

POC-20  
15 MAY 1975

## MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER

MORNING OPERATIONAL SUMMARY1. KOH TANG ISLAND

- A. INITIAL ELEMENTS OF BLT 2/9 LANDED AT 142305Z AND MEET HEAVY GROUND FIRE. FIVE HELICOPTERS ARE HIT BY HOSTILE FIRE.
- B. APPROXIMATELY 135 GSF ARE ON DECK AFTER 1ST WAVE.
- C. LEAD HELO OF 2D WAVE TOUCHED DOWN IN HLZ AT 150350Z. HLZ TAKING SUSPECTED MORTAR FIRE. HELO AVAILABILITY FOR SECOND WAVE IS NOW 6.
- D. AT 150455Z JCS DIRECTED OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS TO CEASE AND WITHDRAW ALL FORCES ASAP.
- E. INITIAL EXTRACTION ATTEMPT AT 150808Z IS ABORTED DUE TO HEAVY GROUND FIRE. 182 USMC ARE ON GROUND.
- F. CUMULATIVE USMC GSF CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM FIRE-FIGHT IS 1/KIA; 8/WIA; (3 SERIOUS).

2. SS MAYAQUEZ BOARDING

- A. INITIAL ELEMENT OF "D" (-) 1/4 LANDED AT 142305Z ABOARD USS HOLT FOR SUBSEQUENT BOARDING OF SS MAYAQUEZ.
- B. USS HOLT ALONGSIDE MAYAQUEZ AT 150041Z AND SHIP IS SUCCESSFULLY BOARDED. NO RESISTENCE. SEARCH OF ENTIRE SHIP REVEALED NO CREW ABOARD.
- C. USS WILSON OBSERVES SMALL BOAT WITH CAUCASIAN ABOARD WAVING WHITE FLAG AND SUBSEQUENTLY PICKUP ENTIRE CREW AT 150346Z. ALL INEXCELLENT CONDITION.
- D. USS HOLT HAS SS MAYAQUEZ UNDER TOW AT 150455Z.

ENCL: (1) MCCC CHRONOLOGY  
(2) MCCC MSG SUMMARY

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21 Feb 1979

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Signature

Date

6/12/97

3. TACAIR

A. AIRCRAFT FROM USS CORAL SEA/7TH AF BASED IN THAILAND FLEW RECON STRIKE MISSIONS VICINITY KOM PONG SOM REAM AIRFIELD. INITIAL REPORT INDICATOR 17 A/C DESTROYED, BUILDINGS, POL AREA ON FIRE. NO TACAIR DAMAGE.

B. USS CAROL SEA TACAIR OPS CLOSED-PREPARING TO RECOVER HELICOPTERS.

C. 7TH AF TACAIR ON STATION. PROVIDING SUPPRESSIVE FIRE ON WESTERN SIDE OF ISLAND AS GSF ATTEMPT TO CONSOLIDATE POSITION FOR EXTRACTION.

4. USS HANCOCK TASK GROUP

CLOSING KOH TANG AREA - ETA 161600Z.

5. ARG ALFA/31ST MAU

USS DULUTH, USS MT VERNON, USS BARBOUR COUNTY, USS OKINAWA ETD SUBIC 151000Z. ETA KOH TANG AREA IS 180300Z.

6. ARG BRAVO/BLT BRAVO

USS MOBILE ETA KOH TANG 162020Z. REMAINING ARG BRAVO SHIPPING PROCEEDING SUBIC BAY AND WILL REMAIN ON SIX HOUR ALERT.

7. NAVAL SUPPORT

A. USS WILSON DELIVERED NGF SUPPORT GSF AGAINST ENEMY MG POSITION ON EAST SIDE OF ISLAND.

B. USS HOLT, WILSON EN ROUTE POSITION EAST SIDE ISLAND TO LAUNCH SURFACE CRAFT-IF BEACH EXTRACTION FEASIBLE.

C. USS CORAL SEA MOVING WITHIN 10NM KOH TANG. PLAN TO USE CORAL SEA AS HELICOPTER PLATFORM DURING EXTRACTION OPERATION.

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POC-20  
16 MAY 1975

## MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER

MORNING OPERATIONAL SUMMARY1. SUMMARY OF MAYAQUEZ OPERATION

- a. SS MAYAQUEZ under own power en route to Singapore.
- b. All military units have departed the operating area.
- c. Marines staged in Thailand have been removed via MAC flights to Kadena with the final contingent arriving 160245Z.
- d. All operations relating to the recovery of the MAYAQUEZ are terminated.

