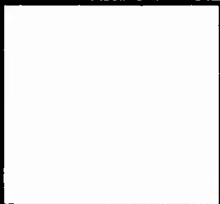


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Historical Summary Jan. 1968

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From: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)
Subj: U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, January 1968; submission of
Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT ltr FF1-1 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) VNR/VNMC Statistical Summary
(8) USN Civic Action Statistical Summary

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are submitted.
2. The data contained in enclosures (6), (7) and (8) are based on information available this date and are subject to revisions as later information is received. Any adjustments of this nature will be reflected in January's Historical Supplement.

S. T. ORME
Chief of Staff

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

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY
January 1968

During January there was an increase in Operation MARKET TIME activity as the heavy seas and inclement weather associated with the northeast monsoon season abated in the northern coastal zones, thus allowing all MARKET TIME stations to be manned throughout a high percentage of the period. MARKET TIME units detected 48,856 junks and sampans during the month, an increase of 14,265 over December's total. Meanwhile, MARKET TIME units were engaged in 18 hostile fire incidents and conducted 152 naval gunfire support missions during the month. The majority of the gunfire support missions were fired in the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones where fair weather prevailed throughout the month.

On the 2nd of the month USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WMEC 68) carried out a gunfire mission against an enemy position approximately 30 miles north-northeast of Ca Mau Point in the Gulf of Thailand. Responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne observer, the cutter destroyed two structures and four sampans, damaged nine structures and six sampans, and killed two enemy troops and wounded three others.

On 3 January PCF 9 received hostile automatic weapons fire while on patrol approximately eight miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. While closing the beach to return and suppress the fire, one U. S. Navy crewman suffered a bullet wound in the right thigh. The hostile fire was suppressed and the Swift boat's guns killed one Viet Cong and wounded several others.

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At 1723 on 7 January, PCF 63 sighted four people on the beach near a deserted village approximately 22 miles south of Qui Nhon. As the Swift boat approached, the people turned and fled into the village. Sector authorities granted permission to take the area under fire, and the Swift boat commenced firing on the large house that the evading personnel were seen to enter. This building and four other surrounding structures were completely destroyed by the PCF's firing.

On the 18th of January, USCGC BERING STRAIT (WHEC 382) took an estimated enemy company under fire approximately 28 miles north-northeast of Ca Mau Point on the Gulf of Thailand coast. Utilizing her five-inch guns and responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne spotter, the cutter destroyed two structures and one sampan, damaged six structures, killed six Viet Cong, and wounded four others.

At 0250 on the 31st, a Cam Ranh Bay harbor defense patrol succeeded in surfacing the first of two enemy swimmers captured on that day. Approximately one half hour later an explosion occurred on the bow of the anchored Norwegian tanker PELICAN causing moderate damage. Initial interrogation of the swimmer indicated that additional swimmers were in the Cam Ranh Bay area operating as three man teams.

In response to the heavy fighting which erupted throughout Vietnam during the last days of the month, MARKET TIME units continually aided allied forces with gunfire support, and all units maintained alert aggressive patrols.

A summary of calendar year 1967 MARKET TIME activity includes:

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913,121 wooden-hull detections, 538,054 wooden-hull boardings/inspections, and 8,743 steel-hull detections.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
January 1968

The New Year's Truce Period (311800H December - 020600H January) was violated when the Viet Cong initiated an attack, early on the morning of 2 January, against the MSA Detachment Nha Se, support base for GAME WARDEN PBRs and minesweepers. One MSB was destroyed and two U. S. Navy men were wounded in the recoilless-rifle attack directed at the Navy pier facilities. As the PBRs continued to interdict enemy river crossings, the Viet Cong retaliated by intensifying their firepower by employing heavier weapons in an effort to disrupt the patrols. In greater evidence was the increased use of rocket, rifle-grenade, recoilless-rifle and heavy automatic-weapons fire from ambushes in an attempt to destroy the boats. The intensified attacks killed one PBR sailor, wounded 36 others and wounded one Department of the Navy civilian. As a result of the stepped up activity of the Viet Cong, prior to the celebration of TET, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year (celebrated during the period 30 January - 2 February), GAME WARDEN units suffered the highest monthly casualty total to date. However, the enemy suffered high losses as Operation GAME WARDEN continued to deny the Viet Cong the free use of the waterways of the RSSZ and the Delta. In I CTZ, PBR operations commenced on 9 January in the Cau Hai Bay/Tan My area. River Squadron 521, operating from PBR Mobile Support Base I located at Tan My (50 miles north of Danang) was assigned patrol responsibilities. This is the

