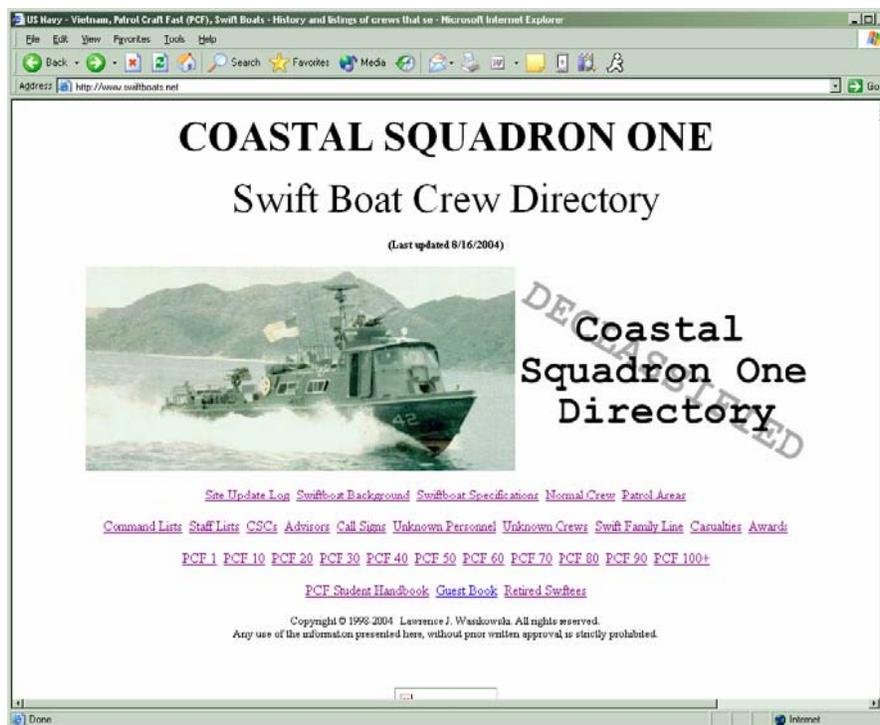


# Swiftboats.net

Lawrence J. Wasikowski, a Vietnam Swift boat veteran has maintained for several years an expansive web site, [swiftboats.net](http://swiftboats.net), dedicated to collecting and sharing information among his fellow Swift boat veterans. It is exhaustive in scope, itemizing the service record of every swiftee and even of every actual Swift boat, from PCF-1 to PCF-104: Every boat's launch date, command and crew history, its combat damage, maintenance history, bases of operations, and final date of decommission is recorded in meticulous detail.



*Swiftboats.net*

The site also appears to be updated frequently. The recent passing of Henry “Buddy” Berman, in June of this year is duly recorded on the site. The site appears to be a major hub of the “swiftee” veterans’ community (another is [swiftboats.org](http://swiftboats.org)).

On his site, Mr. Wasikowski doesn’t take a position on the SBVT advertising – or on John Kerry’s campaign. In fact, there is almost no opinion or personal “voice” to the site at all. Even the site’s guestbook is remarkably free of partisan sniping. The site seems to be thoroughly insulated from politics, a credit to Mr. Wasikowski’s ability to keep faith with the hundreds of swiftees who value his site, regardless of their politics.

Swiftboats.net is a fascinating and enlightening site to spend time visiting. There are anecdotal stories and facts that lend a lot of depth to the Swift boat story being argued

in the mainstream and non-mainstream press. But looking at the data itself – scrolling through the raw lists of names and dates – are almost hypnotic to behold. If you spend enough time with them, the numbers tell their own story.

## How many swiftees were there in Vietnam?

Glancing over swiftboats.net's hundreds of HTML tables, I was immediately struck by the sheer number of people involved in the various Swift boat campaigns in Vietnam. It looked like thousands. I later calculated 3158 unique names, and it's obvious that the swiftboats.net list is not complete.

### 3158 veterans are listed at swiftboats.net

Total swiftees listed at swiftboats.net: 3948

**Total adjusted for duplicates\*: 3158**

- ***Duplicated names at swiftboats.net:*** Many of the names at swiftboats.net seem to be duplicates, usually because a single sailor has served under several commands, on multiple Swift boat crews, and/or in multiple locations in Vietnam. The full list is gigantic – almost 4,000 names. Instead of going through the whole list, I took a sample of 800 names and found a duplicate name rate of about 20% (one out of every five names was a duplicate). The total number of names at swiftboats.net should thus be adjusted to be 80% of 3948, or 3158.



# Where did they serve?

As noted above, Operation Sea Lords was quite substantial. According to [swiftboats.net](http://swiftboats.net), Swift boat sailors and their support staff were based at a wide number of locations in Southeast Asia, including Cam Ranh Bay, Cat Lo, DaNang, Cua Viet, Sa Dec, An Thoi, Chu Lai, SeaFloat, Qui Nhon, and Cambodia (yes, many swiftees are listed as having served in Cambodia). The primary locations appear to be distributed across four strategic coastal zones.

## Swift boat bases in Vietnam:

<b>Coastal Zone I</b>	Coastal Division 12 Coastal Division 16	Da Nang Chu Lai	Coastal Zone I was in the northern part of the country, far from where John Kerry was ever stationed. There is no record of him serving in these divisions at all.
<b>Coastal Zone II</b>	Coastal Division 15 Coastal Division 14 Coastal Division 13	Qui Nhon Cam Ranh Cat Lo	John Kerry reported for duty on November 17, 1968, at Coastal Squadron 1, Coastal Division 14, Cam Ranh Bay (PCF-44), but appears to have been transferred away soon thereafter.
<b>Coastal Zone III</b>	Coastal Division 13	Cat Lo Cau Mau	Kerry served in Coastal Division 13 briefly.
<b>Coastal Zone IV</b>	Coastal Division 11	An Thoi	After several transfers, the bulk of John Kerry's service occurred here, in Coastal Division 11 based out of An Thoi.

Posted by: Christopher Fahey – August 29, 2004

<http://www.graphpaper.com/swiftboats/sbvt.pdf>