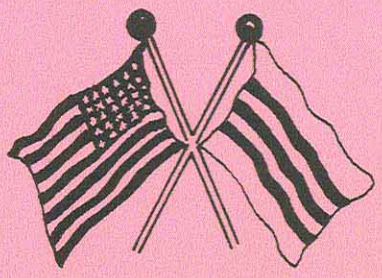
DECLASSIFIED

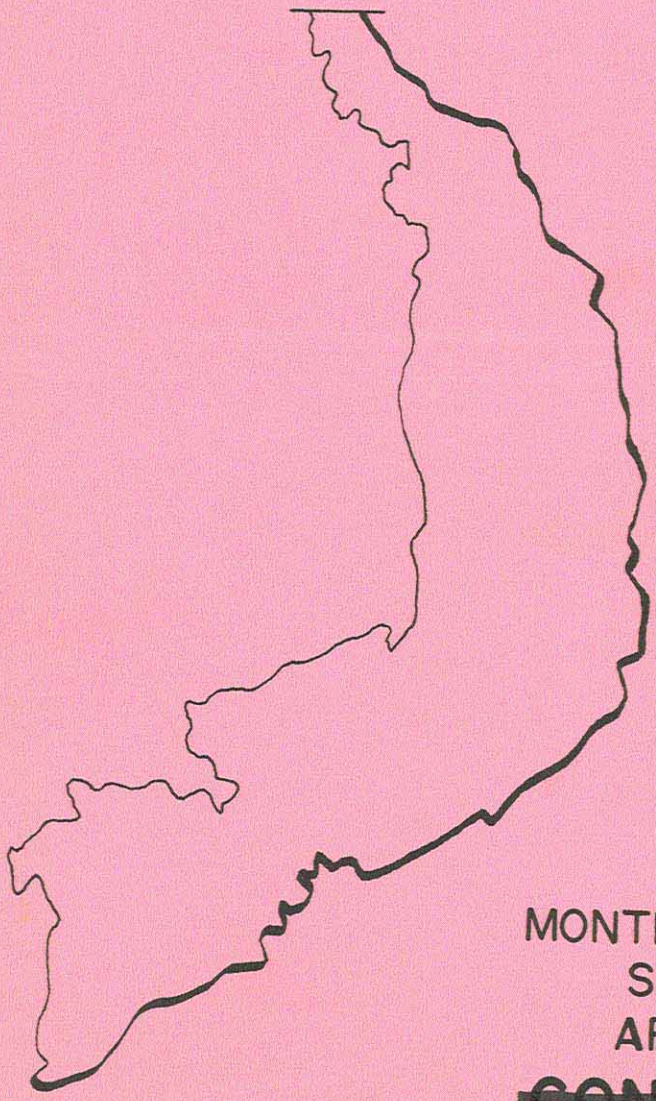
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

#225

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO
FOREIGN NATIONALS

U.S. NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM





MONTHLY HISTORICAL
SUPPLEMENT
APRIL 1967

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

Encl (1)

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
APO San Francisco 96214

FF5-16/03:gem
5750
Ser 0496
3 July 1967

DECLASSIFIED

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

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

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

Encl: (1) U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Supplement, April 1967

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded.

W. H. CROOM, Jr.
Flag Secretary

DISTRIBUTION:
CINCPACFLT (3)
COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, SJS)
Director of Naval History (3)
CNO (Op-34)
CNO (Op-92)
CHNAVMAT (Code 04)
COMPHIBPAC
COMSERVPAC
COMNAVSUPPACT, Danang
COMTHIRDNCB
COMCOSURFOR (CTF 115)
COMRIVPATFOR (CTF 116)
COMRIVFLOT ONE (CTF 117)
COMNAVSUPPACT, Saigon
PHIBTRADET, MARIS
PGSCOL (Govt. and Humanities Dept.)
GSCOLL (Navy Section)
DIA (DIAAP-1)
LESS PHOTOGRAPHS
COMUSMACV (Doctrine Branch, J-343)
CHNAVMAT (Code 04)
MDL, PANFLA
NAVFORVINST 5215.1C
List I; List II B, K; List III C(12), D(8);
List IV B, C(5), D(1); List V A(1), B(1),
D(1), N(1), U, W(1), X(2)

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO
FOREIGN NATIONALS

UNITED STATES

NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT

April 1967

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Foreword	ii
List of Charts/Maps/Graphs/Photographs	iv
Chronology of Significant Events	v
River Patrol Force	1
Rung Sat Special Zone River Patrol Group	2
Delta River Patrol Group	5
GAME WARDEN Units	12
GAME WARDEN Statistical Summary	14
Coastal Surveillance Force	17
Operation MARKET TIME	17
MARKET TIME Units	28
MARKET TIME Statistical Summary	29
Operation STABLE DOOR	31
Riverine Assault Force	35
U.S. Naval Support Activity, Danang	39
U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon	43
THIRD Naval Construction Brigade	47
Salvage Operations	51
Communications	55
Organization and Command	57
Military Civic Action and Psychological Operations	59
Naval Advisory Group	63
Vietnamese Navy	63
Vietnamese Marine Corps	75
APPENDIX I — Province Boundaries of South Vietnam	
APPENDIX II — Characteristics of Some of the Ships and Craft under the Operational Control of COMNAVFORV	
APPENDIX III — Religious Activities	

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FOREWORD

In April there were tangible indications that the presence of U.S. and Vietnamese ground troops in the Rung Sat Special Zone was affecting the Viet Cong's ability to attack ships and craft in the main channel to Saigon. During the month there was one major attack against shipping in the Long Tau River.

The U.S. troops were elements of the Army's NINTH Infantry Division, supported by units of the Riverine Assault Force. Although contact with enemy forces was light, the troops found and destroyed numerous weapons caches, some of which contained a substantial number of water mines.

In the Mekong Delta, the lower Bassac River was the scene of numerous major interdictions of enemy movements by units of Operation GAME WARDEN. Elsewhere, several reconnaissance missions conducted by U.S. Navy SEALs led to successful attacks against Viet Cong positions.

Along the coastline, the improved weather conditions occasioned by the demise of the Northeast Monsoon season enabled units of Operation MARKET TIME to record the highest monthly total of detections since August 1966--82,400. Over two-thirds of the craft detected were inspected or boarded.

In I Corps the good weather, the surge in the tempo of combat operations, and the maximum use of manpower and equipment led the Naval Support Activity, Danang to surpass all previous levels in processing cargo. Simultaneously, construction work by the Seabees

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

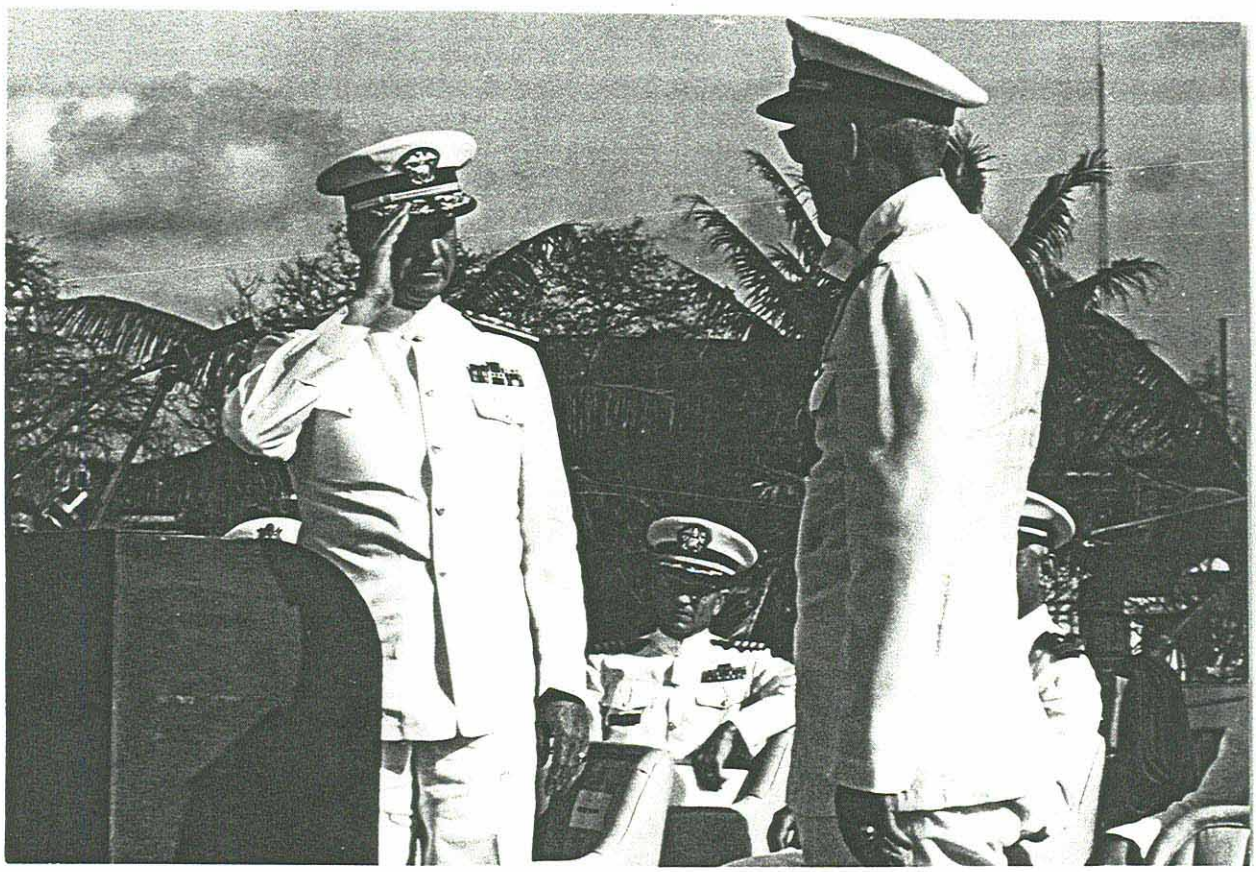
also proceeded at an accelerated pace, particularly in the building of combat-support facilities and lines of communications.

Meanwhile the Vietnamese Navy continued to display increasing aggressiveness in carrying out various tasks. Especially noteworthy in April was the VNN's performance in conducting gunfire missions in support of ground operations. In addition, meaningful results were beginning to emerge from the VNN's trend toward independent, intensive and well-coordinated civic action projects. Although the achievements were ostensibly modest, there were encouraging signs that the successes were becoming self-generating.

There were two major command changes during the month. On 21 April Captain Burns W. SPORE, USN, relieved Captain Herbert T. KING, USN, as Commander U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon.

On 27 April Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, relieved Rear Admiral Norvell G. WARD, USN, as Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam and Chief, Naval Advisory Group, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. The change of command took place on board USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 786) in Saigon's harbor. During the ceremony Lieutenant General Jean E. ENGLER, USA, Deputy Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, presented Rear Admiral WARD with the Distinguished Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious service as COMNAVFORV/CHNAVADVGRU. Rear Admiral WARD had assumed the duties of Chief, Naval Advisory Group on 10 May 1965, and became Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam when the command was established on 1 April 1966.

CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED



Rear Admiral VETH relieves Rear Admiral WARD.

COMMANDER U. S. NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM
AND
CHIEF NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP, MACV

Change of Command

Thursday, 27 April 1967
U. S. S. GARRETT COUNTY (LST-786)
Vietnamese Shipyard (Pier BRAVO)
Saigon, Vietnam
8 : 30 A. M.

LIST OF CHARTS/MAPS/GRAPHS

		PAGE
1.	Rung Sat Special Zone Operations	3
2.	Delta River Patrol Group Operations	6
3.	GAME WARDEN Detections, Inspections, Boardings	15
4.	Coastal Surveillance Force Operations	18
5.	MARKET TIME Detections, Inspections, Boardings	30
6.	STABLE DOOR Detections, Inspections, Boardings	32
7.	Cargo Processed at Danang	38
8.	Communications Messages Processed	54
9.	MARKET TIME Communications	56
10.	Vietnamese Navy and Marine Corps Operations	64
11.	Vietnamese Navy Riverine Operations	71
12.	Vietnamese Navy Searches and Detentions	74
13.	Province Boundaries of South Vietnam	APPENDIX I

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS
(Limited Distribution)

1.	Rear Admiral VETH Relieves Rear Admiral WARD	iii-A
2.	Change of Command (brochure)	iii-B
3.	P5M Marlin begins last operational flight	18-A
4.	S.S. AMASTRA settles by the stern after being mined	52-A
5.	Seabee assists Vietnamese CIDG medic	60-A
6.	USS ASKARI (ARL 30)	II-2A
7.	LCPL (Mark XI)	II-4A
8.	MONITOR	II-6A
9.	USS GALLUP (PG 85)	II-8A
10.	UH-1B ("Gunship")	II-10A
11.	Memorial Service for Petty Officer NEAL	III-2A

DECLASSIFIED

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 Apr - Operations begin at the new naval air facility in Cam Ranh Bay with the arrival of the first VP aircraft. p. 43.

- Seabees begin constructing the "Liberty Bridge" near An Hoa. p. 47.

- RAS NINE commandament is damaged by a Viet Cong mine near the mouth of the Dan Xay River in the RSSZ. p. 35.

- Vietnamese Marines resettle 4,000 refugees from the An Lao Valley. p. 75.

7 - Three SEALs are killed in the RSSZ during a Viet Cong mortar attack. p. 4.

- In a mission southwest of Vung Tau, CGs 34 and 37 capture one 25-kilogram water mine and 42 rockets and destroy ten Viet Cong structures and several bunkers. p. 69.

8 - A PBR patrol kills 25 Viet Cong (probables) and damages seven junks during an engagement in the Bassac River. p. 10.

9 - PCF 15's counter-fire kills eight Viet Cong during Operation CANYON near Danang. p. 19.

10 - Hospital Ship SANCTUARY arrives in Danang. p. 41.

11 - VNN PCE 12 relieves two USN PCFs of patrol duties in the First Coastal Zone. pp. 17 and 65.

- The last operational flight of the P5M Marlin seaplane occurs on a MARKET TIME patrol. p. 17.

12 - S.S. AMASTRA is mined in Nha Trang harbor. p. 33.

- Craft from RAGs 25, 29 and 32 support Operation DAN CHI 285, near Can Tho, which results in 230 Viet Cong killed. p. 73.

19 - SEALs, PBRs, helicopters and RAG units kill six Viet Cong, detain 29 suspects and capture 12 sampans in an engagement on the Co Chien River. p. 9.

20 - USNS LST 550 is attacked in the Long Tau by Viet Cong employing 75-mm. recoilless rifles. One crewmember is killed and five are wounded. p. 4.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

21 Apr - CAPT B. W. SPORE, USN, relieves CAPT H. T. KING, USN, as COMNAVSUPPACT, Saigon. p. 43.

- Troops landed by RAF units in the RSSZ destroy a Viet Cong weapons factory containing 18 water mines. p. 35.

24 - Coast Guard Squadron THREE is established. The command's five 311-Class cutters prepare for MARKET TIME duty. p. 34.

26 - SEALs conduct a daylight raid in a Viet Cong-controlled area near Can Tho. Six Viet Cong are killed and one is captured. p. 11.

27 - RADM K. L. VETH relieves RADM N. G. WARD as COMNAVFORV and CHNAVADVGRP, MACV. p. iii.

28 - A PBR patrol in the Bassac River disrupts a Viet Cong crossing attempt. Three PBR crewmen are wounded when their boat is struck 33 times by enemy fire. Four Viet Cong are killed and two sampans are destroyed. p. 11.

29 - The NAVSUPPACT detachment at Long Xuyen is deactivated. p. 44.

30 - The number of Seabee battalions in country increases to nine. p. 49.

- NAVSUPPACT, Danang surpasses all previous levels in processing cargo. p. 39.

- The first of the new gunboats, USS GALLUP (PG 85), arrives at Cam Ranh Bay for MARKET TIME duty. p. 28.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

The increased enemy activity along the Bassac River, which began in late March, continued throughout April for units of the River Patrol Force. Meanwhile, most of the other areas in the Mekong Delta were marked by sporadic activity. In the Rung Sat Special Zone there was one major ambush of friendly shipping in the Saigon channel.

The high level of activity in the Bassac was centered in two areas: the Dung Island complex near the mouth of the river, where a PBR patrol damaged several junks and killed at least 15 Viet Cong in a daring sweep up a narrow channel on 8 April; and in the vicinity of May and Tan Dinh islands, where GAME WARDEN units made frequent contact with the enemy throughout the month.

In the Ham Luong River, patrols were harassed intermittently by small-arms and automatic-weapons fire during the month; most of the incidents occurred in the area below the mouth of the Ben Tre Canal.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone three SEALs were killed when a Viet Cong mortar round burst above their armored LCM, showering the boat with shrapnel. Elsewhere in the Delta, SEALs conducted successful reconnaissance and ambush missions in several areas. On the night of 19 April SEALs discovered signs of enemy activity on a small island in the Co Chien River. The SEALs' discovery was exploited subsequently by surface and helicopter units in an operation which resulted in six Viet Cong being killed and 29

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

suspects being detained.

During the month River Patrol Force units supported friendly forces in a number of ways. In the Bassac, GAME WARDEN units conducted Operation LINEBACKER II in support of a major Vietnamese Army search and destroy operation. In addition, river patrols and helicopters came to the assistance of beleaguered Vietnamese outposts on numerous occasions.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

In April there were indications that recent allied measures (increased river patrols, additional armament for minesweepers, and ground operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone) were affecting the Viet Cong's ability to mount attacks against craft and shipping in the Saigon channel.

Four sections of PBRs operated in the Rung Sat Special Zone, escorting minesweepers in the main channel and interdicting enemy movements along the major waterways. In addition, the bolstered armament of the MSBs--40-mm. grenade launchers--enabled the minesweepers to deliver high-trajectory fire against Viet Cong positions on the river banks.

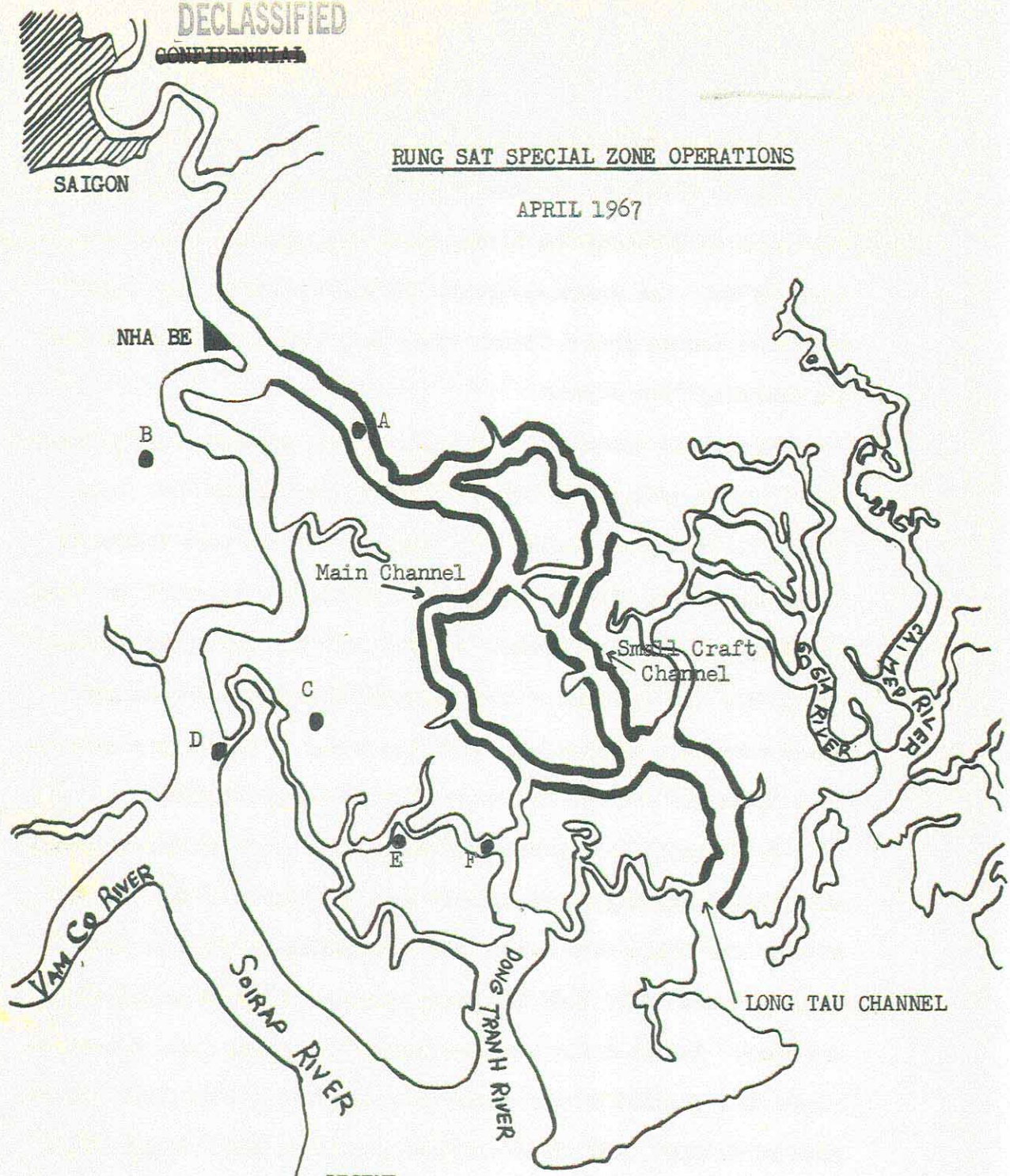
In the southwestern portion of the RSSZ, a battalion of U.S. Army troops operated throughout the month. Meanwhile a battalion of Vietnamese Marines was similarly deployed in the northeastern sector. And, along the Long Tau River, Vietnamese Regional Force troops set daily ambushes to deter enemy activity on the banks of the channel.

CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

APRIL 1967



LEGEND:

A - LST 550 - 20 Apr
B - Helo - 30 Apr
*C - Weapons Factory - 21 Apr
D - SEALs - 7 Apr
E - Helo - 9 Apr
*F - Commandament - 1 Apr

* - Riverine Assault Force Incident

SCALE:

0 _____ 5
Nautical Miles

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

There was one major attack against shipping in the channel. On 20 April Viet Cong ambushed USNS LST 550 from positions on the east bank of the Long Tau River, three and one-half miles downstream from Nha Be. The Japanese-manned LST was struck by five high-explosive rounds from a 75-mm. recoilless rifle, killing one man and wounding five others.

During the counter-attack conducted by American and Vietnamese units in the area, an airborne observer spotted six Viet Cong trying to reach the shelter of foxholes; the six were killed by 2.75-inch rocket fire. In addition, fixed-wing aircraft and Army and Navy helicopters launched strikes into the ambush area while MSBs, PBRs and Vietnamese River Assault Group units exchanged heavy automatic weapons fire with the enemy. The enemy positions were neutralized after almost an hour of heavy fighting.

On 7 April, a SEAL reconnaissance team suffered heavy casualties while engaging an enemy unit near the mouth of the Vam Sat River. The SEALs were conducting reconnaissance by fire from their armored LCM-3 when the enemy opened fire from positions on the bank. As the SEALs began returning the enemy fire, a mortar-burst just forward of the coxswain's position killed three SEALs--LTJG D. M. MANN, USN, Interior Communications Electrician Third Class D. E. BOSTON, USN, and Radioman Third Class R. K. NEAL, USN--and wounded 12 other Americans and two Vietnamese. The team withdrew to the Soirap River in order to evacuate the wounded.

On 9 April, a helicopter fire team observed 12 uniformed Viet

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Cong and four heavily-laden sampans along Lo Ren Creek, in the southwestern portion of the RSSZ. The fire team destroyed the four sampans and killed three of the enemy troops.

On 30 April, a Navy helicopter was seriously damaged while providing close air support for U.S. troops of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Gia Dinh province, four miles southwest of Nha Be. Three crewmen were wounded when the helicopter crashed while under heavy enemy ground fire. Prior to the crash, fire from the helicopter team had killed 11 Viet Cong.

***

DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

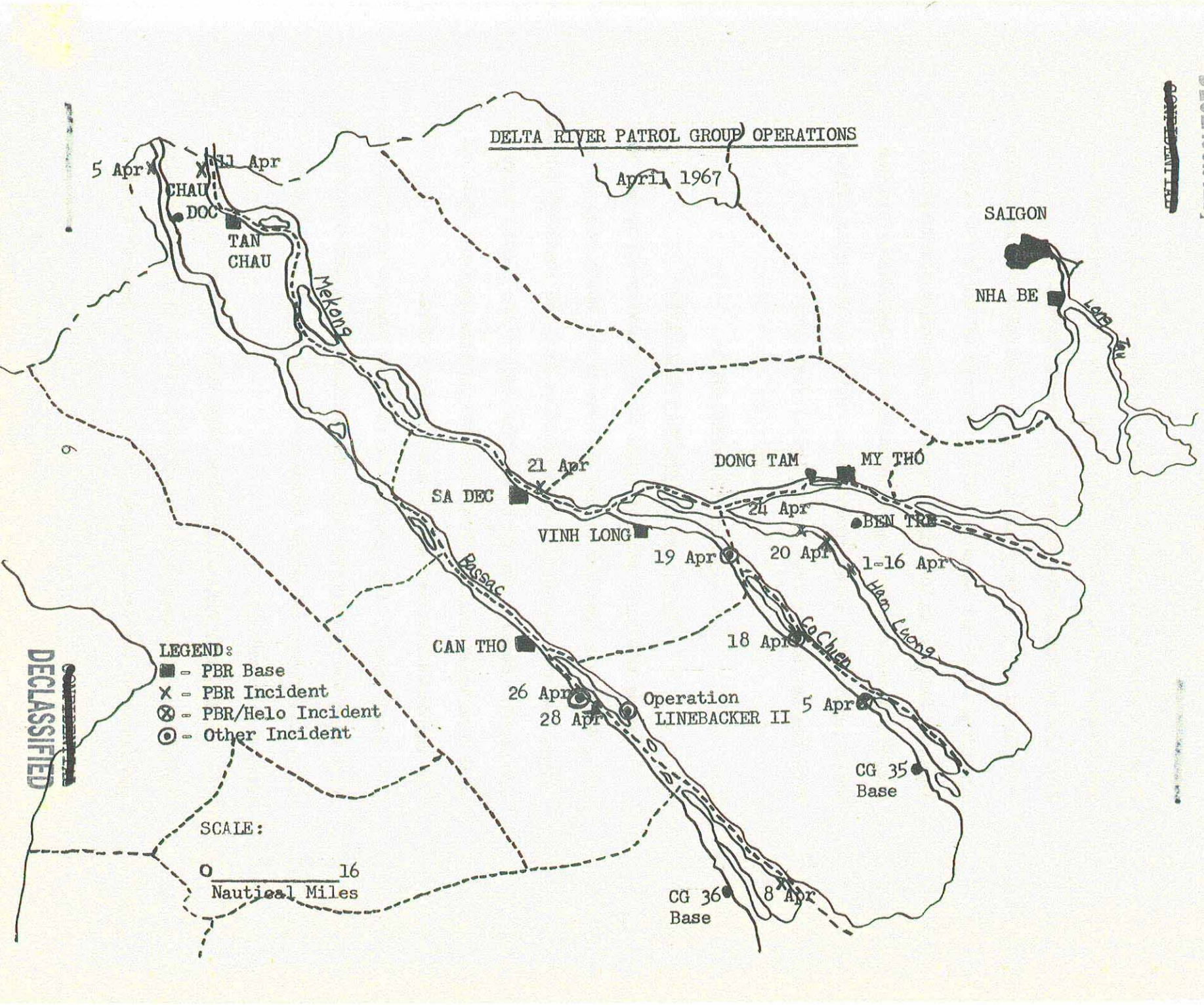
Operations in the Ham Luong River

During the first part of April enemy activity along the Ham Luong River was centered around an area on the south bank of the river, two and one-half miles downstream from the mouth of the Ben Tre Canal. Between the first and the 16th of the month, there were nine brief hostile fire incidents in this region. Most of the incidents involved small-arms harassing fire.

On 20 April, PBRs opened fire on three sampans containing 15 Viet Cong who had ignored hails and warning shots and continued to cross the river, two miles above the Ben Tre Canal. The enemy evaded successfully.

On 24 April PBRs killed four Viet Cong as they fled from their beached sampan on the south bank of the river, five miles northwest of the Ben Tre Canal. The craft had been detected

DECLASSIFIED


DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP OPERATIONS
April 1967
5 Apr
11 Apr
CHAU DOC
TAN CHAU
Mekong
SAIGON
NHA BE
Long Tau
21 Apr
SA DEC
DONG TAM
MY THO
24 Apr
BEN TRE
VINH LONG
19 Apr
20 Apr
1-16 Apr
Bassac
Ham Luong
Co Chien
CAN THO
18 Apr
26 Apr
28 Apr
Operation LINEBACKER II
5 Apr
CG 35 Base
CG 36 Base
8 Apr
LEGEND:
■ - PBR Base
× - PBR Incident
⊗ - PBR/Helo Incident
⊙ - Other Incident
SCALE:
0 16
Nautical Miles
DECLASSIFIED
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

attempting to cross from the south bank of the river and had tried to escape up a canal after warning shots were fired. The PBRs killed the Viet Cong as they attempted to escape across an open field.

During the month PBR patrols found an increasing amount of medicine on board river traffic bound for the Thanh Phu area, where numerous intelligence reports had indicated a recent Viet Cong build-up. Over 100 million units of penicillin and streptomycin were discovered by patrols.

The medicines were uncovered in small amounts concealed on board otherwise legitimate river traffic, e.g., water taxis. In some cases, Vietnamese policewomen discovered medicine hidden in the underclothing of female passengers.

To counter the movement of contraband in small quantities a new search procedure--code-named Operation FERRET--was established throughout the Delta.

The procedure entails the random stationing of all available PBRs twice weekly in known crossing areas during the peak traffic hours of 0700, 1200 and 1700. With Vietnamese policemen and policewomen embarked, the patrols stop and search all river traffic.

The inspections include thorough probing of cargo, the passing of lines or poles under hulls to check for contraband suspended beneath keels, and the checking of passengers against lists of known Viet Cong. Each effort is coupled with civic action and psychological operations in order to ease the inconvenience to innocent travelers.

CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

Operations in the Upper Mekong and Bassac Rivers

On 5 April patrol boats based at Tan Chau, the newly-established GAME WARDEN base, evacuated 15 civilians and nine Popular Force troops wounded during a heavy Viet Cong attack on a Vietnamese outpost five miles northeast of Chau Phu. On 11 April, four PBRs assisted a similar outpost on the Mekong River near the Cambodian border which was under automatic-weapons and small-arms fire. After an hour and one-half of heavy fighting, the enemy broke off the engagement. There were no friendly casualties.

On the night of 21 April Sa Dec-based PBRs interdicted an attempt by six Viet Cong sampans to cross the Mekong River, three miles east of Sa Dec. The patrol sighted lantern signals and heard signal shots inland. The PBRs closed to investigate, then spotted for artillery flares which revealed six sampans attempting to evade the patrol. When the enemy opened fire with small arms from the sampans and the bank, direct fire from the PBRs sank the six sampans and triggered one large secondary explosion. There were no U.S. casualties. The extent of the Viet Cong's personnel casualties was undetermined.

Operations in the Co Chien River

Activity along the Co Chien River was marked by a number of large-scale confrontations with enemy forces. On 5 April, PBRs and Navy helicopters broke up a sustained Viet Cong attack on a Vietnamese outpost near the mouth of the Tra Vinh Canal. After a two and one-half hour fire fight, in which the GAME WARDEN units

CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

exchanged heavy fire with the enemy, the Viet Cong broke off the attack and withdrew. There were no U.S. casualties. The extent of Viet Cong casualties was undetermined.

SEAL units conducted a number of successful ambushes during the month. On 18 April, a three-man "listening post" killed three Viet Cong communications-liaison personnel in a crossing route near Giai Island.

At 1930 the following night, a three-man SEAL team was landed on a small island ten miles downstream from Vinh Long. At 2300 the team gained contact with five Viet Cong. The SEALs then swam to a waiting PBR and requested helicopter support. Meanwhile, SEAL support boats and PBRs were positioned to block escape routes.

Immediately after the first air strike, during which the helicopters received fire from the entire length of the island, the blocking units began to detain persons attempting to escape from the island. Additional PBRs and six boats from RAG 23 arrived to help block the island exits and to fire at enemy positions with 60-mm. and 80-mm. mortars between the air strikes.

At 0100, after a third helicopter strike had been delivered, all enemy fire from the island ceased. Six Viet Cong were killed during the engagement, 29 suspects were detained, and 12 sampans were captured. There were no friendly casualties.

Operations in the Bassac River

Throughout the month the lower Bassac River was the scene of numerous major incidents which resulted in the interdiction of

CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

enemy troop and supply movements.

On 8 April, a PBR patrol pursued an evading sampan into the mouth of a canal between Dung and Con Coc islands and sighted a 70-foot junk 500 yards away with uniformed Viet Cong embarked. The patrol engaged the junk, killing at least ten of the troops and heavily damaging the junk. The enemy then opened fire on the patrol from ambush positions on both banks along a 1,000 yard stretch of the canal.

Rather than reverse course and engage the enemy's apparent organized resistance at the canal's seaward end, the embarked river division commander, LCDR D. D. SHEPPARD, USN, decided to continue inland. During the subsequent transit of the nine-mile waterway, the two PBRs exchanged fire with nine different enemy positions, killing an estimated 15 Viet Cong and damaging six junks. There were no U.S. casualties.

On 17 April, GAME WARDEN units began Operation LINEBACKER II in support of the Vietnamese NINTH Army Division's Operation LONG PHI 999 H, a search and destroy mission against the Viet Cong's 306th Battalion in Vinh Long and Vinh Binh provinces.

SEALs participating in the operation conducted reconnaissance and ambush missions and captured four Viet Cong. Meanwhile, PBR patrols were stationed near known crossing routes and were in frequent contact with the enemy. The patrols searched river traffic, supported troop landings and provided blocking forces. On the afternoon of 17 April PBRs 40 and 127, supported by Navy helicopters,

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Vietnamese artillery from Tra On, attack aircraft, and an AC-47 engaged enemy sampans shuttling between Tan Dinh Island and the north bank of the river. At least one sampan was destroyed. In addition, for almost eight hours the patrol exchanged fire with numerous enemy machine-gun, recoilless-rifle and small-arms positions ashore. During the engagement two large secondary explosions were observed on the bank. Two PBR crewmen suffered slight wounds in the action. The extent of Viet Cong casualties was undetermined.

On the afternoon of 20 April, the final day of the operation, PBRs providing a blocking force for a Regional Force sweep of Tan Dinh Island destroyed three junks and 32 sampans which had been abandoned by the Viet Cong.

On 26 April two SEAL ambush squads, supported by four PBRs and a light helicopter fire team, conducted a daylight raid in a Viet Cong-controlled area 12 miles downstream from Can Tho. The first squad made contact with several Viet Cong, five of whom were killed by helicopter strikes requested by the SEALs; a sixth Viet Cong was captured. The second SEAL squad, operating about 1,000 yards farther downstream, made contact with four Viet Cong. Helicopters supported the SEALs' withdrawal after the squad had killed at least one of the enemy and captured a Mauser rifle and a number of documents.

On the night of 28 April PBRs 34 and 41, patrolling in column, used drifting tactics to interdict an enemy crossing near Nai Island.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

As the patrol approached the crossing point the rear boat, PBR 34, turned off its engines and drifted toward the bank. Meanwhile, PBR 41 continued downriver for about a mile, then reduced throttle, turned back upstream and turned off its engines. At this time PBR 34 observed signal lights on both banks and heard the sounds of boat engines starting up.

PBR 34 then spotted a sampan standing out from the north bank. Suddenly a flash of lightning illuminated the PBR and the enemy opened fire with .50 caliber machine guns from the south bank. While PBR 34 engaged the sampan, which had an automatic weapon mounted in the bow, PBR 41 moved in to suppress the fire from the bank.

The sampan went out of control after being hit with a burst of .50 caliber fire, and was demolished when an M-79 round struck and triggered the sampan's cargo of ammunition. In addition, a sampan along the bank was destroyed by a secondary explosion triggered by the fire from PBR 41. Four Viet Cong were killed during the action and three crewmembers of PBR 34 were wounded. PBR 34 was struck 33 times by enemy fire.

***

GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 1 April Helicopter-Attack (Light) Squadron THREE (HA(L)-3) was activated under the operational control of COMRIVPATFOR. The squadron, commanded by LCDR J. B. HOWARD, USN, has four detachments composed of former detachments of Helicopter Combat Support

CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Squadron ONE (HC-1). The detachments are located as follows:

Detachment 1 (formerly HC-1, Det. 29)	USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838)
Detachment 2 (formerly HC-1, Det. 27)	Nha Be
Detachment 3 (formerly HC-1, Det. 25)	Vinh Long
Detachment 4 (formerly HC-1, Det. 21)	USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846)

Unit Shifts

1 April - HUNTERDON COUNTY relieved USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) in support of RIVSEC 512 and HA(L)-3, Det. 1 in the Co Chien.

3 April - JENNINGS COUNTY, with RIVSEC 523 and HA(L)-3, Det. 4, relieved HUNTERDON COUNTY, which shifted to the mouth of the Bassac.

8 April - RIVSEC 511 (Binh Thuy) and RIVSEC 512 exchanged patrol areas and bases.

12 April - MSBs 33 and 46 were delivered to MINRON 11, Det. A at Nha Be, bringing the number of MSBs in country to 13.

22 April - HARNETT COUNTY relieved JENNINGS COUNTY, which proceeded to Vung Tau for upkeep.

26 April - RIVSEC 512 (Vinh Long) and RIVSEC 523 exchanged patrol areas and bases.

GAME WARDEN Sections and Bases as of 30 April

511	HUNTERDON COUNTY
512	Binh Thuy
513	HARNETT COUNTY

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

521	Sa Dec
522	Tan Chau
523	Vinh Long
531	My Tho
532	My Tho
533	Nha Be
541	Nha Be
542	Nha Be
543	USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 786) at the mouth of the Soirap.

***

GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
April 1967

1. PBR Statistics:

   a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 676 Night 779

   b. Total Contacts: Day 65,432 Night 11,868

   c. Total Inspected: Day 20,276 Night 3,906

   d. Total Boarded: Day 26,684 Night 4,461

   e. People Detained: 709

   f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 13

   g. Total Patrol Hours: 36,364.4

2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:

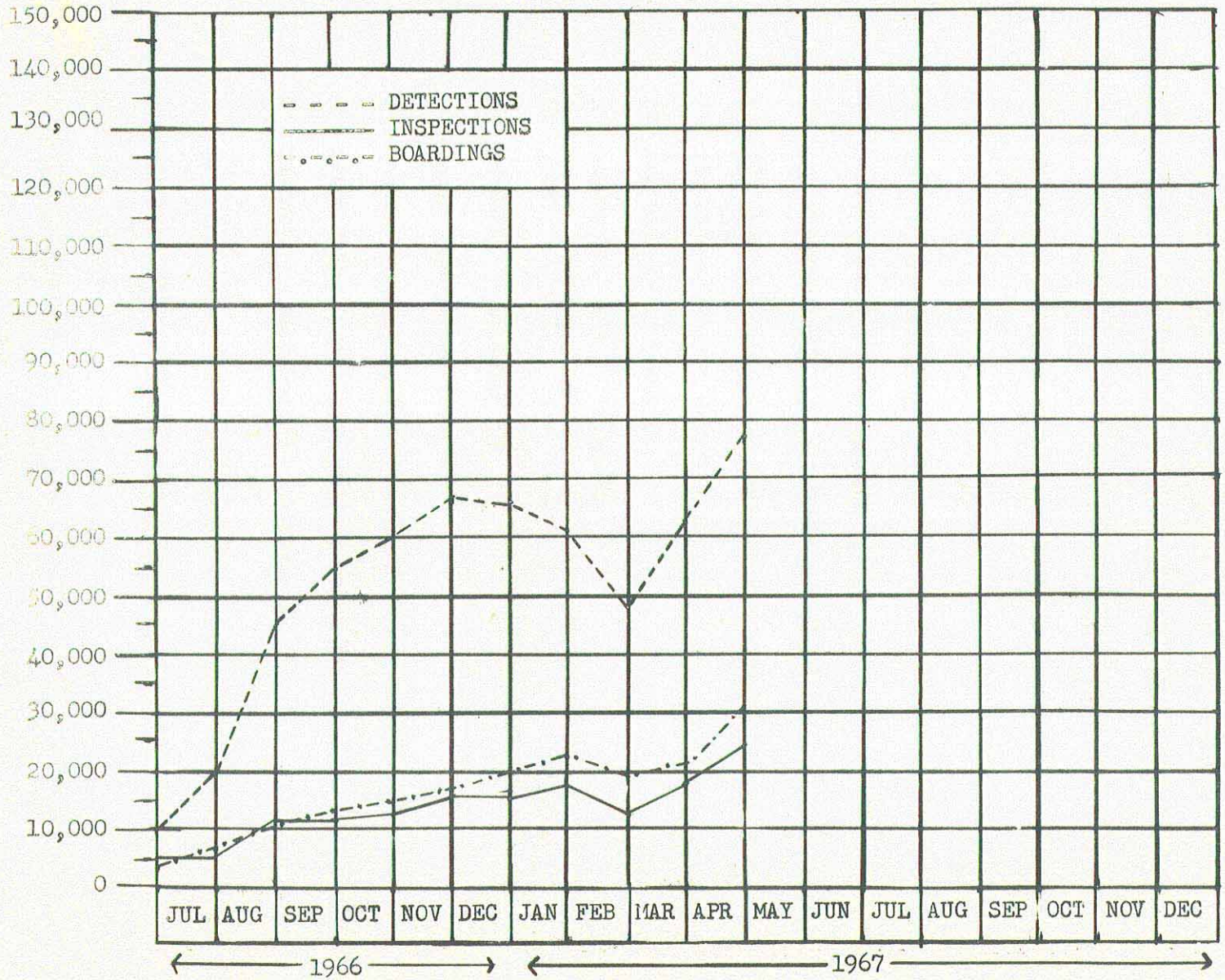
   a. Total Flight Hours: 297.4

   b. Helo Missions:
      (1) Pre-planned strikes: 36
      (2) Reaction: 37
      (3) Targets of Opportunity: 2

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS



CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(4) Support: 105

3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

a. Fire Fights:
(1) PBR 62
(2) Helo 17
(3) LCM 1
(4) LCPL 2
(5) STAB 2

b. Sampans: Destroyed 83 Damaged 25

c. Structures: Destroyed 16 Damaged 1

d. Junks: Destroyed 5 Damaged 6

e. Huts: Destroyed 1

f. Bunkers: Destroyed 10

g. Enemy: KIA 22 KIA (Poss.) 36 WIA 8 Captured 7

h. Friendly: KIA 3 WIA 42

i. Friendly Battle Damage:
(1) PBR 17
(2) Helo 5
(3) MSB 2
(4) LCM 1

j. PBR MEDEVAC: 23

******

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

In April the number of junks and sampans detected by Operation MARKET TIME units rose to the highest monthly level since August 1966 -- 82,400. Over two-thirds of the craft detected were inspected or boarded. Meanwhile, Operation STABLE DOOR activity also increased with over 35,000 junk and sampan detections.

The last operational flight of a P5M Marlin seaplane was made on a MARKET TIME patrol on the morning of 11 April. Vice Admiral John J. HYLAND, USN, Commander U.S. SEVENTH Fleet, was at the controls for the last flight. The seadrome at Cam Ranh Bay was disestablished by the USS CURRITUCK (AV 7) the following day.

