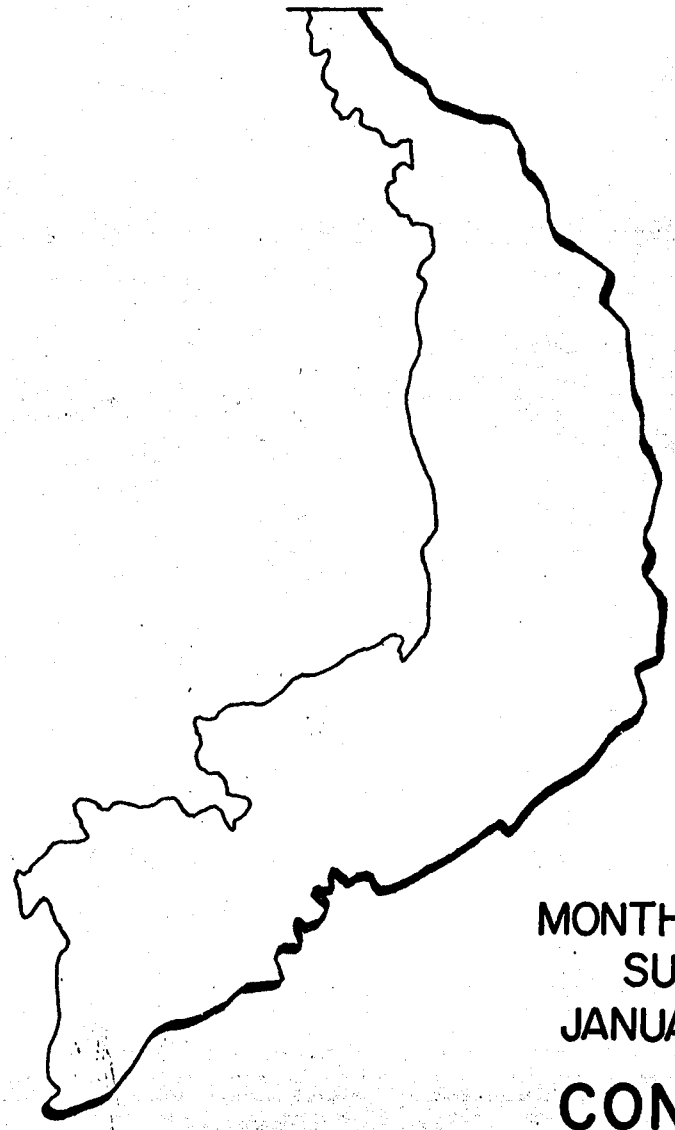
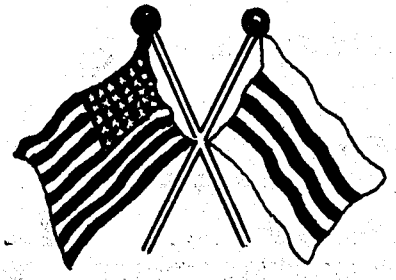
DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO
FOREIGN NATIONALS

U.S. NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM





MONTHLY HISTORICAL
SUPPLEMENT
JANUARY 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE

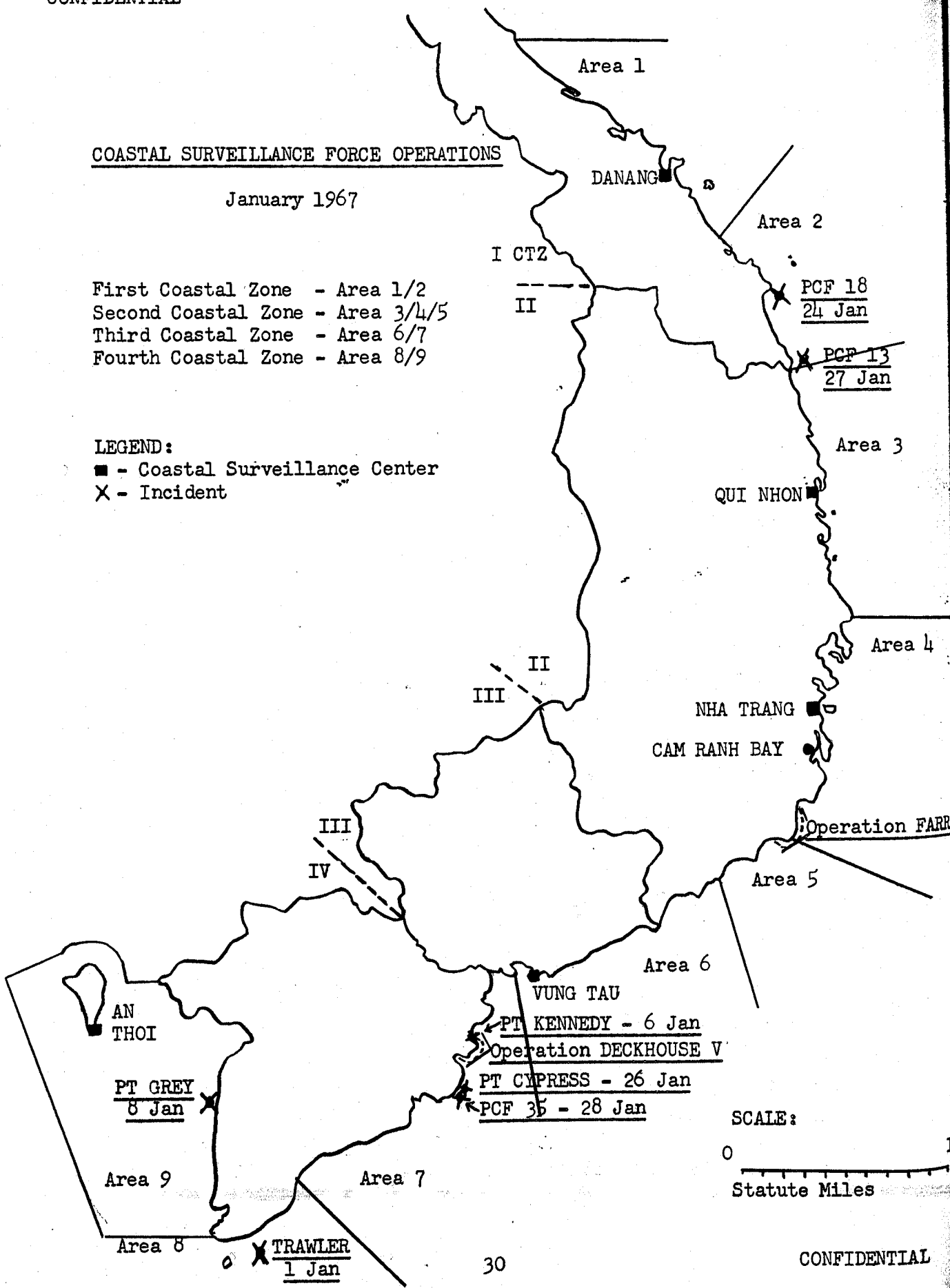
On the first day of 1967, MARKET TIME units detected, attacked and set fire to a steel-hulled trawler attempting to infiltrate the Ca Mau Peninsula. During the first two weeks of January, MARKET TIME forces provided blocking and escort patrols in the coastal area between the mouths of the Co Chien and Ham Luong rivers in support of Operation DECKHOUSE V.

Additionally, the Coastal Surveillance forces were involved in 16 hostile fire, evading junk, and gunfire support incidents. In spite of the fact that the Northeast Monsoon continued to hamper MARKET TIME operations, the units detected 35,023 junks and sampans, 13,858 of which were inspected while 9,650 were boarded. STABLE DOOR harbor defense units inspected 3,029 craft and boarded 2,169.

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

STEEL-HULLED TRAWLER INCIDENT

At 2115 on 1 January, PCF 71 closed a radar contact off the Ca Mau Peninsula, 165 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The contact was on a course of 098 degrees at 10-12 knots. At 2150, the SWIFT began challenging. All challenges were ignored and, at close range, the unidentified contact opened fire on the PCF. USCGC POINT GAMMON and PCF 68 quickly moved into the area in response to PCF


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
Area 1
DANANG
Area 2
I CTZ
II
PCF 18
24 Jan
PCF 13
27 Jan
Area 3
QUI NHON
Area 4
II
III
NHA TRANG
CAM RANH BAY
Operation FARR
III
IV
Area 5
Area 6
VUNG TAU
AN THOI
PT KENNEDY - 6 Jan
Operation DECKHOUSE V
PT CYPRESS - 26 Jan
PCF 35 - 28 Jan
PT GREY
8 Jan
SCALE:
0
Statute Miles
Area 9
Area 7
Area 8
TRAWLER
1 Jan

71's call for assistance.

At about 2245, POINT GAMMON illuminated and identified the contact to be a trawler with a blue-green hull and a cream-colored superstructure. At this time, in a position 10 miles from the point the trawler was first detected, PCF 68 closed the trawler directing .50 caliber and 81mm mortar fire against it. Several direct hits were scored as the trawler ran aground with her stern engulfed in flames. Five secondary explosions were observed as the fires spread to the pilot house area. Shortly after midnight the vessel disappeared. Subsequent analysis and evaluation of the incident concluded that, although heavily damaged, the trawler possibly could have escaped into a nearby stream. Six MARKET TIME personnel received minor wounds in the action.

