

ORRT Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2008
Hilton Hotel
Guam

Attendees:

Lance Richman - EPA Region 9
Ruth Yender – NOAA
LCDR Amy Wirts - USCG Sector Guam
MST3 Gaylord T. Basa - USCG Sector Guam
BMC Chris Bobrowski – USCG Sector Guam
LTCOL Rudy Kube – JGPO Guam
MST3 Michelle E Walsh – USCG Sector Guam
MST2 Peter Calori – USCG Sector Guam
LT Stacey Crecy – D14 (DRAT)
Dave Felton – Pearl Harbor Naval Ship Yard
Harry Juneau – Naval Reactors
Howie Burke – CSS-15
Phil Parr – CSS15
Peter Alcantar – Petty Officer, USN
Captain Thomas Sparks – USCG Sector Guam
Captain William Marhoffer – USCG D14
Jeff Phillips – USFWS
Paul J. Kemp – GWA
Edwin Aranza – Guam EPA
Jesse T. Cruz – Guam EPA
Peter Schupp – UOG Marine Lab
Laurie Sullivan – NOAA
Lorilee Crisostomo – Guam EPA
Terence Summers - USCG
LCDR Joe Zwack - USCG D14
Chris Weden - EPA Region 9, San Francisco
Dwayne Newell – EPA ERT
LCDR John Winters – Sector Guam
Chris Curatilo-ERRG, Inc.,
Melanie Enman – ERRG, Inc.,

Meeting started at 0800 Guam Standard Time. Video Teleconference locations included San Francisco, Honolulu, American Samoa, and Saipan.

Lance Richman (ORRT Co-Coordinator and Acting EPA Co-Chair) facilitated the meeting. Following his opening, he introduced the USCG Sector Guam Commander, Captain Tom Sparks, who provided opening comments that focused on his interest in dispersant use in the Pacific region as well as his intention on presenting the new, streamlined, Northern Marianas Contingency Plan. Additional opening announcements were provided by the following:

Captain Marhoffer (Acting USCG ORRT Co-Chair) introduced himself as the new USCG D14 Chief of Prevention in Honolulu, HI.

LCDR Joe Zwack (ORRT Co-Coordinator) announced:

- The US Coral Reef Task Force meets twice a year, one of which is always in Washington DC. The CRTF's recent meeting was held in Kona, HI, and LCDR Zwack attended as ORRT rep. Nothing significant to report.
- LCDR Zwack represented the ORRT at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP) conference/convention held in Pohnpei in September, 2008. He also provided a presentation on the history of the ORRT, and roles & responsibilities to a 13 nation member audience, and networked with the SPREP Director and other Pacific Island Country reps.
- A fishing vessel that grounded on Palmyra atoll in 2007 is reportedly again discharging pollutants. USCG Sector Honolulu & D14 are investigating and the OSLTF has been opened to conduct an on-site assessment scheduled for sometime in December.
- USCG Sector Honolulu & D14 continue to engage the USN regarding product removal (115,000 gallons of mo gas/av gas/diesel) from the sunken vessel USS CHEHALIS in American Samoa, which is the suspected source of many "mystery spills". After the next meeting in December, it is anticipated that the Sector's Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) will approve a USN underwater assessment to determine current product inventory and efficient oil removal procedures. The NPFC supports expenditures for the assessment.
- SPREP is performing mapping surveys of sunken WWII war ships in the Pacific. The web-based mapping product allows the user to click on a wreck in a desired area and obtain statistics and other information for the wreck. The ORRT and SPREP continue to collaborate on these wrecks and the USS CHEHALIS relationship.

Lance Richman announced:

- The formation of the ORRT training subcommittee has been unsuccessful in incorporating partners to assist. Lance inquired if Janice Heple (UC Davis extension) could take the lead in establishing the committee. Janice declined to commit to take the lead but agreed to respond to LCDR Joe Zwack and Lance Richman with her answer at a later date.
- Lance Richman announced that HazMat equipment refresher training is scheduled to be held in Saipan from November 10-12, 2008.
- The ORRT website address has changed to www.ortt.nrt.org. LCDR Zwack re-encouraged everyone to use the website because of the great amount of information available.
- LCDR Zwack and Lance Richman are going to co-produce the annual ORRT report in December. They are accepting 2008 input from anyone; please submit relevant information to Lance or Joe.
- The annual American Samoa ORRT standing meeting will be in late April 2009. As in 2008, we will try to coordinate getting the Clean Islands Council (CIC) to hold their annual HAZWOPR training and BP oil spill exercises that week to coincide.

