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NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 1966

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CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 - SEAL Team conducts ambush near Tac Ba River. One VC killed and one sampan destroyed. p. 14.

2 - Coastal Groups 34/37 base attacked by Viet Cong. One friendly was killed and five were wounded. Two Viet Cong were killed. p. 34.

3 - PBRs were in two firefights with Viet Cong 17 miles east of Sa Dec on the Mekong River. One enemy light machine gun position was destroyed resulting in a secondary explosion. p. 7.

5-6 - Coastal Group 15 and two U.S. Marine companies killed five Viet Cong and captured three. One mine booby trap and two tunnels were destroyed. p. 33.

7 - USCGC POINT GREY detected French steel hull vessel dead in the water in a concentration of junks. p. 16.

8 - PBRs captured sampan with 300 pounds of rice on the Bassac River. p. 4.

9 - Three PCFs arrived aboard USS COMSTOCK (LSD 19). p. 22.

11 - PBRs came under automatic weapons fire on the Co Chien River. One U.S. crewmember killed. p. 5.

- PBRs on the Bassac River provided gunfire support for an outpost under attack. One secondary explosion was noted. p. 8.

13 - SEAL Team conducted an ambush on Bai Tien River. Two Viet Cong killed and one sampan destroyed. p. 14.

16 - PBRs captured one Viet Cong on Mekong River. p. 4.

17 - PCFs provided illumination in support of a SAR effort after two F4Cs collided 20 miles south of Nha Trang. One survivor was recovered. p. 19.

20 - PBRs on the Soirap River captured one Viet Cong, one sampan, one rifle and personal papers. p. 10.

22 - MSB 15 hit by rocket projectile in an ambush by the Viet Cong on the Long Tau River. One U.S. crewmember killed and nine wounded. p. 11.

24 - PBRs on the Bassac River had firefight with Viet Cong fleeing from Regional Force operation. One Viet Cong killed and one rifle captured. p. 5.

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24 - USCGC POINT GREY's Boston whaler took a sampan under fire. Sampan destroyed by a large secondary explosion. p. 17.

26 - USCGC POINT KENNEDY assisted in the recovery of survivors of a downed U.S. Army helicopter 70 miles south-southwest of Vung Tau. U.S. personnel casualties were one killed, one wounded and two missing. p. 19.

27 - Five PBRs arrived aboard SS RICE VICTORY. p. 15.

30 - PBRs on the Bassac River killed one Viet Cong during a firefight. p. 7.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE

Augmented by the arrival of five additional PBRs, Operation GAME WARDEN continued successfully in its mission of population and resources control on the waterways of the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone. A meaningful indicator of the effectiveness of GAME WARDEN was the relatively sophisticated Viet Cong psychological warfare campaign launched against the PBRs. Increasing GAME WARDEN civic action projects and humanitarian efforts have been effective in pointing out the enemy fabrications to the populace. In addition, a PsyOps campaign in support of the upcoming revised rules of engagement - permitting patrol units to engage evading contacts after all attempts to bring them alongside for inspection have failed - was concluded.

During September PBRs provided increasing support for Vietnamese outposts under attack in their patrol areas, and provided medical evacuation of indigenous personnel. These efforts continued to impress the Vietnamese and U.S. Advisors in the area. PBR support operations in connection with heavy floods in the Upper Mekong Delta enhanced this feeling.

Despite the first major GAME WARDEN personnel casualties, progress continued toward the accomplishment of assigned missions.[1]

DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Interdiction of Viet Cong Movements

On 31 August at 1855, PBRs 31, 35 and 40 were proceeding downstream on the Bassac River 12 miles southeast of Can Tho when

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[1] CTG 116.1 msg 031206Z Oct 66

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a sampan with two men aboard was observed crossing from Phong Nam Island to the south bank. As the patrol closed, the sampan attempted to evade and warning shots were fired. Enemy fire was immediately received from the bank, and in the ensuing firefight the sampan was destroyed. Artillery from the Tra On Battery was then called in on the enemy positions. There were no friendly casualties.

On 8 September at 1445, PBRs 30, 34 and 36, operating in support of an ARVN Ninth Division operation 11 miles southeast of Can Tho, observed a sampan departing a canal in the vicinity of the operation. The two occupants of the sampan jumped overboard as the PBRs closed and fired warning shots. The sampan was captured and was found to contain 300 pounds of rice. The two occupants escaped.

One Viet Cong was captured the night of 16 September when at 1933 PBRs 98 and 103 illuminated a sampan moving from Thoi Son Island to Kien Hoa across the Mekong River four miles west of My Tho. As the patrol closed, five rounds of sniper fire were received from the bank, and the occupants abandoned the sampan. One occupant escaped but the second, discouraged by a concussion grenade thrown beyond him, took the life line and surrendered. He was unharmed, and admitted to being a Viet Cong guerilla. One of his tasks was warning of the approach of PBR patrols by pounding together two coconut halves three times.

PBRs impeded a possible Viet Cong crossing the night of 25 September when at 2020 PBRs 113 and 117 received light rifle and grenade fire 24 miles southeast of Ving Long on the Co Chien

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River. A subsequent rendezvous with two civilian junks indicated that the Viet Cong had closed that area of the river, possibly in preparation for a major river crossing. The PBRs remained on patrol in the area and at 2109 were involved in another firefight. The Viet Cong possibly utilized a large caliber weapon, but there was no damage to the patrol units.

Viet Cong Harassment of Patrol Units

Continued attacks by Viet Cong forces using fortified shore positions resulted in the first PBR crewmember killed in action since the inception of GAME WARDEN operations. On 11 September at 1915, PBRs 29 and 82 came under automatic weapons fire on the Co Chien River 26 miles southeast of Vinh Long. In the ensuing firefight one PBR forward gunner was killed. Enemy casualties were unknown.

On 24 September from 0720 to 0815, PBRs 38 and 40 came under small arms and automatic weapons fire in the area just south of Can Tho on the Bassac River. Aircraft from Phong Dinh Sector were called in for support. The aircraft reported there was a Regional Force operation in progress, and the Viet Cong had been forced to the river bank. Four PBRs were stationed in the area for support. Friendly troops sweeping the area later reported one Viet Cong killed as a result of PBR fire. A rifle was alongside the body.

The Viet Cong continued extensive psychological operations against the PBRs during September. The Tan Chau District Chief reported the Viet Cong were telling the populace that PBR personnel would rape, kill and steal whenever they stopped boats. The effec-

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tiveness of this was confirmed when one Sa Dec patrol stopped a boat containing young girls, several of whom went into hysterics as the patrol approached. It appeared that the Viet Cong PsyOps effort had spread to the northern areas of the Mekong Delta.

Efforts were also continued to draw PBR patrols into possible ambushes or booby traps. On 9 September at 0351, PBRs 96 and 110 sighted what appeared to be an empty sampan moored approximately 150 yards from the bank in the area just east of Ving Long on the Co Chien River. Suspecting a booby trap, the patrol fired warning shots and then M-79 grenades in an attempt to dislodge the craft. Fire was then received from the bank, and the patrol cleared the area. Subsequent reconnaissance indicated the sampan had been removed. As the sampan had been placed in the vicinity of a friendly outpost, it was evaluated as an attempt by the Viet Cong to draw fire into the outpost. The enemy fire was not returned.

These significant incidents also occurred during the month:

2 - At 1945 PBRs 30, 31 and 40 received small arms fire eight miles southeast of Can Tho on the Bassac River. This is the first instance of enemy fire immediately upstream from Tra On in an area where the Viet Cong have informed the populace they are going to "get a PBR."

3 - Between 1935 and 2155, PBRs 82 and 117 received heavy automatic weapons fire 17 miles east of Sa Dec on the Mekong River. The fire was returned, and artillery from the My Cay Battery was called in on the ambush positions. PBR 117 sustained three minor hits. There were no friendly personnel casualties.

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3 - At 2308, subsequent to the previous action, the same patrol again came under attack, this time receiving one round of recoilless rifle fire. During the firefight an enemy light machine gun position was destroyed with a moderate secondary explosion resulting. Artillery was again called in on the ambush position.

10 - At 1950, PBRs 35 and 38 received enemy grenades and small arms fire five miles southeast of Can Tho, a populated area. The fire was returned with care. As it was election eve, the action was evaluated as an attempt to draw PBR fire into the populated area. At 2005, PBRs 39 and 41 experienced a similar incident in the same area, coming under fire from three positions. Fire was returned at only one of the positions.

25 - At 2020, PBRs 105 and 109 received heavy machine gun fire in the vicinity of My Tho while investigating curfew-violating sampans. After the firefight four sampans were rounded up. The occupants stated that they had been forced by the Viet Cong to fish after curfew; and it appeared that the Viet Cong were using innocent fishermen to lure the PBRs into an ambush.

30 - PBRs 31, 39 and 41 accounted for one Viet Cong killed when they received light enemy fire six miles southeast of Can Tho. A later reconnaissance revealed one sniper hanging from the tree where he had been shot.

