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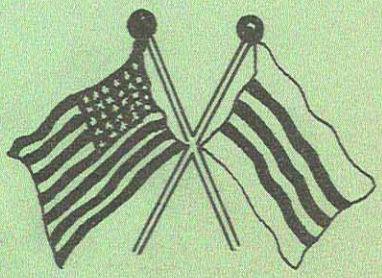

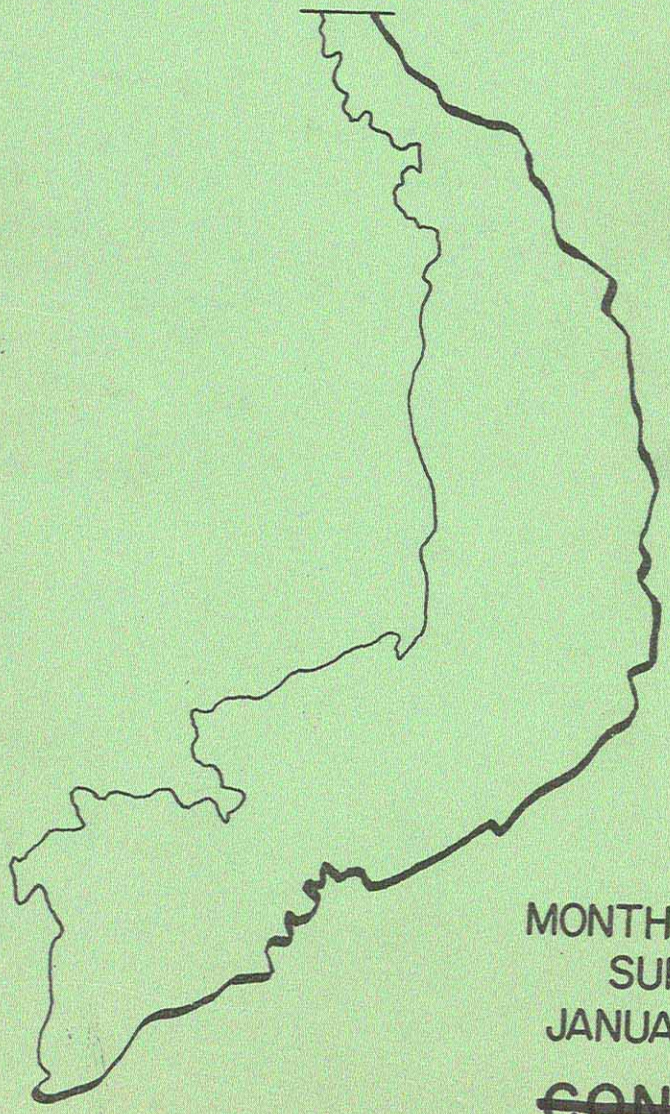

MONTHLY HISTORICAL
SUPPLEMENT
JANUARY 1967

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded. Beginning with the events of January 1967, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam will prepare two monthly historical reports: a summary, with limited distribution, which will present a concise review of the month's significant events; and a complete supplement which will present the events in greater detail and serve as a permanent chronicle.

H. M. Robinette

H. M. ROBINETTE
Flag Secretary

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JANUARY 1967

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
Foreword	ii
List of Charts/Maps/Graphs/Tables/Photographs	iv
Chronology of Significant Events	v
River Patrol Force	1
Rung Sat Special Zone River Patrol Group	2
Delta River Patrol Group	13
GAME WARDEN Support Ship Operations	24
Operation DECKHOUSE V	26
GAME WARDEN Statistical Summary	26
Coastal Surveillance Force	29
Steel-hulled Trawler Incident	29
Support of Ground Operations	31
Evasion Incidents	32
Gunfire Support Missions and Hostile Fire Incidents	34
Search and Rescue Operations	36
Harbor Defense (Operation STABLE DOOR)	37
MARKET TIME Units	39
MARKET TIME Statistical Summary	40
Riverine Assault Force	43
U. S. Naval Support Activity, Danang	45
U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon	51
Cargo Handling Battalion TWO	53
THIRD Naval Construction Brigade	55
Salvage Operations	57
Communications	61
Military Civic Action and Psychological Operations	63
Naval Advisory Group	69
Vietnamese Navy	69
Vietnamese Marine Corps	80

APPENDIX I Province Boundaries of South Vietnam
APPENDIX II Lessons Learned During Riverine Operations
APPENDIX III Administrative Changes to Coastal Surveillance Force and River Patrol Force
APPENDIX IV Religious Activities

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FOREWORD

In January, naval forces continued to frustrate enemy designs and movements amid indications that the enemy was desperately seeking a major victory prior to the start of the Vietnamese lunar New Year truce period. Viet Cong activity was particularly intense in the Rung Sat Special Zone, where firing incidents averaged more than one a day and attacks against minesweepers and merchant shipping threatened the main channel to Saigon.

To the south, MARKET TIME forces intercepted a steel-hulled trawler attempting to infiltrate supplies into the Delta, and GAME WARDEN forces broke up a number of river crossing attempts. Units of both forces provided sea and river blocking cover in support of the first combined U.S./Vietnamese amphibious landing in the Delta, DECKHOUSE V. Meanwhile, at Vung Tau, advance units of the newest member of the naval forces team, the Riverine Assault Force, began joint training maneuvers with elements of the U.S. Army NINTH Infantry Division.

To the north, the Naval Support Activity in Danang again set a new port record for processing cargo despite continued adverse weather. And, with typical resourcefulness, I Corps Seabees rebuilt in ten days 32 private homes destroyed by the crash of a commercial airliner into a heavily-populated area.

Psychological operations aimed at Viet Cong defection were intensified during January; special appeals were made stressing family reunion, as Vietnamese everywhere began to prepare for the

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lunar New Year season.

The posture of the Vietnamese Navy continued to improve under the leadership of the new Commander in Chief, Captain Tran Van CHON. The aggressive support provided by the River Assault Groups during Operation CEDAR FALLS, in the Iron Triangle area north of Saigon, reflected the growing professionalism of the Vietnamese Navy.

* * * * *

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LIST OF CHARTS/MAPS/GRAPHS/TABLES

		PAGE
1.	Rung Sat Special Zone Operations	3
2.	Rung Sat Special Zone River Patrol Group Organization	7
3.	Assault on Viet Cong Quartermaster Depot	11
4.	Delta River Patrol Group Operations	14
5.	GAME WARDEN Detections, Inspections, Boardings	27
6.	Coastal Surveillance Force Operations	30
7.	STABLE DOOR Detections, Inspections, Boardings	38
8.	MARKET TIME Detections, Inspections, Boardings	41
9.	Danang	46
10.	Cargo Processed at Danang	48
11.	Vietnamese Navy and Marine Corps Operations	70
12.	Vietnamese Navy Rung Sat Special Zone Operations	73
13.	Province Boundaries of South Vietnam	APPENDIX I

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS
(Limited Distribution)

1.	SEALs in the Rung Sat Special Zone	8A
2.	Captured Viet Cong Junk	10A
3.	Captured B-40 Rockets	12A
4.	JAMAICA BAY Rests on the Bottom	60A
5.	Lift Craft Right JAMAICA BAY	60B
6.	MSB-14 is Raised	60C
7.	Seabee Corpsman Holds MEDCAP Sick Call	64A

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CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 - PBRs interdict Viet Cong ammunition resupply junk in the Rung Sat Special Zone. Three Viet Cong killed. p. 9.

- PCF 71 intercepts a steel-hulled trawler. p. 29.

6 - Operation DECKHOUSE V begins. First combined U.S./Vietnamese amphibious landing in the Delta. p. 26.

7 - The first units of the new Riverine Assault Force arrive in country. p. 43.

8 - Vietnamese RAG units provide aggressive support during Operation CEDAR FALLS. p. 77.

9 - Dredge JAMAICA BAY mined by Viet Cong at Dong Tam. Salvage operations begin. p. 57.

11 - JENNINGS COUNTY, GAME WARDEN support ship, suffers a major casualty to her boat-handling equipment. p. 24.

15 - PBRs engage large force of Viet Cong. One U.S. sailor mortally wounded. Nine Viet Cong killed and three wounded. p. 15.

17 - The second GAME WARDEN support ship, HARNETT COUNTY, arrives in country. p. 25.

20 - PBRs, U.S. Army units, Vietnamese RAGs and Regional Force troops assault a Viet Cong quartermaster depot. Four Viet Cong killed; 40 more possibly killed. Large quantity of Viet Cong supplies captured and 30 suspects detained. p. 10.

23 - MSBs 16 and 32 ambushed in the Long Tau channel. Two U.S. sailors killed. Assisting Army helicopter crashes; entire crew lost. p. 5.

- Seabees build 32 private homes (destroyed by an airplane crash) in ten days. p. 55.

24 - PCF 18 gunfire and aircraft strike kill 15 Viet Cong and destroy three bunkers. p. 33.

25 - A Vietnamese minesweeper (MLMS-161) is sunk by a Viet Cong mine; U.S. advisor is lost. p. 72.

31 - Cargo Handling Battalion TWO completes 20 months of service in Vietnam. p. 53.

- NAVSUPPACT Danang again sets a record for processing cargo. p. 45.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE

In January, the efforts of the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ) River Patrol Group to keep the Saigon channel open dominated the activities of the River Patrol Force.

The tempo of enemy activity in the RSSZ, which increased markedly in December, became intense during January. Firing incidents throughout the RSSZ averaged more than one a day. In the main channel there were 12 separate incidents, including mining attempts and automatic weapons attacks, as the Viet Cong mounted aggressive assaults against merchant shipping, minesweepers and patrol craft.

In the Mekong Delta, GAME WARDEN units operating in the lower Bassac River interdicted Viet Cong crossing attempts on five different occasions. On 26 January a crossing attempt by at least 400 Viet Cong was broken up by the combined efforts of PBR patrols and an AC-47 "Puff the Magic Dragon" aircraft.

In the Mekong River, the combined efforts of PBRs, helicopter fire teams, fixed-wing aircraft and Vietnamese Army artillery disrupted a crossing attempt by main force Viet Cong units on 15 January. During the engagement, at least nine Viet Cong were killed, and a number of enemy craft and structures were destroyed.

On the night of 15 January, My Tho-based PBRs rescued 22 persons from the dredge, JAMAICA BAY, which was mined by the Viet Cong while conducting dredging operations for the new Delta base at Dong Tam.

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In the Co Chien River, GAME WARDEN patrols engaged in a series of fire fights with Viet Cong forces ranging from minor harassments to attempts to overrun friendly outposts along the river. In the Ham Luong, patrols were in almost daily contact with the enemy during the latter part of the month.

The GAME WARDEN support ship, USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST-846), suffered a serious casualty to her boat handling equipment in heavy weather off the mouth of the Co Chien River and had to return to Subic Bay for repairs. The second GAME WARDEN LST, USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST-821) arrived in country during the month and was stationed near Dong Tam to support patrols in the Ham Luong River.

In mid-January, GAME WARDEN units commenced Operation RAMPART, designed to block Viet Cong concentration in the Dong Tam area, where elements of the U.S. Army NINTH Infantry Division are now based. Patrol efforts were intensified in the lower rivers, and forces from the relatively quiet Long Xuyen area were deployed in the lower Bassac and Co Chien rivers to provide additional patrol density.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

Incidents in the Long Tau Channel

During the month of January, Viet Cong in the Rung Sat Special Zone waged an intensive campaign against shipping in the Long Tau River, the main channel connecting the South China Sea with Saigon. All together, there were 12 separate incidents, including three mining attempts and six automatic weapons attacks.

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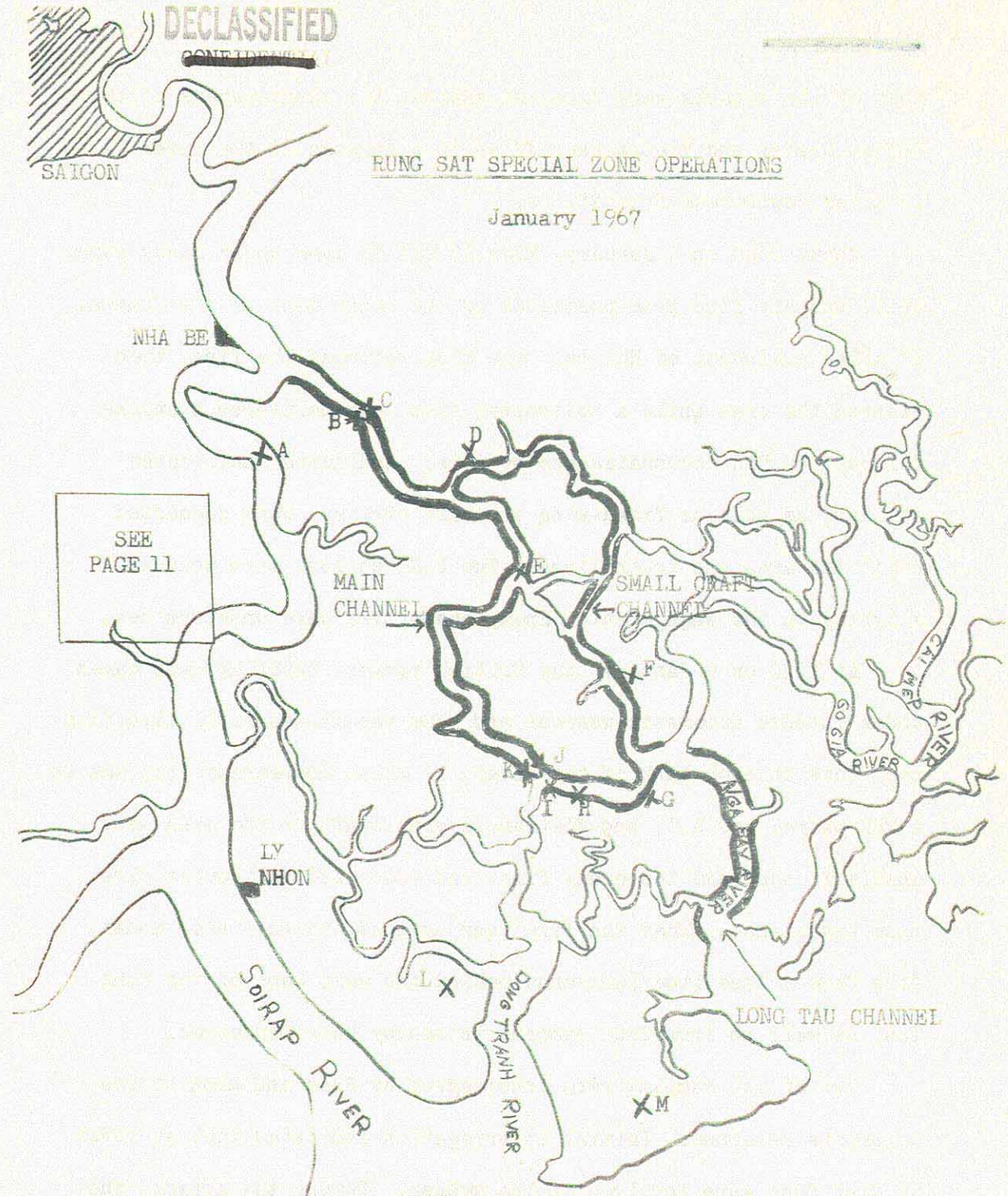

A - PBR - 1 Jan
B - MSB - 30 Jan
C - SEALs - 28 Jan
D - SEALs - 6 Jan
E - MSB - 10 Jan
F - HELOS - 30 Jan
G - MSBs - 4 Jan
H - MSB - 30 Jan
I - HAUSTRUM - 9 Jan
J - MSB - 26 Jan
K - MSB - 23 Jan
L - SEALs - 9 Jan
M - SEALs - 12 Jan

SCALE:

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Nautical Miles

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Most of the attacks were directed against the minesweepers of the United States and Vietnamese Navies in a stretch of the river 11 to 17 miles downstream from Nha Be.

About 0640 on 4 January, MSBs 16 and 52 came under heavy automatic weapons fire from positions on the south bank of the channel, 17 miles southeast of Nha Be. The MSBs returned the fire, then cleared the area while a helicopter fire team delivered a strike, followed by PBR reconnaissance by fire. Additional helicopter strikes, as well as fixed-wing aircraft strikes, were conducted until the area was neutralized. Two U.S. sailors were wounded slightly in the engagement. Enemy casualties were undetermined.

At 1120 on 9 January, the British tanker, HAUSTRUM, was taken under intense automatic weapons and 57mm recoilless rifle fire from positions on each bank of the river, 11 miles downstream from Nha Be. A PBR patrol and U.S. and Vietnamese mine craft in the area were unable to suppress the enemy fire, and requested helicopter fire team assistance. When the fire team arrived, it was taken under fire from a tree line 500 yards behind the west bank of the Long Tau, as well as from four sampans in nearby Rach Don creek.

Two of the sampans were intercepted by PBRs and nine of the occupants detained. Initial interrogation indicated that at least 35 Viet Cong were involved in the ambush. During the attack, the tanker's master was wounded and his quartermaster killed. A Vietnamese sailor and a U.S. advisor aboard a Vietnamese MLMS were wounded.

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On 10 January, MSB 16 swept a frustum-shaped, command-detonated mine in the channel, nine miles southeast of Nha Be. The mine was caught in the starboard wire of the Oropesa sweep gear and was removed and disarmed by Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel at Nha Be. The next day, two miles farther downstream, MSB 32 observed a medium-sized explosion close astern just after her drag chain had taken a heavy strain. The minesweeper and a PBR patrol conducted reconnaissance by fire in the area with negative results. Upon recovering her sweep gear, MSB 32 found the last two links of the drag chain badly bent.

On 23 January, two American sailors and the entire crew of an Army helicopter were killed during an hour-long fire fight near the mouth of the Song Dan Xay River, 16 miles southeast of Nha Be.

At 1610, MSBs 16 and 32 were struck by heavy automatic weapons fire from the west bank of the river. Two crewmen in MSB 16, Engineman First Class Donald G. PEDDICORD, USN, and Seaman Terry L. BRADEN, USN, were killed by the first burst.

Moments later, four PBRs and a helicopter fire team exchanged heavy fire with the enemy. About 1655, an Army helicopter fire team arrived to lend support. During a low level firing run, one of the Army helicopters was seen to explode under heavy ground fire and crash into the trees in flames. PBRs immediately lifted a Vietnamese Regional Force platoon to the area.

When the Regional Force troops reached the burning helicopter, they noted that the bodies of three of the crewmembers were still

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inside the helicopter. A fourth burned body was found near the wreckage. The troops were unable to remove the bodies because of the intense heat. At 2000, when the troops were withdrawn by River Assault Group 22 craft, the helicopter was still burning.

At 0755 on 26 January, MSBs 49 and 51 were ambushed from positions on both banks of the main channel, near the mouth of the Song Dan Xay. Simultaneously, a large underwater explosion was observed astern of the minesweepers. A helicopter fire team covered the minesweepers' withdrawal and subsequently neutralized the area.

On 30 January, MSBs were taken under heavy automatic weapons fire from the north bank of the Long Tau less than three miles downstream from Nha Be. The minesweepers returned the fire, and a PBR patrol in the area came to their assistance. Then an AC-47 struck both banks of the river, and 76 rounds of 105mm howitzer fire, adjusted by an L-19 spotter aircraft, were delivered into the ambush area and likely escape routes.

At 1220 the same day, MSBs 32 and 49 and a Vietnamese MIMS were ambushed by Viet Cong using automatic weapons, a 57mm recoilless rifle and small arms from the south bank of the channel near the mouth of Tac Song Tram creek. A PBR patrol in the area suppressed the fire, then came under fire from positions on the south bank about one mile to the west. A light helicopter fire team suppressed the fire, but was forced down when enemy fire struck the rotor blade. A fixed-wing air strike was then delivered to neutralize the enemy positions.

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Table 1. RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

TASK GROUP 116.2. — CDR V.C. WANDRES, USN.

Task Unit 116.2.1. River Patrol Unit E. — LCDR R.D. COOGAN, USN.[1]

Task Element 116.2.1.1. — LT T.S. TOLLEFSEN, USN.
River Sections 541/542 . . . . . 20 PBR.

