



Gulf Strike Team – Quarterly e-News

April-June 2008



News

Greetings everyone! Summer is here and so is the time of year when we have to say farewell to GST members who are transferring. This year we say goodbye to a significant number of seasoned responders: LT Rod Elkins, LT Chico Knight, LTJG Matt Kor, CWO Jon Cotton, CWO Michael Arnold, MKC Brad Ueberroth, MKC Jon Wendell, BM1 Chet Davis, YN1 Rick Harris, SK2 LeTroy Burgess, and MST2 Josh Decker. This is in addition to the loss of our friend and teammate, MST1 Grady Wilson who passed away on April 9th.

Please note the contact information for the following personnel who are assuming key duties:

LT Pete Zauner, Operations Officer, (251) 441-6612; 680-8006 (cell)

LTJG Brittany Poley, Assistant Operations Officer – (251) 441-6609; 680-8323 (cell)

ENS Mike Oubre, Training Officer – (251) 441-6504; (251) 644-1785 (cell)

Customer Service

Please let me know if there is any way the GST can improve its service and support to you. Our 24-Hour number is (251) 441-6601 or you can call me any time on my cell phone: (251) 776-2793. My official e-mail address is virginia.j.kammer@uscg.mil. When I am TAD or on response I also use the following address: cogulfstriketeam@gmail.com.

Case & Exercise Summaries

April

Exercises/Training

- Provided First Responder Operations (FRO) Hazwoper training to MSU Savannah responders and supported District 7 during a **Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS)** training evolution, April 1-3.
- Provided 3 ICS coaches and 1 controller for **District Eight's Hurricane Exercise**, April 1-4.
- Provided 1 ICS coach and subject matter expert for DOG/LANT sponsored **Tradewinds Exercise 2008** in the Dominican Republic, April 1-10.
- Provided 2 evaluators for **PST's Ready for Operations** evaluation for Hazmat, WMD, and Oil Spill response, April 1-4.
- Provided 2 personnel to observe the salvage of the **DSV JILLIAN MORRISON** in Morgan City, LA, April 2-6.
- Provided NSF and DOG capabilities brief/technical advice in support of **PANAMAX ALPHA** exercise with Panamanian officials, SOUTHCOM, DTRA, and EPA during the mid-planning conference, April 6-11.
- Provided 3 ICS coaches for **Sector North Carolina's PREP** drill in Atlantic Beach, NC, April 21-24.
- Conducted joint training exercise with MSRT and other DSF units at the **GOPLAT** (Gulf of Mexico Offshore Platform) Exercise in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, April 21- 24.
- Conducted training exercises at the **Center for National Response (CNR) Tunnel Facility** in Gallagher, WV, 28April – 02May.

May

NSF 035-08: Botelho Hawaii Criminal Warrant Entry; GST assisted PST and EPA Region IX with response efforts to support EPA Criminal Investigative Division warrant execution on a non-permitted dump site at Botelho in Honolulu, HI. GST deployed 1 member to provide sample collection, documentation, and hazard categorization, May 11-16.

Location: Botelho, HI

OSC: Janet Yocum

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NSF 038-08: Winchester, KY Wood Preserving Site; GST assisted and continues to assist EPA Region IV with federal oversight, site safety, and documentation for clean-up operations at a wood preservation facility in Winchester, KY; case opened May 19.

T/V Jose Bright; Methyl Alcohol Incident: GST's Industrial Hygienist provided technical assistance on an incident involving methyl alcohol poisoning aboard the T/V Jose Bright.

Location: MSU Galveston

OSC: Nathan Thompson

Exercises/Training

- Provided 3 personnel for the **International Oil Spill Conference** in Savannah, GA and set up booth displaying the NSF capabilities, May 5-9.
- Provided a subject matter expert in support of the **Oil Spill Recovery Technician** course at the OHMSET facility in Leonardo, NJ. Assisted training Sector and cutter personnel to be proficient in **VOSS and SORS** operations, May 12-16.
- Provided 1 subject matter expert to present radiation training and assist in the execution of a radiation exercise in Port Arthur, TX, May 12-14.
- Hosted **Marine Salvage Response** training provided by the **American Salvage Association (ASA)**, May 13-15.
- Provided 2 personnel for Sector Mobile's RDD tabletop exercise in Mobile, AL, May 22.

June

Exercises/Training

- Provided 14 personnel to participate in the Mexico-U.S. (**MEXUS**) oil spill exercise in South Padre, TX, June 2-6.
- Hosted **ICS 300/339** course for 18 GST and NOLA Marine Safety and Security Team (MSST) personnel, June 10-12.
- Provided 2 evaluators for **AST's Ready for Operations** evaluation for Hazmat, WMD, and Oil Spill response, June 9-13.
- Hosted **HAZCAT** course taught by HazTech Systems for 17 GST personnel, June 16-19.

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

Please call ENS Mike Oubre if you are interested in upcoming events: (251) 441-6601.