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PBR Assistance

On three occasions during September GAME WARDEN patrol units in the Mekong Delta came to the assistance of friendly outposts under attack. At 2315 on 5 September, PBRs 79 and 80, at the request of Sa Dec District Headquarters, proceeded to assist a Popular Force outpost under attack 12 miles northwest of Sa Dec on the Mekong River. Upon arrival the patrol observed that both flanks of the outpost were under heavy enemy fire. The patrol assisted in taking the positions under fire, and drew enemy fire in return. Upon arrival of a flare aircraft the Viet Cong broke contact. There were no U.S. casualties, but one Popular Force soldier was killed, two were wounded and two dependents were wounded. The PBRs provided medical evacuation of the wounded to Sa Dec.

On 7 September at 2125, PBRs 31 and 35 observed a prearranged flare signal indicating assistance was desired in the vicinity of a friendly outpost 10 miles southeast of Can Tho on the Bassac River. The outpost pinpointed Viet Cong positions by using tracer fire and the PBRs took them under fire. There were no friendly casualties during the action, and enemy casualties were unknown. There had been a significant, recent buildup of Viet Cong forces in the area.

In the same area on 11 September at 0010, the Viet Cong commenced a mortar attack on an outpost and directed automatic weapons fire at a PBR patrol. The PBRs took both the mortar and automatic weapons positions under fire. The automatic weapons

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position was silenced and one secondary explosion noted. The Viet Cong then shifted their mortar fire to the PBRs. Six rounds were fired with no damage to the boats before the mortar was silenced at 0030. The patrol returned later for possible medical evacuation, but upon arrival at the outpost discovered there were no casualties. VNN River Assault Group units from Can Tho were then dispatched for outpost security.

In addition to the above actions, the PBRs provided medical evacuation for injured civilian and military personnel on several occasions.

9 - At 1845, PBRs 134 and 135 were notified by the U.S. Special Forces detachment at Tan Chau that a Vietnamese girl had been critically injured by a water buffalo in a village on the Mekong River near the Cambodian border. The girl was carried to the Special Forces detachment at Chau Doc where she was treated and transferred by a Vietnamese Air Force helicopter to the Australian Surgical Team Hospital at Long Xuyen. The prompt action was credited with saving her life.

- At 2215, PBRs 52 and 115, also operating on the Mekong River near the Cambodian border, received word from the USSF detachment at An Phu that a Regional Force soldier was critically wounded. He was carried by PBR to a Vietnamese hospital at Chau Doc.

10 - At 1145, PBRs 39 and 41 conducted medical evacuation for two civilians who had been wounded as a result of

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an ARVN operation 12 miles southeast of Can Tho. They were transferred to Can Tho.

11 - At 1040, a wounded ARVN soldier was evacuated from Tra On to Can Tho.

25 - At 1230 two wounded Vietnamese Special Forces irregulars were evacuated by PBR to Long Xuyen. The PBRs were utilized due to flooding of the base helicopter pad.

28 - At 1230, PBRs 39 and 41 inspected a sampan, noting one child with third degree burns thought to be the result of a napalm strike. The patrol transferred the child to Can Tho.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

PBRs operating on the waters of the Rung Sat Special Zone had their most successful action of the month on the night of 20 September when a drifting Soirap River patrol detected a radar contact seven miles south of Nha Be. The patrol closed to 25 yards for visual observation, and the three occupants jumped overboard. The patrol launched two concussion grenades and four fragmentation grenades and forced the three suspects to the surface. As the patrol illuminated them, automatic weapons fire was received from the west bank of the river. During the ensuing firefight two occupants of the sampan escaped while the remaining occupant was captured. The sampan, containing a rifle and personal gear, was also captured and taken to Nha Be.

At 1240 on 15 September, PBRs 25 and 26, on a normal patrol in the same area of the Soirap River, observed an explosion in

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the water approximately 25 yards astern of the cover boat. There was no river traffic or visible movement in the area and the action was evaluated as Viet Cong harassment by rifle grenade. On 24 September at 2345, a PBR patrol received heavy automatic weapons fire in the same location. This area of the Soirap River is a known Viet Cong crossing point.

Harassment of River Traffic

Having inflicted damage on minesweepers and commercial shipping in August, the Viet Cong continued to direct attacks against friendly river movement during September. The attacks were concentrated on U.S. Navy MSBs in an attempt to disrupt minesweeping efforts.

On 22 September at 1518, MSBs 14 and 15 were making their third pass of the Long Tau River when MSB 15 experienced an explosion on the forward starboard side at the turbine stack and MSB 14 observed three explosions within 50 feet of its position (see chart). At the time of the attack MSB 15 was approximately 30 meters from the west bank of the river and MSB 14 was approximately 12 meters from the east bank. It was low tide and slack water. Light trails of smoke were observed behind the projectiles used in the initial attack, and they were evaluated as rockets. Following the initial attack heavy automatic weapons fire was received from both banks, and the MSBs returned the fire until 1525 when they were clear of the ambush area.

In the ambush one crewmember of MSB 15 was killed and nine were wounded (MSB 15 was carrying a second crew for indoctrination),

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and the boat sustained moderate material damage. Even though the area of the ambush was defoliated, there was dense underbrush which at low tide provided ample cover for this type of attack. At high tide the MSBs are able to observe the entire defoliated area.

One mining attempt was reported during the month. On 8 September at 0517, MSB 49 reported an underwater explosion while on a routine chain drag of the Long Tau River. Later the same day MSB 14 lost its "O" type moored sweep gear and received enemy small arms fire while effecting recovery. A PBR patrol in the area covered the MSB until the gear was recovered. In a third incident on 8 September, SS EXHIBITOR, a civilian cargo ship, received enemy harassing fire from the west bank of the Long Tau River. A PBR patrol arrived to assist and directed M-79 grenades into the enemy positions. There were no friendly personnel or material casualties in any of these incidents.

The final incident of the month occurred on the Dong Nai River east of Saigon at 0930 on 27 September when MSB 52, accompanied by MSB 49, experienced a heavy explosion close astern while sweeping northward. The explosion was evaluated by the sweep officer as a recoilless rifle or mortar round. There were no casualties. The previous day MSB 17 had observed and destroyed with M-79 grenades a bundle of bamboo secured with red flags in the same area of the river. The float was evaluated as a possible mine marker, and the proximity of the two incidents indicated a concerted Viet Cong effort to interfere with sweep operations in this area.

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Helicopter Fire Teams

Navy-manned helicopter fire teams, operating from the GAME WARDEN base at Nha Be, and from USS TORTUGA (LSD 26) and USS COMSTOCK (LSD 19), supported friendly forces in the Rung Sat Special Zone throughout the month.

6 - At 1828 the U.S. advisor at Quang Xuyen reported that a Popular Force outpost was receiving enemy fire (see chart for positions). At 1845 the Nha Be fire team arrived and suppressed the fire.

7 - At 1920 the Nha Be fire team scrambled to support a U.S. Army helicopter which had been downed by enemy fire in the III Corps Tactical Zone adjacent to the RSSZ.

- At 1945 the TORTUGA fire team responded to a request from VNN authorities at Nha Be to assist in suppressing an attack on Dong Hoa Village. Upon arrival of the fire team the enemy broke contact.

8 - At 0150 VNN authorities at Nha Be reported an outpost under attack. The Nha Be fire team was airborne at 0155, and upon arrival attacked suspected enemy positions. The Viet Cong then broke contact.

- At 0404 a U.S. advisor reported a Regional Force platoon under attack near Can Gio and a fire team was dispatched to conduct air strikes on suspected enemy positions. The fire team subsequently provided medical evacuation from Can Gio for a seriously wounded soldier; then

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rearmed and returned to the area to support a reaction operation.

30 - At 1117 a U.S. Air Force F-100 aircraft on a strike mission in conjunction with Operation BATON ROUGE crashed, but the pilot bailed out and was observed by personnel at Nha Be. GAME WARDEN helos provided fire cover and rescued the pilot.

SEAL TEAM

On 1 September at approximately 2100 in the vicinity of the branches of the Tac Ba River (see chart), the SEAL Team conducted their first successful ambush of the month. A sampan, camouflaged with weeds and brush interwoven in a wire mesh, was observed moving through restricted waters. The craft was taken under fire and the one occupant killed. The sampan sank before it could be recovered.

The SEAL Team recorded its second successful ambush of the month on 13 September when at 0035 a sampan was detected heading southward on the Bai Tien River. The ambush team opened fire, killing both occupants and sinking the sampan. The SEAL Team LCM-3 immediately extracted the ambush team while conducting reconnaissance by fire of both banks of the river. One crewmember was slightly wounded when the LCM-3 received enemy small arms fire.

On 18 September at 0408, a reconnaissance team discovered a rebuilt base camp, previously destroyed in July. The camp consisted of several new huts, bunkers, water jugs and containers for keeping live fish. The camp had been inhabited recently, and was believed to be a rest station or troop staging area. The camp was destroyed again.

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GAME WARDEN UNITS

Five PBRs were added to the GAME WARDEN inventory during September to bring the total craft in country to 100. The boats, which arrived aboard SS RICE VICTORY on 27 September, were added to River Patrol Section 523. On 29 September Commander River Patrol Section 523 with the five additional PBRs reported operationally ready for the transit to Long Xuyen. On 10 September USS COMSTOCK (LSD 19) relieved USS TORTUGA (LSD 26) as GAME WARDEN support ship. On 26 September RIVPATSECT 532 was activated at Cat Lo.

