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MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 1966

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FOREWORD

The month of November ushered in the Northeast Monsoon season, which hampered the operations of MARKET TIME units. GAME WARDEN activities, however, continued to increase as the Viet Cong gave indications that the PBRs were successfully interdicting enemy operations throughout the Delta.

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy grew in November as the desertion rate dropped off for the fifth consecutive month. For the first time the Vietnamese Marines participated in a combined American-Vietnamese operation (LAM SON 328). During this successful operation, the Marine organization continued to exhibit a high degree of professionalism.

The most unique operation of the month involved the Patrol Air Cushion Vehicles (PACVs) in Operation QUAI VAT, a search and destroy mission in the Moc Hoa area of the Delta's Plain of Reeds. The PACVs, which had enjoyed only modest operational success previously, proved their effectiveness in an environment especially suited to their capabilities. The U.S. Special Forces, with whom the PACVs operated at Moc Hoa, were enthusiastic in their appraisal of Operation QUAI VAT.

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CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 Nov - MSB 54 mined. Two U.S. Navymen killed. p. 29.

7 Nov - PCF 67 sinks two junks. p. 44.

9 Nov - PBRs and Vietnamese Customs boat ambushed. One American and one Vietnamese wounded. p. 24.

11 Nov - Arrival of USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST-846). p. 9.

12 Nov - PCF 65 fired on. One secondary explosion and three sampans destroyed by PCF 65's return fire. p. 43.

15 Nov - PCF 77 broaches and sinks. Three crewmembers killed. p. 40.

16 Nov - Two PBR crewmen wounded during fire fight. Helicopters destroy two houses and eight huts. p. 25.

18 Nov - MARKET TIME units destroy one junk and trigger five secondary explosions. p. 46.

19 Nov - Viet Cong attempt a major ambush. Ten Viet Cong killed and 13 huts destroyed. p. 26.

20 Nov - PACVs conduct Operation QUAI VAT in the Plain of Reeds. p. 1.

22 Nov - Viet Cong crossing broken up. Four Viet Cong killed. One hut and one sampan destroyed. p. 20.

26 Nov - GAME WARDEN helicopters kill ten Viet Cong. p. 29.

27 Nov - Vietnamese Navy (VNN) LCU 536 ambushed. Four VNN sailors killed and nine wounded. p. 60.

29 Nov - SEALS kill one Viet Cong and capture sampan. p. 36.

30 Nov - GAME WARDEN helicopters kill two Viet Cong and destroy five structures. p. 29.

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OPERATION QUAI VAT

Operation QUAI VAT (Monster), conducted in late November and early December, was an operation designed to test the capability of the Patrol Air Cushion Vehicle (PACV) to operate over marshy, submerged terrain. The Plain of Reeds in Kien Phong and Kien Tuong Provinces was such an area.

During the flood season, PBRs had conducted successful operations in this area, a region which had been under Viet Cong control for several years. As the floods subsided, boat operations were no longer feasible, but the zero draft characteristic of the PACV made it an ideal craft for the flat, open country of the Plain of Reeds, which was still largely underwater.

Liaison was established with U.S. Army Special Forces (USSF) Detachment B-41 at Moc Hoa. Special Forces were interested in two aspects of the PACV:

1. The psychological impact of the awesome appearance and noise of the vehicle. Word was spread throughout the area that the "Monster" was coming. The following is a literal translation of the Vietnamese leaflet dropped in the Plain of Reeds informing the Viet Cong of the capabilities of the PACV:

> "One kind of modern machine just used by the Forces of the Republic of Viet Nam in IV Corps Tactical Zone. Aircushion boat does not care mud, canal and field as well as river because this kind of machine can travel on road and in river. The aircushion boat is also armed with automatic guns having a powerful fire power. Viet Cong have been foiled seriously by this kind of boat and Viet Cong troops have complained 'It is the time of the end of South Vietnam Liberation Front'."

2. The mobility afforded by the high speed (60 knots) of the

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vehicle.

Three PACVs were deployed from Cat Lo on 20 November, with refueling stops at My Tho, Vinh Long, and the Special Forces airstrip at An Long.

At An Long, the PACVs conducted a reconnaissance by fire mission in Cai Cai village with Special Forces and Civil Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) troop support. The PACVs encountered no hostile fire at Cai Cai, a known Viet Cong village. Fourteen huts and 12 sampans were destroyed.

On 21 November the PACVs, with ten CIDG troops and one USSF advisor embarked in each vehicle, supported by the GAME WARDEN light fire team from Vinh Long, conducted search and destroy operations in a known Viet Cong base area to the east of Moc Hoa. The Kien Tuong Province Chief and his intelligence officer were embarked in one of the PACVs for the day. The mission's results were two structures and 12 sampans destroyed, and one Viet Cong captured, as well as 200 pounds of food, six documents and a medical kit.

On 22 November in the same area, five rifles were found by the CIDG troops. At 1010, GAME WARDEN helicopters from HC-1 Det 25 received heavy automatic weapons fire from approximately 25 sampans in an area eight miles east-northeast of Moc Hoa near the Cambodian border. Fire was returned by both the GAME WARDEN fire team and an Army fire team in the area. When the PACVs arrived on the scene, the embarked CIDG troops made contact with an unknown number of Viet Cong. Kien Tuong provincial troops were landed by helicopter

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to provide a blocking force as helicopters, PACVs and airboats pursued the enemy. Upon landing, the provincial troops received fire from a village which had been flying a Viet Cong flag. The flag was hauled down and replaced by a Cambodian flag. To avoid a possible border incident, the troops were extracted from the area.

Then CIDG troops again were landed well inside the Vietnamese border and gained contact with the fleeing enemy. PACVs supported the troops with automatic weapons fire, killing six of the enemy and destroying six sampans. Helicopters killed an additional nine Viet Cong, and possibly 52 more, destroyed eight sampans and two huts, and damaged ten sampans and three huts.

The day's operation, which involved three PACVs, three Navy and three Army armed helicopters, six UH-1D transports, ten reaction force troops (Nung tribesmen) in five airboats, 90 CIDG troops, and seven U.S. and four Vietnamese Special Forces troops, accounted for a total of 56 Viet Cong killed while 11 weapons, 25 booby traps and three kilos of documents were captured. Friendly casualties were two CIDG wounded.

On 24 November, the fourth day of Operation QUAI VAT, the allied forces destroyed 20 structures, sank 50 sampans and destroyed a hand printing press and numerous items of personal equipment left behind by the Viet Cong. Forty pounds of documents, leaflets and propaganda materials, 12 grenades, three outboard motors, and two pounds of medical supplies were captured.

On 25 November, operations were conducted to the south and east

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of Moc Hoa. The PACVs killed 13 Viet Cong and captured six more, destroyed 25 sampans, and captured 40 pounds of Viet Cong equipment. GAME WARDEN helicopters destroyed four huts and four sampans.

Original plans envisioned termination of the operation on 26 November. However, the Army requested that Operation QUAI VAT be extended for another week because the PACVs had proven so successful in the environment of the Plain of Reeds.

On 26 November, the PACVs returned to Cat Lo for intensive inspection and maintenance before beginning the second week of operations in Moc Hoa. On 30 November, the vehicles made no contact with the enemy during search and destroy operations west of Moc Hoa. Several suspected cache sites were inspected, with negative results. One sampan was destroyed, and one CIDG soldier was wounded by a booby trap.

Little contact was made with the enemy during the second period, but on 2 December, two Viet Cong were captured, 44 structures were destroyed, and two outboard motors, six documents, and numerous items of personal equipment were captured.

On 5 December, PACVDIV 107 terminated Operation QUAI VAT and returned to Cat Lo. The operation was considered an unqualified success, both as a test of the abilities of the PACV to operate in the Plain of Reeds environment, and as an offensive operation. During the last week of the operation the water level in the Plain of Reeds was nearly back to normal, yet the vehicles continued to operate without difficulty. COMPACVDIV 107 stated that, with proper

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logistic support, the craft could operate in the environment 12 months of the year.

The mobility provided by the PACV was the key to its tactical success. Troops could be moved rapidly through areas inaccessible to other types of vehicles, and in which even the mobility of foot soldiers was restricted by chest-deep water over a slimy bottom.

Troops riding on the outside of the vehicles were delivered to hootches (huts) and bunkers, with the machine guns and grenade launchers softening up the emplacements during the approach. The troops were then landed to search the area under the cover of the PACVs' .50 caliber guns.

Helicopters overhead were used to vector the PACVs to suspicious areas spotted from the air, to provide air support, and to assist in finding routes from point to point. While the PACVs could operate over dry land, low dikes, marshes, shrubbery and flooded areas, they were restricted by heavy woods and high banks in some areas. Helicopter reconnaissance was necessary to find routes in some areas.

The close coordination and cooperation of Navy and Army personnel on all levels was perhaps the key to the overall success of the operation. Special Forces advisors who knew the area accompanied the PACVs on all operations, taking them to known Viet Cong strongholds. The advisors also provided psychological warfare preparation for the operations as well as intelligence support.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE

Viet Cong activity in the Mekong Delta rose sharply during November. Cu Lao May Island in the Bassac River, the Co Chien River near Cu Lao Giai Island, and the vicinity of Ngo Hiep Island in the Mekong River were centers of increased activity. Twelve separate hostile fire incidents occurred in a seven-mile stretch of the Mekong River between Ngo Hiep and Thoi Son Islands. On the Co Chien, six hostile fire incidents were reported in the area between 20 and 28 miles downstream from Vinh Long. The area between five and 13 miles downstream from Can Tho was the scene of three hostile fire incidents. In the same area, Can Tho PBRs came to the assistance of outposts in the Tra On Sector on 13 and 30 November, and on 19 November a suspect was apprehended with contraband medicines.

The growing effectiveness of GAME WARDEN operations was indicated by the steadily increasing flow of intelligence from cooperative Delta inhabitants. The friendly, helpful attitude of the American sailors and the effectiveness of U.S. patrols in reducing Viet Cong "tax collections" were factors that helped win increasing acceptance for the PBRs. According to a "Hoi Chanh"[1] who rallied at My Tho, Viet Cong "taxation" in that area had dropped from one million piasters in 1965 to 97,000 during 1966, primarily as a result of GAME WARDEN operations on the My Tho River.[2]

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[1] A Viet Cong who has returned to government control. Literally, hoi - to return; chanh - just cause

[2] Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO) My Tho msg 270427Z NOV

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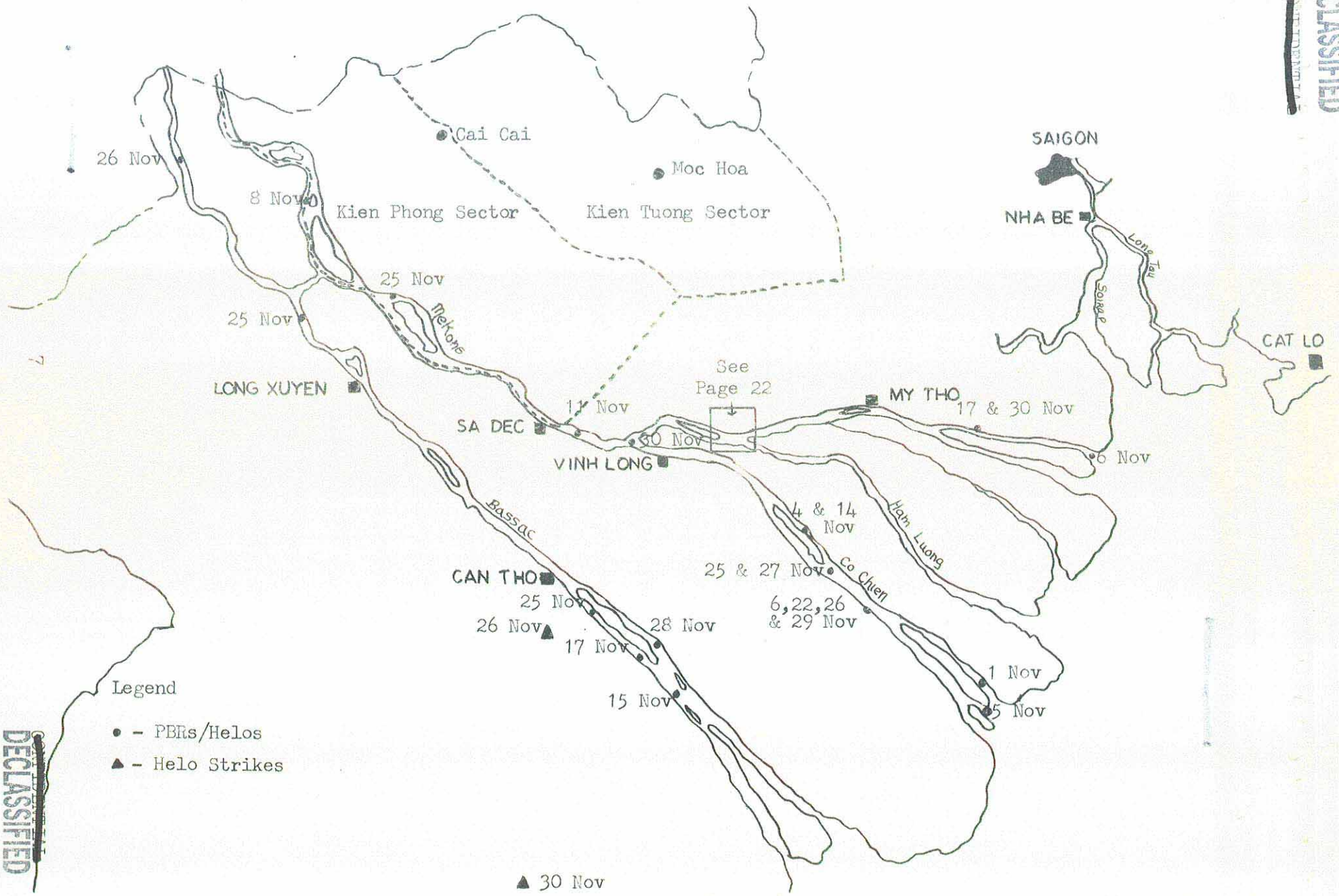
DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP
November 1966



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Further indications of the effectiveness of GAME WARDEN operations were the increased Viet Cong harassment of GAME WARDEN patrols and the psychological warfare campaigns waged against river patrol forces. In Sa Dec residents were warned by the Viet Cong to avoid contact with Navy personnel for their own safety because Vietnamese would be killed during attempts to assassinate U.S. Navy personnel.[3]

Growing cooperation with Vietnamese government officials and armed forces on all levels was noted also during the month. On 9 November, the Commanding General, IV Corps, ordered his tactical zone commanders to provide six National Policemen or Regional Force troops to each River Patrol Section to assist in liaison with the local populace.

The first LST configured for GAME WARDEN operations, USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST-846), arrived on station at the mouth of the Bassac on 15 November. Heavy seas caused by the northeast monsoon and the long fetch over shallow water precluded satisfactory PBR operations. The LST was moved to Can Tho on 18 November.

The first successful mining of a U.S. Navy minesweeper in the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ) occurred on 1 November with the loss of two American lives. The mining was accompanied by heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from well-prepared ambush sites on the east bank of the Long Tau River.

On 7 November a crewmember drowned when an Army gunship crashed into the Soirap River in a driving rainstorm while approaching the

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[3] Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO) Sa Dec msg 190050Z NOV

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Nha Be helicopter pad with survivors of an earlier crash. Quick reaction by base personnel prevented further loss of lives. During the rescue operations, hostile fire was received on two occasions.

On 10 November a watermine, measuring two feet in diameter, was found in the Long Tau River. The mine contained 30 pounds of explosives and its location, 100 yards from the bank and ten feet below the water's surface, indicated that it was to be used against minesweepers or PBRs.