Task Element 116.2.1.2. — LT H.H. MAUZ, USN.[1]
River Section 543 . . . . . 10 PBR.

Task Unit 116.2.9. Special Operations Unit. — CDR V.C. WANDRES, USN.

Task Element 116.2.9.1. — LT W.D. JONES, USN.[2]
Craft assigned . . . . . 2 RPC, 12 MSB.

Task Element 116.2.9.2. — LT J. MCGEE, USN.
SEALs assigned . . . . . Detachment G.

Task Element 116.2.9.3. — LCDR F. FOSTER, USN.
Helicopters assigned . . . . . 2 UH-1B.

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[1] LCDR COOGAN was wounded in action 20 January; LT MAUZ assumed his duties during the remainder of the month.

[2] LT JONES was wounded in action 20 January; LTJG H.A. LEVIEN, USNR, assumed his duties until relieved by LCDR C. MCRIGHT, USN, on 24 January.

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SEAL Operations

On 6 January, two SEAL fire teams were transported into the Rung Sat Special Zone by an LCM-3 for a reconnaissance mission. While making their way along a narrow stream near Rach Muoi creek, the SEALs found a partially completed Viet Cong base camp containing fresh tracks, two finished bunkers, a cooking area, and a recently cleared building site. The SEALs destroyed the camp and a small quantity of ammunition in the area, and withdrew without incident.

On 9 January, two SEAL fire teams discovered a Viet Cong base camp in the vicinity of Rach Cat Lai Be creek, 14 miles south of Nha Be. While investigating a rice cache in a hut, one of the teams heard signal shots and spotted at least four armed Viet Cong moving into defensive positions. The SEALs withdrew silently from the camp, and swam downstream toward their helicopter rendezvous point.

Along the way, the SEALs heard voices and noted a large Viet Cong base area with a quantity of rice, fishing tackle and ammunition. Subsequently, based on intelligence furnished by the SEALs, the Viet Cong facilities were destroyed by an air strike.

On 12 January, SEALs destroyed eight Viet Cong water wells near Than Thoi hamlet in the lower RSSZ. Four days later, SEAL fire teams destroyed a large quantity of Viet Cong rice discovered in a base camp area twelve miles south of Nha Be. Six bocby traps were found and disarmed, and then the entire area was destroyed by high explosives.

On 28 January, a SEAL ambush team killed two Viet Cong and

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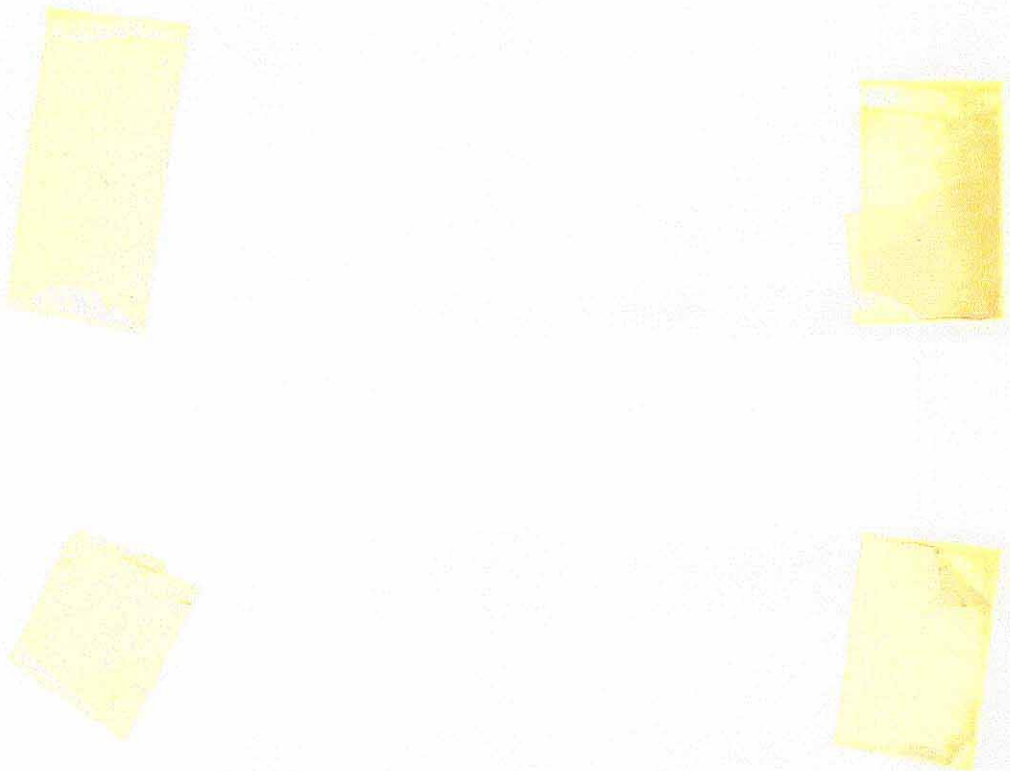

SEALS ALIGHT FROM AN LCM IN THE RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE

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damaged a large sampan in a stream near the east bank of the Long Tau. The team then withdrew to its LCM-3 rendezvous point without further incident.

Other Incidents in the Rung Sat Special Zone

In the first hour of the New Year, a Soirap River PBR patrol interdicted a Viet Cong ammunition resupply junk attempting to infiltrate the Rung Sat Special Zone. At 0050 on 1 January, PBRs 69 and 70, patrolling the river near the mouth of Rach Bong Gieng Lon creek, two and one-half miles south of Nha Be, made contact with the junk as it came out of the creek. PBR 69 promptly turned toward the junk while PBR 70 provided cover and blocking assistance.

The junk opened fire on PBR 69 at a range of about 75 yards. The PBR then raked the junk and silenced the enemy fire. Of the junk's five occupants three were killed, another fell into the water and was presumed killed and the fifth was captured. PBR 70 then went alongside the junk and began to transfer the large quantity of ammunition inside the junk.

There were no friendly casualties. The 30-foot junk contained one Chinese Communist Type-53 machine gun and nine drums of 7.62mm ammunition, 15 B-40 anti-tank rockets, 45 rounds of 75mm recoilless rifle ammunition, 500 grenades, 10,000 rounds of 7.92mm ammunition, 30,000 rounds of 9mm ball ammunition, and several hundred feet of safety fuse.

A document captured later in the month indicated that a Viet Cong platoon leader and two squad leaders of the enemy's B51 Rear

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Service Unit had been killed in the engagement, and that B51 had been forced to suspend operations.

On 20 January GAME WARDEN units joined U.S. Army forces and Vietnamese Regional Forces and River Assault Groups in a rapid reaction operation which dealt a serious blow to Viet Cong supply operations in an area just to the west of the Rung Sat Special Zone.

Interrogation of a captured Viet Cong had indicated that a large enemy quartermaster depot was situated at Long Hiep hamlet, about five miles south-southwest of Nha Be. Aerial reconnaissance subsequently confirmed the depot's location and on the evening of the 19th of January a planning conference was held with the staff of the Second Battalion, Third Regiment, of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. Naval forces were organized into two blocking units: the Western Unit (one U.S. RPC, one LCM-3 and six PBRs), which would proceed up the Rach Vang and Rach Ba Dang creeks; and the Eastern Unit (one U.S. RPC, one LCPL, four PBRs, and one VNN commandament and two monitors), which would proceed through the Kinh Lo canal.

At 1032 on the 20th, the blocking units began moving into the narrow waterways. At 1105, the RPC in the Western Unit detected a reinforced Viet Cong platoon moving out of the area and took the enemy under fire. Four Viet Cong were killed, and at least 40 others were observed to fall under the heavy fire. The RPC was then hit by a 57mm recoilless rifle round, wounding three U.S. officers and four enlisted men. By 1130 the enemy fire, which included machine gun fire and B-40 anti-tank rockets, was suppressed.

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VIET CONG JUNK CAPTURED IN THE SOIRAP RIVER BY PBRS ON 1 JANUARY 1967

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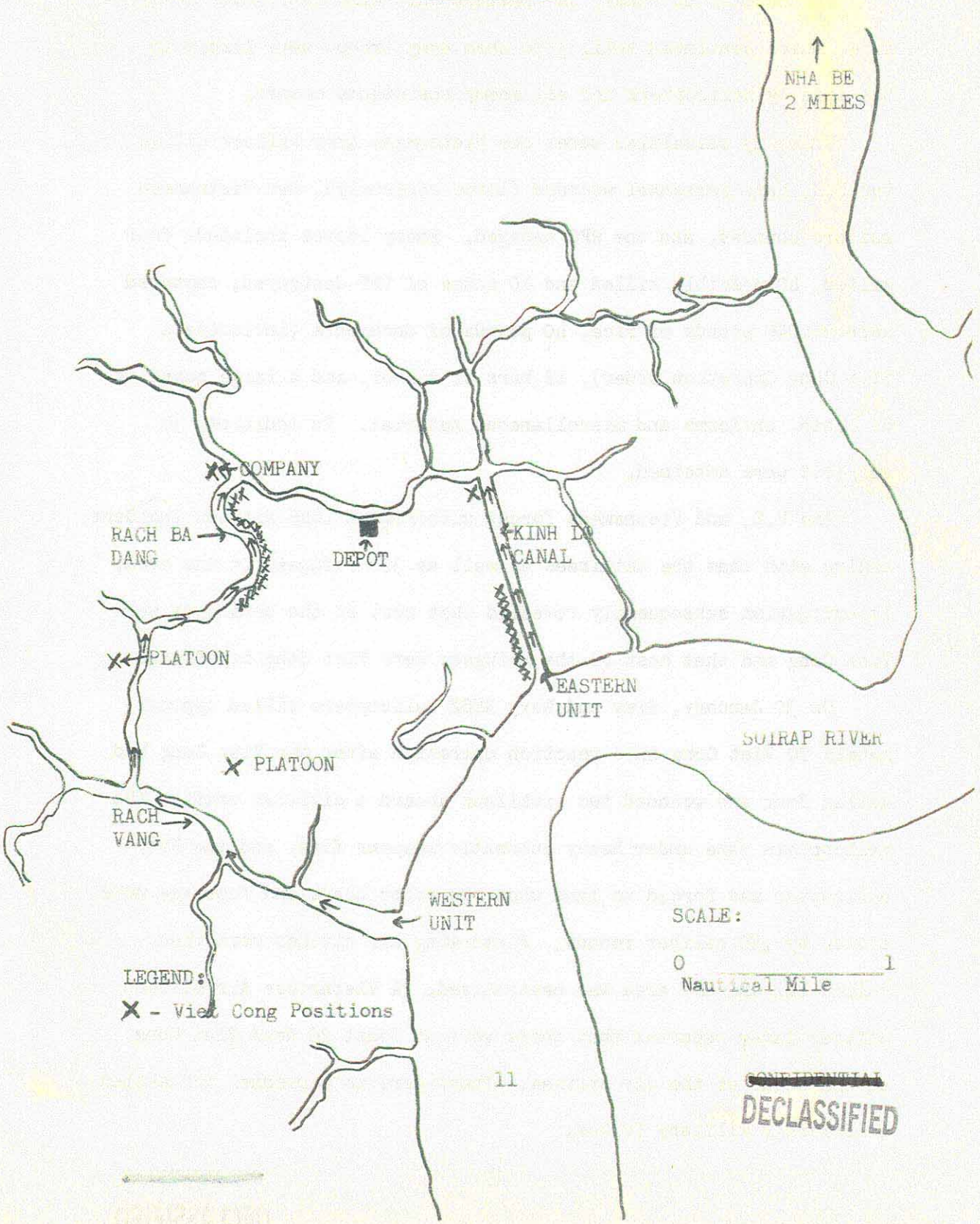
ASSAULT ON VIET CONG QUARTERMASTER DEPOT
20 JANUARY 1967



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In the Kinh Lo canal, the Eastern Unit also came under heavy fire, which continued until 1130 when army troops were landed in the area by helicopters and all enemy resistance ceased.

Friendly casualties were: one Vietnamese Army officer killed, ten U.S. Navy personnel wounded (three seriously), two Vietnamese sailors wounded, and one RPC damaged. Enemy losses included: four killed, 40 possibly killed and 10 cases of TNT destroyed; captured were 90,000 pounds of rice, 40 pounds of documents (including a Viet Cong Operation Order), 12 bars of silver, and a large quantity of cloth, uniforms and miscellaneous material. In addition, 30 suspects were detained.

The U.S. and Vietnamese forces withdrew at 1645 without incident, taking with them the detainees as well as 320 refugees in the area. Interrogation subsequently revealed that most of the detainees were Viet Cong and that most of the refugees were Viet Cong dependents.

On 30 January, Army and Navy RSSZ helicopters killed approximately 20 Viet Cong in a reaction operation after the Viet Cong had killed four and wounded two civilians aboard a civilian craft. The helicopters came under heavy automatic weapons fire, and the Navy helicopter was forced to land when the rotor blade and fuselage were struck by .50 caliber rounds. Fixed-wing air strikes were then called in, and the area was neutralized. A Vietnamese Air Liaison officer later reported that there were at least 20 dead Viet Cong at the scene of the air strikes. There were no personnel casualties to friendly military forces.

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F-40 ROCKETS ABOARD VIET CONG JUNK CAPTURED BY PBRS ON 1 JANUARY 1967

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DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

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

On the morning of 3 January, PBRs 109 and 110 were taken under fire while the patrol was pursuing an evading sampan near the south bank of the Mekong River, six miles west of My Tho. When the patrol closed to within 75 yards of the beach, ten uniformed Viet Cong appeared from a nearby hut and opened fire. The PBRs returned the enemy fire, killing six Viet Cong and driving the remaining four into the underbrush. In addition, the enemy sampan was destroyed during the action. There were no friendly casualties.

On 9 January, the Viet Cong mined the dredge, JAMAICA BAY, at the Dong Tam construction site west of My Tho. PBRs 103 and 105, patrolling about a half-mile west of the site, heard the explosion and headed for the area. By the time the boats arrived the dredge had already begun to list, and the two PBRs immediately began evacuating personnel, transferring 16 Americans and five Vietnamese to a tug anchored nearby. Then PBRs 101 and 107 arrived, and the crew of 107 went aboard the tug to administer first aid to the survivors while 101 provided cover for the rescue operations.

The crew of PBR 105 located a man trapped in the dredge and, by pinging on the hull with a hammer, led him to a main deck hatch 50 feet away. The hatch was covered with two heavy pipes and a tug was called alongside to pull them away. When the hatch was opened, only the man's nose was above the rising water. The PBR patrol officer, Boatswain's Mate First Class James E. WILLIAMS, USN,

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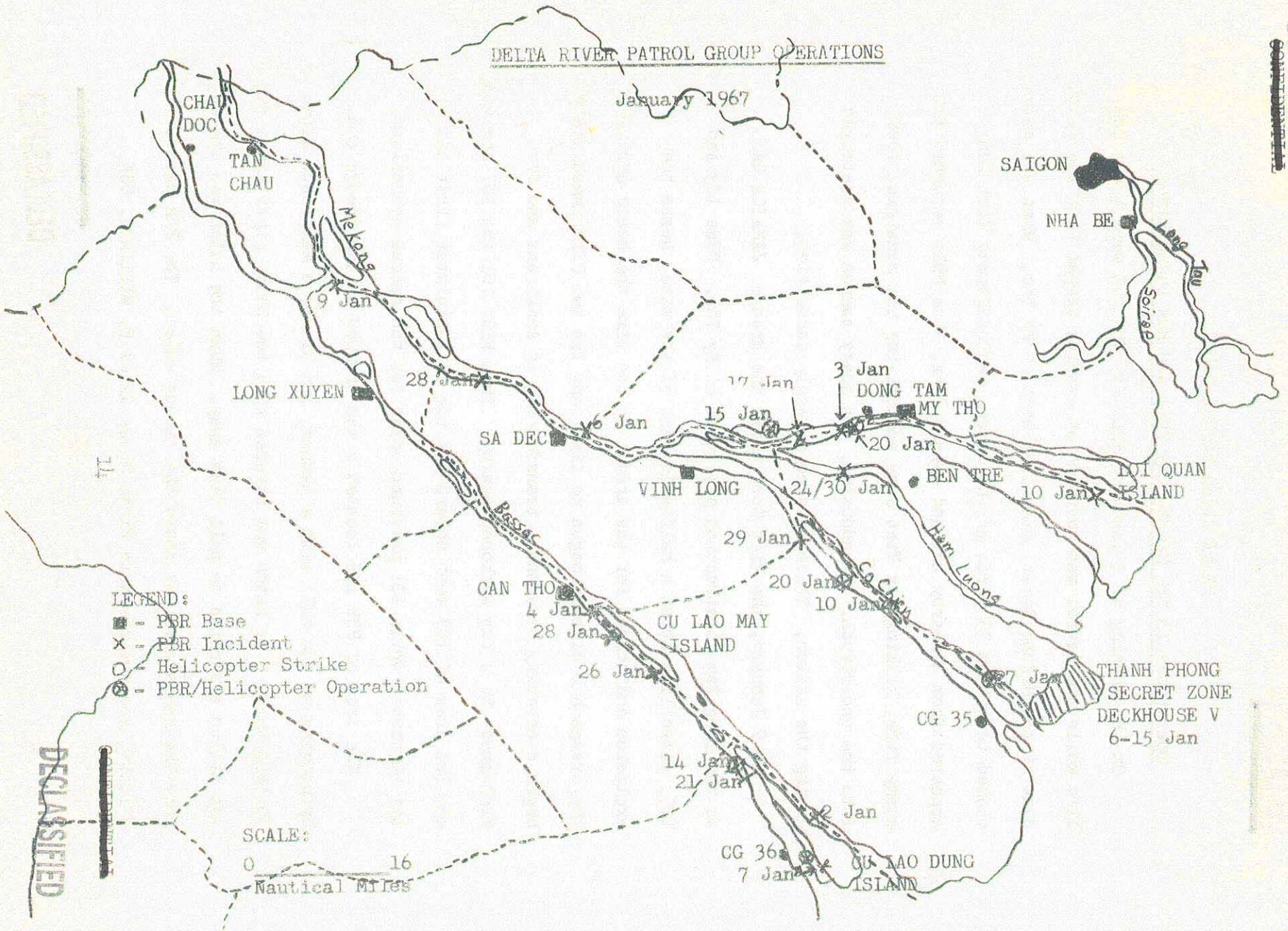

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jumped into the flooded compartment and removed the man. All survivors were taken to My Tho, where the Naval Support Activity detachment provided hot food, medical assistance, clothing and berthing facilities.

During the afternoon of 10 January, PBRs 123 and 126 came to the assistance of a Vietnamese outpost on the south bank of the river, near the river's mouth. The outpost was under heavy fire from numerous Viet Cong positions along a two and one-half mile front to the south and west of the outpost. PBR fire forced the enemy to break off the attack after a fire fight in which at least five Viet Cong were killed by heavy .50 caliber, M-60, M-16 and 40mm grenade fire from the two boats.

On 15 January PBRs of River Patrol Section 531 engaged at least three main force companies of the Viet Cong's 263rd Battalion in the narrow Nam Thon channel north of Ngu Hiep Island. One U.S. sailor was mortally wounded in the action; at least nine Viet Cong were killed and three were wounded; a large number of sampans and installations were destroyed.

About 1545, PBRs 103 and 105 received a report from a Vietnamese outpost on the south bank of the river that a large number of Viet Cong with heavy weapons were crossing the river from north to south about six miles west of the outpost. The patrol officer, BM1 WILLIAMS, notified the Vietnamese Seventh Division tactical operations center at My Tho and proceeded to the crossing area.

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As the PBRs approached the crossing point, they detected two heavily-loaded sampans in the channel. The patrol came under heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire from both banks simultaneously and small arms fire from the sampans. The patrol returned the fire into positions spotted and marked by an L-19 aircraft overhead. Enemy fire was momentarily suppressed and the patrol cleared to the west.