2. RECAP OF AIR OPERATIONS

a. USAF sorties	
CH-53 - 16	AC-130 - 6
HH-53 - 20	OV-10 - 4
F-4 - 183	FC-130 - 15
A-7 - 47	HC-130 - 7
F-111 - 34	KC-135 - 49

b. USN sorties  
UNKNOWN

3. LOSSES

KNIFE 21 - CH-53 (USAF)  
KNIFE 23 - CH-53 (USAF)  
KNIFE 31 - CH-53 (USAF)

One additional CH-53 was lost prior to the operation during deployment to UTAPAO.

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~~SECRET~~CASUALTIES

1. CTG 79.9 passed names of WIA/MIA by message (CTG 79.9 151740Z MAY Conf)
2. CTF 77 provided numbers of USMC personnel aboard ships which participated in operation. Msg also states muster has been taken and is subject of separate msg. (CTF 77 151935Z MAY75 (S))
3. AF Operations Center reports that they suffered 2 WIA and 2 MIA. (Phonecon AFOC 160250Z (U))
4. FMFPAC requested update on casualties. (CG FMFPAC 160535Z MAY (S))

## 5. Casualties estimate as of 161000Z MAY75

	KIA	WIA	MIA
USMC	1*	9	10
USN			2#
USAF	—	1	2**
TOTALS	1	10	14

\* Still unconfirmed - location of remains is unknown

# Serving with USMC GSF

\*\* Suspected KIA - missing crew of CH-53 which crashed at sea

update phonecon morning  
of 16 May w/ USAF CC says  
one so slight no longer  
carried as WIA. USAF  
reports only 1 WIA now  
to NMCC.

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~~SECRET~~DTGORIGINATORRESUME OF MESSAGE

131341Z (S) JCS

ACTIONS REFERENCE SS MAYAQUEZ

Authorizes actions to preclude SS Mayaquez from being sailed or towed into Kompohg Som.

131610Z (S) JCS

KHMER SEIZURE OF S.S. MAYAQUEZ

Execute Msg. USAF hello assets to Utapao, 2 platoons USMC from Cubi Point to Utapao. Increase readiness of BLT 1/9 for MAC lift to Utapao.

130920Z (S) CTF 79

REORG. FOR SPECIAL OPS, CAMBODIA

This msg provides general concept and specifics to conduct ops in Gulf of Thailand in conjunction with recovery of SS MAYAQUEZ.

132346Z (S) CINCPACFLT

SS MAYAQUEZ OPNS

Sail USS HANCOCK ASAP with escorts at best speed to vicinity Koh Tang.

132250Z (S) CTF 79

SS MAYAQUEZ OPNS

BLT 2/9 commenced airlift to U-TAPAO at 132105Z. ETA 140700Z.

140050Z (C) USSAG/7AF

SITREP AS OF 140030Z

A-7 A/C expends 20 MM at stern of gun boat and after several passes - gun boat sunk.

140455Z (S) JCS

CONFIRMATION OF AUTHORITY

JCS authorizes CINCPAC to attack and sink small craft identified in vicinity of Koh Tang.

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6/12/61

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~~SECRET~~DTGORIGINATORRESUME OF MESSAGE

140348Z (S) COM 7TH FLT

SITREP #8 AS OF 140100ZETD Subic:

USS HANCOCK - 140400Z  
USS MOBILE - 140300Z  
USS MT VERNON - 150100Z  
CORAL SEA on Station 150530Z.

140657Z (S) CINCPACFLT

MAYAGUEZ OPNS

List tasking necessary to  
accomplish simultaneous employment  
of TACAIR, boarding of MAYAGUEZ,  
seizure of Kohtang Island and land  
air strikes at first light 15May75.

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<u>DTG</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>
141012Z (S)	CINCPACFLT
140108Z (S)	JCS
142142Z (S)	JCS
150001Z (S)	USSAG/7 AF
150005Z (S)	CTF 77
150101Z (C)	USSAG/7THAF
150100Z (C)	NKP APBT THAI

RESUME OF MESSAGETF 76 OPERATIONS SITREP #001

Listing of shipping and embarked units.

PLANNING FOR USS HOLT

Provides planning info only - not an execute message.

SEIZURE OF MAYAQUEZ

Execute msg to seize MAYAQUEZ and Koh Tang island.

SS MAYAQUEZ SITREP AS OF 142345Z

USAF CH-53 A/C downed by SA fire vic. LZ 15 Of 21 personnel rescued. No info on other personnel.

SS MAYAQUEZ OPNS

Commence TACAIR launch 150005Z. (Note: against Kom Pong Som area.)

SITREP AS OF 150040Z

18 survivors reported rescued. Rescue Helicopter then crashed. No confirmed info on number of casualties, 2 additional helicopters have also taken hits by ground fire.

