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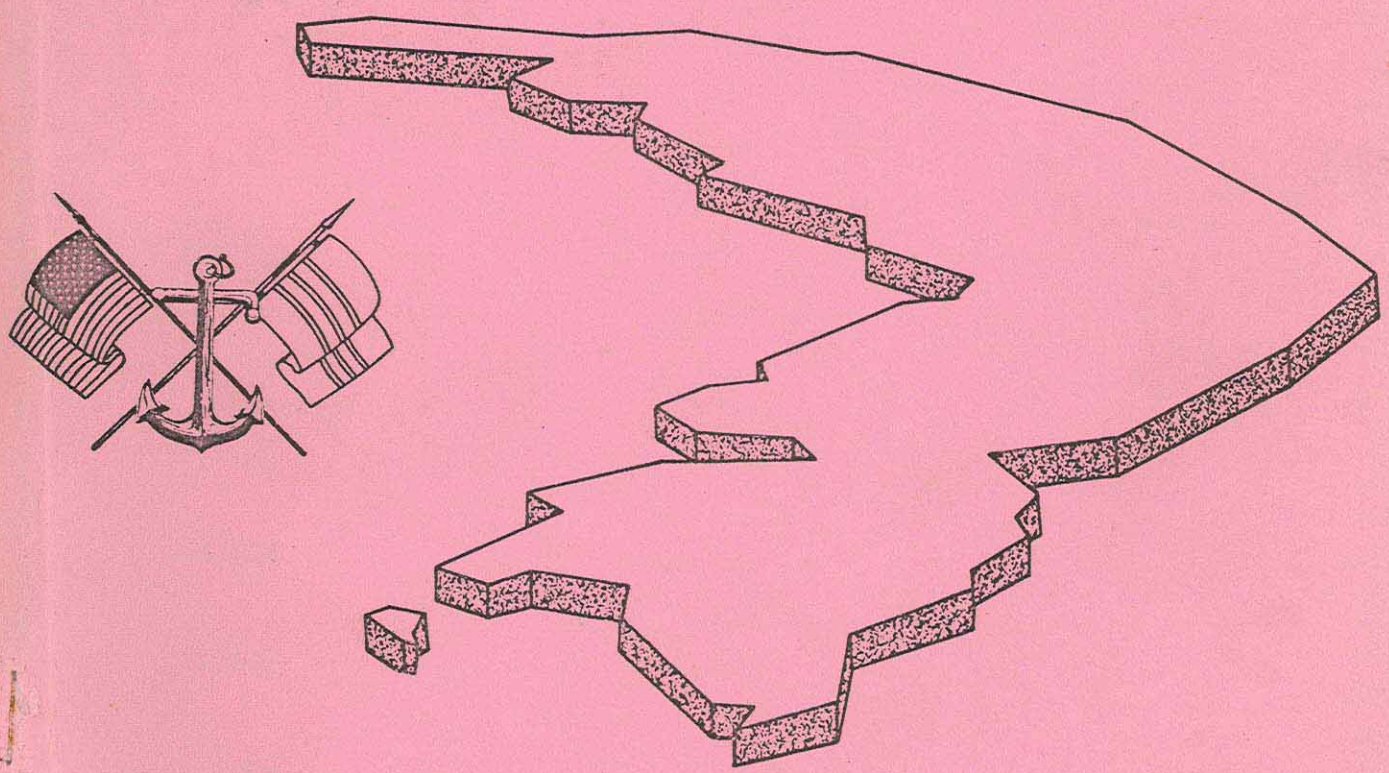

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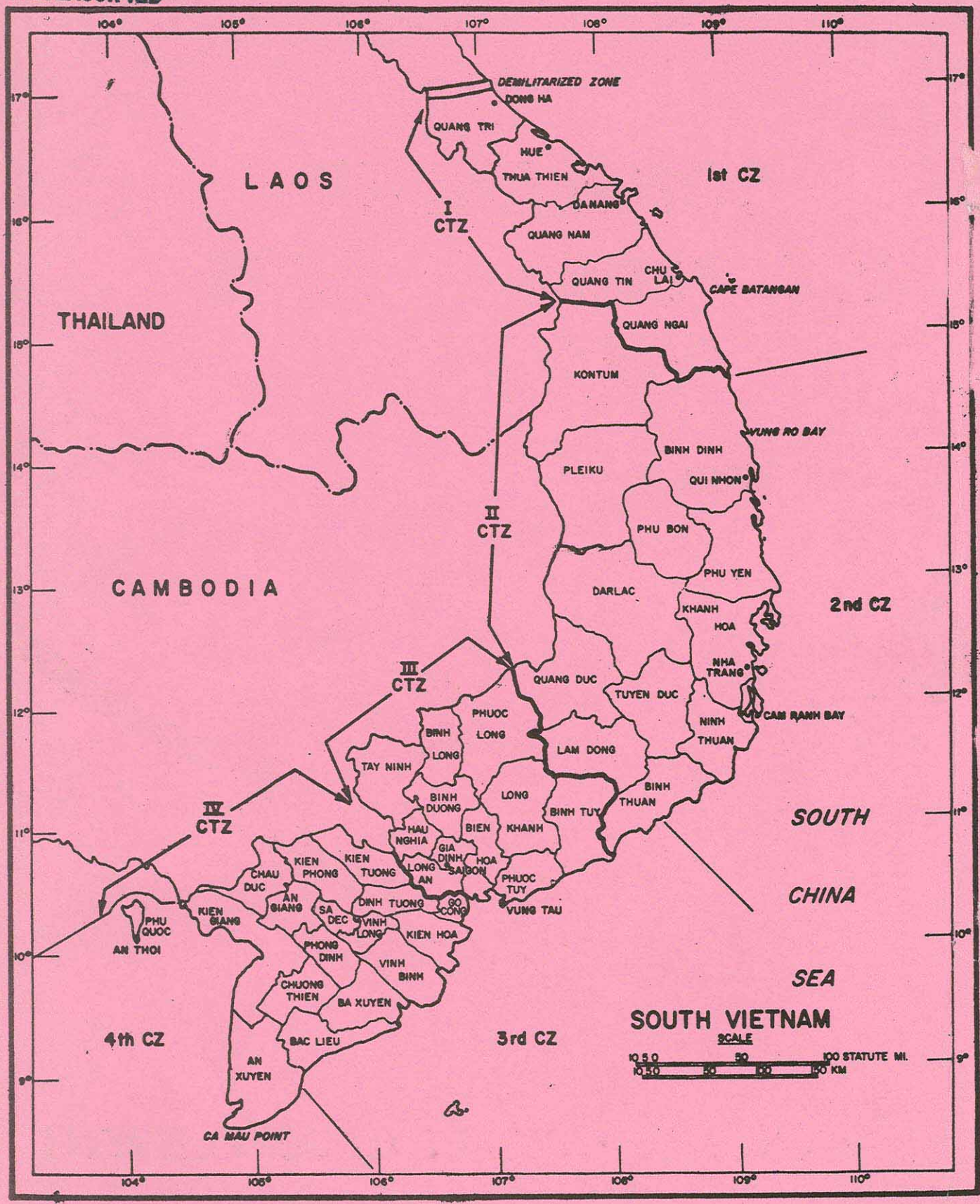

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FOREWORD

U. S. Naval Forces were engaged in diverse types of operations during the month of April. During the period 4-7 April U. S. and Vietnamese forces combined to conduct sweeps on Oc Island in the Ham Luong River. PBR's and Vietnamese Navy river craft maintained blocking and gunfire support positions encircling the island. Intermittent but heated battles were waged during the four days with the river craft furnishing much needed mortar illumination and medevac assistance as well as blocking actions.

GAME WARDEN units supported a Republic of Korea Army operation on the Qui Nhon Peninsula in II Corps Tactical Zone conducted 20-26 April. This was the first entry of TF 116 units into this theater of operations. PBR's from River Section 532 and USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST838) provided blocking forces. General KIM, Chief of Staff, ROKA, stated that complete success of operations, in which over 200 of the enemy were killed and 76 captured, occurred as a direct result of the presence of PBR and harbor defense units blocking the waterways.

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CHRONOLOGY

1 April - MARKET TIME air surveillance forces suffered the loss of a P3B Orion and its 12 crewmembers from hostile fire causing it to crash at sea 5 miles south of An Thoi in the Gulf of Thailand. p. 1-3

- Captain Max C. DUNCAN, USN, relieved Captain Burns W. SPORE, USN, as Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon. p. 75 and 97

- Five Seabees of MCB 9 Detachment ECHO gave their life in defense of their camp, located near Phu Bai, after it came under heavy enemy mortar and recoilless-rifle attack. p. 79

2 - A homemade booby trap was discovered aboard the USS COLLETON (APB 36), while anchored in the vicinity of Dong Tam. MRF EOD personnel disarmed the device. This marked the first-known attempt at sabotage against a ship of the MRF. p. 51-52

3 - Captain Arthur W. PRICE, USN, relieved Captain Paul N. GRAY, USN, as Commander River Patrol Force/Task Force 116. p. 97

4 - Assault craft of RAD 92 with embarked troops came under ambush about 4 miles north of Ben Tre on the Ba Lai River. Five enemy attackers were killed and more than 60 were wounded. p. 53

4 - 7 - Operation TRUONG CONG DINH 7/10/7 was conducted on Oc Island in the Ham Luong River by joint VNN, ARVN, USA, and USN. Forces repeated ground sweeps of the area to flush the enemy out. U. S. forces were credited with killing 71 of the enemy and capturing 13, while suffering 39 of their own killed and another 146 wounded. The ARVN forces killed 13 Viet Cong while capturing 15 of the enemy and sustaining 5 ARVN fatalities of their ~~59~~ casualties. p. 131-132

6 April - Phu Loc quarry/crusher facilities were offically dedicated with the name Camp Deshursley and is now in full operation. p. 80-81

7 - MCB 5 completed the C-123 air strip at Cu Lu. p. 80

- The Master and mate of the commercial tug, MICHAEL, belonging to the Alaskan Barge and Tug Company under U. S. Military contract, were killed when the tug came under attack by RPG-7 rockets and automatic weapons fire on the My Tho River, about 8 miles north of Vinh Long. p. 31

- Security guards on the SS CAPE EDMONT, while anchored in Qui Nhon harbor, observed three swimmers in the water alongside of the ship. The swimmers were taken under fire and fled. An inspection of the

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7 - ship was conducted and a satchel charge was found on the anchor chain. EOD personnel disconnected the charge and had it in tow within 25 minutes after their arrival. p. 20

8 - EN3 Steve D. LEDFORD, USN, was killed when PBRs from RIVSEC 541, on a special night patrol about 11 miles south of Nha Be, came under enemy attack. LEDFORD was the forward gunner on one of the PBRs. Three additional PBR sailors received slight wounds and the PBRs sustained moderate damage in the action. p. 28

9 - An LCPL assigned to IUWU 3 recovered a body floating in the water approximately 100 yards off the bow of the SS CAPE EDMONT in Qui Nhon Harbor. The body with snorkel attached, contained numerous bullet holes and it was determined that it was the body of one of the three swimmers who placed a charge on the SS CAPE EDMONT's anchor chain on 7 April. p. 20

10 April- Commander Adrain L. LONSDALE, USCG, relieved Commander Norman J. VENZKE, USCG, as Commander of the Gulf of Thailand Surveillance Group and Fourth Coastal Zone. p. 97-98

- Five PBRs from TU 116.2.3 and two PBRs from TU 116.3.5 engaged the enemy while providing support to a Vietnamese Navy Propoganda Team with a Australian Advisor, about 3½ miles north of Vinh Long. PBR 87 landed the troops embarked and the Australian Advisor, but when PBR 83 attempted to land within only 100 meters to the landing area, came under fire, made a charge and landed the troops to aid the troops ashore which were pinned down by enemy fire. The PBRs provided cover fire for the troops ashore to withdraw. The troops scrambled back aboard except for the Australian Advisor, he appeared shortly with two Viet Cong firing at him and the PBRs opened fire and killed one Viet Cong and the Australian killed the other. When action terminated there were four Viet Cong killed and at least three structures destroyed. There were no U. S. casualties. p. 31-32

17 - 19 - Vice Admiral Charles K. DUNCAN, USN, Chief of Naval Personnel, conducted a tour of major U. S. Naval activities in South Vietnam. p. 98-99

19 - 22 - Operation LAMSON 214 was conducted south of Phu Vang and Huong Thuy sub-sectors by 3 junks of CG 12, an ARVN reconnaissance company, an ARVN special force company and a USMC company. Forty Viet Cong were killed, 10 others were captured and 8 suspects were detained. Friendly forces suffered 9 killed and 21 wounded. p. 112

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20-26 April - GAME WARDEN units saw action in II Coastal Tactical Zone for the first time when PBRs from RIVSEC 532 and USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) provided blocking forces for the Korean Army operation, MAENG HO II (Fierce Tiger), on the Qui Nhon Peninsula. The operation netted over 200 Viet Cong killed and 76 captured, along with quantity of war materials, weapons and ammunition. p. 3,23,24 and 117

23 - The Fleet Air Support Unit Tactical Airfield Dispensing System Installation at Danang Air Base became operational. The system has a capacity of 30,000 gallons. p. 71-73

24 - A Second MSTS T-1 tanker, USNS PETULAMA (AO(T)79) arrived on station for shuttle duty between Tan My and Hue. p. 71

24-26 - Commander, Construction Battalions, Pacific, visited Seabee construction sites in I Coastal Tactical Zone, observed the extensive construction effort being expended. p. 82

25-30 - LTGEN Lewis W. WALT, USMC, Assistant Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps, visited the MRF on 25 April and spent the remainder of his tour visiting U. S. Marine Corps units in the I Coastal Tactical Zone. p. 99

26 - A Vietnamese River Assault Group (RAG) and PBR River Section 522 conducted the first joint RAG/PBR psychological and medical civic action operation in Vinh Long Province. p. 87

30 April - The Cua Viet River was closed due to enemy attacks on the logistic convoys and the convoy escort until friendly ground forces secured the river banks. p. 69

- The total strength of U. S. Naval personnel under the operational control of NAVFORV was 32,343. In addition, U. S. Navy personnel assigned to III Marine Amphibious Force was 3,867, while U. S. Coast Guard strength was 477.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

Indigenous fishing activity and coastal traffic returned to near normal proportions during April with a corresponding high level of routine MARKET TIME and STABLE DOOR activity. Patrol units in the four coastal zones maintained excellent patrol effectiveness during the month as the weather continued to be good throughout a high precentage of the month.

During April units of Operation MARKET TIME and Operation STABLE DOOR detected 125,768 craft along South Vietnam's coastline and harbors; 33,513 of these were inspected and an additional 15,594 were boarded and searched.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

Routine MARKET TIME activity continued at a high level during April as 66,543 junks and sampans were detected. Over 40 percent of the detected craft were inspected and approximately 15 percent more were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 29 craft and 499 persons. In addition, 1,256 steel-hulled vessels were detected transiting MARKET TIME areas; 68 of the steel-hulled craft were boarded. Meanwhile, MARKET TIME units provided numerous exfiltration/infiltration patrols in support of ground operations, conducted 242 naval gunfire support missions, and were engaged in 27 hostile incidents during the month. As a result of these operations, 37 enemy structures and 12 junks were destroyed; in addition, 46 Viet Cong were killed (plus 8 probable).

On 1 April MARKET TIME air surveillance forces suffered the loss of

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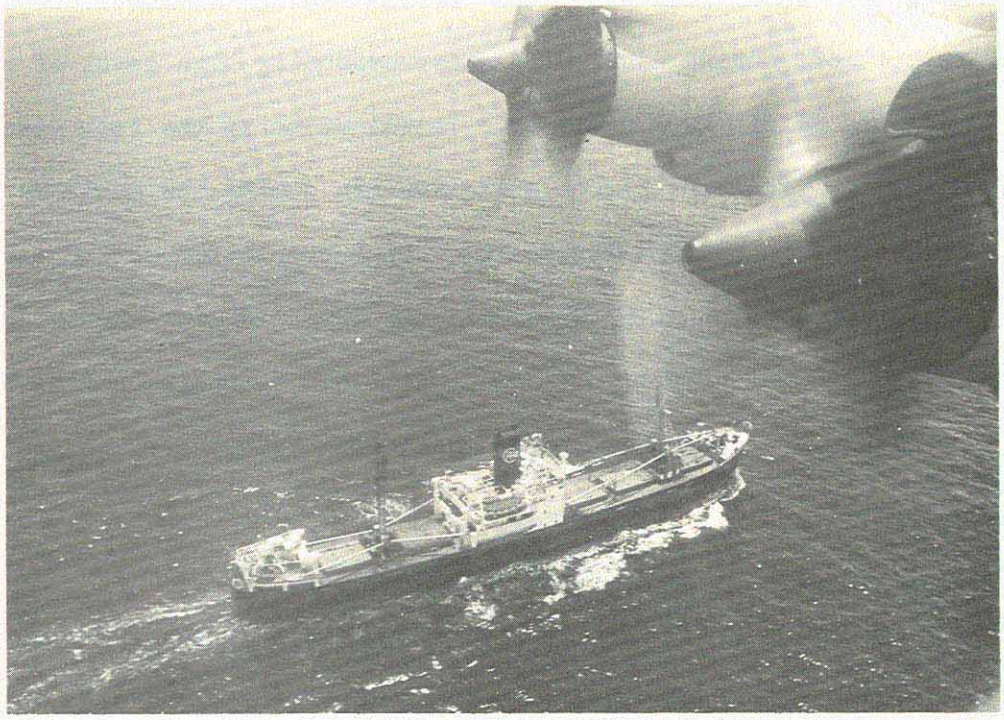

A merchant ship passes under the wing of a U.S. Navy P3 "Orion" in the South China Sea. This Navy aircraft is a unit of MARKET TIME air surveillance forces which check shipping along the South Vietnam coasts to prevent communist forces from moving supplies by sea.

a P3B "Orion" and its crew when a Patrol Squadron TWENTY-SIX aircraft crashed at sea 5-miles south of An Thoi on Phu Quoc Island in the Gulf of Thailand. The craft, operating out of U Tapao, Thailand, was on a routine MARKET TIME patrol when the Coastal Surveillance Center at An Thoi requested assistance in establishing visual reconnaissance of a Cambodian LSSL that was reported to be off-loading cargo to sampans near the Cambodian island of Hon Doc in the Gulf of Thailand. The

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aircraft responded to the request and moments later reported it had received hostile fire and intended to ditch. The aircraft was observed with its outboard starboard engine on fire, a large hole in the starboard wing and both starboard engines feathered as it passed over the southern tip of Phu Quoc Island, SAR and salvage operations commenced immediately after the crash. There were no survivors among the 12 crewmembers aboard the aircraft and at month's end, a thorough investigation of the salvaged wreckage was being conducted.

From the 20th to the 26th of April a combined operation was held in the Qui Nhon vicinity. While Republic of Korea Army forces swept the area, U. S. Naval forces utilizing PCF's and PBR's provided blocking patrols. The successful operation, which also utilized helicopter gunships, artillery, attack aircraft and landing craft, resulted in more than 200 enemy troops being killed and 76 others captured. In addition, 90 individual weapons and 14 crew-served weapons were captured.

First Coastal Zone

Intermittent adverse weather in the First Coastal Zone forced patrol units to leave station or seek lee areas at various times during April. As a result of the occasional inclement weather, routine MARKET TIME activity decreased slightly during the month. The Zone's patrol units detected 21,855 junks and sampans during April, a decrease of approximately 4,000 from March's total. Over 8,000 of the detected craft were inspected and 4,615 were boarded.

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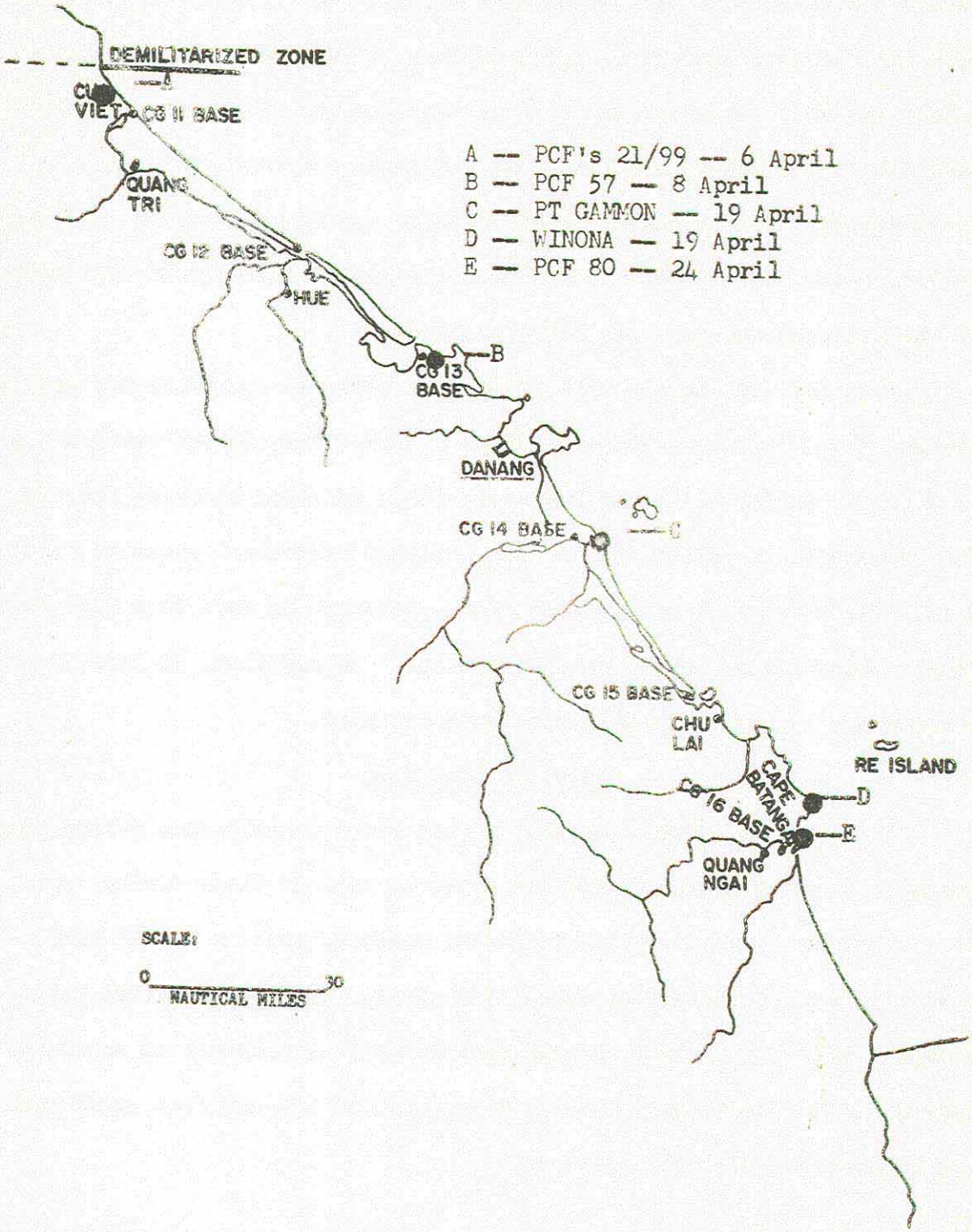
OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE



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On 6 April PCF's 21 and 99 observed approximately 100 people unloading sampans along the beach 19-miles north-northwest of Danang. The "Swift" boats utilized their loud-speakers in an attempt to summon the people to the PCF's for interrogation with negative results. The "Swift" boats then notified 1st MARDIV authorities of the situation and were requested to commence a direct naval gunfire mission immediately. The mission resulted in the death of three Viet Cong.

On the 8th PCF 57 received hostile small arms fire from the northeastern tip of Cape Batangan. As the "Swift" boat closed the beach to investigate, several enemy troops were observed fleeing for cover. The "Swift" boat took the personnel and the surrounding area under fire, killing six Viet Cong and destroying one sampan.

On the 19th a unit of the U. S. 12th Marines reported many enemy sampans laying fishing nets just below the 17th parallel. The Coast Guard cutter, USCGC POINT GAMMON, sped to the scene and took the fish nets, tree-line bunkers and nearby structures under fire. As a result of the cutter's firing, seven structures were damaged and an unknown number of fish nets were destroyed.

USCGC WINONA (WHEC 65) took enemy fortifications 3-miles south of Cape Batangan under 5-inch naval gunfire. The mission, which was requested by Danang's Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer, utilized an airborne spotter and resulted in four structures destroyed, plus two structures and one bunker damaged.

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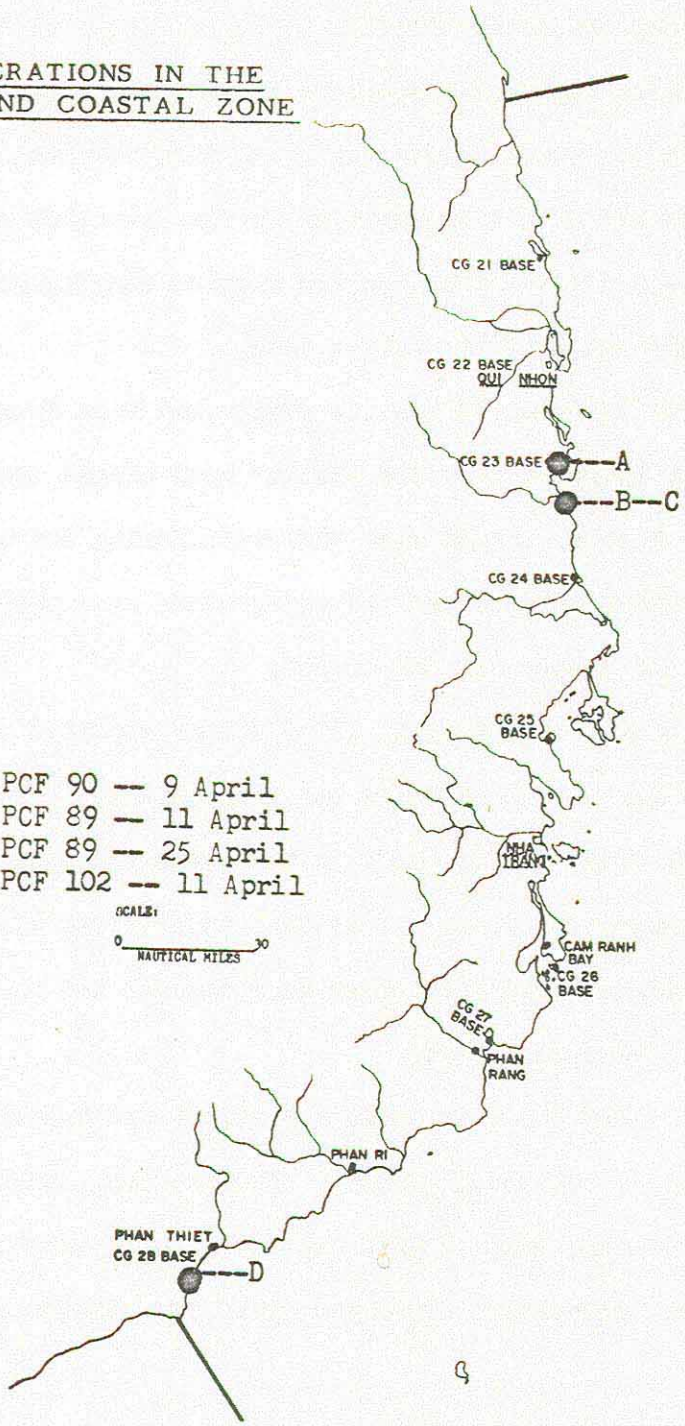
OPERATIONS IN THE SECOND COASTAL ZONE



A -- PCF 90 -- 9 April
B -- PCF 89 -- 11 April
C -- PCF 89 -- 25 April
D -- PCF 102 -- 11 April

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On the 24th PCF 80 provided harassment and interdiction fire against an enemy position 14-miles northeast of Danang. Responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne spotter, the "Swift" boat destroyed one structure and damaged three bunkers.

First Coastal Zone PCF's supported three ground operations during April. On 17 April PCF 81 provided blocking services for a 5th Regiment 2nd ARVN Division sweep approximately 8-miles south of Cape Batangan. On the 18th PCF 20 provided blocking services for a sweep by the 4th Regiment 2nd ARVN Division in an area approximately 6-miles south of Cape Batangan. On the 24th of April PCF 57 provided blocking services for a U.S. Americal Division sweep of the Batangan peninsula.

Second Coastal Zone

Routine MARKET TIME activity in the Second Coastal Zone continued at a high level during April, although choppy seas throughout the zone on several occasions caused a slight decrease in the aggregate of indigenous coastal traffic. The Second Coastal Zone's patrol units detected nearly 30,500 junks and sampans during April; a decrease of approximately 3,000 from March's total. Approximately 45 percent of the detected craft were inspected and an additional 12 percent were boarded.

On 9 April PCF 90 conducted a harassment and interdiction fire mission against a suspected enemy position 17-miles south of Qui Nhon. The mission, which was conducted in support of the Vietnamese Navy's Coastal Group 23, resulted in three Viet Cong being wounded.

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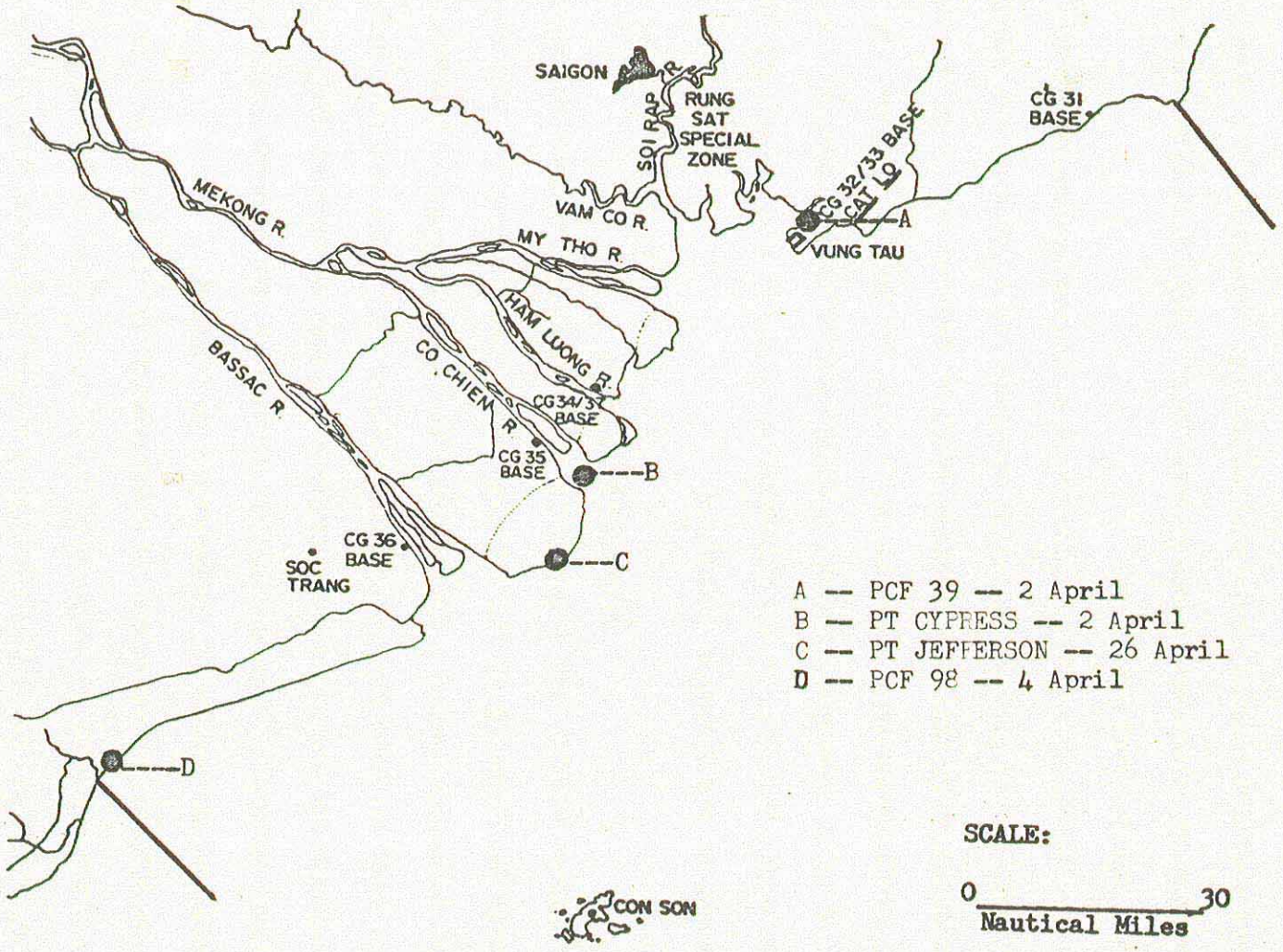
OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



A -- PCF 39 -- 2 April
B -- PT CYPRESS -- 2 April
C -- PT JEFFERSON -- 26 April
D -- PCF 98 -- 4 April

SCALE:

0 _____ 30
Nautical Miles

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During the afternoon of the 11th, PCF 89 took four sampans under fire 26-miles south of Qui Nhon. Firing 81-mm mortars and M-79 grenades, the "Swift" boat sunk one sampan and destroyed the remaining three on the beach. The occupants of the sampans successfully evaded.

Also on the 11th, PCF 102 fired on four targets 10-miles south of Phan Thiet that had been designated as a suspected Viet Cong encampment and supply route. The "Swift" boat's firing resulted in one secondary explosion, and two fires were ignited.

