

# General's Description Of Mayaguez Rescue

## San Diego

The U.S. rescue of the cargo ship Mayaguez in Cambodian waters three months ago was impromptu, carried out mostly by "teenagers, ready to go," says the Marine Corps general in charge.

"We had no special contingency plans for the action," Major General Kenneth H. Houghton said. "The on-scene commanders had no restrictions."

Houghton described May 14 operation after taking command

Tuesday of the San Diego Marine Corps Depot. He had been the commander of the third Marine Division, based mostly in Okinawa.

Houghton said he was impressed by the 160 men of the Second Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment, who stormed the Communist held island against a Cambodian force twice their number. A separate force of 57 marines boarded the Mayaguez from the destroyer Holt.

*Associated Press*

---