

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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

INTERVIEW OF: JULIO BESANDE

Monday,
August 22, 2016

Prevention Building
Sector San Juan

BEFORE:

CDR [REDACTED], USCG
 LTJG [REDACTED], USCG
 JIM GALLETTE, USCG
 ADAM TUCKER, NTSB
 NANCY McATEE, NTSB

## APPEARANCES:

On Behalf of the P&I Club:

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

11:42 a.m.

1  
2  
3 The matter under investigation is the fire  
4 on the Caribbean Fantasy that occurred on Wednesday,  
5 the 17th of August, 2016. This is the interview of  
6 Julio Junior Besande. Today's date is the 22nd of  
7 August, 2016. The time is 11:42 a.m. Location Sector  
8 San Juan, Prevention Building. Interview conducted by  
9 LTJG [REDACTED].

10 Others in the room, if you could say your  
11 name and your position.

12 MR. TUCKER: My name is Adam Tucker. I'm  
13 with the National Transportation Safety Board.

14 MR. GALLETTE: Jim Gallette, Coast Guard  
15 Investigations, National Center of Expertise.

16 CDR [REDACTED]: CDR Mike [REDACTED], U.S. Coast  
17 Guard.

18 MS. McATEE: Nancy McAtee, National  
19 Transportation Safety Board.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Manolo Rodriguez for owners  
21 P&I Club.

22 LTJG [REDACTED]: And your name?

23 MR. BESANDE: Julio S. Besande, Jr., engine  
24 storekeeper of Caribbean Fantasy.

25 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. For the record, you

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1 have given us consent to record.

2 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

3 LTJG [REDACTED]: Thank you. Sir, if you  
4 can, give me a little background information about  
5 yourself. How long have you been with the company?

6 MR. BESANDE: I've been with the company  
7 only -- I just joined the ship June 11 of this year.

8 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Prior to working at  
9 the company where did you used to work?

10 MR. BESANDE: My previous company was an  
11 off-shore company.

12 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. What did you do  
13 there?

14 MR. BESANDE: Engine storekeeper.

15 LTJG [REDACTED]: Engine storekeeper. What  
16 was the name of that company?

17 MR. BESANDE: The company -- the agency was  
18 Eagle Shipping.

19 LTJG [REDACTED]: Eagle?

20 MR. BESANDE: Eagle Shipping.

21 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. How long did you  
22 work with that company?

23 MR. BESANDE: Almost two years.

24 LTJG [REDACTED]: Two years. Okay. As an  
25 engine storekeeper how was your overall experience --

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1 what is your overall experience as a storekeeper?

2 MR. BESANDE: As an engine storekeeper maybe  
3 I have a lot of experience already.

4 LTJG [REDACTED]: How many years would you  
5 say?

6 MR. BESANDE: Almost 10 years.

7 LTJG [REDACTED]: Ten years?

8 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

9 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. So when you started  
10 in June as a storekeeper, was there any -- the previous  
11 storekeeper, did he like provide you any documents or  
12 records?

13 MR. BESANDE: From my previous company we  
14 just made the inventory and ordering and then receiving  
15 and organizing the stuff.

16 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. For this company?

17 MR. BESANDE: For this company we have a lot  
18 of things to do because it's different from the  
19 previous one. This company help to make your ordering.  
20 You have to follow up with the office. Because of the  
21 computer there was -- I mean, the internet was only on  
22 deck 7 in our office. The one in the engine room we  
23 don't have internet. We have computer but we don't  
24 have internet.

25 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

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1 MR. BESANDE: So I'm the one making all the  
2 orders for the engineers and then they will send it to  
3 the shore.

4 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Thank you. I  
5 appreciate that. If we could just talk about the day  
6 of the event.

7 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

8 LTJG [REDACTED]: On the 17th if you could  
9 just tell me in your own words.

10 MR. BESANDE: That morning I woke up early.  
11 I woke up at 5:30 and then take a shower. At 6:30 we  
12 have breakfast. I took my breakfast at 6:30. Usually  
13 we work at 8:00 but 7:30 I'm already in the office  
14 checking the emails and all of the orders. I think at  
15 7:30 something I heard announcement for Mr. Skylight  
16 (phonetic).

17 I turned off the computer and then went down  
18 because I'm part of the monitor reporting team. We  
19 went down to the engine room. The safety officer told  
20 us on the radio that boundary cooling will go on in  
21 garage B. We go down to garage B. When I opened the  
22 door to garage B there was too much smoke already. We  
23 cannot do the boundary cooling.

24 I told the safety officer we have to go one  
25 deck up so we go one deck up. But still smoke coming

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1 so they told us go up on deck 7 because they are going  
2 to open the bridge. We went up to deck 7 just before  
3 the announcement.

4 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

5 MR. BESANDE: And we just wait there for  
6 almost one-and-a-half hours to two hours. Then we went  
7 down to -- they told us to go down on deck 5 to go to  
8 the slide but they told us passengers first before you  
9 go. We take the passengers first to go down and then  
10 the crew next.

