

CUI

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Preliminary investigation interview conducted on behalf of NTSB by the U.S. Coast Guard.

CSE 2017-06-30

CAPT [REDACTED] Do you want a water?

[REDACTED] I'm good, sir.

CAPT [REDACTED] How you doing today?

[REDACTED] Good.

CAPT [REDACTED] All right, I'm Captain [REDACTED] I'm the Navy's Rep on the Coast Guard Investigative Team. They're conducting an investigation on the -- on the part of the National Transportation Safety Board. The purpose of this investigation is to find out what happened and why, in the collision.

[REDACTED] Yes, sir.

CAPT [REDACTED] Any questions about that?

[REDACTED] No, sir.

CAPT [REDACTED] Okay.

LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] So, good morning.

[REDACTED] Morning, sir.

LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] I'm Lieutenant [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm Senior Rescuing Officer for US Coast Guard Activities Far East, here in Japan. Under the authority of Title 46,

1 US Code 6301 and Title 46, CFR Part 4. An investigation is
2 being conducted into the circumstances of the collision
3 between USS Fitzgerald and the ACX Crystal which took place
4 on June 17, 2017. This investigation is intended to
5 determine the cause of casualty to the extent possible and
6 to obtain information for the purpose of preventing similar
7 causalities in the future. To assist with the accuracy of
8 our investigation, we will be recording today's interview
9 which is taking place on June 30th, at 14:30.

10 Assisting me on this interview is Mr. [REDACTED] from the
11 Coast Guard's National Center of Expertise for
12 Investigations. I also have Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED]
13 a previous CO of Coast Guard cutters that works in my
14 office with me. I also have Captain [REDACTED] who is working
15 as the Liaison Officer between the Coast Guard, Navy as
16 well as a subject matter expert for these vessels.

17 Also, Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED] from the Navy's
18 Safety Investigation Board will be listening in as well as
19 Mr. [REDACTED], also from the Coast Guard's Center -- National
20 Center for Expertise for Investigations. Before I begin,
21 if I could get the spelling of your first and last name,
22 please.

23 [REDACTED] and last name is [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED].

1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Excellent. And what is your
2 specialty?

3 [REDACTED] I'm the Electronics Material Officer,
4 surface electronics.

5 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Thank you. May I have your age
6 please?

7 [REDACTED] I'm [REDACTED].

8 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And when did you first report to
9 Fitzgerald?

10 [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

11 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of this [REDACTED]?

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] year. My orders were [REDACTED] but
13 I reported there [REDACTED].

14 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] If you could give us a rundown of
15 all electronic systems that you're -- that you are
16 responsible for.

17 [REDACTED] I'm -- the navigation systems, the --
18 WSN-7, the radars -- the SPS-7, 73, AIS, the internal
19 telecommunications, all the alarms, the 1MC, the phone
20 system on board, the radios, the line-of-sight, satellite
21 radios.

22 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And specifically for navigation
23 system -- you aware of any degradations to that system?

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

4

1 [REDACTED] During that time, I wasn't aware of
2 any.

3 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Could you define what you mean by
4 "that time"? Just a --

5 [REDACTED] I -- I left by April 20th to go to a
6 -- a [REDACTED] here to get put on -- reevaluating -
7 put on med hold. And before that, we -- I know we had
8 issues with the 73 with the magnetron which we -- we
9 replaced. We were having problems with the VMS but we
10 resolved some of it and when I left I was being told that
11 they were having problems with it again. AIS wise we had a
12 new laptop for it. That was sometime around the first
13 quarter of the -- this year when we got the new one.

14 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Could you confirm how many total
15 AIS laptops were on board?

16 [REDACTED] We had two. One was an old one, and
17 then one -- the new one that we had -- that's being used
18 operationally.

19 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] So that new one was placed into
20 service and where was it placed into service?

21 [REDACTED] I don't recall as far as when it got
22 put into service, or.

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1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Okay. That happened after? So
2 these stats reports are as of the time that you had
3 relieved in April with the sto, is that correct?

4 [REDACTED] Sto -- he was pretty much just
5 covering for me while I was gone, sir.

6 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] No -- no formal relief then
7 conducted as far as status?

8 [REDACTED] None, sir. Yes, sir.

9 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] You had mentioned an issue or a
10 problem with VMS. You have any specifics with regards to
11 what that problem was?

