



OPERATIONS



A vital function of any ship, and especially one on Market Time Surveillance, is communications. The comworkload expanded tremendously in WESTPAC, and in order to maintain an efficient and reliable exchange of information, all methods—voice radio, teletype, flashing light, and semaphore—were exploited to their fullest. In fact, our Ops officer commented: "Radio Central spent more money on teletype paper alone per quarter than would the entire Operations Department spend on normal Coast Guard operations."

CIC handled all the voice communications and everyone involved there became very familiar with radio procedures, call signs, and the cumbersome duties of encoding and decoding messages and information.

The quartermasters were our main source of information in the identification of ships transiting our patrol area. With all the shipping along the coast of Viet Nam the QM's became very adept in the art of communications by flashing light.