

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

----- :
 IN RE :
 :
 THE FIRE THAT OCCURRED ON : NTSB Accident No.
 THE CARIBBEAN FANTASY THAT : DCA16FM052
 OCCURRED ON AUGUST 17, 2016 :
 :
 ----- :

INTERVIEW OF: ROBERTO PADILLA

Monday,
August 22, 2016

Engineering Building
Sector San Juan

BEFORE

MICHAEL KARR, NTSB
E, NTSB

AND [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USCG
 [REDACTED] PI Club

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APPEARANCES:

On Behalf of American Cruise:

CARLOS BAYRON, ESQ.
Bayron Offices

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(7:11 p.m.)

1
2
3 INVESTIGATOR KARR: This is Mike Karr of the
4 National Transportation Safety Board. It's 1511 on
5 August 22nd, 2016. We're in a conference room at
6 Sector San Juan. And we're conducting an interview
7 with regard to the fire onboard the Caribbean Fantasy.

8 I'd like to have everyone at the table
9 introduce themselves. So we'll go around the table to
10 my right.

11 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] United States Coast
12 Guard.

13 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Carrie Bell, NTSB.

14 MR. PADILLA: Roberto Padilla.

15 LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] U.S. Coast
16 Guard.

17 INVESTIGATOR KARR: All right. Thank you.
18 And, Roberto, is it okay if we record the interview?

19 MR. PADILLA: It's okay.

20 INVESTIGATOR KARR: All right. Thanks.
21 Roberto, what I'd like to first begin with asking you,
22 when you signed on to the Caribbean Fantasy, and how
23 long you have been working onboard that vessel?

24 MR. PADILLA: I have around two and a half
25 months onboard, on this contract.

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1 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Is that the only time
2 you've worked? So prior to that you did not work for
3 this ship?

4 MR. PADILLA: Sorry.

5 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Oh, good. We're good.
6 Two and a half months. You've been with the ship,
7 you've been with this company for a total of two and a
8 half months?

9 MR. PADILLA: Yes, two and a half month.

10 INVESTIGATOR KARR: All right. I'd like to
11 begin by having you tell us the story. Tell us what
12 you did, what you observed, beginning at the time you
13 heard Mr. Skylight (phonetic).

14 MR. PADILLA: The time was, from the
15 beginning I was sleeping. Because my duty is from
16 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. Then I was in my cabin
17 sleeping, and I hear the Mr. Skylight around 7:00 a.m.,
18 7:30 a.m., something like that, before the entrance,
19 and someone.

20 And then I hear the alarm, Mr. Skylight. I
21 proceed to muster station, and start to prepare.
22 Because my duty in emergency is lifeboat preparation,
23 lifeboat preparation team.

24 INVESTIGATOR KARR: And keep telling me,
25 tell me about your morning.

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1 MR. PADILLA: When I arrive to my muster
2 station we start to prepare to take the lashing,
3 waiting for them to put in position. And when the
4 captain say, when they say the fire is not under
5 control we put the lifeboat on the embarkation deck.

6 And after this I proceed to my MES position,
7 because this is for abandon in my duty. I will go, I
8 was there in the MES. But the lifeboat was already
9 prepared, just waiting for instruction to evacuate the
10 passenger.

11 INVESTIGATOR KARR: So, did you lower the
12 lifeboat to the embarkation deck?

13 MR. PADILLA: No. This, I prepare only, I
14 take the lashing. I prepare to be ready to lower the
15 lifeboat. For the lower the lifeboat is another person
16 in charge.

17 INVESTIGATOR KARR: All right. And then,
18 after you did that you went to the MES?

19 MR. PADILLA: Yes. After the --

20 INVESTIGATOR KARR: So, tell me what you did
21 at the MES.

22 MR. PADILLA: When I come to MES, my side is
23 port side. But already staff captain and another AB,
24 they was there. And they open already, they was
25 preparing already. Because I'm second in command in

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1 that. And they already open.

2 And they start to make a procedure for start
3 to embarkation. But this port side, we was a little
4 bit slow to inflate the platform to -- Then we go to
5 help to assist on the starboard side MES. And after,
6 waiting for instruction.

7 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Was there a particular
8 reason why you left the port side MES to go to the
9 starboard side?

10 MR. PADILLA: Because this in port side was
11 some problem. Because no, too much delay to inflate.
12 We was waiting, and in (unintelligible) this, the pump
13 for the MES to inflate. But delayed, it was very slow.
14 And we tried to make more quickly on the other side.
15 And then we start to prepare also starboard side,
16 together both side.

17 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Yes. Did you, with
18 regard, on the port side MES did you try to do, tell me
19 what you did to try and help the MES inflate.

20 MR. PADILLA: We take the pump, the small
21 pump to make more air. But I don't know. Always was
22 very slow. No coming quickly.

