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106/21/16
COMUSNAVCENT/N011

APPENDIX C

COMPREHENSIVE TIMELINE FOR RCB ISOLATING EVENT

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This timeline is generated from the command directed investigation that merges RCB Logs, navigational data, all pertinent watchstander logs, statements from watchstanders and crews.

12 January 2016

0835 RCB 802 dropped into water after repairs

0830-0930 RCB 802 conducts pre-op checks

1138 RCB 802 pier side at Kuwait Naval Base. Navigation system (COGENT) energized.

1145 RCB 805 pier side at Kuwait Naval Base. Navigation system (COGENT) energized.

1148 RCB 802 get underway from pier.

1152 RCB 805 get underway from pier.

1157 RCBs 802 & 805 exit Kuwait Naval Base harbor (pass the 'quay wall')

1157-1232 RCBs 802 & 805 circling outside quay wall in the vicinity of Kuwait Naval Base, troubleshooting satellite communications.

1232 RCBs 802 & 805 begin transit without established satellite communications. RCBs are behind scheduled, so RCB 805 Boat Captain decides to take more direct (southerly) route to a pre-coordinated refueling point.

1302 RCBs unable to establish satellite with their Tactical Operations Center (TOC) at Kuwait Naval Base, but are able to establish satellite communications with the TOC in Bahrain.

1527 The RCBs unknowingly enter Saudi territorial seas.

1537 The RCBs exit Saudi territorial seas.

- ~1542** RCB's Tactical Operations Center (TOC) in Bahrain passes RCB's location to refuel ship (USCGC MONOMY). MONOMY plots location and alerts TOC, in Whisper Chat, that the RCBs are off course in between Saudi and Iranian territorial seas. This appears to be first time anyone plots the RCBs position reports and becomes aware the RCBs were off the planned course.
- 1546** The RCBs unknowingly enter Farsi Island (Iranian) territorial seas at 34 knots.
- 1553-1603** Crew first spots Farsi Island of port side. Crew unaware that it is Farsi or an Iranian island. Around same time, RCBs realize that the refuel ship is on the other (west) side of Farsi Island. RCB 805 Boat Captain makes decision to continue passing along south side of island in order to make refuel rendezvous. No logbook entry in RCBs or watch floor logs indicating that RCBs has spotted the island.
- 1608** RCBs pass within 1.4 nautical miles of Farsi Island. This is the closest the RCBs came to Farsi Island. RCBs still unaware island is Farsi or Iranian.
- 1611** RCB 802 sustains engine casualty (loss of oil pressure) on 1 of 2 engines. Although RCB can proceed at 10 knots on 1 engine, crew stops, shuts down engines to troubleshoot. No indication in RCB or watch floor logs that RCBs reported casualty or stopping.
- 1612** RCB 802 dead in the water. RCB 805 slows to a stop. Although the crews recall they were 3-5 miles from the island, navigation data shows RCBs approx. 1.6 nautical miles, directly south of Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) harbor. RCB 802 begins repairs. No indication in any RCB or watch floor log that RCBs reported going dead in the water.
- ~1620** RCBs observe 2 small boats coming from harbor quickly towards RCBs. No indication in any RCB or watch floor log that RCBs reported the boats approaching.

