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HUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

February 1967

LEGEND:
A - MSBs - 16 Feb
B - MSBs - 15 Feb
C - Mine discovered - 8 Feb
D - PBRA - 21 Feb
E - MSBs - 27 Feb
F - MSBs - 15 Feb
G - MSBs - 15 Feb
H - SEALS - 2 Feb
I - SEALS - 2 Feb

SCALE:
0 - 5 Nautical Miles

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wounded and stripping the armament. The surface units continued to keep the enemy pinned down until 0710, when the Navy helicopter fire team from HC-1 (Det. 27) delivered an air strike. The helicopter sustained five hits from heavy ground fire while striking enemy positions which stretched for half a mile along each bank.

At 0750, fixed-wing aircraft also struck the enemy positions and a four-company reaction force from Regional Force companies 999, 908, 601 and 783 was landed to sweep the area. The reaction force found ten 75-mm. recoilless rifle casings and a "claymore" mine.

Two LCMs from Naval Support Activity, Saigon's Nha Be detachment towed MSB 45 to Nha Be. One U.S. sailor, Seaman Rodney H. HICKIE, USN, was killed during the action and seven others were wounded. Two Viet Cong were killed.

The enemy struck again at 1020 when a controlled mine sank MSB 45 near the west bank of the river, 1½ miles southeast of Nha Be. Following the violent explosion, a companion boat, MSB 22, picked up five survivors from the water, four of whom were wounded. The injured were evacuated to Nha Be by helicopter, and a search was begun for the missing crewman, Damage Controlman Third Class Gary C. PADOCK, USN. Petty Officer PADOCK's body was found three days later. The armament of MSB 45 was subsequently stripped by divers, and the hulk destroyed by explosives.

At 1428 on 15 February, MSBs 51 and 32 came under fire from a
heavy weapon on the west bank of the Long Tau, 11 miles southeast of Nha Be. MSB 51 received two hits, one in the stack and one in the sweep winch. The minesweepers and their PBR escorts reversed course and headed north. At 1440, the boats came under automatic weapons and small arms fire from positions two miles upstream from the first ambush. Four additional PBRs joined the action and a helicopter team was dispatched to strike the area.

The helicopter strike was followed by a fixed-wing air strike, and a sweep of the area by two Regional Force companies. The reaction force did not make contact with the enemy and found no evidence of Viet Cong casualties. Four U.S. sailors were wounded during the action.

The next day, Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam sent the following message to the Officer in Charge, Mine Squadron 11, Detachment "A":

1. THE COURAGEOUS ACTION, HULLDOG TENACITY AND PERSONAL HEROISM THAT THE MEN OF DETACHMENT ALFA HAVE DEMONSTRATED UNDER FIRE IS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE NAVY. IT IS SINGULARLY SIGNIFICANT THAT IN SPITE OF YESTERDAY'S EFFORTS BY THE VIET CONG, THE RIVER REMAINS OPEN AND UNBLOCKED. YOUR RESOLUTION IN CONTINUING MAXIMUM COVERAGE OF THE LONG TAU WITH AVAILABLE ASSETS IS HIGHLY GRATIFYING.

2. TO THE GALANT OFFICERS AND MEN OF MINE SQUADRON ELEVEN, DETACHMENT ALFA, I EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR THOROUGHLY OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY AND TIMELESS EFFORTS. ROAR ADMIRAL WARD SENDS.

At 0220 on 16 February, MSBs 16 and 52 were attacked three and one-half miles downstream from Nha Be by enemy forces on the east bank using automatic weapons and small arms. The MSBs and
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their PBR escorts returned the enemy fire, and at 0900 two SEAL fire teams were landed in the area by LCM-3. The SEALs killed one Viet Cong, pursued three or four others without success, captured two Chinese Communist carbines and an ammunition pouch, and discovered a number of observation posts and bunkers.

That same day, elements of the U.S. Army NINTH Infantry Division were deployed to the Rung Sat Special Zone to help secure the river banks. In addition, Regional Force ambush and sweep operations

Table 1. MINE SQUADRON II, DETACHMENT "A"¹

| Task Element 116.2.9.1 | LCOR C. MCRIEHT, USN.
| Assistant Officer in Charge | LTJG H. A. LEVISEN, USNR.
| Craft | Boat Captain |
| RGS 15 | BM1 W.T. MILAM, USN. |
| 16 | BM1 H.M. KING, USN. |
| 17 | BM1 H.J. CARTER, USN. |
| 18 | BM1 E.T. SIFES, USN. |
| 22 | BM1 L. SESSION, USN. |
| 31 | BM2 R.N. GINTER, USN. |
| 32 | BM1 H.L. HUNNEIS, USN. |
| 45 | BM2 P.T. WALCH, USN. |
| 49 | BM1 L.H. ROCKS, USN. |
| 51 | BM1 J.O. HOOD, USN. |
| 52 | BM1 J.T. BUNDY, USN. |
| RGC 1 | BM1 D.R. PFLIGER, USN. |
| 2 | BM1 A.K. NEW, USN. |

¹The detachment's complement includes three officers and 106 enlisted men.

²Sunk by a Viet Cong mine 15 February.

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were increased and augmented PBR support was provided by River Section 533, embarked in USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846), stationed near the mouth of the Long Tau River. As a further measure, MSB armament was bolstered by the installation of M-18 grenade launchers.

On 27 February, a B-52 strike was delivered in the suspected headquarters area of the Viet Cong commander of the Rung Sat Special Zone.

