



## DUTY TRAVEL REPORT

### VESSEL BOARDING, SEARCH AND SEIZURE TRAINING

<b>Staff Member</b>	Mohammed Ajaz	
<b>Destination:</b>	Pacific Harbor, Fiji	
<b>Source of funding:</b>	Core – Work Program Activity 23, Code 20-4-1.3	
<b>Travel Dates:</b>	Departure Date:	07 April 2024
	Arrival Date:	20 April 2024
<b>Purpose of Travel:</b>	To coordinate and facilitate the Vessel Boarding, Search and Seizure Training from 08-19 April 2024	
<b>Activity description:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 Enforcement Officers participated in the VBSS training at the Pacific Harbour, Fiji and the DoP composition were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 05 Customs Officers,</li> <li>▪ 07 Immigration Officers and</li> <li>▪ 09 Fisheries Officers</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Member participation from each sector were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CUSTOMS= (SI, PL, NR, VU, FSM, RMI)</li> <li>▪ IMMIGRATION= (KI, SI, RMI, FSM, TV, VU, PL)</li> <li>▪ FISHERIES= (FJ, KI, FSM, SI, TV, VU)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNODC funded and provided the lead facilitator whilst FFA and OCO had their advisors on-site for smooth coordination of the training.</li> <li>• The 2-week training comprised of 40% theoretical learning and 60% skills test. The agenda of the training is attached for perusal.</li> <li>• The participants were able to learn and harness skills on topics such as “Vessel types, plan and constructions”, “safe working practice”, “vessel clearance theory”, “boarding procedures”, “composition and communications” and many more. The practical involved the “questioning techniques and person search”, “underway boardings with different hostilities”.</li> <li>• Participants were able to share their experience through group discussions and ponder on the UN Convention on Laws of Sea.</li> <li>• International standard and universal methodological boarding practices were of essence to this training.</li> <li>• The participants had undergone several exercises on collection of exhibits, recordings and procedural handover processes of the suspicious and illicit goods handling resembling Search and Seizure operations.</li> <li>• The training was assisted by the Navy and Police Coxswains as the practical resembled live boarding whilst the vessel is in voyage.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The participants acknowledged the importance of learning and practicing the international and universal boarding methodologies and procedures.</li> <li>• The learnings on the legal aspects achieved through hard discussions on the officer’s powers through laws, regulation and protocols governing the vessel boarding vide maritime laws and international conventions.</li> <li>• The participants embraced the importance of safety at sea and agreed to implement the necessary procedures when they return home.</li> <li>• The participants appreciated the multiple boarding drills and search techniques which also accounted for day and night boarding experiences.</li> <li>• The participants have learnt the uniformed communication skills required for the boarding operations and evidence handling skills that enables admissibility in legal proceedings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations/follow up activities:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The participants agreed to run a simplified training on boarding procedures with their administrations, specifically elaborating on international standards, safety at sea and laws of sea.</li> <li>• The course of this training emanates a need to provide a build-up training to the Customs Officers regarding the “Command and Control” training that may assist further with operational preparations and rummages. The OCO will progress a request in this line for the capacity building work program in the next fiscal year.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Acknowledgement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The OCO is obliged to acknowledge the UNODC in supporting the OCO/PIDC/FFA to put up an excellent training for our members. Humble thanks to Mr. Tony Wheatley for being our hard-working facilitator.</li> <li>• Sincere appreciation to the partners (FFA/PIDC) for joining with the OCO in staging a combined enforcement training.</li> <li>• We also acknowledge the support of the Fiji Police and the Navy for their contribution to the vessel boarding training.</li> <li>• Also expressing our gratitude to the Captain and Crew of “SCORPION 69” for their support with the training.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting documents where available (to put on server with hyperlink):</b></p>	<p>The documents to training can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

Photos:



