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

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

Ref: (a) CIBCPACFLT ltr PFI-1 5750 ser 1/6925 of 2 October 1967

- Encl: (1) Coastal Surveillance Force Summary
 (2) River Patrol Force Summary
 (3) Riverine Assault Force Summary
 (4) Naval Advisory Group Summary
 (5) Selected Psychological Operations
 (6) USN Statistical Summary
 (7) VNN/VNMC Statistical Summary

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

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.

Copy to:
COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, CJS)
CNO (Op-09B91E)
→ Director of Naval History

J. W. [unclear]
Flag Secretary

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY
December 1967

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. 34,591 junks and sampans were detected by MARKET TIME units during December, the lowest monthly aggregate recorded since November 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 22 December the MARKET TIME support base at Qui Nhon was attacked by an estimated platoon of enemy sappers. The coordinated 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 15 others wounded, plus extensive damage to the CPO quarters and light damage to the mess hall and enlisted barracks. Three enemy were killed during the attack and the following enemy ordnance was captured: 10 Chinese communist fragmentation

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grenades, 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 6 December PCF 79 came under automatic weapons fire from five different positions while conducting a loudspeaker PSYOPS mission along the coast approximately 10 miles south of Cape Butangan. The Swift boat received five automatic weapon hits and BML Bobby D. CARVER, the forward gunner, was killed during the action.

On the 12th, USCGC YAKUTAS (WMEC 380) conducted a gunfire support 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 the 18th, the Coast Guard's POINT ARDEN received word from the 1st Marine's ANTRACK 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. PCF's 55 and 22 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).

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
December 1967

Harrassment of GAME WARDEN 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 RF, PF and 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 near Mha Be 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 NGFS against enemy targets with significant results. On 21 December Operation BOLD CAROUSEL commenced against enemy forces on Tan Dinh Island, the scene of continued harrassment against PBR patrols. The Christmas Truce was violated when a PBR patrol was ambushed on the lower Bassac River.

On 2 December PBR Mobile Base I arrived Danang 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 UNS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) conducted a naval gunfire mission against a reported VC concentration six miles southeast of Ben Tre. Twenty VC were killed and one recoilless rifle damaged. SEALs and four ADNN

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conducted a patrol on 20 December, six miles south of Ben Tre, off the Han 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 Bassac on 21 December. During the period 21-23 December PBRs provided a rotating exfiltration blockade around Tan Dinh Island on the lower Bassac, 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", HAG 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. Navy men 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 a result of a mechanical failure. The four crewmen were injured.

In the early morning hours of 22 December the U. S. merchant ship

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SEATRAN 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 Tau 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 Bassas, just south of Tan Dinh Island, was attacked by enemy forces. At 251450H the lead boat of the patrol was hit by a B-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. "Seawolves" conducted a strike against the enemy positions and accounted for 20 VC killed, four wounded, nineteen civilians wounded, one crew served weapon and three small arms destroyed. At about midnight 29 December an unsuccessful enemy mining attempt was made against the USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 621) while anchored in the central Ham Luong River. The two mines, placed below the waterline, failed to achieve a high order detonation thereby avoiding a serious support asset loss. There were no personnel casualties or material damage.

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RIVERINE 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 CORONADO IX (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 Sa Dec 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 VNMC 5th Battalion, were ambushed with automatic weapons as they entered the Rach Rong. 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 8-40 rocket fire from the western bank. The boats turned into the Viet Cong fire and disembarked the Vietnamese Marines,

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who immediately launched an intensive attack against the 502 Local Force Battalion and local Viet Cong guerillas. Meanwhile, RAD III, with the U. S. 3/47th Infantry Battalion embarked, was also taken under fire from the initial ambush position. Instead of proceeding up the Rach Rong, the boats 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 42 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 40 Marines killed and 70 wounded. Total cumulative destruction inflicted on the enemy for this phase of CORONADO IX (4-6 December) consisted of 266 killed, 161 bunkers and 126 sampans destroyed. There were also over 5,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition and 274 assorted weapons (including grenades, mines and carbines) captured. Operation CORONADO IX (10-11 December) was conducted in western Dinh Tuong and eastern Kien Phong provinces. In a series of light skirmishes with the enemy, there were nine Viet Cong killed, two wounded, four captured and 35 bunkers destroyed. Early on the morning of 21 December, an ACPB conducting minesweeping operations on the west bank of the Xang Canal in Dinh Tuong Province, two miles northwest of Dong Tam, was mined. There was one

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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 MRB continued conducting riverine strike operations (CORONADO 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 MRB struck at the Viet Cong again in another phase of Operation CORONADO IX (24-26 December) in Dinh Tuong Province, killing 15 and destroying over 120 bunkers.

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**NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
December 1967**

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 of a daily average of 196 available. Meanwhile, the River Assault Groups had a daily average of 136 craft employed of 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 Son 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 CORONADO IX until the 27th when it was detached for duty in the III Corps Tactical Zone.

On 4 December, the VMFC 5th Battalion engaged the 400-man Viet Cong 502 Local Force Battalion, five miles northeast of Sa Dec, in the heaviest fighting in the CORONADO 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 Ruong Stream at 0815, the 1st Company engaged the enemy's northern

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flank, 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 103 were wounded; 34 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 PHUNG 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 40 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 47 junks. From 13 to 19 December a series of five operations was conducted by RAO 23 with PRU, National Police and Popular Force troops, and GAME WARDEN PBRs against

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the Viet Cong on Giac 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 commo-liaison route, resulted in the death of two Viet Cong, the capture of three others, the detention of 51 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 Co Dong and Van Co Rivers successfully attacked VNN Monitors. In the first instance, a RAG 27 Monitor was mined and sunk 16 miles southwest of Saigon; nine crewmen were injured, three seriously. On the 19th a Monitor of the River Transport Escort Group and an oil barge were hit by recoilless-rifle fire, killing one sailor and wounding one sailor and one civilian on the barge. On 20 December, Coastal Group 14 conducted Operation PHI PHUNG 62 on the north bank of the Cau Hai River two miles east of Hoi An. 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.

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MILITARY PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS SUMMARY
December 1967

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 Chieu Hoi/Dai Doan Ket programs during the forthcoming TET season. The TET campaign will begin on 1 January and terminate on 24 March. Hoi Chanhs 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 PSYOP efforts can best be typified by the repeated attacks made on the PBRs as they conduct loudspeaker operations.

In testimony of the outstanding performance of the Seabees in civic action, JCS has directed CMC 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 ESTEREM (MSO 439) and USS FINCH (DER 328), assigned to MARKET TIME, presented the orphans at Qui Nhon with a pre-Christmas present when they came ashore and painted the orphanage.

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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 VNN also continued in their civic action program by conducting MEDCAPs and distributing such needed commodities to villagers in outlying districts and refugee settlements. The VNN hospital ships attended to the medical needs of the people as the two ships traveled the waterways of the Delta and the RBSZ.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
December 1967

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>	<u>Mobile Riverine Force</u>
Detections	34,591	31,566	*
Inspections	14,702	15,235	1,112
Boardings	7,255	37,276	*
Craft detained	*	1	0
Persons detained	198	802	359
Viet Cong suspects	2	36	*
Hostile fire incidents	14	104	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	15 (6 prob.)	129	315
b. Wounded	2	31	4
c. Captured	0	10	29
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	2**	1	4
b. Wounded	5**	37	78
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	6	127	139
(2) Structures	20	170	557
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	10	0
(2) Weapons	*	2	335***
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	50	5,017
(4) Rice (tons)	*	.4	2.5
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	11	165	*
(2) Structures	31	147	*
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	0	0
(2) Helicopters	*	0	0
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	2	23	26
(2) Helicopters	*	10	0
SAR missions	5	1	*

Remarks:

- * Information not applicable or not available this date.
- ** Includes one killed and five wounded during the attack on Qui Nhon.
- *** Includes hand grenades.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY
December 1967

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
<u>COASTAL FORCE</u>				
I NZ	11,860	36,213	5	100
II NZ	6,700	20,984	2	77
III NZ	8,091	31,442	3	4
IV NZ	<u>2,529</u>	<u>8,705</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>
Sub-totals	29,180	97,344	10	189
<u>FLEET COMMAND</u>				
<u>PATROL SHIPS*</u>	1,576	2,184	0	0
<u>RIVERINE AREA</u>				
<u>CRAFT</u>	4,560	13,827	11	32
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>34,316</u>	<u>113,355</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>221</u>

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: 287 KIA** 36 CAPTURED 249 SUSPECTS DETAINED
 VNMC: 45 KIA*** 116 WIA***

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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