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From: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam

To: Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)

Subject: U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, January 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) COMUSMACV Ltr 01-1 5750 ser 1/6925 of 2 October 1967

- Ref: (1) Coastal Surveillance Force Summary
(2) River Patrol Force Summary
(3) Riverine Assault Force Summary
(4) Naval Advisory Group Summary
(5) Selected Psychological Operations
(6) Statistical Summary
(7) Civil/ANC Statistical Summary
(8) Civilian Action Statistical Summary

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are submitted.

2. The data contained in enclosures (6), (7) and (8) are based on information available this date and are subject to revisions as later information is received. Any adjustments of this nature will be reflected in January's Historical Supplement.

S. T. ORME
Chief of Staff

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY
January 1968

During January there was an increase in Operation MARKET TIME activity as the heavy seas and inclement weather associated with the northeast monsoon season abated in the northern coastal zones, thus allowing all MARKET TIME stations to be manned throughout a high percentage of the period. MARKET TIME units detected 48,856 junks and sampans during the month, an increase of 14,265 over December's total. Meanwhile, MARKET TIME units were engaged in 18 hostile fire incidents and conducted 152 naval gunfire support missions during the month. The majority of the gunfire support missions were fired in the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones where fair weather prevailed throughout the month.

On the 2nd of the month USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WMEC 68) carried out a gunfire mission against an enemy position approximately 30 miles north-northeast of Ca Mau Point in the Gulf of Thailand. Responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne observer, the cutter destroyed two structures and four sampans, damaged nine structures and six sampans, and killed two enemy troops and wounded three others.

On 3 January PCF 9 received hostile automatic weapons fire while on patrol approximately eight miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. While closing the beach to return and suppress the fire, one U. S. Navy crewman suffered a bullet wound in the right thigh. The hostile fire was suppressed and the Swift boat's guns killed one Viet Cong and wounded several others.

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At 1723 on 7 January, PCF 63 sighted four people on the beach near a deserted village approximately 22 miles south of Qui Nhon. As the Swift boat approached, the people turned and fled into the village. Sector authorities granted permission to take the area under fire, and the Swift boat commenced firing on the large house that the evading personnel were seen to enter. This building and four other surrounding structures were completely destroyed by the PCF's firing.

On the 18th of January, USCGC BERING STRAIT (WMEC 382) took an estimated enemy company under fire approximately 28 miles north-northeast of Ca Mau Point on the Gulf of Thailand coast. Utilizing her five-inch guns and responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne spotter, the cutter destroyed two structures and one sampan, damaged six structures, killed six Viet Cong, and wounded four others.

At 0250 on the 31st, a Cam Ranh Bay harbor defense patrol succeeded in surfacing the first of two enemy swimmers captured on that day. Approximately one half hour later an explosion occurred on the bow of the anchored Norwegian tanker PELICAN causing moderate damage. Initial interrogation of the swimmer indicated that additional swimmers were in the Cam Ranh Bay area operating as three man teams.

In response to the heavy fighting which erupted throughout Vietnam during the last days of the month, MARKET TIME units continually aided allied forces with gunfire support, and all units maintained alert aggressive patrols.

A summary of calendar year 1967 MARKET TIME activity includes:

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
January 1968

The New Year's Truce Period (311800H December - 020600H January) was violated when the Viet Cong initiated an attack, early on the morning of 2 January, against the MSA Detachment Nha Be, support base for MSA BATTAL Fords and minesweepers. One M5B was destroyed and two U. S. Seaymen were wounded in the recoilless-rifle attack directed at the Navy pier facilities. As the PRFs continued to interdict enemy river crossings, the Viet Cong retaliated by intensifying their firepower by employing heavier weapons in an effort to disrupt the patrols. In greater evidence was the increased use of rocket, rifle-grenade, recoilless-rifle and heavy automatic-weapons fire from ambushes in an attempt to destroy the boats. The intensified attacks killed one PRF sailor, wounded 36 others and wounded one Department of the Navy civilian. As a result of the stepped up activity of the Viet Cong, prior to the celebration of Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year (celebrated during the period 30 January - 2 February), PRF units suffered the highest monthly casualty total to date. However, the enemy suffered high losses as operation 1-2-3 continued to deny the Viet Cong the free use of the waterways of the Delta and the Delta. In I CTZ, PRF operations commenced on 9 January in the Cau Hai Bay/Tan Ky area. River Squadron 521, operating from Mobile Support Base I located at Tan Ky (50 miles north of Danang) was assigned patrol responsibilities. This is the

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913,121 wooden-hull detections, 538,054 wooden-hull boardings/inspections, and 8,743 steel-hull detections.

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second time the FBRs were assigned to I CTZ. On 10 January a Viet Cong swimmer wearing sophisticated diving equipment was detected on the upper Bassac River. This was the first sighting in IV CTZ of a swimmer so equipped. CTF 116 conducted Operation BREAKNESS III on 10-11 January along the Bassac River, in Kien Hoa province, an area of high Viet Cong activity. AD-33 teamed up with FBRs and transited the river and destroyed 24 sampans, 34 huts and 20 bunkers. On 11 January, SEALs were landed shortly after a boat patrol was ambushed on the Bassac River. Operation BLACK HILL, a quick reaction ground attack to counter enemy attacks, accounted for five Viet Cong KIA and the capture of three recoilless weapons and associated ammunition. One SEAL was killed and another wounded in the action. On 25 January Operation BLUE SONG I was conducted in the Thom Creek and Mo Cay Creek vicinity of Mo Cay in Kien Hoa province. The operation netted 51 Viet Cong suspects. In addition, 50 bunkers, 40 structures and five tons of rice were destroyed and five pounds of documents of high intelligence value was captured. During the Tet holiday period BLUE SONG I was conducted on the upper Bassac River. On 29 January FBRs commenced patrols from Chau Doc to the Cambodian border to prevent a possible Viet Cong movement/re-supply effort during the Tet Truce period (291800Z - 310600Z). The Tet Truce period was terminated, however, at 0945h 30 January, due to numerous Viet Cong-initiated attacks throughout South Vietnam. In the early morning hours of 31 January the Viet Cong launched numerous attacks against military and civilian

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installations. TF 116 units reacted to numerous outposts, ground units and civilian populated areas under fire during the Viet Cong offensive exacting their toll of enemy casualties. Navy armed helicopters once again displayed their merit as they continued to support PBR and SEAL operations. On one occasion the "Seawolves" killed 17 Viet Cong and wounded 23, when they attacked and disrupted a high level Viet Cong meeting on 10 January near the mouth of the Da Lai River.

At 0105 on the morning of 2 January, the Viet Cong initiated a 75-mm recoilless-rifle attack against the NSA Detachment Nha Be, located seven miles south of Saigon, and commercial PHL facilities located close to the Navy base. As the general alarm sounded, units of TG 116.2 got underway, however, PLS 22 was hit and caught fire in the initial barrage directed against the pier area. Two Navy men were wounded slightly in the attack. The NSB was heavily damaged and subsequently stricken from the Naval Vessel Register. The PHL facilities received about 20 rounds of enemy fire and sustained hits on four tanks. There was no secondary explosions or fire and only minor damage.

A patrol interdicted and captured a Viet Cong sampan on 3 January, eight miles from the mouth of the Sam Luong River as it attempted to cross the river. The two occupants of the sampan jumped overboard when sighted by the patrol, leaving the motor running. The two occupants were taken under fire with unknown results. PBR 103 captured the boat with a grapnel as the patrol received enemy automatic fire from the river

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bank. PBR 103 cleared the area with the sampan in tow as the cover boat suppressed the enemy fire. The sampan contained 60 bangalore mines, 40 claymore mines, 200 electric primers, 150 rounds of CHICOM ammunition and six fragmentation grenades.

