### NAVAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY (AS OF 31 DECEMBER)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TRAN HUNG DAO</th>
<th>GIANT SLINGSHOT</th>
<th>BARRIER REEF</th>
<th>BREEZY COVE</th>
<th>SEARCH TURN</th>
<th>READY DECK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>START OF OPERATION</td>
<td>21 NOV 69</td>
<td>6 DEC 68</td>
<td>2 JAN 69</td>
<td>26 SEP 69</td>
<td>1 NOV 68</td>
<td>3 JUN 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIIFF</td>
<td>181 (31)</td>
<td>421 (34)</td>
<td>42 (7)</td>
<td>25 (15)</td>
<td>135 (8)</td>
<td>41 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENIFF</td>
<td>142 (25)</td>
<td>663 (19)</td>
<td>40 (0)</td>
<td>29 (6)</td>
<td>74 (5)</td>
<td>43 (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNILATERAL FIRINGS</td>
<td>329 (46)</td>
<td>1251 (52)</td>
<td>133 (18)</td>
<td>76 (33)</td>
<td>224 (18)</td>
<td>166 (29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINING</td>
<td>19 (1)</td>
<td>13 (0)</td>
<td>6 (0)</td>
<td>6 (0)</td>
<td>4 (0)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMMUNITION CAGES</td>
<td>4 (1)</td>
<td>253 (14)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>14 (0)</td>
<td>16 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; CACHE WT. (TONS)</td>
<td>11.5 (.1)</td>
<td>139.4 (2.6)</td>
<td>.4 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>11 (0)</td>
<td>4 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER CACHE</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>23 (2)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; CACHE WT. (TONS)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>384.9 (4.1)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1.2 (0)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>.4 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPORTS OF ENEMY PLANS TO ATTACK PATROL CRAFT</td>
<td>140 (3)</td>
<td>189 (8)</td>
<td>19 (0)</td>
<td>6 (0)</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPANS DESTROYED</td>
<td>249 (8)</td>
<td>303 (14)</td>
<td>128 (11)</td>
<td>103 (53)</td>
<td>282 (22)</td>
<td>135 (7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.7 tons munitions and 5.5 tons of other material were captured during engagements with barrier units.

( ) - Monthly totals

* - Statistics not available
COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY

Market Time and Stable Door forces continued routine operations during December. Patrol responsibility in the Game Warden area of operation on the lower Bassac and Co Chien Rivers was maintained by Market Time units. There were 5,934 watercraft detected in the rivers, and of those, 2,037 were inspected, and another 2,689 were boarded resulting in the detention of four craft and 11 persons. There were no reported incidents of evading craft in the rivers. Task Force 115 surveillance units detected 58,051 craft in their patrol areas along the coasts and in the harbors of the Republic of Vietnam. Adverse weather in the First and Third Coastal Zones during part of the month and the Vietnamese assuming patrol responsibility for 29 of the 54 Market Time Stations accounted for the low number of USN detections. There were 10,189 craft inspected and another 10,217 craft boarded resulting in the detention of 78 craft and 608 persons for lack of or faulty identification, violation of restricted areas, possession of contraband, and other suspicious activity. There were 133 Viet Cong suspects detained during the month.

Enemy initiated activity continued at the same relative low level of the five preceding months. There were no known large scale infiltrations of men or supplies attempted during December. Naval gunfire and blocking patrols were provided in support of friendly ground operations along the coasts and in the rivers and canals. There were four U.S. sailors killed and 15 wounded during these operations. Enemy losses to the naval gunfire of Market Time forces came to 82 confirmed killed, plus 61 probably killed, and 16 wounded.
SEAL units continued to support the Sea Float operations in the IV Corps Tactical Zone conducting almost daily operations.

In the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones, there were 66 SEA LORDS missions and 62 SEAL and Sea Float missions conducted during December. The results of the missions were not as impressive as in previous months as the enemy continued to avoid contact. The "Sift" boats assigned to Sea Float continued to support the PSYOPS campaign in the lower Ca Mau Peninsula. These operations are discussed under Market Time Raiders in the SEA LORDS Summary and Operation Sea Float Summary.

There was little increase in enemy activity along the coast. The area of greatest concern continued to be the Ha Tien, Rach Gia Thanh, Vinh Te Canals. Reports indicated a constant build-up of enemy supplies along this border area. There were also reports of attempted border crossings during the first week of December which were considered as possible feelers for a large scale crossing attempt. Intelligence indicated the enemy would mount major attacks against population centers, pacified areas, and operational and Free World Forces bases from 19 through 24 December; however, at month's end, this enemy activity had failed to materialize. There were also indications that the enemy's intelligence and reconnaissance units were reconnoitering many of the targets which would be necessary prior to launching attacks against major targets and achieve productive results. There were no indications of renewed sea infiltration into RVN; however, there were reports that the enemy was using the coastline near the Three Sisters area for transshipment and/or infiltration.
Friend or foe? As part of their mission of coastal surveillance and counter-infiltration, U. S. Coast Guard cutter Point Arden checks a Vietnamese fishing boat for anything suspicious off the northern coast of the Republic of Vietnam.
Operation Market Time

Gun damage assessment on the 573 naval gunfire support missions and SEAS LYNDS missions conducted during December was 43.4 percent. This was the highest monthly percentage of GDA recorded to date with the previous high being 42.3 percent in May 1969. The results of these missions were:

143 Viet Cong killed (82 body count, 61 probable).
16 Viet Cong wounded.
28 Viet Cong captured.
233 Junks/sampans destroyed.
16 Junks/sampans damaged.
123 Structures/bunkers destroyed.
148 Structures/bunkers damaged.

There were 10 incidents of evading craft and personnel reported during the month. They were taken under fire in all cases and resulted in 13 sampans destroyed and six VC killed and two VC wounded.

Detection of wood craft by Market Time surveillance units were 16,247 during December. Of these, 5,530 were inspected, and another 6,678 were boarded. Detection of steel hulled vessels in Market Time areas totaled 463, with 325 being inspected and 14 being boarded. This was the lowest number of detections to date with the previous low being recorded in November 1969. Adverse weather due to the northeast monsoon season in the First and Second Coastal Zones contributed to the low number of detections. In addition, the Vietnamese Navy assumed patrol of areas 1G and 2C. Vietnamese Market Time station detections are not reflected in these totals. (See Naval Advisory Group Summary for VNM statistics.)
Three PCF's were chopped to Commander Task Group 194.4 on 5 December in reaction to intelligence of increased threat of enemy infiltration in the upper Bassac River area.

