

Commander, Gulf of Thailand
Surveillance Group
(CTG 115.4)
APO San Francisco, 96327

CTG 115.4:NLA:ds
1650
Ser: 315
9 April 1967

From: Commander, Gulf of Thailand Surveillance Group
To: Officer-in-Charge and Crew of PCF-94
LTJG Bruce S. RUSSELL, USNR, 682288/1105
EN1 Alex S. JOHNSON, USN, 515 75 50
GIG2 Samuel A. TORRES, USN, 373 59 71
HM2 Lawrence P. MARTIN, USN, 535 28 55
— RMSN Larry L. NONNEMACHER, USN, 118 96 71
SN Melvin O. SMITH, USNR, 779 88 14
Via: Commander Coastal Division ELEVEN

Subj: Commendation


1. This command is in receipt of a message from Commander Coastal Surveillance Force Vietnam (CTF 115) concerning your exceptional performance of duty. This message is quoted in part:

"Your aggressiveness during the course of action and your obviously well-coordinated crew's teamwork are ideals for which all MARKET TIME crews should strive. Well done, CAPT R. DI CORI."

2. As a result of your efforts in coordinating PCF-94 activities with those of Coastal Group 41 and the outstanding support PCF-94 provided this Coastal Group while on MARKET TIME Surveillance Patrol 16-17 March 1967 in the vicinity of the Cau Mau Peninsula, Republic of Vietnam, I desire to take this opportunity to commend you for your superior performance.

3. In particular, you are commended for your outstanding, professional performance as Officer-in-Charge and Crew of PCF-94 while attempting to salvage an enemy sampan despite hazardous water conditions and intense hostile fire and for the assistance you provided in the rescue of two grounded Junk Force units. Your superb professional performance and aggressiveness during this patrol are most noteworthy. A sincere Well Done.


J.B. HAYES

Copy to:
COMCOSHON ONE


JANUARY

At 0001 on 1 January 1967 Coastal Division THIRTEEN assumed its new name, having previously been designated as PCF Division 103. At 2200 the night of New Years Day, elements of the newly named division engaged in the first significant action of the new year. Operating a few miles south of the Bo De River, PCF 71 detected an unidentified and unlighted steel hulled contact ten miles off the coast. When PCF 71 closed the unmarked vessel and illuminated her, she was taken under fire by the enemy ship. After taking several hits at point blank range from the enemy's automatic weapons, PCF 71 cleared the area to assess her damage. Unfortunately, by the time PCF 71 was able to resume the battle, contact with the enemy trawler had been lost. However, alerted by radio traffic from PCF 71, PCF 68 correctly diagnosed the intentions of the enemy trawler and intercepted her before she was able to make the beach. Pressing home the attack, PCF 68, with LTJG Alex BASS in charge, engaged the trawler in a fierce firefight. Employing white phosphorus mortar rounds, PCF 68 successfully set the enemy vessel afire before she could reach the safety of the river mouth less than one half mile away. However, before the trawler disappeared following a violent explosion, PCF 68 began receiving heavy automatic weapons fire from the beach and it became necessary for her to suppress the enemy fire from the beach as well as continue prosecution of the enemy vessel. No trace was ever found of the stricken trawler and increasing seas the next few days prevented SEAL teams from assessing the area of action. During the major action, a junk was sunk by PCF 71 when it was mistakenly believed to have been part of the infiltration attempt. All hands on board this innocent vessel were saved.

During the action both PCF 71 and PCF 68 were damaged by the automatic weapons fire and six members of the two crews were wounded-in-action, none seriously.

During the period 3-8 January several units from Coastal Division THIRTEEN participated in operation DECKHOUSE V along with their regular patrols. Throughout the operation, PCFs conducted barrier patrols, while others escorted some of the larger vessels involved in the operation through the difficult river channels. PCF 98 brought credit to the Division when she remained on station for a 99 hour patrol, acting as a picket ship for task group units at anchorage in the Co Chien River.

On 14 January PCFs 69 and 97 participated in a SAR operation in the mouth of the Long Tau River, attempting to recover personnel from a sunken MSB. No survivors were found.

On 17 January PCF 97 received semi-automatic weapons fire from an enemy unit operating along the southern coast of Vinh Binh province. PCF 97 was able to quickly suppress the enemy fire but enemy losses were unknown.