On 25 April PCF 89 sighted several sampans and six people on the beach 25-miles south of Qui Nhon. As the "Swift" boat closed the beach for a more thorough investigation, the people evaded into the nearby tree line that contained two bunkers and four houses. Sector authorities requested the area be taken under fire. The "Swift" boat's 81-mm mortar and .50 caliber fire destroyed two of the houses and several sampans. The extent of enemy personnel casualties were unknown.

Third Coastal Zone

In addition to conducting numerous naval gunfire support missions and engaging in many hostile fire incidents, during April MARKET TIME patrol units in the Third Coastal Zone detected 5,532 indigenous junks and sampans. Approximately 65 percent of the detected craft were either inspected or boarded.

On 2 April PCF 39 detected a 15-foot motorized sampan on a restricted waterway after curfew 5-miles north of Vung Tau. As the "Swift" boat

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illuminated the sampan with 81-mm illumination rounds, the craft attempted to evade into a nearby canal. The sampan and its two occupants were taken under direct .50 caliber machine gunfire, resulting in the destruction of the craft and the probable killing of two Viet Cong.

Also on the 2nd, USCGC POINT CYPRESS observed several sampans on the beach in the Long Toan Secret Zone and took the area under fire after receiving hostile small arms and automatic-weapons fire from the beach. The cutter's firing resulted in extensive damage to two sampans and one large secondary explosion. Several small fires were also initiated by the cutter's firing.

On 4 April PCF 98 observed two persons running into a hut near the beach 50-miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. Sector authorities granted permission to take the area under fire and the "Swift" boat destroyed five structures and damaged another with her 81-mm mortar.

On the 26th USCGC POINT JEFFERSON observed suspicious people in the Long Toan Secret Zone. Sector authorities declared the personnel hostile and requested that the cutter take the area under fire. The destruction of two structures and one bunker resulted from the cutter's firing. Enemy personnel casualties were unknown.

On the 20th a Third Coastal Zone PCF provided blocking services for a ground operation conducted by the Go Cong Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer approximately 18-miles west of Vung Tau.

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Fourth Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the Fourth Coastal Zone remained particularly active during the month of April. In addition to conducting a large number of naval gunfire support missions and engaging the enemy in numerous hostile fire incidents, the Zone's patrol units detected 8,666 junks and sampans during the month. Over 38 percent of the detected craft were inspected and an additional 20 percent were boarded.

During the afternoon of 3 April, USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68) conducted a naval gunfire mission against an estimated enemy battalion 36-miles north-northeast of Ca Mau Point near the coast of the Gulf of Thailand. Responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne spotter, the cutter killed six Viet Cong, wounded four other, destroyed five structures and damaged an additional 15.

On the 7th, in response to a request from U. S. Army authorities at Song Ong Doc, ANDROSCOGGIN fired her 5-inch guns on an area 48-miles north of Ca Mau Point that contained a concentration of enemy troops and an ammunition dump. The mission, which utilized an airborne spotter, resulted in three Viet Cong killed and six wounded, 4 bunkers destroyed and 12 others damaged.

USCGC MINNETONKA (WHEC 67) provided 5-inch naval gunfire against an enemy position 34-miles north of Ca Mau Point on the 11th. Utilizing an airborne spotter, the cutter destroyed one sampan and killed two Viet Cong. In another mission in the same general area on the 15th, MINNETONKA

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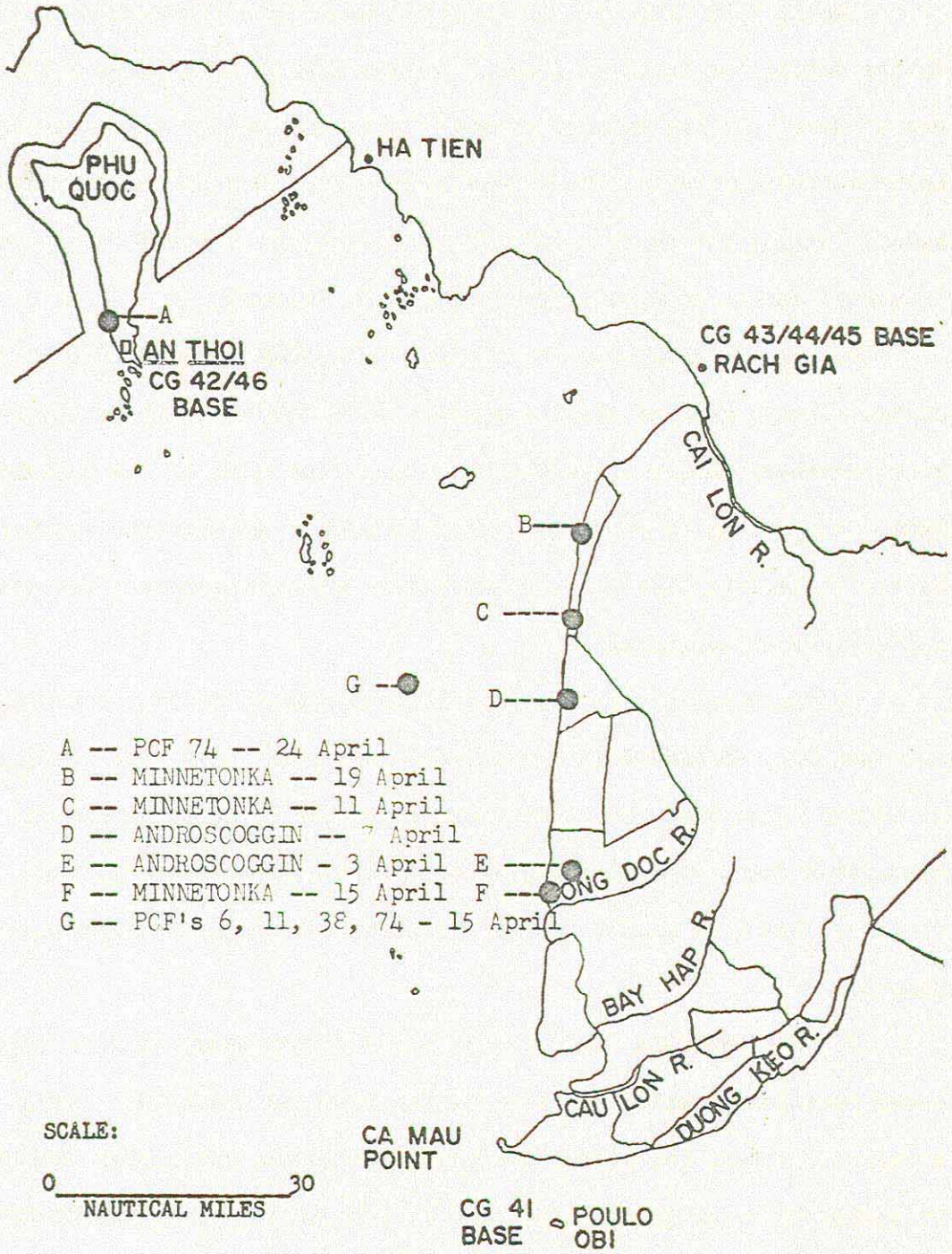
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



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This is APL-21 (barracks ship) anchored off An Thoi on Phu Quoc Island -- the base of operation for personnel manning patrol craft in the Fourth Coastal Zone.

destroyed eight structures and two sampans.

Also on the 15th, a special PCF naval gunfire element consisting of PCF's 6, 11, 38 and 74 conducted an intensive gunfire mission in an area of extensive Viet Cong bunkers, firing positions and structures 43 miles northwest of Rach Gia on the coast of the Gulf of Thailand. The area, which had been the scene of numerous hostile fire incidents in recent weeks, was saturated with 81-mm mortars and .50 caliber machine

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gun fire. An airborne spotter reported all rounds on target, destroying 45 structures and killing one Viet Cong (probable). During the mission, the "Swift" boats received heavy hostile fire with PCF's 38 and 74 taking a number of hits.

On the 19th MINNETONKA took an enemy troop concentration approximately 29-miles north of Ca Mau Point under 5-inch naval gunfire. An airborne spotter reported five structures damaged and three Viet Cong killed by the cutter's firing.

On the 24th PCF 74 provided naval gunfire support for a Vietnamese Coastal Group 42 assault against enemy troops on the west coast of the Phu Quoc Island. The "Swift" boat was credited with killing two Viet Cong during the mission.

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MARKET TIME UNITS

During the month of April the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) had an average of eight PGM's and three PCE's assigned daily to MARKET TIME forces. The VNN also utilized an LSSL and an MSC for MARKET TIME patrols for a few days during the month. In addition, the Royal Thai Navy had one PGM assigned to MARKET TIME forces in the Fourth Coastal Zone during the major portion of the month.

During the month aircraft from five patrol squadrons participated in MARKET TIME operations. A detachment of Patrol Squadron TWENTY-SIX

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(VP-26) flew P3B "Orions" from U Tapao, Thailand and a detachment of VP-50 flew "Orions" from Cam Ranh Bay. Meanwhile, detachments of VP-2, VP-17 and VP-42 flew SP2H Neptunes from Cam Ranh Bay.

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

		Dates
DER 327	USS BRISTER	25-30
DER 324	USS FALGOUT	1-9
DER 334	USS FORSTER	11-30
DER 400	USS HISSEM	1-6
DER 331	USS KOINER	27-30
DER 387	USS VANCE	1-11
LST 509	USS BULLOCK COUNTY	5-30
LST 1077	USS PARK COUNTY	1-5
MSC 289	USS AIBATROSS	25-30
MSC 290	USS GANNET	13-25
MSO 432	USS DYNAMIC	1-11, 22-30
MSO 433	USS ENGAGE	1-30
MSO 446	USS FORTIFY	13-30
MSO 449	USS IMPERVIOUS	1-22
MSO 456	USS INFLICT	11-30
PG 88	USS CROCKETT	1-30
PG 84	USS ASHEVILLE	1-30
WHEC 68	USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN	1-8
WHEC 32	USCGC CAMPBELL	9-30
WHEC 33	USCGC DUANE	1-27
WHEC 67	USCGC MINNETONKA	8-30
WHEC 65	USCGC WINONA	6-25

***

MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
April 1968

1, U. S. Ships/Craft:

	DER	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	LST	PG	WHEC
Daily average number of craft on patrol	2	4	1	14	35	1	1	3

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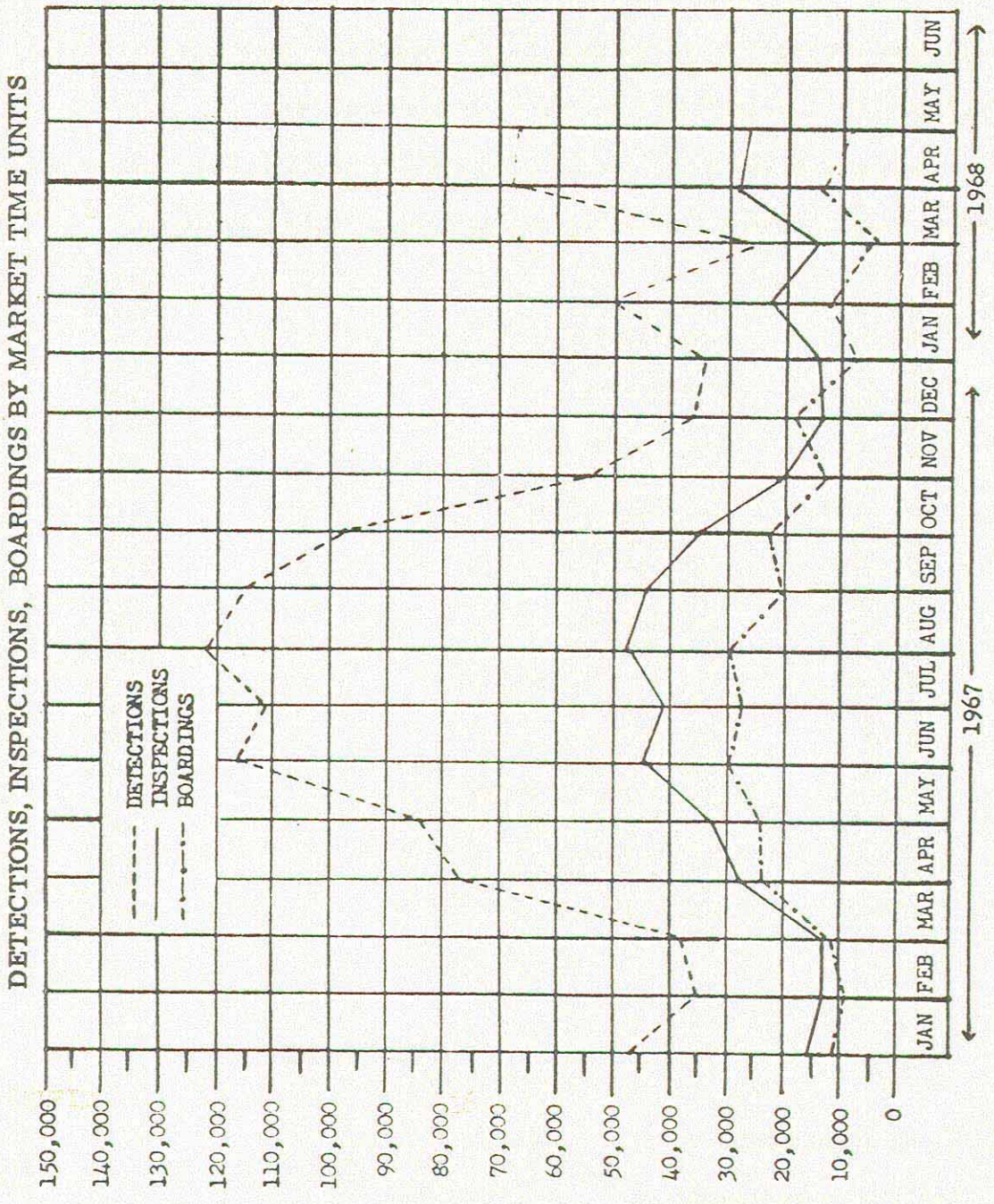

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2. U. S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY	40,173	NIGHT	26,370	67,799
	STEEL - DAY	671	NIGHT	585	
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY	16,932	NIGHT	10,284	28,144
	STEEL - DAY	488	NIGHT	440	
TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD - DAY	7,073	NIGHT	2,734	9,875
	STEEL - DAY	50	NIGHT	18	

3. Naval Gunfire Support Missions:

Total Missions: 242

4. Hostile Fire Incidents:

Total Incidents: 27

***

OPERATION STABLE DOOR

During April Operation STABLE DOOR units detected 57,969 junks and sampans; 5,369 of these were inspected and an additional 5,719 were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 10 junks and 295 persons.

During the month all STABLE DOOR units continued to maintain normal patrols and surface surveillance postures.

Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit ONE (IUWU 1) continued operations in Vung Tau during April and detained a total of 59 persons and seven craft for improper identification, curfew violations and suspicious actions.

On 9 April the SS CLARKSBURG VICTORY anchored in Vung Tay Bay

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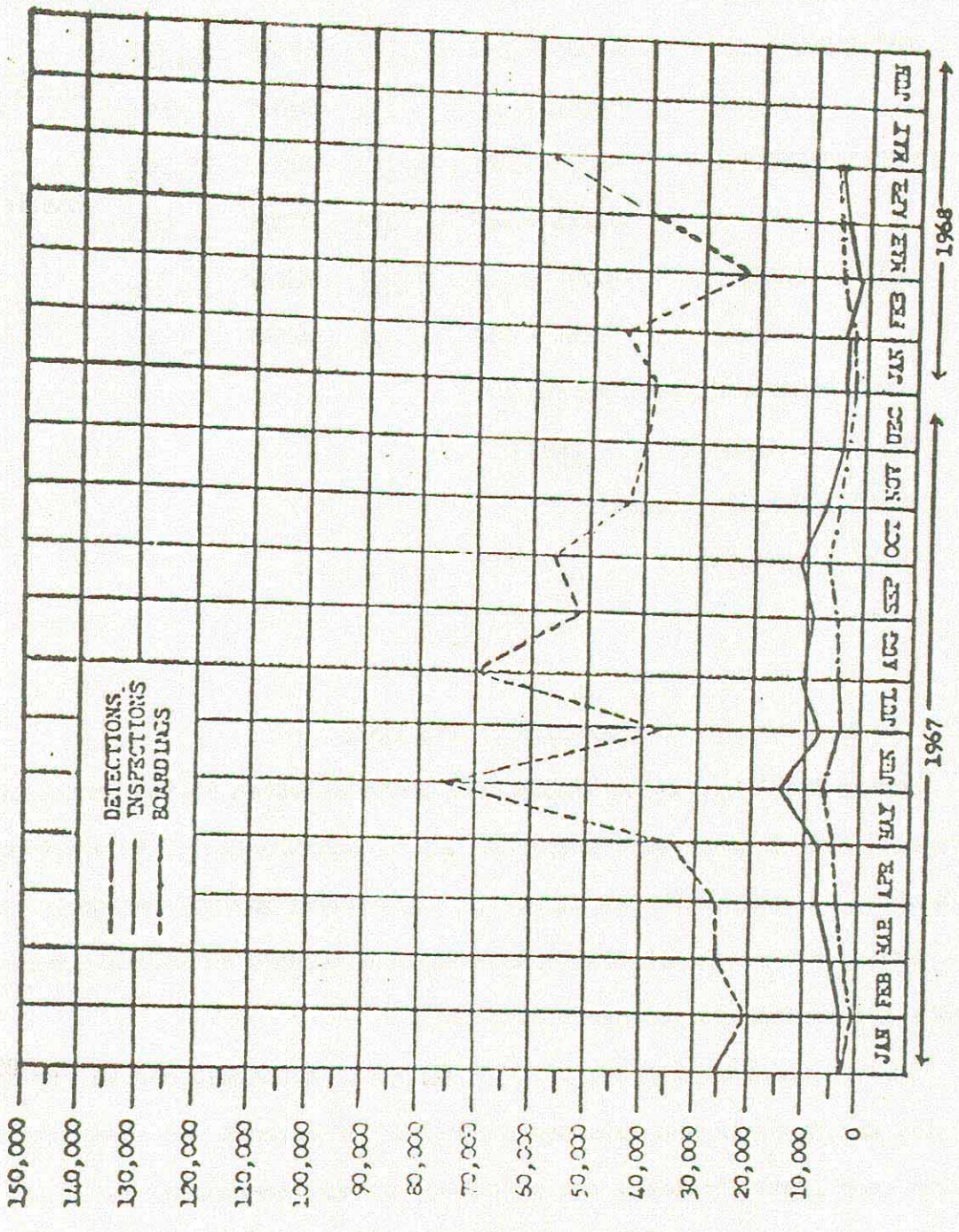

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reported a swimmer in the water close aboard the ship. STABLE DOOR craft responded to the situation and apprehended one man who was turned over to the Vietnamese National Police. The Royal Australian diving team at Vung Tau immediatley conducted an inspection of the hulls and anchor chains of all ships in the vicinity with negative results. After questioning, the suspect was determined to be friendly and was released.

On 22 April the Harbor Entrance Control Point at Vung Tau received one round of mortar fire close aboard. The round was received during an attack on the Vung Tau airfield. No STABLE DOOR personnel or material casualties resulted from the mortar round.

On 23 April IUWU 1 units participated in Operation CORRAL in the Vung Tau harbor. During the operation, a total of 38 Vietnamese junks were boarded and searched with one junk being detained and turned over to the national police because of improper identification papers.

On 18 April Army security guards on the new bridge between Cam Ranh Bay peninsula and Cam Ranh Bay City reported six swimmers with face masks in the water. STABLE DOOR units apprehended the suspects and turned them over to the 630th Military Police Company. After interrogation, the detainees were classified as civil defendants and turned over to the national police for diving in restricted water. The detainees were determined to be commercial shell collectors.

IUWU 3 continued operations at Qui Nhon during April and detained three persons during the month for having improper identification cards

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in their possession.

During the early morning hours of 7 April security guards on the SS CAPE EDMONT, anchored in Qui Nhon harbor, observed three swimmers in the water alongside the ship. The swimmers were taken under fire. STABLE DOOR personnel conducted an immediate underwater inspection of the ship and found a satchel charge attached to the anchor chain. The satchel charge consisted of the following: 100 pounds of plastic explosive in a suitcase, a timer clock, 13 flashlight dry cell batteries, four firing squibs, one flotation bladder and 72 feet of parachute shroud line. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel had the charge disconnected and in tow within 25 minutes of their arrival. It was unknown whether the mechanism malfunctioned or if the prompt action by EOD personnel saved the ship which was loaded with napalm and bombs. Two days later an LCPL assigned to IUWU 3 recovered a body floating in the water approximately 100 yards off the bow of the SS CAPE EDMONT. The body, with a snorkel attached, contained numerous bullet holes and it was determined that it was the body of one of the swimmers who placed the charge on the CAPE EDMONT's anchor chain.

IUWU 4, operating in the Nha Trang area, detained a total of 224 persons and one sampan during April. During the same period, IUWU 5 continued operations at Vung Ro Bay.

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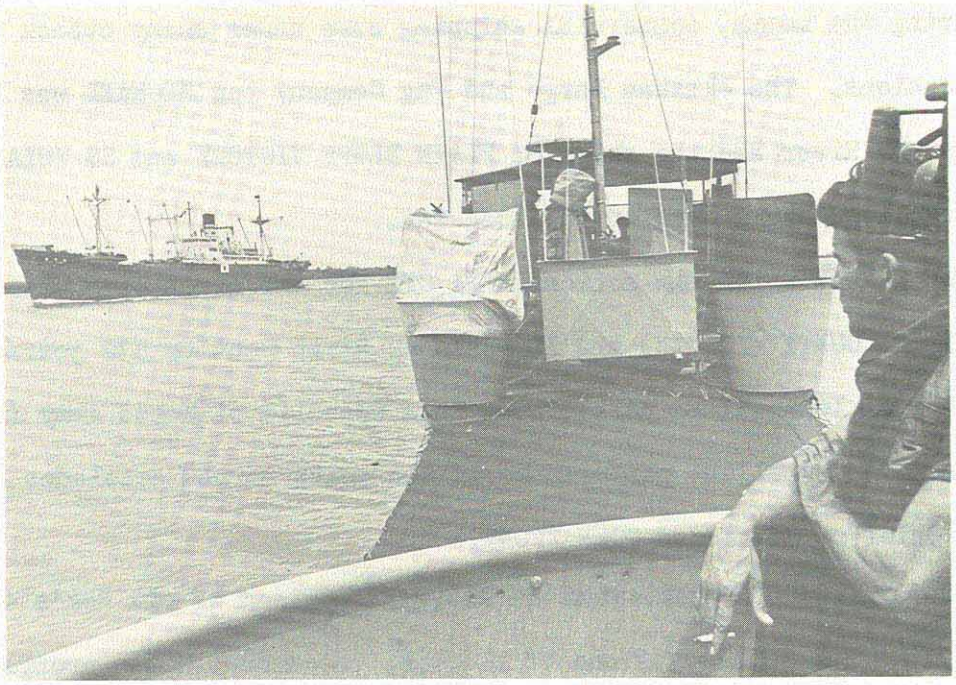
RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

The proliferation of enemy automatic weapons and rockets was evidenced in the Viet Cong attacks initiated from ambush against Navy units and commercial shipping. GAME WARDEN units instituted agressive measures against the enemy to offset any attempt by the Viet Cong to increase his tempo of operations thereby enhancing his position in any possible future peace negotiations.



A freighter sails the Long Tau Shipping Channel under the watchful eyes of U. S. Navy Minesweeping Boat (MSB) crewmembers. TF-116 MSB's conduct daily sweeps of the channel to keep it free of Viet Cong mines.

On the Long Tau shipping channel, minesweepers made repeated recoveries of electrical wire during sweep operations indicating a possible

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step up in enemy mining efforts. On 28 April, about 4 miles southeast of Nha Be, on the Long Tau, four free-floating contact mines were recovered. The mines were identical in design as those found in February and brings to 10 the number detected. On 26 April, while on a Long Tau minesweeping patrol, a LCMM was ambushed by the Viet Cong. One U. S. Navyman was wounded, one VNN LCMM-trainee was killed and three other trainees were wounded in the attack that occurred about 8 miles southeast of the Navy base at Nha Be.

During the month, commercial shipping came under enemy attack on three occasions. The Alaskan Barge and Tug Company tug MICHAEL was hit on the My Tho River and the ships SS PLAIN BLUFF VICTORY and SS TULANE VICTORY received enemy fire on the Long Tau.

GAME WARDEN units saw action in II CTZ for the first time when SS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST838) and 10 PBR's of River Section 532 journeyed to Qui Nhon on 16 April to participate in a Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) operation. The excellent performance of the units earned accolades from the ROKA Chief of Staff and COMNAVFORV.

On 17-18, CTF 116 activated TG 116.9, comprised of six PBR's each from TG 116.3 and TU 116.3.9 and TU 116.4.8, to conduct a two-pronged incursion of the Cho Gao Canal. The canal extends from Cho Gao, located 5 miles east of My Tho, in a northeasterly direction meeting the Co Cong River. The purpose of the mission was to extend US/GVN presence into an area of Viet Cong influence. The My Tho based PBR's remained overnight

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at Nha Be while the Nha Be units stayed at My Tho, with the respective units returning to their home bases on 18 April. During the transit, psychological operations were conducted, water traffic was checked and people along the waterway were interrogated. There were no hostile incidents encountered during the two days.

GAME WARDEN PBR's, helicopters and support LST's continued support and assisted Vietnamese units in their pursuit and encounters with the enemy.

During the month Task Force 116 units were engaged in 160 fire-fights, killed 76 of the enemy, wounded 18 and captured 3. One PBR sailor was killed in action and one PBR was lost to enemy fire.

The PBR's detected 96,670 craft, the highest figure to date, plying the river; inspected 23,341, the second highest total; and boarded 50,074 for another all time high. There were 824 persons detained for varied reasons.

OPERATIONS IN I AND II CORPS TACTICAL ZONES

In I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ) PBR's of River Section 521 continued to operate in support of CTF CLEARWATER in providing river security for logistical craft, operating on the Perfume River, supporting Hue. (See Commander Task Force CLEARWATER).

GAME WARDEN units supported the ROKA operation, MAENG HO II (Fierce Tiger), on the Qui Nhon Peninsula in II Corps Tactical Zone (II CTZ), marking the first entry of TF 116 units into this theater of operations. River

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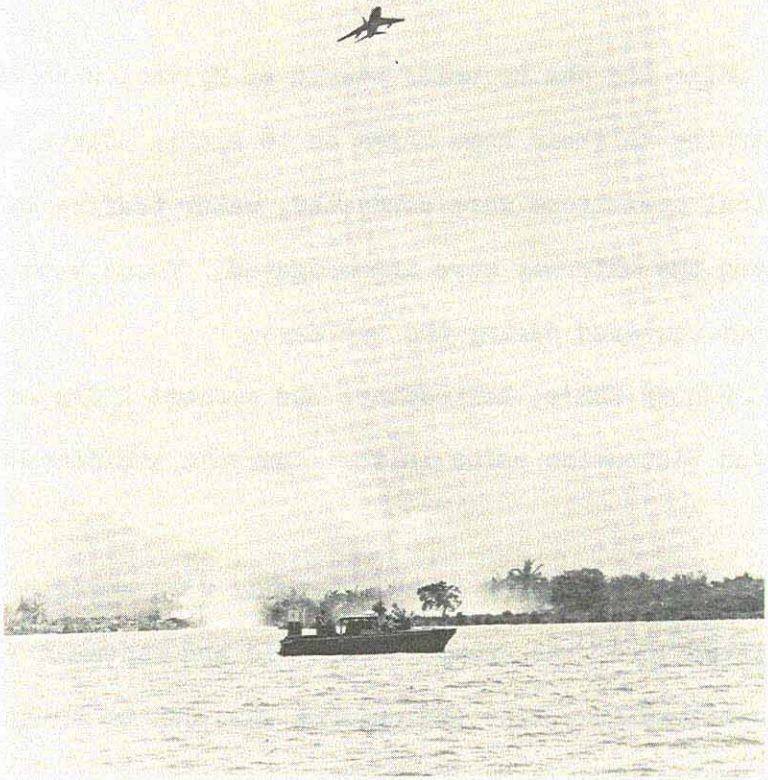

A U. S. Navy river patrol boat (PBR) patrols the inland bay at Qui Nhon as U. S. Air Force aircraft blast enemy positions on the beach in support of ROK troops.

section 532 and USS HUNTERDON COUNTRY (LST838) provided blocking forces for the Korean Army ground sweep, conducted 20-26 April, that resulted in over 200 enemy killed and 76 captured. There were no TF 116 personnel casualties sustained by the units that actively engaged the enemy. The PBR's on one occasion captured and detained 11 Viet Cong that had attempted to escape by sampan.

During the operation HUNTERDON COUNTY coordinated PBR communications with elements of Korean, U.S. Army, TF 115, and U.S. Air Force units. During the operation it became evident that HUNTERDON COUNTY'S extensive com-

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munication package gave the ship a unique capability among the diverse units actively involved. The capability to guard four FM frequencies simultaneously was of a great advantage and a major factor in the ship's participation in the operation.

General KIM, Chief of Staff, ROKA, advised that complete success of the operations occurred only as a direct result of the presence of PBR and harbor defense units in blocking the waterways.

In recognition of the splendid performance of River Section 532 and HUNTERDON COUNTY, COMNAVFORV dispatched the following message:

> "I HAVE READ WITH PLEASURE THE MANY GLOWING REPORTS OF THE OUTSTANDING SUPPORT YOU PROVIDED THE ROK UNITS INVOLVED IN OPERATION MAENG HO II. IT IS APPARENT THAT A LARGE MEASURE OF SUCCESS OF THIS OPERATION CAN BE ACCREDITED TO U.S. NAVY UNITS. I REALIZE THAT AT TIMES THE GOING WAS ROUGH BUT YOU HAVE EARNED THE ADMIRATION OF ALL CONCERNED.
> WELL DONE. RADM VETH."

***

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

On the morning of 4 April, SS PLAIN BLUFF VICOTRY came under enemy heavy weapons fire while transiting the Long Tau shipping channel about 8 miles southeast of Nha Be. PBR's quickly responded to the attack. A Vietnamese woodcutter informed the PBR patrol officer that he saw 12 Viet Cong running west. Army and Navy helicopters soon converged on the area as the PBR's commenced rounding up sampans seen leaving the area. A fixed-wing air strike destroyed three bunkers and two firing positions. The air strike was followed by 105-mm artillery fire. At 1005 PBR's

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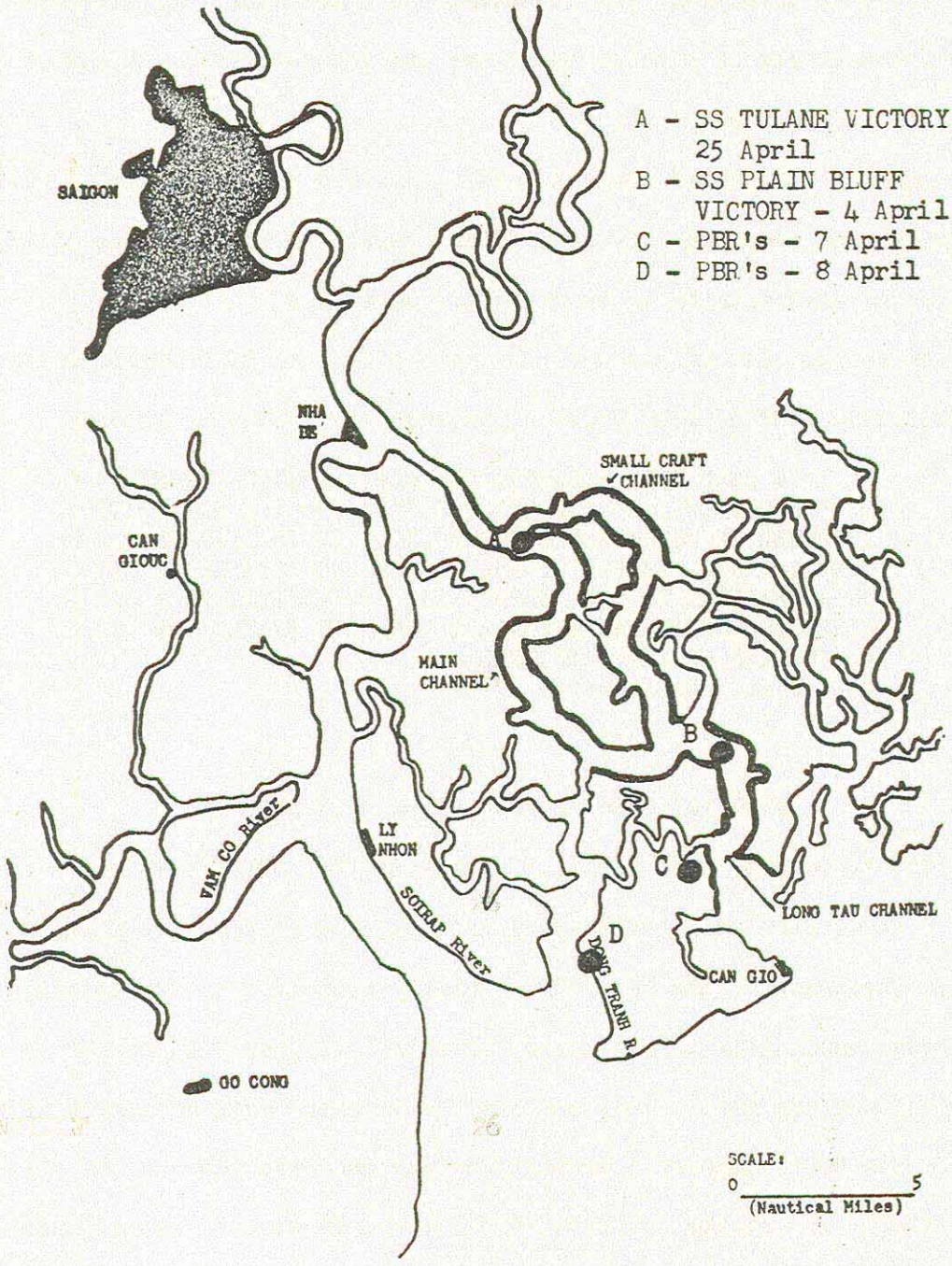
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS



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Members of SEAL Team Detachment "G", stationed in Nha Be, listen intently as their officer-in-charge, Lieutenant J. W. SCHROPP, USN, briefs them on their upcoming mission in RSSZ.

landed 60 RF soldiers to conduct a ground sweep. The Vietnamese troopers found and destroyed ten additional bunkers. Enemy casualties were undetermined. Ship damage was negligible.

