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established three artillery fire support bases (FSPBs) on the main canals, and bunkered in for the Truce period. The first Truce violation in the area of operations occurred at 2100, just three hours after the Truce period began, when 10 rounds of mortar fire were received by one of the FSPBs.

Due to repeated Viet Cong Truce violations, COMUSMACV rescinded the Truce directive at 0945 on 30 January, less than 16 hours after it went into effect. The cessation of the Truce was followed by reports of massive Viet Cong attacks on My Tho, Ben Tre, Vinh Long and Can Tho in the IV Corps area. As the general situation rapidly deteriorated, contingency plans were immediately put into effect to withdraw to the MRB in order to better react to requests for reinforcements from the besieged major provincial cities of the Mekong Delta.

On the afternoon of 31 January, two infantry companies of the MRF were airlifted from the area of operations; one to assist in the defense of Vinh Long Airfield, which was under heavy attack, and the other to reinforce the base defenses at Dong Tam. Later that evening the remaining infantry companies, embarked in their riverine craft, conducted a nighttime withdrawal from the Ruong Stream, the scene of a devastating battle on 4 December.

At month's end the general situation in the immediate area of the MRF was as follows:

1. In Vinh Long an attack was mounted by an estimated 1,200

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Viet Cong whose order of battle was evaluated as including the 306th and 308th Main Force Battalions (400 men each), the D857 Provincial Main Force Battalion (250 men), the District Consolidated Unit (DCU) Cho Thanh (50 men) and the DCU Tam Binh (50 men). Enemy attacks were launched against the Vinh Long Airfield and from two directions on the city of Vinh Long. Local defending forces included a squadron of the 2nd Armored Cavalry (ARVN), the 43rd Rangers (ARVN), a company of U. S. infantry men from the MRF, plus Vietnamese Navy RAG craft and CAME WARDEN IBRs.

2. At My Tho an estimated 1,200 guerrillas attacked the one-time quiet provincial city. Viet Cong units included the 261st Main Force Battalion, the 263rd Main Force Battalion, the 514th Local Force Battalion, and the 207th Local Company. Principal defending units included a squadron of the 6th Armored Cavalry and a battalion of the 11th Infantry Regiment (both ARVN), supplemented by Vietnamese RAG units and U. S. Navy PBRs.
3. At Ben Tre an attack was launched by Viet Cong forces presumed to include the 518th Main Force and the 516th Local Force Battalions.

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#### RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE UNITS

On 3 January a PACV demonstration was held for 18 members of

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the news media. The press party, which included representatives from AP, UPI, ABC and CBS, was briefed on the capabilities of the air-cushioned vehicle by Commander Coastal Division SEVENTEEN, and also observed a demonstration of the vehicle's ability to operate over land and water.

Meanwhile, on the same day, the PACV ramp, less than a mile away, came under sporadic small-arms fire, which caused a bullet hole in a PACV. This was the first hit sustained during this deployment; however, there was no significant damage and no personnel casualties.

On 12 January USS BENEWAH (APB 35) returned to the MRB after completing a highly successful three-week restricted availability alongside USS TUTUILA (ARG 4), during which time all three ship's service AC generators were replaced. The next day RIVFLOT ONE and the 2nd Brigade staffs moved back aboard the ship along with RAD 112 which assumed the duties as MRB defense force.

Later in the day, Underwater Demolition Team TWELVE, composed of three officers, two civilians and eight enlisted men, arrived at Dong Tam with one of four Aqua Darts to commence an evaluation program. The other three experimental craft were to be airlifted to the MRF at a later date. The Aqua Dart evaluation program was instituted to determine the feasibility of utilizing these unique boats for reconnaissance applications with the MRF.

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At 141200, CTF 117 shifted his flag from USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST 1167) to BENEWAH.

On 20 January USS COLLETON (APB 36) returned to the MRB from a restricted availability at the Subic Bay Naval Shipyard, and the MRF once again became fully mobile. All ship's service generators were replaced and ship's alterations included the expansion of on-board medical facilities.

The next day USS WASHTENAW COUNTY (LST 1166) relieved WESTCHESTER COUNTY as the MRF supply support ship.

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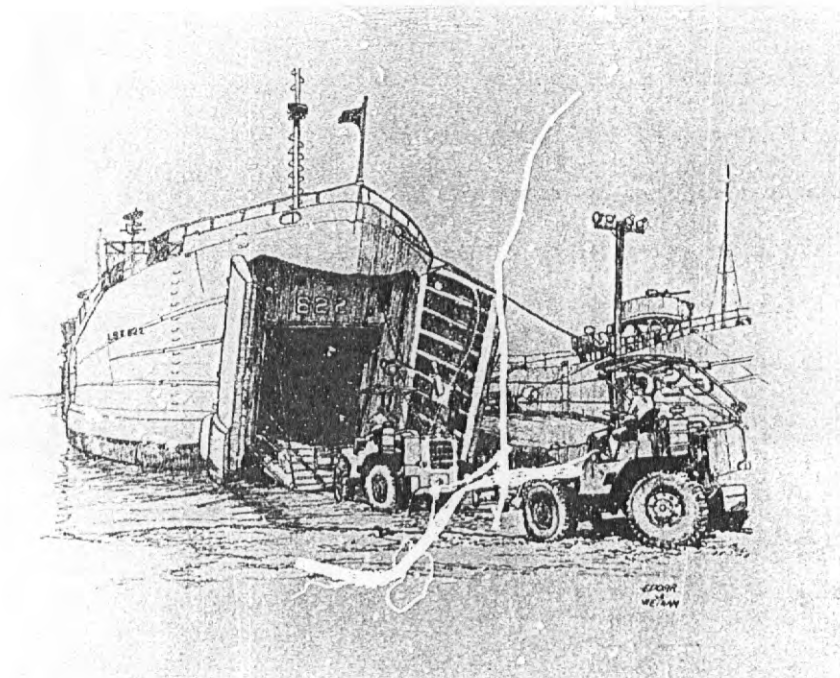
NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

Despite numerous hostile fire incidents and enemy attacks, which inflicted a large number of personnel injuries and extensive material damages, Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang, off-loaded and cleared a record amount of strategically significant equipment and cargo during the month of January. The record-breaking efforts of the NAVSUPPACT personnel, under the most difficult conditions, was indicative of the attitude and professional pride which has been instilled at NAVSUPPACT Danang. A total of 16 new monthly tonnage records were set during January by NAVSUPPACT Danang. Among the records were: 306,743 short ton throughput at Danang, 23,891 short ton throughput at Hue, and 419,888 short ton total throughput for the combined I Corps Tactical Zone ports. Unseasonably good weather throughout the month contributed to the record-shattering performance.

Overall net supply effectiveness for the Danang/Chu Lai support complex increased slightly from 91.5 percent in December to 91.7 percent in January; overall gross effectiveness increased from 87.8 percent to 88.0 percent.

A total of 86,115 line items were stocked by NAVSUPPACT Danang in January. A new NAVSUPPACT Danang Supply Catalog consisting of 11,477 items was published during the month and distributed on 31 January.

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LST 822 unloads its cargo at one of NAVSUPPACT Danang's detachments in I Corps Tactical Zone.

Weather and sea conditions during January permitted normal fuel transfer operations at all sites. During the month two 60,000-gallon capacity AMMI fuel barges and one 10,000-gallon bladder boat were added to the Tan My/Hue and Cua Viet/Dong Ha fuel shuttle assets. Danang fuel facilities incurred light damage during enemy attacks on the 3rd and 30th of January. A total of seven tanks sustained shrapnel or concussion damage and, at month's end, repairs were being made by NAVSUPPACT Danang personnel.

