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U. S. NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM
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K. J. CHRISTOPH, JR.
Chief of Staff

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Quarterly Historical Summary

1 JAN -- Drug education responsibilities for all U.S. Navy personnel in RVN was assumed by COMUSMACV.

-- CG-36 Advisory Unit completed standdown.

-- Nha Trang EOD Advisory Team disestablished.

2 JAN -- ISDS Unit (Improved Swimmer Defense System) completed move from Qui Nhon to Cam Ranh Bay in Second Coastal Zone.

-- Two OV-10A Black Ponies made CBU strikes in Dinh Tuong Province killing 2 VC/NVA, destroying 4 bunkers and 9 booby traps.

3 JAN -- Da Nang area came under attack by 5 122mm rockets. No significant damage or casualties.

4 JAN -- RADM SALZER visited ISB Nam Can to discuss future THD-4 operations.

-- Convoy TP-43 departed Tan Chau for Phnom Penh (THD-18).

5 JAN -- Black Pony aircraft struck in An Xuyen Province killing 4 VC/NVA and destroying I Sampan.

6 JAN -- U.S. NAVCOMSTA, Cam Ranh Bay turned over to VNN.

7 JAN -- Advisors from ATSB Phuoc Xuyen drew down.

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-- A Seawolf UH-1B aircraft made a forced landing near XS 477 541. There were no injuries.

-- MACV discontinued routine urinalysis testing of all personnel departing RVN on all categories of leave, R&R and 7&7. A program to conduct unannounced samplings of the above categories at weekly intervals to determine and maintain a deterrent was simultaneously instituted.

-- SEABEE USAID Team 0321 relieved Team 6206 at Ham Tan.

-- At 0130H a UH-1B helicopter of the HAL-3 detachment at Ben Luc crashed on take-off. The aircraft was damaged but none of the air crewmen were injured.

8 JAN -- SEABEE USAID Team 7411 relieved Team 4006 at Tan An RVN.

-- NFV PMS Team completed PMS installation and Tool Room turnover at OP Base My Tho, after establishing supervisory and accountability procedures.

-- LSB Binh Thuy reported the completion of the accelerated overhaul program for the last half of CY-71 with the exception of two boats of the 12th increment only recently arrived. During the six month period, 82 assorted river assault, riverine warfare, U.S. Army and service craft were overhauled, and an additional 74 boats received voyage repairs.

-- CINCPACFLT Admiral Bernard CLAREY, USN, visited RVN.

9 JAN -- CDR J.H. DELOACH relieved CDR W.L. WARDELL as SA CTF 217, SA Fourth Riverine Zone, SA THD 26, and AOC Eastern

9 JAN -- THD-20 Advisory Unit stood down as part of the overall USN drawdown of personnel.

10 JAN -- USN advisors from OpBase Kien An drew down.

-- NILO Post Moc Hoa closed.

11 JAN -- Full Mobile Operational Advisory Team (MOAT) concept implemented in the THD-28.

12 JAN -- LCDR A.D. SCHATZ relieved LCDR C.F. MONTAG as OinC HAL-3, Det 1, at LSB Nam Can.

13 JAN -- LCDR W.W. WILSON relieved LCDR J.L. BRUEGGEMAN as SA, ISB Cat Lai.

13 JAN -- President NIXON and Secretary of Defense LAIRD announced a new troop strength ceiling of 69,000 for U.S. forces in South Vietnam effective 1 May 1972.

13 JAN -- Ten VC/NVA were killed when 3 OV-10As hit a concentration of enemy troops in lower An Xuyen Province.

14 JAN -- ACTOBRAD Site 16 (Hon Doc) turned over to VNN.

14 JAN -- Black Pony aircraft struck targets in Bac Lieu Province in coordination with the Bac Lieu Toc, killing 5 VC/NVA.

14 JAN -- Coastal surveillance station at Hon Doc, 25 miles off the SW coast of Vietnam was turned over to the VNN. It is part of the 16 station network that will eventually provide radar coverage to the entire 1,200 mile coast of RVN.