On 19 September modified Jacuzzi pumps were installed in three PBRs by manufacturer's technical representatives. A considerable improvement in speed was noted in these boats.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE

An average of 67 U.S. units were on continuous MARKET TIME patrols during the month.[1] Two aircraft were continuously airborne on MARKET TIME patrols. Additionally, a daylight patrol of the South China Sea was flown during the dark phases of the moon. Forces were augmented by three additional PCFs.

EVASION INCIDENTS

At 0335 on 7 September, USCGC POINT GREY detected a steel hull contact dead in the water off the southwest coast of Ca Mau Peninsula 77 miles south of An Thoi. Fifteen junks surrounded the ship, but POINT GREY was unable to determine if any junks were alongside. When challenged, the vessel, which showed no running or range lights, got underway on course 130, at 17 knots. The junks dispersed.

The contact was visually identified as the French flag merchant ship TATIANA (7,026 gross tons). POINT GREY continued to shadow TATIANA but could not match her speed. USS NEWELL (DER 322) was dispatched to assist, intercepted TATIANA and delivered the message, "Your stopping in contiguous waters in junk concentration indicates possible violation GVN regulations. Request you follow me to Vung Tau."

TATIANA complied and upon arrival in Vung Tau was inspected by the Vietnamese Navy Third Coastal Zone Commander. Nothing suspicious was found. The Master and crew of 36 were French Nationals. The ship carried 2,800 tons of general cargo. The

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[1] See Appendix I for MARKET TIME Statistical Summary

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Master stated that he had made the trip "a dozen times," using the same route and had seen junks but never had stopped.

The Master further informed the inspecting party that the ship was enroute from Sihanoukville, Cambodia to Hong Kong. However, a COMNAVFORV Intelligence check of the ship's agent's Saigon office indicated that TATIANA's port calls were changed prior to her arrival at Sihanoukville, from Hong Kong to Kobe, Japan. This contradiction of the Master's statement, plus the fact that the vessel did not show navigational lights and stopped in a large concentration of junks off a Viet Cong-controlled coastal area, added significance to this incident.[1]

TATIANA was released by Vietnamese authorities at 2130 on 7 September. Intelligence records indicated that TATIANA did continue to Kobe, Japan vice Hong Kong.

At 2000 on 24 September, USCGC POINT GREY detected several sampans close to the beach 63 miles southeast of An Thoi moving south along the coastal area of the U Minh Forest. POINT GREY's Boston whaler, which was sent in to investigate the contacts, reported that several sampans were on the beach and that a flashlight signal was received from the beach. The whaler illuminated the closest moving target and three men jumped overboard and swam for the beach. When they did not heed warning shots, they were taken under fire. The sampan was destroyed by a large secondary explosion when it was taken under fire by the whaler. POINT GREY later received small arms fire from the beach. There were no friendly casualties; VC casualties were unknown.

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[1] COMNAVFORV msg 081040Z Sep 66 - Intelligence Summary 136-66

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The following evasion incidents also were recorded during September:

14 - At 0100 PCF 66 detected a contact 19 miles south of Qui Nhon proceeding in a southerly direction along the coast. When PCF 66 closed and illuminated the junk, it evaded and ignored warning shots. The junk was destroyed by direct fire. Enemy casualties were unknown.

17 - At 1235 PCF 21 hailed and fired warning shots at two sampans attempting to evade to the beach 30 miles south of DaNang. When the sampans continued evasive tactics, they were taken under direct fire and damaged. Small arms fire was received from the beach during this action, but was not returned because of the proximity of a village. There were no friendly casualties.

21 - At 1650 USCGC POINT ARDEN hailed four junks 86 miles northwest of DaNang off the DMZ coast. The junks were not fired on as they evaded across the 17th parallel.

28 - USCGC POINT CLEAR fired on an evading junk 66 miles southeast of An Thoi when it failed to heed hailings and warning shots. Results were unknown.

OPERATIONS

Land operations supported by MARKET TIME forces during September were as follows:

14 - PCFs on routine patrol in areas 7E and 8C, approximately 100 miles southwest of Vung Tau, provided blocking forces for ARVN Operation DAN CHI 261.

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15-25 - PCFs and WPBs in area 1A1, adjacent to the DMZ coast, participated in Operation DECK HOUSE IV by providing coastal patrols and anchorage security for the amphibious force.

19 - At 1930 PCF 73 provided urgent evacuation for two United States Special Forces and 35 Regional Forces troops surrounded by Viet Cong 12 miles north of An Thoi.

23 - PCFs, patrolling just north of Qui Nhon in area 3E, provided a blocking force for the Operations WILD CAMILLA and THAYER.

Eight ROUNDUPs were conducted in September by MARKET TIME PCFs and PACVs. In all cases, nothing suspicious was uncovered. The ROUNDUP operations were conducted in three areas. Between 13 and 15 September two ROUNDUPs were conducted in Vung Tau Harbor. Five ROUNDUPs were carried out in an area off the coast of Go Cong Province near the mouths of the Cua Tieu and Cua Dai Rivers between the 19th and 24th of the month. One ROUNDUP was effected off the coast of Phuoc Tuy Province, ten miles north of Vung Tau, on the 27th and 28th.

MARKET TIME units conducted two Search and Rescue operations during the month. On 17 September at 2130, two PCFs provided illumination in support of a SAR effort after two F4Cs collided 20 miles south of Nha Trang. One survivor was recovered. On 26 September at 1225, USCGC POINT KENNEDY assisted in the recovery of survivors of a downed U.S. Army helicopter 70 miles south-southwest of Vung Tau. Four survivors were recovered by

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POINT KENNEDY's small boat. U.S. personnel casualties were one killed, one wounded and two missing.

HOSTILE FIRE INCIDENTS

MARKET TIME units on patrol came under attack on only a few occasions during September. In no case was there personnel or material damage.

4 - At 2120 PCF 74 received automatic weapons fire from the north shore of Phu Quoc Island 22 miles north of An Thoi. Fire was returned resulting in a secondary explosion.

14 - At 1110 PCF 55 received approximately 50 rounds of machine gun fire 80 miles southeast of DaNang. The fire was suppressed.

17 - At 1840 PCF 87 received machine gun fire 15 miles north of Qui Nhon while closing a small junk moving along the surf line. Fire was returned, but the junk successfully evaded.

19 - At 1022 PCF 63 received small arms fire from the beach 45 miles north of Qui Nhon while closing to investigate a junk. Fire was returned. An observation aircraft reported that enemy casualties were one killed and one probable wounded.

NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT

MARKET TIME units contributed naval gunfire support on ten occasions during the month. Friendly forces suffered no casualties and enemy casualties were unconfirmed or unknown.

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1 - At 1415 USCGC POINT JEFFERSON and PCF 57 conducted an unscheduled gunfire support mission 100 miles southwest of Vung Tau against an enemy troop concentration spotted by a FAC aircraft. Fifty-four rounds of 81mm mortar were expended.

- At 1500 USCGC POINT SLOCUM fired 44 rounds of 81mm mortar in support of a reconnaissance aircraft receiving small arms fire 86 miles northeast of Vung Tau.

2 - At 2050 PCF 51 expended 24 rounds of 81mm HE mortar in support of friendly forces 30 miles northeast of Nha Trang.

5 - At 1030 USCGC POINT WHITE and PCF 37 supported a reconnaissance aircraft receiving ground fire 185 miles southwest of Vung Tau on the Ca Mau Peninsula by expending 67 rounds of 81mm mortar.

9 - At 2205 PCF 50 provided urgent gunfire support for friendly forces under attack 35 miles north of Nha Trang. Twenty-five rounds of 81mm HE mortar were expended. At 0136 and 0615 the following day, the units provided additional fire support against enemy positions in the same area by expending 50 rounds of 81mm mortar.

12 - At 1825 USCGC POINT DUME provided urgent gunfire support 80 miles northeast of Vung Tau for a reconnaissance aircraft receiving ground fire. The aircraft reported that three of the enemy possibly were killed.

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14 - At 1145 PCF 10 provided gunfire support for a reconnaissance aircraft under fire 50 miles east of An Thoi. The aircraft took two sampans in the area under fire. The PCF later provided first aid and evacuation for two civilians who were wounded by the aircraft fire.

18 - At 0730 PCF 57 observed ground fire being directed against a reconnaissance aircraft 15 miles north of Qui Nhon. PCF 57 suppressed the enemy fire with .50 caliber machine gun and 81mm mortar fire.

26 - At 1315 PCF 77 teamed up with USS SAINT FRANCIS RIVER (LSMR 525) in suppressing enemy fire directed against Coastal Group 16 units 60 miles north of Qui Nhon.

30 - At 1430 USCGC POINT BANKS conducted a scheduled gunfire support mission against enemy positions on the west coast of Phu Quoc Island six miles north of An Thoi. Twenty-nine rounds of 81mm mortar were expended.

MARKET TIME UNITS

Three additional PCFs arrived in country this month, boosting the total number in country to 73. The new PCFs, numbered 87, 88 and 89, arrived in Qui Nhon aboard USS COMSTOCK (LSD 19) on 9 September.