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The Viet Cong initiated an extensive campaign to disrupt U. S. shipping on the Cua Viet River on 20 January. The campaign, which consisted primarily of the mining and ambushing of boats, continued for several days and resulted in one LCM-8 being sunk, eight other boats damaged, two U. S. Navymen killed, and 18 wounded.

On the 20th, two NAVSUPPACT Danang craft received heavy small-arms fire while proceeding from Dong Ha to Cua Viet. Two Navymen were wounded during the incident.

An LCM-8 attached to NAVSUPPACT Danang was mined on the Cua Viet River on 21 January. The explosion of the first mine triggered a second explosion close astern of the craft which destroyed both port engines, blew the starboard engines off their mounts and wounded one crewmember.

On the 22nd, an Army LCU observed two underwater explosions, one forward and one aft of the craft, while transitting the Cua Viet River. The LCU's radios, engines, and generators were rendered inoperative by the explosions. Additional damage included buckling of bulkheads and deck plates and flooding of the engine room. No personnel injuries occurred as a result of this incident.

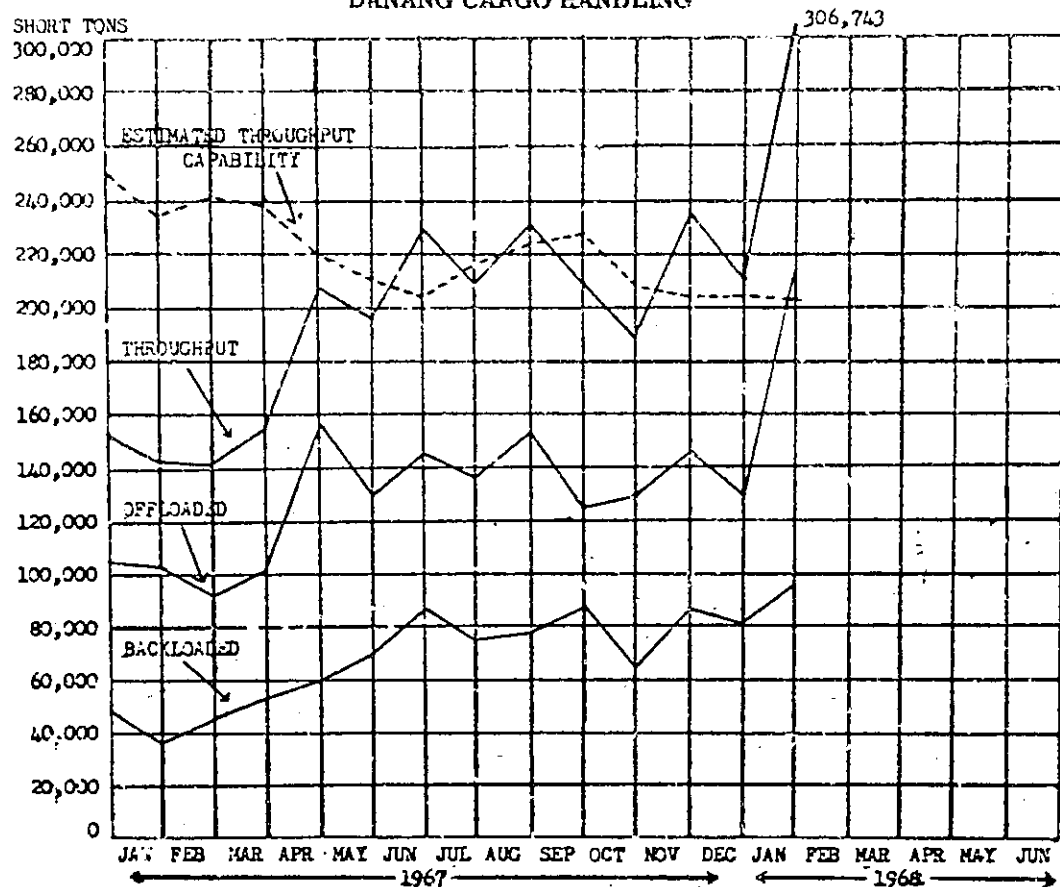
Also on the 22nd, a NAVSUPPACT Danang LCU observed an underwater explosion which caused minor damage throughout the craft and rendered the radios, radar, and port generator inoperative. No personnel casualties resulted from this Cua Viet River mining attempt.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

76

# DANANG CARGO HANDLING



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YFU-62, assigned to NAVSUPPACT Danang, observed an underwater explosion very close aboard while transitting the Cua Viet on the 23rd. The explosion caused extensive damage to the craft's radios, radar and piping. No hull or machinery damage resulted from the mining.

On the 24th an LCM-8 attached to NAVSUPPACT Danang was mined on the Cua Viet River and sank. Two men were killed and two were injured as a result of the mining. The craft's cargo of cement and B-rations was lost. The LCM was following two minesweeping boats and another LCM. Six additional LCMs were following the mined craft at intervals of 50 to 100 yards, and were undamaged.

Also on the 24th, a NAVSUPPACT LCM-6 was mined while sweeping for mines ahead of a convoy. Two crewmembers suffered minor injuries and the craft was disabled by the explosion.

On 25 January a boat convoy en route to Dong Ha from Cua Viet was ambushed by heavy small-arms, rocket and recoilless-rifle fire which originated from My Loc village. During this encounter LCU 1619 received a recoilless-rifle hit in her starboard quarter. The craftmaster and one other crewmember were injured but the LCU was able to proceed to Dong Ha under her own power, accompanied by another LCU. The remaining craft in the convoy, several of which were damaged, and one of which contained five wounded crewmembers, returned to Cua Viet. Air strikes and naval gunfire were called in upon the site of the ambush during the afternoon of the 25th, and

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on the 27th normal river traffic resumed with continuous mine-sweeping being conducted by two sweep boats and one patrol boat.

The frequency of rocket attacks on Danang-area facilities was the highest to date with four significant attacks sustained. Major damage to facilities and utilities resulted from the attacks, but was expeditiously repaired by NAVSUPPACT Danang personnel.

Danang harbor security personnel detained 92 junks and 311 suspicious personnel during the month. The craft and personnel were turned over to Naval Advisory Group personnel for further



Lieutenant Commander EARLY (right), USN, operates on a patient while two U. S. Navy enlisted Hospital Corpsmen assist him.

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investigation.

Admissions to the NAVSUPPACT Danang hospital reached a record high during January with 1,357 patients, 657 of whom were battle casualties, admitted during the month. A daily record of patients handled in a 24-hour period occurred on 31 January when 139 patients, including 113 combat casualties, were admitted. An additional 140 patients were received and further transferred to other medical activities. One ward of the hospital expansion program was occupied under emergency conditions on 31 January, bringing the total capacity of the NAVSUPPACT Danang hospital to 567 beds.

At month's end, the NAVSUPPACT Danang personnel level was 8,854 and the number of United States and other free world forces supported by NAVSUPPACT was 152,375.

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The wreckage of a NAVSUPPACT Saigon UH-34D helicopter lies in an alley in Saigon after an Army helicopter was forced to drop the UH-34D during an unsuccessful salvage attempt.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

The various detachments of NAVSUPPACT (Naval Support Activity), Saigon, were subjected to intense enemy attacks on 31 January. These attacks, which were part of the Viet Cong's Tet (Lunar New Year) major offensive campaign, caused extensive damage at several of the detachment sites, but all detachments quickly regained at least partial operational status. NAVSUPPACT, Saigon's Vinh Long detachment was the hardest hit of the detachments. Vinh Long's operations center, supply storerooms, and all of the detachment's communications facility were completely destroyed by fire. The detachments experienced sporadic Viet Cong harassment for several days following the major attacks.

