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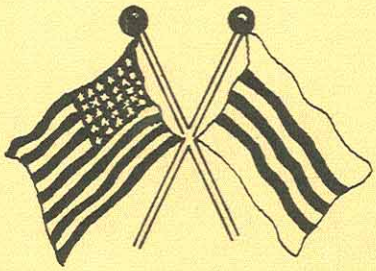

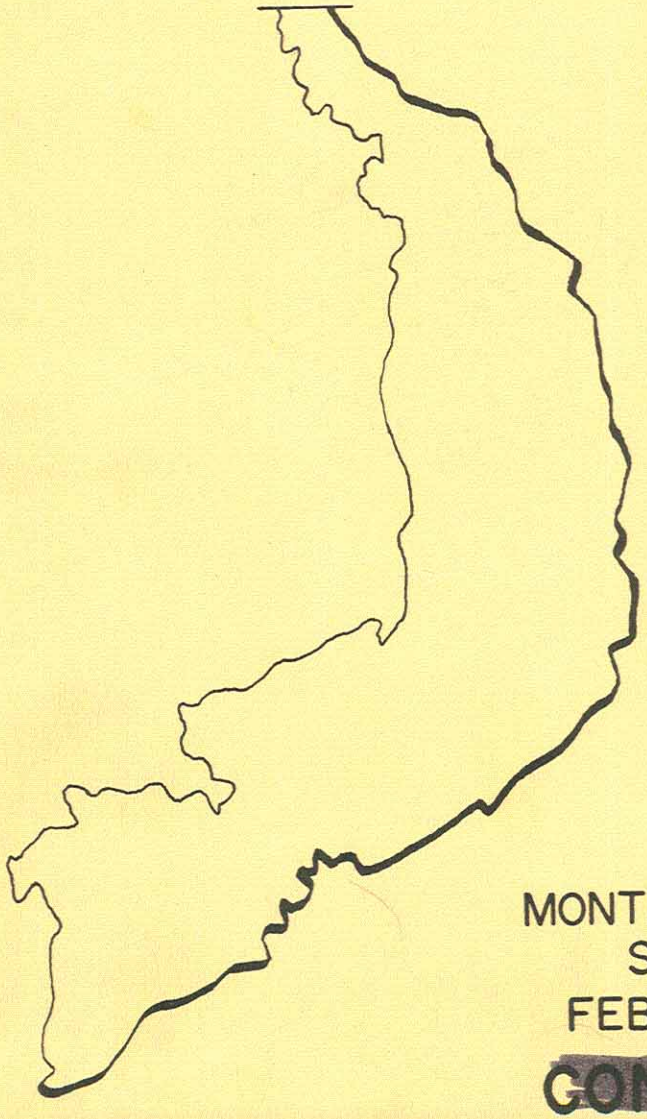

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FEBRUARY 1967

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Flag Secretary

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FOREWORD

The lunar New Year (Tet) truce period (8-12 February) contributed to a marked decrease in the number of hostile fire incidents during the month. Along the coastline and in the rivers, Navy patrols were maintained before, during and after Tet, with no change in operating procedures for interdicting water-borne enemy traffic.

Despite the reduced number of incidents, Operation GAME WARDEN suffered in February its highest casualty toll for a single month: three killed and 24 wounded. Most of the casualties occurred on the 15th of the month, when the Viet Cong sank one U.S. minesweeper and damaged two others in a series of attacks in the Saigon channel.

In I Corps, considerably improved weather conditions permitted an accelerated pace in Seabee construction work, and also enabled the Naval Support Activity in Danang to increase its efforts in resupplying coastal facilities. On 5 February, Rear Admiral Paul L. LACY, Jr., USN, relieved Rear Admiral Thomas R. WESCHLER, USN, as Commander U.S. Naval Support Activity, Danang.

The Vietnamese Navy was very active during the month, especially in carrying out gunfire support missions and small-scale raids along the coastline.

In the Delta, the long-range effectiveness of a large-scale, well-coordinated psychological operation was demonstrated during Tet when 19 former Viet Cong returned to the government from a hamlet that had received civic action assistance in December.

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On the last day of the month, Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam activated Task Force 117 (the Riverine Assault Force), setting in motion the naval component of a new phase in the riverine campaign.

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6.	Drag Chain Raised Aboard an MSB	II-2A

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CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 Feb - Viet Cong crossing attempt in upper Mekong interrupted by PBRs; four Viet Cong killed, two more probably killed. p. 13.

- River Patrol Force (TF 116) and Coastal Surveillance Force (TF 115) are established as separate commands under the operational and administrative control of COMNAVFORV. p. 1 and p. 19.

3 - Viet Cong grenade guts PBR 113; craft becomes first PBR lost to hostile fire since inception of GAME WARDEN operations. One sailor is killed, another is wounded. p. 11.

- USCGC POINT CLEAR provides gunfire support and escort assistance during Operation MUERTO DOS; Coastal Groups 42 and 46 land CIDG troops on Phu Quoc; thirteen Viet Cong killed ashore. p. 24.

- A new command, Coast Guard Activities, Vietnam, is established under the operational control of COMNAVFORV. p. 32.

4 - PBRs and helicopter fire teams assist Vietnamese outpost under attack by an estimated two companies of Viet Cong. p. 12.

5 - RADM Paul L. LACY, Jr., relieves RADM Thomas R. WESCHLER as Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity, Danang. p. 37.

14 - Vietnamese Marines in Operation PERSHING kill 54 Viet Cong; fifty-one Viet Cong captured, 90 suspects detained. p. 76.

15 - Viet Cong attack U.S. minesweepers in Long Tau channel; one MSB sunk, two others damaged; two U.S. sailors killed, 16 wounded. p. 2.

16 - RIVFLOT ONE units conduct initial combat operations. p. 33.

17 - CAPT Harry H. DINSMORE, USN, Chief Surgeon at Danang Hospital, awarded Navy Cross. p. 41.

20 - Nineteen Viet Cong return to government jurisdiction as a result of large-scale civic action project conducted in December. p. 57.

- MARKET TIME units, acting as blocking forces in support of Operation PERSHING, detain 40 Viet Cong suspects and four junks. p. 23.

- Vietnamese RAGs provide support for Vietnamese Army, Ranger

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and Regional Force battalions during Operation CUU LONG 55. Ground forces kill 60 Viet Cong and detain 61 suspects. p. 72.

21 - PCF 14 rescues downed U.S. Marine pilot. p. 27.

22 - STABLE DOOR units suffer first fatalities; two U.S. sailors killed by grenade thrown from enemy junk. p. 30.

27 - Danang Air Base and adjoining Vietnamese village shelled by Viet Cong. First known use of 140-mm. Russian-type rockets in South Vietnam. Eleven U.S. military personnel and 39 Vietnamese civilians killed. p. 42.

28 - COMNAVFORV activates Task Force 117 (Riverine Assault Force). p. 35.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE

Although there was a marked decrease in hostile fire incidents during the month, especially after the Tet truce period, in February the River Patrol Force suffered its highest toll of personnel casualties for any single month since Operation GAME WARDEN began: three U.S. personnel killed and 24 wounded.

Most of the casualties occurred on 15 February, when the Viet Cong struck U.S. minesweepers (MSBs) in the Long Tau channel in a series of minings and ambushes which sank one MSB and damaged two others; that day two American sailors were killed and 16 others were wounded. (See Appendix II for a resume of mining attempts since December 1965.)

In the Mekong Delta, most of the month's activity took place along the Co Chien River, where the enemy launched a number of attacks against river patrols and Vietnamese outposts during the first week in February. The first loss of a PBR to hostile fire since GAME WARDEN operations began occurred on 3 February, when PBR 113 was gutted by fire following an explosion caused by a grenade thrown by a Viet Cong.

On 1 February, the River Patrol Force was established as a separate command under the operational and administrative control of Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam. The task force commander (CTF 116), Captain Burton B. WITHAM, Jr., USN, had exercised operational control of assigned GAME WARDEN units for COMNAVFORV since the spring of 1966.

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On 1 February a detachment of SEALs arrived in Can Tho. After a period of training and orientation the detachment was activated as Task Element 116.1.9.2 on 20 February. The new detachment was established to conduct reconnaissance and ambush operations in the IV Corps Tactical Zone.

On 26 February, certain GAME WARDEN units were redeployed to meet a growing threat in Kien Hoa province, where elements of three Viet Cong battalions were reported to be operating; intelligence reports also indicated that a Viet Cong build-up was taking place in the vicinity of the new Delta base at Dong Tam.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

Minesweeper Incidents in the Long Tau Channel

On 15 February, the Viet Cong ended the post lunar New Year lull with a series of attacks in the Saigon channel, sinking one U.S. minesweeper and damaging two others. Two U.S. sailors were killed and 16 were wounded.

The first attack occurred at 0655, when the Viet Cong sprang an ambush five miles downstream from Nha Be. The enemy used heavy automatic weapons and 75-mm. recoilless rifles from well-fortified positions on both banks of the Long Tau River. MSB 49 received three recoilless rifle hits in her port side, one of which set her fuel tanks on fire.

River Patrol Boats (PBRs) in the area and MSB 49's companion boat, MSB 51, returned the enemy outburst and, under heavy fire, assisted the stricken minesweeper in beaching, evacuating the

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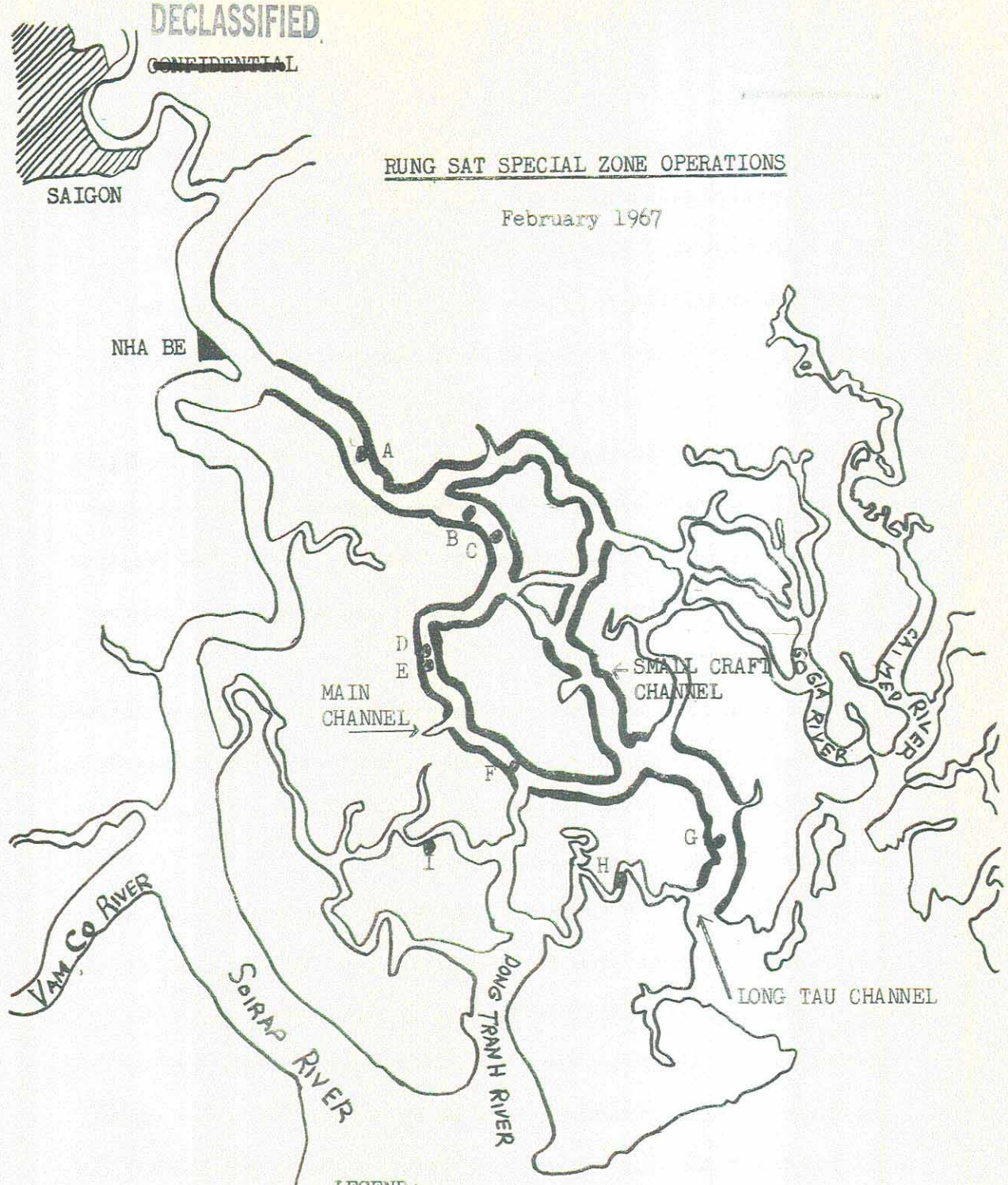
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

February 1967



LEGEND:

A - MSBs - 16 Feb
B - MSBs - 15 Feb
C - Mine discovered - 8 Feb
D - PBRs - 21 Feb
E - MSBs - 15 Feb
F - MSBs - 15 Feb
G - MSBs - 15 Feb
H - SEALs - 2 Feb
I - SEALs - 2 Feb

SCALE:

0 _____ 5
Nautical Miles

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wounded and stripping the armament. The surface units continued to keep the enemy pinned down until 0710, when the Navy helicopter fire team from HC-1 (Det.27) delivered an air strike. The helicopter sustained five hits from heavy ground fire while striking enemy positions which stretched for half a mile along each bank.

At 0750, fixed-wing aircraft also struck the enemy positions and a four-company reaction force from Regional Force companies 999, 908, 601 and 783 was landed to sweep the area. The reaction force found ten 75-mm. recoilless rifle casings and a "claymore" mine.

Two LCMs from Naval Support Activity, Saigon's Nha Be detachment towed MSB 49 to Nha Be. One U.S. sailor, Seaman Rodney H. RICKLI, USN, was killed during the action and seven others were wounded. Two Viet Cong were killed.

The enemy struck again at 1020 when a controlled mine sank MSB 45 near the west bank of the river, 15 miles southeast of Nha Be. Following the violent explosion, a companion boat, MSB 22, picked up five survivors from the water, four of whom were wounded. The injured were evacuated to Nha Be by helicopter, and a search was begun for the missing crewman, Damage Controllman Third Class Gary C. PADDOCK, USN. Petty Officer PADDOCK's body was found three days later. The armament of MSB 45 was subsequently stripped by divers, and the hulk destroyed by explosives.

At 1428 on 15 February, MSBs 51 and 32 came under fire from a

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heavy weapon on the west bank of the Long Tau, 11 miles southeast of Nha Be. MSB 51 received two hits, one in the stack and one in the sweep winch. The minesweepers and their PBR escorts reversed course and headed north. At 1440, the boats came under automatic weapons and small arms fire from positions two miles upstream from the first ambush. Four additional PBRs joined the action and a helicopter team was dispatched to strike the area.

The helicopter strike was followed by a fixed-wing air strike, and a sweep of the area by two Regional Force companies. The reaction force did not make contact with the enemy and found no evidence of Viet Cong casualties. Four U.S. sailors were wounded during the action.

The next day, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam sent the following message to the Officer in Charge, Mine Squadron 11, Detachment "A":

> 1. THE COURAGEOUS ACTION, BULLDOG TENACITY AND PERSONAL HEROISM THAT THE MEN OF DETACHMENT ALFA HAVE DEMONSTRATED UNDER FIRE IS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE NAVY. IT IS SINGULARLY SIGNIFICANT THAT IN SPITE OF YESTERDAY'S EFFORTS BY THE VIET CONG, THE RIVER REMAINS OPEN AND UNBLOCKED. YOUR RESOLUTION IN CONTINUING MAXIMUM COVERAGE OF THE LONG TAU WITH AVAILABLE ASSETS IS HIGHLY GRATIFYING.
> 2. TO THE GALLANT OFFICERS AND MEN OF MINE SQUADRON ELEVEN, DETACHMENT ALFA, I EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR THOROUGHLY OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY AND TIRELESS EFFORTS. REAR ADMIRAL WARD SENDS.

At 0820 on 16 February, MSBs 16 and 52 were attacked three and one-half miles downstream from Nha Be by enemy forces on the east bank using automatic weapons and small arms. The MSBs and

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their PBR escorts returned the enemy fire, and at 0900 two SEAL fire teams were landed in the area by LCM-3. The SEALs killed one Viet Cong, pursued three or four others without success, captured two Chinese Communist carbines and an ammunition pouch, and discovered a number of observation posts and bunkers.

That same day, elements of the U.S. Army NINTH Infantry Division were deployed to the Rung Sat Special Zone to help secure the river banks. In addition, Regional Force ambush and sweep operations

Table 1. MINE SQUADRON 11, DETACHMENT "A"[1]

TASK ELEMENT 116.2.9.1		LCDR C. MCRIGHT, USN.
Assistant Officer in Charge		LTJG H. A. LEVIEN, USNR.
Craft		Boat Captain
MSB	15	BM1 W.T. MILAM, USN.
	16	BM1 H.M. KING, USN.
	17	BMC H.J. CARTER, USN.
	18	BMC E.T. SIPES, USN.
	22	BM1 L. SESSION, USN.
	31	BM2 R.N. GINTER, USN.
	32	BM1 H.L. RUNNELS, USN.
	45[2]	BM2 P.T. WALCH, USN.
	49	BM1 L.R. ROOKS, USN.
	51	BM1 J.O. HOOD, USN.
	52	BM1 J.T. BUNDY, USN.
RPC	1	BM1 D.R. PFLIGER, USN.
	2	BM1 A.K. NEW, USN.

[1]The detachment's complement includes three officers and 106 enlisted men.

[2]Sunk by a Viet Cong mine 15 February.

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were increased and augmented PBR support was provided by River Section 533, embarked in USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846), stationed near the mouth of the Long Tau River. As a further measure, MSB armament was bolstered by the installation of M-18 grenade launchers. On 27 February, a B-52 strike was delivered in the suspected headquarters area of the Viet Cong commander of the Rung Sat Special Zone.

Other Incidents

On 2 February, four SEAL fire teams conducted operations in the lower portion of the Rung Sat Special Zone. The teams found a Viet Cong base camp and captured and destroyed a quantity of miscellaneous equipment. Meanwhile, the SEALs' LCM-3 engaged four enemy sampans in the On Tien River, killing two Viet Cong.

On 8 February, a 24-inch spherical mine was discovered in the Long Tau River by units of River Assault Group 22, after it had been swept by MSB 16. The mine, a controlled type weighing approximately 50 pounds, was recovered and taken to Nha Be in a commandament.

On the evening of 21 February, a PBR patrol in the central Long Tau detected a number of sampans through special night observation devices. The area was subsequently taken under U.S. Army mortar fire, and a U.S. infantry reaction force was landed. Captured were five sampans, a large quantity of rice, personal items, documents, and .45 caliber and 5.56-mm. ammunition.

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DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) and Ham Luong Rivers

In February there were two sabotage attempts involving the PBR base at My Tho. In the first attempt, on 10 February, a U.S. Navy sentry was wounded slightly by the explosion of a fragmentation grenade thrown over the fence by a terrorist. The incident occurred during late afternoon and the terrorist escaped in the large Vietnamese crowd celebrating Tet in the street outside the base.

An alert boat watch thwarted the second sabotage attempt, on the morning of 14 February, when he sighted an 18x24 inch box floating upstream on the tide about 80 feet from the PBR pier. The watchstander fired at the box, triggering an explosion whose shock wave was felt 100 yards from the pier.

