

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: JAVIER BOLIVAR

Monday,

August 22, 2016

Conference Room

USCG Sector San Juan

Puerto Rico

BEFORE

MICHAEL KARR, NTSB

CARRIE BELL, NTSB

JASON YETS, USCG

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USCG

ANDRES PICO RAMIREZ, PI Club

ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ, USCG

JOUGE F. BLASINI, P&I Club

APPEARANCES:

On Behalf of American Cruise:

CARLOS BAYRON, ESQ.
Bayron Offices

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

(9:47 a.m.)

1
2
3 MICHAEL KARR: This is Mike Karr. We are in
4 the middle of interviewing third officer Javier
5 Bolivar. We noticed that the recorder had ceased
6 operating. We will keep an eye on it. Continue.

7 JASON YETS: Jason Yets, United States Coast
8 Guard. It is 1412 and we will continue with third
9 officer Javier. Okay, so we were speaking about
10 lifeboat maintenance, and we were speaking about if you
11 were aware of what type of tests or what type of
12 inspections the engineers do on the lifeboats.

13 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: They check the
14 batteries, they check the oil. Every -- weekly they
15 start the engine. They check the rudder, the under.

16 JASON YETS: Every week when they start the
17 engines are they doing this when the boats are in the
18 water, or are they doing it while the boats are in the
19 cradle out of the water?

20 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Out of the water.

21 JASON YETS: Do you have any -- and I
22 understand this is going to be a guess, but do you have
23 any idea for how long they run those engines for? So,
24 let me give you an example. Do they start them for only
25 a few seconds or do they let them run for a few

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 minutes.

2 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVER: It's not more than
3 two minutes out of the water.

4 JASON YETS: Not more than two minutes out
5 of the water?

6 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

7 JASON YETS: Okay.

8 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Because it's not
9 cooling.

10 JASON YETS: All right. Your weekly drill -

11 - THIRD OFFICER BOLIVER: Yes.

12 JASON YETS: -- is there a given day that
13 that drill would normally land on? Like is the drill
14 on the same day every week?

15 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Now we was coming
16 from dry dock. We took new crew members, we passed
17 Coast Guard, we start to organize this drill, so
18 normally it's -- we made it to Santa Domingo Thursday,
19 I believe it was Thursday.

20 JASON YETS: Okay. And the last drill, and
21 when I say drill I am referring to the fire drill and
22 abandon ship drill, the last one you did was the Coast
23 Guard inspection --

24 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

25 JASON YETS: -- two weeks ago, whatever the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 day the last Coast Guard inspection was, that was the
2 last fire and abandon ship drill that the vessel had
3 conducted?

4 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes, that was the
5 Coast Guard.

6 JASON YETS: That was the last one, so --
7 Okay. So that means in the three weeks, or two weeks,
8 between the Coast Guard inspection and right now when
9 we are sitting at this table, you did not participate
10 in any other fire and abandon ship drills on the
11 vessel?

12 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I'm trying to
13 remember. Which day was the Coast Guard?

14 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 9th of August.

15 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Thank you.

16 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The Coast Guard
17 inspection, the most recent Coast Guard inspection was
18 conducted on the 9th of August.

19 (Simultaneous speaking)

20 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: So after the Coast
21 Guard we didn't made it.

22 JASON YETS: Okay, so the Coast Guard drill
23 on the 9th --

24 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: It's different than
25 what I remember now, because maybe I'm wrong.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 JASON YETS: Okay, to the best of your
2 knowledge the last fire and abandon ship that was
3 conducted on the Caribbean Fantasy was on the 9th of
4 August 2016 during the Coast Guard exam?

5 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: As I remember now,
6 yes.

7 JASON YETS: I am pretty sure I know the
8 answer to the question, but I need to ask it. Did you
9 make any attempt as a Fire Squad One leader to attack
10 the fire in the engine room?

11 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: We arrived to the
12 staging area just when I report to Fire Squad One I
13 arrived to the staging area, preparing the equipment,
14 the safety officer gave me the order to get out from
15 the area even with the suits.

