DECLASSIFIED

COMMANDER
U. S. NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96309

FF5-16/08A:gem
5213
Ser: 0491
1 October 1966

CONFIDENTIAL (Unclassified upon removal of enclosure)
SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO
FOREIGN NATIONALS

From: Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Distribution

Subj: U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary; forwarding of

Encl: (1) U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, August 1966

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded.

H. C. MUSTIN
Flag Secretary

DISTRIBUTION:
CINCPACFLT (52)(50 cys less charts and photographs)
Historical Branch, SJS, MACV
Director of Naval History
COMPHIBPAC
LESS CHARTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS
CNO (Op-92)
DIA (DIAAP-1)
NAVFORVINST 5215.1A
List I; List II B, K;
List III A, C(12),
D(7); List IV A(1),
C(1); List V A(1),
B(1), N(1), O, U, W(1)

0019753

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO
FOREIGN NATIONALS

NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY

AUGUST 1966

DECLASSIFIED

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years

0019753

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INDEX

AUGUST 1966

PAGE

Chronology of Significant Events 1

Long Tau River Minings 3

River Patrol Force 8

Delta River Patrol Group 8
Rung Sat Special Zone Patrol Group 16
GAME WARDEN Units 20
Mutual Interference 21

Coastal Surveillance Force 23

Hostile Fire Incidents 23
USCGC POINT WELCOME Incident 24
Evading Junk Incidents 26
Operations 28
Naval Gunfire Support 30
Search and Rescue Operations 31
MARKET TIME Units 32
Con Son Island Radar 34

Naval Support Activity, Saigon 35

Civic Action and Psychological Operations 38

Naval Advisory Group 41

Vietnamese Navy 41
Operations 42
Maintenance and Logistics 47
Vietnamese Marine Corps 48

APPENDIX I MARKET TIME Statistical Summary, August 1966

APPENDIX II GAME WARDEN Statistical Summary, August 1966

APPENDIX III Summary report of activities of U.S. Naval Support Activity, DaNang for the period 22 March through 20 June 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS, AUGUST 1966

1 - Can Tho based PBRs break up large Viet Cong river crossing attempt. p. 8.

4 - Coastal Group 36 has firefight with Viet Cong junk at mouth of Bassac River. Two Viet Cong killed, junk captured. p. 43.

4-30 - An Thoi based MARKET TIME units and Coastal Groups, VNN Fleet Command units, USS TUTUILA provide support for Operation SEA MOUNT on Phu Quoc Island. p. 28.

5 - RAG 22 supports RF/PF Operation RUNG SAT 29/66. Three Viet Cong killed, large quantity of supplies captured. p. 45.

PBRs arrive at Vinh Long Base. p. 20.

SEAL Team captures two sampans with 2800 pounds of rice in RSSZ. p. 19.

7 - Coastal Group 14 captures large quantity of medicines and other supplies in land operation. p. 42.

11 - USCGC POINT WELCOME erroneously attacked by USAF aircraft; 2 killed and 5 wounded; extensive damage to POINT WELCOME superstructure. p. 24.

12 - TORTUGA Fire Team launches strike on Viet Cong base camp; 5 structures destroyed, 13 damaged; 6 Viet Cong killed (est.). p. 15.

14 - PCF 11 recovers pilot from downed aircraft. p. 31.

15 - Coastal Group 36 and Vinh Binh subsector troops, supported by PGM 607, capture one recoilless rifle, 18 rifles, 124 mines, 30 rockets and three tons of ammunition in land operation. p. 43.

16 - Long Tau Fire Team launches strike in RSSZ resulting in large secondary explosion and the uncovering of a rice storage area. p. 18.

Eight PBRs arrive aboard BRAZIL VICTORY. p. 20.

16-28 - Cat Lo based PCFs support Operation DECK HOUSE III. p. 29.

17 - Eight PBRs arrive aboard DUKE VICTORY. p. 20.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

18 - PBRs on Soirap River patrol capture two sampans with two weapons and supplies after heavy firefight. p. 17.

SEAL Team discovers 200 tons of rice in RSSZ; storage area destroyed by NGFS and air strikes. p. 19.

19 - One SEAL Team member killed in ambush while on reconnaissance mission in RSSZ. p. 19.

Eight PBRs arrive aboard AMERICAN MAIL bringing total boats in country to 95. p. 20.

20 - PBRs arrive at Sa Dec Base. p. 20.

22 - My Tho based PBRs capture large quantity of classified documents, and kill two Viet Cong attempting to cross My Tho River. p. 10.

23 - VNN MLMS attacked by recoilless rifle while sweeping the Long Tau River. One VNN killed, three wounded. p. 3.

BATON ROUGE VICTORY mined while transiting the Long Tau River to Saigon; grounded out of the shipping channel. Seven crewmen killed. p. 3.

24 - Two PBRs and PCF 38 engage in accidental firefight at mouth of Bassac River; first incident of GAME WARDEN-MARKET TIME mutual interference. p. 21.

28 - VNN MLMS demolished by a Viet Cong mine while sweeping the Long Tau River; two VNN KIA, three VNN and two U.S. advisors wounded. p. 4.

29 - U.S. MSB 54 mined while sweeping the Long Tau River; mine exploded 15 feet off the port bow causing extensive material damage; no casualties. p. 5.

Viet Cong unsuccessfully attempt to mine PBR patrol on Co Chien River. p. 12.

USS TORTUGA moves from mouth of Bassac River to mouth of Long Tau River to provide additional security for ship channel. p. 21.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LONG TAU RIVER MININGS

The problem of security of the Long Tau River channel was emphasized during the month as the Viet Cong, operating from bases in the Rung Sat Special Zone, for the first time mined a merchant ship transiting to Saigon. The attack occurred in two phases.

Prior to first light on 23 August, two Vietnamese Navy Motor Launch Minesweepers (MLMS) started to sweep northward from the mouth of the Long Tau River to Nha Be, while two other MLMSs started the southward sweep from Nha Be to the river mouth. At 0640 the boats sweeping to the south were ambushed from Viet Cong positions on the shore, receiving heavy recoilless rifle and small arms fire (see chart for positions). MLMS-151 suffered one man killed and three wounded. The two craft then reversed course and returned to Nha Be. Meanwhile, the other two MLMSs completed their northward sweep; and a Regional Force reaction operation was launched in the region of the ambush.

With the passage of the minesweepers and with no PBRs on station in the area of the planned attack, the Viet Cong set their ambush 12 miles from the entrance to the river. The first merchant ship to proceed north from Vung Tau to Saigon passed through the area without incident. The second was not as fortunate. At 0910, the BATON ROUGE VICTORY experienced an explosion under her port side, believed to be the result of a command detonated mine.[1] The explosion caused a hole 16 feet by

---

[1] COMNAVFORV msg 230755Z Aug 66.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

45 feet, and resulted in flooding of the engineroom and the number three hold. The main propulsion plant and the steering gear were rendered inoperative. Seven crewmembers were killed, all in the engineroom.

In spite of the damage, the ship's master was able to put the BATON ROUGE VICTORY aground on the south bank and keep the channel open. PBRs were the first to arrive on the scene to provide protection, and tugboats and LCMs were sent to the site to hold the stricken ship in position. Troops from the U.S. Army First Infantry Division, assisted by the SEAL Team from Nha Be, established a defensive perimeter and units from River Assault Group 22 and PBRs provided afloat security. The main channel remained passable, but was closed for one day to permit U.S. Navy MSBs to conduct minesweeping operations.

Harbor Clearance Unit One was tasked with salvage operations, and the following day the HCU-1 salvage master arrived from Subic Bay, P.I., to take charge. The ship was secured in position with beach gear and selective offloading of cargo was started. The morning of 30 August the BATON ROUGE VICTORY broke loose with the current, and all available pushing capabilities were utilized to ground her on the opposite side of the river around a bend. The salvage master evaluated her as seaworthy and able to make the trip to Vung Tau; at 1200 on 30 August she was escorted clear of the river.

The second mining took place the morning of 28 August, when at 0740, VNN MLMS-156 conducting a normal sweep of the Long Tau

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

River was demolished by a Viet Cong mine. Two crewmembers were killed, and two U.S. advisors and three crewmembers were wounded. The survivors managed to make the river bank, where they were rescued and the wounded personnel received medical evacuation. Otherwise, the minesweeping operations continued uninterrupted. This was the first minesweeper lost to enemy action since VNN units started sweeping the Long Tau River channel in 1963.

On 29 August at 0655, USN MSB 54, sweeping the Long Tau River in company with MSB 16, became the third mining victim of the month when an explosion occurred fifteen feet off the port bow. The MSBs and two PBR patrols in the area immediately received heavy automatic weapons fire from both banks. The patrols suppressed the fire and escorted MSB 54 out of the area. The Maritime Emergency Assistance Boat (MSB 32) and the Long Tau helicopter fire team were dispatched to the area. MSB 54 returned to Nha Be with extensive damage. There were no personnel casualties.

Although there had been no previous minings of shipping on the Long Tau River prior to 23 August, the fact that the narrow channel provided an excellent opportunity for such attacks had long been recognized by the U.S. Navy. Advisors had encouraged use of effective countermeasures and development of contingency plans. The first step had been the transfer of 12 MLMSs to VNN in 1963. On 15 April 1964, VNN assumed responsibility for pacification of the Rung Sat Special Zone surrounding

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

the main channel.[1] However, in August of 1965 it was reported that VNN mine-countermeasures activity in the major rivers was of low priority. An intensive advisory effort was directed toward improving this situation. By mid-August 1965 the MLMSs were conducting two daily sweeps of the Long Tau River, utilizing two boats for each sweep, one with chain drag gear and the second with a serrated grapnel.[2] A plan to remove damaged vessels from the channel was forwarded to MACV for approval on 20 October; and in November was accepted by MACV and forwarded to the Corps of Engineers for further development.[3]

Until December 1965 the only indication of possible mining attempts was the recovery of pieces of wire similar to the type used on captured mines. On 2 December 1965, an attempt was made to mine the Danish merchant ship KINA transiting to Saigon. Although unsuccessful, this was the first time a mine had been exploded in the vicinity of shipping on the Long Tau River.[4] In the only other significant attacks on Long Tau River shipping prior to the BATON ROUGE VICTORY incident, the Viet Cong had used recoilless rifles. On 17 February 1966, the LORINDA, of Panamanian registry, received 11 rounds of recoilless rifle fire and was forced aground; and on 3 March the PALOMA, a

---

[1] Historical Review of Naval Advisory Group Activities, 1964, p. 13 (S).