The three PCFs were assigned to inshore patrols in area three which was realigned to provide seven vice six sub-areas. High hostile fire and junk activity in the area and the newly assigned boats were the factors that dictated the realignment. In another realignment, offshore barrier lines in areas eight

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and nine were moved to positions closer to the Ca Mau Peninsula and shipping lanes to better intercept and identify merchant ships.

USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST 1167) relieved USS FLOYD COUNTY (LST 762) at Vung Tau on the first of the month. FLOYD COUNTY had spend 84 days on station servicing WPBs and PCFs in areas seven and eight.

On 10 September MIUWS (Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Surveillance) Unit 13 relieved MIUWS Unit 12 at Vung Tau.

On 20 September PACV (Patrol Air Cushion Vehicle) Division 107 chopped to CTF 115 for a one-month period of evaluation of three PACVs operating as MARKET TIME units.

USCGC POINT ORIENT was drydocked at DaNang for one day of emergency repairs. USCGCs POINT BANKS and POINT GANNET were drydocked in Bangkok for a 12-day routine maintenance check.

USS CURRITUCK (AV 7) established a seadrome on 3 September at Cam Ranh Bay. Patrol Squadron 50 flew SP5B aircraft on MARKET TIME patrols both north to the 17th parallel and south to Phu Quoc Island. CURRITUCK's aircraft completed patrols scheduled by CTF 72 in conjunction with P3As based at Sangley Point, P.I. and SP2Hs flying out of Tan Son Nhut, Saigon. The SP2Hs are a task group under CTF 115, but the other aircraft are provided by CTF 72 for MARKET TIME operations on a periodic basis. The seadrome was disestablished on 27 September.

The following units were under OPCON of CTF 115 for patrol duties during September:

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NAME	DATES
USS WILHOITE (DER 392)	1 - 21
USS NEWELL (DER 322)	1 - 13 and 21 - 30
USS SAVAGE (DER 386)	1 - 9 and 24 - 30
USS HAVERFIELD (DER 393)	1 - 30
USS CAMP (DER 251)	12 - 30
USS HISSEM (DER 400)	26 - 30
USS KOINER (DER 331)	9 - 24
USS KRETCHMER (DER 329)	1 - 16
USS EPPING FOREST (MCS 7)	12 - 30
USS ADVANCE (MSO 510)	25 - 30
USS CONSTANT (MSO 427)	13 - 30
USS ENERGY (MSO 436)	13 - 30
USS PLUCK (MSO 464)	7 - 21
USS FORTIFY (MSO 446)	1 - 13
USS ENGAGE (MSO 443)	1 - 28
USS IMPERVIOUS (MSO 449)	1 - 13
USS INFLICT (MSO 456)	1 - 15
USS LOYALTY (MSO 457)	1 - 12 and 21 - 30
USS PHOEBE (MSC 199)	1 - 7
USS VIREO (MSC 205)	1 - 28
USS ALBATROSS (MSC 289)	28 - 30
USS WARBLER (MSC 206)	28 - 30
USS GANNET (MSC 290)	1 - 28
USS SURFBIRD (ADG 383)	16 - 24
USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST 1167)	1 - 30

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

At most locations, construction on interim facilities at MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN support bases neared completion during the month. Construction on permanent facilities moved ahead more slowly and in some cases was deferred.

At An Thoi, additional storerooms, bins and shelving were completed on APL 55. Construction of the Cat Lo mess facility continued as installation of electrical fixtures began. At Cam Ranh Bay the ninth BEQ building was completed enabling all personnel to move from tent city. The 1,000-man mess hall was completed except for the installation of equipment and fixtures. Construction continued at Qui Nhon as pile driving equipment, for waterfront work, arrived on site. Harbor defense facility improvements at Qui Nhon, Nha Trang, Cam Ranh Bay and Vung Tau continued with additional construction scheduled to begin on each base at month's end.

GAME WARDEN support bases reported continuing facility improvements during September. The pontoon causeway access to the Can Tho YFNB-9 was completed, as well as other modifications, to increase its utility. On 25 September a 50-room billet with galley and mess was leased to serve as an interim facility until permanent facilities are built. Vinh Long reported that 90 percent of interim construction was completed; however, Mekong River flooding hampered progress this month. Nha Be interim facilities continued to be taxed to a maximum degree. Construction of berthing spaces and installation of electrical wiring on YFNB-16

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neared completion. Also at Nha Be, two skid mounted refuellers were installed to help meet the needs of the increasing helicopter operations. At Long Xuyen, fuel capacity was increased to 20,000 gallons with the addition of another fuel bladder delivered from Can Tho. A temporary boat ramp was installed at My Tho to assist in the supply of that base.

Advanced Base Functional Components (ABFC) material continued to be sent out to detachments, particularly to the GAME WARDEN bases. Reefers were distributed to Nha Be, Sa Dec, Can Tho, Long Xuyen and Vinh Long. Supplies from the warehouses of Saigon reached the various bases on trucks, airplanes and the support ships USS BLUE BIRD (MSC 121), USS MARK (AKL 12) and USS BRULE (AKL 28).

In Saigon, COMNAVFORV announced that permanent construction at Vinh Long and Sa Dec would be delayed, and that the projected detachment at Chau Doc would take form as a floating base.

On 23 September a conference of COMNAVFORV, COMFAIRWESTPAC and NAVSUPPACT representatives was held to review the proposed COMFAIRWESTPAC listing of items and functions regulated by the Inter-Service Supply Agreement (ISSA) with the Army and the Air Force. As a result, it appeared that a number of functions listed can be resolved through a host-tenant memorandum of understanding.

During the month a Planned Maintenance System was installed at all GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME bases. Teams made up of representatives from PHIBPAC, NAVSHIPSYSCOM and NAVSUPPACT visited

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each of the bases. All bases received initial outfitting stocks of boat spares early in the month.

Shortages of technical personnel for maintenance and repair at outlying bases remain a major problem. Generally, berthing and messing facilities at most bases improved during the month with additional bunks and lockers coming into supply and construction of new facilities continuing.

Special Services processed 160 rest and recreation trips and delivered movie projectors, tape recorders and other entertainment equipment. Throughout Vietnam an increase in the quality and reception area of Armed Forces Radio Television Service programming provided additional recreational services. At Qui Nhon, for example, new television facilities were implemented and TV receivers were purchased for immediate use.

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CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

Psychological operations and civic action projects continued to increase during September as more personnel and material became available.

The personnel of Naval Support Activity, Saigon established a type of Community Chest fund drive to make building improvements on an elementary school for blind girls in Saigon. In addition to providing funds, the men used off-duty hours on weekends to clean and paint the entire school. Over 50,000 piasters have been pledged to support the school on a monthly basis. This pool of funds and labor also will be available for other civic action programs.

Many units throughout Vietnam supplied candy, cakes, toys, candles and lanterns to children in observance of "Trung Thu" or children's festival which was celebrated during the week of 23-29 September.

A MEDCAP team, composed of U.S. Army doctors and U.S. Navy and VN Navy corpsmen, was organized in the Qui Nhon area. Two visits were made by the team in September. Forty-six patients were treated on board a PCF near Degi Village in Binh Dinh Province during the first visit. In a visit to Poulo Gambir Island, 205 patients were treated.

Personnel of USN Mobile Construction Battalion ONE built a schoolhouse at Boc Ninh Hamlet during their off-duty hours.

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

	USN	VNN	TOTAL
a. Bridges	1R	0	1R
b. Dwellings	15/18	0	15/18
c. Fences (kilometers)	.9	0	.9
d. Information Booth	1	0	1
e. Playgrounds	1R, 1	0	1R, 1
f. Schools/Classrooms	3/5	0	3/5
2. Medical Treatments			
a. General Medical	9,541	0	9,541
b. Dental	463	0	463
c. Surgery	4	0	4
d. MEDEVAC	8	0	8
e. Hairlip Operations	1	4	5
3. Health and Sanitation			
a. Hygiene Classes; attendance	13/462	0	13/462
b. Physical Examinations	450	0	450
c. Swamps Drained	1	0	1
d. Spray Operations	17	0	17
4. Distribution of Commodities			
a. Cement (pounds)	4,000	0	4,000
b. Clothing (pounds)	335	4,550	4,885
c. Salad Oil (gallons)	738	0	738
d. Food (pounds)	28,280	65,113	93,393
e. Lumber (board feet)	116,700	0	116,700
f. Medical, non-prescription (vitamins)(bottles)	2,400	0	2,400
g. PhysEd Kits	0	2	2
h. School Kits	57	0	57
i. Soap (pounds)	986	3,227	4,213
j. Tin Sheet	166	350	516
k. Aluminum Plate	68	0	68
l. Textile Kits	247	700	947
m. Paint (gallons)	222	20	242
n. PsyOps Buckets	698	1,735	2,433
o. Personal Kits	350	2,100	2,450
p. School Supplies (assorted) (pounds)	150	2,745	2,895
q. Fish Hooks (units)	660	0	660
r. Toys (pounds)	10,700	9,755	20,455
s. Blankets	200	0	200
t. Candy (pounds)	1,110	0	1,110
u. Toothpaste (cases)	5	0	5
v. Refugee Evacuations	2,000	0	2,000
w. Steel (pounds)	3,000	0	3,000
x. Nails (pounds)	155	0	155
y. Sheetrock (sheets)	21	0	21
z. Plywood (sheets)	21	0	21

	USN	VNN	TOTAL
5. Recovered Goods			
a. Rice (pounds)	440	0	440
6. Educational Efforts			
a. English Classes/Attendance	15/326	0	15/326
b. News Media Dissemination (newspapers, posters)	1,300	0	1,300
7. Voluntary Contributions in support of:			
a. Orphanages	2,500$VN	0	2,500$VN
b. Religious	15,851$VN	0	15,851$VN
c. Childrens Festival	34,335$VN	58,500$VN	92,835$VN
d. Hairlip Operations	5,130$VN	7,060$VN	12,190$VN

8. Other Efforts:

a. USN forces distributed 122,500 leaflets and broadcast 22 hours of loudspeaker operations. Results are unknown.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

Advisors reported that the overall ability of the Vietnamese Navy to accomplish assigned tasks remained satisfactory during September.