16 JASON YETS: Okay, thank you. Okay, tell me
17 about -- tell me about the time beginning with when you
18 boarded lifeboat number two and took command of
19 lifeboat number 2 until the passengers were evacuated
20 off of your lifeboat, lifeboat number 2. All right so
21 --

22 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: When I arrived to
23 the pier?

24 JASON YETS: -- sure, yes, so I would like
25 you in your own words, I just kind of want you to tell

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 me a story about what happened from when you got in the
2 lifeboat, got in the helm, took command of the boat
3 until your last passenger was off your lifeboat on the
4 pier.

5 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Okay, when I arrived
6 to the lifeboat number 2 I got inside to the command.
7 We started getting the people inside the lifeboat in
8 order, trying to keep the stability, you know.

9 When we finished to put people inside, it
10 was 105 persons -- not persons, passengers, because
11 plus me and the two sailors and the hooks. We lowered
12 the lifeboat to the sea with the persons. We released
13 the hooks. I drive close to the pilot boat. The pilot
14 told me to go to channel 7. I went to channel 7. He
15 told me to approach to one tugboat, to disembark this
16 person to the tugboat. When I approached to the
17 tugboat, the swell was very big so I blow the side of
18 the lifeboat with the tugboat, so I decided to abort
19 this because it was very dangerous to disembark this
20 person there.

21 Then the pilot told me to go inside San Juan
22 Harbor. One small boat from Coast Guard escorted me
23 until the entrance. After the entrance, another small
24 boat for the Coast Guard guarded me along side to
25 disembark three or four persons who were very scared

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 inside the boat. Then I continued driving until the
2 pier number 6 I think. I stayed alongside and
3 disembarked all the persons and then I shift the boat
4 because the other one was coming.

5 JASON YETS: So I just want to -- for the
6 record, I just want to verify a couple of facts. When
7 you took command of the lifeboat and released the
8 blocks, right and were under way, right, you had 105
9 passengers plus yourself and two hookmen, a forward
10 hookman and a back hookman?

11 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes, the 105 is what
12 I compute at the moment.

13 JASON YETS: Okay.

14 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Because I tried to
15 compute very fast.

16 JAOSN YETS: Yes.

17 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Maybe the number
18 changed.

19 JASON YETS: Okay, did you have a second in
20 command of your lifeboat present with you?

21 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: No.

22 JASON YETS: Like your second in command?

23 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Okay, it's me, the
24 two persons in the hooks and one motorman.

25 JASON YETS: And one motorman?

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

2 JASON YETS: Okay.

3 THIRD OFFICER BOLVIAR: I'm the commander, I
4 have no second commander.

5 JASON YETS: There is -- there's no second
6 commander for lifeboat number 2?

7 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: No, only the
8 commander.

9 ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ with the
10 Coast Guard. Did you have any issues releasing the
11 hooks at the water level or any issues starting the
12 engine?

13 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes, I had a problem
14 with the hooks because the system is new, they started
15 it in dry dock. When we put the lifeboat in the water,
16 we suppose to -- automatically he released the hooks
17 because he had one sensor down. When he touched the
18 water he moved to release the hooks automatically. So,
19 this didn't happen. It had to do manually to open the
20 hooks. And the sailors, forward and aft, they manually
21 released the hooks.

22 JASON YETS: So, just to clarify, this is
23 Jason Yets with the United States Coast Guard. So,
24 just to clarify, your lifeboat hooks on the Caribbean
25 Fantasy are equipped with an on-load release that when

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the boat hits the water it should automatically release
2 the blocks?

3 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

4 JASON YETS: Okay. And when you went into
5 the water that did not happen so you had to manually
6 release the blocks using the hydrostatic release inside
7 the lifeboat?

8 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

9 JASON YETS: When you operated the
10 hydrostatic release inside the lifeboat, did both
11 blocks release simultaneously?

12 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: No, no, no, no.

13 JASON YETS: No, so when you pulled the
14 handle back on the hydrostatic release, did either of
15 the blocks release?

16 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: He didn't release
17 them.