On 9 December, the USCGC PT ELLIS (WPB 82330) was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy at the Small Craft Repair Facility, Danang. The USCGC PT HUDSON (WPB 82322) and USCGC PT SLOCUM (WPB 82313) were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy in ceremonies on 11 December. The WPB's were renamed the LE QUANG THANH (HQ 705) and NGUYEN NGOC THACH (HQ 706) respectively.

On 20 December, four PCF's were chopped to Commander Task Group 115.4 (VNN) from CTG 115.3 to provide additional surveillance and firepower.

Captain D. E. Perkins, USCG relieved Captain Ralph W. Niesz, USCG, as Commander Coast Guard Activities, Vietnam on 16 December.

Commander Task Force 115 assumed the operational control of five MK III PCF's on 23 December.

On 29 December, 12 PCF's from the II and III Corps Tactical Zones were deployed to the IV Corps Tactical Zone in reaction to intelligence of enemy movement in the vicinity of Chau Doc/Cambodian Border/Vinh Te Canal and re-establishment of the coastal transshipment routes in the vicinity of the Three Sisters area north of the Rach Gia.
OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE

A. SEA TIGER - 2 DEC
B. SEA TIGER - 4 DEC
C. SEA TIGER - 13 DEC
D. SEA TIGER - 22-23 DEC
E. SEA TIGER - 28 DEC
Six PCF's were also chopped to Commander Task Group 194.4 to be utilized for coastal surveillance operations in areas 9F, 9G, and 9H under the operational control of Commander Task Group 115.4 (VNN).

All coastal surveillance forces observed the Christmas cease fire period from 241800H to 251800H December. There were no reported violations during the cease fire period.

An SL-6 class trawler was detected 183 miles off the coast of South Vietnam (JIK 300 805) by Market Time aircraft at 1402H on 23 December. The trawler was on course 120 degrees true, speed 8 knots. The aircraft initiated continuous covert surveillance following identification. Commander Coastal Surveillance Force designated the contact 23F1. The USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715) was directed to proceed south remaining between the trawler and the coast. The contact continued tracking south toward the Singapore/Malacca straits; however, at 2000H on 29 December the trawler had not entered the Singapore/Malacca straits but was loitering in an area approximately 100 miles north of the Malacca straits. At month's end, covert surveillance of the trawler continued utilizing barrier aircraft.

First Coastal Zone

The northeast monsoon season continued to have it's effect on surveillance operations in the First Coastal Zone during December. There were 3,677 craft detected, 1,330 inspected, and another 1,359 boarded during the month. Surveillance results were high as over 70 percent of those craft detected were either inspected or boarded.
leading to the detention of 27 craft and 154 persons for lack of or faulty identification papers, draft dodgers, possession of contraband, having incorrect manifests, and violating restricted zones.

There were approximately 100 naval gunfire support and Sea Tiger missions conducted by the First Coastal Zone units. Gun damage assessment remained high as only 25 missions reported no damage observed due to darkness, heavy foliage, or no troops available to sweep the area. The PBR’s of River Division 543 continued to operate in the Sea Tiger area of operations in those areas inaccessible to the "Swift" boats.

On the morning of 2 December, Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) 12, Detachment H, with Regional Force and Popular Force (RF/PF) troops providing security, conducted a Sea Tiger mission about one mile south of Hoi An (BT 140 556). The mission was to destroy bunkers along the Thu Bon River and was cleared by the Quang Nam Sector Advisor. During the operation, two secondary firing devices (SFD) were triggered by the security force resulting in seven men wounded. The six RF/PF men wounded were treated at Hoi An while the U.S. sailor wounded was treated at the 95th Medical Evacuation Hospital at Danang. There were 14 bunkers and one structure destroyed, and enemy casualties were unknown.

PBR’s 47 and 95, with Lieutenant Jones as patrol officer, conducted a probe of the Ba Ren River between coordinates BT 143 519 and BT 070 499 in a Sea Tiger mission on the afternoon of 4 December.
En route to the area, several sniper rounds were received; however, the PBR's and helo gunship providing cover were unable to return the fire. Several spider holes and trails were observed during the transit indicating a recent enemy presence. The boats and gunships took a sampan under fire that was traveling along the river bank under the cover of overhanging trees. Small arms fire was received from the treeline at this time but was quickly suppressed. In the same area, several sunken sampans and spider holes were sighted indicating a strong probability of an enemy crossing point. The river transit was completed taking targets of opportunity under fire resulting in five bunkers and seven sampans destroyed. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties were unknown.

Patrol officers LTJG Holman and QMC (3S) Williams directed a Sea Tiger mission on the night of 13 December with PBR's 43, 67, 91 and 95 of River Division 543 about nine miles south of Danang (BT 056 625). A half hour after establishing a waterborne guardpost (WBGP), more than 40 armed personnel were sighted walking in a northerly direction on the west bank of the river. After confirming that there were no friendlies in the area, the PBR's took the personnel under fire. The boats then regrouped and made a slow firing run to the south and then cleared the area. There were fifteen enemy probably killed in the operation. In this same area, PBR's observed crossings on the four previous nights and made contact on three of those occasions killing three Viet Cong on 12 December. Enemy casualties on the other
two nights were unknown, and on the other occasion, they were unable
to take the enemy under fire due to friendlies in the area. There
were no friendly casualties on any of these missions.

Sea Tiger forces conducted a bunker destruction mission on 22
and 23 December along the north and south banks of the Song Ba Ren
about 16 miles south of Danang (BT 098 515). PBR's 43, 47, 59 and
91 provided a waterborne blocking force, and Regional force troops
provided ground security while UDT 12, Det H, and EOD team 70 destroyed
the bunkers. During the operation, a listing of dead VC was captured
and turned over to COMRIVDIV 543 for further transfer to the Navy
Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO) at Hoi An. Two bodies were also
found in one of the many fighting holes along the trail, and they
were identified as VC by members of the Vietnamese security force.
There were no papers on the bodies, and the numerous shrapnel wounds
indicated they were killed by artillery rounds about 20-21 December.
The area of the sweep revealed numerous well kept vegetable gardens
although there was no contact with the enemy. Four of the RF troop
were medevaced with wounds caused by booby traps. The two day opera-
tion resulted in two sampans, four structures, and 56 bunkers destroyed.