- On July 27, 2008, a very successful annual ORRT standing meeting was held in Honolulu, HI. It also included training and discussion on the current events surrounding the EPA's Kilauea volcano response.

Captain Sparks briefed on the status of using dispersants in the Pacific. Dispersants are currently authorized to be used in the HI islands; however, it is not authorized to be used in CNMI. The use of dispersants is addressed in the American Samoa contingency plan with dispersant use contingent on the "approval by the ORRT." Captain Sparks feels dispersants should be pre-authorized in all COTP zones if the area meets the criteria for dispersant use. He encourages the ORRT to discuss the validity of a preauthorization dispersant policy.

LCDR John Winters echoed Captain Sparks's brief; and emphasized that bringing dispersants in from HI or Singapore would be very difficult, costly, and time consuming. If Guam Response Services Limited (GRSL) had the dispersant on-hand it would provide another option to combat a major spill. The only viable option for an offshore spill is dispersants. He encouraged "bringing reality to the situation" by pre-authorizing the use of dispersants.

Captain Marhoffer added that there is nothing that precludes FOSCs from requesting an Incident-Specific ORRT activation and requesting the use of dispersants. He also doesn't understand why they're not pre-approved in places other than HI.

Captain Sparks offered to have his group take action for a proposal from the ORRT. Ruth Yender, the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC), agreed to help with the proposal, and added her opinion that dispersants can be used in areas where the water is not too shallow.

Lance Richman introduced LTC Rudy Kube who presented information on the move of U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) from Okinawa to Guam:

Guam has been chosen to be the new location for the USMC, their dependants and civilians that are currently located in Okinawa. A series of agreements were produced between Guam and Japan to bring USMC forces to Guam by 2014. Other places were evaluated; however, Guam was the best choice from a strategic point of view and can accommodate the number of forces. The draft Record of Decision (ROD) plan is due January 2009, with the Fiscal Year (FY) 10 ROD scheduled for construction commencement.

The move to Guam will be conducted by the Alliance Transformation and Realignment (ATARA) Forces and will consist of the migration of 8,000 marines, 9,000 dependants and civilian workforce to Guam. This will result in a 25% increase to Guam. All involved agencies will work to alleviate the impact resulting from the population increase and the associated infrastructure issues to Guam (understand that USMC forces will be relocated to the Northwest Airfield adjacent to the Anderson Air Force Base at the northwestern end of Guam Island). In addition to forces moving to Guam, the northern portion of Tinian will be used for training.

Japan has agreed to provide funding for the move, including \$750M that is set aside to provide utilities for power. Japan is looking to work with Guam to supply power at a charge to the U.S. Government. Japan's business interest is to recoup power costs.

In April 2009, a Guam Industry Forum will be held. All of the information that is required for industry to determine what they can support will be provided at the Forum.

Some components of the EIS and the Master Plan include:

- Apra Harbor is designated as the shipping location for the USMC forces ;
- Unknown where the main cantonment (see comment on Northwest Airfield above) is going to be built;
- Getting the necessary resources to build up the port is the biggest concern; and
- The U.S. Government is working with Guam to provide roads.

Questions:

Captain Marhoffer asked about the increase in shipping and the risk to the environment. He suggested that the Department of Defense (DOD) lawyers should address the potential environmental issues at the April 2009 forum. The speaker responded that the U.S. Government is working on it, and he'll bring up the subject at the next meeting.

The powerpoint for the presentation is available via the ORRT website.

Lance Richman introduced Laurie Sullivan, representative of NOAA assessment and restoration division.

Ms. Sullivan discussed the recent Natural Resources Damages Assessment (NRDA) training and workshop held on Guam November 4-6, 2008: The NRDA workshop was taught by a team from NOAA and sponsored by the EPA.

The genesis for the workshop was derived from Ms. Sullivan's work with Guam over the years and made possible by the support from the ORRT. There was a good response of participants. She learned that Guam knew very little about damage assessment laws and rights. Multiple people, including the NOAA attorney and several scientists, presented at the workshop. There was a focus on laws and the Coral Reef Conservation Act, which identifies the ability to perform a NRDA for marine vessel groundings in the absence of an oil spill, including recovery for damages as a result of the grounding. Laurie made CD-Roms with copies of the presentations and the sign in list of attendees from the workshop. Anyone can obtain a copy of the CD-Rom by e-mailing Ms. Laurie Sullivan (Laurie.Sullivan@noaa.gov) .