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second time the PBRs were assigned to I CTZ. On 10 January a Viet Cong swimmer wearing sophisticated diving equipment was detected on the upper Co Chien River. This was the first sighting in IV CTZ of a swimmer so equipped. CTF 116 conducted Operation BREAKNESS III on 10-11 January along the Ba Lai River, in Kien Hoa province, an area of high Viet Cong activity. ASPBs teamed up with PBRs and transitted the river and destroyed 24 sampans, 34 huts and 20 bunkers. On 11 January, SEALs were landed shortly after a PBR patrol was ambushed on the Bassac River. Operation QUICK KILL, a quick reaction ground attack to counter enemy attacks, accounted for five Viet Cong KIA and the capture of three recoilless weapons and associated ammunition. One SEAL was killed and another wounded in the action. On 25 January Operation WIND SONG I was conducted in the Thom Creek and Mo Cay Creek vicinity of Mo Cay in Kien Hoa province. The operation netted 51 Viet Cong suspects. In addition, 50 bunkers, 40 structures and five tons of rice were destroyed and five pounds of documents of high intelligence value was captured. During the TET holiday period BOLD DRAGON I was conducted on the upper Bassac River. On 29 January PBRs commenced patrols from Chau Doc to the Cambodian border to prevent a possible Viet Cong movement/re-supply effort during the TET Truce period (291800H - 310600H). The TET Truce period was terminated, however, at 0945H 30 January, due to numerous Viet Cong-initiated attacks throughout South Vietnam. In the early morning hours of 31 January the Viet Cong launched numerous attacks against military and civilian

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installations. TF 116 units reacted to numerous outposts, ground units and civilian populated areas under fire during the Viet Cong offensive exacting their toll of enemy casualties. Navy armed helicopters once again displayed their merit as they continued to support PBR and SEAL operations. On one occasion the "Seawolves" killed 17 Viet Cong and wounded 23, when they attacked and disrupted a high level Viet Cong meeting on 10 January near the mouth of the Ba Lai River.

At 0105 on the morning of 2 January, the Viet Cong initiated a 75-mm recoilless-rifle attack against the NSA Detachment Nha Be, located seven miles south of Saigon, and commercial POL facilities located close to the Navy base. As the general alarm sounded, units of TG 116.2 got underway, however, MSB 22 was hit and caught fire in the initial barrage directed against the pier area. Two Navy men were wounded slightly in the attack. The MSB was heavily damaged and subsequently stricken from the Naval Vessel Register. The POL facilities received about 20 rounds of enemy fire and sustained hits on four tanks. There was no secondary explosions or fire and only minor damage.

A PBR patrol interdicted and captured a Viet Cong sampan on 3 January, eight miles from the mouth of the Ham Luong River as it attempted to cross the river. The two occupants of the sampan jumped overboard when sighted by the patrol, leaving the motor running. The two occupants were taken under fire with unknown results. PBR 103 captured the boat with a grapnel as the patrol received enemy automatic fire from the river

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bank. PBR 103 cleared the area with the sampan in tow as the cover boat suppressed the enemy fire. The sampan contained 60 bangalore mines, 40 claymore mines, 200 electric primers, 150 rounds of CHICOM ammunition and six fragmentation grenades.

