

21 MAY 1988

1205-1245

We find LTC Higgins aboard a ship in open water.

The vessel is approximately 3 to 5 miles from shore. This ship/boat is fairly non-descript. It resembles the average small fishing boat. It is constructed mostly of wood. The white paint is cracked and peeling, but overall it is quite seaworthy. The boat is white with blue trim. It mostly looks like a commercial fishing vessel, but could be used as a charter fishing vessel also (dual-purpose). At this time the boat resembles most the charter vessel. It is not among the rest of the commercial fishing fleet. It is by itself and appears to be trolling for sport fishing. It is slowly chugging back and forth in a line somewhat parallel to the coastline. At this time the vessel is awaiting word, by radio, from shore, that everything is clear and they can bring their hostages to the mainland. They are rather nervous about being on the open seas without protection.

There is a crew of three that are normally a part of this boat. They are not necessarily hard-core terrorists, but definitely sympathizers. There are three armed terrorists and two