

U.S. vessel fires at Egyptian boat

by UPI

SUEZ, Egypt - The U.S. Navy said Tuesday it was investigating an incident in which one of its chartered cargo ships fired in the vicinity of two small Egyptian boats. While U.S. military officials told American Forces Press Service there were no reports of casualties from the Global Patriot as a result of the Monday night encounter in the Red Sea near the Suez Canal, Egyptian security sources told the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA one Egyptian was killed and two others were wounded. U.S. military officials said the Global Patriot only fired warning shots at a small boat that approached as it was preparing to navigate the Suez Canal. The officials said the boat was one of several that came near the chartered U.S. naval ship. The officials told the Armed Forces Press Service the boats were warned by a native Arabic speaker aboard the Global Patriot to turn away and a cautionary signal flare was fired. However, they said, one boat continued to approach and two sets of warning shots were fired 65-100 feet in front of its bow. All shots were accounted for as they entered the water, the officials said. The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet command was cooperating with Egyptian authorities through the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, the officials said.

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