23 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Tell me about, tell me
24 what conversations you had with the staff captain about
25 the problems with the port side MES.

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1 MR. PADILLA: Staff captain report to the
2 bridge the problem. And I heard something to prepare
3 also starboard side to make, to use as much as possible
4 anyone the port side or starboard side. And we make
5 like this. We leave this port side standby, and we go
6 to starboard side to help, to make more quickly also
7 starboard side.

8 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Okay. Did anyone stay
9 at the port side --

10 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

11 INVESTIGATOR KARR: -- MES? And who was
12 that?

13 MR. PADILLA: I no remember. Because that
14 is, was only crew. But there was some plumber,
15 (unintelligible), about six to eight people. But was
16 very, we make very quickly. We try to do as much
17 quickly as we can. I no remember exactly who keep on
18 the port side. But there was one or two person there
19 waiting for finish.

20 INVESTIGATOR KARR: All right. Thanks.

21 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] United States Coast
22 Guard. I just, I want to confirm for the record, it
23 was the staff captain and another AB, besides yourself,
24 that actually launched the port side MES. Is that
25 correct?

1 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

2 MR. [REDACTED] Are you responsible for the
3 preparation of the port and the starboard side
4 lifeboats, or only the port, or only the starboard?

5 MR. PADILLA: In the lifeboat preparation we
6 have one team. And the bosun is in charge about us
7 (phonetic). When we hear the alarm we go to the muster
8 station, and bosun say who go to prepare port side, who
9 go to prepare the starboard side. So some person from
10 that department, and we go to prepare port side. And
11 then the other stay on starboard side.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Did you proceed to the port side
13 or the starboard side to prepare lifeboats?

14 MR. PADILLA: From beginning we go to
15 starboard side together. And from the starboard side
16 bosun say, you go to port side, you stay on starboard
17 side.

18 MR. [REDACTED] So, did you prep the lifeboat
19 number 3 for launching?

20 MR. PADILLA: I go to prepare port side.

21 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, port side.

22 MR. PADILLA: Yes. I go to port side.

23 MR. [REDACTED] Who prepared the lifeboats on the
24 starboard side?

25 MR. PADILLA: I'm no, I'm not sure. Because

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1 I was, you know, it was very, everything very fast. We
2 running, running. Bosun only say, you, you, you, go to
3 prepare port side. And we go, take the lashing,
4 prepare, put the plugs, connect the batteries. And the
5 (unintelligible) that is only prepare, after waiting
6 for instruction of them to lower.

7 MR. [REDACTED] All right. So, I'm going to make
8 a note here. And I'm going to write prepare. And I
9 want you to walk me through each of the steps of what
10 you do to prepare a lifeboat, beginning with when you
11 first arrive to the lifeboat and it's stowed. Tell me
12 every step that you do to prepare that boat to be
13 boarded by passengers.

14 MR. PADILLA: Every step?

15 MR. [REDACTED] Please.

16 MR. PADILLA: First, one run forward, one
17 aft, take the lashing. There is one hook, one forward,
18 one aft. We take together this (unintelligible) hook.
19 The lifeboat is already free.

20 MR. [REDACTED] Are you referring to the tracing
21 pennants (phonetic)?

22 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

23 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Okay. And the next step?

24 MR. PADILLA: And after this we take the
25 painter line, we put in the (unintelligible) to keep

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1 the lifeboat.

2 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

3 MR. PADILLA: Open the doors where the
4 passenger must to embarkation.

5 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

6 MR. PADILLA: And they take out also the
7 cover from the stair, from the ladder.

8 MR. [REDACTED] So you can step up into the boat?
9 I don't understand.

10 MR. PADILLA: No. Because the lifeboat is,
11 after this we lower on the embarkation deck.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

13 MR. PADILLA: Here we put the passenger --

14 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

15 MR. PADILLA: -- on embarkation deck.

16 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. I see what you're saying.
17 All right. So you open the doors. And then what? And
18 then, what do you do after that?

19 MR. PADILLA: After this, because I only,
20 I'm only lifeboat preparation team, I just take the
21 lashing. And the others take the covers from the
22 doors, put the plugs. After this --

23 MR. [REDACTED] Wait. What was that last one?

24 You put the --

25 MR. PADILLA: Sorry.

1 MR. [REDACTED] -- plugs?

2 MR. PADILLA: The plugs.

3 MR. [REDACTED] What are the plugs? Can you
4 explain that to me? What is that?

5 MR. PADILLA: The plug is down, is down in
6 the keel to -- We put the, before to lower, so the
7 water no come inside.

8 MR. [REDACTED] So, the boats are still with the
9 plugs out? And before they launch them they have to
10 put these plugs in, so that way the water doesn't come
11 inside? Is that correct?

12 MR. PADILLA: Yes. If we don't put the
13 plugs the water will come inside and damage the
14 lifeboat.

15 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Why are the boats stored
16 with the plugs out? What's the reason? I just don't
17 know, and that's why I'm asking you.

