



APR 26 2011

5100

MEMORANDUM

From: M. J. Tedesco, RADM
CG-11

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "M. J. Tedesco", written over the printed name.

Reply to
Attn of: Mr. George Borlase

To: CG-751

Subj: FINAL SUMMARY LETTER – CGC MELLON CLASS “C” VERTREP LOAD
IMPACT TO CIWS, 04 JUN 2010

Ref: (a) Safety and Environmental Health Manual, COMDTINST M5100.47 (series)

1. Synopsis. CGC MELLON (WHEC 717) was underway in the Java Sea on a Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training deployment. On the morning of 04 June 2010, MELLON was conducting underway replenishment for fueling at sea (FAS) and replenishment at sea (RAS) with the USNS RICHARD E BYRD (T-AKE 4). MELLON had completed a successful FAS at 1001 then proceeded to take supplies via vertical replenishment (VERTREP). USNS RICHARD E BYRD was transferring supplies to MELLON via an AS-330J PUMA helicopter, call sign “PUMA 04”, piloted by Military Sealift Command contracted civilian pilots. The first four VERTREPs occurred without incident. VERTREP five was waived off twice due to difficulties in positioning the load over the flight deck. The load was then successfully delivered. During VERTREP seven, the helicopter placed the load close to center and aft of the T-line. Before the load was disengaged, helicopter movement aft dragged the pallets off the flight deck, impacted and damaged the close-in weapons system resulting in a Class “C” high potential mishap.

2. Corrective Action. After review of the mishap analysis report, per ref (a), I have recommended corrective action via an internal final summary message (FOUO) to prevent similar future mishaps. A number of corrective actions have already been completed.

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