

CUI

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Standard Form 901 (11-18)
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CUI

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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

ADMIRAL [REDACTED] I'll introduce everyone. Please, have
a seat.

[REDACTED]: Thank you, sir.

ADMIRAL [REDACTED] So, Chief, my name is [REDACTED] I'm
the Admiral in charge of the Navy side of the
investigation. Uh, supporting me I've got two, uh, Judge
Advocate Generals, uh, Commander [REDACTED] and Commander
[REDACTED] They are my two legal advisors Master Chief
[REDACTED] is serving the role as my Senior Enlisted, uh,
Advisor. And, uh, LN2 [REDACTED] will be taking notes.

So, uh, during our conversation, we the Navy, won't be
asking you any questions. So, the Coast Guard has the lead
for all the questions. So, Lieutenant [REDACTED] will
introduce his team, which does include Captain [REDACTED] who is
serving as a liaison officer.

[REDACTED] All right.

ADMIRAL [REDACTED] Over to you, Lieutenant.

LT [REDACTED] Good afternoon.

[REDACTED] Afternoon, sir.

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678-646-5330

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 LT [REDACTED] So, I'm Lieutenant [REDACTED] I'm
2 the senior investigating officer for the U.S. Coast Guard
3 Activities Far East Unit here in Japan under the authority
4 of Title 46 U.S. Code § 6301 and Title 46 CFR Part 4, an
5 investigation is being conducted into the circumstances of
6 the collision between the USS Fitzgerald and the BCX
7 Crystal on June 17th, 2017. This investigation is intended
8 to determine the cause of the casualty to the extent
9 possible and to obtain information for the purpose of
10 preventing similar causalities in the future.

11 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

12 LT [REDACTED] To assist with the accuracy of our
13 investigation we will be recording today's interview, which
14 is taking place on June 23rd, 2017 at 1532.

15 [REDACTED] Oh, thank you, sir.

16 LT [REDACTED] Assisting me with this investigation I
17 have Mr. [REDACTED] from the Coast Guard's National Center of
18 Expertise for Investigations. I have Lieutenant Commander
19 [REDACTED] who is also from my same unit and has previous
20 experience as the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard
21 Cutters.

22 [REDACTED] Okay.

23 LT [REDACTED] And I have Captain [REDACTED] here, again,
24 working as a liaison officer from the Navy to help ensure
25 that, uh, communications between our two organizations are

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

3

1 good and that we understand, uh, Navy Operations as best we
2 can.

3 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

4 LT [REDACTED] Uhm, let me begin with a little quick
5 ground rule here. If at any time you need something, need
6 of some water, take a break, take some fresh air, please
7 let us know we'd be glad to provide and pause the recording
8 for you. And likewise, uh, as we're asking you some
9 questions, uh, there may be a few things that you simply
10 just don't know the answer to it and there's no problem
11 just saying I don't know that. That doesn't come with my
12 job, whatever the answer may be. Uh, there's no -- no
13 problem at all just not knowing something.

14 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

15 LT [REDACTED] Uhm, if we could begin by, uh, having your
16 name and position aboard the Vessel?

17 [REDACTED] Uh, my name is [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED] I'm the Operations Specialist [REDACTED] on board the USS
19 Fitzgerald.

20 LT [REDACTED] And what would your primary duties be
21 aboard the Vessel be in your day to day work?

22 [REDACTED] Uhm, my primary
23 duties, sir, are I'm the [REDACTED] for the
24 Operations Specialist. We cover, uhm, navigation and, uh,

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 surface contact picture on air picture. We do, uhm,
2 several different jobs, sir.

3 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

4 [REDACTED]: We work for the
5 Combat Information Center, sir.

6 LT [REDACTED] And that would be underneath the, uh, TAO?

7 [REDACTED] Uh, yes, sir.

8 LT [REDACTED] And please remind me of what that
9 abbreviation stands for?

10 [REDACTED] Tactical Actions
11 Officer, sir.

12 LT [REDACTED] Thank you. And how long have you been in
13 the Navy?

14 [REDACTED] I've been in the Navy
15 since [REDACTED] so approximately 17 years and
16 months since that, nine months. Somewhere around there.

17 LT [REDACTED] A little longer than I've been in. All
18 right. And how -- when did you join the, uh, Fitzgerald?

19 [REDACTED] I joined the crew in
20 [REDACTED] I think I got here on the [REDACTED] sir.

21 LT [REDACTED] Of this year?

22 CHIEF PETTY OFFICER [REDACTED] sir.

23 LT [REDACTED] So, you would have been, uh, during the
24 Sea Trials and that first, uh, --

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Audio transcription [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] I missed all that,
2 sir.

3 LT [REDACTED] Missed all that.

4 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

5 LT [REDACTED] Okay. So, your first time underway then
6 would have been in February?

7 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. If memory
8 serves me right, yes sir.

9 LT [REDACTED] And I believe I've heard from others that
10 that was roughly three months or so, uh, out in the Pacific
11 and arrived back to Port here early June?

12 [REDACTED]: Uh, yes sir. We
13 pulled in last Wednesday, so I don't remember the specific
14 date off of the top of my head that we left in February,
15 but, uh, we did pull in last Wednesday.

16 LT [REDACTED] So then have roughly a week or so in Port,
17 Wednesday to Fri--

18 [REDACTED]: Yes, sir.

19 LT [REDACTED] An entire week Wednesday and then Friday?

20 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

21 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

22 [REDACTED] Eight days. Nine.

23 LT [REDACTED] What time did you wake up on Friday?

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] I believe I woke up
2 around -- I slept on the ship, uhm, so I think I woke up
3 around a little after 6:00.

4 LT [REDACTED] Reveille is usually at 6:00?

5 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

6 LT [REDACTED] Okay. And then, uhm, I understand that
7 there's a number of operations that were happening that
8 day, uh, getting underway, going to anchor, ammo, anchor
9 detail, flight, boats?

10 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

11 LT [REDACTED] Watch?

12 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

13 LT [REDACTED] All right. Uhm, what sort of -- what sort
14 of duties did you have during each of those operations?

15 [REDACTED] Uhm, I don't have any
16 -- any duties per se, uhm, mostly I am making sure that my
17 sailors who do have responsibilities for that are provided
18 for and taken care of. Uhm, just kind of overseeing and
19 making sure that they, uhm, are doing what they need to do
20 and doing it properly, uhm, but I don't have, uhm, I'm not
21 controlling aircraft or controlling the boat or anything
22 like that. I'm just making sure that my team is doing that
23 properly, sir.

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 LT [REDACTED] Is there a particular area you have to
2 stay around? Or do you have like open brow where you can
3 just come and go as you need?

4 [REDACTED] Pretty open to come
5 and go as I need to, sir.

6 LT [REDACTED] Were you able to get any rest, uh, prior
7 to Watch?

8 [REDACTED] Uh, I didn't have --
9 I didn't have the actual Watch until, um, I send the --
10 the air work air coordinator Watch and that was a UI Watch,
11 so I didn't actually have Watch until the 2200 to 0200,
12 which would have been when the incident occurred during
13 that timeframe.

14 LT [REDACTED]: Uh-huh.

15 [REDACTED] Uhm, but we actually
16 stood down that Watch for the night, so I was not in combat
17 when it act- when the event actually occurred, sir. I
18 left combat around 2300, a little after 2300.

19 LT [REDACTED] Okay. So, you did not stand Watch that
20 night, you were not in the CIC?

21 [REDACTED] No, sir. No, sir.

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] So, just a point of clarification.
23 You came on to start the 2200 to 0200, but --

24 [REDACTED] So, I --

25 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] -- then you stood down?

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. I did. I
2 came on to start the 2200 to 0200, uhm, was so we were
3 going to be standing down because at that point we were
4 still -- we'd secured from flight quarters, but had put the
5 rib in the water, uhm, so we were too close to land for a
6 SPY to be operating, which is our, uh, air search radar.
7 Uhm, so, uh, that was the reason that we ended up standing
8 on the Watch. And I remember that Ensign [REDACTED] had asked
9 me, she was just getting off of the Watch. She had asked
10 me to walk her through combat to help her with her CIC
11 Watch officer board, so I had, uh, walked her around combat
12 and gone through all the different systems and everything
13 like that. That's how I remember that I left combat a
14 little bit after 2300.

