

CUI

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CUI

1 UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

2
3 PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW CONDUCTED ON
4 BEHALF OF NTSB BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD

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6
7 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] All right. Mr. [REDACTED] I'm
8 Captain [REDACTED] I'm, uh, I'm the Navy's Liaison and
9 representative to the Coast Guard Investigation here.

10 [REDACTED] Sir.

11 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uh, the purpose of this
12 investigation is to find out what happened and how it
13 happened, so that, uh, uh, with the help of the Coast Guard
14 the Navy can kind of keep this thing from happening again.

15 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

16 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Any questions about that?

17 [REDACTED] Uh, no sir.

18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. So, now I'll turn it over
19 to the Coast Guard.

20 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] So, good morning.

21 [REDACTED] Good morning.

22 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] I'm Lieutenant [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] the senior investigating officer for the U.S. Coast
24 Guard here in Japan Activities Far East.

25 [REDACTED] Good morning.

1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] So, under the authority of
2 Title 46 U.S. Code § 6301 and Title 46 CFR Part 4 an
3 investigation is being conducted into the circumstances of
4 the collision between the USS Fitzgerald and the ACX
5 Crystal, which took place on June 17th, 2017.

6 This investigation is intended to determine the cause
7 of the casualty to the extent possible and to obtain
8 information for the purpose of preventing similar
9 casualties in the future.

10 To assist with the accuracy of our investigation we
11 will be recording today's interview, which is taking place
12 on June 28th at 10:35. On my team I have Mr. [REDACTED] who
13 is from our National Center of Expertise for Investigations
14 from the Coast Guard. We also have Lieutenant Commander
15 [REDACTED] who works with me in our office and is a previous
16 CO of Coast Guard Cutters.

17 Captain [REDACTED] again, is working as our Liaison
18 Officer, to assist communications between Navy and
19 Coast Guard and to ensure that we understand the story.

20 [REDACTED] Okay.

21 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And Lieutenant Commander
22 [REDACTED] from the Navy Safety Investigation Board just to
23 listen in and gather some facts for her investigation.
24 Before we get in too far into questioning, I just want to

1 make sure I have the correct spelling of your name, first
2 and last.

3 [REDACTED] Okay.

4 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] First name?

5 [REDACTED] Oh, [REDACTED], [REDACTED].
6 Last name, [REDACTED].

7 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Thank you. All right.

8 Uhm, Mr. [REDACTED] please.

9 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Good morning.

10 [REDACTED] Good morning.

11 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Uh, so, uh, if you
12 could, uh, when did you join the Navy?

13 [REDACTED] Uh, [REDACTED].

14 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] And, uh, so when did
15 you report to Fitzgerald?

16 [REDACTED] I reported to Fitzgerald, uh, actually
17 I checked onboard [REDACTED].

18 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] So, this past
19 [REDACTED] or two [REDACTED] ago?

20 [REDACTED] No, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. [REDACTED].

21 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED] Yeah. So, yeah, I've been there
23 almost a year and a half.

24 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] And, uh, can I get
25 your age?

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[REDACTED]

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED]

All right. And, uh, if you could, uh, your duties onboard?

[REDACTED]

I'm the, uh, Signal Intelligence, uh, Warfare Officer as well as the, uh, Special Security Officer.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED]

And in those capacities, does that make you a Division Officer?

[REDACTED]

Uh, yeah. I'm more like a, uh, so I have a DIVO who works for me, so more like a, a primary assistant to the department head.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED]

Primary assistant.

Okay. All right. And for uh, for the events on the 16th from getting underway, if you could, uh, did you have any roles with regards to, uh, Special Sea and Anchor detail?

[REDACTED]

I did not.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED]

Uh, Flight Ops?

[REDACTED]

I did not.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED]

Boat Operations?

[REDACTED]

No.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED]

Uh, so then the only,

uh, main part of your workday was, uh, standing Watch in Combat, correct?

[REDACTED]

Well, I mean a normal workday, uh, it's the Navy.

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1 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Sure.

2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] It doesn't stop. So, uh, so just
3 normal workday with -- and the performance of my original
4 or my regular duties and then my Watch at night, yes sir.

5 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] And so, uh, which
6 Watch did you stand that night?

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I stood the 2200 to 0200, uh, Surface
8 Warfare Coordinator Watch.

9 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Uh, if you could, uh,
10 walk me through what it takes to prepare for Watch? What
11 your normal routine getting ready for Watch?

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. So, uh, known preparation for
13 me anyhow, uh, I kind of I get a couple of sleep, that's
14 just, uh, it's just exclusive to me I think. Uh, so I get
15 a couple of hours sleep, uhm, I go to bed, I wake up. If I
16 have the -- so -- so, normally we'll relieve the Watch, uh,
17 somewhere around a half hour or so, or I'm sorry, uh, 45
18 minutes, so 15 minutes prior to actual assuming that Watch
19 you relieve the Watch. So, if I have a 0200 Watch then I
20 would relieve the Watch 0145.

21 Uh, me, I usually come a little earlier, because I
22 anticipate the pass down that's going to happen. So, I get
23 up, uh, shower, get myself prepared, uniform obviously and
24 then, uh, grab some of the things that I'm going to need

1 for the Watch, so I grab some snacks, water, and head call
2 whatever. And then I proceed to the Watch.

3 Uh, and then once on Watch I kind of sit back and kind
4 of assess the situation in CIC. At some time go over and
5 talk to the TAO if it looks like something is confusing,
6 what's being portrayed. And then I go over to the person
7 I'm relieving and I get the pass down. So, that's pretty
8 much my standard, uh, process.

9 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] And so, uh, can you
10 take me any -- take me through any recollections you have
11 when assuming the Watch that night?

12 [REDACTED] Uh, so took over the Watch. We were,
13 uh, near the TSS, uh, pretty heavy traffic, uh, from what I
14 remember. I think, uh, I believe that the, uh, Boat
15 Operations were ongoing, in fact I -- I'm pretty sure they
16 were, because I inquired about it, uh, and I -- I -- I
17 asked my relief where was the Captain on the Bridge, uh,
18 the reason why that's significant to me is because, uhm,
19 that kind of tells me, uh, what I can expect to hear from
20 the Bridge in as far as requirements or anything like that.
21 So, I just kind of listen up for stuff like that.

22 Uh, so I -- I inquired about, uh, where the Captain's,
23 uh, location was. Uhm, --

24 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Was he on the Bridge?

25 [REDACTED] He was on the Bridge. Uhm, --

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] This was during your turnover?

2 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] 20 --

3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] This was during my turnover. Yes,
4 sir.

5 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay.

6 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And, uhm, yeah, like I said, so I
7 remember the Contact Picture being pretty heavy. Uh, I
8 asked about the, uh, usually I -- so, I asked about the
9 status of the equipment. The equipment is good. I ask
10 about the COMM's, because I have to maintain Voice COMM's
11 with the, uh, [REDACTED] Watch over in DESRON 15, so, uh,
12 there are specific circuits that we have to be on.

13 So, I inquire about the status of the COMM Circuits,
14 uh, the chat channel we call [REDACTED], uh, there's a series of
15 chat channels that I have to monitor. So, I inquired about
16 that as well. And I always look at [REDACTED] to kind of see
17 what's being portrayed over on [REDACTED] So, any type of
18 casualties with the equipment, uh, any type of special
19 evolutions that are coming up or any type of, uh, Night
20 Orders that -- that may impact me, so I inquire about that.
21 And where the Night Orders are.

22 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Do you recall any
23 equipment casualties?

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh, yes. So, it had a -- I had an
25 issue with the, uh, with our voice circuit, uh, we have a

1 Sea Combatant Commander, uh, Circuit that we're required to
2 be on and, uh, we were having some from what -- if I recall
3 where we were having some [REDACTED] issues and so we had kicked
4 over to [REDACTED]. And so, I was in the process of trying to get
5 a [REDACTED] up because I could not get a successful, uh, COMM's
6 check with [REDACTED].

7 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Is that the only
8 recollection that you have for equipment casualties?

9 [REDACTED] Yes.

10 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] All right. And then,
11 uh, how was, uh, how was the Watch Team?

12 [REDACTED] Well, uh, they -- you mean the off
13 going Watch Team?

14 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Yeah.

15 [REDACTED] I guess like no different than any
16 other time I've ever relieved the Watch. Uhm, I -- there
17 was a new OSS Operator. I mean I've stood Watch with him
18 before, but, uhm, he wasn't -- so there were, there were
19 some movement on the Watch Team. The Watch Team wasn't
20 exactly the same Watch Team that we already had, we -- we
21 normally had in place. So, there was some new members to
22 that Watch Team. So, that's the -- the only difference
23 that I would -- I would, uh, be able to notice right off
24 the bat a new TAO and a new CIC Watch Officer. Uhm, and
25 just from hearing the, uh, the [REDACTED] Traffic, uhm, there

1 was a new JOD. So, these are -- these are just folks that
2 I normally do not stand Watch with, uh, they kind of do a
3 pretty good job of rotating us around to the different, you
4 know, kind of mixing up the Watches or whatnot, but, uh,
5 you know, I get I guess kind of used to like certain people
6 because you stand Watch with them for so long and so these
7 were just kind of new peop--, new faces for me.

8 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Sure. Uhm, did you
9 have any other special planned operations going on for that
10 evening?

11 [REDACTED] I hope not. I mean it was a pretty
12 busy day already. I think that was the -- that was the
13 last, uh, evolution that was supposed to take place that
14 night. In fact, when the, uh, when the Night Orders
15 finally did make their way down to CIC, uh, when I looked
16 the comments were okay, upon completion of, uh, once we get
17 out of TSS we are going to, uh, kick it up to [REDACTED] Knots,
18 that was going to be our, uh, uh, speed of advance, uh,
19 until we were four hours ahead of [inaudible 11:05], I
20 think that's what the order was. So, we were just pretty
21 much transiting at that point.

22 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Did, uh, did the
23 Navigator, uh, come to Combat at any time during your
24 Watch?

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No, but that's not -- that's not
2 typical for him to do anyhow. I mean the Navigator's part,
3 he is -- he is one of the OOD Watchstanders, so typically
4 the only time I would see him in Combat would be if he was
5 getting ready to relieve the Watch and they have to make
6 their rounds before they actually go up and assume the
7 Watch. Combat being one of their last, their final rounds.

8 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] So, uh, like the OOD's
9 would come through and get a pass down getting ready for
10 Watch, uh, does your role as Surface, uh, have you go up to
11 the Bridge, make contact with Bridge?

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Negative. Because my, uh, so my role
13 as -- as Surface Warfare Coordinator, uh, has no -- so I
14 work directly for the TAO, so my -- my role is in CIC.
15 The TAO as well as the uh, the actual, uh, Surface Warfare
16 Commander, uh, the [REDACTED], so, unless I'm, unless the
17 Bridge would ask me something specifically I typically --
18 my involvement with the Bridge is -- is somewhat limited.

19 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] So, during your Watch,
20 how would you say -- you had mentioned that there was heavy
21 traffic?

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right.

23 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Uhm, --

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, we -- right, so what I -- what I
25 recall is, uh, so we were pretty, in pretty close proximity

1 to land obviously and we were -- we were doing Boat
2 Operations. Uh, we had just completed, uh, HELO on a
3 Flight Operations. And, uh, we had two lanes of traffic.
4 There was some northbound traffic and southbound traffic
5 and we were steaming toward, uh, making our way to, to try
6 to cross that traffic, those traffic lanes.

7 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] And, uh, how would you
8 rate the Fitzgerald's speed compared to the other traffic
9 speed?

10 [REDACTED] Well, I mean we were -- we were
11 traveling at a pretty slow speed approaching, uh, because I
12 don't think we had quite secured from -- from our Boat
13 Operations yet. So, we -- we -- I don't think we were
14 doing any -- any, from what I recall I don't think we were
15 doing any more than [REDACTED] knots or so as we were approaching
16 those, uh, traffic lanes.

17 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Okay. And then the
18 Night Orders come down, make the speed for [REDACTED] knots?

19 [REDACTED] Night Orders come down, so okay, so I
20 took over, uh, I'd say roughly 45 'til, I mean 15 to 20 to,
21 I think we finally got the Night Orders or I finally saw
22 them anyhow because they have to be circled around CIC.
23 Uh, I think it was around, uh, it was a little -- a little
24 before midnight when I actually, uh, saw the Night Orders.

1 So, maybe it was like 2330 or something like to that
2 affect.

3 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] And so at [REDACTED] Knots
4 now, you're steaming along at [REDACTED] Knots, the Fitzgerald.
5 And how would you rate that speed in relationship to the
6 other traffic?

7 [REDACTED] Well, so I think when we started going
8 up to [REDACTED] Knots, so it wasn't like okay, the Night Orders
9 say okay, we're going to do [REDACTED] Knots, I think the, uh, the,
10 uh, the expectation was once we were safely passed the
11 traffic then we would, you know, go, you know, [REDACTED] Knots.

12 I think about two hours into the, uh, to the Watch, so
13 that was a four-hour Watch. So, it was about halfway
14 through is when we started bumping up to [REDACTED] Knots.

