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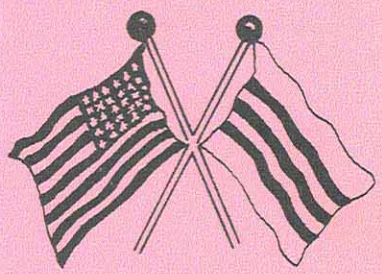

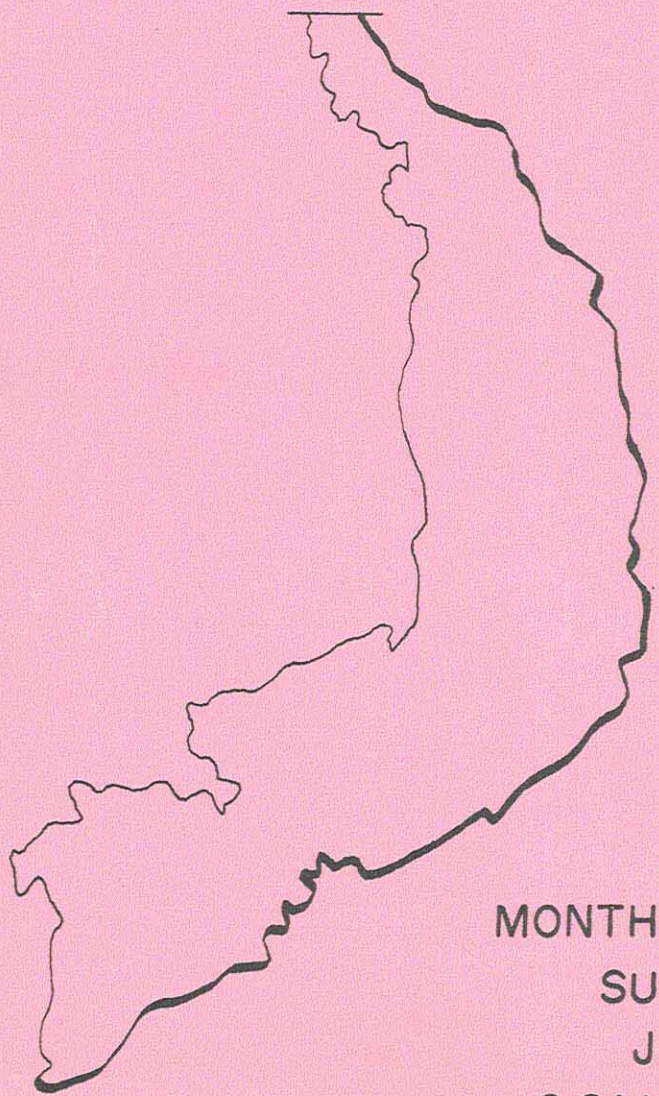

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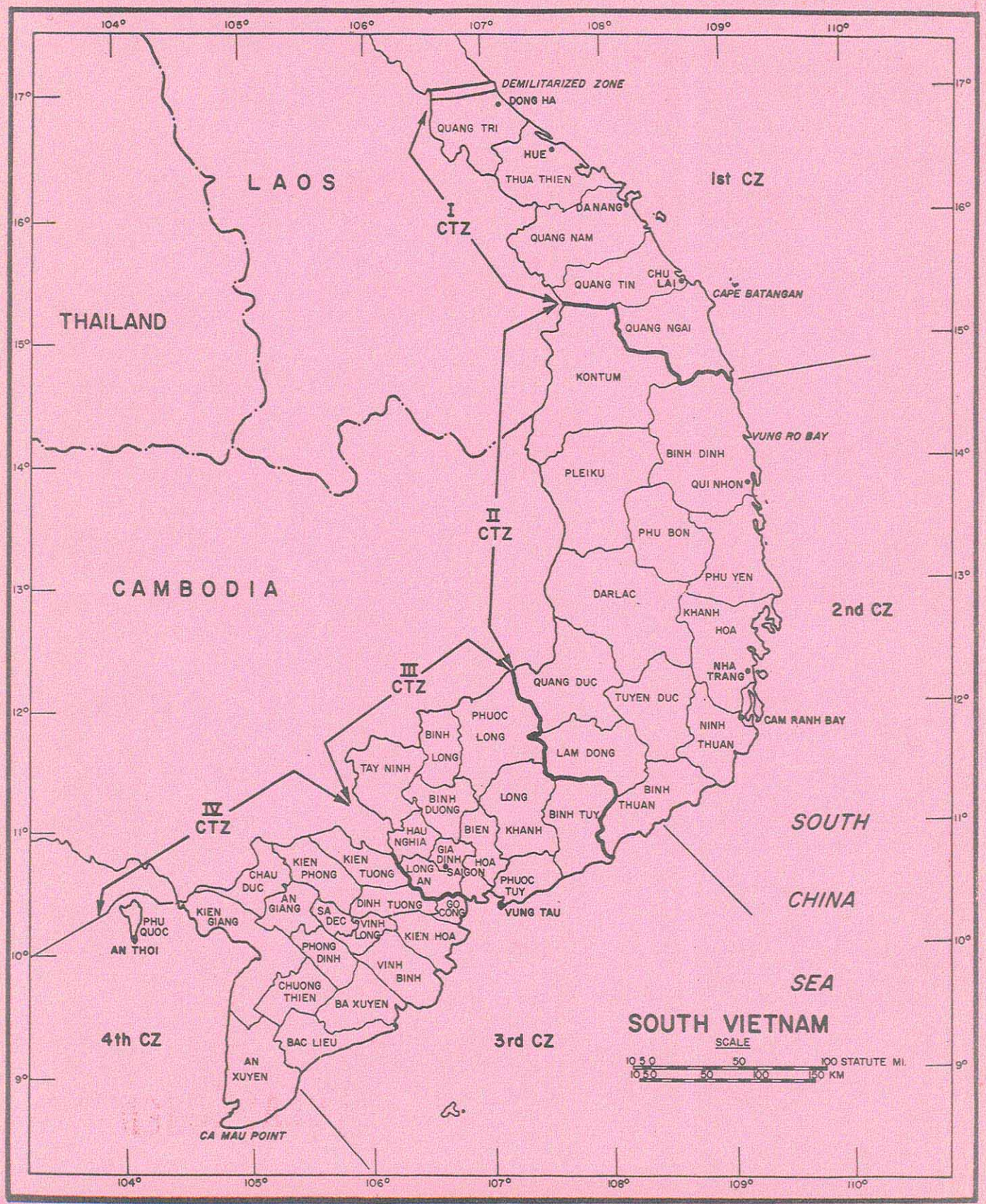

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MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT

JULY 1967

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FOREWORD

On 15 July Operation MARKET TIME units intercepted and captured an enemy trawler in the First Coastal Zone. Following the initial detection 85 miles southeast of Danang on the 11th, the would-be infiltrator reversed course to seaward and appeared at first to have abandoned the attempt. For the next three days patrol aircraft and a DER kept the ship's zigzag movements under continuous radar surveillance while other MARKET TIME units in the general area remained well clear. About midnight on the 13th the trawler turned to a westerly heading and, running darkened, made for the coast. Shortly thereafter the naval units converged for the intercept. Eventually, when the carefully-planned trap was sprung, the trawler was forced aground near Cape Batangan, and the Viet Cong were denied over 700,000 rounds of ammunition and over 1,200 assorted weapons.

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CHRONOLOGY

1 July - Seabees in I Corps emphasize road and bridge repairs as northeast monsoon season begins to approach. p. 51.

3 - New GAME WARDEN support base is established at Binh Thuy. p. 47.

4 - A portable helicopter platform designed for armored troop carriers is tested successfully in the Delta. p. I-2.

- Riverine Assault Force craft support U.S. Army units as Operation CONCORDIA II begins in Go Cong province. Thirty-three Viet Cong are killed during the operation. p. 37.

5 - Commander River Patrol Force (CTF 116) and his staff move to the new base at Binh Thuy. p. 32.

8 - A four-boat detachment of Swifts from Coastal Division 14 begins operating from a temporary base at Cua Viet. p. 1.

11 - BMC H. W. BANNISTER, USN, becomes the first combat fatality of the Riverine Assault Force when a B-40 rocket strikes the conning station of a monitor. p. 39.

- Coastal Group 25 craft and PCF 44 intercept two Viet Cong sampans carrying food and weapons. Six Viet Cong are killed and one sampan is sunk. Two VNN sailors are killed and a third is wounded. p. 74.

15 - MARKET TIME units intercept and capture an enemy trawler in the First Coastal Zone. p. 2.

- Danang Air Base is struck by enemy rockets. Eight U.S. military personnel are killed and 155 are wounded. Navy, Marine and Air Force facilities suffer extensive damage. p. 43.

17 - Team 5 of HCU ONE salvages a floating PBR pier sunk at Nha Be during a severe storm. p. 61.

19 - CAPT A. P. SLAFF, USN, relieves CAPT C. R. TALLENT, USN, as Senior Advisor, Vietnamese Navy Headquarters. p. 69.

- PBRs 33 and 45 disrupt a Viet Cong crossing attempt in the Mekong River. Six Viet Cong are killed; three PBR crewmen are wounded. p. 26.

20 - Commander Coastal Surveillance Force (CTF 115) and his staff move from Saigon to the new facilities at Cam Ranh Bay. p. 1.

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20 July - Two SEAL squads conduct a raid near the suspected headquarters of the Viet Cong commander of the Rung Sat Special Zone. Four Viet Cong are killed. p. 23.

21-30 - VNN hospital ship, LSM(H) 401, treats over 2,000 Vietnamese during a series of civic action visits in the Third Coastal Zone. p. 55.

24 - COL R. L. MICHAELS, USMC, relieves COL N. E. ANDERSON, USMC, as Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese Marine Corps. p. 86.

28 - The Mobile Riverine Force begins Operation CORONADO II in Dinh Tuong province. Seventy-three Viet Cong are killed and 31 U.S. Navymen are wounded during the operation's initial phase. p. 40.

31 - NAVFORV numerical strength stands at 24,745.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

During July units of Operation MARKET TIME and Operation STABLE DOOR detected over 188,000 craft along South Vietnam's coastline and harbors; more than 81,000 of these were boarded or inspected. The boardings resulted in the detention of 242 craft and 1,490 suspects.

On 8 July a four-boat detachment from Cam Ranh Bay's Coastal Division 14 began operating at a temporary base near the mouth of the Cua Viet, 80 miles northwest of Danang. The purpose of the move was to bolster the barrier patrols operating just south of the 17th parallel and to free more Danang-based Swifts for patrol duties in support of Marine units conducting amphibious operations north of Danang.

On 20 July, Commander Coastal Surveillance Force and his staff completed the move from Saigon to the new facilities at Cam Ranh Bay.

On 21 July a radar surveillance site was established on Poulo Obi Island, 12 miles south of Ca Mau Point. Manned by one officer and seven enlisted men, the site was scheduled to become operational in early August.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

On 15 July Operation MARKET TIME units captured an enemy trawler trying to infiltrate supplies into the First Coastal Zone, 65 miles southeast of Danang.

Throughout the month MARKET TIME units detected 119,000 junks and sampans; almost 40 percent of these were inspected and almost 25

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percent were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 180 craft and 1,249 suspects. In addition, 638 steel-hulled craft were detected transitting MARKET TIME areas; twenty percent of the steel hulls were boarded.

The month's MARKET TIME activity also included 62 gunfire support missions, 18 hostile fire incidents, six evasion incidents, five search and rescue missions, and support for three amphibious operations and three ground operations. As a result of the various operations, 17 enemy bunkers, 17 structures and 21 craft were destroyed, and seven bunkers, 24 structures and 11 craft were damaged. In addition, 20 Viet Cong were killed (16 probables) and three were wounded. The sole casualty suffered by the Coastal Surveillance Force in July occurred during an incident on the last day of the month when the Officer in Charge of PCF 49 was wounded by small-arms fire.

Trawler Incident

At 1925 on 11 July an olive-green, steel-hulled trawler, 120 feet in length, was detected about 85 miles southeast of Danang by a Patrol Squadron 1 SP-2H aircraft conducting a routine MARKET TIME surveillance patrol. The trawler, which was not flying any colors and was running darkened, immediately reversed course to seaward. For the next three and one-half days, continuous radar surveillance of the trawler was maintained by patrol aircraft and USS WILHOITE (DER 397). During this period the trawler made several radical course changes and CTF 115 (Captain Ralph DI CORI, USN) directed

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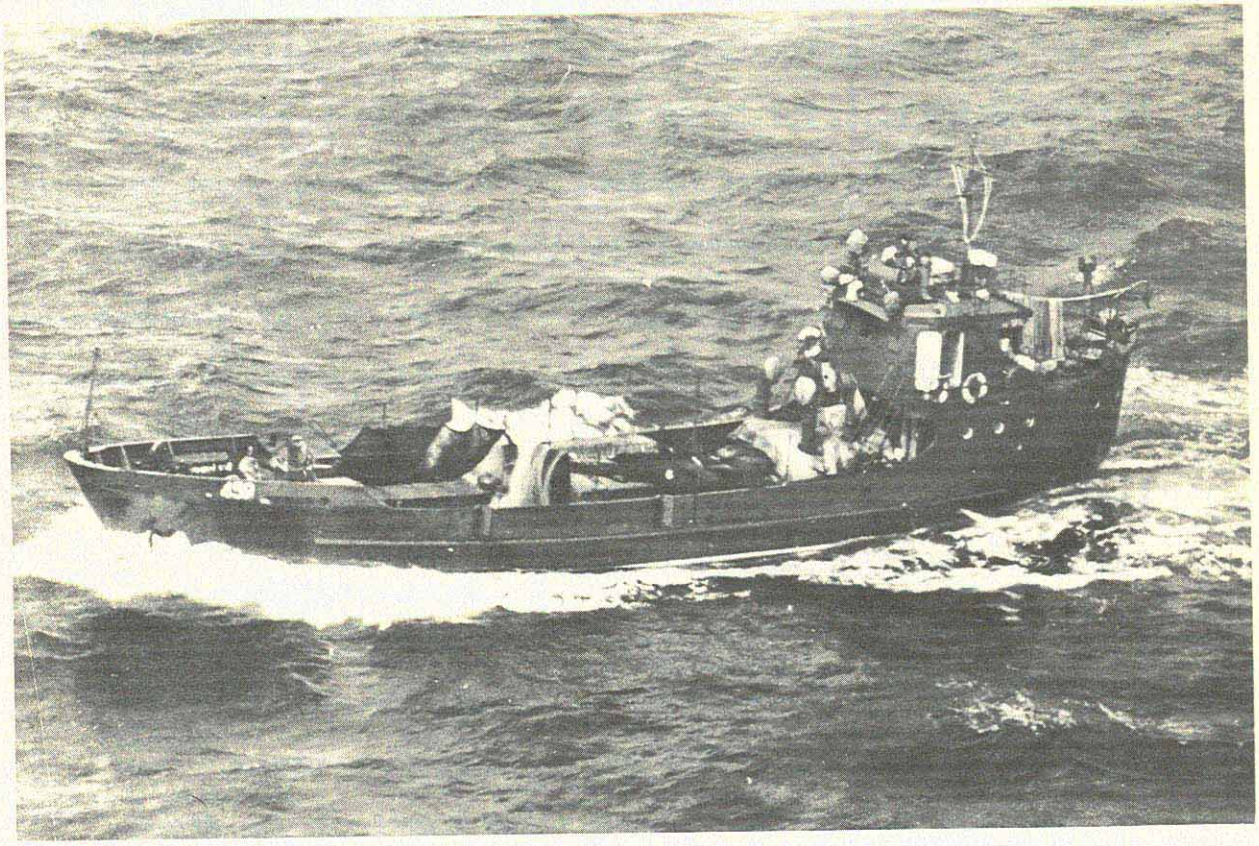

The trawler: detected...

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all other MARKET TIME units in the general area to remain well clear of the trawler in order to avoid compromising the surveillance plan. Just before midnight on the 13th, about 225 miles east of Cape Batangan, the trawler swung westward and headed toward the coast. At 1309 on the 14th, CTF 115 directed WILHOITE, USS GALLUP (PG 85), USS WALKER (DD 517), PCF 79 and USCGC POINT ORIENT to proceed to a point astern of the trawler and form for an intercept. About 2000 WILHOITE and GALLUP rendezvoused and took stations on the quarters of the trawler, eight miles away. At this time CTG 115.1 (Commander Charles R. STEPHAN, USN), in WILHOITE, assumed the duties of on-scene commander. At 0010, 15 July, 41 minutes prior to moonset, the trawler crossed the intercept point--five miles from the coast. USCGC POINT ORIENT promptly illuminated the ship and an embarked Vietnamese naval officer beamed a loudspeaker appeal at the trawler's crew to surrender. The ship ignored the broadcast and subsequent rounds fired across her bow and continued toward the beach.

At 0020, with the trawler three miles from shore, the MARKET TIME units opened fire; about five minutes later the trawler began firing at PCF 79 with automatic weapons and one or two large caliber weapons. (Salvage parties later determined that the trawler's crew had been equipped with three 12.7-mm. machine guns and at least one 57-mm. recoilless rifle.) At 0040, under a rain of fire, the trawler ran aground on a sand bar, 200 feet from shore, at the mouth of the Sa Ky River.

Minutes later the ship was on fire from stem to stern and by

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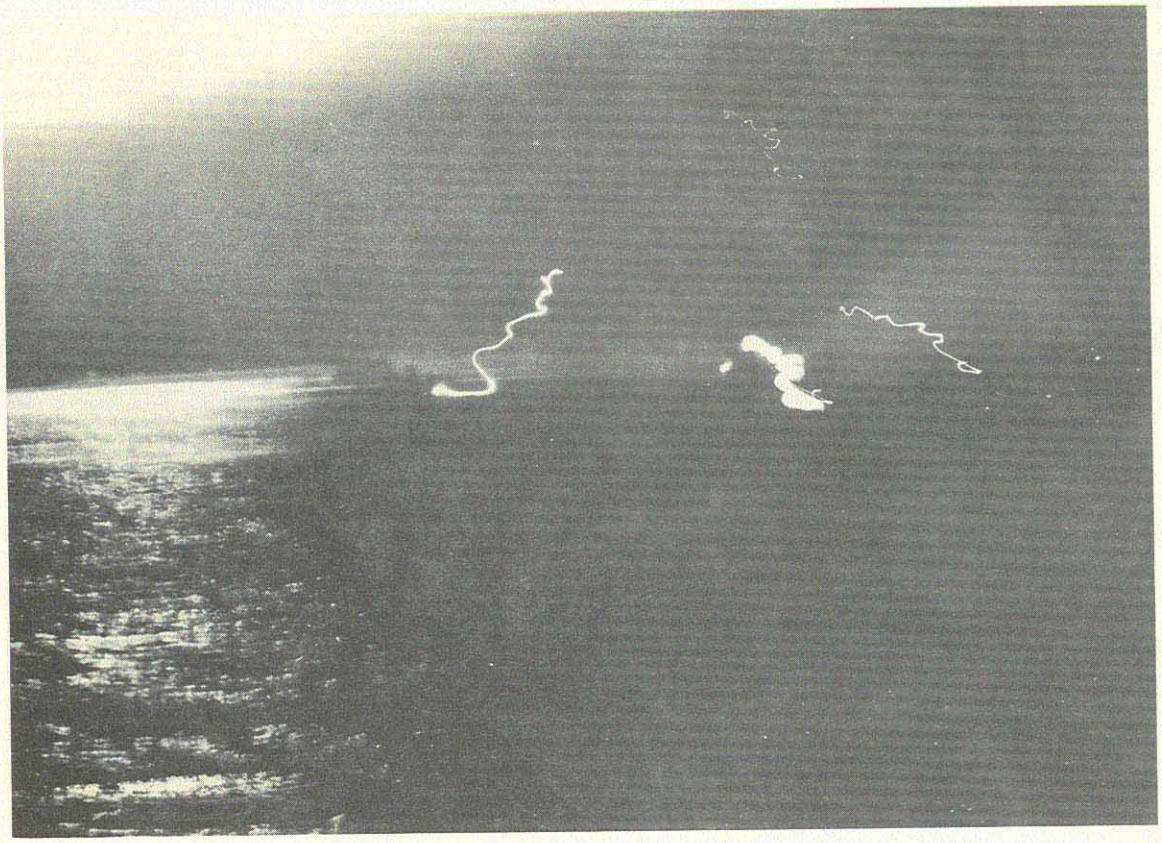

...under fire...