Toward the end of the month, intelligence reports indicated a buildup of Viet Cong forces in the vicinity of Truc Giang, the Kien Hoa provincial capital. Elements of two main force battalions, the 261st and the 271st, as well as the 516th provincial mobile battalion were reported to be located on both sides of the Ham Luong River. Other reports also indicated a Viet Cong buildup in the vicinity of Dong Tam. To counter the threat, CTF 116 redeployed certain GAME WARDEN units. On 26 February JENNINGS COUNTY was moved from the mouth of the Long Tau channel to Dong Tam to support River Section 523, which was moved from Long Xuyen to patrol the Ham Luong. In addition, a Navy light helicopter fire team was

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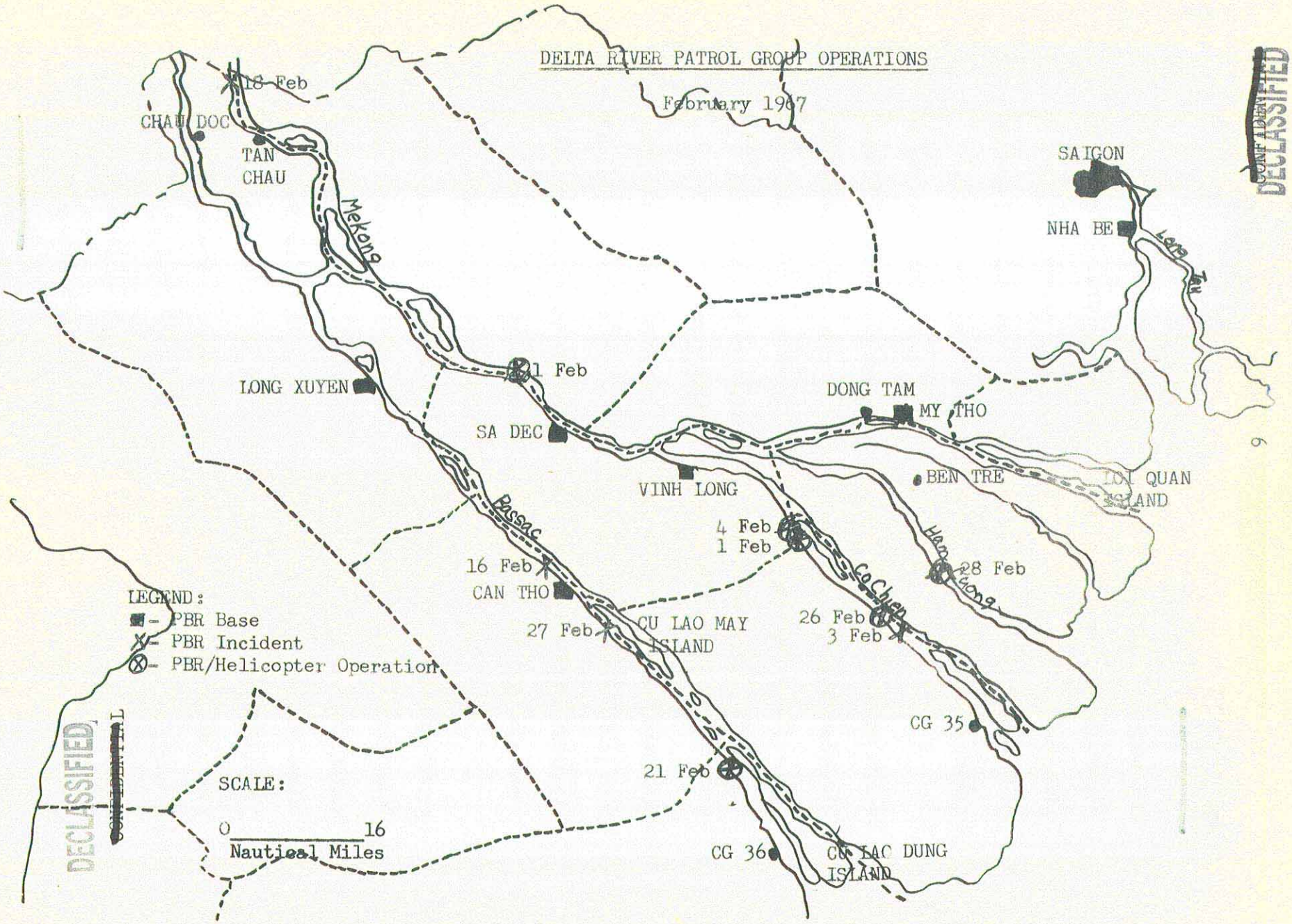
DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP OPERATIONS
February 1967
18 Feb
CHAU DOC
TAN CHAU
Mekong
SAIGON
NHA BE
Long Tau
21 Feb
LONG XUYEN
DONG TAM
MY THO
SA DEC
VINH LONG
BEN TRE
HOI QUAN ISLAND
Bassac
4 Feb
1 Feb
Co Chien
Ham Luong
28 Feb
16 Feb
CAN THO
27 Feb
CU LAO MAY ISLAND
26 Feb
3 Feb
LEGEND:
- PBR Base
- PBR Incident
- PBR/Helicopter Operation
CG 35
21 Feb
SCALE:
0 16
Nautical Miles
CG 36
CU LAC DUNG ISLAND
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stationed aboard JENNINGS COUNTY from dawn till dusk to provide a rapid reaction air strike capability.

On the night of 28 February, PBRs 101 and 107 were taken under heavy automatic weapons, small arms, and recoilless rifle fire from both banks of the Ham Luong. The boats had just started their engines after drifting downstream when three signal shots were heard and the enemy opened fire. Both PBRs were hit before they were able to clear the kill zone. The boats returned the enemy fire until the Navy helicopter fire team arrived to strike the enemy positions and suppress all hostile fire.

During the action, the forward gunner in PBR 107 suffered numerous shrapnel wounds from a recoilless rifle round which hit the boat's bow; PBR 101 received 15 small arms hits, one of which wounded the boat engineer. Viet Cong casualties were undetermined.

Operations in the Co Chien River

The first week of February was marked by intense activity along the Co Chien River as the Viet Cong launched a series of aggressive attacks against river patrols and friendly outposts. Between the first and the sixth of February there were 11 attacks by the Viet Cong.

At 1705 on 1 February, a PBR patrol came under heavy automatic weapons fire from the south bank of the river in the vicinity of Cu Lao Giai Island. The PBRs cleared the kill zone and returned the fire, but were unable to suppress the heavy enemy outburst. The PBRs stood off and directed harassing fire into the Viet Cong

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positions until the HC-1 (Det. 25) helicopter fire team arrived from Vinh Long and neutralized the area. The helicopter strikes started two POL fires, triggered two secondary explosions and destroyed two structures. There were no U.S. casualties; Viet Cong casualties were undetermined.

On the night of 3 February, PBR 113 became the first PBR to be lost to hostile fire since the inception of GAME WARDEN operations. At 2200, a PBR patrol spotted a sampan in the lower river, near Phu Vinh. When the patrol turned toward the craft, the sampan's three occupants dived into the water. PBR 113 approached one of the Viet Cong and a crewmember tossed him a life ring. The man reached for the life ring and threw a grenade at the PBR. The grenade struck the engineer in the chest and was deflected towards the after gun mount. The after gunner and the engineer jumped over the side as the grenade detonated, wounding the forward gunner, but not before he managed to shoot the grenade thrower; the other two enemy swimmers were killed by fire from the cover boat, PBR 117.

The grenade's explosion initiated an intense fire in the engine compartment of PBR 113 and cooked-off the ammunition stored in the boat's after section. The boat captain, Gunner's Mate Second Class Jimmy R. BROWN, USN, tried to fight the fire but was forced to abandon the attempt. Petty Officer BROWN then put a life jacket on the wounded forward gunner, pushed him over the side and followed him into the water.

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PBR 117 picked up all of the crew except Seaman August D. JOHNSON, USN, the after gunner, who disappeared. Despite an intensive search by river patrols and aircraft, his body was never recovered. Later in the month, a Hoi Chanh (returnee) told Vietnamese interrogators that the body of an American had subsequently washed ashore near the scene of the action and that the Viet Cong had looted the body and thrown it back into the river.

The hulk of PBR 113, gutted from the stern to the forward bulkhead of the coxswain's flat, was towed to the Coastal Group 35 base at Hung My; there it was stripped of salvageable parts and equipment. The rest of the boat was destroyed.

On the afternoon of 4 February, PBRs 79 and 84 answered a signal for help from a Vietnamese outpost at the mouth of the Mang Thit River under attack from nearby tree lines. Two Detachment 25 helicopter fire teams conducting a reconnaissance mission in the area also answered the call for assistance.

When the Navy helicopters arrived, the Viet Cong had partially overrun the town to the west of the outpost and had advanced to within 100 yards of the outpost. The helicopters launched a strike under heavy ground fire from the enemy. Then Detachment 29 helicopters arrived and delivered another strike.

A total of five helicopter strikes were conducted before the Viet Cong, estimated to be two companies in strength, were finally driven off. Between strikes, indirect .50 caliber fire from the

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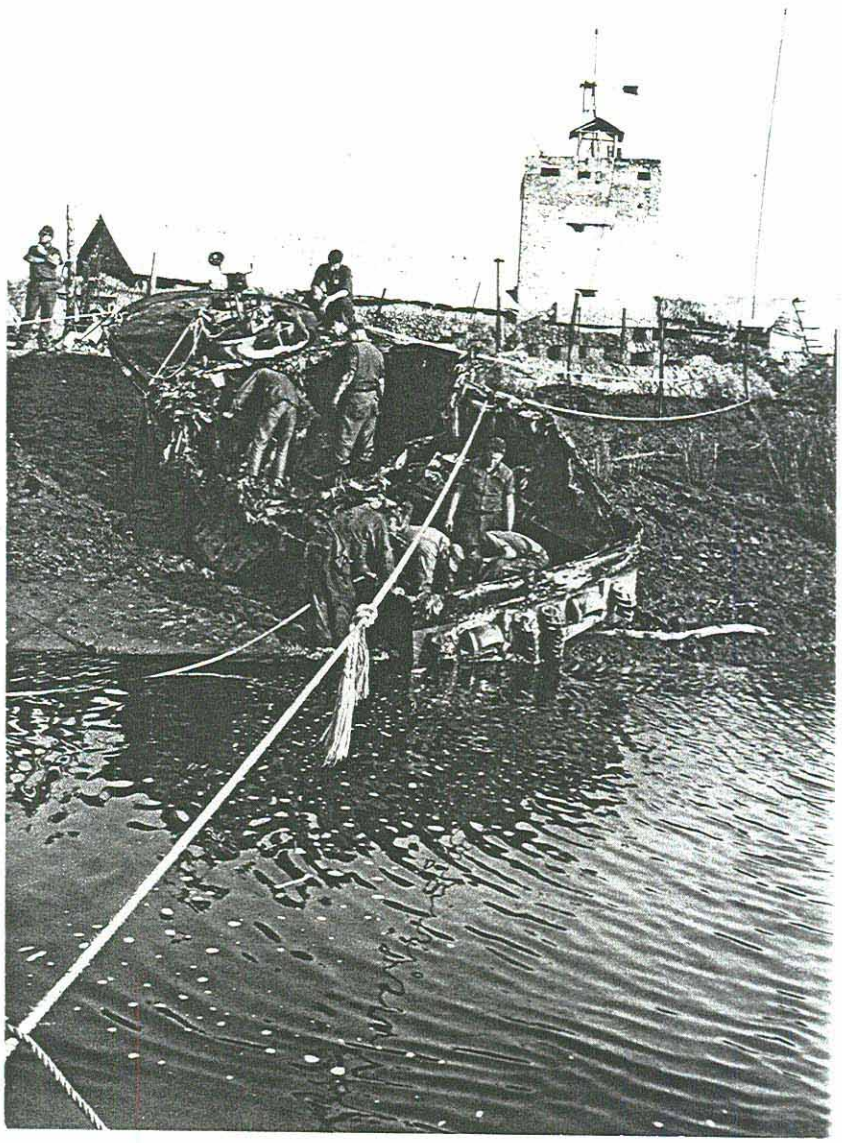

PBR 113, GUTTED BY FIRE ON 3 FEBRUARY 1967

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PBRs kept the enemy pinned down.

One helicopter crewman was wounded slightly during the two-hour engagement. There were three secondary explosions initiated by helicopter fire. Enemy casualties were undetermined.

GAME WARDEN units supported Vietnamese outposts on four other occasions prior to the Tet truce period. During and after Tet, hostile fire incidents virtually ceased. Toward the end of the month, attacks against outposts along the Co Chien began again.

On 26 February, a Viet Cong company attempted to overrun an outpost on the south bank of the Co Chien 25 miles from Vinh Long. Two PBRs and Army and Navy helicopters delivered heavy automatic weapons, grenade and rocket fire into the enemy positions, forcing the Viet Cong to withdraw.

Operations in the Upper Bassac and Mekong Rivers

On 1 February, Sa Dec-based PBRs broke up a Viet Cong crossing attempt in the upper Mekong near the mouth of the Cao Lanh River.

At 2335 a routine PBR patrol intercepted two sampans and, as the patrol closed, the occupants of the sampans jumped over the side and started to swim for shore. When the PBRs approached the swimmers, automatic weapons fire broke out from both banks.

The PBRs returned the fire and also took the escaping swimmers under fire. Four of the swimmers were killed, two more were probably killed, and one was captured. The patrol then requested artillery support from Cao Lanh, as well as helicopter assistance. Ten rounds of 105-mm. howitzer fire were delivered by the Cao Lanh

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battery, followed by strikes against the enemy positions by Navy helicopters. All enemy fire subsequently ceased. There were no U.S. casualties.

On 18 February, a two-boat blocking force killed three Viet Cong attempting to escape from a U.S. Special Forces/Civilian Irregular Defense Group sweep in upper Kien Phong province, near the Cambodian border.

At 0740, PBRs 134 and 135 approached three sampans escaping from the operation area and came under heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from both banks of the river. The PBRs opened fire on the banks and the sampans with .50 caliber, M-79 and M-16 fire. Three occupants of one of the sampans were killed by a direct M-79 grenade hit. The PBRs then made firing runs on the west bank to which the remaining sampans evaded; final results were undetermined.

Operations in the Lower Bassac River

There were no hostile fire or evasion incidents in the lower Bassac River during the first 15 days of the month. On 16 February, a PBR patrol was taken under small arms fire from both banks of the river near the town of Binh Thuy. Fire was not returned because of the large, predominantly friendly population in the area.

On 21 February, PBRs 34 and 45 received heavy automatic weapons fire and one mortar round from the northern tip of Cu Lao Dung Island. The patrol cleared the area and returned fire until

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a helicopter fire team arrived. The helicopters struck the Viet Cong positions, suppressing all enemy fire. During the engagement a sampan hailed by the PBRs continued to evade, and was taken under direct fire and destroyed. Its two occupants escaped to the underbrush.

On 27 February, a special PBR patrol stationed in the vicinity of Cu Lao May Island came to the aid of a Vietnamese outpost under attack. The patrol moved in quickly and silenced the enemy fire. Enemy casualties were undetermined.

* * *

GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
February 1967

1. PBR Statistics:

   a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 555 Night 670

   b. Total Contacts: Day 39,479 Night 7,240

   c. Total Inspected: Day 10,199 Night 2,296

   d. Total Boarded: Day 16,789 Night 2,342

   e. People Detained: 635

   f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 25

   g. Total Patrol Hours: 30,648 Day 13,615 Night 17,033

2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:

   a. Total Flight Hours: 245

   b. Helo Missions:
      (1) Pre-planned strikes: 4
      (2) Reaction: 6
      (3) Targets of Opportunity: 5
      (4) Support: 41
      (5) MEDEVAC: 1

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3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

a. Fire Fights:
(1) PBR 28
(2) Helo 12
(3) MSB 3
(4) RPC 0
(5) LCM 0
(6) LCPL 0
(7) STAB 1

b. Sampans: Destroyed: 20 Damaged: 1 Captured 1

c. Structures: Destroyed: 8 Damaged: 0

d. Huts: Destroyed: 1 Damaged 5

e. Bunkers: Destroyed: UNK Damaged: UNK

f. Enemy: KIA: 13 KIA(Poss.): 8 WIA: 3 Captured: 15

g. Friendly: KIA: 3 WIA: 24

h. Friendly Battle Damage:
(1) PBR 5
(2) Helo 1
(3) MSB 7
(4) LCM 0
(5) RPC 0

i. PBR MEDEVAC: 17

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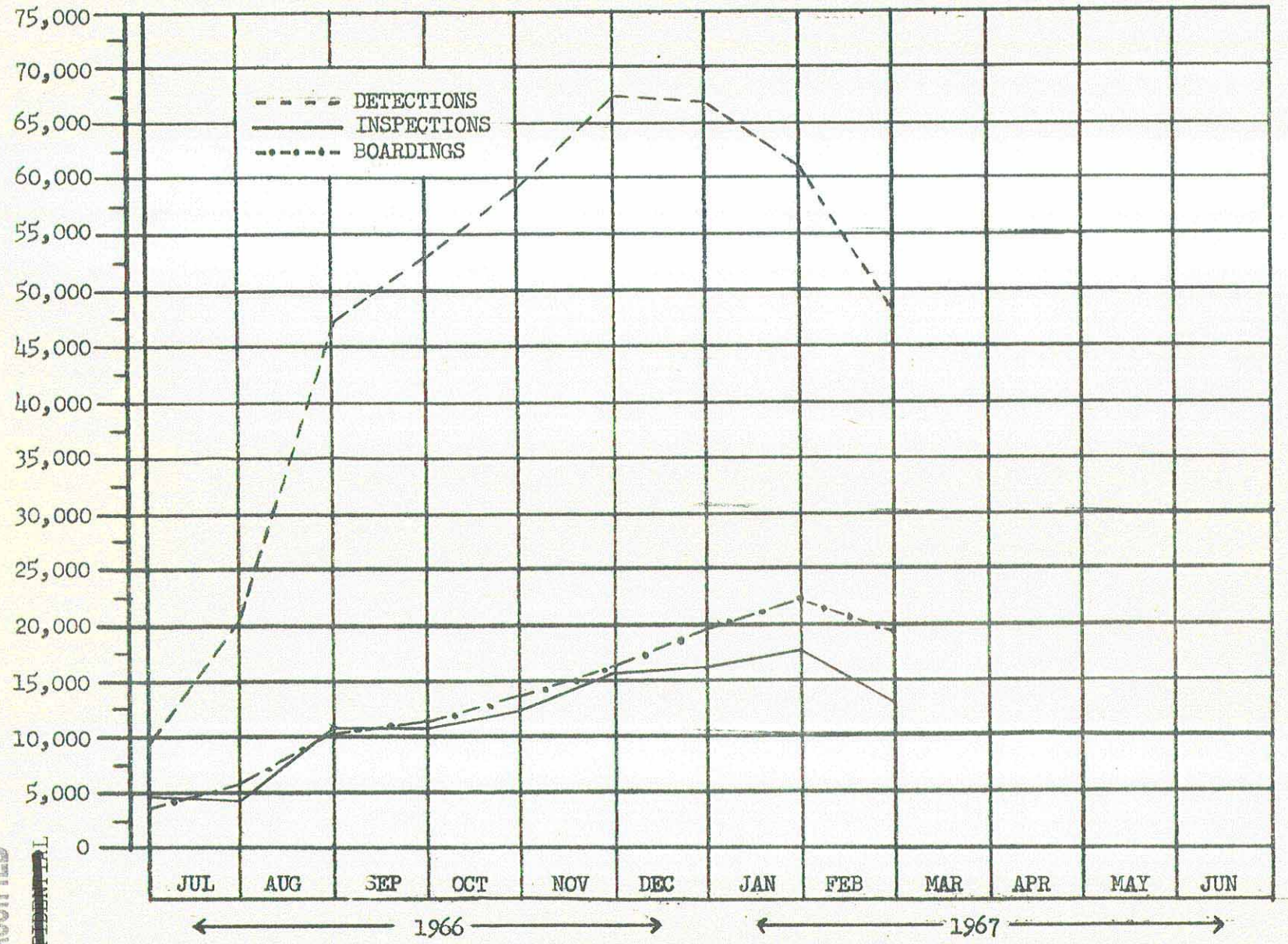
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS



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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE

During February, MARKET TIME forces continued to interdict possible infiltrators from the sea with the detection of 38,229 junks and sampans. Of this number, 15,813 of the craft were inspected and 11,241 were boarded. Additionally, 1,488 steel-hulled vessels were detected, with 862 of these being inspected and 30 boarded. Other MARKET TIME operations during the month included five evading sampan incidents, nine naval gunfire support missions, seven assists to ground operations, two search and rescue incidents, and two instances of medical evacuation assistance.

