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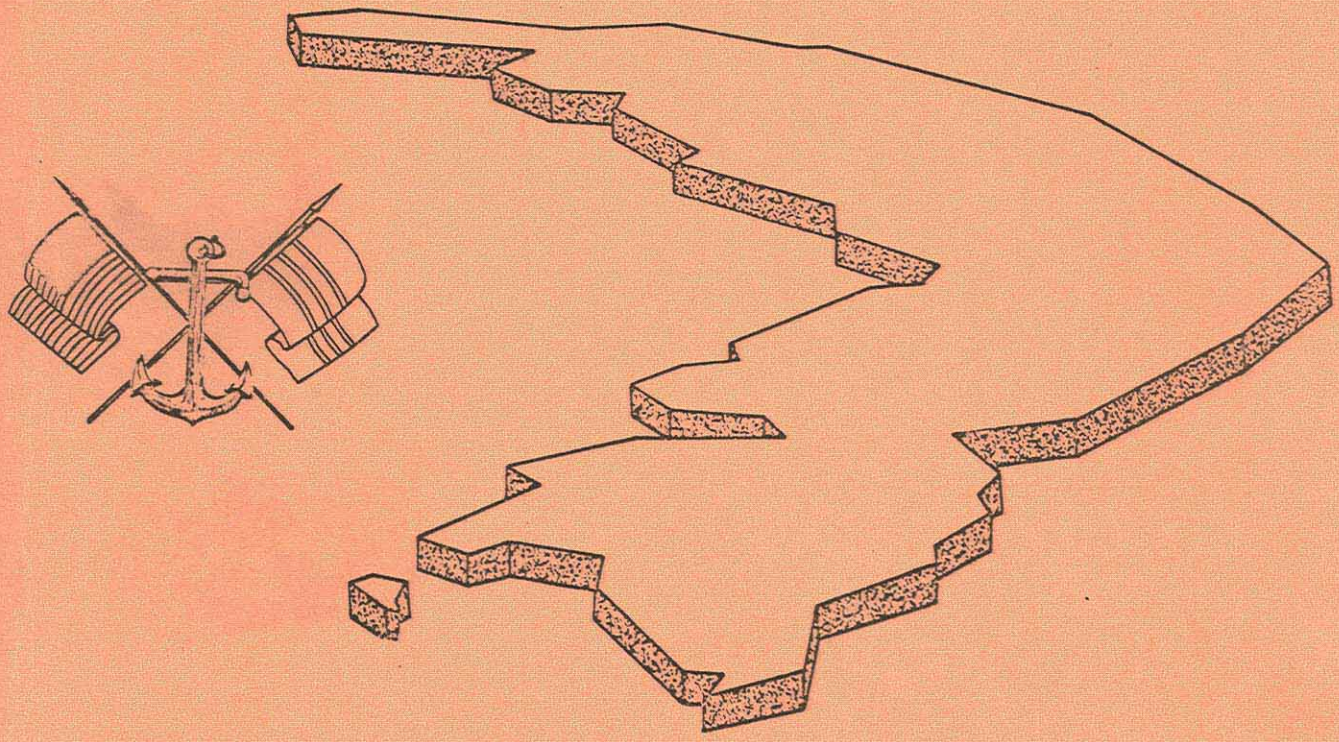

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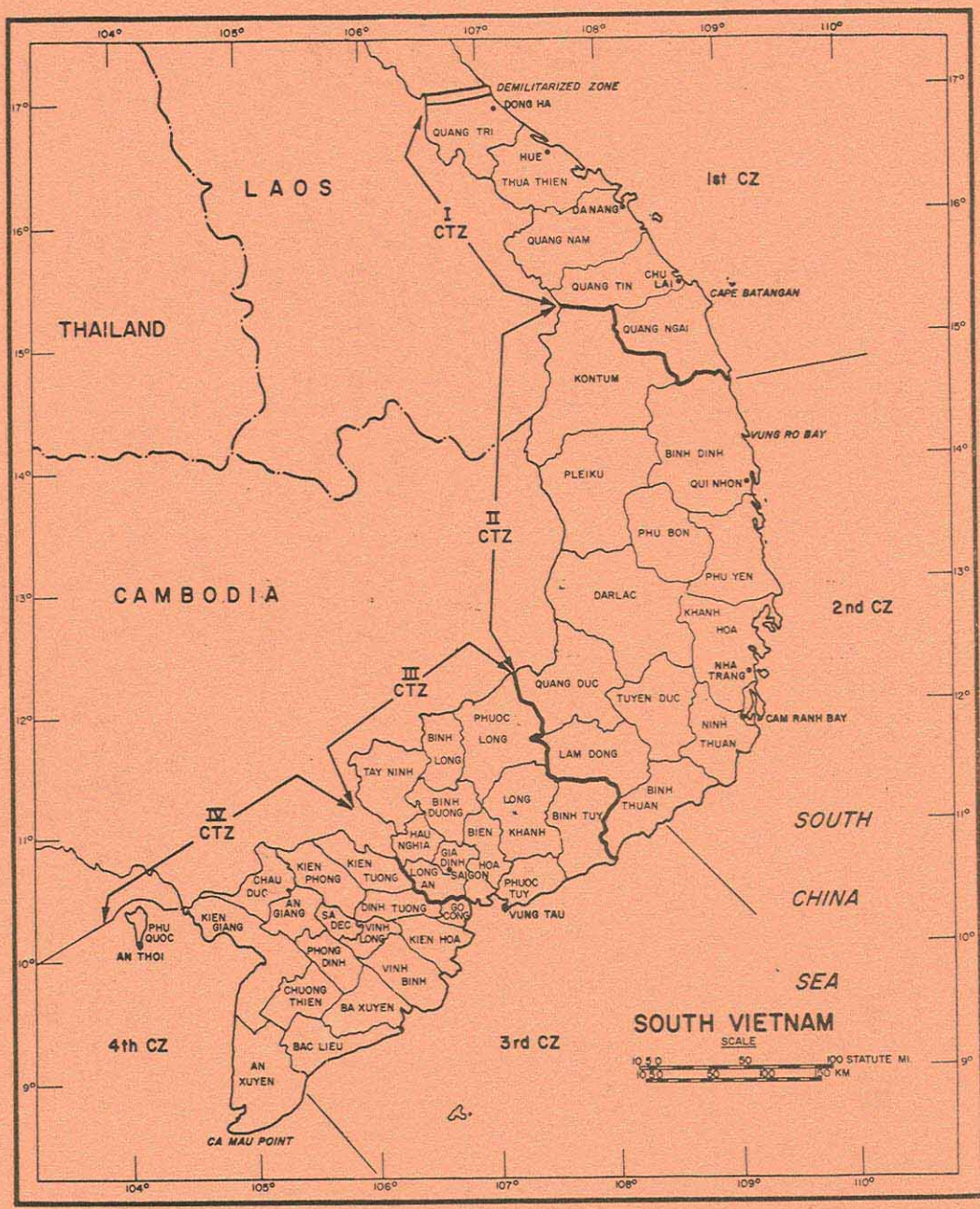

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FOREWORD

During July, U. S. Naval operations continued to expand, qualitatively and quantitatively. MARKET TIME "Swift" boats, in addition to normal coastal patrol activity, supported ground operations and conducted a series of incursions into unpatrolled rivers. A record number of naval gunfire support missions were fired by MARKET TIME units. GAME WARDEN patrol craft tallied up significant improvements in contacts, boardings and inspections. The second PBR support base, Mobile Base II, became fully operational this month. A reduction in enemy initiated activity against the PBR's took place. SEAL operational cability was enhanced by the addition of the first LSSC's (light SEAL support craft) to the inventory of SEAL equipment. Although enemy ambush activity against river assault craft of the Mobile Riverine Force continued, the enemy avoided major contact with ground forces for most of the month. On 30-31 July, however, the situation changed and the MRF dealt the enemy a stunning blow in Choung Thien Province, killing 102 Viet Cong.

The first use of VNN PBR's in an operation in the Rung Sat Special Zone occurred on 10 July as Vietnamese Commandos utilized PBR support. On 19 July, the U. S. Navy turned over four "Swift" boats to the Vietnamese Navy; the VNN then assumed two additional MARKET TIME patrol stations. On 29 July, the VNN received an initial shipment of M-16 rifles as part of a continuing program to upgrade combat effectiveness.

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CHRONOLOGY

Date		Event
1 July	-	Navy units reported unidentified aircraft activity near DMZ and Tiger Island. p. 3-4
	-	USCGC MINNETONKA (WHEC 67) destroyed 19 Viet Cong structures on the north end of Qui Nhon Peninsula with her 5-inch guns. p. 10
1,2,6	-	USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68) inflicted extensive damage to Viet Cong structures/sampans along the west coast of Ca Mau Peninsula. p. 17
2	-	USCGC CAMPBELL (WHEC 32) expended 270 rounds of 5-inch ammunition against Viet Cong hospital/ recuperation targets 8 miles southeast of Tan My, resulting in extensive destruction/damage to enemy shelters/bunkers. p. 5
4	-	An estimated two platoons of Viet Cong attacked The Alaska Barge and Transport compound at Phan Rang. p. 11
5, 14	-	Three "Swift" boats, in Operations SWIFT KICK V and VI, fired upon Viet Cong coastal and mountain positions northwest of Rach Gia. p. 18
7-9	-	DAN TIEN Campaign, involving RAG 25/29 craft, VNMC's 3rd and 4th battalions and ARVN infantry units, yielded 86 Viet Cong killed, five captured and 20 suspects detained. Friendly loses were 15 killed and 42 wounded. p. 154-155
8	-	A PBR patrol, while aground in the Dong Nai River, took enemy sampans under fire, resulting in the capture of one 122-mm rocket system, associated equipment, and an enemy "TOP SECRET" document. Three NVA soldiers were also killed. p. 31-33
9	-	USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68) gunfire destroyed/damaged enemy structures/sampans/bunker, and effected four secondary explosions 12 miles east of Tan An. p. 13

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Date		Event
11 July	-	Six PBR's took part in a PF/RF sweep of May Island which registered 15 Viet Cong killed and one suspect detained. p. 53-54
	-	The enemy launched a rocket, recoilless-rifle, and machine-gun ambush attack on RAD 131 craft south of Cai Lay. Six boats received minor damage. Nine Navymen were wounded in the attack. p. 81-82
12	-	PCF 96 was damaged by a rocket 8 miles from Tan An. p. 13
13	-	USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68) took a Viet Cong base area 14 miles northeast of Tan An, under fire, inflicted heavy damage and killed an estimated 19 Viet Cong. p. 13-14
16	-	Approximately 10 Viet Cong were killed, several structures and sampans destroyed or damaged as a result of USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68) gunfire directed on an enemy base camp area near the east coast of Ca Mau Peninsula. p. 14
17	-	Army LCU 1577 inadvertently crossed the Vietnamese-Cambodian border on the Upper Mekong. p. 42
18	-	TF 116 was tasked to alert all U. S./Allied watercraft approaching the Cambodian border. p. 42-43
	-	Seawolves 67 and 69 killed six Viet Cong after scrambling in support of U. S. Army troops northwest of My Tho. p. 39
19	-	The VNN took possession of four additional U. S. Navy "Swift" boats. p. 129-131
19-20	-	A three-squad LDNN contingent, assisted by Coastal Group 33 junks, engaged the Viet Cong northeast of Vung Tau. A number of sampans were destroyed and 15 Viet Cong were killed during the operation. p. 133-134
20	-	Operation HIEU NHON 62, a sweep of Cham Isle off the coast of Hoi An, accounted for 16 Viet Cong killed

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Date		Event
20 July	-	and 23 captured. p. 137-138
21	-	A PBR patrol intercepted four Army LCM-8's of 1099 Transportation Company on Upper Mekong River, preventing another inadvertent Cambodian-border crossing. p. 43
22	-	PCF 28 drew heavy hostile fire during a H&I mission. The craft's OIC was severely wounded in the action. p. 14
	-	QUYET THANG 14/3, an operation in the Long Toan Secret Zone, recorded 33 enemy soldiers killed, 33 captured, along with a number of rifles, carbines, ammunition, clothes and documents. p. 145
23	-	RAD 91 units, with 3/60th Infantry Battalion embarked, came under fire on the Ben Tre Stream. The boats reacted with return fire. Four Navymen were killed and 19 sustained wounds in the attacks. Enemy casualties were unknown. p. 72-75
26	-	An ARVN sweep 7 miles east of Quang Ngai revealed 14 enemy killed or seriously wounded following gunfire action from PCF 22 and PCF 21. p. 7-9
27	-	PCF 95, operating with USCGC WINONA (WHEC 65), received a recoilless-rifle round in its starboard side on the Bo De River. Return fire silenced the enemy gunners. Two PCF 95 crewmembers suffered minor wounds. p. 14-15
27-28	-	Coastal Group 23 killed 23 Viet Cong and was responsible for the capture of two others during a gunfire support mission in a hamlet east of the coastal group base at Song Cau. Nine captured PF soldiers were also liberated as a result of the coastal group gunfire. p. 142
28	-	USCGC WINONA (WHEC 65) gunfire action against a Viet Cong base camp, 24 miles northeast of Tan An, destroyed/damaged numerous structures, sampans, and killed one Viet Cong.
	-	Alert civil defense personnel at Cam Ranh apprehended a North Vietnamese Army swimmer who was a member of a seven-man swimmer/sapper team. p. 23

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Date		Event
29 July	-	The VNN received its first shipment of M-16 rifles from the U. S. Navy. p. 131
	-	A PBR blocking force received small-arms, B-40 rocket fire during an enemy attack west of My Tho. p. 40
30-31	-	The MRF struck the enemy with a three-battalion assault force near Vi Thanh in Chuong Thien Province killing 102 Viet Cong. This marked the MRF's deepest penetration into the Mekong Delta. p. 76-79

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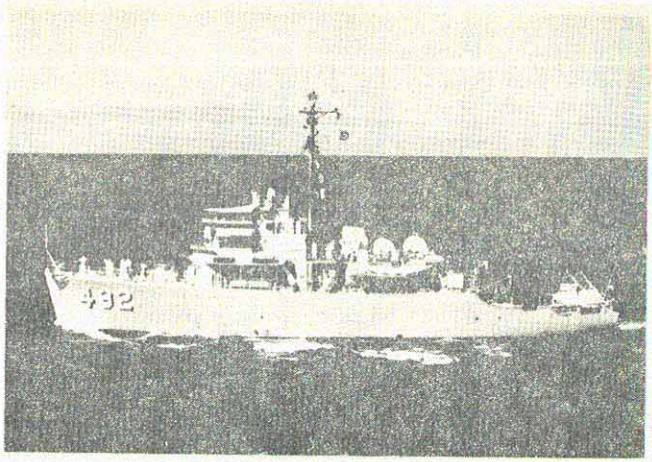

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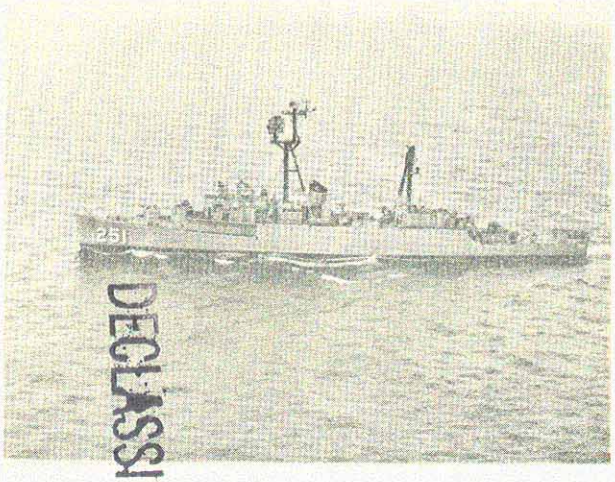

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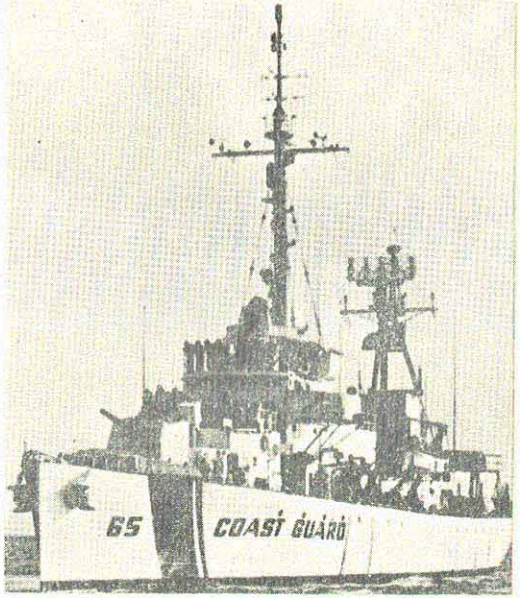

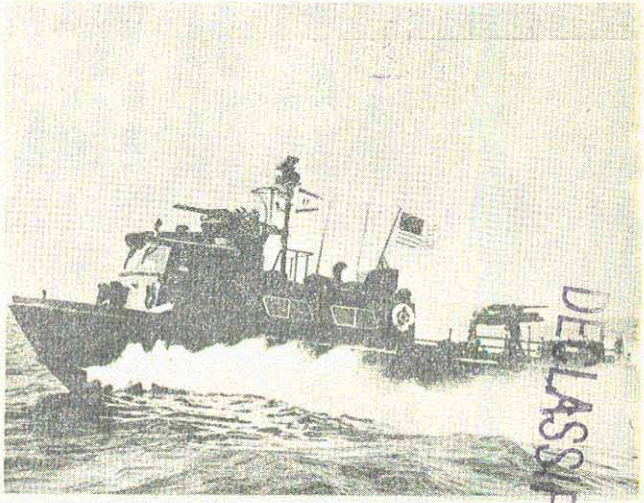

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

Routine operations continued at a high level for MARKET TIME and STABLE DOOR forces during July. Task Force 115 surveillance units detected a total of 167,436 craft in their patrol areas along the coast and in the harbors of South Vietnam. As in the month of June choppy seas prevented the desired percentage of detections. A total of 47,831 craft were inspected and another 26,288 were boarded. As a result of these checks, 92 craft and 839 persons were detained for violation of restricted areas, possession of contraband, improper personal or craft papers, and other suspicious activity.

Enemy initiated action remained at a relatively low level during July after the heavy fighting of May and early June. Many of the enemy main force units which normally operate in coastal regions had pulled back into base areas in the mountains for rest and replacement of losses. No known large scale infiltration of men or supplies by sea was attempted during the month. Naval gunfire and blocking patrols in support of friendly ground operations were carried out by units of Task Force 115 with increasing frequency and effectiveness as reflected in the totals of enemy casualties. Only four Navy men with Operation MARKET TIME were wounded while enemy losses to the naval gunfire of MARKET TIME units came to 35 confirmed killed plus 84 probably killed and and estimated 52 wounded.

***

OPERATION MARKET TIME

The tempo of naval gunfire missions increased sharply during July. The total number of missions fired rose to 604 from the previous high of 357

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recorded in May. This increase was due to a combination of improved coordination with ground forces and increased initiative and aggressiveness by MARKET TIME units. Gun damage assessments also continued to improve with the following results reported during July:

120 Viet Cong killed (85 probable, 35 by body count)

58 Viet Cong wounded (53 probable)

227 junks or sampans destroyed

367 structures destroyed

239 junks or sampans damaged

656 structures damaged

Numerous evading sampans were taken under fire, especially in the First Coastal Zone. While the evading craft were generally destroyed, it was frequently impossible to determine what, if any, personnel casualties were inflicted. On occasions arms or contraband were found in the evaders craft.

Surveillance operations resulted in the detection of 108,476 junks and sampans, the largest number since August 1967. A total of 41,124 inspections of these junks and sampans plus an additional 22,896 boardings were carried out. Detections of steel-hulled vessels in MARKET TIME areas totaled 1,319. Of these 788 were inspected and another 97 were boarded and determined to be non-suspicious.

First Coastal Zone

Weather remained excellent in both areas 1 and 2 until around the 20th when late afternoon squalls and tropical storms began to reduce the number

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of craft fishing off shore. Later in the month weather and sea conditions forced "Swift" boats off station for the first time in four months. In spite of the adverse weather total detections of junks and sampans in the First Coastal Zone came to nearly 45,000, more than 1,500 greater than in June. Of these, 15,778 were inspected and 12,637 were boarded. In general, adherance to fishing and transit restrictions by indigenous craft continued to improve.

First Coastal Zone patrols carried out more than 170 naval gunfire missions during July. Of these, approximately 60 were fired in response to requests from ground units to take specific targets under fire. Nearly 100 harassment and interdiction missions were carried out against suspected enemy positions, known storage areas, or commo-liaison routes. Also included in the total are nine instances during which hostile fire was returned by MARKET TIME units. In addition, evading craft and personnel were taken under fire 17 times during the month. Repeated violation of restricted areas resulted in the destruction of the violators' craft on 13 occasions. Destruction of fishing craft was made necessary after fishermen countered the policy of confiscating papers and detaining violators by sending out children who had no papers and whose detention would be more bother to the patrols than the fishermen.

Patrol units in the two northern patrol areas as well as SEVENTH Fleet units off the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and observers ashore continued to report indications of unidentified aircraft operating around and between the DMZ and Tiger Island. Eye witness accounts of the action following

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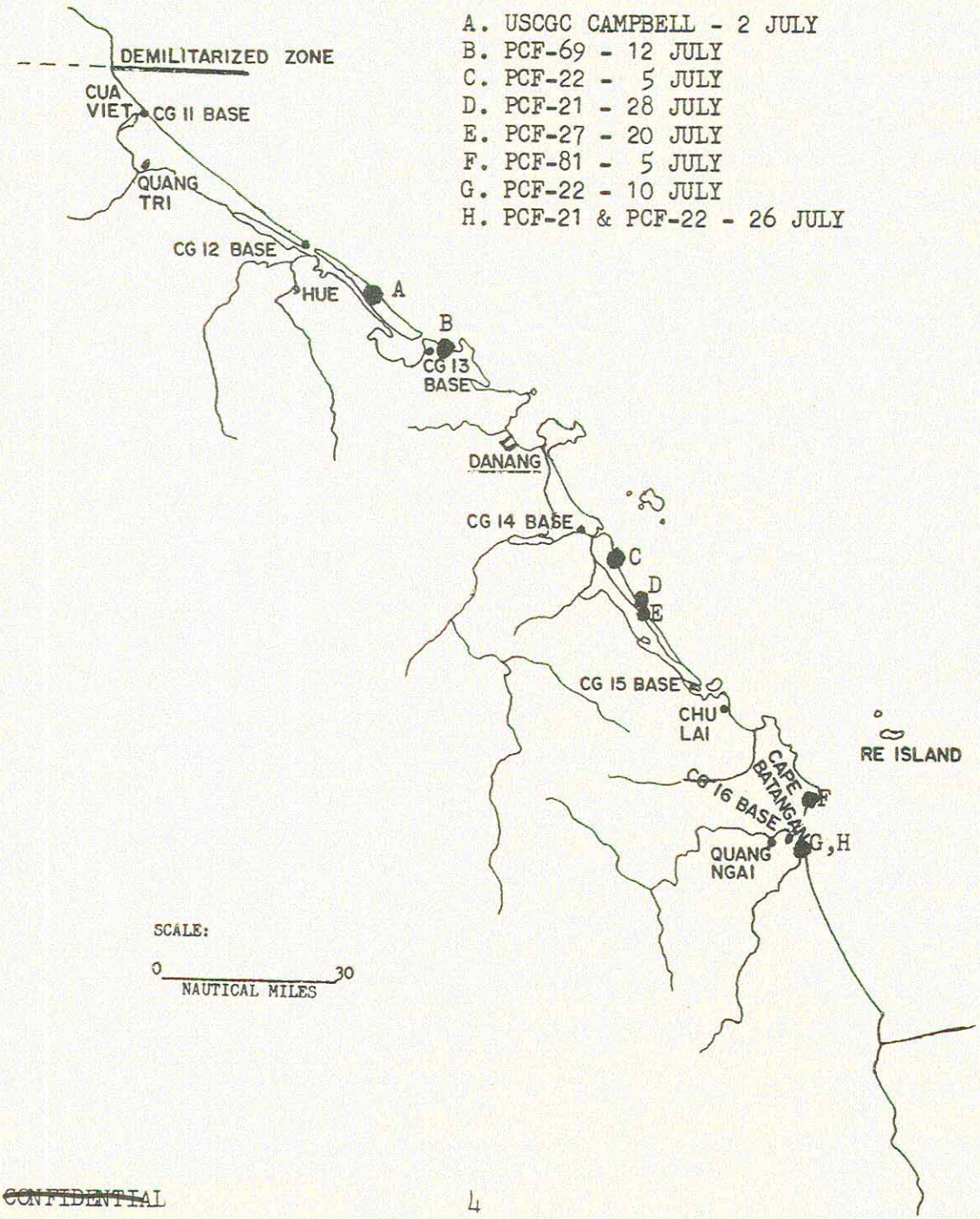
OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE

A. USCGC CAMPBELL - 2 JULY
B. PCF-69 - 12 JULY
C. PCF-22 - 5 JULY
D. PCF-21 - 28 JULY
E. PCF-27 - 20 JULY
F. PCF-81 - 5 JULY
G. PCF-22 - 10 JULY
H. PCF-21 & PCF-22 - 26 JULY



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the sinking of PCF 19 on 16 June had stated flatly that PCF 12 and USCGC POINT DUME had been attacked by both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. Interest in the possible enemy use of helicopters in this area remained high during July. However, the unidentified aircraft detected on the 1st, 12th, 13th, 18th, 23rd, and 25th could not be positively identified as helicopters. All detections took place during darkness and consisted primarily of flashing lights which appeared to hover or move slowly at low altitude as a helicopter might maneuver.

On 2 July USCGC CAMPBELL (WHEC 32) fired a naval gunfire support missions against a Viet Cong hospital and recuperation area causing heavy damage. The cutter expended more than 270 rounds from her 5-inch gun against the target complex located approximately 8 miles southeast of Tan My. Damage reported by the spotter aircraft which directed the firing included:

27 structures and 6 bunkers destroyed

36 structures and 7 bunkers damaged

90 meters of trail and 40 meters of tree line cratered,

and an estimated one Viet Cong wounded.

While on patrol off the coast about 30 miles south-southeast of Danang on the afternoon of the 5th, PCF 22 was told by a casual informant that 50 Viet Cong were located in the adjacent tree line. Approximately eight men were seen evading into the tree line when the "Swift" boat made a high speed run past the area. U. S. Army units were notified and PCF 22

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stood by as a blocking force as F Troop, 8th Cavalry made a sweep of the area. Three males attempted to evade the troopers and were sighted on the beach. One was killed by the Army unit and the other two surrendered to the "Swift" boat after warning shots were fired and a loud-speaker call was made. The remainder of the Viet Cong force was reported to have taken refuge in concealed bunkers.

During another blocking patrol on the 5th in connection with a ground sweep through an area 8 miles east-northeast of Quang Ngai, PCF 81 captured a Viet Cong suspect. The "Swift" boat had relieved PCF 27 on station off the beach as the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, Americal Division moved through the area. A spotter aircraft observed about 30 uniformed men and PCF 81 carried out a psyops broadcast in an effort to convince the men to surrender. After they evaded into structures believed to contain bunkers an air strike was carried out. During the strike two men were seen running from the area. One was killed by the aircraft and the other wounded, however, he was able to get about 50 yards off the beach toward PCF 81. The "Swift" boat closed in and picked up the man from the water receiving small arms fire from the shore in the process. No casualties or damage resulted. Later that evening PCF 81 provided illumination for the troops ashore as they engaged an enemy force in the area.

Operations by the Americal Division in this area near the mouth of Sa Ky River continued for nearly a week with "Swift" boats on station to prevent exfiltration. A number of gunfire support missions were carried

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out at the request of the ground forces with unknown results until PCF 22 observed a group of men carrying weapons on the afternoon of the 10th. The "Swift" boat quickly obtained clearance from the 5/46th Infantry and took an area under fire where about 35 men had walked down to the beach. With 12 rounds of high explosive from her mortar and 500 rounds from her .50 caliber machine guns PCF 22 destroyed two structures, damaged two sampans, started one fire, set off one secondary explosion, and killed four Viet Cong plus wounding an estimated 15 to 20 other enemy troops.

Approximately 25 miles northwest of Danang PCF 69 was providing cover for the landing and extraction of an Operation Eager Yankee reconnaissance team during the early hours of 12 July. An enemy concentration was observed by the team which spotted as PCF 69 took the enemy under fire with her 81-mm mortar. Firing nearly 40 proximity and point detonating mortar rounds the "Swift" boat killed five Viet Cong and wounded an additional three enemy personnel.

On 20 July while on patrol about 35 miles southeast of Danang PCF 27 observed a suspicious sampan. When the "Swift" boat closed to investigate the craft evaded to the beach ignoring warning shots. Two males attempted to escape behind sand dunes as they were taken under fire with .50 caliber machine guns. A unit of the 1st Cavalry swept through the area where the men were pinned down less than 15 minutes later. Both men were detained. One had been wounded.

On 26 July PCF 22 again struck heavily against the enemy approximately 7 miles east of Quang Ngai. Firing in coordination with PCF 21 at the

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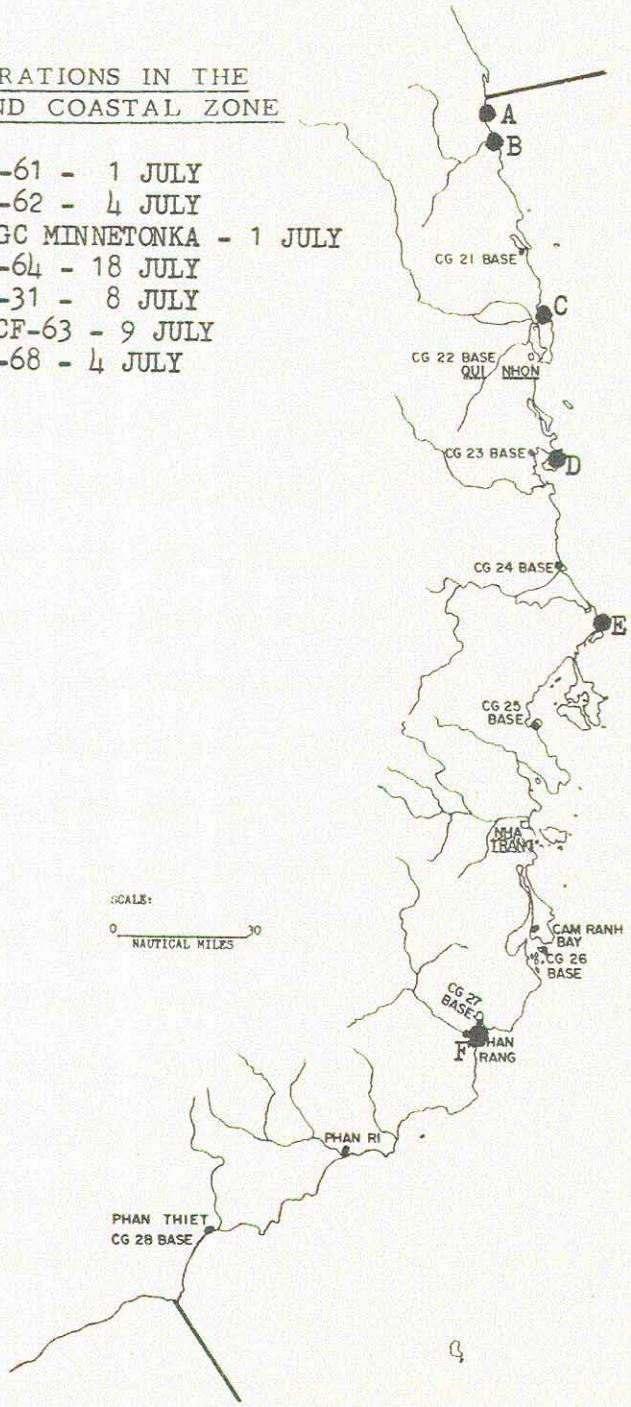
OPERATIONS IN THE
SECOND COASTAL ZONE

A. PCF-61 - 1 JULY
B. PCF-62 - 4 JULY
C. USCGC MINNETONKA - 1 JULY
D. PCF-64 - 18 JULY
E. PCF-31 - 8 JULY
& PCF-63 - 9 JULY
F. PCF-68 - 4 JULY



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request of the 3rd Battalion, 4th ARVN Infantry the "Swift" boat expended 65 rounds of mortar fire into an estimated Viet Cong company. A follow up ARVN sweep of the target area indicated that 14 of the enemy had been killed or seriously wounded because the individual equipment and weapons of 14 men were found. One secondary explosion and a fire were also observed during the action.