Artillery fire was then ordered into the area, followed by helicopter and fixed-wing air strikes. Upon completion of the air strikes, PBRs 103 and 105, joined by PBRs 96 and 104, entered the channel under cover provided by an Army helicopter fire team in order to investigate two enemy sampans which had beached during the fire fight. Several more sampans were discovered. Suddenly the enemy opened up again on the PBRs with heavy fire from both banks. While the patrol was trying to clear the kill zone, PBR 96's propulsion pumps clogged. The three companion boats remained in the kill zone to provide cover until the crew of 96 was able to clear the pumps. The four boats then withdrew together.

During the engagement the four boats killed nine Viet Cong and wounded three. In addition, nine Viet Cong sampans were sunk (one with over 2,400 pounds of rice), 17 structures were destroyed and eleven others were damaged. Four PBR crewmen were wounded, including the boat captain of PBR 103, Quartermaster First Class Terrell E. CARTER, USN. CARTER was evacuated to Saigon, but died in the hospital a few hours later.

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On 17 January, PBRs intercepted a large sampan in the Mekong, west of My Tho; its single occupant was carrying Vietnamese Army uniforms, bottles, rags, gasoline, batteries and copper wire. He also had in his possession a list of Vietnamese Army squad and platoon leaders. The possible saboteur was turned over to the Vietnamese authorities.

On 20 January, PBR patrols were taken under fire from Viet Cong positions on both banks of the Mekong, seven miles west of My Tho. At 1730, PBRs 98 and 105 received 200 rounds of automatic weapons fire from the north bank of the river near the Phu Phong village nuoc mam factory, a known Viet Cong stronghold. The PBRs requested assistance from the HC-1 (Det. 29) helicopter fire team. The helicopters made three passes on the target, producing one secondary explosion, then returned to HARNETT COUNTY to rearm. While standing by to spot for the helicopters, the PBR patrol again came under fire, this time from the south bank. Fire was returned and the enemy broke off the engagement. When the helicopters returned they made two more firing runs, destroying two huts and damaging two others. During the action one PBR crewman was wounded slightly, and one of the helicopters suffered minor damage from a premature rocket explosion.

During the last two weeks in January, there were a series of incidents along a six mile stretch of the Ham Luong River in the vicinity of the Ben Tre canal. Most of the incidents were minor harassments of PBRs, involving sniper or automatic rifle fire.

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On 24 and 31 January, however, PBRs received heavy automatic weapons fire four miles southeast of the junction of the Ham Luong and Mekong rivers. In each instance, artillery fire and air strikes were called in to neutralize the enemy positions. There were no friendly casualties. Viet Cong casualties were undetermined.

Operations in the Co Chien River

Viet Cong activity along the Co Chien River was relatively constant throughout the month of January. Although most of the incidents involved harassment of PBRs and outposts in the vicinity of Cu Lao Giai Island, there were numerous minor incidents throughout the patrol area. Two harassments late in the month originated from Cu Lac Cai Cao, a small island five miles from Vinh Long and long considered friendly. The attacks marked the first recorded hostile fire incidents from this island since patrols began in the Co Chien in August of 1966.

On 10 January, a PBR patrol was taken under heavy automatic weapons fire while searching junks in a narrow channel north of Cu Lao Nay Island. Fire was returned and the patrol cleared the area and called in the light helicopter fire team from Vinh Long. River Assault Group 23 craft also joined the action, and the combined U.S./Vietnamese units suppressed the enemy fire. During the engagement PBR 141 sustained six superficial hits in the hull.

On 20 January, PBRs 86 and 111 sighted a group of sampans near the tip of Cu Lao Giai. As the PBRs turned towards the sampans, enemy bank positions opened up with heavy automatic weapons and

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rifle grenades. The PBRs returned the fire, cleared the kill zone and requested helicopter assistance from Vinh Long.

PBRs 50 and 52 joined to provide additional blocking cover, and were taken under fire from the south bank. When the helicopter fire team arrived, it received heavy automatic weapons fire from numerous positions along the river banks. Upon completing a series of firing runs, the fire team was relieved by the HC-1 (Det. 29) helicopter fire team from USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST-821), and an additional strike was delivered against areas marked by PBR tracer fire. Shortly thereafter all enemy activity in the area ceased. There were no friendly casualties. Viet Cong casualties were undetermined.

At 1950 on 27 January, PBRs patrolling in the vicinity of Long Hoa village near the mouth of the Co Chien came under heavy automatic weapons fire. The PBRs quickly suppressed the fire, but less than an hour later an outpost in the same area was attacked by the Viet Cong. PBRs and the Vinh Long light helicopter fire team came to the outpost's assistance and drove the Viet Cong away. There were no friendly casualties in either encounter. Viet Cong casualties were undetermined.

On 29 January, PBRs 53 and 80 were taken under fire on two occasions from positions on the south bank of the river near Cu Lao Giai. PBRs sustained a total of six hits during the two fire fights. There were no personnel casualties. Viet Cong casualties were undetermined.

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Operations in the Lower Bassac River

On the afternoon of 2 January, PBRs 59 and 60 closed two large junks moving out of the mouth of a stream on the north bank of the Bassac River, 34 miles southeast of Can Tho. The junks promptly reversed course and headed for the stream. As the PBRs turned to intercept they were taken under fire from the bank. The patrol responded and set one of the junks on fire. A series of secondary explosions followed and the junk sank. Two Viet Cong were killed while several others escaped to the bank under fire. There were no friendly casualties.

At 2330 on 4 January, a PBR patrol observed alternating red and white lights on both banks of the river, about three miles downstream from Can Tho. Shortly thereafter, a twin-engine sampan with three occupants stood out from the north bank and opened fire on the PBRs. The patrol boats killed the three occupants and the sampan began to run in circles. Then the patrol came under heavy .50 and .30 caliber automatic weapons and small arms fire from both banks. Within 20 minutes, a second PBR patrol had joined the engagement, an AC-47 was overhead and units of River Assault Group (RAG) 25 were underway from Can Tho.

The action terminated at 0150 following bombardment of the enemy positions by RAG units using 40mm and 81mm mortar fire. Three of the enemy were killed. A Vietnamese National Policeman in the first PBR patrol was wounded slightly. PBR 58 received 17 hits, including one six-inch hole in the bow, apparently caused by

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a 57mm recoilless rifle round.

GAME WARDEN units supporting Vietnamese Navy (VNN) Coastal Group 36 units came under heavy fire twice on 7 January. At 1300, while supporting a resupply mission on Cu Lao Dung Island, PBRs 37 and 38 were taken under small arms, automatic weapons and mortar fire by about 30 Viet Cong from positions on Cu Lao Dung and nearby Cu Lao Tron Island. The patrol returned the fire and called in the HC-1 (Detachment 29) light helicopter fire team. The team made four firing runs on the enemy and the Viet Cong abandoned their positions and fled across the rice paddies.

Three Viet Cong were killed in the action and the resupply mission was completed successfully. There were no friendly casualties.

At 1450 PBRs 37 and 38 engaged an estimated 25 Viet Cong who were attempting to prevent a CG 36 command junk from approaching a heavily-laden Viet Cong sampan beached on the west side of Cu Lao Tron. The enemy employed machine gun and automatic rifle fire from a bunker near the beached sampan. Enemy fire was suppressed by the PBRs and the sampan was destroyed. Two Vietnamese sailors were wounded in the engagement. The Viet Cong sampan was sunk. There were no U.S. casualties.

On 14 January, PBRs 37 and 38 were taken under fire from the northern tip of Cu Lao Dung while pursuing an evading sampan. An estimated 400 Viet Cong in the area used heavy automatic weapons, rifle grenades, 40mm rockets and small arms fire in a concentrated

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effort to drive off the patrol.

PBRs 37 and 38 were joined by a second patrol, a Navy light helicopter fire team and a VNN LSIL. Nine Viet Cong were killed in the engagement. The enemy also lost a sampan with 25 weapons aboard. There were no friendly personnel or material casualties.

On 21 January, PBRs 134 and 135 intercepted a sampan moving from the west bank of the river toward the northern tip of Cu Lao Dung. The sampan was illuminated at a range of 100 yards and two warning shots were fired. Nine persons were seen to jump overboard. Seven were apprehended and two were killed in the water. The seven Viet Cong were taken to the Coastal Group 36 base near Long Phu; one of them was subsequently killed trying to escape.

Interrogation by the Vietnamese authorities revealed that there had been eleven men in the sampan: six hamlet or village guerrillas, a district cadre, a commo-liaison cadre, a village military section assistant chief and a village party chief. The eleventh occupant was a 16-year old boy who had been pressed into service. Their mission had been to set up an ambush. Captured with the sampan were Mauser rifles, grenades and other small arms weapons.

At 1900 on 26 January, PBRs 31 and 32 were taken under heavy fire while attempting to intercept a sampan near Cu Lao May Island. Three other PBR night patrols set up blocking stations along adjacent crossing routes while a fourth patrol came to the assistance of PBRs 31 and 32.

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An AC-47 arrived overhead and reported that there were approximately 400 Viet Cong troops, at least 15 automatic weapons positions and numerous sampans in the area, and that a large number of additional troops and sampans were fleeing to the west. The AC-47 joined the two PBR patrols in striking at the enemy and a heavy exchange continued until 2200, at which time all enemy fire was suppressed.

PBR 31 received four hits and PBR 32 received one; one crewman was wounded slightly. Viet Cong casualties were undetermined.

At 2045 on 27 January, the enemy launched a mortar attack on the Coastal Group 36 base. PBRs stationed at the base sortied and the enemy shifted his mortar fire to the patrol boats. By 2315 the combined fire power of four PBRs, two helicopter fire teams, an AC-47 and CG 36 base defense forces succeeded in suppressing the enemy fire. Two U.S. sailors and one Vietnamese sailor were wounded. Enemy casualties were undetermined.

On 28 January, Can Tho-based PBRs assisted in the evacuation of nine Vietnamese killed and 38 wounded during a fire fight involving an Army helicopter fire team, PBRs and Viet Cong units. At month's end the circumstances surrounding the incident were under investigation.

GAME WARDEN patrols in the lower Bassac continued to use sector and sub-sector "wanted" lists with success. During the month of January, 16 suspects on the Ke Sach sub-sector list and one on the Soc Trang sub-sector list were detained by PBR patrols conducting

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routine searches; two of the suspects turned out to be Viet Cong.

A total of 17 Vietnamese were evacuated for medical reasons by lower Bassac PBRs during the month of January; the causes ranged from gunshot wounds to childbirth complications.

Operations in the Upper Mekong and Bassac Rivers

On the morning of 6 January, PBRs 77 and 81 were taken under heavy automatic weapons fire on two occasions while providing blocking forces for Kien Phong sector combined operations. In both incidents the boats suppressed the fire with no personnel casualties. In the first incident, PBR 77 sustained five hits in the coxswain's flat and one hit in the radome.

On the night of 9 January, Long Xuyen-based PBRs evacuated the wife of the hamlet chief of Tan Thanh, in Kien Phong province; she had been critically wounded and her husband murdered during an attack by the Viet Cong. She was taken to the Long Xuyen hospital.

On 28 January, PBRs 84 and 118, acting on an intelligence report that the Viet Cong were setting up a road block ten miles upstream from Sa Dec, engaged a number of Viet Cong tree snipers in the area. The enemy fire was silenced quickly, and there was no further activity in this area during January.

GAME WARDEN SUPPORT SHIP OPERATIONS

Foul weather in the South China Sea continued to plague GAME WARDEN support ship operations. On 11 January, USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST-846) suffered a major casualty to her boat-handling equipment and the loss of PBR 30 while launching PBRs in support of DECKHOUSE V.

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The mishaps occurred off the mouth of the Co Chien River when a sudden gust of wind caught PBR 30, almost waterborne, and drove the boat so far aft that the cargo hook could not be tripped. The boat filled and swamped alongside the ship, and was eventually destroyed. Prompt action on the part of the boat crew and the JENNINGS COUNTY deck force prevented any personnel casualties; however, the ship's rigging suffered extensive damage, and it was necessary for the LST to proceed to Subic Bay for repairs. The incident climaxed a series of setbacks occasioned by rough weather.

The second GAME WARDEN support ship, USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST-821), arrived in country on 17 January. She was stationed in the Mekong River off Dong Tam, where she supported River Section 512 and HC-1 Detachment 29. HARNETT COUNTY experienced no significant difficulties while operating in the relatively calm waters of the upper river.

M-18 Grenade Launcher

During late December and January, the fire power of PBRs was increased by the installation of M-18 Grenade Launchers. The launcher, which is a simple, crank-operated weapon, can fire up to 250 40mm grenades per minute. It was mounted on the PBR's after .50 caliber mount, above the machine gun.

Thus far the M-18 has proved to be an effective weapon, especially in areas where high banks are encountered. Initially, several cases of short rounds were reported. This difficulty was traced to excessive rotor gap clearance which allowed propellant

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gases to escape; detailed instructions were issued to correct the problem.

OPERATION DECKHOUSE V

Operation DECKHOUSE V, the first combined U.S./Vietnamese amphibious operation in the Mekong Delta, was an assault against the Thanh Phong Secret Zone in Kien Hoa province.

The operation was scheduled to begin 4 January, but extremely adverse weather forced postponement until the morning of the 6th. MARKET TIME units provided exfiltration patrols before and during the landings, and helped guide LSTs and LSMRs into the shallow and unmarked channels of the Co Chien and Ham Luong rivers.

PBRs were stationed at the Vietnamese Navy Coastal Group 35 base in the Co Chien and at the CG 34/37 base in the Ham Luong to provide blocking forces; helicopters of HC-1 (Detachment 29) were stationed at Tra Vinh because the poor weather precluded operating from JENNINGS COUNTY.

U.S. and Vietnamese marines encountered little resistance ashore amid indications that the main force Viet Cong had fled from the area. The operation was terminated 15 January.

* * *

GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
January 1967

1. PBR Statistics:

a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 647 Night 753

b. Total Contacts: Day 58,939 Night 10,375

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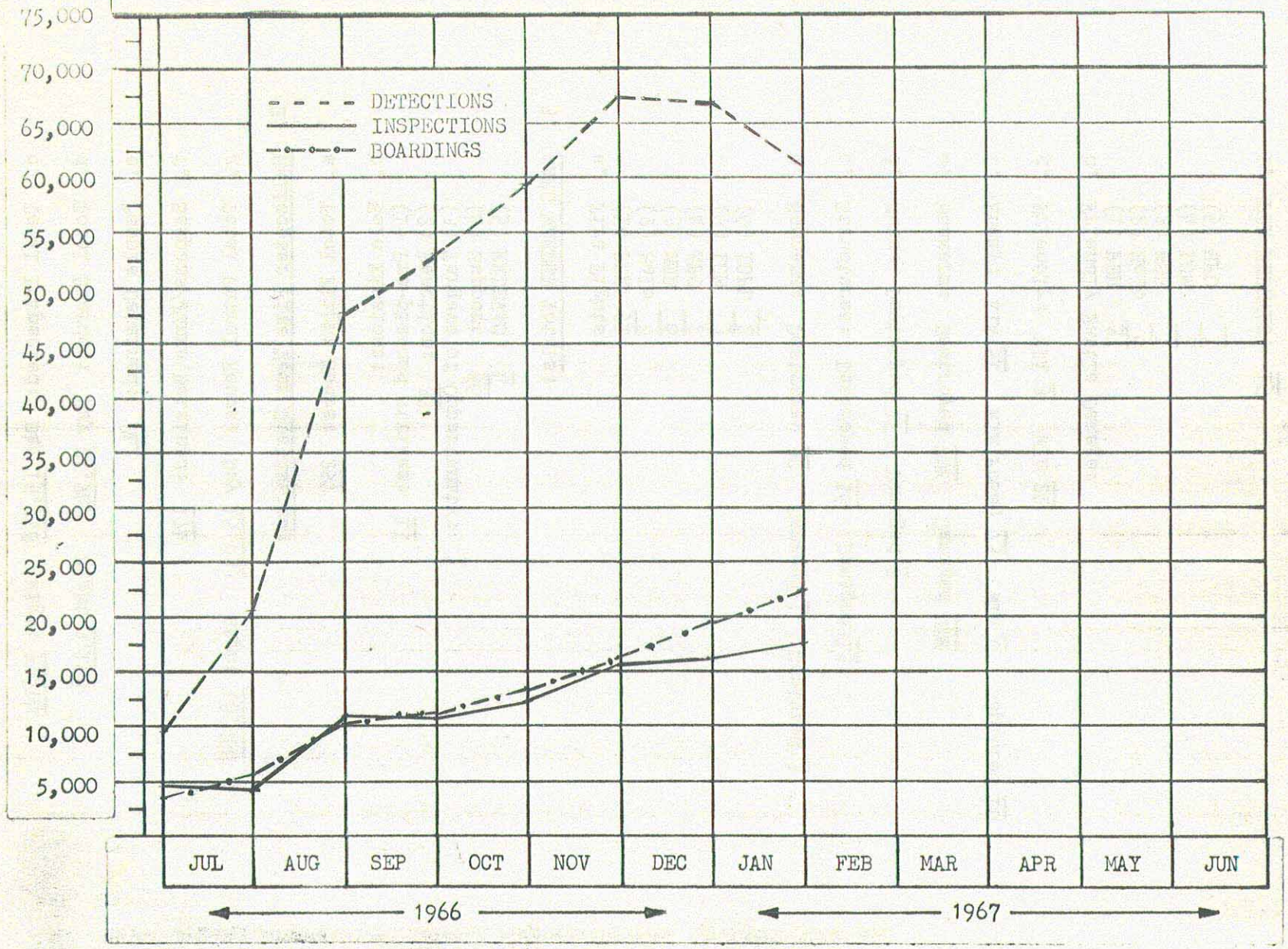
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS



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c. Total Inspected: Day 15,718 Night 3,614

d. Total Boarded: Day 21,949 Night 3,158

e. People Detained: 841

f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 174

g. Total Patrol Hours: Day 15,833 Night 18,588

2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:

a. Total Flight Hours: 297

b. Helo Missions:
(1) Pre-planned strikes: 11
(2) Reaction: 37
(3) Targets of Opportunity: 5
(4) Support: 56
(5) MEDEVAC: 4

3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

a. Fire Fights:
(1) PBR 91
(2) Helo 8
(3) MSB 6
(4) RPC 2
(5) LCM 3
(6) LCPL 2

b. Sampans: Destroyed 30 Damaged 1 Captured 3

c. Structures: Destroyed 16 Damaged 13

d. Huts: Destroyed 15 Damaged 0

e. Bunkers: Destroyed UNK Damaged UNK

f. Enemy: KIA 51 KIA(Poss) 73 WIA 0 Captured 10

g. Friendly: KIA 3 WIA 22

h. Friendly Battle Damage:
(1) PBR 37
(2) Helo 6
(3) MSB 1
(4) LCM 1
(5) RPC 1

i. PBR MEDEVAC: 15

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE

On the first day of 1967, MARKET TIME units detected, attacked and set fire to a steel-hulled trawler attempting to infiltrate the Ca Mau Peninsula. During the first two weeks of January, MARKET TIME forces provided blocking and escort patrols in the coastal area between the mouths of the Co Chien and Ham Luong rivers in support of Operation DECKHOUSE V.

Additionally, the Coastal Surveillance forces were involved in 16 hostile fire, evading junk, and gunfire support incidents. In spite of the fact that the Northeast Monsoon continued to hamper MARKET TIME operations, the units detected 35,023 junks and sampans, 13,858 of which were inspected while 9,650 were boarded. STABLE DOOR harbor defense units inspected 3,029 craft and boarded 2,169.

On 27 January over 200 vials of penicillin and various other drugs were found in the possession of a 15-year-old boy aboard a junk which was detained by PCF 13, 45 miles north of Qui Nhon. The junk and its occupant were delivered to units of Coastal Group 15.

