# Monthly Historical Summary

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FEBRUARY 1970

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Enemy activity during February began on a high level on the evening of 31 January/1 February in the coastal provinces then abruptly dropped to a relatively low level where it remained until the latter part of the month. It appeared that the enemy wanted to merely make his presence felt rather than make any major military gains.

There were reports of sapper and guerrilla activity in the Cua Viet area prior to the Tet holiday and again after a brief VC cease-fire during Tet was terminated when four mining incidents occurred. Nearly every major U.S. installation was attacked in the II Corps area prior to Tet.

Activity throughout the Republic of Vietnam returned to a low level as post-Tet activity dropped off ending speculation that a Spring offensive would ensue at the holiday's end. The lull in activity indicated that the enemy was generally avoiding contact when possible. In spite of a low activity level during mid-February, the Go Dau Ha Bridge was blown up. The main enemy objective for this period was confined primarily to resupplying and relocating its forces. It was believed that a battalion of the NVA's 88th Regiment may have infiltrated through the Barrier Reef AO while the rest of the 88th Regiment remained in Cambodia where it completed regrouping and was awaiting orders in late February.

By month's end, hostile action reached a high level particularly in the IV CTZ where 49 incidents were reported including 121 ABF's for the month. Also a general increase in incidents throughout the III CTZ seemed to point to the beginning of the Spring offensive.


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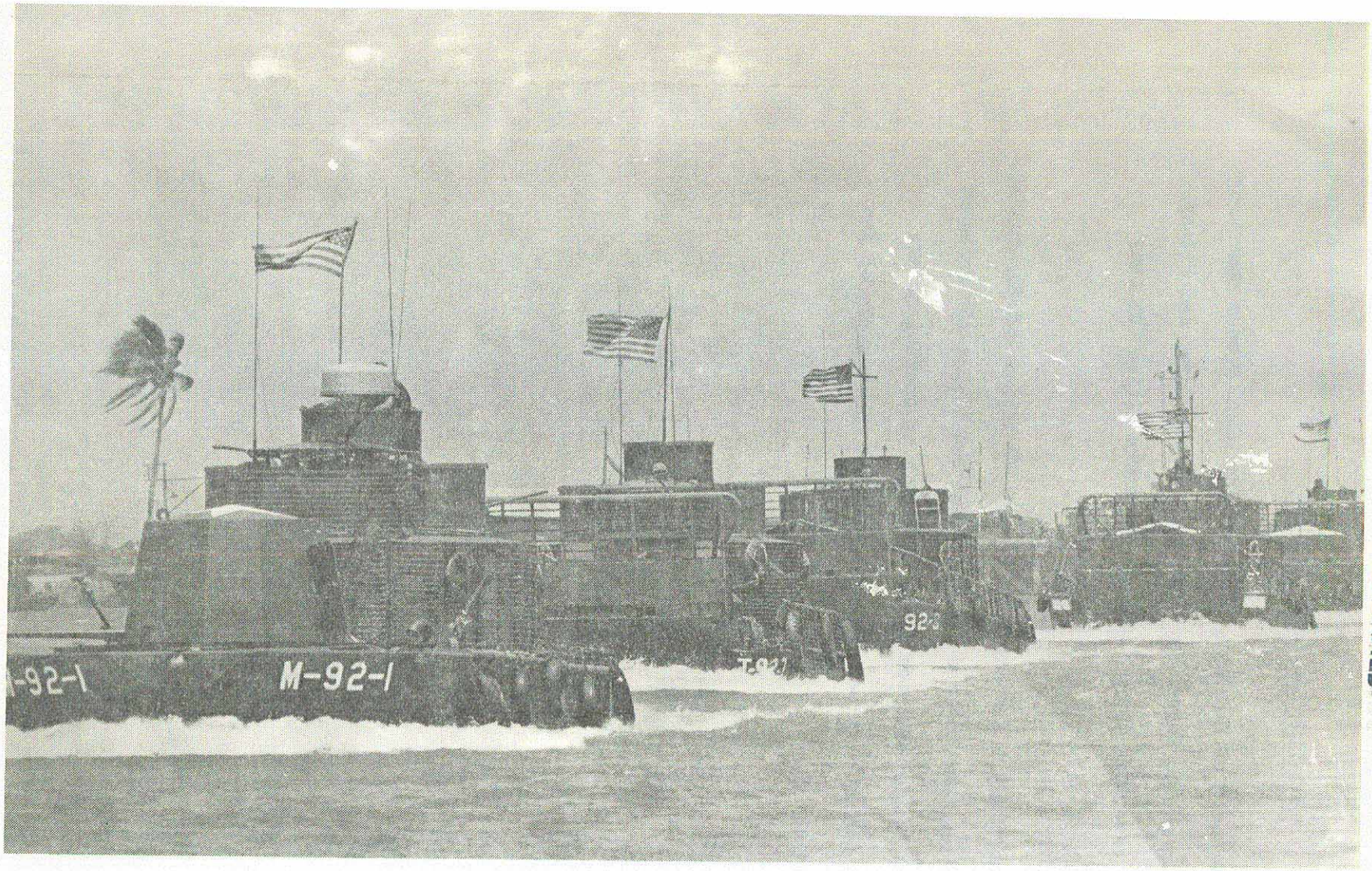
OPEATION SEA LORDS SUMMARY

During the month of February, combined SEA LORDS forces operating in the Giant Slingshot, Border Interdiction, Search Turn, and Breezy Cove campaigns accounted for a total of 337 enemy killed (by body count) and 27 captured.

Friendly casualties for this period were 20 killed and 86 wounded. A breakdown of complete USN and VNN SEA LORDS statistics for February and statistical totals computed since the start of operations are located at the end of this section following the discussions of the various campaigns.




A U. S. Navy Command and Communications Boat (CCB) leads the way for Navy armored carriers (ATC) of River Assault Flotilla ONE during operations in the Mekong Delta.

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Giant Slingshot

During February, there was an average of 55 U. S. Navy craft and 24 VNN craft assigned to the Giant Slingshot Campaign, and, in addition to performing escort duty, troop lifts, blocking, and support missions, these craft set a daily average of 24 WBGP's along the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers. The above figures for the number of units assigned to the Giant Slingshot Campaign are much reduced from those figures of the preceding month. Several units were shifted to other operations that were taking place or were anticipated to take place in the operations areas farther westward than the area encompassed by the Giant Slingshot area of operations (AO). Intelligence had indicated that VC/NVA forces could be expected to execute a major push from the area of the Cambodian border farther to the west during the early days of February. The major offensive was to coincide with the period of celebration of TET in South Vietnam. Other units had been shifted in conjunction with the phased turnover of boats to the Vietnamese Navy under the ACTOV Program.

Even with the reduced number of units available, units of Giant Slingshot still were able to maintain a daily average of 24 WBGP's along the Vam Co Cong and Vam Co Tay Rivers. However, several of these WBGP's were conducted using only one boat in position.

The level of general activity remained nearly the same as reported in January, with the number of sightings of suspected VC only slightly reduced. The number of enemy killed in action by all units



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conducting operations in this area dropped from 182 killed in January to only 55 killed during the month of February. Friendly casualties for the month of February were five killed in action and 35 wounded in action.

During the month of February, Operation Deep Channel II was successfully completed. On 8 February, 1970, the final demolition charge was exploded resulting in the connection of the Kinh Lagrange (canal) and the Kinh Gay (canal), thus providing a direct navigable waterway between the cities of Tuyen Nhon and Tra Cu for both the Vietnamese civilians living in the area and for the USN and VNN forces manning the waterways of the Giant Slingshot AO.

The demolition experts continued work after the official opening of the new canal until 24 February in order to widen the canal to an average width of 25 feet and an average depth of five feet. Areas were also blasted clear for turnaround points for the patrol boats which would use the canal. The final size of the canal, as determined by the demolition experts, is 28,675 feet in length by 25 feet in width and by five feet in minimum depth.

Some problems have already been encountered in the operation of boats on this new canal. One problem that was probably expected by all is that the banks are eroding rapidly, mostly from the loosening effect of the explosives used. Another problem, an unexpected one, is that the tides in the canal appear to be independent from either side. This tidal problem tends to build up debris in the

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canal and also creates unexpected periods of low water. By closely observing the tidal conditions, the boats have been able to transit the canal at medium to high tide carrying several combat troops without running aground. COMRIVDIV 551 conducted several experimental transits of the canal under varying tidal conditions. On one of these transits, at a reduced tidal condition, his boat ran aground. COMRIVDIV 551 reported it to be a "lonely feeling to sit high and dry on a PBR with no place to go".

Highlights of operational activity within the Giant Slingshot AO during the month of February are included in the following narrative descriptions.

On the night of 6 February, the base at Tra Cu (XS 477 983) Hau Nghia Province came under enemy mortar attack. At 0157H two mortar rounds exploded just outside the base defense wire to the west. General Quarters was sounded and the personnel proceeded to their assigned bunkers. There was a lull in firing by the enemy. PBR boat personnel then proceeded to scramble the boats. The enemy mortar battery commenced fire again and the next three rounds impacted in the vicinity of the pier resulting in numerous friendly casualties. Enemy fire ceased after firing six rounds at the base. The last mortar round exploded between the observation tower and the sick bay, with the observation tower and the adjacent water tank receiving shrapnel. Air and artillery assistance were called, but the enemy had now ceased all activity and Civilian Irregular



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Defense personnel were operating in the area. Helicopters evacuated all casualties.

As a result of the mortar attack, friendly casualties were: one USN KIA, six USN WIA, and six VNN WIA. The U. S. Navy personnel were: EN3 Niemi, USN KIA

LTJG Rees, USN WIA (Serious)

SM1 Pierce, USN WIA (Serious)

EN3 Parshal, USN WIA (Serious)

EN3 Wurtzburger, USN WIA (Serious)

GMG3 Hollister, USN WIA (Serious)

EN3 Warnick, USN WIA (Serious)

A later inspection of the base revealed that the observation tower, water tower, and generator shack received shrapnel with no apparent damage. One fuel hose was severed by shrapnel and several boats had shrapnel holes above the waterlines.

On 7 February, in Tay Ninh Province, approximately 10 kilometers from Tay Ninh City (XT 160 425) a daylight patrol under patrol officer BMC Dennis, with BM2 Sanders as Boat Captain embarked in ATC-32 and with GMG3 Ray as Boat Captain and embarked in monitor M-5, discovered three nippa palm rafts. The rafts were approximately three feet square with each raft having a four foot bamboo mast. Attached to the mast of each raft was a bundle of propaganda leaflets written in both English and Vietnamese and addressed to U. S. military personnel. The rafts appeared to

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have been placed in this location for interception by a U. S. Navy river patrol craft.

In the early morning of 9 February, in Long An Province (XS 789 646) approximately four kilometers west of Can Giouc City and approximately 15 kilometers southwest of Saigon, Boat Captain BM1 Groce embarked in his Zippo boat (Z-5) and Boat Captain BM2 Knott embarked in his ATC (T-35) joined forces with a Regional Forces/Popular Forces (RF/PF) unit to attack a VC/NVA base camp. Intelligence had indicated that this base camp was operated by 25-40 NVA and was used as a munitions factory. At 0400H, the RF/PF deployed to form blocking units. At 0445H, Z-5 entered a canal adjacent to the above listed position and commenced burning. Fifteen secondary explosions were observed. The RF/PF reported making contact with VC/NVA running to the south. Seawolves were called in and placed a strike on the area of the base camp. After the air strike, RF/PF's closed in and inspected the area. Twelve bunkers were observed. Nine bunkers had already been destroyed by the Seawolves' air strike. A RF/PF demolition team destroyed the remaining three bunkers and also destroyed two booby traps.

The significance of this action is that this was the first time that a ground assault on this area was possible. The ground forces attributed that the burning conducted by Zippo-5, which cleared the area of the majority of the booby traps, had been the major factor in the success of the ground sweep.

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The U. S. Navy personnel assigned to conduct operations in the Giant Slingshot AO have learned that the enemy is tenacious when he wants to be and respect him for his tenacity. The following is an example of the enemy accomplishing his mission despite all the obstacles placed in his way.

In Hau Nghia Province at Go Dau Ha City (XT 383 250) the bridge across the Vam Co Dong River was mined on 13 February at 0220H. A first hand witness, the skipper of CSB-2, who was on watch on his boat, described that he had seen an electrical flash and heard a muffled explosion, which he evaluated to mean that the explosive charge was set deep. He observed that one concrete pillar rose slightly before toppling into the river.

One span of the bridge was destroyed by the explosion but navigation of the river was not hampered by the destruction of the bridge span due to the depth of the channel under the bridge.

In carrying out his mission, the enemy sapper had successfully evaded all attempts by friendly forces to protect the bridge. On examination, the forces assigned to protect the bridge were all actively carrying out their assignments. There were Popular Force (PF) guards at each end of the bridge and a roving guard on the bridge. Floodlights were illuminating each pillar of the bridge as well as each end of the bridge. An ATC had conducted a chain sweep at irregular intervals. Concussion grenades had been randomly thrown from an ATC and from the CSB-2. There was a swimmer



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net around each pillar of the bridge constucted of 55 gallon drums, expanded metal, and angle iron. However, the swimmer net around the pillar which was destroyed was rusty and deteriorated.

In the evening of 23 February, in Hau Nghia Province, 12 kilometers from Tra Cu City (XT 426 093) Patrol Officers RMC Gage and BMC Wicklund with Boat Captains EN1 Girard in PBR 866, BM1 Cain in PBR 868, BM1 Studds in PBR 870, and GMG2 Farley in PBR 706 were proceeding at idle speed to a WBGP waiting for an artillery mission to be concluded when the boats were attacked by an enemy unit using a 75mm recoiless rifle. The first round fired by the enemy passed over the boats and exploded on the west bank of the river. One of the covering boats immediately opened fire on the east bank. As the attack continued, the lead boat, PBR 868, was hit by two, 75mm recoiless rifle rounds, one round hitting in the chief's quarters which damaged the radios and one round exploding on the coxswain's flat which killed Patrol Officer Gage instantly and maimed Boat Captain Donald M. Cain.

The units continued to receive recoiless rifle and automatic weapons fire but this time from both banks. The wounded Boat Captain managed to turn his boat around and clear the kill zone. The Vietnamese gunner expended all of his 50 caliber ammunition, then manned an M-60 machine gun and took over the helm so that the rest of the crew could administer aid to the wounded Boat Captain.

The boats all cleared the kill zone but remained in the area.

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A medevac helicopter (Dustoff) and artillery assistance was requested. At 1937H, an Air Force Forward Air Controller arrived on station and air elements worked over the area until 2120H, expending four, 5 hundred pound bombs, four Napalm bombs, in addition to smaller caliber ammunition. Enemy casualties are unknown.

On 25 February, in Tay Ninh Province, 9.5 kilometers from Tay Ninh City (XT 181 713) Patrol Officer SM1 Whitesell with Boat Captains EM2 Haynes in PBR 8118 and GMG2 Grosz in PBR 8120 were enroute to night NSGP when at 2037H they came under intense enemy rocket and automatic weapons fire. One B-40 rocket exploded against the fiberglass shield on the starboard side of boat 8118 injuring five of the embarked personnel. The units returned fire on the enemy position and cleared the area. Artillery, air, and medevac assistance was requested. Artillery took the enemy ambush area under fire from 2044H to 2051H. Black Ponies arrived on station at 2052H and commenced strikes which lasted until 2107H. Artillery and additional air strikes were conducted until 2334H. Personnel wounded in this ambush and medevaced were:

EM2 Leo H. Haynes, USN WIA (Serious)
EMFN Michael C. Perex, USN WIA (Serious)
SM1 John R. Whitesell, USN WIA (Minor)
SN Dale R. Williams, USN WIA (Minor)
GMG3 Stanley H. Gaines, USN WIA (Minor)



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Operation Ready Deck

In Operation Tran Hung Dao V /Ready Deck, now uder VNN command with a deputy USN commander, the integrated naval forces of USN and VNN units maintained constant pressure on the enemy in February through effective employment of interdiction techniques. While coordinating their operations with the 1st Infantry Division, USA, the 5th ARVN Division, and the local RF/PF forces that have the adjacent AO's, the Ready Deck units conducted river patrols,search and destroy operations, WBGP's, troop support, and PSYOPS and ACTOV training on the Saigon and Thi Tinh Rivers extending some 43 miles from four miles south of Phu Cuong (XT 81078) upstream to Tri Tam (XT 480 460).

In February the low level of enemy activity was equally dispersed throughout the month and concentrated in the general area five to seven miles northwest of Phu Cuong where the Saigon and Thi Tinh Rivers merge (vicinity XT 755 205). There were scattered actions further up the Saigon River, but the frequency of these was considerably less than in previous months. Although the night WBGP continued to be the most effective interdiction tactic employed, the number of VC involved averaged considerably less than in December and January when larger unit crossings were successfully interrupted.

Based on intelligence information of the military and civilian VCI operating in the upper Saigon River area of the enemy's sub region one, one SEAL squad of Detachment GOLF, BRAVO Platoon, was



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relocated from Giant Slingshot to the Tran Hung Dao VI area on 23 February. The unit, composed of one officer and six men, was placed under the OPCON of CTG 194.6 and directed to conduct operations in the areas on and adjacent to the Saigon and Thi Tinh Rivers from Phu Cuong north to east west grid line 30.

In addition to the SEAL squad, the following USN and VNN units were committed to the operation at the end of the month:

| Designation | Type of Unit | # of Units Assigned |
|---|---|---|
| TG 194.6 (Whaler) | Whaler | 1 |
| TU 194.6.1 (RIVDIV 953) | PBR | 10 |
| TU 194.6.3 | LSSC | 1 |
| RPG 51 | PBR | 8 |
| RAG 24 | RAC | 18 |

The following narrative includes examples of the more significant incidents occurring in the Tran Hung Dao V/Ready Deck AO.

Four RAG 24 units with their USN adviser, LT W. R. Blakely, embarked were acting as a blocking force for an RF troop sweep on the morning of 3 February nine miles north northwest of the Phu Cuong on the Thi Tinh River (vicinity XT 745 257). Shortly after 0900H seven VC with one B-40 rocket and individual automatic weapons opened fire on the heavily armed RAC. The VNN units immediately returned and suppressed the fire. Three VC were killed and one sampan near the contact area with a small amount of personal clothing was captured. A USA LHFT, "Rebel 51," followed up the action with helo strikes with unknown results.



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While conducting a search and destroy operation five miles northwest of Phu Cuong on a small canal, interlaced with the Saigon River (vicinity XT 733 208) on 9 February, LT McClumber, PC1 Willard, and EN1 Wagner and their PBR's 755 and 841, and six EOD personnel observed four swimmers in the water near PBR 841. Taking them under fire, the PBR sailors killed the four VC. Two more VC were spotted fleeing across rice paddies to the northeast. They too were taken under fire and probably killed. An LHFT was requested and arrived on station around noon. The helo destroyed two bunkers, and under the cover of the LHFT, the EOD personnel destroyed two more recently used bunkers.

Just upstream from the intersection of the Saigon and Thi Tinh Rivers on the Saigon River (XT 750 213), RIVDIV 593 PBR's 752 and 841, under the command of BMC Gainey, were poised for action in a night waterborne guardpost on 12 February. The two PBR's heard movement on the beach. Suddenly a grenade bounced on the canopy of one of the boats. BMC Gainey grabbed the grenade and threw it overboard. The units broke the WBGP and reconned the area by fire. Black Ponies were called to assist and arrived at 2010 to commence a strike. After the first pass by the Black Ponies, the PBR's received small arms and automatic weapons fire from the south beach. At the same time they observed about ten swimmers in the water crossing from south to north near one boat. Five VC were killed by the sailors while the OV-10's continued to place air strikes. At 2034, air cover departed the area, and the PBR's returned to Phu Cuong to rearm before returning to set another WBGP.



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On the evening of 15 February, MM1 Rhodes, with USN PBR's 840 and 843, was silently maintaining a night WBGP on the Thi Tinh River approximately four and one half miles northwest of Phu Cuong (XT 766 216). At 2100, the sailors observed a sampan moving downstream from north to south. The sampan was taken under deadly fire that killed four VC (one probable). Concurrently another VC was spotted on the beach approaching the friendly units. He too was taken under fire and stopped, dead, in his tracks. With all movement silenced, the PBR's closed the sampan and recovered one CHICOM pistol and one pack containing food, clothing, and documents. The boats returned to Phu Cuong to rearm before they resumed the patrol.



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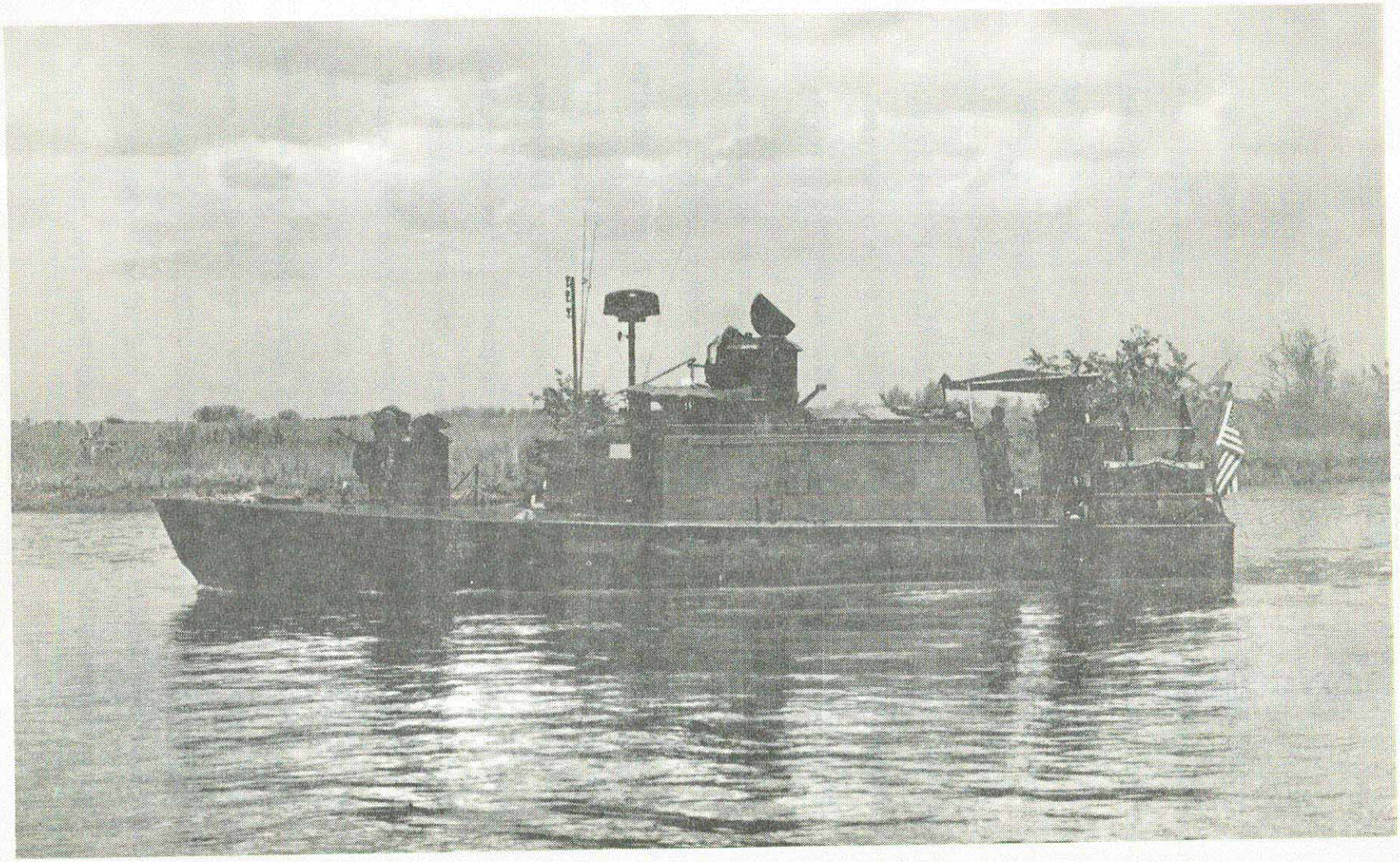

A River Assault Division 153 Assault Patrol Boat patrols the river near the Cambodian border searching for enemy infiltrators.

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## Border Interdiction

During the month of February, U. S. Navy units continued to hamper the VC/NVA efforts to move troops and logistics across the Cambodian border through the Border Interdiction Area of Operations (AO). The number of enemy contacts and sightings in the Border Interdiction AO indicates that the enemy is still trying to move through the Tran Hung Dao and Barrier Reef interdiction barriers. During the month, the enemy suffered 34 confirmed killed in his many attempts to infiltrate the area. The U. S. Navy suffered 2 killed in action and 16 wounded in action during this period.

The following incident narrative describes the activites occuring during the month of February in this area of operations. On the morning of 4 February, four PBR's were in WHGP on the Vinh Te Canal approximately 11 kilometers southwest of Chau Doc. At 0104H, one PBR at WS 033 787, sighted approximately 100 VC on the north bank of the canal and approximately 15 swimmers in the water about 150 meters distance from their guard post. The PBR immediately took this large body of VC under fire. Simultaneously, a PBR located at WS 027 784 sighted 100 to 200 VC on the south bank approaching the canal. Three of the PBR's took this group under fire when the VC started running to the south. Seawolves were immediately requested and HAL 3 DET 5 helos were scrambled at 0107H. The Seawolves placed rocket and machine gun strikes on the VC on the south bank. Black Ponies relieved the Seawolves at 0125H and continued the air



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strikes. Shadow 77 arrived at 0151H, relieved the Black Ponies, and continued the strikes.

A daylight sweep of the action area was conducted. The amount of captured material indicated that the PBR's had interrupted a large VC canal crossing. A partial listing of the material captured were 25 hand grenades, five boxes of mortar booster charges, two rounds of 82mm (high explosive) ammunition, three rounds of 60mm ammunition, 150 rounds of .51 caliber belted ammunition, 28 uniforms, 16 back packs, 38 bamboo one man rafts, 12 gasmasks, 20 ponchos, one kilo of documents, 150 pounds of rice, and miscellaneous cooking utensils.

Late at night on 5 February, PBR 673 inadvertently crossed the border on the Mekong River into Cambodia. It was assumed that the crewmen became disoriented in the dark when they were returning to their station at the USS BENEWAH which was located 15 miles downstream from the border. There were five crewmen aboard the PBR.

At 0020H on 7 February, four RIVDIV 515 PBR's with Patrol Officers SMC Dunnuvant and QMC Liggett in charge were in WBGP with personnel of a Mobile Strike Force (MSF) embarked on the Vinh Te Canal about 9 kilometers from Vinh Gia City at VS 855 610. Twenty-five VC/NVA were spotted approximately 100 meters south proceeding north. The enemy was taken under fire and the MSF was inserted. At 0035H, four RIVDIV 512 PBR's under Patrol Officers QMC Sneed and BMC Hudson proceeded to the area to assist. The RIVDIV 512 boats



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carried additional personnel of the MSF and ammunition. Seawolves arrived on the scene and provided air support. The MSF swept south and came into heavy contact with an entrenched force of about 40 NVA and suffered one USA WIA, one MSF KIA, and three MSF WIA. At 0250H, one Seawolf landed in the contact area and medevaced the wounded as additional Seawolves provided overhead cover. At 0333H, a USA flare ship arrived on the scene and provided continuous illumination. Black Ponies arrived, and after extraction of the MSF, commenced air strikes at 0430H. At 0520H, the USA flare ship was relieved on station. The relieving aircraft remained on station and provided continuous illumination until daylight. At 0700H, the MSF was reinserted and conducted a sweep of the area. In carrying out the sweep, the MSF discovered 11 NVA KIA (BC). The MSF captured three NVA, one of whom was slightly wounded. The MSF also captured six AK-47's, one SKS, 11 assorted pictures, 30 Chicom grenades, one gas mask, two diaries, 35 pounds of miscellaneous foodstuff, one medical kit with assorted drugs, 17 magazines of AK-47 ammunition, one NVA Medal of Honor, and miscellaneous documents.

On the morning of 13 February, a PBR of RPG-54 was returning from WBGP when personnel sighted a Claymore mine at WS 045 794 on the north bank of the Vinh Te Canal. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) assistance was requested. The EOD team, led by LTJG Valentine, destroyed the mine in place. The EOD team reported that the mine was facing the canal and had been rigged with a monofilament line which led to a spider hole on the north bank where the



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mine could have been command detonated.

The following detailed description was requested by COMNAVFORV due to the large number of personnel casualties resulting from hostile action and to attempt to determine if the crafts involved were especially vulnerable to rocket and recoilless rifle attack.

MINEDIV 113 units, MSR-3, and MSR-6, were on routine day patrol in the Giang Thanh River. Both units were at modified general quarters which meant that all personnel were manning battle stations but were allowed to smoke and move around as long as they could return to their stations quickly. All weapons were loaded and cocked. All personnel without exception were wearing fatigue pants, boots, flak jackets, and helmets. About 50% were wearing fatigue shirts under their flak jackets. The remainder were shirtless.

Units were proceeding south with MSR-3 in the lead and MSR-6 trailing behind about 75 meters. Their speed was about three knots. When the units rounded a blind corner at VS 548 602, at approximately 1548H, they were ambushed from both banks by automatic weapons, B-40's, and recoilless rifle fire.

Aboard MSR-3, one B-40 round hit the starboard side of the hull above the waterline, directly aft of the twin 50 caliber mount, piercing the hull and hurling shrapnel throughout the compartment. Some of the shrapnel continued on through the port hull and into the water. The heat of the explosion caused a fire in a clothing locker. The fire later spread to the coxswain flat before it could



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be controlled. One recoilless rifle round hit about two feet aft of the B-40 round and went out the other side of the boat and doubtlessly contributed to the fire and shrapnel damage. Another B-40 round exploded on the forward compartment hatch which was dogged down. The entire surface of the hatch was destroyed although the knife edge porting remained in place dogged down. A second recoilless rifle round hit the deck house just aft of the coxswain's stand on the starboard side. The round penetrated the deckhouse bulkhead, both bulkheads of the coxswain's flat, and fragmented pieces of shrapnel imbedded in a fold down cot mounted on the port bulkhead. A third B-40 round, fired at the stern of the boat, hit the port 50 caliber gunner in the chest. The impact of the round threw the Boat Captain, who was conning, forward. He hit his head on the guage console receiving a 3 inch gash and passed out for what he estimated to be about 15-20 seconds. However, when he fell forward, his hands were on the throttles and the forward motion of his body pushed the throttles to maximum turns, propelling the boat out of the kill zone. He regained consciousness before the boat left mid-stream and he steered the boat clear of the kill zone.

MSR-6 was attacked at the twin 50 caliber mount. The B-40 round pierced the hull and some of the shrapnel went through the hull on the port side. Another B-40 round hit the starboard side of the deck house just aft of the coxswain's stand, piercing the bulkhead and expending itself against a folded down cot and the bulkhead of the coxswain flat. The heat of the explosion caused the cot to



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ignite. Approximately eight inches aft of this B-40 round, a recoilless rifle round went through the starboard deckhouse bulkhead, through both bulkheads of the coxswain's flat, and expended itself against the port deckhouse bulkhead. A third B-40 round hit the stern on the port side where the hull joins the main deck and transom. The impact of these explosions knocked the Boat Captain, who was conning, out of the coxswain's flat, through the deckhouse door, and into the berthing area immediately adjacent. He was knocked unconscious, suffering minor internal bruises and some smoke inhalation damage to his wind pipe and right lung. A crewmember firing an M-60 from the drone operator's platform was unaware that the Boat Captain had been knocked off of the helm. The boat continued down the middle of the river until it had cleared the kill zone then veered toward the northwest bank and ran aground. The impact threw the M-60 gunner clear of the boat and onto the beach. He was unhurt. The forward twin 50 caliber gunner received minor shrapnel wounds from the B-40 which hit forward. Shrapnel from the B-40 which hit aft on the port side seriously injured a man standing two feet from the point of impact. One other man on the fantail received minor shrapnel wounds while the third man was unharmed. The unharmed man, however, later sustained third degree burns on both hands while fighting the fire on the boat.

The attack was well planned and executed. It appeared that the enemy on the northwest bank was tasked with hitting the forward 50



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caliber mount and the coxswain's flat since all of their rounds landed in those areas. The enemy on the southeast bank was tasked with hitting the personnel on the fantail since all of the rounds from that bank hit on the fantails of the boats.