On 8 January a PBR conducting a test firing mission on the upper Long Khanh River, five miles east-southeast of Nha Be, was hit by an M16-7 round on the after .50 caliber gun shield. Seven U. S. Navy men and one civilian from MACV Saigon, who was observing the test, were wounded. The following day PBR 722, operating on the Bassac River 11 miles southeast of Can Tho, was struck by a B-41 rocket. The boat withdrew from the area when the stricken boat and its cover boat were unable to suppress the enemy fire. PBR 722 had to beach to prevent from sinking. "Rescues" and additional boats from Binh Thuy arrived on the scene to assist in the fire fight and escort the damaged boat back to its base at Binh Thuy. Seven U. S. sailors were wounded in the action. One Viet Cong was killed and one M16 rifle was found in the ambush area that contained numerous blood trails. On the 10th, four more PBR sailors were wounded when two more boats on the Bassac were hit by enemy rocket fire.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
January 1968

Throughout the month of January the Mobile Riverine Force operating from Dong Tam conducted a series of rapid reaction and search and destroy operations in Dinh Tuong, Vinh Long, Long An and Kien Hoa provinces. The MRF continued its vigorous pursuit of the elusive enemy main force battalions by penetrating into the heavily infested Viet Cong domains of central and western Dinh Tuong province. The enemy response to this saturation tactic has been to retire into the northern areas of Dinh Tuong province which were considered inaccessible due to low bridge clearances and massive canal obstructions.

During the 36-hour New Year's Truce period (311800H Dec-020600H Jan), the troops in the field were not engaged in any significant contact, although they received some automatic-weapons fire on 1 January while in interdictory positions along the Ba Rai Stream. On 7-8 January the MRF conducted a two-battalion search and destroy operation in the Don Nhon district of Vinh Long province where they established heavy contact with the enemy. Navy riverine units also came under heavy automatic-weapons fire from numerous positions along the Co Luong waterways. The assault forces maintained continual contact with the Viet Cong for six hours and during the ensuing battle killed 28 of the fiercely resisting insurgents. Cumulative enemy casualties consisted of 30 Viet Cong killed. There were eight U. S. soldiers and two sailors wounded in the two-day operation. On 10 January, after a brief

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maintenance period, the MACF commenced a riverine search and destroy operation in the Cai Be district of Binh Duong province. MACF 91 and 111, with elements of the 3/60th and 4/47th Infantry Battalions embarked, maneuvered single file up the narrow Tra Lot Stream, which is navigable only at high tide, and landed their troops. The riverine craft were then withdrawn into the deeper Thong Out Stream and Mekong River. Meanwhile Alfa Company of the 3/60th Infantry Battalion, which had been airlifted into the objective area, became isolated by intense enemy fire and suffered heavy losses, with one man killed and 32 wounded. Runned down and short of ammunition and supplies during the night, the Army units lost 21 killed and had 59 men wounded. The enemy lost 73 men in the bitterly contested battle. On 12 January, after a six-hour respite, the MACF, in response to an intelligence report of a large Viet Cong buildup in the Binh Phuoc district of Long An province, proceeded to the new objective area. Initial contact was made as riverine units of MACF 111 were preparing to land troops and were ambushed from the banks of the Vam Co Tay River, about 11 miles northwest of Co Cong. The enemy fire, consisting of B-40 rockets, recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire, was suppressed with flame throwers, 40-mm, 20-mm, rifle grenades and .50 caliber machine guns and the landing was conducted without further incident. There were seven Viet Cong killed and 44 bunkers destroyed in the two-day operation. There were no U. S. personnel or material casualties during this rapid-reaction operation. On 18 January

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while participating in Operation CORONADO X (18-19 January), the commanding officer of UDT 13 was killed, when the ATC, T-112-1, in which he was embarked, was struck by two RPG-2 (8-40) rocket rounds at the confluence of the Ben Tre and Ong Duong Streams about six miles southeast of Ben Tre in the Giong Trom district of Kien Hoa province. On 24 January YTB 785 was hit by an RPG-7 rocket on the My Tho River about 5 miles west of Dong Tam. The attack caused minor damage to the tug and slightly wounded one Navyman and one Vietnamese interpreter.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
January 1968

During the month the Fleet Command had a daily average of 25.4 ships available and a daily average of 21.8 ships employed. At the same time the Coastal Force employed a daily average of 167.5 junks of a daily average of 191.2 available, and the River Assault Groups employed a daily average of 129.1 of the 149.8 craft available. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese Marine Corps' six infantry and one artillery battalions were committed to operations 95 percent of the time. While Task Force A, in II CTZ, and the 5th and 6th Battalions, in the Capital Military District, made light contact with the enemy, Task Force B, operating west of My Tho, made heavy contact with the enemy on the 1st and 2nd and on the 19th and 20th.

The 1st and 2nd battalions partially surrounded the Viet Cong 261st Air Force Battalion during an operation 26 miles west of Dong Tam on the 1st. The close contact, small-unit battle ended on the 2nd when the enemy dispersed and evaded to the north leaving 85 of their number on the field; about others were captured, 14 suspects were detained, and 71 weapons were seized. The Marines had 28 killed and 83 wounded. On the night of the 19th at least three companies of the enemy's 261st or 261B Battalion attacked the positions of the 1st Battalion and Battery B, 15 miles west of Dong Tam. The combined mortar, rocket and infantry attack was beaten back by the Marines and U. S. Army helicopter gunships and

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CRAB Flareships. Thirty-seven Viet Cong were killed in the battle while the Marines had 20 men killed, 66 wounded and one man missing. Villagers along the enemy's escape route reported that 40 sampans bearing dead or wounded Viet Cong passed during the morning of the 20th.

On the 7th, Coastal Group 22 detained 71 Viet Cong suspects and seized one carbine while participating with an ARVN company from Binh Thuan, in a search just north of Qui Nhon. The soldiers captured six Viet Cong, detained 572 suspects and seized two automatic weapons and 131 pistols, 300,000 VND (\$2,342.00), \$265.00 US and a large quantity of foodstuffs. On 9th, a Coastal Group 43 reconnaissance team, aboard a junk, killed 18 Viet Cong, and wounded or killed several others who were carried away, when the junk was ambushed from the bank of the Qui Nhon River three miles downstream from the base at Kien An. The following day, the 10th, two enemy base camps in the MSSZ were destroyed by a combined force under the control of the MSSZ Commander. U. S. Army spotter aircraft located the camps and directed Regional Force troops embarked in A-1H 22 craft to them. U. S. Army and Navy helicopter fire teams provided area cover and close support to the troops and an ARVN 105-mm battery fired into the enemy area as the troops departed. Six Viet Cong were killed, five individual weapons were seized and two camps containing 12 buildings, two sampans and four tons of rice were destroyed in the 10-hour operation. On 19 January Operation AN 108 16/68, to reduce the enemy presence in Qui Nhon district, was conducted by the ARVN

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50th Regiment and AAG 27, along the Nam Co Dong River 15 miles southwest of Saigon. The sweeps killed one North Vietnamese soldier and 52 insurgents, captured two others and detained two suspects; twelve individual weapons were seized. Three ARVN soldiers were killed, 25 were wounded and five others are missing; there were no VNN casualties. About 0400 on the 20th, Coastal Group 11 junks, patrolling on the Qua Viet River, supported Dai Loc hamlet with machine gun and mortar fire and directed U. S. Marine artillery fire into the positions of the Viet Cong forces attacking the hamlet. Coastal Group 11 and USMC reaction forces were met by an estimated four companies of the enemy. By 1400 the outnumbered sailors were forced to withdraw south to the river while the Marines, to the east, were able to hold their positions until the enemy retreated. Thirty Viet Cong were killed by the sailors in the engagement and one man rallied under the Chieu Hoi program. Four VNN sailors were killed and 10 others and the two U. S. enlisted advisors were wounded. During the following two days, one junk was damaged by 57-mm recoilless-rifle fire and eight mines were detonated in the Qua Viet in the vicinity of Dai Loc hamlet, sinking one U. S. Navy LCM-8 and damaging three LCU's, one LCU-1, one LCU-8 and one civilian craft. Seven Vietnamese were killed, four sailors were wounded and two men from the sunk LCM-8 are missing in the incidents.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS
January 1968

The 1968 TET Campaign began on 1 January with the distribution of printed material designed to instill a desire for unity under the National Government. U. S. Navy units made loudspeaker broadcasts providing entertainment, news and Chieu Hoi appeals throughout the Coastal and Riverine areas. The TET holiday season (30 January through 1 February) provided a significant opportunity for psychological exploitation as this is a time of family reunions. During the month the USS LUZERNE COUNTY (LST 902), a logistical support ship operating in IV CTZ, performed broadcasts as it transitted the Mekong and Bassac Rivers. This is the first time that a broadcast from a large U. S. ship had been made in the Delta. On 22 January, two junks from Coastal Group 37 received heavy automatic-weapons fire as a Vietnamese Navyman made a live broadcast in Kien Hoa province.