STEEL-HULLED TRAWLER INCIDENT

At 2115 on 1 January, PCF 71 closed a radar contact off the Ca Mau Peninsula, 165 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The contact was on a course of 098 degrees at 10-12 knots. At 2150, the SWIFT began challenging. All challenges were ignored and, at close range, the unidentified contact opened fire on the PCF. USCGC POINT GAMMON and PCF 68 quickly moved into the area in response to PCF

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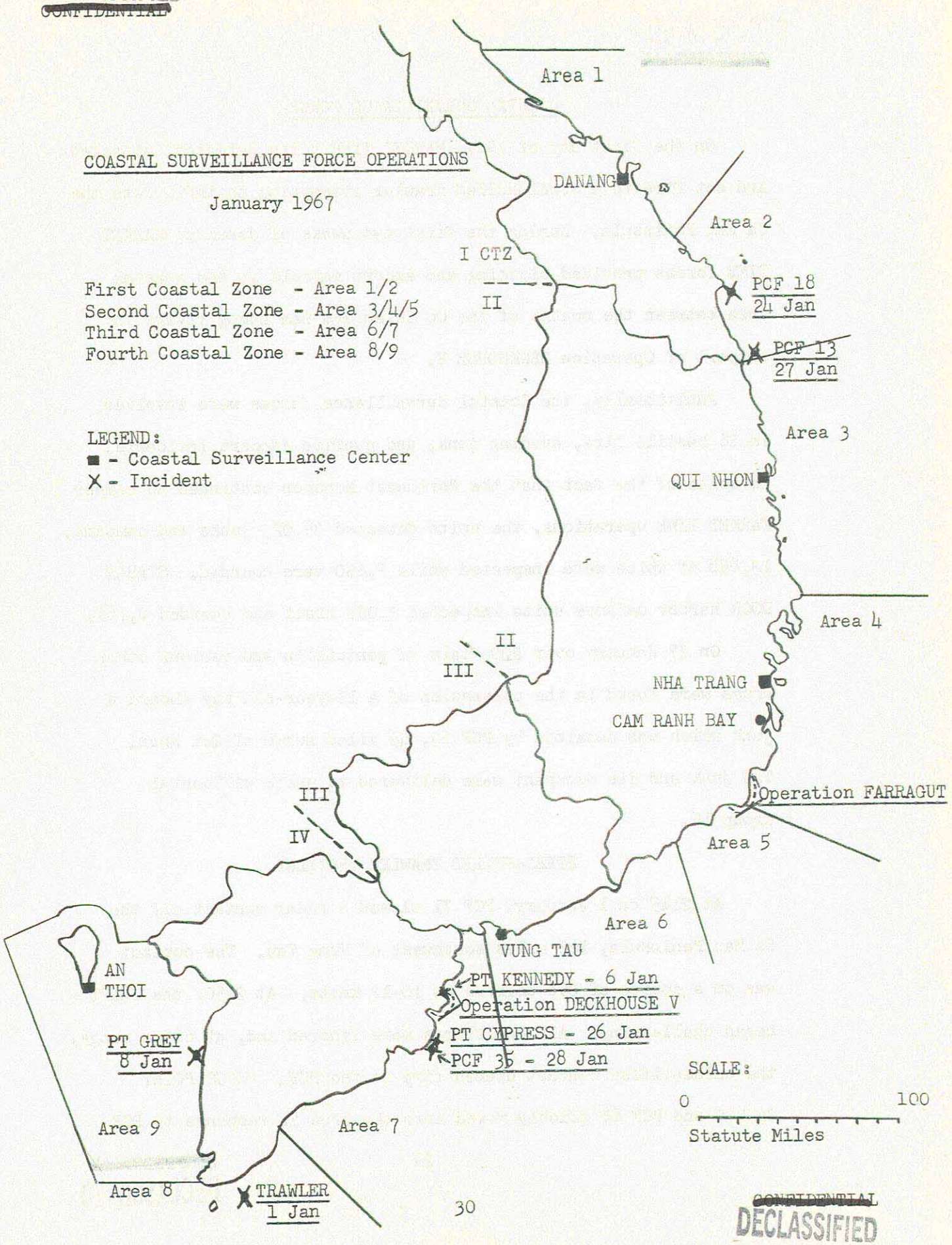

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71's call for assistance.

At about 2245, POINT GAMMON illuminated and identified the contact to be a trawler with a blue-green hull and a cream-colored superstructure. At this time, in a position 10 miles from the point the trawler was first detected, PCF 68 closed the trawler directing .50 caliber and 81mm mortar fire against it. Several direct hits were scored as the trawler ran aground with her stern engulfed in flames. Five secondary explosions were observed as the fires spread to the pilot house area. Shortly after midnight the vessel disappeared. Subsequent analysis and evaluation of the incident concluded that, although heavily damaged, the trawler possibly could have escaped into a nearby stream. Six MARKET TIME personnel received minor wounds in the action.

SUPPORT OF GROUND OPERATIONS

Prior to the start of Operation DECKHOUSE V, MARKET TIME units established blocking patrols on 2 January off the coast of Kien Hoa province between the Co Chien and Ham Luong rivers. During the actual operation, which ran from 6 to 15 January, MARKET TIME craft escorted amphibious landing ships into and out of the area of operations.

The SWIFTS also supported Operation FARRAGUT, which began on 25 January in the Phang Rang area. The PCFs were assigned the primary mission of preventing infiltration/exfiltration movements by the enemy along the coast. Also, they provided gunfire support and carried out psychological operations for the friendly forces

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operating in the area.

Additionally, Coastal Surveillance forces provided support for the following operations in January: 9th Vietnamese Army operations in the Long Toan District (8 to 17 January); Task Force X-Ray operations in the Duc Pho area (28 January); and 1st Marine Division Operation TRINITY in the second coastal area (30 and 31 January). Surfline operations continued throughout most of the month in areas 1, 2, and 6 with no significant results.

EVASION INCIDENTS

There were six incidents of junks or sampans evading MARKET TIME patrols during January. In all cases, no friendly casualties were sustained. The incidents are presented chronologically.

8 - At 0345, USCGC POINT GREY sighted an evading junk 55 miles southeast of An Thoi off the Ca Mau Peninsula. The cutter fired warning shots which were ignored by the 30-foot junk. POINT GREY directed .50 caliber machine gun and 81mm mortar fire against the suspect craft. The fire produced a series of secondary explosions aboard the junk. Enemy casualties were unknown.

12 - At 0050, USCGC POINT BANKS sighted three evading sampans 60 miles southeast of An Thoi off the Ca Mau Peninsula. When the sampans ignored warning shots they were taken under direct fire by the cutter. One sampan was destroyed. Viet Cong personnel casualties were unknown.

22 - At 0503, PCF 91 detected a large contact on radar off the

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tip of Ca Mau, 65 miles south-southeast of An Thoi. Upon closing the contact and firing illumination rounds, the SWIFT discovered two evading sampans and two others dead in the water. The evading sampans ignored warning shots and were taken under direct fire with unknown results. When PCF 91 approached the other two sampans, automatic weapons fire was received from the beach. The PCF returned fire to the beach and destroyed the sampans with direct fire. Enemy personnel casualties were unknown.

24 - At 1753, PCF 18 sighted five basket boats and one sampan evading toward the beach 65 miles southeast of Danang. When the SWIFT closed to investigate the evading craft, heavy weapons fire was received from the beach. The evading boats reached the beach and their occupants fled. An L-19 reconnaissance aircraft in the area reported that a number of Viet Cong were firing from trenches. The L-19 spotted for SWIFT gunfire and an air strike was called in. Results of the action were 15 Viet Cong killed, three bunkers destroyed and seven structures damaged.

25 - At 0001, USCGC POINT DUME sighted a sampan with four occupants moving toward the shore 80 miles north of Qui Nhon. The craft was beached and abandoned. Then the cutter took the sampan under direct fire and destroyed it, small arms fire was received from the beach. Fire was returned to the beach with unknown results.

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29 - At 1900, USCGC POINT ARDEN sighted an evading junk 40 miles northwest of Danang. All warnings to halt were ignored as the junk evaded into a river mouth area of the beach. POINT ARDEN then sent a small boat to board and search the craft. The junk's occupants explained that they were evading because a passenger, who had fled ashore, forced them to take evasive action. The accused passenger was subsequently apprehended on the beach and delivered to Coastal Group 12.

GUNFIRE SUPPORT MISSIONS AND HOSTILE FIRE INCIDENTS

In addition to supporting major combined operations, MARKET TIME units conducted three gunfire support missions and experienced five hostile fire attacks. Friendly casualties were limited to one U.S. sailor slightly wounded. The incidents are presented chronologically.

6 - At 1200, USCGC POINT KENNEDY was hit by one 57mm recoilless rifle round 35 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The cutter, participating in Operation DECKHOUSE V at the time, sustained a 10-inch hole in the spray shield.

10 - At 0830, a reconnaissance aircraft reported that five Viet Cong were pinned down in a position 80 miles east-northeast of Vung Tau. USCGC POINT PARTRIDGE responded to a request for gunfire support by firing 81mm mortars into the area. The results of the mission were unknown.

23 - At 2040, PCF 11 provided 81mm mortar fire in support of

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a reconnaissance aircraft receiving hostile fire 70 miles southeast of An Thoi, off Ca Mau. The hostile fire was coming from the vicinity of three sampans which were taken under fire. Two of the sampans were destroyed and one was damaged.

25 - At 1833, a P3A aircraft on regular MARKET TIME patrol received hostile ground fire while investigating suspicious contacts. When it became apparent that the aircraft had been hit, the P3A returned to Danang Air Base. An inspection disclosed that the port wing had been punctured and that fuel had been lost. The aircraft subsequently was flown to Naha, Okinawa for repairs.

26 - At 1345, USCGC POINT CYPRESS received heavy automatic weapons fire while approaching the beach to destroy an abandoned sampan 55 miles southwest of Vung Tau, off the Long Toan Secret Zone. A reconnaissance aircraft reported that 20 bunkers and three other junks were in the area. POINT CYPRESS fired into the area and an air strike was requested. Several bunkers were destroyed in the action and the junks were heavily damaged. Viet Cong personnel casualties were unknown.

27 - At 0240, PCF 35 received small arms fire from the beach 10 miles east of Vung Tau. Fire was returned while the SWIFT cleared the area. One U.S. Navyman was slightly wounded. He was taken to the 6th Evacuation Hospital

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at Vung Tau.

28 - At 0200, PCF 23 and USCGC POINT GRACE received small arms fire from the beach on the Ca Mau Peninsula, 125 miles southwest of Vung Tau. Both units returned fire, damaging two structures and one sampan.

28 - At 2055, PCF 35 conducted a gunfire support mission against a Viet Cong beach position in the Long Toan Secret Zone, 55 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The SWIFT expended 62 rounds of 81mm mortars, resulting in one POL-type explosion. Enemy personnel casualties were unknown.

SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

MARKET TIME units were responsible for five search and rescue operations during January.

U.S. Coast Guard Cutters POINT PARTRIDGE and POINT LEAGUE rescued six Vietnamese from their sinking junk on the afternoon of 6 January, 10 miles south of Vung Tau. The floundering junk had been discovered by the patrol craft the previous day and was being towed to Vung Tau. Within sight of Vung Tau, the junk began sinking and the six passengers were taken aboard POINT LEAGUE.

On 9 January, USS PIVOT (MSO-463) was directed to search for a missing L-19 aircraft in the area 90 miles northwest of Qui Nhon. Search aircraft reported sighting an oil slick and a possible dye marker. No debris was sighted. The search and rescue effort was terminated at 1610.

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At 0515 on 15 January, LCPL 42 collided with a 25-foot fishing boat in Vung Tau harbor. All five occupants of the junk were taken on board the LCPL as their craft sank. One boy was taken to the hospital for treatment. There was no damage to the LCPL.

USCGC POINT ORIENT evacuated two wounded Vietnamese fishermen at 1000 on 23 January from an area 70 miles northwest of Qui Nhon. The fishermen were taken to Chu Lai. Both Vietnamese had been wounded by an unidentified aircraft. Two other fishermen were killed in the same incident.

HARBOR DEFENSE (OPERATION STABLE DOOR)

Four skimmers (16-foot Boston Whalers) which arrived at Cam Ranh Bay on 3 January, increased the number of STABLE DOOR patrol boats to a total of 20. On 17 January, the communications advance base functional components arrived in country for installation at the four STABLE DOOR sites.

Inshore Undersea Warfare (IUW) Unit 3 conducted operations at Qui Nhon during January. One junk and 15 persons were detained for improper identification papers or because of suspicious actions.

At Nha Trang, Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Surveillance Unit 22 (MIUWS 22) was relieved on 22 January by IUW Unit 4. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit 1, Team 23, consisting of one officer and three enlisted men, reported to IUW Unit 4 on 22 January and commenced operations on 28 January. During the month, three junks and 20 persons were detained for improper identification at Nha Trang.

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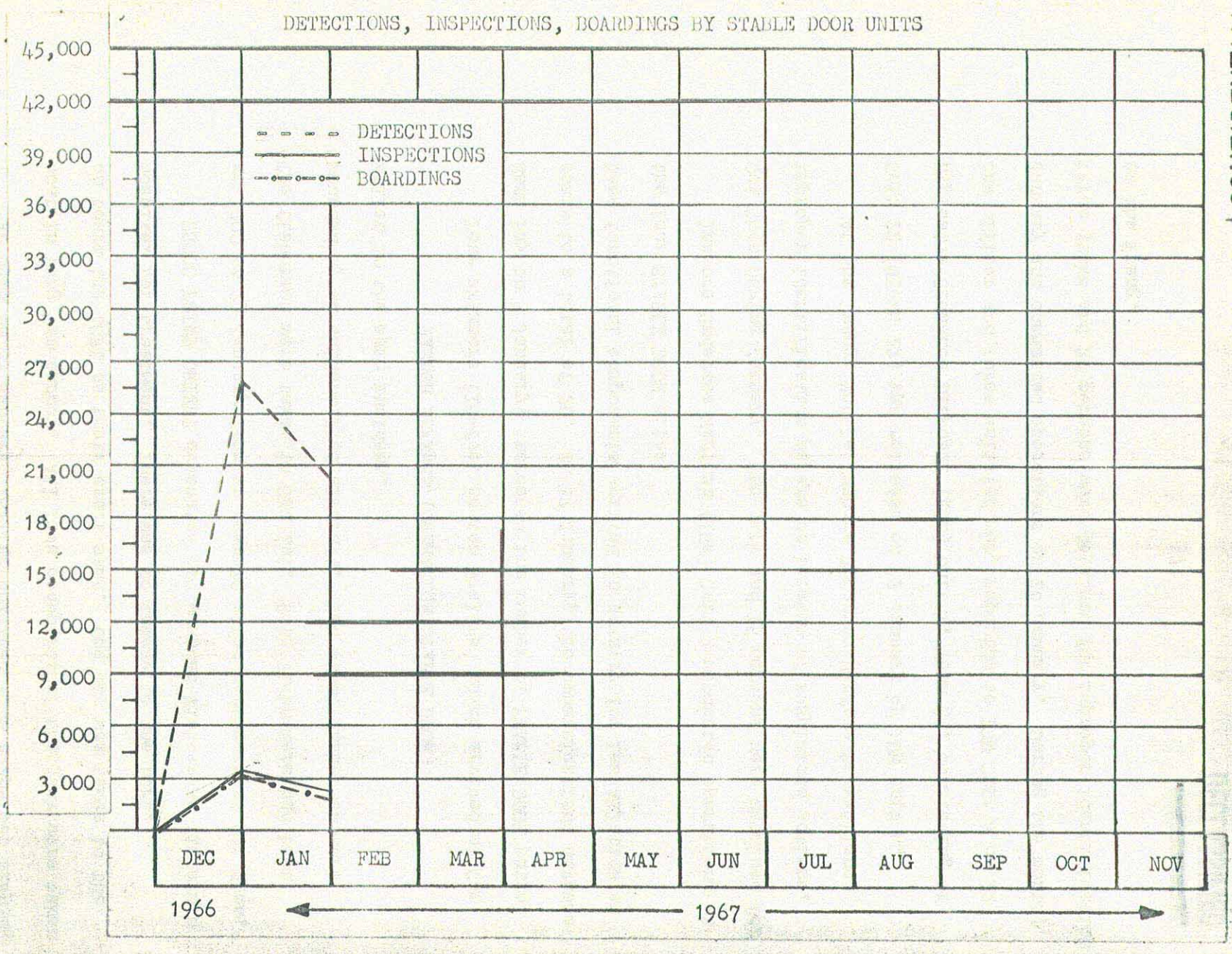

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IUW Unit 2 continued operations at Cam Ran Bay during January. EOD Unit 1, Team 22, consisting of one officer and three enlisted men, reported to IUW Unit 2 on 14 January and commenced operations on the 20th. Two quonset huts were constructed during the month to serve as a mess hall and galley.

MIUWS 13 conducted operations at Vung Tau in January. Five junks and 61 persons were detained because they could not be properly identified or because of suspicious actions. On 15 January, LCPL 42 collided with a fishing junk which sank. The LCPL rescued all five of the Vietnamese crew.

MARKET TIME UNITS

On 14 January USS SUTTER COUNTY (LST-1150) relieved USS BLANCO COUNTY (LST-344) as the MARKET TIME support ship in Areas 7 and 8 off the Ca Mau Peninsula. The MARKET TIME support ship is a mobile platform for the support of PCFs at sea.

On 17 January, USS CURRITUCK (AV-7) established a seadrome at Cam Ranh Bay. P5B aircraft of Patrol Squadron 50 flew MARKET TIME patrols from the seadrome from 18 to 31 January.

Seven SP-2H aircraft (Patrol Squadron 17) flew MARKET TIME patrols from Tan Son Nhut Air Base during January while Patrol Squadrons 16 and 19 flew patrols from Naval Air Station, Sangley Point. In addition, a detachment of P3A aircraft operated from U Tapao, Thailand during the latter part (22nd through 31st) of the month.

