

## ARCHIVES PROCESSING NOTE

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The original withdrawal sheets are in a mylar sleeve in the front of the folder. We have retained them in the file so that you can see the status of the documents when the folder was opened and the history of their declassification. Please replace the sheets in the mylar sleeve when you have finished examining them.

April 23, 2014

**LBJ LIBRARY DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL SHEET**

<u>Doc #</u>	<u>DocType</u>	<u>Doc Info</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Restriction</u>
1b	cable	Intelligence cable - Sanitized, 3/27/03	S-	1	8/4/64	A
1c	cable	Intelligence cable - Sanitized, 3/27/03 dup., #200c, National Security File, NSC History, "Presidential Decisions, Gulf of Tonkin, Volume 1," Box 38 and #85, NSF, Country File, Vietnam, "Operation Pierce Arrow," Box 228	S-	1	8/5/64	A
1d	cable	Intelligence cable - Sanitized, 3/27/03 near dup., #92, NSF, Country File, Vietnam, "Operation Pierce Arrow," Box 228	S-	1	8/5/64	A
1e	cable	Intelligence cable - Sanitized, 3/27/03	S-	1	8/3/64	A
1f	cable	Intelligence cable - Sanitized, 3/27/03	S-	1	8/3/64	A
1g	cable	Intelligence cable - Sanitized, 3/27/03	S-	1	8/4/64	A
1h	cable	Intelligence cable - Sanitized, 3/27/03 dup., #200h, National Security File, NSC History, "Presidential Decisions, Gulf of Tonkin, Volume 1," Box 38 and #127, #128, NSF, Country File, Vietnam, "Operation Pierce Arrow," Box 228	S-	1	8/4/64	A

**Collection Title** National Security File, Country File, Vietnam

**Folder Title** "3 A (3) Gulf of Tonkin, 8/64"

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1i	cable	Intelligence cable - Sanitized, 3/27/03 dup., #200i, National Security File, NSC History, "Presidential Decisions, Gulf of Tonkin, Volume 1," Box38 and #123, NSF, Country File, Vietnam, "Operation Pierce Arrow," Box 228	S-	1	8/4/64	A

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5/29/2014

Initials

FILE: National Security Files, Country File, Vietnam, Gulf of Tonkin, 3 A (3)  
AGENCY:

<u>ITEM</u> <u>NOS.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO. OF</u> <u>PAGES</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>
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THE WHITE HOUSE

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FILE: National Security Files, Country File, Vietnam, Gulf of Tonkin, 3 A (3)  
 AGENCY: ~~Central Intelligence Agency~~

ITEM NO. OF  
 NOS. DATE PAGES CLASSIFICATION

ITEM NOS.	DATE	NO. OF PAGES	CLASSIFICATION
OPEN 3/27/03 NSJ/RAC 01-116 01a	Undated	1	Secret (Gp 1) Codeword
01b	08/04/64	1	Secret Codeword
01c	08/05/64	1	Secret Codeword
01d	08/05/64	1	Secret Codeword
01e	08/03/64	1	Secret Codeword
01f	08/03/64	1	Secret Codeword
01g	08/04/64	1	Secret Codeword
01h	08/04/64	1	Secret Codeword
01i	08/04/64	1	Secret Codeword

*all exempt 8-4-93 NLS 92-315*

*sanitized 3/27/03 NSJ/RAC 01-116*

*sanitized 2/27/03 NSJ/RAC 01-116*

*dup # 200c, NSF, NSC History, Gulf of Tonkin, Vol 1, Box 387 # 85 as below*

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*near dup # 92, NSF, Country File, Vietnam, "Operation Pierce Arrow" Box 228*

*sanitized 3/27/03 NSJ/RAC 01-116*

*sanitized 3/27/03 NSJ/RAC 01-116*

*sanitized 3/27/03 NSJ/RAC 01-116*

*dup # 200h, NSF, NSC History, Gulf of Tonkin, Vol 1, Box 387 # 122 & 128 as below*

*sanitized 3/27/03 NSJ/RAC 01-116*

*near dup # 200a, NSF, NSC History Gulf of Tonkin, Vol 1, Box 387 # 123 as above*

FILE: National Security Files, Country File, Vietnam, Gulf of Tonkin, 3 A (3)  
AGENCY: ~~Central Intelligence Agency~~

<u>ITEM</u> <u>NOS.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO. OF</u> <u>PAGES</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>
<del>02</del>	<del>08/10/64</del>	<del>18</del>	<del>Top Secret Codeword</del> <i>Security 225A 3-5-76</i> <i>Open NSA 2-13-06</i>

MEMORANDUM FOR:

*Bundy*

Last night the White House situation Room relayed a request from Mr. Bundy for all intercepts which preceded and related to the second attack on the Maddox and Turner Joy. The attached messages were selected by CIA and NSA.

*File*

8 August 1964  
                      
(DATE)

~~SECRET~~

SEA  
Code word  
1a

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CODE WORD MATERIAL

**WARNING**

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

NLJ/RAC 01-116

By Chu, NARA, Date 3/3/03

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AND DECLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~



DLA412

HDA190N  
KNA032

DNA 31

DVA705

DDA310

DZA319

REF437DRA190DNA574 .....

OO

DE [REDACTED] 63"04/1145Z AUG

3.4(b)(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

ZKZK NNN HHA DE

O 041143Z ZYH

FM USM 626J

TO GOLF ELEVEN/ ALFA

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

[REDACTED] AFSSO CONAD  
[REDACTED] AFSSO SAC  
[REDACTED] AFSSO TAC

PLUS COMTAIWANDEFCON/US

COMNAVFORJAPAN

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

[REDACTED]

USN 467N

ZEM

~~SECRET KIMBO~~

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

2/ [REDACTED] R12-64 SIGINT READINESR BRAVO, LANTERN, REPORT

NUMBER 8 ST 220

DESOTO MISSION FIXED BY DRV NAVY

AT 0910Z, HAIPHONG INFORMED VESSEL T142 OF DESOTO

DESTROYERS LOCATION: TIME 1345(GOLF) 106-1930E

19-36-23N.

