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4 JAN 1968

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From: Commander J. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)

Subj: J. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, December 1967; submission of

Enclosures:
(a) HAP-670777, 1-1-5750 ser 1/6925 of 2 October 1967
(b) Coastal Surveillance Force Summary
(c) River Patrol Force Summary
(d) Riverine Assault Force Summary
(e) Naval Advisory Group Summary
(f) Selected Psychological Operations
(g) J. S. Statistical Summary
(h) J. S. Statistical Supplement

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are attached.

2. The psychological operations statistical summary is not available at this time. The data contained in enclosures (6) and (7) is based on information available this date and is subject to revisions as later information is received. The psychological operations statistics and any adjustments to enclosures (6) and (7) will be reflected in December's historical supplement.

J. S. Deputy
12-74, Secretary

Director of Naval History

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During December there was a continued decrease in Operation MARKET TIME activity, especially in the northern coastal zones, as the heavy rains and inclement weather associated with the northeast monsoon helped to aggregate some coastal junk and sampan traffic to a very low total. MARKET TIME patrol craft were also restricted to port on several occasions during the month because of the heavy weather and high sea states. 34,591 junks and sampans were detected by MARKET TIME units during December, the lowest monthly aggregate recorded since September 1966. Meanwhile, MARKET TIME units conducted 114 gunfire support missions and were engaged in 14 hostile fire incidents during the month. The majority of the gunfire missions were conducted in the Fourth Coastal Zone where fair weather prevailed during most of the month.

On 2 December the MARKET TIME support base at Qui Nhon was attacked by an estimated platoon of enemy sappers. The coordinated attack was initiated at 0329 when a Coastal Group 22 command junk, located in the middle of a nest of junks, was blown up and sunk. The attack continued throughout the early morning hours of the 23rd and resulted in two U.S. Navy men killed and 15 others wounded, plus extensive damage to the CPQ quarters and light damage to the mess hall and enlisted barracks. Three enemy were killed during the attack and the following enemy ordinance was captured: 10 Chinese communist fragmentation bombs.
grenade, five grenades that were improvised from 61-mm mortar heads, two Chinese communist copies of the Russian AK-47 assault rifle, and one automatic pistol.

On December 9 CP 79 came under automatic weapons fire from five different positions while conducting a loudspeaker P-21OPS mission along the coast approximately 10 miles south of Cape Zapotangan. The swift boat received five automatic weapon hits and BM1 Bobby O. Cailler, the forward gunner, was killed during the action.

On the 15th, U.S.C.S. Y.K.C. (S.E.C. 330) conducted a gunfire support mission against an entrenched Viet Cong company which was located approximately 25 miles north of Ca Nea Point, along the coast of the Gulf of Thailand. The mission, which was requested by the Song Co for District authorities, was utilized an airborne spotter, resulted in three VC killed, 1 wounded, plus two structures destroyed and three damaged.

On the 17th, the Coast Guard's PFG 1 received word from the 1st Battalion's TMC's Battalion that North Vietnamese Army forces were located near the coast of Quang Tri Province, approximately 70 miles north of Da Nang. While closing the beach to investigate, the PFB received five hits from automatic weapons. PFG 55 and 22 subsequently joined the PFG and the three craft took the area under fire. There were no friendly casualties as a result of the action and enemy casualties were reported as one wounded and five killed (probable).

Enclosure (1)
RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
December 1967

Harrassment of GVN/GARDEN units increased as these units continued to apply pressure on the Viet Cong. The PBRs and "Seawolves", in addition to their primary role of denying the enemy use of the rivers, provided support to the ARVN. PBRs continued to interdict tax collectors in their efforts to collect "liberation" taxes to support their Winter-Spring campaign. There were two incidents where enemy swimmers were detected; one was killed. On 22 December an attack was made on a U.S. merchant ship, however, on 29 December an unsuccessful mining attempt was made against an LST. LSTs provided close support to enemy targets with significant results. On 21 December Operation "CAGE" commenced against enemy forces on Tan Dinh Island, the scene of continued harassment against PBR patrols. The Christmas Truce was violated when a PBR patrol was ambushed on the lower Wagee River.

On 7 December PBR Mobile Force 1 arrived Nam Loc followed by ten PBRs on 5 December. This is the second time that PBRs were located in the First Corps Tactical Zone. On 11 December, in the Delta, combat patrols with new Mark II PBRs commenced out of My Tho. On 15 December of the AO QUANG NAM (LT 221) conducted a naval gunfire mission against a reported VC concentration six miles southeast of Tan Trao. Twenty VC were killed and one recoilless rifle damaged. USALs and four M500
RATNIN TEXAS, anchored in the vicinity of Nha Be, received waterline damage from a floating explosive charge. The ship got underway in anticipation of beaching on the bank of the Long Tan to prevent sinking; however, the ship was able to control the flooding with her pumps. There were no casualties. During the Christmas Truce period—241800H to 251800H—a PBR patrol operating on the Bassac, just south of Ten Link Island, was attacked by enemy forces. At 251800H the lead boat of the patrol was hit by a 9-40 rocket. The patrol also received grenade, small arms and automatic weapons fire. Two PBR sailors were wounded when the rocket hit causing major damage to the boat's hull. "Sunsolves" conducted a strike against the enemy positions and accounted for 70 VC killed, four wounded, nineteen civilians wounded, one crew served weapon and three small arms destroyed. At about midnight 19 December an unsuccessful enemy mining attempt was made against the USS SINSAE LST-821 while anchored in the central Ham Luong River. The two mines, placed below the waterline, failed to achieve a high order detonation thereby avoiding any serious support asset loss. There were no personnel casualties or material damage.

