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20 OCT 00

MEMORANDUM

FROM: LTJG [redacted] USNR

SUBJ: PERSONAL STATEMENT IN REGARDS TO THE BOMB EXPLOSION ONBOARD USS COLE (DDG 67) ON 12 OCT 00

The following is statement of facts from the Force Protection perspective.

1. I attended the Force Protection Officer/Anti-Terrorism Training Officer course 12 to 16 JUN 00. After completing this course I was designated as Assistant Force Protection Officer for USS COLE. The following is a description of my responsibilities and duties as Assistant Force Protection Officer:

a. My first responsibility was to ensure that the entire crew had received the CNO mandated Level I Anti-Terrorism Training. This training is designed to increase awareness and understanding of importance of Force Protection. Training consisted of a brief, the ten-minute movie "Out of Harm's Way", the distribution of handouts, and a question and answer period. Training was held during the week of 8 AUG 00. All remaining crewmembers received training the week of 20 AUG 00. All new check-ins received the training during indoctrination training the week after arriving onboard. All training was documented in the Relation Admin (RADM) database. These records are not producible do to the destruction of the local area network that ran the program.

b. I was additionally responsible for creating a draft for USS COLE's Force Protection Instruction (COLEINST 3300.55). The purpose of the instruction was to outline how the COLE would run its Force Protection Program. Upon completion of the draft instruction it was submitted for review to the Force Protection Officer. After changes and corrections were made the instruction was signed out by the Commanding Officer on 09 SEP 00.

c. Once deployed I began gathering intelligence information for our scheduled port visits. Information was gathered from the George Washington Battle Group and Naval Criminal Investigative Service siprnet web pages. Current Threat assessments were requested in our logistics requisitions for each port visit.

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d. Prior to each port visit I submitted a THREATCON Measures Implementation Plan for that port based off the available intelligence for that port. The draft plan was submitted up the chain of command for review and discussion. Once reviewed by Commanding Officer the draft plan was then converted into standard naval message in the format required for the fleet where we were operating. In Sixth Fleet these plans were reviewed by CTF 60 and approved for our port visits to Barcelona, Spain; Villefranche, France; Valletta, Malta; and Koper, Slovenia. Once the off-ship authority approved the plan a new THREATCON Measures Implementation Plan was submitted and signed by the Force Protection Officer the Executive Officer, the Commanding Officer, and myself.
I reviewed all of the measures to be implemented and then assisted the inport duty sections in making sure that they were implemented.

e. At the time of the explosion I was in the process of constructing the two training groups described in COLEINST 3300.55. For the SSDF training group draft lesson topic guides were being made in accordance with enclosure 2 of the Force Protection Program instruction. Additionally the Emergency action binder was being constructed for implementation during our upcoming port visit to Bahrain.

2. Force Protection specifics for the port visit to Aden, Yemen are listed below:

a. Sometime on 3 OCT or 4 OCT we were informed that we would be stopping somewhere for fuel on our way to the Persian Gulf. At that time I went and found whatever intelligence I could about Aden, Yemen. That is when I found the 081641ZSEP99 Threat Assessment and Security Overview for the port. I also obtained the current THREATCON for the Fifth Fleet in the C5F Order dated 291009ZJUN99.

b. After reading both of the above messages I ascertained that the threat level for Aden, Yemen was high and that the THREATCON for Fifth Fleet was Bravo.

c. I drafted a THREATCON Measures Implementation plan based on the Fifth Fleet THREATCON measures listed in the COMNAVUSCENT/COMFIFTHFLT OPORD 99-01, Force Protection and submitted it for approval. Once the draft was approved I wrote a message for plan approval from CTF 50 (071856ZOCT00). At the time the message was sent we still had not received word as to where we were going to be refueling in Aden (pier side or at one of the Dolphins). The plan was submitted based on us going pier side.