On 8 January a PBR conducting a test firing mission on the upper Dong Tranh River, five miles east-southeast of Nha Be, was hit by an RPG-7 round on the after .50 caliber gun shield. Seven U. S. Navy men and one civilian from NRDU-V Saigon, who was observing the test, were wounded. The following day PBR 722, operating on the Bassac River 11 miles southeast of Can Tho, was struck by a B-41 rocket. The boat withdrew from the area when the stricken boat and its cover boat were unable to suppress the enemy fire. PBR 722 had to beach to prevent from sinking. "Seawolves" and additional PBRs from Sinh Thuy arrived on the scene to assist in the fire fight and escort the damaged boat back to its base at Sinh Thuy. Seven PBR sailors were wounded in the action. One Viet Cong was killed and one CHICOM rifle was found in the ambush area that contained numerous blood trails. On the 10th, four more PBR sailors were wounded when two more boats on the Bassac were hit by enemy rocket fire.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
January 1968

Throughout the month of January the Mobile Riverine Force operating from Dong Tam conducted a series of rapid reaction and search and destroy operations in Dinh Tuong, Vinh Long, Long An and Kien Hoa provinces. The MRF continued its vigorous pursuit of the elusive enemy main force battalions by penetrating into the heavily infested Viet Cong domains of central and western Dinh Tuong province. The enemy response to this saturation tactic has been to retire into the northern areas of Dinh Tuong province which were considered inaccessible due to low bridge clearances and massive canal obstructions.

During the 36-hour New Year's Truce period (311800H Dec-020600H Jan), the troops in the field were not engaged in any significant contact, although they received some automatic-weapons fire on 1 January while in interdictionary positions along the Ba Rai Stream. On 7-8 January the MRF conducted a two-battalion search and destroy operation in the Don Nhon district of Vinh Long province where they established heavy contact with the enemy. Navy riverine units also came under heavy automatic-weapons fire from numerous positions along the Co Luong waterways. The assault forces maintained continual contact with the Viet Cong for six hours and during the ensuing battle killed 28 of the fiercely resisting insurgents. Cumulative enemy casualties consisted of 90 Viet Cong killed. There were eight U. S. soldiers and two sailors wounded in the two-day operation. On 10 January, after a brief

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maintenance period, the MRF commenced a riverine search and destroy operation in the Cai Be district of Binh Truong province. RAD 91 and RAD 111, with elements of the 3/60th and 4/47th Infantry Battalions embarked, maneuvered single file up the narrow Tra Lot Stream, which is navigable only at high tide, and landed their troops. The riverine craft were then withdrawn into the deeper Thong Lai Stream and Mekong River. Meanwhile Alfa Company of the 3/60th Infantry Battalion, which had been airlifted into the objective area, became isolated by intense enemy fire and suffered heavy losses, with one man killed and 32 wounded. Pinned down and short of ammunition and supplies during the night, the Army units lost 21 killed and had 59 men wounded. The enemy lost 73 men in the bitterly contested battle. On 12 January, after a six-hour respite, the MRF, in response to an intelligence report of a large Viet Cong buildup in the Binh Phuoc district of Long An province, proceeded to the new objective area. Initial contact was made as riverine units of RAD 111 were preparing to land troops and were ambushed from the banks of the Van Co Tay River, about 11 miles northwest of Co Cong. The enemy fire, consisting of B-40 rockets, recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire, was suppressed with flame throwers, 40-mm, 20-mm, rifle grenades and .50 caliber machine guns and the landing was conducted without further incident. There were seven Viet Cong killed and 44 bunkers destroyed in the two-day operation. There were no U. S. personnel or material casualties during this rapid-reaction operation. On 18 January

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while participating in Operation CORONADO X (18-19 January), the commanding officer of UDT 12 was killed, when the ATC, T-112-1, in which he was embarked, was struck by two RPG-2 (B-40) rocket rounds at the confluence of the Ben Tre and Ong Buong Streams about six miles southeast of Ben Tre in the Gieng Trem district of Kien Hoa province. On 24 January YTB 785 was hit by an RPG-7 rocket on the My Tho River about 5 miles west of Dong Tam. The attack caused minor damage to the tug and slightly wounded one Navyman and one Vietnamese interpreter.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
January 1968

