

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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COLLISION OF THE USS *McCain* AND
M/V *ALNIC MC* ON AUGUST 21, 2017

* ACCIDENT NO.: DCA17PM024

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Interview of: AB, *Alnic MC*

On Board the *Alnic MC*

Monday,
August 28, 2017

APPEARANCES:

CWO [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Lead Investigating Officer
U.S. Coast Guard

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] INCOE
U.S. Coast Guard

LCDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
U.S. Coast Guard

CAPT. KUNAL NAKRA
Transportation Safety Investigative Bureau (TSIB)
Singapore

EDWARD SHIN, Detective
Singapore

VINCENT BRADY
Flag State Liberia

CHRIS FARMER, Attorney
Ince & Co., London
(On behalf of the Owners)

ALAN WEIGEL, Attorney
Blank Rome
(On behalf of the Owners)

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I N T E R V I E W

(2:09 p.m.)

1
2
3 CWO [REDACTED] We are on the *Alnic MC*. The date is August 28,
4 2017. The time is 1409. I'm Chief Warrant Officer [REDACTED] with U.S.
5 Coast Guard.

6 And if everybody in the room would please state their name
7 and their company they're representing?

8 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] U.S. Coast Guard, INCOE.

9 LCDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Coast Guard.

10 CAPT. NAKRA: Captain Kanul Nakra, TSIB Singapore.

11 MR. BRADY: Vincent Brady, Flag State Liberia.

12 MR. FARMER: Chris Farmer, Ince & Co., owner's legal
13 representative.

14 MR. WEIGEL: Alan Weigel, Blank Rome, New York, owner's legal
15 representative.

16 AB: I am AB and I am, I'm (indiscernible) *Alnic MC*.

INTERVIEW OF AB, *ALNIC MC*

17
18 BY CWO [REDACTED]

19 Q. Okay. How long have you been in your current position as an
20 AB, as an AB?

21 A. Yes, sir. Seven years, sir.

22 Q. Seven years?

23 A. Yes, sir. Seven years.

24 Q. And how long have you been on the vessel?

25 A. How long --

1 Q. Have you been on this vessel?

2 A. First, my first time, sir.

3 Q. Okay. And how long?

4 A. In this vessel, sir?

5 Q. On this vessel.

6 A. On this vessel, my -- this is my first contract, sir. Now I
7 went 4 months.

8 Q. Four months?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. More than 4 months, sir.

12 Q. Okay. And how much rest did you get before you took watch?

13 A. My duty, sir, is 4 to 8, and then only 8 hours every duty,
14 sir; 8 hours my work and 16 hours rest, sir.

15 Q. Okay. So you had 8 hours of rest before you took watch the
16 day of the incident?

17 A. No, sir, 16 hours rest.

18 Q. Sixteen hours?

19 A. Yeah, 4 to 4, sir.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Four in the morning and four in the evening, sir.

22 Q. Okay. And what were -- where were you at, at the time --
23 during that day? Where on the vessel were you?

24 A. Please repeat, sir.

25 Q. Where on the vessel were you on the day of the incident?

1 A. (Indiscernible) where?

2 Q. This vessel, where were you at? When you were on watch,
3 where were you at? Were you on the -- in the engine room? On
4 the --

5 A. No, sir. I am -- before this, my duty, sir?

6 Q. Yes, what was your duty?

7 A. On the bridge. I'm a lookout, sir.

8 Q. Okay. All right. So what I'd like is for you to walk me
9 through from the time before the incident, before the collision,
10 basically when you came on watch, to the time after the collision,
11 in your own words.

12 A. Yes, sir. This vessel, sir, the navy vessel, I saw him, I
13 saw him in starboard quarter. And after that, I reported to chief
14 officer and (indiscernible) bridge officer, sir.

15 Q. Do you know what -- approximately what time that was?

16 A. I do not stop to read the exactly, exactly, sir, the time,
17 sir. I do not, I do not know exactly the time, sir.

18 Q. Okay. How about a general, an estimated time?

19 A. I don't know, sir.

20 Q. Don't know?

21 A. No, sir. I'm only lookout and --

22 Q. Okay. So you were standing lookout watch? That's your --

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. That's your job on the bridge?

25 A. Yes, sir. On that time because they have -- that time is

1 steering with the autopilot, sir.

2 Q. Okay. Steering was in autopilot. So as a lookout, have you
3 received familiarization training from the vessel or the company?
4 Something that says -- that you've signed that says, yes, I
5 understand my duties; I've been trained?

6 A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. All right. And so you said that you saw the navy vessel and
10 they were -- where were -- they were on your starboard quarter?

11 A. Yes, sir, on starboard quarter.

12 Q. How far away from the vessel?

13 A. I cannot estimate how far, sir, because I only seeing the
14 side light. I don't -- I only -- I report it to the chief
15 officer, but I do not estimate how far apart the starboard
16 quarter, sir.

