

VA-35 POCKET MONEY SORTIES

1. Pocket Money Surveillance (PMS) sorties are scheduled by CEF 77.0 to gather intelligence on the status of minefields in North Vietnam. PMS may be scheduled as a dedicated or a secondary mission. The purpose of minefield surveillance is to prevent efforts to sweep or neutralize the fields, to gather intelligence on sweeping activities and to determine if the North Vietnamese have found navigable routes to bypass the minefields.
2. The following items require observation and reporting:
 - A. Indications of sweeping
 - B. Position of ships, spacing of ships, fore and aft trim, ships listing or on an even keel
 - C. MERCHANTS aground or afloat
 - D. Draft changes (Hon La or Hon Nieu)
 - E. Indications of dredging activity
3. Good photography is the best way to gather intelligence on a PMS flight. Draw a Topcon from the SDO with a full roll of film. Give the camera a thorough preflight and take good pictures.
4. Inflight Procedures:
 - A. Check in with RED CROWN, Button 9, then switch to OSMLD, Button 4, for flight following, squawk appropriate Mode 3 setting for surveillance
 - B. Observe any activity in the minefields while remaining on the extremities of the enemy defenses
 - C. Stay FEET WET. Fly at 3500' except for picture runs down to 1000'. Do not overfly any vessel below 3500'.
 - D. Prior to flight, check the status of minefields to be covered with Strike Ops
5. Rules of Engagement: North Vietnamese vessels actively sweeping mines may be attacked. The vessel must be positively identified as North Vietnamese. No third country shipping will be attacked.