DOWNED AIRCRAFT

5-CH-53 A/C have been hit by hostile fire.

2 A/C in Cambodian waters

1 A/C crashed on beach area.

1 A/C made-forced land Thai mainland

1 A/C returned UTAPAO w/cas.

NOTE: one additional A/C returned with fuel leak prior to arriving area.

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DTGORIGINATORRESMUE OF MESSAGE

150405Z (C) USSAG/7AF

SITREP AS OF 150346Z

All crew members of MAYAQUEZ are in excellent condition and now aboard MAYAQUEZ.

150308Z (S) CTF 77

SPOT REPORT 150301Z

Initial damage report at REAM airfield indicates 17 various A/C destroyed, hanger partially destroyed.

150415Z (S) USS HOLT

MAYAQUEZ IN TOW

USS HOLT has MAYAQUEZ under tow at 150440Z.



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DTG

## ORIGINATOR

## RESUME OF MESSAGE

150800Z MAY75 (S)

USSAG/7AF

MAYAQUEZ #047

Extraction attempt for personnel (GSF) by Jolly Green Helo on eastern side island unsuccessful due to heavy ground fire.

150914Z MAY75 (S)

PATRON 4

OPREP-3

USS WILSON has sunk gunboat and disabled a second.

150914Z MAY75 (S)

CTF 77

SITREP #25

Jolly Green departed USS Coral Sea with two SH-3G's to extract GSF.

151007Z MAY75 (S)

COMDESRON 23

SITREP

USS Holt has completed tow/escort of Mayaquez.

Marine Security Force MSC personnel and nine Holt personnel remain aboard Mayaquez.

151010Z MAY75 (S)

CTF 77

SPOT REPORT

No GSF on board USS Coral Sea at this time. Jolly Green 1-1 and 4-2 arrived with no PAX.

151120Z MAY75 (S)

PATRON 4

OPREP-3

USS Wilson commenced evacuation of Marines.

151316Z MAY75 (S)

COMDESRON 23

SITREP

All known Marine personnel evacuated from Koh Tang Island.

151433Z MAY75 (S)

JCS

EXECUTE MESSAGE

Execute retrograde of all Marines placed in Thailand for Mayaquez opn. Highly desirable that no Marines are in Thailand at first light 16May. Move personnel first gear last.

151450Z MAY75 (S) USSAG/7AF

INTSUM

Reported 38 U. S. Casualties.

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DTG

151454Z MAY75 (C)

ORIGINATOR

CINCPAC

RESUME OF MESSAGEMARINE BLT MOVEMENT

Tasking of Marine BLT UTAPAO  
COMPLETE. Return BLT to parent  
Bases via MAC ASAP.

151740Z MAY75 (C)

CTG 79.9

COMBAT COMMITTED CASUALTIES

Initial report of USMC/USN  
WIA/MIA's by name.

152330Z MAY75 (C)

CINCPAC

MAYAQUEZ/KOH TANG OPERATIONS

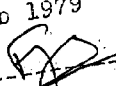
Terminates all operations in  
support of SS MAYAQUEZ.

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~~SECRET~~MCCC Chronology

(all times ZULU)

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 21 Feb 1979

Signature  Date 6/12/9714 May

- 2114 --USAF helos w/USMC embarked lift off from UTAPAO.  
 --3/helo to USS HOLT; 8/helo to KOH TANG Island.
- 2142 --DTG of JCS hard-copy execute. (Verbal execute  
 was passed at about 142100Z.)
- 2305 --First touchdown USS HOLT/K TANG IS.  
 --Heavy ground fire.  
 --1/helo down in water/burned/sank. 20 survivors  
 recovered (of about 24 USMC embarked plus USAF  
 crew).  
 --1/helo down in HLZ due to ground fire, not flyable.  
 1/USAF WIA.  
 --Apparently no LZ prep by tacair. Unconfirmed.
- 2355 --1/helo developed fuel leak en route to K TANG IS,  
 turned around, and headed back for Thailand with  
 USMC still embarked.  
 --2/helo orbiting HLZ waiting to land and discharge.  
 --Approx 100 USMC on K TANG IS (Including LtCol  
 PORTER).