0500

SANITIZED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ/RAC 01-116  
By cbm, NARA, Date 3-13-05

1

BD 8718 8718

ZIA

DLA530

DNA801

DDA424

DDRA33114BDNA683 \*\*\*\*\*

ZZ [REDACTED]

3.4(b)(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

DE [REDACTED] 22 05/0438Z AUG

ZKZK ZZ NRL NNN HHA DE

Z 050435Z ZYH

FM USM 626J

TO GOLF ELEVEN/ ALFA

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

[REDACTED] AFSSO CONAD  
[REDACTED] AFSSO SAC  
[REDACTED] AFSSO TAC

PLUS COMTAIWANDEFCON/US

COMNAVFORJAPAN

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

[REDACTED]

USN 467N

ZEM

~~TOP SECRET KIMBO~~

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

2/ [REDACTED] R18-64 SIGINT READINESS XCAVM, LANTER,

REPORT NR 18 ST 220

HAVE INDICATIONS THAT SWATOW PGM T-146 AND TWO ELEMENTS OF "MTB SQUADRON 135", WHICH ARE ANCHORED AT HON ME, ARE PREPACBJG TO ATTACK NIGHT 05 AUG.

0600

SANITIZED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ/RAC. 01-116  
By cbm, NARA, Date 3-13-03

1d

NUMCSC 1508/77

~~SECRET KIMBO~~

KNA135

DNA818

DVA799

DDA468

DZA473

DDRA340UEQ JJJJJSSSSS

ZZ

[REDACTED]

3.4(b)(1),(3)  
6.1(cc)

DE 32 05/0627Z AUG

ZKZSZZ NRL NNN HHA DE

Z 050625Z ZYH

FM USM 626J

TO GOLF ELEVEN/ ALFA

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(cc)

[REDACTED]

AFSSO CONAD  
AFSSO SAC  
AFSSO TAC

PLUSNBOMTAIWANDEF COM/US

COMNAVFORJAPAN

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(cc)

[REDACTED]

USN 467N

ZEM

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ/RAC 01-116  
By clm, NARA, Date 3-13-03

1

~~SECRET KIMBO~~

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(cc)

2/ [REDACTED] R19-64 SIGINT READINESS BRAVO, LANTERN, REPORT

NR 15 ST220

SWATOW PGM T142 INFORMED HAIPHONG AT 0538Z, 05 AUG, THAT

HEADQUARTERS GAVE ITIHNSPICIIFIED ORDERS TO BE

(TO EXECUTE) AT 1600 HOURS (GOLF) THE 5TH OF AUGUST.

THIS VESSEL PREVIOUSLY INFORMED HAIPHONG OF IMMINENT

ACTIONS BY SWATOW PGM T-146 AND 2 UNITS OF THE MTB SQUADRON

135" (SEE MY 2/ [REDACTED] R18-64 SRB, LANTERN, REPORT

NR 14)

3.4(b)(1),(3)  
6.1(cc)

~~SECRET KIMBO~~

1000

AUG 3 13 49 264

ED 7484--84

ZCZCKAB983REE155LAA959ZDA877AHL089

OO

[REDACTED]

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

DE

118B 03/1211Z AUG

ZKZK OO RNI NRL DE

O 031212Z ZYH

FM

[REDACTED]

3.4(b)(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

TO DIST QUEBEC/INDIA

USN-467N

ZEM

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ/RAC 01-116  
By cbm, NARA, Date 3-13-03

~~SECRET KIMBO~~

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

2/ [REDACTED] R36-64 SIGINT READINESS BRAVO, LANTERN, REPORT  
NUMBER 6.

POSSIBLE REFLECTION OF DRV AIR SURVEILLANCE OF DESOTO

1. AT 031018Z THE DRV MERCHANT CARGO THONG NHAT PASSED AN  
URGENT PRECEDENCE MESSAGE TO VIETNAVEIS NATH MARITIME TRANSP

SERVICE (VINAVIM) 031625 AT A DISTANCE OF 18 NAUTICAL  
MILES FROM [REDACTED] THERE ARE TWO ONE PROPELLER AIRPLANES

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

[REDACTED] 303 FROM THE DIRECTION ((THEY)) WILL FLY TO OBSERVE THE  
SHIP MANEUVERS, NAFFE THAT TO FLY DIRECTLY IN THE DIRECTION  
((THE SHIP)) WILL SNEAK. UNQTE.

2. AT 031026Z AHIPHONG (VOP) SENT THE FOLLOWING URGENT

PRECEDENCE MESSAGE TO CQ ADDRESSING THE VTB-1 (VXHD) TUG,  
VIET TRUNG (VXHF) TKR, AND DOAN KET (VXHG) CARGO:

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

QTE [REDACTED] SHORE TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST ENEMY AIRPLANES  
AND SHIPS QNQTE.

1

AUG 3 15 06 261

H

BD 7502 75022

KAB986EZCZCKAB986CLAA968 )\$-435SVA893LDA763SVA890ZDA622AHL103

OO

[Redacted]

3.4(b)(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

DE [Redacted] 139B 03/1328Z AUG

ZKZK OO RNI NN N NSD NRL DE

O 031330Z ZYH

KM

[Redacted]

3.4(b)(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

TO QUEBEC/INDIA

ZEM

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ/RAC 01-116  
By cbm, NARA, Date 3-13-03

1

~~SECRET KIMBO~~

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

2/ [Redacted] 35-64 ST220 SIGINT READINESS BRAVO, LANTERN, 430945  
NUMBER 7.

DRV NAVAL VESSEL RECIEVES INSTRUCTIONS TO SHADOW DESSOTO

1. AT 031205Z AN UNIDENT ENTITY SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE

TO THE T142; NR7. TO 142. AT 1634G HAVE TWO ENEMY ASJULT

VESSELS TO THE EAST OF HON ME BEARINR 060 DEGREES RANGE

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

20 ((NAUTICAL MILES)) HEAD ENG EAST. WAIT [Redacted] ((YOU))

MUST BE ABLE TO SHADOW CLOSELY. CONTINOUSLY COMMUNICATE

WITH HEADQUARTERS. I REPOSITGLN AND GRID EACH TIME.

KHAN

2#: AT 031257Z T142 SENDS TO HEADQUARTERS. ((I)) HAVE

RECIEVED ORDERS TO SHADOW. CHI

1088

ED8124....8124

JJJSSSSS

ZZ

DE

[REDACTED]

62 04/1141Z AUG

3.4(b)(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

ZKZK NNN HHA DE

Z 041140Z ZYH

FM USM 626J

TO GOLF ELEVEN/ ALFA

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

[REDACTED]

AFSSO CONAD

AFSSO SAC

AFSSO TAC

PLUS CONTAINWANDFCOM/US

COMNAVFORJAPAN

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

[REDACTED]

USN 467N

ZEN

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ/RAC 01-116  
By ebm, NARA, Date 3-13-03

~~SECRET KIMBO~~

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

[REDACTED] R11-64 SIGINT READINESS DRAGO, LANTERN,

REPORT NUMBER 7 ST 20

IMMINENT PLANS OF DRV NAVAL ACTION POSSIBLY AGAINST  
RESOTO MISSION.