18 MR. PADILLA: Why the plugs?

19 MR. [REDACTED] Why would the plugs be out when
20 the boats are stowed?

21 MR. PADILLA: When the, in navigation
22 normally must be like this, the plugs. Because this
23 pressure, we make always, when we make drill is like
24 this. Somebody is in charge to go inside to open the
25 covers, to go inside to put the plugs, to connect the

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1 battery. And everyone have duty.

2 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So, so far I have, you
3 release the tracing pennants, you attach the painter
4 line for the ship, you open the doors to the lifeboat,
5 prepare for boarding.

6 MR. PADILLA: No. I don't open the --

7 MR. [REDACTED] Not you.

8 MR. PADILLA: Oh.

9 MR. [REDACTED] I'm just saying in general --

10 MR. PADILLA: In general, yes.

11 MR. [REDACTED] -- the steps that are required to

12 --

13 MR. PADILLA: Oh, okay.

14 MR. [REDACTED] -- prepare a boat. Am I correct
15 so far?

16 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

17 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So you install the plugs,
18 you connect the battery.

19 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

20 MR. [REDACTED] Is there anything after that?

21 MR. PADILLA: After that we go to, the
22 lifeboat was already prepared. And after, I go to my
23 IBS (phonetic).

24 MR. [REDACTED] Are you familiar with the
25 differences in construction between lifeboat number 1

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1 and lifeboat number 3?

2 MR. PADILLA: I don't understand the
3 question.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Do you know, are you familiar
5 with the different types of lifeboats?

6 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Open, partially enclosed, fully
8 enclosed, free fall (phonetic), all right. So lifeboat
9 number 1 is a partially enclosed lifeboat, correct?

10 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

11 MR. [REDACTED] And lifeboat number 3 is a fully
12 enclosed lifeboat, correct?

13 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

14 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Is there anything
15 different that has to be done to prepare lifeboat
16 number 3, versus lifeboat number 1? Or is it all the
17 same steps?

18 MR. PADILLA: It's the same, yes.

19 MR. [REDACTED] All the same?

20 MR. PADILLA: Any different, because they
21 have, the lifeboat, they are the same.

22 MR. [REDACTED] I'm talking about between
23 lifeboat 1 and lifeboat 3.

24 MR. PADILLA: Yes, yes.

25 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So, it's all the same

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1 steps?

2 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Tracing pennants, painter line,
4 open the doors, install the plug, connect the battery?

5 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

6 MR. [REDACTED] I'm going to let Carrie talk to
7 you about the checklists and stuff that go along with
8 that. But I want to ask you a couple of other
9 questions first. I'm going to start, I'm not talking
10 about the lifeboats anymore. Now I'm going to talk
11 about the MES, okay.

12 The pump that you used to try to get more
13 air into the raft, or I'm sorry. The pump that you
14 used when you tried to get more air into the Marine
15 Evacuation System, after you had noticed that it wasn't
16 inflating fast enough, can you explain what that pump
17 is? Is it a hand pump? Is a electric pump? Is it a
18 hydraulic pump? Is it something that's installed on
19 the Marine Evacuation System? How does that work?

20 MR. PADILLA: This is a hand pump. Because
21 staff captain was inside. I saw him to make this small
22 compartment you make like this, try to make more fast.
23 But anyway it come very slow.

24 MR. [REDACTED] So, when you were talking about
25 these small compartments, and for the recorder he's

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1 referring to those small compartments about the size of
2 a shoe box, maybe eight inches by eight inches, about
3 this big.

4 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

5 MR. [REDACTED] Are you referring to the two
6 small compartments inside the MES, with the clear
7 plastic, and the white T?

8 MR. PADILLA: Yes, yes.

9 MR. [REDACTED] And then the two valves?

10 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

11 MR. [REDACTED] That's the backup system?

12 MR. PADILLA: Yes, this one.

13 MR. [REDACTED] And the staff captain is the one
14 that opened up --

15 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

16 MR. [REDACTED] -- both of those valves?

17 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

18 MR. [REDACTED] And that did not work either?

19 MR. PADILLA: It was working. But not
20 properly. Because we can see from upstairs the
21 platform is coming air. But coming slow.

22 MR. [REDACTED] Coming slow.

23 MR. PADILLA: Coming slow.

24 MR. [REDACTED] So, you've been on the Caribbean
25 Fantasy for two and a half months --

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1 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

2 MR. [REDACTED] -- on this contract?

3 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

4 MR. [REDACTED] How many contracts have you done
5 on the Caribbean Fantasy before this contract?

6 MR. PADILLA: On this company?

7 MR. [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

8 MR. PADILLA: I was also two months on the
9 other ship from the same company.

10 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. I apologize. I meant on
11 the Caribbean Fantasy. Is this your first contract on
12 the Caribbean Fantasy? Or have you done previous
13 contracts on the Caribbean Fantasy as well?

