

UNCLASSIFIED

SN [REDACTED] MOW

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

I knew that terrorism was high in Aden because of a briefing given by the CO. He addressed the gulf as a whole as a dangerous region where terrorism exists. However, I was not briefed specifically about the threat situation in Aden.

What was your understanding of the threat?

That COLE was going into an area where they were not liked and almost anything could happen.

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

NO.

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

NO.

What was your understanding of the rules?

Just to be careful since we were in dangerous waters.

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

If boats came close to the ship without authorization, I would call the OOD. I was not required to take any personal action other than to contact the OOD.

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

NO.

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

Yes. Trash barge was coming along side on the port side. That was the only boat that was authorized to come along side. The CO informed the entire ship of the trash barge. The only times the tugs came close was when we were mooring.

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

I think there were three boats. Two tugs first and then the trash barge. The two tugs helped us moor and then the trash barge offloaded trash.

Encl (86)

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

Yes. If there was a threat to the crew or ship I was told to report this to the OOD or any senior officer present. This was told to me and the other personnel on the quarterdeck. I cannot remember who else was present.

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

Keep it in sight. DO not lose contact with it and contact the OOD.

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?

NO.

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

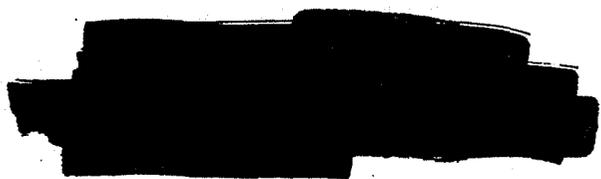
When it is necessary. When I feel the ship is in danger or someone else from the ship is in danger.

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

I had shotgun qualifications one day prior to the explosion. I did not have 9mm training.

11. Based on the questions that have been raised, do you feel there is anything you would like to add that may shed light on the incident?

NO.



SR, USN

Sworn and subscribed before me on this 16th day of November 2000

[Handwritten Signature]
 ROBERT J. O'NEILL
 LT, JAGC, USN

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