



Gulf Strike Team – Quarterly e-News

January – March 2010



News

Greetings from GST and Happy Spring! We had a very busy January between several Coast Guard responses and the Earthquake in Haiti – see case descriptions below. We are well into our spring training evolutions including our annual trip to the Center for National Response in West Virginia (aka “the tunnel”) April 26-30th and our Ready for Operations evaluation scheduled for May 24-28th at the Gulf Strike Team. Looking further to the future, it is hard to believe that almost three years have transpired since I took over the team. I will be retiring in June and there will be a formal Change of Command Ceremony on June 28th at 10:30 a.m. where I will be relieved by CDR Arex Avanni. CDR Avanni will be joining the GST after serving as a Congressional Liaison in Washington, DC. Welcome CDR Avanni!

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

January

NSF 021-10; M/V Lehmann Forester/ Pentaerythrite Tetranitrate (PETN); GST deployed 6 personnel to assist Sector North Carolina with contractor oversight, explosive handling supervision, site safety, and incident management support for a major hazmat release. During transloading operations of Division 1.1D explosives at the North Carolina State Port Authority facility in Morehead City, NC, nine cylinders containing 960 pounds of PETN were punctured by a forklift as they were unloaded from shipping containers and released explosive product on the pier. There were a total of five shipping containers with an estimated 160,000 pounds of PETN on the pier at the time of the incident.

Case opened January 12. Case closed January 15.

Location: Moorehead City, NC **OSC:** Sector North Carolina

NSF 022-10; Haiti Earthquake; GST deployed 3 personnel to assist the Seventh District with incident management support, port operations, port safety, port security, marine environmental protection, marine environmental response, vessel traffic management, vessel/cargo prioritization, safety oversight, and language support (French, Spanish) in the aftermath of the earthquake that devastated Haiti.

Case opened January 17. Case closed February 7.

Location: Port Au Prince, Haiti **OSC:** Seventh District/ Deployable Operations Group

NSF 024-10; T/V Eagle Otome; GST deployed 11 personnel to assist MSU Port Arthur with incident command support, shoreline cleanup assessment, contractor oversight, site safety, cost documentation, and photo documentation following an estimated 11,000 barrel crude oil spill in the Port Arthur ship channel.

Case opened January 23. Case closed February 5.

Location: Port Arthur, TX **OSC:** MSU Port Arthur

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NSF 026-10; M/V Seaboard Intrepid; GST deployed 7 personnel to assist Sector Miami with air monitoring, cost documentation, and site safety for the C/V Seaboard Intrepid response. C/V Seaboard Intrepid reported encountering high winds and seas causing a shift of cargo, losing approximately 30 containers overboard offshore of Key West and leaving most of the remaining load crushed or leaning at an angle on deck. Cargo included chlorine gas, pesticides, acids, and other hazardous materials.

Case opened January 26. Case closed February 6.

Location: Miami, FL

OSC: Sector Miami

Exercises/Training and Outreach

- Provided 2 instructors/subject matter experts (SMEs) to lead **radiation awareness and detection training** at MSST New Orleans, January 12.
- Provided 1 personnel to attend a **CBRNE conference** in Atlanta, GA, January 19-21.
- Provided 1 representative to participate in the **Civil Support Team meeting** in Phoenix, AZ, January 26-27.
- Provided 1 representative/SME to participate in the **Area Contingency Plan meeting** in Corpus Christi, TX, January 28-29.

February

Exercises/Training and Outreach

- Sent 3 personnel and the Hazardous Materials Response Trailer to attend the **EPA On-Scene Coordinator's conference** in Orlando, FL, February 1-5.
- Hosted a **CPR/First Aid course** for 8 GST members, February 9.
- Provided 1 SME to attend the initial planning conference for the **MEXUS 2010** exercise in Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico, February 9-10.
- Provided 1 Unified Command (UC) coach and 1 Planning Section Chief (PSC) coach for the **AMSTEP/PREP exercise** in Key West, FL, February 9-11.

March

Exercises/Training and Outreach

- Provided 4 instructors/coaches to lead/participate in the **FOSCR Seminar** hosted by the Eighth District in New Orleans, LA, March 1-4.
- Provided 1 SME to attend the mid planning conference for the **MEXUS 2010** exercise in Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico, March 16.
- Provided 3 representatives to attend the **Eighth District's response conference** in New Orleans, LA, March 15-16.
- Provided 1 keynote speaker for the **American Society of Safety Engineer's luncheon** in Mobile, AL, March 17.
- Co-hosted and provided 4 instructors to teach **ICS 210, 300, and 339 courses** for 25 NSF, Sector, Coast Guard Auxiliary members, and industry partners in Mobile, AL, March 22-26.
- Provided 2 controllers (Unified Area Command, National Incident Command) for the Spill of National Significance (**SONS**) exercise in Portsmouth, NH, March 22-25.
- Provided 2 instructors/coaches to lead/participate in the **FOSCR Seminar** hosted by the Eighth District in Galveston, TX, March 29 – April 1.

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

May 24 - 28: GST RFO Evaluation

Jun 15-17: Region VI RRT Meeting

Jun 28: GST Change of Command

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