14 MR. PADILLA: You mean in this company?

15 MR. [REDACTED] I mean on the ship Caribbean
16 Fantasy.

17 MR. PADILLA: Oh. On the ship this is my
18 first.

19 MR. [REDACTED] So, this is your first contract -
20 -

21 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

22 MR. [REDACTED] -- on the Caribbean Fantasy?

23 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

24 MR. [REDACTED] Before the day in question, have
25 you ever seen a Marine Evacuation System deployed,

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1 before this?

2 MR. PADILLA: I have, if I have instruction?

3 MR. [REDACTED] No. Have you ever seen an MES
4 deploy, besides on the day that the fire broke out and
5 you abandoned ship?

6 MR. PADILLA: (Foreign language spoken)

7 MR. BAYRON: You want me to help?

8 MR. [REDACTED] If you could please, yes. If you
9 could say your name for the recorder, please, sir?

10 MR. BAYRON: Yes. For the record, this is
11 Carlos Bayron.

12 MR. PADILLA: We receive before the
13 accident, we receive some instruction on it. And we
14 can see in the video. The staff captain and security
15 officer, they gave for all the crew this information.
16 We see at the video how to operate the MES, and how
17 it's working, how to make in emergency case.

18 MR. [REDACTED] Do you know what the word
19 deployment means? Deployment?

20 MR. PADILLA: Deployment?

21 MR. [REDACTED] Deployment means when the MES is
22 activated, and it comes out of the side of the ship,
23 and it fills with air. That's deploy. Have you ever
24 seen an MES deployed in real life, either on a ship or
25 at a training facility? Or only on a video?

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1 MR. PADILLA: Oh. Only on the video. And
2 really, in really case I didn't see it before.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. And I just want to expand
4 that. When I, when you say a real case, do you mean in
5 a real emergency? Because I also mean in a training
6 session as well.

7 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

8 MR. [REDACTED] Have you ever had any training
9 that involved you being involved in a live, actual
10 deployment?

11 MR. PADILLA: No. This, we receive only the
12 instruction. Because when we make drill, normally when
13 we make drill we don't activate. Only they give
14 instruction, they give a video. And like this I don't
15 see before.

16 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Okay. Carrie.

17 MR. [REDACTED] That's all I have.

18 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Carrie Bell, NTSB. So,
19 when you do, you just said that you do drills. Do you
20 use a checklist when you do drills for the lifeboat
21 preparation? Do you have a checklist that you go
22 through?

23 MR. PADILLA: Yes. We have, use --

24 INVESTIGATOR BELL: So, for each of those
25 steps that you mentioned, doing all the different

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1 activities to prepare the lifeboat, you check each
2 thing off of your list as you go through it?

3 MR. PADILLA: You mean the, some list, or
4 something that's (unintelligible)? We have --

5 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Do you do that every
6 time you do a drill?

7 MR. PADILLA: We do it every time when we
8 make drill. They make a question. They ask for
9 everybody how to, you know, how to use, how to, for
10 example, in lifeboat team preparation, they ask me if I
11 know how to take the lashing off to prepare the
12 lifeboat, how to evacuate the passenger.

13 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Do you actually do that?
14 Or just, you just read it and check it? Or do you
15 actually do the action?

16 MR. PADILLA: Yes. We make, well, actually,
17 when we make drill, we make like it's not only --

18 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Okay.

19 MR. PADILLA: -- what is the instruction.

20 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Okay. But you do it?

21 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

22 INVESTIGATOR BELL: So, have you ever, on
23 the Caribbean Fantasy have you ever launched the
24 lifeboat to the water? What's the word I'm looking
25 for? Not launch, but --

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1 INVESTIGATOR KARR: (Inaudible).

2 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Yes. Take the lifeboat
3 all the way to the water. Have you done that on a
4 drill?

5 MR. PADILLA: If we put the lifeboat in the
6 water? Yes.

7 INVESTIGATOR BELL: You have done that?

8 MR. PADILLA: Yes. We put the, when the, we
9 make one drill with Coast Guard. And we put the
10 lifeboat in, this lifeboat, port side, we put in the
11 water, a rescue boat. We make (unintelligible).

12 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Okay. So, when the
13 lifeboats are all -- There are three lifeboats, and the
14 rescue boat.

15 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

16 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Does anyone, have you
17 ever worked with the rescue boat?

18 MR. PADILLA: No. I didn't see.

19 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Have you ever done any
20 training with the rescue boat?

21 MR. PADILLA: Yes, yes. They make training,
22 put it also in the water, and make (unintelligible)
23 working.

24 INVESTIGATOR BELL: You've done that?

25 MR. PADILLA: Me?

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1 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Yes.