15 May

- 0005 --(Per CTF 77's 150005Z) CORAL SEA tacair launching.  
 --2/helos that were in orbit (see 2355 above) landed  
 and discharged. Approx 150 USMC now on deck.  
 --1/helo additional took ground fire vic HLZ.  
 Discharged USMC in HLZ and got airborne but one  
 engine out.  
 --Active AAA site approx 200 meters south of HLZ,  
 being engaged by tacair.
- 0041 --USS HOLT alongside SS MAYAQUEZ, USMC boarding  
 party on MAYAQUEZ. Top three decks searched with  
 negative results.  
 --USS WILSON on station, untasked.
- 0045 --Khmer Govt announced intention to release MAYAQUEZ.  
 --U. S. President postpones KOMPONG SOM/REAM air-  
 strike scheduled for 150045Z.  
 --Updated count: 135 USMC on K TANG IS.

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~~SECRET~~15 May

- 0055 --Kg SOM/REAM airstrike back on. Acft are airborne. Operation to continue as planned.
- 0112 --USMC on K TANG IS consolidating. Directed not to move out until reinforcements arrive.  
--Fragmentary report of 1/helo additional down in water with unknown number of survivors.
- 0147 --First-wave helo recap:  
--1/helo hit and downed in water vic K TANG IS.  
--1/helo damaged by ground fire, beached southeast of UTAPAO.  
--1/helo hit by ground fire and disabled in HLZ.  
--1/helo down in water near Thai ship.  
--1/helo NORM at UTAPAO with hydraulic problem.  
--USMC boarding party aboard MAYAQUEZ to be put onto K TANG IS to join GSF USMC.  
--MAYAQUEZ fully in U. S. hands as of 150122Z. Shipboard search yielded negative results, but pots on galley stove still warm.  
--USMC mission to secure K TANG IS unchanged.
- 0217 --USMC GSF on K TANG IS in heavy contact vic HLZ. Enemy using AK-47, RPG, and Claymore. Tacair attempting close air support.  
--USMC: 1/KIA; 3/WIA. (Result of firefight.)  
--Aircraft that conducted first strike against Kg SOM/REAM have recovered aboard CORAL SEA. Second launch to be at 0215Z.  
--Plan two more waves of USAF helos to insert additional 280-300 Marines onto K TANG IS. 7/helo available for second wave launch, which is to go at 150300Z from UTAPAO. One-way transit time UTAPAO to K TANG IS calculated at 1-3/4 to 2 hours, with 30-minute turn-around on ground at UTAPAO.  
--Decided to continue helo operations into darkness if necessary to complete insertion of USMC GSF.
- 0222 --OV-10's to move from UTAPAO to on-station over K TANG IS as airborne FAC.  
--Surface craft flying white flag spotted southeast of K TANG IS.
- 0250 --Helo availability for second wave is now 6/helo.
- 0255 --Surface craft with white flag has about 30 caucasians aboard. USS WILSON closing on craft.

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~~SECRET~~15 May

- 0257 --Lift-off of second wave from UTAPAO began at 150245Z.
- 0309 --Jolly Green going into HLZ as MEDEVAC.  
--USS WILSON taking about 30 caucasians aboard from craft with white flag.
- 0315 --Caucasians from craft with white flag verified as crew of MAYAQUEZ. Entire crew of MAYAQUEZ, 40 in number including the captain, recovered aboard the USS WILSON plus 5/unidentified nationals.
- 0335 --Cumulative USMC GSF casualties resulting from firefights on K TANG IS: 1/KIA; 8/WIA (3/serious).  
--USMC GSF first-wave insertion was onto two sides of northern K TANG IS. No linkup yet.  
--No USMC GSF request for NGF support yet.  
--Second airstrike against Kg SOM/REAM by CORAL SEA acft, now in progress, will be final airstrike against Kg SOM/REAM targets.  
--(See 0315 above.) 5/unidentified nationals are Thai.
- 0350 --Lead helo of second wave touching down in HLZ on K TANG IS. HLZ taking suspected mortar fire.
- LATE --Per 56 SOW NKP's 150100Z, helo casualties as of 142330Z from first wave: 5/CH-53 of 21 SOS, NKP, hit by hostile fire:  
--2/helo down in water off K TANG IS.  
--1/helo crash-landed on beach at K TANG IS.  
--1/helo force-landed on beach on Thai mainland.  
--1/helo returned to UTAPAO airfield with casualties (not further explained).
- 0415 --CJCS directed CINCPAC to begin operations to withdraw USMC GSF from K TANG IS.
- 0455 --DTG of JCS hard-copy execute to cease offensive operations and disengage/withdraw all forces from op area ASAP.