STABLE DOOR units detected 26,776 junks and sampans, inspecting 5,273 of these and boarding 3,654. Five new Boston Whalers arrived in country increasing to 25 the number of patrol boats available to STABLE DOOR forces. The first fatalities among STABLE DOOR personnel occurred this month when two sailors were killed the night of 22 February as a harbor defense patrol was approaching a suspect craft in Qui Nhon harbor.

On 1 February, the Coastal Surveillance Force was established as a separate command under the operational and administrative control of Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam. The task force commander (CTF 115), Captain Clifford L. STEWART, USN, had exercised operational control of the assigned units for COMNAVFORV since the spring of 1966.

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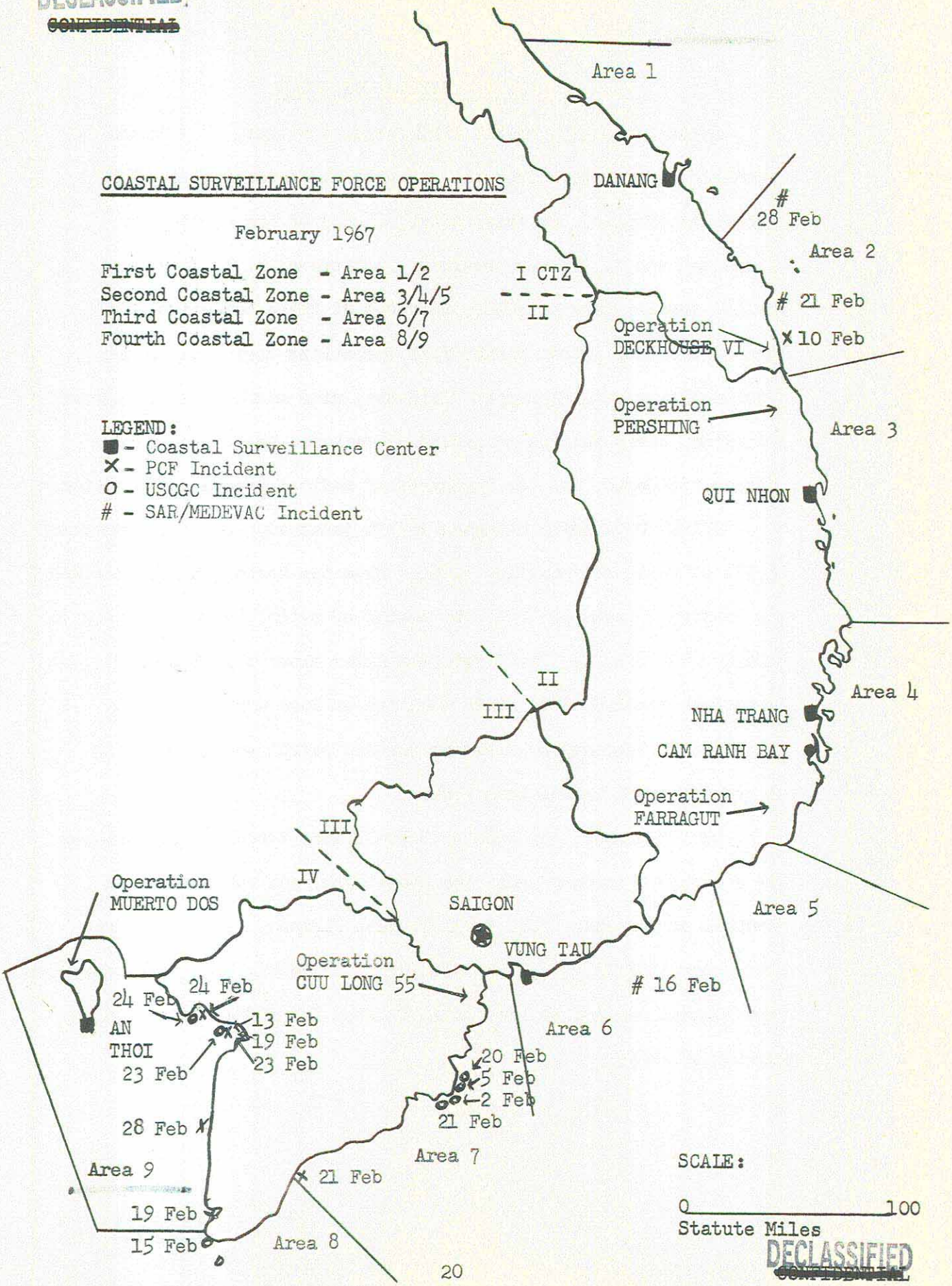

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MARKET TIME OPERATIONS

Hostile Fire and NGFS

MARKET TIME units were involved in nine naval gunfire support (NGFS) missions and one hostile fire incident in February. All of the activity occurred in the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones, and resulted in three Viet Cong killed, seventeen structures destroyed, and twelve structures and two bunkers damaged. In addition, five junks were damaged and three others were destroyed. The incidents are presented chronologically:

2 Feb - At 1345, USCGC POINT PARTRIDGE conducted a NGFS mission 59 miles southwest of Vung Tau against Viet Cong positions. Three structures, two bunkers and two sampans were damaged. No hostile fire was received.

5 - At 1836, USCGC POINT LEAGUE conducted a NGFS mission 55 miles southwest of Vung Tau at the request of the Long Toan sub-sector advisor. One enemy structure was damaged.

13 - At 1425, PCF 92 answered a request for NGFS from an L-19 aircraft that was receiving hostile fire, 53 miles east of An Thoi and 18 miles northwest of Rach Gia. PCF 92 suppressed the hostile fire with 81-mm. mortar fire; one enemy structure was destroyed.

19 - At 1530, PCF 94 received small arms fire from an enemy position 19 miles northwest of Rach Gia. PCF 94 and other units returned 90 rounds of 81-mm. mortar fire,

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which destroyed five structures.

21 - At 0815, USCGC POINT GRACE conducted a NGFS mission against four large cargo junks near a Viet Cong village, 62 miles southwest of Vung Tau. One junk was destroyed and the other three were damaged.

21 - At 1700, PCF 96 conducted a NGFS mission against Viet Cong positions 118 miles southwest of Vung Tau. Three structures were destroyed.

23 - At 1500, USCGC POINT MARONE answered an urgent NGFS request in support of a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) and U.S. Special Forces advisors engaged in a fire fight with Viet Cong 55 miles east of An Thoi. Three Viet Cong were killed, and two enemy structures were damaged. A wounded member of the CIDG was evacuated by the POINT MARONE.

23 - At 1743, PCF 9 responded to an urgent NGFS request made by the pilot of a reconnaissance aircraft receiving automatic weapons fire from a point 53 miles east of An Thoi and 17 miles north of Rach Gia. The results of the mission were two structures and one sampan destroyed, one structure damaged.

24 - At 1110, 37 miles east-northeast of An Thoi, PCF 74 conducted a NGFS mission urgently requested by the pilot of a reconnaissance aircraft receiving fire from three camouflaged sampans with Viet Cong troops embarked.

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The PCF's fire destroyed one of the sampans.

24 - At 1745, the USCGC POINT CLEAR conducted an urgent NGFS mission at the request of the pilot of a reconnaissance aircraft receiving fire from enemy positions 39 miles east-northeast of An Thoi. The results of the mission were three structures destroyed and ten damaged.

Support of Ground Operations

In February, MARKET TIME craft acted as blocking units and provided gunfire support for the following ground operations:

1. Operation FARRAGUT, continuing from January until 16 February in the Phan Rang area of the Second Coastal Zone.

2. Operation MUERTO DOS, from 3 through 7 February on Phu Quoc Island in the Fourth Coastal Zone.

3. Operation PERSHING, from 12 February continuing into March in Binh Dinh province in the Second Coastal Zone.

4. Operation CUU LONG 55 (River Operation 55), from 15 through 27 February in Kien Hoa province in the Third Coastal Zone.

5. Operation DECKHOUSE VI, from 16 February continuing into March in Quang Ngai province in the First Coastal Zone.

In Operation PERSHING, a search and destroy mission conducted by the U.S. FIRST Cavalry Division, MARKET TIME units patrolled the surfline to prevent exfiltration from the operational area, centered 50 miles north of Qui Nhon. The patrol craft detained 40 suspects and four junks. Significant incidents relating to

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this operation were as follows:

20 Feb - At 1830, PCF 63 detained three junks containing eleven suspects. Vietnamese intelligence later confirmed that six of the detainees were Viet Cong.

23 - At 1600, PCF 88 detained 13 Viet Cong suspects attempting to leave the area.

24 - At 1000, PCF 87 detained four suspects attempting to leave the area. At 1330, PCF 58 detained a fishing junk with eight men aboard and no fishing equipment. Six of the eight were later confirmed to be Viet Cong. At 1645, PCF 89 detained four suspects for not having identification cards; two of the suspects were later determined to be Viet Cong.

Operation MUERTO DOS (Kill Number Two) was conducted 3 through 7 February on Phu Quoc Island by 240 CIDG troops and their U.S. Special Forces advisors. The operation was a search and destroy mission conducted on the northwest coast of the island. A U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ship, USS DEHAVEN (DD 727), and USCGC POINT CLEAR provided preliminary gunfire into the landing area, then POINT CLEAR escorted units of Coastal Groups 42 and 46 of the Vietnamese Navy as they transported and landed the CIDG force; thereafter, POINT CLEAR provided continuing gunfire support. The operation's results were 13 Viet Cong killed, and one Viet Cong, a large number of documents and 22 individual weapons captured.

At 0400 on the 20th of February, USCGC POINT ARDEN detained five

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Viet Cong suspects attempting to exfiltrate from the Operation DECKHOUSE VI area, 90 miles south-southeast of Danang. The suspects were turned over to USS VANCOUVER (LPD 2) for delivery to the Vietnamese authorities.

Evasion Incidents

On five occassions during February sampans attempted to evade MARKET TIME units; four of the attempts occurred off the Mekong Delta. There were no friendly or known enemy casualties during any of the incidents.

10 Feb - At 0755, PCF 75, while patrolling in the First Coastal Zone 85 miles south-southeast of Danang, sighted a basket boat in a restricted area. The sole occupant ignored warnings, beached the boat and fled. PCF 75 destroyed the basket boat.

15 - At 0846, the USCGC POINT BANKS sighted four suspicious sampans at the tip of the Ca Mau Peninsula. The sampans, ignoring signal lights and warning shots, started to evade. POINT BANKS took the sampans under fire. One craft was captured; the other three escaped.

19 - At 0900, PCF 9 pursued a sampan carrying two Viet Cong suspects, near the tip of the Ca Mau Peninsula. When the occupants ignored hails and warning shots the sampan was taken under direct fire and destroyed. The two Viet Cong were presumed killed.

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20 - At 1150, the USCGC POINT GAMMON sighted a beached sampan and two men in a known hostile area 70 miles southwest of Vung Tau. Warning shots were fired and the men fled. The sampan was then taken under fire and damaged.

28 - At 1500, PCF 93 closed a suspicious sampan proceeding northward along the west coast of the Ca Mau Peninsula, 55 miles southeast of An Thoi. The sampan, containing four occupants, evaded to the beach where it was destroyed by gunfire.

Search and Rescue and Medical Evacuation

In February, MARKET TIME units participated in two Search and Rescue (SAR) incidents and two Medical Evacuation (Medevac) missions. The two Medevac missions and one of the SAR attempts were successful.

15-16 Feb - A Patrol Squadron 16 P-3 aircraft was on patrol 110 miles south of Cam Ranh Bay when LSM 612 of the Republic of Korea requested Medevac for a crewmember suffering from acute appendicitis. The P-3 aircraft, acting as a communications relay, called an SAR helicopter which picked up and flew the stricken man to the hospital at Cam Ranh Bay.

17 - PCF 75 conducted a daylight Medevac mission for the USS FIRM (MSO 444) in the First Coastal Zone. A petty officer aboard the minesweeper had suffered a severe electrical shock and needed immediate

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medical attention. PCF 75 volunteered its services, and the man was transferred to the SWIFT boat and transported at maximum speed to the USS PROVIDENCE (CLG 6) for treatment.

21 - At 0733, PCF 14 recovered a U.S. Marine aviator who had ejected from his A-4 aircraft 80 miles southeast of Danang. The PCF sighted the chute while it was still airborne and proceeded to pick up the pilot from the sea. The Marine was unhurt and was later returned to Chu Lai by helicopter.

28 - FIRM participated in an unsuccessful daylight search for a downed aircraft 60 miles southeast of Danang.

MARKET TIME UNITS

USS CURRITUCK (AV 7) disestablished the seadrome at Cam Ranh Bay on 6 February; Patrol Squadron 50 flew MARKET TIME flights from the seadrome until 5 February. During the month, Patrol Squadron 17 flew SP-2A aircraft from Tan Son Nhut Air Base and Patrol Squadrons 16, 19, and 46 flew P-3A aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point. The detachment of P-3A aircraft which operated from U Tapao, Thailand in January returned to their parent squadron on 1 February.

In February the following SEVENTH Fleet ships operated as MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:

USS ALBATROSS (MSC 289) 1-17

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USS BRISTER (DER 327)	20-28
USS EMBATTLE (MSO 434)	8-28
USS FALGOUT (DER 324)	21-28
USS FIRM (MSO 444)	1-28
USS FORCE (MSO 445)	1-28
USS FORESTER (DER 334)	1-19
USS HISSEM (DER 400)	1-27
USS KOINER (DER 331)	1-4, 13-28
USS KRETCHMER (DER 329)	1-20, 28
USS LOWE (DER 325)	6-28
USS PARK COUNTY (LST 1077)	2-28
USS PEACOCK (MSC 198)	1-28
USS PRIME (MSO 446)	1-28
USS REAPER (MSO 467)	1-28
USS SUTTER COUNTY (LST 1150)	1-2
USS VANCE (DER 287)	1-6, 7-12
USS WARBLER (MSC 206)	1-28
USS WIDGEON (MSC 208)	1-7

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MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 1967

1. U.S. ships/craft:	DER	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	LST
Total days craft on patrol	140	140	56	464	498	28
Daily average of craft on patrol	5	5	2	16.5	35	1

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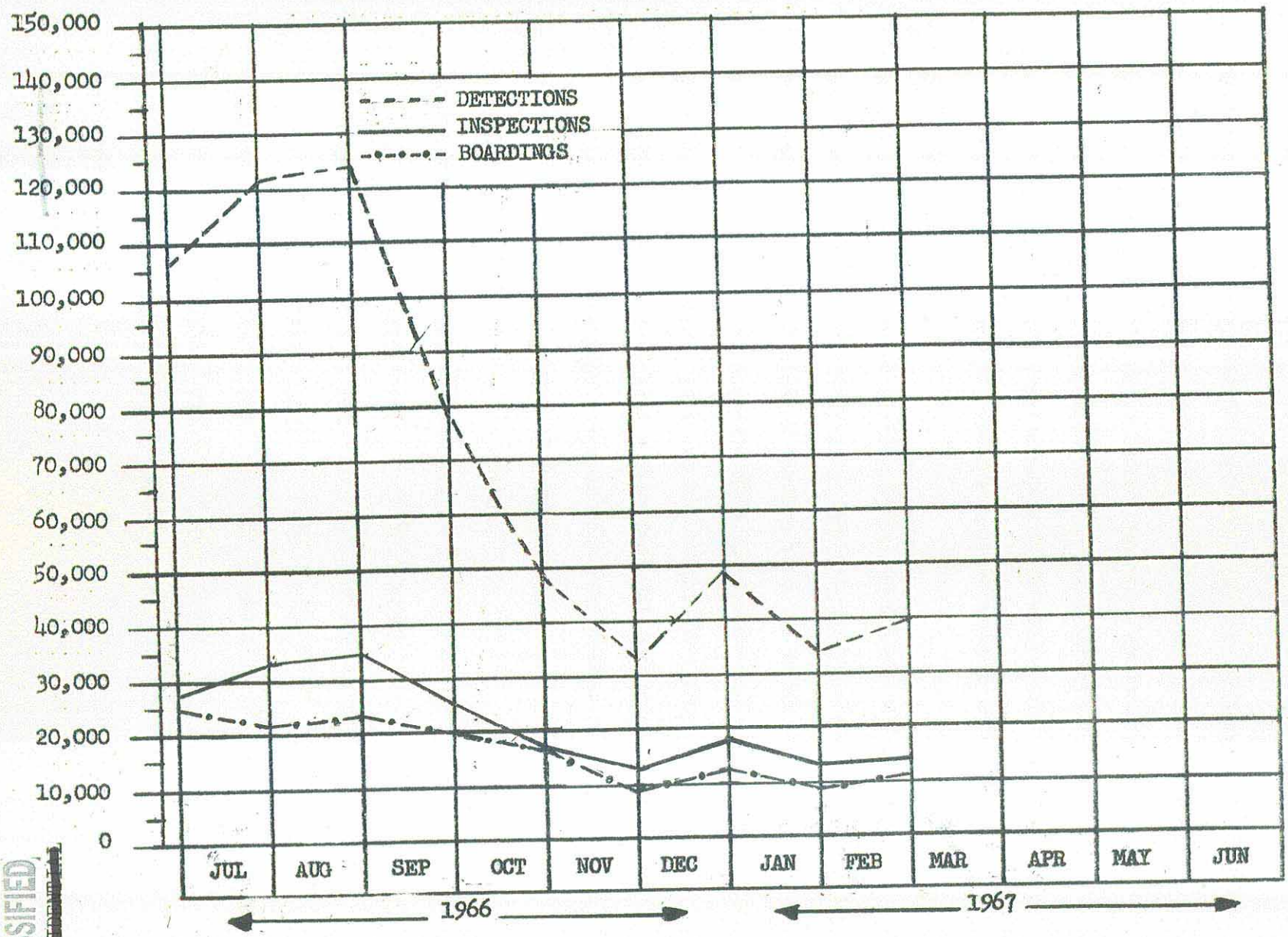
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



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2. U.S. activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD	DAY	26,486	NIGHT	11,743		
	STEEL	DAY	758	NIGHT	730	39,717	
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD	DAY	9,521	NIGHT	4,292		
	STEEL	DAY	460	NIGHT	402	14,675	
TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD	DAY	8,592	NIGHT	2,649		
	STEEL	DAY	22	NIGHT	8	11,271	

TOTAL DETAINED: JUNKS 22 PEOPLE 247

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STABLE DOOR OPERATIONS

Operation STABLE DOOR suffered its first losses in action on the night of 22 February when a hand grenade, thrown from a suspect junk, killed two sailors in a skimmer in Qui Nhon harbor. The skimmer was approaching the junk when the grenade was thrown into the STABLE DOOR craft, blowing one man into the water and mortally wounding another crewman, BM3 T. L. DAVIS, USN. The boat captain opened fire on the junk's occupants, but they successfully evaded to the beach.

A search was conducted for the missing crewman by LCPLs and skimmers as PCFs provided illumination fire with 81-mm. mortars. The search operations came under small arms harassing fire on several occasions. In one instance, the enemy fired six mortar rounds at units engaged in the search. The body of the missing man, Seaman D. E. MOORE, Jr., USN, was found two days later.

