

# VIET NAM



# 1969-1972



**My Navy Career  
in One Slide**

# My Aviation Career in One Slide



Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 7

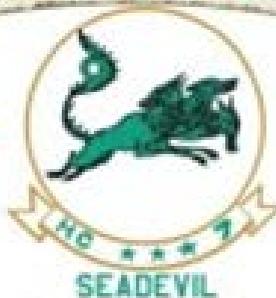
Sept. 1, 1967

June 30, 1975



HELICOPTER COMBAT SUPPORT SQUADRON SEVEN  
**SEADEVILS**

# Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 7



UH-2A SEASPRITE  
CLEMENTINE



CH-46D SEA KNIGHT  
VICTOR HOTEL



UH-2B SEASPRITE  
BLACK BEARD ONE



SH-3A SEA KING  
PROTECTOR



HH-3A SEA KING  
BIG MOTHER



UH-34 SEAHORSE  
EXPERT VICTOR



RH-3A SEA KING  
NINE MANGLERS



HH-2C SEASPRITE  
CLEMENTINE

# Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 7

Sept. 1, 1967

June 30, 1975



HELSSUPPRON 7



HC-7 DET 110



DET 104-109

BIG MOTHER



DET 115



CELENTINE

YOU FALL, WE HAUL



HC-7



**COMBAT SAR**

PREVENTS P.O.W.'s

BIG MOTHERS



AAUURRHAA

# Sikorsky HH-3A Big Mother



**Fuselage Length:** 54 ft 9 in

**Height:** 16 ft 10 in

**Rotor diameter:** 62 ft

**Tip to tip:** 73 ft

**Empty weight:** 11,865 lb

**Max. takeoff:** 22,050 lb

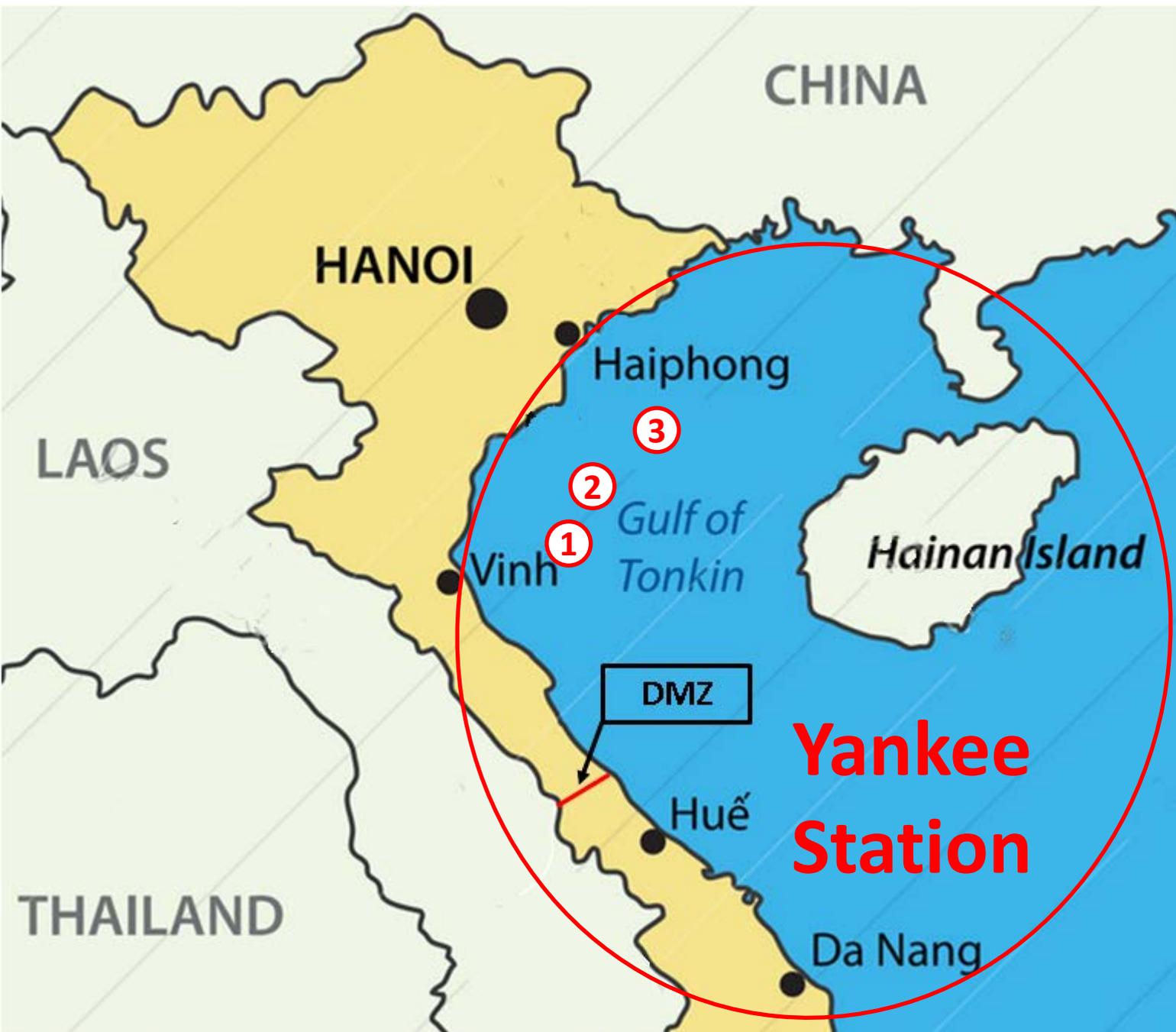
**Maximum speed:** 144 kts

**Legs:** 4 hr 20 min, 520 nm

# HH-3A Cockpit

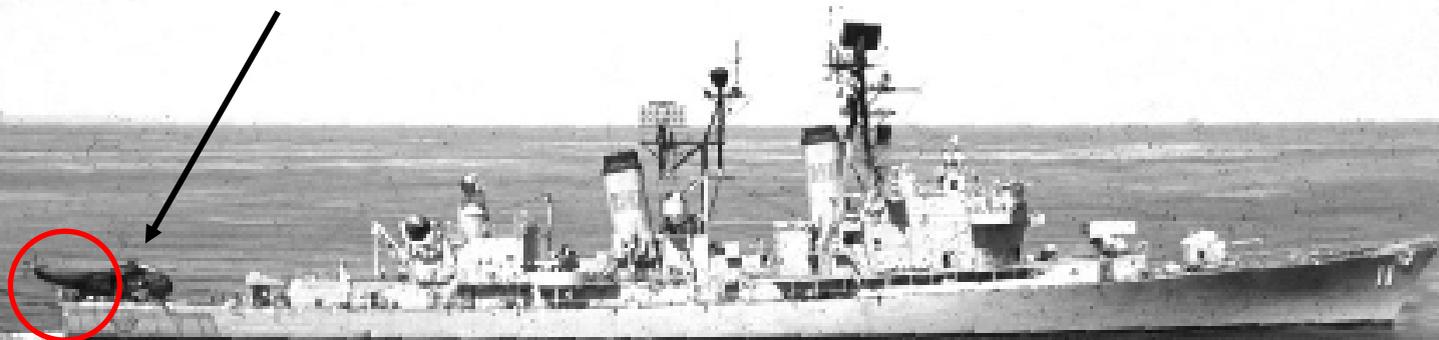


