

**OCEANIA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM
MEETING MINUTES
OCT 29 2010, STANDING MEETING
PSS Central Office
Retirement Building 3rd Floor
Capitol Hill, CNMI**

Attendees:

Saipan

CAPT Eric Brown – USCG (D14 Response)
David Chargualaf – DEQ
Maurice Craft – GSA
Chris Curatilo – ERRG, Inc
LCDR Felton Gilmore – USCG (Sector Guam)
Dan Meer – USEPA
Duane Newel – USEPA
LT Steve Olivera – USCG (Sector Guam)
LT John Peterson – USCG (Sector Guam)
Elizabeth Robnett – ERRG, Inc.
Marvin Seman – DHS
Max Simian – DEQ
CDR Marty Smith – USCG (D14 Co-
Coordinator)
CAPT Thomas Sparks – USCG (Sector Guam)

American Samoa

Shawn Frohman – USCG (MSD)
LT Trevor Parra – USCG (MSD)
Frank Thompson – USCG (MSD)

Guam

Paul Kemp – Guam Water Works

USCG, Sector Guam

John Bray – USCG
Raymond Pesson – USCG
Sammy Short – USCG
Terry Summers – USCG
Aaron Swanson – USCG

Honolulu

CDR Amy Cocanour – USCG (Sector
Honolulu)
LT Stacey Crecy – USCG (D14 DRAT)
LCDR Matthew Derrenbacher – USCG (Sector
Honolulu)
Larry Dove – FEMA
Curtis Martin – DOH
Scott Mitchem – DHS
Robert Pottgieser – USCG (D14 DRAT)
LT Kyle Ryan – NOAA
LT Blair Sweigart – USCG (Sector Honolulu)

San Francisco

Robert Knowles – ATSDR
Bret Moxley – USEPA
Susanita Pendu – DOI/OEPC
Patricia S. Port – DOI/OEPC
Lance Richman – USEPA
Michelle Rogow – USEPA
Michelle Whitman – DOI/OEPC

Meeting Started (0815 Guam Standard Time): Video Teleconference (VTC) Locations included American Samoa, San Francisco, Honolulu, Guam, and a new location at USCG Sector Guam

Welcoming Comments: LT John Peterson, USCG

In place of Jack Omar, LT Peterson offered a warm welcome to the attendees to the 2010 CNMI ORRT Standing Meeting, and indicated that Mr. Omar sends his regrets for not being able to make it.

Updates from ORRT Co-Chair: Dan Meer, USEPA, Emergency Response Preparedness and Prevention Branch

Mr. Meer welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed that he was happy to be back from temporary assignment as acting deputy director of the USEPA Superfund Division and was happy to be working with CAPT Brown and CDR Smith. Mr. Meer noted that the Annual Report is due soon and asked that participants who would like to incorporate their responses or other significant events in the annual report, please coordinate with Lance Richman, USEPA.

Also, the National Response Team survey was just sent back for the co-chairs meeting; in which they raised the issue of the appropriate role of the ORRT in the event of a major incident.

The big issue on everyone's radar right now is the Deep Water Horizon. Lisa Jackson, who is the USEPA administrator, will be sending a letter requesting the area contingency plans (ACP) for those areas affected. Apparently, there was some question regarding sub-sea dispersant applications and where this exists within the ACP. Mr. Meer is not surprised since this was the first time this ACP was ever used. These oil spill mitigation issues need to be addressed.

Additionally, establishing jurisdictional boundaries on the outer islands is an issue that has come up in the past; ORRT should discuss how this should be done.

Updates from ORRT Co-Chair: CAPT Eric Brown, Chief, USCG District 14 (D14) Response Division

CAPT Eric Brown began by announcing that this was his second meeting with the ORRT and by asking those in Saipan to go around the room and introduce themselves. CAPT Brown was previously stationed in Guam, so it was good for him to come back here for work. District 14 has a new commander, Admiral Charlie Ray, who will be joining D14 from the Persian Gulf. CAPT Brown has been involved with several activities. The co-chair position has been shifted from the prevention to the response division. CAPT Brown was pleased to go to the Pacific States British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Meeting that was in held in Honolulu this month. The District Response Advisory Team (DRAT) has reported 13 response trainings. Saipan had a wonderful response to the training that was here yesterday, which CAPT Brown is looking forward to hearing more about from LT Stacy Crecy. CAPT Brown has gained a lot by being involved in the National Response Team meetings; he very much looks forward to his continued work with the ORRT.

