- 1 [The R.M.C. 803 session was called to order at 1318, 15 March
- 2 2017.1
- **3** MJ [Col SPATH]: These commissions are called to order.
- 4 All of the parties who were present before our last recess are
- **5** again present.
- **6** Trial Counsel, you may proceed. The witness remains
- 7 on the stand.
- **8** Just remember, you're still under oath.
- **9** TC [MR. MILLER]: Thank you, Your Honor.
- **10** WIT: Yes, Your Honor.
- 11 REDIRECT EXAMINATION CONTINUED
- 12 Questions by the Trial Counsel [MR. MILLER]:
- 13 Q. I believe when we ended we had gone through the
- 14 series involving -- the series with Prosecution Exhibit 51.
- 15 I'm now going to show you Prosecution Exhibit 94A for
- 16 Identification, Agent Finnerty, and ask you if you recognize
- 17 this type of evidence.
- **18** A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Was that the type of evidence that you were seizing
- 20 from the USS COLE?
- **21** A. Yes.
- **22** Q. All right. Again, the reason for that?
- 23 A. Items that were not consistent with being part of the

- 1 USS COLE.
- 2 Q. And you indicated to the court during our morning
- 3 session that you were receiving this through the sifting
- 4 process; is that correct?
- **5** A. That is correct.
- **6** Q. And that you were collecting it on deck?
- 7 A. That is correct.
- **8** Q. Now, does this exhibit have a Q number?
- **9** A. Yes, it does. Q543.
- 10 Q. All right. If you could provide the witness with
- 11 exhibit, Prosecution Exhibit 94, please. Thank you, Sergeant.
- I ask you if you would, please, take a look at that.
- **13** A. Okay.
- 14 Q. Do you recognize any of the handwriting as your own
- **15** on that particular exhibit?
- **16** A. Yes, the signature.
- 17 Q. All right. So as you testified about some of the
- 18 previous exhibits, only those sections where it says by, and
- 19 then it looks like a signature that says Kevin D. Finnerty,
- 20 that's yours?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- Q. And the other handwriting is obviously then not
- 23 yours, correct?

- **1** A. The printing is not mine, that is correct.
- 2 Q. And you do not recognize whose printing that might
- 3 be?
- 4 A. No. I do not.
- **5** Q. Now, first off, does that particular exhibit have a Q
- 6 number?
- 7 A. Yes, it does.
- **8** Q. And what would that Q number be?
- **9** A. 0543.
- 10 Q. All right. So that would match the Q number on
- 11 Prosecution Exhibit -- the photograph Prosecution Exhibit 94A
- **12** for Identification, correct?
- 13 A. That is correct.
- 14 Q. All right. Now, if you could, please, read into the
- 15 record the description of the evidence, date and time of
- 16 recovery, location, and by whom it was recovered.
- 17 A. Miscellaneous wires, 10/20/2000, 3:00 p.m. Grid 1
- 18 Forward, recovered by SA Kevin Finnerty.
- 19 Q. All right. On the chain of custody section, sir, if
- 20 you could, please, read that.
- 21 A. Yes. Recovered by myself at -- on October 20, 2000,
- **22** at 3:00 p.m.
- Q. And your signature, by signing it, you're

- 1 acknowledging -- or attesting that you in fact seized -- or
- 2 collected -- I'm sorry, collected that evidence?
- 3 A. Yes, I am.
- 4 Q. All right. If you could, please, look at the --
- 5 first off, can you see into that bag?
- **6** A. This bag, I can, yes.
- 7 Q. All right. And does the evidence in Prosecution
- 8 Exhibit 94A for Identification, are the items in there the
- **9** same items that are contained in the bag?
- **10** A. Yes, they are.
- 11 Q. All right. If you would, please, look at the
- 12 completed green sheet or completed FD-192, sir.
- **13** A. Okay.
- 14 Q. All right. And I have placed on the ELMO Prosecution
- 15 Exhibit 94C for Identification. Are the first four entries on
- 16 the completed FD-192 identical to the four entries on
- 17 Prosecution Exhibit 94C for Identification?
- **18** A. Yes, they are.
- 19 Q. And are you able to associate Prosecution Exhibit 94C
- 20 with Exhibit 94?
- **21** A. Yes.
- **22** Q. All right. And how are you able to do that, sir?
- A. We have the item number up top, and my signature and

- 1 the date and time are matching up.
- 2 Q. All right. And it shows that you accepted or
- **3** collected the evidence, correct?
- **4** A. That is correct.
- **5** Q. All right. That is your signature?
- **6** A. Yes, it is.
- 7 Q. Now, the name "Finnerty" is printed underneath?
- **8** A. Yes.
- **9** Q. That's not your printing, correct?
- **10** A. No, it is not.
- 11 Q. Do you know whether or not that was placed before or
- **12** after you signed it?
- 13 A. If my memory serves me correctly, I believe that
- 14 there was somebody writing that out and then handing it to me
- 15 and I would sign it real quick. I can't recall exactly, sir.
- 16 Q. All right. And there's a date and time; is that
- 17 correct?
- 18 A. That is correct. It matches up with the bag.
- 19 Q. All right. That was going to be my next question.
- 20 You anticipated it.
- **21** A. Sorry.
- Q. No, no. I appreciate it. It shortens the process.
- 23 Do you know why they would have printed your name right before

- 1 you signed it?
- 2 A. Trying to keep it organized.
- **3** Q. All right. Lastly, I'm going to show you Prosecution
- 4 Exhibit 94B for Identification. I ask you to take a look at
- 5 that, if you would, sir. Is 94B for Identification an
- 6 accurate photograph of Prosecution 94, the evidence bag you
- 7 have in front of you?
- **8** A. Yes, it is.
- **9** Q. All right. Thank you.
- I show you what has been -- I show you Prosecution
- 11 Exhibit 95A for Identification. Do you see that photograph,
- **12** sir?
- **13** A. Yes, I do.
- 14 Q. And does that appear to be the type of evidence you
- 15 were collecting on the COLE ----
- 16 A. Yes, it does.
- **17** Q. ---- on the 20th of October?
- **18** A. Yes.
- **19** Q. Does that particular photograph have a Q number?
- 20 A. Could you blow that up a little bit more? I can't
- 21 see the last number.
- Q. Blow it up a little bit more? Sure I can.
- 23 A. Looks like Q548.