15 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] So, right around
16 midnight?

17 [REDACTED] Right, yeah.

18 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Yeah. So, --

19 [REDACTED] Right around midnight.

20 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] So, right around
21 midnight, [REDACTED] Knots. How would you rate the speed --

22 [REDACTED] Of the other traffic?

23 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] -- of the other
24 traffic in comparison?

1 [REDACTED] Uh, Sir, it was pretty, uh, it was --
2 it was, I think it was pretty consistent, uh, with the
3 speed we were doing. Obviously, they were going north and
4 southbound, but we were actually making our way across.
5 So, I could -- I could tell that the, uh, the Bridge Team
6 was, uh, carefully maneuvering their way through traffic
7 because of the series of course changes that we were
8 making. And we made, uh, I can't recall, but I -- we must
9 have made a series of four or five course changes.

10 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] And do you know why --

11 [REDACTED] Uh, as they were trying to --

12 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Do you know why that
13 they were making those course changes?

14 [REDACTED] Yeah. I mean yeah, I think they were
15 just looking for openings. You know, we were trying to
16 find openings to kind of get in there so we can blend with
17 the traffic. And then at one point, uhm, we had -- we had,
18 uh, I think it was the -- I believe it was the southbound
19 lane and we had, uh, came to a course or come to a course
20 so that we were following behind the regular traffic and
21 then once that -- once it was, uh, safe for them to do so
22 it seemed like they were maneuvering to get into the other,
23 uh, lane of traffic. So, uh, where they found a break.

24 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] That other lane of
25 traffic being the northbound?

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes, because we did, we did a few like
2 I said, we did a few course changes before we actually came
3 to like a, an actual southerly type of course.

4 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] At any point in time
5 in those course changes were there speed changes as well?
6 Or did you pretty much stay once you came up to [REDACTED] knots?

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, we -- I can't recall there being
8 any more than one, uh, one or two speed changes, uh,
9 throughout the series of that night. And, uhm, I think I'd
10 have to go back and actually refer to the log, because
11 every time they make a course change or a speed change, uh,
12 it's repeated by the, uh, the, uh, Surface Radar Operator
13 and he has -- he logs in as well. Uh, so I don't recall
14 once we came up to [REDACTED] knots I don't recall any additional
15 speed changes.

16 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Just for the Record. Is the SRO,
17 uh, what Watch Station is fulfilling that function?

18 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh, the SWS, sir.

19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] SWS.

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The Surface Warfare Supervisor.

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right, your assistant sitting to
22 your left?

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh, he, well he -- we have a, uh,
24 there's a lot -- there's a lot of bleed over, so he has
25 responsibilities and I have responsibilities, but we're

1 initially looking at the same, we're looking at the same
2 picture. Yes, sir. But he is more so responsible to the,
3 uh, CIC Watch Officer. Uh-huh.

4 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] So, if you could, uh,
5 talk about your COMM's with the Bridge? So, you monitor --

6 [REDACTED] We had good COMM's.

7 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] -- circuit with the
8 Bridge?

9 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

10 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] What circuit is that?

11 [REDACTED] Uh, [REDACTED]

12 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] So, monitoring [REDACTED].
13 Who else is on that circuit with you?

14 [REDACTED] Everyone in Combat.

15 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Okay. And then, uh,
16 how about outside of Combat?

17 [REDACTED] Uh, so well, so the Bridge is on [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED] obviously. Everyone in CIC, uh, engineers also are on
19 that circuit. Uh, sonar is on that circuit, but
20 engineering also has an internal circuit that they use.
21 But everyone that monitors [REDACTED], that's like the [REDACTED]
22 circuit.

23 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] And, uh, how were
24 communications on that circuit in terms of quantity? Was -

1 - was there a lot of chatter going on on [REDACTED] or not so
2 much?

3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh, so there wasn't a lot of chatter
4 that night. Uh, it is typically not. I mean because in
5 the -- in the situation like that unless, uh, there's some
6 -- some things that are unclear, uh, we try to minimize the
7 [REDACTED] traffic, uh, because for -- for actual, uhm, when
8 folks need to get through for -- for serious things. So,
9 typically if there's some maneuvers that take place
10 obviously, uh, that's passed on there. Any, any changes in
11 speed or course, uhm, any question, you know, from time to
12 time TAO will ask the Bridge, you know hey, you know what
13 are -- what are your intentions for this or what are you
14 doing? Or, or just to pass down some instructions that,
15 uhm, that needs to get passed down. So, I think it was
16 like, it was like moderate, uh, COMM's that night. Not too
17 heavy.

18 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] And, uh, how about,
19 uh, throughout the course of your Watch was, uhm, you said
20 traffic was heavy. Did you have any, uh, close calls that
21 would require, uh, notification to the Captain or to the
22 Pilot House?

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No. We had, uh, we -- so, his -- his
24 requirement is, uh, for, uh, for his standing order is, uh,
25 [REDACTED]-yard CPA, uh, he requires a, uh, contact report to be

1 made to him by the Officer of the Deck. Uh, so they did a
2 pretty good job of -- of maneuvering, uh, through, through
3 the traff--, I'm not sure of any -- any, uh, report was
4 made to the Captain. Because that wouldn't be over the [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED], that would be -- they would -- they would give him a
6 call in his cabin.

7 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] You wouldn't
8 necessarily get the feedback if they had made the, the
9 call?

10 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No, they typically don't. I mean
11 there's from time to time I mean the, uh, the TAO, uh,
12 certain TAO's would -- would ask especially if they notice
13 that there are contacts that are within the reporting
14 criteria. They would ask, uh, hey, what are your
15 intentions for this, this particular Vessel? And, uhm, are
16 you preparing a contact report for the Captain, initially,
17 uh, essentially.

18 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Did you have any, uh,
19 contacts that met the criteria for notifying the Captain on
20 your Watch?

21 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh, like I said, uh, when I took over
22 Watch it was pretty heavy traffic, uh, it seemed like to me
23 anyway. It seemed like a lot of the contacts were in
24 pretty close proximity.

1 However, uh, what I would normally do in my, uh, and
2 the, uh, Surface Warfare Supervisor that is next to me, uh,
3 we would -- we would, uh, our role is we try to identify,
4 uh, what these -- what these contacts are.

5 And, uh, and I'm in a better position more so than him
6 because I have additional tools that he does not
7 necessarily have, uh, to try to identify them, right?
8 Because they're close to us. Uhm, one of my big concerns
9 is yeah, I'm looking for surface combatants, but at the
10 same time, you know, but merchants it very well could be,
11 you know, threats to the ship as well.

12 So, I have, uh, a [REDACTED] computer where I can -- I
13 have [REDACTED] where I can get the scone number off of it and
14 then I can put that into the [REDACTED] computer and see if
15 it's -- look at the uh, the [REDACTED] database to kind of see
16 what flag this vessel is from and, you know, and we're
17 they're going and stuff they're carrying, if they're on a
18 high interest, you know, shipping list and so forth.

19 Uh, so I kind of look for that. And in doing so I can
20 kind of tell him okay, this is this type of vessel, you
21 know, this is a tanker, this is cargo, this is a fishing
22 vessel, whatever.

23 So, uhm, we were doing that. So, one of the things
24 you asked me I think is, uh, when I assume the Watch, like

1 what are some of the things that I'm looking at and what
2 are some of things I'm doing.

3 Well, the first thing I look for I see a lot of, you
4 know, clutter on the screen. I may not necessarily know if
5 that's a, uh, valid contact, if there's like feedback from,
6 you know, because like I said we were pretty close
7 proximity to land. So, a lot of times you'll get like
8 some, uh, back scatter from land and then a lot of times
9 just the sheer way of the, you know, RF works, you know, a
10 lot of stuff is reflecting our own emissions or -- or kind
11 of being sent back.

12 So, I try to see are there -- are these actual tracks
13 and if they are, are they valid? Uhm, so, I utilize him to
14 do that. I utilize some -- some other resources to do that
15 too and when I -- and [REDACTED] is one of them.

16 Uhm, I think [REDACTED] at least as far as I'm concerned it
17 tends to be I rely more on the [REDACTED], uh, then I do with the
18 radar, because the radar has a minimum range and since we
19 are in close proximity to a bunch of stuff, uh, it's going
20 to get drowned -- whatever is there will be -- would
21 probably get drowned out by our -- all the emissions that
22 the ship is putting out.

23 So, and a lot of times if I pick up a contact on A--,
24 uh, on the [REDACTED] I don't get a course or speed. I'll
25 get a bearing in range and I don't get anything else from

1 that. Now, if I go to [REDACTED] and the reason why I say I rely
2 more on [REDACTED] or I like it, uh, I think it's more accurate is
3 because it's pretty much the ship is saying this is what
4 I'm doing. So, I kind of rely on that a little more trying
5 to match it up with what he has on radar and then we try
6 to, uhm, you know, try to, you know, track them that way
7 and try to come to or make some type of identification.

8 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Do you have any
9 background questions that you want to go to? I just need a
10 minute.

11 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Yeah. Uh, just going
12 through the, uh, the talk here just a couple of things that
13 popped in my mind.

14 [REDACTED] Sure

15 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] So, I'm going back to the
16 beginning here. Just going through the timeline here.
17 Uhm, you said you did a couple of hours of sleep?

18 [REDACTED] I did.

19 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And I think you said
20 that's exclusive to me. How --

21 [REDACTED] Well, okay. So, I -- maybe I
22 shouldn't speak for anybody else.

23 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Okay.

24 [REDACTED] Okay. So, I -- I -- I know, uh, a lot
25 of folks don't have the luxury, uhm, that I do to be able

1 to do that. Uh, because of the fact that they are on
2 special evolutions and it's particularly the Junior Sailors
3 and I would think all of the JO's because they rotate those
4 guys out to different Watch Stations pretty good. Uhm, the
5 nature of my job is not that, you know, cumbersome that I,
6 you know, I don't have time throughout the day to, you
7 know, go to the gym and, you know, get stuff done and maybe
8 get some, you know, get some sleep. I know I need sleep
9 before the Watch because I know my body.

10 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, I make it a habit, you know? It's
12 like a routine. I get on the Facebook, I check with [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED] you know, after dinner and I tell her which Watch I
14 have. Typically, earlier in the day I tell her which Watch
15 I have and then I kind of plan my day around.

16 Uh, so I know I'm going to be on Watch at a certain
17 time and try to give her, uh, talk to her a little bit
18 prior to me, you know, trying to get some sleep before my
19 Watch.

20 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. So, you have a
21 little more flexibility --

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I do.

23 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- and you -- you know
24 that it's good to get some rest beforehand?

1 [REDACTED] Yeah. I'm an old man. I need it.

2 So, yeah.

3 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] I'm not [REDACTED] yet, but I'll
4 get there eventually. Uh, is there a [REDACTED] radio down in
5 that space at your section that monitors or the CIC as a
6 whole monitors?

7 [REDACTED] Uh, they have a -- they do. Uh, so at
8 the chart table, uh, over where the OS's are we have, uh,
9 we have Bridge to Bridge, so we monitor Bridge to Bridge
10 and there's several other circuits that we monitor, or that
11 are monitored in CIC.

12 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Which channel is monitored
13 on the Bridge to Bridge?

14 [REDACTED] Uh, it's either channel [REDACTED] or channel
15 [REDACTED], whichever one they're -- uh, so they usually from -- if
16 I can recall, um, they usually will hail a vessel on a
17 certain channel and then switch over to an alternate
18 channel and then pass through traffic.

19 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Okay. So that's nearby
20 but not at your station?

21 [REDACTED] No, that's not -- and that's something
22 that I would not be even, you know, I don't talk on that
23 channel and that's not part of my scope of --

24 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] That's not your duty.

25 [REDACTED] Right.

1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Great. Uhm, do you know -
2 - so, since you talked about [REDACTED] a couple of times. Do you
3 know if the Fitzgerald's [REDACTED] was transmitting?

4 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Transmitting?

5 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Like sending out
6 information to other Vessels?

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I wouldn't know. I don't have any
8 information on that.

9 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] All right.

10 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I know it was working for me. But I
11 don't know who was getting or the recipient of the
12 information we were sending that.

13 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, let me take that --
14 one more, one more try again. So, obviously you're
15 receiving [REDACTED] information because --

16 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sure.

17 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- you had the laptop up
18 and you could pick out all the information.

19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sure.

20 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Are you aware and if you
21 don't know, you don't know and that's totally fine.

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sure.

23 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Do you know that the
24 Vessel's [REDACTED] was sending information out?

25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The, the other Vessel?