Enclosure (7)
conducted a patrol on 20 December, six miles south of Ben Tre, off the 
Nam Luong, and killed six VC and captured one suspect. One SEAL was 
wounded slightly in the action. "Seawolves" accounted for twenty Viet 
Cong killed after a strike on an enemy position near the mouth of the 
Hassac on 21 December. During the period 21-23 December PBRs provided 
a rotating exfiltration blockade around Tan Dinh Island on the lower 
Hassac, in Operation BOLD CAROUSEL. "Seawolves" provided overhead 
cover while the boats patrolled in a clock-wise rotation at 2,000 
yards interval, the 9th ARVN division conducted a sweep of the island. 
The boats and helicopters came under constant fire from the enemy, in 
addition to the suppressing fire of the PBRs and "Seawolves", E-G 25 
boats provided heavy weapons fire at the enemy positions. The 9th ARVN 
landed on the 22nd and withdrew on the 23rd achieving negligible results. 
The 9th ARVN killed one VC and captured one VC and four grenades, five 
ARVN were wounded by booby traps. TF 116 accounted for two Viet Cong 
killed, one captured and 21 detainees. Four sampans and five structures 
were destroyed. During the two-day operation 12 U.S. Navymen were 
wounded in action. Nineteen PBRs sustained multiple bullet and shrapnel 
damage and two helicopters received bullet damage. The PBRs and "Seawolves" 
were engaged on 58 separate occasions during the 67-hour operation. In 
addition one helicopter supporting the operation crashed at Binh Thuy as 
as a result of a mechanical failure. The four crewmen were injured.

in the early morning hours of 22 December the U.S. merchant ship
RIVERINES ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
December 1967

During the month of December, the Mobile Riverine Force concentrated its efforts on locating and destroying the major Viet Cong units in a series of operations in Dinh Tuong and eastern Kien Phong provinces. On 4 December the 5th Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps and the U.S. Army/Navy elements of the MRF teamed up in a search and destroy operation, killing 234 Viet Cong in an area north of the My Tho River in Dinh Tuong and Kien Phong provinces. Later in the month, there were two separate mining incidents on the Xang Canal in Dinh Tuong Province involving riverine craft.

On the evening of 3 December the assault elements of the MRF began re-locating its forces in preparation for Operation CORRA MII (4-6 December) to be conducted in western Dinh Tuong and eastern Kien Phong provinces. Meanwhile, as a deceptive measure, the Mobile Riverine Base delayed relocation to its new anchorage six miles east of Nga Bac until the assault boats were in the objective area. Heavy contact with the enemy was rapidly established when boats of RAD 112, transporting elements of the VNRG 5th Battalion, were ambushed with automatic weapons as they entered the Rach Young. The boats fought their way through the ambush site, and proceeded about two miles up the narrow stream, where they were again taken under intense fire with recoilless-rifle, automatic-weapons and 90mm rocket fire from the western bank. The boats turned into the Viet Cong fire and disembarked the Vietnamese Marines.
who immediately launched an intensive attack against the 502 Local Force Battalion and local Viet Cong guerrillas. Meanwhile, RAU IIIC, with the U.S. 3/4th Infantry Battalion embarked, was also taken under fire from the initial ambush position. Instead of proceeding up the 4th Doung, the route turned into the western bank just north of the ambush site where the U.S. troops conducted a successful counter-attack on the ambushers. The cumulative destruction inflicted on the enemy during the day-long battle amounted to 234 Viet Cong killed with eight enemy suspects and 47 weapons captured. Two U.S. sailors were killed and 68 were wounded in the battle while U.S. Army casualties consisted of nine soldiers killed and 89 wounded in action. The Vietnamese Marines accounted for the majority of the enemy casualties, and also suffered the heaviest losses with 49 Marines killed and 75 wounded. Total cumulative destruction inflicted on the enemy for this phase of CORRONADO IX (4-6 December) consisted of 266 killed, 163 bunkers and 176 sampans destroyed. There were also over 5,700 rounds of small-arms ammunition and 274 assorted weapons (including grenades, mines and mortars) captured. Operation CORRONADO IX (4-6 December) was conducted in western Binh Thang and eastern Phuoc Yen provinces. In a series of light skirmishes with the enemy, there were nine Viet Cong killed, two wounded, four captured and 35 bunkers destroyed. On the morning of 7 December, an M-99 conducting mine-clearing operations on the west bank of the Long Canal in Binh Thang province, the village northwest of Long Tam, was mined. There was one

Enclosure (3)
sailor killed and three wounded in the explosion which also caused extensive hull damage to the boat. The second mining incident occurred on 26 December, however, there were no personnel or material casualties to the unit involved. Units of the MRF continued conducting riverine strike operations (COMONADO IX 20-22 December) in Dinh Tuong Province killing 11 of the enemy, capturing four others and destroying 42 bunkers. After a one-day maintenance period, the MRF struck at the Viet Cong again in another phase of Operation COMONADO IX (24-26 December) in Dinh Tuong Province, killing 15 and destroying over 120 bunkers.
During the month, the Vietnamese Navy's Fleet Command had a daily average of 25.6 ships available and a daily average of 22.1 employed.