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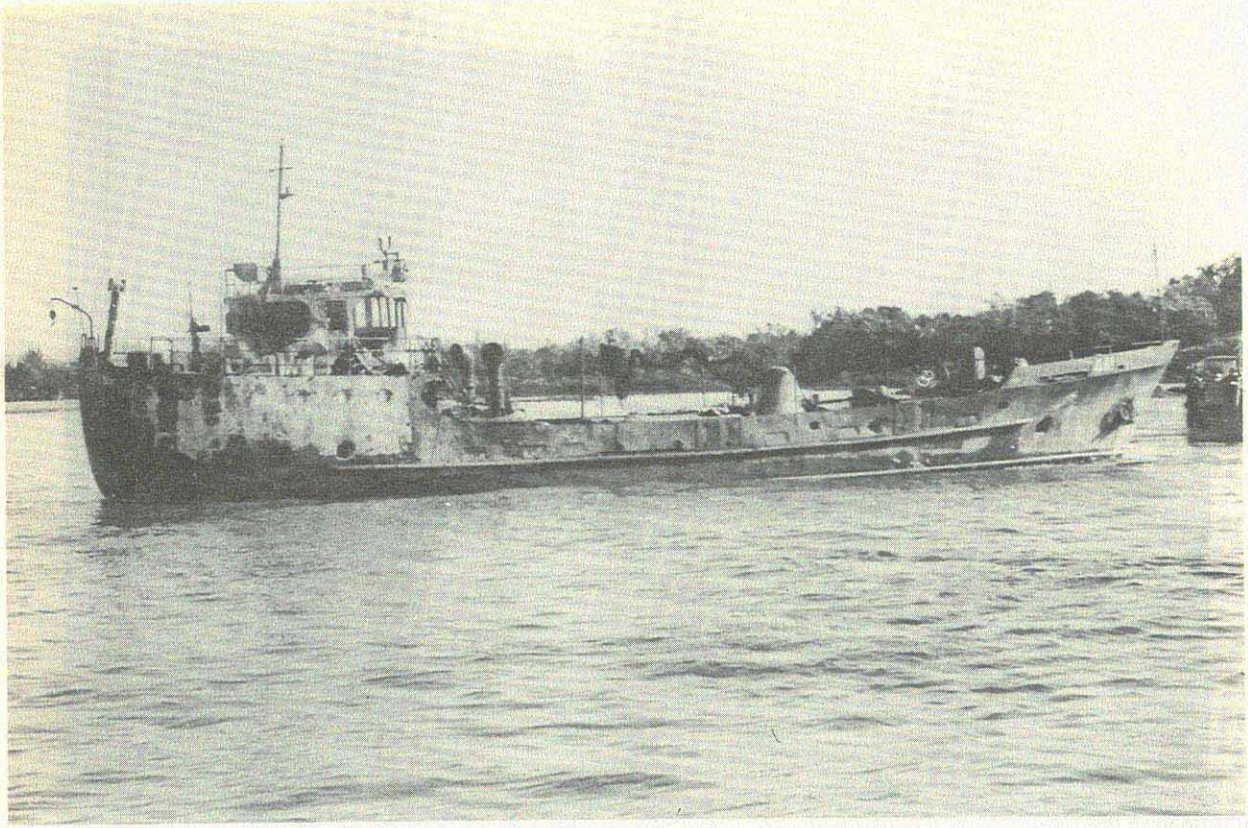

...aground...

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0100 a number of secondary explosions began to erupt from the trawler. At this time Republic of Korea artillery units located near Cape Batangan took the area surrounding the trawler under fire and continued to do so until about 0600. From 0600 until 0700 USS WALKER, U. S. Army gunships and Air Force jets conducted a series of fire missions to clear landing sites for ROK Marines en route by helicopter. The Marines arrived at 0715 and established a perimeter. Participating Vietnamese Navy units included PGM 618, MSC 115 and a number of junks from Coastal Group 15.

At 1230 CTG 115.1 and Gunner's Mate Second Class Eddie A. KNAUP, USN, an ordnance specialist, boarded the trawler and Petty Officer KNAUP disarmed the self-destruction system which was rigged to detonate 2,000 pounds of TNT. At 1610 the trawler was pulled off the sandbar by two LCM-8s and was towed to Chu Lai, arriving about 2000. During the transit the movement of air through the ship rekindled a fire below decks; Petty Officer KNAUP investigated and, with assistance from personnel of PCFs 20 and 54, extinguished the blaze.

That afternoon Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, sent the following message to Commander Task Force 115:

> 1. I TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN NOTING THE CAPTURE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TRAWLER BY UNITS OF TF 115.
> 2. YOUR WISDOM IN MAINTAINING COVERT SURVEILLANCE UPON FIRST TURNING AWAY THE TRAWLER WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE SUBSEQUENT AMBUSH SO ABLY PLANNED AND EXECUTED.
> 3. THE TENACITY AND PATIENCE OF YOU AND YOUR UNITS IN DOGGEDLY SHADOWING THE INFILTRATOR UNTIL WELL WITHIN THE CONTIGUOUS ZONE IS IN KEEPING WITH THE INTENT AND SPIRIT OF THE MARKET TIME MISSION.

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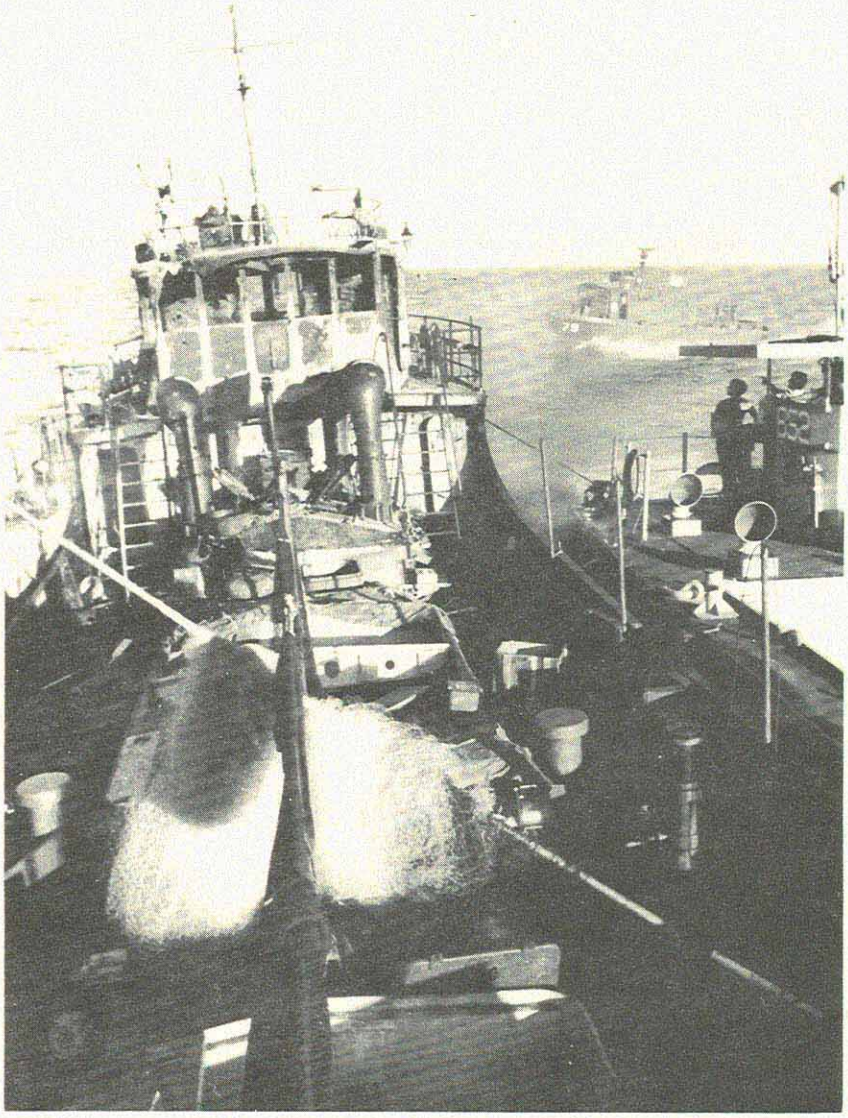

...under tow.

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4. THE STRICT ADHERENCE OF YOUR UNITS TO THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT, EVEN AT THE RISK OF THEIR LIVES, BRINGS THE UTMOST CREDIT TO CTF 115 AND HIS PERSONNEL.
5. THROUGH YOUR SHREWD TACTICAL PLANNING, DISTRIBUTION AND UTILIZATION OF AIR AND SURFACE FORCES--NAVY, COAST GUARD AND FREE WORLD MILITARY FORCES--YOU AND YOUR UNITS HAVE AGAIN PROVED THAT THE COAST OF VIETNAM IS INVIOLABLE TO STEEL HULL INFILTRATION, AND BY YOUR ACTIONS HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY SAVED LIVES OF YOUR COMRADES IN ARMS.
6. WELL DONE. RADM VETH SENDS.

Tons of weapons and ammunition were recovered from the trawler. The cargo included over 700,000 rounds of ammunition and over 1,200 various weapons, including machine guns, rocket launchers, sub-machine guns and rifles. The holds of the ship were sheathed with plywood and insulated with fiberglass between the hull and the sheathing. Other features included a high-velocity firemain system and a high-capacity pumping system. In addition, the trawler's engine was muffled for silent running. One member of the crew, a North Vietnamese, was found dead in the pilot house. The fate of the remainder of the crew is unknown.

Trawler's Cargo

AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES:

394,560	7.62-mm. incendiary-type
311,520	7.62-mm. ball-type
5,750	12.7-mm. ball-type
996	82-mm. mortars
213	B-40 rockets
6	57-mm. recoilless-rifle rounds
1,960	anti-personnel mines
1,250	anti-personnel grenades
484	concussion grenades
6,880	C-4 plastic explosive (lbs.)
3,102	TNT (lbs.)

(Plus associated detonators, igniters and batteries)

WEAPONS:

3	12.7-mm. (.50 cal.) machine guns
975	AK-44 rifles
189	AK-56 automatic rifles
25	B-40 rocket launchers
9	K-53 machine guns

The capture of the North Vietnamese freighter marked the eighth

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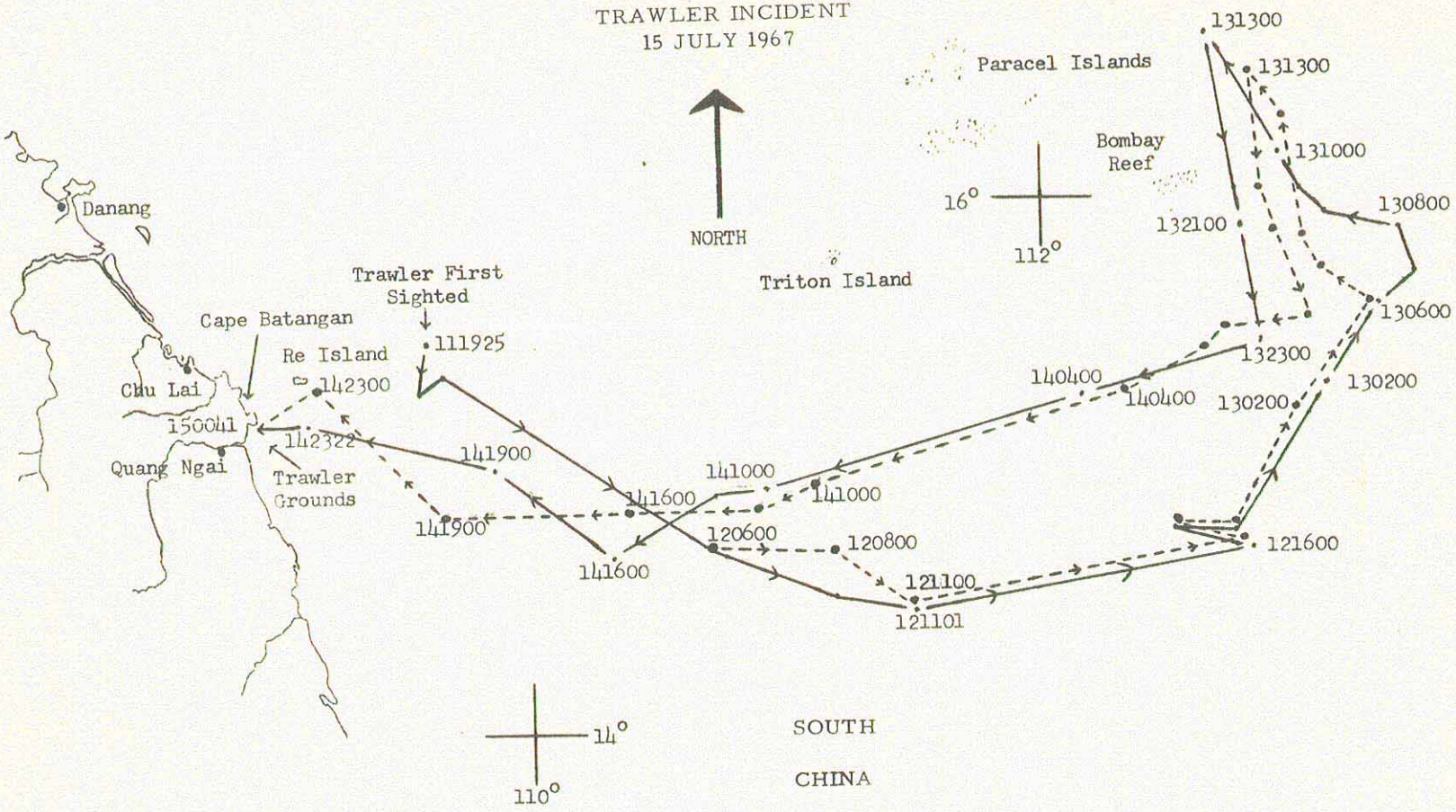
10

TRAWLER INCIDENT
15 JULY 1967



LEGEND:
— Trawler track
- - USS WILHOITE (DER 397) track
All times local (HOTEL)

SCALE (approximate):

0 _____ 50
(Nautical Miles)

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time since February 1965 that a steel-hulled trawler has been intercepted. Of the previous seven, three were destroyed, one was damaged, one was captured and two were turned back.

First Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the First Coastal Zone detected 62,000 junks and sampans during July, an increase of 11,000 detections over June. In addition, Swift boats and Coast Guard cutters provided exfiltration patrols and gunfire support for three amphibious operations as well as participating in two search and rescue missions and the capture of the trawler on the 15th.

On the afternoon of 2 July the Coast Guard cutters POINT CAUTION and POINT ELLIS assisted in the search for an F-4 Phantom aircraft which had crashed just off the coast, 68 miles northwest of Danang. The cutters sighted debris and an oil slick and recovered part of the aircraft's tail section, but the extensive search for survivors was unsuccessful.

From the 20th to the 26th, a patrol unit consisting of one Swift boat and one Coast Guard cutter supported a SEVENTH Fleet amphibious operation, BEAR CHAIN, 65 miles north of Danang. From the 21st to the 30th a second patrol unit supported a similar operation, BEACON GUIDE, conducted just south of Cau Hai Bay, 27 miles north of Danang.

Just before dawn on the 31st the Officer in Charge of PCF 49 was wounded by small-arms fire received from an unlighted junk. The incident took place while the Cua Viet-based Swift boat was conducting a surfline patrol two miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. USS

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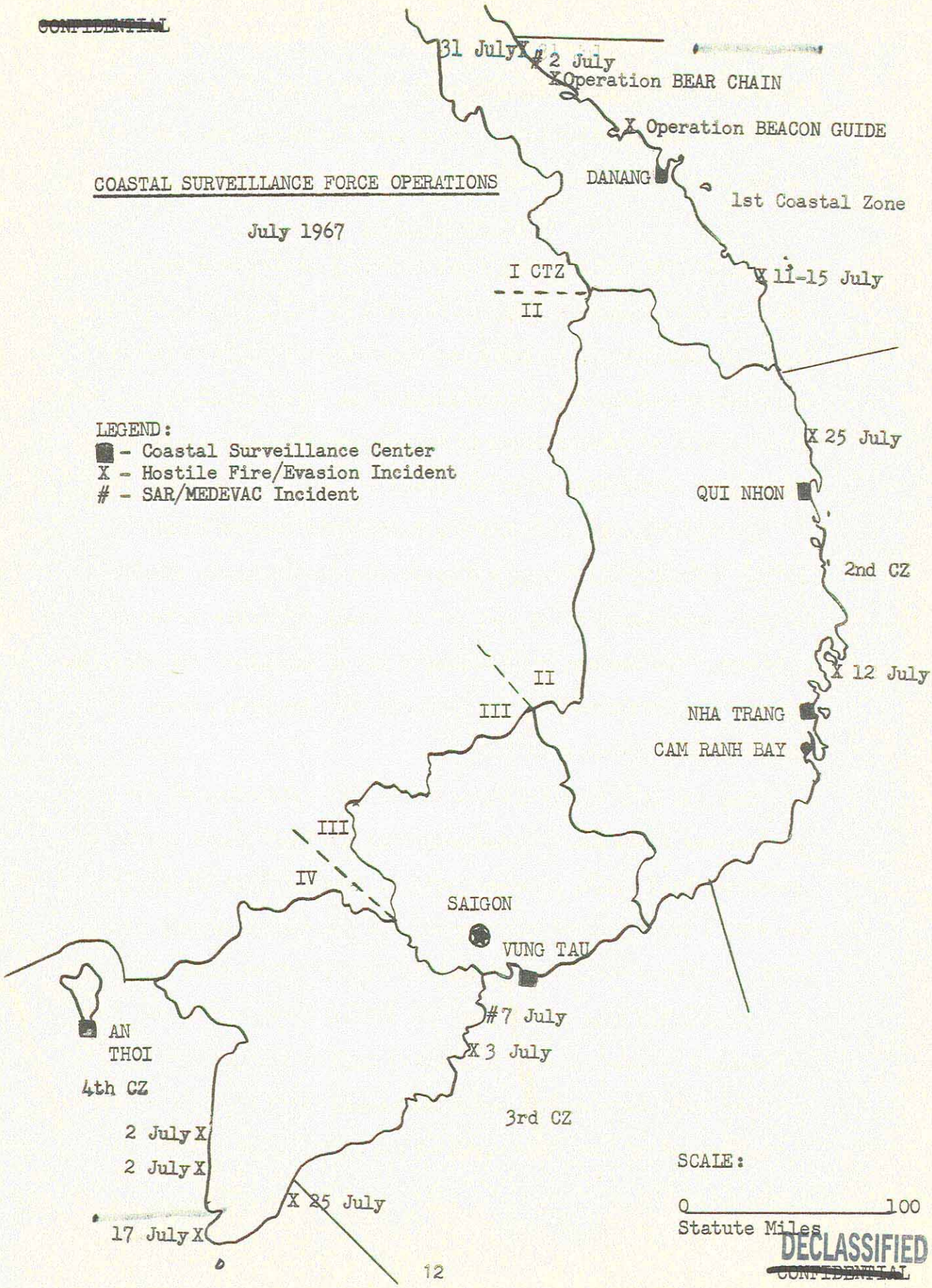

COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE OPERATIONS

July 1967

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MORTON (DD 948), which was nearby at the time, took the junk under fire and the enemy craft was presumed to have been sunk.

Second Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units patrolling the Second Coastal Zone during July detected almost 39,000 junks and sampans. In addition, Swift boats supported three operations conducted by the U.S. FIRST Air Cavalry Division and detained 68 junks and sampans and 283 persons.

Just after midnight on 12 July PCF 44 provided illumination fire for two Coastal Group 25 craft involved in an exchange with two Viet Cong sampans, 20 miles north of Nha Trang. Six Viet Cong were killed during the engagement. Two Coastal Group sailors were killed by the enemy's fire and a third, seriously wounded, was evacuated to Nha Trang by the Swift boat.

On 25 July PCF 88, while supporting a FIRST Cavalry Division operation 29 miles north of Qui Nhon, detained 15 junks and 73 persons. Fifteen of the 73 were subsequently determined to be Viet Cong during interrogation conducted ashore.

Third Coastal Zone

In addition to detecting over 10,000 junks and sampans during the month, MARKET TIME units in the Third Coastal Zone conducted eight gunfire support missions and assisted in the salvage of PCF 97.

At noon on 2 July, the SEVENTH Fleet's USS OAK HILL (LSD 7) completed the recovery of PCF 97. The Swift boat had been struck by recoilless-rifle fire on 25 June and had sunk 48 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. MARKET TIME units provided security for the hulk

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until it was raised by OAK HILL.

On the afternoon of 3 July USCGC POINT CYPRESS, at the request of an airborne spotter, destroyed three structures, damaged five others and killed one Viet Cong during a gunfire mission conducted off the Thanh Phu Secret Zone, 40 miles southwest of Vung Tau.

About 0700 on 7 July, four PCFs, USCGC POINT GRACE, and USCGC YAKUTAT (WHEC 380) conducted a search and rescue mission, 38 miles south of Vung Tau, for the survivors of a mid-air collision between two B-52 aircraft. The units were joined by U. S. Army helicopters and Australian helicopters and, by mid-afternoon, seven survivors had been rescued. The search for the remaining six crew members continued until noon of the 9th; no other survivors were found.