14/15 JAN -- One U.S. enlisted SEAL Team Advisor was wounded while on an LDNN insert mission near XS 374 510 in the THD 26 AO. Other casualties included 7 LDNN wounded, 3 LDNN killed, and 2 VNN wounded when a B-40 or M79 grenade impacted spreading shrapnel.

15 JAN -- HM1 Larry G. BELL, attached to SEAL Team One, LDNN/SEAL, Group Charlie Advisory Unit out of Dong Tam, was wounded in the stomach during a combat operation with an LDNN Platoon near XS 376 507, on the Kinh Xang Canal.

15 JAN -- First increment housing (20 units) at veterans rehabilitation Center, Cat Lai turned over to VNN.

-- PSYOPS loudspeaker systems turned over to VNN Pollwar Bloc.

16 JAN -- The Honorable John H. CHAFEE, Secretary of the Navy, began two day visit of RVN.

-- VP-19 aircraft on M/T patrol sighted an SL-6 trawler at position 09-52N 111-06E.

-- All USN advisors withdrawn from VNN repair shop, HQ-9611, based at Nam Can.

18 JAN -- Cuu Long distribution center was formally turned over to the VNN during ceremonies at the VNN Shipyard. Cuu Long serves as a swine breeding farm and chicken hatchery for distribution to VNN units in the 3rd and 4th MRs. SECNAV completed his visit to RVN. He visited Da Nang and CRB on the 16th, Saigon on the 17th, and the Delta region on the 18th prior to his departure.

18 JAN -- ACTOVRAD Site 1 (Nui Hon Vuon) turned over to VNN.

19 JAN -- LCDR J.R. ROTON relieved LCDR J.L. STEVENS as SA, ISB Thuan An.

20 JAN -- The U. S. Naval Air Facility CRB was disestablished and physical facilities were turned over to the U. S. Army for use by Army aviation units.

-- NAS Cubi Pt., Detachment Cam Ranh Bay established to provide services and support operations of aviation activities and units. These services were previously provided by NAF CRB since 21 February 1967.

-- CG-16 personnel repelled a ground attack on their base by 20 to 30 VC in Quang Ngai City in the First Coastal Zone. There were no friendly or enemy casualties.

-- LCDR J.L. BRUEGGEMAN, USN, relieved LCDR B.E. BURGETT, USN, as SA, ISB Cho Moi.

-- Convoy TP-44 departed Tan Chau, totaling 22 ships, tankers, and tugs with barges.

-- LCDR H.T. BUCKLEY relieved LT D.A. STULL as OinC, HAL-3, Det 2 at LSB Nha Be.

21 JAN -- Black Ponies struck in An Xuyen Province killing 3 VC/NVA and destroying 5 bunkers, 16 sampans.

-- Seabee Team 13308 closed its site at Ben Tre City, Kien Hoa Province.

-- SA CTG 217.1 and SA CTG 217.2 in THD 26 were disestablished.

-- All USN THD-24 advisors and equipment were relocated at ISB Ben Luc from the ATSBs, with the exception of minimum equipment left at ATSB Go Dau Ha to support temporary advisor personnel.

22 JAN -- On a scramble in Choung Thien Province, Black Ponies killed 8 VC/NVA and were responsible for 3 secondary explosions.

-- Seabee Team 0417 closed its site at Xuan Loc City, Long Khanh Province.

-- CBMU 302 (Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit) hauled down its colors and departed Vietnam, marking the completion of four and one half years of service in RVN. This marked the end of the formal standown begun on 1 December. CBMU-302 was commanded by CDR D. G. WILSON.

23 JAN -- On a random patrol over Dinh Tuong Province, Black Ponies killed 13 VC/NVA in support of troops.

25 JAN -- The White House released the 8 point proposal for a negotiated settlement of the Indochina conflict.

-- Fourth Riverine area advisory Team 108 disestablished.

26 JAN -- General William C. WESTMORELAND, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army began a five day visit of RVN.

-- HAL-3 commenced standdown.

27 JAN -- A mine of an unknown type was exploded near the tanker TEXACO SAIGON which was discharging at the Cal Tex Pier (XS 92 81) at the Nha Be tank farm. No damage occurred to the ship.