1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Or --
2 [REDACTED] Our, our -- my ship?
3 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] The Fitzgerald.
4 [REDACTED] I have no idea.
5 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] No idea. All right.
6 Because yeah, we're going to get back to the other vessels
7 here shortly.
8 [REDACTED] Sure.
9 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Uhm, --
10 [REDACTED] May I, uh, is this --
11 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] That's for you.
12 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Yeah, that's for you.
13 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] All right. So, again you
14 -- all right, so let's go back to my other question. Uh,
15 explain the layout of what tools you have available? Like,
16 when you're sitting at your console, what are you seeing
17 around you?
18 [REDACTED] Okay. So, if I'm sitting at my
19 console and I'm sitting forward, uhm, I have right in front
20 of me is, because I'm at the actual radar console.
21 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Uh-huh.
22 [REDACTED] Uh, off to my, okay, so off to -- off
23 to my right, uh, there's a [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] standalone
24 [REDACTED], uh, computer that I have, uh, that I have, uh,

1 that I monitor for chat channels. Uh, [REDACTED] chat
2 channels.

3 Uh, and also off to kind of catty corner there's an [REDACTED]
4 laptop that's sitting on a -- it's actually sitting on
5 another [REDACTED], it's the, uh, [REDACTED] control system that we
6 don't really use unless we're getting ready to do like an
7 engagement, no one is sitting there, so we kind of sit it
8 there.

9 And so off to my left like right next to me is like
10 the, uh, [REDACTED] we call it, that's where the
11 [REDACTED], uh, if I'm getting ready to launch [REDACTED] then
12 the operators sit there. And, uh, that's just a, kind of
13 like a terminal there and then right next to that is the,
14 uh, the, uh, Surface Warfare Supervisor with the [REDACTED]
15 Operator. And, uh, is that it? Or do you want me to --

16 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No, just --

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay.

18 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- so your tools that
19 you're primarily using are going to be those displays?

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Well, I mean I kind of have tools all
21 over CIC --

22 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] True.

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- to do my job, because I have the
24 OSS Operator who is a -- it's just a weapons guy, either a
25 gunner's mate or a Fire Controlman and they're sitting at

1 the, uh, we have an [REDACTED], uh, [REDACTED] that we use -- we
2 really use it for when we're doing a, uh, when we're
3 shooting our, uh, you know, [REDACTED]

4 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Or our [REDACTED] guns. So, we also
6 can use that for navigation. I mean and then there's just
7 other positions around CIC that I have to rely on as well.

8 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] All right.

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Including -- including the [REDACTED]
10 and including the [REDACTED] that are there

11 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] All right. And then, uh,
12 one other question that came to mind. So, again you've got
13 the radar, you said you've been using [REDACTED] a lot because
14 it's folks --

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Well, I use them both. Uhm, I use
16 them both. I mean there are times where the, uh, the [REDACTED],
17 and I use the [REDACTED] down in CIC, the operator next to me he
18 also uses the [REDACTED]. I have the flexibility, I can switch
19 radar, I can go from the [REDACTED] to the [REDACTED].

20 On the Bridge, they have -- they're using the, uh, the
21 [REDACTED]. Uh, so there have been times where, uh, you know,
22 we've had some issues where, you know, obviously the [REDACTED] and
23 the [REDACTED] don't match up for the contact picture. And even
24 more so, uh, like I said I'm using [REDACTED] and the guy next to

1 me is using the exact same radar, but we don't even have
2 the same picture.

3 So, it's just a, uh, like I said, I personally, I
4 don't, I've had so many issues with the [REDACTED] and like I
5 said especially if we're in like a pretty close range and
6 if it came down to, you know, hey, I don't have this on the
7 [REDACTED], a lot of times I may or may not have it on the [REDACTED].

8 So, if I have it on the [REDACTED] then I use that, uh, as
9 well and then what we typically try to do is to try to find
10 it on the [REDACTED] to see if we can identify it somewhere on the
11 [REDACTED]. Because if it's being broadcasted on [REDACTED] then it's
12 probably there somewhere.

13 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Okay. So, so that kind of
14 works us up to, uh, I guess contact reporting. Because we
15 have folks looking at radars, we have folks looking at the
16 [REDACTED], we do have a camera that can be swiveled around and
17 define things.

18 [REDACTED] Right.

19 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Uhm, when you have a
20 contact that's going to be reported and that goes to the
21 Watch Supervisor or, or --

22 [REDACTED] So the Watch Supervisor will report,
23 uh, he -- SWS is reporting the contacts up to the Bridge,
24 uh, so the Captain's, so the Captain's Night Orders, I mean
25 I'm sorry, the Captain's standing orders say that CIC, uh,

1 contacts that are within [REDACTED] yards, so [REDACTED] miles are
2 reported to the Bridge.

3 So, what the Bridge should be doing is, uh, obviously
4 so they're looking at the -- they're looking at the
5 contacts and then the, uh, the Surface Warfare Supervisor
6 is bouncing off what he is seeing what the Bridge has. Uh,
7 when they have a close CPA, uh, so down in CIC the OS's
8 that are down there they start up a MoBoard, uh, solution.

9 So, the Bridge will do the MoBoards -- do a MoBoard
10 solution and then CIC would do a MoBoard solution and they
11 would make sure that they're both acc--, you know, they
12 should be relatively close. And, uh, I mean obviously, and
13 if they're not close, uhm, then they typically do another -
14 - they typically do another solution.

15 And we get in the habit of doing those, uh, with
16 pretty much every time the Bridge calls down to say we're
17 going to do a MoBoard solution, uh, often they'll say hey,
18 we suggest you guys do the same. We're going to do a
19 MoBoard solution up here. Can you guys do one down there?
20 And they want to see how accurate they are and we just kind
21 of get in the habit of doing it for the operators because
22 it's a tool for training.

23 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] All right. So, I -- this
24 is where I'm just trying to -- to narrow down on contacts.

1 And who reports what to who. Uhm, so you said, uh, SWS
2 communicates with the Bridge of what contacts they have?
3 [REDACTED] Yeah. So, SWS will call the Bridge
4 and say hey, you know, Bridge, you know I have this contact
5 here, but I think in this situation, so we had a contact
6 report was made, uh, prior to, uhm, so it was made from CIC
7 I guess prior to the time I came on Watch, uh, that we were
8 approaching a TSS.

9 And like I said there's not a whole lot of traffic
10 that kind of goes back and forth on the Bridge, uh, between
11 us and the Bridge, uh, typically in that situate--, and I
12 don't -- I don't know if -- I don't want to say typically,
13 I can't speak on -- I can only speak from my experience.

14 Uh, because of the close proximity and they're trying
15 to work the -- the contact picture and maneuver it a way
16 through traffic, uh, so a contact report was made, uh, my
17 input to the contact report is typically like I said, I
18 have additional tools to help identify, uh, what those
19 contacts may be. Uhm, I'm on [REDACTED], everybody is on [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED].
21 So, uh, if a contact report is not made or if the
22 Bridge requires any additional assistance then they'll call
23 down. They typically call down to Combat and they require
24 for some kind of assistance either hey, can you check, uh,
25 do you guys have a CPA on this?

1 Are you guys picking up anything in this -- at this
2 bearing and range? And, uh, so if the SWS is working on a
3 MoBoard or doing something like that then I will answer up.
4 Uh, and I also, uh, I can tell the OSS Operator, camera
5 operator to, uh, pan over to a -- a course or a, uh, a
6 bearing so we could see if something there. And that's
7 typically what I do.

8 So, every time we do a course change, uh, I have OSS
9 slew over to a bearing to make sure that there's nothing
10 that's going to be impede our traffic. So, we did that
11 quite a few -- quite a bit that night.

12 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] All right. So, correct me
13 if I'm wrong. And anybody can jump in on this, because
14 like I said, I'm, I'm wrapping my head around it and I
15 think I'm going to give the questions over to these guys
16 here shortly. But I just -- I want to get it. SWS is
17 responsible for picking out contacts. Your job is to
18 identify threats?

19 [REDACTED] My job is the Surface Warfare
20 Coordinator. So, my job is to take our -- based on what
21 our operating -- if we're operating with a strike group or
22 we're operating independent, take our surveillance area,
23 which is, is designated by, uh, DESRON or CTF 70 what our
24 surveillance area will be or our CIEA, that's the area that

1 we have to, uh, Contact Identification and Engagement and
2 then our vital area.

3 And so, it's typically either, you know, 30 miles, uh,
4 60, 100, that's kind of like the standard unless it's been
5 -- unless it's -- unless it's, uh, uh, they come out with
6 something more specific.

7 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, and my job is to identify any, any
9 type of, uh, combatants and, and to, uh, report those to
10 the TAO. And I'm also, uh, if, if we have to do any type
11 of weapons engagement then I initiate those engagements as
12 well. So, the reason why my job itself, uh, like I was
13 talking about earlier.

14 There is a lot of, you know, uh, I guess
15 crosspollination or kind of overlap because, uh, the job
16 that SWS does and the CIC Watch Officer, uh, there are
17 certain things that they use to do their job that I also
18 use to, you know, to do my job. So, we're using the same
19 radar. We're using some of the same resources.

20 So, but at the same time I'm -- I'm focused on I'm
21 communicating with [REDACTED], I'm monitoring voice circuit,
22 I'm also looking at chat. I'm looking at intel threat
23 tippers that are coming in. I'm pulling Op tasks, so and
24 I'm looking at [REDACTED], so I'm not -- we have a dedicated [REDACTED]
25 Operator whose primary job is to sit there, he's got the

1 radar scope. He tags all the contacts and then he tries to
2 ID those contacts either with their neutral, uh, with, you
3 know, hostile or whatever it would be, what have you.

4 And then I can assist with that -- with those
5 identifications because ultimately my job is to an
6 identification.

7 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] All right. So, that's why
8 SWS is contacting to the Bridge and saying there is a
9 contact, do you see it? What do we have?

10 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right. And when the Bridge is
11 communicating, they're also communicating down to when they
12 say CIC, they're communicating with him. So, they pass
13 their course and speed changes, uh, directly to him. He is
14 the -- he or she are the folks that are Rogering up on that
15 and they're the ones that are logging it.

16 If they need a MoBoard to be done, then those are the
17 guys that are doing those MoBoards. Because my SWS
18 Operator is also an OS. It's an OS, so he can do the
19 MoBoard and then there's two other OS's like at the chart
20 table with the [REDACTED], you know, they've got the [REDACTED] up and
21 all that. So, we're essentially, everybody is looking at
22 the same picture. And they can -- they can assist with
23 that as well.

24 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Thank you. That's great
25 description.

1 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] So, how about your
2 roles and responsibilities as it relates to navigation?

3 [REDACTED] So, we all have our, I mean I'm not
4 going to say -- we all have a responsibility for that. You
5 know, like I said I'm -- I'm an able body and, uh, we -- we
6 kind of take that stuff very seriously. So, if there's
7 something that is there, uh, that should be reported then
8 obviously I can either prompt, you know, the SWS Operator
9 to report it or I can contact the TAO. Uh, and my -- a lot
10 of my COMM's are going directly to the TAO anyhow. Uh, or,
11 you know, there have been times where you had to do a
12 MoBoard and I say hey, you know, yell to one of the OS's,
13 you know, let's do a MoBoard.

14 And like I said, every time there's a course change,
15 uh, I tell the OSS because he's right next to me hey, uh,
16 we need to -- I need you to scan over to this bearing and
17 make sure, uh, there are no contacts there or tell me what
18 you see.

19 The additional instructions that I give him always,
20 because I know sometimes it's dead on Watch and he's, this
21 guy is literally sitting there and he's looking at a
22 [REDACTED], uh, video feed and a lot of times there are no
23 contacts, he's looking at the -- at the ocean. So, I have
24 him do periodic scans over the horizon to make sure there

1 are no ships coming over the horizon. So, I -- I -- I try
2 to do my best to engage those guys.

3 Like I said I'm not, I'm a little bit older, been in
4 the Navy a little bit longer, so when I come on Watch, uh,
5 I -- I try to keep those guys engaged, because I know it
6 gets dull in CIC. And, you know, I don't want them falling
7 asleep or anything like that. So, I keep them engaged. I
8 either talk to them. At one particular point, I had the
9 OSS Operator stand up that night because I saw that he was
10 -- looked like he was getting ready to doze off. So, I had
11 him stand up. Uhm, I myself, you know, I have a little
12 stretch bands that I bring in there with me. And if I feel
13 myself getting tired I stand up and I just use my stretch
14 bands and I'm looking at, I'm looking at my screens and I
15 just kind of keep -- keep myself, try to keep myself alert.

16 So, I think my responsibility there is to try to help
17 the Bridge wherever I can. And also, to try to engage
18 those guys to make sure they stay alert and that they're
19 able to provide the best, uh, best support they can to the
20 Bridge. And I think we do a pretty good job at that. The
21 CIC Watch Officers seem to be pretty engaged. We've got an
22 OS1 down there who is the, uh, the CIC Supervisor, he keeps
23 those guys kind of engaged. And then, you know, the TAO,
24 so. We do a pretty good job at that I think.

1 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] All right. And so,
2 uh, leading up to the incident, uh, did you have any
3 advanced notification or warning, uh, that it was -- that a
4 collision may be imminent?

5 [REDACTED] Yes. So, uh, I didn't get any -- I
6 didn't get any radar, I didn't pick up anything on the [REDACTED].
7 Uh, this was like one of the times, so I had stood up --
8 so, I guess if I -- if I'm able to, you know, give you a
9 better explanation kind of at least -- kind of help paint
10 kind of like the events that unfolded.

