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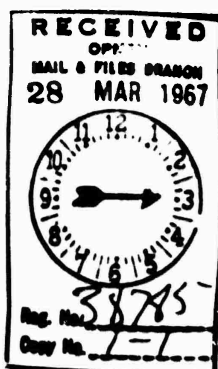
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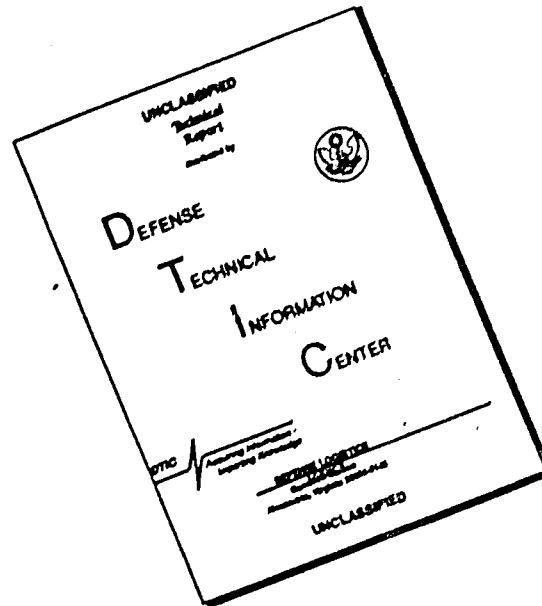
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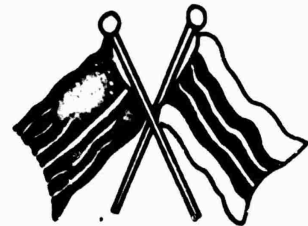
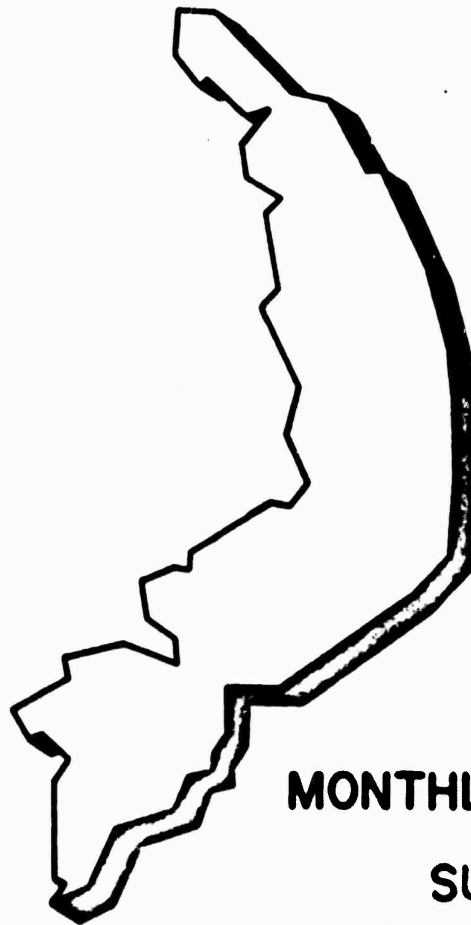


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U.S. NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM



MONTHLY HISTORICAL
SUMMARY
JANUARY 1967

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
APO San Francisco 96214

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January 1967

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H. M. Robinette
H. M. ROBINETTE
Flag Secretary

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NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY

JANUARY 1967

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APPENDIX I U.S./VN Navy Statistics for January 1967

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FOREWORD

In January, naval forces continued to frustrate enemy movements amid indications that the enemy was desperately seeking a major victory prior to the start of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year truce period. Viet Cong activity was particularly intense in the Kung Sat Special Zone, where firing incidents averaged more than one a day.

In the Delta, MARKET TIME forces intercepted a steel-hulled trawler attempting to infiltrate supplies, and GAME WARDEN forces broke up a number of river crossing attempts. Units of both forces provided sea and river blocking cover in support of the first combined U.S./Vietnamese amphibious landing in the Delta, DECKHOUSE V. Meanwhile, at Vung Tau, advance units of the newest member of the naval forces team, the Riverine Assault Force, began joint training maneuvers with elements of the U.S. Army NINTH Division.

To the north, the Naval Support Activity in Danang again set a new port record for processing cargo, despite continued adverse weather. And, with typical resourcefulness, I Corps Seabees rebuilt in ten days 32 private homes destroyed by the crash of a commercial airliner into a heavily-populated area.

The posture of the Vietnamese Navy continued to improve under the leadership of the new Commander in Chief, Captain Tran Van CHON. The aggressive support provided by the River Assault Groups during Operation CEDAR FALLS in the Iron Triangle area north of Saigon reflected the growing professionalism of the Vietnamese Navy.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE

DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Lower Bassac Operations

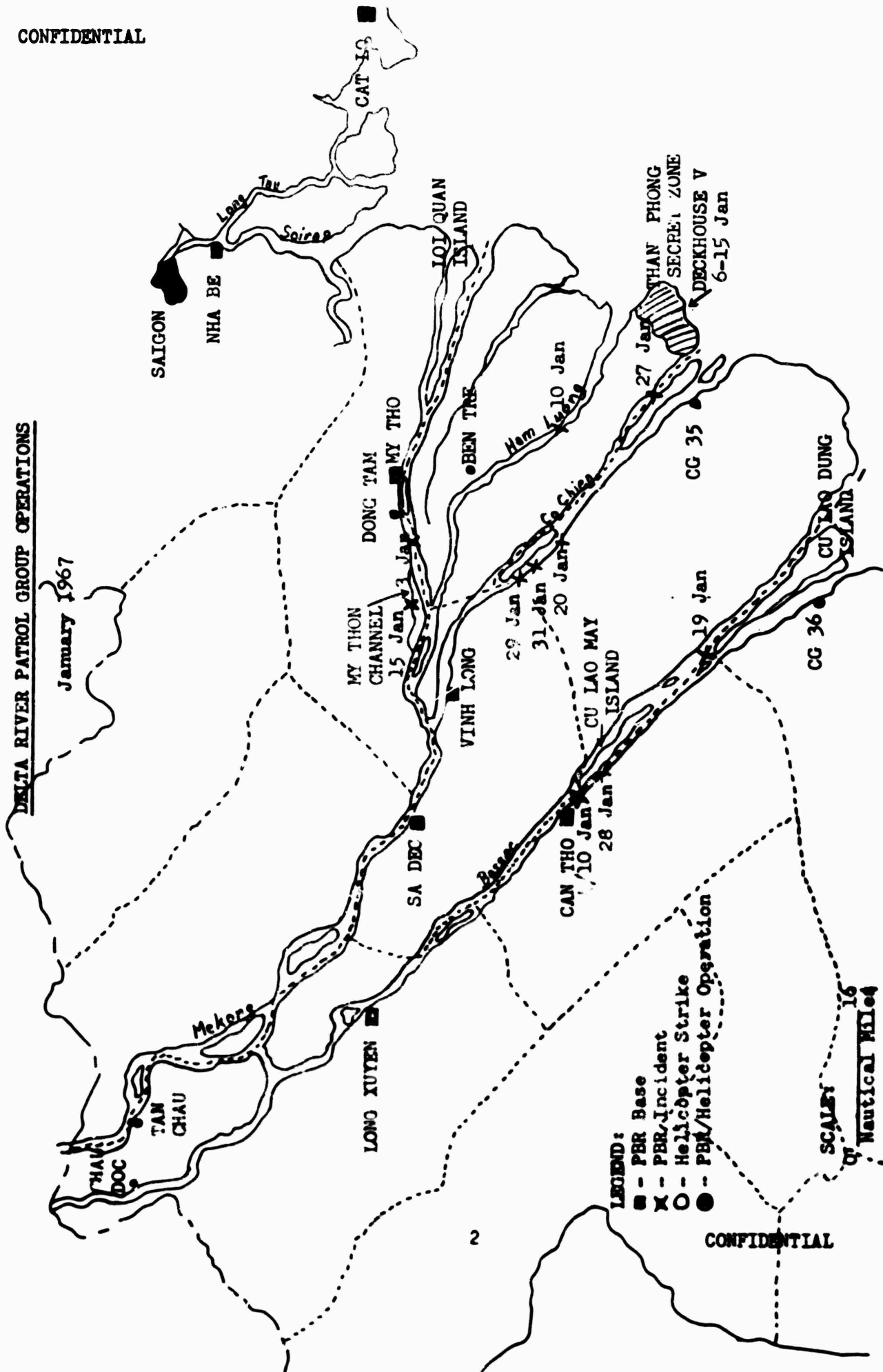
Enemy crossings were interdicted in known Viet Cong crossing routes on five occasions during the month of January. On 4 January three miles downstream from Can Tho, three Viet Cong were killed during a crossing attempt when PBRs spotted the red and white signal lights used by the enemy to coordinate crossings. The PBRs were taken under heavy automatic weapons fire from both banks; one friendly was wounded slightly in the action. In the same general area on 10 January, five Viet Cong were killed during a crossing attempt.