In January the following Seventh Fleet ships operated as

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MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:

		DATES
DER 329	USS KRETCHMER	30-31
DER 331	USS KOINER	27-31
DER 251	USS CAMP	9-22
DER 400	USS HISSEM	1-9
DER 328	USS FINCH	1-15
DER 325	USS LOWE	1-29
DER 324	USS FALGOUT	1-31
DER 327	USS BRISTER	1-30
DER 387	USS VANCE	15-31
DER 334	USS FORSTER	22-31
MSC 205	USS VIREO	1-21
MSC 289	USS ALBATROSS	20-31
MSC 198	USS PEACOCK	25-31
MSC 208	USS WIDGEON	19-31
MSC 290	USS GANNET	1-25
MSO 510	USS ADVANCE	18-31
MSO 427	USS CONSTANT	1-31
MSO 436	USS ENERGY	1-31
MSO 464	USS PLUCK	1-31
MSO 463	USS PIVOT	1-29
MSO 444	USS FIRM	28-31

* * *

MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY

1. U.S. ships/craft:

	DER	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	LST
Total craft days on patrol	155	155	93	443	886	31
Daily Average of craft on patrol	5	5	3	14.3	28.6	1

2. U.S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY	23,400	NIGHT	11,623		
						36,603
	STEEL - DAY	781	NIGHT	799		
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY	9,052	NIGHT	4,806		
						14,783
	STEEL - DAY	463	NIGHT	462		

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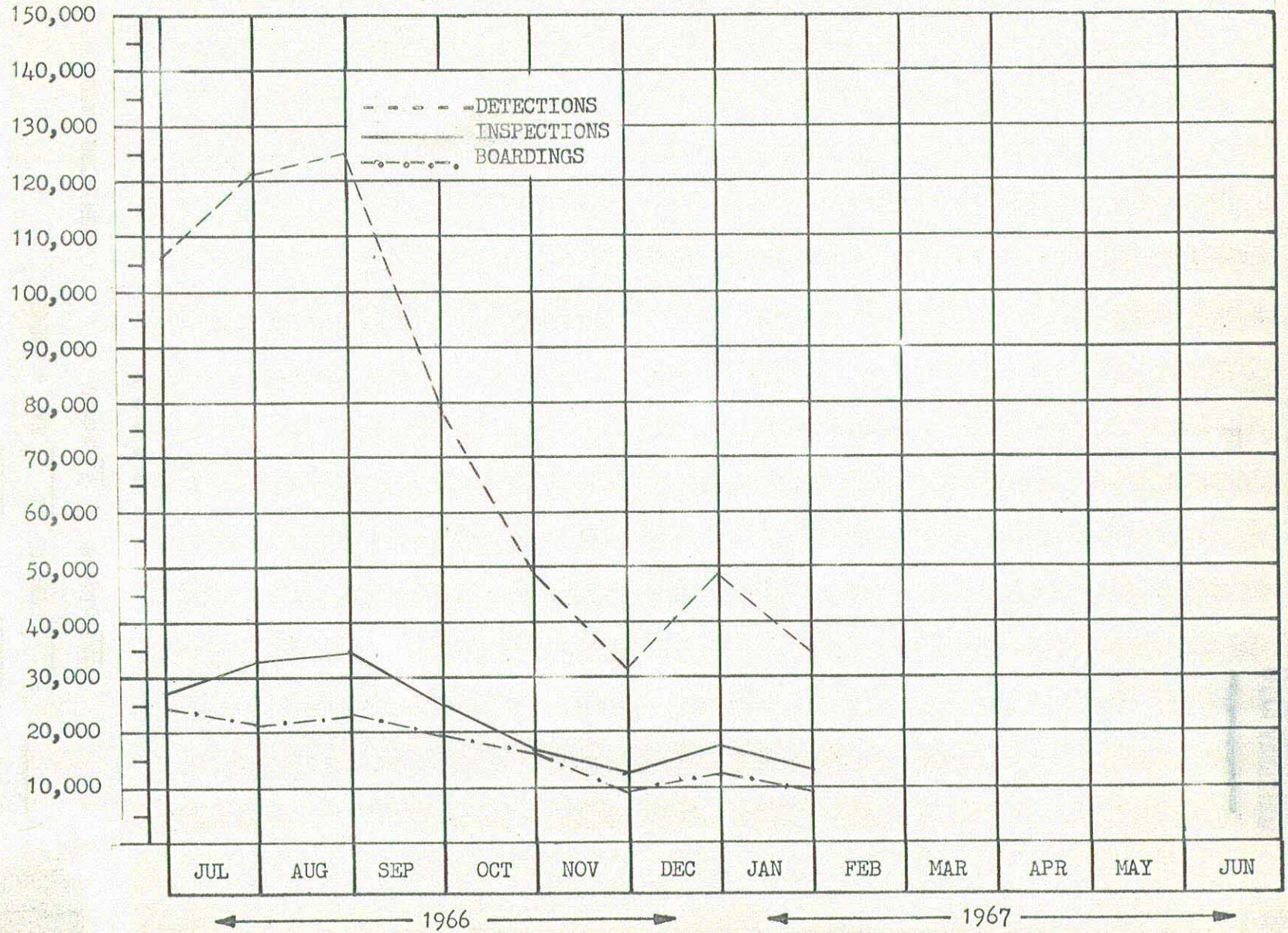
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



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TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD - DAY	6,773	NIGHT	2,832	
					9,626
	STEEL - DAY	12	NIGHT	9	
TOTAL DETAINED	Junks	15	People	146	

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE

On 7 January, the first units of the newly-established Riverine Assault Force arrived at Vung Tau in USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST-1169). Organized as a result of a recommendation by Commander, U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, the new force is under the operational control of Commander, U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam; its mission includes the security, mobility and economy of waterborne forces in riverine warfare.

The Force will eventually consist of River Support Squadron SEVEN and River Assault Squadrons NINE and ELEVEN, and will carry out riverine assault operations in coordination with the U.S. Army NINTH Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone.

Each river assault squadron will consist of two command boats (CCBs), five monitors, 26 troop carriers, one refueler and 16 ASPBs. The squadrons will each be capable of providing lift support for a reinforced infantry battalion.

On 10 January, Commander, River Assault Squadron NINE, his staff, and River Division 91 commenced training operations off Vung Tau in River Assault Group (RAG) boats on loan from the Vietnamese Navy (VNN). On 15 January, the naval units were joined by elements of the NINTH Infantry Division; landing exercises for joint orientation and training began shortly thereafter.

In addition to the joint training aboard WHITFIELD COUNTY, River Assault Squadron NINE personnel were assigned to VNN RAGs in the Rung Sat Special Zone and the Mekong Delta as technical

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observers. This part of the training program was designed to acquaint personnel with the environment in which they would be operating, and to familiarize them with local customs and regulations and applied rules of engagement.

The Riverine Assault Force was initially commissioned as River Assault Flotilla ONE at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, California, on 1 September 1966, with Captain W. C. WELLS, USN, as Commander. Activation of the task force is planned for late February or early March.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY DANANG

In January, Naval Support Activity, Danang continued to offload and clear cargo expeditiously despite adverse weather.

A new monthly throughput[1] record of 254,856 measurement tons[2] was established for the port of Danang. The total exceeded the previous record, set in December 1966, by 4,149 measurement tons. Total throughput for I Corps was 331,477 measurement tons, a decrease of 15,693 measurement tons from the previous month.

During January 43 ships arrived at Danang and 48 ships completed offloading for a net decrease in backlog of 20,600 measurement tons. The daily backlog in deep draft ships steadily decreased until 31 January when it reached a low of 1,436 measurement tons.

Coastal resupply operations, however, were significantly affected by monsoon weather. Despite maximum use of all available Landing Craft Utility/Covered Lighters (LCU/YFUs), the backlog in Danang of transshipment cargo for Dong Ha and Hue increased throughout the month. Heavy seas and winds forced cancellation of resupply operations on 16 separate occasions, and delayed the return of LCU/YFUs to Danang for periods as long as eight days.

During January, LCU/YFUs made 69 round trips to Dong Ha, delivering 9,144 measurement tons of cargo. In 46 round trips,

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[1]Throughput: Total cargo offloaded from incoming ships plus cargo backloaded for delivery to other in-country ports or to the United States.

[2]Measurement ton: Forty cubic feet of cargo.

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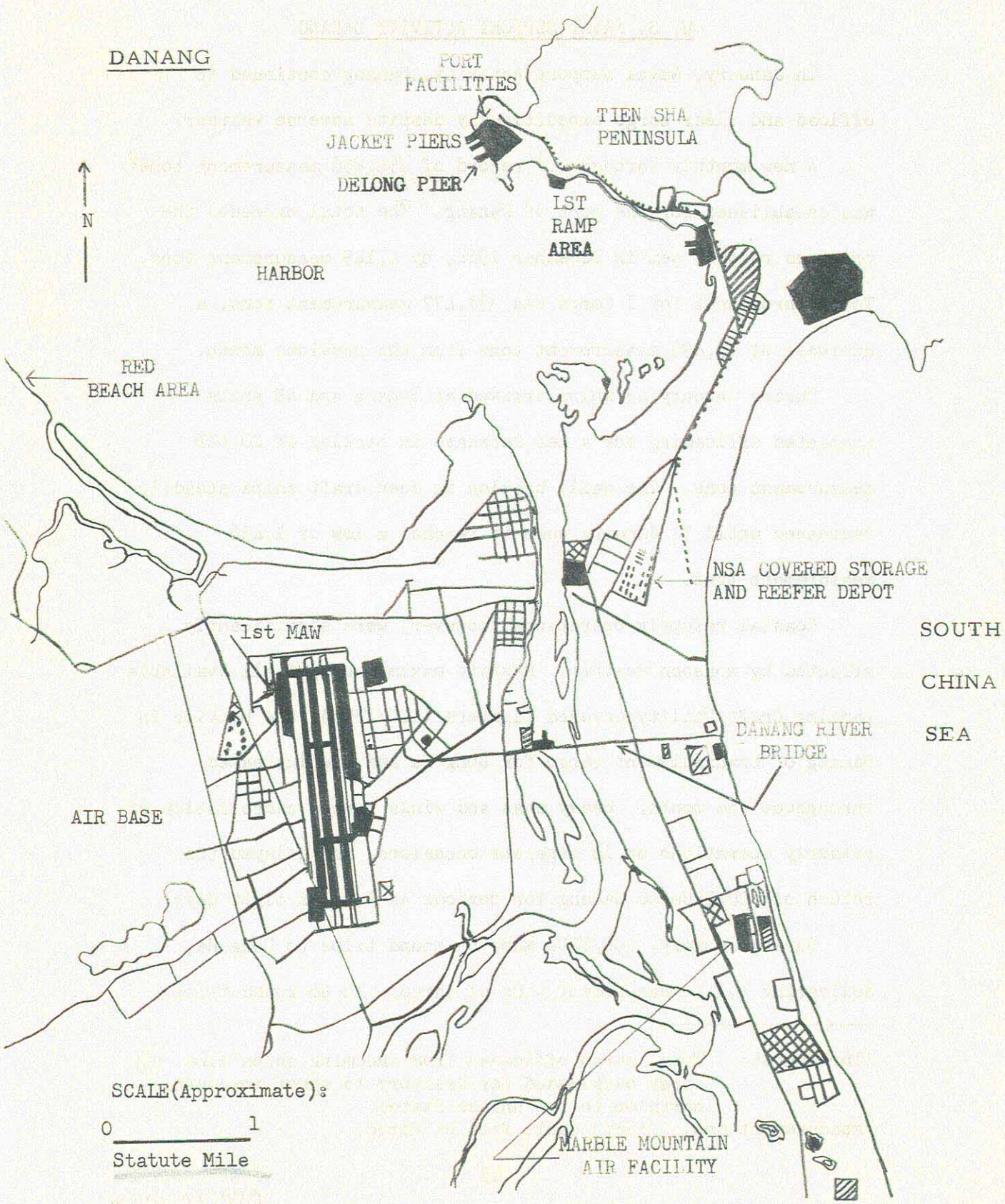

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LCU/YFUs also delivered 6,897 measurement tons of cargo to Hue for resupply at Phu Bai.

Chu Lai was resupplied by tank landing ships (LSTs) which, in 30 trips, delivered 34,784 measurement tons of cargo. The total volume delivered to Dong Ha, Hue and Chu Lai from Danang by sea was 50,825 measurement tons.

Monsoon weather also continued to affect POL (petroleum, oil, lubricants) resupply operations. At Chu Lai, heavy seas prevented repairs to the leaks in the 4-inch and 8-inch fuel lines; replenishment was accomplished by a YOG and a shallow draft T-1 tanker pumping directly into refueler trucks at the inner harbor. On 14 January, the POL picture was improved significantly when the new 12-inch fuel line was raised and began pumping JP-4.

Replenishment at Dong Ha was accomplished by using LCM-8s with fuel bladders to shuttle fuel from an AOG. Phu Bai was replenished by commercial trucks from Danang and by Marine refueler trucks from Col Co Island.

At Danang the China Beach 10-inch seaload line was utilized for the initial filling of the Shell tanks at My Khe. The filling of the tanks and transfer of fuel to the Shell Nha Hien terminal, USAF tanks and the northwest tank farm was completed on 9 January.

The number of functions performed by NAVSUPPACT increased. On 1 January, NAVSUPPACT assumed full responsibility for port clearance in the Danang area. Control and support of the China Beach rest and recreation center also was assumed on 1 January.

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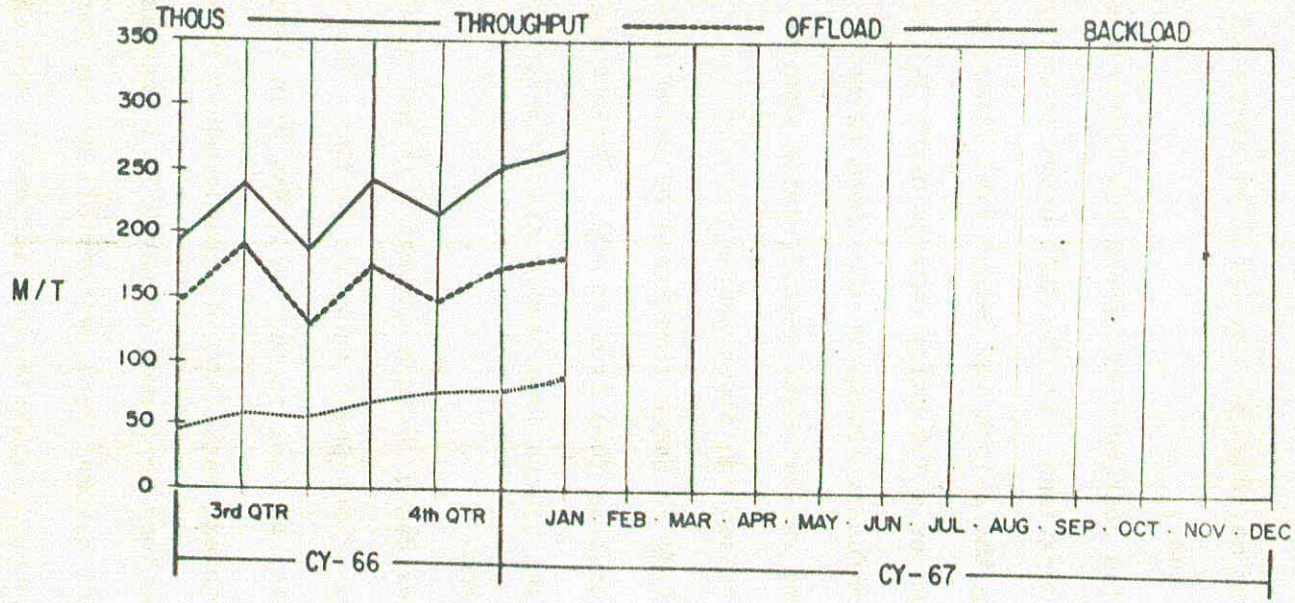
PORT OF DANANG CARGO HANDLING OPERATIONS



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Responsibility for operations of utilities systems and maintenance support continued to expand. On 7 January the Public Works shop began providing maintenance support to the First Marine Air Wing. The shop was also tasked with minor maintenance support for the First Marine Division Command Post.

On 18 January NAVSUPPACT assumed partial responsibility for the operation of the Force Logistics Supply Group ALFA ice plant. Limited facilities support of the Third Marine Division Command Post at Phu Bai was begun by the Maintenance Division on 20 January.

Class II and class IV supply support continued to improve. On 12 January the NAVSUPPACT SERVMART opened. Over 1,600 fast-moving line items were stocked by the new self-service facility. In addition, net supply requisition effectiveness during January increased from 70 per cent to 73 per cent.

Service craft assets increased on 6 January with the return of a refrigerated lighter (YFRN-997) from overhaul and the arrival of a garbage lighter (YG-51). Lighterage assets were augmented by the arrival of YFUs 58, 59 and 62 from Japan on 9 January.

Transportation assets also increased. One 40 passenger bus, four trailers and six trucks were received in January.

On 12 January, the NAVSUPPACT C-47 aircraft suffered brake failure while landing at Danang and was severely damaged. Prior to the accident, the plane had transported 11,520 pounds of cargo and 148 passengers since the first of the month. A replacement

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aircraft was received on 31 January.

Danang was visited 98 times by Seventh Fleet ships during January. NAVSUPPACT delivered 793,912 gallons of diesel fuel and 1,110,150 gallons of potable water to the visiting ships. Additional services provided included disbursing, mail, freight, boats, tugs and transient billeting.

During January, 28 separate instances of harassing small arms fire occurred at various locations in the Danang area. No friendly casualties resulted.

On 2 January Team One of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE suspended Danang River wreck clearance operations to assist Seventh Fleet units in the salvage of USS MAHNOMEN COUNTY (LST-912). Upon termination of the salvage operations on 31 January, Team One returned to Subic Bay.

On 31 January Naval Support Activity personnel strength (including APLs) totaled 8,048, a decrease of 138 from the 31 December on-board count.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

Construction of interim and permanent facilities at GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME bases progressed satisfactorily in January. At Sa Dec, the boat ramp was completed, work on a sea wall commenced, and the construction of three berthing hutches neared completion.

A significant increase in the support capability at Vinh Long was achieved with the installation of boat engine lifting gear. A boat ramp, driveway and concrete sea wall were also completed.

At My Tho, the supply warehouse and shop were approximately 75 per cent complete at the end of the month. Work on an administration building, generator shed and water purification building neared completion. Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT) My Tho detachment personnel provided extensive support for the JAMAICA BAY salvage operation during January.

At Vung Tau, a public works team continued the construction of four hutches, a quonset hut and installation of a water tank at the Harbor Defense site. At Nha Be, construction of a BEQ and a mess hall neared completion, and the framework for a new repair building was erected. Other projects under construction at month's end included BOQ/BEQs at Can Tho, and extension of the boat ramp at Long Xuyen.

On 1 January, YD-220 arrived at Cat Lo, providing the first in-country afloat lift with a 100-ton capacity. During the month, YD-220 was used extensively for a variety of jobs, including

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off-lifting PBRs from the USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST-846), the lift of MSB-14, sunk in a collision with a civilian freighter, and the lift of a commercial dredge.

Lift capability also improved at Qui Nhon. The crane pad at Qui Nhon was completed during the month and a PCF was successfully lifted out of the water and cradled on the pontoon float.

Efforts to produce fresh water at Cat Lo continued, as the Officer in Charge of Construction (OICC) proceeded with the construction of a shallow well system. Installation of power outlets in the interim pier at Cat Lo was completed by Public Works.

On 27 January, a NAVSUPPACT detachment arrived at Dong Tam and began work on a support base for the newly-established Riverine Assault Force. Construction was begun on a 250-man cantonment.

During January the number of line items stocked by Naval Support Activity, Saigon increased by 2,000. At the end of the month, the total stock level exceeded 25,000 items.

Supply requisition effectiveness, however, declined. The decrease was attributed to a variety of factors, including funding limitations, delays in receipt of overhaul materials for various boat programs and increased demand for General Services Administration (GSA) materials subsequent to distribution of the recently published GSA catalog.

Overall supply requisition effectiveness was 40 per cent gross and 62 per cent net. The gross availability of material for

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priority TWO casualty report requisitions was 72.85 per cent.

The resupply of bulk diesel fuel in the IV Corps area improved considerably in January with the positioning of 120,000-gallon capacity fuel storage barges at Vinh Long and Long Xuyen. In addition, portable refueler units with a 1,000-gallon capacity were provided by the U.S. Army to the various Delta GAME WARDEN detachments to ensure an organic capability to resupply storage tanks.

The overall logistic support posture was further enhanced in January by the delivery of rough-terrain fork trucks to Delta-based detachments. The trucks have a three-ton lift capability.

The overall transportation situation remained generally satisfactory. The NAVSUPPACT aviation section (Air Cofat)* transported 4,113 passengers (1,090 more than December's total) and over 140 short tons of cargo during January. The increase in the number of passengers carried resulted from scheduling additional flights to Danang after NAVSUPPACT Danang's C-47 aircraft was damaged in an accident on 12 January.

Water-borne shipments by USS MARK (AKL-12), USS BRULE (AKL-28) and YFR-889 totaled 1,134 displacement tons of cargo plus an additional 125 tons of water and 30 tons of fuel.

CARGO HANDLING BATTALION TWO

On 31 January, Cargo Handling Battalion TWO (CHB-2) completed

*Cofat is derived from the name of a French cigarette, no longer produced. NAVSUPPACT Saigon is situated on the site previously occupied by the factory that made Cofats.

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nearly 20 months of almost continuous service in Vietnam.

Composed of two officers and 80 enlisted men, the battalion's mission was to assist in cargo handling operations and to provide supervision and training to other personnel as required.

Originally deployed to Vietnam in April of 1965, the battalion helped provide vital support to cargo operations in Danang and Chu Lai until its return to Subic Bay in August of 1966.

On 19 September 1966, CHB-2 was deployed to Cam Ranh Bay to help train three newly-formed Army terminal service companies. The battalion remained through January to assist in reducing the back-log of cargo awaiting discharge at Cam Ranh Bay.

Largely as a result of CHB-2's assistance, by the end of January Cam Ranh Bay had developed an effective organic cargo handling and training capability, and the battalion returned to Subic Bay.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

In January heavy rains continued to slow construction in I Corps, with vertical construction reduced and horizontal construction (earth work) halted in some instances. However, satisfactory progress was made on many projects despite the adverse weather conditions.

