

U.S. MARINE CORPS. HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION. COPIES OF ORAL HISTORIES ON THE MAYAGUEZ ACTION AND RELATED MARINE UNIT OPERATIONAL RECORDS, 1965-77

Collection Type

Federal Records

Extent

2.4 linear feet (33 compact disks and ca. 4,000 pages)

Record Type

Textual

Access

Open.

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Processed by

William H. McNitt, May 2006

Scope and Content Note

The Marine Corps History and Museums Division collects oral histories and documents concerning the history of the Marine Corps. In 2004 they sent compact disks containing copies of materials relating to the recapture of the S.S. Mayaguez

and other aspects of the Vietnam War to former President Gerald R. Ford. He donated them to the Ford Library.

The CDs contain two sets of material. The first consists of audio files of oral histories conducted with Marine Corps personnel who participated in the recovery of the S.S. Mayaguez after it was seized by Cambodia's Khmer Rouge in May 1975. All of the interviews concern the landing on Koh Tang Island and the search for the ship and its crew. Several interviews record the memories of survivors of a helicopter crash that took place during the operation, killing several Marines.

The second set of CDs contains operational records for several Marine Corps units involved in the Mayaguez action. Although some documents concern the Mayaguez, the bulk of them date from 1965 to 1970 and concern these units' involvement in other aspects of the Vietnam War. For the convenience of researchers, the Ford Library staff has printed to paper all operational records dating from the Ford administration. In addition to the Mayaguez rescue operation, these materials relate to the evacuations of Cambodia and South Vietnam in 1975 (Marine units assisted with the evacuation) and Indochina refugees (the Marines were involved with both their evacuation from Indochina and their arrival in the United States).

Related Materials (May 2006)

Materials on the Mayaguez, the evacuations from Cambodia and South Vietnam, and Indochina refugees appear in a number of Ford Library collections. Information on all these topics appears in the White House Central Files Subject File, the Files and Papers of Press Secretary Ron Nessen, and several of the National Security Adviser subcollections. The Sea-Land Service Collected Materials concerning the Mayaguez contain transcripts of oral histories with the captain and crew of the Mayaguez. Another key collection on the Indochina refugees is the Theodore Marrs Files.

Last Modified Date

2024-04-09

Box 1 - Mayaguez Oral History Audio Files on Compact Disks

Status

Title

OPEN 6033 - Col. M. J. Steinberg - Debrief of Former IG for USSAG/7th Air Force Re Operation Frequent Wind and the Mayaguez Rescue

OPEN 6036 - Col. James G. Dionisopoulos - Debrief of Former C/S, III MAF

OPEN 6079 - Capt. Walter J. Wood - Commanding Officer, Co. D, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, re Operations in Mayaguez Rescue

OPEN 6088 - Sgt. William J. Owens - 1st Squad Leader, 3rd Platoon, Co. D, During the Recapture of the Mayaguez

OPEN 6089 - 2ndLt. Joe Flores, Jr. - Recapture of the Mayaguez

OPEN 6091 - SSgt. G. E. Hagen - 3rd Platoon, Co. D, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, in the Recapture of the Mayaguez

OPEN 6092 - Cpl. Paul R. Coker - 3rd Platoon, Company D, in Recapture of the Mayaguez

OPEN 6106 - LCpl. Dennis H. Wood - 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, in Recapture of the Mayaguez

OPEN 6107 - Cpl. Billy C. Rucker - Squad Leader, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, in Recapture of the Mayaguez

OPEN 6112 - Maj. John B. Hendricks - Debrief of Operations Officer, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, Koh Tang Island, Cambodia Assault

OPEN 6113 - Cpl. Gilbert C. Lutz - Squad Leader, 1st Platoon, Co. G, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, in the Assault on Koh Tang Island

OPEN 6114 - GySgt. Lester A. McNemar - Discusses Mission of Co. G, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, on Landing at Koh Tang Island

OPEN 6115 - 2ndLt. Harry T. Williams - Debrief of Naval Gunfire Officer With 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, on Koh Tang Island Assault

OPEN 6116 - GySgt. Francis McGowin - Intelligence Officer, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, Discusses Intelligence Problems Encountered During the Koh Tang Island Assault

OPEN 6117 - LCpl. Larry J. Branson - Pointman for H&S Co., 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, at Koh Tang Island

OPEN 6119 - Capt. James H. Davis - CO in Assault During the Mayaguez Incident

OPEN 6120 - 1stLt. Michael S. Eustis - Experiences of Survivors of USAF CH-53 Helicopter Shot Down During the Koh Tang Assault

OPEN 6121 - 1stLt. James D. Keith - Koh Tang Island During the Mayaguez Incident

OPEN 6122 - 2ndLt. James McDaniel - 1st Platoon Commander, Co. G, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, Discusses Mission of Landing at Koh Tang Island

OPEN 6123 - 2ndLt. William L. Smith - Platoon Commander, 2nd MT, Co. G, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, re Sweeping Koh Tang Island in Search of Mayaguez Crewmen

OPEN 6124 - 2ndLt. Joe J. McMenamin - Discusses Mission of 81mm Mortar Platoon to Sweep Through Koh Tang Island in Search of Mayaguez Crewmen

OPEN 6125 - Sgt. George N. Wiatt - Co. G, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, in Assault on Koh Tang Island

OPEN 6126 - SSgt. Fofu Tuitele - Landing on Koh Tang, Co.G, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines

OPEN 6127 - PFC Timothy W. Trebil - Debrief of Co. G, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, Survivor of Downed USAF CH-53 Helicopter During Assault on Koh Tang Island