On 19 January, a Viet Cong communications-liaison runner was captured when a PBR patrol intercepted his sampan near the northern tip of Cu Lao Dung Island. Weapons, ammunition and a quantity of documents were captured along with the courier. On 21 January, in the same area, two Viet Cong were killed and seven captured while they were enroute to an ambush site on Cu Lao Dung. The PBR patrol delivered the prisoners to the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) Coastal Group 36 base; the Viet Cong unit leader was subsequently killed while attempting to escape.

On 26 January, GAME WARDEN units broke up a crossing attempt by an estimated 400-man main force Viet Cong unit which had moved through Phong Dinh province toward the river. PBRs, supported by an AC-47 and units of VNN River Assault Group (RAG) 25, received

DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP OPERATIONS

January 1967



LEGEND:

- - PBR Base
- X - PBR Incident
- - Helicopter Strike
- - PBR/Helicopter Operation

SCALE: 16
Nautical Miles

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and returned heavy fire. One U.S. sailor was wounded slightly in the action, and two PBKs received superficial hits.

On 28 January, PBKs evacuated 38 Vietnamese civilians who had been wounded during an engagement involving an Army helicopter fire team, PBRs and a Viet Cong unit on the south bank of the river near Cu Lao May Island. The wounded were taken to Can Tho. At month's end, the circumstances surrounding the incident were under investigation.

Upper Bassac and Mekong Operations

On 15 January, in response to an intelligence report that the enemy would attempt to concentrate forces in the Dong Tam area, PBKs in the upper Bassac and Mekong rivers were re-positioned to provide high-density patrols in the lower rivers. Four boats remained at Long Xuyen to conduct periodic patrols in the Chau Doc and Tan Chau region; eight boats of River Patrol Section 522 were deployed to the Coastal Group 36 area in the Lower Bassac; eight boats of River Patrol Section 523 were stationed in the Co Chien River. Meanwhile, Sa Dec-based Section 521 concentrated its patrols in the lower portions of its assigned area.

Co Chien Operations

Vinh Long-based River Patrol Section 513, augmented in January by boats from Long Xuyen, was in contact with the enemy almost daily during the month. Although most of the incidents were minor harassments of PBRs and outposts along the river, ambushes involving heavy automatic weapons fire occurred on 20, 27, 29 and 31 January.

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In each instance there were no friendly casualties; enemy casualties were undetermined.

River Patrol Section 513 was stationed at Coastal Group 35's base near the mouth of the Chien during the early part of the month as a blocking force for Operation DECKHOUSE V. There was no significant contact with the enemy.

Mekong (My Tho)/Ham Luong Operations

During the first half of the month, the stretch of the Mekong west of My Tho was again one of the most active areas in the Delta.

On 3 January, six Viet Cong were killed by PBRs when they tried to cross the river in a sampan, six and one-half miles west of My Tho.

On 9 January, the enemy succeeded in mining the dredge, JAMAICA BAY, at Dong Tam. Three American civilians were killed in the blast. PBRs rescued 17 Americans and five Vietnamese soldiers who were aboard the dredge. JAMAICA BAY settled to port almost immediately in 25 feet of water. The incident halted dredging operations aimed at providing facilities for the newly-established Riverine Assault Force. Salvage operations began at once.

On 15 January, a PBR boat captain was mortally wounded when his patrol swept up the narrow Nam Thon channel, 15 miles west of My Tho, in response to an outpost report that the Viet Cong were crossing in the area. Nine Viet Cong were killed and three were wounded in the engagement. PBRs sank nine sampans and destroyed seven huts.

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Fixed-wing and helicopter air strikes were launched in close support of the PBs and accounted for ten structures destroyed, eleven damaged, and an unknown number of Viet Cong killed.

After the engagement on 15 January, the area west of My Tho remained relatively quiet. However, the Viet Cong were active in the Ham Luong River. PBs of River Patrol Section 512, operating from USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST-821), were taken under fire in the Ham Luong on six separate occasions in a five mile stretch of the river west of Ben Tre. There were no friendly casualties; enemy casualties were undetermined.

On 10 January, PBs of River Patrol Section 532, operating from My Tho, killed five to seven Viet Cong while supporting a Vietnamese outpost on the south bank of the Ham Luong River, 20 miles southeast of My Tho.

HUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

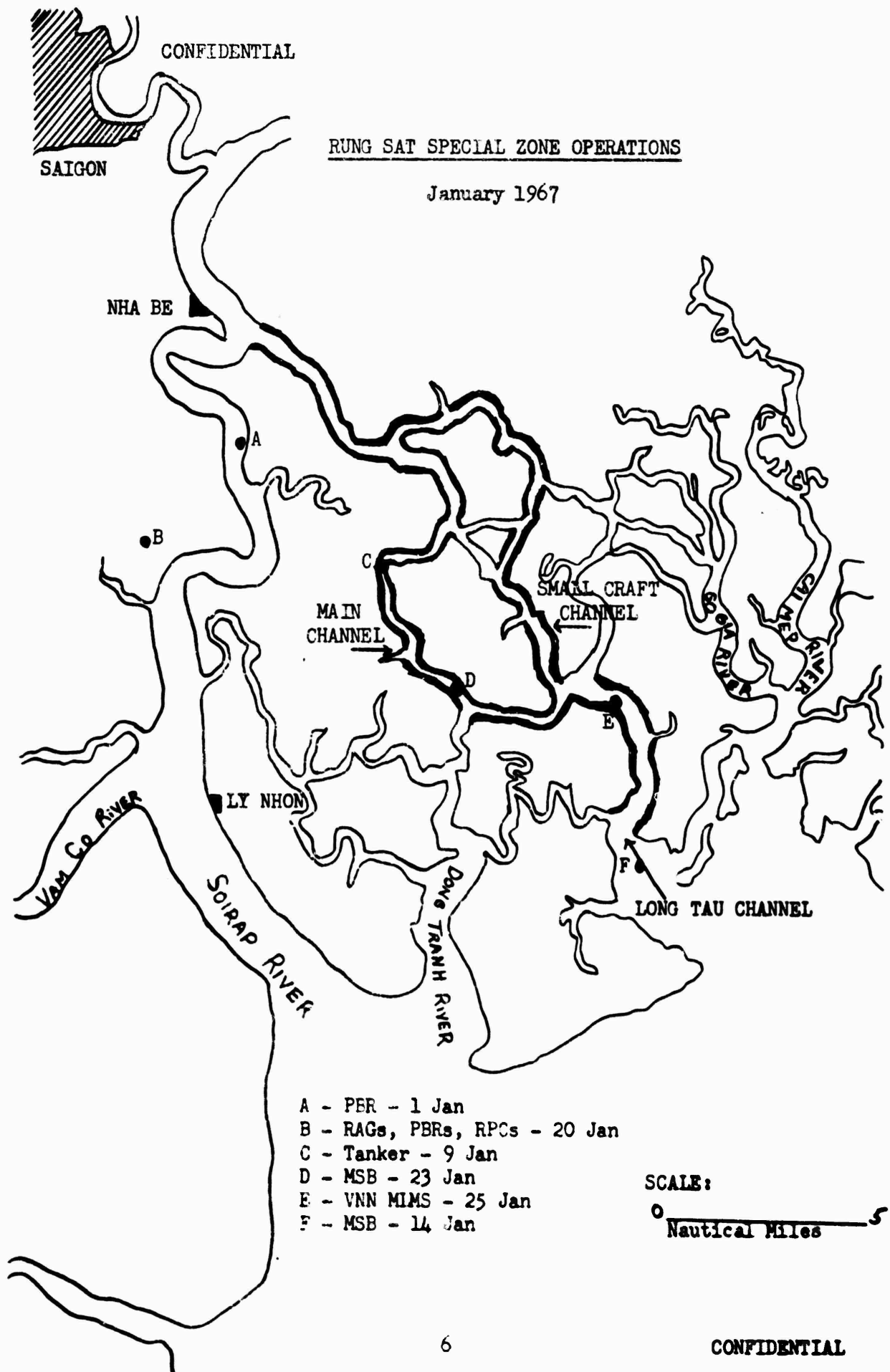
During January, Viet Cong activity in the Hung Sat Special Zone (HSSZ) continued to increase sharply. In addition to a number of fire fights and a mining incident, on two occasions mines were detected in Saigon's main shipping channel.

On 9 January, a British tanker in the channel was hit by several rounds of recoilless rifle fire. One of her crew was killed; a U.S. advisor embarked in a Vietnamese Navy (VNN) mine-sweeping launch escorting the tanker was wounded. On 23 January, two U.S. sailors were killed when their minesweeper was ambushed 11 miles southeast of Nha Be. Four other Americans died when an

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RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

January 1967



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Army helicopter, called to assist the minesweeper, exploded and crashed. On 25 January, a VNN minesweeping launch was mined in the channel; a U.S. advisor was killed and five Vietnamese sailors were wounded.

The enemy's re-supply efforts were thwarted on several occasions. On 1 January, a PBR patrol in the Soirap River intercepted a 30-foot sampan near the east bank. As the patrol closed, it was taken under automatic weapons fire from the sampan, which it quickly silenced. Two Viet Cong were killed, one was probably killed, and a fourth surrendered.

The sampan contained a considerable amount of ammunition, including anti-tank rockets, hand grenades and over 40,000 rounds of small arms. A document captured later in the month indicated that a Viet Cong platoon leader and two squad leaders of the enemy's B51 Bear Service Unit had been killed in the engagement, and that B51 had been forced to suspend operations.

SEAL units operating in the RSSZ discovered and destroyed several enemy base camps and supply caches during January. Among the critical items demolished by the SEALs were fresh water wells and large quantities of rice.

On 20 January, acting on an intelligence report, a combined U.S. Army/Navy and Vietnamese Navy/Regional Force component destroyed a Viet Cong quartermaster depot in Long An province south of Nha Be. Two companies of the Second Battalion, Third Regiment, U.S. 199th Light Infantry Brigade, supported by Vietnamese MAC units

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and PBHs and River Patrol Craft (RPC) of the RSSZ Patrol Group, were landed in the area by helicopters.

GAME WARDEN units quickly formed a blocking force, caught a large number of the enemy by surprise, and killed four (with 40 more probables) before the enemy could organize effective resistance. During the engagement, a U.S. RPC was hit by 57mm recoilless rifle fire, wounding three officers and seven enlisted men. One Vietnamese Army (ARVN) officer was killed and two ARVN soldiers were wounded.

Material captured included over 90,000 pounds of rice, ten cases of TNT and 40 pounds of documents. Thirty suspects (most of whom turned out to be Viet Cong) and 320 refugees (Viet Cong dependents) were evacuated from the area.

By the end of the month, a reinforced U.S. Army battalion was assigned to the Hung Sat Special Zone to help deal with the increasing Viet Cong activity.

On 14 January, in a non-hostile fire incident, a U.S. minesweeper, MSB 14, was lost after it collided with a Norwegian merchantman in the Saigon channel. Three U.S. sailors drowned; four others were rescued.

GAME WARDEN 1ST OPERATIONS

On 11 January, the GAME WARDEN support ship, USS JENNINGS COUNTY (IST-846), suffered a serious material casualty to her boat-handling equipment and the loss of PBE 30 during a launching attempt off the mouth of the Co Chien River.

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The mishaps occurred during Operation DECKHOUSE V and were triggered by a sudden gust of high winds. PBK 30, almost water-borne, swamped when a boat hook failed to trip; all crewmembers were rescued. Eventually, the boat was destroyed.

As a result of the extensive damage to her deck rigging, JENNINGS COUNTY proceeded to Subic Bay for repairs. The incident climaxed a series of setbacks occasioned by rough weather.