The logistic picture improved with the arrival of materials for the Air Force Tigerhound project at Khe Sanh. Three bunkers were under construction at month's end.

At Phu Bai, the base camp of Mobile Construction Battalion (MCB) 62 came under enemy fire several times during the month. The most significant attack occurred on 20 January, when the battalion compound received 82mm mortar fire. Two battalion huts sustained direct hits and were destroyed. Two Seabees were killed, and 17 were wounded.

Work under construction by MCB-62 during January included construction of a helicopter parking apron at Phu Bai, installation of a new deck for the Nong River Bridge and various well-drilling projects.

A major project completed by MCB-58 was the construction of 32 houses for Vietnamese civilians whose homes were destroyed when a civilian cargo aircraft crashed into the village of Hoa Cuong on 24 December. Deeds to the new homes were presented to the villagers during formal dedication ceremonies on 23 January.

Well-drilling projects at An Khe and Cu Chin were completed

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in January. Two producing wells were drilled at An Khe and five at Cu Chi.

On 22 January, MCB-10 completed construction of a 165-foot bridge over the Song Tuy Loan River. Built of timber, the new bridge has a 60-ton capacity.

At the end of January, major projects under construction by MCB-9 included cantonments for the First Marine Division and buildings for the First Military Police Battalion. In the Danang East area, MCB-5 continued construction of the Naval Support Activity Exchange facility at Elephant Beach and the amphitheater at the China Beach rest and recreation center.

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 9 January the 2,300 ton dredge, JAMAICA BAY, was mined by the Viet Cong. The dredge, stationed in the My Tho River at Dong Tam, was sunk at 0525 by at least two large, controlled mines placed on either side of the hull. The huge craft, one of the few of its kind in the world, had been engaged in dredging operations incident to the establishment of the Riverine Assault Force support base at Dong Tam.

There were 20 American civilians and five Vietnamese on board the civilian-owned dredge at the time of the mining. Three Americans were killed and one American, trapped below decks, was rescued and treated for shock. There were no other serious casualties. At the time of the explosion, the dredge was shut down for normal weekend maintenance and most of the crew were ashore.

JAMAICA BAY suffered extensive damage. One explosion tore a hole seven feet high and nine feet long in the starboard side. On the port side, the blast opened a hole 15 feet long and seven feet high. The main deck was ruptured and distorted extensively. An LCM-6 moored to the port side of the dredge also was sunk.

The dredge came to rest on the river bottom in approximately 25 feet of water, in a position 100 yards east of the Dong Tam entrance channel and approximately 150 yards from the north bank of the river. Because its starboard spud was in a lowered position at the time of the explosions, the dredge settled with a 40 degree port list.

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Salvage operations were begun immediately by Harbor Clearance Unit ONE (HCU-1). Harbor Clearance Team Three (HCT-3) was sent from Vung Tau with two heavy lift craft (HLCs 1 and 2) and one light lift craft (LLC-2). On 12 January HCT-4 and eight personnel of HCT-5 arrived from Subic Bay to assist.

On 11 January the HCU-1 Salvage Master and COMSERVPAC and COMNAVFORV salvage officers conducted a joint preliminary salvage inspection. It was subsequently decided to raise the wreck in successive stages until the holed areas were exposed and could be patched above water.

Because of the heavy dead weight of the sunken dredge, two more heavy lift craft (HLCs 3 and 4) were dispatched from Subic Bay and arrived on the scene by the end of the month. Harbor Clearance Team 2 and the remainder of HCT 5 also were deployed to operate the lift craft. In addition, YDT-11 was towed from Subic Bay to the salvage site to provide berthing, messing and shop facilities for salvage personnel.

Excellent progress was made by the salvage forces during the month. By 30 January all heavy lift wires had been passed under the dredge, the starboard spud had been removed and the JAMAICA BAY had been returned to an essentially upright position.

Meanwhile, efforts continued to make the hull watertight from the keel to the 02 level in the event dewatering of the dredge became necessary to supplement the force supplied by the lift craft. A patch for the hole in the port side was constructed, and

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fabrication of the starboard side patch was begun. Patching of the deckhouse at the O1 level on the starboard side was completed.

Another salvage operation conducted in January involved a U.S. minesweeper. On 14 January MSB-14, while conducting minesweeping operations in the Long Tau River, collided with the Norwegan motor vessel, MUI FINN, and sank. The collision occurred at 0625 in the vicinity of buoy six at the mouth of the Long Tau channel. Three of the MSB's crew were lost and one of the four survivors was seriously injured.

Harbor Clearance Team 4 and the Salvage Master of HCU-1 were dispatched to the scene from Dong Tam and began salvage operations on 15 January. The wooden-hulled minsweeping boat was located with at least 50 per cent of the port mid-section missing or demolished.

On 17 January the MSB was raised to the surface by YD-220. However, the lift effort was stopped because the hull showed signs of breaking in half amidships while being lifted clear of the surface. The MSB was then secured alongside YD-220 and transported to Vung Tau. There the hull was cut in two pieces and lifted onto a barge for delivery to Nha Be, where the hull was to be dismantled and the machinery and parts salvaged.

On 1 January off Chu Lai, USS MAHNOMEN COUNTY (LST-912) dragged anchor, broached parallel to the beach and came aground on rocks inside the surf zone. Seventh Fleet salvage forces, assisted by HCU-1 Team 1 from Danang, immediately began an intensive but

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unsuccessful effort to save the stricken ship.

All attempts to free MAHNOMEN COUNTY were consistently thwarted by a rock ledge that extended to seaward along the full length of the ship. In addition, salvage efforts were subjected to northeast monsoon weather with winds as high as 40 knots and an 18 foot plunging surf. As a result of the initial impact on grounding and the working of the ship in heavy surf, MAHNOMEN COUNTY suffered severe damage. All spaces below the third deck were holed and open to the sea, and the tank deck was cracked completely athwartships at frame 22. The main deck suffered small cracks in several areas and the bow doors were sprung open and the foundations cracked.

Salvage operations were terminated on 31 January. Because of the extensive damage, COMSERVPAC recommended that the ship be decommissioned and stripped of usable equipment.

Several minor salvage operations were completed during the month. At Cat Lo, a commercial dredge pumping fill into the waterfront area sucked up an 81mm shell which exploded and ruptured the suction pipe. The pipe section was removed but not blanked. The incoming tide caused the dredge to tilt and take on water through the open tube. The craft subsequently sank. The Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT) Saigon detachment at Cat Lo used YD-220 to raise the dredge.

On 8 January the NAVSUPPACT Danang detachment at Dong Ha used Mobile Construction Battalion 5 equipment to refloat Landing Craft Utility (LCU) 1493. The LCU had broached and grounded south of the mouth of the Cua Viet River on 31 December.

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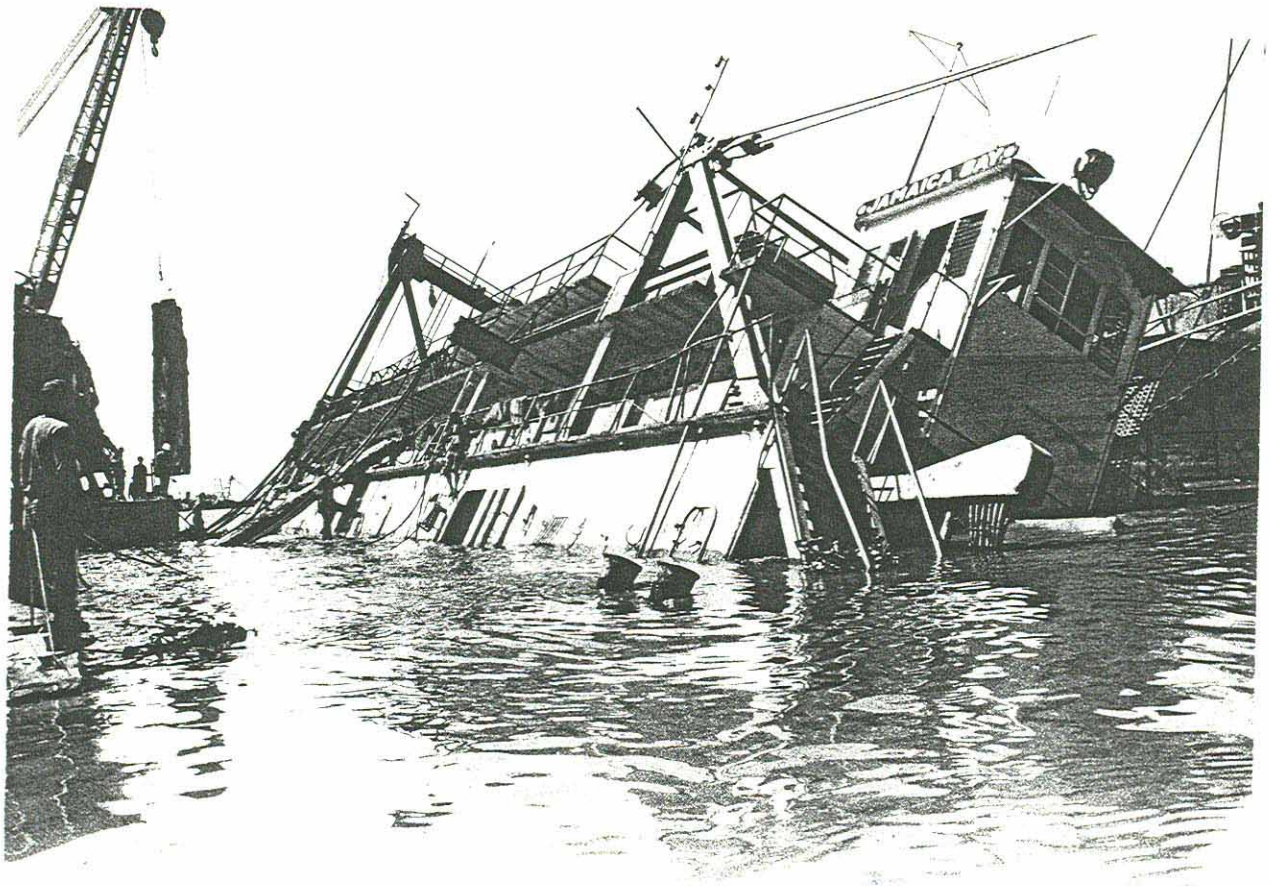
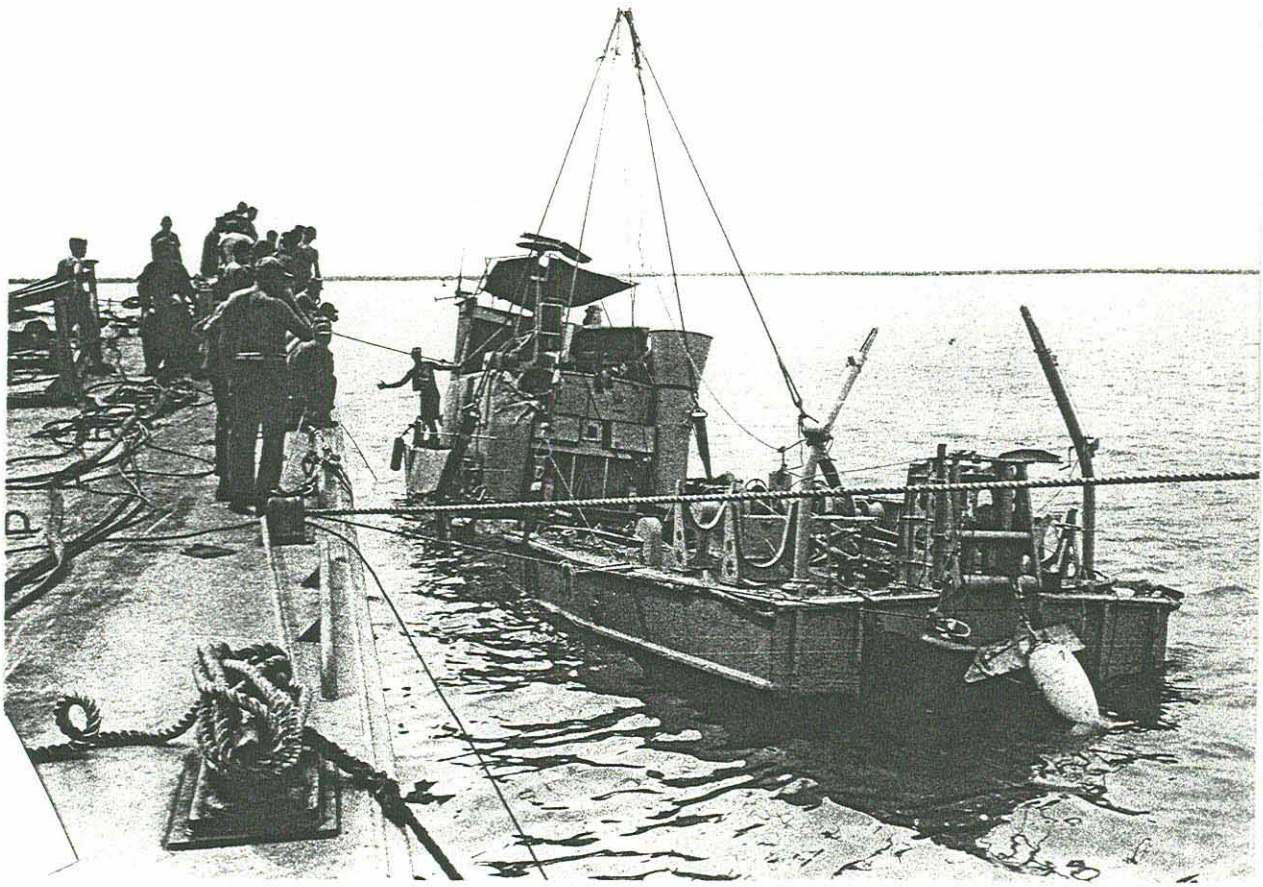


JAMAICA BAY RESTING ON THE MEKONG RIVER BOTTOM AFTER BEING MINED
BY THE VIET CONG ON 9 JANUARY 1967

HEAVY LIFT CRAFT RIGHT JAMAICA BAY



NSB-14 IS RAISED IN THE LONG TAU CHANNEL

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COMMUNICATIONS

In January, the volume of message traffic handled by the COMNAVFORV Communications Center increased to 91,094, the highest single month total to date. Totals during the past six months were as follows:

August - 73,060	November - 76,975
September - 75,970	December - 88,687
October - 75,694	January - 91,094

Three new circuits were activated during the month: a half-duplex covered teletype circuit to the Coastal Surveillance Center at An Thoi; and two circuits (voice and teletype) to Commander River Assault Flotilla ONE embarked in USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST-1169) at Vung Tau.

At Cam Ranh Bay, construction work (PROJECT BOWLINE) on the Communications Center, the transmitter site and the receiver site was, respectively, 87 per cent, 32 per cent and 87 per cent complete. When complete, the facilities will provide communications support for Fleet Air Activities and Coastal Surveillance Forces in addition to message center functions for naval activities in the Cam Ranh Bay area. The electronics installation phase of the project was expected to begin on 1 February.

In Danang, the construction of new facilities (PROJECT SEA ANCHOR) designed to upgrade Naval Support Activity communications progressed satisfactorily. At month's end, the Communications Center was 40 per cent complete, the receiver site 30 per cent

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complete, and the transmitter site 15 per cent complete. The electronics installation was scheduled to start in mid-March.

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MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

In January, psychological operations aimed at Viet Cong defection were intensified amid preparations by the Vietnamese people to celebrate the lunar New Year (Tet). In accordance with the renewed emphasis the Tet season places on family reunion, special appeals were made to persuade Viet Cong to return to their families under government protection. U.S. and Vietnamese naval forces also continued to provide varied assistance, including support for Vietnamese school teachers, medical attention for indigenous civilians, and distribution of commodities to needy villagers.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, plastic bags containing government literature, safe-conduct passes and cigarettes were air-dropped in Viet Cong areas; also dropped were plastic buckets containing, in addition to soap and cigarettes, a personal appeal from the Quang Xuyen District Chief directed at Viet Cong commanders.

Along the coast, loudspeaker appeals made from PCFs were used in areas in which the Viet Cong rank and file were known to be particularly susceptible. Especially effective were personal appeals made by recent returnees. Some of these ralliers reported a mounting disposition on the part of Viet Cong to join the government cause.

In Danang, there were increasing indications that the Naval Support Activity's Military Civic Action program was making significant progress. A key aspect of the program is the Village

Assistance Team (VAT). Six four-man teams are now in the field, virtually living in villages and performing such varied services as helping to build homes and schools and holding sick call for civilians on a daily basis.

Medical officers and hospital corpsmen in Danang held sick call on Monday mornings for orphans and other children at the dispensary of the Stella Maris Convent. At the Station Hospital, over 300 Vietnamese civilians received outpatient treatment and 31 were admitted as major surgical cases. In addition, in various hamlets south of Danang, a medical team composed of two volunteer hospital corpsmen treated over 5,000 civilians for various ailments.

In the First Coastal/Naval Zone, personnel of Coastal Group 14 continued to resettle refugees in villages near the Coastal Group base, providing the refugees with food and medical aid. Meanwhile, near Chu Lai, Coastal Group 15 personnel helped build a permanent dispensary in the village of Ky Ha.

In the Third Coastal/Naval Zone, personnel of Coastal Group 32 conducted an independent medical civic action project (MEDCAP) involving Vietnamese doctors, dentists and corpsmen. The project was conceived, organized and executed by the Vietnamese.

In January, a Vietnamese Navy hospital ship, LSM(H) 401, conducted an extended psychological warfare mission at Vung Tau and at the Coastal Group 35 base in Hung My. During the 13-day mission, a total of 401 medical and 55 dental patients were treated. In addition, the ship's cultural platoon provided entertainment

SHABEE HOSPITAL CORPSMAN SECOND CLASS P. O. PACETTI, USN, [illegible]
SICK CALL IN THE VILLAGE OF NUI CHOC IN AN GIANG PROVINCE.

for the inhabitants of the areas visited.

On 20 January in the Fourth Riverine Area, eight craft of River Assault Groups (RAGs) 31 and 33 conducted a psychological warfare mission in the villages of Vam Ky Mom and Xuan Dong, in Dinh Tuong province. In addition to providing medical treatment for over 350 villagers, RAG personnel distributed 40 sacks of rice, 50 rolls of cloth, and assorted government literature. On 23 January, elements of RAG 25 conducted a psychological operation with American medical help in the remote hamlet of My Binh in Phong Dinh province. The hamlet, situated near the strategically important Tra On canal, became the scene of a flurry of activity as hundreds of inhabitants received medical treatment from Vietnamese and American corpsmen. In addition, foodstuffs and periodicals were distributed to the people.

In January, the number of special Seabee Teams in country increased to six with the arrival of teams 0510 and 0807.

During the month, Team 0510, assigned to the city of Tan An in Long An province, conducted extensive training sessions at the Chieu Hoi (open arms) village in Tan An. The training included instruction in cement mixing, block mold tamping and curing techniques. Twelve Hoi Chanhs (returnees) worked with the team. Eventually, four of the returnees will be permanently assigned to the team as construction workers. The team's hospital corpsman and his Vietnamese trainee held sick call twice a week at the Chieu Hoi Village.

Meanwhile, Team 0807 was assigned to Dien Khanh in Khanh Hoa province. During the month the team began a number of construction jobs as well as land fill and road grading projects. The team also started fabricating playground equipment for schools in the district. In addition, the team began training inhabitants of a nearby hamlet in the techniques of mixing and placing reinforced concrete.

Throughout the month, the other Seabee Teams continued to help the Vietnamese build and improve homes, schools, hospitals, roads, and storage and sewerage systems. At the same time, team corpsmen treated hundreds of civilian patients in remote villages and hamlets. In An Giang province, the corpsman of Team 0509 received letters of appreciation from the Nui Choc Hamlet Chief for the corpsman's medical assistance.