# The Gulf of Tonkin



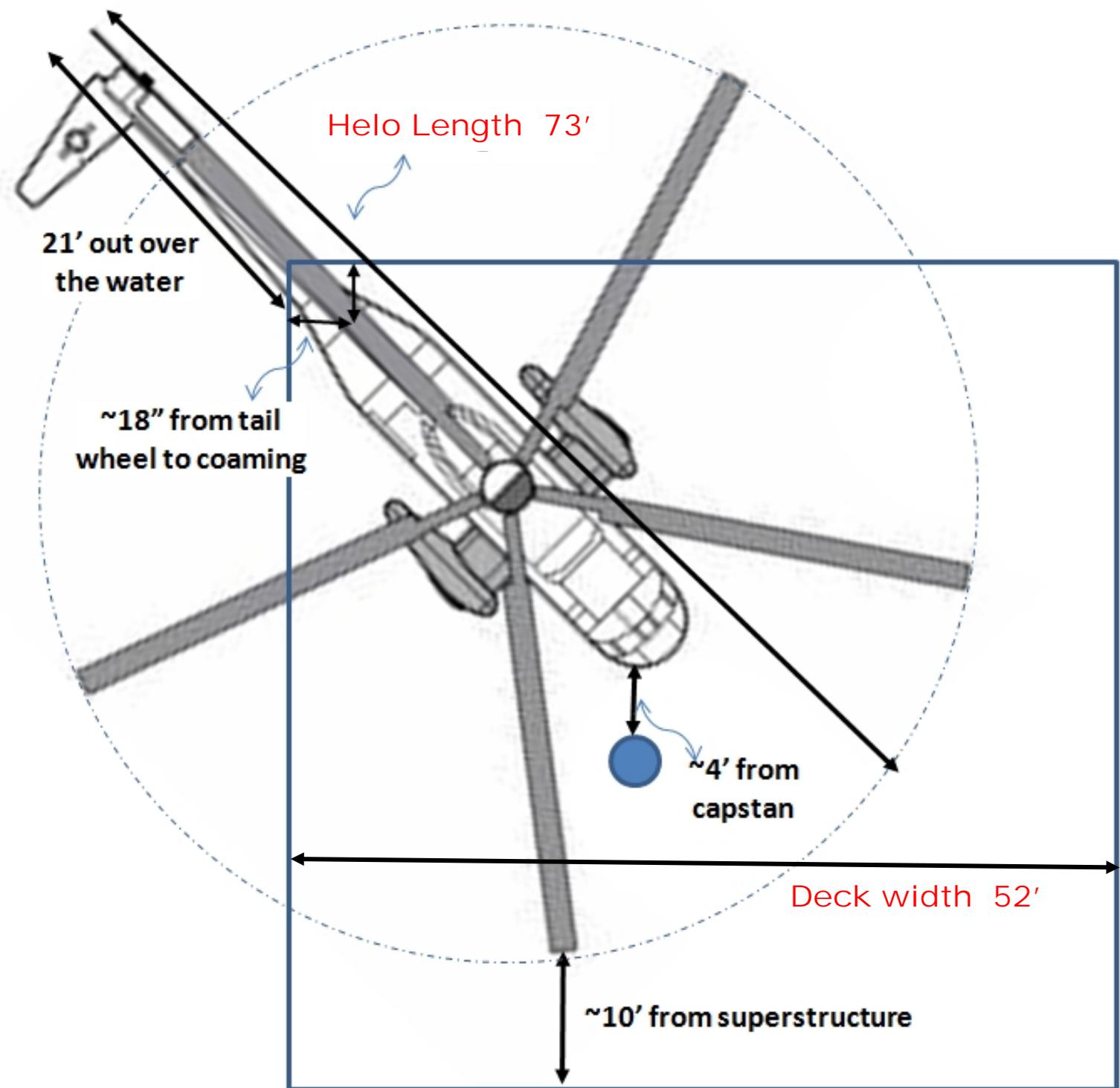
- ① South SAR
  - ② PIRAZ
  - ③ North SAR
- } Destroyers  
(Small Boys)

# Big Mother on the USS Mahan (DDG 72)



Pilots' View  
Coming Aboard





### HH-3 on Leahy-class Flight Deck

**Challenge:** How to fit a 73-foot-long helo on a 52-foot-wide flight deck?

**Solution:** Hang 21 feet of it out over the water!







**Big Mother 62 on  
USS Worden DLG-18**

**15 April 1972, the day before  
Operation Freedom Porch Bravo**

Pilot: LT Ron Abler  
Co-pilot: LTJG Pat Liles  
1<sup>st</sup> Crewman: AE3 Doug Ankney  
Combat Swimmer: ADJAN Richard T. Baird