12 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. We had problems with the -
13 - the VMS con as far as freezing up, erratic mouse movement
14 in which we had to reset it and sometimes we'd get a fault
15 where it won't reset all the way in which we had to reimage
16 the whole system. And when we do reimage, it takes about
17 two to three hours to reimage the VMS con.

18 We've also had problems with the VMS in the Captain's
19 Cabin. It's the same thing as problems with the mouse
20 issue, so erratic movement and that one's easier to resolve
21 than the one in the con because the con one -- you know,
22 most of the time, we reset it and then we get into a
23 Windows problem which we had to reset everything, reimage
24 everything.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

6

1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And for AIS, can you confirm that
2 the AIS unit that's installed and how it connects to any
3 other subsystems?

4 [REDACTED] Yeah. AIS is just -- is standalone
5 basically. It wasn't connected to our VMS or anything.

6 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Not integrated with a satellite --
7 with the -- with the radar?

8 [REDACTED] No, sir. It was just the box that we
9 have on -- on the bridge and the laptop in CIC.

10 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And how would you say the 73's
11 performance was? You said you said a magnetron
12 replacement?

13 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. We replaced the magnetron
14 way before we were pulling into Sasebo one time and then we
15 weren't getting any video out and then we noticed that we
16 had to replace the magnetron. So once we pulled back in,
17 we pulled into Sasebo that same day, we replaced the
18 magnetron.

19 But after that, the other issues that we've had were
20 the ship's heading about 20 -- it goes about -- erratically
21 20 to 30 degrees off from what our ship's heading was and
22 we resolved that issue by replacing two of the separate
23 cards inside the SAOP.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

7

1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Is there data -- data storage as
2 part of the 73 radar as far as past track history, video
3 display, any type of memory that you can recall?

4 [REDACTED] No, sir.

5 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Basically one and done, and start
6 off, it's gone.

7 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. Yeah. Cause, when we were
8 -- when we were having problems with that ship setting
9 marker we were looking into the manual and it seems like it
10 has that capability but when we opened it up, we didn't see
11 any hard drive or anything like that, so.

12 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] How about the 67 radar? Do you
13 play a role with the 67 radar?

14 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. I also own it, sir. The -
15 - when -- before I left I didn't notice any other problems
16 with the 67. After I left is when they had a problem with
17 the signal processor and they were communicating with me as
18 far as -- about issue and they were asking me as far as
19 getting some part numbers -- assistance with the SRF-JRMC
20 here.

21 They were also asking as far as the procedure, as far
22 as getting connected to the CID consoles in which I went --
23 talked to some of the people I know up here in the JRMC and
24 get the procedure and sent it back to them.

Alpha Transcription

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1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] You aware of any issues with the
2 76 radar or consoles displaying different images?

3 [REDACTED] For the 73? The --

4 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Not 70 -- for the 67.

5 [REDACTED] For the 67? The only console that I
6 know of that -- it was down was the SPA-25 Golf in CIC. It
7 was down due to the joystick was inoperable and there was
8 this -- and the ETs -- my ETs -- since they can't control
9 any of the features anyway, they just shut it off, sir.

10 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Overall, in general, what would
11 you assess your department's mission capabilities? Fully
12 mission capable, partly mission capable?

13 [REDACTED] Fully mission capable. For my
14 department at least.

15 LCDR [REDACTED] Do you have a 67 tech? On board?

16 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. I have -- I have two.

17 LCDR [REDACTED] Coded -- NEC coded?

18 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

19 LCDR [REDACTED] Okay. Do you have a 73 tech or an ARPA
20 tech?

21 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

22 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] So configuration management.
23 Would you say that Fitzgerald matches the fleet in terms of
24 system obsolescence replacements?

1 [REDACTED] No, sir.

2 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And how would you categorize that?

3 [REDACTED] Because my VMS is the -- the oldest
4 one in the waterfront and I think the - basics I'm been
5 having is because of that and I've been trying to get the
6 ICA to come over to get reassessed because as far as I
7 know, he won't get upgraded until our 2019 -- SRA period,
8 so. So I was trying to get them over to get them to look
9 at it and then you know, with all the issues I was having
10 with it, to get it -- to get the upgrades sooner than
11 later.

12 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] So who's responsible in managing
13 configurations such as your VMS version?

14 [REDACTED] That would be my -- probably my
15 Combat System Support Engineer.

