

WA
CONFIDENTIAL

PTT CZ YUW RUF RJPX0164 1581315-CCCC--RUF RSUU.
Z NY CCCCC
P 071313Z JUN 81
FM COMSERVGRU TWO
TO COMSIXTHFLT
INFO COMNAVSURFLANT NORFOLK VA
COMSERVFOR SIXTHFLT
COMSERVRON TWO
ZEN/USS NITRO
BT

*1-37/115482
A/07 JUN 81*

CONFIDENTIAL //N00000// PERSONAL FOR VADM ROWDEN
INFO VADM JOHNSON, COMMODORE TOLG, COMMODORE WATSON, CDR LOVING
SUBJ: NITRO

1. I HAVE JUST COMPLETED AN INFORMAL VISIT TO NITRO. THE VISIT INCLUDED A WALK THRU MAIN ENGINEERING SPACES AND ALL OTHER SPACES AFFECTED BY THE FIRE.
2. THE DISCIPLINE, LOYALTY AND MORALE OF THE SHIPS COMPANY TO SUCCESSFULLY FIGHT A FIRE OF THIS MAGNITUDE IS HEARTWARMING. THESE FACTORS CONTINUE AS ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE CREW CHOOSES TO ACCEPT THE HOSPITALITY OF NASSAU. THE MAJORITY CHOOSE TO STAY IN THEIR SHIP TO HELP CLEAN HER UP. THE CLEAN UP EFFORT IS IMPRESSIVE-MANY ARE VOLUNTARILY WORKING UP TO 18 HOURS DAILY TO GET THEIR SHIP HABITABLE AGAIN.
3. I HAD THE PLEASURE TO AWARD TEN NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE THE RECOGNIZED LEADERS IN FIGHTING THE FIRE. MORE TO COME.
4. WE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE EXTREMELY PROUD OF NITRO'S PERFORMANCE. THROUGH ACTIONS THAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS HEROIC THEY PREVENTED A MAJOR CATASTROPHE. THERE ARE MANY LESSONS TO LEARN FROM THIS INCIDENT AND HOWARD LOVING HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO DEVELOP THEM WHILE THE FIRE IS STILL FRESH IN EVERYONE'S MIND.
5. IN SUMMARY NITRO WAS WELL DRILLED, WELL DISCIPLINED AND PERFORMED LIKE TRUE PROFESSIONALS. I AM PROUD OF THEM AND FOR THEM.
6. MOST RESPECTFULLY, RICH.

DECL: 06 JUN 82
BT

#0164 *CO, [redacted] only*

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