2 MR. PADILLA: No.

3 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Okay. So, what kind of
4 specialized training have you done for lifeboat
5 preparation, outside of on the ship? So, shore side.

6 MR. PADILLA: So, what kind of --

7 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Have you done training
8 in survival craft?

9 MR. PADILLA: So, life raft? Normally we
10 open two time, open one life raft, but onboard.

11 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Oh, life raft. Okay.

12 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

13 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Okay. So you were
14 involved in that training?

15 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

16 INVESTIGATOR BELL: So, have you taken
17 training for survival craft?

18 MR. PADILLA: Survival craft? Only, no,
19 only like this video.

20 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Just a video?

21 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

22 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Okay. I think that's
23 all the questions I have right now.

24 LT [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with
25 the U.S. Coast Guard. What is your number, your

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1 station bill number?

2 MR. PADILLA: My number card?

3 LT [REDACTED] For emergencies?

4 MR. PADILLA: Ten.

5 LT [REDACTED] Number 10?

6 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

7 LT [REDACTED] Okay. And on your station card
8 it says for Mr. Skylight that you are the lifeboat
9 preparation team. Does it say on your station card to
10 report to the MES?

11 MR. PADILLA: Can you repeat?

12 LT [REDACTED] Does your station card also say
13 duties for the MES?

14 MR. PADILLA: Yes, yes.

15 LT [REDACTED] It does?

16 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

17 LT [REDACTED] And what does that say
18 specifically?

19 MR. PADILLA: In specifically my card say,
20 in emergency I, emergency case I have to proceed to
21 lifeboat, because I'm lifeboat preparation team. And
22 for abandon I have to proceed to the MES.

23 LT [REDACTED] Port side?

24 MR. PADILLA: Port side, yes.

25 LT [REDACTED] To do what?

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1 MR. PADILLA: To assist, because I'm second
2 in command in the, on this MES.

3 LT [REDACTED] Okay. Okay.

4 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with United States
5 Coast Guard. Can you explain to me, what are your
6 duties as the second in command for the Marine
7 Evacuation System?

8 MR. PADILLA: To assist, to help. Because
9 first in command is bosun. If, just in case if he need
10 some help, try to help to him. Because my duties, to
11 help to him to open, and put the platform on side the
12 ship. And as soon as possible start to evacuate
13 passengers.

14 MR. [REDACTED] Do you have a license, a maritime
15 license?

16 MR. PADILLA: A maritime license?

17 MR. [REDACTED] Second officer license?

18 MR. PADILLA: I have license for AB.

19 MR. [REDACTED] AB?

20 MR. PADILLA: AB.

21 MR. [REDACTED] An AB license? As part of your
22 training as an AB, and as part of your certification of
23 being licensed as an AB, were you required to take any
24 training that required you to drive a lifeboat, that
25 required you to become a life raft commander? Did you

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1 take any training specifically to proficiency in
2 survival craft?

3 MR. PADILLA: Can you repeat?

4 MR. [REDACTED] Yes. It's no problem. You know
5 you have basic safety, as a TCW basic safety, okay?

6 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Firefighting, first aid, personal
8 safety and social responsibilities?

9 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

10 MR. [REDACTED] And then you have crowd
11 management training. Did you have crowd management
12 training?

13 MR. PADILLA: No.

14 MR. [REDACTED] Crowd management certificate?

15 MR. PADILLA: No.

16 MR. [REDACTED] No. Do you have crisis
17 management and human behavior certificate?

18 MR. PADILLA: No, no. I do not.

19 MR. [REDACTED] And have you ever taken a course
20 and got a certificate for survival craft, for
21 lifeboats, for life rafts? A certificate to drive or
22 operate lifeboats?

23 MR. PADILLA: I have a certificate for --

24 MR. [REDACTED] Are you a lifeboatman (phonetic)?

25 MR. PADILLA: Faster (phonetic).

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1 MR. [REDACTED] Fast rescue boat?

2 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

3 MR. [REDACTED] So you have fast rescue boat?

4 But do you have a lifeboatman endorsement?

5 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

6 MR. [REDACTED] You do?

7 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

8 MR. [REDACTED] You have a lifeboatman
9 endorsement on your seaman's book?

10 MR. PADILLA: Endorsement?

11 MR. [REDACTED] You know in your seaman's book
12 that you have your endorsements that say, basic safety.
13 Do you have a stamp, or do you have an endorsement for
14 lifeboatman, or survival craft operator, or however
15 it's labeled?

16 MR. PADILLA: I'm not sure. Because I no
17 understand exactly --

18 MR. [REDACTED] Carlos, could I ask you to
19 translate for me?

20 MR. BAYRON: Yes.

21 MR. [REDACTED] And just state your name for the
22 record, please.

23 MR. BAYRON: Again, this is Carlos Bayron
24 for American Cruise Ferries.

25 (Conversation in Spanish)

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1 MR. BAYRON: [REDACTED]

2 MR. [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

3 MR. BAYRON: What endorsements were those?

4 You said a couple of things.

5 MR. [REDACTED] I'm trying to all call them the
6 same thing. But sometimes they all have different
7 names. So, lifeboatman endorsement, or a certificate
8 in proficiency in survival craft.