HAIPHONG INFORMED VESSEL T142 (SWATOW CLASS) TO  
MAKE READY FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS THE NIGHT OF 04  
AUGUST. THE SISTER SHIP, T-146 HAS ALSO RECEIVED  
SIMILAR ORDERS.

MESSAGE EXCHANGES INDICATE THAT ALL EFFORTS ARE  
BEING MADE TO INCLUDE MTB T333 IN THIS OPERATION, AS  
SOON AS ADDITIONAL OIL CAN BE OBTAINED FOR  
THAT VESSEL.

ED 8255 .....8255

ZCZCKAB159LAA33 IZDA042PEOVL399 .....

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

ZZ [REDACTED]

DE [REDACTED] 173B 04/1630Z AUG

ZKZK ZZ RNI NNN NSD NRL DE

Z 041632Z ZYH

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

FM [REDACTED]

TO DIST QUEBEC/INDIA

PLUS USN 467N

ZEM

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NLJ/RAC 01-116  
By ebm, NARA, Date 3-13-03

~~SECRET KIMBO~~

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c)

2/ [REDACTED] R38-64 ST220 SIGNIT READINESS BRAVO, LANTERN, BRAVO

RDEORTSQUMBER 12

UNIDENT ENEMY AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN

1. AT 041554Z SUATOW CLASS PGM T-142 REPORTED TO MY DUC (19-52-45N

105-57E) THAT AN ENEMY AIRCRAFT WAS OBERVED FALLING IN TO THE

SEA. ENEMY VESSEL PERHAPS WOUNDED

1070

NNNN

BD 8258.....8258

ZCZ MB16CLAA332SVA593LAA891ZDA043 .....

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c) ZZ [REDACTED]

DE [REDACTED] 178B 04/1644Z AUG

ZKZK ZZ RNI NNN NSD NRL DE

Z 041646Z ZYH

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c) FM [REDACTED]

QUEBEC/INDIA

PLUS USN 467N

ZEM

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ/RAC 01-116  
By cbm, NARA, Date 3-13-03

~~SECRET KIMBO~~

3.4(b)  
(1),(3)  
6.1(c) 2/ [REDACTED] R39-64 ST 220 SIGINT SS BRAVO HUNTER, BRAVO

REPORT NUMBER 13

DRV REPORTS SHOOTING AT TWO ENEMY AIRCRAFT

1. SWATOW CLASS PGM T-142 REPORTED TO NY DUC (10-02-45N  
105-57E) 051550Z TOI THAT WE SHOT AT TWO ENEMY AIRPLANES  
AND AT LEAST ONE WAS DAVAGED. WE SACRIFICED TWO COMRADES  
BUT ALL ARE BRAVE AND RECONGNIZE OUR OBLIGATION

0990



~~TOP SECRET~~ - COMINT

10 August 1964

File  
s

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: Chronology of Events on Desota Patrol and Incidents  
Involving the Maddox and Turney Joy

Attached is a memorandum for record developed by Colonel Steakley's people, pulling together the timing of 34A actions and the incidents in the Gulf of Tonkin. With respect to the latter, the intercepts from the DRV, as well as the key messages from our own forces, have been included.

The evidence in these messages makes the hostile intent of the DRV during the 2-4 August period unmistakable. Following the attack on the 2d of August, the DRV again began to concentrate their forces and to track the US vessels. On 4 August, two Swatow boats were told to prepare for operations that night. The Maddox had this information, and when the ships approached on hostile tracks, the action began.

I understand that some additional COMINT sifting still is underway. If these investigations turn up anything new or different--and I learn of it--I will pass it on to you.