16 CAPT [REDACTED] Was he engaged in trying to work to get
17 you an upgrade?

18 [REDACTED] No, sir. That was mostly my -- my
19 point as far as trying to get it to come down here and
20 stuff.

21 CAPT [REDACTED] Is that because he was -- he wasn't doing
22 his job or because he hadn't been engaged by the ship to
23 make that a priority?

1 [REDACTED] He hasn't -- he hasn't been engaged,
2 sir.

3 CAPT [REDACTED] Okay.

4 [REDACTED] That was just me trying to be more
5 proactive, trying to get them over and then once I get the
6 yea' from ICA then I'll contact [REDACTED].

7 CAPT [REDACTED] Oh, I know [REDACTED].

8 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] How about AIS? Was AIS current in
9 terms of its version model?

10 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. Because we just got the
11 latest one. I know the old one that we had, we had issues
12 with it, so -- so we didn't -- we were able to get a new
13 one from the ICA and yeah, everything was working until we
14 got it, so.

15 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And so when you say -- new one --
16 is that in reference to the laptop?

17 [REDACTED] Laptop, sir.

18 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Okay, so the laptop had an
19 upgrade. How about the AIS system itself? The head
20 control unit, the L3?

21 [REDACTED] No, sir. It was just the laptop that
22 we got.

23 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And do you know what the standard
24 outfit is for DDGs as far as AIS laptop equipage?

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

11

1 [REDACTED] No, sir.

2 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] How about the 73 radar?

3 [REDACTED] There weren't any -- for the SAOP
4 itself, there weren't any upgrade that's due. I know for
5 the upcoming seamen they were supposed to have -- we were
6 supposed to replace the 73 antenna. That was the -- the
7 only one I know of, sir.

8 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And the antenna of the -- the
9 array up on the mast?

10 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

11 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And in that 73, are you aware of
12 the functionality to integrate AIS data?

13 [REDACTED] No, sir. Yeah. I didn't hear any
14 talks as far as getting the AIS integrated into the 73 or
15 to the VMS.

16 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Have you been on any other ships
17 that had had the AIS integrated with the 73 radar?

18 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

19 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Any -- any reason as to why
20 Fitzgerald wasn't in that configuration?

21 [REDACTED] Don't know, sir.

22 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] How about the 67 radar?

23 [REDACTED] As far as upgrade wise, I'm not aware
24 of any upgrade for it.

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1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Is there any standing guidance for
2 either the 67 -- probably more so on the 73 -- of what
3 alarms and settings are required upon initialization to
4 make sure that any type alarm settings that for like CPAs
5 less than a certain distance would be set? Any
6 configuration settings upon startup?

7 [REDACTED] Not that I'm aware of, sir, but I
8 would think maybe the OS would be the one setting those
9 things up.

10 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] So while operate -- or maintained
11 by electronics technicians, OS' play a part --

12 [REDACTED] Operating it, sir.

13 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] In operating it. Okay.

14 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

15 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Any follow-ups to that?

16 LCDR [REDACTED] Yeah, just a couple questions that
17 came to mind. So again, as near as you can tell on the 67
18 radar, there is no -- no issue with image quality of -- and
19 then the reason why we're asking is we did get one -- one -
20 - or two people saying that you can have two consoles --
21 two 67 consoles on -- right next to each other and they
22 would have a different image of one screen from the other.
23 Like settings are the same, everything's the same. You're
24 not picking up the same picture.

1 [REDACTED] I wasn't aware of that one.

2 LCDR [REDACTED] Okay.

3 [REDACTED] But when -- when -- after I left, one
4 of my techs messaged me saying that they had a problem with
5 the 67 -- the single processor and they had a fault code,
6 basically, and I told them to run the bit test and
7 everything and they came up with two cards that were a
8 problem. Well, the -- basically, the signal processor -- I
9 asked them, do you have videos? He said video is normal.
10 He said everything was normal.

11 So -- and after that, they -- I asked them if they put
12 a [indiscernible - 00:17:22] on it and I didn't follow up -
13 - as far as, since I -- me being not on board the ship. I
14 presumed that they would be getting all the parts in and
15 then reinstall it. I never got to follow up on it as far
16 as the status but what -- when that issue came up, again, I
17 asked about how's the video and everything -- they said
18 everything was normal but I wasn't aware as far as console
19 right next to each other or whatever, sir.

