

2012 Committee on Preparedness and Response

Annual Committee Meeting Minutes

Washington, DC

February 1-2, 2012

February 1, 2012 - Metro Police Marine Unit Training Room
550 Water St. SW, Washington, DC.

0800 –0900 Welcome, Introductions, 2012-2017 Committee Vision, 2012 Charges, Charge Leaders, progress report and project goals

Chairman Spencer Cole (LA) opened the meeting by requesting a self-introduction of all attendees:

Rodger Norcross, (OH)

Jeff Mayne, (LA)

Jim Graybeal, (DE)

Mark Richerson, (MO)

Angel Rodriguez, (PR)

Jeff Parrish, (TX)

Kurt McKean (OK)

Mark DuPont, (NASBLA)

John Fetterman, (NASBLA)

Tina Cardone (CPORT)

Terry Hill, (CPORT)

Jeff Wheeler, (USCG)

Mike Baron, (USCG)

Rob Wells, (NMLEA)

Greg Kester, (NMLEA)

Bernard Cole, (Secret Service)

Quick overview of the charges:

Looking at the **Committee Vision Statement** – Spencer gave a comprehensive explanation of each element. The Vision Statement is, in fact, the cornerstones from which to maintain a steady course in attaining the goals and objectives of the committee for the next 5 years. “As we move through the outgoing years we will continue to be looking forward towards development of maturing future vision.”

There was a discussion initiated by Jim Graybeal on clarification on #2 of the Vision statement – Jim was asking whether it was the role of this committee alone to promote the BOAT Program nationally. Spencer and Kurt clarified that promotion of the BOAT Program in all states should be led by the state and specifically the BLA in partnership with NASBLA –BOAT Standards. This issue was important to the group in understanding the **BLA leadership role within each state ---The Ohio LE Symposium** as an example of a state leadership role in regional maritime issues/international with Canada. The Ohio Work Group is a state led action group as a complimentary aspect of the USCG Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC). The Ohio Work Group, as a body, has gained strength in solving problems – attracting funding – and assuring interoperability. Unlike the AMSC meeting, this group is inclusive of officer level participation not just management/leadership – more of a stakeholder assembly.

Action Item:

The Ohio Law Enforcement Symposium and Working Group is a model that this committee should promote and recommend replication to membership. To learn more: Rodger Norcross (OH)

Spencer outlined the **Louisiana Maritime Security Working Group (LMSWG)** at the state level – a linkage between the 4 USCG Captain of the Port (COTP) zones located in Louisiana and law enforcement stakeholders at the state level and above. This working Group provides a forum for communication and coordination at the state level similar to the AMSCs at the regional level. Spencer reported that following this meeting the Louisiana Working Group including the 4 USCG - COTPs will be briefed on the outcomes and action items identified by this committee.

Chairman Spencer Cole then led a discussion and solicited and **assigned the following Charge Leaders** for 2012. As each Charge and the objective of that Charge was reviewed and discussed the following assignments were made:

- 1 Jim Graybeal – Jeff Mayne
- 2 Rodger Norcross
- 3 Mark Richerson
- 4 Jeff Parrish
- 5 Kurt McKean

0900 - 0945 CHARGE 1

- **USCG Reauthorization Act 2010**
- **SAFE PORT ACT (2012)**
- **PSGP**

Jeff Wheeler raised an issue in advance of this charge discussion about how well does NASBLA's general membership understand the charges and the developmental work of this committee. – John Fetterman explained this committee's role as a test model for how to communicate effectively and frequently with members – BLA notices – newsletters – and other mediums. This committee is also proposing Charge development for the following year as a component of their annual report to membership at the Annual Conference. We hope that an adjustment to the committee process and frequent communication with membership will prompt member engagement with the many important issues.

Rob Wells highlighted the importance of getting the message out – leverage every communication medium you have to hold member attention.

Action Item:

Jim Graybeal and Matt will collaborate on a letter to BLAs on the significance of state distribution lists – to be utilized for SCA, Newsletters and broadcasts of information. A current state distribution list will not only benefit the Association – but the members hopefully will see an increase in state level engagement. --- This is a great committee project/effort to facilitate this charge.

Action Item:

Jim Graybeal and Matt will engage the AFWA LE Committee on developing a specific LE distribution list. Matt will be attending the AFWA meeting next month and will work with Jim as a deliverable under Charge # 1.