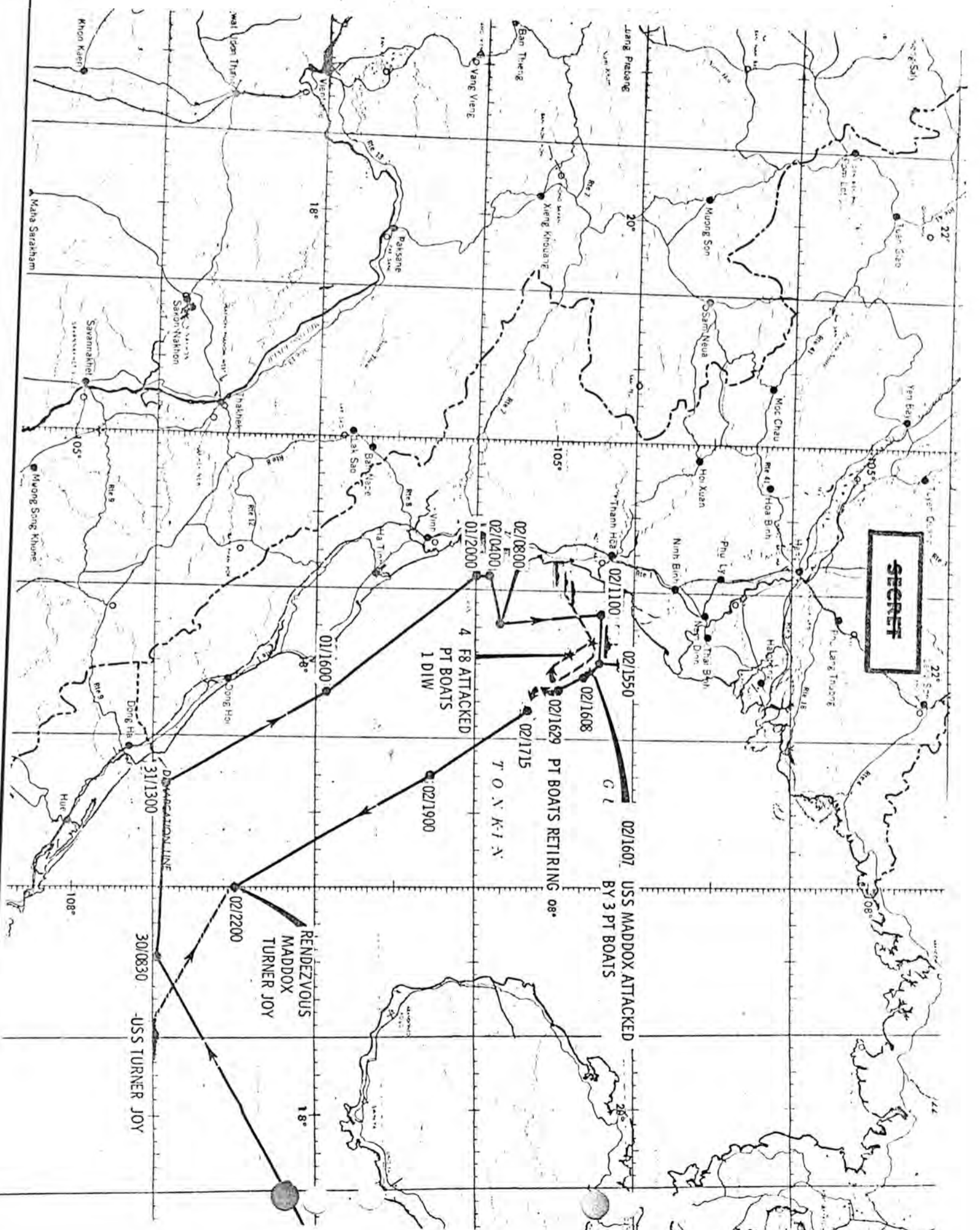
WY. SMITH

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NSA 2-13-06  
By JOL, NARA, Date 7-27-06