11 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

12 MR. BESANDE: So that's it. Then we just go  
13 down the slide one by one and then the Coast Guard came  
14 to pick them up. That's it.

15 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Thank you for that.  
16 I've got a few follow-up questions I wasn't too sure  
17 of. I'll start from when you heard Mr. Skylight. Did  
18 they give a location?

19 MR. BESANDE: They give a location engine  
20 room.

21 LTJG [REDACTED]: So you heard Mr. Skylight  
22 in the engine room.

23 MR. BESANDE: On the radio. This Skylight  
24 was only on the (inaudible) but on the radio. We have  
25 our own radio so safety told us Skylight was on the

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1 engine room so go down to the engine room. Then they  
2 told me go to garage B.

3 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

4 MR. BESANDE: So we go to garage B and there  
5 was too much smoke already.

6 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. So over the PA  
7 system you heard Mr. Skylight, Mr. Skylight through the  
8 radio. You heard it was in the engine room.

9 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

10 LTJG [REDACTED]: They told you to go down  
11 to B for boundary cooling.

12 MR. BESANDE: Boundary cooling.

13 LTJG [REDACTED]: So is B right on top of  
14 the engine space?

15 MR. BESANDE: Right on top the engine room.

16 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. So your job was to  
17 spray --

18 MR. BESANDE: Spray for boundary cooling.

19 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Do you know how  
20 smoke would get into garage B from the engine room?

21 MR. BESANDE: From garage B?

22 LTJG [REDACTED]: Yes. So if the fire is in  
23 the engine room and you tried to go into garage B but  
24 it was full of smoke, are you aware of how smoke would  
25 fill that space? Are there any ventilations from the

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1 engine room that feeds to garage B or any openings that  
2 you know of?

3 MR. BESANDE: I think the only opening is  
4 the ramp.

5 LTJG [REDACTED]: The ramp?

6 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, they have a ramp there  
7 from garage A to garage B and then garage C.

8 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. So garage A is on  
9 top of the engine room?

10 MR. BESANDE: No. It's on the floor, the  
11 same floor.

12 LTJG [REDACTED]: The same floor of the  
13 engine room?

14 MR. BESANDE: Same floor.

15 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Can you draw a  
16 picture of that for me?

17 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

18 LTJG [REDACTED]: Just where the engine room  
19 is.

20 MR. BESANDE: This is the engine room over  
21 here. Then this is garage A. There are a lot of cars  
22 here.

23 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

24 MR. BESANDE: This is the engine room.

25 LTJG [REDACTED]: And they are on the same

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1 level?

2 MR. BESANDE: On the same level. Then the  
3 garage B was up and it's level, engine room and garage  
4 C.

5 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

6 MR. BESANDE: Garage C may be half of the  
7 engine room.

8 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Do you know if the  
9 ramp was open?

10 MR. BESANDE: I didn't see anything because  
11 there was too much smoke already.

12 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. But you don't know  
13 where the smoke came from?

14 MR. BESANDE: I know the smoke came from the  
15 engine room because the fire was in the engine room.

16 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. How would the smoke  
17 get into B? Like if the engine room is a box that is  
18 closed, how would the smoke get out?

19 MR. BESANDE: I don't know.

20 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

21 MR. BESANDE: I think it's the fire damper.

22 LTJG [REDACTED]: There's a fire damper from  
23 the engine room that feeds to garage A?

24 MR. BESANDE: Garage C.

25 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

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1 MR. BESANDE: To garage B.

2 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Okay. Thank you.

3 So B was full of smoke and the fire boundary team  
4 cannot get there?

5 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

6 LTJG [REDACTED]: So you told safety to,  
7 "Let's go up."

8 MR. BESANDE: One deck up.

9 LTJG [REDACTED]: One deck.

10 MR. BESANDE: And then we go up one deck up.  
11 Then the safety officer and all the fire team was there  
12 already.

13 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Garage C, is that  
14 where the C02 system is at?

15 MR. BESANDE: I think garage B with the C02.

16 LTJG [REDACTED]: B is the one with C02?

17 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

18 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. When you told  
19 safety, "We should probably go to C," were you in a  
20 hallway or was everybody in B and because of the smoke  
21 you decided to leave that space?

22 MR. BESANDE: Yes, to leave that space and  
23 then we go one deck up.

24 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Then you they said  
25 to go to deck 7?

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1 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

2 LTJG [REDACTED]: Who is "they?"

3 MR. BESANDE: Safety officer.

4 LTJG [REDACTED]: Safety officer said to go  
5 to deck 7?

6 MR. BESANDE: Deck 7. I think they are  
7 going to open the drencher already.

8 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. And the drencher,  
9 what spaces does that cover?

10 MR. BESANDE: It covers A, B, and C.

11 LTJG [REDACTED]: A, B, and C?

12 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

13 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. So you guys were  
14 moved so you wouldn't get wet.