At the same time the Coastal Force employed a daily average of 162 junks and a daily average of 196 available. Meanwhile, the River Assault Groups had a daily average of 136 craft employed and a daily average of 171 craft available. The Vietnamese Marine Corps' six infantry and one artillery battalions were committed to operations 93 percent of the time, and, with the exception of the 5th Battalion on 4 December, experienced light contact with the enemy. Task Force A continued operations in the Bong Sen area of the II Corps Tactical Zone through the month and Task Force B was assigned as the ready reaction force for the III Corps Tactical Zone, while the 5th Battalion operated with the Mobile Riverine Force in Operation CORREGADO II, until the 27th when it was detached for duty in the III Corps Tactical Zone.

On 4 December, the VNAF 5th Battalion engaged the 400-man Viet Cong 502 Local Force Battalion, five miles northeast of Sa Dec, in the heaviest fighting in the CORREGADO series of operations. The Marines, landed in the face of an enemy ambush, surrounded the Viet Cong battalion in its prepared positions and destroyed it as a fighting force. Landing on the west bank of the Rang River at 0615, the 1st Company engaged the enemy's northern...
Clan, while the 2nd and 3rd Companies were shifted from their initial
landing, further north, to the enemy's southern flank. By late morning
the Viet Cong were surrounded with River Assault Division 112 on the
East, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Companies to the North, West and South. The
reserve, 4th Company, was then landed to attack the major emplacements
along the stream. Unable to use supporting arms because of the constant,
close contact with the enemy, the Marines relied on squad and fire team
tactics. By 1600, the 5th Battalion had eliminated all resistance except
for one bunker complex on the enemy's western flank. At 1600, after a
helicopter fire team made a rocket attack on the complex, the Marines
rushed the bunkers and, using hand grenades and shovels, destroyed the
strong point. At 1630 the battle ended, with 175 Viet Cong killed, 12
captured and 12 Viet Cong suspects detained. Forty Marines were killed
and 163 were wounded; 24 of whom were treated in the field, while the
remainder were evacuated. On 1 December, Coastal Group 14 and the ARVN
51st Regiment conducted Operation PHI P wurde 57, just south of the Cua Dai
River, three miles east of Hoi An. Two junks and a 30-man landing party
secured the riverfront and captured one Viet Cong, detained 21 suspects
and damaged or destroyed 10 bunkers and one bridge. The ARVN forces,
closing from the South, killed four Viet Cong, captured three others,
detained 10 suspects and damaged or destroyed 17 junks. From 13 to 19
December a series of five operations was conducted by RAC 23 with PRU,
National Police and Popular Force troops, and GAME WAREDEN FDRs against
the Viet Cong on Gia Island in the Co Chien River, 20 miles downstream from Vinh Long. The combination of sweeps, ambushes and river blockades, planned to destroy an enemy sanctuary and supply-liaison route, resulted in the death of two Viet Cong, the capture of three others, the detention of 81 suspects and the seizure of one ton of rice and 12 pounds of medicines. Two Popular Force soldiers were wounded. On 16 and 19 December Viet Cong units on the Van Go Dong and Van Co Rivers successfully attacked two monitors. In the first instance, a RAG 27 monitor was mined and sunk 16 miles southwest of Goigon; nine crewmen were injured, three seriously. On the 19th a monitor of the River Transport Escort Group and an oil barge were hit by machine-gun fire, killing one sailor and wounding one sailor and one civilian on the barge. On 20 December, Coastal Group 1h conducted Operation PHU KIANG 62 on the north bank of the Ca Mau River two miles east of Koi 40. The Coastal Group junks and landing party detained 15 Viet Cong suspects and destroyed 20 small junks, 20 shelters, 10 bunkers and 20 tunnels in the one-day operation.
Psychological and civic action operations continued to receive command attention. All units were actively engaged in the distribution of leaflets and conducting loudspeaker broadcasts. Preparations were also made for the Chief Hoi/Dai Soan Ket programs during the forthcoming Tet season. The Tet campaign will begin on 1 January and terminate on 24 March. Hoi Chans made tapes appealing to their former comrades-in-arms saying that the Viet Cong had given false propaganda about the Americans and the Government of Vietnam. One Hoi Chanh stated "I am doing all I can to help convince other Viet Cong that they should stop the useless fighting and join with our government to help all the people." The undermining effect on the Viet Cong by our P YoP efforts can best be typified by the repeated attacks made on the PNsks as they conduct loudspeaker operations.

In testimony of the outstanding performance of the Seabees in civic action, JCS has directed CNO to deploy seven additional Village Assistance Teams to support the USAID/Vietnam civic action program.

Christmas parties were conducted throughout Vietnam, wherever naval units were located. Children were treated to dinner and presented with presents. The USS HARRIET (MSS 439) and USS FINCH (DDR 328), assigned to MARKET TIME, presented the orphans at Qui Nhon with a pre-Christmas present when they came ashore and painted the orphanage.

Enclosure (5)
This is only one example of the many acts performed by naval units during the month as they actively pursued civic action projects while maintaining a high posture of operational readiness.