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~~TOP SECRET~~ - COMINT

**SECRET**



02/1100  
02/1150  
02/1607 USS MADDOX ATTACKED BY 3 PT BOATS

02/1608  
02/1629 PT BOATS RETIRING 08°

02/1715  
T O N K-I N

02/0800  
02/0400  
01/2000  
4 F8 ATTACKED PT BOATS 1 DIW

02/2200  
RENDEZVOUS MADDOX TURNER JOY

30/0830 -USS TURNER JOY

31/1300  
DEMARCATION LINE

18°

20°

22°

105°

105°

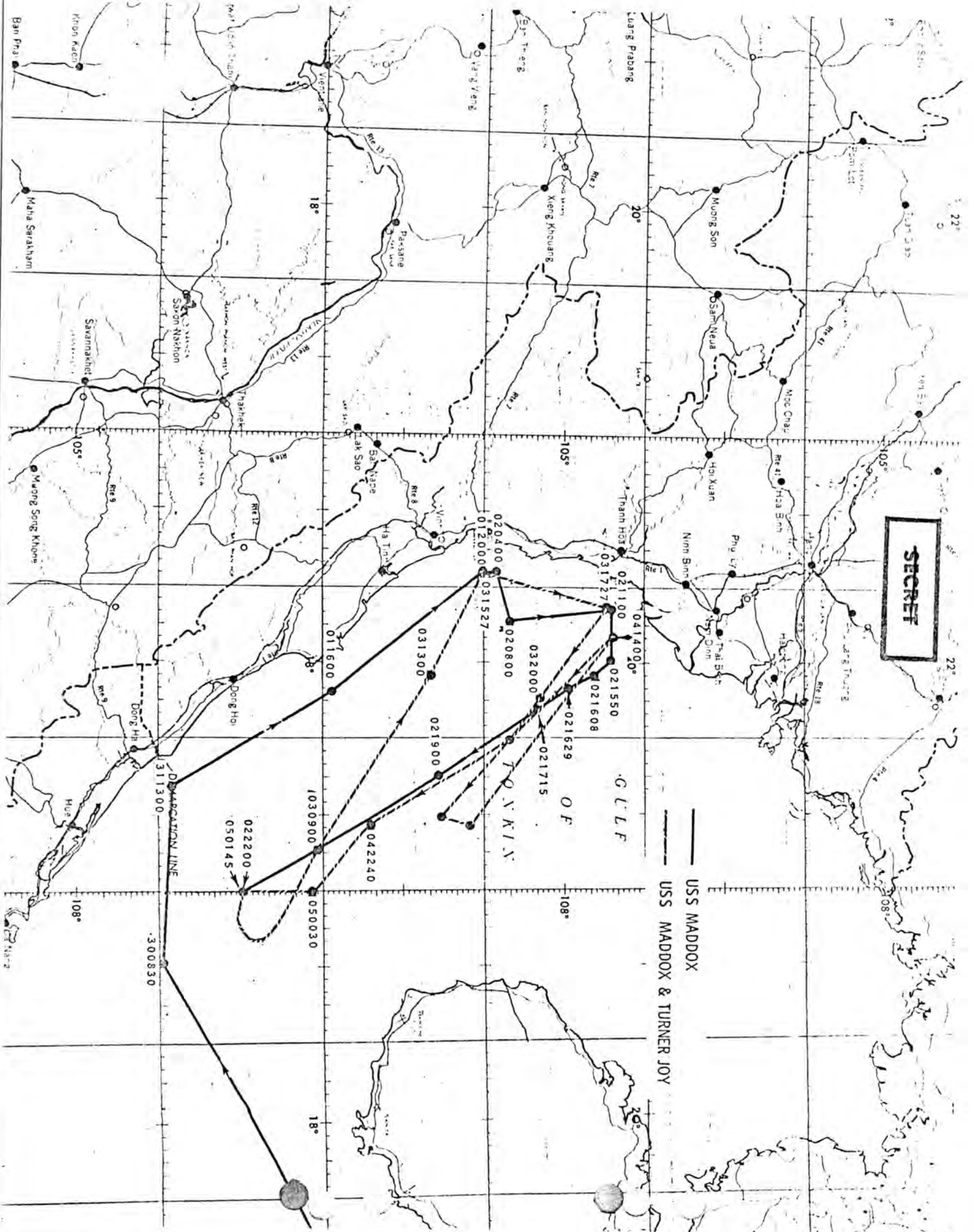
105°

108°

108°

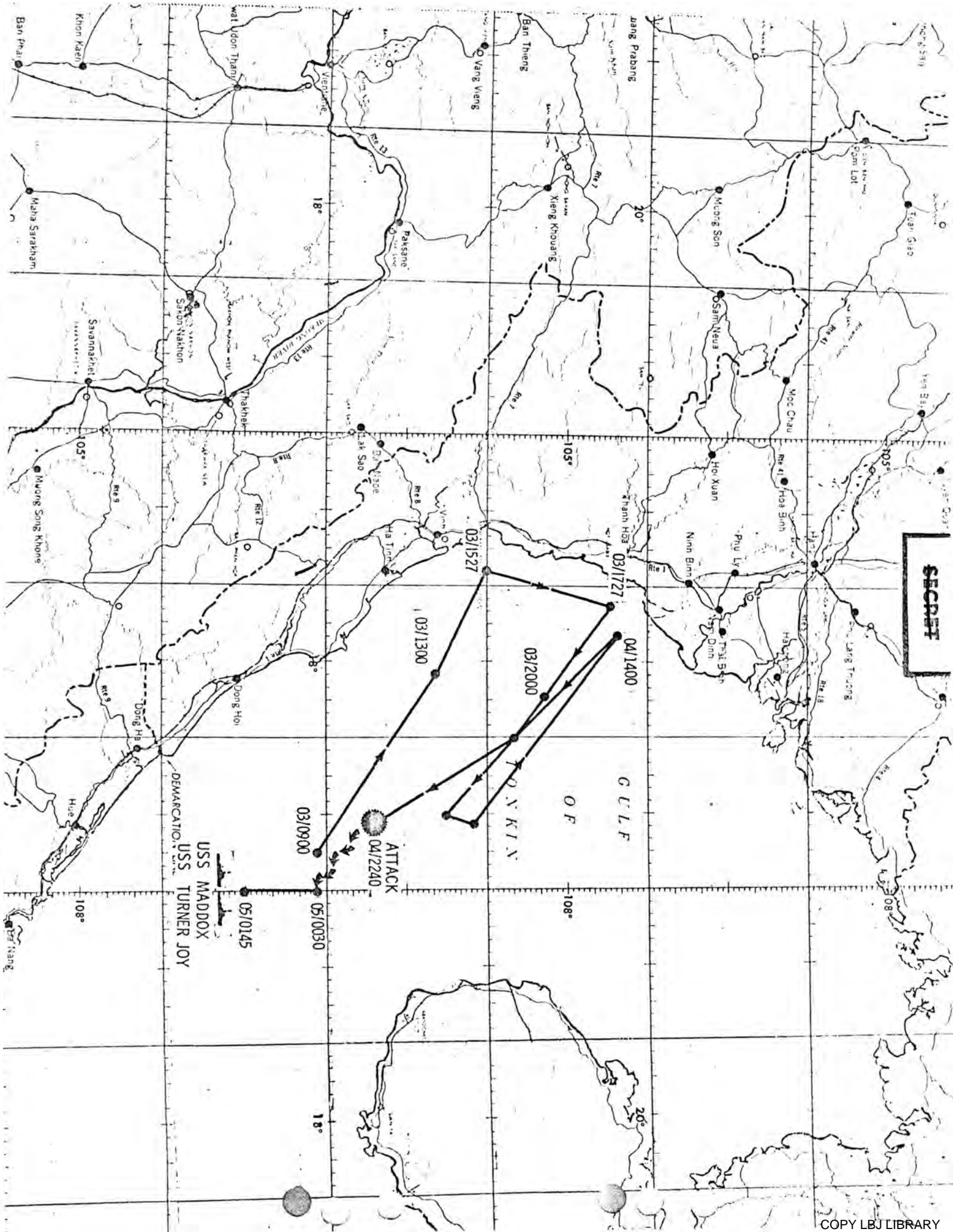
108°

**SECRET**



— USS MADDOX  
— USS MADDOX & TURNER JOY

SECRET



TOP SECRET DINAR

10 August 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Chronology of Events Relating to DESOTO  
Patrol Incidents in the Gulf of Tonkin  
on 2 and 4 August 1964

Background - By CINCPAC's message 152123Z July, approval was requested to conduct a DESOTO Patrol in the Gulf of Tonkin during the period 31 July through 8 August. The last patrol into the area was made by the USS CRAIG (DD 885) during the period 28 February thru 10 March 1964. Limitations on the closest points of approach (CPA) for the USS CRAIG included:

- a. North Vietnamese (DRV) Coast 4 NM,
- b. Chinese Communist (CHICOM) mainland 15NM, and
- c. CHICOM off-shore islands 12NM.

- CINCPAC requested that the July - August patrol with the USS Maddox be cleared for CPA's as follows:

- a. North Vietnamese Coast 8 NM,
- b. North Vietnamese Islands, 4 NM, and
- c. CHICOM Coast 15NM.

- DRV and CHICOM reaction to the CRAIG patrol, noted below, had been quite limited:

a. On 28 February, a Kronstadt - class patrol craft intercepted and paced the CRAIG for a short period;

b. On 29 February, one unidentified aircraft remained 36 miles from the CRAIG for about two hours,

c. On 1 March, Haiphong alerted the Master of a DRV ship, "The ship appearing is the enemy. Our Navy is presently pursuing and tracking,"

d. On 2 March, Peking issued 280th serious warning.

- CINCPAC's 15 July proposal was approved as requested by the State Department, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Special Assistant to the President.

- First Incident (2 August)

a. Intercept of North Vietnamese communications (COMINT, Atch #1) on 1 August indicated that the MADDIX was being tracked by DRV naval elements. During the same day, the DRV Southern Fleet Base at BEN THUY radioed an unidentified surface craft that a decision had been made to "Fight the enemy tonight." At 1244H the next day, the DRV Northern Fleet base at Port Wallut was advised by Swatow Boat T-142, "Received Orders 146 - 142 DID use high speed to go together with enemy following to launch torpedoes." An attack was apparently imminent at 1412H when an unidentified shore station ordered the T-146 to "leave the T-135 and turn back to path of the enemy . . . to attack." At

TOP SECRET DINAR

Cy 3 of 25 cys

410989

1607H the MADDOX reported being attacked by three North Vietnamese craft and that it was opening fire.

b. Subsequent DRV COMINT substantiated reports from the MADDOX that an attack had, in fact, occurred. COMINT reflections indicated that the attack had been carried out by DRV Torpedo Flotilla 135 comprised of T-333, T-336 and T-339. DRV communications revealed that the T-339 was sunk while the T-336 sustained heavy damages; the T-333 apparently escaped with only minor damages.