On the evening of 11 April, 85 miles south of Danang, two 3-junk elements from Coastal Group 16 and a U.S. Coast Guard cutter tested a new procedure in MARKET TIME operations. The junks, equipped with night observation devices, patrolled the shoreline and were vectored to radar contacts by the cutter, which was stationed three to five miles offshore. The operation continued through the 16th and produced effective results.

Vietnamese Navy PCE 12 assumed the patrol duties of two U.S. Navy PCFs on 11 April. The assignment was part of the continuing effort to phase Vietnamese units into MARKET TIME operations, and freed the Swifts for special patrols.

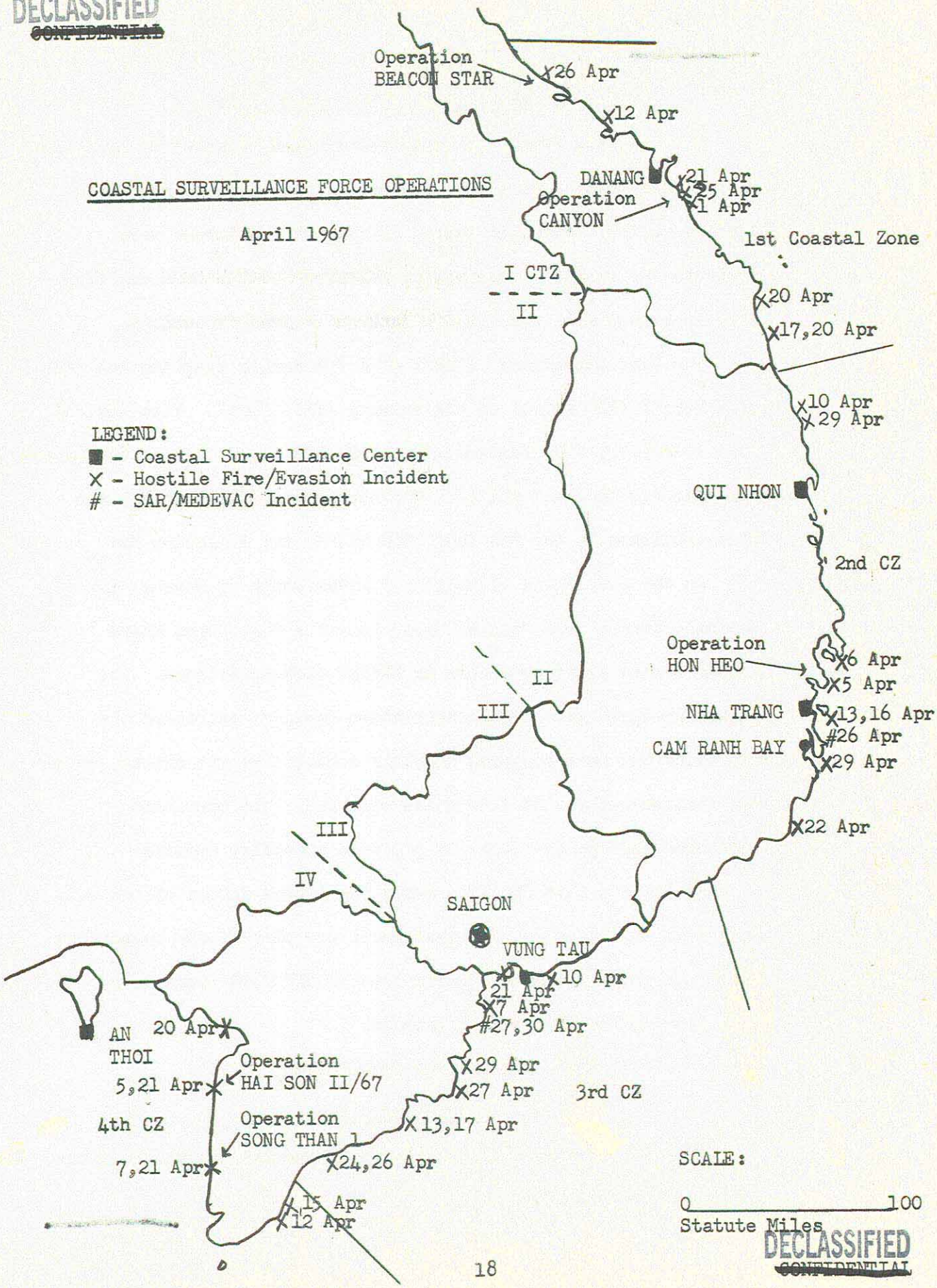
OPERATION MARKET TIME

First Coastal Zone

During the month the First Coastal Zone was the scene of over

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

P5M Marlin begins last operational flight.

DECLASSIFIED

27,000 detections by MARKET TIME units. In addition, the units engaged in exfiltration patrols and gunfire support missions on numerous occasions.

At noon on 1 April PCF 16, alerted by a reconnaissance aircraft, detained four junks and 15 persons with improper identification papers in an area 21 miles southeast of Danang. The detainees and the junks were turned over to Coastal Group 14 for investigation.

From 0600 on 6 April until 0900 on 10 April, 16 miles southeast of Danang, two MARKET TIME Swift boats and several Coastal Group 14 junks provided exfiltration patrols along the Thu Bon River for the U.S. Marines' Operation CANYON. The PCFs received hostile fire on four occasions. The Coastal Group junks detained 152 exfiltrators, seven of whom were later confirmed to be Viet Cong cadre. At 1430 on 9 April, PCF 15 received small-arms fire from the beach near the river's mouth. When Marines reached the scene they reported that the Swift's return fire had killed eight Viet Cong. That same afternoon grenade fire from PCF 15 destroyed four enemy bunkers.

On the morning of the 12th, four sampans evaded PCF 12 while the Swift was conducting a surfline patrol 41 miles northwest of Danang. The PCF took the occupants under fire as they scattered after beaching the sampans. Two Viet Cong were killed, four were wounded, and one surrendered.

PCF 99 supported a U.S. Army helicopter on 17 April with 20

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

rounds of 81-mm. mortar fire and 400 rounds of .50 caliber machine-gun fire, 94 miles southeast of Danang. Three days later, in the same area, a junk tried to evade an inspection attempt by USCGC POINT ELLIS and PCF 99. The junk reached the shore and its occupants ran to two other beached junks. When the junks were taken under fire, one man attempted to run to the dune line and was killed. Two of the others were probably killed when an 81-mm. mortar round destroyed one of the junks.

About the same time, five miles farther north, a reconnaissance aircraft observed personnel off-loading boxes from a beached junk. USCGC POINT LOMAS investigated and located two boxes of ammunition on the beach. The cutter then fired into the area behind the beach and requested artillery fire from U.S. Army positions. Numerous secondary explosions were observed during the artillery barrage.

During the morning of the 21st, PCF 75 was involved in two incidents 17 miles southeast of Danang. About 0830 the Swift suppressed sniper fire directed at a reconnaissance plane and destroyed two bunkers with mortar fire. An hour later a basket boat evaded to shore and its occupant ran into the dunes. PCF 75 then destroyed the basket boat.

On the morning of 23 April a junk carrying two men evaded PCF 76, 28 miles southeast of Danang. The two men escaped while the junk was destroyed.

At 0715 on 25 April, PCF 15 destroyed two basket boats 20

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

miles southeast of Danang after their occupants had evaded. Two hours later PCF 99 rounded up 11 basket boats, each with a single occupant, while they were attempting to exfiltrate from a U.S. Army ground operation 63 miles southeast of Danang.

At 1805 on 26 April, PCFs and Coast Guard cutters providing exfiltration patrols for Operation BEACON STAR were returned to their normal patrol duties. The operation, conducted 70 miles northwest of Danang by the U.S. Marine Special Landing Force of the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet, had begun on 22 April. During the operation the special patrols detected 135 craft, 56 of which were inspected and 73 boarded. In addition, six suspects were detained.

Second Coastal Zone

In April the MARKET TIME units in the Second Coastal Zone accounted for over 34,000 detections, provided exfiltration patrols and took part in a number of gunfire support and search and rescue missions.

On the evening of the 5th, PCF 42 fired on a sampan heading for the beach in a free-fire zone 13 miles north of Nha Trang. The Swift's fire detonated several small secondary explosions behind the beach. The sampan successfully evaded during the gunfire.

At 0300 on 6 April PCF 46, at the request of the II Corps Tactical Zone naval gunfire spotter, conducted a mortar fire mission on four suspected Viet Cong supply dumps 13 miles north of Nha Trang, in the area of a joint U.S. Army and Korean Marine operation, HON HEO.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

On the morning of 10 April, 43 miles north of Qui Nhon, PCFs 60 and 62 observed 18 junks 500 yards offshore lying to but not fishing. At the time, units of the U.S. Army's FIRST Cavalry Division were conducting an operation in the area. The PCFs directed the junks to the shore where Army contingents apprehended 75 Viet Cong suspects.

At 0112 on 13 April the crew of PCF 44 spotted the crash of a U.S. Air Force C-141 at sea, 13 miles south of Nha Trang. PCF 44 immediately commenced search and rescue operations and rescued two of the nine persons aboard. Then four U.S. Army LARCs and PCF 42 with EOD Team 22 divers arrived on the scene, and located the wreckage and the aircraft's cargo of 13,000 pounds of high explosives. PCFs 43 and 49 and USS EMBATTLE (MSO 434) and other units also took part in the operation.

At 1630 on 16 April PCF 47, while participating in the C-141 salvage operations, sighted the flames and smoke of a downed helicopter, five miles south of Nha Trang. The PCF proceeded to the scene with two Air Force divers and located the wreckage. None of the four men in the helicopter survived. The salvage efforts, which resulted in the recovery of various pieces of equipment and personal items, were terminated at 1800 on the 17th.

At 1400 on the 19th, the exfiltration patrol units supporting Operation HON HEO were returned to their normal patrol duties as ground operations ended. During the 19 days of the operation, MARKET TIME units fired 25 gunfire missions, inspected or boarded

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

81 junks and sampans, and detained two suspects.

During a routine search of a junk at 0200 on the 22nd, 63 miles southwest of Nha Trang, PCF 52 detained a possible Viet Cong tax collector when the junk master pointed him out. The suspect had no identification papers and was delivered to the Vietnamese authorities.

On the evening of the 26th, 20 miles south of Nha Trang, PCF 54 observed the mid-air explosion of a U.S. Air Force C-47 and proceeded to the area. EMBATTLE and PCFs 46 and 51 subsequently joined in the search and recovery mission. PCF 54 recovered the aircraft's flight log and Air Force personnel ashore located most of the wreckage on the beach. The mission was terminated at 1800 on the 27th and the MARKET TIME units returned to their regular patrols.

At 1500 on the 29th, PCF 52 confiscated ten cartons of unmanifested medicine from a junk 29 miles south of Nha Trang. At 1630 the same day, PCF 59 observed several Viet Cong suspects in a cave 38 miles north of Qui Nhon. The Swift radioed the position to a U.S. Army element and the entire group of 12 suspects was apprehended.

Third Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the Third Coastal Zone conducted numerous gunfire missions in addition to detecting over 6,900 junks and sampans during the month.

At 1650 on 7 April USCGC POINT LEAGUE sighted 15 persons

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

off-loading a 30-foot junk, 20 miles southwest of Vung Tau. At the request of the Vietnamese Sector Control*, the cutter took the area under fire, setting off one secondary explosion. Because of the falling tide POINT LEAGUE was forced to retire from the area before determining the complete results of the mission.

On the morning of 10 April, four PCFs from the MARKET TIME base at Cat Lo and eight junks from Coastal Group 32 detained 63 junks and 103 persons for fishing in a restricted area 20 miles east of Vung Tau. Sector authorities subsequently released the craft and 90 persons, detaining four as draft dodgers and nine as suspected Viet Cong.

At 1445 on the 13th, USCGC POINT LEAGUE fired 27 rounds of 81-mm. mortar and 1,200 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition suppressing hostile fire directed at an airborne controller, 73 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The cutter's fire destroyed one enemy structure and triggered a large POL explosion. On the afternoon of the 17th, POINT LEAGUE conducted another gunfire mission, 78 miles southwest of Vung Tau, destroying three structures and two sampans.

On the 21st PCF 37 detained a junk near the mouth of the Long Tau River, northwest of Vung Tau. The occupants had three manuals on spare parts for U.S. helicopters in their possession. The junk and its occupants were turned over to Coastal Group 32 for

---

* Sector Control coordinates all military activity within a province.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

investigation.

On 24 April, a junk containing four occupants evaded to the beach near the boundary between the Third and Fourth coastal zones, 120 miles southwest of Vung Tau. PCF 26 fired on the evaders, damaging the junk. Two days later, at 1640, PCF 26 received small-arms fire from the same location. The Swift's return fire sank five sampans, damaged eight others, and destroyed two structures. In addition, eight structures were damaged. The extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

PCF 38 was severely damaged at Cat Lo on the 26th when the topping lift on YD 220 failed and the boom dropped on the PCF. At the time the YD was lifting the Swift to cradle it for routine maintenance. The PCF will be taken to the naval station at Subic Bay for overhaul and repairs.

At 1130 on 27 April POINT GRACE, at the request of Sector Control, conducted a gunfire mission against a suspected Viet Cong troop concentration and storage area, 63 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The fire destroyed one structure and damaged three others. An hour later, PCF 32 apprehended approximately 30 junks in a restricted area 28 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The fishing permits of the junks were collected and leaflets were passed out defining the limits of the restricted area. The permits were turned over to the Vietnamese authorities.

At 1230 on 29 April, one crewman was wounded when USCGC POINT CYPRESS received heavy automatic-weapons and recoilless-rifle fire

CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

from the shore, 54 miles southwest of Vung Tau. A subsequent gunfire mission by the cutter against the site of the attack resulted in damage to an enemy hut and bunker and one secondary explosion.

On 30 April PCF 97 attempted to halt a large junk, 27 miles southwest of Vung Tau, after it had ignored warning signals. The junk evaded into a small inlet and was taken under fire with unknown results. During the incident, three junks on the beach were destroyed and two were damaged after Sector Control had determined that they belonged to a Viet Cong village.

Fourth Coastal Zone

In April, in addition to detecting over 13,000 junks and sampans, MARKET TIME units in the Fourth Coastal Zone conducted several gunfire support missions and destroyed several evading craft.

At 0045 on 5 April, PCFs 73 and 94 supported an amphibious landing by 500 Regional Force troops in Operation HAI SON 11/67, 77 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The Swifts fired illumination rounds at the time of the landing and suppressed automatic-weapons fire directed at reconnaissance aircraft.

On 7 April two sampans carrying two occupants each attempted to evade PCF 92, 35 miles north of Ca Mau Point. Simultaneously, the Swift received small-arms fire from the shore. When shallow water prevented further pursuit of the craft, the PCF opened fire and destroyed one of the sampans. The occupants escaped by swimming ashore.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

At 1830 on 12 April PCF 98 received heavy automatic-weapons fire from the shore, 44 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point, when it attempted to inspect several sampans hidden in brush and four others at the mouth of a stream. USCGC POINT SLOCUM and a U.S. Army Forward Air Controller answered the PCF's request for assistance. With the FAC spotting for the MARKET TIME units, their gunfire suppressed the hostile fire, destroyed five sampans, damaged two others, and destroyed four structures.

On the afternoon of 15 April PCF 98, at the request of Naval Intelligence in Bac Lieu, conducted a gunfire mission to destroy a suspected Viet Cong storage area 49 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. Six sampans were destroyed and three structures were damaged by the fire.

On 20 April, PCFs 10 and 73 supported an L-19 observation aircraft which was receiving ground fire from a position 90 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The Swifts suppressed the hostile fire, destroying two Viet Cong structures and damaging two others.

At 0500 on 21 April PCF 90, USCGC POINT GLOVER and USS HISSEM (DER 400), together with Vietnamese Navy PGMs 603 and 608, began shore bombardment and established an exfiltration blockade in support of SONG THAN 1 (Big Wave 1), a Vietnamese operation designed to clear an island 34 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The landing party subsequently swept the island, found no Viet Cong, and withdrew at 1900.

That morning PCF 5 conducted a gunfire mission against

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

suspected Viet Cong positions 76 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The Swift's fire destroyed three enemy structures.

***

MARKET TIME UNITS

During April, aircraft from five patrol squadrons provided air surveillance for Operation MARKET TIME. A detachment of Patrol Squadron 42 flew SP-2A Neptunes from Tan Son Nhut Air Base. A detachment of Patrol Squadron 16 flew P-3A Orion aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, while a Patrol Squadron 46 detachment flew Orions from U Tapao, Thailand. On 18 April a detachment of Patrol Squadron 1 Neptunes arrived at the Naval Air Facility, Cam Ranh Bay, and began MARKET TIME flight operations on the 20th.

Meanwhile Patrol Squadron 40, flying P5M Marlin seaplanes, operated from the USS CURRITUCK (AV 7) at Cam Ranh Bay until 11 April when the seadrome was disestablished.

On 30 April USS GALLUP (PG 85), the first of seven PGs scheduled for duty in the Coastal Surveillance Force, arrived at Cam Ranh Bay.

During the month the following U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ships operated as MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:

AV 7	USS CURRITUCK	1-12
DER 327	USS BRISTER	1-27
DER 324	USS FALGOUT	1-19
DER 334	USS FORSTER	1-9, 16-30
DER 400	USS HISSEM	1, 20-30
DER 331	USS KOINER	1-20, 27-30
DER 329	USS KRETCHMER	15-30

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

DER 325	USS LOWE	1-15
DER 387	USS VANCE	4-30
LST 819	USS HAMPSHIRE COUNTY	11-30
LST 1082	USS PITKIN COUNTY	1-12
MSC 207	USS WHIPPOORWILL	1-12
MSC 209	USS WOODPECKER	12-30
MSO 434	USS EMBATTLE	1-30
MSO 444	USS FIRM	1-30
MSO 445	USS FORCE	1-30
MSO 446	USS PRIME	1-30
MSO 467	USS REAPER	1-30

***

MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
April 1967

1. U.S. Ships/Craft:

	DER	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	LST
Total days craft on patrol	162	150	31	498	1374	31
Daily average of craft on patrol	5.4	5	1	16.6	45.8	1

2. U.S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY	50,201	NIGHT	32,199		
	STEEL - DAY	915	NIGHT	706	84,021	
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY	19,639	NIGHT	12,736		
	STEEL - DAY	517	NIGHT	607	33,499	
TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD - DAY	17,279	NIGHT	6,756		
	STEEL - DAY	61	NIGHT	16	24,112	

TOTAL DETAINED JUNKS 127 PEOPLE 869

3. Naval Gunfire Support Missions:

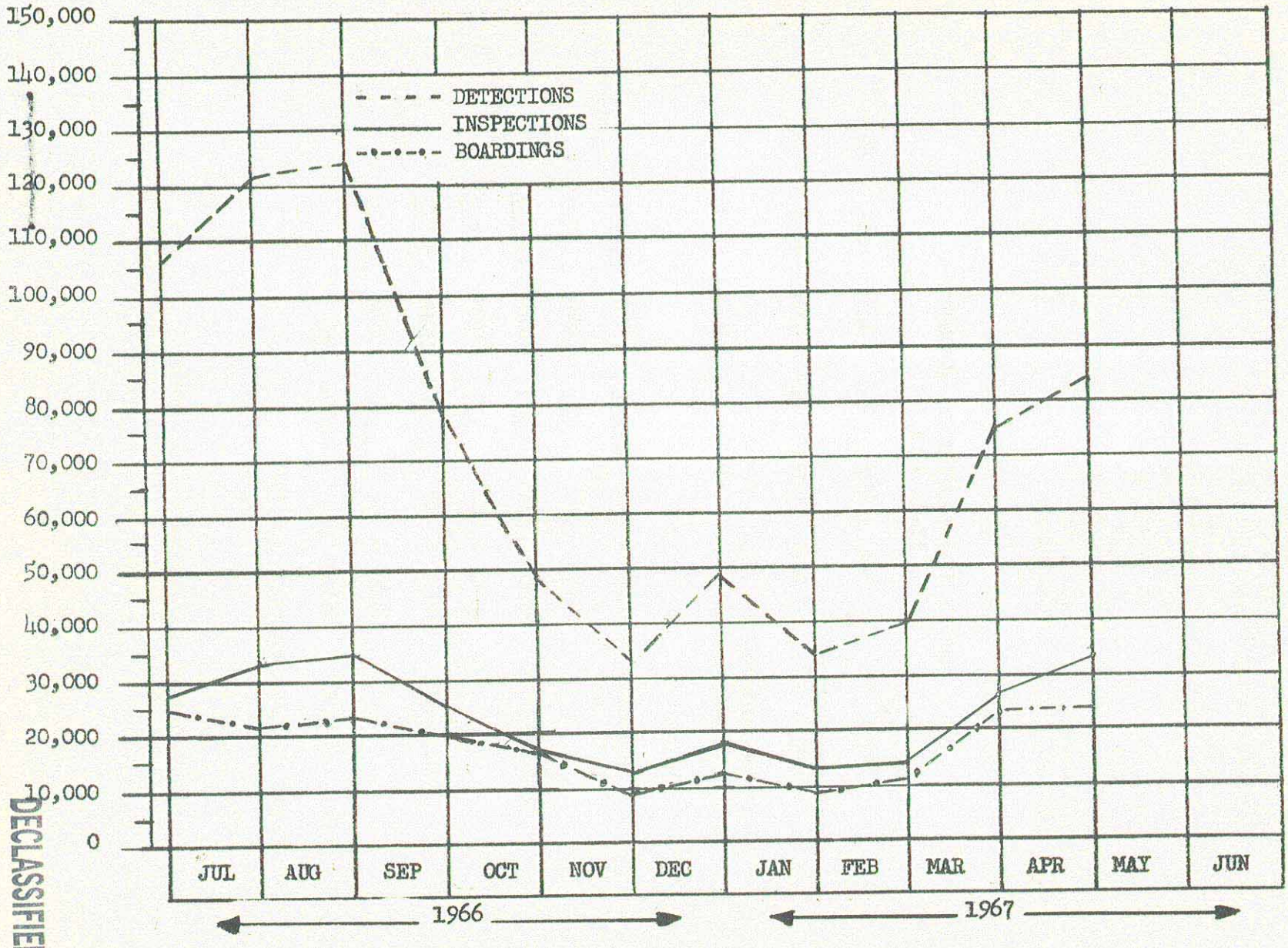
TOTAL MISSIONS 51

Structures: 12 destroyed 17 damaged

Bunkers: 6 destroyed 1 damaged

DECLASSIFIED

DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Craft: 21 destroyed 15 damaged