Meanwhile, the VRN also continued in their civic action program by conducting HEDCAPs and distributing much needed commodities to villagers in outlying districts and refugee settlements. The VRN hospital ships attended to the medical needs of the people as the two ships traveled the waterways of the Delta and the RSSZ.
### UNCLASSIFIED

**USN Statistical Summary**

**December 1967**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MARKET TIME</th>
<th>GAME WARDEN</th>
<th>Mobile Riverine Force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detections</td>
<td>35,591</td>
<td>61,565</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspections</td>
<td>14,702</td>
<td>15,235</td>
<td>1,112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boardings</td>
<td>7,255</td>
<td>37,276</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craft detained</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons detained</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Cong suspects</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostile fire incidents</td>
<td>1h</td>
<td>10h</td>
<td>*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Enemy Casualties:

- a. **Killed**: 15 (6 prob.)
- b. **Wounded**: 2
- c. **Captured**: 0

#### USN Casualties:

- a. **Killed**: 2**
- b. **Wounded**: 5**
- c. **Captured**: 0
- d. **Missing**: 0

#### Enemy Material Losses:

- a. **Destroyed**:
  - (1) Junks or sampans: 6
  - (2) Structures: 20
- b. **Captured**:
  - (1) Junks or sampans: *
  - (2) Weapons: *
  - (3) Ammunition (rounds): *
  - (4) Rice (tons): *
- c. **Damaged**:
  - (1) Junks or sampans: 11
  - (2) Structures: 11

#### USN Material Losses:

- a. **Destroyed**:
  - (1) Surface craft: 0
  - (2) Helicopters: *
- b. **Damaged**:
  - (1) Surface craft: 2
  - (2) Helicopters: *

#### SAR Missions:

- 5

**Remarks:**

* Information not applicable or not available this date.

** Includes one killed and five wounded during the attack on Qui Nhon.

** Indicates handcuff.

---

**GROUP 4**

Downgraded at 3 year intervals

Declassified after 12 years
### UNCLASSIFIED

#### TNR/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY

December 1967

**VIETNAMESE NAVY:**

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<th>Searched</th>
<th>Detained</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Junks</td>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I NZ</td>
<td>11,860</td>
<td>36,213</td>
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<tr>
<td>II NZ</td>
<td>6,700</td>
<td>20,982</td>
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<tr>
<td>III NZ</td>
<td>8,051</td>
<td>31,114</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV NZ</td>
<td>2,529</td>
<td>8,705</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-totals</strong></td>
<td>29,160</td>
<td>97,344</td>
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<th>FLEET COMMAND PATROL SHIPS</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>People</td>
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<td>People</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| **TOTALS**          | 34,316   | 113,355  | 21     | 221    |

**VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:**

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<tr>
<th>VC/NAV</th>
<th>287 KIA**</th>
<th>36 CAPTURED</th>
<th>249 SUSPECTS DETAINED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VNMC</td>
<td>45 KIA***</td>
<td>116 WIA***</td>
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**Remarks:**

* Conducted 49 gunfire support missions during December.
** Includes 70 KIA by a B-52 strike in II CTZ.
*** Plus two killed and 15 wounded; non-hostile action.

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**GROUP 4**

Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years

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Enclosure (7)
U.S. NAVAL FORCES
VIETNAM

MONTHLY HISTORICAL
SUPPLEMENT
DECEMBER 1967

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1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded.

J. W. THOMPSON
Flag Secretary
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MDL, PANFLA
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CHNAVAVGRU, Air University, Maxwell AFB
Military Assistance Institute
USA Special Warfare School (Attn: USH/MC Liaison Off.), Ft. Bragg, N. C.
DIA (DIAAP-1)
DACC, RVM (Code 10AH)
NAVFORVINST 05215.2
List I; List II B(5), C(5); X; List III A, C(12), Ca(1), D(4), G(1);
List IV A(1), B, C(6), D(1); List V A(2), B(2), C(1), D(2), F(1),
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The month of December was marked by an increased number of ambush attacks on riverine boats and craft. These attacks point up the importance the enemy attaches to the activity of these units. These attacks included small-arms, automatic weapons, rockets and mines. On 6 December a PCF was attacked by automatic-weapons fire from five different positions approximately 10 miles south of Cape Batangan. One man was killed.

Also on 6 December, a PBR patrol in the Long Tau River came under heavy automatic-weapons and small-arms fire from both banks of the river. Three PBR sailors were wounded.

On 7 December, on the Saigon river 11 miles north of Saigon, river craft from RAG 28 were taken under B-40, semi-automatic and automatic-weapons fire. One Vietnamese Navy sailor was killed and two were wounded.

On 21 December an ASPB, the lead minesweeper of several riverine craft transitting the Xang Canal, two miles northwest of Dong Tam, was mined. One sailor was killed and three were wounded.

On Christmas Day, the lead boat of a two-boat PBR patrol received a 2-40 rocket round in its starboard side. Two PBR sailors were wounded.

It is interesting to note that although the units received damage of varying degrees, none were lost as a result of these enemy actions.
## LIST OF CHARTS/GRAPHS/PHOTOGRAPHS

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<td>A former Viet Cong tapes a &quot;psyops&quot; message</td>
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<td>34.</td>
<td>(F)</td>
<td>A memorial service held for two Seabees</td>
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</table>
2 Dec - PBR Mobile Base 1 arrives at Danang and is followed three
days later by 10 PBRs. This is the second time PBRs have
been located in the I Corps Tactical Zone. p. 20.

- Captain R. S. SALZER, USN, relieves Captain Wade C. WELLS,
USN, as COMPILOT ONE/COMIWSUPRON SEVEN/CTF 117 during
ceremonies aboard USS Banewah (APB 35). p. 100.