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- 0530 --Per CSAF's 150442Z, MAC directed to position 8/C-141 from Clark to UTAPAO immediately for return, on order, of USMC force to Okinawa.
- 0645 --USS WILSON delivered NGF support to USMC GSF against machinegun position on east side of island.
- 0655 --GSF on island negative contact with enemy. Senior Marine on island states he can begin helo extraction at any time. Will need six helo loads, to begin east side first. 182 to be extracted.
- 0659 --CORAL SEA 95 miles from K TANG IS and closing.  
 --3/SH-3 from CORAL SEA to assist in GSF extraction.  
 --Fixed-wing operations aboard CORAL SEA halted to make ready for helo ops.
- 0740 --First extraction helo attempt was to east side, took hits from ground fire, aborted to CORAL SEA.  
 --Total helo count available for extraction is 5/USAF, 3/USN.  
 --Only 26 of GSF are on east side of island, with remainder of GSF on west side where there is negative enemy contact. USS WILSON and HOLT en route position on east side to launch surface craft if extraction by that mode is feasible.
- 0845 --CORAL SEA moving to op area 10 miles off K TANG IS, ETA 151015Z.  
 --At present course and SOA, USS HANCOCK will arrive in op area at about 161600Z.
- 0945 --At about 151100Z, USS HOLT and WILSON to put craft into water for extraction of GSF on east side of island.  
 --4/USAF helo (3 from UTAPAO, 1 off CORAL SEA) and 2/USN SH-3 helo from CORAL SEA airborne for GSF liftout from west side of island.  
 --CH-53D's of HMH-462 aboard USS HANCOCK installing auxiliary fuel tanks for fit-and-test as backup in event extended-range launch becomes necessary.

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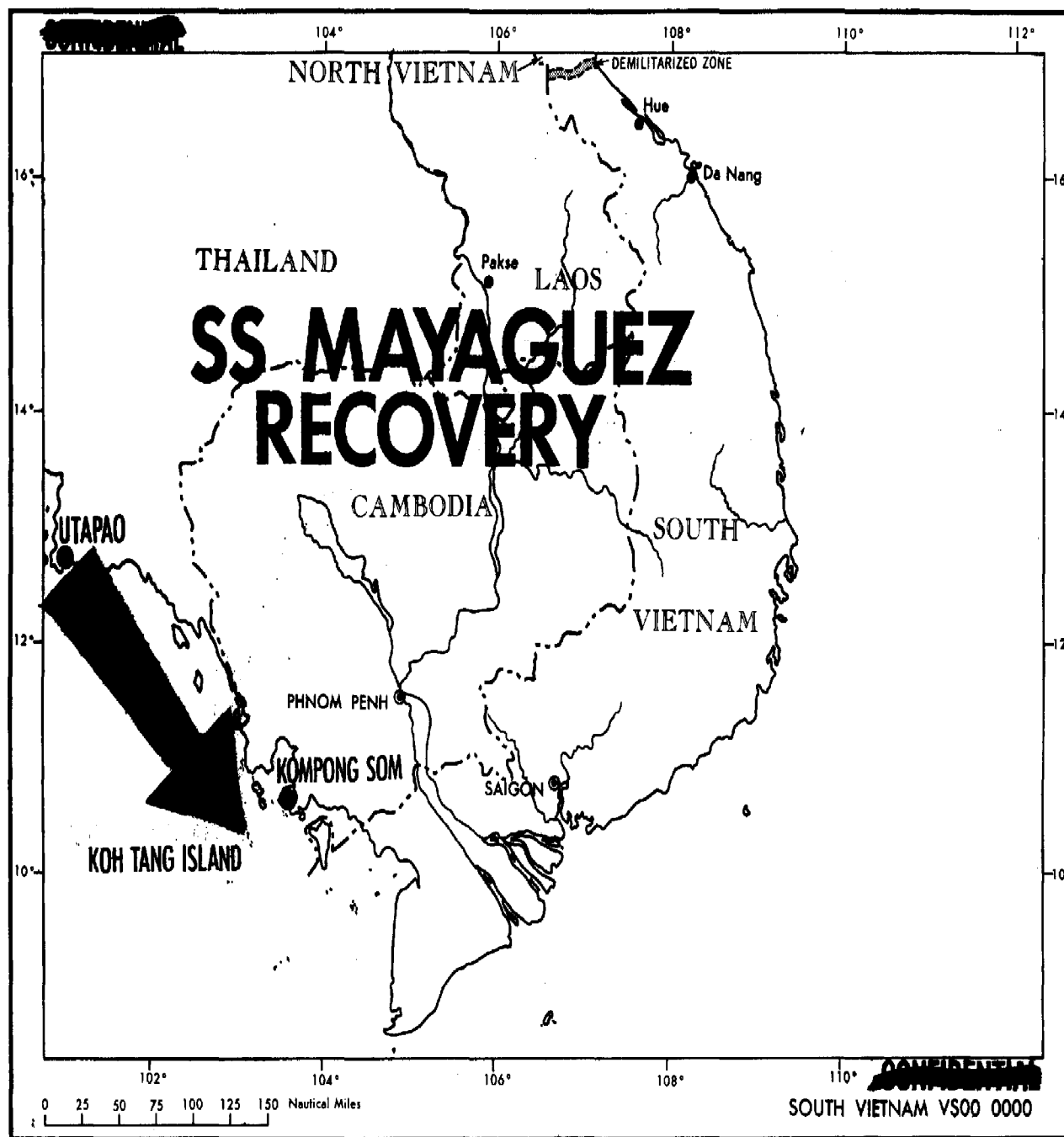
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## MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

### SS MAYAGUEZ RECOVERY

15 MAY 1975

THE SAFE RECOVERY OF THE SS MAYAGUEZ AND HER 40 MAN CREW WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY BLT 2/9 AND D/1/4(-) AT KOH TANG ISLAND, GULF OF THAILAND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH USAF AND USN UNITS ON MAY 15 1975, THREE DAYS AFTER THEIR CAPTURE BY CAMBODIAN GUNBOATS. THE MARINES WERE FLOWN FROM THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND OKINAWA TO UTAPAO, THAILAND BY MAC AIRCRAFT. FROM THERE, THEY WERE TRANSPORTED BY 11 USAF CH/HH-53 HELOS TO THE KOH TANG AREA AND LANDED SIMULTANEOUSLY ON KOH TANG ISLAND AND USS HOLT AT 142308Z. 240 MARINES OF BLT 2/9 ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES ON THE ISLAND IN THE FACE OF ACTIVE RESISTANCE WHICH RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF 3 OF THE 5 HELOS IN THE FIRST WAVE AND DAMAGED 2 HELOS IN THE SECOND WAVE. A 65 MARINE BOARDING PARTY FROM D/1/4(-) ON USS HOLT REPOSSESSED THE SS MAYAGUEZ AT 150041Z AND FOUND HER DESERTED AND UNDAMAGED. FOLLOWING THE SINKING OF SEVERAL CAMBODIAN GUNBOATS AND THE BOMBING OF KAMPONG SAM, THE ENTIRE CREW OF THE MAYAGUEZ WAS RELEASED UNHARMED BY THE CAMBODIANS AND PICKED UP IN A SMALL BOAT FLYING WHITE FLAGS BY USS WILSON AT 150346Z. THE SS MAYAGUEZ WAS PLACED UNDER TOW AT 150455Z AND SUBSEQUENTLY GOT UNDERWAY UNDER HER OWN POWER. EXTRACTION OF THE MARINES ON KOH TANG WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH DIFFICULTY UNDER FIRE BY BOATS AND HELOS. THE LAST MARINES WERE EXTRACTED BY HELO AT 151320Z.

TAB B-1

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14 MAY 1975

WATCH OFFICERS NOTE

SUBJ: III MAF UNITS IN SUPPORT OF SS MAYAQUEZ OPERATIONS AS  
OF 140500 EDT

1. QUICK REACTION UNIT

Two reinforced rifle platoons of BLT 1/4 departed Cubi Point at 131743Z and arrived UTAPAO at 132143Z.

SOURCE: FONECON NMCC - 140500Z.

2. AIR CONTINGENCY BLT

BLT 2/9 commenced departure Okinawa via MAC A/C at 132105Z and arrived UTAPAO at 140700Z. See attached for Task Organization.

SOURCE: FONECON NMCC/PAC COMD CNTR.

3. USS HANCOCK TASK GROUP

USS HANCOCK with escorts departed Subic 140400Z. ETA 161600Z. E, F 2/4; HMH-462 (11/CH-53, 3/CH-46, 2/UH-1E, 4/AH-1J) 9th MAB STAFF (BGEN CAREY) embarked.

SOURCE: COM7TH FLT 140348Z FONECON NFP

4. ARG ALFA/31ST MAU

- a. USS MT VERNON, ETD Subic 150001Z - delay due to Casrep# of embarked boats.
- b. USS DULUTH/BARBOUR COUNTY will sail when loaded and RFS.
- c. USS OKINAWA - en route Subic - no change in composition of BLT 1/4, HMM-165. ETA Subic 150100Z.

SOURCE: COM7TH FLT 140348Z - VARIOUS TRAFFIC.

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140500

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~~SECRET~~TASK ORGANIZATION BLT 2/9

<u>UNIT</u>		<u>NUMBER</u>	
BLT 2/9	-	850	
I/3/12	-	108	
DET ENG PLT	-	34	
DET SP PLT	-	23	
* DET 3D FSR	-	6	
DET HQBN	-	11	
COMD CONTROL GROUP	-	5	(COL JOHNSON GSF (TG-79.9)
TOTAL		1037	

MAJOR ITEMS EQUIPMENT

6 106 RR  
 6 81 MM MORTARS  
 5 4.2 INCH MORTARS  
 13 MULES  
 3 RADIO VEHICLE (1 MRC-83; 2 MRC-110)  
 6 GAMMA GOATS

- \* THIS INCLUDES 2 EOD PERSONNEL. LTCOL SANFORD, AT THE REQUEST OF BGEN KILLEEN ASK MCCC WO TO OBTAIN EOD PERSONNEL INFO. PAC COMMAND CENTER PROVIDED ALL ABOVE INFO.

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5. ARG BRAVO/BLT 3/9

- a. USS MOBILE departed Subic 140300Z. ETA 10-18N/102-36E 161745Z. K Co (-) 3/9 embarked.
- b. No change status remaining BLT BRAVO units.

SOURCE: USS MOBILE 140320Z FONECON NFP 140700Z

6. MISC

- a. JCS authorizes CINCPAC attack/sink small craft identify vicinity of Koh Tang as necessary.
- b. Three enemy gun boats sunk.
- c. US A/C receives SA fire. No CAS/damage reported.
- d. USS HOLT - ETA 141500Z. 5 inch/54 gun mount repaired(jury rigged)
- e. USS WILSON - ETA 150700Z.
- f. USS CORAL SEA - ETA 150530Z.

  
J. P. O'CONNOR  
WATCH OFFICER

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POC-20  
13 May 1975

Topic: SS MAYAQUEZ Seizure

Rationale: III MAF units are deploying in consonance with options being considered in the case of the SS MAYAQUEZ seizure. The following moves are either planned or in progress:

Quick Reaction Unit

--Two reinforced rifle platoons (about 100 men) of BLT 1/4 from Cubi Point, R.P., to Utapao for possible helicopterborne operation using USAF CH-53/HH-53 aircraft based in Thailand.

Air Contingency BLT

--BLT 2/9 on alert at Camp Schwab, Okinawa, for possible move to Utapao.  
--MAC aircraft prepositioned at Kadena AFB, Okinawa.

USS HANCOCK Task Group

--USS HANCOCK (CVA-19) plus three destroyer escorts.  
--HMH-462 (-)(Rein) embarked with 11/CH-53D, 3/CH-46D, 2/UH-1E, and 4/AH-1J (numbers of aircraft tentative).  
--Two rifle companies of BLT 2/4 embarked.  
--OPCON CTF 76, with CTF 76 (RAdm WHITMIRE) and CTG 79.1/CG 9th MAB (BGen CAREY) embarked.  
--At Subic ready for sailing at about 140001Z May.

ARG ALFA/31st MAU

--USS OKINAWA (LPH-3), MOUNT VERNON (LSD-39), DULUTH (LPD-6), and BARBOUR COUNTY (LST-1195) to be reconstituted as ARG ALFA at Subic and ready for sailing at about 151400Z May. (ARG may be delayed 12-24 hours due to OKINAWA boiler casualty.)

POC-20  
13 May 1975

Topic: SS MAYAQUEZ Seizure

--BLT 1/4 and HMM-165 (-) (Rein) to constitute  
31st MAU.

--Marine helicopters aboard USS OKINAWA as she  
proceeds to Subic: 7/CH-53D, 17/CH-46D,  
12/UH-1E, and 3/AH-1J.

ARG BRAVO/BLT BRAVO

--USS DENVER (LPD-9), with CTG 76.5 and  
CO BLT 3/9 embarked; USS MOBILE (LKA-115);  
USS ANCHORAGE (LSD-36), with 3/CH-46D aboard;  
and USS TUSCALOOSA (LST-1187).

--BLT 3/9 embarked.

--Rendezvous at Subic at about 160200Z May.

Marine Corps Hq.  
in accordance with the  
of CNO ltr Ser 009D323/232093  
21 Feb 1979

14 MAY 1975

WATCH OFFICERS NOTE

Signature

Date

SUBJ: III MAF UNITS IN SUPPORT OF SS MAYAQUEZ OPERATIONS AS  
OF 140500 EDT

1. QUICK REACTION UNIT

Two reinforced rifle platoons of BLT 1/4 departed Cubi Point at 131743Z and arrived UTAPAO at 132143Z.

SOURCE: FONECON NMCC - 140500Z.

2. AIR CONTINGENCY BLT

BLT 2/9 commenced departure Okinawa via MAC A/C at 132105Z and arrived UTAPAO at 140700Z. See attached for Task Organization.

SOURCE: FONECON NMCC/PAC COMD CNTR.

3. USS HANCOCK TASK GROUP

USS HANCOCK with escorts departed Subic 140400Z. ETA 161600Z. E, F 2/4; HMH-462 (11/CH-53, 3/CH-46, 2/UH-1E, 4/AH-1J) 9th MAB STAFF (BGEN CAREY) embarked.

SOURCE: COM7TH FLT 140348Z FONECON NFP

4. ARG ALFA/31ST MAU

- a. USS MT VERNON, ETD Subic 150001Z - delay due to Casrep of embarked boats.
- b. USS DULUTH/BARBOUR COUNTY will sail when loaded and RFS.
- c. USS OKINAWA - en route Subic - no change in composition of BLT 1/4, HMM-165. ETA Subic 150100Z.

SOURCE: COM7TH FLT 140348Z - VARIOUS TRAFFIC.

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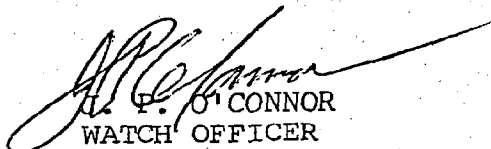
5. ARG BRAVO/BLT 3/9

- a. USS MOBILE departed Subic 140300Z. ETA 10-18N/102-36E 161745Z. K Co (-) 3/9 embarked.
- b. No change status remaining BLT BRAVO units.

SOURCE: USS MOBILE 140320Z FONECON NFP 140700Z

6. MISC

- a. JCS authorizes CINCPAC attack/sink small craft identify vicinity of Koh Tang as necessary.
- b. Three enemy gun boats sunk.
- c. US A/C receives SA fire. No CAS/damage reported.
- d. USS HOLT - ETA 141500Z. 5 inch/54 gun mount repaired (jury rigged)
- e. USS WILSON - ETA 150700Z.
- f. USS CORAL SEA - ETA 150530Z.

  
J. P. O'CONNOR  
WATCH OFFICER

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~~SECRET~~TASK ORGANIZATION BLT 2/9

<u>UNIT</u>		<u>NUMBER</u>	
BLT 2/9	-	850	
I/3/12	-	108	
DET ENG PLT	-	34	
DET SP PLT	-	23	
* DET 3D FSR	-	6	
DET HQBN	-	11	
COMD CONTROL GROUP	-	5	(COL JOHNSON GSF (TG-79.9)
TOTAL		1037	

*Names*

56  
987  
-----  
1043

MAJOR ITEMS EQUIPMENT

6 106 RR  
 6 81 MM MORTARS  
 5 4.2 INCH MORTARS  
 13 MULES  
 3 RADIO VEHICLE (1 MRC-83; 2 MRC-110)  
 6 GAMMA GOATS

\* THIS INCLUDES 2 EOD PERSONNEL. LTCOL SANFORD, AT THE REQUEST OF BGEN KILLEEN ASK MCCC WO TO OBTAIN EOD PERSONNEL INFO. PAC COMMAND CENTER PROVIDED ALL ABOVE INFO.

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

19 May 1975

SPOT REPORT

Subj: Synopsis of Weekend Operations

1. The following synopsis contains information and appropriate message references involving proposed operation plans to recover possible remains from helicopter crashes off KOH TANG island.
  - a. CINCPACFLT 161727Z requested TG 77.5/COMDESRON 23/HOLT/WILSON to return to the vicinity of KOH TANG at best speed. SEAL/UDT team to recover bodies from two helos down in water off KOH TANG. SAR operations not envisioned on island.
  - b. CONSEVENTHFLT 161922Z amplified plan stated above.
  - c. USS WILSON 162130Z provided information on location and after-action report concerning downed helos.
  - d. JCS 162135Z requested CINCPAC to provide conceptual plans for both covert and overt operations to recover possible remains from helos.
  - e. CINCPACFLT 170037Z outlined plan requested by JCS.
  - f. CTF 77 170428Z described survivors report of situation regarding downed helos. In essence, a low probability existed of one recoverable body in one helo and none in the second helo. Furthermore, any bodies on the island, beaches, and helo are probably in enemy hands.
  - g. CTF 77 170734Z outlined the conception of recovery plan.
  - h. JCS 171748Z directed that all preparations for SAR operations and efforts to recover remains cease. All forces were directed to return to normal operations.

Declassified by the Director  
Marine Corps History and Museum  
in accordance with the provisions  
of CNO ltr Ser. C09D323/232096 of  
21 Feb 1979

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*J. D. Ingram*  
J. D. INGRAM  
Watch Officer

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