

a good overall view of the mayaguez incident., January 5, 1999

I was involved in this conflict as a stretcher bearer on the Henry B. Wilson DDG 7. I was aware of most of the activities our ship was involved in. I was not fully aware of why we were there or the reasoning behind sending us there in the first place. Mr Rowan enlightened me somewhat on that issue. I was aware of the casualties as I helped to bring them on board, those Marines that we pulled from the water. I was hoping that Mr Rowan's book would enlighten me as to why we continued to bomb and strafe that island all night long into the next day? Some of us on the Wilson surmised it was because of the loss of Saigon and the Vietnam war, that we needed some kind of victory no matter how small the conflict, and with the Mayaguez we got it. What will forever stay with me is the memory of those Marines that were wounded and those killed in action. Heroes, each and every one that took part in that rescue.