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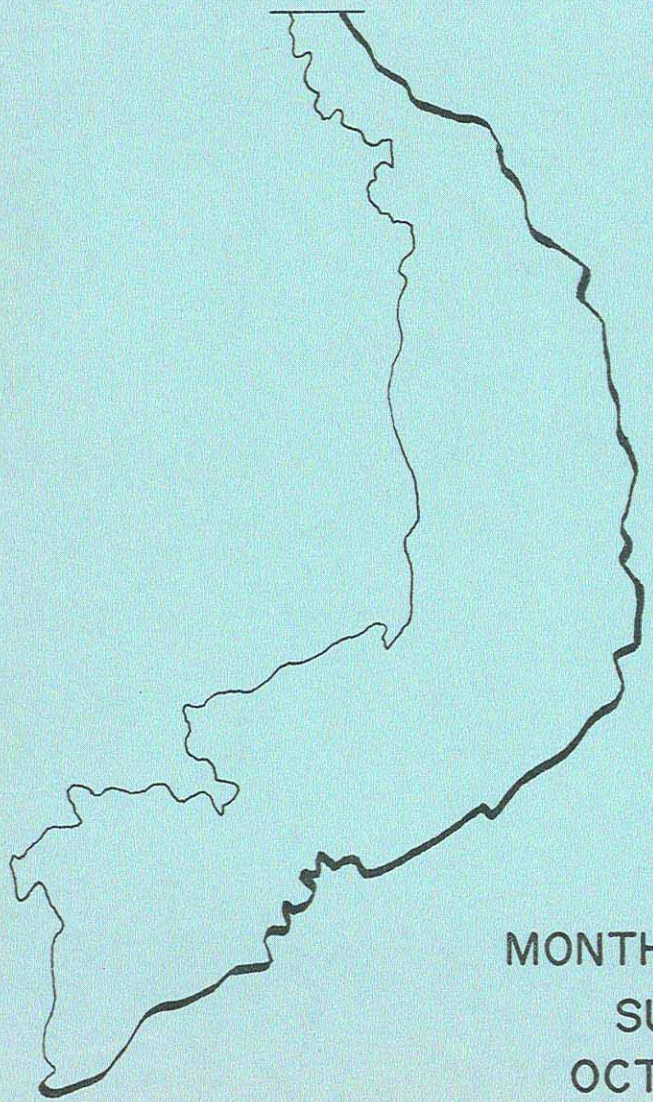

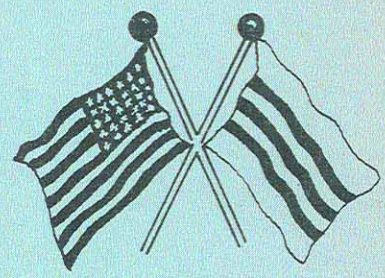

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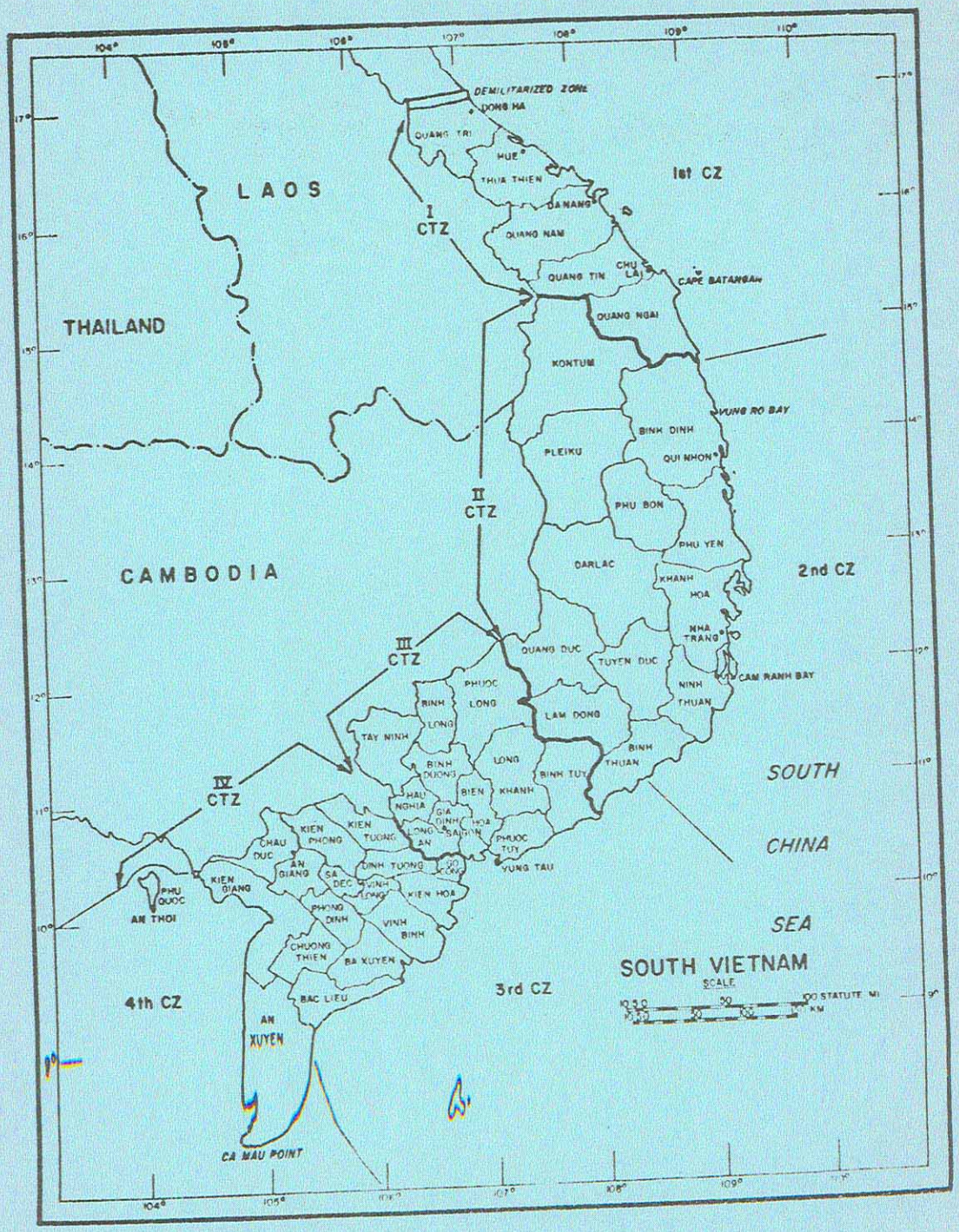

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NAVFORVINST 5215.2
List I
List II B(5), C(5), K
List III A, C(12), D(8)
List IV A(1), B, C(6), D(1)
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FOREWORD

During the month of October MARKET TIME activity decreased noticeably. This can be attributed to adverse weather conditions created by the early arrival of the Northeast Monsoon season. In many instances seas were running over 10 feet in height and winds were in excess of 25 knots. This holds true in all areas except the Fourth Coastal Zone which was not affected by the Northeast Monsoon. There was an increase in activity in this Zone.

Throughout the month there were continued indications of Viet Cong frustrations in the Delta. Destruction of GAME WARDEN PBRs had become a major objective. In addition to heavy enemy fire from the banks of the rivers, there were several abortive mining attempts in the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone. Much credit is due the GAME WARDEN helicopters and the daring and aggressive activities of the SEAL teams in keeping the Viet Cong off balance.

The Riverine Assault Force continued applying pressure throughout the Delta and RSSZ, killing a large number of Viet Cong and destroying numerous structures and bunkers. A number of Viet Cong base camps were overrun resulting in the destruction and/or capture of large quantities of enemy supplies and ammunition.

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CHRONOLOGY

2 Oct - Japanese merchantman OKUNI MARU is ambushed in the Long Tau River, 21 miles southeast of Saigon. PGM 608 suppresses the enemy fire. One Japanese sailor is slightly wounded; Viet Cong casualties are unknown. p. 104.

- The company commander of the 505th Viet Cong Company rallies to PBRs under the CHIEU HOI program. p. 48.

3 Oct - Operation CRIMSON TIDE II is launched on and near Tan Dinh Island, 12 miles southeast of Can Tho. Numerous enemy structures and fortifications are destroyed during the operation. Three U. S. Navy men are wounded including Captain Paul N. GRAY, USN, Commander Task Force 116. Two Viet Cong are captured. p. 48.

4 Oct - An M-132-A1 flame thrower is successfully test fired from an ATC. p. 67.

6 Oct - The MRF and ARVN SEVENTH Division forces kill 173 Viet Cong during operations in the Ban Long Secret Zone. Friendly casualties include six U. S. soldiers killed and 25 wounded; one U. S. sailor wounded by sniper fire; and six ARVN soldiers killed and 25 wounded. p. 61.

7 Oct - A crewman aboard a RAG 32 Monitor seizes the craft, kills four other crewmen, and takes the boat into Cambodia. p. 101.

9 Oct - Dong Tam is attacked with Viet Cong 82-mm mortars. Thirty-one Navymen are wounded. Enemy casualties are unknown. p. 61.

10 Oct - MRF units conduct a night transit of the Mekong River complex for the first time. p. 62.

11 Oct - A major organizational change in the Naval Advisory Group is initiated. p. 99.

12 Oct - USCGC BARATARIA fires on an enemy concentration 28 miles north of Ca Mau Point, destroying 15 structures. p. 11.

16 Oct - A U. S. Navy "Seawolf" light fire team attack and sink a large 40-foot junk near the mouth of the Ba Lai River. During the action one helicopter is slightly damaged by possible enemy anti-aircraft weapons fire. p. 39.

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21 Oct - SEALs kill two Viet Cong in an ambush on a stream four miles southeast of Nha Be. p. 27.

- Vinh Long-based "Seawolves" kill 13 Viet Cong and wound 13 more when they attack an enemy troop concentration 28 miles southeast of Vinh Long. p. 47.

22 Oct - USS DUPONT, with PCF 50 spotting, fires on a large concentration of enemy junks along the coast of Quang Tri province, destroying 14 and damaging 25 others. p. 4.

25 Oct - PBR 64 is sunk by a direct hit from a recoilless-rifle round which also wounds all six crewmen. The firefight draws two more PBRs and two light helicopter fire teams to the scene. Nine U. S. Navymen are wounded and a Vietnamese Maritime Policeman aboard PBR 64 is missing; two Viet Cong are killed. p. 41.

26 Oct - USCGC BARATARIA, while providing gunfire support 18 miles south-southwest of Qui Nhon, destroys seven structures and one sampan. In addition, three sampans are damaged, one Viet Cong is killed and six are wounded. p. 7.

27 Oct - Operation CORONADO VIII commences, marking the initial employment of the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Regiment in conjunction with the MRF. p. 65.

- Four U. S. Navy divers are ambushed while working in the Vam Co Tay River. One Navyman is killed; two are seriously wounded. p. 92.

30 Oct - Vice President Hubert H. HUMPHREY and party visits the USS BENEWAH (APB 35) and is briefed on MRF operations. p. 97.

- Seabees complete the alternate airfield for Dong Ha in 45 days. p. 77.

- NAVFORV numerical strength stands at 30,337.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

During October units of Operation MARKET TIME and Operation STABLE DOOR detected over 97,800 craft along South Vietnam's coastline and harbors; more than 26,000 of these were boarded or inspected. The boardings resulted in the detention of 73 craft and 732 persons.

Certain MARKET TIME patrol areas and patrol units were realigned during the month. Airborne patrol tracks were extended farther westward in the Gulf of Thailand to include surveillance of sea traffic bound for Cambodia; and the northern minesweeper/destroyer escort barrier patrol was extended 40 miles eastward along the 17th parallel to help increase the probability of detecting southbound infiltrators. The semi-annual shift of WPB and PCF units, involving, in October, the movement of nine of the more seaworthy cutters to the First and Second Coastal Zones, occurred during the latter part of the month.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

During October MARKET TIME units detected 52,793 junks and sampans; approximately 35 percent of these were inspected and almost 23 percent were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 67 craft and 479 persons. In addition, 1,382 steel-hulled craft were detected transitting MARKET TIME areas; 53 of the steel-hulled craft were boarded.

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The decrease in MARKET TIME activity during the month was attributed primarily to the early arrival of the northeast monsoon season. Junk and sampan detections in the first two Zones numbered 37,485, less than half the total recorded in September; in some cases, seas of over ten feet in height and winds in excess of 25 knots prevented patrol craft from leaving port.

Other MARKET TIME activity during the month included support for three ground operations, 98 Naval Gunfire Support missions, 12 hostile fire incidents, and six SAR and medevac missions. As a result of the various operations, 34 structures, seven bunkers, and 24 craft were destroyed; in addition, three Viet Cong were killed.

First Coastal Zone

During October there was a sharp decrease in Operation MARKET TIME activity in the First Coastal Zone. Heavy weather prevented patrolling on several days during the month. Only 13,915 junks and sampans were detected in the Zone, a decrease of approximately 20,000 from September's figure. More than 6,000 of the detected craft were boarded or inspected.

On 7 October, in response to a request from Coastal Group 13, PCF 76 fired 20 rounds of 81-mm mortar on a position which was occupied by approximately 50 Viet Cong. All rounds landed on target, and as a result of the firing, three structures and one bunker were

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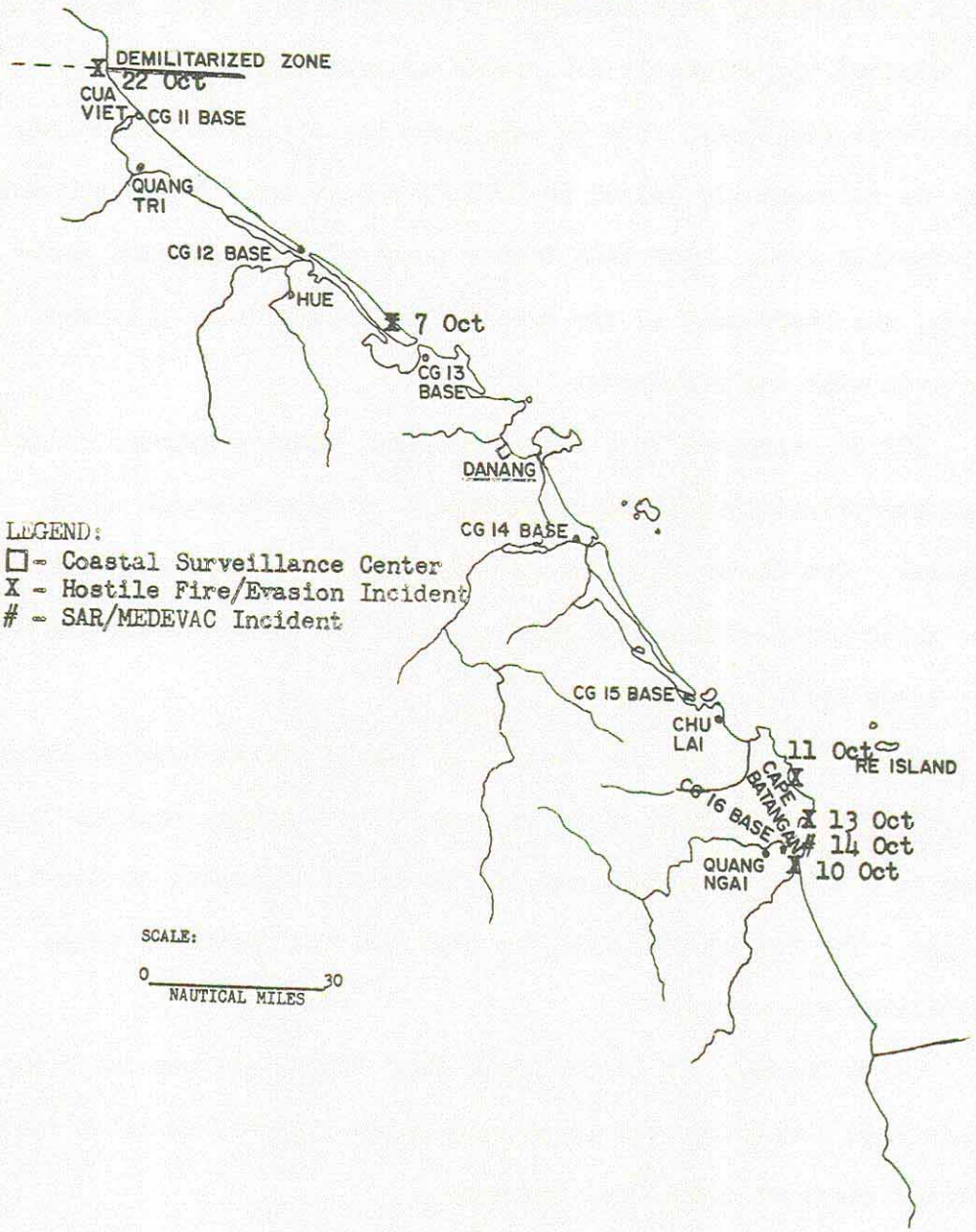
OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE



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destroyed.

On 11 October, while closing the beach approximately five miles northeast of Cape Batangan to investigate a small junk, PCF 79 received approximately 100 rounds of automatic-weapons fire from three positions. PCF 79 sustained one hit at the waterline and was subsequently joined by PCFs 19 and 54 and USS NEW (DD 818). All hostile fire, which came from a total of six different positions, was suppressed as the various craft completely saturated the area with their weapons.

PCF 56 responded to a call for urgent gunfire support in an area approximately four miles southwest of Cape Batangan on 10 October. One thousand rounds of .50 caliber, 10 HE rounds, and two white phosphorus rounds were expended by PCF 56, resulting in two enemy killed (probable).

On 13 October, at the request of ROK 5th Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer, PCFs 15 and 18 fired on a junk and approximately 60 Viet Cong in a tree line approximately five miles southwest of Cape Batangan. The firing destroyed the junk and the extent of enemy casualties was unknown.

On 14 October PCF 57 recovered four Vietnamese men and one child from a sailing junk which sank while anchored in heavy seas off the coast of Quang Ngai Province.

PCF 50 observed an unusually large number of junks beached

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along the northernmost coast of Quang Tri Province on 22 October. With PCF 50 spotting, USS DUPONT (DD 941) took the junks under fire, destroying 14 and damaging 25.

MARKET TIME units in the First Coastal Zone also supported three ground operations in I Corps Tactical Zone during October.

Second Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME activity also decreased in the Second Coastal Zone during October. The Zone's units detected 23,573 junks and sampans; more than 8,000 of these were boarded or inspected.

On 13 October, in response to a Coastal Group 25 request, PCF 44 medevaced a Vietnamese child who had been seriously wounded in the foot by the accidental discharge of a firearm. The child, accompanied by her father, was taken by the Swift to the medical facility in Nha Trang.

On 16 October during a routine MARKET TIME inspection of a Vietnamese sampan approximately 30 miles northeast of Phan Thiet, POINT WELCOME personnel discovered a small boy with a badly lacerated upper arm on board the boat. The boy, requiring medical attention exceeding the first aid treatment available on board the POINT WELCOME, was taken ashore by small boat and turned over to U. S. personnel for proper medical treatment.

During POINT WELCOME's investigation of three sampans approximately 35 miles northeast of Phan Thiet on 17 October, one of the

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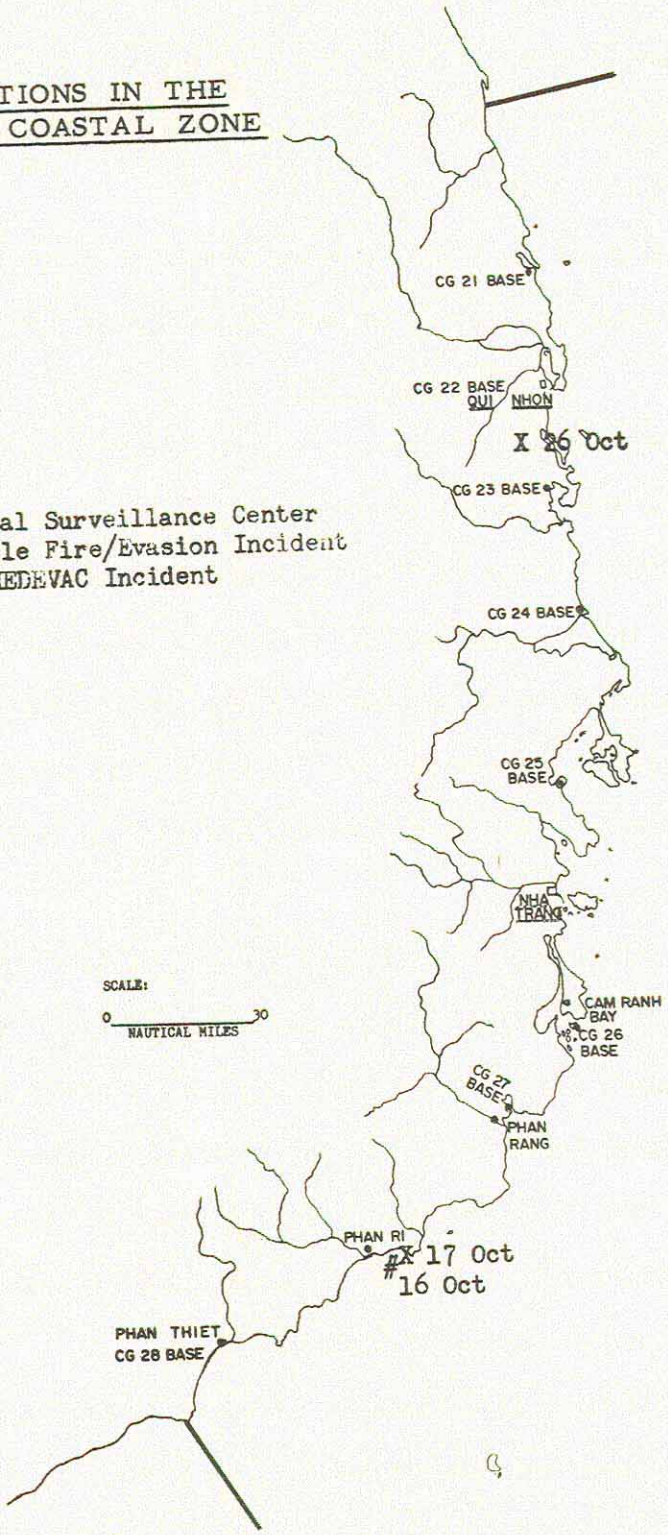
OPERATIONS IN THE SECOND COASTAL ZONE



LEGEND:
□ - Coastal Surveillance Center
X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
- SAR/MEDEVAC Incident

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sampans evaded to the beach and its occupants were seen running over the sand dunes. The beached sampan was taken under fire and badly damaged.

On 26 October the Coast Guard Cutter BARATARIA, utilizing an airborne spotter, provided naval gunfire against enemy positions approximately 18 miles south-southwest of Qui Nhon. The firing resulted in seven structures and one sampan destroyed, three sampans damaged, one Viet Cong killed, and six wounded.

Third Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the Third Coastal Zone detected over 8,500 junks and sampans during the month of October; more than 3,600 of these were inspected.

Although coastal traffic was lighter than usual during the month, MARKET TIME units in the Third Coastal Zone were requested to conduct an unusually high number of gunfire support missions. The Zone's Coast Guard WPBs and Navy PCFs fired 16 missions against enemy positions concentrated in the Long Toan and Thanh Phu Secret Zones, as well as numerous other missions against various positions along the coast.

On 10 October in the Long Toan Secret Zone, the Coast Guard's POINT HUDSON provided gunfire support against a hostile area designated by a IV CTZ airborne spotter. As a result of the firing, one structure was destroyed, and three structures and one bunker

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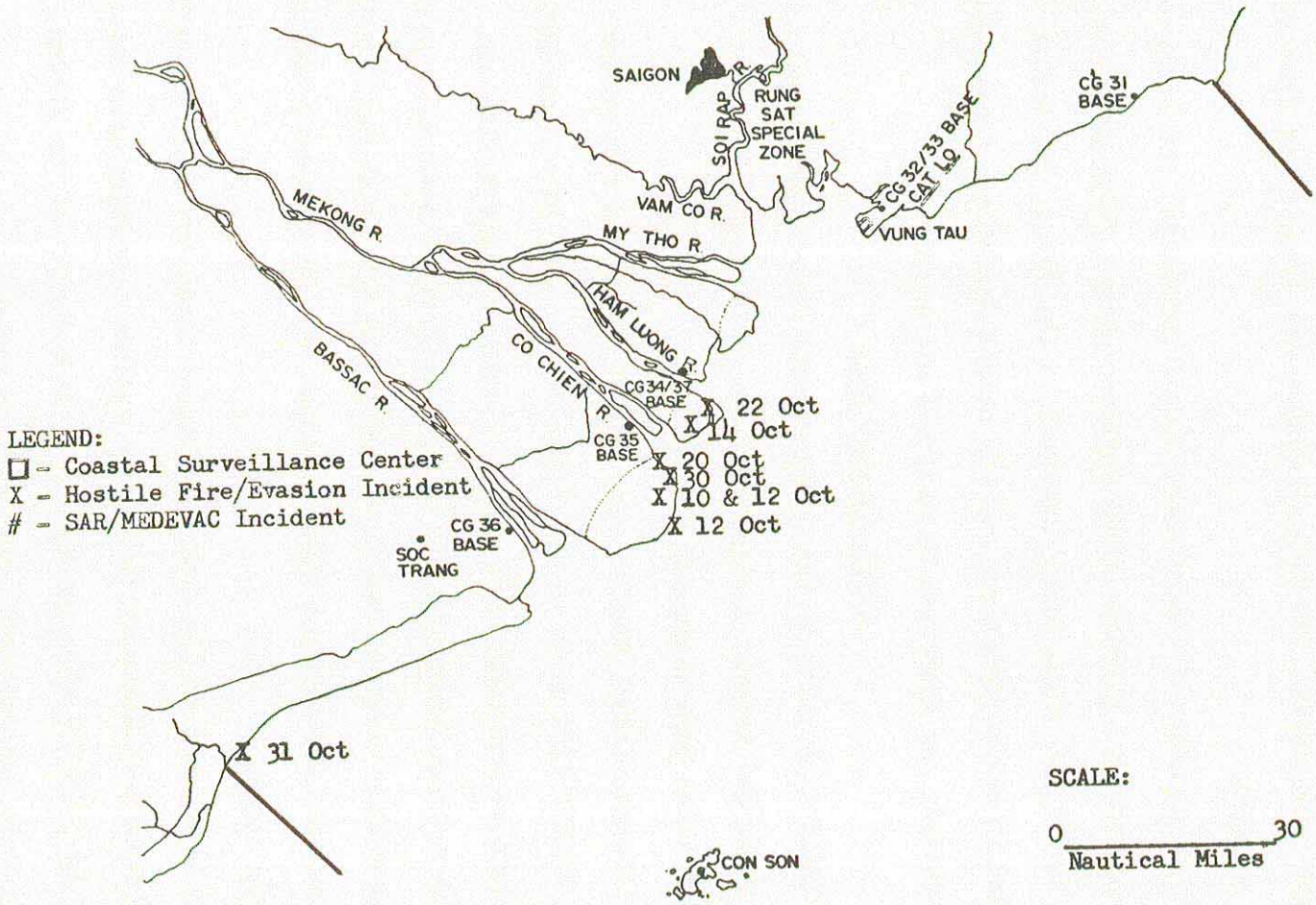
OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



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were damaged.

The POINT HUDSON also fired on a Viet Cong training area in the Long Toan Secret Zone on 12 October, damaging six bunkers and two structures.

Also on 12 October, POINT JEFFERSON fired on an evading junk in the restricted coastal area adjacent to the Long Toan Secret Zone. The junk was destroyed by the firing and one Viet Cong was killed and two wounded.

On 14 October POINT GAMMON and PCF 26 fired on a group of beached sampans in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone. Three sampans were destroyed and 10 were damaged as a result of the firing.

On the 20th, the IV Corps Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer requested POINT GRACE take an area in the Long Toan Secret Zone under fire. The firing resulted in three structures and one bunker damaged, one secondary explosion, and one Viet Cong killed.

At the request of an airborne spotter, PCF 68 took enemy positions in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone under fire on 22 October. The spotter reported excellent coverage and the firing resulted in three structures, two sampans, and one bunker destroyed, and eight structures and two sampans damaged.

On 30 October POINT HUDSON conducted a harassment and interdiction firing mission on a position in the Long Toan Secret Zone. A large secondary explosion and a secondary fire were noted as a

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The MARKET TIME base at Cat Lo.

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result of the firing.