15 LT [REDACTED]: Okay. And then from there, uh, went to
16 your rack, nothing further until the time of the collision?
17 [REDACTED] Right. So, I went to
18 my rack, uhm, read a book on my iPad a little bit. I
19 remember it must have been a little bit after 2330 that I
20 put it down and probably fell asleep shortly thereafter,
21 sir.

22 LT [REDACTED] So, so this is one of the reasons we're
23 asking you to come here today. Uh, one, to see, uh, who
24 was on Watch? Who's the senior personnel? And then two,

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

9

1 to get an understanding of the CIC. How it operates? Who
2 does what and where and whatnot.

3 [REDACTED] Okay.

4 LT [REDACTED] Uhm, because we -- we have a fairly good
5 understanding of the Bridge --

6 [REDACTED] Yeah.

7 LT [REDACTED] -- but that second half of that Watch is
8 what's going on in the CIC.

9 [REDACTED] Okay.

10 LT [REDACTED] So, uh, I'll be honest it's -- to me it's
11 a box that --

12 [REDACTED] Yeah.

13 LT [REDACTED] -- folk go in and out of. Uh, so, walking
14 me through what happens in that box --

15 [REDACTED] Okay.

16 LT [REDACTED] -- is definitely going to help me and, uh,
17 other members of my team who may also not be as familiar
18 with it --

19 [REDACTED] Okay.

20 LT [REDACTED] -- get that understanding.

21 [REDACTED] Yeah, absolutely.

22 LT [REDACTED] Okay. Uhm, so in a standard CIC what
23 types of positions are being manned and what would their
24 responsibilities be?

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

10

1 [REDACTED] Uhm, so I would start
2 with the CIC Watch supervisor. Uh, they are handling
3 multiple tasks. Uhm, they're making sure that their
4 primary goal is to make sure that the Surface Watchstanders
5 are functioning well and getting everything that they need.
6 Uhm, they will also assist with maneuvering boards, uh, the
7 Watch log. They plot their navigation fix off VMS, so
8 which is our Voyage Management System. Uhm, they are to
9 mainly assist the Bridge, uhm, and backup the Bridge with
10 navigation and the surface picture as well they have
11 responsibilities throughout CIC to, uhm, talk to our
12 Tactical Information Coordinator, uhm, make sure that they
13 are doing what they need to do with our length picture and,
14 uhm, that's mainly what they stay focused on.

15 LT [REDACTED] And who, uh, is this an Officer, Petty
16 Officer?

17 [REDACTED] No, it's a Petty
18 Officer usually.

19 LT [REDACTED] Uh, any particular specialty or just --

20 [REDACTED] It's usually the
21 operations specialist, sir, that's -- that's one of our
22 Watches, sir.

23 LT [REDACTED] And I may have some questions from time to
24 time on what each specialty is, uh, the Coast Guard has a
25 few less than the Navy, so.

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1 [REDACTED] Right.

2 LT [REDACTED]: Okay. So, we have the supervisor who is

3 watching over, uh, --

4 [REDACTED] Yes.

5 LT [REDACTED] -- the other standers.

6 [REDACTED] So, then we would

7 have our, uhm, Surface Watch Supervisor, which will be SWS

8 for short and the Surface Watch Sup would be at the radar

9 console, they are in charge in the 67-Radar, which is our

10 primary surface search radar, which would be probably what

11 they were using that night. Uhm, our 64-Radar is also one

12 of the radars that they use. That is more of a navigation

13 radar, uhm, and they wouldn't have been using that that

14 close. They'll use that closer to land because it gives

15 better definition and for radar navigation they'll use the

16 64. For regular surface search, they will use the 67-

17 Radar, which is what they would have been looking at that

18 night, sir.

19 LT [REDACTED] So, when you say close to shore, what is

20 that range usually?

21 [REDACTED] Uhm, it's probably --

22 well it's used more for radar navigation, so mainly when

23 we're pulling in and out of Port, uh, I would say less than

24 20 nautical miles. Maybe even less than that. Maybe even

25 10.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

12

1 LT [REDACTED] Okay. So, the surface -- Surface Watch
2 Supervisor is radar primarily? Or --

3 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

4 LT [REDACTED] -- solely?

5 [REDACTED] Solely.

6 LT [REDACTED]: Okay.

7 [REDACTED] They typically won't
8 do anything else. They may sometimes, uhm, so they also --
9 their primary function is watching the radar, watching for
10 surface contacts. Uhm, secondary functions would be the
11 liaison with the Bridge and they will talk to them back and
12 forth about, uhm, course changes and speed changes and pass
13 out contact information from the maneuvering boards that we
14 will do. Uh, they'll sometimes recommend maneuvering board
15 on a contact or, uhm, things of that nature.

16 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

17 COMMANDER [REDACTED] If I could just follow up. So,
18 you had mentioned the 64, the 67.

19 [REDACTED] Yes.

20 COMMANDER [REDACTED] How many radars are on board?

21 [REDACTED] We have the [REDACTED] and
22 the [REDACTED], sir. And then we also have [REDACTED] But [REDACTED] is mainly
23 for air search and fire control radar. Uhm, it can do
24 surface contacts, but it is not very reliable for them,
25 because it's, uhm, it's just not -- it's not usually tuned

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

13

1 to that, uhm, well too powerful to be that close in and it
2 doesn't -- it doesn't do that, sir.

3 COMMANDER [REDACTED]: Okay. And, uh, do you have any,
4 uh, capability for the [REDACTED] Radar?

5 [REDACTED] We don't in combat,
6 no.

7 COMMANDER [REDACTED]: So, it's strictly on the Bridge?

8 [REDACTED] Strictly on the
9 Bridge.

10 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Thank you.

11 LT [REDACTED] And there's no way, uh, you can -- so like
12 if you're on the Bridge and you're on a radar screen, uhm,
13 are you able to switch between the two rad--, the different
14 radars --

15 [REDACTED]: You can.

16 LT [REDACTED] -- the 67 and 64?

17 [REDACTED] You can.

18 LT [REDACTED]: Can you pull up the [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED] You -- you would be
20 able to, uhm, they can switch between the different ones.
21 Yes, sir.

22 LT [REDACTED] Okay. So, is it fairly obvious that which
23 one you're on when you switch between --

24 [REDACTED] It is. It is very
25 obvious. They know exactly which one they're looking at

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

14

1 right at any given time. And I keep saying 64, I mean 73,
2 uh, I'm sorry, my lie, I should have had 67 and 64. So,
3 64, every time I said 64 replace with that 73. I apologize
4 for that. I had that stuck in my head. I'm so sorry.

5 COMMANDER [REDACTED]: It's quite all right. That's why
6 I wanted to --

7 [REDACTED]: Until you said that,
8 sir, I was like, you know, I keep saying and I do that
9 often, just because it's so stuck in my head. I apologize
10 for that, sir.

11 LT [REDACTED]: So, three radars?

12 [REDACTED]: Yes.

13 LT [REDACTED] 67.

14 [REDACTED]: 67, 73, [REDACTED].

15 LT [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]: I apologize.

17 LT [REDACTED]: And the [REDACTED] was more likely not in use,
18 because that's air, primarily air identification.

19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: And in fact [REDACTED] was secured correctly?

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was secured at

21 the time that, uhm, I had left the Watch. It was still

22 secured. Mainly because, uhm, it radiates so much power we

23 have to be a certain distance from land to, uh, radiate it

24 and then later that night they were going to do what's

25 called phase and power. I don't know how all that works,

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 I'm not a [REDACTED] Tech, I don't know anything about that. All
 2 I know is when they tell me it's going -- they're going to
 3 be doing phase and power it means good for me, I'm not
 4 going to stay on Watch, so.

5 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Do you know what that distance
 6 is?

7 [REDACTED]: Uh --

8 COMMANDER [REDACTED] How far [Crosstalk]?

9 [REDACTED]: I do not. I only
 10 know the manual is ASOP talks about that. For fire control
 11 and you know.

12 LT [REDACTED]: And anyway, he locates then the vessel
 13 would have been much too close, uh, to turn that on?

14 [REDACTED] Right. Uhm, actually
 15 at the time of the incident I don't know if [REDACTED] was on or
 16 not.