The NAVSUPPACT Saigon detachment at Nha Be also came under enemy attack earlier in the month. Ten rounds of 75-mm recoilless-rifle fire landed in the vicinity of the pier area during the early morning hours of 2 January. The attack, which originated from across the river in the Rung Sat Special Zone, slightly wounded two U. S. Navy personnel and heavily damaged MSB 22. The minesweeper was later surveyed.

NAVSUPPACT Saigon's aircraft inventory diminished as a result of the Viet Cong Tet Offensive. On 31 January a UH-34D helicopter received strike damage while performing an emergency ammunition resupply mission to the NAVSUPPACT Saigon headquarters building.

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While the pilot was attempting to land the aircraft on the roof of the building, ground fire hit the aircraft's tail rotor causing a complete loss of control. Two of the five crewmembers aboard the helicopter were injured (one slight) as a result of the crash. Later, during salvage operations by an Army CH-47 (Chinook) helicopter, the ill-fated UH-34D became entangled in the building's roof structure and the CH-47 pilot was forced to drop the Navy helicopter, which fortunately fell into the yard of a nearby apartment house causing minor property damage, but no injuries. Two NAVSUPPACT C-117s also were damaged on the 31st during the Viet Cong attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base. One of the aircraft received only superficial damage; however, the second received serious damage that necessitated its being flown to NAS Cubi Point, Phillipines, for repairs. On 1 February all scheduled logistics flights were suspended until further notice and all remaining available aircraft were utilized to fly only combat essential airlift missions in an effort to help repulse the Viet Cong offensive.

A total of 3,688 passengers and 475,616 pounds of cargo were transported by NAVSUPPACT Saigon aircraft during January. During the same period, assigned surface craft transported a total of 2,038 short tons of cargo.

During January, NAVSUPPACT Saigon's overall gross and net material support effectiveness decreased slightly from December's

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figure to 64.4 percent and 79.3 percent respectively.

The inquiry into Army Common Item Listing (CIL) support by the Inspector General (IG) of the First Logistical Command was completed during January. The effectiveness of the corrective actions recommended by the IG were not measurable at month's end because of the turmoil generated by the country-wide Viet Cong attacks. It was the intention of the Army to support only 393 of the original General Use Consummable List items through their facility at Vung Tau. At month's end CIL support was still considered unsatisfactory, and an alternate support program was being developed by NAVSUPACT Saigon.

At month's end an integrated, updated River Patrol Boat (PBR) MKI and MKII Depot Level Maintenance Load List had been developed by NAVSUPACT Saigon. The list set forth the hull, mechanical, electrical and electronics material requirements to provide support for activities performing depot level maintenance. New parts have been identified and were being ordered for stock. The YR-9, which will be positioned at Vinh Long, will use the integrated list as its stocking guide.

Action was continuing to expedite the procurement of PBR parts which were in short supply during the month. The part support posture was improving with air shipments of priority parts being effected from CCNUS. Items which were under close monitoring were

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springs, gasket kits, fiberglass kits and exhaust valves.

During January the Secretary of the Navy approved the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the USS TUTUILA (ARG 4) for vital logistic support provided U. S. and other Free World forces during the period 17 July 1966 to 1 September 1967.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

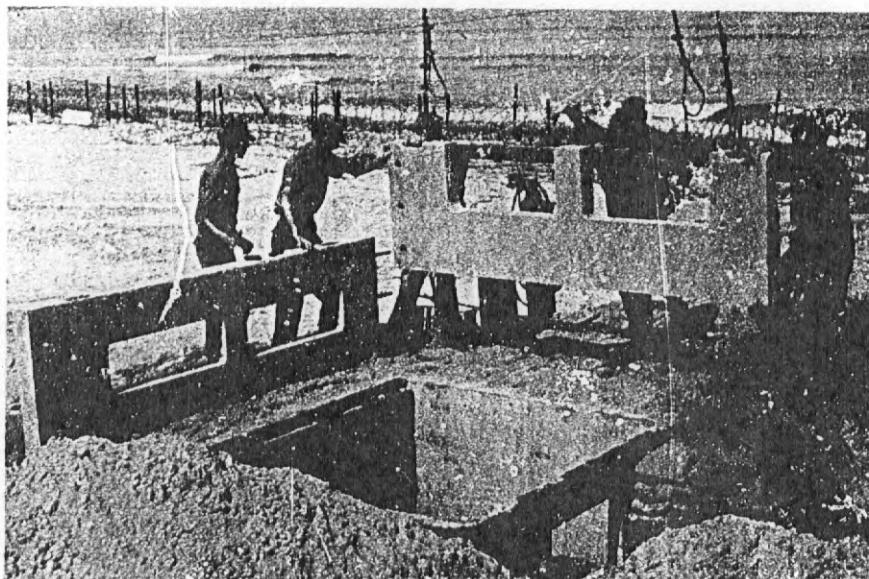
During the month of January unseasonably good weather enabled the Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (MCBs) to accomplish a significant amount of strategically important construction. Construction during the last few days of the month, however, was hampered by the heavy fighting which erupted during the Vietnamese New Year (Tet) period.

Among the many construction projects completed by the Seabees during the month were approximately 6.5 miles of pipeline along Route 551, which connected the storage facility at Hue with the port of Tan My, and a 3,000-barrel storage tank at Hue. These projects were completed by MCB 3 which also completed four bridges on the Hue by-pass road and several other projects during the last month of its deployment at Phu Bai.

MCB 5 completed five large modules in the Ammunition Supply Point at Dong Ha, thereby doubling its capacity. An extension of a messhall, 100 tin roof huts, five butler buildings, a bakery and a fire station were among other projects completed during January by MCB 5 in the Dong Ha cantonment area.

At Chu Lai, MCB 6 completed a primary power substation in addition to completing three 40- by 100-foot butler buildings, and an ammunition supply point for the Army's Americal Division. The first section of the permanent electric power system was also

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Seabees construct one of a series of berms to be used to separate ammunition stockpiled in the Dong Ha area.

energized during the month.

Prior to being relieved by MCB 53, MCB 7 completed the Naval Support Activity Danang blood bank and urology building. Other projects completed by MCB 7's Danang-based Seabees included an operating services building, an armory and the third increment of the Camp Tien Sha barracks rehabilitation project.

MCB 9, working from its Danang camp, completed a 375-foot approach bridge to the Liberty Bridge, and continued work on the main bridge which will span the Thu Bon River.

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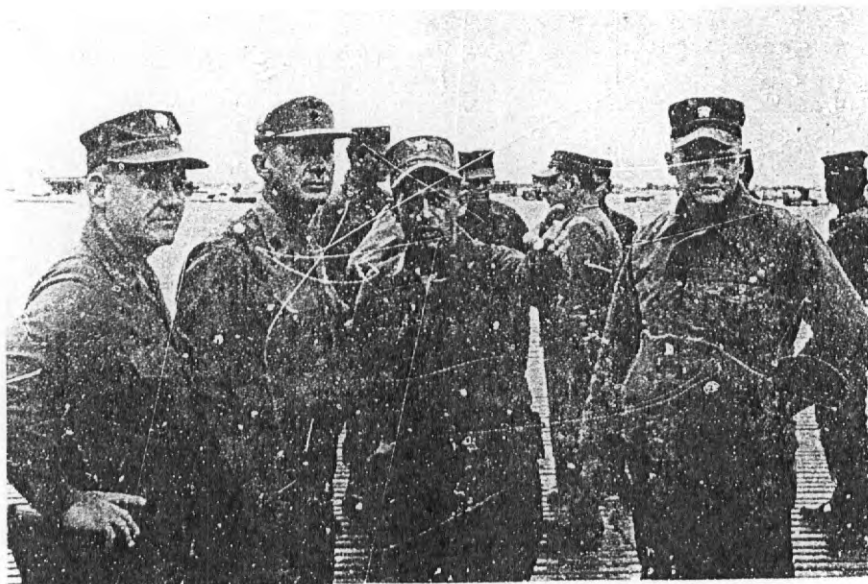
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At Quang Tri, MCB 10 completed the soil cementing for a 90,000 square yard helicopter pad during the month. This formidable project was completed in less than two weeks. Two supply warehouses and 30 tin roof huts were also constructed during the month by the Seabees of MCB 10. When the Army's 1st Cavalry Division moved into the Quang Tri area during January, MCB 10 became involved in numerous direct combat support projects, including pioneer roads, tactical fueling stations, a helicopter parking pad, and a dirt airstrip. At Khe Sanh, a detachment of MCB 10 completed a 16- by 72-foot dispensary, eight 16- by 32-foot tin roof huts, and a generator shed. The detachment also installed two generators and temporary distribution lines to all buildings at the Special Forces Camp.