PCF 71 sighted five men working fish traps approximately 50 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point on the 31st. As the PCF closed to investigate, the men swam toward the beach. The PCF fired warning shots and then received heavy automatic-weapons fire from the shore line, which resulted in minor flesh wounds to two USN personnel. PCF 71 returned the fire and suppressed the enemy fire.

Fourth Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the Fourth Coastal Zone detected over 9,000 junks and sampans during the month, an increase of approximately 2,000. Of the total detected over 2,300 were boarded or inspected. The Fourth Coastal Zone's units were also involved in numerous gunfire support missions and hostile fire encounters during the month.

On 12 October in the Gulf of Thailand, approximately 28 miles north of Ca Mau Point, USCGC BARATARIA fired against a position containing an estimated 100 Viet Cong. The firing resulted in the destruction of 15 structures and unknown enemy personnel casualties.

On the 15th, in the same general area, BARATARIA fired against an enemy position estimated to contain two Viet Cong platoons. This firing resulted in three structures and three sampans destroyed, and three structures damaged.

Also on the 15th, PCF 93 provided gunfire support against a

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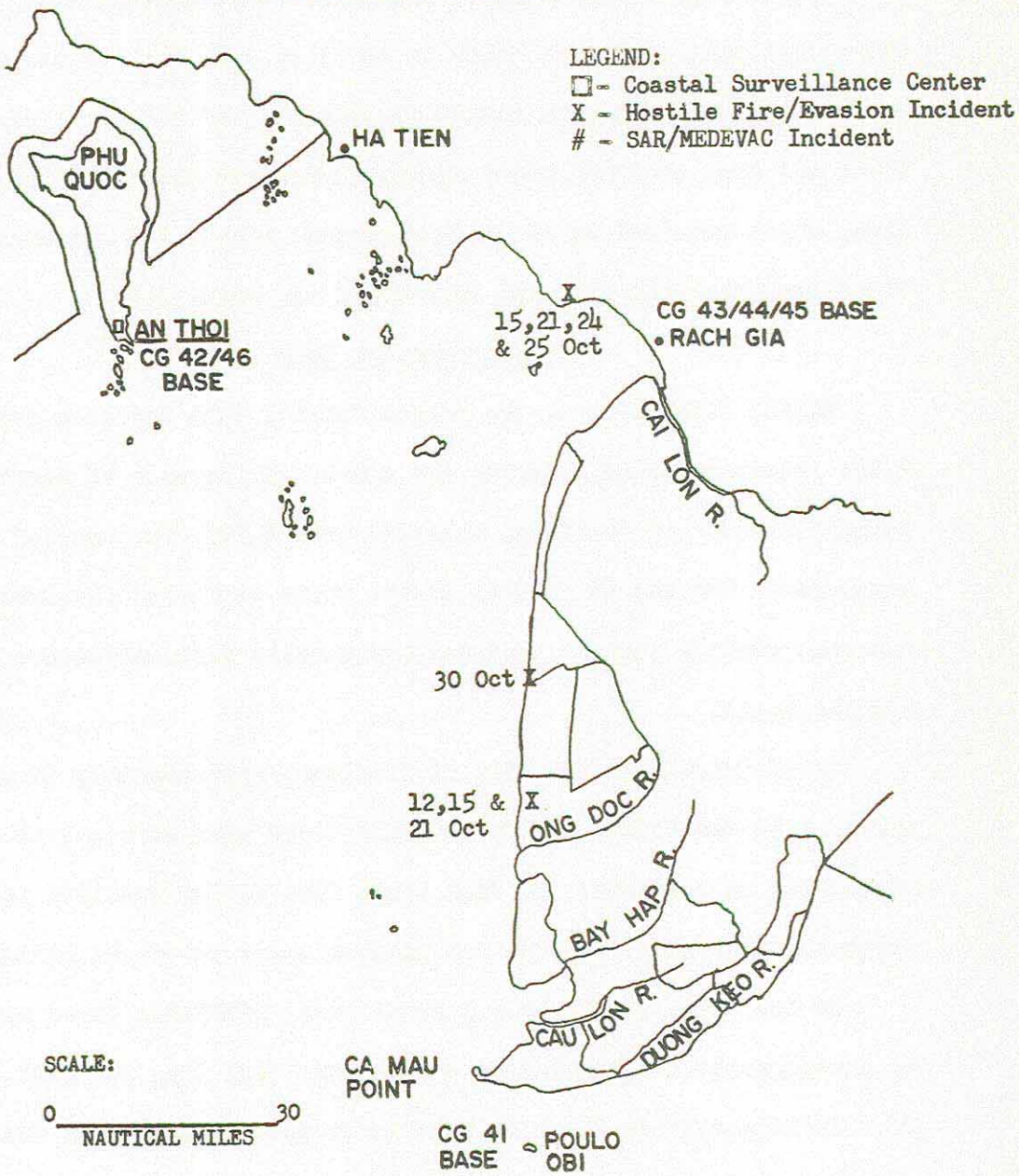
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



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Viet Cong assembly and training area approximately 90 miles north of Ca Mau Point in the Gulf of Thailand. As a result of the firing, one structure was destroyed and eight sampans, four structures, and three bunkers were damaged.

In the same approximate area on the 21st, PCF 5 fired against an enemy construction site. The firing resulted in the destruction of two dikes, one structure, one bridge, and one sampan. Three structures were also damaged.

Also on the 21st, USCGC BARATARIA provided gunfire support for U. S. Army units 29 miles north of Ca Mau Point. Five structures were destroyed and sixteen were damaged as a result of the firing.

On 24 October PCF 3, utilizing a spotter aircraft, took an enemy position approximately 92 miles north of Ca Mau Point under fire. Firing coverage was reported as excellent with one structure being destroyed and five damaged.

On the 25th in the same general area, PCF 52 took an enemy position under fire after a spotter aircraft had received ground fire from the area. The firing resulted in one structure and one bunker destroyed, and one structure and one bunker damaged.

On 30 October PCFs 6 and 9 received automatic-weapons fire from several positions along the beach approximately 45 miles north of Ca Mau Point in the Gulf of Thailand. The fire was returned

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and four camouflaged sampans were destroyed. There were no friendly casualties as a result of the hostile fire.

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MARKET TIME UNITS

During the month of October the Vietnamese Navy had an average of nine PGMs and three PCEs assigned daily to MARKET TIME forces. In addition, the Royal Thai Navy had one PGM assigned to MARKET TIME forces in the Fourth Coastal Zone.

Also during the month, aircraft from four patrol squadrons provided air surveillance for operation MARKET TIME. A detachment of Patrol Squadron TWO (VP-2) flew SP-2H Neptunes from Tan Son Nhut Air Base and a detachment of VP-1 flew Neptunes from Cam Ranh Bay. Meanwhile, a detachment of VP-5 flew P-3A Orion aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, and a VP-47 detachment flew Orions from U Tapao, Thailand.

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

		Dates
DER 251	USS CAMP	24-31
DER 328	USS FINCH	1-10
DER 393	USS HAVERFIELD	1-2
DER 325	USS LOWE	10-31
DER 397	USS WILHOITE	2-24
LST 509	USS BULLOCH COUNTY	1-31
MSC 289	USS ALBATROSS	1-12
MSC 206	USS WARBLER	12-31
MSO 426	USS CONFLICT	19-31
MSO 435	USS ENDURANCE	14-31
MSO 438	USS ESTEEM	1-19

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MSO 489	USS GALLANT	1-19
MSO 448	USS ILLUSIVE	1-19
MSO 455	USS IMPLICIT	19-31
MSO 491	USS PERSISTENT	19-31
MSO 492	USS PLEDGE	1-19
PG 84	USS ASHEVILLE	1-31
WHEC 381	USCGC BARATARIA	5-27
WHEC 382	USCGC BERING STRAIT	27-31
WHEC 378	USCGC HALFMOON	1-26
WHEC 380	USCGC YAKUTAT	1-5, 26-31

***

MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
October 1967

1. U. S. Ships/Craft:

	DER	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	LST	WHEC
Daily average number of craft on patrol	2	4	1	11	32	1	2

2. U. S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY 33,682	NIGHT 19,111			
	STEEL - DAY 725	NIGHT 657		54,175	
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY 11,622	NIGHT 6,985			
	STEEL - DAY 421	NIGHT 478		20,506	
TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD - DAY 9,049	NIGHT 3,010			
	STEEL - DAY 42	NIGHT 11		12,112	
TOTAL DETAINED	JUNKS 67	PEOPLE 479			

3. Naval Gunfire Support Missions:

Total Missions 98

Structures 34 destroyed

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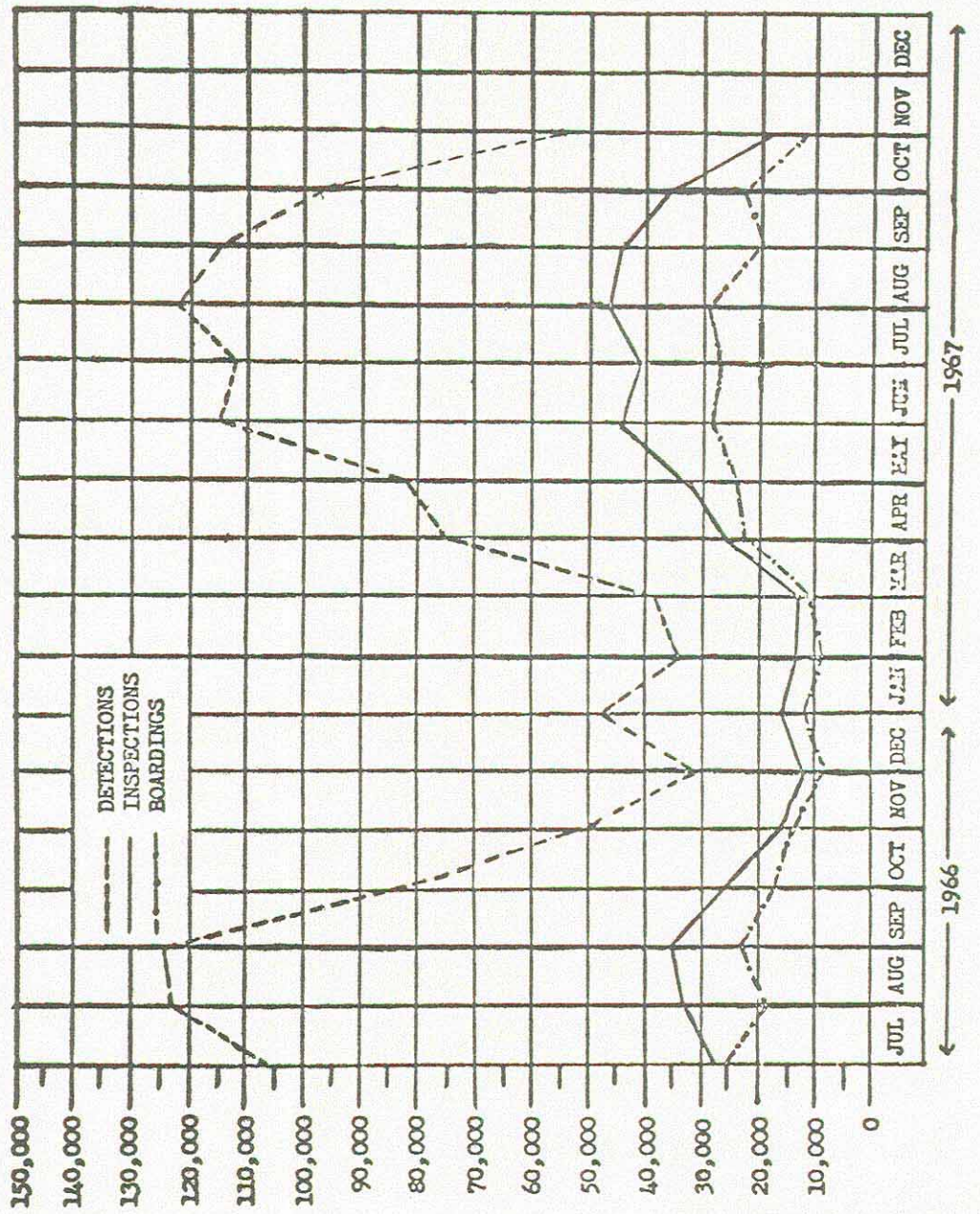
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



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Bunkers 7 destroyed

Craft 24 destroyed

Personnel 3 Viet Cong killed

r. Hostile fire:

Total Missions 12

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OPERATION STABLE DOOR

In October Operation STABLE DOOR patrols detected 43,695 junks and sampans; 7,300 of these were inspected. Of the 4,284 craft boarded, 6 were detained along with 253 persons.

All units continued to maintain a high degree of readiness as pertains to harbor patrols; however, radar coverage of the harbors at Vung Tau and Nha Trang was non-existent during the month as a result of the down status of the SPS-53A radars at these sites.

Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit ONE (IUWU 1) at Vung Tau detained a total of four junks and 98 persons during the month. The suspects were detained for improper identification, curfew violations, and suspicious actions.

During October IUWU 2 at Cam Ranh Bay detained two junks and 20 persons.

On 20 October two U. S. Army personnel on board the USNS WALKER in Cam Ranh Bay, reported sighting a swimmer close aboard the ship. A search of the immediate area by harbor patrol craft

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and an inspection by Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel produced negative results.

IUWU 3 at Qui Nhon detained a total of eight persons during the month.

On 25 October while off-loading ammunition from SS BEREA VICTORY at Qui Nhon, a 250 pound bomb dropped into an Army LCM-8 causing a small explosion. The LCM-8 immediately pulled away from BEREA VICTORY and when approximately 60 yards away another explosion occurred and the cargo commenced to burn. Shortly thereafter, another explosion occurred, sinking the LCM-8. Between the second and third explosion picket boat 29 picked up one badly burned stevedore from the water. Local Army craft rescued all members of LCM-8's crew except the coxswain, who could not be located. All STABLE DOOR units resumed normal patrols upon the arrival of Army personnel who began an investigation into the cause of the accident.

During October IUWU-4 at Nha Trang detained a total of 127 persons for improper identification, curfew violations, and suspicious actions.

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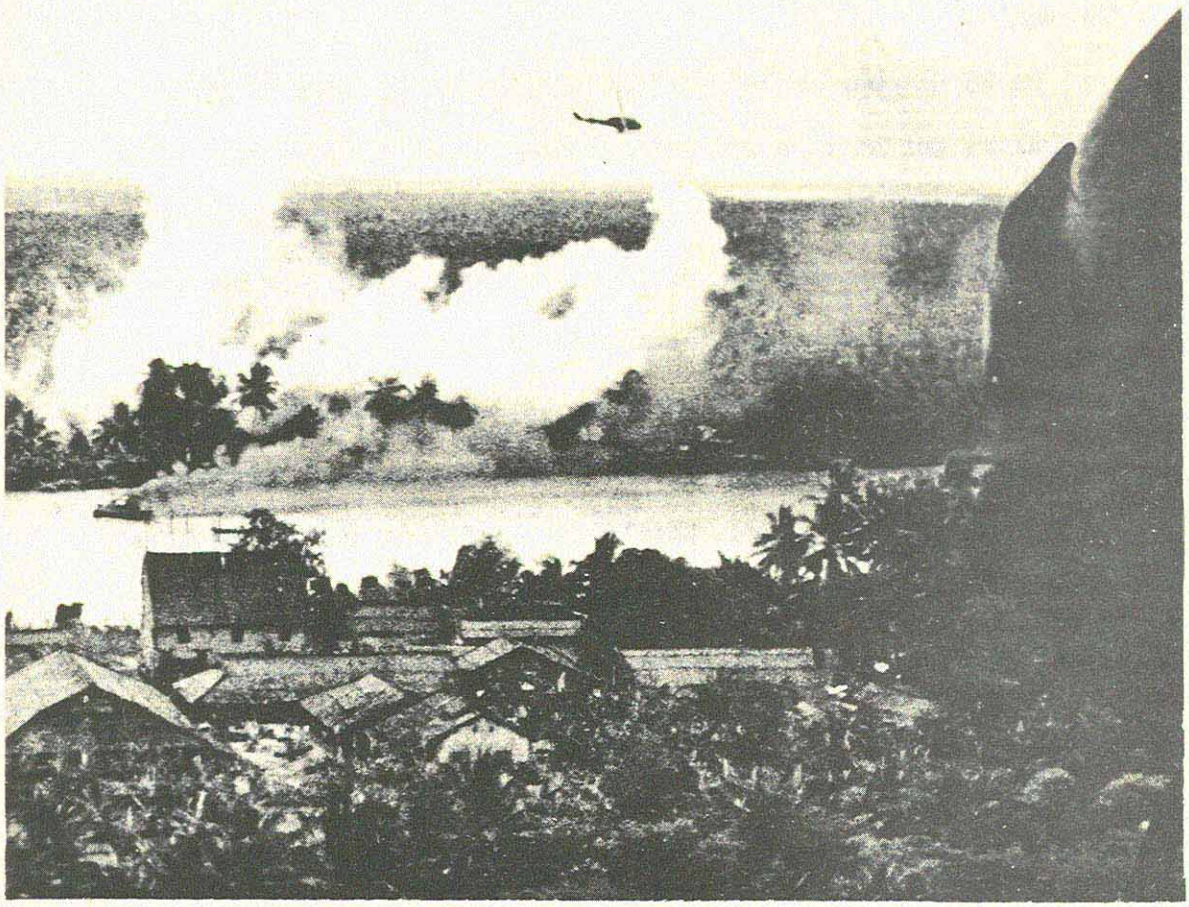

PBR 64 burns near Ben Tre on 25 October as a helicopter fire team attacks Viet Cong ambush positions.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

Throughout the month there were continued indications that the destruction of PBRs had become a major Viet Cong objective. In a series of incidents along the rivers of the Delta, Operation GAME WARDEN units encountered heavy enemy fire. In addition, there were several abortive mining attempts in the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone aimed at the PBRs. Although the Viet Cong's diverse and intensive efforts were largely unsuccessful, on 25 October a PBR operating on the Ben Tre River was struck by enemy fire, burned and sank. A key factor in the mounting frustration of the enemy (on the 2nd, 23 miles southeast of Can Tho, the Commander of the Viet Cong's 505th Company defected to a PBR) was the growing effectiveness and aggressive activities of the SEAL teams. LSTs supporting GAME WARDEN also contributed to the routing of enemy forces as they carried out shore bombardment missions with their 40-mm guns.

On 7 October Operation GREEN WAVE, which had begun in September to help determine the feasibility of PBR operations in the I Corps Tactical Zone, was terminated. An immediate analysis of the operation revealed that navigational hazards restricted the PBR speed and maneuverability; intense enemy ground threat precludes proper waterway traffic control by the PBRs; and the grounding and battle damage to 50 percent of the 10-boat task unit precludes

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sustained operations. Therefore, it was recommended that I Corps PBR deployment be terminated due to unproductive traffic control and heavy enemy weapons and fortifications against which the PBR was not designed to stand.

During the month the PBRs conducted 1,298 patrols throughout Task Force 116's area of responsibility, as the Navy helicopters logged over 300 hours more flight time than the previous month.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

For the third time in three days river patrol boats provided a quick reaction force against Viet Cong attacks on a Regional Force (RF) night ambush position in an area about nine miles southeast of Nha Be. At 2200 on 1 October, PBRs 71 and 76 were conducting a routine patrol on the Long Tau River when advised that elements of RF Company 601 were receiving enemy fire and needed PBR assistance. The PBRs quickly responded and took up a position on the Loi Giang River and commenced firing into the enemy positions. The PBRs received about 10 rounds of small-arms fire before the Viet Cong fire was suppressed. There were no friendly casualties. Enemy casualties were undetermined.

At 0635, 2 October, SEAL team ONE, Foxtrot, with Lieutenant S. S. MERTON in command, was put ashore at a point 10 miles east of Nha Be. The team proceeded to set an ambush where recent footprints were detected. The SEALs allowed one sampan with a woman

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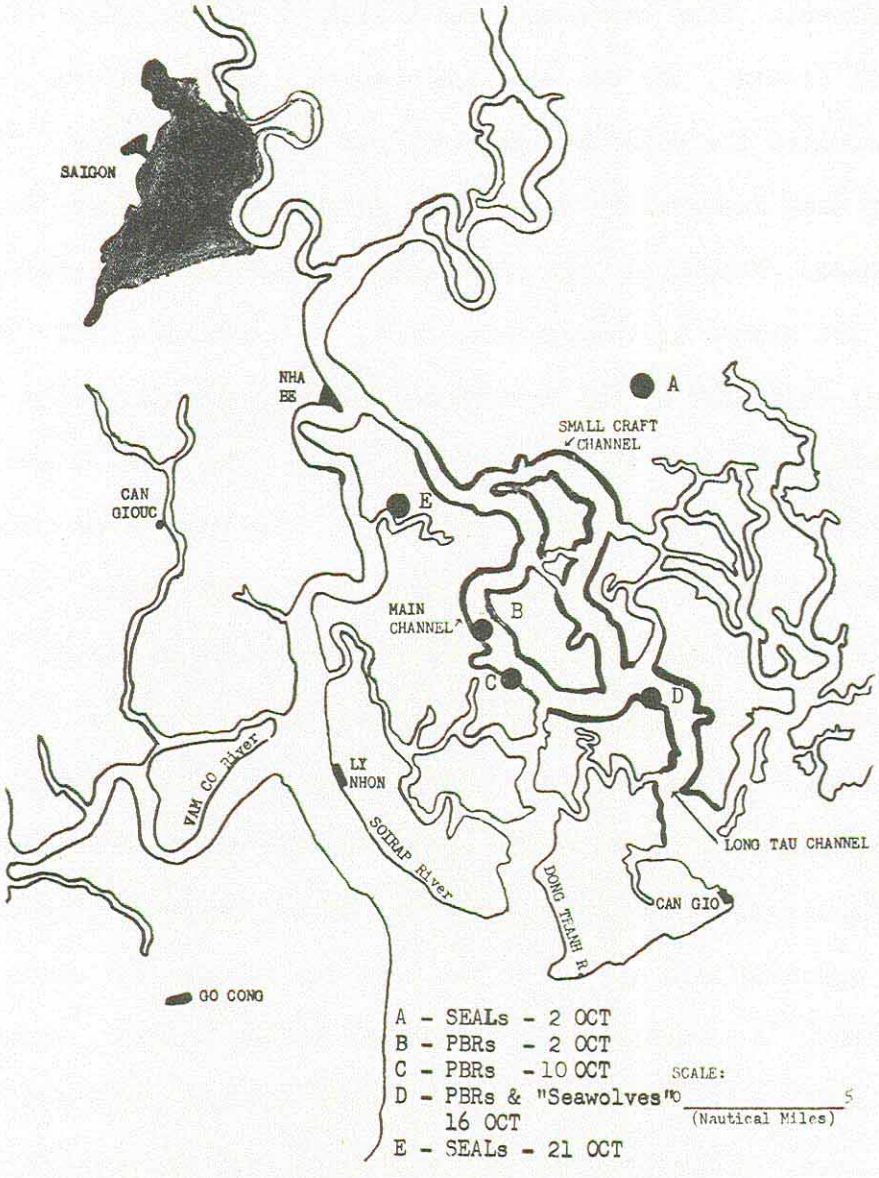
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS



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and two teenage boys to pass at 1130; however, at 1202 a sampan with two men and two women approached the ambush site from the southwest. When the sampan was hailed it turned toward the ambush; however, the two men, one wearing a khaki uniform, apparently recognized the voice as American, and jumped overboard. The swimmers were immediately taken under fire; one was killed, the other wounded. Meanwhile, one woman entered the water and attempted to tow the sampan to the opposite bank. A Vietnamese LDNN (Lien Doc Nguoi Nhia--UDT of the Vietnamese Navy) interpreter tried unsuccessfully to urge the women not to evade. The current and distance made physical apprehension impossible. The sampan was taken under fire killing one woman and probably killing the other. When the sampan was retrieved, it was found to contain two babies, personal belongings and documents. The babies, one of whom had a slight laceration of the leg, were immediately evacuated for medical treatment by a Boston Whaler to an LCM for ultimate transfer to a medical evacuation helicopter. The SEALs, meanwhile, proceeded to the opposite bank to search the area for the man and woman who had escaped. A large amount of blood was found; however, no bodies. The SEALs were recovered at 1235 by the LCM and proceeded out of the area. About 1315 the LCM in company with the support units for the operation (two LCPLs, two Boston Whalers and a helicopter light fire team) were taken under fire by small arms and rifle

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grenades. The fire was quickly suppressed with no friendly casualties and undetermined enemy casualties. The two documents captured substantiated one woman as being a Viet Cong. One document was a letter of introduction, dated 11 November 1966, from the Can Gio Viet Cong District Headquarters to an unknown unit, introducing the transferred woman. The letter further stated that the woman had been a Viet Cong party member since July 1965. The second document was a clinical release, dated 9 September 1967, from a Viet Cong hospital stating that a woman from Military Staff Section (A1) T-10 Headquarters had been admitted 2 September for childbirth and released 9 September.

Lessons Learned: This operation employed the armored Boston Whaler for the first time in a quick reaction situation and proved to be highly effective. However, prior to an operation, a thorough aerial reconnaissance of the area must be conducted by the Whaler commander to ensure accurate navigation at high speeds. Further, the ambushing unit must immediately inform covering boats of the tactical situation and remain prepared to mark its own position.

Also on the morning of 2 October at 1115, a PBR patrol operating on the Long Tau shipping channel 13 miles southeast of Nha Be observed explosions on the bridge of the OKUNI MARU, a Japanese merchant ship. The ship had been hit by recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire. PBR 23 and PBR 24 and a spotter aircraft

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with a naval gunfire spotter aboard reconnoitered the area of the attack and sighted one abandoned sampan. The naval gunfire spotter adjusted 20 rounds of 60-mm mortar fired from the PBR, with unknown results. A Vietnamese PGM arrived shortly thereafter and fired 50 rounds of 40-mm into the area. There were no friendly casualties. At the request of the ship's captain, the PBRs escorted the OKUNI MARU to the Saigon River.

At 0413 on 10 October, PBRs 47 and 57 on patrol in the Long Tau River 15 miles southeast of Nha Be reported sighting three flashes of light on the east bank, an area known to be a Viet Cong crossing point. At the request of Vietnamese authorities at Nha Be the area was taken under fire with 100 rounds of 40-mm grenades and 200 rounds of 7.62-mm. However, prior to firing, a check was made with a RF ambush unit known to be located in the immediate area. The RF unit, unfortunately, erroneously reported their position through Vietnamese authorities as being 1¼ miles to the north. As a result of the error they suffered one Vietnamese killed and three Vietnamese wounded from the PBR fire. The casualties were evacuated by the PBRs to Thanh Tan for ultimate evacuation by helicopter.

On 16 October, while returning up the Long Tau River from a special patrol, an explosion occurred under the lead PBR of a two-boat patrol. The boats cleared the area of the explosion, which

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was probably caused by a command detonated mine, with no damage or casualties sustained. A U. S. Army spotter aircraft and an armed Navy helicopter were dispatched to the area, located about five miles southeast of Nha Be. The "Seawolf" received small arms fire when it arrived in the area. The fire was suppressed with artillery fire adjusted by the spotter aircraft. There were no U. S. casualties and unknown enemy casualties.

On 21 October, SEALs established an ambush on a stream four miles southeast of Nha Be. The team sprung the ambush about seven and a half hours later when a sampan containing two men approached from the north. When the sampan was within 10 meters of the ambush, the two occupants were instructed to put ashore; however, they were taken under fire and killed as they attempted to escape. Captured were two CHICOM 7.62-mm carbines, 50 rounds of 7.62-mm ammunition and two documents. Two days later in the same general area SEALs killed two of three Viet Cong as they attempted to escape after detection.