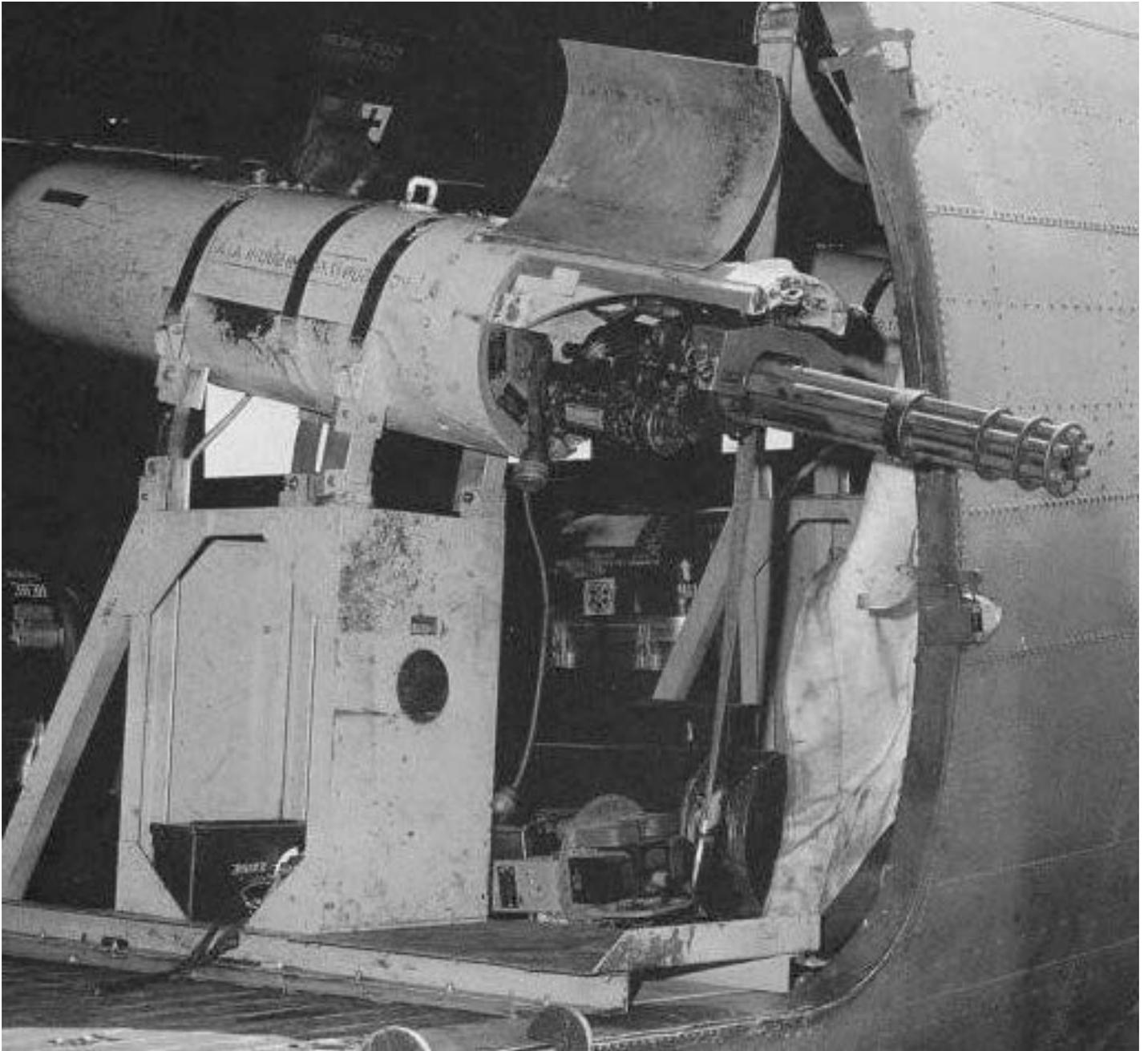
# Refueling at sea from a deck too small