-- Convoy TP-45 (K1) departs Tan Chau for Phnom Penh (THD 18).

-- USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST-1169) relieved as Market Time LST by USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST-1167).

-- Implemented increased security measures at ISB Ben Luc by advisors and CTU 116.10.1 personnel in anticipation of a possible enemy high point.

27/28 JAN -- CTU 116.17.1 (HAL-3 Det-9 at Binh Thuy) changed operational control to CTG 116.15 from 271800H until 281800H in order to provide air cover for a Mekong convoy from Tan Chau to Phnom Penh.

28 JAN -- CDR H.K. FISKE relieved CDR J.G. SULLIVAN as SENADV, Third Coastal Zone.

29 JAN -- At 1430, 3 members Seabee USAID Team 7411 were taken under hostile fire in Long An Province at XS 615 748. There were no casualties.

30 JAN -- On an airborne scramble to Hon Da Bac Island, Black Ponies struck in support for the TOC at An Xuyen, killing 3 VC/NVA and destroying 4 sampans.

31 JAN -- Coast Guard Squadron Three decommissioned. In a period of four years and eight months, squadron three cutters fired over 80,000 rounds of 5 inch ammunition into enemy positions and have boarded over 39,000 craft in M/T operations.

1 FEB -- 0001H Condition Gray implemented among U. S. Delta Naval Forces.

-- Operation of Cam Ranh Bay livestock breeding and distribution center turned over to VNN.

-- Department of the Army approved the loan of the Camp Sentinel Radar (CSR) III to COMNAVFORV on a six month renewable basis through June 1972.

-- CDR W. J. MULCAHY relieved CAPT C. O. BORGSTROM, Jr., as Commanding Officer of HAL-3 at Binh Thuy.

-- HAL-3 commenced a 60 day standdown period in preparation for disestablishment.

2 FEB -- RADM James B. WILSON, DEPCOMNAVFORV for Logistics, visited LSB Dong Tam checking on base production and defense preparations.

-- Second Coastal Zone CMD moved to CRB from Nha Trang as part of Sea Operations Command move.

-- VP 19 M/T aircraft sighted possible NVN SL-4 trawler at position 04-42N 105-57E. Market Time units conducted overt surveillance until 5 FEB.

-- Office of U. S. NILO, Quang Tri closed.

3 FEB -- HAL-3, Det 6, CTU 116.14.1 at Phu Loi, was disestablished.

4 FEB -- Convoy TR-46 departed Tan Chau to Phnom Penh. Convoy came under enemy attack on 15 March, at 0125H near WT 220 140. A total of six 75mm recoilless rifle rounds fired at convoy causing minor damage to two tugs.

5 FEB -- CDR C.B. GUSTAFSON, relieved CDR R.R. WARD as SA VNNTC, Cam Ranh Bay.

-- CWO2 T.E. LIVINGSTON and EM2 R.E. LOUX, assigned to explosive ordnance disposal training and evaluation unit one, Team Eighty Two, disarmed two extremely dangerous watermines at the VNN Harbor Defense Pier, Qui Nhon at great risk to themselves. Both men have been recommended for the Bronze Star Medal.

6 FEB -- HAL-3, Det 1, CTU 116.1.1, at Nam Can was disestablished.

-- RMSN J.M. FRANKS sustained second degree burns on his lower legs pouring duplicating fluid on a fire, while burning off grass around his hootch at ISB Ben Luc.

-- LT Ralph M. TEA of HAL-3, Det 8, was wounded while conducting an airstrike 24 miles SSW of Rach Gia. His wounds were not serious, and he was treated and returned to duty.

8 FEB -- Radar Site 403 (Mui Dat Do) turned over to VNN.

9 FEB -- While acting as spotter aircraft for USS ALBERT DAVID (DE-1057), an OV-10 Black Pony crashed at VR 722 292 while making a low run near the ship. The pilot LT LUTZ, USN, was killed. The observer, 1/LT E.D. BRINDEL, USMC, ejected, sustaining serious injuries. He was recovered by the USS ALBERT DAVID's whale boat and medevaced to Ca Mau.