LCDR Joe Zwack added that he got a lot out of the training; he appreciated what she did, and it went so well that he requested Laurie to do a "Road Show" at the ORRT meeting in America Samoa in April. Laurie responded that NOAA doesn't have the funding to support that trip, but if the funding is made available she would be happy to provide the training.

Chris Curatilo briefed the ORRT on the status and work completed on the Oceania Regional Contingency Plan and how all plans link together. The ORCP has been in production for nearly 13 years and the target is to get the plan promulgated by the start of 2009.

A letter of distribution is planned for January 2009. The ultimate purpose of the plan is to provide the bridge for Area Contingency Plans and other local plans. The new plan is organized such that the previous 27 appendices will be cut down to 11 appendices. The plan itself has absorbed most of the information that was previously identified to be in the 27 appendices.

Chris will continue to attend Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings throughout Hawaii and explain the ORCP's function and the role of the ORRT during emergency response.

Questions:

CAPT Marhoffer asked if it is part of the annual exercise requirement (stated in the ORCP) that the exercises are conducted with others or by just the ORRT. Chris responded that the training is meant to be done with others. Training is a "check in the box" for requirements, and should be conducted with other exercises. It can also be looked at very broadly to encompass training and other efforts that improve the response posture of the ORRT.

Captain Marhoffer asked what the general boundaries are under the term of 'regional' and whether the regional plan is applicable to and including the Pacific Island Countries. In addition, does it address how to request assistance; both how a PIC can ask and how the ORRT can provide assistance? Chris responded that the plan incorporates SPREP; it doesn't take away from the Pacific plan.

Philip Parr, CSS15, gave a brief on the nuclear submarine and radiation monitoring programs in response to questions about how the USN program operates in Guam.

NNPP (Director) is a 4 star USN Admiral who serves an 8 year term. SESs report to the Admiral with one dedicated contractor maintaining the equipment base.

The Guam EPA is always formally invited to attend all radioactive sampling events conducted by the USN on Guam. Parr and PO Alcantar give a brief demonstration on the sampling devices used to collect samples.

Cobalt 60 is the signature isotope for the USN nuclear program operations. Crustaceans, mollusks, and seaweed are collected annually in the harbor and tested for above normal concentrations. Fish are not collected because fish migrate further and are not a concentrator species, whereas crustaceans, mollusks and seaweed are concentrator species and provide a better representation of cumulative concentrations of radiation.

Professor Cruz (University of Guam) stated that sponges should be deployed in the harbor to help evaluate cumulative effects of radiation. Parr will take that in to consideration and he would like to discuss it further after the meeting.

Pete Cruz, Guam EPA, stated that he was concerned about sampling protocols. He witnessed USN POs performing sample collections at one location and then decontamination activities for that location at the next location, potentially causing cross-contamination in the samples collected. USN PO Alcantar responded that an error in sampling protocols was noted, and future sampling protocols have been changed to prevent cross contamination of samples. Additionally,

a “lessons learned” meeting is conducted along with audits after a sampling evolution to improve the process, train others, and prevent mistakes from reoccurring.

Jesse Cruz (Guam EPA) also commented that the Guam EPA reviewed the data from the sampling efforts. He was interested in knowing what the concentration level is today as compared to before the USN nuclear program was active in the area. Phil Parr responded that there is a long history of radiation concentration data; however, he doesn't know if data for the area exists prior to the USN nuclear vessels being onsite.

Parr continued his presentation by discussing the civil outreach program.

Questions:

Jessie Cruz (Guam EPA) asked what the relevance would be of comparing the results with Norfolk and other USN harbors. Is it possible to compare results to background concentrations on Guam? Parr responded that he doesn't know if there is any data prior to USN submarines on the island, but he stated that the radiation concentrations reported for Guam are lower than in other harbors.

This presentation will not be available on the web site due to the sensitive nature of the material.

US EPA's Chris Weden gave a presentation on a battery cleanup conducted on Guam.