On 29 November 15 miles southeast of Nha Be, a SEAL ambush team killed one or two Viet Cong, and captured two Soviet antitank rockets, six pairs of boots and a small plastic bag full of documents.

ARRIVAL OF GAME WARDEN SUPPORT SHIP (LST-846)

The first of the specially configured GAME WARDEN LSTs, USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST-846), arrived at Vung Tau on 11 November and relieved USS COMSTOCK (LSD-19).

JENNINGS COUNTY arrived on station at the mouth of the Bassac at 1800 on 15 November. Considerable difficulty was encountered in positioning the ship because of heavy seas, high winds and a strong current. The initial attempt to anchor, heading into the wind and dropping the stern anchor first, failed when the ship's head slewed 100° before the bower could be dropped.

On the third attempt, the stern anchor held, with the ship's roll steadying to 10-15 degrees. Attempts to launch PBRs on 16 November failed because of heavy seas. Finally, on 17 November,

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two PBRs were launched while a third was set adrift and recovered later. Because of the difficulties in handling boats, JENNINGS COUNTY was shifted to Can Tho on 18 November.

Specific difficulties included: steel-wheeled dollies and forklifts with hard rubber tires would slip on the wet decks because of the ship's constant rolling; when the LST was anchored in a position where rolling was minimized, strong cross winds created problems in handling boats on the lifting hook; PBR and helicopter handling were incompatible in that favorable conditions for handling boats precluded helicopter-launching operations.

In subsequent operations conducted off Can Tho in relatively calm weather, it was found that helicopters could be refueled and rearmed more rapidly aboard ship than at a field. Fire teams were completely rearmed and refueled in 12 minutes, measured from touch-down to take-off. In addition, the ship's CIC kept relief crews abreast of the status of any action in progress.

DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Lower Bassac River

On 17 November PBRs 35 and 36, while on routine patrol 13 miles downstream from Can Tho, observed a sampan with three persons aboard crossing from north to south on the Bassac River at 2115 in a known Viet Cong crossing area. The sampan directed five rounds of small arms fire at the patrol while making for the mouth of a small canal. The PBRs opened fire at a range of 150 yards as the patrol leader requested artillery support from Kesach subsector.

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The PBRs expended 350 rounds of .50 caliber, 15 rounds of M-79, 200 rounds of M-60, and 40 rounds of M-16 at the sampan. Kesach subsector artillery delivered ten rounds of artillery to the north bank and 20 rounds to the south bank with unknown results. The sampan disappeared and was presumed to have been sunk with its three occupants.

A PBR patrol observed a sampan attempting to cross the Bassac in a known Viet Cong crossing area five miles downstream from Can Tho at 2355 on 25 November. The sampan was illuminated and hailed. After the sampan had ignored the hailings, warning shots were fired. At this point, 30-40 rounds of small arms fire were directed at the PBRs from the sampan and the bank. The patrol returned .50 caliber and M-79 fire, as enemy fire was quickly suppressed. No trace was found of the sampan despite a thorough search of the area.

On 28 November a fairly reliable intelligence agent reported that the patrol had broken up an attempt to move arms into a Viet Cong training area in Phong Dinh Province, killing ten Viet Cong on the bank and two in a sampan, and sinking two sampans with an undetermined amount of arms.

On 29 November PBRs 37 and 38 were proceeding to rendezvous with Vietnamese River Assault Group (RAG) units after having served as a blocking force for a Tra On subsector operation on Cu Lao May Island. The District Chief and his U.S. Army advisor were embarked in the PBRs, and were enroute to observe the RAG units conducting a training exercise to the south.

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At 0950 the patrol received approximately 100 rounds of automatic weapons and 40-50 rounds of small arms fire from the north bank of the Bassac River 13 miles downstream from Can Tho. The patrol returned fire. Twenty-seven boats of RAGs 25, 26 and 29 supported the PBRs with fire. The hostile fire was suppressed. Again at 1030, the patrol began to receive fire. PBRs 59 and 60 joined the fight, and artillery and GAME WARDEN helicopter fire teams were requested. At 1055 artillery fire commenced, and at 1105 the first helicopter strike was launched by JENNINGS COUNTY, anchored off Can Tho.

The crew of JENNINGS COUNTY, although relatively new to GAME WARDEN helicopter operations, completely rearmed the helicopters twice with a turnaround time of less than ten minutes, and the fire teams were able to put three strikes in the area before fire was suppressed.

At 1255, PBRs 59 and 60 received a rifle grenade from a position one mile upstream from the initial ambush and, with PBRs 37 and 38, took this position under fire. At 1315, PBRs 37 and 38 came to the assistance of an outpost nearby, and quickly broke up the enemy attack. All action ceased at this time.

There were no friendly casualties during the engagement, and no material damage to U.S. or Vietnamese craft. Enemy casualties in the battle were unknown.

Assistance to Friendly Forces

GAME WARDEN units in the lower Bassac assisted Vietnamese

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forces with fire support or medical evacuation on three occasions during the month.

On 2 November, five wounded sailors from a Vietnamese LSIL, which had been hit by 57mm recoilless rifle fire at the entrance to the Kinh Quan Chanh Bo canal near the mouth of the Bassac, were taken by PBR to an outpost near Cu Lao Cong Dinh Island where GAME WARDEN helicopters picked up the wounded for further transfer to Can Tho.

On 13 November PBRs evacuated five wounded Vietnamese personnel from Tra On to Can Tho. They had been wounded in an attack on their outpost five miles northeast of Tra On.

At 1530 on 26 November, River Patrol forces suppressed hostile fire in response to a call for assistance from two Coastal Group 36 junks under attack at the tip of Cu Lao Dung Island in the mouth of the Bassac.

Other Incidents

On 5 November at 1100, PBRs 30 and 31, engaged in a routine search of river traffic eight miles upstream from Can Tho, discovered 80,000 piasters hidden under the after deck boards of a sampan. The sampan's occupant, who gave his name as Dam Van Thanh, had no identification papers and was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy for questioning.

On 15 November at 0800, while on routine patrol 19 miles downstream from Can Tho, PBRs 30 and 41 observed a man throwing objects over the side of his sampan. The objects were discovered to be

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nuoc mam (fish sauce) jars containing medicine. The suspect was detained and turned over to Vietnamese Naval authorities who discovered Viet Cong travel authorization papers on his person.

Operations in the Upper Bassac and Mekong Rivers

River Patrol Unit Bravo, based at Long Xuyen and Sa Dec, patrolled the upper Bassac and Mekong Rivers.

On 8 November at 1114, PBRs 61 and 62, operating 38 miles northwest of Sa Dec on the Mekong, observed two men moving southwest in a sampan. After the men ignored hails and warning shots, they were taken under direct fire. One of the men was wounded in the leg. The other man escaped into the brush. The wounded man was questioned at Sa Dec, where he refused to name his companion. He gave three different and conflicting reasons for his attempts to evade. The man was turned over to the Australian Medical Team for treatment, after which interrogation was continued.

Five miles east of Sa Dec, PBRs approached two sampans in the middle of the river at 1445 on 11 November. The sampans evaded, refused to answer hails, and were taken under direct fire. The action resulted in one probable kill. On 25 November, a similar incident occurred 10 miles north of Long Xuyen on the Bassac when two sampans were sighted close to the bank. The sampans' occupants left their boats as the patrol received automatic weapons fire from the beach. The PBRs suppressed the hostile fire, sank one sampan and captured the other.

On 26 November, three miles from the Cambodian border, PBRs

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136 and 138 hailed a sampan which evaded to the beach. The boat's single occupant fled and was taken under direct fire and mortally wounded.

Support of Friendly Forces

River Patrol Unit Bravo forces provided support for friendly Vietnamese forces on seven occasions during the month. On 16 November, a Vietnamese civilian was taken from Tra On to the hospital at Long Xuyen after his foot had been blown off by a Viet Cong mine. On 29 November, another mine victim was taken from his Civil Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) outpost to the Australian Surgical Team at Long Xuyen.

On 22 November, Sa Dec PBRs provided blocking forces for the 13th ARVN Battalion. During the operation, the patrol received five rounds of sniper fire, and returned M-60 and M-16 fire. There were no friendly casualties; Viet Cong casualties were unknown. On the same day, PBRs came to the assistance of an outpost which was under attack 25 miles from Sa Dec. The Than Binh District Chief directed the fire from the beach, and observed it to be very effective.

On 25 November, Sa Dec-based PBRs 80 and 81 provided indirect azimuth .50 caliber fire in support of an outpost near Tan Hoa hamlet three nautical miles inland from the Mekong River. The fire was requested by the assistant advisor, 3/13 Battalion of the Ninth ARVN Division, who observed and corrected the fire.

With the Senior Advisor, 3/13 Bn embarked, the boats took station in the river as close as possible to the outpost and opened

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fire in a triangular area approximately 3000 meters on each side, with its base on the outpost and its apex approximately 015° True from the outpost along the line of fire from the boats.

The spotter reported that the fire was effective, and the attack was quickly broken. The PBRs expended 3250 rounds of .50 caliber. There were no friendly casualties. Viet Cong casualties were unknown.

On 27 November, Sa Dec-based PBRs picked up a wounded Regional Force soldier from a sampan while friendly forces provided beach security. The wounded man was taken to the Sa Dec hospital.

Operations in the Co Chien River

Most of November's activity on the Co Chien River was in the vicinity of Cu Lao Giai and Cu Lao Nai Islands, between 20 and 30 miles down river from Vinh Long.

Hostile Fire and Evasion Incidents

On 4 November, PBRs 86 and 100 received about 50 rounds of automatic weapons fire from the north bank of the river 20 miles downstream from Vinh Long at 1930. The patrol returned fire, and called in the Vinh Long heavy fire team (two UH-1B helicopter gunships and a .50 caliber armed UH-1). Viet Cong fire was effectively suppressed.

At 2203 on 4 November, PBRs 97 and 102, operating in the same area in which PBRs 86 and 100 were taken under fire earlier, observed a lighted sampan lying close to the north bank. As the PBRs closed to investigate, the enemy opened fire from both banks. The patrol,

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returning fire with .50 caliber and M-79 weapons, cleared the area.

The helicopter fire team scrambled from Vinh Long, and PBRs 86 and 100 joined the engagement. At 2230, heavy fire again erupted from both banks, and the boats cleared the area. The four boats then began high speed firing runs, marking the area for the fire team.

The boats again cleared the area, and the helicopters took the enemy under fire. On the first runs, the helicopters reported receiving moderate ground fire.

At 2325, 105mm howitzer fire from the battery at Mo Cay began as the helicopters spotted the fall of shot. When the fire team was forced to return to its base to refuel, the PBRs took over the spotting task, and a total of 28 rounds of 105mm were placed in the ambush area.

The target, believed to be bank security elements for an attempted communications-liaison crossing, was neutralized at 0050, 5 November, and the PBRs resumed normal patrols. PBR 86 received some superficial damage, but there were no personnel casualties.

On 14 November the Viet Cong attempted an estimated platoon-size ambush again from the area 20 miles downstream from Vinh Long. PBRs 86 and 117, while engaged in routine junk search operations, were taken under fire from the north bank. The boats, while clearing at high speed to the west, also received automatic weapons fire from a 30-foot sampan close to the north bank. The sampan was hit with .50 caliber and M-79 fire.

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PBRs 29 and 97 joined the fight and the GAME WARDEN helicopter fire team scrambled to the scene. As the four boats moved back into the area to mark the targets, they were taken under heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire. The boats reversed course as the fire team neutralized the area. Two huts and one sampan were destroyed by the fire team.

On 25 November, PBRs 29 and 102 observed two men in a sampan 25 miles downstream from Vinh Long. As the patrol closed to investigate, fire was received from the sampan and the bank. The PBRs returned fire, sinking the sampan and killing its two occupants.

At 1530 on 27 November, River Assault Group (RAG) 23 units, operating in the same area, sighted 12 armed men in black pajama uniforms moving through the paddies on the north bank. When the RAG units fired on the men, they took cover behind a paddy dike, returning the fire.

Six PBR patrols in the area joined the RAGs to form a blocking force as GAME WARDEN helicopters scrambled. Vietnamese LSIL 328 arrived and took the enemy under 3"/50, 40mm and 81mm mortar fire. Popular Forces (PF) troops were landed about 1630 by the RAG to sweep the area.

The helicopters killed one Viet Cong, another was killed by RAG fire, and a woman Viet Cong cadre was captured by the PF troops. The troops reported numerous articles of bloody clothing in the area. Naval forces suffered no casualties, but two PF troops were wounded by a grenade booby trap.

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On 30 November, PBRs 100 and 116 were conducting visit and search operations near the junction of the Mekong and Co Chien Rivers. At 1605, the patrol sighted two sampans close to the north bank. When the boats were hailed, one escaped up a small canal, and the other beached. The three occupants of the second sampan took cover in vegetation on the bank. With PBR 116 covering, PBR 100 moved in to attempt to flush out the three evaders. Heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire broke out from the opposite bank.

PBR 116 cleared the area as PBR 100 made a high speed firing run on the enemy position. Because enemy fire could not be suppressed, the PBRs called for artillery support from Giao Duc subsector.

The Giao Duc battery opened fire within ten minutes after the request, and the PBRs remained 500-750 yards from the enemy position to spot the fall of shot. After firing 28 rounds of 105mm howitzer shells into the area, the battery checked fire as PBRs 100 and 116, with PBRs 86 and 111 in company, swept past the target. Since no fire was received from the enemy position, the target was considered neutralized.

Support of Friendly Forces

Vinh Long-based PBRs were active in supporting friendly forces during the month. In addition to the combined operation mentioned in the previous section, PBRs came to the assistance of outposts under attack on four occasions.

On the night of 6 November, after having been informed by the

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commander of an outpost near Cu Lao Nai Island that the Viet Cong intended to attack his outpost at 2000 that night, the PBR patrol remained in the area and broke up the attack which had commenced at 1953.

On 9 November at 1955, PBRs and Army helicopters supported an outpost under attack by an estimated company of Viet Cong. The first two boats on the scene, PBRs 29 and 116, delivered 4000 rounds of .50 caliber and 1200 rounds of M-60 fire. PBRs 96 and 106 joined the engagement and fired 900 rounds of .50 caliber. An Air Force AC-47 also joined the engagement, and the combined firepower of friendly forces broke up the attack.

On 22 November, PBRs 86 and 117, patrolling in the vicinity of Cu Lao Nai Island, observed the outpost, which had been supported on 6 November, firing across an adjacent canal. The patrol was called in and informed the Viet Cong were attempting to cross the canal, and that the outpost had been holding down the enemy in hopes that PBRs would arrive soon.

Upon leaving the post, the two boats were taken under heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire, which they suppressed. An Army helicopter fire team arrived on the scene as heavy firing broke out again. The combined fire from the fire team and the PBRs soon suppressed the enemy fire. The helicopters reported that many of the enemy were along the bank, and many more were running across the fields.

The GAME WARDEN fire team from Vinh Long joined the Army team

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in hitting targets in the area. The helicopters received heavy ground fire during their passes. A hut was destroyed, producing a small secondary explosion; one sampan was destroyed and six others damaged. Four Viet Cong were killed in the action which lasted from 1115 to 1500. There were no friendly casualties.

On 29 November, the same outpost which had been supported on 6 and 22 November was attacked again by the Viet Cong. PBRs 82 and 97 suppressed the enemy fire with .50 caliber and M-79 fire.

On 26 November, the commander of the outpost which had been supported on three occasions during the month stated that Viet Cong tax collectors with Government I.D. cards were operating in the vicinity of his post. The commander accompanied the patrol to aid in identification. At 1719, a sampan with four occupants was sighted crossing the Co Chien from south to north. As the patrol approached, all occupants immediately raised their hands without being ordered to. Normally, unless warning shots are fired, rivermen come alongside and produce I.D. cards without raising their hands. All the boat's occupants had valid I.D. cards, but the outpost commander identified them as the tax collectors in question. The suspects were taken to Vinh Long for further interrogation.