Other Incidents

On 2 February, four SEAL fire teams conducted operations in the lower portion of the Rung Sat Special Zone. The teams found a Viet Cong base camp and captured and destroyed a quantity of miscellaneous equipment. Meanwhile, the SEALs' LCM-3 engaged four enemy sampans in the On Tien River, killing two Viet Cong.

On 2 February, a 21-inch spherical mine was discovered in the Long Tau River by units of River Assault Group 22, after it had been swept by MSB 16. The mine, a controlled type weighing approximately 50 pounds, was recovered and taken to Nha Be in a command post.

On the evening of 21 February, a PBR patrol in the central Long Tau detected a number of sampans through special night observation devices. The area was subsequently taken under U.S. Army mortar fire, and a U.S. infantry reaction force was landed. Captured were five sampans, a large quantity of rice, personal items, documents, and .45 caliber and 5.56-mm. ammunition.
DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) and Ham Luong Rivers

In February there were two sabotage attempts involving the PBR base at My Tho. In the first attempt, on 10 February, a U.S. Navy sentry was wounded slightly by the explosion of a fragmentation grenade thrown over the fence by a terrorist. The incident occurred during late afternoon and the terrorist escaped in the large Vietnamese crowd celebrating Tet in the street outside the base.

An alert boat watch thwarted the second sabotage attempt, on the morning of 14 February, when he sighted an 18x24 inch box floating upstream on the tide about 80 feet from the PBR pier. The watchstander fired at the box, triggering an explosion whose shock wave was felt 100 yards from the pier.

Toward the end of the month, intelligence reports indicated a buildup of Viet Cong forces in the vicinity of Truc Giang, the Kien Hoa provincial capital. Elements of two main force battalions, the 261st and the 271st, as well as the 516th provincial mobile battalion were reported to be located on both sides of the Ham Luong River. Other reports also indicated a Viet Cong buildup in the vicinity of Dong Tam. To counter the threat, CTF 116 redeployed certain GAGE WADEN units. On 26 February JENNINGS COUNTY was moved from the mouth of the Long Tau channel to Dong Tam to support River Section 523, which was moved from Long Xuyen to patrol the Ham Luong. In addition, a Navy light helicopter fire team was
stationed aboard JENNINGS COUNTY from dawn till dusk to provide a rapid reaction air strike capability.

On the night of 28 February, PBIs 101 and 107 were taken under heavy automatic weapons, small arms, and recoilless rifle fire from both banks of the Ham Luong. The boats had just started their engines after drifting downstream when three signal shots were heard and the enemy opened fire. Both PBIs were hit before they were able to clear the kill zone. The boats returned the enemy fire until the Navy helicopter fire team arrived to strike the enemy positions and suppress all hostile fire.

During the action, the forward gunner in PBI 107 suffered numerous shrapnel wounds from a recoilless rifle round which hit the boat's bow; PBI 101 received 15 small arms hits, one of which wounded the boat engineer. Viet Cong casualties were undetermined.

**Operations in the Co Chien River**

The first week of February was marked by intense activity along the Co Chien river as the Viet Cong launched a series of aggressive attacks against river patrols and friendly outposts. Between the first and the sixth of February there were 11 attacks by the Viet Cong.

At 1705 on 1 February, a PFI patrol came under heavy automatic weapons fire from the south bank of the river in the vicinity of Cu Lao Giai Island. The PBIs cleared the kill zone and returned the fire, but were unable to suppress the heavy enemy outburst. The PBIs stood off and directed harassing fire into the Viet Cong.
positions until the HC-1 (Det. 25) helicopter fire team arrived from Vinh Long and neutralized the area. The helicopter strikes started two POL fires, triggered two secondary explosions and destroyed two structures. There were no U.S. casualties; Viet Cong casualties were undetermined.

On the night of 3 February, PBR 113 became the first PBR to be lost to hostile fire since the inception of GAME WARDEN operations. At 2200, a PBR patrol spotted a sampan in the lower river, near Phu Vinh. When the patrol turned toward the craft, the sampan's three occupants dived into the water. PBR 113 approached one of the Viet Cong and a crewmember tossed him a life ring. The man reached for the life ring and threw a grenade at the PBR. The grenade struck the engineer in the chest and was deflected towards the after gun mount. The after gunner and the engineer jumped over the side as the grenade detonated, wounding the forward gunner, but not before he managed to shoot the grenade thrower; the other two enemy swimmers were killed by fire from the cover boat, PBR 117.

The grenade's explosion initiated an intense fire in the engine compartment of PBR 113 and cooked-off the ammunition stored in the boat's after section. The boat captain, Gunner's Mate Second Class Jimmy R. BROWN, USN, tried to fight the fire but was forced to abandon the attempt. Petty Officer BROWN then put a life jacket on the wounded forward gunner, pushed him over the side and followed him into the water.
PBR 117 picked up all of the crew except Seaman August D. Johnson, USN, the after gunner, who disappeared. Despite an intensive search by river patrols and aircraft, his body was never recovered. Later in the month, a Hoi Chanh (returnee) told Vietnamese interrogators that the body of an American had subsequently washed ashore near the scene of the action and that the Viet Cong had looted the body and thrown it back into the river.

The hulk of PBR 113, putted from the stern to the forward bulkhead of the coxswain's flat, was towed to the Coastal Group 35 base at Hung My; there it was stripped of salvageable parts and equipment. The rest of the boat was destroyed.