Updates from Co-Coordinators:

USEPA and USCG Facility Inspection Outreach – Mr. Dan Meer, USEPA Region 9

Then Inspector Information and Compliance Outreach presentations were successful. There were roughly 90 participants in CNMI and 60 in Guam. Mr. Meer stated that some hurdles had to be overcome with venue choices, but overall based on the feedback received it seems everyone got a lot out of the presentation; although, it will be important in the future to keep the presentations to mostly photographs and examples. Mr. Meer also stated that the compact discs that were made of the presentations will be a great resource for the attendees to go back to for reference purposes. Lance Richman added that this was the first time OSHA has been involved. He indicated that changing the agenda is important, and it is simply not efficient to go back every year and give the same presentation.

Status of the ORRT Training Sub-Committee – Mr. Lance Richman, USEPA Region 9

Mr. Meer started out by acknowledging that the ORRT has been trying to put a training sub-committee together for quite a while. He stated that when the ORRT visits the individual venues, it behooves us to bring additional training. Mr. Meer added it is important to get the input of the local agencies, to see exactly what kind of training they need instead of forcing unnecessary training on them. He indicated that the ORRT cannot promise to provide all the training they need, but there is much training that can be provided. David Chargualaf noted that when Michelle Rogow came out to give equipment training it was really helpful to CNMI if for no other reason than to discover which specific trainings they need. The only time CNMI receives training is when an OSC comes out and trains at the request of DEQ. CNMI would accept and appreciate any other training that other agencies have to offer. Mr. Meer added that perhaps it would be a good idea to look into the “HazMat IQ” training, which is a practical and simple course developed by ex-firefighters.

2010 ORRT End of Year Report – Lance Richman, USEPA Region 9

Mr. Richman and CDR Smith both indicated they will be looking to receiving everyone’s submissions for the end of year report by November 30, 2010. They hope to have the annual report drafted and nearly complete in December to allow the Co-Chairs to sign off on it by January.

OSRO Requirements for Outer Island jurisdictions – CDR Marty Smith, USCG D14

At this time our capabilities are only at a level of the average most probable (AMP) discharge. Marty raised a number of questions: knowing that the capabilities are supported by industry, which is very limited in the outer islands, how do we fill the gaps to get to a capability level that will deal with the worst case discharge (WCD); how does the ORRT facilitate that; what can the ORRT do to help the FOSCs along in their areas of responsibility to get there?

CDR Smith asked for suggestions from the FOSCs to move toward this goal. CAPT Brown suggested that a subcommittee be developed to discuss the issue of training to work toward a higher capability. CAPT Brown further stated this decision should be made with the help of those in similar positions as David Chargualaf. Marvin Seman, CNMI DHS, as the

Commonwealth's POC for all HazMat training in CNMI, noted that the DEQ has been putting together a training calendar that maps out roughly 35 trainings per year; this calendar is scheduled through July of next year. The purpose of this calendar is to schedule all of the upcoming training to maximize attendance and minimize training conflicts between agencies. The CNMI will be sending some of their firefighters to the Texas A&M Oil Spill Course and the Marine Intelligence training. It is important for all of the agencies in CNMI to share resources. Because the CUC has brought so much attention to CNMI, training has been recognized as an issue. Michelle Rogow, Chris Curatilo (ERRG), and Lance Richman have been a huge help to get training opportunities out to the CNMI.

The ORRT will attempt to put together a training subcommittee by January. Perhaps training would be able to fit into the responsibilities of one of the standing subcommittees.

It was also suggested that it may be beneficial to extend the invitation to industry to attend the ORRT meetings; the Co-chairs and Co-coordinators have decided to make those invitations. It was discussed that in the past, industry had participated in ORRT meetings and their input was very valuable.

Federal Agency Program Updates

DHS: Mr. Scott Mitchem, Protective Security Advisor

Over the last 2 months, DHS completed vulnerability assessments in Guam and Saipan concerning national critical infrastructure. The DHS Cyber Security Team has completed assessments in American Samoa, Guam, Saipan, and Hawaii; as well as providing training in some of those locations.

The DHS should be releasing their list of National Level 1 and Level 2 critical infrastructure facilities soon. The potential exists for buffer zone protection for specific facilities; this will depend on funding.

FEMA: Mr. Larry Dove, Training and Exercise Specialist

Several FEMA-related activities are happening in the Pacific. FEMA recently co-signed the Guam Typhoon Contingency and Operations Plans. FEMA has devoted a lot of time and effort in completing training to all of the territories and has been holding several mass care and shelter summits. FEMA is trying to push training and exercise planning workshop in all of the states and territories during which they can schedule various training events to be held throughout the year. This summit was already held in Hawaii in 2010, and will soon come to American Samoa. FEMA is also scheduling similar workshops in Guam and Saipan. These workshops will hopefully help the territories develop a 4- to 5-year program in compliance with HSEEP.

