

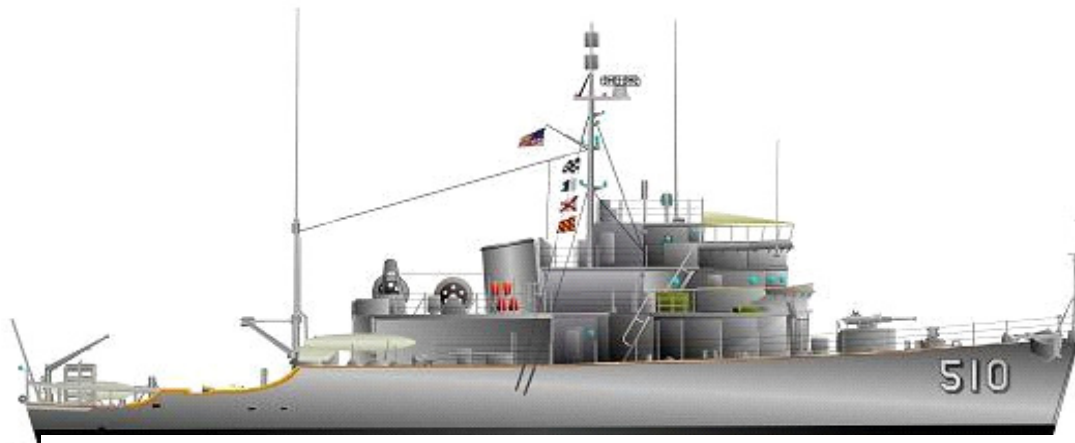


On Station

YANKEE TEAM & MARKET TIME

USS *Mattaponi*, AO-41—1942-1972

*SS Kalkay - Mattie - Mad Mattie - Mad Poni -
USNS Marine Serpent - Angel of Market Time*



USS Advance MSO-510*

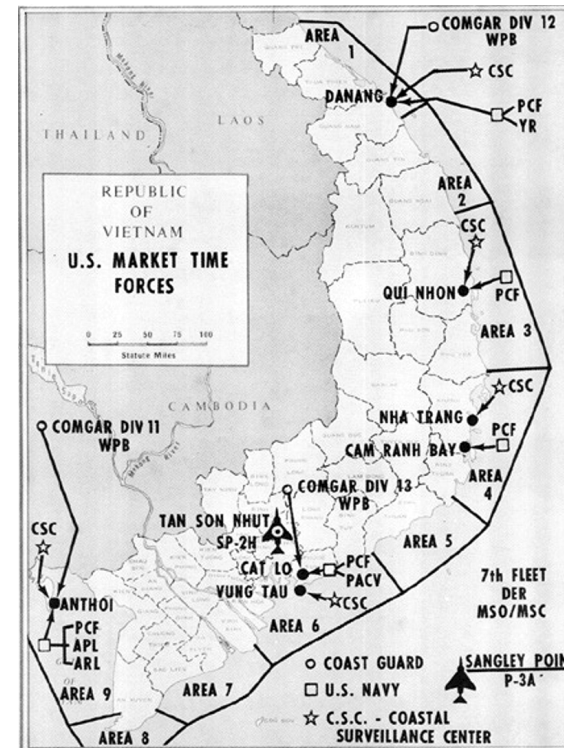
MSO's involved in Operation Market Time Patrols

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| USS Conflict MSO-426 | USS Implicit MSO-455 |
| USS Constant MSO-427* | USS Inflict MSO-456 |
| USS Dynamic MSO-432 | USS Loyalty MSO-457* |
| USS Engage MSO-433 | USS Pivot MSO-463 |
| USS Embattle MSO-434 | USS Pluck MSO-464 |
| USS Endurance MSO-435 | USS Prime MSO-466 |
| USS Energy MSO-436* | USS Reaper MSO-467 |
| USS Ehance MSO-437 | USS Conquest MSO-488 |
| USS Esteem MSO-438 | USS Gallant MSO-489 |
| USS Excel MSO-439 | USS Leader MSO-490 |
| USS Firm MSO-444 | USS Persistent MSO-491 |
| USS Force MSO-445 | USS Pledge MSO-492 |
| USS Fortify MSO-446 | USS Acme MSO-508 |
| USS Impervious MSO-449 | USS Advance MSO-510* |

*MSO's refueled by *Mattaponi AO-41* on first run 1966



Crew from USS Loyalty MSO-457* board and search a junk and sampan while on a Market Time Patrol.