Navy units continued to perform MEDCAPs and Civic Action projects throughout the country in addition to their primary mission of prosecuting the war. Each Coastal Group in the Third Coastal Zone has assumed a civic action project as the program continues to improve. Fifteen tons of soap received from CARZ was supplied to the Coastal Zone Advisors and PBR River Sections for distribution to the poor and needy villagers along the coast and in the Deltas. On 4 January, the Viet Cong ambushed four PBRs that had just completed a MEDCAP in Ton Duong village,

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5 miles northwest of Sa Dec, wounding two members of a PF security force. The enemy fire was suppressed and PBR personnel extinguished fires started in the village by Viet Cong grenades. In the RS02, River Section 542 continued to support a village that they adopted last September. The River Section provides Tan Thach village with a monthly R ICAP and shoes, clothing and toys. The majority of the material presented to the village is received from a Sacramento Kiwanis Club. The "can do" Seabees continue their splendid efforts to aid and teach the villagers and refugees so that they might be able to proudly say that they too can say "can do".

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
January 1968

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>OAME WARDEN</u>	<u>Mobile Riverine Force</u>
Detections	48,896	74,398	*
Inspections	22,226	16,390	*
Boardings	11,312	41,411	*
Craft detained	1	*	0
Persons detained	318	*	416
Viet Cong suspects	3	*	*
Hostile fire incidents	18	*	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	36(26 prob)	117	114
b. Wounded	11	32	3
c. Captured	0	33	24
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	2	1
b. Wounded	3	61	8
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	23	155	2
(2) Structures	28	320	221
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	1	8	0
(2) Weapons	0	22	124**
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	0	*	381
(4) Rice (tons)	0	6.5	2.7
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	19	142	*
(2) Structures	58	75	2
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	1(MSB)	0
(2) Helicopters	0	0	0
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	1	20	3
(2) Helicopters	0	6	0
SAR missions	5	0	0

Remarks:

* Information not applicable or not available this date.

** Includes hand grenades.

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INA/VNCG STATISTICAL SUMMARY
January 1968

VIETNAMESE NAVY**

	Searched		Retained	
	Junks	People	Junks	People
<u>COASTAL FORCE</u>				
I AZ	12,414	33,122	0	62
II AZ	8,239	22,513	4	126
III AZ	7,953	31,145	0	0
IV AZ	3,949	10,546	0	0
Sub-totals	32,555	97,326	4	188
<u>FLEET COMMAND</u>				
<u>PATROL SHIPS***</u>	1,003	4,152	2	0
<u>RIVERINE ALFA</u>				
<u>CHAPT</u>	4,927	15,581	2	7
<u>TOTAL</u>	38,485	117,059	8	195

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS**

VC/ALA: 154 KIA 35 CAPTURED 68 SUSPECTS RETAINED

ARPC: 59 KIA 208 KIA 1 KIA

Remarks:

* 1 to 30 January

** 1 to 28 January

*** Conducted 42 gun fire support missions during November.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
January 1968*

PROGRAMS:

	<u>Man Days</u>	<u>Expenditures (VN\$)</u>
Economic Development	25	2,500
Education	440	82,774
Social Welfare	1,155	1,375,921
Transportation	102	111,020
Refugee Assistance Support	138	1,500
TOTALS	1,860	1,573,715

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS:

VN\$ 102,942

US/PMAP ASSISTANCE TO GVN PROGRAMS:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Type of Assistance</u>
Market Place	1	Material
Latrine	1	Technical Advice

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	<u>Number</u>
Hospitals/dispensaries	42
Schools	13
Orphanages	4
Others	4

PERCENT OF U. S. CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH:

	<u>Percent</u>
Other PMAP	5.4
RVNAP	3.0
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	7.3
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	43.0

Remarks:

- * Reporting period is 26 December 1967 - 25 January 1968. This is the new format for the USN Civic Action Statistical Summary.

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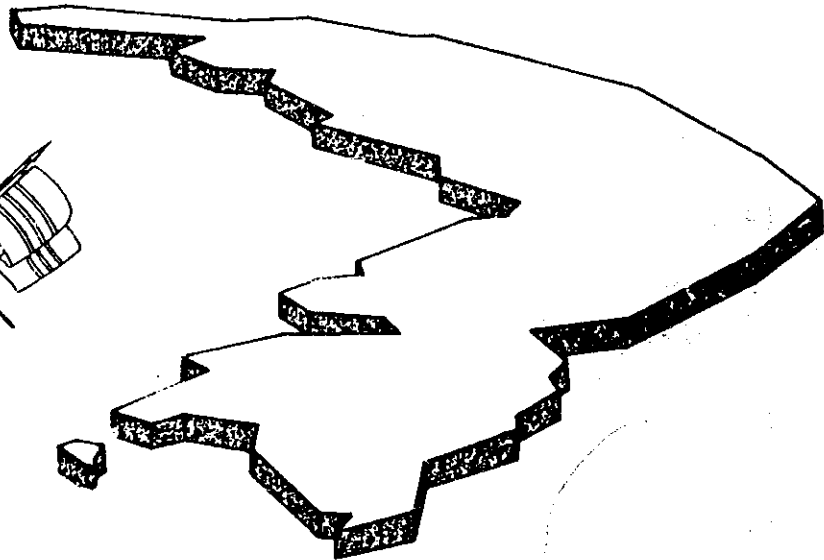
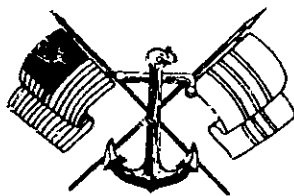
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MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT JANUARY 1968

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List VIII A(2), B(1), C(1)

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UNITED STATES

NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT

JANUARY 1968

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FOREWORD

On 30 January the second Congressional Medal of Honor to be presented a Navyman for heroism in Vietnam was awarded posthumously to Seaman David G. OUELLET who sacrificed his life to save his shipmates in a Mekong Delta river battle. He was serving with River Section 532, part of the Navy's Operation GAME WARDEN anti-infiltration force in the Mekong waterway complex.

The citation describes OUELLET's actions:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty serving with River Section 532, in combat against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. As the forward machine gunner on River Patrol Boat (PBR) 124, which was on patrol on the Mekong River during the early evening hours of 6 March 1967, Seaman OUELLET observed suspicious activity near the river bank, alerted his Boat Captain, and recommended movement of the boat to the area to investigate. While the PBR was making a high-speed run along the river bank, Seaman OUELLET spotted an incoming enemy grenade falling toward the boat. He immediately left the protected position of his gun mount and ran aft for the full length of the speeding boat, shouting to his fellow crewmembers to take cover, and pushed the Boat Captain down to safety. In the split second that followed the grenade's landing, and in the face of certain death, Seaman OUELLET fearlessly placed himself between the deadly missile and his shipmates, courageously absorbing most of the blast fragments with his own body in order to protect his shipmates from injury and death. His extraordinary heroism and his selfless and courageous action on behalf of his comrades at the expense of his own life were in the finest tradition of the United States Naval Service.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1 Jan - Vietnamese Marines come in heavy contact with the Viet Cong 261st Main Force Battalion. Eighty-five Viet Cong are killed, eight captured and 71 weapons seized. Marines suffer 28 killed and 83 wounded. p. 131.
- 2 - The GAME WARDEN support base at Nha Be is attacked with 75-mm recoilless rifles. Two Navy men are wounded and MSB 22 is destroyed. p. 25.
 - SEALs, accompanied by a Hoi Chanh, are landed about 12 miles southeast of Can Tho. A Viet Cong security element is discovered and six Viet Cong are killed in the ensuing fire fight. Two huts are destroyed along with 800 pounds of rice. p. 43.
- 3 - The task force organization of TF 116 is revised to effect a greater responsiveness and enhance the coordinating capability of the elements of the River Patrol Force. p. 52.
- 4 - Three PBRs are ambushed by a Viet Cong company on the Mang Thit river, 13 miles southeast of Vinh Long. One crewman is killed and three are wounded. Enemy casualties are unknown. p. 34.
- 8 - PBR 738 is ambushed and suffers a direct hit from a B-41 rocket. Eight Navy men and one civilian are wounded in the attack. p. 28.
 - General Leonard F. CHAPMAN, Jr., Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps, visits the MRF at Dong Tam and is briefed on the riverine concept and plans for the MRF's expansion. p. 103.
- 9 - GAME WARDEN forces commence operations on the Hue River and surrounding areas in I Corps Tactical Zone for the second time. p. 24.
- 10 - A Coastal Group 43/44/45 reconnaissance team engages a Viet Cong platoon, killing 18 of the enemy and capturing two individual weapons. Three VNN sailors are killed. p. 120.
 - "Seawolves" attack a high-level Viet Cong meeting near the mouth of the Ba Lai river. The helicopters kill 17 Viet Cong and wound 23. There are no friendly casualties. p. 42.