-- Two Navy men, SN R.C. COCHRAN and EN3 J. A. BLOOMER, attached to FASU Da Nang were wounded in a VC/NVA rocket attack. Both men were evacuated to the 95th Field Evacuation Hospital in good condition.

-- LCDR W.C. FOX relieved LT W.E. HAMILTON as Third Riverine I.O.

10 FEB -- Mrs. Jackie GOREHAM, "Mrs. U.S. Savings Bonds", visited RVN.

-- CDR John A. BALDWIN relieved CDR Allen S. JEFFERIS as SA, Second Coastal Zone/SA, CTF 232, CTG 115.2 and Commanding Officer Second Coastal Zone NAG.

-- HAL-3, Det 7, CTU 116.6.1, at Dong Tam was disestablished.

12 FEB -- Convoy TP-47 (K2) departed Tan Chau for Phnom Penh.

-- Pier sentry PO 2 B. E. RICHARDSON, III, at NSF Da Nang fired at and exploded a floating mine near the synchrolift. The sentry suffered superficial cuts from flying fragments.

13 FEB -- COMUSMACV issued alert condition Gray status for all U.S. Forces in RVN in connection with increased enemy activity expected during Tet holidays, and during President NIXON's trip to China. The alert was lifted at 1200H, 2 March, 1972.

14 FEB -- LCDR J.A. MOREHEAD relieved LCDR D.E. WARD as SA, ISB Rach Soi.

-- HAL-3, Det 5, CTU 116.15.1, at Chau Doc was disestablished.

15 FEB -- NILO post Tan An was closed.

17 FEB -- M/T VP-6 aircraft sighted a NVN SL-3 trawler at position 08-38N 133-17E. VNN HQ-5 conducted overt surveillance on 20 February, terminating surveillance on 22 February as the trawler proceeded north of 17N.

18 FEB -- HAL-3, Det 8, CTU 116.5.1, at Rach Gia was disestablished.

-- NAVFORV PMS Team arrived Da Nang for a period of approximately two weeks to turnover PMS tools and materials to VNN Units/Commands in the first Coastal Zone.

19 FEB -- HAL-3, Det 4, CTU 116.10.1, was disestablished.

20 FEB -- RADM RIEVE, CINCPACFLT Supply Officer, visited LSB Dong Tam.

-- ISB Nam Can received an estimated eight 82mm mortar rounds at 0458H. Three rounds landed within the perimeter wounding one VNN and causing no material damage.

-- ADM R. S. SALZER held a party for personnel in the Saigon Area. Because of Tet restrictions the men had been restricted to quarters and working spaces since 13 February.

21 FEB -- Convoy TP-48 departed Tan Chau for Phnom Penh.

-- ISB Nam Can received an estimated three 82mm rounds at 0655H. All rounds impacted outside the perimeter causing no damage or casualties.

-- At 1300H, a USA Mohawk aircraft struck the mast of the VNN LSSL (HQ 330) with its port wing, crashing at WQ 063 689. The LSSL beached and sent a party ashore, recovering the bodies of LT B.L. JOHNSON, USA, and PVT S.B. WESTPHAL, USA. The NILO Nam Can and a hospital corpsman were dispatched to the scene via Sealords helicopter in order to conduct a preliminary investigation.

22 FEB -- LSB Cam Ranh Bay turned over to VNN.

-- The Cam Ranh Bay livestock distribution Center was turned over to the VNN.

23 FEB -- SA, CRS 202 and LT James F. MOFFETT (Second CZ Advisor stationed at Nui Chap Giai during high threat Tet period) were investigating the scene of a recent ambush and mining incident when the latter tripped a VC pressure type booby trap (CQ 136 496). LT MOFFETT was medevaced to the 67th Evac Hospital, Qui Nhon, in good condition, but with fragment wounds in his legs.

-- HAL-3, Det 3, CTU 116.13.1, at Ca Mau was disestablished.

