

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Coast Guard Searching For Missing Cruise Ship Crew Member South Of St. Thomas

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ST. THOMAS -- Coast Guard rescue crews are searching for a MSC Seaside crew member Wednesday who went overboard, approximately 8 nautical miles southeast of St. Thomas, U.S.V.I., according to a release the Coast Guard issued.

Missing is Michael M. Majaba, 37, of the Philippines.

According to the release, Majaba reportedly went overboard from the seventh deck of the Maltese-flagged cruise ship at approximately 1 a.m. Wednesday. The cruise ship crew launched a search and contacted watchstanders at the Coast Guard Sector San Juan Command Center at approximately 4 a.m. alerting them of the situation.

Watchstanders diverted the Coast Guard Cutter Confidence, launched a 33-foot Special Purpose Craft Law Enforcement boat from Boat Forces Detachment St. Thomas and a MH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Air Station Borinquen that are currently on scene searching.

The MSC Seaside continues to search on scene, according to the Coast Guard. There was no updated information from the Coast Guard as of Thursday morning relative to the status of the search. The cruise ship was transiting from the Caribbean Island of St. Maarten to San Juan, Puerto Rico when the incident took place.