At 2142 on 7 April a PBR patrol from TE 116.4.1.1., on a special psychological operation (intelligence gathering mission), detected an evading sampan moving west to east on the Dong Tranh River about 9 miles southeast of Nha Be. The sampan was observed by one PBR that had anchored in ambush 20 minutes after the cover PBR had passed through the area as a

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diversion. When the sampan, with six Viet Cong aboard, was taken under fire, the enemy returned the fire. In the ensuing firefight, the PBR sailors killed four, one of whom was a female nurse, captured one and probably killed the sixth Viet Cong. The sampan that was destroyed contained one U.S. M-1 carbine with ammunition belt; one CHICOM carbine with ammunition belt; six pounds of documents; five pounds of medical supplies including a complete surgical kit and 20 pounds of clothing. There were no friendly casualties.

On the evening of 8 April, PBR's from River Section 541, while on a special night patrol, received rocket and heavy automatice weapons fire from a large enemy bunker located about 11 miles southeast of Nha Be. The first rocket fired scored a direct hit on the forward .50 caliber gun mount, passed through the gun shield and continued through the body of the gunner. The after .50 caliber gunner immediately opened fire in unison with the lead PBR into the enmy positions and cleared the kill zone. Helicopter gunships were scrambled to the area to cover the PBR's exit. An Army helicopter was quickly brought into a secured landing zone to the east of the ambush site to medically evacuate Engineman Third Class Steve D. LEDFORD, USN, the critically wounded forward gunner, to Vung Tau; LEDFORD was dead on arrival. Other than a secondary explosion noted in the enemy bunker, enemy casualties were unknown. Three additional PBR sailors received slight wounds and the PBR sustained moderate damage in the action.

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On 25 April at 1000, SS TULANE VICTORY was attacked about 6 miles southeast of Nha Be on the Long Tau River, while enroute to Saigon. The ship received at least two RPG-7 rocket hits, plus heavy automatic-weapons fire, along the starboard side. The TULANE VICTORY sustained pentration damage in five positions and the starboard life boat was heavily damaged. There were, however, no personnel casualties. Navy "Seawolves" were over the ambush site within 10 minutes of the attack returning the enemy fire. PBR's and a U. S. Army helicopter fire team soon joined the Navy Helicopters, that had drawn enemy fire and received several hits. The combined fire power soon suppressed the enemy action. A fixed-wing air strike was made on the Viet Cong firing positions and withdrawal route, destroying at least two bunkers. Regional Force troops and Vietnamese Commandos were landed and conducted a ground sweep; however, contact with the elusive enemy was not achieved.

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DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

On the morning of 7 April SEAL's operating from the PBR base at My Tho engaged an enemy force 4 miles northeast of Vinh Long. At 0500 Delta platoon was landed by PBR on the south bank of the river. The platoon patrolled 300 yards to the south and established an ambush area. At 0530 the 7th platoon landed by STAB about a mile up river where they moved inland about 300 yards and set an ambush. Two hours later the 7th platoon

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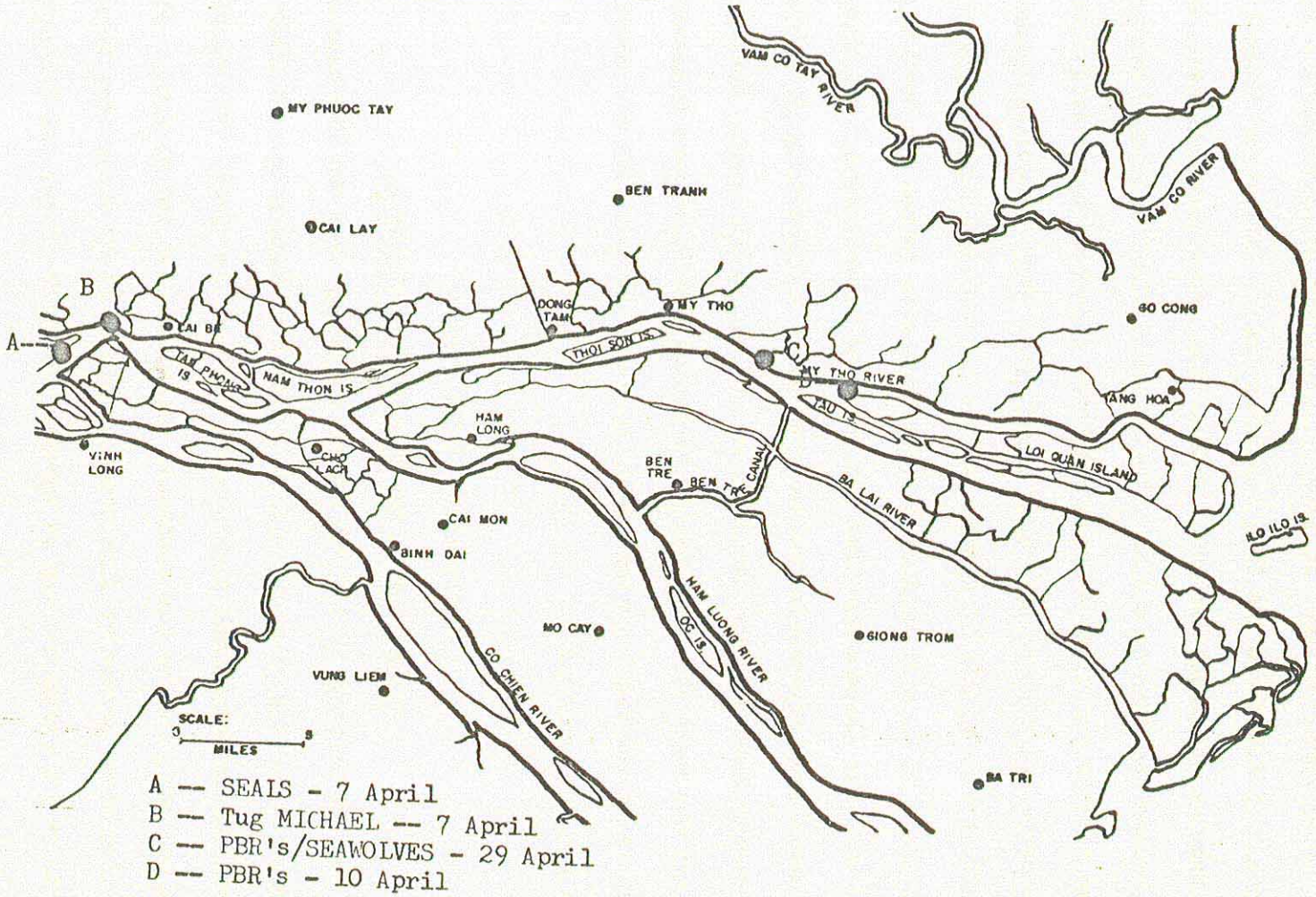
OPERATIONS IN THE MY THO RIVER



A -- SEALS - 7 April
B -- Tug MICHAEL -- 7 April
C -- PBR's/SEAWOLVES - 29 April
D -- PBR's - 10 April

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opened fire on the forward element of an estimated Viet Cong platoon. A heavy counter fire was received. Meanwhile, Delta platoon engaged 2-3 snipers and began moving west to assist the 7th platoon by providing a flank security for their withdrawal. The 7th platoon withdrew to the river and was picked up by PBR's at 0830 under the cover of Navy helicopters that were striking the enemy positions. Twenty minutes later Delta platoon cleared the area in a STAB. Five Viet Cong were killed during the heavy exchange of fire. It was highly probable that an additional three enemy soldiers were killed. The SEAL's suffered no casualties.

On 7 April the commercial tug MICHAEL, of the Alaskan Barge and Tug Company, under U. S. military contract, was hit by RPG-7 rockets and automatic-weapons fire on the My Tho River, about 8 miles north of Vinh Long. The master and mate were killed in the attack. PBR's responding to the attack, arrived on the scene 15 minutes later and escorted the tug clear of the ambush area. No contact was made with the enemy by the PBR's.

On 10 April five PBR's from 116.2.3 and two PBR's from TU 116.3.5 actively engaged the enemy while providing support to a Vietnamese Armed Propaganda Team operation conducted about 3½ miles north of Vinh Long. The action began at 1513 when the PBR's landed troops and an Australian advisor, from Vinh Long, who were to sweep north and recapture an outpost that was held by the Viet Cong. PBR 87 landed eight troops and the advisor and had withdrawn as PBR 83 started in to make a landing.

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Suddenly the landing area came under automatic weapons and small arms fire. Still with about 100 meters to the landing area, PBR 83 charged in and landed the troops to assist the friendly forces that were pinned down by the enemy fire. The enemy fire increased and the PBR's began receiving fire. All seven boats with all guns blazing raked the flanks of the friendly position to provide a cover for the troop withdrawal. All troops scrambled back aboard the PBR except the advisor. A minute later the Australian appeared with two Viet Cong firing at him and the PBR. The PBR sailors returned fire and killed one Viet Cong as the advisor killed the other. With all troops now on board PBR 83 rapidly cleared the area. The PBR's made saturating firing runs on the area, followed by "Seawolf" rocket and machine gun attacks. The Navy armed helicopters and patrol boats continued to draw fire. After the "Seawolves" had completed their air attacks, the PBR's made three more firing runs on the enemy position, however, they drew fire only on the first pass. At 1602 the action was terminated with four known Viet Cong killed and at least three structures destroyed. There were no U.S. casualties.

With the suppression of the enemy fire, all units departed the area at 1615, except for two PBR's, from TU 116.3.5, that remained behind to watch for any further enemy activity. The patrol did not have to wait very long, for at 1624, numerous males were seen moving in the tree line. The boats once again came under enemy fire. As the PBR's responded in kind, they were joined by two more boats from TU 116.3.5 and a helicopter light

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fire team in the attack on the Viet Cong positions. The Viet Cong broke contact. Action resumed again at 1650 when a beached sampan was taken under fire by two PBR's. The sampan blew apart in a violent explosion that tossed portions of the craft about 200 feet in the air. At 1700 the Viet Cong opened fire once again, but this time their target was a passing steel hull merchant ship. The enemy was engaged once again and at 1830 the Viet Cong broke contact. The late afternoon action resulted in the destruction of two sampans, and an additional eight structures. The number of casualties inflicted on the enemy was undetermined. There were no friendly casualties.

On the morning of 16 April PBR's while pursuing an evading sampan, about 7 miles northeast of Vinh Long, suddenly received three rocket rounds and automatic weapons fire. The boats were not hit in the attack. Three "Seawolves" were soon overhead and placed three coordinated air attacks on the enemy positions on the north bank of the river. When the helicopters made their first firing run they encountered heavy automatic weapons fire. The Navy flyers met only sporadic fire on their second pass and all fire was suppressed on the final strike. The helicopter/PBR team killed six Viet Cong, detained one suspect, destroyed six sampans and nine structures, and damaged six other sampans. No casualties were sustained by the Navymen.

On the evening of 29 April, at the request of the Truc Giong Sub-sector advisor, a coordinated strike on a suspected Viet Cong meeting

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place, 3 miles southeast of My Tho, was launched by PBR's and "Seawolves." What was believed to have been a harassment and interdiction firing resulted in the killing of seven enemy soldiers and the probable wounding of four others.

Operations in the Ham Luong River

On the afternoon of 2 April a two-boat patrol from River Section 532 was taken under fire by Viet Cong troops about 4½ miles south of Ben Tre at the northern end of Oc Island. The enemy firing from the west bank of the river forced the PBR's toward the west bank of the island where enemy firing positions opened up with automatic weapons. The PBR's engaged the enemy now firing on both flanks until "Seawolves" arrived and with multiple machine gun and 2.75 rocket attacks soon supressed the Viet Cong fire. Meanwhile, suspecting that the ambush was a diversion for a river crossing attempt, an additional PBR patrol took station on the lower eastern side of the island. The patrol encountered fire from the west bank of the river near the Tren Stream. Fire was returned by the PBR's and Navy helicopters suppressing the enemy fire. At the northern ambush site PBR 124 attempted to retrieve some sampans, noted at the Oc Island firing position and encountered rifle grenade and automatic weapons fire. The boats returned fire and the "Seawolves" swept back in with guns blazing, setting off three secondary explosions, while the PBR caused another secondary explosion. USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST838), home base for the PBR's and helicopter fire teams, moved up river and took up a position at the

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northern end of the island and provided supporting fire with her 40-mm cannons.

Meanwhile, at the southeastern end of the island, one sampan managed to slip through the friendly fire barrage and disappeared up the Thu Cuu Stream on the east bank of the river. No other sampans attempted a crossing. It was reported by an island refugee that one platoon of Viet Cong was on the island. There was no attempt made to blockade the island due to the unavailability of quick reaction forces and the unacceptable risks of maintaining boats on the eastern side of the island for any period of time.

Three sampans were destroyed during the firefights by the PBR's and helicopters and three structures and two sampans were destroyed by the LST's guns. Three PBR sailors slightly wounded and PBR 124 suffered moderate damage in the enemy encounter.

On 24 April four Mark II PBR's from River Section 534 while transiting the Ben Tre/Chet Soy Canal came under heavy weapons fire, about 3 miles east of Ben Tre. PBR 712, the last boat in the column, received the brunt of the attack when at least two B-40 rockets slammed into the boat, disabling it and wounding several crewmen; the craft ran up on the west bank of the canal. The remaining boats reversed course to provide fire for the stricken PBR. PBR 716 proceeded alongside PBR 712 and removed the wounded crewmen. PBR 719 was then hit by a rocket that put the starboard engine out of operation. Volunteers returned to PBR 712 and while

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under enemy fire removed as much equipment and classified material as possible. As the firefight continued, with Navy helicopters providing overhead cover until their ammunition was exhausted, salvage of the boat was attempted. Two PBR's pulled the 712 boat clear of the bank; however, the stricken craft rapidly flooded, despite efforts to stem the incoming water, and sunk, stern first in about 35 feet of water at high tide. In view of the tactical situation and a low ammunition supply remaining on board the PRB's, the boats cleared the area. The enemy, later identified as elements of the Viet Cong 516th Battalion, continued their fire with a determined intent to stop the boats. The boats returned down river since the worst stretch of the canal still lay ahead at the Va Nai junction. Equally important was the necessity to render medical attention to the wounded.

A fixed-wing air strike was called in later to destroy the sunken boat to prevent the enemy from salvaging it.

A total of eight PBR sailors were wounded in the action, one seriously. PBR 712 was destroyed, PBR 719 sustained major battle damage and PBR 716 and 717 received minor bullet and shrapnel damage. Enemy casualties were undetermined.

It was strongly felt that PBR 712 could have been towed to safety, even though partially sunk, if flotation gear similar to that installed in Mark I boats was present.

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A -- PBR's 49/136
13 April

B -- SEAWOLVES - 1 April

OPERATIONS IN THE CO CHIEN RIVER

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Operations in the Co Chien River

On the morning of 1 April the USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST786) based helicopter light fire team sighted several sampans in a specified strike zone at the mouth of the river on the south bank. The "Seawolves" took the targets under fire damaging four of the enemy craft. A short time later another sampan was sighted on the north bank. This craft was attacked and damaged by the Navy flyers. The patrol, then acting on intelligence from the Thanh Phu sector advisor that a company of Viet Cong were located along a known communications-liaison route about a mile east of Thanh Phu, headed northwest. The "Seawolves" arrived on target and commenced multiple machine-gun and rocket attacks on the enemy small arms fire. Three Viet Cong soldiers were killed and five were wounded in the attacks.

On 13 April PBR's 49 and 136, while on a routine patrol on the lower Co Chien River, came under an enemy B-40 rocket attack about 3 miles north of Phu Vinh. One rocket, fired from the west bank, hit PBR 49 on the port-side amidships wounding three crewmen -- one seriously. PBR 136 returned the enemy fire as PBR 49 withdrew from the attack site and headed for GARRETT COUNTY to evacuate the wounded. Navy "Seawolves" on patrol were diverted to the scene of the action and took under fire two Viet Cong seen running from the rocket firing position. One Viet Cong was gunned down. The gunships soon suppressed the enemy fire that the helicopters encountered. PBR 136 was joined by PBR's 143 and 145 and the three boats

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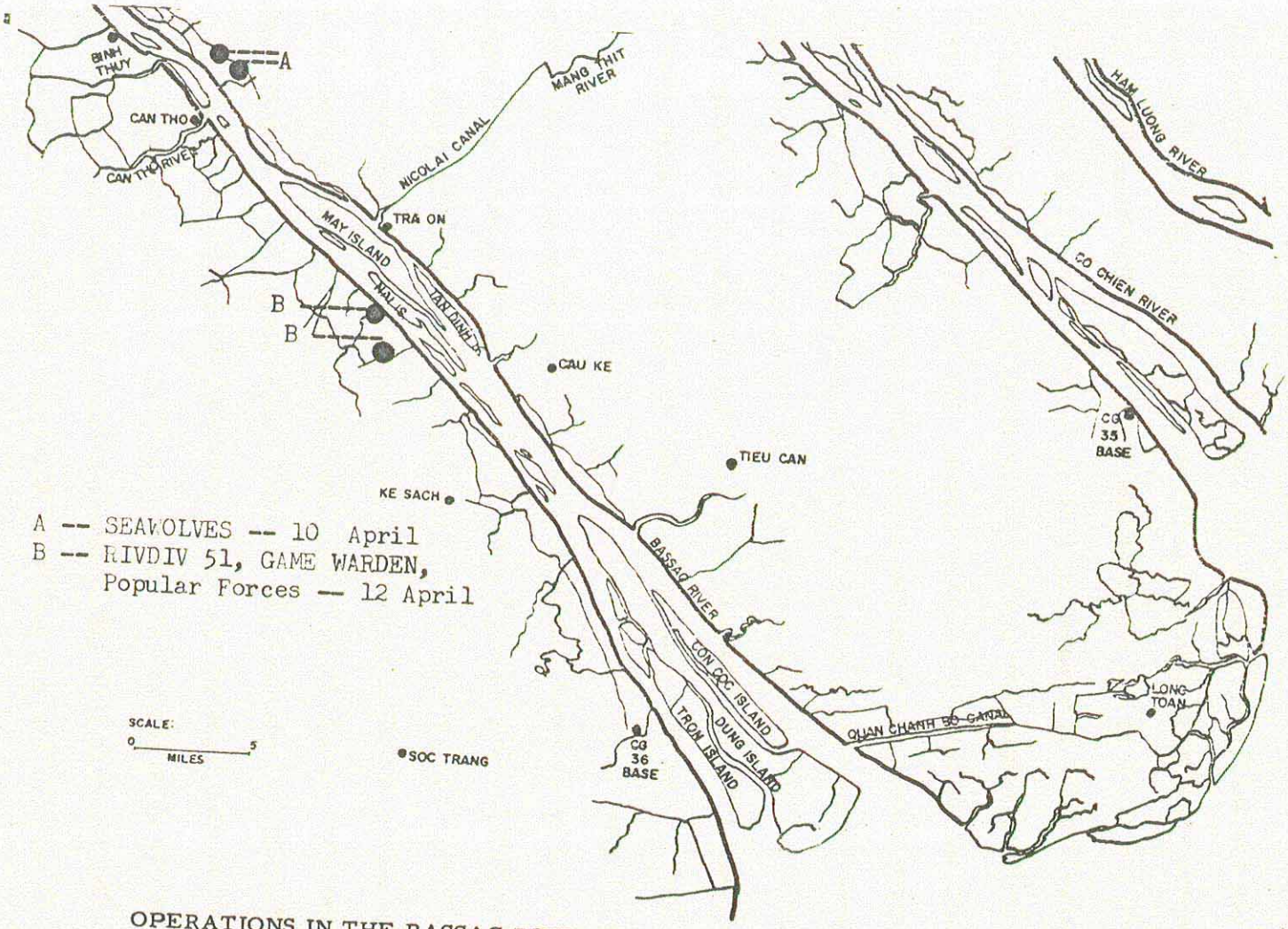

A -- SEAWOLVES -- 10 April
B -- RIVDIV 51, GAME WARDEN,
Popular Forces -- 12 April

OPERATIONS IN THE BASSAC RIVER

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proceeded into a canal in search of targets. The PBR sailors were soon engaged with the enemy when the boats began receiving small arms and automatic weapons fire. Two firing runs were made against the enemy position and the enemy guns were silenced. The boats, however, were under attack once again as they exited the canal. Fire was returned and soon suppressed by the PBR's and a Navy helicopter gunship. GARRETT COUNTY also joined in the fight by saturating the area with her 40-mm cannons. Destruction inflicted on the enemy totaled one Viet Cong killed, six structures destroyed, five structures damaged and three offensive bunkers damaged.

Operations in the Bassac River

On 6 April a light helicopter fire team from Binh Thuy-based Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE, Detachment Seven (TU 116.1.9), flew a mission in support of Popular Force troops operating in Ke Sach subsector, Ba Xuyen sector. The air strike conducted by the "Seawolves" against enemy positions resulted in 30 Viet Cong killed in action.

During the period 8-14 April four PBR's from River Section 511 (TU 116.1.1) conducted special patrols on the upper Bassac River in the vicinity of Chau Doc to extend US/GVN naval presence, collect intelligence, conduct psychological operations, and enforce curfews.

On 10 April the Navy "Seawolves" once again supported Popular Force troops in contact with the enemy about 4 miles northeast of Can Tho. The armed helicopters placed repeated strikes in the areas of Viet Cong

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concentrations. Nine Viet Cong were killed and probably at least 14 more were killed by the Navy gunners. There were also three structures destroyed and eight damaged by the air action.

On 11 April, SEAL Team Detachment ALFA, Eighth Platoon, led by Lieutenant Henry J. RHINEBOLT, USN, officer in charge of the detachment, concluded a two-week intelligence gathering operation in the western Mekong Delta. Based in the vicinity of Tach Gia, on the Gulf of Thailand, the SEAL's investigated reports of extensive Viet Cong movement and resupply along the coastline and south from the Cambodian border in Kien Giang Province. Their observations indicated that there was very little activity along the coast; however, there was considerable Viet Cong movement along an inland supply route. During the course of the operation, the SEAL's killed 10 Viet Cong, captured 4 and seized 3 enemy weapons.

On 12 April, Commander River Division 51 conducted a combined GAME WARDEN/Popular Force operation on the Vong and Cu canals, about 15 miles southeast of Can Tho. Eight PBR's from Task Unit 116.1.2 and 116.1.3., two light helicopter fire teams from Task Units 116.1.8 and 116.1.9 and USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST821) participated in the 7½ hour operation. After the troops were landed by the patrol boats in the area of a known Viet Cong concentration, the PBR's provided a blocking force for the troops that made immediate contact with the enemy. The Navy helicopters gunships continued their pre-landing air strikes against the enemy positions and remained overhead throughout the operation. HARNETT COUNTY served as a

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rearming and refueling station for the helicopter fire teams. In the ensuing ground fighting 11 Viet Cong were killed and 10 were captured. The most significant accomplishment of the operation was the liberation of 34 Vietnamese prisoners found chained in bunkers when the Popular Force troops over-ran a Viet Cong prison camp. Eight of the prisoners released were Popular Force troops that had been held capture for two years by the enemy. Two rifles, two sampans and documents were captured, three sampans and two structures were destroyed and six structures were damaged by the friendly forces. The only casualties sustained were two Popular Force troops who were wounded slightly by punji pit booby traps.

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GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 3 April Captain Arthur W. PRICE, Jr., USN, relieved Captain Paul N. GRAY, USN, as Commander River Patrol Force (CTF 116) during ceremonies held at Binh Thuy, Republic of Vietnam (RVN).

On 3 April River Section 535 relocated from Binh Thuy to APL-55, vacated task unit designator 116.1.3 and assumed task unit designator 116.3.5. River Section 514 relocated from Nha Be to Binh Thuy and assumed task unit designator 116.1.3.

On 11 April USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST821) changed to the operational control of CTF 116 and arrived on station in the Bassac River. HARNETT COUNTY embarked River Section 513 (TU 116.1.4) and Helicopter Attack

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(Light) Squadron THREE (HAL-3), Detachment One (TU 116.1.8), and relieved USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST846) as TU 116.1.6 and commenced GAME WARDEN operations. JENNINGS COUNTY proceeded to Subic Bay, Philippines, for upkeep, changing to the operational control of CTF 76.

On 11 April River Section 513 vacated task unit designator 116.1.4 and assumed task unit designator 116.1.3. River Section 514 vacated task unit designator 116.1.3 and assumed task unit designator 116.1.4.

On 14 April USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST838) with River Section 532 embarked departed station on the Ham Luong River enroute to Qui Nhon (II CTZ) for special operations in support of elements of the Republic of Korea Army (ROKA). HAL-3, Detachment Five (TU 116.3.8) shifted to Dong Tam for the duration of the operation.

On 16 April APL-55 shifted location to the Ham Luong River near the mouth of the Ben Tre River in order to allow the embarked river sections to more adequately cover the area left vacant when HUNTERDON COUNTY departed station.

On 16 April HUNTERDON COUNTY arrived Qui Nhon, changed to the operational control of CTG 115.2 and began providing a blocking force for the ROKA ground operations.

On 22 April, Commander Charles N. STRANEY, USN, relieved Commander Donald WARTHEN, USN, as Commander Rung Sat Special Zone River Patrol Group (CTG 116.4) at Nha Be.

On 25 April SEAL Team Detachment GOLF, MIKE Platoon, relocated from

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the Rung Sat Special Zone to the APL-55 in the Ham Luong River. The platoon vacated task element designator 116.4.0.2 and assumed task element designator 116.3.0.2.

On 29 April USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST846) changed to the operational control of CTF 116 and arrived on station in the Co Chien River. After embarking River Section 523 (TU 116.2.4) and HAL-3, Detachment Four (TU 116.2.8), JENNINGS COUNTY relieved GARRETT COUNTY (LST786) as TU 116.2.6 and commenced GAME WARDEN operations.

On 29 April SEAL Team Detachment ALFA, Seventh Platoon, vacated TU 116.3.0 and was relieved by SEAL Team Detachment ALFA, Tenth Platoon, which assumed TE 116.3.0.1.

On 29 April River Section 525 assumed task element designator 116.4.1.4.

On 30 April USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST786) proceeded to Subic Bay, Philippines, for upkeep, changing to the operational control of CTF 76 enroute.

Task Force Organization end of April

Task Designator	Unit	Location
CTF 116	COMRIVPATRON	BINH THUY
CTG 116.1	COMRIVDIV 51	BINH THUY
CTU 116.1.0	SEAL TEAM DET ALFA, EIGHT PLT	BINH THUY
CTU 116.1.1	OIC RIVPATSEC 511	BINH THUY
CTU 116.1.2	OIC RIVPATSEC 512	BINH THUY
CTU 116.1.3	OIC RIVPATSEC 513	HARNETT COUNTY
CTU 116.1.4	OIC RIVPATSEC 514	BINH THUY
CTU 116.1.6	CO HARNETT COUNTY (LST821)	BASSAC RIVER
CTU 116.1.8	OIC HAL-3, DET ONE	HARNETT COUNTY

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Task Force Organization end of April (CONT'D)

Task Designator	Unit	Location
CTU 116.1.9	OIC HAL-3, DET 7	BINH THUY
CTG 116.2	COMRIVDIV 52	VINH LONG
CTU 116.2.0	OIC SEAL TEAM DET ALFA, NINTH PLTN	VINH LONG
CTU 116.2.1	OIC RIVPATSEC 524	SA DEC
CTU 116.2.3	OIC RIVPATSEC 522	VINH LONG
CTU 116.2.4	OIC RIVPATSEC 523	GARRETT COUNTY
CTU 116.2.6	CO JENNINGS COUNTY (LST846)	CO CHIEN RIVER
CTU 116.2.8	OIC HAL-3, DET 4	JENNINGS COUNTY
CTU 116.2.9	OIC HAL-3, DET 3	VINH LONG
CTG 116.3	COMRIVDIV 53	MY THO
CTU 116.3.0	OIC SEAL TEAM DET ALFA, TENTH PLTN	MY THO
CTE 116.3.0.1	OIC SEAL TEAM DET ALFA, TENTH PLTN	MY THO
CTE 116.3.0.2	OIC SEAL TEAM DET GOLF, MIKE PLTN	APL-55
CTU 116.3.1	OIC RIVPATSEC 533	MY THO
CTU 116.3.2	OIC RIVPATSEC 531	MY THO
CTU 116.3.3	OIC RIVPATSEC 534	APL-55
CTU 116.3.4	OIC RIVPATSEC 532	HUNTERDON COUNTY
CTU 116.3.5	OIC RIVPATSEC 535	APL-55
CTU 116.3.6	CO HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST838)	SPECIAL OPS II CTZ
CTU 116.3.8	OIC HAL-3, DET 5	DONG TAM
CTU 116.3.9	OIC HAL-3, DET 6	DONG TAM
CTG 116.4	COMRSSZRIVPATGRU	NHA BE
CTU 116.4.0	OIC SEAL TEAM DET GOLF	NHA BE
CTE 116.4.0.1	OIC MOBILE SUPPORT TEAM THREE	NHA BE
CTE 116.4.0.3	OIC SEAL TEAM DET GOLF, DELTA PLTN	NHA BE
CTE 116.4.0.4	OIC SEAL TEAM DET GOLF, BRAVO PLTN	NHA BE
CTU 116.4.1	COMRIVDIV 54	NHA BE
CTE 116.4.1.1	OIC RIVPATSEC 541	NHA BE
CTE 116.4.1.2	OIC RIVPATSEC 542	NHA BE
CTE 116.4.1.4	OIC RIVPATSEC 525	NHA BE
CTU 116.4.2	OIC MINRON 11 DET ALFA	NHA BE
CTU 116.4.8	OIC HAL-3, DET 2	NHA BE
CTG 116.5	COMRIVRON FIVE	BINH THUY
CTG 116.6	OIC SEAL TEAM DET ALFA	BINH THUY
CTU 116.6.0	SEAL TEAM DET ALFA, EIGHTH PLTN	BINH THUY

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Task Force Organization end of April (CONT'D)

Task Designator	Unit	Location
CTU 116.8.1	OIC MOBSUPPORT TEAM TWO	BINH THUY
CTG 116.8	CO HAL-3	VUNG TAU

COMRIVDIV 55 and OIC RIVSEC 521 located Danang. Task designator unassigned these units.