- 1 Q. All right. Take another look.
- **2** A. 548 or 543. It's either 543 or 548.
- 3 Q. All right. Thank you. If you could, please, provide
- 4 the Exhibit 95 to the witness, please.
- 5 Sir, you've been handed Prosecution Exhibit
- 6 Number 95. Do you recognize that, sir?
- **7** A. Yes.
- **8** Q. And what do you recognize it to be?
- **9** A. Miscellaneous wires.
- 10 Q. All right. And did you collect those particular
- **11** items?
- **12** A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And how are you able to determine that, sir?
- **14** A. By my signature.
- 15 Q. All right. And again, your signature is contained on
- **16** the received from USS COLE line, correct?
- 17 A. That is correct.
- 18 Q. And, in fact, you signed it twice; is that a fair
- **19** statement?
- **20** A. Yes.
- Q. Let's start at the beginning so the record is clear.
- 22 There are two sections on the evidence bag, one with general
- 23 information and then a chain of custody, correct, sections?

- 1 A. That is correct.
- 2 Q. As to the writing that's contained on both of those
- **3** sections, is any of that writing yours?
- **4** A. The printing is not mine.
- **5** Q. All right. The printing is not. What about the two
- 6 signatures?
- 7 A. The two signatures are.
- **8** Q. And by signing that, you are indicating that you
- **9** seized this evidence, correct?
- **10** A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Let's begin with the description, the top part, the
- 12 description, date and time of recovery, location, and
- 13 recovered by. If you could read that into the record, please.
- 14 A. Description of evidence, miscellaneous wires. It's
- 15 got a Q tab on it, Q548. Date and time of recovery,
- 16 10/20/2000 at 12:00 p.m. It doesn't have the full thing of
- 17 2000, it just has two zeros. Location of recovery, Grid 1
- **18** Aft, recovered by SA Kevin Finnerty.
- 19 Q. Then in the chain of custody section?
- 20 A. Recovered from the USS COLE, Kevin D. Finnerty; date,
- **21** 10/20/2000 at 12:00 p.m.
- **22** Q. Does that particular exhibit have a Q number?
- 23 A. Yes. It's Q548.

- 1 Q. It's what?
- **2** A. Q548.
- **3** Q. Again looking at the photograph, Prosecution
- **4** Exhibit 95A, do they match?
- **5** A. Yes.
- **6** Q. All right. And can you see inside that particular
- 7 bag, sir?
- 8 A. Yes. It's not exactly clear, but you can still see
- 9 in it.
- 10 Q. What does it contain?
- **11** A. Miscellaneous wires.
- 12 Q. Consistent with the wires in the photograph, 95A?
- **13** A. Yes.
- 14 Q. If you would, please, look at the completed chain of
- 15 custody Form 192. Excuse me.
- **16** A. Okav.
- 17 Q. And I'm now placing on the ELMO Prosecution
- 18 Exhibit 95C for Identification and I'd ask you: Are the first
- 19 four entries on the completed 192 identical to the four
- 20 entries on Government Exhibit 95C for Identification?
- 21 A. Yes, they are.
- Q. And are you able to associate this particular chain
- 23 of custody, Exhibit 95C, to the Exhibit 95?

- **1** A. Yes.
- **2** Q. How are you able to do that, sir?
- **3** A. By the item number, W125, and my signature and date
- 4 and time.
- **5** Q. All right. And again, it shows it was collected by
- **6** you on the 20th of October at 12:00 p.m., correct?
- 7 A. That is correct.
- **8** Q. Is that consistent with the information contained on
- **9** the evidence bag, sir?
- **10** A. Yes, it is.
- 11 Q. Again, you did not print your name underneath your
- 12 signature?
- 13 A. No. I did not.
- 14 Q. For the record, this evidence again was collected in
- 15 the manner you indicated before; you collected it on the deck?
- **16** A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Showing you Prosecution Exhibit 95B for
- 18 Identification. It's a photograph. I'm going to ask you, is
- 19 that photograph an exact -- photograph a fair and accurate
- 20 photograph of the bag of evidence you have in front of you,
- **21** 95?
- **22** A. Yes, it is.
- Q. Lastly, I'm going to show you Prosecution

- 1 Exhibit 106A for Identification and ask you if you recognize
- 2 that, sir.
- **3** A. Yes.
- **4** Q. And what do you recognize it to be?
- **5** A. The rope.
- **6** Q. When you say the rope, which ----
- 7 A. The rope that we picked up on the shoreline.
- **8** Q. Do you recognize it as -- it's not a type that you
- 9 seized, but the rope?
- 10 A. Well, I mean, if it's in the bags and sealed up in
- 11 evidence, yes.
- 12 Q. All right. And does that particular exhibit have a Q
- 13 number?
- **14** A. Yes, it does.
- **15** Q. All right. And that Q number is, sir?
- **16** A. Q61.
- 17 Q. All right. Sir ----
- **18** A. I'm sorry, Q261.
- 19 Q. Your Honor, I'd ask permission for the witness to
- 20 walk down to the exhibit. It's kind of bulky and ----
- 21 MJ [Col SPATH]: Yeah. That's fine.
- TC [MR. MILLER]: If you would please walk down to the
- **23** table.