18 JASON YETS: Okay, so the hooks --

19 MICHAEL KARR: Well, let him describe how he
20 released the hooks.

21 JASON YETS: Okay.

22 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: When the lifeboat
23 touched the water, the hydrostatic is supposed to
24 automatically release the hooks, the blocks. Well this
25 didn't happen. When I pulled the lever to make it

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 manually it also didn't happen. So, we had to do by
2 hand, to release by hand.

3 JASON YETS: Thank you. I am going to hand
4 it over to you, Mike, for now.

5 MICHAEL KARR: All right. This is Mike
6 Karr. Are the passengers assigned a particular
7 lifeboat or life raft for their -- for an emergency?

8 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: For the lifeboat,
9 life raft?

10 MICHAEL KARR: If I am a passenger, do I
11 know exactly what lifeboat or life raft I should go to?

12 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: They must know.
13 When the passengers arrive they make, I think a video -
14 - I don't know exactly how the hotel department managed
15 this to show to the passengers where to go in an
16 emergency.

17 MICHAEL KARR: All right.

18 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: But they must know
19 where to go.

20 MICHAEL KARR: Do you have any idea what
21 time you heard the Mr. Skylight announcement?

22 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: About 7:20 or 7:30
23 in the morning.

24 MICHAEL KARR: Did smoke impair your ability
25 to move around the ship at any time?

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: When?

2 MICHAEL KARR: At any time?

3 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

4 MICHAEL KARR: Could you describe when and
5 where you breathed smoke?

6 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Where to --

7 MICHAEL KARR: You were -- was there any
8 time that you had to change how you moved about the
9 ship because there was smoke in a compartment?

10 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Where to move?

11 MICHAEL KARR: Do you want to help me
12 Carlos?

13 CARLOS BAYRON: I'm sorry I wasn't paying
14 attention.

15 MICHAEL KARR: Okay, the question is during
16 the fire, did you come across any smoke that forced you
17 to change your route in trying to move about the ship?

18 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes, we have
19 alternative ways.

20 (Foreign Language Spoken)

21 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: After I arrived to
22 the staging area I saw the smoke coming from the
23 engine. When they made the dismiss I went to garage --
24 you know the ship -- to garage C upper. I went there.
25 I saw the smoke coming to this garage floor and then I

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 went to the smoking area which is close to the funnel
2 of portside. I saw also smoke coming from there. And
3 then I went up to the lifeboat.

4 MICHAEL KARR: All right. Thank you. Did
5 you observe how the fire spread?

6 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: No, I only see
7 smoke. I never see the flames, only smoke.

8 MICHAEL KARR: Do you know how the first got
9 -- how the smoke -- do you know how the smoke came to
10 the car deck?

11 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Exactly, no. I
12 don't know how.

13 MICHAEL KARR: Do you know why the rescue
14 boat wasn't launched?

15 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I'm not sure, but I
16 think it's because the pilot door of portside was
17 coming out flames and was the nearest to lower the
18 rescue boat.

19 MICHAEL KARR: Thank you. Do you know why
20 lifeboat 3 did not get launched?

21 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR? I heard that when
22 they was lowering the lifeboat, we had a blackout on
23 our emergency generator and that's why we could not
24 continue with the lowering of this lifeboat.

25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with the

1 Coast Guard. Do you know what type of falls lifeboat 3
2 is equipped with?

3 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: It's the same.

4 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Are they not gravity
5 falls?

6 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I don't know what's
7 wrong. I don't know exactly what happened there.

8 MICHAEL KARR: All right, thanks. Did you
9 notice any -- did you notice anyone on your lifeboat
10 that had an injury?

11 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: In my lifeboat, I
12 had one overweight person but no injury there.

13 MICHAEL KARR: No injuries?

14 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

15 MICHAEL KARR: Okay, what did overweight
16 have to do with injuries? Help me --

17 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: No, no only to
18 remark this, but I didn't have injury person in my
19 lifeboat.

20 MICHAEL KARR: Did anyone get injured when
21 they got transferred to the Coast Guard boat?

22 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: No. These people
23 was, I told you, scared, was very afraid. They needed
24 to go out from the boat because it wasn't closed. They
25 feel like -- that's why they requested to go out and I

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 called to the Coast Guard boat to take out these
2 persons.