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DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

On 1 October a command-detonated mine exploded ten feet in front of a PBR patrol operating on the My Tho River, nine miles southwest of their base at My Tho. The explosion sent a geyser of

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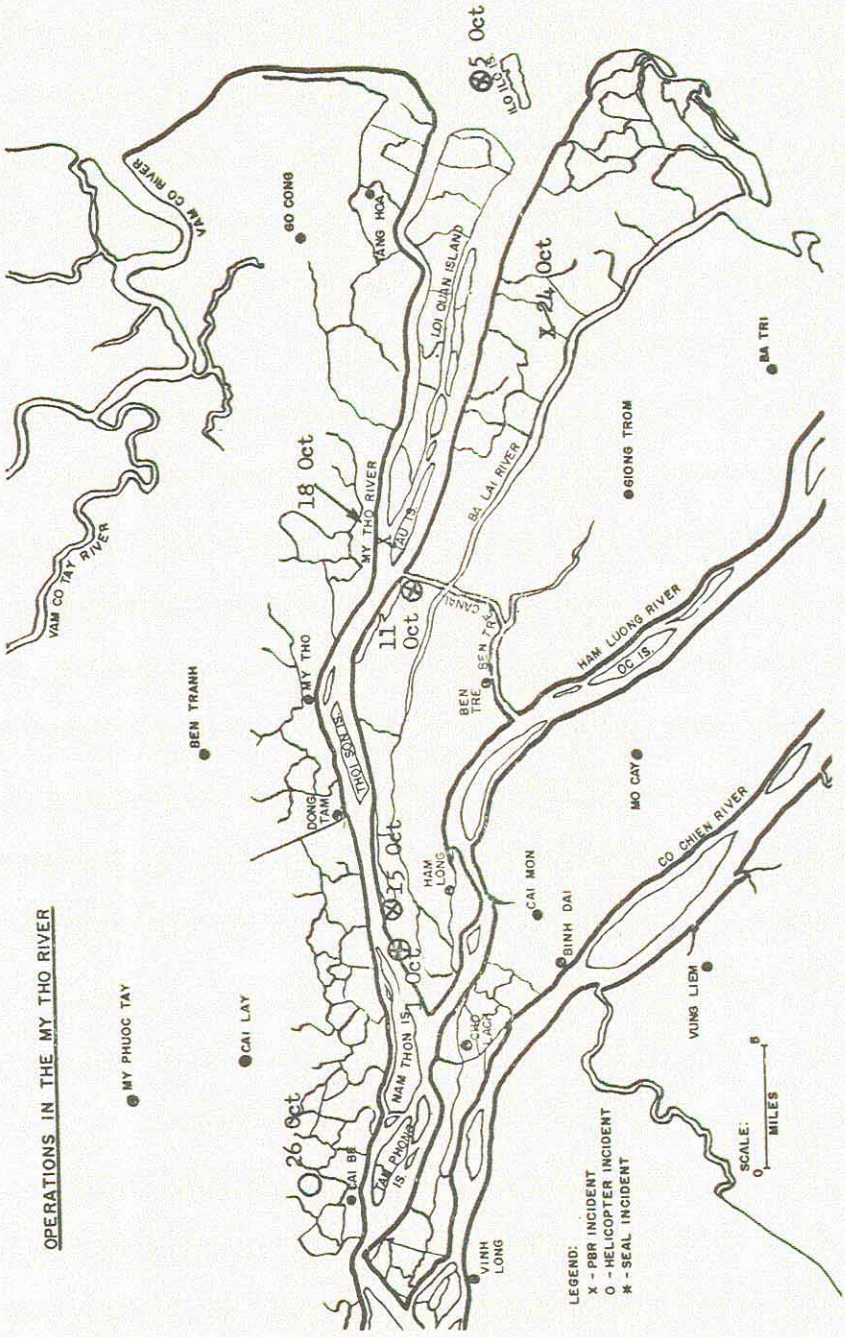

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water 150-200 feet into the air, however no damage was sustained by the two-boat patrol. One sailor received slight burns on the arm when the water mine exploded. The PBRs immediately opened fire into the north bank and withdrew. A U. S. Navy helicopter light fire team patrolling in the area observed and took under fire enemy personnel running into the tree line on the bank of the river. Three additional My Tho-based PBRs operating in the area sped to the scene to assist and received enemy fire when they arrived. As the "Seawolves" made firing runs on the enemy position they also received ground fire. Meanwhile the PBRs commenced firing runs with machine guns, 60-mm mortar and 40-mm grenade fire, and were successful in suppressing the enemy fire. With a PBR spotter providing spotter services, 105-mm artillery from Cho Gao subsector was also called into the area. Enemy casualties were unknown; however, fire from the Navy helicopters caused one secondary explosion, destroyed two structures and damaged four others. The area in which the incident occurred had for the previous four days been the scene of intensive PBR loudspeaker broadcasts and psychological operations that had netted one Viet Cong rallier. It was also the scene of a fire fight.

On 5 October at 1235H the U. S. merchant tug PACIFIC MARINER with tow received 500 rounds of automatic-weapons fire from the north bank of Ilo Ilo Island, located at the mouth of the My Tho

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River. PBRs on routine patrol proceeded to the scene when advised of the attack. A Navy light fire team was dispatched from Dong Tam and commenced attacks on the enemy ambush. The helicopters encountered heavy automatic-weapons fire on all firing passes. Two secondary explosions were observed before the helicopters broke off the attack to return to Dong Tam to rearm and refuel. The PBRs, which had now arrived in the ambush area, continued the attack, observing a secondary explosion after their second firing run. The "Seawolves" returned and provided cover fire for the PBRs. Enemy fire was suppressed with no friendly casualties. Enemy losses were undetermined.

On the afternoon of 11 October a PBR patrol entered the Giao Hoa Canal, located six miles southeast of their base at My Tho, to investigate sampan activity in the canal. As the two-boat patrol was proceeding out of the canal a "hootch" (VN thatched hut) on the west bank exploded followed by a volley of about 40 rounds of small arms fire directed at the PBRs. The boats cleared the area and requested permission from the Kien Hoa sector advisor to return the fire. A light fire team was scrambled and together with the PBRs commenced firing runs on the enemy position. During the action a U. S. Army spotter plane relayed visual observations to the sector advisor. The combined awesome firepower of the .50 caliber machine guns and 40-mm grenades from the PBRs and the 2.75 rocket and

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machine-gun fire from the helicopters silenced the enemy fire. The PBRs landed a quick-reaction unit of 20 Popular Forces, obtained from an outpost located close to the scene of action, however negative contact was made.

As the PBRs were withdrawing from the area a large crowd of people were observed heading back across the canal to the area where the hut exploded. When questioned by the PBR sailors as to their movements, it was learned that 10 Viet Cong had moved into the area to attempt an ambush on the river boats and that the people had moved to the safety of the opposite bank. It was ascertained that the Viet Cong had fired a B-40 rocket at the PBRs from the west bank, however, the rocket had hit the "hootch" before it reached the waterway. During the fire fight one Viet Cong was wounded but had escaped. One civilian male was killed. Two civilians wounded during the action were evacuated by the PBRs to My Tho for treatment. The previous evening the PBRs had evacuated two wounded male civilians who would only state that they had been attacked by the Viet Cong. For the past few days PBRs had been conducting psychological operations in the area and it was concluded that the Viet Cong squad was detailed to harass the people and the PBRs in an attempt to counter these operations.

On the evening of 14 October PBRs landed a Vietnamese Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (PRU) six miles down river from the PBR

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base at Sa Dec. At 0130H the next morning the PRUs were withdrawn when they encountered two squads of Viet Cong. The PBRs covered the area with .50 caliber machine gun fire killing four of the enemy without sustaining any friendly casualties.

Later the same afternoon a PBR patrol discovered a concrete enemy bunker with an antenna, supplies, and a large junk in the same area where the morning incident occurred. Permission to destroy the bunker and supply cache was granted by the ARVN 7th Division authorities. A third PBR equipped with a 3.5 rocket launcher sortied to assist in the destroy mission. In the meantime it was learned from the local people that there were approximately 120 Viet Cong massed in the area. An obvious attempt was made by the Viet Cong to lure the PBRs into a small river by revealing five sampans. The PBRs remained in the main river area and continued their attack on the bunker. U. S. Navy armed helos were scrambled to assist in the operation. When the "Seawolves" arrived on the scene they observed a woman and child standing on the bunker. All fire ceased while the helos made several passes over the bunker forcing the civilians to clear the area. Fire was resumed. The "Seawolves" observed two stockpiles of material covered with tarpaulins in addition to several additional bunkers. The new targets were taken under fire with rockets and machine guns achieving a medium secondary explosion. The PBRs intensified their fire into

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the area when it was observed that a rocket had been fired at the helos by the enemy ground forces. The PBRs continued the attack when the helos returned to base with one wounded man and to rearm. Upon their return the "Seawolves" expended their weapons load on the bunker stockpiles and on the tip of Qui Island, an area from which they had previously received small-arms and automatic-weapons fire. Based on a second report from local inhabitants that Viet Cong were massed in the area, the PBR patrol officer requested an air strike and artillery fire from Giao Duc District. The river boat spotted and adjusted the artillery fire, however, the air strike was not received. The extent of enemy personnel casualties was not known due to the heavy foliage in the area. One U. S. Navyman was wounded slightly during the action that continued for two hours and forty-five minutes.

Also on the afternoon of 15 October a U. S. Army spotter plane made a forced landing near the My Tho River about eight miles southwest of the city of My Tho. A Navy UH-1B helicopter piloted by LTJG M. J. STOCK, USN, on a routine GAME WARDEN patrol heard the MAYDAY call and rushed to rescue the two occupants. After picking up the survivors, the armed helo flew high cover over the downed aircraft for about one hour until the area was secured by Popular Forces from a nearby outpost. The Navy helo then returned the rescued to the Army base at Dong Tam. The Navy helos were soon

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called into action again to provide cover for an Army recovery helicopter that was to salvage the downed aircraft. PBRs were stationed on the river bank to provide additional fire support. As the downed aircraft was about to be lifted off the ground, heavy-weapons and mortar fire was received from a nearby treeline. The recovery helo cleared the area and the Navy helicopters attacked the enemy positions with rockets and machine gun fire, killing seven of the Viet Cong. The PBRs also provided suppressing fire with their .50 caliber machine guns. When the fire fight ended the recovery helicopter returned and recovered the downed plane. Three enemy fortifications were destroyed or damaged with no friendly casualties.

On 18 October the Viet Cong attempted once again to mine a PBR patrol on the My Tho River, six miles southeast of the PBR base at My Tho. The mining attempt failed when the mine exploded prematurely 200 yards from the nearest boat, sending water 100 feet into the air. There were no casualties from the explosion. This was the second mining attempt against PBRs in less than three weeks in an area which had been the scene of intense psychological operations that had resulted in one Hoi Chanh.

On 24 October two patrolling PBRs responded to a report that two Popular Force outposts on the Cua Dai River, eighteen miles southeast of My Tho, were under attack and being overrun. When

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the PBRs arrived on the scene, it was learned that the attacking Viet Cong had fled before the PBRs arrived. The PBRs took a reported Viet Cong regrouping position under harassment and interdiction fire with unknown results. The outposts suffered three Popular Forces killed and three wounded.

On 26 October a Navy helicopter light fire team was scrambled to support Vietnamese Popular Forces and Regional Forces which were in heavy contact with a Viet Cong battalion about 8 miles northeast of Vinh Long. The "Seawolves" conducted a strike against the enemy position and sampans in the immediate area. One structure and two sampans were destroyed and four Viet Cong were killed by the air strikes.

SEALs set up ambush sites early on the morning of 31 October, 26 miles southeast of My Tho, in an area that bordered on the South China Sea just south of the mouth of the My Tho River. The SEALs sprung their ambush and killed two Viet Cong. The SEALs then proceeded to make a sweep of the area and were taken under fire by semi-automatic weapons and grenade fire from a bunker complex. In the ensuing fire fight two escaping Viet Cong were killed. A Navy light helo fire team provided suppressing fire during the encounter and continued to provide support throughout the operation. Prior to being withdrawn the SEALs destroyed 14 bunkers and 20 structures and captured 300 rounds of 30.06 caliber ammunition and a number of

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enemy documents. There were no U. S. casualties.

Operations in the Ham Luong River

On 2 October four Navy UH-1B armed helicopters ("Seawolves") destroyed four enemy sampans and damaged five others in the Ham Luong River, 5 miles south of Ben Tre. The helicopters also attacked and destroyed a forty-foot sea-going junk, one sampan, one structure and damaged five other structures that were detected two and a half miles south of the initial incident. Once again, as the "Seawolves" swung north, they attacked and destroyed one more sampan. All action was conducted in a 24 hour curfew area closed to all sampan traffic. Enemy casualties were undetermined.

On 3 October, in the same area of the previous day's activity, the "Seawolves" destroyed six more sampans and killed seven Viet Cong that tried to evade.

On 5 October a Navy "Seawolf" helicopter en route to its base, after supporting PBRs off Ilo Ilo Island, detected and destroyed two sampans and killed two Viet Cong on the Bai Lai canal about three miles east of Ben Tre. A third sampan and a 40-50 foot junk were damaged.

Also on the 5th, another light fire team sighted loaded sampans in a curfew area three miles southeast of Ben Tre. The sampans, that had beached when the helos arrived, were immediately taken under fire. Five sampans were destroyed, 10 damaged and two Viet

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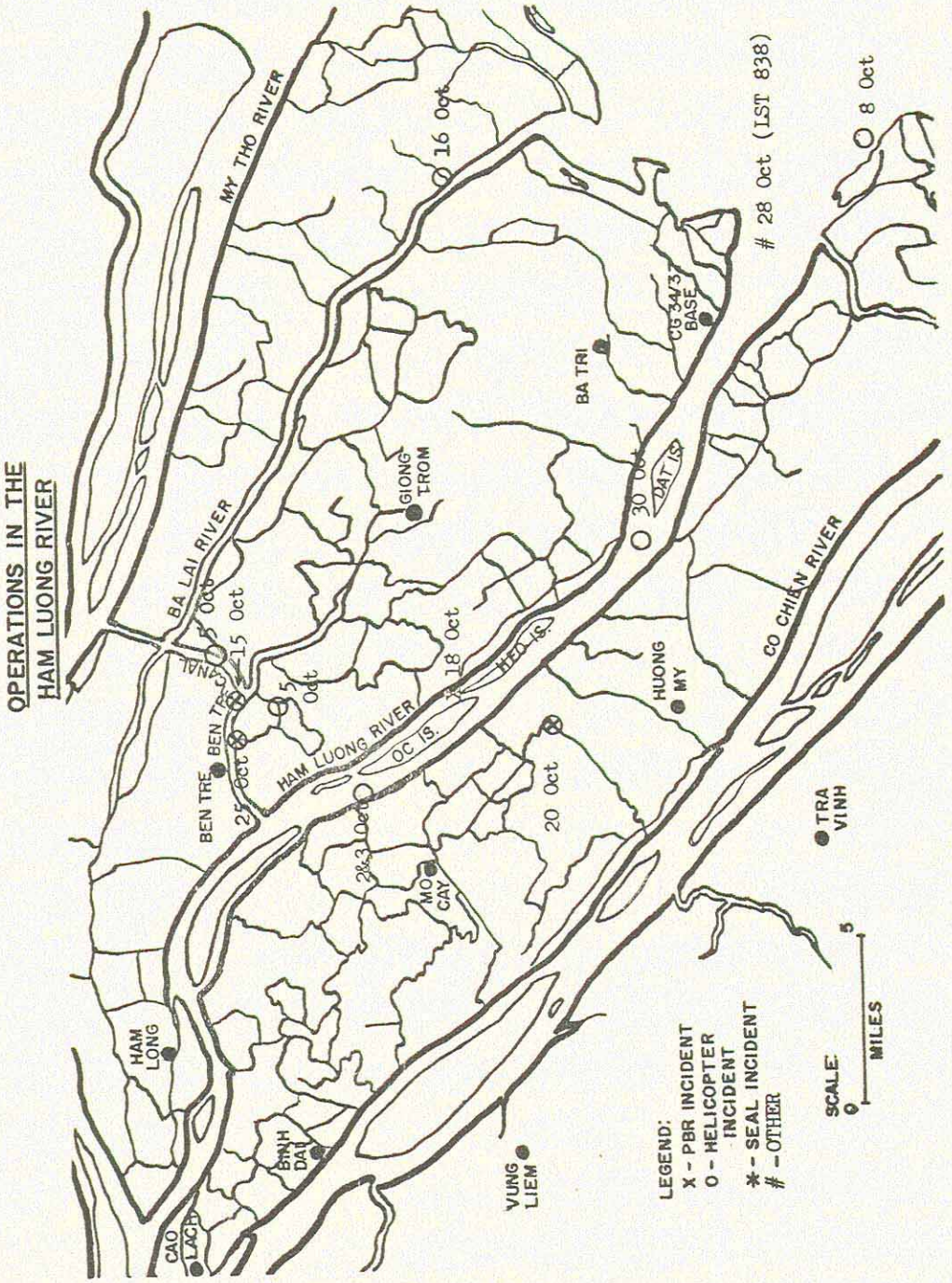

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Cong were killed. The helos then detected, close by, a large camouflaged sampan and immediately encountered enemy automatic-weapons fire. During the ensuing fire fight in which two sampans were damaged, the wingman sustained a hit in the tail section of the helicopter. The "Seawolves" then adjusted artillery fire from Mo Cay and 60-mm mortar fire provided by a PBR into the Viet Cong position. Enemy losses were unknown.

"Seawolves" on a Ham Luong River patrol, on the morning of the 8th, detected a number of sampans and junks off-loading ammunition on the coast of the Thanh Phu Secret Zone four miles south of the mouth of the river. LCDR R. C. SCHWARTZ, USN, led his armed helicopter patrol in two attacks on the enemy, destroying eight sea-going junks and eight sampans. One Viet Cong was killed and four other sampans were heavily damaged.

Over the previous seven-day period U. S. Navy helicopters accounted for 27 sampans and 9 junks destroyed, 12 Viet Cong killed and 19 sampans heavily damaged. There were no U. S. casualties during the engagements.

On the afternoon of 15 October a confirmed intelligence report advised that about 150 Viet Cong armed with a recoilless-rifle and assorted small arms were located about three miles east of Ben Tre on the Ben Tre River. A PBR patrol embarked three Popular Force troops from an outpost in the area and proceeded down the Ben Tre

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River to Cai Son Creek where the boats commenced checking all sampans. One sampan proceeding out of a canal on the south bank observed the PBRs, reversed course, and evaded about 75 yards inland. The two occupants beached the sampan and fled into the underbrush. Shortly thereafter, another sampan that had proceeded out of the canal was stopped. The occupants were a male and a young girl who had in her possession a shopping list for Viet Cong troops and 3,025 piasters ($25.64). The suspects were detained and later turned over to the National Police at Ben Tre. Another sampan was soon spotted trying to evade in the canal. One PBR entered the canal in pursuit while the second boat followed to provide cover. The sampan, with a woman aboard, was apprehended and taken in tow to permit a rapid clearing of the restricted waterway. As the PBRs were exiting the canal they came under intense enemy recoilless-rifle, automatic-weapon and small-arms fire from three positions on the right bank of the canal. The PBRs returned the fire, and cleared the area after releasing the sampan. Artillery fire requested from Giang Sub-sector suppressed the enemy fire. One PBR sailor received superficial cuts about the face and the boats received minor shrapnel damage. One Viet Cong was wounded in the fire fight.

On 16 October, a Navy light helo fire team led by LCDR R. M. HOLLINGWORTH, USN, attacked a large 40-foot junk in a canal five

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miles up from the mouth of the Ba Lai River an area where traffic by heavy sea-going junks had steadily increased. The "Seawolves" made four rocket and machine-gun firing runs on the target, receiving moderate automatic-weapons fire in return, before they departed for Ben Tre to rearm and refuel. When the helos returned to the area, they found that the junk had sunk. There were no friendly casualties during the engagement, however, one helicopter received a hit in the horizontal stabilizer. Observed by the "Seawolves" during the action were 25-30 small puffs of white smoke about the size of basketballs bursting in front of and below the lead aircraft. A subsequent inspection of the helicopter that had been hit, revealed a scratched underside of the main rotors possibly caused by a fragment producing weapon. This was the first encounter with possible enemy anti-aircraft weapons. The Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer, Vinh Long, had reported a month earlier that a possible AA rocket launcher was in the Viet Cong weapons inventory. Later, on 23 October, the Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer reported that the Viet Cong had an anti-aircraft type gun located about six miles southeast of the scene of the above incident.

On 17 October, USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) blasted a known enemy position on the Ham Luong River with her 40-mm guns, destroying three storage structures and starting two secondary petroleum

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fires.

Three Viet Cong were killed by PBRs from Patrol Section 521 on the 18th when the two-boat patrol provided fire support for units of the Vietnamese Army as they conducted a landing along the Ham Luong River six and a half miles southeast of Ben Tre.

On 20 October a light helicopter fire team on routine patrol launched a strike against a reported two companies of Viet Cong, nine miles south of Ben Tre, saturating the area with 2.75 rockets and 7.62-mm machine-gun fire. PBRs commenced receiving small-arms fire as they joined in the attack. The PBR .50 caliber guns combined with the "Seawolves" firepower soon suppressed the enemy fire. Enemy casualties were unknown. Two enemy sampans were destroyed and one was damaged in the action. One hour and a half later the helos came under small-arms fire, five miles west of Ben Tre. As the enemy fire was returned numerous males in black pajamas were seen evading; one of whom had a bush tied to his back. The Navy gunships took the Viet Cong under fire and killed eight. The "Seawolves" continued down the Ham Luong a short distance and sank two sampans and damaged two more that were found in a restricted area.

At 1105H on 25 October PBRs 62 and 64, on a routine patrol on the Ben Tre River about one and a half miles east of Ben Tre, came under heavy recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire from a Viet

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Cong ambush on the south bank. PBR 64 received a direct hit from a recoilless-rifle in the area of the port engine and fuel tank that started a raging fire and wounded all six crewmen. A second recoilless-rifle round impacted close aboard the forward port side. When the boat would no longer respond and the heat from the flames became too intense, the wounded crew jumped into the water and commenced swimming to the opposite bank of the river away from the ambush site. A Vietnamese National Maritime policeman, accompanying the patrol, was not seen after he left the boat. He was later declared missing in action. PBR 62, the lead boat, also took a direct hit on the port beam, wounding three crewmen and returned to Ben Tre to debark the wounded. PBR 78 was dispatched to the area with extra crewmen and joined PBR 62 as it returned to the burning PBR. In the meantime, two U. S. Navy helicopter light fire teams from USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) and Vinh Long, scrambled minutes after the attack began, arrived shortly thereafter and took the area under fire, damaging four structures which were the ambush sites. While the air strikes were being conducted it was learned that the wounded crewmembers from PBR 64 had made it to a nearby Vietnamese outpost. The wounded were evacuated by helicopter from the outpost while the remaining helicopters continued their suppressing fire.

As PBRs 62 and 78 returned to aid the burning PBR, they came

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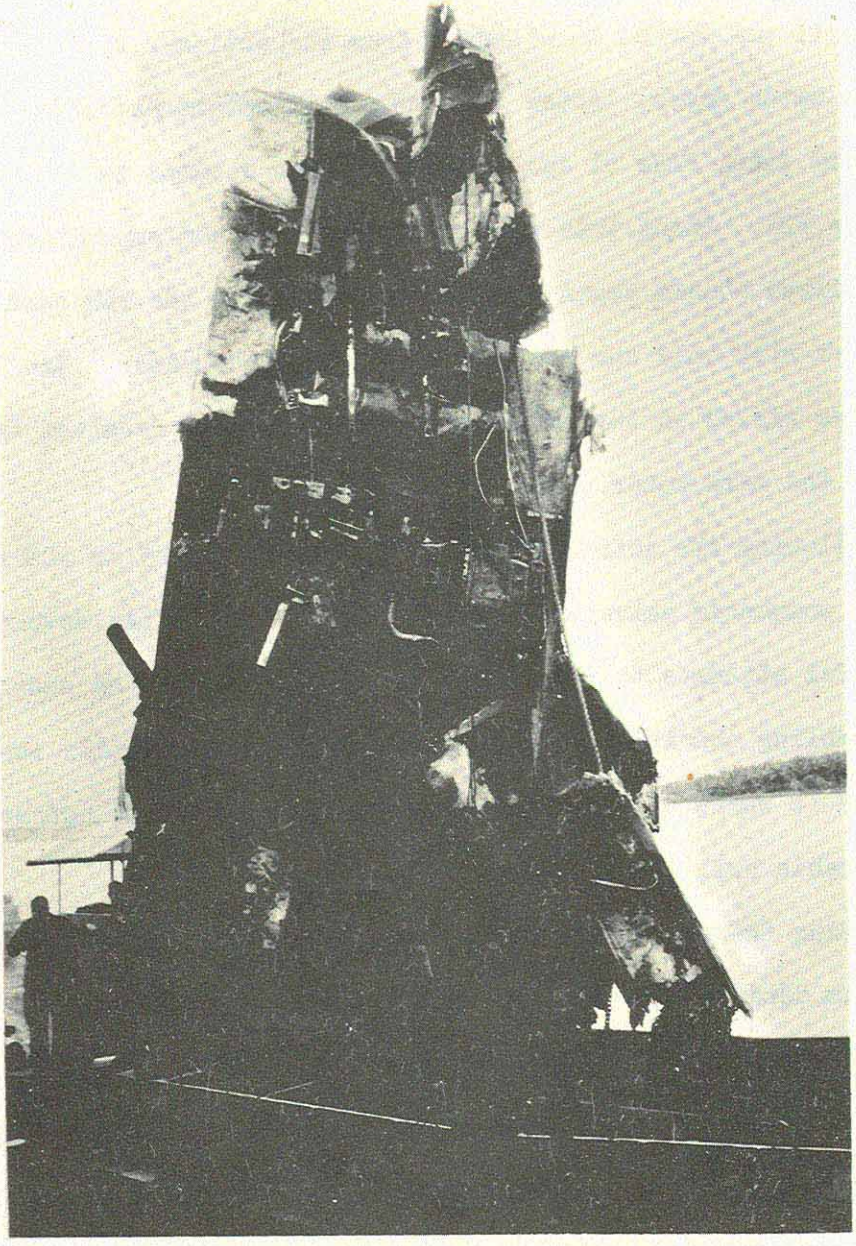

PBR 64 being lifted aboard YRBM 16.

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under heavy fire from the bank forcing them to withdraw as the "Seawolves" laid down suppressing fire. PBR 62 was replaced by PBR 61 when it was forced to withdraw from the action because of clogged water pumps. After the armed helicopters had suppressed the enemy fire, PBRs 61 and 78 made another attempt to aid the stricken PBR. About this time the fuel tanks and ammunition that had remained aboard began to explode. At 1230H the PBR sank by the stern with only the bow remaining above the water. Two Viet Cong were killed in the action and one helicopter received two hits in the main rotor blade.

Following the action PBRs 61 and 78 assisted by an LCM from YRBM-16 commenced salvage operations on PBR 64. After several unsuccessful attempts to take the boat in tow, due to the charred and crumbling condition of the hull, the hulk was finally towed to the YRBM-16 where all salvageable parts were recovered before the unrepairable hull was destroyed.

During the above engagement, a participating light helicopter fire team departed the area for Ben Tre to refuel and rearm. In the process of refueling and rearming, LT W. BARNES, USN, one of the helicopter pilots, discovered a command-detonated type explosive satchel of about two kilograms near a portable aviation fuel (JP-4) bladder. He immediately cleared the area, and severed the wires of the satchel charge, thereby disabling it. Shortly after

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the charge was disarmed, Ben Tre airfield came under a mortar attack. The "Seawolves" took off immediately, along with another team that was at the airfield, while the mortars were still incoming. Attacks were made on the mortar positions and they were silenced. There was no damage to any aircraft. The extent of the enemy casualties was unknown.

USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838), anchored in the Ham Luong River 23 miles southeast of Ben Tre, was advised by the Coastal Group 34/37 advisor, at 1949H on the 28th, that enemy small arms fire was observed being fired at the ship. The Coastal Group advisor provided spotter services as HUNTERDON COUNTY commenced 40-mm harassment and interdiction fire into the area. Upon being informed by the advisor that small-arms fire was frequently used by the Viet Cong to range for recoilless-rifle fire, the ship got underway and shifted anchorage.

On 30 October a light helicopter fire team from HUNTERDON COUNTY while on a routine Ham Luong River patrol observed and took under fire a forty-foot motorized sampan that was evading. The sampan exploded in a huge fireball, completely disintegrating the sampan and sending white smoke billowing to 800 feet. Two Viet Cong were killed in the action.