A Sea Tiger mission was conducted the night of 28 December when
Patrol Officers LTJG Holman and BMC Turnbull established a waterborne
guardpost with PBR's 59, 131, 67, and 43 on the Vinh Dien River about
11 kilometers northwest of Hoi An (BT 057 614). The PBR's of RIVDIV
543 observed approximately 30 personnel with large backpacks walking
north along the western bank of the river. The PBR's opened fire with M-60, M-16, and M-79 mortars. A half hour later, 15 personnel were sighted 900 meters to the north and were taken under fire. An hour and a half later, ten additional personnel were sighted and taken under fire, and then the PBR's cleared the area and requested that artillery strikes be placed in the area. There were ten enemy killed in the operation, and there were no friendly casualties. This was the same general area in which large groups of personnel had been engaged by the PBR's on four separate occasions in the previous two weeks.

Second Coastal Zone

The northeast monsoon season continued to take its toll on the number of craft detected in the Second Coastal Zone by Market Time units. There were only 3,182 craft detected during December as compared to the 4,321 detected the previous month. Surveillance results remained high as over 83 percent of those detected were either boarded or inspected. There were 1,610 inspections and 1,029 boardings reported during the month resulting in the detention of two craft and 24 persons for lack of or faulty identification papers, curfew violation, incorrect or faulty manifest and restricted zone violations. In addition, there were 49 Viet Cong suspects detained.

There were approximately 25 naval gunfire support missions conducted during December in the Second Coastal Zone. Only two of the missions reported any gun damage assessment, and those were
secondary explosions. The reasons for no GDA's was reported as no spotters available, darkness, or no troops available to sweep the area. As in previous months, enemy activity in the Second Coastal Zone has been extremely light. There were no significant results reported from the missions conducted.

Third Coastal Zone

The number of detections of craft in the Third Coastal Zone decreased to only 7,752 during December. Surveillance results were outstanding as 98 percent of the craft detected were either inspected or boarded. There were 2,972 inspections and 4,660 boardings which resulted in the detention of three craft and 41 persons for lack of or faulty identification, being suspected draft dodgers, and possession of contraband. The "Swift" boats of the Third Coastal Zone continued to patrol the lower Bassac and Co Chien Rivers in the Game Warden area of operations detaining 5,934 craft and inspecting 2,037 and boarding another 2,689. There were four craft and 11 persons detained.

There were approximately 200 naval gunfire support missions conducted during December in response to urgent requests for naval gunfire support, H and I, targets of opportunity, or in preplanned river and canal incursions.

PCF 37, LTJG Lanmon, USN, Commanding, in company with the PT GRACE (USCG WPB), embarked 40 PRU's on the morning of 1 December.
and inserted them about 22 miles south of My Tho (XR 605 942). The troops were to support PRU units already in the area and in contact with the Viet Cong. The units remained in the area throughout the day coordinating OV-10 air strikes. At 1830H, the PRU's were all extracted without incident. The day's operation resulted in 21 Viet Cong confirmed killed, seven weapons and one pouch full of documents captured. Fifteen of the VC kills were attributed to OV-10 air strikes. There were three PRU troops killed and one wounded during the day.

In the afternoon of 11 December, in a preplanned operation, the PT MARONE (USCG WPB) and PT JEFFERSON (USCG WPB) conducted a probe of the Song Lang Chim, Rach Sau, and Song Dai Dum about 20 miles east of Tra Vinh (XR 730 720) taking targets of opportunity under fire. Three evading males and three beached sampans were taken under fire at one location and four males at another. The mission had sector clearance and standby air support. The WPB's destroyed eight sampans and four structures and heavily damaged three sampans, five bunkers, and one structure. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties were unknown.

PCF's 59 and 37 picked up Kit Carson Scouts and a U.S. advisor for a mission on the night of 14-15 December about 18 miles southeast of Phu Vinh (XR 771 891). The troops were inserted at 2300H and then the "Swift" boats exited the canal and stood by for support. Contact was made with the enemy about 0900H on the 15th which resulted in six Viet Cong killed and one VC platoon leader captured. PCF 59 extracted
the troops while PCF 37 provided cover, and the units then exited
the canal without further incident. There were no friendly casualties.

The PT MARONE (USCG WPB), LTJG W. C. HOYT, USCG, Commanding, was
requested to provide a gunfire support mission on a troop concentration
of approximately 150 Viet Cong about 20 miles southeast of Tra Vinh
(XR 756 863) on the morning of 27 December. Firing at a range of
from 1500 to 2100 yards, the WPB ignited five sustained fires and
destroyed six structures, and there were four large secondary explo-
sions. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties were
unknown.
OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE

A. PCF 37 & PT GRACE - 1 DEC
B. PT MARONE & PT JEFFERSON - 11 DEC
C. PCF's 59 & 37 - 14-15 DEC
D. PT MARONE - 27 DEC

SCALE:

0  30
Nautical Miles
MARKET TIME
MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY
DECEMBER 1969

(1) Average No. U. S. ships/craft on patrol during month.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MSO</th>
<th>MSC</th>
<th>WPB</th>
<th>PCF</th>
<th>LST</th>
<th>PG</th>
<th>WHEC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AVG</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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(2) Average No. VNN ships/junks employed during month.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SEA FORCE</th>
<th>RIVER FORCE</th>
<th>COASTAL FORCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>191</td>
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</table>

(3) U.S. Activity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TOTAL DETECTED</th>
<th>TOTAL INSPECTED</th>
<th>TOTAL BORDED</th>
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<tr>
<td>WOOD - DAY</td>
<td>14,148</td>
<td>4,784</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIGHT</td>
<td>1,799</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEEL - DAY</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGHT</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>STEEL - DAY</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGHT</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>4</td>
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(4) VNN Activity:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>JUNKS SEARCHED</th>
<th>JUNKS DETAINED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUNKS SEARCHED</td>
<td>71,717</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSONS SEARCHED</td>
<td>243,703</td>
<td>367</td>
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(5) U. S. Activity:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>JUNKS DETAINED</th>
<th>PERSONS DETAINED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUNKS DETAINED</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>276</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(6) STABLE DOOR STATISTICS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No. of Junks detected</th>
<th>No. of Inspections</th>
<th>No. of Boardings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41,341</td>
<td>4,334</td>
<td>3,525</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONFIDENTIAL 58
Operation Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III