17 Q. Okay. So your job is just to report?

18 A. Yeah, to report if we have any light, to report to the duty
19 officer, sir.

20 Q. Okay. And but you don't tell him which -- the bearing of it
21 or how --

22 A. No.

23 Q. -- the distance?

24 A. No, sir. I not estimate, sir.

25 Q. Did you hear any communications from the navy vessel before

1 the collision on the -- or an alarm, a whistle, anything?

2 A. From sight and -- no, sir.

3 Q. Nothing from the navy vessel?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. Okay. Any lights? Any warning lights?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. How about from the vessel, did the captain or chief mate try
8 to communicate, call the navy ship on the radio or --

9 A. Yes, sir. He called --

10 Q. -- sound the alarm before the collision?

11 A. Yes, sir. He called, the captain, sir, before the collision.

12 Q. Who called the captain?

13 A. No, no, no. The captain call sir.

14 Q. The captain called --

15 A. To the navy vessel, sir.

16 Q. Before the collision?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. So when the collision happened, where were you standing at?

19 A. Before the collision happened, sir, this vessel, navy vessel,
20 I'm standing near the steering, near the steering console. I see
21 here the light in the masthead, he turn to port. I see and I --
22 and then I run. I start to run to the steering wheel and I wait
23 for master order, sir.

24 Q. So you ran to the steering console --

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. -- stood by for master order?

2 A. Yes, sir. I wait for master order, sir.

3 Q. And were you expecting an order?

4 A. At that time, sir, the vessel turn and then he collide, and
5 then the master advise me to put the autopilot, change to manual
6 steering, sir.

7 Q. So that was after the collision?

8 A. Yes, sir. Already bang, and then --

9 Q. Were there any alarms on the bridge before or after the
10 collision?

11 A. I do not remember at that time, sir, because I am focused to
12 the -- my lookout, sir, and I do not remember anything.

13 Q. Don't remember anything?

14 A. I don't remember anything, sir.

15 Q. And did the master of this vessel sound any alarms, sound the
16 horn, flashlights, or anything to the navy vessel --

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. -- before the collision?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. How about any radio communications on the -- was there any
21 warning from other vessels saying that --

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. -- the navy or --

24 A. No, sir. I do not remember because I (indiscernible) --

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. -- very, very busy because that time is the (indiscernible).

2 Q. So after the collision, what commands were given?

3 A. Only the --

4 Q. Sorry. Let me interrupt you. You did say the -- to change
5 the steering. But any other general commands?

6 A. No, sir. Only, only to manual steering, sir.

7 Q. Okay. How about any commands over PA system or any alarms?

8 A. No, sir, only -- no, sir, only manual steering, sir.

9 Q. That was the only -- the only thing the master said to you is
10 just change that?

11 A. Manual steering, sir.

12 Q. And nothing else?

13 A. Nothing else, sir. And only standing to manual steering and
14 -- only standing, sir.

15 Q. Okay. So you turned it to manual steering and then --

16 A. Yes. They collide and then the master advised to change the
17 -- to manual steering, and I changed to manual steering, sir.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And I waiting for another advice from the -- instruction from
20 the master, sir.

21 Q. Okay. And then so you just stood at the helm and waited for
22 commands after you switched it?

23 A. Yes, sir. I waited for command, sir.

24 Q. Okay. So there was no -- there was never a general alarm
25 sound after the collision or any address to the crew or --

1 A. Yes, sir. Yeah, we have -- raise the alarm and also the
2 public address, sir.

3 Q. Okay. So they -- so he did sound an alarm after the
4 collision, general alarm?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Okay. And do you recall what was passed on the PA system?

7 A. On that time, sir, I cannot remember because I am focused on
8 -- I am focused on the master instruction, sir. But the raise the
9 alarm, I heard, yes.

10 Q. And --

11 A. But the full PA address, I cannot -- my mind is not -- I
12 cannot, what they say, what they -- they raised the alarm and then
13 the PA address, but mind only to focus the captain advise, sir.

14 Q. Okay. So you saw the navy ship --

15 A. Yeah, the starboard quarter.

16 Q. On the starboard quarter.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And then walk me through what happened from there.

19 A. Then suddenly this vessel, sir, on the starboard, I saw him
20 and continues to moving. And I observed this vessel very quickly
21 to abeam in our vessel.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And then he suddenly (indiscernible), and I saw him in the --
24 I saw this vessel, he turn to port. He turned to port very
25 quickly, sir, very quickly. And then the captain call, and then

1 they collide.

2 Q. Okay. Was there any communication between the chief officer
3 and the master about any --

4 A. On that situation, sir, I see him, the light is moving. And
5 then I only to run to the steering wheel and waiting master order,
6 sir.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I cannot say to the captain. I only do anything to look out
9 my captain, my ear only I focus on the captain order, sir.

10 Q. Okay. So when you collided with the navy ship, do you recall
11 hearing any communications or see smoke or anything from the navy
12 ship after the collision?

