

NYTimes
**Captain of the Mayaguez Says
Marines Invaded Wrong Island**

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SINGAPORE, May 18 (AP)—Marines invaded the wrong Cambodian island trying to rescue the crew of the captured freighter Mayaguez, the captain and crew members said today. "They hit the wrong island," said William F. Bellinger, 52 years old, a mess attendant from Washington, D.C. "We were 25 miles away from the island the marines landed on. They went where they thought we were."

"They probably were unaware we had left the island," said Capt. Charles T. Miller, 62, of Fountain Valley, Calif. "I guess the marines from the destroyer escorts were not informed."

The captain said the men were on an island his charts identified as Rong San Lem, about 25 miles from Tang. According to Pentagon reports, about 200 marines landed on the beach at Tang and remained under heavy Cambodian fire for about 10 hours after the freed Mayaguez crew reached the destroyer Wilson.

Speculation about the marines' landing point came during a shipboard discussion while 20 new crew members flown from the United States signed aboard the vessel.

Twenty-one of the 39 men who were held captive will leave for home, Captain Miller said.

The captain said the Mayaguez, which is named for a city in Puerto Rico, was scheduled to depart for Hong Kong before dawn Monday. He said much of her cargo had been unloaded during the night and replaced with Hong Kong-bound freight. The cargo was not opened when the containers were taken off the ship, but the ship's owners said it included only nonmilitary goods.

Captain Miller said he had heard that the Thai Government did not want the Mayaguez to visit again at Bangkok or the port of Sattahip and that the ship would be transferred to the Hong Kong-Subic Bay, Philippines, run by its company, Sealand.