There were more than 60 Sea Float and SEAL Team missions and approximately 250 runfire support missions conducted during December, and they continued to maximize damage to known or suspected VC base camps, extortion stations, and secret zones. The following U.S. and VNN craft and units operated at Sea Float at various times throughout the month: PCF's 3, 5, 9, 18, 21, 22, 27, 35, 36, 40, 45, 46, 50, 51, 52, 56, 93, and 96; USS VERNON COUNTY (LST 1161); and USS GALLUP (PG 85); Sea Float River Assault Craft Detachment consisting of ATC's 4, 9 and 13; ASPH's 2 and 3; Monitor 2 and Zippo 2; SEAL Team Detachment Golf; Underwater Demolition Team 12; an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team; a Duffel Bag Team; two Seawolves; two OV-10's; Slicks; L3M's 401, 403 and 404; PCF's 03, 04, 05, 06, 10 and 11; LSSL's HQ 225, HQ 231, and HQ 29; Coastal Groups 33, 35, and 36; a VNN POLWAR Team; a VNN reaction Team; USP MUPAC Team VNN 05; Kit Carson Scouts; MST TWO; RF troops; VNN Rangers; and RD troops. These forces conducted day and night Psyops patrols along the rivers and canals of the Sea Float operating area. Air assets provided Psyops missions in those areas inaccessible to the craft. The afloat units inserted and extracted ground forces, provided runfire support, blocking forces, waterborne guardposts, and escort services for logistic craft along the Bo De and Cua Lon Rivers and adjacent canals. All afloat units and the Mobile Advance Tactical Support Base continued to conduct nightly H and I fire into known VC base camps and extortion areas.
Viet Cong banners were found along the banks of the rivers and canals stating that those people who rally to the government would be killed by the VC.

In an informal ceremony on 1 December, administrative responsibility for the No Fire Zone (NFZ) community was turned over to Doi My My, the Nam Can District Chief. The village was divided into two hamlets, Tran Hung Dao I and Tran Hung Dao II, and separate plans for the organization and development have been developed. Ultimately there will be a single village with a village chief, and in the village will be the two hamlets each with its own hamlet chief.

CDR J. M. White, USN, COMNAVFORV PAO, and seven news media representatives visited Sea Float on 7 December and were briefed on the concept of operations and were given a tour of the Sea Float Annex.

Sea Float was visited by Vice Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN, COMNAVFORV; Commodore Tran Van Chon, VNN CNO; MGVN Dzu, ARVN, J3, J93; and MGVN Bautz, J3, MACV, on 9 December. The party was briefed on Sea Float operations, Solid Anchor, and on the progress and scheduled future development of the hamlets Tran Hung Dao I and Tran Hung Dao II followed by a walking tour of the Solid Anchor base site and perimeter. They then traveled by PCF to the Annex where they toured the area, met the village chief, and visited the newly opened school where about 200 children were singing Vietnamese songs.

MGVN Dzu and MGVN Bautz were impressed with the success of the Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III operations and especially with the obvious
success of the Psyops/pacification efforts as evidenced by the number of hooches and people and the amount of junk and sampan traffic at the village.

The Senior Advisor from An Xuyen visited Sea Float on 11 December, and discussed the problems experienced with the RF and RD troops in the Annex village.

On 13 December, Captain E. M. Saunders, CEC, USN, COMNAVFORV Force Engineer, visited the Solid Anchor Base and was briefed on the operation and progress.

RADM Robert E. Adamson, Jr., USN, prospective Commander Naval Support Activity, Danang and party were briefed on the Sea Float concepts, operations, and achievements, and were given a tour of the Solid Anchor Base and Tran Hung Dao I hamlet on 14 December.

On 16 December, Sea Float enjoyed another first with the birth of a baby aboard. It last report the seven pound girl and mother were both doing fine.

Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., USN, Commander in Chief Pacific, Vice Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN, and Rear Admiral J. L. Butts, USN, Aide and Executive Assistant to CINPAC, visited Sea Float on 20 December. CINCPAC addressed the USN/VNN officers and men at Sea Float and Solid Anchor.
The construction of the Solid Anchor Base continued during December with the placing of retaining walls for the ammi pier, building bunkers, improving the camp area, constructing watch towers, and tree clearing along the perimeter. The number of Seabees assigned to Solid Anchor decreased to 21 with the departure of the 11 men of Detail GOLF for Saison on 3 December.

On the afternoon of 30 November, SEAL Team One, Detachment GOLF, departed Sea Float via a U.S. Army Slick, on a mission to capture a reported Province Finance and Economy Chief meeting with three VC guerrilla security force members about 13 kilometers northeast of Sea Float (VO 086 795). The Slick landed on top of a hootch, and the personnel exited by sliding down the roof of the hootch. The roof of the hootch collapsed, and the helo went out of control, crashing on top of the hootch, and burying some of the SEAL's. The helo door winder and other SEAL's that had gotten free of the wreckage pulled the buried members out. They then patrolled out to the landing zone, 100 meters to the east, where a Seawolf picked up the pilot of the crashed helo. A muster of personnel was taken at this time, and it was discovered that HM1 Wolfe was missing. The patrol leader and two SEAL's returned to the scene and searched the wreckage and found one wounded VC, several other dead VC, and the body of HM1 Wolfe. A make-shift stretcher was made and the group then returned to the landing zone where they were extracted by a Slick and returned to Sea Float. HM1 (DV)(PJ) Richard Orden Wolfe, USN, was killed, LT JG
Charles S. Brouty, USN, and GM23 (MV)(PJ) Loren E. Decker, USN, were wounded (possible broken arms). There was one VC wounded, one VC captured, and five VC killed.

At 1300H on 4 December, U.S. PCF's 50, 56, VNN PCF 05, an LSSL with Seawolves providing air cover were conducting a Psops patrol on the Song Nam Doi about 25 kilometers northwest of Sea Float when they were ambushed by an unknown number of VC with B-40, AK-47, and M-16 fire. The Seawolves and LSSL responded with saturation fire into the area and silenced the enemy fire. A VNN reaction team was inserted, and a ground sweep resulted in the capture of two twin B-40 rocket launchers, two entrenching tools, wire, and batteries. The three PCF's received moderate damage. RD3 Martin S. Doherty, USN, and EM1 Don E. Stevenson, USN, were killed, and LTJG Patrick L. Evans, USN, LTJG Robert S. White, USNR, En2 John R. Phillips, USN, EM3 Roy D. White, USN, and QM3 Thomas R. Terfehr, USN were wounded. Two members of the VNN reaction team also received minor wounds.

The following day, a mission was conducted in the area of the ambush with PCF's 40, 93, and 27, LSSL 231, a monitor, ATC-13, Zippo 2 with two platoons of VNN rangers, EOD, UDT, and a VNN reaction force. The PCF's set up a blocking force at the junction of the Song Nam Doi and Song Ho De. Following a beach prep, the troops were inserted in two elements. The troops swept south and found three bunkers and hootch complexes with inter connecting trails. One large complex could accommodate approximately 300 people and had new bunkers
and hooches, and punji stakes were being made. The ground troops destroyed the bunkers and hooches, and then Seawolves placed strikes in the area. The troops were extracted at 1300H without making contact and returned to Sea Float. There were 35 sampans, 44 structures, 23 bunkers, 65 water caches, two tons of food, 500 pounds of men's clothing and various rounds of small arms ammunition destroyed. In addition, 25 structures were not destroyed, but five kilos of documents were captured. There were no friendly casualties during the operation.