Mekong (My Tho) Operations

During November, friendly forces were taken under fire 12 times in a seven-mile strip of the Mekong River lying between Thoi Son and Ngo Hiep Islands. Also, a large shipment of Viet Cong medicines was captured from a junk in this area.

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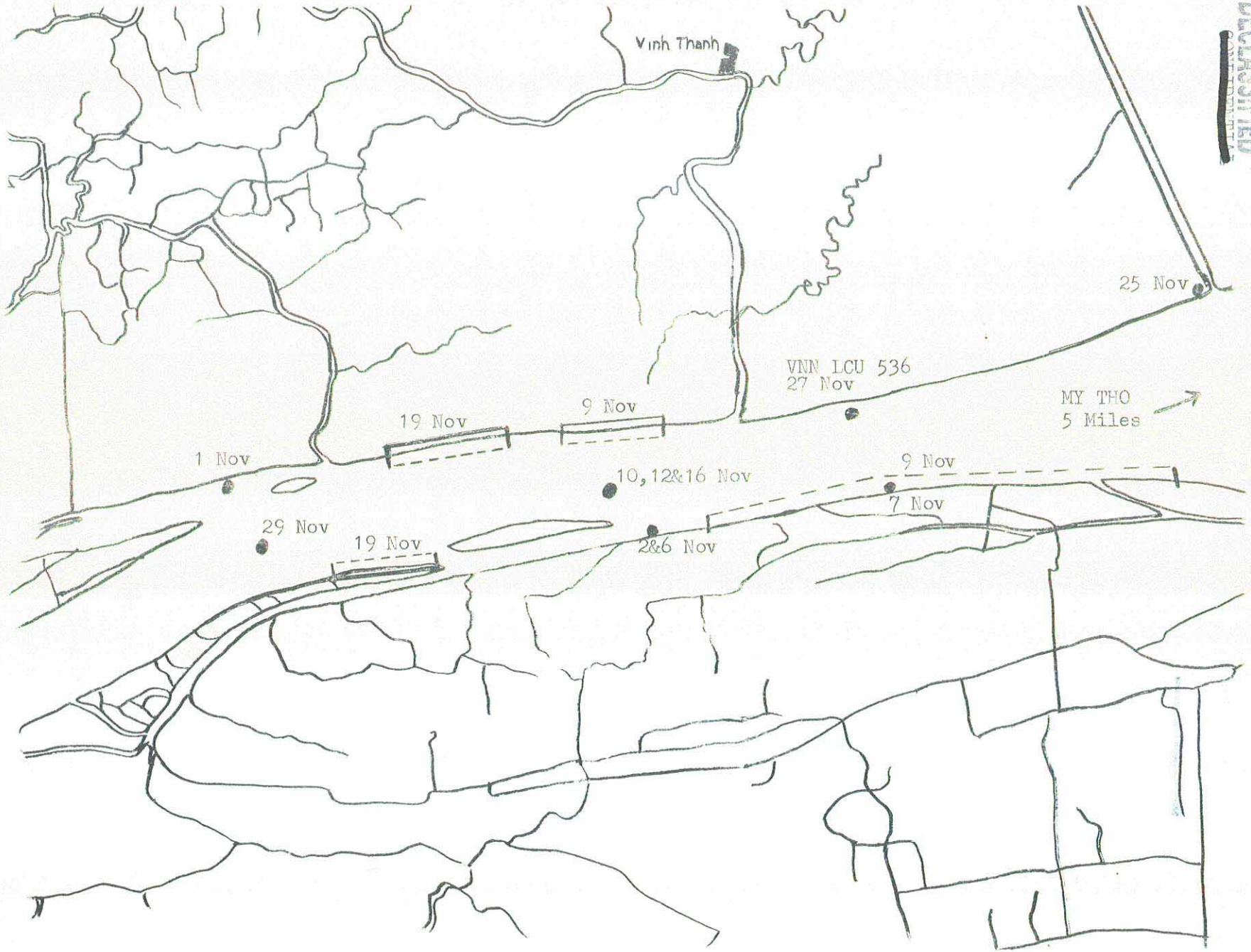
MEKONG (MY THO) OPERATIONS



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Hostile Fire and Evasion Incidents

On 1 November at 1800, PBRs 96 and 105 received heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from the bank 11 miles west of My Tho. When the bank was taken under fire, a large secondary explosion, producing black smoke rising 200 feet in the air, was observed. The Ham Long 105mm battery delivered 12 rounds on target at 1935. Friendly casualties were limited to one superficial hit on PBR 105.

On 2 November, PBRs approached a sampan near the south bank of the river, eight miles west of My Tho. At 1500 yards from the sampan, the patrol received small arms fire from the shore as the sampan disappeared into the brush. PBR 106 received five superficial hits in the forward part of the boat above the waterline. On 6 November in approximately the same area, PBRs 105 and 109 received 30 rounds of sniper fire. PBR 109 received a hit in the hull, one on an M-16 rifle barrel, and one on the starboard radio antenna. In both fire fights, the patrols responded with .50 caliber and M-79 fire.

On 6 November, Patrol Air Cushion Vehicles (PACVs) 1 and 3, operating at the mouth of the Mekong River, encountered hostile fire for the first time when they received 15 rounds of sniper fire which they returned with 100 rounds of .50 caliber.

On 7 November at 1425, PBRs 96 and 107 received 70 rounds of automatic weapons and small arms fire from a house on the south bank six miles west of My Tho. One crewmember of PBR 107 was wounded in the action and evacuated by helicopter to Saigon.

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At 1610 on 9 November, PBRs 103 and 104, while escorting the Vietnamese Customs boat TD-10, received fire from the south bank of the river eight miles west of My Tho. Fire was returned by the PBRs and the enemy ceased fire. At 1730 on the return trip to My Tho, .50 caliber fire was received from eight positions along the north bank of the river. The first burst swept the deck of TD-10, wounding one Vietnamese and one American acting as radio liaison petty officer. The wounded were taken aboard the PBRs for evacuation.

As the patrol cleared the kill zone of the emplacement on the north bank, it entered another kill zone of a continuous ambush that ran for 5,000 meters along the south bank. PBRs 105 and 110, heading west from My Tho to support PBRs 103 and 104, passed through both kill zones to spot for the Vietnamese Army Seventh Division artillery.

At 1811, the first rounds of 105mm fire from the 72nd Artillery, Dinh Tuong sector, were walked up and down the north bank. The battery delivered 23 rounds of artillery, all on target.

The Vietnamese Navy LSSL 228 made a firing run past the north bank and put six rounds of 3"/50 and 100 rounds each of 40mm and 20mm fire into the ambush area. The naval gunfire and artillery were effective in silencing the enemy fire.

At 1825, PBRs 96 and 106, enroute to their western patrol sector, received approximately 400 rounds of small arms and automatic weapons fire from the south bank. The boats returned the

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fire and continued upstream.

Two minutes later, PBRs 101 and 107 passed through the embattled zone and received heavy fire. The Kien Hoa sector 105mm battery put several rounds into the area, suppressing the enemy fire. Despite blistering fire from both banks of the river, the only casualties were the two wounded from TD-10 who were evacuated to My Tho.

On 10 November there were two fire fights eight miles west of My Tho. At 0730, PBRs 104 and 110 received 50 rounds of automatic weapons fire from two houses on the south bank. Seventh Division artillery totally destroyed one house and 13 rounds of 105mm, and damaged the second with 14 rounds. At 1405, the same patrol received automatic weapons fire from the damaged house and small arms fire from the tree line. The PBRs and the GAME WARDEN helicopter fire team suppressed the fire.

On 12 November, a PBR patrol received 25 rounds of small arms fire and one rifle grenade from the north bank of the river. All enemy fire landed between the two boats. The patrol responded with .50 caliber and M-60 fire; Seventh Division artillery fired five rounds of 105mm.

On 16 November, there were three fire fights in the same area. At 0703, PBRs broke up an attack on an outpost on the north bank eight miles west of My Tho. At 0905, PBRs 109 and 110 received accurate, heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from a house on the south bank in the same general area. Two crewmen were wounded, one seriously, before the area was neutralized by the PBRs,

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Kien Hoa sector artillery, and the GAME WARDEN fire team. At 1620, PBRs 109 and 110 again received heavy fire from a house on the south bank. The helicopter fire team, supporting the boats, took heavy fire from the tree line around the house. The fire team destroyed six huts and damaged nine others. Two Army helicopter fire teams joined the action and damaged two houses and destroyed two huts. PBR 110 received two superficial hits.

On 17 November, PBRs 139 and 142 received approximately 50 rounds of automatic weapons fire at 1845 while on normal patrol 11 miles downstream from My Tho. The PBRs returned fire with unknown results. On 30 November in approximately the same location, the Viet Cong attempted to lure PBRs into a trap by floating a Viet Cong flag on a raft in the river. PBRs 140 and 144 ignored the flag and continued to patrol. At 1655 the patrol received 100 rounds of automatic weapons fire in the area and called for artillery. While standing by to spot, the PBRs received an additional 50 rounds of fire until the area was neutralized by artillery.

On 19 November, the Viet Cong again attempted a major ambush in the area to the west of My Tho. At 1410, PBRs 98 and 105 were taken under fire by snipers in tree tops on both banks. When the patrols returned the sniper fire, they were taken under .50 caliber and .30 caliber automatic weapons fire from eight positions on the north bank and five on the south bank. Approximately 40 rifles were being fired at the patrol from the north and 20 from the south.

PBRs 96 and 109 joined the action and artillery fire was

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requested. PBR 105 spotted 13 rounds of 105mm which succeeded in neutralizing at least one of the automatic weapons positions on the north bank.

At 1515 helicopters from HC-1 Det 25 (Vinh Long) arrived, firing on Viet Cong positions and fleeing troops. One rocket salvo landed in the midst of a group of ten Viet Cong who were running across the fields behind the ambush site. All ten were killed. Four huts were destroyed and two more damaged before the helicopters departed to rearm at Ben Tre.

At 1618, the PBRs and helicopter fire team again entered the kill zone and came under heavy fire from the north bank. The fire team destroyed two automatic weapons positions in two huts. PBR 105 spotted 11 rounds of Seventh artillery 105mm fire which destroyed three more huts and neutralized the north bank.

At 1735 the fire team made a pass down both banks without drawing fire in the area of the original ambush. However, small arms fire was received from the south bank about 50 meters east of the area. The fire team made several firing runs in the area, destroying six huts and damaging five.

Other Incidents

On 25 November the Viet Cong launched a mortar attack on the Dong Tam construction site about five miles west of My Tho. The mortar fire, which originated about one mile north of the site, missed the Jamaica Bay dredge, but hit a smaller dredge. One Vietnamese Army soldier was killed and another was wounded by the

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mortar fire. Army helicopters, Vietnamese Navy River Assault Group units and Vietnamese Army artillery struck the enemy positions as PBRs evacuated the two Vietnamese casualties.

On 29 November, PBRs 98 and 106, while engaged in the routine search of a junk nine miles west of My Tho, discovered a large quantity of unmanifested medicine. Papers aboard the junk indicated that 37,000 piasters had been paid to the Viet Cong between July and November 1966. The sampan was turned over to the National Police.

Game Warden Helicopter Operations

In addition to participating in most of the major actions involving GAME WARDEN forces in the Mekong Delta, the helicopter fire teams were involved in five incidents during the month of November which were not in direct support of PBR operations.

On 2 November, while escorting the Chief of Naval Operations, one armed gunship lost power on takeoff and crashed in the river at My Tho. Two persons were slightly injured and the helicopter sustained minor damage. The hulk was recovered with part of its armament and taken to Vung Tau by an Army Chinook helicopter.

On 5 November a helicopter fire team sighted three sampans heading for a canal at the mouth of the Bassac. The helicopters made low passes across the bow of the lead sampan and fired warning shots in an attempt to drive the boats back into the river where they could be inspected by an approaching PBR patrol.

The heavily-laden lead sampan continued to evade to the beach as the other two sampans surrendered to the PBRs. Upon beaching, the three male occupants of the lead sampan took cover in the brush.

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At this time the fire team received automatic weapons and small arms fire. The fire team then destroyed the sampan and its contents.

One of the two sampans that had surrendered was found to be carrying 200 pounds of rice, and was turned over to Coastal Group 36 by the PBRs.

At 1100 on 26 November, an Army forward air controller (FAC) in an L-19 reported approximately 50 Viet Cong camouflaged with grass in a ricefield seven miles south of Can Tho. The GAME WARDEN light fire team was launched from JENNINGS COUNTY in response to the FAC's report. After drawing light fire, the helicopters returned fire, killing ten Viet Cong and wounding ten. An estimated ten more Viet Cong were killed in the action, and four structures were damaged.

On 30 November, an O-1 aircraft spotted approximately 100 black pajama clad troops fleeing into high grass in a Viet Cong-controlled area four miles north of Bac Lieu. The Navy light fire team responded, and hit targets along a canal in the area marked by the observer. The fire team reported that two Viet Cong were killed and one was wounded. Five structures were destroyed, 15 structures and three sampans were damaged.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE

At 0420 on 1 November, MSB 54, while engaged in a routine chain drag sweep along the east bank of the Long Tau River, was sunk by a large, moored, command-detonated mine, four and one-half miles downstream from Nha Be. Two U.S. Navymen lost their lives. Four of the six crewmembers were rescued.