OPEN 6129 - Col. John M. Johnson, Jr. - Debrief of Former C/S, III MAF/GSF CO, re Planning and Execution of the Mayaguez Operation

OPEN 6151 - Capt. M. E. Stahl - Observations of Former CO, Co. E, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, During the Assault on Koh Tang

OPEN 6152 - Maj. John Hendricks - Amplifying Remarks Regarding the Assault By 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, on Koh Tang (See Transcript In Box 3)

OPEN	6165 - Cpl. John S. Standfast - Experiences of Members of the 4th Marines and 9th Marines During Contingency Operations in Southeast Asia, March 30-May 15, 1975
OPEN	6167 - Capt. James D. Keith and Captain Terry Tonkin - Details of Action On and Off Koh Tang Island in Amplification of Oral History Interview #6121
OPEN	6168 - Capt. Terry Tonkin - Experiences of FAC from 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, Who Was Aboard Helicopter (Knife 31) Shot Down Off the Eastern Landing Zone at Koh Tang
OPEN	11017 - Maj. David A. Quinlan - HQMC Presentation on the Rescue of the Mayaguez and Koh Tang Operation
OPEN	11018 - Maj. W. L. Smith
OPEN	11019 - Col. R.W. Austin (Tape 1)
OPEN	11020 - Col R.W. Austin (Tape 2)
OPEN	11615 - SSgt. Fofo T. Tuitele - Platoon Sergeant, Co. G, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, During Operation Mayaguez

Box 1 (Continued) - Vietnam War Operational Records of Marine Units on Compact Disks

Status	Title
OPEN	CDs # 036, 044, 053, 056, and 067

Box 2 - Mayaguez and Related Operational Records

Status	Title
OPEN	1st Battalion, 4th Marines - Command Chronology (Mayaguez)
OPEN	1st Battalion, 4th Marines - Mayaguez Post-Exercise Report
OPEN	1st Battalion, 4th Marines - Officer in Charge's Account of the Mayaguez Recovery Operation
OPEN	1st Battalion, 9th Marines - Operation Order 3-75 (Operation Eagle Pull)
OPEN	1st Battalion, 9th Marines - Operation Order 5-75 (Operation Frequent Wind)
OPEN	2nd Battalion, 9th Marines - Command Chronology (Mayaguez)

Status	Title
OPEN	2nd Battalion, 9th Marines - Koh Tang/Mayaguez Historical Report
OPEN	2nd Battalion, 9th Marines - Mayaguez Lessons Learned
OPEN	3rd Marine Division - Roster of Marines Who Participated in the Koh Tang/Mayaguez Operation
OPEN	9th Marine Amphibious Brigade - A/A Report - Command Chronology (Operation Frequent Wind)
OPEN	9th Marine Amphibious Brigade - Amphibious Evacuation Security Force
OPEN	9th Marine Amphibious Brigade - Command Chronology, April 17-30, 1975 (Operation Frequent Wind)
OPEN	9th Marine Amphibious Brigade - Command Chronology, April 17 - May 31, 1975 (Operation Frequent Wind), (1)-(3)
OPEN	9th Marine Amphibious Brigade - Brigade Logistic Support Group - Command Chronology (Operation Frequent Wind)
OPEN	9th Marine Amphibious Brigade - Command Chronology, March 26 - April 30, 1975 (Operation Frequent Wind)
OPEN	9th Marine Amphibious Brigade - Command Chronology, May 13-22, 1975 (Mayaguez)

Box 3 - Mayaguez and Related Operational Records

Status	Title
OPEN	9th Marine Amphibious Brigade - CTG 79.1 Oplan 5060 (NEMVAC) - Annex B: Intelligence (Planning for Evacuations from Cambodia and Vietnam)
OPEN	9th Marine Amphibious Brigade - Log Book (Operation Frequent Wind and Mayaguez)
OPEN	9th Marine Amphibious Brigade - Operation Frequent Wind Report
OPEN	Center for Naval Analyses - Vertical Assault on Koh Tang Island and Recovery of the Mayaguez Working Paper
OPEN	CINCPAC - Mayaguez Lessons Learned
OPEN	CINCPAC - Mayaguez Recap

Status	Title
OPEN	Headquarters Marine Corps - Mayaguez Lessons Learned, July 23, 1975
OPEN	Headquarters Marine Corps - Mayaguez Lessons Learned, July 25, 1975
OPEN	Headquarters Marine Corps - Mayaguez Recovery Operation
OPEN	Headquarters Marine Corps - Vertical Assault on Koh Tang and Recovery of the Mayaguez Working Paper
OPEN	Hendricks, John - Oral History #6152 - Transcript
OPEN	List of Mayaguez Oral Histories
OPEN	Marine Corps Operational Center - Mayaguez Operational Summary
OPEN	Vietnam - Early Bird Articles (1)-(5)
OPEN	Vietnam - Kintner Seminar, 1976

Box 4 - Mayaguez and Related Operational Records

Status	Title
OPEN	Vietnam - Mayaguez Rescue (1)-(2)
OPEN	Vietnam - Message Traffic - Department of Defense News Briefings, April 1975 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Vietnam - Refugee Clippings (1)-(7)

Box 5 - Mayaguez and Related Operational Records

Status	Title
OPEN	Vietnam - Refugee Clippings (8)-(18)

Box 6 - Mayaguez and Related Operational Records

Status	Title
OPEN	Vietnam - Refugee Operations - Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, CA (1)-(7)
OPEN	Vietnam - Refugees - Awards/Medals (1)-(2)
OPEN	Vietnam - Refugees - Operation New Arrivals Reports (1)-(2)