An evading sampan was taken under fire 34 miles southeast of Danang on the evening of the 28th by PCF 21. Expending 400 rounds of .50 caliber and one hand grenade the MARKET TIME unit destroyed a 30-foot sampan and killed the four occupants who unsucessfully attempted to evade. The range between the sampan and PCF 21 had been about 500 yards when the firing began and was three yards at "cease fire."

Second Coastal Zone

Rough seas during much of the month in parts of Area 4 and an overall deterioration in the weather during late July reduced the number of boardings below the usual percentage. However, the nearly 50,000 detections of junks and sampans indicated a high level of Second Coastal Zone surveillance activity. A total of 19,223 of the craft detected were inspected and another 6,559 were boarded.

Naval gunfire by Second Coastal Zone units did not increase as sharply as in the other zones, however, "Swift" boats were employed as blocking patrols and for gunfire support of six ground operations near the coast. A total of nearly 80 naval gunfire missions were conducted including 36

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harassment and interdiction missions, two cases of hostile fire suppression, and three evading craft taken under fire.

The 5-inch gun of the USCGC MINNETONKA (WHEC 67) was put to effective use against a group of Viet Cong structures at the northern end of the Qui Nhon Peninsula (CR 0940) on 1 July. Firing 150 rounds at five separate targets at the request of the Korean Capitol Division the cutter scored numerous direct hits on structures located in an area of low hills and sand dunes. The missions were spotted by the division Naval Gunnery Liaison Officer who reported 19 structures destroyed and four others damaged.

Also on the 1st, PCF 61 engaged two sampans as they attempted to evade during the early morning hours. At 0030 while on patrol 42 miles south-southeast of Quang Ngai (BS 9309) a contact was illuminated with the "Swift" boats spotlight and hand held flares. Three persons were observed in a sampan throwing small boxes over the side. When the craft was told to come alongside the patrol boat the occupants jumped into the water and began swimming for the shore. After warning shots were ignored the sampan and evaders were taken under .50 caliber, M-79, and concussion grenade fire. The sampan was destroyed and the three men were probably wounded. About three hours later a short distance to the south a second suspicious radar contact was illuminated by PCF 61. This time five men went into the water in an effort to swim ashore and evade into the sand dunes. One evader was killed and three others probably wounded as the evaders were taken under .50 caliber machine gun fire.

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At 0140 in the morning of 4 July the Alaska Barge and Transport compound at Phan Rang (BN 859815) was attached by an estimated two platoons of Viet Cong using 82-mm mortars, B-40 rockets and automatic weapons. One of the first units to react was PCF 68 which took the enemy mortar positions under fire and provided illumination of the area until dawn. Also joining in the action was an FC-47 gunship which expended an estimated 30,000 rounds in the general area. Two enemy bodies and blood trails were found after the Viet Cong withdrew. One individual weapon, a B-40 rocket launcher and an NVA pistol belt were also recovered from the battle field. Approximately 150 tons of napalm were destroyed by enemy mortar fire and one American was killed and another wounded in the compound.

Also on the 4th, PCF 62 encountered hostile fire in the afternoon upon entering the Dan Gai Lagoon 48 miles south-southeast of Quang Ngai. (BS 9502) The "Swift" boat found itself under automatic weapons fire from two positions in the tree line on the western shore of the lagoon. Returning the enemy fire with her .50 caliber machine guns PCF 62 cleared the area at top speed. One crewman was wounded by an enemy round which penetrated the gun tub plating. Enemy casualties were unknown.

Second Coastal Zone PCFs maintained close surveillance of about 10 miles of coast line between Point La and a position 12 miles south of Tuy Hoa (CQ 295204 to CQ 331259) from the 8th to the 11th during a Korean Army ground sweep. On the 8th and 9th naval gunfire support was also

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provided when PCF 31 and PCF 63 took Viet Cong positions under fire at the request of the Korean forces.

On 18 July PCF 64 took an estimated enemy company under fire 26 miles north of Tuy Hoa (CQ 1490) at the request of Coastal Group 23. One secondary explosion was observed during the mission. A unit from the coastal group investigated and reported two Viet Cong had been killed and an estimated seven others had been wounded.

Third Coastal Zone

Naval gunfire by Third Coastal Zone units reached a level of activity many times higher than in previous months. During July more than 200 missions were carried out against targets of opportunity or in response to requests for naval gunfire support. Also included in this total are seven cases of hostile fire suppression and nine evading junks or sampans which were taken under fire.

Surveillance operations reflected a decrease in indigenous coastal traffic with only approximately 7,500 detections of junks or sampans. This is about 1,800 less that the total for June. Patrol effectiveness remained high with 3,625 inspections and another 2,295 of the craft detected being boarded. Patrol areas 8C and 8D remained under the control of CTG 115.3 due to communications difficulty between these areas and CTG 115.4 at An Thoi. Patrol craft in these areas as well as areas 7C, 7D and 7E remain on station for at least a week. Crews are exchanged and craft are resupplied daily by an LST having operational control of these areas

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as CTU 115.3.9. This arrangement reduces the number of long transits from Vung Tau required for individual patrol craft.

On 9 July USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68) fired four naval gunfire missions against Viet Cong base and storage areas 12 miles northeast of Tan An (WQ 3580). Although the heavy jungle foliage prevented the spotter aircraft from observing damage to the suspected arms cache and weapons storage area the cutter's gun clearly found its target in the other two missions against enemy base camps. A total of 14 structures, 14 sampans and a bunker were destroyed. Another 55 structures and 17 sampans were damaged. In addition, four secondary explosions and two fires were observed.

Shortly after noon on the 12th, PCF 96 was damaged by an enemy rocket 8 miles south-southwest of Tan An (WQ 1658). As the "Swift" boat was investigating the mouth of a small river the Viet Cong opened fire with automatic weapons fire and one rocket round which hit the starboard side of the patrol craft. No personnel casualties were incurred, however, the round made a 12- by 18-inch hole in the main cabin about six-inches above the water line. Temporary repairs were made by USS PAGE COUNTY (LST 1076). Four of the enemy were estimated to have been killed by PCF 96 as 600 rounds of .50 caliber suppressive fire were directed at the Viet Cong positions.

Another Viet Cong base area 14 miles northeast of Tan An (WQ 3686) was heavily damaged by naval gunfire from the cutter ANDROSCOGGIN on the morning of 13 July. With the aid of an Army observation aircraft, the

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cutter destroyed 27 structures and 10 sampans, damaged another 66 structures and 27 sampans, and killed an estimated 19 Viet Cong. On the 16th the five-inch gun of ANDROSCOGGIN fired on an enemy base camp in the same general area (WQ 3688) near the east coast of the Ca Mau Peninsula. Again with the aid of an airborne spotter an estimated 10 Viet Cong were killed, 15 structures and three sampans destroyed, and another 26 structures and 10 sampans damaged.

A harassment and interdicting mission against enemy positions approximately one-mile up stream from the Bo De River east of Tan An (WQ 2666) on the 22nd drew heavy hostile fire. Movement had been observed by PCF 28 along the beach in this area of known Viet Cong activity at approximately 0245. The "Swift" boat was soon joined in the river by PCF 95 and the two craft each fired ten 81-mm mortar rounds into the area. Both banks of the river were then taken under .50 caliber machine-gun fire as the "Swift" boats turned and headed for open seas. At this time, approximately 0315, heavy automatic weapons and recoilless rifle fire was received from both banks of the river. The officer in charge of PCF 28 was severely wounded in the action. The two patrol craft each received minor damage. PCF 95 resumed normal patrol duties and PCF 28 rendezvoused with the support LST for evacuation of the wounded officer.

On 27 July PCF 95 and PCF 102 teamed with USCGC WINONA (WHEC 65) to engage the enemy recoilless rifle positions (WQ 243678) at the mouth of the Bo De River. The "Swift" boats acted as decoys proceeding up the

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river firing their .50 caliber machine guns into both banks following a pre-entry barrage fired by WINONA. As they turned back toward the sea the enemy opened fire with three recoilless rifle rounds. One round hit PCF 95 making a 2-foot by 1½-foot hole just above the waterline on the starboard side. The "Swift" boat opened fire with their mortars and machine guns to suppress the enemy fire and WINONA joined the action with five-inch gunfire. The enemy lost four killed plus an estimated one wounded. In addition, three weapons positions and a bunker were destroyed and one sampan was sunk. Effective damage control stopped the flooding on PCF 95 allowing the two craft to return up river emptying their magazines against the enemy positions with the aid of an airborne spotter. Only two minor wounds were received by crewmen of PCF 95.

The cutter WINONA fired on a Viet Cong base camp 24 miles northeast of Tan An on the 28th. The results of this mission included the destruction of seven structures and six sampans, damage to 14 structures and 10 sampans, and one Viet Cong Killed.

Fourth Coastal Zone

During July fishing activity and coastal junk and sampan traffic fell with slightly less than 6,000 detections of junks and sampans reported by surveillance units as compared with 8,321 for June. Effective patrols were maintained with craft on station in all assigned areas throughout the month. The number of junks and sampans boarded or inspected was nearly 70 percent of the total detections with 2,710 inspections and 1,405

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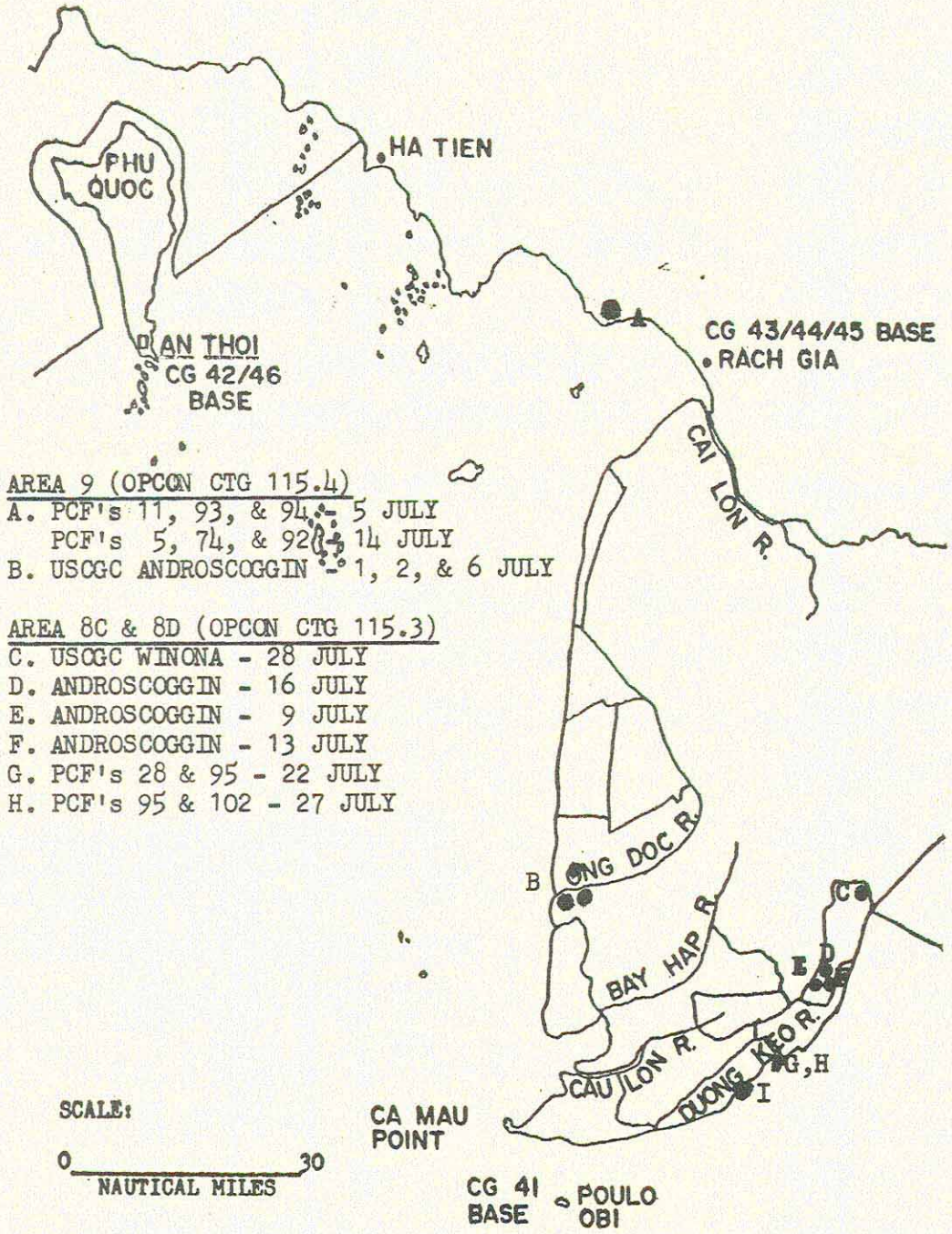
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



AREA 9 (OPCON CTG 115.4)

A. PCF's 11, 93, & 94 - 5 JULY
   PCF's 5, 74, & 92 - 14 JULY
B. USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN - 1, 2, & 6 JULY

AREA 8C & 8D (OPCON CTG 115.3)

C. USCGC WINONA - 28 JULY
D. ANDROSCOGGIN - 16 JULY
E. ANDROSCOGGIN - 9 JULY
F. ANDROSCOGGIN - 13 JULY
G. PCF's 28 & 95 - 22 JULY
H. PCF's 95 & 102 - 27 JULY

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boardings.

Naval gunfire missions carried out by Fourth Coastal Zone units totaled more than 150 during July. Although the majority of these missions were for harassment and interdiction with no observed results the top priority targets were assigned to the Coast Guard High Endurance Cutters (WHEC) whose five-inch guns directed by airborne spotters brought heavy damage to base camps and supply points along the Gulf of Thailand. Also included in the total missions fired are five evading sampans which were taken under fire and one hostile fire incident.

Before completing her assignment with MARKET TIME with the successfull series of naval gunfire missions in areas 8C and 8D between the 9th and 16th, USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN also inflicted heavy damage on Viet Cong positions along the west coast of the Ca Mau Peninsula early in the month. In missions on 1, 2, and 6 July against enemy base and supply areas near the Ong Doc River the cutter destroyed a total of 30 structures and 21 sampans, damaged another 79 structures and 33 sampans, wounded at least one and definitely killed three Viet Cong plus an estimated 15 others and set off six secondary explosions with columns of smoke rising as high as 500 feet. Another side to ANDROSCOGGIN's effort was the extent of her participation in civic action operations. During her assignment to Operation MARKET TIME the ANDROSCOGGIN's doctor made more than 200 MEDCAP visits to Delta villages and "adopted islands."

Viet Cong coastal and mountainside positions approximately 20 miles

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northwest of Rach Gia (VS 8517 to VS 9118) were hit with intensive naval gunfire on the 5th and 14th when Operations SWIFT KICK V and VI were carried out by three "Swift" boats with the aid of airborne spotters. Each patrol craft was assigned specific targets in advance. These targets consisting of guard points, hidden structures, and living areas were the sources of recent hostile fire against patrol units in Area 9F. On 5 July PCF 94 began the action with a strafing run along the beach in an attempt to draw enemy fire disclosing the hostile weapons positions. PCF's 93 and 11 then joined in with 81-mm mortar fire expending a total of 158 rounds destroying or causing heavy damage to eight fortified structures. PCF 94 drew approximately 150 rounds of small arms and automatic weapons fire from positions which were attacked in an airstrike following the naval gunfire. On 14 July PCF's 5, 74 and 92 carried out an identical operation. PCF 74 drew light small arms fire during the initial strafing run and mortar fire from the "Swift" boats was directed at the enemy firing positions by the spotter aircraft. Good target coverage was again obtained, however, the dense foliage in the area prevented damage assessment. No friendly casualties were incurred in either operation.

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MARKET TIME Units

The daily average of Vietnamese Navy (VNN) craft on MARKET TIME patrols during July was six PGMs and one PCE. In addition for about half the month an LSSL and an MSC were utilized. Following the transfer of four PCFs to

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the VNN on 19 July two of these craft were assigned to Fourth Coastal Zone patrol areas during the latter part of the month.

Patrol aircraft detachments from six Navy patrol squadrons manned the MARKET TIME air barrier patrols during July. Patrol Squadron FORTY-NINE (VP-49) operated out of U-Tapao, Thailand. Detachments from VP-6, VP-19, VP-22, VP-42, and VP-50 operated from Cam Ranh Bay.

The following U. S. SEVENTH Fleet ships were assigned to MARKET TIME patrol stations on the dates indicated during July:

		Dates
DER 329	USS KRETCHMER	14-31
DER 387	USS VANCE	9-13, 25-31
DER 328	USS FINCH	1-23
DER 334	USS FORSTER	13-25
DER 393	USS HAVENFIELD	23-31
LST 1076	USS PAGE COUNTY	1-31
MSO 444	USS FIRM	9-31
MSC 508	USS ACME	1-9
MSC 458	USS LUCID	1-9
MSO 457	USS LOYALTY	11-31
MSO 466	USS PRIME	1-9
MSO 434	USS EMBATTLE	9-31
MSO 467	USS REAPER	1-11
MSO 445	USS FORCE	9-31
MSC 208	USS WIDGEON	1-9
MSC 205	USS VIREO	9-31
PG 88	USS CROCKET	5-17
PG 85	USS GALLUP	22-31
WHEC 32	USCGC CAMPBELL	1-9
WHEC 33	USCGC DUANE	1-3
WHEC 67	USCGC MINNETONKA	1-24
WHEC 68	USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN	1-16
WHEC 65	USCGC WINONA	3-14, 16-31
WHEC 31	USCGC BIBB	24-31

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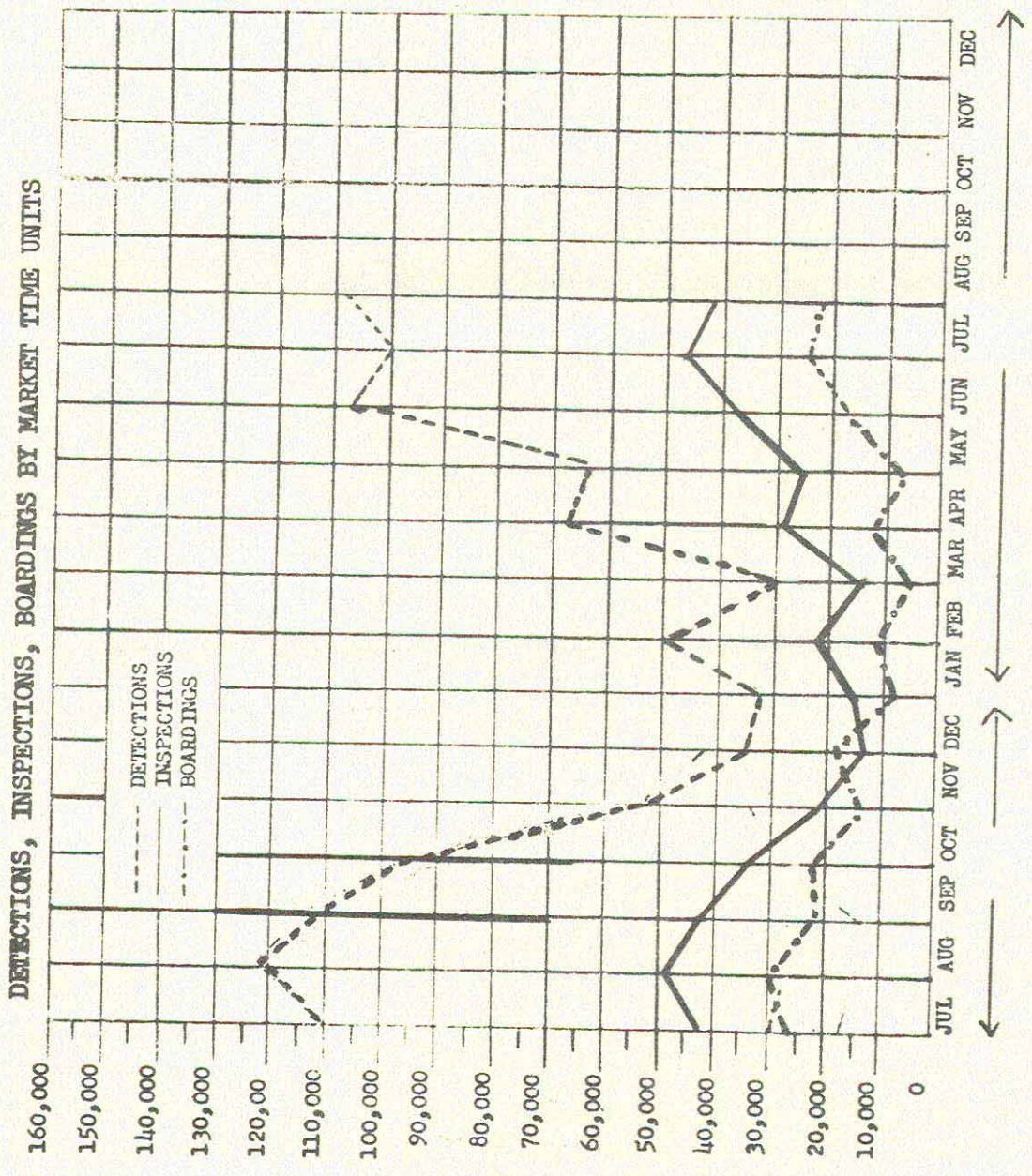

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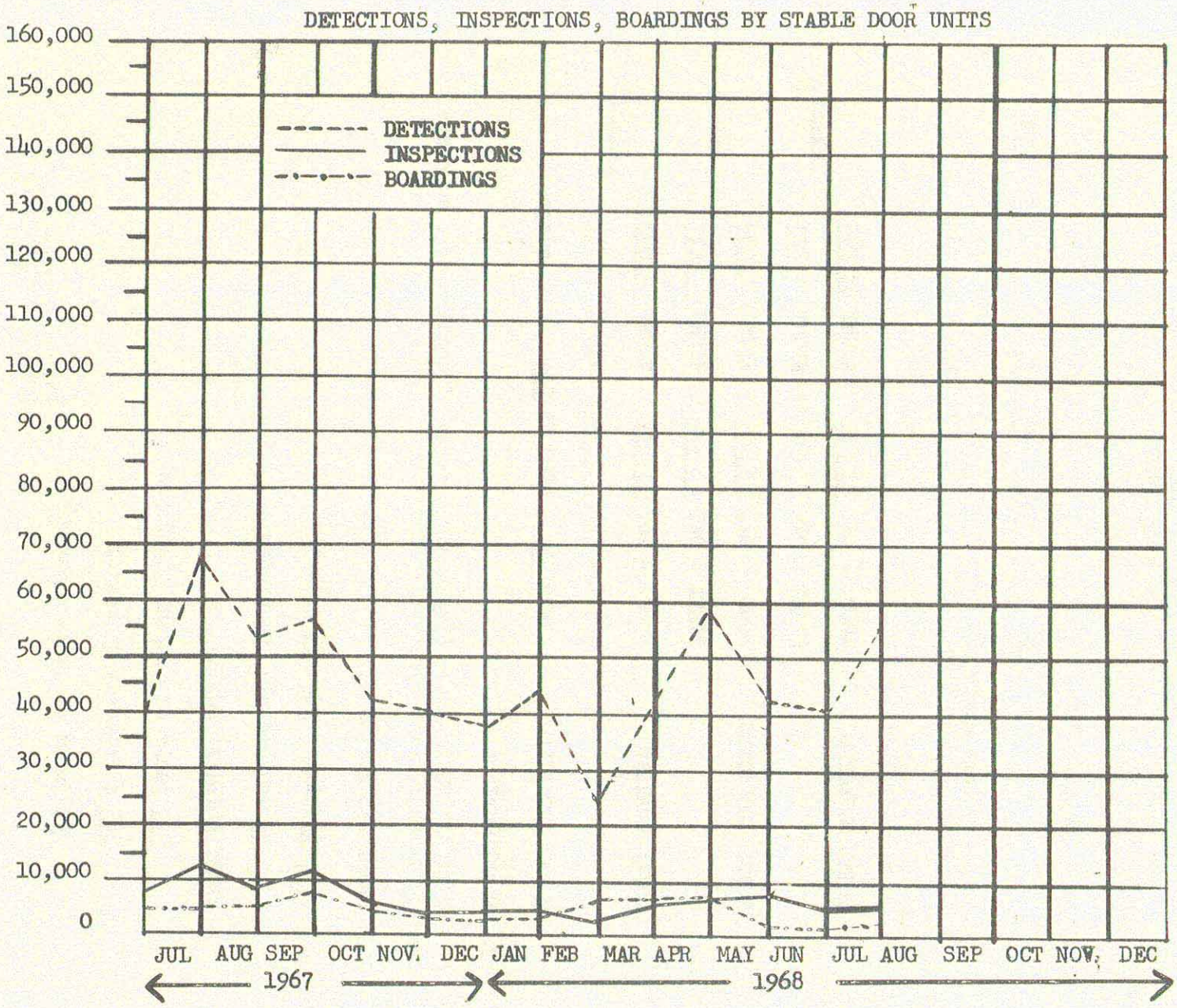

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MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
July 1968

1. U. S. Ships/Craft:

	DER	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	LST	PG	WHEC
Daily average number of craft on patrol	2	3	1	15	36	1	1	3

2. U. S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY 42,881	NIGHT 65,595			109,795
	STEEL - DAY 696	NIGHT 623			
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY 17,056	NIGHT 24,280			42,124
	STEEL - DAY 376	NIGHT 412			
TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD - DAY 15,289	NIGHT 7,607			22,993
	STEEL - DAY 75	NIGHT 22			
TOTAL DETAINED	JUNKS 87	PERSONS 734 (14 VC suspects)			

3. Naval Gunfire:

TOTAL MISSIONS 604 (Includes 25 cases of hostile fire suppression and 34 evading craft taken under fire)

ENEMY CASUALTIES

35 killed plus 85 probable

5 wounded plus 53 probable

ENEMY MATERIAL LOSSES

227 junks or sampans destroyed

367 structures destroyed

239 junks or sampans damaged

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the harbor toward the ship they selected as a target. The remainder of the group returned to their base area. One of the two swimmers developed cramps and probably drowned. The survivor abandoned the mine attempting to return to the shore but was captured on the way. Harbor patrol craft and EOD personnel began a search for the mine and second swimmer at 0920. At 1027 a suspicious object floating in the water was spotted by LCPL 27. An EOD team identified the object as an explosive charge with a chemical fuze after towing it to the beach at 1158. Seven minutes later the charge was rendered safe. The body of the missing swimmer was found floating near Cam Ranh village at 0005 the next day. No further incidents resulted from this attempted mining. The average number of ships per day in the harbor was 17.

During July IUWU-3 detained 28 persons and two junks for suspicious activity, curfew violation, or improper identification as a result of surveillance in Qui Nhon Harbor. On the 14th a landing party was inserted in the upper reaches of Qui Nhon Bay. Six intact bunkers were discovered and destroyed. Two more landings by this force made no contact with the enemy, however, four more bunkers were located and destroyed. Another landing was made on the 21st resulting in the destruction of a house and several bunkers. Again no contact was made with enemy forces. On the 26th an unlighted sampan disregarded verbal commands and was taken under fire. The sampan was destroyed after the occupants abandoned the craft and successfully evaded capture. The harbor activity averaged 15 ships per day in port at Qui Nhon during the month of July.

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656 structures damaged

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OPERATION STABLE DOOR

Units of STABLE DOOR set an alert readiness posture during the month after numerous intelligence indicators pointed toward an increase in enemy activity on or about 20 July. Patrol units continued to support ground operations with blocking patrols and landing of reconnaissance troops. Surveillance results included a total of 57,641 detections, 6,495 inspections, and 3,392 boardings. The boardings led to the detention of five junks and 105 suspicious persons.

Operations by Inshore Undersea Warfare Units ONE and FIVE (IUWU-1 and IUWU-5) remained routine during July. No suspicious activity was noted in the harbors at Vung Tau and Vung Ro Bay. Harbor activity in these ports averaged 15 ships per day in port at Vung Tau and five at Vung Ro. At Nha Trang the average number of ships in port was also five per day. Operations of IUWU-4 at Nha Trang resulted in the detention of 57 persons for curfew violation, improper identification, or suspicious actions.

At Cam Ranh Bay 20 persons and three junks were detained as a result of operations by IUWU-2. At 0855 on the 28th an alert for a possible mining attempt was ordered as a result of the capture of a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) swimmer by local civil defense personnel. He was a member of a seven-man swimmer/sapper team that had arrived at the western edge of Cam Ranh Harbor after a six-day journey from the Ba Cum base area. Two of the men launched the mine they had carried with them and set out across

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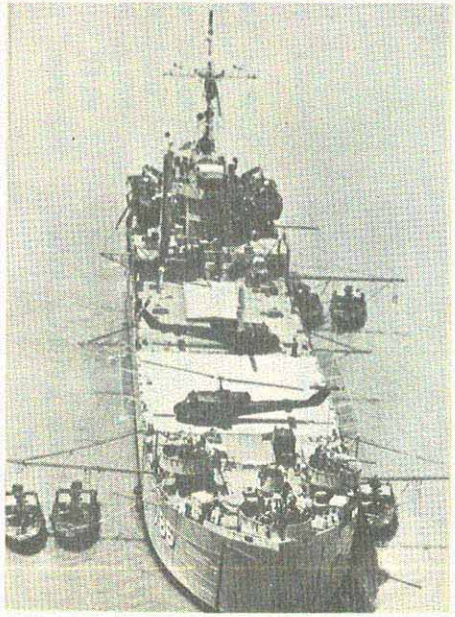
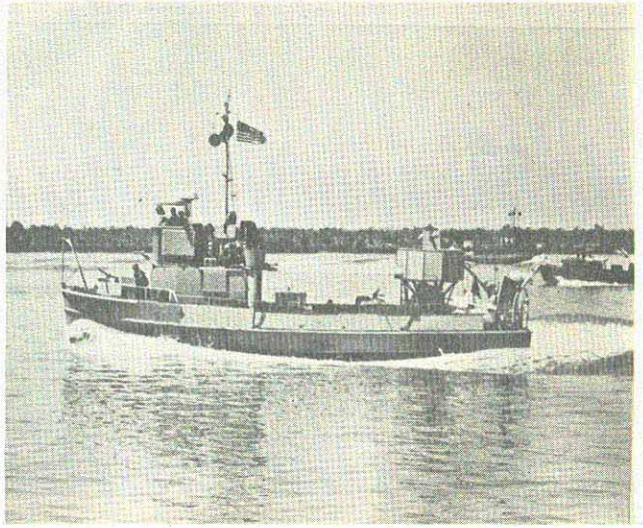
COMMANDER RIVER PATROL FORCE / CTF 116





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Mobile Base II lies at anchor in the Long Tau River at Nha Be. The mobile base serves as a support facility for PBR's and PBR crewmen. It is constructed in six sections to facilitate movement overseas and is divided into separate working and berthing areas. Other Mobile Base II facilities include office spaces, armory, communications center, sick bay, and a repair unit with an overhead 10-ton crane to lift the PBR's out of the water. The roof of one of the sections serves as a helo pad.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE (Task Force 116)

Intelligence indicators in July pointed toward large scale enemy attack in the near future and the Viet Cong/NVA troops for the most part remained elusive and avoided contact. This indicated a possible enemy attempt to regroup and resupply. Despite the definite reduction in enemy initiated activity, GAME WARDEN forces continued to vigorously seek out and destroy the enemy and aid the GVN in maintaining its presence in the Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone areas. PBR patrols increased their contacts by almost 30,000 over the preceding month and the boardings and inspections conducted increased by better than 33,000. Seawolf flight hours were almost 20 percent better than June and helo strikes had increased by more than 60 percent over the preceding month.