On 8 September, Lieutenant General Cao Van VIEN assumed the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Vietnamese Navy. The initial reaction was that the Navy had lost face. However, as the moderate elements made themselves felt, many considered that the assignment of the General might be beneficial as this would give the Navy a better opportunity to present its problems before the Joint General Staff.

On 30 September, VNN Headquarters reported that it had 15,410 men assigned. The distribution of these men within the VNN continued to be unsatisfactory. However, desertions declined for the third consecutive month. This month the VNN had 80 deserters as compared with 107 for August.

Leadership within the VNN continued to follow the same trends indicated for August. A limited number of Fleet Command Officers, including the commanding officers of PGM 602 and LSSL 228, demonstrated continued excellence in the performance of their duties. Many other officers continued to show a deficiency in leadership and initiative. The performance of Coastal Group officers ranged from good to excellent with some exceptions. Petty officer initiative and leadership were still below a satisfactory level.

Operational reports indicated that most VNN units are suffi-

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ciently trained to carry out their assigned missions. The VNN Fleet Command instituted a Prospective Commanding Officer/Executive Officer Course for PGM officers on 16 September and will utilize in-port PGMs as training ships. Fleet Command advisors conducted a one week English language training program for the newly commissioned VNN Ensigns in an effort to improve their language capability prior to their reporting to SEVENTH Fleet units for on-the-job training.

Most Coastal Groups reported a lack of adequate training programs. Only half of the Coastal Group advisors stated that their units were adequately trained to carry out their assigned missions.

Ashore training commands continued to have problems with inadequate berthing and messing facilities and instructional capabilities. The most pressing problem at NTC, Nha Trang is the inadequate water and sewage facilities. Training aids are also inadequate. The school library, previously open only during working hours, is now open at night and on weekends. The book supply is slowly improving in quantity and quality and greater utilization of this library and study hall was noted. With the arrival of a new VNN NTC Commanding Officer, many special projects have been initiated to improve facilities and morale.

The CY 1966 Vietnamese Construction Program continued to move slowly. Erection of one hundred prefab buildings at Coastal Naval Zone sites is now underway. The first five prefab buildings were sent to the Coastal Surveillance Center, Nha Trang and are being

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erected under U.S. advisor guidance. The CY 1967 Construction Program was submitted to RVNAF JGS, J-4, in September.

A total of two Yabuta junks have now been completed under the Junk Construction Program. An additional fifty-eight are authorized. The planned production rate of one Yabuta junk per week has not been attained.

OPERATIONS

The Vietnamese Navy Coastal Groups maintained a high level of activity, particularly the Coastal Groups in the First and Third Coastal Naval Zones. During September, the Coastal Groups of the First Coastal Naval Zone set 108 base defense ambushes. From 5 to 6 September a search operation, organized by two U.S. Marine companies and Coastal Group 15, took place in the Hung Quat Bay area 50 miles southeast of DaNang. The Coastal Group had no casualties and captured one Viet Cong and four suspects. The U.S. Marines had no casualties. They captured two Viet Cong and thirteen suspects and destroyed one mine booby trap and two tunnels. The enemy had five killed.

On 8 September Operation QUYET THANG 24/6 was organized by the Fourth Infantry Regiment on the east coast of Mo Duc District. Participating forces included U.S. Marines, Quang Ngai sector forces and Coastal Group 16. The operation ended on the evening of 9 September. Coastal Group 16 had no casualties while checking 180 junks and 622 people, seventeen of whom were detained as Viet Cong suspects. The friendly unit had six wounded and captured five Viet Cong and eight small arms. The Viet Cong suffered twelve killed.

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In the Second Coastal Naval Zone, Coastal Groups carried out their assigned missions of coastal surveillance and of counter-infiltration patrols.

Activities of Coastal Groups 34/37 and 35 highlighted activities within the Third Coastal Naval Zone. At 2320 on 2 September, the Viet Cong attacked Coastal Groups 34/37 with 60mm mortar, automatic weapons and small arms fire. One aircraft was called in and dropped flares while artillery at Ba Tri provided supporting fire. The enemy withdrew after one hour and left two killed. The Coastal Groups had one killed and five wounded, three of whom were female dependents.

On the morning of 5 September, boats of Coastal Groups 34/37 and 35 provided support for a civic action squad from My Luong Village, which had been ambushed by the Viet Cong. The civic action squad had two killed and one wounded. On 14 September Coastal Group 35, coordinating with a raider company and two Regional Force companies, conducted a search operation 18 kilometers south of Tra Vinh. The friendly unit had one wounded and detained one Viet Cong suspect. On the evening of 22 September, Coastal Group 35 was attacked with small arms fire. A counter attack was organized and support was provided by PGM 613. The Coastal Group had one man wounded. Enemy casualties were unknown.

The Fourth Coastal Naval Zone conducted three amphibious operations and participated in several firefights. At 0920 on 11 September, the patrol junks of Coastal Group 43 had a firefight with the Viet Cong six kilometers north-northwest of Kien An on the Cai Lon River.

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PC/PCEs were utilized for coastal patrol and gunfire support in all four Coastal Naval Zones and were responsible for carrying out eleven NGFS missions. PGMs were utilized for an unusually varied number of tasks, including escort, MEDCAP, river and coastal patrol, base support and NGFS missions. On 30 August, PGM 602 transported a medical team and government officials from Phan Thiet to Poulo Cecille de Mer (Hon Cu Lao), an island with a population estimated to be ten thousand. In a two day stay, the medical team examined 1,000 patients while government officials presided at the opening of two schools. On 1 September, PGM 602 returned to Phan Thiet, transporting a number of the more seriously ill islanders to the hospital there.

LSIL/LSSLs provided river and coastal patrol, gunfire support, escort and election security missions in the Rung Sat Sepcial Zone, Fourth Riverine Area and First Coastal Naval Zone. LSSL 228 maintained its reputation as one of the most active and aggressive of the Vietnamese Navy ships by firing several gunfire support missions in the Rung Sat Special Zone, providing election security and beach support for Dong Hoa Village and Ly Nhon Village, blockading the Dong Tranh River, taking part in Operation RUNG SAT 34/66 and, in company with PGM 606, giving assistance when MLMS 156 was mined by the Viet Cong on 28 August.

MSCs were deployed on coastal patrol in the First and Second Coastal Naval Zones. MLMSs, utilizing chain drag techniques, provided daily minesweeping patrols on the Saigon and Long Tau Rivers.

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There were four operations conducted in the Rung Sat Special Zone during September. Operation BATON ROUGE (RUNG SAT 37/66), the most aggressive of the operations, commenced on 4 September and did not terminate until 8 October. Boats of RAG 22 and 28 provided daily troop lift for U.S. forces and acted as a blocking force when required. The operation was successful in destroying numerous Viet Cong camps and ambush sites. On 14 September, eleven boats of RAG 22 participated in RUNG SAT 37/1/66 which provided security on the Long Tau River during the passage of the Federal Republic of West Germany Hospital Ship HELGOLAND from Vung Tau to Saigon. No unusual incidents occurred.

Four operations took place in the Third Riverine area. Three were conducted by RAG 24: DONG PHONG, AN DAN 193/66 and XAY DUNG; and one conducted jointly by RAG 24 and 28, AN DAN 214/SD. Operation AN DAN 214/SD was organized by the ARVN 46th Regiment 10 kilometers west of Can Giuoc with 13 river craft of RAGs 24 and 28 participating. It started on 25 September and terminated on 28 September. The friendly unit had five killed and 27 wounded. One Viet Cong was detained. The friendly unit captured 1,000 meters of electrical wire and 50 batteries and destroyed a quantity of grenades and a number of tunnels.