At 0700 on the 25th, 44 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point, PCF 26 conducted a gunfire mission at the request of a spotter aircraft. The aircraft had detected nine evading enemy sampans and relayed the positions to the Swift boat. The craft's mortar fire sank six of the sampans and damaged the other three.

Fourth Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the Fourth Coastal Zone detected over 9,000 junks and sampans in July, an increase of 2,000 over June, and conducted seven gunfire support missions against Viet Cong positions.

On the 2nd, USCGC BARATARIA (WHEC 381) damaged six structures 46 miles north of Ca Mau Point during a gunfire mission conducted at the request of the Bac Lieu sector commander. Later that day USCGC GRESHAM (WHEC 387) fired a mission in support of an ARVN

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Special Forces unit, 32 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The cutter's gunfire, directed three miles inland, sank two sampans, destroyed six bunkers and damaged six structures.

About 2300 on 17 July, along the western edge of the Ca Mau Peninsula, elements of the ARVN 21st Division under imminent attack urgently requested gunfire support from USCGC POINT BANKS against advancing Viet Cong units. At the time POINT BANKS was on coastal patrol, 31 miles north of Ca Mau Point. Responding to the request, the WPB moved in and struck the enemy positions with 81-mm. mortar fire. The cutter's fire initiated 17 secondary explosions and helped repel the enemy forces.

MARKET TIME UNITS

From the 1st to the 9th, the Vietnamese Navy's PGM 618 patrolled a MARKET TIME area in the Second Coastal Zone; from the 10th to the end of the month PGM 600 conducted a similar patrol in the First Coastal Zone. In addition, the Royal Thai Navy had one PGM on patrol in the Fourth Coastal Zone between the 4th and the 31st.

During July aircraft from four 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 and a detachment of Patrol Squadron 1 flew Neptunes from Cam Ranh Bay. Meanwhile, a detachment of Patrol Squadron 16 flew P-3A Orion aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, and a Patrol Squadron 47 detachment flew Orions from U Tapao, Thailand.

Throughout the month the following U. S. SEVENTH Fleet ships

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operated as MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:

		Dates
DER 251	USS CAMP	26-31
DER 393	USS HAVERFIELD	27-28
DER 329	USS KRETCHMER	28-31
DER 397	USS WILHOITE	1-25
LST 344	USS BLANCO COUNTY	1-16
LST 601	USS CLARKE COUNTY	15-31
MSC 198	USS PEACOCK	11-31
MSC 205	USS VIREO	1-11
MSO 488	USS CONQUEST	1-29
MSO 437	USS ENHANCE	29-31
MSO 438	USS ESTEEM	1-29
MSO 439	USS EXCEL	29-31
MSO 489	USS GALLANT	1-29
MSO 447	USS GUIDE	29-31
MSO 448	USS ILLUSIVE	1-29
MSO 490	USS LEADER	29-31
MSO 458	USS LUCID	29-31
MSO 492	USS PLEDGE	1-24
PG 84	USS ASHEVILLE	1-31
PG 85	USS GALLUP	1-31
WHEC 381	USCGC BARATARIA	1-10, 18-31
WHEC 382	USCGC BERING STRAIT	3-27
WHEC 387	USCGC GRESHAM	1-3, 27-31
WHEC 378	USCGC HALF MOON	10-31
WHEC 380	USCGC YAKUTAT	1-18

***

MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
July 1967

1. U.S. Ships/Craft:

	DER/WHEC	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	LST	PG
Daily average number of craft on patrol	5	5	1	16	41	1	1

2. U.S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY	57,613	NIGHT	61,288		
	STEEL - DAY	1,350	NIGHT	804	121,055	
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY	23,714	NIGHT	22,920		
	STEEL - DAY	506	NIGHT	365	47,505	

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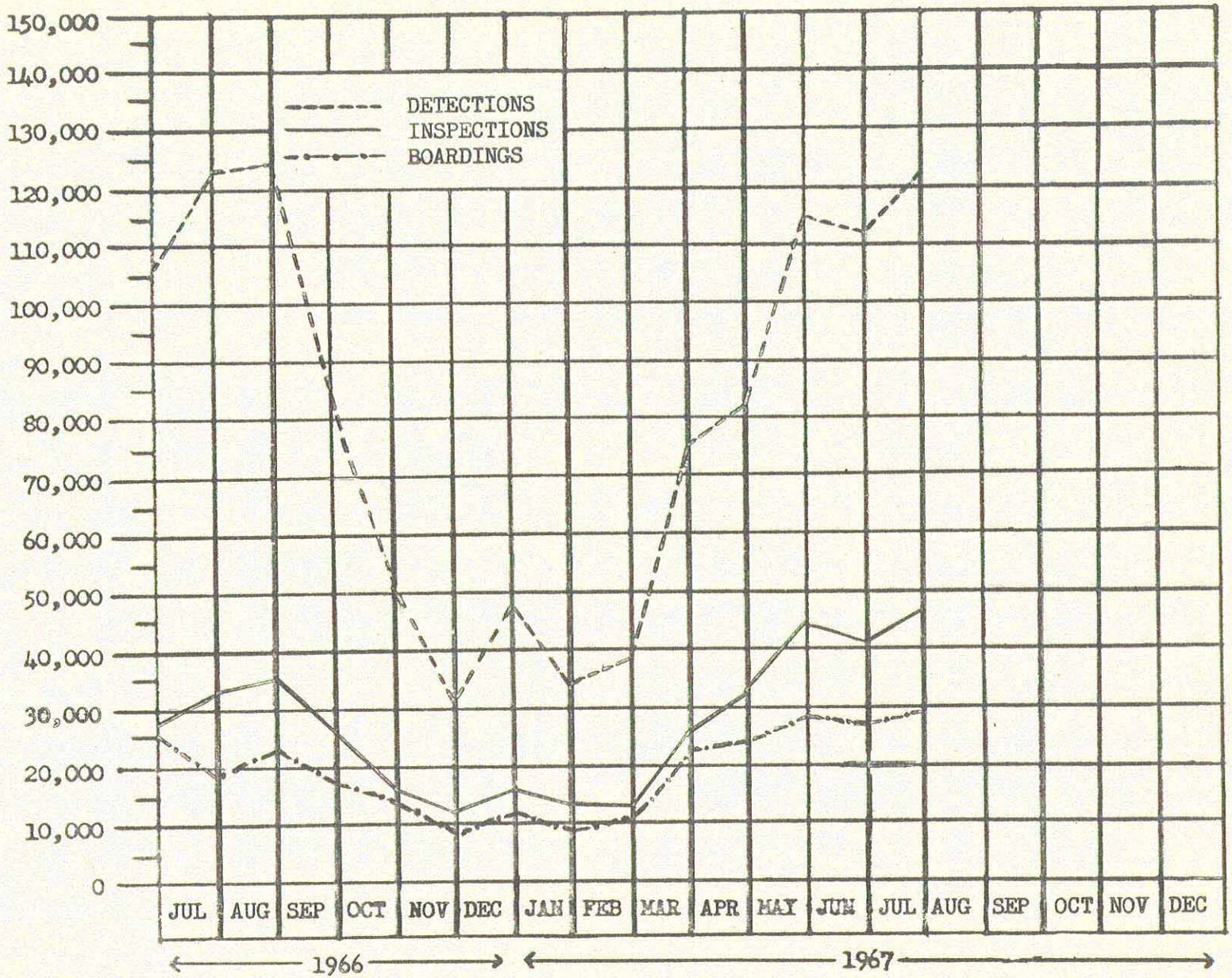
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



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TOTAL BOARDED WOOD - DAY 17,373 NIGHT 11,689

STEEL - DAY 95 NIGHT 33 29,190

TOTAL DETAINED JUNKS 180 PEOPLE 1,249

3. Naval Gunfire Support Missions:

TOTAL MISSIONS 62

Structures: 17 destroyed 24 damaged

Bunkers: 17 destroyed 7 damaged

Craft: 17 destroyed 11 damaged

Personnel: 19 Viet Cong killed (16 probables)

4. Hostile Fire:

TOTAL MISSIONS 18

5. Evasion Incidents:

TOTAL INCIDENTS 4

Structures: 3 destroyed

Personnel: 1 Viet Cong killed

6. Support of Ground Operations:

TOTAL OPERATIONS 6

7. Search and Rescue Missions:

TOTAL MISSIONS 5

***

OPERATION STABLE DOOR

In July Operation STABLE DOOR patrols detected over 69,000 junks and sampans; over 10,000 of these were inspected. Of the 4,453 craft boarded, 62 were detained along with 241 suspects.

Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 1 at Vung Tau detained 30 junks

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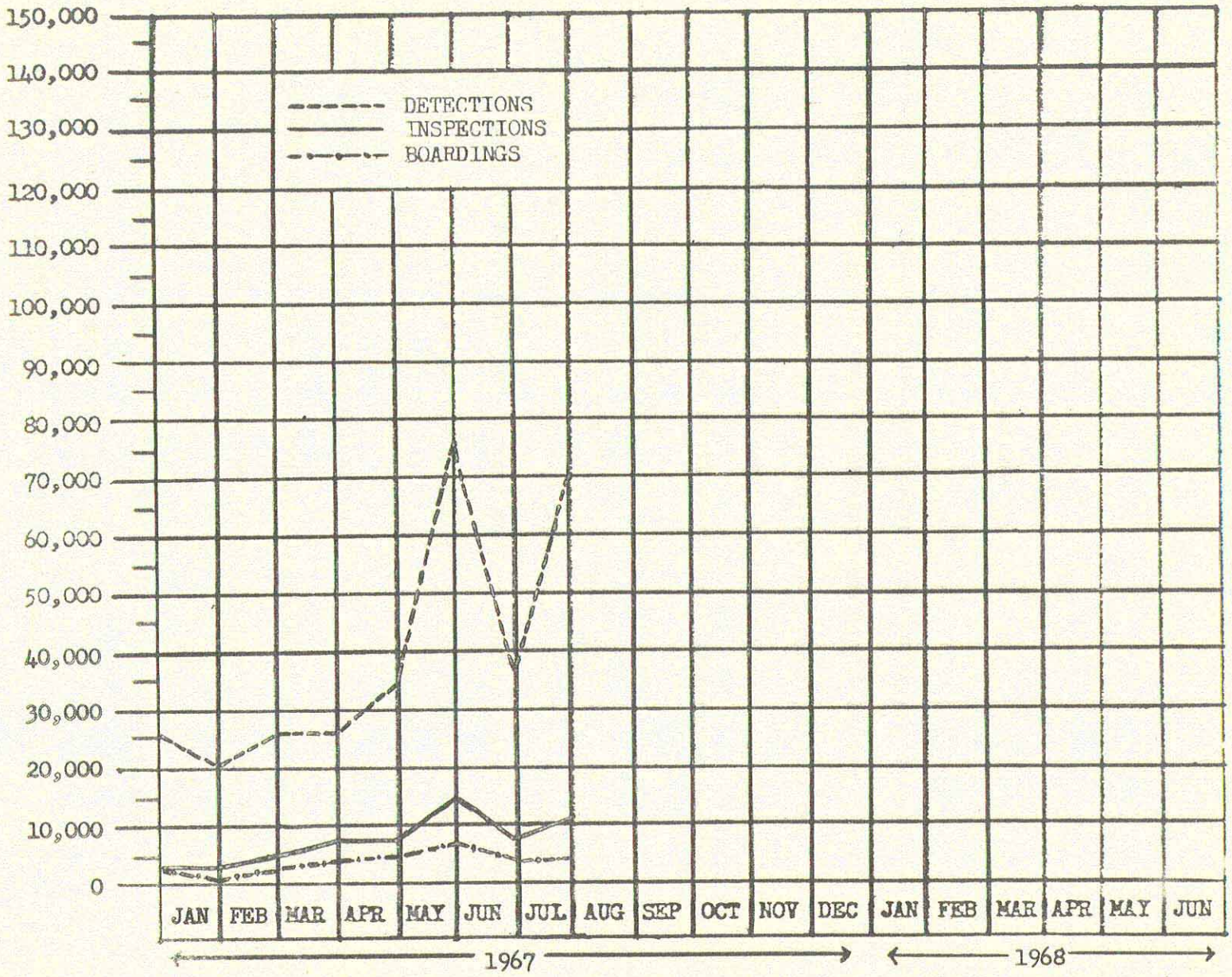
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS



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and 85 persons; IUWU 2 at Cam Ranh Bay detained two junks and 16 persons; IUWU 3 at Qui Nhon detained 11 junks and 38 persons; and IUWU 4 at Nha Trang detained 19 junks and 102 persons.

From the 24th to the 29th USS PLEDGE (MSO 492) conducted mine counter-measure operations in Cam Ranh Bay. During this period over 100 contacts were detected along the harbor's bottom and the locations were charted. By month's end 21 of the contacts, classified as possible mines by the minesweeper, had been inspected by ordnance divers; none of the contacts proved to be mines.

On 31 July a Vietnamese freighter, NAM HAI 2, capsized near the STABLE DOOR site at Vung Tau. Picket Boat 88 rescued one member of the crew and a Vietnamese pilot boat rescued the other nine crewmen. The ship was subsequently salvaged by USS WEISS (APD 135) with assistance from a U. S. Army tugboat.

During the month the new radar and radio installations at Nha Trang and Qui Nhon became operational, completing the cycle begun at Cam Ranh Bay in April. Each Harbor Entry Control Post is now equipped with an SPS-53A surface surveillance radar, providing the site with a significantly improved capability for detecting wood-hulled craft.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

During the month of July, close coordination between the River Patrol Force and Vietnamese units resulted in a number of successful operations against the Viet Cong.

In the Mekong Delta, the SEVENTH Division of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) launched a successful search and destroy operation based on intelligence gathered by U.S. Navy SEALs during a five-day reconnaissance mission in a Viet Cong "secret zone." In the Rung Sat Special Zone, documents captured by a PBR patrol enabled the Vietnamese authorities to apprehend several Viet Cong cadre.

On 19 July a village chief provided timely intelligence which enabled PBRs to interdict a river crossing west of My Tho. Later in the month, the GAME WARDEN support ship USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) launched a coordinated attack involving helicopters and naval gunfire against enemy positions initially reported by the U.S. sub-sector advisor at Thanh Phu.

Throughout the month the large island complex which lies at the mouth of the Bassac River was the scene of a number of clashes between GAME WARDEN units and the Viet Cong. On the 11th, four U.S. sailors were killed when the Viet Cong detonated a "claymore" mine at their PBR. On the 21st, a helicopter crewman was killed when his aircraft was shot down by enemy ground fire during a reconnaissance mission.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

On the night of 9 July, two miles downstream from Nha Be, a

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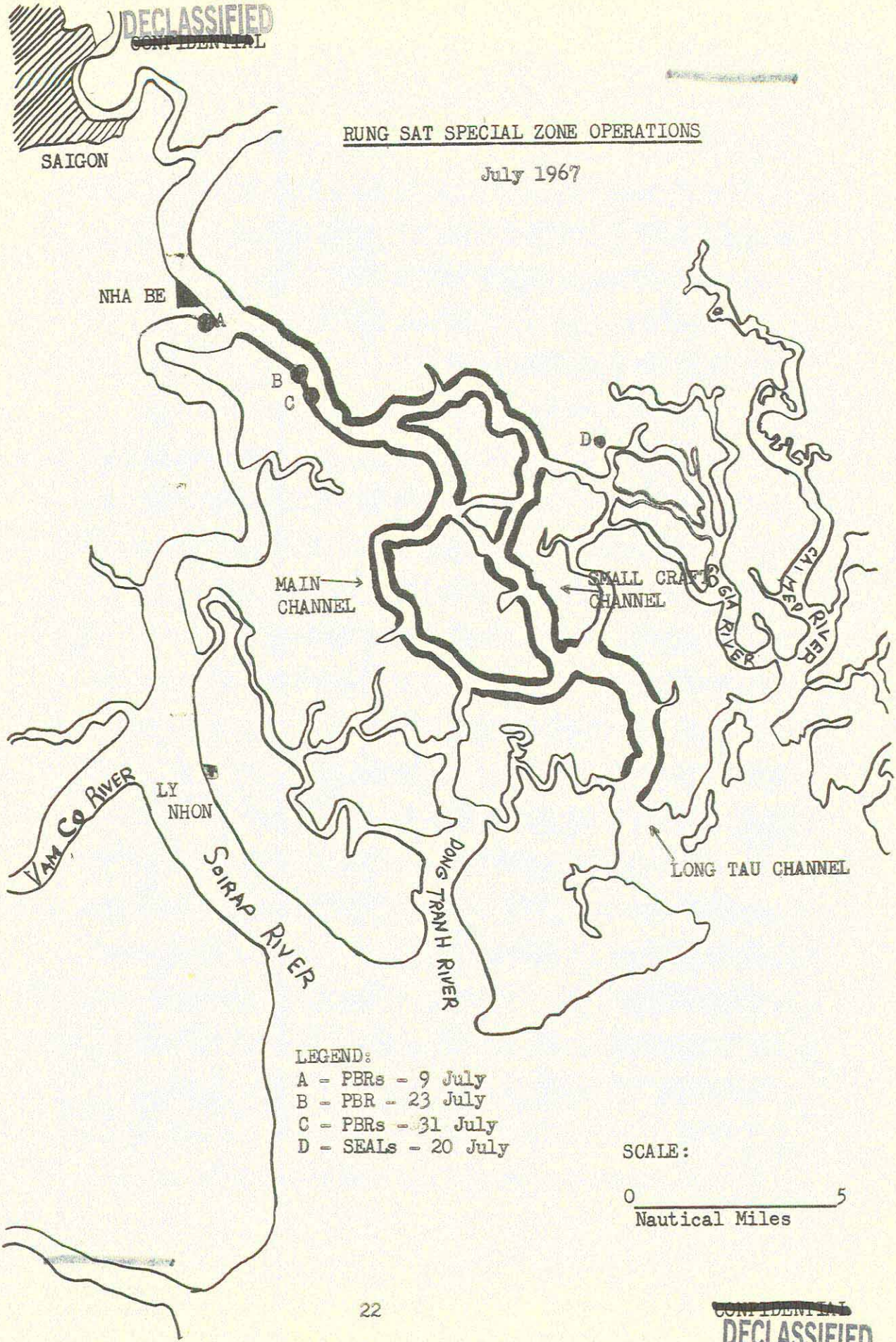
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

July 1967



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PBR patrol in pursuit of an evading sampan came under heavy fire from enemy emplacements on the bank. The patrol requested artillery support which subsequently silenced the enemy positions and enabled the PBRs to capture two sampans and a number of Viet Cong documents and uniforms. At least one Viet Cong was killed during the engagement. There were no U.S. casualties.

Among the documents found in one of the sampans was a report containing the name of a female Viet Cong agent who resided in the village of Ly Nhon. The woman was subsequently apprehended and, under interrogation by Vietnamese Navy officials, revealed the names of several other Viet Cong living near Ly Nhon. Three of these were later apprehended, including the assistant leader of a Viet Cong "secret self-defense team." Interrogation conducted at Nha Be then confirmed the fact that this man had led the Viet Cong unit which had temporarily infiltrated Ly Nhon during the unsuccessful 6 June attack on the village.

In the early morning of 20 July, two SEAL squads were landed in the Nhon Trach district of Bien Hoa province, near the suspected headquarters of the Viet Cong commander of the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ). About four hours after landing, one of the squads made contact with two Viet Cong embarked in a sampan. Both of the enemy were killed by the SEALs' fire and a Russian-made submachine gun was captured. A few minutes later, the other squad detected and killed two more enemy moving along a stream in a sampan. Two Chinese Communist carbines, medical supplies, and several pounds

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of documents were seized from the sampan. Papers found on one of the bodies indicated that the man had been the leader of a communications-liaison unit.

A PBR crewman was killed and another wounded by a Viet Cong sniper in the early morning of 23 July. The incident occurred four miles southeast of Nha Be, with the sniper firing from an estimated range of 400 yards. The bullet passed completely through the body of its victim, Boatswain's Mate Third Class M. P. CARR, USN. The results of the PBRs' return fire were undetermined.

On the night of 31 July, in the same general area, PBRs provided gunfire support for elements of Regional Force Company 999 under attack on the east bank of the Long Tau River. The combined fire of the PBRs and RF troops eventually forced the Viet Cong to retreat. There were no friendly casualties. The extent of the enemy's losses was undetermined.

DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

On 8 July, 11 miles west of My Tho, a Viet Cong shore unit attacked a PBR pursuing an evading sampan. As the patrol boat--PBR 83--neared the north bank of the river, the enemy opened fire from a house near the bank with a recoilless rifle as well as automatic weapons and small arms. The second boat in the patrol, PBR 135, joined PBR 83 in returning the fire. The patrol boats then turned clear of the area as artillery fire from Dong Tam struck the enemy positions. At least one Viet Cong was killed during the

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engagement, and two enemy sampans and five structures were destroyed. A U.S. sailor and a Vietnamese maritime policeman were wounded.

On 19 July, PBRs 33 and 45 received a report from the Vietnamese outpost at Xa Phu Duc village that an enemy crossing was in progress near the locale of the 8 July incident. The patrol embarked the village chief, proceeded to the crossing point, and detected a large junk and two sampans. When the craft attempted to evade, the PBRs turned in pursuit and came under fire from automatic weapons and small arms. The PBRs returned the fire, destroying the three craft and killing at least six Viet Cong. Three PBR crewmen were wounded during the engagement.

On 31 July a seven-man SEAL squad conducted a daylight raid against a Viet Cong base area on Ilo Ilo Island. As the SEALs were moving into position, about 10 Viet Cong began to flee from the area. After a brief exchange of fire with the enemy, the SEALs destroyed 14 structures and seized several weapons and a quantity of medical supplies and documents. The documents indicated that the site had been used as a hospital and communications-liaison station.

Operations in the Ham Luong River

On 2 July, nine miles south of Ben Tre, PBRs 102 and 117 detected five Viet Cong unloading a large junk on the south bank of the river in an area where two Viet Cong companies were reportedly operating. As the PBRs approached, they came under fire from

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automatic-weapons and small-arms positions on the bank. The PBRs suppressed the shore fire, killed the five Viet Cong and sank the junk. There were no U.S. casualties. Two days later, a huge secondary explosion was triggered in the same area by PBRs conducting harassment-and-interdiction fire using M-18 rapid-fire grenade launchers.

On 25 July, two Navy helicopters disrupted the movements of three enemy companies along the Ba Lai River, three miles north of Ben Tre. The helicopters launched four strikes against the enemy and then spotted for artillery fire from Dong Tam. During the engagement, one of the helicopters sustained light damage from enemy ground fire. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

On the evening of 30 July, the GAME WARDEN support ship HUNTERDON COUNTY attacked enemy positions in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone. Acting on an intelligence report subsequently confirmed by the ship's helicopter fire team, HUNTERDON COUNTY's 40-mm. fire struck a number of enemy sites, triggering a series of secondary explosions. The ship's fire followed two helicopter strikes which destroyed seven Viet Cong structures, damaged six others, and initiated an explosion in a bunker complex.

Operations in the Co Chien River

On 7 July, in the Long Toan Secret Zone, PBRs 152 and 160 came under fire from a hut near the beach while the PBRs were acting as a blocking force for a sweep by ARVN Special Forces. The two boats, together with four VNN junks, returned the fire, killing at

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least two of the Viet Cong. The PBR patrol officer, Radarman First Class W. L. COSSON, USN, was killed in the engagement.

On 12 July a PBR patrol detained a water taxi near the northern tip of Giai Island, 18 miles southeast of Vinh Long. None of the 23 persons on board had identification papers, and the taxi's cargo, which included 3,000 pounds of rice, a radio, batteries and medicines, was not covered by a manifest. The taxi and its occupants were then turned over to the Vietnamese National Police in Vinh Long.

On the afternoon of 23 July, four miles east of Sa Dec, a PBR patrol composed of PBRs 100 and 116 was taken under fire while investigating the movement of 10 sampans. As the PBRs approached, they came under fire from the sampans and from enemy positions on nearby Cat Island. During the ensuing fire fight, six of the sampans were destroyed by the patrol and at least six Viet Cong were killed. In addition, the PBRs' fire on the enemy's ground positions destroyed or damaged four structures and initiated a secondary explosion. There were no U.S. casualties.

On 29 July, four miles north of Vinh Long, PBRs 141 and 143 were attacked by Viet Cong bank positions while pursuing three sampans into the mouth of the Cai Coi River. The PBRs returned the fire, turned clear of the kill zone, and radioed for helicopter support. Minutes later a Navy helicopter fire team was overhead and PBR 136 had joined to assist. The patrol then re-entered the Cai Coi and engaged numerous enemy positions on both banks.

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The PBRs' fire and the helicopters' strikes silenced the enemy positions, and the GAME WARDEN units withdrew. At least five Viet Cong were killed during the engagement. There were no U.S. casualties.

Operations in the Bassac River

During July the large, densely-populated island complex at the mouth of the Bassac River was the scene of several clashes between GAME WARDEN units and Viet Cong forces. Most of the islands are under Viet Cong domination and are used frequently as "stop-over" points for troops and supplies moving between base areas in the Ca Mau Peninsula and other parts of the Delta.

On 11 July, four U.S. sailors were killed when the enemy detonated a "claymore" mine at their PBR near the northern tip of Dung Island. The incident occurred while six boats of River Section 511 were in column en route to USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 786) at the river mouth station. Moments after the mine had showered PBR 58 with shrapnel, the other boats detected six Viet Cong fleeing from the area and took them under fire, killing at least three. A Navy helicopter fire team then struck the enemy site, damaging six Viet Cong sampans. The Navymen killed by the shrapnel were Boatswain's Mate First Class W. V. POTTER, USN, Gunner's Mate Third Class O. P. DAMROW, USN, Seaman R. L. CENTER, USN, and Fireman D. R. NELSEN, USN.

On 21 July a Navy helicopter was shot down while conducting a low-level reconnaissance mission over Cu Lao Tron, the southernmost

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Following the crash of a Navy helicopter, PBRs of River Section 511 keep enemy positions pinned down on Tron Island.

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island of the complex. The aircraft crashed into one of the island's small canals, killing one crewman, Aviation Machinist's Mate Second Class D. F. FEE, USN, and injuring the other three members of the crew. The second helicopter in the fire team rescued the survivors and took them to Soc Trang for treatment. Fixed-wing aircraft subsequently struck the enemy positions and a landing party from Coastal Group 36, escorted by six PBRs, was dispatched to the scene. The landing party met light opposition in reaching the wreckage, which had already been partially stripped of weapons, ammunition and documents by the Viet Cong. A search of the area by the Vietnamese sailors uncovered the missing items hidden in a hut. Then, after the body of Petty Officer FEE had been recovered from the stricken helicopter, the hulk was picked up by a heavy-lift helicopter. The landing party subsequently withdrew under covering fire provided by the PBRs and helicopters. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

Special SEAL Operations

During the month SEAL units conducted two special operations in Viet Cong "secret zones" along the coast. Between 2 and 4 July the SEALs operated in the Le Hong Phong Secret Zone, 20 miles northeast of Phan Thiet, and discovered numerous small enemy installations. The sites were subsequently destroyed by gunfire from USS BRUSH (DD 745). On the afternoon of 4 July, the SEALs detained three Viet Cong and killed the leader of a local Viet Cong women's association when she attempted to escape. A medal bearing the

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likeness of North Vietnamese President Ho Chi MINH was found among the dead woman's possessions.

From 4 to 9 July the SEALs conducted a similar operation in the Binh Dai Secret Zone, in eastern Kien Hoa province. On the last day of the operation a SEAL squad ambushed three Viet Cong moving along a trail on the bank of Bong Ca creek, 28 miles southeast of Ben Tre. Two of the men were killed, and the third was probably killed.

Included in the documents found on one of the bodies were lists depicting the infrastructure of Viet Cong cadre in several districts of Kien Hoa and Go Cong provinces. The SEALs also found tactical chart overlays and training and equipment manuals, and destroyed a number of bunkers, structures, caches and sampans. Based on the intelligence gathered by the SEALs, on 17 July the ARVN SEVENTH Division launched Operation CUU LONG 63. During the three-day operation large quantities of ammunition, communications equipment, and weapons were seized.

GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 3 July River Section 522, embarked in YRBM-16, shifted from Tan Chau to the new GAME WARDEN base at Binh Thuy, four miles west of Can Tho. The 10 PBRs of RIVSEC 522 were assigned to augment patrols in the central and lower Bassac River.

On 5 July Commander River Patrol Force (CTF 116) and his staff moved from the temporary base at Tra Noc to the new base at Binh Thuy.

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On 9 July USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) relieved USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) on station at the mouth of the Ham Luong River. On the following day River Section 513, which had been embarked in HARNETT COUNTY, and Sa Dec-based RIVSEC 521 exchanged operating areas and bases.

On 29 July a sixth Light Helicopter Attack Squadron THREE detachment was activated at Dong Tam in support of Operation GAME WARDEN.

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GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
July 1967

1. PBR Statistics:

   a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 757 Night 601

   b. Total Contacts: Day 51,650 Night 8,279

   c. Total Inspected: Day 10,779 Night 2,150

   d. Total Boarded: Day 34,424 Night 4,889

   e. People Detained: 620

   f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 32

   g. Total Patrol Hours: 34,538

2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:

   a. Total Flight Hours: 559

   b. Helicopter Missions:
      (1) Pre-Planned strikes: 61
      (2) Reaction: 48
      (3) Targets of Opportunity: 53
      (4) Support: 142

3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

   a. Fire Fights:

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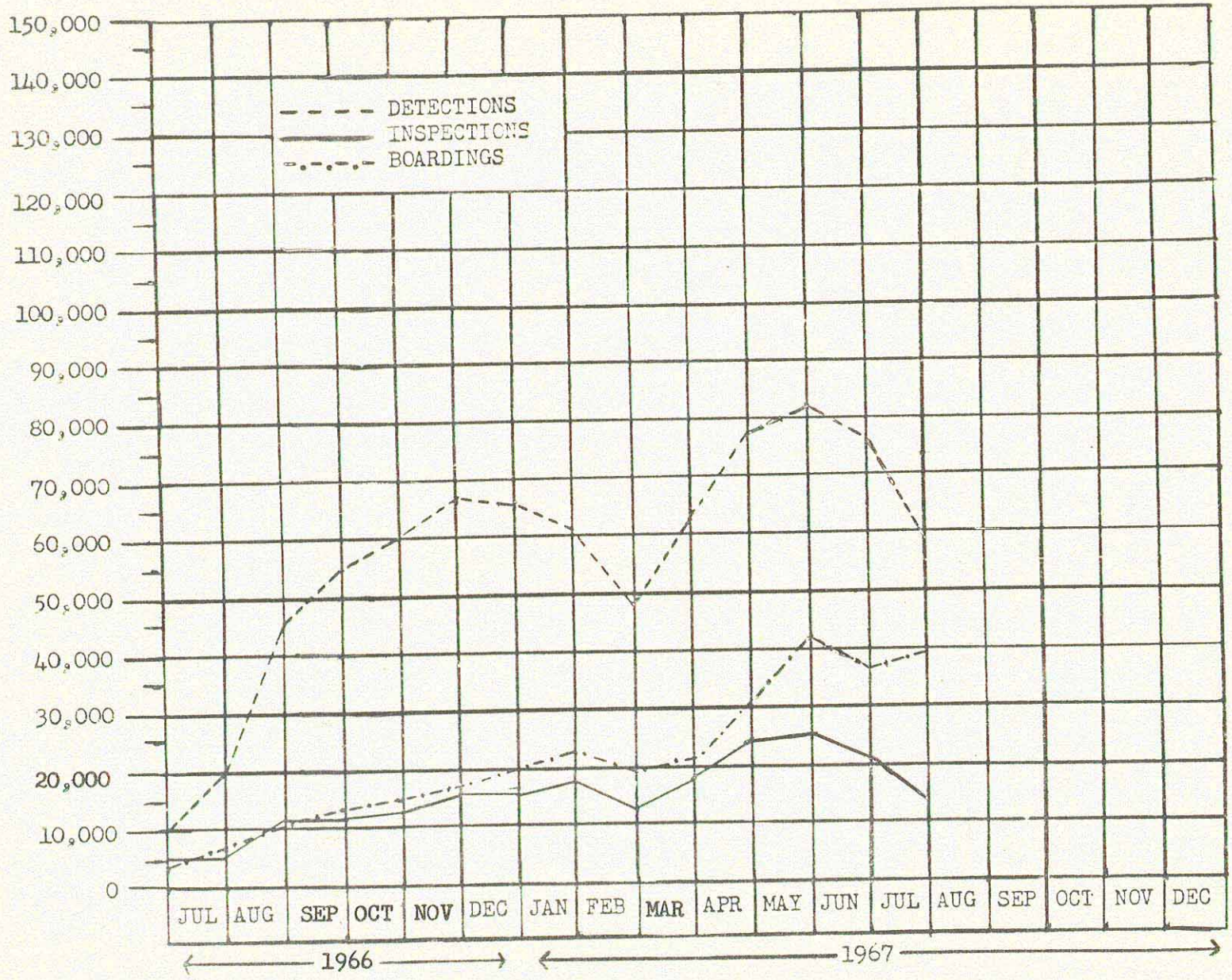
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS



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(1) PBR 102
(2) Helo 18

b. Sampans: Destroyed 55 Damaged 34 Captured 8

c. Junks: Destroyed 3 Damaged 1

d. Structures: Destroyed 58 Damaged 49

e. Bunkers: Destroyed 63 Damaged 8

f. Enemy: KIA 82 KIA (Poss.) 40 WIA 19 Captured 49

g. Friendly: KIA 7 WIA 26

h. Friendly Battle Damage:
(1) PBR 7
(2) Helo 11

i. PBR MEDEVAC: 34

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A monitor of the Riverine Assault Force fires at Viet Cong positions in the Delta.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

During most of July the Mobile Riverine Force, operating from the Mobile Riverine Base at the junction of the Vam Co and Soirap rivers, conducted Operation CONCORDIA II in Long An and Go Cong provinces. Late in the month, the MRF moved to Dong Tam in response to a reported enemy build-up in Dinh Tuong province. The 61-mile transit was completed within 48 hours after receipt of the movement order.

Throughout the month, within given areas of operations, the small craft of the Riverine Assault Force repeatedly demonstrated comparable quick-reaction mobility in moving company- or platoon-size units to meet the requirements of the tactical situation ashore.

On 11 July the Riverine Assault Force suffered its first combat fatality when the explosion of a B-40 rocket killed the boat captain of a monitor. That day 15 naval personnel were wounded--most of them by shrapnel. During the month several craft were struck by recoil-less-rifle fire or B-40 rockets; generally, the damage was light and was quickly repaired by USS ASKARI (ARL 30) or the repair facilities in Dong Tam.

On 4 July a newly-developed, portable helicopter platform was successfully tested on board an armored troop carrier. The platform--conceived by Captain Wade C. WELLS, USN (CTF 117) and designed by Mr. Berger M. SHEPARD of the Naval Research and Development Unit, Vietnam--is mounted over the ATC's well deck.

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Operations in Go Cong and Long An Provinces

On the 4th of July units of the Riverine Assault Force embarked elements of the 2nd Brigade, U. S. NINTH Infantry Division, and got underway from the mobile base at anchor to begin phase III of Operation CONCORDIA II, in Go Cong province. After landing troops along the west bank of Go Cong creek, the naval units assumed blocking stations in Go Cong and Go Gua creeks and their tributaries. The search and destroy operation continued until 9 July and failed to produce any major contact with enemy forces. In a series of brief skirmishes, 33 Viet Cong were killed, 78 were captured and 13 defected. There were no U. S. casualties.

On the 11th the Mobile Riverine Force commenced operations in the Can Giouc district of Long An province. U. S. elements of the 3rd and 4th Battalions, 47th Infantry were landed along the Vang, Mui, and Chim Duoi creeks and, to the west, two ARVN battalions were landed along the Rach Cac River. The landings were made without opposition and the waterborne units then took stations to block escape routes and to provide troop lift and gunfire support services. Meanwhile, B Company of the 4/47th remained afloat to act as a ready-reaction force.

Throughout the day company-size units were frequently re-embarked and re-landed elsewhere in a series of leapfrogging movements along Xom Cau creek. During one of these movements the enemy detonated a "claymore" mine just as ATC 112-4 dropped its ramp. Eleven personnel in the troop carrier were wounded, seven sailors

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and four soldiers. Simultaneously, the two monitors in company received small-arms and recoilless-rifle fire. The fire was returned and air strikes and artillery fire were delivered into the area.

Following the airstrikes, A Company of the 4/47th made contact with an enemy unit. The two monitors supported the company, and two more monitors were ordered into the area to provide additional fire support. As the assault craft exchanged fire with the enemy, B Company of the 4/47th was landed along the east bank of Xom Cau creek and, supported by two monitors and two ATCs, swept southward.

All units maintained contact with the Viet Cong throughout the day, exchanging fire with enemy forces armed with B-40 rockets, automatic weapons and small arms. Several assault craft were hit by enemy fire. About 1800 a rocket struck Monitor 112-1's conning station. The boat captain, Chief Boatswain's Mate Howard W. BANNISTER, USN, was killed instantly; six other persons, including the embarked river division commander, were wounded. The action continued into the evening and was eventually broken off by the Viet Cong.

The following evening a small band of Viet Cong opened fire on ATC 112-10 from the bank of the Dong An Canal. The troop carrier and two nearby monitors quickly suppressed the fire, killing two of the enemy and destroying a hut.

The operation ended on the 14th. During the four-day period 59 Viet Cong were killed, six were captured and three defected. Among the materiel captured from the enemy were 20 water mines, 49 individual and eight crew-served weapons (including three B-40 rocket launchers),

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and several hundred components for grenades. Eight Americans were killed and 45 others (29 soldiers, 15 sailors and one Marine) were wounded.

The Mobile Riverine Force continued to operate in Long An province until 26 July. During this period four U. S. soldiers were killed and 21 were wounded. Meanwhile, 48 Viet Cong were killed, seven were captured, and a quantity of weapons, including three recoilless rifles, an 81-mm. mortar and a rocket launcher, were seized. In addition, on the 24th, a member of the Viet Cong's C-306 Battalion rallied to an ATC under the Vietnamese Government's amnesty program; that same day eight other members of the battalion also defected. The ralliers reported that at least 32 members of their unit had been killed during an incident on the 20th.

Operations in Dinh Tuong Province

Late in the month a series of minings along National Route 4 in Dinh Tuong province, coupled with a number of mortar attacks on the U. S. base at Dong Tam, served to confirm intelligence reports that the Viet Cong were marshaling forces in the vicinity of Dong Tam.

To meet the threat the Mobile Riverine Force was ordered to cease operations in Long An on 25 July and move to the Dong Tam region by the 27th. The 61-mile movement was completed on schedule and, on the 28th, the MRF commenced Operation CORONADO II.

About 0830, after landing U. S. troops of the 3/47th and 4/47th along a stretch of the Nam Thon River 10 to 14 miles west of Dong Tam, the naval units assumed blocking positions in the Nam Thon and

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nearby Ba Rai and Tra Tan creeks. Throughout the day, while the troops swept inland toward a Viet Cong base area where three enemy battalions were reportedly operating, River Division 91 units in the Ba Rai encountered sporadic small-arms fire. Late that evening, RIVDIV 91 monitors destroyed four enemy bunkers in support of the 3/47th's A Company under attack by an enemy unit.

On 29 July, three monitors and four armored troop carriers of RIVDIV 91 engaged the enemy throughout the afternoon and evening while supporting A Company. On a number of occasions, while exchanging fire with enemy units, the assault craft were struck by large caliber rounds. Although damage to the craft was relatively minor, a number of personnel were wounded. In one instance Monitor 91-2 and ATC 91-10 were hit by B-40 rocket fire. As the craft retired in order to rendezvous with an ATC(H) and transfer evacuees, the ATC was again struck by a rocket. Altogether, 22 Navymen were wounded during the engagement.

In mid-afternoon, the Ba Rai contingent was augmented by two monitors and two ATCs from River Squadron 11. About 1830, while supporting C Company of the 3/47th, the RIVRON 11 units came under B-40 rocket fire; the craft's return fire successfully suppressed the outburst, killing at least two Viet Cong.

Operation CORONADO II continued through the end of the month. By 31 July, 73 of the enemy had been killed and 68 had been captured. During this period nine U. S. soldiers were killed and 33 were wounded. The Navy's casualties totaled 31 wounded.

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The Danang Air Base during the rocket attack of 15 July.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

During July the enemy mounted numerous mortar, rocket and artillery attacks against the facilities of Naval Support Activity, Danang and its outlying detachments.

On 3 July the NAVSUPPACT detachment at Dong Ha came under a heavy rocket and mortar attack. Approximately 200 rounds landed in and around the immediate base area and a number of the detachment's buildings were damaged by flying shrapnel. There were no casualties to naval personnel.

Shortly after midnight on 15 July, the Danang Air Base was struck by enemy rockets. Eight military personnel were killed during the attack and 155 others were wounded. The enemy barrage, which lasted approximately 45 minutes, started numerous fires and resulted in extensive structural damage to U. S. Navy, Marine and Air Force facilities. In addition, eight aircraft were destroyed and 45 were damaged during the attack.