4. Hostile Fire Reaction Missions:

TOTAL MISSIONS 19

Structures: 4 damaged

Craft: 5 destroyed 2 damaged

Personnel: 8 Viet Cong killed

5. Evasion Incidents:

TOTAL INCIDENTS 19

Junks: 3 destroyed 4 damaged

Sampans: 4 destroyed

Basket boats: 3 destroyed

Personnel: 3 Viet Cong killed 3 captured

6. Support of Ground Operations:

TOTAL OPERATIONS 7

Persons Detained: 246

7. Search and Rescue Missions:

TOTAL MISSIONS 4

Successful: 2

8. Medical Evacuation Missions:

TOTAL MISSIONS 2

Successful: 2

***

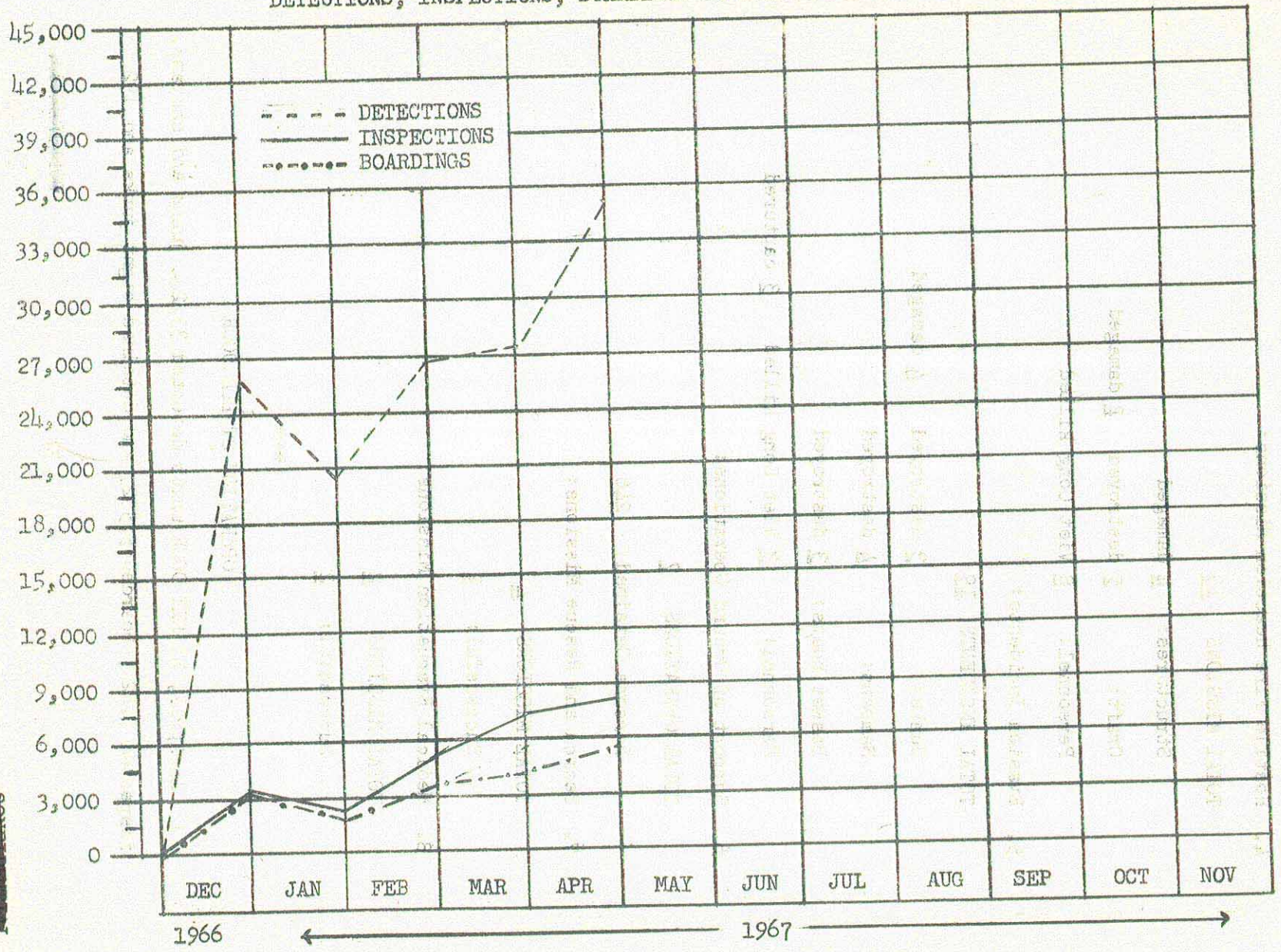
OPERATION STABLE DOOR

In April, STABLE DOOR units detected 35,244 junks and sampans, inspected 7,820, boarded 5,532, and detained eight junks and 192

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS



CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

persons.

Shortly after midnight on 12 April the S.S. AMASTRA, a British Shell Oil tanker, was mined in Nha Trang harbor while at the POL transfer anchorage. The explosive charge, estimated by salvage personnel to have been between 80 and 90 pounds, had been placed against the ship's stern near the waterline.

To help counter the increased mining threat by Viet Cong swimmer-sapper teams, the four Inshore Undersea Warfare Units (IUWUs) were authorized, on 12 April, to begin using concussion grenades. The grenades are dropped in a random manner during harbor patrols to serve as a deterrent against enemy swimmers.

The facilities of the four IUWUs continued to improve during the month; the electronic installation was complete at Vung Tau except for the surface surveillance radar; the new harbor-entrance control post was completed and placed in service at Cam Ranh Bay on 24 April; and the installation of electronic equipment at Qui Nhon's STABLE DOOR site began on 25 April.

In April IUWU 1 at Vung Tau detained three junks and 21 persons; IUWU 2 at Cam Ranh Bay detained 14 persons; IUWU 3 at Qui Nhon detained four junks and 65 persons; and IUWU 4 at Nha Trang detained one junk and 92 persons.

An additional "Boston Whaler" arrived at Nha Trang during the month, bringing the total number of Skimmers in country to ten.

***

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Coast Guard Squadron THREE

On 24 April, Coast Guard Squadron THREE (COGARDRON 3) was established under the operational control of Commander U.S. SEVENTH Fleet and the administrative control of the Coast Guard Commander, Western Area. Captain John E. DAY, USCG, assumed the duty of COMCOGARDRON 3 in a brief ceremony at Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. The nucleus of the new command will be the Coast Guard cutters BARATARIA, BERING STRAIT, GRESHAM, HALF MOON and YAKUTAT. Starting in mid-May the 311-Class cutters will replace five SEVENTH Fleet Destroyer Escorts in Operation MARKET TIME.

******

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117

The Riverine Assault Force continued to approach its authorized strength during the month of April. By the end of the month 29 assault craft, including one commandament and two monitors, had arrived in country, and the Mobile Riverine Base* was complete except for one ship, USS COLLETON (APB 36).

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, Task Group 117.1 continued to support the U.S. Army's 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry in Operation SPEARHEAD I, a search and destroy operation which began in mid-March. During April the riverine forces encountered light contact with enemy troops, but discovered and destroyed numerous weapons caches and factories, storage areas and camps.

On 1 April, the Viet Cong detonated a controlled mine near the mouth of the Dan Xay River, damaging the Vietnamese Navy commandament on loan to River Assault Squadron NINE. There were no personnel casualties.

On 21 April Army troops found and destroyed a weapons factory in the central RSSZ, near Cai Mep Creek. Included in the material destroyed were 18 water mines, 35 water-mine casings and 150 fuze casings.

By the end of the month, Operation SPEARHEAD I had accounted for 13 Viet Cong killed and four others probably killed. One U.S.

---

* An afloat base comprising command/control and barracks ships, assault craft, repair ships and logistic support ships from which elements of a mobile riverine force can launch and conduct riverine warfare. The composition includes two barracks ships (APLs), a repair ship (ARL) and an LST support ship.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

soldier was killed, one was missing, and 19 were wounded in action. There were no casualties to U.S. Navy personnel. A total of 88 enemy water mines or water-mine casings were destroyed.

During the first week of April, River Assault Squadron ELEVEN relieved River Assault Squadron NINE in support of SPEARHEAD I and, on 10 April, the first units of River Assault Squadron NINE were deployed to the new base at Dong Tam, west of My Tho. On 11 April, craft of River Assault Squadron NINE escorted APL 26 and YFNB 21 while the support craft were towed to Dong Tam. The last movement of the month occurred on 27 April, when two monitors and five armored troop carriers deployed to Dong Tam, bringing the number of RAF craft in the Mekong Delta to one CCB, two monitors and 18 ATCs. Eight ATCs, seven VNN troop carriers, one VNN commandament and one VNN monitor remained at Vung Tau to support SPEARHEAD I.

River Assault Squadron NINE commenced operations at 0900 on 12 April when a reconnaissance platoon of the 3rd Battalion, 34th Artillery was landed on the north bank of the Mekong, near the tip of Ngu Hiep Island. Assault craft then provided blocking forces and exfiltration patrols until the troops withdrew at 1445. There was no contact with the enemy.

During the remainder of the month, RAS NINE units operating as Task Group 117.2 supported battalion-sized troop movements and landings near Dong Tam, and conducted reconnaissance and intelligence-gathering missions and waterborne security patrols in the Dong Tam area. On 27 April, a night patrol was instituted south

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

of Thoi Son Island to block the possible movement of an enemy mortar company to the island, where it could threaten Dong Tam.

In addition to pre-planned operations, RAS NINE conducted rapid reaction operations, in which platoons or company-sized units were landed in areas where intelligence reports indicated Viet Cong activity. During the first four days of these operations, 13 Viet Cong were killed by the reaction forces.

Riverine Assault Force Units

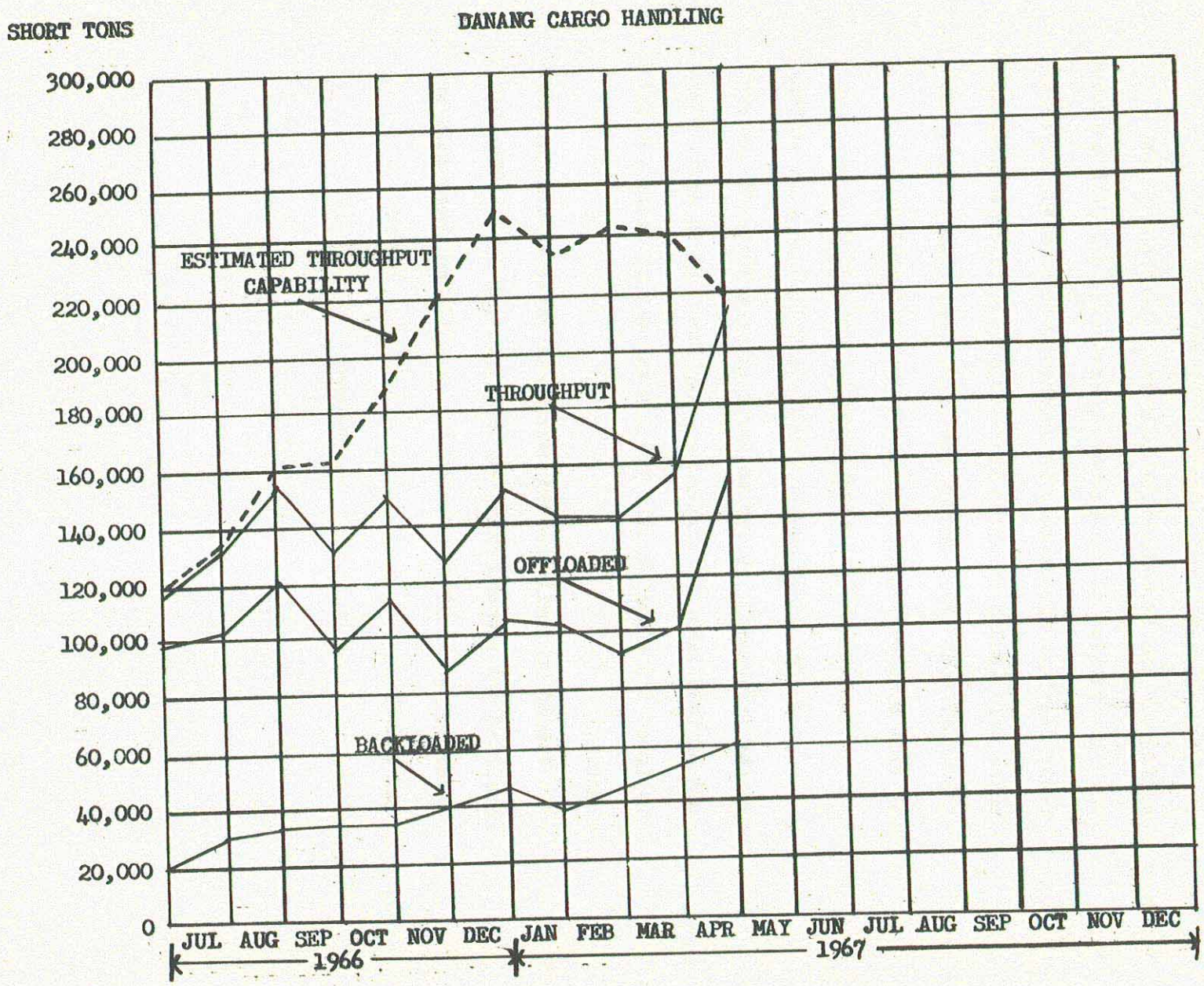
On 14 April USS KEMPER COUNTY (LST 854) arrived at Vung Tau as the first Mobile Riverine Force support ship. On 22 April USS BENEWAH (APB 35) arrived at Vung Tau. On 26 April BENEWAH relieved USS MONTROSE (APA 212) in support of Operation SPEAR-HEAD I.

As of 30 April the composition of River Assault Division 91 included one commandament, two monitors and seven ATCs; RAD 92 consisted of 11 ATCs. Meanwhile, RAD 111 had three ATCs and RAD 112 had five.

******

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED



CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

During April the level of cargo operations at all I Corps ports rose markedly as a result of the increased tempo of combat operations. A combination of good weather, optimum timing of ship arrivals, and maximum use of manpower and equipment enabled NAVSUPPACT Danang to process an unprecedented volume of cargo.

At the port of Danang, the throughput surpassed March's volume by almost 59,000 short tons. The combined throughput for all I Corps ports also reached a new high, exceeding 311,000 short tons.

At Dong Ha, the increased resupply capability provided by the recent opening of the Cua Viet to tank landing ships was evidenced by the 28,373 short tons of cargo off-loaded from various craft. The tonnage transshipped to Chu Lai and Hue from Danang also increased substantially in April.

At Chu Lai, the addition of several new steel tanks raised the POL storage capacity from 70,000 to 140,000 barrels. On 25 April, with the completion of repairs to the 4-inch line at Chu Lai, all POL transfer lines in I Corps became operational.

The continued good weather also facilitated POL replenishment at all sites. Chu Lai was replenished by T-2 tankers through the 8-inch and 12-inch lines. At Danang, replenishment was effected by T-1 tankers at Red Beach and T-2 tankers at China Beach. Replenishment at Dong Ha was accomplished by using LCM-8s with fuel bladders to shuttle fuel from an AOG.

Phu Bai was replenished by shuttling fuel from the Tan My fuel

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

farm to the Hue City ramp, where it was transferred to 5,000-gallon capacity refuelers for delivery to Phu Bai. Additional deliveries of POL were made by refueler trucks from Tan My and commercial trucks from Danang.

On 16 April, construction of a camp at the new Cua Viet LST site was begun by NAVSUPPACT public works personnel. By month's end ten strongbacks, a galley and a mess hall had been completed, and electrical, water and sewer systems had been installed.

In Danang, a warehouse (the 18th to be constructed) was completed at the covered storage area of the base supply depot. At Camp Tien Sha a new maintenance building was completed, providing the public works personnel with an additional 8,000 feet of shop space. Other projects completed included the construction of four storage and office buildings.

The port of Danang was visited 100 times by U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ships during April. The ships were provided with 438,690 gallons of diesel fuel and 962,131 gallons of potable water, in addition to mail, freight, emergency repair, transient billeting and disbursing services.

Class II and IV supply support continued to be generally excellent. Net supply requisition effectiveness at Danang was 90 per cent. At Chu Lai, a 98 per cent effectiveness figure was recorded for U.S. Army Class II and Class IV requisition requirements. The number of line items stocked increased by over 3,500 at Danang and by almost 1,000 at Chu Lai.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

At Danang, the support capability of the NAVSUPPACT small craft repair facility improved with the completion of the internal combustion engine shop. Seventeen diesel engines were overhauled and 70 electrical motors were rewound during April by the repair facility. In addition, 43 craft were drydocked by AFDL-23 during the month.

A total of 20 instances of harassment by small-arms fire occurred at various locations in the Danang area during April. One incident involving the use of grenades also was reported. No casualties resulted.

On 10 April the hospital ship USS SANCTUARY (AH 17) arrived in Danang and joined USS REPOSE (AH 16) in providing medical care in I Corps. Deactivated after World War II, SANCTUARY was recommissioned in November 1966 and is equipped with 750 beds, four operating rooms, three X-ray units, blood-bank and laboratory facilities, and a pharmacy.

Team 5 of Harbor Clearance Unit 1 continued to make excellent progress in the wreck-clearance operations in the Danang River. The remaining large sections of the wreck (a Dutch freighter sunk in World War II) were cut apart, lifted and loaded onto YCs. By 16 April 95 per cent of the project had been completed. Harbor Clearance Team 5 was then relieved by NAVSUPPACT Danang personnel and returned to Subic Bay.

The Naval Support Activity's C-47 returned from Sangley Point and resumed regular flights on 18 April. The aircraft transported 235 passengers and 11,266 pounds of cargo during the remainder of

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

the month.

On 30 April Naval Support Activity personnel strength (including APLs) was 7,963, a decrease of 258 from the March on board count. Meanwhile, the number of United States and Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPPACT Danang reached 123,500 by month's end.

******

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

On 21 April Captain Burns W. SPORE, USN, relieved Captain Herbert T. KING, USN, as Commander U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon. Captain KING had commanded the activity since it was established on 17 May 1966.

During April the construction of interim and permanent facilities at GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME support bases continued to progress satisfactorily.

At Nha Be, a helicopter landing field and a new post office building were completed. Meanwhile, preparations continued for the construction of a permanent waterfront facility. YFNB-16 was moved several hundred yards to a new mooring to make space for the installation of the sheet pile bulkhead required for the construction of a deep-water wharf.

At Qui Nhon, construction of personnel bunkers and an explosive ordnance demolition armory were completed. On 12 April, the permanent fuel supply system became operational and the system's ten storage tanks were filled to capacity. Work on a barbed-wire perimeter fence neared completion at month's end.

At Vinh Long, work was started on the renovation of recently-acquired living quarters; construction of a security fence and a 250-barrel water storage tank also was begun. At My Tho, work on an enlisted men's club was begun, and at An Thoi preparations were made for construction of a new recreational facility.

On 1 April, operations began at the new naval air facility in

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Cam Ranh Bay with the arrival of the first VP aircraft. Construction of temporary living quarters and sanitary facilities was completed during the month. The installation of permanent shore power at the MARKET TIME base pier was also completed.

At the new base in Dong Tam, dredging operations to remove an obstruction in the turning basin were completed, and well-drilling operations were begun. An improved support capability was acquired during the month with the arrival of YFNB-24 and APL-26.

On 29 April, the NAVSUPPACT detachment at Long Xuyen was deactivated. All leased property was returned to its owners, and the redistribution of equipment to other sites was completed.

The water supply and storage situation improved at some bases in April. At Cat Lo, the well began producing 12,000 gallons per day. At Nha Be, three fresh water distillation units arrived and were phased into the potable water system. At Sa Dec, a 500-barrel storage tank was completed, and the existing shallow well was extended.

The number of line items stocked by NAVSUPPACT Saigon increased by 10.4 per cent to a total of 26,244. Gross supply requisition effectiveness was 47 per cent, and net requisition effectiveness rose from March's rate of 64 per cent to 72.1 per cent in April.

During the month the operational availability of boats for MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN continued to be generally excellent, ranging from 91 per cent for PCFs to 96 per cent for PBRs. The availability of MSBs averaged 83 per cent.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

On 21 April, the NAVSUPPACT aviation section (Air Cofat) began regular logistical flights in support of the new GAME WARDEN base at Tan Chau. The twice-weekly flight lands at An Long, which has the closest airfield; passengers and cargo are then transported 15 miles by boat to Tan Chau.

On 23 April a C-47 aircraft was received as a replacement for the NAVSUPPACT C-47 lost in a crash on 10 March. During the month, the NAVSUPPACT aviation section transported 3,155 passengers and 199 short tons of cargo.

In April YFR 889 successfully transited the lower Bassac River from the sea to Can Tho, initiating a new resupply route into the Delta. The lower Bassac route will reduce the time required to complete the Delta resupply cycle, thereby increasing the number of days cargo ships will be available for supply operations.

Another resupply procedure instituted in April involved the use of LCMs to shuttle cargo between Saigon and Vung Tau. The new service obviated the need for stops at Vung Tau by other resupply craft enroute to the Delta. During the month, LCMs transported 112 short tons of cargo from Saigon to Vung Tau.

The ships and craft of NAVSUPPACT, Saigon transported 1,330 short tons of cargo during April, the highest monthly total to date.

******

DECLASSIFIED

******

DECLASSIFIED

THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

As the tempo of combat operations in I Corps increased, construction work by the Seabees proceeded at a stepped-up pace, with emphasis placed on the construction of combat-support facilities and lines of communications.

