

Cadets/Faculty Role Play Ferry Security Exercise



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Over 100 Cal Maritime cadets, faculty and staff gathered before 6 a.m. Wednesday, October 22nd to take part as planners and participants in a first-ever Golden Gate Bay Area Ferry Security drill on San Francisco Bay. **Capt. Bruce Clark, Cal Maritime's Director of Maritime Security** was campus lead for the exercise.

cious package is found aboard and the decision is made to evacuate all passengers from the vessel while it remains offshore in a secured area." Ferry personnel were required to deploy rescue equipment including an evacuation slide and large life raft, enabling passengers to depart the ferry and then transfer to smaller craft sent to the scene by area first responders and the Coast Guard. 'Passengers' were then transported to a second ferry floating nearby.



Some students were given specific roles to enhance the realism of the exercise. They acted as individuals with limited Eng-

lish fluency, were 'resistant or disruptive,' or simulated deafness, blindness or physical disabilities—conditions which could well occur in a real emergency. The exercise took about three hours to complete and was followed by a post-event "hotwash" session designed to solicit immediate feedback on what had worked and what needed improvement in the responses and actions of both ferry and supporting personnel.

Cadets were bussed to the Larkspur ferry terminal and given assignments and roles. "Under the scenario for this drill" Clark explained, "a suspi-

VIDEOS ONLINE

Check out the many Cal Maritime videos now posted online at www.csum.edu. You will find a homepage hotlink to recent postings plus an index to all the videos we have created—from this summer's training cruise and the dry docking of the *Golden Bear* to the latest entry—a report on Cal Maritime's Summer Academic Enrichment Program.

Ferry Security Drill—Continued



SCENES FROM THE DRILL

(Top L) Asst. Corps Commandant Dave Spadoni with cadets (R) Cadets don flotation devices prior to evacuation (2nd L) A slide is deployed to move passengers to a liferaft where they can board smaller boats for transfer to a second ferry moored nearer shore. (Bottom R) 'Passengers' watch as a smaller Coast Guard craft approaches to take off additional personnel.

The initial post-drill assessment: While things generally worked smoothly, all involved were quick to recognize that this first exercise had been conducted in daylight and calm seas, and with only a portion of the number of passengers which might be aboard in a real crisis. "For a first effort, it was a good exercise," Clark commented, "but future drills will clearly need to add more elements to better simulate the kinds of really challenging conditions which could test both passengers, crew and responders in the event of a real emergency. That's why these drills are valuable. They help us identify areas where we need to do more or devise new approaches. This drill taught us, for example that we need better methods to get passengers from rafts to rescue boats and up and into larger craft like support ferries.