Throughout the month NAVSUPPACT Danang continued to process large volumes of cargo. At the Port of Danang, 41 ships arrived during the month and 40 completed off-loading for a net decrease in backlog of 5,902 short tons. Over 136,000 short tons of cargo were discharged and over 72,000 short tons were back-loaded for transshipment to other ports. The total monthly throughput at Danang was 209,100 short tons. The combined throughput for all I Corps ports was almost 300,000 short tons.

On 12, 21 and 29 July, NAVSUPPACT harbor security forces

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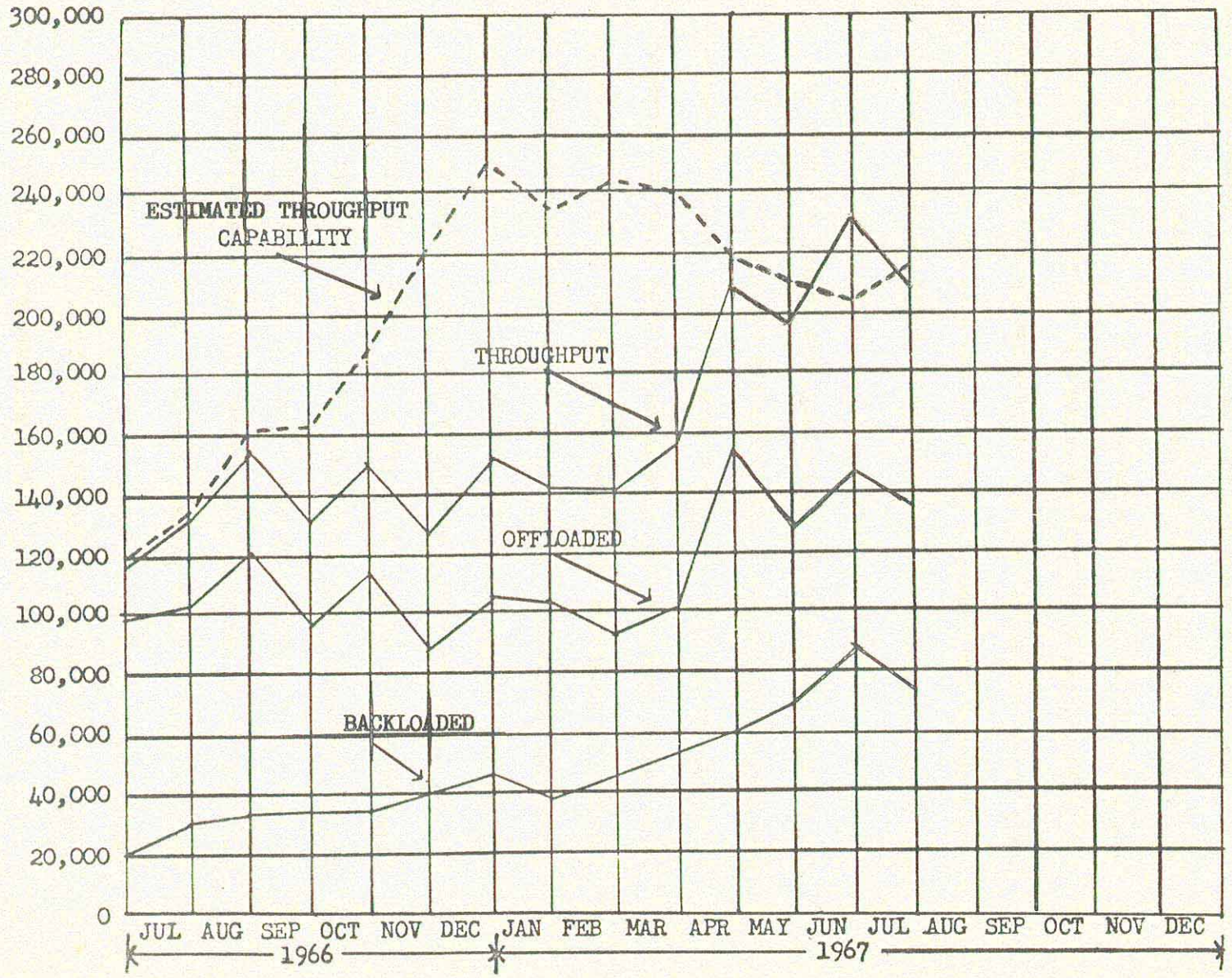
DANANG CARGO HANDLING



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conducted combined operations with Vietnamese Navy units and searched, during varying two-hour periods, all junks and sampans entering or leaving Danang Harbor. As a result of the three operations a total of 531 craft were searched, 33 personnel and 12 craft were detained, and three packages containing explosives were uncovered. An additional 166 craft were apprehended for various violations during routine harbor patrols.

During July the sandbag and C-ration level increased. Although sandbags still remained in short supply, the situation was eased by the receipt and issuance of almost six and one-half million sandbags during the month. Seven million more sandbags were due to arrive in early August. Meanwhile the operational and reserve requirements for C-rations (individual combat meals) were revised. The required level is now 60 days instead of 90 days. On 31 July the quantity of C-rations on hand totaled 7,903,390 meals which, based on the existing requirements, constituted a 60-day reserve supply and a 17-day operating level.

The combined gross supply effectiveness for Danang and Chu Lai rose from June's 84 percent to 86 percent in July. Net supply effectiveness remained stable at 93 percent.

The number of craft assigned to NAVSUPPACT increased with the arrival of a YTM on 9 July, two YFUs on 20 July, and two LCUs on the 31st. Also, two specially-configured Ammi-barges arrived during the month to serve as dry docks for small craft.

The Naval Support Activity's C-47 aircraft returned from Sangley Point on 2 July and on 4 July resumed its regular flight schedule.

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The aircraft transported 425 passengers and 25,000 pounds of cargo during the remainder of the month.

On 16 July, two LCM-8s assigned to the NAVSUPPACT detachment at Chu Lai assisted in retrieving the enemy trawler driven aground and captured on 15 July by units of Operation MARKET TIME. The trawler was pulled free from a reef and towed approximately 15 miles to Chu Lai.

The Port of Danang was visited 134 times by SEVENTH Fleet ships during July. The ships were provided with almost one and one-half million gallons of diesel fuel and over three million gallons of potable water, in addition to mail, freight, courier, transient billeting and disbursing services.

Meanwhile, the Naval Support Activity's small-craft repair facility completed the overhaul of 13 diesel engines, one LCM-8 engine bank, and seven outboard motors in July. The facility also completed interim hull repairs to USS COCONINO COUNTY (LST 603), installed a new port engine in USS ASHVILLE (PGM 84) and replaced the port screw of an MSTS ship, LST-276. In addition, the floating dry dock--AFDL-23--handled 56 diverse craft during the month.

On 31 July the Naval Support Activity, Danang personnel level was 8,082. That same day the number of United States and other Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPPACT was 131,500.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

On 3 July, the Naval Support Activity, Saigon detachment at Tan Chau was disestablished and YRBM-16 was moved to Binh Thuy to provide interim support until the operational and maintenance facilities at the new GAME WARDEN base became self-sustaining. The river-front property rights at Tan Chau were retained in the event that future requirements dictated the return of YRBM to that site.

On 16 July NAVSUPPACT's Can Tho detachment completed its move to the new Binh Thuy base. Situated near the Binh Thuy airport and four miles east of Can Tho, the facility is designed to provide berthing, messing, maintenance and medical support for GAME WARDEN units operating along the Bassac River, as well as for CTF 116 and his staff, River Division 51 and River Patrol Section 512. The berthing and messing complex includes an officers' quarters, two enlisted men's quarters which can accommodate 320 men, and a 500-man galley. Four 150-kilowatt generators provide the base with electrical power and two large repair shops provide for the hull-and-engine-repair needs of the River Patrol Boats (PBRs).

As of 31 July, 85 percent of the permanent construction had been finished. The completed facility will also contain an Administration-Communications Center building, a dispensary, a laundry, a supply warehouse, a water-purification system, tailor and barber shops, and two recreational clubs.

A MARKET TIME radar surveillance site on Poulo Obi Island was established on 21 July. The site's renovated lighthouse, located

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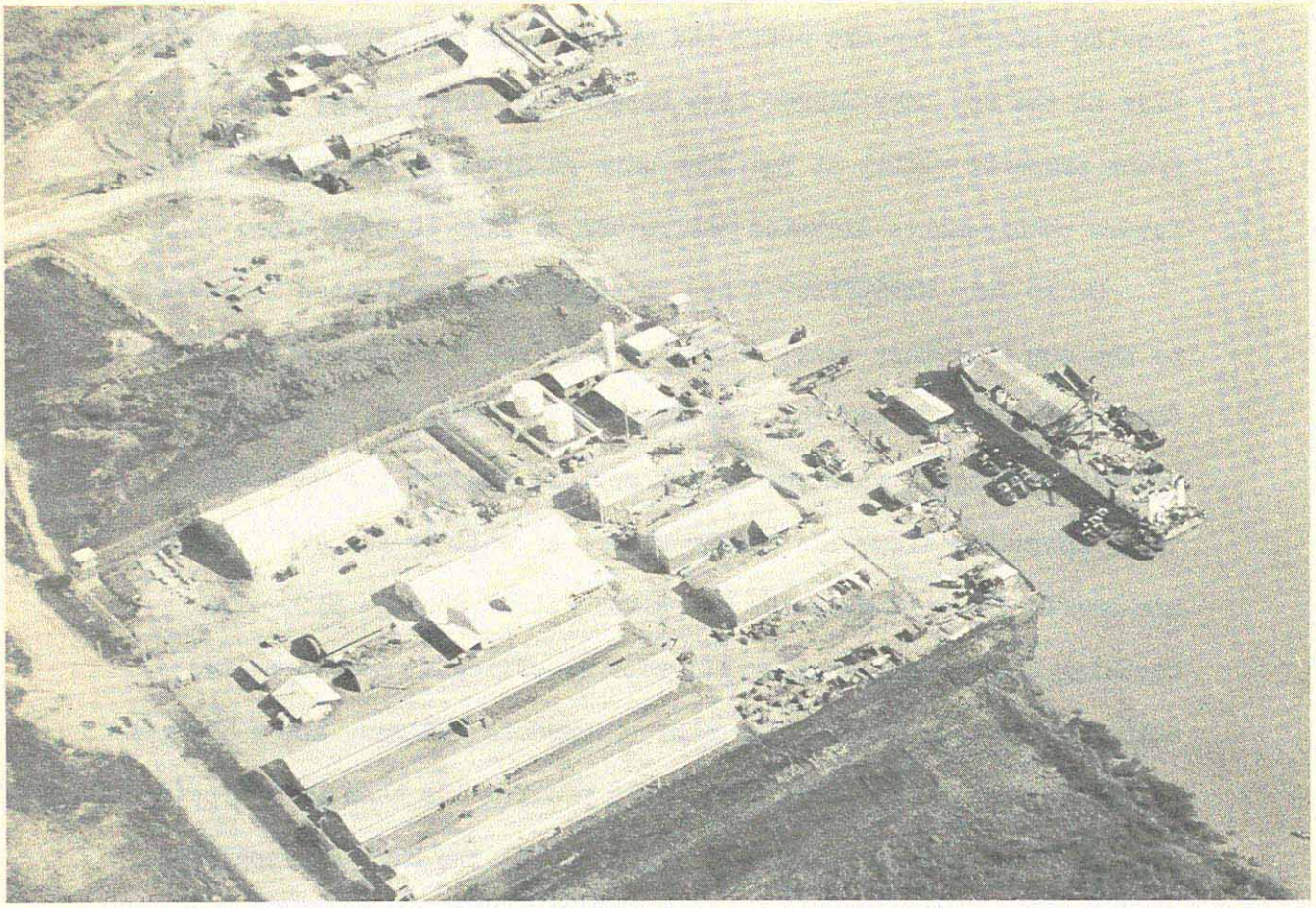

The new GAME WARDEN base at Binh Thuy.

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near the top of a 1,000-foot mountain, serves as the living quarters as well as the working area for the seven men assigned to the station. Prior to occupancy the lighthouse's foundation was reinforced with steel in order to accommodate the radar antenna and associated equipment. Two 30-kilowatt generators supply the electrical power requirements. The station, which has no access road, will be resupplied by helicopter on a 30-day replenishment cycle.

On the evening of 10 July, NAVSUPPACT's Qui Nhon detachment dispatched a 16-man patrol to assist a nearby U. S. Army outpost under attack. The patrol's assistance helped repulse the Viet Cong unit. There were no U. S. casualties. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

During July the number of line items carried by NAVSUPPACT increased 13 percent to a total of 32,376. Gross and net material support effectiveness rose slightly during the month to 45 percent and 67 percent, respectively. The shortage of PCF and PBR repair parts continued to exist but the problem was being alleviated to some extent by expeditious procurement and direct shipment by cognizant CONUS commands.

The ships and craft of NAVSUPPACT transported a total of 1,629.7 short tons of cargo during the month. At the same time, NAVSUPPACT aircraft carried 3,927 passengers and 164.8 short tons of cargo.

On 8 July, COMNAVSUPPACT's Saigon headquarters was moved from the Cofat Compound in Cholon to a new location across the street from COMNAVFORV's headquarters. The NAVSUPPACT Communications Center was also moved to the new location and redesignated a Naval Message Center.

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Henceforth, all NAVSUPPACT message traffic will be processed by the COMNAVFORV Communications Center. NAVSUPPACT's Supply and Repair Departments remained in Cholon.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

During July the various Seabee battalions continued their efforts to complete as much horizontal-type construction as possible prior to the onset of the northeast monsoon season. The upgrading of roads, particularly Route 1, the repair or replacement of bridges, and the construction of ammunition supply sites at major combat bases in the I Corps Tactical Zone received special emphasis.

The work on Route 1 consisted of grading, repaving and sealing roadway sections, and shaping shoulders and cleaning drainage areas. While Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ELEVEN (MCB-11) worked on a 13-mile stretch north of Quang Tri, MCB-62 concentrated on the section between Phu Bai and Gia Le. At the same time, Danang-based MCB-1 repaired and upgraded portions of Route 1 north of their camp at Red Beach, and Chu Lai-based MCB-8 worked southward toward Quang Ngai. During the month MCB-8 upgraded two miles of Route 1, constructed three drainage culverts, and began construction of a 120-foot timber bridge.

In the Hai Van pass, north of Danang, MCB-1 repaired four bridges and began making repairs to four others. South of Danang, MCB-4's "Liberty Bridge" project (across the Thu Bon River) continued to progress. At month's end 1,680 feet of the 2,000-foot bridge had been completed.

In Danang, MCB-133 continued the building of ammunition and napalm storage areas at the Air Base, and began working on 30 bunkers for other ammunition supply points. In nearby Red Beach,

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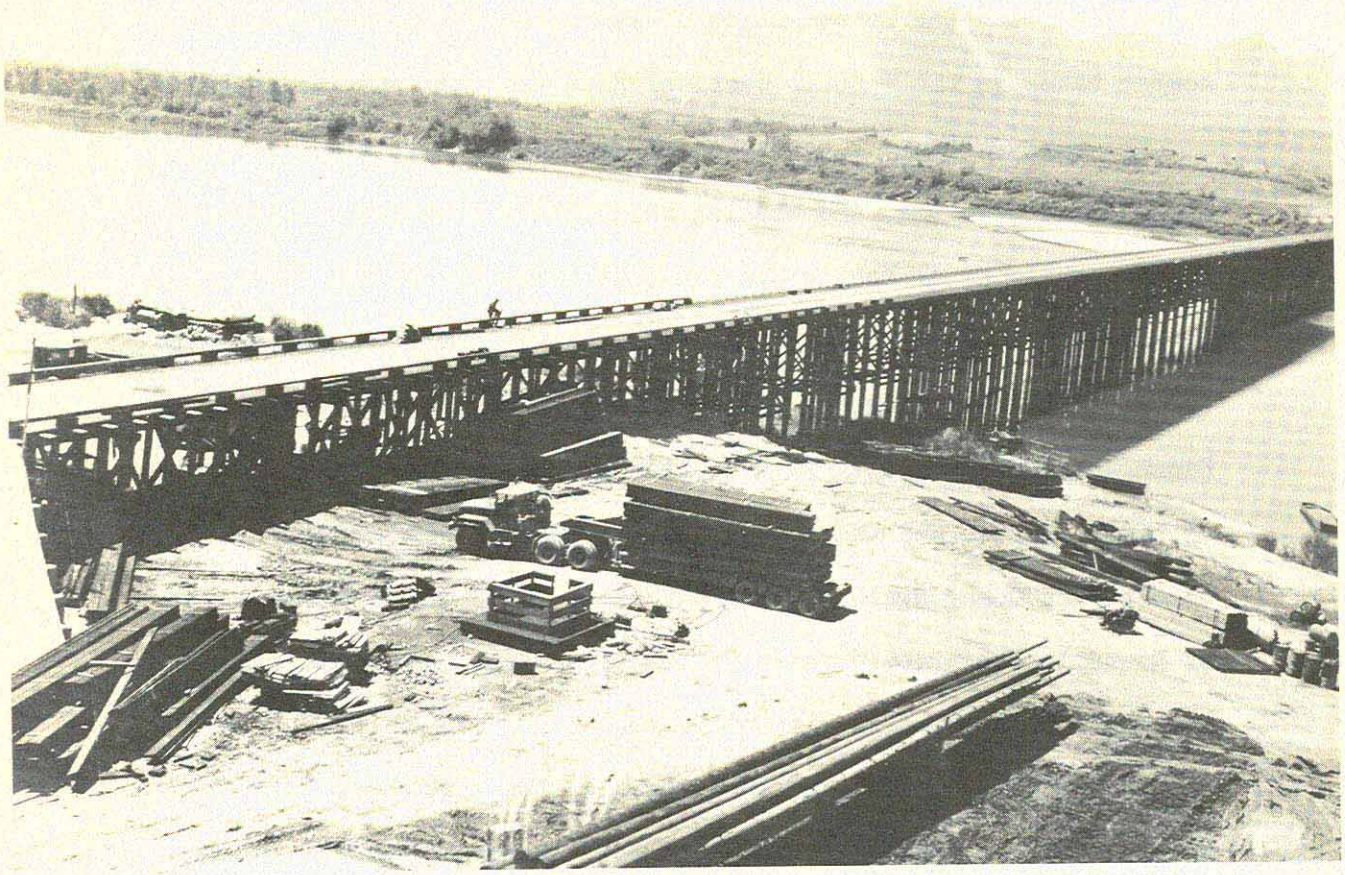

The Liberty Bridge nears completion.

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members of MCB-74 continued construction work at the Marines' ammunition supply point. To the north, MCB-3 worked on pads and berms for an ammunition supply site at Phu Bai, as well as repairing and widening the road between the Col Co landing craft facility and Hue.

Among the construction projects which neared completion were the cantonments and operational facilities for the Marines' tactical data system complex on Monkey Mountain. The work was performed by MCB-74 and, on 31 July, the battalion was engaged in the project's final phase--installing a water-supply system.

At the entrance to the Cua Viet, where MCB-11 is expanding the LST-LCU facility, members of the battalion drove sheet pilings for the loading ramps, hauled away 46,000 cubic yards of sand, and cemented 1,000 square yards of the planned staging area. When completed, the facility's ramps will accommodate two LSTs, four LCUs and eight LCMs.

At Dong Ha MCB-11 completed work on eight of 30 planned helicopter pads, erected seven Butler buildings and four quonset huts, and laid the concrete foundation for a new 500-man galley.

At Chu Lai, MCB-8 completed work on a morale project--an ice plant--for the Army's Task Force OREGON. Nearby, MCB-71 drilled a well for the Korean laundry facility serving the Chu Lai base; the well will produce 150,000 gallons of water daily. Meanwhile, at Vung Tau, a detachment from MCB-71 completed the construction of barracks and office buildings for the Navy's newly-formed Light Helicopter Attack Squadron THREE.

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During the second half of the month, four battalions (MCBs 4, 7, 74 and 133) helped complete emergency repairs at the Danang Air Base following the rocket attack of 15 July. The work included clearing debris from the runways and parking aprons, restoring electrical power, and making temporary repairs to damaged berthing huts and galleys.

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MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

Since the middle of June the region surrounding the Coastal Group 14 base south of Danang has been the scene of numerous "psy-war" loudspeaker broadcasts originated from Vietnamese Navy junks and U.S. Navy MARKET TIME units. On two occasions in July Viet Cong propaganda teams beamed broadcasts at the Coastal Group base. During one of the broadcasts, on the 23rd, a PCF with a U.S. Army loudspeaker team embarked sped to the scene and responded in kind to the enemy's attempt to persuade Government personnel to desert. As the U.S. team countered the Viet Cong broadcast, mortar fire from the Coastal Group base struck and silenced the enemy's positions.

