

DRAFT Meeting Summary
Aleutians Emergency Towing System (ETS)
ETS Deployment Exercise Planning Meeting/Teleconference 06/21/07

Attendees:

David Alvestad, Dunlap Towing
Mike Anomny, Alaska Marine Pilots Association
Clayton Christy, Alaska Marine Pilots Association
LT Gregory Crettol, USCG, Unalaska
John Days, Port of Dutch Harbor
Gary Folley, ADEC
Pete Gray, Alaska Marine Pilots Association
Amy Gilson, Nuka Research
Rod George, Dunlap Towing
Chris Iszler, Gyrfalcon (teleconference attendee)
Vern Johnson, Alaska Maritime Agencies
Shirley Marquardt, City of Unalaska – Mayor (teleconference attendee)
Peggy McLaughlin, Horizon Lines
Kelly O'Brien, UCB
Alvin Osterback, Port of Dutch Harbor
CDR Steven Pearson, USCG, Anchorage (teleconference attendee)
Joe Stuart, Dunlap Towing
Tim Robertson, Nuka Research
Al Sabatien, Horizon Lines
Chris Starckenburg, Gyrfalcon (teleconference attendee)

Status of July 31 Deployment Exercise and USCG Wavier

There were no reports of conflict regarding the proposed Deployment Exercise date of July 31.

LT Crettol reported the USCG Cutter Rush will be in the Unalaska area during the proposed deployment exercise date and has a helicopter on board. The waiver was reported as in process for approval through USCG Air Station Kodiak with actual approval a few weeks out.

It was suggested and generally agreed to begin with an exercise briefing meeting on July 30 (or a day prior to the deployment exercise).

Outline Exercise Objectives and Plan

It was suggested that the private participants be listed as sponsors/hosts for the deployment exercise. There were no comments to this suggestion.

There was a discussion regarding deployment exercise scenarios. AMA (Mike) had questions regarding ETS deployment from a dock-tug and helicopter-tug-vessel, both situations were address with no further comments.

The workgroup discussed deployment exercise scenario logistics, packing/re-packing ETS between deployment scenarios. Mayor Marquardt suggested use of 2 tugs during the exercise in order to be efficient in moving from one scenario to the next. LT Crettol proposed to begin with reverse deployment and then move on to the standard deployment.

Exercise Organization

There was a discussion regarding the role of the Director of the Exercise versus the On-Scene Command and Control position. It was agreed the Director of the Exercise is a 'logistical' role and not an operational role.

Mayor Marquardt was nominated/seconded to act as the Director of the Exercise. She agreed to fill this position. There was a discussion regarding what agency or participant should be the lead for exercise objectives. The following list was agreed upon by the workgroup:

- Safety: USCG – Unalaska, LT Crettol
- Port Ops: Port of Dutch Harbor, Osterback
- Aerial Ops: USCG – Air Station Kodiak (CMD Pearson or LT Crettol until helicopter pilots are on scene)
- Tug Ops: Gyrfalcon – Iszler /Dunlap Towing - Campbell
- Shipboard Ops: AMA – Moreno
- ETS Configuration/Packing: Port of Unalaska
- Communications:
- Video Production: UCB – O'Brien
- Line Gun Ops: Port of Dutch Harbor

The workgroup generally agreed upon the exercise organization as presented in the draft exercise plan handout.

ETS Configuration and Packaging

There was a discussion regarding responsibility of packaging ETS. The Port of Dutch Harbor and the Captain of the Port (USCG) were both suggested, and the Port of Dutch Harbor was generally agreed upon as the chief participant for this role.

There was a discussion regarding ETS storage on a tug. The concerns for only having one tug equipped, not knowing tug location (Akutan, etc.), deck space availability and liability issues were mentioned as reasons for a land based storage. The workgroup generally agreed upon land based storage.

The tug captains and crews voiced concern regarding safety protocol prior to hooking plasma line to the tug. Dave Alvestad (Dunlap Towing) presented a few key issues for crew safety during deployment. Prior to the plasma line being connected to the tug, it must be completely set out and clear of all cleats and deck

items and there must always be slack in the tow line during hooking operations. It was suggested and agreed upon that this component of deployment be made into a checklist for use on board the tug and/or vessel.

Harbor Exercise Operations/Procedures

There was a question regarding physical control of ETS and what steps would be taken in the event of an actual emergency. Who would contact the Port to begin deployment operations, USCG/Tugs?

Alvin Osterback raised concern for the need of line gun training prior to the deployment exercise (Port/AMP/Tugs). The workgroup discussed line gun storage, air tank refill and training as key issues to address prior to the actual exercise.

