



Press Release

Date: December 21, 2007

Contact: Benjamin Strong
(212) 668-7762 office
(917) 545-6676 mobile
benjamin.m.strong@uscg.mil

AMVER VESSEL RESCUES HAWAIIAN SAILOR 230 MILES FROM MAUI

NEW YORK – A 43 year old Wailuku man was rescued by the Amver participating merchant ship CS Victory after his 30 foot sailing vessel began taking on water 230 miles off the coast of Maui December 13.

The sailor notified United States Coast Guard rescue coordinators and activated his 406 MHz emergency beacon after the starboard bow broke off and the center hull began taking on water.

In a multi agency response, the United States Coast Guard diverted a U.S. Navy P-3 Orion along with the USCG Cutter Galveston to assist. It was the 585 foot Panamanian flagged merchant ship CS Victory, however, that arrived on scene and rescued the Hawaiian sailor. The CS Victory, a participant in the Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System, was approximately four hours away from the distress position.

Captain Toshiyuki Fukuhara, master of the CS Victory, braved 20 knot winds to coordinate the rescue operations. Within six hours of the initial notification Captain Fukuhara had the survivor safely on board this ship. The CS Victory will take the survivor to its next port of call, Japan, where United States Embassy personnel will assist the survivor return to Hawaii.

The Amver system has rescued 450 people so far this year.

- more -

Amver, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea. With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center. Vessels then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location. On any given day there are over 3,200 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. Visit <http://www.amver.com> to learn more about this unique worldwide search and rescue system.

###