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SK1 [redacted] OOD

1. Were you briefed on the threat situation in Aden? NO

What was your understanding of the threat? Based on previous experiences in the Arabian Gulf region, I understood the imminent threat could exist in the area. I was last in the Arabian Gulf region during a 1989 deployment.

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?

Even though this was never discussed with me, my understanding was to let the Bridge know if a small boat came close. However, the Bridge has a good visual picture of both the port/starboard sides. This understanding was based on previous training as OOD and general common sense. This would be the same if the ship were tied up pier side to notify the CDO.

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

The practice was to signal to the ship to move away. This was because there may be a language barrier in this region. I would also notify the CDO when a small boat approached.

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

NO. This was learned through general OOD training. Nothing specific was discussed for the region.

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

Prior to taking over as OOD, I heard that a trash boat was going to be coming alongside. As COLE was mooring, the trash boat attempted to come along side but was held off and they moved away until COLE was moored and secured. They then brought the trash boat back along side. No other boats other than the tugs that pushed us in were authorized to be alongside.

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

I remember one tug was amidship and I could not see up forward. The only other one boat was the trash boat. The tug first and then the trash boat. The tug pushed COLE into the pier and the trash boat came alongside after the mooring to take on trash.

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

I was never specifically told to report to a particular person however, as OOD, I understand my duty is to keep the CDO and section leader informed of all actions during my watch. This includes all actions against the ship or crew.

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

Inform my CDO and have the Petty Officer/Messenger of the Watch or my topside rovers forward and aft secure the area of approach. I would order them to flag the ship and 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?

I did not receive and specific training for the use of deadly force. However, I had just reported on June 17 and may have missed some training. I qualified for the 9mm during July and shotgun during the deployment. I did not receive use of deadly force training during these qualifications.

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

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In self-defense, if in imminent danger. If my shipmate is in imminent danger. If the ship were in imminent danger.

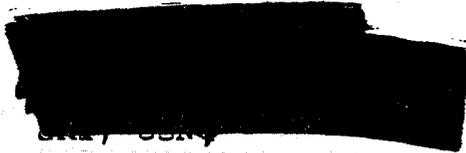
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10. When was the last time you had firearms training?

See answer to question #9.

11. In light of the questions you have been asked, is there anything else you would like to add that may shed light on this incident?

NO



Sworn to before me this 16th day of November 2000.

ROBERT J. O'NEILL
LT, JAGC, USN

ON LEAVE UNTIL 1 DEC 00