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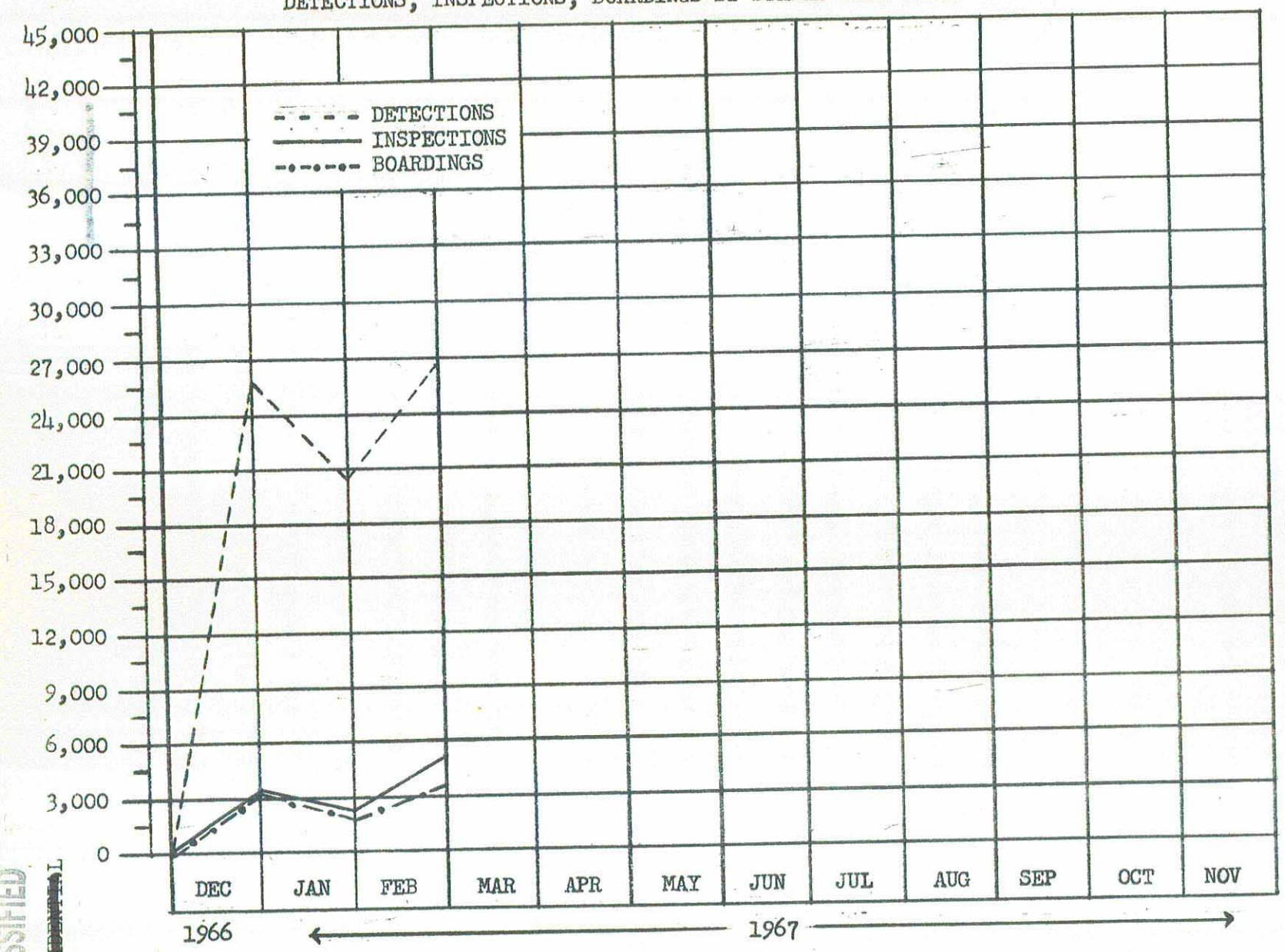

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Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 1 (IUWU 1) relieved Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Surveillance Unit 13 at Vung Tau on 13 February. On 18 February, one officer and five ratings of Royal Australian Navy Clearance Diving Team 3 (EOD) reported to the Officer in Charge, IUWU 1 for duty.

During the month, IUWU 1 detained one junk and 11 persons in Vung Tau harbor. IUWU 4 at Nha Trang detained four junks and 23 persons, and IUWU 3 at Qui Nhon detained one junk and 43 persons during the month.

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COAST GUARD ACTIVITIES, VIETNAM

On 3 February a new command, Coast Guard Activities, Vietnam (COGARDACTV) was established under the operational control of Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, and the administrative control of the Coast Guard Commander, Western Area. Commander Coast Guard Squadron ONE, Captain William N. BANKS, USCG, assumed the additional duty of COMCOGARDACTV. Included in the new command are: Coast Guard Squadron ONE; the Port Security Detail; and the Merchant Marine Advisory Detail.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE

Riverine training operations by elements of River Assault Squadron NINE continued during the early part of February. Operating from USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST 1169), River Assault Division 91 used craft on loan from the Vietnamese Navy to conduct landing exercises with units of the U.S. Army NINTH Infantry Division.

A four-day training cycle was instituted by the River Flotilla ONE (RIVFLOT ONE) advance detachment to prepare the Army troops for waterborne operations. The cycle consisted of lectures by ship's company and RIVFLOT ONE personnel on the first day, wet-net training, gunnery and beaching exercises on the second day, and two days of landings in selected areas in the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ).

The training operations were secured during the lunar New Year truce, and boat maintenance and repairs were conducted. When the truce ended on 12 February, training operations began for the Third Battalion, 47th Infantry, Second Brigade. One training cycle was completed for "A" and "B" companies of the 3/47 Infantry. On 16 February, due to the increased enemy activity in the Long Tau channel, training exercises ceased and combat operations commenced.

At 0800 on 16 February, Operation RIVER RAIDER ONE began with R.A.D. 91 supporting the 3/47 Infantry. The first landing occurred at 1900 when elements of the battalion were landed near the mouth of the Tac Ong Nghia stream. On 18 February, a Joint Tatical

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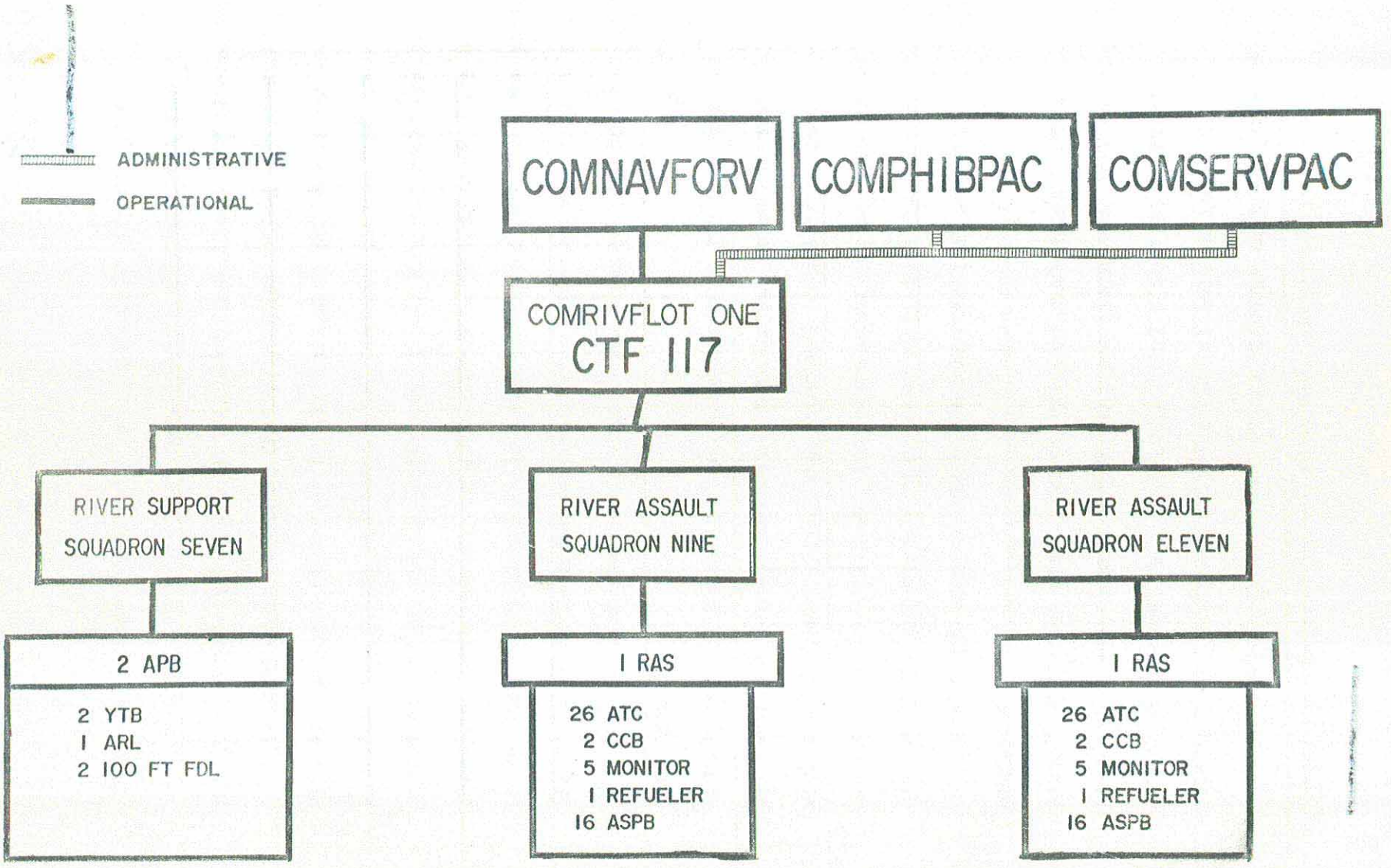
RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE COMMAND STRUCTURE



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Operations Center was established in WHITFIELD COUNTY.

Search and destroy operations and ambushes continued throughout the rest of the month in the RSSZ. No significant contact was made with the enemy, but numerous base camps, supply caches and bunkers were discovered and destroyed. The largest enemy installation discovered during the month was found near Rach Don creek by "A" Company, which had been landed in the area by R.A.D. 91 on 21 February. The camp contained two workshops, a galley, and 17 sleeping huts (each with 12 platforms). Extensive bunker complexes were also found in the camp. The facilities were destroyed.

On 16 February, USS ASKARI (ARL 30) arrived at Vung Tau, providing River Support Squadron SEVEN with an improved repair capability. On 24 February, USS HENRICO (APA 45) relieved WHITFIELD COUNTY as interim support ship for the Riverine Assault Force.

On 28 February, Captain Wade C. WELLS, USN, Commander River Flotilla ONE, arrived aboard HENRICO. At 0801 that day the Riverine Assault Force was activated as Task Force 117 under the operational control of Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam. River Flotilla ONE, which includes River Assault Squadrons NINE and ELEVEN, will be under the administrative control of Commander Amphibious Force, U.S. Pacific

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Fleet. COMRIVFLOT ONE will also serve as Commander River Support Squadron SEVEN, under the administrative control of Commander Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

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U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

On 5 February, Rear Admiral Paul L. LACY, Jr., USN, relieved Rear Admiral Thomas R. WESCHLER, USN, as Commander U.S. Naval Support Activity, Danang. Admiral WESCHLER had commanded the activity, one of the Navy's largest overseas shore commands, since 6 February 1966. During his tenure, NAVSUPPACT was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for outstanding performance while providing logistical support for I Corps forces.

During February, improved weather conditions in I Corps enabled NAVSUPPACT to increase considerably its coastal resupply efforts and, by maximum use of available landing craft utility/ covered lighters (LCU/YFUs), to reduce appreciably the large backlog in Danang of transshipment cargo for Dong Ha and Hue.

During the month, LCU/YFUs made 80 round trips to Dong Ha, delivering 10,455 measurement tons of cargo. In 81 round trips, LCU/YFUs also delivered 17,399 measurement tons of cargo to Hue for the resupply of Phu Bai.

Chu Lai continued to be resupplied by tank landing ships which, in 30 trips, delivered 48,190 measurement tons of cargo. The total tonnage delivered to Dong Ha, Hue and Chu Lai from Danang by sea was 76,044 measurement tons, a 25,210 ton increase over the January figure.

Forty-four ships arrived at the port of Danang in February, and 35 completed off-loading. The average daily throughput for Danang was a record 8,614 measurement tons. However, the total

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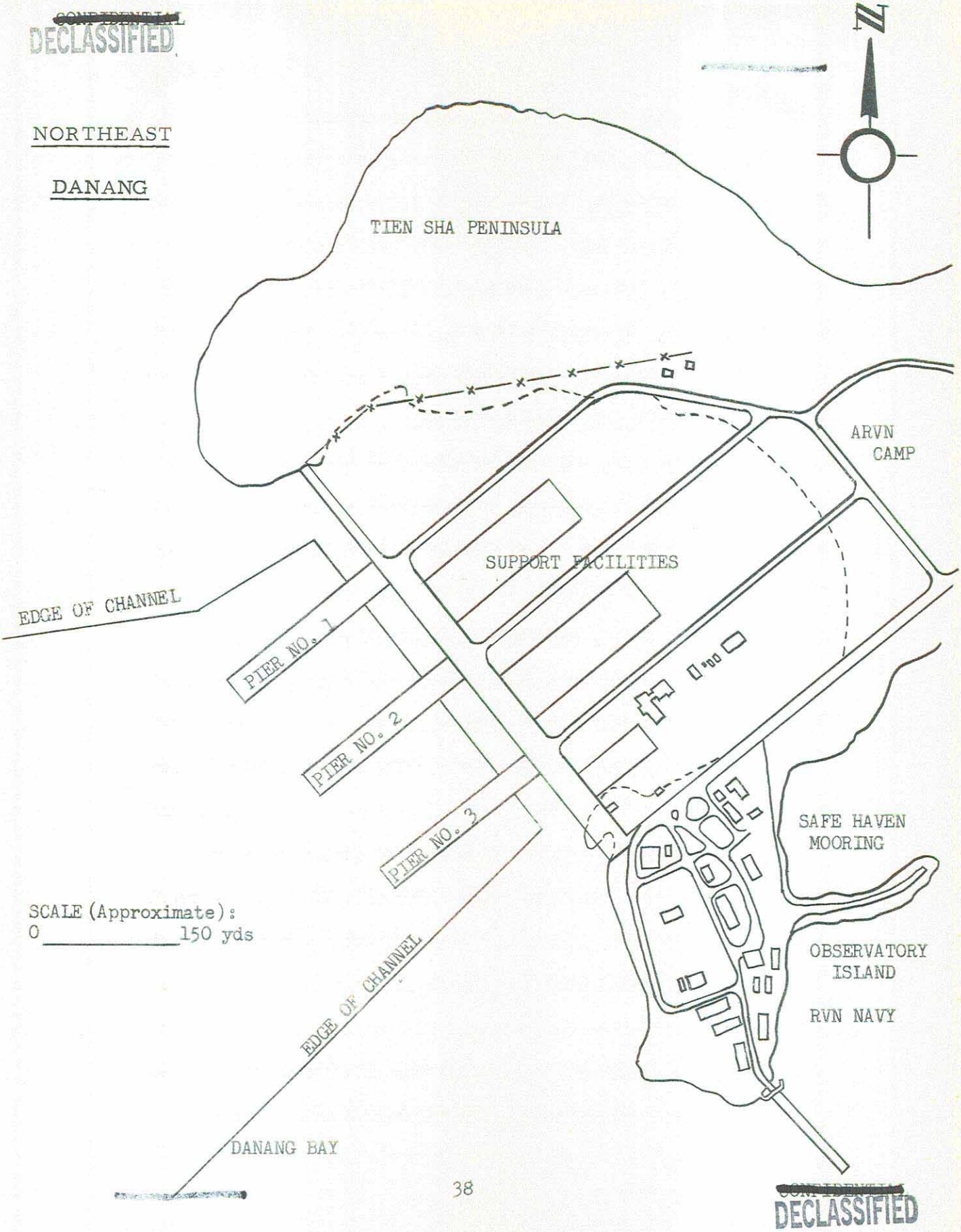
DANANG



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monthly throughput, 241,203 measurement tons, was slightly less than the record set in January. The decrease was attributed to poor weather, the 28-day month and a low average cargo backlog which combined to reduce the total cargo offloaded from deep draft ships. The total throughput for I Corps in February was 332,187 measurement tons.

Monsoon weather continued to restrict POL resupply operations. At Dong Ha, efforts to repair the four-inch fuel line were terminated. Replenishment was accomplished by using LCM-8s with fuel bladders to shuttle fuel from an AOG. Phu Bai was replenished during most of the month through the four-inch bottom line, with replenishment supplemented by commercial truck deliveries from Danang.

The POL picture at Chu Lai continued to improve with the repair of the eight-inch fuel line on 7 February. Replenishment was effected by T-2 tankers pumping through the eight-inch and 12-inch lines. Additional POL deliveries were made by small commercial tankers and YOGs.

On 1 February, a Naval Support Activity detachment was established at Hue. The new detachment, consisting of one officer and 28 enlisted men, assumed responsibility for operations at the Hue City ramp and the Col Co causeway. In an administrative change, the Naval Support Activity detachment on Thuan An Island, near the Col Co causeway, was redesignated NAVSUPPACT detachment, Tan My.

Class II and Class IV supply support continued to improve. Net Supply requisition effectiveness for February was 84 per cent,

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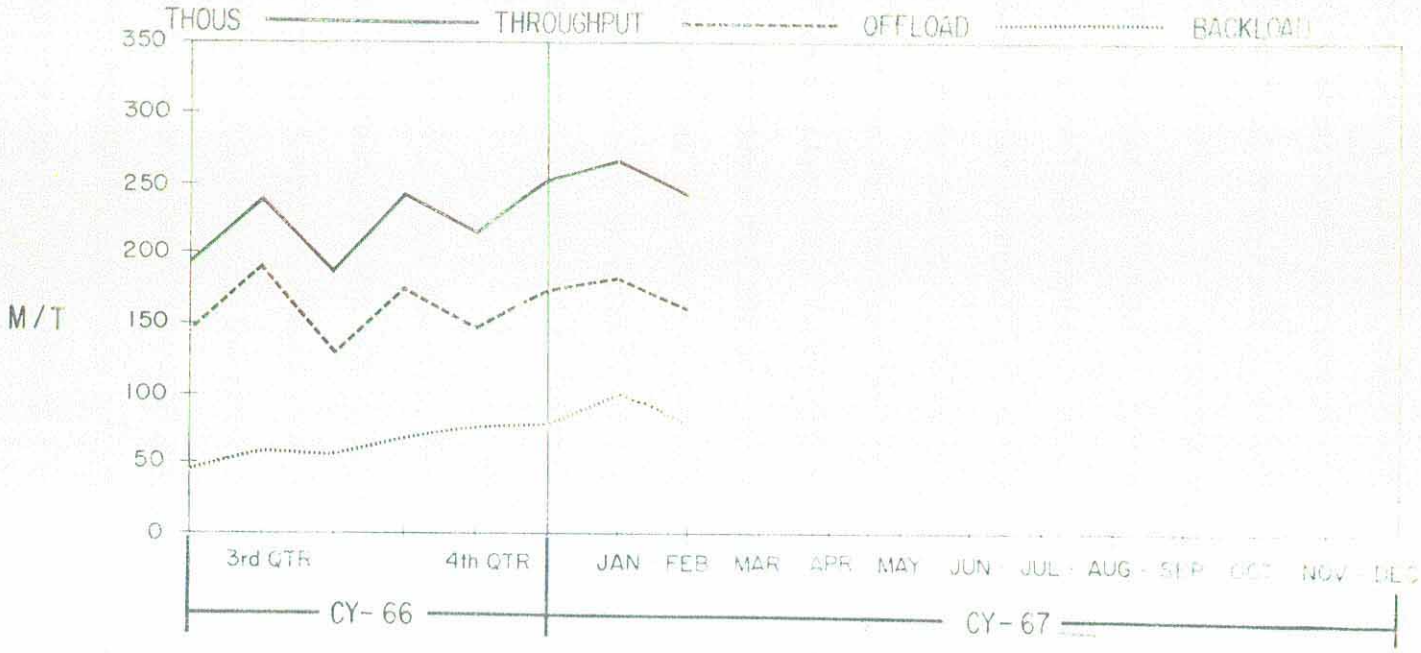
PORT OF DANANG CARGO HANDLING OPERATIONS



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an increase of 11 per cent over January. February's net included requisitions filled by NAVSUPPACT's newly-opened SERVMART.

In February, the NAVSUPPACT small craft repair facility completed its first overhaul of a YFU. Major structural repairs, hull alterations, and the overhauling of electrical equipment and engines were completed in 53 days, thereby reducing by three to four weeks the average YFU off-station time incident to out-of-country overhaul. The facility also completed its first overhaul of an LCM-8 during the month.

The port of Danang was visited 61 times by SEVENTH Fleet units during February. The visiting ships were provided with 491,580 gallons of diesel fuel and 791,749 gallons of potable water, in addition to mail, freight, courier, transient billeting and disbursing services.

The Naval Support Activity's C-47 aircraft, which resumed regular service on 7 February, transported 16,770 pounds of cargo and 557 passengers during the month.

On 19 February, Captain Harry H. DINSMORE, MC, USN, was awarded the Navy Cross, the Navy's highest decoration, for the removal of a live mortar shell from the rib cage of a Vietnamese soldier. The presentation was made by General William C. WESTMORELAND, USA, Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, in ceremonies held at the THIRD Marine Amphibious Force headquarters in Danang. The successful operation had been performed by Captain DINSMORE, Chief Surgeon of the Danang Hospital, on 1 October 1966.