# M134 7.62 mm Vulcan Minigun

4,00 rounds/minute (66/second)

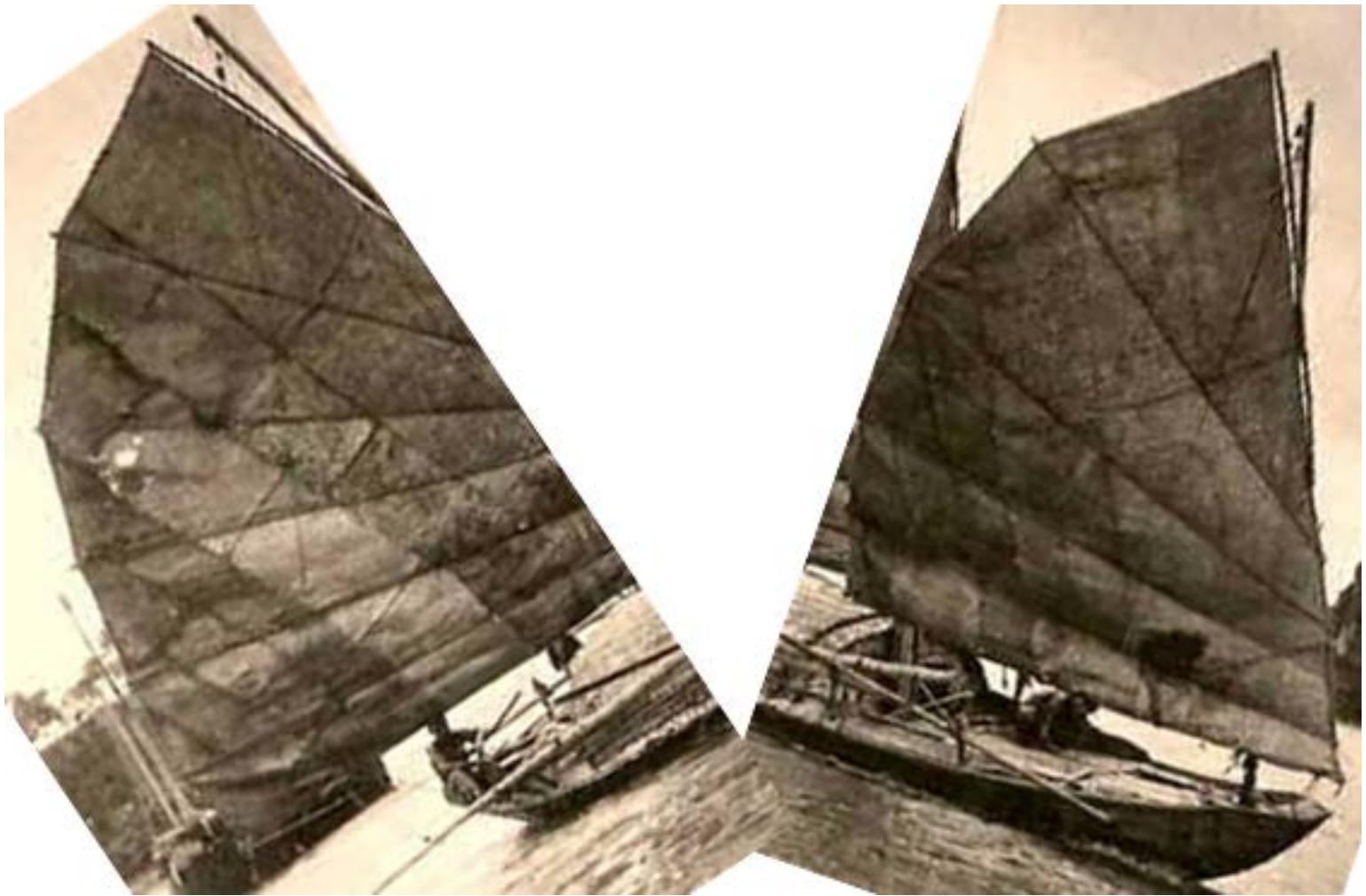
Lethal, but solely defensive.







