

Use this space to indicate categories, limited dissemination controls, special instructions, points of contact, etc., if needed.

ATTENTION

All individuals handling this information are required to protect it from unauthorized disclosure.

Handling, storage, reproduction, and disposition of the attached document(s) must be in accordance with 32 CFR Part 2002 and applicable agency policy.

Access to and dissemination of Controlled Unclassified Information shall be allowed as necessary and permissible to any individual(s), organization(s), or grouping(s) of users, provided such access or dissemination is consistent with or in furtherance of a Lawful Government Purpose and in a manner consistent with applicable law, regulations, and Government-wide policies.

CUI

Standard Form 901 (11-18) Prescribed by GSA/ISOO | 32 CFR 2002

1

	Audio transcription - Interview
1	UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
2	AND A DESCRIPTION OF A
3	PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW CONDUCTED ON
4	BEHALF OF NTSB BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD
5	The share to be the benefit of the second
6	ADMIRAL Have a seat so we will introduce
7	everyone. So BM1 as I mentioned my name is
8	am the Admiral in charge of the Navy's investigation. A
9	couple of folks on my team so I have LCDR . LCDR
10	, they are my two legal advisors. Master Chief
11	he is acting as my CMC Senior Enlisted Advisor and
12	LN2 will be taking notes. During the interview this
13	afternoon, we won't be asking you any questions. The Coast
14	Guard is leading the interviews so I will turn it over to
15	Lieutenant HAT HE will introduce his team which does
16	include Captain who is serving as one of his
17	liaisons.
18	LIEUTENANT CONTRACTOR SO good afternoon.
19	Good afternoon, sir.
20	LIEUTENANT I am Lieutenant . I
21	am Senior Investigating Officer for U.S. Coast Guard Unit
22	Activities Parties here in Japan. Under the Authority of
23	Title 46, U. S. Code 6301 and Title 46 CFR Part 4 an
24	investigation is being conducted into the circumstances of
25	the collision between the USS Fitzgerald and ACX Crystal
	Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330