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GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
April 1968

1. PBR Statistics:

a. Total Patrols (Two Boats):	Day	886	Night	905
b. Total Contacts:	Day	88,555	Night	8,115
c. Total Inspected:	Day	21,170	Night	2,171
d. Total Boarded:	Day	47,504	Night	2,570
e. People Detained:	824			
f. Sampans/Junks Detained:	0			
g. Total Patrol Hours:	44,483.5			

2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:

a. Total Flight Hours:	1,065.7
b. Helicopter Missions:	
(1) Preplanned strikes:	267
(2) Reaction:	159
(3) Targets of opportunity:	375
(4) Support:	362

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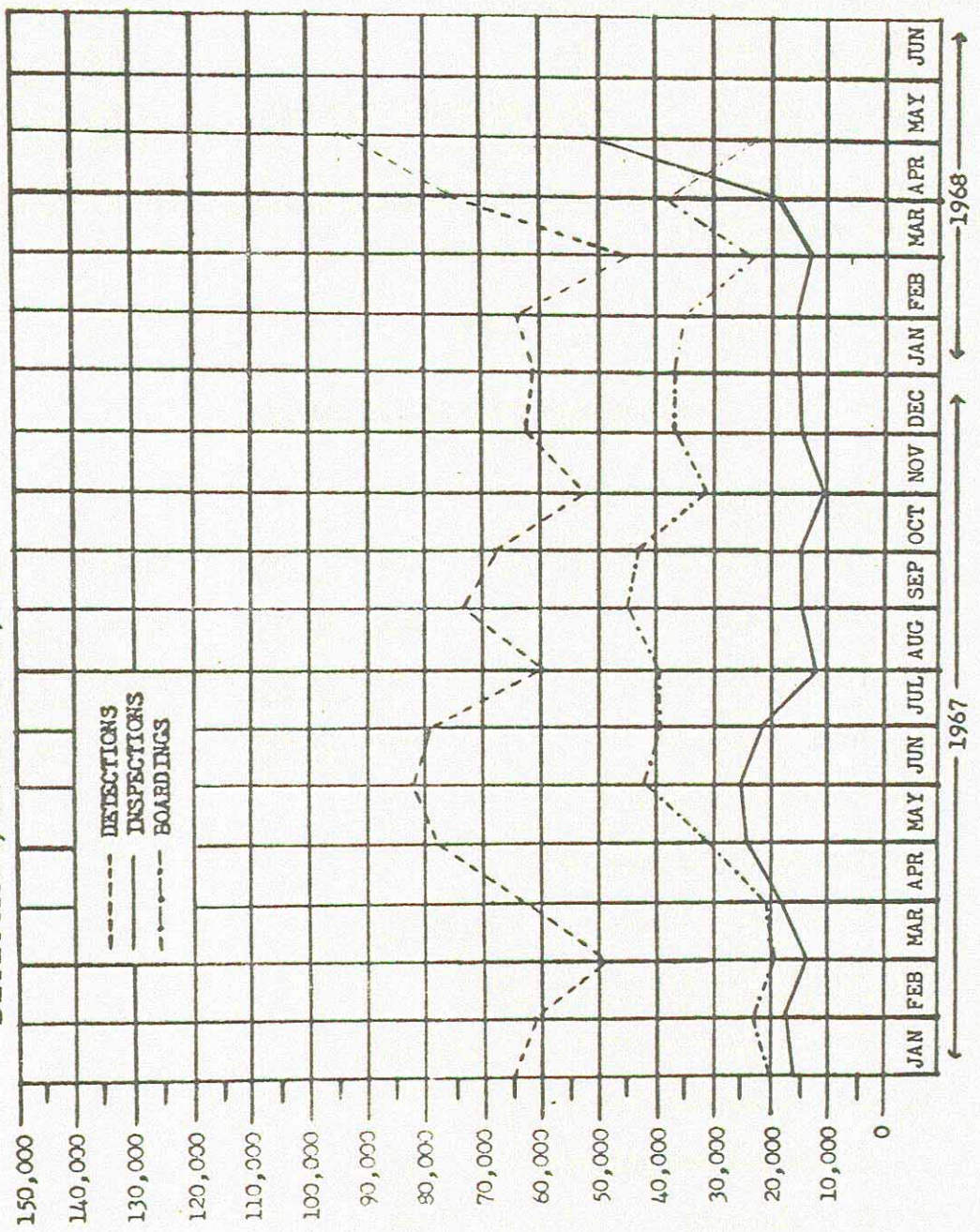

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3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

a. Fire Fights:

(1) PBR	33
(2) Helo	126
(3) MSB	0
(4) LCM	1
(5) LCPL	0
(6) STAB	0

b. Sampans: Destroyed: 127 Damaged: 237 Captured: 1

c. Junks: Destroyed: 0 Damaged: 4 Captured: 0

d. Structures: Destroyed: 146 Damaged: 163

e. Bunkers: Destroyed: 1 Damaged: 8

f. Enemy: KIA 76 KIA (Poss.) 44 WIA 18 CAP 3

g. Friendly: KIA 1 WIA 38

h. Friendly Battle Damage:

(1) PBR	38
(2) Helo	18
(3) LST	0

i. PBR MEDEVAC: 76

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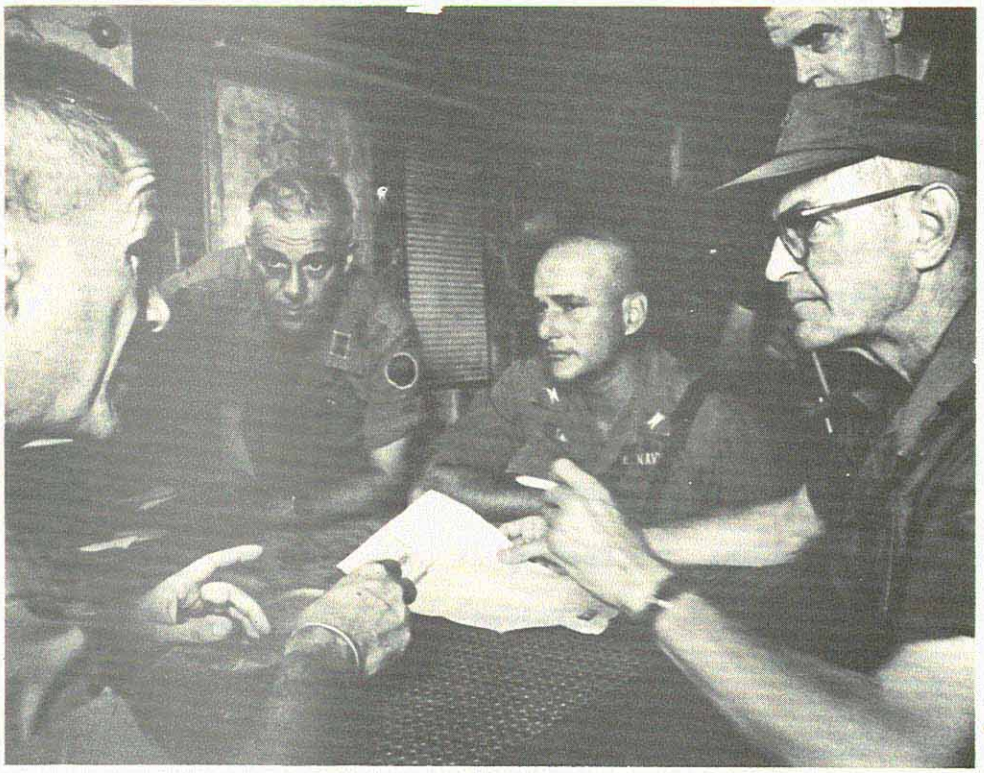

U. S. Army and Navy officers discuss strategy during a planning conference in the Mobile Riverine Force field headquarters at the fire support base. The officers are (left to right) Brigadier General KNOWLTON, USA, Assistant Division Commander, 9th Infantry Division; Colonel Bert A. DAVIS, USA, Commanding Officer of the 9th Division's Second Brigade; Captain R. S. SALZER, USN, Commanding Officer of Navy Riverine Assault Flotilla ONE; and Major General Julian J. EWELL, USA, Commanding General, 9th Infantry Division. The fifth participant (upper right) in the photo is unidentified.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

During the month of April the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) operated primarily in Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa provinces. Total losses inflicted on the enemy by the assault forces of the MRF amounted to 285 Viet Cong killed, 11 prisoners captured and 1,665 structures destroyed. MRF casualties during the same period were 41 killed (3 USN, 34 USA, 4 VNMC) and 264 wounded (66 USN, 170 USA, 28 VNMC). After a MRF planning session with IV Corps personnel at Can Tho on 16 April, the 2nd Battalion Vietnamese Marine Corps became firmly committed to operations in cooperation and coordination with the MRF. The battalion moved to bivouac sites near Dong Tam on the following day and immediately commenced familiarization training with River Assault Division (RAD) 112. During April PBR's, SEAL's and Navy armed helicopters of Task Force 116 participated in or supported several Task Force 117 riverine strike operations.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

On 2 April the 4/47th Infantry Battalion (Inf. Bn) conducted a one-day airmobile operation in Ham Luong District, just south of the Dong Tam anchorage, to destroy enemy fortifications, bunkers and gun emplacements in the area from which the MRF had been receiving harassment fire. Two Viet Cong were killed during the sweep operation and 170 bunkers and 3 huts were destroyed. One soldier was wounded, but not as a result of hostile action.

On 2 April while the MRF was anchored in the vicinity of Dong Tam a

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homemade booby trap was discovered aboard USS COLLETON (APB36). The explosive device, which consisted of C-4 explosive, shaped like a grenade, with an attached claymore detonator, was found in the auxiliary engine room alongside a pipe. MRF EOD personnel disarmed the device. This marked the first-known possible attempt at sabotage against a ship of the MRF. The source of the booby trap was not determined; however, a thorough investigation was initiated by the Naval Investigative Service, along with the implementation of more stringent internal security procedures and inspections.

On the morning of 4 April the MRF launched a two-battalion riverine and reconnaisance-in-force operation in Truc Giang and Giong Trom districts of Kien Hoa Province. The operation was initiated before dawn when RAD's 91 and 92 lifted the 4/47th and 3/47th Inf. Bns. into the Truc Giang operating area; after Task Force SIX GUN had been established in its fire support base (FSPB) on the Cua Tieu River 7 miles east-southeast of My Tho. Shortly after dawn the Mobile Riverine Base (MRB), less APL-26, relocated from Dong Tam, and was escorted to an anchorage on the My Tho River 5 miles east-southeast of My Tho in order to provide close support for the impending operation.

RAD 91 was unopposed as they beached their battalion at the first light on the banks of the Giao Hoa Canal one mile from the My Tho River. The riverine units continued to support the ground forces from the waterways as the troops ashore moved south on both banks toward the junction of the Giao Hoa Canal and the Ba Lai River -- often referred to as the "crossroads."

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At 0843 the assault craft of RAD 92 with their troops came under a vicious ambush from an enemy force of unknown size about 4 miles northeast of Ben Tre. The devastating assault occurred on the Ba Lai River just as the boats were moving in toward the beach to land their troops and consisted of heavy rocket, recoilless-rifle, automatic-weapons and small-arms fire. The land mass bordering the river at this point was a densely foliated jungle lined with coconut palm forests with thick underbrush at the water's edge, and the enemy fire came from heavily fortified and well-concealed bunkers within this maze. Despite the withering onslaught of intense enemy fire and the heavy casualties suffered, the riverine craft immediately delivered a barrage of cover fire at the attackers and landed their infantrymen. A violent firefight erupted. One company of troops landed directly in front of several enemy bunkers and remained pinned down in that precarious position for the rest of the day. Due to their proximity to the enemy fortification, supporting fire could not be delivered on the bunkers.

Five personnel were killed and more than 60 were wounded in the initial assault with the heavy fighting continuing throughout the morning. Two Navymen aboard monitor 92-2, Chief Boatswains' Mate Samuel C. CHAVOUS, USN, the boat captain, and Third Class Boatswains' Mate John D. WOODARD, USN, the coxswain, were killed and two others were wounded in the firefight. The Navymen were killed when an RPG-7 HEAT round exploded inside the coxswain's flat. Twenty-three other Navymen from RAD 92 assault craft were

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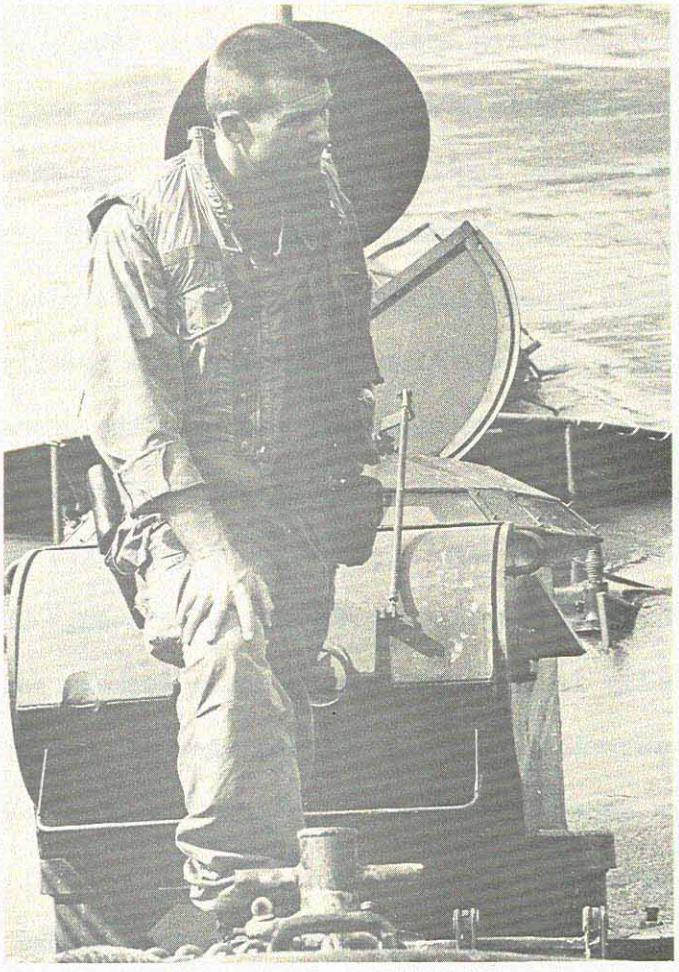

The Commander of River Assault Squadron 9, Commander L. H. HAMEL, III, USN, appears deep in thought as he contemplates what lies ahead while standing on the bow of a sunken ASPB -- a minesweeping craft from his squadron.

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also wounded in the initial attack.

Following the first two hours of heavy fighting, enemy resistance slackened off to steady harassment with machine-gun and small-arms fire. At 1230 six sailors aboard monitor 91-3 were wounded when their craft, patrolling on the Ba Lai River 500 yards west of the "crossroads," was attacked with rockets and automatic weapons. Three of the wounded men were "medevaced" from the combat scene; one of whom, Fireman Douglas G. MORTON, USN, died of wounds.

As a result of the combat action on 4 April, 11 assault craft received various degrees of material damage. The most extensive damage was inflicted on A-92-1 and A-92-4. A total of six RPG-7 rockets impacted against the two boats; three of which were direct hits on the .50-caliber gun mounts. One monitor, M-92-2, received a HEAT round through the opening between the 20-mm and .50-caliber gun mounts, killing the boat captain and the coxswain. One ATC received an RPG-7 round through the bow ramp, which severed the ramp winch cable and wounded 30 Army personnel in the well-deck. Another ATC was hit by an RPG-7 rocket amidships near the waterline. The rocket then triggered on the bar armor, penetrated the bulkhead and created a shrapnel effect inside the empty well-deck.

Sporadic contact with the fiercely resisting enemy continued throughout the first day and night. By the evening of 5 April 35 Viet Cong had been killed and 2 prisoners were captured. One of the prisoners identified his unit as the Viet Cong 516th Provincial Mobile Battalion. Friendly

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losses at that time were 10 killed (3 USN, 5 USA, 1 ARVN and 1 Vietnamese interpreter), 119 wounded (36 USN, 81 USA, 2 USMC), and 2 Armymen missing.

On 6 April after two days of rigorous fighting the MRF had a day of relative calmness as they shifted the center of operations from the Ba Lai River to a point 4 miles southeast of Ben Tre. Cumulative results for the three-day operation were 102 Viet Cong killed and 6 prisoners captured, while friendly forces had 33 killed (3 USN, 28 USA, 1 ARVN and 1 Vietnamese interpreter), and 152 wounded (36 USN, 81 USA, 2 USMC). The MRF units also destroyed 46 bunkers, captured 4 weapons and detained 25 Viet Cong suspects.

During the afternoon of 7 April the infantrymen were backloaded by RAD's 91 and 92 and returned to the MRB anchorage on the My Tho River about 5 miles east of My Tho; thereby, terminating a very costly operation for the MRF.

Operations in Dinh Tuong Province

On 9 April elements of RAD 111 transported a team of demolition experts from the MRF EOD and UDT detachments and Delta Company of the U. S. Army's 15th Engineers westward on the My Tho River to the mouth of the Cam Stream 2½ miles west of Dong Tam, the scene of a partially sunken bridge. Assisted by YLLC (light lift craft), the Army/Navy demolition team removed the obstruction; thereby, permitting the passage of riverine craft and facilitating MRF operations in the area.

The next day, based on a request from Commanding General, U. S. 9TH Infantry Division, the MRF conducted a one-battalion riverine operation -

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against a suspected enemy buildup in the vicinity of Vinh Kim and Long Dinh districts. RAD 92 lifted the 3/47th Inf. Bn. to beaches of the Rai River for a sweep up both river banks. No contact was established with the nomadic enemy, reportedly elements of the 514th Provincial Force Battalion; subsequently, the infantrymen were returned to the MRB later that afternoon.

On 11 April a two-day search and destroy operation was conducted in the Cho Gao District of Ding Tuong Province, the Hoa Dong District of Go Cong Province and the Binh Phouc District of Long An Province to locate and engage the Cho Gao District Control Unit (DCU) and elements of the 261st Main Force Battalion. This sizable enemy force was reportedly in the area of the intersection of the Cho Gao Canal and the Tra River 4 miles east-northeast of My Tho. Although contact with the Viet Cong was very light, the MRF destroyed 555 bunkers; 5 Viet Cong were killed and 23 suspects were detained while 1 soldier was wounded. Another Army-man was declared missing and believed to have drowned.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

Early on the morning of 14 April the MRF mounted a two-battalion operation in Giong Trom and Ben Tre districts. The ground elements found many signs of recent Viet Cong activity, but the enemy chose not to fight on the first day and no significant contact was established. Later in the day large caches of weapons and ammunition were discovered along the Ba Lai River 5 miles east-northeast of Ben Tre as the ground troops supported

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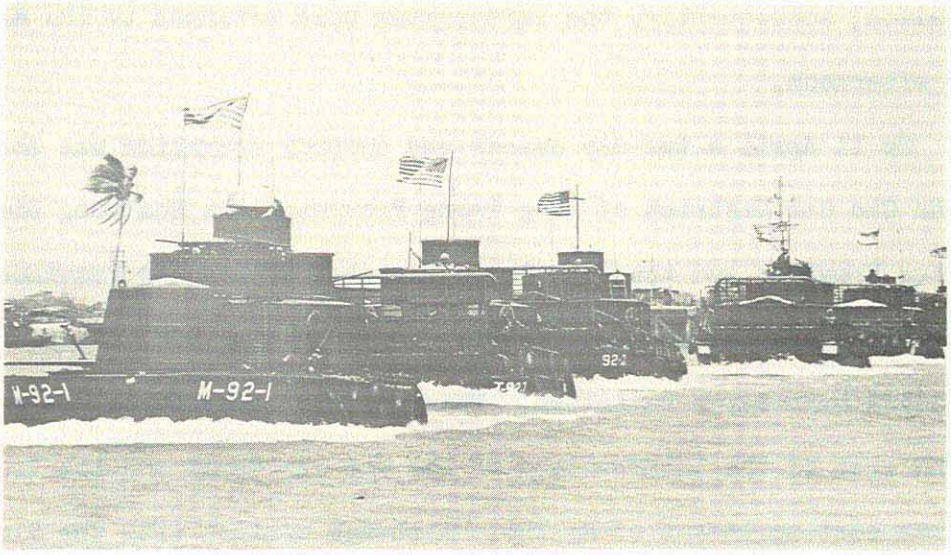

The monitor -- the "battleship" of the small fleet, leads a formation of River Assault Division 92 armored troop carriers on a river in the Mekong Delta.

by RAS 9 probed deeper into the Viet Cong base area. Among the arms and ammunition captured were 104 grenades, 49 mortars, 43 rocket/recoilless-rifle rounds, 10 bombs of an unknown type, 2 claymore mines, 2 "banglore" torpedoes, over 8,000 rounds of 7.62 ammunition and 40 cans of assorted small-arms ammunition.

The following day the boats of RAD 92 were attacked with rockets and automatic weapons from both banks of the Ba Lai River 6 miles northeast of Ben Tre while en route to backload troops of the 4/47th Inf. Bn.

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Although approximately 20 rockets were observed hitting the water around the riverine craft, only 1 rocket impacted against the boats. Fortunately, the rocket, which impedded itself in the styrofoam of ATC-92-10, never exploded. An Army helicopter light fire team was on the scene and assisted the craft in silencing the enemy attackers. There were no friendly casualties and enemy losses in the skirmish were undetermined.

Later that same afternoon at 1410 the MRB, which was anchored on the My Tho River 7 miles southeast of My Tho, was attacked by an unknown size enemy force from the south bank of the My Tho River. The daring mid-afternoon raid by enemy rocketeers armed with 57-mm and 75-mm recoilless rifles wounded 14 sailors and 4 soldiers. USS TOM GREEN COUNTY (LST1159), heavily laden with ammunition, was hit eight time and USS BENEWAH (APB35), the MRF flagship, was struck three times. The rockets all impacted above the waterline and caused only minor material damage to the two ships.

A specially configured LCN-6 AVGAS tanker, which was moored alongside BENEWAH, was struck during the attack and immediately cast-off when it burst into flames. Despite valiant efforts by the two MRF tugboats to extinguish the blaze, the fire raged out of control and was so destructive that the refueler sank.

Operations in Dinh Tuong Province

After a one-day rest at Dong Tam, the MRF launched a two-day riverine strike operation (17-18 April) in Long Dinh and Cai Lay district to engage the 514th Main Force Battalion. Riverine units transported two battalions

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of infantrymen up the Xang Canal and landed them along the Tong Doc Loc Canal about 5½ miles northeast of Cai Lay. Both landings were unopposed and the foot-soldiers swept generally south.

About 1100 that morning firm contact was made by the 4/47th Inf. Bn. with an unknown size enemy force 3 miles north of Cai Lay. As the battle raged throughout the afternoon, elements of the 3/47th Inf. Bn. moved in to engage the enemy on his east flank, and at 1535 both battalions were in heavy contact. The battle continued into the evening with both battalions still in contact after darkness; however, sometime during the night or early morning the enemy survivors exfiltrated from the area.

At dawn, the infantrymen resumed the search for the enemy, but it soon became apparent that the Viet Cong had departed the area and the Armymen were returned to the MRB. Final casualty figures revealed that 98 Viet Cong were killed and 3 captured at a cost of 4 U. S. soldiers killed and 33 others wounded. There were no Navy casualties during this period. The MRF also destroyed 239 bunkers, and captured 9 weapons and 8 tons of rice.

Noteworthy statistics for the five-day period of operation (14-18 April) were: 114 Viet Cong killed, 462 bunkers destroyed, 19 suspects detained and 4 U. S. soldiers killed.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

On 20 April the MRF conducted a one-day search and clear operation in Ham Luong and Truc Giang districts to locate and engage elements of the

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Viet Cong 550th Local Force Battalion and other enemy forces in the area. This marked the first combat operation with the MRF for the newly arrived 2nd Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps. At 0745 the Vietnamese Marines, supported by RAD 111, made an unopposed landing at beaches on the My Tho River 2½ miles southwest of My Tho, and were returned to Dong Tam from the operating area later that afternoon after a fruitless morning of searching for the elusive enemy.

Operations in Dinh Tuong Province

After several days with a minimum of enemy contact the MRF conducted a highly successful three-battalion reconnaissance-in-force operation (23-24 April) to engage the Viet Cong 502nd Main Force Battalion. The operation took place 8 miles northwest of Vinh Long in Giao Duc District.

The Vietnamese Marines were the first unit to establish contact with the enemy at 1000 on 23 April along the Ruong Stream 5 miles northeast of Sa Dec. The 3/47th Inf. Bn. immediately moved toward the area of contact to prevent the enemy's escape and to also complement the advance of the 2nd Battalion, VNMC. Working together as a well-coordinated battle team, the combined MRF units pinned down the beleagured enemy for the remainder of the day.

Meanwhile on the Dao Stream 8 miles east-northeast of Sa Dec, where RAD 111 craft were providing gunfire support to the Vietnamese Marines, ATC-111-7 took a direct hit in the coxswain's flat by an enemy rocket. The enemy attack which took place at 1645, was unleashed from a dense

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woodline and wounded three Navymen, one of them seriously. The assault boats returned and suppressed the enemy fire and then "medevaced" the three wounded crewmen.

On 24 April contact with the enemy was very light and the allied forces were withdrawn from the operating area and returned to their bases. The cumulative results of the two-day operation were 61 Viet Cong killed, 2 wounded and 2 more captured, while friendly forces lost 1 U.S. soldier and 4 Vietnamese Marines. There were also 3 Navymen, 6 Armymen and 27 Vietnamese Marines wounded during the engagement. The MRF units detained 66 suspects, destroyed 10 enemy structures and captured 5 weapons.

After the Giao Duc operation General William C. WESTMORELAND, USA, COMUSMACV, congratulated the men of the MRF when he sent the following message:

> "OUTSTANDING RESULTS OF RIVERINE ASSAULT OPERATIONS ON 23-24 APRIL WEST OF CAI BE EMPHASIZE GREAT VALUE OF THIS HARD HITTING CONCEPT. OFFICERS AND MEN OF 2ND BN VNMC, 3/47 AND 4/47 INFANTRY AND MRF DESERVE HIGH PRAISE. CONGRATULATIONS."

At 0245 on 23 April a roving sentry aboard TOM GREEN COUNTY sighted a swimmer with face mask on the surface of the water about 10-15 yards off the starboard quarter of the ship. The MRF support LST was at anchor with the MRF in the Mekong River 4 miles northwest of Ving Long. The lookout took the swimmer under fire with his M-1 rifle and the swimmer appeared to hide under a Boston Whaler moored aft of the pontoons. The MRB defense boats were alerted and saturated the area with concussion grenades, but no

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further evidence of the swimmer was detected.

Approximately 30-minutes later, two other TOM GREEN COUNTY personnel sighted a small light below the surface of the water about 45 yards off the starboard quarter. The light blinked several times before going out, as base defense boats moved in to investigate. Once again, the patrols failed to discover anything suspicious, and a thorough hull inspection yielded negative results. The commanding officer of the LST evaluated the incident as a positive swimmer sighting.

This marked the second time in the past month that a swimmer has been sighted in the water at the Vinh Long anchorage -- both times near, and by, TOM GREEN COUNTY. According to captured enemy documents, the Viet Cong sapper squads normally practiced at "dry runs" to probe the target's defense prior to an actual mining attempt. It proved interesting to note that both sightings were near the MRF support LST; suggesting that she was the priority target within the MRB, presumably because of the large ammunition supply on board.

During the period 25 April - 7 May MRF planned operations were tailored to avert a possible large scale Viet Cong attack on My Tho or Cai Lay. This was done by striking at suitable targets in the Cam Son/Ban Long/Ap Bac areas. The operations were planned as two-battalion riverine strikes with one battalion held in reserve as a ready-reaction force.

On 25-26 April local operations were conducted in the Dong Tam area while boat repairs were accomplished and battle plans were formulated for

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a riverine operation in the Cam Son Secret Zone. The local operation, conducted 2½ miles southeast of Dong Tam, resulted in the destruction of 40 enemy bunkers and 2 sampans and the detention of 9 Viet Cong suspects. Two Armymen were wounded during a brief exchange of fire with the enemy; however, Viet Cong losses were undetermined.

Riverine reconnaissance-in-force operations in Chai Be and Cai Lay districts were launched on 27 April to locate and engage the Viet Cong 514th Main Force Battalion and the Cai Lay District Control Unit.

The assualt commenced at 0100 when RAD 92 escorted TF SIX GUN to a fire support base on the south bank of the My Tho River near the mouth of the Ba Rai Stream 6½ miles southwest of Cai Lay. A few hours later RAD 91 lifted the 4/47th Inf. Bn. to beaches on the Luu River 4 miles west of Cai Lay and RAD 111 embarked the 2nd Battalion VNMC for landing on the Ba Rai Stream 5 miles south-southwest of Cai Lay. RAD 112, with the 3/47th Inf. Bn. embarked, landed the ready-reaction force on beaches on the north bank of the My Tho River 6½ miles southwest of Cai Lay. All landings were unopposed and contact was light during the day.

At first light the next day the ground forces recommenced their sweep operation but firm contact with the enemy was not established. Meanwhile the riverine units, patrolling the myriad of narrow waterways around the operating zone, became intensely involved in three separate firefights in which a total of 13 sailors were wounded.

The first ambush occurred at 0900 when boats of RAD 92 operating with

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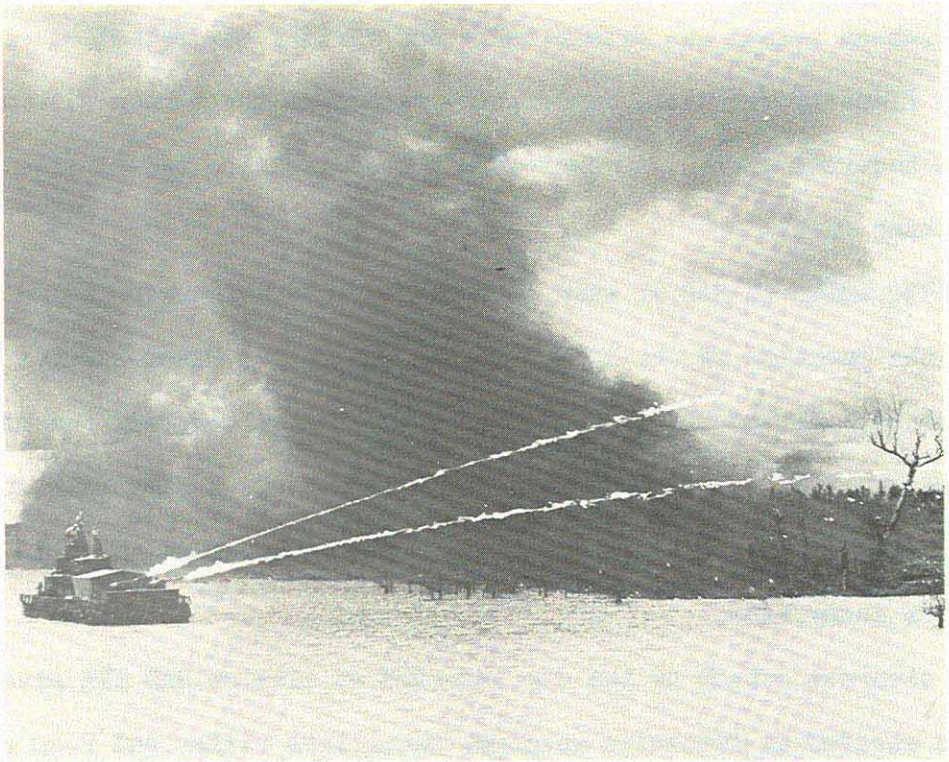

Flames from an armored troop carrier (flamethrower), as shown above were used to suppress enemy fire during an attack on RAD's 92 and 112 craft on 27 April. On that day, the enemy sprung an ambush while the boats were transiting the Tra Tan Stream

RAD 112, were transiting the Tra Tan Stream 5 miles southeast of Cai Lay and were attacked by small-arms, automatic-weapons and rocket fire as they approached the Nam Thon River. The fire was immediately suppressed by ATC-111-7 (flamethrower) and the area was saturated with 81-mm mortar fire from the assault boats. ATC-92-7 was struck by one B-40 rocket which caused minor damage to the craft. One crewmember of ASPB-112-1 was also wounded in the incident.

During the close-range ambush the effectiveness of flame units as

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a counter-ambush weapon was dramatically and vividly demonstrated. ATC-111-7, the flamethrower boat, immediately saturated the ambush site with deadly and accurate flame, and sanitized the entire area (70-80 meters) with scorching fire.

At 1130 units of RAD 91 were ambushed by automatic-weapons and rocket fire near the junction of the Ba Rai Stream and My Tho River 2 miles southeast of Cai Be. All of the rockets missed the boats; however, one man was wounded (minor) as the enemy fire was being silenced. A Navy helicopter fire team from TF 116 which was providing airborne cover assisted in suppressing the enemy fire.

The severest attack of the day occurred at 1145 as RAD 111 riverine craft were strafed by automatic weapons, recoilless rifles and B-40 rockets from both banks of the Rai River 6 miles west of Dong Tam. The boats took at least five B-40 rocket hits with five craft, including one monitor and four troop carriers, reporting moderate material damage. The fire was rapidly silenced, but not before 11 sailors were wounded. None of the wounded men were in serious condition as five were immediately returned to duty and six were "medevaced" to COLLETON for further treatment.

The operation continued until the end of the month with only sporadic contact. Two Viet Cong were captured during the four-day operation and one U. S. soldier was killed by a booby trap. A total of 13 Navymen, 7 soldiers, and 1 Vietnamese Marine were wounded during the reconnaissance-in-force operations. The MRF troops also detained 32 Viet Cong suspects,

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captured 8 weapons and destroyed 300 bunkers and 16 booby traps.

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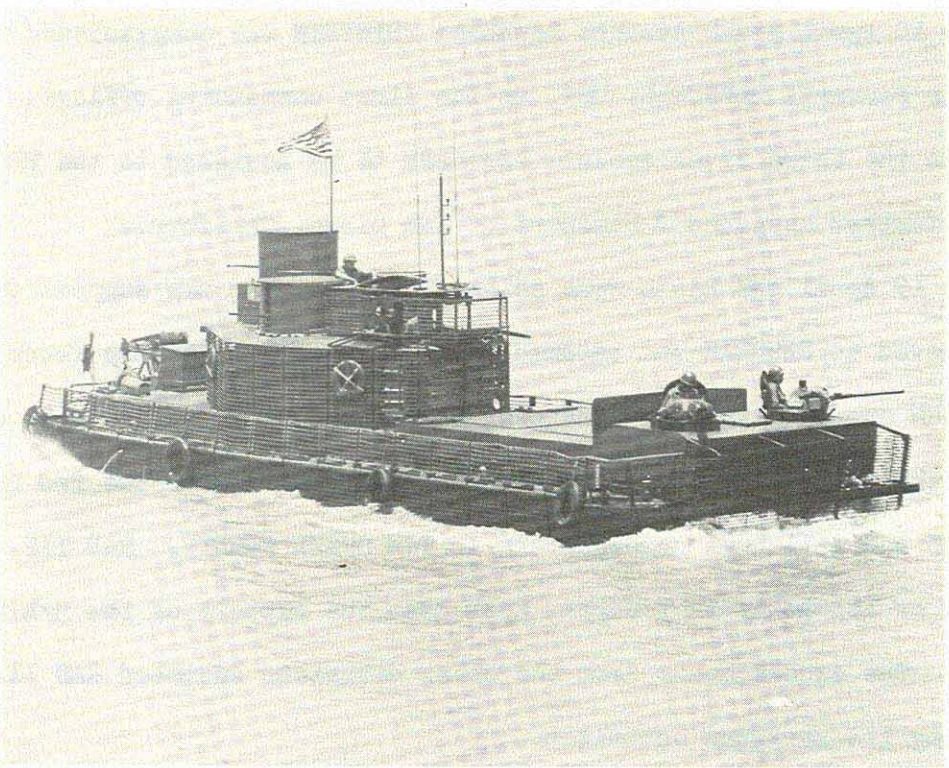
RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE UNITS



During April another modified armored troop carrier (flamethrower) arrived in South Vietnam, augmenting the Riverine Assault Force.