15 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

16 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. At deck 7 you had  
17 stated that you were there for about an hour-and-a-  
18 half?

19 MR. BESANDE: Hour-and-a-half.

20 LTJG [REDACTED]: What were you doing?

21 MR. BESANDE: We were just taking the  
22 passengers to go where they want to go, where the  
23 orders want to tell them to go. I think the passengers  
24 were almost 300 something. The lifeboat was 150/150.  
25 Then another lifeboat is, I don't know, 75.

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1 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

2 MR. BESANDE: So they still have the  
3 passengers on the life raft.

4 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. So you were on deck  
5 7 assisting passengers.

6 MR. BESANDE: Yes, assisting the passengers.

7 LTJG [REDACTED]: Is deck 7 inside?

8 MR. BESANDE: Outside.

9 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Did you have a life  
10 jacket on?

11 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, already.

12 LTJG [REDACTED]: Where did you get your  
13 life jacket?

14 MR. BESANDE: It was on deck 7.

15 LTJG [REDACTED]: On deck 7?

16 MR. BESANDE: Yes. We have a box there for  
17 starboard side and port side.

18 LTJG [REDACTED]: For the crew members?

19 MR. BESANDE: For the crew and passengers.

20 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. And then after you  
21 assisted the passengers evacuate, who said to go to  
22 deck 5?

23 MR. BESANDE: That was the order from the  
24 bridge.

25 LTJG [REDACTED]: From the bridge?

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1 MR. BESANDE: To go to deck 5 because the  
2 slide was on deck 5.

3 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Was that in the  
4 form of the captain yelling go to 5 or was there a  
5 radio?

6 MR. BESANDE: It was the radio and then we  
7 heard it from the radio that the captain wants us on  
8 deck 5. All the passengers first and then next is the  
9 crew.

10 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

11 MR. BESANDE: So we just assist them to deck  
12 5. After they finish go to the slide.

13 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. So as far as your  
14 duties as the boundarymen, who guys weren't able to do  
15 any boundary cooling?

16 MR. BESANDE: No.

17 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

18 MR. BESANDE: Because of the smoke and they  
19 opened the drencher already.

20 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

21 MR. BESANDE: So they asked us -- they told  
22 us to go to deck 7.

23 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Were you dressed  
24 out as the boundaryman? Does the fire team also dress  
25 out there?

1 MR. BESANDE: The fire team are suppose to  
2 dress out.

3 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

4 MR. BESANDE: The fire team was on the  
5 garage C. The boundary cooling was on garage B.

6 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Are you aware or do  
7 you know if the fire team attempted to go into the  
8 space?

9 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, I think so. They  
10 attempted but I think they cannot go inside already.

11 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. And then when you  
12 were in garage before you went up to garage C do you  
13 know if anybody activated the C02?

14 MR. BESANDE: Staff captain.

15 LTJG [REDACTED]: Staff captain activated  
16 the C02?

17 MR. BESANDE: Activated the C02.

18 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. And that was before  
19 the crew left to garage C?

20 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

21 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Then you went down  
22 the slide, the MES system?

23 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, MES system.

24 LTJG [REDACTED]: Did you go on a raft or  
25 did you --

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1 MR. BESANDE: No. We go to the Coast Guard.

2 LTJG [REDACTED]: Coast Guard. Okay. Thank  
3 you for that.

4 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

5 LTJG [REDACTED]: I don't have any questions  
6 at this time. What I would like to do is open up the  
7 floor to see if anybody else has any questions. Okay?

8 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

9 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Thank you.

10 MR. TUCKER: Julio, thank you.

11 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

12 MR. TUCKER: So as mentioned, I'm with -- my  
13 name is Adam and I'm with the National Transportation  
14 Safety Board so we are different from the Coast Guard.  
15 We work together but we make a different accident  
16 report. We do just safety investigations and that's  
17 it. All safety. Of course, we find out what happened  
18 and then after we make recommendations and that could  
19 be at any level, the Coast Guard or the company as  
20 well. It really depends.

21 Some basic questions for you. I understand  
22 the engine foreman is kind of an important job on board  
23 the ship because you have all the stores and  
24 everything. Is that right?

25 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

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1 LTJG [REDACTED]: All the engine stores.  
2 And you also mentioned that you send the orders to  
3 shoreside.

4 MR. BESANDE: To shoreside.

5 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Who do you send the  
6 orders to? Do you send it to the company or where do  
7 you send the orders?

8 MR. BESANDE: We usually -- we have a system  
9 called Neptune.

10 LTJG [REDACTED]: What's it called?

11 MR. BESANDE: Neptune. It's Spanish.

12 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

13 MR. BESANDE: Mexican. Sometimes I couldn't  
14 understand and I go to Google to check it. I can make  
15 orders. Only for the ordering. For the follow-up we  
16 just send it through email.