- 1 MJ [Col SPATH]: Remember, he doesn't have a microphone.
- **2** TC [MR. MILLER]: How will we work that?
- 3 MJ [Col SPATH]: We have one he can travel with. Hold on.
- 4 Do you know where it is? We're going to get it to him.
- **5** WIT: Test.
- **6** MJ [Col SPATH]: Perfect.
- 7 TC [MR. MILLER]: Thank you, sir. Thanks, Sergeant.
- **8** Q. You have before you an exhibit marked Prosecution
- **9** Exhibit 106: is that correct?
- **10** A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. Okay. And do you recognize that, sir?
- **12** A. Yes.
- 13 Q. What do you recognize it to be?
- **14** A. It's a rope we picked up off the shore.
- **15** Q. When you say "we," did you yourself pick it up?
- 16 A. Oh, I picked it up, but there was people with me
- 17 obviously, so kind of plural "we."
- 18 Q. And did you then bag that and -- oh, excuse me. I'm
- 19 walking away. Did you then bag that and place that into
- 20 evidence?
- 21 A. It was bagged, yes, and placed into evidence.
- Q. All right. Now, is there an evidence tag with that
- 23 particular piece of evidence?

- 1 A. Yes, there is.
- **2** Q. All right. And is it completed?
- **3** A. Yes.
- 4 Q. All right. And was it filled out by you or filled
- **5** out by someone else?
- **6** A. This actually looks like my printing.
- 7 Q. All right. And is there a description of the item?
- 8 A. This says one blue nylon rope.
- **9** Q. And the date and time of recovery?
- **10** A. October 15, 2000, 1500.
- **11** Q. And the location of the recovery?
- 12 A. The beach west of pier.
- 13 Q. And then does it have who it was recovered by?
- 14 A. Yes. It has recovered by myself, Kevin D. Finnerty.
- 15 Q. And there's a -- it says chain of possession
- 16 underneath, correct?
- **17** A. I'm sorry?
- 18 Q. There's a section underneath that says chain of
- **19** possession?
- 20 A. I want to make sure we're talking about the right
- **21** area, the same area.
- TC [MR. MILLER]: May I walk over there, Your Honor?
- 23 MJ [Col SPATH]: You may.

- 1 A. Oh, yes. I'm sorry. I didn't see that. I kind of
- 2 wrote over that, yes. There it is.
- **Q.** Is there an evidence tag with this particular piece
- 4 of evidence?
- **5** A. Yes, there is.
- **6** Q. All right. And does it say chain of possession?
- 7 A. Yes, it says chain of possession.
- 8 Q. And could you relate to the court what is contained
- 9 in that section?
- 10 A. It says received from beach. It has a W in
- 11 parenthesis by myself, Kevin D. Finnerty, 10/15/2000, 1500.
- 12 And I circled p.m., which you don't need to do, obviously, and
- 13 I kind of did the same thing which I did for all of the other
- 14 chains, which is sign my name for the next person who was
- 15 going to take it.
- 16 Q. All right. Thank you. You may return to the witness
- 17 stand.
- 18 Oh, I have one other question, if you could go back
- 19 there. I'm sorry. My fault. Is there a Q number on that
- **20** particular exhibit?
- **21** A. Yes.
- **22** Q. And what is that Q number?
- **23** A. 261.

- 1 Q. All right. So that would match the one contained on
- 2 the photograph, Prosecution Exhibit 106A, correct?
- **3** A. Yes, it would.
- 4 Q. All right. Thank you. You may return to the witness
- 5 stand. If you would, please, could you provide him with the
- **6** chain of custody form.
- 7 You have before you the completed chain of custody
- 8 Form 192; is that correct?
- **9** A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Associated with Exhibit 106, correct?
- **11** A. Yes.
- 12 Q. All right. I'm placing on the ELMO at this time
- 13 Prosecution Exhibit 106C for Identification, and I'd ask you:
- 14 Are the first four entries on the completed chain of custody
- 15 form identical to the four entries on Prosecution
- **16** Exhibit 106C?
- 17 A. Yes, they are.
- 18 Q. All right. And can you associate this particular
- 19 exhibit, 106C, with the exhibit itself, 106, the rope?
- A. It has the BH113 crossed out, which is the same as on
- 21 the chain, and it has my signature and date and time.
- 22 Q. And it shows that you collected it on October 15 at
- **23** 3:00 p.m., correct?

- 1 A. That is correct.
- 2 Q. And that is consistent with the information that you
- 3 placed on the evidence tag?
- **4** A. Yes. it is.
- **5** Q. All right. Again, to be clear, that is your
- 6 signature?
- 7 A. Yes, it is.
- **8** Q. Placed on the ELMO, Prosecution Exhibit 106B for
- 9 Identification. Would you take a look at that, sir.
- **10** A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Is that a photograph -- an exact photograph of
- 12 Prosecution Exhibit -- the evidence tag attached to
- 13 Prosecution Exhibit 106?
- **14** A. Yes, it is.
- 15 TC [MR. MILLER]: No further questions. Thank you, Your
- 16 Honor.
- 17 MJ [Col SPATH]: Defense counsel.
- 18 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 19 Questions by the Learned Defense Counsel [MR. KAMMEN]:
- **20** Q. Good afternoon. How are you?
- 21 A. Good, sir. How are you doing?
- 22 Q. Good. A couple of preliminary questions. You
- 23 indicated that you got the call and volunteered to go to

- 1 Yemen, and there was some discussion about packing your bags.
- **2** A. Correct, sir.
- **3** Q. And we certainly understand that you don't keep --
- 4 I'm understanding you to say you don't keep a bag packed by
- 5 your bed full of underwear in case you get called away, that
- 6 you'd have to go back home. Fair to say?
- 7 A. That's correct, sir.
- **8** Q. Okay. But I think what we're interested in -- in
- 9 fact I know what we're interested in, is what does the
- 10 Emergency Response Team have pre-packed for evidence
- 11 collection? And do -- as you knew it back in 2000, did the
- 12 teams have boxes, crates, suitcases, things ready to go with
- 13 the evidence -- with the materials they would need if they
- **14** were called away, called to an evidence scene?
- 15 A. Obviously, we have come a far way since then, but at
- 16 that time there was limited -- we used to have cases to pack
- 17 stuff in, but we would try to separate it out by scene. There
- 18 was some basic things that you might need in these cases, such
- 19 as maybe, you know ----
- Q. So I'm understanding you to say that at that time,
- 21 and that's okay, they didn't have anything necessarily
- 22 pre-packed, but while some of the team was home getting
- 23 underwear, the rest of the other people who weren't going to