3 MICHAEL KARR: All right.

4 CARRIE BELL: I have a question related to
5 that.

6 MICHAEL KARR: Yes.

7 CARRIE BELL: This is Carrie Bell. Just a
8 question related to that. You mentioned the person
9 that was overweight. Did that person have to have
10 assistance getting into the boat?

11 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes, we have the two
12 hookmen and the motorman was trying to keep calm inside
13 the boat because people were crying or they were mad,
14 they tried to keep then calm, but we had people helping
15 in my boat.

16 CARRIE BELL: Did someone have to help --
17 you mentioned this person that was overweight. Did
18 someone have to help them get into the lifeboat?

19 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes, of course.

20 CARRIE BELL: I mean --

21 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I had a crew member
22 helping me to bring these people on my boat.

23 CARRIE BELL: Did you have to help people
24 who were disabled or handicapped?

25 (foreign language spoken)

1 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I remember one
2 wheelchair, I think there was one person in the
3 wheelchair inside.

4 CARRIE BELL: In the lifeboat?

5 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes, in my boat,
6 yes.

7 CARRIE BELL: Okay.

8 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I remember one.

9 CARRIE BELL: Okay, thank you.

10 MICHAEL KARR: How did that person who was
11 in a wheelchair get off the boat once you got ashore?

12 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes I remember.

13 MICHAEL KARR: How?

14 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: We have many people
15 in the pier, I think it was an officer from Coast Guard
16 or CVP, they came onboard and with four of these guys
17 they took out this person from the boat.

18 MICHAEL KARR: And was this the overweight
19 person?

20 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: The overweight
21 person was by herself, because it was a woman, but with
22 the help of these guys, of these officers.

23 MICHAEL KARR: Are we talking about two
24 different people, wheelchair and overweight?

25 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes, different

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 people yes.

2 MICHAEL KARR: Okay.

3 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: And some of them
4 were on a stretcher because they was, you know, scared.

5 MICHAEL KARR: Some people -- just tell me
6 how -- tell me if any people left your boat on a
7 stretcher.

8 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I remember one.

9 MICHAEL KARR: As far as you know -- as far
10 as you know, why was that person on a stretcher?

11 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I don't remember.

12 MICHAEL KARR: Was it man, woman or child?

13 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Woman.

14 MICHAEL KARR: When you -- about how soon
15 after the order or the signal to abandon ship was
16 given, did you actually launch lifeboat number 2?

17 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: After, how long
18 after? I didn't remember very well. My [REDACTED] was the
19 second. They lowered first the lifeboat number 1 and
20 then we lowered my lifeboat. After they lowered the
21 number 1, they give the order to lower number 2.

22 MICHAEL KARR: Did you have any problem
23 getting into -- [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Not any problems.

1 MICHAEL KARR: Was lifeboat number 2
2 alongside the ship or was there an area, or was there -
3 -

4 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: It was alongside.

5 MICHAEL KARR: Right alongside the ship?

6 And how --

7 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with the
10 Coast Guard. Just to clarify, so you were in the Fire
11 Squad Team One with Second Officer Igor, correct?

12 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Did both of you transit
14 up to lifeboat number 2 upon being told by the safety
15 officer proceed to your lifeboat stations?

16 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: No, he went to the
17 lifeboat number 1. He lowered, as the commander of
18 lifeboat number 1. And I was, indeed, number 2.

19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So he never proceeded to
20 number 2 lifeboat before going to number 1? He went
21 straight to lifeboat number 1?

22 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. [REDACTED]

24 him in the vicinity of lifeboat number 2 during the
25 abandon ship process?

1 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Okay.

2 MICHAEL KARR: Did you and Igor come up at
3 the same time?

4 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: No, I think he left
5 before.

6 MICHAEL KARR: How was -- can you recall how
7 lifeboat number 2 was held against the side of the
8 ship?

9 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: When I arrived to
10 the lifeboat number 2 it was ready for the embarkation.
11 It was in position at the embarkation station.

