



COMMANDER, UNITED STATES FLEET FORCES SERIAL 001 – ATFP “10 YEARS AFTER COLE”



I. Estimate of the Situation

1. Our nation is at war with violent extremists who see our ships, submarines, squadrons, units, and Sailors as targets. We must never forget that Al-Qaida has declared war on us. We must always fight to retain the right mindset - we cannot allow ourselves to become complacent through peacetime standards of conduct. Less than a month ago, Al Qaida sent this message to their operators,

*“And lastly, we call upon the proud tribes of Yemen—people of support and victory—and the people of the Arabian Peninsula, to face the crusader campaign and their cooperatives on the peninsula of Muhammad, prayer and peace upon him, and that’s through attacking their military bases, intelligence embassies, and **THEIR FLEETS THAT EXIST ON THE WATER** and land of the Arabian Peninsula; until we stop the continuous massacres on the Muslim countries.” – Al-Qaida in Yemen (27 December 2009)*

2. Ten years after the attack on the USS COLE, our Navy continues to face a thousand indirect threats that are always active to some degree. Our enemies are thinking enemies and are willing to use everything they have available to be as effective as possible at achieving their goals. To enhance our nation’s security and not merely survive – it is very clear to me that our guiding principle for the future must be rapid adaptation, a finely honed ability to sense, see, understand, decide, and act – as individuals, as units, and as an organization – at the speed of war.

II. Guidance:

1. Use the ten year anniversary of the attack on USS COLE as the driver to validate the effectiveness of Navy’s AT / FP program (afloat and ashore) to include policy, doctrine, organization, command and control, and training. Present findings and action plan to markedly improve our overall AT / FP position at a Flag Summit followed by a remembrance ceremony at the USS COLE Memorial.

III. Tasks:

1. USFF N3/5. Execute the “Anti-Terrorism (AT) Flag Summit” action plan briefed 21 Jan 2010 to:

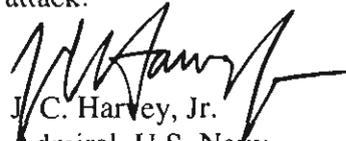
- Provide an AT forum to discuss Navy’s current FP posture contrasted against major AT shaping events that include: USS COLE, Embassy Bombings, Khobar Towers and 9/11.
- Establish a series of AT drumbeat events executed during the year culminating with the AT Flag Summit and USS COLE Remembrance Ceremony that include: SOLID CURTAIN CITADEL SHIELD TTX, Exercise SOLID CURTAIN CITADEL SHIELD 2010, Exercise CITADEL PROJECT 2010, and USFF AT Executive Agent Conference 2010.

Coordinate with COMPACFLT N3/5 and all AT / FP stakeholders (afloat and ashore). Provide status reports following the completion of each major milestone in the action plan. Due: 12 Oct 2010.

III. Conclusion:

1. We have greatly improved our force protection policies and procedures since the attack on the USS COLE. When overseas, our Sailors stand watch with a heightened sense of awareness. We must ensure our Sailors are just as vigilant, and our policies and procedures as robust, when back home in the United States. We cannot allow ourselves to relax and fall prey to a fatal lethargy of the mind due to a false sense of security.

2. Every day our enemy is watching us, at home and abroad, looking for weaknesses to exploit. Only through constant vigilance, individual initiative, and constant self-evaluation, will we successfully deter, disrupt or defeat his plans of attack.



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