A battery cleanup was conducted at a 911 repeater station on Mt. Finansanta. The batteries were used to store energy from solar panels and then used as a repeater station. The EPA personnel had some trouble accessing the site due to local landowners being unwilling to allow the access; however with the help of some other local folks, access was granted. Potential fires were a health and safety issue in the area, and the batteries were large in size (approximately 300-lbs per battery). The EPA tried to prevent the lead acid solution from migrating down the hill during the removal phase. They loaded the batteries into trucks and then transferred them to the shipping center where they were shipped to a U.S. recycling facility. Two drums full of soil were excavated to remove lead acid that drained from the batteries. Dwayne Newel, with the US EPA ERT, used the fluorescence monitor on the soil at the site to determine if there was residual contamination remaining. The monitoring data indicated that most of the contamination was removed.

Chris Weden also presented a brief on the HazMat equipment refresher training that was being conducted in Guam simultaneously with the ORRT meeting, November 4-7, 2008. The target audience was the local Fire Department and Police Department responders. This training was a result of issues that came up from the Top Officials 4 (TOPOFF 4) exercise held there in 2007. There were approximately 60 people attending the training. The equipment used for training was all Guam Homeland Security, Police and Fire equipment that was given to them following the “9/11” terrorism incident. To date, no official training had been done with the equipment. Consequently, the equipment has never been used and in some cases, never opened. The training included radiation equipment training, hazard categorization identification equipment training and instruction on Multirae equipment. It was determined during the training that maintenance is required for multiple pieces of equipment. After the training, Mr. Weden will continue to work

with state civil defense, HLS, Guam EPA, fire departments, police departments to confirm that the maintenance is conducted on a routine basis.

Mr. Weden announced that the same training would be conducted the following week in Saipan on November 10-12, 2008.

Mr. Weden also announced that a sewer drum removal project will be conducted in November 2008 in Saipan following the HazMat Training. The local Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in Saipan captured sewage into multiple drums. Michelle Rogow (EPA Region 9 OSC) will be preparing and shipping the drums to the U.S. mainland, where the sewage drums will be properly disposed of at an EPA-approved treatment and/or recycling facility.

There is also a growing problem in Guam with illegal, unregistered pesticides. Guam EPA, with assistance from the US EPA, will have an Agriculture Chemical Amnesty Day tentatively scheduled for sometime in 2009. Chamorro land trust estimated that over 1,200 small farms exist on island and may be storing hazardous material. EPA is working with the local farmers to see that hazardous pesticides will be removed and the farmers will not be penalized for having the illegal substances.

Mr. Weden also discussed the American Samoa seep. The seep is from an unknown source, collects in a sump, and overflows into the harbor during heavy rains. EPA Region 9 may install a French drain in the road that will collect the seeping material that will be pumped at a later time. Chris Weden asked whether the NPFC would be willing to sponsor the effort.

LCDR John Winter (USCG Sector Guam Prevention and Planning) presented:

- The Sector will be getting an additional pollution response expert.
- A program has been initiated for new people to obtain pollution response training.
- They are doing a lot of work with CNMI.
- The ORRT is important to Sector Guam's operations.
- One exercise was conducted, a preparatory exercise that involved ship firefighting.
- Current challenges include spending too much time on non-tank vessel response plans.
- Limited tank vessel Oil Spill Removal Organization (OSRO) coverage is available in CNMI and Guam.

Captain Marhoffer added that the firefighting exercise was a great idea that was requested by the local Area Committee and very successful.

LCDR Amy Wirtz (USCG Sector Guam) provided a presentation on the Mariana Islands Area Contingency Plan (MIACP):

LCDR Wirtz led the group, who demonstrated and created a digital version of the ICS 201 form. The ICS 201 is hyperlinked to a majority of the data necessary to complete the form. The integration of the linked digital information for the ICS 201 form greatly decreases the amount of time to prepare the form and also increases the accuracy of information. The new system provides a vast amount of referenced data (e.g. maps, diagrams, etc.) available to drop in to the ICS 201 form at the click of a button. The linked information is not web-based but stored on the laptops for the field responders. Therefore this information can be easily used on site, even remotely, at any time or location.

