

# Coast Guard Sitreps

Subject: Staten Island Ferry Allision

Seven (7) pages total including this cover

**Mason Chris**

**From:** CmCtr  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 15, 2003 6:39 PM  
**To:** Bell Grant; Taylor John; Goodman Grady; Huddleston Brian; Mason Chris; Chancellor Richard; Sottile Russell; Rodriguez Randall; Maas Daniel  
**Subject:** FW: P 152217Z OCT 03,SITREP ONE - STATEN ISLAND FERRY ALLISION,COMCOGARDACT NEW YORK NY//CC//

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>From: CGMSService [SMTP:CGMSSERVICE@CGMSCOMDTCC,USCG.MIL]  
>Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2003 6:38:33 PM  
>To: cc  
>Subject: P 152217Z OCT 03,SITREP ONE - STATEN ISLAND FERRY ALLISION,COMCOGARDACT NEW YORK NY//CC//  
>Auto forwarded by a Rule

>  
P 152217Z OCT 03 ZUI ASN-A01288000252  
FM COMCOGARDACT NEW YORK NY//CC//  
TO CCGDOME BOSTON MA//CC/O/M//  
INFO COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//G-MOA/FLAGPLOT//  
COGARD STA NEW YORK NY  
USCOC RIDLEY  
USCGC HAWSER  
COMLANTAREA COGARD PORTSMOUTH VA//ACC//  
NTSB WASHINGTON DC  
BT  
UNCLAS //N16130//

SUBJ: SITREP ONE - STATEN ISLAND FERRY ALLISION

1. SITUATION:

A. AT APPROX 1500 LOCAL TIME, STATEN FERRY BARBERI ALLIED WITH PIER AT ST. GEORGE TERMINAL. STATION NEW YORK AND ACTNY PERSONNEL ON SCENE REPORT AT LEAST 02 PEOPLE DEAD INITIALLY. LATER REPORTS RCVD FM O/S CG PERS INDICATED AT LEAST 10 PERSONS DEAD, UNKN NR OF INJURIES.

B. VTS NY. ESTABLISHED 250 YARD SECURITY ZONE AROUND FERRY RACKS AND BROADCASTED INFORMATION REGARDING 250 YARD FLOATING DEBRIS FIELD. CEASED STATEN ISLAND FERRY OPERATIONS. VTS MEASURES IN EFFECT DUE TO HIGH WINDS SINCE 141645Q; ALL VESSELS IN ANCHORAGES ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE ENGINES ONLINE AND TUGS ALONGSIDE IN ANCHORAGE. SAFETY ZONE INCREASED TO 400 YARDS AROUND VIC OF ST GEORGE FERRY TERMINAL.

2. ACTION TAKEN:

A. 1525Q: RECEIVED REPORT OF ALLISION AT STATEN ISLAND FERRY TERMINAL IN ST. GEORGE, STATEN ISLAND.

B. 1535Q: LAUNCHED 2 STATION NEW YORK 41'S.

C. 1545Q: NOTIFIED COTP AND STAFF. IO AND MARINE SAFETY DUTY OFFICER (MSDO) DISPATCHED TO SCENE. BRIEFED CONG. FOSSELLA'S STAFF ON INCIDENT.

D. 1550Q: NOTIFIED DICC. INFORMED AT LEAST 1 PERSON DEAD.

E. 1552Q: MSO DIVISION OFFICER ENROUTE STATEN ISLAND FERRY TERMINAL.

F. 1553Q: SET 250 YARDS SECURITY ZONE AROUND FERRY RACKS. BROADCASTED INFORMATION ABOUT 400 YARD DEBRIS FIELD MOVING WITH EBB TIDE AND WESTERLY WINDS (TOWARD VERRAZANO BRIDGE). 1 STA NY BOAT IN RACKS AND 2 STA NY BOATS IN DEBRIS FIELD.

G. 1556Q: DIRECTED CGC RIDLEY (IVO GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE) TO ST. GEORGE TERMINAL; ETA 45 MINUTES.

H. 1559Q: CEASED STATEN ISLAND FERRY OPERATIONS. 1 FERRY CURRENTLY UNDERWAY; DIVERTED FERRY BACK TO WHITEHALL STATION IN MANHATTAN.