During the month the Fleet Command had a daily average of 25.4 ships available and a daily average of 21.8 ships employed. At the same time the Coastal Force employed a daily average of 167.5 junks of a daily average of 191.4 available, and the River Assault Groups employed a daily average of 129.1 of the 149.8 craft available. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese Marine Corps' six infantry and one artillery battalions were committed to operations 95 percent of the time. While Task Force A, in II CTZ, and the 5th and 6th Battalions, in the Capital Military District, made light contact with the enemy, Task Force B, operating west of My Tho, made heavy contact with the enemy on the 1st and 2nd and on the 19th and 20th.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions partially surrounded the Viet Cong 261st Main Force Battalion during an operation 26 miles west of Dong Tam on the 1st. The close contact, small-unit battle ended on the 2nd when the enemy dispersed and evaded to the north leaving 85 of their number on the field; eight others were captured, 14 suspects were detained, and 71 weapons were seized. The Marines had 28 killed and 83 wounded. On the night of the 19th at least three companies of the enemy's 261st or 261B Battalion attacked the positions of the 1st Battalion and Battery B, 15 miles west of Dong Tam. The combined mortar, rocket and infantry attack was beaten back by the Marines and U. S. Army helicopter gunships and

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USAF flareships. Thirty-seven Viet Cong were killed in the battle while the Marines had 20 men killed, 36 wounded and one man missing. Villagers along the enemy's escape route reported that 40 sampans bearing dead or wounded Viet Cong passed during the morning of the 20th.

On the 7th, Coastal Group 22 detained 71 Viet Cong suspects and seized one carbine while participating with an ARVN company from Binh Dinh, in a search just north of Qui Nhon. The soldiers captured six Viet Cong, detained 572 suspects and seized two automatic weapons and 138 pistols, 300,000\$ VN (\$2,542.00), \$265.00 US and a large quantity of foodstuffs. At 0010 on the 9th, a Coastal Group 43 reconnaissance team, aboard a junk, killed 18 Viet Cong, and wounded or killed several others who were carried away, when the junk was ambushed from the bank of the Cai Lon River three miles downstream from the base at Kien An. The following day, the 10th, two enemy base camps in the RSSZ were destroyed by a combined force under the control of the RSSZ Commander. U. S. Army spotter aircraft located the camps and directed Regional Force troops embarked in RAQ 22 craft to them. U. S. Army and Navy helicopter fire teams provided area cover and close support to the troops and an ARVN 105-mm battery fired into the enemy area as the troops departed. Six Viet Cong were killed, five individual weapons were seized and two camps containing 12 buildings, two sampans and four tons of rice were destroyed in the 10-hour operation. On 19 January Operation AN BAN 16/68, to reduce the enemy presence in Ben Luc district, was conducted by the ARVN

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50th Regiment and RAG 27, along the Vam Co Dong River 15 miles southwest of Saigon. The sweeps killed one North Vietnamese soldier and 52 insurgents, captured two others and detained two suspects; twelve individual weapons were seized. Three ARVN soldiers were killed, 25 were wounded and five others are missing; there were no VNN casualties. About 0400 on the 20th, Coastal Group 11 junks, patrolling on the Cua Viet River, supported Dai Loc hamlet with machine gun and mortar fire and directed U. S. Marine artillery fire into the positions of the Viet Cong forces attacking the hamlet. Coastal Group 11 and USMC reaction forces were met by an estimated four companies of the enemy. By 1400 the outnumbered sailors were forced to withdraw south to the river while the Marines, to the east, were able to hold their positions until the enemy retreated. Thirty Viet Cong were killed by the sailors in the engagement and one man rallied under the Chieu Hoi program. Four VNN sailors were killed and 16 others and the two U. S. enlisted advisors were wounded. During the following two days, one junk was damaged by 57-mm recoilless-rifle fire and eight mines were detonated in the Cua Viet in the vicinity of Dai Loc hamlet, sinking one U. S. Navy LCM-8 and damaging three LCUs, one LCM-6, one LCM-8 and one civilian craft. Seven Vietnamese were killed, four sailors were wounded and two men from the sunk LCM-8 are missing in the incidents.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS
January 1968

The 1968 TET Campaign began on 1 January with the distribution of printed material designed to instill a desire for unity under the National Government. U. S. Navy units made loudspeaker broadcasts providing entertainment, news and Chieu Hoi appeals throughout the Coastal and Riverine areas. The TET holiday season (30 January through 1 February) provided a significant opportunity for psychological exploitation as this is a time of family reunions. During the month the USS LUZERNE COUNTY (LST 902), a logistical support ship operating in IV CTZ, performed broadcasts as it transitted the Mekong and Bassac Rivers. This is the first time that a broadcast from a large U. S. ship had been made in the Delta. On 22 January, two junks from Coastal Group 37 received heavy automatic-weapon fire as a Vietnamese Navyman made a live broadcast in Kien Hoa province.