There were nine Viet Cong killed in a SEAL mission on 11 December about 12 miles northwest of Old Nam Can (VQ 770 890). The SEALs were inserted by sampan, and enemy contact was made immediately. The enemy fire was suppressed by the SEALs and Seawolves. They then patrolled to the target area and captured 15 kilos of enemy documents, six kilos of grenades, and assorted medical supplies. There were four structures and one sampan destroyed. There were no friendly casualties.

The USCGC CHASE (WHEC-718) responded to a call fire mission in support of the 21st ARVN Division on 13 December, about 38 miles north of the Song Ung Doc (VR 848 703). The five inch guns of the Song Ung Doc naval gunfire support ship destroyed two structures and five bunkers and heavily damaged three bunkers, five structures, and three sampans.

A SEAL and Kit Carson Scout mission to capture a province
level cadre, about 7.5 kilometers northwest of Dong Can (VQ 943 73B), was conducted on 19 December. Based on Kit Carson Scout intelligence, the SEAL's were inserted by Slick with Seawolves providing air cover. They patrolled 700 meters to the objective area where they came under small arms fire. In the return fire, four Viet Cong were killed. The patrol continued to the base camp and destroyed it. They then moved from the area via sampans and were extracted by PCF's 3 and 35 for return to Sea Float. There were 15 structures destroyed and six sampans, one 4 HP motor, two kilos of documents, one COM carbine, one M1 U.S. carbine, and various small arms ammunition captured. There were no friendly casualties.

An air strike by Seawolves was conducted for the Hai Yen district chief on 21 December about 12 miles northwest of Sea Float (VQ 807 723). The Seawolves were credited with 12 Viet Cong killed including one province level finance and economy cadre and one military affairs advisor.

Acting on Kit Carson Scout intelligence, a SEAL mission was scheduled on 22 December to capture a local guerrilla force and district level cadre about six kilometers north of Sea Float (WC 012 733). Twelve KCS and two SEALs departed Sea Float via LSSC and proceeded up the Kinh Ngang canal. They noticed footprints along the bank indicating recent VC movement. They were inserted and patrolled 500 meters to the north where they established a listening post at 1400H. At 1630H, a sampan with four males entered the listening post area and was taken under fire. Heavy enemy
return fire was received from the east. The unit was then extracted
and co-elves placed four strikes into the area and received heavy
automatic weapons fire. PUF's 52 and 96 were scrambled and placed
81mm mortar fire into the area. As the swift boats were returning
off the area, a sampan was searched which contained one clip of AK
amunition and one U.S. fragmentation grenade. The sampan was re-
turned to Sea Float for inspection by the EOD team. OV-10, Black
Tonies were called in and placed strikes on the area. They did not
receive any enemy fire or observe any damage. There were five VC
killed and one VC captured in the operation, and one sampan was
destroyed and one captured. There were no friendly casualties.

SEAL Team One, detachment Golf, LTjg Flanagan, and seven
SEALs conducted a mission to capture village level personnel about
11 kilometers east of Old Nam Cam (WQ 108 687) early on the morning
of 28 December. The SEALs were inserted along the Song Cua Lon
via LSCC and patrolled 1800 meters to the south where a sampan with
two miles was spotted and taken under fire. Following the destruc-
tion of the sampan, the SEALs called for extraction and were re-
turned to Sea Float. There were two VC killed, and one sampan
destroyed, and two kilos of important documents captured. The
documents revealed that the two VC killed were a village level
security chief and a tax extortionist. The initial readout of the
documents revealed information concerning VC tactical movements
in the Sea Float area of operations, including a proposed plan
of attack on Sea Float on 25 December. There were no friendly
casualties in the operation.

On 31 December, Seawolves took camouflaged sampans under fire in the Sea Float area of operations about 2 miles north of the Sea Float Annex (VQ 083 732). The airstrike resulted in nine sampans destroyed. Later the same day, the Seawolves took targets of opportunity under fire at the request of the Hai Yen sub-sector advisor about 9 miles northwest of Sea Float (VQ 933 790). This mission resulted in the destruction of five structures and two VC killed. There were no friendly casualties in this operation.
OPERATION SEA FLOAT/THAN HUNG DAO III
SOLID ANCHOR
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE

A. SEAL - 30 DEC
B. SEA FLOAT - 4-5 DEC
C. SEAL - 11 DEC
D. NORTHERN CHASE - 13 DEC
E. SEAL - 19 DEC
F. SEALS - 21 DEC
G. SEAL - 22 DEC
H. SEAL - 22 DEC
I. SEA 'WOLVES - 31 DEC
J. SEA 'WOLVES - 31 DEC
Operation Stable Door

Due to slightly improved weather conditions in December, Stable Door forces were able to detect 41,341 craft in the harbors. There were 4,334 craft inspected and another 3,525 boarded. Patrol units continued to support ground operations with blocking forces and the landing of reconnaissance patrols.

Unit ONE – Vung Tau

On 13 December, LST 38 advised Harbor Control that a Vietnamese woman was discovered on board while the ship was transiting from Saigon to Vung Tau. Picket 26, with a National Policeman on board, was dispatched to the LST. Meanwhile the LST had sent a small boat to the customs pier with the woman embarked. The National Police were notified by the Harbor Entrance Control and met the LST boat at the pier.

LCPL 52, while inspecting junks on 16 December, was struck by Junk VT276NTDC. The Junk backed off and returned to Ben Dinh. Since damage to LCPL 52 was minor, and the junk was underway with no apparent damage, the incident was considered closed until Unit ONE was notified by the Third Coastal Zone Advisor that the junk owner was claiming that the junk was sunk on the spot and intended to submit a claim for 200,000 piasters. Investigation revealed that the junk had not sunk, and an inspection on 18 December revealed the following damage: three square feet of planking torn from the port side of the bow and planking sprung away from the port side. All
strength bulkheads appeared in good condition. There were 3/4 inch holes which allows water to drain aft through compartments framed by these bulkheads. The owner stated that the junk did not sink but filled with water. A claim for damages is being forwarded by the Vietnamese Navy Military Assistance Command Coordinator, Vung Tau.