I. 1600Q: NOTIFIED ACOE; 4 ACOE BOATS UNDERWAY.

J. 1601Q: STATION NEW YORK REPORTS DEBRIS FIELD FROM STAPLETON ANCHORAGES TO BAYRIDGE ANCHORAGE.

K. 1610Q: NTSB BRIEFED.

L. 1615Q: CGC HAWSER (IN B-6) RECALLED.

M. 1618Q: LOCAL NEWS REPORTING 10 DEAD; CRISIS ACTION CENTER STOOD UP.

N. 1620Q: ACOE BOAT "HUDSON" ONSCENE JUST NORTH OF VERRAZANO BRIDGE. WORKING NORTH TO ST. GEORGE TERMINAL TO COLLECT DEBRIS AND SEARCH FOR PIW.

O. APPROX 1630Q: COTP O/S.

P. 1638Q: CGC RIDLEY ONSCENE; SHIFTED STA NY ONSCENE BOATS' RADIO GUARD TO ACTNY.

Q. 1645Q: CGC HAWSER UNDERWAY.

R. 1653Q: EXPANDED SAFETY ZONE AROUND ST GEORGE TERMINAL TO 400 YARDS.

S. 1656Q: SEA MARSHALS PROVIDED PORTABLE COMMS TO SCENE.

T. 1659Q: ASSETS ON SCENE: 5 NYPD, FDNY, 4 ACOE, 6 USCG BOATS (3 41'S, 27, 65, AND 87).

U. 1700Q: RECEIVED REPORT FROM MSO DIVISION CHIEF. OEM ASSUMED ON SCENE COMMANDER (PRIMARILY URBAN SEARCH). NYPD DIVERS IN WATER NEAR RACKS. VESSEL IMPALED FROM CORNER OF STBD BOW TO S'TBD QRT (80PERCENT OF STBD SIDE-TOTAL DESTRUCTION). FDNY CONCENTRATING ON MAIN DECK, WHICH IS LOWEST PASSENGER DECK; SHORING UPPER DECKS FOR SAFETY. DAMAGE REACHES AS FAR INBOARD AS CENTERLINE; VSL APPEARS TO HAVE NO OTHER STRUCTURAL DAMAGE. OEM WORKING ON VERBAL SUBPOENA FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING.

V. 1730Q: RECEIVED REPORT THAT MASTER OF FERRY CHECKED INTO ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL FOR SELF INFLICTED PELLET GUN WOUND.

W. 1735Q: NTSB AND CGIS ON SCENE.

X. 1800Q: CG OEM REP RPTD 10 CONFIRMED DEAD, 32 CRITICALLY INJURED & TAKEN TO AREA HOSPITALS.

### 3. FUTURE PLANS:

A. CONTINUE SEARCH EFFORTS UNTIL SUNSET. AS OF 1800Q, HAVE 5 STATION NY BOATS ACTIVELY SEARCHING, 4 ACOE BOATS O/S, 5 NYPD BOATS, FDNY BOATS (UNCONFIRMED NRS), 3 NYPD HELOS, CUTTER HAWSER AND CUTTER RIDLEY(OSC) O/S. IF NO REPORTS OF PIW, ANTICIPATE CONFERRING W/SRUS & OTHER AGENCIES TO CONFIRM AREAS SEARCHED & EFFECTIVENESS OF SEARCHES. WILL MAINTAIN CUTTER PRESENCE AS NEC. COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC IN AREA HALTED DUE TO WIND CONDITIONS & CONTINUE TO ENFORCE 400 YD COTP SAFETY ZONE.

B. INTEND TO SUBMIT NEXT SITREP AT 2200Q UNLESS SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN SITUATION OR POSTURE.

### 4. CASE STATUS:

A. CASE PENDS

B. MISLE NR PENDS

BT

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**Mason Chris**

**From:** CmCtr  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 15, 2003 11:00 PM  
**To:** Bell Grant; Taylor John; Goodman Grady; Huddleston Brian; Mason Chris; Chancellor Richard; Sottile Russell; Rodriguez Randall; Maas Daniel  
**Subject:** FW: P 160148Z OCT 03,SITREP TWO - STATEN ISLAND FERRY ALLISION,COMCOGARDACT NEW YORK NY//CC//

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>From: CGMSService [SMTP:CGMSSERVICE@CGMSCOMDTCC.USCG.MIL]  
>Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2003 11:00:13 PM  
>To: cc  
>Subject: P 160148Z OCT 03,SITREP TWO - STATEN ISLAND FERRY ALLISION,COMCOGARDACT NEW YORK NY//CC//  
>Auto forwarded by a Rule

