STATEMENT OF SK1 [redacted]

12 OCT 00

SHIP'S ARRIVAL INTO PORT FOR REFUELING I ASSUMED THE QUARTERDECK WATCH (OOD) FOR SEA AND ANCHOR DETAIL, CONTINUING TO ASSUME THE WATCH AFTER SEA AND ANCHOR DETAIL SECURED. MYSELF AND (POOW) AND (MOOW), ASSUMED THE WATCH FOR INPORT DUTY SECTION (3).WE CARRIED TWO 9MM AND ONE SHOTGUN ON WATCH. ME AND YN2(SW) [redacted] WERE SWITCHED DUE TO I WOULD HAVE BEEN ON WATCH CONTINUOUSLY THROUGHOUT THE DAY. DURING THE WATCH WE HAD ESTABLISHED (1) INTERNAL ROVER AND (2) EXTERNAL ROVERS TOPSIDE. THEY CHECK IN AT EVERY HALF HOUR. THE TRASH BARGE HAD BEEN ALONGSIDE TO PICK UP TRASH FROM THE MESSDECKS FOR DISPOSAL. AT THE TIME THE SUPPLY OFFICER INFORMED ME THAT ONLY MESSDECKS TRASH WAS TO BE DISPOSED OF FIRST, THEN AFTER THAT BERTHING AND OFFICE TRASH WOULD BE COLLECTED IF ROOM IS AVAILABLE. APPROXIMATELY AROUND 1110 TO ABOUT 1115 THE EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE I WAS INSIDE THE QUARTERDECK AREA LOOKING FOR A BINDER AND GETTING MY PEN AS I TURNED TO COME OUT THE EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE IT THREW ME BACK AGAINST THE ANGLE IRON THE QAWTD (DOOR) SHUT ON ME AS I PUSHED OPEN THE DOOR I COULD NOT SEE ANYTHING THE SMOKE WAS LIKE A GRAY CHARCOAL COLOR MIXED WITH OIL AND WATER. AT THE TIME I YELLED AT MY SHIPMATES TO LOCATE THEM TO TELL THEM TO MOVE AFT. I BELIEVE WE COULD NOT HEAR ONE ANOTHER DUE TO THE BLAST OR SEE ONE ANOTHER DUE TO AREA FULL OF SMOKE, THE EXPLOSION WAS SO LOUD MY HEARING WAS UNABNORMAL I COULD NOT HEAR FOR SOME TIME .I LOOKED OVER TO THE PIER TO SEE IF THE FUEL LINE HAD EXPLODED DUE TO US TAKING ON FUEL ALL I SAW WAS SMOKE NO FIRE . THE EXPLOSION SOUNDED LIKE IT WAS BENEATH THE SHIP WE ASSUMED THAT MAIN (1) HAD EXPLODED. THEN I PROCEEDED AFT TO GET CLEAR OF THE BLAST AND SEE IF ANYONE TOOK COVER FROM THE DEBREW. AFTER THINGS CLEARED I PROCEEDED BACK TO THE QUARTERDECK TO ASSIST WITH THE SHIPS SECURITY FORCE. THE INITIAL PROCESS IS TO ALLOW ANYONE TO BOARD THE SHIP FOR SECURITY PURPOSES.

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