Jeff Wheeler briefed the committee on the status of the **NASBLA National Standard** and the need to get the lawyers to accept as part of the re-authorization language mandate – Possibly a MOU between NASBLA and USCG on how to maintain the “Standard” and how to handle “Currency”

Flag Officer changes – Adm. Messenger will replace Adm. Salerno – which will be a positive continuation from Salerno's relationship with this committee. Jeff may wait until the change of

commands take place to move any initiative forward regarding NASBLA and Standards. This will be a topic of discussion tomorrow when meeting with USCG leadership at USCG HDQ's. Spencer confirmed that this committee does endorse and fully support Jeff's proposal which makes so much sense in maintaining the linkage with the states and not re-invent the standards – one standard!

Under the **Safe Port Act** – Matt Long briefed the committee on current state of America Waterways Watch (AWW) within the bill. Matt outlined that it currently doesn't have any expansion of funding language, currently on the table. With the election year domination of Congress they, as a body, are moving very slow – spring 2012 seems to be the best possibility for movement, possibly on the Senate side.

Kurt McKean briefed the committee on **Oklahoma's Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)** success based on NASBLA support. Tulsa and the Port of Catoosa, an inland port, is in fact a vulnerable target in the heartland without a maritime security presence. Kurt emphasized that how you articulate the language is important and NASBLA is a great resource but even more important is how you link to the overall port strategic plan, with the COTP and the AMSC...

0945 – 1000 BREAK

1000 – 1200 CHARGE 4

- **Presentation from National Maritime Law Enforcement Academy on PortStar and other e-learning Future opportunities for maritime law enforcement. MOU relationship with NASBLA**
- **Website review/discussion**

Rob Wells and Greg Kester – provided a presentation on **PortStar and the NMLEA**. Rob left USCG in 2005 and began with an idea on how to get training out to state and locals for Port Security functions. Under a Congressional Grant awarded to NMLEA \$6.2 mil was channeled into development of PortStar with Florida State University. – A program to help LE meet the MSTA learning requirements.

Initiated by an industry Advisory Group made up of coastal ports –

The courses are set up in modules and individual lesson plans – the data bank records officers, agencies and related ports. Port employees, security, first responders, port management, LE – etc –make up the target audience.

Tuition is \$50.00 for unlimited access

Assessment of learning; a possible touch point for future relationship enhancement w/ NMLEA.

Let's compare how FSU and NASBLA are tracking student data – another mutual effort might be the standardization of student tracking and currency.

Jeff Wheeler pointed out NASBLA's link to Office of Boat Forces – What is the NMLEA link to USCG? Greg said that PortStar is linked to USCG Offices 544 – and – 741

Action Item:

Mark DuPont will work with Jeff Parrish to identify USCG Office for functional role and maintenance of PortStar

Action Item:

John Fetterman and Mark DuPont will work with Rob Wells to move PortStar under BOAT Program

Action Item:

Mark DuPont and Rob Wells will work with FSU – how they maintain data – should we merge with NASBLA student data???

Matt gave a briefing on the **Clean Water Act** and recent language confusion out of EPA – The Clean Boating Act exempted all recreational boats. EPA and Congress told AFWA and others that law enforcement would also be exempt –

Matt assured the committee that EPA insists that the intent is not to include LE – Matt will be meeting with EPA next week to push for clarification of the law enforcement exemption.

The Committee members are still not convinced that there is adequate language within the bill to clearly exempt governmental use, law enforcement specifically.

Action Item:

Matt Long will report any findings on the EPA clarification back to this committee via the Charge Leader – Jeff Parrish (TX)

1200 – 1300 LUNCH

1300 – 1430 CHARGE 3

- **National TOC Planning for May 14th, National Scholarship Offering**
- **Scholarship criteria for BOAT Advisory Board**
- **Interagency Operational Centers for Port Security**

Kurt McKean opened the afternoon session – with a brief overview from John Fetterman on the current status of the **Nat'l TOC** and the objectives for today's meeting – of detail planning and assignments for this committee sponsored event. Mark covered the mechanics and costs of delivery. One of our biggest funding liabilities will be greatly reduced in that our instructors will volunteer time – **but we would like to compensate them should we secure sponsorships.**

The first order of business is that we need solid commitments on vessel use. During this session we identified the following vessels for May 14-18, 2012

1. **DC Metro Police -- Will be given 4 class seats in compensation for Classroom and use of three (3) boats including fuel. (Contact Lt. Paul Niepling)**
2. **USCG – Will provide one (1) Boat for use as the “OP4” vessel and instructor assistance from SMTC. (Contact Jeff Wheeler)**

3. Delaware -- Will be given 1 seat in the class in compensation for two (2) boats, including fuel and an Assistant Instructor "Casey" (Contact Jim Graybeal)
4. C-PORT -- Will be given sponsorship recognition in compensation for one (1) Safety Observation boat including fuel. (Contact Terry Hill)
5. NMLEA-- Will provide exclusive use of the USS Sequoia, catering, crew and fuel. The yacht will be available from 0600 – to – 2200 for NASBLA use during this event on May 17, 2012 (Contact Rob Wells)

Major edits were done to the **Sponsorship letter** – which being edited during session will be reviewed and approved by the committee before distribution.