MSO-minesweeper ocean

Wood hull construction
Compliment — 80 men
Length — 172 ft.
Speed 14 kts
Twin 20 mm mounts.



USS Albatross MSC-289 on Market Time Patrol

MSC-minesweeper coastal

Non-metallic construction: wood hull, stainless steel, aluminum, bronze fittings, and a bronze engine.
Complement 50
Length 144 ft.
Speed 13 kts.
Two 50 cal. Machine guns, and one 81 mm mortar.

If you check *Mattaponi* and *Albatross's* refueling location on the maps on the next two pages, you'll see that we are on station near the outer boundary of Market Time Area 9.

legal paper (8.5" X 14") landscape mode

YANKEE TEAM
US Air force-US Navy
Secret Air War
In LAOS

PLAIN OF JARS

USS Mattaponi AO-41 1966-67 Deployment - 1st run

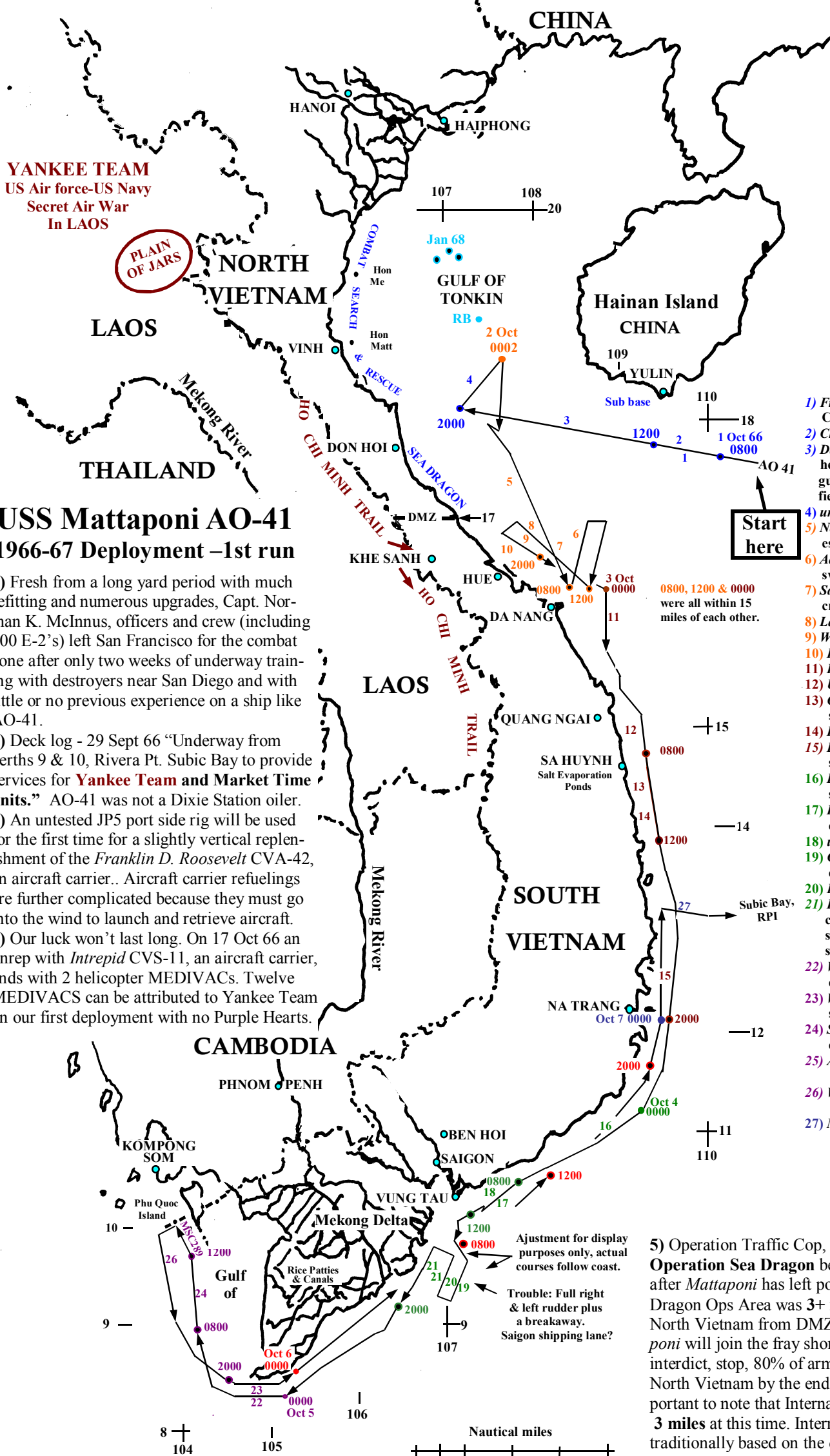
- 1) Fresh from a long yard period with much refitting and numerous upgrades, Capt. Norman K. McInnus, officers and crew (including 100 E-2's) left San Francisco for the combat zone after only two weeks of underway training with destroyers near San Diego and with little or no previous experience on a ship like AO-41.
- 2) Deck log - 29 Sept 66 "Underway from berths 9 & 10, Rivera Pt. Subic Bay to provide services for **Yankee Team** and **Market Time units**." AO-41 was not a Dixie Station oiler.
- 3) An untested JP5 port side rig will be used for the first time for a slightly vertical replenishment of the *Franklin D. Roosevelt* CVA-42, an aircraft carrier. Aircraft carrier refuelings are further complicated because they must go into the wind to launch and retrieve aircraft.
- 4) Our luck won't last long. On 17 Oct 66 an unrep with *Intrepid* CVS-11, an aircraft carrier, ends with 2 helicopter MEDIVACs. Twelve MEDIVACS can be attributed to Yankee Team on our first deployment with no Purple Hearts.