Two Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (MCBs) were relieved in April. At Chu Lai, MCB-71 relieved MCB-40 on the 10th. During the month MCB-71 completed the second increment of a 1,600-man cantonment for Republic of Korea Marines, and also began construction of seven observation towers for U.S. Marines in the Chu Lai area.

On 16 April MCB-1 relieved MCB-9 at Camp Haskins, located at Red Beach, ten miles north of Danang. Projects completed by MCB-9 included the upgrading of the airfield at the Minh Long Special Forces camp in order to accommodate C-123 aircraft, and the construction of a 15-building complex for the U.S. Marine 11th Motor Transport Battalion.

A major project begun by MCB-4 involved the construction of a 2,000-foot-long lumber bridge near An Hoa. Named the "Liberty Bridge," the structure, when completed, will form the last link in the "Liberty Road" from Danang to An Hoa.

At Con Thien, a detachment from MCB-4 began construction of a Special Forces "A" camp, about 2,000 yards from the Demilitarized Zone. Because concrete was not available, MCB-4 personnel used large timbers, steel conex boxes (shipping containers) and earth

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

to construct reinforced bunkers. Well-drilling operations were begun, and the rough grading of an airstrip was completed.

Other major projects completed by MCB-4 included the upgrading of the An Hoa airfield to accommodate C-130 aircraft, the repair of three major roads south of Danang, and the construction of a 1,000-man indoor movie theater for the THIRD Marine Amphibious Force.

In Danang MCB-5 added a two-story, 90-patient ward to the naval hospital complex and, at NAVSUPPACT's covered storage area, completed a warehouse module comprised of eight Butler buildings. A 150-man detachment from MCB-5 completed six 50-foot-tall wooden watch towers for U.S. Marines along the DMZ, and also made major repairs to the airstrip at Dong Ha. In addition, construction was begun on a permanent LST/LCU facility at the mouth of the Cua Viet River to replace the temporary staging area built in March.

At Chu Lai, MCB-8 built two miles of roads and completed installation of an electrical distribution system for a 1,000-man troop-housing facility. The battalion also built a 48-foot control tower for Marine Air Group 36, and constructed two timber bridges on Route 1 south of Chu Lai.

Mobile Construction Battalion 58, stationed at Camp Haskins in Danang, completed the interim upgrading of six miles of Highway 1. The work, accomplished mostly at night, involved removing the existing surface and resurfacing the road with asphalt laid over crushed rock. The battalion also began construction of the Marine tactical data system compound on Monkey Mountain. Since the project

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

involves the relocation of a Marine Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion, the construction work includes housing facilities for its 380 personnel.

At Phu Bai, MCB-62 completed a 67,000-square-yard parking apron. The battalion also repaired the road from Hue to the LST ramp at Col Co, and constructed 200 strongbacks and erected 39 Butler buildings for the THIRD Marine Division.

In the Danang area, MCB-133 completed installation of a 1,000-barrel POL tank at the Marble Mountain air facility, and began construction of the second increment of a Vietnamese Army POW compound just north of Marble Mountain. The latter project, when completed, will increase the capacity of the compound to 1,000. MCB-133 also built a wooden chapel for the Danang detachment of the U.S. Army's FIRST Logistical Command. Decorated with the flags of each of America's 50 states, the building was dedicated as the "Chapel of the Flags" on 26 April.

Naval construction forces also continued to assume responsibility for many projects formerly assigned to civilian contractors. Four well-drilling teams from MCB-133 commenced operations at An Khe, Pleiku, Long Binh and Dong Ha. Other projects taken over by Seabees included the operation of rock quarries at Danang and Chu Lai.

By month's end, the number of Seabee Battalions deployed in South Vietnam had increased to nine with the arrival of MCB-11 at Dong Ha. The newly-arrived battalion was the first to be deployed to the Dong Ha area.

******

DECLASSIFIED

******

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SALVAGE OPERATIONS

During the month NAVFORV and U.S. SEVENTH Fleet units joined in several salvage operations.

At 0005 on 12 April S.S. AMASTRA, a Shell Oil tanker of British registry, was mined while discharging fuel at Nha Trang. The explosion, caused by two charges placed against the stern, tore a six by seven-foot hole between the engine room and fireroom, ten feet below the water line.

Following the explosion, AMASTRA settled by the stern and eventually the main deck aft was awash. The most serious flooding was confined to the machinery spaces and was quickly contained. However, the ship continued to settle slowly because of seepage and the master of AMASTRA requested salvage assistance.

On 13 April salvage operations were started by Team 3 of Harbor Clearance Unit 1 with the COMNAVFORV Salvage Officer in charge. Two SEVENTH Fleet salvage vessels, USS CURRENT (ARS 22) and USS GREENLET (ASR 10), were dispatched to the scene from Vung Tau. On 14 April the SEVENTH Fleet Salvage Officer arrived and assumed control of the operations.

A temporary patch was installed across the ruptured section. By 20 April all leaks had been repaired and the flooded spaces had been de-watered. In addition, over 600,000 gallons of diesel fuel was off-loaded to help restore buoyancy. After the damaged area was clear of the water, the temporary patch was removed and a towing patch was welded in position. The salvage operations were terminated

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

on 22 April.

On 13 April, a U.S. Air Force C-141 "Starlifter" crashed into the sea just after takeoff about 2,500 yards north of Cam Ranh Bay. Seven of the nine persons aboard were killed. The aircraft was carrying 13,000 pounds of ordnance and 13,700 pounds of other cargo. The Military Airlift Command requested salvage assistance to recover the ordnance and other high-priority items from the scene of the crash.

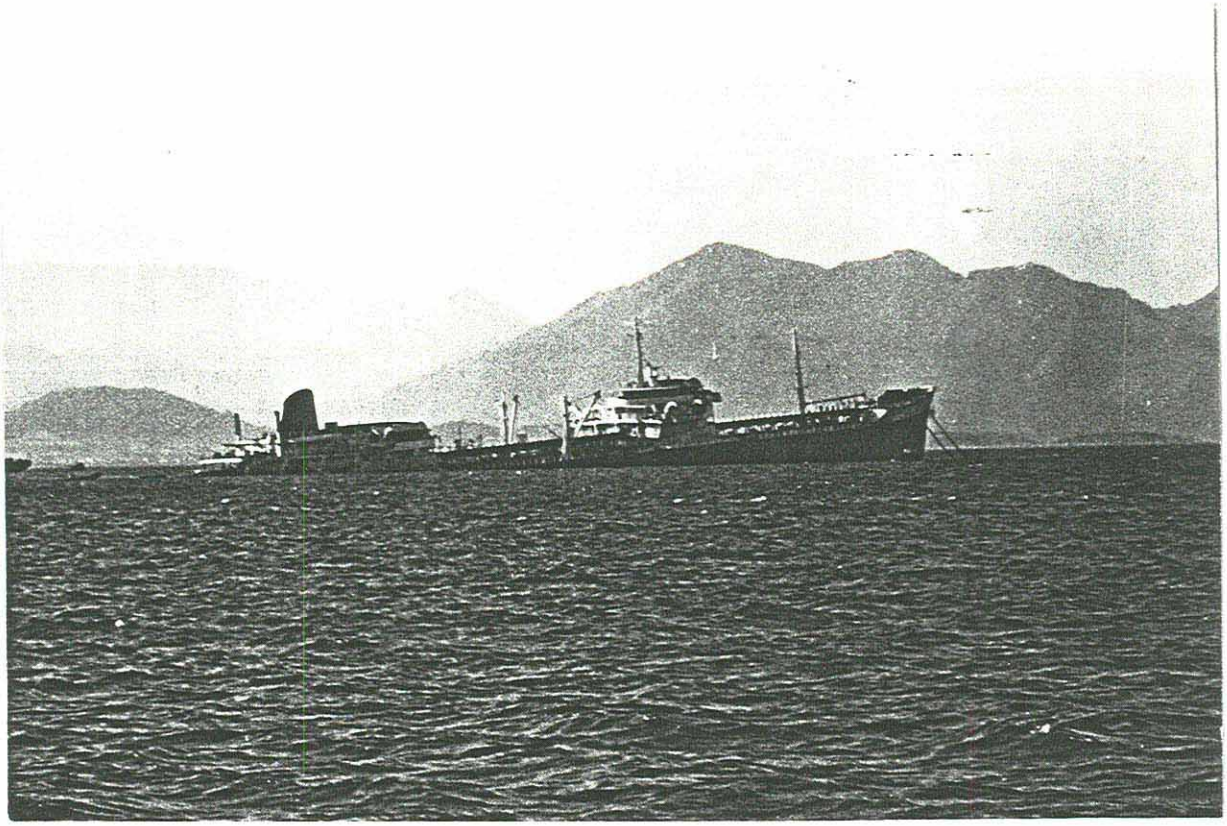
Personnel from the Cam Ranh Bay Harbor Control Post and a Navy Explosive Ordnance Demolition (EOD) Team located the wreckage in 63 feet of water and began recovery operations. Meanwhile, GREENLET was released from the AMASTRA salvage operations and arrived on the scene on 16 April.

Some of the priority items recovered included the pilot instrument panel, remnants of cockpit documents, the rudder-angle power assembly, and the flight data recorder. Various electronic components, a wing section, and items from the center fuselage section and cockpit area were also salvaged.

Navy EOD divers removed the explosive ordnance from the largest concentration of wreckage, and also took photographs of the cockpit instruments and controls. On 22 April, CURRENT joined the operation and recovered one of the aircraft's four engines. The salvage operation was terminated on 23 April.

Another salvage operation concluded in April involved a U.S. Army aircraft. On 16 April a helicopter assigned to the 14th

DECLASSIFIED



S.S. AMASTRA settles by the stern after being mined.

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

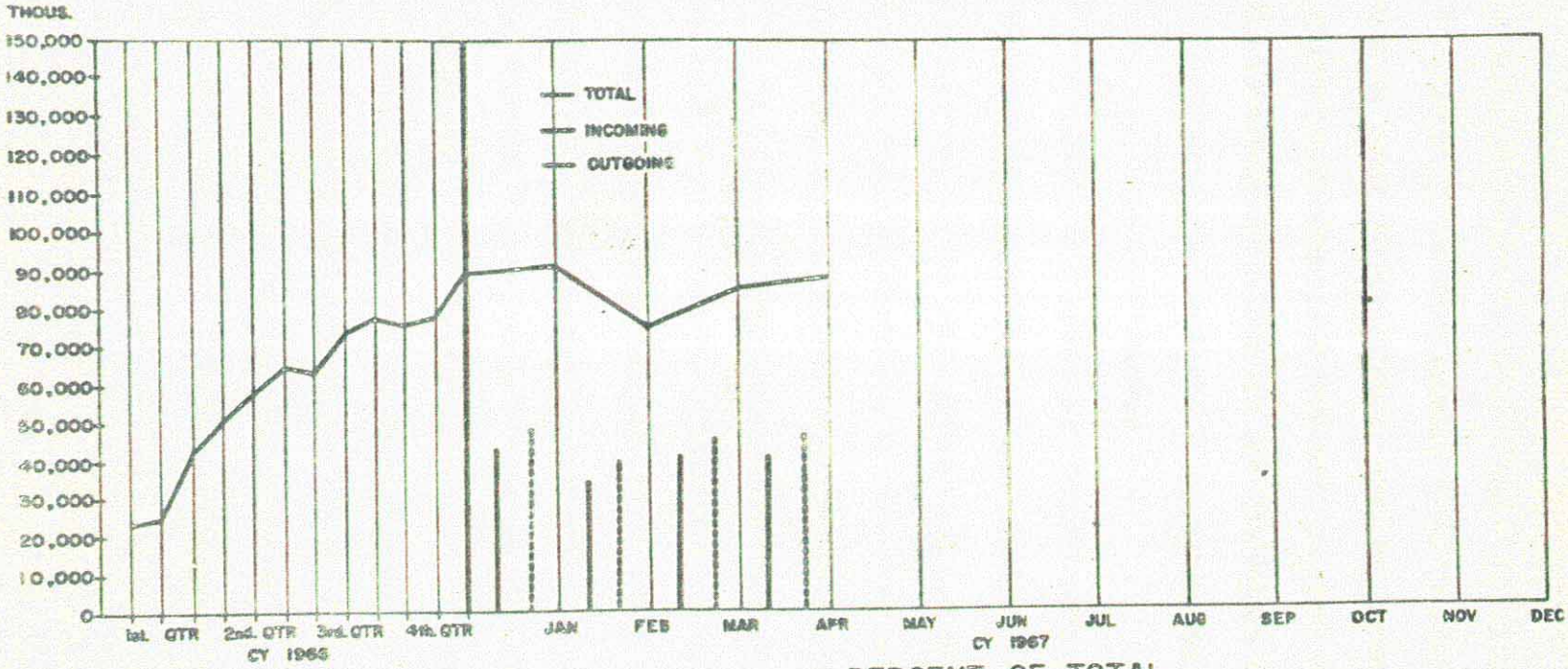
Transportation Battalion at Nha Trang crashed off Cam Ranh Bay in 45 feet of water. The impact completely demolished the helicopter and scattered wreckage over a large area.

Salvage operations were conducted on 20 April by Team 3 of Harbor Clearance Unit 1. The entire transmission section, 60 per cent of the cabin section, and the bodies of personnel killed in the crash were recovered.

******

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC



PERCENT OF TOTAL

FLASH	1	1	1	1								
IMMEDIATE	21	20	19	18								
PRIORITY	60	61	63	63								
ROUTINE	18	18	17	18								

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

COMMUNICATIONS

The number of messages handled by the COMNAVFORV communications center in April was 88,315, a slight increase over March's total.

During the month a Naval Command Operational Network (NAVCOMOPNET) circuit was activated at the Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay. As a result, the COMNAVFORV communications center was relieved of the responsibility for providing a communications guard for 15 various activities in the Cam Ranh Bay area.

At Cam Ranh Bay, the installation of electronic equipment at the new communications center was 64 per cent complete; at the transmitter and receiver sites the electronic installation was 47 and 49 per cent complete, respectively. Meanwhile, construction work was more than 90 per cent complete at each of the sites.

At Danang, construction work on the new communications center and the transmitter and receiver sites was 76 per cent complete. The power supply installation was 90 per cent complete in the communications center, 87 per cent complete at the receiver site, and 75 per cent complete at the transmitter site. In addition, the installation of air conditioning was 60 per cent complete at all three sites.

In April a voice radio circuit was activated between the respective Base Development offices of COMNAVFORV in Saigon and the COMNAVFORV Representative in Danang. The new circuit was established to provide a more rapid and efficient communication capability than that afforded by the limited telephone service available between the two areas.

******

CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MARKET TIME COMMUNICATIONS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 21 April Admiral Roy L. JOHNSON, USN, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, arrived in South Vietnam to confer with key officers at various naval activities. Following a tour and briefings at the MARKET TIME and STABLE DOOR facilities in Cam Ranh Bay, Admiral JOHNSON visited Saigon, Can Tho, Binh Thuy, Dong Tam and Nha Be.

12-Month Tour Review

In the fall of 1966, in response to a request by Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam reviewed all key NAVFORV billets and submitted that none of the billets (other than flag-rank positions) required an extension beyond the normal 12-month tour.

In February of this year, COMUSMACV informed COMNAVFORV that the Chief of Staff to COMNAVFORV was considered to be serving a tour of unspecified length beyond 12 months. In a message to the Chief of Naval Personnel requesting guidance, COMNAVFORV reiterated his previously-stated position. Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet concurred and BUPERS subsequently concurred and reaffirmed the 12-month tour policy for all non-flag billets.

******

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

******

MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

In recent months there has been a significant upswing in the number of independent, intensive and well-coordinated civic action projects conducted by the Vietnamese Navy. The effective results of such operations have, in turn, generated increased emphasis and widened the scope of succeeding efforts.

Typical of the trend has been the work of Can Tho-based River Assault Group 25, which has been conducting concerted psychological operations in the Delta aimed at the inhabitants of Viet Cong-dominated areas. The RAG's "psywar" missions have been thoughtfully planned and have been preceded by leaflet drops and taped broadcasts tailored to fit the circumstances of the particular island, village or hamlet. Repeatedly, the affinity between the RAG sailors and the river-minded civilians has been stressed and exploited.

During the actual missions, commodities such as grain, salad oil and textile kits obtained from South Vietnamese and U.S. agencies have been distributed; simultaneously, doctors and corpsmen have treated needy civilians. In the course of dispensing food and medicine, government literature has been distributed and special appeals disseminated concerning the government cause. In some cases, cultural teams have provided entertainment.

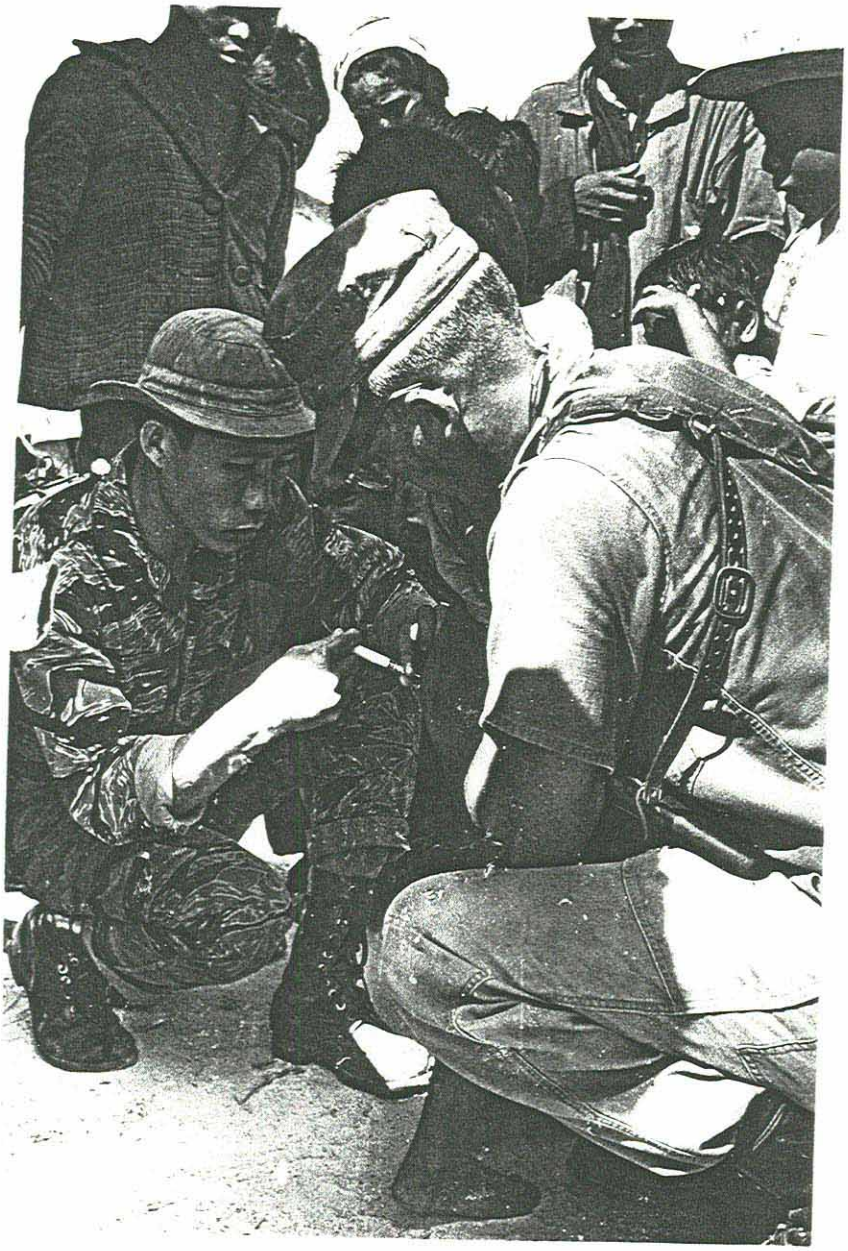
The missions have been brief and have been repeated as often as possible. Even after an area has become relatively "secure," periodic visits have been made.

The follow-up visits have probably determined the extent of the campaign's success. Three months ago RAG 25 units conducted a mission near the village of Lac Thon. The sailors were met with open hostility by the inhabitants. Additional visits were made. Then, during a visit in April, the village chief welcomed the RAG boats, extended an invitation to all the sailors to come ashore and offered guarantees for their safety and security. Six Hoi Chanhs (returnees) have rallied from this area and three small-scale, successful military operations have been conducted in the area based on intelligence furnished by the Vietnamese civilians.

Among the U.S. Navy's civic action projects conducted during April was the treatment by Danang medical officers and hospital corpsmen of over 1,000 civilians at the dispensary of the Stella Maris Convent. In addition, 45 Vietnamese were admitted to the Danang Hospital; 39 of these were major surgical cases. Also, 333 civilians received outpatient care at the hospital.

Meanwhile, in various provinces the Seabee Teams, now eight in number, continued to build, heal and teach in villages and hamlets. In April, Team corpsmen treated almost 2,500 Vietnamese in need of medical attention.

During the month Team 0509, located in the village of Thaoi Son in An Giang province, finished work on the Thaoi Son Public Eating Place, a messing facility for the more than 3,000 people living in the area. The project was made possible by the combined efforts of personnel of the Team, the Vietnamese Navy, RMK-BRJ, and



In a village in Khanh Hoa province, a member of Seabee Team 0807 helps a Vietnamese CIDG medic give a small boy a shot of bicillin.

the Office of Civil Operations.

On 4 April Rear Admiral Norvell G. WARD, USN, COMNAVFORV, presented to officials of the University of Saigon a $690 donation from Class 701 of the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School at Newport, R. I. The gift, in the form of a checking account, represented the start of a scholarship fund designed to help needy Vietnamese medical students.

The following is a tabulation of certain military civic action projects conducted by naval forces during April. Construction projects involving renovation or repair are so indicated with an R. Projects involving joint efforts by U.S., Vietnamese and other Free World Forces are indicated with a J.