Action Item:

Mark DuPont will rewrite and add recommendations to National TOC Sponsorship letter.

Action Item:

Mark Richerson will communicate as the charge leader and challenge the committee members to reach out to vendors and sponsors to support this event. John Fetterman will distribute the Sponsorship letter to the NASBLA Associate Membership listing.

Committee Members agreed to make a special contact with the following: identified:

**Zodiac and BRP
BOAT ED and Safe Boat
Honda**

**Terry Hill
Kurt
Tina**

Action Item:

John Fetterman will work with Tom Hayward and set up a receiving process to collect sponsorship donations for National TOC

An important objective of this meeting was to define the evaluation criteria to be used by the **BOAT Program Advisory Board** in selecting scholarship winners in the National TOC application process. The Committee has determined that the Board shall determine eligibility and application preference by assuring the following criteria is met:

1. Are vessel operations a primary job function of the applicant?
2. Primary vessel operations should fall within the following perimeters: 21ft – up to -40 ft
3. Years of sworn LE experience ---- 3 years minimum
4. Consider if specific job duties are related marine tactical operations?
5. Does the applicant have agency support – recommendation?
6. Geographical representation – once the eligible candidates have been identified is there national representation of this Association i.e.; Coastal, Great Lakes, Rivers and Inland.

Should there be vacant seats remaining after the first assessment round:

7. Non-coastal states should be given secondary consideration priority to fill remaining open seats.

1430 - 1545 CHARGE 2

- **USCG Office of BOAT Forces**
- **Advisory Board, Strategic Plan, goals, objectives, etc.**

Spencer asked the committee to think in terms of long range planning and functionality of the Advisory Council. To Jeff Wheeler he asked – “What does the Coast Guard need from this NASBLA Advisory Board?” – In a group discussion it was determined that the Advisory Board will help to define their own role based on the following basic fundamentals.

1. Sounding Board for Program Managers
2. Reporting from Program Managers on learning assessments
3. Overall Management and Marketing of BOAT Program
4. Marketing and Resource development of the BOAT Program to the target student audiences
5. Meet Annually
6. Advisory Board
7. Look at the BOAT Program globally
8. Sustainability

It was proposed that possible membership expansion of the Advisory Board should take place at the First Advisory meeting, after the election of a Chair, to explore two areas that seem to be – possible role for USCG Aux and commercial Salvors.

The first Charge to the BOAT Program Advisory Board shall be:

You shall meet annually and provide stakeholder input, audit and make recommendations to the NASBLA BOAT Program Director for potential modifications and enhancements to the BOAT Program.

1. Should membership be expanded to reflect the Program as a whole?
2. Should CPAP or the function be rolled into this Advisory Board?
3. Select Scholarship winners for the 2012 National TOC.

Action Item: As soon as the Draft Agenda is approved Rodger Norcross will work with John Fetterman to set up a telecom with the Advisory Board prior to the March 2nd meeting.

1600 - 1620 BREAK

1620 – 1645 CHARGE 5

- **Committee Strategic Planning Session for 2013 launch/development.**

Chairman Spencer Cole recommended that we build upon this charge further into the committee year as we complete and learn from the action items identified during today’s meeting. Future conference calls will be held and perhaps this group will find time during the Spring Workshop and the Advisory Board Meeting to discuss ideas and concepts as they emerge.

Meeting Adjourned at 1645 HR.

February 2, 2012 – USCG Headquarters

2100 Second St SW, Washington, DC

0715 HR. – Arrive at USCG Headquarters Security check-in:

0800 -0945 NASBLA Committee Presentations to:
VADM Brian Salerno

CG-DCO Operations –

Attending with VADM Salerno:

RDML Vince Atkins
CAPT Robert Burchell
CAPT Tim Espinoza
CDR Max Moser

Chairman Spencer Cole, John Fetterman and Mark DuPont presented an overview of the current status and goals of the Preparedness and Response Committee as well as an **update on the BOAT Program** and National TOC to be held in Washington next May 14-18, 2012.