An investigation is being conducted by Unit ONE and the Third Coastal Zone Advisor.

The SS EVERGREEN STATE located 185 miles from Vung Tau, informed the Harbor Entrance Control Post on 21 December, that they were returning to Vung Tau and requested medical assistance for a man with a severely injured back. HECO attempted to arrange a helicopter MEDEVAC but there was none available. Picket 29, with a 345th Medical Dispensary corpsman embarked, met the EVERGREEN STATE at the harbor entrance and took the injured man aboard. He was transferred to an ambulance on the pier for further transfer to the hospital.

Unit TWO - Cam Ranh Bay

Skimmer 10 while on normal patrol on 1 December found a junk (CR LAC NT/KDC) half submerged 100 yards north of the generator ships. Picket 51 searched the junk while skimmer 10 searched the generator ships and surrounding area with negative results. Due to the shallow water, LCPL 37 towed the junk to the Vietnamese Police Pier where it was turned over to Vietnamese authorities.

On 1 December, Stable Door Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team reported their skimmer was sinking at pier 5. LCPL 66 was dispatched
to the scene and took one person from the skimmer and then secured it alongside. Two other crewmen were picked up off pier 5 and were taken to the Market Time base. The screw of the LOMA VICTORY had caught the towing pad of the skimmer and started to pull the boat around the screw between the rudder and keel. Damages to the skimmer included a two-foot section on the port side, windshield ripped off, piping bent, and the towing pad ripped off. It was estimated it would take one week to repair the damage. There were no personnel injuries and no equipment lost.

Junk 49 II DC, while enroute to Cam Ranh Bay on 2 December, was stopped for a routine board and search by LCPL 66. The LCPL found 79 cartons and 249 packages of Salem and Kool cigarettes. Since no one claimed the cigarettes they were confiscated and turned over to the Maritime Police.

On 5 December, the HECP received a call from Unit TWO Harbor Patrol Element that automatic weapons fire was heard in the vicinity of Old Cam Ranh Village. The Joint Defense Operational Control (JDOC) and Unit TWO were notified. The Naval Support Facility Security assigned two men to remain overnight to guard the area. There were no further incidents reported.

A concussion grenade exploded on board LCPL 37 on the night of 13 December, injuring GMGSN R. J. Wourinen, 796 Ol 81, USN. He was taken to the 394th Dispensary where he was reported in fair condition with fragmentation wounds over most of his body and third degree
burns over 50% of his upper body. Wourinen was subsequently transferred to the Air Force Hospital for further treatment. There was only moderate damage to LCPL 37. An investigation revealed that the grenade, instead of having a short fuse as originally believed, had been dropped in the boat.

A SEALAND trailer fell off the south side of pier 4 at 0750H on 14 December, and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team was requested to assist in retrieving it. The EOD team secured lines to the trailer, and it was successfully lifted to the pier.

On the night of 17 December, a possible swimmer/sapper was sighted by a guard on the generator ships. LCPL's 39 and 23 searched the area and EOD personnel inspected the hulls and anchor chains of all ships in the harbor. The operation was secured two hours later with negative results.

On the morning of 24 December, 40-50 U.S. Army personnel had been causing trouble in Cam Ranh Bay Village and had barricaded themselves in the dependent housing area. Two of the soldiers were apprehended and stated they were expecting a boat load of weapons and ammunition. Unit Two set up a blockade on the harbor side of the village at the request of the Provost Marshall. Eight Vietnamese Navy SEAL team personnel with various explosive and three U.S. soldiers in two rubber life rafts were apprehended. They stated they were going to the village to purchase cigarettes. During the blockade 25
junks were boarded and searched with negative results. Unit TWO boats put several personnel on the beach to assist in guarding the perimeter at the south end of the village. The blockade ceased at 0900H on 27 December with the mutual agreement of all concerned.

Unit THREE - Qui Nhon

On 5 December, guards on Hill 133 spotted three personnel cutting through the perimeter wire on the south side. The Qui Nhon Tactical Operational Commander advised that there were no friendlies in the area and granted permission to use 81mm illumination. About that time a trip flare was sighted and permission was granted to place M-79 fire in the vicinity of the burning flare. Personnel from Hill 131 swept the area and found a cave located near the wash out close to the water line at the bottom of Hill. They recovered one sandal, two bamboo stretchers, and one stick with a white flag attached.

Two U.S. Army Mike boats were returning to the fuel piers on 9 December when they lost steering control and brushed against the minesweepers tied up at the piers, bashing the sweep gear of MSB 47. The Mike boat continued around until it hit LCPL 38, tied outboard of Picket 88. LCPL 38 received minor scratches and Picket 88 had the forward port cleat pulled out of the deck. The driver stated that he had reported faulty steering problem to his maintenance unit (1098th Transportation Command) and was told that nothing could be done that night. The Commanding Officer and Maintenance Officer agreed to repair the damaged gear. No further problems were anticipated.
While burning the perimeter on 13 December, the wind changed direction and the fire blew back into RM3 S. W. Harrison's face causing second degree burns. He was taken to the NSAU Qui Nhon sick bay and later MEDEVACED to Japan. It was believed that the incident could have been prevented had diesel oil been used and lighted by a safe procedure. Action has been taken to insure that all personnel are aware of and use proper safety procedures when burning.

Skimmers 29 and 89 while on inner harbor patrol on 15 December stopped a junk proceeding from Hi Minh to Qui Nhon. There were 20 Vietnamese in the junk and five of them had M-1 carbines and no identification cards. They claimed to be Hai Minh Defense Personnel and were escorting the bodies of two villagers killed in action by the VC/NVA on the night of 14 December. They were detained and turned over to the U.S. Navy Intelligence Liaison Officer and Vietnamese Police. The Hai Minh Village Chief identified them and requested that they be released. The serial numbers of the weapons were checked, and then they were released.

The Hai Minh Village Chief stated that he had knowledge that Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army personnel would be coming into his village on the night of 15 December and requested assistance in setting up defenses. Later that night approximately 25 VC/NVA penetrated the perimeter to gather food, clothing, medicine and weapons. During the ensuing firefight, two villagers were killed and one wounded. There were no known enemy casualties. It was learned through a meeting
with the Hamlet Chief and leaders of the Popular Self Defense Force that 12-23 VC/NVA entered Hai Minh village every night at approximately the same location and they were believed to be holed up in caves on the Phuoc Mai Peninsula. Until this time, the village had not reported this enemy contact and no U.S. or Allied force had any knowledge of this enemy activity. The village Chief was requested to notify Unit THREE of any Viet Cong infiltration, and arrangements were made that they would signal the HECP by the use of hand held flares.