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- 10 Jan - Elements of TF 117 and the 2nd Brigade, U. S. NINTH Infantry Division, become heavily engaged with the Viet Cong 261st Main Force Battalion. At the end of the operation 21 U. S. Armymen are killed and 59 wounded. Viet Cong suffer 73 killed. p. 61.
- 11 - Following an ambush on a PBR patrol, SEALs are landed south of the ambush site and encounter an enemy bunker. In the following fire fight one SEAL is killed. Five Viet Cong are killed. p. 47.
- 16 - Operation CORONADO IX, which commenced on 2 November, is terminated. Cumulative results are 434 Viet Cong killed and 611 suspects detained; friendly forces suffer 76 killed and 374 wounded. p. 64.
- 18 - PBR 153 is ambushed by an estimated Viet Cong platoon armed with rockets, 57-mm recoilless rifles, automatic weapons and small arms. Four crewmen and one Vietnamese Maritime Policeman are wounded. Enemy casualties are unknown. p. 30.
- USCGC BERING STRAIT (WMEC 382) fires her 5-inch guns against an estimated enemy company 27 miles north of Ca Mau Point. Six Viet Cong are killed, four wounded and numerous structures and sampans are destroyed or damaged. p. 13.
- 19 - Operation AN DAN 16/68, conducted by RAG 27 units and the ARVN 50th Regiment along the Vam Co Dong river, 15 miles southwest of Saigon, results in 52 Viet Cong and one NVA soldier killed and two Viet Cong and 12 individual weapons captured. Three ARVN soldiers are killed, 25 wounded and five declared missing. p. 123.
- 20 - Viet Cong attempt to disrupt shipping on the Cua Viet River with a campaign of minings and ambushes. The campaign continues for several days and results in one LCM-8 sunk, eight other boats damaged, two U. S. Navy men killed and 18 wounded. p. 75.
- Coastal Group 11 junks support Dai Loc hamlet during an attack on the hamlet by an estimated four companies of Viet Cong. Coastal Group sailors and U. S. Marines engage the enemy and kill 30 Viet Cong. Friendly casualties consist of four VNN sailors killed and 18 wounded, including two U. S. advisors. p. 111.

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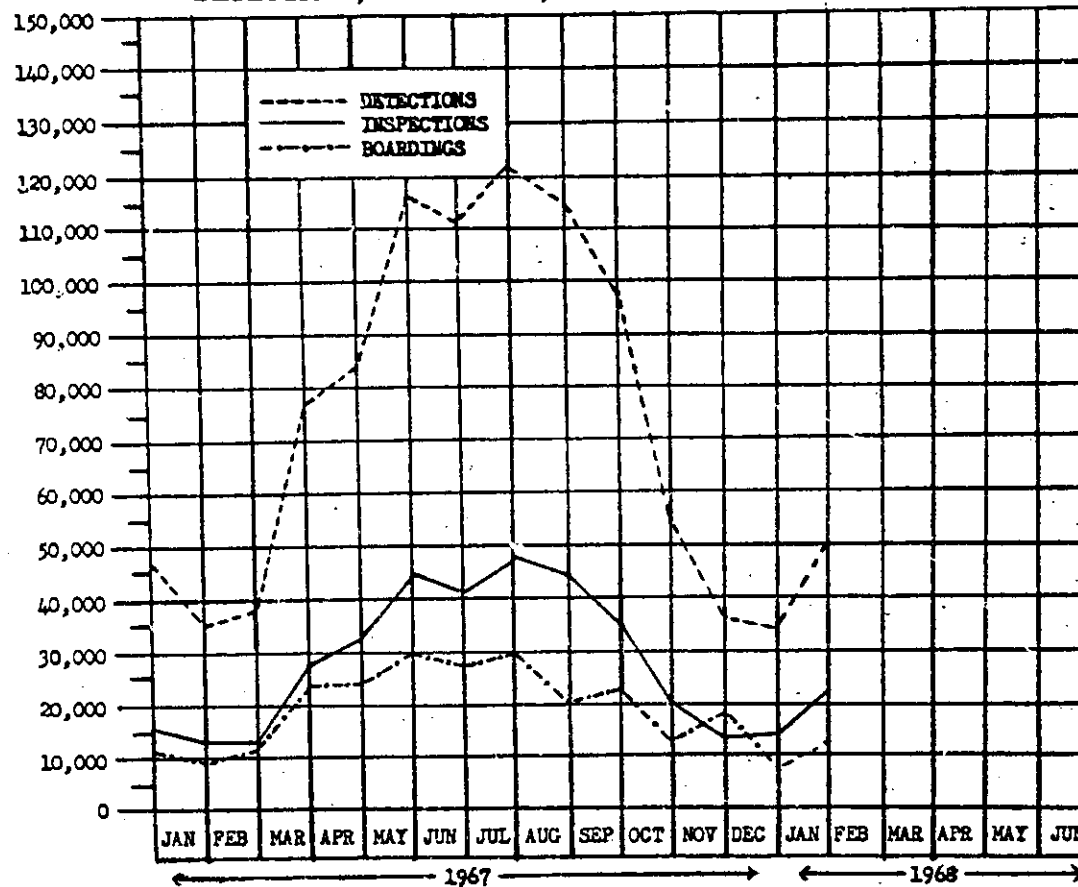
- 24 Jan - PCF 10, supporting a joint U. S./Vietnamese amphibious operation, conducts a gunfire mission against a Viet Cong company on Phu Quoc Island. An estimated 15 Viet Cong are killed and four bunkers and three houses are destroyed. p. 13.
- 29 - PCF 62 attempts to stop an evading sampan, eight miles south of Qui Nhon. Three grenades are thrown into the Swift boat from the sampan, wounding the Officer in Charge and one other crewman. PCF 62 destroys the sampan with .50 caliber machine gun fire and kills the occupants (probable). p. 7.
- 31 - Seabees suffer three men killed and 47 wounded from enemy attacks and booby traps during the month. p. 91.
- A Cam Ranh Bay STABLE DOOR patrol surfaces and captures a Viet Cong swimmer. The incident marks the first time in STABLE DOOR history that an enemy swimmer has been captured. p. 19.
- NAVSUPACT Danang personnel set 16 new monthly tonnage records despite numerous hostile fire incidents and enemy attacks. p. 73.
- GAME WARDEN forces come to the aid of Chau Doc, the capital of Chau Doc Province, after the city is attacked by an estimated 1,400 Viet Cong. During the heavy fighting which followed throughout the day one U. S. sailor is killed and four are wounded. At least 20 Viet Cong are killed. p. 48.
- A 13-man Viet Cong "Sapper" squad assaults the VNN headquarters building in Saigon. Ten of the Viet Cong are killed and two captured. p. 107.

