

UNCLASSIFIED//

FROM: NATO COMMANDER TASK FORCE
IRAQI MARITIME(IM)-OPERATION IRAQI
FREEDOM(OIF)TO: US NAVAL OCEAN TOWING/SALVAGE
SHIP USNS CATAWBA (T-ATF 168)

RATUZYUW RBDHDZA0869 3081636-UUUU--RHOSMSC.
ZNR UUUUU ZUI RUEOMCH3200 3081635 ZTE RHMCSYY
ZUI DE RBDFOCSS 0022 3081625
R 041615Z NOV 09 PSN 197351H26
FM COMMANDER TASK FORCE IM
TO RHOSMSC/USNS CATAWBA

RHMFUUU/CTF 53
INFO RHMCSYY/MSFSC MANAMA BAHRAIN BA
RHMFIUU/COMSC WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/COMSEALOGCENT BAHRAIN
RHBVAKS/COMMANDER TASK GROUP IM
RHMFIUU/COMFIFTHFLT

BT

UNCLAS

SIC LAA

MSGID/GENADMIN/CTF IM/NOV//

SUBJ/BRAVO ZULU//

GENTEX/RMKS/1. AS USNS CATAWBA, QUOTE THE DESERT CAT UNQUOTE,
DEPARTS FROM THE XNAG AFTER 2 MONTHS SERVICE, I WOULD LIKE TO
EXTEND MY PERSONAL GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO HER CAPTAIN AND
CREW FOR THEIR SUPERB EFFORTS IN SUPPORTING COMMANDER TASK
FORCE-IRAQI MARITIME (CTF-IM). IN PARTICULAR, CAPT SEAN TORTORAS
FORWARD LEANING LEADERSHIP AND POSITIVE APPROACH WAS PIVOTAL IN
OVERCOMING A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE TRAINING FOR
THE IRAQI NAVY (IQN) DEFENDER BOAT CREWS. CAPT TORTORA ENSURED ALL
REQUIRED REGULATORY BODY WAIVERS WERE APPROVED FOR THE EMBARKATION
AND OPERATION OF A MOGAS FUELING SYSTEM, AND ALSO PROCURED ALL
REQUIRED EQUIPMENT FOR SUPPORTING DEFENDER BOAT LIFTING AND
BERTHING OPERATIONS ON BOARD HIS SHIP. AS A RESULT, CAPT TORTORA
AND HIS CREW WERE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR OVER 270 SAFE BOAT LIFT
OPERATIONS WHILE ACTING AS AN AFLOAT FORWARD STAGING BASE, ENABLING
CTF-IM TO CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED TRAINING OF THE IQN. HE AND HIS
CREWS UNTIRING EFFORTS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN ENABLING THE IQN TO
ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THEIR CRITICAL
MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE, WHICH IS VITAL TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF MY
MISSION SUPPORTING OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

2. WELL DONE. CDRE JAMES MORSE, ADC RN, SENDS//

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