Without doubt, flak jackets and helmets saved three personnel from death or more serious injury than they sustained since several jackets and helmets showed signs of shrapnel damage. In addition, boat personnel from both MSR's had secured three foot by six foot flak curtains to the outboard side of the stanchions around the entire fantail of their boats. The B-40 round which hit MSR-6 on the port side aft at the junction of the main deck and the hull detonated right below a flak curtain. Judging from the damage to the curtain, it absorbed at least 60% of the shrapnel which undoubtedly saved the life of the man most seriously injured who was standin only two feet from the point of impact and also save the other two personnel from serious injury.

During the actual attack, the units returned fire and cleared the area to the south. The boats reported their situation and requested assistance. Four PBR's of RIVDIV 532, under Patrol Officers LTJG Bomato and BMC Garrett, and two PCF's of COSDIV 11, with LTJG Ellington and LTJG Hill embarked, were near the area of the attack



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and were directed to proceed to the assistance of the MSR's under attack. The PBR's of RIVDIV 532 entered the area and suppressed the fire at 1558H.

The MSR's proceeded south to rendevous with PCF's in the vicinity of VS 530 580. On rendevous, all units received automatic weapons fire from the west bank. The units returned the fire and requested air assistance. Seawolves were scambled from the USS JENNINGS COUNTY and were on station at 1610H. The Seawolves placed strikes in the second contact area, then medevaced the most serious wounded at 1620H.

Friendly casualties from the ambush were as follows:

ENFN Thomas Copp, USN KIA

BM3 Henry P/ Wilcox, USN WIA (Serious)

GMG3 Edward B. Yost, USN WIA (Serious)

ENFN Gerry W. Abbott, USN WIA (Minor)

EN2 Charles A. Brown, USN WIA (Minor)

GMG3 Elwood W. Arnell, USN Wia (Minor)

EN2 Edward K. Fry, USN WIA (Minor)

BM1 Jerry F. Obsworth, USN WIA (Minor)

BM3 Timothy R. Flynn, USN WIA (Minor)

BM1 Charlie J. Robertson, USN,WIA (Minor)

On 16 February, COMNAVFORV notified CNO that U. S. military representatives were prepared to receive the remains of three U. S. Navy helicopter crewmembers who were killed when their helicpter

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crashed in Cambodia on 28 April 1969. On the afternoon of 20 February, the Cambodian government returned the remains of the three crewmen. The remains were accepted by a U. S. Navy officer and were later turned over to the U. S. Army Mortuary Service in Saigon for identification. The mortuary service was able to confirm the identity of LTJG Hal Cushman Castle, 717424, USN and AO3 Michael Edward Schafernocker, B71 62 40, USN. The mortuary service certified that no remains were received of the third Navy helicopter crewman, LTJG Richard John Reardon, 716637, USNR.

COMNAVFORV has requested to have the American Embassy in Phnon Penh to search, if possible, at both the crash and burial sites for a possible unopened grave or other evidence of the third crewman.

By 16 February, the water level in the Vinh Te Canal had dropped so low that boats were no longer capable of operating in certain parts of the canal. Ground forces, sensors, and air support were the only means of interdiction in these areas where low water conditions prevail.

On 23 February, PBR's of RIVDIV 532 were en route to night WBGP when they came under intense B-40 and automatic weapons fire at VS 510 548 on the Rach Giang Thanh River about nine kilometers northeast of Ha Tien. At 1758H, PBR 121 was hit in the vicinity of the coxswain's flat and PBR 634 received B-40 rockets in the bow and the stern, both above and below the waterline. Both units returned fire



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and cleared the kill zone to the north. PBR 121 commenced burning and was beached. Since the crew was unable to extinguish the fire at that time, PBR 634 came alongside and evacuated the crew of PBR 121. PBR 638 and PBR 143 then arrived in the contact area and took the area under fire. Seawolves were scrambled and were on station at 1808H and placed three strike in the contact area. The Seawolves then proceeded to medevac three personnel from PBR 121. After the Seawolves departed, PCF 22 and PCF 56 fired mortar rounds into the contact area and sighted three personnel evading to the west. Additional air strikes were called in. At 1920H, with the air strikes completed, CIDC troops were inserted for a sweep. PBR 123 and PBR 124 escorted PBR 634 to Ha Tien. PBR 638 and PBR 142 towed PBR 121 to Ha Tien.

Friendly casualties were five USN WIA and one VNN WIA (Slight). The U. S. Navy personnel were:

LTJG D. M. Bomarito, USN WIA (Minor)

RM1 G. M. Gandy, USN WIA (Slight)

DP3 R. A. O'brien, USN WIA (Minor)

ENFN S. R. Green, USN WIA (Slight)

GMGSN W. R. BOWLING, USN WIA (Minor)

The CIDG troops found one VC killed.

On 24 February, PBR's of RIVDIV 571 under Patrol Officer RDC Eubanks were operating on the Bassac River as a Resources Control Patrol. At 0920H, the patrol stopped a large water taxi in the

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vicinity of WS 375 665 for a routine check. Upon boarding the water taxi, the PBR crewmembers noted that all the passengers appeared to be frightened. The VNN crewmember of the PBR relayed to his Boat Captain that the Taxi Master had attempted to bribe him not to search the boat. During the search of the water taxi, the Vietnamese crew refused to lift the floorboards. The USN and VNN crewmembers lifted the floorboards and found six Vietnamese males hiding beneath the floorboards. The six suspects and all of the other occupants of the water taxi were taken to the Choi Moi District Headquarters. Later interrogation of the six males indicated that all were draft dodgers.

On 25 February, PBR 7650 of RPG 54 with EN2 Woolsey embarked as as an advisor was proceeding to WBGP when the boat struck a water-mine at WS 018 778 approximately 13 kilometers southwest of Chau Doc. The explosion knocked out both engines and the PBR commenced taking on water. The crew attempted to beach the boat but the boat sunk in shallow water. A later inspection revealed three small holes in the hull. The boat was refloated and repaired. There were no friendly casualties.

On 28 February, the Cambodian government released the five members of the PBR crew which accidently crossed the Cambodian border on 5 February to the American Charge D'Affairs in Phnom Penh. They were Gary Lehnen, Michael Walker, James Hunsucker, Anthony DeLuca, and Thomas P. Glenn.



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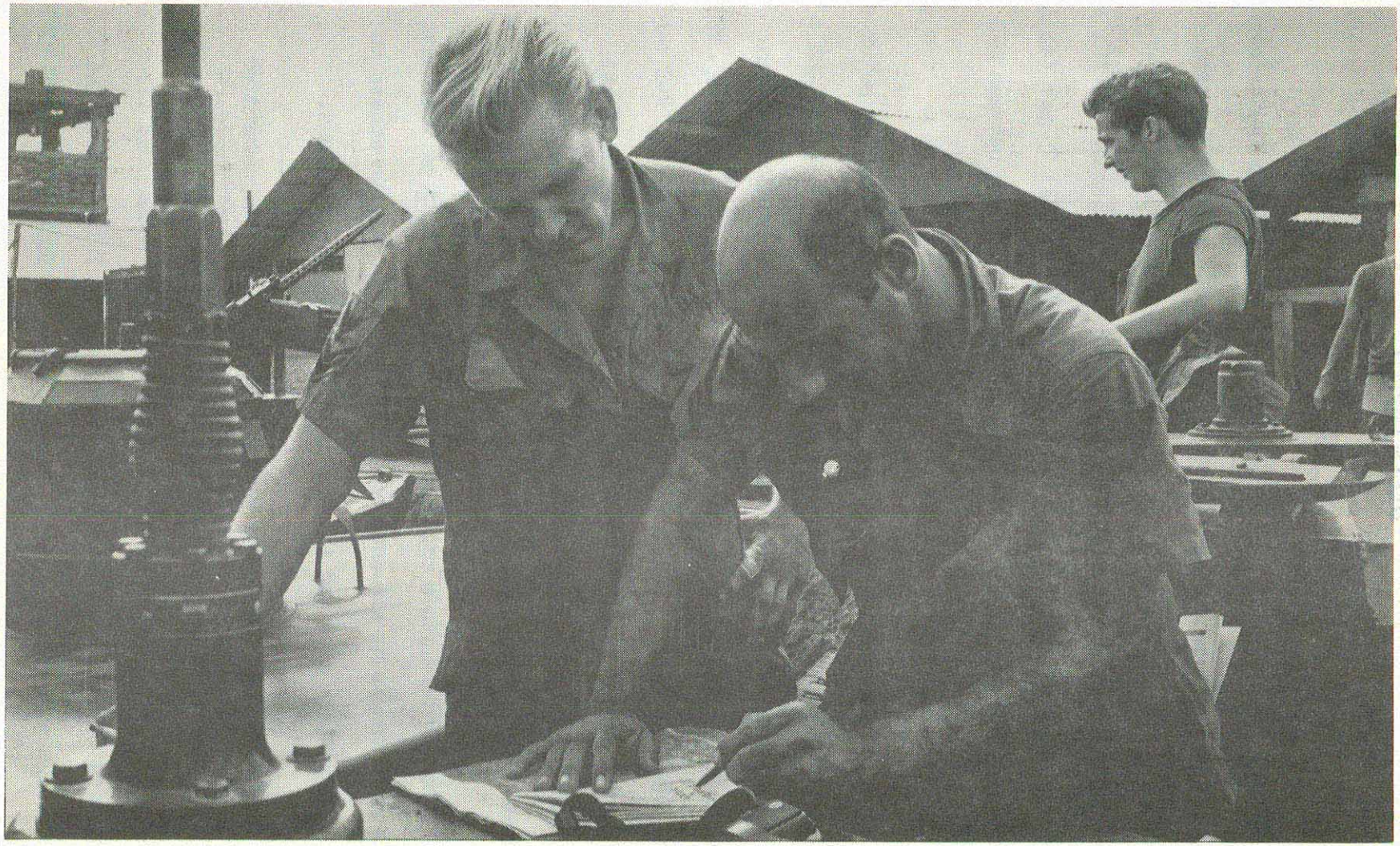

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Boatswain's Mate First Class Baker, combat patrol officer, plans a waterborne guardpost operation with Engineman Second Class, boat captain. Both are members of RAD 153 which is nicknamed "The Delta Destroyers."

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Search Turn

Intelligence reports throughout the month of February indicated enemy movement from the Seven Mountains into the Three Sisters area and suggested an increase in PBR patrols on the Rach Gia-Ha Tien Canal to break up this movement. In reaction to these reports, CTG 194.3 repositioned its forces within the Search Turn AO so that 75 per cent of its units were available for patrol and WBGP positions between N-S grid lines VS 60 and VS 90 along the Rach Gia-Ha Tien Canal.

Also in response to these reports, the 21st ARVN Division moved to Kien Luong with RAG 26 and the 9th Mobile Cavalry for operations along the Rach Gia-Ha Tien Canal north of the 30 F/W gridline and on the Kinh So Mo. RAG 26 forces were placed as follows: 2-3 two boat WBGP's on the Rach Gia-Ha Tien Canal between 19 and 28 E/W gridline, 2-3 two boat WBGP's north of 28 E/W gridline on the Rach Gia-Ha Tien Canal and on the Kien So Mo and Kien Vam Ray, and random Gulf patrols off the Three Sisters and northern Kien An Province.

Further intelligence reports during the second half of the month indicated attempts by elements of the 18B Regiment to gain access to the Three Sisters area and then to probable southward movement.

On 23 February, the Chief of Naval Operations, VNN, committed RAID 75 to Operation Search Turn making it a combined USN/VNN operation which was renamed Operation Search Turn/Tran Hung Dao VI. The mission of this combined effort is to conduct interdiction and troop insertion operations under current Rules of Engagement (ROE) to



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prevent enemy infiltration and crossing of the Search Turn/Tran Hung Dao VI AO by conducting river patrols, visit and search operations, troop insertions, and surveillance of waterways. Escort duties for friendly convoys will be assigned by CTG 194.3, who is in overall command of the operation while the Commanding Officer, RAID 75, serves as the Deputy Commander.

Search Turn assets were also deployed on the Ba The, Shpuynh Quynh, Luynh Quynh Canals to counter these interdiction efforts.

At 1200Z on the 18th of the month, RIVDIV 573 chopped from CTG 194.4 to CTG 194.3 and assumed task designator CTU 194.3.3. This addition to the Search Turn operation increased total PBR assets at the end of the month to 40. Other end of the month assets included two Seawolves, three Boston Whalers, one CCB-2, one LSSC, and one LCPL.

During February, hostile fire incidents in the Search Turn AO increased from 14 in January to 17. Enemy losses, however, dropped from January's 24 kills and 20 probable kills to 16 and 13 respectively, and enemy craft losses likewise dropped from 19 destroyed and six damaged in January to seven and 12 in February - with one captured. Friendly losses, on the other hand, rose slightly from none killed and two wounded in January to two USN and one other friendly killed and three USN and two VNN wounded this month.

The following narrative describes incidents typical of February's action in the Search Turn AO.



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February's Search Turn operations opened on the first day of the month with the capture of one VCI hamlet level security chief by SEAL Team DET Golf, A Squad, under LT Short. The squad departed Kien Son aboard PBR 8130 and arrived at Soc Song at 0300H. After picking up a NPFF guide and two sampans about a half hour later, the SEALS transited the Kien Lon Thung Canal, and the patrol was inserted on the Rach Gia-Ha Tien Canal 11 miles northwest of Rach Gia (VS 993 194). They moved along the canal for 500 meters, entered a hootch, and captured the security chief. While proceeding back up the canal, the VCI attempted to escape. He was shot and killed, and the sampan was overturned. The men in the first craft were rescued by those in the second sampan. A medevac was called in for a wounded SEAL who was subsequently flown out to Binh Thuy. In addition to the wounded SEAL, one M-16 and one carbine with XM 148 were lost when the sampan overturned.

While in WBGP in reaction to COMNAVFORV intelligence on the Rach Gia-Ha Tien Canal 30 miles northwest of Rach Gia (VS 712 365) on 9 February, PBR's 8129 and 8135 of RIVDIV 553 received B-40 and A/W fire from the south bank. The units, under Patrol Officer BMC Smith and Boat Captains SM1 Trader and EN2 Bedster, returned the fire and then cleared the kill zone. At 2030H, Seawolves were requested. They arrived on station and began a strike at 2036H. At the completion of their strike about 20 minutes later, Black Ponies were requested. Following the Black Ponies' strike, an LSSC was scrambled from Kien Son with two replacement M-60 machine guns and illumination. The LSSC rendezvoused with the PBR's at an outpost at VS 759 361, and a gunship



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strike in the area was directed with the flare ship providing illumination. The gunship sighted three sampans on the south bank. About 40 minutes later, the PBR's made a firing run in the contact area. They received A/W fire from both banks. Two minutes later, the LSSC destroyed the three sampans located at VS 712 365. Seawolves returned again to the area at 2340 to provide cover for the return through the contact area. The friendlies sustained only minor shrapnel and bullet hole damage to the two PBR's.

Acting in response to intelligence gained from MAT Team 68, subsector Kien Thanh, that VC were infiltrating a propaganda team into An Phut Village, SEAL's of SEAL Team DET Golf, Delta Platoon, B Squad, under LT Hetzer, departed Rach Soi at 1930 H on 17 February and were inserted 12 miles south southeast of Rach Gia (WR 158 884) by supporting PBR's of RIVDIV 513. The unit proceeded along a VC infiltration route and confronted a Vietnamese carrying a candle. He was taken into custody, questioned with negative results, and released. The unit then proceeded along the route for 100 meters and made contact with a VC point element.

Meanwhile, the PBR's sighted a sampan 150 meters east of the insertion point. The craft evaded to the beach, and the occupant fled. The PBR's captured the sampan and proceeded to their guardpost. Miscellaneous clothing was found in the sampan.

At 2135H, the SEAL's were extracted - five minutes after Seawolves were scrambled to provide fire support as the VC element was firing into the extraction area.



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Upon departing the area, the PBR's evacuated a VN child who had received an AK-47 wound in the thigh during the VC fire. The child was picked up from a nearby outpost and taken to Rach Gia for treatment.

Enemy losses included one VC killed and one motorized sampan and NVA supplies captured.

Two units of RIVDIV 553 were proceeding to LST 838 on the early evening of 20 February and had just entered the Luynh Quynh Canal (VS 892 274) when the forward 50 mount of the cover boat accidentally discharged 20 rounds in the vicinity of the lead boat. Both units proceeded for about 5,000 meters, beached the boats, and initiated a medevac for five injured personnel on the lead boat. Six additional 553 units scrambled to assist. Seawolves scrambled to provide air cover for the dust off. Casualties included one USN killed and three USN and one USA seriously wounded. All were medevaced to the Third Surgical Hospital, Binh Thuy.

The following evening, another unintentional firing occurred when SN Lawrence J. Ortwein of RIVDIV 573 accidentally fired an M-16 wounding himself. He was medevaced, and his unit continued its WBGP.



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Riverine Strike Group

During February, all RAC formerly assigned to CTG 194.7 (Riverine Strike Group) remained out-chopped to other operational commanders with the exception of those craft undergoing overhaul.



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Breezy Cove

The level of activity in the Breezy Cove AO increased greatly during the month of February. Enemy KIA's rose to 230 killed during the month compared to 40 killed during the month January. The U.S. Navy units assigned to the Breezy Cove AO were responsible for 40 of the enemy KIA's while the Vietnamese Navy was responsible for 44 enemy KIA's. A variety of other units assigned to the Breezy Cove AO accounted for the remainder of the enemy KIA's reported. The U.S. Navy units did suffer 18 personnel wounded during the month. However, none of the casualties were serious in nature, and most were treated by the Hospital Corpsmen at the Advanced Tactical Support Base (ATSB) and were returned to duty without any further complications.

The total of ENIFF's, FRIFF's, and unilateral firings remained at 59 for the month of February, but the size of the enemy units engaged were, on the average, much larger than in preceding months.

The USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) relieved the USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 786) as CTU 194.2.4 on 22 February. This was the only significant change in the task organization during the month.

Significant actions occurring during the month of February are described in the following paragraphs.

Two PBR's of TU 194.2.1, under Patrol Officer SMC Davenport, were in WBGP at VR 995 034 in the early morning of 4 February. At 0045H, the boat crews observed an enemy attack against Old Song Ong

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Doc, 1.2 miles to the west of the WBGP. The units broke WBGP and proceeded west on the Song Ong Doc to rendezvous with a second PBR patrol in the vicinity. While passing Old Song Ong Doc, one enemy mortar round exploded approximately 20 feet astern of the lead boat at VR 975 023 at 0100H. The PBR patrols rendezvoused, proceeded west, and set a WBGP at VR 938 010 at 0200H. At 0400H, QM1 Walsh, the boat Captain of the lead PBR passing Song Ong Doc, discovered that he had been wounded by the shrapnel of the exploding mortar round. At 0430H, the PBR's returned to the ATSB where QM1 Walsh received treatment for a minor shrapnel wound from the corpsman.

On 8 February, a Dustoff aircraft was attempting to evacuate casualties at VR 976 131 but was receiving ground fire and was unable to accomplish the mission. At 1600H, with Seawolves providing escort, the Dustoff landed and affected successful evacuation of the casualties. The Seawolves received intense automatic weapons fire which scored three hits and wounded two of the aviators. The Seawolves were unable to suppress the enemy ground fire and returned to their base. The two pilots, LTJG C. S. Perrin and LTJG R. S. Wolfe, each suffered slight shrapnel wounds.

On 9 February, a PBR patrol embarked Duffel Bag personnel in order to make a sensor plant in the vicinity of the ATSB. At 1020H, the patrol discovered that a sensor string previously planted at VR 823 011 was missing. A VC flag was planted where a sensor had been previously planted. The patrol took the flag and position under fire.



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Also on 9 February, Shotgun 49 sighted 50 VC in open terrain (VR 853 083), 9 miles northeast of the ATSB at 1740H. From 1810H until 2215H, air and surface units conducted strikes on this position. Later, an agent reported that there had been 15 VC killed, 16 VC wounded, and 30 sampans destroyed in this operation.

On 15 February at 1536H, a PBR patrol inspecting sampans on the Song On g Doc (VR 910 008) received 3 B-40 rockets fired from the north bank and 1 B-40 rocket fired from the south bank. The patrol also received light automatic weapons fire from the north bank. The patrol immediately initiated return fire, cleared the contact area, and made a second firing run through the area suppressing the enemy fire. CTG 194.2 scrambled LHFT and requested troops from the 32nd ARVN Regiment to assist the PBR patrol. Additional strikes were placed in the contact area by both air and surface units. At 1626H, the troops were inserted. The troops did not make contact with the enemy forces but did discover one twin B-40 launcher, one coil of wire, and one CHICOM grenade. The troops were extracted at 1742H. Friendly casualties in this action were five USN WIA. They were:

ENFN R. Leathers

GMG3 D. Preston

EN3 H. Osterhout

GMG3 R. Haag

TM1 R. Haywood

On 19 February, a PBR patrol was in WBGP on the south bank of the Song Ong Doc (VQ 830 992), 2 miles east of the ATSB. At 2112H,



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the patrol detected movement approximately 150 meters south of the WBGP and took the area under fire with 40mm grenade launchers. Upon cease fire, the patrol no longer detected any movement and remained in WBGP. At 2123H, the patrol again detected movement in front of the boats and took the area under fire immediately killing three VC in front of the boats. The patrol broke WBGP and continued firing. The patrol then received automatic weapons fire and observed 2 hand grenades explode on the south bank. The patrol immediately cleared the contact area to the east and then made a second firing run on the contact area. At 2127H, a second PBR patrol made a firing run and received automatic weapons and B-40 rocket fire from the south bank. At 2131H, both patrols rendezvoused and made a fourth firing run drawing automatic weapons fire again from the south bank. At 2140H, the PBR's made a fifth firing run and received 2 B-40 rockets from the south bank. At 2150H, two ASPB's arrived and made a firing run through the contact area and received no return fire from the enemy positions. Seawolves then conducted two air strikes on the contact area. At 2135H, troops, supported by Seawolves and PBR's, were inserted on the south bank and swept the contact area. The troops did not make contact but found fresh foot prints indicating that approximately 30 persons had been in the area. The troops were extracted at 2345H.

ABH1 Knight received a minor shrapnel wound on his forehead, FN Beaudet received a slight shrapnel wound on his left hand, and EN2 Raposa received a minor shrapnel wound on his right hand during this action.

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Only three VC bodies were found at the contact area. Later, the National Police learned from a sympathizer that six VC had been killed and 11 VC had been wounded in this incident.

A very similar action occurred on 27 February during daylight hours. A PBR patrol heading west on the Song Ong Doc at 1539H was taken under B-50 rocket and intense automatic weapons fire from the south bank at WR 018 053. The patrol immediately initiated return fire and cleared the contact area to the west. Air and surface support units were en route to the contact area within three minutes. Troops for a sweep of the area were requested and were inserted at 1650H. The troops immediately found 3 unfired B-50 rockets. The troops then moved inland approximately 200 meters and found three bodies and numerous blood trails. The troops estimated that there had been 20 VC in the area and that over half of the force had been killed.

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## Market Time Raider Campaign

The Market Time Raiders continued to conduct SEA LORDS missions along the rivers and canals of the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones. There were 58 missions carried out during February which resulted in 20 hostile fire incidents, 13 friendly initiated, three enemy initiated and seven unilateral fire fights. Enemy material losses for the month were 20 craft and 83 structures destroyed, six craft and 71 structures heavily damaged. There were 23 enemy killed (19 body count, four probable) and one wounded.

There were two U. S. sailors and two Popular Force Troops wounded in these missions, and two PCF's received minor damage.

At 2345H on the night of 2 February, PCF 74, LTJG Schorpe Commanding, and PCF 87 each inserted 15 Kit Carson Scouts (KCS) on an island in the Co Chien River about six miles northwest of Tra Vinh (XS 452 080). PCF 74 extracted and then reinserted 15 KCS at 0800 the following morning. The "Swift" boats then fired a destructive mission with unknown results. PCF 74 extracted the 30 KCS at noon on 3 February without incident. The Kit Carson Scouts in their sweep of the island killed one VC and captured six others. There were no friendly casualties.

PCF 102 with CTE 194.5.3.3, LCDR McConville embarked, entered the My Thanh River (XR 2841) about 15 miles southwest of Soc Trang, in company with the PT MARONE (USCG WPB) on the morning of 13 Feb-

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ruary and played Psyops tapes. After transitting 12 miles up the river, junks and sampans were sighted, boarded, and searched. The Rach Ca Mau was entered, and Psyops tapes were played until the free fire zone was entered at which time bunkers and structures were taken under fire as requested by Vietnamese district officials embarked. The PCF beached and conducted direct and H and I fire into the free fire zone and upon completion, the Vietnamese Psyops official spoke to people requesting that they come out to the boat. Fifty women and children came out bringing nine wounded. The wounded were treated and medevaced by the PT MARONE and PCF 102. The My Thanh River was exited at 1700 without any junks or sampans being observed. There were nine Vietnamese civilians wounded and one killed. There were no friendly casualties. Destroyed in the mission were six structures, one sampan, ten bunkers, one secondary explosion, and six structures were damaged.

The PT MARONE (USCG WPB) and PT GREY (USCG WPB) conducted a SEA LORDS missions on the afternoon of 14 February, about 20 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (XR 695 690). The WPB's entered the Song Lang Nuoc and took targets of oppurtunity under fire. There was no contact with the enemy during the mission. There were three sampans, eight bunkers, and ten structures destroyed and five bunkers and eight structures heavily damaged.

In a SEA LORDS mission on the night of 15 February, the PT GREY (USCG WPB), LTJG R. A. Montgomery Commanding, entered a

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canal about 20 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (XR 722 705) and launched her skimmer for covert surveillance. A large bonfire was sighted on the beach. Three sampans approached the beach and were taken under fire as they beached. One wounded VC was taken aboard the WPB and dusted off to the Coastal Group base. There were no friendly casualties during the mission and ten Viet Cong were killed and five children were detained and turned over to Coastal Group 35 for disposition. In addition, 3,000 pounds of rice was captured, one sampan destroyed, and two sampans damaged. It appeared that the sampans were en route to a VC meeting or rally.

On the morning of 16 February, PCF's 53 and 74 inserted two platoons of Regional Force/Popular Force (RF/PF) troops and a 20 man Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team about 20 miles southwest of Tra Vinh (XR 245 685). The "Swift" boats then acted as a blocking force and extracted the troops without any contact with the enemy. The EOD team destroyed 40 bunkers during the SEA LORDS mission.

The WPB's, PT GREY and PT PARTRIDGE took targets of opportunity under fire in a SEA LORDS mission on the afternoon of 20 February about 18 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (XR 722 770). Numerous fires were started throughout the area and one suspected arms cache was destroyed with a secondary explosion occuring. In addition, three structures were destroyed, two large piles of rice burned, and three bunkers damaged. A late report from spotter aircraft



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indicated that the arms cache burned for over 12 hours with several secondary explosions. There was no contact with the enemy and no casualties.

Later the same day, the two WPB's conducted another SEA LORDS mission, four miles to the southeast (XR 716 707). The units, with OV-10's overhead, entered a canal and took targets of opportunity under fire. Upon exiting the canal, the WPB's reconned both banks with .50 caliber fire in areas of thick underbrush. There were two sampans and four structures destroyed. Three fortified structures and three bunkers were heavily damaged. In addition, eight large piles of rice were burned. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties were unknown.

On the night of 22 February, PCF 87, LTJG McGuire Commanding, PCF 63 and the PT CYPRESS (USCG WPB) conducted a SEA LORDS mission about 15 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (XS 714 009). All units entered a canal and during the transit, noted numerous offensive bunkers along the bank. While establishing their waterborne guard post, several sampans were sighted leaving the area. PCF 87 immediately illuminated the area, and all units commenced to board and search the sampans. Following the search and since their positions had been compromised, all units exited the canal without further incident. PCF 87 detained two males with no identification cards, and the PT CYPRESS confiscated 2,500 pounds of rice. The detainees and rice were turned over to Coastal Group 34 for dis-



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position. There were no friendly or enemy casualties.

The PT GREY (USCG WPB) took targets of opportunity under fire in a SEA LORDS mission on 23 February about 25 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (XR 709 637). Several large structure complexes were set on fire and on two separate occassions people tried to extinguish the fires. Upon departing the area, two large fires were still burning. There were no friendly casualties while four VC were killed (two body count, two probable). The WPB destroyed ten structures and one bunker and heavily damaged three structures and three bunkers.

On the morning of 27 February. PCF's 103, 55, and 87, with OV-10's providing support and spotting, entered a canal on a SEA LORDS mission about 22 miles south of Tra Vinh (XR 767 937). The "Swift" boats beached at several locations along the canal, taking targets of opportunity under fire and firing H and I. The "Swift" boats reversed course to exit the canal when they discovered a heavy concentration of structures and bunkers. They detained 14 women and children and one male from this complex. The PCF's then exited the canal without further incident. There were five structures and five sampans destroyed; eight structures, four sampans and 30 bunkers damaged; and one large secondary explosion. The detainees were turned over to Coastal Group 34 for further transfer to the Navy Intelligence Liaison Officer at Ben Tre. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties were unknown.



