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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, U.S. NAVAL FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND
FPO AE 09501-6008

IN REPLY TO:

5720
Ser N013/096
18 Jan 10

Mr. John Greenwald
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenwald:

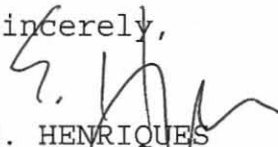
SUBJECT: FOIA REQUEST OF 19NOV09

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 19 November 2009, which was forwarded to this office by U.S. Fleet Forces Command and received on 14 January 2010, file #10-04. You requested a copy of the investigation into the collision between USS HARTFORD (SSN 768) and USS NEW ORLEANS (LPD 18) which occurred on March 20, 2009.

The enclosed documents were identified as being responsive to your request. The costs associated with this request are waived

Any questions concerning this matter should be directed to Lieutenant Commander Curtis Crews, JAGC, U.S. Navy, 011-973-1785-3144, or email at curtis.crews@me.navy.mil.

Sincerely,


E. HENRIQUES
Captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy
Force Judge Advocate
U.S. Naval Forces Central Command
By direction of the Commander

Enclosures: 1. COMFIFTHFLT ltr 5830 Ser N013/020 of 21 Mar 09
2. COMFIFTHFLT ltr 5830 Ser N013/021 of 31 Mar 09
3. COMFIFTHFLT ltr 5830 Ser N013/024 of 19 Apr 09

Copy to:
Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (w/o encl)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, U.S. FIFTH FLEET
FPO AE 09501-6008

IN REPLY TO:
5830
Ser N013/020
21 Mar 09

From: Commander, U.S. FIFTH Fleet
To: CAPT Craig S. Kleint, U.S. Navy

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING THE COLLISION OF USS HARTFORD (SSN 768) WITH
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPD 18) IN THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ ON OR
ABOUT 20 MARCH 2009

Ref: (a) JAG Instruction 5800.7E (JAGMAN), Chapter II
(b) Uniform Code of Military Justice

1. This appoints you, in accordance with reference (a), to inquire into the facts and circumstances surrounding the collision of USS HARTFORD (SSN 768) with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPD 18) in the Strait of Hormuz on or about 20 March 2009.

2. You are directed to determine what factors contributed to this incident, resulting injuries and damages, and any fault, neglect, or responsibility. Specifically, during the course of your investigation, you should review the tactical situation existing at the time of the collision, including the vessels' track data, timelines, radar logs, charts; personnel manning and qualifications; locations of the conning officers and commanding officers; material factors, including radar, sonar, periscopes, and control systems; communication factors; operating area factors; weather, visibility, and other environmental factors; and other matters you determine relevant.

3. You must interview all pertinent witnesses, as well as collect and preserve all documentary evidence relating to the collision. Personnel suspected of committing an offense under reference (b) must be advised of their rights under Article 31 of reference (b) prior to questioning or as soon as it becomes apparent that an individual is suspected of an offense under reference (b). You must include either written statements or results of interviews for all witnesses contacted during this investigation.

4. Report your findings of fact, opinions, and recommendations for any appropriate corrective, administrative, or disciplinary

ENCLOSURE |

Enclosure (5)

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING THE COLLISION OF USS HARTFORD (SSN 768) WITH
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPD 18) IN THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ ON OR
ABOUT 20 MARCH 2009

action not later than 6 April 2009, unless an extension of time
is granted.

5. Provide a complete copy of the investigation to Commander,
Task Force 51 and Commander, Task Force 54, who are directed by
copy of this appointing order to review the investigation and
provide comments for my consideration during the review of the
investigation no later than two weeks from receipt of the
investigation.

6. You are directed to seek assistance from the following
personnel during the course of the investigation and preparation
of the report of investigation:

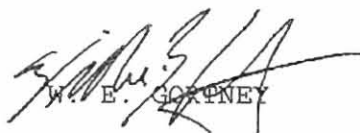
a. The officer assigned by Commander, Naval Submarine
Forces to assist this investigation as a technical expert in
submarine operations.

b. Lieutenant Commander Shane Cooper, JAGC, U.S. Navy is
assigned to provide legal advice for this investigation. An
additional judge advocate will be assigned by Region Legal
Service Office EURSWA, at the request of Commander, Naval
Surface Forces, to assist the investigation.

c. LN2 Desiree Lopez, U.S. Navy is assigned to provide
administrative support.

7. My point of contact is Captain Denise Stich, JAGC, U.S.
Navy, Fleet Judge Advocate, who may be reached via telephone at
011-973-1785-4837/4550, DSN 318-439-4837/4550, or via e-mail at
denise.stich@me.navy.mil or denise.stich@me.navy.smil.mil.

8. Unless otherwise directed, you will provide a daily report
on the investigation's status to my designated point of contact.


W. E. GORTNEY



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, U.S. FIFTH FLEET
FPO AE 09501-8008

IN REPLY TO:
5830
N013/021
31 Mar 09

From: Commander, U. S. FIFTH Fleet
To: CAPT Craig S. Kleint, U.S. Navy

Subj: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO
THE FACTS SURROUNDING THE COLLISION OF USS HARTFORD
(SSN 768) WITH USS NEW ORLEANS (LPD 18) IN THE STRAIT
OF HORMUZ ON OR ABOUT 20 MARCH 2009

Ref: (a) Your email of 30 Mar 09
(b) Commander, U.S. FIFTH Fleet ltr 5830 Ser 013/020 of
21 Mar 09

1. Per your request in reference (a), an extension of time to submit your report of investigation into subject incident has been granted. This letter amends the appointing letter, reference (b).

2. Upon completion of the investigation, forward your report to the Fleet Judge Advocate's Office no later than close of business 20 April 2009.


D. E. STICH
By direction

ENCLOSURE 2

Enclosure (6)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, U.S. FIFTH FLEET
FPO AE 09501-6008


IN REPLY TO:
5830
Ser N013/024
19 Apr 09

From: Commander, U.S. FIFTH Fleet
To: CAPT Craig S. Kleint, U.S. Navy

Subj: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE
FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE COLLISION OF USS
HARTFORD (SSN 768) WITH USS NEW ORLEANS (LPD 18) IN THE
STRAIT OF HORMUZ ON OR ABOUT 20 MARCH 2009

Ref: (a) LCDR Cooper email of 17 Apr 09
(b) COMUSFIFTHFLT ltr 5830 Ser 013/20 of 21 Mar 09
(c) COMUSFIFTHFLT ltr 5830 Ser 013/21 of 31 Mar 09

1. Per the request in reference (a), an extension of time to submit your report of investigation into subject incident has been granted. This letter amends the appointing letter, reference (b), and previous extension, reference (c).
2. Upon completion of the investigation, forward your report to the Fleet Judge Advocate no later than close of business 27 April 2009.


E. E. STICH
By direction

ENCLOSURE 3

Enclosure (7)