Navy units continued to perform MEDCAPs and Civic Action projects throughout the country in addition to their primary mission of prosecuting the war. Each Coastal Group in the Third Coastal Zone has assumed a civic action project as the program continues to improve. Fifteen tons of soap received from CARE was supplied to the Coastal Zone Advisers and PER River Sections for distribution to the poor and needy villagers along the coast and in the Delta. On 4 January, the Viet Cong ambushed four PERs that had just completed a MEDCAP in Ton Duong village,

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5 miles northwest of Sa Dec, wounding two members of a PF security force. The enemy fire was suppressed and PBR personnel extinguished fires started in the village by Viet Cong grenades. In the RSSZ, River Section 542 continued to support a village that they adopted last September. The River Section provides Tan Thanh village with a monthly MEDCAP and shoes, clothing and toys. The majority of the material presented to the village is received from a Sacramento Kiwanis Club. The "can do" Seabees continue their splendid efforts to aid and teach the villagers and refugees so that they might be able to proudly say that they too can say "can do".

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
January 1968

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>	<u>Mobile Riverine Force</u>
Detections	48,856	74,398	*
Inspections	22,226	16,390	*
Boardings	11,312	41,411	*
Craft detained	1	*	0
Persons detained	318	*	426
Viet Cong suspects	3	*	*
Hostile fire incidents	18	*	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	36(26 prob)	117	114
b. Wounded	11	32	3
c. Captured	0	33	24
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	2	1
b. Wounded	3	61	8
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	22	155	2
(2) Structures	28	320	221
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	1	8	0
(2) Weapons	0	22	124**
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	0	*	381
(4) Rice (tons)	0	6.5	2.7
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	19	142	*
(2) Structures	58	75	2
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	1(MSB)	0
(2) Helicopters	0	0	0
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	1	20	3
(2) Helicopters	0	6	0
SAR missions	5	0	0

Remarks:

* Information not applicable or not available this date.

** Includes hand grenades.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY
January 1968

VIETNAMESE NAVY**

	<u>Searched</u>		<u>Retained</u>	
	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
<u>COASTAL FORCE</u>				
I NZ	12,414	33,122	0	62
II NZ	8,239	22,513	4	126
III NZ	7,953	31,145	0	0
IV NZ	3,949	10,546	0	0
Sub-totals	32,555	97,326	4	188
<u>FLEET COMMAND</u>				
<u>PATROL SHIPS***</u>	1,003	4,152	2	0
<u>RIVERINE AREA</u>				
<u>CRAFT</u>	4,927	15,581	2	7
<u>TOTALS</u>	38,485	117,059	8	195

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS***

VC/NVA: 154 KIA 35 CAPTURED 68 SUSPECTS OBTAINED

VNMC: 59 KIA 208 WIA 1 MIA

Remarks:

* 1 to 30 January

** 1 to 28 January

*** Conducted 42 gunfire support missions during November.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
January 1968*

PROGRAMS:

	<u>Man Days</u>	<u>Expenditures (VN\$)</u>
Economic Development	25	2,500
Education	440	82,774
Social Welfare	1,155	1,375,921
Transportation	102	111,020
Refugee Assistance Support	138	1,500
TOTALS	1,860	1,573,715

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS:

VN\$ 102,942

US/FMMAF ASSISTANCE TO GVN PROGRAMS:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Type of Assistance</u>
Market Place	1	Material
Latrine	1	Technical Advice

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	<u>Number</u>
Hospitals/dispensaries	42
Schools	13
Orphanages	4
Others	4

PERCENT OF U. S. CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH:

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

Remarks:

* Reporting period is 26 December 1967 - 25 January 1968. This is the new format for the USN Civic Action Statistical Summary.

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