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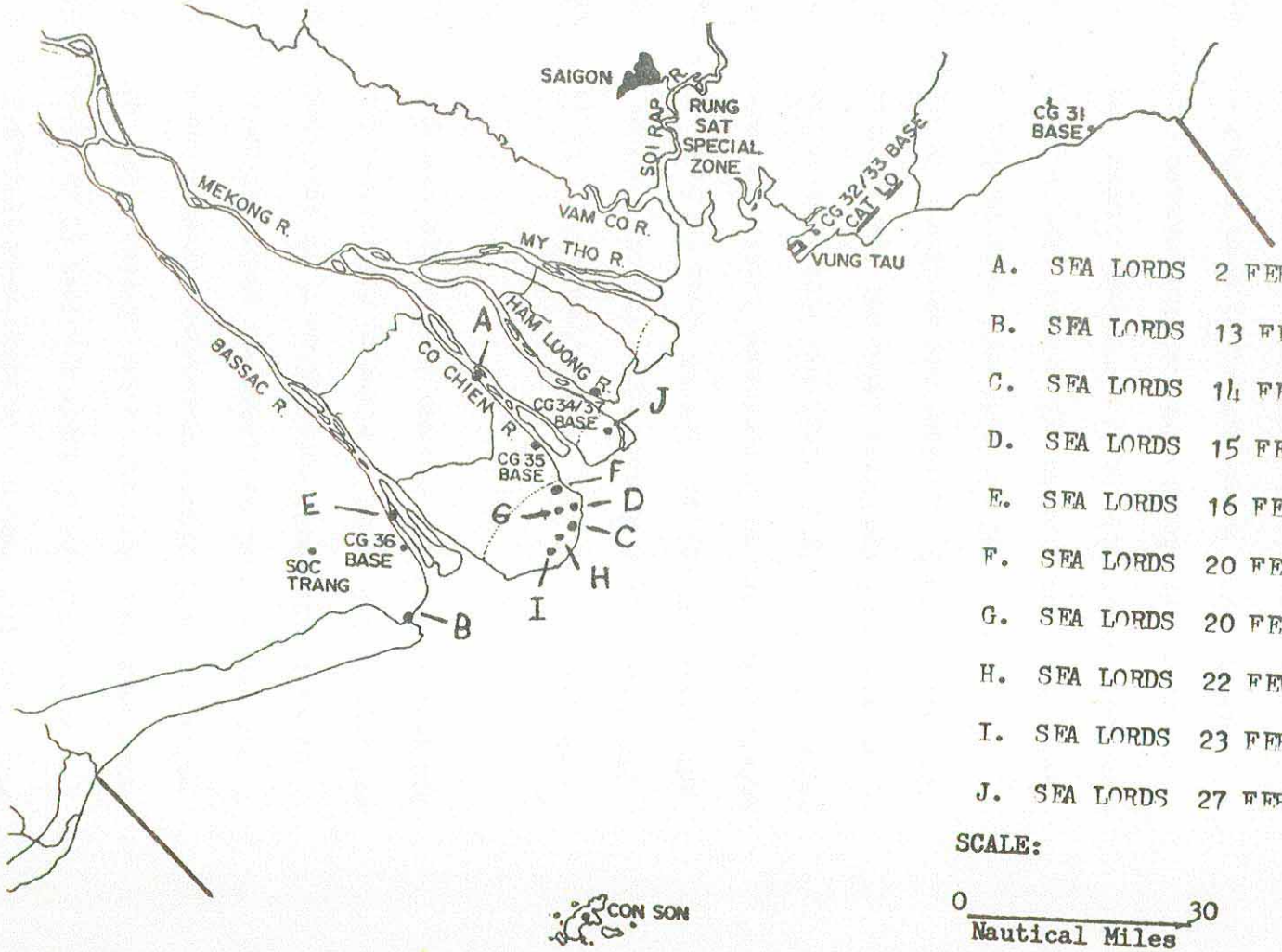
MARKET TIME RAIDERS

SEA LORDS

OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE




A. SEA LORDS 2 FEB

B. SEA LORDS 13 FEB

C. SEA LORDS 14 FEB

D. SEA LORDS 15 FEB

E. SEA LORDS 16 FEB

F. SEA LORDS 20 FEB

G. SEA LORDS 20 FEB

H. SEA LORDS 22 FEB

I. SEA LORDS 23 FEB

J. SEA LORDS 27 FEB

SCALE:

0 ——— 30
Nautical Miles

## NAVAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY (AS OF 28 FEBRUARY)

| | TRAN HUNG DAO | GIANT SLINGSHOT | BARRIER REEF | BREEZY COVE | SEARCH TURN | READY DECK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ENEMY KIA** | | | | | | |
| BY USN | 264 (22) | 1073 (32) | 85 (12) | 114 (40) | 225 (16) | 334 (14) |
| BY VNN | 59 (2) | 157 (18) | 31 (0) | 49 (44) | 0 (0) | 85 (11) |
| BY OTHER | 288 (0) | 1048 (5) | 109 (0) | 168 (146) | 43 (0) | 246 (1) |
| **ENEMY CIA** | | | | | | |
| BY USN | 11 (3) | 24 (0) | 18 (3) | 44 (1) | 6 (2) | 14 (0) |
| BY VNN | 1 (0) | 9 (0) | 1 (0) | 8 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| BY OTHER | 18 (0) | 207 (2) | 34 (0) | 22 (16) | 30 (0) | 112 (0) |
| **FRIENDLY KIA** | | | | | | |
| USN | 12 (1) | 36 (2) | 6 (1) | 1 (0) | 16 (2) | 6 (0) |
| VNN | 9 (0) | 17 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |
| OTHER | 30 (11) | 127 (3) | 17 (0) | 2 (0) | 19 (0) | 20 (0) |
| **FRIENDLY WIA** | | | | | | |
| USN | 123 (16) | 498 (20) | 48 (0) | 75 (18) | 68 (3) | 30 (0) |
| VNN | 78 (5) | 151 (8) | 11 (0) | 10 (1) | 6 (2) | 17 (0) |
| OTHER | 142 (4) | 653 (7) | 80 (0) | 7 (1) | 93 (1) | 84 (0) |
| **KILL RATIO** | | | | | | |
| USN | 22:1 (22:1) | 29.8:1(16:1) | 14:1(12:1) | 114:1(40:0) | 14:1(8:1) | 55.7:1(14:0) |
| VNN | 6.6:1 (2:1) | 9.2:1(18:0) | 31:0(0:0) | 49:0(44:0) | 0:0(0:0) | 85:0(11:0) |
| OTHER | 9.6:1 (0:11) | 8.4:1(5:3) | 6.4:1(0:0) | 84:1(146:0) | 2.2:1(0:0) | 12.3:1(1:0) |

() - Monthly totals

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## NAVAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY (AS OF 28 FEBRUARY)

| | TRAN HUNG DAO | GIANT SLINGSHOT | BARRIER REFF | BREEZY COVE | SEARCH TURN | READY DECK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| START OF OPERATION | 21 NOV 69 | 6 DEC 68 | 2 JAN 69 | 26 SEP 69 | 1 NOV 68 | 3 JUN 69 |
| FRIFF | 225 (18) | 476 (21) | 60 (2) | 62 (23) | 155 (10) | 48 (2) |
| ENIFF | 181 (15) | 695 (13) | 52 (3) | 47 (13) | 82 (5) | 57 (5) |
| UNILATERAL FIRINGS | 401 (34) | 1347 (38) | 198 (24) | 133 (26) | 280 (26) | 206 (10) |
| MININGS | 22 (3) | 14 (0) | 6 (0) | 7 (0) | 4 (0) | 1 (0) |
| AMMUNITION CACHES | 7 (2) | 269 (2) | 1 (0) | 0 (0) | 14 (0) | 19 (0) |
| & CACHE WT. (TONS) | 11.5 (0) | 142.9 (.5) | .4 (0) | 0 (0) | 11 (0) | 4 (0) |
| OTHER CACHE | 1 (1) | 24 (0) | 0 (0) | 1 (0) | 1 (0) | 2 (0) |
| & CACHE WT. (TONS) | 0 (0) | 384.9 (0) | 0 (0) | 1.1 (0) | 1 (0) | .5 (0) |
| REPORTS OF ENEMY PLANS TO ATTACK PATROL CRAFT | 145 (1) | 198 (4) | 26 (2) | 7 (0) | * | * |
| SAMPANS DESTROYED | 251 (1) | 322 (8) | 156 (9) | 213 (55) | 308 (7) | 143 (3) |

10.1 tons munitions and 5.5 tons of other material were captured during engagements with barrier units.

( ) - Monthly totals

* - Statistics not available

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Navy Chief Radioman Roger G. Lynch demonstrates how the Kenner Ski Barge will look when utilized in a combat operation. The boat has an M-60 machine gun mounted on the bow and normally operates with a crew of four men.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY

Market Time and Stable Door forces continued routine operations during February. Adverse weather in the First and Second Coastal Zone continued to force the "Swift" boats off station for several days throughout the month as in the three previous months. Market Time units detected 16,471 watercraft in their patrol areas along the coasts and in the rivers of the Republic of Vietnam. Of these, 6,691 were inspected and another 5,368 were boarded, resulting in the detention of 112 craft and 417 persons. The reasons for detaintments were lack of or faulty identification, possession of contraband, incorrect or faulty manifests, violation of restricted zones, or other suspicious activities. There were 86 Viet Cong suspects detained during the month. In the Game Warden area of operations in the lower Co Chien and Bassac Rivers, the "Swift" boats detected 3,517 craft, inspecting 1,413 and boarding another 1,618. There were 14 persons and one craft detained. In addition, Stable Door forces detected 26,383 craft, inspected 2,876, and boarded 4,690, detaining 20 craft and 93 persons.

Task Force 115 units continued to provide Naval gunfire support and blocking patrols in support of friendly ground operations along the coasts and in the rivers and canals. An expected increase in enemy initiated activity, especially during TET, failed to materialize. There were no known large scale infiltration of men or supplies attempted during February. There was one U.S. sailor killed and five wounded while enemy losses to the Naval gunfire of Market Time units

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came to 72 confirmed killed, 40 probably killed, 10 wounded, and 35 captured.

Operation Market Time

The tempo of naval gunfire, SEA LORDS, Sea Float and Sea Tiger missions increased from the 434 conducted in January to 499 conducted during February. Gun damage assessment on these missions was 40 percent and comparable to the high of 43.4 percent recorded in December 1969. Results of these missions were:

112 Viet Cong killed (72 body count, 40 probable).

10 Viet Cong wounded.

35 Viet Cong captured.

132 Junks/sampans destroyed.

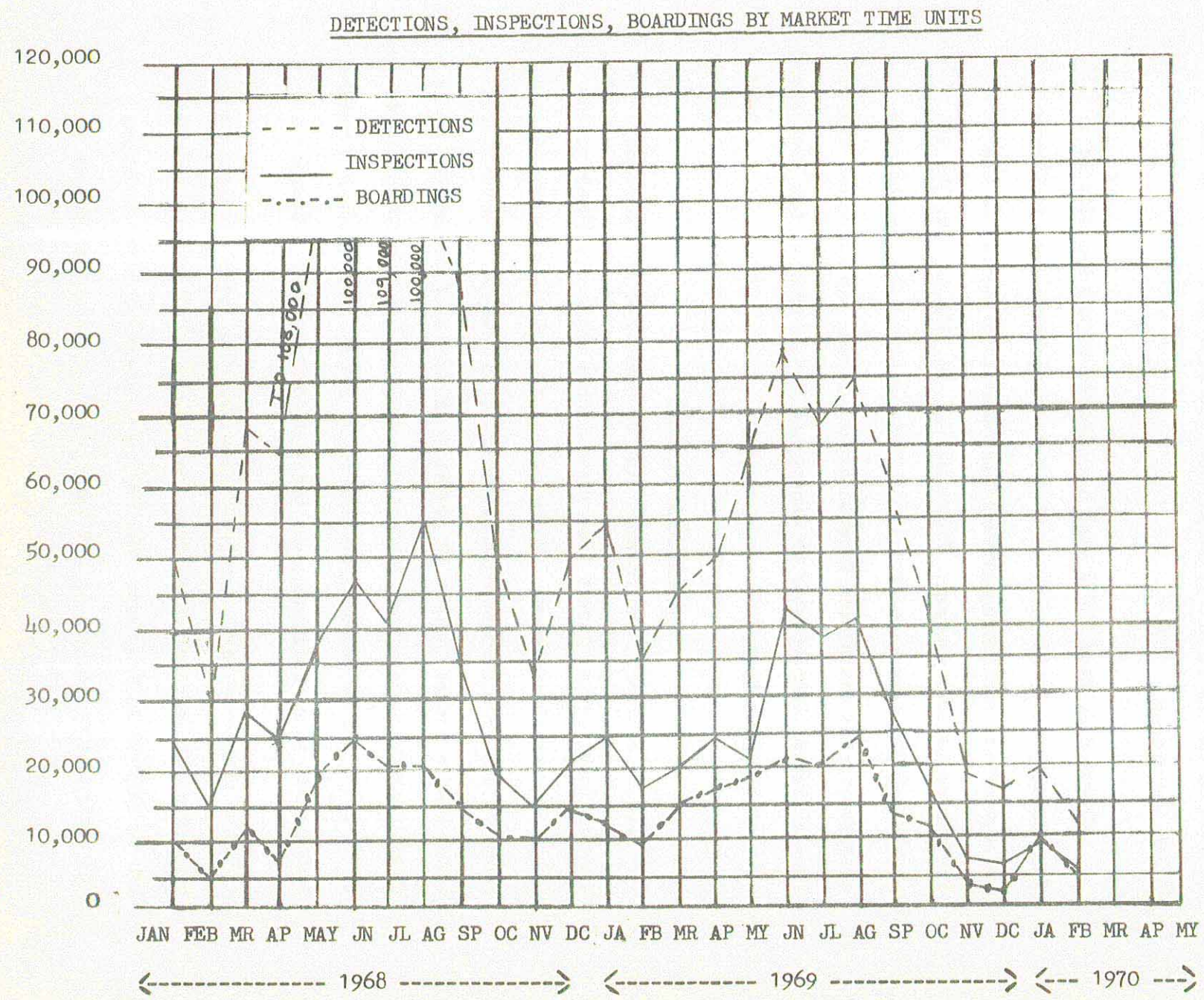
174 Junks/sampans damaged.

791 Structures/bunkers destroyed.

208 Structures/bunkers damaged.

There was only one incident of an evading craft reported during month, and this was taken under fire by a Seawolf, destroying the sampan and killing one Viet Cong.

Surveillance operations resulted in the detection of 16,471 craft. A total of 6,691 were inspected and 5,368 were boarded. There were only 227 steel hulled vessels detected in Market Time areas during the month, and 146 of these were inspected and three boarded. All were determined to be non-suspicious.

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SEAL units attached to Task Force 115 conducted almost daily operations mostly in the IV Corps Tactical Zone in support of Sea Float operations.

Eleven U.S. Navy PCF's were transferred to the Republic of Vietnam Navy on 28 February at the Vietnamese Naval Base in Danang as part of the continuing Accelerated Turnover of Assets to the Vietnamese (ACTOV) program. PCF's 10, 13, 15, 39. 62, 69, 79, 80, 81, 92 and 101 were part of Coastal Division 12 at Danang and were assigned to the Vietnamese Coastal Flotilla ONE. In addition, the Coastal Surveillance Center at Danang was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy at the same time.

## First Coastal Zone

During February, the adverse weather continued in the First Coastal Zone forcing Market Time surveillance units off their patrol areas on several occasions. There were 4,144 craft detected, and of these, 1,681 were inspected and another 1,083 boarded. Surveillance results were not as high as in previous months as 66 percent of those craft detected were either inspected or boarded leading to the detention of 11 craft and 86 persons for lack of or faulty identification papers, restricted zone violations, and being suspected draft dodgers.

The number of naval gunfire support and Sea Tiger missions in the First Coastal Zone decreased from the January total of approximately 100 to only 59 in February. The PBR's of Commander River Division 543 continued operations in the Sea Tiger area of operations in those

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shallow rivers, canals, and bays inaccessible to the "Swift" boats.

On the night of 4 February, PBR's 43, 59, and 114 with LTJG James E. Holman, USNR, as Patrol Officer established a waterborne guardpost in the Sea Tiger area of operations about 12 kilometers west of Hoi An (BT 020 558). Enemy movement was noted on the bank and suddenly PBR 43 was hit by a large explosion on the starboard side adjacent to the coxswain flat, a second explosion occurred on the engine covers, followed by two more explosions close aboard while the boat was sinking. The crew members returned the fire as the boat went down by the stern in 6 to 8 feet of water and sank in about 25 seconds. PBR's 59 and 114 provided security the remainder of the night spotting several persons on the bank above PBR 43 on several occasions and took them under fire. A sweep of the bank the following morning revealed freshly dug spider holes, a utility cap with a bullet hole through the center and other conclusive evidence of one enemy killed and heavy blood trails indicating others may have been killed or wounded. The following morning an Underwater Demolition Team arrived to commence salvage operations. After all classified material was recovered, a skycrane attempted unsuccessfully to lift the boat. With enemy troops closing the scene, the decision was made to destroy the boat which the UDT accomplished with 50 pounds of C-4. LTJG Holman and RD1 Charles E. Lancaster, USN, received multiple frag wounds and were MEDEVACED after receiving first aid.

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In a Sea Tiger mission on the night of 7 February, PBR's 59 and 114, with BMC Turnbull as Patrol Officer, established a waterborne guardpost about 5 miles northwest of Hoi An City on the Vinh Dien River (BT 057 610). One male in a sampan was spotted off the starboard bow, and three swimmers were spotted off the port bow. The area was illuminated and all persons taken under fire killing the four Viet Cong and destroying the sampan. It was believed that the VC were attempting to mine the river; however, a thorough sweep of the area the following day produced negative results. There were no friendly casualties.

On the night of 8 February, PBR's 47 and 131 in a waterborne guardpost about five and one half miles northwest of Hoi An (BT 056 615) sighted eight enemy troops wearing packs, helmets, and carrying individual weapons moving south along the west bank of the Vinh Dien River. The area was illuminated, and the persons taken under fire. Four persons were seen to go down immediately and the others running for cover. The PBR's remained in the area for 30 minutes saturating the area with 40mm and 7.62 fire. There were four enemy troops killed and no friendly casualties.

PBR's 48 and 67 with QMC(SS) Williams as Patrol Officer, were in a waterborne guardpost on the night of 11 February about five miles northwest of Hoi An (BT 056 610) on the Vinh Dien River when eight VC with backpacks were sighted walking south. At the same time, the cover boat sighted five VC walking out of a treeline. The PBR's

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illuminated the area and immediately placed a heavy concentration of 40mm fire into the area. There were eight VC killed (four body count, four probable) and no friendly casualties. Two bodies were recovered and searched resulting in several documents and personal effects being captured. All equipment was turned over to the Navy Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO), Hoi An for disposition.

While on a routine Sea Tiger day patrol on the afternoon of 12 February, PBR's 114 and 131 sighted a small pile of clothing lying on the river bank about four miles northwest of Hoi An (BT 055 639). The same items had been observed earlier in the day and also on a routine patrol on 10 February. The pile consisted of a blanket with shoes on top and a straw hat alongside and what appeared to be something hidden beneath the blanket. The PBR's fired M-16's at the clothing causing a secondary explosion leaving a crater five feet deep and six feet across. There were no friendly casualties.

On 14 February, the USCGC CHASE (WHEC 718) fired two gunfire missions in support of Americal Division troops six miles and 27 miles southeast of My Trang hamlet (BS 882 232 and BS 885 201). The first mission targets were a VC base camp, a VC concentration, and fortified positions, and the second mission was a concentration of VC bunkers. The five inch gun of the cutter neutralized the VC base camp and destroyed five heavily fortified positions at the first position and destroyed two large bunkers, one structure, and ignited a large sustained fire at the second position. Additional damage

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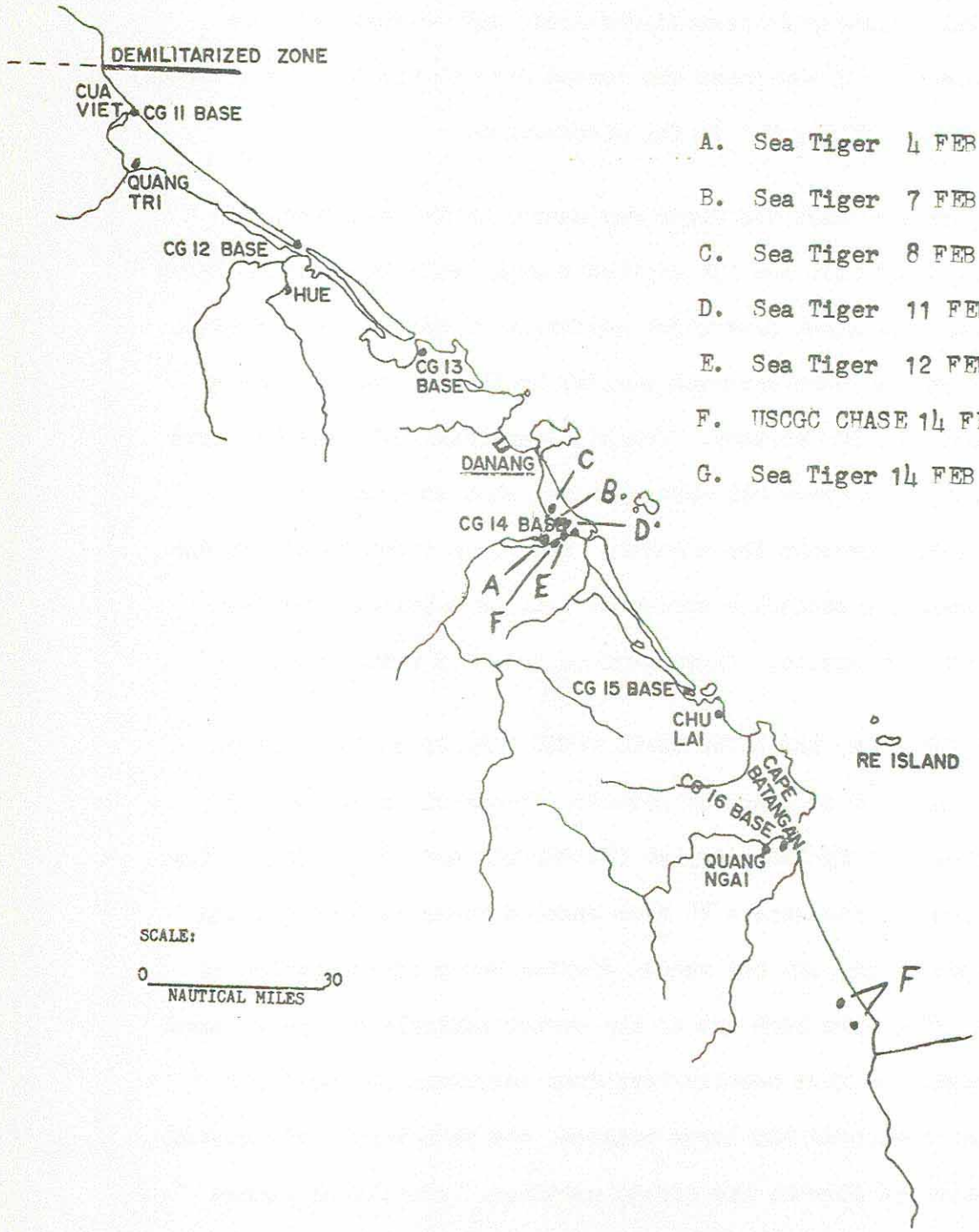
## OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE




A. Sea Tiger 4 FEB

B. Sea Tiger 7 FEB

C. Sea Tiger 8 FEB

D. Sea Tiger 11 FEB

E. Sea Tiger 12 FEB

F. USCGC CHASE 14 FEB

G. Sea Tiger 14 FEB

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may have been inflicted but could not be determined due to heavy foliage. There were no friendly casualties.

In a Sea Tiger mission on the night of 14 February, PBR's 95 and 131 were in a waterborne guardpost about 7.5 kilometers west of Hoi An (BT 065 559) when they spotted a sampan carrying at least five VC. PBR 95 which was alongside the east bank illuminated the area and took the sampan under fire. They immediately received very heavy automatic weapons fire from the opposite bank and the sampan. The enemy fire was suppressed, but not before SN Gary Lee Giovannelli, USN was killed when he was struck in the chest by an enemy bullet. The PBR's killed five VC and destroyed one sampan. There were no other friendly personnel or material casualties.

Second Coastal Zone

Weather conditions remained about the same as during January with the "Swift" boats being forced off their patrol areas on several occasions. There were 5,782 detections of craft reported during February. Surveillance results remained high as over 67 percent of those detected were either boarded or inspected. There were 2,734 inspections and 1,139 boardings reported during the month resulting in the detention of five craft and 207 persons including four VC suspects. Reasons for detention were lack of or faulty identification papers, possession of contraband, restricted zone violations, suspected draft dodgers and incorrect or faulty manifests.



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There were 37 naval gunfire support missions conducted during the month, and only a minimum of gun damage assessment was reported.

On the morning of 9 February, a Vietnamese water taxi struck a channel marker about one mile from Qui Nhon (CR 110 213) and sank. PCF 52 en route to her patrol station noted the survivors and debris and notified the Coastal Surveillance Center, Qui Nhon which scrambled four additional PCF's within two minutes. The water taxi was carrying approximately 36 people and Market Time units retrieved 13 Vietnamese civilian survivors and one body and transferred them to the VN hospital at Qui Nhon. Additional survivors were taken aboard sampans and transferred to Hai Minh village. Explosive Ordnance Disposal divers determined that no bodies remained trapped in the water taxi and subsequently raised the taxi, and PCF 55 towed it to the Inshore Underwater Warfare Group pier.

On the night of 14 February, PCF 58 contacted two Chinese Nationalist fishing trawlers about 57 miles north of Qui Nhon (CS 0415) and identified them as Tong Chung 3, registry number CT-5-0256 and Tong Chung 5, registry number CT-5-0257. The vessels were searched and determined to be non-suspicious. The trawlers were detained and taken to Qui Nhon by the Vietnamese Navy. Each trawler had 20 people aboard, and one had 150 tons of fish, and the other had 80 tons of fish. The crew members were kept on board and transferred to the Vietnamese customs at Qui Nhon for disposition on 16 February. Information available indicated that the trawlers' crew members were to be jailed and the boats and cargo to be confiscated.

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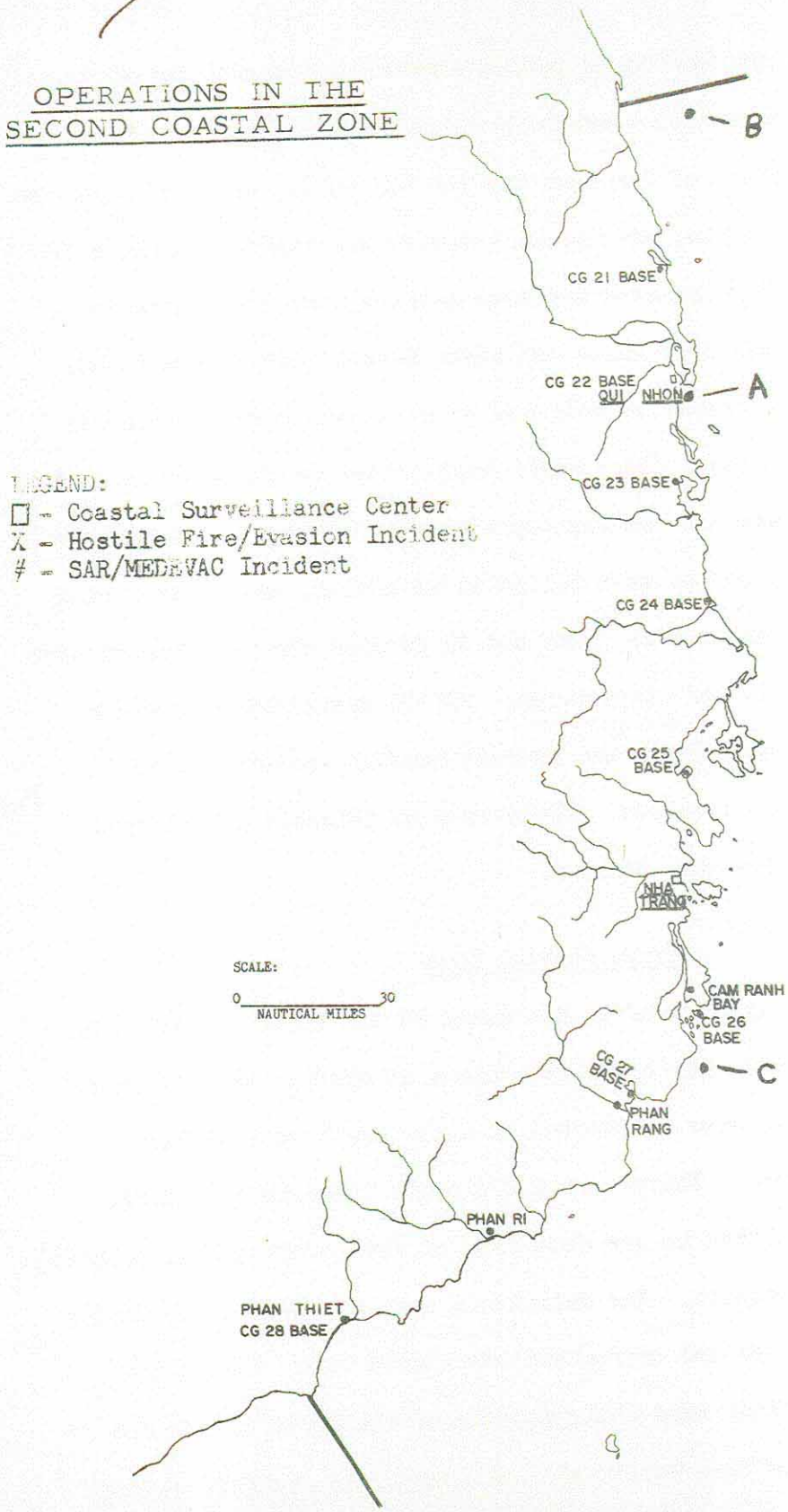
## OPERATIONS IN THE SECOND COASTAL ZONE




LEGEND:
□ - Coastal Surveillance Center
X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
# - SAR/MEDEVAC Incident

A. SAR 9 FEB

B. PCF 58 14 FEB

C. PCF 70 15 FEB

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PCF 70 was proceeding to patrol area 5D on the morning of 15 February when several sampans were sighted in a restricted zone about 14 miles south of Cam Ranh Bay (CN 045 955). While closing the sampans to investigate, suspicious activity was sighted on the beach to the west. PCF 70 beached and crew members were put ashore to investigate. Fresh footprints and areas used as camps were found. While beached, an explosion believed to be a B-40 rocket, occurred off the starboard bow. The "Swift" boat saturated the area using all available firepower and immediately cleared the area to evaluate any damage. PCF's 56 and 61 were called in to assist, and after firing H and I, they detained four junks and 25 persons who were turned over to Coastal Group 26 for disposition. PCF 70 sustained only minor damage to the exhaust booth and rudder; however, assistance of a repair facility was required. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties were unknown.

## Third Coastal Zone

Indigenous coastal traffic decreased in the Third Coastal Zone during February with only 6,520 detections of craft. Surveillance results improved as over 60 percent of those craft were either inspected or boarded. There were 2,278 craft inspected and 2,846 craft boarded resulting in the detention of five craft and 61 persons, including 20 VC suspects. The detentions were for lack of or faulty identification papers and curfew and restricted zone violations. The "Swift" boats continued their patrols of the lower Bassac and Co Chien Rivers in the Game Warden area of operations, detecting 3,517

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craft and inspecting 1,413 and boarding 1,618. There were 14 persons and one craft detained and no reported incidents of evading craft.

Market Time units of the Third Coastal Zone conducted 140 naval gunfire support missions during February, in response to requests for urgent gunfire support, H and I, targets of opportunity, or in pre-planned river and canal incursions.

While on routine Market Time patrol on the night of 5 February, PCF 48, LTJG Brannan, USN, Commanding, sighted a Viet Cong propaganda barge, eight feet long, about eight miles north of Soc Trang (XR 1977). The barge had 20 VC flags and a log dressed as a man with propaganda leaflets aboard. The barge was thoroughly checked for booby traps, and then the float was taken aboard and turned over to Coastal Group 36.

PCF 21 embarked 26 Kit Carson Scouts at Ben Tre and inserted them about 25 miles east of Tra Vinh (XS 480 180 ) at 2300H 15 February. The PT CAUTION (USCG WPB) stood by to provide gunfire support as needed. During the night patrol, the troops made only brief contact with the enemy. The troops were extracted by the "Swift" boat at 0500H 16 February and returned to Ben Tre. There were no friendly casualties while two VC were killed and one grenade captured.

The PT CYPRESS (USCG WPB), LTJG H . J. Godfrey, Commanding was conducting routine coastal surveillance early on the morning of 27 February when partially camouflaged sampans were sighted about 20 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (XR 828 885). Upon closing, nine

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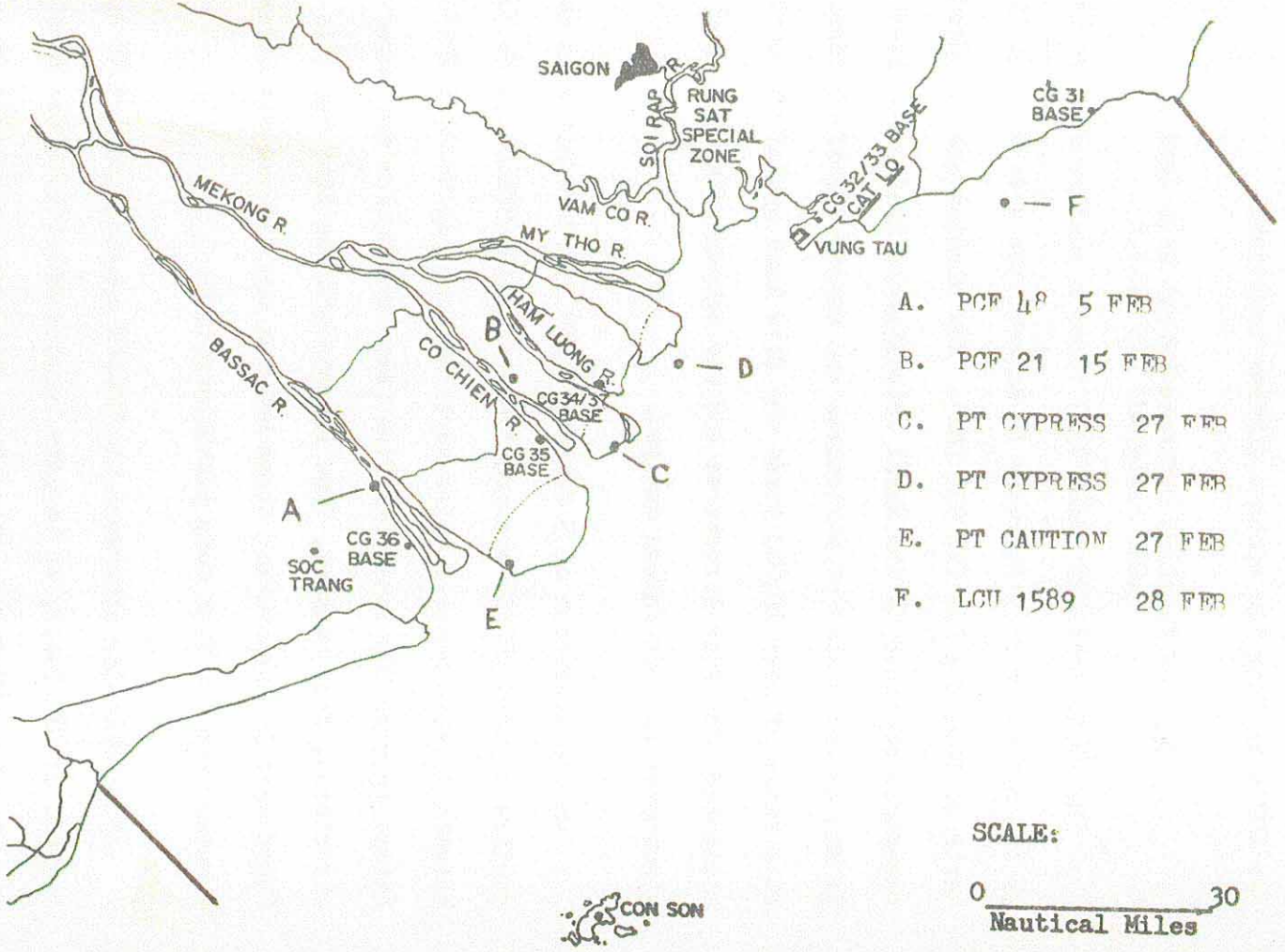
camouflaged sampans were detected and taken under fire resulting in eight sampans destroyed, six of which were motorized, and one sampan damaged.