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On 27 February, the Viet Cong shelled the Danang Air Base and an adjoining Vietnamese village with 51 rounds of 140-mm. Russian-type rockets. Eleven U.S. Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps military personnel were killed; twenty-seven others were wounded. In addition, 70-90 military personnel were treated and returned to duty. The air base remained operational, but a number of aircraft were damaged and five signal vans were destroyed. Naval facilities received minor damage.

Thirty-nine civilians were killed during the attack, and over 40 others were injured. Approximately 200 civilian homes were destroyed.

During February, 11 instances of harassing small arms fire occurred at various locations in the Danang area. No friendly casualties resulted.

On 28 February Naval Support Activity personnel strength (including APLs) totaled 8,078, a slight increase over January's onboard count. At month's end the total strength of United States/Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPPACT Danang stood at 109,000.

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The 140 Millimeter Rocket

The attack on the Danang Air Base on 27 February was the first known instance in which 140-mm. spin-stablized rockets have been used in the Republic of Vietnam.

The rockets were fired from a range of about 8,000 yards.

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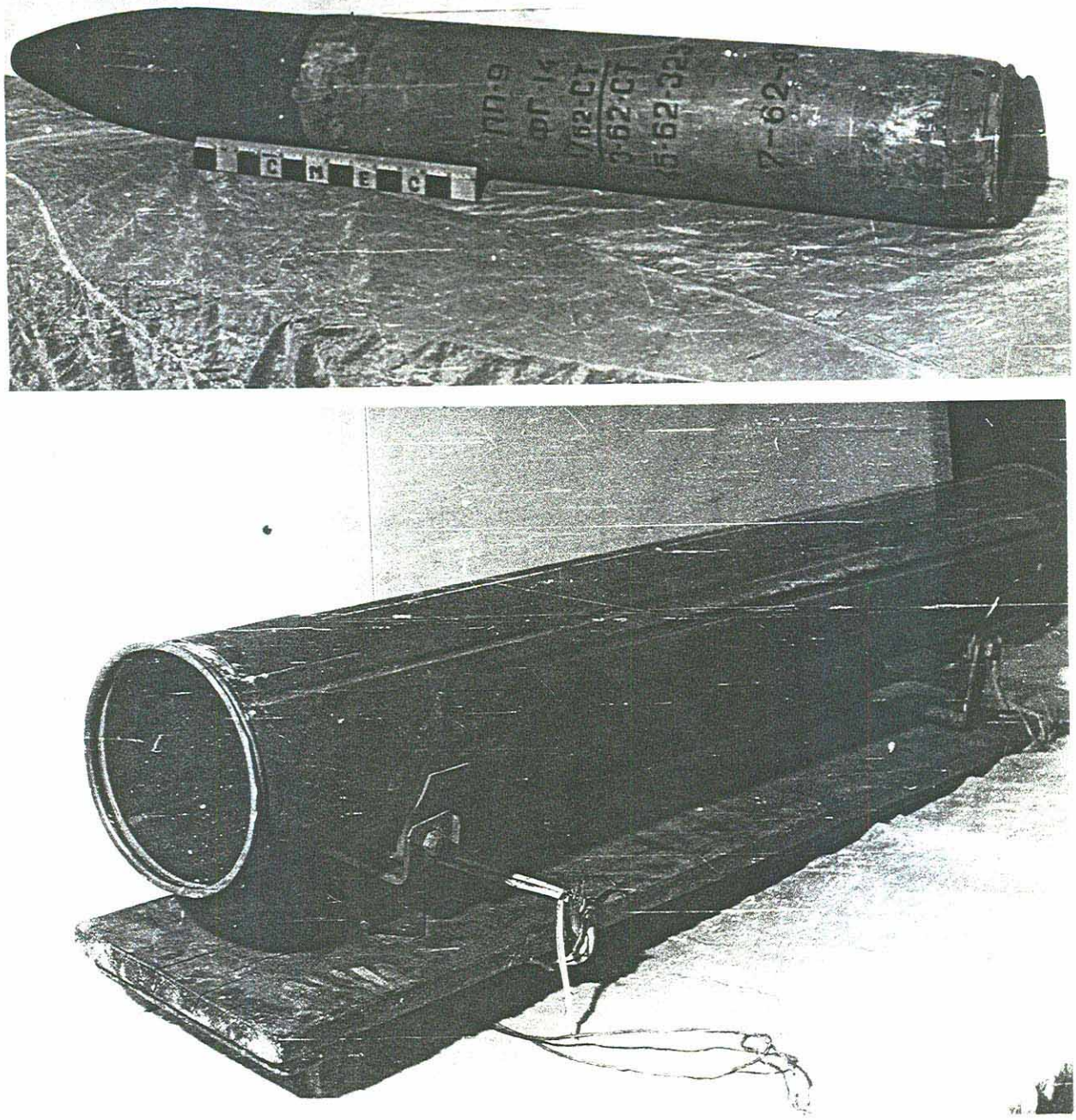

RUSSIAN-TYPE 140-MM. ROCKET AND LAUNCHING TUBE USED DURING ATTACK ON DANANG AIR BASE ON 27 FEBRUARY 1967

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A total of 134 rocket firing positions were discovered. The rocket launchers, simple tubes equipped with an electrical firing wire in the after end, were mounted on boards and emplaced in inclined trenches.

The rocket is 42.4 inches long, weighs about 90 pounds and carries a bursting charge of 9.5 pounds of TNT. The rocket motor consists of seven powder grains, weighing a total of 15.5 pounds. Each rocket has ten canted nozzles to provide spin-stabilization. The estimated range of the weapon is 10,000 yards.

Intelligence reports indicated that the rockets and launchers were transported by boats and bearers from the mountains west of Danang on the day before the attack. When the rockets were moved overland, they were suspended from poles carried by the bearers. After the rockets were set up and concealed most of the personnel left the area, leaving behind the rocket gunners to carry out the attack.

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U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

Support for naval forces in the II, III and IV Corps areas continued to improve during the month of February. Permanent construction at MARKET TIME bases neared completion, and satisfactory progress was made at the GAME WARDEN bases.

At Cam Ranh Bay, a Navy Post Office was established on 13 February. At Cat Lo, a newly-completed shallow well began producing 5,000 gallons of water daily. At Vung Tau, four hutches were completed at the Harbor Defense site, a recreation hut was 90 per cent complete, and construction of a water tower and storage tank was started.

At Qui Nhon, public works personnel completed construction of bunkers and began construction of a barbed-wire perimeter fence. The base power system project was completed except for shore power to the pier.

At Sa Dec in the Delta, a 500-barrel fuel tank and fuel pump were installed, and work on a seawall and a shallow well of limited capacity was completed.

At Can Tho, an organic water purification system was installed to service the base and visiting ships. At Vinh Long, an area adjacent to the present living compound was leased and work on habitability projects commenced.

In February, intensive efforts were directed toward construction of the new base at Dong Tam, which will support the Riverine Assault Force. A water barge and a water purification plant

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arrived, and additional galley equipment and sand bags were procured. The Naval Support Activity Dong Tam detachment will eventually comprise 150 personnel.

The logistical posture of STABLE DOOR (Harbor Defense) sites also improved as Advance Base Functional Components began to arrive in quantity. Assets for Cam Ranh Bay and Qui Nhon were routed directly to those MARKET TIME bases, while assemblies for Vung Tau and Nha Trang were distributed through Saigon via sea lift.

During February the number of line items stocked at NAVSUPPACT Saigon remained at 25,000. Gross supply requisition effectiveness declined slightly to 39 per cent, while net effectiveness remained essentially stable at 63 per cent. The availability of material for priority TWO casualty report requisitions increased to 82 per cent.

A covered storage building at the Warehouse Number Four complex in Saigon was completed. The new storage building, built to replace a building destroyed by fire, is being used to store Advanced Base Functional Components for STABLE DOOR and Mekong Delta Riverine Assault Force operations.

The critical power situation eased somewhat with the arrival in country of additional generators. The generators will be used by NAVSUPPACT to establish a maintenance pool, and to provide a standby capability at operating sites.

A significant problem experienced by NAVSUPPACT was the shortage of certain repair parts needed to overhaul PCF engines. The shortage

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has caused the overhaul cycle to fall behind schedule. Major efforts were underway to correct the problem.

During February, the availability level of boats continued to be generally excellent, ranging from a low of 70 per cent for LCMs to a high of 95 per cent for PBRs.

The NAVSUPPACT Aviation section (Air Cofat) transported 4,130 passengers and 102.5 short tons of cargo during the month.

Water-borne shipments by NAVSUPPACT craft totaled 947 long tons of cargo plus 180 tons of water.

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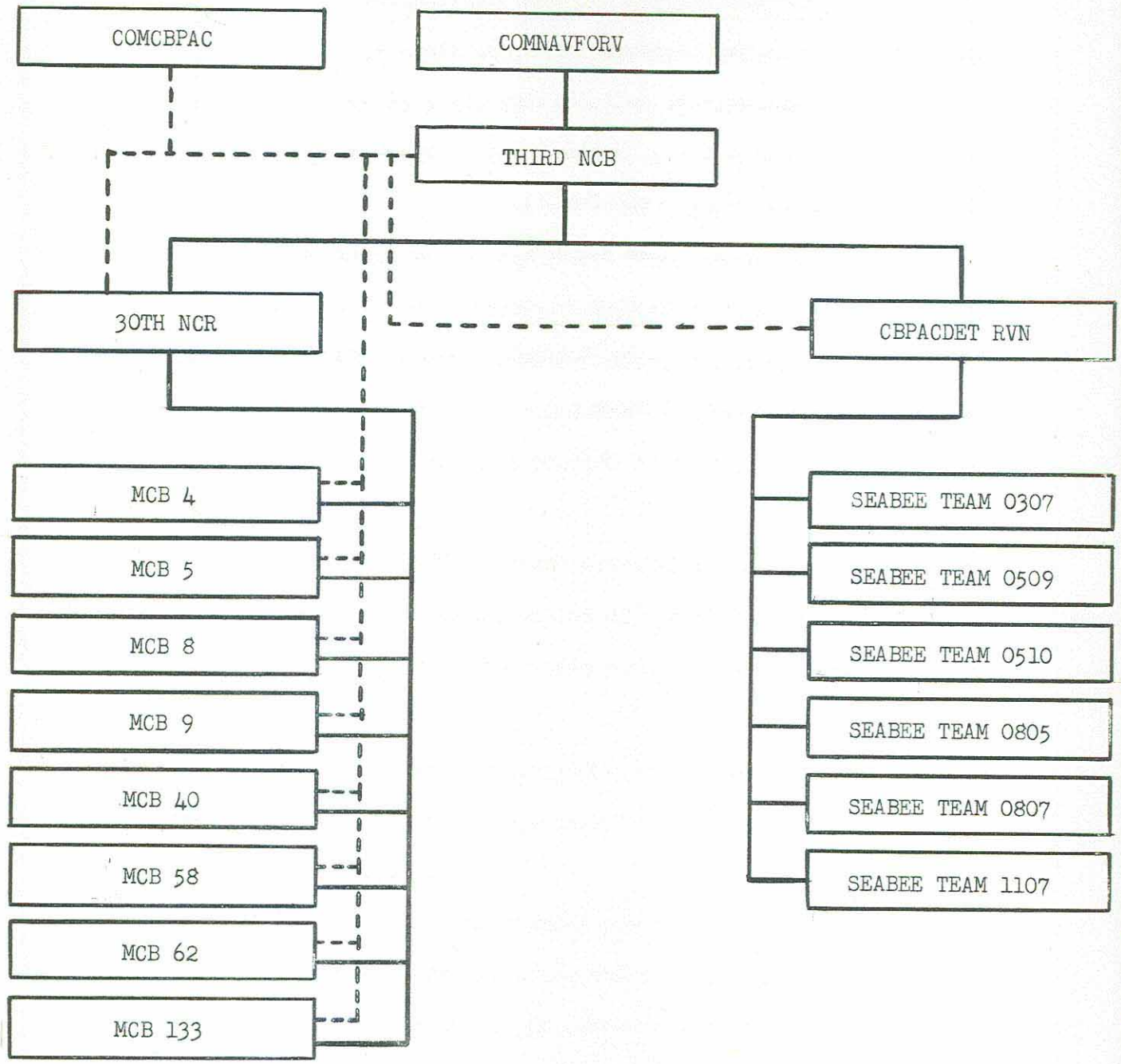
THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE COMMAND STRUCTURE



——— OPERATIONAL CHAIN OF COMMAND

- - - - ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIN OF COMMAND

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

As the monsoon season began to wane in I Corps, the pace of the general construction program increased. During February, the eight Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (MCBs) of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment completed over two and one-quarter million dollars worth of military construction and one-quarter of a million dollars worth of non-military construction.

Two mobile construction battalions were relieved in February. Newly-arrived MCB-4 was deployed to the Danang area to relieve MCB-10. A 35-man detachment of MCB-4 was located at Khe Sanh airfield to support construction projects in that area, and a 70-man detachment was sent to An Hoa to improve the airfield.

In the Danang East area MCB-133 relieved MCB-6. During an eight-month tour in Vietnam, MCB-6 completed cantonments for over 12,000 personnel. Other accomplishments included the construction of a helicopter landing pad and a reviewing stand at the headquarters of the THIRD Marine Amphibious Force, and a television station at Danang.

Projects under construction by MCB-133 at month's end included a public works maintenance building and water treatment facility at Camp Tien Sha, and a warehouse at the Naval Support Activity covered storage area.

On 6 February, the Viet Cong fired mortars on the Payne Compound at Tam Ky, 35 miles south of Danang, where a detachment of MCB-8 was working. One Seabee was mortally wounded in the attack.

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MCB-8, deployed at Rosemary Point, Chu Lai, continued work on such projects as an avionics building and control tower for Marine Air Group 36, aircraft revetments for Marine Air Group 12, and an Integrated Wideband Communications System installation for the First Signal Brigade.

On 18 February, a 27-man detachment of MCB-9 returned to the battalion at Danang after completing a number of construction projects at the new base at Dong Tam, in the Mekong Delta. MCB-9 was the first organized Seabee unit, other than Seabee Teams, to operate in the Delta. MCB-9's major projects in the Danang area included improving the Minh Long airfield, repairing the Naval Support Activity, Danang "T" pier, construction of a new seawall for NAVSUPPACT Danang, and construction of buildings at Danang and Quang Ngai for the United States Agency for International Development.

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

Salvage operations on the dredge, JAMAICA BAY, which was sunk by Viet Cong mines in January, continued throughout the month. In a series of consecutive lifts during optimum tidal conditions, JAMAICA BAY was systematically moved toward the river bank. Excellent progress was made, and on 8 February the dredge was lifted on a rising tide, turned 180 degrees and moved up a six-foot dredged step approximately 300 feet toward shore.

However, on 9 February one of the four heavy lift craft (HLC-2) engaged in the operation sank alongside JAMAICA BAY in 30 feet of water, temporarily suspending the salvage operations. An around-the-clock effort on the part of Harbor Clearance Unit 1 personnel resulted in refloating HLC-2 on 13 February.

On 16 February, JAMAICA BAY again was lifted and by 21 February the dredge had been moved sufficiently close to shore to permit the placement of patches. Dewatering was delayed, however, by the discovery of additional damage to the JAMAICA BAY's port side, apparently caused by the heavy lift wires cutting into the hull. By month's end, 70 per cent of the starboard side and 90 per cent of the port side had been patched.

Another salvage operation in February involved a U.S. Navy minesweeper. On 15 February, while conducting a chain drag sweep of the Long Tau River in an area 15 miles southeast of Saigon, MSB 49 was taken under heavy enemy fire from both banks of the river. The minesweeper was struck on the port side by 75-mm. recoilless

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rifle fire and began to sink. Another minesweeper and a PBR pushed MSB 49 to the beach, and secured it with mooring lines to trees along the shore line.

In addition to severe damage to the pilot house and bridge, MSB 49 suffered a three by four foot hole in the port side amidships below the water line. Electrical and engineering equipment were extensively damaged by water.

Salvage operations were begun immediately. A temporary patch was placed on the hole in the port side and, less than two hours after the enemy attack, MSB 49 was taken under tow to Nha Be.

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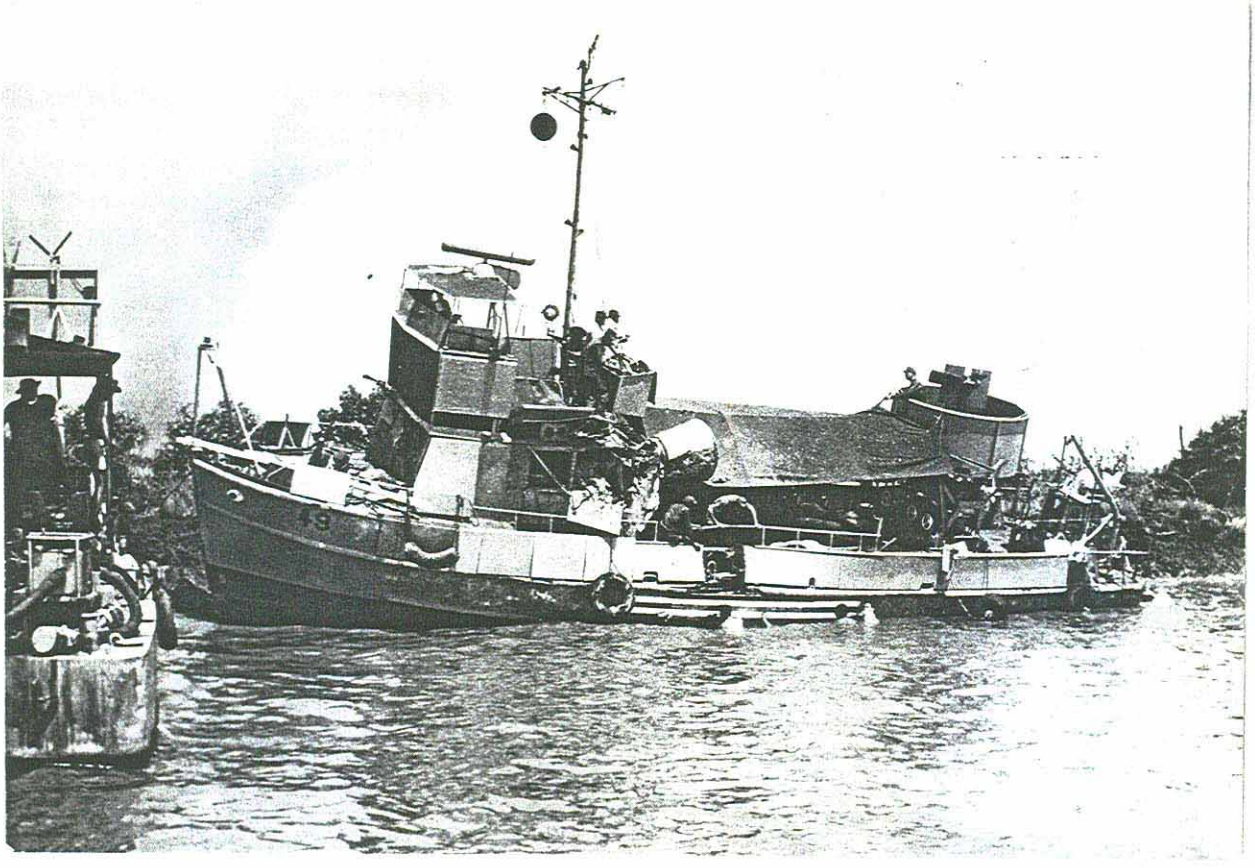

MSB-49 BEACHED IN THE LONG TAU CHANNEL FOLLOWING VIET CONG AMBUSH
ON 15 FEBRUARY 1967

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COMMUNICATIONS

The volume of message traffic handled by the COMNAVFORV communications center dropped from January's record high of 91,094 messages to 75,000 in February. The daily average number of messages handled dropped by 210 from the previous month's average. The February daily volume of traffic handled at Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang remained the same as in January.