Exercise Communications

Pete Gray (AMP) suggested the vessel agency associated with the tramper used during the exercise as the designated communications person. There were no comments to this suggestion.

Exercise Participants

Alaska Maritime Agencies (3 different agencies in Unalaska), Alaska Marine Exchange and UCB will be added to the participants list.

Draft Exercise Plan

Scenario Overview

No comments were made on the suggested scenario.

Concept of Operations

The stages presented in the draft exercise plan were discussed and generally agreed upon with the addition of a separate stage for line gun operations. The following stage assignments were made and finalized for the deployment exercise. Each agency/person agreed to create a draft operation plan for their respective stages to be finalized for use during the actual deployment exercise. It was agreed the stages section would be the only portion of the procedural manual in final draft form prior to the deployment exercise.

Stage I System components and packing – Port of DH and Dunlap Towing and Gyrfalcon

Stage II Line Gun Operations – Port of DH

Stage III City of Unalaska Harbor/Airport Ops – Port of DH, City of Unalaska

Stage IV Notification, activation, command and control – USCG

Stage V Helicopter Ops – USCG Air Station Kodiak

Stage VI Shipboard Ops – AMP

Stage VII Tug Ops – Gyrfalcon (Islzer/Starkenburg)

Line gun training was suggested for no later than July 30. Each tug and UCB will receive a copy of the line gun training DVD from the Port of DH prior to the July 30 training.

There was concern raised by Vern (AK Maritime Agencies) regarding trampers deploying the ETS using a line gun. It was agreed that any trampler would only have a messenger line to trail for the tug to pick up and begin the deployment or reverse deployment process.

Concept of Control

The workgroup agreed to the concept of control presented in the draft exercise plan. The exercise will commence at 1300 hrs on July 30 and end at 0930 hrs on August 1.

CMD Pearson (USCG MSO Anchorage) will arrive in Unalaska on July 30 at 1230 hrs.

Exercise Artificialities

The workgroup raised and discussed several key points regarding deployment issues. It was generally agreed that the vessel of opportunity will be adrift for the exercise.

Other issues raised but not addressed were as follows:

How much line will be trailed or deployed?

What are the go/no go parameters for the exercise?

What is the towline length?

Will the vessel be towed a specified distance or to a specified location?

There was a workgroup discussion regarding use of the plasma line for 'actual' towing or substituting a dummy line in order to protect the intact ETS. It was generally agreed to use the ETS as intended in order to familiarize personnel with the equipment as would be presented in an actual event.

The workgroup discussed how the ETS will be prepared and transferred between exercise scenarios. It was agreed that the first scenario would be the ship to tug deployment (ETS will be prepped for this during Stage III) with re-flaking on tug deck prior to the next scenario, tug to ship. There were concerns regarding securing ETS on board tug while en route to an incident and safety considerations for any pressurized air tanks associated with line gun use.

It was agreed that exercise location will be determined by USCG/AMP when accurate weather observations and forecasts are available.

Exercise Assumptions

There were no comments made by the workgroup regarding assumptions presented in the draft exercise plan.

Administrative and Logistics

Mayor Marquardt offered her personal assistance for anyone needing help booking flights in or out of Unalaska for the ETS Deployment Exercise. She also extended an invitation to a private sit down dinner for the ETS workgroup and invited dignitaries sponsored by the City of Unalaska, time and place to be announced.

There were no comments made to the administrative/logistical guidelines presented in the draft exercise plan. Workgroup members should supply Amy Gilson with each groups primary administrative contact for planning purposes.

USCG –
ADEC –
City of Unalaska –
Alaska Marine Pilots –
Horizon Lines –
Dunlap Towing –
Sampson Tug and Barge –
Tramper of Opportunity –
Alaska Maritime Agencies –
Nuka Research – Amy Gilson

Safety

The workgroup discussed availability of smaller vessels to assist in a MOB situation. The Port of DH offered there vessel and Dunlap Towing offered the Saratoga provided there are no schedule conflicts.

Three options VIP transportation during the exercise were presented as, USCG Cutter, Saratoga or a local fishing vessel.

Communications

The workgroup decided on a compiled cell/telephone/satellite phone list and designated the VHF frequency 22A as open communications for the deployment exercise.

Reports

No comments were made to the report suggestions presented in the draft exercise plan.

Schedule of Events

It was discussed and agreed that workgroup members check-in with Amy Gilson on July 30 by 1200 hrs. Check-in place to be announced.

The workgroup decided to formulate common nomenclature for system components.