[2] Naval Advisory Group Historical Review, August 1965, p. 5.

[3] Naval Advisory Group Historical Review, November 1965, p. 9.

[4] Naval Advisory Group Historical Review, December 1965, p. 3.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Vietnamese self-propelled fuel barge, received five rounds of recoilless rifle fire, and was set afire and forced aground.

Prior to the mining of the BATON ROUGE VICTORY, Long Tau River security was provided by continuous daylight minesweeping by USN MSBs and VNN MLMSs; and by continuous patrols by PBRs. After the attack, the minesweeping effort was intensified as were the PBR patrols. On 29 August USS TORTUGA was transferred to the mouth of the Long Tau River to provide an extra patrol section. In addition, MSTS Office was requested to clear with CTF 116 before releasing the first ships from Vung Tau and Nha Be to preclude the possibility of passage through unswept waters.[1]

---

[1] COMNAVFORV msg 230640Z Aug 66.

* * * * *

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RIVER PATROL FORCE

During August GAME WARDEN forces were augmented by 24 PBRs and by the activation of three bases in the Mekong River Delta. An increase in operational activity occurred as the PBRs successfully continued their mission of interdicting Viet Cong river movement, while a corresponding increase in Viet Cong harassment of patrol units was noted.[1] Navy pilots assumed operation of the first of the support helicopter fire teams. In the Rung Sat Special Zone the SEAL Team detachment had a successful month of seeking out and destroying enemy facilities.

DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

INTERDICTION OF VIET CONG MOVEMENTS

A series of incidents during August gave indication that the PBRs were becoming increasingly successful in one phase of their primary mission, that of interdicting Viet Cong river crossings. On 1 August at 2345, PBR 39 and PBR 41, operating 23 miles southeast of Can Tho on the Bassac River, detected three beached sampans. As beaching in the area was unusual, PBR 39 closed and illuminated the sampans, and received heavy small arms and machine gun fire from the bank. The PBRs returned the fire, retired and then rendezvoused with a patrol, consisting of two armored LCVPs, from VNN River Assault Group 25. The combined units returned to the attack, again receiving heavy fire including several anti-tank grenades from two locations.

---

[1] See Appendix II for GAME WARDEN Statistical Summary.

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The firefight continued until the patrol units had expended the majority of their ammunition and were forced to withdraw. They were unsuccessful in suppressing the enemy fire.

Three additional RAG units, including two FOMs and a Monitor, and four additional PBRs supported by an AC-47 aircraft were dispatched to the scene, but the Viet Cong had withdrawn and there was no further action. Friendly units received several minor hits. There were no friendly casualties; Viet Cong casualties were unknown. Due to the location of the action, the tidal conditions and the volume of enemy fire, it was evaluated that the PBRs had broken up a Viet Cong crossing attempt.[1]

At 1050 on 15 August, a spotter aircraft observed a sampan debarking eleven armed men on an island in the Bassac River estuary. The aircraft relayed the message to VNN Coastal Group 36 who in turn relayed it to a PBR patrol from USS TORTUGA. The aircraft marked the area with smoke and the PBRs opened fire on the Viet Cong, who were wading with their rifles over their heads. At least three enemy were killed or wounded. A Coastal Group 36 patrol later recovered the sampan motor, one helmet and a Viet Cong flag.

PBR patrol ALFA, 15 miles upstream from the Bassac River mouth, observed a sampan evading into the underbrush along the south bank at 1500 on 17 August. Two other sampans were discovered hidden along the bank. Permission was obtained from

---

[1] Commander River Patrol Force Historical Summary, Aug 66, p. 1.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

the Long Phu District Chief to engage the contacts. The initial .50 caliber machine gun fire from the PBRs resulted in a secondary explosion which destroyed all three boats and possibly killed three Viet Cong.

At 1900 on 21 August, PBRs 34, 38 and 40 received heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from both banks of the Bassac River 14 miles southeast of Can Tho. The boats suppressed the fire, withdrew 1000 meters upstream and requested an artillery strike. Thirty 105mm artillery rounds were placed on target by the Tra On battery. The incident was evaluated as an attempt by Viet Cong fleeing from an ARVN operation to cross the river, and four PBRs and a VNN LSSL were assigned to continue surveillance. No additional activity was detected.

The night of 22 August provided My Tho PBRs with the most significant GAME WARDEN action of the month; the capture of a large number of intelligence documents. The initial action of the evening occurred at 2008 when PBR 101 and PBR 105 received light machine gun fire from positions on Thoi Son Island five miles west of My Tho. As PBR 103 and 107 drifted in the area to watch for a possible Viet Cong crossing, PBR 101 and PBR 105 again approached the area of the original attack and again drew fire. Artillery support was then called in on the enemy positions. Continued PBR patrols, augmented by RAG units from My Tho, drew additional sniper fire but detected no crossing, and the action was evaluated as a diversion for a crossing in another area.

At 2213 PBRs 103 and 105, now patrolling 12 miles west of

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

My Tho, received fire from approximately 75 rifles on the north bank. During the ensuing firefight the patrol leader detected a contact moving rapidly from north to south. PBR 105 moved to intercept it. Upon illumination a single shot was received from the sampan and additional fire was received from 10 positions on the south bank. PBR 103 returned the fire to the south while PBR 105 strafed the north bank and the sampan, killing the two green-uniformed occupants. PBR 105 grappled the sampan and the patrol proceeded eastward out of range of enemy fire. The PBR patrol leader was wounded slightly in the action.

Among the contents of the sampan were 31 top secret documents with overlays, two secret documents, 58 confidential documents and nine unclassified documents. All documents were from the Viet Cong 261st Main Force Battalion of the Dong Thap regiment, and indicated that the two Viet Cong killed were high ranking members of the Battalion. Also captured were assorted uniforms and personal gear, tools, and one pistol.

Another type of activity was proving more difficult for the Viet Cong as PBRs continued to impede the movement of Viet Cong tax collectors. In a typical action on 6 August at 1730, PBRs 34 and 40 observed a sampan 12 miles southeast of Can Tho with one male occupant aboard calling other boats alongside. The PBRs immediately suspected that he was a tax collector. Upon approach, the sampan evaded to the bank. The pursuing PBRs then came under fire from positions in the area of evasion, evaluated as special covering fire for the tax collector. The

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

patrol suppressed the fire and kept the area under surveillance. On other occasions during the month fire was received from suspected tax collection points.

ANTI-PBR ACTIVITIES

The Viet Cong made one attempt during the month to mine a PBR. At 0005 on 29 August, PBRs 29 and 111, operating on the Co Chien River 20 miles southeast of Vinh Long, sighted a lighted sampan approximately 20 yards from the river bank. The patrol approached to 100 yards and illuminated the craft. The sampan appeared empty and was not moving with the current; no mooring or anchor lines were visible. The patrol closed to 50 yards for a closer inspection. When the sampan was illuminated a second time a large explosion occurred 20 yards from the lead PBR. Light automatic weapons fire followed from the shore. There was no damage to the boats and the fire was suppressed as the PBRs cleared the area.

Prior to this patrol the crew had been briefed by the U.S. Army intelligence officer at Vinh Long that the Viet Cong had four mines weighing approximately 160 pounds each which probably would be planted in the Mekong River. Additionally, the VNN RAG commander at Vinh Long had provided information that the above method might be used to attempt to sink a PBR. This intelligence information possibly prevented the loss of, or damage to a PBR.

Throughout the month PBR patrols received harassment of increasing intensity from Viet Cong positions on the river banks. Although fire received covered the spectrum from small arms to

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

anti-tank rockets, there were no significant personnel casualties or material damage. The following were some of the more significant incidents:

12 - Between 1505 and 1514, PBRs 31 and 38 received heavy automatic weapons fire from the bank and from a junk on the Bassac River 10 miles southeast of Can Tho. The fire was suppressed. Surveillance by PBRs, RAG units and a spotter aircraft produced no results.

13 - Operating in the same area, PBRs 38 and 39 received heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from a house on the shore. The fire was returned, and two houses were set afire with M-79, 40mm grenades. PBR 38 experienced one hole beneath the waterline which was temporarily patched until return to Can Tho.

17 - Between 1805 and 1810, PBRs 30 and 36 received heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from both banks of the Bassac River 12 miles southeast of Can Tho. The PBRs received several hits, but there was no damage nor personnel casualties.

18 - Between 1933 and 2005, PBRs 101 and 105 received automatic weapons and small arms fire from an ambush position three miles southwest of My Tho. Fragmentation from one round inflicted a slight wound on the patrol leader. There was no material damage.

25 - Between 2155 and 2200, PBRs 38 and 40 received small arms fire and three rifle grenades from the treeline

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

adjacent to a friendly outpost 12 miles southeast of Can Tho. The PBRs returned fire and called in artillery which delivered eight rounds of 105mm fire on target. The PBRs were credited with breaking up an attack on the outpost by an estimated two Viet Cong squads.

27 - At 1830, PBRs 82 and 29 observed two sampans with approximately 15 Vietnamese Regional Force troops under fire near their outpost north of Tra On on the Bassac River. The patrol proceeded to assist and came under light fire which was immediately suppressed. The action was evaluated as an attack on the outpost with the fire on the PBRs incidental.

On 15 August a ten battalion ARVN operation, DAN CHI 254, was launched in the area 15 miles southeast of Can Tho on the south bank of the Bassac River in reaction to continual Viet Cong harassment of PBR patrols. The troops were moved by land, helicopter and RAG units. RAG units maintained a beach blockade while six PBRs patrolled in the main channel. The operation resulted in 18 Viet Cong killed and 23 captured, along with five rifles and seven grenades. Friendly forces suffered one killed and two wounded. DAN CHI 254 was the first ARVN operation launched in support of GAME WARDEN.

TORTUGA FIRE TEAM

One helicopter fire team operated from USS TORTUGA (LSD-26) at the mouth of the Bassac River until the ship was transferred

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

to Long Tau River support on 29 August. The fire team operated in support of PBR patrols as well as launching strikes at targets of opportunity in known Viet Cong areas. The following strikes resulted in significant damage or casualties:

3 - The fire team spotted two sampans in the Long Toan Secret Zone and received permission to launch a strike from the Long Toan District Chief. Both sampans were damaged despite heavy enemy small arms fire.

10 - Automatic weapons fire was received while the fire team was investigating a reported Viet Cong company in the Long Toan Zone. Permission was received to engage the area; four structures were damaged.