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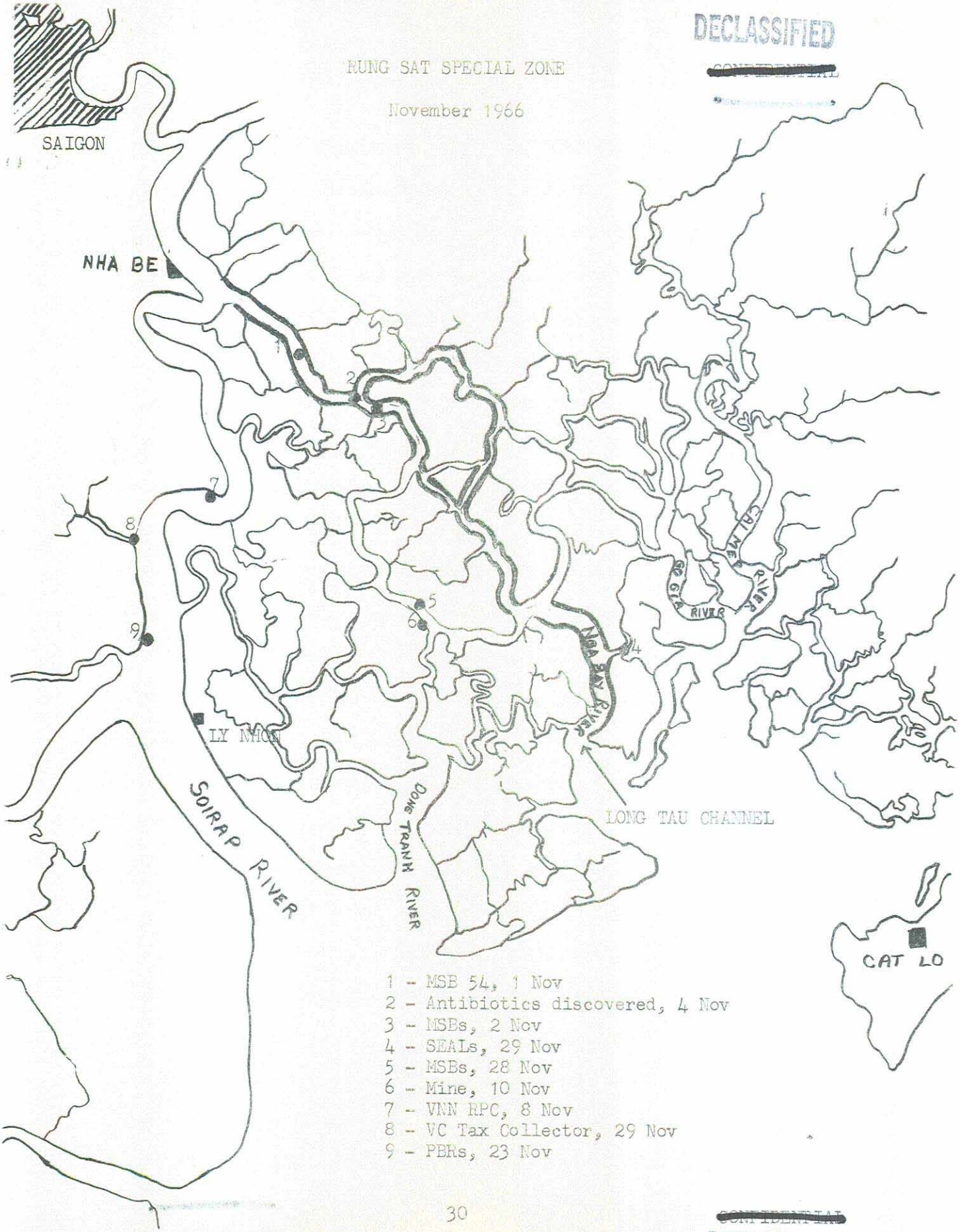
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE

November 1966



1 - MSB 54, 1 Nov
2 - Antibiotics discovered, 4 Nov
3 - MSBs, 2 Nov
4 - SEALs, 29 Nov
5 - MSBs, 28 Nov
6 - Mine, 10 Nov
7 - VNN RPC, 8 Nov
8 - VC Tax Collector, 29 Nov
9 - PBRs, 23 Nov

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The mine explosion demolished the minesweeper from the bow to the after bulkhead of the pilothouse. A 57mm recoilless rifle round hitting the port quarter of the craft signalled the opening of heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from the banks. Approximately four minutes after the mine exploded, MSB 54 sank bow first, screws still turning, in seven fathoms of water.

MSB 49, which had been operating in company with MSB 54, immediately came to the assistance of the stricken craft, while MSBs 15 and 22, which had been engaged in an O-type sweep 2000 meters upstream, hurried to the scene. Two Vietnamese Navy River Assault Group (VNN RAG) craft, operating 1000 meters downstream, also supported the sweepers.

The enemy broke off the engagement after about ten minutes, as the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ) light fire team was called into the area to provide further support. A flare ship was called in to provide illumination. Four PBRs were ordered into the area to assist in suppressing fire and in search and rescue operations.

MSB 49 picked up two survivors from the river, both of whom were evacuated to Nha Be. The VNN RAG boats rescued two other survivors who had managed to swim ashore. Two of the survivors, including the boat captain, Chief Boatswain's Mate G. S. SONAFRANK, were seriously wounded, while the other two suffered from less serious wounds.

All units on the scene continued to search for the two missing members of the crew. Search and rescue operations were hampered by dense fog and heavy tidal current. The VNN LCM, which picked up two

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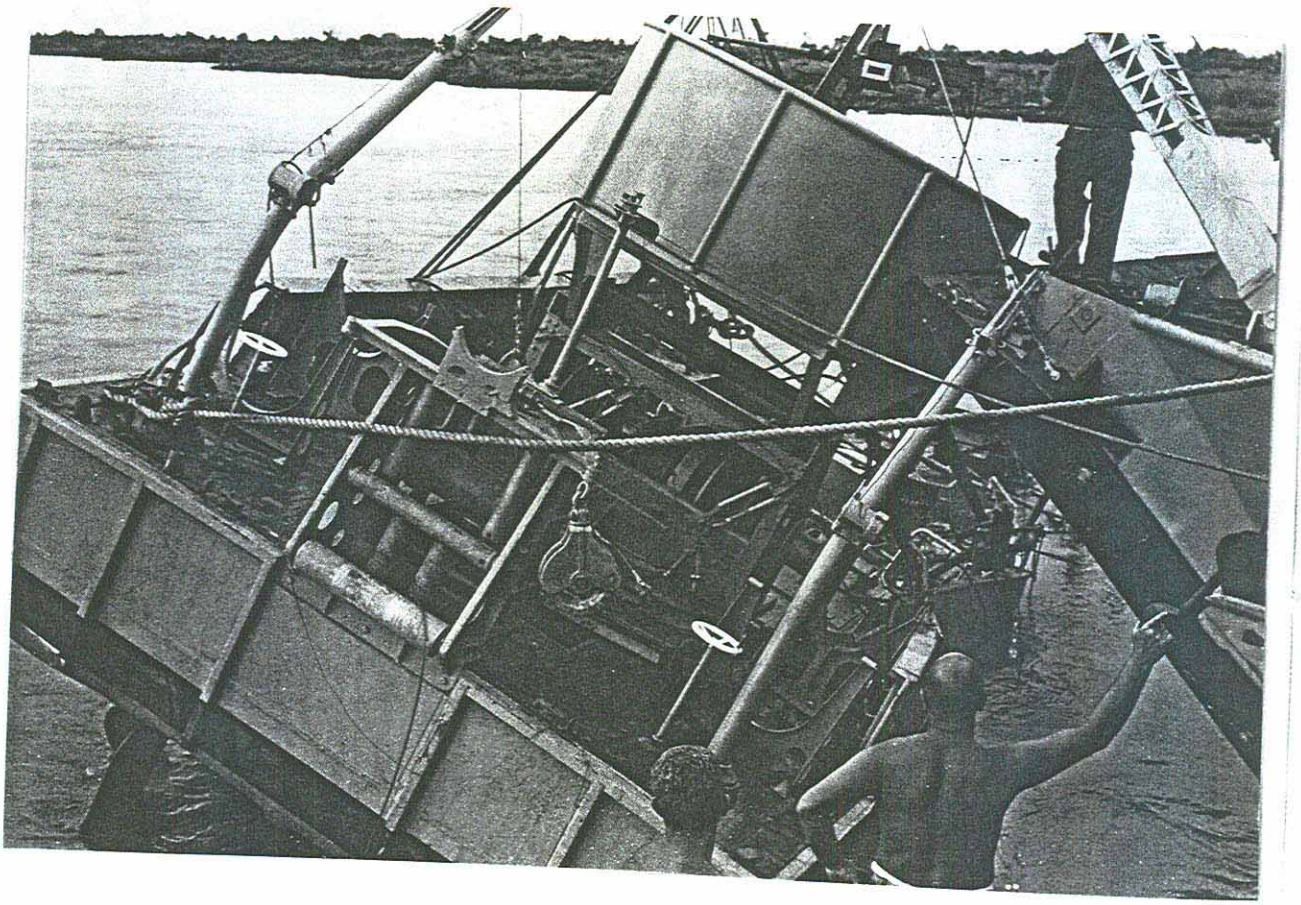

SALVAGE OF MSB 54

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of the survivors, was lost in the fog for approximately thirty minutes before locating two PBRs to take the wounded to Nha Be, where a helicopter was waiting to take them to the Third Field Hospital at Tan Son Nhut.

The channel was closed to shipping and extra PBR patrols were posted in the Nha Be anchorage area. Elements of the Third Battalion, 18th Infantry were inserted by LCMs into the area of the incident to provide static security for salvage operations. The Nha Be Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team was dispatched to the area, as well as a light lift salvage craft (LLC-2) and a Harbor Clearance Unit One team from Vung Tau.

Salvage operations began immediately and were periodically hampered by strong tidal currents in the area. On one occasion during the salvage operations, LLC-2 and the diving boat were swept out of their mooring by the heavy current, which also carried along part of the wreck. Dragging subsequently relocated the wreck, and on 3 November the wreckage was lifted and towed to the Vietnamese Naval Shipyard in Saigon.

Search and rescue efforts for the two missing crewmen, Engineman Second Class G. R. WEAVER and Seaman Apprentice T. M. MOORE, were unsuccessful. At 1000 on 3 November, the body of Seaman Apprentice MOORE was recovered from the Long Tau; the body of Petty Officer WEAVER was never recovered.

The mining of MSB 54 was the first successful mining of a U.S. Navy minesweeper in the Vietnam campaign. It was also the

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first night mining attempt by the Viet Cong against U.S. minesweepers.

An inspection of the mining-ambush site disclosed 13 well-prepared foxholes, several large enough to hold more than one man. The Viet Cong had piled logs in front of each foxhole to support their heavy weapons. A maze of escape trails had been beaten in the dense, four-foot high grass.

On 2 November, MSBs 18 and 49 received ten rounds of small arms fire on the Long Tau, seven miles downstream from Nha Be. The minesweepers returned the fire, MSB 18 receiving one minor hit. On 28 November, the Viet Cong directed heavy automatic weapons fire at MSB 15, 11 miles downstream from Nha Be. The MSB returned the fire and cleared the area, and the RSSZ light helicopter fire team and a PBR patrol came to her assistance. MSB 15 received several hits in the superstructure, and one crewmember was wounded slightly.

At 1327 on 23 November, a PBR patrol on the lower Soirap was taken under automatic weapons fire from a sampan crossing the river ten miles south of Nha Be. The patrol returned the fire, wounding two of the sampan's occupants. The sampan beached on the west bank near the mouth of the Vam Co River, and its occupants fled ashore. An Army helicopter fire team was dispatched to the area, and received small arms fire from four persons embarking in a sampan near the beached sampan. As the sampan attempted to flee, it was taken under fire by the helicopters. Three of the occupants were killed, and the sole survivor was picked up by a PBR.

The first sampan was taken in tow, but sank enroute to Nha Be;

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a portion of its contents, consisting of eight individual packs and personal papers, was salvaged. When the patrol left, artillery fire was directed into the area.

Two crewmembers of one of the Army helicopters were injured when a round exploded in a door gunner's M-60 machine gun.

On 25 November, the RSSZ air liaison officer, embarked in an L-19, observed an explosion about 100 meters off the starboard quarter of the merchant ship SS MCKAY as she proceeded down the Long Tau channel in the Nga Bay River.

The Long Tau light fire team was dispatched to the area, and conducted reconnaissance by fire along the west bank. An airborne observer saw a sampan darting out of the mouth of a stream apparently attempting to make a high speed run down the river. This sampan and two others were headed off by the fire team and stopped by a PBR patrol. The nine occupants of the three sampans were taken to Can Gio; the National Police were unable to connect them with the explosion, and all nine were released.

Support of Friendly Forces

At 1015 on 8 November, a VNN River Patrol Craft (RPC) was taken under heavy automatic weapons fire from the north bank of the Soirap, six miles downstream from Nha Be. The RPC cleared the area, and the RSSZ light fire team delivered an air strike. Artillery fire was requested from Can Gio sub-sector. One hut was destroyed by artillery fire.

At 0040 on 13 November, a Viet Cong force, estimated to be a

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reinforced platoon, attacked Ly Nhon village 14 miles south of Nha Be on the east bank of the Soirap. One member of Popular Force Company 362 was killed and four were wounded in the action. All casualties were evacuated by PBR to Nha Be.

Other Incidents

On 4 November, an upper Long Tau PBR patrol, while engaged in a routine search of the ferry, HEIP THANH, enroute from Saigon to Vung Tau, discovered 209 individual doses of antibiotics in the possession of a man who could offer no satisfactory explanation for having the medicine. He was turned over to VNN authorities at Nha Be.

At 1850 on 7 November, during a blinding rainstorm, an Army helicopter crashed into the river about 500 yards from the helicopter pad at Nha Be. One crewmember was drowned. All available personnel and boats were dispatched to carry out rescue operations. Strong current, extremely low visibility in the driving rain, and Viet Cong harassment fire hampered operations.

The helicopter had been attempting to make a landing at the Nha Be helicopter pad with the survivors of another Army helicopter which had crashed a few minutes earlier. The crewmember who drowned was pulled down by his ceramic armor chest protector. His body was recovered on 9 November.

At 1100 on 10 November, elements of Regional Force Company 601 discovered wires leading to the river 11 miles downstream from Nha Be. A Vietnamese minesweeper confirmed the presence of a spherical, command-detonated mine moored ten feet below the surface of the Long

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Tau, 100 yards offshore. The mine contained approximately 30 pounds of explosive. It was disarmed and taken to Nha Be by the U.S. Navy EOD team. The size of the mine and its location indicated that it was intended for use against minesweepers or PBRs rather than merchant shipping.

At 2030 on 23 November, four SEAL fire teams aboard an LCM-3, accompanied by two PBR patrols with a helicopter fire team providing air cover, departed Nha Be. At 2200, a large number of boats were discovered in the river four miles south of Nha Be in violation of the RSSZ 1800-0600 curfew. At the request of VNN authorities, 20 large sampans and one small sampan were corralled and towed to Nha Be by the LCM and PBRs. Army S-2 interrogation of the detainees established that the fleet of sampans had been engaged in illegal fishing. The 24 suspects were admonished and released.

On 29 November, a PBR patrol on the lower Soirap detected a sampan evading up the Rach Vang Creek at 1115. A few minutes later, the sampan was seen again trying to cross the river. The patrol intercepted the boat and its two occupants were identified as father and son. The son told the patrol leader his father was a Viet Cong tax collector, and both persons were taken to Nha Be, where interrogation revealed that the older man was a Viet Cong agricultural cadre.

At 2105 on 29 November, a SEAL fire team ambushed a sampan in the Tien Lieu Canal 15 miles southeast of Nha Be. A second sampan, following the first, escaped into the brush. One Viet Cong was

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killed and the sampan was captured. The craft contained two anti-tank rockets and propellants, six pairs of boots and one small plastic bag containing documents. The anti-tank rocket launchers were labeled: Russian Anti-tank Rocket Launcher Model RPG-2.

As the SEALS were being extracted at 2130 by LCM-3, they received small caliber automatic weapons fire from upstream. LCM-3 suppressed the fire and cleared the area with no casualties.

GAME WARDEN UNIT CHANGES

Changes in the status of PBRs in-country during the month were as follows:

3 Nov - 14 PBRs were off-loaded from S.S. CALIFORNIA MAIL.

13 Nov - PBR 55 suffered strike damage when the after lifting pad parted as it was being taken aboard JENNINGS COUNTY at Vung Tau.

- PBRs 44 and 99 were loaded aboard COMSTOCK for further transfer to Ship Repair Facility, Subic Bay for repairs.

14 Nov - River Patrol Section 532 arrived at My Tho with ten PBRs and commenced operations in the Mekong.

23 Nov - PBRs 122, 132, 151, 152, 153 and 160 arrived in-country at Vung Tau.

25 Nov - PBR 114 was received from the Subic PBR pool.

As of the end of the month, the in-country PBR total was 118.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE

The Northeast Monsoon seriously hampered the operations of MARKET TIME forces during November. Heavy seas and high winds during MARKET TIME operations caused a sharp drop in detections, inspections and boardings for the month.

In October, a total of 51,248 vessels were detected, 16,639 inspected and 15,229 boarded; the figures for November were 31,461, 12,336 and 9,440 respectively.

On 15 November, PCF 77 capsized and broke up at the entrance to Hue Harbor as it moved in to assist PCF 22 in rescuing a man overboard. Three members of the crew of PCF 77 were lost. Five survivors of PCF 77 and the man overboard from PCF 22 were rescued.

On 15 November, Inshore Undersea Warf re Group One WESTPAC Detachment was activated as the immediate administrative commander of Harbor Defense Units in II, III and IV Corps, under the operational command of CTF 115.