- 1 make the trip would be assembling what they needed to take on
- 2 the trip to do the work?
- **3** A. Yes. An initial supply.
- 4 Q. Okay. And in this case, you knew that -- what the
- 5 work you would be doing would be, number one, in a foreign
- **6** country that was pretty third world ----
- 7 A. Yes.
- **8** Q. ---- right? And number two, would be on a ship that
- 9 had been attacked and that was in some danger of sinking?
- **10** A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. Okay. And you knew, of course, that there were a
- 12 number of people who were wounded and killed?
- 13 A. We knew that there was some that were wounded and
- 14 killed and we did not know the condition -- we thought -- we
- 15 did not know how they were trapped, obviously.
- 16 Q. And you certainly understood that the ship was very
- **17** seriously damaged?
- 18 A. We knew it was damaged. We figured it -- they sealed
- 19 it off so it would still stay afloat. And I'm Army. You
- 20 know, I'm not a Navy guy.
- 21 Q. I'm not going to go there.
- **22** A. Okay.
- Q. But the point is that the -- there were a group of

- 1 evidence technicians who understood generally what you guys
- 2 would need and did their best to pack accordingly?
- **3** A. I would say did their best, yes.
- 4 Q. And that's all we can ever ask of people, is that
- 5 they did their best. And so when you got there -- I just want
- 6 to see -- you told the judge about the Yemenis and guns and
- 7 all of that. But when -- as we understood things, they
- 8 essentially made you unpack everything and then repack it?
- **9** A. Yes. And when I say unpack, we separated off the
- 10 pallets that we had, you know, and kind of ran it through the
- 11 x-ray scanners and then restacked it.
- 12 Q. Okay. So they didn't actually search the individual
- 13 boxes that were on the pallet, as you recall things?
- 14 A. As I recall, they really didn't go into deep depth
- **15** with it.
- 16 Q. Okay. So it was really just sort of a hassle of
- 17 taking everything apart, sending it through maybe an x-ray
- 18 scanner, and, as you recall things, then putting it back on
- 19 the pallet or a truck or what have you?
- **20** A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. Now, help us understand your day on the ship.
- 22 We know your first search was of the beach, okay. On the
- 23 16th -- excuse me, you -- it was your first day on the COLE,

- 1 correct?
- 2 A. I believe so. I'm not sure the exact day.
- **3** Q. Well, if other evidence has shown it was the 16th,
- 4 will you accept that?
- **5** A. Yes.
- **6** Q. Okay. And we understand there was a daily briefing
- 7 in the evidence room pretty much every morning; is that your
- 8 memory?
- 9 A. I cannot recall.
- **10** Q. I'm sorry?
- 11 A. I can't recall right now at that time.
- 12 Q. Do you recall any daily briefings?
- **13** A. I recall some briefings, yes.
- **14** Q. And do you recall who did those?
- **15** A. No, I do not.
- 16 Q. Okay. If I suggested to you that Mr. -- and I'm
- 17 going to mispronounce his name -- Mr. Sachtleben did that,
- **18** would that ring a bell?
- **19** A. That's possible.
- 20 Q. Okay. You just don't recall?
- 21 A. I don't recall who exactly did it.
- 22 Q. Okay. Now, after the briefing, then, you would be
- 23 assigned to some area; is that correct?

- 1 A. That is -- well, obviously the first couple of days
- 2 we had the body recovery. We knew where we were.
- **3** Q. After the body recovery was completed?
- **4** A. After the body recovery was completed.
- **5** Q. And you would be assigned to some area for evidence
- 6 collection?
- **7** A. Yes.
- **8** Q. All right. And was there -- and it maybe wasn't your
- 9 responsibility, but was any record kept of who was assigned
- 10 where, to your knowledge?
- 11 A. That was not my job, sir, no.
- 12 Q. Okay. So if somebody did that, you don't know?
- **13** A. That's correct.
- 14 Q. All right. Now, as I understand things, but please
- 15 tell me if I'm wrong, at least as you observed it when you
- 16 were doing things, people would be putting stuff in buckets;
- 17 is that correct?
- 18 A. You're saying when we were down in the galley, sir?
- 19 Q. In the galley, yeah.
- **20** A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And then the buckets would be taken up to the
- 22 sifters?
- 23 A. That is correct.

- 1 Q. And then would you be the one taking the buckets to
- 2 the sifters, or would other people, or did various people?
- 3 A. I think there was -- I know SA Miller was one of the
- 4 main bucket guys.
- **5** Q. Okay.
- **6** A. I saw him repetitively going up and down the, you
- 7 know, the ladders.
- **8** Q. But while you guys were coming to the sifters from
- 9 the bucket -- from the bucket -- excuse me, from the galley,
- 10 were other people coming to the sifters from other locations
- 11 on the COLE with buckets?
- **12** A. I do not know that, sir.
- 13 Q. Okay. Are you saying you don't know that or you just
- **14** don't recall?
- **15** A. I don't recall that, sir.
- 16 Q. Okay. Now, how many sifter stations were there?
- 17 A. I don't recall.
- **18** Q. All right.
- **19** A. No, I don't.
- Q. And at the sifter station, when you would take a
- 21 bucket from the galley to the sifter station -- I presume it's
- 22 pretty heavy, and you're a pretty big guy, so I assume you
- 23 would dump it into the sifter?