On 17 January a second support ship, USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST-821), joined the River Patrol Force and anchored in the Mekong (My Tho) river off Dong Tam. HARNETT COUNTY remained in the relatively calm waters of the upper river throughout the month and encountered no significant problems while conducting PBR or helicopter operations.

OPERATION DECKHOUSE V

Operation DECKHOUSE V, the first combined U.S./Vietnamese amphibious operation in the Mekong Delta, was an assault against the Thanh Phu Secret Zone in Kien Hoa province.

The operation was scheduled to begin 4 January, but extremely adverse weather forced postponement until the morning of the 6th. MARKET TIME units provided exfiltration patrols before and during the landings, and helped guide LSTs and LSMs into the shallow and unmarked channels of the Co Chien and Ham Luong rivers.

PBRs were stationed at the Vietnamese Navy Coastal Group 35 base in the Co Chien and at the CG 34/37 base in the Ham Luong to provide blocking forces; helicopters of HC-1 (Detachment 29) were stationed at Tra Vinh because the poor weather precluded operating

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from JENNINGS COUNTY.

U.S. and Vietnamese Marines encountered little resistance ashore amid indications that the main force Viet Cong had fled from the area. The operation was terminated 15 January.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE

MARKET TIME forces began the New Year in a typically effective manner when, on the first day of 1967, a steel-hulled trawler attempting to infiltrate the Ca Mau Peninsula was detected and engaged. Fire was observed on board. It is not yet clear whether the ship was sunk. Shortly thereafter, MARKET TIME units supported Operation DECKHOUSE V with blocking and escorting patrols on the Co Chien and Ham Luong Rivers.

In addition to participation in major incidents and operations, the Coastal Surveillance Forces experienced 16 other hostile fire, evading junk, and gunfire support incidents. Although the Northeast Monsoon continued to hamper MARKET TIME operations, 35,023 junks and sampans were detected; 13,858 of these were inspected and 9,650 were boarded. STABLE DOOR harbor defense units inspected 3,029 craft and boarded 2,169.

Operations

At 2115 on 1 January 1967, PCF 71 detected a radar contact off the Ca Mau Peninsula 165 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The SWIFT closed the contact and began challenging. All challenges were ignored and, at close range, the unidentified craft opened fire on the PCF. USCGC POINT GAMMON and PCF 68 quickly moved into the area in response to PCF 71's call for assistance. At about 2245, POINT GAMMON illuminated and identified the contact to be a steel-hulled trawler, which was taken under fire with .50 caliber machine guns and 81mm mortars. About midnight, after taking several

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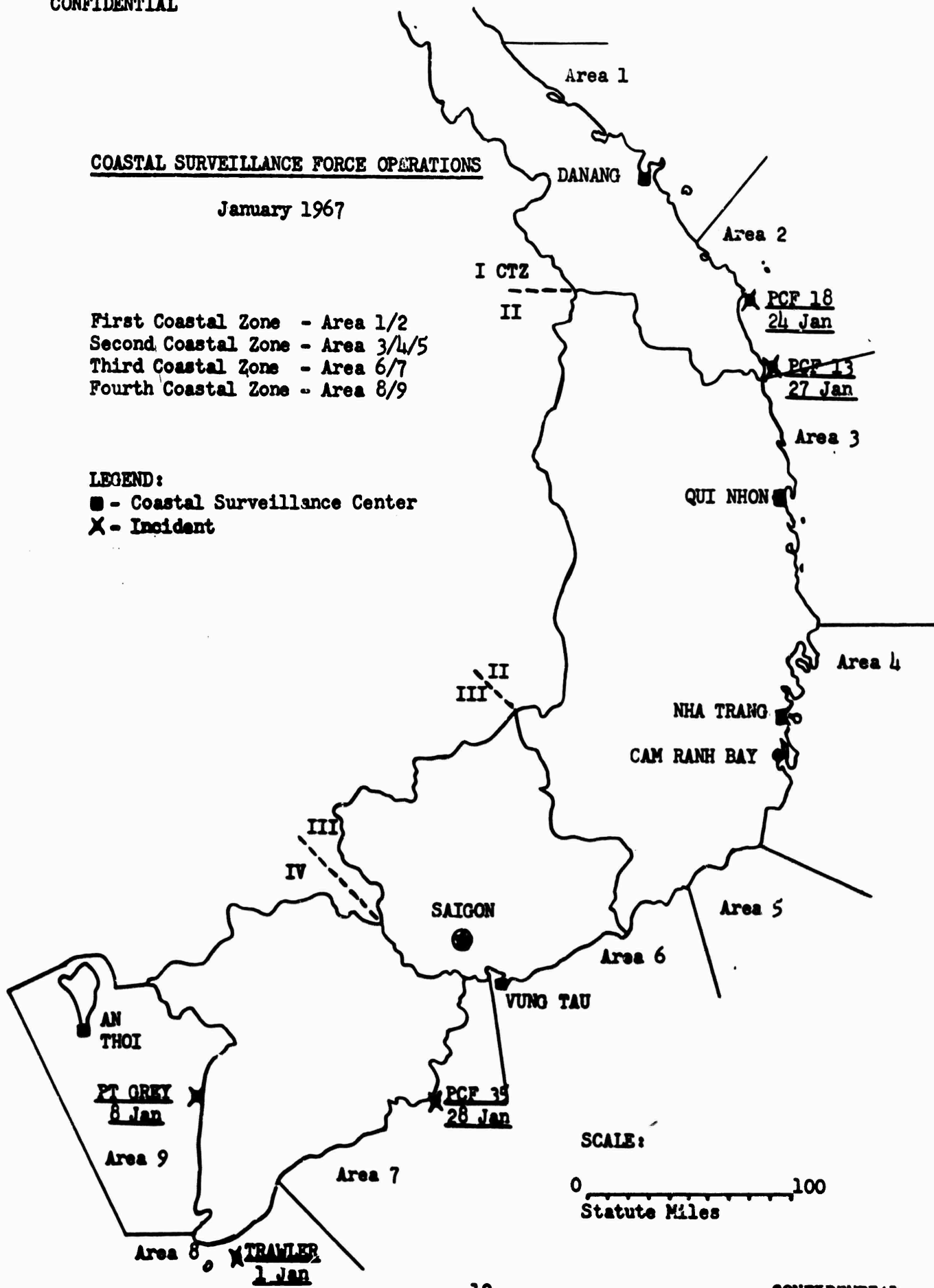
COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE OPERATIONS

January 1967

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

LEGEND:

■ - Coastal Surveillance Center
X - Incident



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direct hits, the trawler ran aground, her stern ablaze. At least five secondary explosions were observed as enveloping fires spread from the stern to the pilot house area. Then three heavy explosions racked her insides and the trawler disappeared. Results of this incident are being analyzed.

On 8 January, USCGC POINT GREY sighted a 30-foot junk 55 miles southeast of An Thoi off the Ca Mau Peninsula heading for shore. When the junk ignored warning shots POINT GREY commenced direct fire with .50 caliber machine guns and 81mm mortars. Several direct hits produced a series of secondary explosions on the craft. Viet Cong casualties were unknown.