On 22 November, SEA SHARP (Southeast Asia Semi-permanent Harbor Protection) Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit Three (IUW 3) replaced the Mobile IUW Unit 23 at Qui Nhon. On 30 November, IUW 2 arrived at Cam Ranh Bay.

MARKET TIME forces were involved in six hostile fire incidents during the month and four incidents of evading junks were reported. Task Force 115 units provided Naval Gunfire Support for both Vietnamese and U.S. forces on 12 occasions. On seven occasions, MARKET TIME units provided U.S. Marine, U.S. Army, Vietnamese Army

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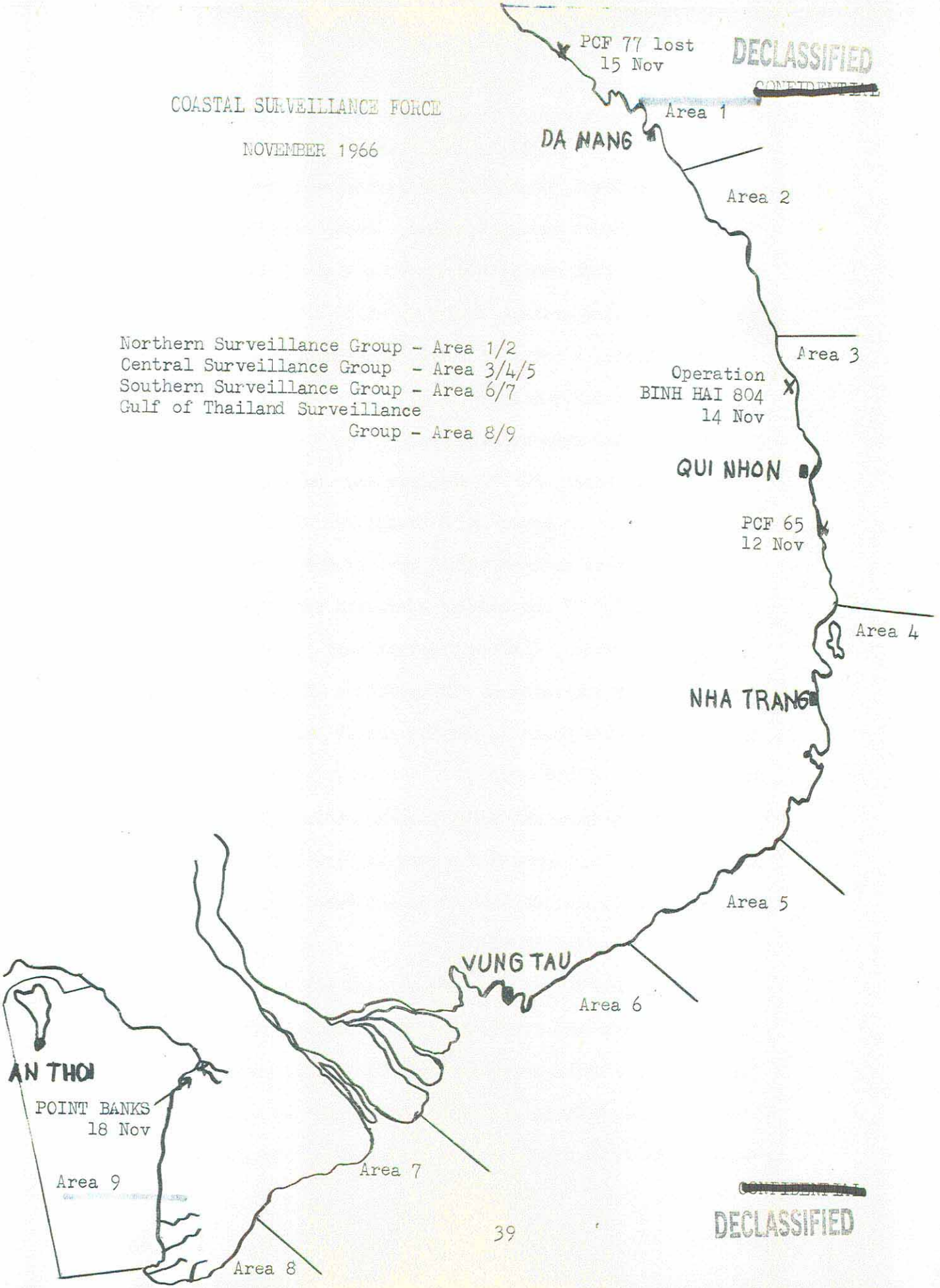
COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE

NOVEMBER 1966

Northern Surveillance Group - Area 1/2
Central Surveillance Group - Area 3/4/5
Southern Surveillance Group - Area 6/7
Gulf of Thailand Surveillance Group - Area 8/9



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and Royal Australian Army operations with blocking forces or exfiltration patrols.

In addition to the Search and Rescue operations in connection with the loss of PCF 77, MARKET TIME units conducted Search and Rescue (SAR) missions for a downed U.S. Marine helicopter and a capsized junk of Vietnamese Navy Coastal Group 37, and assisted in extinguishing a fire in S.S. RUTGERS VICTORY.

On 5 November, two additional PCFs arrived in country to bring the total to 84. One SWIFT was assigned to Qui Nhon and one to DaNang.

On 12 November, two WPBs were transferred from Cat Lo to DaNang.

NORTHERN SURVEILLANCE GROUP

Loss of PCF 77

On 15 November, while attempting to cross the bar and enter Hue Harbor, PCF 22 lost one man overboard. PCF 77, also in the area, maneuvered to assist in rescue operations, broached and upended in the heavy seas, promptly sinking in 13 feet of water.

Helicopters in the area picked up seven people in the water, two of whom, Chief Machinery Repairman W. S. BAKER, U.S. Navy and Boatswain's Mate Third Class HARRY B. BROCK, U.S. Navy, were dead. The man overboard from PCF 22 was picked up by his own craft. Radioman Third Class B. A. TIMMONS, U.S. Navy, who was believed to be below decks at the time the boat capsized, was not recovered, and was listed as missing, presumed dead.

At the time of the incident, PCF 77 was outside the surfline,

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standing by to assist PCF 22 as required. The Officer-in-Charge of PCF 77, LTJG David G. WILBOURNE, U.S. Navy, had previously ordered all hands into lifejackets, and was at the helm. About 20 seconds after the man was reported safely aboard PCF 22, a wave, estimated to be 25 to 30 feet high, lifted the stern of PCF 77 and drove its bow into the trough. The SWIFT boat flipped end over end. The pilot house almost immediately filled with water, although all doors and windows had been secured on the orders of the OinC. The survivors exited through the port pilot house door, which had sprung.

As the boat rapidly filled, LTJG WILBOURNE was responsible for rescuing one man from the stricken craft, and Chief Petty Officer BAKER, a qualified diver, was last seen entering the after compartment where Petty Officer TIMMONS was believed to be trapped. One and one-half minutes after upending, PCF 77 sank, keel up.

Security elements were provided by the Marine Corps, and the Salvagemaster of Harbor Clearance Unit One was dispatched to the scene. The bow section of PCF 77 was washed ashore 2500 yards north of the Hue River mouth. The rest of the boat broke up, and HCU-1 Salvagemaster reported that a salvage attempt could not be effected.

Hostile Fire and Exfiltration Patrols

From 0600 3 November to 0600 4 November, PCFs provided a blocking force and exfiltration patrol in support of operations of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, along the coast 32 miles south-

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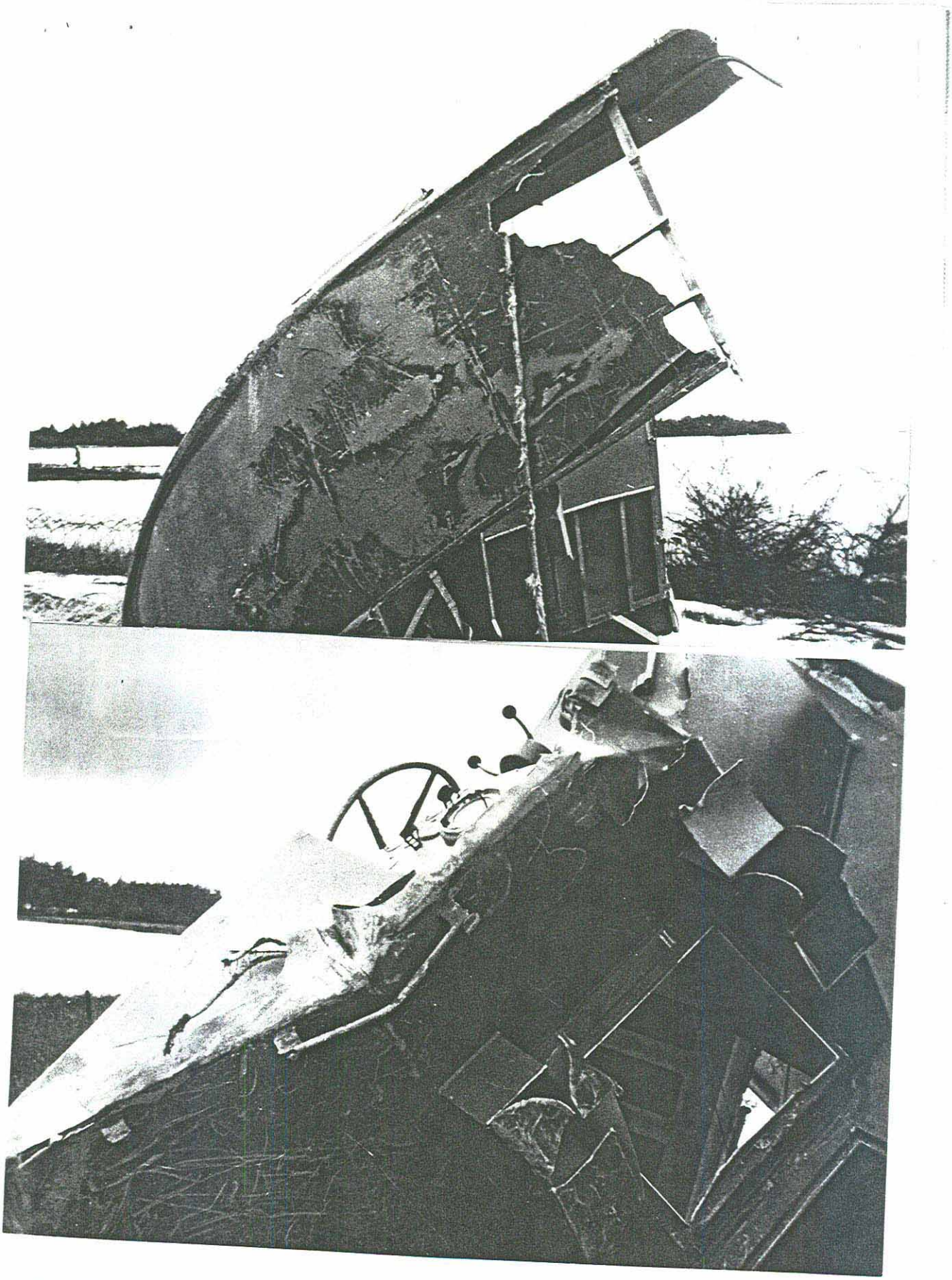

PCF 77 on the beach after broaching and sinking during heavy seas

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southeast of DaNang.

While conducting a routine search of junks 55 miles north of Qui Nhon at 1010 on 8 November, PCF 76 received automatic weapons fire from the beach, taking two superficial hits. PCF 76 suppressed the fire with her .50 caliber machine gun with no friendly casualties.

At 0825 on 11 November, PCF 56 received small arms fire while searching a junk 100 yards off shore, 58 miles north of Qui Nhon. The SWIFT cleared the area, and expended 250 rounds of .50 caliber on the target. There were no friendly casualties. Enemy casualties were undetermined.

On 12 November, PCF exfiltration patrols supported an operation of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 56 miles southeast of DaNang. No significant results were noted. PCFs supported the same unit in the same area on 29-30 November.

CENTRAL SURVEILLANCE GROUP

On 2 November, at the request of the Commanding Officer of Coastal Group 25, PCF 51 fired illumination rounds from her 81mm mortar in support of a Popular Force outpost which was under attack by the Viet Cong 20 miles north of Nha Trang. Support was requested at 0130, and the enemy broke contact at 0200. There were no friendly casualties. Viet Cong casualties were undetermined.

Between 0600, 9 November and 0600, 10 November, Qui Nhon-based PCF patrols furnished exfiltration patrols for operations of the First Cavalry Division 28 miles north of Qui Nhon. No significant results were noted.

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At 0830 on 12 November while on routine patrol in area 3, PCF 65 sighted five beached junks 17 miles south of Qui Nhon. As the SWIFT closed to investigate the junks, it was taken under small arms fire from the tree line. Return fire by the patrol produced one secondary explosion in the tree line.

The Vietnamese Navy Coastal Group 23 investigated the area on the beach, and reported fire from the SWIFT had destroyed three sampans and damaged two. The five 15-foot junks were carrying a cargo of fish and nuoc mam (fish sauce) which was confiscated by the CG 23 personnel.

A total of 20 persons were detained by MARKET TIME units supporting the Vietnamese Army Operation BINH HAI 804 which commenced at 0800 on 14 November 30 miles north of Qui Nhon. The cumulative results of the operation, which was terminated on 18 November, were five Viet Cong killed, 29 suspected Viet Cong detained and seven known Viet Cong captured.

At 2230 on 25 November, PCF 47 detected several lights and two small radar contacts close inshore in a known hostile area 16 miles north of Nha Trang. The SWIFT closed and illuminated the area, revealing 20-25 persons in the area. Artillery fire from a nearby Republic of Korea battery was called in with unknown results.

At 1000 on 30 November, PCF 43 received heavy automatic weapons fire from the beach 15 miles north of Nha Trang. The SWIFT returned fire and cleared the area. An air strike which had been requested destroyed the enemy position. There were no hits on PCF 43.

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SOUTHERN SURVEILLANCE GROUP

From 1915, 2 November until 1900, 3 November, PCF 67, USCGC POINT GAMMON, units of Coastal Group 37 and Vietnamese Sea Force ships, assisted by helicopters and a C-47 flareship, conducted Search and Rescue operations 18 miles southwest of Vung Tau for a Coastal Group 37 junk which had capsized in heavy seas enroute to its base at Tiem Ton.

All but three of the junk's crew were rescued by an accompanying junk. Despite extensive searches of the area, one Vietnamese officer and two Vietnamese enlisted men were not recovered and were presumed to have been lost in the heavy seas.

On 6 November, PCF 36 answered a call for urgent gunfire support from a reconnaissance aircraft 130 miles southwest of Vung Tau on the Cau Ma Peninsula; the aircraft was under fire from the beach in the vicinity of a sampan the aircraft was investigating. The PCF bombarded the area with 81mm mortar fire, damaging the sampan and suppressing the hostile fire.

On 7 November at 1300 while operating in an area 103 miles southwest of Vung Tau near the Ca Mau Peninsula, PCF 67 sighted two junks and closed to investigate. The junks ignored the SWIFT's siren and warning shots and continued to evade. PCF 67 took the fleeing junks under direct fire and sank both of them. Viet Cong casualties were unknown; PCF 67 suffered no casualties.

During the period 8-12 November, MARKET TIME units provided continuous exfiltration patrols in support of Operation HAYMAN, a

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sweep of Long Son Island, three and one-half miles north of Vung Tau, by the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. One Viet Cong suspect was detained by MARKET TIME forces during the operation, while forces ashore killed eight Viet Cong, wounded four and detained 20 suspects.

At 1500 on 23 November, five PCFs conducted corral operations off Vung Tau. There were 26 detections, 22 boardings and four inspections. No suspects were detained.