During this month the first two LSSC's (Light SEAL Support Craft) arrived in country. These 24-foot boats are made of aluminum with a V-bottom and are powered by two 427 cubic-inch gasoline engines driving water jet pumps. Mobile Base II was also placed in operation this month. After a period at Nha Be which included LHFT qualifications, the base was moved into the upper Mekong area of the Delta and was fully operational by the end of the month.

From April to June, CTF 116 intelligence collected information on Viet Cong cadre of the Can Tho area for use in a blacklist. By obtaining information from various sources, names, ages, heights, weights and activities of various Viet Cong cadre were compiled into an alphabetical list. In

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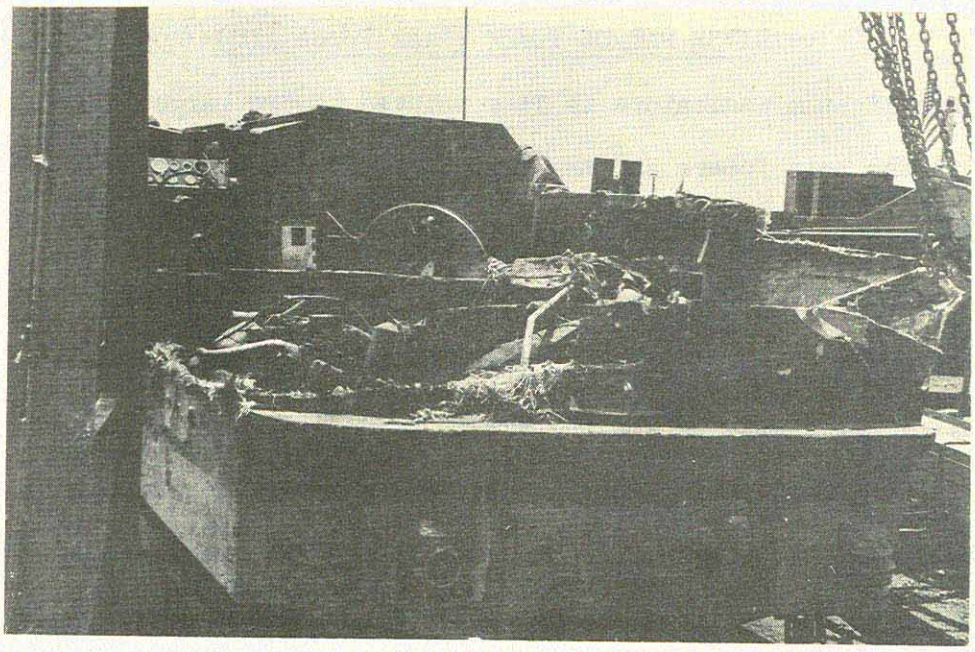
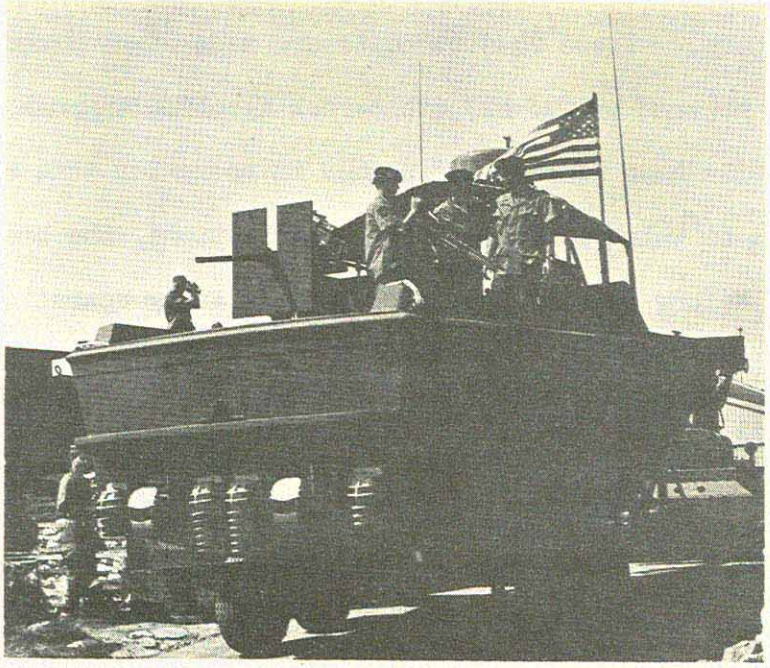


Top: PBR 130 after being 80 percent destroyed by enemy rocket fire on 5 May 1968. Bottom: PBR 130 prior to launching on 31 July 1968 after completion of repairs by Naval Support Activity Detachment, Binh Thuy.



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late June the first blacklist was published and distributed to River Division 51. After one month in operation the list has aided in apprehending four confirmed Viet Cong and one draft dodger in the Can Tho area. A second, more detailed list to be distributed in early August.

On 31 July PBR 130, which had been 80 percent destroyed by enemy rocket fire on 5 May, was turned over to River Section 511 at Binh Bhuy in operational status. The reconstruction of this boat was the work of Naval Support Activity Detachment, Binh Thuy.

There were numerous incidents this month that showed the team work and spirit of Task Force 116. Working by themselves, with other U. S. military services or with the GVN Army and Navy they effectively carried the war to the enemy.

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OPERATIONS IN I CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

In I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ) PBR's of River Sections 521 and 543 continued to operate in support of CTF CLEARWATER in providing river security for logistic craft, operating on the Perfume and Cua Viet rivers. (See TASK FORCE CLEARWATER Section)

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RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

A tug and tow came under rocket and automatic weapons fire on the Dong Nai River about 1000 on 1 July. PBR's vectored to the area found a LHFT and fixed-wing air strike already in progress and escorted the tug and tow clear of the area. There were no friendly casualties.

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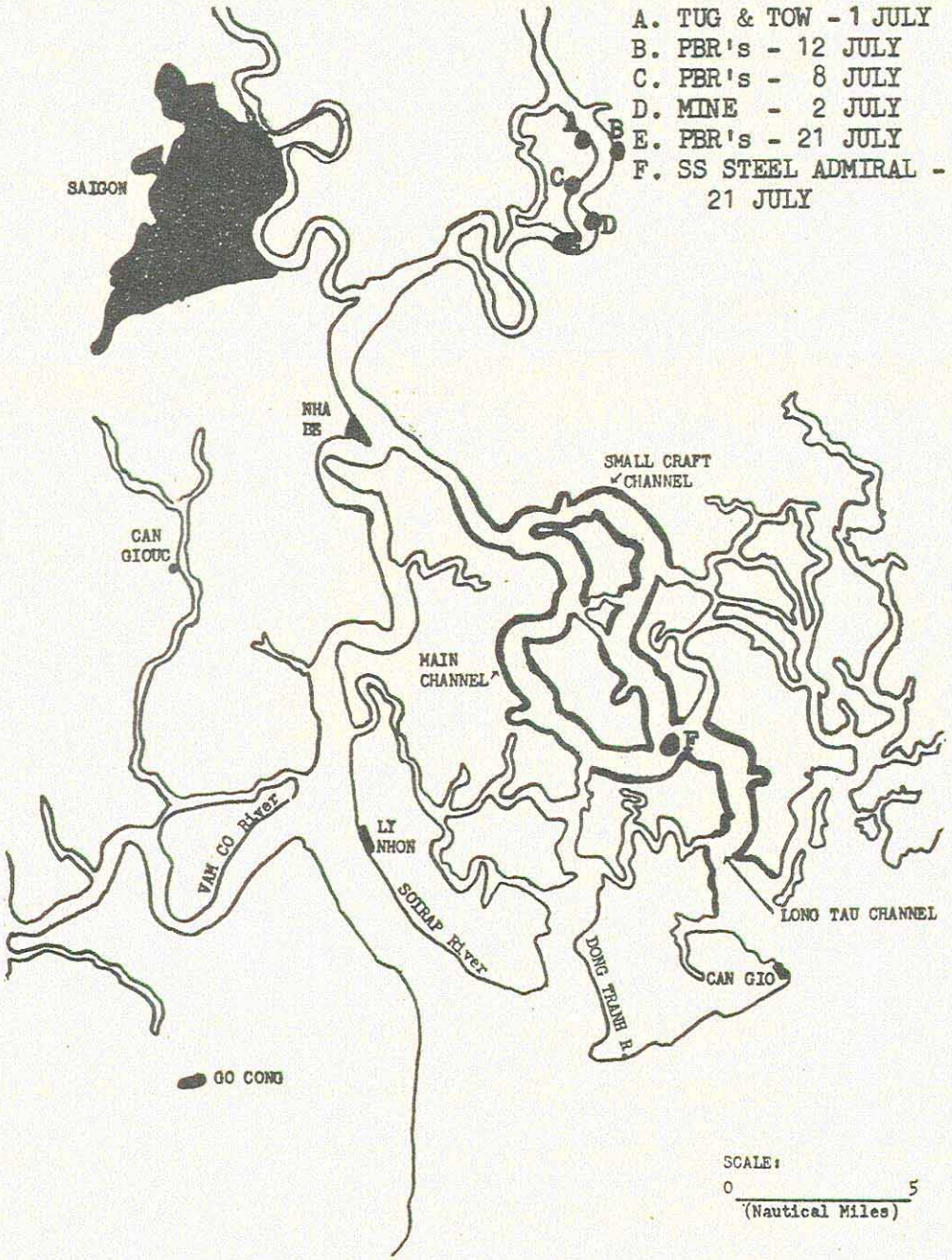
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

A. TUG & TOW - 1 JULY
B. PBR's - 12 JULY
C. PBR's - 8 JULY
D. MINE - 2 JULY
E. PBR's - 21 JULY
F. SS STEEL ADMIRAL - 21 JULY



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A Vietnamese Navy motor launch minesweeper (MLMS) reported to CTG 116.4 on 2 July that it had located a waterime on the Dong Nai River, about 11 miles east of Saigon. A force of four PBR's with a USN EOD team embarked was dispatched to the scene to recover the mine. The recovered mine weighed approximately 250 pounds and was spherical in shape with a diameter of 24 inches. An electrical detonator was located on the top of the mine and the bottom was attached to 20 feet of stainless steel ¼ inch mooring cable. About 30 feet of two conductor electrical wire was stopped off to the mooring cable.

At 2040 on 2 July, 9 miles east of Saigon, SEALs were inserted by PBR's. Twenty minutes after insertion the SEALs observed one sampan with five occupants about 10 meters from the river bank. They took the sampan under fire and later recovered the overturned sampan. Investigation revealed three Viet Cong definitely killed; two others were listed as probable. Several documents were recovered. Intelligence read out of the documents indicated that one of the enemy dead was a possible commanding officer of an NVA artillery battalion. Other letters suggest that one of the others killed was an artillery staff officer who had conducted a number of "successful" 122-mm rocket attacks on Saigon and was possibly enroute to a fire mission on the night of the ambush. A captured diary was identified as a weapons training course.

Just before midnight on 8 July, an apparent misfortune turned into good fortune. Two PBR's on patrol of the Don Nai River about 12 miles

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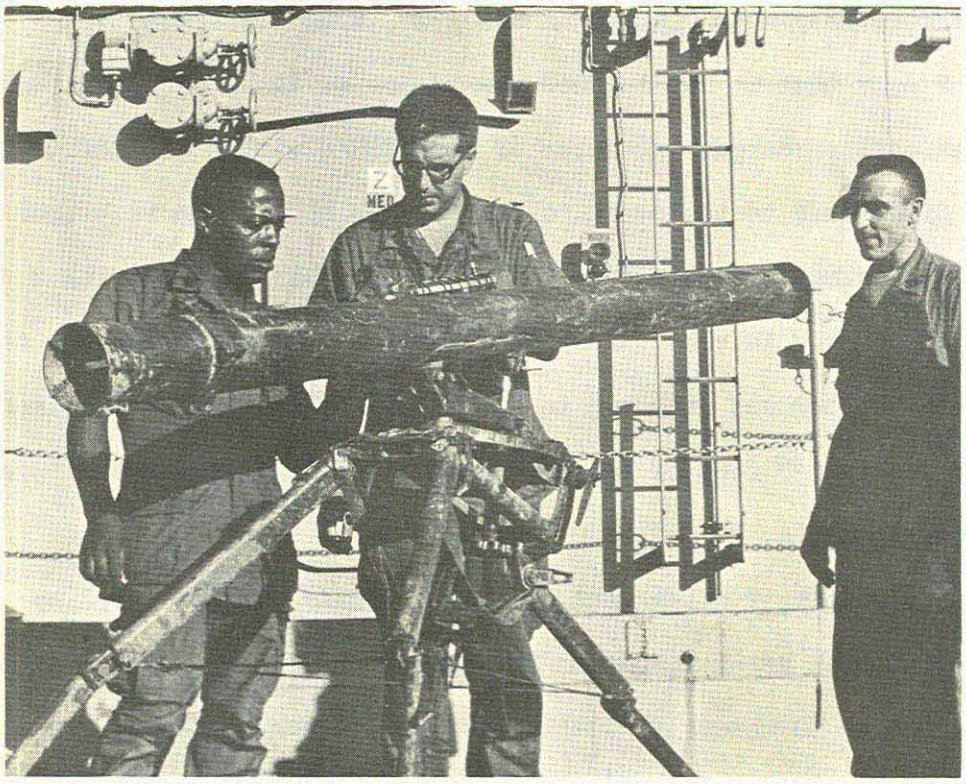

A communist-made 122-mm rocket launcher gets a going over by its captors. The launcher was seized off a sampan on the Dong Nai River, 12 miles east of Saigon, shortly after midnight on 9 July 1968.

east of Saigon ran aground on a sand bar. While grounded they sighted three sampans heading south on the river. PBR's from an adjacent station proceeded to the aid of the grounded boats. As they approached, the grounded units opened fire on the sampans forcing them to beach. Eight Viet Cong ran into the treeline and an unknown number jumped into the water. Three of the Viet Cong were killed by a Navy LHFT sent to reconnoiter areas of possible enemy concentration. A search of the sampans uncovered one complete firing system for the 122-mm rocket less the projectile, two launchers, two tripods,

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one sight, and miscellaneous publications and operating procedures marked Top Secret. The personnel killed in action were identified as North Vietnamese Army personnel.

At 2230 on the night of 12 July, two PBR's on patrol of the Dong Nai River sighted a sampan with four occupants about 8 miles east of Saigon. The boats took the sampan under fire with small arms forcing the occupants to jump into the water. The PBR's then went through the area dropping concussion grenades. They captured one of the Viet Cong and the other three were presumed dead. In addition to the prisoner one CHICOM RPG-2, three B-40 rocket rounds and two AK-47s were recovered from the sampan before it was destroyed.

The USNS MERRIL came under rocket and automatic-weapons fire while transiting the Long Tau River to Saigon at 0900 on 16 July. The attack took place about 25 miles south-southwest of Saigon. PBR's from TE 116.4.1.5 were in the area and suppressed the enemy fire. Army and Navy LHFT's were sent to the scene and placed strikes in the area. After the attack, two platoons of Regional Force troops patrolling the Long Tau as a Quick-kill group were inserted behind enemy lines to conduct a sweep of the area with negative results. Damage to the MERRIL was limited to four small arms hits in the stack.

On the night of the 16th a group of seven SEALs was inserted by PBR's for an ambush about 6 miles east of Saigon. The SEALs sighted a sampan with five male occupants heading north toward Rach Nuoc Duc. The SEALs took the

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sampan under fire causing two positive deaths and three probables. Three bundles of personal gear were recovered including several documents. The next morning SEAL divers recovered four AK-47s, one CHICOM 7.62 pistol and about 400 rounds of ammunition. There were no U.S. casualties.

Just before noon on 17 July the merchant ship YAKASUNI MARU was fired on by the Viet Cong as she was heading north on the Long Tau about 9 miles southeast of Saigon. The attack consisted of two rockets both of which exploded in the water. A Vietnamese PBR was first on the scene and took the rocket launching area under fire. PBR's from TE 116.4.1.2 joined the Vietnamese in the firing run and observed one secondary explosion. An Army LHFT was scrambled and placed a strike on suspected Viet Cong positions. Two platoons of RF company 999 were inserted at the firing point and proceeded inland. Two wooden "ladder" type launchers were found at the launching site. The launchers were pointed directly at the river with back blast marks extended back for 12-15 feet. The command firing wire extended east about 50 meters, crossed a stream to the south and then east again for another 1,000 meters. The troops made no contact with the enemy and a USAF FAC working in the area was requested to provide overhead surveillance. The FAC spotted a Viet Cong about one and a half miles southeast of the firing site and a Navy LHFT placed a strike in the area with unknown results. Forty-three rounds of 105-mm artillery was then called into the area with the FAC providing spotting information. The results of this firing was one bunker destroyed. All troops were extracted at 1400.

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On 30 July the merchant ship CHE JU came under attack; three rocket rounds missed the ship. An USAF FAC was vectored to the scene and a Navy LHFT was scrambled. The LHFT put strikes into the treeline and small streams in the area. No attackers were sighted. PBR's from TE 116.4.1.5 ferried a platoon of RF Company 908 across the Long Tau River. An additional platoon of the RF company was inserted by VNN RAG. Both platoons swept west and established a blocking force. The Navy LHFT was relieved on station by an Army LHFT who prepped the landing zone for an insertion of RSSZ Commandos who swept east. After Commandos and RF Company 908 were extracted, two platoons of RF Company 999 patrolling the Long Tau in a Quick-kill capacity were inserted to sweep the areas to the north of the attack area. All sweeps produced negative results.

In addition to the tug and tow attacked on the 1st of July, there were two additional incidents of tugs and tow coming under fire on the Dong Nai River on 14 and 25 July. One of these incidents resulted in two of the crewmen on one of the tugs being wounded.

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DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

At 1500 on 9 July, a PBR patrol came under attack while exiting from a canal leading from Hoa Lac District town about 25 miles east of My Tho. The attack came from two and possibly three positions. The fire was returned immediately and suppressed as the patrol cleared the area. The

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Two PBR's on patrol of the Dong Nai River during the pre-dawn hours of 21 July discovered six sampans with 14-16 Viet Cong crossing from east to west about 11 miles east of Saigon. The PBR's pursued the sampans and took them under fire. Two Viet Cong were knocked into the water and another two jumped overboard. Five of the sampans beached about 50-100 meters north of the PBR's and the occupants escaped into the brush. Total enemy casualties were two killed in action and another two probably killed. Approximately eight pounds of documents were recovered including maps, I.D. cards, one AK-47 and assorted medicine.

At 1000, 21 July the SS STEEL ADMIRAL came under attack about 20 miles southeast of Saigon while transiting the Long Tau River. Navy and Army LHFT's and an Air Force FAC were vectored to the scene. The suspected enemy position was taken under fire by the LHFT. PBR's at the extreme opposite ends of their patrol stations did not observe or hear the original attack. RF troops were inserted for a ground sweep of the area, but did not contact the enemy. Damage to the ship was limited to about 20 automatic weapons hits and a number of heavy weapons rounds close aboard.

On 25 July a Commando platoon was inserted by PBR's at 1115 about 20 miles south of Saigon. An Army and Navy LHFT's provided overhead cover for the transit and insertion. The Commandos located three unused base camps. Approximately 100 homemade fragmentation grenades in badly deteriorated condition and 30 fins for rifle grenades were recovered. No contact was made with the enemy.

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damage to the boats was limited to 15 minor hits on the cover boat.

While on a routine patrol and conducting psyops speaker broadcasts, PBR's 96 and 106 received approximately 300 rounds of automatic weapons and 100 rounds of small arms fire from three to six positions. The boats conducted three firing runs through the area but were unable to suppress enemy fire and cleared the area. The attack occurred at 0200 on 15 July about 27 miles east of My Tho.

With less than eight hours notice from the Go Cong Province advisory team, CTU 116.3.2 provided four PBR's to support a 200-man RF/PF operation during a pre-planned incursion into the Go Cong River on 15 July. During the morning and early afternoon the PBR's put harassment and interdiction fire into five reported Viet Cong rest areas and concentrations about three to six miles northwest of Go Cong. There was no return fire and enemy casualties are unknown. During the rest of the afternoon the PBR's provided a blocking force on the Go Cong and ferried RF/PF's to various insertion points, supported them and then extracted them. An additional H&I mission was conducted about 3 miles northwest of Go Cong. The results of the PBR's fire was 15 hootches destroyed, 38 severely damaged and 8 sampans destroyed. The aggressive PBR action received a verbal "Well Done" from the province Deputy Senior Advisor who observed the entire operation.

CTU 116.3.2., with nine hours notice, provided four PBR's for a blocking force on the Go Cong on 17 July. Seawolves provided overhead

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OPERATIONS IN THE MY THO RIVER

A. SEAWOLVES - 18 JULY
B. SEALs - 20 JULY
C. PBR's - 29 JULY
D. SEALs - 30 JULY
E. SEALs - 20 JULY
F. SEAWOLVES -17 JULY
G. PBR's - 15 JULY
H. PBR's - 9 JULY
I. PBR's 96 & 106 - 15 JULY

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cover for the PBR's and fire support for the RF/PF sweep. The PBR's delivered mortar fire on five different objectives five to seven and a half miles northwest of Go Cong. Eight hootches, 11 sampans, 6 bunkers, and 100 kilos of contraband rice were destroyed.

At 2030, on 18 July Seawolves 69 and 67 were scrambled by CTG 116.3 to support U.S. Army troops about 13 miles northwest of My Tho. While striking the Viet Cong concentration the helos received moderate automatic weapons fire and heavy small arms fire. Upon completion of rearming and refueling at Dong Tam, the Seawolves returned to the area and again fired on the Viet Cong troops which were closing on the friendly troops. The helos received intense small arms fire during the attack and caused a moderate secondary explosion. The helos returned to Dong Tam to rearm and refuel again. Returning to the target area they struck Viet Cong troops that were now attempting to encircle the friendly troops receiving heavy small-arms fire during their attack. The Seawolves were forced from the area by army helos inserting friendly reinforcements north of the target area. They returned to Dong Tam. Six Viet Cong deaths were accounted for by the Seawolves.

At 0200 on 20 July SEALs were inserted by Boston Whaler about 28 miles west of My Tho to establish an ambush for a Viet Cong tax extortionist. The SEALs sighted the extortionist and three guards at 0805, about 500 meters from the ambush site across a large canal/river junction, putting out a Viet Cong flag. They were unable to utilize sniper fire because of a bush obscuring

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the line of fire. At 0940 they called for a Seawolf strike of the area. The Seawolf attack was a complete surprise and was right on target. Enemy casualties are unknown. The SEALs were extracted by the Boston Whaler after the attack.

Five SEALs, seven PRU's and one Hoi Chanh were inserted by PBR's at a location about 12 miles southeast of My Tho at 0215 on 20 July. The force commenced searching huts in the area and killed one Viet Cong attempting to escape and captured another. While withdrawing they received small arms and automatic probing fire from the northeast. The platoon did not return the fire and was safely extracted by the PBR's. After extraction 30 rounds of 60-mm mortar fire were placed in the vicinity of the Viet Cong unit. The Viet Cong killed in action was confirmed as a Viet Cong by the POW who in turn was identified by the Hoi Chanh.

While acting as part of a blocking force for a sweep operation about noon on 29 July, PBR's 123 and 131 came under attack. PBR 131 took two rounds from rifle grenade and small-arms fire about 18 miles west of My Tho. The fire was returned and suppressed. After about a 10-minute lapse PBR 131 received three hits by B-40 rockets. The PBR's returned the fire and Seawolves were scrambled. PBR's 140 and 144 were also rushed to the scene to help suppress the fire. All units received small arms and automatic-weapons fire. Seawolves 55 and 53 placed a strike in the area and returned to rearm. All units then cleared the area. Artillery fire was then called for but was subsequently cancelled due to time required to obtain clearances

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and time between rounds. Another Seawolf strike was placed in the target area instead. Both Seawolf attacks were right on target. There were no U.S. casualties. One of the three B-40 rockets passed through PBR 131 without exploding. The other two hit about 15 feet forward of the transom. PBR 123 received two near misses from B-40 rockets. PBR 131 was able to proceed under her own power to My Tho for repairs.

In response to intelligence concerning known Viet Cong and a water mine cache, 11 SEALs with an interpreter and a Hoi Chanh were inserted by PBR at a location 9 miles southeast of My Tho in the pre-dawn hours of 30 July. The SEAL platoon searched a Nuouc Mam factory with negative results. They detained 10 Viet Cong suspects, 2 Viet Cong identified by the Hoi Chanh and 2 Viet Cong hiding in barrels. After preliminary interrogation eight of the suspects confessed and at least five of them implicated the owner of the factory, who was among the detainees, as a Viet Cong of at least village rank who had attended Viet Cong schools recently and was very active in political affairs. The owner reportedly raised 800,000 VN$ last year for the National Liberation Front. The source of the money is unknown. All suspects denied any knowledge of weapons or munitions caches in or near the factory.

Upper Mekong River

On the evening of 1 July, PBR's 735, 736 and 739 placed harassment and interdiction fire on an island 11 miles northwest of Vinh Long. Intelligence had indicated that the island was a Viet Cong training/staging area.

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The PBR's received small arms, automatic weapons and recoilless-rifle fire from the target area resulting in one U.S. casualty. The PBR's continued firing until the Viet Cong fire was suppressed. During the attack two secondary explosions were observed in the staging area. On 6 July PBR's 733 and 745 supported the 9th ARVN Division CS-gas drop on the same island from a CH-47. The PBR's worked a canal north of the island to prevent any Viet Cong from crossing to the mainland. In addition they provided area fire. An Army LHFT was also used for support. A total of 5,280 pounds of CS-gas were dropped on the island. The results of the area fire are unknown but the LHFT accounted for three positive Viet Cong killed and one probable.

On 17 July, Army LCU 1577 inadvertently crossed the Vietnamese-Cambodian border on the Upper Mekong. The LCU was sighted by TE 116.2.1 as it passed Thuong Thoi at about 1300. Given the geographical layout of the area, the obvious special forces camp at Thuong Thoi, and the large city of Tan Chau, it was taken for granted that the LCU knew exactly where it was and where it was going, therefore no attempt was made to stop it. A Vietnamese outpost about three miles from the border reported they observed the LCU cross the border with the American flag flying. Once the LCU was well inside Cambodian territory a Cambodian gunboat maneuvered between it and the border and fired warning shots. The LCU went alongside the gunboat and the personnel were off loaded. The LCU was not observed returning fire. On 18 July, TF 116 assumed the responsibility for assuring that all U.S./Allied

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shipping would be alerted upon approaching the border. U.S. ships or craft were not allowed to pass a point 4 miles from the border and all ships stopping at Tan Chau for customs inspection were alerted that U.S. personnel are not to cross the border. On 21 July, four Army LCM-8's of 1099 Transportation Company were intercepted by PBR patrol near Than Chou preventing another inadvertent border crossing. The LCM's were en-route from Cat Lai to Binh Thuy. They were taken to Thoung Thoi to remain over night and were given a PBR escort the next day through the Vam Nao crossover to the Bassac River. Factors contributing to their predicament were: the officer-in-charge of the LCM-8's was making a familiarization trip and had been in-country only 10 days; the NCOIC was also making his first trip; their compasses were inoperative; they had no small scale charts for an overall view and had apparently not been properly briefed in the use of landmarks on their large scale charts. Liaison with the National Maritime Police was also effected to insure against any further inadvertent border crossings.

On 19 July about one mile from Vinh Long PBR's 85 and 87 observed a sampan with two visible male occupants proceeding out of a canal. When the sampan saw the PBR's they reversed course and ignored all warnings and evaded toward the beach, a total of eight warning shots were fired. The PBR's took the sampan under fire. The sampan evaded into the tall grass at the rivers's edge and two of the occupants were seen running into the grass. A sampan was sent into the beach to retrieve the evading sampan.

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OPERATIONS IN THE HAM LUONG RIVER

A. PBR's-9 JULY
B. PBR's-10 JULY
C. PBR's, SEAWOLVES, & PRU's-19 JULY
D. SEAWOLVES-3 JULY
E. PBR's & PRU's-12 JULY
F. SEAWOLVES-2 JULY

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A wounded male was found in the sampan and was medevaced to Vinh Long but died en route. One other Viet Cong is believed to have been wounded in the encounter.

A Vietnamese Popular Force soldier hailed a PBR near an outpost north of Tan Chau shortly after noon on 31 July. The soldier reported there were 30 Viet Cong in ditches approximately two kilometers southeast of him. A Navy LHFT was vectored to the scene and placed three strikes in the area and approximately 60-70 Viet Cong dispersed in all directions. The PBR's provided a blocking force and a sweep was organized out of Hong Ngu. By this time, however, the Viet Cong had mingled with the civilian populace and further air strikes were impossible. Enemy casualties are unknown.

Operations on the Ham Luong River

Seawolves 52 and 53 received clearance from Senior Advisor Thanh Phu and CTG 116.3 for targets of opportunity in Thanh Phu Secret Zone on 2 July. They spotted camp fires which did not appear to be associated with any structures and placed strikes in two positions 28 and 31 miles southeast of Truc Giang about 2030. Secondary explosions occurred at both locations. The first appeared to be fuel, the second ammunition. Enemy casualties are unknown.

The next evening at 1920, Seawolves 52 and 53 were on surveillance patrol in secret zones Binh Dai and Than Phu when they sighted two junks on the Bai Lai Canal about 23 miles east of Truc Giang. There were numerous men in each junk. The Seawolves attacked both junks which had attempted

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to evade, sinking one and heavily damaging the other. A total of eight Viet Cong were killed and another one was listed as probable. Casualties were confirmed by the outpost at Ba Tri. The following morning between 0620 and 0840, in three separate actions, these same two helos accounted for seven more Viet Cong killed, one probable, three junks destroyed, one junk heavily damaged, one sampan destroyed, one structure destroyed and four structures damaged. These actions took place 29 miles east, 32 miles southeast, and 10 miles west of Truc Giang. In a period of one hour on 5 July, Seawolves 52 and 53 again engaged five targets of opportunity in an area four to seven miles southeast and west-southwest of Truc Giang. Enemy casualties from these attacks were four Viet Cong definitely killed and one probable, four structures destroyed and one damaged, four sampans damaged. It was a very rewarding four days for Seawolves 52 and 53.

A PBR patrol operating six miles south of Truc Giang on 9 July had a sampan evade. Warning shots were ignored. The sampan was taken under fire. An Army FAC joined in the attack assisting the PBR's with rocket and small arms fire and spotting information. One of the males in the sampan jumped into the water and was taken under fire while the other occupant maneuvered the sampan in a small canal. The sampan was hit, caught fire, and burned with many small secondary explosions, most probably small arms and grenades. The second Viet Cong left the sampan and was taken under fire by the FAC. No definite enemy personnel casualties are known. The action took place at 0845.

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In the early morning hours of 10 July, PBR's 152 and 160 were patrolling an areas seven miles south of Truc Giang using drifting tactics. They observed 4 to 5 men on the shoreline and requested clearance from the sub-sector to take them under fire. As a result of the firing one Viet Cong was killed and an additional one was listed as probably killed.

At 0640 on 12 July, PBR's 122 and 151 were on a PRU insertion mission about 17 miles south-southeast of Truc Giang. The objective of the mission was to capture a Viet Cong village chief. The PRU's detained 13 Viet Cong suspects and started to withdraw when they were ambushed from both flanks. The PRU's called for PBR fire support which was immediately given. The PBR's fired on the northwest flank of the PRU's as the PRU's withdrew in that direction. The extraction was successful. There were no friendly casualties and the enemy suffered one Viet Cong killed by the PBR'S, three by the PRU's and 13 Viet Cong suspects detained.

