

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: \*

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DUKW 34 AND M/V CARIBBEAN SEA

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Docket No.: DCA-10-MM-025

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Interview of: ANDREW NAPOLI

Conference Room  
Sector Delaware Bay  
United States Coast Guard  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Monday  
July 12, 2010

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice,  
at 11:23 a.m.

BEFORE: LIAM LARUE  
Accident Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

LIAM LARUE, Accident Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board  
Office of Marine Safety  
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20594  
(202) 314-6000

MATT FINE, Lieutenant Commander  
United States Coast Guard

JOHN LAWRENCE, Vice President  
Health, Safety, Quality and Environment  
K-Sea Transportation

JOHN FITZGIBBONS  
Ride the Ducks

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I N T E R V I E W

(11:23 a.m.)

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2  
3 MR. LARUE: All right, good morning. It's 11:23 on  
4 Monday, July 12th. This is Liam LaRue from NTSB and we are here  
5 today to speak to Lieutenant Andrew Napoli.

6 Could we just get you to spell your last name for us to  
7 make sure --

8 MR. NAPOLI: Sure. N-A-P, as in Paul, O-L-I.

9 MR. LARUE: Great.

10 And also here conducting interviews today?

11 MR. FINE: (Indiscernible) Commander Matt Fine, U.S.  
12 Coast Guard.

13 MR. LAWRENCE: And, Captain John Lawrence, K-Sea  
14 Transportation.

15 MR. FITZGIBBONS: John Fitzgibbons, Ride the Ducks.

16 MR. LARUE: All right.

## INTERVIEW OF ANDREW NAPOLI

17  
18 BY MR. LARUE:

19 Q. And, Andy, what's your current position here?

20 A. Lieutenant.

21 Q. All right. How long have you been working for the  
22 Marine Police?

23 A. Five and a half years.

24 Q. Five and a half years. All right. And if you could --  
25 I understand you took part in the rescue on -- after the DUKW

1 collision?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If you could just walk us through --

4 A. Sure.

5 Q. -- the whole scenario please?

6 A. At around 2:45 p.m., we were notified initially by  
7 Monica Santorum (ph.) from the Penn -- or the Delaware River  
8 Waterfront Corporation now -- that a DUKW boat had been hit and  
9 there were people in the water. Immediately after that, we also  
10 were notified by our -- by police radio, and we also heard the  
11 Coast Guard's SAR alarm go off. Myself, along with Police Officer  
12 Costello, Kuback (ph.), and Curley (ph.), immediately responded,  
13 using Boat Numbers 1 and 3, and proceeded to Penn's Landing, where  
14 we observed the RiverLink Ferry, and then just past the RiverLink  
15 Ferry, or behind them, we noticed numerous people in the water  
16 both with and without life vests.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. All right. At that point, we proceeded to pull out as  
19 many people as we could and, at the same time, we then noticed  
20 that the Navy had responded with a small boat, inflatable boat,  
21 and assisted in the rescue efforts. At some point after we got  
22 everybody out of the water that we could visually see, we took  
23 them to shore and offloaded them at the RiverLink Ferry's dock.

24 So in -- with -- I had a conversation with the DUKW boat  
25 captain, trying to ascertain the amount of passengers that were

1 onboard and he, unfortunately, did not know the exact amount, so I  
2 went on shore to get, to try to get -- facilitate a count of the  
3 people that were pulled out of the water. That was done inside  
4 the Seaport Museum. After obtaining that count and then getting  
5 the count of people that were supposedly on the DUKW boat at the  
6 time of the accident, at that time, there were four people still  
7 missing. At a certain point later, we then narrowed it down to  
8 two people that were missing.

9           So search operations continued and, at the same time,  
10 location efforts were then started to try to find where the DUKW  
11 boat was laying at the bottom of the river. And with the help of  
12 several agencies, including the New Jersey State Police and the  
13 Army Corp of Engineers, and along with our sonar, we located the,  
14 what we believed to be the DUKW boat at the bottom of the river.

15       Q.    Okay, got it.

16       A.    Okay. So at, then at approximately -- I'm going to  
17 guess and say it was approximately 5 p.m. -- we started diving  
18 operations to positively identify the DUKW boats and to mark it  
19 with a buoy for salvage efforts in the future, which we then did.