12 MICHAEL KARR: And who had gotten ready --
13 who had gotten it -- who had lowered it to the
14 embarkation station?

15 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: We have the lifeboat
16 preparation team. They prepared the boat, when we have
17 the emergency they start preparing the lifeboats. When
18 I [REDACTED] kation.

19 MICHAEL KARR: All right. Do you know --
20 did you hear why or -- do you know the condition of the
21 ship such that the captain decided to abandon ship?

22 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I was not on the
23 bridge so I'm not sure how he took the decision fast.
24 I don't what to tell you.

25 MICHAEL KARR: All right, thanks. That ends

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 my questions. We'll go around.

2 CARRIE BELL: This is Carrie Bell, NTSB. We
3 were talking earlier about your watches and you said
4 you were asleep when you first heard the Mr. Skylight
5 code?

6 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

7 CARRIE BELL: How long -- do you remember
8 what time you went to bed the night before that?

9 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: How long?

10 CARRIE BELL: What time did you go to bed
11 the night before?

12 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: My watch?

13 CARRIE BELL: How long did you sleep?

14 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: After my watch, 3-
15 1/2 hours.

16 CARRIE BELL: 3-1/2 hours? So your watch
17 lasted until midnight?

18 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

19 CARRIE BELL: Okay, and then you went to
20 bed.

21 MICHAEL KARR: Last night -- let me correct,
22 Mike Karr -- It lasted until four in the morning.

23 CARRIE BELL: Oh four in the morning, I'm
24 sorry. You have the 12-4.

25 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

1 CARRIE BELL: Okay, so you went to bed about
2 what time?

3 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I finished at 4
4 o'clock and at 4:30 I was in bed.

5 CARRIE BELL: Okay and it was around 7:30
6 when --

7 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Three hours more.

8 CARRIE BELL: Okay about three hours. And
9 about how much sleep do you get per night normally?
10

11 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Eight hours or
12 something like this.

13 CARRIE BELL: So what time do you normally,
14 when you're on the ship --

15 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I finish at 4
16 o'clock in the morning, I start at 10 o'clock because I
17 have to make overtime until 12, and then I would go to
18 the garage from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. and I finish at 4
19 o'clock p.m. until midnight. It's ten hours work.

20 CARRIE BELL: So you work from 4:00 p.m.
21 until midnight?

22 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes, from midnight
23 until 4:00 in the morning.

24 CARRIE BELL: Is your watch and then you
25 sleep.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: And then in the
2 morning I start at 10 o'clock until 12:00 overtime, two
3 hours, and then from noon until 4:00 p.m.

4 CARRIE BELL: So when do you sleep?

5 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: After I finish at
6 4:00 p.m. I rest until 9:00. I eat after my watch, at
7 about 6 o'clock I sleep six hours or something until
8 midnight and then in the morning if finish at 4:00 in
9 the morning, I go to bed from 4:35 until 9:30. I wake
10 up to prepare for my overtime.

11 CARRIE BELL: Okay. So do you have to be on
12 the bridge 15 minutes before your watch starts or?

13 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: About ten minutes
14 before.

15 CARRIE BELL: Okay.

16 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: In navigation.

17 CARRIE BELL: Okay. That's all I have.

18 JASON YETS: I have one more question and
19 then I am done. In your lifeboat you have one, what
20 you could consider an overweight person. Did that
21 overweight person have a life jacket on?

22 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

23 JASON YETS: They did?

24 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

25 JASON YETS: And was it secured like a life

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 jacket should be secured.

2 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: We have overweight
3 life jackets in our boats, yes.

4 JASON YETS: Did you have any children in
5 your lifeboat?

6 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I don't remember
7 right away, but the most children were in lifeboat
8 three and one.

9 JASON YETS: All right. Did you have any
10 infants in your lifeboat? Do you understand the
11 difference between an infant and a child?

12 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes, an infant is
13 smaller.

14 JASON YETS: A little baby.

15 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes, a little baby.

16 JASON YETS: Did you have any infants in
17 your lifeboat?

18 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: No.