17 LT [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

18 [REDACTED] But again, not a very
 19 reliable of surface search radar at all.

20 LT [REDACTED]: Understood. Yeah, you -- you're not in
 21 the room, you weren't on Watch, not sure what --

22 [REDACTED] Right.

23 LT [REDACTED] Understood. Okay. Supervisor of Surface
 24 Watch Supervisor?

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

16

1 [REDACTED] Uh, the next person
2 over would be the Surface Warfare Coordinator and as far as
3 for the radar picture and the surface, uh, warfare
4 coordination they are the ones that are responsible for
5 that. So, they actually have the, uh, Surface Warfare
6 Supervisor and the, uhm, OSS Optical Sight System. They
7 will be working for and coordinating with the Surface
8 Warfare Coordinator. Uhm, they would be talking to people
9 off of the ship, which would be Alpha Zulu basically is who
10 is above them off the ship.

11 LT [REDACTED] So, would you say not necessarily shore
12 based, but other personnel who have a bigger picture of
13 what's going around in the area?

14 [REDACTED] Uhm, more of -- more
15 of their boss, uhm, on the person that is coordinating the
16 surface picture for everybody, so all the ships that are
17 out, uhm, they're getting, they're taking reports from
18 everybody that's --

19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] I'm going to give that a quick voice
20 over.

21 [REDACTED] Yeah, please sir.

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Alpha Zulu is DESRON 15, that
23 is their theatre surface warfare commander function. In
24 this particular case with an independently esteeming
25 destroyer Fitz would be reporting in terms of the

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 commanding control chain to Alpha Zulu, uh, and it's a came
2 to flight following. Alpha Zulu's role in this particular
3 case is not relevant to, uh, the lead up to the collision.
4 Because they would not have that -- that kind of a say nor
5 would they be expected to.

6 LT [REDACTED] Okay. It's not -- not that fine details?

7 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Correct. Yes. Alpha Zulu's Watch
8 station is in the cave [inaudible 20:32]. So, and they're
9 looking at a gauge display, so it's not a -- it's not a
10 real-time display.

11 LT [REDACTED] Understood. All right.

12 [REDACTED] Uhm, let me see. So,
13 then the other Watchstanders that I directly would be
14 responsible for would be the Tactical Information
15 Coordinator, uhm, they're the ones that operate our
16 different links, uhm, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] which is [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and then [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED] They would be controlling all of those.

19 LT [REDACTED]: And these would be just more
20 communications with other?

21 [REDACTED]: That is
22 communications with, uhm, shore stations, other ships, uhm,
23 they don't typically have their radar scope ranged in very
24 close, they would be much further out, so close in contacts
25 or anything like that they probably wouldn't -- they're

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

18

1 more focused on a much bigger picture as far -- and not
2 really focused -- they're not really focused on, uhm, uh,
3 sur--, they're focused on both surface and air. Primarily
4 they're focused on maintaining link with other ships and
5 shore stations.

6 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: TIC manages the tactical data links.

7 LT [REDACTED] So again, probably not the, the small side
8 what's around the Vessel around me right now. Who do I
9 need to reach out to, nothing like that.

10 [REDACTED] No, sir.

11 LT [REDACTED] Okay. Anyone else of interest in that
12 space?

13 [REDACTED] Hmm, there are other
14 Watches that are up, uhm, let me see. The -- the CT's,
15 that's, uh, electronic warfare. They would have been
16 another one, uhm, but they -- they do electronic support,
17 so they're -- they use a [REDACTED] which is our, uhm, it
18 does electronic support for us. It can listen for radar
19 signatures, uhm, emissions from, from radar. But it can't
20 distinguish how far something is. It's basically the same
21 as me yelling across the room, you would hear me, but you
22 can't -- you wouldn't be able to tell how far away I am.
23 It's the same thing that they do.

24 LT [REDACTED] But you might be able to tell by the
25 signature what it was?

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] You'd be able to tell
2 what it was, but usually if it's a commercial radar,
3 they'll only know that it's a commercial radar is all that
4 they'll get.

5 LT [REDACTED] Right. Because they're looking for that
6 unique signature that says whoa, this is something and that
7 we don't want out there?

8 [REDACTED] Yes. Yes, they're
9 looking for a more unique signature as far as like an
10 incoming missile or something like that is what they're
11 really looking at.

12 LT [REDACTED] Understood. Okay. Again, some of these
13 smaller ones that probably don't have to do with navigation
14 and whatnot we can continue with these like quick little
15 blurbs of --

16 [REDACTED] Right.

17 LT [REDACTED] -- this is what they do.

18 [REDACTED] Right. Some of the
19 others, uhm, don't have anything to do with --

20 LT [REDACTED] Okay. So, primarily Surface Warfare
21 Coordinator or the Surface Watch System is -- is certainly
22 of interest --

23 [REDACTED] Surface Warfare
24 Supervisor.

25 LT [REDACTED] And the Surface --

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678-646-5330

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] SWS, I'm sorry.
2 Surface Warfare Supervisor and, uhm, Surface Warfare
3 Coordinator.

4 LT [REDACTED]: I'm not sure how I got Surface Watch
5 Supervisor. All right. And then all of these kind of come
6 up to the TAO as the --

7 [REDACTED] The TAO is going to
8 be overall in charge of, how do I describe it best. Uhm,
9 probably would describe best as she would be in charge more
10 of fighting the ship, uhm, she is more in charge of, uhm,
11 any threats coming in and, uhm, she would have -- she has
12 weapons release authority, things like that. But as far as
13 navigation goes, uhm, she would know about -- she overall
14 would be resp--, know that we have contacts out there, we
15 have, uhm, or if something is close, but as far as
16 navigation she doesn't really have anything to do or play a
17 major role in navigation and the only way that she does is
18 if we are fighting then she can kind of direct or say, you
19 know, Bridge, we can't turn that way or do something like
20 that because of a certain situation. Like the week before
21 when we were prosecuting a submarine and the Bridge was
22 like hey, we need to turn this way, the TA would have been
23 like no, we can't do that right now because we have --
24 we're prosecuting the submarine we have this other stuff

Alpha Transcription

678-646-5330

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

21

1 going on so kind of fighting, she doesn't know the
2 navigation.

3 LT [REDACTED]: Right. Much, much like how a
4 Quartermaster would say you can't go that way there's a
5 reef, uh, that's outside of our range. All right. Who
6 then is responsible/can reach out to a Vessel by radio?

7 [REDACTED]: That would be all --
8 that would have to be all done on the Bridge. Uh, we
9 actually have, uhm, we have a Bridge to Bridge radio NCIC
10 and it is over by the where the Watch or the Watch would
11 stand, but we don't have the control down there to go out
12 on that. We can only hear what's going on unless the pass
13 control to us.

14 LT [REDACTED] So long story short is the couple of radar
15 screens that, uh, that are being watched if there's a
16 contact that looks like it could, uh, interfere of
17 operations that gets communicated up to the TAO. Or are
18 they -- are the Watchstanders calling up the Bridge
19 directly? Or do they have to go through a supervisor who
20 then goes up?

21 [REDACTED]: They will do contact
22 management directly. They -- they coordinate with the
23 Bridge, uhm, and do contact management directly. They
24 don't typically involve the TAO and the only time that she
25 might be involved is in a close quartered situation where,

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 uhm, but typically again they will call, they will talk to
2 the navigation team on the Bridge and do coordination there
3 and then the navigation team on the Bridge will be the ones
4 who decide whether they're going to call the captain or
5 not. That usually isn't done by us in CIC. The only time
6 that would be done typically is if we are not in
7 concurrence, then we would probably more than likely
8 involve with TAO and try to figure out why we're not in
9 concurrence and get the Captain involved.

10 LT [REDACTED] And you mentioned something earlier, I'm -
11 - I wish I had made it a little more clear in my notes.
12 But there is a -- I don't even know how I want to do it.
13 Uh, there's like a board of contacts that's kept up to date
14 in the CIC?

15 [REDACTED] Hmm, we have a
16 contact management board, but it's not really for -- it's
17 more -- it's more designed for friendly contacts and it
18 would be more when we're working with other, uhm, friendly
19 assets. We don't typically utilize it when it's, uhm, or
20 when we're independently standing, sir.

21 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

22 [REDACTED] They do have a
23 contact log that they'll put contacts in though.

