



Embassy of the United States of America

Bureau de l'Attaché de Défense
Ambassade des Etats-Unis
2, avenue Gabriel
75382 PARIS CEDEX 08

U-4018-03

Le 3 décembre 2003

Madame Corinne CASTANIER
Directrice de la Commission de Recherche et
d'Information Indépendantes sur la Radioactivité
Le Cime
471, avenue Victor Hugo
26000 VALENCE

Madame la Directrice,

L'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis a bien reçu votre courrier du 19 novembre 2003 et vous en remercie, ainsi que les membres de votre Commission.

En réponse, Monsieur Leach nous a chargés de vous faire parvenir ci-joint le communiqué de presse officiel qui nous a été transmis par le Commandant de la Sixième Flotte des Etats-Unis. Si vous avez des questions complémentaires, n'hésitez pas à vous mettre en relation avec l'Officier chargé des Relations Extérieures de la Sixième Flotte. Son numéro de téléphone en Italie est le : 39 0771-709-830 ou 40, poste 6050.

Veillez agréer, Madame la Directrice, l'assurance de notre considération très distinguée.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.R. Steinke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RALPH R. STEINKE
Colonel, US Army
Attaché de Défense et Militaire

P.J. : un communiqué de presse

UNIT 50148
FPO AE 09501-6002
Gaeta, Italy

Phone: (Italy 39) 0771-709-830-6050
DSN: 626-9000 x6050

Email: c6fpao@c6f.navy.mil
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November 18, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USS HARTFORD DEPARTS LA MADDALENA

GAETA, Italy (November 18, 2003) - USS HARTFORD (SSN 768) departed La Maddalena today to return to the United States after the completion of temporary repairs to its rudder. Prior to its departure, the HARTFORD conducted an underway sea trial to ensure the repairs would support a safe transit. Also, the submarine's navigation team has undergone additional training to ensure they can safely perform their duties.

On October 25, the submarine briefly touched bottom at about 12:40 p.m. local while it was traveling on the surface in shallow water outside the national park east of Caprera. No personnel were injured in the incident, nor were any other vessels involved. HARTFORD returned to port at Santo Stefano under its own power where divers found damage to the rudder and scrapes on the hull. HARTFORD's water-tight integrity was not affected, nor did the incident affect the submarine's propulsion plant in any way.

The Commander of Submarine Group Eight, from Naples, Italy, immediately began the investigation into the incident and took a number of personnel actions to include relieving the commander of the locally based Submarine Squadron and the submarine's commanding officer.

U.S. officials notified the appropriate Italian Navy authorities after the incident. The incident did not cause significant hull damage, nor any oil or fuel leaks. No environmental damage resulted from the grounding.

USS HARTFORD is homeported in Groton, Conn.

For additional information please contact U.S. Sixth Fleet Public Affairs at:

Phone Lines: (Italy 39) 0771-709-830/40 x6050 DSN: 626-9000 x6050/6051