11 - The helo fire team received small arms fire while on an armed reconnaissance mission in response to a report from the Long Toan District Chief that a number of Viet Cong were in the area. Two sampans and six structures were damaged.

12 - At 1630 the fire team, acting in response to a request from the Long Toan District Chief, launched a strike on a base camp area housing an estimated Viet Cong company. Four structures were destroyed and two sampans and thirteen structures were damaged. Six Viet Cong were killed (estimated).

22 - Heavy automatic weapons fire was received from the vicinity of a sampan in the Long Toan Zone. The fire team engaged the sampan and destroyed it, killing three Viet Cong.

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

24 - While flying over the Long Toan Zone at 1000 feet the fire team received heavy automatic weapons fire. One crewman was critically injured.

25 - At 0750 a fire team, after receiving enemy fire from the village and the adjacent river bank, hit structures in a village at the mouth of the Bassac River in the Long Toan Zone. Seven structures were damaged and a second fire team was called in to assist. This action was followed by a fixed wing air strike.

PBR MEDEVAC

On 21 August at 0200, three ARVN outposts 10 miles southeast of Can Tho on Cua Loa May Island came under simultaneous attack by an estimated two Viet Cong companies. Upon request of the Tra On District Chief PBRs 30 and 31 initiated a blocking action on the southeastern side of the island while an AC-47 assumed surveillance on the northwestern side. PBRs were requested for medical evacuation of 23 seriously injured Regional Force and Popular Force troops. PBRs 39 and 41 assumed the MEDEVAC mission. While enroute they received fire from the bank which was suppressed, and they arrived at Can Tho with the wounded at 0715. Meanwhile PBRs 30 and 31 maintained the barrier, checking 635 persons leaving the island and detaining 33 persons for identification card discrepancies.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE PATROL GROUP

The increased Viet Cong activity in the Rung Sat Special Zone carried over to the PBRs as patrol units on the Soirap

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

River made significant contact on several occasions. At 1950 on 18 August, a PBR patrol detected two contacts crossing the Soirap River into the RSSZ eight miles south of Nha Be. The patrol approached to within 75 meters of the contacts and illuminated the area, detecting two sampans, one with four occupants and the other with two. Simultaneously, light automatic weapons and small arms fire was received from both banks, and small arms fire was received from both sampans. The fire was returned and the patrol proceeded south out of range, calling in another two boat patrol to assist.

Upon arrival of the second patrol the PBRs reentered the area, discovering the two sampans abandoned. No further opposition was encountered. Among the contents of the sampans were one rifle, one carbine, two cartridge belts, 120 rounds of ammunition, assorted clothing items, 200 pounds of food, a small quantity of medicine and assorted documents. The fate of the occupants of the sampans was unknown. The action was evaluated as a Viet Cong attempt to run supplies into the RSSZ.

A patrol operating in the same area on 22 August detected a sampan crossing the Soirap River, and upon closing received small arms fire from the sampan and automatic weapons fire from both banks. The fire was returned, and another PBR patrol and a helicopter fire team were dispatched to the area while a U.S. Air Force flareship provided illumination. The PBRs suppressed all fire from the banks and the sampan. A subsequent search for the sampan, believed badly damaged during the firefight, was unsuccessful.

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The same area, one of the narrowest stretches of the Soirap River, was the scene of intensive PBR harassment on 19 August. At 2135, four PBRs on patrol received heavy automatic weapons fire from both banks. The fire was suppressed, but the patrol received fire from another location on the east bank. Two additional PBRs joined the patrol, and at 2225 a fixed wing air strike was called in on the ambush positions. There was no damage to the PBRs, nor were there any friendly casualties.

In activity on the Long Tau River on 29 August at 0620, a PBR patrol detected an unoccupied, drifting sampan with a cargo covered by a tarpaulin and bushes. Unable to determine if the sampan contained cargo or a possible booby-trap, the patrol took it under fire from a distance and destroyed it. The patrol officer was slightly wounded by grenade shrapnel from his own M-79.

The GAME WARDEN helicopter fire teams operating in the Rung Sat Special Zone saw only limited action during the month. In significant strikes on 22 August the fire team detected a camouflaged sampan 12 miles southeast of Nha Be. VNN authorities requested that it be destroyed. While taking the sampan under fire the helicopter spotted three structures, apparently used for storage. VNN authorities requested that they also be taken under fire, and the subsequent strike resulted in a large secondary explosion from the largest structure. Assessment indicated that the area was also used for rice storage; a U.S. Air Force strike was called in to complete the destruction.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SEAL TEAMS

SEAL Team Detachment Golf operating from the GAME WARDEN base at Nha Be made contact with Viet Cong units twice while on ambushes in the Rung Sat Special Zone, and discovered and destroyed one large rice storage area. On 5 August at 0600, the SEAL Team came upon three camouflaged sampans 16 miles southeast of Nha Be. A Viet Cong in the lead sampan spotted the SEAL ambush and fired a warning shot. The occupants jumped overboard and escaped into the mangrove. The SEAL Team followed the escaping Viet Cong but were unable to establish contact. However, the three sampans - two of them motorized - were captured. They contained 2800 pounds of rice, a small quantity of medicine, four reams of typing paper and three notebooks.

At 1100 on 18 August a SEAL reconnaissance team discovered two large silos (20' x 12' x 12') and one bunker (9' x 12' x 4') in an area 14 miles southeast of Nha Be. The structures were of reinforced wood and contained an estimated 200 tons of rice. At 1300 the SEAL Team was extracted by LCM to allow naval gunfire and fixed wing aircraft to destroy the rice. At 1735 the SEAL Team was inserted to evaluate the destruction efforts and to destroy the remaining rice and structures.

The morning of 19 August the SEAL Team discovered a series of bunkers and an automatic weapons emplacement along the Dinh Ba River 13 miles southeast of Nha Be while on a reconnaissance mission. They were extracted and reinserted into a region farther upstream on the Dinh Ba River where a loaded sampan and a hut had

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

been spotted by a helicopter. Fresh tracks were discovered in the area, and then the sampan was spotted 500 yards from the SEAL Team position. Before the Team could move in to investigate, a short burst of fire was heard, followed by automatic weapons fire from both banks of the river. One man was killed, the first SEAL Team casualty in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The SEALS were extracted by the LCM. There were no additional casualties.

GAME WARDEN UNITS

Twenty-four PBRs arrived in country during August, bringing the total to 95 boats. Eight PBRs arrived aboard the BRAZIL VICTORY on 16 August; eight on 17 August aboard the DUKE VICTORY; and eight aboard the AMERICAN MAIL on 19 August.

The number of operational GAME WARDEN bases increased to seven during the month as PBRs made the transit to new bases at Vinh Long, Sa Dec and Long Xuyen. On 4 August RIVPATSECT 513 became operational with 10 PBRs, and on 5 August made the transit from Cat Lo to Vinh Long with a stop at My Tho for fuel. On 20 August RIVPATSECT 521 reported operationally ready with 9 PBRs and made the transit to the base at Sa Dec. On 15 August RIVPATSECT 522 was activated at Cat Lo, and on 22 August RIVPATSECT 523 was activated at Cat Lo. The two sections underwent outfitting and operational testing, and on 24 August, RIVPATSECT 522 with 10 PBRs and RIVPATSECT 523 with five PBRs reported ready for the transit to Long Xuyen. The transit commenced on 25 August. The boats arrived at Long Xuyen on 26 August.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

USS TORTUGA (LSD-26) supported GAME WARDEN operations at the mouth of the Bassac River until 29 August, when she was transferred to an anchorage off the mouth of the Long Tau River to provide additional security for the Long Tau ship channel. RIVPATSECT 512 continued to operate from TORTUGA during August.

On 30 August, Navy pilots and crewmembers from Detachment 29 of Helicopter Support Squadron One began operating the GAME WARDEN helicopter fire teams aboard TORTUGA. Previously, the UH-1B helicopters had been flown by U.S. Army personnel.

RIVPATSECT 512, operating from TORTUGA, continued to experience difficulty patrolling in heavy weather. 39 hours were lost during the month due to adverse weather conditions. Several PBRs from TORTUGA experienced hull cracks resulting in absorption of water by the styrofoam. The cracks apparently were caused by boat handling. Repeated hoisting and lowering of the boats and misplacement of PBRs in the skids failed to distribute weight evenly throughout the boats. Up to 100 gallons of water have been drained from the PBRs after operations.

During August a team of military and civilian specialists arrived to implement and install a Planned Maintenance System for PBRs, and to instruct personnel in the mechanics of the system.

MUTUAL INTERFERENCE

The first incident of mutual interference between MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN units occurred the night of 24 August. Intelligence information indicated a possible infiltration attempt in the vicinity of the Bassac River. Intensified patrols were

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

stationed near the river mouth. PCF 38 was assigned to area 7C and two PBR patrols were assigned surveillance in the estuaries. At 2100, PCF 38 detected two contacts near the river mouth and closed to investigate. A challenge was initiated with no response. Immediately, two additional contacts were detected and challenged. All four contacts were PBRs, but the PCF was unable to determine this fact. At a range of one mile an illumination round was fired, followed by a second round at 1500 yards.

PBRs 22 and 25, on patrol near the Can My Thanh canal, spotted a blinking red light 400 yards from shore, followed by a second blinking light on the beach. They mistook the PCF's challenge for an attempt by a possible enemy craft to signal Viet Cong on the shore. The illumination rounds were then spotted, and the PBRs suspected that they had been caught in an ambush. A firefight ensued between the PBRs and the PCF.

One crewman was wounded on PBR 22, and several additional hits were sustained. The PBRs reported to TORTUGA that they were in a firefight with an unidentified junk. Upon receipt of the message TORTUGA contacted CTU 115.3.9 aboard USS FLOYD COUNTY (LST-762) to determine if there were any additional friendly forces in the area. The inquiry was intercepted by the Officer in Charge of PCF 38, who replied that he had been in a firefight with two unidentified contacts. The PCF then established FM communications with the PBRs. An investigation was conducted and measures were promulgated to prevent future mutual interference.

* * * * *

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE

MARKET TIME units, augmented by the arrival of sixteen PCFs at the end of July, continued to operate at a high level of activity during August.[1] Numerous hostile fire and evading junk incidents were recorded, and patrol units frequently delivered gun fire support. MARKET TIME craft supported two ground operations, Operation SEA MOUNT and Operation DECKHOUSE III, and conducted four search and rescue missions. U.S. Air Force planes erroneously attacked USCGC POINT WELCOME on patrol near the Demilitarized Zone.