24 LT [REDACTED] And what's the criteria for being put in
25 the contact log? It was observed?

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

23

1 [REDACTED]: It could be, it just
2 depends on Watch center. Because we encourage them to put
3 every contact in there, uhm, typically again, unless it has
4 a close, uhm, uh, close point of approach then they
5 typically won't do that. And even if that, even if it does
6 have a close point of approach they'll be more focused on
7 doing the maneuvering boards and making recommendations in
8 doing things like that and they usually don't utilize that.

9 LT [REDACTED] All right. So, you just hit on a word
10 that I want to clarify. Maneuvering boards. Uh, could you
11 explain that to me?

12 [REDACTED] Maneuvering boards,
13 oh boy. How long do you have? Just kidding.

14 COMMANDER [REDACTED] There's a manual -- there's a
15 manual for it.

16 [REDACTED] Yeah.

17 LT [REDACTED] Well, just a rough description.

18 [REDACTED] Rough description is
19 a maneuvering board is a paper, uhm, you have to see one,
20 it's hard to describe. Uhm, --

21 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Would it be fair to say it is
22 what ARPA is to radar in paper format?

23 [REDACTED] We could probably go
24 with that.

25 LT [REDACTED] Paper ARPA.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 COMMANDER [REDACTED] There's a variety of different
2 calculations and/or solutions that you can solve for
3 whether you're trying to avoid or to meet, so just --

4 LT [REDACTED] So, it's --

5 COMMANDER [REDACTED] -- multipurpose --

6 LT [REDACTED] -- you have an equation of I know where
7 these things are, this is roughly where they're going to
8 go, where do I want to be based on my mission and where I
9 want to be.

10 [REDACTED] Yes.

11 LT [REDACTED] Got it.

12 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] In the context of contact management
13 you use it primarily in combat to calculate closest points
14 of approach?

15 [REDACTED] Closest points of
16 approach and then, uhm, what we call avoiding course. So,
17 if we are close and then we would give recommendations of
18 how to avoid, uhm, again, you could say it's putting a
19 manual plot with on pen and paper, uhm, of where you assume
20 they're going to be based on their course and yours, uhm,
21 do all the calculations on it and then are able to either
22 avoid or --

23 LT [REDACTED] Can we call it a slightly hard fumble.

24 COMMANDER [REDACTED] I'm just going to jump in. It's
25 a relative motion decision aide. That's all it really is.

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Okay.

2 COMMANDER [REDACTED] It takes a look at relative

3 motion between two or more things moving on the ocean, or

4 not moving, and tells you avoiding courses, closest points

5 of approach. You can determine course of speeds.

6 [Inaudible 32:38] logic relative motion decision making

7 aide.

8 LT [REDACTED] I was going to call it a formal back of

9 the napkin.

10 COMMANDER [REDACTED] It's far more than that.

11 LT [REDACTED] Far more than that, okay. Fair enough.

12 Mr. [REDACTED] I'll toss it to you.

13 MR. [REDACTED] All right. Uhm, Surface Warfare

14 Supervisor, uh, that's a Petty Officer also?

15 [REDACTED] Yes.

16 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. You were on Watch from 2200 to

17 0200, do you know who the Surface Watch Warfare Supervisor

18 was that night?

19 [REDACTED] It was, uh, [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 MR. [REDACTED]: Spell it just a little bit slower?

22 [REDACTED]

23 MR. [REDACTED]: Uh-huh.

24 [REDACTED]

25 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Okay. Also, you talked --

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] I know who was there.
2 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. And, uh, --
3 LT [REDACTED] Feel free to name out who was there.
4 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah.
5 [REDACTED]: The Watch Sup was [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] as UI. And then the, uhm, Tactical
7 Information Coordinator was [REDACTED] And it looks a
8 little confusing if you look at the Watch bill because two
9 of the Watchstanders are in three-section and one of them
10 is four-section, so they kind of, yeah. See looking at
11 them.
12 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: Who was the SWC?
13 [REDACTED]: Uh, [REDACTED]
14 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] The SWC.
15 [REDACTED] SWC, oh. Surface,
16 uhm, surface was Lieutenant [REDACTED], sir.
17 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Who was the TO?
18 [REDACTED] Lieutenant [REDACTED]
19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Who was OSS? Was it manned?
20 [REDACTED] OSS1 was manned, it
21 was [REDACTED], sir.
22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: Say that last name again please?
23 [REDACTED], [REDACTED], sir.
24 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Was there a CI2 Watch Officer?

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Audio transcription [REDACTED]

27

1 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. Uh, I do
2 not actually know who that was. It was Mr. [REDACTED] and
3 [REDACTED]. So, Mr. [REDACTED], Mr. [REDACTED] were the Watch
4 officers.

5 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Let me, I want to go next. So,
6 you've been -- you've been operating in that CIC since
7 when?

8 [REDACTED] Since February.

9 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: Okay. So, and I think -- I think we
10 can probably credit you with about three months of underway
11 time?

12 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

13 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] And what Watches have you stood in CIC
14 not including air?

15 [REDACTED] Uhm, as a -- just a
16 qualified CIC Watch officer.

17 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. So, you stood Watch officer
18 then you got put on the air tri-ag after you qualified air,
19 okay.

20 [REDACTED] I was, well I was in
21 the process of getting qualified air.

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. You're under instruction,
23 sorry.

24 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

Alpha Transcription

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: Okay. All right. And you're the [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] you're the [REDACTED] division [REDACTED] --
3 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.
4 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED]. So
5 you've been on board long enough to get a sense for how CIC
6 operates, the proficiency of your [REDACTED]?
7 [REDACTED]: Yes, sir.
8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: How the team interacts. Okay.
9 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.
10 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: So, please explain for us the surface
11 contact detection and tracking process for a surface
12 contact from your perspective in CIC? What is CIC's
13 function and how does that work?
14 [REDACTED] So, are you asking
15 the proficiency of those particular Watchstanders --
16 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] No, just what's -- what's the process?
17 So, 67 picks up a surface contact at 15 nautical miles.
18 [REDACTED] Okay.
19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Explain to us what happens in CIC, how
20 you guys, uh, assess and evaluate that contact and what you
21 do with that information?
22 [REDACTED] Okay. Uhm, --
23 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] And who's doing it based on the Watch
24 bill?

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

29

1 [REDACTED] All right, sir. So,
2 if the 67 picks up a contact, uhm, usually it will be, uhm,
3 you'll see on the radar, uhm, the video of it, so you'll
4 see like a little -- a little dot.

5 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] And who's evaluating that radar video?

6 [REDACTED] So that would be SWS
7 surface and then the Bridge Seamen would have the ARPA so
8 they would be evaluating it on the ARPA. So, but in CIC it
9 would be SWS and surface that are both looking at it and
10 evaluating that.

11 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Surface is short for SWCC, that's the
12 -- that's what they call it.

13 [REDACTED] Thank you. Uhm,
14 they'll either put a manual track on it or it will be
15 automatically picked up. Typically, it's automatically
16 picked up by the radar system. Uhm, and then they will
17 proceed to, uh, track that contact and look at the
18 electronic closest point of approach. They again, I mean,
19 uh, SWS and, uh, SWCC, surface, uhm, depending on where it
20 is or how far it is typically if it's -- I would say it
21 typically if it's less than 15 nautical miles they will
22 have the [REDACTED] operator looking for that
23 contact so they can see it visually through the camera.

24 Uhm, typically if it's farther than that it's going to
25 be too far away just based on the curvature of the Earth

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 for the, uhm, for the camera to see it. So, 15 NM and
2 they'll start looking for it.

3 Uhm, once they have -- if there's an electronic
4 closest point of approach of less than I believe their
5 captain standing orders say less than 5000 yards at 10,000
6 yards then they will put it on paper, which is a
7 maneuvering board and then get a contact -- a uhm, a
8 maneuvering board solution and then a recommendation for --
9 for avoiding course. And they will all be coordinating and
10 passing this information up to the Bridge constantly. So,
11 they will let them know when they have a new contact and
12 they will let them know, uhm, immediately what is -- what
13 track it's going, if it's headed away from us or towards us
14 or anything like that.

15 So, and it can be either one. It can be the SWS Sup
16 has the information up or it could surface. Sometimes it'll
17 be the Watch Sup, but somebody is passing that information
18 up and getting concurrence and backing up the Bridge.