Total number of U. S. Navy personnel under the operational control of NAVFORV stands at 27,840. In addition, U. S. Navy personnel assigned to III Marine Amphibious Force number 3,589; Coast Guard numerical strength is 456.

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

During January Coastal Surveillance Force activity increased as units of Operation MARKET TIME and Operation STABLE DOOR detected 93,376 craft along South Vietnam's coastline and harbors; 25,086 of these craft were inspected and 14,997 were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 53 craft and 438 persons.

In response to the heavy fighting which erupted throughout Vietnam during the last days of the month, coastal surveillance forces continually aided allied forces with gunfire support, and all units maintained alert and aggressive patrols.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

During January there was an increase in Operation MARKET TIME activity as the heavy seas and inclement weather associated with the northeast monsoon season abated in the northern coastal zone, thus allowing all MARKET TIME stations to be manned throughout a high percentage of the month. MARKET TIME units detected 48,856 junks and sampans during the month, an increase of 14,265 over December's total. Over 40 percent of the detected craft were inspected and over 20 percent were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 43 craft and 338 persons. In addition, 1,500 steel-hulled craft were detected transitting MARKET TIME areas. Meanwhile, MARKET TIME units supported four ground operations, conducted 152 naval gunfire support missions and were engaged in 13 hostile fire

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incidents during the month. The majority of the gunfire support missions were fired in the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones where fair weather prevailed throughout the month.

First Coastal Zone

Although the weather in the northern areas of the First Coastal Zone was unpredictable during January, routine MARKET TIME activity increased as the zone's patrol units detected 15,804 junks and sampans during the month, an increase of over 7,000 from December's total. More than 6,700 of the detected craft were inspected and over 3,700 were boarded.

On 2 January, while investigating a suspicious junk approximately 19 miles north of Danang, PCF 99 was fired upon from the beach. The Swift boat returned the fire immediately and, when permission was granted, also destroyed the junk. No friendly personnel casualties resulted from the fire fight.

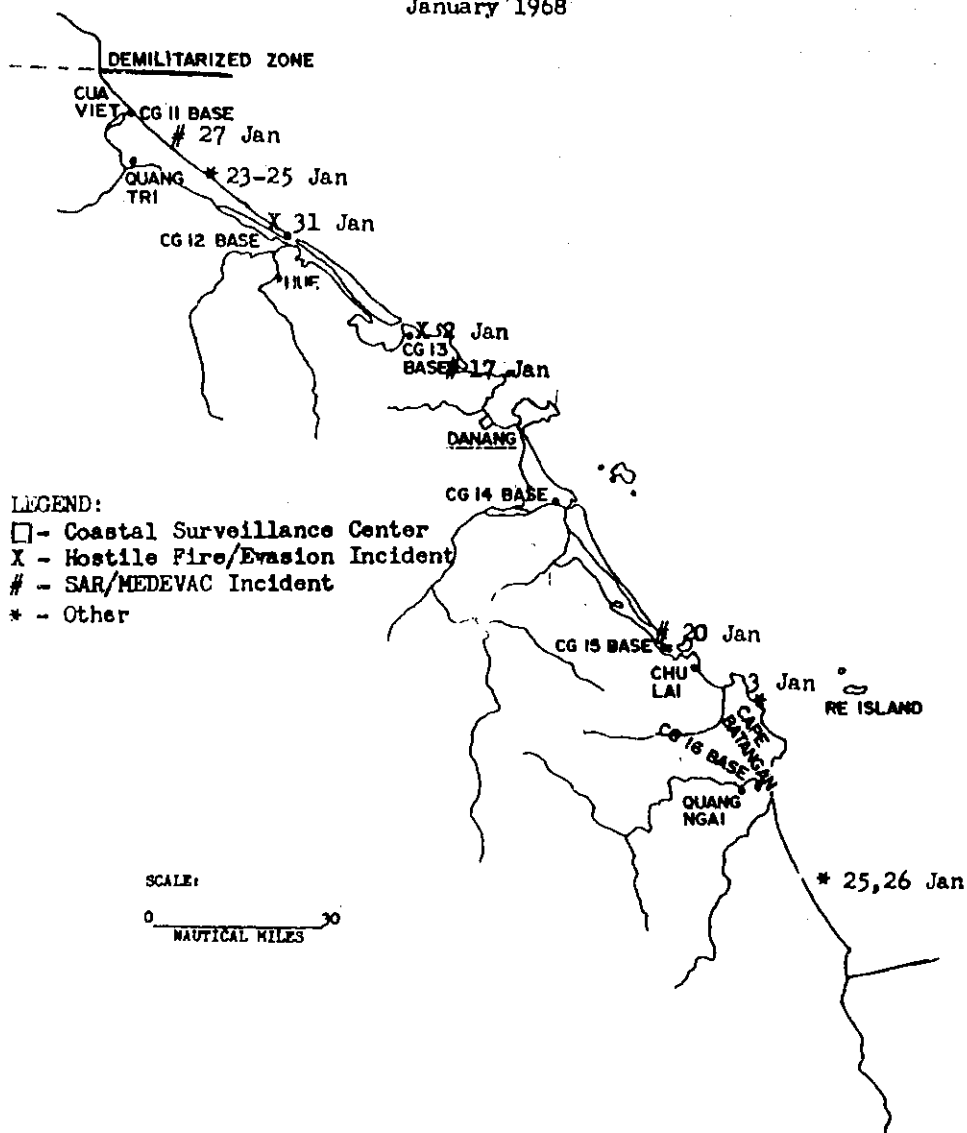
On the 22nd PCF 55 provided immediate naval gunfire assistance to the Vietnamese Navy's Coastal Group 14, which was receiving heavy harassment fire approximately 13 miles southeast of Danang on the coast of the South China Sea. After suppressing the enemy fire with .50 caliber machine gun fire, the Swift boat resumed her normal patrol.

On the 31st two males in a sampan attempted to evade as PCF 19 approached to inspect the craft. As the occupants beached their

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OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE
January 1968



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craft they were captured by members of the U. S. Marines' 5th Platoon, B Company, 3rd Shore Party Battalion. The Swift boat stood by 200 yards from the beach and contacted the Marines who later turned the detainees over to the Vietnamese Navy's Coastal Group 12 for further investigation.

First Coastal Zone units participated in three SAR operations during January. On the 17th PCF 27 was called upon to search for a helicopter which had reportedly crashed approximately 11 miles north-northeast of Danang. Slightly more than an hour after commencing the search the Swift boat sighted a light on the beach. A nearby Marine unit was directed to the scene and found two survivors out of a crew of four. PCF 27 continued to provide illumination for the search until relieved by PCF 16. PCF 16 was joined by USS FORTIFY (MSO 446) and the two units continued the search with negative results, although some debris and an oil slick were found.

On 20 January PCF 20 received a report of a downed helicopter approximately six miles north of Chu Lai. The Swift boat, aided by helicopters, recovered three of the four crewmembers, and the PCF located the wreckage and provided cover for divers who recovered the ammunition from the downed helicopter.

On the 27th the Coast Guard cutters POINT GLOVER and POINT WELCOME aided in the search for a man overboard from the USS VALLEY

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FORGE (LPH 8) approximately 52 miles northwest of Danang. The search was terminated with negative results.

MARKET TIME units from the First Coastal Zone also supported three ground operations during the month. On the 3rd PCFs 15 and 57 provided blocking services against possible enemy exfiltration in an area approximately six miles northwest of Cape Batangan in support of Operation MUSCATINE, a joint U. S. Army/Vietnamese Army operation.

From the 23rd through the 25th, USCGC POINT ARDEN and a PCF provided anti-infiltration/exfiltration services in support of Operation BADGER CATCH, which took place along the coast of Quang Tri province.

On the 25th and 26th the Coast Guard cutter POINT YOUNG provided blocking services for a sweep by elements of the U. S. Army's 11th Infantry approximately 21 miles southeast of Cape Batangan.