On 27 January PCF 35 received hostile fire from the beach off Mui Ky Van. During the brief engagement one member of the crew was wounded. Twice during that night PCF 35 again received enemy fire from the same location but each time the enemy fire was quickly suppressed without further friendly injuries.

Also on 27 January, PCFs 32, 40, and 70 effectively corralled six suspicious junks and turned them over to Coastal Group 32.

NILO Bac Lieu requested NGFS from PCF 23 and WPB Pt GRACE on 28 January. During the mission off the Ganh Hao River, one enemy structure was destroyed and another damaged despite Viet Cong automatic weapons fire. The same day PCF 68 and PCF 39 conducted a coordinate NGFS after both units had been taken under fire from Mui Ho Tram. One secondary explosion was observed from the enemy position.

As the month closed, deteriorating weather conditions hampered units patrolling in the northern areas but action continued in the southern areas as PCF 23 again engaged enemy forces off the Rach Ganh Hao.

FEBRUARY

COSDIV 13 took special precautions for the Vietnamese Tet Holiday season, 5 through 11 February, by anchoring three inport PCFs in the Song Dinh River around Cat Lo from dusk until dawn. These reaction units were to act as lead boats in the event of an emergency sortie as well as providing extra security for the base at Cat Lo.

Poor weather conditions during the early weeks of February continued to force units off station but every effort was made by division personnel to man the assigned stations. PCFs 35, 36, and 39 served as barrier units off Phuoc Hai to prevent Viet Cong escape from that town during a Popular Forces Operation. LT DUTERMAN provided illumination fire and directed friendly airborne units during the morning of the 17th.

On 19 February PCF 26 rounded up 4 junks with 21 people in response to a special alert. All detainees were eventually turned over to Coastal Group 32 personnel.

The same day PCF 40 participated in a SAR operation for a man lost overboard in Vung Tau harbor with negative results.

On 21 February PCF 96 provided NGFS for NILO Bac Lieu in the southern sector of that province. Three structures and several trenches were reported damaged.

Reports of a possible infiltration attempt off Kien Hoa Province prompted COSDIV 13 to utilize two extra units for barrier patrols from 26 February until early March. No contraband was intercepted.

MARCH

On 3 March the NILO for Bac Lieu Province requested that PCF 71 fire a support mission in the southern part of that province. The airborne spotter considered the mortar fire coverage excellent and assessed the enemy damage at one structure destroyed and three others damaged. The following day PCF 71 again conducted NGFS off the Ganh Hao River destroying two bunkers and damaging two.

11 March proved to be one of the most tragic days in the history of Coastal Division 13. During a gunnery training exercise off Long Son Island the 81MM mortar on PCF 39 exploded. As a result of the explosion, one man was killed and another was critically wounded. As the wounded man was rushed to the 36th MEDEVAC Hospital at Vung Tau, a SAR operation was initiated in an attempt to recover the body of the missing sailor. In addition to loss of life, the exploding mortar also accounted for the total destruction of Mount 52 and heavy structural damage to the aft bulkhead of PCF 39. Units of Coastal Division THIRTEEN continued the search for the body of the missing sailor until the body was recovered several days later by a local fisherman. A formal investigation later concluded that a faulty round of ammunition was the probable cause of the tragedy.

On 13 March PCF 71 conducted NGFS off central Bac Lieu Province in support of the 21st ARVN Division. The results of her efforts were: one enemy structure destroyed and five structures damaged.

Off the eastern coast of Vinh Binh Province on 18 March, PCF 32 received hostile automatic weapons fire. Suppressing the enemy fire, PCF 32 was able to clear the area without friendly casualties. The next day PCF 35 received heavy automatic weapons fire while pursuing an enemy sampan. The sampan was able to evade into a nearby canal but PCF 35's mortar and 50 cal fire resulted in the "probable" destruction of the enemy craft.

On 23 March, PCF 38 detected 5 Viet Cong sampans hidden beneath trees off Mui Ho Tram. The resulting NGFS conducted by PCF 38 credited her with three of the enemy vessels destroyed.