Later the same day, the PT CYPRESS was conducting radom patrol of assigned area about 25 miles southeast of Go Cong (YS 005 120) when an unidentified jet aircraft dropped two bombs which exploded underwater about 900 yards directly ahead of the WPB. The shock wave was strong enough that it knocked a man down standing on the bow. The visibility ceiling was low due to a light haze, and it was believed that the aircraft did not see the WPB and was just unloading ordnance at sea. The Coast Guard man was not injured by the shock wave.

The PT CAUTION (USCG WPB), LTJG Andrews Commanding, conducted an H and I mission on a bunker complex on the afternoon of 27 February about 22 miles south of Tra Vinh (XR 530 535). The WPB destroyed two bunkers and heavily damaged three others. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties were unknown.

On the morning of 28 February at 1055H, the harbor master at Vung Tau reported that LCU 1589 located about 30 miles northeast of Vung Tau (YS 7258) had a broken rudder and was taking on water. The Vietnamese Navy watch officer was notified and he directed the VN PB-708 to the scene. About 10 minutes later, communication was established with LCU 1515 who was only one-half mile from the scene, and proceeded to LCU 1589 with a pump. LCU 1515 took LCU 1589 in

# OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE




A. PCF 48 5 FEB

B. PCF 21 15 FEB

C. PT CYPRESS 27 FEB

D. PT CYPRESS 27 FEB

E. PT CAUTION 27 FEB

F. LCU 1589 28 FEB

SCALE:

0 30

Nautical Miles

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tow and with two pumps operating, reported that further assistance was not required. The VN PB 708 remained on the scene and escorted the LCU's to Vung Tau without further incident.

Gulf of Thailand Offshore Patrol Unit Area 8/9
(WHEC Assigned) CTG 115.6

The USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715) fired a gunfire support mission on the afternoon of 1 February in Market Time area 9 about 12 miles north of Song Ong Doc (VR 835 182). The mission was arranged and clearance obtained by the Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO), Ca Mau and consisted of structures and bunker fortifications. Firing at a range of over 18,000 yards the five inch gun of the cutter accounted for four structures and two sampans destroyed and seven structures and one sampan damaged.

On the afternoon of 3 February, CTG 194.2 requested a naval gunfire support (NGFS) mission from the USCGC MELLON (WHEC 717) on targets located about 8 miles north of Song Ong Doc (VR 8315). Expending over 300 rounds of five inch, the cutter destroyed six structures, four bunkers, five sampans and one fish net. In addition, there were 16 structures, three bunkers and four sampans heavily damaged with one Viet Cong probably killed.

The following afternoon the MELLON again fired a NGFS at the request of CTG 194.2, at targets located about 15 miles north of Song Ong Doc (VR 8430). In this mission the cutter destroyed four structures, three bunkers and five sampans and damaged 13 structures,

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two bunkers and five sampans. There were two VC probably killed in addition to two secondary fires.

On 5 February, three sampans and one structure were destroyed by the five inch gun of the MELLON. This NGFS mission was also requested by CTG 194.2 and the targets were located about six miles northeast of Song Ong Doc (VR 895 055).

The USCGC KLAMATH (WHEC 66) scored heavily against the enemy in a scheduled call for fire mission on targets of opportunity about 15 miles north of Song Ong Doc (VR 8017) on 17 February. The targets were VC controlled hamlets and hidden sampans and in an area where the spotter aircraft had received ground fire. The cutter probably killed one VC in addition to destroying six structures and three sampans and heavily damaging ten structures and two sampans.

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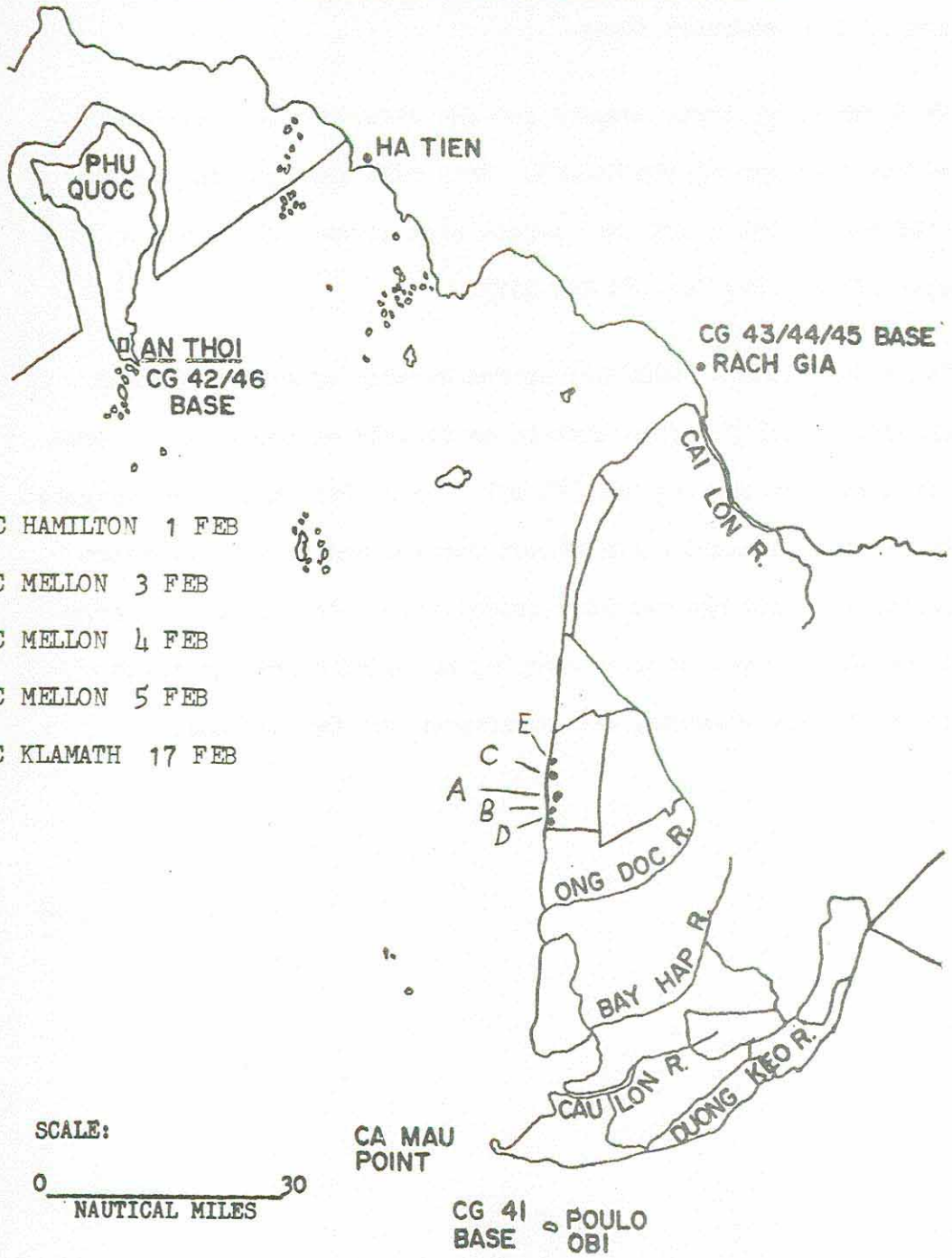
GULF OF THAILAND OFFSHORE PATROL UNIT AREA 8/9

OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE




A. USCGC HAMILTON 1 FEB

B. USCGC MELLON 3 FEB

C. USCGC MELLON 4 FEB

D. USCGC MELLON 5 FEB

E. USCGC KLAMATH 17 FEB



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Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III

The level of activity rose steadily in the Sea Float area of operations during February with the center of contacts located to the northwest of Sea Float and along and to the south of the Song Bay Hap. Intelligence gained from documents indicated that this region was strongly controlled by the Viet Cong, and probably supported a Local Force Company and that an enemy squad was preparing to attack Sea Float on or after 23 February. The enemy was capable of launching occasional attacks on afloat assets and conducting harassment probes of the Solid Anchor complex. Operations by friendly forces consisting of ground sweeps, waterborne guardposts, Navy SEAL operations, and air strikes have continued to keep the enemy off balance in the northern section of the area of operations and have thus far prevented the grouping of units into a potent threat.

It is noteworthy that thus far the Sea Float complex has not received hostile fire. It was believed that this was due primarily to aggressive patrolling both ashore and in the rivers and canals of the AO, reliable intelligence on enemy movement, and the concentration of fire power available to the Sea Float complex.

The civilian population residing within the Sea Float no fire zone remained at about 4,000 as many families were still up north harvesting rice. The civilians are expected to return upon completion of the rice harvest.



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The construction of the Solid Anchor base continued and consisted primarily of land clearing operations on the north and south banks, and land fill of the site. The Seabees laid M8A1 matting for a helo pad just west of the Solid Anchor site. During the month, well digging operations commenced, and on 24 February the depth of the well was 1,050 feet and believed to be deep enough. However, the well still had to be tested to see if it was potable and of sufficient quantity. There was an average of 20 Seabees assigned to Solid Anchor during the month.

There were over 285 naval gunfire support missions conducted during the month, including over 85 Sea Float and SEAL missions. The following U. S. and VNN craft and units operated in the Sea Float AO during part or all of the month: PCF's 12, 17, 27, 36, 38, 40, 50, 51, 52, 64, 72, 73, 82, 88, 89, and 94; USS WASHOE COUNTY (LST 1165); USS ANTELOPE (PG 86), USS READY (PG 87); Sea Float River Assault Craft Detachment consisting of ATC's 4, 9, and 13, ASPB's 2 and 3, Zippo 2, Monitor 2, and Utility Boat 2; an LSSL; SEAL Team Detachment GOLF, Alfa and Mike platoons; Under Water Demolition Team 12 Detachment GOLF; Seawolves; Slicks; OV-10's; LSM's HQ 401 and HQ 403; LSSL's, HQ 228, and HQ 230; LSIL, HQ 329; VNN PCF's, 01, 02, 03, 04, 06, 10; US Mark III PCF's, 691, 692, 693, 694, and 695; Coastal Groups 33, 35, and 36 craft and personnel; VNN Polwar Team; VNN Reaction Team; VNN Rangers; Mobile Strike Team Two, Detachments FOXTROT and GOLF; Mobile Strike Force Troops; Regional Force troops;

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Kit Carson Scouts and EODMUPAC Teams, VNN 03, 06, and 45. These forces continued to conduct Psyops missions and escort services for logistics craft along the rivers and canals. Air assets provided Psyops missions in those areas inaccessible to the craft. All afloat units and the Mobile Advance Tactical Support Base conducted nightly H and I fire into known and suspected VC base camps and extortion areas.

A new tactic employed by the PCF's in escorting logistics craft and tugs with tows, was labelled "Leap Frog". This involves one PCF speeding ahead, beaching and mortaring likely ambush sites, always keeping the tug or craft in sight. As the craft passes, the other PCF moves ahead to take up the mortaring and or prepping fire duties. This new tactic was just recently employed and thus a final evaluation of its effectiveness was not available.

On 31 January the 180 Mobile Strike Force departed Sea Float.

Dr. Glen Muser, CNO (OP-07P), Col A. Mitchell, Mr. H. V. Nutt, Mr. G. Duvel, and CDR Howard, USN visited Sea Float on 6 February and received a tour of the Solid Anchor site and the Tran Hung Dao villages.

The same day, Captain D. C. Brumbaugh, USN, prospective Assistant Chief of Staff for Communications, Staff COMNAVFORV, Commander R. A. Wheeler and Major R. K. Kavia, USMC visited Sea Float and received a communications briefing and a tour of the Sea Float complex.

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Clolonel R. F. Brown, USA, IV Corps Security Officer and Lieutenant Colonel Sawyer, USA, Province Senior Advisor visited Sea Float on 13 February to discuss security problems and tour the Sea Float complex.

One company of Mobile Strike Force Troops arrived at Sea Float on 15 February.

On the morning of 20 February Sea Float was the scene of a USO show. In the afternoon, Major General McGowan, USA Commanding General, Delta Military Assistance Command, The An Xuyen Province Chief and Senior Advisor visited Sea Float for briefings and a tour of the complex.

## SEAL Operations

SEAL Team One, Detachment GOLF, MIKE Platoon, HM1 Marshall in charge conducted a mission on 2 February based on district intelligence to capture five Viet Cong Infrastructures about 14½ kilometers north of Sea Float (VQ 976 815). The SEAL's were inserted by U.S. Army Slick helo and patrolled 50 meters to the north where a hootch and bunker were searched. A Vietnamese female stated that 15 to 20 armed VC had moved north during the insertion. Several other hootches were searched and a sampan factory and 800 pounds of rice were located. The SEALS were then extracted without making contact with the enemy. The SEALs destroyed two structures, three sampans, one sampan engine, a sampan factory and 800 pounds of rice.

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On the afternoon of 17 February, 14 Kit Carson Scouts and two SEAL's departed Sea Float on an intelligence collection mission. The troops were inserted about four miles north of Sea Float (VQ 997 732) and patrolled 600 meters to the objective where fire was received from seven VC. The fire was suppressed and the troops were extracted by Slick. There were five VC killed and two VC wounded, and no friendly casualties. In addition, two structures and one large sampan were destroyed and various small arms, ammunition, and medical supplies were captured.

On a fast reaction mission to a VC ambush on the afternoon of 25 February, SEALS and KCS departed the KCS camp at 1530H and were inserted by PCF's 14 and 36 about 18 kilometers east of Sea Float (WQ 165 678) on the Cua Lon River. They swept east finding a recent foot-trail leading away from the ambush site. They then swept back to the river and found the ambush site with numerous rockets and launch tubes still in place. The area was secured and extraction completed without incident or contact with the enemy. There were no casualties and the following weapons were captured: five B-40 rounds, three B-50 rounds, seven single launch bomb tubes, one dual launch bomb tube, four dual launch tubes, 32 single B-40 tubes, nine propellant charges, and three feet of wiring assemblies.

LTJG Moody and four men of SEAL Team One Detachment GOLF conducted a mission to capture a Viet Cong Infrastructure on the afternoon of 26 February. The SEAL's departed Sea Float at 1400H and were

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inserted by Slick about 23 kilometers northeast of Nam Can (WQ 229 867), where they patrolled 200 meters east checking hootches and found the VC equivalent of a post exchange. Continuing the patrol 300 meters north they found one male hiding in a canal and then patrolled back to the landing zone and were extracted. The SEAL's captured one VC and destroyed four sampans, one VC exchange, 400 pounds of rice and one large engine. There were no friendly casualties.

PN2 Richardson and four men of SEAL Team One, DET. GOLF, Alfa platoon conducted a mission on 27 February to interdict sampan traffic on a known commo-liaison supply route about 20 kilometers south southeast of Old Nam Can (WQ 191 688). The SEAL's departed Sea Float and were inserted by Slick at 1615H. A listening/observation post was set up at the canal intersection. About an hour later a sampan with two males approached, and when hailed, the two males dived into the water. They were taken under fire and then their bodies and sampan were retrieved and searched. The SEAL's were then extracted by LCPL and returned to Sea Float. There were two VC killed and one sampan and two kilos of documents captured. Initial readouts of the documents indicated they were records of VC extortion receipts. There were no friendly casualties.

## Sea Float Missions

A Sea Float mission was conducted on 9 February with Zippo 2, Monitor 2, ATC-9, an Underwater Demolition Team, Explosive Ordnance



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Disposal Team and a VNN Reaction Force. The troops were inserted along the west bank of the Rach Ong Trang about 12 miles southwest of Sea Float (VQ 845 563) where they swept about 200 meters north finding several hootches and large quantities of fish and shrimp. The troops were extracted and reinserted at two other locations during the day with nothing significant reported. The troops were extracted at 1445H and returned to Sea Float. There was no enemy contact during the sweeps. The troops destroyed 2,000 pounds of dried shrimp, 2,000 pounds of dried fish, 1,000 pounds of fresh fish and shrimp, four hootches, four fish traps, five sampans, three bunkers, and miscellaneous cooking utensils and clothes.

On the morning of 11 February, PCF's inserted a VNN Reaction Team and a UDT Team about nine miles east of Sea Float (WQ 140 690). Seawolves and Slicks were overhead providing cover. During the sweeps hostile fire was received and suppressed on two occassions. The troops were extracted and returned to their base without incident. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties were unknown. The troops destroyed 32 bunkers, 25 structures and one sampan in addition to several canal obstructions.

PCF's inserted a VNN reaction team and UDT personnel on 13 February, along the east bank of the Rach Bien Nhan about seven miles southwest of Sea Float (VQ 947 577). During the sweep a large complex of structures and bunkers were discovered and destroyed. There was no contact with the enemy during the operation and the

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troops were extracted without incident. There were 19 bunkers, 11 structures, three sampans, and 4,500 pounds of rice destroyed.

Commencing on 17 February the Mobile Strike Force (MSF) conducted a large scale troop sweep in the general area about five miles northeast of Sea Float (WQ 024 750). The southern blocking force and combat reconnaissance platoons sighted three squads of VC. Contact was made; however, the enemy was concealed in a tree line and behind a rice paddy dike. Seawolves and Black Ponies placed strikes in the area with unknown results. The following morning an extensive sweep of the area revealed numerous blood trails which led to a Viet Cong base camp. However, there was no contact with the enemy. The sweep continued to the south in the afternoon of 18 February still with no enemy contact, although two sampans were destroyed. The next day the MSF troops requested an air lift for 14 persons they had detained. Slicks extracted the detainees and provided water to the troops. The troops continued the sweep to the south, destroying structures and bunkers en route. PCF's 46, 50, 89, and 94 extracted the troops on the evening of the 19th and returned them to the Sea Float complex. The MSF destroyed 22 structures, 19 bunkers, six sampans, 23 water containers, and miscellaneous tools, pots, pans, and clothing on the last day of the operation. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties were unknown.

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On the evening of 20 February, while on a visual reconnaissance mission, members of the Mobile Strike Force spotted three heavily laden camouflaged sampans about four miles north of Sea Float (VQ 998 728). The MSF team was inserted to investigate and found a base camp with numerous weapons. During the investigation, small arms fire was received and suppressed from an adjacent tree line. The troops were then extracted taking several weapons and then Seawolves and Black Ponies placed strikes in the area. At 1830H, PCF's 52 and 73, Zippo 2, and ATC-13 embarked MSF troops and proceeded up the Kinh Ngang Canal where the troops were inserted. Slicks airlifted an additional 52 troops into the area and during the insertion killed one VC. The northern element began sweeping southwest and made contact with four VC who fired several rounds of small arms fire before fleeing. The troops destroyed six structures and seven sampans and damaged 13 structures. They also captured several rockets and launchers, small arms, documents and clothing. The captured weapons were all Russian, new and well maintained. A late report credited the air strikes with 10 VC killed (9 body count,one probable), eight structures and two bunkers destroyed. The troops remained in the field during the night and the following day continued their sweep, making no contact with the enemy until 1930H when they received small arms fire from a hootch. The fire was returned and a grenade was thrown in the hootch killing one VC and wounding six others. In addition, seven persons, all VC sympathizers, were detained and taken to Can Tho. The troop sweep



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continued through the night with no enemy contact. On the morning of the 21st, a third MSF element was inserted along the Song Bay Hap by two ATC's and supported by Zippo-2 and ASPB-2. These troops swept south where they received and suppressed fire from a sampan. The northern element continued their sweep to the southeast and the reconnaissance platoon swept west, destroying bunkers and structures, but making no contact with the enemy. During the sweep there were two VC killed, three VC captured and six VC wounded without any friendly casualties. There were three bunkers, 53 structures and six sampans destroyed and six sampans, five sampan motors, seven B-40 rockets, four B-40 rocket boosters and various small arms, ammunition, clothing, medical supplies, and documents captured. On 22 February, two of the MSF elements joined and swept towards the southwest while the reconnaissance platoon swept westward. Enemy sniper fire was received from a treeline and immediately returned. Seawolves and Black Ponies placed strikes in the area. There was no further enemy contact during the day. There was one MSF troop wounded. The MSF troops destroyed three bunkers, 57 structures,2,250 pounds of rice, 5,500 pounds of grain, 300 pounds of peanuts, and 140 pounds of shrimp. The MSF continued their sweep of the area on the 23rd and located a VC base camp and large amounts of stores and supplies which they destroyed. The main element then swept north along the Rach Ba Moc and were extracted at 1758H and returned to Sea Float. The combat reconnaissance platoon remained in the area during the night. On the 23rd there were three

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VC killed, five probably killed, one VC wounded, and two VC captured while one MSF and one U. S. Army man was wounded. There were 35 bunkers, 127 structures, 10,000 pounds of rice, 4,000 pounds of grain, 100 pounds of salt. 600 pounds of peanuts, 75 pounds of corn, 600 pounds of sweet potatoes, 200 pounds of onions, 400 water containers, 500 gallons of kerosene, 38 fish traps, and 31 sampans destroyed. In final mop-up actions on the 24th, the troops swept to the south and found two bunkers and one structure destroyed by the USS READY (PG-87) the previous night. The remaining MSF troops were extracted at 1215H on 24 February.

On the morning of 24 February, the Forward Air Control (FAC), Shotgun 49 spotted an estimated company size VC unit attempting to dig in an open field about nine miles north of Sea Float (VQ 980 820). Seawolves 13 and 19 checked in with the FAC and commenced placing strikes on the enemy at 1045H. The Seawolves, making a last pass over the area before departing for Sea Float to refuel and rearm, received automatic weapons fire and observed seven bodies on the ground. Black ponies (OV-10's), 114, and 116 were called in and placed strikes in the area followed by Seawolves. All fire was suppressed at 1210H. There were 13 Viet Cong killed (5 body count, 8 probable), six structures destroyed, and nine structures damaged.

While on area patrol on the evening of 28 February, Seawolves 13 and 19 sighted a sampan with six males about seven miles south-



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east of Sea Float (WQ 088 581). The sampan beached and the occupants attempted to evade, and as the Seawolves started a pass, they received AK-47 fire from the area. A strike was placed at the location of the men and the door gunners hit two men and a rocket hit four others. There was no further movement noted in the area. There were six Viet Cong killed (2 body count, 4 probable) and no friendly casualties.



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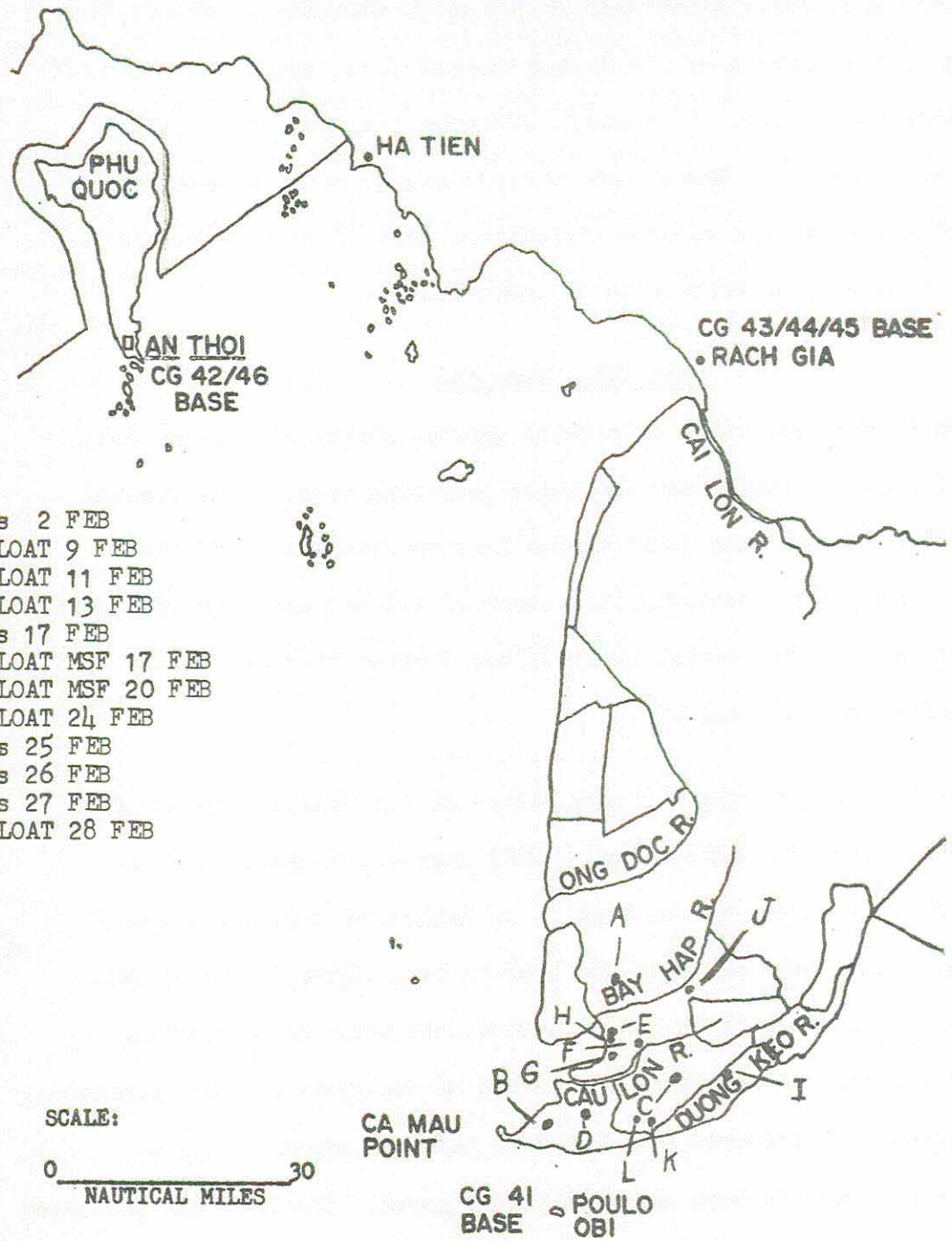
OPERATION SEA FLOAT/TRAN HUNG DAO III
SOLID ANCHOR
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE




A. SEAL's 2 FEB
B. SEA FLOAT 9 FEB
C. SEA FLOAT 11 FEB
D. SEA FLOAT 13 FEB
E. SEAL's 17 FEB
F. SEA FLOAT MSF 17 FEB
G. SEA FLOAT MSF 20 FEB
H. SEA FLOAT 24 FEB
I. SEAL's 25 FEB
J. SEAL's 26 FEB
K. SEAL's 27 FEB
L. SEA FLOAT 28 FEB



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Operation Stable Door

During February there were 26,383 craft detected by Stable Door forces in the harbors of the Second Coastal Zone, approximately 8,000 less than in January. Of these, 2,876 were inspected and another 4,690 were boarded. There were 20 craft and 93 persons detained, primarily for restricted zone violations, lack of or altered identification papers, or possession of contraband.

Unit ONE - Vung Tau

On 8 February, while on routine patrol, Picket 27 stopped two junks for curfew violations and began escorting them to the Coastal Group 33 base when both junks headed into shallow water off the customs pier. The identification cards of all personnel on the junks were turned over to Coastal Group 33 for further transfer to the Vietnamese National Police.

On 20 February, the Military Police at the Delong pier notified the Harbor Entrance Control Post (HECP) that a crew member of LCU 1574 had found a bomb on the beach. An Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team was dispatched and found the bomb to be a 107mm CHICOM rocket warhead with a small clock and batteries that were not connected. They were unable to determine the method of employment or the prospective target. It appeared that the bomb had been abandoned on a sand bar but had not been completely configured. The bomb was destroyed in place.



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Unit TWO - Cam Ranh Bay

On the night of 1 February, the Harbor Entrance Control Post (HECP) security outpost Point Julliet received 10-15 rounds of small arms fire. LCPL's 37, 39, and 66 and Picket 51 were immediately dispatched and illuminated the area. The area was covered with .50 caliber fire with negative results, and after two hours, the operation was terminated.

The security guard at post two on the power ships reported a possible swimmer approximately fifty yards off the bow of the CUMBERLAND on 3 February. LCPL 66 was dispatched and found a base-ball cap in the water. Seven grenades were dropped in a circle around the cap with negative results.

On 4 February, LCPL 66 reported being fired upon in the vicinity of the barges off the ammunition pier. The area was illuminated, and an investigation indicated that the security guards on the barges were doing the firing. There were no casualties or damage to LCPL 66.

LCPL 39 heard approximately six rounds of rapid small arms fire coming from the south end of Cam Ranh Village. Skimmers 10 and 30 were sent to investigate and found one male in a U.S. Army uniform on a building. The Provost Marshall of Cam Ranh Village and the Joint Defense Operations Control (JDOC) were notified, and Military Police searched the surrounding area with negative results.

On 7 February, LCPL 39 approached the Cam Ranh Village pier to inspect a water taxi which had just pulled into the pier. One

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Vietnamese male jumped off the taxi and ran into the village carrying what appeared to be several cameras and radios in a box. Two men from LCPL 39 and Skimmer 30 tried unsuccessfully to catch him. A check of the water taxi revealed no further suspicious activity.

LCPL 37 stopped a forty foot water taxi outbound from Cam Ranh Village on the evening of 17 February for routine board and search. One Vietnamese woman was detained for having 232,000 piasters in her possession and was turned over to the Provost Marshall at Cam Ranh Bay. The detainee, Vo Thi Phu, claimed to be a money lender in Cam Ranh Village but had no evidence that the money was legally obtained.

On 21 February, LCPL 45 stopped a water taxi for a routine search and detained one Vietnamese female, Duong Thi Duoc, for having 50,000 piasters in her possession and a list of names. The detainee was turned over to the Vietnamese National Police in Bangoi for disposition.

Unit THREE - Qui Nhon

On 2 February, a 10 year old boy came to the HECP with a one and one half inch cut above his right ear. He was taken to the Naval Support Activity Detachment dispensary where ten stitches were required to close the deep cut.

On 8 February, members of Hai Minh Village reported that children from the village had seen an unknown number of Viet Cong in the vicinity of a graveyard near the beach. Sea Cobras and Personal Self Defense Force troops conducted a search of the area while Picket 19

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stoodby for support. The entire area was swept with negative results.

The Coastal Surveillance Center reported on 9 February that a junk had sunk in the harbor. PCF 3852 was in the vicinity and picked up 14 people and took them to the PCF landing. Vietnamese and U.S. Navy personnel assisted in handling and treating the people. Four Vietnamese Navy personnel from the junk were brought to Hai Minh Village Number ONE. RD3 Arcoutte revived one small boy by artificial respiration but was unsuccessful in treating a small girl. The survivors were taken to the Holy Family Hospital. The Stable Door Explosive Ordnance Disposal team located the sunken junk, but were unable to find additional bodies. PCF 3855 began towing the junk which surfaced and was pulled up on a sand bar near the LCPL pier. The total number of personnel on the junk was not established; however, it was believed that approximately 46 persons were aboard. Fourteen persons were picked up by the PCF's and 18 others by small sampans and junks and all were taken to either Hai Minh or Qui Nhon. Three days later, the Officer in Charge of Unit THREE was returning to the HECP when a body was sighted floating near the landing. The body was a Vietnamese woman and appeared to have been in the water several days. The body was recovered and turned over to the Vietnamese Navy National Police. The victim's husband was at the landing and identified the body as his wife, Dang Thi Can and confirmed that she was a victim of the junk sinking on 9 February.

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On the morning of 18 February, LCPL 69, while on routine patrol, stopped a junk for inspection. The following items were discovered: 160 pair green sacks, 72 packs of gum, 40 safety razors, 120 packs of candy, cough pills, ballpoint pens, playing cords, cigarettes, and two bags of C. Rations. The contraband and eight Vietnamese males were turned over to the VNN for further transfer to the Vietnamese National Police.