Among the month's notable civic action and psychological warfare projects were a series of visits along the Third Coastal Zone by LSM(H) 401, the VNN's hospital ship. Operating in this Zone between the 21st and the 30th of July, the ship's doctors and corpsmen treated over 2,000 Vietnamese in need of medical or dental care. During the visits the ship's crew distributed 30,000 pounds of commodities as well as 20,000 leaflets and posters espousing the Government's cause. In addition, the ship's "culture platoon" entertained villagers on five different occasions, and the embarked "psywar" team conducted numerous loudspeaker broadcasts.

In a continuing military civic action program, the Naval Support Activity, Danang has been assisting the villagers of nearby

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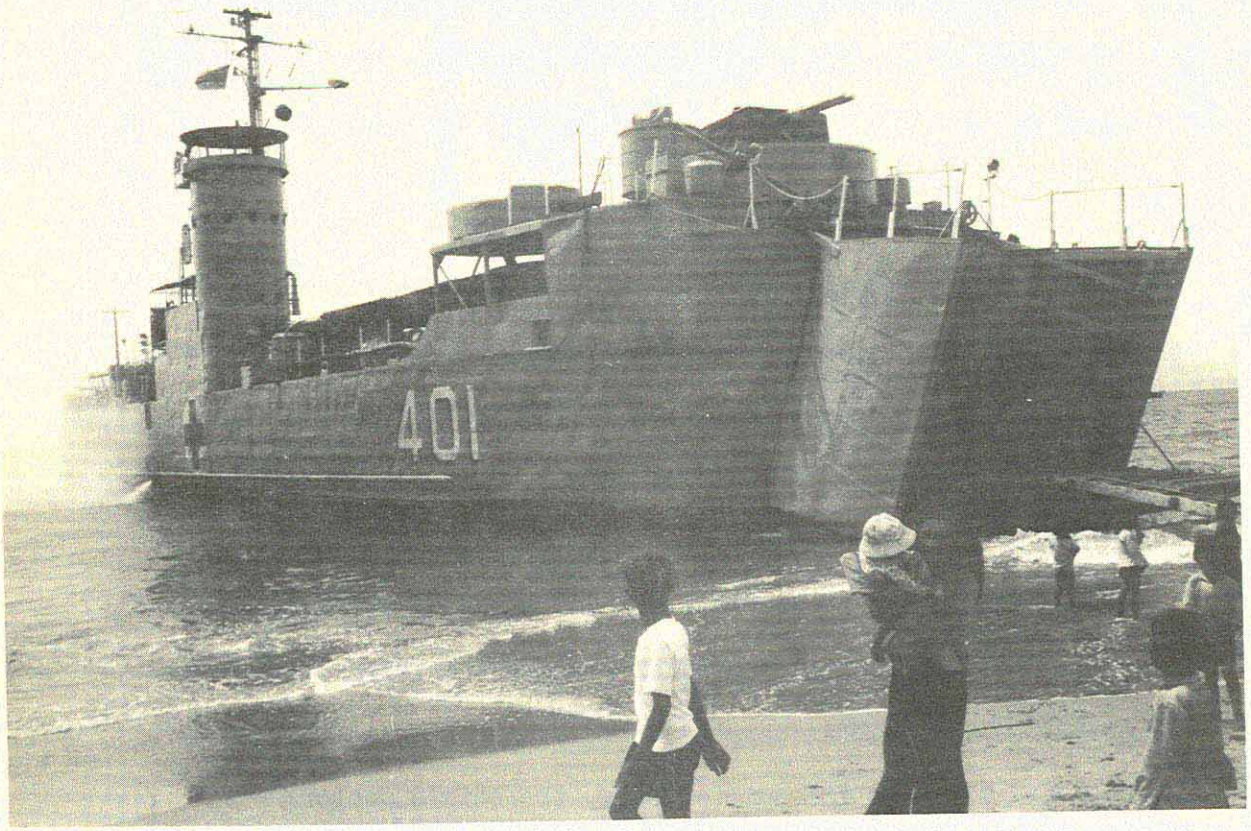

The Vietnamese Navy's hospital ship arrives for a civic action visit in the Third Coastal Zone.

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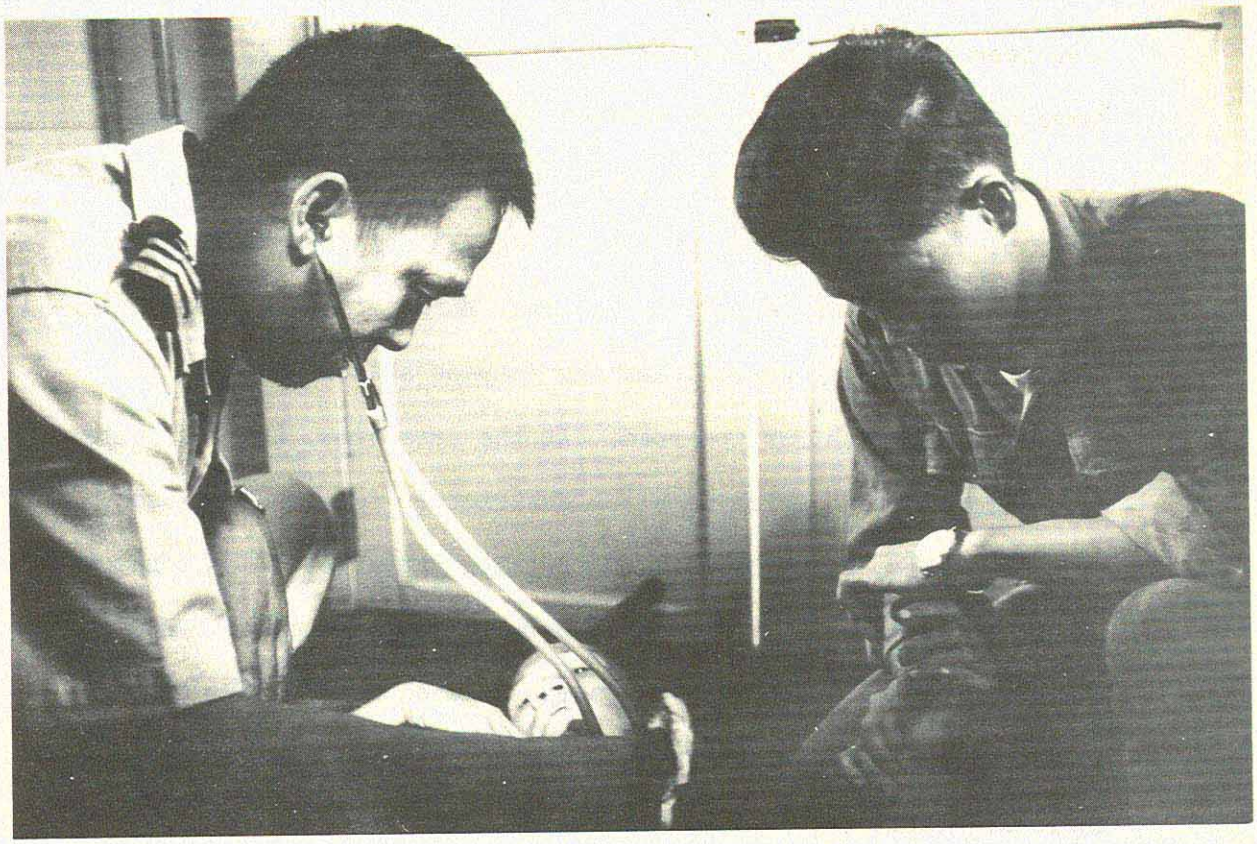

A Vietnamese Navy doctor treats a civilian on board LSM(H) 401.

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Truyen Tin to rebuild 152 homes which were destroyed during the Viet Cong rocket attack on Danang in February. NAVSUPPACT Danang has been supplying and delivering the materials, and the villagers have been erecting the structures. By the end of July, 68 of the homes had been finished and another 56 were under construction.

In another self-help project, Seabee Team 0308 assisted residents of Trung hamlet, about four miles west of Saigon, to build a road through the center of the hamlet. Working with a Vietnamese Revolutionary Development Team, the Seabees staked, cleared and "bulldozed" a path for the road. At the same time, the residents hand-cleared areas which were too restrictive for the bulldozer.

Meanwhile, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion THREE conducted an active civic action program near Hue during the month. Medical civic action teams from the battalion treated nearly 700 medical or dental patients; other members of the battalion donated materials to local hospitals, schools and refugee centers.

On 18 July, COMNAVFORV promulgated an Operation Order delineating the responsibilities of subordinate commanders in support of the Vietnamese Government's Revolutionary Development Program. The Op-order was based on the lessons learned thus far in carrying out military civic action programs, and included guidance for the conduct of Medical Civic Action Programs (MEDCAPs), Winning Hearts and Minds Operations (WHAMOs) and psychological operations campaigns in coordination with the efforts of the Vietnamese Navy.

The following is a tabulation of certain military civic

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action projects conducted during July by U.S. and Vietnamese naval forces. Construction projects involving renovation or repair are so indicated with an R.

1. Construction:

a.	Bridges	2
b.	Dispensaries	1R
c.	Dwellings/number of families	6R/37
d.	Hospitals	2R
e.	Leveling-grading projects	2
f.	Playgrounds	1R
g.	Schools/classrooms	1R/1
h.	Toilets	3
i.	Water tanks	1
j.	Wells	1

2. Medical treatment:

a.	General medicine	22,881
b.	Dental	3,004
c.	Surgery	120
d.	Emergency evacuations	45
e.	Cleft-palate operations	1
f.	Blood tests	116
g.	X-rays	2

3. Health and sanitation:

a.	MEDCAPs	57

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

a.	Cement	36,670
b.	Clothing	12,070
c.	Food	138,094
d.	Rice (bags)	550
e.	Lumber (board feet)	70,112
f.	Medicine, non-prescription	473
g.	School kits (number)	480
h.	Soap (bars)	3,391
i.	Tin sheets (number)	743
j.	Nails	300
k.	White wash	1,200
l.	Plywood (sheets)	200
m.	Aluminum roofing (sheets)	515
n.	Firewood (tons)	30

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o.	Rock-laterite (cubic yards)	1,000
p.	Sand (cubic yards)	500
q.	Magazines (number)	4,400
r.	Beds (number)	1
s.	55 Gallon drums (number)	150
t.	Khaki uniforms (number)	484
u.	Toothpaste (tubes)	530
v.	Paper blankets (number)	965
w.	Office paper (reams)	25
x.	Ball point pens (number)	350
y.	School supplies	32
z.	Plastic envelopes (number)	400
aa.	Toys (number)	250
ab.	Paint (gallons)	45
ac.	Medical supplies (cases)	4
ad.	Wool blankets (number)	100
ae.	Textile kits (number)	30
af.	Powdered beverages (cases)	11
ag.	Cooking oil (cases)	5
ah.	Cigarettes (cases)	10
ai.	Junk tool boxes (number)	20
aj.	Sewing kits (number)	9
ak.	Sewing machines (number)	6
al.	Bricks (number)	1,000

5. Educational efforts:

a.	English classes/attendance	79/1040

6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:

a.	Schools	6,000
b.	Scholarships	3,000

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 2 July Team 5 of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE, together with PCF 95 and the SEVENTH Fleet's USS OAK HILL (LSD 7), successfully completed the salvage of PCF 97. The 22-ton MARKET TIME craft had been sunk by enemy fire on 25 June during a routine patrol off the Ca Mau Peninsula. Working from PCF 95, Team 5 divers hooked up the sunken craft to OAK HILL's 35-ton capacity crane. The Swift boat was then lifted clear of the surface, dewatered, and lowered into the LSD's well-deck. Seven hours after the recovery operation had begun, PCF 97 was on its way to Subic for repairs.

On 17 July Team 5 began salvage operations to recover a floating PBR pier at Nha Be which had sunk in 40 feet of water during a severe storm two days earlier. The pier had consisted of two 14-section steel treadways laid athwartships across 13 aluminum bridge-pontoons; an additional 40-foot section of wooden decking had been positioned at the end of the pier.

Using an LCM-8 as a working platform, the Team 5 divers first removed the various wire straps, turnbuckles and small chains which had held the pier together. Then the various sections of the pier were dragged onto the beach by a "caterpillar" tractor. By 23 July all of the pontoons, the treadway sections, and the wooden decking had been recovered.

On 28 July Team 5 and a light lift craft (LLC-1) arrived at Dong Tam to provide a rapid-response capability to Task Force 117 requirements for salvage assistance. Meanwhile, Team 1 of Harbor

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Clearance Unit ONE arrived in country and, on 30 July, proceeded to Dong Tam to relieve Team 5, which was scheduled to return to Subic in early August.

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COMMUNICATIONS

The number of messages handled by the COMNAVFORV Communications Center during July was 92,763, an increase of 3,001 over June's figure.

During the month the center relinquished the communications guard for 61 various activities. The decrease occurred as a result of the shift by CTF 115 from Saigon to Cam Ranh Bay and the subsequent transfer of associated circuits to the Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay.

At the Cam Ranh Bay station the construction work and installation of equipment (Project BOWLINE) was virtually completed. The station was scheduled to be commissioned on 1 August.

At Danang the work designed to improve NAVSUPPACT's communications capability (Project SEA ANCHOR) also neared completion. By month's end the communications center, transmitter site and receiver site were 85, 97 and 92 percent complete, respectively; the installation of electronic equipment was 92 percent complete at all three sites.

Meanwhile, the program to upgrade the communications facilities at the GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME bases and COMNAVFORV headquarters (Project SEARCHLIGHT) lagged somewhat behind schedule because of delays in the procurement of construction materials. At month's end, the SEARCHLIGHT site at Nha Be was operational and the construction and installation phases had begun at COMNAVFORV's headquarters in Saigon. The remaining sites were in varying stages of progress; among these the first expected completion was the Binh Thuy site, scheduled to become operational in early September.

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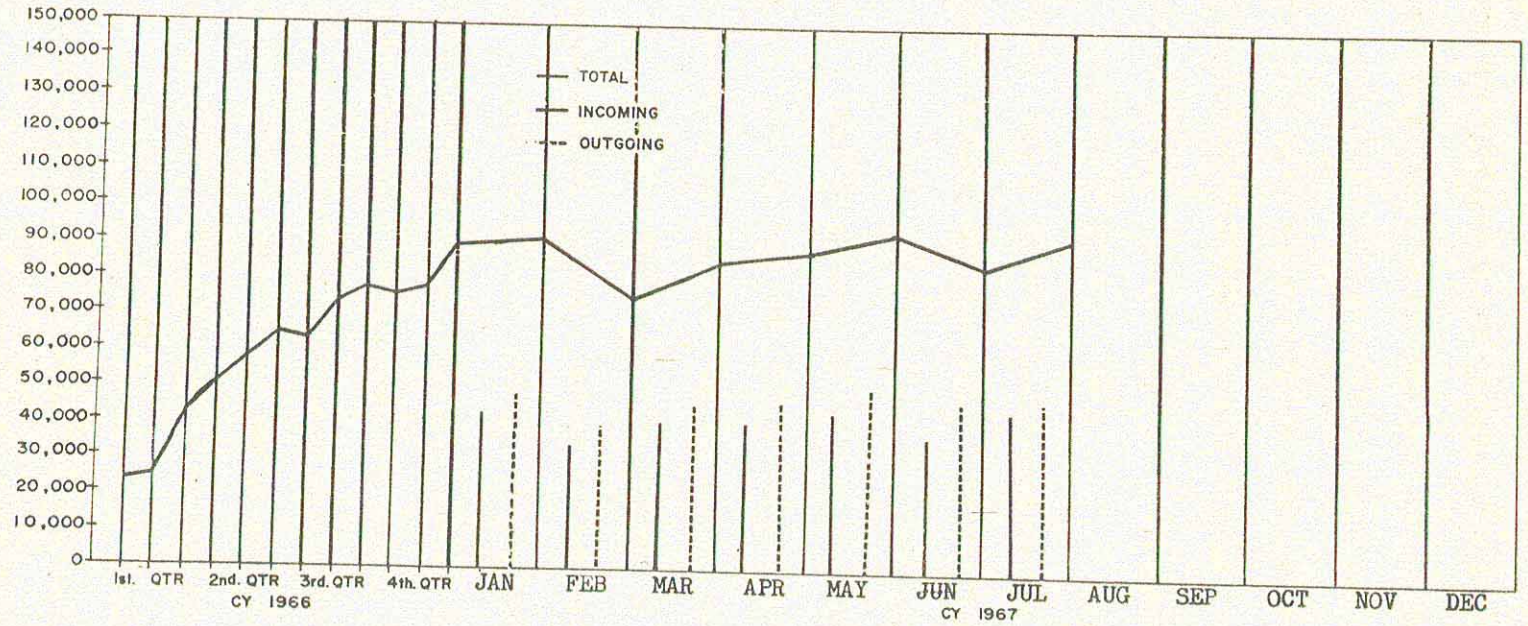
MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC



PERCENT OF TOTAL

FLASH	1	1	1	1	1	.2	.5					
IMMEDIATE	21	20	19	18	16	17.5	18.1					
PRIORITY	60	61	63	63	66	64.6	62.9					
ROUTINE	18	18	17	18	17	17.7	18.5					

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In Project STARBOARD TACK (the use of communication vans transportable by helicopters), the procurement of components had begun. The first HF vans were expected in August and the first UHF-VHF vans in September.

The Naval Support Activity detachments at Dong Ha and Hue-Phu Bai were earmarked for the initial deliveries. The capabilities of each STARBOARD TACK facility will include secure, full-duplex teletype circuits and HF, tactical FM and UHF voice-radio circuits. In addition, through the use of microwaves, each facility will be able to patch into the circuitry of the in-country Defense Communications System.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 7 July the Honorable Robert S. McNAMARA, Secretary of Defense, began a five-day tour of military installations in South Vietnam, including the Mobile Riverine Base anchored at the junction of the Vam Co and Soirap rivers. On 10 July, on board CTF 117's flagship, USS BENEWAH (APB 35), Mr. McNAMARA was briefed on the status and plans of the Mobile Riverine Force by the respective Navy and Army commanders, Captain Wade C. WELLS, USN, and Colonel William B. FULTON, USA.

On 13 July the Surgeon General of the Navy, Vice Admiral Robert S. BROWN, MC, USN, arrived in Saigon for briefings at COMNAVFORV's headquarters, followed by an extensive tour of the Navy's medical facilities in the I Corps area, the Naval Support Activity's hospital in Danang plus USS REPOSE (AH 16) and USS SANCTUARY (AH 17). Vice Admiral BROWN also visited the medical facilities at Cam Ranh Bay, Long Binh, Dong Tam and Nha Be.

Saigon Naval Shipyard Review

On 26 July COMNAVFORV submitted to Commander U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam a comprehensive study concerning the critical shortage of skilled personnel at the Saigon Naval Shipyard. The study analyzed the shipyard's inequitable pay scales, reviewed the shipyard's declining production schedules, and concluded that the deteriorating skilled-worker level could eventually destroy the military effectiveness of the Vietnamese Navy. Accordingly, COMNAVFORV recommended that COMUSMACV make strong representation to the

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Vietnamese Government to increase the pay of shipyard workers to a level consistent with the current labor market. It was estimated that such action would cost $800,000 annually at the shipyard's present manning level and approximately $1,100,000 annually if the shipyard were fully manned.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) on 31 July was 15,925 officers and enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged as deserters declined from 310 in June to 307 in July.

On 1 July RAG 27 was placed in a reserve status. Ten of the unit's 20 craft remained temporarily at My Tho to operate with RAG 21; the other craft shifted to Cat Lai, near Saigon, to operate in the Third Riverine Area under the operational control of the chief of the VNN's Operations Division.

On 3 July, at Saigon's Naval Advanced Training Center, 44 selected warrant officers and petty officers were enrolled in a special six-month program leading to commissioned status. The program's newly-revised curriculum consists of courses in Leadership, Gunnery, Navigation, Engineering, Electronics, Mathematics and Tactics. The students will be commissioned as Deck or Engineer Officers depending upon their previous specialties.