SUPPORT OF GROUND OPERATIONS

Prior to the start of Operation DECKHOUSE V, MARKET TIME units established blocking patrols on 2 January off the coast of Kien Hoa province between the Co Chien and Ham Luong rivers. During the actual operation, which ran from 6 to 15 January, MARKET TIME craft escorted amphibious landing ships into and out of the area of operations.

The SWIFTS also supported Operation FARRAGUT, which began on 25 January in the Phang Rang area. The PCFs were assigned the primary mission of preventing infiltration/exfiltration movements by the enemy along the coast. Also, they provided gunfire support and carried out psychological operations for the friendly forces

operating in the area.

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

EVASION INCIDENTS

There were six incidents of junks or sampans evading MARKET TIME patrols during January. In all cases, no friendly casualties were sustained. The incidents are presented chronologically.

8 - At 0345, USCGC POINT GREY sighted an evading junk 55 miles southeast of An Thoi off the Ca Mau Peninsula. The cutter fired warning shots which were ignored by the 30-foot junk. POINT GREY directed .50 caliber machine gun and 81mm mortar fire against the suspect craft. The fire produced a series of secondary explosions aboard the junk. Enemy casualties were unknown.

12 - At 0050, USCGC POINT BANKS sighted three evading sampans 60 miles southeast of An Thoi off the Ca Mau Peninsula. When the sampans ignored warning shots they were taken under direct fire by the cutter. One sampan was destroyed. Viet Cong personnel casualties were unknown.

22 - At 0503, PCF 91 detected a large contact on radar off the

tip of Ca Mau, 65 miles south-southeast of An Thoi. Upon closing the contact and firing illumination rounds, the SWIFT discovered two evading sampans and two others dead in the water. The evading sampans ignored warning shots and were taken under direct fire with unknown results. When PCF 91 approached the other two sampans, automatic weapons fire was received from the beach. The PCF returned fire to the beach and destroyed the sampans with direct fire. Enemy personnel casualties were unknown.

24 - At 1753, PCF 18 sighted five basket boats and one sampan evading toward the beach 65 miles southeast of Danang. When the SWIFT closed to investigate the evading craft, heavy weapons fire was received from the beach. The evading boats reached the beach and their occupants fled. An L-19 reconnaissance aircraft in the area reported that a number of Viet Cong were firing from trenches. The L-19 spotted for SWIFT gunfire and an air strike was called in. Results of the action were 15 Viet Cong killed, three bunkers destroyed and seven structures damaged.

25 - At 0001, USCGC POINT DUME sighted a sampan with four occupants moving toward the shore 80 miles north of Qui Nhon. The craft was beached and abandoned. Then the cutter took the sampan under direct fire and destroyed it, small arms fire was received from the beach. Fire was returned to the beach with unknown results.

29 - At 1900, USCGC POINT ARDEN sighted an evading junk 40 miles northwest of Danang. All warnings to halt were ignored as the junk evaded into a river mouth area of the beach. POINT ARDEN then sent a small boat to board and search the craft. The junk's occupants explained that they were evading because a passenger, who had fled ashore, forced them to take evasive action. The accused passenger was subsequently apprehended on the beach and delivered to Coastal Group 12.

GUNFIRE SUPPORT MISSIONS AND HOSTILE FIRE INCIDENTS

In addition to supporting major combined operations, MARKET TIME units conducted three gunfire support missions and experienced five hostile fire attacks. Friendly casualties were limited to one U.S. sailor slightly wounded. The incidents are presented chronologically.

6 - At 1200, USCGC POINT KENNEDY was hit by one 57mm recoilless rifle round 35 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The cutter, participating in Operation DECKHOUSE V at the time, sustained a 10-inch hole in the spray shield.

10 - At 0830, a reconnaissance aircraft reported that five Viet Cong were pinned down in a position 80 miles east-northeast of Vung Tau. USCGC POINT PARTRIDGE responded to a request for gunfire support by firing 81mm mortars into the area. The results of the mission were unknown.

23 - At 2040, PCF 11 provided 81mm mortar fire in support of

a reconnaissance aircraft receiving hostile fire 70 miles southeast of An Thoi, off Ca Mau. The hostile fire was coming from the vicinity of three sampans which were taken under fire. Two of the sampans were destroyed and one was damaged.

25 - At 1833, a P3A aircraft on regular MARKET TIME patrol received hostile ground fire while investigating suspicious contacts. When it became apparent that the aircraft had been hit, the P3A returned to Danang Air Base. An inspection disclosed that the port wing had been punctured and that fuel had been lost. The aircraft subsequently was flown to Naha, Okinawa for repairs.

26 - At 1345, USCGC POINT CYPRESS received heavy automatic weapons fire while approaching the beach to destroy an abandoned sampan 55 miles southwest of Vung Tau, off the Long Toan Secret Zone. A reconnaissance aircraft reported that 20 bunkers and three other junks were in the area. POINT CYPRESS fired into the area and an air strike was requested. Several bunkers were destroyed in the action and the junks were heavily damaged. Viet Cong personnel casualties were unknown.

27 - At 0240, PCF 35 received small arms fire from the beach 10 miles east of Vung Tau. Fire was returned while the SWIFT cleared the area. One U.S. Navyman was slightly wounded. He was taken to the 6th Evacuation Hospital

at Vung Tau.

28 - At 0200, PCF 23 and USCGC POINT GRACE received small arms fire from the beach on the Ca Mau Peninsula, 125 miles southwest of Vung Tau. Both units returned fire, damaging two structures and one sampan.

28 - At 2055, PCF 35 conducted a gunfire support mission against a Viet Cong beach position in the Long Toan Secret Zone, 55 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The SWIFT expended 62 rounds of 81mm mortars, resulting in one POL-type explosion. Enemy personnel casualties were unknown.

SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

MARKET TIME units were responsible for five search and rescue operations during January.

U.S. Coast Guard Cutters POINT PARTRIDGE and POINT LEAGUE rescued six Vietnamese from their sinking junk on the afternoon of 6 January, 10 miles south of Vung Tau. The floundering junk had been discovered by the patrol craft the previous day and was being towed to Vung Tau. Within sight of Vung Tau, the junk began sinking and the six passengers were taken aboard POINT LEAGUE.

On 9 January, USS PIVOT (MSO-463) was directed to search for a missing L-19 aircraft in the area 90 miles northwest of Qui Nhon. Search aircraft reported sighting an oil slick and a possible dye marker. No debris was sighted. The search and rescue effort was terminated at 1610.

At 0515 on 15 January, LCPL 42 collided with a 25-foot fishing boat in Vung Tau harbor. All five occupants of the junk were taken on board the LCPL as their craft sank. One boy was taken to the hospital for treatment. There was no damage to the LCPL.

USCGC POINT ORIENT evacuated two wounded Vietnamese fishermen at 1000 on 23 January from an area 70 miles northwest of Qui Nhon. The fishermen were taken to Chu Lai. Both Vietnamese had been wounded by an unidentified aircraft. Two other fishermen were killed in the same incident.

HARBOR DEFENSE (OPERATION STABLE DOOR)

Four skimmers (16-foot Boston Whalers) which arrived at Cam Ranh Bay on 3 January, increased the number of STABLE DOOR patrol boats to a total of 20. On 17 January, the communications advance base functional components arrived in country for installation at the four STABLE DOOR sites.

Inshore Undersea Warfare (IUW) Unit 3 conducted operations at Qui Nhon during January. One junk and 15 persons were detained for improper identification papers or because of suspicious actions.

At Nha Trang, Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Surveillance Unit 22 (MIUWS 22) was relieved on 22 January by IUW Unit 4. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit 1, Team 23, consisting of one officer and three enlisted men, reported to IUW Unit 4 on 22 January and commenced operations on 28 January. During the month, three junks and 20 persons were detained for improper identification at Nha Trang.

IUW Unit 2 continued operations at Cam Ran Bay during January. EOD Unit 1, Team 22, consisting of one officer and three enlisted men, reported to IUW Unit 2 on 14 January and commenced operations on the 20th. Two quonset huts were constructed during the month to serve as a mess hall and galley.

MIUWS 13 conducted operations at Vung Tau in January. Five junks and 61 persons were detained because they could not be properly identified or because of suspicious actions. On 15 January, LCPL 42 collided with a fishing junk which sank. The LCPL rescued all five of the Vietnamese crew.

MARKET TIME UNITS

On 14 January USS SUTTER COUNTY (LST-1150) relieved USS BLANCO COUNTY (LST-344) as the MARKET TIME support ship in Areas 7 and 8 off the Ca Mau Peninsula. The MARKET TIME support ship is a mobile platform for the support of PCFs at sea.

On 17 January, USS CURRITUCK (AV-7) established a seadrome at Cam Ranh Bay. P5B aircraft of Patrol Squadron 50 flew MARKET TIME patrols from the seadrome from 18 to 31 January.

Seven SP-2H aircraft (Patrol Squadron 17) flew MARKET TIME patrols from Tan Son Nhut Air Base during January while Patrol Squadrons 16 and 19 flew patrols from Naval Air Station, Sangley Point. In addition, a detachment of P3A aircraft operated from U Tapao, Thailand during the latter part (22nd through 31st) of the month.

In January the following Seventh Fleet ships operated as