- **1** A. I don't remember taking a bucket up, sir.
- 2 Q. Okay. So when you're down in the galley, are you
- 3 telling people to take the buckets up? To -- what are you
- 4 doing?
- **5** A. After the body recovery, sir?
- **6** Q. Yes.
- 7 A. After the body recovery, I remember kind of sifting
- 8 through, we kind of pushed stuff off into an area, it would be
- 9 loaded in a bucket and then be taken up above.
- 10 Q. So you -- I just -- I'm just trying to pin it down.
- 11 You would be picking stuff up with your hands,
- 12 shovelling it and then putting it in a bucket, or ----
- 13 A. I can't get exact, but I remember moving some stuff
- **14** around. That's all.
- 15 Q. And I'm hearing you say that it was not your job to
- **16** take the bucket up to the sifter?
- 17 A. I just don't recall taking the bucket up. I mean, if
- 18 I took one up, it wouldn't ----
- 19 Q. But I'm talking about generally. In the evidence
- 20 recovery, you were not the guy going to the sifter; is that
- 21 correct?
- 22 A. Yes. I do not recall going to the sifters.
- Q. Okay. Now, in several of the documents that the

- 1 prosecutor asked you about -- well, let me ask you one other
- 2 question. Were you at the sifters at all? Did you ever see
- 3 that process at work?
- 4 A. I remember seeing the process.
- **5** Q. All right.
- **6** A. I don't remember really paying attention to how many
- 7 sifters.
- **8** Q. Okay. Well, my question really is this: As
- 9 somebody, I gather, was at the sifter telling agents you want
- 10 to keep this piece, you want to throw this piece away,
- 11 somebody had to be saying yes or no?
- 12 A. That's the general practice. You get somebody from
- 13 the ship. You say, you know, obviously, the ship's engineer
- 14 would be prime, but somebody that knows that ship so that they
- 15 can separate out the items.
- 16 Q. So from your memory, it was somebody from part of the
- 17 COLE crew who was standing at the sifters telling people, the
- 18 agents, this is from the ship, this is not from the ship, that
- **19** sort of thing?
- **20** A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. Now, after the material would be designated
- 22 for keeping, this is not from the ship, we want to keep it,
- 23 would it then be put into the evidence bags?

- 1 A. I remember the pile being put off to the side, as you
- 2 saw in the picture. And at what point it was put in the bags,
- 3 I do not recall.
- 4 Q. Okay. Now, while we're talking about the pile that
- 5 was put off to the side, I want to show you what has been
- 6 admitted into evidence as Prosecution Exhibit 221. And you
- 7 told us earlier, and I just want to confirm, that as you
- 8 recall things, this group of items was designated to be kept
- 9 because somebody said to the best of their knowledge this was
- 10 not from the COLE; is that correct?
- 11 A. Yes, that's what it appears to be in the picture.
- 12 Q. Okay. That was, in your experience, the -- the
- 13 deciding factor. Stuff that was from the COLE could be put
- 14 off to the side for disposal, if you will; stuff that was not
- 15 from the COLE would be kept, true?
- **16** A. That is correct.
- 17 Q. Okay. So -- now, many of the exhibits, and I'm
- 18 referring now to -- I think it's number 125, I'm looking at
- 19 chain of custody -- or the evidence bag for the miscellaneous
- 20 wire, for example.
- **21** A. Okay.
- Q. You can see it in front of you okay, can't you?
- **23** A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And we've been through whose signature that is and
- **2** all of that.
- **3** A. That is correct.
- 4 Q. You were very precise. This was recovered from
- **5** Grid 1 Aft. Now, is Grid 1 Aft on the ship or not?
- **6** A. I do not know, sir.
- 7 Q. Okay. Did you -- the items that were referred to in
- 8 this, which I believe are these wires ----
- 9 MJ [Col SPATH]: Just tell me the Prosecution Exhibit for
- 10 Identification, Mr. Miller.
- 11 LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: Well -- can you tell me what this is?
- **12** TC [MR. MILLER]: 95A.
- **13** LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: 95A.
- **14** MJ [Col SPATH]: Thank you.
- 15 LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: Thank you.
- 16 Q. So just showing you what's been marked for
- 17 identification as Government's Exhibit 95A, I gather, then,
- **18** did you pick up those wires in Grid 1 Aft?
- **19** A. No.
- Q. Who picked up those wires, if you know?
- 21 A. I do not know.
- 22 Q. All right. So somebody gave you those wires and
- 23 said, these aren't from the COLE, we need to save these, and

- **1** is that ----
- 2 A. Yes. They would be brought back to the collection --
- 3 the collection area and, you know, we were back there signing.
- 4 Q. And where on the ship, boat -- which is the right --
- 5 ship. Where on the ship is the -- was the collection area?
- **6** A. Do we have a picture of the ship so I can kind of
- 7 show you?
- **8** Q. We can find one. You're Army, I'm civilian, this
- 9 makes the Navy crazy. Do you remember as being at the -- I'm
- 10 going to say front or back -- but it should be bow or aft. Do
- 11 you remember? Pointy end or the round end?
- 12 A. It's kind of like there was a tent up here where the
- 13 sifting area was, and then right off to the one side where the
- 14 city was, we were kind of on that side of the ship.
- 15 LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: Well, the other one, the one from up
- **16** top with the ----
- 17 [Conferred with paralegal.]
- 18 LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: You know what I'm looking for, don't
- 19 you? Not the aerial. Let me show you -- it was a tie. I'm
- 20 giving it to the enlisted person; she wins. She produced it
- 21 faster.
- 22 Q. Just help us out, please. Better hang on to that.
- 23 Let me show you what's in -- in evidence as Prosecution

- 1 Exhibit 219. There are two tents. Do you recall whether the
- 2 collection area was with the -- what I'll call a colored tent
- 3 or the tan tent?
- 4 A. Oh, I remember us sitting back -- I don't recall
- 5 that. I know there was tents, but I don't recall the color
- **6** they were.
- 7 Q. All right. Let me show you the other ----
- **8** MJ [Col SPATH]: Leave 219 there for a minute.
- **9** LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: Yes, sir.
- 10 MJ [Col SPATH]: I don't think 219 has been admitted. I'm
- 11 just making sure on my notes. And not that we need to admit
- 12 it through the witness, I just want to make sure I'm looking
- 13 at the right exhibit. Okay. That one has not been admitted
- 14 yet. Might not matter because he doesn't recognize it anyway.
- 15 Let's move on to a different photo.
- 16 LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: Let me show you what is -- may be in
- 17 evidence ----
- 18 MJ [Col SPATH]: I'll let you know.
- 19 LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: ---- as Government's Exhibit 216.
- **20** MJ [Col SPATH]: 216 is in.
- 21 LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: All right.
- **22** Q. And do you recall that tent?
- 23 A. That looks familiar.