Operations in the Co Chien River

On 12 October two PBRs on patrol on the Pang Tra River in the

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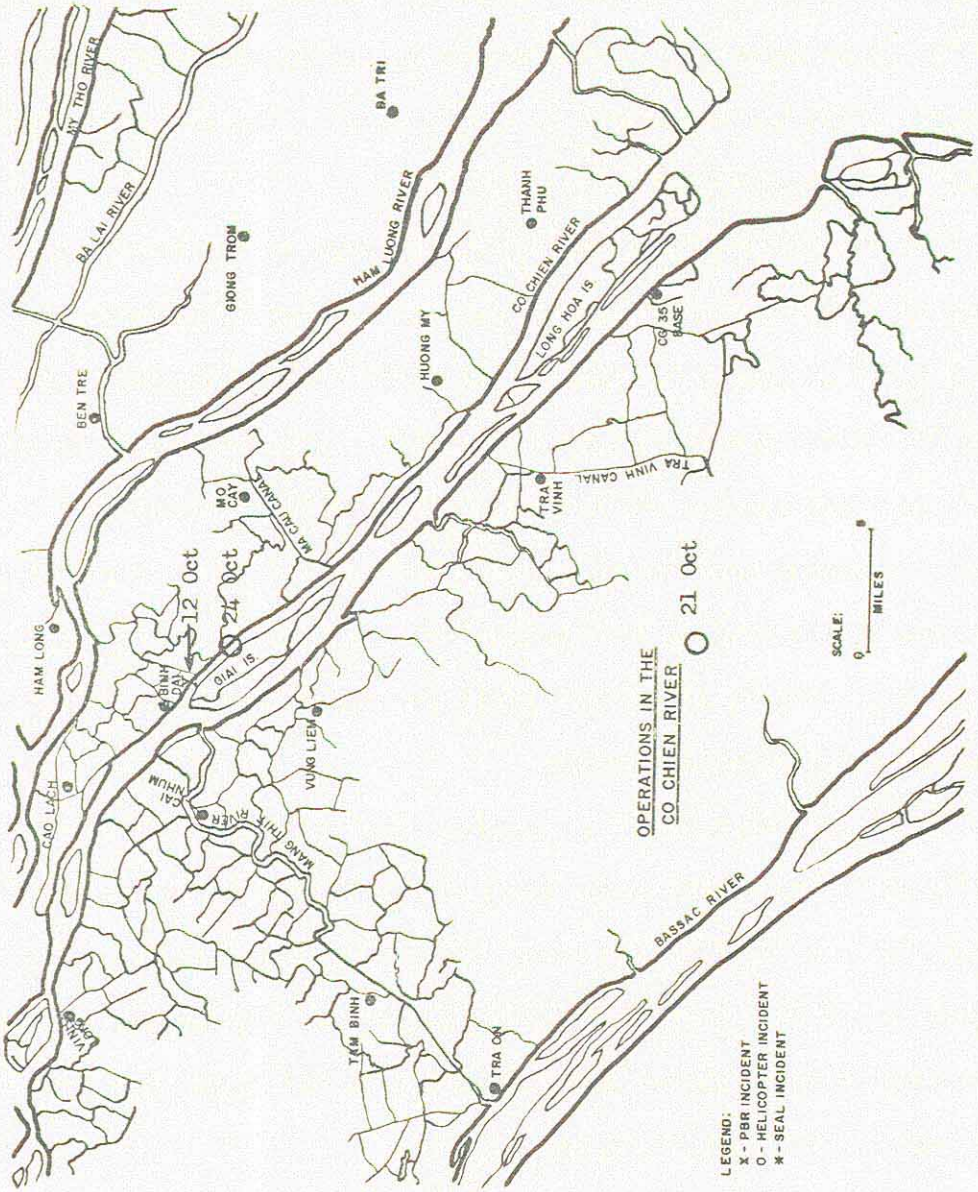

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vicinity of Giai Island, fourteen miles southeast of Vinh Long, received two rounds of recoilless-rifle fire, followed by automatic-weapons fire, from the east bank. One round passed through the bow of one PBR without detonating; the second round passed overhead. The patrol returned the fire and cleared the area. The patrol was joined by another PBR patrol at which time the four boats commenced a mortar attack that silenced the enemy position. There were no friendly casualties. The area from which the attack began is in a specified strike zone and had been the scene of much Viet Cong harassment in the past. The area, however, had not been taken under fire by friendly forces for the past fourteen days. Lesson learned, as reported by CTE 116.1.2.3, "Never give a sucker a break."

On 21 October "Seawolves" based at Vinh Long killed thirteen Viet Cong when they launched an attack against an enemy troop concentration, 28 miles southeast of Vinh Long. The Navy armed helicopters also destroyed three dwellings, damaged one sampan and wounded an additional thirteen of the enemy.

On 24 October, a Navy light helicopter fire team killed one Viet Cong, destroyed eight sampans and damaged six others when they took a large number of enemy sampans under fire off the eastern bank of Giai Island, fifteen miles southeast of their base at Vinh Long. The enemy craft were detected in a restricted area

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designated as a specified strike zone. There were no U. S. casualties.

Operations in the Bassac River

On 2 October, the company commander of the 505th Viet Cong Company rallied under the CHIEU HOI program. He brought with him an M1 U. S. carbine, a clip of ammo and personal gear when he turned himself in to the PBRs, 20 miles down river from Can Tho. In addition he provided information as to the location of his company and the 509th Viet Cong Battalion. His wife and brother-in-law were also to CHIEU HOI; however, they failed to appear.

On 3 October U. S. Navy SEALs, River Patrol Boats, armed "Seawolf" helicopters, USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 786) and the Vietnamese River Assault Group (RAG) 25 commenced Operation CRIMSON TIDE II on Tan Dinh Island and the river banks adjacent to it. The island, located 12 miles southeast of Can Tho, had been the scene of intensified attacks against PBR patrols following Operation CRIMSON TIDE I conducted in mid-September and subsequent PBR patrols.

At 0530H Navy helicopters landed two squads of SEALs on the mainland, northeast of Tan Dinh, to set up an ambush. PBRs then conducted passes along the river for two hours in an attempt to draw enemy fire which never came. The SEALs were withdrawn by PBR having failed to make contact with the enemy. The RAG 25 boats saturated the target area with heavy fire in preparation for a

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landing by GAME WARDEN personnel. The landing parties, headed by SEAL personnel, were put ashore by PBRs to carry out the destruction operation. The landing party concluded their phase of the operation at 1600H, having destroyed all assigned targets plus a number of targets of opportunity. After all units were clear of the area, USS GARRETT COUNTY conducted harassment and interdiction fire. Destroyed in the operation were 67 houses, nine bunkers, 18 sampans, 22 punji pits, six grenade traps, 4,000 pounds of rice and one small rice mill. Two Viet Cong were captured during the ground operation. One U. S. Navy man was wounded in the leg by a punji stake and another was wounded by shrapnel when a booby trap grenade exploded. The only other casualty incurred in the day-long operation was Captain Paul N. GRAY, USN, Commander Task Force 116, who received a minor shrapnel wound on his left hip.

On 4 October a motorized sampan was destroyed and its occupant probably killed when Navy "Seawolves" detected it in a restricted area on the lower Bassac. Two structures on Tan Dinh Island were also damaged by the helicopters en route to their base at Binh Thuy.

On 8 October GAME WARDEN units were called upon to provide medical evacuation services for Vietnamese civilians on two separate occasions. The PBRs evacuated a pregnant woman and a child with a serious neck wound.

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On the 9th, PBRs supported the ARVN 21st Division as it conducted a three-battalion sweep of the northern half of Dung Island, located in the lower Bassac River. The boats were deployed as a blocking force on the river to prevent any Viet Cong crossings to the mainland. The PBRs destroyed a canal block and a sampan during the action. The Vietnamese troops killed six Viet Cong during the sweep and captured assorted weapons, ammunition and documents. One U. S. Army and one ARVN soldier were wounded during the operation. Nine Viet Cong were captured and nine Viet Cong suspects were rounded up during the sweep.

On 10 October a PBR patrol of River Section 512 from Binh Thuy was hailed by a Vietnamese outpost chief who informed the patrol officer that his patrol had located a house on the Cai Con Canal with eighteen Viet Cong inside. The PBRs embarked four Regional Force troops and proceeded to the house located ten miles southeast of Can Tho. The PBRs received small arms fire from the house when they arrived. As the fire was returned a large number of men fled from the house and escaped into a rice field, however, captured in the house was a woman who was identified as a signal watch. The woman used towels with embroidered codes to identify her to transient Viet Cong. The house, which probably served as a Viet Cong resting place, contained a large bunkered bunk room, about 300 sets of dishes and 22,000 pounds of rice. There were no

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friendly casualties. Enemy losses were unknown.

On 12 October, the officer of the deck, USS MADERA COUNTY (LST 905) anchored at Binh Thuy, fired into a clump of vegetation floating in the river about sixty feet forward of the bow. The clump of vegetation exploded sending a spray of water 30 feet into the air. There were no personnel injured or damage to the ship as another enemy mining attempt was thwarted.

On 12 October a routine PBR patrol was attacked by heavy automatic-weapons fire as it patrolled behind Tan Dinh Island. The enemy fire was directed at the boats from the island and the mainland. The PBRs returned the fire, but had to withdraw when they were unable to silence the fire. The patrol was joined by another PBR patrol and a light helicopter fire team. The combined units returned to the area of the enemy fire and attacked it with 40-mm grenades, machine guns and MK 72 bazookas from the river and with 2.75 rocket and machine-gun fire from the air. The enemy positions were destroyed. As an added measure artillery fire was called in. There were no friendly casualties. Enemy losses were unknown.

On 13 October PBRs once again came under harassing fire from the same area as the incident of the 12th. Fire was returned by the PBRs and the enemy activity was suppressed. This action was probably a diversionary tactic by the enemy, as a later intelligence report advised that a Viet Cong crossing was made about six

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miles up river at the approximate time of this incident.

Tan Dinh Island was again the scene of enemy activity on the 16th when a two-boat patrol once again came under attack. Navy helicopters were scrambled and joined the PBRs as they returned the enemy fire. The combined firepower soon suppressed the Viet Cong fire. One PBR sailor was wounded slightly in the encounter.

On 19 October two SEAL squads were landed in the morning darkness about 12 miles southeast of Can Tho, on the west bank of the river, at two separate landing sites. Squad 5A encountered and killed one armed Viet Cong shortly after it had landed. PBRs commenced broadcasting CHIEU HOI instructions from the river as the SEAL squad searched the area. Two fleeing Viet Cong were shot and killed by squad 5B that had waited in ambush. The two squads rejoined and continued to search an open field where they killed one more of the enemy. The SEALs were withdrawn, three hours after they had landed with no casualties. Two Viet Cong were captured and two others answered the CHIEU HOI call. Also taken was a Chinese communist rifle, ammunition and several Viet Cong documents.

On 21 October SEALs were landed at 0530H on Tan Dinh Island to conduct an area search. One squad patrolled northwest to the tip of the island and were withdrawn at 1015 after no enemy contact was made. Meanwhile, the second squad patrolled to the southeast and made contact with five Viet Cong. One was probably killed

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and another was probably wounded before they evaded the SEALs. The squad then encountered three Viet Cong as they approached from the south; however, they also escaped in the ensuing fire fight. The squad was withdrawn at 1045H while Navy armed helicopters suppressed the Viet Cong automatic-weapons fire. It was noted during the search that the island homes were undergoing reconstruction and that the north central portion of the island appeared to be the most heavily manned area.

On 23 October PBRs landed Regional and Popular Force troops on the Vong River, 15 miles southeast of Can Tho off the Bassac River, where it was reported that a Viet Cong tax collector was located. The troops gained contact immediately after landing and received automatic-weapons fire from both sides of the Vong River. The PBRs and Navy helicopters silenced the enemy fire and then provided cover for the troops as they made a ground sweep along the Vong River to the Bassac capturing three Viet Cong suspects. Eight others with weapons fled into a rice field and were engaged by rear guard elements of the Regional Forces. One of the enemy was killed; the remaining seven escaped. One of the enemy captured was identified as a long-time hard-core Viet Cong and the one who had murdered the National Police Chief, DAM, in 1962. The Popular Forces had to be restrained from killing the prisoner when the identification was made. There were no friendly casualties.

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During a two-hour sweep of the southern end of Tan Dinh Island on 26 October, two squads of SEALs killed three Viet Cong and captured one Chinese communist rifle, sixty rounds of 8-mm ammunition and five hand grenades. The squads received sporadic small-arms fire and withdrew after killing one more of the enemy and destroying a sampan. There were no U. S. casualties.

On the afternoon of 27 October a routine PBR patrol operating on the lower Bassac River, near the river mouth, interrupted a possible Viet Cong river crossing as it came under heavy automatic-weapons fire from both banks of the Bassac River. The PBRs, supported by Navy armed helicopters, returned and silenced the enemy fire. The patrol, joined by two more PBRs, pursued the enemy into a canal on Dung Island where several sampans had evaded. After proceeding about 200 yards into the canal, destroying a canal blockade en route, the boats received .30 caliber automatic-weapons fire from structures on both banks. The PBRs and "Seawolves" returned the fire and destroyed the structures with incendiary rounds. The enemy broke contact and the patrols withdrew. In addition to the blockade, nine sampans and a total of five structures were destroyed. Enemy casualties were undetermined.

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GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 3 October SEAL Team TWO, Detachment ALFA, Sixth Platoon

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was relocated to Vinh Long as Task Element 116.1.2.0.

On 13 October, USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) (CTE 116.1.3.6) resumed operations in the lower Ham Luong River with River Section 521 (TE 116.1.3.3) and HA(L)-3 (Det 4) (TE 116.1.3.8) embarked.

On 15 October, USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) relieved USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 786) as GAME WARDEN support ship at the mouth of the Bassac River, and assumed TE 116.1.1.6. Embarked in JENNINGS COUNTY were River Section 512 (TE 116.1.1.2) and HA(L)-3 (Det 1) (TE 116.1.1.8). River Section 511 (TE 116.1.1.1) was relocated to Binh Thuy.

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GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
October 1967

1. PBR Statistics:

   a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 650.5 Night 647.5

   b. Total Contacts: Day 49,447 Night 2,805

   c. Total Inspected: Day 10,154 Night 610

   d. Total Boarded: Day 29,880 Night 1,831

   e. People Detained: 559

   f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 63

   g. Total Patrol Hours: 31,249.5

2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:

   a. Total Flight Hours: 1,098.1

   b. Helo Missions:

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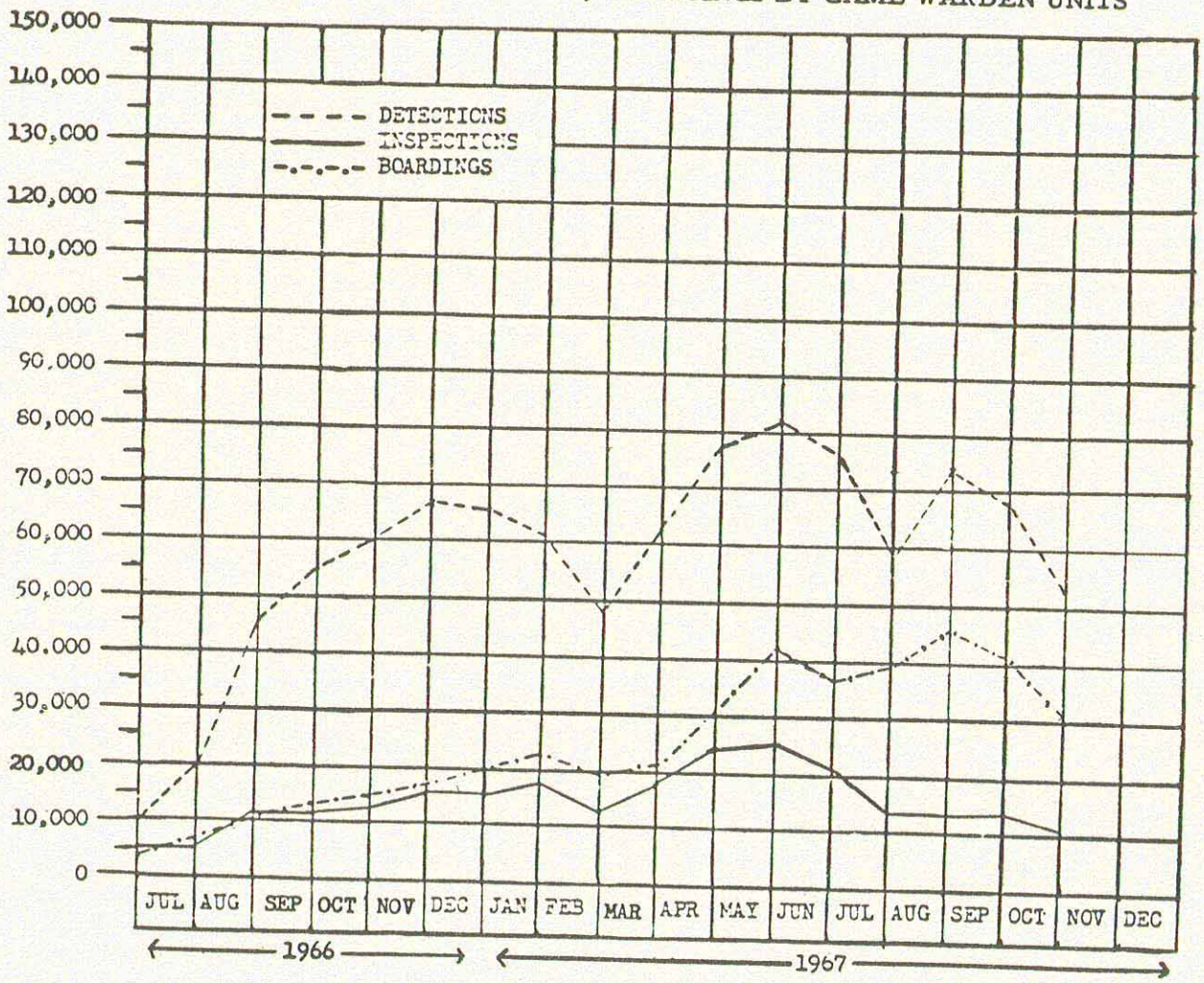
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS



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(1) Pre-planned strikes: 118
(2) Reaction: 105
(3) Targets of Opportunity: 177
(4) Support: 266

3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

a. Fire Fights:
(1) PBR 27
(2) Helo 47
(3) LCM 2
(4) LCPL 2

b. Sampans: Destroyed 176 Damaged 54 Captured 8

c. Structures: Destroyed 183 Damaged 100

d. Bunkers: Destroyed 40 Damaged 13

e. Enemy: KIA 80 KIA (Poss.) 29 WIA 30 Captured 24

f. Friendly: KIA 0 WIA 10

g. Friendly Battle Damage:
(1) PBR: 15
(2) Helo: 8

h. PBR MEDEVAC: 61

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

During most of October the Mobile Riverine Force, operating in Kien Hoa, Long An, and Ding Tuong provinces and in the Rung Sat Special Zone, struck at main force enemy positions and overran Viet Cong installations throughout the Delta and RSSZ. In a series of search and destroy operations, units of the MRF killed 107 Viet Cong, destroyed numerous bunkers and seized or destroyed several caches containing large quantities of supplies and ammunition. U. S. casualties consisted of 10 killed and 48 wounded; ten of the wounded were Navymen.

On 10 October units of the MRF conducted a night transit of the Mekong River complex while relocating from Dong Tam to Vung Tau. This marked the first time that this myriad of waterways had been transitted by the MRF under the cover of darkness.

Later in the month, in the Can Giouc district of Long An province, the presence of the MRF contributed significantly to the area's security as 83.2 percent of the district's registered voters went to the polls to cast their ballots in South Vietnam's Lower House Elections.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

The beginning of October found the units of the MRF moving deeper into Kien Hoa province in the continued prosecution of Operation CORONADO V. On 1 October, TU 117.2.1/1 consisting of

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three ATCs, two monitors and two ASPBs, came under enemy automatic-weapons fire from entrenched bunkers along the An Binh Creek about 10 miles south of Ben Tre. The two lead ASPBs had stopped to retrieve their minesweep gear when the ambush was sprung. The riverine units, which were proceeding to backload two companies of 3/60th Infantry Battalion, immediately suppressed the enemy fire with all boats concentrating their firepower into the ambush site. The return fire caused one secondary explosion which sent a huge fireball and black smoke rising 25 feet into the air. There were three sailors slightly wounded in the ambush. Enemy casualties were unknown.

Operations in the Dinh Tuong Province

On the afternoon of 1 October, the Mobile Riverine Base commenced a major relocation from the junction of the Cua Tieu/Cua Dai Rivers to Dong Tam in order to conduct riverine operations in Dinh Tuong province. This move was accomplished while still conducting combat operations in Kien Hoa province.

On 5 October the MRF commenced riverine/airmobile assault and search and destroy operations in western Ban Long Secret Zone, Dinh Tuong province. Intelligence reports revealed that the Viet Cong 263rd and 514th Main Force Battalions were located in this area and had disrupted lines of communication from the Mekong Delta to Saigon while also posing a constant threat to U. S. Army/Navy assets at Dong Tam. This phase of Operation CORONADO V, conducted in close

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coordination with elements of the ARVN SEVENTH Division from My Tho was designed to entrap the two main force battalions in the Cam Son and Ban Long Secret Zones. MRF contact with the enemy in the Ban Long Secret Zone was very light while the ARVN were heavily engaged in northwestern Cam Son Secret Zone.

On the morning of 6 October, the MRF reoriented its forces westward into the Cam Son Secret Zone to encircle the Viet Cong expected movement. That afternoon U. S. troops of the NINTH Infantry Division gained contact with a main force Viet Cong unit, the 263rd Battalion, and the ensuing battle continued until 2200 on 7 October. Although the circle could not be entirely closed due to a lack of waterways to the east of the contact area, the enemy was sufficiently engaged to account for 94 Viet Cong killed by the MRF and 79 of the enemy killed by the ARVN SEVENTH Division. In addition, there were 171 enemy bunkers destroyed and a large quantity of small-arms ammunition captured. U. S. casualties consisted of six soldiers killed and 25 wounded; one sailor was wounded by sniper fire. ARVN casualties consisted of six killed and 39 wounded.

At 0110 on 9 October, Dong Tam was taken under an enemy 82-mm mortar attack. The Viet Cong lobbed 17 rounds into the Army/Navy base camp with most of the deadly shells landing in the NAVSUPPACT detachment area. There were 31 Navymen and four soldiers wounded in the attack. There were no TF 117 personnel injured, however,

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YLLC 2, which was moored in Dong Tam Harbor, was hit by one mortar round causing minor damage to the stern anchor windlass. There were no mortar rounds directed at the Mobile Riverine Base.

Operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone

On 10 October the MRF transitted from Dong Tam to Vung Tau in preparation for Operation CORONADO VI (11-18 October) in the Rung Sat Special Zone. RAD 92, less A-92-1, remained at Dong Tam to provide waterborne security for the Dong Tam Base and dredges in the harbor, and troop lift capability as required. The major portion of the movement was along the My Tho and Cua Thieu rivers under the cover of darkness, marking the first time that the principal ships of the MRF have transitted the Mekong River complex at night. This new flexibility in mobility varied the pattern of movement into an objective area and further enhanced the success of surprise attacks against the nomadic Viet Cong of the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone. The newest members of the MRF--the two ASPBs--conducted minesweeping operations ahead of the force, and each major ship was escorted by a four-boat moving screen.

The next day, riverine units of the MRF commenced Operation CORONADO VI in Quang Xuyen district of the RSSZ providing close support to the 3/60th and 4/47th Infantry Battalions and the 3/34th Artillery Battalion. Later that afternoon, 17 miles northwest of Vung Tau, riverine assault craft rescued the nine survivors of an

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Army helicopter crash. The aircraft, which had the Senior Advisor, Rung Sat Special Zone aboard, crashed while the UH-1D was making a landing approach to an ATC(H) in the lower Dong Tranh River. The aircraft's pilot was killed in the mishap.

Even though CORONADO VI was the most comprehensive riverine operation ever held in the RSSZ, direct confrontation with the enemy was never established. Despite this fact, the assault forces of the MRF made their presence felt by capturing several caches of enemy supplies and ammunition. The Army troops destroyed 99 enemy bunkers and captured a large quantity of materiel, including 6,000 rounds of machine-gun ammunition, 500 rounds of small-arms ammunition, 200 grenades and 700 pounds of TNT. There were three Viet Cong killed and six U. S. soldiers wounded in action.

Operations in Long An Province

On 20 October the MRB, less the USS ASKARI (ARL 30), relocated from Vung Tau to the junction of the Soirap/Vam Co rivers in preparation for Operation CORONADO VII (21-23 October) in the Can Giouc district of Long An province. The MRF conducted search and destroy operations, night ambushes, and saturation patrols in order to provide security for the district during the Vietnamese Lower House Elections.

The following evening an ATC, T-91-1, on patrol in the Rach Cac River 12 miles southwest of Nha Be, was struck by a B-40

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rocket. Although damage to the boat was slight, five U. S. sailors were wounded. Shortly afterwards, another ATC, T-91-13, on a blocking station in the Ba Dang River, nine miles southwest of Nha Be, was hit by a B-40 rocket. The riverine craft suffered only minor material damage and there were no personnel casualties. About two hours later on the morning of 22 October, a Monitor, M-91-2, was fired upon from the south bank of the Vang River eight miles southwest of Nha Be. The B-40 round, which hit on the starboard side amidships just below the waterline, caused only minor damage, and the boat's crew suffered no casualties. Suppressing fire was returned into the area but enemy casualties were undetermined.

On 23 October Operation CORONADO VII terminated with the following cumulative results: One Viet Cong killed with 62 bunkers, 43 spider holes, 12 punji pits and five booby traps destroyed. Friendly casualties consisted of five sailors and one soldier wounded. While contact with the enemy was very light, CORONADO VII was a very successful operation in that it accomplished the mission of affording local Vietnamese in the Can Giouc district safe access to the polling places for the Lower House elections on 22 October. The large turnout of 83.2 percent of the registered voters was attributed by the local officials to the presence of the MRF assault boats on the rivers and canals and to the MRF

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troops deployed throughout the area. The stated mission of the MRF is to assist the GVN to regain control over centers of population and land areas in the Delta. The success of Operation CORONADO VII was in keeping with this mission.

On 24 October the MRB relocated to Vung Tau in preparation for riverine operations into southeastern Nhon Trach and southwestern Long Thanh districts of Bien Hoa province. Operation CORONADO VIII (27-29 October) marked the initial employment of the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Regiment in conjunction with the MRF. During this operation there were three Viet Cong killed, over 6,900 rounds of assorted ammunition, 190 grenades, and 500 pounds of medical supplies captured, and 78 bunkers and 19 sampans destroyed. Friendly casualties consisted of two U. S. soldiers and one sailor wounded; the Royal Thai Volunteer Regiment had two soldiers killed and two wounded.

RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE UNITS

On 3 October the locations and responsibilities of the four TF 117 River Assault Divisions were rotated as follows: RIVDIVs 91 and 92 exchanged locations and jobs, with RAD 91 providing close support to the 4/47th Infantry Battalion and shifting from USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST 1169) to APL 26. RAD 92 moved ashore from APL 26 to Dong Tam to provide general support. RAD 111 shifted to the USS BENEWAH (APB 35) and assumed the duties of MRB

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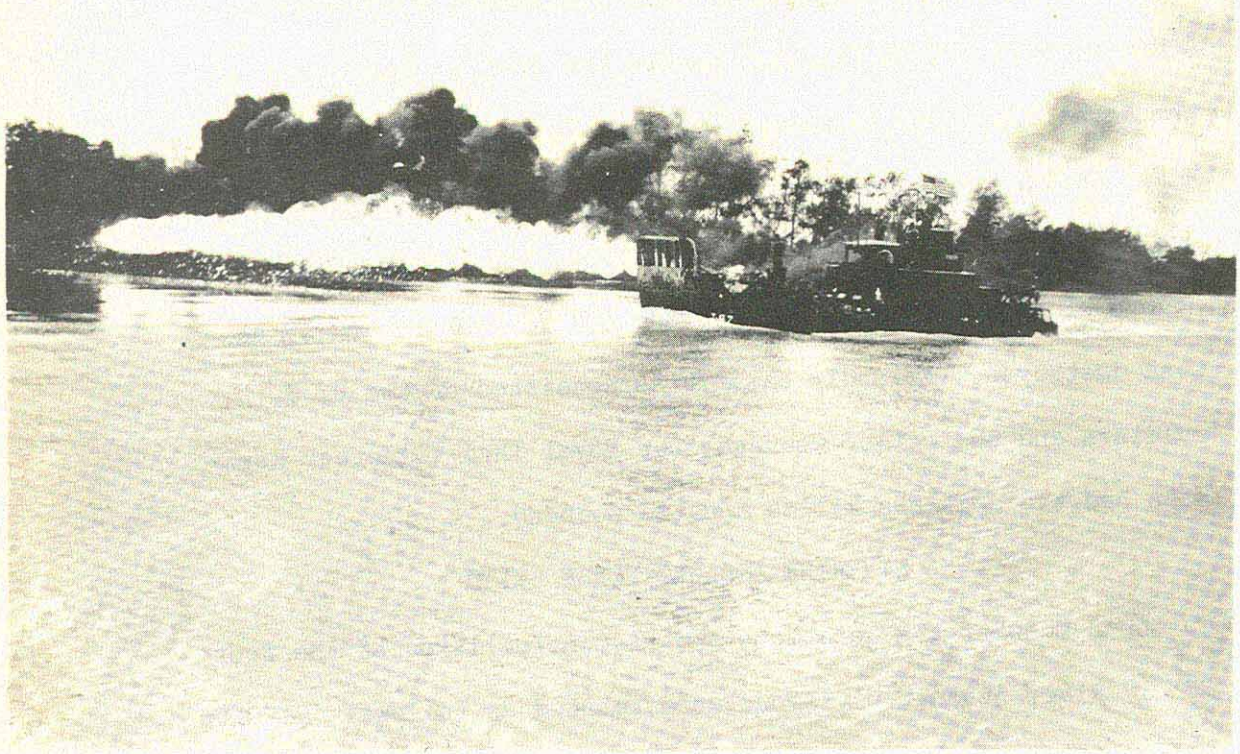

An ATC with a flame thrower (mounted in a U. S. Army APC carried in the well deck of the ATC) undergoes tests west of Dong Tam during October.