On the afternoon of 4 February, PBRs 79 and 84 answered a signal for help from a Vietnamese outpost at the mouth of the Mang Thit River under attack from nearby tree lines. Two Detachment 25 helicopter fire teams conducting a reconnaissance mission in the area also answered the call for assistance.

When the Navy helicopters arrived, the Viet Cong had partially overrun the town to the west of the outpost and had advanced to within 100 yards of the outpost. The helicopters launched a strike under heavy ground fire from the enemy. Then Detachment 29 helicopters arrived and delivered another strike.

A total of five helicopter strikes were conducted before the Viet Cong, estimated to be two companies in strength, were finally driven off. Between strikes, indirect .50 caliber fire from the
PBRs kept the enemy pinned down.

One helicopter crewman was wounded slightly during the two-hour engagement. There were three secondary explosions initiated by helicopter fire. Enemy casualties were undetermined.

GAME WARDEN units supported Vietnamese outposts on four other occasions prior to the Tet truce period. During and after Tet, hostile fire incidents virtually ceased. Toward the end of the month, attacks against outposts along the Co Chien began again.

On 26 February, a Viet Cong company attempted to overrun an outpost on the south bank of the Co Chien 25 miles from Vinh Long. Two PHHs and Army and Navy helicopters delivered heavy automatic weapons, grenade and rocket fire into the enemy positions, forcing the Viet Cong to withdraw.

Operations in the Upper Bassac and Mekong Rivers

On 1 February, Sa Dec-based PHHs broke up a Viet Cong crossing attempt in the upper Mekong near the mouth of the Cao Lanh River.

At 2335 a routine PHH patrol intercepted two sampans and, as the patrol closed, the occupants of the sampans jumped over the side and started to swim for shore. When the PHHs approached the swimmers, automatic weapons fire broke out from both banks.

The PHHs returned the fire and also took the escaping swimmers under fire. Four of the swimmers were killed, two more were probably killed, and one was captured. The patrol then requested artillery support from Cao Lanh, as well as helicopter assistance. Ten rounds of 105-mm. howitzer fire were delivered by the Cao Lanh
battery, followed by strikes against the enemy positions by Navy helicopters. All enemy fire subsequently ceased. There were no U.S. casualties.

On 18 February, a two-boat blocking force killed three Viet Cong attempting to escape from a U.S. Special Forces/Civilian Irregular Defense Group sweep in upper Kien Phong province, near the Cambodian border.

At 0740, PBRs 134 and 135 approached three sampans escaping from the operation area and came under heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from both banks of the river. The PBRs opened fire on the banks and the sampans with .50 caliber, M-79 and M-16 fire. Three occupants of one of the sampans were killed by a direct M-79 grenade hit. The PBRs then made firing runs on the west bank to which the remaining sampans evaded; final results were undetermined.

Operations in the Lower Bassac River

There were no hostile fire or evasion incidents in the lower Bassac river during the first 15 days of the month. On 16 February, a PBR patrol was taken under small arms fire from both banks of the river near the town of Binh Thuy. Fire was not returned because of the large, predominantly friendly population in the area.

On 21 February, PBRs 34 and 45 received heavy automatic weapons fire and one mortar round from the northern tip of Cu Lao Dung Island. The patrol cleared the area and returned fire until
a helicopter fire team arrived. The helicopters struck the Viet Cong positions, suppressing all enemy fire. During the engagement a sampan hailed by the PBRs continued to evade, and was taken under direct fire and destroyed. Its two occupants escaped to the underbrush.

On 27 February, a special PBR patrol stationed in the vicinity of Cu Lao May Island came to the aid of a Vietnamese outpost under attack. The patrol moved in quickly and silenced the enemy fire. Enemy casualties were undetermined.

* * *

GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
February 1967

1. PBR Statistics:
   a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 555 Night 670
   b. Total Contacts: Day 35,479 Night 7,240
   c. Total Inspected: Day 10,199 Night 2,296
   d. Total Boarded: Day 16,789 Night 2,342
   e. People Detained: 635
   f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 25
   g. Total Patrol Hours: 30,648 Day 13,615 Night 17,033

2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:
   a. Total Flight Hours: 245
   b. Helo Missions:
      (1) Pre-planned strikes: 4
      (2) Reaction: 6
      (3) Targets of Opportunity: 5
      (4) Support: 41
      (5) MEDEVAC: 1

15
3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

a. Fire Fights:
   (1) PBR 28
   (2) Helo 12
   (3) MSB 3
   (4) RPC 0
   (5) LCM 0
   (6) LCPL 0
   (7) STAB 1

b. Sampans: Destroyed: 20 Damaged: 1 Captured 1

c. Structures: Destroyed: 8 Damaged: 0

d. Huts: Destroyed: 1 Damaged 5

e. Bunkers: Destroyed: UNK Damaged: UNK


g. Friendly: KIA: 2 WIA: 24

h. Friendly Battle Damage:
   (1) PBR 5
   (2) Helo 1
   (3) MSB 7
   (4) LCM 0
   (5) RPC 0

i. PER MEDEVAC: 17

* * * * *
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS
During February, MARKET TIME forces continued to interdict possible infiltrators from the sea with the detection of 38,229 junks and sampans. Of this number, 15,813 of the craft were inspected and 11,241 were boarded. Additionally, 1,488 steel-hulled vessels were detected, with 562 of these being inspected and 30 boarded. Other MARKET TIME operations during the month included five evading sampan incidents, nine naval gunfire support missions, seven assists to ground operations, two search and rescue incidents, and two instances of medical evacuation assistance.