On the afternoon of 22 February, water taxi 135 came alongside LCPL 42 in the outer harbor with a U.S. Major on board. The Major had been bitten by an unknown type animal and requested assistance. He was taken to the LST beach for further transfer by ambulance to the 67th Evacuation Hospital.

On 23 February, U.S. Army observer spotted a 750 pound general purpose bomb on the beach and requested assistance from the Stable Door EOD team. The team was picked up by helo and en route three VC were sighted in the area of the bomb and were taken under fire with unknown results. The team successfully detonated the bomb and were returned to base without further incident.

Sea Cobras attempted to establish a reconnaissance and listening posts on the nights of 18 and 24 February. On both occasions personnel were spotted and signal lights were observed when the team was only halfway to the drop off point indicating an excellent VC signalling system. It was believed that something important was located in the area due to the signalling system and more than 20 persons in the area. Additional operations were planned in this area.

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Unit FOUR - Nha Trang

On 4 February, the MACV Recondo School requested assistance in extracting Recondo School teams from Hon Tam, Hon Mot and Hon Tre Islands. LCPL 48 and Skimmer 28, with two instructors embarked, extracted the teams and took them to the LCM landing on Hon Tre Island without incident.

The First Battalion, Fifth Mobile Strike Force Command, Detachment FIFTY FIVE, Fifth Special Forces Group requested assistance for two amphibious assault landings on 4 February. LCPL 40 and Skimmer 28 escorted LCU 41 to the first landing area and stoodby to provide gunfire support. The second landing was then made and neutralization fire was provided. After approximately three hours, the troops were extracted. The results of the mission were unknown.

On 6 February, the U.S. Army Military Police requested Stable Door EOD team assistance in removing one round of U.S. 105mm from Highway ONE. The round was removed and rendered safe and another round, deeply imbedded in the asphalt was determined to be inert and was covered with asphalt and left in the location.

The Nationalist Chinese cargo ship YUE SAN requested assistance from LCPL 40, on the morning of 19 February after a member of the crew had gone beserk and attacked at least five crew members with a knife killing one and seriously injuring four others. The crew member was finally subdued. LCPL 40 transported the four injured to the Cau Da pier and returned to the Yue San with the National

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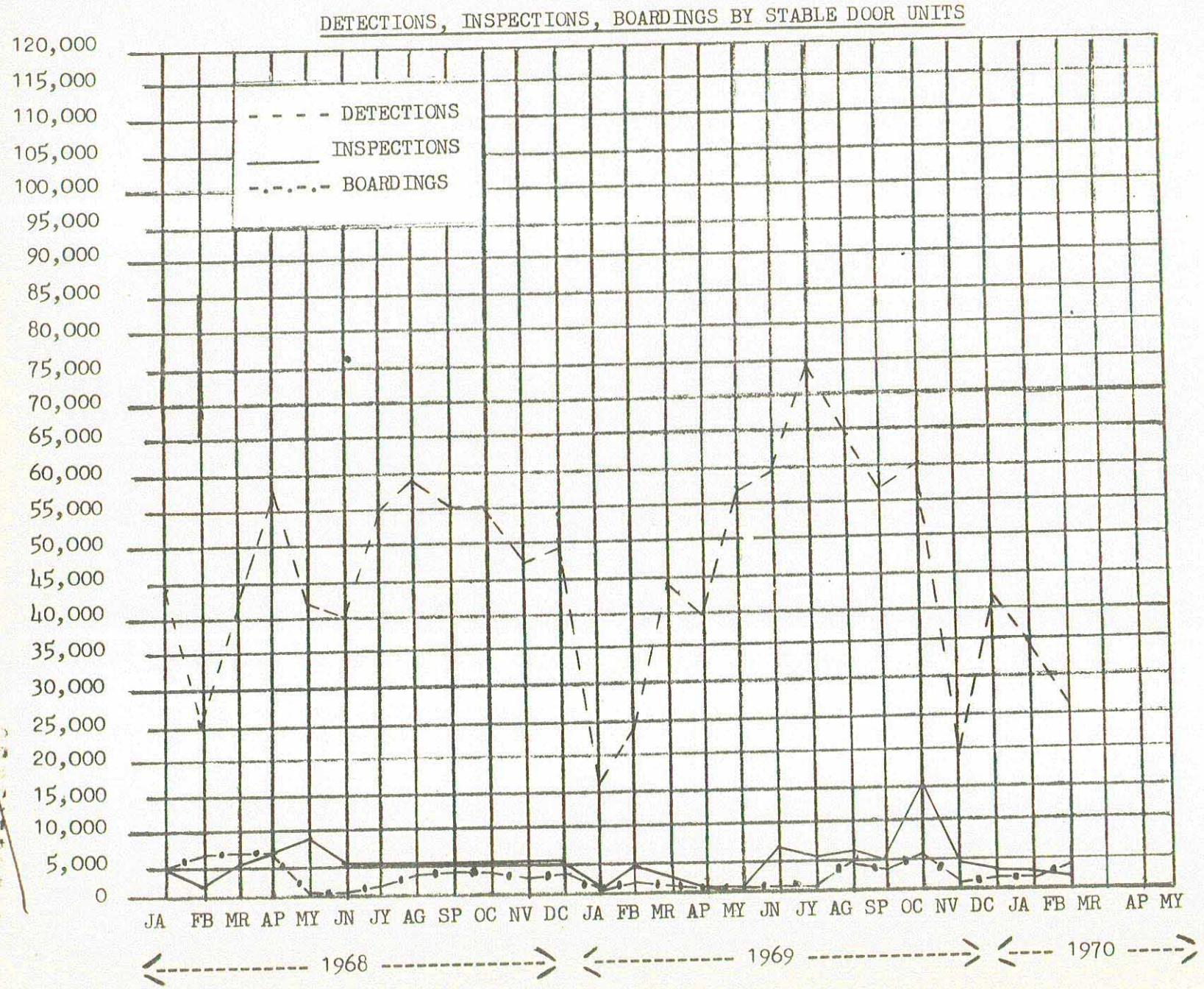
Police who took the prisoner into custody. The injured were taken to the 8th Field Hospital for treatment. An English speaking crew member was also transported to the hospital for consultations with the doctor and crew members.

A Vietnamese fishing vessel alongside a cargo ship was boarded and searched on the morning of 23 February. One male, Tran Van Bau and 17 boxes of china were detained. The detainee, junk and contraband were turned over to the Vietnamese National Police for disposition.

On the afternoon of 24 February, Skimmer 74 observed a fishing craft dumping contraband overboard into shallow water. LCPL 43 was called to assist and 250 rice bowls were recovered and turned over to the Vietnamese National Police. Due to the close proximity of several other boats, it could not be determined which boat actually dumped the contraband.

The 218th MP station requested assistance of Stable Door EOD team 37 on 26 February, in removing an M-26 fragmentation grenade from the gas tank of an M-151-A jeep on Camp John P. McDermott Army Base. The EOD team removed the grenade and found the grenade had been secured with electricians tape and placed in the gas tank as a booby trap. The grenade was disarmed and the gas tank disassembled in search of other grenades, but with negative results.

DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS

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Market Time Units

Patrol aircraft detachments from four Navy patrol squadrons manned the Market Time air barrier patrols during February. Patrol Squadrons FORTY SIX and FORTY SEVEN operated out of Cam Ranh Bay, and Detachments of Patrol Squadrons ONE and TWENTY TWO operated from U-Tapao, Thailand.

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The following SEVENTH Fleet ships operated in Market Time during the month of February:

| | |
|---|---|
| USS EMBATTLE (MSO 434) | 1-6, 27-28 |
| USS PRIME (MSO 466) | 7-26 |
| USCGC CHASE (WHEC 718) | 1-24 |
| USCGC DALLAS (WHEC 716) | 1-14, 25-28 |
| USS GANNET (MSC 290) | 1-15 |
| USS WIDGEON (MSC 208) | 16-28 |
| USS REAPER (MSO 467) | 1-15, 27-28 |
| USS ACME (MSO 508) | 16-26 |
| USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715) | 1-2, 27-28 |
| USCGC MELLOW (WHEC 717) | 3-28 |
| USCGC KLAMATH (WHEC 66) | 15-26 |
| USS WASHOE COUNTY (LST 1165) | 1-28 |

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PCF's assigned to Coastal Divisions as of 4 March 1970

| ELEVEN AN THOI | | THIRTEEN CAT LO | | FOURTEEN CAM RANH BAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 72 | 20 | 65 | 5 |
| 9 | 73 | 21 | 71 | 12 |
| 17 | 82 | 24 | 74 | 25 |
| 18 | 89 | 45 | 87 | 28 |
| 22 | 93 | 48 | 90 | 32 |
| 35 | 94 | 53 | 95 | 46 |
| 36 | 96 | 54 | 97 | 51 |
| 37 | 691 | 55 | 98 | 61 |
| 38 | 692 | 59 | 99 | 70 |
| 40 | 693 | 60 | 102 | 75 |
| 50 | 694 | 63 | 103 | 88 |
| 52 | 695 | | | |
| 56 | | | | |
| (25) | | (22) | | (11) |

TOTAL ASSIGNED PCF's (58)

PCF's in overhaul

| PCF | LOCATIONS | COMMENCED | ETC | EST LENGTH |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27 | CAM RANH BAY | 19 FEB 70 | 31 MAR 70 | 40 DAYS |
| 78 | CAM RANH BAY | 01 FEB 70 | 12 MAR 70 | 40 DAYS |
| 64 | CAM RANH BAY | 04 MAR 70 | 13 APR 70 | 40 DAYS |
| 6 | CAT LO | 20 FEB 70 | 04 APR 70 | 45 DAYS |
| 31 | QUI NHON | 01 FEB 70 | 17 MAR 70 | 45 DAYS |

TOTAL NON-ASSIGNED PCF's (5)
GRAND TOTAL (63)

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MARKET TIME
MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY
FEBRUARY 1970
A. STATISTICAL SECTION

(1) Average No. U. S. ships/craft on patrol during month.

| | DER | MSO | MSC | WPB | PCF | LST | PG | WHEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AVG | 0 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 47 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

(2) Average No. VNN ships/junks employed during month.

| | SEA FORCES | RIVER FORCES | COASTAL FORCES |
|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | 42 | 304 | 199 |

(3) U. S. Activity:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL DETECTED | WOOD-DAY | 12,461 | NIGHT | 3,783 | 16,471 |
| | STEEL-DAY | 99 | NIGHT | 128 | |
| TOTAL INSPECTED | WOOD-DAY | 4,744 | NIGHT | 1,1801 | 6,691 |
| | STEEL-DAY | 69 | NIGHT | 77 | |
| TOTAL BOARDED | WOOD-DAY | 4,838 | NIGHT | 527 | 5,368 |
| | STEEL-DAY | 1 | NIGHT | 2 | |

(4) VNN Activity:

Junks Searched 81,002 Junks Detained 33

Persons Searched 284,108 Persons Detained 295

(5) U. S. Activity:

Junks Detained 112 Persons Detained 417

(6) STABLE DOOR

Junks Detected 26,383 Junks Boarded 4,690

Junks Inspected Day - 2,370 Junks Detained 20
Night - 506

People Detained 93



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CTF Clearwater

On the 14th of February, CTF Clearwater shifted his headquarters from NSAD Cua Viet to NSAD Tan My. Clearwater subordinate commands and mission remained unchanged. CTF Clearwater established an Advanced Tactical Support Base temporarily at the site of the NSAD Cua Viet Cantonment (YD 340 697) on the 15th of February designating LCDR Walker P. Nicholson, USN, 625764, Officer in Charge. This action completed the relocation of CTF Clearwater forces in accordance with the planned reduction of U.S. Naval Forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

Throughout the month of February, Clearwater forces carried the war to the enemy conducting minesweeping patrols, patrolling the Cua Viet River, supporting reaction forces, providing armed escort, and keeping the waterway open to legitimate traffic. The most serious enemy threat continued to be repeated minings. The mine most frequently used was a pressure activated mine.

The use of a bottom trawl net as a more effective means of countering the NVA type pressure mine was investigated during the month. The use of UK scare charges and bottom chain drags was continued.

The first major action by the enemy in February against the river craft occurred about 1215H on the 7th of February. LCM-32, a NSAD Cua Viet logistic craft,was transporting an Army 6X6 trailer and six Army personnel to Dong Ha. The LCM was mined approximately 300 yards from the Dong Ha ramp. The craft immediately began to sink in the

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middle of the river. A PBR patrol unit, under Patrol Officer, EM1 Frame, diverted to the scene. PBR's 129, 12, and 24 towed the sinking LCM to the north bank. Once beached, the LCM was pumped out and temporary patches were applied to stop the flooding. When the battle damage was brought under control, the PBR's towed the stricken craft to the south bank near the Dong Ha ramp. All logistic traffic was stopped. Emergency sweeping of the river commenced employing top and bottom catenary. Scare charges were employed.

When the explosion occurred, the 6X6 truck and trailer carrying two 10KW generators and one TRC-24 receiver were blown clear off the LCM into the water. Of the personnel aboard the LCM, five were blown into the water. Four men were picked up by the tug RACCON, and one man swam ashore. NSAD divers commenced a search for possible missing personnel.

Questioning of the LCM coxswain revealed the mine detonated when the LCM hit a broomstick in the water. The mine was believed to be an NVA pressure mine with a long delay fuze. Divers located the truck and trailer blown into the water and recovered two bodies. At 1640H, the casualties known were two USA killed, two USN wounded, three USA wounded and one USA missing. The wounded were treated and released from the 18th Surgical Hospital in Quang Tri.

Before opening the river to logistic traffic, the Commander, Dong Ha River Security Group, reported the entire river swept twice with chain drags, top and bottom catenary, radom scare charges, and

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the EOD set charges in the turning basin. Three MSM's were sent on night river patrol, and two pusher boats were kept on alert in the turning basin.

On the 7th of February, CTF Clearwater met with FCZIO, NAD, NILO Quang Tri, the Quang Tri Phoenix Program Senior Advisor, and the Coastal Group 11 advisors. Arrangements were made for operations to be conducted to neutralize or capture VC sapper units operating in the Cua Viet area. On the 8th of February, the diving barge LCM8-912 arrived at Cua Viet for salavage operations of the signal truck and trailer.

The following morning, at about 1124H, on the 8th of February, EM1 Frame, patrol officer, with SN Center and SN Brooks, completed a double sweep of the river in LCM-17. On recovering the sweep gear, parts of a mine were found fouled in the top catenary. The parts included a punctured inner tube, two blasting caps, and a small section of a basket. They are typical parts of an NVA pressure mine. Later the same day, LCM-38 was approaching check point W-13, 8 kilometers southwest of Cua Viet, when the crew observed a 75-foot waterspout approximately 25 feet astern. The mine was believed to be an NVA pressure mine with a delay fuze. The LCM-38 was on a logistic run from Cua Viet to Dong Ha. LT M. W. Andrews, NSAD Qua Viet, immediately closed the river preparatory to making scare and bottom catenary sweeps. All logistic craft movement on the Cua Viet River halted unit the sweep was completed. Two sweep boats with bottom catenary

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escorted the remaining logistic craft to NSAD Cua Viet in convoy fashion. It was decided to operate logistic runs as convoys for the remainder of the high threat period.

Patrol Officer, BMC Nelson and Boat Captain, EN2 Reed were patrolling on the river five kilometers west of Cua Viet at about 2045H when five personnel were observed 100 meters inland on the north bank of the river. Obtaining fire clearance, the patrol unit took the group under fire with an MK-40 Honeywell grenade launcher and reported two enemy KIA. After the patrol cleared the area, artillery fire was called in on possible escape routes.

Patrol Officer, ENS H. C. Hampton, with Boat Captain, BM1 Dombrowski in PBR 118, set a waterborne guardpost six kilometers west of Cua Viet on the night of the 15th. At about 2251H, three people were observed 100 meters to the west carrying objects toward the river bank. The group was taken under fire, and the contact disappeared. The patrol shifted the guardpost and kept the area under surveillance. No further action occurred.

A waterspout startled the crew of an NSAD Cua Viet skimmer early on the morning of the 18th. BM3 Sudduth and SN Ouendag were on a morning Scare charge run six kilometers southwest of Cua Viet when a secondary explosion produced a column of water 40 feet high approximately 1,000 feet ahead of the skimmer. There were no personnel or material casualties.

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On the 21st of February, an agent report received by CTF Clearwater stated that sappers with two oxygen tanks and three water mines had crossed the Cua Viet River. There were no confirmed reports involving the use of advanced breathing equipment by sappers in the Cua Viet. The use of more sophisticated equipment would not greatly increase the mining threat as the sapper is forced to surface for orientation.

CTF Clearwater reported enemy activity remained at a moderate level during the month of February. Infiltration of supplies from the west continued. There were indications of forces being reinforced and moving closer to the plain areas of Thua Thieu Province. Agent reports continued to state the enemy's intention to launch an offensive in the near future.

Operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone

Irregular and scattered contact with the enemy continued during the month of February. The RSSZ forces increased the tempo of operations, supporting the Provincial Forces, conducting psychological operations, SEAL team inserts, EOD operations, mine countermeasures, and reacted to enemy contact when gained. Special Support Units A and D, and Helicopter Unit A supported overall operations. One USA Hunter/Killer Team (COBRA) from D Company 229th AVN Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Division, Dua Tieng, operated in the RSSZ in conjunction with USN and VNN forces throughout the month.



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One USN LHFT, TU 116.9.8, with LCDR Kizer supported two squads of Regional Forces Company 782 early in the evening on the 3rd of February. The RF Company was proceeding to a trail guardpost position when movement was noted in the vicinity of XS 940 590. Responding to the RF Company's request for overhead cover, LCDR Kizer placed strikes in the area of suspected enemy movement at 1942H. With the Seawolves standing by overhead, the RF Company continued the patrol without further incident.

The first extended composite operation including all the forces in the RSSZ began on the morning of the 3rd of February. At 0600H, LTJG Holst and LTJG Curelop in RSSZ PBR's accompanied by BMC Olivarez with two ASPB's took blocking positions in the Rach Ba Giang at XS 985 630. By 0750H, the Regional Forces Company 999, with 1st LT Gross Hans, USMC, as advisor, had inserted by USA Slick helicopter on the north bank of the Song Dong Tranh (YS 083 760). The troops began a sweep southwest in the general direction of the PBR's and ASPB's. No enemy contact was gained and the company extracted by Slick at 1430H. In coordinated action, at 0816H, RF Company 782, with advisor CAPT Burch, USMC, inserted by USA Slick one kilometer east of the blocking force and began a sweep to the southeast. By 1040H, the company reached XS 981 638 where they found a 500 pound dud bomb. An USA Slick inserted the RSSZ EOD team at 1130H. The EOD team blew the bomb in place as the troops continued their sweep to the east. As the squads fanned out through the brush and mangrove swamps, one group found and destroyed 300 pounds of three quarter

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inch by 12 feet steel bars. From XS 981 638, the company moved southwest to find and destroy one booby trap grenade. The blocking PBR's extracted the company from XS 983 633 and reinserted the troops at YS 004 620. The area was swept with negative results and the troops extracted by Slick at 1450H in the vicinity of YS 004 620.

At 0845H, the Regional Forces Company 361 with GY SGT Leith, USMC, as advisor inserted by Slick at YS 030 493 and moved out to the southwest. After one hour and twenty five minutes of moving through foot slogging mud, waist deep mud holes, and tangling mangrove roots, the troops found and destroyed a newly constructed bunker and two structures. The sweep continued without further results until the company extracted by Slick at YS 079 491.

An USA Hunter/Killer Team began to search the area around YS 0875 at 0800H. Fifty five minutes after the search began, the H/K team found and destroyed three bunkers at YS 086 755. At 0910H, the H/K team destroyed two more bunkers at YS 089 757. After destroying the two bunkers, the H/K team diverted to cover the various company troop insertions. At 1300H, the H/K team returned to search the area around YS 990 621. There one structure and a ten bunker complex was destroyed. Two other bunkers and two structures were located and destroyed at 1400H in the vicinity of YS 007 594.

Throughout the day's operations, CAPT Kinslaw, USMC, aboard an L-19 from the 184th AVN Company, Phu Di, provided overhead coordination for the troop sweeps and insertions. One USA LHFT and one USN LHFT provided on call air cover for the day's operations.

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At 1545H, reacting to informant intelligence, the RSSZ PBR's proceeded to provide location security near XS 980 593. One USA LHFT provided overhead cover while one USA LOH landed the RSSZ advisors. The informant lead the advisors to a cache site. As a result, two B-40 rockets, five B-40 rocket boosters, one case of 24 Chinese Communist grenades were captured. All units returned to Nha Be on terminating operations.

The above is an example of the coordinated composite type operation necessary for successful operations in the RSSZ. USN EOD, PBR's, ASPB's, LHFT's, LAFT's, USA L-19's, LHFT's, H/K team; VNN patrol boats, and four RF Companies were employed during the days operations.

The net results included one 500 pound dead bomb destroyed, one booby trap grenade destroyed, 300 pounds steel construction rods destroyed, 18 bunkers destroyed, three structures burned, two B-40 rockets captured, five B-40 rocket boosters captured, and one case (24) grenades captured.

The coordinated action discovers enemy caches, disrupts his supplies, and keeps him on the move.

On morning patrol the 9th of February, LCDR Wolniewicz and LTJG Cook patrolling the RSSZ in Seawolves reported an U.S. Army barge, No. BC6527, beached on the west bank of the Long Tau shipping channel at YS 141 531. The U.S. Army reported the barge had been moored to buoy number one in Vung Tau harbor the previous evening.

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At 0920H, BM1 Hepstall took RSSZ PBR's 5 and 6 to the area to provide security. By 1030H, the Regional Force Company 875, with CAPT Cowan, USMC as advisor, had inserted by Slick helicopter at YS 141 531. Prior to the insertion, the USN LHFT overhead placed preparatory strikes in the area destroying one bunker and one sampan. Negative enemy contact was made by the ground troops. An USA Tug took the barge under tow for Vung Tau and by 1515H the troops extracted. There were no friendly casualties.

At 2045H on the evening of the 10th, four VC firing automatic weapons conducted a probe of the Than Thoi RF outpost on the banks of the Song Ong Tien at YS 109 503. Regional Forces Company 361 troops returned the fire suppressing the initial attack. One RF trooper was seriously wounded. LTJG Cook immediately scrambled the USN LHFT and reported overhead to provide air cover. However, air strike clearance was denied due to friendly unit advance posts. The LHFT continued to provide cover while CAPT Cowan, USMC, coordinated the dustoff of the wounded RF trooper by USA helicopter from Bario.

Another coordinated action of the RSSZ forces got underway 0500H the morning of the 12th. CPO Allred and CPO Hutchason took aboard RF Companies 908 and 362, with USMC advisors, CAPT Cowan and S/SGT Bradshaw, in PBR's and ASPB's for transportion to the operations area. From 0730H until 0800H, two USN LHFT's, CDR Wolneiwicz and LTJG Cook, and one USA LHFT placed air strikes in an area of maximum sniffer readings. At 0810H, RF Company 999, with 1st LT Grosshams,

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inserted by USA Slicks at YS 056 783, one kilometer north of the Song Dong Tranh. The troops swept west with negative results, extracted by USA Slicks, and returned to base camp. At 0815H, an USA LHFT placed air strikes on an enemy base camp at YS 075 783 and received one secondary explosion. RF Company 875, GY SGT Bledsoe, USMC advisor, inserted by Slicks at YS 096 953 and swept the area with negative results. At 1230H the company extracted by air and reinserted at YS 030 795 to sweep east. The USA LHFT covering the troop movement received sporadic semi-automatic weapons fire at YS 034 794. Two USN LHFT's lifted at 1240H and placed air strikes in the enemy firing positions. The USN air strikes destroyed three bunkers and eight structures. RF Company 875 swept this area at 1400H and captured 1,000 - 7.62 linked belt rounds, 100 kilo rice, five kilo tobacco, thirteen 4.5 volt batteries, 100 meters of electric wire, and two water containers. The troops returned to base camp at 1436H. An APSB, BMC Olivarez, lifted RF Company 783, 1st LT James, USMC advisor, to YS 124 777 to provide security for the base camp. At 1100H RF Company 908 with their advisor inserted by ASPB at YS 056 795, swept southeast with negative results, extracted at 1442H, and returned to base camp. RF Company 362 left the base camp with their advisor by Slick and swept the area of YS 089 789. The troops gained no contact by 1450H and returned to base camp by Slick.

At 0800H one USA Hunter/Killer team began a search of area YS 0678. Two bunkers were discovered and destroyed at YS 068789. Later at 0920H, the team destroyed another bunker and one structure at

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YS 075 789. At 1230H the Hunter/ Killer team diverted to provide overhead cover for the troop movements. At 1500H the team destroyed two more bunkers at YS 046 719. ASA RSSZ Major Hunter, USMC , RSSZ NGLO 1st LT Phipps, USMC, and three USAF SNAP FACS provided overhead coordination for the troop insertion and sweeps. The RSSZ PBR's and ASPB's provided waterborne transportation and set up blocking action under the direction of waterborne OTC, LCDR Thames.

Continuing coordinated operations in the RSSZ, one USA Hunter/ Killer team commenced a search of area YS 1777 at 0700H on the morning of the 9th. At 1030H, the team sighted a bunker complex at YS 174 776. Two civilians were reported captured by the VC and at 1300H the team diverted to search the area of XS 965 779 but failed to find the kidnappers. At 1400H, the team returned to YS 174 776 to reach the area. Twenty kilo of documents were removed from the bunkers before artillery was called in at 1500H, with RSSZ NGLO CAPT Garwick, USMC spotting, to destroy the complex. Fire Support Base Dakota fired artillery into the complex until 1530H. In the next hour and a half, the team completed the destruction of five bunkers, two structures, two sampans, seven 75mm rocket rounds, and three B-40 rocket rounds. At 1700H, the team departed the area for Nha Be Naval Base. En route Nha Be the USA LOH reconned the area where another LOH had been shot down the day before by enemy ground fire. At 1715H the H/K LOH reported receiving heavy automatic weapons and B-40 rocket fire in the vicinity of YS 153 805. By 1720H the LOH was down and burning at YS 173805. At 1725H, Cobra aircraft placed air strikes on the

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enemy position killing six VC. One USN LHFT, LCDR Kizer and LCDR Walniewicz, scrambled to provide overhead cover. At 1730H, the Cobra aircraft was down at YS 173 805 due to mechanical difficulty. LCDR Kizer directed the Seawolves over the downed Cobra to provide cover for the dustoff out of Long Binh. RF Company 105, Nhon Trach, inserted by USA Slick to secure the area in the vicinity of the downed aircraft. One LAFT scrambled out of Vung Tau to assist in air cover while an Army Chinook aircraft extracted the downed Cobra to return it to Phu Loi. At 1900H, the troops extracted by Slick helicopter. Friendly casualties were one USA KIA, one USA WIA. Enemy casualties were six VC killed by air.

On the night of the 17th, CPO Allred in RSSZ PBR, answered a call from RF Company 999, 1st LT Grossham, USMC advisor, who was in a firefight at YS 068 789 about one kilometer north of the Song Ong Tranh. The RF troops, in a night guardpost had taken seven VC under fire at 1705H, killing three. Receiving automatic weapons fire, the troops withdrew to the north bank. The PBR's reconned the area by fire and extracted the troops without further incident.

Early in the morning of the 18th, at 0600H, LTJG Curelop and RD1 Fisher took RSSZ PBR's and ASPB's through the winding canals to set up blocking positions to support a coordinated RSSZ operation. At 0837H, the USAF facility at Tan San Nhut AFB directed tactical air strikes on an enemy base camp at YS 038 792 destroying one bunker and scoring one secondary explosion. RF Company 908, 1st LT Grossham,

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USMC advisor, inserted by USA Slick helicopter at YS 114 744 and began to sweep the area to the west at 0923H. At 0936H, the troops found and destroyed one enemy booby trap at YS 107 745. Moving out to the southwest at 1135H the company captured ten pounds of rice, a small quantity of documents, and one ordnance sighting device. While searching the area, six to eight VC were seen evading to the northeast and northwest. One USA Hunter/Killer team, one USA LHFT, and one USN LHFT, LCDR Wolniewicz and LTJG Denigro, placed air strikes in the vicinity of the enemy. The troops then swept through the area with n egative results and extracted by Slick at 1435H from YS 102 745. WO Hoferkamp, USMC, advisor to RF Company 362, inserted with the company by Slick at YS 106 784 and swept the area to the west. At 1045H in the vicinity of YS 102 784, the troops captured 100 rounds of 7.62 caliber ammunition and four M-79 grenades. The sweep continued without further results and at 1440H a Slick helicopter extracted the company from YS 108 784. RF Company 999, CAPT Cowan, USMC advisor, inserted by Slick at YS 066 788. At 0945H, they examined the action on the 17th of February and found drag marks where bodies had been dragged away. The company departed by Slick at 1450H. At 0956H, RF Company 875, 1st LT James, USMC advisor, swept from YS 042 797 to YS 050 795 and departed by Slick. The troops reinserted at YS 047 784 and searched southwest. At 1435H, the company captured two old CHICOM type 53 rifles, assorted semi-automatic ammunition, and found five shallow graves which they attributed to the air strike action on the 13th of February. The troops continued their sweep with no

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further results and extracted from YS 047 784 by Slick at 1510H. At 1120H, one USA LHFT sighted movement at YS 107 783. The aircraft placed air strikes on the suspected enemy positions and received sporadic semi-automatic rifle fire. The USN LHFT, LCDR Wolniewicz and LTJG Denigro, joined the USA LHFT and the Hunter/Killer team in placing strikes at YS 092 764. At 1245H, the ASPB's sighted movement on the bank of the Song Thi Vai (YS 124 760). The ASPB reconned the bank by fire. Results were unknown. From 1645H to 1730H, the Hunter/Killer team destroyed four bunkers at YS 046 789.

The RSSZ NGLO, CAPT Kinslow, USMC, SA RSSZ CDR Wages, and ASA RSSZ Major Hunter, USMC in L-19 from 184th AVN CO, Phu Loi, provided overhead coordination for the troop insertions. The RSSZ NGLO, 1st LT Phipps coordinated gunfire from an OV-10 from Vung Tau. This operation concluded at 1730H.

At 1800H on the 23rd of February, CPO Quoi, advisor to RPG 52, inserted 14 RSSZ PRU troops from VNN PBR's at YS 173 627 in a streamlet off the Rach Tchen. At 0130H the next morning the PRU's sighted four VC in a sampan and took them under fire. The sampan returned the fire with automatic weapons. Four VC were killed. One sampan, two M-16 rifles, two kilo rice and fish, and a small amount of documents were captured. At 0145H, the PRU's extracted the troops.

The last combined operation of the month took place between 0500H and 1730H on the 25th of the month.



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Commencing the operation, CDR Price and LTJG Demigro conducted a people sniffer search in the Wolf Pack AO by USN LHFT from 0700H to 0730H. At 0745H the USAF Tac Air placed strikes at YS 074 788 and YS 075 789. At 0820H the control aircraft received sporadic semi-automatic weapons fire in the vicinity of YS 074 793. RF Company 362, CAPT Hickman, USMC advisor, inserted by Slick aircraft at YS 051 797. At 0845H the company began a sweep to the east. The troops called in the USN LHFT at 1045H to place strikes at YS 075 788. Two bunkers were destroyed in the strikes. Further patrolling netted no further results and the company extracted by Slick from YS 051 797 about 1450H. At 0857H the RF Company 999, with CAPT Cowan, USMC advisor, inserted by Slick at YS 078 793. The troops swept east and at 0905H received automatic weapons fire at YS 080 793. The RF troops returned the fire and then moved southwest. At 1321H one VC was killed in a short fire exchange with the troops. Two AK-47's with magazines, two radio transmitters, and a small amount of documents were captured before the company called in air strikes on the supported enemy positions at YS 074 782 killing four VC. At 1340H one USN LHFT placed additional strikes in the same area killing one more of the enemy. The company continued to sweep south and at 1355H took a small party under fire killing one VC at YS 073 780. The troops called in one USA LHFT to place air strikes on the enemy positions. The aircraft received automatic weapons return fire. In sweeping the area, the company found two VC killed by the air strike, destroyed four sampans, five bunkers, four

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structures, 130 kilo of rice, and two CHICOM grenades. At 1717H, after a long day, the troops extracted by Slick at YS 073 791.