11 So, like I said I had a four-hour watch, right? Uhm,
12 so it was about our last hour of watch. And we call it, I
13 call it the power hour. That's it. That's like we did,
14 we're down to the last hour. So, we got there, we're down
15 to the last stretch, so. Uhm, that -- that's around the
16 time that it seemed like we were past our busy parts of the
17 traffic and we kind of looked like we were in open ocean.

18 So, I'm not picking up anything on the [REDACTED] Radar. And
19 you know, it's -- I didn't get anything on the radar, uhm,
20 my watch is supposed to -- my relief should be there around
21 0145, uh, it's about a little after 0100 I want to say, uh,
22 0105, 0110 somewhere around that timeframe. And the reason
23 why I know this is is because I kind of timed it this way.

24 I was kind of waiting, uh, to make a head call because
25 it was like either I go now or I kind of wait to turnover.

1 And I don't want to, you know, rush through turnover, you
2 know, I'd been drinking a lot of water, so. I kind of try
3 to time it and I thought that was the best opportunity to,
4 uh, to be able to take my head call because of the traffic.
5 And because it appeared that we were -- we were pretty much
6 in, you know, like in open water.

7 So, you know, my process there is so I get up, I let,
8 uh, the SWS operator know that I'm going to make a head
9 call. I let the OSS Operator I'm going to make a head
10 call. I let the chart table know and then I go and inform
11 the TAO and TO, you know, is the one who can authorize me
12 to go make a head call. So, I made a head call, uh,
13 probably weren't gone longer than 10 minutes. It was, you
14 know, pretty quick.

15 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] What time was that again?

16 [REDACTED] I want to say it was around 0105,
17 0110, sir.

18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

19 [REDACTED] It was pretty early, uh, into that --
20 that -- that last, uh, right after 0100. And like I said
21 the reason why I can be sure of the details is because I
22 was just going to hold it. And then I was like yeah, I
23 better not. I better just go because I don't want to -- so
24 anyhow, uh, gone no longer than 10 minutes. Came back and
25 same thing, so when I come back I let them know I'm back.

1 Again, I check my -- I check the radar and make sure
2 nothing additional popped up or anything while I was gone.
3 Have OSS he's doing constant scans over the horizon. He's
4 looking for stuff, he don't see anything. So, we're good
5 to go on that.

6 At that point, uhm, I'm starting to collect my
7 thoughts and data and everything for the turnover. Uh, so
8 and that basically consists of like some of the things I
9 told you earlier. Uh, any -- any new, uh, Op Tasks or any
10 task that came down from [REDACTED] uhm, that needs to get
11 relayed to the TAO or onto the other, uh, Surface Warfare
12 Coordinators.

13 Uh, so voice comm, so we do voice comms check every
14 hour, so, uh, that. And to make sure there's no, like,
15 threat tippers or anything in chat or anything. So, I do
16 that and then at that point I'm like okay, good. You know,
17 I'm standing up, I'm stretching and stuff like that. So,
18 to answer your question, and I'm sorry I kind of went
19 longwinded, but I was trying to paint that -- that scene if
20 you will.

21 Uh, so I'm looking at [REDACTED], I don't see anything going
22 on the [REDACTED], but I'm looking at [REDACTED] I get a pop-up, uh,
23 contact and I'm not sure what that is. So, it was
24 something that wasn't there when I left, it wasn't there
25 when I came back and I'm doing all my scans and something

1 popped up. Right? I don't know what it is. So, I -- with
2 anything else -- when any other time that happens I have my
3 immediate reaction is hey OSS, I need you to go to this
4 bearing and, uh, and let me know if you see anything. So,
5 he goes to and I can't remember off of the top of my head
6 what bearing that was. But he pans his camera over to
7 that, uh, that bearing and, uh, and for the first time
8 that's when we see that -- we saw a Vessel there. We saw a
9 ship, right? He says sir, I got a ship. And I said okay,
10 well what kind of ship is it? And I think he said it's a
11 Cargo Vessel. I'm sure he said it was a Cargo Vessel.
12 And, uhm, before anything else I -- I felt a -- the ship
13 started to shake like, you know, if like a ferocious
14 shaking. And then immediately following that within
15 seconds it was like a -- the collision. And then so that's
16 kind of how those events kind of transpired. So, I think I
17 may have been the first one who, uh, well at least in CIC,
18 uhm, that noticed that there was -- that there was
19 something there. And I picked that up on [REDACTED].

20 So, and I mean that -- and that happened so quickly,
21 it was like OSS I need you to go over to this bearing, he
22 goes over to the bearing. He's looking. He's zooming in
23 and out. He's panning his camera, whatever he's doing and
24 then he comes up on it. I mean I could see it. I'm asking
25 him what it is. He told me I think -- I be--, I'm certain

1 he told me it was a Cargo Vessel and then, uh, before I
2 even had a chance to even come back over to my console or
3 to do anything that shaking started of the ship and, uh,
4 initially I thought that we were -- we were ex--, we were
5 coming back, we were doing an all back full. That's what
6 it -- that's what it felt like to me initially.

7 So, I didn't know what it was. And then the collision
8 happened, uh, after that.

9 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Have you had
10 opportunities to, uh, speak with the Commanding Officer
11 whether through Watch routines or one on one?

12 [REDACTED] That night.

13 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Uh, not that night.
14 Just in general.

15 [REDACTED] Absolutely.

16 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Uh, how would you, uh,
17 how would you categorize, uh, his approachability?

18 [REDACTED] He's very approachable. He's, uh,
19 yeah, he's extremely approachable. In fact, uhm, he wants
20 you to come to him especially if there's something that,
21 uh, you don't understand or something that's not clear.
22 Uh, he's a very -- I mean he was like that as XO. So, I
23 mean when he became Captain nothing really changed. So,
24 he's very approachable. I have not found to -- I have not

1 found him to be, uh, unapproachable for any of the officers
2 or any of the, uh, the khakis.

3 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Uh, does he have a
4 reputation for dress downs? You know, if somebody is
5 messing up and whatnot and, uh, it comes to his attention
6 of taking exception and issue with it being heavy handed?

7 [REDACTED] He was, okay, so he had a very
8 different demeanor from the previous Captain, Commander [REDACTED]
9 where Commander [REDACTED] was a, you know, kind of I don't want
10 to laid back, but kind of more passive if you will. Uhm, a
11 little bit, uh, you know, relaxed demeanor. Uh, so
12 Commander [REDACTED] was kind of more in your face kind of guy.
13 Uhm, he was direct. So, it was one of those things where
14 he wanted you to understand, uh, that if he was unhappy
15 about something, but at the same time, uh, you know, it
16 was, it was kind of like a -- he made a lesson out of
17 whatever that -- whatever that issue may have been.

18 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Uh, would you say that
19 you had a good working relationship with him both as XO and
20 as CO?

21 [REDACTED] Yeah, I would.

22 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] And in doing so, could
23 you assess whether or not he had any personal pet peeves
24 that you were aware of that you tried to manage and keep in
25 check when engaged with him?

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He didn't like a lot of chatter in
2 combat. Uh, he liked -- he liked the, uh, and he would
3 often put that in his -- in the Night Orders. Uh, he did
4 not like -- he wanted, uh, he wanted everyone to be at
5 their position and he wanted -- he required that you keep
6 your headphones on at all times.

7 So, he was kind of big on that for combat. Uhm, and,
8 uh, I didn't see doing that much as CO occasionally would
9 come down into CIC, uh, but as XO he was in CIC quite a
10 bit, so. Uh, that was one of the things he, he --
11 obviously he took -- he addressed the TAO, uh, if he
12 didn't, if folks weren't wearing their headsets or if there
13 was a lot of excessive noise in combat.

14 And from my understanding he was that exact same way
15 on the Bridge with that requirement.

16 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Thank you for that.

17 [REDACTED] Yeah.

18 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You said that they're --
19 so I'm at on the radar. No contacts were visible?

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I did not pick up that, that Cargo
21 Vessel on radar. I picked him up on, on [REDACTED]. So, he did
22 not show up on the [REDACTED].

23 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And you mentioned on the
24 [REDACTED] there was sort of a clutter or if there's a space where
25 it doesn't pick up.

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yeah, and I don't even know the exact,
2 uh, range of that ar--, I mean I know the [REDACTED] has a minimum
3 range, uh, you know, I've been told it's anywhere from [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED], but I can't -- I can't be certain. The
5 only thing I know is, uh, from the times that I've stood
6 Watch, uh, I don't think, I don't even know if there's an
7 exact science. There's some things that I pick up and
8 there's sometimes I don't pick up things and it's like,
9 uhm, and I can't even explain it. And like I said I'm
10 sitting right, maybe it's settings. Maybe you know,
11 different settings and that's the only thing I'd say.

12 So, one--, so now that I'm thinking about it. So, one
13 of the other things that we tend to do is if I'm taking
14 over the Watch, obviously, I like some -- my, my scope kind
15 of set up to the way I'm comfortable with it, right? So,
16 I'll adjust some settings, right?

17 So, every Watchstander has their own preferences. So,
18 sometimes if I can't see certain things I'll adjust the
19 noise level or noise floor level and stuff like that. You
20 know, I'll zoom in to like and on this particular night,
21 uh, I think I was zoomed into about, you know, about [REDACTED]
22 miles or so. So, when it's a lot of dense traffic I kind
23 of want to see everything that takes place. While some
24 operators they like to zoom out a little further and they
25 set their noise level to different, uh, other settings.

1 So -- but I guess what I'm saying is I'll have a radar
2 operator sitting right next to me and I'll be sitting here.
3 And we're looking at the same thing, and the reason why I
4 kind of get on that operator a lot is because if you tag a
5 contact and it's not moving or the radar is not constantly
6 picking up that contact. Uh, from my experience it drops.
7 Like the radar will just drop it, right? And then you got
8 to go through all the trouble again to hook, re-hook that
9 contact. And in my case, you know, I got to get course and
10 the speed and all of that stuff and then I got to figure
11 out the category and put the code in and figure out what
12 type of contact it is. So, I have to do -- it's like a lot
13 of extra re-work on my part.

14 So, I tend to be more strict on the, on the radar
15 operator to not let these things drop. And you will get
16 like a little countdown, right, it'll tell you kind of when
17 it gets to one it's going to drop, right? And then you got
18 to go through the process of hooking it again. But a lot
19 of times he don't have -- like if I hook a contact, he
20 doesn't see it on his screen. And then I have to ask the
21 question, are you using the [REDACTED] or using the [REDACTED]? And so, we
22 kind of go through that. So, it's -- it's just kind of
23 tricky, you know, because sometimes you see things on
24 there, and sometimes things show up and sometimes they
25 don't. Sometimes I have things and he doesn't and then

1 vice versa. Sometimes there's nothing on [REDACTED], but I have it
2 on [REDACTED]. Sometimes it's on [REDACTED] or not only [REDACTED], but it's on
3 [REDACTED]. Sometimes the Bridge has it on the [REDACTED] and they don't
4 pick it up and we don't pick it up down in CIC.

5 And, you know, the Bridge they have an [REDACTED] repeater
6 too, so I think, uh, as far as [REDACTED] goes that's -- that
7 tends to be pretty, I don't think we have any real issues
8 back and forth with what they're picking up on their [REDACTED]
9 repeater and what I have down in CIC.

10 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So you have the [REDACTED] laptop
11 next to your console on that work station?

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes.

13 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh, is there any
14 additional laptops that you're aware of onboard the Vessel?

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes. There is a, there is a repeater
16 on the Bridge, but that's not a laptop and then over on the
17 EW Station, which is on the opposite side of CIC, they have
18 a -- they have a laptop repeater as well. So, they can't
19 manipulate any tracks where I can click on a track and I
20 can get like, you know, it's bearing course speed and all
21 that stuff, characteristics. Uh, they can only, it's just
22 a repeater so they just see --

23 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He's watching what you're
24 --

25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Pretty much, right.

1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- doing on your laptop?

2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

3 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Do you know -- so I -- you
4 just were mentioning the [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] you know,
5 different things -- equipment sees different things. Uhm,
6 have you had any issues with the [REDACTED] receiver of, like you
7 mentioned pop-in?

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, we -- okay, so I mean obviously
9 that's a term that we just kind of as the Surface Warfare
10 Coordinators use those like a pop-up. Initially is like a
11 track that I'm not tracking, like I can't see an actual,
12 uh, movement path and it just kind of, it's there. Uhm, it
13 kind of just kind of shows up out of the blue and we just
14 kind of, I just kind of refer to that as a pop-up. That's
15 just a term that we use.

16 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Do you know what model [REDACTED]
17 is being used or when it may have been installed?

18 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I don't. I know we, uh, we recently,
19 uhm, we had a new software upgrade of [REDACTED] because we locked
20 ourselves out, uh, and we had to wait several months to get
21 it. So, for a while we didn't even have [REDACTED] Uh, we
22 didn't have that laptop anyway, I mean obviously they still
23 had the, uh, I think they still had their repeater on the
24 Bridge, but we didn't have that laptop because it was

1 locked out. Uh, so I know we had a, uh, a software
2 upgrade, but I'm not sure of what version that we received.