17 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Anything you want  
18 to order you use Neptune which is a software. If I  
19 want to order a boat, you go on Neptune and order and  
20 then push send?

21 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

22 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. And do you get like  
23 -- are you able to go there after and see if your order  
24 is coming or something or how to find out if the boat  
25 is coming?

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1 MR. BESANDE: We can check it in Neptune  
2 orders but for the follow-up we just sent it directly  
3 to the person in charge.

4 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

5 MR. BESANDE: And then they just reply us,  
6 "This week you will receive these parts."

7 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. You mentioned it's  
8 in Spanish so sometimes you have to use Google to try  
9 and understand the software.

10 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

11 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Is the Neptune  
12 software just for ordering things?

13 MR. BESANDE: Yes, only for ordering things.

14 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Now, sometimes I  
15 understand that the engine storekeeper also has to send  
16 other emails and other information to shore.

17 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

18 LTJG [REDACTED]: What other stuff do you  
19 send?

20 MR. BESANDE: I send sometimes the addendum  
21 of the crew sometimes if they have some extension to  
22 make for one month extension. But they have a form  
23 already so they just sign it and send it to the office.

24 LTJG [REDACTED]: So do you send anything  
25 else to the office?

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1 MR. BESANDE: Only that one and also some  
2 follow-up for if they have a question regarding spare  
3 parts so I have to answer them about it.

4 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. These  
5 communications, are they in English or in Spanish?

6 MR. BESANDE: English.

7 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. So I understand  
8 like all the engineers they do the maintenance.

9 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, maintenance.

10 LTJG [REDACTED]: So I was wondering if the  
11 maintenance like the jobs that they do, the monthly,  
12 the weekly, the hourly jobs on all the machinery, do  
13 you send any of that to shore?

14 MR. BESANDE: Regarding the monthly and the  
15 weekly they just doing that on their computer. They  
16 just give it to me and then put it un a packet and then  
17 some it to the DPA.

18 LTJG [REDACTED]: The DPA?

19 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, because they don't have  
20 internet in the engine control room, only in the office  
21 on deck 7.

22 LTJG [REDACTED]: And so your computer is on  
23 deck 7?

24 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, deck 7.

25 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. So they just give

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1 it to you and you send the email. Okay. How do they  
2 give it to you? Do they like give it on a USB and  
3 say --

4 MR. BESANDE: I have to copy it to the USB.  
5 They told me, "It's already here. Just copy it."

6 LTJG [REDACTED]: Do you just send  
7 information shoreside just only for engine or for --

8 MR. BESANDE: For deck ordering.

9 LTJG [REDACTED]: Deck ordering as well.  
10 Okay. On deck 7 do you have like an office?

11 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, we have an office. We  
12 have, I think, like this big.

13 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

14 MR. BESANDE: Main office on this side and  
15 then staff captain on this side.

16 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. So you're sitting  
17 in the staff captain's office. Okay. Since the engine  
18 storekeeper has all the spare parts, where do you keep  
19 all your spare parts?

20 MR. BESANDE: Engine room.

21 LTJG [REDACTED]: Engine room?

22 MR. BESANDE: We have a storeroom in the  
23 engine room.

24 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. If I were to give  
25 you a drawing, could you show me where the storeroom

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1 is? It may not even be on this drawing. I don't know.  
2 If it's not, don't worry about it. The main engine is  
3 here. Engine control is here.

4 MR. BESANDE: This is the generator. I  
5 think this is the generator.

6 LTJG [REDACTED]: The generators are here.

7 MR. BESANDE: Ah, so it would be like this.  
8 This is the starboard side. They have a storeroom  
9 here.

10 LTJG [REDACTED]: Down here somewhere?

11 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, down here near the --

12 LTJG [REDACTED]: By the stairs.

13 MR. BESANDE: By the stairs.

14 LTJG [REDACTED]: All right. Any other  
15 space?

16 MR. BESANDE: We have a storeroom here for  
17 auxiliary for the generator over here.

18 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

19 MR. BESANDE: I got one here. This is the  
20 stairs going to here for the (inaudible) boats.

21 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

22 MR. BESANDE: And I have one here for --  
23 there is a stair going here so I have one here.

24 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

25 MR. BESANDE: That's for the pumps.

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1 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. So if you were to  
2 keep like spares, you mentioned consumables. Are  
3 gaskets consumables?

4 MR. BESANDE: Yes, gaskets. PPE.

5 LTJG [REDACTED]: Um?

6 MR. BESANDE: PPE.

7 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay, PPE gaskets. Is  
8 there a locking key on this --

9 MR. BESANDE: Yes, it's locked.

10 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Where would you  
11 keep the key?

12 MR. BESANDE: With my own and then we have  
13 it also in the control room.

14 LTJG [REDACTED]: In the ECR.

15 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

16 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Nothing up on deck  
17 7?

18 MR. BESANDE: No. I have one more in garage  
19 B but that's all coveralls and safety shoes.

20 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. All right.