Ship's Navigator determines ship's location three times a day. After breakfast, at noon, and at 2000 before retiring for the night.

- 0000 estimated
- 0800
- 1200
- 2000
- Repel Boarders Tet 68

Ships Refueled

- 1) *Franklin D. Roosevelt* CVA-42, aircraft carrier.
- 2) *Chandler* DD-717, destroyer.
- 3) *Dale* DLG-19, destroyer w/ helicopter landing pad, and guided missiles. Later classified as a cruiser, CG-19.
- 4) un-named.
- 5) *Newell* DER-322, destroyer escort, radar.
- 6) *Advance* MSO-510, minesweeper, ocean.
- 7) *Saint Paul* CA-73, heavy cruiser.
- 8) *Larson* DD-830, destroyer.
- 9) *Walke* DD-723, destroyer.
- 10) *Repose* AH-16, hospital ship.
- 11) *Hanson* DD-832, destroyer.
- 12) *Uhlmann* DD-687, destroyer.
- 13) *Constant* MSO-427 minesweeper, ocean.
- 14) *Hull* DD-945, destroyer.
- 15) *Energy* MSO-436, minesweeper, ocean.
- 16) *Loyalty* MSO-457 minesweeper, ocean.
- 17) *Hissen* DER-400, destroyer escort, radar.
- 18) un-named.
- 19) *Camp* DER-351, destroyer escort, radar.
- 20) *Buckley* DD-808, destroyer.
- 21) *Epping Forrest* MCS 7, mine countermeasure support ship, Ex LSD-4, minesweeper "mother ship."
- 22) *Wilhoite* DER 397, destroyer escort, radar.
- 23) *Warbler* MSC-206, minesweeper, coastal.
- 24) *Savage* DER-386, destroyer escort, radar.
- 25) *Albatross* MSC-289, minesweeper, coastal.
- 26) *Vega* AF-59, provisions store ship.
- 27) *Neches* AO-47, fleet oiler, sister ship to *Mattaponi*.