>  
P 160148Z OCT 03 ZUI ASN-A01289000006  
FM COMCOGARDACT NEW YORK NY//CC//  
TO CCGDONE BOSTON MA//CC/O/M//  
INFO COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//G-MOA/FLAGPLOT//  
COGARD STA NEW YORK NY  
USCGC RIDLEY  
USCGC HAWSER  
COMLANTAREA COGARD PORTSMOUTH VA//ACC//  
NTSB WASHINGTON DC  
BT  
UNCLAS //N16130//

SUBJ: SITREP TWO - STATEN ISLAND FERRY ALLISION

1. SITUATION:

A. AT APPROX 1500 LOCAL TIME, STATEN ISLAND FERRY BARBERI ALLIED WITH PIER AT ST. GEORGE TERMINAL. ACTNY, STANY, CGC RIDLEY ON SCENE WITH OTHER FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES. NTSB AND NYC OEM REPORT 10 DECEASED (6 AT MEDICAL EXAMINER AND 4 REMAIN ONBOARD FERRY), 37 INJURED (8 IN CRITICAL CONDITION). PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION REVEALED ST FERRY BARBERI DID NOT LOSE POWER BEFORE OR AFTER INCIDENT AND DID NOT REQUEST TUG ASSISTANCE. TUG IVO ST GEORGE TERMINAL RESPONDED TO INCIDENT. ACTNY REC SECURED ALL CREW FILES; ACTNY M90 DIVISION SECURED ALL VESSEL CASE FILES.

B. VTS NY. ESTABLISHED 300 YARD SAFETY ZONE AROUND FERRY RACKS. CEASED STATEN ISLAND FERRY OPERATIONS; 3 EMPTY FERRIES ESCORTED BY NYPD TO ST GEORGE TERMINAL TO PREPARE FOR MORNING COMMUTE. VTS MEASURES IN EFFECT DUE TO HIGH WINDS SINCE 141645Q; ALL VESSELS IN ANCHORAGES ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE ENGINES ONLINE AND TUGS ALONGSIDE IN ANCHORAGE.

C. PUBLIC AFFAIRS. INTEREST REMAINS HIGH. D1 PA SOUTH PROVIDED POOLED VIDEO/STILLS. PRESS NOT AUTHORIZED ACCESS TO VESSEL. NTSB TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE 16 OCT.

D. NOTIFICATION. NYPD TO PROVIDE NEXT OF KIN NOTIFICATION FOR DECEASED. EMS TO PROVIDE NEXT OF KIN NOTIFICATION FOR INJURED.

E. NTSB. NTSB CHAIR ON SCENE AND ATTENDED 2015 MEETING. USCG RETAINS LEAD UNTIL NTSB TEAM LEADER AND 11 MEMBERS ARRIVE. ETA 2300Q.

F. DIVE OPS. DIVE OPS CONTINUE. ANTICIPATED COMPLETION AT 2400Q.

2. ACTION TAKEN:

A. 1825Q: CG IO SERVED SUBPOENA TO ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL TO CONDUCT DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING ON FERRY MASTER.

B. 1909Q: 1 STANY 41' COMPLETED SEARCH, NEGRES.

C. 1915Q: CG OEM LIAISON ENROUTE PHNN STATION TO PICK UP NTSB CHAIR.

D. 1927Q: VTS NY, CGC RIDLEY, NYC OEM COORDINATED EMPTY FERRY

\*TRANSITS TO ST GEORGE TERMINAL FOR MORNING COMMUTE.

- E. 1940Q: ACTNY DEP BRIEFED D1 COMMANDER.
- F. 1941Q: CGC HAWSER MOORED AT MOTBY.
- G. 2000Q: ALL BARBERI CREW ACCOUNTED FOR. DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING REPORTED COMPLETED, RESULTS PENDING.
- H. 2015Q: NTSB HELD MEETING AT ST GEORGE TERMINAL.
- I. 2027Q: SI FERRY KENNEDY MOORED AT ST GEORGE TERMINAL.
- J. 2115Q: NYPD HARBOR PLANS TO SEND 1 LT, 3 SQTS, 24 UNIFORMED OFFICERS TO ST GEORGE TERMINAL FOR MORNING COMMUTE. ACTNY INTENDS TO SEND SEA MARSHALS TO TERMINAL FOR MORNING COMMUTE.
- K. 2147Q: REMAINING 2 EMPTY SI FERRIES MOORED AT ST GEORGE TERMINAL.
- L. 2148Q: CO BRIEFED D1 COMMANDER.
- M. 2200Q: EAP COUNSELOR ONBOARD ACTNY. DEBRIEFED RETURNING PERSONNEL. INTEND TO HOLD SIMILAR SESSION FOR STANY 16 OCT.