19 JASON YETS: No, okay. That's all I have.
20 Thank you.

21 MICHAEL KARR: From what you know, is the
22 ships procedure to put children in the first lifeboat
23 launched?

24 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Because it was the
25 first lifeboat to be launched, so the captain decided

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 to put all persons pregnant, women, children in this
2 lifeboat.

3 MICHAEL KARR: How was that passed to the
4 passengers? How did the passengers know that's what
5 the captain wanted?

6 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Because we have
7 people from hotel who select who is going first to the
8 lifeboat.

9 MICHAEL KARR: And did -- was -- did the
10 captain launch lifeboat 3 before he launched your
11 lifeboat?

12 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: After.

13 MICHAEL KARR: After, okay.

14 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: My lifeboat was the
15 second to go down.

16 MICHAEL KARR: All right. [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of the
18 Coast Guard. Were there any -- do you know of any
19 handicapped passengers who were in lifeboat number one?

20 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I was not in the
21 lifeboat.

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Inaudible) Okay. For
23 your radio communications which channel were you on?

24 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Aboard the ship
25 emergency channel 6 and when I lowered the lifeboat

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 channel 7.

2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And on channel 6, who did
3 you speak directly to for giving the orders to launch
4 or embark the lifeboat? Who gave you the orders to
5 embark and launch it?

6 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: The Command Center.

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The Command Center?

8 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Do you know who
10 specifically that was?

11 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: On the bridge was the
12 captain and the second officer.

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. That's your
14 command center.

15 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

16 MICHAEL KARR: Last question. When the
17 captain said that the women and children and pregnant
18 people should go on lifeboat number 1, did he also
19 mention that the handicapped people should go there
20 too?

21 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I don't remember
22 right now.

23 MICHAEL KARR: That's fine. So when we ask
24 you these questions we just ask you to tell us what you
25 remember or what you saw. All right. Thanks. Last

1 call.

2 Javier, thank you for coming in -- oh we
3 have another question?

4 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Do you have any -- using
5 your experience -- mariners experience and this
6 incident, did you notice anything that went extremely
7 wrong or extremely well in this whole incident in the
8 firefighting, abandon ship process a few days ago that
9 you would like to share with us, that these could be
10 improved, what went well, what did not?

11 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: For the lifeboat,
12 the hooks, I don't know what happened there because
13 supposedly it's new, but it didn't release the hooks.
14 For the fire, what can I tell you? For the question
15 what was great, they evacuated very fast the people
16 from the hotel. I need to think.

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] What about
18 communications. How do you think communication was
19 with --

20 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: The communication
21 was good, for me it was good because I report to the
22 safety officer, the safety officer report to the
23 Command Center. If I have to receive an order, it's
24 supposedly the Command Center and safety officer and
25 then me, it's like this. It's not straight from me to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the Command Center, we have the safety officer in the
2 middle.

3 MICHAEL KARR: Let me ask you this question.
4 Did the safety officer say why you should leave the
5 garage area?

6 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: He said it was
7 coming out a lot of smoke from the engine, so maybe,
8 I'm not sure if the chief engineer went to the bridge
9 to report this is not under control, it's a danger to
10 breathe the fire inside, and then the captain gave the
11 order to evacuate the fire teams. I received the order
12 and I released my team.

13 MICHAEL KARR: Did anyone question why they
14 weren't restaging somewhere else?

15 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: No.

16 MICHAEL KARR: Okay.

17 CARRIE BELL: This is Carrie Bell again.
18 One more question about the -- you mentioned that the
19 system was new on the lifeboat release.

20 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: The hooks.

21 CARRIE BELL: The hooks, it was new. Was
22 there anything that you had to do differently to
23 operate the lifeboat to get it to release, I mean did
24 you have to have training on that?

25 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I read the manual.

1 CARRIE BELL: On the new system?

2 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

3 CARRIE BELL: [REDACTED]?

4 [REDACTED]

5 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: [REDACTED]

6 CARRIE BELL: Do you know if anyone else
7 read that manual or was trained on the new system?

8 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: No because when I
9 arrived, when the ship was in dry dock and I arrived
10 for my second contract, the lifeboat already had the
11 new system.