During the month, General William C. WESTMORELAND, Commander, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, visited Camp Haskins at Danang to review several modified precast concrete bunkers which may be used by free world forces in Vietnam. The newly designed precast bunkers were constructed by MCB 58. General WESTMORELAND was accompanied on his inspection tour of the bunkers by Lieutenant General Robert L. CUSHMAN, Commanding General, Third Marine Amphibious Force, and Lieutenant General Hoan Xuan LAM, Commanding General, Vietnamese Forces in I Corps.

Possibly the largest project of the month was the completion of a Helicopter Repair Facility for the Army's 1st Air Cavalry

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Commander G. H. SCHLEY, CO of MCB-74 points out some of the aspects of the construction effort of the Red Beach Helicopter Pad to LCOL J. C. EMERSON, (second from left), Commander, 15th Transportation Corps Battalion. Others in the picture are Commodore C. W. TURNER, (left), Commander, 30th Naval Construction Regiment and LCDR E. W. THOMAS, (right), MCB-74 Operations Officer.

Division. MCB 74 was primarily responsible for this project which was constructed adjacent to the Seabees' Camp Haskins at Danang. The facility was turned over to the Deputy Commanding General of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, by Rear Admiral James V. BARTLETT, Commander, 3rd Naval Construction Brigade, during a ceremony on 15 January. Throughout the construction of the facility, MCB 74 received various types of assistance from MCBs 7, 9, 58, 62 and 128.

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Seabees prepare to place a section of matting at the Helicopter Maintenance Facility for the 1st Air Cavalry at Red Beach.

Another helicopter facility at Phu Bai was completed by the Seabees of MCB 121. The 60,000 square meter facility was turned over to the Army at the end of January. Among other projects completed by MCB 121 during the month were four bridges on Route #1 between Phu Bai and Phu Loc.

MCB 128 completed several important projects during the month. These projects included a rigid frame shop building for the NAVSUP-  
FACT Danang small craft repair facility, two 20- by 120-foot two-story wooden frame barracks and a 4,416 square foot headquarters

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building for the Army's 212th Aviation Company.

In addition to the numerous projects completed, many significant projects were also begun during January.

Two high priority projects were begun at Quang Tri city by MCB 10. One of the projects was the Integrated Wideband Communication System facility at the MACV compound and the other was the rehabilitation of the electrical and plumbing systems at the Quang Tri hospital. This latter project was being sponsored by CORDS as part of the aid program for the Quang Tri area.

In Chu Lai MCB 40 and MCB 6 were combining forces to construct a 400-bed hospital expansion for the Army's 44th Medical Brigade. The first phase, which at month's end was 75 percent complete, consisted of three 50-bed wards, X-ray buildings, laboratory extensions, central supply room expansion, a BCQ and two barracks. MCB 40 was also continuing work on the cargo handling facilities for NAVSUPACT Danang's Chu Lai detachment. MCB 6 had completed one-third of the Chu Lai primary power distribution system at month's end.

Enemy attacks on base camps and work sites continued to inflict extensive damages and numerous personnel injuries during January. Enemy attacks during the month resulted in three Seabees being killed and 47 wounded. An MCB 6 Seabee was killed near Tam Ky on 4 January when enemy groundfire hit the helicopter in which he was a passenger. An MCB 9 Seabee was killed on 14 January when an enemy grenade was

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thrown into the security bunker which he was occupying at a construction site near Danang. The third Seabee death was a result of an enemy rocket attack on MCB 3's camp at Phu Bai on 31 January. Bobby traps, road mines, hostile small-arms fire and rocket and mortar attacks on the camps and work sites of MCBs 3, 5, 10, 58 and 53 caused the injuries to the 47 wounded Seabees.

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A school girl of Tan Thanh village appears mystified by the huge teddy bear and other toys, clothes and needed goods given to her and her friends by the people of Sacramento, California via the U. S. Navy sailors of River Patrol Boat Section 542.

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MILITARY PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS

The 1968 Tet Psychological Operations 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 conducted loudspeaker broadcasts providing entertainment, news and Chieu Hoi appeals throughout the coastal and riverine areas. The holiday season of Tet (Vietnamese Lunar New Year), celebrated 30 January through 1 February, provided a significant opportunity for psychological exploitation being a time of family reunions. Marking the first time that a major U. S. ship conducted broadcasts, the USS LUZERNE COUNTY (LST 902), a logistical support ship operating in the IV Corps Tactical Zone, participated while transitting the Mekong and Bassac Rivers.

There were definite indications that the Viet Cong had placed an increased emphasis on countering friendly psychological operations. It was reported that the enemy had ordered the people to destroy all allied leaflets distributed in Viet Cong-controlled areas. The guerrillas were ordered to fire on aircraft engaged in psychological operations and to assassinate the cadre associated with it. This apparent Viet Cong emphasis on countering the friendly operations was indicative that the program was adversely affecting the enemy's ability to maintain control of the population. On 22 January, two junks from Coastal Group 37 received heavy automatic-weapons fire

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as a Vietnamese Navyman made a live broadcast in Kien Hoa province.

Task Force 117 conducted waterborne speaker missions from assault craft during three different Mobile Riverine Force operations. The missions were conducted en route to, and in the area of, operations in Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa provinces. The waterborne speaker missions were quite effective in comparison to aerial speaker missions which were somewhat distorted due to the rapidly moving speaker platform. It was noted that the messages broadcast were understood and not ignored by the residents along the waterways as they listened attentively and responded by waving and with applause. It was estimated that a total of 21,500 persons were reached by the tape recorded messages during the six days of operations aboard the assault craft.

In addition to their primary mission of prosecuting the war, Navy units continued to perform Civic Action projects throughout the country. In honor of the Tet celebrations, parties were held and presents distributed to the children. In the Second Coastal Zone Coastal Group 26 entertained 1,250 children. All the parties included games, refreshments and usable gifts of soap, toothpaste, toys and candy to each child. Each Coastal Group in the Third Coastal Zone has assumed a civic action project as the program continues to improve. The majority of the civic action performed around the junk bases was in the form of self-help projects wherein

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the villagers do most of the work. In this manner the participants are instilled with a pride of accomplishment. Fifteen tons of soap received from CARE was supplied to the Coastal Zone Advisors and PBR River Sections for further distribution to the needy villagers along the coast and in the Delta. The Vietnamese Navy continued to attend to the needs of their countrymen. In the Fourth Coastal Zone the Vietnamese hospital ships conducted medical civic action projects in 12 villages. There were 3,439 medical, dental and surgical patients treated. In addition, food and clothing was distributed to 5,650 needy families.