9 MR. BAYRON: Okay.

10 MR. PADILLA: Okay. He's saying what he has
11 is a certificate for fast rescue boat.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Only?

13 MR. PADILLA: Only.

14 MR. [REDACTED] All right. Thank you.

15 MR. BAYRON: [REDACTED] I ask him only about the
16 lifeboatman certificate. And he's saying that the one
17 he has is that other one.

18 MR. [REDACTED] Is the fast rescue. Okay.

19 MR. PADILLA: He's saying that he has an
20 endorsement for crowd management.

21 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

22 MR. PADILLA: He's saying again that he does
23 have the one for --

24 MR. [REDACTED] Fast rescue boat.

25 MR. PADILLA: He's saying crowd control.

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1 MR. [REDACTED] Crowd, okay.

2 MR. PADILLA: Crisis management, he's saying
3 he doesn't have that.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

5 MR. PADILLA: He's saying that he believes
6 he has the survival craft endorsement, or
7 certification.

8 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

9 MR. PADILLA: Okay.

10 INVESTIGATOR BELL: Thank you.

11 MR. [REDACTED] Do you have your seaman's book
12 with you? Were you able to get it off the ship? Or is
13 it still on the vessel?

14 MR. PADILLA: No. I have with me.

15 MR. [REDACTED] You have your seaman's book? Do
16 you have it with you here, today, right now? Or at the
17 hotel?

18 MR. PADILLA: No, I have here in the --

19 MR. [REDACTED] In the other building?

20 MR. PADILLA: Yes. In the other --

21 MR. [REDACTED] Could you bring that here to us -

22 -

23 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

24 MR. [REDACTED] -- when we're done?

25 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

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1 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So what we'll do is, we're
2 going to finish up here with our questioning. We'll
3 pause the recorder, take a break. You can go get that,
4 and then we'll continue on.

5 MR. PADILLA: Okay.

6 MR. [REDACTED] Thank you very much. So, for the
7 record, I am going to show Roberto a copy, or a picture
8 of the station bill, or crew muster list that we have
9 here in the building. And I'm going to show you a
10 picture of the information associated with safety card
11 number 10, which is what you stated was your safety
12 card, okay.

13 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

14 MR. [REDACTED] And I just want you to look at
15 all this information next to 10, and verify that that
16 is, in fact, your safety number.

17 (Pause)

18 MR. PADILLA: That's --

19 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So, for the record, you've
20 looked at the information on the picture that we've
21 taken of the station bill for the Caribbean Fantasy.
22 And you've read the information associated with safety
23 card number 10. And that is in fact your safety number
24 and your duties?

25 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

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1 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you.

2 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Can you ask him what the
3 information in column 1 means?

4 MR. [REDACTED] I'll have to hand you your phone
5 back, and you can. I'm not sure what you're speaking
6 of.

7 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Want me to ask it right
8 now?

9 MR. [REDACTED] Yes.

10 INVESTIGATOR KARR: In box, in column number
11 2, next to the number 10 it says quartermaster and
12 timonel (phonetic).

13 MR. PADILLA: Timonel, yes.

14 INVESTIGATOR KARR: What does the word
15 timonel refer to?

16 MR. PADILLA: Timonel is the quartermaster,
17 the same.

18 MR. [REDACTED] It's Spanish for quartermaster,
19 is that correct?

20 MR. PADILLA: Yes. (unintelligible)
21 timonel.

22 INVESTIGATOR KARR: And with regard to the
23 station bill, what does this information mean to you
24 when it's --

25 MR. [REDACTED] What column are you referring to?

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1 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Column number 2, next to
2 where it says quartermaster, and then below it says
3 timonel.

4 MR. PADILLA: Which information?
5 Quartermaster, timonel. Yes. I'm (unintelligible) on
6 duty. So, I'm quartermaster in charge for the
7 (unintelligible), when the (unintelligible) or the
8 parachute (phonetic).

9 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Ah. All right. So you,
10 when you stand your 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. watch are
11 you at the helm?

12 MR. PADILLA: Yes. When, just in arrival.
13 In this case, for they be on duty from 4:00 a.m. to
14 8:00 a.m., because the arrivals and departure is
15 normally before 8 o'clock. So, he's in charge for that
16 other, the wheel.

17 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Who's in, I lost you.
18 When the ship arrives are you at the helm, or is
19 someone else at the wheel?

20 MR. PADILLA: No. Somebody else. Because
21 my duty is from 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. So when
22 arrival or departure, and I working on the
23 (unintelligible). And I be on duty from 4:00 a.m. to
24 8:00 a.m. He is in charge always from, for departure
25 and arrival.