RF Company 908, S/SGT Bradshaw, USMC advisor, inserted by Slick in the area of YS 109 753 at 0920H. The company moved out to the southeast. They had reached YS 103 750 with no results when they were lifted by Slick to YS 073 788 to support the action occurring with RF Company 999. An USA Slick reported automatic weapons fire southeast of the RF position. The company moved out in that direction. At 1515H, four VC were engaged in a brief firefight killing one. After the firefight, the troops captured one claymore mine, eight M-16 magazines, eleven grenades, and 20 75mm rounds. The company withdrew from the position and called in air strikes resulting in one secondary explosion. At 1703H, three new graves were found at YS 073 791, a result of action with the VC by RF Company 999 on the 24th. At 1730H the company extracted by Slick.

WO Haferkamp, USMC, inserted with RF Company by air at YS 017 798. At 0935H, the troops began a sweep to the southeast. They discovered a VC base camp at YS 022 797 showing signs of recent activity. An USN LHFT was called in at 1225H. The air strike destroyed the camp. The troops continued their sweep with an USA LHFT placing strikes in their path of advance. With no further positive results the company called for extraction and were lifted out of YS 016 799 by Slick at 1503H.

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The RSSZ EOD team proceeded to YS 147 745 by Army Slick and destroyed three bunkers at 1240H, returning to base camp at 1400H.

The RSSZ NGLO 1st LT Phipps, USMC provided overhead coordination from an OV-10 from Vung Tau throughout the day.

Enemy Harassment/Attacks on Merchant Shipping

The SS Trans Globe reported enemy rocket and semi-automatic fire from the west bank of the Long Tau shipping channel at 0912H on the morning of 3 February. The harassing attack originated about 600 meters south of Tan Tanh (YS 118 575). Three B-40 rocket rounds exploded in mid-air, and three other rounds passed over the Trans Globe. Two minutes after the attack, a USN LHFT arrived over the enemy firing position. One USN PBR on Long Tau patrol proceeded to assist in the search of the banks. At 0945H, the LHFT seized one detainee, and ten minutes later, an USA Hunter/Killer team in the area seized another detainee. Both detainees were brought to Tan Tanh (YS 115 586) for transfer to Nha Be. At 1015H, the Regional Forces Company 875 were inserted by helicopter at YS 117 575. The troops swept the area with negative results. The Trans Globe suffered no casualties. The two civilian detainees were released from Nha Be after identification and interrogation.

At 1134H, on the morning of 3 February, the Senior Naval Advisor, Rung Sat Special Zone, received word through VNN channels the SS VENUS VICTORY was attacked in the Long Tau shipping channel at YS 093 627, 22 kilometer southeast of Nha Be. The Regional Forces

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Company 783 inserted in the attack area at 1205H. On their sweep, the company found firing stakes in the vicinity of YS 096 627. The company completed the search and extracted from the area with no enemy contact. The VENUS VICTORY received one B-40 rocket hit on the mast with no personnel and slight material damage.

On the morning of the 24th, the SS WASHINGTON BEAR transited north on the Long Tau shipping channel. At about 0745H, the WASHINGTON BEAR reported receiving seven rockets from the west bank in the vicinity of YS 090 627. At that time, negative hits or casualties were reported. The USNS FENTRESS, also transiting north, trailing the WASHINGTON BEAR by approximately one half mile reported sighting rocket trails near the leading ship. Later investigation revealed one small puncture and several small indentations in the WASHINGTON BEAR's hull above the water line near hold five.

At the time of the attack, Regional Forces Company 783 was conducting a security sweep on the bank of the Long Tau channel near the area. Within minutes of the attack, the RF company took three to four VC under fire in the vicinity of YS 090 625, receiving automatic weapons fire in return. BM1 Baker in ASPB No. 5 and CPO Hutchason with PBR's No. 9 and 10, on Long Tau patrol, diverted their boats to the area of enemy activity. As the RF company swept to the south, LCDR Kizer and LTJG Cook, in two Seawolves, vectored overhead to provide air fire support.

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At the direction of the RF company, the USN LHFT's placed strikes in the vicinity of YS 095 618 at about 0810H. At 0850H, the Regional Forces Company 875 inserted to the south at YS 093 605 by VNN boats taking up a blocking position. The troops then swept to the north. Again on call, the USN LHFT's placed air support strikes at YS 082 577 about 1025H. There were no friendly casualties, enemy casualties were unknown. The RF companies extracted without incident.



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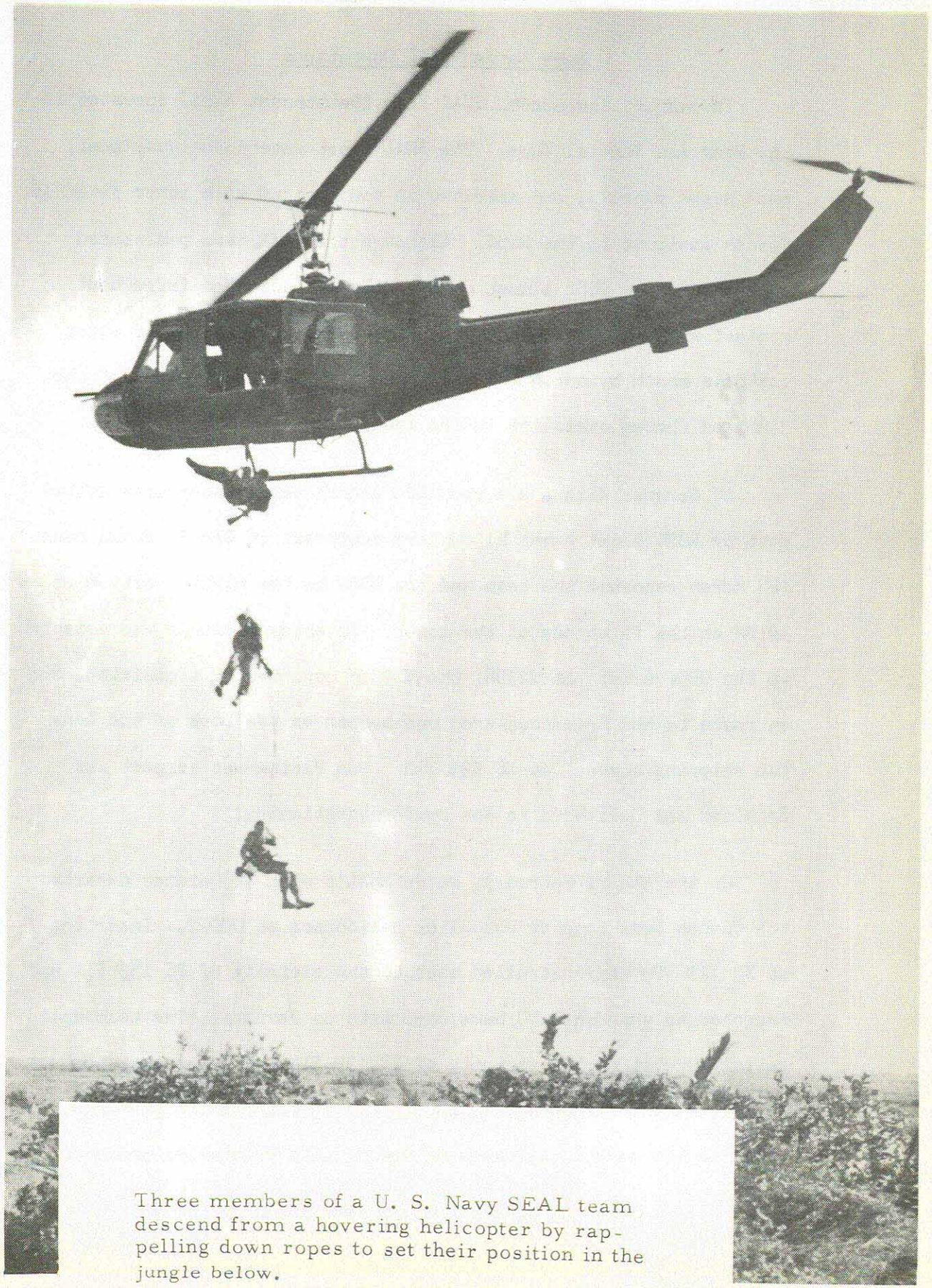

Three members of a U. S. Navy SEAL team descend from a hovering helicopter by rappelling down ropes to set their position in the jungle below.

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Game Warden SEAL Operations

Throughout the month, SEAL Team (Detachment ALFA) operated in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The SEAL's set waterborne guardpost, made night patrols, and operated in conjunction with other friendly forces assigned to the RSSZ. Although the SEAL team positioned elements in the RSSZ almost daily, only sporadic and infrequent contact was made with the enemy. The decreasing number of enemy contacts month by month is indicative of the effectiveness of the combined forces operating in the zone.

LT Gardner with a six man SEAL patrol set a waterborne guard-post by LSSC about seven kilometers southeast of Nha Be Naval Base. ENS Marsh escorted the team and the LSSC to the night position at 1915H on the first day of the month. No enemy presence was detected at the WBGP site. At 2230H, the SEAL's departed that position, and en route to Nha Be, encountered one sampan on the bank of the Long Tau shipping channel at XS 935 778. One Vietnamese suspect was detained and delivered to Nha Be for questioning.

On the 9th of February, seven SEAL's with LT Gardner departed the Seabee base camp by USA Slick helicopter at 0900H. Inserting at YS 128 509 they patrolled east to the vicinity of YS 133 512 and searched an abandoned VC base camp with no results. The team again patrolled east to the vicinity of YS 139 514 and set a guardpost at 1130H. Having no contact by 1400H, the team broke the guardpost and moved to the north. As the team moved, LCDR Wolniewicz provided

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overhead cover with an USN LHFT. The moving patrol found a dud fired CHICOM grenade booby trap at YS 140 514 and rendered it safe. The SEAL's moved out to the east again and at 1530H set up a guardpost at YS 144 515. The guardpost was held until 1730H when the USA Slick extracted the patrol returning them to the Seabee base camp at 1745H.

On the 22nd of February, eight SEAL's with LT Jukoski departed Nha Be by two USA Slicks and inserted at XS 969 759. By 1800H, the team was patrolling south with LCDR Kizer providing overhead cover in a Seawolf LHFT. The patrol set a guardpost on the bank of the Rach Bong Gieng Lon at 1915H . There, five kilometers south of Nha Be, four VC attempted to swim the canal north to south at 1950H. The team took the swimmers under fire killing two of the VC. Four minutes later ENS Scott placed air strikes in the vicinity of the crossing with an USN LHFT. After directing the air strike, the SEAL's extracted by LSSC, covered by LTJG Bryson with the MST 2, and returned to Nha Be. The team destroyed two CHICOM grenades, one M-26 grenade, and 40 rounds of AK-47 ammunition carried by the transiting VC.

LTJG Norris and seven SEAL's departed Nha Be at 1500H on the 23rd by MST-3 piloted by ENS Scott. Covered by two USN PBR's under RM1 Hepstall, they proceeded up the Dong Tranh River. Where the Rach La emptied into the Dong Tranh River they turned left and went up the canal to set a waterborne guardpost at YS 066 788. At 2200H, the patrol broke guardpost and while proceeding to the LSSC less than a hundred yards away,they came under B-40 and automatic weapons



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attack. The SEAL's returned fire and held their positions while LTJG Denigro placed air strikes on the enemy position with one Seawolf USN LHFT. At 2230, the patrol departed the area for Nha Be in the LSSC. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties were unknown.

On the same day, LT Gardner with 13 SEAL's and one LDNN departed Nha Be at 1400H in an LCM with ENS Marsh. The LCM took five hours and forty five minutes in the circuitous route down the Nha Be River to the Song Rach Cat, then up that river to the town of Can Giouc. From Can Giouc the SEAL's went by LSSC winding up the Cai Tram Canal to insert at XS 806 742 deep in the Can Giouc District of the Long An Province. Once inserted, the patrol moved out along the canal bank and set a waterborne guardpost at XS 807 744 by 2100H. Less than 45 minutes later four VC passed the guardpost headed southeast on the canal. The patrol took the sampan under fire killing three of the VC and wounding one. With LTJG Denigro overhead in an LHFT providing air cover, the team spread out to search the area. During the search, the captured wounded VC shot the Vietnamese Navy SEAL in the right hand and forearm with a concealed pistol. In the resulting fight, the VC was killed. LTJG Denigro, on call, brought down the LHFT to place an air strike in the area. The team patrolled to XS 806 742, still on the banks of the Cai Tram Canal, where the LDNN could be evacuated by helicopter. At this point, a local Provincial Force platoon joined the SEAL team for a sweep and research of the combat area. Destroying the sampan, the group captured

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a small amount of documents. The enemy weapons were lost in the water during the initial fight. Discontinuing the search, the SEAL team and the LSSC rejoined the LCM and departed for Nha Be at 0330H. There were no additional friendly casualties.

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## USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY

| | MARKET TIME | GAME WARDEN |
|---|---|---|
| Detections | 16,471 | 6,983 |
| Inspections | 6,691 | 1,776 |
| Boardings | 5,368 | 2,249 |
| Craft detained | 112 | * |
| Persons detained | 417 | * |
| Viet Cong suspects | 86 | 0 |
| Hostile fire incidents | 41 | 47 |
| Enemy casualties: | | |
| a. Killed | 112(72 BC, 40 Est) | 22(16 BC, 6 Prob) |
| b. Wounded | 10 | 2 |
| c. Captured | 35 | 0 |
| USN casualties: | | |
| a. Killed | 1 | 0 |
| b. Wounded | 5 | 0 |
| c. Captured | 0 | 0 |
| d. Missing | 0 | 0 |
| Enemy material losses: | | |
| a. Destroyed: | | |
| (1) Junks or sampans | 132 | 14 |
| (2) Structures | 791 | 30 |
| b. Captured: | | |
| (1) Junks or sampans | * | 1 |
| (2) Weapons | * | 5 |
| (3) Ammunition (rounds) | * | 0 |
| (4) Rice (tons) | * | 1.5 |
| c. Damaged: | | |
| (1) Junks or sampans | 174 | 0 |
| (2) Structures | 208 | 11 |
| USN material losses: | | |
| a. Destroyed: | | |
| (1) Surface craft | 1 | 0 |
| (2) Helicopters | 0 | 0 |
| b. Damaged: | | |
| (1) Surface craft | 3 | 0 |
| (2) Helicopters | 1 | 0 |
| SAR missions | 2 | |

Remarks:

*Information not available or not applicable

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY

Vietnamese Navy

Fleet Command and Central Task Force

The PCF's, WPB's, patrol craft, and support ships of the Fleet Command performed river and Market Time patrols, Sea Float operations, NGFS, logistic lifts, Psyops, and Civic Action missions in February. The 55 NGFS missions fired by the Fleet Command units in February was comparable to the previous month when 57 NGFS missions were completed.

Satisfactory weather conditions along the coast was apparent for the second straight month as Fleet Command surveillance figures recorded slight increases in comparison to the January figures. In February a total of 26,172 people and 7,628 junks were searched by the Fleet Command. Seven junks and 86 people were detained for further questioning and identification.

The routine operation reports of the Fleet Command units reflected the low level of enemy activity. The majority of their NGFS missions were fired with unknown results and the regular resupply runs were uneventful with the exception of an enemy initiated action in the Sea Float AO on 25 February. In the afternoon, LSSL 228 was transiting toward the mouth of the Bo De River (WQ 163 677) when the ship came under B-40 and automatic weapons fire. The enemy fire

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was immediately returned and within two minutes, two Black Pony aircraft were overhead, followed shortly thereafter by USN Seawolves. After the OV-10's and helos had placed strikes into the area and the LSSL had ceased her direct fire, a Kit Carson Scout reaction team was inserted by USN PCF's 17 and 36. Sweeping the ambush site from west to east the Kit Carson Scouts uncovered five B-40 rockets, three B-50 rounds, 11 rocket launch tubes, 11 propellant charges, and three wiring assemblies. No comfirmed enemy casualties were reported for the action.

On 28 February in Danang, 11 USN PCF's were shifted administratively from the USN COSDIV 12 to the VNN COSFLOT 1 at the same time the Danang Coastal Surveillance Center was placed under VNN control. With the additional VNN assets in the 1st Coastal Zone including the three WPB's turned over on 14 February, all of the inshore stations in Market Time areas one and two became exclusive VNN patrol responsibilities.

The Central Task Force carried out its mission with no significant interruptions. At the end of one minesweeping patrol on the Long Tau River the VNN minesweeper HQ1801 recovered 20 feet of two conductor electrical cable.

## Coastal Junk Forces

The force strength of the Coastal Junk Groups remained stabilized at 223 junks which reflected the most recent survey of two

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junks that took place in January. At Hue, seventeen craft were assigned to RAG 32.

The continued favorable weather conditions along the coast were reflected for the second straight month of larger surveillance figures. In February there were 185,900 people and 52,021 junks searched, and 208 people and 26 junks detained.

First Coastal Zone

A moderate high point in enemy activity at the beginning of the month was followed by a generally low level that was characteristic of the rest of the month. Major enemy interest appeared to be on his anti-pacification efforts, sapper, and guerrilla attacks. In the Cua Viet area, five mine incidents occurred which served to acknowledge the presence of water sappers along the Cua Viet River.

On the afternoon of 12 February USN PCF's and CG 14 forces were called upon to carry out a blocking force mission on the Truong Giang River south of Hoi An as part of a ground sweep by ARVN units, (vicinity BT 175 502, 172 502, 165 510, 168 370, 164 504). The USN PCF 79 intercepted three sampans attempting to cross the river and killed one VC (BT 168 510). Three CG 14 personnel were inserted along the river bank where they destroyed one sampan, two bunkers, 500 yards of fish net, and confiscated another 500 yards of fish net.

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Another CG 14 unit (BT 175 502)sighted seven VC females attempting to escape during a prep fire on bunkers. All seven were captured without incident. While returning to their base, CG 14 units again put VNN personnel ashore to destroy bunkers. Proceeding to a second bunker complex, the VNN detected movement in the nearby mangrove. Four to six VC were then spotted and after chieu hoi attempts failed they were taken under fire. Three male VC were overtaken and another was wounded before he escaped in the dense mangrove. One additional bunker was destroyed by the VNN before they returned to their base.

First Coastal Zone Junk Employment as of 28 February 1970

| Coastal Group/Homeport | # of Junks | Type/Location of Ops |
|---|---|---|
| CG 11/Cua Viet | 8 | Patrols/Cua Viet |
| CG 12/Thuan An | 8 | Patrols/Thuy Tu |
| CG 13/Tu Hien | 8 | Patrols/Cau Hai Bay |
| CG 14/Hoi An | 7 | Patrol; Base Defense/ Hoi An; Cua Dai; Cua Lau |
| CG 15/An Hoa | 7 | Coastal and river patrol/ coast; Truong River |
| CG 16/Co Luy | 7 | Patrol;base defense/Tra Phuc; Pho Tho |

Second Coastal Zone

The level of enemy activity was relatively heavy at the beginning of the month particularly in the coastal provinces on the night of 31 January - 1 February. In Binh Dinh Province, nearly every major U. S. installation came under attack by fire. This high point

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was followed by a low level that characterized the action of the enemy for the remainder of the month. While avoiding major contact with allied units, the enemy concentrated on low scale attacks against bases and allied pacification efforts.

There were no significant combat incidents reported by the 2nd Coastal Zone Junk Groups. However, in their Psyops and civic action campaign, CG's reported the dedication of a one room addition to the Song Cau High School that was built through the efforts of material and labor provided by CG 23.

2nd Coastal Zone Junk Employment As Of 1 March 1970

| CG/Homeport | # of Junks | Type/Location of Ops |
|---|---|---|
| CG 21/Degi | 11 | patrol; base defense/ Nuoc Nguc Lagoon |
| CG 23/Song Cau | 11 | patrol; base defense/ Ong Dien Cape |
| CG 25/Dong Hai | 8 | patrol; base defense/ Hon Khia |
| CG 26/Cam Ranh Bay | 7 | patrol; base defense/ Cam Ranh Bay |
| CG 27/Phan Rang | 8 | patrol; base defense/ Dong Nai Bay |
| CG 28/Phan Thiet | 9 | special ops; base defense/ coastal |

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## Third Coastal Zone

A relatively quiet situation prevailed in the 3rd Coastal Zone until the end of the month when 20 attacks by fire were recorded on the evening of 26-27 February throughout the III CTZ. For the Coastal Groups the Dung Island complex continued to be the scene of the majority of the contact with the enemy in February.

On the afternoon of 2 February four CG 36 units and two USN advisers, ENS Champion and RD3 Korber were conducting a PSYOPS mission at the northwestern end of the Dung Island complex (XR 220 768) when the VNN spotted a sampan evading toward the island. Three of the CG 36 units took the sampan and its occupants under fire as the sampan reached the beach. After the VNN ceased fire they searched the abandoned sampan which contained two dead VC, 13 SKS rifles, three RPG launchers, three B-41 launchers, one M-60 machine gun, two AK-47's, one 30 caliber anti-aircraft machine gun with mount, twenty five 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, eight 82mm mortar rounds, 2,500 rounds of 30 caliber ammunition, five Chinese Communist land mines, 75 blasting caps, 100 meters of detonating cord and twenty 82mm detonators.

A CG 36 small boat with USN advisers, LT King and BM2 Sannicolas departed the base on the morning of 20 February in order to carry out a waterborne reconnaissance mission while circling the Dung Island Complex. Half way down the northern side of the island (XR 280 705) the VNN spotted seven VC ashore. As the VC scattered into the dense undergrowth, they were taken under fire. One VC was confirmed dead and a second was

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seen crawling into the jungle with wounds. Before continuing on the patrol the VNN destroyed the enemy sampan.

The last day of the month CG 34 units, USN PCF's 55 and 87, helos and VNAF fixed winged aircraft were in search of a downed VNAF aircraft that had crashed near the mouth of the Ham Luong River (vicinity XS 800 010). An oil slick was located in the morning and later PCF 87 had two grappling hooks attached to the submerged aircraft awaiting salvage assistance that would arrive in March.

Third Coastal Zone Junk employment as of 28 February.

| CG/Homeport | # of Junks | Type/Location of Ops |
|---|---|---|
| CG 33/Vung Tau | 16 | Patrol; base defense/Sea Float: Rach Ong Ben and Cua Lap; local |
| CG 34/Tien Ton | 16 | Patrol; base defense/Ham Luong River; local |
| CG 35/Hung My | 15 | Patrol; base defense/Sea Float; Co Chien River; local |
| CG 36/Dai An | 15 | Patrol; base defense/Sea Float; Hau Giang River; base |

Fourth Coastal Zone

Consistent with the level of action throughout the Republic of South Vietnam the 4th Coastal Zone experienced a general lack of enemy activity for most of the month. The one high point of the month took place on the 25-26 February when 49 incidents were reported in the delta including 21 attacks by fire.

The special patrols in the Gulf of Thailand were gradually phased down and disestablished effective 200001H February. During the two

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month period, the stations were patrolled and 5,496 junks and sampans were detected and 5,359 of these were inspected or boarded and searched.

The following is a breakdown of the totals by areas as computed by CTU 115.4.1:

| | ED1 | 9E1 | 9F1 | 9G1 | 9H1 | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detected Day | 498 | 1,280 | 1,136 | 610 | 522 | 4,046 |
| Inspected Day | 40 | 167 | 306 | 88 | 92 | 746 |
| B&S Day | 445 | 1,083 | 810 | 520 | 408 | 3,266 |
| Detected Night | 188 | 611 | 416 | 114 | 121 | 1,450 |
| Inspected Night | 10 | 83 | 111 | 9 | 16 | 299 |
| B&S Night | 177 | 455 | 284 | 100 | 105 | 1,121 |
| Detainees | 24 | 47 | 1 | 7 | 11 | 90 |
| Junks Detained | 4 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 14 |

The statistics indicate that the traffic was most dense in areas 9E1 and 9F1 and that the largest percentage of cargo and detainees were apprehended in areas 9D1 and 9E1. Over 500 bags of rice were confiscated and 90 VN personnel, the majority who were restricted zone violators, were detained and turned over to the proper authorities. No weapons, munitions, or movement of troops was detected and while the movement of junks through the restricted zones was never halted, the flow of unmanifested cargo was stopped.

Evaluating the lessons learned from the operation CTU 115.4.1 reported that heavy traffic through restricted zone does not necessarily indicate that coastal infiltration is taking place. Most restricted zone violators in this area were either innocent fishermen or were in the area because they were taking the shortest route on a coastal transit. Many of these were unaware of the restrictions and during

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rough weather the junks have a tendency to hug the coast more closely because of the reduced sea state experience there.

The PCF's are able to operate on coastal patrols from LST's for extended periods of time. However, base level maintenance should be available elsewhere since major repairs cannot be performed by the LST's.

Fourth Coastal Zone Junk employment as of 28 February 1970.

| CG/Homeport | # of Units | Type/Location of Ops |
|---|---|---|
| CG 41/Poulo Obi | 12 | River and Market Time patrol/ Ha Tien; coastal |
| CG 42/An Thoi | 17 | River and Market Time patrol/ Ha Tien; An Thoi; coastal |
| CG 43/Hon Tre | 14 | River and Market Time patrol/ Ha Tien; coastal |
| CG 44/Hon Tre | 14 | River and Market Time patrol; security/Ha Tien; Hon Tre; coastal |

## River Patrol Groups

The 88 PBR's assigned to the PRG's 51 through 55 of TF 212 conducted routine river patrols, interdictions operation, troop lifts, and PSYOPS and Civic Action missions. A total of 849 river patrols and 1,193 amphibious assaults were completed in February by the entire VN PBR task force.

The newly formed PRG 55 consisting of 8 PBR's performed regular day patrols on the Cho Goa Canal and night patrols on the My Tho River.

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The most significant incident that RPG 55 reported took place on the morning of 5 February while the VNN's with their USN advisor, LT Carty, embarked were patrolling the Cho Goa Canal (vicinity XS 625 461). As if in sole defiance of the government presence in the area, a lonely VC flag was flapping in the breeze about 25 feet from the bank. Sighting the flag the VNN called local RF/PF forces who swept the area with negative results. In addition to the flag, one VV banner, one VC painted metal sign, and nine typewritten sheets of VC propaganda were recovered from the scene.

The twenty PBR's assigned to RPG 51 divided their operating time between interdiction operations on the Saigon River from Phu Cuong up stream and routine river patrols on the lower Saigon. Although the lower river patrols had no significant contact, they assisted in the recovery of personnel from a U.S. Army helo that went down approximately 13 miles northeast of Saigon (YT 032 992) on 19 February. Three of the four men that were aboard the helo were quickly fished from the water. The two VNN PBR's remained in the area, dragging for the helo and helping EOD and U.S. Army troops search for the missing fourth man.

RPG 52 units continued special operations in the RSSZ with USN and local ground forces and conducted routine day and night river patrols of the Long Tao and Soi Rap Rivers. In the Tran Hung Dao and Giant Slingshot AO's, PRG's 54 and 53, respectively, interdicted enemy troop and logistic movements through the employment of patrols waterborne guardpost, and special operations.

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TF 212 employment as of 28 February 1970.

| RPG/Location | # of PBR's | Type of Ops | OPCON |
|---|---|---|---|
| RPG 51/Cat Lai | 12 | River patrols | CTF 212 |
| Phu Cuong | 8 | Interdiction Ops; River Patrols | CTF 194.6 |
| RPG 52/Nha Be | 20 | River patrols Special Ops RSSZ | RSSZ |
| RPG 52/Ben Luc Go Dau Ha | 20 | River patrols Interdiction | CTF 194.9 |
| RPG 54/Chau Doc | 20 | River patrols Interdiction | CTF 194.4 |
| RPG 55/My Tho | 8 | River patrols Security | CTF 212 |

Third and Fourth Riverine River Assault Groups

The eleven RAG's operating in the 3rd and 4th riverine areas completed 685 river patrols and 2,587 amphibious operations in February. These figures were slightly lower than the previous month but generally comparable to the operating level over the past six months. In addition to the river patrols and amphibious operations which occupy a major portion of their time, the RAG's carried out Psyops and Civic Action missions, logistic and troop lifts, and base defense operations.

In the 3rd Riverine Area, RAG's 22 and 24 operating in the Giant Slingshot and Ready Deck AO's, respectively, experienced the more numerous enemy contacts. In an unusual combination of forces that took place on 11 February, the commanding officer of RAG 30 assumed command of an integrated river force consisting of four RAG 30 units, six RPG 51 PBR's, one RAG 28 unit, and two RF Boat Company 24 units.

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At approximately 0900 the river force embarked four companies of the 31st Ranger Battalion, Third Ranger Group and established a combined ranger/naval command post on the RAG 30 command boat. The amphibious force got underway and proceeded to VC Island located approximately nine miles east of Saigon (YS 030 950) where three companies were inserted for a sweep. Meanwhile, the afloat units commenced coordinated patrol and blocking force operations on the Tac and Dong Nai Rivers which surround the island on the east and west, respectively. The VNN and ranger commanders cooperated in setting up night defense and waterborne guardposts on the evenings of 11 and 12 February. The sweeps of the island and the area to the east of the island were carried out for three days with no significant results. However, the operation is expected to serve as a basis for future multi VNN/ ARVN operations in the 3rd Riverine area.

In the 4th Riverine area, a minor shift of USN PBR's in the Tran Hung Dao and Barrier Reef AO left a vacancy in the river patrols in the vicinity of Chau Doc (from WS 140 340 to WS 113 883, and from WS 140 840 to WS 150 900). In order to fill the patrol requirements, RAG 23/31 based at Vinh Long extended their responsibility to include the Chau Doc and Bassac Rivers northwest of Chau Doc until 9 February.

In addition to the routine support of the 7th ARVN Division, RAG 21/33, during the period of 1-9 February, initiated nightly patrols on the My Tho River (from XS 370 410 to XS 450 428) and on the Kenh Xang Canal (from XS 413 425 to XS 390 475). Two LCVP's were used

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on the the Kenh Xang Canal patrols unless troops were going to be inserted in which case one FOM and one LCM-6 were used. On 1 February, six other RAG 21/33 proceeded to Ham Luong Ferry (XS 484 297) in order to provide services to Kien Hoa Sector. While supporting RF operations in the sector on 9-11 February, the RAG 21/33 units used the canal connecting the My Tho and Ben Tre Rivers for the first time in over 18 months (from XS 590 380 to XS 555 306). Fourth Riverine area RAG activity for the remainder of the month was centered around troop and logistic lifts and routine patrols; neither incountered any significant contact that directly involved the RAG's.

3rd and 4th Riverine Area RAG Employment As of 28 February 1970

Third Riverine Area

| RAF/Admin Location | No. of RAG | Type/Location Ops | OPCON |
|---|---|---|---|
| RAG 22/Nha Be | 19 | Troop Support | Long An Sector |
| | | Logistics/Vam Co Dong River | |
| RAG 24/Cuu Long | 17 | Interdiction, riverine patrol troops support/ upper Saigon River | 3rd Riverine Area Commander/ CTG 194.6 |
| RAG 28/Nha Be | 14 | Troop support, logistics/Can Guioc | 5th ARVN Ranger Group |
| RAG 30/Cuu Long | 12 | River Patrol, troop support/lower Saigon River | 3rd ARVN Ranger Group |

Fourth Riverine Area

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| RAG 21-33/Dong Tam | 17-18 | Troop support, logistics/My Tho River | 7th ARVN |

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| RAG 23-31/Vinh Long | 20-10 | River patrols, troop support/Co Chien Mang Thit Rivers | 4th Riverine Area Commander |
| RAG 25-29/Cam Tho | 17-12 | Troop support, logistics/Ca Mau | An Xuyen Sector |
| RAG 26/Long Xuyen | 18 | Troop support logistics/Ca Mau | Kien Giang Sector |

River Assault and Interdiction Divisions

The six RAID's of ATF 211, 70 through 75, conducted river patrols, amphibious assaults, routine troop and logistic lifts, Psyops, and Civic Action missions while employed in SEA LORDS' operations and in joint VNN/VNMC ATF 211 operations in the Twin Rivers area of Chuong Thien Province and in northern An Xuyen Province. The entire ATF 211 completed 332 river patrol and 1,491 amphibious assaults in February.

RAID's 70 and 71 which have operated independently of the ATF since their commissioning continued to successfully carry out interdiction operations in the Giant Slingshot AO. At the end of January, the majority of the RAID 70 and 71 units were relocated to Moc Hoa and Ben Luc, respectively, as part of the Giant Slingshot redeployment of forces that was based on intelligence information of a possible attack on Tay Ninh. On 7 February in order to more equitably share the load at Moc Hoa, RAID 71 sailed eight units to Moc Hoa and relieved RAID 70. Two U.S. RAC A-13 and A-14 remained at Moc Hoa and were placed under the OPCON of RAID 71 upon their arrival. In turn, the RAID 70 units sailed from Moc Hoa to Tan An where they assumed the RAC requirement at that location. Upon their departure from Moc

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Hoa, CTG 194.9 commended RAID 70 for the valuable assistance they had rendered by placing experienced VNN boats with inexperienced U.S. ATC's in combined waterborne guardposts under the command of VNN patrol officers.