Start here

0800, 1200 & 0000 were all within 15 miles of each other.

Ajustment for display purposes only, actual courses follow coast.

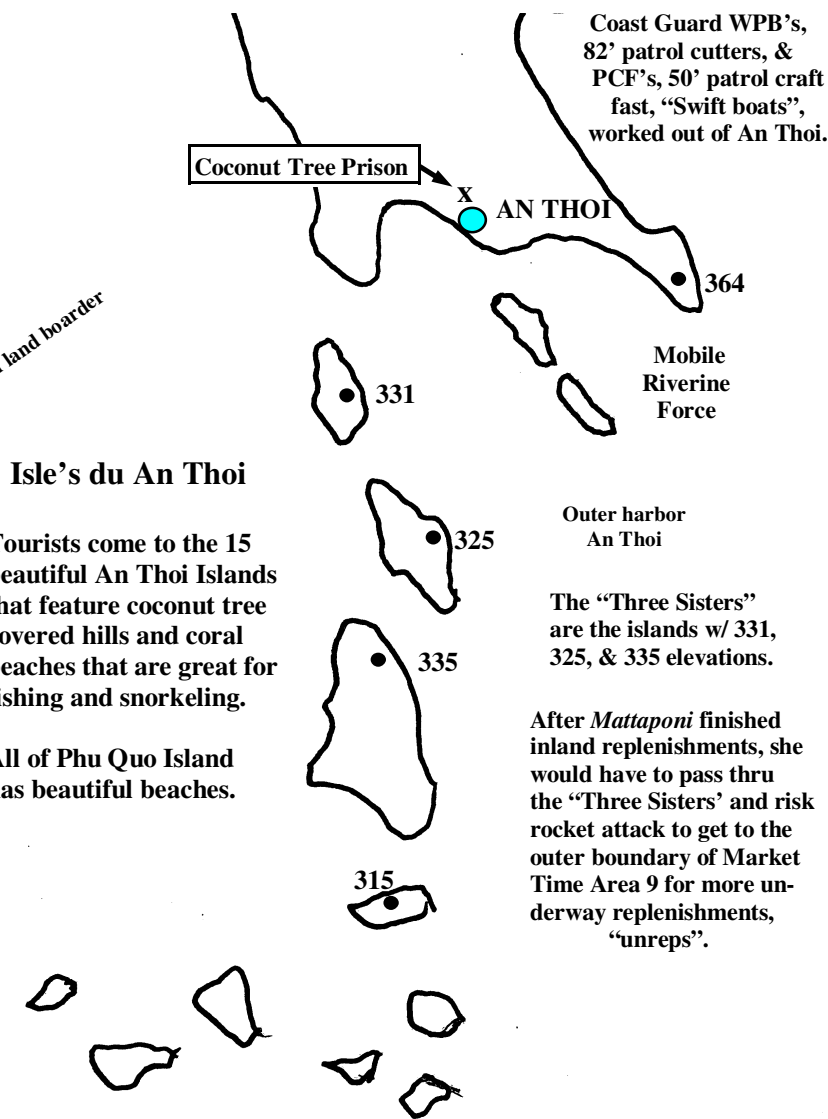
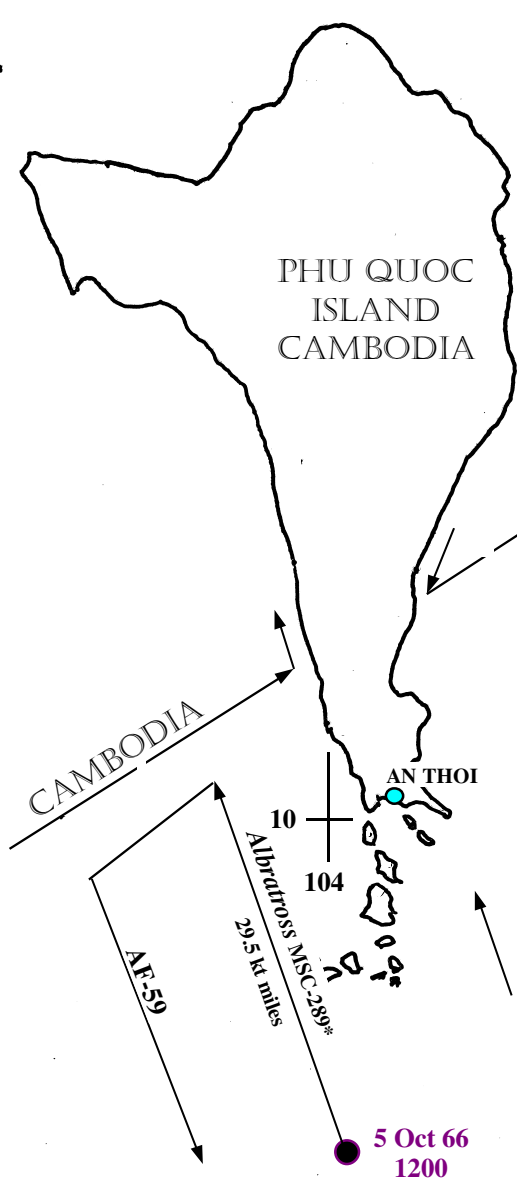
Trouble: Full right & left rudder plus a breakaway. Saigon shipping lane?