21 MR. BESANDE: That's a small one.

22 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. So if I were an  
23 engineer and I said I need a gasket or I need the  
24 rubber for a gasket, it would be in this locker here?

25 MR. BESANDE: This locker. For the pumps is

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1 here.

2 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. So for the pumps is  
3 here.

4 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

5 LTJG [REDACTED]: Like gaskets for fuel?

6 MR. BESANDE: Like bearings. Some  
7 consumables that are not on the spare parts list we  
8 just put it here.

9 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

10 MR. BESANDE: But even the spare parts list  
11 we have one for the pump and for the generator and for  
12 the main engine.

13 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Thank you. So I  
14 know the storekeeper has many duties. Do you know who  
15 takes the garbage or all the waste out of here and  
16 where it goes?

17 MR. BESANDE: The (inaudible) is taking care  
18 of that. They are taking it here.

19 LTJG [REDACTED]: To the bottom of the  
20 stairs?

21 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, bottom of the stairs.

22 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

23 MR. BESANDE: We have a hatch there going up  
24 to the garage to take care of the garbage.

25 LTJG [REDACTED]: All right. And then from

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1 there it goes to the incinerator room? Do you have an  
2 incinerator?

3 MR. BESANDE: I don't think so. They just  
4 store it because every day we have a port stop.

5 LTJG [REDACTED]: Oh, yeah. It just goes  
6 ashore. Okay. Good. Thank you. Do the -- I know  
7 that you mentioned the engineers they give you files on  
8 USB.

9 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

10 LTJG [REDACTED]: You have to send it  
11 ashore. Do they give you any paper files or anything  
12 or no?

13 MR. BESANDE: No. I just copy for the  
14 computer and then I have to print it one by one. Only  
15 the monthly but the weekly they send directly but  
16 monthly we have to print and then sign before I send it  
17 to DPA.

18 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Do you keep copies?

19 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

20 LTJG [REDACTED]: On deck 7?

21 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

22 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. All right.

23 MR. BESANDE: But the copy was on the  
24 shipping gear office.

25 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. I asked you about

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1 the keys. Do you remember -- I don't you were only on  
2 a board for a short time. Do you remember any guys  
3 making a request for gasket spare parts?

4 MR. BESANDE: For gasket spare parts?

5 LTJG [REDACTED]: Specific for like the fuel  
6 lines, the fuel manifold?

7 MR. BESANDE: Oh, for the manifold?

8 LTJG [REDACTED]: Yeah.

9 MR. BESANDE: I think when I joined the ship  
10 they already ordered.

11 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

12 MR. BESANDE: Then when I joined it's dry  
13 dock so we usually only order (inaudible).

14 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

15 MR. BESANDE: There are special things they  
16 are doing with the superintendent and the one who is  
17 taking care of the dry dock.

18 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. But after you left  
19 the dry dock, do you remember like when the ship was in  
20 operation so you remember anybody making a request  
21 like, "Can we get some rubber for gaskets" or anything?

22 MR. BESANDE: Shipping ordered gaskets.

23 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. No, I'm sorry.

24 What I mean is did anybody come to you to ask -- to  
25 tell you that they used the gaskets, the consumables,

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1 on board?

2 MR. BESANDE: No.

3 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Back to  
4 consumables, do you know sometimes the insulation that  
5 might go around the fuel manifold or some tape? Where  
6 would you keep that?

7 MR. BESANDE: The tape was in --

8 LTJG [REDACTED]: In the same place.

9 MR. BESANDE: The one they used for  
10 (inaudible) we don't have that thing.

11 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. You have an order  
12 or no?

13 MR. BESANDE: Regarding that one, no.

14 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Totally different  
15 subject now. I just wanted to clarify a question he  
16 asked. So you're in boundary cooling. I just want to  
17 understand. Did you have any like equipment or just  
18 your coveralls?

19 MR. BESANDE: Coveralls and also helmet.

20 LTJG [REDACTED]: Coveralls and helmet.

21 Okay. And is that normal?

22 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, that's normal. That's  
23 the one we're using.

24 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Like normal work  
25 coveralls?

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1 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

2 LTJG [REDACTED]: It's not protection  
3 coveralls?

4 MR. BESANDE: Just normal coveralls.

5 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. The last question I  
6 have is I know boundary cooling again is a big job and  
7 I know where you were but did you rig any hoses at all?

8 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, because they have hoses  
9 starboard and portside.

10 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. But your team, your  
11 group, you didn't make any hoses?

12 MR. BESANDE: I think we did only the one  
13 and then they told us -- because the smoke is getting  
14 bigger so we have to abandon garage B.

15 LTJG [REDACTED]: And that was garage B.

16 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

17 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Did you have a  
18 chance to charge the hose?

19 MR. BESANDE: No.

20 LTJG [REDACTED]: All right. That's all my  
21 questions. Thank you very much.

22 MR. GALLETTE: Jim Gallette with the Coast  
23 Guard.

24 MR. BESANDE: Yes, sir.

25 MR. GALLETTE: I just have a couple

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1 questions.