25 FEB -- Admiral Elmo R. ZUMWALT arrived in Saigon for a two day tour of RVN to include ISB Ben Luc, LSB Nha Be, LSB Cat Lo, LSB Binh Thuy and CRS Vung Tau.

-- A UH-1H helicopter departing from a visit to the destroyer USS JOHN CRAIG (DD-885) in Da Nang harbor struck the water approximately 50 meters from the ship and broke up. Four U.S. crewmen, three Vietnamese passengers, and three U.S. passengers were aboard. Three U.S. survivors and one U.S. dead were recovered. Six personnel are missing: a VN BG (newly assigned Chief Ops I ARVN Corps, VN COL (I Corps ARTY CDR), and a VN LT, Aide to BG. U.S. missing include 1 COL, SA to MR I territorial forces, 1 MAJ, Advisor to I Corps ARTY, and 1 WO Pilot. Recovered were 1 LCDR Naval Gunfire Officer (seriously injured), 1 LT pilot, 2 enlisted crewmen (one dead).

26 FEB -- HAL-3, Det 2, CTU 116.9.1, at Nha Be was disestablished.

-- CDR D.L. SCHAIBLE relieved CAPT L.A. DWYER as SA, CTF-214.

27 FEB -- SS Steel Seafarer was attacked by fire while transiting the Long Tau Shipping Channel. Three rounds of enemy rocket fire impacted in the water on the port side of the ship, the nearest

landing approximately 20 meters from the ship. This is the first confirmed shipping attack on the Long Tau in 18 months.

-- Market Time VP-19 aircraft sighted NVN SL-8 trawler at position 09-49N 117-28E. Market Time units conducted overt surveillance of the trawler until 5 March.

28 FEB -- U.S. NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay disestablished.

-- CDR V.P. BUSSARD, JR., relieved CDR R.J. COEN as OIC NSAD and SA LSB at Binh Thuy.

29 FEB -- Total in-country Navy strength was 6,089.

-- CDR O.L. MORRISON relieved CDR C.E. McINTOSH as SA LSB/CO NSF, Cam Ranh Bay, RVN.

-- Operations THD-18 and THD-25 were terminated.

1 MAR-- Commenced Operation THD-30. Units of THD-30 are disposed in two task groups at Tan Chau and Tuyen Nhon. The operational command is located at the Chau Doc Naval Base.

-- VNN participation in Mekong convoys to Phnom Penh ceased.

-- The Navy Drug Detoxification Center at Nha Be was disestablished. USARV assumed all drug detoxification responsibility for the USN in RVN.

-- USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST-1170) relieved USS VERNON COUNTY (LST 1116) of duties as Market Time support LST.

-- An accidental fire occurred at NAVORDFAC Vung Tau (YS 310 480) adjacent to the NE corner of the Vung Tau Army Air Field, destroying stored unserviceable ammunition.

-- HAL-3, Det 9, CTU 116.17, at Binh Thuy was disestablished.

3 MAR-- An OV-10A experienced a hung CBU-55 on its centerline station at 1050H. All efforts to jetison the CBU in the target area failed, and the OV-10 returned to Binh Thuy avoiding populated areas. On the landing approach, the CBU fell from the OV-10 and impacted in a swampy area within the base perimeter without detonating. The CBU was located and disposed of by EOD personnel.

4 MAR-- CTF 115 moved to VNN Headquarters, Saigon. NOC Cam Ranh Bay stopped operating; NOC VNN Headquarters, Saigon assumed responsibility of directing Sea Ops.

-- Radar sites 101 (Cu Lao Re) and 104 (Duc Pho) turned over to VNN.

5 MAR-- A VNN ammunition convoy was attacked on the Dong Nhai River near YS 044 920. At 1025H, a B-41 rocket exploded the 155mm ammunition being transported on a barge. The barge sank taking the other two convoy barges down with it, and damaging one escort and a tug. Casualties included four ARVN killed, and four VNN and four ARVN wounded.

6 MAR-- VNN Radar ship Ba Dong in place and operational as part of the Third Coastal Zone surveillance radar network.

-- CTF 115 and VNN Sea Ops CMD established in Saigon.