13 A. No, sir.

14 Q. Okay. And when you collided, what happened with the navy
15 ship after that? Did the navy ship stay there, did it leave? How
16 did it, how did it --

17 A. The navy vessel in the collide, sir, after that, this navy
18 return and suddenly were moving, were moving. And then, and then
19 it come to the, it come to the port quarter. But I cannot say
20 because I am only maintain this -- maintain the steering wheel,
21 sir, until my watch is finished, take over and (indiscernible) the
22 steering wheel.

23 Q. Okay. So to paraphrase you, after the collision the navy
24 vessel came down the port side of your vessel?

25 A. Yes, sir. They collide and then this vessel, navy vessel,

1 will turn like that, sir.

2 Q. Okay. So just for the audio recording, is that --

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. -- you're saying that it hit at a -- at the shape of a T? It
5 made a T when you collided?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And then --

8 A. And then this vessel, she turn, sir.

9 Q. It pivoted --

10 A. The navy vessel.

11 Q. The navy vessel pivoted on the bow and slid down your port
12 side?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. That's what you're saying?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Like that, it turned.

18 Q. Okay. Is there anything in your mind that could have
19 happened differently, reactions?

20 A. Reaction for the what?

21 Q. What -- to avoid the collision. Is there anything that, in
22 your training that you've received --

23 A. No. For me, sir, as a helmsman, as a lookout, I seen the
24 lights moving to port. I am only doing my -- to stand by directly
25 to the steering and waiting for master instruction, sir.

1 Q. Okay. All right.

2 CWO [REDACTED] That's all I have. Anybody else have any --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have no questions.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have no questions.

5 CAPT. NAKRA: I've got a few questions. May I?

6 AB: Yes, sir.

7 BY CAPT. NAKRA:

8 Q. As a lookout are you -- how do you perform the duties of a
9 lookout? Do you look at the radar?

10 A. No, I -- no, sir. I perform and check the forward and port
11 side, starboard side. If we have some -- any light I see, I saw,
12 I report it to the chief officer, sir.

13 Q. So you visually look for targets?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Just help us to understand, are you allowed to use the radar
16 or you're --

17 A. For me, sir --

18 Q. -- not allowed to use the radar for performing the lookout
19 duties?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. So is there any restriction on the bridge for you to use the
22 radar?

23 A. Yes, sir. I'm only a lookout, sir.

24 Q. Maybe I'll rephrase. When you're performing the job of
25 lookout, is there some restriction for you to look at the radar

1 and use the radar to check the bearing to (indiscernible)? Have
2 you used it before? Have you used the radar before?

3 A. No, sir. Because I only, only -- (indiscernible), sir, I am
4 7 years on board, sir, AB. I am only a lookout. Lookout only,
5 sir.

6 Q. So only visual --

7 A. Yes, visual. I only look out, sir.

8 Q. Okay. When you mentioned that you heard a general alarm and
9 the PA system, what is the sound that you heard?

10 A. General, seven and a short blast, sir.

11 Q. So your vessel's general alarm is seven short blasts and
12 one --

13 A. Followed by one long, sir. And then the PA address, sir.
14 But I cannot hear properly the PA address because I am only
15 focused to the master, master instruction for me, sir, on that
16 time, sir.

17 Q. So what is the continuous ringing alarm on the ship for?
18 Continuous ringing, is there a continuous ringing alarm on the
19 ship also?

20 A. Yes, sir. The fire alarm, sir.

21 Q. That's the fire alarm?

22 A. Yes, continuous.

23 Q. What course did you steer or did the master ask you to steer
24 after the collision? When he asked you to change --

25 A. I do not --

1 Q. -- from autopilot to hand steering, did he ask you to steer
2 any course?

3 A. No, sir. Only change to manual steering, only manual
4 steering instruction, sir.

5 Q. What heading were you following as a helmsman?

6 A. On that, on that situation, sir, the master advised me,
7 instruction to autopilot, but I cannot give that, that
8 (indiscernible) the course.

9 Q. Okay. So your wheel was on --

10 A. Yes. I only stand by, sir.

11 Q. -- midships?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. So I'm trying to understand when the captain gave you
14 autopilot to hand, you changed to hand and you kept the wheel at
15 midship and --

16 A. Yes, sir. No more.

17 Q. -- you're waiting for instruction?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 CAPT. NAKRA: I have no further questions.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Anybody else?

21 CWO [REDACTED] Anybody? No?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No? Okay.

23 CWO [REDACTED] Okay. This will conclude the interview. Time is
24 1428.

25 (Whereupon, at 2:28 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

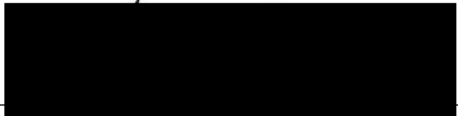
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Interview of AB, *Alnic MC*

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA17PM024

PLACE: On Board the *Alnic MC*

DATE: August 28, 2017

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Kay Maurey
Transcriber