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1 INVESTIGATOR KARR: All right. So, you
2 introduced yourself as the AB. But on, you're also
3 known as a quartermaster.

4 MR. PADILLA: Yes, I am.

5 INVESTIGATOR KARR: All right. Thanks.

6 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] United States Coast
7 Guard. Your safety card says, the safety, I'm sorry.
8 The information on the station bill associated to
9 safety number 10, which we've identified as your number
10 --

11 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

12 MR. [REDACTED] -- states that you're responsible
13 for launching lifeboat number 3. At what point in the
14 emergency were you directed, or not directed otherwise
15 to make the decision to not launch lifeboat number 3 in
16 accordance with the instructions for your safety
17 number?

18 MR. PADILLA: Whoa.

19 MR. [REDACTED] That was a very confusing way of
20 putting it, wasn't it?

21 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Yes.

22 MR. PADILLA: Who make the decision?

23 MR. [REDACTED] So, this says you're supposed to
24 launch lifeboat number 3.

25 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

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1 MR. [REDACTED] Who told you, you're not
2 launching lifeboat number 3, do this instead?

3 MR. PADILLA: Normally the bosun is in
4 charge for us. We just go to the muster station. And
5 he knows who must to go to port side, to starboard side
6 to prepare in the lifeboat, only to prepare take the
7 lashing, to prepare.

8 MR. [REDACTED] Are you aware that you're
9 responsible for launching lifeboat number 3 from the
10 ship? Are you aware that that is part of your
11 responsibility, in accordance with safety number 10 on
12 the station bill, muster list on the Caribbean Fantasy?

13 MR. PADILLA: It's not my responsibility,
14 because my safety card say only prepare. I'm lifeboat
15 preparation team.

16 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

17 MR. PADILLA: Just, if something extremely
18 emergency.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

20 MR. PADILLA: I can do it. Because I know
21 how to do. But if nobody give me the order I cannot
22 do.

23 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you.

24 INVESTIGATOR KARR: All right. And let me -
25 - This is Mike Karr with the NTSB. And I'm going to

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1 read from the station card of which he just referred.
2 And it does say, "When ordered by the master, lowers
3 lifeboat number 3 in the water, and proceeds to MES
4 port side", which is consistent with what you just
5 said.

6 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

7 MR. [REDACTED] That's all I have.

8 INVESTIGATOR KARR: All right. Carrie.

9 INVESTIGATOR BELL: I don't have anything
10 else.

11 INVESTIGATOR KARR: All right. I don't have
12 -- But you want him to go get his seaman's book?

13 MR. [REDACTED] Yes. I do want him to go get his
14 seaman's book. So, we're going to go ahead and pause
15 the recording for right now and --

16 MR. BAYRON: I think [REDACTED] went to get
17 it.

18 MR. [REDACTED] Oh, [REDACTED] went to get it. All
19 right. Well, we're going to pause the recording
20 anyway. We're going to take a five minute break. And
21 then we'll come back and carry on.

22 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Recorder paused at 1648.

23 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
24 off the record at 7:48 p.m. and resumed at 8:13 p.m.)

25 INVESTIGATOR KARR: It is now 1613. Tell me

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1 how you left the Caribbean Fantasy.

2 MR. PADILLA: How I --

3 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Evacuated.

4 MR. PADILLA: Left the ship?

5 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Correct.

6 MR. PADILLA: I come on the lifeboat.

7 Because when we was preparing the MES, the starboard
8 side, the line where to keep it on the ship was broken.

9 So we proceed to help on the lifeboat. And the
10 lifeboat in port side was almost full.

11 And I, like all the crew, tried to help as
12 much possible. I try, I help to evacuate, to embark
13 the passenger. And they give me order to take the hook
14 and put in forward in this lifeboat. And that, I come
15 with this passenger in the lifeboat.

16 INVESTIGATOR KARR: So, which lifeboat did
17 you go in?

18 MR. PADILLA: Port side, the lifeboat port
19 side, it's 2.

20 INVESTIGATOR KARR: When you were in the
21 lifeboat did you help in any way after you got inside
22 the lifeboat?

23 MR. PADILLA: If I help someone?

24 INVESTIGATOR KARR: No. Once you were in
25 lifeboat number 2, and it was being lowered, did you

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1 help in any way?

2 MR. PADILLA: Yes. Because all deck
3 department we must know how to operate in the lifeboat.
4 How to take the hooks, take out the pins, make free the
5 lifeboat. And I make in forward, the hook forward,
6 make free, and we go.

7 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Was there any trouble in
8 lifeboat number 2 in releasing it?

9 MR. PADILLA: Releasing? No. Just from
10 beginning, because the swell was very big, and don't
11 give a chance to take out the hook. But this is
12 released from inside the lifeboat. Just help a little
13 bit to take out the hook and things anymore, no more
14 problem.

