

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



**MARINE BOARD OF INVESTIGATION  
LOSS OF THE S.S. EL FARO WITH 33 PERSONS MISSING AND PRESUMED DEAD  
ON OCTOBER 1, 2015 NEAR CROOKED ISLAND, BAHAMAS**

**Media Release**

WASHINGTON — The third and final Coast Guard Marine Board of Investigation hearing has been scheduled to commence on Feb. 6, 2017, in Jacksonville. This hearing will examine additional elements of the investigation including crew witnesses, TOTE company officials, Coast Guard officials and contents of El Faro's Voyage Data Recorder, including the transcript of bridge audio recordings which was released Dec. 13, 2016, by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The NTSB, which is conducting its own concurrent investigation, will fully participate in the Marine Board of Investigation hearings.

**What:** Marine Board of Investigation

**When:** Monday, Feb. 6 - Friday, Feb. 17; Daily 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. EST There are no witnesses scheduled over the weekend. However, if the MBI needs to expand the schedule we will update the media accordingly.

**Where:** Prime F. Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204

**How:** There are several ways interested parties may stay up to date with the MBI proceedings. The Coast Guard will be tweeting live hearing updates from @uscoastguard with the following hashtags: #CGMBI #Elfaro.

An e-mail has been set up for interested parties to ask questions or make comments. This e-mail will be checked regularly. The e-mail is: ELFARO@uscg.mil

The web address for the live stream and an archive of past El Faro proceedings is: [livestream.com/USCGInvestigations](http://livestream.com/USCGInvestigations)

The most current copy of the schedule is attached to this release.

**The investigation will determine as closely as possible:**

- The factors that contributed to the accident;
- Whether there is evidence that any act of misconduct, inattention to duty, negligence or willful violation of the law on the part of any licensed or certificated person contributed to the casualty; and
- Whether there is evidence that any Coast Guard personnel or any representative or employee of any other government agency or any other person caused or contributed to the casualty.

Reporters must register to attend the hearing by emailing: [alana.l.miller@uscg.mil](mailto:alana.l.miller@uscg.mil). Media must register no later than 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3.

**Ground Rules for the EL FARO Hearing are:**

Reporters may attend open sessions of the Marine Board, as may members of the public as long as they do not detract from the decorum of the proceedings or inhibit a witness' willingness to testify. The Coast Guard's policy is to permit expanded media coverage of marine casualty investigations; therefore, audio and video recordings are authorized under the following conditions:

- Media pooling will be required. Media set up and site survey is Sunday, Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
- Witnesses will not be available for interviews until the Marine Board Chairman releases them from their testimony
- Entering and exiting the hearing room shall only be conducted during designated breaks
- No extreme close-ups of documents, witnesses and/or members of the Marine Board
- Bench conferences shall not be recorded by audio or by extreme close-up video or photography
- Media members must prominently display their credentials at all times and remain within assigned area
- Confidential communications between counsel and client or co-counsel shall not be recorded by audio or by extreme close-up video or photography
- Questions regarding the proceedings shall be directed to the Coast Guard media liaison. A liaison will be present at the venue throughout the hearing

Failure to adhere to these rules or other verbal instructions may result in removal from the hearings.  
Contacts: Alana Miller, Public Affairs Office, [alana.l.miller@uscg.mil](mailto:alana.l.miller@uscg.mil), 202-372-4632