		USN	VNN	TOTAL
1.	Construction:			
	a. Bridges	1	0	1
	b. Dispensaries	1/3R	0	1/3R
	c. Dwellings/number of families	63/63	0	63/63
	d. Hospitals	1J/1R	0	1J/1R
	e. Information booths	1J/1R	0	1J/1R
	f. Playgrounds	1	0	1
	g. Schools/classrooms	4/2R	0	4/2R
	h. Showers, public	1	0	1
	i. Toilets, public	19/6R	0	19/6R
	j. Wells	4/3R	0	4/3R
	k. Boat docks	1	0	1
2.	Medical treatments:			
	a. General medicine	30,673	1,200	31,873
	b. Dental	2,319	0	2,319
	c. Surgery	91	1	92
	d. Emergency evacuations	142	20	162
	e. Cleft palate operations	1	2	3
	f. Artificial legs	1	0	1
3.	Health and sanitation:			
	a. Classes on personal hygiene/ attendance	14/620	0	14/620
	b. Immunizations	1,152	250	1,402

c.	Medical aides or nurses trained	11	0	11
d.	Physical examinations	662	0	662
e.	Spray insecticide operations	71	0	71
4.	Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):			
a.	Cement	179,573	0	179,573
b.	Clothing	20,268	16,902	37,170
c.	Fertilizer	1,300	0	1,300
d.	Food	174,007	45,307	219,314
e.	Lumber (board feet)	165,662	0	165,662
f.	Medical, non-prescription	1,490	137	1,627
g.	Midwife kits (number)	11	0	11
h.	Physical education kits (number)	1	1	2
i.	School kits (number)	1,016	900	1,916
j.	Soap	10,499	595	11,094
k.	Tin sheets (number)	2,222	0	2,222
l.	Woodworking kits (number)	29	0	29
m.	Paper blankets	2,589	216	2,805
n.	Plastic bags (number)	0	13,000	13,000
o.	Personal kits (number)	260	233	493
p.	Toothpaste tubes (number)	5	0	5
q.	Sewing kits (number)	171	100	271
r.	Magazines (number)	21,100	25,000	46,100
5.	Educational efforts:			
a.	English classes/attendance	38/712	0	38/712
6.	Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:			
a.	Schools	82,338	0	82,338
b.	Solatia	3,000	0	3,000
c.	Needy families	1,00	0	1,000

******

DECLASSIFIED

NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

At the end of April the personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy stood at 16,040 officers and enlisted men. During the month, the number of personnel discharged as deserters was 93 and the number of unauthorized absentees was 330, a decrease of 24 and 61, respectively, under March's figures.

The distribution of personnel for the operating units was satisfactory except for the Coastal Force, which was 23 per cent under allowance. The Coastal Force units had an allowance of 4,154 officers and enlisted men and an on-board total of 3,212. The main causes of the shortage were: 1) the Fleet Command and River Assault Groups were being kept at full strength; 2) the Coastal Force headquarters was 360 men over its allowance of 1,187; 3) the "pipeline" of personnel in transit and training for the Vietnamese Navy was being drawn from the allowance of the Coastal Force operating units.

In April the organizational structure of the Third Riverine Area underwent a major revision. The principal change--decentralization of control--was aimed at providing more rapid and effective responsiveness at the unit levels.

Fleet Command

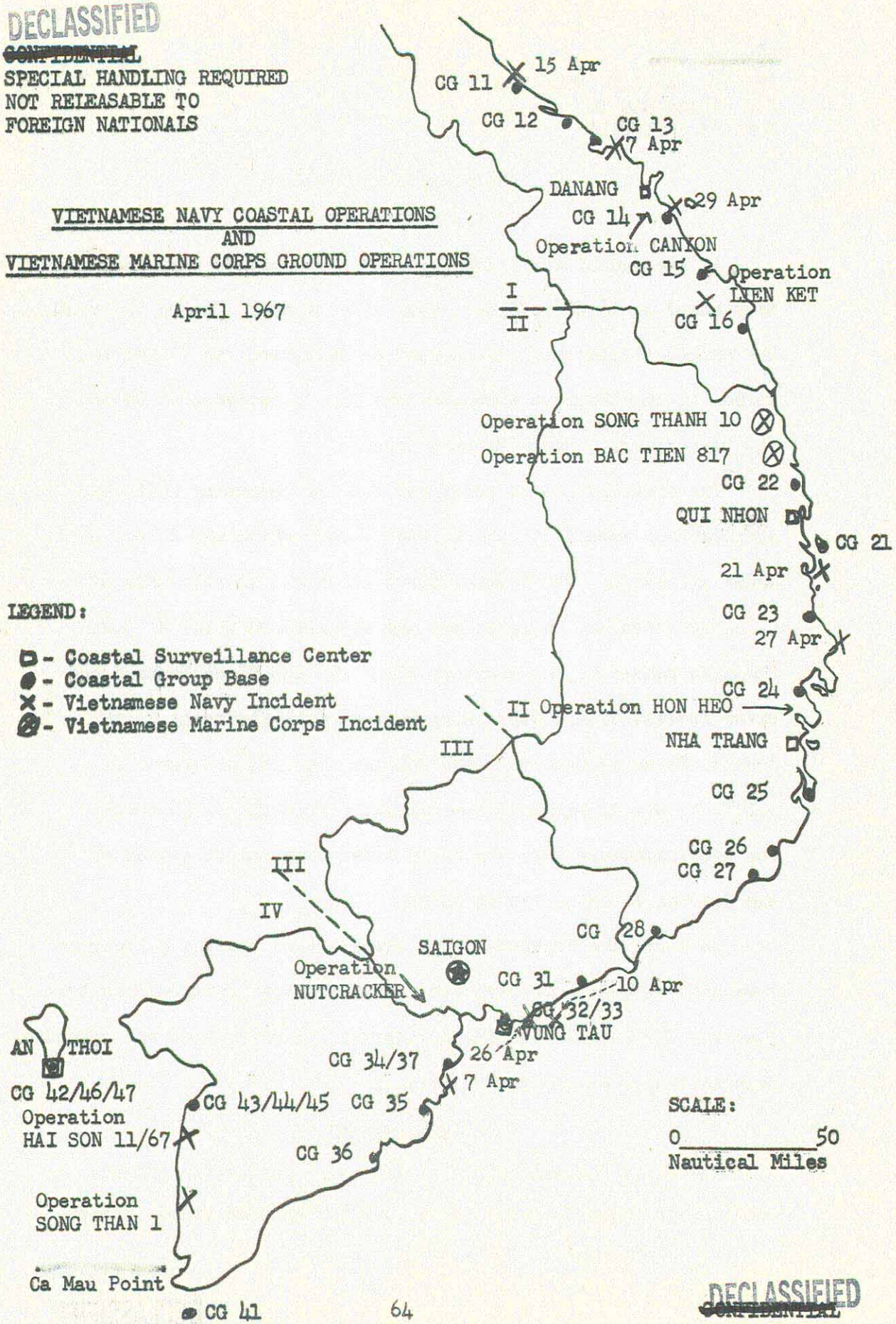
The Fleet Command maintained 11 ships on station off the coast, four ships on river patrol and one ship on convoy escort

DECLASSIFIED

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

VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS AND VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS

April 1967



DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. The daily availability of Fleet Command ships increased from 24 in March to 27 in April.

During the month the ships increased their counter-infiltration operations and made greater use of their gunfire support capability. Forty-five gunfire support missions were fired in April, an increase of 14 over March, and the number of junks searched increased from 197 to 515.

Patrol Craft (PCs and PCEs), maintaining patrol stations off the coasts of the First, Second and Fourth naval zones, fired three gunfire support missions. On 11 April, PCE 12 relieved two U.S. Navy PCFs on patrol in the southern portion of the First Naval Zone, as part of the continuing effort to phase Vietnamese Navy units into the operations of the Coastal Surveillance Force.

Gunboats (PGMs) conducted coastal and river patrols in the four naval zones and the Rung Sat Special Zone, firing 12 gunfire missions and supporting two ground operations. PGM 600 fired three gunfire support missions and assisted in the exfiltration blockade for Operation HON HEO, a joint U.S. and Korean operation on the Hon Heo Peninsula, 17 miles north of Nha Trang, from 1 through 10 April. On 21 April PGMs 603 and 608, together with three U.S. MARKET TIME units, provided shore bombardment and exfiltration patrol support for Operation SONG THAN I (Big Wave 1), 34 miles north of Cau Mau Point.

Support landing ships (LSSLs and LSILs) conducted patrol,

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

gunfire support, and convoy-escort missions in the Third Naval Zone, the Fourth Riverine area, and the RSSZ. The support ships fired a total of 28 gunfire missions in April. On 24 April, LSSL 230 acted as a blocking unit for an operation conducted by the 14th ARVN Regiment on Con Coc Island, in the Bassac River 41 miles south of Can Tho. On 29 April LSSL 230, together with two river patrol craft from RAG 29, supported the Coastal Group 36 base at Long Phu when it came under attack by an estimated two-platoon force of Viet Cong.

Minesweepers (MSCs) were deployed on coastal patrol in the First and Second Naval Zones. MSC 116, on exfiltration patrol for Operation HON HEO, conducted two gunfire support missions. In addition, MLMSs continued to sweep the Saigon, Long Tau and Nha Be Rivers daily.

The month's 24 logistical missions resulted in the movement of 4,514 personnel and 2,051 tons of cargo. Medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 1,824 personnel and 1,148 tons of cargo; utility landing craft (LCUs) lifted 1,239 personnel and 478 tons of cargo; and tank landing ships (LSTs) lifted 1,151 personnel and 425 tons of cargo. LST 500 departed on 17 April for overhaul in Guam.

The VNN Underwater Demolition Team (LDNN) was very active during April. A six-man detachment, operating with the U.S. Navy SEALs based at Nha Be, conducted 24 operations in the RSSZ. At the request of the U.S. Military Sea Transportation Service, four LDNN personnel conducted nightly bottom-searches of ships in the

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Port of Saigon. In addition, six other LDNN personnel conducted a beach survey near Duc Pho, in Quang Ngai province, from 10 to 14 April.

Coastal Force

During April the Coastal Force had a daily average of 238 junks available, of which 128 were utilized. On 30 April the Coastal Force had 300 operational junks and about 70 motor-sail and Kien Giang junks recently surveyed or in the process of being surveyed. Newly-constructed Yabuta junks were scheduled to replace the surveyed junks.

Coastal Force units searched 21,607 junks--3,605 more than March's total--in April for an average of 5.9 junks per patrol unit per day. The increased activity was attributed to the normal increase in junk traffic that follows the end of the Northeast Monsoon season.

From 1 to 6 April, Coastal Group 16 and units of the SECOND ARVN Infantry Division conducted Operation LIEN KET, two miles north of Quang Ngai. On the afternoon of the 3rd, the explosion of a bomb released accidentally by a U.S. Air Force aircraft mortally wounded LT J.R. CHAPMAN, USN, Senior Advisor to Coastal Group 16 and injured five Vietnamese sailors and 30 refugees.

Coastal Group 14, supporting Operation CANYON from 6 to 10 April, detained 152 persons, seven of whom were determined to be Viet Cong cadre. In addition, patrol craft along the Thu Ban

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

River and the sea coast destroyed 26 enemy sampans and captured eight others.

A Coastal Group 13 junk, on patrol 26 miles northwest of Danang on the evening of 7 April, captured two wounded Viet Cong and a 40-kilogram block of TNT after a brief fire fight. A third Viet Cong was probably killed. Preliminary interrogation indicated that the Viet Cong were tax collectors.

From 11 to 16 April six junks from Coastal Group 16 operated with a U.S. Coast Guard cutter in a test of new patrol tactics. The junks, operating in two 3-craft elements, were vectored by radio to contacts located by radar aboard the cutter. Also, the junks were equipped with night observation devices, enabling them to detect and evaluate the contacts at greater distances. The test period produced good results.

On the evening of 15 April junks from Coastal Group 11 conducted a blocking operation around an island in the Thach Han River, 75 miles northwest of Danang. Viet Cong directed automatic-weapons and small-arms fire at the junks, which returned the fire with 81-mm. mortar fire. At dawn a landing party swept the island and captured one Viet Cong, detained five suspects and found four dead bodies.

The Coastal Group 14 base was attacked on 20 April by Viet Cong using mortars, recoilless rifles, and automatic weapons. U.S. Marine artillery and a U.S. Air Force "Flareship" assisted the base in repulsing the attack. There were no friendly casualties.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

During the day of the 29th, Coastal Group 14 junks blocked the Thu Bon River, 13 miles southeast of Danang, to prevent a 25-man Viet Cong unit from crossing the river. The blocking force killed one Viet Cong and supporting artillery destroyed one junk and probably killed five Viet Cong.

In the Second Naval Zone, Coastal Group 23 set up an ambush 20 miles south of Qui Nhon on the evening of the 21st. The ambush party captured two Viet Cong and was withdrawn at noon the next day. On the 27th, Coastal Group 24 conducted a landing operation in a suspected Viet Cong storage area, 52 miles south of Qui Nhon. The landing party seized six tons of rice and turned it over to the sub-sector authorities.

On 7 April, in the Third Naval Zone, Coastal Groups 34 and 37 seized one 25-kilogram water mine and 42 rockets, and destroyed ten Viet Cong structures and several bunkers in an operation 37 miles southwest of Vung Tau. On the morning of the 10th, eight junks from Coastal Group 32 and four U.S. Navy PCFs detained 63 junks and 103 persons fishing in a restricted area 20 miles east of Vung Tau. Subsequently, sector authorities detained four of the persons as draft dodgers and nine as suspected Viet Cong.

On the afternoon of the 26th, seven miles north of Vung Tau, three Coastal Group 33 sailors, disguised as fishermen, were hailed by two Viet Cong tax collectors. In the resulting fire fight, the Viet Cong were killed and their sampan was sunk.

DECLASSIFIED

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

In the Fourth Naval Zone, Operation HAI SON 11/67 was conducted on 5 April, 77 miles north of Ca Mau Point. During the one-day operation, Coastal Groups 43, 44 and 45 transported a 500-man force composed of two battalions, two companies and a mechanized platoon of Regional Force troops. Two U.S. Navy Swift boats provided illumination and gunfire support.

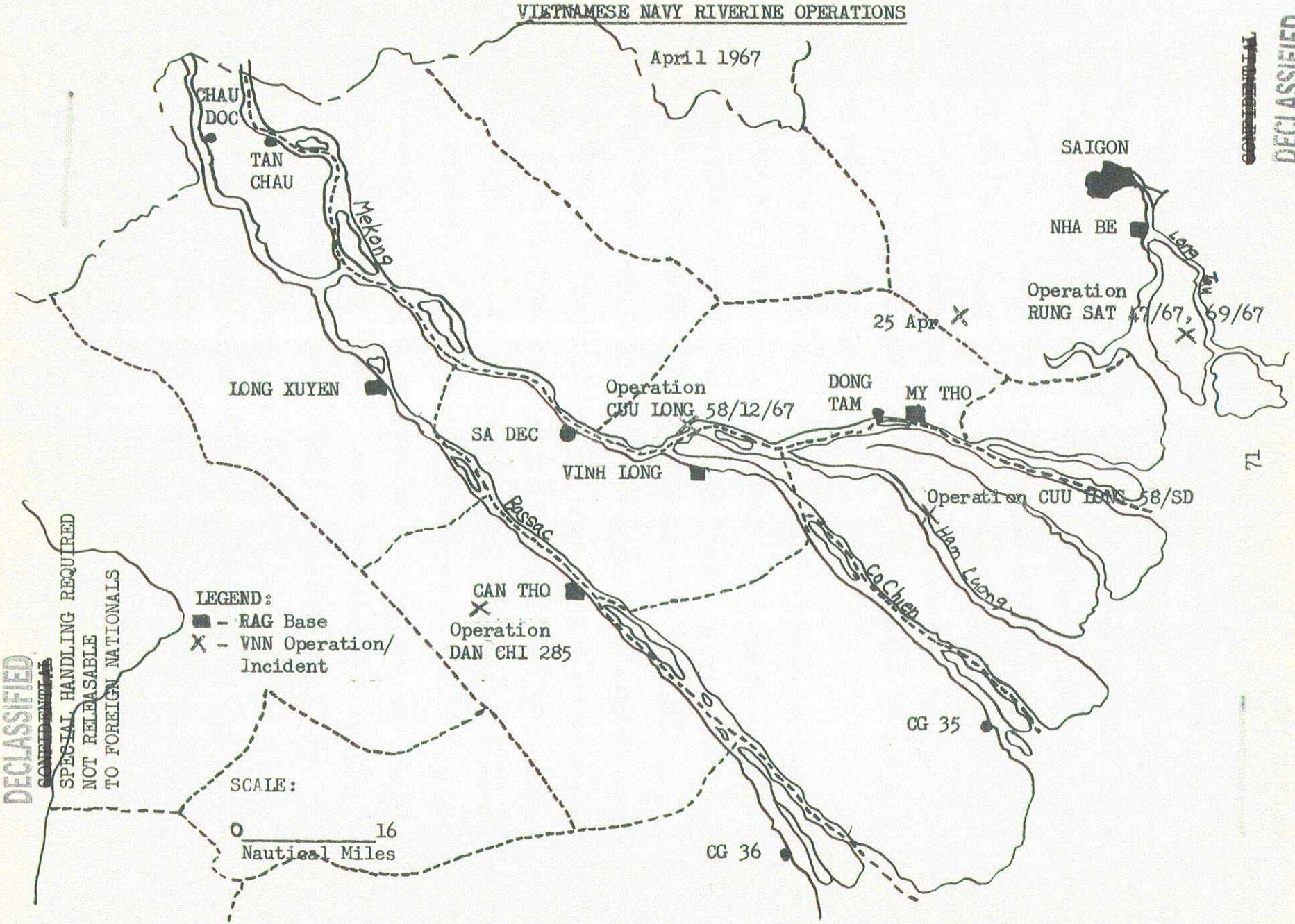
Operation SONG THAN I (Big Wave 1), another one-day operation, was held on the 21st on an island just off the coast, 34 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The forces included a Vietnamese Navy landing party transported in five junks from Coastal Group 41, two VNN PGMs and three U.S. MARKET TIME units. The U.S. and Fleet Command units provided gunfire and blocking support. The landing force swept the island, made no contact with the enemy, and was reembarked at 1900.

Riverine Area Naval Commands

In April there were two River Assault Group operations in the Third Riverine Area, 15 in the Rung Sat Special Zone and eight in the Fourth Riverine Area.

The RAG units also conducted river patrols and escort missions, and assisted in base defense and psychological warfare operations. A daily average of 137 craft was available for use and an average of 104 was used. During the month, the craft of the riverine area commands searched 3,066 junks and 7,035 persons and detained five junks and 346 suspects.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED


VIETNAMESE NAVY RIVERINE OPERATIONS
April 1967
CHAU DOC
TAN CHAU
Mekong
SAIGON
NHA BE
Long Tau
Operation RUNG SAT 47/67, 69/67
25 Apr
LONG XUYEN
Operation CUU LONG 58/12/67
DONG TAM
MY THO
SA DEC
VINH LONG
Operation CUU LONG 58/SD
Bassac
Ham Luong
Co Chien
CAN THO
Operation DAN CHI 285
LEGEND:
- RAG Base
- VNN Operation/ Incident
CG 35
CG 36
SCALE:
0 16
Nautical Miles
SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE
TO FOREIGN NATIONALS
DECLASSIFIED
DECLASSIFIED
71

DECLASSIFIED

In April the reorganization of the Third Riverine Area Naval Command, as proposed by the area commander, was approved by the Vietnamese Joint General Staff and implemented.

The four RAGs in the area had been under the operational control of the area commander. In the new organization RAG 22 is responsible for the Long Tau River and the RSSZ, under the control of the Commander, RSSZ; RAG 24 is responsible for Long An province and the Vam Co River, under the control of the Commanding General, 31st Defense Tactical Area; RAG 28 is responsible for Binh Duong province and the Saigon River, under the control of the Commanding General, 32nd Defense Tactical Area; and RAG 30 is responsible for Bien Hoa province and the Dong Nai River, under the control of the Commanding General, III Corps Tactical Zone. Additionally, the Regional and Popular Force boat companies on the Saigon and Dong Nai Rivers are now under the control of the commanders of RAGs 28 and 30, respectively.

On 12 and 13 April, in the Third Riverine Area, 11 craft from RAGs 24 and 28 supported the U.S. Army's 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Operation NUTCRACKER. RAG units participating in the operation, which was conducted 18 miles southwest of Saigon, captured one Viet Cong and detained two suspects. Three sailors were wounded. On the 25th, craft of RAG 24 escorting a convoy of barges on the Co Cong River, 15 miles southwest of Saigon, were attacked by Viet Cong using a grenade launcher. One U.S. soldier was wounded and one

DECLASSIFIED

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

LCM-6 was damaged in the action.

RAG 30 provided seven craft from 3 to 7 and 13 to 17 April to support the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Operation FAIRFAX. In addition, seven craft from RAGs 22 and 28 supported the 4th VNMC Battalion in the RSSZ from the 1st through the 12th in Operation RUNG SAT 47/67. From the 12th to the 30th RAGS 22, 26 and 28 provided craft to support the VNMC 1st Battalion in Operation RUNG SAT 69/67. LCUs 536 and 539 and Regional Force craft assisted the RAGs in transporting the Marines.