On 18 December, while conducting diving operations in the inner harbor, Unit THREE’s EOD Team heard grenades going off and they immediately surfaced and were picked up by the EOD boat. A U.S. Army PBR was sighted in the vicinity, but it could not be determined if the grenades came from the PBR or generator ships. Normal procedures require that the HECP be notified prior to grenade drops, which in this case had not been done. U.S. Army personnel were contacted, and they indicated that proper measures would be taken to prevent reoccurrence of such incidents.

On 25 December, Unit THREE was informed that four bodies were floating in the water and that one sampan was sighted. The SEA COBRAS searched the area thoroughly with negative results.

The village chief of Hai Minh Village informed Unit THREE that the Viet Cong had entered the village on 28 December and had taken food and gasoline. The SEA COBRAS were requested to check the area above the village. Signs of recent activity were found but there was no contact with the enemy.
Unit FOUR - Nha Trang

On the evening of 11 December, post three observed four persons moving up the side of the hill adjacent to the perimeter. The area was immediately illuminated by Unit FOUR, and the U.S. Army compound above Unit FOUR also provided illumination. Skimmers 25 and 74 reported sighting two people running down the road toward Truong Dong Village. The skimmers were unable to take them under fire due to the location of the village. LCPL 42 and Skimmer 25 remained on station near the entrance to the South River throughout the night, but no further movement was sighted.

On 28 December, Skimmer 28 spotted a swimmer with two floating objects approximately 200 yards from the FINNAMORE VALLEY, a United Kingdom Cargo Ship. The swimmer was apprehended along with a large sack of corn meal and a plastic bag of non-fat dry milk and turned over to the Vietnamese National Police for disposition.
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JLY AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JLY AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY

**Market Time Assets**

The following reflects the distribution of U.S. Market Time assets as of 27 December:

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Plus 5 unnumbered F/K-3 PCF's
RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY

The River Patrol Forces continued their mission of maintaining naval superiority on the inland waterways as assigned in the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones and on the Cua Viet and the Perfume Rivers in the I Corps Tactical Zone throughout the month of December.

Assets during the month included eight ASPB's, two Boston Whalers, one Zippo, ten PBR's, one LCPL, four LSSC's, one LCM, seven MSB's, and four UH-1H's. Twenty Vietnamese Navy PBR's augmented the U.S. River Patrol Force operations. The River Patrol Forces were supported in their operations by Light Helicopter Fire Teams (LHFT) and Fixed Wing Tactical Aircraft (OV-10A's). River Patrol Forces also supported SWAL operations, Regional and Popular Forces ground operations, EOD activities, and conducted continuing Psyops missions at the direction of the operational commander assigned.

The River Patrol boats (PBR's) conducted 900 day and 1,382 night missions in two boat patrols during the month. The Assault Support Patrol Boats, in two boat patrols, conducted 700 day and 867 night missions.

The Seawolves in support of the River Patrol Forces, in two plane LHFT's, reacted on calls, placed 169 strikes, and flew 1,283 missions. The Bronco aircraft, in two plane LAFT's placed 54 reaction strikes, and flew 154 support missions while in support of the River Patrol Forces.

Enemy casualties inflicted by the River Patrol Forces for the month were 434 killed, 399 probably killed, 51 wounded, and 60 captured. Joint actions with helicopter aircraft accounted for 78 enemy killed. OV-10A strikes in support of River Patrol Forces resulted in 269 enemy killed.
A RivDiv 593 patrol officer checks identification papers of Vietnamese woodcutters travelling the Long Tau River. Enemy movement of arms and personnel is often prevented during these searches without firing a shot.
Clearwater Operations

Task Force Clearwater is tasked with providing security for waterborne logistic craft on the Cua Viet River and Perfume River LOC's and denying the use of navigable waterways in I CTZ to the enemy. Commander Task Force Clearwater is physically housed aboard NSAD Cua Viet and controls the Dong Ha River Security Group operating from Cua Viet and the Hie River Security Group operating from Mobile Support Base ONE at Tan My.

Dong Ha River Security Group consists of River Division 521 Det A (6 PBK's), 8 boat LCPL detachment from NSAD Cua Viet, 5 boat LCM-6's (minesweep configured) detachment from NSAD Cua Viet, Mine Division 113 Detachment C (5 MSM's), and Mine Division 112 Detachment 1 (2 MSB's).

Hie River Security Group consists of River Division 521 (-) (6 PBK's), and a 6 boat LCM-6 (minesweep configured) detachment from NSAD Tan My.

The enemy, and primarily the 126th Naval Sapper Regiment, continues to try to interdict the Cua Viet LOC. River Patrols were in contact with enemy units on the river banks 12 times. Six mines were detonated in the river, one sinking a PBK and killing a sailor, and 4 mines were recovered. Additionally, 2 limpet mines were detonated on the YOG 76, sinking it in the Cua Viet River. Two of the recovered mines were complete, and had malfunctioned, one due to a faulty component and the other due to operator error. These mines were restored to operating condition and used in field tests, to determine the most effective sweep methods and safe speeds for craft operating in the river. Mines
were then forwarded to other research and training facilities for further exploitation.

No attempt was made to interdict the Perfume LOC. Patrol of the LOC is gradually being turned over to the Vietnamese Navy KaC-32, stationed in Hue. Patrol units were used primarily to block known or suspected enemy crossing points and deny the enemy the use of the waterway. PBK's have been effective in intercepting several rice collection teams and VC I traveling in the area. They provide blocking force for ground forces conducting cordon and search operations and insert/support/extract ground units in remote areas. PBK's have engaged the enemy 12 times resulting in 3 VC KIA and 1 USK KIA (minor). One PBK was damaged when 2 fragmentation grenades exploded in the stern of the boat.

Minesweepers operate on both LOC's while open to logistic craft. The sweep of the Perfume LOC consists of a wire cutting chain drag, operated along each river bank to neutralize command detonated mines, and a periodic sweep for magnetic-acoustic influence mines. The sweep of the Cua Viet LOC consists of the following:

Detonation of one pound United Kingdom Scare Charges in a pre-determined pattern in the Cua Viet turning basin and along the river to Dong Ha.

Magnetic-acoustic influence sweep with MSB's through the turning basin and along the entrance channel to sea.
Two LOC's and two MSM sweeps cover the Cua Viet turning basin and round trip to Dong Ha with:

- Four chain drags.
- Two bottom catenaries.
- One top catenary.

These sweeps are all completed prior to opening the LOC to logistic craft. Additionally, wire cutting chain drags are operated at random times along the river banks during the day.