HOSTILE FIRE INCIDENTS

MARKET TIME units on patrol within firing range of the beach came under attack on numerous occasions during August. There was no serious damage nor any friendly casualties. The following is a chronology of significant hostile fire incidents during August:

3 - At 2315 USCGC POINT JEFFERSON received hostile fire from the beach on the Ke Ga Peninsula sixty miles northeast of Vung Tau. The fire was returned with unknown results.

8 - At 1815 PCF 39 received four rounds of mortar fire in the same area.

9 - At 1000 PCF 58 received machine gun fire 10 miles north of Qui Nhon while transiting the area. The fire was returned with unknown results.

---

[1] See Appendix I for MARKET TIME Statistical Summary

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

10 - At 1340 PCF 62 was taken under heavy small arms fire while patrolling 10 miles north of Qui Nhon. The fire was returned and suppressed with unknown enemy casualties. At 1655 PCF 62 received fire while closing the beach to investigate suspicious contacts in the same area. The PCF returned the fire while clearing the area. The contacts beached. Enemy casualties were unknown.

12 - At 1710, again in the same area, PCF 62 received heavy small arms fire. The fire was returned and hostile fire ceased. Enemy casualties were unknown.

16 - PCF 62 approached the beach to investigate a junk in the same area. Small arms fire was received. The fire was returned with unknown results.

17 - At 1030 PCF 65 and Coastal Group 21 units received small arms fire 45 miles north of Qui Nhon. The fire was returned and the patrol cleared the area.

21 - PCF 68 on patrol off the Ca Mau Peninsula, 135 miles southwest of Vung Tau, received automatic weapons fire from the shore while closing to investigate a sampan. Return fire resulted in two secondary explosions. Enemy casualties were unknown.

USCGC POINT WELCOME INCIDENT

While patrolling in Area 1A1, adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone, USCGC POINT WELCOME was attacked by three U.S. Air Force planes at 0340 on 11 August. POINT WELCOME was sighted by an

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Air Force Forward Air Controller who illuminated the WPB but failed to identify it as a friendly craft. He called in one B-57 and two F4Cs for the attack.

POINT WELCOME was underway at approximately eight knots, and when illuminated turned on her docking and running lights. The ensign and Coast Guard flag were properly displayed. At the time of the attack the Executive Officer had the deck and the Commanding Officer was on the bridge signalling the aircraft with the Aldis Lamp. During the initial strike the Commanding Officer was killed and the Executive Officer and all others on the bridge were wounded. The senior chief petty officer came to the bridge at 0350 and assumed command, immediately accelerating to full speed and commencing evasive maneuvering to avoid the illuminated area and the attacking aircraft.

The attack continued for approximately one hour under continuous illumination with the aircraft making from seven to nine passes. The signal searchlights and all electronics and communication equipment were disabled during the initial pass. A gasoline-can fire on the fantail was extinguished by the survivors who simultaneously were occupied caring for the wounded. All wounded were brought topside and strapped into life jackets. At 0415 the decision was made to beach the craft and abandon ship to avoid additional casualties from the attacking aircraft. Able bodied personnel paired off with the wounded and assisted them into the water and toward the beach, but the attempt to reach shore was thwarted by automatic weapons and mortar fire from an unknown source.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Prior to losing communications POINT WELCOME transmitted the report that she had been illuminated, fired upon and hit. CTG 115.1 directed USCGC POINT CAUTION and USCGC POINT ORIENT to the scene, and patrol units from VNN Coastal Group 11 were dispatched to assist. At 0425 POINT ORIENT and POINT CAUTION located POINT WELCOME, and at 0445 started to rescue survivors with the help of Coastal Group 11 junks. Coastal Group 11 also assisted by firing mortar illumination rounds. The wounded were carried by junk to Coastal Group 11 for helicopter medical evacuation.

The Commanding Officer and an engineman from POINT WELCOME were killed in the attack. In addition, nine crewmembers, the Vietnamese Navy liaison officer and one newsman were wounded. The heaviest damage to the boat was in the pilot house area where there were numerous fragmentation holes and extensive damage to all equipment. There were nine holes, five to nine inches in diameter, in the main deck, but no structural damage. There was no damage to the hull or loss of watertight integrity. POINT WELCOME was escorted to DaNang under her own power.

EVADING JUNK INCIDENTS

The intensification of MARKET TIME patrols led to an increased number of junks attempting to evade contact with patrol units during August. Significant incidents were as follows:

1 - At 0955 PCF 63 destroyed a small fishing junk that had ignored warning shots 40 miles north of Qui Nhon. The occupants escaped.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

At 1030 USCGC POINT ELLIS detected three evading junks 38 miles northwest of DaNang. One junk was destroyed, but the remaining junks beached in the vicinity of a village and were not fired on.

3 - At 0955 PCF 63 fired warning shots at an evading junk 20 miles north of Qui Nhon. The occupants beached the boat and fled. Recovery of the craft revealed three hand grenades.

5 - At 2015 USCGC POINT ORIENT detected and illuminated a junk moving south along the coast 25 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. The junk beached and was destroyed by mortar fire as the occupants fled.

7 - At 0920 PCF 19 took a junk under fire 65 miles north of Qui Nhon after it evaded to the beach and the occupants fled. The junk was damaged by mortar fire.

At 1115 USCGC POINT WELCOME recovered a junk that had evaded to the beach 60 miles north of Qui Nhon. A search revealed no contraband and the junk was turned over to Coastal Group 16.

At 2305 PCF 73 received small arms fire after illuminating a sampan 50 miles east of An Thoi. Fire was returned, but the sampan evaded into foliage along the coast and damage was not determined.

15 - At 2030 USCGC POINT CAUTION detected a junk moving south along the beach 40 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. When signalled the junk evaded and was taken under fire and heavily damaged. Enemy casualties were unknown.

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

20 - At 2205 PCF 64 closed and illuminated a junk with two occupants 38 miles north of Qui Nhon. After it ignored signals to stop, the junk was destroyed. The occupants escaped.

21 - At 1230 PCF 76 fired warning shots at two evading junks 25 miles south of DaNang, and in return received automatic weapons and small arms fire from the beach. Fire was returned at the junks and at the beach, resulting in damage to the junks. Two PCF crewmen received minor wounds. Viet Cong casualties were unknown.

25 - At 1255 PCF 76 assisted Coastal Group 15 units in taking two evading junks under fire 40 miles south of DaNang. The junks were destroyed and Coastal Group 15 took 13 suspects into custody.

30 - At 2230 PCF 66 closed and illuminated a junk 32 miles north of Qui Nhon. After warning shots were ignored, the evading junk was destroyed. Casualties were unknown.

OPERATIONS

An Thoi based MARKET TIME units operated in support of Operation SEA MOUNT on Phu Quoc Island from 4 August until 30 August. The operation was conducted by eight U.S. Special Forces personnel and a 220 man Mike Force (a specially recruited unit of indigenous personnel) periodically augmented by 10 to 30 Vietnamese National Policemen from Duong Dong Village on Phu Quoc Island. In addition to gunfire and patrol support from MARKET TIME PCFs and WPBs, Seventh Fleet Destroyers and VNN

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Fleet Command ships provided gunfire support; VNN Coastal Groups supplied junks and USS TUTUILA (ARG-4) supplied an LCM for troop and logistic lifts. U.S. Air Force and Army aircraft provided air support.

SEA MOUNT was divided into three phases. In the initial phase a sweep was conducted from An Thoi north to latitude 10° 13' N. In the second phase a series of amphibious raids were conducted on the East Coast of the Island and against targets of opportunity. In the final phase a base camp was established near Duong Dong and probes were made into the areas of heaviest Viet Cong concentration.

The Operation marked the first major military operation to attempt to clear Phu Quoc Island of Viet Cong. Sixteen Viet Cong were killed by body count; however, subsequent prisoner interrogation revealed over 75 Viet Cong killed with an undetermined number wounded. Two U.S. Special Forces personnel were killed and one was wounded. Seven other friendly troops were wounded. SEA MOUNT was considered successful.[1]

During the period 16 August to 28 August, PCFs from Division 103 at Cat Lo conducted infiltration/exfiltration patrols off Phuoc Tuy Province in support of Operation DECK HOUSE III, a Seventh Fleet Marine Special Landing Force probe. Patrol units detected no Viet Cong waterborne movements during the period. PCFs also provided security on 29 and 30 August during salvage operations for an LCM swamped during withdrawal of the Special Landing Force.

---

[1] CTF 115 Historical Summary, August 1966

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT

MARKET TIME units delivered 19 naval gunfire support missions during the month in support of ground operations and friendly forces under attack. The following missions resulted in enemy material and personnel casualties:

1 - PCF 35 provided urgent gunfire support for a spotter aircraft receiving ground fire on the Ca Mau Peninsula 120 miles southwest of Vung Tau. One sampan, one bunker and one structure were destroyed.

2 - PCF 35, operating in the same area, fired support for a reconnaissance aircraft under ground attack. Thirty-one rounds of 81mm mortar were expended in destroying one junk, three structures and damaging two structures.

10 - USCGC POINT WELCOME fired a mission against two camouflaged junks believed used for Viet Cong exfiltration. The mission was coordinated by an aircraft spotter. The two junks were damaged.

USCGC POINT MARONE fired 22 rounds of 81mm HE against a Viet Cong company near Duong Dong on Phu Quoc Island in support of Operation SEA MOUNT. Enemy casualties were unknown.

14 - PCF 74 assisted Coastal Group 42 units in returning fire on the eastern coast of Phu Quoc Island. The mission was spotted by aircraft and resulted in three structures destroyed and seven damaged.

15 - PCF 52 provided urgent gunfire support for a Popular

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Force unit under attack 23 miles north of Nha Trang. The mission was spotted by a U.S. Army advisor. One secondary explosion was observed.

16 - Coastal Group 42 units received heavy small arms fire while recovering a U.S. Special Forces reconnaissance team from the eastern shore of Phu Quoc Island during Operation SEA MOUNT. Fire was returned with enemy casualties unknown.

17 - USCGC POINT YOUNG fired a support mission at Viet Cong mortar, automatic rifle and platoon positions on the western shore of Phu Quoc Island. Forty-four rounds of 81mm HE were expended, resulting in 35 structures damaged.

22 - USCGC POINT WHITE provided urgent gunfire support for a spotter aircraft receiving ground fire on the Ke Ga Peninsula 60 miles northeast of Vung Tau. Fifty-two rounds of 81mm mortar were fired resulting in three Viet Cong killed (possible) and one secondary explosion.