- **1** Q. Okay.
- **2** A. I remember seeing a blue-and-white tent.
- **3** Q. All right. So it would be -- I understand it's been
- 4 quite some time. I'm understanding you to say that as you
- 5 recall things, the sifting area was under the blue-and-white
- 6 tent depicted in Prosecution Exhibit 216, and the collection
- 7 area was somewhere near there, correct?
- 8 A. I remember the sifting area being under a tent. If
- 9 it was under a blue-and-white tent, I don't recall exactly.
- 10 Q. And if there were two tents, it was under one of the
- 11 tents, and then the collection area was near where the sifting
- 12 area was, true?
- 13 A. Where is the city? Is this the oil tanks this way?
- **14** Or is this the city this way? Do we know?
- 15 MJ [Col SPATH]: The witness has drawn two arrows. The
- 16 first one he drew to the left of the photo as you look at the
- 17 photo; the second one he drew to the right of the photo.
- 18 WIT: Sorry, Your Honor.
- 19 MJ [Col SPATH]: He can't answer the question because he's
- 20 not testifying. And it's okay to say I don't know ----
- 21 LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: And he doesn't know.
- 22 MJ [Col SPATH]: And it's okay to say I don't know or I
- 23 don't remember.

- 1 WIT: I don't know because the orientation is not coming
- 2 back to me right now.
- 3 LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: Fair enough.
- 4 Q. In any event, which tent it is is a little less
- 5 important than I just want to try and make sure, the
- 6 collection area was near the sifting area, correct?
- 7 A. Where we were signing the bags, sir?
- **8** Q. Well, we'll get to signing the bags in just a second.
- 9 I want to know where the collection area was.
- 10 A. I just want to make sure we're talking about the
- 11 right -- the same thing.
- 12 Q. I do, too. That's why I'm going slow.
- 13 A. Okay. So the collection area, is that the area we
- 14 were signing the bags, or are you calling it something
- **15** different?
- **16** Q. I'm using the term you used.
- 17 A. Okay. The area where we were signing the bags
- 18 basically was near -- near the sifting area, as best I can
- 19 remember.
- Q. All right. So let's say, for example, you are in
- 21 this -- thank you -- let's call it the collection area for
- 22 lack of a better -- so we're all using the -- you're in this
- 23 area near the sifting tent ----

- **1** A. Okay.
- 2 Q. ---- and somebody brings you these wires ----
- **3** A. Okay.
- 4 Q. ---- and they say, this is something that needs to be
- **5** kept.
- **6** A. Okay.
- 7 Q. And you would then say, okay -- along these lines,
- 8 not word for word -- where was it found?
- **9** A. I don't recall exactly, but I don't know whether they
- 10 brought the stuff in the bag with the area written on it, like
- 11 the area like Aft, or whether, you know ----
- **12** Q. Well ----
- **13** A. ---- they told us.
- 14 Q. Well, let's look at this again, and ----
- 15 MJ [Col SPATH]: This is all Prosecution Exhibit 95 ----
- 16 LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: Yes.
- **17** MJ [Col SPATH]: ---- A, B and C.
- 18 LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: I hope.
- 19 MJ [Col SPATH]: It is. This is B.
- Q. Where it says Grid 1 Aft, is that your handwriting?
- 21 A. That is not my handwriting.
- 22 Q. All right. So some unidentified person would have
- 23 brought perhaps the wires and the evidence bag -- or the wires

- 1 in the evidence bag and given them to you?
- 2 A. Yes, somebody that was either part of the sifting
- 3 team or collection team actually would have brought them and
- 4 put them down.
- **5** Q. Okay. And then you would then sign?
- **6** A. That is correct, and then seal it.
- 7 Q. Okay. So the first time you have any contact with
- 8 this is where -- is when you get -- is when it's given to you?
- **9** A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Okay. And is that the case with all of the ten or so
- 11 exhibits you identified?
- 12 A. Make sure we're understanding each other, sir. I'm
- 13 not being disrespectful but ----
- **14** Q. I know you're not.
- 15 A. Okay. So just -- you're saying -- can you repeat the
- **16** question?
- 17 Q. You talked to the prosecutor about ten separate
- **18** exhibits.
- **19** A. Yes.
- Q. And would all of those exhibits be things that were
- 21 brought to you by other people at the collection area where
- 22 you began this process?
- 23 A. Yes, with the exception of the rope, obviously, that

- 1 we talked -- with the exception of the rope that we talked
- 2 about.
- **3** Q. With the exception of the rope?
- 4 A. And I remember seeing the flywheel sitting on the
- 5 deck.
- **6** Q. The rope and the flywheel?
- 7 A. Yes.
- **8** Q. Everything else came to you at these collection
- **9** points?
- **10** A. That is correct.
- 11 Q. Okay. Now -- and as you understood things, the
- 12 determining factor was, as we've said, it doesn't look like it
- 13 came from the COLE?
- **14** A. That is correct.
- 15 Q. Okay. Now, after you would get it, and let's stay
- 16 with 95, the wires, they're in the bags, you've signed the
- **17** bag.
- **18** A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Where do you -- what do you do with the bag? Do you
- 20 give it to someone else? Do you take it down to the evidence
- 21 room? What happens then?
- A. After we signed so many bag, we would take them down
- 23 to the evidence room.

- 1 Q. All right. So you're standing there in the
- 2 collection -- the collection area, people are bringing stuff.
- 3 Either they're filling it out, you're filling it out, you're
- 4 signing, you get a group of bags, you take them down to the
- **5** evidence room?
- **6** A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Okay. And the evidence room was -- as you recall
- 8 things, where was it and can you describe it for us, please?
- **9** A. I know it was below deck.
- **10** Q. Okay.
- 11 A. I don't really remember exactly everything about it.
- 12 Q. Just -- if you're standing at the door of the
- 13 evidence room, if you stand looking into it, what do you see,
- **14** as best you recall?
- **15** A. I don't recall.
- **16** Q. You don't recall anything?
- 17 A. No, not on that.
- 18 Q. Who do you see?
- 19 A. I don't remember seeing anybody, but I know Jane
- 20 Rhodes -- SA Jane Rhodes was kind of in the area. That's the
- 21 one that was in control of the evidence room ----
- **22** Q. Okay.
- A. ---- per se, the mock evidence room, on board.