In a combined operation of PBR's, PRU's and Seawolf aircraft on 19 July the enemy suffered 9 personnel killed in action. Two PBR's inserted the PRU's and were covering the operation when the PRU's came in contact with a company sized enemy unit fully equipped and armed. The PBR's provided fire support and Seawolves were scrambled; a second PBR patrol headed for the area and a Spooky aircraft was called in. The Seawolves put in a strike when the PRU's were 60 meters from the extraction point. One of the Seawolf helos then medevaced a seriously wounded PRU and a third helo joined the attack. After safely extracting the PRU's the Spooky aircraft was

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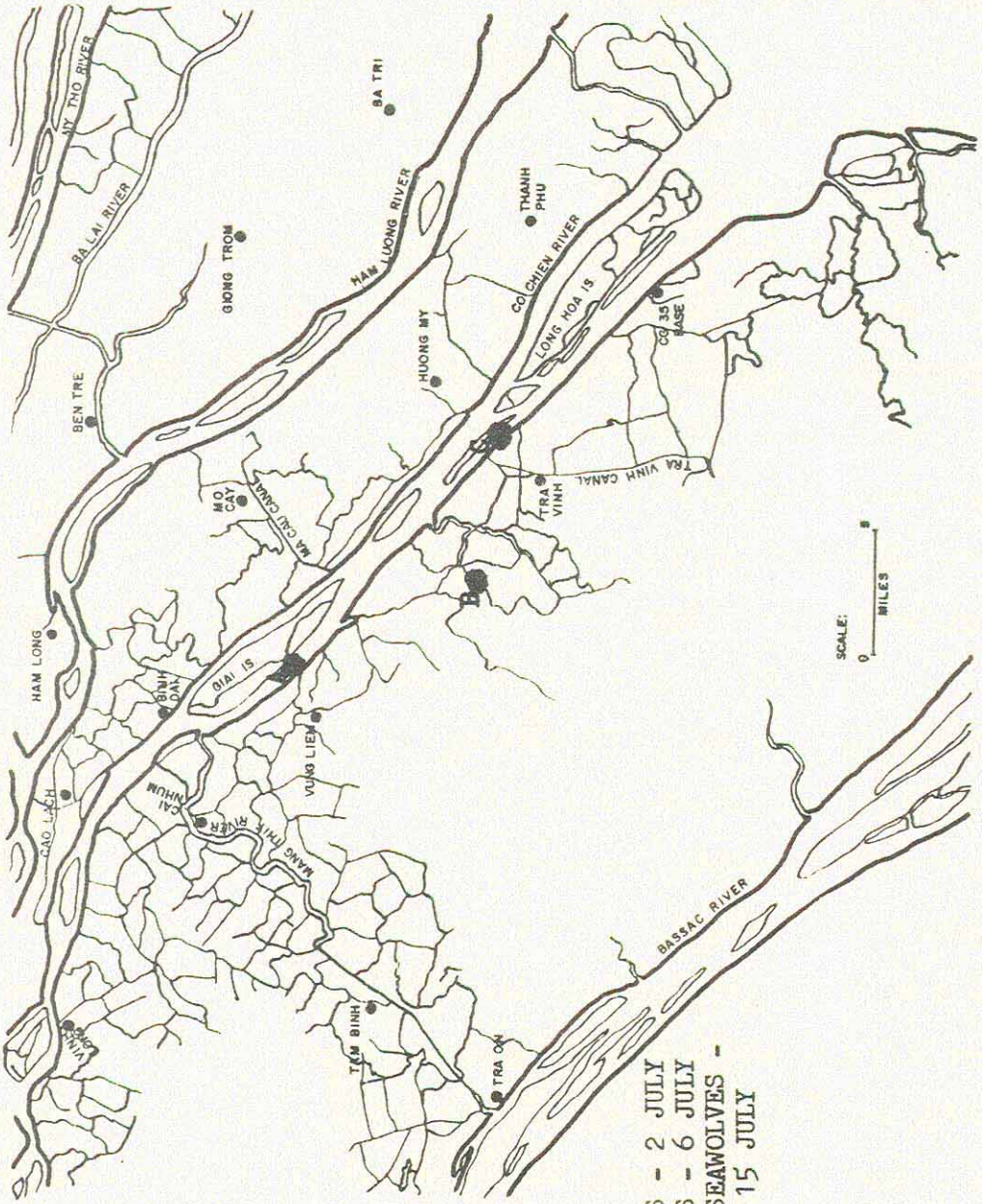

A. SEAWOLVES - 2 JULY
B. SEAWOLVES - 6 JULY
C. PBR's & SEAWOLVES - 15 JULY

OPERATIONS IN THE CO CHIEN RIVER

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cancelled and the PBR's medevaced three other wounded PRU's to the USS HUNTERDON COUNTRY. There were no U.S. casualties.

Operations in the Co Chien River

Just before noon on 1 July a PBR patrol that was transporting SEALs to Vinh Long received sniper fire from a point about 5 miles east-southeast of Vung Liem. The PBR's returned the fire and were answered by automatic weapons fire from three positions. U.S. forces continued to return the fire and called for a Seawolf strike. Seawolves, which were airborne at the time, responded to the call. By the time the Seawolves arrived on the scene the enemy fire had been suppressed. The helos placed a strike on the enemy position and the PBR's continued on to Vinh Long. The area of the attack was a known Viet Cong crossing and extortionist station.

Seawolves 32 and 30 on surveillance patrol late in the afternoon of 2 July received a target of opportunity consisting of two Viet Cong platoons and arms/food storage area about 2 miles north of Vung Liem. The strike was delivered and three structures were damaged and in flames. Seawolf 30 received a .30 caliber round in its main rotor blade during the attack. Enemy personnel casualties are unknown.

An LHFT based aboard USS GARRETT COUNTY was requested by Senior Advisor Cang Long at 1900 on 3 July to aid a detachment of PRU's that had come under ambush attack about 8 miles west of Phu Vinh. The helos, on surveillance patrol, provided multiple rocket and machine gun attacks on the suspected enemy positions. The enemy did not return fire. Both of

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the helos then landed and in two trips medevaced 9 of the seriously wounded to Tra Vinh.

CTG 116.2 scrambled a Navy LHFT aboard the USS GARRETT COUNTY at 0730 on 6 July to go to the aid of a PRU Advisor and his unit about 5 miles northwest of Phy Vinh. The PRU's were in contact with an estimated company of Viet Cong. The Seawolves made repeated rocket and machine gun runs on the enemy positions, and received intense automatic weapons fire in return. The end of the engagement showed seven of the enemy killed.

A routine patrol of PBR's received about 20 rounds of small arms fire from a postion two miles northeast of Vinh Long at 0725 on 10 July. The PBR's returned and suppressed the enemy fire. About 20 minutes later they noted three unarmed men run across a field into a treeline about a mile from the firing incident. Four additional PBR's joined the original patrol and headed for the area of the treeline to investigate. The PBR's came under automatic weapons fire from three positions. They returned the fire while clearing the kill zone. Two Seawolves on patrol received permission from Senior Advisor Cho Lach to conduct airstrikes on the enemy position with the PBR's acting as spotters. At 0835 one of the PBR's received 35 rounds of automatic fire which it returned and the Seawolves immediately made a firing run on the position suppressing all fire. No U.S. casualties occurred while enemy casualties were unknown.

In conjuction with a U.S. Ninth Infantry Division operation in the Cang Long Base Camp Area, six units of CTU 116.2.4 in company with six units

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of TF 117 transited the Song Lang Tre four miles northwest of Phuc Vinh on the morning of 15 July. The combined force, with Seawolves providing overhead cover and striking targets of opportunity, reconned both banks of the river taking hootches and bunkers under fire. No enemy resistance was encountered during this incursion. When the force returned to the main river they left behind 30 damaged hootches, 2 sampans destroyed and 11 damaged.

Mid-morning 16 July PBR's 135 and 137 inserted one squad of PF troops at a location about 8 miles north of Vung Liem. The PF's engaged 15 Viet Cong with the PBR's providing fire support. An hour and 15 minutes later the PF's were extracted by the PBR's. There were no friendly casualties during this encounter while the enemy suffered two killed.

A junk stopped for inspection by a PBR patrol on the morning of 22 July reported he had been taxed by the Viet Cong at a point about 12 miles southwest of Truc Giang. The patrol headed for the suspected extortion point. As they closed they saw two males standing on the shore who started to run to nearby bunkers as soon as they saw the PBR's. The patrol took both men under fire and saw them fall. They took the bunkers under fire after which they continued their patrol. Both Viet Cong were presumed to be dead.

Operations in the Bassac River

A three-mile stretch of the west bank of the Bassac across from Cu Lao Nai was scheduled for a ground sweep by PF's on 1 July. Twenty-five

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A. PBR's, PF's & RF's - 11 JULY
B. PBR's & PF's - 1 JULY
C. PBR's & SEAWOLVES - 4 JULY
D. DOWNED SEAWOLF - 13 JULY
E. USS HARNETT COUNTY & PBR's - 18 JULY

OPERATIONS IN THE BASSAC RIVER

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PF's from An Lac Tay Outpost were inserted by four PBR's at the southern end of the area at 1430. As the PF's advanced, they came under fire from two .30 caliber machine-guns at a position about one-half mile from the end of the sweep area. PBR's placed .50 caliber fire into the area but were unable to suppress the fire. Seawolves were scrambled and placed three strikes in the target area before the fire was finally suppressed. The PBR's safely extracted the PF's after the enemy fire was suppressed.

Late afternoon on 4 July a PBR patrol observed a man in the treeline on the western side of Tan Dinh Island. The man took cover behind a tree and the PBR's opened fire and probably wounded him. The patrol then became the target for heavy automatic weapons fire from five positions along the island shore line. The PBR's returned the fire but were unable to suppress it. The PBR's were forced to retire to Tra On to rearm. Upon completion of rearming they returned to the area of the attack and were again subjected to heavy fire from the same positions. Seawolves on surveillance patrol were diverted to the area to aid in the battle. The helos placed two strikes in the area and received fire on each of their passes. After the Seawolf strikes, the PBR's ventured another pass through the area and once again received heavy fire. All units withdrew by 1845 without having successfully suppressing the enemy fire. No friendly casualties were incurred.

May Island was the scene for a ground sweep of Popular force and Regional Force troops from Tra On sub-sector on the morning of 11 July. Six

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PBR's acted as a blocking force while 400 troops were inserted by water taxi and Vietnamese RAG units. An LCMR fired 72 rounds of 5-inch rockets into a predetermined area and the ground forces had sporadic contact with what was estimated as a platoon of Viet Cong. Four PF's were wounded and medevaced to Can Tho by PBR. The enemy suffered 15 personnel killed and one Viet Cong suspect detained.

While on routine surveillance patrol Seawolves 13 and 17 received permission to place a strike in the northeastern section of Dung Island on 13 July. The LHFT received fire from all quadrants. Seawolf 17 announced "going down" and was observed in a right descending turn with rotor RPM decaying extremely rapidly. The helo came to rest in heavy underbrush. Seawolf 13 broadcast "Mayday"and rescue and cover aircraft were scrambled. SEALs who were operating on the western bank of the Bassac across from May Island were told to abort their mission and return to the USS HARNETT COUNTY for transportation to the crash site. In the meantime the wreckage was located by Coastal Group 36 personnel who guarded it along with PF's from Long Duc Outpost until the next morning when PBR's inserted the SEALs for the completion of the salvage work. All four crewmembers were killed in the crash. After removing as much of the aircraft as could be salvaged the remainder was destroyed by C-4 explosive. The operation was terminated at 1230.

Four PBR's inserted 40 PF troops from An Loc Ton at noon on 17 July at a point 9 miles north-northwest of Ke Sach, across from Cu Lao Nai for

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a sweep along the treeline adjacent to the river. The PF's immedately came under heavy automatic weapons fire from a position about 100 yards inland. Seawolves were scrambled and placed strikes on the Viet Cong positions. The PF's were extracted by PBR's and reinserted about a mile and a half further down river to destroy two offensive bunkers recently used by the Viet Cong to fire on PBR's. After destroying the bunkers all troops were safely extracted by PBR. There were no friendly casualties.

Two bunkers and an observation tower were sighted by a PBR patrol on the southeastern end of Con Coc Island on 18 July. After the sighting a fisherman from the beach in the area of the bunkers came to the patrol and reported there were 50 Viet Cong hiding in the immediate area. The patrol called for an LST for fire support. The USS HARNETT COUNTY was assigned the task. As the PBR's commenced a firing run to mark the target for the LST, three men jumped and ran. The LST took the area under fire. Upon completion of the firing the PBR patrol checked the area and found the two bunkers heavily damaged, two hootches destroyed, one sampan destroyed and three Viet Cong killed.

An urgent call for help caused a Seawolf surveillance patrol to be diverted to aid a group of PF's who were in contact with a Viet Cong unit. The LHFT placed strikes on the enemy position receiving heavy automatic and small arms fire in return. The helo then went on to place a strike on a suspected rice storage area. These actions took place about 5 miles southeast from the mouth of the Quan Chanh Bo Canal, mid-morning on 18 July.

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A junk convoy proceeding down river received a burst of automatic weapons fire from a position on the west bank of the Bassac across from Cua Lao Nay, just before midnight on the night of 27 July. A PBR patrol in the area that was using drifting tactics observed the fire and proceeded to assist. No sign of activity was seen on the river bank and no further fire was received. The junk convoy proceeded on without further incident.

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GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 20 July River Section 552 (TE 116.4.1.7) relieved River Section (TE 116.4.1.6) and assumed the Dong Nai River patrol area.

On 22 July Mine Division 113 changed to the operational control of Commander River Patrol Force (CTF 116) and assumed CTU 116.4.3.

On 22 July River Section 551 vacated task element designator 116.4.1.6 and assumed task unit designation 116.5.1.

On 22 July PBR Mobile Base II, with Commander River Division 55 and River Section 551 embarked, departed Nha Be, RVN enroute to Thoung Thoi, RVN to commence operations as the Upper Mekong Patrol Group.

On 25 July SEAL Team Detachment ALFA, Ninth Platoon commenced conducting operations in Chau Doc Province south and southwest of Chau Doc.

On 26 July SEAL Team Detachment GOLF, Mike Platoon relocated from YRBM-18 to USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) temporarily.

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On 28 July PBR Mobile Base II arrived on station on the upper Mekong River at 1500 and River Division 51 (TU 116.5) commenced operations there.

On 30 July Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE, Detachment FIVE, relocated from the USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) to PBR Mobile Base II. It vacated task unit designator 116.3.8 and assumed 116.5.8.

On 30 July SEAL Team Detachment GOLF, Hotel Platoon relieved SEAL Team Detachment GOLF, Delta Platoon and assumed task unit designator 116.6.5 at Mobile Base II.

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GAME WARDEN STATISTICS SUMMARY
July 1968

		TOTAL	DAY	NIGHT
I.	PBR			
	(a) Patrols (two boats)	2,310	1,152	1,158
	(b) Contacts	148,814	136,527	12,287
	(c) Inspections	40,687	37,766	2,921
	(d) Boarded	65,931	63,331	2,600
	(e) Patrol Hours	58,277	29,217	29,060
	(f) Sampans/Junks Detained	2		
II.	SEAWOLF LHFT			
	(a) Helo Hours	1,704	1,292	412
	(b) Pre-Planned Strikes	568		
	(c) Reaction Strikes	98		
	(d) Targets of Opportunity	434		

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS

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		TOTAL	DAY	NIGHT
II.	SEAWOLF LHFT (CONT'D)			
	(e) Support Missions	334		
III.	SEAL (6 Platoons)			
	(a) Missions	57		
	(b) Contacts	10		
IV.	MINE DET			
	(a) MSB Patrols	62	31	31
	(b) LCM(M) Patrols	-	-	-
	(c) Contacts			
	(1) Wire recovered	6		
	(2) Mines recovered/destroyed	0		
V.	LST			
	(a) Gun Fire Support Missions	18		

VI. GAME WARDEN TOTALS

(a) Firefights:

PBR	HELO	SEALS	MINE	LST	TOTAL
38	7	3	0	1	48

(b) Sampans Destroyed: 75 Damaged: 178 Captured: 0

(c) Junks Destroyed: 5 Damaged: 24 Captured: 0

(d) Structures Destroyed: 131 Damaged: 99

(e) Bunkers Destroyed: 8 Damaged: 12

(f) Enemy Casualties:

Credited to:	KIA(BC)	KIA(POSS)	WIA	CAPTURED
PBR	5	11	2	0

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VI. GAME WARDEN TOTALS (CONT'D)

(f) Enemy Casualties

Credited to:	KIA (BC)	KIA (POSS)	WIA	CAPTURED
HELO	63	56	8	0
SEAL	11	6	0	22
MINE DIV	0	0	0	0
LST	3	0	0	0
TOTAL	82	73	10	22
Cumlative (Since 6/66)	2176	522	385	235

(g) Friendly Casualties - Hostile

	KIA	WIA	DOW
PBR	0	2	0
HELO	4	1	0
SEAL	0	0	0
MINE DIV	0	0	0
LST	0	0	0
TOTAL	4	3	0
Cumulative (Since 6/66)	62	708	6

(h) Friendly Casualties - Non-hostile

	DEATHS	INJURIES
PBR	0	5
HELO	0	1
SEAL	0	3

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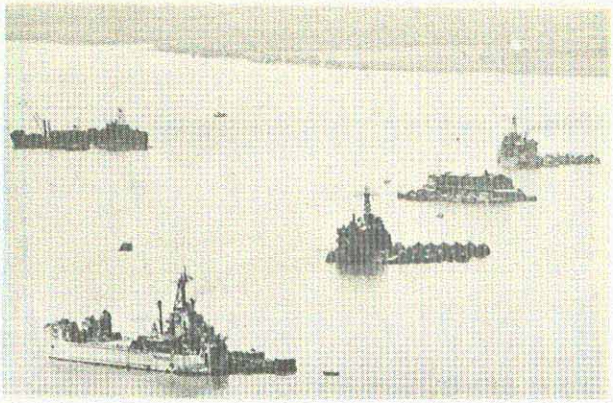

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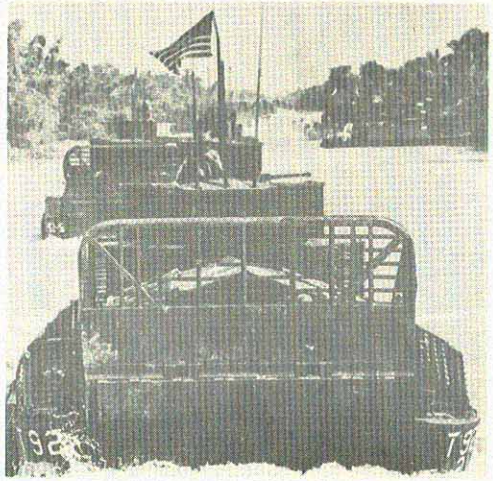
COMMANDER MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE / CTF 117



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VI. GAME WARDEN TOTALS (CONT'D)

(h) Friendly Casualties - Non-hostile

	DEATHS	INURIES
MINE DIV	0	0
LST	0	1
TOTAL	0	10
Cumulative	16	27 Cumulative (Since 4/68)

(i) Friendly Battle Damage

	REPAIRABLE	DESTROYED
PBR	3	0
HELO	4	0
MINE DIV	0	0
LST	0	0
SEAL CRAFT	0	0

(j) MEDEVAC

PBR 134 (Since 6/66 1,084)

HELO 30 (Since 6/66 255)

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

Although there were a series of riverine ambushes along the waterways of the Mekong Delta, the Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army combatants remained elusive and avoided major contact with the assault forces of the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) until the last two days of July. In the most significant action of the month the MRF struck the enemy a devastating blow near Vi Thanh in Chuong Thien Province on 30-31 July by attacking them with a three-battalion assault force and killing 102 of the fiercely resisting Viet Cong. During the month of July the assault forces of the MRF killed 214 Viet Cong and captured 32 prisoners-of-war. Friendly casualties totaled nine killed and 81 wounded; two of the dead and 22 of the wounded were Navymen.

MOBILE RIVERINE GROUP ALFA

Operations in Long An Province

The atmosphere in the area surrounding the city of Saigon was one of anticipated large scale Viet Cong activity. Intelligence reports continued to indicate that the long suspected Third Offensive was close at hand, and that the enemy was massing south of Saigon for a possible major assault on the capital city.

To counter this suspected enemy buildup, the MRF launched a series of intensive riverine operations and ground sweeps designed to interdict the Viet Cong lines of communications and to sanitize the "rocket belt" around Saigon. The search operations commenced late in June and continued

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through the first week of July in the "Eagles Beak" area, about 15 miles southwest of Saigon and just north of the city of Ben Luc. After an unproductive search in which MRG ALFA forces failed to discover any significant Viet Cong units, RAD's 92 and 111 backloaded and the 3/47th and the 3/60th Infantry Battalions (Inf. Bns.) and returned them to the Mobile Riverine Base (MRB) ALFA on 2 July. This terminated the "Eagles Beak" operation. MRG ALFA results against the enemy were two Viet Cong killed, two suspects detained, and 43 bunkers and four booby traps destroyed. U. S. Army losses amounted to three soldiers killed and seven more wounded, while the Navymen were unharmed.

Operations in Go Cong Province

After a one-day preventive maintenance period, MRG ALFA (TG 117.1) launched a one-battalion reconnaissance-in-force operation from the MRB anchorage at the junction of the Vam Co and Soirap rivers on 4 July. The operation was conducted in coordination with a two-battalion 7th ARVN Division operation, and was designed to destroy elements of the 514th Viet Cong Battalion believed to be operating north of the city of Go Cong.

RAD 111 transported the 3/47th Inf. Bn. to landing beaches on the Go Cong and the Su streams about 3½ miles northwest of Go Cong. Both landings were unopposed and no significant fireworks erupted on the 4th of July. Four prisoners-of-war captured early in the day revealed that the Viet Cong unit which had been operating near Go Cong departed prior

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to the arrival of MRG ALFA. After spending an uneventful night in the operating area, RAD 111 withdrew the troops from the area and transited the Cho Gao Canal to rendezvous with MRG ALFA at Dong Tam at 1430 on 5 July. There was one Viet Cong soldier killed, five prisoners and five weapons captured, 11 persons held for interrogation and 62 enemy bunkers destroyed. There were no friendly losses during the two-day operation.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

On 7 July MRG ALFA conducted riverine strike operations in the troublesome Viet Cong infested Ba Lai District in pursuit of the Viet Cong 518th Main Force Battalion.

The Ba Lai River operation (7-9 July) commenced at 0230 with RAD 112 escorting Task Force SIX GUN from Dong Tam to establish Fire Support Base (FSPB) WACO on the Giao Hoa Canal about 5½ miles northeast of Ben Tre. The 105-mm howitzers were laid and ready-to-fire at 0635 with their escorting assault boats deployed in support of the artillery barges. Commencing at 0700 MRG ALFA relocated from Dong Tam to an anchorage on the My Tho River 5 miles southeast of My Tho, arriving there at 0802 without incident.

The 4/47th Inf. Bn. was beached without enemy opposition at 0725 along the south bank of the Ba Lai River 3½ miles north-northeast of Ben Tre, while the 3/60th Inf. Bn. was airmobiled to the southern portion of the operating area and swept north and east towards the

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4/47th Inf. Bn. Although the area was known to be heavily travelled by the Viet Cong, only light and sporadic contact was made, indicating that the enemy was continuing to avoid contact. After two days of light contact, resulting in four enemy killed, the infantrymen were taken back to the MRB on 7 July. During the Ba Lai operation there were a total of four Viet Cong killed, one prisoner captured, and 89 bunkers destroyed while friendly casualties amounted to one sailor and two soldiers wounded.

After a one day respite at the MRB, the assault forces launched strike operations into the Mo Cay District about 6 miles southwest of Mo Cay. The objective of this operation, Task Group 117.1 operation 58-68, was to destroy Viet Cong elements in the area and to conduct a thorough search for enemy logistic caches. This operation marked the first time in 18 months in the Mekong Delta that the MRF conducted operations from the Co Chien River into southern Mo Cay District and also represented the largest U. S. show of force to date in this section of the Delta.

The operation began to unfold when Task Force SIX GUN, escorted by RAD 112, departed the Dong Tam anchorage at 0045 on 10 July. Two hours later the assault craft and artillery barges reported that they could not transit the Xang Canal due to low tides; therefore all TG 117.1 units were required to take a 22-mile detour to the objective area via the My Tho and Co Chien rivers delaying the beaching times by about three hours. The ships of the MRB transited the same route to the Co Chien anchorage

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arriving at 1500.

The assault boats of RAD 111 beached the 4/47th Inf. Bn. on the Thom Stream 4½ miles southwest of Mo Cay at 1055 after a nine-hour transit from Dong Tam, and one hour later troops of the 3/60th Inf. Bn. were landed on the Vam Thom Stream 6 miles south of Mo Cay by RAD 92. Both landings were unopposed. Just prior to the landings, observers in a U. S. Navy command helicopter spotted a large group of Vietnamese males fleeing from the advancing riverine forces in the vicinity of the Vam Thom Stream and received fire from them. It was obvious that the enemy in this untouched Viet Cong base camp was taken by surprise. Unfortunately neither helicopter gunships nor air cavalry assets were available to exploit the tactical advantage and the enemy escaped.

U. S. Army elements were unable to achieve contact as they conducted a methodical search through the area. The two battalions discovered two recently vacated Viet Cong hospitals, and captured a large quantity of rice and medical supplies. On 12 July MRG ALFA terminated the three-day Mo Cay District operation and reported a total of five Viet Cong killed, one prisoner and a large cache of medical supplies captured, 120 detainees held for questioning, and 20 bunkers destroyed. There was only one soldier wounded during the search operation.

Operations in Vinh Binh Province

MRG ALFA commenced operation 59-68 in cooperation with the 9th ARVN Infantry Division in the Cang Long and Chu Thanh districts on 15 July.

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The operation was conducted in an area 10 miles southwest of Mo Cay, and was initiated from an anchorage on the Co Chien River 9 miles south of Mo Cay, which afforded short access routes to the target area.

All of the initial landings were unopposed; however, at 0805 a monitor of RAD 112 was struck on the port side with one 57-mm recoilless-rifle round which caused a 12-inch crack in the hull above the waterline. The incident took place on the Dua Do Stream about 8 miles southwest of Mo Cay. Shortly afterwards at 0855, approximately 500 yards from the initial ambush site, ASPB-112-2 observed a Viet Cong running from a bunker and took him under fire with its 20-mm cannon. The fleeing Communist was killed. There were no friendly personnel casualties in either of the two incidents. Units of RAD 112 were involved in their third incident of the morning at 1105 when they received light small-arms fire from the west bank of the Cai Hap Stream 8 miles southwest of Mo Cay. Retaliatory fire could not be delivered into the enemy positions because of the presence of friendly troops in the area. Two Navymen received minor wounds and four boats were slightly damaged as a result of the small-arms fire.

Ground action was light to moderate throughout the day as elements of the 2nd Brigade of the 9th Infantry Division attempted to trap and enclose a Viet Cong company in the Cang Long District. The action diminished to sporadic contact after midnight as small Viet Cong parties exfiltrated from the entrapment. The infantrymen found a variety of Viet Cong

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military equipment and supplies as they thoroughly swept an area which had never been penetrated by the MRF. After no contact was made with the Viet Cong by the morning of 17 July, all infantry units were backloaded and returned to the MRB at 1745.

Meanwhile at 1655 on 16 July the Navy elements became actively engaged with the enemy when the boats of RAD 112 were attacked from both banks of the Cai Hap Stream, 8 miles southwest of Mo Cay. The ambush, which consisted of rocket, recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire, occurred as the riverine craft were enroute to the fire support base with their embarked troops. Miraculously, there were no U. S. casualties despite the fact that one of the monitors, M-112-1, received two direct hits from the enemy rocketeers. One of the RPG-7 rockets penetrated both of the monitor's fuel tanks and the other round struck the portside amidships, penetrating the boat's bar armor and styrofoam. The boats silenced the guns of the enemy, and transported their troops to the fire support base. Enemy casualties were unknown.

The cumulative destruction inflicted on the enemy during this three-day period (15-17 July) consisted of 62 Viet Cong killed, and 18 bunkers and 20 Chinese Communist booby traps destroyed. MRG ALFA forces also captured five prisoners and four weapons and detained 57 suspicious Vietnamese. U. S. casualties amounted to one Armyman killed and 18 soldiers and two sailors wounded.

Interrogation of prisoners-of-war and detainees taken during the

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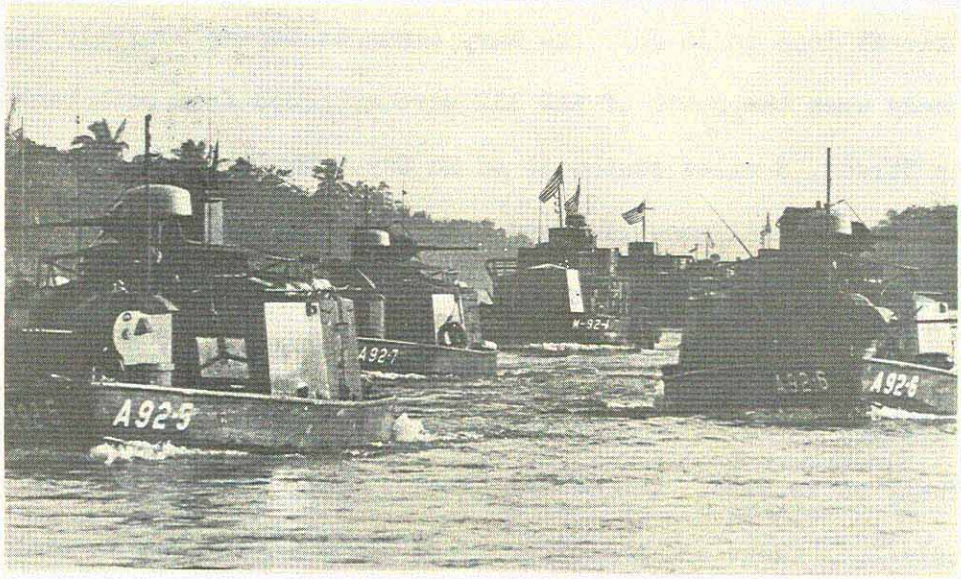

ASPB's of RAD 92 lead a column of river assault patrol craft up a small canal in South Vietnam. The monitor 92-1 (background) is referred to as the "battleship of the Delta."

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operation in Cang Long District revealed that MRG ALFA had been in contact with the Viet Cong 509th and 511th Battalions, and that the 511th Battalion was formed by reinforcing the 509th Battalion and then splitting it into two battalions. There was also mention of the 510th Battalion operating in the area and information about an all-female Viet Cong company (strength of 60) operating in Vung Lien and Cang Long districts. On 15 July the 511th Battalion supposedly suffered more than 40 casualties from air strikes and artillery barrages. Intelligence experts felt that the existence of the 509th, 510th and 511th battalions was probably true; however, it appeared that Viet Cong units were calling themselves battalions regardless of size.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

After seven days of operations in the area south of Mo Cay, MRG ALFA departed the Co Chien anchorage at dawn on 18 July and arrived at Dong Tam at 1222 the same day. Two days later the assault forces of MRG ALFA conducted a one-battalion search and destroy operation against elements that had utilized Thoi Son Island to launch mortar attacks on the MRB and Dong Tam. In conjunction with this sweep operation the combined forces of TF 116/117 established a 40-boat naval blockade around the entire island to catch any Viet Cong attempting to flee Thoi Son Island.

PBR's from TF 116 were deployed on both sides of the island for use as chase boats to interdict any high-speed blockade runners. Firm contact with the elusive enemy was not established and the operation was

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terminated on 21 July. The cumulative results of the two-day operation (20-21 July) on Thoi Son Island and in Truc Giang District amounted to two Viet Cong killed, 31 persons detained and 12 bunkers destroyed while U. S. forces suffered 12 soldiers wounded.

About 0130 on 23 July, Engineman Second Class Charles S. ROY, USN, a crewmember of CCB-111-1, left his command and communications boat to go aboard USS SPHINX (ARL 24) for a can of oil. He was last seen boarding an AMMI pontoon alongside SPHINX. A search of the area revealed that the oil can that ROY was carrying was found wedged between the AMMI-barge and SPHINX. An intensive search of the adjacent waters yielded negative results. The following day Petty Officer ROY's body was recovered from the My Tho River near the Dong Tam base by assault craft of RAD 131.