29 - USCGC POINT CAUTION provided 81mm mortar support for Coastal Group 11 and Popular Force units conducting a ground operation ten miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. Six Viet Cong were killed during the operation.

SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

MARKET TIME units conducted four search and rescue operations during August, two of them successful. On 10 August PCF 16

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

recovered two wounded Viet Cong suspects from a damaged boat eight miles south of DaNang. The boat had been attacked by an armed helicopter during ground operations in the area. PCF 78 recovered a downed pilot after observing him bail out of his disabled aircraft 20 miles south of DaNang on 14 August. The pilot was uninjured and was lifted by helicopter to DaNang.

On 14 August a MIUWS 12 LCPL and PCF 71 unsuccessfully attempted to recover a merchant seaman who had gone under while swimming alongside the USNS GENERAL PATCH in Vung Tau Harbor. An air/sea rescue helicopter assisted in the attempt. On 31 August USS SAVAGE (DER 322), USCGC POINT MAST, USCGC POINT BANKS and a VP-2 aircraft searched unsuccessfully along the track of a civilian contractor tugboat whose engineer had been lost overboard in the vicinity of Rach Gia.

MARKET TIME UNITS

Seventy PCFs and 26 WPBs operated in support of MARKET TIME during August. There was no change in the number of PCFs and WPBs; however, USCGC POINT LOMAS, USCGC POINT DUME and USCGC POINT GAMMON were relocated from DaNang to Cat Lo on 27 August to provide additional patrols in Areas Six and Seven. The move was in response to intelligence reports indicating possible infiltration attempts, particularly into Phouc Tuy Province. In another shift on 19 August, three PCFs with supporting crews were moved from DaNang to Hue to strengthen the northern barrier.

In air operations, USS SALISBURY SOUND (AV-13) maintained the seadrome at Cam Ranh Bay until 8 August. From 1 Augu-

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

until 5 August VP-40, VP-48 and VP-50 flew SP5B aircraft out of the seadrome in support of the coastal surveillance effort. Seven SP2Hs from Patrol Squadron Two flew daily patrols out of Tan Son Nhut Airfield. VP-8, VP-9 and VP-47 supported MARKET TIME with P3A aircraft flying out of Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, P.I. The VP aircraft flew patrols 20 to 50 miles off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam to detect possible infiltrators and to identify radar contacts passed by MARKET TIME surface units. They also flew special patrols farther out to sea during the dark of the moon periods.

The three PACVs of PACVDIV 207 were engaged in completing modifications and preparations for MARKET TIME operations scheduled to commence in mid-September.

Harbor Defense, designated Operation STABLE DOOR, continued to expand. During August forces rose, with the arrival of 34 boat crew personnel, to 23 officers and 231 enlisted. The construction of semipermanent facilities, including barracks and mess halls, continued during the month. Eight of the eleven boats assigned to STABLE DOOR were operational. Eight junks and 80 persons were detained by patrol units.

The following Seventh Fleet units operated in MARKET TIME during August:

USS SALISBURY SOUND (AV-13)
USS WILHOITE (DER-397)
USS NEWELL (DER-322)
USS SAVAGE (DER-386)
USS HAVERFIELD (DER-393)
USS CAMP (DER-251)
USS KOINER (DER-331)
USS KRETCHMER (DER-329)
USS PHOEBE (MSC-199)
USS VIREO (MSC-205)
USS WOODPECKER (MSC-209)
USS WHIPPOORWILL (MSC-207)
USS GANNET (MSC-290)
USS ADVANCE (MSO-510)
USS FORTIFY (MSO-446)
USS ENGAGE (MSO-443)
USS IMPERVIOUS (MSO-449)
USS INFLICT (MSO-456)
USS LOYALTY (MSO-457)
USS FLOYD COUNTY (LST-762)

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

CON SON ISLAND RADAR

The first land based radar installation for coastal surveillance became operational during August on Con Son Island, 100 miles south of Cap St. Jacques. The installation, an AN/TPN-8 Ground Control Approach radar with a surveillance mode, underwent testing and evaluation during late July and August and went into full operation on 28 August. The radar is operated from 2000 to 0800 daily by a three man crew permanently based on the island. Communications are maintained with Coastal Surveillance Center, Vung Tau, utilizing a PRC-47 single side band radio.

* * * * *

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

During August the construction of interim and permanent base facilities at U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon detachments continued. Additional berthing space was rented at Vinh Long and a lease request was submitted for an additional villa at My Tho. Well drilling operations at Nha Be and Qui Nhon failed to produce fresh water and work continued on those projects. At Nha Be interim base, the enlargement of shower and latrine facilities was accomplished; and at Cat Lo arrangements were being made for construction of a helicopter landing site. NAVSUPPACT, Saigon staff reviewed an Advance Base Functional Component for an interim facility at Dong Tam.

Equipage continued to arrive throughout the month, bringing base housekeeping and repair capability to a higher state. Progress on repair shops at GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME bases has been steady. All GAME WARDEN facilities are now operationally ready with the exception of teletype and crypto communications facilities at Long Xuyen and Sa Dec. At Can Tho, the arrival of YFNB-9 greatly improved base capabilities. To improve safety conditions at the An Thoi airstrip, NAVSUPPACT, Saigon started procuring personnel and equipment, including improved air/ground communications; wind direction/velocity indicators; crash fire-fighting equipment; strip operation personnel and NOTAM reporting procedures. At Qui Nhon, channel range lights have been installed.

Transportation and logistical support were highlighted during the month by the one millionth passenger mile flown on MARKET TIME/

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

GAME WARDEN flights since 1 January 1966, and by the arrival of USS BRULE (AKL-28) at Mekong Delta bases with material for the detachments.

At the Saigon headquarters a number of significant developments took place to assist NAVSUPPACT in its task of supporting the naval mission in the II, III and IV Corps Tactical Zones of Vietnam: The command assumed the responsibility of Seventh Fleet ammunition storage at Cam Ranh Bay; a new C-47 aircraft was programmed for delivery; and NAVSUPPACT, Saigon assumed operation of the Registered Publications Library.

The Supply Department prepared line item requirements for the PCF engine overhaul program, and forwarded them to Naval Ship Systems Command Headquarters in an effort to streamline repair capability. It was anticipated that significant amounts of material will be transferred to NAVSUPPACT, Saigon in future months by procedures worked out at a conference held at Subic Bay, P.I., from 15-17 August.

Public Works Department, in a new limited support role for Naval Advisory Group elements, sent a quonset hut to the junk base/repair facility at Rien An where it is being erected by NAVSUPPACT personnel. The Public Works Department is providing generator maintenance assistance to the Coast Guard LORAN station on Con Son Island, with increased support anticipated. Action was taken to establish a repair parts pipeline for public works and vehicle equipment peculiar to Navy use to ensure first rate replacement capability on items stocked. At the end of the month, one-third of the automotive equipment requested had

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

been received in country.

The Repair Department assumed crypto, electronic and TTY repair responsibility for Navy units in the II, III and IV Corps Tactical Zones. A boat corrosion control conference was held at Cat Lo on 30 August with a COMFAIRWESTPAC representative.

In the administrative area, requirements for additional manpower for NAVSUPPACT, Saigon and all detachments were collected into a new personnel request and submitted on 16 August; the Officer in Charge of APL-55 was designated Officer in Charge, NAVSUPPACTDET, An Thoi; service wide examinations were processed for 684 Navy men in the II, III and IV CTZ; and efficient handling procedures for UCMJ violations were initiated by the Legal Office.

* * * * *

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

Both Vietnamese Navy and U.S. Navy Civic Action and PsyOps activities were at a high level. Particularly noteworthy were the NAVSUPPACT, DaNang civic action teams. On 17 August a Marine F-8 crusader crashed into a village in Hoa Vang District. A NAVSUPPACT, DaNang MEDCAP team was sent immediately to the scene to render first aid to the injured. Within five hours some 200 refugees had been cared for through provision of seven general purpose tents, 300 blankets, two water buffalo, 1000 pounds of food, and cooking and eating utensils. The tents were set up and the people were fed that night by the Civic Action Team and Hoa Vang District Advisory personnel.

In other activities in the DaNang area, on 29 August, 28 carpentry students and 34 driver students from My Khe, Dong Giang, Phuoc Hai, and Hoa Tien refugee camps completed their courses in the Refugee Vocational Training Program being conducted by NAVSUPPACT, DaNang and USAID at the DaNang Polytechnical School.

Personnel of the NAVSUPPACT, Saigon Qui Nhon Detachment completed a one classroom schoolhouse adjacent to their base. The teacher, hired with funds donated by the Qui Nhon Navymen, started classes for 31 first-graders on 25 August. Personnel from NAVSUPPACT, Saigon delivered 32 packages of clothing, soap, tissues and toilet articles donated by the Fleet Reserve Association, San Pedro, California to the Go Vap orphanage outside Saigon.

Throughout the month GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME units rendered assistance to disabled indigenous craft and sick and

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ DECLASSIFIED

injured crew members. In a noteworthy incident on 21 August, a PBR day patrol from My Tho observed an overturned sampan. The patrol rescued a family of five from the current and saved their sampan and cargo.