20 LCDR [REDACTED] Okay. Another thing that had been
21 discussed by large standards was some difficulty on the 73
22 radars -- maintaining targets that they would see something
23 on the horizon, try to hook it, and either it wouldn't
24 hook, it wouldn't hook for long, or you know, you might

1 have it and then it drops out and that -- that sort of
2 issue. Is that common -- just first thoughts?

3 [REDACTED] When -- when -- I tell my guys, when
4 they get -- cause sometimes my guys would get a trouble
5 call as far as hey, maybe something like that was a
6 problem. They easily come up there and then show them how
7 to use some of the controls, in order to get a better
8 contact picture in order to hold it. That may have been
9 lack of knowledge as far as the Watch Standards and to how
10 to manipulate the 73 controls. I know after I left,
11 [indiscernible due to background noise - 00:18:54] got more
12 training with Bridge Watch Standards as operating the 73
13 and -- but most of the time I don't get notified unless
14 it's broken equipment.

15 LCDR [REDACTED] So your feeling that just through your
16 experience, this is a -- a common complaint in that it's
17 more operator than equipment?

18 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

19 LCDR [REDACTED] I just wanted to verify again, the
20 radar upgrade for the 73 -- was that just the antenna or
21 was there actually going to be new equipment?

22 [REDACTED] Just for the antenna, sir.

23 LCDR [REDACTED] Just the antenna.

24 [REDACTED] Sir.

1 LCDR [REDACTED] All right.

2 [REDACTED] It's due to its life-cycle
3 replacement, sir.

4 LCDR [REDACTED] And would that improve then in quality
5 or -- given you different functions, it's just --

6 [REDACTED] No, sir.

7 LCDR [REDACTED] It's time for a new antenna.

8 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

9 LCDR [REDACTED] Okay. You mentioned the AIS was --
10 the laptop was replaced and part of that was cause the
11 older laptop had been having some issues?

12 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

13 LCDR [REDACTED] Do you remember what those issues
14 were?

15 [REDACTED] Sometimes we'd -- yeah, logging back
16 in, the screen -- it -- it disappears, basically, blanks
17 out. Some -- we had a problem with the connectors also and
18 -- and USB getting more and more common and with the
19 problem with the laptop so we did some research and we're -
20 - fortunately, we were able to get a new laptop for it.

21 LCDR [REDACTED] All right. Did the old laptop come
22 off vessel?

23 [REDACTED] The old laptop? No, sir. It's still
24 there in the [inaudible - 00:20:33].

1 LCDR [REDACTED] Well, do you know if there's any
2 markings or any -- like is it very apparent this is a new
3 laptop, is it an old laptop, are they the same model?

4 [REDACTED] It's apparent, sir.

5 CAPT [REDACTED] Is there any chance that the laptop that
6 was in combat on the night of the collision was the old
7 laptop?

8 [REDACTED] No, sir. That's what I asked also of
9 my guys, so.

10 LCDR [REDACTED] So from folks who have seen it --

11 [REDACTED] They said that it was the new laptop,
12 sir.

13 LCDR [REDACTED] The new laptop. Cause that's what I'm
14 -- so the other question and the reason I'm digging into
15 this is that one personnel -- one of the operators said
16 that they would have a pop up -- that an AIS contact would
17 just suddenly appear on the screen that they didn't have
18 before. One thing that we heard is that -- it didn't have
19 a ship name maybe. It said unknown, which suggests maybe a
20 weak signal but I'm -- so I'm trying to ask you to say what
21 -- what is your technical answer to AIS contacts either not
22 showing up or suddenly appearing?

23 [REDACTED] For technical -- my side would be --
24 what position are we on? Is it on the blind zone or what?

1 That would be my question. How far and how often does it
2 happen, if it's the same area, I would have to look into
3 it.

4 CAPT [REDACTED] Where is the AIS receive antenna?

5 [REDACTED] I don't recall, sir.

6 CAPT [REDACTED] Okay.

7 [REDACTED] I'd have to look at the -- the
8 antenna photos.

9 LCDR [REDACTED] Do you -- do you know an -- an AIS
10 blind zone?

11 [REDACTED] Nine hours, sir.

12 LCDR [REDACTED] So that -- but that could have
13 multiple causes for why --

14 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

15 LCDR [REDACTED] -- receiving signal's not as good as
16 it could be?

17 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

18 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] What system of yours do you
19 receive the -- the most trouble calls on?

