

## Speaker: Art Ross

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Good morning. I'm Art Ross. Lieutenant US Coast Guard, retired. I wish to recount a small episode when I was attached to air station Borinquen in Puerto Rico.

We were flying normally search and rescue throughout the Caribbean. But I was tasked one time to carry the Admiral on a rather awkward mission throughout the islands. We were going down to inform the local governments that we were not going to be able to conduct search and rescue as thoroughly as we had in the past. It was a rather sad trip. Unfortunately, I didn't speak to the island governments, I ended up talking to the local fishermen and the local light aircraft owners that were directly connected. And they were, needless to say, very unhappy. But that was one of the least enjoyable of my Coast Guard adventures.

I'd just like to add I was a Direct Commission Aviator, and coming out of the Navy into the Coast Guard was probably the most enjoyable phase of my life. I have never been welcomed with such open hand, open heart cooperations I met in the Coast Guard. It's been great.