In order to maintain three RAID's in support of VNMC operations in the Twin Rivers AO of Chuong Thien Province (vicinity WR 370 700), ATF 211 scheduled regular stand-down and maintenance period alongside the USS ASKARI (ARL 30) for each of the RAID's 72 through 75. This procedure was utilized until 23 February when the ATF 211 operations in the Twin Rivers area were terminated. Since the beginning of this operation on 12 December 1969, the RAID's have accumulated the following results:

VC/NVA: KIA 11, suspects detained 19, Hoi Chanh 6

VNN: KIA 1, WIA 13

Searched: Sampans 13,649, People 38,271

Troops lifted: 19,614

VNN Boats Damaged: HQ 1239 50%
HQ 1327 20%
HQ 5126 20%
HQ 5128 20%

For the same operation the Vietnamese Marine Corps accumulated the following results:

VC/NVA: KIA 179, captured 39, suspects detained 21

VNMC: KIA 53, WIA 220

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Weapons captured: 11 crewserved; 63 individual

Material captured: One 1.5 KW generator

Enemy sites destroyed: 3 company size base camps; one 50 bed hospital/dispensary

VNMC weapons; equipment lost: 4 M-16; one 45 cal. pistol; 1 mine detector; 2 PRC/25 radios

During the period 1-21 February, RAID 72 patrolled the Cai Lon River (from WR 330 720 to WR 390 730) and the Rach Nga Ba Cai Tau (from Cai Lon to WR 280 700). After relieving RAID 75 on 21 February RAID 72's patrol area was changed to the Rach Nga Ba Dinh (from WR 330 650 to WR 345 580). On 23 February when the operation was terminated, RAID 72 proceeded to Can Tho for maintenance and resupply via Vi Thanh and the Xa No Canal. In order to provide support for the VNMC Brigade "A" operations in An Xuyen Province at the end of the month RAID 72 transited to Ca Mau on 26 February. The following morning they moved to Thoi Binh where the Brigade "B" command post was established and began patrolling the Trem Trem River (WR 100 330 to VR 997 541) and supporting the 2nd Battalion, VNMC.

RAID 73 provided troop lift service in the AO and patrolled the Cai Lon River and the Rach Nga Ba Cai Tau (from WR 170 790 to WR 280 750 and to WR 300 700) from 1-12 February. After being relieved by RAID 75 on 13 February, RAID 73 proceeded to Long Xuyen and the USS ASKARI (ARL 30) for 12 days of stand-down and maintenance. At the end of the month RAID 73 was en route to Ca Mau in order to relieve RAID 72 at the beginning of March.

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From 1-11 February, RAID 74 lifted troops and conducted patrols on the Rach Nga Ba Cai Tau and the Rach Nga Ba Dinh (from WR 320 680 to WR 340 560 and to WR 320 630). While en route to an insertion point on the Rach Nga Ba Cai Tau (vicinity WR 344 617) with 1st Battalion Marines on 9 February, HQ-1239 was hit by B-40 rounds in the well deck. The VNN ATC returned the fire with unknown results and cleared the area with 11 wounded Marines and slight material damage. The RAID 74 patrol area was modified on 12 and 13 February to the Cai Lon River, extending both east and west from Thoi Binh (from WR 265 746 to WR 390 730). On the afternoon of 19 February,units of the 3rd Battalion, 31st Regiment, 21st ARVN Division,were preparing to board RAID 74 units (WR 700 380) when, what was thought to have been, a command detonated mine, exploded six feet from a boat ramp resulting in 13 ARVN and one USA Lieutenant killed and 25 ARVN wounded. A dustoff and assistance was immediately requested. A Chinook helicopter "Inn Keeper 16" operating in support of ATF 211 monitored the dustoff request and proceeded to the scene. The helo determined that he could land but was advised that the area was not secure nor was a perimeter established. The pilot flew to Vi Thanh, obtained a Cobra fire team, and returned. Before the Chinook had landed the Cobras were diverted to another action. In spite of no air coverage, "Inn Keeper 16" safely landed, remained on the ground for approximately 45 minutes while the wounded were transferred, and then delivered the Marines to Vi Thanh were ambulances and medical personnel were available.

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With the operation terminating on 23 February, RAID 74 with ATF 211 personnel embarked, traveled to Rach Soi and Long Xuyen. RAID 74 stood down alongside the USS ASKARI (ARL 30) for the remainder of the month.

The RAID 75 units were receiving upkeep and maintenance alongside the USS ASKARI until 13 February when the boats traveled to the AO and relieved RAID 73. Patrols (from WR 330 650 to 348 575) and troop lifts were conducted by RAID 75 until 21 February when RAID 72 assumed the responsibility. RAID 75 proceeded to Rach Gia and was assigned to Operation Search Turn (TG 194.3) as of 23 February. With the arrival of VNN units the operation was renamed Search Turn/Tran Hung Dao VI. The USN Commander, CTU 194.3 was designated Commander, Operation Search Turn/Tran Hung Dao VI and the Commanding Officer, RAID 75 was designated the Executive Officer of the operation.

ATF 211 employment as of 28 February 1970.

| RAID/Location | # of RAC | Type of Ops | OPCON |
|---|---|---|---|
| RAID 70/Tan An | 20 | River patrols interdiction | CTG 194.9 |
| RAID 71/Moc Hoa | 18 | River patrols interdiction | CTG 194.9 |
| RAID 72/An Xuyen | 19 | River patrols troop lifts | ATF 211 |
| RAID 73/en route An Xuyen Province | 19 | Transit in preparation for relief | ATF 211 |
| RAID 74/Long Xuyen USS ASKARI | 19 | Stand-down maintenance | ATF 211 |
| RAID 75/Rach Gia Search Turn | 15 | River patrols interdiction | CTG 194.3 |

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## Vietnamese Marine Corps

### Brigade "A"

Brigade "A" has been absorbed into the joint staff of ATF 211. The Brigade Commander has been designated as the Deputy Commander of ATF 211. Further information of ATF 211 operations is found in the individual discussions of the infantry battalions.

### Brigade "B"

Brigade "B" which included the 4th, 5th, and 6th Infantry Battallions and the 2nd Artillery Battalion conducted reconnaissance in force operations in Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa Provinces in February under the OPCON of the 7th ARVN Division. Specializing in airmobile and Eagle Flight operations, Brigade and Artillery CP security missions, and company and small unit patrols, the Brigade had one significant engagement with the enemy before Operation Song Than 807 was terminated on 16 February, and the Brigade had moved their operation to central Kien Hoa Province. A coordinated VC mortar attack on the Brigade and Artillery CP and a simultaneous ground assault against one company of the 4th Battalion on 15 February ended with two VNMC and seven VC dead and another seven VNMC wounded. Two separate VC Battalion size contacts with elements of the 6th Battalion on 23 and 25 February resulting in 14 VNMC and 40 VC killed and five AK-47's captured were the major actions for Brigade "B" during the remaining days of February.

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1st Infantry Battalion

The 1st Infantry Battalion under the OPCON of ATF 211 was supporting a reconnaissance in force operation in Chuong Thien Province (vicinity WR 364 697) in February. Concomitant with providing security for the ATF 211 command post, the 1st Battalion performed small unit patrols and Eagle Flight operations. After the 2nd Battalion assumed the ATF 211 CP security missions on 9 February, the 1st Battalion concentrated on Eagle Float and small unit infantry tactics. That same afternoon eleven VNMC were wounded by enemy rocket fire when 1st Battalion units were ambushed during Eagle Float operations 27 miles southeast of Rach Gia on the Rach Nga Ba Cai Thanh (WR 340 618).

At the end of the week on 14 February, 1st Battalion forces, supported by six RAID 75 boats acting as a blocking force, established intermittent enemy contact approximately two and one half miles to the east of the VC ambush site of 9 February (vicinity WR 384 592). No assessment was made of enemy casualties, and the Marines counted five of their own killed and another seven wounded at the conclusion of the action.

After the newly formed 7th Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion on 20 February, the 1st Battalion returned to the Thu Duc Base camp (XT 895 035). The move was completed on 21 February, and two days later, the 1st Battalion was relocated to Camp Nguyen Van Nho (XS 878 929) and was assigned as the JGS reserve for the CMD. On the last day of the month, the 1st Battalion was relieved of the CMD

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alert status and reverted to their Thu Duc Base Camp under JGS control.

2nd Infantry Battalion

Under the OPCON of ATF 211, the 2nd Infantry Battalion supported a reconnaissance in force mission in the Twin Rivers area of Chuong Province (vicinity WR 289 508) in February. Initially assigned to airmobile operations in conjunction with ground sweeps along the major canals leading into Kien Long District and to a security mission at the ATF 211 forward CP, the 2nd Battalion experienced negligible activity. On 9 February, the 2nd Battalion moved to the ATF 211 CP and relieved the 1st Battalion of the CP security mission including perimeter defense responsibilities and local screening operations. A relatively quiet enemy situation prevailed until 19 February when the Marines gained contact with enemy units 27 miles southeast of Rach Gia near a small stream that emplies into the Rach Nga Ba Dinh (vicinity WR 307 608). One of the four VC that was killed in the action was identified as the squad leader of the 307 VC recon platoon. In his possession there was a citation commending the squad leader for his part in the attack on Brigade "B" on 6 November. In addition to the VC that were killed, the Marines suffered two killed and another six wounded.

Having been relieved of the ATF CP security missions by the 3rd Battalion on 22 February,the 2nd Battalion conducted Air Cavalry Eagle Flight operations and infantry sweeps in the area (vicinity WR 266 683) with negligible results.

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On 27 February, the 2nd, 3rd, and 7th Infantry Battalions and the 1st Artillery Battalion minus,the task elements of Brigade "A", were lifted into a new AO north of Ca Mau (vicinity WR 103 329) in order to commence reconnaissance in force operations under the OPCON of the 21st ARVN Division. An airmobile assault and subsequent infantry sweeps by the 2nd Battalion on 28 February produced negative results.

3rd Infantry Battalion

The 3rd Battalion has continued to support the reconnaissance in force operation in the Twin Rivers area of Chuong Thien Province (vicinity WR 456 745) under the OPCON of ATF 211. Eagle Float operations with RAID 74, airmobile combat assaults, and company size infantry sweeps were employed with negligible results. The 3rd Battalion displaced to the ATF 211 CP area (WR 364 697) on 22 February and relieved the 2nd Battalion of the ATF CP security mission. Two VC were captured (vicinity WR 240 688) on 23 February by the Marines and another three VC were taken into custody (vicinity WR 255 734) on 26 February.

The following day, the 3rd Battalion, as a unit of Brigade "A," conducted an airmobile assault into a new AO north of Ca Mau in An Xuyen Province and assumed the Brigade A forward CP security and responsibility for local screening patrols (WR 090 459). There was no significant action through the end of the month.

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## 4th Infantry Battalion

While supporting a reconnaissance in force mission in Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa Provinces (vicinity XS 235 507 and XS 738 198), the 4th Infantry Battalion was initially assigned the Brigade "B" CP security missions. Screening operations and small unit tactics established no contact until the early morning of 14 February when there was a small VC attack against the 4th Battalion positions, located 11 miles north of Vinh Long (XS 099 528). One Marine was killed and another seven wounded in the initial attack. A daybreak battlefield search by the VNMC found nine dead VC and four personal weapons. Early the next morning, 4th Battalion Marines in the same location again came under an enemy mortar attack. Later that morning and throughout the day, they had scattered VC contacts in the area that accounted for seven VC and two VNMC killed and seven VNMC wounded. After moving to a new location, 16 miles southeast of My Tho (vicinity XS 714 264), the 4th Battalion encountered VC mines and scattered enemy ressistance on 18 and 19 February that produced nine VC killed along with seven VNMC wounded. Additional company size patrols, airmobile assaults, and artillery security missions were uneventful through 28 February.

## 5th Infantry Battalion

From 1-28 February, the 5th Infantry Battalion conducted reconnaissance in force operations in Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa Procinces (vicinity XS 225 554 and XS 551 317). Company size combat patrols, Eagle Flight operations, and Battery D security missions were the primary responsibilities assigned to the Battalion at the beginning

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of the month. Light to no action prevailed throughout the month with mining incidents inflicting the Marine casualties. Two companies of the Battalion were inserted into a landing zone north of the 6th Battalion contact on 25 February in an attempt to block enemy withdrawal routes. However, no contact was established.

6th Infantry Battalion

The 6th Infantry Battalion remained under the OPCON of Brigade B the entire month and supported the reconnaissance in force mission in Dinh Tuong and Kinh Hoa Provinces (vicinity XS 304 487 and XS 600 289) along with the 4th and 5th Battalions. Carrying out operations similar to those of the 4th and 5th Battalions, the 6th Battalion had negligible action until the end of the month.

Early on the morning of 23 February, a VNMC squad surprised a squad size VC security element approximately 15 miles south southeast of My Tho (vicinity XS 610 190). One VC was killed and one AK-47 was captured. About two hours later, the parent VNMC platoon established contact with the main body of the VC unit, later identified as part of the 516B VC Battalion. Effectively employing supporting arms that included artillery, USN OV-10's, VNAF AC-47's, and helo gunships, the Marine platoon killed 22 VC while sustaining one VNMC killed and another four wounded.

Two days later on 25 February, three companies of the 6th Battalion were conducting small unit operations from independent company patrol bases (CPB's) approximately 2,000 meters apart. Midmorning one of the

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platoons established enemy contact approximately one mile to the west (XS 592 192) of the successful engagement of 23 February. The Marine Company Commander reinforced the contact by ordering a second platoon to the area. Shortly after the second VNMC platoon had been dispatched, the company patrol base was hit by heavy indirect fire. The VC Battalion then launched a three directional attack against the CPB utilizing the combined fire power of 57mm recoilless rifle, B-40's, 82mm and 60mm mortars, and machine guns. The VNMC maneuvers were temporarily halted. However, they consolidated their position, commenced a successful counterattack, and forced the VC to initiate their withdrawal plans. Meanwhile, the VNMC Brigade Commander combat assaulted two companies of the 4th Battalion and two companies of the 5th Battalion into blocking positions to the north and northeast of the contact. Two 6th Battalion companies were also maneuvered into the contact area to place additional pressure on the withdrawing VC. With the enemy retreating, the Brigade Commander called in VNAF fixed wing air strikes along the VC withdrawal routes. The total results of the engagement were 18 VC and 14 VNMC killed and 22 VNMC wounded. The remainder of the month was uneventful as the 6th Battalion pursued the enemy through the use of small unit patrols, artillery security missions, and air-mobile operations.

## 7th Infantry Battalion

On 3 February, the 7th Infantry Battalion concluded its initial unit training with the completion of a amphibious landing exercise at Vung Tau. The 7th Battalion was formally activated on 11 February

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during Presentation of Colors ceremonies at the VNMC Thu Duc Training Command. Following the activation, the Battalion was placed in a reserve status to JGS. On 20-21 February, the 7th Battalion displaced to the Twin Rivers area of Chuong Thien Province (vicinity WR 225 725) and relieved the 1st Battalion of its reconnaissance in force mission to ATF 211. The Battalion's first enemy contact was established on 25 February after they had moved to An Xuyen Province when two VNMC companies exchanged fire with a VC platoon north of Ca Mau (WR 169 212). At the conclusion of the fight two VC and two VNMC were dead, one VNMC was wounded, and three VC were captured. The 7th Battalion conducted an airmobile assault into their new AO on 27 February (vicinity WR 119 425). Subsequent infantry sweeps produced no enemy contact.

Division Artillery

Battery I displaced from Duc My to their Thu Duc Base Camp and spent the rest of the month there conducting training missions. Battery J departed the Thu Duc Base Camp in the middle of the month in order to commence initial unit training on approximately 23 February at the Duc My National Training Center in Khanh Hoa Province (BP 844 869). Employment of the other artillery batteries is in the operational control summary which follows.

## VNMC OPERATIONAL CONTROL SUMMARY FEBRUARY 1970

| UNIT | DATES | OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF | OPERATION NAME | MISSION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brigade A | 1-26 | ATF 211 (VNMC/VNN) 21st ARVN DIV | Cuu Long/SD/21 01/Song Than 747/70 | RIF |
| | 27-28 | 21st ARVN DIV | Song Than 748 | RIF |
| Brigade B | 1-16 | 7th ARVN DIV | Song Than 806 | RIF |
| | 17-23 | 7th ARVN DIV | Song Than 807 | RIF |
| | 24-28 | 7th ARVN DIV | Song Than 808 | RIF |
| 1st InfBn | 1-20 | ATF 211 (VNMC/VNN) | Cuu Long/SD 21/01 Song Than 747/70 | RIF |
| | 21-28 | JGS | None | Reserve |
| 2nd InfBn | 1-26 | ATF 211 (VNMC/VNN) | Cuu Long/SD 21/01 Song Than 747/70 | RIF |
| | 27-28 | Brigade A | Song Than 748 | RIF |
| 3rd InfBn | 1-26 | ATF 211 (VNMC/VNN) | Cuu Long/SD 21/01 Song Than 747/70 | RIF |
| | 27-28 | Brigade A | Song Than 748 | RIF |
| 4th InfBn | 1-16 | Brigade B | Song Than 806 | RIF |
| | 17-23 | Brigade B | Song Than 807 | RIF |
| | 24-28 | Brigade B | Song Than 808 | RIF |
| 5th InfBn | 1-16 | Brigade B | Song Than 806 | RIF |
| | 17-23 | Brigade B | Song Than 807 | RIF |
| | 24-28 | Brigade B | Song Than 808 | RIF |
| 6th InfBn | 1-16 | Brigade B | Song Than 806 | RIF |
| | 17-23 | Brigade B | Song Than 807 | RIF |
| | 24-28 | Brigade B | Song Than 808 | RIF |



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| UNIT | DATES | OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF | OPERATION NAME | MISSION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7th InfBn | 1-20 | JGS | None | Trng |
| | 21-26 | ATF 211 (VNMC/VNN) | Cuu Long/SD 21/01<br>Song Than 747/70 | RIF |
| | 27-28 | Brigade A | Song Than 748 | RIF |
| 1st ArtyBn | 1-26 | ATF 211 (VNMC/VNN) | Cuu Long/SD 21/01 | D/S |
| | 27-28 | Brigade A | Song Than 748 | D/S |
| Btry B | 21-28 | JGS | None | Reserve |
| Btry C | 1-20 | JGS | None | Reserve |
| | 21-26 | ATF 211 (VNMC/VNN) | Cuu Long/SD 21/01<br>Song Than 747/70 | D/S |
| | 27-28 | Brigade A | Song Than 748 | D/S |
| 2nd ArtyBn | 1-16 | Brigade B | Song Than 806 | D/S |
| | 17-23 | Brigade B | Song Than 807 | D/S |
| | 24-28 | Brigade B | Song Than 808 | D/S |
| Btry I | 1-28 | JGS | None | Trng |
| Btry J | 1-28 | JGS | None | Trng |

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# VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY

## VIETNAMESE NAVY:

| | Daily Average | | Searched | | Detained | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Oper | Empl | Junks | People | Junks | People |
| COASTAL FORCE | | | | | | |
| I | 41.4/13.6 | 39.1/12.0 | 22,766 | 93,355 | 18 | 101 |
| II | 45.0 | 41.0 | 16,745 | 46,869 | 7 | 103 |
| III | 48.9 | 47.4 | 6,347 | 24,406 | 1 | 4 |
| IV | 41.7 | 38.0 | 6,163 | 21,270 | 0 | 0 |
| | Sub-totals: | | 52,021 | 185,900 | 26 | 208 |
| *FLEET COMMAND | | | | | | |
| PATROL SHIPS | 26.1 | 24.0 | 916 | 3,688 | 0 | 0 |
| TF 213 | 10.4/28.4 | 5.4/18.3 | 6,712 | 22,484 | 7 | 86 |
| | Sub-totals: | | 7,628 | 26,172 | 7 | 86 |
| RIVERINE AREA | | | | | | |
| RAGS | 125.6 | 122.8 | 10,727 | 40,390 | 0 | 0 |
| TF 211 | 79.5 | 69.6 | 5,420 | 18,291 | 0 | 1 |
| TF 212 | 82.8 | 74.1 | 5,206 | 13,355 | 0 | 0 |
| #CENTRAL TASK FORCE | 44.3 | 40.9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | TOTALS: | | 81,002 | 284,108 | 33 | 295 |

## VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS: 1 FEB - 28 FEB

VC/NVA: KIA 137 Captured 16 Suspects detained 0

VNMC: KIA 54 WIA 222 MIA 0

*Provided 55 gunfire support missions.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS AND CIVIC ACTION SUMMARY

A total of ten Hoi Chanh rallied to USN/VNN forces in February which was somewhat disappointing in light of the Tet Psyops Campaign in which approximately three million Psyops messages stressing the Chieu Hoi program plus 800 pounds of clothes, 4,000 feet of lumber, 40 transistor radios, and four cases of cooking utensils were distributed in an effort to increase the effectiveness of the Chieu Hoi program as well as other Psyops programs.

In spite of the lack of success in promoting the Chieu Hoi program during the Tet Psyops Campaign, it was reported by numerous units involved that valuable good relations were established in many areas.

In the Sea Float community, a great deal of interest and activity has developed around the brick home building project. Bricks for a model house were manufactured in a hand-operated brickmaking machine which went into use on 5 February. The model brick home was nearly completed by 21 February. Six additional houses were in various stages of construction in late February. Drainage ditches and sidewalks were under construction to provide a better walking area for the people. Mortar boxes were being used to make clapboard style shingles for the upper section of the model brick houses. Several Vietnamese civilian men at Sea Float expressed an interest in assisting in the manufacture of bricks. A second brickmaking machine was requested for the annex. A suggestion box was installed

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in each of the two hamlets so that Psyops/Polwar teams could be more responsive to the needs of the people. A new store with a small cafe was opened at the west end of the settlement. The Sea Float deputy commander visited the settlement on 22 February and suggested a location for the market place and relocation of the school site. A building which will house four new charcoal manufacturing kilns was completed at Sea Float on 19 February.

Numerous people in the Sea Float community have turned from wood cutting to fishing which appears to be less risky than wood cutting along the various canals where the VC have taken sampans from some people.

Clothing received from the family and friends of Petty Officer Hinman, one of the USN Psyops personnel, was distributed to 175 children on 3 February by the Psyops/Polwar team.

Many families headed north on the Rach Cai Nhap Canal to be with their families and friends for the celebration of Tet (February 6-8). Families began returning around February 7, but census figures taken between 12 and 19 February were not considered to be conclusive because some families had not returned from the north. The population figures for the middle of February were thought to be approximately the same as those reported for 16 January which are as follows:

| No. Houses | No. Sampans | Stable Population | Transient Population |
|---|---|---|---|
| 372 | 2,311 | 165 | 1,574 |

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Two baby boys were delivered at the Sea Float community in February bringing the number of babies born there to three boys and one girl.

Pacification efforts continued during the month of February in the swampy mangrove regions of the Rung Sat Special Zone located approximately ten miles southeast of Saigon. USN Psyops personnel made aerial leaflet drops of safe conduct passes, Chieu Hoi leaflets, and other Psyops information and distributed health kits, malaria prevention leaflets, and VNN flags during Medcap/Dentcaps.

Seabee teams of the Third Naval Construction Brigade conducted 446 medical/dental treatments during the month of February. English language instructions were given to 46 Vietnamese students, and 11 civic action projects were completed at various schools, orphanages, and hamlets.

During Medcaps held in the Giant Slingshot AO, USN personnel distributed radios to Vietnamese villagers. Their feelings were that of disbelief that the radios were a gift. Most recipients tuned into Radio Saigon.

CTF 115 at Cam Rhan Bay received donations totaling more than $700 from various USN units toward its Vietnamese Protein project. The project entailed the raising of a stock of hogs which was expected to eventually produce more than 200 piglets a year for distribution to the local Vietnamese.

At NSA Danang, doctors and corpmen conducted voluntary work at

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a Catholic school and an orphanage in addition to regular Medcaps in February. Thirty Self-Help projects were underway in February at Danang. Assistance was rendered at 10 schools, one orphanage, two dispensaries, and 17 separate institutions. Efforts were being made to complete all Civic Action projects underway as soon as possible since the program is being phased out.

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# USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY

26 DEC - 25 JAN

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN-DAYS* PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: 3,215

COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: VN$ 1,989,580

EXPENDITURES FROM THE US/FWMAF CIVIC ACTION PSYWAR FUND: VN$ 473,131

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: VN$ 437,985

PERCENTAGE OF U. S. MILITARY CIVIC ACTION ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Other FWMAF | | 5.6% |
| RVNAF | | 66.0% |
| U. S. civilian voluntary agencies | | 1.5% |
| Average percent of self-help by VN civilians: | Labor | 21.2% |
| | Material | 2.0% |

PROGRAMS

| | Man Days | Expenditures (VN$) |
|---|---|---|
| Economic Development | 334 | 271,455 |
| Education | 757 | 844,041 |
| Social Welfare | 1,356 | 1,588,630 |
| Transportation | 395 | 196,570 |
| Refugee | 379 | 297,970 |

INSTITUES ASSISTED

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Schools | 44 |
| Orphanages | 14 |
| Hospitals/Dispensaries | 8 |
| Others | 57 |

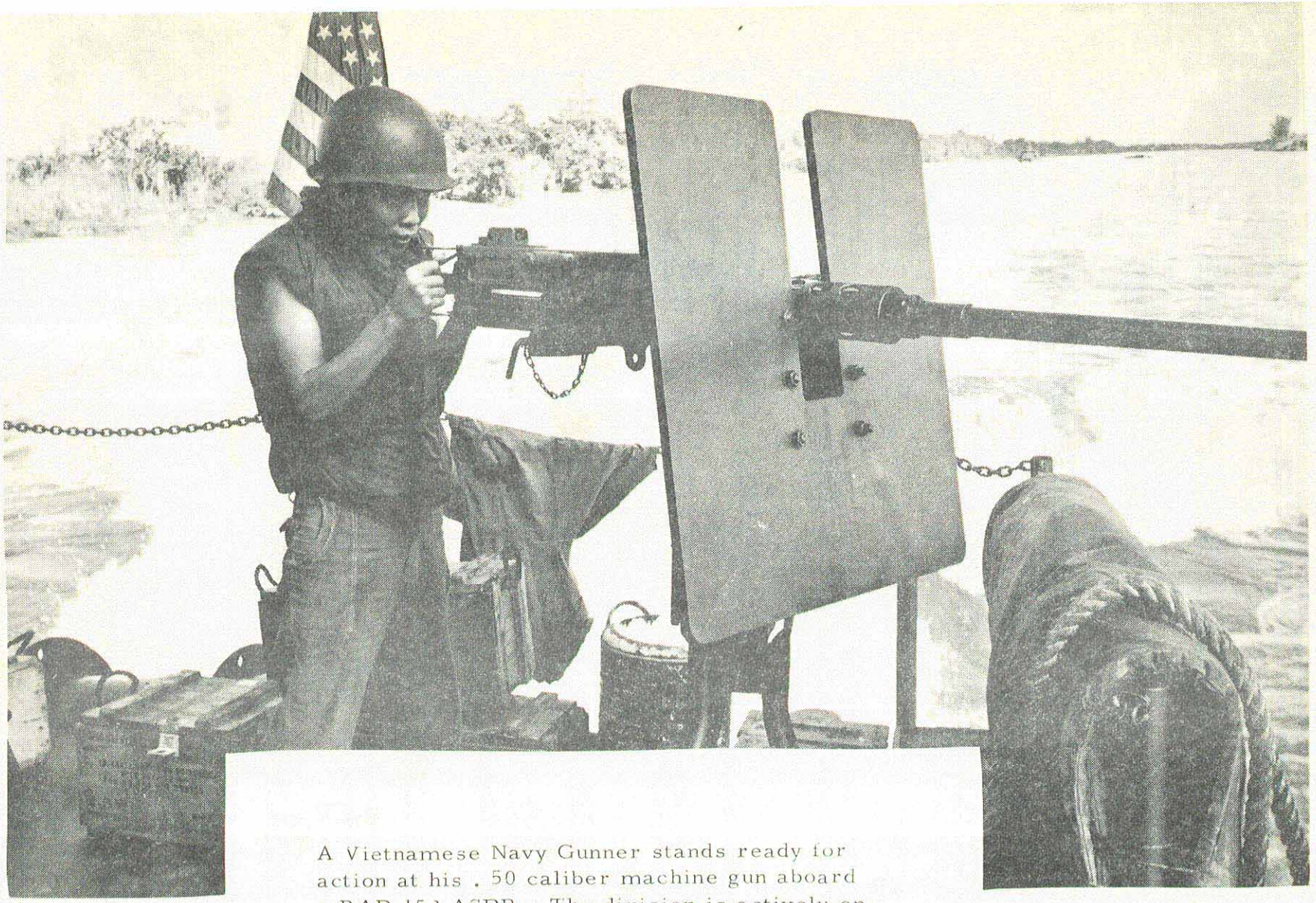
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE USN/VNN PACIFICATION PROGRAM:

| | |
|---|---|
| Medcaps/Dentcaps | 38 |
| Medical Treatments Administered | 3835 |

SEAFLOAT USN/VNN NAVY PACIFICATION PROGRAM

| | |
|---|---|
| Medcaps/Dentcaps | 26 |
| Medical Treatments Administered | 1370 |

* One Man-Day equals one ten hour working day



A Vietnamese Navy Gunner stands ready for action at his .50 caliber machine gun aboard a RAD 153 ASPB. The division is actively engaged in the ACTOV Program. Eventually, the Americans will be replaced by their Vietnamese counterparts.

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ACCELERATED TURNOVER PROGRAM AND TRAINING SUMMARY

The turnover of four U.S. Coast Guard WPB's and the administrative shift of 11 USN PCF's highlighted the developments of the Accelerated Turnover Program in February. Also, near the end of the month on 26 February, 62 prospective Vietnamese Naval Officers departed Vietnam en route to the U.S. Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island where they will undergo 20 weeks of extensive naval study.

The first turnover of the month took place on 14 February during ceremonies at the Small Craft Repair Facility in Danang. Captain David E. Perkins, Commander Coast Guard Activities, Vietnam,signed the official documents that transferred the USCGS PT ARDEN (WPB 82309), the USCGS PT DUME (WPB 82325) and the USCGS PT GLOVER (WPB 82307) to the Vietnamese Navy. In preparation for the turnover, the Vietnamese sailors have spent thirteen weeks learning coastal surveillance and WPB Market Time techniques.

Captain Perkins was again on hand for the turnover ceremony of the USCGS PT JEFFERSON (WPB 82306) at the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Cat Lo on 21 February. Commander, Bui, Cuu Vien, the Vietnamese Navy Third Coastal Zone Commander, accepted the WPB on behalf of the Vietnamese Navy. The four new VNN WPB's rejoined their respective operating forces at Danang and Cat Lo and returned to Market Time operations in the 1st and 3rd Coastal Zones. Since the conception

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of the Coast Guard SCATTOR program, the following WPB's have been turned over to the Vietnamese Navy.

| SCATTOR # | Date of T/O | USCG NAME | VNN # | Coastal Zone Operating In |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 16 May 1969 | PT GARNET | HQ 700 | III |
| 2 | 16 May 1969 | PT LEAGUE | HQ 701 | III |
| 3 | 15 Sep 1969 | PT CLEAR | HQ 702 | III |
| 4 | 11 Nov 1969 | PT GAMMON | HQ 703 | I |
| 5 | 17 Nov 1969 | PT COMFORT | HQ 704 | III |
| 9 | 9 Dec 1969 | PT ELLIS | HQ 707 | III |
| 6 | 11 Dec 1969 | PT SLOSUM | HQ 705 | I |
| 7 | 11 Dec 1969 | PT HUDSON | HQ 706 | I |
| 8 | 12 Jan 1970 | PT WHITE | HQ 708 | III |
| 11 | 14 Feb 1970 | PT ARDEN | HQ 710 | I |
| 12 | 14 Feb 1970 | PT DUME | HQ 709 | I |
| 15 | 14 Feb 1970 | PT CLOVER | HQ 711 | I |
| 14 | 21 Feb 1970 | PT JEFFERSON | HQ 712 | III |

The last day of the month, eleven PCF "Swift" boats were administratively shifted from the USN COSDIV 12 to the VNN COSFLOT 1 during ceremonies at the VNN Base in Danang. At the same time the USN Coastal Division 12 was decommissioned, and all the inshore stations in areas 1 and 2 were designated as exclusive VNN patrol areas.