STABLE DOOR units detected 26,776 junks and sampans, inspecting 5,273 of these and boarding 3,654. Five new Boston Whalers arrived in country increasing to 25 the number of patrol boats available to STABLE DOOR forces. The first fatalities among STABLE DOOR personnel occurred this month when two sailors were killed the night of 22 February as a harbor defense patrol was approaching a suspect craft in Qui Nhon harbor.

On 1 February, the Coastal Surveillance Force was established as a separate command under the operational and administrative control of Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam. The task force commander (CTF 115), Captain Clifford L. STEWART, USN, had exercised operational control of the assigned units for COMNAVFORV since the spring of 1966.
COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE OPERATIONS

February 1967

First Coastal Zone - Area 1/2
Second Coastal Zone - Area 3/4/5
Third Coastal Zone - Area 6/7
Fourth Coastal Zone - Area 8/9

LEGEND:
- Coastal Surveillance Center
X - PCF Incident
O - USCGC Incident
# - SAH/MED EVAC Incident

SCALE:
100 Statute Miles
MARKET TIME OPERATIONS

Hostile Fire and NGFS

MARKET TIME units were involved in nine naval gunfire support (NGFS) missions and one hostile fire incident in February. All of the activity occurred in the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones, and resulted in three Viet Cong killed, seventeen structures destroyed, and twelve structures and two bunkers damaged. In addition, five junks were damaged and three others were destroyed. The incidents are presented chronologically:

2 Feb - At 1345, USCGC POINT PARTRIDGE conducted a NGFS mission 59 miles southwest of Vung Tau against Viet Cong positions. Three structures, two bunkers and two sampans were damaged. No hostile fire was received.

5 - At 1836, USCGC POINT LEAGUE conducted a NGFS mission 55 miles southwest of Vung Tau at the request of the Long Toan sub-sector advisor. One enemy structure was damaged.

13 - At 1425, PCF 92 answered a request for NGFS from an L-19 aircraft that was receiving hostile fire, 53 miles east of An Thoi and 18 miles northwest of Rach Gia. PCF 92 suppressed the hostile fire with 81-mm. mortar fire; one enemy structure was destroyed.

19 - At 1530, PCF 94 received small arms fire from an enemy position .9 miles northwest of Rach Gia. PCF 94 and other units returned 50 rounds of 81-mm. mortar fire,
which destroyed five structures.

21 - At 0815, USCGC POINT GRACE conducted a NGFS mission against four large cargo junks near a Viet Cong village, 62 miles southwest of Vung Tau. One junk was destroyed and the other three were damaged.

21 - At 1700, PCF 96 conducted a NGFS mission against Viet Cong positions 118 miles southwest of Vung Tau. Three structures were destroyed.

23 - At 1500, USCGC POINT MARONE answered an urgent NGFS request in support of a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) and U.S. Special Forces advisors engaged in a fire fight with Viet Cong 55 miles east of An Thoi. Three Viet Cong were killed, and two enemy structures were damaged. A wounded member of the CIDG was evacuated by the POINT MARONE.

23 - At 1743, PCF 9 responded to an urgent NGFS request made by the pilot of a reconnaissance aircraft receiving automatic weapons fire from a point 53 miles east of An Thoi and 17 miles north of Rach Gia. The results of the mission were two structures and one sampan destroyed, one structure damaged.

24 - At 1110, 37 miles east-northeast of An Thoi, PCF 74 conducted a NGFS mission urgently requested by the pilot of a reconnaissance aircraft receiving fire from three camouflaged sampans with Viet Cong troops embarked.
The PCF's fire destroyed one of the sampans.

21 - At 1745, the USCGC POINT CLEAR conducted an urgent NGFS mission at the request of the pilot of a reconnaissance aircraft receiving fire from enemy positions 39 miles east-northeast of An Thoi. The results of the mission were three structures destroyed and ten damaged.

Support of Ground Operations

In February, MARKET TIME craft acted as blocking units and provided gunfire support for the following ground operations:

1. Operation PARAJET, continuing from January until 16 February in the Phan Rang area of the Second Coastal Zone.
2. Operation MUERTO DOS, from 3 through 7 February on Phu Quoc Island in the Fourth Coastal Zone.
3. Operation PERSHING, from 12 February continuing into March in Binh Dinh province in the Second Coastal Zone.
4. Operation CUU LONG 55 (River Operation 55), from 15 through 27 February in Kien Hoa province in the Third Coastal Zone.
5. Operation DECKHOUSE VI, from 16 February continuing into March in Quang Ngai province in the First Coastal Zone.

In Operation PERSHING, a search and destroy mission conducted by the U.S. FIRST Cavalry Division, MARKET TIME units patrolled the surfline to prevent exfiltration from the operational area, centered 50 miles north of Qui Nhon. The patrol craft detained 40 suspects and four junk. Significant incidents relating to
this operation were as follows:

20 Feb - At 1830, PCF 63 detained three junks containing eleven suspects. Vietnamese intelligence later confirmed that six of the detainees were Viet Cong.

23 - At 1600, PCF 88 detained 13 Viet Cong suspects attempting to leave the area.