Exercise Filming

Kelly O'Brien lead the filming discussion. It was generally agreed upon that the filming would capture the entire exercise with staged/storyboards set up for specifically identified subjects. Its main function will be for staged training and exercises that take place on a regular basis.

The workgroup agreed on four camera stations: tug, vessel, safety MOB vessel and helicopter. The camera crew/exercise interaction will be handled on a case-by-case basis with each camera site having a designated communications person to handle filming questions. There will be no stopping-starting during the exercise for filming purposes.

Camera coverage will be as follows:

July 30 – 1 camera

July 31 – 4 cameras

Aug 1 – 1 camera

It was decided that UCB and AMP would meet for video training production to insure the video is made for local responders and the language matches that from the procedural manual (Nuka). There will not be any interviews, only voice over narration.

Camera crew communication will be done via 2-way Motorola handheld radios.

There was a workgroup discussion regarding multi-lingual video being shorter and more simple with an accompanied checklist.

ETS Procedural and Training Manual Discussion

It was agreed that Stages I-VII be in final operational form and used during the deployment exercise. Each person/agency assigned a stage is responsible for outlining and developing this portion of the deployment exercise.

June 21 Action Items

- Port of DH, Alvin Osterback – Research air bottles for line launcher
- Nuka Research, Tim Roberson – Contact Alaska Marine Exchange and extend participation invitation
- Nuka Research, Amy Gilson – Add Alaska Maritime Agencies to website participants list
- Nuka Research, Amy Gilson – Contact Steve Marino directly to verify email address and contact information
- City of Unalaska, Mayor Marquardt/ADEC, Gary Folley – Email ETS specs to Amy for workgroup distribution

- Port of Dutch Harbor – Burn copies of training DVD and distribute to both tugs crews, UCB and Nuka Research
- Workgroup, Operations Manual – How will the ETS be packaged during storage?
- Workgroup, Each Agency – Email agency administrative contacts to Amy
- City of Unalaska, Mayor Marquardt – Being calling VIPs for any RSVPs
- Dunlap Towing, Rob George – Check into APL container ship arrival date
 - Scheduled arrival of containership on July 31
- Dunlap Towing, Rob George – Check into status of the Saratoga for availability as safety vessel or VIP host vessel
- Nuka Research, Amy Gilson – Send ICS 214 form out to workgroup
- Port of DH/USCG/Gyrfalcon – Set up ETS for deployment prior to meeting (July 30)
- USCG MSO ANC, CMD Pearson – Contact USCG comms for use of VHF frequency 22A during exercise
- Workgroup, Stage coordinator – Serves as chief communications with camera crew
- AMP/UCB – Coordinate a walk through for UCB crews of each site prior to July 30, 31
- UCB, Camera Crews – Watch ETS DVD prior to July 30/31
- UCB, USCG, Nuka – Meeting on June 30 AM
- Workgroup, Stage Coordinators – Sections procedures for respective stages ready prior to July 30
- Port of DH/Tug Operators – Meet after July 20 for line gun training prior one week prior to actual deployment exercise

June 14 Action Items

- Nuka Research, Tim Robertson - Create and distribute a ‘strawman’ exercise to workgroup prior to June 21.
- USCG, LT Greg Crettol – Contact AMP in regards to having a tramper representative present at the June 21 meeting.
- USCG, CDR Joe Carroll – Continued status updates on USCG Waiver.
- Nuka Research, Tim Robertson – Contact Dunlap Towing in regards to attendance to June 21 meeting.
 - David Alvestad will make every effort to be present at the June 21 meeting.
- Ownership/Liability Issues
 - There were no updates given regarding ownership/liability issues at this time. These issues will be forwarded to the next meeting’s agenda and updated at subsequent meetings.

June 05 Action Items and Outcomes

- ADEC, John Brown – Contact Arctic Wire Rope for ETA of ETS to Unalaska
 - John reported ETA to Unalaska on August 21, 2007.

- USCG, CDR Pearson – Contact USCG Kodiak Air Station regarding status of helicopter waiver
 - CDR Joe Carroll reported waiver request has been submitted and is in USCG review/approval process.
- City, Mayor Marquardt – Resolve any flight issues in/out of Unalaska
 - No report given. 06.14.07
- Nuka Research, Amy – Update workgroup distribution list and website
 - Website will be updated by Friday, June 15.
- USCG – Put in a request for scheduling Cutter Mellon or Rush on July 31st.
 - No report given on status of schedule request. CDR Joe Carroll reported cutter and helicopter are still scheduled to be in the area during the Deployment Exercise timeframe.