoa's mountainous terrain; as a result, a repeater tower concept is being discussed. American Samoa is trying to eliminate most of the debt owed to vendors and improve relations

with companies who are in a position to help in disaster situations. It is unfortunate that not many people took advantage of the G191 training made available to the EOC—it would have been highly beneficial.

Keeping in good communication with the village mayors will be important; the reality is education saves a lot of lives and we are finding that by working with the villages is an excellent way to educate people.

Judy McCoy updated the ORRT on the American Samoa Training Calendar:

Due to the tsunami in September, we have been off schedule with the training calendar. American Samoa has received federal funding for training. A pressing need exists for ICS training in American Samoa, and a request in such training was made, dating back to the ORRT Standing Meeting in April 2009. American Samoa has a number of outreach programs running to educate schools and other priority facilities on evacuation plans. A local workshop will be given here in Pago Pago.

State of Hawaii, Department of Health: Mr. Curtis Martin

During Mid February Hawaii will be receiving its first shipment of Group 5 oils.

Federal Agency Program Updates

NOAA: Mr. Chip Guard, NWS

There has been a drought statement out for the Western Pacific. It has been very dry in Guam and we have seen an abrupt shift in weather since February. The Marianas Islands can expect to see tropical storms in the Yap and Palau regions. This information is available at the NOAA website. More training will be available soon from the Tsunami Warning Center and at the Primo Conference in Hawaii.

Ms. Yender asked for a statement from Mr. Guard regarding the buoys in American Samoa. Mr. Guard stated that between 34 and 37 buoys provide information in the event of a tsunami; however, because of the close proximity of the origin of the recent event, their placement may not have been helpful to give enough of a warning. The buoys near Guam/Saipan will provide size information for a 6-hour watch and a 3-hour warning.

NOAA: Ms. Ruth Yender, SSC for the Northwest and Oceania

NOAA has provided scientific information and support for several of the incidents that have been mentioned during this meeting, including the (ex) *USS Chehalis*. After the tsunami in American Samoa last September, NOAA funded a marine debris investigation, during which a large amount of debris was located and recovered. During the 2-week long survey, SCUBA and free diving teams recovered debris, much of which was roofing materials and tires, but were unable to get to some items because of location, weight limitations, or time limitations. NOAA is hoping to find more funding to continue the removal effort. A full report will be out soon.

Mr. Guard asked if there was any mention of silt in the report. Ms. Yender said there was no mention of silt; however, the primary goal was looking for debris that would damage the coral.

Mr. Talouli (SPREP) is interested to find out the effects of the debris in Samoa as well. Ms. Yender will get the report out as soon as it is available, but Mr. Talouli should note that the removal project did not focus on ship grounding and metal products. The investigators did notice that there was a direct correlation between the size and weight of the objects and the distance in which they were found from the shore; this information might be important to the Tsunami Warning Center.

FEMA: Mr. John Woytak , HazMat Program Specialist

Last week a workshop was held in Hawaii to define a 5-year plan for the states, territories and commonwealth training and exercise programs. The watch center is now full scale and operating 24/7.

GSA: Mr. Bob Brown

His presentation will be available online.

**(1400 American Samoa Time) CLOSING REMARKS: ORRT Co-Chairs & Co-
Coordinators**

CAPT Marhoffer and the other Co-Chairs met with FEMA in Hawaii to open lines of communication. A lot of independent entities need to be brought together and CAPT Marhoffer was encouraged by the dialogue that took place. On a similar theme, there is no Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (EPLO) at this time for the CG. Hopefully, this position will be filled in the summer and the EPLO will be invited to the FEMA Pacific Area Area Office (TBD).

Lance Richman and the USEPA training subcommittee are working to pull together an oil and hazardous materials training calendar to give everyone a better way to connect on training and exercises. Chris Curatilo from ERRG is heading up this effort, so please feel free to come to him with ideas and possibilities. This will be a huge undertaking, but a great benefit.

Thanks to USEPA and Stacy Crecy from USCG D14 during the 2010 tsunami scare—coordination between the ESF 10 desk, EPA and CG was excellent.

CAPT Marhoffer would like to extend his gratitude to everyone in the ORRT for making his experience as Co-Chair such a pleasure.

The meeting was concluded, and the Co-Chairs proceeded with signing the Final ORCP cover letters. The ORCP will be mailed out in hard copy form and an attached CD to the ORRT membership. If anyone else would like a copy, please contact Lance Richman.