NAVSUPPACT Danang handled priority traffic for Marine and Army advisors in I Corps for three days after the interim tape relay facility at Danang was destroyed during a Viet Cong rocket attack on 27 February. The Danang communications center also helped reduce the backlog of low-precedence Marine message traffic by acting as a relay from the Defense Communications System station at Nha Trang.

Progress at Danang on Project SEA ANCHOR was satisfactory during the month. The percentage of construction completed at the communications center, receiver site and transmitter site was 57, 50 and 29 per cent, respectively. Delivery of electronic equipment to the building sites had begun.

At Cam Ranh Bay, construction work on the communications center and the transmitter and receiver sites (Project BOW LINE) was 90 per cent complete. Installation of electronic equipment at the various sites was in progress.

USS ANNAPOLIS (AGMR-1) returned to station on 16 February and reactivated the local area broadcast (ANNALAB). MARKET TIME DERs

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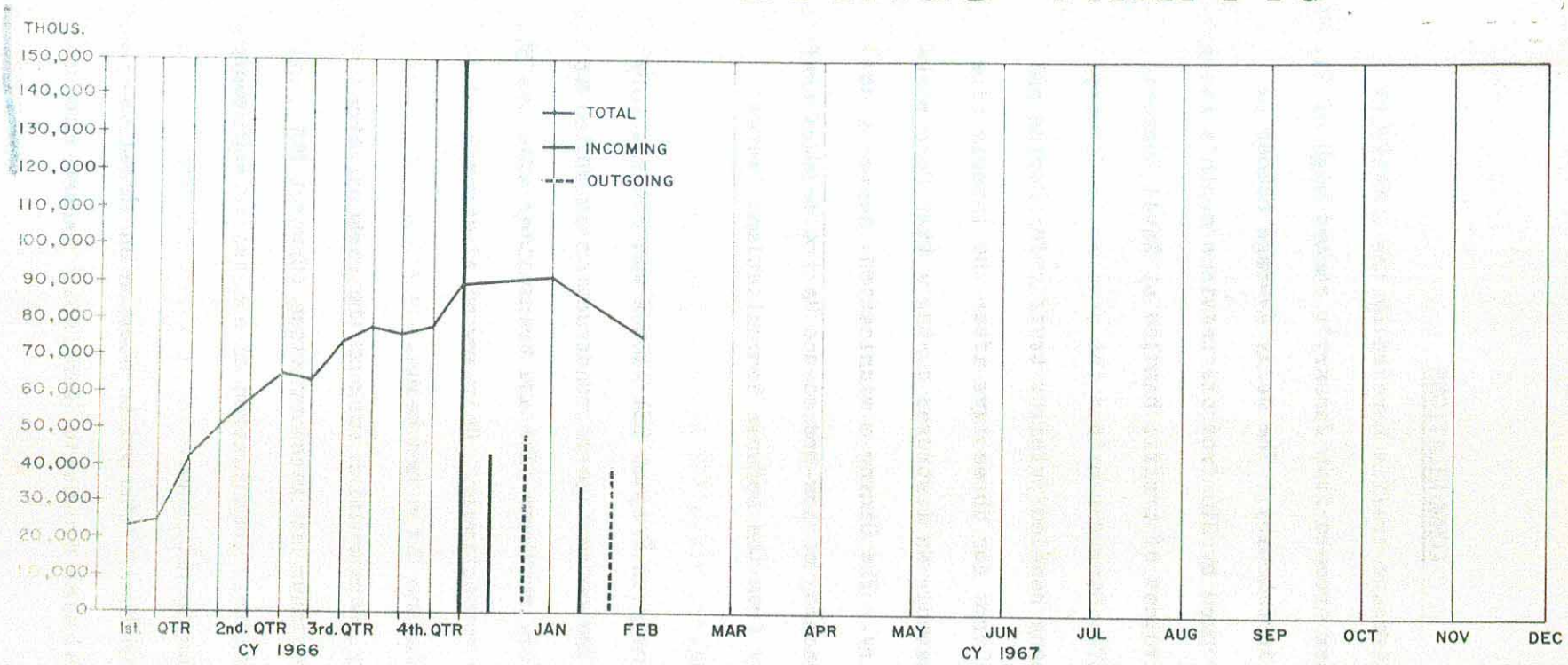
MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC



PERCENT OF TOTAL

FLASH	0.6	1										
IMMEDIATE	22	20										
PRIORITY	60	61										
ROUTINE	18	18										

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and MSOs shifted to the ANNALAB broadcast and reported excellent results. Also, a CW circuit was established for MSCs without an on-line crypto capability.

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in the Viet Cong-controlled hamlet of Ap An Loi was demonstrated during the Tet season. On 11 February, three Viet Cong turned themselves in at the Coastal Group 34 base. The returnees (Hoi Chanhs) reported that there were other Viet Cong disposed to defection who were deterred by uncertainty about government treatment and fear of Viet Cong reprisals. The following day two

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more Viet Cong rallied.

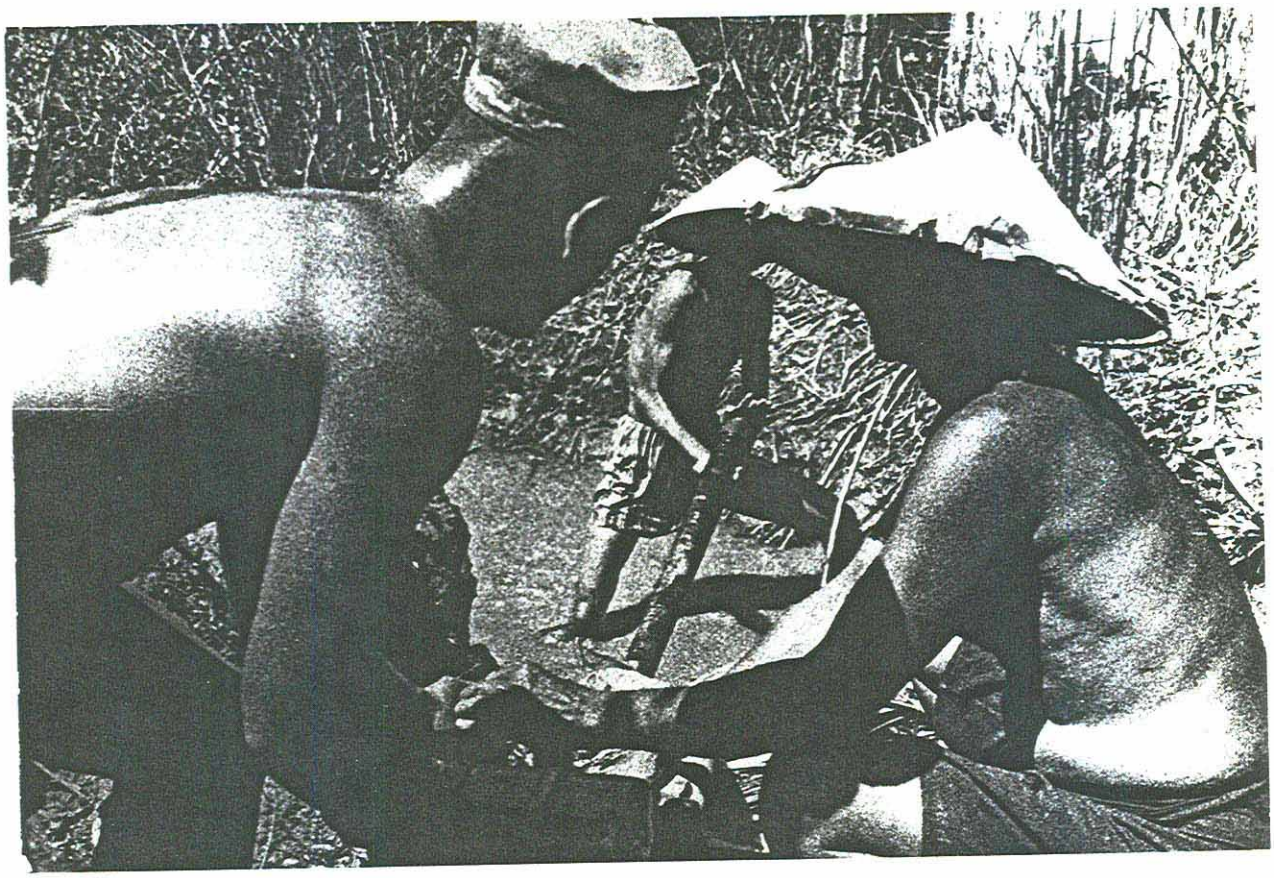
On 13 February, the five Hoi Chanhs were allowed to return to the village area without guards to spread the word about the good treatment they had received. That afternoon three more Viet Cong became Hoi Chanhs.

By 20 February a total of 19 Viet Cong, including a village chief, had returned to government jurisdiction. Additional WHAMOs (Winning Hearts and Minds Operations) were planned for the Ap An Loi area.

On the morning of 27 February, when the Viet Cong attacked the Danang Air Base with 140-mm. rockets, approximately ten of the rounds landed in Hoa Cuong, a nearby village. Thirty-nine civilians were killed, over 40 others were injured, and about 65 per cent of one hamlet was razed by fire.

Naval Support Activity personnel joined ARVN and Danang city officials in providing immediate relief for the victims of the attack. Assistance included medical care, food, potable water, and clothing. In addition, naval personnel provided tents to accommodate about half of the persons rendered homeless.

Seabee Teams continued to play an important role in civic action programs. In the Bao Trai area in Hau Nghia province, Team 0805 made improvements to the village dispensary and the Duc Lap school, and rebuilt a 300-yard street near the local Catholic church. The team's hospital corpsman held frequent sick calls at the local prisons and the Chieu Hoi compound, treating 489



Vietnamese during February.

At Vinh Long, Team 1107 neared completion of the surgical suite for the Vinh Long Hospital. Seven Vietnamese construction trainees and ten Vietnamese plasterers and brick layers are currently working with the Seabees on the project. The finished suite will have three operating rooms, a recovery room and two wards. The hospital is the largest of its kind constructed for civilians in the Mekong Delta.

The following is a tabulation of certain military civic action projects conducted by naval forces during February 1967. Construction projects involving renovation or repair are so indicated with an R.

	USN	VNN	TOTAL
1. Construction			
a. Bridges	1R	0	1R
b. Churches/temples/pagodas	1R	0	1R
c. Dwellings/number of families	35/35	0	35/35
d. Levelings/Grading projects	2	0	2
e. Roads/tenths of kilometers	2/10	0	2/10
f. Schools/classrooms	4/4	0	4/4
g. Toilets, public	1	0	1
h. Wells	1R	0	1R
i. Civic Center	1	0	1
j. Flag poles	1	0	1
k. Blackboards	1	0	1
l. Barracks (squad size)	1	0	1
m. Jails	1	0	1
n. Supply rooms	1	0	1
o. Kitchens	1	0	1
p. Training areas with stage for lectures	1	0	1
q. Dependent housing for RF companies (Sq. ft.)	834	0	834
r. Boat docks	1	0	1
s. Raised platforms (sq. ft.)	120	0	120
t. Gardens	1	0	1
u. Dirt fill (cubic meters)	8,000	0	8,000

	USN	VNN	TOTAL
v. Aluminum roofing (sheets)	140	0	140
w. Wallboard (sheets)	70	0	70
x. Diesel engines	1R	0	1R
2. Medical treatments:			
a. General medicine	17,380	300	17,680
b. Dental	1,195	0	1,195
c. Surgery	46	1	47
d. Laboratory procedures	81	0	81
3. Health and sanitation:			
a. Classes on personal hygiene/ attendance	1/6	0	1/6
b. Immunizations	283	0	283
c. Medical aides or nurses trained	15	0	15
d. Physical examinations	4	4	8
e. Spray insecticide operations	9	0	9
f. Health education literature	20	0	20
4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):			
a. Cement	155,200	0	155,200
b. Clothing	1,520	1,200	2,720
c. Fertilizer	400	0	400
d. Food	101,675	123,900	225,575
e. Lumber (board feet)	130,850	0	130,850
f. Medical, non-prescription	495	10	505
g. School kits (number)	253	1,000	1,253
h. Soap	2,573	840	3,413
i. Tin sheets (number)	520	60	580
j. Woodworker kits (number)	10	0	10
k. School supplies	155	0	155
l. Textile kits (number)	1	17	18
m. Hygienic supplies (cases)	12	0	12
n. Cigarettes (pks)	250	0	250
o. Blankets	32	1,303	1,335
p. Garden kits (number)	2	0	2
q. Sand/Gravel (cubic meters)	101	0	101
r. Plywood (sheets)	71	0	71
s. Paint (gallon)	93	0	93
t. Toys (number)	15,020	0	15,020
u. Roto-tillers	1	0	1
v. Salad oil (gallons)	654	0	654
w. Screen wire (rolls)	1	0	1
x. Fencing (rolls)	4	0	4
y. Firewood (truck loads)	17	0	17
z. Sewing machines	2	0	2
aa. Personal kits	470	0	470

	USN	VNN	TOTAL
ab. Toothpaste (tubes)	120	1,499	1,619
ac. Wheat (sacks)	25	0	25
ad. Baby food (cases)	20	0	20
ae. Candy	208	0	208
af. 55 gallon drums (number)	114	0	114
ag. Newspapers	11,075	6,975	18,050
ah. Magazines	300	9,600	9,900
5. Educational efforts:			
a. English classes/attendance	157/3,452	0	157/3,452
b. Vocational training (daily)/ attendance	4/103	0	4/103
6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:			
a. Orphanages	5,600	0	5,600
b. Religious needs	12,000	0	12,000
c. Schools	26,500	0	26,500
d. Solatia	3,000	0	3,000

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy was 16,291 at the end of February. The figure represented an increase of 69 over January's total and brought the personnel strength to 215 over the authorized allowance of 16,076.

The number of personnel discharged as deserters decreased by 19 to a total of 43 in February. However, the number of unauthorized absences was 451 or twice as many as January's total. The sharp rise in the number of personnel absent without leave was attributed to the Tet holiday season.

At the Naval Academy in Nha Trang, seven students of Class 16 were set back to Class 17 because of poor scholarship. Class 16 is now composed of 129 students and is tentatively scheduled to be graduated on 3 July 1967.

The Naval Advanced Training Center in Saigon has been training pre-commissioning crews for the patrol motor gunboats scheduled to become operational in the Vietnamese Navy. This training program, which was begun on 30 January, includes gunnery, seamanship and navigation training aboard afloat units.

Fleet Command

In February, the Fleet Command maintained 11 patrol ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam in addition to assigning four ships to river patrols and one ship to convoy escort duties

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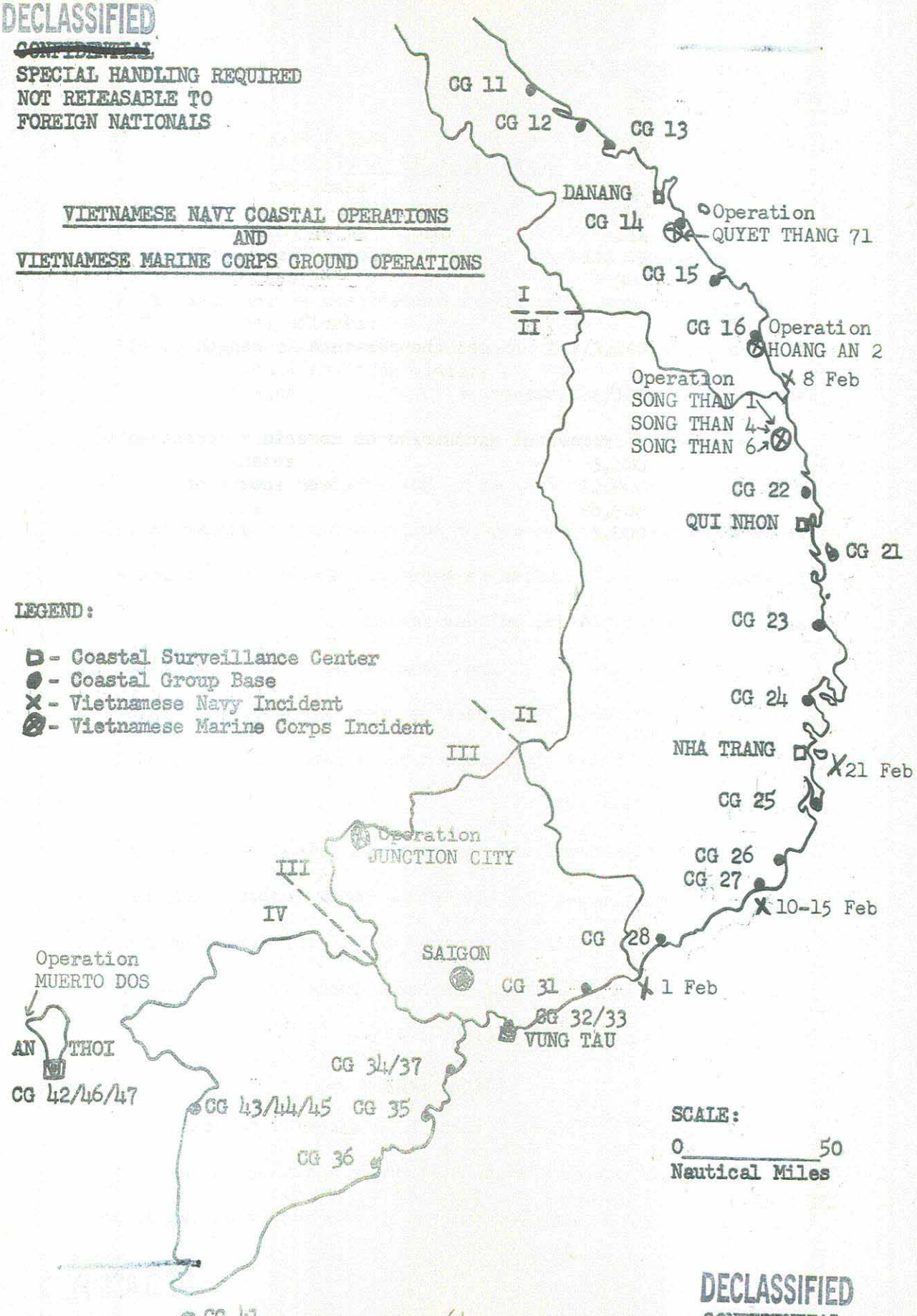
VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS AND VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS



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on the Mekong. Twenty-nine gunfire support missions were fired by Fleet Command ships, an increase of 20 over January's total, and 279 junks were searched.

Patrol craft (PCs and PCEs) conducted coastal patrols in the First, Second and Fourth Naval Zones and fired six gunfire support missions. On 8 February, PCE 8 and units of Coastal Group 16 supported U.S. Marine Corps elements in an operation near Duc Pho in Quang Ngai province. From 10 to 15 February, PCE 12 supported a U.S. Army operation 25 miles southwest of Phan Rang in Ninh Thuan province. The last PCE operation of the month occurred on 21 February when PCE 12 apprehended a junk carrying unmanifested cargo 22 miles northeast of the Coastal Group 25 base in Khanh Hoa province. The cargo included 11 motor bikes and a quantity of medicine and cloth. The junk was released to Coastal Group 25 personnel for delivery to Vietnamese government customs officials in Nha Trang.

Gunboats (PGMs) were utilized for coastal patrols and for river patrols in the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ), firing five gunfire support missions during the month. At 1430 on the first day of February, PGM 611 reported an engineering casualty 8 miles southeast of Mui Dinh in Ninh Thuan province. USS PLUCK (MSO 464) assisted the disabled ship by towing her to Cam Ranh Bay.

Support landing ships (LSSLs and LSILs) participated in patrol, gunfire support and convoy escort services in the Third

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Naval Zone, the RSSZ, and the Fourth Riverine Area. These ships fired 18 gunfire support missions. At 1550 on 23 February, LSSL 231 fired 400 40-mm. rounds, five 3-inch rounds and two rounds of 81-mm. mortar fire into the southern bank of the Bassac River 30 miles southeast of Can Tho, destroying two Viet Cong bunkers.

Minesweepers (MSCs) were deployed on coastal patrol in the First Naval Zone while MLMSs continued daily sweep operations on the Saigon, Nha Be and Long Tau rivers.

A total of 22 logistic missions lifted 2,075 tons of cargo and 4,140 personnel during the month. Tank landing ships (LSTs) moved 1,090 tons of cargo and 455 personnel. Medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 640 tons and 2,485 troops while utility landing craft (LCUs) transported 345 tons of cargo and 1,200 troops.