On 4 January, after having just completed a MEDCAP and delivery of school supplies at Tan Duong village, located five miles northwest of Sa Dec, PBRs from River Section 513 came under enemy attack. An estimated squad of Viet Cong opened fire on the patrol boats and the Vietnamese outpost with automatic weapons and rifle grenades. The PBRs immediately shifted from their role of humanitarian back to that of a fighting unit and engaged the enemy. The Viet Cong fire was soon suppressed and the PBR sailors evacuated two wounded Popular Force troops and assisted in extinguishing fires started in the village by the enemy grenades.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, River Section 542 continued to support a village that they had adopted last September. Although not unique, it typifies the interest that navy units have in the

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people of this war-torn country. The PBR sailors make frequent visits to the village bringing medical assistance and needed goods. The poor villagers accepted clothes, shoes and toys from their friends, the PBR sailors and those that they had never met--the citizens of Sacramento, California. Through the instigation of LT Ronald J. CALHOUN, USN, assistant officer-in-charge of the River Section, and his father, Mr. William G. CALHOUN, president of the Southeast Sacramento Kiwanis Club, "Project Vietnam" was started. Much needed supplies were soon en route to Vietnam for those in need in a gesture of friendship.

Throughout the country, whether it be near a Mobile Construction Battalion camp or at Seabee Team sites, the "can do" Seabees continued their splendid efforts to aid and teach villagers and refugees so that they too might be able to proudly say "can do".

The following is a tabulation of certain civic action projects conducted during January by U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces.

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

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US/FWMAF 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:

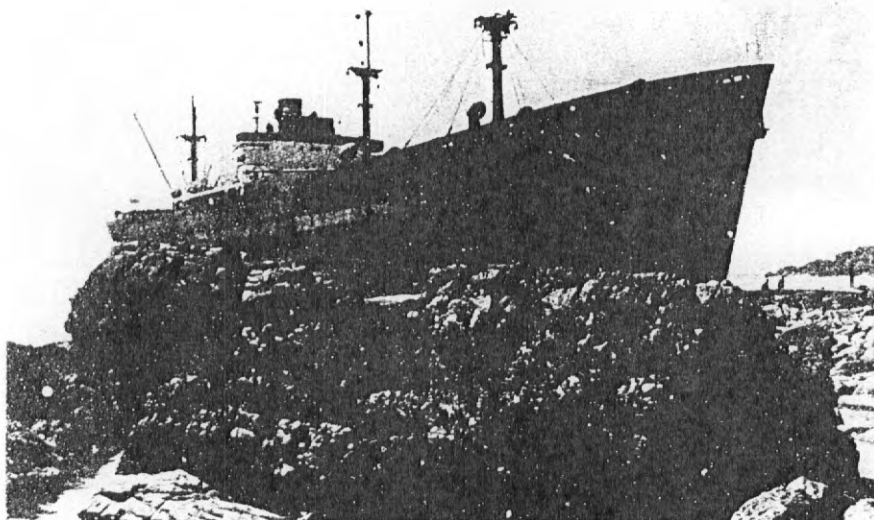
	<u>Percent</u>
Other FWMAF	5.4
RVNAF	3.0
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	7.3
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	43.0

Remarks:

Reporting period is 26 December 1967 - 25 January 1968.

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The Greek-registered merchantman SS IOANNIS "K" hard aground on the southwest tip of Cape St. Jacques (Jung Rau).

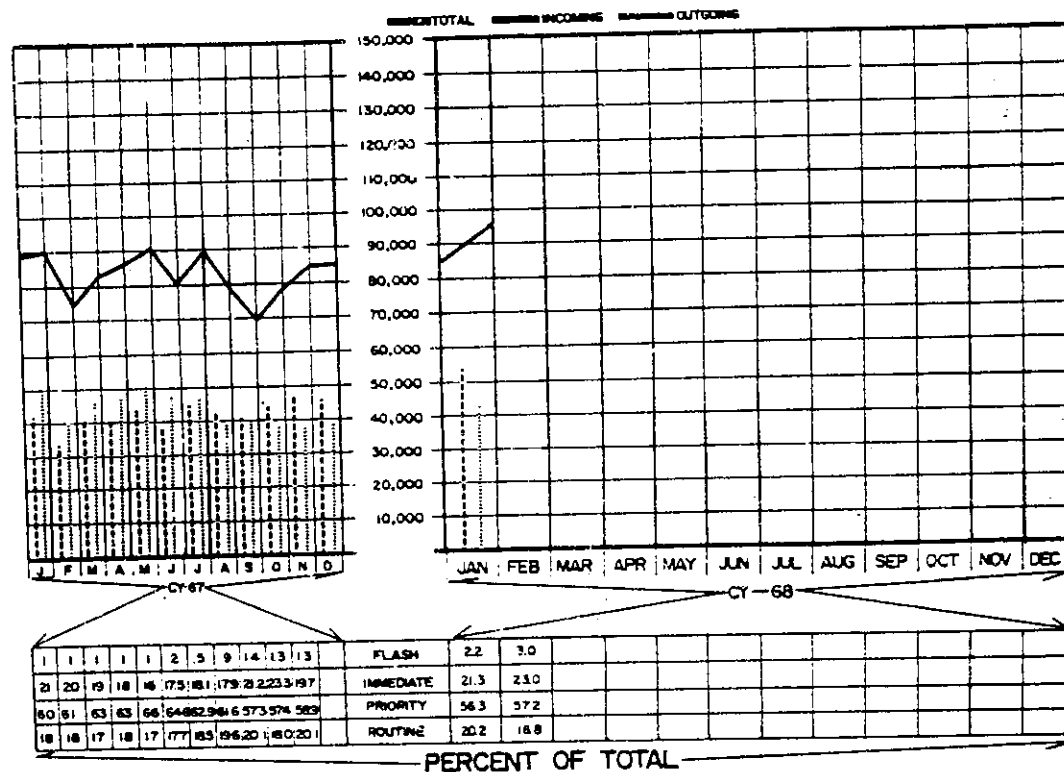
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# MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 4 January SS IOANNIS "K" ran hard aground on the southwest tip of Cape St. Jacques (Vung Tau). Harbor Clearance Unit ONE salvage units, based at Vung Tau, and U. S. SEVENTH Fleet salvage ships, USS DELIVER (ARS 23) and USS LIPAN (ATF 85), rushed to the scene to commence salvage operations.

On 6 January HCU 1, Team FOUR personnel commenced diving operations which revealed that most of the ship's double bottoms were open to the sea and that the engine room was flooded. After eight days of exhaustive salvage operations, which were seriously hampered by 20-25 knot winds and high seas, the disabled ship's owners decided that salvage operations on the Greek-registered freighter were economically unfeasible. The U. S. Navy was released from all responsibility for the stricken ship and the salvage operation was terminated on 13 January.

On 8 January HCU 1, Team ONE, embarked in YLLC-4, arrived at My Tho to resume salvage operations on the sunken Tan Thach ferry landing. The flooded pontoon was 60- by 52-feet across the center and weighed approximately 300 tons. The pontoon was divided into nine separate compartments, several of which were ruptured by the Viet Cong explosion which had sunk the landing. After several days of patching the ruptured compartments, the pontoon was dewatered and brought to the surface on 18 January, completing another successful salvage operation.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Project CLARINET SEAWARD (formerly Project SEARCHLIGHT) showed little progress during the month; however, on 17 January the GAME WARDEN base at Sa Dec reported the project site was ready for installation. Progress at the Qui Nhon site was delayed due to construction personnel being utilized to improve the defensive posture of the MARKET TIME base. A revised ready-for-installation date of 15 February was estimated for the Qui Nhon site.

On 19 January, the commanding officer of the Naval Shore Electronics Engineering Activity, Pacific (NAVSEEPAC) stated that an inventory team would arrive in-country on 15 February and visit all sites to determine electronic equipment shortages, if any, and to verify construction dates. NAVSEEPAC's position stated that the electronics installation team would not return to South Vietnam until at least six sites were sufficiently constructed to guarantee beneficial occupation of the installation team.