No logistic craft or cargo has been lost on either LOC during this quarter. The Cua Viet River was closed one day to unnecessary traffic due to non-availability of scare charges and the entrance channel was closed two days during a high mining threat period due to inability of MSM's to sweep. Entrance channel was also closed one time for 3 hours to investigate a possible mining attempt. At all other times the LOC's have been open to normal logistic traffic.

Two MSM's are outfitted with a mine hunting sonar attachment, called Shadowgraph, which is being evaluated for use in the muddy rivers of Vietnam. Although this equipment in its present non-tactical configuration is not suited for operating in mined waters, it represents a significant potential for future minesweep developments.

Enemy activity continues to follow established patterns on the Cua Viet River where most of the activity involves the mining of this LOC. The enemy in this area are highly trained sappers. Their
surely problem is not great due to the closeness of North Vietnam. In the Hue area, activity has usually been confined to collection of food, money extortion, proselyting, and terrorism has also been used. No attempts have been made to interdict the Perfume River by mining.

A mine hunting sonar has been installed in 2 MSM minesweep craft and employed along the LOC during the quarter. Many mine-like contacts have been detected and are being evaluated, as divers are available. This is the first unit of this kind to operate in Vietnam and the present configuration, called Shadowgraph, is being evaluated as a mine hunter, and may expand to other underwater search operations.

Hue River Security Group has patrolled the Perfume River and maintained the necessary minesweeping schedule to keep the LOC safe for logistic traffic. More emphasis has been placed on controlling the vast waterways around Hue, interdicting enemy rice exfiltration routes and intercepting VC units moving on the water at night. Patrol units, numbering 6 PBR's, operate in about 100 kilometers of waterway, are only able to cover the high probability areas. The Vietnamese Navy has one River Assault Group, RAG 32, and two Coastal Groups based in the Hue area, and maximum effort is made to involve these units in all local operations.

Units of the Hue River Security Group entered action early on the morning of 2 December. Patrol Officer SMN Nelson, Boat Captain EML Tonello, and EML Beaver in Boat No. 79/81 of River Division 521 set up a waterborne check point in the O Lau River in Thua Thien
Province about 22 kilometers northwest of Hue. At about 0334H three to four VC were spotted moving southeast along the south bank of the Song-O-Lau in the vicinity of YD 525 464. The Huong Dien Sub-sector assisted the two boats in calling in three flares and two gunships from the 101st Airborne Battalion. The boats and the gunships, by light of the illuminating flares, made several firing runs on the enemy. The gunships and one boat received return fire. One gunship reported 29 enemy probably killed in action. An arrangement was made with the Phong Dien Sub-sector to sweep the area at first light. The friendly units retired with no personnel or material casualties.

On the same day, a Vietnamese fishing boat, net fishing about two kilometers west of Cua Viet in the Quang Tri Province, snagged a pressure mine in a fish net and pulled it ashore. The EOD Detachment from Cua Viet proceeded to the area in LCPL 12 from NSAD Cua Viet. On the scene at YD 320 697, the EOD team examined the mine and determined it had been in the water for several days. While the EOD team examined the mine to determine why it had not activated, Boat Patrol Officer LTJG Brennan and Boat Captain BM3 Morgan returned the unit to NSAD Cua Viet at 1130H without incident. One NVA pressure mine was recovered with no J.S. casualties.

On the morning of the 3rd of December, Patrol Officer EN3 Taylor with his Boat Captain SN Hay secured LCM-6 from NSAD Cua Viet after having double swept the Cua Viet River. On stowing the sweep gear, they discovered the bottom catenary fouled with parts of a pressure
mine. Parts recovered were the protective bladder gauge and pencil type chemical delays which were secured to the gauge. The parts were turned over to the EOD team at 0915H.

NSAD at Cua Viet was rocketed with five rounds of 140mm rockets at 0329H on 7 December. The rockets appeared to come from the northwest, but the launch site was not determined. NSAD Cua Viet initiated no counter fire. There were no U.S. material or personnel casualties.

An example of the frustrating nature of counterinsurgency warfare in treelines, along canal banks, and across rivers began to develop on the evening of the 7th of December about 2300H. Sub-sector forces, Provincial Force 84 from Dong Ha, operating with PBR's 133 and 84, observed 30 to 50 VC moving into rice fields adjacent to the Song Thach Han. ENS Hampton with SM1 Risbon and SM1 Escamilla maneuvered their PBR's into position near YD 285 605 on the Tach Han River and called for additional blocking forces as the PF unit began to drive the VC back to the river. By 1100H, the PF unit had swept the area from their position, through the area where the VC were sighted, and back to the Thach Han River. No enemy were contacted.

By 1635H the same day, the two PBR's on the Thach Han were joined by SMC Nelson, QM Casador, RD1 Phillips, GHG3 Brady, QM1 Johnson, and SM1 Beaver in PBR's 33, 54, 77, and 81 all from River Division 521. The units had moved in their sweep to the vicinity of YD 513 470 on the Song-O-Lau by 1715H. The blocking force was resupplied with food and ammunition. As the helicopters lifted, they were fired on from
three locations. The helicopters again picked up the RF troops and
reinserted them in the area. The RF troops kept the VC under sporadic
fire until gunships could place fire in the enemy positions.

The firefight continued until 1800H, 22 kilometers west of Hue
in Old Thua Thien Province. At this time additional forces were
brought in. The PBR's moved one ground unit into the area, helicopters
moved in a second element for air insertion, one element was on the
ground, and a reserve element was kept on the PBR's. The 3/817 Bat-
talion coordinated the operation by helicopter. The PBR's inserted
the reserve element and took a second reserve element aboard. A sweep
of the area by the troops ashore produced negative results, and all
units dug in for the night. At 0830H the next morning, all units were
resupplied with food and ammunition. The PBR crews were relieved on
station by fresh patrol crews. All units withdrew by 1400H on the 9th.
Friendly casualties were one U.S. wounded. Enemy casualties were
unknown.

Enemy mining activity continued throughout December on the Cua
Viet and the Perfume Rivers. RM3 Amundson and SN Ouendag on patrol
in the Cua Viet River 4 kilometers southwest of Cua Viet conducted a
morning sweep the 16th of December. At about 0715H, they detonated a
mine with a UK Scare charge lifting a column of water 75 feet high.
The explosion occurred approximately 500 feet off the starboard bow of
the skimmer. Neither Amundson nor Ouendag were injured. The following
day, RM2 Wass and SN Ouendag detonated two underwater charges with a
single scare sweep while on patrol in their skimmer four to five miles