

Mayaguez

Bangkok (and Ph^hnom Penh?) time is 12 hours ahead of WX time.
Hours given are EDT. All below from SFC (NYT, R.W. Apple), 16 May 75.

Flotilla - destroyer escort Harold E. Holt,
carrier Coral Sea (10 miles away from Koh Tang),
guided-missile destroyer Henry B. Wilson,
destroyer Batsell,
guided-missile frigate Gridley,
destroyer escort Lang,
store ship Vega.

Dead, 2 /
Missing, 14 13-14
Wounded, 22

"Communications between [WX] and the task force were almost instantaneous, with uninterrupted radio reception."

- 12 May 75 - Mayaguez captured. (11:21/Cambodian time - WXP 18 May 75.) over (C)
- 14 May 75 (Wed.) 7:07 p.m. - Phnom Penh radio broadcasts statement offering to free ship and crew, "while ~~the congressional~~ American forces were moving into position for the assault." Broadcast makes no mention of any attack. (SFC, AP & UPI.)
- 8:15? - Report of U.S. monitoring station on Phnom Penh broadcast reaches Ford.
- 8:19 - Report on Phnom Penh broadcast on news wires.
- 8:20 - Holt comes alongside Mayaguez, "about the time the Phnom Penh broadcast reached Mr. Ford."
- 8:30 - ~~xxxxxx~~ Marines board Mayaguez, find no one.
- 9:15 - Nessen reads statement at news briefing, calling on Phnom Penh to release crew unconditionally.
- Nessen statement is "also broadcast by short wave." No time given; before, during, after Nessen statement? (See 10 p.m.)
- ? - "Meanwhile" helicopters leave Utapao for hour-and-45 minute flight to ~~the area where~~ ~~the area where~~ ~~the area where~~ "the area where the Mayaguez was held;" lower 48 Marines to destroyer escort Holt, continue to Kho Tang island, deliver 100 Marines. (100 additional Marines arrive "later;" no time given.) Marines remain on beach for more than 12 hours.
- ca. 10:00 - Word sent to WX that ship is empty (see 8:30), "which may account for the American statement 15 minutes later demanding the release of the crew members." (See 9:15.)
- 10:15 - Coral Sea begins launching fighter-bombers for strike on airfield, Ream.
- 10:45 - Fishing boat, white flags, sighted by "the American destroyer."
(The Wilson?)
- 10:53 - Wilson informs Pentagon fishing boat carries 30 or more Caucasians.
- 10:57 or 11:09 - "Depending on which of two Pentagon briefings was accurate," Navy planes begin attack on Ream. (Also 8:45 p.m. - NYT 17 May, Binder.) over, A.
- 11:14 - ("A lapse of 21 minutes" from 10:53) Schlesinger informs Ford of message from Wilson (see 10:53).
- 15 May 75 (Thurs.) 7:13 a.m. - Helicopter force sent to Koh Tang island to extract Marines (no time given) is driven back by Cambodian ground fire; first lift made at 7:13.
- 9:10 - Last helicopter leaves island.
- 9:20 - Last helicopter lands on Coral Sea flight deck.

- 11 May 75 - "Kissinger is urging President Ford to respond to the defeat in Vietnam with a tough, abrasive foreign policy.... It is a truism of history, in Kissinger's view, that any major power that has suffered a defeat as large as we have in Vietnam must adopt such a posture."
SFE Examiner [Chicago Sun-Times, Thomas B. Ross] 11 May 75 - filed Ford Ad
- 13 May 75 - "Manila, May 14 (UPI) - Graham A. Martin, the former United States Ambassador to South Vietnam, left for Bangkok late yesterday [13 May] after an eight-day stay in the Philippines, American Embassy sources reported today.... They said that his travel plans from Manila were kept secret until after he had departed. Mr. Martin is a former United States Ambassador to Thailand."
NYT 15 May 75 [UPI] - filed Indochina
- 23 May 75 - Sihanouk says CIA agents, including Thais, Cambodians and Nationalist Chinese equipped with arms, ammunition, explosives and radios, landed on Tang Island a few days before the Mayaguez was seized.
NYT 24 May 75
- ? - "Mr. Ford, speaking at University of Pennsylvania graduation exercises in Philadelphia, compared the spirit behind the military venture to that of the American Revolution "
SFC 25 May 75