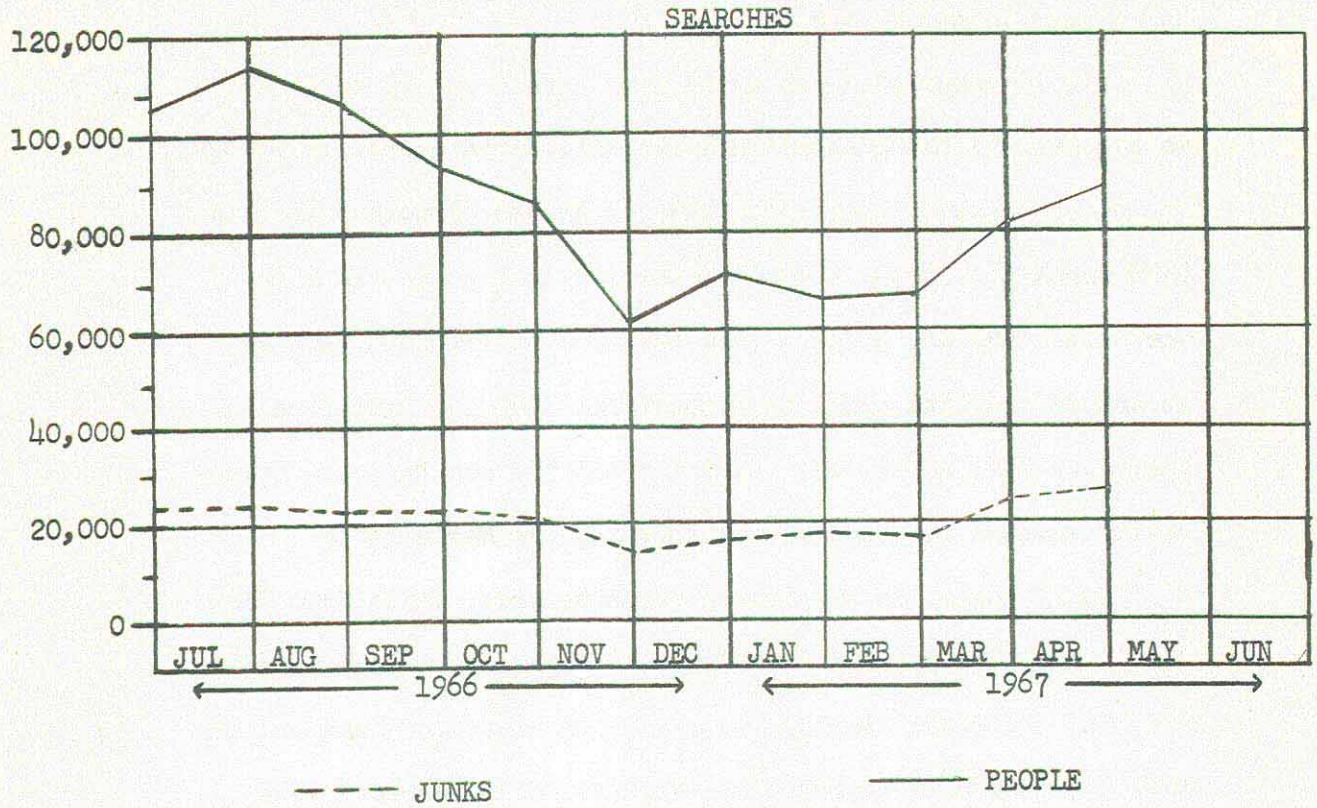
On 11 April, in the Fourth Riverine Area, units from RAGs 21, 27 and 33 supported the 12th ARVN Regiment in Operation CUU LONG 58/12/67. During the operation nine Viet Cong and one ARVN deserter were captured and six Viet Cong suspects were detained. From 12 to 14 April 20 craft from RAGs 25, 29 and 32 supported an eight-battalion force of ARVN, Airborne, Ranger and Regional Force troops in Operation DAN CHI 285. The operation, conducted six miles west of Can Tho, resulted in 230 Viet Cong being killed. Fifty-seven friendly troops were killed and 254 were wounded. There were no RAG casualties. The ground forces seized two crew-served and 19 individual weapons, and a quantity of ammunition. On 15 April, the SEVENTH ARVN Infantry Division and eight craft from RAGs 21 and 33 conducted Operation CUU LONG 58/SD ten miles south of My Tho. During the operation 12 Viet Cong were killed, 15 were captured and 44 suspects were detained.

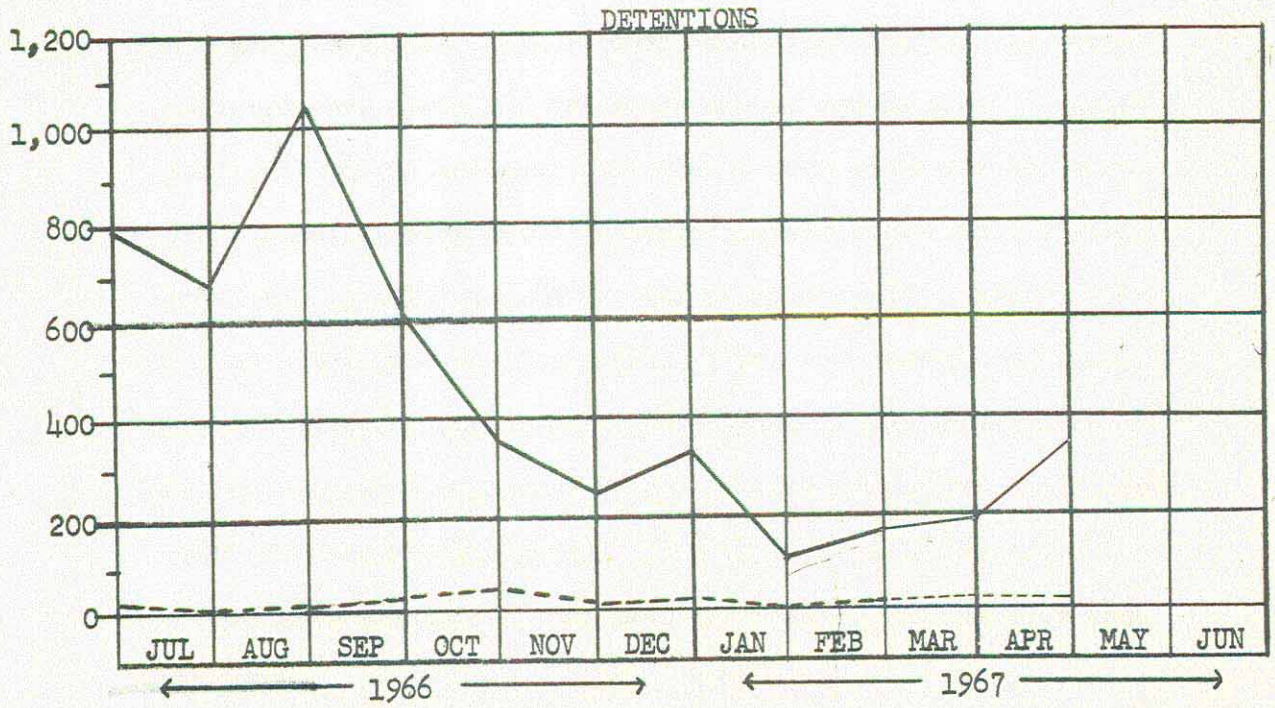
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

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

SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS BY VIETNAMESE NAVY
SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES





~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

One Russian-type rifle was seized.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary
April 1967

	Searched		Detained	
Coastal Force	Junks	People	Junks	People
I NZ	7,304	28,458	4	308
II NZ	3,942	13,371	0	23
III NZ	7,450	30,158	0	8
IV NZ	2,911	8,038	0	0
Sub-Totals	21,607	80,025	4	339
Fleet Command				
Patrol Ships	515	2,108	1	2
Riverine Area				
Craft	3,066	7,035	0	5
Totals	25,188	89,168	5	346

***

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

During the month the five operational battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II and III Corps Tactical Zones and the Rung Sat Special Zone, and were deployed 78 per cent of the time. Meanwhile, the three batteries of the Marine Artillery Battalion were deployed 66 per cent of the time.

Brigade Force B, consisting of a headquarters, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion continued operations begun in March. The brigade operated in the II Corps Tactical Zone's An Lao Valley, just north of Bong Son, under the control of the Commanding General, 22nd ARVN Division.

From the 1st to the 13th, the brigade moved some 4,000 refugees

CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

from the valley to a resettlement area south of Bong Son. After completing the resettlement the brigade took up defensive positions approximately two miles north of Bong Son.

On 14 April the brigade began a search and destroy operation, code-named SONG THANH 10, north and east of Bong Son. At 1400 a Viet Cong booby trap, constructed from 105 and 155-mm. howitzer rounds, killed 14 Marines and wounded 25 others. One U.S. Marine advisor was also wounded. The operation continued with only light sniper contact and ended at 1200 on 16 April. During the operation, two Viet Cong were killed and ten suspects were detained.

On 19 April, the brigade was relieved by Brigade Force A and was airlifted to Tan Son Nhut Air Base; from there the individual units returned to their respective base camps.

Brigade Force A, composed of a headquarters, the 4th and 5th Battalions and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, was activated on 18 April and was airlifted to English Airfield, near Bong Son, on the 19th.

On 22 April the force was committed to a search and destroy and pacification operation, code-named BAC TIEN 817, in an area between Route 1 and the sea reaching from Bong Son northward ten miles to Tam Quan. The force encountered sniper fire only during the first five days of the operation. Four Marines were killed and four others were wounded by the snipers. Meanwhile, three Viet Cong were killed by the Marines and seven suspects were detained.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

In addition, one rifle, three grenades and a mine were seized. On the sixth day, 27 April, the 5th Battalion made contact with an enemy platoon, killing one Viet Cong and seizing a Colt pistol. One Marine was killed and four were wounded during the fire fight.

On the morning of the 28th, the 4th Battalion killed four of the enemy and seized one Thompson sub-machine gun. On the 29th, four Marines were wounded in light contact with the enemy. Two Viet Cong were captured on 30 April as the operation continued into May.

Prior to joining Brigade Force A the 4th Battalion and Battery A of the Artillery Battalion had continued their March search and destroy operation in the Rung Sat Special Zone. In scattered contact with the enemy two Viet Cong were killed and two were wounded. One Marine was wounded. Two 5-kilogram mines, one B-50 anti-tank rocket, one rifle and one sampan were captured.

The 1st Battalion relieved the 4th Battalion on 12 April and continued operations in the RSSZ through the end of the month. In sporadic action the battalion killed seven Viet Cong and wounded two others. One Marine was killed and ten were wounded. In addition, six enemy sampans were destroyed during the month, three by helicopters supporting the battalion.

The 2nd Battalion deployed to the Nha Be District in the RSSZ on 21 April and conducted search and destroy and pacification operations and civic action projects through the end of the month.

DECLASSIFIED

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

Operating with units of the U.S. Army's 199th Light Infantry Brigade on 27 April, the battalion detained 15 Viet Cong suspects.

The 3rd Battalion, in the meantime, remained at its base camp near Thu Duc from the 19th through the 30th.

The 5th Battalion, operating in the Nha Be District from the 1st through the 6th and the 10th through the 16th, conducted 62 company-sized combat operations and 476 ambushes, as well as numerous rural reconstruction and civic action projects.

Meanwhile, the 6th Battalion completed on 26 April the training cycle begun on 6 March. The final exercise was an amphibious landing nine miles east of Vung Tau. The battalion then remained in the area through the 30th, conducting diverse civic action projects.

The morale of the Vietnamese Marine Corps remained at a high level and the leadership in all units was considered to be excellent throughout the month. During April the Corps accounted for 20 enemy killed, two captured, and 32 suspects detained. Twenty-one Marines were killed and 54 Marines and one U.S. advisor were wounded.

***

Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary
April 1967

VC/NVA: 20 KIA, 2 VC captured, 32 VC suspects detained.

VNMC: 21 KIA, 54 WIA.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO
FOREIGN NATIONALS

Ordnance and Equipment Captured:

Rifles	2
Hand grenades	5
Mines	3
Colt pistols	1
Thompson sub-machine guns	1
Czech carbines	1
U.S. carbines	2
Claymore mines	1
Electrical cord (feet)	100
7.62-mm. ammunition (rounds)	50
B-50 Russian anti-tank rockets	1
Sampans	1

Seized and/or Destroyed Material:

Sampans	6
Rice (tons)	1

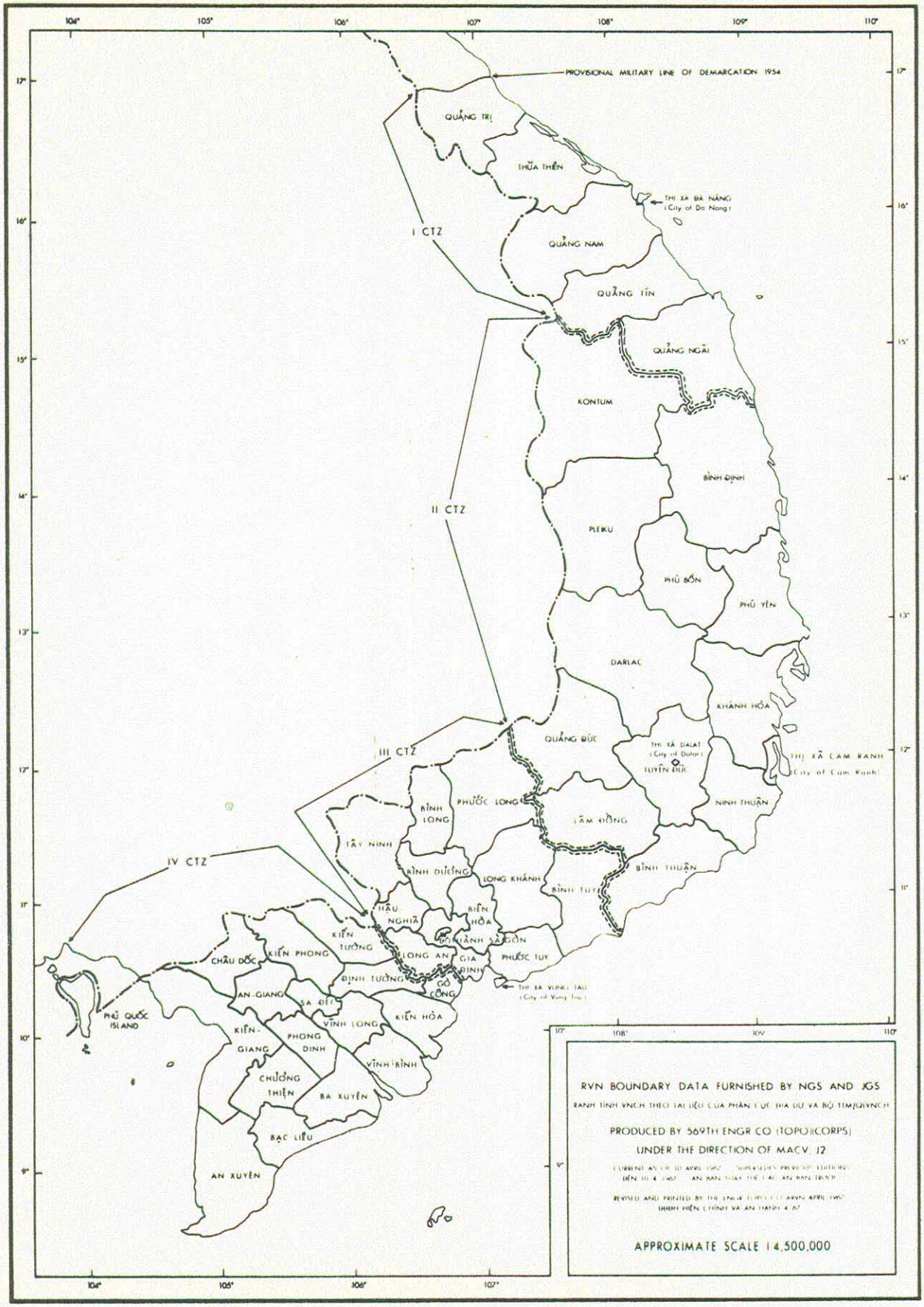
******

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

******

APPENDIX I

RVN PROVINCIAL BOUNDARIES AND CORPS TACTICAL ZONES



DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPENDIX II

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOME OF THE SHIPS, SMALL CRAFT AND AIRCRAFT UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF COMNAVFORV

The diverse, widespread responsibilities of Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam have led to the operational control of a large number of ships and small craft and, in addition, numerous aircraft. As of 30 April, with five subordinate commands employing 38 different types of ships and craft, COMNAVFORV exercised control of a total of 548 units. Many of the craft were new or newly-configured for the special requirements of the war in South Vietnam.

The Coastal Surveillance Force (TF 115) had 112 patrol craft and 58 harbor defense and support craft, as well as operational control of 12 U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ships and a detachment of seven patrol aircraft. The River Patrol Force (TF 116) had 120 patrol craft, eight helicopters, and 19 minesweeping and support craft. The Riverine Assault Force (TF 117) had 31 various craft. Meanwhile the Naval Support Activity, Danang had 133 support ships and craft, and the Naval Support Activity, Saigon had 65 similar ships and craft.

The following descriptions include certain key features of some of these units.

AFDL - Auxiliary Floating Dry Dock, Light - A non-self-propelled, open-ended dry dock with a 1,000-ton capacity. It measures 64 by 200 feet and has two 3-ton derricks and a machine shop. The craft mounts no armament.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

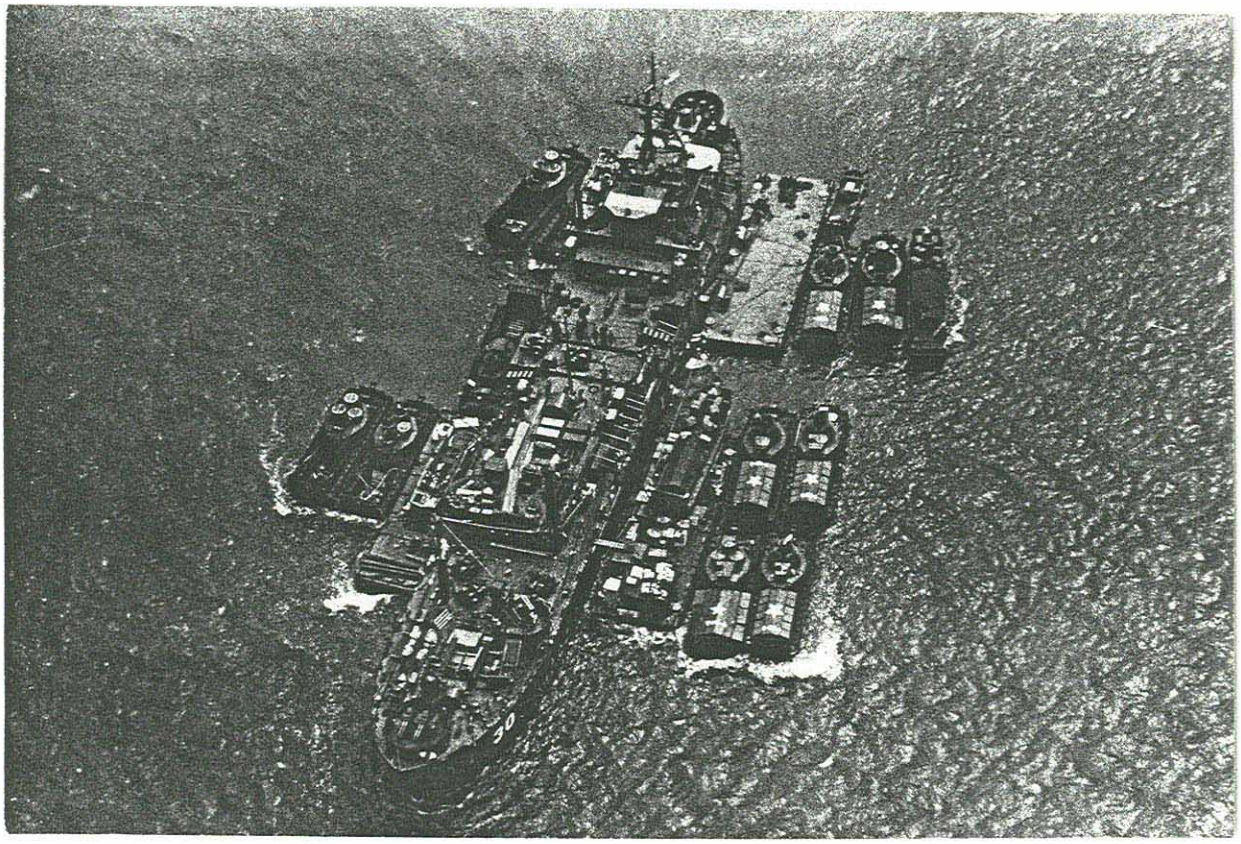
DECLASSIFIED

AKL - Cargo Ship, Light - A small cargo ship used for resupplying small bases and outposts in the Mekong Delta and along the coast. The ship is 177 feet long, can carry 340 tons of cargo, has a 4-ton boom, and mounts two to four .50 caliber and two .30 caliber machine guns and one 81-mm. mortar. It has a speed of 13 knots and a crew of 4 officers and 33 enlisted men.

AMMI (Pontoon) - A multi-purpose barge. It is 5 by 28 by 90 feet and is sectioned into 12 interior spaces. Each barge contains six fittings for columns to raise or lower the barge on spuds, fittings to connect several barges end-to-end for causeway use, and fittings to allow side-mounting on LSTs and LSDs. In addition to causeway use, the barges can be positioned to embark and debark troops, and to serve as platforms for patrol craft hull maintenance.

APB - Personnel Barracks Ship - An LST converted to provide berthing for an Army battalion and a River Assault Squadron. The ship is 328 feet long with berthing spaces for 122 officers and 1,180 enlisted men, and mounts four 4.2-inch mortars, two 40-mm. quad gun-mounts, two 20-mm. twin gun-mounts, and ten 7.62-mm. machine guns. It has a speed of 12

DECLASSIFIED



USS ASKARI (ARL 30), with Ammi pontoons and Riverine Assault Force craft alongside.

DECLASSIFIED

APB (Cont.) - knots and carries a crew of 11 officers and 161 enlisted men.

APL - Personnel Barracks, Lighter - A non-self-propelled barge with accommodations for the crews of 20 PBRs or 10 PBRs and 10 PCFs. It is 49 by 261 feet, has transient berthing spaces for 39 officers and 290 enlisted men, and mounts six .50 caliber machine guns. The crew consists of five officers and 84 enlisted men.