VADM Salerno encouraged the committee to pursue a **MOU with USCG** in maintaining training efforts under a national standard and that he liked the concept of some sort of formal agreement on maintaining standards, typing and credentialing of all the maritime partners both safety and security in nature.

In closing the committee wanted to emphasize that this committee has grown to encompass both Safety and Security and that one of the important foundational pieces in building complimentary partners on the water is the foundational training in our **BCM and BOSAR classes** for which NASBLA has applied for a RBS competitive grant with the Office of Boating Safety. The committee asked VADM Salerno for his support in this application for funding to build upon national availability of these courses across multiple jurisdictional lines.

In anticipation of VADM Salerno's retirement this spring the committee presented a drawing titled "Partners on the Water" as an expression for the many years of support the Admiral has shown NASBLA, the state partnerships and this committee.



RDML Vince Atkins remained with the committee for an in-depth session after VADM Salerno's departure. RDML Atkins was fully engaged with the committee and the following highlights were discussed:

RADM Atkins was thrilled with current success of the BOAT Program and encouraged the committee to look at the next phase to fully incorporate partners who have been trained to a standard – how do we take those partners to the next level of interoperability? Should NASBLA help to promote **exercise models** to help maintain the multiple agency interaction and competency in working together? “How do we make it the norm”?

Action Item: Develop Charge --- to build an exercise model to test BOAT training interoperability

- Mutual responsibility to maintain knowledge of capabilities through rotation of personnel - especially with the Chief of Response. The responsibility to maintain those connections, was recognized by the committee, as not the sole responsibility of the Coast Guard – BLAs and LE partners need coaching on what it takes on their part to maintain capabilities and fusion with the local USCG Chief of Response

Action Item: Jeff Wheeler: Coordinate with Capt Burchell and others to institutionalize the NASBLA Partnership/BLA/Capability message at the Sector Level

- CAPT Burchell commented on the need for consistent messaging from USCG to Sectors and the committee asked to coordinate that message so that we can push the same message out to BLAs, from this committee. Capt. Burchell is the coordination point in his role in the lead in delivery of the Sector Commander Workshops.
- RADM Atkins commented on the USCG scaling back on mounted weapons -- while watching the state and locals spooling up capabilities. The example used was Texas Highway Patrol gun boat. How do we bring them into the fusion fold? – Training.
- RADM Atkins highlighted how important it remains to stay "tied at the hip" w/ NASBLA and our training and outreach efforts.

Action Item: Mark DuPont: Provide NMIC Contacts to CAPT Espinosa

- RADM Atkins wants to probe more into the DHS effort in "SAR" Suspicious Activity Report-- is that a duplication of effort with America's Waterways Watch Program AWW

Action Item: John Fetterman – work to get agenda space for CAPT Burchell and craft formal invitation

- Interoperability Operations Centers IOC -- How well is NASBLA doing in educating membership? --- Spencer spoke to white paper distributed in 2011 and a possible follow-up in 2012... Capt. Burchell is responsible for rollout of IOC's and would be pleased to make a presentation at Annual Conference in September.

BREAK ---

At this point Jeff Hoedt joined the meeting from the Office of Boating Safety.

CG 534 Office of search and rescue CDR Max Moser
Kenneth.m.moser@uscg.mil
202-372-2080

CAPT Moser gave a presentation of the role and function of **CG534 the Office of Search and Rescue**. – to help the Committee understand how they can integrate with his Office at a new level, similar to the long relationships with Boating Safety and the emerging and strong relationship with Office of Boat Forces.

Action Item: Mark DuPont to work with CG534 in possible presentation at Annual Conference – possibly a Break-out session.

Messaging on LA 51 ---- There is a lot of mis-information on the use and technology of the new warning protocol and the use of a “munitions based signaling devise” CG534 will be happy to work with this committee and with NASBLA in clarification of the program and consistent messaging with NASBLA.

Action Item: John Fetterman, Jeff Hoedt, Spencer Cole, Mark DuPont and CDR Moser: Develop proposed language in collaboration with Office of Boating Safety, this committee and Search and Rescue Office in possible expansion of the RBS State MOU to include areas of : Notification, training and resource inventory.

Jeff Hoedt was introduced to the Committee and he spoke briefly about the forecast of a declining budget and the increase competitiveness of future grants. Partnerships and standards will be critical to future success in funding.

Preparedness and Response Committee adjourned at 1200 HR.