Second Coastal Zone

During January coastal junk and sampan traffic also increased in the Second Coastal Zone as 19,885 craft were detected, an increase of more than 7,000 from December's figure. More than 9,500 of the detected craft were inspected and over 3,700 were boarded.

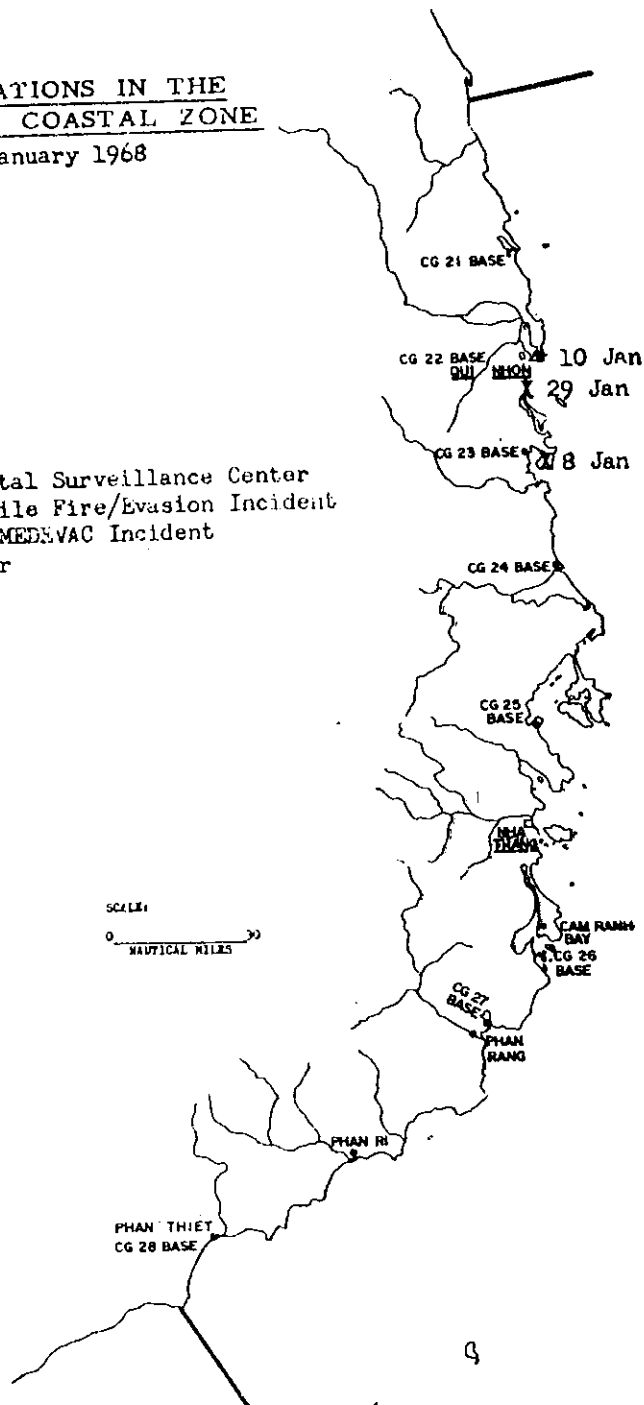
On 8 January, in response to a request from sector authorities, PCF 63 took a deserted village approximately 22 miles south of Qui Nhon under fire after seeing four Viet Cong flee into the

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OPERATIONS IN THE
SECOND COASTAL ZONE
January 1968

LEGEND:

- ☐ - Coastal Surveillance Center
- X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
- # - SAR/MEDEVAC Incident
- * - Other



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village. The Swift boat destroyed the large building which the evading personnel were seen to enter, as well as four additional surrounding structures.

On the 29th PCF 62, on a routine MARKET TIME patrol along the coast of Binh Dinh province, eight miles south of Qui Nhon, sighted an unlighted sampan heading toward the beach. The Swift boat illuminated the sampan and one man was observed manning the tiller. As the Swift boat drew closer to the sampan five or six persons in green and khaki uniforms were observed lying in the bottom of the craft. The sampan failed to heed the signals from the Swift to stop, and as the patrol boat drew still closer, one of the sampan's occupants arose and threw a grenade which exploded on the fore-castle of the PCF, wounding the Officer in Charge. Two more grenades were thrown, one bouncing down into the Swift boat's cabin and the other landing on the starboard side main deck, wounding another crewman. The Swift then opened up on the enemy with .50 caliber machine gun fire, destroyed the sampan and killed the occupants (probable). Although moderately damaged, PCF 62 proceeded to Qui Nhon under her own power after being relieved on station by another Swift boat.

A Second Coastal Zone PCF provided blocking services in support of ARVN and Korean units approximately four miles east of Qui Nhon on 10 January.

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Third Coastal Zone

The aggregate of junk and sampan traffic remained low in the Third Coastal Zone during January as only 4,261 craft were detected, approximately the same number that were detected during December. Over 2,200 of the detected craft were inspected and over 1,200 were boarded. The Zone's PCFs were occasionally forced to seek less areas to escape heavy winds and seas during the month.

Although routine coastal craft detections were low, Third Coastal Zone units were kept busy during the month as they responded to numerous requests for naval gunfire support and engaged in several hostile fire incidents.

On 4 January PCF 98 received hostile fire while conducting a training exercise approximately 125 miles southwest of Saigon. The Swift boat returned and suppressed the enemy fire, and, as a result, destroyed three sampans, three bunkers and numerous huts and fish nets.

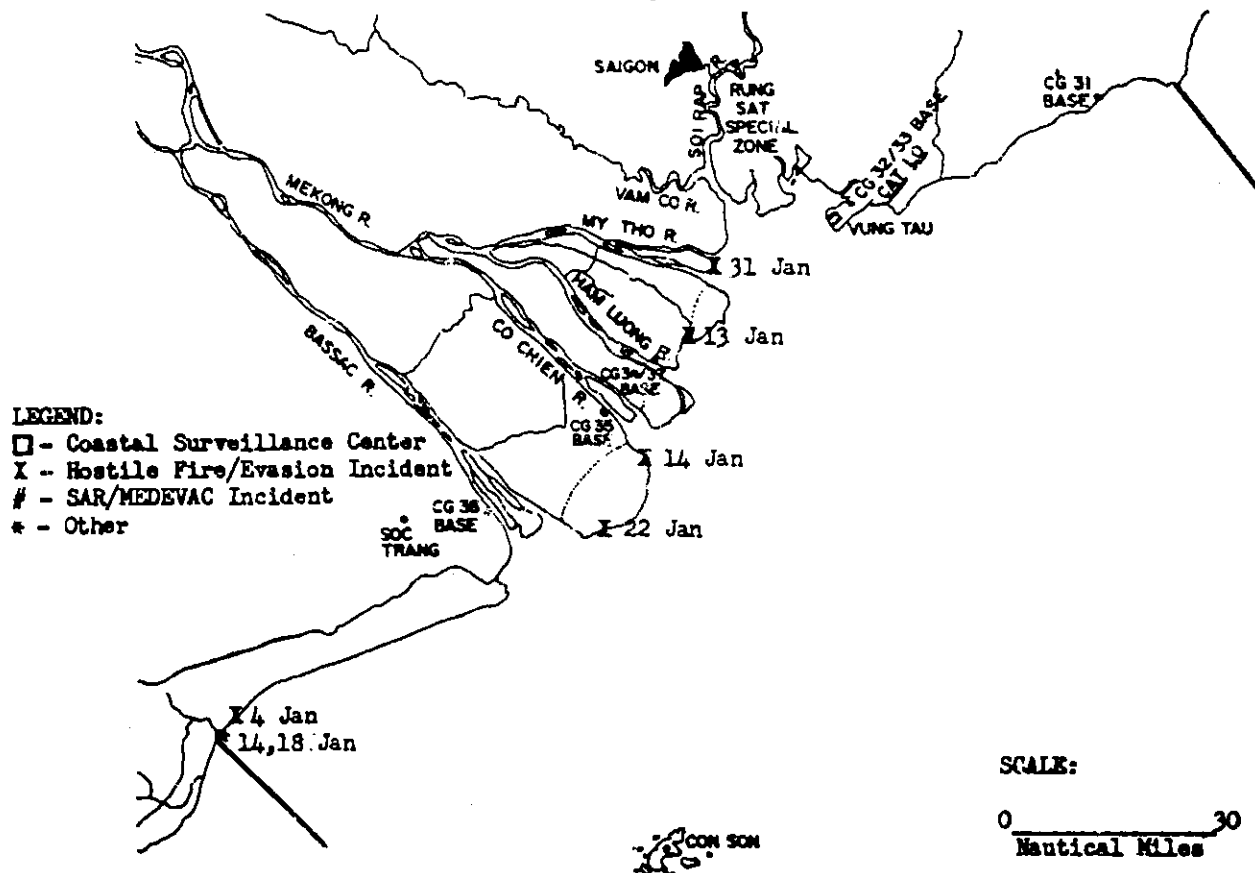
On the 13th, PCF 24 received hostile fire from the beach approximately 43 miles south of Saigon while on a routine patrol. The PCF returned and suppressed the enemy fire, and, in so doing extensively damaged one structure.