In the Fourth Riverine Area, RAGs participated in nine operations. Operation CAN CHI 261/SD was conducted 18 kilometers south of Bac Lieu by ARVN regular, Regional Force, sector forces and seven river craft of RAGs 25 and 29 from 14 to 18 September. The VNN lost an LCVP, HQ 2037 of RAG 25, which was mined while

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carrying troops on 17 September, and had a total of five wounded during the operation. The friendly units had six wounded and lost one AD6 fighter aircraft which crashed. Viet Cong losses were reported as 51 killed (body count) and 18 Viet Cong and 24 suspects detained. The assigned forces captured nine individual weapons, twenty-one grenades, seven mines, a quantity of ammunition, two boxes of western medicine, fifteen pair of canvas shoes, six long-shaft boat motors, five cans of kerosene, one Russian flag, 580 kilograms of rice, some medical equipment and documents. One liaison station, one military hospital, one first aid station, ten houses, one junk, 2300 liters of gasoline and three grenades were destroyed.

Three new River Assault Groups: 31 at Vinh Long, 32 at Long Xuyen and 33 at My Tho, have been commissioned and are now being assigned river craft and personnel. This will bring the total number of RAGs in the Fourth Riverine Area to nine when outfitting is completed.

LDNN (UDT) conducted two hydrographic reconnaissance missions and one salvage and demolition operation in September. Hydrographic reconnaissance missions were conducted at Phan Thiet on 6 September and at Gia An, near Bong Son, 9-13 September. Support for the latter mission was provided by ARVN 40th Armored Artillery Regiment. From 21 to 28 September, six LDNN salvaged a variety of equipment from the LCVP, HQ 2037, of River Assault Group 25, which was sunk by a mine on 17 September, and then destroyed the hull, utilizing forty pounds of C-4 explosive.

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MAINTENANCE AND LOGISTICS

Routine maintenance aboard Fleet Command units continued to show improvement. Aboard PGM 603 exceptional progress was made, especially the maintenance of the ship's generators. Other ships continued to show progress in their willingness and ability to effect repairs without requiring technical or supply assistance. During September, eight casualties on six fleet units were repaired by ship's force. Engineering practices of ship's force also showed improvement. Some fleet units were completing patrols six weeks in length without experiencing any major engine casualties.

Coastal Group routine maintenance showed improvement, but continued to be barely satisfactory. Preventive maintenance was all but non-existent, due primarily to a lack of high usage parts and to the lack of understanding of the principles of preventive maintenance.

Plans for the establishment of supply depots at each repair facility came to a standstill due to the change of VNN CINC. The U.S. advisors continued to make field visits to the Coastal Naval Zones and Riverine Areas in order to gather information for the writing of procedures for the project. It was evident that the Vietnamese supply distribution system would show little or no improvement until supply depots are established and the Vietnamese designate one or more ships for supply distribution purposes. The excess program, designed to remove obsolete parts from the supply system and to sell scrap material at the shipyard, was placed in effect.

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During September logistic ships were not efficiently utilized. Total cargo lifted was 4,986 tons, a decline of 1,721 tons from August. Total personnel lifted was 5,703, a decline of 4,002. There were two main reasons for this decline. There was a lack of pier and beach loading facilities. Of the four facilities available, Beach Golf was blocked by a dredging operation for the last two weeks of September and Tu Do Pier was occupied by the West German Hospital Ship HELGOLAND since 14 September. In addition, delays on the part of the Vietnamese Joint General Staff, J-4, in assignment of cargo resulted in the stagnation of LST movement. However, overall ability of logistic ships to move men and supplies remained the same as last month.

On 22 September LCVs 533, 536 and 538 were detached to the Fourth River Zone to aid in the evacuation of flood victims.

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

Task Force Alpha, comprised of a Headquarters, the Third and Fourth Vietnamese Marine Battalions and "C" Battery, VN Marine Artillery Battalion, continued operations in the I Corps Tactical Zone, participating in Operations LAM SON 310, 314 and 316 and performing road and rice harvest security assignments. In Operation LAM SON 310 from 2 to 4 September, the Task Force landed in the objective area immediately south of Pho Trach utilizing U.S. Marine helicopters. Twelve Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army were killed while the Task Force incurred two killed and 13 wounded. Four individual and two crew served weapons were captured.

The Task Force remained in the vicinity of Pho Trach until

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18 September, conducting saturation patrols and road and rice harvest security. During this period six Marines were killed and four were wounded due to enemy action, while VC/NVA casualties were unknown. From 18 September to 25 September, Task Force Alpha participated in Operation LAM SON 314 in the vicinity of Cam Lo and the Demilitarized Zone. Two VC/NVA were killed, one was captured and one machine gun, three automatic rifles and one rifle were seized. One Marine was wounded.

On 27 September the Task Force was assigned as reserve for Operation LAM SON 316, and remained in the vicinity of Dong Ha. On 30 September the Task Force Headquarters was mortared, resulting in four Marines killed and 23 wounded. Two U.S. Marine advisors were also wounded. On 30 September the Task Force, less "C" Battery and the Task Force Commander, was replaced by Task Force Bravo and returned to Saigon.

Task Force Bravo, comprised of a Headquarters, the First and Fifth VN Marine Battalions and elements of "B" Battery, VN Marine Artillery Battalion, conducted search and destroy operations in the Capital Military District on 6 and 8 September. One Viet Cong was captured and fifteen suspects were detained. On 9 September the Second Battalion replaced the Fifth Battalion; and a search and destroy operation was conducted in the CMD. No enemy contact was made; however, two Marines were wounded by friendly fire. From 10 September to 12 September the Task Force provided security for the national elections at strategic locations in and around Saigon. Task Force Bravo was then dissolved until 30

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September when it was airlifted to I CTZ to replace Task Force Alpha.

The First Battalion also participated in several operations under the control of Capital Military District. On 3 September and 4 September the Battalion participated in an operation with ARVN units east of Saigon resulting in three Viet Cong killed; while four Marines were killed and six were wounded. On 9 September three Marines were killed and two were wounded when their jeep struck a mine 1200 meters from the Battalion base camp at Thu Duc.

The Fifth Battalion, when not attached to Task Force Bravo, operated in the Capital Military District. On 7 September the battalion command post and defensive positions at Ba Hom were attacked by a Viet Cong force using mortars and automatic weapons. In a brief engagement one Marine was killed and four were wounded. The battlaion also provided security during the National Elections. During the period of 20 September to 27 September, the Fifth Battalion worked with the National Police apprehending deserters and draft dodgers in the Saigon-Cholon area.

The Sixth Vietnamese Marine Battalion was formed on 1 September and for the remainder of the month continued to build its personnel strength and equip and train at its base camp in Thu Duc. The units also worked to improve the habitability and security of the base camp. Operations were limited to patrols and ambushes incidental to the defense of the camp.

On 21 September ten Dong Nai plastic assault boats with one

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officer and fifteen enlisted men of the Motor Transport Company were sent to the Rung Sat Special Zone to assist in assault operations during Operation BATON ROUGE. On 22 September twenty Dong Nai boats with one officer and 22 enlisted men were airlifted to Vinh Long in the IV CTZ for flood relief work.

The Morale of the Vietnamese Marine Corps continued to remain high throughout the month. Officers and junior enlisted men continued to meet the challenge of prolonged commitment and sacrifice in a fully professional and capable manner. Leadership within the Vietnamese Marine Corps was excellent.[1]

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[1] Senior Marine Advisor Monthly Historical Summary, September 1966

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APPENDIX I

MARKET TIME Statistical Summary, September 1966

1. Average no. U.S. ships/craft on patrol during the month:

	DER	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	LST	MCS	ADG
TOTAL	150	120	60	488	1148	30	18	14
AVERAGE	5	4	2	16.2	38.2	1	1	1

2. Average no. VNN ships/junks on patrol during the month:

	SEA FORCE	RIVER FORCE	COASTAL FORCE
TOTAL	216	3,355	4,357
AVERAGE	7.2	111.8	145.2

3. U.S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD	- DAY 44,934	NIGHT 35,705	82,338
	STEEL	- DAY 899	NIGHT 800	
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD	- DAY 13,758	NIGHT 11,276	26,140
	STEEL	- DAY 583	NIGHT 523	
TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD	- DAY 12,513	NIGHT 5,095	17,768
	STEEL	- DAY 80	NIGHT 80	

U.S. Detained 26 junks and 603 persons.

4. VNN Activity:

Searched 22,402 junks and 89,182 persons.

Detained 39 junks and 609 persons.

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APPENDIX II

GAME WARDEN Statistical Summary, September 1966

1. PBR Statistics:

   a. Total Patrols (two boats):
      Day 378 Night 878

   b. Total Contacts:
      Day 33,445 Night 19,781

   c. Total Inspected:
      Day 7,004 Night 3,439

   d. Total Boarded:
      Day 9,063 Night 1,839

   e. People Detained: 822

   f. Total Patrol Hours: 26,802
      Total Possible Patrols: 2,775
      Average Daily Patrol Hours Per Boat: 9.6

2. Helo Fire Team Statistics:

   a. Total Flight Hours: 272.46

   b. Helo Missions Supported:
      (1) Pre-planned strikes 6
      (2) Reaction 24
      (3) Targets of opportunity 24
      (4) Support 45
      (5) MEDEVAC 1

3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

   a. PBR/MSB Fire Fights: 48

   b. Sampans:
      Destroyed 5 Damaged 1 Captured 5

   c. Enemy Casualties:
      KIA 4 KIA(poss.) 1 WIA 1 Captured 2

   d. Friendly Casualties:
      KIA 2 WIA 10

   e. PBR MEDEVAC 9

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APPENDIX III

U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

Report of activities covering the period 21 June through 20 September 1966

The Naval Support Activity, DaNang, greatly expanded its operations during this reporting period. A buildup in manpower was evident in DaNang and Chu Lai, along with increased operations in Dong Ha.