On 23 July MRG ALFA commenced a three-day riverine operation in the Giong Trom and Ben Tre districts about 10 miles southeast of Ben Tre. As in previous operations Task Force SIX GUN got underway the previous night under the cover of darkness and proceeded to fire support bases along the Ham Luong River. The assault craft of MRG ALFA proceeded to the operating area on the morning of 23 July.

RAD 91 riverine units with the 3/60th Inf. Bn. embarked were enroute to beaching areas on Giong Trom Canal 8 miles southeast of Ben Tre, when they were ambushed on the Ben Tre Stream about 6 miles southeast of Ben Tre. The boats immediately turned toward the ambush positions, saturated the area with machine-gun and cannon fire, and landed the infantrymen to

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counter-attack the enemy and search the area. The minesweeping ASPB's, the lead monitor and an ATC at the lead of the formation bore the brunt of the attack which consisted of a barrage of recoilless-rifle, rocket and heavy automatic-weapons fire. ASPB-91-4 received several severe hits from the well-entrenched enemy rocketeers who were firing from both banks of the narrow waterway.

During the battle, the boat captain of ASPB-91-4, Boatswain's Mate First Class John F. ROBB, USN, was killed when a rocket hit the coxswain's flat of his boat. In his last heroic act before he died, ROBB beached his boat to prevent it from hitting the other boats in the formation. The gradient where the boat was grounded was very steep, and the boat swamped and subsequently sunk. The ASPB was recovered the following day and returned to the MRB for repairs. The 20-mm gunner, Fireman David A. PEARSON, USN, was also killed when a 75-mm recoilless-rifle round severely damaged his gunmount.

As a direct result of the ferocious attack, two other crewmen aboard ASPB-91-4 and two men from ASPB-91-2 were seriously wounded, and were "medevaced" from the battle area. Five of the seven sailors aboard ATC-91-12 and one aboard a monitor also received wounds of a less serious nature. ASPB-91-2 received moderate damage in the fierce firefight. Although this was the most serious incident of the day with two Navymen killed and 10 wounded, the Viet Cong initiated five more attacks in the same general area to emphasize their determination to deny the riverine

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A Monitor, a used truck tire, and an Army trooper make up a strange daisy chain to free a trooper of the 9th Division's Second Brigade from waist deep mud in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

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craft the use of the Ben Tre/Ong Huong/Giong Trom waterways. These narrow and confining streams and canals were referred to as "Rocket Alley" by the men of the Mobile Riverine Force.

Army ground elements of MRG ALFA found numerous signs of Viet Cong activity in the area, but found no enemy personnel as they continued to sweep through the Giong Trom District southeast of Ben Tre on 24 July. The only hostile contact of the day was reported by U. S. Navy "Seawolves" of TF 116 who drew automatic-weapons fire while flying cover for the assault boats east of Ben Tre, and by ALFA Company of the 3/60th Inf. Bn. The ALFA Company commander was killed by the first burst of enemy fire and was the only casualty of the brief attack. Later that night the MRB relocated 13 miles further down the Ham Luong River, anchoring less than 15 miles from the mouth of the river.

Contact with the enemy was sporadic on 25 July; significant was the capture of 40 suspected Viet Cong by BRAVO Company of the 3/60th Inf. Bn. The detainees were found in concealed positions as the infantrymen swept through a village in the Giong Trom District south of Ben Tre. Most of the suspects were males in their early 20's and were detained because they attempted to evade and were not carrying proper identification papers. Several of the suspected enemy were pulled from bunkers; six were found locked in a closet and one attempted to conceal himself in a barrel. The first 12 of the captives were classified as prisoners-of-war after interrogation, while the remainder were to be

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classified by Army authorities at Dong Tam. The final interrogation report was not available.

Enemy losses as a result of the three-day operation (23-25 July) were 12 Viet Cong killed, 12 prisoners captured (incomplete), 121 detainees held (interrogation results incomplete), and 142 bunkers destroyed. U. S. forces had two Navymen and two Armymen killed, and 10 sailors and three soldiers wounded.

The majority of MRG ALFA remained in a ready reaction posture on 26 July conducting maintenance and drying out after spending three days of discomfort in the wet and soggy fields of the Giong Trom District. RAD 111 remained on the offensive and was utilized to transport Regional Force (RF) troops into an area along the Mo Cay Canal for a search and destroy operation. Contact with the enemy was light resulting in two insurgents killed and three more captured in the five-hour operation. There were no friendly casualties and the RF troops were returned to Ben Tre at 1230. Two and one-half hours later MRG ALFA got underway from the Ben Tre anchorage and transited to Vinh Long in preparation for a further relocation to Can Tho via the Van Nao Crossover on 28 July.

Operations in Chuong Thien Province

MRG ALFA arrived at Can Tho at 1530 on 28 July, where they were joined by USS ASKARI (ARL 30) which had spent the past month undergoing a routine overhaul in Singapore. Four ATC's of RAD 131 also joined the group to augment the MRF assets in the southern Mekong Delta. On 30 July MRG ALFA

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commenced a three-battalion protracted riverine operation near Vi Thanh, 29 miles southwest of Can Tho. This operation conducted in coordination with the hard-hitting 5th Vietnamese Marine Corps Battalion was the largest venture of the war into this Viet Cong dominated territory, and also marked the MRF's deepest penetration into the Mekong Delta. This region of Chuong Thien Province was under uncontested Viet Cong control for many years and was reported to be a major depot area for supplies infiltrated from Cambodia via the Seven Mountains Region.

Riverine access to the area could be gained only via the Can Tho River and the Xa No Canal into the Cai Tu River. Because of the distance from the MRB at Can Tho, it was decided to establish a forward base at Vi Thanh. The Army elements set up their advance post 26 miles southwest of Can Tho near Vi Thanh, while the Navy commander, CTG 117.1, utilized a CCB in the same vicinity as his command post. All operational assault craft of RAS 9 and RAS 11 (plus a few RAS 13 ATC's) were committed to this week-long, all-out riverine assault designed to catch the Viet Cong off-guard in an area where they have had a secure sanctuary for years.

The initial penetration into Chuong Thien Province commenced at 0130 on 30 July when RAD 91 embarked the 5th Battalion Vietnamese Marines for a 40-mile waterborne transit via the Can Tho River and Xa No Canal to beaches 12 miles southwest of Vi Thanh. RAD 92 followed with two companies of the 3/60th Inf. Bn., which were landed at Vi Thanh at 0820 and immediately configured for airmobile assault into the operating area. After

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debarking their assigned troops RAD 92 returned to the MRB anchored near Can Tho. Traffic on the narrow waterways became heavier when RAD 111 departed the MRB 15 minutes after RAD 92 and transported the 4/47th Inf. Bn. to an assembly area near Vi Thanh Airfield where they established their forward base.

Contact was unexpectedly light until 1610 when the Vietnamese Marines, led by Major Pham NHA, gained contact with a Viet Cong element of undetermined size 37 miles southwest of Can Tho. These Marines, remembered for their participation in the Battle of Rach Ruong in Dinh Tuong Province (4-6 December 1967) where they killed the majority of the Viet Cong, cornered the Communist troops in a bunker complex along the Cai Lon River and flushed them out of their hiding places. The besieged Viet Cong panicked and bolted across an open field where they were annihilated by a barrage of cannon and machine-gun fire from the heavily armored monitors and troop-carriers of RAD 91. U. S. Army helicopters gunships later saturated the area with rocket and machine-gun fire. At the cessation of the two-hour gun battle the Vietnamese Marines counted 50 dead Viet Cong.

On the last day of the month the VNMC continued their pursuit of the enemy guerrillas as they swept from the Cai Lon Stream 10 miles southwest of Vi Thanh toward the Cai Tu River where RAD 91 had established a waterborne blockade. The Marines reported only light contact, but still managed to kill 17 more Viet Cong.

Meanwhile U. S. Army helicopter gunships, supporting the ground elements, reported killing 31 of the enemy troops. Two more guerrillas

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were killed by infantrymen of the 3/60th Inf. Bn. who reported only sporadic contact in the Kien Hung District. The total enemy casualties inflicted on the Viet Cong were 102 killed (incomplete), while friendly forces had two Vietnamese Marines and one U. S. soldier wounded. The assault troops of the MRF also captured a large amount of weapons and ammunition which included 68 weapons, 324 mortar rounds, 220 grenades, 13 claymore mines, two 75-mm pack howitzers, one 106-mm howitzer and 12,500 rounds of small-arms ammunition. At month's end RAD 91 and the Marines established night defensive positions along the Cai Tu River 13 miles southwest of Vi Thanh. RAD 111 and the 4/47th Inf. Bn. remained at the forward base near Vi Thanh while the 3/60th Inf. Bn. continued airmobile operations in the area.

MOBILE RIVERINE GROUP BRAVO

Operations in Gia Dinh Province

After conducting one day of indoctrination training, Army personnel of the 5/12th Battalion of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, supported by RAD 131, conducted a sweep operation in an area about 7½ miles south of Saigon. The following day the same units operating from Nha Be swept an area in western Non Trach District 5 miles east-southeast of Saigon.

Operations in Dinh Tuong Province

Early on 3 July all MRG BRAVO assault craft departed Nha Be enroute to Dong Tam via the Cho Gao Canal, while MRB Group BRAVO (USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST 1170)) transited to Vung Tau to load Army/Navy supplies

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Troop-laden ATC's of RAS 13 on riverine operations in the Nha Ba area of Gia Dinh Province.

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and ammunition. Two days later WINDHAM COUNTY steamed to Dong Tam and anchored in the vicinity of MRG ALFA. The following day was spent conferring and conducting liaison visits with representatives from the U. S. 9th Infantry Division's Third Brigade on matters pertaining to future riverine operations.

On 9 July assault craft of MRG BRAVO landed two companies of the 4/39th Inf. Bn. on the Gam Stream 3 miles west of Dong Tam. The landings were opposed and the infantrymen swept the area but were unsuccessful in their search for the Viet Cong rocket/mortar sites which had been constantly harassing Dong Tam. After destroying 18 enemy bunkers the troops were returned to WINDHAM COUNTY by RAD 131 later that same day.

On 11 July WINDHAM COUNTY (TG 117.2 flagship) shifted its anchorage from Dong Tam and transited to the confluence of the My Tho and Ham Luong rivers to support riverine operations on the Ba Rai Stream. The 4/39th Inf. Bn. reconnoitered along the Ba Rai Stream and captured a prisoner who had been wounded and claimed to be a member of the Viet Cong 514th Main Force Battalion. The Army troops continued their sweep operation for the next two days, but could not effect contact with the enemy.

On 10 July the riverine assault craft of RAD 131 established water-blocks on the waterways enclosing the objective area and conducted waterborne patrols. At 0810 on 11 July an enemy rocket, a recoilless rifle and machine gun attack occurred 7 miles south of Cai Lay as the

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boats were proceeding south on the Ba Rai Stream to offload troops of the 4/39th Inf. Bn. Six boats received minor damage during the attack and 16 U. S. personnel were wounded, nine of whom were Navymen. The hostile fire was suppressed by the river assault craft and air strikes. A ground sweep through the area by the embarked troops revealed that seven Viet Cong had been killed by the return fire. There were also three RPG-7 rocket launchers found in the ambush area.

Later that morning at 1136 a TG 117.2 troopcarrier, ATC-131-8, beached at the mouth of the Ba Rai Stream on the Tien Giang River, was mined. The underwater explosion took place 7 miles southwest of Cai Lay and ripped an 18-inch hole in the boat's starboard fuel tank. Approximately two hours later another troopcarrier, ATC-131-13, located less than 500 meters from the initial mining incident, was damaged by an underwater explosion which ripped an 18-inch hole in its lazaret. Both of the riverine craft were returned to Dong Tam for repairs.

MRG BRAVO results against the Viet Cong for the period 11-13 July were seven killed, 41 suspects detained, 75 bunkers destroyed and three RPG-7 rocket launchers captured. There were 16 friendlies wounded during this period.

On 14 July MRB BRAVO relocated from the junction of the My Tho and Ham Luong rivers and arrived at Dong Tam at 1230. Operations could not be scheduled with the 3rd Brigade until 21 July due to the non-availability of troops from the 4/39th Inf. Bn. which had been airmobiled to

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the outskirts of Saigon on 15 July for an undetermined period.

MRB BRAVO relocated to an anchorage near My Tho on 20 July to support projected operations in Long An Province. On 21-22 July RAD 131 provided support to Regional and Popular Force troops in a joint operation on Thoi Son Island near My Tho. During this same period a detachment of RAD 131 assault craft, operating from Nha Be, provided support to the 6/31st Inf. Bn. which conducted search operations in an area 4 miles southwest of Nha Be.

Operations in Long An Province

On 22 July MRB BRAVO relocated to the Dong Tam anchorage 6 miles west of My Tho. Two days later RAD 131 loaded the 4/39th Inf. Bn. at Dong Tam and commenced a night transit to an area just north of Ben Luc in Long An Province. The pontoon bridge at Ben Luc, 13 miles southwest of Saigon, was opened and Vietnamese National Police boarded the boats to take part in the forthcoming operation. The task group landed troops on the banks of the Vam Co Dong River 5 miles northwest of Ben Luc Bridge at 0900 after minor opposition. At 1000 air cavalry scout ships acquired contact with the enemy 4½ miles northwest of the bridge and airmobiled troops of the 2/60th Inf. Bn. into the area to develop the contact. In the ensuing firefight 11 Viet Cong were killed and one prisoner was captured. The units of the MRF also captured 10 large enemy sampans laden with ammunition, clothing and a large amount of medical supplies. The seizure of this equipment indicated that MRG BRAVO had located a Viet

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Cong crossing point.

RAD 131 continued operations on the Vam Co Dong River throughout the remainder of the month. All daily troop landings were unopposed as enemy continued to evade the infantrymen of MRG BRAVO. On 27 July the boats received some sporadic small-arms fire while in night positions 16 miles west of Saigon. Later that evening three TG 117.2 boats proceeding to Ben Luc for fuel were attacked by recoilless-rifle and small-arms fire, but there were no material or personnel casualties.

On the evening of 30 July units of RAD 131 were ambushed again while transiting south on the Vam Co Dong River to Ben Luc for fuel. The enemy rocket fire occurred 3 miles west of Ben Luc and caused slight damage to two assault craft. ASPB-92-6 received one rocket hit and ATC-131-3 was struck twice during the brief attack. There were no friendly casualties and enemy losses were undetermined. Cumulative results of MRG BRAVO operations (25-30 July) were 19 Viet Cong killed; 6 weapons and 10 sampans captured; 340 bunkers and 20 sampans destroyed. One soldier was killed and two others were wounded during this period.

RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE UNITS

USS SATYR (ARL 23) arrived at the MRB anchorage on the Co Chien River on 12 July. SATYR, after a 10-day shakedown period in company with USS SPHINX (ARL 24) in MRG ALFA, was scheduled to operate with MRG BRAVO.

The next day the river assault divisions shifted duties as follows:

RAD 91 — Support for the 3/60th Inf. Bn.

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RAD 92 --- Support for Task Force SIX GUN and utility division.

RAD 111--- MRB defense.

RAD 112--- Support for the 4/47th Inf. Bn.

On 14 July four new ATC's of RAD 132 arrived at Dong Tam after transiting from Vung Tau via the Cho Gao Canal. As of this date there were 17 Task Group 117.2 troopcarriers in-country.

On 19 July USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST 1169) relieved USS WASHTENAW COUNTY (LST 1166) as the MRG ALFA support LST.

After a one month routine overhaul in Singapore, USS ASKARI (ARL 30) rejoined the MRB on 29 July and assumed tender responsibilities for River Assault Squadron ELEVEN.

Besides certain operational restrictions and increased attention to ASPB limitations, the following corrective measures have been accomplished to make the craft more seaworthy, in order to mitigate the alarming rate at which ASPB's were sinking in February and March:

(a) All engine armor was removed.

(b) All 81-mm mortars were removed.

(c) Ammunition load was reduced by 40 percent (all craft).

(d) Forward well hatch cover sealed (all craft).

(e) Installed 10-inch coamings on inner side of door frames to both forward deckhouse doors (18 craft).

(f) Installed an 8-inch coaming around the after well deck (19 craft).

(g) Replaced the original "thin wall" engine exhaust hose with a heavy duty hose on all craft.

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(h) Cut 6-inches off the bottom of the engine exhaust spray shields (all craft).

(i) Modified the upper carrier bearing on each rudder post to prevent excessive wear and leakage through the gland packing (approximately 50 percent completed).

(j) Completed installation of backfit kits (flotation sponsons) on two craft. A third backfit was completed at the end of the month.

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TASK FORCE CLEARWATER

Routine operations continued on the Cua Viet and Perfume rivers during July. With the exception of several artillery attacks on the Cua Viet base and one mining/sapper attack also at Cua Viet, enemy activity was at a low level throughout the month. The beginning of Patrol Air Cushion Vehicle (PACV) operations by Coastal Division SEVENTEEN from its new base near Tan My marked a significant increase in capability to pressure enemy units on the Tam Giang, Song Huong, Cau Hai Bay and Thuy Tu waterways. Blocking patrols by both PACV's and PBR's supported several ground operations in Phu Ta, Vinh Loc, Phu Vang, and Huong Dien districts. Both river security groups stepped up psychological operations with numerous broadcasts, distribution of psyops materials, and MEDCAP visits to hamlets bordering the patrol areas.

Enemy artillery aimed at the Cua Viet base made its first and most destructive attack at 0020 on 1 July. A direct hit on the galley damaged three reefers and another hit destroyed three fuel bladders. Eight more rounds were received at about 0140 the same night. No damage was done although one man received minor wounds. There were four more artillery attacks on Cua Viet during July. Between 1020 and 1035 on the 19th 10 rounds of mixed artillery fell near the base causing no damage or casualties. On the 23rd at 0830 the Cua Viet base received 18 rounds of mixed artillery and another 10 rounds came in at 1710. Most of this fire impacted in the river and no damage or casualties resulted. Minor material

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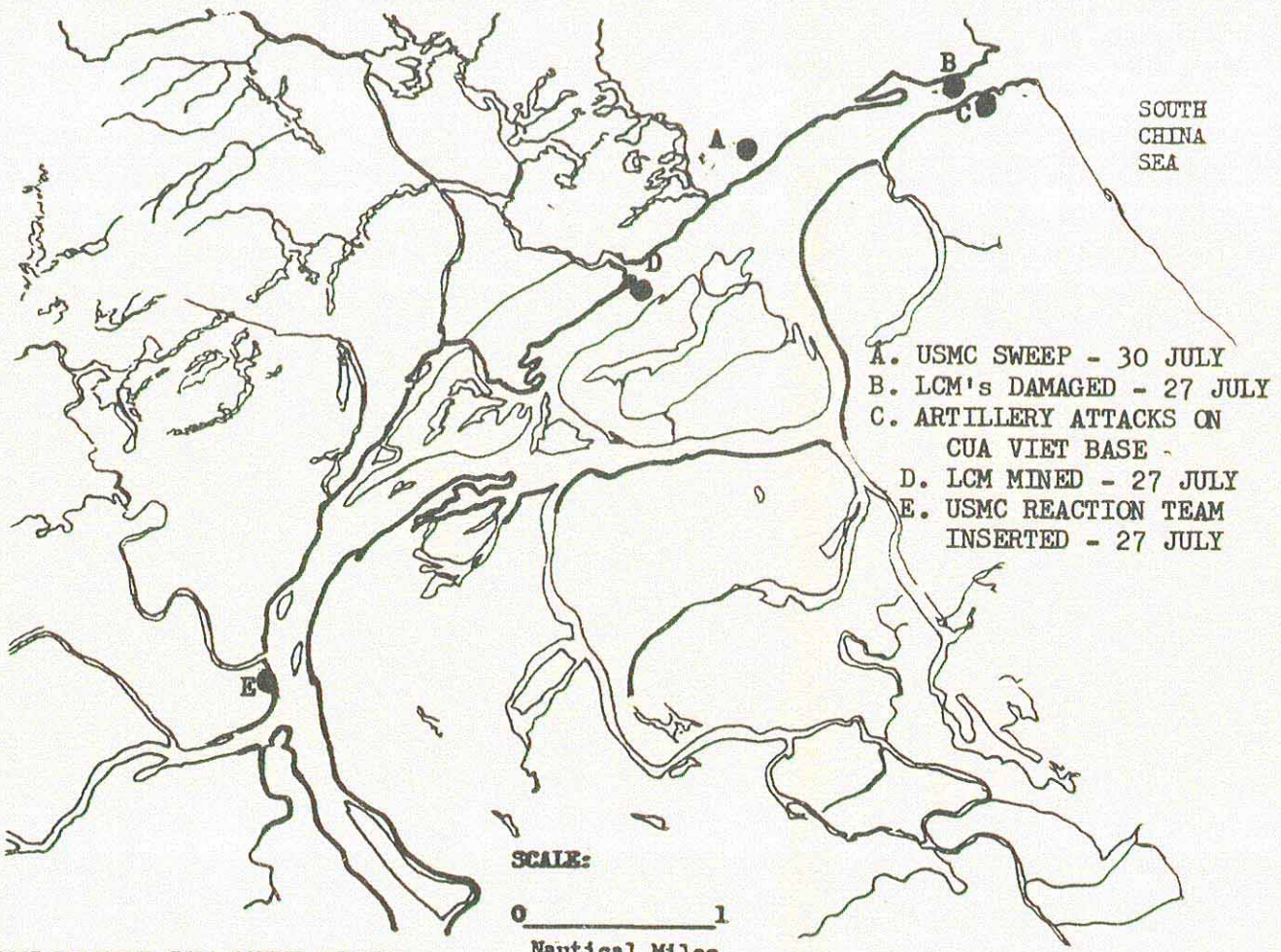

OPERATIONS IN THE CUA VIET RIVER

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damage was received at 1510 on the 25th when the base was hit by 20 rounds of mixed artillery. Finally on the 30th between 0725 and 0859 approximately 20 rounds of artillery/rocket fire impacted to the east of the base along the river causing no damage.

Three LCM-8's moored to a buoy at Cua Viet sustained heavy damage early on the 27th. The detonations of swimmer-placed satchel charges damaged the first craft at 0415, the second minutes later as it was leaving the nest, and the third at about 0435 after it had towed the first craft clear of the nest. Later that same day at 0920 an LCM-8 bladder boat enroute to Dong Ha was damaged by a command detonated mine three miles up the river from Cua Viet. The river was closed to logistics craft until 1200 when chain drag sweeps of the entire river and a USMC platoon sweep of the river banks adjacent to the mining had been completed.

On the night of the 27th two PBR's inserted a USMC reaction team which established an ambush position two miles east-northeast of Dong Ha in a area of known enemy activity. No contact was made with enemy troops. However, the operation was significant in that it marked the first employment of Cua Viet PBR's and USMC reaction force in an ambush mission. During the remainder of the month USMC reaction force elements and snipers accompanied night PBR patrols. Another insertion was carried out on the 28th without contact. On the 30th PBR's commenced a 24-hour blocking operation in support of a 1st Marine Regiment sweep of Xuan Dhanh resettlement village north of the river one-mile west of Cua Viet.

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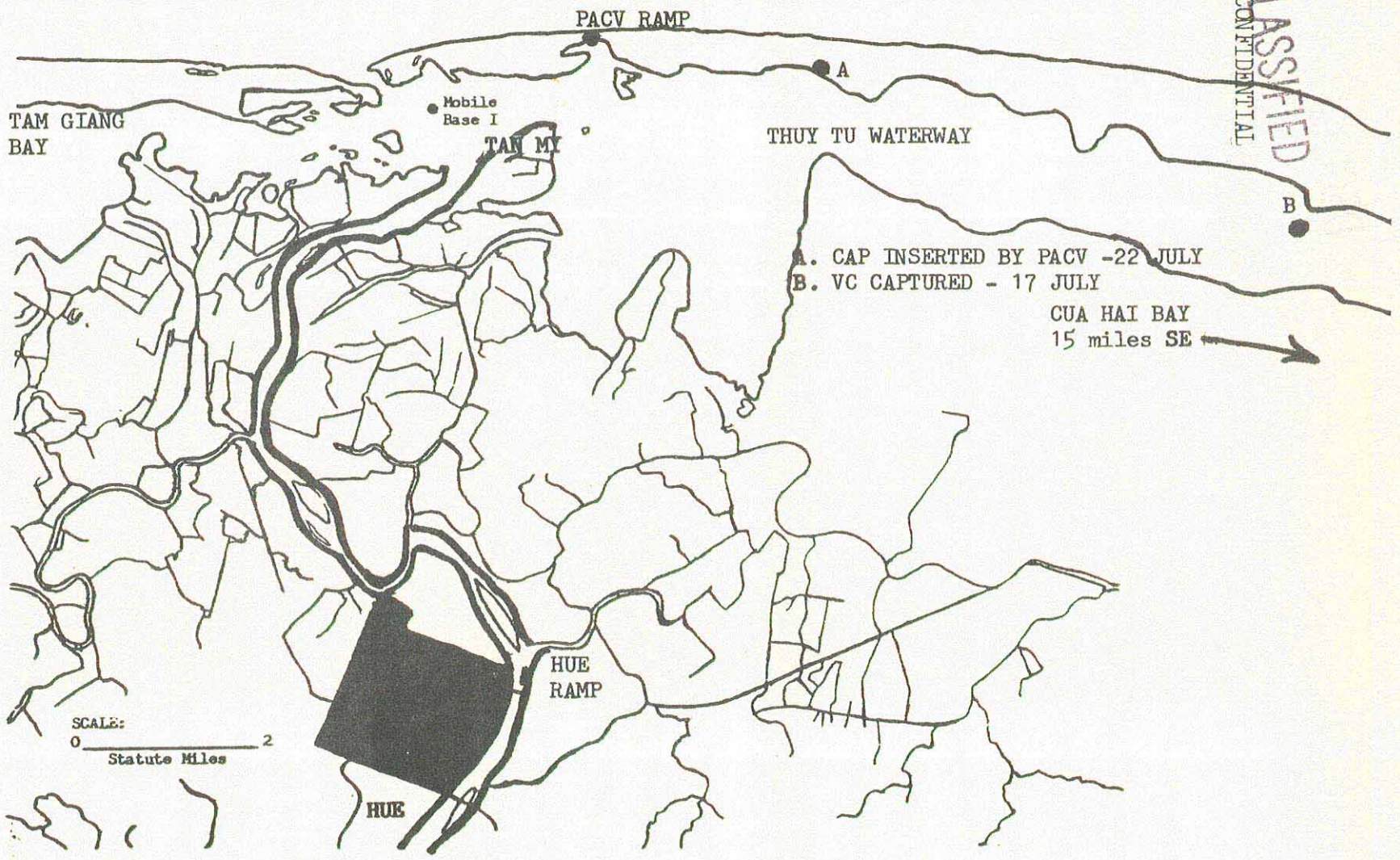

OPERATIONS IN THE PERFUME RIVER

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Children along the river bank continued to turn munitions over to PBR patrols in return for piasters and C-rations. On 15 occasions during the month small amounts of enemy and U. S. ammunition were recovered in this manner. The total amount recovered included:

1 - 105-mm projectile
2 - 4.2-inch mortar rounds
15 - 82/81-mm mortar rounds
71 - 60-mm mortar rounds
5 - B-40 rocket rounds
4 - 75-mm recoilless rifle rounds
1 - 57-mm recoilless rifle round
650 - 12.75-mm/.50 caliber rounds
1200 - assorted small arms rounds
20 - 40-mm grenades
40 - U. S./Chinese grenades
2 - claymore mines

Operations of the Hue River Security Group encountered no enemy initiated action during July. On 3 July, PACV-2 and 3 began familiarization and reconnaissance patrols on the Perfume River, Tam Giang Bay, Thuy Tu, and Cua Hai Bay. Night operations by the PACV's were commenced on the evening of 6 July. A total of 485 patrol hours were recorded by the PACV's during the month. Operation EAGER YANKEE was supported by PACV and PBR patrols on the Thuy Tu and Cua Hai Bay from 9 through 15 July. On the 13th while engaged in blocking

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patrols in support of Operation EAGER YANKEE, a wounded marine was medevaced by PACV's 1 and 3 from the Thuy Tu waterway to Tam My. Ground sweeps were supported on three other occasions during the month on the 4th, 6th, and 25th.

A routine check of a sampan 10 miles southeast of Tam My by a PBR on the evening of 17 July resulted in the detention of one male who did not have identification. He was turned over to Coastal Group 12 where interrogation revealed that he was a Viet Cong liaison officer attempting to cross the Thuy Tu.

Other achievements of the PACV operations included an emergency troop extraction on the 19th and a planned insertion on the 22nd. An urgent call from a surrounded Special Forces team at 0015 brought a rapid response from PACV's 1 and 2. The team was extracted without incident from their position on the eastern shore of Cau Hai Bay and the PACV's were back in their patrol areas by 0200. At 0630 on 22 July, PACV's 1 and 3 inserted an 18-man Marine and Vietnamese combined action platoon near a village in Phu Vang District 3 miles east of Tan My. During the month since the start of PACV operations sampan traffic on Cau Hai Bay during curfew hours was reduced and fishermen began to adhere to prescribed fishing areas.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

The high level of logistic operations by Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang was sustained in July as the total throughput for the combined I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ) ports exceeded 465,000 short tons. This total included new monthly records for measurement tons backloaded at Danang and Dong Ha/Cua Viet, 22,046 M/T and 16,587/M/T respectively. The tempo of the operations at Wunder Beach picked up to 27,565 short tons total throughput, a 57 percent increase over June.

Supply demands decreased by 3 percent overall during July marking the second monthly decline since the May peak. At Danang demands were down 10 percent to 125,597 for July as compared with 139,489 for June. However, total demands at Chu Lai were up 19 percent to 53,040 for July as compared with 44,682. Much of this increase was in Army demands as the Army remained the largest customer with a combined Danang and Chu Lai total of 80,343 or 45 percent of the total for July. Combined gross effectiveness was up to 85.7 percent as compared with 85.0 percent in June and net effectiveness was up slightly to 88.9 percent, a 0.1 percent increase over June.

A significant increase in enemy activity along the Cua Viet River was noted in July. The Cua Viet NAVSUPPACT, Danang detachment was hit by enemy artillery seven times, twice on 1 July, once on 19 July, twice again on 23 July, once on 25 July, and once on 30 July. No damage or casualties resulted from the attacks on the 19th, 23rd and 30th. A road grader and

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some general cargo was damaged by shrapnel on the 25th. The most damage came from the 1 July attacks when three reefers, three fuel bladders, and a fork lift were damaged by the first attack. During the second attack one man received minor wounds.

Four LCM's at Cua Viet were damaged by swimmer-placed charges and a mine on the 27th. At 0415 an explosion near the stern of one LCM in a nest of six craft caused damage and flooding. Minutes later a second charge detonated on the starboard bow of another craft as it attempted to leave the nest. A third LCM towed the first craft clear of the area and was returning to mid-stream when a charge under its bow exploded. Moderate damage resulted from the second and third charges. Later at 0920 a LCM-8 bladder boat enroute to Dong Ha was damaged extensively by a command detonated mine. The boat crew reported seeing a large column of water approximately 100 feet high rise ahead of their craft. The bow of the craft was lifted 15 feet out of the water. The bladder and forward section of the bladder frame were thrown out of the boat. One crewman received minor injuries. All four craft were beached at Cua Viet and salvaged. Except for patrol craft, river traffic in the area was stopped until mid-afternoon while swimmers inspected craft and the river area for evidence of other mines.

There were no significant incidents on the Perfume River during July. The Danang area was hit by rocket and mortar attacks on 3, 23, 25 and 27 July. No personnel casualties or damage to NAVSUPPACT, Danang installations resulted from these attacks which centered on the Marble Mountain Air

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Facility, Danang Air Base, and Force Logistics Command. Overall more than 50 personnel from other commands were wounded and nine killed with several aircraft and structures destroyed or damaged.