5) Operation Traffic Cop, predecessor to **Operation Sea Dragon** begins on 1 Oct 66 after *Mattaponi* has left port. Operation Sea Dragon Ops Area was **3+ miles** off the coast of North Vietnam from DMZ to Don Hoi. *Mattaponi* will join the fray shortly. *Sea Dragon* ships interdict, stop, 80% of arms coming across from North Vietnam by the end of the year. Its important to note that International waters were **3 miles** at this time. International waters were traditionally based on the distance a shore based canon could defend. *Sea Dragon* ships were hit. By the start of AO-41's 67-68 deployment, International waters were extended to **6 miles**. By 68-69 deployment they were extended to **12 miles**, thanks to Russian radar guided artillery. Known shore based targets were out of bounds until the Russians had moved on to their next site. *Sea based targets were always on*. *Sea Dragon* made the Ho Chi Minh Trail famous.

Market Time patrol ships board and search suspicious vessels for ammunition, and other war materials.

If they run, Market Time units are forced to take them under fire. **Night time curfew rules**, if they move, units are forced to take them under fire.

Market Time patrol ships refueled 1st run:
MSC's minesweeper, coastal.
MSO's minesweeper, ocean.
DER's destroyer escort, radar.



Skipping ahead

Coconut Tree Prison

First of all I'd like to point out that Viet Cong and NVA captured by Market Time Forces, (POW's) were turned over to the South Vietnam Junk Force for further disposition.

The Coconut Tree Prison (South Vietnam POW Camp) was a hot, nasty, and brutal place. Over 40,000 POW's were held there. This place was like GITMO on steroids. South Vietnam leased the land from Cambodia. Cambodia's claim to the Isle's du An Thoi was based on the area being its only foul weather port. The deal was done by South Vietnam.

The USA built Cambodia a foul weather port at Kompong Som, "Sihanoukville," with highways. King Sihanouk took advantage of the situation and provided safe harbor for enemy ships and boats smuggling war materials into South Vietnam. It became known as the Sihanouk Trail.—See The Vietnam Experience, A Contagion of War, map on next page.

Today Phu Quoc Island is part of Vietnam. The boarder is only 1 1/2 miles out around 85% of the island. International waters belong to Cambodia.

In the next edition of OS the maps will be about our longest run. It starts at the outer harbor, An Thoi, and runs north to near the 20th parallel, North Vietnam.—The crews of ships coming along side were allowed to board *Mattaponi* and shop at Ship's Store as usual for inland replenishments. The Ship's Store was open to Market Time ships while underway.