Vietnamese UDT(LDNN) personnel continued their nightly harbor defense operations in the Saigon port area. On 17 February, six LDNN personnel and their U.S. Navy advisors searched for MSB 45 which had been mined and sunk 15 miles downstream from Nha Be in the Long Tau channel two days earlier. The submerged minesweeper was found and, after it was determined that MSB 45 was not salvageable, the hull was destroyed by explosives to prevent a possible shipping hazard. On 21 February, six LDNN personnel began training exercises with U.S. Navy SEALs at Nha Be.

Coastal Groups

Of the 261 junks available each day for patrol operations,

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a daily average of 131 was utilized throughout February. The junk force continued its anti-infiltration patrols throughout the truce period; the number of operating units in the Fourth Naval Zone was increased from 42 to 52 during the Tet holidays. However, because of the adverse effect of the Northeast Monsoon in the First, Second and Third Naval Zones, the total number of junks searched by coastal units was 14,588, a decrease of 1,554 from last month's effort.

During Operation QUYET THANG 71, which was conducted on 16 and 17 February by Quand Tin sector forces and Coastal Group 14 units nine miles southwest of Hoi An in Quang Nam province, one Viet Cong was killed and eight suspects were detained. A number of defensive works and 11 mines were destroyed in the action.

Popular Forces from Tu Hien village and Coastal Group 16 teamed up to conduct Operation HOANG ANH 2 on 17 February just northwest of Co Lay in Quang Ngai province. Six Viet Cong suspects were detained.

At 2010 on 22 February, the Viet Cong shelled the Coastal Group 14 Cua Dai base with ten rounds of 82-mm. mortar fire; LSSL 230 came to the support of the camp. The casualties numbered seven men wounded who were evacuated to Danang after the attack.

On 23 February, the Viet Cong ambushed personnel of Coastal Group 26. One Vietnamese sailor was killed in the attack.

Coastal Group 26 personnel captured five Viet Cong and two

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junks during a search operation in Tu Nham village in Phu Yen province on 26 February.

Coastal Group 32 units and Phuoc Tuy sector forces conducted Operation CHU THANG 8 on 12 February and were engaged in a fire fight at the southern foot of Chau Vien mountain in Phuoc Tuy province. Neither friendly forces nor Viet Cong sustained any personnel casualties but Viet Cong defensive works were destroyed.

One Russian rifle, five bayonets and one Viet Cong flag were captured by Coastal Group 35 personnel and Vinh Binh sector forces during a search operation six miles east of Hung My in Vinh Binh province on 26 February.

In the Gulf of Thailand, along the Cai Lon River in Kien Giang province, units of Coastal Groups and Regional Force/Popular Force (RF/PF) troops destroyed numerous Viet Cong shelters in a search operation on 1 February.

Coastal Groups 42 and 46 debarked 240 troops in Operation MUERTO DOS which swept the western tip of Phu Quoc Island seven miles northwest of Cua Can village. Thirteen Viet Cong were killed and one suspect was detained. A number of documents and 22 weapons were captured. The action occurred between 3 and 5 February.

River Assault Groups

A total of 113 River Assault Group (RAG) craft, of the 155 available, was the daily average utilized for combat operations, escort, river patrol, and static defense operations during

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February. Twenty one RAG operations were conducted in the RSSZ and eight operations in the Fourth Riverine Area.

The Fourth Riverine Area commander and the commanding officers of RAGs 21 and 25 continued to be enthusiastic about the training program for the personnel of the U.S. Riverine Assault Force (TF 117). Approximately 140 U.S. Navy personnel have participated in the RAG training program which will prepare them for U.S. river assault operations in the Mekong Delta.

Twenty of the 21 RAG operations in the RSSZ involved support of RF/PF companies assigned to the RSSZ area and Operation FAIRFAX. The results of the combined operations were the capture of the following items: one "claymore" mine, 23 grenades, five 57-mm. rounds, 180 meters of electric wire, and one junk. Also, several trench systems were destroyed.

Fifteen craft of RAGs 22, 26 and 28 were engaged in Operation RUNG SAT 16/67, in an area adjacent to Operation FAIRFAX units, from 3 to 8 February. Five Viet Cong were killed and two enemy camps were destroyed during the operation.

At 1500 on 5 February, two FOMs and one commandament of RAG 24 enroute to Saigon noted a large sampan carrying 15 men taking evasive maneuvers toward the east bank of the Rach Gat River in Go Cong province. The lead FOM and the sampan exchanged automatic weapons fire, and 25 Viet Cong were seen carrying BAR-type weapons along the bank. An air strike was requested and after the

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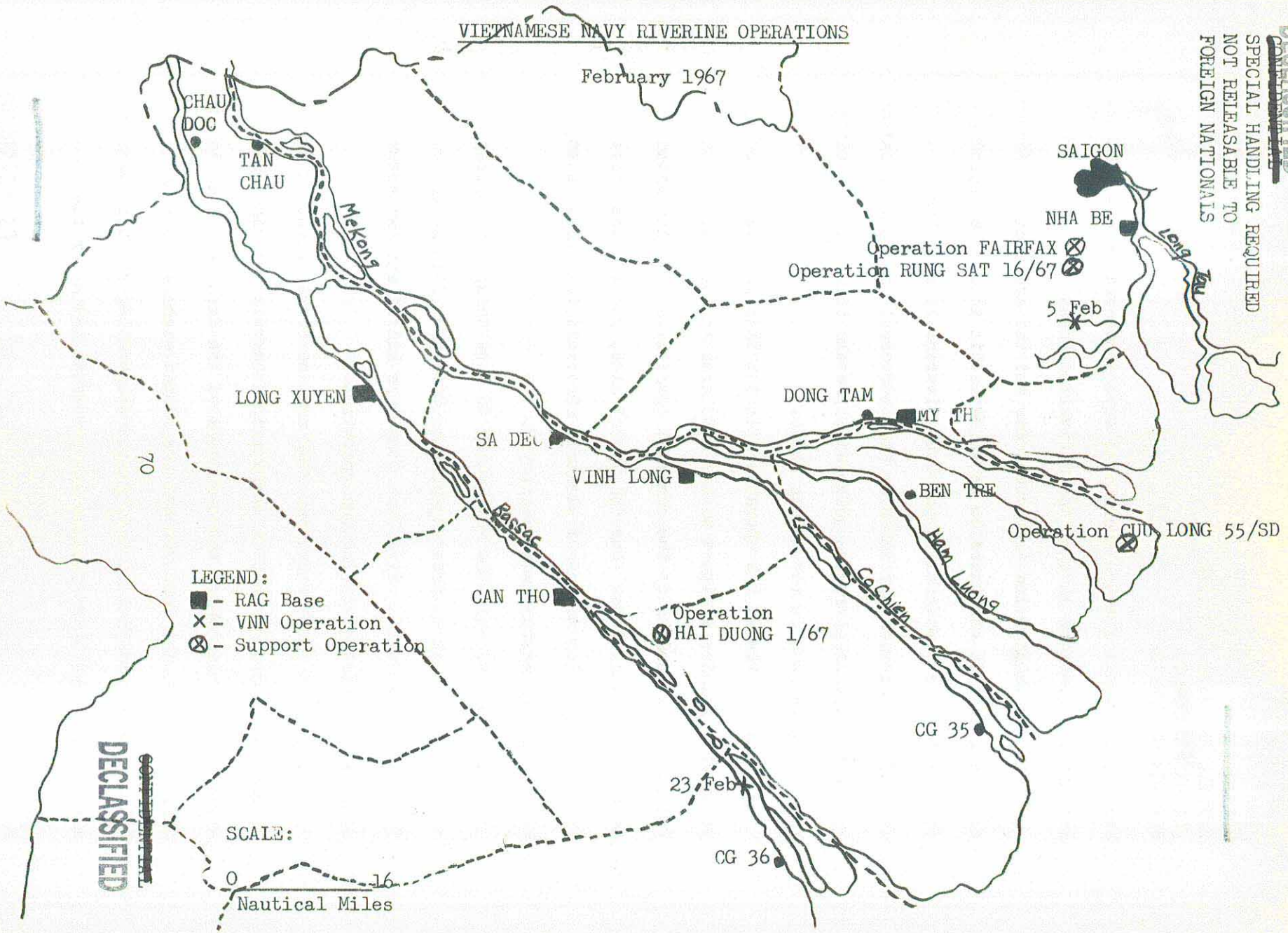
VIETNAMESE NAVY RIVERINE OPERATIONS

February 1967



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helicopter fire team had suppressed the hostile fire the RAG sailors landed and searched the tree line and huts in the area. Upon questioning the local inhabitants, the RAG commander ascertained that the Viet Cong were buying supplies and had attempted the daylight movement because it would be unexpected. By 1825, the landing party had returned to the boats with captured weapons that included one .30 caliber Chinese Communist (CHICOM) automatic rifle, one bolt-action CHICOM rifle, one Winchester 7.62-mm. rifle, three CHICOM grenades, one diesel-powered sampan, and five drums of diesel fuel. At 1905, when the boats began to back into the river, enemy fire was again received. The commandament beached and returned the fire with 20-mm. cannon and 81-mm. mortar rounds. At 1920, after the hostile fire had been suppressed, the RAG units continued the transit to Saigon without further incident.

In the Forth Riverine Area, two major operations were conducted. The first, Operation HAI DUONG 1/67 produced few results while the second, Operation CUU LONG 55/SD, accounted for an impressive haul of Viet Cong booty.

Operation HAI DUONG, which was conducted on 10, 11 and 12 February in the Bassac River six miles southeast of Tra On in Vinh Binh province, was designed to prevent reported Viet Cong infiltration. Eleven river craft of RAGs 25 and 29, two RF companies, and one Vietnamese Army (ARVN) battalion, supported by LSSL 229, were the participating forces of the operation in which

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no contact with the enemy was established.

Operation CUU LONG 55/SD, a week-long action which began on 20 February, was conducted in the Binh Dai area of Kien Hoa province. Participating in the action were four ARVN battalions, two Ranger battalions and one Regional Force battalion. Sixteen river craft of RAGs 21, 27 and 33 and LCUs 534, 537 and 538 provided troop lift, logistical support and a blocking force for the ground troops.

Friendly casualties, which were limited to the ground forces, were five killed and 16 wounded. Sixty Viet Cong were killed with an additional 40 probably killed; sixty-one suspects were detained.

The following equipment and facilities were either captured or destroyed:

Equipment Captured:

75-mm. pack howitzers	8
60-mm. mortars	4
Anti-air machine guns	1
Individual weapons	334
Tons of assorted ammunition and explosives	40
Kilos of documents	50
Radios	1
Vises	1
Sewing machines	2
Kilos of type for printing presses	30
Paper cutters	1
Motors for printing press	1
Sampan motors	2
Outboard motors	1

Supplies and Facilities Destroyed:

Barges	8

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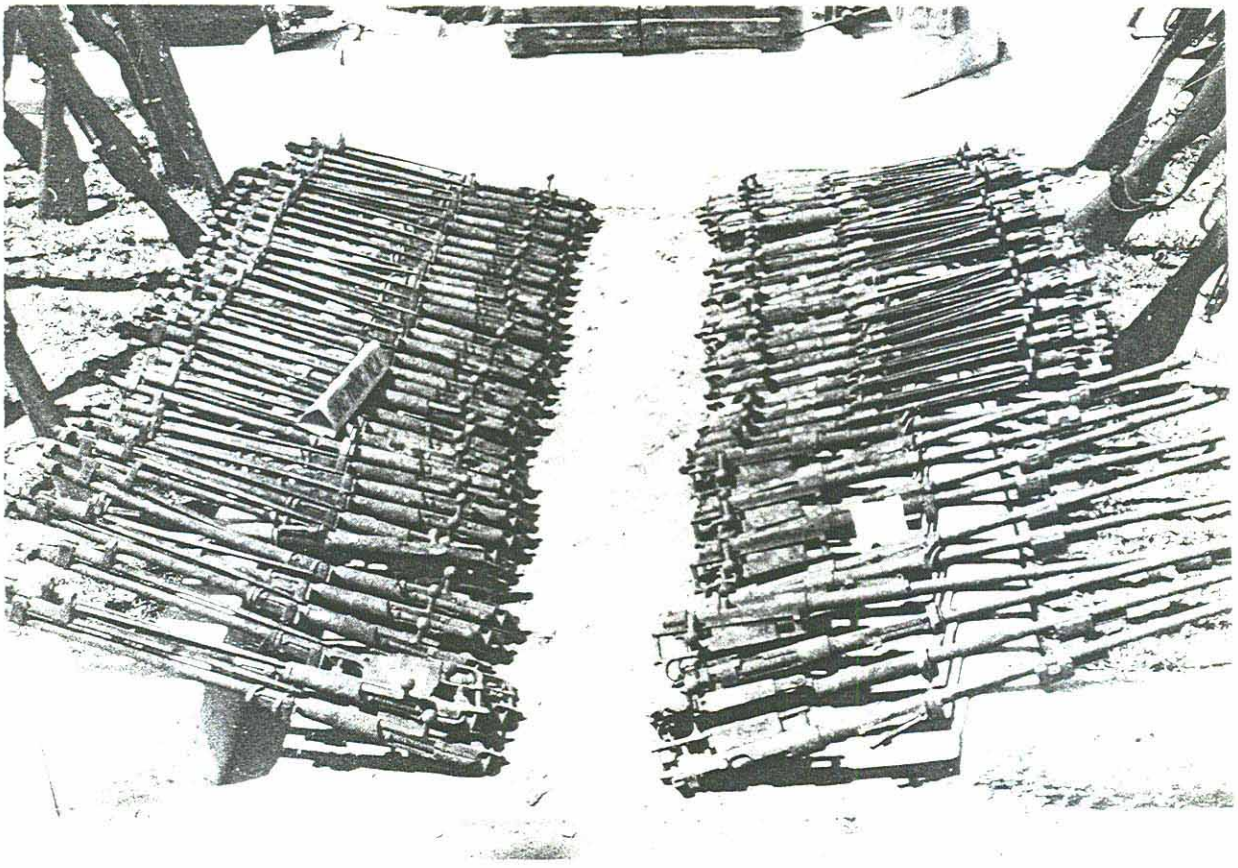

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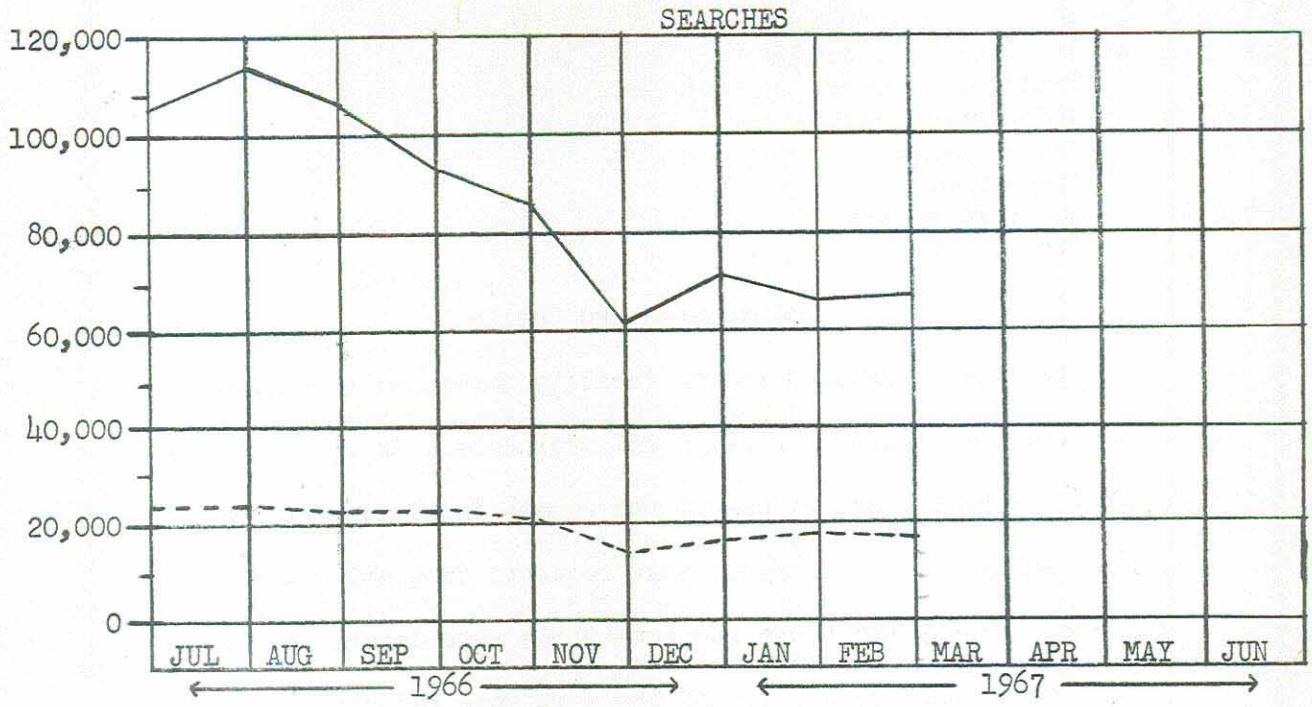
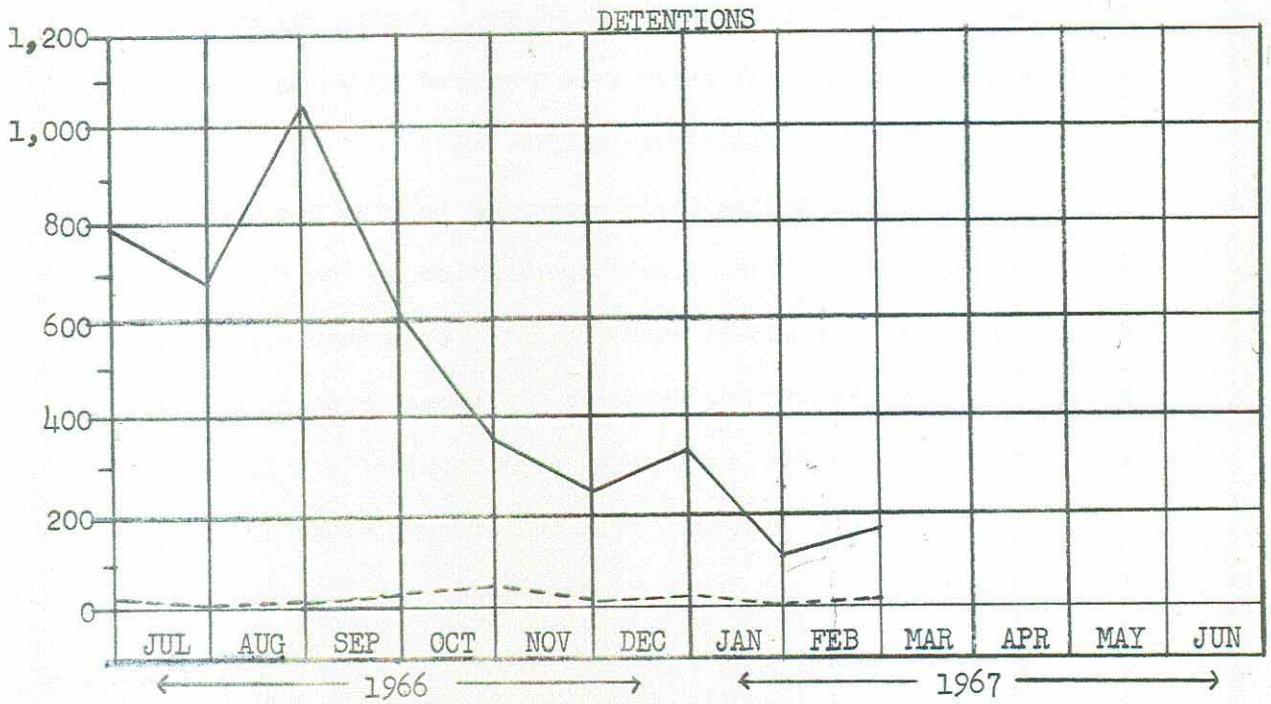
SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS BY VIETNAMESE NAVY
SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES





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Ammunition storage dumps	1
Ammunition factories	2
Training centers	1
Information booths	3
Dispensaries	1
Typewriters	1
Outboard motors	1
Tons of rice	2

Maintenance and Supply

The lack of skilled repair facility personnel continued to delay the completion of repairs and overhauls. In an effort to insure the best possible use of the repair facilities at the Saigon shipyard, all shipyard work requests from ships were screened closely and those requests which were determined to be within the repair capability of the ship were rejected. In another effort to alleviate the repair problem, enlisted advisors were assigned to three Fleet Command ships and were assisting with shipboard repair and maintenance problems. During the month, 19 major casualties on eight ships were repaired by ships' personnel.

