

"Sealords"  
"SE Asia Land, Ocean, River & Delta Strategy"  
DEVELOPMENT OF OPERATION GIANT SLINGSHOT

In November 1968 U.S. Navy Task Forces operating in IV CTZ of Vietnam commenced coordinated operations entitled "SEALORDS" which sought primarily to interdict enemy infiltration routes from Cambodia into base areas within South Vietnam. Successful operations were conducted in Kien Giang Province, Vinh Te Canal area and along several intra delta enemy transportation routes. It was soon evident that the combined efforts of the troop carriers and heavy support boats of TF 117, the endurance and fire support of TF 115 patrol craft and the speed and maneuverability of TF 116 PBRS supplemented with ground and air support constituted a formidable offensive force ideally suited for the interdiction role.

Having substantiated the value of the interdiction force, Navy Commanders directed studies to ascertain additional infiltration routes across and along those waterways accessible to naval craft. These studies revealed that large enemy supply shipments and extensive troop concentrations were moving from base area 367, Parrots Peak and 706, Angels Wing, either eastward into III CTZ or southward into IV CTZ. Although concerted efforts were made by U.S. Army and VN forces to engage and destrupt this traffic flow, only minimum force could be exerted to deny the enemy rapid transportation routes available along the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers. These rivers, however, did afford the navy the navigable waterway necessary to interduct both enemy commoliason routes simultaneously. Thus the objective order was selected and operational planning was initiated.

The hydrographic characteristics of these twin rivers prompted the operation title "Giant Slingshot". Task Force 116 staff members effected liaison with IIFORCEV, SA IV CTZ and their subordinate operational commanders to discuss Giant Slingshot concept of operations and sell this proposed joint USN/Ground

Force effort. Without exception each command received the plan enthuseastically. Logistic support was developed, operational units assigned, communication problems resolved and with U.S. Army and Vietnamese air, ground, artillery forces finalized. On 6 December, as U.S. Navy units entered the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay rivers Operation Giant Slingshot was executed.

*Basing*