19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. What circuit is that
20 communication preparing --

21 [REDACTED]: That's -- that's over
22 [REDACTED] sir.

23 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] Okay.

24 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] Okay. Anything else on, uh,
2 surface management? Just a basic overview of how it works
3 and who is doing the work?

4 [REDACTED] That's pretty much
5 the basic overview, sir.

6 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. So, this [REDACTED] Radar, the
7 management of that radar, uh, you said that the, uh, the
8 SWS is at the console and he's got the ability if I recall
9 there's a fiddle board above the SWS console, it's got as
10 much controls as the [REDACTED]. Uhm, --

11 [REDACTED] Hmm, not in the CND
12 system, sir.

13 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: Okay.

14 [REDACTED]: Not really.

15 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] So, does the SWS, uh, who configures
16 the radar for underway operation?

17 [REDACTED] The, uhm, electronic
18 technician, the ET's.

19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. And that's part of the underway
20 checkoff list process?

21 [REDACTED] It's part of the
22 underway checkoff list process.

23 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. So, when the -- when the Watch
24 team comes on and the SWS is down at his console and
25 consumers of 67-Radar information in combat are -- are or

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 looking at the data, that's based on somebody else's tuning
2 the radar for operation, right?

3 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

4 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. All right.

5 LT [REDACTED] Are they allowed to tweak that if they
6 want a different range or?

7 [REDACTED] No, not really, sir.

8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] So, how do you, uh, how do you control
9 the range scale at which you're looking at 67 video?

10 [REDACTED] Well, they have, uhm,
11 they have, uh, fix and able keys which will range in and
12 out and they can -- they can do that at their leisure.

13 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Do you guys have a standard
14 range that you -- when you're in a high traffic environment
15 is there a standard range that you range the 67 to?

16 [REDACTED]: Uhm, I believe the
17 SWS would usually stay around 32 nautical miles or in, uhm,
18 they won't typically go further out than that. Uhm, but
19 that is based on whoever is standing surface and what they
20 want. Usually surface will be in a little bit closer, but
21 again, they can with the touch of a button they can shift
22 between and then, uhm, it jumps from 8 to 16 to 32 and they
23 have a key that they can -- they can go from 8 to 1025,
24 they just hit one, two buttons and they can jump between.

25 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. But it sounds like --

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]: Typically --
2 typically 32.
3 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Based on your experience is 32.
4 [REDACTED] Typically, yes sir.
5 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] And then they'll -- they'll range in
6 and our based on --
7 [REDACTED] Based on assessment.
8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] -- what they're looking at?
9 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.
10 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.
11 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Can I just ask a follow-up?
12 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Yeah, please.
13 COMMANDER [REDACTED] All right. At Special Sea and
14 Anchor detail would that range change?
15 [REDACTED]: Uh, yes sir. They're
16 usually going to be in range and as close as possible at
17 Sea and Anchor.
18 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Fair to say 8 at that point?
19 [REDACTED] Fair to say 8, yes
20 sir.
21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. So, what I'm getting is, is
22 that, uh, the major players in combat who are supposed to
23 be constantly, uh, evaluating and sensing and reporting on
24 the surface contact picture are the CSE Watch Supervisor,
25 the SWS and Surface, right?

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. Uh, and
2 OSS.

3 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] And OSS.

4 [REDACTED]: Yes, sir.

5 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: Okay. When cued to slew the camera to
6 go look at something?

7 [REDACTED]: Yes, sir.

8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Does the CSE Watch Officer have
9 any, uh, role to play in this?

10 [REDACTED] Typically no.

11 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. And you ment--, you kind of
12 touched on this earlier, but I want to -- I want to come
13 back to it. How much situational awareness of the surface
14 picture does the TAO get on a regular basis? Based on how
15 you guys do business.

16 [REDACTED] Uhm, I would say not
17 much. Uhm, if -- mainly when there's not concurrence
18 between uh, CIC and the Bridge, but she or they, excuse
19 me, is -- is they're typically because they are on that 15
20 as well, so they are hearing all of what is going on, so
21 they're -- they're involved in the process and if there
22 isn't concurrence they will know and usually step in. Uhm,
23 but they don't have -- they also don't have the same
24 consoles as everybody else.

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

35

1 They have a whole different set, so, uhm, she -- they,
2 whoever maybe, uhm, they're involved, but not directly
3 involved. They're just --

4 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

5 [REDACTED]: -- all reviewing.

6 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] So, getting back to the kind of the
7 nuts and bolts, so who is managing generating track data in
8 CND for surface contacts?

9 [REDACTED] That would be either
10 a Surface or SWS.

11 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. So, they can see video, they
12 look at it, they build a track. It's a pending track, they
13 evaluate it, it goes into [REDACTED] if you open the link it goes
14 out on the link, it also goes into [REDACTED], right?

15 [REDACTED]: Yes, sir.

16 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: So, the TAO --

17 [REDACTED] Now sees it and --

18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: -- their essay on the surface picture
19 is based on the Watch team building tracks that --

20 [REDACTED]: Yes, sir.

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] -- go to the CND and then it
22 populates. So, the TO has that information available to
23 them?

24 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

Alpha Transcription

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. It's just a question of what
2 they do with it?

3 [REDACTED] Right.

4 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Uhm, so you said you came on
5 what -- what time do you come on? What time does the CIC
6 Watch team begin turning over the Bridge? Is it about 30
7 minutes before the - before the hour?

8 [REDACTED] Uhm.

9 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] When does CIC do that?

10 [REDACTED] We do fifteen 'til.

11 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: So quarter of?

12 [REDACTED] So, I would have come
13 on at about 2140. Excuse me: 2145, sir.

14 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. And at what point are you
15 relieved from --

16 [REDACTED] Uh, zero -- I should
17 have been relieved at about approximately 0145, sir.

18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] No, I'm sorry. Uh, at what time were
19 you on Watch for the 2200 to 0200?

20 [REDACTED]: What time did I get
21 there?

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Yeah, what time did you actually take
23 over?

24 [REDACTED]: At 2145, sir.

Audio transcription [REDACTED]

37

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. All right. So, you're in the
2 CIC at 2145 and you left at when? 2300 I think you said?

3 [REDACTED] A little bit after
4 2300, yes sir.

5 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: Okay. All right.

6 [REDACTED]: Uh, like I said right
7 when we had taken the Watch, uhm, we were still too close -
8 - too close to land to operate the, uh, [REDACTED] Radar.

9 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: Right.

10 [REDACTED] So, uhm, talked to
11 the TAO and, uh, the CIC who was in charge of all of the
12 maintenance and stuff like that and they said just stand
13 down.

14 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

15 [REDACTED] So --

16 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] So you were in CIC about an hour and a
17 half?

18 [REDACTED] I was.

19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] [Crostalk] know what it was?

20 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

22 [REDACTED] Uhm, but I'd been
23 there throughout the day because of all the different
24 evolutions that had been going on. I pretty much had been
25 there, uhm, most of the day.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

38

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. So, looking back on it, what's
2 your recollection of the -- of the pace and vine of
3 communication for surface track management between the
4 surface module in CIC and the Bridge?

5 [REDACTED] Uhm, from --

6 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Was it effective? Was it --

7 [REDACTED] -- I would have to
8 say based on -- based on my experience over the last few
9 months, uhm, with this -- these Watch -- various Watch
10 teams, uhm, and being in CIC, uh, we are definitely
11 effective, uhm, we definitely have a good rapport with the
12 Bridge. We definitely, uh, going through, uhm, different
13 evolutions, like I said the week before we had done live
14 prosecution of a submarine, uhm, and we are always, uhm,
15 concurring with the Bridge. And if we don't concur, we
16 reevaluate our solutions and figure it out and come to
17 concurrence.

18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

19 [REDACTED] There's never been a
20 time though where it's been -- since I've been on board,
21 there's never been a time where there's been concurrence to
22 -- or not concurrence to a point where it's an issue.
23 Where the TAO or the Captain has to get involved. We'll
24 either -- we'll -- we'll reevaluate and come to concurrence

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

39

1 or well, we never come to a point where it's just us
2 butting heads.

3 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Uhm, so if I remember this
4 right, you left right about the time Boat Ops was wrapping
5 up and it was a little before the transit, this op started.