3 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Do you know when that new,
4 uh, version was received onboard the Vessel?

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] If I'm not mistaken I'd want to say
6 around February timeframe and I think the reason why I say
7 February is because, uh, that was kind of like we were in
8 SRA for several months, uh, and that's around the time we
9 were coming out of SRA and we were starting our sea trials,
10 starting to get underway again, and, um, so it was around
11 that timeframe where we started to get our systems up. And
12 [REDACTED] didn't come up like right away, uh, when we started
13 getting underway, but it was within that same timeframe.
14 Because we had to wait for the passwords to come back and a
15 bunch of other stuff. We're not assist admins for that
16 system.

17 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Understood. So, when you
18 had that [REDACTED] signal pop-up and you asked the OSS to go turn
19 to a certain bearing. Do you recall the bearing that you
20 asked him to turn to?

21 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No. I, but I -- I don't recall it.
22 But I, it popped up. So, and then with any other -- with
23 anything that shows up on the [REDACTED] I click -- I can click --
24 I click on it and then I right click and then I can get
25 like, you know, I can click on the characteristics, that's

1 when I started getting bearing and range and stuff like
2 that.

3 I remember, uh, it showing up as unknown, if I'm not
4 mistaken. Uh, so I had a bearing and I didn't really pay
5 attention to -- I cannot recall what the, uh, the range
6 was, but I had a bearing and so I told the, uh, OSS to slew
7 over to that bearing. Uh, if I had to -- I've been trying
8 to remember all the details of this event since it took
9 place. And I intentionally try not to talk to anybody else
10 so I wouldn't get too many details in my head.

11 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

12 [REDACTED] If I had to speculate or if I had to
13 guess I would -- maybe 160165, I'm not sure, I'm not sure.
14 But for some reason that kind of stands out to me. I think
15 we were going on a course of either two zero zero or one
16 eight zero, I can't really remember, but it was actually
17 more of a southerly course and I remember this was on our
18 starboard side, uh, so yeah, I can't really recall.

19 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] No, that's fine. And I
20 guess -- so when you say it's starboard side, are you
21 talking, uh, like 45 degrees from starboard from the bow?
22 Or are you feeling it's closer to 90? Like if you had to
23 gut check it?

24 [REDACTED] Uh, I can't really recall.

1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] That's all right. That's
2 not a problem. Uhm, regarding [REDACTED] Again, uh, new
3 software was installed. Do you know who -- who tests that?
4 Or if there's a daily test, weekly test? Who -- how do you
5 verify the information that's on that laptop?

6 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I wouldn't know, uh, I've never
7 witnessed anybody calibrating it or doing any type of
8 system test, because we don't log out of it. So, it stays
9 up. Uhm, we log out of it we may not be able to log back
10 in. So, we typically don't even mess with it. I mean they
11 have like ET's, Electronic Technicians that they -- they
12 manage that system.

13 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Who -- as part of the underway
14 checkoff list process, what division, what department is
15 responsible for [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh, it's probably, uh, sir, it's
17 probably the uh, the ET shop.

18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, the CED, CED Division?

19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, it'd be the CED Division.

20 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] EMO?

21 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] EMO, yes sir.

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay.

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

24 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Who was the EMO
25 onboard?

1 [REDACTED] Uh, the EMO, uh, so we were -- it was
2 actually vacant. Uh, yeah, our EMO was, uh, was on LIMDU,
3 uh, so he didn't get underway with us. It'd probably been
4 vacant for about, I'd say about a month or so. Uh, so STO,
5 uhm, the Systems Test Officer, he was kind of filling both
6 roles as covering down as EMO and STO. There's a lot of
7 overlap in kind of what they do.

8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Who's the STO?

9 [REDACTED] Uh, Chief Warrant Officer [REDACTED], sir.

10 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

11 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] So between radar, the [REDACTED]
12 and the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] prior to the collision and we'll say
13 10/15 minutes.

14 [REDACTED] Sure.

15 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] How many contacts do you
16 believe were being tracked?

17 [REDACTED] I don't recall there being a lot of
18 contacts around us. Uh, that's why I say I think -- it
19 appeared to me that we were -- we were pretty -- I -- I
20 didn't have any contacts that I was tracking. If I could
21 just answer that. I didn't have any contacts and I'm not
22 aware of any contacts that were being tracked by SWS or the
23 Bridge. Uh, the Bridge, uh, didn't communicate down to me
24 or anyone in CIC that they had any contacts they were
25 tracking or that they were unsure of any -- any contacts or

1 if they needed any verification. And the, uh, the OSS was
2 giving instructions to do his periodic scan, so he wasn't
3 picking up or he didn't report that he had anything on
4 camera either.

5 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And let's say in 30
6 minutes prior to the collision. Or I'll say the whole
7 Watch.

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay.

9 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The whole Watch. What do
10 you feel or what do you know was the closest prior to the
11 collision closest that any other vessel had gotten to the
12 Fitzgerald?

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I don't recall any vessel dangerously
14 close, uh, to the Fitzgerald. And to the point where it
15 required anyone down in CIC to be alarmed. I don't recall
16 the -- the Bridge making any type of, uh, you know, course
17 changes that would cause us to -- I can't speak for anybody
18 else, but would cause me to think or believe that, uh, we
19 were putting the ship in danger. Uh, so I don't think at --
20 -- throughout the -- the remainder of the -- the majority of
21 the Watch I don't recall any, uh, contacts making any
22 abrupt course changes that looked like they would -- I
23 would, you know, classify them as a suspect or someone that
24 I would want to, uh, need to really analyze thoroughly and
25 I don't recall the Bridge making any maneuvers that I had

1 to question, you know, what their judgement was. And TAO
2 certainly didn't, because if it was done I would have heard
3 it over [REDACTED]

4 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And I think I have one or
5 two more questions here and then -- so I'll start -- start
6 a range and I'll go out further. Do you believe any Vessel
7 got within, unfortunately I'm doing this in nautical miles,
8 uh, so help me out with yards here. Any vessel within 1
9 nautical mile?

10 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] 2000 yards.

11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I don't believe so. No.

12 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] All right. So, we'll say
13 4000 yards?

14 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Ohm, I'm trying to think as we were
15 making ourselves, making our way through that traffic like
16 I described, so there may have been a time where there may
17 have been, in that situation there may have been a contact
18 within 4 miles, because we were -- I mean we were in the
19 TSS, so there may have -- that's, that's possible. I can't
20 recall any, any specific.

21 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. And, and I just
22 want to make sure we're on the same page here.

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right.

24 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, I'm thinking two
25 nautical miles. 4000 yards?

1 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

2 [REDACTED] Oh, two. So, I'm saying four miles,

3 so --

4 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Right.

5 [REDACTED] -- I thought you meant like, uh, so

6 I'm thinking like, uh, 8000 yards.

7 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Okay. So, 8000 yards

8 maybe?

9 [REDACTED] I can't say for certain.

10 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Sure, sure. And that's

11 fine.

12 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

13 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] We'll just put that as a

14 question mark maybe. Um, so let me go back. So, 2000

15 yards, no?

16 [REDACTED] No.

17 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] 4000 yards, which is two

18 nautical miles?

19 [REDACTED] I don't believe so.

20 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And I'm going to say 6000

21 yards?

22 [REDACTED] So, three miles?

23 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Three miles.

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, I'd say I think at this point I
2 would just kind of just be guessing. So, I can't say for
3 certain.

4 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And that's fine. If you
5 don't know, you don't know. And there's nothing wrong with
6 that, you don't, you're not supposed to be, you know,
7 there's many things going on, obviously you can't keep
8 track of everything on that Vessel --

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right.

10 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- that's going on. We
11 get that. So, as near as you can remember you don't
12 believe or don't recall anything within 6000 yards?

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right.

14 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And do you know at that
15 point the, uh, on the Standing Orders the CO is supposed to
16 be called?

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, the CO is supposed to be called,
18 uhm, at when a contact is within -- when a contact has a --
19 I got to try to remember this. So, CIC has to report to
20 contact to the Bridge, uh, when it's within, uh, [REDACTED] miles.
21 And a MoBoard is done when the contact is, uh, has a [REDACTED] mile
22 CPA. The Captain is notified by the Bridge when, uh, the
23 contact is within I want to say [REDACTED] miles with a [REDACTED] yard
24 CPA. Uh, so they have to make their contact report to the
25 Captain. So, [REDACTED] yard CPA. So, [REDACTED] miles.

1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Which is why I worked up
2 from two to four to six.

3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right.

4 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. All right. My
5 final question for this little batch here and then I'll
6 pass it off. We heard that there's a report prior to the
7 vessel getting back in June, uh, that there may have been
8 some electrical issues, possibly a [REDACTED]?

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] There, there was. There was a fire.

10 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Prior to and after that
11 incident are you aware of any electrical issues within the
12 CIC? Within your equipment? Whether it's radar, [REDACTED]
13 radio? Anything feels different --

14 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yeah, well we had a lot of, uh, we had
15 a lot of issues in radio. Uhm, for a while we didn't even
16 have -- we didn't even have [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] services for a
17 while. Uh, that was a major, uh, communications, uh,
18 casualty that, uhm, and we had tech reps onboard and they,
19 they could not, uhm, figure out what the source of that,
20 that casualty, uh, was from.

21 It limited it us in our ability to -- so, radio
22 couldn't create any additional accounts and they had to I
23 guess to try to salvage, uh, as much as a service possible,
24 uh, they disabled accounts for the majority of the ship,
25 uh, aside from, you know, the Department Heads and like

1 some key, uhm, key personnel that absolutely needed access.
2 So that was a big casualty and that lasted for a while.

3 Eventually we were able to get, uh, the [REDACTED] up and
4 running again, but like I said, uhm, they had to ma--, they
5 had issues with that where they couldn't resolve it. Uhm,
6 so we've had a number of, uh, electrical or communication
7 issues down in Radio that still have not been fully
8 explained how -- what caused them.

9 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] As for your equipment
10 itself, have you felt that there's any change in
11 capability?

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You mean like my Watch equipment?

13 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right.

14 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Or systems?

15 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Because you've been on
16 here for a little over 18 months now?

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right.

18 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, in that time from when
19 you first got onboard and you're seeing the equipment and,
20 and you're experienced, you've seen all this equipment
21 before I'm sure.

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right. I, I -- so I want to clarify,
23 are you talking about the Watch equipment or are you
24 talking about, so I'm a, I'm responsible for electronic

1 warfare, signal intelligence, so I own a lot of equipment
2 on the ship.

3 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Okay.

4 [REDACTED] So, if you're talking about equipment
5 like in the performance of my duties as a, you know, what I
6 was billeted there to do. Or are you talking more about
7 equipment in relation to what my, my Watchstanding
8 responsibilities are?

9 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] So, my original question
10 is more targeted towards the Watchstanding surface picture

11 --

12 [REDACTED] Okay. Right.

13 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] -- to say in your 18
14 months of standing Watch, have you been standing the
15 surface -- okay.

16 [REDACTED] So, like well, so --

17 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] When did you qualify OOD?

18 [REDACTED] I qual--, OD?

19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Yeah. You're a qualified OD,
20 right?

21 [REDACTED] I am. I qualified OD in, uh, 20--,
22 2011.

23 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

24 [REDACTED] On the, uh, [REDACTED].

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. And when did you re-qual
2 onboard, uh, Fitz?

3 [REDACTED] I requal'd on Fitz, uh, right before I
4 got qualified as, uh, Surface Warfare, so that would have
5 been probably, uh, I didn't even have a typical re-qual, so
6 I mean it's, it's -- so I -- it was, it was, uh, went in
7 the yard in May of 2016 and so probably if I had to -- if I
8 had to guess probably like April, somewhere around, uh,
9 March or April of 2016.

10 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] You got your -- you got your
11 SWCC qual and your OD re-qual?

12 [REDACTED] Well, I got the, uh, SUWC Qual in like
13 shortly after we got underway from, uh, getting on SRA, so
14 that would have been, uh, February, around February of
15 2017.

16 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] So February of '17 --

17 [REDACTED] Right.

18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] -- qualified SUWC. And then your
19 OD re-qual was, sounds like it was April of 2016?

20 [REDACTED] Yeah, roughly. Yes, sir.

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

22 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] So, since your time as OOD
23 and since your time doing the work in the CIC as SUWC, do
24 you feel that there's any change or degradation in the

1 radars, in the [REDACTED] has pictures gotten better, same,
2 worse?

3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The radars are, uhm, during my time as
4 standing, uh, so, OD, I never stood OD on this ship, so I
5 can't speak on the equipment status as OOD.

6 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, you requalified in April '16,
7 but you never -- you haven't actually stood the watch as
8 OOD?

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I've never stood the watch, no sir.
10 Because I'm an LDO.

11 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yeah, no, I got it.

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes, sir, so, I, so it's kind of like
13 a -- the reason why I re-qualified OOD is for CDO purposes.

14 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right.