- One phase of Operation CORONADO IX begins in western Dinh
Tuong and eastern Kien Phong provinces. Cumulative re-
sults include 266 Viet Cong killed, eight captured, 108
suspects detained, and 3,000 rounds of small-arms ammuni-
tion and 121 weapons captured. Two U. S. Navymen are
killed and 68 wounded. Vietnamese Marines suffer 40
killed and 103 wounded. p. 48.

- PFC 79 comes under automatic-weapons fire from five posi-
tions approximately 10 miles south of Cape Batangan while
conducting a "PsyOps" loudspeaker mission. One Navyman
is killed. Results of the PFC's return fire are unknown.
p. 7.

- Three sampans are detected crossing the Long Tai River by
a PBR patrol. The PBRs fire on the sampans and are imme-
idately taken under heavy automatic-weapons and small-arms
fire from both banks of the river. Three PBR crewmen are
wounded, one seriously. Three Viet Cong are killed and
two sampans containing 12 one-quarter pound blocks of TNT
are captured. p. 21.

- A "Seawolf" light helicopter fire team conducts a patrol
along the Bai Lai River. The helicopters destroy or dam-
age several structures and sampans, kill four Viet Cong
and wound 16 others. There are no friendly casualties.
p. 29.

- Craft from RAG 28 are ambushed by B-40 rocket, semi-
automatic and automatic-weapons fire while lifting ARVN
troops across the Saigon river, 11 miles north of Saigon.
One VNN sailor is killed and two are wounded. Three RAG
28 craft sustain minor damage. p. 114.

- Operation QUYLTHANG commences in Gia Dinh province, five
8 Dec - miles north of Saigon with RAG 30 supporting the Vietnamese
5th Ranger group. The units kill 32 Viet Cong and capture
or destroy numerous weapons, documents and bunkers. Fifteen
VNN sailors are killed and 18 are wounded. p. 114.

11 - River Section 534 arrives at My Tho and commences combat
operations with the new Mark II PBRs. The new PBRs engage
the enemy for the first time on the 13th. p. 27.

- LSSL 326 fires on a Viet Cong encampment on Dung Island
and kills 11 Viet Cong, wounds 15 and destroys numerous
weapons. p. 103.

15-31 - A series of operations begin in Quang Tri and Thua Thien
sectors involving ARVN forces, Regional Force troops and
U. S. Marines with Coastal Groups 11 and 12 providing
blocking support. The operations result in 176 Viet Cong
killed, 84 captured and numerous weapons shelters and
bunkers captured or destroyed. p. 107.

16 - Admiral John J. Hyland, USN, Commander-in-Chief, U. S.
Pacific Fleet, visits CTF 116 headquarters at Binh Thuy
and the Mobile Riverine Base at Dong Tam. p. 99.

17 - Rear Admiral James J. Kally, CHC, USN, Chief of Chaplains,
commences an extensive tour of U. S. Navy installations in

21 - PBRs, "Seawolves", Vietnamese Army troops, and RAG 25
units begin Operation BOLD CAROUSEL on Tan Dinh Island.
During the two-day operation 12 Navymen are wounded (one
seriously), four air crewmen are wounded, and 19 PBRs and
two helicopters are damaged. Two Viet Cong are killed,
one is captured, 35 suspects are detained and four sampans
and five structures are destroyed. p. 140.

- An ASPB is mined in the Xang Canal resulting in one Navyman
killed. The ASPB suffers moderate hull damage but returns
to the Mobile Riverine Base under its own power. p. 54.

22 - MarkLT Tim support base at Qui Phong is attacked by a pla-
toon of enemy sappers. Four Navymen are killed and 14 are
wounded; three buildings are damaged by the attack. Viet
Cong casualties are seven killed and several enemy weapons
are captured. p. 2.
23 Dec - Lyndon B. JOHNSON, President of the United States, stops briefly in Cam Ranh Bay and awards five Navy men with medals. p. 99.

25 - A P7R patrol is ambushed on the Bassac river, just south of Tan Dinh Island. The lead boat is struck by a B-40 rocket which wounds two Navy men and causes major damage to the P7R's hull. "Seawolves" are called in and artillery fire is directed onto the ambush site. Twenty Viet Cong are killed, four are wounded and several weapons are destroyed. p. 41.

27 - YR6W-16, which was mined in the Ham Luang River on 24 November, is towed to Subic Bay for repairs. p. 91.

29 - South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van THU visits the MRF at Dong Tam for a briefing and a tour of MRF units. p. 100.

31 - NAVFORV numerical strength stands at 27,039.
COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

During calendar year 67, MARKET TIME forces successfully accomplished their primary mission of preventing the infiltration of enemy men and materials into the Republic of Vietnam. There were no known instances of successful large scale infiltration; three such attempts were made, and in each case the infiltrators were captured or destroyed. At year's end, the Vietnamese Navy had progressed toward a higher degree of proficiency and had commenced effective independent surveillance operations in four MARKET TIME areas.

A summary of calendar year 67 MARKET TIME activity by U. S. units includes: 913,121 wooden-hulled detections, 538,054 wooden-hulled boardings/inspections, and 8,743 steel-hulled detections.