2 MR. BESANDE: Yes, sir.

3 MR. GALLETTE: One was you mentioned that  
4 the staff captain activated the C02.

5 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, that's what we see on  
6 garage B.

7 MR. GALLETTE: When you say "we see" what --

8 MR. BESANDE: He is the one who activated.

9 MR. GALLETTE: Did you personally see him  
10 activate it?

11 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

12 MR. GALLETTE: Is the C02 room by garage B?

13 MR. BESANDE: Garage B.

14 MR. GALLETTE: Did he give warning or let  
15 you guys know verbally that he was activated it?

16 MR. BESANDE: We hear it on the radio.

17 MR. GALLETTE: So he made a comment on the  
18 radio?

19 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

20 MR. GALLETTE: Do you remember what he said?

21 MR. BESANDE: From the bridge we hear  
22 "activate C02." So when he activate it, he replied  
23 "activated."

24 MR. GALLETTE: And you knew it was the staff  
25 captain?

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1 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, because we see him on  
2 garage B. He's the one in the room with the C02.

3 MR. GALLETTE: Are you familiar with this  
4 C02 system?

5 MR. BESANDE: Not really.

6 MR. GALLETTE: Did you see him push buttons?

7 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, because we hear the --  
8 we heard C02 open.

9 MR. GALLETTE: You heard it open?

10 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

11 MR. GALLETTE: Was it a hissing noise?

12 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, like pressure.

13 MR. GALLETTE: Okay. After he energized it  
14 did he say anything about it? Did he say that it  
15 worked or it didn't work?

16 MR. BESANDE: I just heard it on the radio  
17 that it's already activated. The smoke is already full  
18 in garage B so we have to go on garage C.

19 MR. GALLETTE: Okay. I'm a little confused  
20 when you're saying you heard it on the radio but then  
21 you said you saw it so I'm kind of a little confused.  
22 I'm trying to put where you were at along with the  
23 staff captain.

24 MR. BESANDE: No.

25 MR. GALLETTE: The staff captain was near

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1 you?

2 MR. BESANDE: I think the door -- I think  
3 room like this.

4 MR. GALLETTE: So this room is approximately  
5 20 feet

6 MR. BESANDE: We saw him on the C02 system.

7 MR. GALLETTE: So he was approximately 40  
8 feet from you?

9 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

10 MR. GALLETTE: And the doors opened?

11 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, the doors opened and  
12 he's inside.

13 MR. GALLETTE: So from garage B you can  
14 visually see inside the C02 room?

15 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

16 MR. GALLETTE: And actually see him activate  
17 it?

18 MR. BESANDE: Yeah. I heard already the  
19 noise of the C02.

20 MR. GALLETTE: Okay.

21 MR. BESANDE: The pressure.

22 MR. GALLETTE: Okay. Okay. Got that. And  
23 then I just have one more question and it has to do  
24 with the emails. I've heard the DPA mention but I just  
25 want to make clear because we also say the word

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1 "office." I keep hearing, "We send it to the office."  
2 Then I heard, "We sent it to the DPA." When you hit  
3 send for your reports or your items that you need, who  
4 is that actually going to? Who are you sending it to?

5 MR. BESANDE: I'm sending to -- for my  
6 orders I'm sending to purchasing department.

7 MR. GALLETTE: Purchasing department?

8 MR. BESANDE: Purchasing department because  
9 they have different people so I have to look to the  
10 CC1.

11 MR. GALLETTE: Where is the purchasing  
12 department? Are they here in Puerto Rico or are they  
13 in --

14 MR. BESANDE: Miami.

15 MR. GALLETTE: In Miami. Okay. And then  
16 you also mentioned that you send stuff to the DPA.

17 MR. BESANDE: That's the monthly report.  
18 That was from shipping they just send it.

19 MR. GALLETTE: Okay. So just to make sure  
20 I'm clear, you send your orders to the purchasing  
21 department in Miami.

22 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

23 MR. GALLETTE: Is that a yes?

24 MR. BESANDE: Yes. And also superintendent.

25 MR. GALLETTE: And superintendent. Is the

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1 superintendent in Miami as well?

2 MR. BESANDE: No. Our superintendent is  
3 Nicholas Corleone (phonetic) in France.

4 MR. GALLETTE: She's in France?

5 MR. BESANDE: France.

6 MR. GALLETTE: And her name is Nicholas?

7 MR. BESANDE: Corleone.

8 MR. GALLETTE: Okay. And then for monthly  
9 reports, for engineering monthly reports that are given  
10 to you by the chief engineer, do you send those to the  
11 DPA?