DaNang personnel strength grew from 4,838 officers and men on 20 June 1966 to 7,665 officers and men on 20 September 1966.

ADMINISTRATION

The "Stone Elephant," a commissioned officer's mess (open) began operations on Wednesday, 3 August 1966. The club was officially dedicated by Rear Admiral Thomas R. WESCHIER, USN, Commander, U.S. Naval Support Activity, DaNang on 14 August 1966. This is the first U.S. Navy commissioned officer's mess in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

On 1 September, U.S. Post Office Branch Number 17078 was officially established at Camp Tien Sha, DaNang to accommodate U.S. Navy personnel serving in the I Corps Tactical Zone as well as visiting ships at the port of DaNang. The official designator of the Post Office was changed from APO San Francisco, 96337 to FPO San Francisco, 96695.

SUPPLY

The Bridge Cargo Complex was officially opened 1 July. When it is fully completed the cargo handling facilities will consist of two LST ramps with a 300-foot finger pier, three LCU ramps and

a 1600-foot quay wall. There will also be about 30 acres of staging area immediately adjacent to the cargo handling sites.

Increased NAVSUPPACT shore reefer capacity made possible the release of the floating reefer storage ship SS YAQUE from DaNang in mid-July. During the latter half of July and continuing through this summary period, NAVSUPPACT DANANG support, utilizing organic amphibious craft assets, was extended to the northern limits of I Corps with the assumption of the resupply responsibility for Dong Ha.

For the first time an entire ship's cargo was assigned to the Korean Express Stevedoring Company for offloading on 19 August. The stevedoring contract requires a 70,000 measurement-ton offload minimum per month.

Capability of the Port of DaNang to meet cargo workload surges was amply demonstrated by the rapid reduction of cargo backlog of 68,000 measurement tons (with five ships in hold) on 1 August to 10,400 measurement tons on 26 August. The throughput rate was in excess of 8500 measurement tons per day for a two-week period. Two new LST ramps with a 300-foot finger pier in DaNang East became fully operational during August. This cargo handling site is particularly suitable for backloading LST's with material from the DaNang East depot storage area as well as material for the depot itself.

Military throughput tonnage for the Port of DaNang totaled a record high of 236,330 measurement tons for the month of August. This amounted to an average daily throughput of 7624 measurement tons. Short ton throughput for DaNang also reached a record high

of 154,180 for August.

A four-inch bottom-lay POL line installation was completed at Hue on 31 August 1966.

Commencing 1 September, the Naval Support Facility, Chu Lai, assumed supply support for the Republic of Korea Marines situated in the Chu Lai area. Support provided consists of Class I, total less salt and rice; Classes II and IV, all Navy items; Class III, total.

PUBLIC WORKS

a. Transportation:

The Transportation Division trucks hauled 298,434 measurement tons or approximately 70% of the cargo offloaded or backloaded. During this period, on board equipment rose to 1699 pieces of all types. This equipment includes 74 cargo hauling trucks, 130 pickups, 102 jeeps and 287 pieces of medium hauling equipment. A total of 87,749 man-hours were expended by the Transportation Division in the repair and upkeep of this equipment.

b. Maintenance:

A total of 194,544 man-hours were expended on the upkeep and rehabilitation of NAVSUPPACT DANANG facilities. Four preventive maintenance crews were established. These crews have the task of inspecting facilities and making minor repairs, reducing the number of trouble calls received. In addition to minor repair work, the Maintenance Division has accomplished several larger rehabilitation and minor construction jobs. Included in these have been work on the Camp Tien Sha EM Club, Camp Tien Sha Photo Lab and security fencing and lighting at Museum Pier. Other works presently in

progress are the complete rewiring of the White Elephant electrical system and renovation of the supply office building at covered storage.

c. Utility Division:

During this period the power generator equipment on board numbered 203 temporary expeditionary generators and two 700KW MUSE generators. In addition, over 360,000 cubic feet of refrigerated storage, numerous home-type refrigerators, air conditioners and water coolers were operated and maintained. Of significant importance was the opening of a block ice plant capable of producing 15 tons of ice per day.

d. Real Estate and Contracts Division:

At the beginning of the reporting period, 84 leases for billets, offices and warehouse space were being administered. Two new leases were negotiated, bringing the total to 86 leases. Much of the land acquired for NAVSUPPACT DANANG use was occupied by families and graves. Approximately 69 families and 1340 graves had to be relocated before the land could be utilized. During this period, 35 construction contracts were awarded and 33 were completed. Thirty-nine contracts were being administered when the reporting period closed.

e. Planning:

During August a team from the Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, made an on-the-site survey to determine the scope of the "Expanded Public Works Concept." Areas covered by the survey included:

1. Common-use facilities

2. Structures not under canvas

3. Airfields (including those surfaced with PSP)

During September the Department assumed some of the responsibilities under the new concept by taking over responsibilities for the maintenance and minor construction at fixed air facilities throughout the I Corps area.

To aid in handling the workload under the expanded Public Works concept, the Philco Corporation is under contract to provide skilled third-country nationals to supplement the work force. The work being produced by these forces has been very satisfactory to date. Personnel strength under the contract rose to 445 by the end of the reporting period.

STATION HOSPITAL

As of 31 August, 3,824 patients have been admitted since the hospital opened in January, and 45,685 outpatients have been treated. Hospital beds now number 404.

The Preventive Medicine Unit Plant, consisting of a Butler Building and four quonset huts, was completed and is now occupied. The Exchange facilities, consisting of one Butler Building and one quonset hut, were completed and are in operation. The south leaching field is completed and in operation. Three of the five quonset heads are completed; the remaining two require installation of plumbing fixtures.

Work was completed on one BEQ and one BOQ. Two quonset huts for additional enlisted men's quarters are approximately 25% complete.

A new chapel, under construction, is approximately 25% complete. Upon completion of the new chapel, the old chapel

building will be utilized as enlisted men's quarters. A fourth well was drilled and shafted. Also, a second supply Butler building was completed and a bag room for patients' personal effects was completed. An X-ray quonset hut was expanded to house an automatic X-ray developing unit. All original board walk-ways have been replaced with cement and original covers have been replaced by metal ones. Sidewalks have been completed throughout the quarters area. Contracts have not yet been let to complete the remainder of the sidewalks and covers. Approximately 50% of planned hospital roads were under construction. The helo landing area is the only asphalt road completed. Sixty-four air-conditioners with ducts have been installed. Thirty-six air conditioners still require installation. The intensive care unit (quonset hut) was completed.

Other outstanding projects required to complete the hospital include: installation of a drainage system; construction of three quonset huts (optical storage and Dermatology, ENG and Opthalmology, and Mechanics storage hut); construction of nurses' quarters; expansion of CSR and construction of a helo landing pad.

Naval Support Activity Medical Department also maintained dispensaries at the White Elephant, Camp Tien Sha, Package POL site, Dong Ha and at the Naval Support Facilities at Chu Lai and Phu Bai.

DENTAL

Construction work on the dental facility was completed early in September. The first patient was accepted for routine treatment on 19 September. To provide more space, the dental issue room was transferred to the new facility from the Dental Annex,

Station Hospital. All NAVSUPPACT DANANG dental records are retained at this facility. The only dental officer at this annex is the dental officer ordered to APL-30. However, since this facility has five dental operatories, two of the operatories are being used by dental officers from III MAF (1st Dental Company). The fourth and fifth operatory are being used for dental prophylaxis.

The dental facility at the Naval Support Activity, Chu Lai will be, essentially, a G-13 Advanced Base Functional Component. Construction has not begun, although some material has arrived in the area.

The Dental Department engages in the civic action program in three areas:

a. On Mondays and Thursdays, a dental officer and a dental technician hold dental sick call at Stella Maris Convent in DaNang East.

b. On Wednesdays, the oral surgeon treats and consults on surgical cases at the DaNang (USAID) Hospital.

c. Each week, from Sunday through Saturday, a dental technician is assigned to work with the Advisory Team at Hoa Vang. Certain complicated cases are treated at the Dental Annex, Station Hospital. In addition, the oral surgeon treats facial injuries of Vietnamese nationals who are hospitalized at the Station Hospital.

The complete dental facilities of NAVSUPPACT DANANG handled 8,299 procedures during this reporting period, compared to 7,309 procedures during the last reporting period. These procedures were performed on 3,792 patients, a substantial increase over last reporting period's 1,802 patients.

COMMUNICATIONS

During the reporting period traffic volume continued its upward spiral. The month of June showed an increase of 24% over May; July was up 16% over June and August increased 8% over July. The quarterly total showed more than a 30% net increase in message volume over the previous period.

Antenna towers and grounding system at the Headquarters building were completed in July, and a general rehabilitation of the Communications Center and ancillary working spaces continued throughout the period.