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, the Captain, his policy basically
16 was, uhm, my -- as a prerequisite of getting a Command Duty
17 Officer qual you have to be OOD, he wants you qualified OOD
18 on his ship, so, uh, that's the reason why I said I didn't
19 have like a traditional kind of like qualification process.
20 Uh, so for me it was more so of, you know, getting familiar
21 with the Bridge, you know, stand Conning Officer, uh, the
22 Captain sees you up there, you know, do some evolutions and
23 then you're qualified and then sign off on my, uh, JQR.

24 So, I've never actually stood OD or took control of
25 the Deck. But to, but to -- Lieutenant, to answer your

1 question. Uhm, didn't really notice any major changes. I
2 know from time to time we would have issues with the [REDACTED]
3 we'd have issues with the [REDACTED] where it was off like 10
4 degrees or so, you know, and stuff like that.

5 We usually let the C -- the Casualty Control
6 Coordinator down in CIC know, uh, then he'll dispatch ET's
7 out there to kind of troubleshoot and kind of fix the
8 issues. And we just had like kind of ongoing issues with,
9 uh, equipment. Nothing that kind of lasted for, uh, long
10 periods of time other than the stuff that's in radio and
11 the [REDACTED] issue, [REDACTED] issue that I mentioned earlier.
12 Everything else was just kind of typical. Uhm, you know
13 systems are running for a long period of time. Sometimes
14 they give out. And, uh, you know, simple troubleshooting
15 just resolves it.

16 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, [REDACTED] pop-up, that
17 happened often?

18 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] We get a lot of pop-ups, yes sir.
19 Uhm, we get a lot of pop-ups, uh, and -- and it's usually
20 like I said, if there's a lot of traffic or something
21 because, you know, I don't know how these things work, I
22 mean it's just a matter of, you know, getting that signal
23 or getting the -- receiving that information. If we're in
24 close proximity to land or other Vessels or whatnot. Uh,

1 so like a lot of times you'll just -- things will just kind
2 of pop-up. [REDACTED]

3 On certain occasions, I even questioned whether or not
4 the [REDACTED] was working because on some Watches I didn't
5 receive anything. And I'm like I know there's stuff out
6 there because I can see it on OSS and the Bridge is telling
7 us they visually see whatever, but I don't pick it up.

8 And if it's a merchant then I expect to see it on [REDACTED]
9 If it's a warship of some sort I don't expect to see that
10 on [REDACTED] But if it's a big tanker or some type of big
11 freighter or something, I expect it to -- I expect to see
12 it on [REDACTED] So, yeah there have been times where I didn't
13 see anything on [REDACTED] and I've had to dispatch, uh, the ET's
14 to come out and take a look at it to make sure, uhm, that
15 it was actually functioning.

16 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you for that.
17 I appreciate it.

18 [REDACTED] No problem.

19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] How about, can we take five?

20 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] I'm fine with that.

21 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, yeah.

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Excuse me.

23 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] We'll be back in five.

24 [REDACTED] Absolutely.

25 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER [REDACTED] Thanks for the break.

1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Appreciate it. We're
2 back.

3 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] A couple of questions for you.
4 Okay. So, from the collision up until half hour you've
5 taking Watch. What is the range of you guys' [REDACTED] From
6 how far out does your [REDACTED] pick up Vessels?

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] That I don't know.

8 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. So, at any point in time
9 during your Watch prior to the collision did you actually
10 see the Crystal on the list of Vessels within your route?

11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I did not.

12 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. You were saying that that
13 you can switch between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as you needed to for
14 radar?

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes.

16 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Now, can your SWS can he do the
17 same?

18 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He can.

19 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] When he's having issues?

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes.

21 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. Were you on board the
22 Vessel when they were inbound to, it starts with an S,
23 what's -- when the Vessel was inbound --

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sasebo.

25 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sasebo. For the --

1 [REDACTED] Sasebo.
2 MR. [REDACTED] Sasebo?
3 [REDACTED] Yes.
4 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Uh, we've heard that there
5 was near miss during that time. Now were you on watch
6 during that?
7 [REDACTED] I was not. Uh, I heard about that.
8 MR. [REDACTED] Uh-huh.
9 [REDACTED] Uhm, but I, I, uhm, I think it
10 happened at night, but that wasn't the watch that I was on.
11 And I cannot, I do not know which Surface Warfare
12 Coordinator was on Watch during that time.
13 MR. [REDACTED] All right.
14 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uh, was that, uh, curiosity. Was
15 that near miss debriefed to the wardroom in a formal way --
16 [REDACTED] I, I never heard it, sir. I heard it
17 through, uh, I only found out about that after this
18 collision. Uh, so --
19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.
20 [REDACTED] -- so prior to that I had no knowledge
21 of it.
22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.
23 MR. [REDACTED] So you had no knowledge prior,
24 there was no hotwashing, the surface guys didn't have a

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1 group conversation and say, you know, how did this happen?

2 How did we miss it?

3 [REDACTED] Absolutely not. No, sir.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So, no official or
5 unofficial hotwash?

6 [REDACTED] Not that I'm aware of. No, sir.

7 MR. [REDACTED] The TAO when you -- when you're
8 on Watch was Lieutenant [REDACTED]?

9 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

10 MR. [REDACTED] Uh, was she TAO during this
11 issue?

12 [REDACTED] I have no idea.

13 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Was any of the people that
14 you were standing Watch with in CIC on Watch during that
15 issue?

16 [REDACTED] I don't know for certain. But I mean
17 it's a possibility that some of them were, uh, because like
18 I said the Senior Watch Officer rotate the Watch Bill, uh,
19 quite a bit so I, I wouldn't have any knowledge of who was,
20 who was actual TAO or who was CIC Watch Officer because
21 normally they would rotate the -- either have the Junior
22 Officer's either in CIC or they would be JOD or OOD on the
23 Bridge, so they'll give them some Bridge time and then
24 they'll rotate them down to CIC.

1 MR. [REDACTED] All right. You said between 0105
2 and roughly 0110 you made a head call --

3 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

4 MR. [REDACTED] -- while you were on Watch?

5 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

6 MR. [REDACTED] You came back at roughly 0110 or
7 0115.

8 [REDACTED] So, I, I don't know the exact time
9 that I left to make that head call.

10 MR. [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

11 [REDACTED] I estimate it roughly around, it was
12 closer to the turn of the hour.

13 MR. [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

14 [REDACTED] Uh, so it was either around 0501, uh,
15 0105 or 0110, uh, but my estimate I wasn't, uh, I wasn't
16 gone longer than 10, about 10 minutes.

17 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So, from the time you got
18 back to the time of the collision is roughly 20 minutes.
19 In that 20-minute timeframe what exactly did you do?

20 [REDACTED] Okay. So, when I got back from making
21 my head call, so I made all my notifications that I was
22 back. Uh, so the TAO knew I was back, OSS, the SWS, uh,
23 and then, uh, I started checking the radar. So, I checked,
24 uh, looked, looked on the [REDACTED] to make sure nothing, uh, no

1 new contacts, uh, had gained any new contacts while I was
2 gone.

3 I could see the [REDACTED] I looked at the [REDACTED] laptop. The
4 beauty of this [REDACTED] Laptop is, uh, so I actually have
5 depictions of, of little vessels like kind of shaped like
6 ships, so it's easy to see. And then so I started checking
7 my chat channels to make sure, uh, that no -- nothing came
8 up while I was gone, I'm like, you know, [REDACTED]
9 requested something or any additional threat tippers or
10 anything came up. And then at that time, you know, I
11 started looking at the Watch, okay it's starting to get
12 close to turnover, so I need to start making sure I got the
13 picture and my pass down, uh, put together. And I tend to
14 pull up a, uh, a Word document or a notepad and just kind
15 of type things out or what I want to say and what I want to
16 turnover so I don't forget it.

17 So that's kind of what I was doing in that -- in that
18 timeframe of when I got back from my head call to, uh, the
19 time where I noticed that. Because like I mentioned before
20 at that point I was kind of standing because you know, I
21 started to feel kind of fatigue kind of setting in.

22 I had mentioned earlier that when I saw OSS, it kind
23 of looked like he was dozing off, you know, I told him hey,
24 you need to stand up and oh by the way why don't you use
25 this, you know, stretch out, you know, the guy likes to go

1 to the gym and stuff, so I told him you know do some
2 stretches and stuff like that.

3 So, at that point I started feeling myself, uh,
4 starting to get a little tired, so when I do feel myself
5 getting tired, that's the reason why I bring that to Watch,
6 every Watch. And, uh, I just start doing my stretches and
7 whatnot. You know, I still got my headset on. I still got
8 visual. I could see everything on my scope, so I'm in my
9 Watch area. So, and that's when I saw the pop-up and then
10 I leaned forward, I clicked on it, right, clicked on it, and
11 to get the bearing. Got the bearing, called it out to OSS,
12 hey I need you to slew over to this bearing and, uh, he did
13 so and I said tell me what you see. Sir, I got a ship. I
14 think he said it was a Cargo Vessel. And then that's when
15 those other events unfolded.

16 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So, you came back, you
17 checked radar. Did you only check [REDACTED] Or did you check

18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED] No. So, [REDACTED] is, uh, so if I'm using
20 the [REDACTED] --

21 MR. [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

22 [REDACTED] -- I'm using the [REDACTED] Unless there's
23 something wrong with it, you know. Because the [REDACTED] is my
24 primary --

25 MR. [REDACTED] Right.

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- radar. Like I don't typically go
2 to the [REDACTED] unless the [REDACTED] is down or has like a known
3 casualty or something. Or we're just not getting anything
4 on the [REDACTED]. So, we tend to try to -- we like to stick to
5 the primary radar which is the [REDACTED] and if, uh, typically if
6 I'm going to be on one radar I won't be, you know, the SWS
7 is probably on the same.

8 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I mean that's kind of like, you know,
10 that's -- it's just typically the way it is. And the
11 reason why it is because there's a lot of crosstalk between
12 he and I especially when we, uh, when tracks are hooked.
13 So, I can make sure that the picture that I'm having
14 matches the picture that he's looking at. If he's using a
15 different radar then we're not looking at the same picture.

16 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right.

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, uh, typically to answer your
18 question, uh, I didn't check the [REDACTED]. I would have no
19 reason to check the [REDACTED].

20 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. So, your picture and SWS
21 picture, did it match up?

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Did it match up?

23 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yeah. That night on Watch did --

1 [REDACTED] Yeah. We, we -- I didn't have any --
2 there was nothing that he said that he had or did not have
3 that I didn't have.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So, was there amount of
5 clutter on your radar versus his? The same amount of
6 clutter?

7 [REDACTED] Uh, typically I, so, uh, when I look
8 at his radar I tend to see a little bit more clutter.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

10 [REDACTED] Because like I said maybe it's just
11 the way he has his settings set up.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

13 [REDACTED] And the, the range that he's looking
14 at vice the range that you're looking at.

15 MR. [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

16 [REDACTED] But I didn't, I didn't notice any real
17 significant changes.

18 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So, on his station does he
19 have a means to adjust, fine tune the [REDACTED] he's looking at?

20 [REDACTED] He does.

21 MR. [REDACTED] And you do also?

22 [REDACTED] Correct.

23 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So, if his clutter is
24 significantly different from yours do you tell him hey, do
25 this, do that to get the same picture?

1 [REDACTED] So, I -- if, if his clutter looks, if
2 his picture looks different from mine, uhm, so what
3 generally what he does if he has an issue with his radar,
4 uh, he'll call the CSE, which is the Combat Systems
5 Coordinator.

6 MR. [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

7 [REDACTED] They handle all equipment issues. And
8 typically, one of the other OS's will come over there,
9 probably one of the more experienced OS's, uh, and they'll
10 help try to make sure the settings are good on his radar or
11 whatnot.

12 MR. [REDACTED] So, that night did he actually
13 say hey, I have a, you know, I've got a more cluttered than
14 normal, did he ask anybody to come over?

15 [REDACTED] No. No.

16 MR. [REDACTED] And so, roughly let's say the
17 clutter on your radar went out to about how far?

18 [REDACTED] I'm saying, so to me generally, I
19 would say, uh, so if I'm looking at on ship, I would say
20 probably about, uh, maybe about [REDACTED], I don't want to say
21 [REDACTED] out. I can't really recall, but I know anything
22 -- typically anything within like a [REDACTED] radius is
23 probably, uh, somewhere in that noise clutter and
24 typically, I don't see it. Especially if it's something
25 that, uh, is behind the ship.

1 So, we tend to not be able to pick it up there, uhm,
2 you know, EW10 is not to be able to -- if I'm, if I'm
3 calling for additional resources or try to pick things up,
4 uh, [REDACTED].
5 Uh, EW may or may not pick it up. So, that's another tool
6 that, uh, that the SWS has is he has a, uh, we have AFT
7 Lookouts and he has COMM's with the AFT Lookout. So, if we
8 ever find our self in that, in that situation, uh, then the
9 SWS can come up, call out to the AFT Lookout and see if we
10 can visually see something. Because they're out there with
11 like, you know, binoculars and whatnot, so.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Uh-huh.
13 [REDACTED] So, if there's a contact back there
14 they communicate that up to CIC.