ARG - Repair Ship, Internal Combustion Engine - A repair ship converted from a C-2 freighter and capable of repairing ships and craft with gasoline or diesel propulsion plants. The ship is 442 feet long and mounts three 3"/50 caliber guns. It has a speed of 11.5 knots and a crew of 19 officers and 493 enlisted men.

ARL - Repair Ship, Landing Craft - An LST converted to repair landing craft and support amphibious ships. The ship is 328 feet long and mounts two 40-mm. quad gun-mounts. It has a speed of 10.6 knots and a crew of 12 officers and 178 enlisted men.

ATC - Armored Troop Carrier - A modified, armored LCM-6 designed principally for use by the Riverine Assault Force. The boat is 56 feet long with an extended deckhouse mounting two 20-mm. guns, two

DECLASSIFIED

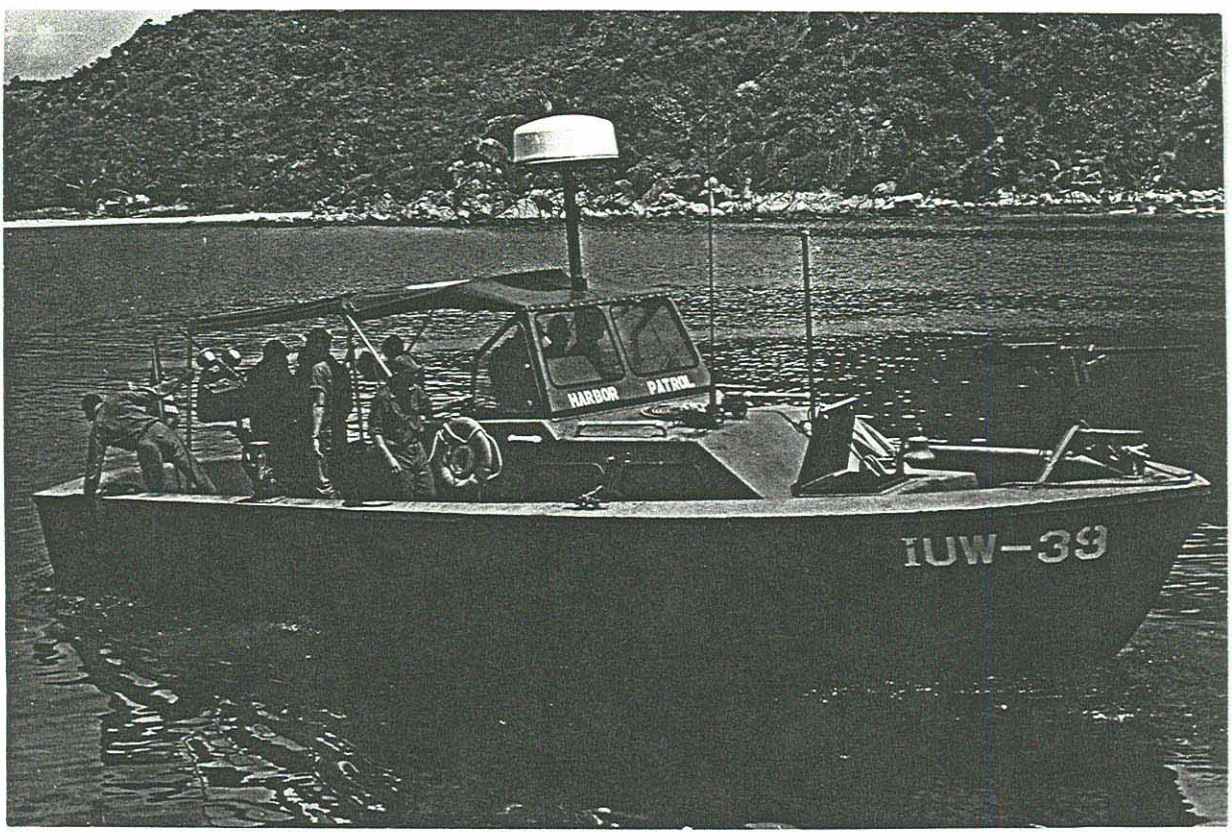
DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ATC (Cont.) - .50 caliber machine guns, and four M-60 machine guns. The craft can carry approximately 40 combat troops or 2.5 to 3 tons of cargo. It has a speed of 8.5 knots and carries a crew of seven enlisted men. Special bar-and-plate armor has been added to provide protection for the hull and deckhouse against projectiles up to and including 57-mm. HEAT rounds.

CCB - Commandament - A modified, armored LCM-6 designed for use by the RAF as a task group flagship and afloat command post. The command center is situated in the craft's well. The boat is 60.5 feet long, is equipped with radar, and mounts one 40-mm. and one .50 caliber machine gun in a forward turret, and one 20-mm. gun, two .50 caliber machine guns and two M-60 machine guns in the deckhouse. It has a speed of 8.25 knots and a crew of 11 enlisted men. The craft also has special armor similar to that installed on ATCs.

C-47 - Transport - A general-purpose aircraft with two reciprocating engines. The plane has a cargo capacity of 12,900 pounds, a take-off weight of 36,800 pounds, a range of 610 miles, and a cruising speed of 153 knots. The crew normally consists of two officers and two enlisted men.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED



LCPL (Mark XI)

DECLASSIFIED

HLC - Heavy Lift Craft - A non-self-propelled hull, capable of partial submersion, used in salvage work to lift hulks. The craft is 39 by 140 feet, has two 10-ton booms as well as auxiliary equipment for pumping and can raise 300 tons in a bow lift or 750 tons in a midships lift. HLCs are normally used in pairs. Each craft mounts four .50 caliber machine guns. The crew consists of two officers and 20 enlisted men.

LCPL (Mark XI) - Landing Craft, Personnel, Large - A boat used primarily for harbor defense and to guide larger landing craft. The boat is 36 feet long, has a radar, and mounts two .50 caliber machine guns. It has a speed of 19 knots and a crew of one officer and seven enlisted men.

LLC - Light Lift Craft - A converted LCU (Landing Craft, Utility) designed to perform limited salvage duty. The craft is 119 feet in length, and has a shear-leg crane capable of 30-ton lifts. Light Lift Craft have four .50 caliber machine guns, a speed of seven knots, and carry a crew of two officers and 15 enlisted men.

LST (GAME WARDEN Support Ship) - A 548-Class tank landing ship specially configured for GAME WARDEN Operations. The cargo hatch has been enlarged to 13 by 32 feet to permit lowering

DECLASSIFIED

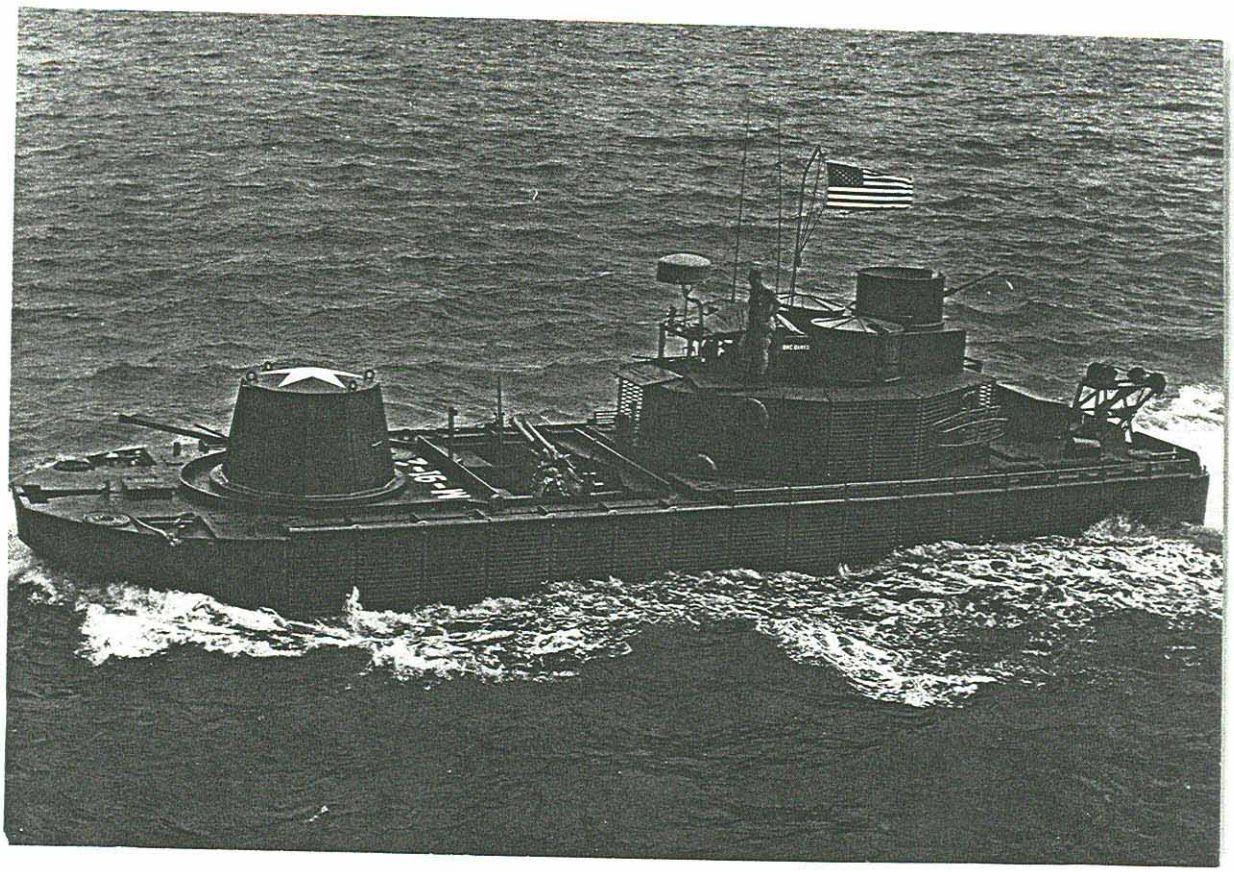
DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LST (Cont.) - PBRs and helicopters to the tank deck for repairs and maintenance. The main deck forward of the cargo hatch has been strengthened and life-saving nets have been added port and starboard to support helicopter operations. A 10-ton boat lifting boom has been added on the starboard side just forward of the deckhouse. In addition, the transient berthing facilities on board have been increased to accommodate eight officers and 112 enlisted men. An ancillary role performed by the LST is radar surveillance in support of MARKET TIME units in the area. The ship's speed is 12 knots, and the crew consists of 17 officers and 123 enlisted men.

MONITOR - Monitor - A modified LCM-6 designed primarily for use as a fire support ship by the RAF. The craft has bar-and-plate armor along the hull and deckhouse similar to that of ATCs and CCBs. The boat is 60.5 feet long, is equipped with radar, and mounts one 40-mm. and one .50 caliber machine gun in a forward turret, one 81-mm. mortar and two M-60 machine guns amidships, and one 20-mm. gun, two .50 caliber machine guns and four M-60 machine guns in the deckhouse. It has a speed of 8.25 knots and a crew of 11 enlisted men.

MSB - Minesweeper, Boat - A small minesweeper designed for

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED



MONITOR

DECLASSIFIED

MSB (Cont.) - clearing sheltered waters, e.g., the Long Tau River. The boat is 57 feet long, mounts one .50 caliber and four .30 caliber machine guns, two Mark 18 grenade launchers, and is equipped with radar. It has a speed of 11 knots and carries a crew of six enlisted men.

PBR - Patrol Boat, River - A military adaptation of a fiberglass, civilian pleasure boat. The boat is 31 feet long, uses twin water jets as a propulsion system, and mounts one twin .50 caliber machine gun and one .50 caliber machine gun with a Mark 18 grenade launcher. The craft is equipped with radar, has a speed of 25 knots and carries a crew of five enlisted men. PBRs patrol in pairs and constitute the principal craft of Operation GAME WARDEN.

PCF - Patrol Craft, Fast (Swift) - An aluminum-hulled, offshore patrol craft, used extensively for coastal surveillance in Operation MARKET TIME. The craft is 50 feet long, mounts one twin .50 caliber machine gun and a .50 caliber machine gun with an 81-mm. mortar. It has radar, a speed of 23 knots, and a crew of one officer and five enlisted men.

PG - Patrol Gunboat - A patrol boat for use in offshore waters. It is a new design with a light all-aluminum

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

PG (Cont.) - hull and a combination diesel/gas turbine propulsion plant. The boat is equipped with radar, is 165 feet long, mounts one 3"/50 caliber gun, one 81-mm. mortar and two .50 caliber machine guns. The craft's speed is 37 knots under turbine power and 16 under diesel power. The crew consists of three officers and 21 enlisted men.

PICKET - A 45-foot, 13-knot craft designed for harbor defense and anti-swimmer patrols. The boat has radar, mounts one .50 caliber machine gun, and normally carries a crew of five enlisted men.

P-3A - Orion - A long-range patrol aircraft used extensively in Operation MARKET TIME. The plane is powered by four turbo-prop engines, carries 11,000 pounds of bombs, and has a maximum take-off weight of 127,500 pounds. Orions have a range of 3,700 miles, a cruising speed of 310 knots, and a crew of four officers and nine enlisted men.

SSB - Swimmer Support Boat (Skimmer) - The military version of the civilian, fiberglass, triple-V-hulled "Boston Whaler"; used for harbor patrols and UDT, SEAL, and EOD operations. The outboard-powered boat is 16.5 feet long, is controlled from a steering console amidships, and mounts one M-60 machine gun forward. It has a speed of 25 knots and a crew of two enlisted men.

DECLASSIFIED

USS GALLUP (PG 85)

DECLASSIFIED

STAB - SEAL Team Assault Boat - An armed version of the civilian runabout; used to land and recover SEAL units. The boat is 20 feet long, mounts one .50 caliber machine gun, one M-60 machine gun, one Mark 18 grenade launcher, and can also carry a 57-mm. recoilless rifle. The boat is powered by two 50-horsepower outboard motors and has a speed of 40 knots.

UH-1B - Helicopter (Iroquois) - A U.S. Army helicopter on loan to the U.S. Navy in South Vietnam. Alternately referred to as a "Huey" or a "Gunship" or a "Sea-wolf," the aircraft mounts four 7.62-mm. machine guns in pairs, two M-60 machine guns and two pods capable of firing 14 2.75-inch rockets. The helicopter has a range of 250 miles, a speed of 125 knots, and carries a crew of two officers and two enlisted men.

UH-1D - The unarmed version of the "Huey." It can carry 10 troops, 4 litters, or 2,000 pounds of cargo.

WHEC - High Endurance Cutter (USCG) - An ocean-going, Coast Guard patrol ship, earmarked as a replacement for DEs and DERs in Operation MARKET TIME. The radar-equipped ship is 311 feet long, mounts one 5"/38 gun, six .50 caliber machine guns, one Mark 10 torpedo launcher with six torpedos, and two

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WHEC (Cont.) - 81-mm. mortars. The ship has a speed of 19 knots and carries a crew of 13 officers and 140 enlisted men.

WPB - Cutter (USCG) - A modified version of the Coast Guard's offshore, rescue vessel; used extensively in Operation MARKET TIME. The boat is 82 feet long, mounts one .50 caliber machine gun with an 81-mm. mortar, and four .50 caliber machine guns. The radar-equipped craft has a speed of 18 knots and a crew of 2 officers and 9 enlisted men.

YDT - Diving Tender - A non-self-propelled lighter equipped with a deckhouse containing accomodations and working spaces for a salvage team. The tender is 54 by 260 feet, has a 12-ton crane, and mounts six .50 caliber machine guns for self-defense. The craft carries a crew of 15 officers and 76 enlisted men.

YFNB - Patrol Boat Tender - A non-self-propelled barge equipped with a large deckhouse containing shops and maintenance facilities for small craft. Currently in use in the Mekong Delta supporting PBRs, the barge has six .50 caliber machine guns and four 81-mm. mortars for self-defense. It carries a crew of four officers and 31 enlisted men.

YRBM - Repair, Berthing, and Messing Barge - A converted

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

UH-1B ("Gunship")

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

YRBM (Cont.) - YFNB equipped with a large deckhouse containing shops and maintenance areas for small craft, and berthing and messing facilities for boat crews. The craft can berth 97 boat-crew personnel. The armament and the size of the permanent crew are the same as that of a YFNB.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

APPENDIX III

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

In April the number of chaplains assigned to U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam was 23: four Catholic and 19 Protestant.

Of the 16 chaplains stationed in I Corps, seven were attached to the Naval Support Activity, Danang, and nine were deployed with the various Naval Mobile Construction Battalions. Two chaplains were assigned to the staff of COMNAVFORV, and another was stationed in the Mekong Delta with River Flotilla ONE. The remaining four chaplains, assigned to the Naval Support Activity, Saigon, ministered to the needs of personnel stationed at various GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME support bases.

The following tabulation is a statistical summary of religious services conducted during April.

1. Religious Services:

a. Divine Services:

(1) U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Installations

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	160	102	262
Attendance	5,040	340	5,380
Communed	1,476	426	1,902

(2) Other Military Installations

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	67	21	88
Attendance	2,450	472	2,922
Communed	1,079	259	1,338

(3) Civilian Churches

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	7	13	20

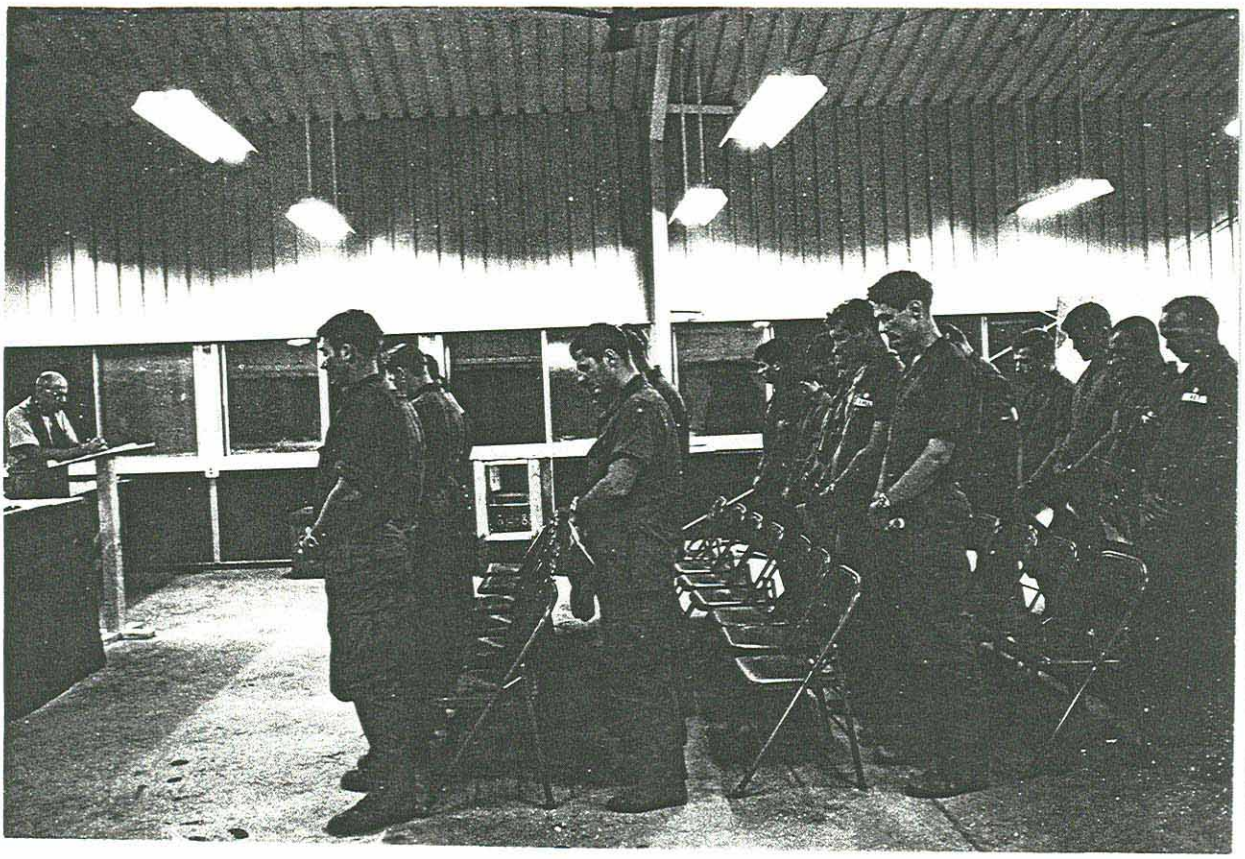
	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Attendance	1,094	102	1,196
Communed	367	55	422

b. Religious services conducted by lay leaders and chaplains other than those attached to NAVFORV:

Denomination	Chaplains		Lay Leaders	
	No.	Attend.	No.	Attend.
Catholic	58	2,224	6	53
Protestant	14	827	29	166
Jewish	1	63		

c. Other religious services in which chaplains participated:

Type of Service	Attendance
Memorial (6)	500
Jewish (2)	220
Morning prayer	104
Evening prayer	45
Lutheran baptism	50
Chapel dedication	220
Battalion interdenominational	74
Monthly rally (Protestant)	225

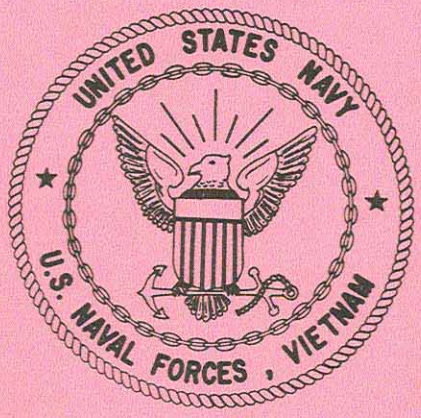


Lieutenant R. R. FREISTEDT, CHC, USNR, conducts a memorial service at Nha Be on 28 April for Radioman Third Class R. K. NEAL, USN, a SEAL who died of wounds received during a Viet Cong mortar attack in the Rung Sat Special Zone.

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO
FOREIGN NATIONALS



DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~