Prior to the start of Operation DECKHOUSE V, MARKET TIME units established blocking patrols on 2 January off the coast between the Co Chien and Ham Luong rivers. Additional support was provided during the actual operation (6 to 15 January) when MARKET TIME craft escorted various amphibious ships into and out of these rivers.

Coastal Surveillance Force units also provided support for the following operations in January: 9th Vietnamese Army operations in the Long Toan District (8 to 17 January); Operation FARRAGUT in the Phan Rang area (26 January and continuing); Task Force X-Ray operations in the Duc Pho area (28 January); and 1st Marine Division Operation THINITY in coastal area 2 (30 and 31 January). Surfline operations continued throughout most of the month in areas 1, 2, and 6 with no significant results.

USS CURRITUCK (AV-7) arrived at Cam Ranh Bay on 17 January to

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establish a seadrome. MARKET TIME aircraft commenced patrols from this base on 18 January.

STABLE DOOR harbor defense patrol boat forces were increased to 20 when four Boston Whalers arrived in-country. USS SUTTER COUNTY (LST-1150) relieved USS BLANCO COUNTY (LST-344) of offshore unit duties on 14 January.

There were several hostile fire or evasion incidents of significance during the month. Fifteen Viet Cong were killed when PCF 18 called in an air strike against enemy trenches 65 miles southeast of Danang on 24 January. The SWIFT had sighted a sampan and five basket boats evading toward the beach. The occupants ignored warning shots, beached their craft and fled. When PCF 18 began receiving heavy fire from the beach, fire was returned and a fixed-wing air strike was requested. A large number of Viet Cong firing from trenches were observed by the aircraft.

Over 200 vials of penicillin and various other drugs were found in the possession of a 15-year-old boy aboard a junk that was detained by PCF 13, 45 miles north of Qui Nhon on 27 January. The junk and its occupants were delivered to units of Coastal Group 15.

On 28 January, PCF 35 conducted a gunfire support mission against Viet Cong beach positions in the Long Toan Secret Zone 55 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The SWIFT boat's 81mm mortar fire caused a secondary explosion on the beach which was evaluated as exploding gasoline. Enemy personnel casualties were undetermined.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

In January, Naval Support Activity Danang continued to offload and clear cargo expeditiously despite adverse weather.

A new monthly throughput record of 254,856 measurement tons was established for the port of Danang. The total exceeded the previous record, set in December 1966, by 4,149 measurement tons. Total throughput for I Corps was 331,477 measurement tons, a decrease of 15,693 measurement tons from the previous month.

During January, 43 ships arrived and 48 ships completed offloading for a net decrease in backlog of 20,600 measurement tons. The daily backlog in deep draft ships steadily decreased until 31 January when it reached a low of 1,436 measurement tons.

Coastal resupply operations, however, were significantly affected by monsoon weather. Despite maximum utilization of all available Landing Craft Utility/Covered Lighters (LCU/YFUs), the backlog in Danang of transshipment cargo for Dong Ha and Hue increased throughout the month. Heavy seas and winds forced the cancellation of resupply operations on 16 separate occasions.

Chu Lai was resupplied by landing Ship Tanks (LSTs) which, in 30 trips, delivered 34,784 measurement tons of cargo. The total tonnage delivered to Dong Ha, Hue and Chu Lai from Danang by sea was 50,825 measurement tons.

Monsoon weather also continued to affect POL resupply operations. At Chu Lai, heavy seas prevented repairs to the leaks in the 4-inch and 8-inch fuel lines; replenishment was accomplished

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by a YOG and a shallow draft T-1 Tanker pumping directly into refueler trucks at the inner harbor. On 14 January, the POL picture at Chu Lai improved significantly when the new 12-inch fuel line was raised and began pumping JP-4.

Replenishment at Dong Ha was accomplished by using LCM-8s with fuel bladders to shuttle fuel from an AOG. Phu Bai was replenished by commercial trucks from Danang and by Marine refueler trucks from Col Co Island.

The number of functions performed by NAVSUPPACT increased. On 1 January, NAVSUPPACT assumed full responsibility for Port Clearance in the Danang area. Control and support of the China Beach rest and recreation center was also assumed on 1 January.

Class II and Class IV supply support continued to improve. On 13 January, the NAVSUPPACT SERVHART opened. Over 1600 fast-moving line items were stocked by the new self-service facility.

Service craft assets increased on 6 January with the return of the non-self-propelled refrigerated covered lighter YFRN 997 from overhaul and the arrival of a self-propelled garbage lighter (YG-51). Lighterage assets were augmented by the arrival of YFUs 58, 59 and 62 from Japan on 9 January.

On 12 January, the NAVSUPPACT C-47 aircraft suffered brake failure while landing at Danang and was severely damaged. Prior to the accident, the plane had transported 11,520 pounds of cargo and 148 passengers since the first of the month.

Danang was visited 98 times by Seventh Fleet ships during

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January. NAVSUPPACT delivered 793,912 gallons of diesel fuel and 1,110,150 gallons of potable water to the visiting ships. Additional services provided included disbursing, mail, freight, boats, tugs and transient billeting.

During January, 28 separate instances of harassing small arms fire occurred at various locations in the Danang area. No friendly casualties resulted.

On 2 January, Team One of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE (HCU-1) suspended Danang River wreck clearance operations to assist Seventh Fleet units in the salvage of USS MAHNOMEN COUNTY (LST-912). Upon termination of the salvage operations on 31 January, Team One returned to Subic Bay to be relieved by Team Five.

On 31 January, Naval Support Activity personnel strength (including APLs) totaled 8,048, a decrease of 138 from the 31 December on-board count.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

Construction of interim and permanent facilities at GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME bases progressed satisfactorily in January. At Sa Dec, the boat ramp was completed, work on a sea wall commenced, and the construction of three berthing hutches neared completion.

A significant increase in the support capability at Vinh Long was achieved with the installation of boat engine lifting gear. A boat ramp and driveway were also completed.

At My Tho, the supply warehouse and shop were approximately 75 per cent complete. Work on the administration building, generator shed and water purification building neared completion. Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT) Saigon detachment personnel provided extensive support for the JAMAICA BAY salvage operations during January.

On 1 January, YD-220 arrived at Cat Lo, providing the first in-country afloat lift with a 100-ton capacity. During the month, YD-220 was used extensively for a variety of jobs, including off-lifting PBRs from the JENNINGS COUNTY, the lift of MCR-14, sunk in a collision with a civilian freighter, and the lift of a commercial dredge.

On 27 January, a NAVSUPPACT detachment arrived at Dong Tam and began work on a support base for the newly-established Riverine Assault Force. Construction was begun on a 250-man cantonment.

During January the number of line items stocked by Naval

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Support Activity, Saigon increased by 2,000. At the end of the month the total stock level exceeded 25,000 items.

Supply requisition effectiveness, however, declined. The decrease was attributed to a variety of factors, including funding limitations, delays in receipt of overhaul materials for various boat programs and increased demands for General Services Administration (GSA) materials subsequent to distribution of the recently published GSA catalog.

The resupply of bulk diesel fuel in the IV Corps was improved considerably in January with the positioning of 120,000 gallon capacity fuel storage barges at Vinh Long and Long Xuyen. In addition, portable refueler units with a 1000-gallon capacity were provided by the U.S. Army to the various Delta GAME WARDEN detachments to ensure an organic capability to resupply storage tanks.

The overall transportation situation remained generally satisfactory. The NAVSUPPACT aviation section (Air COFAT) transported 4,113 passengers (1,090 more than December's total) and over 140 short tons of cargo during January. The increase in the number of passengers carried resulted from scheduling additional flights to Danang after NAVSUPPACT Danang's C-47 aircraft was damaged in an accident on 12 January.

Water-borne shipments by USS MARK (AKL-12), USS BRULE (AKL-28) and YPB-889 totaled 1,134 displacement tons of cargo plus an additional 125 tons of water and 30 tons of fuel.

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Cargo Handling Battalion TWO

On 31 January, Cargo Handling Battalion TWO (CHB-2) completed nearly 20 months of almost continuous service in Vietnam.

Composed of two officers and 80 enlisted men, the battalion's mission was to assist in cargo handling operations and to provide supervision and training to other personnel as required.

Originally deployed to Vietnam in April of 1965, the battalion helped provide vital support to cargo operations in Danang and Chu Lai until its return to Subic Bay in August of 1966.

On 19 September 1966, CHB-2 was deployed to Cam Ranh Bay to help train three newly-formed Army terminal service companies. The battalion remained through January to assist in reducing the backlog of cargo awaiting discharge at Cam Ranh Bay.

Largely as a result of CHB-2's assistance, by the end of January Cam Ranh Bay had developed an effective organic cargo handling and training capability, and the battalion returned to Subic Bay.

* * * * *

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

In January heavy rains continued to slow construction in I Corps, with vertical construction reduced and horizontal construction (earth work) halted in some instances. However, satisfactory progress was made on many projects despite the adverse weather conditions.

The logistic picture at Khe Sanh improved with the arrival of materials for the Air Force Tigerhound project. Three bunkers were under construction at month's end.

At Phu Bai, the base camp of Mobile Construction Battalion (MCB) 62 came under enemy fire several times during the month. The most significant attack occurred on 20 January, when the battalion compound received 82mm mortar fire. Two battalion huts sustained direct hits and were destroyed. Two Seabees were killed, and 17 wounded.

Work under construction by MCB-62 during January included construction of a helicopter parking apron at Phu Bai, installation of a new deck for the Nong River Bridge and various well-drilling projects.

A major project completed by MCB-58 was the construction of 32 houses for Vietnamese civilians whose homes were destroyed when a civilian cargo aircraft crashed into the village of Hoa Cuong on 24 December. Deeds to the new homes were presented to the villagers during formal dedication ceremonies on 23 January.

Well-drilling projects at An Khe and Cu Chi were completed

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in January. Two producing wells were drilled at An Khe and five at Cu Chi.

On 22 January, MCB-10 completed construction of a 165-foot bridge over the Song Tuy Loan River. Built of timber, the new bridge has a 60-ton capacity.

At the end of January, major projects under construction by MCB-9 included contonments for the First Marine Division and buildings for the First Military Police Battalion. In the Danang East area, MCB-5 continued construction of the Naval Support Activity Exchange facility at Elephant Beach and the amphitheater at China Beach.

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 9 January the 2300-ton dredge, JAMAICA BAY, was mined by the Viet Cong. The dredge, stationed in the My Tho River at Dong Tam, was sunk by at least two large, controlled mines. The huge craft, one of the few of its kind in the world, had been engaged in dredging operations incident to the establishment of the Riverine Assault Force support base at Dong Tam.

JAMAICA BAY suffered extensive damage and came to rest on the river bottom, in approximately 25 feet of water, with a 40 degree port list.

Salvage operations were begun immediately by Harbor Clearance Unit One (HCU-1). Two heavy lift craft (HLC) and one light lift craft (LLC) were sent to the scene from Vung Tau. In addition, because of the heavy deadweight of the sunken dredge, two more HLCs were dispatched from Subic Bay and arrived by the end of the month.

Excellent progress was made by the salvage forces during the month. By 30 January all heavy lift wires had been passed under the dredge, the starboard spud had been removed and the JAMAICA BAY had been returned to an essentially upright position.

By month's end, efforts were continuing to make the hull watertight from the keel to the O2 level in the event dewatering of the dredge became necessary to supplement the force supplied by the lift craft.

On 14 January MSB-14, while conducting minesweeping operations

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in the Long Tau River, collided with the Norwegian motor vessel, MUI FINN, and sank. Harbor Clearance Team 4 and the salvage master of HCU-1 were dispatched to the scene from Dong Tam and began salvage operations on 15 January.

On 17 January the MSB was raised to the surface by YD-220. The MSB was then secured alongside YD-220 and transported to Vung Tau. An attempt to raise the hull in one piece proved unsuccessful, and the hull was cut in two and lifted onto a barge for delivery to Nha Be, where the hull was to be dismantled and the machinery and parts salvaged.

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COMMUNICATIONS

In January, the volume of message traffic handled by the COMNAVFORV Communications Center increased to 91,094, the highest single month total to date. Totals during the past six months were as follows:

August - 73,060	November - 76,975
September - 75,970	December - 88,687
October - 75,694	January - 91,094

Three new circuits were activated during the month: a half-duplex covered teletype circuit to the Coastal Surveillance Center at An Thoi; and two circuits (voice and teletype) to Commander Assault River Flotilla ONE embarked in USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST 1169) at Vung Tau.

At Cam Ranh Bay, construction work (PROJECT BOWLINE) on the Communications Center, the transmitter site and the receiver site was, respectively, 87 per cent, 32 per cent and 87 per cent complete. When complete, the facilities will provide communications support for Fleet Air Activities and Coastal Surveillance Forces in addition to message center functions for naval activities in the Cam Ranh Bay area. The electronics installation phase of the project was expected to begin on 1 February.

In Danang, the construction of new facilities (PROJECT SEA ANCHOR) designed to upgrade Naval Support Activity communications progressed satisfactorily. At month's end, the Communications Center was 40 per cent complete, the receiver site 30 per cent

complete, and the transmitter site 15 per cent complete. The electronics installation was scheduled to start in mid-March.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE

On 7 January, the first units of the newly-established Riverine Assault Force arrived at Vung Tau in USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST-1169). Organized as a result of a recommendation by Commander, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, the new force is under the operational control of Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam; its mission includes the security, mobility and economy of waterborne forces in riverine warfare.

The Force will eventually consist of River Support Squadron SEVEN and River Assault Squadrons NINE and ELEVEN and will carry out riverine assault operations in coordination with the U. S. Army's NINTH Division in the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone.

On 10 January, Commander, River Assault Squadron NINE, his staff and River Assault Division 91 commenced in-country training operations off Vung Tau in River Assault Group (RAG) boats on loan from the Vietnamese Navy (VNN). On 15 January, they were joined by elements of the NINTH Infantry Division and began conducting landing exercises in the same area. In addition, personnel of River Assault Squadron NINE were assigned as technical observers with VNN RAG units.

The Riverine Assault Force was initially commissioned as River Assault Flotilla ONE at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado,

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California on 1 September 1966, with Captain W. C. WELLS, USN, as Commander. Activation of the task force is planned for late February or early March.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO THE COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE
AND THE RIVER PATROL FORCE**

The craft and personnel of the Coastal Surveillance Force were affected by two administrative changes on 1 January 1967. Commander, Coastal Squadron One was assigned to Commander, Amphibious Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet vice Commander, Amphibious Group Three. The second administrative change involved the realignment of PCF Divisions into Coastal Divisions as follows:

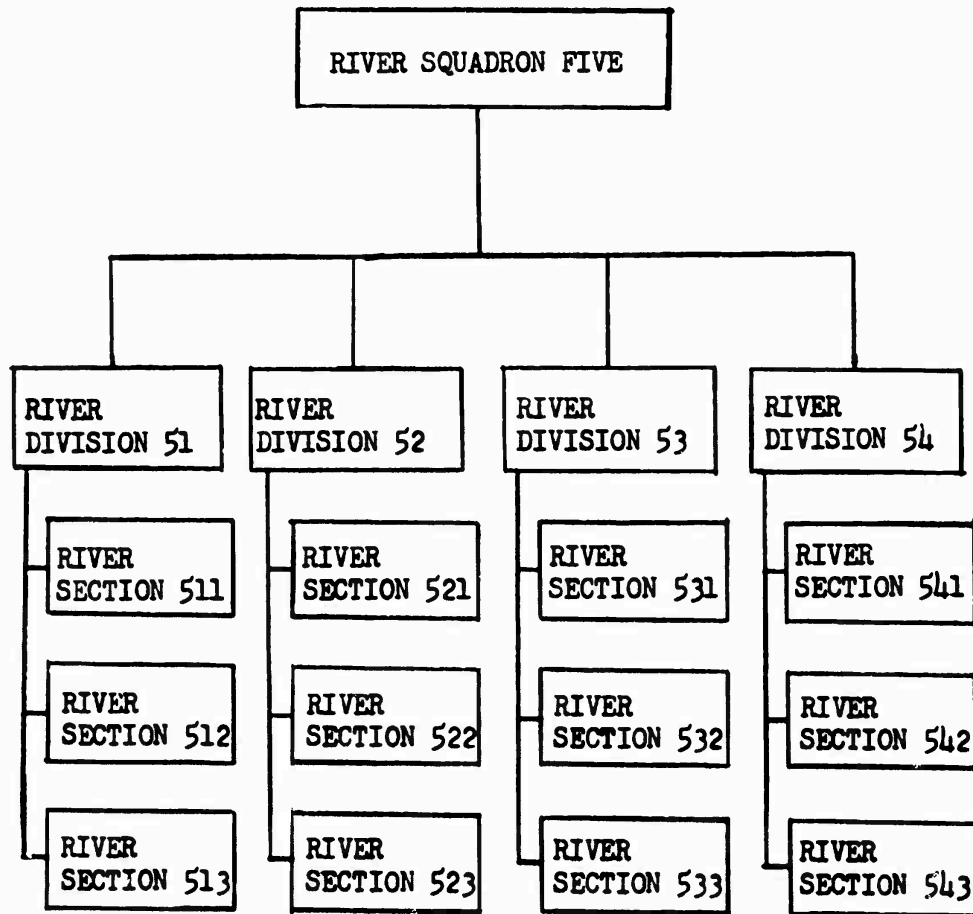
PCF Division 101	became	Coastal Division 11
PCF Division 102	"	Coastal Division 12
PCF Division 103	"	Coastal Division 13
PCF Division 104	"	Coastal Division 14
PCF Division 105	"	Coastal Division 15
PCF Division 107	"	Coastal Division 17

All the coastal divisions are assigned to Coastal Squadron One and each has a division commander. This realignment assigned the division commanders to command, with the authority and responsibilities of officers in command, e.g., Article 15, U.C.M.J. The home port for the divisions is San Diego, California.

Effective 1 January 1967, Commander, Amphibious Force, Pacific Fleet assumed the Commander, River Warfare Group functions formerly held by Commander, Amphibious Group Three.

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River Squadron Five units were also assigned a home port of San Diego, and an administrative organization as follows:



Divisions were established as commands with a Division Commander, and Sections as units with an Officer in Charge.

JTD Review

In January, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam completed a review of the revised Joint Table of Distribution (JTD) for the Headquarters, U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam Staff.

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Generally, the Navy representation on the Joint Staff was commensurate with relative in-country strength. However, there were some areas, such as the Manpower Branch and the Intelligence Operations Division, where Navy representation was considered lacking; accordingly a proposal to modify the distribution of naval personnel was submitted for consideration.

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MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

In January, psychological operations aimed at Viet Cong defection were intensified amid preparations by the Vietnamese people to celebrate the Lunar New Year (Tet). In accordance with the renewed emphasis the Tet season places on family reunion, special appeals were made to persuade Viet Cong to return to their families under government protection.

In the Kung Sat Special Zone, plastic bags containing government literature, safe conduct passes and cigarettes were air-dropped into Viet Cong areas; also dropped were plastic buckets containing, in addition to soap and cigarettes, a personal appeal from the Quang Xuyen District Chief directed at Viet Cong commanders.

In the Second Coastal Zone, loudspeaker appeals from PCFs were used in areas in which the Viet Cong rank and file were known to be particularly susceptible. Especially effective were personal appeals made by recent returnees. Some of these ralliers reported a mounting disposition on the part of Viet Cong to join the government cause.

Throughout the country, U.S. and Vietnamese naval forces continued to provide diverse assistance, including support for Vietnamese school teachers, medical attention for indigenous civilians, and distribution of commodities to needy villagers.

In Danang, there were increasing indications that the Naval Support Activity's Military Civic Action program was making significant progress. A key aspect of the program is the Village

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Assistance Team (VAT). Six four-man teams are now in the field, virtually living in villages and performing such varied services as helping to build homes and schools and holding sick call for civilians on a daily basis.

On 23 January, elements of the Vietnamese Navy's River Assault Group 25 conducted a psychological operation with American medical help in the remote hamlet of My Binh in Vinh Binh province. The hamlet, situated near the strategically important Tra On canal, became the scene of a flurry of activity as hundreds of inhabitants received medical treatment from Vietnamese and American corpsmen. In addition, foodstuffs and periodicals were distributed to the people.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy at the end of January totaled 16,222 officers and enlisted men. This was an increase of 244 over the previous month's total. The 16,222 figure placed the Vietnamese Navy 146 over its authorized allowance of 16,076. The number of deserters discharged increased from 39 in December to 62 in January while the number of personnel absent without leave increased from 214 to 229.