24 - At 1000, PCF 87 detained four suspects attempting to leave the area. At 1330, PCF 58 detained a fishing junk with eight men aboard and no fishing equipment. Six of the eight were later confirmed to be Viet Cong. At 1645, PCF 89 detained four suspects for not having identification cards; two of the suspects were later determined to be Viet Cong.

Operation MUERTO DOS (Kill Number Two) was conducted 3 through 7 February on Phu Quoc Island by 240 CIDG troops and their U.S. Special Forces advisors. The operation was a search and destroy mission conducted on the northwest coast of the island. A U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ship, USS DEHAVEN (DD 727), and USCGC POINT CLEAR provided preliminary gunfire into the landing area, then POINT CLEAR escorted units of Coastal Groups 42 and 46 of the Vietnamese Navy as they transported and landed the CIDG force; thereafter, POINT CLEAR provided continuing gunfire support. The operation's results were 13 Viet Cong killed, and one Viet Cong, a large number of documents and 22 individual weapons captured.

At 0400 on the 20th of February, USCGC POINT ARDEN detained five
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Viet Cong suspects attempting to exfiltrate from the Operation DECKHOUSE VI area, 90 miles south-southeast of Danang. The suspects were turned over to USS VANCOUVER (LPD 2) for delivery to the Vietnamese authorities.

Evasion Incidents

On five occasions during February sampans attempted to evade MARKET TIME units; four of the attempts occurred off the Mekong Delta. There were no friendly or known enemy casualties during any of the incidents.

10 Feb - At 0755, PCF 75, while patrolling in the First Coastal Zone 85 miles south-southeast of Danang, sighted a basket boat in a restricted area. The sole occupant ignored warnings, beached the boat and fled. PCF 75 destroyed the basket boat.

15 - At 0846, the USCGC POINT BANKS sighted four suspicious sampans at the tip of the Ca Mau Peninsula. The sampans, ignoring signal lights and warning shots, started to evade. POINT BANKS took the sampans under fire. One craft was captured; the other three escaped.

19 - At 0900, PCF 9 pursued a sampan carrying two Viet Cong suspects, near the tip of the Ca Mau Peninsula. When the occupants ignored hails and warning shots the sampan was taken under direct fire and destroyed. The two Viet Cong were presumed killed.
20 - At 1150, the USCGC POINT GAMMON sighted a beached sampan and two men in a known hostile area 70 miles southwest of Vung Tau. Warning shots were fired and the men fled. The sampan was then taken under fire and damaged.

28 - At 1500, PCF 93 closed a suspicious sampan proceeding northward along the west coast of the Ca Mau Peninsula, 55 miles southeast of An Thoi. The sampan, containing four occupants, evaded to the beach where it was destroyed by gunfire.

Search and Rescue and Medical Evacuation

In February, MARKET TIME units participated in two Search and Rescue (SAR) incidents and two Medical Evacuation (Medevac) missions. The two Medevac missions and one of the SAR attempts were successful.

15-16 Feb - A Patrol Squadron 16 P-3 aircraft was on patrol 110 miles south of Cam Ranh Bay when LCM 612 of the Republic of Korea requested Medevac for a crewmember suffering from acute appendicitis. The P-3 aircraft, acting as a communications relay, called an SAR helicopter which picked up and flew the stricken man to the hospital at Cam Ranh Bay.

17 - PCF 75 conducted a daylight Medevac mission for the USS FiRIM (MSO 444) in the First Coastal Zone. A petty officer aboard the minesweeper had suffered a severe electrical shock and needed immediate medical attention.
medical attention. PCF 75 volunteered its services, and the man was transferred to the SWIFT boat and transported at maximum speed to the USS PROVIDENCE (CLG 6) for treatment.

21 - At 0733, PCF 14 recovered a U.S. Marine aviator who had ejected from his A-4 aircraft 60 miles southeast of Danang. The PCF sighted the chute while it was still airborne and proceeded to pick up the pilot from the sea. The Marine was unhurt and was later returned to Chu Lai by helicopter.

28 - FIRM participated in an unsuccessful daylight search for a downed aircraft 60 miles southeast of Danang.

MARKET TIME UNITS

USS CURRITUCK (AV 7) disestablished the seadrome at Cam Ranh Bay on 6 February; Patrol Squadron 50 flew MARKET TIME flights from the seadrome until 5 February. During the month, Patrol Squadron 17 flew SP-2A aircraft from Tan Son Nhut Air Base and Patrol Squadrons 16, 19, and 46 flew P-3A aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point. The detachment of P-3A aircraft which operated from U Tapao, Thailand in January returned to their parent squadron on 1 February.

In February the following SEVENTH Fleet ships operated as MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:

USS ALBATROSS (MSC 269) 1-17
MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
FEBRUARY 1967

1. U.S. ships/craft:     DER  MSO  MSC  WPB  PGP  LST

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DER</th>
<th>MSO</th>
<th>MSC</th>
<th>WPB</th>
<th>PGP</th>
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<td>56</td>
<td>464</td>
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28              CONFIDENTIAL
2. U.S. activity:

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Night</th>
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<td>Total Detected Wood</td>
<td>26,186</td>
<td>11,743</td>
<td>37,929</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Inspected Wood</td>
<td>2,521</td>
<td>4,292</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8,592</td>
<td>2,649</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Detained Junks</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>269</td>
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**STABLE DOOR OPERATIONS**

Operation STABLE DOOR suffered its first losses in action on the night of 22 February when a hand grenade, thrown from a suspect junk, killed two sailors in a skimmer in Qui Nhon harbor. The skimmer was approaching the junk when the grenade was thrown into the STABLE DOOR craft, blowing one man into the water and mortally wounding another crewman, EM3 T. L. DAVIS, USN. The boat captain opened fire on the junk's occupants, but they successfully evaded to the beach.