1. Construction projects completed during report period. Those repaired or renovated are marked with an R.

		USN	VMN	TOTAL
a.	Bridges	2	0	2
b.	Culverts	1	0	1
c.	Dwellings/number of families	4/22	0	4/22
d.	Fences (tenth of km)	2	0	2
e.	Leveling/grading projects	3	0	3
f.	Playgrounds	1R	0	1R
g.	Schools/classrooms	1/2	0	1/2
h.	Toilets	20	0	20
i.	Wells	1R	0	1R

2. Medical treatments:

a.	General Medical	8,447	1,414	9,861
b.	Dental	439	103	542
c.	Surgery	10	2	12
d.	Emergency evacuations	31	0	31
e.	Harelip operations	3	6	9
f.	X-Rays	0	7	7
g.	Laboratory cultures	263	0	263
h.	Routine lab procedures	210	0	210

3. Health and sanitation:

a.	Classes on personal hygiene/ attendance	1/35	0	1/35
b.	Immunizations	3,300	0	3,300
c.	Physical examinations	239	0	239
d.	Spray insecticide operations	27	0	27
e.	Swamp areas drained	1	0	1

4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):

a.	Cement	37,200	0	37,200
b.	Clothing	1,920	11,000	12,920
c.	Food	57,465	70,560	128,025
d.	Lumber (board feet)	116,000	7,000	123,000
e.	Medical, non-prescription	70	0	70
f.	Medical kits (number)	120	0	120
g.	School kits (number)	174	0	174
h.	Soap	833	2,780	3,613
i.	Tin sheets (number)	60	100	160

		USN	VIK	TOTAL
j.	Woodworker kits (number)	31	0	31
k.	Textile and sewing kits (number)	75	2,000	2,075
l.	Family kits (number)	310	2,450	2,760
m.	PsyOps buckets (number)	948	2,331	3,279
n.	Vitamins (cases)	0	27	27
o.	Blanket material (rolls)	0	3	3
p.	Midwife kits (number)	0	3	3
q.	Mosquito netting (number)	0	101	101
r.	Toys	150	0	150
s.	Welding aprons (number)	8	0	8
t.	Diesel oil (gallons)	25	0	25
u.	Plywood (sheets)	90	0	90
v.	Barrels (number)	72	0	72
w.	Diapers (dozen)	2	0	2
x.	Paint (gallons)	50	0	50
y.	Nails	1,786	0	1,786
z.	Steel	1,500	0	1,500
aa.	Cement blocks (number)	2,200	0	2,200
ab.	Blankets (number)	300	0	300

5. Educational efforts:

a.	English classes/attendance	66/670	0	66/670

6. Voluntary contributions in support of (piasters):

a.	Schools	30,000	0	30,000
b.	Harelip program	3,890	2,420	6,310

* * * * *

DECLASSIFIED

NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The ability of the Vietnamese Navy to accomplish assigned tasks remained satisfactory. Its ability, however, was impeded by inadequate aggressiveness, unsatisfactory personnel distribution, limited training and an inadequate number of skilled shipyard workers.

On orders of the Leadership Council, Captain Tran Van PHAN, Commander-in-Chief, Vietnamese Navy, was relieved of his duties by Commander Nguyen Van ANH, Chief of Staff, on 1 September 1966.

On 31 August, VNN Headquarters reported 15,481 men assigned; however, the distribution of personnel within the VNN remained unsatisfactory. For the second consecutive month desertions have declined. This month the VNN had 107 deserters as compared with 165 last month.

Leadership improved within the VNN. Most commanding officers and executive officers showed initiative in their jobs. PGM 608 and PCE 11 advisors reported exceptional performance and reception of advisory efforts by the commanding officers. Petty officer leadership, initiative and professional knowledge improved somewhat, but was still below satisfactory.

Operational reports indicated that training was accomplished by most units in August. Several Coastal Groups made progress in markmanship and coxswain training. NATC and Fleet Command Training Teams conducted inport training on LSSL 227 and PGMs

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

605 and 611.

To improve base facilities, one hundred steel frame prefabricated buildings were allotted to the VNN for the development of cantonment facilities in all Naval Zones. These units are to be used for offices, BOQs, BEQs, warehouses and other base facilities. Site plans have been turned over to the ARVN Office of Construction Engineers. When approved, the prefabricated buildings will be issued to the Naval Supply Center for distribution to designated Coastal Groups.

The first of the 60 Yabuta junks being constructed in the Naval Shipyard, Saigon, was completed and 14 more keels have been laid. With 126 carpenters engaged in this program, the maximum rate of junk completions is anticipated at one per week. The FY 66 Junk Construction Program authorized the building of sixty additional Yabuta junks.

OPERATIONS

Vietnamese Navy Coastal Groups maintained a high level of combat activity, participating in blocking and amphibious operations and setting many base defense ambushes. In the First Coastal Naval Zone, on 7 August, a search operation was conducted by Coastal Group 14, five kilometers southeast of Hoa An, with support provided by PCE 11. There were no friendly casualties. The Coastal Group units captured a quantity of western medicines, medical manuals and foodstuffs. On 17 August, junks of Coastal Group 16 had a firefight with two Viet Cong companies 9 kilometers east of Quang Ngai. U.S. and VNN ships provided timely support.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

The Coastal Group force had three men killed in the action and one wounded, and lost one Browning Automatic Rifle and one submachine gun. Enemy casualties were unknown. From 21 to 27 August, Coastal Group 14 and local forces carried out Operation HOA TUYEN, 4 kilometers south of Hoi An. The Coastal Group unit had five wounded, but captured a quantity of weapons, 700 kilograms of rice and 100 kilograms of salt. The Viet Cong had six killed.

In the Second Coastal Naval Zone, an operation was organized by Coastal Group 23, with the support of PCE 07 and PCF 63, in an area 10 kilometers northeast of Song Cau. The operation took place on 24 August. There were no friendly casualties. Four Viet Cong suspects were detained, one Viet Cong flag captured and two men, previously captured by the Viet Cong, were released.

Activities of Coastal Group 31 and Coastal Group 36 were highlighted in the Third Coastal Naval Zone. On 4 August, a patrol team of Coastal Group 36 had a firefight with a Viet Cong junk at the mouth of the Bassac River. As the junk retreated, the four occupants dropped their weapons over the side and abandoned the junk. Two escaped and two were killed. The patrol team took possession of the junk and 20 kilograms of rice. Eleven days later, on 15 August, Coastal Group 36 conducted an operation in the vicinity of Ap Cu Lao on the Bassac River. This operation was coordinated with Vinh Binh sector forces and was supported by PGM 607 and several USAF aircraft. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties were unknown. The

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

force captured one 57mm recoilless rifle, eighteen Russian made rifles, 124 mines, thirty rockets, one machine gun tripod and three tons of ammunition; and destroyed one junk, two weapon storage areas, and a number of defense works and barracks. On 24 August, Coastal Group 31 captured two junks and destroyed one punji trap while operating in the vicinity of the Ke Ga Peninsula.

The Fourth Coastal Naval Zone conducted 16 amphibious operations and was involved in several firefights. On 16 August, junks of Coastal Group 45 had a firefight 32 kilometers west of Quan Long (Ca Mau). There were no casualties.

Fleet Command PCs and PCEs were utilized for coastal patrol in I, II and IV Coastal Naval Zones and for gunfire support in the Rung Sat Special Zone. An increase of NGFS missions fired by PCs and PCEs was noted during August. The most notable mission took place on 3 August. PCE 09 bombarded a Viet Cong position southwest of Quang Ngai and destroyed three houses and damaged five others. Eight junks were sunk and six damaged. PGMs continued primarily in coastal patrol, operating in all Coastal Naval Zones. One PGM carried out gunfire support and blockade duty in the Rung Sat Special Zone. MSCs were deployed on coastal patrol in I and II Coastal Naval Zones. LST 500 supported operations in Rung Sat Special Zone with NGFS while enroute to Nha Trang.

MLMSs provided daily sweeps of the Long Tau River. On 18 August, the minesweeper allocation was revised so as to effect a significant improvement in utilization of available craft.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

On the morning of 23 August, MLMSs 150 and 151 were attacked from ambush by Viet Cong recoilless rifle and small arms fire (see p. 3 for Long Tau River incidents). Damages resulting from this attack reduced, for two days, the number of craft available for sweeping to four. On the morning of 28 August, MLMS 156 was demolished by a Viet Cong mine at the 26 mile point on the Long Tau River. The LDNN (UDT) participated in the recovery of two weapons, some ammunition and miscellaneous minesweeping gear from the MLMS.

The tempo of operations in the Third and Fourth Riverine Areas and Rung Sat Special Zone increased. River Assault Groups were well utilized during August.

There were seven operations logged in the Rung Sat Special Zone, six by RAG 22 and one by RAG 24. The two most significant operations were RUNG SAT 29/66 and RUNG SAT 34/66 conducted by RAG 22. Operation RUNG SAT 29/66 took place on 5 August with eleven craft of RAG 22 and RF/PF forces participating. There were no friendly casualties; the Viet Cong had three killed. Friendly forces destroyed two bases including sixteen houses, 2200 kilograms of unshelled rice, five junks, fifty bags of cement and thirty jars of salted fish. A quantity of fish nets, documents and photographs were captured. On 25 August, seven craft of RAG 22, LSSL 228 and RF/PF forces were involved in RUNG SAT 34/66. The friendly unit suffered no casualties and destroyed one base, one water tank and one defensive line. Six U.S. fighter aircraft provided support for both operations.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Two operations involving RAGs took place in the Third Riverine Area. Thirteen craft of RAGs 24 and 28 participated in Operation LONG AN 168/66 from 11 to 14 August. The operation took place 15 kilometers northeast of Long An. The VNN had one man wounded and the friendly unit had six killed and eighteen wounded. The enemy had four killed. Thirty additional killed or wounded were carried away. One M1 rifle, two carbines and one Russian rifle were captured.

RAGs were involved in twelve operations in the Fourth Riverine Area. On 2 August, Operation LONG PHI 980/SD, organized by the 9th Division, was carried out 9 kilometers north of Ba Cang and was the most successful. Twelve river craft of RAG 23 and LSIL 331 participated. The friendly unit sustained nine wounded; the Viet Cong had seven killed and two captured. The Vietnamese force captured one 60mm mortar, one .50 caliber machine gun, one .30 caliber machine gun, thirty-five small arms and one ton of ammunition.

LDNN (UDT) conducted two operations during August. Two administrative beach surveys were conducted; in the Xuan Dai Bay area on 5 August and 15 miles south of Phan Ri on 8 August. The latter received support from PCE 07, PGM 606 and Coastal Group 28 units. The survey parties and supporting forces conducted these operations as if the beach areas were being surveyed while under fire. On 23 August, a detachment of eight LDNN personnel was sent to offer diving assistance to the BATON ROUGE VICTORY, damaged by a mine in the Long Tau channel. The detachment

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

returned early the following day, after it had been determined that no immediate assistance could be given.

MAINTENANCE AND LOGISTICS

During August, a total of fourteen casualties on nine fleet units were repaired by ship's force. This represented a significant improvement in shipboard repair efforts, due in large part to the policy of selective job order disapproval by the Fleet Command Maintenance Officer; increased advisory effort in the maintenance of engineering and electronic equipment; and the inventorying of spare parts with assistance by the Fleet Command Supply Assistance Team. The Fleet Command Supply Assistance Team assisted PGM 600 in a complete inventory of all spare parts, and is now assisting LSIL 328 in inventorying electronics, electrical and ordnance spare parts. Authority was granted by the Naval Supply Center to fund 100% allowance of spare parts deficiencies.

Junk maintenance at Coastal Group bases remained satisfactory. A lack of minor spare parts and petty officer initiative hindered the maintenance effort. Shortage of qualified engineering petty officers continued. Maintenance of river assault craft was satisfactory.