At 0415 on 26 November, three PCFs and five junks from Coastal Group 32 conducted corral operations in Vung Tau Harbor. One hundred and sixteen junks were detected, 34 inspected and 82 boarded. Twenty-seven persons were detained because they had no identification cards or were suspected draft dodgers.

GULF OF THAILAND SURVEILLANCE GROUP

At 1110 on 10 November, a Coastal Group 42 patrol, operating ashore 30 miles northwest of Rach Gia, discovered a 30-foot abandoned junk covered with anti-American slogans. When the patrol was taken under fire, PCF 92, operating in the area, was called in and expended 200 rounds of .50 caliber and 100 rounds of small arms fire in support of the patrol. Fire was suppressed by the SWIFT with no casualties to friendly forces. The junk was destroyed by direct fire.

At 1820 on 13 November 94 miles south-southeast of An Thoi, USCGC POINT BANKS detected and challenged a sampan which ignored warning shots and evaded to the beach. The sampan's occupants

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fled as POINT BANKS opened fire. Small arms fire from the beach was returned with unknown effect. The cutter sustained no material or personnel casualties. The sampan was destroyed.

On 14 November at 1820, USCGC POINT GARNET detected a sampan off the tip of the Ca Mau Peninsula. When the sampan ignored all signals to halt and attempted to evade, POINT GARNET took the sampan under direct fire and destroyed it.

At 1820 on 17 November, PCF 6 answered a support request from an observation aircraft which was receiving ground fire from the mainland 57 miles southeast of An Thoi. The SWIFT answered the request with ten rounds of 81mm mortar fire, which destroyed three structures and a sampan.

At 1645 on 18 November, USCGC POINT BANKS sighted a sampan at the mouth of the Cai Lon River, south of Rach Gia. The sampan ignored hails and warning shots and evaded toward the river. An airborne spotter reported that six additional sampans and two junks were in the vicinity of the evading sampan. POINT BANKS opened fire on the boats, damaging two sampans and causing two secondary explosions. POINT BANKS received automatic weapons fire from the beach in the vicinity of the river mouth. POINT BANKS, assisted by USCGC POINT WHITE and USS WILHOITE (DER-397), returned fire, destroying one junk and triggering five secondary explosions. There were no U.S. casualties; Viet Cong casualties were undetermined.

Between 1015 and 1145 on 19 November, USCGCs POINT BANKS and POINT YOUNG and USS NEWELL (DER-322) conducted a gunfire mission

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on the Ca Mau Peninsula 68 miles southeast of An Thoi. Targets were camouflaged sampans and suspected Viet Cong positions. Two sampans and a structure were destroyed.

USCGC POINT COMFORT supported U.S. Special Forces search and destroy operations on Phu Quoc Island seven miles north of An Thoi on 26 November. Upon completion of the operation, POINT COMFORT embarked 14 refugees for transportation to Duong Dong.

On 27 November, PCFs 92 and 93 answered a request for support from a spotter aircraft receiving hostile fire from the coast of Kien Giang 39 miles east of An Thoi. The SWIFTs delivered 59 rounds of 81mm mortar fire and 1,400 rounds of .50 caliber machine gun fire. Four structures and two large sampans were destroyed.

HARBOR DEFENSE

At 1230 on 15 November, a Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Surveillance (MIUWS) 23 LCPL detained a civilian junk with 17 persons aboard in Qui Nhon Harbor. The junk was carrying an unmanifested cargo of rice, soap, medicine and tobacco, as well as $320.00 in piasters. The junk, its occupants, cargo and money were turned over to the National Police in Qui Nhon.

On 19 November, a MIUWS 23 LCPL detained two suspected draft dodgers. Subsequent interrogation by the National Police disclosed that both men were Viet Cong tax collectors.

A MIUWS 22 patrol craft at Nha Trang intercepted a junk with four males suspected of looting a barge alongside SS RUTGERS VICTORY at 0830 on 23 November. One of the men had been wounded by a sentry

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aboard the merchant ship. The suspects were turned over to the National Police at Cau Da.

MARKET TIME UNITS

In November, 84 PCFs and 27 WPBs conducted MARKET TIME operations. In addition, the following Seventh Fleet ships operated as MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:

		DATES
DER 397	USS WILHOITE	(14-30)
DER 322	USS NEWELL	(1-26)
DER 386	USS SAVAGE	(1-15)
DER 393	USS HAVERFIELD	(1-13)
DER 251	USS CAMP	(1-22)
DER 400	USS HISSEM	(12-27)
DER 328	USS FINCH	(1-11) (23-30)
DER 324	USS FAIGOUT	(27-30)
DER 327	USS BRISTER	(28-30)
MSC 199	USS PHOEBE	(9-30)
MSC 198	USS PEACOCK	(1-8)
MSC 205	USS VIREO	(27-30)
MSC 289	USS ALBATROSS	(1-8)
MSC 209	USS WOODPECKER	(1-26)
MSC 207	USS WHIPPOORWILL	(9-30)
MSO 444	USS FIRM	(19-30)
MSO 434	USS EMBATTLE	(12-30)
MSO 445	USS FORCE	(12-30)
MSO 446	USS PRIME	(12-30)
MSO 467	USS REAPER	(12-30)
MSO 510	USS ADVANCE	(1-18)
MSO 427	USS CONSTANT	(1-11)
MSO 436	USS ENERGY	(1-11)
MSO 463	USS PIVOT	(1-11)
MSO 464	USS PLUCK	(1-11)
LST 1161	USS VERNON COUNTY	(1-16)
LST 1159	USS TOM GREEN COUNTY	(17-26)
LST 344	USS BLANCO COUNTY	(26-30)

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY SAIGON

The support capabilities of NAVSUPPACT Saigon were improved significantly in November by the arrival of YFR-889. The motorized barge was scheduled to make its initial resupply run to detachments in the Delta in early December. With a 100-ton capacity for frozen cargo and an additional 100-ton dry stores capacity, the YFR could relieve the overworked AKLs in Delta operations. With the expected arrival of YFR-890 early in 1967, the majority of the Delta resupply could be accomplished by the YFRs. This would allow the two AKLs, MARK and BRULE, to concentrate on resupply of the coastal detachments.

Development of STABLE DOOR (Harbor Defense) sites contined during the month. At Qui Nhon and Nha Trang interim berthing facilities were completed. At Cam Ranh Bay a potable water system was installed.

Continuing facility improvements were made during November at MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN support bases. At Cam Ranh Bay construction was begun on an interim communications building, and a new 1,000-man mess hall was opened. Cam Ranh Bay's 100-ton floating drydock commenced regular operations on 28 November, and lifted six PCFs in three days.

At Cat Lo a 40 x 120-foot warehouse facility and an open storage area for transient freight were completed. A new mess hall was also completed. Well-drilling operations, begun in October, failed to produce adequate water; an effort will be made to obtain

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water by drilling a deeper well at the site of a previous attempt. Two additional 500-gallon bowsers were obtained to alleviate drayage problems.

On Con Son Island, the three stone buildings at the surface radar surveillance site were rehabilitated by a Public Works team. Long Xuyen leased additional berthing areas, and An Tho, Can Tho and Qui Nhon also reported improvements in facilities and logistics support.

At Nha Be two recreation quonset huts neared completion. Helicopter operations at the base were marked by a steady increase in volume and weight carried. To provide a greater lift-off capability a 6,000-square yard enlargement of the present helicopter pad was planned. Fuel storage capacity was increased by the installation of a 10,000-gallon bladder. Well-digging attempts at Nha Be were abandoned. The YFNB-16 tanks will be used for potable water storage with resupply accomplished by LCM. A 2,000-gallon water bladder was ordered. Fifty per cent of the drawings for permanent construction at the base had been received and first increment construction commenced during November.

At Sa Dec a quonset hut was completed and a site was located for the proposed search light facility. The facility will be constructed by NAVSUPPACT when plans are completed by Officer-in-Charge, Construction (OICC). The boat ramp at Sa Dec was 30 per cent complete. A change to Vinh Long's billet contract was issued to provide enlisted lavatories, an intercom system, and overhead repair. Water storage capacity was increased during the month by

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the arrival of a 5,000-gallon water trailer at Vinh Long.

There were at least two medical corpsmen at each MARKET TIME/ GAME WARDEN base with the exception of Sa Dec and Vinh Long. The MACV Surgeon's office released a Navy Medical officer to the Force Surgeon to function as a medical circuit rider of the bases.

At NAVSUPPACT headquarters in Saigon an Interservice Support Agreement was negotiated with MACV-SOG providing for NSAS Class II and Class IV Support to the Studies and Observations Group of MACV. Seventh Air Force representatives met with Supply Department representatives to clarify support details for NAF, Cam Ranh Bay.

Logistic support requirements continued to increase. During November the aviation section transported 2,735 passengers and 220,180 pounds of high priority cargo. This set an all-time one-month record for air logistics support. During the same period USS MARK (AKL-12) and USS BRULE (AKL-28) transported 647 displacement tons of materials to various coastal and delta detachments. This total included 210 tons of water delivered to the SS BATON ROUGE VICTORY salvage operation.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY DANANG

Weather adversely affected supply activity in I Corps throughout the month. Harbor operations were reduced significantly in November by monsoon winds and seas. Lighterage operations were secured for a total of 169 hours. Large swells, causing ships to surge excessively alongside Thang Nhat piers, forced cancellation of pier operations and necessitated shifting ships from alongside to anchorages on four occasions. The piers were unusable for a total of 199 hours.

On 11 occasions heavy seas caused the suspension of coastal resupply operations by YFU/LCU from DaNang to Hue and Dong Ha. A total of 69 YFU/LCU trips were delayed for periods of 24 to 96 hours.

Weather also restricted POL resupply. Heavy seas caused breaks in the 4-inch bottom lay lines at Cua Viet, DaNang and Chu Lai, and delayed repair efforts. Dong Ha airfield POL resupply was accomplished by LCM 8 bladder boats shuttling from the Cua Viet fuel farm. No POL was delivered to the Thuan An fuel farm during November because of the weather and higher priority requirements for tanker assets at Chu Lai and Dong Ha. POL was delivered to Phu Bai by truck tanker over Route 1 from DaNang.

At Chu Lai heavy seas delayed completion of the new 8-inch and 12-inch bottom lay lines and curtailed fuel replenishment at that site. Each of five breaks in the 4-inch bottom lay line system required an average of 12 hours for repair. With scheduled

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T-1 replenishments at Chu Lai curtailed, YOG-56 was the only source of replenishment for several days during November. T-1 Koie Maru supplemented YOG efforts with delivery of JP-4 into the inner harbor. Four additional 10,000-barrel tanks for JP-4 storage were completed and readied for use.

Monsoon weather conditions also hampered cargo offloading operations. Port activity for DaNang during November totaled 213,588 measurement tons (127,637 short tons), a decline of 26,667 tons from October's record. The total for I Corps was 293,648 measurement tons (173,091 short tons), a decrease of 39,508 tons from the previous month.

Harbor Clearance Unit One (HCU-1) continued operations to remove the wreck in DaNang River, cutting the hulk into sections in preparation for lifts. Wreck clearance, somewhat delayed by the limited availability of YD-195, was about 25 per cent complete.

In November the operational control of YR-71 and YFNB-2 was transferred to CTG 115.1. Administrative control and backup repair responsibility remained with NAVSUPPACT. In addition Coastal Squadron One (COSRON ONE) transferred PCFDIV 102 maintenance personnel for assignment to YR-71. PCFDIV 102 retained daily and weekly preventive maintenance responsibility. Major preventive maintenace and repairs to PCFs will be made by YR-71 personnel.

Naval Support Activity personnel strength (including APLs) increased to a total of 8,647 on 30 November.

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CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

In November, civic action assistance continued to increase as NAVFORV units engaged in diverse, cooperative projects.

In the DaNang area, Mobile Construction Battalion 10 rendered medical and dental assistance to 4,064 Vietnamese during the month. Regular medical visits were made to all Coastal Group bases of the 1st Coastal Zone. First Coastal Zone corpsmen helped Vietnamese corpsmen treat servicemen, their dependents and local civilians. A doctor, dentist and their corpsmen started an extensive health program two days per week for the Dong Giang Refugee Camp; also, rodent and insect control programs were begun.

On 4 November the Commanding Officer of MCB-10 presided at dedication ceremonies for the Bo De School. By 17 November the office and first two classrooms were partially completed and SeaBees and Vietnamese were working together to raise the walls.

Seventy per cent of the refugee housing for 97 families 20 miles south of DaNang was completed by Vietnamese sailors and their U.S. advisors.

Naval Support Activity DaNang contributed four trucks during Health and Sanitation Week to help the Vietnamese 11th Civil Affairs Company collect garbage from the streets. Also, a five-man spray team with a residual fly control spray was provided to follow the trucks.

Five thousand leaflets containing fire reporting instructions in Vietnamese were distributed to DaNang residents, emphasizing the

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readiness of the NAVSUPPACT Fire Department to help the townspeople in case of fire.

At Tuy Loan, plans were made to provide the village hospital with a methane gas generator for lighting the delivery and treatment rooms and for cooking purposes. The cement block generator would produce gas from the decomposition of human and animal waste.

At An Hai, Mobile Construction Battalion 5 started a Pen Pal program. The names and addresses of 40 American children were distributed and Vietnamese children were helped in translations and mailing.

The personnel of Naval Support Activity detachment, Long Xuyen, continued to repair and refinish ward furniture in the local hospital. The X-ray room, laboratory and photographic darkroom were rewired. Also, the blood donor program continued as seven pints of blood per week were donated to the Vietnamese blood bank.

On 12 November NAVSUPPACT detachment, Long Xuyen, distributed 25 tons of corn to the people of My Than village. Each family received two 50-kilo bags to feed the starving cattle and hogs in the district.

On 7 November, a Long Xuyen private school for English instruction was established by U.S. sailors and Vietnamese Army interpreters. The school, designed for a maximum of 60 students, has grown to 144 students.

At Cat Lo and Nam Binh, a Coast Guard petty officer conducted English classes for adults and children of both areas. Response to

the classes was excellent with an average of 40 students attending each two-hour session. Classes were held three times per week.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, five Hoi Chanhs rallied during the month. Over one million leaflets were dropped, 14 loudspeaker broadcasts made and 300 posters distributed in the Rung Sat.

In the 4th Coastal Zone, 18 boxes of donated soap were distributed in the Mac Rach Gia area. Approximately 2,500 leaflets, 300 province newspapers and 400 posters were distributed. The leaflets contained a report of the Manila Conference and letters of Hoi Chanhs from Kien Giang Province. On 12 November, 117,000 similar leaflets were airdropped on Phu Quoc Island.

In the 4th Riverine Area, PBRs distributed 2,000 Rural Spirit magazines obtained from the Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office (JUSPAO). On 5 November near the mouth of the Mekong River, 1,400,000 leaflets were air-dropped in the area surrounding the Cua Tien and Cua Dai Rivers; the leaflets explained PBR operations to the people. An additional 100,000 leaflets and 20 cases of Psychological Operations buckets[4] were distributed by PBRs during familiarization patrols 11-14 November. Waterborne loudspeaker broadcasts were made during these patrols. The District Chief, PBR Task Unit Commander and the 4th Riverine Area Psychological Operations Officer made goodwill visits to eight Regional Force/ Popular Force outposts in an attempt to explain and win understanding

[4] Plastic buckets containing cloth, needles, thread, soap and government literature

and acceptance of PBR operations in the area.

By the end of the month, Chau Doc had received 150 tons of seed rice as the flood relief project of delivering 200 tons of seed rice from My Tho to Chau Doc continued. NAVSUPPACT detachments at My Tho, Vinh Long, Sa Dec and Long Xuyen provided LCMs while PBR units provided escorts. USS NYE COUNTY (LST-1067) transported one shipment from My Tho to Long Xuyen for further transfer to Chau Doc by LCM.