Marvin Seman will be providing his contact information to FEMA to help schedule this event. CNMI is looking forward to working with Mr. Dove to get this moving. David Chargualaf added that the new working hours for government workers in CNMI are Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm, and there are separate CNMI holidays. If you want to schedule a full week of training in CNMI, please keep the government schedule in mind.

DOI: Ms. Patricia Port, Regional Environmental Officer

The Department of the Navy has a major undertaking coming up with the military buildup in Guam. The DOI has been working with the Navy and the interior bureaus to plan such a sizable effort. The ORRT should invite someone from the Navy to update us on the military buildup because it will no doubt increase the potential for oil and HazMat incidents. The incidents will likely be the result of building new infrastructure, the import of foreign workers, and the rotation of new Marines from Okinawa. Ms. Port suggests Cynthia Pang as a competent contact with the Navy.

The DOI has also been working with the Navy on alternative fuels. The Navy is making an effort to “go green” with one of their pilot programs to grow algae and other plants as biofuel. Ms. Port recommended team members look into the good things that the Navy is working on to accomplish green energy and offered to provide contact information.

Next month (November 7, 2010), six Micronesian Chiefs will be meeting in San Francisco, California, to meet with DOI and DOH to discuss the upcoming military buildup in Guam. Ms. Port would be able to provide contact information on this as well.

Regional and State Agency Updates:

Hawaii State, Department of Health: Mr. Curtis Martin, DOH HEER Office

Honolulu just recently held the Pacific States BC Oil Spill Task Force Annual Meeting to discuss lessons learned from the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The main focus of the meeting was the dispersant use, the protocol for SMART gear, in-situ burning, and SCAT team use down in the gulf. Mr. Martin deferred to USCG to discuss oil spill issues in Hawaii.

CNMI DEQ: Mr. David Chargualaf, Toxics, and DHS: Mr. Marvin Seman

There has been a great effort to train in CNMI. There have been up to 130 participants in training from both military and industrial agencies, both of which bring resources to the trainings. CNMI has been looking to LT Peterson to help train in response efforts and improve any obvious weaknesses within the commonwealth.

U.S. Coast Guard Activities in Guam: LCDR Felton Gilmore, Prevention Division, Sector Guam

Steve Olivera will be taking over as Prevention Division, Sector Guam. USCG Sector Guam is looking forward to working with Michelle Rogow on the challenges we are facing with the CUC.

Steve Olivera stated that this PowerPoint presentation is available on the ORRT website.

U.S. Coast Guard Activities in American Samoa: LT Trevor Parra, USCG MSD American Samoa Supervisor

Minor spills occur on a weekly basis, including 10 spills over 2 months.

U.S. Coast Guard Activities in Hawaii, including Approval of ACP for Dispersants: LT Matthew Derrenbacher, USCG Sector Honolulu

This PowerPoint presentation is available on the ORRT website.

945–958 Break

U.S. Coast Guard Activities in Oceania: LT Stacey Crecy, USCG, District 14, DRAT Supervisor

LT Crecy said good morning to everyone attending and made everyone aware that, in addition to the presentation she would give regarding DRAT activities, she would also provide details on the OSRO requirements to the ORRT.

This PowerPoint presentation is available on the ORRT website.

CDR Smith stopped the presentation to get clarification about the response capability in Singapore. He asked whether or not the regulations would allow us to use equipment overseas. LT Crecy replied that she had spoken with the National Response Strike Force regarding the matter and Singapore could not be rated as an OSRO for the USCG because it is not within the United States. LCDR Gilmore added that he and CAPT Sparks would be willing to look at some of this equipment, which is actually a merger of T&T and Cabris Equipment, as alternative planning. CDR Smith believes it would be worth requesting a consideration for that to meet the Tier I requirements.

(Continued with Presentation)

Government Services Administration (GSA) Impromptu Update: Maurice Craft, GSA, Deputy Emergency Coordinator, Region 9

CDR Smith pointed out that a representative from GSA was at the meeting and asked that he please introduce himself. Maurice Craft introduced himself and let everyone know that Bob Brown would be retiring soon and that he would be filling the ORRT role. Mr. Craft let the ORRT know that the GSA is there to support any and all efforts. Mr. Craft's focus is on continuity of government and his part of ESF-7, but he believes that there may be some opportunities for the GSA to provide products or equipment to territories or states whenever needed.

Recent EPA Response Activity for the Hawaii and Pacific Territories: Chris Weden, USEPA, Federal On-Scene Coordinator

Michelle Rogow filled in for Mr. Weden. Ms. Rogow stated that there are few active jobs in the Pacific at this time. However, USEPA is preparing for a number of jobs, including a cylinder response in American Samoa. USEPA will also be looking at the ASPA again soon.