The utilization of logistics ships increased. A total of 6,707 tons of cargo and 9,705 men were transported to various locations within the Republic of South Vietnam. LSTs and LSMs were responsible for the movement of the greater part of the cargo and troops. Advisors reported that crews can handle the simple logistic lift problems, but there are reservations that

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

they can successfully accomplish a major troop movement for tactical operations. Utilization of logistic lift ships was hindered by limited docking facilities and by civilian stevedore working arrangements.

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

Task Force Bravo, composed of the First, Third and Fourth Marine Battalions, "C" Battery Vietnamese Marine Artillery and a Headquarters, participated in Operation COLORADO/LIEN KET 52 from 6 August to 14 August. This was a joint USMC/VNMC/ARVN operation in Quang Tin Province, 14 kilometers southwest of Thang Binh. The Task Force initially occupied blocking positions while the Fifth U.S. Marines conducted the attack. On 6 August the Task Force made contact with an estimated Viet Cong battalion, and from 7 through 9 August made moderate to light contact. The Fourth Vietnamese Marine Battalion uncovered over 100 Viet Cong bodies, believed to have been casualties from action on 6 August. Total Task Force casualties through 9 August were eight killed, 40 wounded and one U.S. advisor wounded. The Viet Cong suffered 107 killed with an additional 100 possibly killed, 27 captured and 13 weapons captured.

In Phase II of the operation, the Task Force continued striking generally east through the morning of 13 August when they were hit by an estimated reinforced Viet Cong battalion. The Third Battalion made initial contact and held commanding terrain despite heavy mortar, recoilless rifle and automatic weapons fire. The Fourth Battalion, maneuvering to the south-

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

west, also was taken under heavy fire and initially sustained heavy casualties. Air support was requested and 56 sorties were flown. A task force of armored personnel carriers from the adjoining Sixth ARVN Regiment was committed to a flanking attack. By 1600, all three Vietnamese Battalions were under heavy attack by the Viet Cong force, later shown by captured documents to be a reinforced regiment. The battle continued until 1900, when artillery took over the task of containing the Viet Cong. Airborne observers reported the enemy positions littered with bodies, but despite continual artillery fire and flare drops during the night, the enemy managed to remove most of the dead and wounded. A U.S. confirmed body count the next morning indicated 61 Viet Cong killed. An additional six were captured. The APCs of the Sixth Regiment, also moving through the area fronting on the Vietnamese Marine positions, reported an additional 79 bodies still in position. Vietnamese Marines suffered 20 killed and 95 wounded. On 14 August the Task Force moved to Thang Binh where it established its command post.

Results of the operation from 6 August to 14 August were 504 Viet Cong killed, another 400 estimated killed, and 46 Viet Cong captured including 17 North Vietnamese. Also captured were 54 weapons, one radio, 12 field telephones and various other equipment and ordnance. Total Vietnamese Marine losses were 37 killed and 107 wounded.

Task Force Alpha Headquarters departed for Hue on 23 August where it took OPCON of the Third and Fourth Battalions and "C"

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Battery of the Artillery Battalion. On 25 August the Task Force was committed to Operation LAM SON 303, a search and clear operation along the coast 15 kilometers east of Hue. The operation terminated at 1730 on 28 August. 11 Viet Cong were killed and eight were captured; one crew served and seven individual weapons were seized. The Marines incurred seven wounded. Task Force Alpha remained in the vicinity of Hue until the end of the month.

The Second Marine Battalion spent such of the month at the National Training Center, Baria. The Fifth Battalion remained in defensive positions at or near Ba Hom under the OPCON of the Capital Military District, with one company at Vinh Loc under the OPCON of Tan Binh Subsector. The Battalion participated in operations and ambushes throughout the month. On 9 August, in a combined operation with ARVN Rangers and Airborne troops and Regional Force/Popular Force troops south of Vinh Loc, the Fifth Battalion made contact shortly after crossing the line of departure, killing five Viet Cong and capturing 1200 rounds of ammunition and four hand grenades. Five Vietnamese Marines were wounded. On 31 August a Marine ambush killed one Viet Cong in the vicinity of Vinh Loc. Numerous sniper incidents were reported in the Vinh Loc area throughout the month; however, there were no Marine casualties.

Units of the Vietnamese Marine Corps were heavily engaged with Viet Cong and PAVN forces on several occasions, experiencing hardships over difficult terrain and incurring light to moderate

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

casualties. These factors did not adversely affect the morale or fighting capability of the Vietnamese Marine Corps. The individual Marine continued to demonstrate aggressiveness and devotion to duty. Junior officers and NCOs met the challenge in a fully capable manner. Morale was high and leadership was excellent.[1]

---

[1] Senior Marine Advisor Monthly Historical Review, August 1966.

* * * * *

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPENDIX I

MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY, AUGUST 1966

1. Average number of U.S. ships/craft on patrol during the month:

	DER	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	ADG
TOTAL	-	-	-	495(30)	1113(30)	5 PATROL DAYS
DAILY AVG	5	5	3	16	33	1

2. Average number of VNN ships/junks on patrol during the month:

	SEA FORCE	RIVER FORCE	COASTAL FORCE
TOTAL	178 (27 days)	3113	4454
DAILY AVG	7	104	144

3. U.S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD	- DAY	55,403	NIGHT	67,396	124,335
	STEEL	- DAY	811	NIGHT	725	
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD	- DAY	15,619	NIGHT	17,697	34,135
	STEEL	- DAY	434	NIGHT	385	
TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD	- DAY	14,393	NIGHT	9,061	23,578
	STEEL	- DAY	86	NIGHT	38	

U.S. DETAINED: 970 persons

135 junks

4. VNN Activity:

SEARCHED: 22,338 junks

DETAINED: 1,042 persons

26 junks

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPENDIX II

GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY, AUGUST 1966

1. PBR Statistics:

   a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 398 Night 519

   b. Total Contacts: Day 35,027 Night 12,613

   c. Total Inspected: Day 8,633 Night 2,090

   d. Total Boarded: Day 8,789 Night 1,550

   e. People Detained: 547

   f. Total Patrol Hours: 19,631
      Total Possible Patrols: 2,113
      Average Daily Patrol Hours Per Boat: 9.3

2. Helo Fire Team Statistics:

   a. Structures: Destroyed 15 Damaged 69

   b. Sampans: Destroyed 3 Damaged 31

   c. Total Flight Hours: 330

   d. Helo Missions Supported:
      (1) 12 reaction support of river patrols (CA)
      (2) 70 armed reconnaissance (CA)
      (3) 61 logistics (DCS)
      (4) 0 medical evacuations (CA)

3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

   a. PBR/MSB Firefights: 44

   b. Structures: Destroyed 5 Damaged 31

   c. Sampans: Destroyed 6 Damaged 8 Captured 6

   d. Enemy KIA 22 WIA 3

   e. Friendly KIA 1 WIA 3

   f. Mining Incidents 2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

APPENDIX III

Summary report of activities of U.S. Naval Support Activity, DaNang for the period 22 March through 20 June 1966.

The Naval Support Activity, DaNang expanded its operations. A buildup in manpower was evident in DaNang, Hue/Phu Bai, and Chu Lai. A detachment of pier and hatch teams was sent to Cam Ranh Bay to aid the Army teams.

With the added responsibilities and greater influx of personnel, NAVSUPPACT DANANG grew from 3,585 officers and men on 21 March 1966 to 4,838 officers and men on 20 June 1966.

SUPPLY

The highest single day's tonnage by Supply Department's Freight Terminal Division (FTD) was achieved on 19 June 1966 when a throughput of 11,433 measurement tons was achieved.

Ten warehouses are now in use at DaNang East at the Supply Department's Material Division warehouse site. Five warehouses are under construction. 140,000 cubic feet of reefer storage is on the line at DaNang East; 192,000 cubic feet of reefer storage is in the early stages of construction.

Supply Department's Bulk POL Division assumed control of a fourth 10,000 BBL bolted steel tank at the DaNang airstrip. A fifth tank at the airstrip and one at Marble Mountain are ready for testing.

Personnel from the Philco Corporation are on board for the job of maintaining Material Equipment, transportation and other equipment. The company employs skilled Korean and U.S. technicians. The Philco Corporation has made a favorable impression that the company is trying hard and the employees are well motivated and skilled.

The Bridge Cargo Facility was activated on 20 May with the use of one LCU ramp and two of the bulkhead sections between the ramps. Efficiency of the site is impressive. To date, only barges and small craft have been able to approach the facility but LST's will soon be on the ramps with dredging operations proceeding rapidly.

The Supply Department Material Division established a new package POL storage site at HAO VANG District (South of Hill 327) on 15 June. The Material Division will soon assume the responsibility for the supply functions of all package POL in I CTZ.

PUBLIC WORKS

During the second quarter of calendar year 1966 a total of 120,010 man-hours was expended to maintain facilities. The bulk of this time was on the day-to-day maintenance necessary to keep all facilities in operating condition.

In addition to the normal maintenance of facilities, several minor construction and reconstruction projects were accomplished by Maintenance Division. Included in these were the construction of an Acey-Duecey Club at Camp Tien Sha and the running of two 4-inch water lines from Monkey Mountain to Camp Tien Sha.

Public Works Transportation Division was busy during this period. A total of 39,864 man-hours was expended on the repair and preventative maintenance of machinery and vehicles. The Triangle Auto Shop was opened to help handle the heavy work load.

In addition to the hours spent in maintaining transportation equipment, many hours were spent in actual operation. During this quarter, vehicles operated by the Transportation Division hauled 125,000 measurement tons.

To aid in movement, 248 pieces of equipment were picked up on the inventory of the Transportation Division. This equipment included 116 cargo hauling and 52 personnel carrying vehicles. The remainder were miscellaneous types of equipment.

Utilities Division has played a large role in making NAVSUPPACT DANANG a more pleasant place in which to work. Among the accomplishments of this Division were: the operation and maintenance of electrical generation and distribution equipment; the operation of refrigerated storage; ice machines; air conditioners; refrigerators; water coolers and other miscellaneous equipment. In addition, Utilities has provided potable water. 79,423 man-hours were contributed by this Division to help make the command area more habitable.

The Planning and Engineering Division of Public Works Department was busy during the second quarter designing facilities and coordinating the construction of these facilities. During the quarter, Planning and Engineering guided several major construction projects to completion. Among these were; the second 1,000 man galley/messhall at Camp Tien Sha; 51,600 cubic feet of refrigerated storage; the Bridge Cargo Facility and installation of the 5-point POL mooring system at DaNang and Chu Lai.