Completion of additional rock crushers in the Danang area plus the arrival of six more tugs helped to ease the rock supply situation. Assets on hand at the month's end for barging rock north included 26 barges, 7 ocean tugs, 3 harbor tugs, and 2 river tugs. Rock shipment to the northern I CTZ totaled 51,981 short tons.

Fuel transfer operations continued without disruption during July with the average daily issue at 1,661,000 gallons. The addition of one AMMI barge on the Cua Viet River increased transfer capacity there to 400,000 gallons per day. Capacity on the Perfume River remained at 200,000 gallons per day.

July was the first month during which all deep draft ammunition ships were unloaded by contractor personnel. No difficulties were encountered. Monitoring of ammunition handling operations was assumed by U. S. Coast Guard Explosive Loading Detachment No. 4 which reported in July. The main body of Cargo Handling Battalion TWO and the Army 565th Transportation Company phased out and departed.

Increased rainfall eased the water shortage in the Danang area, however, water conservation measures remained in effect. Several construction projects were completed in July, including the potable water system for Camp Tien Sha and most of the northern I CTZ water system. Also completed were new galleys at Cua Viet and Danang Air Base. The first meal was celebrated at Cua Viet

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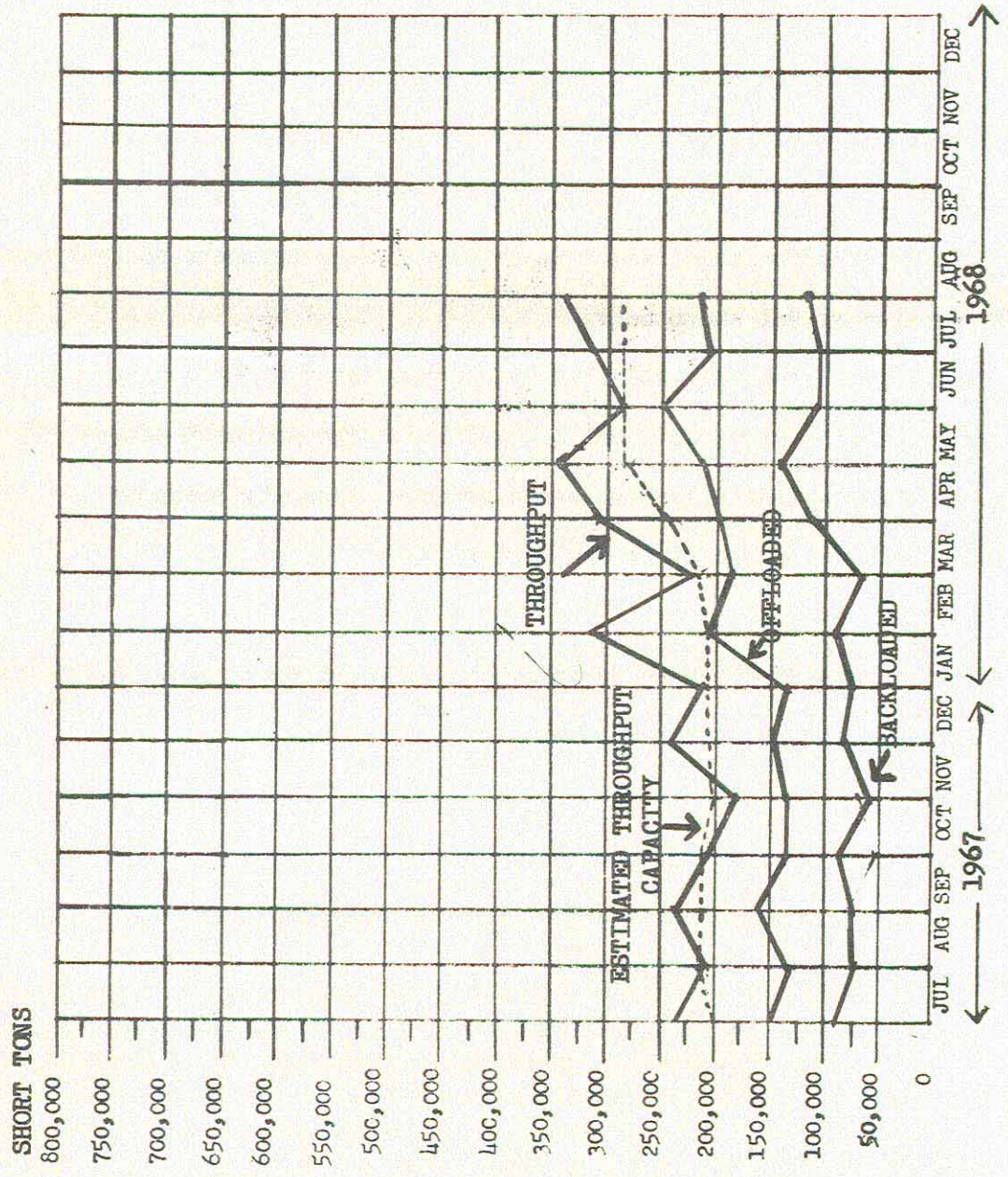

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on the 6th with steak and lobster tail in spite of Hanoi Hannah's broadcast to the men saying they would never eat a meal in their new mess hall. Continued growth of facilities made the power generation problem critical at Danang. With one generator off the line for maintenance the load comes within 20 KW of the remaining capacity.

A total of 2,200 patients were admitted to the Danang hospital during July, including 59 prisoners-of-war. Of this total 736 were battle casualties, 1,214 were admitted for various diseases, and 250 were admitted for non-combat injuries. The number treated and released for duty was 697 and another 666 were evacuated out of the country. Average patient load was 406 with 480 beds occupied at month's end.

At the end of July United States and other free world military forces supported in the I CTZ by NAVSUPPACT, Danang totaled 198,896. The on board strength of NAVSUPPACT, Danang stood at 9,887.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

Enemy activity involving Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Saigon and the detachments throughout II, III and IV Corps was at a low level during July. Only two of six incidents resulted in damage and personnel casualties were limited to one wounded crewman of YFR-890.

On the evening of 3 July a sweep boat from YRBM-18 detonated a probable mine at the confluence of the Ham Luong and My Tho rivers. No damage or casualties resulted from this explosion in the close proximity of the YRBM. While transiting the Co Chien River on the morning of 11 July YFR-890 came under heavy recoilless rifle attack approximately 10 miles east of Vinh Long. The enemy scored an estimated 10 direct hits causing extensive superstructure damage and slightly wounding one crewman. Four rounds of mortar fire from an unknown source were received by the USS LITCHFIELD COUNTY (LST-901) during a transit of the Cua Tien River on the 15th. The closest round was 50 yards off the port beam. No damage or casualties resulted.

On the 19th watches on board YRBM-18 heard automatic weapons fire from the vicinity of an outpost near the YRBM anchorage in the Mekong River 17 miles west of My Tho. Responding to a request for mortar support from sub-sector authorities the enemy unit was taken under fire with 37 rounds of 81-mm mortar fire. Spots were provided by PBR's on the scene and the enemy fire was quickly suppressed. There were no friendly casualties and the enemy casualties were unknown.

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The Navy villa and Vietnamese Navy RAG base at Vinh Long came under enemy mortar fire early on the 23rd. No damage or casualties resulted with the closest round hitting 150 feet from the Navy villa. Late on the 28th an RMK maintenance dredge moored to the west bank of the Kinh Xang Canal near the Dong Tam Basin was mined and sunk by enemy sappers.

Construction work for base development continued at NAVSUPPACT, Saigon and detachments as many projects neared completion. CLARINET SEAWARD projects were completed at Qui Nhon, An Thoi, and My Tho. Structural work was completed on new buildings for the expansion of facilities at Nha Be and Binh Thuy. Work on covers for battleship ammunition pads at Cam Ranh Bay was completed on four of eight pads. At Newport 24,000 square feet of open storage space was made available to NAVSUPPACT, Saigon and work was commenced on a security fence.

Resupply operations for MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN bases was carried out by USS MARK (AKL 12), USS BRULE (AKL 28), YFR-889, YFR-890, YW-126 and LCM shuttles in the Delta. Logistic support for CTF 117 was provided by USS FLOYD COUNTY (LST 762) and USS LITCHFIELD COUNTY (LST 901). Overall NAVSUPPACT, Saigon surface craft carried 8,123 short tons of cargo during July. Supply effectiveness fell during the month to 68 percent gross and 82 percent net as compared with the previous record high levels of 77 and 89 percent set in June. Stock control records were converted to mechanized procedures on 25 July, employing an offset operation and utilizing the IBM 407 accounting machine. Delivery of packaged petroleum products within IV Corps was hampered by refusal of Army craft masters to deck load these

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items on barges and tankers necessitating emergency lifts by NAVSUPPACT, Saigon air and surface assets.

Air operations during July carried 3,488 passengers and 349,652 pounds of cargo. On 1 July NAF, Cam Ranh Bay, Detachment Tan Son Nhut was activated and all pilots, flight crews and maintenance personnel were assigned to NAF, Cam Ranh Bay. Wing repairs to the C-117 damaged at Vung Tau in June were completed on 27 July.

On 31 July PBR 130 was launched at Binh Thuy and returned to River Section 511. This PBR had been over 80 percent damaged in enemy action on 5 May and was rebuilt through the efforts of repair personnel at NAVSUPPACT, Saigon, Binh Thuy Detachment. The extent of repairs required demonstrated the detachment's capability to build a PBR from scratch if necessary.

NAVSUPPACT, Saigon personnel strength at month's end was 2,982, an increase of seven since June.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

Sporadic enemy harassment was encountered by the 12 Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCB) during July. Construction activity was not significantly hampered by the scattered incidents which resulted in one Seabee killed and 10 wounded in action. The enemy activity consisted mainly of isolated minings, sniper fire, and rocket/mortar attacks on the quarries and camps.

On the morning of 10 July the NMCB-74 quarry detail was attacked twice by 81-mm mortar, RPG, and small arms fire. At approximately 1100 one Seabee received minor wounds in an attack 10.5 miles west of the Dong Ha Combat Base. At 1240 the enemy struck the detail again 11.5 miles west of the combat base wounding two Seabees, one of them seriously.

A detail from NMCB-58 detonated an enemy booby trap on the 20th. This incident, 4 miles west of Hoi An, resulted in wounds to three men. Two of these wounded men required evacuation. A mortar attack on the NMCB-58 camp at Camp Haskins on the 23rd caused the only Seabee fatality due to hostile action during July. Two 82-mm mortar rounds impacted in a camp at about 0100; two Seabees were wounded in addition to the man killed.

Other hostile incidents were reported by NMCB-1 at Danang and Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 301 at the Dong Ha Combat Base. This consisted of small arms harassment causing no personnel casualties and only minor damage. Work on the Danang barrier was interrupted

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several times by intermittent enemy action during July. A detail of Seabees operating four bulldozers assisting the Seventh Engineers had one man wounded and three bulldozers disabled by enemy mines during the clearing operations.

Several significant construction projects reached completion during the month. At Hoi An, the largest single Seabee construction effort in Vietnam was completed when NMCB-58 finished the vertical work on 14 individual camps making up the Korean 2nd Brigade Cantonment. More than 47,000 mandays were expended on construction of facilities for the 8,000-man Korean force. The entire Phu Bai airstrip was resurfaced with AM2 matting. Work on the 5,600 by 60-foot airstrip was completed in just 51 hours with the field remaining in use for all but a 12-hour period during one night. On 16 July an Ammi pontoon bridge over the Perfume River at Nam Hoa was dedicated after being completed two weeks ahead of schedule. This 560-foot bridge is the second of its type completed in Vietnam and forms a vital link in the lines of communication supporting the area.

The joint Navy, Army, Air Force, Vietnamese government refugee housing project, Operation DONG TAM, neared completion during July. The Seabee portion of this project includes housing for 675 refugee families made homeless during Tet and May fighting in the Saigon area. A Dong Tam dedication ceremony was held at Cholon on 27 July. Among those receiving awards from Prime Minister Tran Van HUONG were Rear Admiral BARTLETT, the

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NMCB-58 project officer, and the enlisted crew leader.

Steady progress continued on the road upgrade program during July. By month's end the south Hue by-pass was ready for paving and soil cementing of the Col Co Road was complete except for a one-mile single-lane portion. Route 1 between Dong Ha and Quang Tri had received 2500 tons of asphaltic concrete. Also on Route 1, a 600-foot timber bridge over the My Chan River (Bridge No. 11) was opened to traffic. Work was started on reopening the railroad between Danang and Hue when Seabees began repairs to the Truoi River railroad bridge on 15 July. This is the first of four bridges which will have spans raised and damaged sections repaired or replaced.

A definite improvement in the critical shortage of rock during July was noted with increased production from Seabee crushers and the completion of a 400-tons per hour crusher at the Black Rock Bay quarry near Danang. The new crusher and another at the Freedom Hill quarry which will be completed in early August were contractor projects with assistance from Seabee detachments. A 75-ton per hour crusher was installed at Black Road Bay by Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang. It will crush surge rock from the contractor operated site. To help relieve the rock shortage, 24-hour a day operations began at all crusher sites except Cam Lo where the road haul between the site and the river rock source remained a security problem. Full production was hampered by chronic shovel problems at Phu Loc and Nam Hoa and by equipment failures and enemy action at Cam Lo. In addition the Nam Hoa crusher was shut down for 10 days in

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order to make site improvements. The result was that rock supply improved, but still remained critical with 48,000 tons issued in the Danang area plus another 52,000 tons barged north.

Efforts to expand and improve the water system throughout I Corps moved well during the month. The temporary water system for Dong Ha was completed with the exception of tanks and purification units. The deep well at the Cam Lo rock crusher site was completed. A 12-inch water line from the Nam Hoa quarry to the Gia Le Combat Base was essentially completed. Remaining lines from Gia Le to Dong Ha, the third well, and treatment plant rehabilitation were near completion with the full system to be in operation by mid-August.

At Dong Ha NMCB-7 relieved NMCB-5 on 20 July. Earlier in the month on the 11th, NMCB-128 was relieved by NMCB-3 at Danang East. The THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment and supporting battalions were awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for exceptionally meritorious service in providing construction support in the Republic of Vietnam from 1 September 1966 to 31 July 1967. Battalions included in the citation were NMCB's 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 40, 58, 62, 71, 74, and 133.

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MILITARY PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS

Naval units continued this month to use all methods at their disposal to promote psychological operations. These methods included the use of an active airborne and waterborne broadcasting program and the more passive method of printed leaflets, magazines and newspapers. The main themes utilized were Chieu Hoi, support of the GVN, volunteer informant program and the futility and falsity of the VC/NVA cause. This last theme stressed the points that the Hanoi regime was sacrificing lives for selfish political gain, conscripting children below the age of 14, and that the RVN and its allies have defeated the enemy in their every offensive. Also mentioned was the fact that the communists were attacking and killing innocent people and were destroying Vietnamese culture in their efforts to dominate SVN.

In the First Coastal Zone the exploitation of two ralliers brought a third by the end of June and the further exploitation of the three produced a fourth member of the same unit by the middle of July. The fourth rallier stated that one of the primary factors of his decision was the multiple air and waterborne broadcasts and leaflet drops carried out on the three previous ralliers. Further exploitation of the fourth man was not possible at the time because his family remained in enemy territory.

On 11 July, two Hoi Chanhs turned in three CHICOM rifles and 33 rounds of ammunition to TF 116 personnel who were conducting a MEDCAP on Tam Phong Island about 6½ miles northeast of Vinh Long. On 24 July, an LSIL anchored outside of Dai Ngai on the Bassac River with a JUSPAO psywar entertainment

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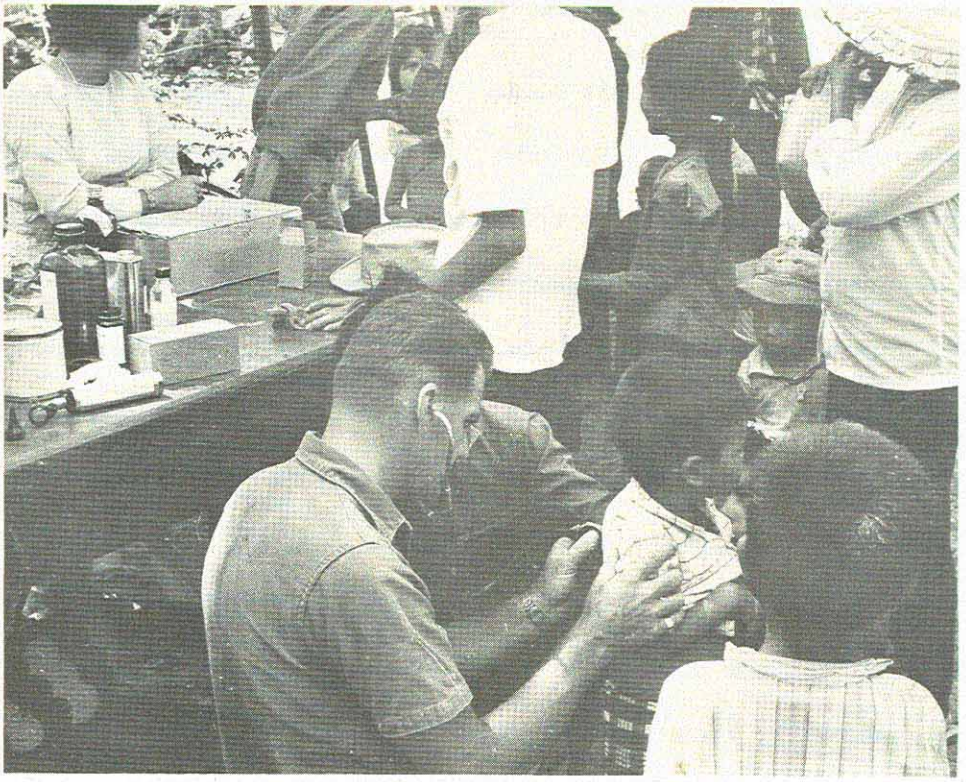

HM1 C. F. DAUPHINAIS of Patterson, N. J. examines a Vietnamese child while on MEDCAP in the hamlet of An Hoa. In the background, the team interpreter and a hamlet health worker screen patients.

team aboard. Approximately 40 junks and sampans came alongside and a Yabuta was used to ferry people from the city to see the show. An estimated 500 people watched an elaborate show and listened to a Chieu Hoi appeal. Coastal Group 36 base was given as the best contact point for prospective defectors and informants. The use of a VNN coastal group as a contact point is instrumental in increasing GVN image in an area.

During the month MEDCAPs treated 16,800 Vietnamese personnel. The MEDCAP program in the Delta was extended to the more remote areas, neglected areas.

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A total of eight Hoi Chanhs rallied to naval units this month.

There are presently 15 Seabee teams operating as part of the Revolutionary Development Program. During this month in addition to their tasks of road improvements and reconstruction of buildings damaged during Tet or other combat operations, they were training 265 Vietnamese personnel in various construction skills. The corpsmen from these teams are deeply involved in the MEDCAP program and either examined or treated 10,000 patients during July. The value of the work of these teams is attested to by USAID's request that the number of teams be increased from the present 15 to 30. The feasibility of this request is presently being studied by CNO's office.

CE2 G. W. MARTIN and a Vietnamese trainee wire a power pole at the Regional forces dependent housing compound, 23 miles south-southwest of Cam Ranh Bay.

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The Naval Support Activity at Danang reported on three civic action projects this month which show the increased interest of the Vietnamese people in joining U. S. forces to bring about a better life for themselves. In the first incident, a group of villagers at Xuong Binh village donated 90,000$VN to pay for labor to complete a drainage ditch for their village. The villagers felt they did not have the time to spare to work on the ditch themselves but they realized its importance to the future welfare of their community. Repairs to the An Hai Protestant School was the next example of Vietnamese-American cooperation. In an attempt to have the school completed by the beginning of the school year, the Vietnamese contributed many man hours and a good portion of the necessary materials to repair the school. The spirit and determination exhibited by the Vietnamese was due, to a great extent, to outstanding local leadership. The third project involved the filling and grading of the city dump which had become a breeding ground for disease and filth due to the lack of effort on anyone's part to keep it in proper condition and properly supervise the dumping of garbage. The Vietnamese have been enthusiastically participating in helping to relieve this common problem by supplying dump trucks and drivers, five from I Corps Headquarters and one from the city itself, to help haul fill into this area so that it can be properly graded. When this project is completed, it is expected that the amount of plague cases and other diseases among the Vietnamese living in this area will be greatly reduced.

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The refugee hamlet of Bac Vinh, being built in the village of Suei Vinh by Cam Ranh Bay and Project TRIM personnel, appears to be a classic example of "helping the people to help themselves." Navy personnel run the concrete mixer to pour concrete foundations and the Vietnamese people build their houses on them. The first foundations were built almost entirely by Navymen but as the project progressed so did the Vietnamese participation. With eight of the 18 houses built the Vietnamese people are now doing about 80 percent of the work.

The elementary school built primarily for the dependent children of the Vietnamese Navy Recruit Training Command personnel at Cam Ranh Bay has been called the "best civic action project school yet built in Vietnam". The seven-room building came from a joint services project initiated and brought to completion by the United States and Vietnamese navies, with construction help from the U. S. Army. The new school replaced one that was poorly equipped, inadequately lighted, overcrowded and understaffed.

In the Fourth Riverine Area, significant civic action success resulted from VNN action to provide for people left homeless by a large fire in the city of Can Tho on 17 July. The homes of approximately 600 people were destroyed in the fire. The VNN cooperated with VNAF and the Catholic Relief Society to provide food and clothing for the needy. Within 24 hours, each family had received sufficient provisions to allow them to begin the task of reconstructing lives and property. The VNN also has completed a program of assistance to the elementary school in An Loc Thon village in Ba Xuyen

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Province. School books have been delivered to the village chief and preparations are underway to begin classes for 2,000 elementary school age children who have received no instruction for two years.

Young Vietnamese elementary school students line up for dedication ceremonies in front of their new seven-room school built by U. S. Navy, Army and Vietnamese Navy personnel.

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

A one-day salvage conference was held on 8 July on board USS AJAX (AR-6) to discuss salvage requirements for Mekong Delta operations as well as First Corps Tactical Zone operations. The conference was called by COMSERVPAC and was attended by representatives of COMSERVGRU THREE, COMNAVFORV and Harbor Clearance Unit ONE. Based upon existing and anticipated requirements, the following assignments of salvage assets were mutually agreed upon:

1. For operations in the river approaches to Saigon and for contingencies - two harbor clearance teams, one light lift craft and two medium lift craft.

2. For Mobile Riverine Force support - two combat salvage boats and one light lift craft (augmented as necessary with divers from a deployed harbor clearance team).

3. Salvage and offshore petroleum line maintenance in First Corps Tactical Zone will continue to be accomplished by USS COHOES (AN-78). COMNAVFORV will evaluate the capabilities of COHOES for the next three to 6 months to determine whether additional or different salvage assets will be required. When COHOES requires upkeep or is otherwise out of the country, the standby ARS of TF 73 will be utilized, as needed, for offshore petroleum line support.

Salvage Operations in First Corps Tactical Zone

Aside from the continuing periodic requirement to repair the POL lines operating at Chu Lai and Wunder Beach (Thon My Thuy), which was accomplished

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in July by USS GRASP (ARS 24), most of the salvage work in First Corps Tactical Zone was done on the Perfume and Cua Viet rivers by Light Lift Craft TWO and USS COHOES.

The YLLC-2 began the month by removing the stern section of YFU-12 from the Perfume River; it had been a navigational obstruction. On completion of that job, YLLC-2 proceeded up the coast on 13 July to Cua Viet. The following day YLLC-2 divers removed the forward section of an LCM-8 which was needed by the Vietnamese Navy to repair one their damaged LCM-8's. Explosives were used to cut the bow section from the remainer of the hull. The bow section was then taken to NSAD, and on 15 July, YLLC-2 assisted in loading it onto a barge. The remaining LCM-8 wreckage was not a hazard to navigation and was left in place. On the 15th, YLLC-2 assisted Marines in retrieving a sunken LVT from the river. The busy craft also recovered a sunken "otter", located an anchor and chain and secured it to a mooring buoy.

At the request of COMNAVSUPPACT Danang, USS GRASP, assisted by YLLC-2, which had just returned from Cua Viet, began the work of refloating a construction rock barge chartered by MSTSU Danang and which had sunk in Tan My Cove. The barge was nearly vertical since it was supported on one side by an adjacent barge, wedging it between the bottom and the other barge. After patching holes and pumping on the 23rd, the barge gradually lightened and on the 24th, small river tugs were able to parbuckle it free of the adjacent barge and it refloated. After pumping it dry, the barge was

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towed to shallow water.

COHOES arrived at Cua Viet the morning of 6 July. The first salvage project was an LVT which had sunk and was nearly buried in the sand on the river bottom. The LVT was partially lifted on 9 July but the awkward position COHOES was required to be in and the 60-90 ton weight of the lift set COHOES into the sand, making it impossible to retract to deeper water. Since the tide was ebbing, the LVT was set back down and COHOES disconnected for the night. The next day, the Marines requested to attempt a shore recovery and this was agreed on. As they made their preparations, COHOES searched for and found a sunken PCF in the channel entrance. Looking for other wrecks, COHOES found an LCM-6 on the 11th, rigged lifting slings on it, positioned over the sunken craft and raised it the next day. The LCM-6 was dewatered and turned over to a local craft for tow to Cua Viet harbor.

On 13 July, the Marines put four LVT s in tandem to a tow line which COHOES divers attached to the sunken LVT which had been partially raised out of the sand by COHOES on the 9th. The four LVT's succeeded in pulling the sunken LVT onto the shore.

Also on the 13th, COHOES made a three point moor over a sunken work boat that belonged to USS BOLSTER (ARS 38). It was bottom up, and nearly covered with sand. Divers began the chore of washing away the sand with falcon nozzles operating off COHOES fire main pump. Heavy wind and current hampered efforts to wash away the sand. On the 16th, after making

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little headway with the nozzles, eductors were rigged as suction lifts to remove the sand. The new method worked with great success. The boat was righted later in the afternoon. Early the next morning, lifting slings and straps were rigged and the boat was lifted to the surface, drained and pumped dry, and then place on the forecastle of COHOES. On the 18th, COHOES turned the boat over to Naval Support Activity, Danang, and returned to Cua Viet on 20 July.

The next project was the removal of the hulk of PCF 14 from the channel to permit dredging operations which were scheduled to begin in a few days by the dredge SWELL MASTER. After making a three point moor over the craft, COHOES again used eductors to clear the sand away from the wreck. The strong currents and poor holding ground required COHOES to remoor several times during the day. That night, the area came under artillery attack and the ship moved out to sea. The next morning it was decided to blast the PCF. With 750 pounds of C-4 explosive hose charges and blocks placed on, in and around the hull and detonated, the PCF was reduced to small sections. COHOES returned and moored over the debris the following morning, 22 July, and began picking up the pieces. Early that afternoon, YOG-31 went hard aground only 100 yards off the COHOES port bow. Since she was already using her 8,000-pound Eells anchor, COHOES passed a 1 5/8-inch wire to the YOG, connected it up to the four-fold 5/8-inch beach gear, and began pulling. Only 59 minutes after the grounding, the YOG was clear, and COHOES divers went back to work picking up PCF pieces.

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At 0900 on the 23rd, COHOES, continuing work on the PCF, was fired upon by enemy rockets. While recovering her three-point moor, more rockets came in and as she departed the sixth rocket landed in her former position. Salvage operations were secured for the rest of the day. The next day operations continued until heavy weather forced COHOES out to sea again. By then, about 50 percent of the PCF had been removed. Work could not resume until the 27th and even then was hampered by the high wind and sea conditions. On the 29th it was estimated that 70 percent of the wreckage had been recovered. Enemy rockets again forced COHOES to get underway on the 30th, but not before it was determined that it would be necessary to use more demolition and remove more sand in order to reach the last remaining sections of the PCF. At month's end it was estimated that only a few days would be required to complete the job.

Salvage Operations in Fourth Corps Tactical Zone

On 13 July two armored troop carriers (ATC), which were engaged in operations on the Ba Rai Stream two miles east of Cai Be, were damaged by underwater explosions shortly after beaching on the banks of the stream. The first ATC, T-131-8, took an explosion beneath the engine room, resulting in the flooding of the space. The second ATC, T-131-13, received an 18-inch hole in the lazaret. Salvage work began immediately and defensive perimeters were established by troops of the 4/39th Infantry Battalion. Combat Salvage Boat THREE, divers from USS SPHINX (ARL 24), with damage control equipment from USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST 1170) patched and successfully refloated the

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damaged ATC's, which were subsequently towed to the repair facility at Dong Tam.

A U. S. Army leased gravel barge designated the LC-86 sank alongside the Vinh Long sea wall in about 12 feet of water on 16 July, blocking the use of that section of the sea wall for cargo handling. The barge was loaded with about 200 tons of rock. It apparently touched bottom, then slid away from the sea wall and down the river bank at an angle during an extreme low tide, causing flooding over hold coamings along the outboard side as the tide began rising.

Harbor Clearance Team FIVE divers flew to the site on 20 July to survey the barge, returning to Vung Tau that afternoon. The survey indicated that the barge was intact. There was a wire rope under a strain, from the sea wall to the port quarter of the barge, which was countering a tendency for the barge to slide into deeper water. Soundings only 100 feet from the sea wall indicated a river depth of over 60 feet. Army personnel familair with the barge informed the Navy that the poor material condition of the barge did not justify the time and effort required to raise it, consequently it was decided to slide or parbuckle it into deeper water and abandon it. At first light on 24 July ULLC-1, with HCT-5 personnel embarked, sailed from Vung Tau for Vinh Long, arriving the evening of the 25th.

The following day compartments at the after end of the barge were pumped but only about 60 percent of the water could be removed because of the deteriorated condition of the deck and bulkheads. That afternoon

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attempts were made to pull the stern outward using an Army tug and small explosive charges to break the suction of the mud. The attempts failed and no movement was discerned. During the next days beach gear was laid and re-laid as unsuccessful pulls were attempted. At month's end the barge remained where it was.

The 90-ton hydraulic dredge THU BON suffered extensive structural damage and sunk in 18 to 20 feet of water at Dong Tam, on 28 July, following an enemy sapper attack. The dredge settled on its port side on the western side of the entrance to the Xang Canal which leads to the man-made Dong Tam basin. Fortunately the channel was not obstructed. On the afternoon of the 30th the YDB-1 Diving Boat with Harbor Clearance Team ONE Detachment and the commanding officer of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE, Commander WINAT, arrived at Dong Tam. Immediately upon arrival divers surveyed the situation and began clearing the wreckage from the THU BON. The salvage site was in an insecure area and arrangements were made with the U. S. Ninth Division, which is based at Dong Tam, for daylight perimeter security. That evening YLLC-5 arrived and her crew was briefed on the situation.

On 31 July, divers continued to remove wreckage and also dismantled for removal the dredge ladder and spuds rigging, to lighten the dredge and facilitate lifting it onto a flat barge using the floating crane at Dong Tam. The wreckage of a 30-foot work boat was also recovered in order to prevent interference with future dredging operations.

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COMMUNICATIONS

The COMNAVFORV Message Center established a new high in message handling as it processed 142,272 messages during the month. This represents a 13.1 percent increase over June's total.

The status of Project CLARINET SEAWARD's uncompleted sites was as follows:

(a) Qui Nhon -- All material arrived at the site. The installation team will return on 19 August and is expected to complete the installation by 7 September.

(b) Nha Trang -- Construction was completed on 27 July. Inventory of equipment will commence on 1 August and the installation team is scheduled to arrive on 19 August.

(c) Vung Tau -- Construction was in progress and the beneficial occupancy date (BOD) was now 30 August.

(d) My Tho -- Awaiting the installation team.

(e) Sa Dec -- Installation team is scheduled to arrive on 5 August. Completion is scheduled for 19 August.

(f) Cat Lo -- Installation is scheduled to commence on 10 August. Completion is scheduled for 25 August.

(g) Vinh Long -- Installation is approximately 90 percent completed. The planned completion date is 10 August.