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

The Vietnamese Marine Corps continued to give evidence that it was a highly effective combat organization as the brigade's five operational battalions were committed to combat operations 77 per cent of the time during February. Although contact with the enemy was scattered and light, the Corps attained a kill ratio of 1:13.7, a substantial increase over the January ratio of 1:2.5.

Brigade Force Alpha was not operational until 20 February

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when the force headquarters engaged in planning for Operation JUNCTION CITY. This search and destroy operation was conducted as a joint operation with the U.S. Army 25th Infantry Division northwest of Tay Ninh city in Tay Ninh province. After two days of negative contact with the enemy, a number of weapons and other articles were seized after light contact with the Viet Cong. One Vietnamese Marine was wounded in an action that netted one carbine, one Browning automatic rifle, one Czechoslovakian rifle, one light machine gun, 2,000 reams of paper and 30 cans of ink. On 28 February, one Vietnamese Marine battalion engaged an enemy platoon resulting in the death of one Marine and injuries to two others. One Viet Cong was killed. Captured were five anti-tank mines, one shotgun, one "claymore" mine, 30 hand grenades, 1,600 kilograms (3,600 lbs.) of rice and two bicycles.

Brigade Force Alpha continued participating in Operation JUNCTION CITY through the end of the month. On the last day of the month the force discovered and attacked a battalion-sized enemy base camp, killing one Viet Cong as the enemy fled before the attacking Marines.

Brigade Force Bravo, composed of a headquarters, the Third and Fourth Marine Battalions and Battery C of the Marine Artillery Battalion continued to operate in the Bong Son/Duong Lieu area in Binh Dinh province, under the operational control of the 22nd ARVN Division. From 2 to 6 February, the brigade force was committed

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to a search and destroy and road security operation, named Operation SONG THAN 1, in the Duong Lieu area. This operation resulted in negative contact with enemy forces.

Early on 7 February, the brigade force conducted a sweep north of Bong Son which resulted in only light enemy contact. No friendly casualties were sustained while three Viet Cong and two Chinese Communist hand grenades were captured.

From 14 to 22 February, Brigade Force Bravo, after having been augmented by the Second Marine Battalion, was committed to Operation PERSHING/SONG THANH 4, a search and destroy operation near Bong Son. This successful operation resulted in 54 Viet Cong killed, 51 Viet Cong captured and 90 suspects detained. Three Vietnamese Marines were killed and 27 were wounded. The following material and equipment were captured:

Grenades	60
Mauser rifles	3
M-1 Rifles	1
K-50 machine guns	3
M-79 grenade launchers	1
Sten guns	1
Mines	13
Compasses	1
Satchels containing documents	3
Rounds of 9-mm. ammunition	200
Tons of rice	3

On 26 February, Brigade Force Bravo conducted another search and destroy operation (SONG THANH 6) near Bong Son. During the action, one Vietnamese Marine was killed and six Viet Cong suspects were detained.

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The First Vietnamese Marine Battalion, with Battery "A" of the Artillery Battalion armed with 75-mm. pack howitzers, was moved into the Rung Sat Special Zone on the night of 2 February. The battalion, which had been moved into the RSSZ by Vietnamese Navy amphibious landing craft and RAG 22 craft, was assigned search and destroy and river security missions under the operational control of the Vietnamese commander of the RSSZ. On 5 February, one Viet Cong was killed and one K-50 machine gun was captured. On 8 February the battalion returned to its base camp at Thu Duc. During the period the First Battalion operated in the RSSZ, no hostile incidents against shipping or friendly operations occurred.

The Sixth Vietnamese Marine Battalion continued its training program at the Thu Duc base camp during February in preparation for its period of advanced training at the National Training Center. The program emphasized platoon and company level tactical exercises including attack, ambush and counter-ambush actions. On 16 February, tactical marches were conducted by all rifle companies. Psychological warfare instruction was included in the training schedule on 17 February with emphasis on techniques and demonstrations.

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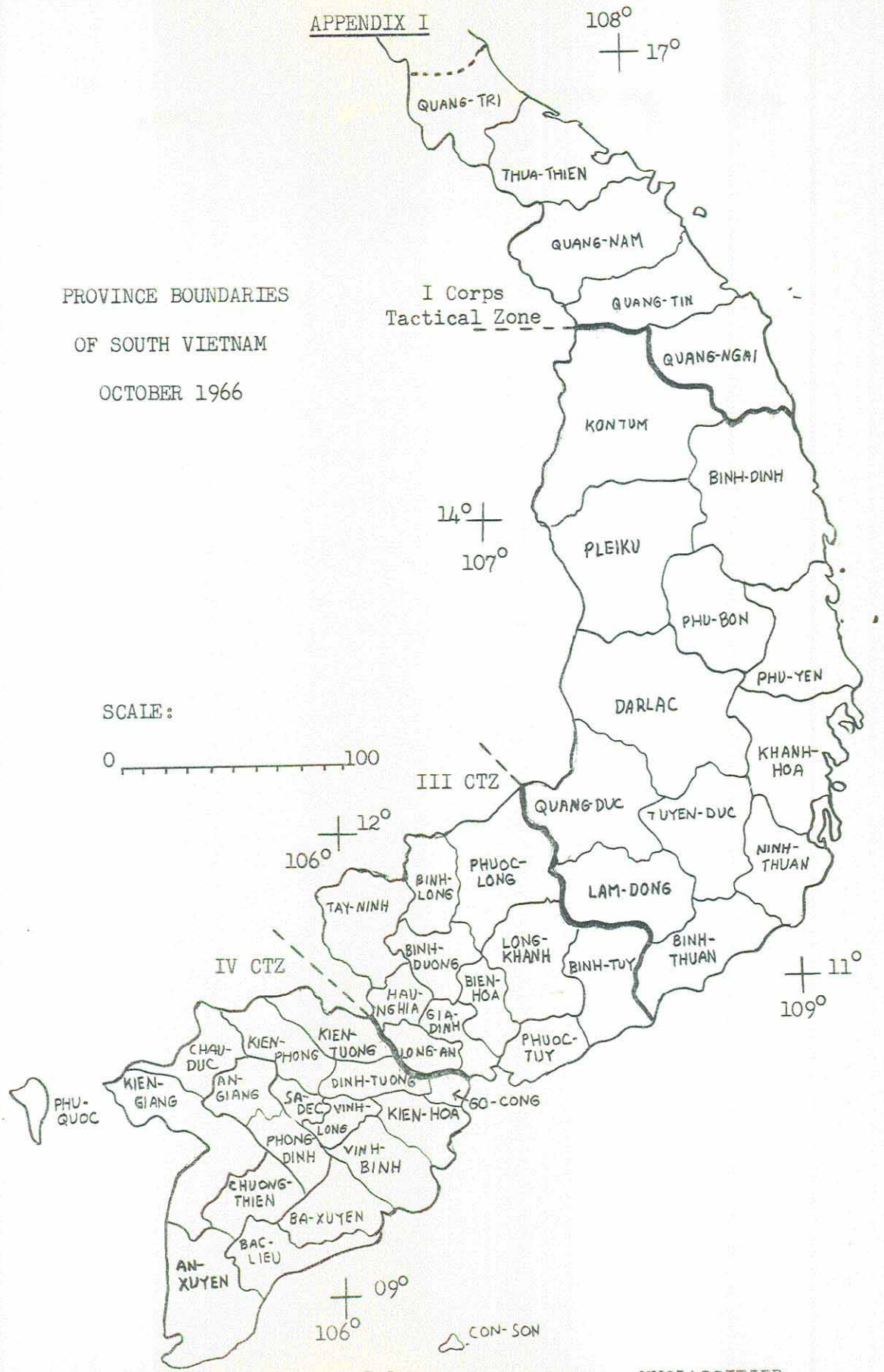
APPENDIX I



PROVINCE BOUNDARIES

OF SOUTH VIETNAM

OCTOBER 1966

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APPENDIX II

RESUME OF MINING ATTEMPTS IN THE LONG TAU CHANNEL SINCE DECEMBER 1965

The first known Viet Cong attempt to interdict shipping in the Long Tau River occurred on 2 December 1965, when the enemy attempted to mine the Danish merchantman, KINA. Since that time, there have been eighteen mining attempts directed against merchant ships or minesweepers in the main channel.

Most of the attempts have been unsuccessful. Two merchant ships, two U.S. Navy minesweeping boats (MSBs), and two Vietnamese Navy minesweeping motor launches (MLMSs) have been sunk by mines; one MSB has been damaged.

Almost all of the mines have been controlled types, fired electrically from concealed positions on the river banks. Three instances of timed-mines, attached to anchor chains, have been recorded, all on 26 May 1966 in the Nha Be anchorage. One of the timed-mines sank the SS EASTERN MARINER, another exploded near the SS MILOS DEL MAR, and a third was recovered intact from the anchor chain of the SS OUR LADY OF PEACE.

Mines have been swept from the channel on several occasions. All but one of these have been controlled types, either spherical or top-shaped. The exception was a Russian-type contact mine discovered on 31 December 1966.

Intelligence indicates that in the spring or summer of 1966, the Viet Cong established a separate command under a senior colonel with the primary mission of attacking shipping in the Long Tau

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channel. The organization, known as T-10, is reported to have four composite companies of infantry, heavy weapons, engineer and reconnaissance elements. Recent intelligence reports have indicated the addition of an air defense company to the T-10 structure.

To protect shipping, U.S. Navy and Vietnamese Navy (VNN) craft sweep the channel daily. U.S. minesweepers commence sweep operations from their base at Nha Be early in the morning, and conduct a complete sweep of the channel before merchant shipping begins to proceed. Oropesa ("O-type") and chain drag sweeps are employed in random sweep patterns, and the sweeping continues until late afternoon. Vietnamese motor launch minesweepers, meanwhile, conduct daily chain drag sweeps from Saigon to Vung Tau.

The minesweepers of both Navies have been the principal targets of the Viet Cong mines. In addition, the minesweepers have been struck by recoilless rifle fire, rockets and heavy automatic weapons fire. To date, seven MSB crewmen, one U.S. advisor to the VNN and one Vietnamese sailor have been killed in action; thirty-nine MSB crewmen, one U.S. advisor and 17 Vietnamese sailors have been wounded.

Chronology of Mining Attempts

2 December 1965 - SS KINA; mine explosion close aboard; no damage; mile 22.*

17 March 1966 - VNN LST 581; mine explosion; no damage; mile 29.

21 March - Mine explosion close aboard MIMS; no damage; mile 29.

* Location of incident; distance measured from Saigon.

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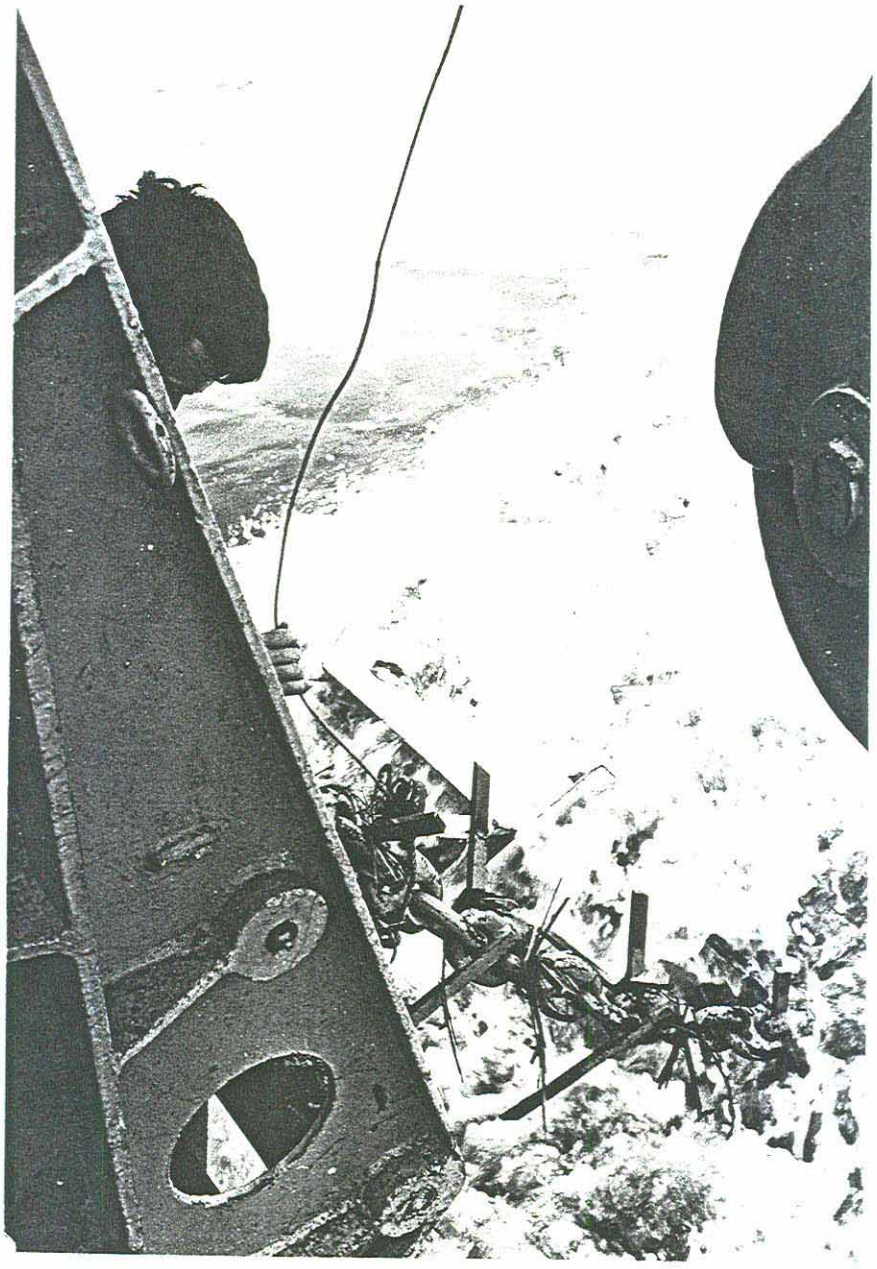

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26 May	- SS EASTERN MARINER sunk at Nha Be anchorage; attempts on two other ships fail; mile 12.
23 August	- SS BATON ROUGE VICTORY mined; ship beaches; floats clear one week later; mile 28.5.
28 August	- MLMS 156 mined and sunk; mile 25.
29 August	- MSB 54 suffers major damage from two mine explosions close aboard; mile 19.
5 September	- MLMS; mine explosion; no damage; mile 18.5.
8 September	- MSB 49; mine explosion; no damage; mile 23.
9 September	- Mine explosion astern merchant ship; no damage; mile 24.5.
6 October	- Mine explosion 100 yards astern MLMS; no damage.
1 November	- MSB 54 mined and sunk; mile 14.
11 January 1967	- Mine explosion astern MSB 32; no damage; mile 23.
17 January	- Mine explosion astern MLMS; no damage; mile 33.5.
	- Mine explosion astern PBR; no damage; mile 33.
25 January	- MLMS 161 sunk by mine; mile 32.5.
26 January	- Mine explosion astern MSB 49; mile 27.5.
15 February	- MSB 45 sunk by mine; mile 33.5.

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APPENDIX III

MILITARY PROVINCIAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In February, the six U.S. Navy medical teams assigned to the Military Provincial Health Assistance Program (MILPHAP) continued their efforts toward helping the Vietnamese improve provincial hospital care and rural medical aid. The teams are currently located as follows: Team 1 is in Quang Tri; Teams 2 and 3 are in Quang Nam and Quang Tin, respectively; Team 4 is in Lam Dong; Team 5 is in Kien Phong; and Team 6 is in Ba Xuyen. Often the work of some of the teams includes more than one province.

Team 1 has been in country since early 1966; the other teams arrived in mid-1966. Each team is now composed of three doctors, a Medical Service officer and 15 hospital corpsmen.

The MILPHAP is an advisory program conducted under the auspices of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The program's personnel are assigned to the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam; the U.S. Navy participants are attached to the Naval Support Activity, Saigon for administrative purposes. In concept MILPHAP envisions a medical assistance team in each of South Vietnam's 40-odd provinces, with the advisory effort concentrated at the Province Hospital level. The U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force each have six teams in the field. The remaining provinces are assisted by medical teams representing other Free World Forces.

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The efforts of each U.S. Navy team have been devoted almost exclusively to helping improve existing facilities and the administrative and medical functions of the province hospital. The teams have encountered numerous problems and obstacles. Generally, the hospitals have been found to be run-down, unsanitary, overcrowded and lacking adequate laboratory, X-ray or operating room facilities. Under-staffing has been prevalent and the procurement of supplies extremely difficult. Sometimes the hospital director (called the Medecin Chef) has not been a doctor.

Despite the untoward conditions, there is increasing evidence that the Navy teams have made significant progress. At the Quang Tin Provincial Hospital in Tam Ky, Team 3's professional assistance has helped bring about a marked decrease in the hospital's mortality and morbidity rate, particularly in the pediatric ward. In addition, the team's guidance, instruction and training has had a progressive, productive affect on the hospital staff.

In February, combat casualties admitted to the Lam Dong Province Hospital were processed smoothly and efficiently by the staff, assisted by Navy Team 4. The professional handling was an outgrowth of a casualty plan proposed by the team in November 1966 and implemented by the Province Chief. On 24-25 February, 113 U.S. and Vietnamese casualties were treated expeditiously by a joint MILPHAP-ARVN-hospital staff effort.

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Many of the provincial hospitals are beginning to display similar progress toward creating the conditions necessary for consistent, professional care. As the hospitals assume an independent stature in the management of health problems, the MILPHAP teams will begin to render assistance at the district levels, with special emphasis on preventive medicine and diversified rural health programs.

Related to but not affiliated with MILPHAP is the work of the U.S. Navy Surgical Team, which has been located at Rach Gia in Kien Giang province since early 1965. The team's mission has been to teach and perform surgery at the Provincial Hospital; MILPHAP, on the other hand, has been concerned with the practice of general medicine.

At present the surgical team is composed of two doctors, three Navy nurses and one hospital corpsman. The team is augmented by two Public Health nurses and a U.S. civilian surgeon. The civilian surgeons are volunteers who rotate approximately every six weeks; they perform their services virtually without pay.

By and large, the basic mission of the surgical team has been served. Thus, during fiscal year 1968 the team will be disestablished and replaced by Navy MILPHAP Team 7.

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APPENDIX IV

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

In February there were 21 chaplains assigned to U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam. During the month, the chaplains traveled extensively by helicopter, jeep, boat and fixed-wing aircraft in ministering to naval forces stationed in the four tactical corps zones of South Vietnam, and aboard Navy ships operating in contiguous waters. As a group the chaplains logged nearly 50 hours of flying time during diverse transits.

In addition to conducting religious services, chaplains continued to participate actively in civic action projects and also performed a variety of collateral duties. The following tabulation is a statistical summary of the religious services conducted during February.

Religious Services:

a. Divine Services:

(1) U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Installations

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
No. of Services	124	98	222
Attendance	4227	833	5060
Communed	1330	484	1814

(2) Other Military Installations

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
No. of Services	64	34	98
Attendance	2409	479	2888
Communed	987	242	1229

(3) Civilian Churches

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
No. of Services	5	13	18
Attendance	985	102	1087
Communed	377	55	432

b. Religious services conducted by persons other than chaplains attached to NAVFORV:

Denomination	Chaplains		Civilian Clergy		Lay Leaders	
	No.	Attend.	No.	Attend.	No.	Attend.
Catholic	46	1894	4	65		
Protestant	45	826	4	36	4	10
Jewish	4	7				

c. Other religious services in which NAVFORV chaplains participated:

Type of Service	Attendance
Protestant Rally	125
Memorial Services (6)	421

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