20 [REDACTED] As far as for our -- our navigation -
21 - for our radars and stuff?

22 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Sure, we could --

23 [REDACTED] Most of the -- the 73 as far as when
24 we were having problems with the ship setting, we'd get a

1 call on that -- a lot about that. Then, yeah, the -- we'd
2 get a call as far as the 73 freezing up and then my guys
3 had to go reset it. We do get trouble calls also as far as
4 contacts and trying to -- trying to track it -- cross-port
5 and everything and -- in which my guys would have to make
6 some adjustment as far as FPC/SDC or whichever and then
7 it'll hold, so.

8 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] How about for combat? Anything --

9 [REDACTED] For combat, they -- one time I was
10 the CIC watch over UI and then my guys came in regarding
11 the 67 and it was just changing the pulse width of it in
12 order to get better contacts and my guy -- my guy was
13 explaining the difference between short pulse -- short
14 pulse, medium pulse, and long pulse to the watch stander.

15 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] So in doing that, was there any
16 training regimen for both bridge and CIC personnel in the
17 operation of your equipment?

18 [REDACTED] No, sir. There weren't any.

19 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So all OJT would fly away support
20 from the ETs?

21 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. I believe -- again, this
22 is after -- we'd followed the -- operating the 73 with my
23 new CSO and everything, I think they asked for training for

1 the Bridge Watch standards but I can't speak for sure that
2 it did happen but I know that that was being requested.

3 CAPT [REDACTED] What -- what's your source rating?

4 [REDACTED] I was IET.

5 CAPT [REDACTED] Okay. What kind of ET?

6 [REDACTED] I was radar, link, and comms.

7 CAPT [REDACTED] All right, so you're radar ET. All
8 right. What's your assessment of key, bridge, and combat
9 watch standards? So TAO, SWCC, OS', OODs, JODs, conning
10 officers, their knowledge of radar fundamentals.

11 [REDACTED] It's --

12 CAPT [REDACTED] So if you were to ask them, hey explain
13 me to -- explain to me -- hey, Lieutenant, explain to me
14 how radar works, the physics behind a radar that allows me
15 to generate a surface track. You think anybody could
16 explain that to you?

17 [REDACTED] No, sir.

18 CAPT [REDACTED] Things like pulse width, pulse length?

19 [REDACTED] They wouldn't know what the pulse
20 width, algorithm is [crosstalk].

21 CAPT [REDACTED] [Crosstalk] -- gain or stuff like that --
22 [crosstalk]

23 [REDACTED] Maybe some of the senior watch
24 standers, they might know about it, but like the upcoming

1 Ensigns or -- they wouldn't know what SDCFDC is. I don't
2 think so. At least when I was standing Bridge Watch and
3 then I was the one telling them what each button do, to
4 like --

5 CAPT [REDACTED] What watch -- what's your highest
6 qualification?

7 [REDACTED] CIC Watch Officer.

8 CAPT [REDACTED] CIC Watch Officer.

9 [REDACTED] Sir.

10 CAPT [REDACTED] And how long you been on board?

11 [REDACTED] One year, sir.

12 CAPT [REDACTED] One year. During that time did -- was
13 wardroom training or Bridge Watch team training ever held -
14 - and radar fundamentals as sort of a baseline to make sure
15 everybody understands how it should work so they know the
16 right questions to ask when it's not working?

17 [REDACTED] The -- the first three months that I
18 was there, we didn't have any training. After we came out
19 of the yard, we didn't have any training.

20 CAPT [REDACTED] Okay.

21 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Are there any -- I guess building
22 comparisons to the 67 and 73 of like -- would you call one
23 of them a 9 centimeter, 10 centimeter x-band, s-band radar?

24 [REDACTED] Which one would be better?

1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Or like -- like -- so -- so I'm
2 hearing, okay, I've been told the 73 works better close
3 range and it's -- it's better for your navigation and the
4 67 is better long range and getting those out-there
5 contacts. I'm just trying to see if -- how that compares
6 to a -- equivalent civilian radar.

7 [REDACTED] From the radar? The only experience
8 with the civilian radar and the Furuno radar is when I was
9 in a carrier and -- when I was in a carrier, I used that
10 one extensively. That -- that Furuno radar and the 73, I
11 used that all the time. The -- the 67 even though it's up
12 there, hey it's up there on the bridge. Even on the
13 Fitzgerald but I know -- I know that -- by watch standers
14 hardly look at 67. We only look at the 73, the AIS, and
15 that little screen that we have.