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

	USN	VNN	TOTAL
1. Construction:			
a. Bridges	1R	0	1R
b. Culverts	1R	0	1R
c. Dispensaries	1	0	1
d. Dwellings/number of families	44/56	0	44/56
e. Levelings/grading projects	2	0	2
f. Market places	1	0	1
g. Playgrounds	2R	0	2R
h. Schools/classrooms	1/4	0	1/4
i. Toilets, public	1	0	1
j. School desks	70	0	70

		USN	VNN	TOTAL
k.	School swings	4/4R	0	4/4R
l.	School seesaws	4	0	4
2.	Medical treatments:			
a.	General medicine	24,416	251	24,667
b.	Dental	811	55	866
c.	Surgery	119	0	119
d.	Emergency evacuations	24	0	24
e.	Cleft palate operations	4	2	6
f.	Medical patrols	18	0	18
g.	Laboratory procedures	163	0	163
3.	Health and sanitation:			
a.	Immunizations	2,514	0	2,514
b.	Medical aides/nurses trained	6	0	6
c.	Physical examinations	99	0	99
4.	Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):			
a.	Blacksmith kits (each)	1	0	1
b.	Cement	72,320	0	72,320
c.	Clothing	2,965	380	3,345
d.	Food	45,694	103,608	149,302
e.	Lumber (board feet)	100,520	0	100,520
f.	Medical, non-prescription	1,902	0	1,902
g.	Physical educatior kits (each)	1	0	1
h.	School kits (each)	1,370	3	1,373
i.	Soap	3,938	463	4,401
j.	Tin Sheets (each)	374	0	374
k.	Woodworker kits (each)	13	2	15
l.	Building supplies (nails)	1,750	0	1,750
m.	Salad oil (gallons)	869	0	869
n.	Blankets (each)	51	2,258	2,309
o.	Scrap lumber	9,000	0	9,000
p.	Fire wood (truck loads)	5	0	5
q.	Corn meal	48,000	0	48,000
r.	Rolled wheat	12,000	0	12,000
s.	Powdered milk	3,124	0	3,124
t.	Baby food (jars)	500	0	500
u.	Cigarettes (packs)	310	0	310
v.	Toothbrushes (each)	3,868	0	3,868
w.	Pencils (each)	4,000	0	4,000
x.	Toothpaste (tubes)	4,363	6	4,369
y.	Textile kits (each)	3	7	10
z.	Toys (each)	5,643	0	5,643
aa.	Sand (bags)	1,000	0	1,000
bb.	Personal kits (each)	1,058	0	1,058
cc.	Health kits (each)	96	0	96

	USN	VNN	TOTAL
dd. PsyWar buckets (each)	92	0	92
ee. Sewing kits (each)	2	0	2
ff. Plywood (sheets)	107	0	107
5. Recovered goods redistributed to the people:			
a. Sewing machines	3	0	3
b. Sampans	2	0	2
6. Educational efforts:			
a. English classes/attendance	173/2,412	0	173/2,412
b. Movies/attendance	4/500	0	4/500
7. Voluntary contributions (piasters) in support of:			
a. Religious needs	1,000	0	1,000
b. Schools	197,713	0	197,713
c. Festivals	4,800	0	4,800
d. Teachers' salaries	5,000	0	5,000
e. Needy families	2,000	0	2,000

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

At the end of January, the personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy was 16,222 officers and enlisted men. This increase of 244 men over last month's total placed personnel strength 146 men over the authorized allowance of 16,076. The number of deserters discharged during the month increased from December's total of 39 to 62. The number of unauthorized absences rose from 214 to 229. However, 293 returned deserters were reintegrated into the Navy and were assigned billets with river assault and coastal groups.

Fleet Command

The Vietnamese Navy maintained 13 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam while four ships were assigned to river patrols and one ship escorted convoys to Cambodia. Fleet Command ship operations included: patrols; gunfire support missions; psychological warfare operations; and river assault operations support. LSIL 329, assigned escort duty, provided security for merchant ship convoys transiting the Mekong River to Tan Chau near the Cambodian border. The duration of each convoy transit from Vung Tau to Tan Chau and return is eight days. Each convoy is composed of seven or eight ships carrying fuel and other commodities to Cambodia.

PCs and PCEs patrolled coastal areas in the 1st, 2nd and 4th

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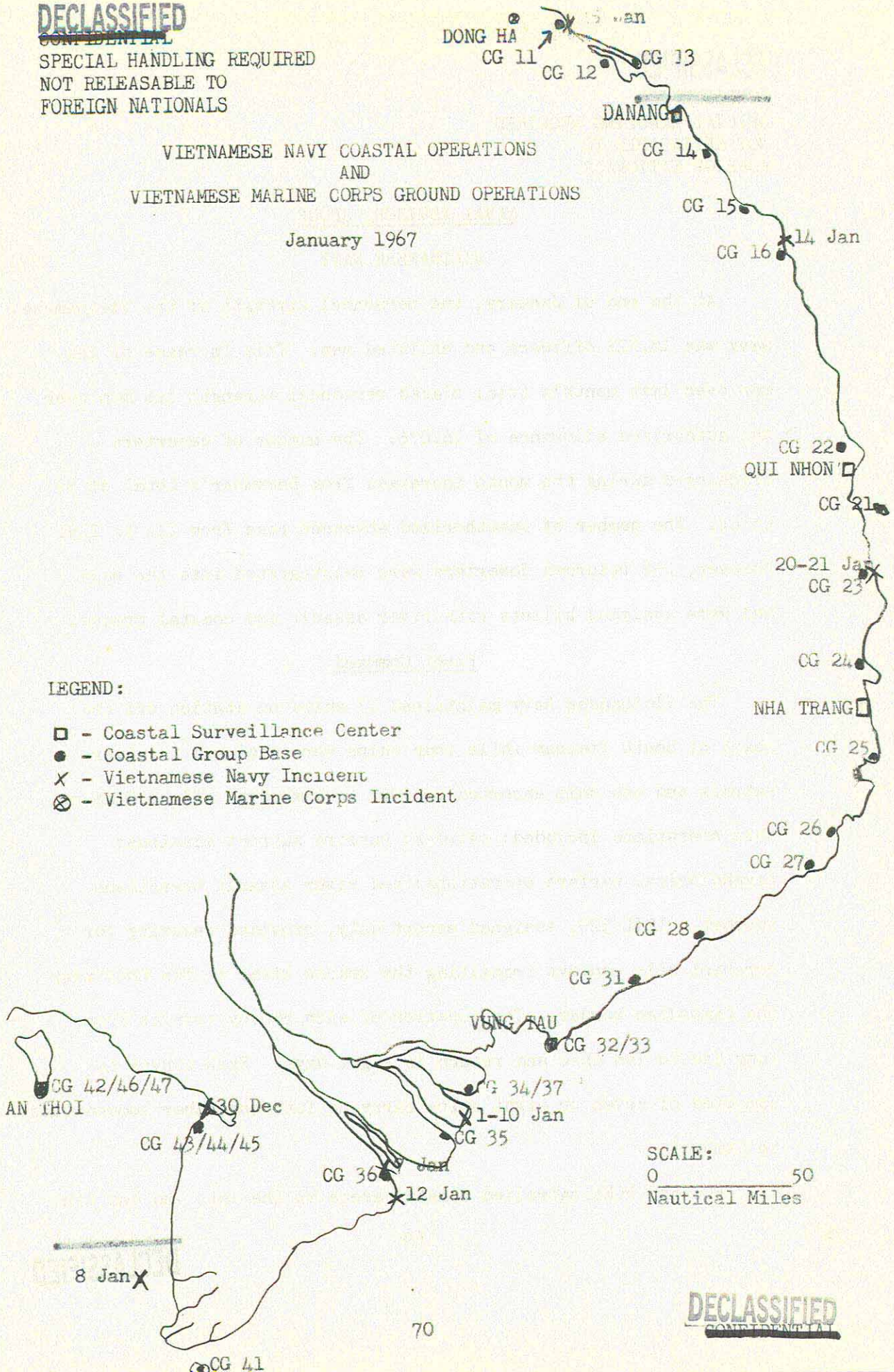
VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS AND VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS

January 1967



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Naval Zones. These ships fired three gunfire missions in support of coastal group bases harassed by the enemy.

On 14 January, the wife of Nguyen Van THIEU, South Vietnam's Chief of State, christened a new patrol craft (PCE-12) in a ceremony held in Saigon. The craft, named NGOC HOI (formerly USS BRATTLEBORO (EPCER-852)), was refurbished at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Virginia, and delivered to a Vietnamese Navy crew. The crew sailed the ship to Saigon.

PGMs were utilized for coastal and river patrols in all four Naval Zones and in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The PGMs conducted four gunfire support missions. At 1355 on 8 January, PGM 602 detained one of two Thai fishing boats violating the territorial waters of the Republic of Vietnam at Fausse Obi Island, 20 miles west of the coast of the Ca Mau Peninsula. The PGM towed the fishing vessel to An Thoi where a search was conducted in liaison with the crewmembers of the Thai PGM 12 which serves with the Free World Military Forces in Vietnam. After a search that revealed nothing suspicious, the craft was released.

LSSLs and LSILs provided patrol, gunfire support and convoy escort services in the 2nd and 3rd Naval Zones, the Rung Sat Special Zone and the 4th Riverine Area. These ships conducted three gunfire support missions. LSSL 228 supported River Assault Group 23 in Operation DECKHOUSE V during the first ten days of January.

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MSCs were deployed on coastal patrol in the 1st Naval Zone. MSC 116 carried out a psychological warfare mission on Cu Lao Cham Island 22 miles southwest of Danang.

MLMSs continued their daily sweep operations on the Saigon, Nha Be, and Long Tau rivers inspite of increased Viet Cong harassment. Six hostile fire or mining incidents occurred in these rivers during the month:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION[1] (Mile)	ACTION
9	1110	26	MLMSs 154 and 159 came under recoilless rifle attack. One U.S. enlisted advisor and six Vietnamese sailors were wounded.
17	1150	32	MLMS 153 personnel noticed a pronounced strain on the sweep gear cable just before a mine exploded 65 feet astern of the boat. The sweep gear was slightly damaged.
23	1235	28	MLMSs 153 and 160 received automatic weapons fire. Two Vietnamese sailors were wounded.
25	0740	31	MLMS 161 was sunk by a Viet Cong mine. Five Vietnamese sailors were wounded and the U.S. advisor, Boatswain's Mate First Class Frederick A. SIMS, USN, was reported missing. Later, his body was recovered.
29	1030	28.5	MLMS 160 personnel observed a mine

[1]The main shipping channel numbering system begins one mile from Saigon (Mile 1) and continues to Vung Tau; e.g., Mile 32 is 32 miles downstream from Saigon. See chart on page 73 for locations of incidents.

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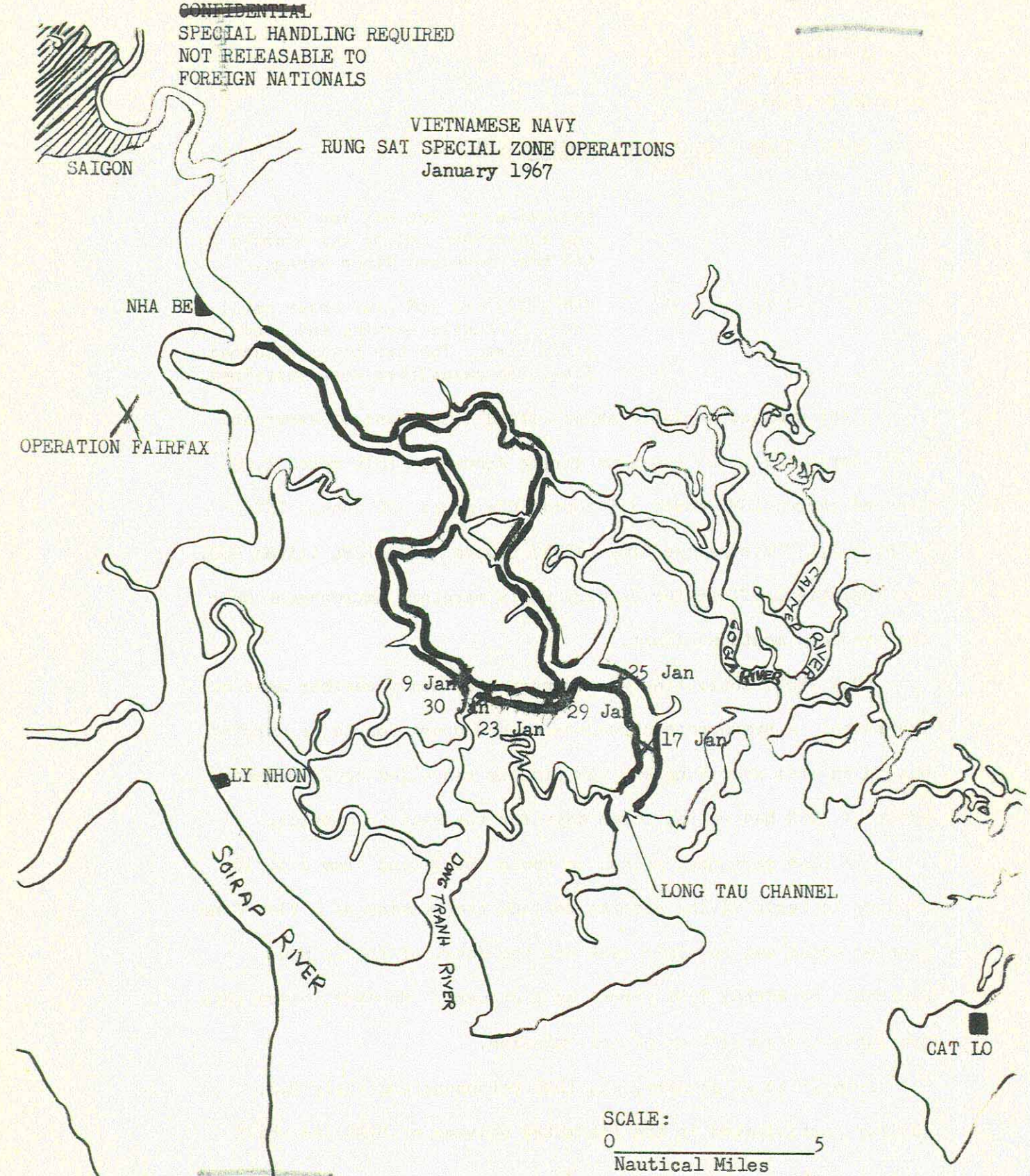
VIETNAMESE NAVY
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS
January 1967



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DATE	TIME	LOCATION (Mile)	ACTION
			explosion 25 feet off the port bow. One Vietnamese sailor was wounded as the boat received minor damage.
30	1245	27	MLMSs 153 and 158 came under small arms, automatic weapons and recoilless rifle fire. The two boats returned fire. No casualties were sustained.

Fleet Command logistic ships lifted 3,343 tons of cargo and 3,317 personnel in 29 missions during January. LSTs moved 2,004 tons of cargo; LSMs moved 339 tons; LCUs moved 100 tons. LSTs carried 2,417 Vietnamese Army (ARVN) troops while LSMs lifted 900. The logistical effort for January was a marginal improvement over the previous month's effort.

LDNN (UDT) activities were hindered by heavy weather most of the month. A hydrographic reconnaissance operation to be carried out in an area near Vung Tau was finally cancelled on 29 December after 22 LDNN had waited seven days for the seas to subside.

Six LDNN personnel waited on Poulo Obi Island from 2 to 10 January to begin diving efforts to find the remains of a Viet Cong trawler which was possibly sunk off the coast of the Ca Mau Peninsula by MARKET TIME forces on 1 January. However, heavy seas precluded the completion of this mission.

From 25 to 27 January, six LDNN personnel and their U.S. advisor participated in the attempted salvage of MLMS 161 which

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had been sunk by a Viet Cong mine on Christmas Day. LCU(R) 537 supported the operation on 27 January. On the same day, a shipyard diver was drowned; his body was not recovered. Salvage operations were terminated without success.

Coastal Groups

The Northeast Monsoon continued to hamper maritime and coastal patrol activity in the 1st and 2nd Naval Zones. The 125 junks employed in the four coastal zones searched 16,144 junks, an average of 4.2 junks searched each day by each coastal group craft during the month.

Beginning at 0400 on 13 January, an offensive operation was conducted by Coastal Group 12 at Tu Nham in Thua Thien province which was supported by PGM 610. During the operation, four Viet Cong were killed, one was wounded and seven surrendered. The coastal group unit also captured 16 of the enemy, eight of whom were female cadre. The operation, which ended at 1830 on 14 January, also netted a quantity of ammunition and documents captured.

At 1315 on 14 January, a Coastal Group 16 unit launched an ambush two miles northwest of Co Lay. The Viet Cong suffered 20 killed or wounded. One M-1 rifle, a number of hand grenades, a large quantity of piasters, and one sampan were captured. Two sampans were destroyed.

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At approximately 0300 on 15 January, the rear base positions of Coastal Group 11 at Cua Viet in Quang Tri province were mortared by the Viet Cong. No casualties were sustained. Four hours later, a militia post just west of the Coastal Group 11 base suffered a Viet Cong attack. Coastal Group personnel came to the aid of the besieged post.

In the 2nd Naval Zone, heavy weather adversely affected patrol activity. One operation was conducted by units of Coastal Group 23 in an area seven miles southwest of the base at Song Cau in Phy Yen province. The operation, which commenced at 2200 on 20 January and ended at 1700 the next day, accounted for two Viet Cong killed, one wounded and one captured.

Blocking operations in support of Operation DECKHOUSE V were conducted by junks of the 3rd Naval Zone during early January. Coastal Groups 34, 35, 36, and 37 supported PBR patrols throughout the period of operations by providing temporary base and logistic storage areas for the GAME WARDEN boats.

On 7 January, Coastal Group 36 units engaged the enemy in a fire fight on the Hau Giang channel near the mouth of the Bassac River, 13 miles east of Soc Trang. Two Viet Cong were killed and one partially burned junk containing foodstuffs was captured.

On the same day, Coastal Group 35 personnel landed and engaged the enemy in a fire fight on the northern bank of the Ham Luong

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River, 14 miles downstream from Ben Tre. One Viet Cong, captured in the action, was delivered into the custody of Vinh Binh sector forces.

On 12 January, Coastal Group 36 and Long Phu subsector forces conducted an operation two miles south of the Long Phu base in Ba Xuyen province. Four Viet Cong were killed; two Russian rifles and a number of documents were seized.

At 1200 on 30 December, Coastal Group 43, 44 and 45 units, coordinated with Regional and Popular forces (RF/PF) of Kien An, ambushed the Viet Cong near the Kien An base in Kien Giang province. One sailor, a member of Coastal Group 44, was killed. Enemy casualties could not be determined.

River Assault Groups

Of the 159 riverine craft available each day for operations, 119 were utilized. These boats were employed in escort, river patrol, static defense and combat operations. River Assault Groups (RAGs) provided highly professional support for operations FAIRFAX, CEDAR FALLS, and DECKHOUSE V. Additionally, RAGs of the 4th Riverine Area assisted in the training of approximately 60 U.S. personnel assigned to the new Riverine Assault Force. All Vietnamese RAG personnel from commanding officers to non-rated men have been taking an active and enthusiastic part in this training.

In the 3rd Riverine Area the Vietnamese Navy RAGs participated

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in Operation XAY DUNG 69/SL (U.S. code name: CEDAR FALLS) which commenced on 8 January and ended on the 20th. The Vietnamese Navy assigned 15 boats from RAGs 24, 26 and 30 and two boats from the River Transport and Escort Group. Also, Regional Force Boat Companies 25 and 28 provided 12 manned boats to support the operation. These RAG and boat company craft were utilized to lift troops, patrol the rivers and transport refugees from the Iron Triangle region into government-controlled areas. By the time Operation XAY DUNG 69/SL was terminated, riverine craft had lifted 1,857 civilian refugees, 240 civilian employees, 2,716 troops, 635 tons of ammunition, ten tons of food, 25 tons of equipment and 32 military vehicles.