On 19 July Captain Allan P. SLAFF, USN, relieved Captain Carson R. TALLENT, USN, as Senior Advisor, Vietnamese Navy Headquarters. For his role in furthering the advisory effort, the Government of Vietnam awarded Captain TALLENT the National Order of Vietnam and the Gallantry Cross (with Palm). South Vietnam's Chief of Naval Operations, Captain Tran Van CHON, VNN, made the

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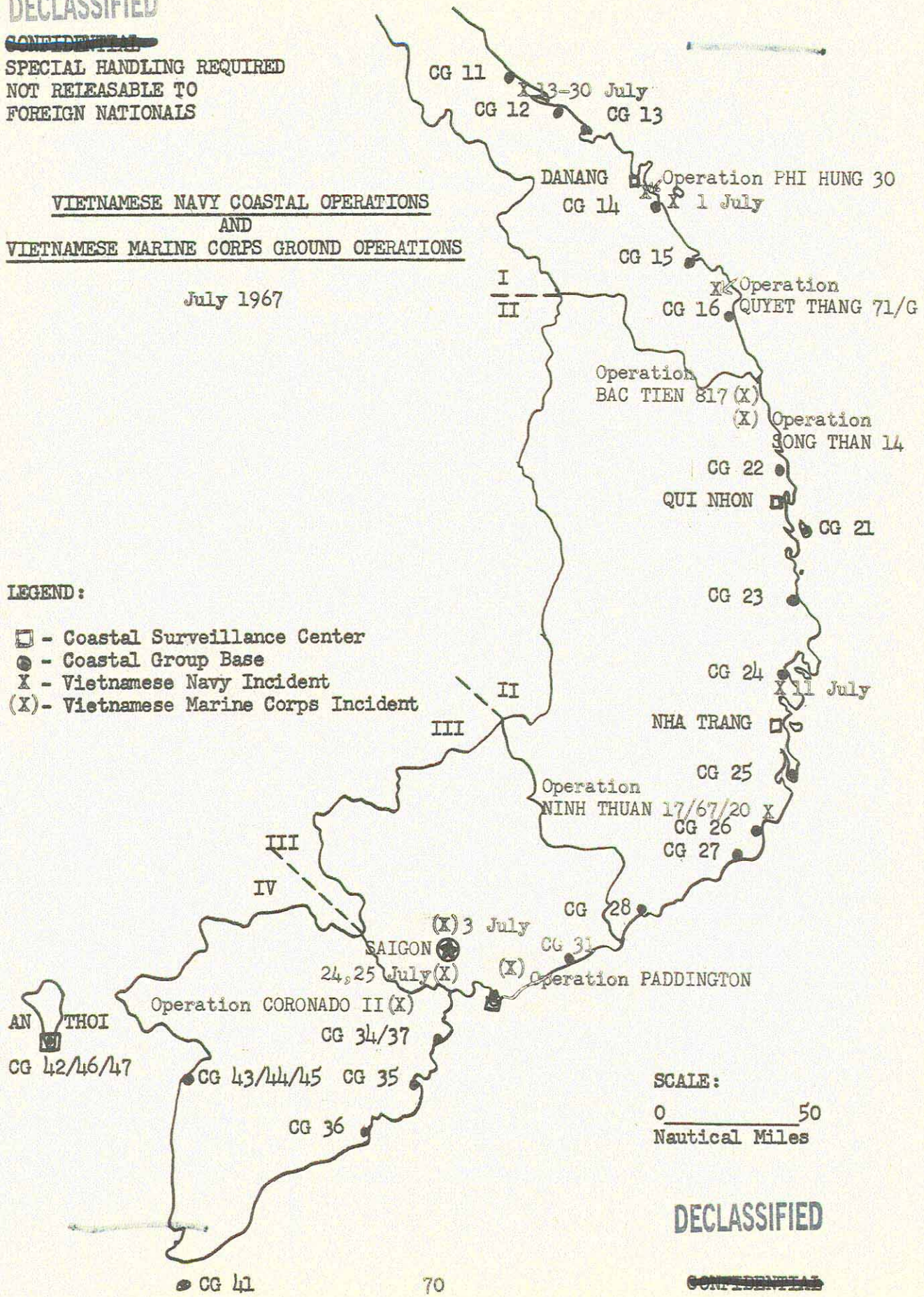
VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS AND VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS

July 1967



LEGEND:

- □ - Coastal Surveillance Center
- ● - Coastal Group Base
- X - Vietnamese Navy Incident
- (X) - Vietnamese Marine Corps Incident

SCALE:

0 _____ 50
Nautical Miles

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presentations.

On the 23rd PGM 605 completed the Naval Advanced Training Center's three week underway refresher program. Initially instituted in April to train the crews of the four new PGMs, the program has been continued in an effort to upgrade the training of the crews of all ships in the VNN. On the 24th, two new Class "A" Schools--for boatswain's mates and gunner's mates--began at the Recruit Training Center in Cam Ranh. The initial classes comprised 116 students.

On 30 July Coastal Group 21 completed its move from the base on Gambir Island to the newly-completed base at Degi, 21 miles north of Qui Nhon.

Fleet Command

In July the Fleet Command had 24 ships available daily and maintained 11 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam, five ships on river patrol and one ship on convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. The month's operations included MARKET TIME and other anti-infiltration patrols, psychological warfare and civic action visits, escort patrols and gunfire support missions. Fleet Command ships fired 30 gunfire support missions in July and searched 575 junks and 2,839 persons.

Patrol Craft (PCs and PCEs) and gunboats (PGMs) patrolled the coasts of the four Naval Zones; the PGMs also patrolled the rivers of the Rung Sat Special Zone. At 2000 on 9 July, 12 miles south of Saigon, a junk containing at least six Viet Cong was detected

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by PGM 602 while the junk was attempting to cross the Soirap River into the RSSZ. As the PGM closed in pursuit, the junk opened fire on the gunboat at a range of about 200 yards. The gunboat immediately returned the fire with her .50 caliber machine gun, igniting the gas tank and after section of the junk and killing at least one of the Viet Cong. Two other bodies were subsequently seen in the water but could not be recovered. Later, intelligence reports indicated that five other Viet Cong had been wounded during the engagement. The Viet Cong gunfire shattered two windshields on the gunboat but caused no personnel injuries.

Landing support ships (LSILs and LSSLs) provided gunfire support and acted as convoy escorts in the Third Naval Zone, the Fourth Riverine Area and the RSSZ. The ships conducted 21 gunfire missions in July. At 1130 on 9 July LSIL 331 was ambushed while patrolling the Bassac River, 22 miles downstream from Can Tho. Almost immediately a direct hit by a 75-mm. recoilless-rifle round struck the ship at the waterline on the port side. The ship returned the fire and received two additional recoilless-rifle hits as well as automatic-weapons and small-arms fire. Five VNN sailors were wounded during the incident, one of whom was evacuated to Can Tho by a PBR. The LSIL then proceeded to Can Tho for repairs. A reaction force subsequently put ashore from RAG craft operating in the area detained six suspects in connection with the ambush.

In another Bassac River incident, on 26 July, LSSL 230 came to the assistance of PBRs 4 and 39 under fire from Viet Cong ground

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positions, 16 miles southeast of Can Tho. The combined firepower of the three craft disrupted the enemy unit. During the engagement PBR 39 was struck by a recoilless-rifle round, wounding four crewmen and disabling the boat's starboard engine. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

Throughout the month a detachment of the VNN's Underwater Demolition Team (LDNN) continued to conduct nightly hull inspections of ships berthed in the Port of Saigon. Meanwhile two other detachments operated with U.S. Navy SEAL units based at Nha Be and Binh Thuy.

Coastal Force

In July Coastal Force units searched 24,497 junks and 88,929 persons, detaining 21 junks and 419 suspects. On a daily average, 68 percent of the Force's 198 available junks was on patrol.

On the first of the month, Coastal Group 14 forces engaged several Viet Cong units in an intense fire fight at the mouth of the Thu Bon River, 14 miles south of Danang. The enemy eventually broke contact and retreated, leaving behind nine of their dead.

Throughout the month, units of Coastal Groups 14 and 16 conducted a series of one-day sweeps in their respective areas. On the 15th, Coastal Group 14 units and Quang Nam sector forces conducted Operation PHI HUNG 30, 10 miles south of Danang, capturing four Viet Cong and detaining 38 suspects and 97 junks and sampans. That same day Coastal Group 16 units and Quang Ngai sector forces conducted Operation QUYET THANG 71/G, 70 miles south of Danang

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(just east of Quang Ngai City), killing five Viet Cong and detaining 25 suspects.

Shortly after midnight on 11 July, a junk and a sampan from Coastal Group 25 and PCF 44, in response to an intelligence report, established a blockade along a section of the Hon Heo peninsula, 20 miles north of Nha Trang. At 0030, two Viet Cong sampans carrying food and weapons attempted to run the blockade and were intercepted. In the ensuing fire fight one of the sampans was rammed, sunk, and recovered by the junk. The second enemy sampan escaped to the beach. Six Viet Cong were killed during the engagement, and four automatic weapons, 11 grenades and three small bombs were seized. Two Vietnamese sailors were killed and a third, seriously wounded, was evacuated to Nha Trang by the Swift boat.

From 13 to 15 July, Operation NINH THUAN 17/67/20 was conducted by Coastal Groups 26 and 27, PCE 09, PCF 81, and three Regional Force companies in an area near the village of Son Hai, 52 miles south of Nha Trang. At 0800 on the 13th, the RF companies conducted a helicopter-borne assault, while 40-man landing parties from the Coastal Groups conducted a beach assault. The landing parties captured two Viet Cong during their sweeps, the RF troops detained about 25 suspects, and the junks of the blocking force searched 98 junks and 274 persons.

On the morning of 7 July, in the Third Coastal Zone, four Coastal Group 35 junks and a company of ARVN Special Forces, supported by two U.S. PBRs and a helicopter fire team, conducted a

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search and destroy operation along the edge of the Long Toan Secret Zone, in lower Vinh Binh province. During the afternoon the naval units, acting as a blocking patrol, received intense automatic- and heavy-weapons fire, which killed a PBR crewman. Two Viet Cong were killed by the return fire. Meanwhile, the ground forces killed 27 Viet Cong and captured numerous weapons.

On the evening of 9-10 July units of Coastal Group 36 and a platoon of ARVN Special Forces, acting quickly on information obtained from a Hoi Chanh, staged a successful ambush on the southern end of Dung Island, near the mouth of the Bassac River. At 2130 Vietnamese junks landed 40 members of the Special Forces, and almost immediately the troops surprised and disrupted a group of Viet Cong conducting a meeting. A sweep of the area at daylight revealed that nine Viet Cong had been killed. In addition, one Viet Cong was captured, three others were wounded, and one enemy sampan and eight weapons were seized. One Special Forces soldier was wounded.

Riverine Area Naval Commands

In July the River Assault Groups conducted eleven operations in the First Naval Zone, seven in the Third Riverine Area and 14 in the Fourth Riverine Area. The RAG units also performed escort duty and conducted river patrol, base defense and psychological warfare missions. With a daily average employment of 74 percent of the 154 available craft, the RAG units searched 2,676 junks and 6,619 persons.

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On 13 July, a RAG 25 monitor successfully conducted an indirect gunfire mission against Viet Cong fortifications on Tan Dinh Island, 13 miles downstream from Can Tho. Initially, the target's bearing was marked by smoke grenades and rockets launched by a Forward Air Controller; the FAC then radioed the fortification's range and subsequently transmitted spot corrections as the monitor's salvos struck. Once on target, the monitor "fired for effect" and destroyed the enemy site completely.

The First Naval Zone's RAG detachment conducted three amphibious operations between 7 and 10 July. One Viet Cong was killed, 32 Viet Cong suspects were detained, and six enemy structures were destroyed during this period.

From the 13th through the end of the month the RAG detachment supported a series of amphibious operations conducted just north of Hue by Thua Thien sector forces, the ARVN 3rd Airborne Combat Group, and U.S. Marine units. Included in the results of these operations were 350 enemy killed, 95 captured, 27 suspects detained, and 128 weapons seized. During one of the operations, LAM SON 87/XDNT,* 600 refugees were transported by craft of the RAG detachment to new homes in a pacified area.

From 1 to 21 July, in the Third Riverine Area, a seven-craft detachment of RAG 22 provided lift support for the VNMC's 6th Battalion operating in the Rung Sat Special Zone. From the 21st

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* Xay-Dung Nong-Than: rural clearance and construction.

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Vietnamese Regional Force troops cross the ramp of a RAG 22 craft following a sweep operation in the Rung Sat Special Zone.

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through the end of the month, 11 of the detachment's craft conducted river patrols and supported Regional Force operations in the RSSZ.

Between 19 and 25 July, 10 craft from RAG 30 supported two companies of the U.S. 199th Light Infantry Brigade in operations conducted along the Dong Nai River, eight miles east of Saigon. During this period the craft transported and debarked troop units on 34 different occasions and patrolled the rivers and major canals in support of nighttime ambushes.

On 27 July, along the same stretch of the Dong Nai River, an RPC from RAG 30 sank a sampan carrying two Viet Cong. Minutes later, one half-mile away, six Viet Cong ambushed the RPC and the RAG 30 commandament. The VNN craft countered the ambush and put a landing party ashore which killed three of the enemy and seized a submachine gun. At 1045 the VNN units sighted several Viet Cong moving along the shoreline near the site of the sunken sampan. Again an attack party was landed and the group killed two Viet Cong and uncovered a cache containing six submachine guns, 146 60-mm. mortar rounds, 2,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition, 224 grenades, 220 pounds of TNT, numerous documents, and miscellaneous equipment used to assemble water mines.

On 3 July, in the Fourth Riverine Area, RAGs 23 and 31 and units of the ARVN NINTH Division conducted Operation NGO QUYEN 13/67, 12 miles southeast of Vinh Long. During the one-day operation, the combined force killed 28 Viet Cong, captured eight, and

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detained 9 suspects. Four weapons, a quantity of documents and almost two and one-half tons of rice were seized.

From 5 to 9 July, 22 craft from RAGs 21, 26 and 33 and LCU 535 conducted multi-battalion troop lifts, landings, gunfire and logistic support missions, and acted as blocking forces for the ARVN SEVENTH Division's Operation CUU LONG 62/67, southeast of Ben Tre. The results of the operation included 22 Viet Cong killed, 42 captured, and 56 suspects detained. Three sailors and three soldiers were killed and three sailors and 19 soldiers were wounded.

In the Bassac River on 6 July, six craft from RAG 25 destroyed 33 structures, 26 bunkers and 11 sampans during a three-hour bombardment of Tan Dinh Island, 14 miles downstream from Can Tho. On the 7th, in the same general area, a two-boat patrol from RAG 25 stationed a three-man ambush party at one end of a Viet Cong-constructed canal on Nai Island. An hour later five of the enemy were detected and taken under fire; whereupon the Viet Cong fled across the island. The ambush party then re-embarked in the patrol craft, circled the island and killed two of the Viet Cong as they approached the other end of the canal.

On 11 July an alert lookout on board one of the RAG 23 craft assigned to the Mang Thit River patrol thwarted a Viet Cong sapper attack when he spotted an approaching palm branch being pushed across the river by a swimmer. As the craft quickly maneuvered to avoid the swimmer, the lookout opened fire and an underwater detonation ensued, driving a column of water a height of 20 to 25 feet

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into the air.

Operation CUU LONG 63 was conducted between 17 and 20 July in the Binh Dai Secret Zone of Kien Hoa province by the ARVN SEVENTH Division and 34 craft from RAGs 21, 23, 26, 31, 32 and 33, and LCU 535. The force uncovered and destroyed three weapons factories containing over 25,000 rounds of ammunition, 200 grenades, 50 signal guns and 1,000 flares. The units also overran a Viet Cong prisoner of war camp, freeing six Vietnamese prisoners. In addition, four Viet Cong were killed during the operation.

On 27 July RAGs 25, 29 and 32 landed a battalion of Vinh Long Regional Force troops and the 3rd Battalion of the ARVN 16th Regiment at opposite ends of May Island. The RAG craft and assisting PBRs then blockaded the island's flanks as the ground forces swept toward the center of the island. Two Viet Cong were killed and two were captured by the ground forces; meanwhile the RAG craft detained 26 suspects and three junks attempting to leave the island.

Logistics

In July the Vietnamese Navy conducted 22 logistical support missions, transporting 4,076 tons of cargo and 3,781 personnel. Medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 1,629 tons of cargo and 2,283 personnel; tank landing ships (LSTs) lifted 1,549 tons of cargo and 1,134 personnel; and utility landing craft (LCUs) lifted 898 tons of cargo and 364 personnel.

During the month, the VNN's Supply center had a gross effectiveness of 71.9 percent on a total of 9,420 requests for items and a net

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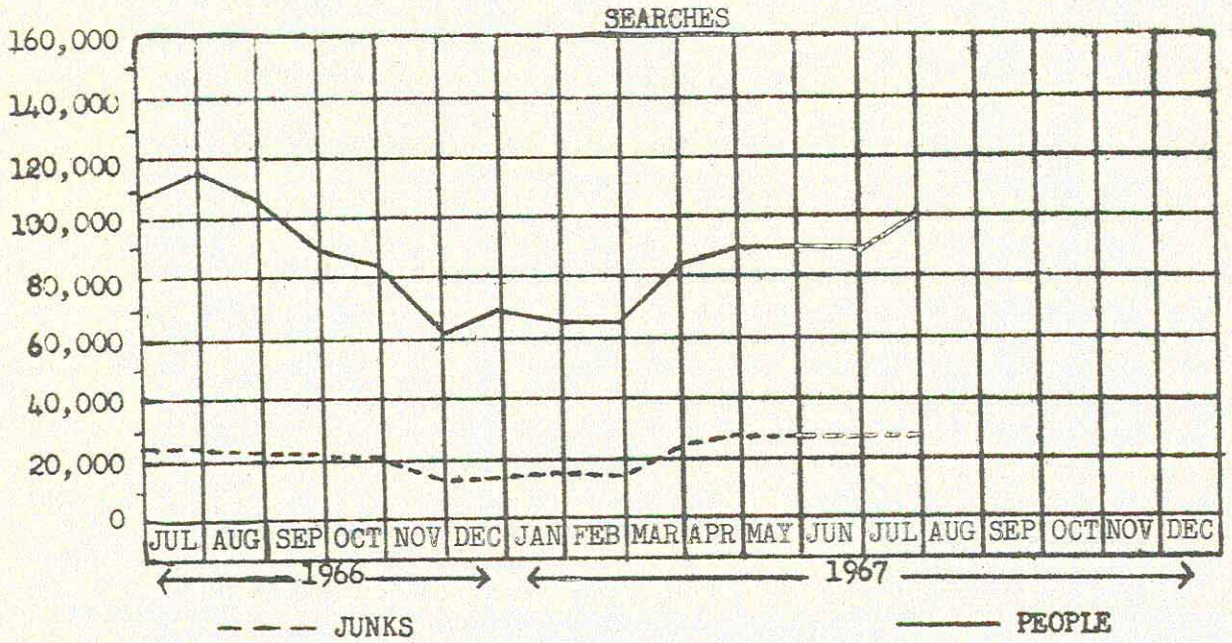
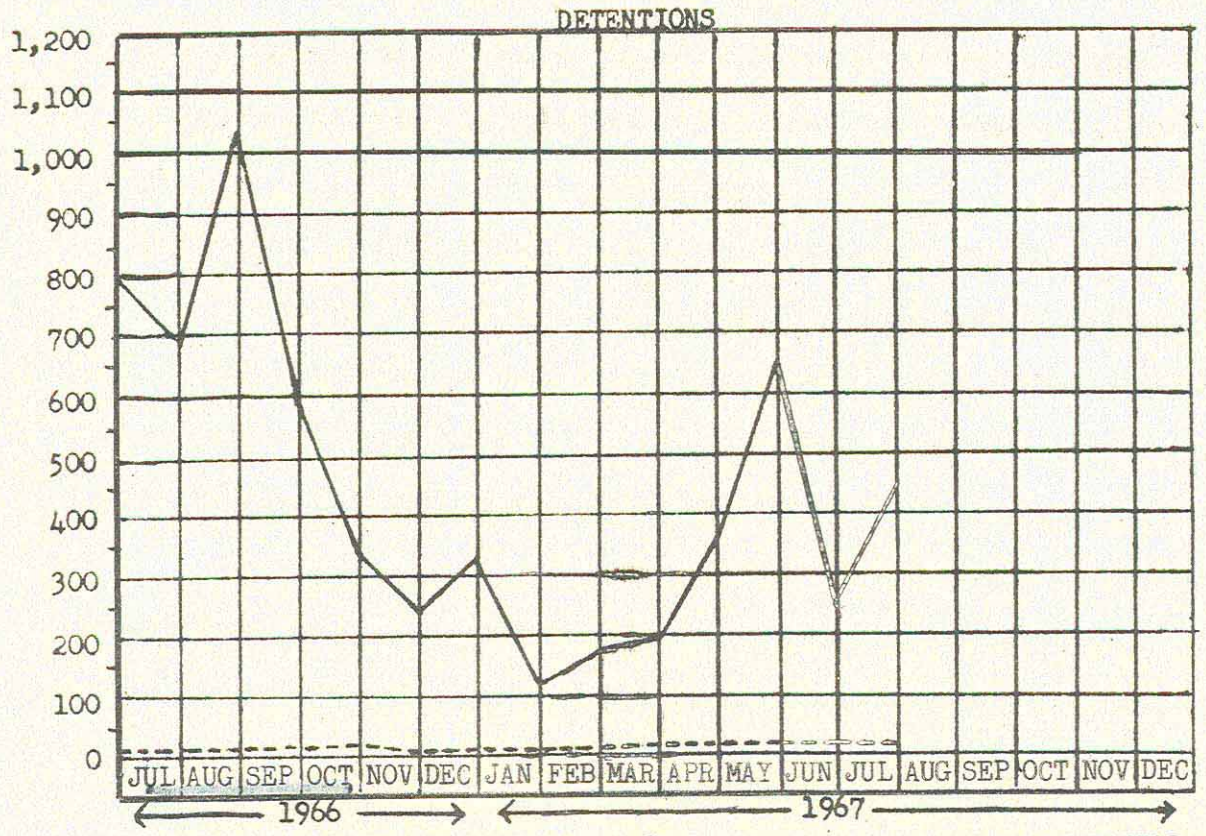
SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS
BY VIETNAMESE NAVY SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES





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effectiveness of 84 percent on 8,061 requests for items normally carried in the supply system.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary
July 1967

	Searched		Detained	
Coastal Force	Junks	People	Junks	People
I NZ	8,314	27,606	12	219
II NZ	5,685	20,991	3	139
III NZ	7,877	32,462	6	56
IV NZ	2,621	7,870	0	5
Sub-Totals	24,497	88,929	21	419
Fleet Command Patrol Ships	575	2,839	0	0
Riverine Area Craft	2,676	6,619	0	0
Totals	27,748	98,387	21	419

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VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

In July the seven battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II and III Corps Tactical Zones, the Rung Sat Special Zone and the Fourth Riverine Area. The six infantry battalions and the three batteries of the Artillery Battalion were committed to combat operations 77 percent of the time.

In II Corps' Bong Son area Brigade Force A, consisting of a headquarters, the 4th and 5th Battalions and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, continued a search and destroy and pacification operation begun in April. The operation, code-named BAC TIEN 817, ended on 12 July and was followed by similar operations in the same area until the 26th. No significant contact with the enemy occured

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during this period. In 14 scattered incidents Force A elements killed 14 Viet Cong, captured three, and detained 68 suspects. Meanwhile, 12 Viet Cong mine explosions killed six Marines and wounded 24 more; five other Marines were wounded by sniper fire. On 14 July the 1st Battalion, airlifted from Thu Duc, relieved the 4th Battalion in the field. On the 26th Brigade Force B (a headquarters, the 2nd Battalion and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion) relieved Force A and the latter returned to the base camp at Thu Duc.

The next day Force A deployed to Dong Tam and joined U.S. and ARVN units in Operation CORONADO II. At 0800 on the 30th, the Force conducted a helicopter-borne assault 10 miles west of Dong Tam; while 3rd Battalion elements attacked well-entrenched Viet Cong battalions, the Marines' 4th Battalion took up blocking positions 1200 yards to the north of the enemy units. In the fierce 23-hour battle that ensued, the enemy used mortars, B-40 rockets and heavy automatic weapons (several of the weapons were tree-mounted) in an effort to turn back the advancing Marines. Supported by helicopter strikes and artillery fire, the Marines disrupted the enemy positions and forced the Viet Cong to retreat, leaving behind 108 dead; in addition, six Viet Cong were captured. During the engagement 115 Marines and one U.S. advisor were wounded.

At 1300 on the 31st, the Marines' 4th Battalion relieved the 3rd Battalion and the latter and the headquarters unit were airlifted to Dong Tam. At the same time the 5th Battalion, in Thu

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Duc, prepared to leave for Dong Tam on 1 August in order to strengthen the forces participating in the remaining phases of CORONADO II.

Earlier in the month Brigade Force B, composed of a headquarters, the 1st and 3rd Battalions and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion, had conducted security operations at Tan Uyen, north of Saigon, until 8 July. On 3 July seven Viet Cong were killed in a squad-size encounter; during the week one Marine was killed and two were wounded in two booby-trap incidents. On the 8th the 2nd Battalion, having just completed security duty at Vinh Loc, relieved the 1st Battalion at Tan Uyen.

On 9 July Brigade Force B was moved by truck convoy from Tan Uyen to northern Phuoc Tuy province to participate in Operation PADDINGTON with U.S., Australian and other Vietnamese units. The next day Force B conducted a helicopter-borne assault in an area 43 miles east of Saigon. Although the Force's units met scattered resistance, the 2nd Battalion uncovered a munitions factory containing 1,000 grenades and 400 mines, and a Viet Cong hospital complex. On the 12th, in the heaviest engagement of the operation, the 3rd Battalion made contact with a Viet Cong battalion and killed 40 of the enemy. That day 11 Marines were killed and 25 were wounded. During the entire operation, which ended on the 14th, Marine elements accounted for 43 of the 92 Viet Cong killed. At the same time 11 of the 14 Allied troops killed and 31 of the 59 wounded were Marines.

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Brigade Force B subsequently returned to the Thu Duc base camp where it remained until 26 July when the Force was airlifted to Bong Son to relieve Brigade Force A. Force B then began Operation SONG THAN 14, nine miles southeast of Bong Son, a search and destroy mission designed to provide road and communications security in the area. By month's end three Viet Cong had been killed by the Marines, three had been captured, and seven suspects had been detained; during this period four Marines were wounded.

On 24 and 25 July the 3rd Battalion joined U.S. and ARVN units in a search and destroy operation in the eastern portion of Long An province, 10 miles south of Saigon. The mission failed to produce any contact with the enemy.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, the Marines' 6th Battalion and Battery A of the Artillery Battalion operated through the 21st. No contact with the enemy occurred during this period. From 25 July through the end of the month the 6th Battalion was assigned security duties at Vinh Loc, four miles west of Saigon.

Throughout July the Brigade accounted for 175 enemy dead, 12 captured, and 78 suspects detained. In the same period 64 Marines were killed and 184 Marines and one U.S. advisor were wounded. The morale of the Vietnamese Marine Corps remained at a high level and the leadership in all units was considered to be satisfactory during the month.

On 24 July Colonel Richard L. MICHAELS, USMC, relieved Colonel Nels E. ANDERSON, USMC, as Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese Marine

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Corps. For his role in furthering the advisory effort, Colonel ANDERSON was awarded the Vietnamese Navy's Distinguished Service Order.

Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary
July 1967

VC/NVA: 175 KIA, 12 VC CAPTURED, 78 SUSPECTS DETAINED

VNMC: 64 KIA, 184 WIA

Weapons Captured:

Pistols, .45 caliber	3
Carbines	6
Rifles, MAS-36	1
Heavy machine guns, 12-mm.	2
AK-47s	3
60-mm. mortars	1
Rifles, M-1	2
Rifles, Russian	1
Rifles, U.S., 03	1
AK-50s	4
B-40s, RPG	2
BARs	1
Rifles, Czech	1

Captured or Destroyed Materiel/Facilities:

Regimental defensive systems	1
Regimental medical stations	1
Arsenals	1
Communications trenches	6
Rice (kg.)	2,250
Salt (kg.)	800
Explosive charges (Butterfly)	135
Mines (5-kilogram)	50
105-mm. modified mines	30
155-mm. modified mines	4
Homemade mines	400
Hand grenades	1,090
Thatched huts	6
Kerosene cans	4
Caches of assorted items	16
Containers of medical supplies	26
Surgical thread kits	1,000
Compasses	3
Assorted small-arms ammunition, rounds	600
Linked .30 caliber ammunition, rounds	1,200

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Claymore mines	6
Anti-tank mines	1
Sampans	2

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APPENDIX I

U. S. NAVY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT, VIETNAM

In recent months the U. S. Navy Research and Development Unit, Vietnam (NRDU-V) has tested and evaluated a buoyant protective vest, an assortment of pyrotechnics, a helicopter landing platform for use by armored troop carriers, and two remote-controlled minesweepers.

The buoyant protective vest, tested during May, was designed to shield wearers from small-arms fire and heavier fragments, and help keep waterborne wearers (e.g., boat crewmen blown over the side) afloat for extended periods. It was found that after 18 hours of immersion, the vest still retained enough buoyancy to withstand 30 pounds of weight. However, the vest's bulk was considered too restrictive, especially for personnel assigned to enclosed firing stations similar to those that exist in Riverine Assault Force craft. Accordingly, NRDU-V recommended a number of modifications to the vest, including larger armholes, "shotgun" pockets, and "velcro" fasteners instead of zippers.

During the latter part of June, in response to the need for all-weather signaling devices and improved short-range illumination devices, NRDU-V began testing a number of pyrotechnics.

Among these the Ex-130 Signal Cartridge, which is fired from a .38 caliber pistol, was found to be inadequate as a daytime signalling device. At night, however, the Ex-130 proved to be an excellent device, even under adverse weather conditions. The different color signals (yellow, red and green stars) were readily discernible out

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to 12,000 yards. Another device--the MK-79--was found to be effective during the day as well as at night. The MK-79, which is normally issued to aviators, consists of a projector and a bandolier containing seven cartridges. Under daylight conditions the device's red star signal was visible up to 4,000 yards; under nighttime conditions the range was 8,000 yards.

Two parachute-type smoke signals--the M-128A (green smoke) and the M-129A (red smoke)--both of which can be fired from an M-79 grenade launcher, produced excellent results. In the Mekong Delta, under late-afternoon, low-overcast conditions, the signals were readily visible and the colors clearly discernible up to 4,000 yards. At sea, in rain squalls, the signals were visible up to 9,000 yards.

Among the short-range illumination devices tested, only one--the M-127A parachute-type white flare--produced useful results. The device was tested from a PBR and a PCF and it was found that the flare provided satisfactory illumination between 450 and 600 yards, and excellent illumination between 300 and 450 yards. At ranges less than 300 yards, the firing craft was illuminated as well as the target area.

In all cases, storage requirements for the tested pyrotechnics were found to be compatible with existing stowage spaces on board patrol craft.

On 21 June, in response to a request from Commander Task Force 117, NRDU-V investigated the feasibility of constructing a portable helicopter landing platform for use in an Armored Troop Carrier (ATC). Within three days, the preliminary design and sketches were completed.

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A UH-1D completes a successful landing on the newly-developed helicopter landing platform.

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by Mr. Berger M. SHEPARD, one of NRDU-V's civilian advisors.* The materials for the 16' x 20' platform were obtained in Saigon and delivered to USS ASKARI (ARL 30), the repair ship of the Riverine Assault Force, on 27 June.

The 3,000 pound platform, built primarily with two-inch piping and three-inch angle iron, was constructed on the 2nd of July and installed on the 3rd. No modifications to the ATC were necessary and the platform's foundation was secured by cables and turnbuckles lashed to existing padeyes in the craft's well-deck. The platform's landing pad was formed by laying a section of steel matting. The next day four successful landings were made by an OC-23 (Cyclops) helicopter. The platform was then reinforced and, on the 5th, a heavier UH-1D helicopter made a series of equally successful landings. By month's end two additional platforms had been constructed and installed in other ATCs.

The development of the platform has provided the Mobile Riverine Force with an important new capability for faster handling of medical evacuees. The platform's proximity to battle areas will also enable the MRF to conduct certain air borne re-supply and assault missions more expeditiously.

In July NRDU-V completed an extensive series of tests begun in May involving remote-controlled minesweepers. Two types of drones

*NRDU-V's staff consists of five officers and four enlisted men. In addition, the unit has temporary duty billets for six scientific advisors; the billets are normally filled by technical representatives from various naval weapons and electronics laboratories.

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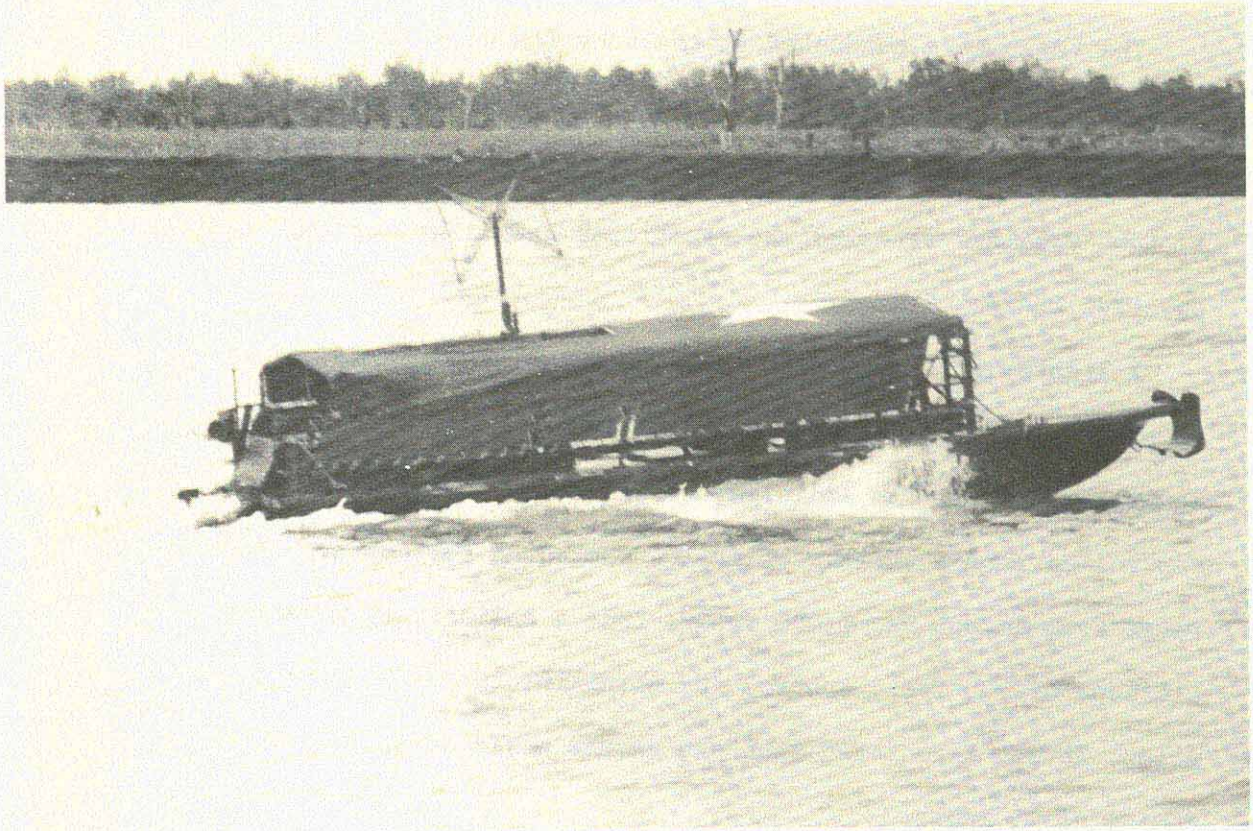

The Hydrodyne drone minesweeper underway in the Long Tau River.

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were tested: a modified "Boston Whaler" which was developed by COMPHIBPAC's Naval Operations Support Group; and a Hydrodyne which was developed by the Navy's Mine Defense Laboratory.

The tests were conducted in the Long Tau River and both craft performed well under favorable environmental conditions. Under less favorable conditions, however, the weight, power and freeboard of the 17-foot "Whaler" rendered the craft less seaworthy than the more powerful 23-foot Hydrodyne.

A lightweight chain-drag system was employed during the tests and it proved to be effective against a variety of simulated Viet Cong controlled-mines. In addition, it was found that the drones could be controlled from a variety of craft, including helicopters. The control range from an MSB was 1,000 yards; from a helicopter, hovering at an altitude of 700 feet, control was maintained up to a slant range of one mile. It was also found that the drones could sweep effectively up to speeds of 15 knots.

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APPENDIX II

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

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

1. Religious Services:

a. Divine Services:

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

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	172	162	334
Attendance	6,157	1,131	7,288
Communed	1,682	504	2,186

(2) Other Military Installations

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	76	14	90
Attendance	2,300	132	2,432
Communed	872	61	933

(3) Civilian Churches

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	7	6	13
Attendance	2,442	178	2,620
Communed	850	53	903

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

Denomination	Chaplains		Lay Leaders	
	No.	Attend.	No.	Attend.
Catholic	64	2,784	2	8
Protestant	9	520	14	63

c. Other religious services in which chaplains participated:

Type of Service	Attendance
Chu Lai Chapel Dedication	200
MCB-3 Chapel Dedication	132
Chapel by the Sea Dedication	260
Protestant Monthly Rally	125
Invocation and Benediction	150
Memorial (3)	150

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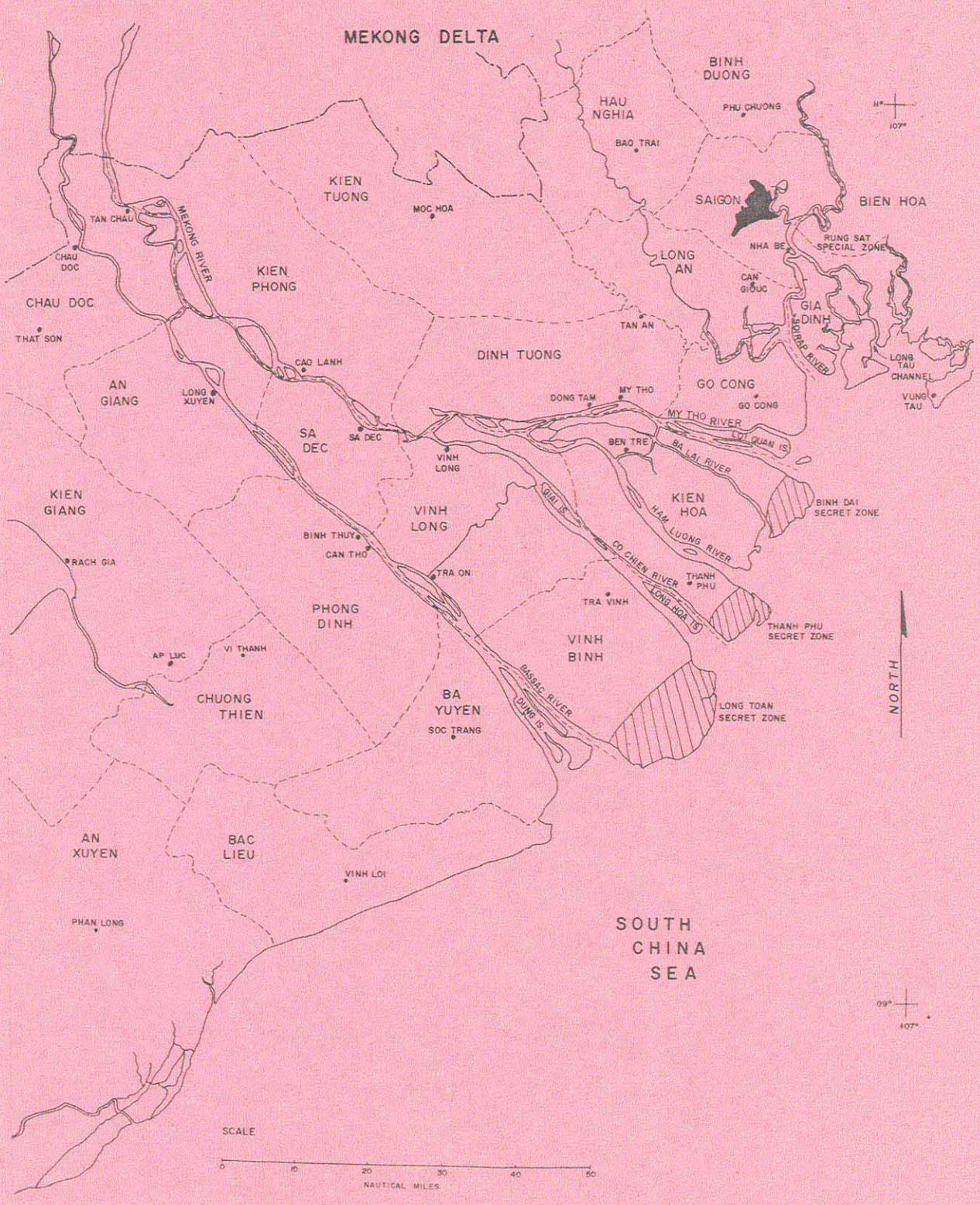

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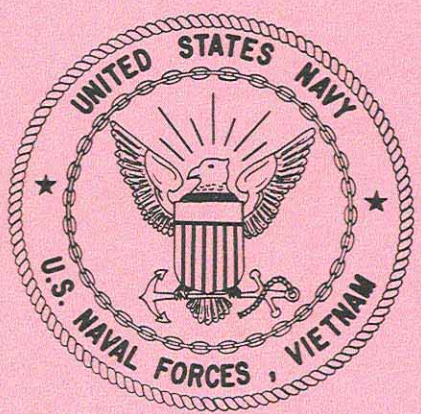

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