During December units of Operation MARKET TIME and Operation STABLE DOOR detected 75,092 craft along South Vietnam's coastline and harbors; 19,954 of these were boarded or inspected. The boardings resulted in the detention of 57 craft and 502 persons.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

During December there was a continued decrease in Operation MARKET TIME activity, especially in the northern coastal zones, as the heavy seas and inclement weather associated with the northeast monsoon held the aggregate of coastal junk and sampan traffic to a very low total. MARKET TIME patrol craft were also restricted
to port on several occasions during the month because of the heavy weather and high sea states. Only 34,151 junks and sampans were detected by MARKET TIME units during December, the lowest monthly aggregate recorded since November 1966. Over 40 percent of the detected craft were inspected and approximately 20 percent were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 196 persons. In addition, 1,646 steel-hulled vessels were detected transitting MARKET TIME areas; 62 of the steel-hulled craft were boarded.

Meanwhile, MARKET TIME units supported two ground operations, conducted 114 gunfire support missions, and were engaged in 14 hostile fire incidents during the month. The majority of the gunfire missions were conducted in the Fourth Coastal Zone where fair weather prevailed during most of the month. As a result of the various operations, 20 structures and six craft were destroyed; in addition, 15 Viet Cong were killed (six probable).

On 22 December the MARKET TIME support base at Qui Nhon was attacked by an estimated platoon of enemy sappers. The well co-ordinated attack was initiated at 2329 when a Coastal Group 22 command junk, located in the middle of a nest of junks, was blown up and sunk. The attack continued throughout the early morning hours of the 23rd and resulted in two Navymen killed and 16 others wounded, two of whom died later during treatment. Material damage resulting from the attack included extensive damage to the CPO
quarters and light damage to the mess hall and enlisted barracks. Seven enemy were killed (four probable) during the attack and the following enemy ordnance was captured: 10 Chinese communist fragmentation grenades, five grenades that were improvised from 60-mm mortar heads, two Chinese communist copies of the Russian AK-47 assault rifle, and one automatic pistol. The Qui Nhon base continued to receive harassing fire through the 27th of the month.

First Coastal Zone

During December, coastal junk and sampan traffic continued to be light in the First Coastal Zone. The inclement weather associated with the northeast monsoon held detections by the zone's patrol units to 8,682, approximately the same number of detections that occurred during November. More than 3,700 of the detected craft were inspected or boarded.

On 6 December PCF 79 came under automatic-weapons fire from five different positions while conducting a loudspeaker "psyops" mission along the South China Sea coast approximately 10 miles south of Cape Batangan. The Swift boat received five automatic-weapon hits, and Boatswain's Mate First Class Bobby D. CARVER, USN, the forward gunner, was killed during the action. The PCF returned the fire with unknown results, and opened the area.

On the 18th, the Coast Guard's POINT ARDEN received word from the 1st Marine AMTRACK Battalion that North Vietnamese Army forces
were located near the coast of Quang Tri province, approximately 70 miles north of Danang. While closing the beach to investigate, the WPB received five hits from automatic weapons. PCFs 22 and 55 subsequently joined the WPB and the three craft took the area under fire. There were no friendly casualties as a result of the action, and enemy casualties were reported as one wounded and five killed (probable).

On 28 December PCF 17 received small-arms fire from an area occupied by five fishing junks approximately six miles north of Cua Viet. Permission was granted by the THIRD MARDIV Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer to return the fire and the Swift boat made two firing runs while receiving occasional hostile fire. The PCF then spotted for USS PRITCHETT (DD 561) who took the area under fire. Three enemy junks were damaged as a result of the firing and there were no friendly casualties.

First Coastal Zone units also provided blocking and exfiltration patrols for two ground operations during the month.

Second Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME activity in the Second Coastal Zone continued to decrease slightly during December as only 12,592 junks and sampans were detected. More than 6,600 of the detected craft were boarded or inspected. Heavy surf and high sea states forces the zone's MARKET TIME units to return to port or seek lee areas on several
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OPERATIONS IN THE
SECOND COASTAL ZONE

December 1967

LEGEND:
□ - Coastal Surveillance Center
X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
♀ - SAR/MED/EVAC Incident

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occasions throughout the month.

In response to a request from a FIRST Cavalry NGLO, USCGC HALFMOON (WHEC 378) conducted a gunfire support mission against a suspected Viet Cong bivouac area approximately 21 miles northeast of Phan Thiet on 7 December. The mission, which was spotted by a II CTZ NGLO, resulted in three structures damaged and numerous crop caches destroyed.

On 22 December USCGC DUANE (WHEC 33) engaged in her first enemy action since World War II. Only four days after the ship commenced her first MARKET TIME patrol she received a request for gunfire support from the NGLO at Phan Thiet. With the NGLO spotting from an aircraft, the cutter took the target under fire with her five-inch gun. As a result of the firing, one command post, three bunkers and seven foxholes were destroyed. Secondary explosions from the bunkers were also observed by the spotter.

Again on the 27th, USCGC DUANE was called upon by the Phan Thiet NGLO to conduct a gunfire mission against a fortified Viet Cong area approximately 15 miles northeast of Phan Thiet. The cutter expended 119 rounds of 5"/38 ammunition and destroyed numerous foxholes and bunkers.

Third Coastal Zone

Junk and sampan traffic also decreased slightly in the Third Coastal Zone during December. Only 4,729 craft were detected, a
OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE

December 1967

LEGEND:
- Coastal Surveillance Center
- Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
- SAR/MEDEVAC Incident

SCALE:
0 - 30 Nautical Miles
decrease of almost 1,000 from November's total. 2,241 of the detected craft were inspected or boarded.