-- The last HAL-3 Seawolf helicopter gunship was retrograded.

-- The last Sealord helicopter flight was flown by CDR W. J. MULCAHY, pilot, and CDR R. D. NICHOLS, co-pilot, the HAL-3 CO and XO respectively.

8 MAR-- Coastal Radar Station 301 (Con Son) turned over to VNN.

9 MAR-- Two PCFs were sunk by enemy enplaced sapper charges at north side of the PCF pier, Qui Nhon. There were no personnel casualties.

-- The first HAL-3 Sealord helicopter was retrograded.

-- Operational advisors to RID-47 and RPD-58 disestablished.

11 MAR-- Coastal Radar Station 401 (Poulo Obi) turned over to VNN.

-- The last HAL-3 Sealord Helicopter was retrograded.

12 MAR-- All salvage efforts to recover the crashed helo in Da Nang Harbor were terminated. A total of three survivors and three bodies were recovered. Four bodies were still missing.

14 MAR-- Two unoccupied barracks belonging to VNN LSB Da Nang received extensive damage from fire of unknown origin. There were no injuries to VNN or USN personnel.

-- LT P.V. SMITHEN, JR., relieved LT J.W. HEUBACH as NILO, An Thoi.

15 MAR-- DC3 Lynn B. POWELL attached to ISB Ben Luc received non-hostile injuries at 2310H. P.O. POWELL was shot in both thighs and neck with a .45 Caliber pistol.

-- LT F.M. WIELANDT relieved LT R.D. NELSON as NILO Qui Nhon.

-- VP-6 aircraft sighted SL-6 trawler 15S-01 at position 08-06N, 115-43E on course 100, speed 12 knots, at 1155H. Surveillance was terminated on 26 March, with the trawler at position 18-52N 122-35E, on course 320, speed 12 knots.

16 MAR-- HAL-3 completed stand-down procedures and was disestablished.

17 MAR-- A USA helicopter crashed in the Dong Nhai River near YT 102 212. Twelve VNN and 3 USN advisors with 2 PBRs from OP Base Long Binh, assisted in the salvage operation.

18 MAR-- LCDR C.V. MAYN, JR., relieved LCDR L.J. ENTAS as First Coastal Zone Intelligence Officer.

20 MAR-- RPD-61 advisory unit disestablished

22 MAR-- SL-4 trawler 22S-01 sighted by VP-6 at 1103H at position 11-09N, 111-07E, on course 190, speed 10 knots. 22S-01 was under surveillance until entering Paracel Islands on 28 March.

23 MAR-- At 0426H, a civilian cargo ship and tanker were attacked with watermines on the Mekong River at Tan Chau. The cargo ship LUCKY STAR had an estimated 5 kilo plastic mine explode 10 meters astern, causing no damage. The tanker BOO HUNG had a similiar mine explode below the water line on the port side, amidships, causing a 20 x 12 inch hole. There were no casualties, but an estimated 120 tons of oil was lost.

25 MAR-- SL-8 trawler 25S-01 was sighted by VP-19 at 1210H, at position 09-51N 117-17E, on course 210, speed 8 knots. Surveillance was terminated on 31 March, with the trawler at position 19-47N, 111-27E.

26 MAR-- THD-30 Command Post moved to Op Base Chau Doc.

28 MAR-- Coastal Radar site 201 (De Gi) turned over to VNN.

-- VP-19 sighted SL-6 trawler 28S-02 at 1733H, at position 11-05N, 115-05E, on course 130, speed 5 knots. Surveillance was terminated on 29 March, with the trawler within 25 NM of Hainan Island.

-- LCDR M.R. Aardal relieved LCDR D.P. MICALCHUCK as THD 24 and SA CTG 214.1.

28/29 MAR -- Convoy TP-03 was attacked with 75mm recoiless rifle fire at WT 239 648, at 1040H, and arrived in Phnom Penh at 1510H. The return convoy, PT-03, arrived at Tan Chau without incident at 2030H, on 29 March.

29 MAR-- The last R&R flight departed for Taipei, Republic of China, in preparation of closure as an R&R site on 5 April 1972.

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