

THE ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA

AMVER Award

2005

Presented to:

C/S HOLIDAY

On the night of 21 August 2004, as the cruise liner HOLIDAY was sailing in the Yucatan Straits, two crewmembers standing on a weather deck aft heard what they believed could have been a cry for help.

Chief Electrician Pavic and Third Engineer Vincetic immediately went to the bridge to report that they were not sure, but thought they had heard screaming from the sea. Bridge conning officer Mladina did not hesitate and immediately hit the “Man Overboard” button on the ship’s Global Positioning System plotter, released the port side MOB smoke and light signal and called Captain Orazio D’Aito to the bridge.

The Captain turned the ship around and initiated man overboard procedures, to include a muster of the crew and passengers. A PAN-PAN call was issued over the radio. Some 40 minutes later, the forward lookouts reported hearing screams coming from the water. The ship’s searchlight illuminated two persons in the water off the port side of the ship.

A rescue tender was launched, and within seven minutes had recovered two Mexican fishermen who were taken to the ship’s infirmary for evaluation and treatment. The survivors then reported that there were still three other persons in the water.

The rescue boat proceeded in an expanding circle away from the ship, stopping to listen. They could hear cries for help, but in the haze at night could not determine the direction they were coming from.

Finally, almost precisely three hours after the initial report of screams from the water, the other three survivors were located and brought aboard the rescue tender. One was a 10-year-old boy and another, his 39-year old father, was not wearing a life jacket but was clinging to a piece of wood.

The slightly hypothermic survivors were from a recreational fishing boat that had sunk suddenly some nine hours earlier. They were transferred to a Mexican Naval vessel.