Command History of USS Mattaponi (AO-41) For Calendar Year 1968

“First line trip 1968 (12 Jan 68) saw her anchoring at An Thoi, on the Gulf of Siam and calling ships alongside at anchor for replenishment operations. Seven ship's were thus replenished before MATT weighed anchor and set off for a normal trip north along the Vietnamese coast through the areas of Market Time. This trip was completed on 18 Jan and she left again headed for Subic and arrived on the 20th.

The under lined entry is not only misleading, it's inaccurate. Navigator entrees posted on Deck Logs show on the 16 Jan 68 at 2000 a position of 19-24.4 N and 106-40.0 E, course 090 degrees in an unrep hold area, and again on 18 Jan 68 at 0800, a position of 19-30 N and 107-13.7 E, course 340 degrees and at 0836, course 0000, northwest and north.

On 28 Jan 68, at 1200 (*HIGH NOON*), position ● 19-38.4N and 107-06E.— Positions are marked on 1st map as ● 's. These are important because they mark some of the events that took place before Repel Boarders on 31 Jan 68. **RB**

The 1st day of the 1968 Tet Offensive.

ON STATION - Market Time

A Selective Blockade

11 Mar 1965 to Dec 1972

Task Force TF- 115

Not much stuff is written about the Market Time Areas off South Vietnam. Operation Market Time was originally about the soaring prices of rice in Saigon. Viet Cong tax collectors, “water born thugs”, were driving the economy. *Market Time* morphed into separating South Vietnam civilian commerce from commerce of war that originated in North Vietnam or China. Protecting fishermen and local commerce from pirates became a by-product of *Market Time*. Market Time Areas, with US ships, boats and aircraft connected together, formed a blockade over a thousand miles long. From 1 Oct 66 to the end of the year, *Sea Dragon* combined with *Market Time* interdicted 80% of all arms smuggled south into South Vietnam. *Mattaponi* used *Sea Dragon* as transportation from Combat search and rescue to Market Time Area 1—*Go Mattie, as known by our WW2 shipmates.*

Board and search was the backbone of *Market Time*. Some estimates have a craft boarded every 15 to 30 seconds. If this is true, it is up for debate. Command was always pressing for more and more craft to be boarded. One thing is for sure is that they had no problem observing a thousand craft under white sail. It is estimated there were over 100,000 boats under white sail loosely licensed in South Vietnam waters alone. Anyone of them could be an enemy that would like to fire a RPG (rocket propelled grenade) thru *Mattie’s* riveted thin hull.

Market Time units that boarded suspicious craft included a large selection of small boats, US ships and SVN Junk Force. The most notable US being: whale boats from DER’s, destroyer escort radar, PBR’s, patrol boats river, PCF’s, patrol craft fast, “Swift Boats,” MSO’s Minesweeper ocean, MSC’s Minesweeper coastal, 82 ft Coast Guard Cutters, Coast Guard Ships and PG’s patrol gunboats earlier known as PGM’s patrol gunboat motorized, as in our deck logs. MSR’s, minesweeper river, dragged chains and swept the Saigon River from the coast to Saigon twice daily, they were not refueled by *Mattaponi*.

Often WW2 Fletcher Class destroyers, DD,s, off SVN have been included as *Market Time* ships, not so. They operated in *Market Time* waters and they were part of inland fire support known as the “gun line.” Three rocket ship’s were LSMR’s, landing ship medium, rocket. The 4th, IFS-1, inland fire support, was built as a rocket ship from the keel up. The all gun CA’s, heavy cruisers, were refueled on the “gun line.”

Market Time Area 1 —Support our marines

Priority 1 –Refuel hospital ships with black oil and JP4 helicopter fuel, highline bottled gasses and cargo. Support ships of the Marine Amphibious Ready Group, ARG, ships included LPH’s, landing platform helicopter (old aircraft carriers), LSD’s, landing ship dock with helicopter pad and hanger could carry a six pack of Swift Boats. LST’s, landing ship tank, booms were extended and used for boarding PBR’s and other small craft by knotted line (rope). The “gun line” begins just south of the DMZ along with MSO’s and DER’s.