12 MR. BESANDE: DPA.

13 MR. GALLETTE: And the DPA, do you know his  
14 or her name?

15 MR. BESANDE: Gustavo.

16 MR. GALLETTE: Gustavo?

17 MR. BESANDE: I forget his last name.

18 MR. GALLETTE: Okay. All right. Thank you  
19 very much.

20 CDR [REDACTED]: We're going to continue on the  
21 ordering a little bit.

22 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

23 CDR [REDACTED]: Do you ever get the wrong  
24 orders?

25 MR. BESANDE: When I joined the ship I

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1 didn't receive any wrong orders yet.

2 CDR [REDACTED]: No wrong orders yet?

3 MR. BESANDE: No, because I just arrived on  
4 June 11.

5 CDR [REDACTED]: Oh, okay.

6 MR. BESANDE: So it's only two months.

7 CDR [REDACTED]: Okay. Do you -- do the stores  
8 come to you? When your orders arrive do you receive  
9 them?

10 MR. BESANDE: Yeah. They always call me  
11 when there are some spare parts coming. They always  
12 call me and then I receive all those things.

13 CDR [REDACTED]: And you load them into the  
14 storerooms?

15 MR. BESANDE: In the storerooms. For the  
16 engine I'm the one responsible but for the deck  
17 department I have to call them. They have to check the  
18 spare parts if that is their order or not.

19 CDR [REDACTED]: Okay. Great. Now I'm going  
20 to go back to the C02 system. When you saw the staff  
21 captain activating the C02 system, can you describe to  
22 me what you heard in order?

23 MR. BESANDE: I heard on the radio "activate  
24 C02."

25 CDR [REDACTED]: Okay.

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1 MR. BESANDE: Then he replied, "Activated."

2 CDR [REDACTED]: Activated. Could you hear the  
3 bottles whistling?

4 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, from where I'm standing  
5 in garage B.

6 CDR [REDACTED]: And did it make two different  
7 whistling sounds or just one?

8 MR. BESANDE: Different sounds.

9 CDR [REDACTED]: Different sounds? Was it all  
10 at the same time or did it whistle for a short period  
11 of time and then longer?

12 MR. BESANDE: No, at the same time.

13 CDR [REDACTED]: The same time? How long do  
14 you think you heard it whistle?

15 MR. BESANDE: Because when I go through  
16 garage C it was still whistling.

17 CDR [REDACTED]: It was still whistling? Okay.  
18 All right. Did you hear any alarms at the time of  
19 activation?

20 MR. BESANDE: Activation, no.

21 CDR [REDACTED]: No alarms?

22 MR. BESANDE: No alarms.

23 CDR [REDACTED]: Okay. That's all the  
24 questions I have. Thank you.

25 LTJG [REDACTED]: Any questions?

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1 MR. GALLETTE: I do have one follow-up  
2 question I want to ask. You said that you heard it on  
3 the radio somebody telling the staff captain to  
4 activate it. Do you know who that person was?

5 MR. BESANDE: The bridge.

6 MR. GALLETTE: Do you know who that might  
7 have been?

8 MR. BESANDE: The captain.

9 MR. GALLETTE: Are you sure it was the  
10 captain or you just believe it was the captain?

11 MR. BESANDE: I'm not sure.

12 MR. GALLETTE: Okay.

13 MR. BESANDE: It's from the bridge

14 MR. GALLETTE: Okay. But the bridge said to  
15 activate?

16 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, activate.

17 MR. GALLETTE: Was the order directly to the  
18 staff captain? For example, did the bridge say, "Staff  
19 captain, activate C02?" Or did they just say,  
20 "Activate C02?"

21 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, that's what I heard.  
22 Not really staff captain. Not really the bridge told  
23 staff captain.

24 MR. GALLETTE: So what did you hear?

25 MR. BESANDE: I just hear, "Activate C02."

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1 After he activate he just replied, "Activated."

2 MR. GALLETTE: Did the staff captain say who  
3 it was that activated it?

4 MR. BESANDE: No. I didn't hear that on the  
5 radio.

6 MR. GALLETTE: He just said, "Activated?"

7 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, activated.

8 MR. GALLETTE: Okay. All right. Thank you  
9 very much.

10 MR. TUCKER: I forgot to ask you a question.

11 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

12 MR. TUCKER: This is Adam with NTSB. The  
13 boundary cooling, how many guys in the team?

14 MR. BESANDE: Seven.

15 MR. TUCKER: Seven. Okay. Were you  
16 trained? Did you do any training for the boundary  
17 cooling?

18 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, from the boundary  
19 cooling when I joined the ship already in boundary  
20 cooling because the one I replaced, he's the one the  
21 boundary cooling so they just changed me to that  
22 position.

23 MR. TUCKER: Did you person you replace, did  
24 they train you what to do, or somebody else?

25 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, they just told me what

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1 to do. Then we have a drill.

2 MR. TUCKER: Okay. Drills as well. Okay.  
3 Besides that, seven guys is a lot of guys so who's in  
4 charge of the boundary cooling team?

