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For Immediate Release

USS Liberty Veterans Association Announces War Crimes Report Filed Against Israel

(Washington, DC) – On Friday, June 10 at 1:00 pm, at the Hotel Washington, 515 15th.St NW, Washington, DC, USS Liberty survivor Moe Shafer and Rear Admiral Merlin Staring, USN, (Ret.), former Judge Advocate General of the Navy who was involved with the initial Court of Inquiry investigating the attack in 1967 will present details of the “Report of War Crimes” recently filed by the USS Liberty Veterans Association concerning the 1967 Israeli attack on their ship.

The report was filed with the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon on June 8, the 38th anniversary of the attack, by LVA General Legal Counsel James R. Gotcher. The report establishes prima facie evidence that Israel committed war crimes which the Secretary of Defense is obligated under existing Department Of Defense directives to investigate.

A complete copy of the report is available at:

PDF File: <http://usliberty.org/report/report.pdf>

HTML File: <http://usliberty.org/report/report.htm>

Gotcher was an Air Force intelligence analyst in Vietnam in 1967. He and two other intelligence officers stationed in different parts of the world at the time have submitted depositions stating that each saw intelligence messages saying the USS Liberty was under attack by Israeli aircraft in the Mediterranean.

Shafer, a Communications Technician Third Class on the USS Liberty, was in the area of the ship where the torpedo struck killing 25 of his shipmates.

Captain Ward Boston, the legal advisor to the Court of Inquiry, has examined the original copy of the Court of Inquiry record and declared it to be a fraud. "It is not the record I certified and submitted in 1967," says Captain Boston.

Lloyd Painter, Officer of the Deck on the USS Liberty testified before the Court, "that the Israeli torpedo boat crews machine gunned the USS Liberty inflatable life boats." His testimony does not appear in the record.

Immediately following the press conference there will be a panel discussion at the Washington Hotel moderated by Francis Gary Powers, Jr. The panelists include:

- **Joseph Lentini** - Will present a brief history of the ship and the attack and discuss recent events with regard to political and military issues and what is wrong with the Israeli story as it has evolved over the years.

Lentini is a career public servant, presently a GS-14 level staff member of the Environmental Protection Agency. He was recently honored by the Navy and the National Security Agency (NSA) for training efforts related to establishment of a Cryptologic Military History Program. He was a crew member of the USS Liberty and was wounded during the attack.

- **Ken Halliwell** - Will analyze the gun camera photos and illustrate why they are fraudulent.

Halliwell is a semi-retired telecommunications and information systems engineer. He was a Communications Technician with Naval Security Group from 1968 to 1974.

- **Ernie Gallo** - Will cover Ward Boston's affidavit which identifies the beginning of the cover up, recently declassified cable from Admiral John S. McCain to the Secretary of the Navy, the Jan 04 State Dept Discussion Panel and current Freedom of Information Act research activities.

Gallo is a USS Liberty survivor who recently completed a 30 year career with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The USS Liberty Veterans Association is hosting its reunion in Washington, DC on the 38th anniversary of the attack. There will be a memorial service on June 8th at Arlington National Cemetery where 11 crew members are buried, a meeting of the crew on June 10th, and a memorial plaque dedication at the US Navy Memorial on June 11th which will be followed by a banquet on the evening of the 11th.