On 28 November one of these convoys received automatic weapons fire nine miles west of My Tho. The PBR escort suppressed the attack with no casualties or damage.

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

	USN	VNN	TOTAL
a. Dispensaries	0	1	1
b. Dwellings/number of families	40/80	1/14	41/94
c. Hospitals	2R	0	2R
d. Playgrounds	1R/1	0	1R/1
e. Schools: classrooms	1/3	1/2	2/5
f. Flagpoles	0	2	2
Medical treatments			
a. General medicine	15,120	0	15,120
b. Dental	1,027	0	1,027
c. Surgery	40	1	41
d. Emergency evacuations	25	3	28
e. Cleft Palate operations	0	2	2
f. Corrective glasses	0	1	1
g. Routine lab procedures	59	0	59
h. Blood donations (pints)	50	0	50
Health and sanitation			
a. Classes on personal hygiene/ attendance	5/163	0	5/163

		USN	VNN	TOTAL
b.	Immunizations	3,212	0	3,212
c.	Medical aides/nurses trained	2	0	2
d.	Physical examinations	20	0	20
e.	Spray insecticide operations	43	0	43

Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified)

a.	Cement	29,570	0	29,570
b.	Clothing	875	0	875
c.	Food	84,124	104,026	190,150
d.	Lumber (board feet)	97,800	0	97,800
e.	Medical, non-prescription	302	0	302
f.	Vitamins (bottle)	0	144	144
g.	Midwifery kits	175	0	175
h.	School kits	1,512	1,600	3,112
i.	Soap	3,453	1,444	4,897
j.	Tin sheets	949	0	949
k.	Lumber (scrap, trailer loads)	2	0	2
l.	Fire wood (truck loads)	59	0	59
m.	Salad oil (gallons)	264	0	264
n.	Blankets (each)	0	151	151
o.	Rebar (pieces)	106	0	106
p.	Paint (gallons)	233	0	233
q.	Paint rollers (each)	10	0	10
r.	Plaster board (pallets)	4	0	4
s.	Nails	530	0	530
t.	Plywood (sheets)	108	0	108
u.	Casket (each)	1	0	1
v.	Washbucket kits (each)	140	0	140
w.	Health kits (each)	245	0	245
x.	Textile kits (each)	13	75	88
y.	Personal kits (each)	0	2,304	2,304
z.	Mosquito netting (150' roll)	1	0	1
aa.	PsyOps buckets (each)	522	0	522
bb.	Toothpaste (cases)	2	0	2
cc.	Magazines (each)	300	6,700	7,000
dd.	English teaching books	0	134	134

Restored goods redistributed to the people

a.	Rice (pounds)	4,280	0	4,280
b.	Salt (pounds)	30	0	30

Educational efforts

a.	English classes/attendance	239/3,356	0	239/3,356

	USN	VNN	TOTAL
Voluntary contributions (Piasters - 118 to one U.S. dollar) in support of:			
a. Schools	246,000	0	246,000

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

AMBUSH OF VIETNAMESE LCU

On Sunday, 27 November, the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) LCU 536, enroute from My Tho to Vinh Long with a load of ammunition, was taken under 75mm recoilless rifle, small arms, .30 caliber and .50 caliber fire from a carefully prepared ambush site near the mouth of Rach Cam Creek in the Mekong, nine miles upstream from My Tho.

The VNN craft took five recoilless rifle hits at the waterline. The ambush, which started at 1255, caught many of the LCU's crew at lunch below decks. Four Vietnamese sailors were killed and nine were wounded.

PBRs 103 and 109 moved in to render assistance and suppress the heavy Viet Cong fire. Enroute, the PBRs received and suppressed automatic weapons fire from the south bank of the river.

The PBRs relayed news of the attack to My Tho and all boats from River Assault Groups (RAGs) 21 and 27 (less troop carriers) were ordered to the scene. PBRs 103 and 109 went alongside the LCU and removed eight wounded to My Tho.

PBRs 101 and 107, also on the scene, kept the approaching RAG units informed of the progress of the action. An airborne U.S. Air Force spotter observed camouflaged Viet Cong troops moving in an area about 1000 yards north and west of the ambush site. The Senior Advisor, Dinh Tuong Province, embarked in a helicopter to coordinate reaction forces.

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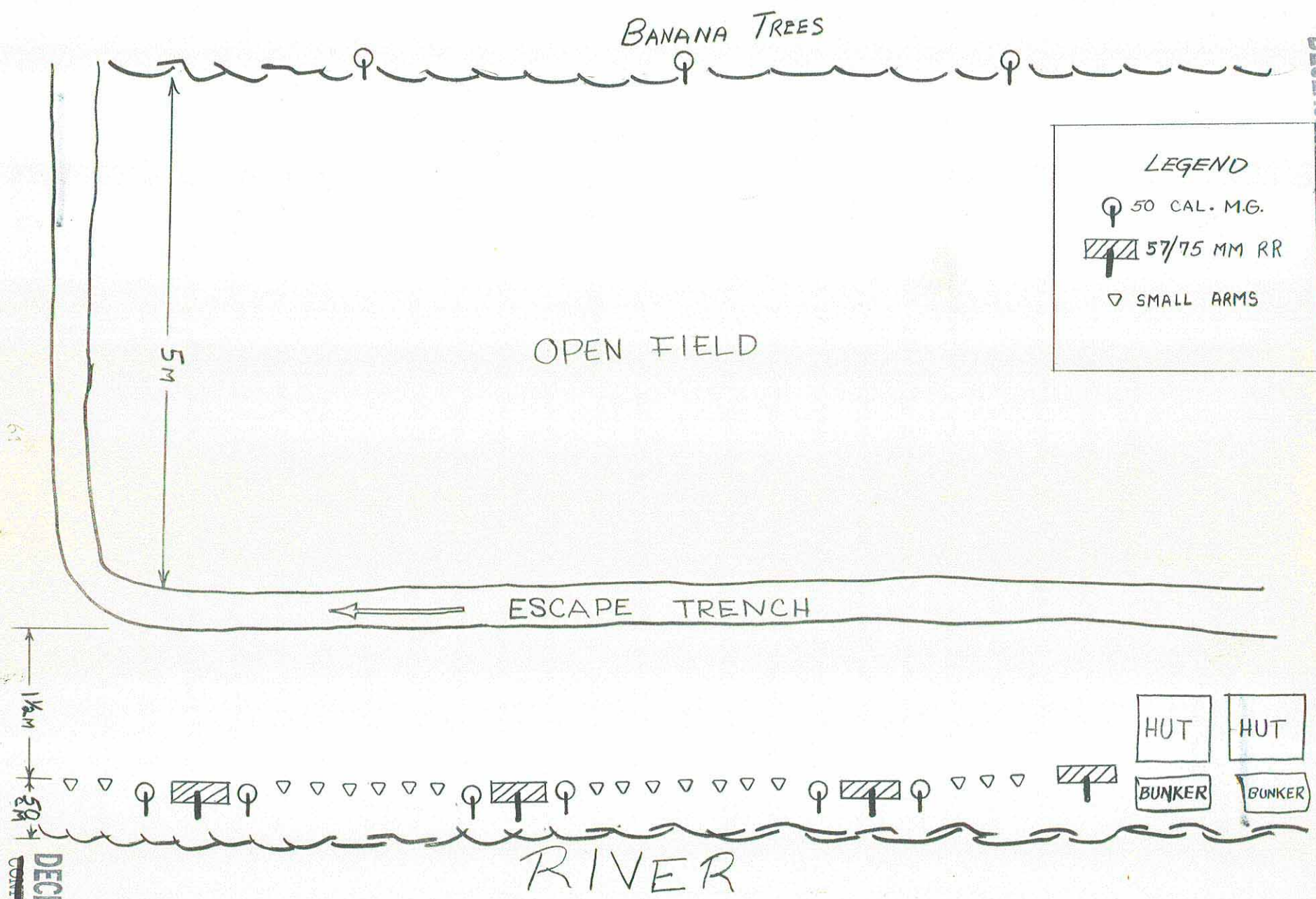

Diagram of Viet Cong positions during ambush of Vietnamese Navy LCU 536

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The damaged LCU, escorted by four River Patrol Craft from the My Tho-based RAGs, proceeded to Vinh Long with the four dead and one slightly wounded aboard as reaction forces began to converge on the area.

From 1400 until 2000, Navy and Army helicopter fire teams provided continuous air strikes with one team rearming while the other was on station. The helicopters received light to heavy ground fire on all runs.

At 1445, Vietnamese Air Force A-1 aircraft delivered the first of three fixed-wing air strikes. At 1600 units of RAGs 21 and 27 bombarded the north bank of the river with mortars and machine gun fire. Action was terminated at 1620 when enemy fire ceased in the area of the original ambush.

Helicopters continued to receive moderately heavy ground fire from Viet Cong pinned down in the area 1000 yards to the north and west of the ambush site until 1645. At 1725 the four Regional Force (RF) companies from My Tho were landed on the western perimeter of the ambush scene and moved to trap the enemy.

At 1755, Navy helicopters again received heavy fire from the enemy, who were observed moving back toward the river. The helicopters returned fire and as they departed to refuel and rearm, a third fixed wing air strike was delivered, thoroughly covering the area where the enemy was entrapped.

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At 1900, PBRs 105 and 106 received fire from the south bank, and returned 400 rounds of .50 caliber and 250 rounds of M-60 machine gun fire while clearing the area. The freshly rearmed Navy fire team took the area under fire, and suppressed the enemy fire.

At 1905, an Air Force AC-47 took the northern bank under fire. At 2015 the Province Chief ordered the Regional Force troops to return to their bases. Navy helicopters flying over the area estimated that one hundred Viet Cong were killed in action. Friendly losses were confined to the four killed and nine wounded in LCU 536.

The Vietnamese Air Force flew two fixed wing air strikes, with the U.S. Air Force delivering one. Army helicopters flew three strikes, and Navy Helicopter fire teams conducted four strikes against the enemy positions. The enemy was kept under continuous pressure by air and/or surface forces from the time the LCU was ambushed until the RF troops were extracted at 2015.

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy increased by 334 men to 15,942 at month's end. The figure reflected an increase of ten officers and 385 enlisted men. However, the corps of non-commissioned officers decreased by 61. The number of desertions continued its decline to 31 in November. There were 59 desertions in October.

The shore establishments continued to be fully manned and, in

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some cases, overmanned while the operating forces were undermanned in all ranks. For example, the number of non-commissioned officers assigned the Coastal Force was 958 less than authorized allowance.

Fleet Command patrol ships took part in 12 combined operations with Regional Force units, Coastal Groups, River Assault Groups, U.S. Special Forces and with U.S. Navy MSCs, PCFs and Coast Guard WPBs. Vietnamese PCs, PCEs and PGMs were utilized in all four Naval Zones and in the Rung Sat Special Zone for coastal and river patrols, gunfire support, logistics, escort, base support and psychological operations. PC/PCEs fired nine gunfire support missions and PGMs fired 15 gunfire support missions. PGMs also took part in five combined operations.

LSIL/LSSLs provided coastal and river patrol and gunfire support in 1st, 2nd and 3rd Naval Zones, the Rung Sat and the 4th Riverine Area. These ships fired 17 gunfire support missions, four of which were in direct support of River Assault Group and Coastal Group search and destroy operations. On 2 November, LSIL 330 was ambushed by a Viet Cong force using a 75mm recoilless rifle. Two Vietnamese sailors were killed and five were wounded. The ship sustained damage to its superstructure which was repaired at the Saigon Naval Shipyard during a three-week period.

On 1 November, the Vietnamese Operation Order governing the minesweeping of the main shipping channel to Saigon was modified.

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On even-numbered days, two boats sweep from Mile 2 to Mile 11 and back to Mile 2. Two boats sweep from Mile 12 to Mile 33 and back to Mile 12 and two boats sweep from Mile 33 to Mile 12 and back to Mile 33.

On odd-numbered days, two boats sweep from Mile 2 to Mile 33. Two boats sweep from Mile 33 to Mile 2. Two boats sweep from Mile 12 to Mile 33 and back to Mile 12. This arrangement increased miles swept per day from 62 to 104, and increased the number of sweeps along each bank of the Long Tau from two to four.

During the month, logistic ships carried a total of 3,887 tons of cargo and 14,501 men. LSTs carried 2,125 tons of cargo and 9,655 men, and LSMs carried 1,120 tons of cargo and 3,626 men. LCUs carried 642 tons of cargo and 1,220 men. The mass personnel movement was the result of returning National Day celebration participants to DaNang and Nha Trang on 1 November.

The LDNN (UDT) conducted no operations after 15 October because their activities were directed toward preparation for the National Day celebration and a local all-service shooting competition. Seven LDNN were selected to become bodyguards to the Prime Minister.

Rough seas, resulting from the Northeast Monsoon, adversely affected coastal surveillance efforts in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Naval Zones. Of 266 assigned junks, only 127, on a daily average, were employed in November. These units searched 14,662 craft, a decline of 4,487 from October's effort; the average was 3.7 searches per unit per day.

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In the 1st Naval Zone, Coastal Groups 11 and 12 supported Operation LAM SON 325, conducted by the 1st U.S. Infantry Division near Quang Tri and Thua Thien from 27 October to 5 November. U.S. forces sustained four killed and six wounded while accounting for nine Viet Cong killed and 20 captured. The Coastal Groups killed one Viet Cong and detained seven suspects.

On 12 November, during the late afternoon hours, units of Coastal Group 14 conducted a patrol and ambush six miles north of its base at Hoi An. The units sank one junk and captured one junk carrying household goods. Four Viet Cong were killed and one was detained.

On the same day, Coastal Group 23 units were involved in an action near Rhu Hoi village 14 miles south of Qui Nhon. At 0830 a PCF was fired on from the beach after it had stopped a junk. Two men carrying ammunition cases were seen on the beach. Units from Coastal Group 23 landed on the beach shortly after 1230 while PGM 607 supported with naval gunfire. Three junks were destroyed with their cargos of fish and a number of jars of nuoc man (fish sauce).

On 13 November Coastal Group 33 rendered medical assistance to 231 people at Can Gio in conjunction with a U.S. Civic Action Team project.

On 17 November between 0330 and 1130, Coastal Group 36

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participated in an operation conducted by Vinh Binh sector forces near Ap Tho 75 miles south of Vung Tau. Six junks, a number of structures and 400 litres of gasoline were destroyed.

In the 4th Naval Zone on 2 November, reconnaissance units of Coastal Group 44 sparked a firefight with the Viet Cong at the mouth of the Cai Lon River near Rach Gia on the Ca Mau Peninsula 65 miles east of An Thoi. Five Viet Cong were killed while the Coastal Group suffered one fatality.

Operation PEPPER BUSH I, in the north of Phu Quoc Island, was conducted from 5 to 11 November with units of Coastal Groups 41, 46 and 47, PCE 09, PGM 602 and U.S. Special Forces participating. Results were the destruction of ten structures and 600 kilos of rice with 11 sampans captured.

Vietnamese Navy units in the 3rd and 4th Riverine Areas were used aggressively during the month. Of the 227 river craft assigned, 105 were employed daily for escort, river patrol and combat operations. Seventeen major operations were conducted in the 3rd Riverine Area, 13 of which were Rung Sat Special Zone operations. Twelve operations were conducted in the 4th Riverine Area.

In the 3rd Riverine Area, most River Assault Group (RAG) units were occupied with static defense and river patrol. In the Rung Sat, most operations made little or no contact with the Viet Cong. Operation RUNG SAT 47/66 accounted for the destruction

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of several Viet Cong fortifications and the capture of a reel of electrical wire.