6 [REDACTED]: Somewhere around
7 there, sir.

8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: And you were still up by the Europe
9 Peninsula, up by the [inaudible 49:49]

10 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

11 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] -- the ship hadn't started the trip --

12 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

13 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

14 [REDACTED] No, we hadn't. Uh,
15 from my recollection the boat was still in the water when I
16 left.

17 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. So -- so what was the TAO doing
18 -- well, how was she spending her time, uh, during the
19 little bit of the Watch that you were there?

20 [REDACTED] Lieutenant [REDACTED]
21 always sits at her station, she always has her headset on,
22 uhm, she is always paying attention. I've stood multiple
23 Watches with her and, uh, she's definitely one of the ones
24 that is in the seat, headset on, paying attention to -- she
25 -- she monitors chat, she monitors ADS, she monitors the

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

40

1 situation in CIC. So, she is definitely one of the ones
2 that's actually -- she doesn't get up and go run around or
3 anything like that.

4 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: Okay. So, chat, where is chat
5 monitored at the TAO console?

6 [REDACTED]: There is a computer
7 right next to them. So, the console is here and then
8 there's a space in-between where the TAO sits and the CO --

9 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. So, in board between the TAO
10 and the CO's chair?

11 [REDACTED] Right. There's a --
12 there's a monitor there.

13 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. All right. How about at the
14 SWCC and the SWS consoles? Do they have chat?

15 [REDACTED] They do. Uh, Surface
16 does, they have it on a computer similar to the one that,
17 uhm, the screen just swivels, uhm, and they're monitoring
18 that. They're monitoring various chat rooms. They have
19 AIS on a computer, so there's their console then the, uh,
20 the secret laptop or excuse me, secret computer that's
21 there that they're monitoring chat and then right behind
22 it, right next to it kind of behind it that's -- but they
23 can see it very easily is where the AIS [REDACTED] is behind
24 it.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] So, the AIS [REDACTED] is at the Surface
2 Console?

3 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

4 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. And it's a [REDACTED] with a Polar
5 display?

6 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

7 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Okay. Was it working? Was it
8 up and operational and working that night?

9 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

10 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] To your -- to your recollection?

11 [REDACTED] To my recollection,
12 yes sir.

13 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Just out of curiosity. How
14 many chat rooms does the [REDACTED] monitor typically?

15 [REDACTED] Uhm, they usually
16 have several open. They're really usually only monitoring
17 the, uhm, the ones at DESRON. So, they're monitoring --

18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: So, give me a number. Give me a
19 number.

20 [REDACTED] -- one. They -- they
21 have -- they have about four or five open.

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: Okay.

23 [REDACTED] They're monitoring
24 only one of them.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

42

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. How about TAO? How many, uh,
2 chat rooms do they have up?

3 [REDACTED] Uh, they might be
4 monitoring, they might have about the same four or five
5 open and they're probably monitoring/looking at all of them
6 for information. Uh, threats, they look at the threat and
7 warning and all the ones like that. Just on that bigger
8 picture is what she's looking for.

9 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Is that AIS information
10 available anywhere else in CIC?

11 [REDACTED] No, sir.

12 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. How about the VMS data? You
13 know some ships will sail out and they'll run -- they'll
14 run a line down and, and run it through the [REDACTED], so where
15 else --

16 [REDACTED]: So, VMS --

17 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: -- where else is VMS available in
18 combat?

19 [REDACTED]: VMS is only available
20 at the -- right now is only available right above where,
21 um, our DRT cable is.

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: So at the chart table?

23 [REDACTED] So, at the chart
24 table, yes sir.

25 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] So, that's being
2 monitored by, uhm, the Watch Supervisor, but they don't
3 have the ability. They can look at things, but similar to
4 the Bridge spreads, they don't have the ability to -- they
5 can't mess with them and they can't --

6 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: That's just a repeater.

7 [REDACTED] -- just a repeater,
8 they can't do anything with it.

9 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. But they can see what the
10 Bridge is looking at?

11 [REDACTED]: They can see what the
12 Bridge is looking at, sir.

13 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] And that's slayed to the
14 Quartermaster's --

15 [REDACTED]: Yes, sir.

16 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] -- or is it the Quartermaster's VMS
17 plot or is it the CONN plot?

18 [REDACTED]: I, good question.
19 Uhm, I don't actually know, so I'm not going to answer
20 that.

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. That's fair enough. That's all
22 I've got.

23 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Thank you. So, you mentioned
24 this feature about automatically picking up targets on
25 radar.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]: Yes, sir.

2 COMMANDER [REDACTED]: Can you talk to me a little more
3 about that on the [REDACTED]?

4 [REDACTED]: Uhm, the [REDACTED] has a
5 has the ability, uhm, with auto-track, it just has the
6 ability once the, uhm, contact is picked up. And a lot of
7 times it will -- it will display symbiology on its own. It
8 will see that there is -- it's -- it's getting radar
9 returned and it will display symbiology. Uhm, it's up to
10 them, the Operation Specialist to or the SWS or Surface to
11 evaluate it and make it either a neutral or unknown or
12 friendly contact. Uhm, so they will evaluate it. So,
13 there is human interaction, it's not that we just let the
14 radar do its own thing. There is -- there is human
15 interaction. We're watching when it puts in a new contact
16 and, uhm, then again, like I said we evaluate it and then
17 monitor and continue to track it and figure out, uhm, what
18 is -- what is, uh, courses we are.

19 COMMANDER [REDACTED]: How does the [REDACTED] behave in high
20 traffic areas?

21 [REDACTED]: Pretty well, sir.

22 COMMANDER [REDACTED]: Can distinguish pretty clearly
23 between multiple dense surface contact?

24 [REDACTED]: Uhm, I don't know, I
25 would say yes. Uhm, but it just -- it -- a lot of factors

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

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1 would depend on that. Uhm, it will see -- it will pick up
2 clouds, it will pick up different things. So, uhm, it --
3 it will distinguish between different things, but again,
4 that's based on -- a lot based on the operator and making
5 sure that, uhm, if we are using the auto feature that
6 they're as well looking at it and making sure that the
7 video that's on the screen and what the radar is saying is
8 actually video, because it will pick up sea clutter, uhm,
9 and it will pick up, like I said it will pick up marine
10 clouds and things like that. It will pick up seagulls if a
11 bird flies by, it will pick that up. Uhm, so, we'll pick
12 up different things. It's up to us to distinguish if the
13 radar is actually seeing something or not. And evaluating
14 that is part of what we do.

15 COMMANDER [REDACTED]: Is the auto feature something you
16 have to select or is it part of the default settings?

17 [REDACTED] I don't know.

18 COMMANDER [REDACTED]: So, when do, uh, the Surface
19 Watchstander and the Surface Supervisor come, correct?
20 When do they -- when do they switch out normally in the --
21 in the -- there's a progression so that not everyone is
22 changing out at the same time. What -- what time are they
23 normally changing out or conducting their reliefs for
24 Watch?

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

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1 [REDACTED] Mostly everybody in
2 CIC except for the TAO will do an odd quarter of.

3 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Quarter of?

4 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

5 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: So, when the collision occurred it
6 would have been the 2200 to 0200 team?

7 [REDACTED]: Yes, sir. Uh, the
8 last and I asked this specifically, uhm, just to kind of
9 figure out what was going on. One of the things I asked of
10 my team specifically that night was what was the last fix
11 that we took? And it was at 0130. Uhm, VMS froze after,
12 so there was no in our -- we were still at 15-minute fix in
13 our -- our 0145 fix, we were actually -- we were actually
14 trying to plot exactly where we were, so that we would have
15 it, but VMS on our -- our -- our VMS was all [inaudible
16 58:21] out. We had an error message, which I can't recall
17 what it said exactly, but we couldn't do anything and
18 didn't what to trust what VMS was telling us. We didn't,
19 uhm, we weren't able to write down or fix after that. So,
20 the 0130 is the last one that they put in the log. And I
21 was in CIC before 0145.

22 COMMANDER [REDACTED]: And you had said that you were on
23 15-minute fixes at that timeframe?

24 [REDACTED] They were still on 15
25 minutes.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

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1 COMMANDER [REDACTED]: And then what's the normal
2 procedure should your VMS since it is a repeater, uh,
3 should it lock up? Is that a loss of, uh, ECINS data? Is
4 there kind of a response to that or?