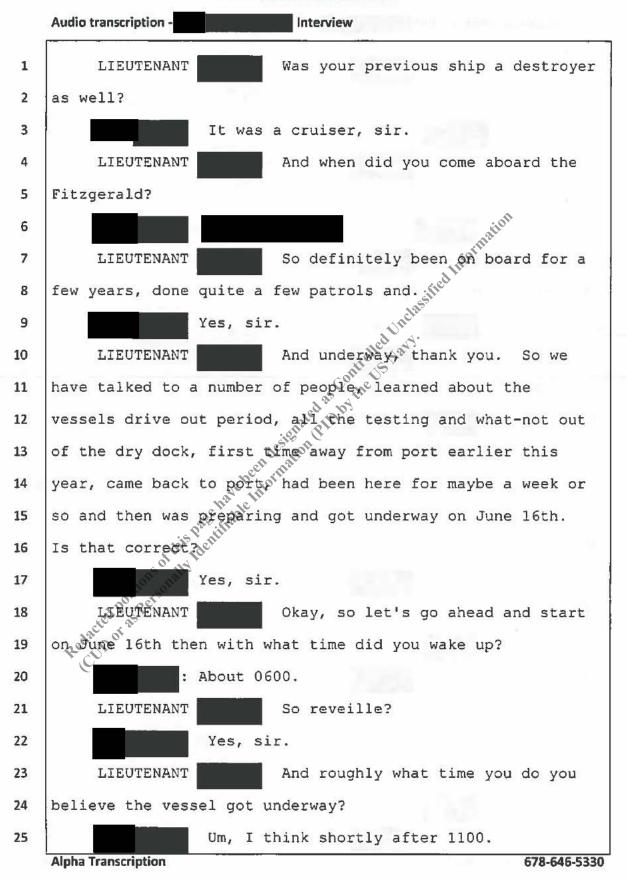
Audio transcription -

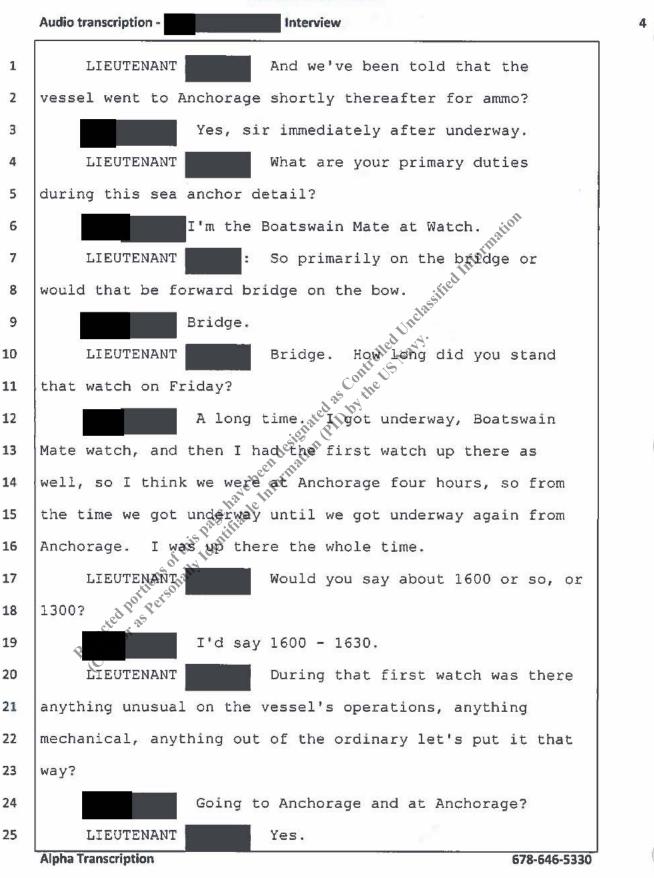
Interview

2

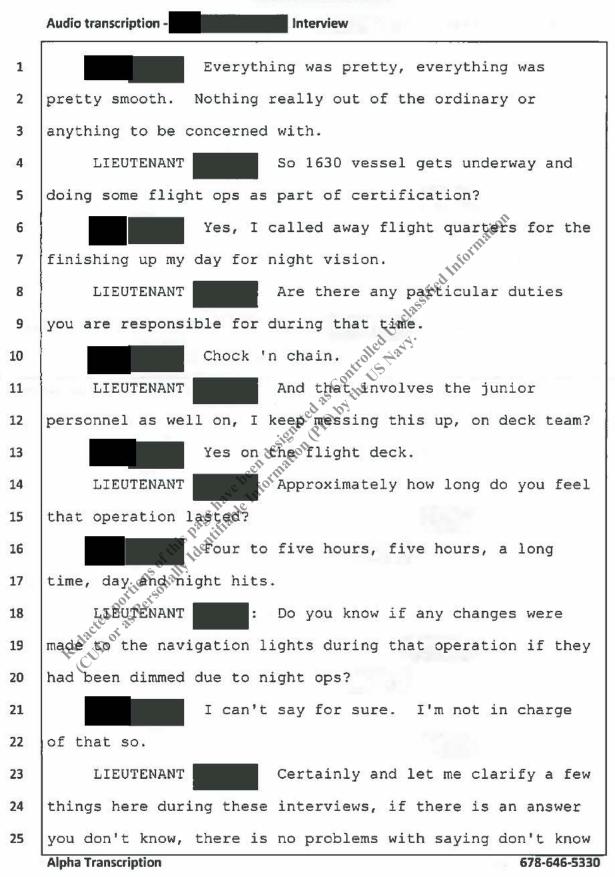
2	
1	which took place on June 17th, 2017. This investigation is
2	intended to determine the cause of the casualty to the
3	extent possible and to obtain information for the purpose
4	of preventing similar casualties in the future. To assist
5	with the accuracy of our investigation we will be recording
6	today's interview which is taking place on June 23xd, 2017
7	at 1353. Assisting me with this interview I have Mr.
8	of the Coast Guards National Center of Expertise
9	for Investigations. I also have Lieutenant LCDR
10	who is also in our unit who has experience as a Commanding
11	Officer of Coast Guard vessels and Lehave Captain who
12	is working as a liaison officer from the Navy to ensure and
13	understand operations on the Navy's side. If we could begin just by stating your mame and position aboard the vessel.
14	begin just by stating your name and position aboard the
15	vessel.
16	, Boatswain Mate Assistant
17	Lead to Petto Officer for deck duties.
18	LIENTENANT Control Con
19	yourself, how long have you been in the Navy?
20	: Um ten plus years, next month will be
21	eleven.
22	LIEUTENANT Excellent. So a number of
23	different vessels over the years?
24	Yes, sir. This is my second ship, third
25	command.
	Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330

3





5

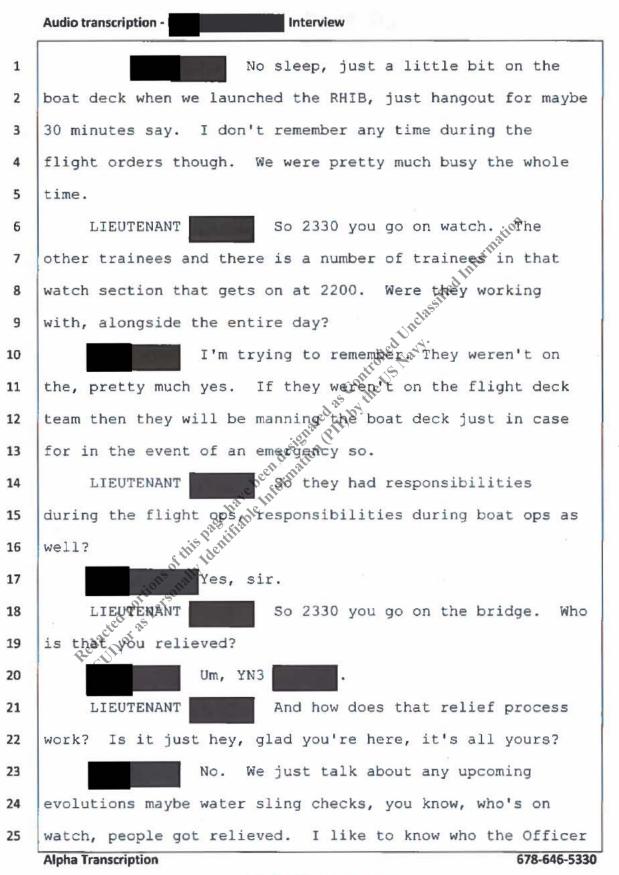


6

FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY	
Audio transcription - Interview	
1 cause we're asking from a whole view, a whole picture of	
2 everything and it is more of a would you know this, could	L
3 you know this, would this have come up during your day.	
4 Saying I don't know is a perfectly normal answer.	
5 Just to add on, I don't want to say for	
6 myself yes it definitely happened but I know there is a	
7 flight quarter like checklist that we take out to know a	n
8 order to follow certain things.	
9 LIEUTENANT Sure. And likewise I want to ma	ke
0 sure that you are at ease here, at any time you need a	
drink or get up take a breather, one op please let us kno	W
2 we will be glad to pause the recording and give you what	
time you need to before werefully start with further questions at any time. herefully	
4 questions at any time. he	
5 Yes, have hit	
6 LIEUTENANT : All right, so the flight trainin	g
7 goes for four of five hours and then boats op would happe	n.
goes for found of five hours and then boats op would happe Is your team involved with in that as well?	
Yes, sir.	
0 DIEUTENANT And what sort of duties did you	
1 and your team perform?	
2 Pretty much launching the RHIB, but like	i.
B POIC and just taking the ATG guys off and one of our LSEs	
4 that was just TAD with us from the village went off the	
5 RHIB and the coxswain took him back to shore and they cam	e
Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330	

	Audio transcription -
1	back and then we recovered RHIB. That was it for the boat
2	ops
3	LIEUTENANT So in between the time when the
4	boat is launched in water and on its way and when it comes
5	back, is there any downtime for the crews, like are they
6	allowed to go back to their rack and get some rest or is it
7	they have to be on standby?
8	We were all standby on the boat. Some of
9	us can use the head, take a smoke break but nobody went to
10	the rack though. LIEUTENANT And when they you feel that those
11	LIEUTENANT And when the you feel that those operations had ended?
12	operations had ended?
13	When we recovered the RHIB, secured the
14	RHIB, we had a little like debrief, talked about what we
15	were going to do tor the morning as far as mustering and
16	then everybody broke to go to sleep or go to do lunch.
17	LIEUTENANT And rough timeframe?
18	Timeframe at the end of boat ops?
19	Yes.
20	At the 2300 to I got on watch immediately
21	after so that was 2330 I believe I took the watch so.
22	LIEUTENANT So from your time awaking up at
23	0600 to you going on watch on 2330 what sort of rest
24	periods were you able to get and/or sleep during that time
25	period?
	Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330

FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY



	FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY
	Audio transcription - Interview
1	of the Deck is or maybe they got relieved or didn't get
2	relieved yet. Just calling this a standard, you know
3	little talk through on what's happened and down to the
4	walk.
5	LIEUTENANT And right after I said that
6	question I wanted to clarify that, I don't assume that you
7	go up and say, Hey give a high five and walk off the watch.
8	I want to leave that as open as I can to say, how's it
9	work? So I definitely not assuming that everyone just
10	shakes hands and moves on. What are your duties as the
11	Boatswain Mate of the Watch up on the bridge?
12	Um, I'm pretty much in charge of my watch
13	team on the helm/Lee helm, any lookouts and aft lookout,
14	just assisting them of they are having a hard time with
15	course changes or speed changes, verifying everyone's on
16	time and everybody's where they need to be and just assist
17	the OD in anything, maybe a message of run night orders for someone, one of the night watches.
18	someone, one of the night watches.
19	Recharge of the Hight watches.
20	talked to other folks that said there are a number of
21	trainees on your section. This was something new for that,
22	for your watch section to have this many trainees at the
23	same time?
24	So we just got a big influx of new
25	prospective gains, new sailors, so all of them were
	Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330

C

FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY

10

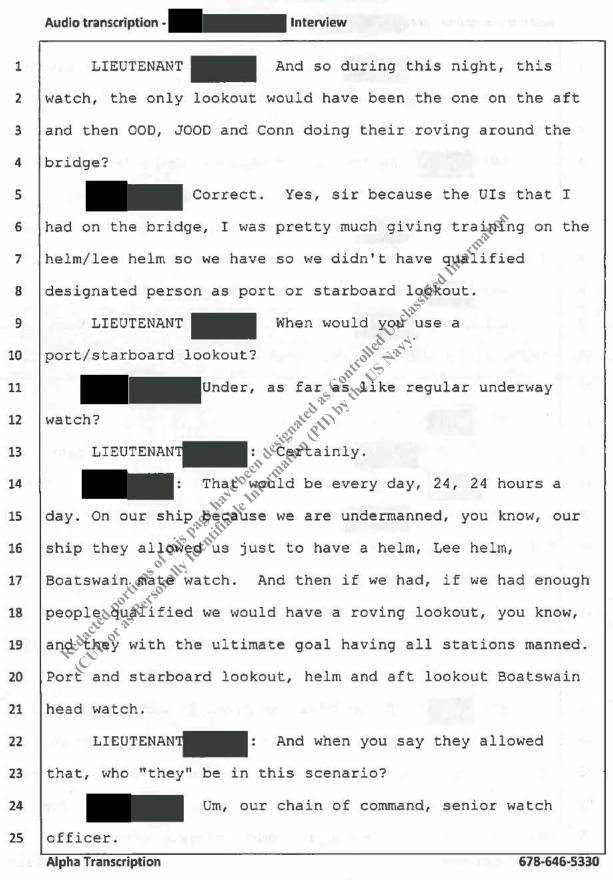
	FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY
	Audio transcription - Interview
1	obviously not qualified. Some of them came while we were
2	in Sasebo before we pulled in. They are all pretty new and
3	still learning. I am one of the senior, well the Senior
4	Boatswain Mate of Watch so I did, when they wrote the watch
5	they really did put a lot in my section just to help out
6	with falls and knowledge.
7	LIEUTENANT . Was that something you had a hand
8	in? Were you able to say, "Yeah I would be glad to take em
9	on" or is that or were you told "We're going to put these
10	folks in your watch?"
11	I had talked about it previous with
12	Boatswain just about phuffling people around so
13	they get different perspectives on just knowledge wise,
14	because everyone has something to bring to the table you
15	know, no matter how small it is. So, I told them to put
16	obviously put the people in my section. I didn't say how
17	many there were who exactly.
18	LIEUTENANT So it wasn't a complete surprise
19	and is was something you were, was it something you were
20	comfortable with?
21	I was comfortable with it.
22	LIEUTENANT . And so when you say training and
23	management of these lookouts, what sort of things are you
24	providing to these new crew members?
25	: Um, helping them drive the ship properly
	Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330

	FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY
	Audio transcription Interview
1	depending on situations, commands, look-out training, how
2	to report man over-boards, how to report contacts, some
3	basic seamanship and basic watch standing things you may
4	face while you are up there by yourself. It was Helm/Lee
5	Helm and lookout and eventually Boatswain Mate of the
6	Watch.
7	LIEUTENANT . What are the response bilities of
8	the, and I understand Helmsman and Lee Hermsman sort of a
9	combined position on the Fitzgerald. What were the
10	responsibilities aside from helm command and throttle
11	commands?
12	: Where there day yes, it's pretty much a
13	combination. Usually one person can manage it unless we
14	are in a special evolution, then one for each, one person
15	on the helm and one person on Lee helm. But that is only
16	their responsibility there and they don't do anything else,
17	they don'to leave that area, that spot. Lieurenant : So no one says, you know, there is
18	LIEUNENANT So no one says, you know, there is
19	a point out there, keep an eye on that, it's just you are
20	waiting for that command?
21	If you are on that, if you've taken over
22	that watch then yeah, you would stay there.
23	LIEUTENANT . And so the other part of this
24	section is the aft lookout who is normally on the fantail.
25	: Correct.
	Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330

Audio transcription -Interview 1 LIEUTENANT : And mostly focused on aft vessels 2 approaching from behind. 3 Right, anything in sight or you know hearing that, I tell to report just in case anything got 4 missed, so. 5 6 LIEUTENANT Okay, so you don't tell them just to look straight back, its look to the sides as well and if 7 there is anything to report in any direction? 8 9 Right. So primarialy it's for just 10 stern of the ship for anything coming behind us which may pop-up but obviously being just being back there you are 11 going to look around you know to the left and to the right 12 13 sides. So if you were to see something, go ahead and ve been Informa 14 report it. If you see something, say 15 LIEUTENANT of this 16 something? 17 Correct. Report everything. LIEUTENANT 18 So, on the bridge team who is responsible then for looking forward and checking the 19 sides? 20 21 Um, look-outs are, the whole bridge watch 22 team, the Officer of the Deck, also Conn and Junior Officer of the Deck that's our job navigating the ship and keeping 23 24 it safe. So primarily look-outs and definitely the conning 25 officer. Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330

FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY

12



FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY

Audio transcription -Interview LIEUTENANT They set up the plan, they say who 1 2 is doing what watch sections and on the watch section, if 3 the positions just weren't filled out. We just don't have enough bodies, 4 qualified bodies to have a port and starboard lookout. 5 Do you know when the last time you 6 LIEUTENANT 2 I can't safed horn did have enough bodies for a full lookout? 7 8 I do not, sir. LIEUTENANT At any point since you've been 9 there, since 2015, do you remember having enough bodies for 10 I do remembered as Contin bythet 11 a full lookout. Yes, Stronna the past? 12 LIEUTENANT 13 14 All right, so we are up on the 15 LIEUTENANT bridge, we are grying training to the UI, the under-16 instruction personnel, switching them out on the helm, 17 giving them time and experience, on-the-job training. 18 Explain what is going on around the vessel? How is traffic 19 looking, weather, the conditions of the night? 20 Um, weather was fine. It wasn't very bad 21 seas from what I remember. There was traffic, other ships 22 23 in the area and we were, I could see the lights from shore so I knew we weren't, you know, very far from land. 24 And it 25 was just a normal. We had a normal underway watch that I Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330

FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY

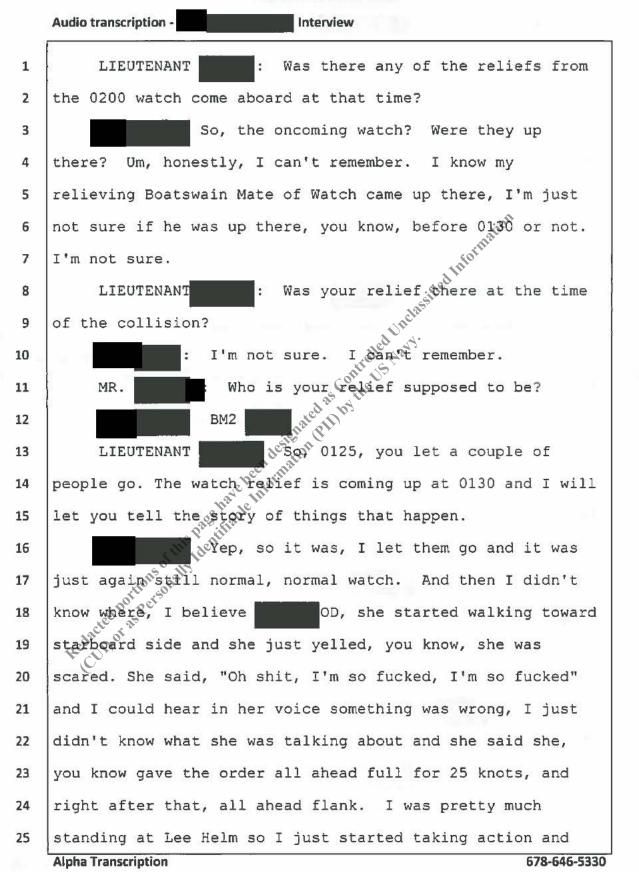
14

	Audio transcription Interview
1	stood many times before.
2	LIEUTENANT So again, like the question I
3	asked before, nothing unusual, no mechanical failures that
4	you are aware of? Everything is optimal.
5	Yeah, it was. I don't remember anything
6	standing out until, you know, till the collision happened.
7	LIEUTENANT . How about the, the what's going on
8	with the officers on the bridge? Anything unusual of them,
9	are they making a lot of radio contacts.
10	: What I remember, Adon't remember them
11	talking too much about contacts one I don't remember them
12	talking about going over bridge to bridge or anything. I
13	remember the Officer of the Deck, I remember her roving, I
14	remember her looking at navigation and I remember the Conn
15	being just roving as well on the bridge wings and
16	throughout the pilothouse. I don't remember any talk about
17	contacts too much.
18	LIEUTENANT And you are giving training. I
19	can understand that you're focused on that task. Do you
20	recall much on the JOOD, what actions were taking place
21	there?
22	Um, she was there to assist with the
23	Officer of the Deck so, I can't give 100 percent answer on
24	what exactly what she was doing but you know, anything
25	navigation and contact while she would be there with
	Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330

C

FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY

	Audio transcription - Interview	1
1	Officer of the Deck and Conn working together.	
2	LIEUTENANT Um, hum. How about communications	
3	down to CIC? Was that something frequently that you've	
4	heard or that anybody on the bridge could have heard?	
5	Usually yes. On this watch I don't	
6	remember that though. I can't remember, put it that way.	
7	LIEUTENANT : So then you got on watch at 2330,	
8	night goes on, it is getting close to 1300 and you know	
9	night goes on, it is getting close to 1300 and you know that	
10	UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Zero one-hundred	
11	LIEUTENANT : Zero one-hundred, thank you. I've	
12	done that a couple of times now So it is getting close to	
13	0100 and understand that maybe we're on our last watch	
14	standers at the helm. Do you know who took the helm at that time?	
15	that time? and that the the	
16	thithe last person was Seaman .	
17	LIEUTENANT Okay, so she's got the helm. I	
18	believe several of the other watch standers really didn't	
19	need them up on the bridge anymore, might have let them go	
20	back to their bunks maybe?	
21	: Yes, at 0125, I let two people go. I told	
22	them to go down, you know, go to sleep. So I had on	
23	the helm and another UI up there as well cause we were	
24	going to smoke after, after we got relieved, so she just	
25	stayed up there.	
	Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330	



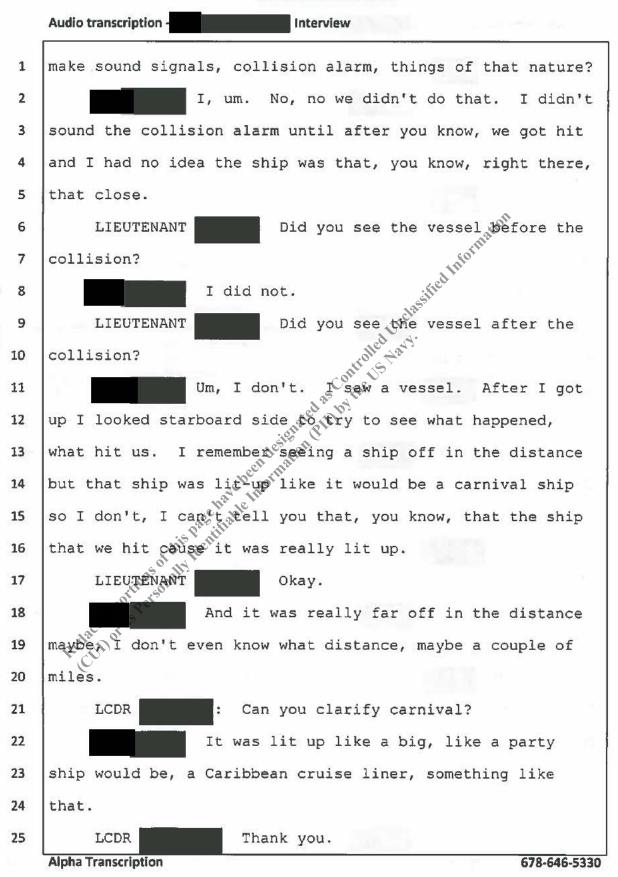
FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY

Audio transcription -

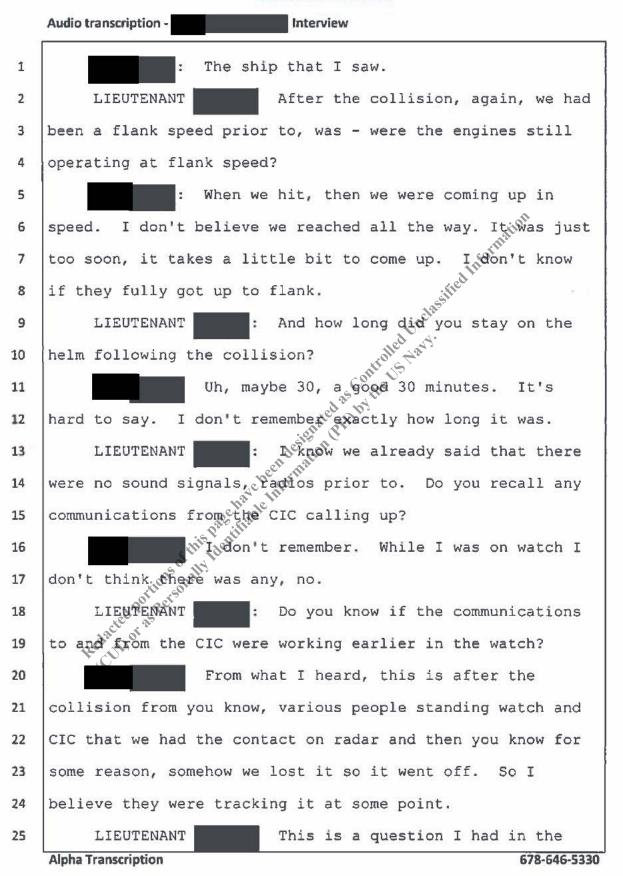
Interview

18

1	
1	then she said "Hard left rudder" so I just took, I just
2	grabbed the wheel, I put it over and then we got hit. And
3	from there everybody just flew to, you know, flew about
4	house, flew on the deck for a few seconds. And then from
5	there I remember I just stayed down a little bit, you know,
6	just in case we got hit again, you know I didn't went to
7	hit my head or something. But I got up, I helped someone
8	up, I think it was . You know I was sking if
9	everybody was okay and I started, I got back, me and her
10	went back on the helm and just standing by, just you know
11	in case we needed to do anything else as far as driving the
12	ship of change the speed. They ended up having us come
13	
14	coming down to five knots or three knots and we stayed
15	there for a good amount of time. I don't remember coming
16	up in speed or anything after that.
17	LIEUTENANT From the time that the OOD is
18	getting stated and noticing that there is a problem to the
19	time of the collision, approximately what period of time
20	would you say that would be?
21	: Maybe 15 seconds maybe, a little short
22	time.
23	LIEUTENANT Okay, so in that 15 seconds, no
24	time to get on a radio and hail the other vessel or were
25	there any actions to hail the other vessel on the radio,
	Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330