3. FUTURE PLANS:

- A. 300 YARD SAFETY ZONE REMAINS IN EFFECT, COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC PERMITTED TO TRANSIT AREA WITH VTS AUTHORIZATION.
- B. CGC RIDLEY TO PATROL AREA/ENFORCE SAFETY ZONE THROUGH EVENING. CGC HAWSER TO GET U/W AT 0430 FOR SAFETY ZONE ENFORCEMENT DURING MORNING COMMUTE. STA NY UTR ON STANDBY.
- C. ACTNY MI AND IO WILL REMAIN AT ST GEORGE TERMINAL THROUGHOUT EVENING. ACTNY OEM LIAISON WILL SECURE WATCH AT 2200Q; WATCH WILL RESUME AT 0500Q.
- D. FERRY OPS. FERRY OPS WILL RESUME AT 0500Q AT THE REMAINING WORKING PASSENGER BERTH AT 20MIN INTERVALS DURING COMMUTE PERIOD. IN CONCERT WITH NTSB, ACTNY TO DEVELOP PLAN TO RELOCATE SI FERRY BARBERI TO SECURE FACILITY TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATION AND TO CLEAR PASSENGER BERTH.
- E. INTEND TO SUBMIT NEXT SITREP AT 1000Q UNLESS SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN SITUATION OR POSTURE.

4. CASE STATUS:

- A. CASE PENDS
- B. MISLE NR PENDS

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**Mason Chris**

**From:** CmCtr  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 16, 2003 10:58 AM  
**To:** Bell Grant; Taylor John; Goodman Grady; Huddleston Brian; Mason Chris; Chancellor Richard; Sottile Russell; Rodriguez Randall; Maas Daniel  
**Subject:** FW: P 161454Z OCT 03,SITREP THREE AND FINAL - STATEN ISLAND FERRY ALLISION,COMCOGARDACT NEW YORK NY//CC//

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>From: CGMSService [SMTP:CGMSSERVICE@CGMSCOMDTCC.USCG.MIL]  
>Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2003 10:57:47 AM  
>To: cc  
>Subject: P 161454Z OCT 03,SITREP THREE AND FINAL - STATEN ISLAND FERRY ALLISION,COMCOGARDACT NEW YORK NY//CC//  
>Auto forwarded by a Rule

>  
P 161454Z OCT 03 ZUI ASN-A01289000048  
FM COMCOGARDACT NEW YORK NY//CC//  
TO CCGDONE BOSTON MA//CC/O/M//  
INFO COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//G-MOA/FLAGPLOT//  
COGARD STA NEW YORK NY  
USCGC RIDLEY  
USCGC HAWSER  
COMLANTAREA COGARD PORTSMOUTH VA//ACC//  
NTSB WASHINGTON DC

BT  
UNCLAS //N16130//  
SUBJ: SITREP THREE AND FINAL - STATEN ISLAND FERRY ALLISION

## 1. SITUATION:

A. AT APPROX 1520 LOCAL TIME, STATEN ISLAND FERRY BARBERI ALLIDED WITH PIER AT ST. GEORGE TERMINAL. ACTNY, STANY, CGC RIDLEY, CGC HAWSER ON SCENE WITH OTHER FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES. NTSB AND NYC OEM REPORT 10 DECEASED (4 REMAINING BODIES REMOVED FROM FERRY), 37 INJURED (8 IN CRITICAL CONDITION). PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION REVEALED SI FERRY BARBERI DID NOT LOSE POWER BEFORE OR AFTER INCIDENT AND DID NOT REQUEST TUG ASSISTANCE. TUG IVO ST GEORGE TERMINAL RESPONDED TO INCIDENT. ACTNY REC SECURED ALL CREW FILES; ACTNY MSO DIVISION SECURED ALL VESSEL CASE FILES.

B. VTS NY. VTS PROVIDED VIDEO TAPE FOR NTSB INVESTIGATION. ESTABLISHED 300 YARD SAFETY ZONE AROUND FERRY RACKS. NO WAKE ZONE IN EFFECT. STATEN ISLAND FERRY OPERATIONS RESUMED FOR MORNING COMMUTE AT THE REMAINING WORKING PASSENGER BERTH AT 20MIN INTERVALS.