The PCF's manning stations in the Third Coastal Zone were frequently forced to seek lee areas during the month because of heavy seas and high winds.

On 17 December, in response to a request from sector authorities, PCF 68 took 12 sampans under fire in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone. An airborne spotter reported several sampans damaged but the full extent of enemy damage and casualties was unknown.

On the 27th, USCGC POINT JEFFERSON took bunkers and structures in the Long Toan Secret Zone under fire in response to a request from sector authorities. The firing resulted in three bunkers destroyed and one structure damaged.

Fourth Coastal Zone

Continued fair weather in the Fourth Coastal Zone allowed MARKET TIME units to remain particularly active during December. In addition to detecting over 7,900 junks and sampans, over 3,000 of which were boarded or inspected, the zone's units were involved in numerous hostile fire incidents and gunfire support missions during the month.

On 1 December, in response to a request from sector authorities, USCGC GRESHAM (WHEC 387) conducted a gunfire mission against an enemy position approximately 26 miles north of Ca Mau Point on
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OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE

December 1967

LEGEND:
- Coastal Surveillance Center
X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
# - SAR/MED/EVAC Incident

SCALE:
0 NAUTICAL MILES 30

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the Gulf of Thailand coast. An airborne spotter reported 80 percent target coverage with one structure destroyed and 12 structures damaged.

On the 9th, PCF 74 fired on a position approximately 18 miles northwest of Rach Gia from which a spotter aircraft had received fire. As a result of the firing one sampan was destroyed and one large secondary explosion was produced.

On the 12th, USCGC YAKUTAT (WHEC 380) conducted a gunfire mission against an estimated Viet Cong company which was located approximately 25 miles north of Ca Mau Point, along the coast of the Gulf of Thailand. The mission, which was requested by the Song Ong Doc district authorities and utilized an airborne spotter, resulted in three Viet Cong killed and one wounded, plus two structures destroyed and three damaged.

On 14 December PCF 10 was requested by U. S. Army authorities at Song Ong Doc to stand by in an area 26 miles north of Ca Mau Point to apprehend fleeing sampans and help suppress possible ground fire. Several sampans were soon spotted and were stopped by the Swift boat as they attempted to evade. A total of 24 detainees were turned over to the Army authorities at Song Ong Doc by PCF 10.

On the 17th, YAKUTAT responded to a request from U. S. Army authorities at Song Ong Doc and took an enemy supply depot located
approximately 30 miles north of Ca Mau Point under fire. Responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne spotter, the cutter destroyed one sampan and two structures, and damaged one structure.

YAKUTAT fired a second mission on the 17th in response to another request from the same authorities. During this mission the cutter destroyed two enemy structures and damaged six at a position approximately 23 miles north of Ca Mau Point.

On 21 December PCE 73 conducted a gunfire mission against a known enemy stronghold approximately 36 miles northwest of Rach
Gia along the Gulf of Thailand coast. Responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne spotter, the Swift boat destroyed one bunker and killed six Viet Cong.

On the 30th, while on patrol 10 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point, PCF 12 received small-arms fire from two sampans. The Swift boat returned the fire and destroyed both sampans.

***

MARKET TIME UNITS

During the month of December the Vietnamese Navy had an average of eight PGMs and three PCEs assigned daily to MARKET TIME forces. In addition, the Royal Thai Navy had one PGM assigned to MARKET TIME forces in the Fourth Coastal Zone through the 12th of the month.

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

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

- DER 251 USS CAMP Dates 12-30
- DER 328 USS FINCH 1-10, 19-26
- DER 100 USS HISSEM 26-31
MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
December 1937

1. U. S. Ships/Craft:

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<th>DER 325</th>
<th>USS LOWE</th>
<th>12-19, 30-31</th>
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<td>DER 322</td>
<td>USS NEWELL</td>
<td>1-2, 10-28</td>
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<td>LST 619</td>
<td>USS HAMPSHIRE COUNTY</td>
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<td>LST 1150</td>
<td>USS SUTTER COUNTY</td>
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<td>MSC 199</td>
<td>USS PHOEBE</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSC 209</td>
<td>USS WOODPECKER</td>
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<td>MSO 428</td>
<td>USS CONFLICT</td>
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<td>MSO 488</td>
<td>USS CONQUEST</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSO 435</td>
<td>USS ENDURANCE</td>
<td>12-31</td>
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<td>MSO 438</td>
<td>USS ESTEEM</td>
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<td>MSO 482</td>
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<td>MSO 489</td>
<td>USS ILLUSIVE</td>
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<td>MSO 491</td>
<td>USS IMPLICIT</td>
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<td>MSO 492</td>
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<td>WHEC 66</td>
<td>USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN</td>
<td>18-31</td>
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<td>WHEC 381</td>
<td>USCGC BARATARIA</td>
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<td>WHEC 383</td>
<td>USCGC DUANE</td>
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<td>WHEC 387</td>
<td>USCGC GRESHAM</td>
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<td>WHEC 378</td>
<td>USCGC HALF MOON</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHFC 380</td>
<td>USCGC YAKUTAT</td>
<td>2-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Daily average number of craft on patrol: 2

2. U. S. Activity:

| TOTAL DETECTED | WOOD - DAY 24,288 | NIGHT 9,563 |
| TOTAL INSPECTED | WOOD - DAY 10,490 | NIGHT 4,212 |

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS

- DETECTIONS
- INSPECTIONS
- BOARDINGS

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

1966 1967
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TOTAL BOARDED
WOOD - DAY 5,691 NIGHT 1,764
STEEL - DAY 72 NIGHT 9
TOTAL DETAINED
JUNKS 57 PEOPLE 196

3. Naval Gunfire Support Missions:
   Total Missions: 114

4. Hostile Fire Incidents:
   Total Incidents: 14

***

OPERATION STABLE DOOR

During December Operation STABLE DOOR patrols detected 39,295 junks and sampans; 1,252 of these were inspected and 2,333 were boarded.