A search was conducted for the missing crewman by LCPIs and skimmers as PCFs provided illumination fire with 61-mm. mortars. The search operations came under small arms harassing fire on several occasions. In one instance, the enemy fired six mortar rounds at units engaged in the search. The body of the missing man, Seaman D. E. MOORE, Jr., USN, was found two days later.
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS

- - - - DETECTIONS
--- --- INSPECTIONS
- - - - - BOARDINGS

1966
1967
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Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 1 (IUWU 1) relieved Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Surveillance Unit 13 at Vung Tau on 13 February. On 18 February, one officer and five ratings of Royal Australian Navy Clearance Diving Team 3 (EOD) reported to the Officer in Charge, IUWU 1 for duty.

During the month, IUWU 1 detained one junk and 11 persons in Vung Tau harbor. IUWU 4 at Nha Trang detained four junks and 23 persons, and IUWU 3 at Qui Nhon detained one junk and 43 persons during the month.

* * *
COAST GUARD ACTIVITIES, VIETNAM

On 3 February a new command, Coast Guard Activities, Vietnam (COGARDACTV) was established under the operational control of Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, and the administrative control of the Coast Guard Commander, Western Area. Commander Coast Guard Squadron ONE, Captain William N. BANKS, USCG, assumed the additional duty of COMCOGARDACTV. Included in the new command are: Coast Guard Squadron ONE; the Port Security Detail; and the Merchant Marine Advisory Detail.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE

Riverine training operations by elements of River Assault Squadron NINE continued during the early part of February. Operating from USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST 1169), River Assault Division 91 used craft on loan from the Vietnamese Navy to conduct landing exercises with units of the U.S. Army NINTH Infantry Division.

A four-day training cycle was instituted by the River Flotilla ONE (RIVFLOT ONE) advance detachment to prepare the Army troops for waterborne operations. The cycle consisted of lectures by ship's company and RIVFLOT ONE personnel on the first day, wet-net training, gunnery and beaching exercises on the second day, and two days of landings in selected areas in the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ).

The training operations were secured during the lunar New Year truce, and boat maintenance and repairs were conducted. When the truce ended on 12 February, training operations began for the Third Battalion, 47th Infantry, Second Brigade. One training cycle was completed for "A" and "B" companies of the 3/47 Infantry. On 16 February, due to the increased enemy activity in the Long Tau channel, training exercises ceased and combat operations commenced.

At 0600 on 16 February, Operation RIVER RAIDER ONE began with R.A.D. 91 supporting the 3/47 Infantry. The first landing occurred at 1900 when elements of the battalion were landed near the mouth of the Tac Ong Nghia stream. On 16 February, a Joint Tactical
RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE COMMAND STRUCTURE

COMNAVFORV

COMPHIBPAC

COMSERVPAC

COMRIVFLOT ONE

CTF 117

RIVER SUPPORT SQUADRON SEVEN

2 APB

2 YT8
1 ARL
2 100 FT FDL

RIVER ASSAULT SQUADRON NINE

1 RAS

26 ATC
2 CCB
5 MONITOR
1 REFUELER
16 ASPB

RIVER ASSAULT SQUADRON ELEVEN

1 RAS

26 ATC
2 CCB
5 MONITOR
1 REFUELER
16 ASPB
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Operations Center was established in WHITFIELD COUNTY.

Search and destroy operations and ambushes continued throughout the rest of the month in theRSSZ. No significant contact was made with the enemy, but numerous base camps, supply caches and bunkers were discovered and destroyed. The largest enemy installation discovered during the month was found near Rach Don creek by "A" Company, which had been landed in the area by R.A.D. 91 on 21 February. The camp contained two workshops, a gallery, and 17 sleeping huts (each with 12 platforms). Extensive bunker complexes were also found in the camp. The facilities were destroyed.

On 28 February, USS ASKARI (AKL 30) arrived at Yung Tan, providing river support Squadron SEVEN with an improved repair capability. 26 February, USS HENRICO (APA 45) relieved WHITFIELD COUNTY as interim support ship for the Riverine Assault Force.

On 28 February, Captain Wade G. WELLS, USN, Commander River Flotilla ONE, arrived aboard HENRICO. At 0801 that day the Riverine Assault Force was activated as Task Force 117 under the operational control of Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam. River Flotilla ONE, which includes River Assault Squadron ONE and ELEVEN, will be under the administrative control of Commander Amphibious Force, U.S. Pacific
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Fleet. COMRIVFLOT ONE will also serve as Commander River Support Squadron SEVEN, under the administrative control of Commander Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

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On 5 February, Rear Admiral Paul L. Lacy, Jr., USN, relieved Rear Admiral Thomas R. Weschler, USN, as Commander U.S. Naval Support Activity, Danang. Admiral Weschler had commanded the activity, one of the Navy’s largest overseas shore commands, since 6 February 1966. During his tenure, NAVSUPPACT was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for outstanding performance while providing logistical support to I Corps forces.

During February, improved weather conditions in I Corps enabled NAVSUPPACT to increase considerably its coastal resupply efforts and, by maximum use of available landing craft utility/covered lighters (LCU/YFU), to reduce appreciably the large backlog in Danang of transshipment cargo for Dong Ha and Hue.