On the 14th, in response to a request from sector authorities, PCF 98 conducted a firing mission on enemy bunker concentrations approximately 125 miles southwest of Saigon. As a result of the

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OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE

January 1968



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Swift boat's firing, four sampans, one bunker and four structures were destroyed.

Also on the 14th the Coast Guard cutter POINT KENNEDY responded to a request from subsector authorities to conduct a gunfire mission against several sampans which were beached in the Long Toan Secret Zone. While conducting the mission the WPB received heavy hostile fire from the beach. The fire was returned and suppressed, and two sampans were damaged.

The Coast Guard cutter POINT GRACE took enemy structures and fish nets 125 miles southwest of Saigon under fire on the 18th. The firing resulted in two fish nets and three structures damaged.

POINT KENNEDY fired a harassment and interdiction mission on lights which were observed on the beach in the Long Toan Secret Zone on the 22nd. The WPB's firing produced one large explosion and several secondary explosions from which flames were visible 40 to 60 feet above the tree line. The cutter received and suppressed intermittent small-arms fire during the mission.

On the 31st PCF 36 took a beached sampan, with four occupants, under fire 32 miles south of Saigon. The occupants successfully evaded to the tree line but the sampan and its cargo were extensively damaged.

Fourth Coastal Zone

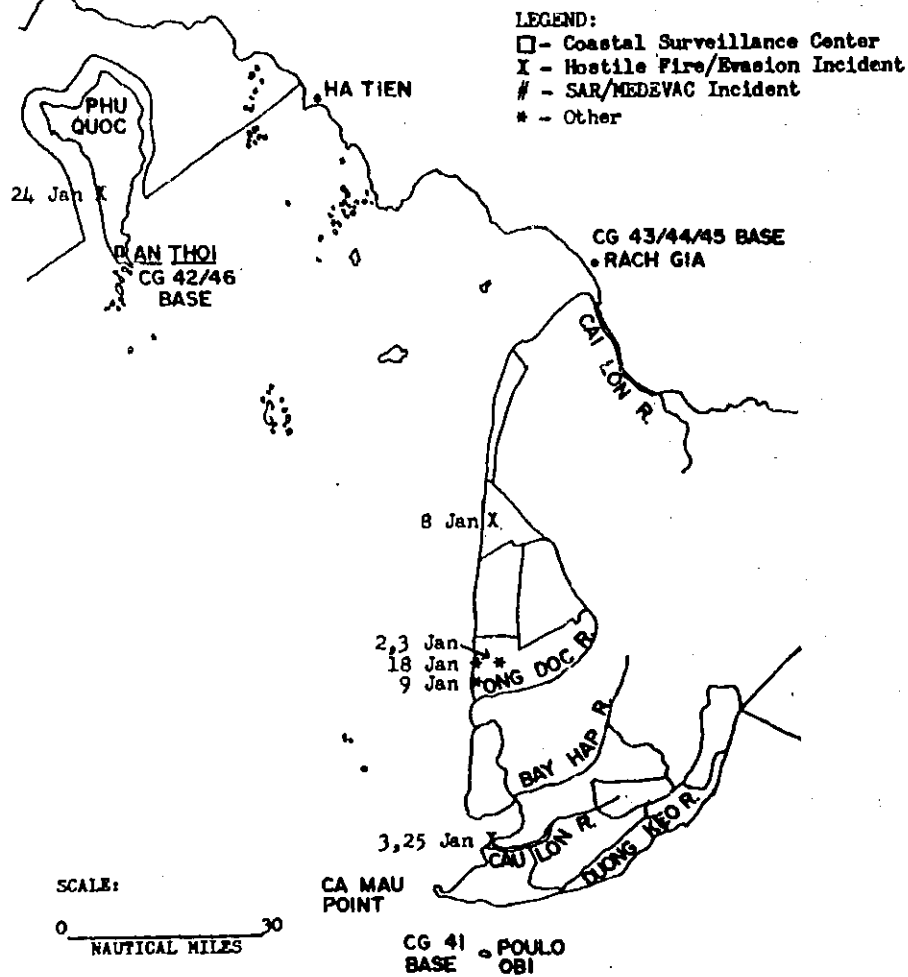
Fair weather prevailed in the Fourth Coastal Zone during the

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OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE

January 1968



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month of January, thus allowing MARKET TIME units to remain particularly active. The Zone's patrol units detected 9,001 junks and sampans during the month, an increase of approximately 1,100 from December's total. Over 2,800 of the detected craft were inspected and more than 2,400 were boarded. In addition, Fourth Coastal Zone units were involved in numerous hostile fire incidents and gunfire support missions during the month.

On the 2nd of January USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68) carried out a gunfire mission against an enemy position approximately 30 miles north-northeast of Ca Mau Point in the Gulf of Thailand. Responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne spotter, the cutter destroyed two structures and four sampans, damaged nine structures and six sampans, and killed two enemy troops and wounded three others. On the 3rd, ANDROSCOGGIN fired a second mission on the same general area. The results of the mission, which was requested by U. S. Army authorities at Song Ong Doc, included two structures destroyed, four structures and two sampans damaged, and one Viet Cong killed and several wounded.

Also on 3 January PCF 9 received hostile automatic-weapons fire while on a routine patrol approximately eight miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. While closing the beach to return and suppress the fire, one U. S. Navy crewman suffered a bullet wound in the right thigh. The hostile fire was suppressed and the Swift boat's

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guns killed one Viet Cong and wounded several others.

On the 8th, while closing the beach to investigate a suspicious sampan, PCF 6 received hostile small-arms fire from the tree line approximately 49 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The Swift boat returned and suppressed the fire and destroyed the sampan.

In response to a request from U. S. Army authorities at Song Ong Doc, PCF 50 fired on a suspected enemy troop concentration 25 miles north of Ca Mau Point on 9 January. As a result of the firing, one Viet Cong was killed and three were wounded.

On 18 January USCGC BERING STRAIT (WHEC 382) fired her 5-inch guns on an estimated enemy company 27 miles north of Ca Mau Point. As a result of the cutter's firing, two structures and one sampan were destroyed, six structures were damaged, six Viet Cong were killed and four were wounded.

On 24 January, in support of a joint U. S./Vietnamese amphibious operation, PCF 10 conducted a gunfire mission against a reported Viet Cong company on the central west coast of Phu Quoc Island in the Gulf of Thailand. Four bunkers and three houses were destroyed and an estimated 15 Viet Cong were killed as a result of the Swift boat's firing.