All STABLE DOOR units were particularly alert for enemy swimmer activity during the month as all intelligence information indicated an increased threat in this area of enemy operations. All patrol routes were designed to cover areas of highest swimmer probability.

On 9 December USNS 1ST 607, while at anchor in Nha Trang Harbor, sustained an external explosion which blew a three-foot square hole in her starboard side at the waterline. Available information indicated that the ship was holed by a swimmer-placed explosive device with a charge weighing approximately 15 pounds. No personnel injuries resulted from the explosion and the ship was moved from her anchorage to the LST beach under her own power.

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

1967 1968

150,000
140,000
130,000
120,000
110,000
100,000
90,000
80,000
70,000
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel conducted a waterline search of all other ships in the area with negative results.

On 26 December Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 3 (IUWU 3) at Qui Nhon sent a medical detail consisting of four guards and a corpsman into nearby Hai Minh hamlet to treat a serious pneumonia case. The team came under hostile fire from hills immediately behind the village and were evacuated, along with the patient, by STABLE DOOR skimmer craft. MARKET TIME and STABLE DOOR units then took the hill under fire with unknown results.

Also on the 26th at Cam Ranh Bay, SS EVERGREEN STATE reported sighting an unidentified swimmer 25 yards off her port side. IUWU 2's units commenced dropping grenades in the immediate vicinity of the ship and an inspection of the ship's waterline was made with negative results. Three EVERGREEN STATE personnel reported sighting the swimmer and the EOD officer stated that the probability of the sighting was good. STABLE DOOR personnel continued to drop grenades at random intervals for two hours following the sighting and all junks in the area were checked with negative results.
RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

Harassment of GAME WARDEN units increased during the month as the enemy was engaged in 253 fire fights. The frequent, random incursions into the canals and waterways off the major rivers by the river sections in the Delta, coupled with the increased Viet Cong activity, had resulted in an increase in the tempo of operations in the GAME WARDEN tactical area of responsibility. Also noted was the increased use of recoilless-rifles, mortars, B-40 rockets, heavy machine guns and automatic weapons by the Communist insurgents.

The PBRs and helicopter fire teams, in addition to their primary role of denying the enemy use of the rivers, provided support to the Regional Force, Popular Force and ARVN troops in their operations against the Viet Cong.

The PBRs continued to interdict Viet Cong tax collectors in their efforts to collect "Liberation" taxes to support their Winter-Spring campaign.

The Viet Cong initiated two successful and one unsuccessful mining incidents against major military and commercial targets, and on two occasions enemy swimmers were detected—one was killed.

A PBR patrol operating on the lower Bassac River was the victim of a major Christmas Truce violation when it came under heavy attack from a Viet Cong ambush site on the afternoon of Christmas Day.
FBRs were located in the I Corps Tactical Zone for the second time when PBR Mobile Base I arrived in Danang on 2 December followed by 10 PBRs on 5 December. On 11 December River Section 534 arrived at My Tho and commenced combat patrols with the first new Mark II PBRs. Two days later the patrol boats engaged the enemy for the first time.

The new Mark II PBR which commenced combat operations on the My Tho River in December 1967.

During the year 1967, there were 38 GAME WARDEN personnel killed in action and 338 wounded. GAME WARDEN units killed 1,024 of the enemy during the same period.
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

On 4 December at 0930 the Viet Cong launched a recoilless-rifle and mining attack against a U. S. Army Tug and ammunition barges on the Dong Nai river in the vicinity of Cat Lai, about 13 miles northeast of Nha Be. One barge was sunk and another severely damaged by a command-detonated mine as determined by a subsequent investigation. The investigation also revealed a new technique used by the enemy to protect the electrical wires leading from the firing station to the mine. To protect the detonation wires from being cut by minesweepers, the wires were enclosed in two sections of beetle nut logs, each approximately six inches in diameter and fifteen feet long with approximately 10 feet of unprotected wire between the two beetle nut sections. The area of the mining had been swept approximately fifteen minutes prior to the mining incident. The dual chain drag, being used by the Vietnamese minesweepers, apparently passed over the beetle nut logs without disturbing the command wire. The Viet Cong made no attempt to divert the minesweepers from the area of the plant prior to the attack. A subsequent experimental sweep using the protective log coverings recovered in the Dong Nai incident demonstrated that a conventional U. S. chain drag was effective.

On the evening of 6 December, a PBR patrol operating on the Long Tau River detected three sampans crossing the river, three
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RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS
December 1967

A - Army tug - 4 Dec
B - SS SEATRAIN TEXAS - 21 Dec
C - PBRs - 6 Dec
D - SEALs - 23 Dec
E - PBR - 9 Dec

SCALE: 1 nautical mile = 0.5"