The Coastal Surveillance Center in Danang was shifted to VNN control the same day. This increased the number of CSC's turned

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over to the Vietnamese Navy to three. Previous CSC turnovers include the one at An Thoi in June 1969 and the one at Qui Nhon in November 1969.

In other areas of the START Program, COMCOSRON reported that as of 25 February a total 124 VNN PCF trainees have been qualified. Full VNN PCF crews, accompanied by a USN officer and petty officer, participated in over 60 Operation Sea Tiger patrols in January and February and contributed to the combined Sea Tiger GDA for that period. The PCF divisional ground schools were in full operation in February, instructing the VNN enlisted personnel and the last input of VNN officers.

COMRIVPATFLOT FIVE reported on 20 February that with minor inter-RPG juggling to obtain even personnel distribution there should be no problems in manning and qualification of VNN personnel for the 31 March turnover. Two VNN gunner's mates which have been assigned to USN helo crews will act in a liaison capacity after the PBR turnover is completed.

The first class of VNN ACTOV trainees was graduated from the PBR school at Binh Thuy on 13 February. Sixty out of 65 VNN trainees received certificates signifying that they satisfactorily completed the course of instruction in PBR operations that would allow them to return to the River Divisions as qualified PBR crew men.

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During the traditional Vietnamese Tet holiday season celebrated at the beginning of February, River Divisions reported as high as 75% of the VNN personnel missing. The majority of these returned after Tet. In one case RIVDIV 554 operating in the Search Turn AO in the vicinity of Rach Gia reported that on 2 February all ACTOV personnel assigned returned from liberty too intoxicated to go on patrol. On 5 and 6 February, eight of 12 ACTOV personnel assigned where UA when the patrols departed. The absence of the ACTOV personnel during Tet certainly hampered commanders in meeting patrol commitments at that time. However, it does point out that even the 25 year struggle for freedom was temporarily forgotten by the time honored Vietnamese traditions of celebrating the Tet season.

Major alterations in the RAC ACTOV program were affected in the middle of the month when VADM E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., COMNAVFORV and Commodore Tran Van Chon, CNO, VNN issued the following memorandum of understanding which is self explanatory.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR
ORGANIZING RIVER ASSAULT CRAFT INTO RIVER INTERDICTION DIVISIONS AND RIVER ASSAULT AND INTERDICTION DIVISIONS

As part of the planned improvement and modernization of the Vietnamese Armed Forces, the U.S. Navy will continue to turn over to the Vietnamese Navy several River Assault Craft (RAC) of various types. These RAC will be organized into 6 River Assault and Interdiction Divisions (RAID) and 9 River Interdiction Divisions (RID), each of which will be 15 boat units in order to be most efficiently utilized. This Memorandum of Understanding is made to facilitate coordination, cooperation, mutual assistance, and combined decision making during the turnover and reorganization of the RAC.

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Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam and Chief of Naval Operations, Vietnamese Navy are in agreement on the following:

1. (C) The previous designated River Assault Groups 40, 41, 42, will henceforth be known as River Interdiction Divisions (RID) and will, along with new RIDs as they are formed, be under the operational control of CTF 214.

2. (C) The River Assault and Interdiction Divisions (RAID) will be placed under the operational control of CATF 211, as they are reorganized.

3. (C) The organization of the new RIDs and RAIDs will be as shown in enclosure (1). Each 15 boat unit will be formed as the craft are turned over. The 5 RIDs in the first group will be formed using the majority of ACTOV craft. In the second group, the 6 RAIDs and the 4 other RIDs will be formed from the reorganization of ATF 211 craft, the remaining ACTOV craft and the addition of ACTOV-X craft. The schedule of turnover of craft will be in accordance with the ACTOV/ACTOV-X plans and amplifying agreements.

4. (C) Present RAIDs 70 and 71 will be renamed RIDs 43 and 44, when sufficient craft are turned over to form new RAIDs 70 and 71. New RIDs 43 and 44 (old RAIDs 70 and 71) will be assigned to the TRAN HUNG DAO II/GIANT SLINGSHOT operation.

5. (C) As shown in enclosure (1) all RAIDs and RIDs will be composed of 15 River Assault Craft (RAC) each. The new size of RAIDs and RIDs will become effective on 15 February 1970.

6. (C) The mission of the RAIDs will include both assault and interdiction, that of the RIDs will be primarily interdiction. However, if the tactical situation warrants, RIDs may be utilized in a riverine assault capacity.

7. (C) Individual RIDs and RAIDs will be chopped to various operational commanders as the tactical situation warrants.

TRAN VAN CHON
COMMODORE, Vietnamese Navy
Chief of Naval Operations

E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam

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## FORMATION OF RAC INTO RAIDS AND RIDS

### FIRST GROUP

| UNIT | ASPB | ATC | CCB | MON | ZIPPO | REF | DCH 1/ | RCGR 2/ | TOTALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ACTOV | 30 | 32 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 75 |
| RID 40 | 6 | 7 | 1 | | 1 | | | | 15 |
| 41 | 6 | 6 | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 15 |
| 42 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 2 | | | | | 15 |
| 45 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 15 |
| 46 | 6 | 7 | | 1 | | 0 | 1 | | 15 |
| | 30 | 32 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 75 |

### SECOND GROUP

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ACTOV PRESENT | | 5 | | | | | | | 5 |
| ATF 211 | 44 | 46 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 2 | | | 107 |
| ACTOV-X | 10 | 15 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 38 |
| | 54 | 66 | 6 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 150 |
| RAID 70 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | | | | | 15 |
| 71 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 15 |
| 72 | 4 | 8 | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 15 |
| 73 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 15 |
| 74 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 15 |
| 75 | 3 | 9 | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 15 |
| RID 43 | 8 | 4 | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 15 |
| 44 | 8 | 4 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 15 |
| 47 | 9 | 4 | | 2 | | | | | 15 |
| 48 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 15 |
| | 54 | 66 | 6 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 150 |

1/ In normal inventory counted as an ATC.

2/ Truck and stationary rigs. Five hulls in ACTOV-X package are LCM-6s which are included in the 67 LCM-6s of ACTOV-X. ATF 211 has 2 trucks and the ACTOV-X group has 2 trucks plus 2 stationary units mounted in LCM-6.

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In the ACTOV COMM Program four VNN completed on the job training at the NSA Danang Electronic Repair Facility on 14 February. One of the trainees remained on board to assist in the instruction of additional VNN. The other three were returned to the commander of the 1st Coastal Zone for assignment. On 17 February, graduation ceremonies were held for 12 officers and three electronic technicians at the ACTOV Communications School located at the U.S. Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay. Captain C. F. Rauch, Jr., USN, SENAVADV, VNN and Captain Hung, ACOS for Operations, VNN addressed the graduating class and presented the students with certificates. All the VNN students succeeded in fulfilling 100 percent of the course requirements and proved themselves to be dedicated and intelligent.

The VNN Saigon Maintenance School convened on 25 February with an enrollment of 103 VNN trainees in attendance. In the entire craft maintenance program there were 3089 VNN personnel undergoing training at the end of the month. A total of 183 trained VNN craft maintenance personnel have been phased into the USN bases and 1112 VNN have been phased into VNN bases. The 381 VNN personnel now in the base maintenance training program represents the total projected ACTOV need. Class A supply school has 90 VNN in classes, and there have been 333 VNN introduced into the VNN logistic support organization.

Construction is underway at 21 of the bases and two of the ATSB's scheduled for turnover. Six additional bases that have been programmed are still in various stages of planning.

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A big crane hook used for pulling damaged Vietnamese Navy Boats ashore, frames small naval patrol craft awaiting repairs at the Eastern Repair Facility on the Saigon waterfront. Between 60 and 70 battle-damaged water craft are repaired every month.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

The Naval Support Activity Detachment (NSAD), Nha Be had a U. S. sailor drown when he fell in the river from the PBR pier. The cause of the fall was undetermined. An LCM from NSAD, Nha Be transiting north from Tra Cu under escort was fired upon wounding one sailor. NSAD, Dong Tam reported four rocket/mortar attacks during the month; however, there were no U. S. casualties or damage. The advanced Tactical Support Base at Tra Cu received two mortar attacks during the month, killing one U. S. Navy man, seriously wounding six others, and seriously wounding six Vietnamese sailors. There were several others who received minor wounds. The mortars caused shrapnel damage to the base observation tower and water tank. The ATSB at Tra Cu also reported electronic detection of movement near the base on two other occasions; however, there were no attacks on either occasion. The bridge across the Vam Co Dong River was mined and collapsed; however, there were no casualties. A trash barrel being used for burning, exploded at the ATSB, Tuyen Nhon. The cause of the explosion was unknown. One U. S. sailor received minor wounds. Two U. S. Navymen at ATSB Vinh Gia were wounded when a grenade being used to destroy dud .50 caliber ammunition inadvertently exploded. The watch on board the USS BENEWAH (APB-35) accidently shot and wounded a Vietnamese civilian fishing near the ship. The USS BENEWAH also reported a Vietnamese civilian was killed by an unidentified explosion in the vicinity of An Long. One U. S. sailor was wounded aboard a

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RIVDIV 151 boat when a 20mm round exploded in the chamber of the gun. The YF-866 received minor damage from two B-40 rocket hits in an attack on the Song My Tho near Dong Tam; however, there were no personnel casualties. The Naval Air Facility, Cam Ranh Bay, Detachment, Tan Son Nhut, reported the crash of an HU-34D helicopter due to unknown causes six miles north of Long Xuyen Airfield. The three crewmembers and six passengers were killed.

The personnel status of the Naval Support Activity, Saigon at the end of February was as follows:

| | Allowance | On Board |
|---|---|---|
| Officers | 184 | 182 |
| Enlisted | 3,307 | 3,102 |
| Civilian | 967 | 967 |

The USS MARK (AKL-28), YW-126, YFR-889, YFR-890, YF-866, and the 100 foot utility boats MONDERO and MOROCCO provided routine supply services during the month. The USS BRULE (AKL-12) was in restricted availability at Subic Bay. The USS KRISHNA (ARL 30) was positioned at An Thoi as relief for the USS TUTUILA while the TUTUILA was at Singapore. The USS ASKARI (ARL 38) was at Long Xuyen and the USS SPHINX (ARL-24) was on the Vam Co River providing services to Giant Slingshot forces. The USS BENEWAH (APB-35), YRBM 16, YRBM 20, YRBM 21, and the USS SATYR (ARL-23) were assigned on the upper Bassac River supporting Border Interdiction operations. APL-26 and APL-27 provided additional berthing facilities at Saigon for the ACTOV Program. APL-30 relieved the APL-21 so she could be repaired at Nha Be. YFU-7 was awaiting the final approval of CNO for stripping and disposal. The YFU-4, YFU-24,

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and YFU-59 conducted routine resupply in the Gulf of Thailand. YFU-55 and 57 were being activated at Nha Be. The YF-9 was being modified at Nha Be for use by Vietnamese Navy trainees at Saigon.

At Can Ranh Bay, construction of the VNN dependent shelters at the VNNTC and NSF continued. The first desalination plant at Nha Be commenced operating, and test runs commenced on the second plant late in February. Installation of the laundry at the VNNTC, Nha Trang was completed. At Binh Thuy, construction of the material storage cages and electric shop was completed. In Saigon, the upgrade of the air conditioning for the NAVFORV Naval Operations Center and Communications Center was 70 percent complete, and the upgrade of the quarters in the NAVFORV compound was completed. At Tuyen Nhon, expansion of the galley was completed and construction of three additional berthing huts commenced. Construction of added bunkers and revetments at Rach Soi was completed. Construction of bunkered SEA huts commenced at Tinh Bien. ACTOV construction continued at An Thoi, Cat Lo, Vung Tau, Dong Tam, Ben Luc, Rach Soi, and Ha Tien.

## Maintenance and Repair Support

### TF-116

Fourteen new PBR's were outfitted, tested, and turned over to the operating forces. Flotation foam backfit kits have arrived in-country, and the PBR hull program continued to progress satisfactorily.

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Depot level maintenance of River Assault Craft operating in the I, II, III, and IV Corps areas was accomplished at NSAD, Dong Tam. Intermediate level maintenance was conducted by the USS ASKARI (ARL-38) at Long Xuyen, the USS KRISHNA (ARL-30) at An Thoi, the USS SATYR (ARL-23) at An Long, and the USS SPHINX (ARL-24) in the Vam Co River. The Chief of Naval Operations approved the conversion of seven LCM-6's to Zippo rechargers, and the Ship Repair Facility, Yokosuka was designated as the conversion work site. Operational maintenance was provided by YRBM-16, YRBM-20 and YRBM-21 in their respective area of operations. The 105mm Howitzer support was marginal as few parts were available, and only one experienced gunner's mate is currently assigned in-country. All the ASPB rudder posts recently inspected during River Assault Craft overhaul at NSAD, Dong Tam, needed replacing as packing glands were badly pitted on all rudders. LCM-6 conversion craft also have rudder problems as packing sleeves were missing, rudder shafts and shoes badly eroded on all boats in the last overhaul cycle. Approximately 50 percent of the LCM-6 conversion exhaust coolers have either been removed or bypassed because of internal leaks. Installation of an AN/URC-32 transceiver providing HF backup for the U. S. Army landline teletype communications was completed at NSAD, Dong Tam. Overhaul of six AN/UCG-6, teletype sets and seven AN/URC-32 transceivers for the SEA LORDS communication update was completed. The equipment was badly damaged due to faulty packing.

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The following personnel and craft were supported by the NSA Detachments during February:

| Base | Officer | Enlisted | Craft |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cam Ranh Bay | 146 | 1,253 | 45 |
| Qui Nhon | 44 | 528 | 34 |
| Cat Lo | 131 | 771 | 56 |
| An Thoi | 74 | 540 | 40 |
| Nha Be | 217 | 2,228 | 102 |
| Sa Dec | 42 | 144 | 19 |
| Binh Thuy | 314 | 1,636 | 69 |
| Dong Tam/YRBM 17 | 36 | 599 | 147 |
| YRBM 16 | 35 | 569 | 78 |
| YRBM 21 | 25 | 302 | 40 |
| Mobile Base II | 18 | 352 | 32 |
| Ben Luc | 86 | 916 | 26 |
| YRBM 20 | 27 | 464 | 72 |

The gross and net supply effectiveness for February was 61 percent and 76 percent respectively. Total issues for the month were 11,482, and total demands processed were 18,894. In addition, 647 back orders were released.

A contingency supply of 9250 lube oil was being staged at Vung Tau. Screening of the NSA Danang excesses was initiated to

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determine the availability of fuel bladders, pumps and related accessories which are currently in short supply at the ATSB Phu Cuong. The initial supply of MOGAS was provided to ATSB Phu Cuong. The Army representative at Di An was contacted to establish routine resupply channels, and various storage and delivery alternatives were investigated.

The Commander, Naval Support Activity, Danang approved a program wherein NSA Danang would provide back-up support for certain YFU repair parts not stocked by NSA Saigon. Procedures were promulgated on the reporting and screening of repair parts requirements for River Assault craft. Representatives were provided for the MSSC/STABS offload evolution at NSAD Dong Tam to ensure that the parts were correctly distributed to the detachments.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

During February, the weather conditions improved in the I Corps Tactical Zone as high winds and sea conditions hampered coastal operations north of Danang to the DMZ for only one and one half days with small craft warnings in effect during the same period. There were 48 LCU and eight LCM-8 lifts required in loading Bluejay shipping at Danang and prestaging MAG 12 equipment from Chu Lai to Danang. One LCM-8 was deployed to Coastal Group 14 on 5 February for PBR salvage operations. On 7 February, an LCM-6, number 32, was mined in the Cua Viet River. Ammis 116 and 122 broke free from the USS TOMBIGBEE (AOG-11) on 11 February and grounded south of Cua Viet. On 12 February, the USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8) embarked three 50 foot utility boats and three LCM-3 pusher boats for permanent transfer to the U. S. Naval Station, Subic Bay. On 15 February, the retrograde of all assets and personnel from NSAD, Sa Huynh was completed. On the same day the NSAD Cua Viet was closed and the ATSB(7) was established at Cua Viet under the control of Commander Task Force Clearwater. Personnel and facilities not transferred to CTF Clearwater were retrograded to Danang. The salvage of Ammis 116 and 122 was completed by the USS SAFEGUARD (ARS 25) on 16 February. At 0630H on 20 February, LCU 1614 collided with a Vietnamese fishing boat in Danang harbor, sinking the fishing vessel and drowning one Vietnamese. In addition to the above operations, LCM-8/6's conducted 164 harbor shuttle runs carrying 765 short tons of cargo, and 10 coastal shuttles, and three amphibious beachings

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along the I CTZ coast carrying 192 short tons of cargo.

Overall cargo operations for the month of February were satisfactory. Current export requirements and rates of cargo generation suggested a satisfactory situation during March. CONUS shipping projections indicated substantially the same level of import activity in March as was experienced in February. Freighter cargo and the Vietnamese Railroad had no significant activity during the month. Cargo operations ceased at the Dong Ha, Cua Viet, and Sa Huynh ramp sites with the official disestablishment of these NSA Detachments on 15 February. The summary of port operations during February follows:

| | Off-Load | | Back Load | | Thru-Put | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | S/T | M/T | S/T | M/T | S/T | M/T |
| Danang | 116,613 | 204,424 | 77,181 | 135,931 | 193,794 | 340,355 |
| Dong Ha/Cua Viet | 27,755 | 50,833 | 7,462 | 25,340 | 35,217 | 76,173 |
| Chu Lai | 8,028 | 10,917 | 1,861 | 4,362 | 9,889 | 15,279 |
| Hue/Tan My | 26,272 | 30,384 | 2,586 | 11,858 | 28,858 | 41,467 |
| Sa Huynh | 112 | 191 | 31 | 166 | 143 | 357 |

On 8 February, NSAD Sa Huynh received heavy automatic weapons fire from the adjacent village. Due to the civilian population, the fire was not returned; however, there were no personnel casualties. The Dong Ha ramp received small arms fire on 12 February without sustaining any personnel casualties. On 26 February, YFU-72 received small arms fire north of Tan My, and again, there

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were no personnel casualties.

The depot operations at Danang and Chu Lai had a gross effectiveness rate of 93 percent and a net effectiveness rate of 95 percent during February. The overall Class I supply situation remained satisfactory. There were 8.7 days supply of A-rations on hand at month's end and 8,435, 664 C-ration meals on hand with another 921,096 meals due in. The exchange annex building was completed, and the Cam Tien Sha laundry press room was 80 percent complete. Relocation work of the Camp Tien Sha provisions warehouse, and conversion of a section of galley number two to warehouse space commenced.

Fuel issues in I Corps in February decreased from the January rate of 1,397,000 gallons per day to 1,165,000 gallons per day. Weather did not cause any significant delays in the movement of fuel to the I CTZ ports. Fuel operations at Cua Viet and Sa Huynh were terminated on 15 February, and on the same date, AOG's ceased being used for fuel supply in the ICTZ. Bulk fuel operations at Tan My were taken over by the U. S. Army on 26 February. The 12-inch JP fuel line at Chu Lai was down the entire month and will be replaced with an eight inch welded line. The 12-inch multi-product line at Red Beach, Danang was down most of the month.



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The following was the personnel status for the Naval Support Activity, Danang at month's end:

| Allowance | Officer | Enlisted |
|---|---|---|
| NSA | 397 | 9,002 |
| YR-71 | 2 | 89 |
| Total | 399 | 9,091 |
| On Board Total | 389 | 8,051 |

Three enlisted personnel were assigned temporary additional duty to COMNAVFORV for various projects. During February, 113 personnel extended their tours in Vietnam, the same number as in January. There were 781 persons performing base security and 136 persons performing afloat security duties. The following numbers of personnel were performing cargo handling duties during the month:

| | |
|---|---|
| Hatch Teams | 246 |
| Ramp Teams | 116 |
| Chickers | 162 |
| Admin Support | 171 |
| Fleet Air Support | 41 |
| Total | 736 |

Civlian Personnel Status:

| U. S. Civl Service | Ceiling | On Board | Net Gain/Loss This Month |
|---|---|---|---|
| NAVSUPPACT | 63 | 54 | Plus 2 |
| COMNAVFORV | 21 | 17 | Minus 1 |
| Total | 84 | 71 | Plus 1 |



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| Local National | Ceiling | On Board | Net Gain/Loss This Month |
|---|---|---|---|
| NAVSUPPACT | 6,775 | 6,524 | Minus 235 |
| Other | 8,307 | 530 | Minus 197 |
| Total | 15,082 | 14,054 | Minus 432 |

There was an average of 149,594 military personnel supported by the Naval Support Activity, Danang in the I CTZ during February.

Project MOOD (move out of Danang) was 85 percent completed for Navy facilities and 45 percent completed for all military facilities at month's end. The revetment for the explosive handling at the Camp Tien Sha Ramp was completed as was the installation of the block plant for the Vietnamese Navy shelter program. The following generators remained deadlined: Danang West-two 600KW and one 1700KW; Danang East - one 1500KW and two 500 KW. Three 2000 KW generators, control house and high voltage switch gear arrived on 18 February and were placed at the Small Craft Repair Facility power plant site. The new MILCON three million gallons-per day water treatment plant located at the Danang Air Base was undergoing operational tests at month's end.

The following was the status of the Philco Ford contract as of 28 February:

| | U. S. | LN | TCN | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| On Board 31 JAN | 116 | 1,255 | 2,066 | 3,437 |
| On Board 28 FEB | 113 | 1,332 | 2,009 | 3,454 |
| Est On Board 31 MAR | 112 | 1,340 | 1,829 | 3,367 |



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These figures include program management, personnel in training, and personnel associated with public works, supply, SCRF, and the 3NCB. On board figures for 28 February included three local nationals (TCN).

The performance of the Korean Express-Keangnan (KEKN) continued to be satisfactory during February and the guaranteed minimum contract requirements were met both seaside and pierside. The KEKN handled its five millionth ton of cargo on 7 February since coming under U. S. Government contract. The following reflects the cargo handled by KEKN during February:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offload | 70,648 S/T | 85,518 M/T |
| Total Backload | 5,172 S/T | 16,808 M/T |
| Daily Average Thru-Put | 2,708 S/T | 3,655 M/T |

The following is the KEKN TCN personnel breakdown:

| | |
|---|---|
| Seaside Cargo Operations | 143 |
| Bridge Ramp Cargo Operations | 55 |
| Deep Water Piers Cargo Operations | 165 |
| Total KEKN's directly engaged in Cargo Operations | 363 |
| KEKN Support Personnel (admin, mechanics, carpenters, etc.) | 72 |
| Total | 435 |

The following facilities were turned over to the ARVN during the month:

Dong Ha ramps - 15 structures valued at $45,000

Fleet Logistics Center - 50 structures valued at $101,000



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The following facilities were turned over to the U. S. Army:

Tan My POL facility valued at $1,330,000

CBMU-301 cantonment at Quang Tri - 55 structures valued at $78,000

MAG-36 at Phu Bai - 300 structures valued at $3,910,000

There were 908 patients admitted to the station hospital at Danang during February. Of these, 232 were battle caualties, 54 for minor surgery, 270 for major surgery, and 46 malaria admissions. There were 15 single amputations, eight double amputations, and one triple amputation. The average daily patient census for February was 225 with 196 beds occupied at month's end, including 6 prisoners-of-war. Throughout the month, physicians and corpsmen assigned to the station hospital have voluntarily worked at the China Beach Catholic School and Seminary and at the orphanages in China Beach and Crescent Beach as immunization teams in addition to regular Medcaps. A total of 1,434 immunizations were administered. Medcaps were held at the Stella Mario Dispensary, the German hospital ship HELGOLAND, and the Malteser hospital. Approximately 140 Vietnamese patients were cared for each week. Weekly dermatology, orthopedic, medicine, surgical, and urology clinics plus opthalmological care were held at the station hospital for those in need of these services. The Vietnamese inpatient census at month's end was 17 with a daily average of 19. Total Vietnamese for the month was 50. There were 66 admitted for major surgery and 61 for minor surgery.

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## THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

All significant enemy activity involving Seabees during February occurred in the Southern I Corps Tactical Zone. There were five mining incidents on route QL-1 south between Danang and Landing Zone Baldy. Six Seabees were wounded as a result of these mining incidents.

During February, the major effort in the line of communication road upgrade program was directed towards QL-1, south of Danang between the villages of Thanh Quit and Tu My. This section can be further subdivided into three sections as follows: (percent complete as of 28 February) (1) Thanh Quit - Cau Lau River - Fill-99 percent, Base-90 percent, asphalt - none; (2) Cau Lau River - Ly Ly River - fill-31 percent, base-16 percent, asphalt - none; (3) Ly Ly River - Tu My - fill-27 percent, base-9 percent, asphalt - none. The Hai Van pass also received extensive repair work and maintenance continued on routes ML-13C, ML-12E, ML-12W, ML-1C, and ML-1D. In the northern I CTZ, repairs to QL-1 between Dong Ha and Quang Tri were completed along with the Dong Ha city route.

Work on the aircraft shelters continued during the month with eight shelters under construction, nine shelters complete except for concrete covers, and 95 shelters fully completed. There were eight shelters for the Fleet Air Support Unit at the Danang Air Base under procurement and not yet scheduled for construction. All shelters not presently under construction are on hold pending III MAF evaluation of continuing requirements.



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At Phu Bai airfield patching and overlay of taxiways continued with runway overlay scheduled to begin on 1 April. The construction of the third of four secondary bridges north of Hue was 23 percent complete with completion scheduled for the middle of March. Construction of the fourth bridge will commence when bridge three is completed. Site grading and compaction for the Hue detention facility was begun during the last week in February. CORDS approved the revised building layout plan permitting vertical work to proceed. The overall project is scheduled for completion in early May. Work on the ACTOV bases in the IV CTZ continued at Ha Tien, An Thoi, Nam Can, and Rach Soi. The facility at An Thoi was 99 percent complete, and work at Ha Tien was 83 percent complete. Rach Soi construction was 28 percent complete while extensive fill work continued at Nam Can. Sufficient fill has been received to permit construction to commence of the Advance Tactical Support Base. Materials and equipment were being staged for shipment to Long Phu and Kien An.

Naval Construction Forces have a projected backlog amounting to 35.1 weeks of horizontal work and 21 weeks of vertical work. The programmed backlog amounts to an additional 3.9 weeks of horizontal and 3 weeks of vertical work.

The following was the logistics status during the month:

In-country shipments:

| | Phu Bai | Chu Lai | Dong Ha | Delta Project | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Material (S/T) | 776 | 235 | 38 | 0 | 1,049 |



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| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Material (M/T) | 1,186 | 392 | 88 | 0 | 1,666 |
| Equipment (Pieces) | 1 | 112 | 0 | 0 | 113 |

Material status:

| | Issues | Receipts | Total Inventory |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Material ($000) | 2,907 | 1,209 | 10,351 |
| Tactical Support Functional Components (TFSC) ($000) | 2,722 | 2,333 | 8,373 |

Repair Parts:

| | Issues | Receipts | Total Inventory |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dollar Value ($000) | 207 | 102 | 1,701 |
| Line Items | 1,927 | 1,080 | 20,751 |

Equipment deadline:

| | Total Equipment | Number Deadline | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| NMCB organic | 1,535 | 77 | 5.0 |
| Third NCB augment | 799 | 55 | 6.9 |

Equipment retrograde shipments:

Number of pieces shipped: 105

Number of pieces scheduled for shipment: 16

The following was the personnel status at month's end:

Military:

| | Ceiling | On Board |
|---|---|---|
| Officer | 133 | 142 |
| Enlisted | 3,707 | 3,739 |
| Total | 3,840 | 3,881 |

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Civilian:

Brigade headquarters - 154 (63 TCN, 91 Vietnamese)

NMCB - 573

The following awards were presented to Third Naval Construction Brigade personnel during February:

| | |
|---|---|
| Legion of Merit | 1 |
| Bronze Star | 1 |
| Navy Commendation | 1 |
| Navy Achievement | 3 |
| Combat Action Ribbon | 314 |
| Purple Heart | 12 |
| Good Conduct | 5 |



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# APPENDIX I
## GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations and terms are commonly used in the combat zone by all agencies and are listed here in amplification of those used in the text:

| | |
|---|---|
| ABF | Attack by fire |
| AMMI PONTOON | A multi-purpose barge, standard size is twenty-eight feet by ninety feet |
| AO | Area of operations |
| ARVN | Army of the Republic of Vietnam |
| ASPB | Assault Support Patrol Boat |
| ATC | Armored Troop Carrier |
| ATSB | Advance Tactical Support Base |
| A/W | Automatic weapons |
| BLACK PONY/BRONCO | OV-10 Twin Engine Turboprop Counterinsurgency Aircraft |
| CCB | Command and Communications Boat |
| CG | Coastal Group |
| CHICOM | Chinese Communist |
| CIDG | Civilian Irregular Defense Group- mercenaries of Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian descent who fight primarily around their own villages |
| CMD | Capital Military District |
| CONUS | Continental United States |
| CRIP | Civilian Reconnaissance Intelligence Platoon |



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| | |
|---|---|
| CS | Tear gas grenades |
| CTZ | Corps Tactical Zone |
| CZ | Coastal Zone |
| DELTA HAWK | Mohawk OV-1C aircraft |
| DUSTOFF | Medical evacuation by helicopter |
| ENIFF | Enemy initiated firefight |
| FOB | Forward Observation Base |
| FSB | Fire Support Base |
| FWMAF | Free World Military Assistance Forces |
| GDA | Gun Damage Assesment |
| GVN | Government of Vietnam |
| HAFT | Helicopter Attack Fire Team |
| H&I | Harassment and Interdiction Fire Support |
| JGS | Joint General Staff (Vietnamese) |
| KIT CARSON SCOUTS | Former Viet Cong who have come over to the side of the Saigon government and serve with allied military units |
| LAFT | Light Attack Fire Team (OV-10's) |
| LAW | Light Anti-tank Weapon |
| LCPL | Landing Craft, Personnel, Large |
| LDNN | Vietnamese equivalent of USN Underwater Demolition Team |
| LHFT | Light Helo Fire Team |
| LOH | OH-6 Light Observation Helicopter |
| LRRP | Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol |



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| | |
|---|---|
| MACV | Military Assistance Command, Vietnam |
| MATSB | Mobile Advance Tactical Support Base |
| MEDCAP | Medical Civic Action Program |
| MONITOR | Heavily armored LCM-6 (40mm cannon or 105mm Howitzer) |
| MRB | Mobile Riverine Base |
| MRF | Mobile Riverine Force |
| MSB | Minesweeper, Boat |
| MSD | Minesweeper, Drone |
| MSF | Mobile Strike Force - mercenaries who deploy and go anywhere |
| NGFS | Naval Gunfire Support |
| NILO | Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer |
| NIOTC | Naval Inshore Operations Training Center |
| NOD | Night Observation Device |
| NVA | North Vietnamese Army |
| OINC | Officer in Charge |
| OJT | On the Job Training |
| PBR | Patrol Boat, River |
| PCF | Patrol Craft, Fast (Swift Boat) |
| POW | Prisoner of War |
| PRU | Provincial Reconnaissance unit |
| PSA | Province Sector Advisor |
| Psyops | Psychological Operations |
| RAD | River Assault Division |
| RAG | River Assault Group (VNN) |

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| | |
|---|---|
| RAID | River Assault and Interdiction Division (VNN) |
| RAS | River Assault Squadron |
| RF/PF | Regional Forces/Popular Forces |
| RPG | Rocket Propelled Grenade or River Patrol Group |
| RSSZ | Rung Sat Special Zone |
| RVNAF | Republic of Vietnam Air Force (or Armed Forces) |
| SAR | Search and Rescue |
| SEAWOLF | UH-1B Helo, heavily armed, USN operated |
| SHADOW | C-119 aircraft |
| SKIMMER | 20' fiberglass motor boat |
| SLICK | UH-1B Helo, USA operated |
| SPOOKY | C-47 aircraft |
| SSB | Swimmer Support Boat (skimmer) |
| STAB | Strike Assault Boat |
| SCATTOR | Small Craft Asstet, Training, and Turnover |
| SHOTGUN 49 | Call sign for Army O1A aircraft |
| START | Swift Training and Rapid Turnover |
| TAOR | Tactical Area of Responsibility |
| USARV | United States Army, Vietnam |
| VNMC | Vietnamese Marine Corps |
| VNN | Vietnamese Navy |
| ZIPPO | Flame thrower equipped ATC or Monitor Waterborne Guardposts |