

Press Release on the sinking of the North Vietnamese Trawler

On Easter Sunday night, an aggressive infiltration attempt by a North Vietnamese trawler on the Southeast Coast of South Vietnam was thwarted by U.S. Naval units led by the U.S. Coast Guard **CUTTER RUSH**. **RUSH** was accompanied by the U.S. Coast Guard **CUTTER MORGENTHAU** and the USS **ANTELOPE**.

After the trawler was detected in South Vietnamese territorial waters, **ANTELOPE** was directed to challenge her. When repeated challenges were not acknowledged, **ANTELOPE** fired warning shots across the trawler's bow in an attempt to halt her.

The Coast Guard **CUTTER RUSH** then fired illumination shells and directed the **ANTELOPE** to take the trawler under fire. The trawler returned fire and made a run for the open seas, which was blocked by **RUSH**. **ANTELOPE** cleared the target area and **RUSH** engaged the target. After returning **RUSH'S** fire, the contact took several hits and turned to run towards the coast. The Coast Guard **CUTTER MORGENTHAU** then took the trawler under fire.

As all U.S. units were engaging the enemy, the trawler appeared to stop approximately two miles off shore. At this time, heavy smoke was observed coming from her. Two U.S. Navy attack aircraft were then directed to engage the trawler, which then returned fire.

After the aircraft's payloads were spent, the surface units again began bombarding the target. A cease fire was given by **RUSH** to all units and the **ANTELOPE** was directed to go in and investigate the trawler. As the **ANTELOPE** closed the trawler a devastating explosion was observed after which the trawler disappeared from all radar scopes. No survivors nor debris were observed in the area following the sinking.

The Coast Guard **CUTTER RUSH** took part in a similar incident last November when it sank another infiltrator trawler.