On 31 January-1 February, Vinh Long City was overrun by the Viet Cong during the Tet Offensive campaign. The NAVSUPACT Vinh Long villa and the PBR base were evacuated, and the communications equipment installed at the PBR base was destroyed to prevent its falling into enemy hands. This vulnerability to attack brought about a reevaluation of the desirability of installing fixed communications assets at Vinh Long.

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The Project CLARINET TACK (formerly Project STARBOARD TACK) VHF/UHF vans arrived in-country; however, the VHF frequency modification kits, required due to a late change in frequency assignment, were not scheduled to arrive until February. Power converters for the TMC-97A vans were also expected to arrive at the same time. The latest estimated award of contract date for the Lenkhurt Microwave vans is 19 February, with an estimated delivery date of 6 September 1968.

During the month of January, the COMNAVFORV Message Center handled a total of 96,158 messages, an increase of 9,245 messages over the December total.

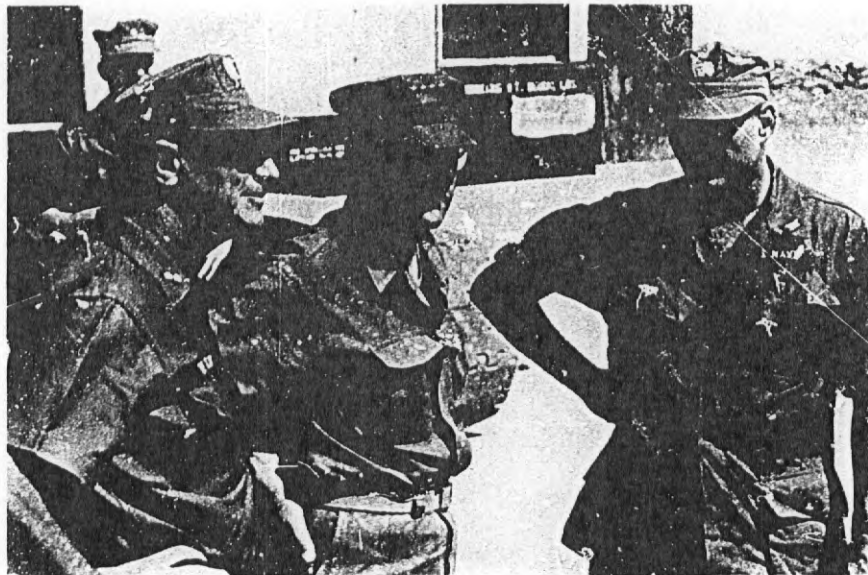
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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 8 January General Leonard F. CHAPMAN, Jr., Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps, visited the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) at Dong Tam, and was briefed on the riverine concept and plans for expansion of the MRF. General CHAPMAN also took a tour of several of the riverine assault craft.



General Leonard F. CHAPMAN, Jr., (center), Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps, and Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, (left), USN, COMNAVFORV, listen to Captain Robert S. SALZER, USN, Commander Task Force 117, as he explains the concept of the Mobile Riverine Force at the MRF's headquarters at Dong Tam.

Two days later, Rear Admiral Norvell G. WARD, USN, Commander

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Service Group THREE/Commander Task Force 73, arrived in South Vietnam for six days of tours and briefings. Included in Rear Admiral WARD's itinerary were visits to the Saigon headquarters of COMNAVFORV and Commander Naval Support Activity Saigon, as well as to the naval facilities at Cam Ranh Bay, Vung Tau, An Thoi, Danang and the Mobile Riverine Base at Dong Tam. Rear Admiral WARD was primarily interested in all aspects of general logistical support and resupply.

Rear Admiral James B. OSBORN, USN, prospective Commander Naval Support Activity Danang, arrived in Saigon on 25 January and commenced a four-day indoctrination and orientation tour of naval activities in Vietnam. Rear Admiral OSBORN's schedule included visits to Navy units at the Coastal Surveillance Force (CTF 115) headquarters and the Naval Air Facility at Cam Ranh Bay; the USS BENEWAH (APB 35), flagship of the MRF (CTF 117); the River Patrol Force (CTF 116) headquarters at Binh Thuy; the Coastal Surveillance Center at Nha Trang; the MARKET TIME base at Qui Nhon; and Danang.

On 28 January the Mobile Riverine Base was visited by Vice Admiral Sir Alan McNICHOLL, Chief of Staff of the Royal Australian Navy, and Major General A. L. McDONALD, Australian Army, prospective Commander Australian Forces Vietnam. Both visitors were briefed on the riverine warfare concept, and conducted a short inspection of the riverine craft. The following day Vice Admiral McNICHOLL visited the Naval Support Activity at Cat Lo, where he received a briefing on

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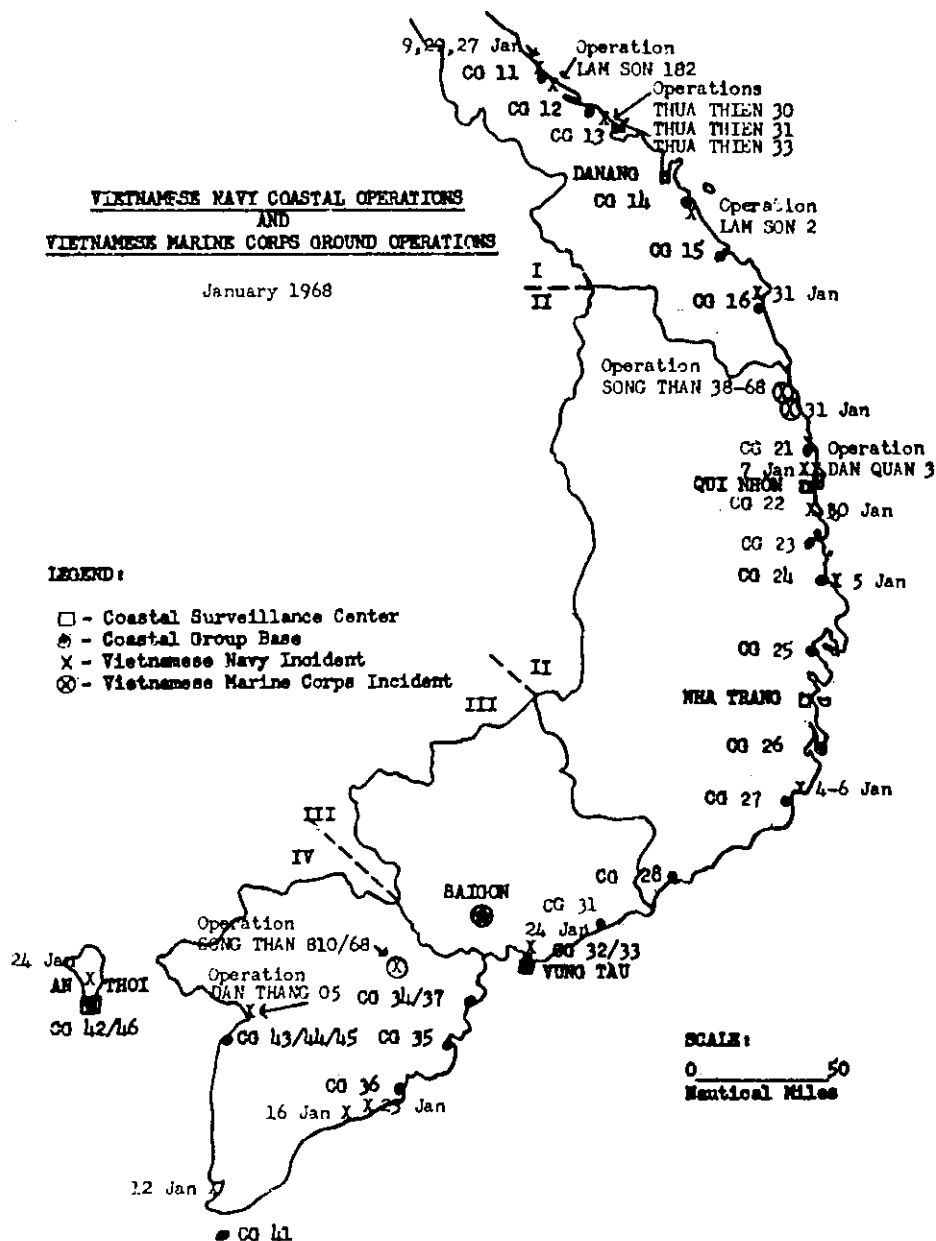
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STABLE DOOR and MARKET TIME operations.