During the month, LCU/YFUs made 80 round trips to Dong Ha, delivering 16,055 measurement tons of cargo. In 61 round trips, LCU/YFUs also delivered 17,399 measurement tons of cargo to Hue for the resupply of Phu Bai.

Chu Lai continued to be resupplied by tank landing ships which, in 30 trips, delivered 48,190 measurement tons of cargo. The total tonnage delivered to Dong Ha, Hue and Chu Lai from Danang by sea was 76,681 measurement tons, a 25,210 ton increase over the January figure.

Forty-four ships arrived at the port of Danang in February, and 35 completed off-loading. The average daily throughput for Danang was a record 8,611 measurement tons. However, the total
monthly throughput, 241,203 measurement tons, was slightly less than the record set in January. The decrease was attributed to poor weather, the 28-day month and a low average cargo backlog which combined to reduce the total cargo offloaded from deep draft ships. The total throughput for I Corps in February was 332,187 measurement tons.

Monsoon weather continued to restrict POL resupply operations. At Dong Ha, efforts to repair the four-inch fuel line were terminated. Replenishment was accomplished by using LCM-8s with fuel bladders to shuttle fuel from an AOG. Phu Bai was replenished during most of the month through the four-inch bottom line, with replenishment supplemented by commercial truck deliveries from Danang.

The POL picture at Chu Lai continued to improve with the repair of the eight-inch fuel line on 7 February. Replenishment was effected by T-2 tankers pumping through the eight-inch and 12-inch lines. Additional POL deliveries were made by small commercial tankers and YOGs.

On 1 February, a Naval Support Activity detachment was established at Hue. The new detachment, consisting of one officer and 28 enlisted men, assumed responsibility for operations at the Hue City ramp and the Col Co causeway. In an administrative change, the Naval Support Activity detachment on Thuan An Island, near the Col Co causeway, was redesignated NAVSUPPACT detachment, Tan My.

Class II and Class IV supply support continued to improve. Net Supply requisition effectiveness for February was 81 per cent.
PORT OF DANANG CARGO HANDLING OPERATIONS

M/T

THOUS

300

250

200

150

100

50

0

3rd QTR
4th QTR
JAN
FEB
MAR
APR
MAY
JUN
JUL
AUG
SEP
OCT
NOV
DEC

CY-66

CY-67

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an increase of 11 per cent over January. February's net included requisitions filled by NAVSUPPACT's newly-opened SERVHART.

In February, the NAVSUPPACT small craft repair facility completed its first overhaul of a YFU. Major structural repairs, hull alterations, and the overhauling of electrical equipment and engines were completed in 53 days, thereby reducing by three to four weeks the average YFU off-station time incident to out-of-country overhaul. The facility also completed its first overhaul of an LCM-8 during the month.

The port of Danang was visited 61 times by SEVENTH Fleet units during February. The visiting ships were provided with 491,580 gallons of diesel fuel and 791,749 gallons of potable water, in addition to mail, freight, courier, transient billeting and disbursing services.

The Naval Support Activity's C-47 aircraft, which resumed regular service on 7 February, transported 16,770 pounds of cargo and 557 passengers during the month.

On 19 February, Captain Harry H. DINSMORE, MC, USN, was awarded the Navy Cross, the Navy's highest decoration, for the removal of a live mortar shell from the rib cage of a Vietnamese soldier. The presentation was made by General William C. WESTMORELAND, USA, Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, in ceremonies held at the THIRD Marine Amphibious Force headquarters in Danang. The successful operation had been performed by Captain DINSMORE, Chief Surgeon of the Danang Hospital, on 1 October 1966.
On 27 February, the Viet Cong shelled the Danang Air Base and an adjoining Vietnamese village with 51 rounds of 140-mm Russian-type rockets. Eleven U.S. Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps military personnel were killed; twenty-seven others were wounded. In addition, 70-90 military personnel were treated and returned to duty. The air base remained operational, but a number of aircraft were damaged and five signal vans were destroyed. Naval facilities received minor damage.

Thirty-nine civilians were killed during the attack, and over 40 others were injured. Approximately 200 civilian homes were destroyed.

During February, 11 instances of harassing small arms fire occurred at various locations in the Danang area. No friendly casualties resulted.

On 28 February Naval Support Activity personnel strength (including APLs) totaled 8,076, a slight increase over January's onboard count. At month's end the total strength of United States/Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPPACT Danang stood at 109,000.

** The 140 Millimeter Rocket **

The attack on the Danang Air Base on 27 February was the first known instance in which 140-mm, spin-stabilized rockets have been used in the Republic of Vietnam.

The rockets were fired from a range of about 8,000 yards.
A total of 134 rocket firing positions were discovered. The rocket launchers, simple "tubes equipped with an electrical firing wire in the after end, were mounted on boards and emplaced in inclined trenches.

The rocket is 42.4 inches long, weighs about 90 pounds and carries a bursting charge of 9.5 pounds of TNT. The rocket motor consists of seven powder grains, weighing a total of 15.5 pounds. Each rocket has ten canted nozzles to provide spin-stabilization. The estimated range of the weapon is 10,000 yards.

Intelligence reports indicated that the rockets and launchers were transported by boats and bearers from the mountains west of Danang on the day before the attack. When the rockets were moved overland, they were suspended from poles carried by the bearers. After the rockets were set up and concealed most of the personnel left the area, leaving behind the rocket gunners to carry out the attack.