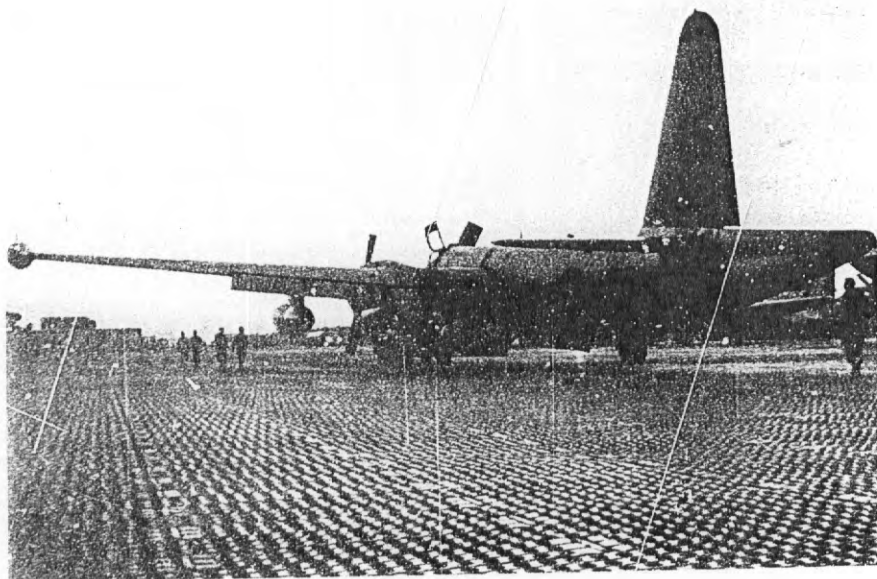
PCF 94 was directed to investigate suspicious sampan activity eight miles northeast of Ca Mau Point on 25 January. As the Swift closed to investigate, small-arms fire was received and suppressed.

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One sampan was beached and the three occupants attempted to evade by burying themselves in the mud. The three Viet Cong were killed after all efforts to effect their surrender failed.

MARKET TIME UNITS

During the month of January the Vietnamese Navy had an average of eight PGMs, two PCEs, and one MSC assigned daily to MARKET TIME forces.



The crew of a Navy Neptune SP2H patrol plane prepare to board their craft for a MARKET TIME aerial surveillance patrol.

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At month's end aircraft from three patrol squadrons were providing air surveillance for Operation MARKET TIME. A detachment of Patrol Squadron TWO (VP 2) flew SP-2H Neptunes from Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon and a detachment of VP 17 flew Neptunes from Cam Ranh Bay. Meanwhile, a detachment of VP 26 flew P-3B Orions from U-Tapao, Thailand.



The bow observer of an SP2H Neptune patrol plane studies the markings of a cargo ship during a routine MARKET TIME aerial surveillance flight off the coast of South Vietnam.

Throughout the month the following U. S. SEVENTH Fleet ships operated as MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:

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		<u>Dates</u>
DER 251	USS CAMP	10-31
DER 324	USS FALGOUT	17-31
DER 400	USS HISSEM	1-10
DER 325	USS LOWE	1-26
LST 819	USS HAMPSHIRE COUNTY	1-12
LST 1146	USS SUMMIT COUNTY	10-31
MSC 207	USS WHIPPOORWILL	12-31
MSO 426	USS CONFLICT	1-12, 30-31
MSO 432	USS DYNAMIC	12-30
MSO 435	USS ENDURANCE	1-12, 30-31
MSO 433	USS ENGAGE	12-20
MSO 446	USS FORTIFY	20-30
MSO 456	USS INFLICT	12-30
MSO 449	USS IMPERVIOUS	12-30
MSO 455	USS IMPLICIT	1-12, 30-31
MSO 491	USS PERSISTENT	1-12, 30-31
MSO 209	USS WOODPECKER	1-12
PG 84	USS ASHEVILLE	1-7, 7-31
PG 85	USS GALLUP	1-7, 7-31
WHEC 68	USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN	1-4
WHEC 382	USCGC BERING STRAIT	24-31
WHEC 32	USCGC CAMPBELL	8-28
WHEC 33	USCGC DUANE	1-8, 25-31
WHEC 387	USCGC GRESHAM	1-17
WHEC 67	USCGC MINNETONKA	28-31

MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
January 1968

1. U. S. Ships/Craft:

	<u>DER</u>	<u>MSO</u>	<u>MSC</u>	<u>WPB</u>	<u>PCF</u>	<u>PG</u>	<u>LST</u>	<u>WHEC</u>
Daily average number of craft on patrol	2	4	1	14	32	2	1	3

2. U. S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY	<u>31,693</u>	NIGHT	<u>17,163</u>	
	STEEL - DAY	<u>759</u>	NIGHT	<u>741</u>	<u>50,356</u>
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY	<u>13,528</u>	NIGHT	<u>6,698</u>	
	STEEL - DAY	<u>501</u>	NIGHT	<u>493</u>	<u>21,220</u>

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TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD - DAY	<u>8,140</u>	NIGHT	<u>3,171</u>	<u>11,385</u>
	STEEL - DAY	<u>54</u>	NIGHT	<u>20</u>	
TOTAL DETAINED	JUNKS	<u>43</u>	PEOPLE	<u>338</u>	

OPERATION STABLE DOOR

During January Operation STABLE DOOR patrols detected 43,020 junks and sampans; 3,866 of these were inspected and 3,612 were boarded.

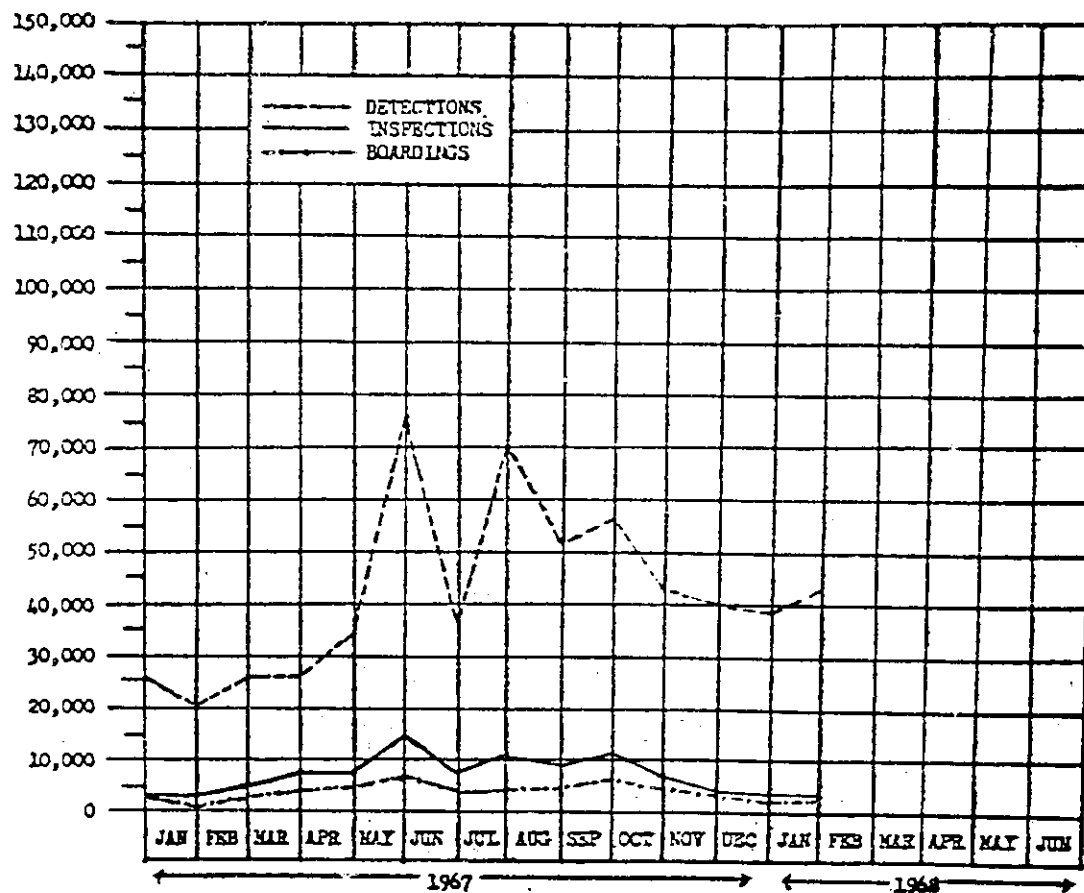


A U. S. Navy "Boston Whaler" Skimmer speeds across the waters of an inner harbor on an Operation STABLE DOOR (Harbor Defense) patrol.

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS



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