On 13 April the fourth in-country ATC(F) flamethrower boat became operational. In addition, the proto-type E-49 mixing unit was installed in an LCM-6 (with MOGAS tanks installed) and was also operational. This addition provided a mobile re-fill capability for the flame boats.

In order to improve the bucyancy/sea-keeping capabilities of the

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ASPB, the 81-mm mortars were removed from all ASPB's. An estimated 750 pounds, including ammunition, was removed from each boat. This modification would also be made on all new ASPB's which were still being manufactured.

On 16 April River Assault Squadron THIRTEEN was commissioned with Commander Perveril BLUNDELL, USN, as the first commanding officer. RAS 13 became the third river assault squadron to be assigned to the MRF, and was further assigned a homeport of San Diego, California.

On 19 April the RAD's were shifted and assigned new support duties. RAD 92 moved to BENEWAH and assumed the duties of MRB defense force and TF SIX GUN support. RAD 91 remained alongside COLLETON and continued to support the 4/47th Inf. Bn. RAD 111 provided support for the 2nd Battalion VNMC and will have headquarters in TOM GREEN COUNTY. RAD 112, with the bulk of its boats in I Corps, took over the support of the 3/47th Inf. Bn. The excess boats from the other divisions assisted RAD 112 in supporting its assigned battalion.

On 29 April, 26 awards were received from CINCPACFLT for men of the MRF or those recently transferred. Lieutenant Commander F. E. RHODES, USN, the first COMRIVRON ELEVEN, was awarded the Legion of Merit. Lieutenant Commander D. L. HOROWITZ, USN, the first COMRIVRON NINE, received the Legion of Merit earlier this year.

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TASK FORCE CLEARWATER

During April Task Force CLEARWATER units continued to provide escort and protection for logistic craft on the Cua Viet and Perfume rivers. Although the overall tempo of enemy initiated attacks upon the vitally important logistic craft decreased sharply during the month, the enemy continued to make his presence felt through mortar/artillery attacks on staging bases and occasional mining, small-arms or rocket attacks against the support craft convoys.

A very sharp decrease in enemy activity directed toward the logistic craft on the Perfume River was apparent during April. On 5 April the Hue ramp area received approximately 10 rocket rounds. There were no personnel casualties or material damage as a result of the attack. On 30 April a PBR sustained two near misses by B-40 rockets while patrolling the Perfume River; no personnel or material casualties resulted. There were no incidents reported during the remainder of the month.

The logistic craft on the Cua Viet River continued to receive mining, small arms and rocket/artillery attacks during the month resulting in varying degrees of damage. Craft damaged during the month included three LCU's, two LCM 8's and USS GENESSEE (AOG8). Personnel casualties included 4 Navymen killed and 15 wounded. On 30 April enemy attacks on the logistic convoys and the convoy escort craft necessitated closing the Cua Viet River to all logistic craft until friendly ground forces had secured the river banks. Prior to the closing of the river, the convoy had received RPG,

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recoilless rifle and heavy machine-gun fire resulting in three Navymen being killed and moderate damage to several logistic craft. The staging area at Cua Viet received a total of six rocket/artillery attacks during the month resulting in minor damage to equipment and several huts. During the same period, Dong Ha received a total of three rocket/artillery attacks resulting in minor damage to both river ramps and ramp equipment.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

The tempo of routine operations remained particularly high at Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang, during April despite harassment and interdiction attempts by the enemy. A total of 32 tonnage records were established during April; 21 monthly records and 11 daily records. Most noteworthy of these records were: 519,047 short-ton monthly throughput for the combined I Corps Tactical Zone (CTZ) ports; 370,148 short-ton monthly throughput at Danang; 51,464 short-ton monthly throughput at Hue; and 49,614 short-ton monthly throughput at Dong Ha.

Despite the continued population buildup in I CTZ, the overall gross supply effectiveness for Danang and Chu Lai combined increased slightly during the month to 88.5 percent as compared with 88.4 percent for March while overall net supply effectivesness remained steady at 91 percent. Supply demands during the month of April totaled 208,541, reflecting a 17.9 percent increase over the March level of 176,811 and a 33 percent increase over the February level of 139,826. The Army was the largest customer with 112,278 or 53.8 percent of the demands.

During the month, fuel transfer operations continued on both the Cua Viet and Perfume rivers despite enemy interdiction. The fuel transfer capability between Tan My and Hue was augmented in April by the addition of another AMMI barge, increasing the fuel transfer capability from Tan My to Hue to 200,000 gallons per day. A second MSTS T-1 tanker, the USNS PETULAMA (AO(T)79), arrived on station for shuttle duty on 24 April. The

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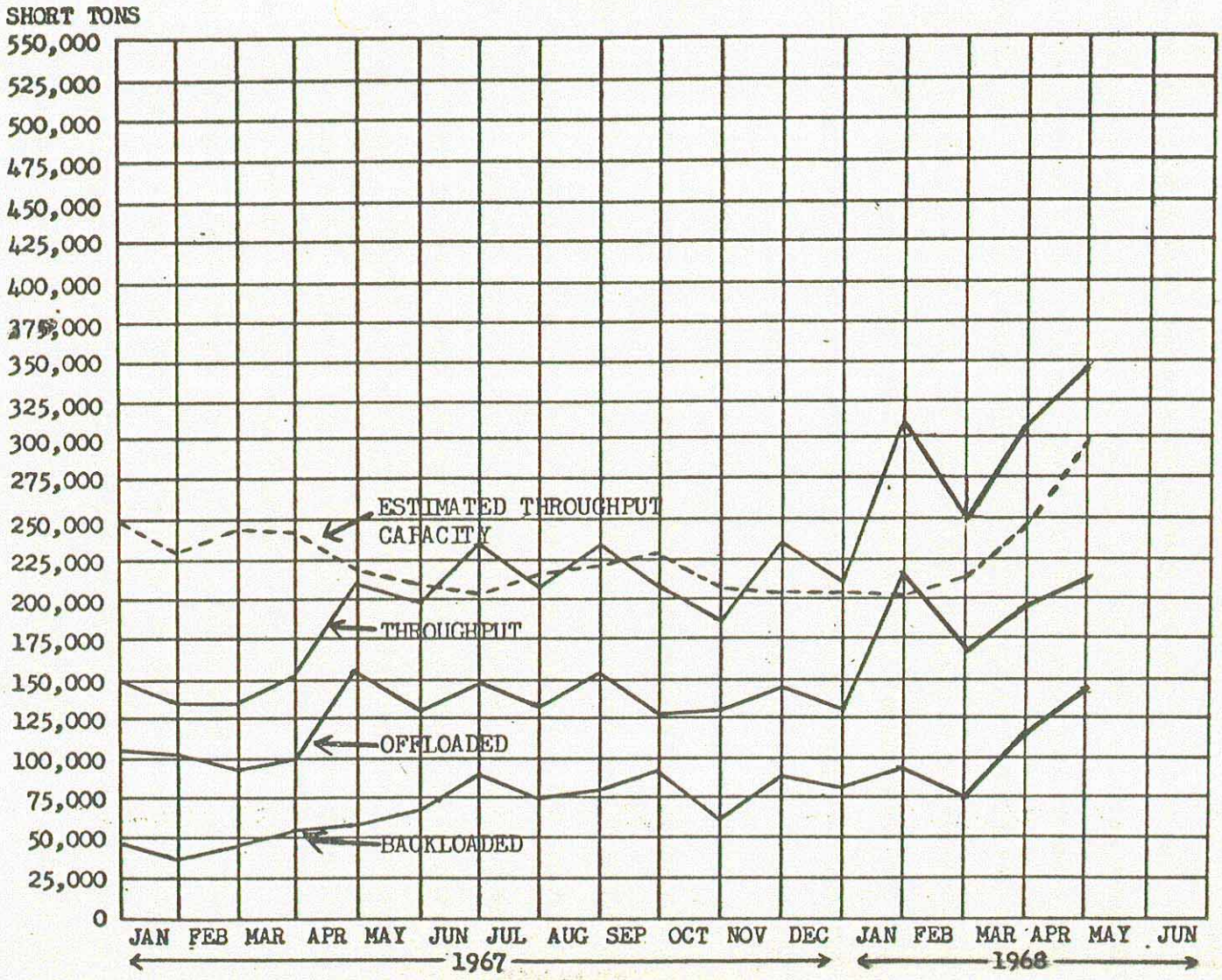
DANANG CARGO HANDLING



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Fleet Air support Unit Tactical Airfield Dispensing System installation at Danang Air Base was completed and became operational on 23 April. The system has a capacity of 30,000 gallons.

At Danang's Freight Terminal, the Vietnamese labor personnel were 90 percent female at month's end as a result of attrition and the use of available males in stevedore and carpenter positions. A second female hatch team was scheduled to be hired and commence training during the first week in May.

The implementation of the Philco-Ford contracts for third country national skilled laborers for maintenance work was seriously impeded during the month by the Government of Vietnam's visa process. At month's end, a request for intervention to eliminate the long processing time had been submitted to COMNAVFORV. The desired level of effort was unattainable due to the delays in obtaining visas for the third country nationals.

Enemy harassment of NAVSUPPACT, Danang's facilities continued during the month. Sniper fire incidents against exposed perimeter increased sharply during the month. Danang's transmitter site received sniper fire on 10 different occasions during April. The China Beach Public Works Center and the Cap Tien Sha ramp also received sniper fire during the month. On 30 April an explosion from an unknown source occurred close aboard the Camp Tien Sha perimeter wire. The possible enemy use of a riot control agent occurred at the transmitter site on 15 and 17 April. Before donning their gas masks, the sentries suffered watering eyes,

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coughing and a burning sensation of the skin. This was Danang's first recorded incident of the possible use of riot control agent by the enemy. Harbor security craft received hostile fire on five occasions during the month. Only minor material damage resulted from the attacks and there were no personnel casualties. The harbor security forces apprehended 13 junks and nine personnel for curfew violations, sailing in restricted waters or identification discrepancies. This sharp decrease in number of apprehensions from previous months was attributed to the recent relaxation of harbor curfew hours.

NAVSUPPACT, Danang's detachment at Dong Ha received a total of three rocket/artilley attacks during April. The attacks resulted in minor damage to both river ramps and ramp equipment. The Cua Viet detachment received six rocket/artillery attacks during the month, resulting in minor damage to equipment and several huts.

At the Danang hospital, the rehabilitation of the old wards was completed, and at month's end the capacity of the hospital was 700 beds. The number of patients admitted to the Danang hospital during April totalled 1,817. Of this number received, 636 were admitted for combat injuries, 857 for various diseases, and 324 for non-combat injuries. A total of 639 persons were treated and returned to duty during the month and 655 were evacuated out of Vietnam.

At month's end the NAVSUPPACT Danang personnel level was 9,631 and the number of United States and other Free World forces supported by NAVSUPPACT was 198,634.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

On 1 April, during change of command ceremonies, conducted at the COFAT Compound, Cholon, Captain Max C. DUNCAN, USN, relieved Captain Burns W. SPORE, USN, as Commander, Naval Support Activity (COMNAVSUPPACT), Saigon.

Also during the month, the Secretary of the Navy approved the Navy Unit Commendation for NAVSUPPACT, Saigon. The award was presented for exceptionally meritorious service from 16 March 1966 to 1 January 1968, in providing logistic support to U. S. Navy, U. S. Coast Guard, and Free World Naval Forces in the II, III and IV Corps areas in the Republic of Vietnam.

Although the number of enemy initiated attacks on NAVSUPPACT, Saigon facilities decreased during April, the enemy continued to make its presence known through several harassing incidents. The Dong Tam Base received harassing mortar and recoilless rifle fire on 6 and 7 April. There were no personnel or material casualties as a result of the incidents. Also on the 6th, APL-55 and an LCM-8, in company with an LCM-6 belonging to the Binh Thuy NAVSUPPACT Detachment, received several rounds of sniper fire from the north bank of the My Tho River three miles northeast of Vinh Long while escorting PBR's to Sa Dec. On the 12th a NAVSUPPACT, Saigon UH-34 helicopter was struck by ground fire while climbing out from the USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST821) approximately 13 miles southeast of Can Tho. The bullet punctured a fuel cell, penetrated the deck plating of the cabin and lodged in cargo which was being carried by the

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helicopter. The helicopter landed at Tra Vinh, made emergency repairs and returned to Saigon without further incident. On the 18th a NAVSUPP-ACT, Saigon C-117 was struck by ground fire while climbing out of the Soc Trang Airfield. The bullet punctured the port inboard wheel well door and exited through the aft bulkhead of the wheel well. The aircraft continued on to Saigon without further incident.

The number of line items stocked by NAVSUPPACT, Saigon during April totalled 62,275. The overall net and gross supply effectiveness for the month of April were 73 percent and 62 percent respectively.

On 18 April COMUSMACV approved a IV CTZ transportation contingency plan which was designated to provide essential transport for U. S. and Vietnamese military forces, as well as the civilian population, in the event land lines of communications are severed. The plan envisions marshalling the total water lift capability, including MSTS, NAVSUPPACT, Saigon organic craft, USARV craft and Vietnamese commercial craft. It further includes transport of vital commerce from the IV CTZ to Saigon on return trips. The plan is premised on the use of barge ramps being constructed to discharge gravel in the highway construction program. Barge ramps are constructed or planned for Dong Lam, Tan An, Can Tho, Vinh Long, My Tho, Soc Trang and Sa Dec.

NAVSUPPACT, Saigon approved the final base development plan for the helicopter maintenance facility at Binh Thuy during the month. Construction has commenced and is scheduled for completion in December 1968. When

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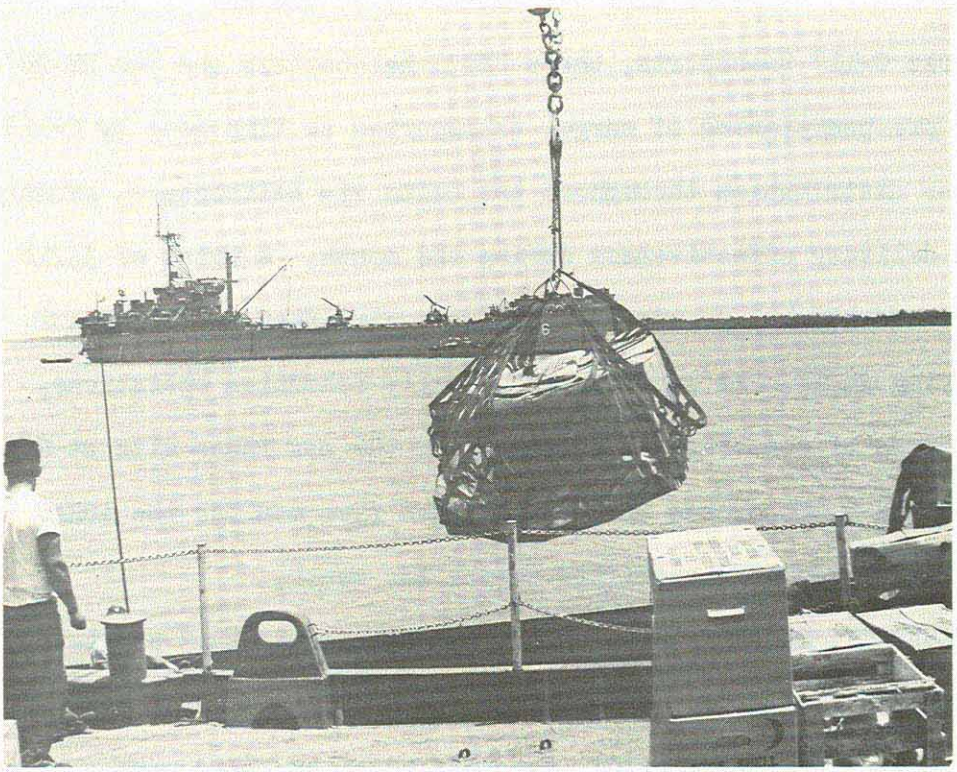
completed, this facility will provide a maintenance capability for a projected total of 57 helicopters.



A cargo net of supplies goes over the side from a Navy YFR, a refrigerated harbor craft operated by NAVSUPPACT, Saigon. Alongside to receive the load is an LCM which will transfer the supplies to an Operation GAME WARDEN support ship.

Warehouse space continued to be a problem during April as the number of line items carried by NAVSUPPACT, Saigon steadily increased. The acquisition of one new warehouse during the month provided temporary relief but 40,000 square feet of additional space has been requested from the Army real estate office. Sixteen Vietnamese warehouse guards were recently

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awarded the Department of the Navy meritorious Civilian Service Award for their exemplary actions during the Tet aggression.

NAVSUPPACT, Saigon's aircraft inventory at the end of April included three C-117 transports, three UH-34 helicopters and two US-2B's. The daily pre-positioning of cargo, transported to Vinh Long by C-117's for further distribution throughout the Delta via helicopters, greatly increased delivery effectiveness during the month. A total of 3,218 passengers and 475,443 pounds of cargo were airlifted by NAVSUPPACT, Saigon during April. In addition to normally scheduled operations, 113,000 pounds of construction material for the new radar site at Con Son Island and 2,500 pounds of materials and five men for the LORAC station at Buc Lieu were airlifted during the month.

NAVSUPPACT, Saigon surface craft transported 2,013.5 short-tons of cargo during April.

At month's end, NAVSUPPACT, Saigon's total on board personnel count was 2,893, an increase of 128 from March's figure.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

In an action that has become typical of the "fighter/builders" of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (MCB's) deployed in Vietnam, five Seabees of MCB 9's Detail Echo gave their lives on 31 March in a valiant effort which saved the lives of many fellow Seabees and USMC personnel. When their camp, located near Phu Bai, came under a heavy enemy mortar and recoilless rifle attack, the Seabees immediately manned an 81-mm mortar position and commenced and sustained counterfire despite the barrage of enemy shells falling near their position. The effective return fire destroyed at least two enemy gun positions and broke their attack. During a second attack, five hours later, the Seabees again manned their mortar position and even though they realized the enemy had bracketed their position with mortars, they stood their ground and, acting with concern for the welfare of the entire camp, continued to return fire until the enemy scored two direct hits on their position. The Seabees, who gave their lives in defense of the camp, were instrumental in repelling the attack , the results of which would have been much more severe had the mortar crew abandoned their position, an action they would have been justified in taking. The Seabees were determined to defend and hold the camp that they had worked so hard to build.

During the month of April overall enemy activity remained at a relatively low level, thus allowing increased progress on upgrading of the national highway system, general construction and improved shipping of

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construction materials to northern I Corps Tactical Zone (CTZ). A massive logistics shipping effort was conducted throughout the month. Twenty-four hours-a-day trucking operations between Red Beach and the Danang East yard accounted for average daily receipts of 2135 short-tons of cargo and issues of 2885 short-tons of cargo. One hundred and seventy-six LCU's were loaded during the month resulting in shipment of 21,193 measurement-tons of cargo to MCB's and Marine units outside the Danang area. During the same period, three barges were also loaded resulting in the shipment of an additional 232 short-tons of piles and heavy equipment. Maximum productivity was reached on 22 April when III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) assigned 17 LCU's to Third Naval Construction Brigade shipping. Within one and one-half days, a total of 23 LCU's were loaded and sent north from the Danang East yard. On the receiving end, Seabees of Northern I CTZ battalions expeditiously cleared the ramps allowing for immediate distribution of materials. This high pace of shipping activity continued throughout the month without curtailing normal supply and logistic support.

Among the more significant projects completed by the Seabees during the month was the C-123 airstrip at Ca Lu, which was completed on 7 April by MCB 5. Situated approximately 9 miles east of Khe Sanh on Route #9, the airfield, as a logistics staging site, was a crucial factor in the drive to relieve Khe Sanh. Construction of the airstrip, because of its location, had to progress rapidly under the ever present threat of hostile fire.

The important Phu Loc quarry/crusher facility was also completed

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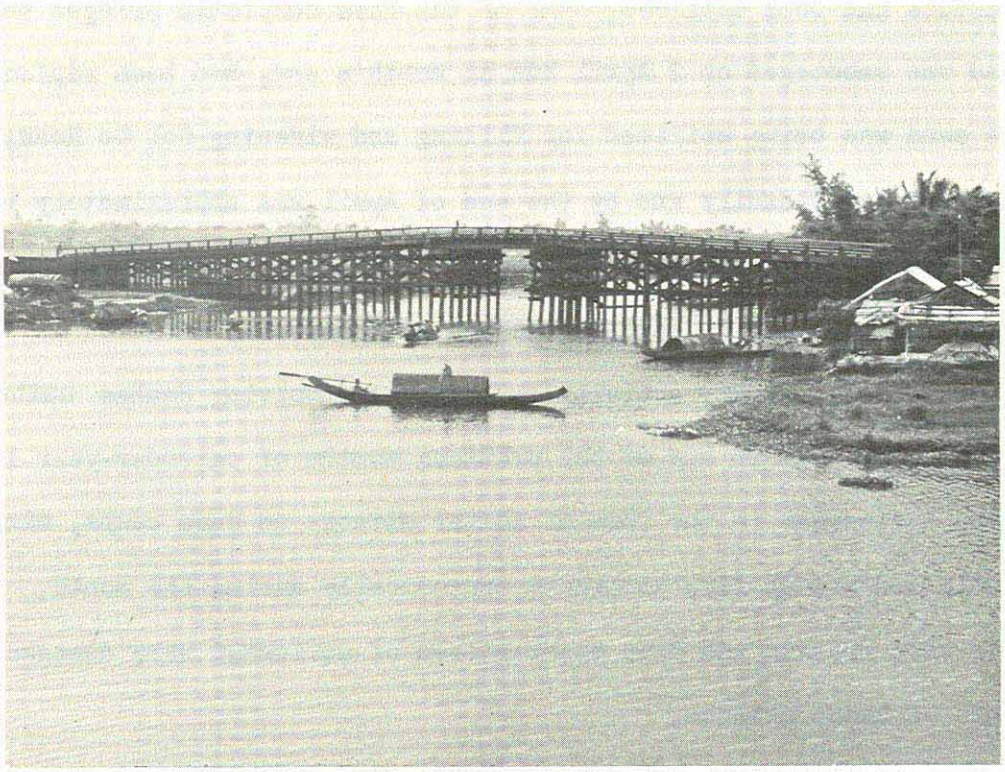
during the month and went into full operation. Named Camp Deshurley, it was officially dedicated on 6 April.



This is Bridge No. 5 on the Hue bypass. The bridge was completed during April by Seabee personnel of MCB-8.

Many road upgrading projects were also completed during April. Route #9 was partially widened between Dong Ha and Cam Lo, a distance of 7½ miles. On Route #1 between Dong Ha and Quang Tri, two-steel stringer bridges with a total span of 160-feet were completed and a 220-feet timber bridge was 98 percent completed by the end of the month. Seven miles of Route #1 between Dong Ha and Quang Tri were widened and were ready for rock subgrade. Construction of a 300-foot timber bridge 1 mile north of

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Hue was also underway. All bridges on the Hue bypass had been completed by month's end. However, road widening could not begin until necessary real estate had been obtained. One of the five completed bridges on Col Co Road was sabotaged on 2 April but at month's end, had been replaced. Dredge sand was being utilized for filling and widening Col Co Road; work was progressing steadily and by the end of April was approximately 15 percent complete. Approximately 85 percent of Route #1 between Phu Bai and Phu Loc had also been widened by the end of the month.

The level of enemy activity and attacks involving Seabee units was lower in April than in any of the previous months of calendar-year 1968. However, harassment in the form of mortar attacks on base camps, mining incidents and sniper fire continued sporadically during the month. Six Seabees were wounded and five major pieces of equipment were damaged as a result of these attacks.

Rear Admiral William M. HEAMAN, CEC, USN, Commander, Construction Battalions, Pacific, visited Seabee construction sites in I CTZ during the period 24-26 April. The extensive air and road tour conducted by the admiral gave him the opportunity to observe the extensive construction effort being expended by the Seabees in I CTZ.

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MILITARY PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS

With the emphasis on offensive operations by tactical units, psychological operations personnel aped these efforts with a vigorous loudspeaker broadcasting program. With the majority of programmed equipment now installed, naval units were able to reach a greater number of listeners. Ultimately each PCF in Task Force 115 (Operation MARKET TIME) will be equipped with a 250-watt speaker and cartridge tape recorder; each PBR river section in Task Force 116 (Operation GAME WARDEN) will have one 250-watt and five 25-watt units plus a cartridge tape recorder for each unit; and in Task Force 117 (Mobile Riverine Force) there will be a total of three 250-watt units with cartridge tape recorders. In Task Force 117, tactical psychological operations, i.e., directed against enemy troops, showed a marked increased as a result of the assignment of Navy psychological operations personnel to the staff. Previously all support was provided by the U. S. Army.

In consonance with President Johnson's speech on 31 March and in keeping with policy established in Washington concerning the President's initiative and possible peace talks, a program was developed to keep the people of South Vietnam currently informed on the factual developments of the peace talk negotiations. Surface and aerial speaker broadcasts and leaflet distribution was the selected media for the dissemination of information. Targeted in the program were the VC/NVA in South Vietnam and the population living in contested areas.

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During the month 1500 hours of surface and 2.5 hours of aerial broadcasts were conducted.

Since 1 January 1967, 191 Hoi Chanhs have rallied to U. S. Navy units. Many of these returnees to the side of the government willingly cooperated in the exploitation of their return by preparing tapes for broadcast and writing letters addressed to their former units for leaflet drops.

In the area of civic action naval units continued to assist the people of South Vietnam in the recovery from the destruction wrought by the Tet Offensive. Naval units voluntarily contributed $4,359.00 to the Tet Aggression Relief Project (TARP). As part of the TARP effort, NAVSUPPACT, Danang planned to assist in the construction of homes for refugees in Hue. The Medical Civic Action Program continued to become more evident as naval units resumed their pre-Tet visits to neighboring villages and hamlets.

The number of Seabee Teams in South Vietnam was increased from 13 to 14. Major emphasis was given to support of the Revolutionary Development program, with secondary emphasis on major reconstruction projects. Included were 10 projects involving the repair of 5 miles of roads. During the month the number of Vietnamese national trainees enrolled in construction skills training programs increased to 144 and over, 6,500 patients received medical treatment from Seabee corpsmen under the MEDCAP program. There was a significant increase in the help/cooperation given Seabee Teams by local GVN officials since the Tet Offensive. In the refugee hamlet of Binh Hoa repairs were made to a schoolhouse and various homes damaged by a severe

windstorm. It was most gratifying to note that Teams deployed to new sites received excellent reception from the local authorities and that during this reporting period there was no enemy action directed specifically against the Seabee Teams.

The men of Mobile Construction Battalion 28, located a Danang East, completed a building at the Soa Bieu school providing facilities for an additional 400 students. The Battalion then built a baseball diamond and taught the boys at the school how to play the favorite American pastime. The Seabees then organized a sanctioned Little League in the area. While MCB-28 was actively engaged in its civic action, other Seabee battalions likewise employed their talents and displayed their concern for the civilian population by constructing schools, digging wells and improving sanitation facilities while still performing their primary mission.

Naval Support Activity Danang completed 66 self-help projects during the month with a gratifying 94 percent self-help labor force. In one village near Danang the villagers established a special 24-hour guard force to protect the village Assistance Team (VAT). This unsolicited gesture is indicative of the high esteem that the people hold for the NAVSUPPACT civic action personnel that compose the VAT's and who live in the villages where they are conducting their civic action programs.

In the Saigon area, U. S. Naval advisors have expanded the tradition that the Navy looks after its own to include their Vietnamese counterparts. One area that was heavily damaged during the Tet Offensive was the Vietnamese

This Vietnamese child was one of many aided by a combined Vietnamese Navy/ U.S. Naval Advisory Group CIVACT program after the Tet Offensive. The joint operation provided basic foodstuffs to hungry refugees.

Navy's Third Riverine Area Command Headquarters and adjacent Cua Long Naval Base, located on the Saigon River near downtown Saigon. Realizing the need, U. S. Navy advisors assigned to these units wrote their families asking for donations to aid the victims, particularly the children. Soon, packages bearing postmarks from throughout the United States began arriving containing clothing and canned foods. It was like Christmas as the children filed past the package-laden tables.

In the Can Tho area in the Delta, men of the River Patrol Force constructed a school and purchased classroom equipment and school supplies for the refugee children.

On 26 April a Vietnamese Riverine Assault Group (RAG) and PBR River Section 522 conducted the first joint RAG/PBR psychological and medical civic action operation in Vinh Long Province. Included in the operation, that visited several hamlets located about 15 miles southeast of Vinh Long, were U. S. and Vietnamese corpsmen and the Vau Tac Vu entertainment team. While the corpsmen treated the villagers the Vietnamese entertainment team performed. Although it was reported that Viet Cong were in the area the mission was carried out despite the Viet Cong presence without incident. The GVN presence in these hamlets, which had been subjected to recent Viet Cong harassment and attack was considered to be a strong psychological victory for the GVN.

The following is a tabulation of certain civic action projects conducted during April by U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces:

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disclosed that the aircraft was lying upside down, and partially submerged in the soft-mud bottom. EOD personnel from the Royal Australian Navy Clearance Team checked the ejection seats and disarmed the one remaining seat. The salvors aboard YDB-2 rigged wire straps to the skid ring on the tail and a lift was successfully accomplished. The Mohawk aircraft came to the surface intact; however, because of severe damage to the fuselage just forward of the stabilizer a five-inch nylon safety line was rigged around the wings and fuselage.

YLLC-3 got underway and proceeded to the Delong Pier, however, during the transit the fuselage parted and the forward section of the plane sank to the bottom. The forward section was easily lifted off of the bottom and the YLLC continued to Vung Tau where the wreckage as turned over to the U. S. Army 73rd Aviation Company completing another successful salvage operation.

On 8 April a CTF 76 command helicopter from USS ESTES (AGC12) ditched at sea 6 miles west of Vung Tau Airfield. All occupants of the UH-2A aircraft were recovered unharmed. The next day salvage units from HCU-ONE at Vung Tau conducted dragging operations in the area with negative results. On 11 April local fisherman reported that the wreckage was visible near the mouth of the Soirap River.

Upon arriving at the scene the wreckage was found lying upside down in six feet of water. A survey by HCU ONE divers revealed that the aircraft was intact with one propeller blade and the tail section heavily

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 1 April a Vietnamese Navy Yabuta junk attached to Coastal Group 36, carrying a cargo of cement and ammunition, flooded and sunk 3 miles west of Vung Tau. YLLC 3 (light lift craft) of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE detachment at Vung Tau with its embarked salvage team proceeded to the salvage site on 6 April and commenced salvage operations that morning.

The initial salvage survey revealed that the sunken craft was resting on its starboard side with the hull intact and its cargo of cement washed away. After recovering the junk's ammunition, divers passed lifting straps under the wreck, and the YLLC lifted the disabled boat to the water's edge. The salvage boat with the junk hogged in to the bow ramp in a capsized condition, then proceeded to Front Beach at Vung Tau where they grounded the VNN junk. After plugging the seeping seams and scuppers the craft was righted and turned over to the Vietnamese Navy.

On 29 March a U. S. Army Mohawk OV-1 aircraft of the 73rd Aviation Company crashed in Vung Tau Harbor, less than one mile from the Vung Tau Airfield. A combined U. S./Australian/Vietnamese search effort immediately searched the crash area for survivors from the sunken aircraft. The co-pilot was rapidly rescued; however, the pilot's body was not found until 31 March, at which time search operations for the sunken airplane were commenced. After three days of searching, the wreckage was discovered on 3 April by units of HCU ONE near Vung Tau channel buoy number 10.

Salvage operations commenced the next day when the salvage survey

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PROGRAMS:

	Man Days	Expenditures (VN$)
Economic Development	25	84,396
Education	415	606,455
Social Welfare	1,323	3,728,922
Transportation	88	1,058,794
Refugee Assistance Support	292	718,134
TOTAL	2,143	6,196,701

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: VN$ 547,311

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	Number
Hospitals/dispensaries	35
Schools	39
Orphanages	23
Others	59

PERCENT OF U. S. CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH:

	Percent
Other FWMAF	7.5
RVNAF	12.5
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	3.0
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	33.0

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damaged. Wire straps were rigged for the lift, but the two initial lift attempts by an Army Chinook helicopter proved unsuccessful. A heavier U. S. Army Skycrane helicopter with greater lift capacity was brought to the site; lifted the wreckage to the surface; and then transported it to the Vung Tau Airfield.

On 25 March divers from HCU ONE Detachment from Vung Tau, working in conjunction with U. S. Navy crane YD-220 from Naval Support Activity Dong Tam attempted to raise a sunken Vietnamese Navy commandament from the bottom of the My Tho River. The VNN assault boat from RAG 21 was sunk by enemy fire on 1 February in the vicinity of My Tho, and had a 15- by 4½- foot hole on the portside. The major hull damage was a result of exploding mortar rounds from the boat's magazine, where the rocket round impacted.

Due to the extensive weakening of the hull, two lifting legs pulled out; one was due to bulkhead/deck failure and the other parted because of an overloaded lifting ring. The commandament resettled in 10 feet of water, and the continuation of the salvage operation was deemed economically unfeasible by the U. S. Navy salvage chief on the scene.

