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Serial Number 00044P94
Report Number 10-65

Operational History

1. Subject: DESOTO PATROL, Gulf of Tonkin; USS MADDOX (DD-781)/USN-467N

2. Time Frame: 28 JUL - 23 AUG 64

3. References: Proposed by CINCPAC 100342Z JUL 64
Approved by JCS 7506 DTG 221930Z JUL 64

4. Enclosures: None

5. Responsibility of action personnel: Op-94G (G54)

6. Background narrative: This was 18th DESOTO type patrol (each with NSG DET embarked) conducted since 1962. Itinerary of this patrol similar to the one conducted earlier in 1964. Primary purpose of the patrol was "to determine DRV coastal activity". On 02 AUG, MADDOX attacked by 3 DRV PT boats, repelled attack assisted by carrier aircraft and retired. CINCPACFLT 021104Z AUG 64 ordered MADDOX and TURNER JOY to resume track "to assert right of freedom of the seas". JCS 021745Z AUG 64 7680 approved. Second attack by DRV PT boats executed on 4-5 AUG. Embarked NSG DET effectively warned CO of both impending attacks.

7. Conclusions and Lessons: Use of Marines in NSG DETS questioned, but finally resolved in favor of their use. CRITIC reporting procedures revised for DESOTO patrols to insure immediate availability of information in Washington. OPINTEL broadcast monitored on board plus three intercept positions appeared satisfactory.

8. Recommendations: None

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ENCLOSURE (4)
26 MAY 1965

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Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 12-05-2005 pursuant to E.O. 12958, as amended.