- Second Incident (4 August)

a. On 4 August, DRV naval communications (COMINT, Atch #1) again indicated preparations were underway for another attack that night. The T-142 and T-146 (Swatow boats) were ordered to prepare for "Military Operations." The T-333, which was involved in the previous incident, was ordered to obtain oil to participate in the second attack. That night the MADDOX joined by the USS TURNER JOY, reported surface and air contacts on their radar screens. The surface contacts were later identified as hostile, and at 2240H the MADDOX opened fire. Subsequent reports from the destroyers indicated that possibly two PT boats had been sunk. This was later confirmed by a DRV message stating, "We sacrificed two comrades but all are brave and recognize our obligations." The same message reported that two enemy planes had been shot at and at least one damaged. A later report stated that "an enemy vessel perhaps wounded."

Map shows time of rendezvous as 2200H.

Identified as hostile by their actions, i.e. surface contacts, speed, direction.

b. Debriefing of the pilots, providing air coverage over the MADDOX and TURNER JOY, revealed that during the incident they observed gun flashes on the surface of the water and bursting light AA at their approximate flight altitude. It is possible that the DRV PT boats mistook the illumination flares being dropped by the aircraft as hits on the planes.

Swatow PT boats have some 20mm & 37mm guns.

- In response to Joint Chiefs of Staff instructions, a modified DESOTO Patrol was resumed on 7 August and completed on 8 August. The northern point for this modified track was 1841N. No DRV hostile reaction to the patrol was indicated during 7 - 8 August period. CINCPAC was authorized to withdraw the destroyers from the area due to Typhoon "IDA", however he was able to complete the modified patrol on 8 August prior to withdrawing.

- CINCPAC, by his message 080155Z, requested permission to conduct another full scale DESOTO Patrol into the Gulf of Tonkin during the period 12 - 17 August. The patrol was considered necessary in view of the recent attacks, the forced retirement from the Gulf due to Typhoon IDA, and that the intelligence objectives for the area north of 20°N latitude had not been fulfilled. The patrol has been disapproved at this time but will be considered at a later date.

Conclusions - Correlation of DRV communications traffic and situation summaries from the surface and air units involved, verifies that the two incidents not only took

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place but the attacks were instigated by the DRV using Swatows and motor torpedo boats.

- Examination of tracks of the MADDOX/TURNER JOY and the units of OPLAN 34A indicates that there was no mutual interference. Additionally, the MADDOX/TURNER JOY were not in the 34A operations area when the two ships were attacked.

*Ralph D. Steakley*  
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Colonel, USAF  
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4 Attachments

1. Chronology of Events Derived from message traffic
2. Chart showing first incident
3. Chart showing second incident
4. Chart showing MADDOX/TURNER JOY tracks

Prepared by:

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ATTACHMENT 1

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

<u>DATE/TIME</u> <u>(HOTEL)</u>	<u>SHIPS/PTF</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
28 July	USS MADDOX		Departed Keelung, Taiwan
300830	MADDOX	17-01N 108-29E	Sighted 2 PT type craft that passed ahead southerly heading "NASTY CLASS". Two more sighted 15 min later one "same class" other appeared to be Soviet "P-6 class". CPA 3 miles.
301405	PTFs 2,3,5,6 <i>(These are South Vietnamese 34A forces)</i>	Underway DANANG	
301440	PTFs 2,3,5,6	16-20N 108-20E	
301610	PTFs 2,3,5,6	17-00N 108-20E	
302110	PTFs 2,3,5,6	18-40 107-10	
302315	PTFs 2,3,5,6	19-00 106-16	PTF 2 and 5 then proceeded direct to HON NIEU. PTFs 3 and 6 direct to HON ME.
310002	PTF 3,6	HON ME	PTFs commenced bombardment HON ME.
310037	PTFs 2,5	HON NIEU	PTFs commenced bombardment HON NIEU.
310048	PTFs 3,6	HON ME	PTFs departed from area
310110	PTFs 2,5	HON HIEU	PTFs departed from area
-	PTF 2,5	-	Returned to base along same route as approach
-	PTFs 3,6	-	Returned to base via 19-00N, 106-16E thence direct to Danang
310730	PTF 2	-	Suffered an engine casualty.
310955	PTF 6	DANANG	Arrived at base
311045	PTF 5	DANANG	Arrived at base
311055	PTF 3	DANANG	Arrived at base
311120	PTF 2	DANANG	Arrived at base
311300	MADDOX	17-05N 107-18E	Arrived at Pt. ALPHA. Sighted 60-80 junks apparently fishing.

*all this shown on maps attached.*



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<u>DATE/TIME</u> <u>(HOTEL)</u>	<u>SHIPS/PTF</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
011600	MADDOX	18-04.9N 106-41.8E	
011801	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	A message was intercepted being passed from Naval Hqs at BEN THUY to surface vessel hull #377 which was interpreted as an apparent plan coordination of naval/artillery elements fire missions on nautical charts to support DRV naval patrols. It was interpreted as being a possible reaction to recent "enemy incursion in DRV waters".
012000	MADDOX	19-00N 105-54.3E	110 junks fishing craft sighted. USS MADDOX sent: "Contemplate serious reaction my movements in vicinity Pt. Charlie in near future. Received information indicating possible hostile actions".
012219	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	Message intercepted informing vessel T-142 "Turn on equipment. Enemy going in course of 52 degrees. Located 9NM from HON ME bearing 134".
012222	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	Vessel T-146 sent "Enemy located at 9NM from HON ME bearing 148°".
020027	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	BEN THUY sent a message to T-255 noting that it had been "decided to fight the enemy tonight when you receive directing orders". T-255 was queried if she had received "the enemy's consecutive change from 52."
020152	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	Observation post on HON ME and Swatow Class PGM T-146 were informed that 01 1800 position of enemy vessel was 11 NM SE of HON ME bearing 168.
020255	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	Port Wallut informed same Swatow class vessel T-146 that three vessels from BN 135 have been ordered to HON ME.

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<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>SHIPS/PTF</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
020400	MADDOX	19-06.1N 105-54E	
020413	<u>DERIVED FROM COMINT SOURCES</u>		Swatow Class PGM T-377 reported "the unit was launched at 0230G and was waiting northeast of HON NGU.
020448	MADDOX		MADDOX sent: "Have terminated orbit. Proceeding due East from Pt. "C" at ten knots until daylight. Heavy concentration of junks to North".
020645	MADDOX		MADDOX reported: "Conditions unchanged. Unless otherwise directed am proceeding to Pt. DELTA.
021100	MADDOX	19-47N 106-08E	"Sighted approximately 75 junks. Will deviate from track as necessary to avoid passing through."
021230	MADDOX		MADDOX reported "sighted 3 PT craft 10 miles North of HON ME Island on a Southerly heading - - speed 20K. CPA 7NM. Evaluated as P-4s."
021244	<u>DERIVED FROM COMINT SOURCES</u>		T-142 to Port Wallut "received orders - 146, -142 DID (1 group missing) Use high speed to go together with enemy following to launch torpedoes."