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On 27 October at Vung Tau USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST 1167) relieved USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST 1169) as the MRF support LST.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

On 15 October, Naval Support Activity, Danang celebrated the conclusion of its second very successful year of operation. The base, which has become the U. S. Navy's largest overseas command ashore, started two years ago as not much more than an anchorage and has developed into a deep draft sea port capable of handling approximately one million tons of cargo every three months. At the end of its second year of operation, the activity was operating more than 200 boats and craft that carry supplies to over 132,000 free world forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

Enemy initiated incidents against the facilities of NAVSUPPACT and its outlying detachments continued during the month. On the morning of 22 October, approximately one-fourth of a mile south of the Marble Mountain transmitter site gate, a truck carrying 15 security personnel ran over a land mine. The resulting explosion, which caused the truck to leave the road and catch fire, killed one man and injured the remaining 14.

Throughout the month NAVSUPPACT Danang and its detachments continued to process large volumes of cargo; however, cargo backlog for the northern I CTZ has increased steadily during recent months. Special cargo movement requirements, unit moves, loss of the LST capability at Cua Viet, and the capability degradation because of inclement weather have all contributed to the backlog

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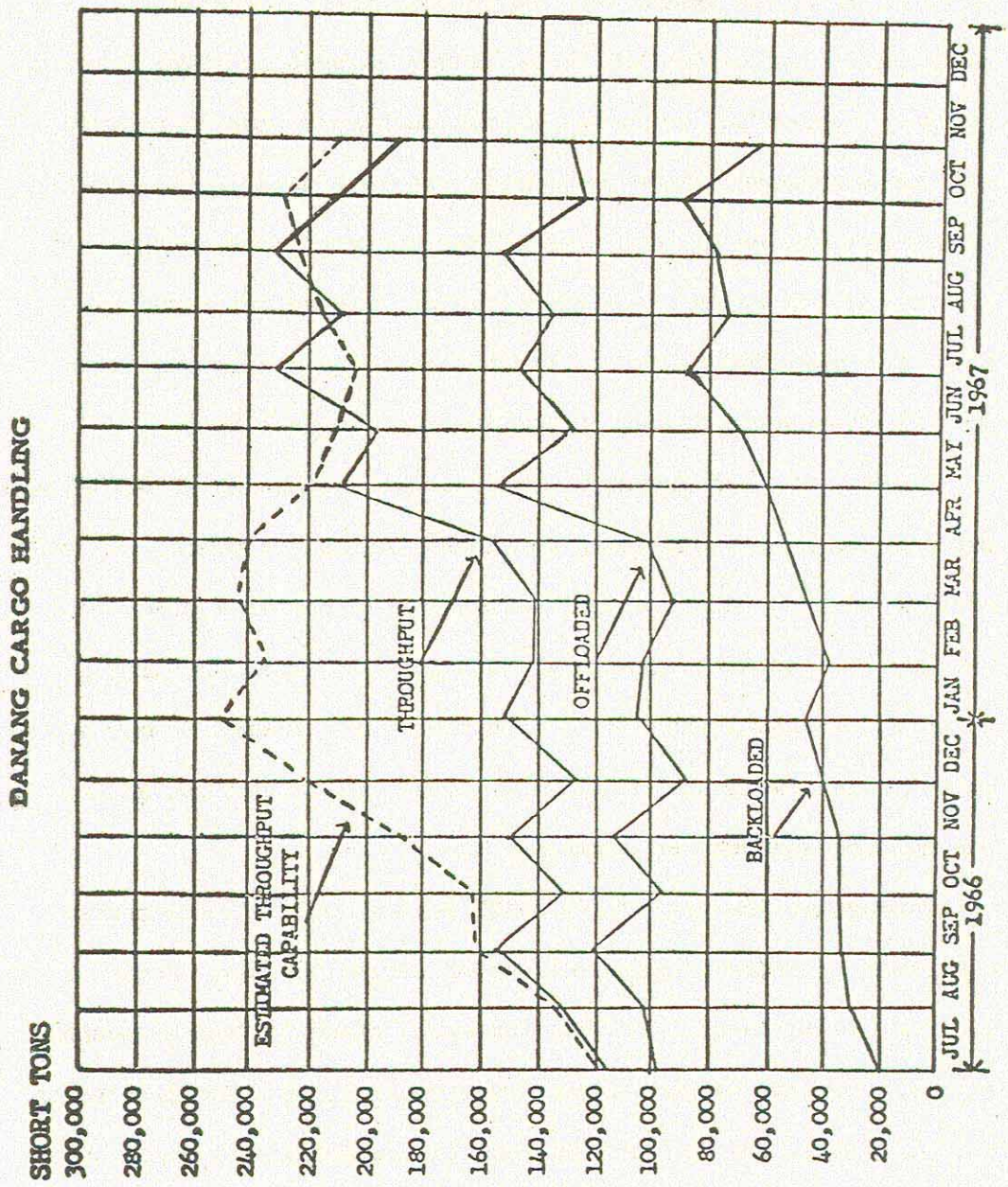

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increase. During the month every effort was being made to increase the shipping capability and decrease the backlog. These efforts included the restoration of the Cua Viet LST facility and installation of a pontoon causeway at Tan My.

Although work was progressing slowly because of extremely adverse weather conditions, it was estimated that the interim pontoon causeway for the Tan My port would be ready for use by early November.

The dredging operation in the mouth of the Cua Viet River, which had become unnavigable by LSTs because of monsoon rains, strong river current and silting, was also being hampered by adverse weather conditions. The dredging was continuing however, and on 21 October an LST carrying a light load arrived at the Cua Viet LST ramp indicating that a limited LST capability had been restored.

During the month at the Danang port, 127,263 short tons of cargo were discharged and over 63,000 short tons were back-loaded for transshipment to other ports. The total monthly throughput at Danang was 191,009 short tons. The combined throughput for all I Corps ports was 279,817 short tons.

The overall net supply effectiveness for Danang and Chu Lai rose from September's 93 percent to 94.5 percent in October. Overall gross effectiveness rose from 90 percent to 91.2 percent.

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Chu Lai's SERVMART issued 34,354 items during October, an increase of almost 14,000 from September's figure.

The number of craft assigned to NAVSUPPACT Danang increased during the month as six Army LCM-8s, three Army LCUs, plus two LCUs from Assault Craft Division 13 were received.

During October the average Naval Support Activity, Danang personnel level was 8,800 and at month's end the number of United States and other Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPPACT was 132,600.

The number of patients admitted to the NAVSUPPACT hospital in Danang during October totaled 1,136. Of this total number received at the 467-bed hospital, 262 were admitted for combat injuries, 685 for various diseases, and 189 for non-combat injuries. A total of 421 persons were treated and returned to duty during the month and 294 were evacuated out of Vietnam.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

During October the Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Saigon and its various detachments continued to expand and improve the support provided for naval forces in II, III, and IV CTZ. Construction continued at a steady pace at the MARKET TIME-GAME WARDEN support bases during the month. Among the many construction projects completed were: a double quonset hut recreation lounge and the Naval Support Facility administration buildings at Cam Ranh Bay, two moorings in the bay at An Thoi, and a storage quonset hut at Cat Lo. At Nha Be the sheet piling was completed for the south waterfront bulkhead and the steel overhead mortar shield for the Tactical Operations Center was finished. Also at Nha Be, the officer's mess, barracks, and exchange buildings were completed during the month. At Dong Tam, Public Works Seabees completed the laundry building and the pilings for the drydock were placed. Also completed at Dong Tam were two maintenance quonset buildings for the PACV program. At Binh Thuy the enlisted men's club commenced operations and Project SEARCHLIGHT construction was completed.

At 0105 on 9 October, the NAVSUPPACT Saigon detachment at Dong Tam was hit by an 82-mm mortar attack. The enemy attack, which lasted approximately 15 minutes, originated from positions northeast of the Dong Tam base. A total of 15 mortar rounds struck the

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Damage to a NAVSUPPACT Detachment Dong Tam berthing hootch after the Viet Cong mortar attack on 9 October.

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Navy detachment area. The stern winch on one Light Lift Craft was damaged by a mortar round and five berthing hootches and a mess hall sustained direct hits. The remainder of the rounds landed in open areas or adjacent to buildings, causing shrapnel damage. Personnel casualties resulting from the attack included 31 Navymen and four Army personnel wounded. The detachment remained fully operational and all battle damage repairs were completed by 15 October.

During October, the number of line items carried by NAVSUPPACT Saigon totalled 35,798. The overall gross and net material support effectiveness were 66 percent and 85 percent respectively.

During the month NAVSUPPACT continued to requisition on a "fill or kill" basis from the 506th Field Depot. Of 136 requisitions submitted during October, two percent were filled, 12 percent were killed, and 86 percent had no status.

The lack of warehouse space continued to be a critical problem during October. One additional warehouse was leased during the month and occupancy was expected to begin during November. Another warehouse was rejected for lease because of the in-country ceiling on rentals. At month's end, the search for additional warehouse space was continuing.

The Selected Item Management (SIM) program, which provides the means to identify and focus management attention on the relatively few items in inventory that account for the majority of demands,

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had been instituted at all NAVSUPPACT detachments and at the Naval Support Facility, Cam Ranh Bay by month's end. Initial reports indicated that beneficial results were being realized from the program and inventory control was definitely improving.

Also during October, a Quality Assurance Section was established at the NAVSUPPACT disbursing branch. This section was designed to insure maximum quality control of all phases of disbursing.

NAVSUPPACT Saigon's October inventory of operational logistic aircraft consisted of two C-117s, one C-47, and one C-45. One H-34 helicopter was received in October and was expected to be operational by 15 November. Anticipated receipts of logistic aircraft include an additional C-117 and two US-2Bs.

A total of 2,980 passengers and 361,575 pounds of cargo were transported by NAVSUPPACT aircraft during the month of October. During the same period, NAVSUPPACT surface ships and craft hauled 2,473 short tons of cargo.

At month's end, NAVSUPPACT Saigon had a total on-board count of 1,992 personnel and was providing support to approximately 15,000 military personnel in the II, III, and IV CTZs.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

During October enemy attacks continued against the bases and work projects of the naval construction forces in Vietnam and as a result of the attacks, four Seabees were killed and 10 wounded. On 13 October two men from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Three (MCB 3) were wounded when their truck struck a land mine near Phu Bai. Two men from MCB 11 were wounded during an enemy artillery shelling of the Dong Ha combat base on 29 October. Six men from MCB 74 were wounded during mortar attacks on the battalion's Route 1 work crew on 4 October. On 23 October three men from MCB 121 were killed when the vehicle in which they were riding hit a land mine two miles south of Phu Bai. An MCB 128 equipment operator was killed on 24 October by a booby trap land mine near the 3rd AMTRAC cantonment south of Marble Mountain.

The alternate airfield for Dong Ha, which consists of a 3,500 foot runway with C-130 capability, a 20,000 square yard parking apron, and a 90,000 square yard helicopter facility was completed on 30 October, just 45 days after the first elements of a special task force formed by the Third Naval Construction Brigade arrived at the Quang Tri site. The airfield was capable of receiving aircraft and MCB 10 was continuing work on a 500-man cantonment area, an ammunition supply point, and miscellaneous infantry and aircraft facilities.

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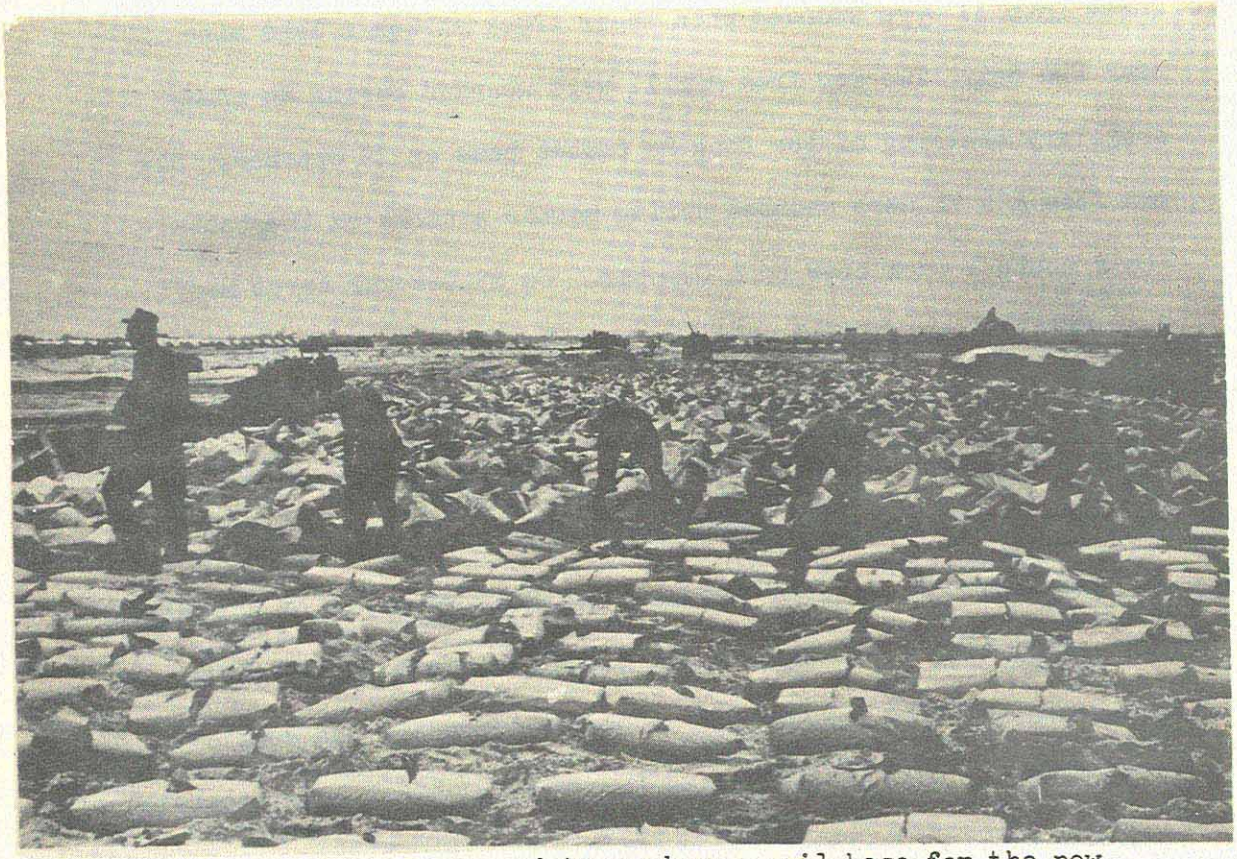

Seabees spread cement used to produce a soil base for the new airstrip at Dong Ha.

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During the month, MCB 11, located at the Dong Ha Combat Base, completed the LST/LCU ramps at Cua Viet and began an additional ramp and staging area at Dong Ha. MCB 11 had been tasked with the construction of an ammunition supply point at Dong Ha, and by month's end five modules, consisting of five and six cells each had been completed and another two modules started. MCB 11's detail at the Lang Vei Special Forces Camp near Khe Sanh continued work on 17 machine gun bunkers, a medical bunker, an operations center bunker, and an above ground civilian medical building.

MCB 10, with headquarters at Phu Bai, completed a 146-hut cantonment for an AMTRAC unit operating at Cua Viet during the month and continued work on the alternate airfield for Dong Ha at Quang Tri. MCB 10 started a cantonment area at Camp Carroll for the Marines and another cantonment area at Phu Bai for Marine Air Group SIXTEEN (MAG 16). Also during the month, a detail from MCB 10 was at the Khe Sanh airfield constructing a Special Forces Camp, the first increment of which consisted of four underground bunkers and supporting facilities.

During October, MCB 3, also located at Phu Bai, completed one of two aircraft hangars for MAG 16 and began a second. During the same period, the battalion was working on a parking apron for the 131st Aviation Company, and details from MCB 3 participated in the construction of the alternate airfield for Dong Ha. MCB 3 units

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also completed a culvert on Route 1 and all bridges and culverts on Col Co Road between Hue and Tan My. All work on the interim LST ramp at Hue was completed during the month by MCB 3.

Another Phu Bai-based battalion, MCB 121, completed the fifth increment of the THIRD Marine Division's cantonment. MCB 121 took over the construction of Camp Evans from MCB 1 during the month and continued to maintain the portion of Route 1 from Phu Loc to Hue.

MCB 74, located at Camp Haskins, Red Beach, Danang, completed construction of the first four increments of Ammunition Supply Point 2 (ASP 2) during the month. They completed six 40' by 100' rigid frame buildings for the Force Logistic Command (FLC) and a permanent sewer system for the 1st Marine Air Wing Headquarters. MCB 74 also completed one 1,000-barrel and five 3,000-barrel POL storage tanks for the Army's new Americal Division at Duc Pho, and on Route 1 they constructed a 150-foot bridge at Nuoc Ngot and a 60-foot bridge at Phu Loc.

MCB 1, also located at Camp Haskins, completed upgrading all bridges and culverts in the Hai Van Pass area of Route 1. They completed seven of nine butler buildings at the bridge cargo facility and stabilized the road from Danang to the Happy Valley Quarry.

The Dia Loc bridge was repaired by MCB 9, working from Danang, after heavy rains began to wash out the approaches. A 250-man

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galley for the 2/11 Marines was completed by MCB 9 during the month. They also continued working on a 500-man galley for the 1/7 Marines and began construction of 14 two-story barracks, two BOQs and six showers at the Danang Airfield for the Naval Support Activity, (NAVSUPPACT), Danang.

MCB 7, located in Danang East, completed a warehouse at the NAVSUPPACT Service Craft Repair Facility and 5.6 acres of soil cement hardstand at the NAVSUPPACT covered storage area. At the NAVSUPPACT hospital work was underway on a 200-bed expansion which was to include wards, barracks, surgical facilities, expansion of the sewer system, additions to the water system, a urology clinic, and nurse's lounge.

MCB 133, which was relieved by MCB 128 in late October, completed a 25,000 square yard helicopter parking apron for the 212th Aviation Battalion in the extremely short period of ten days. Also completed during the month was a 500-man galley for the 212 Aviation Battalion and a 500-man cantonment for the 3rd AMTRAC Battalion south of Marble Mountain. MCB 133 finished its tour by completing various berthing and logistic facilities for the 1st Logistic Command and at month's end, MCB 128 was continuing work on Ammunition Supply Point 1 for the Force Logistic Command near Danang.

During the month, MCB 6, located at Chu Lai, began a major ammunition supply point for the Americal Division. By month's end

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four of a planned thirteen 10,000 square foot earth berm revetments had been completed. MCB 6 also completed three 10,000-barrel POL tanks for the NAVSUPPACT detachment at Chu Lai. On Route 1 they finished one bridge and rebuilt 200 feet of an approach which had been washed out by floods. Ten miles of Route 1 was rocked by MCB 6 and at month's end was ready for asphalt paving.

MCB 71, which was relieved on the 29th by MCB 40, worked on an ammunition supply point at the south end of the Chu Lai combat base. At month's end, work was continuing on twenty 25' by 48' covered magazines and five cell modules with five pads containing facilities for covered storage. The supply point was to have a capacity of 6,000 short tons of ammunition. Also under construction was the supporting cantonment area.

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MILITARY PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS

Although the U. S. Navy has been involved for years in people to people programs throughout the world, psychological operations being conducted in South Vietnam was a new field of endeavor and the level of expertise was still minimal. In Naval Forces Vietnam there were thirteen officers and ten enlisted personnel with psychological operations schooling, all but two of whom were advisors to the Vietnamese Navy. Most psychological operations advisors were co-located with U. S. Navy units and provided guidance and assistance to the U. S. Navy Psychological Operations Program. Through Program Five, additional officers have been requested for U. S. Task Force and Task Group staffs to enable them to be more independent of the advisory effort.

The magnitude of effort by naval forces continued to increase as the various naval units prosecuted psychological operations in their areas of responsibility. U. S. naval forces engaged in GAME WARDEN operations in the Delta area and MARKET TIME operations along the coast inspected approximately three thousand waterborne craft daily and had contact with as many as ten thousand people during the course of their inspections. This personal contact and hand-to-hand distribution of propaganda material was an ideal media for conducting psychological operations. The coastal and river patrol boats will ultimately be equipped with a tape recorder and loud-speaker capability

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so that the people in the hamlets and villages along the coastline and river banks of South Vietnam can be reached.

On three separate occasions, as a result of an intensive psychological and civic action program conducted along the eastern My Tho River, GAME WARDEN River Patrol Section 532, based at My Tho, received voluntary intelligence from people along the river regarding Viet Cong ambushes against the river patrol boats. Although the informants were entitled to renumeration for the highly reliable information provided, no rewards were desired.

Hoi Chanhs (returnees) were a most lucrative source of intelligence and by acting on rallier-provided information the following results were achieved during the month in the Delta:

8 operations conducted
40 Viet Cong captured
32 Viet Cong killed
8 individual weapons seized
1 crew-served weapon captured

Throughout the month U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces continued to conduct extensive medical civic action projects (MEDCAPs), while U. S. Navymen performed a diversity of civic action projects that included a shipboard type "field day" at the province hospital in Qui Nhon, teaching in a Vietnamese school in Danang, delivering scrap lumber to a Roman Catholic priest for construction of a school for NINTH Division ARVN children in Sa Dec, and the construction of schools, churches, and sanitation facilities in various areas of South

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Vietnam.

The Vietnamese hospital ship HAT GIANG HQ 400* continued to ply the waterways of the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone, as did her sister ship the HAN GIANG HQ 401. It was not unusual for the ships to treat more than 800 patients on a typical day's operation. On one occasion, surgery was performed, aboard the HQ 400, for the removal of a carbine bullet from the back of an eight year old boy shot by the Viet Cong one year ago.

On 26 October, about 9 miles southeast of Vinh Long, HQ 400 held a MEDCAP for the people living at the mouth of the Mang Thit River, in spite of information that the Viet Cong would probably attempt to attack the ship. Upon arrival the Medical team found the villagers in hiding, due to the Viet Cong threats of terrorism. After four hours of persuasive psychological operations the people began to immerge and in the following 3½ hour period more than 460 patients were treated. Elements from River Assault Group 23 (RAG) based at Vinh Long provided protection while the hospital ship was in the Viet Cong infested area.

The next day the ship, once again with escorts from RAG 23, returned to conduct a second MEDCAP. On arrival it was found that the village outpost had been attacked during the night. However, disregarding the Viet Cong threats, the people of the village

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* Converted Landing Ship Medium (LSM)

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assembled at the water's edge to receive medical treatment. The hospital ship's boats, while under sniper fire, ferried the patients to the hospital ship. With artillery thunder and small arms fire as a background setting, the MEDCAP was performed and at the end of the day over 852 patients were treated aboard. The ship's captain commented: "This proves to be another defeat for the Viet Cong. People of the remote area welcome our ship and medical teams."

For some time now U. S. Coast Guardsmen have taken an active interest in a needy group of Saigon boys they fondly refer to as "The Dead End Kids", most of whom are orphans, or from poor families. During off-duty periods, volunteer Coast Guardsmen provide wholesome recreation for these boys, with an eye to improving the lot of the unfortunate youngsters. Recreation is one way of doing this, but to qualify for the fun, the boys must meet at a Vietnamese-run health clinic, where they are treated for the cuts and sores that boys are heir to. They are also bathed and given a clean change of clothing before departing for a day's outing and picnic.

During the month MCB 71 departed Vietnam, however, the people of Chu Lai in I Corps Tactical Zone will remember them for years to come because of their tremendous civic action program. The battalion completed, during the period 10 April--23 October, the following projects:

2 orphanages

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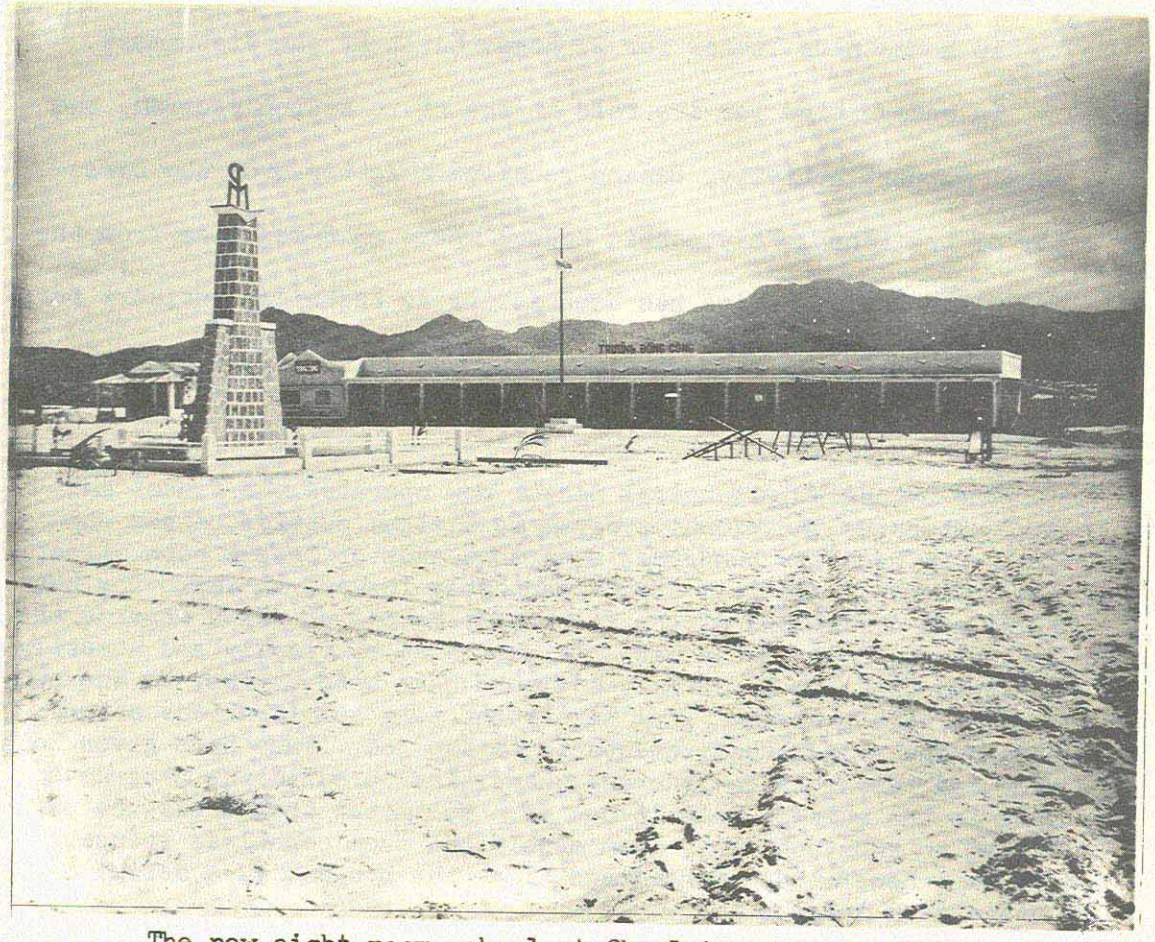

The new eight-room school at Chu Lai built by MCB 71.