15 INVESTIGATOR KARR: So, you actually
16 released one of the hooks?

17 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

18 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Which one?

19 MR. PADILLA: Forward.

20 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Forward. Thank you.

21 MR. PADILLA: Together with the other, my
22 partner. Because the swell was very big, and don't
23 give a chance to only one people to pick out the hook.
24 It was making like that. And they come into the ship
25 like this. So we make together and release from inside

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1 the brake (phonetic). And then from outside take out
2 the hook. And just, that's all.

3 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Was there any problem
4 with starting lifeboat number 2?

5 MR. PADILLA: No. Just, the passenger was a
6 little bit panic from beginning. But we control it.

7 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Did you notice if any
8 passengers on boat number 2 got injured?

9 MR. PADILLA: No.

10 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Okay. Even though they
11 were going up and down like this a lot?

12 MR. PADILLA: No, no. Just seasick.

13 INVESTIGATOR KARR: Okay.

14 MR. PADILLA: Some passenger like panic and
15 they say cannot breathe, they cannot move, something
16 like that. But any big problem, we control it.

17 INVESTIGATOR KARR: All right. The
18 starboard side MES system, did you notice any problems
19 with the starboard side MES system when you were
20 onboard the ship?

21 MR. PADILLA: Only, no. The only this
22 problem was broken. Because also for the swell.
23 Because we tried to bring the ship. But it was very
24 strong, and broken the line. Any problem.

25 INVESTIGATOR KARR: All right. Okay. Any

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1 other questions?

2 MR. [REDACTED] I have two questions, no, one
3 question. Are you familiar with the term or the
4 component, the harbor pins?

5 MR. PADILLA: The pins?

6 MR. [REDACTED] The pins, the harbor pins. You
7 know, the big pins, about this big around? So, it's
8 like a fall prevention device. Are you familiar with
9 those on the lifeboats? It's on the block, okay. And
10 you have the harbor pin.

11 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

12 MR. [REDACTED] So that way when you're doing a,
13 they're designed for when you're doing training, right,
14 and you're loading the boat with people in and out of
15 it, that it can't accidentally be --

16 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

17 MR. [REDACTED] It can't fall in the water. Do
18 you know what those are, the harbor pins? Or you may
19 have a different name for them. I don't know. Maybe
20 perhaps, Carlos, if you could translate harbor pins for
21 me?

22 MR. PADILLA: He's saying he knows what it
23 is.

24 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Yes, it looks like this.

25 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

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1 MR. [REDACTED] The harbor pins, yes?

2 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Are the harbor pins, when the
4 boats are in the stowed position under normal operation
5 --

6 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

7 MR. [REDACTED] -- are those harbor pins in
8 place?

9 MR. PADILLA: In place. Yes, normally this
10 is the pins, what going up on the --

11 MR. [REDACTED] On the block?

12 MR. PADILLA: -- the davit, yes. This,
13 normally we make a round. We check to be sure that
14 this is correct in position.

15 MR. [REDACTED] To make sure that they're in the
16 blocks?

17 MR. PADILLA: Yes.

18 MR. [REDACTED] And then, remember we were
19 talking about the checklist that we were -- Let me
20 rephrase that. Remember we were talking about the
21 different steps for preparing a lifeboat? And we
22 talked about releasing the tracing pennants, attaching
23 the painter line, those.

24 Is removing the harbor pins, is that part of
25 the steps in your checklist? Or is that just something

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1 that you know to do, because you're a mariner?

2 MR. PADILLA: Yes. Is something that we
3 must to do, we must to know, must to do always. We
4 make a drill or know. In that department we must know
5 how to break this. Also, we must be sure that when we
6 go navigation the lifeboats must be, everything secure.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. But when you go to prep
8 the lifeboat in a real emergency, with all the items on
9 the checklist that you had, we had talked about, is
10 removing the harbor pins one of the items on that
11 checklist?

12 MR. PADILLA: When we make drill?

13 MR. [REDACTED] No, in real emergency.

14 MR. PADILLA: There is one person in charge
15 who is going up. We must, he must to knows how to do
16 this. Because I'm in charge down, release, secure the
17 painter line, open the doors, prepare the ladder
18 (phonetic).

19 MR. [REDACTED] Oh. And it's a different crew
20 member that removes those harbor pins?

21 MR. PADILLA: Yes. I believe
22 (unintelligible) on duty.

23 MR. [REDACTED] And just for the record, I just
24 want to verify that when the ship is in normal
25 operation, underway, whether in port or at sea, those,

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1 the boats are stowed, the harbor pins in place in the
2 block?

3 MR. PADILLA: Yes, in place.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you. I don't have
5 anything else.

6 INVESTIGATOR KARR: All right. With no more
7 question we'll stop the recording at 1622.

8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
9 off the record at 8:22 p.m.)

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