

STG3 [REDACTED], Internal Rover
On leave until 1 Dec 00

1. Were you briefed on the threat situation in Aden?

NO

What was your understanding of the threat?

I knew from past cruises that threats exist in foreign ports but since nobody told me anything, I didn't know of a threat.

2. Were you briefed on the security/force protection plan for Aden?

NO. OPS intel briefs were ongoing everyday but I didn't attend any and I don't know if they discussed Aden.

3. Were the rules of engagement for small boat threats ever discussed with you?

NO. They talked about small boat threats for 50 cal watchstanders but not internal rovers.

What was your understanding of the rules?

My understanding is that you can use deadly force to protect yourself, others and national assets if in imminent danger. I learned this a long time ago aboard USS COLE. I have been onboard for 2 and 1/2 years.

4. What was your understanding of how you were to keep unauthorized boats away from the ship?

As internal rover, once I spotted a small boat, I would attempt to wave them off and inform the OOD.

Was this discussed with you prior to your assuming the watch?

NO. I learned this from past training and experience.

5. Did anyone tell you what boats were authorized to be along side?

NO.

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6. How many boats do you remember coming along side? What order, and what were they doing?

I remember two or three boats. Two were trash boats. I'm not sure if there was a third one. They were tying up to the ship to offload trash.

7. Were you told to report any suspected threats to the ship or crew to a particular person in your chain of command?

NO. That day I just assumed the watch and nothing was told to me. However, I know to report to the OOD if there is something wrong.

8. If you saw a suspicious vessel near your ship, what were you trained to do?

Report it to the OOD. If they came too close to the ship I would also try to wave them off.

9. Did you have any specific training on when it is appropriate to use deadly force when faced with a threat to your ship and/or crew?

Yes. I received ROE training during watch either before or after the drills that were conducted. This happened during almost every duty section.

Under what circumstances do you believe you could use deadly force?

Whenever the ship or a crewmember was being attacked with deadly force.

10. When was the last time you had firearms training?

I had 9mm and shotgun training this year, however I cannot remember when exactly.