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d. We received the approval message for our proposed In-port Security Plan from CTF 50 on 11 OCT of this month. The message stated our plan had been "reviewed and approved" in accordance with the OPORD 99-01.

e. We also received the new world wide threat summary message on 11 OCT. This message detailed the new threat level system that consisted of low, medium, significant, and high. This message stated the threat level for Yemen was significant.

f. Based on all the above information the final THREATCON Implementation plan for was reviewed and signed on 11 OCT 00.

g. At no time did we receive any other information or intelligence warning a specific threat.

3. Specifics from the day of the event are listed below:

a. During the Sea and Anchor Detail I was on watch in Combat participating in a C5F Tomahawk exercise.

b. Once the duty section assumed the in port watches I went and distributed whistles to all rovers, sentries, and the quarterdeck watchstanders as a second form of communications.

c. I also delivered the visitor badges to the quarterdeck and at the same time reviewed all the visitor access control procedures.

d. Once I completed the above two tasks I proceeded to the wardroom for lunch. The explosion rocked the ship about two minutes after I sat down for lunch. I was sitting on the port side of the wardroom and was thrown into the table (moving toward the starboard side) and then thrown back to port.

4. The following items have been provided to the investigators currently on board USS COLE:

(1) A copy of USS COLE (DDG 67) Instruction 3300.55, Force Protection Program.

(2) A copy of the Force Protection Officer/Anti-Terrorism Training Officer course CD-ROM. This CD contains the Level I Anti-Terrorism Training brief.

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(3) A copy of the Anti-terrorism Individual Protective Measures card and Joint Chiefs of Staff Protective Measures pamphlet. These items were handed out during the Level I anti-terrorism training

(4) A copy of "Patterns of Global Terrorism 1997" a document passed around during Level I Anti-Terrorism Training for crewmembers to review.

(5) A copy of the notes used to give the Level I Anti-Terrorism Training.

(6) Copies of the Level I training attendance sheets. Note this is not a complete documentation of who attended the training since primary records for all Level I training were kept in the RADM database as described above.

(7) Copies of emails from 31 JUL and 09 AUG highlighting Anti-Terrorism Training Team meeting notes

(8) Copies of Threat Assessments for various ports in the C6F and the C5F AOR.

(9) Copies of the COLE's In port security plan message for Barcelona, Spain (date time group 160536ZAUG00) and CTF 60's approval message (date time group 160922ZAUG00)

(10) Copies of the COLE's In port security plan message for Villefranche, France (date time group 221811ZAUG00) and CTF 60's approval message (date time group 230822ZAUG00)

(11) Copies of the COLE's In port security plan message for Valletta, Malta (date time group 300339ZAUG00) and CTF 60's approval message (date time group 030822ZSEP00)

(12) Copies of the COLE's In port security plan message for Koper, Slovenia (date time group 051642ZSEP00) and CTF 60's approval message (date time group 061322ZSEP00)

(13) Copies of draft Lesson Topic Guides for the SSDF Lesson Topic Guides from enclosure 2 of COLEINST 3300.55.

(14) A copy of USS COLE's Threatcon Measures Implementation Plan (C5F SUPP) for Aden, Yeman.

(15) A copy of the Threat Assessment and Security Overview for Aden Yemen from Naval Criminal Investigative Service Middle East (date time group 081641ZSEP99.)

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(16) Copies of the COLE's In port security plan message for Aden, Yemen (date time group 071856ZOCT00) and CTF 50's approval message (date time group 102230ZSEP00)

(17) A copy of the Threat Assessment and Security Overview for Bahrain from Naval Criminal Investigative Service Middle East (date time group 280929ZSEP00.)

(18) A copy of NCIS-ATAC Force Protection Summary (ATACSUM 282-2000) date time group 101215ZOCT00.

(19) A copy of draft THREATCON Measure Implementation Plan (C5F SUPP) for Bahrain.

(20) A copy of USS COLE's Force Protection Plan for Bahrain (date time group 111820ZOCT00).

(21) A copy of the COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT OPORD 99-01, Force Protection.

(22) A copy of Appendix 22 to Annex C to COMSIXTHFLT OPORD 4000, Force Protection in the C6F AOR.

Very Respectfully,

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