The Riverine Area Commands increased by 148 enlisted men while the Coastal Group personnel level was raised by 240 enlisted men. However, the Coastal Force continued to be undermanned by 1,113 enlisted men and 922 non-commissioned officers.

Operations

The Vietnamese Navy's Fleet Command maintained 13 patrol ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam and four ships patrolled the rivers of the Mekong Delta region. These Fleet Command ships, in addition to conducting patrols, provided gunfire support and conducted psychological warfare operations. On several occasions the Fleet Command units provided support for river assault operations. One ship was assigned convoy escort duties on the Mekong river plying from Vung Tau on the coast to Tan Chau near the Cambodian border.

Fleet Command ships conducted gunfire support missions nine

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times during the month and searched 372 junks.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ) the MLMS (Motor Launch Minesweepers) continued daily minesweeping operations on the Long Tau River amid increasing Viet Cong harassment. On 25 January, 14 miles downstream from Nha Be, five Vietnamese sailors were wounded and one U.S. Navy Advisor was lost when MLMS 161 was mined and then subjected to intense automatic weapons fire from the bank. The sinking of the minesweeper was the most serious incident among many others in the sharpest rise in Viet Cong activity in the RSSZ since August of 1966.

The Northeast Monsoon again hampered Coastal Group operations in the 1st and 2nd Naval Zones. The total number of junks searched in all coastal zones fell to 16,142, a decrease of 527 from the December total. Of the 275 Coastal Force craft that were available for operations, 125 were utilized.

River Assault Groups (RAGs) provided support for Operation FAIRFAX which took place in an area adjacent to the Rung Sat Special Zone, for Operation CEDAR FALLS which hammered the Iron Triangle region north of Saigon, and also for Operation DECKHOUSE V. During Operation CEDAR FALLS, 15 boats from RAGs 24, 26 and 30, two River Transport and Escort Group boats and 12 boats of Regional Force Boat Companies 25 and 28 provided transport and patrol support from 8 to 20 January. These riverine craft transported 1,857 civilian refugees from the Iron Triangle to government-controlled

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areas and lifted 2,715 troops during the operation.

RAG craft also participated in 15 operations in the RSSZ and seven in the 4th Riverine Area. One hundred and nineteen of the 159 available craft were utilized for escort, river patrol, static defense and combat operations.

Maintenance and Supply

In January, Captain Tran Van CHON, the Commander in Chief of the Vietnamese Navy, conducted a thorough inspection of the facilities of the Saigon Naval Shipyard and reviewed the yard's administrative policies. As a result of the inspection, Captain CHON directed that management techniques be revised in an effort to improve utilization of personnel and material resources at the yard.

During January a total of 29 logistic missions accounted for the lifting of 3,343 tons of cargo and 3,317 personnel. LSTs moved 60 per cent of the cargo while LCUs and LSMs lifted 30 per cent and ten per cent, respectively. LSTs carried 73 per cent of the personnel and LSMs accounted for the remaining 27 per cent. The logistical effort for January showed a marginal improvement over the previous month's effort.

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

The Vietnamese Marine Brigade's operational battalions were committed to action 84 per cent of the time in January. Although enemy contact was light, a favorable kill ratio of 1:2.6 was

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attained.

Vietnamese Marine Brigade Force Bravo, composed of two infantry battalions, a 105mm howitzer battery and other controlling and supporting elements, participated in Operation DECKHOUSE V, a combined U.S. Marine Corps and Vietnamese Marine Corps amphibious operation in the Thanh Phu area of Kien Hoa province. The brigade force, embarked in U.S. 7th Fleet ships, underwent wet-net training at Vung Tau on 2 and 3 January. After several postponements because of heavy weather, the force was landed in a combined helicopter and surface assault on the operations area on 7 January. Throughout the operation, light contact was made with the enemy. No friendly personnel casualties were sustained as a result of enemy contact. Operation DECKHOUSE V was terminated 15 January and the brigade force was returned to Vung Tau.

Brigade Force Alpha, composed of three infantry battalions, a 105mm howitzer battery and other controlling and supporting elements, conducted operations north and northwest of Dong Ha in I Corps. The brigade force carried out search and destroy missions by day and set ambushes at night in an area adjacent to the demilitarized zone. Contact with the enemy was light.

On 25 January, Brigade Force Bravo, after having completed participation in Operation DECKHOUSE V, moved to Qui Nhon and Bong Son in II Corps. The force supported the 22nd Vietnamese Army Division two days later with the marines acting as a blocking

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force.

The 6th Vietnamese Marine Battalion continued Phase II of its formative training at the base camp in Thu Duc. Small unit tactics were stressed. The 3rd Vietnamese Marine Battalion completed its retraining course at the National Training Center, Van Kiep, Ba Ria. Other Marine units conducted training as commitments permitted.

During January the Vietnamese Marines accounted for 42 enemy killed, ten Viet Cong captured and 41 Viet Cong suspects detained. The marines also captured 17 individual weapons and one crew-served weapon. Friendly casualties were 16 marines killed and 44 wounded during the month.

The Vietnamese Marine Corps continued to demonstrate that it is an efficient fighting force with high morale and excellent leadership.

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US/VN NAVY STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1967

Total Steel Hulls Transiting MARKET TIME Areas: 888

MARKET TIME Detections of Steel Hulls: 17,564

Disposition of the 888 Steel Hulls:

Inspected or Boarded	291
Identified as not suspicious	137
Arrived/Departed RVN Ports	300
Unknown, not suspicious	160

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>	<u>VNN</u>
TOTAL DETECTIONS	35,033	60,978	N/A
INSPECTED CLOSE ABOARD	13,858	17,509	N/A
BOARDED	9,650	22,337	18,306
PERSONS DETAINED	146	767	128
JUNKS DETAINED	15	120	3
HARBOR DEFENSE UNITS			
DETECTIONS	20,094		
INSPECTIONS	3,092		
BOARDINGS	2,169		

VIETNAMESE NAVY

<u>COASTAL FORCE</u>	<u>JUNKS</u>	<u>SEARCHED</u>	<u>JUNKS</u>	<u>DETAINED</u>
		<u>PEOPLE</u>		<u>PEOPLE</u>
I CNZ	4,307	21,811	1	22
II. CNZ	2,967	8,964	2	62
III CNZ	6,204	23,406	0	5
IV CNZ	2,064	6,179	0	0
Sub-total	16,142	60,360	3	89

FLEET COMMAND

PATROL SHIPS	372	1,436	0	0
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RIVERINE AREA

CRAFT	1,792	5,080	0	39
TOTAL	18,306	66,816	3	128

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

VC/PAVN: 42 KIA, 10 VC CAPTURED, 41 VC SUSPECTS, 17 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS AND 1 CREW-SERVED WEAPON CAPTURED.

VNMC: 16 KIA, 44 WIA.

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