Coastal Division THIRTEEN conducted Special Operations along the Song Dinh during the nights of 24-25 March. PCFs 25, 67, 70, and 95 all participated in the operation.

During the week of 26 March, units of Coastal Division THIRTEEN provided security for USS MAURY (AGS-16) and her small craft while she was involved with oceanographic operations in the nearby river mouths.

On 31 March PCF 98 and Pt GRACE conducted a coordinated fire mission on enemy structures near the mouth of the Ganh Hao River. Two VC bunkers and one sampan were destroyed.

APRIL

On 10 April in response to a special alert, Coastal Division THIRTEEN conducted the largest roundup of suspicious junks in the history of the division to date. Units participating in the roundup included PCFs 24, 26, 32, 70, and 96, two coastal group junks from CG 32, and the VNN patrol boat PGM 607. Coastal Division THIRTEEN coordinated the allied forces while embarked on PCF 26. A total of 63 junks and 103 people were detained in the restricted zone off Mui Ho Tram. All detainees were subsequently turned over to Phouc Tuy Sector authorities for processing. Results of combined forces' effort uncovered 9 VC suspects and four draft dodgers.

The following day PCF 98 received small arms and automatic weapons fire while investigating a suspicious junk in An Xuyen Province. After originally clearing the area, PCF 98 later returned in company with Pt SLOCUM and conducted a coordinated NGFS with the Coast Guard WPB resulting in five

five enemy sampans destroyed and two damaged.

On 14 April PCF 37 conducted H and I fire off Binh Thuan Province at sectors request. The results of this mission were unknown. PCF 98 continued prosecution of enemy elements in Binh Thuan Province the following day when it was learned that a Viet Cong storage area had been detected. Six sampans and three enemy structures were destroyed.

On 17 April PCF 98 suppressed small arms fire from the vicinity of the Ganh Hao River with no friendly casualties. PCF 32 rescued 2 USN personnel and 4 Vietnamese children who were forced into the water after the boat in which they had been riding had sunk near the LST piers in Vung Tau harbor.

On 19 April special operations were conducted in the Co Chien River with PCFs 25, 31, and 71 participating. No contact was made with enemy forces.

The following day PCF 68 and two Coast Guard WPDs, PT KENNEDY and PT GRACE, teamed up for NGFS against enemy sampans off the Thanh Phu Secret Zone. Four of the hostile vessels were destroyed and six others were damaged.

On 26 April an unfortunate accident placed PCF 38 out of commission when the boom of the base support's YD broke loose and crushed the PCF's mast and main cabin. The damage done to PCF 38 was beyond the capability of the local repair facilities so it became necessary to send the damaged PCF to Subic Bay, P.I. for extensive repairs. Fortunately, no one was injured in the incident.

On 26 April action again erupted in the southern sector of Bac Lieu Province when PCF 26 came under fire from the Rach Ganh Hao. After suppressing the enemy fire PCF 26 conducted NGFS which resulted in the destruction of 5 sampans and two bunkers.

On 30 April an evading sampan disclosed the location of three enemy vessels concealed in a small canal. PCF 97 took all of the Viet Cong craft under fire and was able to sink two and damage one.

MAY

Improved weather conditions characterized by calm seas brought increased action for units of Coastal Division THIRTEEN throughout the month of May.

On 2 May, PCF 68 took an evading junk under fire when all other attempts to stop the fleeing vessel failed. The action, which took place off Ba Tri, in Kien Hoa Province, resulted in 4 Viet Cong KIA and the loss of the enemy boat.

On 3 May PCF 67 destroyed a beached junk in the Binh Dai Secret Zone. Two days later PCF 98 destroyed two sampans in the mouth of the Ganh Hao River, while PCF 96 fired at an evading sampan which escaped into the mouth of the Bo De River.

On 15 May, Coastal Division THIRTEEN achieved another first when PCF 102 with LTJG PATTAROZZI in charge arrived in Cat Lo after transiting from Subic Bay, P.I. The feat was heralded as the longest transit over open seas

ever made by a PCF. PCF 102 transited in company with USCGC GRESHAM (WHEC 391) from whom they received fuel and supplies. But this in no way detracts from the achievement of the entire crew without whose seamanship and fortitude the transit would not have been accomplished. A suitable welcoming committee of PCFs met PCF 102 off Cape St. Jacques and escorted her on the final leg of her journey to Cat Lo.

Intelligence reports of increased Viet Cong activity prompted COMCOSDIV 13 to station extra units for the security of Cat Lo. Two boats each night between 17 and 21 May were anchored at either end of the base perimeter in the Song Dinh. In addition PCFs 31, 39, and 102 employed in special operations on the 18th and 19th. No enemy attack materialized.

On 21 May PCF 32 received sniper fire off Go Cong Province, but withdrew without returning fire due to the proximity of an inhabited hamlet. PCF 32 however got her revenge later that day when she conducted NGFS with the aid of an airborne spotter against a suspected Viet Cong platoon a few miles north of the sniper incident. A direct hit on the target area was recorded by the spotter but no confirmed enemy casualties were reported.

On 29 May PCF 97 conducted NGFS off Bac Lieu Province against enemy junks concealed in the underbrush. At least one junk was confirmed destroyed.

The last day of the month PCF 36 received fire off the Rach Ganh Hao and returned fire with unknown results.

JUNE

Heavy seas during the first week of June caused a temporary lull in Coastal Divisions 13's engagements with enemy forces. However, as the weather moderated, VC activity again dictated more action for the PCFs.

During the week of 12 June four separate infiltration attempts were detected along the coast of Kien Hoa Province by units of Coastal Division THIRTEEN. On 12 June PCF 98 successfully blocked one enemy infiltration attempt by destroying one structure on the beach. One secondary explosion was observed during the NGFS. The next day PCF 69 destroyed three structures and damaged one sampan in action near the place of the previous day's encounter. On 16 June PCF 69 was again responsible for the destruction of one enemy sampan. On 15 June PCF 97 took an enemy junk under fire near the mouth of the Bo De River. Results of that action were unknown. On 17 June PCF 31 made contact with enemy forces and in the resulting NGFS successfully damaged a beached junk.

On 24 June PCF 97 received automatic weapons fire off the Ganh Hao River while investigating a suspicious junk. PCF 97 was able to suppress enemy fire without casualties. However, several hours later, PCF 97 again engaged enemy forces off the Ganh Hao River and intercepted an obvious infiltration.

On 25 June, at 1700, PCF 97 again detected a suspicious sampan in the mouth of the Ganh Hao River and proceeded to investigate. Finding the enemy boat unoccupied, PCF 97 was preparing to get sector permission to take the suspicious vessel under fire when she was ambushed by two Viet Cong units hiding near the mouth of the river. A CHICOM 75MM recoilless rifle round tore a four foot hole in the bow of PCF 97 before her crew was able to suppress the enemy fire. The exploding shell injured two men, including serious injury to the officer-in-charge, stationed in the pilot house. Fortunately the crew of PCF 97 was able to maneuver the mortally wounded craft into safer waters before she sank in 35 feet of water. PCF 26 was quick to respond to PCF 97's distress and successfully rescued all hands shortly after the abandoned the sinking boat. While the injured officer was medevaced, salvage operations got underway to recover PCF 97. During the afternoon of 25 June PCFs 26 and 98 were quick to avenge the loss of PCF 97 with a coordinated NGFS in the Ganh Hoa River which resulted in total of 12 VC KIA's and the destruction of two bunkers and one sampan. PCF 98 conducted another NGFS in the Ganh Hao River on 27 June with unknown results.

JULY

While efforts to recover PCF 97 continued off Bac Lieu Province, other units of Coastal Division THIRTEEN continued anti-infiltration patrols off the coast of the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones.

On 1 July PCF 31 and PT CYPRESS conducted a coordinated NGFS off the Tanh Phu Secret Zone against a suspected cache of Viet Cong arms. Enemy losses in that operation were unknown.

On 4 July, in commemoration of Independence Day, the American Ensign was raised over the VNN Navy Base at Cat Lo for the first time. During the flag raising ceremonies, PCF 24 stood in the Cat Lo channel and rendered a 50 gun salute. Also on 4 July PCF 23 recovered 700 pounds of apples from an enemy junk which was attempting to use a suspected VC crossing off Loi Quan Island.

On 5 July USS OAK HILL (LSD-7) working with salvage divers from Harbor Clearance Unit ONE successfully raised PCF 97. The damaged PCF was loaded on board the Landing Ship for further transfer to repair facilities in Subic Bay, P.I. Coastal Squadron ONE designated PCF 103 as the replacement boat and LTJG TUNE and an outfitting crew were dispatched to Subic Bay to ready her for combat service. Also on 5 July PCF 95 conducted NGFS in the Ganh Hao River destroying two huts.

Coastal Group 31 requested illumination fire from PCF 32 on 12 July, while PCF 36 conducted NGFS off the Ganh Hao River which resulted in extensive damage to three bunkers without friendly casualties.

Coastal Division THIRTEEN units reacted to intelligence reports of increased Viet Cong activity in the Vung Tau area by stationing extra boats in the Song Dinh from 15 to 20 July. In addition, one PCF was stationed in the vicinity of Long Son Island between 18 and 20 July. No contact was made by any of the patrolling units during mid-July.

On 27 July PCF 68 conducted NGFS off Go Cong Province which resulted in one secondary explosion. Later that same day, PCF 68 confiscated three and one half tons of unmanifested rice from a suspicious junk. Vietnamese authorities at Coastal Group 33 later determined that the rice was being illegally transported to avoid RVN taxation.

On 28 July PCF 103 arrived in Vung Tau on board USS OAK HILL (LSD 7) returning the division to full strength.

AUGUST

The first week of August brought an unexpected lull in enemy infiltration attempts and, consequently, provided a relatively quiet period for units of Coastal Division THIRTEEN.

On 10 August contact with enemy forces was made again when PCF 98 detected two Viet Cong working the fish traps near the mouth of the Ganh Hao River. PCF 98 took the sampan under fire at sector's request and was credited with the destruction of the enemy sampan and the wounding of its two occupants.

Also on 10 August, PCF 68 discovered tax irregularities involving fishing sampans off Binh Dai. PCF 68 brought the matter to the attention of RVN authorities for further action.

On 12 August, PCF 68 was ambushed off the Tanh Phu Secret Zone by a Viet Cong unit while she was proceeding to investigate a suspicious fishing junk. Two recoilless rifle rounds exploded near the PCF followed by heavy automatic weapons fire, but PCF 68 was able to maneuver clear of the ambush area without injury. Later that day PCF 68 conducted NGFS which resulted in the destruction of one enemy structure. An airstrike was also called in against the Viet Cong site.

Also on 14 August PCFs 39 and 70 participated in a SAR operation for a crewman lost when a helicopter crashed into Vung Tau Harbor. The man was not found.

Coastal Division THIRTEEN again went to an increased state of readiness when intelligence sources indicated a possible attack on the naval base at Cat Lo. PCFs 26, 96 and 102 all participated in the alert.

On 24 August PCFs 32 and 96 joined a search for two special services boats overdue at Vung Tau. The search was called off when it was learned that the two boats and their occupants had been captured by the Viet Cong near Mui Ky Van. Although the two American servicemen were able to escape from their captors and make their way safely back to an ARVN outpost, the two special services boats were left on the beach near Mui Ky Van. On 25 August PCF 25 and 35 participated in a Coastal Group operation in an attempt to recover the two boats. Unfortunately, the landing forces met with heavy Viet Cong resistance when they attempted to retrieve the two boats. All units came under

fire from the well fortified VC positions. Both PCFs 25 and 35 were hit by automatic weapons fire but no personnel casualties were reported. The operation was later aborted when the heavy enemy fire could not be suppressed. The next day PCF 35 again came under automatic fire from Mui Ky Van, but was able to successfully suppress the enemy fire.

On 28 August PCFs 37 and 96 again engaged the enemy forces in this area when they destroyed a Vietnamese coastal junk which had breached on the beach. Enemy losses following that engagement were unknown.

Off Bac Lieu Province PCF 71 and PT PARTRIDGE conducted NGFS on 28 August. The results of that operation were unknown.

On 29 August PCF 71 renewed the attack against enemy forces near the mouth of the Ganh Hao River with unknown results.

SEPTEMBER

Early in September intelligence reports indicating severe food shortages for enemy troops gave evidence of the effect that anti-infiltration patrols were having on the Viet Cong. During the Vietnamese National elections the first week in September, Coastal Division THIRTEEN responded to the possibility of increased enemy terrorism by stationing extra units in the Dinh River area and off the coast of Long Son Island. PCFs 37, 67, 26, 68 all participated in the pre-election alert.

On 4 September PCF 36 conducted NGFS in northern Bac Lieu Province against several camouflaged enemy structures. Two structures were destroyed and one secondary explosion was observed. Also on 4 September, PCF 98 was taken under automatic weapons fire while providing illumination for a Coastal Group 31 ambush team under attack. There were no friendly casualties and the attack was repulsed.

On 13 September, PCF 95 conducted NGFS off the Ganh Hao River at the request of NILO Bac Lieu. Two enemy huts and two bunkers were destroyed as a result of that mission. A large funeral procession the next day added one "probable" VC KIA to the previous day's NGFS.

On 14 September PCFs 26, 32, and 35 conducted a roundup of 22 junks found in the restricted zone off Go Cong Province. All detainees were turned over to Coastal Group 33.

On 15 September PCF 95 destroyed an unoccupied raft drifting near the Bo De River.

On 16 September PCF 102 evacuated two wounded sailors attached to Coastal Group 32 from the vicinity of the Dong Tranh River. Both men were wounded-in-action during an operation in that river.

PCF 69 conducted NGFS off the Ganh Hao River on 20 September damaging two enemy structures and two sampans. The following day PCF 69 conducted another NGFS in that same area against a suspected Viet Cong company. Although enemy personnel casualties were unknown, two huts and one sampan were damaged.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS 1967