16 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And when you say you hardly look
17 at by watch standerss, is that bridge watch standers?

18 [REDACTED] Bridge watch standards, sir. I have
19 -- when I -- when I used to stand out there, yeah. Since I
20 own it, I turn it on or -- I mean, not turn it on, it's
21 already on but as far as playing around with it. Seeing it
22 -- comparing it with the 73.

23 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] For the 67 radar, the tuning
24 process -- was there a piece of equipment that was OC in

1 combat that you're aware of that forced tuning of that
2 radar picture to be done locally at the radar program
3 versus inside combat?

4 [REDACTED] For the 73 it is controlled through
5 the SAOP itself. For the 67, yes, it can be controlled
6 locally and remotely. The one in CIC I wasn't aware until
7 I was told this morning, that one of the buttons was for
8 the -- either to control it locally or to control it
9 remotely but yes, it can be controlled-wise as far as the
10 FDC, SDC and all that are gains remotely.

11 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Well, we certainly appreciate you
12 coming in today to speak to us about the vessel's
13 equipment. Just wanted to give you the opportunity, if you
14 had some questions for us or if there's any information
15 about the vessel or if something on -- on your mind that
16 didn't come up in conversation -- that you wanted us to
17 know, we'd be glad to give you the floor here.

18 [REDACTED] Well, this is just me as far as the
19 ship-wise. Yeah, the -- the support-wise from the -- the --
20 -- me maintaining my equipment was the hardest thing,
21 getting -- getting to get that assessment done, trying to
22 see if there's any upgrade that we can do now while we were
23 in the SRA.

1 Cause I even saw some of the other class of ships --
2 same one -- I saw that they have a Furuno radar and I was -
3 - started asking, why can't we have a Furuno radar here and
4 then come to find out that if you do use a Furuno radar,
5 that you have to get a permission in order to use it, so
6 basically, it's -- you know, you can't use it. So -- but
7 it would be nice if we do have the commercial radar also in
8 conjunction with the military radars. Cause it was helpful
9 with my -- from my experience when I was calling on the
10 carrier and yeah, the -- the support, I think for the
11 equipment wise could be better and getting faster here.

12 CAPT [REDACTED] Is that off-ship support?

13 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

14 CAPT [REDACTED] How was the support internal to FIST?

15 You know, CSO, CSMM, the CERP process, the captain and you
16 know -- did you feel like you were real supported in terms
17 --

18 [REDACTED] Oh yes, yes, sir. Definitely.

19 Anything that -- that I need to do to -- to maintain my
20 equipment I'm in charge of, I get full support all the way
21 up sir. If I ever come in to have something to get
22 [inaudible - 00:31:32] in order to get the parts. Captain
23 said, yeah, go ahead. So.

1 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] And just want to make sure I heard
2 it, right. The off ship support, you felt was --

3 [REDACTED] Yes. Yes, sir. Cause sometimes, we
4 send an email out and then we don't get a reply back and
5 then we have to call and then we don't get anything back
6 and it's hard to -- to get any reply back from them. I
7 don't know what -- especially if we're on the way and we
8 here we can send our guys. Hey, go down to JRMCMC, see if
9 they -- they can help us, anything. Or if state-side wise
10 it's a hit and miss -- as far as they're there or not and
11 we give them a call sometimes and we get somebody at the
12 other end --

13 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: In CONUS you're talking about the
14 ICA?

15 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. Many times I contacted the
16 ICA for VMS, for the 67, for the 67, ICA, they've been
17 helpful and if had problems with the 67, we were able to put
18 everything back together coming out of the yards, so that
19 was helpful. But in some areas, yeah, it's hard to get
20 support.

21 LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] Certainly understand the pain
22 ourselves. Well, we definitely appreciate the -- again,
23 all the information here. If you do have any questions
24 that come up later or some information that you -- you

1 realize later that you wish we had known, please do feel
2 free to reach out to us. We'd be glad to talk to you again
3 and likewise.

4 As our investigation is ongoing and interviews
5 continue, we ask that you try not to discuss too much
6 information of what we've asked you today, just so that we
7 don't get stories mixed up and -- mix up what other folks
8 know with what you know. Let's keep that separate.
9 Definitely appreciate it. Thank you so much.

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