The additional installation personnel requested have arrived in-country and have completed the An Thoi site. There were two installation teams

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working in the Delta area during the month. It was expected that the Delta sites would be completed by 1 September and that the teams working in that area could then move to Qui Nhon and Nha Trang. Upon completion of these two sites, the site at Vung Tau should be completed within six to eight weeks after the BOD of 30 August. With the completion of the Vung Tau site, Project CLARINET SEAWARD will be fully implemented.

The Collins Green Phone Hot Line installation was progressing on schedule and at month's end was 30 percent completed. The system should be operational by 1 September. The list of subscribers to this system was printed in last month's supplement.

The UNIVAC 1004 AUTODIN terminal at Naval Support Activity, Danang began processing traffic on 8 July as scheduled. Installation continued on COMNAV-FORV AUTODIN terminal and it is expected to be operational during the month of August.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 3-6 July Vice Admiral KIM, Yong Kwan, ROKN, Chief of Naval Operations, Republic of Korea, accompanied by Commodore KIM, Kyu Sup, ROKN, Deputy CNO for Operations, conducted a four-day visit to South Vietnam at the personal invitation of Commander U. S. SEVENTH Fleet. The primary purpose for the visit was to observe MARKET TIME operations in order to improve similar surveillance operations conducted by the Republic of Korea Navy. While in Saigon Vice Admiral KIM, Yong Kwan, received a command briefing on U. S. Navy operations in Vietnam at COMNAVFORV headquarters; visited with the Vietnamese Chief of Naval Operations, Commodore Tran Van CHON, VNN, and the Chairman of the Joint General Staff, General Cao Van VIEN. On 5 July, the admiral and his party visited the Coastal Surveillance Force (CTF 115) headquarters at Cam Ranh Bay where he received a comprehensive briefing on trawler infiltration attempts, Operation STABLE DOOR, and coastal surveillance task organization, concepts and operations.

Rear Admiral K. G. CHILDERS, Jr., USN, Assistant Commander Naval Air Systems Command, arrived at Danang on 5 July and commenced a three-day visit with U. S. Navy commands in South Vietnam. After a one-day tour of Naval Support Activity Danang facilities, the admiral and his entourage were given a briefing and a tour of Naval Air Facility, Cam Ranh Bay. On 7 July, Rear Admiral CHILDERS visited Helicopter Attack (light) Squadron THREE at Vung Tau and COMNAVFORV in Saigon, where he discussed combat

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zone aviation material support problems.

On 18 July, General Andrew G. GOODPASTER, USA, Deputy Commander, U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam was given the first of several orientation briefings on naval matters in South Vietnam at the Saigon headquarters of COMNAVFORV. Two days later, he visited the Mobile Riverine Base and received an operational briefing on the Mobile Riverine Force (CTF 117) concept and projected operations. On 26 July General GOODPASTER conducted a short tour of the Coastal Surveillance Force (CTF 115) headquarters and was given a brief on MARKET TIME operations. On 29 July, the general proceeded to Binh Thuy for a tour of the GAME WARDEN base and a briefing on PBR operations at the River Patrol Force (CTF 116) headquarters.

On 20 July, Rear Admiral Walter V. COMBS, Jr., USN, Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet and Rear Admiral E. W. SUTHERLING, SC, USN, COMSERVPAC Fleet and Force Supply Officer commenced a seven-day tour of South Vietnam to discuss U. S. Navy logistic support problems. The two admirals, accompanied by Captain Max C. DUNCAN, USN, COMNAVSUPPACT Saigon, visited the MRB at Dong Tam, the Naval Air Facility and Naval Support Facility at Cam Ranh Bay and the huge Naval Support Activity Danang complex. Included in their itinerary were visits to COMNAVFORV, NAVSUPPACT Saigon headquarters, the Naval Support Activity Saigon Detachments at Nha Be, Cat Lo, My Tho, Sa Dec, Qui Nhon, An Thoi, and Binh Thuy. The admirals also toured the salvage facilities of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE at Vung Tau.

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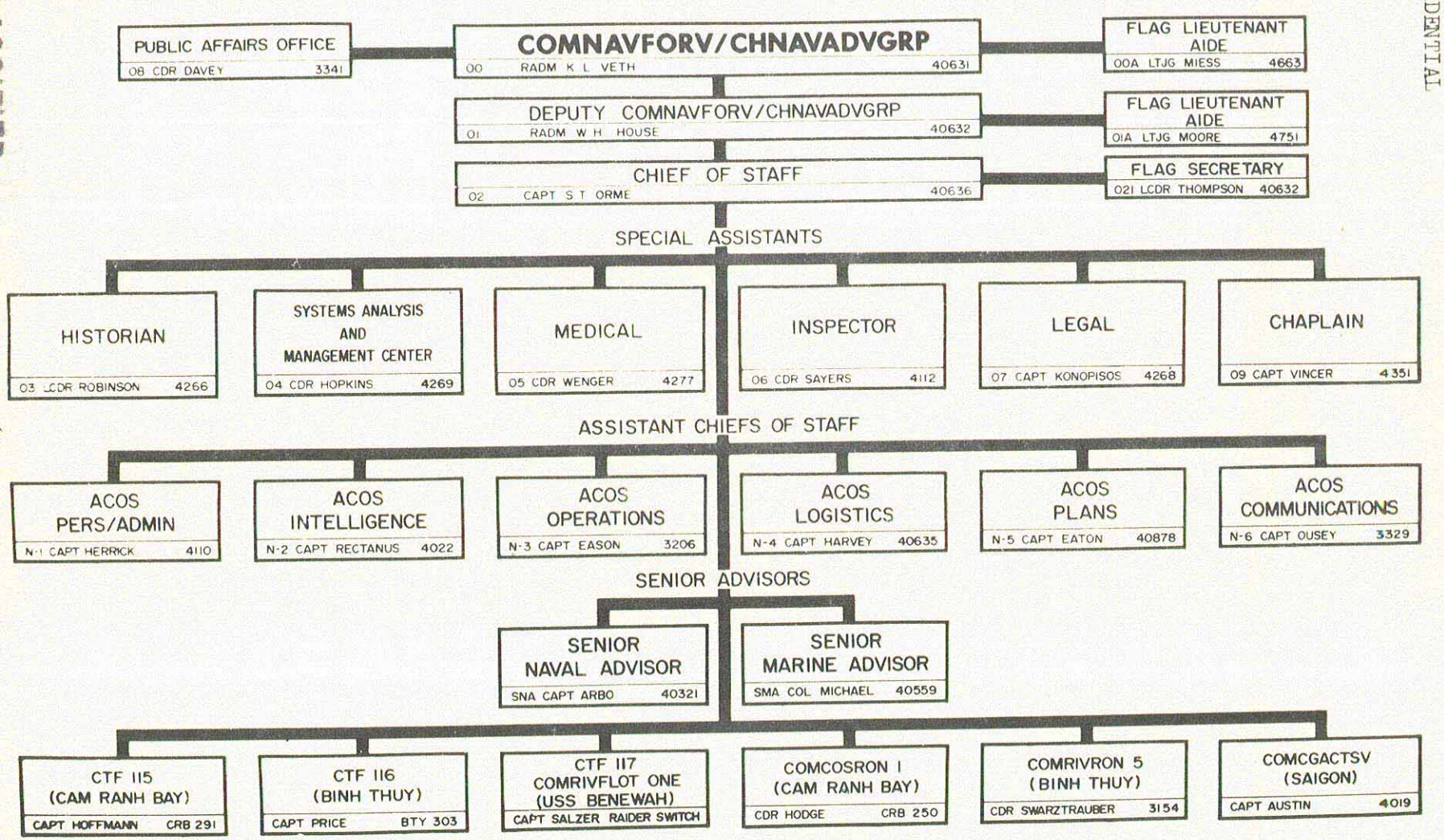
COMNAVFORV/CHNAVADVGRP STAFF ORGANIZATION



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On the last day of the month Rear Admiral H. J. JOHNSON, CEC, USN, relieved Rear Admiral Spencer SMITH, CEC, USN, as Deputy Commander Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southeast Asia. Rear Admiral JOHNSON also assumed the additional duty as Officer-in-Charge of Construction, Republic of Vietnam and reported for duty with the joint staff of Commander U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

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A Vietnamese sailor aboard a Yabuta Junk keeps a look-out with his M-16 rifle as his boat prepares to get underway. The M-16 is one of many which were presented to the Vietnamese Navy during ceremonies in July at Vietnamese Navy headquarters in Saigon. The new addition to their weapons inventory will better enable the men to thwart the Viet Cong's infiltration attempts along the many waterways of the Republic.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

On 31 July the personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) was 17,574, including 1,354 officers, 3,398 petty officers and 12,822 enlisted men. The number of unauthorized absentees increased from 491 in June to 499 in July.

At the Naval Advanced Training Center, Saigon, seven men graduated from a short course covering the VRC 46 radio and the Raytheon Radar on 7 July. One-hundred and five men continued training in Class "A" technical schools. Two PGM's, an LSSL and a YOG underwent a week of inport training; operational commitments precluded any Fleet Command ships from undergoing underway training.

At the Naval Training Center, Nha Trang, 125 men graduated from Class "A" techinical schools on 20 July; the class consisted of 24 boatswain's mates, 44 enginemen and 57 gunner's mates. On 23 July, seven electronics technicians and 25 radiomen graduated from Class "A" schools. A total of 416 men continued training in Class "A" schools during July at Nha Trang.

At the Recruit Training Center, Cam Ranh, Class 50, numbering 259 men, graduated on 20 July. Two classes, 51 and 52, consisting of 381 men, remained in training. The VNN UDT (LDNN) replacement class III of two officers and 38 men continued training this month at Vung Tau.

During July training continued for PCF and PBR crews to man craft as they are turned over to the VNN. On 19 July, the VNN took possession

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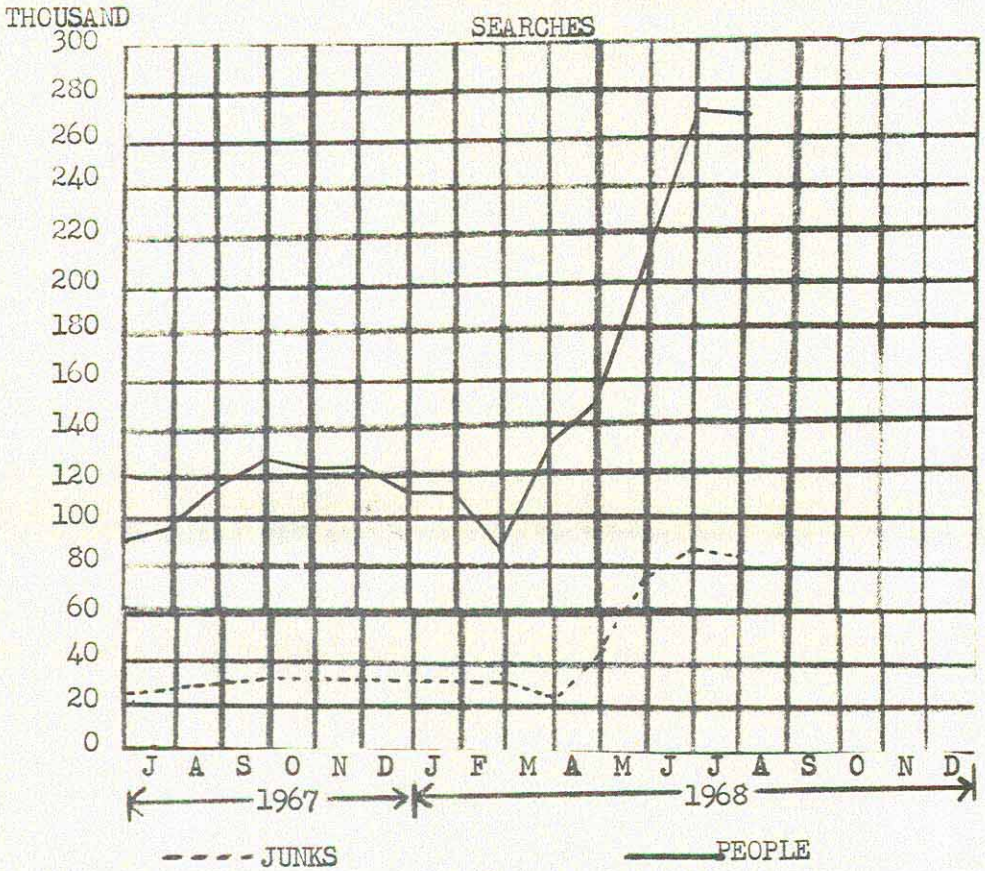
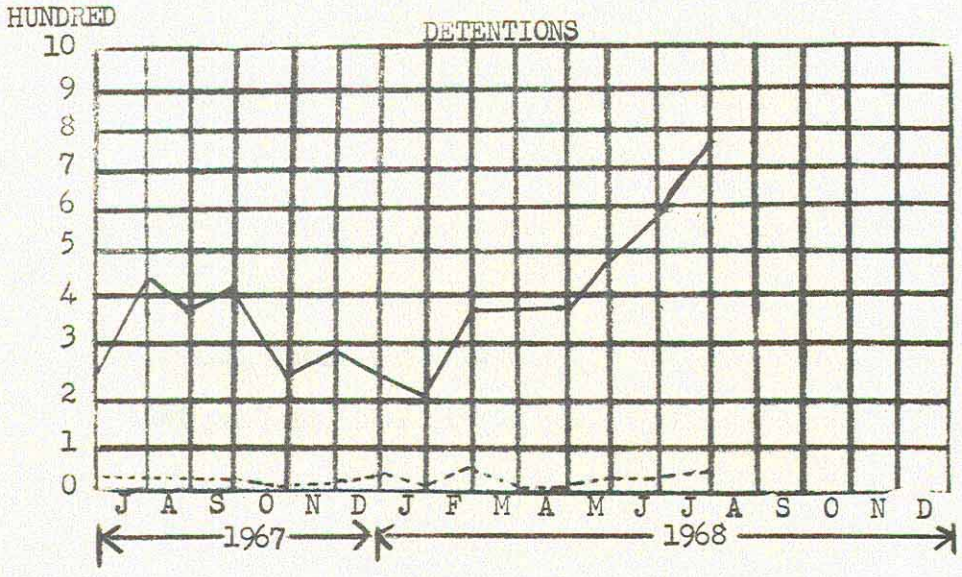
SEARCH & DETECTIONS
VNN COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES





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of four U. S. Navy "Swift" boats. The assumption of responsibility for two more MARKET TIME stations by these PCF's on 31 July terminated over six months of intensive training with U. S. Navy personnel for some 71 VNN officers and men. The number of MARKET TIME areas controlled solely by the VNN now totals eight and will continue to increase with the aim of an eventual Vietnamese takeover of all MARKET TIME patrol stations presently manned by the U. S. Navy.

On 29 July the VNN received its first shipment of M-16 rifles from the U. S. Navy. This initial shipment was distributed to Coastal Force Reaction Units at each Coastal Group, the RTEG, Riverine units and the Saigon Naval Headquarters area security and reaction units. The M-16 distribution was one phase of the continuing program to upgrade the combat effectiveness of the VNN. As new shipments arrive they will replace the carbines presently in use by the VNN sailors.

Flotilla I, or the Fleet Command patrol ships, met all commitments during July, maintaining 14 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam, four ships on river patrol, five ships on static defense and one ship on commercial convoy escort between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. Fleet Command patrol ships continued active participation in MARKET TIME operations in Coastal Naval Zones and maintained responsibility for six MARKET TIME stations. The patrol ships fired a total of 71 missions, searched 2,086 junks and 12,483 persons, and detained seven junks and 37 persons in July. Squadron 11, the PC's and PCE's, was used for coastal patrol and

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gunfire support in the First and Second Coastal Naval Zones. Squadron 13, the PGM's, was used for coastal and river patrol and for gunfire support in all four Naval Zones. On 22 July, the hamlets of Dua and Ca Dai on the Soirap River were attacked by enemy forces. PGM 619 provided gunfire support to the hamlets and the hostile attack was thwarted.

Squadron 15, the LSSL's and LSIL's, provided patrol, gunfire support, static defense and convoy escort in the Fourth Riverine Area, the RSSZ and the Third and Fourth Naval Zones. On 13 July, LSIL 328 received B-40 rocket fire while patroling the Long Tau River. The VNN ship returned the fire with 40 and 20-mm guns and with .50 caliber machine-guns. Although the ship was undamaged, two sailors received minor wounds. The result of the ship's gunfire was not determined.

The MSC's of Squadron 17 patrolled in MARKET TIME stations of the Third and Fourth Naval Zones and provided gunfire support on call. The squadron's 10 MLM's and 6 LCMM's now provide three-fourths of the mine countermeasures effort on the Long Tau and Dong Nai rivers, the main shipping channels to Saigon. On 2 July, the VNN MLMs 115, preceding Army barges on the Dong Nai River, cut and released a 250 pound mine. The Navy advisor aboard the mine-sweeper guided the barges past the mine and called in EOD personnel. The mine was later determined to have been put in the water recently; it was wrapped in a Hanoi newspaper dated March 1968. This was a command detonated mine and the first of its type to be found in over 17 months. It was in the

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same area where several Army barges were destroyed two months ago by Viet Cong from the shoreline.

The logistics ships of Flotilla II conducted 46 logistics missions in July, transporting 12,035 troops and lifting 7,673 tons of cargo. At the VNN Supply Center, records indicated that during July there was a 68 percent gross effectiveness on 13,678 demands for items and a net effectiveness of 85.3 percent on 10,978 demands for items normally carried in the supply system.

This month marked the beginning of operations for the three newly commissioned LDNN (VNN UDT) squads. On 10 July members of the LDNN Replacement Class III participated in a training exercise with their U. S. Navy SEAL advisors, six PRU's and their U. S. Army advisors, Coastal Group 33 personnel and Army air cover. The land sweep was conducted on Long Son Island, north of Vung Tau City while Coastal Group 33 and TF 115 PCF's held blocking positions on the Rang and Ca Doi streams to the north. The units ashore set booby traps along their trail, then split into two elements, leaving one in ambush. The progressing unit made contact with a squad-sized Viet Cong element. Three enemy were probably killed in the ambush. Meanwhile the LDNN and PRU's left behind in ambush fired on and killed three more Viet Cong from their position. A small amount of carbine ammunition was captured that night.

The first full three-squad LDNN combat operation occurred on the night

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of 19-20 July, 4 miles northeast of Vung Tau. Coastal Group 33 junks landed the Vietnamese underwater demolition team at 2330. At 0245 "C" Squad (the third squad) observed four unlighted sampans by starlight scope and took them under fire. Two of the sampans were sunk and both occupants were killed. Shortly thereafter, two more sampans entered the area. Both of these craft were also sunk and three more Viet Cong were killed. Two more sampans proceeded into "A" Squad's area, and three Viet Cong were killed and two were wounded. "C" Squad then observed two Viet Cong walking through the water and killed them both. A claymore mine set by "B" Squad destroyed an additional two sampans and killed the five occupants. Twenty-seven Viet Cong were observed during the engagement; it is believed that in addition to the 15 Viet Cong killed by body count there were 10 more enemy felled that night. Two wounded Viet Cong were extracted with the LDNN by Coastal Group 33 junks at 0345.

Coastal Force

Offensive operations continued to be stressed throughout July. The coastal group conducted a total of 36 amphibious operations, 35 blocking operations and 456 base defense ambushes and small unit land operations. Most of the activity on these operations occurred in the First and Third Coastal Naval Zones. The coastal forces continued counter-infiltration sea patrols. An average of 197 junks were available each day for operations, an average of 194 were employed. Coastal Force units searched

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76,356 junks and 242,740 persons, and detained 83 junks and 717 persons. Coastal Force units searched a daily average of 15 junks per unit employed.

Minor enemy contact characterized the month's operations for the First Naval Zone coastal groups. The VNN sailors and their U. S. advisors maintained coastal and inland waterways security for the Vietnamese populace by daily patrols and searches. Large scale offensive operations were minimal and enemy initiated action was on a down-trend over last month's report. Coastal Group 12 and PF troops continued to probe the Phu Vang District, east of Hue during the NGUYEN PHUOC Campaign. On 2 July, Operation NGUYEN PHUOC 7 combined Coastal Group 12 junks and three PF platoons for operations in the northern tip of Phu Vang District. This resulted in one Viet Cong killed and one wounded, 15 Viet Cong suspects and one mine captured and four bunkers destroyed. Further south the next day, Coastal Group 16 personnel, in concert with RF/PF troops, conducted Operation QUYET THANG 48/G, northeast of Quang Ngai City. Although the enemy was engaged in a slight skirmish, there was no report of enemy killed. The VNN sailors provided gunfire support and mobility for the RF/PFs who suffered one killed and four wounded. One Viet Cong was captured along with several rifles dropped by the fleeing enemy.

Coastal Group 11 acted as a blocking force and provided gunfire support to U. S. Army and ARVN troops during Operation LAMSON 238 on 7 July. Reports indicated that a total of five enemy were killed, six were captured and

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six Viet Cong suspects were detained during the operation which swept the beach area just south of the Cua Viet River. There were seven ARVN soldiers wounded in the firefight. That same day a Coastal Group 13 platoon and two PF platoons swept the southern tip of Vinh Loc District, northwest of the coastal group base supported by USMC artillery. An unknown number of enemy was engaged in the vicinity of a Viet Cong tunnel and a rice processing unit. The brief firefight terminated and the Vietnamese troops reported destroying the tunnels complex and three booby traps; enemy casualties were unknown. There were no friendly casualties. Coastal Group 14 also reported engaging the enemy south of their base at Hoi An on 7 July. As the VNN PGM 613 and marine helo gunships took inland waterway junks under fire in a free fire zone, the coastal group junks performed blocking tactics off shore. Seven Viet Cong were captured that day and the airborne spotter reported approximately 30 enemy killed or wounded further inland.

On 8 July Coastal Group 13 sighted 30 Viet Cong on the beach in Vinh Loc District northwest of their base. The sailors and a TF 115 PCF took the enemy under fire but no further contact was gained. Similarly, further north, Coastal Group 11 and PF troops made contact with an unknown size enemy force from the Cua Viet River on 9 July. The fire was silenced and two PFs were reported wounded; enemy casualties were not determined. The Coastal Group 11 advisor reported no further enemy action until 17 July when two enemy squads were engaged by PF troops

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as the junks provided support from the Cua Viet River near the river's mouth. Fire was received from the north bank; the Vietnamese sailors returned and silenced it. No enemy casualties were reported. On the night of 17-18 July, a Coastal Group 14 ambush team killed four Viet Cong from their position on the Devong River north of the coastal group base near Hoi An. An estimated two Viet Cong platoons were later engaged as PGM 613 stood by in the Cua Dai River to lend support. Contact was broken and no further enemy casualties were reported during the operation, HONG BANG 17.

Two Coastal Group 13 reconnaissance teams were inserted at the southern tip of Vinh Loc District on 18 July. USMC artillery supported the sailors when they came under a murderous barrage of enemy small-arms and automatic-weapons fire. The beleaguered Vietnamese were extracted by PACV's, the first recorded incident of VNN's combined operations with Task Force CLEARWATER's PACV's.

NGUYEN PHUOC 8 yielded one Viet Cong killed and 10 Viet Cong suspects, 10 draft dodgers and three sampans detained on 19 July. Four Coastal Group 12 junks conducted this operation, one of the series taking place in the northern tip of Phu Vinh District. The next day Coastal Group 11 sailors swept northward from the Cua Viet River based on information gained from an informer. Three Viet Cong who were suspected to be infrastructure were captured.

VNN sailors of Coastal Group 14 participated in Operation HIEU NHON

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62 on 20 July. This operation was organized by Quang Nam Province forces and was a sweep of Cham Isle, off the coast 12 miles east-northeast of Hoi An. It resulted in the capture of one ARVN deserter and 282 draft dodgers. THUA THIEN 44 commenced on 20 July with province forces and Coastal Group 12 units in Vinh Loc District, east of Hue. The coastal group advisor reported that by 22 July there were 16 Viet Cong killed and 23 captured. Two Vietnamese soldiers were killed and eight were wounded during the two-day operation. NGUYEN PHUOC 9 was conducted by Coastal Group 12 on Huong Dien Peninsula, north of the mouth of the Cua Viet River on 23 July. This land and river search operation uncovered 41 draftdodgers.

The VNN Danang headquarters personnel made a sweep of the coastal area 8 miles south of Danang on 28 July after an informer had provided intelligence regarding enemy activity in the area. Supported by ARVN troops, the sailors reported that 48 Viet Cong were killed, 12 were captured and 16 suspects were detained as a result of the operation. In addition, numerous weapons and ammunition were captured by the joint forces.

Early on the morning of 30 July, a Coastal Group 14 Yabuta junk was sabotaged as it was moored 10 yards off shore in front of the coastal group base. The explosive charge was so large that debris was scattered over a 100 meter area and one VNN sailor who had been aboard was blown through a roof of a building 75 yards away. Total casualties were two sailors killed and two wounded; the junk was completely destroyed.

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Operation Quang TRI/45 combined Coastal Group 11, USMC and province forces in a sweep north of the Cua Viet River on 30 July. Five enemy were killed, 8 suspects were detained and 45 draft dodgers were apprehended by the land force as the VNN sailors maintained river blocking positions.

Enemy activity in the Second Naval Zone continued to remain at a low level with the coastal groups mainly utilizing small unit patrols and searches, and providing logistics and mobile support to RF/PFs and local sector policing operations. On the night of 2 July and throughout the next day, Coastal Group 28 units conducted a landing and search operation on the coast, 19 miles northeast of their base at Phan Thiet. The VNN sailors reported detaining two Viet Cong suspects during this operation. Early on the morning of 4 July, the Coastal Group 27 base and nearby areas were bombarded by 60-mm mortar fire. A policing operation was subsequently conducted by the coastal group sailors and two National Police squads. The day's search resulted in the capture of one ARVN deserter and 16 Viet Cong suspects. Late that night, Coastal Group 25 personnel and one RF platoon made a landing from Hon Khoi Bay, 3 miles south of the coastal group base. Although there was no enemy contact, one junk with 3 suspects aboard was apprehended. The same night, Song Cau-based Coastal Group 23 sailors commenced a sweep of the peninsula east of their base. By 6 July, the Vietnamese met with no enemy resistance, however, one Viet Cong was captured.

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An operation on Hon Lon Isle across the Hon Khoi Bay was conducted by Coastal Group 25 sailors and four ARVN Ranger companies supported by VNN PCE 06 and PGM 601 from 10 to 13 July. Enemy ground forces were not detected during this operation although two junks with five suspects were detained.

Coastal Groups 25 and 27 were engaged in security operations in concert with 7th Fleet beach surveys conducted in July. VNN sailors and PRU platoons landed from Yabuta junks to secure the areas and to conduct reconnaissance of suspected Viet Cong staging areas. No enemy contact was gained by the coastal group forces. Between 10 and 12 July, five Coastal Group 27 junks with one VNN platoon and two USN advisors operated at a small island off the coast about 30 miles south-southwest of their coastal group base. That area proved to be devoid of Viet Cong influence; the fishermen encountered were cooperative and were favorably disposed toward the government of South Vietnam.

Just south of their base at Degi in Binh Dinh Province, Coastal Group 21 sailors fired on an evading sampan on 12 July. Although five of the men escaped to the beach, two others were apprehended by the sailors and were turned over to the authorities for interrogation. Further south, Coastal Group 22 made a landing on the east side of Qui Nhon Peninsula that day. Fire support was provided by USS PRIME (MSO 466) and other MARKET TIME units as the sailors swept west and north. Enemy caves were searched and small amounts of food and clothing were discovered.

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The coastal group advisor reported that this area was considered cleared of any Viet Cong troops as a result of frequent recent operations conducted there by the coastal group and MARKET TIME units.

A Coastal Group 27 platoon, four junks and an advisor conducted a sweep operation at Son Hai, 12 miles south of the coastal group base near Phan Rang on 15 July. Several caches of fishing gear and eating utensils were destroyed as the sailors swept in a northwesterly direction. As they approached an abandoned village, two Viet Cong were observed evading the sailors. The junk off shore provided .30 and .50 caliber and 60-mm mortar fire in support of the land force. No enemy contact was made; however, the sailors discovered and destroyed in place two large urns of rice which were still warm.

During the night of 17 July and throughout the 18th, Coastal Group 23 units operated in an area to the south of their base at Song Cau. Three sampans and eight enemy suspects were apprehended while the sailors also moved 20 refugee families from unsecure areas to a GVN controlled hamlet. Late on the 17th, Coastal Group 25 also began an operation in Khanh Hoa sub-sector, northeast of Nha Phu Bay near Nha Trang. The VNN sailors and one advisor remained in this area until 20 July and seven suspected Viet Cong were apprehended. No enemy contact was experienced.

On 19 and 20 July Coastal Group 23 and 27 were involved in similar search operations near their bases. A Coastal Group 23 platoon landed from a junk and engaged an unknown size enemy force on the peninsula

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directly east of their base. PCE 06 stood off shore and provided naval gunfire support as the VNN sailors pressed the enemy. Three Viet Cong were killed and eight others were wounded. Articles of clothing, documents, a PRC-10 radio and eight grenades were discovered. Meanwhile, Coastal Group 27 units, five RF platoons and National Police conducted an amphibious operation in Thanh Hai sub-sector, north of Son Hai Bay and east of Phan Rang. The sailors provided naval gunfire support to the land force, then formed a sea blocking force to prevent enemy escape. A total of 34 suspects were apprehended during the sweep.

Van Ninh sub-sector, situated northeast of Hon Khoi where Coastal Group 25 is located, was the scene for a police operation conducted by the VNN sailors and an advisor on 26 July. This area search yielded four ARVN deserters and four draft dodgers.

In spectacular action on the night of 27-28 July, Coastal Group 23 was responsibile for killing 23 Viet Cong and capturing two others, a Viet Cong platoon leader and a corpsman. A PF platoon was attacked in a hamlet 5 miles east of the coastal group base at Song Cau, resulting in 25 soldiers killed or captured. Two Coastal Group 23 junks responded immediately with supporting gunfire which enabled nine PFs to be liberated. One VNN sailor was lost overboard during the fire fight. On the morning of 28 July, two enemy junks were sunk and 23 Viet Cong were killed. VNN sailors then combined with the PFs in the reoccupation of the hamlet and a subsequent sweep of the battle scene and uncovered nine carbines, six

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M1 rifles and three automatic weapons.

Coastal groups of the Third Naval Zone continued to operate with ARVN forces in offensive searches and raids on suspected Viet Cong strongholds. The coastal groups supplied the manpower and gunfire support to various operations and coastal group craft transported ARVN troops along the main waterways and canals and provided blocking and searching functions in concert with the land probes. This month the enemy generally avoided contact with friendly forces but there was evidence of his presence as bunkers, gun positions, caches and often recently occupied staging areas were uncovered. On the night of 5-6 July Coastal Group 35 and three RF companies overran a Viet Cong battalion base camp and training site, killing at least two Viet Cong and capturing 28 others. This operation, VINH BINH 12, was conducted by RF troops and a squad of VNN sailors from the coastal group craft which had transported the land force to the area of operation on the north bank of the Bassac River, about 7 miles from the river's mouth. The Vietnamese force pressed northward from the landing site under enemy fire until the camp was discovered. Numerous structures and fortifications in the area were destroyed and over 6,000 NVA piasters were seized. On 13 July two Coastal Group 35 river craft carried two RF companies north along the Co Chien River during Operation SD 9/14/7 to a point north of the city of Phu Vinh. A subsequent land sweep met with moderate enemy resistance and the VNN sailors provided machine gun and blocking support from the river. The coastal group

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advisor reported that seven enemy were found dead after contact was lost. The RF troops captured one Viet Cong, 10 grenades and a rifle while suffering two of their own killed and 14 wounded. Later that same day, a Coastal Group 35 intelligence squad swept 2 miles south from their base acting on prior intelligence of enemy movement. The operation, SONG THAN 52/33 met no enemy resistance; however, two houses and three bunkers were destroyed and four grenades and two mines were captured.