**Before**



**After**

# Over-water Pickup





# Over-land pickup



# Clementine Two

## July 1968



Clockwise from the top left:  
Pilots LTJG Clyde Lassen and LTJG LeRoy Cook  
Gunnery ADJ3 Don West and AE2 Bruce Dallas.

# Lassen Medal of Honor



19 June 1968

Pilots: LT Clyde Lassen and LTJG LeRoy Cook  
Crewmen: AE2 Bruce Dallas and AD3 Don West  
Home ship: USS Preble (DLG-15)

Survivors: LCDR John Holzclaw and LCDR John Burns  
Downed Aircraft: F-4J Phantom fighter  
Home Ship: USS America (CVA-66)  
0010 Shot down by SAM 70 miles north of DMZ  
0015 Clementine 2 heads in-country, dodging  
two SAMs at the coastline.  
0155 Downed pilots located, PRC-90 radio  
contact established, downed pilots leave  
their jungle hideout.  
0200 Began taking small-arms fire.  
0222 Clementine turns on floodlights to aid  
survivors and takes off.  
0250 Landed aboard USS Jouett (DLG-29) with  
less than 15 minutes fuel remaining.

Clyde Lassen retired as a Commander; died of cancer 1994.  
The USS Lassen (DDG-882) was commissioned in 2001.

# Zinser Navy Cross



Zinser, Young, Lloyd,  
Ankney & Szymanski.

6 August 1972

Pilots: LT Harry Zinser and LT Bill, Young  
Crewmen: PO3 Doug Ankney and AN Matt Szymanski  
Survivor: LT Jim Lloyd  
Downed Aircraft: A-4 Skyhawk

~0130 Shot down by SAM 20 miles inland.  
0155 Big Mother heads in-country.  
~0210 Pilot located, landed, turned on floods. Heavy  
small-arms fire. Heavy triple-A outbound.  
0223 LT Lloyd safely onboard  
0300 Landed safely aboard nearby dock landing ship  
with 12 minutes fuel remaining.  
Crew learned only afterward that Big Mother  
had had landed inside a triple-A site, explaining  
the AAA fire only when headed outbound.

# HC-7 Adopted POWs



# HC-7's Awards



Medal of Honor  
Purple Heart  
Viet Nam Service

Navy Cross  
Meritorious Service  
RVN Campaign

Silver Star  
Air Medal  
PUC  
Navy "E"  
Combat Action

DFC  
Navy Comm  
NUC  
Good Conduct  
Rifle

Navy/Marine Corps  
Navy Achievement  
MUC  
Philippine PUC  
Pistol

Bronze Star  
National Defense

Vietnamese Air Gallantry Cross

# HC-7's Stats

## Combat Rescues

1967	11 Missions	16 Rescues
1968	27 Missions	43 Rescues
1969	8 Missions	15 Rescues
1970	6 Missions	6 Rescues
1971	1 Mission	1 Rescue
1972	36 Missions	64 Rescues
1973	2 Missions	2 Rescues
1974	0 Missions	0 Rescues
1975	1 Mission	1 Rescue

**Total Combat Rescues: 148**

**Non-combat Saves: Unknown, but over 1,000.**

**Thought (and self-proclaimed) to be  
the most decorated Navy squadron  
of the entire Viet Nam Conflict**

**YET**

**HC-7 never failed to bring back every downed pilot  
that it was sent to get**

**AND**

**Despite four Purple Hearts, HC-7 never lost  
a single one of its own pilots or aircrewmen!**

**That's why I call it**

**The Miracle Squadron!**

Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 7

Sept. 1, 1967

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# The Miracle Squadron



# QUESTIONS?