JANUARY

1 JAN PCF division 103 was redesignated COASTAL DIVISION THIRTEEN.

1 JAN PCFs 71 and 68 engaged an enemy trawler off the coast of An Zuyen Province.

3 JAN PCF 98 participated in DECKHOUSE V

6 JAN CAPT RYDEEN, Chief of Staff, COMSERVAC, visits Cat Lo.

7 JAN PCF 98 completed her participation in DECKHOUSE V having remained on station for 99 hours.

14 JAN PCFs 69 and 97 participated in a SAR operation for crewmen of a sunken MSB.

17 JAN RADM WESCHLER visited Cat Lo.

17 JAN PCF 97 suppressed fire off the southern coast of Vinh Binh Province.

27 JAN BISHOP A. SMITH, Chairman for the Methodist Commission of Armed Forces Chaplains visited Cat Lo.

27 JAN PCF 35 had one crewman wounded in a fire-fight off Mui Ky Van.

27 JAN PCFs 32, 40, and 70 successfully corralled six suspicious junks off Mui Ba Kiem.

28 JAN PCF 23 and PT GRACE conducted a coordinated NGFS in the Ganh Hoa River.

28 JAN PCFs 68 and 39 observed one secondary explosion during a NGFS off Mui Ho Tram.

29 JAN PCF 23 engaged an enemy force near the Ganh Hao River.

30 JAN RADM T.J. WALKER III, COMCARDIV 3 visited Cat Lo.

FEBRUARY

4 FEB Commenced patrol of area 6G vice 5F.

5 FEB COSDIV 13 went to an increased state of readiness for TET.

8 FEB Resumed patrol in 5F and drop 6G.

10 FEB PCFs 23, 25, 35, and 95 participated in a corral operation at the Binh Tuy/Phouc Tuy provincial border.

11 FEB COSDIV 13 stood down from the increased state of readiness.

17 FEB DR G.W. JOHNSON, Director of Naval Laboratories, visited Cat Lo.

17 FEB RADM N.G. WARD, COMNAVFORV and CAPT C.L. STEWART, CTF 115 visited Cat Lo.

19 FEB PCFs 26 and 70 conducted a corral operation off phuoc Hai.

20 FEB COASTAL DIVISION THIRTEEN celebrated its first anniversary.

21 FEB PCF 96 conducted NGFS in southern Bac Lieu Province.

26 FEB Units of COSDIV 13 commenced barrier patrols off Kien Hoa Province.

27 FEB Commence patrol in area 6G vice 6H.

28 FEB CAPT STEWART and his prospective relief CAPT DICORI visited Cat Lo.

MARCH

3 MARCH PCF 71 conducted fire in the southern part of Bac Lieu Province.

4 MARCH PCF 71 conducted NGFS off the Ganh Hao River.

6 MARCH COSDIV 13 terminates barrier patrols off Kien Hao Province.

6 MARCH Resume patrol in area 6H, drop 6G.

11 MARCH The mortar on PCF 39 exploded, killing one man and injuring another.

11 MARCH Units of COSDIV 13 commenced a SAR operation for the body of the sailor killed in the mortar explosion.

12 MARCH The SAR operation was discontinued after the recovery of the mortar victim's body.

13 MARCH PCF 71 conducted NGFS in central Bac Lieu Province in support of the 21st ARVN Division.

18 MARCH PCF 32 suppressed enemy automatic weapons fire off Vinh Binh Province.

19 MARCH PCF 35 fired at an evading sampan.

19 MARCH 2 PCFs assigned area 6H, drop 6FN.

21 MARCH RADM D.G. IRVINE, COMNAVFORKOREA, visited Cat Lo.

23 MARCH PCFs 25, 67, 70, and 95 engaged in special operation in the Song Dinh.

25 MARCH Add area 6G, add area 6FN, only 1 PCF in 6H.

26 MARCH Units of COSDIV 13 escorted USS MAURY (AGS-16) while she was engaged in oceanographic surveys.

31 MARCH PCF 98 and PT GRACE conducted a coordinated NGFS in the Ganh Hao River.

APRIL

1 APRIL Area 6H dropped as a PCF patrol area.

10 APRIL PCFs 24, 26, 32, 70 and 96, PGM 607 and two units from Coastal Group 32 participated in a corral operation off Mui Ho Tram.

11 APRIL PCF 98 received small arms fire off An Zuyen Province.

14 APRIL PCF 37 conducted a H & I mission in Binh Thuan.

15 APRIL PCF 98 conducted NGFS near the Ganh Hao River.

15 APRIL The new PCF pier was put into service at Cat Lo.

17 APRIL PCF 98 received fire from enemy forces in the Ganh Hao River.

19 APRIL PCFs 25, 31, and 70 commenced special operations in the Co Chien River.

20 APRIL PCF 68, PT KENNEDY and PT GRACE conducted a coordinated NGFS in the Tanh Phu district of Kien Hoa province.

24 APRIL PCF 26 conducted NGFS in the Ganh Hao River.

25 APRIL RADM VETH, prospective COMNAVFORV, visited Cat Lo.

26 APRIL PCF 38 was crushed by a YD alongside the pier at Cat Lo.

26 APRIL PCF 26 suppressed fire from an enemy unit in the Ganh Hao River.

29 APRIL Two PCFs stationed in 6G.

30 APRIL PCF 97 sank three junks during NGFS in Kien Hoa Province.

MAY

2 MAY PCF 68 destroyed an evading sampan off Ba Tri in Kien Hoa Province.

3 MAY PCF 67 destroyed an abandoned junk in the Binh Dai Secret Zone.

3 MAY Area 6G again patrolled by one PCF.

5 MAY PCF 96 conducted NGFS in the Ganh Hao River mouth.

12 MAY Drop area 6FS and add second PCF in 6G.

15 MAY PCF 102 arrived from Subic Bay.

17 MAY Coastal Division THIRTEEN went to an increased state of readiness.

18 MAY PCFs 31 and 39 conducted special operations in the Song Dinh River.

20 MAY Resume patrol in area 6FS.

21 MAY COSDIV 13 stood down from its increased state of readiness.

21 MAY PCF 32 conducted NGFS off Go Cong province.

23 MAY Area 6FN becomes a night patrol station only.

25 MAY COSDIV 13 commenced training VNN personnel.

25 MAY Mr. H. McPHERSON Jr., Special Counsel to the President, visited Cat Lo.

29 MAY PCF 97 detected and destroyed an enemy junk concealed on the beach in Bac Lieu Province.

31 MAY PCF 36 suppressed enemy fire from the Ganh Hao River.

JUNE

3 JUNE Senator Philip Hart of Michigan visited Cat Lo.

7 JUNE RADM VANNOY, CTF 76, visited Cat Lo.

12 JUNE PCF 98 stopped an infiltration attempt in Kien Hoa Province.

13 JUNE PCF 69 conducted NGFS in Kien Hoa Province.

15 JUNE PCF 97 engaged enemy forces near the Bo De River.

17 JUNE PCF 31 destroyed one enemy sampan in Bac Lieu Province.

21 JUNE PCF 70 fired NGFS in northern Bac Lieu Province.

24 JUNE PCF 97 suppressed enemy fire while blocking an infiltration attempt in the Ganh Hao River.

25 JUNE Two men were wounded when PCF 97 was sunk by recoilless rifle fire near the mouth of the Ganh Hao River.

25 JUNE PCFs 26 and 98 were credited with 12 VC KIA's during NGFS conducted in the Ganh Hao River.

27 JUNE PCF 98 conducted NGFS in the Ganh Hao River mouth.

28 JUNE ADM T.H. MOORER, prospective CNO, and RADM VETH visited Cat Lo.

JULY

1 JULY PCF and PT CYPRESS conduct a coordinated NGFS in the Tanh Phu Secret Zone.

5 JULY PCF 97 was raised by USS OAK HILL (LSD-7).

5 JULY PCF 95 conducted NGFS in the Ganh Hao River.

7 JULY PCFs 23, 67, 102 participated in a SAR operation.

12 JULY PCF 36 extensively damaged three bunkers on the banks of the Ganh Hao River.

15 JULY Coastal Division THIRTEEN went to an increased state of readiness.

17 JULY VADM ENEY, DCNO Logistics, and his perspective relief, RADM SHIFELEY, visited Cat Lo.

18 JULY Additional units were stationed in the vicinity of Long Son Island.

20 JULY COMCOSDIV 13 terminated all special operations. The Division stood down from its increased state of readiness.

24 JULY PCF 95 collided with a cargo junk.

25 JULY PCF 26 conducted NGFS in the Ganh Hao River.

27 JULY PCF 68 observed one secondary explosion during NGFS off Go Cong Province.

27 JULY PCF 68 confiscated a large quantity of rice from a suspicious cargo junk.

28 JULY PCF 103 arrived in Vung Tau on Board USS OAK HILL (LSD-7).

AUGUST

5 AUG Area 6G reduced to one PCF.

10 AUG PCF 98 destroyed one sampan and wounded two VC during NGFS in the Ganh Hao River.

10 AUG PCF 68 detected tax irregularities off Binh Dai.

12 AUG PCF 95 suppressed enemy automatic weapons fire from the vicinity of the Ganh Hao River.

14 AUG PCF 68 was ambushed off the Tanh Phu Secret Zone.

14 AUG PCFs 39 and 70 participated in a SAR operation for a helo crewman in Vung Tau Harbor.

24 AUG PCFs 25 and 35 were hit by automatic weapons fire while participating in a boat recovery operation off Mui Ky Van.

26 AUG PCF 35 suppressed enemy fire near Mui Ky Van.

28 AUG PCFs 37 and 96 destroyed a VNN Coastal Group junk which had broached on the beach near enemy territory.

29 AUG PCF 71 fired NGFS at the Ganh Hao River.

SEPTEMBER

3 SEPT Coastal Division THIRTEEN took special precautionary measures for the Vietnamese national elections.

3 SEPT PCF 98 was taken under automatic weapons fire off Ham Tan while providing illumination for Coastal Group 31 ambush team under attack.

4 SEPT PCF 36 destroyed two enemy structures and observed one secondary explosion during NGFS in Bac Lieu Province.

13 SEPT PCF 95 conducted NGFS in the Ganh Hao River.

14 SEPT PCFs 26, 32, and 35 rounded up 22 suspicious junks off Go Cong Province.

15 SEPT PCF 95 destroyed a raft in the Bo De River.

16 SEPT PCF 102 medevaced two Coastal Group sailors who were wounded in the Dong Tranh River.

20 SEPT PCF 69 conducted NGFS near the mouth of the Ganh Hao River.

21 SEPT PCF 95 damaged an enemy bunker during NGFS in northern Bac Lieu Province.

25 SEPT PCF 68 conducted NGFS in the Tanh Phu Secret Zone.

30 SEPT PCF 70 killed one VC and wounded two others while suppressing enemy fire in the Ganh Hao River.