The Philco Contract was implemented early in the second quarter CY 66. By the end of the quarter the Philco personnel strength was: 4 U.S. and 132 Third Country (Korean) personnel. During the period of this report, these personnel have turned in a satisfactory performance.

The Real Estate and Contracts Division has as a primary responsibility the negotiation of leases for billets, office space and warehousing and the administration of contracts. At the beginning of the second quarter CY 66, a total of 103 active leases were being administered. During this period five new leases were negotiated and 24 leases were allowed to lapse, leaving 84 active leases at the end of the quarter.

During this same period, 34 NBy and informal contracts were negotiated and work started on various projects representing an investment of $184,210.44. At the end of the second quarter a total of 37 contracts were being administered.

In order for construction of many of the NAVSUPPACT facilities to be started, it was necessary to move many families and graves. This task was coordinated by the Real Estate and Contracts Division.

To allow for the removal of graves, a new cemetery site was chosen and prepared along China Beach. 2,165 graves were moved.

There were approximately 75 families occupying houses on land requested by NAVSUPPACT DANANG. It was necessary to arrange with the Mayor of DaNang to expand Nan Toa Village to accomodate them. The command graded the new sites and is assisting in the transportation of the families and homes.

STATION HOSPITAL

The following activities were considered noteworthy:

a. Additional quarters buildings were erected. 33 quonset huts are now available as staff quarters.

b. The southwest ward building is in use for patient care. The hospital has 330 operating beds available. The average daily patient census in June was 201.5 with 2,330 patients admitted since the hospital opened in January. As of 31 May, 22,555 outpatients had been treated at the hospital.

c. Two quonset buildings, originally planned as a 40-bed neuropsychiatry ward, are used as quarters by staff and Marine Corps security personnel.

d. The optical shop is now in use for eye refractions and fabrication and fitting of spectacles.

e. A Butler hut for use by G19 Preventive Medicine Unit was completed. With completion of two quonsets and installation of air conditioning in the Preventive Medicine Laboratory, construction for the Preventive Medicine Unit will be complete.

f. The Hospital Exchange structure is nearing completion and a Butler hut for medical stores is about 75% completed.

g. Outstanding hospital projects include: air conditioning the NP ward and quarters (with priority given to those used to sleep night duty personnel), the helicopter landing site, roads and sidewalks, quarters construction with heads, plumbing and a leaching field and soil stabilization.

DENTAL

The Dental Department supports military personnel in the DaNang area and others who are entitled to military dental treatment.

Accomplishments and progress:

a. Station Hospital - A third Dental Officer reported aboard 29 April to act as Prosthodontics Dental Officer A deficiency of prosthetics laboratory equipment, however, restricted his activities. Repeated attempts are being made to obtain this equipment. An unexpectedly large patient load is being carried by this facility, caused principally by the presence of a large Marine population in the East DaNang area.

b. Camp Tien Sha - Construction of the dental facility at Camp Tien Sha was begun on 1 May by a civilian contractor. Civil unrest and other high priority construction has interferred with progress. Essential equipment and supplies are now on hand for equipping and stocking this facility; however, no personnel are on board.

c. APL-5 - APL-5, with completed dental spaces, arrived in DaNang the last week in April and proceeded to Chu Lai the following week. The first patient was treated on 7 May 1966. The facility is in full operation.

d. APL-27 - The dental facility aboard APL-27 in DaNang Harbor accepted its first patients for routine treatment on 21 March 1966.

The dental facilities of NAVSUPPACT DANANG handled 7,309 procedures during this quarter, compared to 2,274 procedures during the last quarter. These were performed on 1,802 patients during this quarter compared to last quarter's 855 patients. There are six dental officers attached to NAVSUPPACT DANANG.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Department expanded to include new means of fulfilling its mission and for improving the already existing facilities. Despite interruptions occasioned by civil disturbances, several new long haul circuits were established including a second common user circuit to Nha Trang and the NAVCOMOPNET terminated at Naval Communications Station, Philippine Islands.

A major accomplishment was the activation of a communications detachment at Naval Support Facility (NSF), Hue. Based in two converted reefer vans, the detachment provides voice circuits and a covered teletype circuit for the NSF.

Several functional nets were activated and those already activated were increased in size. Work also began on installing antenna towers and antennas to improve the performance of these circuits.

FIRST LIEUTENANT

In June 1966 the Department was split up and the Base Camp became a separate Department. Under the new arrangement, the

Camp MAA Force, Security Force and Armory are under the Officer-in-Charge, Camp Tien Sha. The First Lieutenant Department retained Physical Security and Fire Department functions.

On 12 May 1966, the DaNang West Fire Department was opened at 14 Quang Trung.

The Physical Security Division continued to expand, assuming responsibilities for DaNang East Motor Pool, Package POL Farm, and NSA Marble Mountain Garbage Dump.

The First Lieutenant Department has grown to its present size of one LCDR, one LT, four LTJGs, seven CPOs, 430 enlisted and 297 civilian guards.

OPERATIONS

Among the various divisions within the Operations Department, the following activities are considered noteworthy:

a. Air Operations:

(1) The NAVSUPPACT DANANG aircraft, C-47, BuNo 17282, arrived in DaNang at the beginning of this period and was immediately put into heavy use. It has been employed in transporting activity personnel and cargo from DaNang to other areas of the I Corps Tactical Zone and to other major cities in RVN.

(2) The aircraft was flown to Sangley Point, P.I. on 28 May 1966 for its first calendar major maintenance inspection. The inspection was completed and the aircraft was returned to DaNang on 10 June 1966.

b. Harbor Security:

(1) On 1 April the Harbor Security Division relieved MIUWS 12 of the responsibility for operation control and manning of Harbor Entrance Control Post (HECP).

(2) On 10 June Harbor Security Division received two LCPL MK IV's from Saigon. Both are equipped with radar.

(3) At present, Harbor Security is providing protection to shipping in DaNang Harbor with four LCPL MK V picket boats, seven LCPL MK IV patrol boats and four Boston Whalers.

c. Port Services:

(1) Port Services' 33-foot utility boats expanded their passenger service to include the YR-70 and AFDL-23 by mid-April in addition to all APL's, Tien Sha Ramp, and the White Elephant. Until 18 June, the utility boats maintained continuous service from 0530 until 2400 daily, moving over four hundred people daily. On 12 June, three 50-foot utility boats arrived to augment passenger capabilities. They relieved the 33-foot boats on the APL run on 19 June; the 33-foot boats took over the DaNang East to White Elephant river shuttle. Other services included a

regular scheduled run to the hospital ship, USS REPOSE. Also accommodated were several visiting Navy ships whose crews were transported to beach areas for parties.

(2) Port Services continued to assist visiting fleet ships by coordinating water, fuel, mail and supply services.

(3) Navigational improvements included the laying of eight buoys to mark the channel from the Museum area to the approaches to the Bridge Ramp. Range Markers were completed for the new Red Beach Landing Site and needed only the placement of causeway sections. The navigational aids maintained by the local Vietnamese continued to be a problem due to lack of maintenance and repair.

(4) Camels are still a problem. Several were lost or broken up. More were constructed, and in mid-June four large camels fabricated at Subic arrived to help solve the problems associated with the lack of water camels.

(5) The Operations Control Center continued to expand its supervision of cargo offload efforts. The OCC radio room increased to a three-man watch, plus a messenger, covering three radio circuits. By mid-June, the Operations Duty Officer maintained his watch station throughout the night while a permament daytime officer was appointed to supervise OCC activities.

During the three months, Port Services grew from 40 to 67 men.

d. Service craft:

(1) Assets have been increased during this reporting period by the return of TD-195, the arrival of YTB-779 from Subic Bay, the return of APL-5 from Yokosuka and the addition of two pontoon ferries which were built locally.

(2) As of 20 June the Division included 9 officers and 236 enlisted men.

(3) There was no change in primary mission during this reporting period.

(4) Rate of flow of water from the Monkey Mountain Site decreased from 6,000 gallons/hour to 3,000 gallons/hour. Efforts are now underway to build a dam on the beach and pump water to the YW. This should bring the combined flow back to approximately 6,000 gallons/hour.

e. Lighterage:

(1) During the past quarter, 127 trips were made to Hue and 33 to Chu Lai. The previous quarter had 19 runs to Hue and 28 to Chu Lai.

(2) On 24 May 1966, four Navy LARCs arrived in DaNang. These were supplemented by six additional LARCs on 13 June. On 18 June, a detachment of the 334th Transportation Company, U.S. Army, reported to COMNAVSUPPACT for temporary duty with 10 LARCs.

(3) Three LCUs were sent to SRF Subic for overhaul and one was returned. Twelve new LCUs were received in DaNang, bringing the total at the end of the quarter to 21 LCUs in DaNang and 5 in overhaul at Subic Bay. At the end of the quarter 27 LCM-8s were assigned at DaNang.

REPAIR

The mission of the Repair Department is to maintain, repair and overhaul boats and craft assigned to COMNAVSUPPACT DANANG, to provide maintenance and repair support to MARKET TIME craft, and to lend all feasible support to units of the fleet, MSTS Ships and other commands.

The functions of the department include; dry-docking services, including hull and machinery repairs to docked craft; technical assistance to craft of the command; ship-to-shop electrical and machinery repairs; engine change and overhauls; and onboard repairs to all boats and craft assigned.

From 1 April through 30 April, the Repair Group functioned as a division within the Operations Department. On 20 April 1966, YR-70, AFDL-23 and YFND-28 arrived on station. Two days later AFDL-23 went into full operation, docking its first LCU for shaft repairs. YR-70 went into full service five days after arrival with the start of its first engine overhaul job.

On 1 May the E&R Division became the Repair Department of Naval Support Activity, DaNang. On 10 May the LSD Boathaven was relieved and the Repair Department assumed full responsibility for repair and maintenance of NAVSUPPACT DANANG craft.

AFDL-23 arrived on station 22 April and has been in use 97 percent of the time since its arrival.

Departmental personnel strength grew steadily throughout the period until the strength as of 20 June was one LCDR, three LTs and 249 enlisted personnel.

Due to limited space on YR-70 for engine overhaul, a pontoon causeway section was brought alongside and shops built on it. This doubled the available shop space and provided a space where multiple engine banks could be worked. YR-70 did not have space for this.

Outside electrical and engine ship facilities were established on the causeway sections at Tien Sha. This provides a capability for many minor repairs away from the YR and cuts down congestion alongside YR-70.

DILLINGHAM continued to dredge the boat basin. The completion date of the basin and sheet pile sea wall was set for October 1966.

* * * * *