C. PUBLIC AFFAIRS. INTEREST REMAINS HIGH. NTSB CHAIR PROVIDING PRESS BRIEFINGS.

D. NTSB. NTSB TEAM ON SCENE AND HAS TAKEN LEAD FOR INVESTIGATION. NTSB ORGANIZATIONAL MTG HELD. ACTNY MBRS ASSIGNED TO ASSIST 4 NTSB TEAMS - ENGINEERING OPS, HUMAN FACTORS, OPS DECK AND SURVIVAL FACTORS. NTSB TO HOLD DAILY PROGRESS MTG AT 1700Q WHERE TEAMS WILL REPORT OUT PROGRESS. IN ADDITION, A CG INVESTIGATOR HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NTSB LEAD INVESTIGATOR IN CHARGE. ACTNY MEMBER ALSO ASSIGNED AS DOCUMENTATION RECORD MANAGER.

E. USCG VSLs CONDUCTED AM DEBRIS SEARCH OF HARBOR SHORELINE. NEGATIVE RESULTS. CG HELO SORTIE PLANNED FOR 1000Q.

## 2. ACTION TAKEN:

A. 0430Q: CGC HAWSER U/W.  
B. 0440Q: 4 CG ACTNY INVESTIGATING OFFICERS O/S.  
C. 0500Q: STATEN ISLAND FERRY COMMUTER OPERATIONS RESUME. 5 ACTNY TACTICAL SECURITY OFFICERS, 3 MIA AND 3 MSST PERSONNEL PROVIDING COAST GUARD PRESENT O/B STATEN ISLAND FERRIES FOR MORNING

## COMMUTE.

- D. 0530Q: TSA BRIEFED.
  - E. 0600Q: NTSB CHAIR CONDUCTS PRESS CONFERENCE.
  - F. 0730Q: CG 255056 UNDERWAY TO CONDUCT DEBRIS SEARCH OF HARBOR.
  - G. 0732Q: CG 270505 UNDERWAY TO CONDUCT DEBRIS SEARCH OF HARBOR.
  - H. 0830Q: CG 270505 RTB. NEGATIVE RESULTS.
  - I. 0830Q: NTSB CONDUCTED ORGANIZATIONAL MTG FOR INVESTIGATION.
  - J. 0835Q: CG 255056 RTB. NEGATIVE RESULTS.
3. FUTURE PLANS:
- A. 300 YARD SAFETY ZONE AND NO WAKE ZONE TO REMAIN IN EFFECT, COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC PERMITTED TO TRANSIT AREA WITH VTS AUTHORIZATION.
  - B. PLANS ARE U/W FOR ADDITIONAL SHORING OF STATEN ISLAND FERRY BARBERI IN ANTICIPATION OF VSL TRANSIT TO SHIPYARD. CG PROVIDING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO NTSB IN PREPARING O/S DOCUMENTATION PRIOR TO VSL TRANSIT.
  - C. CGC HAWSER AND RIDLEY TO PATROL AREA/ENFORCE SAFETY ZONE THROUGH MORNING. STA NY UTB ON STANDBY. CGC RIDLEY TO BE RELIEVED BY 1200Q BY CGC PENOBSCOT BAY.
  - D. ACTNY MI AND IO WILL REMAIN AT ST GEORGE TERMINAL THROUGH HIGH CAPACITY MORNING COMMUTE PERIOD.
  - E. VTS TO PROVIDE AUDIO TAPE FOR NTSB INVESTIGATION.
  - F. CG HELO OVERFLIGHT OF HARBOR TO SEARCH FOR DEBRIS TO BE CONDUCTED AT 1000Q.
  - G. EARLIEST ANTICIPATED TRANSIT OF VSL RELOCATION IS 17 OCT.
  - H. D1 COMMANDER EXPECTED O/S AT 1130Q. D1 COMMANDER AND STATEN ISLAND BOROUGH PRESIDENT MEETING PENDING.
  - I. NEXT PRESS BRIEFING SCHEDULED FOR 1530Q. NTSB CHAIR AND D1 COMMANDER ANTICIPATED TO ATTEND.

## 4. CASE STATUS:

- A. NTSB CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION WITH SUPPORT FROM USCG AND OTHER LOCAL AGENCIES.
- B. MISLE NR PENDS.
- C. CASE CLOSED.

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