In the 4th Riverine Area, Operation LONG PHI 991/SD was conducted by the 9th ARVN Infantry Division, with the support of RAGs 23 and 31, on 4 and 5 November 6 miles southwest of Vinh Long. Results were 58 Viet Cong killed and 32 suspects detained. The ARVN force lost five men with 22 wounded. RAG units had one man wounded. Five civilians were released from Viet Cong custody. Fourteen sampans were destroyed and three machine guns, five automatic rifles, 37 individual weapons, 20 mines, one ton of ammunition and a number of documents were captured.

On 17 November, the 7th ARVN Division conducted Operation CUU LONG 47A/66 near Long Dinh with the support of LCU 535, LCU 539 and ten RAG 21 craft. The ARVN force had one man wounded and two suspects were detained. A Regional Force soldier, who had been a prisoner of the Viet Cong, was released.

On 1 November, elements of the 25th River Assault Group were conducting salvage operations in efforts to recover an LCVP which had been sunk on 25 October; they were attacked by an estimated 50 Viet Cong with recoilless rifle fire. At 0200, a series of firefights began and continued sporadically until 0730. Airstrikes were called in and 90 per cent of the target area was saturated with rocket fire. Vietnamese forces sustained two killed and eight wounded. Viet Cong casualties were unknown. Salvage operations

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were discontinued because of lack of security in the area. Since the LCVP was in an upside down position, imbedded in mud, it was felt that Viet Cong divers could not effect recovery of the craft or its weapons.

Maintenance aboard most Fleet Command ships remained below minimum U.S. Navy standards and engineering practices continued to be inadequate. However, some improvements were noted in the general attitude of VNN personnel toward maintenance. During November, 12 major casualties aboard six Fleet Command ships were corrected by ship's force personnel. Within the Naval Zones and Riverine Areas, availability of junks and river craft for operations was curtailed by a lack of repair parts and skilled repair personnel. At most Coastal Group bases a sense of responsibility for maintenance was lacking. The project to establish supply depots on the major repair facilities continued to remain at a standstill.

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

On 11 November, Brigade Force Bravo, consisting of a headquarters, the 1st and 4th Battalions, and Artillery Battery C, was committed to Operation LAM SON 328, a search and destroy operation 9 miles south southwest of Quang Tri. The brigade force, in conjunction with an ARVN airborne task force and a 1st ARVN Division task force, moved through jungles and over mountains under heavy monsoon rains without enemy contact. This operation, which ended on 18 November, marked

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the first combined USMC, USA and ARVN artillery effort. A US Artillery Group comprising a battery of USMC 155mm howitzers and a battery of USA M-108, 105mm howitzers under the command of a USMC group headquarters, teamed up with a battery of ARVN 155mm howitzers and a battery of VN Marine 105mm howitzers, under control of ARVN 1st Division, under a common Fire Support Coordination Center. This efficient joint-command was responsive to the requirements of the Marine brigade force as well as to other assault battalions participating in the operation.

On 29 November, Brigade Force Alpha supported 1st ARVN Division on search and destroy Operation LAM SON 331. Elements of the brigade force landed from LCUs and junks along the Cua Viet River 12 miles north of Quang Tri. The force then swept on dual axes paralleling the coastline to the Vinh Dinh River. The sweep resulted in two Viet Cong killed, one Viet Cong captured and two individual weapons captured. Operation LAM SON 331 continued as the month ended.

On 25 November, the 3rd Company of the 2nd Vietnamese Marine Battalion made contact with a Viet Cong unit estimated to be a company in the vicinity of Vinh Loc. U.S. armed helicopters, flying in support of the 3rd Company, allegedly were responsible for ten friendly casualties during the encounter. Two Vietnamese were killed and eight were wounded when air ordnance reportedly was fired into

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friendly positions. The Viet Cong killed two Vietnamese Marines before withdrawing one hour after first contact. Unconfirmed reports by villagers indicated that 20 dead and wounded Viet Cong were carried from the area.

Detachments from the Vietnamese Amphibious Support Battalion continued to operate as part of the brigade force headquarters in I Corps, while the remainder of the battalion supported Vietnamese Marine Corps activities in the Saigon-Thu Duc area. Vietnamese Marine Corps morale remained high under excellent leadership.

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APPENDIX I

MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY, NOVEMBER 1966

1. U.S. ships/craft:

	DER	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	LST
Total craft days on patrol	150	150	90	417	1076	30
Daily average of craft on patrol	5	5	3	13.9	35.5	1

2. VNN ships/junks:

	SEA FORCE	RIVER FORCE	COASTAL FORCE
Total craft days on patrol	534	3169	3763
Daily average of craft on patrol	17.8	105.6	125.4

3. U.S. Activity:

					TOTAL FOR MONTH
TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY	19,734	NIGHT	10,225	31,461
	STEEL - DAY	797	NIGHT	705	
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY	7,166	NIGHT	4,214	12,366
	STEEL - DAY	525	NIGHT	461	
TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD - DAY	6,689	NIGHT	2,723	9,440
	STEEL - DAY	24	NIGHT	4	

TOTAL DETAINED Junks 44 People 438

4. VNN Activity:

SEARCHED 14,973 junks 53,051 people

DETAINED 17 junks 245 people

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APPENDIX II

GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY, NOVEMBER 1966

1. PBR Statistics:

   a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 494 Night 783

   b. Total Contacts: Day 52603 Night 14724

   c. Total Inspected: Day 12646 Night 3057

   d. Total Boarded: Day 13971 Night 2292

   e. People Detained: 588

   f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 28

   g. Total Patrol Hours: 31934

2. Helo Fire Team Statistics:

   a. Total Flight Hours: 394.3

   b. Helo Missions Supported:
      (1) Pre-planned strikes: 18
      (2) Reaction: 31
      (3) Targets of opportunity: 13
      (4) Support: 77
      (5) MEDVAC: 1

3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

   a. Firefights:
      (1) PBR 76
      (2) Helo 19
      (3) MSB 4
      (4) PACV 3
      (5) RPC 1

   b. Sampans:
      Destroyed: 120 Damaged: 15 Captured: 6

   c. Junks:
      Captured: 1

   d. Structures:
      Destroyed: 29 Damaged: 25

   e. Huts:
      Destroyed: 45 Damaged: 26

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f. Enemy:
KIA: 68 KIA (Poss): 154 WIA: 17 Captured: 11

g. Friendly:
KIA: 2 WIA: 10

h. Friendly Battle Damage:

(1) PBR: 10
(2) Helo 3
(3) MSB 3

i. PBR MEDEVAC: 9

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APPENDIX III

SUMMARY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE FOR THE PERIOD 1 JUNE THROUGH 30 NOVEMBER 1966

Inactive since the close of World War II, the Third Naval Construction Brigade was recommissioned at DaNang on 1 June 1966, with Rear Admiral R.R. WOODING, CEC, USN as Commander. Brigade headquarters, now located in Saigon, exercises operational control of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment and other Naval Construction Force units in Vietnam.

The Commander, Third Naval Construction Brigade acts as a principal adviser to Commander Naval Forces, Vietnam (COMNAVFORV). Rear Admiral WOODING is also Deputy Commander, Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southeast Asia. In this capacity, it is his responsibility to supervise for the Navy the administration of all construction contracts in Vietnam and Thailand.

On 1 June the staff of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment consisted of ten officers and 34 enlisted men under the command of Captain N.R. ANDERSON, CEC, USN, with headquarters in downtown DaNang. Since that time the staff has grown to a total of 21 officers and 137 enlisted men with an additional 28 enlisted men assigned on a TAD basis. In June the location of the regimental offices was moved to Red Beach, about ten miles north of DaNang. In August the staff moved into its present headquarters at Red Beach. On 12 September 1966 Captain ANDERSON was relieved as Commander, 30th Naval Construction Regiment by Captain A.R. MARSCHALL, CEC, USN.

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The regiment has operational control over all Mobile Construction Battalions (MCB) in the Republic of Vietnam. On 1 June, 1966 there were seven battalions headquartered in the I Corps area. They were: MCB-1 at Red Beach; MCB-6 and MCB-11 at DaNang East; MCB-3 and MCB-4 at Chu Lai; MCB-10 west of the DaNang airport and MCB-7 at Phu Bai. On 4 August the total of in-country battalions was raised to eight when MCB-9 returned to Vietnam for its second tour and set up camp at Red Beach. Since then three battalions have been relieved; MCB-4 by MCB-40 on 15 August; MCB-11 by MCB-5 on 15 October and MCB-1 by MCB-58 on 29 October.

On 1 June there were over 4000 Seabees attached to the seven MCBs and the 30th Naval Construction Regiment Staff. As of 30 November the total number of personnel assigned had increased to over 6,000. During the same six-month period, the amount of direct (on the job) labor by Seabees increased from 61,000 man-days in June to 104,000 man-days in November.

By 1 June MCB-3 had begun work on the Naval Support Facility at Chu Lai. The complex, which will cost 2.8 million dollars, was 75 per cent complete as of 30 November. Major items in the complex include 52 rigid frame buildings (each 40 x 100 feet) for a storage area, a 48,000 cubic foot refrigerated storage installation, and a 1,000-man cantonment, all of which are essentially complete. Still under construction are maintenance shops, POL storage, open storage and utility systems. MCB-3 also completed a 39,000 square yard helicopter parking apron for Marine Air Group 36 and a 1,850-man

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cantonment for Marine Air Group 13 at Chu Lai. Under construction but not yet complete is the 1st Force Hospital, a complex consisting of five 16 x 72-foot buildings for hospital wards and a cantonment for hospital personnel. For its work in the Chu Lai area MCB-3 received the 1966 Pacific Fleet "Best of Type" award.

A new crosswind runway was added to the Chu Lai airfield for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. This project was started by MCB-4 prior to their departure for the United States in mid-August and was completed by MCB-40 with assistance from detachments of MCB-3 and 6. Operational by 1 October, this construction project included the laying of 96,000 square yards of aluminum matting (AM-2) and the construction of several poured-in-place concrete box culverts to handle the water run-off expected during the monsoon rains. One of these, a triple-box culvert measuring 33 x 273 feet, is the largest concrete structure built by military engineers in the I Corps area. Additional work completed by MCB-4 at Chu Lai included a runway centerline lighting system which required the underground installation of more than eight miles of lighting cable.

At the end of November, construction was about 20 per cent complete on a complex for Force Logistics Supply Group BRAVO. MCBs 3, 4 and 40 at Chu Lai are building the 3.5 million dollar complex, designed to support Marine units. Presently in operation is half of a planned 48,000 cubic-foot refrigerated storage facility and about one third of a planned covered storage complex. Other items under construction include shop areas, administration buildings and

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troop facilities.

MCB-40 has completed 44 per cent of a planned 11,790-man cantonment for the 1st Marine Division. This authorization included construction of facilities at various locations in the Chu Lai area, and a camp cantonment for Republic of Korea troops in the southern section of the Chu Lai Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR).

On 15 June the Post Exchange in the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) recreation area at the base of Hill 327 (west of DaNang) was opened. This complex, which also includes a 5,000-seat amphitheater and buildings for Special Services, Red Cross and USO activities, was built by MCB-10.

During the period covered by this report, a majority of the work has been done on a complex for Force Logistics Supply Group ALPHA. Started by MCB-1 and continued by MCB-58, this complex at Red Beach will cost 3.9 million dollars, and was two-thirds complete by the end of November. The project includes an administrative area of 55 quonset huts, troop housing for 2,222 men, 64,000 cubic feet of refrigerated storage and a major storage installation of 39 rigid frame buildings.

The first increment of work for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at the DaNang airfield, consisting of 33,000 square yards of asphalt aircraft parking apron, was completed by MCB-10. The second increment, consisting of an additional 26,000 square yards of parking apron, is now under construction by MCB-58.

Construction of division operations and support facilities for

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Marines in the DaNang area at a material cost of about two million dollars was completed by MCB-10. Construction included cantonments for 5,900 men and 33 buildings (40x100 feet) for shops and storage.

At Khe Sanh, near the demilitarized zone, MCB-10 constructed a Special Forces camp and a 3,900-foot airstrip, complete with two turnouts, a parking ramp, two overruns, two turnarounds, revetments and bunkers.

An important project completed by MCB-11 was the clearing of debris from an aircraft crash site at Hoa Buong village and the construction of 72 houses for villagers who had lost their homes in the crash. The battalion also constructed an all-weather road to the top of Monkey Mountain and built an Air Force radar site there.

MCB-11 replaced three spans of the DaNang River bridge, the only road link between the city of DaNang and DaNang East. At the west end of the bridge, MCBs 6 and 8 built the Bridge Cargo Facility to provide loading and unloading areas for LSTs and LCUs.

MCB-1 was primarily responsible for the construction of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment Headquarters at Red Beach. Another major project completed was a Marine Light AA Missile battery site and 250-man cantonment on top of Hill 724 to the north of Red Beach. The major part of this job was the building of a road to the hilltop site.

In the DaNang East area, the major construction started during the period covered by this report was for the Naval Support Activity complex which includes a 2,000-man galley, a dairy plant, 360,000

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cubic feet of refrigerated storage, and 152 buildings (40x100 feet) for warehousing. It is being built by MCBs 11, 5 and 6 at a material cost of 7.3 million dollars.

MCB-11 has begun work on the China Beach recreation facility and the Post Exchange within this facility was completed. Also completed was some work for Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, allowing the DaNang TV station to become operational.

In the Marble Mountain area of DaNang East, MCB-6 built a POW camp for the Republic of Vietnam Army, using material supplied by the Vietnamese. The battalion is presently constructing a camp for the 5th Special Forces at DaNang East.

MCB-7's largest project was the 1.9 million dollar complex presently under construction for Force Logistic Supply Unit TWO. Essentially complete on 30 November were 32,000 square feet of shop spaces, 48,000 cubic feet of refrigerated storage and an 838-man cantonment with associated facilities. Medical and administrative facilities are under construction. Nearly complete is the construction of an LCU ramp with staging area and access road. As of 30 November, 40 per cent of all planned construction had been completed.

Other projects completed by MCB-7 included the upgrading of the Dong Ha airfield to C-130 capacity, and the construction of aircraft parking and cargo loading areas.

Since their arrival at DaNang in August, MCB-9 personnel have constructed a 2,400-foot airstrip and a Special Forces camp at Ba To. They also completed a 2,600-foot airstrip and messing and

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berthing facilities at the Special Forces Camp at Minh Long. Another Special Forces camp was completed at Thuong Duc. At Hill 55, southwest of DaNang, MCB-9 constructed the first permanent bridge built from the ground up by military engineers in the I Corps area. Built of timber, the bridge is 510 feet long and has a 60-ton capacity.

Also deployed to Vietnam at the present time are four special Seabee Teams. Each team is composed of one Civil Engineer Corps officer and 12 enlisted men. The team's mission is to provide technical assistance in socio-economic and military construction in support of programs approved by Commander-in-Chief, Pacific.

In Vietnam the teams are supporting the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in civic action construction projects undertaken in support of the Vietnamese Government's Revolutionary Development Program. Normally deployed to remote rural areas, the teams concentrate their efforts on the construction of roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, well drilling, design and construction of New Life Hamlets and the training of Vietnamese in basic construction skills and techniques. The teams are under operational control of the Commander, 3rd NCB.

In September 1966, Construction Mechanic Third Class Marvin G. SHIELDS, a member of Seabee Team 1104, was awarded posthumously the CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR by President Johnson. This honor was accorded SHIELDS for his actions in the defense of the Special Forces camp at Dong Xoau in June, 1965 against a superior force of Viet Cong.

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SHIELDS, who died from wounds sustained in the battle, is the only Seabee ever to win the Medal of Honor and the only Navy man to be so honored thus far in the Vietnam conflict.

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