On 2 April the Senior Naval Advisor, Vietnamese Navy requested that a U. S. Navy crane YD-220 be made available for a Vietnamese Navy salvage effort on the critically needed VNN commandament. After extensive planning and rigging by VNN shipyard personnel from Saigon, the second salvage effort commenced on 22 April. Utilizing a tri-sling

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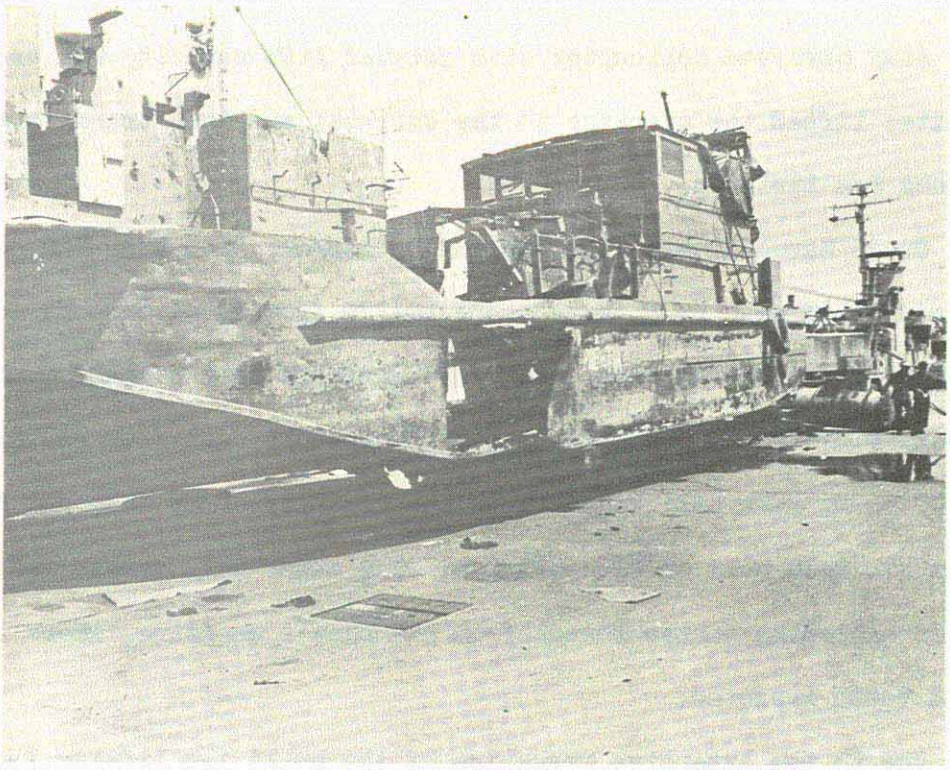

Vietnamese Navy salvage personnel lifted this Vietnamese commandament from the depths of the My Tho River on 22 April. The successful salvage operation followed an initial attempt to retrieve the craft on 25 March. The operation was fouled then due to an overloaded lifting ring. The commandament was sunk by enemy fire on 1 February near the city of My Tho.

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device designed and fabricated at the VNN shipyard, and U. S. Navy crane YD-220, the hoisting operation was successfully culminated within two hours. The severely-damaged assault boat was taken to Dong Tam aboard the floating crane pending ultimate shipment to the VNN shipyard for a major reconstruction job.

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COMMUNICATIONS

During the month of April, the COMNAVFORV Message Center established a new monthly high for message handling by processing a total of 118,721 messages, an increase of 8,251 messages over the March totals. This marked increase in total messages over the past two months was attributable to increased offensive operations, and additional communication guardship responsibilities coupled with the removal of MINIMIZE restrictions.

The status of Project CLARINET TACK (the use of air-transportable contingency communication vans) remained unchanged. The AN/TRC-97A micro-wave vans, which were to be received from USAF assets in the Philippine Islands, had not yet arrived-in-country.

Project CLARINET SEAWARD (upgrading communications facilities at COMNAVFORV headquarters, the Coastal Surveillance Centers and GAME WARDEN bases) continued to show favorable progress, as the electronics inventory team completed their inventory of equipment at all sites except Nha Trang and Vung Tau. The electronics installation work at COMNAVFORV headquarters, and at month's end was making final system checks to ensure optimum operation. The installation team was scheduled to commence work at Qui Nhon on 7 May. Upon completion at Qui Nhon, the team was to complete the electronics installations at Vinh Long, Sa Dec, My Tho and Cat Lo in that order.

The beneficial occupancy date (BOD) for Nha Trang was established as 30 July, while An Thoi was expected to be ready by 31 May. The real

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estate problems at Vung Tau, which evolved around the fact that Vietnamese personnel were residing in the lighthouse building that was to be used for the CLARINET SEAWARD installation, were resolved, when new living accomodations were programmed for the people to be displaced. However, a firm BOD could not be estimated until the new quarters were completed, and access to the lighthouse had been gained.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 1 April Captain Max C. DUNCAN, USN, assumed command of the U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon, in an impressive change of command ceremony in Saigon. Captain DUNCAN relieved Captain Burns A. SPORE, USN, after completing a comprehensive indoctrination tour of various naval activities and detachments in the II, III and IV Corps Tactical Zone of South Vietnam.

Two days later at the Binh Thuy GAME WARDEN base, Captain Arthur W. PRICE, USN, relieved Captain Paul N. GRAY, USN, as Commander River Patrol Force/Task Force 116. Prior to assuming command, Captain PRICE visited the Saigon headquarters of COMNAVFORV and COMNAVSUPPACT, Saigon, for a series of indoctrination briefings on U. S. Navy and Vietnamese Navy/Marine Corps operations in South Vietnam. He also visited the Coastal Surveillance Force (CTF 116) headquarters at Cam Ranh Bay; the Mobile Riverine Force (CTF 117) at Dong Tam; the Naval Support Activity, Danang, and a majority of the far-flung PBR, SEAL, minesweeper and helicopter sections and detachments of his newly acquired command.

On 4 April Major General John H. HAY, Jr., USA, Deputy Commanding General II Field Force Vietnam, Major General Nquyen Duc THANG, ARVN, Commanding General IV Corps, and Major General George S. ECKHART, USA, Senior Advisor IV Corps, visited the Mobile Riverine Base and received a briefing on the MRF concept of operations.

In colorful change of command ceremonies on 10 April at Phu Quoc

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Island in the Gulf of Thailand, Commander Adrian L. LONSDALE, USCG, assumed command of the Gulf of Thailand Surveillance Group, and the duties of the Fourth Coastal Zone Naval Advisor from Commander Norman J. VENZKE, USCG.

Vice Admiral Charles K. DUNCAN, USN, Chief of Naval Personnel (center) is flanked by Captain Arthur W. PRICE, USN, COMRIVPATFOR/CTF 116 (left) and Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, COMNAVFORV, on his arrival at the GAME WARDEN base at Binh Thuy.

Vice Admiral Charles K. DUNCAN, USN, Chief of Naval Personnel conducted a three-day tour of the major U. S. Navy commands in South Vietnam on 17-19 April. The primary purpose of his visit to the Republic of Vietnam was to receive a general orientation and to review the naval personnel

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situation in-country. Vice Admiral DUNCAN's itinerary included visits to the Coastal Surveillance Force (Operation MARKET TIME) headquarters; the River Patrol Force (Operation GAME WARDEN) and River Squadron FIVE headquarters at Binh Thuy; the Mobile Riverine Force at Dong Tam and the Naval Support Activity, Danang.

On 18 April General Harold K. JOHNSON, USA, Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, made a short visit to the MRF, where he was given an up-date briefing on current riverine operations.

On 25 April Lieutenant General Lewis W. WALT, USMC, Assistant Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps, commenced a six-day tour of various U. S. Navy and Marine Corps activities in South Vietnam. Later that day Lieutenant General WALT visited the River Patrol Force headquarters for a briefing on GAME WARDEN operations, and the Mobile Riverine Force, where he was briefed on MRF operations. The remainder of his tour was spent with U. S. Marine Corps units in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

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RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

"The month of April has been highlighted by the observance of our Lord's Death and Resurrection. It has indeed been sobering to realize again the extent of His work on our behalf and the fact that because He lives we too shall also live."

Within the context of war, the above message expressed by Chaplain J. Robert FIOLA (NMCB-53) was proclaimed with enthusiasm by Naval Forces, Vietnam chaplains, giving men hope, assurance and strength in the face of danger.

There were 510 religious services conducted during April. The total included 249 Sunday Services and 261 Weekday Services. Special mention must be made of the variety of divine services conducted, particularly with the advent of Easter. Chaplain James J. KILLEEN, NAVFORV Force Chaplain, celebrated Good Friday and Easter Sunday litergies utilizing laymen. The test of the Passion of Christ was read by three men taking the role of narrator, Christ, and other individuals at each of his services held at Nha Be, NAVFORV headquarters and Saigon Cathedral. Chaplain KILLEEN said, "In each place the reading was done with great dignity, yet the personality and national background of those who spoke the words of Christ came through loud and clear. These men really lived their roles. It was drama at its best."

Sunrise service at Vung Tau, in the Delta, and Red Beach, in I Corps, were in marked contrast. Regarding the former, Chaplain Francis P. BURCHELL, Jr., (NSAS) related, "...the trumpet sounded at sunrise to usher in this

great Easter Day....As the sun rose so did the voices of 500 men in praise of the Risen Christ." At the latter, however, "Easter Sunday and sunrise services without a sunrise in a windless drizzle brought some warmth into the hearts of Christians gathered at Red Beach," stated Chaplain Carl W. ERICKSON, (NMCB-62).

Folk Masses were another highlight of the month. At NMCB-53 on Easter Day, a Folk Mass with guitar accompaniment was celebrated. The response was so great that Folk Masses were repeated the following Sunday. NAVSUPPACT Danang hospital also conducted a Folk Mass on 28 April. Chaplain Edwin V. BOHULA explained, "The hymns used were 'Here We Are' as a processional, 'We Offer You, O'Lord' to the melody of KUMBAYA as Offertory hymn, 'Come My Brothers Praise the Lord' to the melody of 'Michael Row Your Boat Ashore" as a Communion Hymn, and 'Let Us Thank the Lord' to the melody of 'Where Have All The Flowers Gone' as a recessional."

In the course of their administering to the servicemen, the chaplains were busily involved in conducting special services, i.e., baptisms, weddings, and memorials, and civic action programs. Activities included giving money to orphanages, refugees, scholarships funds, and schools; providing building materials, medical supplies, clothing, soap, food, and school supplies; teaching English classes, giving parties for children in school and orphanages, assisting in emergency evacuations, medical aid training, showing movies, and repairing and erecting school buildings.

The time spent, expanse travelled and danger encounterd in ministering

to the sick, wounded and dying can not be over-emphasized. Whether in the field, aboard ships or boats in the rivers, or at hospitals, the chaplains were acutely aware of the spiritual needs of the servicemen. Typifying the demands placed on the chaplains to fulfill these needs. Chaplain Nathan O. LOESCH (CTF 117) reported, "The 4th of April was the first day of an operation southeast of My Tho, a place called the 'crossroads.' I was riding a...(monitor) when all the boats...came under heavy fire about 0830. Two ASPB's nosed into the monitor to receive medical aid. The Navy corpsman and I boarded the ASPB's to treat the wounded. The next hours were spent applying battle dressings, giving morphine shots, carrying Army and Navy wounded to the ATCH (MEDEVAC boat), lifting stretchers onto the dustoff helos. Many prayers were spoken with the men; the 23rd Psalm was said many times."

Counseling included even the most casual conversations in which the chaplains' words tended to reinforce the troubled and doubting service men. Chaplain LOESCH summed it up when he said, "One man finds it tough to welcome a child into his family from 12,000 miles away, another is threatened with divorce; others have wives and families who don't write; a few are depressed; some complain about lack of liberty; some question our nation's involvement in Vietnam. For some, drinking is a problem...The Chaplain lives the same life, takes the same risks, has the same hang-ups with homesickness and fear. He learns with his men that fear is neutral, i.e., if fear leads to distrust in God, it's demonic; but if it leads to dependence upon God, it's redemptive."

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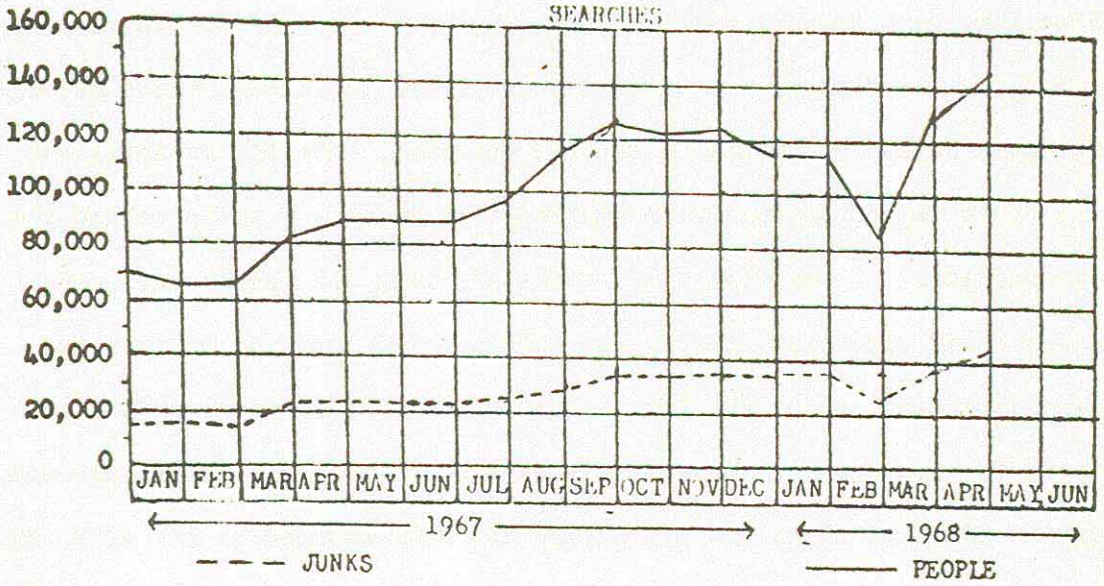
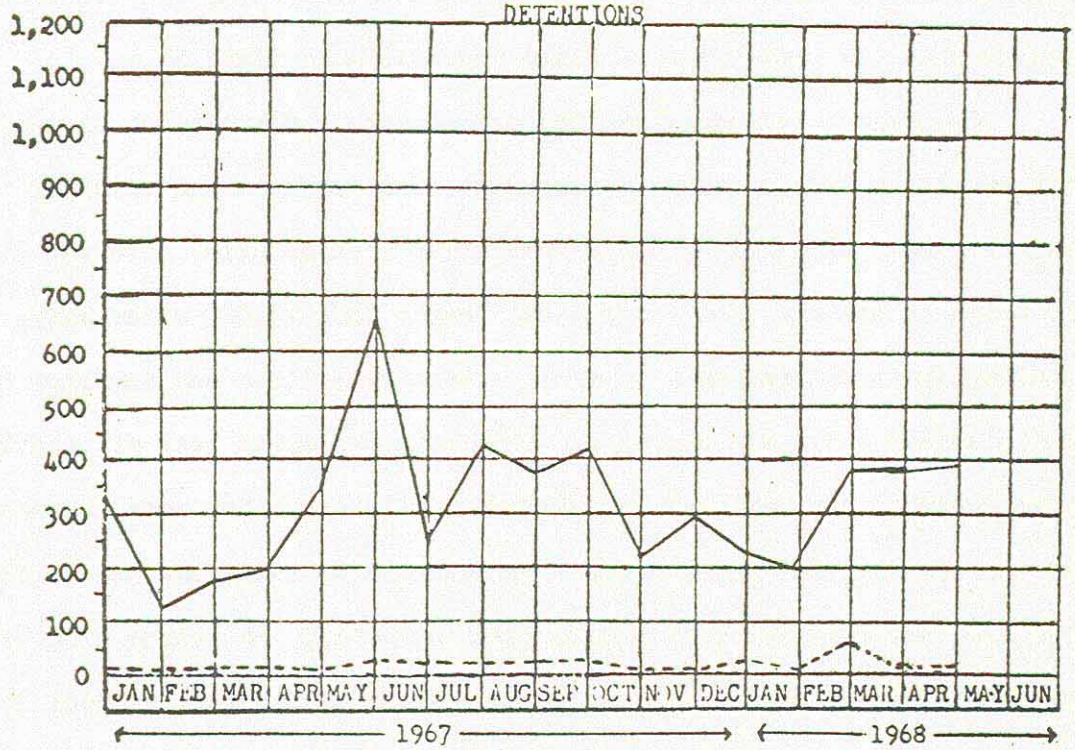
SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS
BY VIETNAMESE NAVY SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES





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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) on 30 April was 17,585 officers and enlisted men; of this number 1,330 were officers, 3,284 were NCO's and 12,971 were enlisted men. The number of unauthroized absentees stood at 504, and 87 men were discharged as deserters during April.

At the Vietnamese Naval Training Center, Nha Trang, 25 men graduated from RD "A" School on 1 April, and on 27 April an additional 170 men successfully completed various class "A" schools. On 13 April, 16 members of Coastal Zone Mobile Training Teams completed 4 weeks of instructor training at the Vietnamese Naval Advanced Training Center, Saigon.

The continued high tempo of operations by Fleet Command patrol and logistic lift ships during April resulted in the non-availability of the craft for underway training. On 20 April the VNN minesweeper, MSC 116 completed one week of inport training at Saigon. Similarly, a patrol motor gunboat (PGM) 608 completed one week of inport training on 27 April; on the 29th, a landing ship infantry large (LSIL) 330 commenced inport training.

The LDNN (Vietnamese UDT) Replacement Training Class III at Vung Tau included 38 men at month's end. On 8 April, LDNN trainees captured 5 suspects carrying no identification papers in a junk and delivered them to the Vung Tau Naval Base for interrogation.

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Additional formal training conducted by the VNN included the inauguration of Fleet Command Engineering Officers School on 1 April. The five week curriculum stresses plant operating procedures, preventive maintenance, and duties and responsibilities of watch standers.

In conjunction with plans for acceptance of PCF's, PBR's and LCMM's (landing craft mechanized minesweepers) by the VNN, significant in-country training was conducted in April. Training of VNN crews for 6 PCF's and 8 PBR's were completed at An Thoi and Nha Be, respectively. On 3 April on-the-job training commenced for prospective LCMM crews at Nha Be. On the morning of the 26th, 2 U.S. LCMM's, with VNN crew embarked, and TF 116 PBR's were attacked by rocket, automatic-weapons and small arms fire while operating on the Long Tau River in the RSSZ. Return fire suppressed the enemy fire; however, one trainee was killed and 3 others were wounded in the ambush.

Fleet Command

During April the Fleet Command had a daily average of 22 ships available and maintained 15 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam, 5 ships on river patrol, 1 ship on static defense and naval gunfire support duty, and 1 ship on the Mekong River for commercial convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. Ninty-three naval gunfire support missions were fired; 2,320 junks and 9,353 persons were searched and 1 junk and 18 persons were detained in April.

Patrol craft (PC's and PCE's) were utilized in the 1st, 2nd and

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3rd Naval Zones for coastal patrol and gunfire support, and PGM's provided coastal and river patrol and naval gunfire support in all four naval zones and the RSSZ. In support of a Coastal Group 23 operation near the coastal group base at Song Cau, PCE 08 delivered its 3"/50 fire, destroyed an enemy sampan, killing 2 of its occupants and wounding the third.

Landing support ships (LSSL's and LSIL's) provided patrol, gunfire support, static defense and convoy escort services in the 3rd Naval Zone, the RSSZ and the 4th Riverine area. These ships provided vital gunfire support to ground forces during the combined amphibious TRUONG CONG DINH campaign conducted in April. On many of these operations the LSSL's/LSIL'S functioned as flagships and command posts. Gunfire from LSIL 328 on 26 April resulted in 2 Viet Cong killed and 4 of the enemy wounded in Vinh Long Province 5 miles east of Can Tho.

Coastal minesweepers (MSC's) in the 2nd Naval Zone on MARKET TIME station, and motor launch minesweepers (MLMS's) in the Long Tau, Nha Be, Dong Nai and Saigon rivers continued to conduct their vital operations, meeting all commitments during the month.

Logistic support ships, LCM's, LST's and LCU's, conducted 42 missions this month, lifting a total of 7,020 tons of cargo and 4,385 personnel.

The VNN Supply Center, Saigon recorded a gross effectiveness of 72 percent on a total of 10,973 requests for items and a net effectiveness of 90.1 percent on 8,748 requests for items normally carried in the supply system.

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LDNN operated with U. S. Navy SEAL's in the RSSZ and Delta areas, and conducted nightly hull inspections of the ships berthed ar the Port of Saigon. Twenty-five combined operations with the SEAL's accounted for 22 Viet Cong killed, 3 of the enemy wounded and 1 Viet Cong captured. On 5 April a SEAL team and LDNN conducted an ambush on 4 enemy sampans on the Vam Sat River 20 miles south-southeast of Saigon. Of the 10 known occupants, 6 were killed and 2 were wounded and captured along with a quantity of ammunition, flash lights and rice.

Coastal Force

Throughout April Vietnamese coastal force employment stressed participation in offensive operations, both land and waterborne, as part of a major effort to increase allied pressure on the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army infiltrators. The coastal groups participated in 176 such operations including 20 combined operations and 45 joint operations. These operations accounted for 241 Viet Cong killed, 27 wounded, 177 captured and 346 enemy suspects detained. In the 4th Naval Zone shallow water areas of known Viet Cong operation, inaccessible to coastal group junks, were struck by personnel embarked in shallow draft skimmer boats. Kien An based personnel conducted nine operations during the month utilizing "Boston Whaler" type skimmers (16½ foot fiberglass boats).

The coastal force continued counter-infiltration sea patrols. An average of 181 junks were available each day for operations, an average of 166 were employed; coastal force units searched 43,085 junks and 142,731

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persons, and detained 22 junks and 398 persons. In the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Naval Zones, fishing junk escort and control programs were initiated. These programs have opened previously restricted fishing zones and have improved the image of the GVN to the general populace.

In the 1st Naval Zone a land sweep was conducted by Regional Force (RF) troops east of Quang Ngai, supported by 4 Coastal Group 16 units and USCGC POINT GAMMON on 2 April. One Viet Cong was killed and three others were captured as an enemy ambush on the blocking force met with the coastal group's return fire. Meanwhile, Operation QUYET THANG 34/G combined 4 Coastal Group 16 junks and RF troops in a land sweep/river blocking operation south of the Tra Khuc River east of Quang Ngai that day. The coastal group was credited with killing 1 Viet Cong and capturing 9 of the aggressors.

At 1655 on 7 April, a command junks and a Yabuta junk of Coastal Group 14 were mined while anchored near their base at Hoi An. The blast split the Yabuta and blew one-third of the command junk away; both craft sank immediately. One VNN sailor was killed and three others were wounded in the explosion. Subsequent investigation indicated that a time detonated mine consisting of plastic explosives had been place on the river bottom between the bows of the junks.

On the 7th and 8th of April, Coastal Group 12 junks, 3 PF platoons and 2 USMC platoons conducted Operation LE QUANG THANH 1 in the Phu Vang sub-sector, across the bay from Hue. As the blocking force, the coastal

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group craft killed 4 Viet Cong and captured 23 suspects evading the area. The next day, LE QUANG THANH 2, a Coastal Group 12 area sweep of the northern Phy Vang sub-sector, yielded 4 Viet Cong captured and 10 more suspects detained. Later that day the ambush team rounded up 5 of the enemy in the same area and took 7 Viet Cong suspects. Operation LE QUANG THANH 3 on 12 April consisted of 2 Coastal Group 12 junks; 2 Viet Cong suspects and 2 draft dodgers were detained in the same area as the 2 previous operations.

Coastal Group 11 and the U. S. 1st Marine AMTRAC Battalion units participated in a cordon and search operation 10 miles north of Quang Tri on 14 April. As the coastal group craft provided a blocking force, a landing party sweep, conducted by 45 coastal group personnel and Marine elements, netted 5 Viet Cong killed, 5 of the enemy captured and 19 suspects detained.

On 15 April, Coastal Group 16 personnel observed an explosion east of the Co Luy base, near the junction of the Ve and Phu Tho rivers in Quang Ngai Province. A coastal group reaction force embarked in 3 junks and proceeded to the vicinity of the incident. The reaction force conducted reconnaissance by fire and subsequently conducted a sweep in a nearby hamlet. At the scene of the incident, the reaction force recovered the body of a VNN seaman attached to CG 16. An intelligence specialist, this man had been conducting a mission in the hamlet under the guise of a released Viet Cong suspect. His mission was compromised and he was captured by 5 armed Viet Cong. Before he could be disarmed, he heroically

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pulled the pin of a hand grenade, killing himself and 3 Viet Cong and wounding 2 others. One of the wounded escaped, the second was caught and subsequently died of his wounds. Additionally, the reaction force captured one .38 caliber pistol, 3 grenades and several documents and detained 8 enemy suspects.

From 16 through 18 April Operation QUYET THANG 37/G and 38/G renewed the offensive east of Quang Ngai and consisted of Coastal Group 16 units, ARVN and RF troops. The two operations resulted in 9 Viet Cong guerrillas captured and 3 additional suspects detained; ARVN forces suffered 6 killed and 16 wounded during the attempt to route the Viet Cong from the area. Similarly, Operation LE QUANG THANH 4, 5 and 6 with units of Coastal Group 12 continued to seek out the enemy in the Phu Vang subsector on 17, 18 and 20 April, respectively. Six draft dodgers were apprehended on the 17th, while on the 18th, 6 enemy suspects were brought in for interrogation, and 13 more suspects were captured on the 20th.

An ambush team, responding to an intelligence report, set out on 19 April in search of two Viet Cong companies which were believed to have grouped for a strike against the Coastal Group 13 base. The search, Operation VINH HIEN 5, was conducted by a combined PF and Coastal Group 13 platoon in Vinh Loc sub-sector, northwest of the coastal group base. The platoon made contact with an estimated Viet Cong company. Gunfire support was provided by 3 TF 115 "Swift" boats, a 155-mm artillery battery and the coastal group base. After contact had been broken, the sweeping force

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uncovered 15 Viet Cong bodies and captured one of the insurgents and a quantity of weapons and ammunition.

Combined Operation LAM SON 214 was conducted from 19 through 22 April; an area search south of Phy Vang and Huong Thuy sub-sectors by 3 junks of Coastal Group 12, an ARVN reconnaissance company, an ARVN special forces company and a USMC company. Forty Viet Cong were killed in the action while 10 others were captured and 8 suspects were detained. Friendly forces suffered 9 ARVN killed and 21 wounded.

On 21 April, two patrol junks of Coastal Group 13 discovered a Viet Cong tax collection team in Cau Hai Bay, 8 miles southeast of Phy Bai. The Viet Cong were engaged, their junk sunk, and 2 members of the tax collection team were killed. One Viet Cong, a French sub-machine gun, a Russian sub-machine gun, a carbine, several grenades and ammunition, and a tax record book were captured.

A Viet Cong sapper unit was foiled in its attempt to set up booby trapped fishing stakes in Thanh Lam Bay, east of Hue on 24 April. Two Viet Cong sampans were tying plastic explosives to fishing stakes with trip wires between them. A Coastal Group 12 unit surprised the Viet Cong and took them under fire. Two Viet Cong were killed, two were wounded and the two sampans were sunk by the explosion of plastics. Found nearby was another sampan laden with explosives.

Returning to the area east of Quang Ngai and south of the Tra Khuc River on 27 April, a Coastal Group 16 reconnaissance team captured 15

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enemy suspects in Operation THONG MINH 4. On 30 April, three Coastal Group 16 units detected and opened fire on 10 Viet Cong sampans near the mouth of the Tra Khuc River. Before the outnumbered VNN sailors were forced to flee the area, three of the enemy sampans were sunk and at least 10 Viet Cong were either killed or wounded.

Coastal groups of the 2nd Naval Zone conducted daily operations with RF/PF and Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) forces. Large scale confrontations were negligible as in the past month but the combined force of the allies served as a deterrent factor and policing operations continued. Five junks and a platoon from Coastal Group 25 performed an area sweep of the Van Hinh sub-sector, 36 miles northeast of Nha Trang on 1 April. The early morning operation routed nine Viet Cong suspects and one deserter. During a twilight sweep the next day 22 miles to the north, just east of Tuy Hoa, two Coastal Group 24 platoons gathered together 20 more enemy suspects for interrogation. Similarly on 3 April, Coastal Group 27, RF troops and sub-sector police swept the seacoast east of Phan Rang resulting in three Viet Cong suspects and one draft dodger captured.

At noon on 3 April, Coastal Group 25 completed a 12-day joint operation with ROKA forces east of the coastal group base in Khan Hoa Province. Two coastal group junks and a 15-man ambush party supporting the ROKA troops accounted for six Viet Cong killed while numerous ammunition, medicines, clothing items and equipment were captured and several

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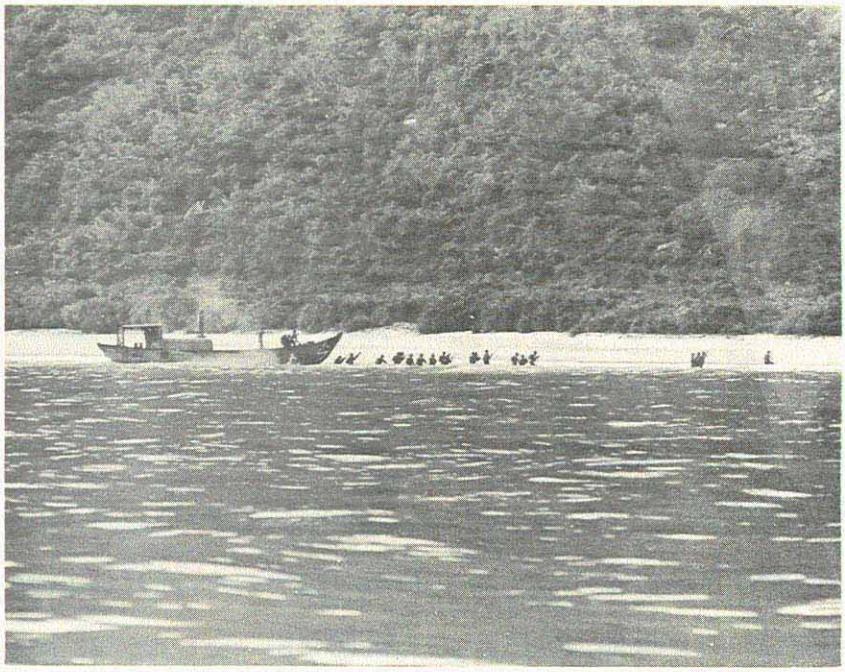

Vietnamese sailors assault the beach on Hon Heo Peninsula 10 miles north of Nha Trang on South Vietnam's central coast. The navymen were landed by VNN junks and secured the beach for Vietnamese midshipmen training and a beach survey.

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shelters were destroyed. Five miles to the north, a night ambush platoon from Coastal Group 25 captured three enemy suspects on 4-5 April. The next day, 6 April, the coastal group participated in an additional joint area search in the Van Ninh sub-sector with ROKA forces and PF troops which resulted in 53 Viet Cong suspects and 1 deserter detained.

A Coastal Group 23 team engaged the enemy in Phu Yen Province, 5 miles northeast of their coastal group base on 9 April. Two Viet Cong were killed, 2 others were wounded and 8 grenades, 2 Mauser rifles and numerous items of clothing and equipment were captured. The U. S. advisor was slightly wounded in the action. Again on 18 and 19 April, a Coastal Group 23 ambush team sought out the ensconced enemy in Phu Yen Province, across the bay from their base, detained 4 suspects.

Coastal groups of the 2nd Naval Zone conducted three additonal operations on 19 April. Coastal Group 24, in southern Phy Yen Province, east of Tuy Hoa, conducted an 11 hour cordon and search operation with RF/PF troops. The combined forces rounded up 9 Viet Cong suspects as well as 41 draft dodgers from the area. In the Van Ninh sub-sector, a Coastal Group 25 thirty-man landing party captured 4 Viet Cong, while further south in the Cam Ranh Special Zone, units of the Coastal Groups 26 and 27 commenced Operation TU CUONG 20/68. The joint efforts of the coastal groups, a platoon of the Cam Ranh Special Zone, two TF 115 "Swift" boats and an L-19, accounted for the destruction of 3,000 punji stakes, five 50-kilogram salt bags, three wells, a punji stake trap and two 55-

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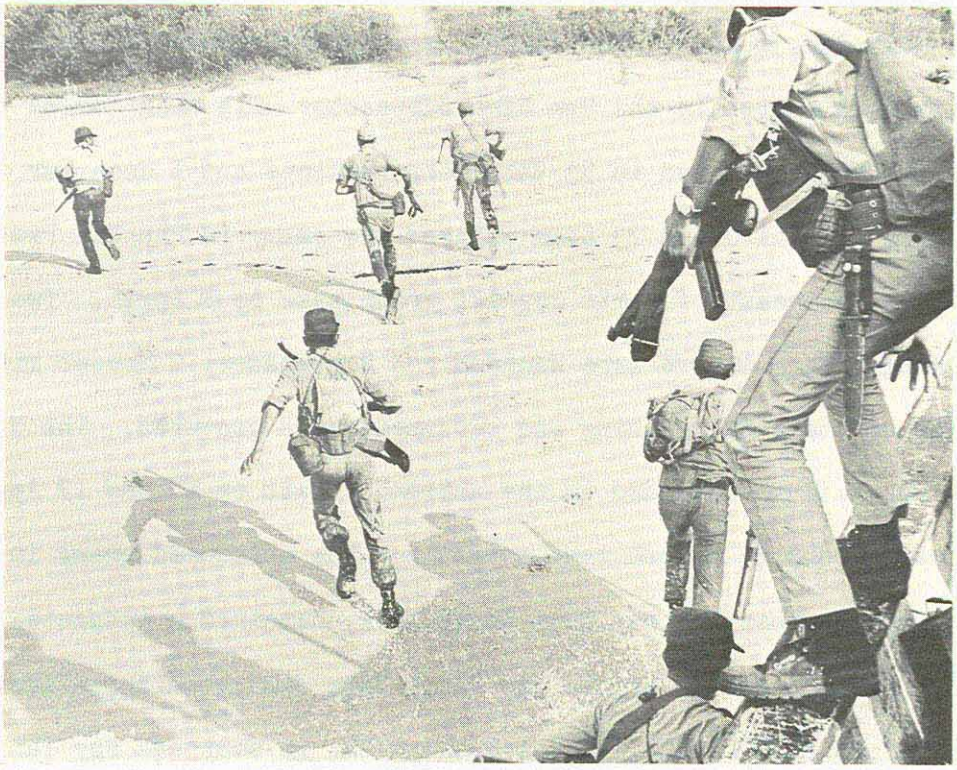

A coastal group landing party storms a beach in the Van Ninh sub-sector during a cordon and search operation.

