~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COMMANDER
Task Force Clearwater
% PBR Mobile Support Base ONE
FPO San Francisco 96695

**DECLASSIFIED**

CTFCW/N2/ds
5750
Ser 59
9 June 1970

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Unclassified upon removal of enclosures)

From: Commander Task Force Clearwater
To: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam

Subj: U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary for March 1970

Encl: (1) CTF Clearwater section of U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary for March 1970 (C)
(2) Corrected CTF Clearwater history for March 1970 (C)

1. Enclosure (1) is a copy of the CTF Clearwater section of the U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary for March 1970. The underlined portions are either incorrect or misleading.

2. Enclosure (2) is submitted for possible use as a Task Force Clearwater history for March 1970.

James E. Edmundson
JAMES E. EDMUNDSON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CTF Clearwater **DECLASSIFIED**

Reorganization for CTF Clearwater units commenced in February and continued into the month of March. Beginning 15 February, NSAD Cua Viet and the Dong Ha ramp were closed except for the off loading of rock barges by U. S. Army engineers and MCB personnel. Continuing that action, the water LOC was closed on 15 March. NSAD Cua Viet and ASTB Cua Viet were closed 15 March while ATSB Clearwater (opened 15 February) was commissioned as a command on 21 March. On 15 March, eight craft and crews were transferred from NSAD Tan My to CTF Clearwater in order to assume the increased responsibility for the Tan My harbor security and LOC. Clearwater minesweeping units based at ASTB Cua Viet were tasked to be able to open the Cua Viet/Dong Ha water LOC from a mine clearance standpoint on a 72 hour notice.

The Tan My and Hue River harbor security craft were assigned to CTF Clearwater on 15 March in order to provide security at Tan My and Col Lo Island, while the Commander Dong Ha River Security Group, located at the old NSAD Cua Viet site, was tasked for sweeping and interdiction operations on the LOC. This function is scheduled to be transferred to the VNN Minesweeping and Interdiction Division 92 on 1 July. Bank security was tasked to Commander XXIV Corps. On 15 March, the EODMUPAC Team was reassigned to Tan My. On the 22nd of March, COMNAVFORV assigned the Task Group designator 116.8 to CTF Clearwater effective 1 April.



CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Intelligence sources reported continued infiltration into the Hue and Perfum River areas. One report, on the 10th of March, indicated that three motorized sampans carrying one platoon of sappers and infantry with ammunition and different types of mines departed from YD 231 800. They crossed the Ben Hai and followed a small stream into the area of Trung Hai and Trung Giang to the vicinity of YD 224 777. They were reinforcements intended for two infantry/sapper companies. They dispersed and hid in the vicinity of YD 232 778 for further infiltration into the area of the Cua Viet River.

The Dong Ha River Security Group and the Hue River Security Group continued patrols, checking ID cards, minesweeping, Psyops missions, and conducted medcaps. Most of the Vietnamese detained were curfew violators.

Mining attempts by the enemy continued in all patrolled waterways throughout the month. Patrol Officer BMC Nelson and Boat Captain SN Howard were beached in LCM-28 on the north bank of the Cua Viet River extracting elements to the A/4/12 Cavalry Troop at 1753H on the 4th of March. The LCM-28 crew observed an object floating towards them, about 15 feet upriver and ten feet from the bank. The troopers threw concussion grenades at the floating object from the bank. A secondary explosion raised a 60 foot high water spout. There were no casualties.

There were no personnel casualties in the month of March from enemy mining efforts.



CONFIDENTIAL

CTF CLEARWATER DECLASSIFIED

On 6 March 1970 the first detachment of Vietnamese sailors, 49 men, arrived at Clearwater ATSB and immediately commenced on the job training. American sailors were assigned as counterparts to the Vietnamese, who were integrated into the American boat crews. Meanwhile construction was started at the Vietnamese Navy Coastal Group 11 base, located approximately 500 meters west of the ATSB, to provide the facilities needed to support the men and boats of MID-92.

On 7 March 1970, a Vietnamese Navy Yabuta junk from Coastal Group ELEVEN detonated a mine on the Cua Viet River and was totally destroyed. Three Vietnamese sailors lost their lives and a fourth was seriously injured in this mining incident.

On 15 March the last of the logistics traffic flowed between Dong Ha and Cua Viet, and the LOC was officially closed. MSBs of MINEDIV 112 Det ONE were released and returned to their parent unit in DaNang.

On 15 March 1970, Commander Task Force Clearwater assumed harbor defense responsibilities for Tan My harbor. Two 45 foot picket boats were acquired and they were combined with the six LCM-3/6 minesweepers at Tan My to form a harbor defense unit. The unit was assigned to the operational control of Commander, Hue River Security Group and was based at PBR Mobile Support Base ONE. The unit swept the entrance channel, turning basin and Perfume River daily to defend against possible enemy mining attempts. Three craft patrolled the harbor and Thuan An Cove each night to defend against possible swimmer or waterborne attack.

DECLASSIFIED

On 23 March 1970, the Commanding General XXIV Corps assigned the following mission to Task Force Clearwater:

"A. Conduct patrol operations on the inland waterways of Northern I Corps Tactical Zone (NICTZ) to deny the enemy their use as logistic LOC's or infiltration routes, and in coordination/conjunction with GVN/ARVN/VNN forces, conduct visits, search, and psychological operations to enforce curfews, recover contraband and extend pacification efforts.

B. Conduct mine countermeasures operations in assigned areas and maintain the capability to reopen the Cua Viet LOC when required for resupply or reinforcement.

C. Conduct combat support of U. S. and RVN ground operations in coordination with area commanders.

D. Provide harbor security for the Tan My area."