Landlines were restored to the IWCS site (DaNang Control) with UHF linkage retained for backup. New subscribers were added to the functional nets, and general rehabilitation of equipment increased the efficiency of these circuits. Significant new circuits activated during the period included the installation and activation of facsimile equipment that gave the command access to weather broadcasts. The NAVSUPPACT AUTODIN terminal was activated in the unclassified mode which, when cleared for use by higher authority, will give the command ADP (Automatic Date Processing) capability.

Because of increased requirements for coastal resupply throughout the I CTZ, communication and electronic repair personnel were utilized to service the longer coastal transits. Requirements increased for electronics, teletype and cryptographic repair activity. The scope of these requirements included not only the installed facility of the command and supported units, but also ships, smaller craft and other service components throughout the I Corps area.

Project Sea Anchor construction was begun by the contractor RMK. By the end of the reporting period, construction at the communications center (DaNang East) was 7% complete, and the receiver site on Monkey Mountain was 5% complete. The electronic sub-contractor (Collins Radio Corp.) completed site surveys and path studies for the DaNang microwave complex. Plans were completed and equipment requested to provide a communications facility at Dong Ha similar to those at Chu Lai and Hue.

OPERATIONS

The following Operations Department activities are considered noteworthy:

a. Coastal Operations:

On 18 July an initial survey of the Cau Viet River was made with one YFU and one LCM-8 to determine the feasibility of conducting river resupply operations to Dong Ha airfield on the northernmost river in the I Corps Tactical Zone. On 23 July, regular LCU/YFU resupply operations commenced to Dong Ha airfield. On 24 August the LCM-8 860 commenced ferry operations for Liberty Road Ferry, completing this vital land communication link between DaNang and An Hoa industrial complex.

b. Air Operations:

The NAVSUPPACT DANANG aircraft, C-47, BuNo 17282 accomplished the following during this reporting period:

Total hours flown	269
Total No. passengers transported	997
Total Cargo in pounds	40,000

The mission of NAVSUPPACT DANANG air operations is to fly the scheduled MARKET TIME flights each Tuesday and Thursday and to fly other non-scheduled passenger and cargo flights as directed. There

has been no change of functions within this reporting period.

c. Harbor Security:

On 22 July Harbor Security provided one LCPL Mark IV equipped with radar for patrol duty at Hue. On 2 September Harbor Security commenced minesweeping by drag chain four times daily between channel entrance and museum ramp. Harbor Security is continuing to provide protection to shipping in DaNang Harbor with four MK V, five MK IV picket boats and four Boston whale skimmers.

d. Lighterage:

(1) LCU/YFU: In addition to normal operations in DaNang and coastal resupply missions to Hue and Chu Lai, LCU/YFU successfully navigated the Cau Viet River and initiated the resupply of USMC units in Dong Ha. Successful POL resupply operations were conducted in which LCU/YFUs, equipped with fuel oil bladders and wooden cribs, shuttled fuel from AOGs to both Hue and Dong Ha.

(2) LCM-8: The basic function and mission of the LCM-8 section of Lighterage Division, the handling of cargo in DaNang, remained nearly the same during this period. However, LCM-8 860 was assigned to assist in a river survey in Operation SWANEE with the Marines at Thu Bon River south of DaNang. Later, LCM-8 860 was assigned to the Liberty Road Ferry site in the same river to assist in transporting troops and vehicles across the river. An effective preventive maintenance and repair program has resulted in a down-rate of only 6.4%.

(3) LCM-6: The primary mission and function of the LCM-6 section, performing miscellaneous tasks for the command, changed

very little during the period. Some of these tasks are: serving as YFNB riggers' boat; carrying EOD personnel on a circuit of the harbor in search of mines; providing boat service for the APLs; providing for the Lighterage Officer afloat; serving as a floating platform for bridge construction personnel and their tools and transporting personnel. LCM-6 section also operated an LCPL, received during this period, for the use of the Lighterage Officer. In the second week of September LCM-6 boats were transferred to Port Services Division for conversion to fire boats.

The number of LCM-6s on board was increased to 22 with the arrival of two LCM-6s from SRF Subic in July. During the second week of September the first boat to be overhauled by the Engineering and Repair Department of NAVSUPPACT DANANG was returned to the LCM-6 section in excellent shape. A second LCM-6 is presently in overhaul with the Engineering and Repair Department.

(4) LARC: The LARC section of the Lighterage Division increased its scope of operations during the period to include other areas in the I Corps Tactical Zone. During the first week of July, two LARCs were sent to Dong Ha to offload YFUs and transport cargo to the airstrip. Later in July as operational commitments grew, the number of LARCs at Dong Ha was increased to six.

e. Port Services:

Utility craft assets were increased by the addition of two 50-foot personnel boats and one 36-foot LCPL which is presently employed as a shuttle boat between III MAF Headquarters and NAVSUPPACT DANANG headquarters landings. The three APLs and the AFDL were relocated to Service Craft Repair Facility Basin at Tien Sha Cove to provide a more secure anchorage during the

oncoming monsoon season.

Emphasis has been placed on increasing the navigational aids in the DaNang River and Harbor. A total of 23 temporary buoys has been placed in the DaNang River, and at Tien Sha Cove, Observatory Island Piers and Red Beach. At Hue three buoys were placed and three radar reflector towers were erected. Tidal data for the Cau Viet River was taken for a two-week period at the Dong Ha Bridge by Port Services personnel. The data was evaluated and graphically plotted. It is used to determine periods of high and low water in the Cau Viet River. This information has been compiled and forwarded to the Hydrographer, U.S. Navy.

The mission has been expanded significantly with the increase of extensive hydrographic services to the many craft located at DaNang and the opening of one deep-draft pier at Observatory Island. Two petty officers have been assigned as piermasters. However, no piermaster billet or allowance exists within the Port Services Section organization.

Increased fleet unit arrivals have stepped up the activity of the Boarding Officer, and the Logistical Requests have become more demanding. The opening of the Fleet Post Office at Camp Tien Sha, and the willingness of the Postal Officer to deliver ships' mail anywhere the Port Services Officer requests should improve mail service.

f. Service Craft:

Assets have been increased during this reporting period by the following:

YTL-427 (arrived for activation in Subic)
YW-128 (arrived from Sasebo for temporary duty in DaNang)
YFR-888 (arrived from activation in Guam)
YTL-428 (arrived from overhaul in Yokosuka)

As of 20 September the division included five officers and 235 enlisted men. A ten-section pontoon causeway was installed at Red Beach II and was manned and operated by Service Craft personnel. In addition, Service Craft personnel assisted the 7th Engineering Battalion in the construction of a new pontoon bridge and also assisted in accomplishing major repairs to the existing DaNang River Bridge.

Rate of flow from the Monkey Mountain water site averaged 3,000 gallons per hour. The addition of a second YW improved the water situation in DaNang.

REPAIR

During this reporting period the Repair Department completed its first overhauls of an LCM-6 and of a YC barge and is in the process of overhauling a pusher boat and a second YC barge. Eight Coast Guard WPB craft were docked for their annual bottom-cleaning and preservation. This represents a major contribution toward the Repair Department's mission to support MARKET TIME operations.

YR-70 performed 41 complete engine overhauls in addition to a heavy ship-to-shop workload and numerous repairs to craft alongside. On 3 September AFDL-23 and YFNB-28 were moved from the open roadstead into Tien Sha Cove, which had been dredged to accomodate the AFDL. This should permit full operation of the drydock except in the most extreme weather conditions. Work is currently in progress on the sheet pile sea wall at the Repair Facility site. When this is completed, YR-70 will also be moved into the new boat basin and moored to the sea wall.

On 20 September the Repair Department's personnel strength numbered 366 officers and enlisted men.

CIVIC ACTION

NAVSUPPACT DANANG Civic Action expanded its scope of operations. Civic Action Teams have gone to work in both DaNang City Hospitals. The work involved ranges from simple "pick-up" to full scale rebuilding and renovation. The man-hours involved already are counted in the hundreds. The progress is sometimes slow but the results are clearly visible.

Village Action Teams (VATs) have been formed. The teams consist of three men each and the material and tools necessary for basic construction. Two teams have spent a month each in Truyen-Tin Village building homes, repairing wells, fences and ditches as well as giving basic first aid to all who need it. The people have received the teams very well.

NAVSUPPACT DANANG has provided two dump trucks for the city of DaNang to use for garbage collection. Seventy-five empty 55-gallon drums were painted and then given to the city to be used as trash barrels. Museum Park facilities have been cleaned and painted.

A refugee training program at the DaNang Polytechnical School, operating with NAVSUPPACT DANANG support, has graduated 173 refugee students. The classes are taught by NAVSUPPACT personnel, and, in many cases, NAVSUPPACT provided the materials. Classes are held in driving, auto mechanics, sewing, typing, carpentry and metal work.

NAVSUPPACT DANANG Civic Action has utilized or distributed 1,066 bags of cement, approximately 190,500 board feet of dunnage, 35,280 pounds of food and 15,240 bars of soap. Civic Action is responsible for a total of three schools with eight classrooms and seven dwellings. MEDCAP has treated 33,099 patients.