- 1 Q. So you would take these group of bags into the
- 2 evidence room and give them to whoever was there, Ms. Rhodes
- 3 or whoever else. And do you know what they would do with
- 4 them?
- 5 Let me ask it -- would they do anything with these
- **6** bags in your presence?
- 7 A. My presence, no.
- 8 Q. Okay. Did they -- did you see them keeping some kind
- 9 of record of whether -- of things as they were brought in?
- **10** A. I did not notice.
- 11 Q. Okay. So I'm gathering you're up in the collection
- 12 area, you're taking a group of bags downstairs to the --
- 13 wherever it was. Hi, I've got five bags, ten bags, however
- 14 many it was. Here you go. Would you set them on a table? On
- 15 the floor?
- 16 A. I don't recall. I remember taking them down below
- **17** deck ----
- 18 Q. Leave them and go back?
- 19 A. Take them in and someone ----
- Q. You go back to wherever you were working at the
- 21 collection area?
- **22** A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Now, the prosecutor showed these series of

- **1** Form 192s.
- **2** A. Correct.
- **3** Q. And each of those had your signature on them ----
- **4** A. Yes.
- **5** Q. ---- correct? Okay.
- **6** A. The ones that he showed me, yes.
- 7 Q. Well, have you ever written anyone else's name on a
- **8** 192?
- **9** A. As far as like pre-fill it out for them but not sign
- **10** it?
- **11** Q. No, no.
- 12 A. I have never signed anybody else's name, if that's
- 13 what you're asking me.
- 14 Q. Right. And has anyone ever signed your name on a
- **15** 192?
- **16** A. They should not sign my name.
- 17 Q. Why should they not sign your name on it?
- 18 A. Because that signature is saying that you are --
- **19** saying that you collected the evidence.
- Q. Okay. And other witnesses have told us -- and is
- 21 this in accord with your training -- that the 192 is the
- 22 official chain of custody document?
- A. That's the one that's going to be entered into

- 1 record.
- 2 Q. Right. And that's the one -- that's the, if you
- **3** will, the official bible of chain of custody; fair to say?
- 4 A. Yes. That's the one -- the 1A that you're going to
- 5 go back to.
- **6** Q. Now, when in this process, the collection area, the
- 7 evidence room, later on, would you have signed the 192?
- 8 A. Ideally, it's great if you can do them there, but
- 9 obviously in a scene this size, it was unlikely. I don't
- 10 remember exactly when I signed the 192, but, you know.
- 11 Q. All right. Would it have been either before you took
- 12 the evidence to the evidence -- or the -- the evidence room or
- 13 in the evidence room that you would have signed it?
- 14 A. On this scene, I don't recall, but you -- I -- I
- 15 don't really recall signing it before I took them down. I
- 16 don't recall signing it before, but I can't be 100 percent
- **17** sure.
- 18 Q. Would you -- you wouldn't have come back a day later
- **19** and signed it?
- A. Depending on when they had it filled out, it could be
- 21 later, yes.
- Q. Could be later, but there would be no question that
- 23 they, if they were following protocol, would want you to sign

- 1 it, correct?
- **2** A. Yes.
- **3** Q. Okay. Now, when you are at the collection area --
- 4 I'm coming back to the wires again. The wires get in the bag,
- 5 either someone else puts them in the bag or you do, and then
- 6 who is sealing it, sealing the bag? I know you're -- you're
- 7 writing the stuff, but who's -- physically where is the bag
- 8 sealed, if you recall?
- **9** A. I remember sealing a lot of the bags right there when
- 10 we were signing them.
- 11 Q. Okay. So using the wires as an example, wires
- 12 brought to you by the unidentified person. This came from
- 13 Grid 1 Aft. You put it in the bag and you fill out the form,
- 14 or your portion of it. You sealed the bag, as you recall?
- 15 A. As I recall. I'd have to look. I probably
- **16** initialled the bag if I did seal it.
- 17 Q. Well, do we have the bag for 95? Let's take a look.
- **18** A. Yes.
- **19** Q. Okay.
- 20 A. My initial is here on the tape.
- 21 Q. All right. Because you ----
- 22 MJ [Col SPATH]: Let me just look and see so I know where
- 23 his initials are.

- **1** WIT: May I stand up, Your Honor?
- 2 MJ [Col SPATH]: Yeah. You may.
- 3 A. KDF.
- 4 MJ [Col SPATH]: All right. So the witness just pointed
- 5 to the side of the bag with the white label 1B689 the top and
- 6 there's the officials KDF and the date. You may.
- 7 Q. So what the judge just described and what we've all
- 8 seen, you put tape on the bag and then you wrote in Magic
- 9 Marker the date and your initials so that you would know that
- 10 you were the person who sealed the bag?
- 11 A. Yes. It's one of the habits I try to get into, put
- 12 your tape on in between the bag and the tape, you write the
- 13 date and your initials.
- 14 Q. That's really a good procedure because that way here,
- 15 from the distance of nearly 17 years, we can tell that you
- **16** were the person who sealed that bag?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And that gives us a fair degree of confidence that,
- 19 you know, whatever is in that bag, at least -- we don't know
- 20 how it got to you, but at least once it got to you, we know
- **21** what you did with it?
- 22 A. That is correct.
- Q. And really, isn't that the point of evidence

