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**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY** 

COMMANDER. NAVAL SURFACE FORCES 2841 RENDOVA ROAD SAN DIEGO. CALIFORNIA 92155-5490

'N REPLY REFER TO 5720 Ser N00J/0096 4 Mar 2010

Mr. John Greenewald, Jr.

Dear Mr. John Greenewald, Jr.:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for a copy of the JAGMAN investigation into the collision between USS HARTFORD (SSN 768) and USS New Orleans (LPD 18) which occurred on March 20, 2009. Your request was received on December 23, 2009 and assigned file number FOIA CNSF FY2010-6.

Your request was forwarded to this command from Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command because certain documents fall under the cognizance of Commander, Naval Surface Forces. We have reviewed the documents which are responsive to your request and they are partially released to you in the timeframe that you requested. Please be advised that USS NEW ORLEANS Deck Log of 19-20 Mar 09 was redacted pursuant to FOIA Exemption b(6), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6), which prohibits release of any information that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy of other individuals identified in the deck logs. USS NEW ORLEANS Position Log of 19-20 Mar 09 and Pilot Information Card has been withheld under FOIA Exemption b(2) because the documents contain sensitive rules and practices which, if released, would create foreseeable harm to Ship's company and the strategic security of the ship. USS NEW ORLEANS Memorandum of Post-Collision Actions has been released in its entirety.

The USS NEW ORLEANS Damage and Repair Photographs and Collision Repair Report have been forwarded to NAVCENT and NAVSEA for release determination as matters under their cognizance.

There are no fees associated with the processing of your request by this office.

If you believe that the enclosed documents are not responsive to your request or have been improperly redacted, you are advised of your right to appeal this determination, in writing, to the Judge Advocate General of the Navy (Code 14), 1322 Patterson Avenue SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066. Your appeal must be postmarked within 60 calendar days from the date of this letter to be considered. A statement as to why your appeal should be granted should be included and the enclosed copy of this letter should be attached. Both the appeal letter and the envelope should bear the notation, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Any questions concerning this matter should be directed to LT James P. Andrews, JAGC, U.S. Navy, directly at (619) 437-2054 or james.p.andrews@navy.mil.

Sincerely,

M. J. ÆVANS

Captain, U.S. Navy

Judge Advocate General's Corps

Force Judge Advocate

By direction of the Commander

Copy to: Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command

# SHIP'S DECK LOG SHEET

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OPNAV 3100/99 (Rev 7-84) 8/N 0107-LF-031 0496

# SHIP'S DECK LOG SHEET

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#### SHIP'S DECK LOG SHEET

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# SHIP'S DECK LOG SHEET

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# SHIP'S DECK LOG SHEET

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- Shortly before 0000 the crew felt a rumble/vibration through the hull.
- Lookouts, CSW crews, and bridge watch standers saw nothing.
   The initial assumption was that NOL collided with a small, unlit surface vessel.
- Officers were sent to both bridge wings to look for debris and the Gun Liaison Officer ordered the gun mount crews to do the same. Mount 57's gun crew (starboard, aft) reported a strong smell of fuel oil.
- CIC informed COMSTOCK (following 1000 yards astern) that
  we apparently hit something and were slowing to check for
  damage aboard and debris in the water. COMSTOCK slowed
  to match our speed and lit off spot lights to search our wake.
  They reported no sign of debris.
- Engineering watch-standers briefly reported a loud, non-metallic noise from AMR 2 which soon ceased. Very quickly, the ship developed a 1.5 degree list to starboard. Casualty Response Teams checked all main spaces, shaft alleys, etc-finding no damage. Watch-standers in CCS were able to determine two ballast tanks and a fuel tank were flooding indicating underwater hull damage.
- NOL launched the ready life boat to look for debris and check for visible hull damage. No damage was apparent, but the boat crew reported a strong smell of fuel from the starboard quarter although no fuel was visible. The rescue boat was recovered.
- NOL sighted an unidentified, surfaced submarine off the Port quarter and assumed that we had hit it. The sub was later identified as USS HARTFORD via NAVCENT Chat. As a result of damage sustained, the sub could neither raise a penscope nor man the bridge. NOL escorted HARTFORD in a generally southerly direction, vectoring them clear of merchant traffic until USS MILIUS assumed escort duties.

ENCLOSURE 26