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1 eight-room school with furnishings and a teacher's quarters
1 market place with a two-story building plus storage hut on a 75' x 85' concrete slab
Completely furnished a second school and installed toilets
3 huts for churches
1 street, 2/10 of a mile long
1 church
10 homes plus lumber for 27 homes built by the Vietnamese

In recognition for its role in the civic action program, the Naval Support Activity, Danang received a letter from the Director of the Danang Polytechnic School where an 8-man team from the NSA Civic Action Office has been acting as technical advisors for the past year. An excerpt expressing the value of the program follows:

"...The Danang Polytechnical School now operates the finest and most extensive vocational program in Vietnam outside of the capital. It benefits hundreds, even thousands of people both directly and indirectly and is a significant step forward in improving the lives and conditions of the Vietnamese people on which depends the ultimate outcome of the war. It must also be frankly and honestly admitted that the U. S. Navy advisors have been the key to the success of this program. They have spent long and laborious effort beyond the normal requirements to do the job. They have given both time and resources in generous quantities to build the program and make it the success that it now is. Unlimited thanks must be extended to them, not only from myself but from countless refugees who have benefited. Considered alone the program is a definite and outstanding success..."

The following is a tabulation of certain civic action projects conducted during October by U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces. Construction projects involving renovation or repair are so indicated with an R.

1. Construction:

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a.	Bridges	4/1R
b.	Dispensaries	1R
c.	Dwellings	9/23
d.	Hospitals	1R
e.	Leveling/grading projects	3
f.	Libraries	1
g.	Market places	3
h.	Orphanages	1/1R
i.	Playgrounds	2
j.	Schools/classrooms	0/3R
k.	Toilets, public	5/2R
l.	Wells	9

2. Medical treatments:

a.	General	47,586
b.	Dental	3,895
c.	Surgery	307
d.	Emergency evacuations	121

3. Health and Sanitation:

a.	Classes on personal hygiene/attendance	312/4,950
b.	Medical aides or nurses trained	7
c.	Spray insecticide operations	22
d.	MEDCAPs	121

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

a.	Blacksmith kits (number)	2
b.	Cement	133,000
c.	Clothing	18,750
d.	Food	140,650
e.	Lumber (board feet)	200,600
f.	Medical, non-prescription	200
g.	Physical Education Kits (number)	2
h.	School Kits (number)	1,520
i.	Soap	2,502
j.	Tin sheets (number)	1,380
k.	Woodworker Kits (number)	15
l.	Sandbags (number)	5,200
m.	55-gallon drums (number)	52
n.	Concertina wire (roll)	48
o.	Resettlement Kits (number)	7
p.	Textile Kits (number)	25
q.	Carpenter Kits (number)	6
r.	Farm Kits (number)	6
s.	Sewing Machines (number)	6

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t.	Personal Kits (baby powder, hair cream and bandaids)	2,790
u.	Fill (cubic yards)	75
v.	Livestock feed	9,600
5.	Educational efforts:	
a.	English classes/attendance	190/3,284
6.	Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:	
a.	Orphanages	11,000
b.	Religious Activities	3,000
c.	Schools	25,670

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 4 October USNS GEIGER (T-AP 197) with 1,700 ROK troops aboard ran hard aground in 13 feet of water in Danang Harbor. After removing all excess weight from the 17,000-ton ship, a major pull, utilizing six harbor tugs and three commercial tugs, was attempted on the evening of 5 October. However, all attempts to dislodge the ship were unsuccessful. The next morning an Army barge commenced dredging sand and mud from the port side and the area around GEIGER's bow. Shortly after midnight on the 7th, with the assistance of USS ABNAKI (ATF 93) and several harbor tugs, GEIGER was refloated. A subsequent investigation of the ship's underbody revealed no hull damage.

On 13 October Team 4 of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE successfully destroyed a sunken wreck at the mouth of the Co Chien River. After the menace to navigation was demolished, a sounding survey conducted at low water revealed that there was 15 feet of water over the remains of the hulk.

The next day Team 4 of HCU-1, embarked in YLLC-4, proceeded to the scene of a downed helicopter in the lower Dong Tranh River 16 miles southeast of Nha Be to conduct salvage operations. The aircraft, lying inverted in 20 feet of water, was recovered later that afternoon as two PBRs and an Army spotter aircraft provided security cover for YLLC-4.

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On 27 October four Navy divers from Team 3 of HCU-1 were ambushed in the vicinity of Tan An in Long An province, while attempting to recover the body of a U. S. soldier from the Vam Co Tay River. One sailor, Electrician's Mate Second Class (Diver) J. T. NELSON, USN, was killed and two other divers were seriously wounded in the Viet Cong ambush.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Project SEARCHLIGHT (upgrading communications facilities at COMNAVFORV, the Coastal Surveillance Centers, and GAME WARDEN bases) continued to be plagued with supply and real estate problems. Construction at COMNAVFORV headquarters progressed at a satisfactory rate with the overall electronics installation estimated to be 70 percent complete. Installation at Vinh Long was deferred pending the settlement of a real estate lease problem. An installation team inventoried the equipment at Sa Dec and installed some equipment in racks on foundations. The status at the remaining sites was unchanged.

Project STARBOARD TACK (the use of transportable communication vans for contingency communications) experienced a slippage of delivery dates for the UHF components of the UHF/VHF vans. The latest estimate of shipping date was 27 November.

Project BOWLINE (NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay) was cut into the Integrated Wideband Communications System by microwave at the end of October. During the month of November it is planned to activate a secure voice circuit between the Joint Overseas Switchboard and Cam Ranh Bay, and between Phu Lam and NAVSUPPACT Danang.

During the latter part of October, the transmitter site at NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay suffered a series of generator casualties with a resultant loss of primary and back-up power. All subscribers

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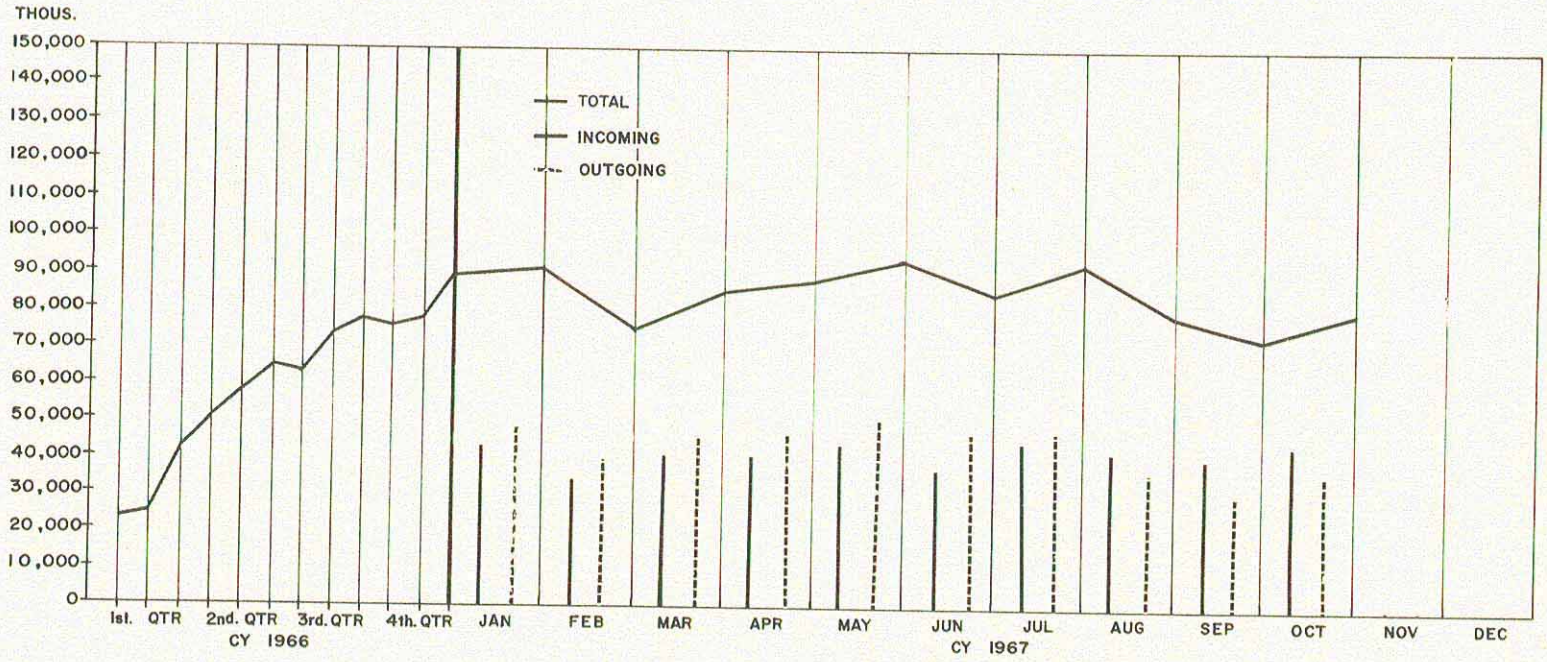
MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC



PERCENT OF TOTAL

FLASH	1	1	1	1	1	.2	.5	.9	1.4	1.3		
IMMEDIATE	21	20	19	18	16	17.5	18.1	17.9	21.2	23.3		
PRIORITY	60	61	63	63	66	64.6	62.9	61.6	57.3	57.4		
ROUTINE	18	18	17	18	17	17.7	18.5	19.6	20.1	18.0		

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to the Vietnam local area broadcast (VLAB) were directed to copy the fleet broadcast emanating from NAVCOMMSTA Philippines (GRTT), until the power difficulties at Cam Ranh Bay were rectified. Meanwhile COMSEVENTHFLT directed USS ARLINGTON (AGMR 2) to proceed at best speed to a position 80 miles northeast of Cam Ranh Bay in order to provide communication support to CTF 115. At month's end the generator problem at NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay had not yet been rectified.

The number of messages handled by the COMNAVFORV communications center during the month of October was 80,625, an increase of 8,570 messages over last month's total.

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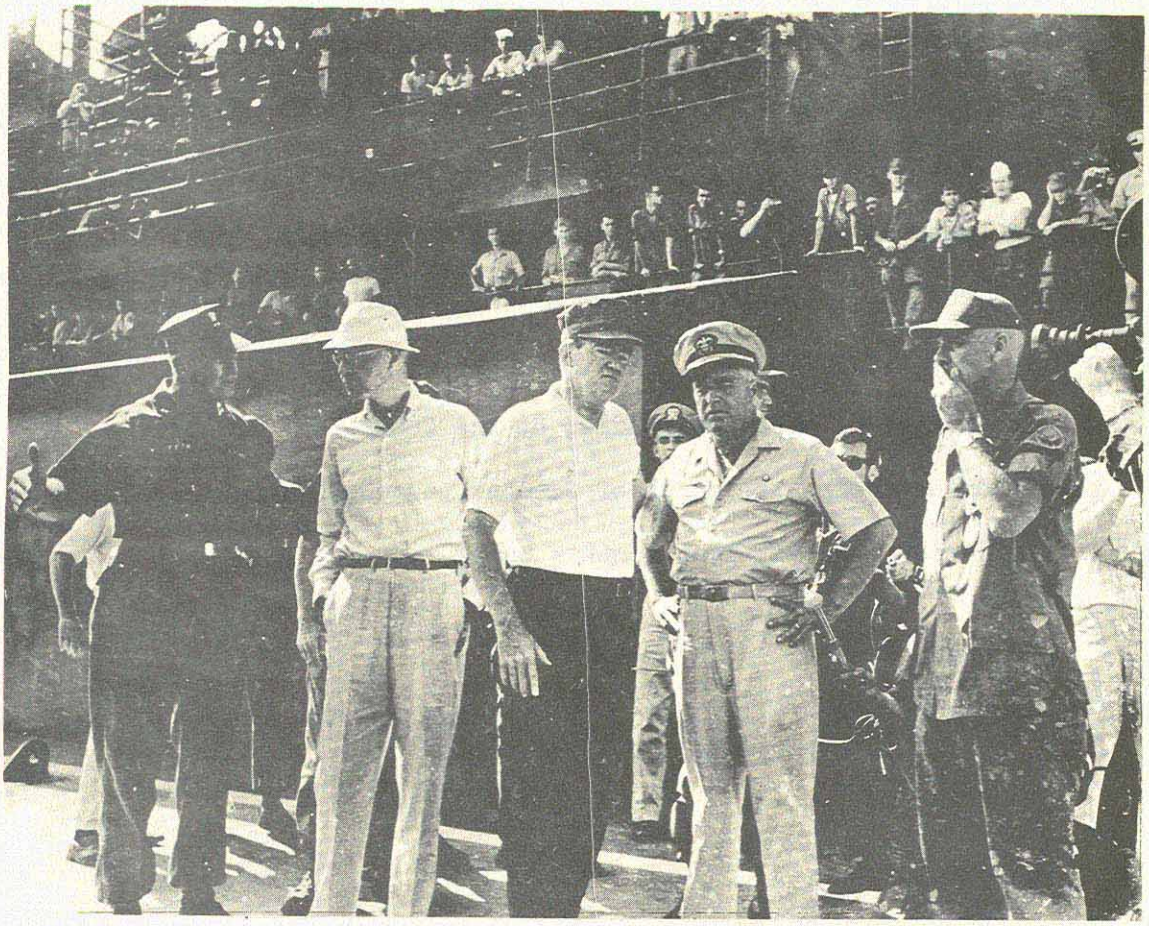

During a visit to USS BENEWAH (APB 35) on 30 October, U. S. Ambassador to Vietnam, Ellsworth BUNKER, and Vice President Hubert H. HUMPHREY are briefed on TF 117 operations by Rear Admiral VETH and Captain WELLS, respectively. Listening (right) is Colonel Bert A. DAVID, Commander, 2nd Brigade, NINTH Infantry Division.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 30 October Vice President Hubert H. HUMPHREY visited the USS BENEWAH (APB 35), flagship of the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF), at Dong Tam. The Vice President, who was in South Vietnam to represent the United States during the Vietnamese presidential inauguration ceremonies, was greeted in Saigon by Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam (COMNAVFORV). The Vice President was then flown to the BENEWAH accompanied by U. S. Ambassador Ellsworth BUNKER, General William C. WESTMORELAND, Commander U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (COMUSMACV) and nine other dignitaries. On the BENEWAH, the Vice President was briefed on the mission of the MRF and saw many of the craft that are used by the MRF. That day a six-man party from the Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Armed Services also visited the BENEWAH and were briefed on MRF operations. From the BENEWAH the committee members visited the U. S. Navy base at Nha Be before returning to Saigon.

On the 14th, Vice Admiral John J. HYLAND, USN, Commander U. S. SEVENTH Fleet, arrived in Saigon for a three-day tour of U. S. Navy installations in South Vietnam. Included in VADM HYLAND's schedule were visits to COMNAVFORV's headquarters and the Vietnamese Naval Shipyard in Saigon; the BENEWAH, flagship of the MRF; Coastal Surveillance Force headquarters at Cam Ranh Bay; and Danang.

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On the 15th Vice Admiral L. P. RAMAGE, USN, Commander Military Sea Transportation Service (COMSTS), arrived at Vung Tau for a four-day tour of MSTS facilities in South Vietnam. Included in the tour were visits to Danang, Cam Ranh Bay, Phan Rang, Saigon Port and Newport.

On 1 October, administrative control of Commander, Coast Guard Activities, Vietnam and Commander Coast Guard Squadron THREE was transferred from Commander Western Area to Commander Coast Guard District 14.

On 10 October, General William C. WESTMORELAND, USA, COMUSMACV, and General Cao Van VIEN, ARVN, Chairman, Joint General Staff, visited U. S. Army NINTH Infantry Division elements serving with the MRF. During the visit the decision was made to assign a Vietnamese Marine Corps battalion to the MRF on a rotating, continuing basis. The battalion was to be made available to the MRF by the end of the month and was to be rotated every 60 to 90 days.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

On 11 October a major change in the staff structure of the Naval Advisory Group's organization was initiated; designed to strengthen the diverse aspects of the advisory effort, the new development created, in effect, a separate staff segment to coordinate the various advisory activities. With the buildup of the U. S. Navy effort in Vietnam in 1966 and the designation of the Chief, Naval Advisory Group as Commander Naval Forces, Vietnam on 1 April 1966, the combined CNAG/CNFV staff tended to support the U. S. Navy operational units and the advisory staff effort evolved to the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) Headquarters Advisory Unit and the Military Assistance Service Funding Office (CNFV staff, code 70). Those advisors who were also tactical commanders, in receiving direct, detailed orders from their tactical commanders and broad, general guidance from Naval Advisory Group staff elements, tended to reduce the effort expended to improve the VNN. To strengthen the naval advisory effort to the VNN, the Senior Advisor, VNN Headquarters was redesignated the Senior Naval Advisor and placed in the direct line of authority under Chief, Naval Advisory Group with respect to all naval advisory tasks and functions. To assist him in the accomplishment of these responsibilities the Senior Naval Advisor's staff was increased; the MASF office became the Plans and

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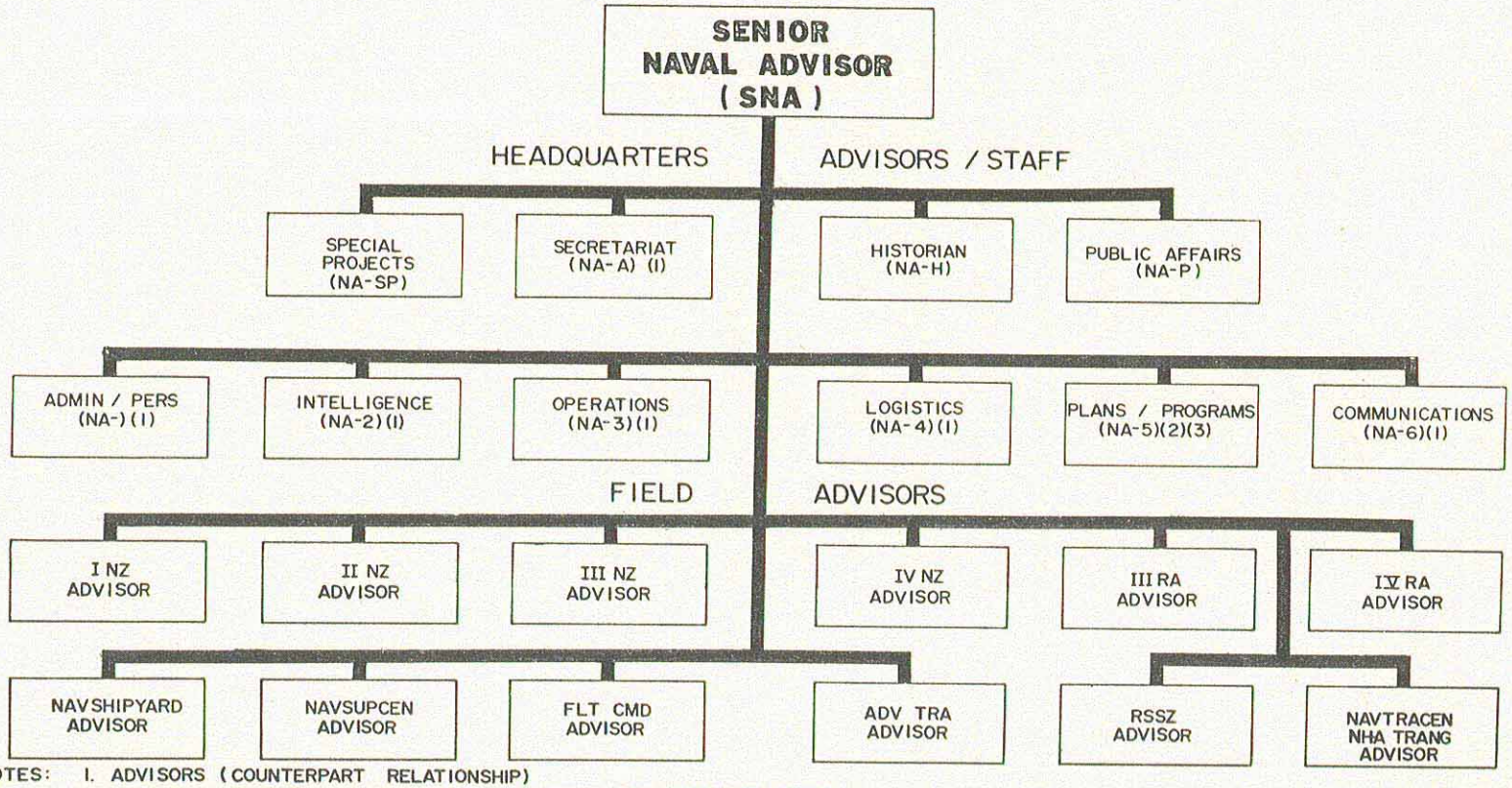
NAVAL ADVISORY UNIT ORGANIZATION



NOTES: 1. ADVISORS (COUNTERPART RELATIONSHIP)
2. ADVISOR (COUNTERPARTS ASSIGNED FOR SPECIAL COMBINED PROJECTS)
3. NA-5 ALSO PROVIDES PLANS AND PROGRAMS SERVICES FOR MARINE ADVISORY UNIT

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Programs Section (NA5); and the Operations Section assumed control of the Coastal Force, River Force and UDT/SEAL advisors and the Base Defense Officer. The U. S. Marine Corps Advisory Unit, already similiarly organized, remained unchanged.

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy on 31 October was 16,140 officers and enlisted men; of this number 1,246 were officers, 3,128 were non-commissioned officers and 11,766 were enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged as deserters decreased from September's total of 50 to 38 in October, but the number of unauthorized absentees increased from 259 in September to 283 in October.

Five Class "A" School classes graduated during the month from the Naval Training Center, Nha Trang; on the 7th, 41 students completed Radioman school, and on the 14th, 33 men completed Boatswain's Mate school, 53 men completed Engineman school, 61 men completed Gunner's Mate school, and 11 men completed Signalman and Quartermaster school. At the Advanced Training Center in Saigon, on 11 October the new oiler, YO-472, completed underway training; on the 20th, PGMs 604 and 606 completed an abbreviated version of the three-week warship underway training program, and on the 31st, 13 enlisted men graduated from the training center's 16-week Special English course.

Between 0230 and 0430 on 7 October a River Assault Group 32 Monitor, anchored for the night in the Mekong River six miles south of

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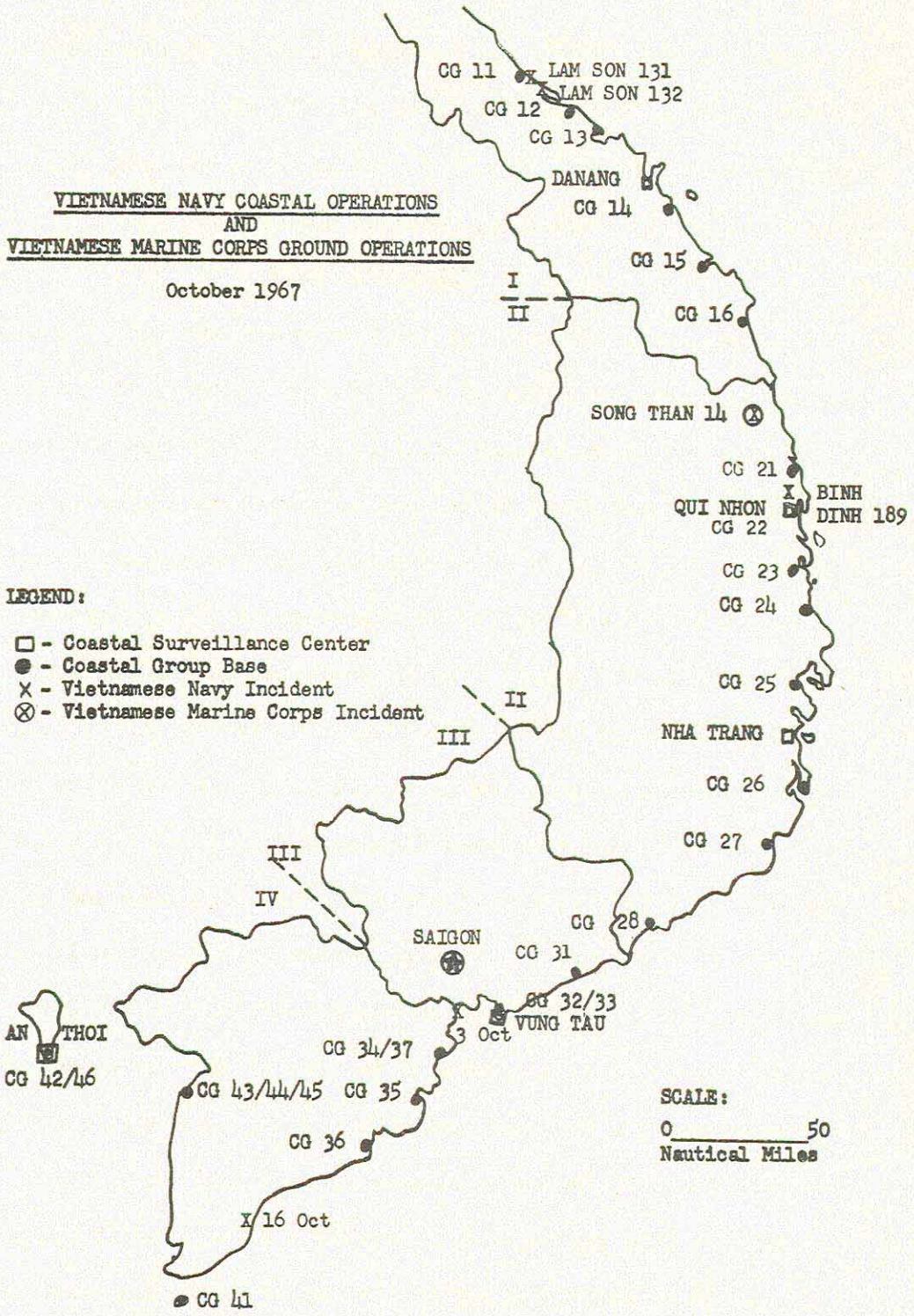

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the Cambodian border, was seized by a seaman in the crew. After casting the craft adrift, the seaman killed the Petty-officer-in-charge and three seamen, wounded a fourth and forced the fifth to assist him in taking the Monitor into Cambodia. During the passing of signals to shore at the border, the hostage dived overboard and was wounded while making his escape. At 0930, the missing craft was spotted two miles north of the border by the RAG 32 advisor flying a reconnaissance mission. Later in the month an intelligence agent reported that the Monitor had been taken to Phnom Penh, the wounded sailor was undergoing treatment in a Cambodian hospital, and the seaman who defected had received a reward of almost $13,000 for the craft and would be sent to France to live.

On 12 October, the Republic of Vietnam's Joint General Staff directed the suspension of all Mekong River convoys commencing 14 October because of the increased Viet Cong mining threat on the upper Mekong River. The Fourth Riverine Area Commander was directed to increase the number of minesweeping patrols. On 24 October, eight craft from RAGs 26 and 32 commenced special minesweeping patrols on the Bassac River, extending from Chau Doc downstream 20 miles to the Ba The Canal. On the evening of the 29th, one LCM-6 was damaged by a command detonated mine; two drifting mines, camouflaged as fishing floats, were discovered and recovered. By the end of the month, the expanded minesweeping program had been fully

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instituted and on 3 November the convoys were resumed.

Fleet Command

During October the Fleet Command had 25.5 ships available daily and maintained 13 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam and six ships on river patrol; from the 1st to the 16th, one ship performed convoy escort duties between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. The month's operations included MARKET TIME and river patrols, psychological warfare and civic action visits, escort patrols and gunfire support missions. Fleet Command ships fired 39 gunfire support missions in October and searched 186 junks and 809 persons.

During the month PGMs 612 and 618 completed their MARKET TIME patrol indoctrination and were made available for assignments in the Fourth Naval Zone, joining PCE 09 which had been qualified in September. It is anticipated that on 1 November the VNN will assume the patrol responsibilities for one patrol area in each Naval Zone.

Patrol craft (PCs and PCEs) and gunboats (PGMs) patrolled the coasts of the four Naval Zones and conducted 17 gunfire support missions; the PGMs also patrolled the Soirap and Long Tau Rivers in the Rung Sat Special Zone. On the 2nd, the Japanese merchant ship OKUNI MARU, transitting the Long Tau River to Saigon, was ambushed by an enemy force 21 miles southeast of the capital. The patrol unit assigned to the lower Long Tau River, PGM 608, returned the enemy fire, breaking the ambush, and covered the freighter's passage up river.

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Several windows in the OKUNI MARU's pilot house were broken in the Viet Cong recoilless-rifle attack and constituted the only damage received by either ship. One slightly wounded Japanese crewman was the only friendly casualty; enemy casualties were unknown.

Landing support ships (LSILs and LSSLs) were engaged in gunfire support, convoy escort duties, and river patrols in the RSSZ and the Fourth Riverine Area. During the month, the ships conducted 22 gunfire support missions.