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<u>DATE/TIME</u> <u>(HOTEL)</u>	<u>SHIPS/PTF</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
021315	MADDOX		MADDOX reported: "Sighting 2 poss. Swatow class North of HON ME on Southerly heading. Speed 5K. All appeared to be heading for vicinity of HON M.
021412	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	An unidentified source station possibly SAM SON 1943 30N/105-55E ordered the T-146 to "leave the T-135 and turn back to the enemy and attack."
021540	MADDOX		MADDOX "I am being approached by Hi speed craft with apparent intention of torpedo attack. I intend to open fire if necessary in self defense".
021547	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	Between 021547 thru 022230, DESOTO Patrol was under continuous surveillance by DRV naval elements. Several referances to repulsing the enemy were noted. Track data reveals that three vessels, the T-142, T-146 and the T-135 close and instituted the action on the MADDOX.
021550	MADDOX	19-47N 106-31.1E	From MADDOX: "3 torpedo boats nearing on bearing 268° range 11.5 NM closing at 50 Kts." <i>turned out later analysis to be flotilla 836</i>
021607	MADDOX		MADDOX: "Being attacked by 3 DRV PT craft. I am opening fire with 5 inch battery. Air support from TICO ETA 15 minutes."
021608	MADDOX	19-41.5N 106-35.6E	PT boats closed to 9000 yards, MADDOX turned to course 150° and fired 3 warning shots with 5" guns. Speed 27 knots. Torpedo boats continued to close, taken under continuous fire. Although receiving numerous hits and near misses, 2 boats closed to about 5000 yards, and because of volume of gun fire made an ineffective launch of 2 torpedoes. MADDOX turned away and torpedoes passed on starboard side from aft to forward.

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<u>DATE/TIME</u> (HOTEL)	<u>SHIPS/PTF</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
021608 (Cont'd)			Machine gun fire from PT resulted in one hit. After boats turned away MADDOX turned to pursue until TICO aircraft arrived. MADDOX directed aircraft to attack.
021608	MADDOX		Message from CTG 77.5 to COM7THFLT said: "1. MADDOX 25K claims being pursued by 3 high speed 45Kt surface craft. 2. Orig providing 4 F-8E cover armed with Zuni and ammo. 3. Instructed not to open fire unless MADDOX or aircraft fired upon."
021621	MADDOX		Third torpedo boat had pulled almost abeam, and at time of receiving direct hit, dropped torpedo in water. Was not observed to run (torp
021622	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	T-146 instructed T-142 (6157) order 135 "Do not make war during day- (Pretend to go to the shore then return to HON ME ".)
021629	MADDOX		From MADDOX: "PT craft completed torpedo attack and retired. Ship sustained no damage. Ships guns damaged one. Aircraft from TICO now attacking one craft. I am retiring to the Southeast".
021630	MADDOX		4 F-8s arrived over MADDOX and on request by MADDOX attacked 3 motor PT boats. Boats proceeding away at high speed in Northerly direction. 2 PT boats were approximately 10 miles North of MADDOX and 1 about 15 miles. The first F-8s attacked the Northerly pair of PTs with Zunis. No hits on the first run. One aircraft reported hit but still in control, was told to orbit MADDOX.

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<u>DATE/TIME</u> <u>(HOTEL)</u>	<u>SHIPS/PTF</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
021630 (Cont'd)			Another Zuni run and 4 strafing attacks were made. Zuni did not hit target but hits were observed in the strafing runs. 2 PTs not observed to slow down. Second 2 F-8s attacked Southerly single PT boat. Rockets were expended on first run but no hits observed. Each aircraft made two strafing runs, one aircraft against the North-erly pair. Hits were observed on all strafing runs and single PT boat was reported dead in water and burning near stern.
021641	MADDOX		MADDOX sent: "PT craft completed torpedo attack and retired. Ship sustained no damage. Ships guns damaged one. Aircraft from TICO now attacking 1 craft. I am retiring to Southeast".
021659			COM7THFLT sent: "To MADDOX: Retire from area until situation clears and further advised. Do not pursue attacking craft. Fire as necessary in self defense. Report situation".
021700	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	The T-142 and 146 turned back to HON ME Islands. At 022230H, messages were sent to the T-146 telling her to meet the T-142 and T-135 at HON ME Island, then go immediately to 1941N 10637E. After arriving they should investigate the area for a radius of 10NM for a DRV vessel which was wounded and lost because of enemy aircraft fire or because of engine trouble or out of fuel. After finding it they were directed to tow it back.
021707			COM7THFLT to TICO: "Direct your NW picket (TURNER JOY) to close MADDOX best speed. Give MADDOX all practicable air support, while maintaining own AAW posture".

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<u>DATE/TIME</u> (HOTEL)	<u>SHIPS/PTF</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
021715	MADDOX	1921.5N 10646E	MADDOX retiring at best speed to rendezvous with TURNER JOY thence TICO. Anticipate rendezvous approximately 022000H.
021942	<u>DERIVED FROM COMINT SOURCES</u>		DRV vessel T-142 passed the following recap from its ships log for 2 Aug: "1525 - Saw the 135 attack the enemy". "1630 - Were ordered to turn around and return to concentrate and to communicate with 165".
031527	MADDOX	19-00N 10553E	MADDOX reports: "Air radar now operative. Detected probable skin head radar bearing 330T at 031420 indicating possible surface surveillance of my movement".
031610	PTFs 1,5	DANANG	Underway from base.
031616	PTFs 2,6	DANANG	Underway from base.
031645	PTFs 1,2,5,6	1620N 10820E	All PTFs in company.
031704	<u>DERIVED FROM COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	The T-142 sent the following message to an unidentified station: "At 1420G (1520H) HON ME reported 2 enemy ships bearing 170° range 25NM course 0°.
031727	MADDOX	1947N 10608E	MADDOX reports: "No DRV military craft sighted. CTG 77.5 provided continuous air support throughout patrol.
031758	<u>DERIVED FROM COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	The T-142 reports the 1845H position of the DESOTO destroyers as 20NM off HON ME.
031818	<u>DERIVED FROM COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	DRV merchant cargo THONG NHAT passed urgent message to Viet NEWIS NATH maritime transport service "031625 at a distance of 18NM from VAL SOV SON, there is 1 prop aircraft 303 from the direction. They will fly to observe the ship maneuver after that to fly directly in the direction of the ship will sneak."
031845	PTFs 1,2,5,6	1700N 10820E	PTF 2 engine casualty, commenced return to base.