15 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. So, your clutter is out to
16 [REDACTED]. How far do you -- and this is a reasonable
17 guess, how far does the clutter on SWS's radar do you
18 believe was out to?

19 [REDACTED] I have no idea.

20 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Okay.

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] All right. So, I'm going to ask
22 this question again. So, you don't recall on your Watch,
23 uh, any close calls being, being discussed from the Pilot
24 House saying wow, wow we took that one kind of close?

25 [REDACTED] No, sir.

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Anything like that?

2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No, sir.

3 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. Uhm, based on the CO's

4 reporting requirements and your understanding of the

5 Surface Picture during your Watch, was there any point

6 where the Captain either was or should have been called to

7 make a standard report based on a surface contact?

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh, I, I think when we were entering

9 that TSS, uhm, and I don't know if they did it or not, but

10 I --

11 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] This is, this is the TSS just

12 south of Sagami One, right?

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

14 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You're basically passing south

15 and further --

16 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

17 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- it's oriented kind of east

18 wise?

19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

20 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. Okay.

21 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I think at that point, uh, I think it

22 was reasonably to say that he -- a contact report should

23 have been made. I, I would have expected a contact report

24 to be made to the Captain.

25 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay.

1 [REDACTED] But I don't --

2 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] And south of that based on the
3 surface picture you were looking at up until the collision?

4 [REDACTED] We, we were -- like I said sir, I --
5 it appeared to me that we were in, uh, open water free to
6 maneuver if you will, because the traffic had significantly
7 decreased and I don't think, I mean that's why up until the
8 time of the collision and when that actual contact did pop
9 up, that's the reason why it was like a, kind of like a
10 complete shock, because that was something that wasn't
11 being tracked.

12 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. So, are you aware, you
13 know, as you go, as you go further south and you begin to
14 approach the area where you got Oshima Island to the east
15 and you've got the Izu Peninsula to the west, there's
16 another voluntary traffic separation scheme that connects,
17 you know, Nagoya east and then up into Tokyo Bay, are you
18 aware of that?

19 [REDACTED] I'm not aware of that, sir.

20 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Were you guys aware of
21 traffic building to the southwest as you approached the end
22 of the Peninsula and that gap between Oshima and Izu
23 Peninsula?

24 [REDACTED] No, sir.

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. You don't recall seeing
2 any, any surface traffic picking up?

3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Do you mean, okay, say that again,
4 sir.

5 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, you left Sagami One and
6 crossed that --

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- northern scheme, right?

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

10 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And then you were transiting
11 south for a while?

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sure.

13 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Um, and to your west is Honshu
14 Main Island --

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right.

16 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- and then there's a peninsula
17 that comes down, right?

18 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right.

19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And then to the east of that is
20 Oshima Island, that's that island --

21 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] To the east.

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- and you pass between those
23 two, right?

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right.

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uhm, once you get south of that
2 peninsula and you look off to the west it's another big
3 bay, it goes up into Nagoya another large, uh, large ports
4 --

5 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

6 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] -- and there's a voluntary
7 traffic separation scheme that, that is south of the
8 peninsula that connects that body of water with where you
9 guys were transiting from so that shipping could get up
10 into Tokyo Bay. Did you guys discuss that at all? Did,
11 did any kind of conversation about hey, there's another
12 traffic scheme coming up we need to weary of?

13 [REDACTED] No, sir. I, I -- that's nothing that
14 I was, uh, privy to, uh, and that's -- I don't think, I
15 think that level of detail we don't, the Surface Warfare
16 Coordinators, like we don't discuss it amongst ourselves.
17 First of all, we don't have the complete picture.

18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

19 [REDACTED] Uh, we -- because I'm not seeing
20 everything the TAO is seeing.

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Yeah.

22 [REDACTED] I'm not seeing what's in [REDACTED]

23 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] How about on, how about on just a
24 conversation on [REDACTED] in general saying hey, we're through

1 this scheme, we got clean sailing, but we're coming up on
2 another busy spot. Was there any conversation --

3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No, sir.

4 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- about that?

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No, sir.

6 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Just a general essay?

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No, sir.

8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. All right. Uhm, do you
9 recall the Watch Supe or SWS, uh, doing any MoBoards during
10 your Watch to support the Bridge with contact management?

11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I don't recall the SWS doing any
12 MoBoards, but I'm not aware if the, uh, if the OS's, uh,
13 because SWS would only do MoBoards if the, if the OSS, I
14 mean, I'm sorry, if the OS's were, uhm, like maybe
15 preoccupied with something else.

16 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yeah, if the Watch Supe is tied
17 up.

18 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right, yes sir. So, they typically do
19 the MoBoards at the Chart Table because SWS needs to be
20 looking at the radar.

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay.

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And so in order for them to do their
23 MoBoards he would feed them the information that they need.
24 Course speed and all of the characteristics.

25 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay.

1 [REDACTED] Sir.

2 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Now, you guys have Bridge to
3 Bridge in Combat. Do you recall it being active? Do you
4 remember hearing --

5 [REDACTED] Uh, I didn't hear any traffic over
6 Bridge to Bridge. No, sir.

7 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Do you recall Fitz going
8 out on Bridge to Bridge at all?

9 [REDACTED] No, no traffic whatsoever. We, we
10 keep it on the, uh, the loudspeaker. Uh, so if there was
11 any -- because if we go out over Bridge to Bridge then
12 we're logging that as well. Uh, down in CIC. The OS's are
13 logging that. So, I don't recall any -- us going out over
14 Bridge to Bridge or anyone coming over to us on Bridge to
15 Bridge. People usually stop when that happens.

16 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

17 [REDACTED] And everybody grabs a notepad and
18 folks try to help out and jot down what's being said.

19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

20 [REDACTED] In case something is missed.

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uhm, since you qualified SWC,
22 actually how long did you spend as a UI before you
23 qualified SWC in February of this year?

24 [REDACTED] It was, uh, a few months. Uh, because
25 -- so, and I say that because I got to count, I guess you

1 got to count the, the time that we're actually in SRA, uh,
2 and --

3 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

4 [REDACTED] -- the reason why I guess my
5 qualification process took a little bit longer than, you
6 know, what's ideal is because we weren't on underway and we
7 were, were in the yards and I was TAD for, uh, a large
8 portion of that, so.

9 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Where were you [inaudible
10 1:39:42]?

11 [REDACTED] Well, I went to, uh, I went and did,
12 uh, uh, [REDACTED] for one of the, uh, the CTF 70
13 events in Guam and then I, uh, for several months I went to
14 the [REDACTED] School in, uh, in Coronado.

15 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uh-huh. Okay. So, how much
16 practical underway time did you get as a UI for SWC?

17 [REDACTED] Uh, probably, probably two or three
18 months.

19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. So, two/three months and
20 then you got qualified in February and --

21 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] -- and since you qualified in
23 February how much time, how many weeks or months would you
24 say you've actually stood the Watch as SWC?

25 [REDACTED] Since I've been qualified?

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Yeah.

2 [REDACTED] Every day. Every Watch every day.

3 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. And you guys had about, I

4 think you had about --

5 [REDACTED] I have a section four rotation.

6 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] -- so, you had about three months

7 of underway time?

8 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

9 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Maybe a little more?

10 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

11 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] So, a total of six months of, six

12 plus or minus?

13 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

14 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Standing that watch. So, in that

15 time period of practical underway time, how many times

16 would you say you transited this area?

17 [REDACTED] Well, uh, --

18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Either inbound or outbound.

19 [REDACTED] The ship itself? The ship itself?

20 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] No. You.

21 [REDACTED] Me?

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] On Watch.

23 [REDACTED] Uh, --

24 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] So you have personal experience

25 in this area?

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I don't, like maybe, maybe just a
2 couple of times.

3 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay.

4 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Because I, because they have a set,
5 you know, Sea and Anchor detail and I'm not the Surface
6 Warfare Coordinator for the Sea and Anchor detail either,
7 so, uhm, I can only think of maybe two times or --

8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay.

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- if that, sir.

10 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. What's the, uh, what's the
11 program for rules of the road training? Uh, is it just the
12 whole wardroom participate?

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So the --

14 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] How frequently?

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- well, under the previous CO, uhm,
16 it was when I initially checked on board, uh, it was the
17 entire wardroom participated. So, there's always training.
18 So, everyone goes through training, the wardroom training.
19 Uhm, so there's some generalized training for the qualified
20 JO's, that are quantifying OD. Uhm, and then there was a
21 weekly exam at one point that everyone had to do, but it
22 was one of those things where you could have scored a
23 certain score, aced the exam, you didn't have to
24 participate in the previous weeks, uh, rules of the road
25 exam. Uh, then it became that it somehow that just went

1 from, you know, everyone was participating with it or in it
2 and then it went down to like, you know, LDO, CWO's
3 weren't, uhm, or department heads weren't doing the rules
4 of the road exam. So, it just kind of, it went from
5 everyone and then it just kind of migrated to, you know,
6 qualifying JO's were doing the, uh, or the qualifying JO's
7 or the actual qualified OD's, uh, they were doing periodic
8 rules of the road exams.

9 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. When did that transition
10 occur?

11 [REDACTED] Uh, you know, it was I want to say,
12 uh, before we went into SRA and then once we came out of
13 SRA kind of got underway again. Uhm, things kind of
14 changed, we got a new CSO, uh, later on too and, and so
15 there was just like a different mindset. Uh, I can, I can
16 personally tell you that I can't remember the last time I
17 took a rules of the road exam. Uhm, and wardroom training
18 yes, but I can't remember the last time I actually took or
19 any other --

20 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

21 [REDACTED] -- mustang.

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] So, let's just focus on the, uh,
23 on the rules of the road training plan that was in place
24 post SRA. What did that look like? Who took it? How
25 often?

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The training?

2 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, everyone got the training.

4 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And like I said there were a weekly
6 rules of road test that were administered.

7 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uhm, and the navigator was the one
9 that was heading that up. So, we had -- we went through a
10 changeover with the navigator, so, uh, when I initially
11 arrived the navigator that we had, uh, this was a weekly
12 requirement and, uh, sometime off your Watch we'd go into
13 designated time, go in the wardroom, you do your exam, she
14 would take them and she would grade all the exams, give
15 them back to you. Uhm, if you did not make a hundred
16 percent obviously you had to retest on that exam.

17 Uh, and then it got to the point where, you know, if
18 you aced the exam you didn't have to take it next time. So,
19 they would send out, uh, calendar invites, uh, with people
20 who were exempt, you know, from taking the exam within
21 folks that were required to be in attendance for the exam.

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. And that was the plan post
23 SRA?

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] That was the plan post SRA. Yes, sir.

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. All right. On your Watch
2 how hard would you say, because when you, you refer to hey
3 the traffic was pretty heavy, how hard would you say
4 thinking back on it listening to [REDACTED] and your
5 interaction with the Bridge, uh, and the rest of the Watch
6 Team. How hard were they working up on the Bridge to
7 manage the surface picture?

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh, I think it's, uh, it's kind of
9 hard to characterize, uh, sir. Because, uh, they didn't,
10 they didn't -- so some Bridge Teams are a little bit more,
11 uh, they engage CIC I kind of guess more than others.

12 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh, so they, they, uh, there's some --
14 either there's some uncertainty or they're just for their
15 own sanity, you know, want to verify hey guys we're seeing
16 this, uh, what do you see? And you know, that's their back
17 and forth exchange.

18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, that didn't really happen with
20 this Bridge Team. Uhm, so you didn't get a whole lot of
21 the back and forth, uh, dialogue. So, uh, they seemed like
22 they had a -- there didn't seem to be any issues or any
23 concerns that they had up there as far as what was what
24 they were seeing with the picture and we didn't, we didn't
25 seem to have any issues or any concern with, uh, any type

1 of maneuvers they were making. Or any type of, uh,
2 positioning of the ship to kind of make our way up, make
3 our way across the TSS.

4 So, there wasn't a whole lot of back and forth
5 dialogue.

6 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

7 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] And do you recall the Bridge, uh,
9 OD telling Combat whether or not she had called the Captain
10 at all to make a report of any kind?

11 [REDACTED] Uh, they don't always, uh, do that,
12 sir. Uhm, I -- unless specifically asked. Uh, they tend
13 to make their contact reports. On occasion when I've heard
14 the Bridge Team or the OD his or herself communicate to CIC
15 that they're going to call the Captain.

16 It's usually, uh, after a MoBoard has been done on the
17 Bridge and then CIC does a MoBoard and then we come up with
18 a solution. The solution is given. And then the response
19 is typically either I concur or we don't concur. And, uh,
20 you know, we're going to go ahead and, uh, start a contact
21 report and we're going to call the Captain. So, those are
22 the -- that's typically how it's, uh, it's delivered.

23 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Are you aware -- so the
24 Captain laid below, I think you're on 2300 at the
25 completion of Boat Operations, uh, just off, uh, Miura

1 Peninsula, right? Are you aware of whether -- did the
2 Captain or the XO ever come through Combat during your
3 Watch?

4 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Never came through Combat, no sir.

5 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. Are you aware of whether
6 the CO or XO ever went back to the Bridge after Boat Ops
7 secured?