5 [REDACTED] No, sir. We just
6 usually it's, uhm, we just call it to the Bridge, let them
7 know, but I don't think -- I don't think I've ever seen
8 that happen before where it locks up or anything like that.

9 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Is there like a duty ET, duty IT,
10 OS that you would call to, uh, report that to?

11 [REDACTED]: We would call, uhm,
12 we would call CSE, which is the Watchstander that's
13 directly next to the TAO and they would handle all that
14 type of stuff. We would just let them know any casualty
15 that we have and they're the ones that will call out to --
16 they know who to talk to about different function features.

17 COMMANDER [REDACTED]: So, who's able to authorize the
18 stand up or the stand down of Watches? Is that something
19 that the TAO can control?

20 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

21 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Do you know if the TAO has to get
22 concurrence from anybody? The Senior Watch Officer or the
23 XO or even the CO?

24 [REDACTED] Uhm, any time that
25 we've ever been stood down as air, it's been a call of the

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 TAO. Uh, as far -- I don't know if they already have pre-
2 determined concurrence, so I don't really know the answer
3 to that question, sir.

4 COMMANDER [REDACTED] No worries.

5 [REDACTED] I don't know the
6 answer.

7 COMMANDER [REDACTED] And then, uh, for MOBOARD
8 training, that's a proficiency, that's an art that you've
9 got to kind of maintain?

10 [REDACTED] It is.

11 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Yeah. So, uh, how often is
12 MOBOARD training conducted?

13 [REDACTED] Constantly. We do --
14 we do MOBOARD training all the time. Every Watch somebody
15 -- they're doing -- they're either doing it live or they're
16 doing, uh, training every single Watch, sir. They're doing
17 something. So, the Watch Sups are -- and the other
18 Operations Specialists are pretty proficient in their
19 MOBOARDS.

20 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Who is your best MOBOARD person?

21 [REDACTED] I know --

22 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Aside from yourself.

23 [REDACTED] Not me, definitely
24 not me. Uhm, I'm pretty good at them, but, uh, I don't
25 know. [REDACTED] is, is very good.

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1 COMMANDER [REDACTED] And then, uh, in your opinion
2 who's the most experienced officer of the deck that you've
3 worked with?

4 [REDACTED] I don't know. I
5 really -- as far as opinions go, I don't really have one on
6 that.

7 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Okay.

8 [REDACTED] Sorry sir.

9 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Fair enough. And, uhm, how would
10 you, uh, how would rate the, uh, the crew in terms of, uh,
11 morale and excitement for getting underway? Everybody
12 happy, let's go get it?

13 [REDACTED] Uhm, the opinion
14 questions. Uh, I would -- I would say that -- I will go
15 ahead and answer that one and say not very enthusiastic.
16 Uhm, based on we were only supposed to be out -- when we
17 left in February we were only supposed to be out for a
18 couple of weeks. It turned into a couple of months. Uhm,
19 I think as you guys will find out is we were actually
20 scheduled to -- we were on our way home at one point and
21 got turned back around. Uhm, so the crew wasn't very all
22 too thrilled about, uhm, the amount of time that we ended
23 up being -- spending at -- spending. And then the fact
24 that we were only supposed to be in for a week. We were
25 actually supposed to pull in on Friday, but based on a

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

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1 casualty that we had, a loss of power was why we ended up
2 pulling in on Wednesday, but regardless of that, we were
3 only spending a very short week in Port and no, nobody was
4 overly excited about that short amount of time and going
5 right back out.

6 COMMANDER [REDACTED] How would you evaluate, uh, the
7 in-Port period. Was everybody well rested and ready to get
8 out of there at least?

9 [REDACTED] Absolutely. So, that
10 week was very, uhm, the CO made it very clear that his
11 intentions were for people to -- based on the amount of
12 time that we spend out, his intention was very much for
13 people to be cut off as early as possible, take care of
14 what they needed to take care here in Yokosuka and then,
15 uhm, be with their families, so, uhm, and to him that was -
16 - it wasn't just, you know, come and muster and go back
17 home and go back to bed. It was, you know, come and
18 muster, do a little bit of work and then go and take care
19 of what you need to in the time that we're here and then go
20 get some rest.

21 So, there was definitely in that week, there was
22 definitely time for people to take advantage of their time,
23 make use of their time and as well get rest and see their
24 families, sir.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

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1 COMMANDER [REDACTED] Would you say you were working
2 half days?

3 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. If that,
4 yes sir.

5 COMMANDER [REDACTED] [Inaudible 1:04:36] had
6 discretion?

7 [REDACTED] : Yes, sir.

8 COMMANDER [REDACTED] All right. That should be all
9 the questions that I have for this.

10 LT [REDACTED] All right. Two questions that came up
11 during this talk here. You mentioned the AIS, uh, computer
12 that, uh, had the display, uh, like a geographic display
13 that shows where the vessels are?

14 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

15 LT [REDACTED] Is there a separate computer that goes up
16 to the Bridge or, uh, is it just that one computer?

17 [REDACTED] , I don't know. I
18 be-- I -- uhm, I don't know. I'm going to leave it at
19 that, sir.

20 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Which division is responsible for
22 maintaining, uh, the AIS [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED] I don't know, sir.

24 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. I think I do, but since I
25 don't, uhm, I don't know.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 LT [REDACTED] And this is -- this is my Navy
2 familiarization again. Uh, following the casualty and
3 getting reports of damage in certain areas, injuries,
4 things of that nature. Where does that get reported to?
5 Is that the CIC who's handling those and keeping track of
6 what's being reported? Or is that a different section in
7 the ship?

8 [REDACTED] No. That's in, uhm,
9 that would be in, uh, the damage control central. So, they
10 have -- it's -- those are maintained by engineers, uhm,
11 they're being reported to directly from the repair lockers
12 and different things like that. CIC wouldn't play a role
13 in the damage control efforts.

14 LT [REDACTED] Okay. Would they be receiving the reports
15 though?

16 [REDACTED] We -- we were
17 receiving reports, yes sir.

18 COMMANDER [REDACTED] CIC secondary plot?

19 [REDACTED] No, sir. We don't
20 have plot. We used to, we don't, they don't have it
21 anymore. It's not, because it's just not something that we
22 utilize or do, sir.

23 LT [REDACTED] Were any of those reports being recorded
24 as a written -- someone is writing down in a log this was
25 reported --

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]: Yes, sir.

2 LT [REDACTED] -- this is reported?

3 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

4 LT [REDACTED] But then the reaction to those reports is
5 responsible to the repair lockers to damage control to
6 medics or who--, whatever they need?

7 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. So, I made
8 it very clear to my sailors out -- when we -- when we all
9 mustered and got into CIC because there are, uhm, we know
10 who is supposed to be out, we drill enough that we know who
11 is on the rapid response teams, we know who is in the
12 repair lockers, we know who is supposed to be where.

13 I made it very clear to my sailors if someone is going
14 to ask me if they could go out and start helping, I made it
15 very clear to them that I didn't want them out and adding
16 to any confusion, so everybody stayed, uhm, I made sure
17 that somebody was on the logs. So, we had two people
18 writing things down, uhm, and keeping logs of everything
19 that was going on. That was what I had them do.

20 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

21 [REDACTED] Initially.

22 LT [REDACTED] Right. And those logs have been provided
23 to, uh, the investigation crew?

24 [REDACTED] I don't know.

25 LT [REDACTED] Don't know.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

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1 [REDACTED] Yes.

2 LT [REDACTED] Excellent. Thank you. Question?
3 Anything else?

4 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uhm, a couple of more questions. Uh,
5 I just want to run back through who was actually on watch.
6 Uh, --

7 [REDACTED] Sir.

8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] -- so, got the Watch Sup, got the SWS,
9 got the SWCC, TIC, uh, was EW MOD actually manned?

10 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. Always.

11 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Who was that?

12 [REDACTED] I don't know, sir.

13 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. The OSS, CIC Watch Officer, who
14 was CSE?

15 [REDACTED] CSE was Chief [REDACTED]

16 if I'm not mistaken.

17 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] What's his rate?

18 [REDACTED]: Uh, [REDACTED] sir.