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<u>DATE/TIME</u> <u>(HOTEL)</u>	<u>SHIPS/PTF</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
032000	MADDOX	1921.2N 10647.9E	MADDOX sends: "I intend to proceed Southeast to 1842N 10730E thence North to position 1853N 10733E thence West to Point DELTA arriving and commencing line patrol to Point CHARLIE at 041300."
032110	PTF 2	DANANG	Returned to base.
032222	PTFs 1,5,6	1758N 10711E	PTFs commenced independent approach to targets.
032320	MADDOX	1845N 10716E	MADDOX reports: "Hold surface contact 012T range 38.5 miles. Contact has paralleled my movement including ZIG ZAG for past hour. TURNER JOY holds ECM contact evaluated as Skin. Head radar on same bearing. Strongly suspect shadow by block patrol/PT craft."
032352	PTF 6	1752N 10627E	Commenced fire on military complex located at South bank of RON River.
032400	PTF 1	1757.30N 10630.20E	Commenced fire on VINH SON radar site.
032400	PTF 5	1758.00N 10630.00E	Commenced fire on VINH SON radar site.
040002	PTF 6	-	Ceased fire and departed from area.
040020	PTF 6	-	Pursued by enemy craft.
040025	PTFs 1,5	-	Ceased fire, departed from area, and commenced return to base along approach route.
040100	PTF 6	-	Outdistanced pursuing craft and commenced return to base along approach route.
040625	PTF 6	DANANG	Arrived at base.
040650	PTF 5	DANANG	Arrived at base.
040715	PTF 1	DANANG	Arrived at base.
041300	MADDOX	-	MADDOX sends: "Vicinity of Pt. DELTA. Commencing patrol to Pt. CHARLIE. Will remain North of 1910N per ref. A. I

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<u>DATE/TIME</u> <u>(HOTEL)</u>	<u>SHIPS/PTF</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
041300 (Cont'd)			intend withdraw to East at 041730. Air support in the area. No significant sighting/detection. Suspect shadow continued South after my turn North at 040100. Last contact at 040400 range 78 miles'
041400	MADDOX	1947N 10619E	MADDOX sends: "Vicinity of Pt. DELTA patrolling to 1910N. Suspect shadow 15 miles to the East. Contact has paralleled my movements for the past four hours. Unable to have continuous overhead low CAP from the TICO due to distance."
041650	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	<p>In a series of messages released by T-142 to HAI PONG on 4 Aug sized up the after attack report of the attack on the "MADDOX".</p> <p>The 3 MTBs which were engaged, T-333, T-336 and the T-339 comprised what is believed to be MTB Sq 135. Damage result in our report is as follows: "MTB 333 with 3 holes; possible life boat damage; lube oil pressure is low; auxiliary engine damage, after pipe damage suspected.</p> <p>MTB 339: Sunk as reported by T-333.</p> <p>MTB-336: Heavily damaged with many holes. Our oil lines damaged and possible oil contamination. Tank gun barrel damaged; 2 men wounded. (This MTB was towed to possibly VAN NOA.)"</p>
041701.	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	HAI PHONG had informed Swatow Class PGM T-146 and BACH DANG there are two objectives, enemy attack vessels located at 1952.25N 10629.25E at 1321H and at 1936N 10619.25E at 1445H.
041710	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	HAI PHONG informed vessels T-142 of DESOTO destroyers location: Time 1445H position 1936.23N 10619.30E.

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<u>DATE/TIME</u> <u>(HOTEL)</u>	<u>SHIPS/PTF</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
041940	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	HAI PHONG informed vessel T-142 (Swatow Class) to make ready for military operations for the night of 4 Aug. The sister ship T-146 has also received similar orders. COMMENT: Message indicated that all efforts were being made to include MTB T-333 in this operation as soon as additional oil can be obtained for that vessel. (MTB T-333 participated in original attack.)
042040	MADDOX	1910.7N 10700E	From MADDOX: "Received information indicating attack by PGN/P-4. (PTs or Swatows) Proceeding Southeast at best speed". <i>Maddox has COMINT capability. This was some of info.</i>
042049			7THFLT sent to MADDOX: "At first light 5 Aug proceed to intercept original track between Pt. CHARLIE and DELTA at 1910N. Remain on this track during daylight hours. Further instructions to follow".
042136			TICO reports: "MADDOX reports two unidentified surface vessels (Skunks) and three unidentified aircraft (Bogies)."
042208			MADDOX reports: "Unidentified aircraft disappeared from radar screen. Unidentified surface contacts not closing this time, maintaining distance of 27 miles."
042234			TICO reports: "Two original Skunks opened to 40 miles. Three new Skunks contacted at 13 miles. Closed to 11 miles evaluated as hostile. CAP/STRIKE/PHOTO overhead under control of MADDOX."
042240	MADDOX		MADDOX reports: "Commenced firing on closing PT boats."

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<u>DATE/TIME</u> <u>(HOTEL)</u>	<u>SHIPS/PTF</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
042248	MADDOX		MADDOX reports: "Two Skunks on beam closed to 10 miles, 2 South at 40 miles closing at relative speed of 70 knots."
042252	MADDOX		MADDOX reports: "Am under continuous torpedo attack."
042315	MADDOX		MADDOX reports: "Have thus far successfully avoided at least six torpedoes. Small craft continuing attacks. Believe one sunk by TURNER JOY. At least two remain".
042340	MADDOX		MADDOX reports: "PT from West continued attacking run. MADDOX opened fire. PT launched torpedo".
042350	MADDOX	1817N 10732E	MADDOX reports: "Am under attack again."
042354	<u>DERIVED FROM</u> <u>COMINT SOURCES</u>	-	Swatow Class PGN T-142 reported to MY DUC (1952. 45N 10557E) "We shot at two enemy airplanes and at least one was damaged. We sacrificed two comrade (possibly two boats) but all are brave and recognize our obligations  Also reported to same station that "an enemy aircraft was observed falling into the sea. Enemy vessel perhaps wounded."  Since 4 August have had additional reports of DRV preparation for further attacks on US vessels.

*May have mistaken an air-dropped flare for a aircraft.*

DERIVED FROM COMINT SOURCES

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