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gallon drums. Enemy casaulties were unknown; there were no friendly casualties.

From the 20th to the 26th of April, Coastal Group 22 operated with ROKA troops and TF 116 units north of Qui Nhon City. The seven-square-mile cordon and search operation just east of Binh Dinh left over 200 enemy dead while friendly forces suffered 2 killed and 10 wounded. During the 6-day operation, 90 enemy suspects, 1 defector, and 13 draft dodgers were brought in and 76 of the enemy were captured along with a quantity of war materials, weapons and ammunition. Near a village, 15 miles to the north, ROKA forces and Coastal Group 21 engaged a small Viet Cong force on 26 April. The coastal group units provided gunfire support with Navy "Swift" boats as the ROKA and PF ground troops halted the enemy's advance into the village. Four Viet Cong were killed while a PF soldier also lost his life and three others were wounded in the fracas.

The next day, 27 April, Coastal Group 23 units engaged the enemy in Phu Yen Provence, east of the coast group base at Song Cau. The three platoons from the base were credited with killing one Viet Cong and capturing 16 guerrillas, 6 grenades and a quantity of clothing and documents.

Unlike previous months, April proved to be relatively unevenful for the coastal groups of the 3rd Naval Zone. Participating in the Delta-wide offensive pressure on the enemy, the coastal groups experienced light enemy contact. The insurgents, it would seem, sensed the stepped-up operations and chose to remain under cover. Incidents, minor in nature, occurred

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regularly, characterizing the terrorizing and harassing techniques of the Viet Cong. Despite the aggressive efforts to route the enemy on the part of the VNN coastal group personnel and their U.S. advisors, the results for the month were less than gratifying. Throughout the month nightly ambushes were set up by all coastal groups of the 3rd Naval Zone; in most cases negative contact was made, in others, one, two, or three suspects were detained. Combined operations with TF 116 units and ARVN troops were as numerous this month, but they too yielded minimal results.

During the first of the month Coastal Groups 32/33 were actively engaged in seeking out the enemy on Long Son Island, north of Vung Tau. On 1 April four men from the coastal group on a training mission located a base camp on the island. Two Viet Cong were killed and a tunnel complex was destroyed. The team received sniper fire but the elusive enemy fled the area. The pursuing landing party discovered a 2nd base camp, killing one Viet Cong and capturing another enemy insurgent. Returning on 6 April, the coastal group discovered an additional base camp and destroyed the bunkers/tunnel complex. Despite continuous enemy fire, the landing party escaped casualties. Booby-trapped food and entrance route, set by the coastal group personnel at one base camp on 1 April, were discovered detonated upon arrival of the team. Although no bodies were located, the team noted approximately 40 unmarked graves in the area. The coastal groups' actions during those days were felt to be a

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definite threat to the Viet Cong infrastructure on Long Son Island.

While transiting the Ben Tre Canal from Kien Hoa City to their coastal group base, units of Coastal Group 34/37 came under heavy 57-mm recoilless rocket fire. One junk received six rounds, caught fire and sunk. Although there were no casualties and all weapons were recovered, the junk was unsalvagable being 80 percent destroyed. Escorted by TF 116 "Seawolves" and PBR's, the convoy proceeded to their base, a second junk having sustained slight damage from three rounds.

TROUNG CONG DINH VB/02, another operation of the series, included Coastal Group 35, three RF companies and two PF platoons, sweeping northwest of the coastal group base on the Co Chien River. This sweep on the 10th of April resulted in two Viet Cong being captured while two of the Vietnamese soldiers were wounded.

The night of 26-27 April provided the mask for a Coastal Group 36 cordon and search operation with two PRU platoons in Ba Xuyen Province, northwest of their coastal group base on the Bassac River. An ammunition cache was discovered; three Viet Cong were captured along with numerous documents hidden nearby. Meanwhile, across the river on Dung Island, a similar operation was conducted that night by Coastal Group 31 and a 60-man PRU team which yielded three Viet Cong killed and eight Viet Cong and a quantity of documents captured.

In the 4th Naval Zone, enemy activity also remained at a low level. The coastal groups' operations were characterized by routine daily

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patrolling and searching the junks traversing the waterways. Psychological operations and civic action missions were carried on by An Thoi, Kien An and Poulo Obi Island based coastal groups. Whether distributing medical supplies, soap, food or clothing to the residents, or making "psyops" broadcasts to the enemy in hiding, the coastal groups made their presence and importance known. Use of the shallow draft skimmer boats gave access to the inland waters of Kien Giang Province and the beaches of Phu Quoc Island theretofore untouched by the VNN due to the shallow water. Small unit land patrols and cordon and search operations were conducted by the coastal group personnel and their junks afforded gunfire support to ground troops. Despite these conscientious efforts, in general, the enemy was not to be aroused.

An Thoi based Coastal Group 42 units discovered two small camp sites while on routine patrol on the northwest tip of Phu Quoc Island on 17 April. Although no enemy contact was made, the landing troops destroyed both sites. The next day this same patrol provided naval gunfire support to Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) spotting Viet Cong positions mid-island on the western shore. The coastal group was credited with killing six Viet Cong and wounding two others.

Three Puolo Obi Island Coastal Group 41 junks engaged the enemy while supporting U. S. Special Forces conducting a raid at the mouth of the Bay Hoa River on 22 April. After 30 minutes of fire the estimated Viet Cong platoon was silenced. The ground troops took two Viet Cong

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prisoners and confirmed that two Viet Cong were killed by the junk's gunfire.

On the night of 24-25 April, Coastal Group 42 units conducted a combined cordon and search/ambush/"psyops" mission 10 miles north of An Thoi. Setting up a 25-man ambush team, the coastal group junks landed another ground force to trap the fleeing Viet Cong. The ambush team killed two Viet Cong and three more of the enemy were suspected wounded in the fray. The landing party then commenced a "psyops" program with speakers and leaflets. The team received occasional fire which the junks off shore returned. Upon completion of the broadcast, the VNN sailors came upon a camp where they destroyed three structures, four bunkers and numerous fox holes.

Riverine Area Naval Commands

At the end of April, 234 craft were assigned to the THIRD Riverine Area, FOURTH Riverine Area and the River Transport and Escort Group (RTEG). A daily average of 157 craft were available for operations and 147 were employed. Six additional units, 4 LCVP's and 2 LCM's, continued to be assigned to I CTZ as an augmentation force to perform river patrol duties. River Assault Groups (RAG's) participated in 36 offensive operations, including 16 combined operations and 19 joint operations, in the THIRD and FOURTH Riverine Areas and the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ).

In the THIRD Riverine Area, RAG 30 craft operated south of Saigon to deny the enemy access to the rivers and canals interlacing the area

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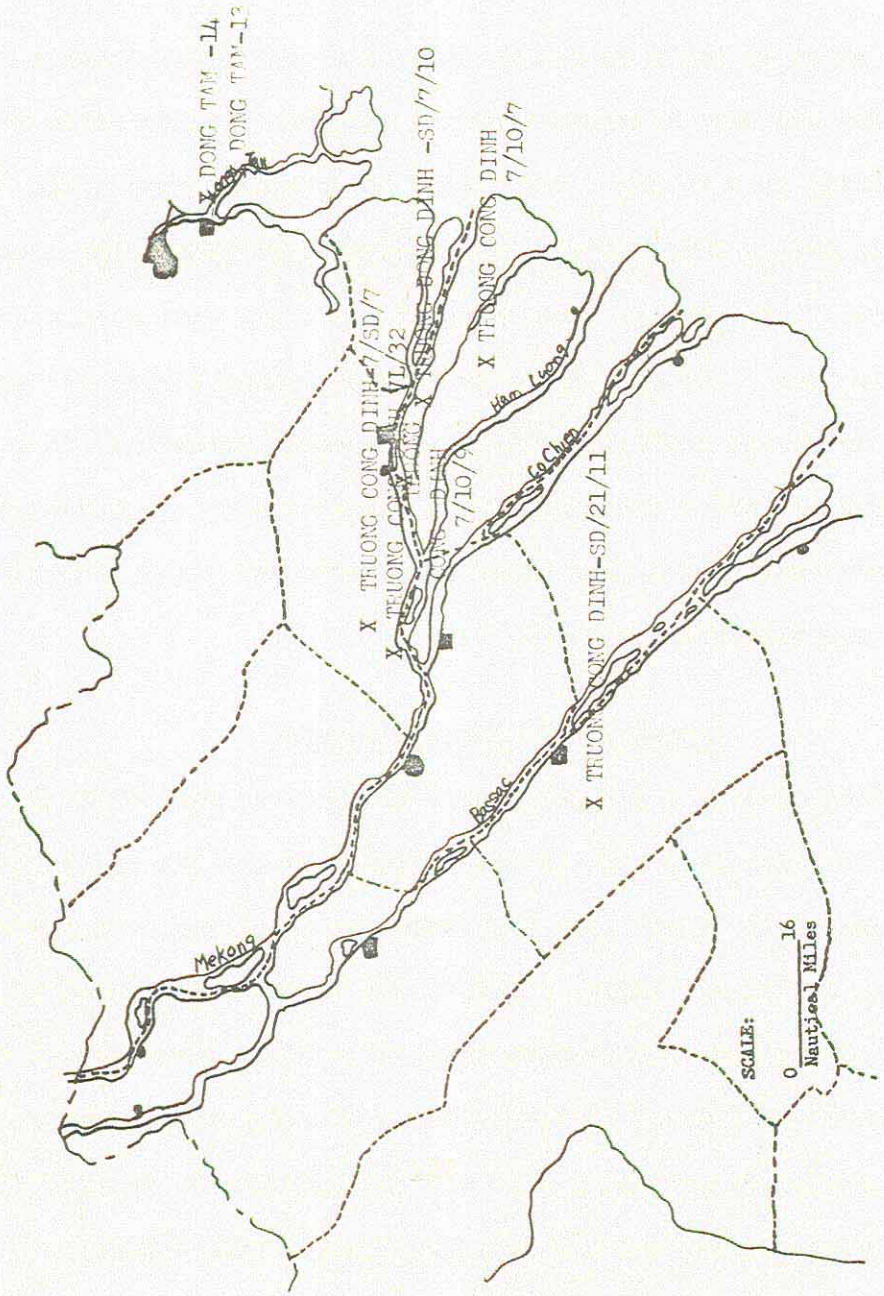
VIETNAMESE NAVY DELTA OPERATIONS



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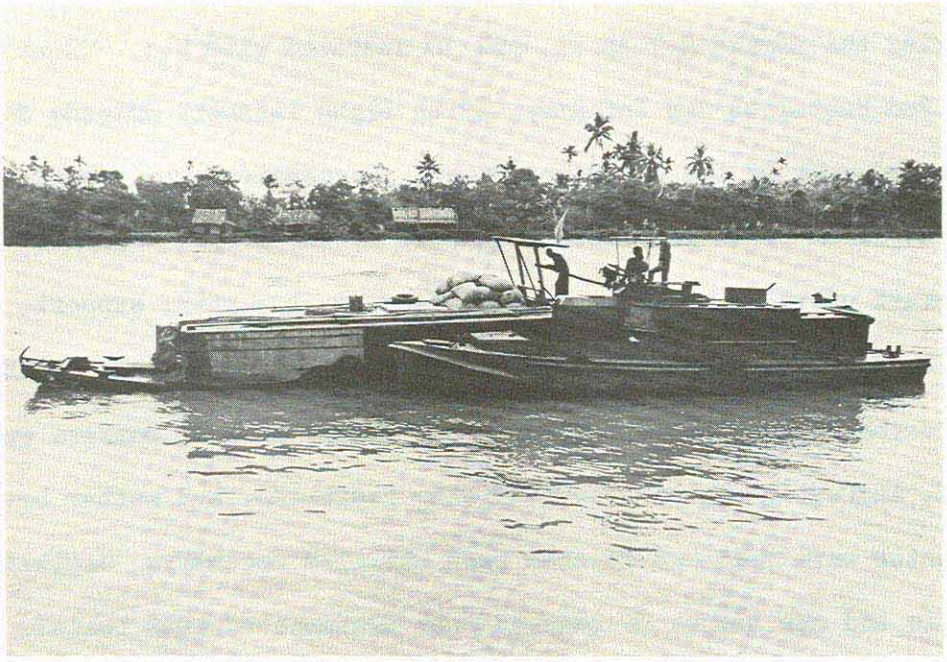

A river assault group FOM on river patrol inspects a junk for enemy weapons or unusual cargo as part of the VNN effort to halt enemy infiltration of men and supplies in South Vietnam.

north of the RSSZ. Transport, landing and blocking missions were conducted with U. S. and ARVN units throughout the month. The river craft of RAG 30 maintained perimeters and provided naval gunfire support and mobility to the ground troops as land sweeps sought out the enemy and his base camps and caches. On 2 April RAG craft supported an ARVN Ranger group from the Tam River, 7 miles southwest of Saigon. Landing the troops on the north bank, the RAG boats served as a blocking force.

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Several cordon and search operations throughout the day netted five Viet Cong killed and a sizable cache containing various weapons, rockets and grenade launchers and several thousand rounds of ammunition.

During the period 4-7 April, RAG 30 operated with U.S. "Charlie Company" 2nd Battalion 3rd Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade south of Saigon and east of the Can Giuoc River. Reconnaissance, ambush and cordon and search operations were conducted by the ground troops as the RAF craft provided mobility, barrier and naval gunfire support. The four days of sweeps in the area dotted with small base camps, shelters and caches dealt a severe blow to the enemy; over 60 bunkers were destroyed, including sleeping huts, firing positions, and mortar bases, most of which were believed to have been utilized recently. Clothing, foot prints and new graves discovered lent credence to that belief. Three sampans were destroyed and two others were captured. The enemy remained elusive, however, as no contact was made by the friendly forces.

Meanwhile to the north of Saigon, RAG 28 river craft supported Operation QUYET THANG 15/SD on 6 April with elements of the 5th ARVN Infantry Division. The RAG boats provided troop lift, beaching and medevac for the ARVN units, 15 miles north-northwest of Saigon on the Saigon River. Three Viet Cong were killed while 3 more were captured along with 200 pounds of rice, 51 rounds of 82-mm mortar and numerous other weapons and ammunition. On 8 April, RAG 22, operating on the Vam Co Dong River, southwest of Saigon, joined ARVN troops and VNAF

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aircraft; the ground sweep, west of the river, resulted in one Viet Cong killed and one Viet Cong and a small weapons cache captured. A series of bunkers were destroyed by the combined fire power.

Operation TOAN THANG 211/SD was conducted just east of the provincial captail city of Phu Cuong on 15 and 16 April. RAG 28 river craft provided support to elements of the 5th ARVN Infantry Division. The Two-day sweep netted 30 of the enemy killed while a quantity of war materials including mortar and rocket launchers, mines, individual weapons and ammunition were captured. On the 19th, river craft of RAG 28 again transported troops and provided naval gunfire support to 5th ARVN Infantry Division elements during Operation TOAN THANG 212/SD north of Phu Cuong on the Saigon River. In this operation 6 Viet Cong were killed and 1 was captured, and 23 complete 122-mm rockets, numerous plastics and TNT blocks were uncovered.

The next day RAG 28 units conducted Operation TRUONG CONG DINH 227/SD with elements of the 5th ARVN Infantry Division, just south of the city of Phu Cuong. This day's operation netted one Viet Cong killed, while three Viet Cong, one B-40 and five B-41 rockets, a quantity of ammunition, eight bags of rice and numerous documents were captured. Also on 20 April, TOAN THANG 138, with RAG 22 and the 50th ARVN Infantry Regiment, was conducted west from the Vam Co Dong River, 13 miles southwest of Saigon. Just to the east of the Vam Co Dong River, on 23 April, the RAG craft supported the ARVN troops during Operation TOAN THANG 151.

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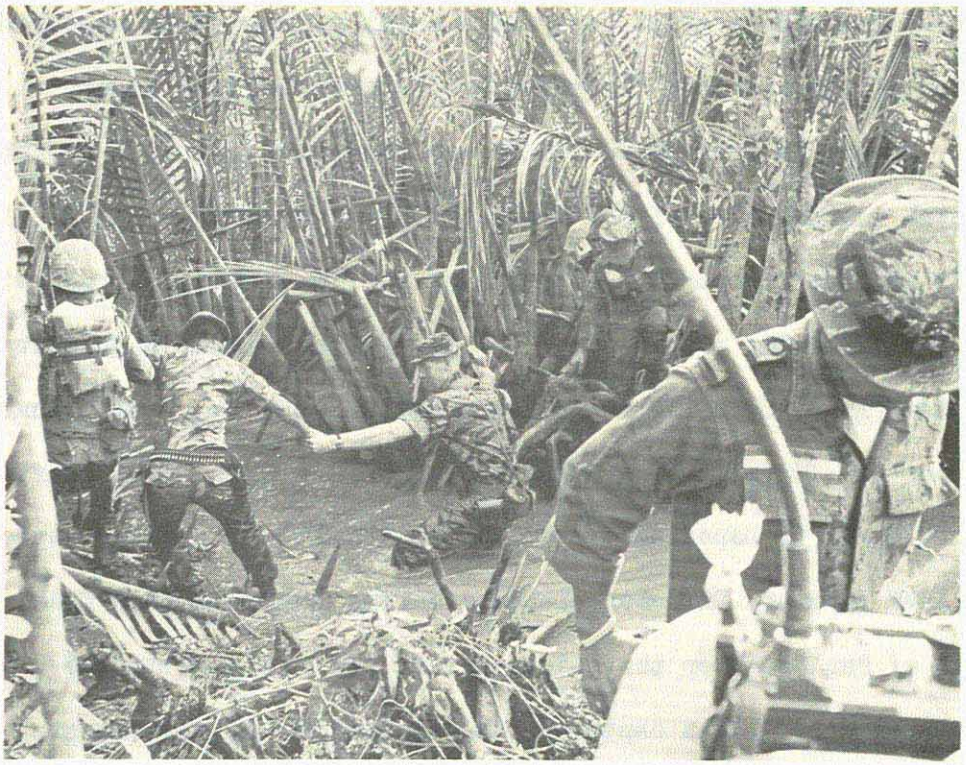

Vietnamese Commandos and their U. S. advisors probe the Rung Sat Special Zone during a recent offensive operation.

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Although the enemy casualties were unknown, 20 shelters were leveled in the sweep, communications equipment, a generator and numerous documents were captured, and two junks and a quantity of ammunition were captured, and two junks and a quantity of ammunition were destroyed.

Continuing the campaign to the south of Saigon, RAG 30 and the U. S. 199th Light Brigade troops swept the areas from the rivers and canals for enemy caches and base camps. On the 25th, fifteen bunkers were located and destroyed by the combined powers, and on the 29th, 33 more were leveled. At these locations the ground troops uncovered quantities of medical supplies, food, clothing, documents, weapons and ammunition and other war materials. The combined amphibious operations definitely denied the enemy the convenience of his base camps and various necessities for life and battle located near Saigon.

Vietnamese Navy controlled offensive operations in the RSSZ were pursued by the VNN Commandos and RF troops with their USN, USMC, and USA advisory personnel. Enemy activity was at a low level during the month as the friendly forces scoured the marshy land ribboned with rivers and streams. Numerous base camps and strongholds were encounterd this month. Bunkers and firing positions, rest areas and medical aid stations, newly established or worn with age and weather, were destroyed by the joint efforts of the allies, VNN and U.S. ground, river and air power.

On 4 April acting on intelligence provided by a POW captured on 24 March, a Commando platoon and RF troops and their U.S. advisors

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conducted Operation DONG TAM 11. The area, northeast of the mouth of the Soi Rap River, had just been hit by air and artillery fire. The Commandos found a base camp and hospital complex of seven well camouflaged hootches, two bunkers, a well, and a cooking area where the coals were still hot. Food and equipment were strewn about indicative of a hasty evacuation. The ground troops destroyed the camp, including a sampan nearby and captured two sampans, clothing, medicine, medical equipment, 18 mines, several hundred rounds of ammunition, two pounds of documents and 100 pounds of rice. The next day, 10 miles to the north, RAG 22 river craft transported RF troops to a Viet Cong base camp area. This operation, DONG TAM 12, resulted in six more bunkers and two sampans destroyed.

DONG TAM 13 was a five-company search and destroy operation held on 9 April, 5 miles east of Nha Be. River craft from RAG's 27 and 28 were utilized to transport a Commando platoon and the RF companies to two separate landing points; one element sweeping southward to the Upper Dong Tranh River and the other element northward from that river. This area was the site of numerous Viet Cong attacks on river craft along the Upper Dong Tranh and Long Tau rivers. The land force was supported by Army LHFT's, PBR's and RSSZ artillery batteries. Two sampans, one with four Viet Cong embarked, the other with one, were taken under fire and destroyed. All occupants were killed. The troops encountered no more enemy; four hand grenades, a set of binoculars and two rifles were

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captured that day.

Commandos, transported by RAG 27 craft and led by a Viet Cong POW, once again uncovered a base camp on 14 April. Deep in the RSSZ 16 miles southeast of Saigon, this base camp of four huts and four bunkers, apparently not used for several months, was destroyed. On the 20th, Commandos and two U. S. advisors were inserted by Army "Slick" helicopters, 6 miles east of the convergency of the Vam Co and Soi Rap rivers. The Commandos destroyed seven bunkers while encountering no enemy. Further north that day, east of Nha Be, RAG 27 and two RF companies conducted Operation DONG TAM 14. The river craft transported and provided blocking support to the ground troops who destroyed two sampans, killed six Viet Cong and captured clothing and documents.

RAG's of the Fourth Riverine were actively engaged in the Delta-wide TRUONG CONG DINH campaign; a series of ARVN-inspired offensive operations which significantly suppressed the enemy. Mobility in the tangled rivers and streams of the Delta was provided the ARVN forces by the RAG craft. Thus the amphibious operations, necessitated by the water-logged character of the Delta, were carried out by the joint forces of the VNN and ARVN. In each operation, the multi-purpose RAG craft carried troops to and from the areas of operations, maintained perimeter and blocking support and provided naval gunfire support to the forces ashore. The routine mission of the RAG's was also pursued this month as the craft patrolled the rivers, ran logistic lifts and provided

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RAG 21/33 convoy transiting the My Tho River with ARVN troops and equipment embarked during one operation of the TRUONG CONG DINH Campaign.

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escort support to the river convoys.

TRUONG CONG DINH 21/06, which commenced on 31 March, was conducted by RAG's 25/29 boats, two VNMC battalions and five ARVN battalions and terminated on 5 April. The VNMC battalions were credited with 14 Viet Cong killed and two captured while suffering 14 of their own wounded. The ground troops swept north and east of the Can Tho River toward Can Tho City, destroying a Viet Cong base camp and a grenade factory containing molds and equipment. The foruces destroyed or caputed a lengthy list of weapons and ammunition, rice and gasoline. Meanwhile on 3 April, craft from RAG 25/29 detachment at Ca Mau lifted the ARVN 32nd Infantry Regiment and An Xuyen Province forces up the Quan Lo Den Phung Hiep Canal, 12 miles northeast of the city of Ca Mau. This operation, TRUONG CONG DINH 11/SD/21, yielded one Viet Cong killed and seven captured.

RAG's 21/33 and 23/31 river craft and the VNN Fleet Command ship LSSL 225 embarked the ARVN 10th Infantry Regiment Command and two battalions, the 10th Reconnaissance Company, an ARVN Ranger battalion and U. S. 9th Infantry Division elements for Operation TRUONG CONG DINH 7/10/7. Oc Island in the Ham Luong River during the period 4-7 April was the scene for repeated ground sweeps as the VNN river craft and U.S. PBR's maintained blocking and gunfire support positions encircling the island. Intermittent but heated battles were waged for the four days during which time the RAG craft provided much needed mortar illumination and medevac runs. The U. S. forces were credited with killing 71

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of the enemy and capturing 13, while suffering 39 of their own killed and another 146 wounded. The ARVN forces killed 13 Viet Cong while capturing 15 of the enemy and sustaining 5 ARVN fatalities of their 59 casualties. A quantity of weapons and ammunition, 30 bunkers and 100 liters of gasoline were destroyed or captured by the allied forces.

The FOM, which was sunk in the Can Tho River in March (see March COMNAVFORV Monthly Supplement, page 142), was successfully raised on 5 April by the VNN salvage LCM's and was towed to Can Tho the next day. Repair operations then commenced on the B-40 and B-41 rocket-scarred hull.

TRUONG CONG DINH 7/SD/7 was conducted by RAG's 21/33 and 23/31 river craft and ARVN 7th Division personnel in Dinh Tuong Province north of the My Tho River. Between the period 7 through 10 April the RAG craft carried troops, maintained blocking positions and provided naval gunfire support from the My Tho River at the convergence of the Co Chien River. Although only one of the enemy was killed, 18 others were captured and the ground forces liberated four ARVN troops who had been held by the enemy. Besides the numerous weapons and ammunition captured during this operation, a PRC-10 radio and E-8 telephone, diving gear, two tractors, 11 mines and 4 flame throwers were seized and a weapons shop and two first aid stations were destroyed with attendant equipment and supplies.

On 10 April river craft of RAG's 23/31 and 21/33 transported the

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VNMC Task Force B Command and two battalions, three ARVN battalions, two reconnaissance companies and a Ranger battalion to Ving Long Province just east of Tan Dinh Island in the Bassac River. As the mobile, blocking and naval gunfire support for Operation TRUONG CONG DINH SD/9, the RAG craft patrolled the river between the island and the main bank. Fire received from the island was returned and silenced by the VNN craft. The next day the forces ashore were back-loaded and returned to Can Tho. One Viet Cong had been killed and six were captured along with clothing, knapsacks and six sewing machines. Two Viet Cong were captured and five suspects were detained as a result of Operation TRUONG CONG DINH 7/10/8 conducted on 15 April. ARVN 7th Division troops were landed in Vinh Binh Province from the Ham Luong River southeast of Ben Tre by RAG's 21/23 and 23/31.

ARVN 7th Division units and the four RAG's participated in TRUONG CONG DINH 7/10/9 east of My Tho on 16 April. As the VNN river craft patrolled the My Tho River, the ground troops swept westward to My Tho. Six Viet Cong were captured including two female cadre and three suspects were brought in. There were two enemy killed while there were no friendly casualties. For the next three days, TRUONG CONG DINH SD/7/10 was conducted in Dinh Tuong Province, 7 miles northwest of Dong Tam. RAG 21/33 craft provided mobile, gunfire and blocking support to two ARVN battalions, a Ranger battalion, a reconnaissance company and units of the U. S. 2nd Brigade 9th Infantry Division. This combined operation

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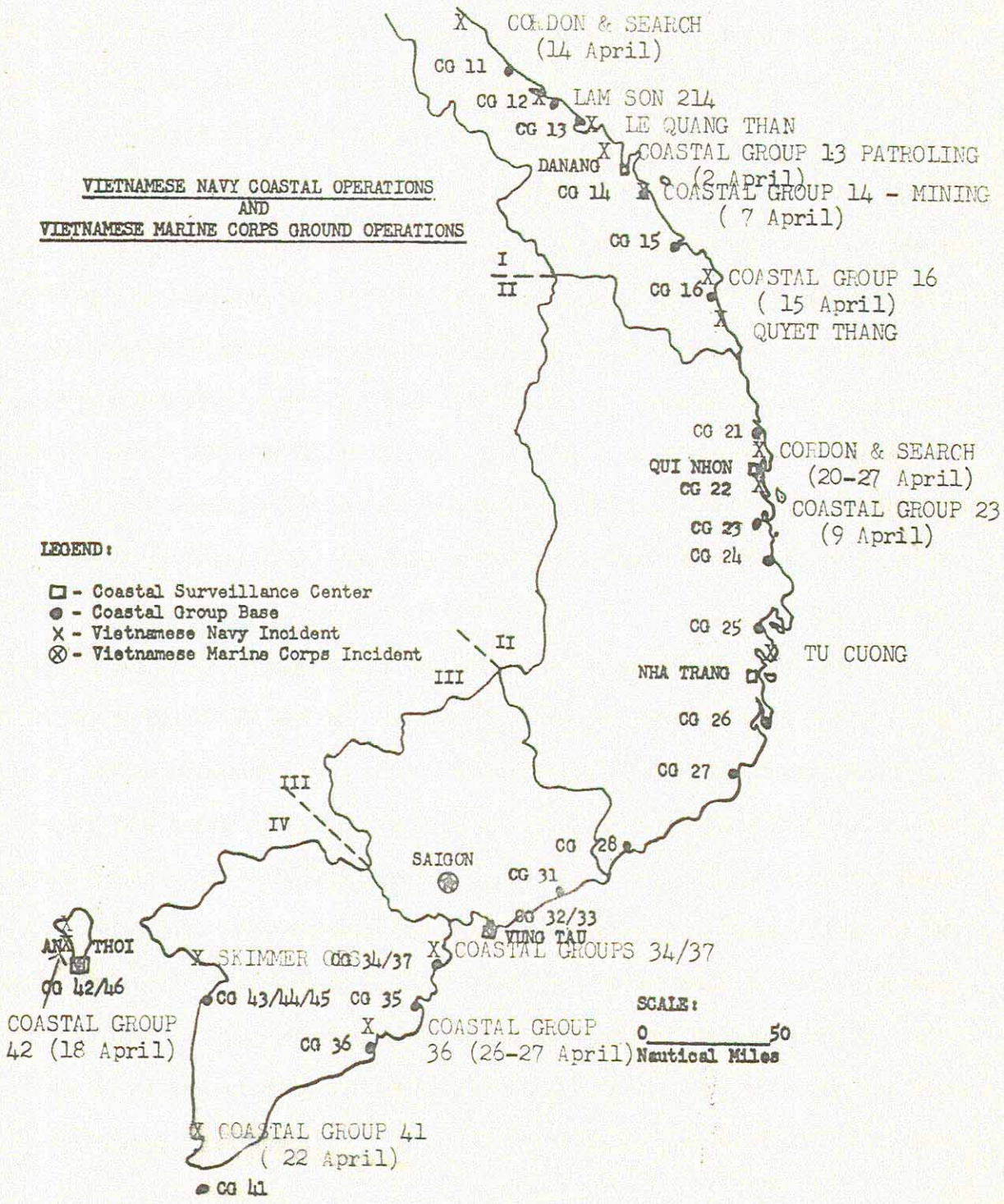

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left 149 of the enemy dead on the battle field; 13 Viet Cong and 3 suspects were captured. A quantity of war materials, weapons and ammunition, was captured or destroyed. Army losses were 4 killed with another 50 wounded and ARVN forces suffered 13 killed and 55 wounded in this confrontation.

On 21 and 22 April RAG's 23/31 supported an ARVN battalion, two RF companies and a PF platoon in Vinh Long Province, 5 miles northeast of Vinh Long during Operation TRUONG CONG DINH VL/32. This land sweep netted 7 Viet Cong killed, 3 Viet Cong and 30 suspects captured along with assorted weapons and ammunition, ARVN losses were 9 killed and 17 wounded.

The RAG 33 commandament which was sunk on 1 March west of My Tho (see March COMNAVFORV Monthly Supplement, page 137), was raised and towed to Dong Tam on 22 April.

On 22 and 23 April, RAG 25/29 provided troop lift and river blocking support during Operation TRUONG CONG DINH SD/21/11 conducted by two VNMC battalions, two ARVN battalions and VNAF aircraft. The ground troops killed three Viet Cong and captured a carbine and a case of miscellaneous ammunition as they attacked from the Can Tho River northeast toward Can Tho.

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VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

During the month the six infantry battalions of the VNMC operated

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in III and IV Corps Tactical Zone, the Capital Military District and with the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF). The infantry battalions and the artillery battalions were committed to combat operations 100 percent of the time during the month of April.

Task Force A, composed of the 1st, 5th and 6th battalions (and the 4th battalion, 1-8 April, see page 138) continued Operation QUYET THANG under the operation control of the CMD. Small unit patrols conducted by the Marines throughout the month swept the areas north and east of Saigon which in the past harbored the treacherous enemy. Opposition was negligible as the Marines secured each area of operation and moved forward relocating command posts. The enemy remained undercover and/or elusive this month except on 20 April when the 5th and 6th battalions made heavy enemy contact. In close coordination with two companies of the 2nd Brigade, 18th Infantry, 1st U. S. Infantry Division in blocking positions and U. S. Army gunships overhead, the VNMC battalions achieved every objective and accounted for 21 Viet Cong killed, including 2 females. They captured 10 individual weapons and one crew-served weapon as well as assorted amounts of ammunition, rice and documents. There were 9 VNMC personnel wounded during the battle.