Moving south - Operation Game Warden, Task Force TF-116, LST’s go up river to launch and repair PBR’s. They used radar at night to enforce night time curfew rules, hunted VC tax collectors, boarded and searched sampans, supported land troops, and a host of other missions such as aiding civilians with transportation to nearest medical help. More MSO’s, MSC’s, DER’s and the “gun line” also need replenishment.

Moving northwest – Phu Quoc Island – Operation Mobile Riverine Force TF-117. The Flag ship, USS Krishna, ARL-38, was a converted LST. *Mattie* continued her support for MSO’s, MSC’s, DER’s, AGTR’s, communication upgrade ships and the “gun line.” Swift Boats and WPB’s, 82 ft. Coast Guard Cutters worked out of An Thoi, Phu Quoc Island.

ON STATION - Yankee Team

US Air Force and US Navy

Secret Air War in Laos

16 May 1964 to 1973

Photo reconnaissance flights over the Plain of Jars supporting the Kingdom of Laos during the Laos Civil War quickly escalated into bombing missions, known as Operation Yankee Team. *Yankee Team* also included bombing of the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Yankee Team (Navy) was the launching point for aircraft missions crossing North Vietnam into Laos. Fighter bombers required JP5 jet fuel in order to get the best performance out of their aircraft. A-4’s, propeller driven aircraft armed with a heavy load of bombs, missiles, and cannon could loiter for extended periods. Known as “Sandies,” they were the shot callers in search and rescue protocols. — **See *Mattaponi* movie.**



Notice how unexploded bombs destroyed jars to the left and the right —a common site.

The Plain of Jars consists of over 90 sites of megalithic giant stone jars. The sites varied from 1 to over 300 stone jars and have been dated from 500 BC to 500 AD. The jars are made from solid rock.

Archaeologists believe they were originally used as burial urns, later in the salt trade from **Sa Huynh***, salt evaporation ponds, SVN. Locals believe they were used for brewing alcohol and water collection.

Don’t go wandering in this area!

Unexploded bombs are the legacy of Yankee Team

National Geographic, August 2015, *Life After the Bombs* by T.D. Allman, shows a map of bombing sites in Laos, *A Reign of Bombs*. It begins in the Plain of Jars and moves southward on the Ho Chi Minh Trail to Cambodia.

National Geographic: The U.S. dropped more than 2 million tons of bombs on Laos, that’s equal to a plane load every 8 minutes for nine years. The U.S. spent \$13.3 million a day conducting the air war over Laos. In 2014 U.S. spent \$12 million clearing unexploded ordnance from the war. During the bombing women used their expertise in embroidery and quilting to depict the catastrophe that fell out of the sky on them. With their images of bleeding children, burning crops, and terrified animals their wall-size works of art are the Laotian equivalents of Pablo Picasso’s “Guernica”. In total the U.S. dropped more than 270 million cluster bomblets, as well as four million big bombs. Possibly 80 million of the bombies, (Lao speak) didn’t explode on impact and are considered to be live. Up to 10% of the big bombs also failed to explode.

One out of ten bombing missions across the most dangerous airspace in history was for naught.

Sa Huynh —At 20:22, 17 Feb 67— After refueling Market Time Area 1 ships, *Mattie* anchored in a bay surrounded by mountains near the salt evaporation ponds. The **Engineering plant is CASREPED**, we are D.I.W. (dead in the water). The Marine Amphibious Ready Group was involved in Operation Deck House 6. The *White River* and *Clarion River*, rocket ships, were anchored off our bow and stern. Every time a helicopter approached our bow and turned on its lights we were under rocket attack. The VC were unable to fire more than 2 rockets at us before *White River* and *Clarion River* took out their sites which was witnessed by the highline.— One hundred twenty five rockets were fired by the rocket ships that night.