

Train

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friends in other parts of the world that can help us with our missions. So, this is now 28 different countries we can now go to where we know someone personally who is in the ranks."

Many of the officers, like LTJG Jorge Taveras of the Dominican Republic Navy, enjoyed their experience with American culture above all. He said coming to see the iconic monuments of Washington, D.C., the West Point and Annapolis military academies and speaking with American military officers and recruits were the most rewarding experiences of all.

He said before being selected to participate in the course, an officer must take an ECL (English Comprehension Level) exam and be appointed by his or her superiors. Taveras said he has been to three Coast Guard bases in the U.S. now, including headquarters in Yorktown, Va., which was the first stop for students in the course.

"They share with us the way they do their job, and among the students, they develop relationships with international officers - so there is an exchange," Taveras said. "It's a nice, unique experience."

While the Star and Wave



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave
CAPE MAY - DCI Greg Douthit trains Lt. Hiccham Cheikh of the Lebanese Navy how to properly use the SCBA breathing receptacle.

visited the Training Center, students were allowed to use the weapons simulator and catch a glimpse of firefighter training, a couple of training evolutions that Coast Guard recruits must successfully accomplish in order to become full-fledged Coast Guardsmen. Students also visited several operation Coast Guard units such as Cutter Dependable, Cutter Mako and the newly constructed multi-mission facility.

"The staff of Training Center Cape May is excited to foster relationships and

share ideas with this culturally diverse and experienced group," said Capt. Bill Kelly, commanding officer of Training Center Cape May in a press release. "Anytime we can improve or build relationships with our international partners we seize the opportunity. We hope that the students in the International Maritime Officers Course will be able to take some of our best practices in the enlisted training process and apply them in their own training programs."

Spared

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at 4 p.m. Monday (Oct. 29), and Sandy had already gone sub-tropical. However, when asked if Sandy was the 100-year storm meteorologists have been talking about, Heavener said, "I would think

so." As far as a new system being watched off the Atlantic Coast, Heavener said a system could be forming off Cape Hatteras, N.C., around Wednesday into Thursday (Nov. 7-8). He said the system could skirt the New Jersey coastline.

"Obviously, that's the last thing you need, but it has a pressure gradient that is fairly strong," he said. "After a catastrophic storm it can take several years to rebound."

Heavener said he would expect sustained 30 to 40 mph wind, with coastal flooding. The good news, he said, is the storm will be moving rather fast, traveling south to north in 18 hours.

"You won't have a sustained, longer fetch, but it looks like a pretty good signal for rain and coastal flooding."

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ARGO R 12:55, 4:10, 7:10, 9:45
TAKEN 2 PG-13 12:15, 2:40, 4:55, 7:35, 9:50
SINISTER (FRI TO WED) R 2:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55
TWILIGHT MARATHON (THURS) PG-13 12:30
TWILIGHT BREAKING DAWN DOUBLE FEATURE (THURS) PG-13 7:30
TWILIGHT BREAKING DAWN PART 2 (THURS) PG-13 10:05

** No Passes

Relief

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committed 10 percent. Thomas said he has friends who live along the Jersey Shore, some of whom have felt some of the effects of the storm, but no one was injured. Still many of the people in those communities suffered loss.

"I lived in Florida and I know what devastation does to people. I'm trying to make the effort, but it's important to show that one person can't do as much as whole community," he said.

Thomas said he stayed in Cape May and drove around the day after the storm and was shocked at how little happened. His next thought was for the people in the areas that were hit and he wanted to do something to help.

"I've never started anything like this before. I'm not an expert in charities and fundraising, but did try to appeal to the businesses' humanity," Thomas said.

Thomas said he hopes to be able to bring Cape Resorts on board, and expects to do so when certain details are decided. He said for his part they are taking all their ads and instead of showing their products, will be thanking their customers and partnering businesses. Thomas said he is also designing a bead that will fit bracelets such as those by Pandora, or Troll, to be sold as a fundraiser item.

"A restore the shore kind of thing," he said.

Thomas said he would like to see that effort spread up and down New Jersey, and he is trying to get a manufacturer to partner with the charitable effort.

Mermaid Guild

For those who are not business owners, there are other ways to get involved in the relief effort. One way is to buy a raffle ticket for the Mermaid Guild Loot Basket. The Mermaid Guild of Greater Cape May is an association of businesswomen

whose main goal is to raise money for charity. Their biggest event of the year is the King Neptune Bachelor Auction, which benefits the Community Food Bank of New Jersey-Southern Branch. In addition, the guild has a Loot Basket for which they take chances all year long. Each guild member donates a gift valued at a minimum of \$100, which means the current Loot Basket is worth \$4,000, guild member Pat Jackson said.

"This will let people know we are still doing this," Jackson said. "We would like to collect as much as we can before sending them the check."

Jackson said raffle tickets can be purchased through November at Pat Jackson Jewelers, 414 Bank St., Cape May. Tickets are \$5 each, and the drawing will most likely be in the first week of December.

Cape May Donates

Courtney Poole said she decided to get involved in the relief effort due to an appeal by Exit Zero publisher Jack Wright. She said via facebook, Wright appealed to someone to take up the cause and run with it, because he was leaving for Scotland in a few days.

"People were posting saying they would donate," Poole said, "but that was off the point."

Poole said the effort needed an organizer and she decided she would try. She said she started following threads on facebook and found it to be a ball of confusion.

"It was too crazy so I decided to set up a sense of organization," she said.

Poole started a facebook site named Cape May Donates. She said in 72 hours there were 200 people wanting to help, people from all over, as far away as California, people starting donation programs at their churches, etc.

Poole said she started having people contact two donation hubs, one in Toms River and the other in Belmar. The

two hubs take the items collected and distribute them to smaller shelters.

"I wasn't expecting it to be this big. I thought it might be Cape May, but then it caught on like wildfire," she said.

Poole said the Cape May area did not neglect to get involved either. There are four locations where people can drop off items: the Cape May and West Cape May firehouses, Villas Liquors, and Whale's Tale store in Cape May.

"We're not asking for anything. People are just asking where they can go to donate. There are so many things people need - socks, dry goods, personal hygiene items - anything that they can use now, without power," she said.

Poole said people should also think of pets when considering what to donate.

"I'm telling people don't forget the pets - animals need things as much as the people. I'm just trying to help these people the best I can - the animals and the people," she said.

Poole said the only exceptions are they are not taking monetary donations or anything in glass containers.

"One couple put together care packages, labeled them with the items inside, and also put Thanksgiving dish towels in the package so people would have something homey," she said. Poole said she views her role as temporary and expects to hand the responsibility back over to Exit Zero at some point in the near future.

"I don't know how I'm going to hand this over to them. It's so huge," she said.

For the time being, Poole has partnered with Lesley Finneran of the Whale's Tale. Poole said she wanted to extend a special thanks to Exit Zero, Bob and Jane Elwell, and April and Dave Wilburn, saying they were all huge helpers.