On 3 January, 17 boats of RAGs 22 and 28 were assigned to support Operation FAIRFAX, a search and destroy operation in an area adjacent to the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ). The RAG units conducted patrols, transported troops and acted as blocking forces.

In 15 other operations in the RSSZ, RF/PF companies and RAG craft working as a combined force accounted for one wounded Viet Cong and the capture of one junk and a quantity of ammunition.

In the 4th Riverine Area, 17 boats of RAGs 23 and 31 supported two Vietnamese Marine battalions, part of DECKHOUSE V forces, in a search and destroy operation in Kien Hoa province between the My Tho and the Ba Lai rivers. The mission of the RAG craft was to

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carry troops and to transport refugees into secure areas.

Operation CUU LONG 51/SD was conducted by the 7th ARVN Division, 8 miles west southwest of Go Cong. Nineteen boats of RAGs 21 and 27 provided support for this operation which began on 27 January and ended 1 February. Vietnamese Army forces reported that nine Viet Cong were killed, 49 Viet Cong defected, and 60 suspects were detained. Four of the detainees were identified as ARVN deserters. Six individual weapons, three mines, five reels of electrical wire, 61 fuses and a quantity of western medicines and documents were seized. Also, 38 mines and one medical station were destroyed.

Maintenance and Supply

Maintenance aboard Fleet Command ships continued to remain below U.S. minimal standards. Although seven major casualties on five ships were repaired by ships' force personnel during January, a shortage of specialists and electronics ratings adversely affected the ability of ships' crews to maintain equipment. To help alleviate this problem, six enlisted U.S. advisors were deployed on four patrol ships in January. By month's end, the advisors had already begun to make their influence felt, and definite improvement was noted on the part of a number of Vietnamese petty officers in such areas as leadership, initiative and professional knowledge.

The Vietnamese Navy repair facilities continued to lack

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skilled personnel. Consequently, repair and overhaul periods were much longer than originally scheduled. This situation received top-level attention during the month. Captain Tran Van CHON, the Commander in Chief of the Vietnamese Navy, conducted a thorough inspection of the facilities of the Saigon Naval Shipyard and reviewed the yard's administrative policies. As a result of the inspection, Captain CHON directed that management techniques be revised in an effort to improve utilization of personnel and material resources at the yard.

A committee of three Vietnamese Navy officers and three U.S. field supply advisors has been established to deal with administration matters relative to locating a supply depot at each repair facility. The committee has held briefings in the field to explain supply procedures.

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

The Vietnamese Marine Brigade's operational battalions were committed to action 84 per cent of the time in January. Although enemy contact was light, a favorable kill ratio of 1:2.5 was attained.

Vietnamese Marine Brigade Force Bravo, composed of two infantry battalions, a 105mm howitzer battery and other controlling and supporting elements, participated in Operation DECKHOUSE V, a combined U.S. Marine Corps and Vietnamese Marine Corps amphibious

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operation in the Thanh Phu area of Kien Hoa province. The brigade force, embarked in U.S. 7th Fleet ships, underwent wet-net training at Vung Tau on 2 and 3 January. After several postponements because of heavy weather, the force was landed in a combined helicopter and surface assault on the operations area on 7 January. Throughout the operation, light contact was made with the enemy. No friendly personnel casualties were sustained as a result of enemy contact. Operation DECKHOUSE V was terminated 15 January and the brigade force was returned to Vung Tau.

Brigade Force Alpha, composed of three infantry battalions, a 105mm howitzer battery and other controlling and supporting elements, conducted operations north and northwest of Dong Ha in I Corps. The brigade force carried out search and destroy missions by day and set ambushes at night in an area adjacent to the demilitarized zone. Contact with the enemy was light.

On 25 January, Brigade Force Bravo, after having completed participation in Operation DECKHOUSE V, moved to Qui Nhon and Bong Son in II Corps. The force supported the 22nd Vietnamese Army Division two days later with the marines acting as a blocking force.

The 6th Vietnamese Marine Battalion continued Phase II of its formative training at the base camp in Thu Duc. Small unit tactics were stressed. The 3rd Vietnamese Marine Battalion completed its

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retraining course at the National Training Center, Van Kiep, Ba Ria. Other Marine units conducted training as commitments permitted.

During January the Vietnamese Marines accounted for 37 enemy killed, 12 Viet Cong captured and 41 Viet Cong suspects detained. The marines also captured 39 mines, 30 grenade launchers, 17 individual weapons and one crew-served weapon. Friendly casualties were 15 marines killed and 47 wounded during the month.

The Vietnamese Marine Corps continued to demonstrate that it is an efficient fighting force with high morale and excellent leadership.

* * *

Vietnamese Navy Statistics

	Searched		Detained	
Coastal Force	Junks	People	Junks	People
I CNZ	4,907	21,811	1	22
II CNZ	2,967	8,964	2	62
III CNZ	6,204	23,406	0	5
IV CNZ	2,064	6,179	0	0
Fleet Command				
Patrol Ships	372	1,436	0	0
Riverine Area				
Craft	1,792	5,080	0	39
TOTAL	18,306	66,876	3	128

Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistics

Captured Weapons/Equipment/Facilities:

Grenades	70
60mm mortars	3 (1 U.S.-made)
Submachine guns	6

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Rifles	9
Booby traps	12
Machine gun barrel	1
Machine gun tripod	2
Mixed rounds of small arms	275
Pack	1
Cartridge belts	3
Arms factory (mines)	1
Pounds lead	150
Pounds steel	2,000
Pounds copper	1,200
50 KW generator	1
Drill press	1
Vise, screw turn	1
Bags cement (100 kilogram bags)	100
Boxes TNT (60 pound boxes,	26
Base camp	1

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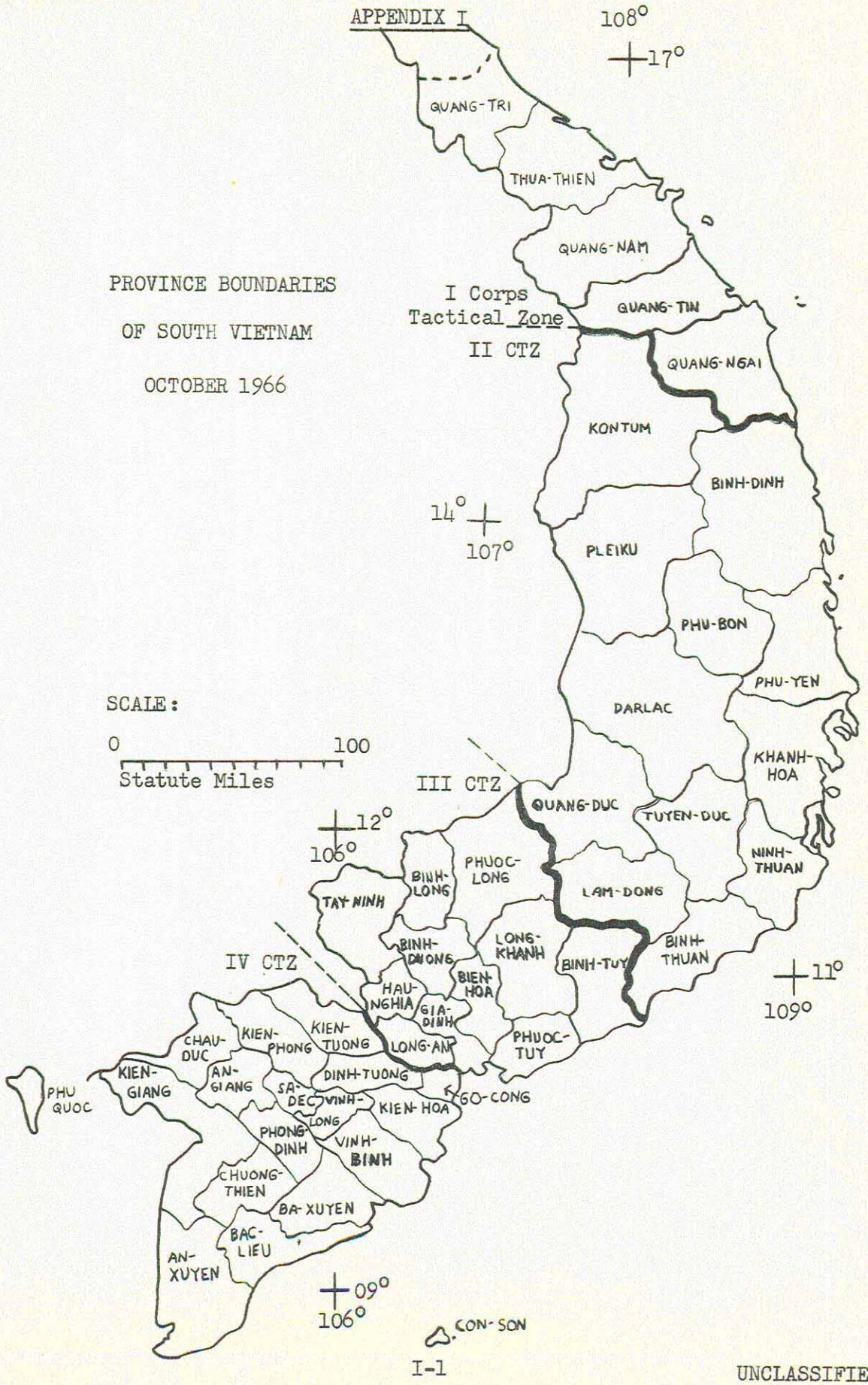
APPENDIX I



PROVINCE BOUNDARIES

OF SOUTH VIETNAM

OCTOBER 1966

SCALE:

0 100

Statute Miles

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APPENDIX II

SOME LESSONS LEARNED DURING RIVERINE OPERATIONS

Since the spring of 1966 the tempo of riverine operations has increased substantially. The following is a summary of some of the lessons learned during these operations.

1. River Patrolling:

a. Boats should patrol in open column with an interval that will provide maximum radar coverage and at the same time afford mutual support.

b. Boats should conduct truly random patrols using the following techniques:

(1) Drift with the tide or current.

(2) Two boats proceed downstream at low speed while two two boats some distance astern drift with the current.

(3) Patrol to the left or right of the center of the river.

c. At night, when patrol boats encounter small caliber non-automatic fire from the beach, the best tactic is to ignore the sniping or to answer only with non-automatic small arms until the source of the sniping is pinpointed. If the sniper is within range, the grenade launcher provides an effective response.

d. Boat patrols should be alert to the Viet Cong tactic of employing harassing fire from one bank in order to drive a patrol craft toward the opposite bank where an ambush has been set.

e. When fired upon from the shore by heavy weapons, patrol boats should respond with all available fire power and withdraw

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at maximum speed. The attack should be reported and requests made for air or artillery support. The boats should stand by out of range to assist the supporting unit in pinpointing the ambush site.

f. When conducting search operations, boat patrols should be alert to Viet Cong decoy tactics. An example of such tactics is positioning one boat without contraband and proper documents in a manner that will permit detection and the distraction needed to allow other craft to escape.

g. When approaching a contact, patrols should close at an angle that permits the maximum number of weapons to bear on the target. At night, contacts should be approached darkened and at high speeds, and illuminated at close range. Spotlights should be aimed before being turned on.

2. Boarding and Search:

a. Patrol boats should not proceed directly alongside a suspicious contact; instead, when within optimum illumination range, the contact should be called alongside. This allows maximum surveillance at all times. Patrol boats should remain in mid-stream as much as possible. If it is necessary to close a contact it should be done quickly, and the contact taken in tow and returned to mid-stream before searching begins.

b. Boats being searched should not be moored to. The use of boat hooks or the engines to stay alongside will facilitate a quick breakaway.

c. When searching a boat, close attention should be paid to

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the drift of the boats in order to avoid grounding or being set dangerously close to a hostile shore.

d. All lines leading into the water should be checked for contraband. A line should be passed down both sides and under the keel when checking a particularly suspicious craft.

e. All craft that are searched should be checked for a false or double bottom.

3. Offensive River Ambushes:

a. When conducting or planning offensive ambushes, effort should be made to conduct coordinated ambushes with Vietnamese Navy (VNN) ships and River Assault Group craft, Regional Force/ Popular Force boat companies, National Police units and Vietnamese Army forces ashore.

b. Prior arrangements should be made for air, artillery and VNN support of the ambush force in case it is attacked by a superior force.

c. Tidal and river currents should be used to reach ambush positions with engines shut down. Noise from the boat's engines carries a long way and warns the Viet Cong of approaching craft.

4. River Assault Group (RAG) Operations:

a. Pre-planning indoctrination should include:

(1) Action to be taken when ambushed.

(2) Requirements for the wearing of life jackets and flak jackets.

(3) The conditions of readiness required when underway.

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b. When planning and conducting operations in new areas, aerial reconnaissance of the areas should be made. Generally, existing maps and charts are not up to date.

c. Each boat in an operation should be clearly marked for identification from the air.

d. The Command Post's location, i.e., ashore, afloat or airborne, should be decided as early in the planning as possible.

e. Timely early coordination with the local district and province chiefs is essential. Canals or rivers often mark the boundaries between districts and provinces.

5. Mines in River Warfare:

a. The Viet Cong use both command-detonated and time-delay water mines.

b. The Viet Cong utilize small craft or swimmers to place mines in rivers and waterways. It is estimated that the majority of water mines are positioned and made ready to fire in a matter of 5 to 10 minutes.

c. The Viet Cong delay placement of mines until patrol craft and minesweepers have passed a selected target area.

d. The Viet Cong mark the locations of mines by use of small floating devices such as coconuts or sticks and utilize them as ranging guides to indicate when an intended target is within lethal range.

e. The Viet Cong emplace water mines in the narrows of a river to limit the length of the command-detonating wire, and to provide

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for greater accuracy by capitalizing on the restricted maneuverability of the intended target.

f. As a diversion, the Viet Cong will initiate an ambush against patrol craft and minesweepers at a location other than the area to be mined.

g. The use of a chain drag sweep appears to be the most effective countermeasure against command-detonated mines. However, the slow speed at which it must be towed presents a hazard to the towing craft and prevents its use as a precursor sweep.

6. River Patrol Boat Operations During Delta Flood Conditions:

a. If the Viet Cong remain in a stronghold for at least a short period after the flood waters start rising, River Patrol Boats (PBRs) should be moved into the area before the water reaches flood stages in order to detect the Viet Cong as they move out of the stronghold.

b. Kedging, using a grapnel, is the only effective way of working PBRs through old canals overgrown with moss.

c. The usual planning factors for moving PBRs are not adequate during flood operations. The large amount of debris, and the need to use slow speeds to avoid washing out houses and swamping boats, necessitate an abnormally slow speed during transits.

d. Snakes are a continuing problem during flood operations. Snakes are found not only in the trees and waters; often they clog pumps. Training in recognizing poisonous varieties is essential.

e. Each boat should have a qualified swimmer aboard to go

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over the side and clear debris which has accumulated in the pumps.

f. Since adequate information is not always available to plan routes, helicopters should be used to reconnoiter the track and recommend deep-water passages unhampered by bridges.

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APPENDIX III

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO THE COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE AND THE RIVER PATROL FORCE

The craft and personnel of the Coastal Surveillance Force were affected by two administrative changes on 1 January 1967. Commander, Coastal Squadron One was assigned to Commander, Amphibious Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet vice Commander, Amphibious Group Three. The second administrative change involved the realignment of PCF Divisions into Coastal Divisions as follows:

PCF Division 101	became	Coastal Division 11
PCF Division 102	"	Coastal Division 12
PCF Division 103	"	Coastal Division 13
PCF Division 104	"	Coastal Division 14
PCF Division 105	"	Coastal Division 15
PCF Division 107	"	Coastal Division 17

All the coastal divisions are assigned to Coastal Squadron One and each has a division commander. This realignment assigned the division commanders to command, with the authority and responsibilities of officers in command, e.g., Article 15, U.C.M.J. The home port for the divisions is San Diego, California.

Effective 1 January 1967, Commander, Amphibious Force, Pacific Fleet assumed the Commander, River Warfare Group functions formerly held by Commander, Amphibious Group Three.

River Squadron Five units were also assigned a home port of San Diego, and an administrative organization as follows:

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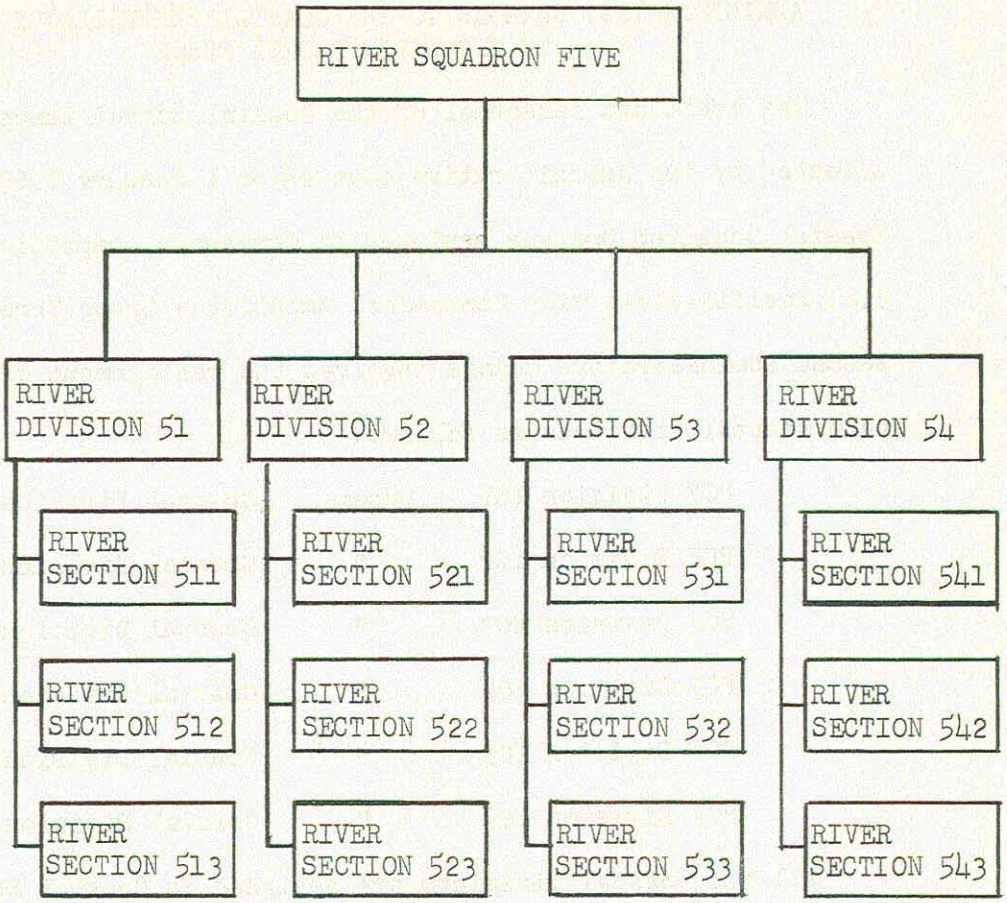

Divisions were established as commands with a Division Commander, and Sections as units with an Officer in Charge.

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APPENDIX IV

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

In January, the number of chaplains assigned to U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam was 21, 17 Protestant and four Catholic. Throughout the month, chaplains ministered to the needs of naval forces in a variety of ways as well as participating actively in civic action projects. The following tabulation is a statistical summary of some of the religious activities conducted during January.

1. Religious Services:

a. Divine Services:

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

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	138	109	247
Attendance	4,696	935	5,631
Communed	1,204	403	1,607

(2) Other Military Installations

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	83	21	104
Attendance	2,571	269	2,840
Communed	1,116	124	1,240

(3) Civilian Churches

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	2	6	8
Attendance	75	60	135
Communed	18	30	48

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

Denomination	Chaplain		Civilian Clergy		Lay Leader	
	No.	Attend.	No.	Attend.	No.	Attend.
Catholic	39	2,343	5	44		
Protestant	18	406	1	15	3	43
Jewish	9	64				

c. Other religious services in which chaplains participated:

Type of service	Attendance
Protestant	175
Bible Study	25
Church Dedication	300

DECLASSIFIED

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SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO
FOREIGN NATIONALS

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