19 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Was there anybody else on Watch
20 in Combat on the Mid? Was there an MSS?

21 [REDACTED] MSS and RSC was --

22 were stood down as well, sir. And I don't know, uhm,
23 because it was the first night on a new underway, I don't
24 know who those two would have been.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. And I'm just looking for guys
2 who actually in space?
3 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.
4 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uhm, anybody from the ASW module?
5 [Inaudible 1:09:13], fire control? Nobody up from the
6 strike module, there was no [inaudible 1:09:17] going on?
7 [REDACTED] No, no sir.
8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Nothing like that?
9 [REDACTED] No, sir. No, sir.
10 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uh, the only person from the ID Module
11 was the TIC?
12 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.
13 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] And no IDS?
14 [REDACTED] No, sir.
15 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.
16 [REDACTED] They man both
17 simultaneously.
18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Uh, was there an ODA manned?
19 [REDACTED] No, sir. We don't
20 man.
21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] So, only one person at the front
22 table?
23 [REDACTED] Sir.
24 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] All right.

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] ODA is usually going
2 to be the job of the Watch Officer, uhm, monitoring chat
3 ODA and things like that. That's what the Watch Officer --

4 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. All right.

5 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

6 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] So, we got the full list now.

7 LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ?

8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] : Oh. So, do you -- do you man the

9 [REDACTED] ?

10 [REDACTED] We do not.

11 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay.

12 [REDACTED] Our [REDACTED] is
13 not operational right now. It's a casualty that we know
14 about and it's documented. So, it has not been manned in
15 the time that I have been onboard, no.

16 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. So, on the Mid-Watch leading up
17 to the collision [REDACTED] was not at the main Watch
18 station?

19 [REDACTED] : It's -- it's not been
20 manned while at station four.

21 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] You guys -- you guys probably turned
22 that console that are antiquated to keep the other ones up?

23 [REDACTED] What's that?

24 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Is that console cannibalized to keep
25 other consoles in combat up?

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1 [REDACTED]: I don't know.

2 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: Okay. All right.

3 [REDACTED]: I don't know if they
4 take parts out of it.

5 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uhm, --

6 [REDACTED] Sorry, sir.

7 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] How, uhm, to kind of shift into a
8 different line of questioning here. What's the -- how
9 frequently do the CO, the XO, Ops Officer, Senior Watch
10 Officer, how much time do they spend in combat in a -- in a
11 transit situation where you're not executing some kind of
12 tactical mission, right? But a transit situation going
13 point A to point B in condition 3, which is what you guys
14 were in at the time. How -- how frequently do the CO and
15 XO come through combat, how much time do they spend in
16 combat? I mean, is it not much? Is it a lot? Is it never?

17 [REDACTED]: Uhm, --

18 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Kind of give us a sense of --

19 [REDACTED] Typically, uhm, every
20 day we will have -- at particularly underway, uhm, we will
21 have our operations and intelligence brief.

22 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

23 [REDACTED] So, everybody will be
24 in there for that.

25 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]: Uhm, as far as the
2 personnel that you're asking about will always be in there
3 for that. Uhm, it typically takes anywhere from 30 to 45
4 minutes. Uhm --

5 COMMANDER [REDACTED] What time is that normally
6 [REDACTED] It's usually at 1530,
7 sir. Uhm, I don't recall -- it wasn't -- I don't want to --
8 - I don't believe it was at 1530 on Friday. Uh, I don't
9 recall what time it was, but I believe it was earlier. I
10 don't recall. Uhm, but in general, uh, after that they may
11 come through sporadically, uh, if they need to talk to
12 somebody, uhm, the Operations Officer if she's on Watch of
13 course, but, uh, XO/CO, they'll come in sometimes. Uhm,
14 it's just in a transit situation, not combat situation,
15 it's not very often, sir.

16 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Okay. Just one more question
17 for you. So, uh, you know, you and your crew, uh, went
18 through quite an experience --

19 [REDACTED] Okay.

20 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] -- during the collision and after the
21 collision on the casualty response. Taking care of your
22 shipmates, taking care of the ship and getting Fitz back
23 into Port. So, I'm sure you saw some pretty incredible
24 things done by -- by some folks. So, uh, if somebody were
25 to ask you what -- what individual or groups of individuals

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 do you think, you know, render amazing service, kind of
2 went above and beyond the call of duty and did some really
3 heroic stuff that deserves mentioning, uh, what names come
4 to mind? And what did they do?

5 [REDACTED] Hmm, I think, uhm,
6 obviously the first name that comes to everybody's mind is,
7 uh, [REDACTED].

8 CAPTAIN [REDACTED]: Uh-huh.

9 [REDACTED] Uhm, I've only heard
10 about what he did, uhm, but as my role was I don't actually
11 know, uh, what he did and did not do. I've only heard
12 from, you know, secondhand accounts.

13 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Yeah, you're not the first person that
14 said --

15 [REDACTED] Yeah. Everything,
16 everything is -- things happen so quickly at -- initially
17 things happened so quickly and it was so confusing for
18 probably about two thirds of the crew that, you know, a lot
19 of it is just hearsay.

20 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

21 [REDACTED] So, but everyone has
22 it seems to have similar stories about [REDACTED], so, uhm, he --
23 he's a definite name that comes to mind. Uhm, let me
24 think. Uh, [REDACTED] definitely is another name that
25 comes to mind. Uhm, as our Damage Control Chief, uhm, I

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Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 would say that he was -- he just, uh, when you talk to him,
2 you'll see. He's a very calm, very collected, very level-
3 headed person and even in with this going on he was the
4 entire time from when I talked to him and when other people
5 talked to him, the same. Uhm, level headed, calm cool
6 collected. This is what we need to do. Uhm, this is how
7 we need to counter flood, this is what spaces we need to --
8 he was very, uhm, directing everyone and never lost his
9 cool or anything like that. Because he's not that way.
10 But definitely is another name that comes to mind. And [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED] is another name that comes to mind. Again, based on
12 hearsay and I don't remember who, uh, Petty Officer [REDACTED]
13 goes out with, but they're part of the rapid response team
14 and it was actually DCC [REDACTED] who told me, who was talking
15 about that team and I know ET3 [REDACTED] is part of that team,
16 uhm, giving all those initial reports of where there was
17 flooding. How much damage. What spaces were not
18 recoverable and things like that. So, uh, again, I don't
19 know who [REDACTED] goes out with, but whoever he does go out
20 with was mentioned by DCC [REDACTED], but those names, uhm,
21 everyone else, uhm, really everyone else did exactly what
22 they're trained to do. I went directly to CIC as did my
23 sailors and we did what we're trained to do in there.
24 Repair Lockers, everybody.

25 CAPTAIN [REDACTED] Okay. Thanks, Chief.

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678-646-5330

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]: Yes, sir.

2 LT [REDACTED] Well, I definitely appreciate all your
3 time today and for presenting this information to us and
4 certainly broadening our understanding of the Vessel and
5 its operations. We want to give you this opportunity to
6 open the floor in case you had any questions for us or if
7 there's anything that was on your mind that maybe didn't
8 come up in our questions that you want to make sure that we
9 understand.

10 [REDACTED]: Uhm, no not
11 particularly. This is the point where I'll remember this
12 part in like 10 minutes from now, I'll be like oh man, I
13 should have -- but, uhm, no. Initially I have nothing
14 else.

15 LT [REDACTED] Well, that leads to my next statement to
16 say if you do remember something that comes to mind after
17 this please, uh, reach out to us. We'd be glad to, uh,
18 take that information or speak to you again. And likewise.
19 If we go over our notes and we find something that we wish
20 we had asked you, uh, we may reach out to you as well.

21 [REDACTED] All right.

22 LT [REDACTED] Uhm, finally, as this investigation is
23 ongoing, we ask that you, uh, not discuss, uh, this
24 interview with other individuals of the crew, because we
25 want to keep everyone's stories, uh, separate, uhm, so that

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678-646-5330

Audio transcription - [REDACTED]

1 we don't get mixed up ideas of what happened and who said
2 what.

3 [REDACTED] Right. Understood.

4 LT [REDACTED] So, uh, we appreciate that -- that
5 cooperation.

6 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

7 LT [REDACTED] All right. Thank you so much for your
8 time today.

9 [REDACTED] Thank you.
10

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