20

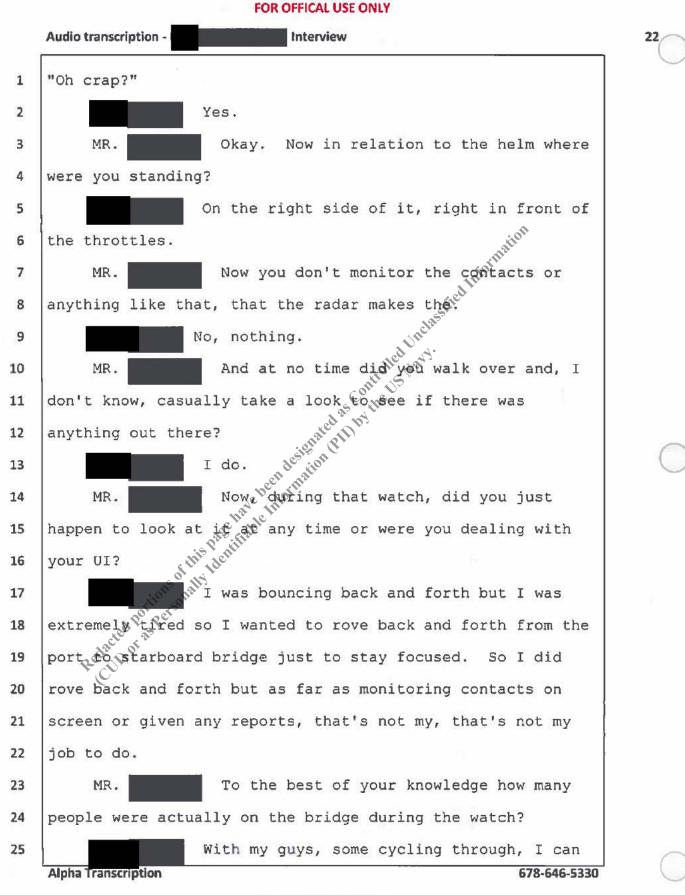


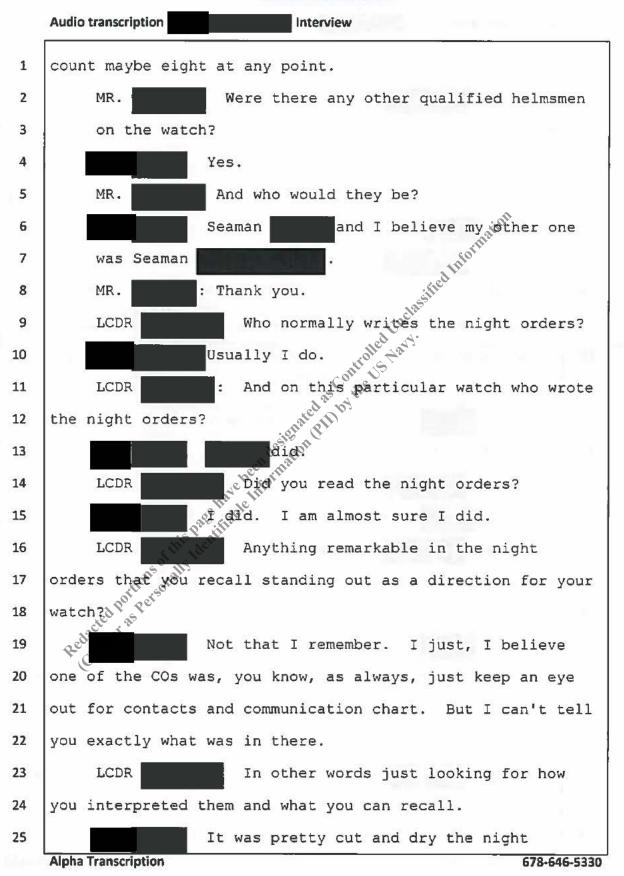
Interview

	Audio transcription - Interview
1	back of my head and haven't asked anyone earlier yet and it
2	might be something better to talk to my liaison officer at
3	another time but regarding the Fitzgerald's radar
4	signature. Does the design of the ship have any effect on
5	how other ships see it on the radar screen? Do you know of
6	any instruction on how other vessels might see your vessel?
7	Um, I know that I am not a technician by
8	any means on that. I know there is ways we can do that to
9	make our ship smaller or even look more like a fishing
10	vessel. Ah, I can't tell you that is what we had done or we
11	were doing. I don't believe so
12	LIEUTENANT : And then, would you know if your
13	vessels AIS transponder would have been on if you had been
14	signaling your location through AIS?
15	Page Hale Hit 100 percent tell you that it was
16	on but that is normal procedure to have AIS on.
17	LCDR an you define "on" just a little bit
18	more? Non vin transiting, on in receive, or you're unsure,
19	no orders?
20	I'm a little unsure.
21	LCDR : That's fine. Thank you. I think
22	I'll, Mr. asks a few questions as I look at my
23	notes here.
24	MR. MR. : Okay, so before the incident your
25	first indication of the issue was the OD basically saying,

C

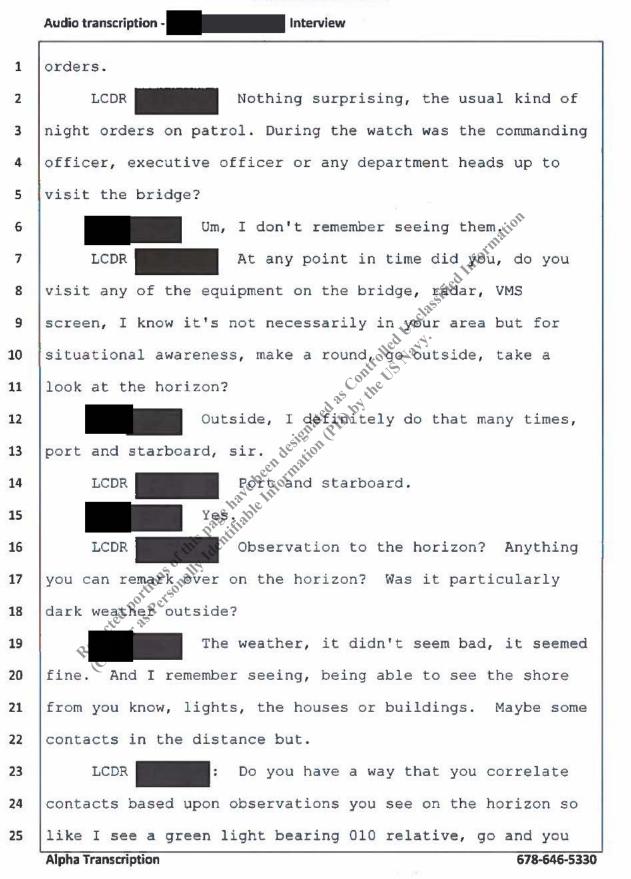
FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY





FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY

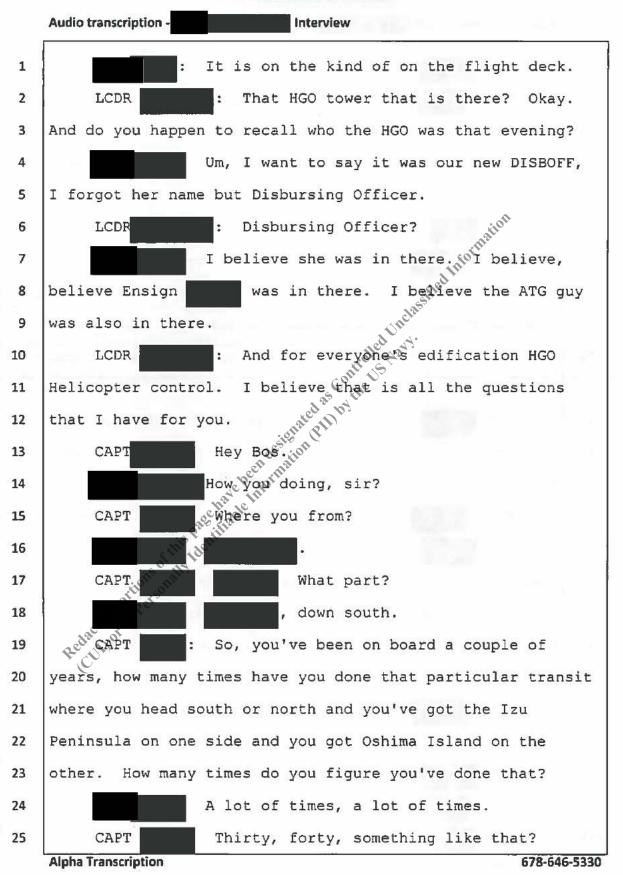
24

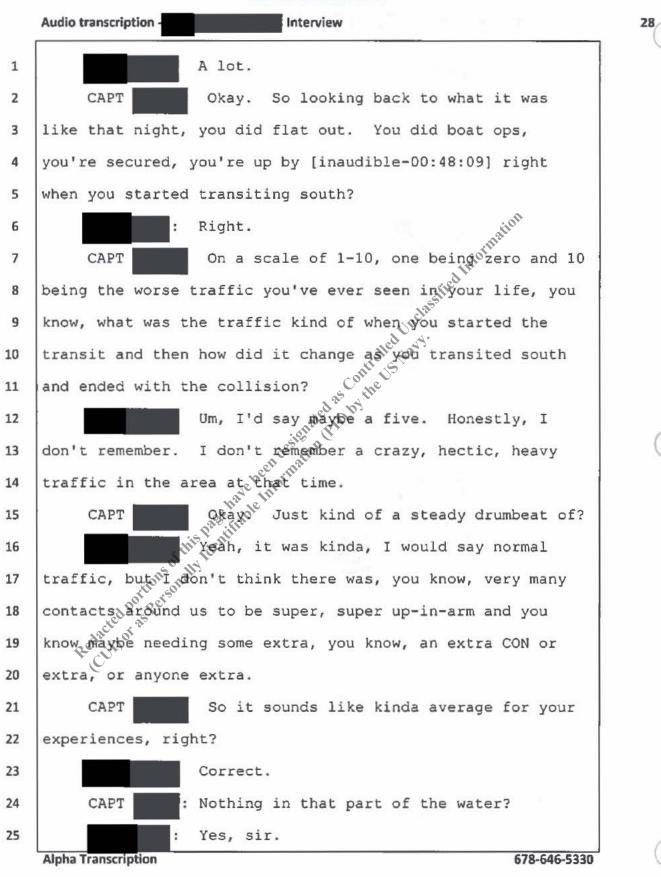


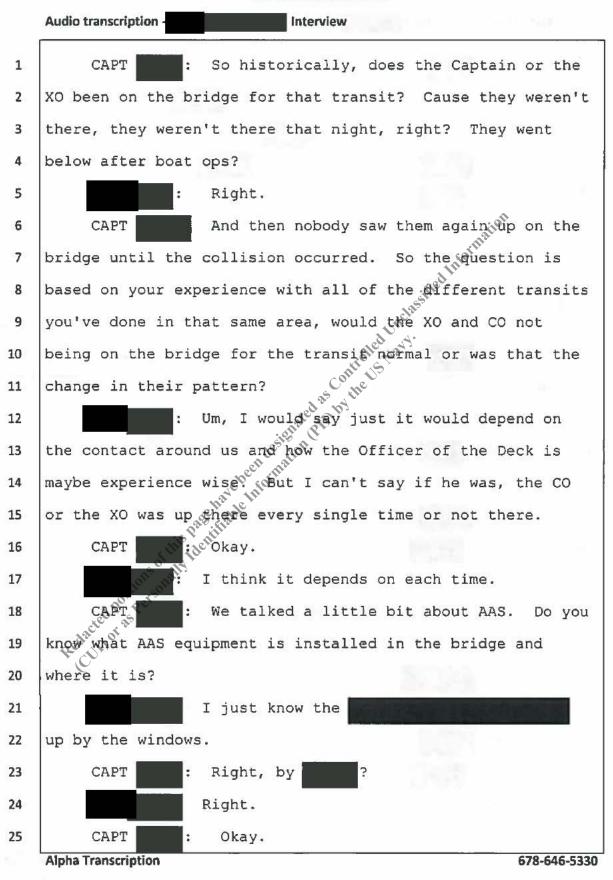
	Audio transcription
1	try to look at the radar to correlate to see if a radar
2	contact is there or no?
3	No, I don't do that. No.
4	LCDR Okay. Um, how is the watch? Was the
5	watch particularly quiet, noisy, break-in on watch?
6	Um, it wasn't loud. It was a normal
7	watch, just some chatter. I mean, me and my guy were
8	talking just about the day that happened and trying to, you
9	know, get through the watch that we were on you know and
10	ah, and that's it. I remember Officer of the Deck and the
11	watch team officers, I remember them talking, I don't
12	remember exactly what they were talking about but I was
13	pretty much behind the helm and with my guys most of the
14	pretty much behind the helpoland with my guys most of the time, so.
15	LCDR Was there much interaction between
16	your watches and the OOD of that watch team?
17	Um, I really can't remember. I don't
18	think it was a lot though. I don't think it was a lot.
19	think it was a lot though. I don't think it was a lot.
20	excited to be underway, not looking forward to it,
21	complaints, anything?
22	Um
23	LCDR Don't play poker! (Laughter)
24	: (Also laughing). Well we had just got done
25	doing three months and came back for a week and then right
	Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330

26

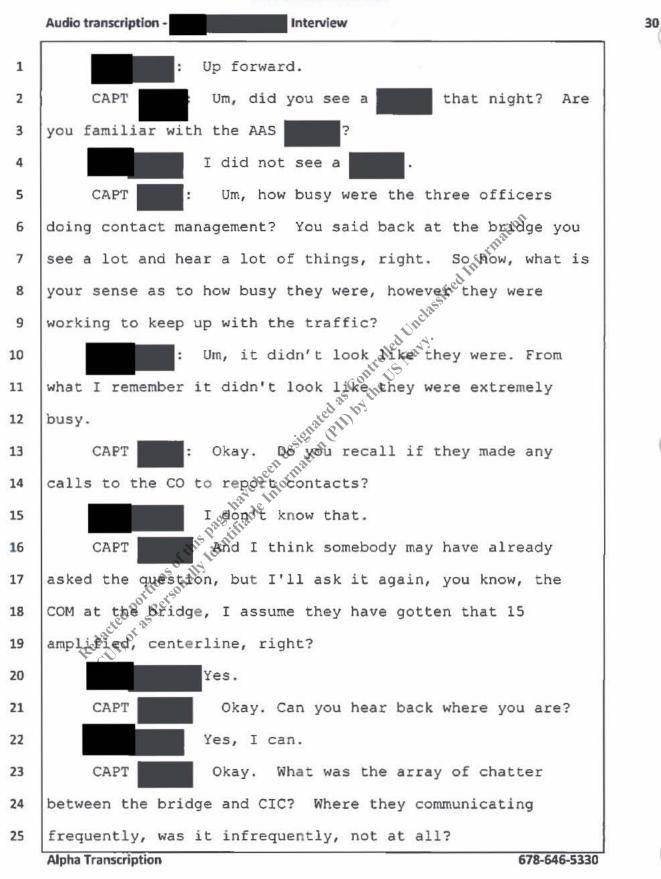
	FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY
÷.,	Audio transcription - Interview
1	back out so I don't think the morale is bad, I just don't
2	think, I don't think there was anybody really excited to go
3	back out to sea again. But I wouldn't say the morale is
4	bad just maybe needing a break, and getting some rest.
5	LCDR : You feel that in-port period you had
6	prior to getting underway was sufficient for crew west and
7	getting ready for your next patrol?
8	I don't. No.
9	LCDR : No?
10	No. Holled Lavy.
11	LCDR How would you sate people first day,
12	prior to getting underway was sufficient for crew west and getting ready for your next patrol? I don't. No. LCDR I don't. No. LCDR No. LCDR How would you hate people first day, I know first day underway people first day in the still getting reacclimated even though they were just at sea a week
13	reacclimated even though they were just at sea a week
14	prior, getting reacclinated being at sea, shift routine,
15	were they lethargics are in the second secon
16	N Lecan't talk for the rest of the crew
17	cause I really didn't see too much of them that day.
18	cause I really didn't see too much of them that day. Deckhands did an awesome job. Guys did an awesome job all
19	day, we were tired but nothing bad happened so, we were
20	happy about that and we did everything we needed to do and
21	got our Cert for the night DLQs and NVGs. But as far as
22	other crew members I could only speculate on them and how
23	they were feeling, so.
24	LCDR : For nighttime fly operations you have
25	an HGO stationed aft?
	Alpha Transcription 678-646-5330