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Support for naval forces in the II, III and IV Corps areas continued to improve during the month of February. Permanent construction at MARKET TIME bases neared completion, and satisfactory progress was made at the GAME WARDEN bases.

At Cam Ranh Bay, a Navy Post Office was established on 13 February. At Cat Lo, a newly-completed shallow well began producing 5,000 gallons of water daily. At Vung Tau, four hutchies were completed at the Harbor Defense site, a recreation hut was 90 per cent complete, and construction of a water tower and storage tank was started.

At Qui Nhon, public works personnel completed construction of bunkers and began construction of a barbed-wire perimeter fence. The base power system project was completed except for shore power to the pier.

At Sa Dec in the Delta, a 500-barrel fuel tank and fuel pump were installed, and work on a seawall and a shallow well of limited capacity was completed.

At Can Tho, an organic water purification system was installed to service the base and visiting ships. At Vinh Long, an area adjacent to the present living compound was leased and work on habitability projects commenced.

In February, intensive efforts were directed toward construction of the new base at Dong Tam, which will support the Riverine Assault Force. A water barge and a water purification plant...
arrived, and additional galley equipment and sand bags were procured. The Naval Support Activity Dong Tam detachment will eventually comprise 150 personnel.

The logistical posture of STABLE DOOR (Harbor Defense) sites also improved as Advance Base Functional Components began to arrive in quantity. Assets for Cam Ranh Bay and Qui Nhon were routed directly to those MARKET TIME bases, while assemblies for Vung Tau and Nha Trang were distributed through Saigon via sea lift.

During February the number of line items stocked at NAVSUPPACT Saigon remained at 25,000. Gross supply requisition effectiveness declined slightly to 39 per cent, while net effectiveness remained essentially stable at 63 per cent. The availability of material for priority TWO casualty report requisitions increased to 82 per cent.

A covered storage building at the Warehouse Number Four complex in Saigon was completed. The new storage building, built to replace a building destroyed by fire, is being used to store Advanced Base Functional Components for STABLE DOOR and Mekong Delta Riverine Assault Force operations.

The critical power situation eased somewhat with the arrival in country of additional generators. The generators will be used by NAVSUPPACT to establish a maintenance pool, and to provide a standby capability at operating sites.

A significant problem experienced by NAVSUPPACT was the shortage of certain repair parts needed to overhaul PCF engines. The shortage
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has caused the overhaul cycle to fall behind schedule. Major efforts were underway to correct the problem.

During February, the availability level of boats continued to be generally excellent, ranging from a low of 70 per cent for ICMs to a high of 95 per cent for PBRs.

The NAVSUPPACT Aviation section (Air Cofat) transported 4,130 passengers and 102.5 short tons of cargo during the month.

Water-borne shipments by NAVSUPPACT craft totaled 947 long tons of cargo plus 180 tons of water.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE COMMAND STRUCTURE

COMCBPAC

COMNAVFORV

THIRD NCB

30TH NCR

MCB 4

MCB 5

MCB 8

MCB 9

MCB 40

MCB 58

MCB 62

MCB 133

CEPACDET RVN

SEABEE TEAM 0307

SEABEE TEAM 0509

SEABEE TEAM 0510

SEABEE TEAM 0805

SEABEE TEAM 0807

SEABEE TEAM 1107

--- OPERATIONAL CHAIN OF COMMAND

--- --- ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIN OF COMMAND
THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

As the monsoon season began to wane in I Corps, the pace of the general construction program increased. During February, the eight Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (MCBs) of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment completed over two and one-quarter million dollars worth of military construction and one-quarter of a million dollars worth of non-military construction.

Two mobile construction battalions were relieved in February. Newly-arrived MCB-4 was deployed to the Danang area to relieve MCB-10. A 35-man detachment of MCB-4 was located at Khe Sanh airfield to support construction projects in that area, and a 70-man detachment was sent to An Hoa to improve the airfield.

In the Danang area MCB-133 relieved MCB-6. During an eight-month tour in Vietnam, MCB-6 completed cantonments for over 12,000 personnel. Other accomplishments included the construction of a helicopter landing pad and a reviewing stand at the headquarters of the Third Marine Amphibious Force, and a television station at Danang.

Projects under construction by MCB-133 at month's end included a public works maintenance building and water treatment facility at Camp Tien Sha, and a warehouse at the Naval Support Activity covered storage area.

On 6 February, the Viet Cong fired mortars on the Payne Compound at Tam Ky, 35 miles south of Danang, where a detachment of MCB-8 was working. One Seabee was mortally wounded in the attack.
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MCB-3, deployed at Rosemary Point, Chu Lai, continued work on such projects as an avionics building and control tower for Marine Air Group 36, aircraft revetments for Marine Air Group 12, and an Integrated Wideband Communications System installation for the First Signal Brigade.

On 18 February, a 27-man detachment of MCB-9 returned to the battalion at Danang after completing a number of construction projects at the new base at Dong Tam, in the Mekong Delta. MCB-9 was the first organized Seabee unit, other than Seabee Teams, to operate in the Delta. MCB-9's major projects in the Danang area included improving the Minh Long airfield, repairing the Naval Support Activity, Danang "T" pier, construction of a new seawall for NAVSUPPACT Danang, and construction of buildings at Danang and Quang Ngai for the United States Agency for International Development.

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