The Fleet Command's three coastal minesweepers (MSCs) were employed in the Second and Third Naval Zones as patrol units, while the 10 motor-launch minesweepers (MLMSs) continued their daily sweep operations in the Long Tau, Nha Be, Saigon and Dong Nai Rivers leading from the sea to the Port of Saigon and the transshipment point of Bien Hoa.

In October, three detachments of the VNN's Underwater Demolition Team (LDNN) were employed; one conducting nightly hull inspections of ships berthed in the Port of Saigon and one each with the U. S. Navy SEAL units based at Binh Thuy and Nha Be. The LDNN participated with the SEALs in seven search and ambush operations during the month.

Coastal Force

In October the Coastal Force searched 29,108 junks and sampans and 99,922 persons, detaining eight junks and 220 suspects. On a

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daily average, 86 percent of the Force's 194 available junks was on patrol.

During the month, in the First Naval Zone, the monsoon, with its higher winds and seas, forced small craft to remain in the bays and rivers. The Coastal Force junks, similarly restricted, increased their patrolling of the inland waterways with the net drop in craft searched from 10,150 in September to 9,500 and personnel searched from 41,200 in September to 33,568 in October.

On 1 October, Thua Thien sector forces and Coastal Group 12 ended the four-day Operation LAM SON 132, 56 miles northwest of Danang. The combined sea patrol and ground sweep resulted in 31 Viet Cong killed, 12 others captured, 29 suspects detained. One Viet Cong woman rallied under the Chieu Hoi program and one mortar, one machine gun and 21 individual weapons were seized.

On the 18th, while participating in Operation LAM SON 131, a month-long search and destroy operation along the coast just south of the Coastal Group 11 base at Cua Viet, the crew of a blockading junk killed a North Vietnamese soldier and wounded a second. The ARVN troops ashore captured one North Vietnamese soldier and detained seven Viet Cong suspects in the same incident.

On the 25th, two Viet Cong political cadre rallied to Coastal Group 11. In their initial statements to the Coastal Group commander, they said other Viet Cong were ready to defect upon hearing of

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the treatment received by the first two. By the end of the month, three Hoi Chanhs rallied to ground forces near Coastal Group 11, one to a Coastal Group 12 junk patrol, and eight to the Coastal Group 14 base.

During October, in the Second Naval Zone, while the number of coastal craft searched remained at September's level of 6,450 and the Coastal Groups continued to conduct and support operations, the enemy avoided contact. On the 20th, Binh Dinh sector forces and Coastal Group 22 units conducted Operation BINH DINH 189, a search and destroy operation eight miles north of Qui Nhon. Nine Viet Cong suspects were detained by the Coastal Group sailors and 11 were detained by the ARVN soldiers. Two days later, using MARKET TIME intelligence reports that Viet Cong had been seen along the shore north of their base, two junks and two platoons of Coastal Group 22 sailors set an ambush a mile north of the base. Four Viet Cong were killed when an enemy squad triggered the ambush. A quantity of documents having high intelligence value was recovered from the scene.

In the Third Naval Zone, on 3 October, the junks of Coastal Group 33 provided a troop lift for Go Cong province Regional Force soldiers into an area one mile north of Vam Long village, at the mouth of the Soirap River 21 miles west of Vung Tau. The operation, planned from information received during a Coastal Group MEDCAP in

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the village the day before, resulted in three Viet Cong killed, 12 Viet Cong suspects detained, and a small-arms ammunition cache seized.

On 6 October, five junks and 30 men from Coastal Group 35 supported two platoons of Vinh Binh sector forces in a one-day search and destroy operation on the north bank of the Co Chien River, seven miles upstream from its mouth. Three Viet Cong were captured, three others were killed, and a cache of 46 grenades was seized.

In a daylight engagement on the 10th, an enemy force of between two companies and battalion size was repulsed by Coastal Group 35 personnel. The enemy attackers, who used at least one 60-mm mortar and one 57-mm recoilless rifle in addition to automatic weapons, were unable to penetrate the base defenses and withdrew when the Coastal Group sailors returned fire. There were no personnel casualties and no major damage to the base facilities. The Viet Cong removed all of their dead or wounded personnel from the field during their retreat. On the 12th, the Coastal Group junks provided blockade forces for the ARVN 14th Regiment conducting Operation LE LOI on the south bank of the Co Chien River 31 miles downstream from Vinh Long. The Regiment killed 11 Viet Cong, captured nine others, and seized several individual weapons and a large quantity of documents while nine ARVN soldiers were wounded. Later in the month the Coastal Group supported two similar operations farther downstream.

During a MEDCAP operation, conducted on 15 October, in a hamlet

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a mile east of the Coastal Group 34/37 base, the VNN Security forces captured one Viet Cong and detained 30 Viet Cong suspects. Over 270 persons in the hamlet received medical or dental treatment during the one-day visit.

On the 21st, an intelligence squad from Coastal Group 35 captured a nine-man communication and liaison team in Hoa village, three miles up the Co Chien River from their base. The team was attempting to locate itself within the village to perform its mission of leading and protecting guerrillas conducting assassination missions.

In the Fourth Naval Zone on the 16th, a Coastal Group 41 two-junk patrol coordinated a reconnaissance mission 50 miles northeast of Cau Mau Point with a Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO) in an aircraft and the USCGC POINT GRACE. In the early afternoon, the junks beached in an area of suspected Viet Cong activity and the crewmen recovered a camouflaged 20-foot sampan with outboard motor. While the party was ashore the NILO spotted two additional camouflaged sampans four miles further to the northeast and received small-arms fire, which the cutter suppressed with its 81-mm mortar fire. The operation was secured before the landing party could recover the two sampans because deteriorating weather conditions made surf-line junk operations hazardous.

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Riverine Area Naval Commands

In October the River Assault Groups conducted three operations in the First Naval Zone, 15 in the Third Riverine Area, and 26 in the Fourth Riverine Area. RAG craft also performed escort duty and conducted river patrol, base defense, and psychological warfare and civic action missions. With a daily average employment of 84 percent of the 156 available craft, the RAG units searched 5,433 junks and 20,326 persons.

On 7 and 8 October, the First Naval Zone RAG Detachment supported Thua Thien sector forces in Operation XAY DUNG NONG THON 16 conducted on the north shore of Cau Hai Bay between Route 1 and Tanh Lam Bay, 35 miles northwest of Danang. The results of the sweeps and blockades included 45 Viet Cong killed, and one machine gun, four individual weapons and 2,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition captured. Three ARVN soldiers were killed and 53 were wounded. Later in the month, two other operations were conducted in the same area.

In the Third Riverine Area on the afternoon of 8 October, Operation DONG TAM 13 was conducted in the southern Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ) 15 miles northwest of Vung Tau by RAG 22 with two platoons of Regional Force troops and two PBRs of River Section 541. The operation, a quick reaction mission to intelligence gathered from a Viet Cong captured the night before by a

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PBR patrol, overran the base camp of a unit of the D-2 Company which has the responsibility for interdicting shipping on the Long Tau River. Recovered in the sweep was one 20-inch diameter watermine, supplies for manufacturing watermines, two sampans, foodstuffs and personal effects and numerous documents. Seven huts and five bunkers were destroyed by an airstrike after the troops were extracted. The enemy unit was the same one that attacked the OKUNI MARU on the 2nd.

On the 16th, in a second quick reaction mission, two squads of Regional Force "Commandos", operating from the RSSZ Headquarters at Nha Be, supported Binh Khanh village during an enemy terrorist attack. The village, across the Soirap River from Nha Be, came under a Viet Cong small-arms attack approximately 2230. After friendly artillery fire could not suppress the attack, the commandos were inserted behind the village by small boats, pinpointed the enemy emplacements for air and artillery strikes, killed one Viet Cong, and detained two suspects before returning to Nha Be at 0145 on the 17th. Friendly casualties were limited to one child killed by enemy fire.

Operation AN DAN, to locate and destroy the Viet Cong 506th Local Force Battalion, was conducted on 24 October along the Vam Co Dong River, 19 miles southwest of Saigon, by RAG 24, two Regional Force companies and the ARVN 50th Regiment. After landing the

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Regional Force companies in the eastern portion of the operating area the RAG craft moved to north and west, taking up positions to prevent the enemy's escape to the north, while the 50th Regiment troops were airlifted into the western perimeter of the area. All units were engaged in the day-long fight which ended with 20 Viet Cong killed, six others captured, 22 individual weapons and one mini-gun seized. Two ARVN soldiers and the assistant advisor to RAG 24 were slightly wounded.

On the 27th, craft from RAGs 28 and 30 supporting ground operations intercepted enemy sampans and junks in re-supply attempts on the Saigon and Dong Ngai Rivers respectively. In the first incident, 12 miles north of Saigon two sampans were seized, containing 19 pounds of TNT, a mortar sight and several Viet Cong propaganda banners; in the second, while supporting Operation FAIRFAX, a five-craft patrol section sank three Viet Cong junks 11 miles east of Saigon.

On the 30th and 31st, Operation DONG TAM 16, a search and destroy operation north of the Long Tau River in the RSSZ was conducted by RAG 22, Regional Force Companies 908 and 909 with the RSSZ "Commando" platoon, PBR River Sections 541 and 542 and LSSL 225. Additionally, two batteries of Royal Thai Army Artillery and a U. S. Army light helicopter fire team were on call. With the mission to locate and destroy the Viet Cong D-1 company and its

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base camps and to interdict any enemy attempts to move men or material into Saigon during the National Day festivities, the two companies and the Commandos were landed near the three known base camps of the enemy company. Shortly after noon, the 908th company engaged the Viet Cong, killing 10 and wounding several others. Pursuing the fleeing Viet Cong, the Regional Force company engaged them a second time about 1600, killing one of the enemy and capturing one, who confirmed that seven men were wounded in the first engagement. The helicopter fire team was called in to fire on the remaining Viet Cong but the crews were unable to locate them in the heavy jungle. The 999th Regional Force company and the Commando platoon each located and destroyed base camps and all three units set night ambushes but no further contact was made. Twelve huts and seven bunkers were destroyed and five sampans, five individual weapons, assorted grenades and small-arms ammunition, three field telephone sets with 2,000 yards of wire, and two RPG-7 rockets were seized. There were no friendly personnel casualties in the operation.

In the Fourth Riverine Area on 3 October, six craft from RAGs 25 and 29 provided gunfire support and troop lift services for U. S. SEALs and Regional Force troops conducting Operation CRIMSON TIDE II behind Tan Dinh Island in the Bassac River 15 miles downstream from Can Tho. The combined force destroyed over 75 enemy

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fortifications and 18 sampans. Four U. S. Navymen were wounded in the day-long mission.

Operation DAN CHI 306/SD was conducted on the northern end of Dung Island at the mouth of the Bassac River on 9 and 10 October, by 16 craft from RAGs 25 and 29 and two battalions of the ARVN 21st Division. One element of the RAG craft landed one battalion on the northeastern shore of the island and blockaded the remainder of the northern shore line while the southern RAG element broke through several canal blocks constructed by the Viet Cong and landed the second battalion two miles to the southwest. The RAG blockade force seized one large junk loaded with uniforms, tools, and Viet Cong propaganda, and destroyed four other junks; while the ground forces killed 40 Viet Cong, captured nine others, detained nine suspects and destroyed two bunkers. A subsequent investigation of the area revealed an enemy cemetery containing 45 graves, a supply of foodstuffs and personal sundries. Some of the sundries were made up into packs for use as a portable "country store".

From 1700 on 18 October until 1600 on the 19th, 11 RAG 25 craft along with three PBRs, several U. S. Air Force aircraft and a U. S. SEAL detachment and a platoon each from a PRU and an Armed Propaganda Unit blockaded and cleared the northern half of Nai Island in the Bassac River 13 miles downstream from Can Tho.

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With airborne surveillance, a SEAL ambush at the most-used departure point and an infra-red searchlight equipped LCM securing the northern shores of the island, the remainder of the force was positioned along the eastern and western shores and the PRU and the Propaganda platoons were landed to the south. As the ground forces swept northward, all detainees from the sweep and from craft leaving the island were taken to an LCM in midstream where a MEDCAP team treated their medical needs and an intelligence team interrogated them for exploitable information. During the day, psychological warfare teams, in the air and on the ground, broadcast Chieu Hoi appeals and dropped leaflets. By the end of the highly successful operation 10 Viet Cong had been captured, four others had rallied to the government as a result of the "Chieu Hoi" appeals, 215 watercraft were searched, 218 medical cases were treated, 480 persons received foodstuffs and clothing, and intelligence naming and locating the homes of 30 additional Viet Cong was gathered.

An hour after the operation on Nai Island ended, the RAG 25 craft were underway on a quick reaction operation to an intelligence report received from a Hoi Chanh from Lac Thon township, on the south bank of the river near Nai Island. On the 18th, U. S. Navy SEALs and PBRs had conducted a psychological warfare and ambush mission in which four Viet Cong were killed. The Hoi

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Chanh revealed that a funeral for the dead Viet Cong would be held on the evening of the 19th and that several Viet Cong leaders would be present. Forty PRU troops and the rallier were airlifted by Army helicopters into the area, penetrated the enemy's security defenses, and abducted 10 Viet Cong including a hamlet chief, a political platoon leader, and three other officials. The troops then fought their way through the enemy lines to the waiting boats while the helicopters and the RAG craft kept the Viet Cong security force pinned down. The successful operation, in which there were no friendly casualties, was completed within six hours of the receipt of the initial intelligence report. In the week that followed nine other Viet Cong, impressed by the ease in which the government forces made the abduction, rallied to the Government.

On the morning of the 25th, after receiving intelligence that the Viet Cong B-10 platoon had moved to the north shore of the Bassac River to provide security for a major enemy unit crossing six miles downstream from Can Tho, RAG 25 with a company of Popular Force troops and an ARVN Special Forces platoon set an ambush to prevent the crossing. After placing the Special Forces platoon to the north, the RAG craft provided a rolling mortar barrage ahead of the Popular Force unit as they swept from the south and east toward the river. Six of the enemy were

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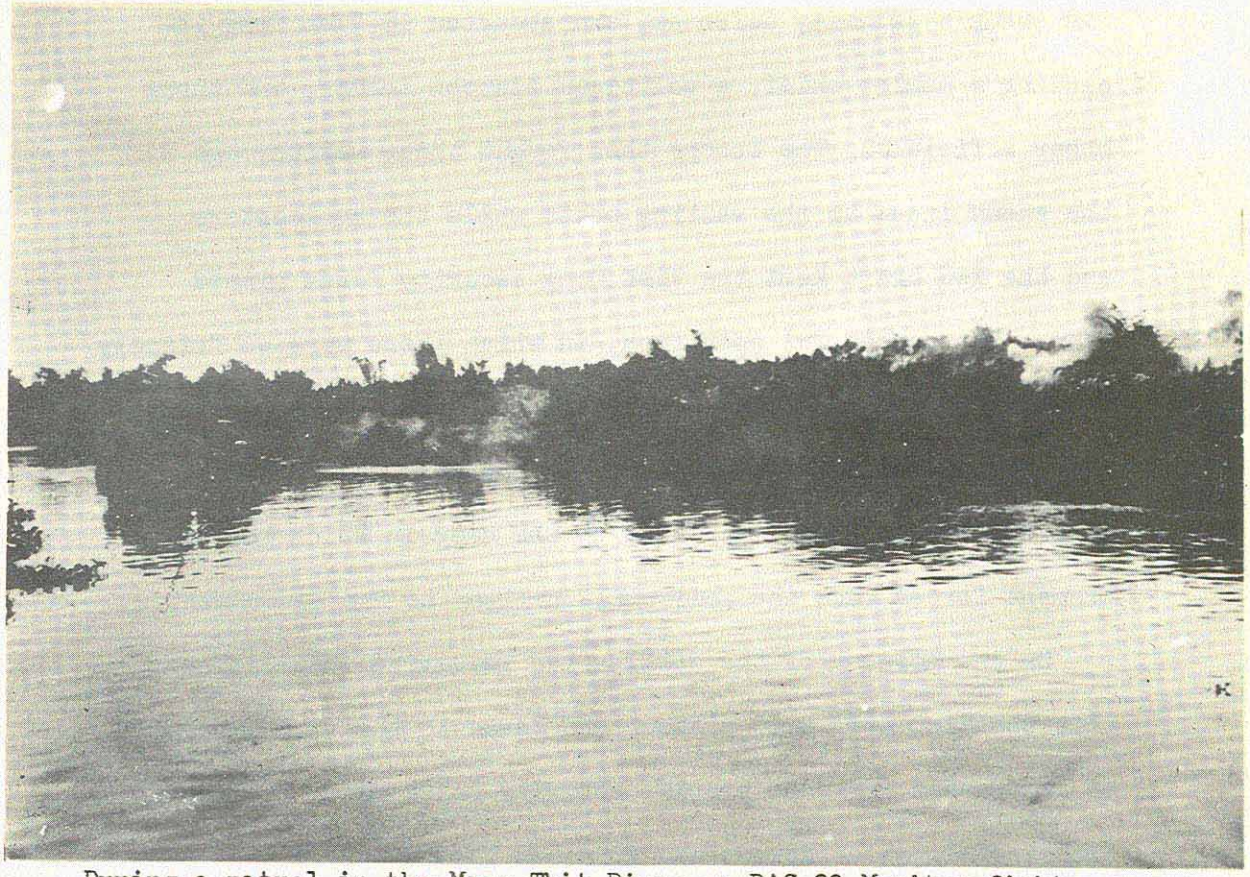

During a patrol in the Mang Thit River, a RAG 23 Monitor fights its way clear of an ambush; suppressing the enemy fire and damaging a Viet Cong reinforced concrete bunker built under a hillock (far right).

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killed during the sweep and the remaining 14 Viet Cong were captured at the river's edge. A U. S. advisor to the Popular Force unit and a Popular Force soldier were wounded.

On the 27th and 28th, RAGs 21 and 33 and units of the ARVN NINTH Division conducted Operation LONG PHI 9/135 in the Cai Hap Canal complex south of the Co Chien River, 30 miles downstream from Vinh Long. The two incursions into the enemy controlled area were met by heavy automatic-weapons fire from extensive bunker complexes on both sides of the canals which prevented the RAG craft from reaching the final objective area. The troops, landed in flanking positions, engaged the enemy on both occasions, killing 16 Viet Cong, capturing seven others, seizing five weapons and destroying a cache of land mines. One ARVN soldier was killed and four were wounded; also, one VNN sailor was wounded.

Logistics

In October the Vietnamese Navy conducted 21 logistics support missions, transporting 4,090 personnel and 2,376 tons of cargo. Medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 2,590 personnel and 1,456 tons of cargo, the landing ship tank (LST) lifted 1,500 personnel and 440 tons of cargo; and utility landing craft (LCUs) lifted 480 tons of cargo. On 2 October, LST 501 arrived at the U. S. Navy Ship Repair Facility at Guam for a three month

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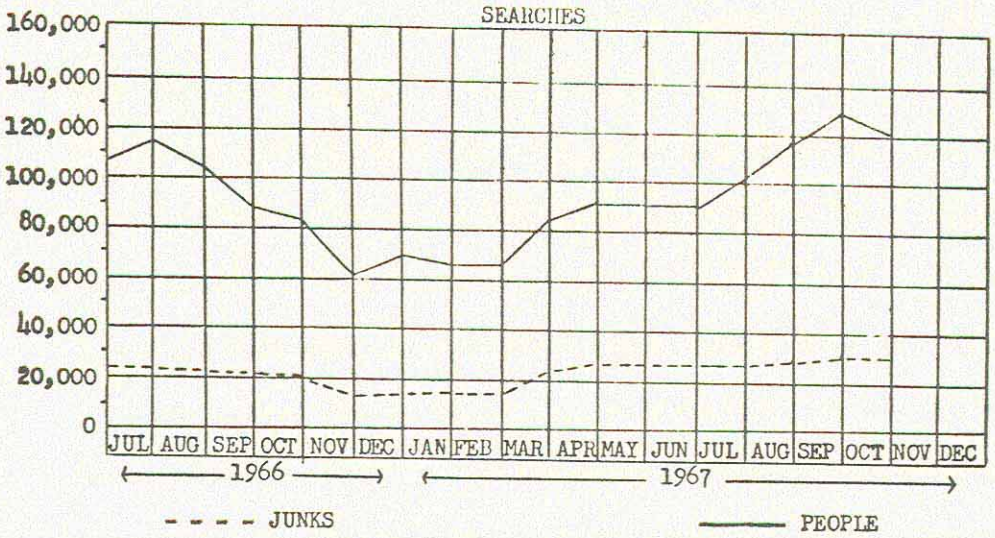
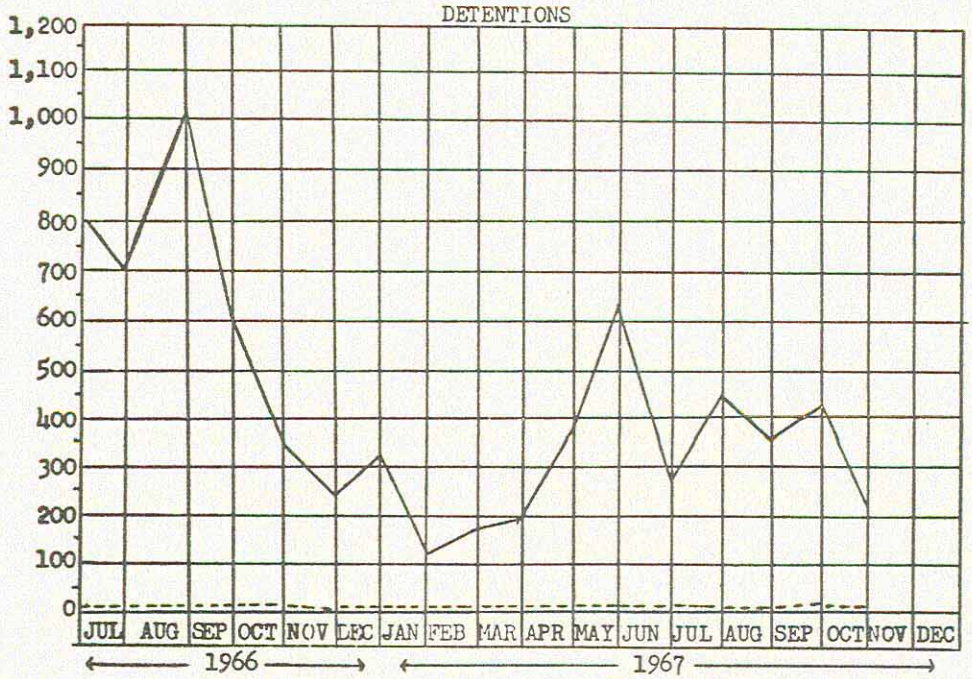
SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS
BY VIETNAMESE NAVY SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES





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overhaul and on 24 October LST 500 completed a similar overhaul. LSIL 328 and LSM 406 are also undergoing overhauls at the facility.

During the month, the VNN's Supply Center had a gross effectiveness of 75.8 percent on a total of 10,976 requests for items and a net effectiveness of 86.5 percent on 9,360 requests for items normally carried in the supply system.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary
October 1967

	Searched		Detained	
Coastal Force	Junks	People	Junks	People
I NZ	9,497	33,568	5	85
II NZ	6,454	21,732	2	133
III NZ	9,287	33,832	0	1
IV NZ	3,870	10,790	1	1
Sub-totals	29,108	99,922	8	220
Fleet Command Patrol Ships	186	809	0	0
Riverine Area Craft	5,433	20,326	0	0
Totals	34,727	121,057	8	220

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VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

During October the seven battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II and III Corps Tactical Zones, and the Capital Military District. The six infantry battalions and the

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three batteries of the Artillery Battalion were committed to combat operations 88 percent of the time and met very light enemy action. Marine casualties were four men killed and 14 wounded, including one Marine drowned in an attempted river crossing and two Marines wounded by misdirected fire from U. S. Army helicopter gunships.

Task Force A, consisting of a headquarters, the 4th Battalion (relieved by the 2nd Battalion on 10 October), the 6th Battalion and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, continued search and destroy operations in Tan Uyen district 17 miles north of Saigon, through the 20th. The Task Force made no contact with the enemy but had four Marines wounded by a grenade booby trap. After being relieved by the U. S. Army 5th Special Forces Group on 21 October, the Force A units returned to their respective base camps.

On 22 October, the Task Force, now consisting of the 4th, 5th and 6th Battalions and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, deployed to the Hoc Mon, Tan Binh and Binh Chau districts west of Saigon in the Capital Military district for Operation SONG THAN 702-67, with the mission to provide road and area security and to search and destroy the Viet Cong infrastructure and its facilities. In the first enemy activity of the deployment, between 30 and 40 82-mm mortar rounds landed 35 yards

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short of the 5th Battalion command post on the night of the 27th. The next day an element of the 6th Battalion fought a small Viet Cong unit, killing four of the enemy and capturing four individual weapons. Three Marines were wounded by enemy fire and two others were wounded by U. S. Army helicopter gunships. In four other contacts with the enemy three Viet Cong were killed and one Marine was wounded.

Meanwhile, Task Force B, composed of a headquarters, the 1st Battalion, the 2nd Battalion (relieved by the 3rd Battalion on 4 October) and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion continued Operation SONG THAN 14, ten miles south of Bong Song in northern II Corps Tactical Zone. In addition to the primary mission of road security and small area search and destroy sweeps, the Task Force took part in two search and destroy operations with U. S. Army units: SONG THAN 803-67 from 10 to 13 October and SONG THAN 804-67 from 26 to 28 October. Squad- and platoon-sized units made almost daily contact with similar enemy units and killed eight Viet Cong, captured five others and detained 62 suspects. On 30 October one Hoi Chanh rallied to the 3rd Battalion. Three Marines were killed and three were wounded during the month.

The 2nd Battalion, after being relieved from Task Force Bravo on the 3rd and serving as part of Task Force A from 10 to 20 October, was assigned as the ready reaction force for the Capital

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Military District from the 21st through the end of the month. On 30 October, in preparation for the President's inauguration and National Day, two companies and one U. S. Army helicopter company were deployed to the Saigon Race Track on the west side of the city while the other two companies remained at Thu Duc just east of Saigon.

The 5th Battalion operated in Binh Chau district as a security force for the Capital Military District for the entire month. Before being designated as part of Task Force A on the 22nd, the battalion conducted over 130 platoon- and company-sized operations and 380 ambushes.

Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary
October 1967

VC/NVA	15 KIA	6 VCC	69 VCS	1 Chieu Hoi
VNMC	4 KIA	14 WIA	(Includes 2 WIA by friendly fire)	

Captured Weapons:

Rifles, U. S. Springfield	1
Rifles, SKS w/folding bayonet	1
Rifles, AK-50	2
Rifles, M-1	1
Rifles, AK-44	1
Rifles, U. S. Carbine	1
Rifles, MAS-49	1
Rifles, MAS-36	1
Pistols, Caliber .45	1

Captured or Destroyed Materials or Facilities:

VC Propaganda sign boards	6
MK-2 grenades	7
VC grenades	31
Rice (pounds)	2,400

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U. S. Timed Fuzed Rockets	16
DH-10 mines	1
M-26 grenades	8
Thatched houses	1
Claymore mines	1
Sampans	1
105-mm modified mines	4
Anti-tank mines	2
Rounds, small-arms ammunition	100
Assorted papers and documents	

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APPENDIX I

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Throughout the four Corps of South Vietnam, the Navy chaplains of Naval Support Activities Saigon and Danang continued providing spiritual solace, guidance and counseling to the Navy fighting man.

Apart from religious activities, the Navy chaplains also assumed such varied collateral duties as Public Affairs Officer, Civic Action Officer, Historian and Photo Officer.

