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 RHMCSII/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5//
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WARNING: TOPIC: CRIME, DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL,
 MILITARY, TERRORISM
 SERIAL:IMR2016011366643106

BODY

COUNTRY: IRAN

SUBJ: (U) EC SECRETARY: PERSIAN GULF INCIDENT PROVED US ALLEGATIONS
 about Iran Are Baseless

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SOURCE: Tehran Fars News Agency in English 0857

GMT 13 Jan 16 (U)

TEXT:

[NEWS AGENCIES]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

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[Computer selected and disseminated without OSE editorial intervention] TEHRAN (FNA)- Secretary of Iran's Expediency Council (EC) Mohsen Rezayee said the behavior of the US marines while they were in custody of the IRGC Navy forces showed that they had been well-treated proving that the US allegations about Iran's behavior are no more than lies.

"If the Americans really believed that Iran is a terrorist state, would they lie down and rest so calmly and relaxed while they were in IRGC's custody," Rezayee wrote on his social network's page on Wednesday.

He reiterated that the calm and comfort of the US marines in the pictures showed that they do not even their own state's hype against Iran.

Iran on Wednesday released the 10 US marines that it had detained after their trespassing of its territorial waters in the Persian Gulf.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps issued a statement on Wednesday saying that "it has released the US marines and their vessels in international waters" after its investigations showed that they had gone astray during their voyage in the Persian Gulf.

In its statement, the IRGC pointed out that its investigations show that the US combat vessels' illegal entry into the Iranian waters was not the result of a purposeful act.

"Following technical and operational investigations and in interaction with relevant political and national security bodies of the country and after it became clear that the US combat vessels'

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illegal entry into the Islamic Republic of Iran's waters was the result of an unintentional action and a mistake and after they extended an apology, the decision was made to release them," the statement said.

"The Americans have undertaken not to repeat such mistakes," it added, and continued, "The captured marines were released in international waters under the supervision of the IRGC Navy moments ago."

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps seized two US Navy boats on Tuesday and detained them on Iran's Farsi Island in the Persian Gulf.

Nine men and one woman trespassed Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf when they were captured by the IRGC Navy.

Each of the two US Navy boats that were 3 nautical miles deep into the Iranian waters when they were captured by the IRGC Navy's second naval zone were equipped with three 50mm caliber machine guns and other light and semi-heavy weapons.

IRGC officials said the coordinates recorded on the GPS devices taken from the 10 US marines confirmed their trespassing as well.

Following the capture, two US and French aircraft carriers as well as their accompanying fleets and military choppers started maneuvering near Iranian waters.

The IRGC statement blamed the US flotilla for its "excited and unprofessional moves", but said the IRGC navy could handle the situation and restored calm to the region through powerful and wise moves.

Senior US officials, including Secretary of State John Kerry, were in contact with their Iranian counterparts on the fate of the marines since Tuesday, and according to Iranian officials, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif had told Kerry that the US should extend a formal apology first.

According to the statement, the Americans have extended an apology.

IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi had announced earlier on Wednesday that the 10 US marines would likely be released as early as investigation results showed technical fault in their navigation systems.

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"Investigations show that the two US Navy boats had trespassed into Iran's territorial waters because of technical faults in their navigation systems and the issue is being resolved," Admiral Fadavi said Wednesday morning, explaining about the latest situation of the US marines.

[Description of Source: Tehran Fars News Agency in English -- Hardline semi-official news agency, affiliated with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), headed as of 24 July 2011 by Nezameddin Musavi; <http://www.english.farsnews.com>]

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