20       Q.    I'm just going to step back through.

21       A.    Okay, uh-huh.

22       Q.    Let's see. You guys went out on Boats 1 and 3. What  
23 boat were you on?

24       A.    I was on Boat 1.

25       Q.    Okay. And who was with you?

1 A. That would be Police Officer Rhuman (ph.).

2 Q. Okay. And how long did it take you to get out to  
3 this --

4 A. Actually, Police Officer Runey (ph.) and Police Officer  
5 Crowley (ph.). I'm sorry.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. They're all --

8 Q. About how long did it take you to get there from here?

9 A. Less than three minutes.

10 Q. All right. And you said you saw the RiverLink Ferry and  
11 what other response assets on the scene?

12 A. That's it.

13 Q. That's it?

14 A. That was all that was there.

15 Q. So you were number 2?

16 A. We were -- at (indiscernible), see we were number 1.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. We were the only car that was there because that's where  
19 they are.

20 Q. And then it was you and then Boat 3 following behind, or  
21 were you guys at the same time?

22 A. We were at the same time, yeah.

23 Q. All right. And let's see. Do you remember how many  
24 people you pulled out specifically?

25 A. I don't have an exact number. I'm going to say we

1 probably pulled on our boat, I'm going to say, a half a dozen  
2 people, six, I believe, and they had probably around the same  
3 number on Boat 3 --

4 Q. All right.

5 A. -- give or take.

6 Q. You don't remember any of them, you know --

7 A. Their names, no.

8 Q. -- males, females, anything like that?

9 A. Probably a mix of -- you know, half and half. There  
10 were adults, as well as children.

11 Q. All right. You said you did get the DUKW?

12 A. We did get it, yes.

13 Q. You did?

14 A. The DUKW captain was on -- was recovered. He was picked  
15 up on Boat 3.

16 Q. Okay. And you talked to him?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Anything unusual about his demeanor or anything?

19 A. No, he was very upset, understandably.

20 Q. Did he describe what had happened to you at all?

21 A. I don't even know if I asked at that point. We were so  
22 concerned about just getting everybody, you know, accounted for --

23 Q. Uh-huh.

24 A. -- I guess. I did ask, I know I did ask -- as a matter  
25 of fact, when we got everybody out of the, finally out of the



1 water and we were going back to dock, I asked him where his boat  
2 was because at the time, I still didn't know what had happened. I  
3 asked him where his boat was and he said it was at the bottom of  
4 the river.

5 Q. Uh-huh. You said he wasn't sure what the total count  
6 was for --

7 A. That's correct, yes.

8 Q. -- people on board?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you said you finally got it when you got on shore.  
11 How did you --

12 A. We finally got on shore. I think we sent somebody to --  
13 because there were problems with communicating back with loading,  
14 where they load DUKW boats. So we said -- actually, I believe  
15 Monica Santorum volunteered to go to the DUKW boat loading area to  
16 find out what the number of passengers and crew were.

17 Q. So that was where -- that's where you got the official  
18 count?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Okay. I think that's pretty much all the questions I've  
21 got.

22 MR. LARUE: Do you have any questions?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't have any.

24 MR. LARUE: No?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nothing.

1 BY MR. LARUE:

2 Q. Anything else that you think might be important for us?

3 You know, we're just trying to document any of the --

4 A. No, sir. No.

5 Q. -- response things and --

6 A. No, I really can't -- no --

7 Q. It seems like you guys were the ones that pulled out the  
8 most people, you and Boat 3.

9 A. Probably. We -- yeah, we were the -- we worked with our  
10 two boats there. There were a number of people in the water, but  
11 there were a lot of people already on land --

12 Q. Uh-huh.

13 A. -- that had already gotten out from various ways --

14 Q. All right.

15 A. -- various means.

16 BY LCDR FINE:

17 Q. The captain's mental state -- Matt Fine, Coast Guard.  
18 The captain's mental state, was it --

19 A. He was very upset --

20 Q. Right.

21 A. -- I guess is the best way to describe it. Just, I  
22 guess like just almost a state of shock.

23 Q. All right.

24 BY MR. LARUE:

25 Q. All right. Well, appreciate you taking the time to talk

1 to us. Are you okay with us recording it?

2 A. Absolutely.

3 Q. All right. I'm going to turn it off.

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           DUKW 34 AND M/V CARIBBEAN SEA  
                                  Interview of Andrew Napoli

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-10-MM-025

PLACE:                    Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DATE:                     July 12, 2010

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been compared to  
the recording accomplished at the hearing.

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Karen M. Galvez  
Transcriber