Presentations

Update on USEPA Oil and HazMat Compliance Activities with the Commonwealth Utilities Commission, CNMI: Michelle Rogow, USEPA, Federal On-Scene Coordinator

This PowerPoint presentation is available on the ORRT website.

CDR Smith asked for information on the incinerators that are supposed to be located at the CUC. Ms. Rogow confirmed that two unpermitted incinerators are at CUC and seem to have been grandfathered in. They have been in and out of operation over the last 4 years.

Guam Water Works – Decommissioning Chlorine Cylinders at the Guam Northern District Sewage Treatment Plant: Paul J. Kemp MS, Guam Water Authority, Assistant General Manager for Compliance and Safety

This PowerPoint presentation is available on the ORRT website.

CDR Smith asked whether the nitrogen trichloride cylinders mentioned will be shock-sensitive. Mr. Kemp confirmed that they definitely would be, as well as heat-sensitive. He also mentioned that the material has been sitting out in the sun for a long time. Mr. Kemp is not sure what the potential explosive radius might be; it could just be feet, but sand berms are being put into place regardless.

Mr. Kemp also stated that he would like to thank Lance Richman, Brett Moxley, and Chris Weden for helping him wave a flag to get this response rolling.

ESF-10 – American Samoa Tsunami Support: Duane Newell, USEPA, Environmental Response Team Chemist

This PowerPoint presentation is available on the ORRT website.

Lance Richman stated that several things were made evident by the presentation. One is that USEPA and USCG need to be joined at the hip during the Stafford Act responses, so we can get the necessary information and support to FEMA and the State. In addition we need to prepare FEMA for the fact that we will be coming to them for funding support during a response.

(1143 Guam Standard Time) CLOSING REMARKS: ORRT Co-Chairs and Co-Coordiators

Lance Richman indicated he really appreciated everyone participating at these meetings.

CDR Marty Smith would like to remind everyone that the co-chairs will be looking for inputs to the ORRT end-of-the-year report. DOI has offered up some information with regard to the Guam military buildup, so we will need a Navy point of contact in Guam.

Also, on November 7, 2010, the six Micronesian Chiefs are meeting in San Francisco and USEPA will be represented at the meeting; however, it is not necessary for there to be ORRT representation.

The Palau pollution workshop is coming up. The ORRT coordinated with SPREP to provide USCG trainers for the event. CDR Smith will meet with LT Crecy to get information to the ambassador out there. CDR Smith would also like to meet with Lance Richman regarding the training subcommittee.

Dan Meer thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Meer had a last minute comment to add regarding the CUC: USEPA will be bringing on a secondary OSC to help Michelle Rogow with this effort. This secondary OSC will minimize Ms. Rogow's chances of burnout on the project. Mr. Meer also mentioned that he is very much looking forward to working with CAPT Brown and CDR Smith in the future.

CAPT Eric Brown went through the VTC locations to distinguish who was still present, and thanked everyone for sticking with the meeting. He mentioned that there may be some things that could help to streamline the meetings. CAPT Brown also noted the upcoming military buildup in Guam from DOI and looks forward to more briefs from CAPT Sparks. Additionally, CAPT Brown indicated he would look into the suggestion about a Big Island visit for the next Honolulu ORRT meeting. CAPT Brown would also like to point out that Curtis Martin did a wonderful job of putting together the oil spill task force meeting in Honolulu, which was a really great event.

CAPT Brown would also like to recognize a few of the Sectors for bringing up some events that may allow the ORRT to get some visibility at the highest levels of the USCG; for example, the vessel in American Samoa (USS Chehalis) – a simple slide was able to be sent to the Commandant of the USCG. If there are any high level policy issues, CAPT Brown should be able to push those through to Washington, DC.

Thanks to everyone for the briefings and presentation. Thanks to Chris Curatilo, CDR Marty Smith, and Lance Richman for planning such a great ORRT meeting. The VTC is a great way to work.

We very much hope to see everyone at the next ORRT meeting.

Acronyms

CAPT	Captain
CDR	Commander
CNMI	Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality
DOH	Department of Health
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
DOL	U.S. Department of Labor
ERRG	Engineering/Remediation Resources Group, Inc.
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GSA	General Services Administration
HDOH	Hawaii Department of Health
HEER	Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response
HFD	Honolulu Fire Department
LCDR	Lieutenant Commander
LT	Lieutenant
ORRT	Oceania Regional Response Team
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PACOM	Pacific Command
PHNSY & IMF	Pearl Harbor Naval Ship Yard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency