

CRISIS RESOLUTION: PRESIDENTIAL DECISION
MAKING IN THE "MAYAGUEZ" AND "KOREAN"
CONFRONTATIONS - HEAD, SHORT AND MCFARLAN
PUBLISHED IN 1978.

* = KEY EVENTS

Appendix A: Chronology of the *Mayaguez* Crisis

<u>Time/Date</u>		<i>Action</i>
<i>Washington</i>	<i>Cambodia</i>	
* April 17		Phnom Penh falls.
April 25		A Cambodian "Special National Congress" confirms Sihanouk as chief of state of the new government of Cambodia.
* April 29		Saigon falls and last U.S. personnel are evacuated from Indochina.
May 2		A group of Thai fishing boats is seized and later released by Cambodian authorities.
May 4		Korean ship is fired upon by Cambodian patrol boat, but escapes.
May 6		Seven South Vietnamese vessels are seized by Cambodia.
May 7		Panamanian ship is seized and released about 35 hours later by Cambodian authorities.
* 3:10 to 3:18 a.m. May 12 Monday	2:10 to 2:18 p.m.	S.S. <i>Mayaguez</i> is boarded by Cambodian personnel about 6-7 miles from Cambodian island of Poulo, which lies about 60 miles south/southwest of Cambodian mainland.

Time/Date				Action
Washington		Cambodia		
*	3:18 a.m.	May 12 Monday	2:18 p.m.	Mr. John Neal of Delta Exploration Company in Jakarta, Indonesia, receives a mayday call from the <i>Mayaguez</i> : "Have been fired upon and boarded by Cambodian armed forces at 9°48' N/102°53' E. Ship is being towed to unknown Cambodian port."
	4:00 to 5:00 a.m.	May 12 Monday	3:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Mr. Neal loses communication with the <i>Mayaguez</i> , gives up trying to reach the ship, and informs the U.S. embassy in Jakarta.
	4:45 a.m.	May 12 Monday	3:45 p.m.	U.S. Defense Attaché Office, Singapore, repeats that local shipping agency had relayed mayday: "Being boarded by Cambodian army and commandeered at position 9°48'N/ 102°23'E." Vessel identifies itself as an American flag ship.
*	4:54 to 6:55 a.m.	May 12 Monday	3:54 to 5:55 p.m.	U.S. embassy in Jakarta sends Washington a series of unclassified messages informing them of the incident. Embassy indicates that vessel was under own power slowly following one gunboat to Kompong Som; no casualties.
	5:12 a.m.	May 12 Monday	4:12 p.m.	National Military Command Center at the Pentagon and other addressees receive notification of the incident from U.S. embassy, Jakarta. The message is received by the State Department's intelligence watch, but is not passed to State's Operations Center.
*	5:30 a.m.	May 12 Monday	4:30 p.m.	General Scowcroft calls President Ford and informs him that a merchant ship has been seized.
	5:55 a.m.	May 12 Monday	4:55 p.m.	<i>Mayaguez</i> anchors near Poulo Wai, close to the point of seizure.

Time/Date				Action
Washington		Cambodia		
	6:20 a.m.	May 12 Monday	5:20 p.m.	NMCC officials discuss possible aircraft reconnaissance with Pacific Command (CINCPAC).
*	7:30 a.m.	May 12 Monday	6:30 p.m.	JCS orders CINCPAC to launch reconnaissance aircraft to find ship.
	7:40 a.m.	May 12 Monday	6:40 p.m.	During his regular morning intelligence briefing, the president is further briefed on the <i>Mayaguez</i> seizure.
	8:00 a.m.	May 12 Monday	7:00 p.m.	Secretary of state is informed of the seizure at his morning briefing.
	9:30 a.m.	May 12 Monday	8:30 p.m.	Secretary of state discusses seizure with the president; NSC meeting called for noon.
	9:37 a.m.	May 12 Monday	8:37 p.m.	CINCPACFLT, Hawaii, directs nearest surface ships to proceed to area at best speed to provide assistance.
	9:57 a.m.	May 12 Monday	8:57 p.m.	P-3 aircraft is launched from Thailand to locate <i>Mayaguez</i> .
	10:05 a.m.	May 12 Monday	9:05 p.m.	P-3 aircraft from Cubi Point, Philippines, en route to scene.
	10:19 a.m.	May 12 Monday	9:19 p.m.	Destroyer, U.S.S. <i>Holt</i> , and a supply ship, U.S.S. <i>Vega</i> , leave Philippines for seizure area.
*	12:05 p.m.	May 12 Monday	11:05 p.m.	First meeting of National Security Council.
*	May 12 Monday 1:50 p.m.		May 13 Tuesday 12:50 a.m.	White House announces seizure of ship. President calls it an "act of piracy," <u>d</u> <u>e</u> <u>m</u> <u>a</u> <u>n</u> <u>d</u> <u>s</u> <u>i</u> <u>m</u> <u>m</u> <u>e</u> <u>d</u> <u>i</u> <u>a</u> <u>t</u> <u>e</u> <u>r</u> <u>e</u> <u>l</u> <u>e</u> <u>a</u> <u>s</u> <u>e</u> of ship, and states that failure to do so will have the most serious consequences.
	May 12 Monday 2:12 p.m.		May 13 Tuesday 1:12 a.m.	Aircraft carrier, U.S.S. <i>Coral Sea</i> , and escorts are directed to proceed to vicinity of Kompong Som. An

Time/Date		Action
Washington	Cambodia	
		amphibious ready group is directed to prepare to proceed to seizure area.
* May 12 Monday <u>4:30 p.m.</u>	May 13 Tuesday <u>3:30 a.m.</u>	A representative of the People's Republic of China is summoned to the office of the deputy secretary of state and given a message for the Cambodian authorities, demanding the release of the ship. The P.R.C. representative refuses to accept the message.
May 12 Monday 6:00 p.m.	May 13 Tuesday 5:00 a.m.	Voice of America broadcast to Cambodia carries news story of <i>Mayaguez</i> incident. (News reporting continues periodically over Voice of America throughout crisis.)
May 12 Monday 6:24 p.m.	May 13 Tuesday 5:24 a.m.	Second destroyer, U.S.S. <i>Wilson</i> , underway toward seizure area from South China Sea, 1200 miles away.
* May 12 Monday <u>9:16 p.m.</u>	May 13 Tuesday <u>8:16 a.m.</u>	P-3 aircraft reports: (1) positive visual identification of <i>Mayaguez</i> , anchored off Poulo Wai; (2) one minor hit on low identification pass; and (3) two gunboats in vicinity.
May 12 Monday 9:43 p.m.	May 13 Tuesday 8:43 a.m.	<i>Mayaguez</i> departs Poulo Wai, heads for Kompong Som.
May 12 Monday 9:44 p.m.	May 13 Tuesday 8:44 a.m.	Marine amphibious ready group is ordered to prepare for movement.
12:10 a.m.	May 13 Tuesday 11:10 a.m.	A representative of the U.S. Liaison Office in Peking delivers a message to the Cambodian embassy there protesting the ship's seizure and demanding its release. A message is also delivered to the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China.
* <u>12:30 a.m.</u>	<u>May 13 Tuesday</u> 11:30 a.m.	The <u>first mariners' warning</u> to avoid the area is disseminated through the Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic Center.

Time/Date		Action
Washington	Cambodia	
2:18 a.m.	May 13 Tuesday 1:18 p.m.	<i>Mayaguez</i> stops and anchors 1 mile north of Koh Tang.
* 4:00 a.m.	May 13 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.	Thai premier informs United States that Thailand will not permit use of its bases for U.S. action or retaliation against Cambodia. U.S. chargé d'affaires promises that the United States will inform the Thai government before undertaking any action involving Thai-based planes.
* <u>4:45 a.m.</u>	May 13 Tuesday <u>3:45 p.m.</u>	A-7 aircraft place ordnance in the water in vicinity of <i>Mayaguez</i> as a warning not to get underway.
5:40 to 6:00 a.m. approx.	May 13 Tuesday 4:40 to 5:00 p.m. approx.	<i>Mayaguez</i> captain and crew are moved by two small boats to a location about 75 yards off the beach at Koh Tang.
* <u>6:17 a.m.</u>	May 13 Tuesday <u>5:17 p.m.</u>	JCS orders CINCPAC to maintain surveillance of <i>Mayaguez</i> and prevent its movement into a Cambodian mainland port.
6:33 a.m.	May 13 Tuesday 5:33 p.m.	Pilot reports that personnel are disembarking on Koh Tang and that ground fire has been received during low reconnaissance passes.
* <u>7:15 a.m. approx.</u>	May 13 Tuesday <u>6:15 p.m. approx.</u>	Aircraft report that small boats are off-loading personnel onto Koh Tang and that personnel have been moved toward interior of island.
7:35 a.m.	May 13 Tuesday 6:35 p.m.	Aircraft pilots observe crew on island but cannot ascertain numbers.
* <u>9:41 a.m.</u>	May 13 Tuesday <u>8:41 p.m.</u>	JCS authorized CINCPAC to use riot control agents and/or gunfire to disable the ship without risking sinking it.
—	May 13 Tuesday —	<i>Mayaguez</i> crew spends night aboard fishing vessel anchored just off Koh Tang.

Time/Date		Action
Washington	Cambodia	
10:30 a.m. May 13 Tuesday	9:30 p.m.	President convenes <u>second NSC meeting</u> .
* 12:00 noon May 13 Tuesday	11:00 p.m.	JCS directs that Koh Tang be isolated by fire to prevent movement of all boats.
12:10 p.m. May 13 Tuesday	11:10 p.m.	JCS directs that 125 USAF security police be transferred from Nakhon Phanom to Utapao, and a marine battalion at Okinawa be placed in readiness for air movement to Utapao.
May 13 Tuesday 3:12 p.m.	May 14 Wednesday 2:12 a.m.	Marine battalion is directed to move from Okinawa to Utapao by airlift.
* May 13 Tuesday 5:50 to 11:00 p.m.	May 14 Wednesday 4:50 to 10:00 a.m.	White House contacts 10 House and 11 Senate members regarding the military measures directed by the president to prevent movement of the <i>Mayaguez</i> and its crew to the mainland, and to prevent any Cambodian reinforcement.
* May 13 Tuesday 6:30 p.m.	May 14 Wednesday 5:30 a.m.	Helicopter crashes, killing 18, during deployment of air force security police from Nakhon Phanom to Utapao.
* ?	?	Unconfirmed field report indicates a 30-foot craft with approximately 40 people aboard departed Koh Tang. (Post-crisis information confirmed this was the <i>Mayaguez</i> crew.)
May 13 Tuesday 7:04 p.m.	May 14 Wednesday 6:04 a.m.	Three patrol boats attempting to move from Koh Tang are turned back by warning fire from USAF aircraft.
May 13 Tuesday 7:10 p.m.	May 14 Wednesday 6:10 a.m.	JCS orders U.S.S. <i>Hancock</i> with amphibious ready group/marine assault unit to sail from Philippines to Koh Tang area as soon as possible.

Time/Date		Action
Washington	Cambodia	
* May 13 Tuesday 8:12 p.m.	May 14 Wednesday 7:12 a.m.	President orders Cambodian patrol boats attempting to leave Koh Tang to be sunk.
May 13 Tuesday 8:20 p.m.	May 14 Wednesday 7:20 a.m.	A Cambodian patrol boat is sunk after attempts to divert it from going to the mainland are unsuccessful.
* May 13 Tuesday 8:45 to 11:15 p.m.	May 14 Wednesday 7:45 to 10:15 a.m.	Vessel spotted headed for Kompong Som with <u>possible</u> Caucasians huddled in bow. Attempts to stop it by firing across its bow and dropping riot control agents are unsuccessful.
May 13 Tuesday 10:40 p.m.	May 14 Wednesday 9:40 a.m.	President convenes <u>third meeting</u> of the <u>National Security Council</u> .
* 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.	May 14 Wednesday 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Unknown to Washington, the small boat with <i>Mayaguez</i> crew anchors for a short time about 1½ miles out of Kompong Som harbor, then departs for Koh Rong Som Lem, where crew is taken ashore.
12:29 a.m.	May 14 Wednesday 11:29 a.m.	U.S. aircraft continue to attack and sink patrol boats trying to leave island.
12:48 a.m.	May 14 Wednesday 11:48 a.m.	Acting chairman, JCS, briefs CINCPAC and major subordinate commanders on the 10:40 p.m. Tuesday NSC meeting and provides planning guidance for military operations to recover the ship and crew.
5:00 a.m.	May 14 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.	Thai prime minister protests the landing of marines at Utapao despite Thailand's request that its facilities not be involved in U.S. action to recover the <i>Mayaguez</i> .
7:15 a.m.	May 14 Wednesday 6:15 p.m.	U.S. Liaison Office reports that Chinese Foreign Ministry returned the message for the Cambodian

Time/Date		Action
Washington	Cambodia	
* 8:00 a.m. approx.	May 14 Wednesday approx.	authorities, who would not accept it. <u>Unknown to Washington, Mayaguez captain is informed that he and selected crew members will be released if they return to the Mayaguez and request that U.S. aircraft be withdrawn from Cambodian airspace.</u>
11:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon	May 14 Wednesday 10:15 to 11:00 p.m.	White House staff notifies 11 House and 11 Senate leaders by telephone that three Cambodian patrol craft have been sunk and four others immobilized in an effort to prevent removal of the <i>Mayaguez</i> crew to the mainland.
* morning	May 14 Wednesday afternoon	Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously adopts a resolution supporting the president.
May 14 Wednesday between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.	May 14-15 Wed.-Thur. between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.	U.S. Ambassador Scali delivers a letter to U.N. Secretary General Waldheim requesting his assistance in securing release of the <i>Mayaguez</i> and its crew.
* May 14 Wednesday 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 2:00 to 4:00 a.m.	State and Defense officials brief members of House International Relations Committee, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and House Armed Services Committee.
May 14 Wednesday 3:15 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 2:15 a.m.	Destroyer U.S.S. <i>Wilson</i> estimates arrival off Koh Tang in about 5 hours.
May 14 Wednesday 3:52 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 2:52 a.m.	President Ford convenes <u>fourth meeting of National Security Council.</u>
* May 14 Wednesday 4:45 to 5:10 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 3:45 to 4:10 a.m.	<u>President issues orders to execute military plan to recover Mayaguez and crew.</u>

Time/Date		Action
Washington	Cambodia	
* May 14 Wednesday 4:52 to 5:20 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 3:52 to 4:20 a.m.	<u>JCS issues verbal orders to CINCPAC to seize and secure Mayaguez,</u> conduct a marine helicopter assault on Koh Tang, and destroy all Cambodian craft that intervene in operation. CINCPAC is also ordered to conduct strikes from the U.S.S. <i>Coral Sea</i> against targets in Kompong Som complex, with first time on target to be 8:45 p.m. to coincide with estimated capture of <i>Mayaguez</i> .
May 14 Wednesday 4:58 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 3:58 a.m.	Arrival of U.S.S. <i>Coral Sea</i> (already within range for launching aircraft) estimated at 12:15 a.m., or a little over 7 hours later.
* May 14 Wednesday 5:15 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 4:15 a.m.	First troop-carrying helicopter departs Utapao. Tactical aircraft launch to provide continuous coverage for the operation, and an airborne command post assumes on-scene control.
May 14 Wednesday 5:45 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 4:45 a.m.	U.S.S. <i>Holt</i> is in position to receive helicopters with marine boarding team.
May 14 Wednesday 5:55 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 4:55 a.m.	B-52 aircraft in Guam are placed on 1-hour alert.
* May 14 Wednesday 6:40 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 5:40 a.m.	President Ford and other National Security Council members brief 17 congressional leaders on military plans.
* May 14 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 6:00 a.m.	<u>U.N. issues a statement that the secretary general has communicated with Cambodians in an attempt to solve the problem of the U.S. merchant vessel by peaceful means.</u>
May 14 Wednesday 7:00 to 7:22 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 6:00 to 6:22 a.m.	Three helicopters carrying security forces arrive at U.S.S. <i>Holt</i> .

Time/Date		Action
Washington	Cambodia	
evening of May 14 Wednesday	morning of May 15 Thursday	State Department advises various embassies in Washington that the United States is taking military action to secure the release of the ship and its crew.
* May 14 Wednesday <u>7:07 to</u> <u>7:26 p.m.</u>	May 15 Thursday <u>6:07 to</u> <u>6:26 a.m.</u>	Phnom Penh domestic radio broadcasts a 19-minute message by Cambodian government, stating it is <u>prepared to release the Mayaguez. No mention is made of crew.</u> Broadcast is monitored by U.S. Foreign Broadcast Information Service and relayed to Washington. Secretary Kissinger receives summary at 8:15 and informs president at 8:29. The president directs that a public statement be issued promptly calling for release of the crew and offering to cease military operations upon receipt of Cambodian promise to release crew.
* May 14 Wednesday <u>7:09 to</u> <u>8:15 p.m.</u>	May 15 Thursday <u>6:09 to</u> <u>7:15 a.m.</u>	Eight helicopters carrying about 175 marines begin to arrive Koh Tang. Groundfire causes heavy losses. 131 marines are landed.
* May 14 Wednesday <u>7:20 to</u> <u>8:00 p.m.</u> approx.	May 15 Thursday <u>6:20 to</u> <u>7:00 a.m.</u> approx.	<u>Unknown to Washington</u> , Cambodian authorities on Koh Rong Som Lem release <i>Mayaguez</i> crew and several fishermen on a Thai fishing boat.
* May 14 Wednesday <u>8:05 p.m.</u>	May 15 Thursday <u>7:05 a.m.</u>	First aircraft for mainland strikes are launched from U.S.S. <i>Coral Sea</i> .
May 14 Wednesday 8:10 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 7:10 a.m.	Destroyer U.S.S. <i>Wilson</i> arrives on scene.
* May 14 Wednesday <u>8:25 to</u> <u>9:22 p.m.</u>	May 15 Thursday <u>7:25 to</u> <u>8:22 a.m.</u>	U.S.S. <i>Holt</i> pulls alongside <i>Mayaguez</i> and places security force on board. No personnel are found. <i>Mayaguez</i> is declared secure.

Time/Date		Action
Washington	Cambodia	
May 14 Wednesday 8:45 to 12:00 p.m. approx.	May 15 Thursday 7:45 to 11:00 a.m. approx.	During this period, air strikes are carried on against Cambodian mainland.
May 14 Wednesday 9:15 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 8:15 a.m.	White House announces that it has sent an urgent message to Cambodian authorities demanding release of the crew and offering to promptly cease military operations.
May 14 Wednesday 9:24 p.m.	May 15 Thursday 8:24 a.m.	State Department instructs Ambassador Scali to deliver letter to president of U.N. Security Council stating that the United States had taken certain measures to achieve the release of the <i>Mayaguez</i> .
* May 14 Wednesday <u>10:35 p.m.</u>	May 15 Thursday <u>9:35 a.m.</u>	P-3 aircraft, investigating small craft proceeding toward Koh Tang, notes 30 Caucasians aboard vessel waving white flags.
* May 14 Wednesday <u>10:49 to</u> <u>11:00 a.m.</u>	May 15 Thursday <u>9:49 to</u> <u>10:00 a.m.</u>	U.S.S. <i>Wilson</i> intercepts boat carrying <i>Mayaguez</i> crew. Captain reports that all of his crew and five Thais are on board. Meanwhile marine landing party on Koh Tang continues to receive heavy fire. President directs that supporting fire be continued while arrangements are made to withdraw from Koh Tang.
12:27 a.m.	May 15 Thursday 11:27 a.m.	White House announces recovery of the <i>Mayaguez</i> and its crew.
* <u>12:55 a.m.</u>	May 15 Thursday <u>11:55 a.m.</u>	JCS orders <u>cessation of all offensive operations and withdrawal of all forces from operational area</u> as soon as possible, consistent with safety and self-defense.
1:05 a.m.	May 15 Thursday 12:05 p.m.	Captain and crew board <i>Mayaguez</i> which is under tow by U.S.S. <i>Holt</i> .

<i>Time/Date</i>		<i>Action</i>	
<i>Washington</i>	<i>Cambodia</i>		
1:30 a.m. approx.	May 15 Thursday	12:30 p.m. approx.	A second wave of about 100 marines in 3 helicopters successfully lands on Koh Tang to assist in covering withdrawal.
* 2:00 to 2:30 a.m.	May 15 Thursday	1:00 to 1:30 p.m.	President Ford's report of U.S. actions is delivered to Senate and House leadership.
3:34 a.m.	May 15 Thursday	2:34 p.m.	Initial efforts to withdraw forces from the island begin.
4:45 a.m.	May 15 Thursday	3:45 p.m.	Thai premier presents memorandum to U.S. chargé d'affaires in Thailand protesting the sending of marines to Thailand for U.S. military actions against Cambodia.
7:15 to 9:15 a.m.	May 15 Thursday	6:15 to 8:15 p.m.	Marine personnel are extracted from Koh Tang by helicopters and landed on U.S.S. <i>Coral Sea</i> .
10:09 a.m.	May 15 Thursday	9:09 p.m.	U.S. embassy in Thailand reports view that if U.S. Marines are withdrawn speedily, U.S.-Thai relations will be improved.
12:44 p.m.	May 15 Thursday	11:44 p.m.	Department of State instructs all diplomatic posts to inform local officials at the highest level of specific circumstances surrounding <i>Mayaguez</i> incident.

Appendix B: Chronology of the Korean DMZ Crisis

<i>Time/Date</i>		<i>Action</i>	
<i>Washington</i>	<i>Korea</i>		
	July 10	Mao Tse-tung sends personal message to Kim Il-sung on 15th anniversary of People's Republic of China (P.R.C.)/North Korea pact.	
	July 28	The Korean People's Army (KPA) is informed through the joint duty officer that not more than 150 United Nations Command (UNC) personnel will be in the Joint Security Area (JSA) from August 1 to August 31 for the purpose of construction, beautifying the area, and routine maintenance.	
	July 29	UNC informs KPA that up to 50 additional personnel will take part in JSA maintenance during August.	
	August 2	UNC survey team visits tree in JSA.	
	August 5	North Korea issues strongly worded formal statement that United States/R.O.K. has finished war preparations.	
	August 6	South Korean maintenance personnel examine the tree which obstructs view near UNC Guard Post 3. KPA guards tell them to leave the tree alone.	

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HELICOPTER CREWS

JOLLY GREEN 11 (364)

1LT BACKLUND, DONALD R.
1LT WEIKEL, GARY L.
SSGT CASH, HARRY W.
MSGT ELDRIDGE, JOHN J.
SGT STANALAND, JOSEPH S.
A1C MARX, BRAD E.
1LT RAND, RONALD T.

JOLLY GREEN 12 (793)

CAPT JACOBS, PAUL L.
CAPT NICKERSON, MARTIN A.
SSGT KAISER, JOSEPH L.
MSGT GRAY, DAVID L.
SGT COOK, BURT W., JR.

JOLLY GREEN 12 (793)

CAPT WALLS, BARRY R.
LT COMER, RICHARD L.
SGT DEJESUS, JESUS P. - WIA
(SSGT CASH, HARRY H. REPLACED DEJESUS)
TSGT PATTERSON, DAVID L.
SGT STYER, RANDY H.
A1C RHINEHART, FREDERICK

JOLLY GREEN 13 (794)

1LT GREER, CHARLES R.
1LT BROWN, CHARLES D.
SSGT KING, MILAS L.
SSGT FROELICH, KARL J.
SGT LUNDRIGAN, RONALD A.
SGT LEMMINN, STEPHEN W.

JOLLY GREEN 41 (795)

LT COOPER, THOMAS D.
LT KEITH, DAVID W.
SGT LITTLE, RHORNELL
SGT DONOVAN, JEFFREY
SGT BERANEK, THOMAS E.
1C FERRIS, JOHN E.

JOLLY GREEN 42 (785)

1LT PACINI, PHILIP M.
1LT DUBE, ROBERT C.
TSGT STRAUGHN, ANDREW, JR.
SSGT JABLONSKI, MARTIN M.
SSGT BROWN, MICHAEL A.
A1C DUNHAM, LEWIS L., III
SSGT CAVAVOS

JOLLY GREEN 43 (792)

CAPT PURSER, ROLAND W.
1LT GRADLE, ROBERT P.
TSGT WILLINGHAM, BILLY D.
TSGT HARDING, PETER S.
SGT BATESON, THOMAS J. - WIA
A1C MCKIVER, DENNIS W.

JOLLY GREEN 44 (786)

1LT BLOUGH, ROBERT D.
1LT MASON, HENRY M.
SSGT BOUNDS, ROBERT G.
SSGT HOWELL, JIMMY F.
SGT DALY, BRUCE M.
A1C ASH, DAVID D.

KNIFE 21 (926)

LCOL DENHAM, JOHN H.
1LT POULSEN, KARL W.
TSGT BOISSONNAULT, ROBERT A.
SSGT RUMBAUGH, ELWOOD E. - KIA

KNIFE 22 (928)

CAPT OHLEMEIER, TERRY D.
2LT GREER, DAVID W.
SSGT WILSON, MICHAEL C.
SGT PAUL, NORMAN A.

KNIFE 23 (627)

1LT SCHRAMM, JOHN H.
1LT LUCAS, JOHN P.
SSGT GROSS, RONALD A. - WIA
A1C ARRIETA, EDUARDO E.
SSGT BARSCHOW, JAMES M.

KNIFE 31 (925)

MAJ CORSON, HOWARD A., JR. - WIA
2LT VANDEGEER, RICHARD - KIA
SSGT HARSTON, JON D. - WIA
SGT HOFFMASTER, RANDY L.

KNIFE 32 (932)

1LT LACKEY, MICHAEL B.
2LT WACHS, CALVIN O.
TSGT OLSEN, MICHAEL B.
SSGT MORALES, NICK - WIA

KNIFE 51 (927)

1LT BRIMS, RICHARD C.
2LT DANIELSON, DENNIS L.
SSGT RILEY, MARION L.
A1C PACK, PHILLIP A.
TSGT FISK, WAYNE L.
SGT COOPER, ROLAND A., JR.

KNIFE 52 (626)

1LT RAKITIS, ROBERT E.
2LT LYKENS, DAVID J.
SSGT MCDOWELL, DONALD R.
TSGT DUNBAR, WILLIAM R.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR COMBAT COMMAND
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA

4-18
14 November 1994

HQ ACC/HO
162 Dodd Blvd Ste 132
Langley AFB VA 23664-1994

Mr. Thomas J. Benic
3701 Northampton Road
Cuyahoga Falls OH 44223

Dear Mr. Benic

Per your request of 12 October 1994, the following is provided:

The HH-53s listed below participated in the employment phase for insertion of US Marine forces on the USS *Holt* and Koh Tang island which took place on 15 May 1975. All were assigned to the 40th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron:

Acft Type/Number	Call Sign	Aircraft Commander	Battle Damage
HH-53, 68-10364	Jolly 11	1Lt Donald F. Backlund Received AF Cross	Aft section damaged, recovered on <i>Coral Sea</i>
HH-53, 69-5793	Jolly 12	1st Wave, Capt Paul L. Jacobs 2d Wave, Capt Barry R. Walls	Major battle damage, recovered on <i>Coral Sea</i>
HH-53, 69-5794	Jolly 13	1Lt Charles R. Greer Received Silver Star	Major battle damage, recovered at Rayong, Thailand
HH-53, 69-5795	Jolly 41	1Lt Thomas D. Cooper Received Silver Star	Major battle damage, recovered at U-Tapao, Thailand
HH-53, 69-5785	Jolly 42	1Lt Philip M. Pacini Received Silver Star	Major battle damage, recovered at U-Tapao
HH-53, 69-5792	Jolly 43	Capt Roland W. Purser Received AF Cross	Moderate battle damage, recovered at U-Tapao
HH-53, 69-5786	Jolly 44	1Lt Robert D. Blough Received Silver Star	No battle damage

Information on the CH-53s that participated in the May 1975 employment phase for insertion of US Marine forces on the USS *Holt* and Koh Tang island follows:

Acft Type/Number	Call Sign	Battle Damage
CH-53, 926	Knife 21	Major battle damage; ditched offshore
CH-53, 928	Knife 22	Major battle damage; emergency landing on mainland Thailand
CH-53, 627	Knife 23	Lost its tail but landed its crew and Marines on eastern beach of Koh Tang who were later picked up by US Navy
CH-53, 935	Knife 31	Destroyed on beach; 13 of 26 survived
CH-53, 932	Knife 32	Major battle damage; recovered at U-Tapao
CH-53, 927	Knife 51	None
CH-53, 626	Knife 52	Moderate battle damage; recovered at Thailand

Regarding the 31 May-1 June 1967 HH-3 New York-to-Paris long-distance flight speed records set by Majors Herbert E. Zehnder and Donald B. Maurras, 48 ARRS, the following is provided:

Acft Commander/Call Sign	Number	Departure	Arrival
Maj Herbert E. Zehnder/ Hobo 05	66-1281	NAS Brooklyn NY 0504, 31 May 67	LeBourget, Paris 1150, 1 Jun 67 Record: 30 hours, 46 minutes
Major Donald B. Maurras/ Hobo 06	66-1280	NAS Brooklyn NY 0504, 31 May 67	London, England 1017, 1 Jun 67 Record: 29 hours, 13 minutes

Pilots in Major Zehnder's helicopter included Major James E. Hartley and Captain Gregory A. M. Etzel. TSgt Harold R. Schrader was the flight engineer, and Captain Clifford J. Buckley was the Chief Flight Surgeon.

Major Maurras' flight crew included Captains Donald E. Alford and Charles R. Dunn, both pilots. Flight Engineers were TSgt Marx T. Richardson and SSgt Dennis W. Palmer. Note that Major Maurras also reached Paris but his speed record was attained between New York and London.

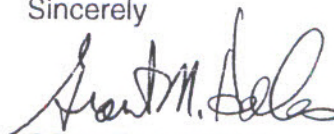
Lastly, information concerning the world's first trans-Pacific helicopter flight (Trial Ferry Flight) during 15-24 August 1970, flying from Eglin AFB, Florida, to DaNang, South Vietnam follows. Our records showed that while Major James L. Butera was the mission commander, Major Frederic M. Donahue flew as the lead commander when the aircraft were flown from the Sikorsky Plant in Stratford, Connecticut, to Eglin Air Force AFB. Other pilots included Majors William F. Williams, William Cowell, Clarence C. Campbell, and Captain Larry Young. Crew

augmentees included Major Gordon K. Lochridge, navigator, and Captain Robert J. Meyer, ARRS Staff Surgeon. Our records do not indicate which aircrew flew which helicopter.

Acft Number	Call Sign
HH-53C, 69-5787	Jolly 87
HH-53C, 69-5788	Jolly 88

Thank you for your interest in Air Combat Command history. Please contact this office if we may be of further service.

Sincerely

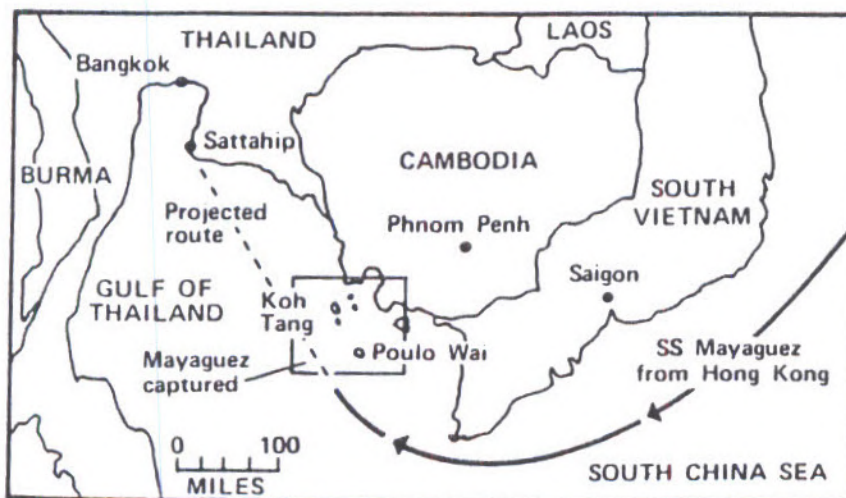
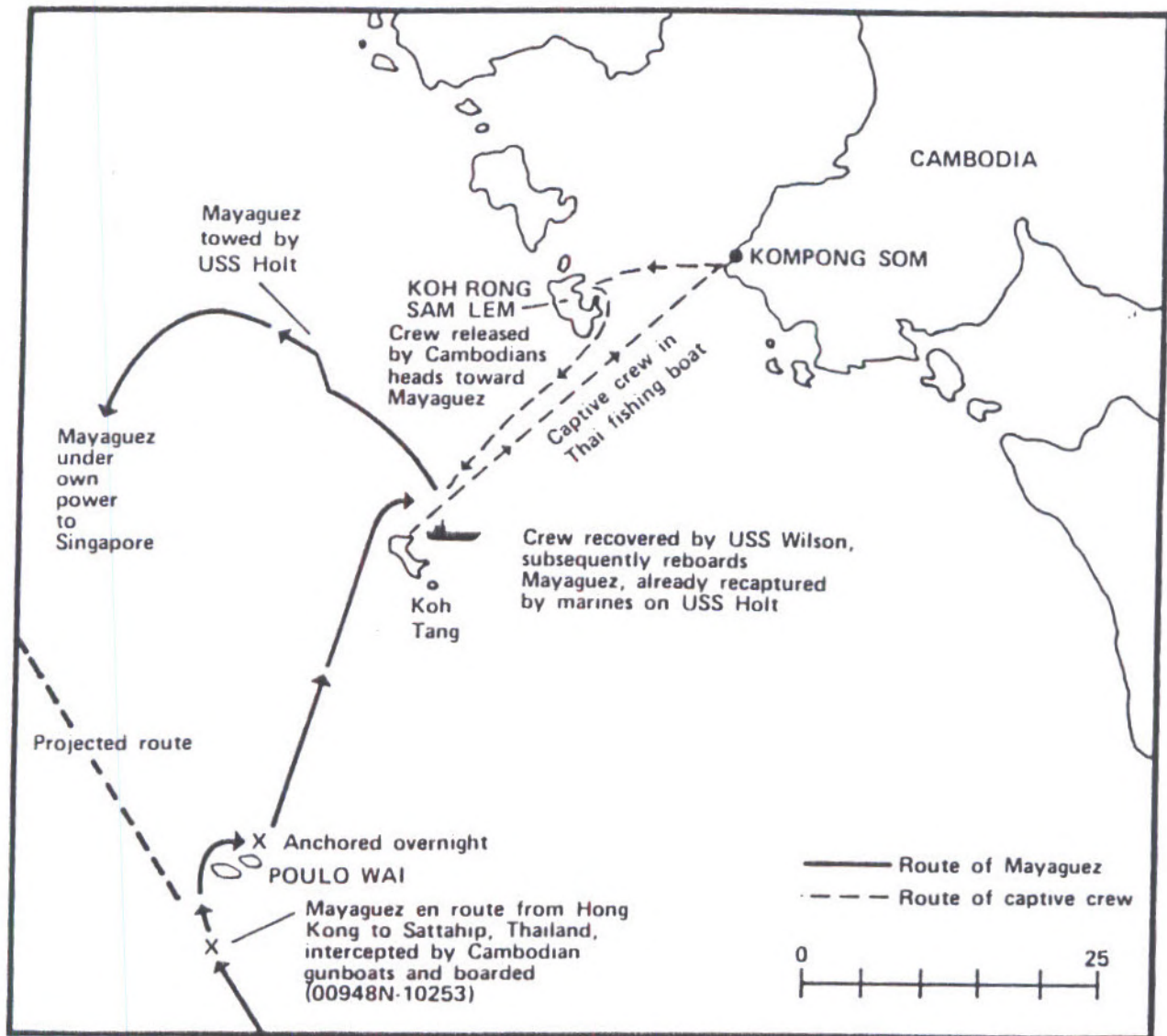
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant M. Hales", written in a cursive style.

GRANT M. HALES
Command Historian

cc: AMC/HO
AFSOC/HO

LOCATION OF MAYAGUEZ AND CREW

May 12-15, 1975



*Seizure of the Mayaguez Part IV. Reports of the Comptroller General of the United States submitted to the Subcommittee on International Political and Military Affairs, Committee on International Relations. October 4, 1976.