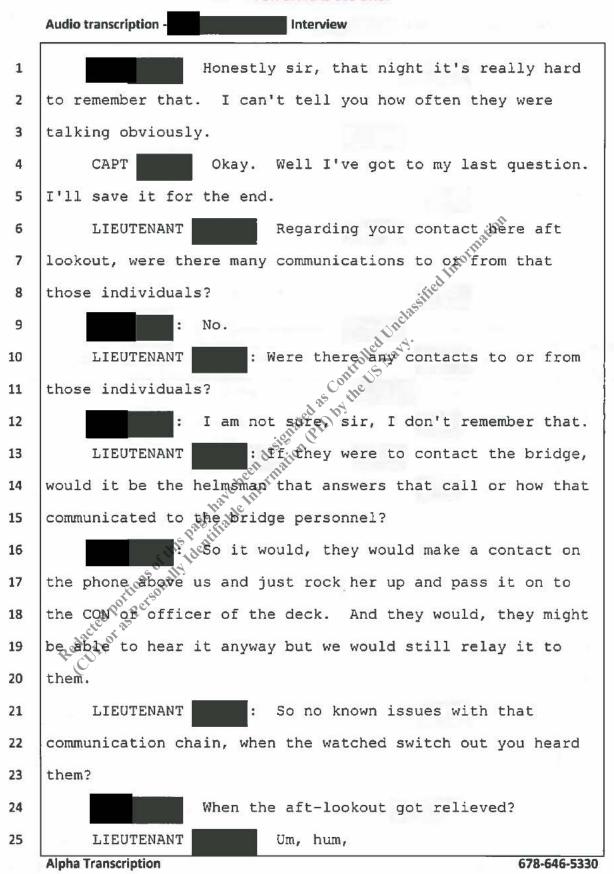




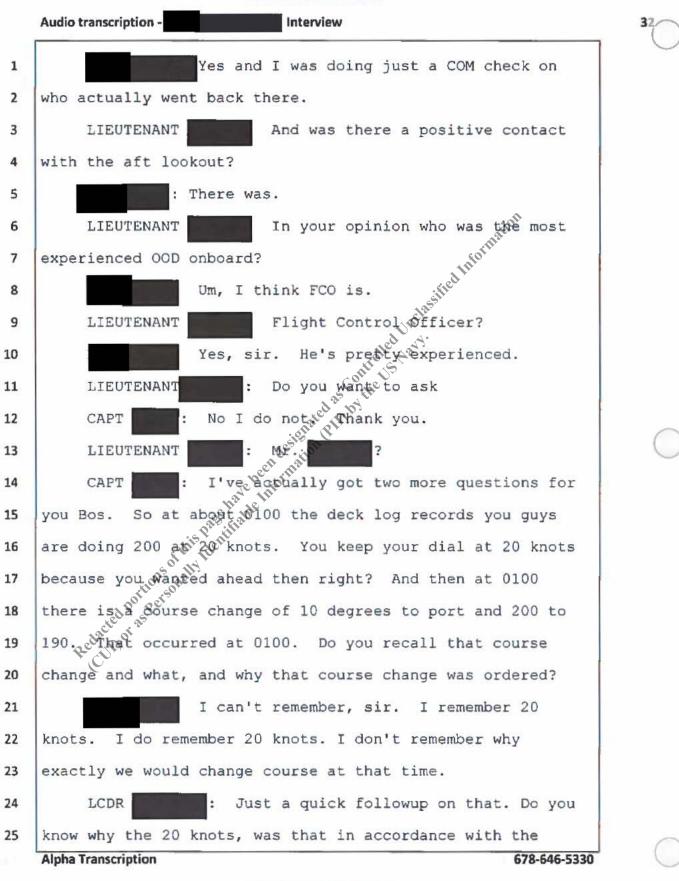


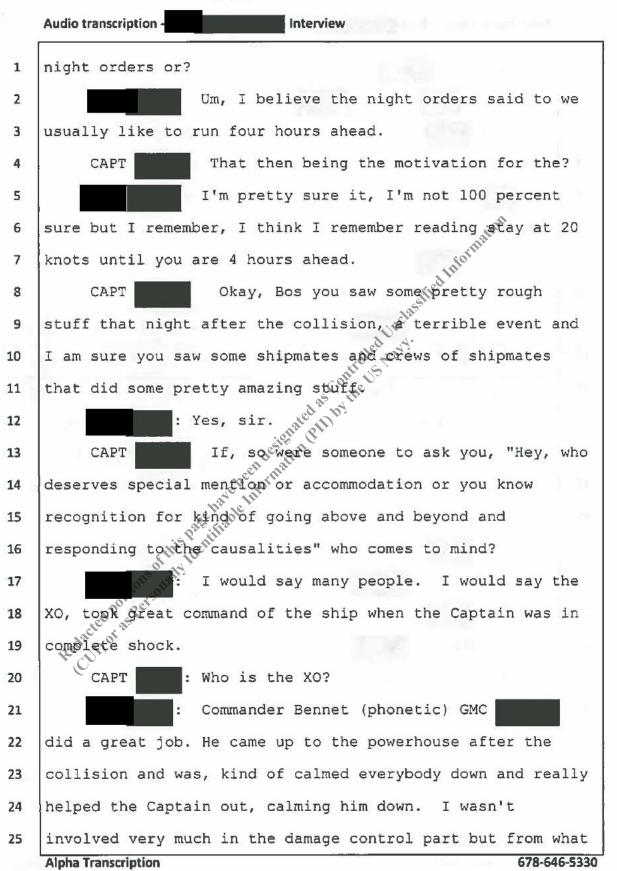
FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY





31





FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY

