



U.S. Coast Guard History Program

USCG in Vietnam Chronology

- 16 February 1965- A 100-ton North Vietnamese trawler unloading munitions on a beach in South Vietnam's Vung Ro Bay is discovered by a US Army helicopter. The Vung Ro Incident led to the creation of the OPERATION MARKET TIME coastal surveillance program to combat Communist maritime infiltration of South Vietnam.
- 16 April 1965- Secretary of the Navy Paul Nitze asks Secretary of the Treasury Henry Fowler for Coast Guard assistance in the Navy's efforts to combat seaborne infiltration and supply of the Vietcong from North Vietnam
- 29 April 1965-President Lyndon Johnson committed the USCG to service in Vietnam under the Navy Department's operational control. Announcement of formation of Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE)
- 27 May 1965- Commissioning of Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE)
- 12 June 1965- Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) comes under the command of Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet (CINPACFLT)
- 16 July 1965- Division 12, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) departs Subic Bay, Philippines for Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam
- 20 July 1965- Division 12, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) arrives at Da Nang
- 21 July 1965- Coast Guard OPERATION MARKET TIME patrolling begins with 5 WPBs deployed along the DMZ
- 24 July 1965- Division 11, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) departs Subic Bay, Philippines for An Thoi, Phu Quoc Island, Republic of Vietnam
- 30 July 1965- Commander, Task Force 115 (CTF 115) (MARKET TIME) established
- 31 July 1965- Division 11, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) arrives at An Thoi.

19 September 1965- *Point Glover* (WPB 82307) makes first capture of a Vietcong junk

21 September 1965- CTF 115 orders white hulls of WPBs to be painted gray

29 October 1965- Secretary Nitze requests additional USCG WPBs for patrol duties in Vietnam

12 December 1965- Division 13, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) established

18 February 1966- Division 13, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) departs Subic Bay, Philippines for Cat Lo, Republic of Vietnam

22 February 1966- Division 13, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) arrives at Cat Lo

10 May 1966- Trawler destroyed: *Point Grey* (WPB 82324), *Point Cypress* (WPB82326) largest Vietcong infiltration attempt since Vung Ro Incident.

4 June 1966- Explosive Loading Detachments (ELD) 1 & 2 arrive in Vietnam and are attached to US Army logistical commands.

20 June 1966- Trawler captured: *Point League* (WPB 82304), *Point Slocum* (WPB 82313), *Point Hudson* (WPB 82322)

11 August 1966- LTJG David C. Brostrom, commanding officer of *Point Welcome* (WPB 82329) and EN2 Jerry Phillips were killed in a friendly fire incident when the cutter was attacked by a US Air Force aircraft while on patrol in the waters near the mouth of the Cua Viet River, about three-quarters of a mile south of the DMZ. BMC Richard Patterson saved the cutter and the surviving crew at great risk to himself. He was awarded a Bronze Star with the combat "V" device for his actions.

2 September 1966- LORAN-C Station at Con Son is commissioned as part of OPERATION TIGHT REIGN

15 October 1966 - US Coast Guard Port Security & Waterways Detail arrives in Vietnam.

28 October 1966- LORAN-C Station at Con Son becomes fully operational.

1 January 1967- Trawler destroyed: *Point Gammon* (WPB 82328)

14 March 1967- Trawler destroyed: *Point Ellis* (WPB 82330)

24 April 1967- At Navy request, five USCG high endurance cutters are commissioned as Coast Guard Squadron Three (RONTHREE) at Pearl Harbor

15 May 1967- Coast Guard Squadron Three (RONTHREE) begins MARKET TIME patrolling

22 May 1967- USCGC *Barataria* (WHEC 381) fires the first WHEC naval gunfire support mission NGFS

15 July 1967- Trawler captured: *Point Orient* (WPB 82319)

29 February-1 March 1968 (Largest Naval Engagement of the War)

1. Trawler destroyed: *Androscoggin* (WPG 68), *Point Welcome* (WPB 82329), *Point Grey* (WPB 8282324)
2. Trawler destroyed: *Winona* (WPG 65), *Point Grace* (WPB 82323), *Point Marone* (WPB 82331), *Point Hudson* (WPB 82322)
3. Trawler destroyed: CG units not involved
4. Trawler turned back: *Minnetonka* (WPG 67)

3 April 1968- USCG helicopter pilots arrive to fly combat SAR missions with the Air Force.

9 June 1968- LT Jack C. Rittichier while flying with the Air Force's 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron (ARRS) is shot down in an attempt to rescue a downed Marine A-4 pilot. For his efforts Rittichier was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)

1 July 1968- Merchant Marine Detail Saigon established at the US Embassy

5 December 1968- FN Heriberto S. Hernandez, of *Point Cypress* (WPB-82326), was killed in action during small boat operations on the Ca Mau Peninsula.

22 March 1969- ENC Morris S. Beeson, on *Point Orient* (WPB 82319), was killed in action during a boarding.

9 August 1969- LTJG Michael W. Kirkpatrick, executive officer of *Point Arden* (WPB 82309) and EN1 Michael H. Painter were killed in action by a mortar explosion on board the cutter.

15 August 1969- LORAN-C Station at Tan My becomes fully operational.

15 August 1970- the last two cutters of the Coast Guard Squadron One (RON ONE), *Point Marone* (WPB 82331) and *Point Cypress* (WPB 82326) are transferred to the Vietnamese Navy and Division 13 and Coast Guard Squadron One (RON ONE) are disestablished

21 November 1970- Trawler destroyed: *Rush* (WHEC 723), *Sherman* (WHEC 720)

11-12 April 1971- Trawler destroyed: *Rush* (WHEC 723), *Morgenthau* (WHEC 722)

21 December 1971- Last two cutters of Coast Guard Squadron Three (RON THREE), USCGC *Cook Inlet* (WHEC 384) and USCGC *Castle Rock* (WHEC 383) are decommissioned and transferred to the Vietnamese Navy

31 January 1972- Coast Guard Squadron Three (RON THREE) is disestablished

22 January 1973- Con Son and Tan My LORAN Stations disestablished.

5 February 1973- Senior Coast Guard Officer Vietnam (SCGOV) disestablished.

1 May 1973- Merchant Marine Detachment, Saigon, Republic of Vietnam disestablished.

5 May 1973- Last USCG personnel assigned to Vietnam depart for the United States.

30 April 1975- Con Son LORAN station disestablished.