The following tabulation is a statistical summary of the religious services conducted during October:

1. Religious Services:

   a. Divine Services:

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

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	161	95	256
Attendance	5,616	750	6,366
Communed	1,672	442	2,114

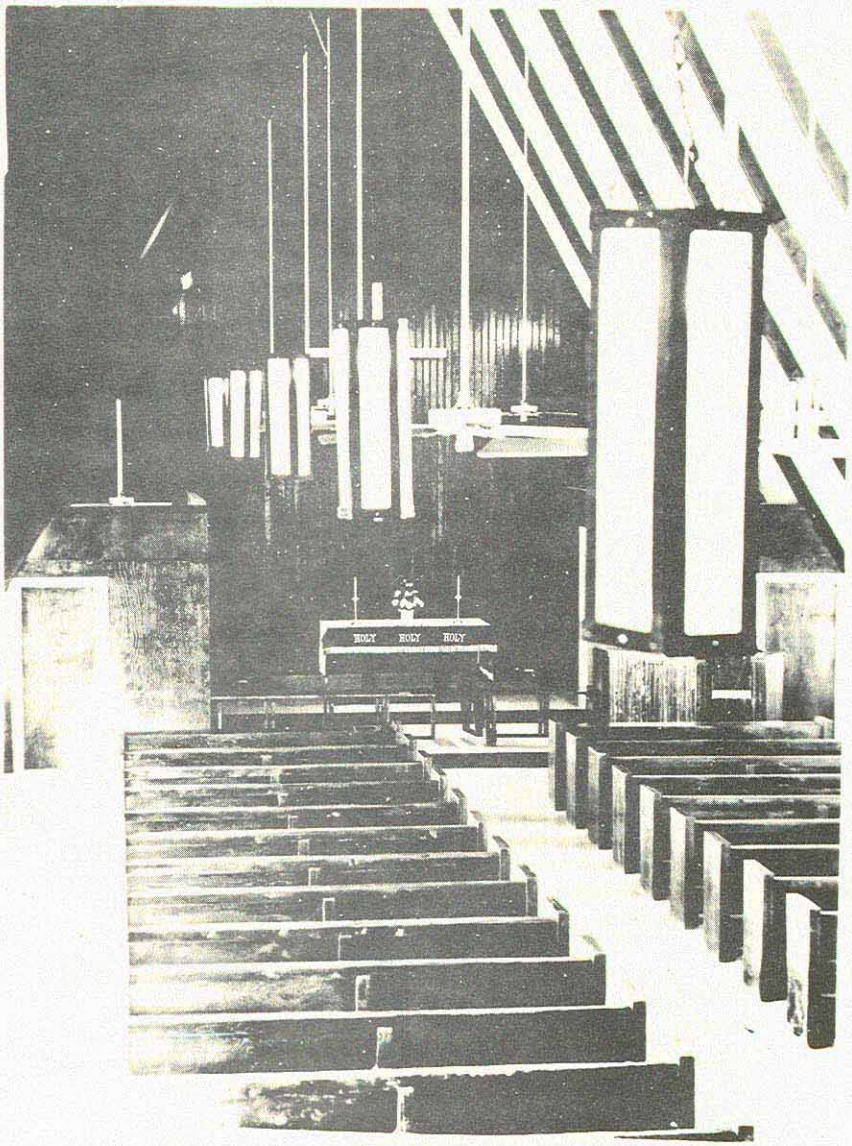
   (2) Other Military Installations

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	52	27	79
Attendance	1,054	271	1,325
Communed	488	127	615

   (3) Civilian Churches

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	5	1	6
Attendance	3,500	12	3,512
Communed	1,400	0	1,400

   b. Religious services conducted by lay leaders and chaplains



"The Chapel by the Sea" at Naval Support Activity Detachment Chu Lai.

other than those attached to NAVFORV:

Denomination	Chaplains		Lay Leaders	
	No.	Attend.	No.	Attend.
Catholic	49	2,325	1	30
Protestant	21	509	14	154
Jewish	9	49	0	0

c. Other services in which chaplains participated:

Type of Service	Number	Attendance
Memorial Services	5	237
Bible study	5	32
Retreats	1	80

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APPENDIX II

GLOSSARY

ANGLICO	Air-Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (U. S.).
ARVN	Army of the Republic of Vietnam.
CG	Coastal Group (VNN) - A coastal patrol command consisting of six to ten junks with the responsibility of patrolling from 30 to 60 miles of coastline.
CIDG	Civilian Irregular Defense Group (VN) - Para-military troops used in their local area for limited area operations.
CHIEU HOI	"Open Arms" (VN) - The Republic of Vietnam's amnesty program of rehabilitation and re-location of Viet Cong who voluntarily return to government control.
CORDS	Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support.
COSURVFOR	Coastal Surveillance Force (USN) TF 115 - The U. S. forces participating in Operations MARKET TIME and STABLE DOOR.
COSVN	Central Office for South Vietnam - The highest Viet Cong headquarters in South Vietnam.
CTZ	Corps Tactical Zone - The major divisions of South Vietnam into military regions.
DIA DOAN KET	National Reconciliation Program - Program which is

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aimed at helping qualified returnees find employment commensurate with their previous training and experience.

GAME WARDEN — The operation performed by U. S. Navy forces to interdict Viet Cong movement on the major waterways of the Mekong Delta and the RSSZ. The force is composed of River Patrol Boats, Minesweepers, helicopter fire teams and SEAL teams.

HEAT — High Explosive Anti-Tank - A shaped-charge projectile with high armor penetration capability normally used in 57-mm or 75-mm recoilless rifles.

HHFT — Heavy Helicopter Fire Team (U. S.) - A helicopter fire team with three or more gunships used in support of ground and water borne units. The use of three helicopters allows continuous firing on the target.

HOI CHANH — "Returnee to the Just Cause" (VN) - An individual (Viet Cong) who returns under the Chieu Hoi program.

IUWU — Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit (U. S.) - The U. S. forces conducting Operation STABLE DOOR.

IWCS — Integrated Wideband Communication System.

LDNN — Lien Doc Nguoi Nhia (VNN) - Literally "soldiers who fight under the sea." UDT force of the VNN.

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LHFT	Light Helicopter Fire Team (U. S.) - A helicopter fire team composed of two gunships used in support of ground and water-borne units.
LRRP	Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol.
MARKET TIME	The operation conducted by U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces to interdict Viet Cong infiltration of men and supplies from the sea.
MEDCAP	Medical Civic Action Program.
MG	Machine Gun - An automatic crew served weapon adaptable to many mountings. The four types currently used by USN and VNN forces are the M-60, the .30 caliber light machine gun, the .50 caliber heavy machine gun, and the 7.62-mm mini gun.
MILPHAP	Military Provincial Health Assistance Program - MILPHAP teams, normally staffed by three doctors, a Medical Service Corps officer and 12 corpsmen, work with Vietnam's Ministry of Health at the province hospital level to improve health services available to Vietnamese civilians.
MRF	Mobile Riverine Force (U. S.) - A force made up of Navy craft and Army units designed and trained for amphibious assaults in the Mekong Delta and the RSSZ.
NGFS	Naval Gunfire Support (USN-VNN) - Naval gunfire used

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to assist operations ashore; often spotted and corrected by spotter aircraft or forward observers.

NILO — Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer.

NLF — National Liberation Front - Actually the "National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam." A Communist political-front used to give the appearance of popular non-Communist support to their insurgency activities in South Vietnam.

NUOC MAM — (VN) A fermented fish sauce served with almost any dish. A national delicacy.

NVA — North Vietnamese Army.

PRU — Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (VN) - Para-military personnel whose principal mission includes clandestine operations designed to destroy the Viet Cong infrastructure. Each unit consists of one or more teams of 18 to 20 civilians who have had prior military service.

RAF — Riverine Assault Force (USN) - The U. S. Navy contingent of the MRF.

RAG — River Assault Group (VN) - An amphibious warfare command with the capability to transport and support a battalion of infantry. Similar to a boat division in the RAF.

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RED HAZE	Infra Red Detector (U. S.) - Sensitive heat detectors used as an airborne locator of personnel, equipment and military sites.
RF	Regional Force (VN) - Forces under ARVN control which operate within their home province.
RIVPATFOR	River Patrol Force (USN) TF 116 - The forces used in conducting Operation GAME WARDEN.
RPG	Rocket Propelled Grenade - A Soviet or Chinese Communist manufactured fin-stabilized, anti-tank grenade. RPG-2 (B-40). RPG-7 (B-41).
RSSZ	Rung Sat Special Zone - Literally "forest of assassins." A special military area located about 21 miles southeast of Saigon in Gia Dinh Province and composed of Can Gio and Quang Xuyen districts.
RVNAF	Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces - Consists of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and RF/PF.
SEAL	Sea, Air, Land. (USN) - Special duty personnel qualified as underwater demolition, paratroop and jungle warfare specialists.
SECRET ZONE	A Viet Cong-dominated area utilized as a base, training camp and logistic resupply area.
SLAR	Side Looking Airborne Radar (U. S.) - An accurate airborne radar for detecting small, moving objects.

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STABLE DOOR	The U. S. Navy operation conducted to provide harbor defense.
STAR LIGHT	Ambient light equipment (USN) - A portable system to enhance vision under conditions of starlight or moonlight.
UDT	Underwater Demolition Team (USN) - Specially trained swimmers used for underwater work in the Navy.
USAID	United States Agency for International Development.
USSF	United States Special Forces (USA) - Army personnel specially trained for use as advisors to indigenous personnel.
VIET CONG	Vietnamese citizens under the control and leadership of North Vietnam. These persons may be local sympathizers, guerrillas, or hard-core full time workers for the Communist domination of South Vietnam.
VNAF	Vietnamese Air Force.
VNMC	Vietnamese Marine Corps
VNN	Vietnamese Navy.

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From: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)

Subj: U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, October 1967; submission of

Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT ltr FF1-1 5750 ser 1/6925 of 2 October 1967

Encl: (1) Coastal Surveillance Force Summary
(2) River Patrol Force Summary
(3) Riverine Assault Force Summary
(4) Naval Advisory Group Summary
(5) Selected Civic Action Projects
(6) USN Statistical Summary
(7) VNN/VNMC Statistical Summary
(8) Civic Action Statistical Summary
(9) Photograph of PBR 64 (two views)
(10) Photograph of Flamethrower Tests (two views)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (10) are submitted.

2. The data contained in enclosures (6), (7) and (8) are based on information available this date and are subject to revisions as later information is received. Any adjustments of this nature will be reflected in October's Historical Supplement.

S. T. ORME
Chief of Staff

Copy to:
COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, SJS)
CNO (Op-09B91E)
Director of Naval History

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY
October 1967

During October there was a sharp decrease in Operation MARKET TIME activity, especially in the First and Second Coastal Zones, as the northeast monsoon season arrived earlier than usual. Junk and sampan detections in the first two zones numbered 37,485, less than half the number recorded in September; in some cases, seas of over ten feet in height and winds in excess of 25 knots prevented patrol craft from leaving port. Meanwhile, MARKET TIME units in the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones conducted 52 gunfire support missions in October, more than three times the total conducted in September. In the Third Coastal Zone, Coast Guard WPBs and Navy PCFs fired 16 missions against enemy positions in the Long Toan and Thanh Phu Secret Zones. Certain patrol areas and patrol units were realigned during the month. Airborne patrol tracks were extended farther westward in the Gulf of Thailand to include surveillance of sea traffic bound for Cambodia; and the northern mine-sweeper-destroyer escort barrier patrol was extended 40 miles eastward along the 17th parallel to help increase the probability of detecting southbound infiltrators. The semi-annual shift of WPB and PCF units, involving, in October, the movement of nine of the more seaworthy cutters to the First and Second Coastal Zones, occurred during the latter part of the month.

On the 12th of the month USCGC POINT HUDSON carried out a gunfire

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mission against a Viet Cong training area in the Long Toan Secret Zone, 55 miles southwest of Vung Tau. Responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne spotter, the cutter struck six enemy structures and two bunkers, and initiated two fires. That same day, 25 miles north of Ca Mau Point, the Coast Guard cutter BARATARIA (WHEC 381) provided gunfire support for a U. S. Army Special Forces outpost threatened by a Viet Cong company. BARATARIA's fire destroyed two enemy structures and one sampan, initiated a secondary fire, and helped disperse approximately 100 Viet Cong advancing on the outpost. On the 22nd, in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone, PCF 68 responded to a gunfire support request from an Army aircraft and, with spotting assistance from the aircraft, destroyed three enemy structures, two sampans and one bunker in a Viet Cong staging area. That day the Coast Guard cutter GRESHAM (WHEC 387) came to the assistance of the Special Forces outpost aided by BARATARIA 10 days earlier. The outpost was once again threatened by a Viet Cong company and the GRESHAM's gunfire disrupted the enemy contingent while simultaneously destroying five Viet Cong structures and damaging 16 others.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
October 1967

Throughout the month there were continued indications that the destruction of PBRs has become a major Viet Cong objective. In a series of incidents along the Bassac, Ham Luong and Mekong Rivers, Operation GAME WARDEN units came under heavy recoilless-rifle and mortar fire. In addition, in October the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone were the scene of several abortive mining attempts aimed at PBRs. Although the Viet Cong's diverse and intense efforts were largely unsuccessful, on 25 October a PBR in the Ham Luong caught fire and sank after being struck by enemy fire. Besides the PBR operations, a key factor in the mounting Viet Cong frustration (on the 2nd, 23 miles southeast of Can Tho, the commander of the Viet Cong's 505th Company defected to a PBR) was the growing effectiveness of the pressure applied by GAME WARDEN helicopters. The aircraft flew over 1,000 missions in October, involving more than 1,300 combat hours, one-fourth of which occurred at night. On 7 October Operation GREEN WAVE--begun in September to help determine the feasibility of PBR operations in the I Corps Tactical Zone--was terminated. Among the principal problems encountered by the 10 PBRs participating in GREEN WAVE were restrictive navigation and heavily-bunkered enemy positions. During the three-week-long operation, five of the PBRs were simultaneously out of commission due to groundings or battle damage.

On the 3rd of October, 67 miles southwest of Saigon, a combined USN and VNN force consisting of SEALs, PBRs, helicopters, an LST and LAG craft conducted Operation CRIMSON TIDE II against Tan Dinh Island and

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its environs. During the one-day mission the units destroyed 67 Viet Cong structures and fortifications, nine bunkers, 18 sampans and 22 punji pits; four U. S. Navymen were wounded by booby traps. On 5 and 6 October, in five separate incidents along the Ham Luong River and the Ba Lai Canal, Dong Tam-based Navy helicopters killed five Viet Cong, destroyed nine enemy junks and 15 sampans, and severely damaged 14 other craft. On the 15th, nine miles west of My Tho, three Navy helicopters responded to a distress call from a downed U. S. Army spotter aircraft, and rescued the two crewmen. During the subsequent successful recovery of the aircraft, PBRs and a Navy helicopter suppressed heavy enemy fire directed at the salvage operation; as a result, seven Viet Cong were killed. On 18 October, 13 miles southeast of Can Tho, two SEAL squads and two PBRs conducted a joint ambush and psychological warfare mission in the township of Lac Thon. After the SEALs had taken up positions inland, the PBRs beamed Chieu Hoi appeals from the river. During the operation two Viet Cong rallied under the amnesty program and four fleeing Viet Cong were killed by fire from the SEALs; a fifth Viet Cong was captured. On the morning of the 25th, along the outskirts of Ben Tre, a PBR patrol was ambushed by an enemy unit. In the ensuing fire fight, one of the craft--PBR 64--was struck by recoilless-rifle fire and burst into flames and sank. Navy helicopters and two PBRs rushed to the scene and silenced the enemy positions. Nine sailors were wounded during the engagement and a Vietnamese national maritime policeman was reported missing. At least two Viet Cong were killed.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
October 1967

Throughout the month of October the Mobile Riverine Force continued to demonstrate the versatility of its flexible strength as it struck at main-force enemy positions in the Mekong Delta and overran Viet Cong installations in the Rung Sat Special Zone. In a series of search and destroy operations, units of the MRF killed 107 Viet Cong, destroyed numerous enemy bunkers, and seized or destroyed several caches containing large quantities of supplies and ammunition. U. S. casualties included 10 killed and 48 wounded; ten of the wounded were Navymen. On 10 October the major portion of the MRF's movement from Dong Tam to Vung Tau was conducted at night, marking the first time that the principal ships of the MRF have transited the Mekong River complex under the cover of darkness. During the transit, minesweeping was conducted ahead of the force by the newest members of the MRF--the two ASPBs that arrived in late September. Later in the month, in the Can Giouc district of Long An province, the presence of the MRF contributed significantly to the area's security as 83.2 percent of the district's voters went to the polls to cast their ballots in South Vietnam's Lower House elections.

On the morning of 6 October the MRF shifted the COMMAND V area of operations from the Ban Long Secret Zone, where contact with the enemy had been light, to the Cam Son Secret Zone in Dinh Tuong province. That afternoon U. S. troops of the NINTH Infantry Division gained contact with a main-force Viet Cong unit, the 263rd Battalion. The MRF elements battled the enemy force for three days and when the operation ended, on the

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8th, the number of Viet Cong killed had reached 95; in addition, 171 enemy bunkers were destroyed and a large quantity of small-arms ammunition was captured. During this period seven U. S. soldiers were killed and 27 were wounded; one sailor was wounded by sniper fire. On 10 October the MRF transited from Dong Tam to Vung Tau and, the following day, commenced Operation CORONADO VI in the Rung Sat Special Zone. That day, 17 miles northwest of Vung Tau, riverine assault craft rescued the nine survivors of an Army helicopter crash which occurred while the UH-1D was making a landing approach to an ATC(H) in the lower Dong Tranh River. The aircraft's pilot was killed during the mishap. CORONADO VI was terminated on the 18th. Although contact with the enemy was light (three Viet Cong were killed and six U. S. soldiers were wounded), the Army troops destroyed 99 enemy bunkers and captured a large quantity of materiel, including 6,000 rounds of machine-gun ammunition, 500 rounds of small-arms ammunition, 200 grenades and 700 pounds of TNT. On 20 October the MRB shifted anchorage to the junction of the Soirap and Vam Co rivers and began Operation CORONADO VII in Long An province. The following evening, 12 miles southwest of Nha Be, an ATC on patrol in the Nach Cac River was struck by a B-40 rocket. Although damage to the craft was minor, five U. S. sailors were wounded. CORONADO VII ended on the 23rd; overall contact with the enemy was light but MRF elements continued to uncover and destroy enemy bunkers (62) and booby traps (17). Between 27 and 29 October the MRF conducted Operation CORONADO VIII in the Nhon Trach and Long Thanh districts of Bien Hoa province. During this period troop elements captured 6,900 rounds of assorted ammunition, 190 grenades and over 500 pounds of medical supplies.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
October 1967

During the month the Fleet Command had a daily average of 25 ships available and a daily average of 19 ships employed. At the same time, the Coastal Force employed a daily average of 167 junks of the daily average of 194 available, and the River Assault Groups had a daily average of 131 craft employed of the daily average of 156 available. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese Marine Corps' six Infantry and one Artillery Battalions were committed to operations 90 percent of the time, and experienced light contact with the enemy. Through the 20th, Brigade Force A conducted search and destroy operations near Tan Uyen, 17 miles north of Saigon; the force was then relieved by an ARVN Special Forces unit, and the Marines' 2nd and 6th Battalions, together with the 4th and 5th Battalions, performed security duties in the Capital Military District for the remainder of the month. Throughout October Brigade Force B continued operations in the Bong Son area of the II Corps Tactical Zone. On 11 October a major change in the staff structure of the Naval Advisory Group's organization was initiated; designed to strengthen the diverse aspects of the advisory effort, the new development created, in effect, a separate staff segment to coordinate the various advisory activities.

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As part of the realignment, the Senior Advisor, Vietnamese Navy Headquarters, was redesignated Senior Naval Advisor and was placed in a direct line of authority under Chief, Naval Advisory Group with respect to all advisory tasks and functions.

Between 0030 and 0430 on 7 October a RAG 26 monitor, anchored for the night in the Mekong River, six miles south of the Cambodian border, was seized by one of the crew, a chief petty officer; in the process, the petty officer killed four crew members, wounded a fifth and forced a sixth to assist him in taking the monitor across the border into Cambodia. The hostage subsequently escaped. Later in the day an aircraft spotted the monitor, beached two miles north of the border. On 19 October, in a sequel to an operation conducted the previous day by PBRs and U. S. Navy SEALS, 40 Provincial Reconnaissance Unit troops, supported by RAG 25 craft and Army and Navy helicopters, captured a number of Viet Cong cadre in the Delta township of Lac Thon. Responding to an intelligence report that a funeral would be held that evening for a Viet Cong village chief--one of the four persons killed by the SEALs on the 18th--the PRUs were airlifted to an area near the funeral site and, penetrating the enemy's security defenses, abducted 10 Viet Cong, including a hamlet chief, a political platoon leader and three other officials. The troops then fought their way back through enemy lines to the waiting boats while the helicopters and the RAG craft kept the Viet Cong positions pinned down. The successful operation, in which there were no friendly casualties,

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ompleted within six hours of receipt of the initial intelligence report. In the week that followed, nine other Viet Cong from this area rallied to the Government. On the morning of the 25th, RAG 25 units supported a company of Popular Force troops and an ARVN Special Forces platoon in conducting an ambush on the north bank of the Bassac River, 6 miles downstream from Can Tho. The ground forces flanked a Viet Cong crossing point and forced the enemy's security unit toward the river and the fire of the RAG craft. Six Viet Cong were killed during the operation, 14 were captured, and a quantity of weapons and documents was seized. A U. S. advisor to the Popular Force unit and a Popular Force soldier were wounded.

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SELECTED CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS
October 1967

Throughout the month U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces continued to conduct extensive medical civic action projects. In the Rung Sat Special Zone, units of TF 116 conducted several MEDCAPs, three of which were carried out in the villages of Thanh An and Tan Thanh, and resulted in the treatment of 120 Vietnamese patients. Meanwhile elements of River Patrol Section 532, in cooperation with the Vietnamese Navy's River Assault Group 21, delivered 2,700 sand bags, a 5-ton truckload of lumber and 48 rolls of concertina to a Government outpost under construction at My Tho. When completed, the site will serve as a security post for refugees in the area as well as for military and civilian shipping en route to Saigon.

During the month a Vietnamese Navy hospital ship, LSM(H) 400, conducted several MEDCAPs along the rivers of the Delta. While certain accompanying RAG craft provided the necessary security measures, other craft ferried patients from shore to the hospital ship and back. Each area visit lasted approximately one day and resulted in the daily treatment of approximately 900 local residents in need of medical or dental assistance; some of the patients required surgery. In addition to the medical care provided, quantities of foodstuffs and other commodities were distributed during the visits, often to the widows and children of Vietnamese servicemen killed in action. On one occasion, in the Cho Lach district of Vinh Long province, the commanding officer of the hospital ship presented officials of the local

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high school with 200 textbooks donated by a group of U. S. citizens from Guam. The books had been given to the commanding officer when the ship was in Guam undergoing overhaul.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
October 1967

	MARKET TIME	GAME WARDEN	Mobile Riverine Force
Detections	55,216	55,781	*
Inspections	19,966	11,592	*
Boardings	12,109	33,291	*
Craft detained	8	*	*
Persons detained	504	620	121
Viet Cong suspects	21	59	*
Hostile fire incidents	12	78	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	5	87	107
b. Wounded	9	17	*
c. Captured	0	19	5
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	1	0
b. Wounded	2	28	10
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	22	99	1
(2) Structures	38	*	507
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	2	0
(2) Weapons	*	4	411
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	*	14,126
(4) Rice (tons)	*	*	3.5
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	37	52	7
(2) Structures	95	*	*
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	1 (PBR)	0
(2) Helicopters	*	0	0
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	2	14	7
(2) Helicopters	1 (P3A)	3	*
SAR missions	5	*	1

Remarks:

* Information not applicable or not available this date.

MARKET TIME units conducted 110 gunfire support missions.

STABLE DOOR units detained 277 persons and 8 craft.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

COASTAL FORCE	Searched Junks	Searched People	Detained Junks	Detained People
I NZ	9,497	34,238	5	93
II NZ	6,454	21,705	2	133
III NZ	8,978	33,158	0	1
IV IZ	3,870	10,950	1	1
Sub-totals	28,799	100,051	8	228
FLEET COMMAND PATROL SHIPS	186	809	0	0
RIVERINE AREA CRAFT	5,433	20,346	0	0
TOTALS	34,418	121,206	8	228

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: 12 KIA* 6 CAPTURED* 62 SUSPECTS DETAINED*

VNMC: 4 KIA* 12 WIA*

Remarks:

* Through 28 October

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
October 1967

1.	Construction:	
	a. Dispensaries	*
	b. Dwellings/number of families	9/9#
	c. Schools/classrooms	1/5
	d. Wells	1
	e. Churches	*
2.	Medical treatment:	
	a. General medicine	2,990
	b. Dental	396
	c. Surgery	30
	d. Emergency evacuations	112
3.	Health and sanitation:	
	a. Classes on personal hygiene/attendance	12/363
	b. Immunizations	*
	c. Medical aides or nurses trained	7
	d. Physical examinations	*
	e. Spray insecticide operations	19
	f. Swamp areas drained	*
4.	Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):	
	a. Cement	600
	b. Clothing	300
	c. Food	24,974
	d. Lumber (board feet)	7,600
	e. Medical, non-prescription	*
	f. Midwife kits (number)	*
	g. School kits (number)	311
	h. Soap	670
	i. Tin sheets (number)	178
	j. Woodworking kits (number)	5
	k. Paper blankets (number)	*
	l. Personal kits (number)	*
	m. Magazines (number)	*
5.	Educational efforts:	
	a. English classes/attendance	60/496
6.	Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:	
	a. Orphanages	*
	b. Schools	6,000
	c. Other	*

Remarks:

* Information not available this date.

\# Plus one six-room orphanage.

Enclosure (8)

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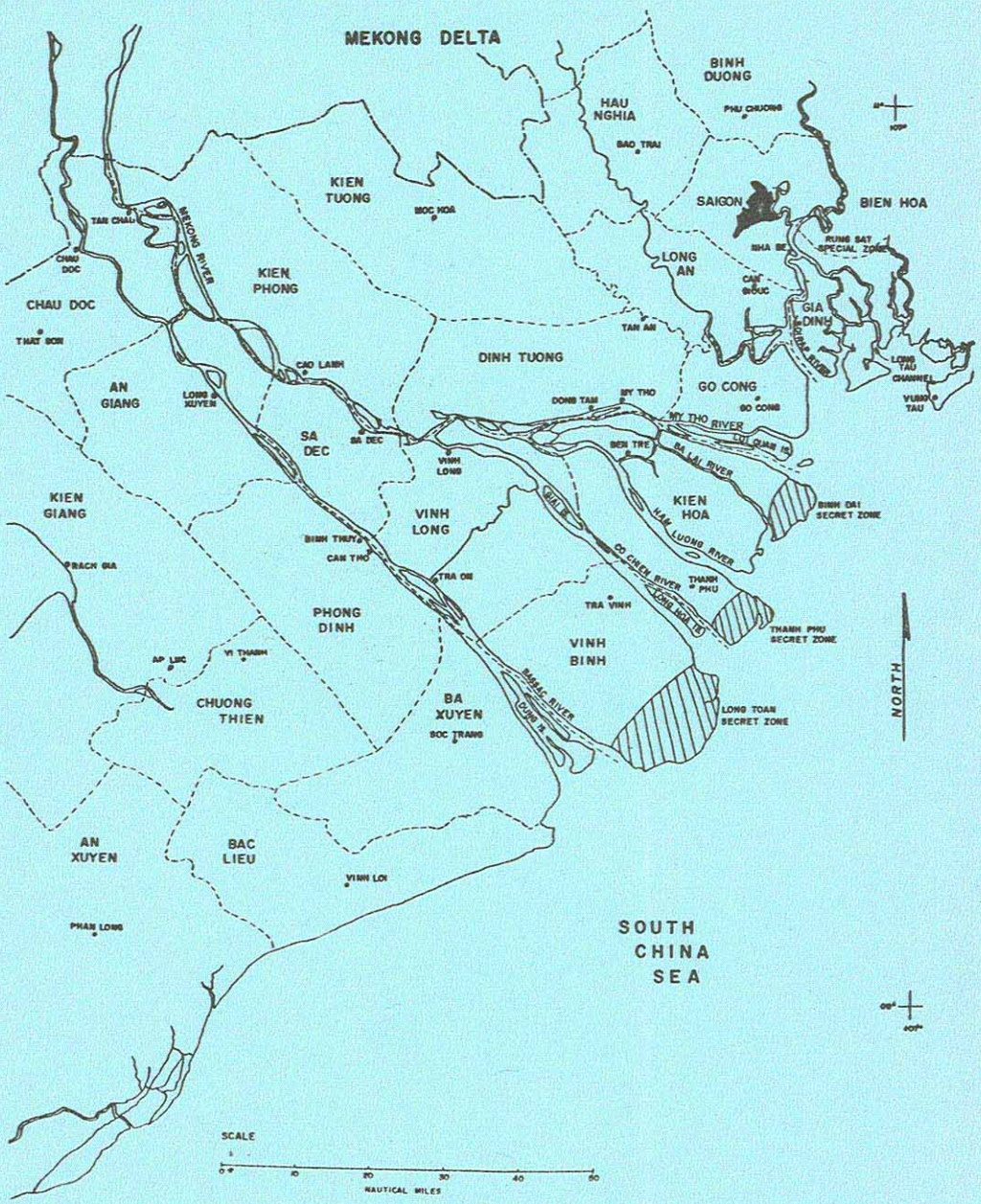

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