On 3 January Captain J. M. AUSTIN, USCG, relieved Captain William N. BANKS, USCG, as Commander Coast Guard Activities Vietnam/ Commander Coast Guard Squadron ONE. The change of command ceremonies took place at the An Thoi MARKET TIME base on Phu Quoc Island in the Gulf of Thailand.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) on 31 January could not be determined due to the commencement of the enemy's offensive on 31 January. The attack on Saigon reverberated throughout South Vietnam as coincidental attacks were launched against the major cities of the Mekong Delta. The Tet Offensive occurred when most of the VNN personnel were home celebrating this auspicious time of year. Defense posts were overrun and cities were affronted by the Viet Cong. Consequently, communications between most VNN units and the VNN headquarters, which itself came under vicious attack by a Viet Cong demolition squad, were nonexistent.

At 0300 on 31 January a 13-man Viet Cong "Sapper" squad drove up in civilian cars, killed the two VNN barricade guards, and then assaulted the VNN headquarters building in downtown Saigon. Two Viet Cong, in a suicidal effort, detonated a TNT charge on the main building wall. Eight Viet Cong then attempted a second assault on the building and were killed by the combined firepower of the VNN and Vietnamese Military Police. Two Viet Cong were ultimately captured and the one remaining Viet Cong escaped during the furious fire fight.

The VNN's Underway Training Unit completed training programs

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for four VNN ships during January. A patrol craft escort (PCE 06) and an Infantry Landing Ship Large (LSIL 328) completed one week of inport training and one week of underway training. Two patrol motor gunboats (PGMs 600 and 613) underwent one week of inport training.

On 16 January the VNN Advanced Training Center, Saigon, graduated 45 men from the Warrant Officer Course with the VNN Chief of Naval Operations and Senior Advisor, VNN, in attendance at the ceremony. Radarman "A" School graduated 19 men on 27 January and, at the VNN Naval Training Center, Nha Trang, 26 men graduated from Radioman "A" School on 20 January.

#### Fleet Command

During January the Fleet Command had a daily average of 25.4 ships available and maintained 14 ships off the coast of South Vietnam, five ships on river patrol and one ship on convoy escort duty on the Mekong river between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. The month's operations included MARKET TIME and river patrols, psychological warfare and civic action visits, minesweeping and escort patrols and gunfire support missions. Fleet Command ships fired 56 naval gunfire support missions, searched 1,003 junks and 4,152 persons and detained two persons in January.

Patrol craft (PCs and PCEs), utilized in all four Naval Zones, and gunboats (PGMs), patrolling the Fourth Naval Zone and the Rung

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Sat Special Zone (RSSZ), conducted 28 naval gunfire support missions during January. On 24 January PGM 609 accounted for 15 Viet Cong killed while providing gunfire support for a joint operation conducted on Phu Quoc Island with Coastal Group 42 units, a PCF and a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG). On the morning of 31 January, at the request of Coastal Group 16, PCE 08 conducted a gunfire support mission four miles east of Quang Ngai which resulted in 20 Viet Cong killed and 10 wounded.

Landing Support Ships (LSILs and LSSLs) provided patrol, gunfire support and convoy escort missions in the RSSZ, the Third Naval Zone and the Fourth Riverine Area. These ships fired 28 gunfire missions during January. On 5 January LSSL 230's gunfire killed three Viet Cong and wounded five others nine miles northwest of Chau Phu near the Cambodian border in support of Fourth Riverine Area forces.

Coastal minesweepers (MSCs) maintained their watch, patrolling the coast of South Vietnam in the Third and Fourth Naval Zones. The motor-launch minesweepers (MLMSs) continued their highly important sweeps along the Saigon, Long Tau, Nha Be and Dong Nai Rivers.

In January the VNN's Underwater Demolition Team (LDNN) detachment at Saigon conducted nightly hull inspections of the ships berthed at the Port of Saigon. The other two detachments at Binh Thuy and Nha Be continued operations with U. S. Navy SEALs in

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search and ambush missions in the Fourth Riverine Area and the RSSZ. At 0400 on 18 January SEALs and LDNN captured one Viet Cong, two grenades and two clips of ammunition. One SEAL was wounded in this action. Later that day, on the southern bank of the My Tho river, 13 miles east of My Tho, another SEAL/LDNN team killed one Viet Cong and wounded two others.

#### Coastal Force

In January the Coastal Force searched 32,291 junks and sampans and 97,195 persons, detaining four junks and 188 persons. On a daily average 87.7 percent of the force's 191 available junks were on patrol.

In the First Naval Zone Coastal Force junks continued to be employed in combined operations with Vietnamese Army (ARVN) forces and Regional Force/Popular Force (RF/PF) troops. On 3 January Operation THUA THIEN 30 was conducted by three RF companies, two PF platoons and units of Thua Thien Province. The operation, conducted seven miles east of Hue and supported by Coastal Groups 12 and 13, resulted in one Viet Cong killed and three captured along with one K-50 and one M-1 rifle. That same day the Coastal Group 14 base at Hoi An was taken under heavy automatic-weapons and small-arms fire. The Coastal Group's 60-mm and 81-mm mortars, combined with support fire from PGM 616 and aircraft strikes, silenced the enemy. A Coastal Group 14 reaction force was dispatched, returning with one

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Viet Cong suspect.

On the morning of 9 January Coastal Group 12 units conducted a police action, composed of three junks and a small boat, in the Perfume river at Hue. During the four-hour operation, 26 persons were searched and two were detained. That evening Coastal Group 11 provided troop lift and blocking support for "A" Company, U. S. Marine Corps (USMC) AMTRAC Battalion, as the Marines conducted a raid on a village at the mouth of the Cua Viet river. One Viet Cong and one Vietnamese civilian informant were killed and one weapon was captured. On 18 January Coastal Groups 12 and 13 returned to the land area seven miles east of Hue, across Than Lam Bay, and conducted Operation THUA THIEN 31 with one RF company and two PF platoons. The combined operation resulted in three Viet Cong, one carbine and one submachine gun captured and 11 Viet Cong suspects detained.

About 0400 on the 20th Coastal Group 11 junks, patrolling on the Cua Viet River, supported Dai Loc hamlet with machine gun and mortar fire and directed USMC artillery fire into the positions of the Viet Cong force 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

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were killed in the engagement and one man rallied under the Chieu Hoi program. Four VNN sailors were killed and 18 others, including two U. S. advisors, were wounded. During the following two days eight mines were detonated in the Cua Viet river in the vicinity of Dia Loc hamlet, sinking one U. S. Navy LCM 8 and damaging three LCUs, one LCM 6, one LCM 8 and one civilian craft. In addition, one junk was damaged by 57-mm recoilless-rifle fire.