Meanwhile Task Force B, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th battalions, participated in the TRUONG CONG DINH campaign in IV CTZ throughout the month of April (2nd battalion, 1-16 April only). During Operation TRUONG CONG DINH 21/06 the marines were credited with killing 14 Viet Cong (see

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page 131). Under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Infantry Division, the Marines continued to sweep and advance in their assigned areas of operation. Besides joint operations such as TRUONG CONG DINH SD/9 and TRUONG CONG DINH SD/21/11 (see pages 133, 135), the marines participated in battalion-sized operations such as Operation SONG THAN 822-68 on 18 April. Having engaged an unknown size enemy force in Phong Dinh Province, 8 miles south of Can Tho, the 3rd battalion secured the area, resulting in 6 Viet Cong killed while 2 of their own were killed and 4 wounded.

The 2nd battalion left Task Force B on 17 April to augment the MRF as a two company ready-reaction force at Dong Tam. Daily operations in Dinh Tuong Province resulted in light contact with the enemy. On 23 April the MRF craft landed the 2nd battalion in Kien Phong Province east of Sa Dec. Sweeping north and west, the battalion contacted what was suspected to be the 207th Viet Cong Anti-Aircraft Battalion about 6 miles north of Sa Dec. VNMC artillery and Army helicopter gunships were utilized throughout the day. When the heated contest was over, the Marines had found 15 Viet Cong bodies. The Marines suffered 39 wounded and 3 killed in the action. The next day the battalion killed 5 more Viet Cong in a sweep of the previous day's area of operations. The 2nd battalion remained with the MRF throughout the month, not gaining any additional significant enemy contact.

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Vietnamese Marine Corps Operational Control Summary April 1968

Unit	Date	Operational Control
First Battalion	1 April	III Corps Tactical Zone
	2-30 April	Task Force A, VNMC
Second Battalion	1-16 April	Task Force B, VNMC
	17-30 April	IV Corps Tactical Zone in close coordination and co-operation with the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF)
Third Battalion	1-30 April	Task Force B, VNMC
Fourth Battalion	1-8 April	Task Force A, VNMC
	9-15 April	III Corps Tactical Zone
	16-30 April	Task Force B, VNMC
Fifth Battalion	1 April	Task Force A, VNMC
	2-7 April	III Corps Tactical Zone
	8-30 April	Task Force A, VNMC
Sixth Battalion	1-30 April	Task Force A, VNMC
A Battery	1-30 April	Task Force A, VNMC
B Battery	1-30 April	Task Force B, VNMC
C Battery	1-30 April	Task Force A, VNMC

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APPENDIX I
SECTION I

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 10 junks with the responsibility of patrolling from 30-60 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.
CLEARWATER	Task Force CLEARWATER was activated in February 1968 with the mission of expediting and improving naval supply to combat forces in the northern I CTZ by exercising overall coordination of activities concerning movement and protection of logistic craft on the Perfume River and Cua Viet River lines of communication. This special task force was created in response to heavy enemy pressure directed at these LOC at a time of increasing combat operation and logistic requirements by the built-up Northern ICTZ forces.

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CLEARWATER (Con't.)	Two river security groups were formed from River Patrol Force and River Assault Force craft. Supporting forces available on request included artillery and naval gunfire units, helicopter gunships, logistic craft, and ground reaction forces.
CORDS	Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support.
COSURVFOR	Coastal Surveillance Force (USN) TF-115 - The U. S. forces participating in Operation 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.
DAI DOAN KET	National Reconciliation Program - Program which is aimed at helping qualified returnees find employment commensurate with their previous training and experience.
FWMAF	Free World Military Assistance Forces (all engaged in South Vietnam.)
GAME WARDEN	The operation performed by U. S. Navy forces to interdict Viet Cong movement on the major waterways

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GAME WARDEN (Con't.)	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 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 waterborne 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.
LCMM	Landing Craft Medium Minesweeper.
LDNN	Lien Doc Nguoi Nhia (VNN) - Literally "soldiers who fight under the sea." UDT force of the VNN.
LHFT	Light Helicopter Fire Team (U. S.) - A helicopter fire team composed of two gunships used in support of ground and waterborne units.
LRRP	Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol.

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MARKET TIME	The operation conducted by U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces to interdict Viet Cong infiltration of men and supplies from the sea.
MAF	Marine Amphibious Force
MEDCAP	Medical Civic Action Program
MG	Machine Gun - An automatic, crew-served weapon adaptable to many mountings. The four types of machine guns 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 to assist operations ashore; often spotted and corrected by spotter aircraft or forward observers.
NILO	Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer

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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
PF	Popular Forces - Military forces recruited and employed within a district; organized in platoons and squads.
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.
RED HAZE	Infrared Detector (U. S.) - Sensitive heat detectors used as an airborne locator of personnel, equipment and military sites.

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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.
ROK	Republic of Korea.
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.
RTEG	River Transport and Escort Group.
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.
STABLE DOOR	The U. S. Navy operation conducted to provide harbor defense.

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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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APPENDIX II

SECTION 2

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

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

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

AMMI (Pontoon) -A multi-purpose barge. It is 5 by 28 by 90 feet and is sectioned into 12 interior spaces. Each barge contains six fittings for columns to raise or lower the barge on spuds, fittings to connect several barges end-to-end for causeway use, and fittings to allow side-mounting on LSTs and LSDs.

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AMMI (Con't.) (Pontoon) -In addition to causeway use, the barges can be positioned to embark and debark troops and to serve as platforms for patrol craft hull maintenance.

APB -Personnel Barracks Ship - An LST converted to provide berthing for an Army battalion and a River Assault Squadron. The ship is 328 feet long with berthing spaces for 122 officers and 1,180 enlisted men, and mounts four 4.2-inch mortars, two 40-mm quad gun mounts, two 20-mm twin gun mounts, and ten 7.62-mm machine guns. It has a speed of 12 knots and carries a crew of 11 officers and 161 enlisted men.

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

ARG -Repair Ship, Internal Combustion Engine - A repair ship converted from a C-2 freighter and capable of repairing ships and craft with gasoline or diesel propulsion plants. This ship is 442 feet long and

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ARG (Con't.) -mounts three 3"/50 caliber guns. It has a speed of 11.5 knots and a crew of 19 officers and 493 enlisted men.

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

ASPB -Assault Support Patrol Boat - A special configured craft designed principally for use by the Riverine Assault Force. The boat is 50 feet long and mounts one 20-mm gun mount, one 81-mm mortar, two MK-18 40-mm grenade launchers, and one twin-.50 and four .30 caliber machine guns. The ruggedly-constructed, high-speed (14.8 knots) boat, with a crew of seven enlisted men, is used as a minesweeping and escort craft for the troop carriers.

ATC -Armored Troop Carrier - A modified, armored LCM-6 designed principally for use by the Riverine Assault Force. The boat is 56 feet long with an extended deckhouse mounting two 20-mm guns, two .50 caliber machine guns, and four M-60 machine guns. The craft can carry approximately 40 combat troops

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ATC (Con't.) -or two and a half to three tons of cargo. It has a speed of eight and a half knots and carries a crew of seven enlisted men. Special bar-and-plate armor has been added to provide protection for the hull and deckhouse against projectiles up and including 57-mm HEAT rounds.

ATC(H) -Armored Troop Carrier (Helicopter) - An ATC with a portable helicopter landing platform mounted above the craft's well-deck. The platform provides faster handling of medical evacuees and enables the MRF to conduct certain airborne re-supply and assault missions more expeditiously.

BOSTON WHALER -A 16' fiberglass, shallow-draft mortor boat.

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

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CCB (Con't.) -to that installed on ATCs.

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

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

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

LCU -Landing Craft Utility - Used to deliver cargo throughout the Republic of Vietnam. The primary source of

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LCU (Con't.) -delivering cargo to Dong Ha and Hue in I Corps. The boat is 118 feet long and has a maximum speed of 8 knots. The boat captain is usually a Chief Petty Officer, who commands an enlisted crew of 13 enlisted men.

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

LST (GAME WARDEN Support Ship) -A 548-Class tank landing ship specially configured for GAME WARDEN Operations. The cargo hatch has been enlarged to 13- by 32-feet to permit lowering PBRs and helicopters to the tank deck for repairs and maintenance. The main deck forward of the cargo hatch has been strengthened and life-saving nets have been added port and starboard to support helicopter operations. A 10-ton boat lifting boom has been added on the starboard side just forward of the deckhouse. In addition, the transient berthing facilities on board have been increased to accommodate eight officers and 112 enlisted men. An ancillary role performed by the LST is radar

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LST (Con't.) -surveillance in support of MARKET TIME units in the area. The ship's speed is 12 knots, and the crew consists of 17 officers and 123 enlisted men.

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

MSB -Minesweeper, Boat - A small minesweeper designed for clearing sheltered waters, e.g., the Long Tau River. The boat is 57 feet long, mounts one .50 caliber and one .30 caliber machine gun, two Mark 18 grenade launchers, and is equipped with radar. It has a speed of 11 knots and carries a crew of six enlisted men.

PACV -Patrol Air Cushion Vehicle - The new craft is an all-metal peripheral jet-type hovercraft powered

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PACV (Con't.) -by a single marine gas turbine engine, enabling the craft to reach approximately 50 knots under optimum conditions. With a crew of one officer and four enlisted men, the craft is equipped with radar and mounts one twin .50 caliber machine gun, three MK21 7.62-mm machine guns and one MK18 40-mm grenade launcher. The PACV, with a length of 38.7 feet, a width of 23 feet and a height of 16.5 feet (cushion-borne), is to be used primarily as a rapid reaction craft, a high-speed, logistic re-supply craft for small quantities of high priority material, and for SAR missions with the MRF.

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

PBR (MK II) -Patrol Boat, River - An improved version of the PBR with the same basic design; principal changes include

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PBR (MK II) (Con't.) -a lower silhouette, and modifications to the armament.

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

PG -Patrol Gunboat - A patrol boat for use in offshore waters. It is a new design with an all-aluminum hull and a combination diesel/gas turbine propulsion plant. The boat is equipped with radar, is 165 feet long, mounts one 3"/50 calibergun, one 81-mm mortar and two .50 caliber machine guns. The craft's speed is 37 knots under turbine power and 16 under diesel power. The crew consists of three officers and 21 enlisted men.

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

P-3A -Orion - A long-range patrol aircraft used extensively in Operation MARKET TIME. The plane is powered by

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P-3A (Con't.) -four turbo-prop engines, carries 11,000 pounds of bombs, and has a maximum take-off weight of 127,500 pounds. Orions have a range of 3,700 miles, a cruising speed of 310 knots, and a crew of four officers and nine enlisted men.

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

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

VEDETTE -A general term referring to any of several classes of old French river boats--utilized by VNN RAGs and GVN police units.

UH-1B -Helicopter (Iroquois) - A U. S. Army helicopter on

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UH-1B (Con't.) -loan to the U. S. Navy in South Vietnam. Alternately referred to as a "Huey" or a "Gunship" or a "Seawolf," the aircraft mounts four 7.62-mm machine guns in pairs, two M-60 machine guns in pairs, two M-60 machine guns and two pods capable of firing 14 2.74-inch rockets. The helicopter has a range of 250 miles, a speed of 125 knots, and carries a crew of two officers and two enlisted men.

UH-1D -The unarmed version of the "Huey," commonly referred to as a "Slick." It can carry 10 troops, four litters, or 2,000 pounds of cargo.

WHEC -High Endurance Cutter (USCG) - An ocean-going, Coast Guard patrol ship, earmarked as a replacement for DEs and DERs in Operation MARKET TIME. The radar-equipped ship is 311 feet long, mounts one 5"/38 gun, six .50 caliber machine guns, one Mark 10 torpedo launcher with six torpedos, and two 81-mm mortars. The ship has a speed of 19 knots and carries a crew of 13 officers and 140 enlisted men.

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

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WPB (Con't.) -speed of 18 knots and a crew of two officers and nine enlisted men.

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

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

YFU -Utility Yard Craft - The newest version of this craft is called the SKILAK and is capable of carrying 330 short tons of dry cargo or 86,000 gallons of liquid cargo at a speed of 10 knots.

YRBM -Repair, Berthing and Messing Barge - A converted YFNB equipped with a large deckhouse containing shops and maintenance areas for small craft, and berthing and messing facilities for boat crews.

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YRBM (Con't.) -The craft can berth 97 boat-crew personnel. The armament and the size of the permanent crew are the same as that of a YFNB.

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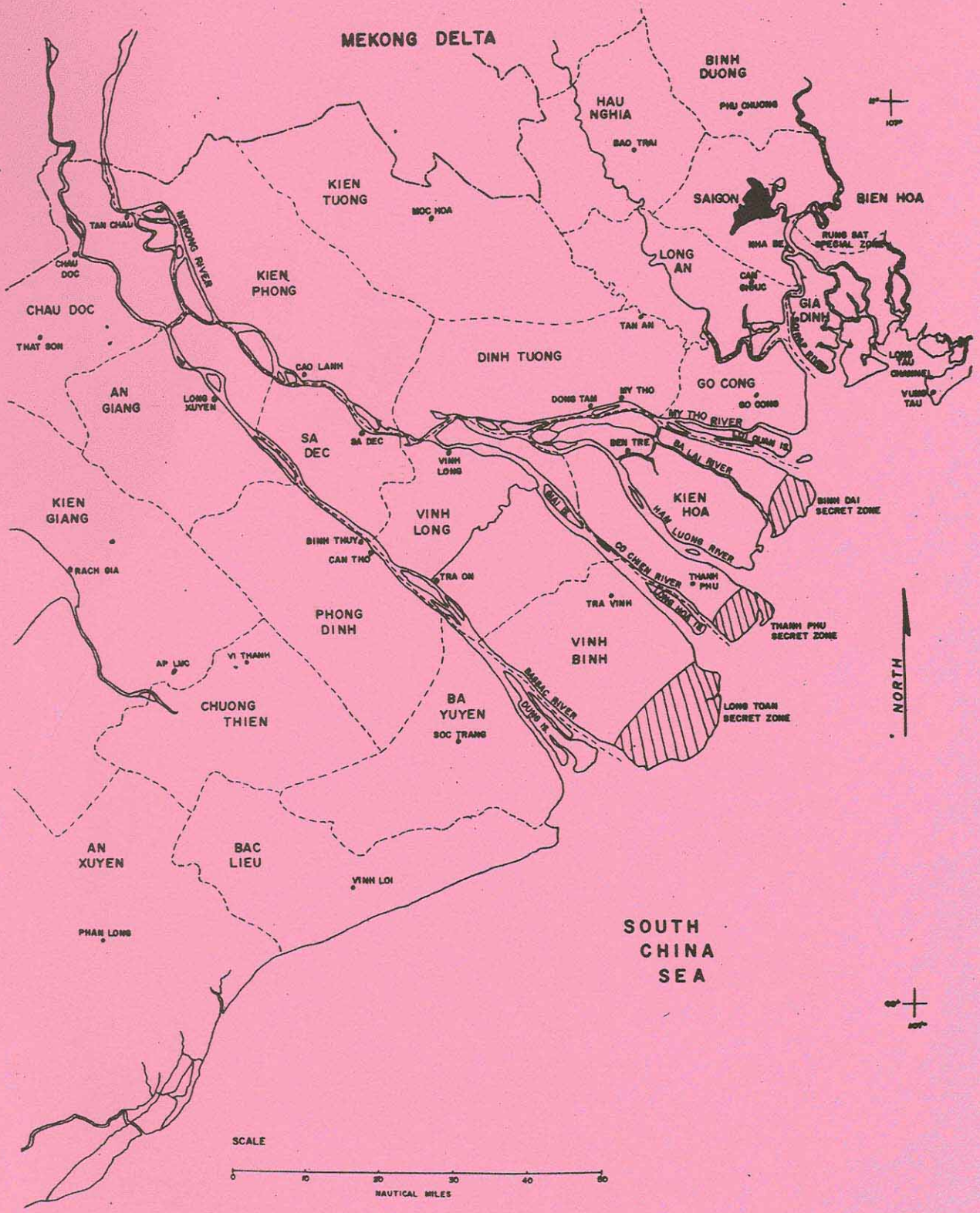

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From: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)

Subj: U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, April 1968; 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 Psychological Operations
(6) USN Statistical Summary
(7) VNN/VNMC Statistical Summary
(8) USN Civic Action Statistical Summary

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are submitted.

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

S. T. ORME
Chief of Staff

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY (TASK FORCE 115)
April 1968

MARKET TIME patrol units in the four Coastal Zones maintained excellent patrol effectiveness during April as the weather continued to be good throughout a high percentage of the month. Indigenous fishing activity and coastal cargo traffic returned to near normal proportions during the month with a corresponding high level of routine MARKET TIME activity.

In April MARKET TIME units detected 66,543 junks and sampans; 27,216 of these were inspected and 9,807 were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 523 suspicious persons. In addition, 1,256 steel-hulled craft were detected transitting MARKET TIME areas during the month. The month's activity also included providing numerous exfiltration/infiltration patrols in support of ground operations, 242 naval gunfire support missions and 27 hostile fire incidents. As a result of these operations, 37 enemy structures and 12 junks were destroyed. In addition, 46 Viet Cong were killed (eight probable).

On 1 April MARKET TIME air surveillance forces suffered the loss of a P3B Orion and its crew when a Patrol Squadron TWENTY-SIX aircraft crashed at sea, five miles south of An Thoi on Phu Quoc Island in the Gulf of Thailand. The aircraft, operating out of U Tapao, Thailand, was on a routine MARKET TIME patrol when the Coastal Surveillance Center at An Thoi requested assistance in establishing visual reconnaissance of a Cambodian LSSL which was reported to be offloading cargo to sampans near the Cambodian

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Island of Hon Doc in the Gulf of Thailand. The aircraft responded to the request and moments later reported it had received hostile fire and intended to ditch. The aircraft was observed with its outboard starboard engine on fire, a large hole in the outer section of the starboard wing and both starboard engines feathered as it passed over the southern tip of Phu Quoc Island. SAR and salvage operations commenced immediately after the crash. There were no survivors among the 12 crewmembers and at month's end a thorough investigation of the salvaged wreckage was being conducted.

During the afternoon of the 3rd, USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68) conducted a naval gunfire mission against an estimated enemy battalion 36 miles north-northeast of Ca Mau Point near the coast of the Gulf of Thailand. Responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne spotter, the cutter killed six Viet Cong, wounded four others, destroyed five structures and damaged an additional 15.

On the 6th PCFs 21 and 99 observed approximately 100 people unloading sampans along the beach 19 miles north-northwest of Danang. The Swift boats utilized their loudspeakers in an attempt to summon the people to the PCFs for interrogation with negative results. The Swifts then notified 1st MARDIV authorities of the situation and were requested to commence a naval gunfire mission immediately. The mission resulted in the death of three Viet Cong.

USCGC MINNETONKA (WHEC 67) provided 5-inch naval gunfire against an

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enemy position 34 miles north of Ca Mau Point on the 11th. Utilizing an airborne spotter, the cutter destroyed one sampan and killed two Viet Cong. In another mission in the same general area on the 15th, MINNETONKA destroyed eight structures and two sampans.

Also on the 15th, a special PCF naval gunfire element consisting of four PCFs conducted an intensive gunfire mission on an area of extensive Viet Cong bunkers, firing positions and structures 43 miles northwest of Rach Gia on the coast of the Gulf of Thailand. The area, which had been the scene of numerous hostile fire incidents in recent weeks, was saturated with 81-mm mortars and .50 caliber machine-gun fire. An airborne spotter reported all rounds on target, destroying 45 structures and killing one Viet Cong (probable).

From the 20th to the 27th of April, a combined operation was held in the Qui Nhon vicinity. While ROK Army forces swept the area, U. S. naval forces utilizing PCFs and PBRs provided blocking patrols. The successful operation, which also utilized helicopter gunships, artillery, attack aircraft and landing craft, resulted in more than 200 enemy troops being killed and 76 others captured. In addition, 90 individual weapons and 14 crew-served weapons were captured.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
April 1968

The proliferation of enemy automatic weapons and rockets was evidenced in the Viet Cong attacks from ambush against Navy units and commercial shipping. GAME WARDEN units were directed to institute aggressive measures against the enemy to offset any attempt by the enemy to increase his tempo of operations to enhance his position in any possible future negotiations. Minesweepers made repeated recoveries of electrical wire during sweeps on the Long Tau River, indicating a possible step up in enemy mining efforts. Four free-floating mines were found on the Long Tau, about four miles southeast of Nha Be, on 28 April. The mines were identical in design to those found in February and brings to 10 the number detected. On 26 April, while on a Long Tau minesweeping patrol, a LCMM was ambushed by the Viet Cong. One U. S. Navyman was wounded, one VNN LCMM-trainee was killed and three other trainees were wounded in the attack. The enemy fire was suppressed by return fire from the minesweeper and a PBR patrol. The commercial tug MICHAEL (Alaskan Barge and Tug Company) and the SS TULANE VICTORY (MSTS) were attacked by enemy forces on separate occasions. On 7 April the MICHAEL was hit by rockets and automatic-weapons on the My Tho river, about eight miles north of Vinh Long. The Master and Mate were killed in the attack. PBRs, responding to the attack, arrived on the scene 15 minutes later and escorted the tug clear of the ambush area. On 25 April SS TULANE VICTORY was hit, six miles southeast of Nha Be on the Long Tau, while en

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route to Saigon. The ship received at least two RPG-7 rocket hits, plus heavy automatic-weapons fire, along the starboard side. Penetration damage was sustained in five positions and the starboard life boat was heavily damaged. There were no personnel casualties. PBRs, Navy "Seawolves" and Army helicopters converged on the enemy firing positions and suppressed the fire shortly after the attack began. GAME WARDEN units supported the ROKA Operation, MAENG HO II, on the Qui Nhon peninsula in II Corps Tactical Zone, marking their first entry into this theater of operations. River Section 532 and USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) provided blocking forces for the Korean ground sweep, conducted 20-26 April, and resulted in 206 Viet Cong killed and 76 captured. There were no TF 116 casualties. General KIM, Chief of Staff, ROKA, visiting Korean forces in Vietnam, advised that complete success of operations occurred only as a direct result of the presence of PBR and MARKET TIME units in blocking the waterways.

On 12 April PBRs, "Seawolves" and an LST supported a PF/RF ground operation 15 miles southeast of Can Tho along the Vong Canal. The troops were landed by PBR and contact with the Viet Cong was immediately made. In the ensuing ground fighting, 11 Viet Cong were killed and 10 were captured. The most significant accomplishment of the seven-hour operation was the liberation of 34 Vietnamese prisoners found chained in bunkers when the ground troops overran a Viet Cong prison camp.

On 24 April a Mark II PBR was sunk while transitting the Ben Tre/Chet

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Say Canal. The incident occurred as the four-boat task unit was attacked by the Viet Cong with heavy B-40 and automatic-weapons fire, seven miles southwest of My Tho. PBR 7-12 was disabled by two rocket hits and beached. An attempt was made to tow the boat from the attack area, however, it rapidly flooded and sank in 35 feet of water. Immediate salvage was not considered possible due to the lack of installed flotation material, compounded by the fact that the sinking occurred in a Viet Cong-controlled area. The hulk was destroyed by aircraft bombing to preclude subsequent salvage by the enemy. During the action, all boats suffered battle damage and eight PBR sailors were wounded--one seriously.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
April 1968

Task Force 117 operations during the month of April consisted primarily of supporting the 2nd Brigade of the U. S. NINTH Infantry Division's participation in Operation TRUONG CONG DINH.

On 4 April the MRF launched a two-battalion reconnaissance-in-force operation in Truc Giang and Giong Trom districts of Kien Hoa province against the Viet Cong 516th Main Force Battalion and the 560th Local Force company. About 0840 that morning, as units of River Assault Squadron NINE, with troops of the 3/47th and 3/60th Infantry Battalions embarked, were proceeding west along the Ba Lai river, they were ambushed four miles northeast of Ben Tre. Short of their designated landing beaches the riverine column was struck with rockets, automatic weapons and small arms from a heavily wooded area on both sides of the river. In spite of the heavy casualties, the boats landed their troops in the face of intense enemy fire, and a violent fire fight ensued. The RPG-7 (B-41) rockets damaged three monitors, six troop carriers and two ASPBs. Fierce, but sporadic, contacts with the enemy continued until 7 April, when RADs 91 and 92, with their assigned infantrymen, returned to the MRB that evening. While the friendly forces killed 102 Viet Cong and captured four prisoners in the action, the four-day operation was a costly one for the MRF. Thirty-one U. S. personnel were killed, three of whom were Navymen, and 152 were wounded, including 36 sailors and two U. S. Marines. On 14-15 April

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the MRF culminated a successful two-day operation in Giong Trom district of Kien Hoa province, killing 16 Viet Cong, destroying 223 bunkers, and discovering a large ammunition cache. The cache contained 152 grenades, 102 rockets/recoilless-rifle rounds, four mines, and over 12,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition. On 15 April USS BENEWAH (APB 35) and USS TOM GREEN COUNTY (LST 1159), anchored with the MRB in the Mekong river seven miles southeast of My Tho, were struck with several 57/75-mm recoilless-rifle rounds and sustained minor damage. There were no fatalities, however, 14 Navymen and four soldiers were wounded in the attack. On 17-18 April the MRF continued Operation TRUONG CONG DINH in the Long Dinh and Cai Lay districts of Dinh Tuong province to locate and destroy the Viet Cong 514th Main Force Battalion. The Viet Cong suffered heavy casualties, losing 98 combatants, nine weapons, eight tons of rice and 239 bunkers to the assault forces of the MRF. Friendly forces lost four soldiers killed and 30 Armymen wounded. On 23-24 April the MRF, in coordination and cooperation with the 2nd Battalion of the Vietnamese Marine Corps, conducted a three-battalion reconnaissance-in-force operation in Giao Duc district of Dinh Tuong province in search of the Viet Cong 502 Battalion. The cumulative results of the two-day operation were 61 Viet Cong killed, two wounded and two more captured, while friendly forces lost one U. S. soldier and four Vietnamese Marines. There were three Navymen, six Army soldiers and 27 Vietnamese Marines wounded.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
April 1968

During the month the Fleet Command had a daily average of 25 ships available and employed an average of 22 daily. These ships provided 49 gunfire support missions. At the same time the Coastal Force had an average of 178.7 junks available and employed an average of 166.1 of them daily. The RAGs utilized 133.8 of their 141.7 available craft during April. Meanwhile the six infantry battalions and one artillery battalion of the VNMC were committed to operations 100 percent of the time. Task Force A, composed of the 4th, 5th and 6th Infantry Battalions, remained under the operational control of the Capital Military District, experiencing slight enemy contact. On 2 April the 5th Infantry Battalion went to the base camp at Thu Duc as a ready reaction force and the 1st Battalion joined the Task Force. On 8 April, the 4th Battalion returned to their base at Vung Tau and the 5th Battalion rejoined Task Force A. Task Force B, in the first half of April, was composed of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions and operated under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Infantry Division in IV Corps Tactical Zone. On 16 April the 4th Battalion was deployed to IV Corps Tactical Zone to relieve the 2nd Infantry Battalion which augmented the MRF as a two-company ready reaction posture for air mobility on 17 April.

Increased employment of VNN craft and ARVN forces in offensive

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operations during April achieved outstanding success with unprecedented results. Operations of the TRUONG CONG DINH series in particular combined the infantry power of the ARVN 7th Division and U. S. Army troops with the mobility of RAGs 21/33 and 23/31 river craft and VNN Fleet Command ships. Three such operations were TRUONG CONG DINH 7/10/7, 4-7 April, on Oc Island in the Ham Luong river; TRUONG CONG DINH 7/SD/7, 7-10 April, in Dinh Tuong province, between Sa Dec and Vinh Long; and TRUONG CONG DINH SD/7/10, 17-19 April, in Dinh Tuong province, seven miles northwest of Dong Tam. These combined forces operations netted a total of 234 Viet Cong killed, 31 of the enemy captured and 31 suspects detained. U. S. and ARVN forces suffered 63 killed and 304 wounded; there were no VNN casualties. During each operation, the RAG craft and Fleet Command ships carried the troops to the area of operations, inserted them, then conducted blocking and patrolling operations, providing gunfire and medevac support. In addition to the results stated above, a lengthy list of enemy weapons and ammunition, communications and diving equipment, bunkers and numerous other enemy supplies were captured or destroyed. Five ARVN soldiers were liberated during Operation TRUONG CONG DINH 7/SD/7. Continued daily operations, smaller in nature, were carried out by the RAGs and VNN craft that pruned the enemy from their positions on the highways of the Delta; i.e., the rivers, streams and canals. Just such action took place on 16 April when RAG 21 units inserted ARVN forces on

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Thoi Son Island, in the My Tho river. As two Infantry Battalions closed from the north and south of the island, the RAG craft provided the blocking force to the north. Two Viet Cong were killed, six of the enemy were captured, including two female cadre, and another three suspects were detained; one VNN sailor was wounded. Illustrative also of the VNN Coastal Group efforts in combined action was Operation LAM SON 214, 19-22 April. Conducted in Thua Thien province, I Corps Tactical Zone, Coastal Group 12 junks, local forces, a U. S. Army Special Forces company and a U. S. Marine Corps company killed 40 Viet Cong; 10 Viet Cong were captured and eight suspects were detained. Nine ARVN soldiers were killed and 21 wounded; there were no other friendly casualties.

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Psychological and Civic Action Operations
April 1968

With the emphasis on offensive operations by tactical units, psyops personnel followed suit by a stepped up increase in loudspeaker broadcasts. With the majority of programmed psyops equipment now in country and installed, the naval units were able to reach a greater number of listeners. Ultimately each PCF in TF 115 will be equipped with a 250-watt speaker and cartridge tape recorder; each PBR river section in TF 116 will have one 250-watt and five 25-watt units plus a cartridge tape recorder for each; and in TF 117 there will be three 250-watt units with cartridge tape recorders. In TF 117, tactical psyops, i.e., directed against enemy troops, showed a marked increase as a result of the assignment of Navy psyops personnel to CTF 117 staff. Previously all support was provided by the U. S. Army. In consonance with President JOHNSON's speech on 31 March and in keeping with policy established by Washington concerning the President's initiative and possible peace talks, a program was developed to keep the people of South Vietnam currently informed on the factual developments of the peace talk negotiations. Surface and aerial speaker broadcasts and leaflet distribution was the selected media for the dissemination of information.

In the area of civic action naval units continued to assist the people of South Vietnam in the recovery from the Tet Offensive. Naval units contributed $4,359 to the Tet Aggression Relief Project (TARP).

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As part of the TARP effort the NAVSUPPACT Danang formulated plans to assist in the construction of approximately 30,000 homes in Hue for refugees. In the Delta the River Patrol Force constructed a school and purchased classroom equipment and school supplies for refugee children in the Can Tho area. The conduct of MEDCAPs continued to be evidenced throughout the Republic as navy units in a spirit of friendship traveled to the villages and hamlets to bring medical assistance to those in need.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
April 1968

	MARKET TIME	GAME WARDEN	Mobile Riverine Force
Detections	67,799	98,445	*
Inspections	28,144	24,677	*
Boardings	9,875	51,365	*
Craft detained	*	16	*
Persons detained	523	938	219
Viet Cong suspects	2	45	*
Hostile fire incidents	27	97	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	46 (8 prob.)	106	285
b. Wounded	22 (12 prob.)	40	1
c. Captured	1	13	11
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	2	3 USN/34 USA/4 VNMC
b. Wounded	0	49	66 USN/170 USA/28 VNMC
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	1 USA
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	12	158	2
(2) Structures	37	290	1,665
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	16	0
(2) Weapons	*	*	143**
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	*	12,365***
(4) Rice (tons)	*	*	10
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	10	288	0
(2) Structures	141	199	0
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	1	0
(2) Helicopters	*	0	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	3	27	15
(2) Helicopters	*	21	*
SAR missions	*	0	0

Remarks:
* Information not applicable or not available this date.
** Includes 111 grenades and six mines.
*** Includes 115 mortar, rocket and recoilless-rifle rounds.

Enclosure (6)

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY
April 1968

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

Coastal Force	Searched Junks	Searched People	Detained Junks	Detained People
I NZ	15,650	50,754	14	195
II NZ	14,315	45,091	17	175
III NZ	8,585	31,327	0	2
IV NZ	4,555	14,711	0	0
Sub-totals	43,105	141,883	31	372
Fleet Command Patrol Ships	2,368	9,355	1	16
Riverine Area Craft	3,962	15,202	0	21
Totals	49,435	166,440	32	409

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: 72 KIA 7 Captured 38 Suspects detained

VNMC: 10 KIA 68 WIA

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
April 1968*

PROGRAMS:

	Man Days	Expenditures(VN$)
Economic Development	6	42,000
Education	69	77,403
Social Welfare	315	1,071,022
Transportation	10	0
Refugee Assistance Support	45	19,470
TOTALS	445	1,209,895

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: 98,294

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	Number
Schools	22
Hospitals/dispensaries	16
Orphanages	13
Others	5

PERCENT OF U. S. CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH:

	Percent
Other FWMAF	15
RVNAF	33
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	6
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	59

Remarks:

* Reporting period is 26 March - 25 April. This is the new format for the USN Civic Action Statistical Summary.

Enclosure (8)

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