LCDR Amy Wirtz and PO Walsh demonstrated a mock incident to show how the new digital form feature works. The mock spill was 2,500 gallons of fuel from a collision between two fishing vessels in Agana Bay. They navigated through the MIACP to show how an ICS 201 form would be filled out in the event of an emergency. All of the non-variable, site specific data was immediately loaded, dramatically improving the time it takes to produce an ICS 201 form. In the mock exercise, a usable form was prepared in about 10 minutes.

LT Denham (USCG Sector Honolulu) provided an update on Sector Honolulu activities:

- An equipment deployment exercise was conducted in August 2008, in Pearl Harbor, HI, in preparation for the NPREP.
- During the week of September 15, 2008, the National Strike Force Public Information Assist Team (PIAT) conducted pre-exercise training. The exercises were conducted on September 18, 2008, with a hotwash on September 19, 2008.
- Sector Honolulu deployed personnel to Hawaii and Maui counties to support HECO and MECO power company exercises.
- They will be participating in an upcoming Marine Corps (USMC) exercise scheduled for November 13, 2008.
- A Tesoro Table Top Exercise (TTX) is scheduled for November 20, 2008.
- On December 18, 2008, a teleconference is scheduled with the Sector, Pacific Strike Team and the U.S. Navy (USN) to discuss logistics for the evaluation and removal effort for the USS CHEHALIS. The USCG D14 District Response Advisory Team (DRAT) Supervisor (LT Crecy) will be traveling to American Samoa on December 7-11, 2008, to conduct VOSS system maintenance and to look at the staging area for the USS CHEHALIS effort. The assessment will focus on how to remove the product from the ship's hull with the least amount of impact.

USCG American Samoa update:

LT Troy Luna (USCG MSD Supervisor) attended most of this ORRT meeting, but then had an appointment with the New Zealand immigration, and was unable to stay until the end and provide an update.

Paul Fields (DHS) provided an update from the San Francisco VTC venue:

Chemical Facility Anti-terrorism Standards (CFATS) program overview. CFATS went in to effect June 8, 2007. There have been 19 attacks since 9/11. The Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) will be operational in 2009.

CSAT Help Desk Number: 1-866-32-2957

Additional information can be obtained through this address: CSAT@DHS.gov

Training is provided and can be found at www.DHS.GOV/CHEMICALSECURITY

Questions:

Lance Richman asked if there are facilities on Guam that are subject to these regulations. Paul responded that he does not know yet, but will find out.

This presentation can be found on the ORRT website.

American Samoa reps were not online for the regional update.

Edwin Aranza provided the regional update for the Guam EPA:

- Requested that everyone stood and shake hands with their neighbor to give thanks to everyone.

Guam participated in the following Incident Responses:

- Anderson AFB incident. Bomber skidded off roadway, resulted in a fuel spill.
- Chinese fishing boats came into Apra Harbor, Guam, and grounded on reefs. Guam EPA sent staff in coordination with other agencies to the sites to perform an assessment. Local contacts and relationships aided in these cases by providing access control and improved communications with the vessels.
- Hagatna barge project. A moored barge broke away and grounded on a reef on December 4, 2007. The barge was successfully removed from the reef without discharge.
- Shell Oil Facility Spill, 2008, had a small spill.
- Training and Exercises. October 15-19, 2007 Topoff 4 was conducted on Guam. The exercise focused on planning and response between territories and US Federal Government for radiation monitoring and deployment.
- Super Typhoon Exercise was conducted early this year.
- NRDA Training was very good. Guam EPA participated in the training and learned that pre-planning is necessary to react to incidents.

Saipan/CNMI reps were not on line.

Ruth Yender (NOAA SSC) provided:

- NOAA provided assessment training in HI earlier in the year. This week's NRDA training was conducted in Guam. In this area, the key interests are the corals.
- NOAA hopes to get the 33' S/V GRENDDEL out of Kure Atoll in 2009, but the logistics are proving to be very difficult.

Robert Knoll stated there are no updates from Department of Interior, San Francisco.

Captain Marhoffer provided closing remarks at the meeting:

He wants to continue to conduct training or an exercise in conjunction with future ORRT meetings. He also wants to foster increased outreach and linkage with SPREP, as it is beneficial to everyone throughout the Pacific.

LCDR Joe Zwack added that the Annual National Response Team meeting is scheduled for March 2-5, 2009, in Charleston.

Lance Richman closed the meeting on behalf of the EPA, and thanked everyone for coming. He pointed out that the attendance was excellent, hoped the information was useful to all and looked forward to the next one.