A Coastal Group 14 ambush team came in contact with an estimated Viet Cong company on 21 January near their base camp at Hoi An. Supported by a PCF and aircraft strikes, the squad withdrew from the area as another Viet Cong platoon was discovered. The aircraft received heavy ground fire as suppressing fire was returned. Enemy casualties were unknown; one VNN sailor and one PF soldier were killed and three VNN, three PF soldiers and three civilians were wounded. The next day three junks from Coastal Group 14 provided a blocking force and troop lift support for Operation IAM SON 2. The sweep, composed of a Coastal Group 14 platoon, one Quang Da Sector Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (PRU) team and one National Police team, supported by a USMC artillery unit, resulted in 15 enemy fortifications destroyed. One U. S. PRU advisor was killed and one civilian was wounded; enemy casualties were unknown.

At 0800 on 22 January Operation THUA THIEN 33 commenced with

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Coastal Group 13 and two RF companies. The operation, which swept the area east of Than Lam Bay, near Hue, lasted one and one-half days and resulted in the capture of five Viet Cong and two deserters, and the detention of 21 Viet Cong suspects. The ARVN units suffered one killed and five wounded. At the same time, Operation LAM SON 182 was being carried on by Coastal Group 11, nine miles northeast of Quang Tri. The Coastal Group units, together with the ARVN 1st Infantry Regiment, killed two Viet Cong and captured six.

On 27 January a Coastal Group 11 junk was mined while escorting a Naval Support Activity Danang Cua Viet convoy. One VNN sailor was wounded and the junk received considerable hull damage; it was beached and ultimately declared unsalvageable. Later that same day elements of Coastal Group 11, USMC 1st AMTRAC Battalion and a PF platoon dispersed a Viet Cong loudspeaker team near the Cua Viet river mouth. A sweep of the area was made with no further contact.

On the night of 30-31 January, as a preface to the Tet Offensive, Danang and most of the First Naval Zone Coastal Groups were committed against Viet Cong elements. A patrol from the Danang Naval Base killed 10 Viet Cong, captured five of the enemy and sank 30 sampans. At 2100 the Coastal Group 14 base and a PF outpost at Hoi An came under Viet Cong attack and were provided support by PCE 07 and aircraft strikes. Beginning at 0800 on 31 January, units

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of Coastal Group 12 conducted land operations seven miles east of Hue. Withdrawing at 1100 the Coastal Group detained eight Viet Cong suspects and numerous Viet Cong flags and propaganda were seized.

Junks of the Second Naval Zone continued coastal patrols, search and destroy/ambush operations with RF and ARVN troops, and civic action operations throughout their area of responsibility. Enemy contact during January was light; intelligence reports hinted constantly of impending enemy attacks and suspected troop movements. The elusive Viet Cong remained under cover, coming forth to harass the local people, obtain food and recruit men. Between 4 and 6 January a Coastal Group 27 squad conducted a search and destroy operation nine miles northeast of Phan Rang with units of the local sector police. The two-day sweep resulted in the detention of 10 Viet Cong suspects.

On 5 January a junk from Coastal Group 24 capsized after its rudder was broken in high seas, five miles east of Tuy Hoa. Two VNN sailors searched around the submerged wreck in vain for a fellow shipmate. Salvage operations were delayed until the sea subsided. On the 7th Coastal Group 22 detained 71 Viet Cong suspects and seized one carbine while participating in a search with an ARVN company just north of Qui Nhon. The soldiers captured six Viet Cong, detained 572 suspects and seized two automatic weapons, 138

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pistols, 300,000\$VN (\$2,542.00), \$265.00 and a large quantity of foodstuffs.

From 11 through 16 January four junks and two squads of Coastal Group 22, two Special Forces companies, five RF companies and one PCF conducted Operation DAN QUAN 3 in Binh Dinh province, five miles northeast of Qui Nhon. Three Viet Cong were killed, six Viet Cong suspects were detained and several weapons seized. On 30 January, the eve of the massive Tet Offensive, a Coastal Group 22 patrol junk detained 42 Viet Cong suspects, searched one junk on Vinh Quang Lake, seven miles south of Qui Nhon, and captured numerous weapons, documents, flags and banners.

On 3 January, in the Third Naval Zone, a Coastal Group 35 ambush team captured one Viet Cong and three flags on Long Hoa Island in the Co Chien river. That same day a resident of the Long Toan Secret Zone rallied to the government of South Vietnam, turning himself over to Coastal Group 35 personnel after being influenced by the Coastal Group's nightly Chieu Hoi broadcasts.

On 7 January a Coastal Group 34 ambush team was inserted near the southern-most tip of Kien Hoa province where intelligence reports had indicated Viet Cong were gathered. A sweep of the area resulted in one Viet Cong wounded, several Viet Cong suspects detained and a sampan, with numerous articles of clothing and equipment, captured. On 14 January four patrol craft from Coastal

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Group 34/37 provided gunfire support to an outpost near their base on the north bank of the Ham Luong river. Three Viet Cong were sighted running on the beach and were taken under fire. Popular Force troops, inserted later, confirmed the three Viet Cong were killed and their weapons were seized.



A Coastal Group 35 junk on a psychological operations mission in the Co Chien river.

Operation HAI LONG 1 was conducted on Loi Quan Island in the My Tho river on 16 January. Coastal Group 33 junks, two VNN ships and two ARVN Infantry companies combined to kill seven Viet Cong

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and capture numerous grenades and documents. Two ARVN soldiers were killed and one was wounded. On 20 January Coastal Group 34/37 units, one RF company and a PF platoon made an area sweep in Kien Hoa province, two miles northwest of the mouth of the Ham Luong river. Two Viet Cong were killed, two suspects were detained and a mine and bunker were destroyed. That afternoon, acting on information from a Hoi Chanh, two squads of Coastal Group 34 landed one-half mile southeast of the area searched by the morning sweep to ambush a suspected Viet Cong meeting. Four Viet Cong suspects were detained, at least one of which was a prospective rallier.

That same day, on Con Co Island in the Co Chien river, a Coastal Group 35 ambush team, responding to local intelligence, made contact with an unknown number of Viet Cong. One of the enemy was killed and one grenade and several documents were captured. On 23 January two Coastal Group 36 junks transported a 44-man PRU unit to Con Dien Island in the Bassac river. Intelligence gathered from a previous operation provided a list of Viet Cong names in a hamlet which the PRU team ambushed. A search of the area resulted in the capture of seven Viet Cong and two Viet Cong suspects; one PRU member was wounded. Meanwhile, Operation THAN PHONG 14/11 was conducted on the same day by units of Coastal Group 35, Riverine Assault Group (RAG) 23, 10 PBRs and one U. S. Navy LST. The combined force transported 150 troops of the ARVN

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14th Infantry Regiment to a two-mile area on the southern bank of the Co Chien river, two miles north of Phu Vinh. The subsequent sweep resulted in three Viet Cong killed and one captured; ARVN units suffered one killed and eight wounded.

On 24 January Coastal Group 32/33 conducted an operation 10 miles north-northeast of Vung Tau in Phuoc Tuy province that resulted in the destruction of a Viet Cong base camp. Intelligence had indicated that Viet Cong were based in the area but, upon insertion of the Coastal Group ambush party, the base was discovered deserted. The camp appeared to be of sufficient size to support a 25-man unit. The shelters and equipment were destroyed. At 0400 that day, two Coastal Group 36 units inserted a 50-man PRU team on the northern tip of Dung Island in the Bassac river. Led by a Hoi Chanh, who knew the area and the local Viet Cong infrastructure, the PRUs made contact with the enemy, killing two Viet Cong and capturing four. Late that evening another 50-man PRU team was transported to the same area by Coastal Group 36 junks. This second area sweep captured two more of the enemy.

On 26 January Operation CHI LAND 6/68 netted five Viet Cong killed, one wounded and numerous weapons captured. The search and destroy operation was conducted in Vinh Binh province at the mouth of the Co Chien river where Coastal Group 35 units inserted PF troops. On the morning of the Tet Offensive, 31 January, Coastal

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