## S.S. EL FARO USCG Commandant Marine Board Public Hearing #3 Witness Schedule

Monday 06 Feb 2017	Tuesday 07 Feb 2017	Wednesday 08 Feb 2017	Thursday 09 Feb 2017	Friday 10 Feb 2017	Saturday 11 Feb 2017	Sunday 12 Feb 2017	Monday 13 Feb 2017	Tuesday 14 Feb 2017	Wednesday 15 Feb 2017	Thursday 16 Feb 2017	Friday 17 Feb 2017
<b>Opening of Hearing and Reading of Authority</b>	Daily Opening	Daily Opening	Daily Opening	Daily Opening			Daily Opening	Daily Opening	Daily Opening	Daily Opening	Daily Opening
<b>Captain Raymond Thompson, Former C/M EL FARO</b>  Finish testimony hearing #2, STCW, ship ops, observations of Captain Davidson.	Mr. Jaideep Sirkar, USCG CG-ENG-2  Stability and load line standards.	Capt. Phil Anderson and Capt. Edward F. Walker Jr. National Cargo Bureau (NCB) Report  Analysis and discussion related to the NCB Report.	Mr. Alessandro Berrios, Former 3/M EL FARO  Port Mate duties, STCW, securing of cargo.	Mr. Kruger Donald 3/M EL YUNQUE  Shoreside oversight of El Yunque in regard to Hurricane Joaquin			Mr. Lee Peterson, TSI, Director of Safety and Services  Follow up testimony and in depth discussion about engineering issues.	Mr. Evan Bradley, Former Bosun EL FARO  Prior EL FARO experience and shipboard operations.	Mr. Pupp, INTEC (telephonic)  Prior INTEC Polish service crew member (via video or teleconference from Poland).	Ms. Melissa Clark, Former TSI Crewing Manager  General crewing, employment and Captain Davidson, and crew related issues.	Mr. Dick Norris, NORCOM  EL FARO Bilge Alarm
<b>Daily Lunch Break</b>						<b>Daily Lunch Break</b>					
<b>Captain Thompson, cont.</b>	<b>CAPT David Flaherty CG -5P-TI</b>  Discussion about the Alternate Compliance Program.	<b>Mr. Mark Gay Former, C/E EL FARO</b>  Prior El FARO C/E, VDR contents, engineering ops, lube oil issues.	<b>Mr. Ron Rodriguez, TMPR Terminal Manager</b>  Follow up from earlier testimony, cargo loading and ship/terminal operations.	<b>Mr. Harry Rogers (telephonic)</b>  Marine operations support for shipboard operations including heavy weather operations. Additional discussion on the role of the DPA and RRDT.	<b>No Testimony Scheduled</b>	<b>No Testimony Scheduled</b>	<b>Captain John Lawrence, TSI, Mgr. of Safety and Ops.</b>  Follow up testimony related to comms with EL FARO recorded on VDR. Safety department management of operations, audits, DPA function.	<b>Mr. Marvin Hearman III, Former A/B EL FARO</b>  General shipboard conditions, crew observations, hold condition, reefer connections and maintenance, cargo securing, general shipboard culture.	<b>Mr. Mickey Fitzmaurice and Mr. Chris O'Conner, NOAA SRSAT Program (telephonic)</b>  EPIRB hits for the satellite passes during the time when the EL FARO began the distress phase.	<b>Captain Peter Villacampa, Former Master EL MORRO</b>  Discussion of EL MORRO operations, shore side support and weather planning prior to personnel changes and TOTE consolidation.	<b>PII Closing Comments</b>  <b>NTSB and USCG MBI Closing Remarks</b>  <b>(Lunch break taken as necessary)</b>
<b>Dr. Jeff Stettler, USCG MSC</b>  Discussion related to the MSC EL FARO Stability Report.	<b>CDR Michael Crider, USCG COMMCOM</b>  Explanation of how CG communications stations distribute weather information.	<b>Mr. Tom Gruber, ABS</b>	<b>Mr. Don Matthews, TMPR, Marine Ops. Manager</b>  Follow Up - repairs to EL FARO's fixed lashing gear and Port Engineer duties.	<b>Mr. Lou O'Donnell, ABS Asst. Chief Surveyor (American Division)</b>			<b>Mr. Tim Neeson, TSI Port Eng.</b>  Bridge equip maint, AWT, reporting relationship with Mr. Matthews	<b>TBD, Former EL FARO Engineer</b>  Prior EL FARO experience, engineering operations.	<b>TBD, Lifeboat Witness</b>  Discussion and analysis of condition of the EL FARO lifeboats post accident.		