- 1 collection? The paperwork, you're trained, is very, very
- 2 important because, again, from the distance of time, the
- 3 paper -- you know, you don't remember a lot, and that's
- 4 understandable. The paperwork helps you recall things?
- **5** A. Yes, it does.
- **6** Q. And even when you can't recall, the fact that the
- 7 paperwork is correct tells us what did or didn't happen in the
- 8 case of, let's say, those wires?
- **9** A. Yes. You can tell that I sealed it.
- 10 Q. Okay. You can tell that you sealed it. And we can
- 11 tell from this 192, which I think is the correct one, that you
- **12** found it on the -- 12:00 on the 20th, and by 3:30 it was in
- 13 the custody of someone else.
- **14** A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. Now, while -- I know -- when you were doing
- 16 evidence collection, was there a group of people swabbing
- 17 evidence there on the scene?
- **18** A. While we were doing it? The best I can remember is
- 19 that all of the swabbing was done prior -- swabbing was done
- 20 prior to us getting on board.
- 21 Q. Okay. All of the swabbing was done prior to evidence
- 22 being collected, or by the time you got on board. Because
- 23 those are two different ----

- 1 A. Repeat the question so I make sure I answer
- 2 correctly, sir.
- **Q.** When we talk about swabbing, I'm talking about ----
- 4 A. Yes, I know. Not cleaning the floor; swabbing the
- **5** walls and stuff for samples.
- **6** Q. Yes. And were the bomb technicians swabbing any of
- 7 this evidence after it was identified at the sifters as
- 8 something that should be seized, or do you know?
- **9** A. I do not recall seeing that.
- 10 Q. Okay. You told us that the ship -- I mean, we know
- 11 from other evidence that it was -- the power was being
- 12 utilized for the efforts to keep the pumps running, and I
- 13 think other witnesses have told us that, you know, in many
- 14 respects, the lights on the ship were not functioning for some
- **15** time ----
- 16 A. Yes, they would ----
- 17 Q. ---- is that your memory?
- **18** A. Intermittent. They would come on and off.
- 19 Q. So I'm understanding that your work on the ship was
- 20 pretty much sunrise to sunset; would that be your memory?
- 21 A. That's an approximate. We'd get up very early and
- 22 then head out.
- Q. And leave as it got dark because it would be

- 1 dangerous to work in the dark?
- **2** A. That is correct.
- **3** Q. Okay. Do you have any memory of where on the ship
- 4 Grid 1 Fore or Grid 1 Aft was?
- **5** A. No. sir, I don't.
- **6** Q. Okay.
- 7 LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: Just a second.
- 8 [Pause.]
- **9** Q. Who, if you know, was making the decisions of what to
- 10 swab -- which evidence to swab and which is not?
- 11 A. That would fall on the team leaders, sir.
- **12** Q. I'm sorry?
- 13 A. At that time, that would fall on the team leaders.
- **14** Q. That would be the team leaders?
- 15 A. Yeah. The team leaders would be making that
- 16 decision.
- 17 Q. And presumably they would be working with the
- 18 evidence technicians and the -- and the bomb squad experts,
- 19 and that sort of thing?
- **20** A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. And you said something that maybe -- you said
- 22 that you thought the swabbing occurred before we -- you got on
- 23 the boat?

- 1 A. Yes. That's -- that's a general guideline.
- **2** Q. Okay. Tell us -- tell me more about that, please.
- 3 A. Well, one of the things that's a guideline is one of
- 4 the things -- after you do your preliminary survey and a
- 5 couple of other things to make sure the scene is safe is to
- 6 get the swabs done, especially because chemical residue, or
- 7 any type of residue for that matter, can deteriorate at a very
- 8 rapid rate, especially in those conditions.
- **9** Q. Okay. So if the protocols were being followed, you
- 10 would have done your walk-through on the morning of the 16th,
- 11 or maybe even earlier when people got there, other people got
- 12 there, and then the swabbing would have begun ----
- **13** A. Yeah.
- 14 Q. I understand you weren't there, but that's the --
- 15 that's what the training was, as you told us?
- 16 A. I think -- I thought it occurred before we even got
- 17 on the ship.
- **18** Q. I'm sorry?
- **19** A. I thought it occurred before we got on the ship.
- Q. And maybe it did. I don't know. I'm not saying
- 21 you're wrong.
- **22** A. Okay.
- Q. I'm just helping flesh that out.

- **1** A. All right.
- **2** LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: Anything?
- 3 Q. Thank you very much, but I need a second to help give
- **4** her her ----
- 5 MJ [Col SPATH]: No worries. No worries.
- 6 LDC [MR. KAMMEN]: Do you think these are all mine? Okay.
- 7 If you find out you're wrong, come ----
- I don't have any other questions. Thank you very
- 9 much.
- 10 WIT: Thank you, sir.
- **11** MJ [Col SPATH]: Trial Counsel?
- 12 TC [MR. MILLER]: No redirect, Your Honor. Thank you.
- 13 MJ [Col SPATH]: I'm just looking at my notes for a
- 14 second.
- 15 All right, Mr. Finnerty. I'm going to give you a
- 16 standard order. I'm sure you've heard it if you testified
- 17 before. Don't talk about your testimony with anybody until
- 18 this matter is complete. In this case, that could be a pretty
- 19 extended period of time, as you can imagine. So just keep
- 20 that in mind, with a couple of exceptions: You are certainly
- 21 welcome to talk to the prosecution and defense team if you
- 22 want to as you prepare for testimony at later points during
- 23 this trial. Just don't talk to other people about your

1 testimony until we're finished. Do you understand? 2 WIT: Yes, Your Honor. 3 MJ [Col SPATH]: What I have said to other witnesses, and 4 I do mean this, I recognize that you volunteered to come down 5 here to testify because certainly you can do it by VTC as 6 well. I appreciate that you traveled down here to testify in 7 person. Thank you. 8 WIT: Thank you, Your Honor. 9 MJ [Col SPATH]: You're excused. 10 [The witness was warned, excused, and withdrew from the 11 courtroom.] 12 MJ [Col SPATH]: We have been going just over an hour, but 13 before -- how long is your next witness, approximately? 14 TC [MR. MILLER]: Probably a half hour. 15 MJ [Col SPATH]: We'll take a quick break and we'll just 16 keep rolling through your witnesses. Let's take ten minutes. 17 We're in recess. 18 [The R.M.C. 803 session recessed at 1419, 15 March 2017.] 19 [END OF PAGE] 20 21 22 23