12 CARRIE BELL: Okay. So you were informed
13 that the system was new and you were given the manual,
14 or how did you get that?

15 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I read the manual
16 how to operate, how the system works, but it was
17 supposed to be when it touched the water the spark
18 release the hooks, but this never happened.

19 CARRIE BELL: So did someone tell you to
20 read the manual?

21 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: What?

22 CARRIE BELL: Did someone direct you to read
23 that manual?

24 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: No, by myself.

25 CARRIE BELL: Okay, thank you.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 JASON YETS: Was the manual -- okay, let me
2 go back. Who installed the new hydrostatic release
3 systems in the lifeboat? Do you know? Was it done by -
4 -

5 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: It was a company
6 from (inaudible). As I told you, when I arrived to the
7 ship it was already installed.

8 JASON YETS: Okay, so was the manual written
9 in English or Spanish?

10 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: English.

11 JASON YETS: It was in English. So when you
12 -- so the manual outlined that that new system -- no
13 let's see. Where do you learn that -- where did you
14 learn that the blocks for the lifeboat had an on-load
15 release capability? Where did you get that information
16 from? Because when we were speaking earlier you said
17 that when they hit the water they should automatically
18 release and that's an on-load release okay.

19 Where did you get that information that
20 those blocks were equipped with an on-load release?
21 What made you know that those were supposed to open as
22 soon as it hit the water? How did you know that
23 information?

24 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: From the manual.

25 JASON YETS: The manual said the blocks for

1 the lifeboat had an on-load release system?

2 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes. The handle.

3 JASON YETS: Not the handle, okay. Earlier
4 when we were speaking you had said that the system was
5 designed that when the boat comes down and hits the
6 water that the block should automatically release
7 correct?

8 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

9 JASON YETS: That's an un-load release by
10 definition. So, that was outlined in the manual that
11 you read for the new system? Okay, thank you. I don't
12 have anything else.

13 MICHAEL KARR: Were you aboard the ship when
14 it went through the Coast Guard exam?

15 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: The second time?

16 MICHAEL KARR: Yes.

17 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: From there, from
18 (inaudible).

19 MICHAEL KARR: No, the Coast Guard
20 examination that was conducted on August 9th.

21 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: August 9th, yes I
22 was onboard.

23 MICHAEL KARR: Do you remember which ship --
24 which lifeboats they launched in the water?

25 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: The number 2.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MICHAEL KARR: They did launch number 2?

2 THIRD OFFICE BOLIVAR: Yes.

3 MICHAEL KARR: Were you -- were you --

4 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I was onboard yes.

5 MICHAEL KARR: Did the hooks release fine
6 during that drill?

7 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: Yes.

8 MICHAEL KARR: Did they release
9 automatically?

10 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I don't remember.

11 MICHAEL KARR: Do you remember if you had
12 any --

13 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: It was fast, when
14 the lifeboat touched the water it was released and we
15 ran the lifeboat.

16 MICHAEL KARR: So did every -- when the
17 Coast Guard was there on August 9th, did everything run
18 fine in your boat that day?

19 THIRD OFFICER BOLIVAR: I don't remember if
20 this released automatically or if we made manual by
21 hand.

22 MICHAEL KARR: All right. Any follow-up
23 questions?

24 JASON YETS: No sir.

25 MICHAEL KARR: You don't remember whether it

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 was manual or hand, okay. All right. Javier thank you
2 very much and it's now 1449. We will end the recording.

3 (Whereupon the above-entitled matter went
4 off the record at 10:27:04)

5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

MATTER: Fire Aboard Caribbean Fantasy
August 17, 2016
Accident No. DCA16FM052
Interview of Javier Bolivar

DATE: 08-22-16

I hereby certify that the attached transcription of page 1 to 33 inclusive are to the best of my professional ability a true, accurate, and complete record of the above referenced proceedings as contained on the provided audio recording; further that I am neither counsel for, nor related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this proceeding has taken place; and further that I am not financially nor otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Neal R Gross

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701