5 MR. BESANDE: Me.

6 MR. TUCKER: Oh, you? Okay.

7 MR. BESANDE: Because I have the radio.

8 MR. TUCKER: You had the radio.

9 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

10 MR. TUCKER: Okay. Just to clarify, the  
11 radio is just for the ship, the ship's radio?

12 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, ship radio. We are the  
13 one using it.

14 MR. TUCKER: And nobody on the boundary  
15 cooling team wears any type of protective equipment?

16 MR. BESANDE: We just only wearing the --

17 MR. TUCKER: Hard hats?

18 MR. BESANDE: -- helmet. Then we have some  
19 -- on the helmet they have something on the side to  
20 protect your hearing.

21 MR. TUCKER: Is it like a flat or something?

22 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

23 MR. TUCKER: Okay. All right. So you're in  
24 charge. So who do you report to?

25 MR. BESANDE: To Safety.

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1 MR. TUCKER: Okay. Thank you very much.

2 MR. GALLETTE: I do have one more follow-up  
3 question. This is Jim Gallette with the Coast Guard  
4 again. This has to do with the radio. Where and when  
5 did you get that radio?

6 MR. BESANDE: When I replaced the  
7 storekeeper they give me the radio because they were  
8 using it on the ship --

9 MR. GALLETTE: So does the storekeeper  
10 always -- excuse me. Does the storekeeper always hold  
11 the radio every day?

12 MR. BESANDE: Yes, every day.

13 MR. GALLETTE: Okay. So you are always in  
14 touch by radio.

15 MR. BESANDE: Because we have a different  
16 channel from the engine and the deck. The engine has a  
17 channel and deck 6. If we have an emergency there are  
18 only two channels.

19 MR. GALLETTE: Okay. Thank you very much.

20 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Thank you for all  
21 that. I have a few questions just for clarification as  
22 well. As far as the way that the vessel is  
23 constructed, do you know if decks B and C also share a  
24 bulkhead with the engine space, or is it just deck A?  
25 Do you understand what I'm saying? I could rephrase.

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1 MR. BESANDE: Can you rephrase?

2 LTJG [REDACTED]: Sure. Your drawing here.

3 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

4 LTJG [REDACTED]: Actually, I'm going to  
5 draw one for you. If this is the engine room, right,  
6 you have the engine and big stacks that come up from  
7 the ship. This is deck A. You said that it was on the  
8 same level as the engine space.

9 MR. BESANDE: Yeah, same level.

10 LTJG [REDACTED]: If we're looking at the  
11 engine room, right, deck B, deck C, do they also touch  
12 the same wall?

13 MR. BESANDE: Only --

14 LTJG [REDACTED]: Or just deck A?

15 MR. BESANDE: Only that deck.

16 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. When you were in  
17 deck C did you see or hear -- did you see a fire on  
18 deck C?

19 MR. BESANDE: No, smoke.

20 LTJG [REDACTED]: So smoke was deck B.

21 MR. BESANDE: Deck B. When we go up on deck  
22 C it's smoke also.

23 LTJG [REDACTED]: Smoke as well?

24 MR. BESANDE: Yeah.

25 LTJG [REDACTED]: Did you see any fire on

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1 deck C?

2 MR. BESANDE: No.

3 LTJG [REDACTED]: Did you hear any explosion  
4 on deck C?

5 MR. BESANDE: I hear the explosion but I  
6 think it's not on deck C. It's on the bottom.

7 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. The explosion that  
8 you heard, was that before or after the C02?

9 MR. BESANDE: After.

10 LTJG [REDACTED]: After the C02?

11 MR. BESANDE: After the C02.

12 LTJG [REDACTED]: And before the demister?  
13 Is that what it's call?

14 MR. BESANDE: Drencher.

15 LTJG [REDACTED]: The drencher. Before the  
16 drencher or after?

17 MR. BESANDE: Before.

18 LTJG [REDACTED]: Before the drencher you  
19 heard an explosion but you think it was deck B.

20 MR. BESANDE: Yes.

21 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Are you sure that  
22 it was deck B?

23 MR. BESANDE: I'm not sure.

24 LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay.

25 MR. BESANDE: We're on deck C already.

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1                   LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Then when you left  
2 deck C was there anybody else that was still there or  
3 were you the last one out?

4                   MR. BESANDE: All of us went to deck 7.

5                   LTJG [REDACTED]: Okay. Did you see the  
6 chief engineer anywhere?

7                   MR. BESANDE: No.

8                   LTJG [REDACTED]: All right. I don't have  
9 any other questions. Is there any follow-up? No?  
10 Okay. Thank you for your time.

11                   The time right now is 12:30 and this has  
12 concluded the interview. Thank you.

13                   (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went  
14 off the record at 12:30 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MATTER: Fire Onboard the Caribbean Fantasy  
August 17, 2016  
Accident No. DCA16FM052  
Interview of Julio Besande

DATE: 08-22-16

I hereby certify that the attached transcription of page 1 to 42 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.



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