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I, I don't think -- I would say no.
9 And the reason why I say that is because we have a habit
10 of, uh, when the Captain is on the Bridge it's called out
11 over [REDACTED] --

12 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right.

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- and it's an acknowledgement. So, I
14 would say no, sir.

15 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. Okay. Were you aware of
16 a, uh, of a, of a night order supplement from the Captain
17 that said hey call me if you have to deviate from the [REDACTED]
18 Track by more than [REDACTED] yards?

19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

20 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. That was in the Night
21 Orders that night?

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh, that wasn't in the Night Orders.
23 That wasn't in the Night Orders that night I don't believe.
24 But that had, that was, that had been in previous Night

1 Orders. It hadn't been too, uh, too long before the, uh,
2 the night of the collision.

3 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

4 [REDACTED] I do recall seeing that in the Night
5 Orders.

6 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Had that become sort of a
7 *de facto* standing order modification?

8 [REDACTED] Sir. Yeah, it caught, it shocked me -
9 - it took me off guard, it caught me off guard when I saw
10 it because I'd never seen that in the Night Orders before.

11 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Yeah.

12 [REDACTED] And so, I, I don't know where it -- I
13 know what triggered it, but it was, it was something that
14 was out of the norm.

15 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Uhm, so, so you had this
16 collision.

17 [REDACTED] Sir.

18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] How do you, how do you explain
19 how it happened?

20 [REDACTED] Sir --

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] I mean it's your perspective, so
22 why do you think it happened?

23 [REDACTED] I've been wracking my brain and I've,
24 I've relived a lot of the details, uh, and I find myself, I
25 got pieces of information like I can't, I can't muster

1 together a complete sequence of events, uhm, to save my
2 life. Uhm, my initial response or my initial reaction
3 after it happened was, you know, how the [REDACTED] did this
4 happen? How did we not see this? That's, that's my
5 initial reaction. Right? A little bit upset. Uhm, I had
6 a lot of emotions going on and I think, you know, just in
7 CIC is a whole that was kind of like our, that was the
8 atmosphere, that's what the atmosphere was like. It was
9 confusion, no one knew how it happened. It was like, it
10 was like there was no, uh, warning, forewarning that this
11 was, that this was going to happen. Or that this was
12 coming.

13 And not only that, but there was no, there was nothing
14 from the Bridge to alarm us that there was any danger that
15 we were, that they were encountering. And that's the part
16 that kind of -- if I could speak honestly it kind of pissed
17 me off the most, because it was like, you know, there was
18 nothing. And I don't know at what point they even knew it.
19 I don't know if they picked it up on the [REDACTED] radar. I don't
20 know.

21 I do know that when I saw it on [REDACTED] is the first place
22 I saw it and I think, I can honestly say that I was
23 probably the first guy down in CIC to even notice something
24 was there. Uhm, immediately trying to figure out what it
25 is and then I just wish maybe I could have picked it up or

1 maybe it, you know, something, I wish I had more time,
2 right? Maybe it wouldn't have avoided, avoided the
3 collision, but maybe it would have been enough time to
4 maybe notify our shipmates, warn them. Collision alarm.
5 Maybe that would have been enough time so these guys could
6 actually have a chance to survive. That's, those are,
7 those are kind of the emotions that are kind of going
8 through me. And obviously I'm wracking my brain, I'm
9 looking at it, is there more that I could have done. You
10 know? What did I miss? Did I not see this? You know, all
11 of these emotions are going through my head. And so, we
12 were just dumbfounded down in CIC, because we were
13 confused, didn't know how this could have happened. How
14 could -- with all the Watchstanders and all the
15 redundancies that we have in place how did we not pick this
16 up. How did we not know it was an issue?

17 I take it personally, because I have been around for a
18 long time. I take a lot of pride in what I do. I take a
19 lot of pride in my Watchstanding. And that's the reason
20 why I, I'm not responsible for any particular Watchstander,
21 but I make, I take it upon myself to make sure I engage
22 those guys so that they can stay alert.

23 And one of the first things I told the OSS coming on
24 Watch is hey OSS, got a lot of traffic out there, you need
25 to make sure we stay alert. I need you to be scanning

1 every so often to make sure you see something. You know,
2 let me know if you see anything. I need you looking over
3 the horizon.

4 I mean those are all the things that I ant--, and this
5 is not just that night. It's every single time I take over
6 the Watch, you know, these are the statements and I can't
7 speak for every other person that stands the Watch that I
8 stand, but I know for a fact that any Watchstander that
9 stands watch with me knows two things, A, you're not going
10 to be sleeping on Watch. Just not going to do it. And B,
11 you're going to be sitting there and you're going to be
12 scanning. And then you need to be communicating. And if
13 you see something and we all have headsets, you can pass
14 it. You don't have to pass it to me, you don't have to,
15 that's a waste of time. Everyone has [REDACTED] access so you
16 can pass it up to the Bridge. I mean these are the things
17 that every single person who stands Watch with me in CIC
18 they know for a fact. Because I don't change. That is the
19 way, that's the way I stand my Watches. And for something
20 like this to happen on my Watch I take it personally.

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Well, that's certainly
22 understandable. Okay. I've just got my closing question
23 at the end.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Sal right. At any point in time
2 did SWS tell you that he was concerned with the clutter
3 that he was seeing on his radar screen?

4 [REDACTED] No, sir.

5 MR. [REDACTED] All right. That was the only
6 one.

7 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] What type of, uh, training
8 were you provided on the [REDACTED] Laptop in how it works?

9 [REDACTED] Uh, just I'd call it basic, you know,
10 here's a, here's a laptop, this is, this is how you find
11 out if you want to get some information off of a certain
12 ship this is what you do. Uh, pretty much that's the
13 extent of it. I know what I could retrieve from [REDACTED] when I
14 right click on it. Uhm, and, uh, I know how to take that
15 information that's being relayed on [REDACTED] and, and, uh, going
16 to the [REDACTED] database and try to figure out, uh, get some
17 further intel on that, on that vessel.

18 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Is there any integration
19 with, uh, [REDACTED] like can you get, uh, CPA and, you know,
20 course prediction is aimed to integrate it into your [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED] Uh, I'm not sure if that's integrated
22 or not. I think you can get CPA on that. Uhm, I'm not
23 sure. I've never used it. I've never used [REDACTED] for CPA, so
24 I, I don't have any knowledge of, of, uh, how accurate it
25 is or if it's even feasible.

1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] All right. So, it's more
2 of this Vessel says they're this person, I'm going to use
3 that to feed into the database and gather more information
4 about --

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right. Well I can get the
6 characteristics and I know how to, I can get it, uh,
7 basically I can [REDACTED] Track so I can kind of see, uh, you
8 know, places it's left and, and you know, different, uh,
9 positions on where it was along the way.

10 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yeah.

11 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So is it safe to say that your
12 [REDACTED] training was just on the job?

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes.

14 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No formal course?

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

16 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I understand.

17 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] All right, Mr. [REDACTED] So, this
18 last question, uh, I ask every person we interview to close
19 it out.

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sir.

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, you know, you and your
22 shipmates went through a traumatic event.

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sir.

24 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You had a collision, uh, you had
25 to fight to save the ship.

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sir.

2 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh, you lost some shipmates in
3 the process. Uh, and I'm sure you either personally
4 witnessed or, uh, you know, in the buzz around the deck
5 heard about, uhm, some shipmates or individuals or groups
6 of individuals that, uh, performed above and beyond the
7 call who were particularly heroic or particularly, uh,
8 courageous in their response. Uh, so we just ask you if
9 you have any names in mind, we'd like to hear them. Uhm,
10 so we can help catalogue, you know, and help the Navy think
11 through, you know, who should be rewarded or mentioned in
12 particular.

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Uh, FC [REDACTED], sir. Uh, was one right
14 off the top of my head. Uhm, uhm, I don't have any exact
15 numbers, I've heard, you know, different -- different
16 numbers of personnel that he, you know, actually pulled out
17 of the space.

18 Uhm, I think in the aftermath of all the events I saw
19 [REDACTED] and, and in fact folks are saying that he was
20 unaccounted for and I was like I just saw him. Uh, because
21 after it happened, you know, I left Combat and I, uh, went
22 out to help set ZEBRA and during the aftermath the folks
23 are running around trying to get to their, their repair
24 lockers, I'm pretty sure I saw [REDACTED].

1 Uh, and other folks have said they saw him running
2 down to berthing as well. So, uh, he had allegedly has,
3 you know, got quite a number of people out of that berthing
4 before it, it, uh, got engulfed in water. So, he's one of
5 them right off of the top of my head. Uhm, because I'm
6 pretty sure he ran into danger vice running out.

7 Uhm, Chief [REDACTED], uh, seen Chief, uh, seen Chief,
8 I'm sorry, Chief [REDACTED], Chief [REDACTED] and I think it was
9 Chief [REDACTED], uh, those are the guys when the, you know,
10 when the CO was, uh, pinched trapped in his cabin, uh, they
11 broke down the door and actually, you got the CO out and to
12 safety, so. And I mean it was just various stories of, of
13 heroism that I heard, but those, those names kind of stand
14 out.

15 And I would also be remiss if I didn't say the DCA,
16 because of calm demeanor, took control of the crisis,
17 directed the teams and you know obviously was able to
18 control the flooding, uh, enough so that we could actually
19 get the dewatering process in place so we can keep the ship
20 from sinking. Because there was a time, sir, there was a
21 point in time when we had contemplating we were going to
22 have to abandon ship.

23 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And so, you know, those folks kind of
2 stayed calm and they let the process work, let the training
3 kick in and, and so we see the results.

4 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] That was Lieutenant JG [REDACTED] ?

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

6 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. Okay. Anybody else come
7 to mind?

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Those are the only folks I can think
9 of, sir.

10 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you.

11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

12 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, uh, just a few last,
13 we certainly appreciate your time here today. Uh, we just
14 wanted to see if you had any questions for us or if there's
15 any additional information which, uh, did not come up in
16 our questions for you today?

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No, I think you guys are, uh, I
18 appreciate what you're doing, honestly, I hate to find
19 myself here, but, you know the circumstances are what they
20 are. Uhm, you guys seem to have a lot of broad range of
21 details. I didn't, I wasn't specifically going to mention
22 the, uh, the near miss because I didn't personally witness
23 it. And I didn't think it was a fair, you know,
24 characterization for me to, you know, to put my beliefs and
25 stuff in there.

1 But, uh, one of the things that always kind of
2 bothered me I guess is, uh, first of all I didn't
3 understand why we were doing so many evolutions in one day.
4 Uh, that, that, uh, that initially struck me as kind of
5 odd. Especially we had been in Port for seven days, sir.
6 And, uh, we got underway, Liberty expired like 0600 so
7 pretty early. Uh, we came in, we had a NAV brief somewhere
8 around 09'ish and, uh, you know, there were some issues
9 that caused us to get underway.

10 We had a, initially a 1200 underway. Uh, and that
11 ended up, we ended up getting, it ended up getting pushed
12 to the right a little bit, not a lot and we just proceeded
13 to we had all these evolutions. And like I said, some of
14 these guys they, the folks that stood that Watch, uhm, that
15 2200 to 0200 Watch I know for a fact were on these evol--,
16 these details throughout the day.

17 The SWS when he showed up on Watch he was still in his
18 flight deck Jersey and his gear. This guy he had to have a
19 relief to relieve him off of Watch so he could go shower.
20 He had just secured from flight quarters?

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] That was [REDACTED]?

22 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

23 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

24 [REDACTED] So, it was like, so of course I don't
25 know what the condition of the Bridge Team was. I can only

1 speculate or assume that maybe some of those guys were in
2 the same position, maybe they had, uh, you know, other
3 Watch Stations and then they had to go on the Bridge. Like
4 I said I was fortunate enough to be able to get a couple of
5 hours of sleep. I can assure you a lot of those guys
6 didn't have that flex--, they -- and I was still fatigued
7 in the last hour. So, I can only imagine. And I know for
8 a fact I had to, you know, prompt the OSS Operator to stand
9 up because he was dozing off. So, I know they were tired.
10 So, I mean sometimes it's the nature of what we have to do
11 and we got to get certain places at certain times and, and
12 it just has to be done. But I -- that was one of the
13 things that kind of struck me is, you know, especially when
14 I started looking back or could, how, what we could have
15 done to prevent this accident. And it, it strikes me as
16 why are we doing so much? Why didn't we -- why couldn't we
17 just anchor out overnight. Get underway the next morning
18 and everybody is fresh. But that's, that's just my, those
19 are just my thoughts, sir.

20 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Well, we definitely
21 appreciate those thoughts. Uh, likewise if you come up
22 with any questions or you do have some additional thoughts
23 later, uh, do feel free to reach out to us. We'd be glad
24 to get that information. And then finally, as the
25 investigation is ongoing we ask you not discuss this

1 interview with other personnel just so that we can ensure
2 that, uh, everyone's experiences are kept separate.

3 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

4 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] All right. Thank you
5 again so much for your time.

6 [REDACTED] Thank you.

7 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] I'll walk you out.
8
9

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