CHAPTER 9

HUMANITARIANISM

Song Ong Doc

The village of Song Ong Doc was located in the primary patrol area of the high endurance cutters from their arrival in 1967 until November of 1970. Song Ong Doc was the location of a United States Special Forces (USSF) camp, which had an aggressive Commanding Officer. He persuaded the early units into performing MEDCAPS and other Civic Action Projects which not only greatly assisted the people of Song Ong Doc, but also proved to be a great morale booster for the men of the WHEC's.

The Cutter HALF MOON built and installed playground equipment at the village school. The ANDROSCOGGIN painted the school and gave a Christmas party for 500 children. ANDROSCOGGIN also purchased an engraved bell in Hong Kong for the school and WINONA on more than one occasion had the ship's band perform for the village. The ANDROSCOGGIN repainted the popular village school and repaired a generator while the MINNETONKA painted the local dispensary, repaired playground equipment, and distributed over 50 boxes of clothing, toys, and soap.

The ANDROSCOGGIN participated in the commencement exercises at the village school and presented 400 dolls and 400 yo-yo's. The MENDOTA

poured a new concrete floor for the village dispensary. The DALLAS erected a building to be used as a Vietnamese dispensary and refurbished the village school.

The people of Song Ong Doc appeared to have the best medical treatment of any place in Vietnam. Nearly every cutter stationed off Song Ong Doc conducted MEDCAPS in the village on a frequent basis. Cutters providing MEDCAPs included the ANDROSCOGGIN, YAKUTAT, WINONA, CAMPBELL, MINNETONKA, WACHUSETT, WINNEBAGO, MENDOTA and others. Saigon School for Blind Girls

This school received early attention from the Saigon contingent of COGARDACTV. In late summer of 1966 Coast Guard personnel purchased and gave the school a refrigerator. The refrigerator was followed up with a washing machine from Japan. Gifts of food and clothing were common.

The Squadron wanted to help send one of the girls to the United States for further education. They contacted several schools and in July of 1967 they were successful in obtaining a \$5000 scholarship from the Perkins School of the Blind. The biggest obstacle was arranging for an exit visa for the girl selected. The Squadron personnel visited seventeen agencies in July and the end was not in sight. The visa was approved by President Thieu and the Minister of Education, along with many lesser titles, but each time there was a referral to another agency. Finally on 4 August the exit visa and passport were arranged. Pan American Airlines graciously arranged for special VIP treatment for the young girl from Saigon to the East Coast.

The Saigon school constantly received support from the Squadron with most of the men giving up a small portion of their pay each month for its upkeep. Dental treatment was arranged from a woman dentist trained in the United States who volunteered her services after seeing the generous support given by the Coast Guardsmen.

RONONE also arranged for transportation by Air Force helicopter of a girl from the school to the hospital ship, USS SANCTUARY, for eye surgery. The Squadron Commander hand delivered a cornea transplant for the eye operation to be performed on the girl.

Island Adoption

In August 1966, the patrol boats instituted an island adoption program. There were four main objectives of the program: 1) to provide educational and informative materials to promote understanding;

2) to counter VC propaganda through the distribution of effective PSYWAR leaflets; 3) to provide material treatment; and 4) to promote imaginative projects and services to improve the civilian-military relationship. To implement the program certain ground rules were established: 1) since food was plentiful on the islands, none was to be distributed, but rather news media and the like; 2) sparingly give gifts of cigarettes, candy, fish hooks, salad oil, etc.; 3) personalized gifts have more value; 4) avoid disruption of community life, not during siesta hours, no promises that cannot be kept, obtain permission of the village or hamlet chief; and 5) not more than once very two weeks, for only 3 hours, and with a VNN liaison.

Other Efforts

The Coast Guard units assigned to Vietnam performed so many

different types of humanitarianism it would be difficult to put them into a narrative so short sketches will be used.

- Catholic personnel renovated the local church at An Thoi
- WPB's evacuated refugees from the vicinity of Cape Batangan
- RONONE personnel visited Buddhist and Protestant orphanages to distribute clothing, soap, toothpaste, and toys brought to Vietnam on the Commandant's plane
- the Cutter HALF MOON delivered medicine, toothpaste, and clothing from Coast Guard personnel in New York City
- Division Eleven men helped make voting booths in An Thoi
- POINT ORIENT went to the aid of a cargo junk loaded with school children bound for Hue. The junk was dewatered and escorted to Hue.
- the BARATARIA gave medical aid to acute asthmatic on a Chinese
 Nationalist trawler
- the POINT ARDEN saved an LCM taking on water north of Da Nang
- Division Twelve personnel distributed Christmas gifts to VNN dependents in Da Nang
- the POINT GRACE saved a PCF from sinking after the PCF lost all power in rough seas
- the ANDROSCOGGIN took two Vietnamese fishermen aboard for surgery saving both their lives
- the HALF MOON went to aid of Filipino tug whose last barge sank.

 HALF MOON personnel cut the barge loose preventing loss of the tug
 and the other barges
- Division Eleven personnel constructed a fresh water well and storage system, and planted vegetable garden for 2 families on an island

- the cutters assigned as Hong Kong Station gave a large number of pints of blood to the Hong Kong Red Cross
- CAMPBELL's medical officer performed surgery on a nine year old girl wounded in the chest and both legs by the VC
- ANDROSCOGGIN rescued 27 South Vietnamese refugees fleeing the VC from a small junk lost in heavy seas. The people were taken aboard, given food, medical treatment, and shelter. The junk was repaired and towed to port.
- DUANE treated a medico on M/V YOCHOW for pneumonia and asthma
- ANDROSCOGGIN medical officer removed a benign tumor from a Vietnamese and treated five fractures
- CAMPBELL personnel repaired the Save the Children Hospital at
 Qui Nhon
- MEDCAPS, MEDCAPS, MEDCAPS
- CAMPBELL's medical officer treated a VNN officer's badly swollen leg
- the ANDROSCOGGIN treated as an inpatient, a Thai sailor whose toe had been amputated by a winch
- BIBB personnel fabricated new drive shaft for a fuel pump on the Thai M/V DAKTACHI
- the CAMPBELL aided the Filipino vessel CARMELITA which had a broken propeller shaft and was drifting in the extreme current of the San Bernadino Strait
- the WINNEBAGO aided the Vietnamese coastal freighter THUAN HING which had a broken shaft and was taking on water

- the OWASCO responded to SOS from the S/S FOH KONG which had lost power and was flooding. OWASCO rescued the 23 POB and towed the vessel.
- WINNEBAGO responded to the SOS of the S/S AGINAR which had been abandoned
- Division Thirteen personnel visited the 36th Medevac Hospital Children's Ward giving toys, games, candy and clothing
- WINNEBAGO rescued 35 persons from the distressed M/V FAIR PHILIPPINE ANCHORAGE
- KLAMATH personnel donated 200 man hours of work and \$187 to Holy Family Hospital in Qui Nhon
- the TANEY's medical officer remained in Qui Nhon when the cutter went to Japan. He organized 16 MEDCAPs and treated over 3200 villagers plus another 300 patients at local hospitals
- HAMILTON personnel repaired the Save the Children Hospital at Qui Nhon
- KLAMATH aided a fishing vessel that had been drifting for ten days with engine trouble. KLAMATH towed the vessel to Vung Tau.
- HAMILTON personnel assisted in preparing dependent housing for VNN personnel
- BLACKHAW rescued a Vietnamese national drifting on a plank at sea
- the Cutter HAMILTON delivered 2500 pounds of canned goods, clothes, toys, and school supplies to Love of the Cross Orphanage, Cam Ranh Bay donated by the New Bedford, Massachusetts junior high school.
- CHASE dewatered USS WINNEMUCCA which had been taking on water and sinking

- MEDCAPS, MEDCAPS, MEDCAPS
- CHASE personnel fabricated a complete playground aboard CHASE for the 50 children in Coastal Group 16
- the YAKUTAT delivered 500 pounds of materials to Can Tho orphanage from the people of New Bedford, Mass
- BERING STRAIT's crew installed playground equipment near Coastal
 Group 16 which the crew had purchased
- MORGENTHAU delivered clothing donated by the people of Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.
- the PONTCHARTRAIN provided engineering assistance to the M/V SEA PROSPERITY which had been drifting for three days
- the MORGENTHAU rescued 23 persons from the sinking M/V JOY TAYLOR
- SHERMAN responded to a possible cholera epidemic at New Song Ong
 Doc and immunized over 600 Vietnamese civilians
- MORGENTHAU medical teams conducted 25 MEDCAPs treating over 2600 people
- MORGENTHAU personnel donated \$2200 to Operation Schoolhouse allowing 25 children to attend four years of high school

This list is by no means exhaustive, but rather representative of Coast Guard non-military operations.

CHAPTER 10

CONCLUSION

Though the activities of the Coast Guard in South East Asia are relatively unknown, it can be easily deduced from the material in this report that the Coast Guard played a significant role in the war. Not only were 56 different combatant vessels assigned to duty there, but they participated in and were normally the primary unit in all trawler destructions. This alone set the VC/NVA back many months. The statistics show that Coast Guard units boarded nearly a quarter of a million junks and sampans to attempt to stop infiltration. They also show that these cutters participated in nearly 6,000 NGFS missions causing extensive damage to the enemy. Of these 56 vessels, 30 of them were turned over to the Vietnamese and the Coast Guard played a significant role in training the Vietnamese Navy to operate these vessels. The former Coast Guard cutters and the Vietnamese sailors aboard them form the nucleus of the Vietnamese Navy.

The Port Security and Waterways Detail was an important factor in the prosecution of the war. They provided the necessary expertise to allow the safe loading and unloading of vitally needed ammunition. The Explosives Loading Detachments taught the Vietnamese safe ammunition handling procedures which they will now have to use on their own.

Teaching was also an important factor in Aids to Navigation.

However, the Aids to Navigation personnel and ships succeeded in their primary duty of assisting the safe navigation of ships.

Merchant Marine Detail personnel helped keep the merchant vessels sailing by providing investigative services, judicial services, and diplomacy. They served the merchant sailor both afloat and ashore. Though normally in the background these officers were vital to the supply effort in Vietnam.

When the Coast Guard went to Vietnam it did not forget its training and tradition. The primary peacetime mission of the Coast Guard is the safety of life and property at sea. Frequently the cutters of RONONE and RONTHREE went to the aid of those in distress. In helping to relieve the sufferings of others the Coast Guard personnel in Vietnam conducted numerous MEDCAPs, Civic Action Programs, and distributed considerable quantities of food, clothing, toys, and love to those in need. The relieving of suffering will probably remain in the minds of the Vietnamese and Americans alike long after the battles have been forgotten.

APPENDIX I

EIGHTY-TWO FOOT PATROL BOATS ASSIGNED TO COAST GUARD SQUADRON ONE

	· ·
DIVISION ELEVEN	TURNOVER
USCGC POINT BANKS (WPB 82327)	26 May 1970
USCGC POINT CLEAR (WPB 82315)	15 September 1969
USCGC POINT COMFORT (WPB 82317)	17 November 1969
USCGC POINT GARNET (WPB 82310)	16 May 1969
USCGC POINT GLOVER (WPB 82307)	14 February 1970
USCGC POINT GREY (WPB 82324)	14 July 1970
USCGC POINT MARONE (WPB 82331)	15 August 1970
USCGC POINT MAST (WPB 82316)	16 June 1970
USCGC POINT YOUNG (WPB 82303)	16 March 1970
DIVISION TWELVE	
USCGC POINT ARDEN (WPB 82309)	14 February 1970
USCGC POINT CAUTION (WPB 82301)	29 April 1970
USCGC POINT DUME (WPB 82325)	14 February 1970
USCGC POINT ELLIS (WPB 82330)	9 December 1969
USCGC POINT GAMMON (WPB 82328)	11 November 1969
USCGC POINT LOMAS (WPB 82321)	26 May 1970
USCGC POINT ORIENT (WPB 82319)	14 July 1970
USCGC POINT WELCOME (WPB 82329)	29 April 1970

DIVISION THIRTEEN

USCGC POINT CYPRESS (WPB 82326)

USCGC POINT GRACE (WPB 82323)

USCGC POINT HUDSON (WPB 82322)

USCGC POINT JEFFERSON (WPB 82306)

USCGC POINT KENNEDY (WPB 82320)

USCGC POINT LEAGUE (WPB 82304)

USCGC POINT PARTRIDGE (WPB 82305)

USCGC POINT SLOCUM (WPB 82313)

USCGC POINT WHITE (WPB 82308)

TURNOVER DATE

15 August 1970

16 June 1970

11 December 1969

21 February 1970

16 March 1970

16 May 1969

27 March 1970

11 December 1969

12 January 1970

APPENDIX II

HIGH ENDURANCE CUTTERS ASSIGNED TO COAST GUARD SQUADRON THREE 4 May 1967 to 31 January 1972

FIRST DEPLOYMENT

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
USCGC BARATARIA (WHEC 381)	4 May 67 - 25 Dec 67
USCGC HALF MOON (WHEC 378)	4 May 67 - 29 Dec 67
USCGC YAKUTAT (WHEC 380)	4 May 67 - 1 Jan 68
USCGC GRESHAM (WHEC 387)	4 May 67 - 28 Jan 68
USCGC BERING STRAIT (WHEC 382)	4 May 67 - 18 Feb 68
SECOND DEPLOYM	MENT
USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68)	4 Dec 67 - 4 Aug 68
USCGC DUANE (WHEC 33)	4 Dec 67 - 28 Jul 68
USCGC CAMPBELL (WHEC 32)	14 Dec 67 - 12 Aug 68
USCGC MINNETONKA (WHEC 67)	5 Jan 68 - 29 Sep 68
USCGC WINONA (WHEC 65)	25 Jan 68 - 17 Oct 68
THIRD DEPLOYM	ENT
USCGC BIBB (WHEC 31)	4 Jul 68 - 28 Feb 69
USCGC INCHAM (WHEC 35)	16 Jul 68 - 3 Apr 69
USCGC OWASCO (WHEC 39)	23 Jul 68 - 21 Mar 69
USCGC WACHUSETT (WHEC 44)	10 Sep - 1 Jun 69
USCGC WINNEBAGO (WHEC 40)	20 Sep 68 - 19 Jul 69

FOURTH DEPLOYMENT

USCGC SPENCER (WHEC 36)	11 Feb 69 - 30 Sep 69
USCGC MENDOTA (WHEC 69)	28 Feb 69 - 3 Nov 69
USCGC SEBAGO (WHEC 42)	2 Mar 69 - 16 Nov 69
USCGC TANEY (WHEC 37)	14 May 69 - 31 Jan 70
USCGC KLAMATH (WHEC 66)	7 Jul 69 - 3 Apr 70

FIFTH DEPLOYMENT

USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715)	1 Nov 69 - 25 May 70
USCGC DALLAS (WHEC 716)	3 Nov 69 - 19 Jun 70
USCGC CHASE (WHEC 718)	6 Dec 69 - 28 May 70
USCGC MELLON (WHEC 717)	31 Mar 70 - 2 Jul 70
USCGC PONTCHARTRAIN (WHEC 70)	9 May 70 - 3 Sep 70

SIXTH DEPLOYMENT

USCGC SHERMAN (WHEC	720)	22 Apr	70, =	25 Dec	70	
USCGC BERING STRAIT	(WHEC 382)	17 May	70 -	31 Dec	70 *	**
USCGC YAKUTAT (WHEC	380)	17 May	70 -	31 Dec	70 *	**

SEVENTH DEPLOYMENT

USCGC RUSH (WHEC	723)	28 Oct 70 - 15 Jul 71
USCGC MORGENTHAU	(WHEC 722)	6 Dec 70 - 31 Jul 71

EIGHTH DEPLOYMENT

USCGC CASTLE ROCK (WHEC 383)	9 Jul 71 - 21 Dec 71 *
USCGC COOK INLET (WHEC 384)	2 Jul 71 - 21 Dec 71 *

- * Turned over to the Government of South Vietnam
- ** Second deployment

APPENDIX III

OTHER COAST GUARD CUTTERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

BUOY TENDERS

USCGC BASSWOOD (WLB 388)

USCGC BLACKHAW (WLB 390)

USCGC IRONWOOD (WLB 297)

USCGC PLANETREE (WLB 307)

CARGO VESSEL

USCGC NETTLE (WAK 169)

APPENDIX IV

COAST GUARD SQUADRON ONE STATISTICS

27 May 1965 - 15 August 1970

Miles Cruised	4,215,116
Vessels detected	838,299
Vessels boarded	236,396
Vessels Inspected	283,527
NGFS missions conducted	4,461
Personnel detained	10,286
Enemy KIA/WIA	1,055
USCG KIA	7.
USCG WIA	53
Vessels damaged/destroyed	1,811
Structures damaged/destroyed	4,727

APPENDIX V

COAST GUARD SQUADRON THREE STATISTICS (1)

4 April 1967 to 31 January 1972

Miles cruised	1,292,094
Percent of time underway	62.6
Market Time patrols	205
Vessels detected	69,517
Vessels inspected	50,000
Vessels boarded	1,094
Personnel detained	138
NGFS missions conducted	1,368
Rounds fired	77,036
Structures destroyed	2,612
Structures damaged	2,676
Enemy KIA	529
Enemy WIA	243
Underway replenishments	1,153
Vertical replenishments	87
Small craft replenishments	1,516
Civic Action Projects	20 *
Medical Civil Action Program	131

* Data incomplete

^{1.}S. Coast Guard Squadron Three (Subic Bay, Philippines: U.S. Coast Guard Squadron Three, 1972(?), Extract.

APPENDIX VI

MAJOR TRAWLER ENGAGEMENTS INVOLVING U.S. COAST GUARD UNITS

10 May 1966

Trawler destroyed: POINT GREY, POINT CYPRESS

20 June 1966

Trawler captured: POINT LEAGUE, POINT SLOCUM, POINT HUDSON

14 March 1967

Trawler destroyed: POINT ELLIS

15 July 1967

Trawler captured: POINT ORIENT

29 February - 1 March 1968

- 1. Trawler destroyed: ANDROSCOGGIN, POINT WELCOME, POINT GREY
- 2. Trawler destroyed: WINONA, POINT GRACE, POINT MARONE, POINT HUDSON
- 3. Trawler destroyed: WPB's (names unknown)
- 4. Trawler turned back: MINNETONKA

21 November 1970

Trawler destroyed: RUSH, SHERMAN

11-12 April 1971

Trawler destroyed: RUSH, MORGENTHAU

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GLOSSARY

ADCON - Administrative Control

ARL - Repair Ship

ARVN - Army of the Republic of Vietnam. Also soldier of same.

A to N - Aids to Navigation

CASREPT - Casualty Report

CHICOM - Chinese Communist

CHNAVADVGRPMACV - Chief, Naval Advisory Group, Military Assistance

Command Vietnam

CHOP - Change operational control

CIA - Captured in action

CINCPAC - Commander in Chief, Pacific

CINCPACFLT - Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet

CNO - Chief of Naval Operations

COMCOGARDRONONE - Commander Coast Guard Squadron One

COMCOGARDRONTHREE - Commander Coast Guard Squadron Three

COMNAVFORV - Commander Naval Forces Vietnam

COMUSMACV - Commander United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam

CONUS - A mythical island far away (Continental United States)

COTP - Captain of the Port

CTF - Commander Task Force

CTF 115 - Commander Coastal Surveillance Forces

CTG - Commander Task Group

CTG 70.8 - Cruiser-Destroyer Group Seventh Fleet

CZ - Coastal Zone

ELD - Explosives Loading Detachment

H & I - Harrassment and Interdiction

KIA - Killed in action

LCM/LCU - Landing craft

MACV - Military Assistance Command Vietnam

MEDCAP - Medical Civil Action Program

MEDEVAC - Medical Evacuation

MMD - Merchant Marine Detail

MSTS - Military Sealift Command

NAVADVGRP - Naval Advisory Group

NAVAID - Navigational aid

NBC - Nuclear Biological Chemical Warfare

NGFS - Naval Gunfire Support

NVA - North Vietnamese Army

PCF - Patrol Craft, fast

POB - Persons on Board

PSYOPS - Psychological warfare operations

PSYWAR - Psychological warfare

ROK - Republic of Korea

RONONE - Coast Guard Squadron One

RONTHREE - Coast Guard Squadron Three

RVN - Republic of South Vietnam

SCGOV - Senior Coast Guard Officer Vietnam

SOPA - Senior Office present afloat

SOPA ADMIN - Administrative deputy to SOPA

SRO - Standing Room Only

TAD - Temporary Additional Duty

UNREP - Underway replenishment

USSF - United States Special Forces

VC - Viet Cong

VERTREP - Vertical or helicopter replenishment

VNN - South Vietnamese Navy

VS - South Vietnam

WAK - Small Coast Guard transport

WHEC - Coast Guard high endurance cutter

WIA - Wounded in action

WLB - Coast Guard large buoy tender

WPB - Coast Guard patrol boat