- ~1620-1627** The 2 small boats approach. At range of 300-500, RCBs observe total of 3 men on both boats, who uncover crew-served weapons. The men are also armed with AK-47s. At approx. range of 100 yards, RCBs recognize at least one boat flying IRGCN flag. RCB accounts are inconsistent, but agree that at least some of the men were not in uniform. IRGCN boats circle RCBs and continue pointing crew-served weapons and AK-47s. RCBs attempt to communicate that they are conducting repairs and intend to leave.
- ~1627-1628** RCB 802 completes repairs. RCBs increase speed and attempt to leave, but IRGCN boats maneuver to block RCB 802's bow. The IRGCN also rack and point their weapons at RCB 802 crew. RCB 802 Boat Captain orders RCBs to stop.
- 1632** Bahrain Tactical Operations Center logs entry: "RCB report 2 Iranian vessels with weapons in condition 1 trained in RCB. Vessels reported to be using an interpreter to make contact with RCB." This is first record of any report from RCBs about interaction with IRGCN. No indication in logs whether TOC reports this up chain of command or higher headquarters.
- 1632-1657** RCBs continue attempts to communicate to IRGCN that RCBs were unaware they had entered Iranian waters, were merely passing through and stopped to make repairs. IRGCN continue to point weapons and direct RCBs to "nest."
- 1657** RCBs nest. IRGCN direct the RCB crews to gather on RCB 805. Around this time (RCB crew accounts conflict), two more IRGCN boats approach from Farsi Island with 12-15 more armed men. IRGCN board RCBs, pull down RCB 802's American flag, and hoist IRGCN flag.
- 1700** CTF-56 Maritime Operations Center log entry: "RCB's reporting 2 Iranian vessels are attempting to push RCB's to unknown island with weapons trained. Vessels are attempting to make contact with RCB using interpreter." No indication in log whether reports this up chain of command or to higher headquarters until 1715.

- 1710 CTF-56 reports to FIFTH Fleet that two RCBs queried by Iranians in vicinity of Farsi Island. Unclear to whom this initial report was made.
- 1713 IRGCN forces RCBs' Coxswains at gunpoint to drive RCBs towards Farsi Island. RCBs begin transiting toward Farsi Island at approx. 26 knots, approx. 1 hour after first going dead in the water.
- 1715¹ CTF-56 log entry: "notified CUNC BWC 1415Z of ongoing interaction between 2x RCB(s) and 2 Iranian" approx. 47 minutes after RCBs report interaction CTU-56.7.4 (Bahrain TOC), and approx. 1 hour, 3 minutes after RCBs first went dead in water.
- ~1721 NAVCENT BWC receives call from CTF-56 BWC stating that the two RCBs were being hailed by Iran and directed to go to Farsi Island. The NAVCENT BWC asked the CTF-56 BWC to confirm the RCBs location and then to call back. The NAVCENT BWC also independently plotted and verified the RCB location to be in the vicinity of Farsi Island.
- 1729 CTF-56 MOC notifies C5F BWC that they are having intermittent communications with the RCBs.
- 1743 RCBs moor at Farsi Island harbor, approx. 1 hour, 31 minutes after first going dead in water.
- 1745 Commander, U.S. FIFTH Fleet calls C5F MOC-Director to inquiry about RCB 802 and 805.
- 1815 CTF-58 directs USS ANZIO to make best speed toward Farsi Island, but to remain outside of Iranian territorial seas.
- 1825 CTF-58 directs USS Anzio to form a Surface Action Group with HMS Defense and USCGC MONOMOY.
- 1835 Commander, U.S. FIFTH Fleet authorizes CTF-58 to enter Farsi Island territorial seas to conduct a search and rescue mission.

¹ (U) This log entry is out of sequence (after the fact) in CTF-56's log. The physical log entry was made at some point after 1840, and inserted at 1715 by an asterisk (*).

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1835-2154 U.S. FIFTH Fleet assets conduct search and rescue operations in Iranian territorial seas and airspace for RCB 802 and 805.

2154 Commander, U.S. FIFTH Fleet orders all forces out of Iranian territorial airspace and seas in the vicinity of Farsi Island.

13 January 2016

0110 RCB 802 Boat Captain, while escorted by IRGCN, speaks with USS ANZIO via bridge-to-bridge radio telephone and confirms the health and safety of RCB 802 and 805 crewmembers.

1100 USS ANZIO makes contact with IRGCN on Farsi Island to coordinate release RCBs and crews.

1143 RCBs and crew depart Farsi Island to rendezvous with USS ANZIO.

1303 RCBs rendezvous with USS ANZIO.

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