Operation SD 9/7 was conducted by five companies of the 9th ARVN Infantry Regiment and Coastal Group 35 boats on 15 July. The coastal group provided the mobility and gunfire support to the amphibious operation originating on the Dua Do Stream, 6 miles northeast of Phu Vinh City. The ARVN made contact with an unknown size enemy force but silenced his fire without suffering any casualties. Nine Viet Cong were killed during the engagement. A sizeable weapons and ammunition cache containing several rifles, two cases of AK-47 cartridges, 20 B-40 rockets and miscellaneous equipment and medicines was captured.

Five Coastal Group 34/37 units traversed northwest along the Ham Luong River on 21 July to landing zones 7 miles west of Ba Tri City where four RF companies and two PF platoons were off-loaded for Operation QUYET THANG GT/2. From two opposite positions the land force conducted a sweep and contacted an estimated two Viet Cong

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companies. Three Viet Cong were killed and one was captured. The RF/PFs confiscated four tons of rice and a motor and accessories (value at $10,000) to mechanize a sugar mill.

Coastal Group 35 supported Operation QUYET THANG 14/3 on 22 July in the Long Toan Secret Zone, on the southeastern coast of Vinh Binh Province. Two ARVN infantry battalions and two RF companies made a successful probe of the secret zone while the coastal group boats maintained perimeter security from the sea coast. The ARVN reported killing 36 enemy soldiers and 33 others were captured along with numbers of rifles, carbines and ammunition and a quantity of clothes and documents. The next day Coastal Group 36 personnel crossed the lower Bassac River to invade a hamlet on Dung Island where suspected Viet Cong cadre were located. Three 10-man VNN landing force units were supported by coastal group craft and LSIL 327. Of the three suspects detained, one was confirmed a Viet Cong and the remainder were transfered to province headquarters for further interrogation. There were also numerous documents and maps found in the area.

QUYET CHIEN 14/VB/45 was conducted in Vinh Binh Province northwest of Phu Vinh on 27 July by two ARVN infantry battalions and one ARVN company which were supported by Coastal Group 35 units from the Dua Do Stream. Moderate enemy contact was gained by the Vietnamese force; six ARVN were killed and 10 were wounded while three Viet Cong were reported killed. A quantity of enemy war materials including rifles, grenades and mines were captured or destroyed in place that day. On the 28th,

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two Coastal Group 36 reconnaissance teams swept Dung Island once again as they did on 23 July. The VNNs rounded up three more enemy suspects, apprehended one RF defector, and captured numerous intelligence documents.

Activity in the Fourth Naval Zone was characterized by routine daily patrols, cordon and search operations, and fire reconnaissance missions along the waterways of the southern and western coast of the Delta and on Phu Quoc Island in the Gulf of Thailand. In general, the coastal groups of the Fourth Naval Zone answered calls for naval gunfire support from outposts and hamlets under Viet Cong harassment and provided mobility for troops and logistics supplies. The VNN junks, with U. S. Navy advisors embarked, conducted security patrols, searching and inspecting the traffic along the numerous waterways leading from the sea. Enemy contact was minimal this month; however, his presence was apparent in the discovery of base camps and strongholds, propaganda and literature, arms caches, and frequent harassing techniques. Psyops and civic action programs continued this month as taped and printed information was passed to the populace. Chieu Hoi efforts received special emphasis. MEDCAPs were performed and comfort items were distributed to the people who inhabit the Delta hamlets and villages that cluster along the water's edge.

Shortly after midnight on 2 July, a Kien An based Coastal Group 44 junk responded to a call for naval gunfire support from an outpost on the Cai Lon River, 5 miles north of the base. The fire from an unknown number of enemy was suppressed and the junk remained in the

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area for security patrols. There was no enemy casualty assessment and no friendly casualties were recorded.

Operation CON CA SAU commenced on 17 July and was conducted by Puolo Obi Island based Coastal Group 41 units and RF/PF troops on the west coast of Ca Mau Peninsula. The five-day operation consisted of amphibious assaults on suspected Viet Cong staging areas, sweep missions, cordon and search operations and psyops and civic action programs. The VNN boats carried troops and supplies for the operation which extended from the Ong Doc River to Ca Mau Point. Light enemy contact was experienced and, although blood trails and reports of Viet Cong wounded and carried off were recorded, the operation yielded only one confirmed Viet Cong killed. Numerous bunkers, shelters and Viet Cong homes were destroyed.

Riverine Area Naval Commands

At the end of July, 226 craft were assigned to the Third Riverine Area, the Fourth Riverine Area and the General Reserve Force. The last includes River Assault Group (RAG) 27, the Rover Transport and Escort Group (RTEG) and River Patrol Group (RPG) 51 (PBR division). A daily average of 178 craft were available for operations and 172 were employed in July. The Third Riverine Area RAGs were employed extensively on the waterways surrounding the Capital Military District (CMD), and had relatively light enemy contact. Fourth Riverine Area RAGs were employed throughout the Fourth Riverine Area and were engaged in several major operations in addition to the normal river patrols and logistics runs conducted throughout

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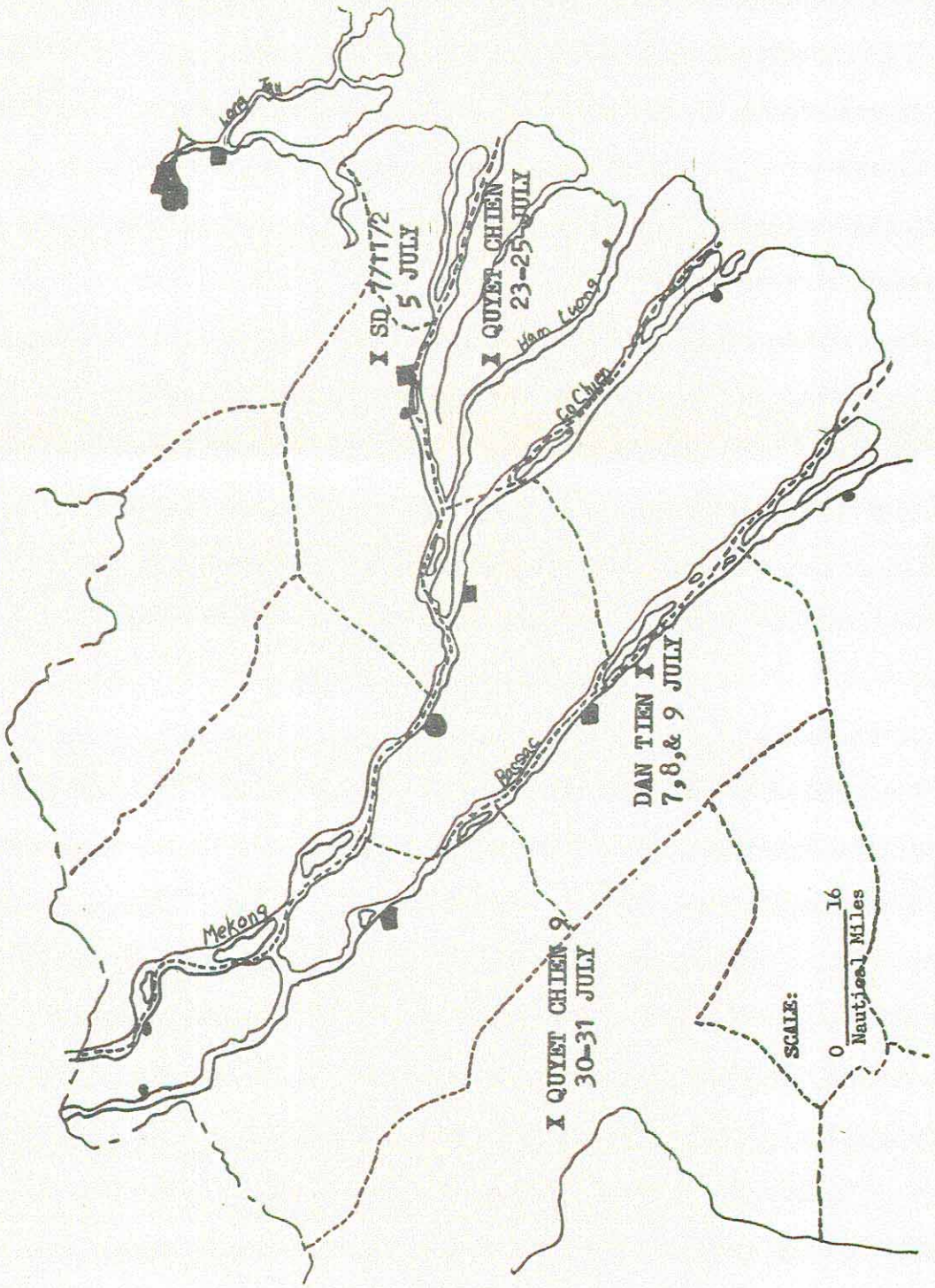
VIETNAMESE NAVY DELTA OPERATIONS



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the month.

RAG 30 units of the Third Riverine Area were operating with ARVN Ranger elements along the Sang Canal, 8 miles southwest of Saigon on 1 July, when enemy personnel were observed attempting to evade the ARVN sweep. The VNN sailors opened fire on the Viet Cong with small arms and grenade fire. The advancing Rangers discovered two enemy bodies at the scene and two AK-47 rifles. Meanwhile a RAG boat captured a third Viet Cong who was hiding along the river bank.

During a tug and barge escort mission on the Vam Co River on 4 July, a RAG 22 VNN coxswain spotted three Viet Cong preparing a B-40 firing position. The RAG boats initiated fire as the enemy attempted to fire on the convoy. The results of the sailors' fire was not determined; however, an ambush on the convoy was averted by the VNN coxswain's alert and prompt actions.

Ten B-40 rockets, enemy clothing and equipment were captured on 6 July as RAG 28 river craft participated in Operation TOAN THANG 205, three miles northwest of Phu Cuong City. The RAG transported 7th ARVN units up the Saigon River in concert with a U. S. 25th Infantry Division sweep of that area north of Saigon. Operation TOAN THANG 207 was organized by the 7th ARVN Infantry Regiment on 9 July and utilized RAG 24/28 boats 3 miles south of Phu Cuong City. Moderate contact was gained with the enemy forces as the RAGs maintained river blocking positions. Six Viet Cong were killed; three Viet Cong, two deserters and two AK-47s were captured as a result

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of this operation.

Transporting ARVN troops northwest of Phu Cuong on 10 July, RAG 28 boats combined forces to conduct Operation TOAN THANG 209. The two-day amphibious operation yielded another four Viet Cong killed while ARVN troops suffered five of their own killed and nine wounded in battle. The RAG advisor reported that numerous bunkers were destroyed by the VNN reconnaissance fire as the RAG boats maintained river security.

RAG 30 units operated south of Saigon in Binh Chanh and Nha Be districts with U. S. Army and ARVN forces conducting amphibious landings and area sweeps. On 23 July the RAG provided troop lift, river blocking and gunfire support to ARVN Rangers from the Can Giouc Stream, 10 miles southwest of the capital city. The VNN sailors reconned the area of operations with 20-mm, .30 and .50 caliber machine-gun fire. The Rangers captured one Viet Cong suspect, one B-40 rocket launcher, three B-40 rounds, and five grenades. In addition, the Rangers reported that the RAG boats' gunfire damaged or destroyed approximately 85 bunkers or structures.

The VNN, advised and supported by USN, USMC and USA personnel, conducted offensive amphibious operations, gunfire and land reconnaissance missions and sweep and clear operations throughout the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ). The VNN's General Reserve Force, RPG 51 and RAG 27, sailed the waterways of the 'Rung Sat' in pursuit of the enemy. River boats and PBR's carried RF troops and Vietnamese Commandos and their USMC advisors for land operations and stood by in river blocking positions and gunfire support.

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USMC Advisory Team 43 personnel continued to provide advice and assistance to the Vietnamese Commandos as they probed the 'Rung Sat' in search of enemy men and materials. Nightly ambush positions were manned and the Commandos often interrupted enemy movements. Scores of Viet Cong positions, staging areas and base camps were destroyed during the sweeps through mangrove areas.

On 7 July, the Commandos were transported by RAG 27 craft along the Upper Dong Tranh River to an area of a recent B-52 raid on the northwest bank, 13 miles southeast of Saigon. The RAG boats reconned the area by fire prior to inserting the Commandos. Five bunkers were discovered undamaged by the raid, two of these were destroyed by the Vietnamese patrol. Many firing positions were destroyed and three booby traps were uncovered. No enemy contact was gained during the sweep.

Again on 10 July Commandos were inserted by Army Slicks for a post-strike sweep of a B-52 raid west of the Thi Vai River, 22 miles southeast of Saigon. The target area was a Viet Cong base camp and munitions factory which was nearly demolished by the Air Force's big bombs. A USN SEAL scout dog located two bunkers and a military structure which the Commandos and Marines destroyed. The land sweep met with no enemy engagement and no enemy bodies were discovered resulting from the air strike. A large quantity of ammunition, general wares and documents were uncovered which were of significant intelligence value. The land operation terminated when the troops were on-loaded to VNN PBR's. This was the first PBR

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operation since their assignment to the RSSZ.

The Commandos returned on 13 July to conduct more post-strike sweeps of the area; due to the thick undergrowth only a small percentage of the strike area had been covered. Once again the scout dog was used to good advantage as shelter, storage bunkers and ammunition were uncovered and/or destroyed by the Commandos. VNN PBR's executed the extraction of the ground force.

A VNN PBR was the first on the scene of an enemy attack on the merchant ship YAKASUNI MARU on the Long Tau River on 17 July. TF 116 PBR's soon joined the VNN PBR's on the firing runs, and, with overhead support of Navy LHFT's, the enemy fire was silenced. RF troops ashore swept the firing positions and discovered two wooden "ladder" type launchers. The launchers were still aimed at the river and were connected to command wires which extended for several thousand meters to the east. These crude launchers proved to be of significant intelligence value and were determined to be 122-mm rocket launchers.

On 19 July a Commando team was fired on by occupants of a sampan, resulting in three Vietnamese wounded. The sampan was sunk by return fire but enemy casualties were not determined. The incident, which took place at Can Gio near the mouth of the Long Tau River, occurred at 2030.

Two Slicks transported Commandos and Intelligence platoons and their Marine advisors to a suspected base camp area 10 miles east of Nha Be

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on 28 July. Army LHFT's prepared the landing zones and the Vietnamese troops were inserted. A base camp, 80 meters in diameter and consisting of several military structures, was discovered; it appeared to be still active. The Commandos destroyed three bunkers and after extraction the LHFT's destroyed two more. Five booby traps were captured by the Commandos.

RAG 27 craft, carrying ARVN and Army troops south along the Ong Heo Stream, 3 miles east of Nha Be, came under a simultaneous watermine and B-40 attack. One monitor took two B-40 hits from the west bank, wounding two PF soldiers. As Army helo gunships covered their withdrawal down stream, the RAG craft were again fired upon from both banks of the stream. Army fixed wing and helo gunships saturated the enemy positions as Navy PBR's medevaced the wounded. Enemy casualties were unknown although two bunkers and a trenchline were destroyed and napalm caused secondary fires and ammunition cook-off.

In the Fourth Riverine Area, RAG 23/31 lifted two ARVN Infantry Battalions and two RF companies for Operation TR/DOAN 12/7 on 1 July. The RAG craft performed blocking missions on the Tien Giang River as the land troops swept into Dinh Tuong Province north of Vinh Long City. The number of enemy killed was not determined; however, one Viet Cong was captured and four suspects were apprehended. The Vinh Long base RAG 31 personnel were awakened at 0345 on 4 July by two explosions in the VNN officers' quarters. One Vietnamese officer was killed by the blast and one other was slightly wounded. At first light, an investigation revealed that grenades had been

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thrown through an open door. Further details of the incident could not be determined.

For the first time this year, on 4 July, the "Vi Thanh Express", or logistic runs between Can Tho and Vi Thanh, completed one transit without an enemy initiated incident. RAG 25/29 craft, two LCVP's, four FOM's, two monitors, three LCM-6's and five LCM-8's carried food, ammunition and POL to Vi Thanh and returned to Can Tho. The RAG advisor commented that this successful transit was attributed to effective coordination and timing of all craft and the placement of river bank security troops prior to the crafts' arrival along the passage. In addition, close and timely convoy escort was provided by the USA LHFT's.

Operation SD 7/11/2 was organized by ARVN units along the Cho Gao Canal on 5 July and was conducted by RAGs 23/31 and 21/33 craft in support of two ARVN battalions, one Ranger battalion and five RF companies. About 8 miles northeast of My Tho the land force met with an undetermined size enemy unit. The RAG advisors reported that there were nine Viet Cong killed during the encounter and that four were captured along with their weapons; three ARVN troops were wounded in the action.

RAG 25/29 participated in the DAN TIEN Campaign on 7, 8 and 9 July on the Bassac River, 11 miles southeast of Can Tho City. The VNN craft provided troop lift, patrol and blocking force operations for the VNMC 3rd and 4th Battalions and ARVN infantry units which conducted land

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operations on the western bank. The troops were transported across intervening rivers by the RAG boats which finally backloaded the troops on 10 July. The area sweep yielded 86 Viet Cong killed, five Viet Cong captured and 20 suspects. Fifteen Vietnamese troops were killed and 42 were wounded during the three-day operation. The next day over 400 RF/PF troops were inserted by water taxi and RAG 25/29 units on May Island, a Viet Cong stronghold in the Bassac River, while TF 116 PBR's provided a blocking force around the island. A TF 116 LCMR provided 5-inch rocket fire in support of the operation. Although the ground troops had sporadic contact with the enemy, 15 Viet Cong were reported killed while four PFs were wounded.

Meanwhile, also on 11 July, RAG 31 river craft patrolled south along the Cai Tau Canal, 6 miles west of Vinh Long in Sa Dec Province, in support of an ARVN operation on the west bank. The VNN sailors were providing flank security and naval gunfire support to the land troops. On three separate occasions the RAG boats drew heavy automatic-weapons and small-arms fire from the east bank of the canal; each attack was suppressed by return fire. A naval landing party of six VNNs and the RAG advisor went ashore after the last attack. Several bunkers were destroyed as the party placed grenades in them. A total of eight Viet Cong were reported killed by the VNN that day. The ARVN force discovered a cache containing weapons, ammunition, clothing and food during the operation on the west bank.

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On 13 July, RAG 21/23 units conducted security and clearance operations in support of a Saigon to Bac Lieu commercial convoy along the Cho Gao Canal, 6 miles east of My Tho. The boats landed six RF companies throughout the passage during which time three Viet Cong were killed and several individual weapons were captured. That same day, RAG 23/31 craft lifted two RF companies south along the Mang Thit River for a similar land clearing operation. At a point 11 miles south-southeast of Vinh Long the land force captured two Viet Cong and took in one other suspect along with a quantity of intelligence documents.

The Vi Thanh Express made another successful run on 15 July although the bank security force met with numerous enemy attacks. The enemy fire was silenced on every occasion and the RAG advisor reported that three RF soldiers were wounded in the action. Once again good coordination between all elements involved proved to be the causal factor for the uninterrupted movement of cargo.

The enemy who plagued the Cai Tau Canal traffic was sought again on 16 July as RAG 23/31 craft participated in SA DEC 9 with five RF companies. While the sailors maintained blocking positions in the canal, the land force made enemy contact 7 miles west of Vinh Long. The operation resulted in seven enemy dead and five Viet Cong captured (of which four were female) plus numerous individual weapons, grenades and mines recovered.

During Operation QUYET CHIEN 2 on 20 July, conducted by RAG 25/29

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craft and two ARVN infantry battalions, two Viet Cong were killed while one ARVN soldier died of wounds, 9 miles northeast of Ca Mau City. Fire from RAG 25/29 escort craft killed six attacking enemy on 22 July as the Vi Thanh Express was returning to Can Tho. The enemy, numbering approximately 30, was unable to interrupt the convoy's passage despite the lack of bank security elements that day.

QUYET CHIEN 3 was conducted by RAG 25/29 boats, two ARVN battalions, a RF boat company and RF/PF units on 22 and 23 July near the Ong Doc River, 10 miles southwest of Ca Mau City. The joint operation yielded 23 enemy dead, one Viet Cong and 10 individual weapons captured and 15 structures and 12,000 kilograms of rice destroyed. There was one ARVN troop killed and another was wounded during the battle.

The QUYET CHIEN Campaign continued for the remainder of the month as RAGs 23/31, 21/33, and 25/29 provided the mobility, gunfire support and river blocking measures for the ARVN inspired amphibious raids. During the period 23-25 July, Operation QUYET CHIEN 7/10/2 was waged in the Kien Hoa Province on the east bank of the Ham Luong River near Oc Island. RAG 21/23 river boats transported and landed three ARVN infantry battalions, two recon companies and elements of the U. S. Infantry Brigade 2/9 in concert with TF 117 units. The ground troops were credited with killing 24 enemy and capturing 33 Viet Cong and eight enemy suspects. Twenty-seven friendly troops, including six

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U. S. Armymen, were killed in the action and 45 men were wounded-- 14 of these were U. S. Army personnel.

Between 24-26 July, RAG 23/31 carried on Operation QUYET CHIEN 15/3 in Sa Dec Province, north of Sa Dec City. The VNN boats lifted three ARVN infantry battalions and supported the joint operation with one APC troop and two RF companies. The land sweep yielded only one female Viet Cong captured although numerous documents of intelligence value and a quantity of medical supplies were uncovered.

RAGs 21/33 continued to pursue the enemy, this time in Go Cong Province from the Cho Gao Canal during Operation QUYET CHIEN GC/7 on 26 July. One ARVN battalion and eight RF companies were reported to have killed one Viet Cong and captured 13 of the enemy along with several documents. A first aid station was destroyed during the operation. The next day, the RAGs sailors participated in QUYET CHIEN 7/12/3, on a small island in the Mekong River in Dinh Tuong Province, northeast of Sa Dec City. The sailors performed river blocking and patrol force operations in the river as RF troops made sweeps of the island. Fifteen enemy were killed, 15 were captured, and 16 suspects were detained. Weapons and medicines were also captured. Two dispensaries and a quantity of diesel oil were destroyed by the ground troops.

Similarly, on 30 July, QUYET CHIEN 7/10/2 was conducted in Kien Hoa Province northwest of the "Crossroads", where the Ba Lai River and

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Giao Hoa Canal cross. RAG 21/33 supported two ARVN infantry battalions, one ARVN Ranger battalion, one recon company and RF units in conjunction with TF 116 PBR's. The area sweep netted one Viet Cong killed and one German Mauser captured. The land troops destroyed seven Viet Cong information stations during the operation.

Can Tho based RAG 25/29 craft participated in Operation QUYET CHIEN SD/21/5, south east of their base, from the Bassac River as four ARVN infantry battalions, the VNMC 6th Infantry Battalion, two ARVN Ranger battalions and RF battalion swept into Phon Dinh Province. The operation, conducted on 30 and 31 July yielded three Viet Cong killed and one Viet Cong captured along with several weapons and a quantity of ammunition and intelligence documents. The marines suffered 10 wounded and eight killed by land mines during the operation.

The last day of the month found the Ca Mau based RAG 25/29 craft conducting Operation QUYET CHIEN 9 with two ARVN infantry battalions, three RF companies and a RF River Patrol Boat company. Operating from the Quan Lo Den Phung Hiep Canal, northeast of Ca Mau City, the VNN sailors maintained river blocking positions as the land force claimed eight killed and one captured.

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VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

During the month of July the six infantry battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps (VNMC) and their USMC advisors operated in the

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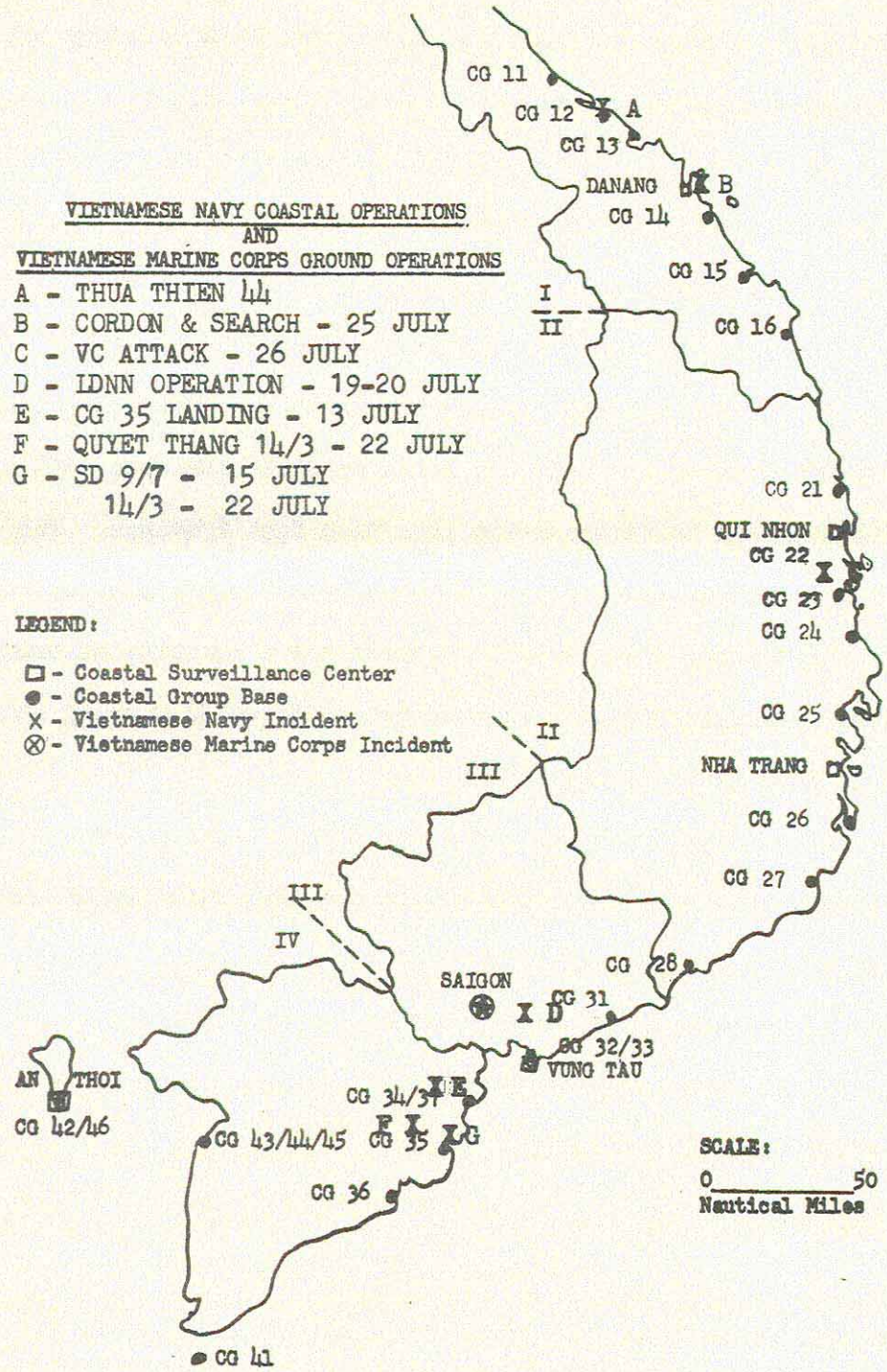

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Capital Military District (CMD) and in IV CTZ. The six battalions and one artillery battalion were committed to combat operations 100 percent of the time in July.

Until 25 July, Task Force A, composed of the 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th battalions, remained in the northeast suburbs of Saigon in Operation TOAN THANG under the operational control of the CMD. Reconnaissance in force, small unit patrols and ambush operations were conducted by the battalions daily in their areas of operations with no enemy contact reported until 16 July. On that day an element of the 2nd Battalion engaged an enemy squad across the Saigon River, about two miles east of the Independence Palace. The marines killed one Viet Cong and captured another while suffering two of their own wounded. Continued daily operations resulted in negative enemy contact for the task force.

On 25 and 26 July Task Force A, the 5th and 6th battalions, relieved Task Force B in IV CTZ near Can Tho. Under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Infantry Division, the 5th and 6th battalions were assigned as a reserve and ready reaction force for Operation QUYET CHIEN. On 30 July the 5th Battalion was temporarily assigned to the MRF in the TRUONG CONG DINH Campaign. The marines was transported down the Can Tho River and the Xa No Canal by RAG 25/29 river craft to the area of operations in Chuong Thien Province 32 miles southwest of Can Tho City. For the next two days the VNMC 5th Battalion engaged an unknown size enemy force. Seventy-one dead were left on the battlefield and four

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were captured at the conclusion of the operation. In contrast, there were two marines wounded in this successful campaign. The marines captured a lengthy list of arms and ammunition as a result of the operation.

Until relieved on 25 and 26 July, Task Force B, the 3rd and 4th battalions, experienced light enemy contact in July except for engagements on 7, 13 and 14 July. In the conduct of Operation QUYET CHIEN, the marines utilized RAGs 25/29 river craft for mobility on the waterways southwest, south and southeast of Can Tho City. On 7 July, the 3rd battalion engaged an unknown size enemy unit 10 miles southeast of Can Tho. When contact terminated nine of the enemy were found dead while the marines had three of their own killed and another 12 wounded. The 3rd and 4th battalions received enemy fire on 13 and 14 July, 10 miles west of Can Tho. The 4th Battalion was being lifted up the Can Tho River by RAG 25/29 craft while the 3rd battalion was helo-lifted 3 miles to the north of the 4th Battalion's position. The results of the operation in that area were seven Viet Cong killed and one captured. The marines suffered three killed and 14 wounded in the action. Continued area probes by small unit patrols yielded negligible results for the remainder of the task force's employment.

When Task Force A relieved them on 25 July, the 3rd and 4th battalions returned to Saigon to join the 1st and 2nd battalions in the CMD.

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The TOAN THANG Campaign was conducted by the newly formed Task Force B with no enemy contact gained for the remainder of the month.

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VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS STATISTICAL SUMMARY
July 1968

VNMC		VC/NVA		
KIA	WIA	KIA	VCC	VCS
20*	45**	91	6	2

*One KIA from friendly hand grenade explosion; one KIA by friendly aircraft; one KIA by friendly PF sentry; nine KIA by mines.

**One WIA from friendly hand grenade explosion; one WIA by friendly PF sentry; 11 WIA by mines.

Weapons Captured

7	Sub Machine gun, 7.62mm, K-50
5	Light Machine gun, 7.62mm, RPD, Type 56
1	82mm Mortar, CHICOM
1	75mm Recoilless Rifle, U.S.
8	Carbine, cal 30, U.S., M1
39	Carbine, 7.62mm, Type 56, SKS
5	Carbine, 7.62mm, Type 53, K44
4	Rifle, CHICOM, 7.62mm, KAR 98
5	Rifle, German, 7.92mm, Mauser
1	Howitzer, U.S., 75mm Pack
1	Mortar, Soviet, 120mm
2	Pistol, signal, 26mm

Ammunition Captured and/or Destroyed

7	Mines, claymore
25	Mines, personnel
38	Mines, anti-tank
90	60mm Mortar rounds
24	Anti-tank grenades, RPG-2 (B-40)
3	TNT, one pound block
10	Fuzes for 60mm mortar ammunition
7	57mm recoilless rifle ammunition rounds
15	Anti-tank grenades, RPG-7 (B-41)
53	82mm mortar rounds

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Ammunition Captured and/or Destroyed

6	Bangalore torpedo
722	CHICOM hand grenades
2	Cases detenators
6	Boxes AK-47 ammunition
20	Tear gas grenades
3	105mm Mines
22,000	Rounds, miscellaneous ammunition
100	Rounds, 81mm morat ammunition
182	Hand grenades, U. S., M-26
275	Rounds, 75mm Howitzer ammunition
45	Kilograms, TNT

Material Captured and/or Destroyed

2	Box medical supplies
100	BA-30 batteries
50	CHICOM batteries
10	Mud and log bunkers (XS 885 980)
5	Magazine, AK-47
1	Mortar sight, 82mm
3	Field glasses, CHICOM
3	Field phones, CHICOM
5	Sights for anti-tank grenade launcher, RPG-7 (B-41)
67	Shovels
200	Kilograms of documents
150	Kilograms of uniforms and web equipment
2000	Feet communication wire
1	Field phone, U.S., EE-8
100	Magazines, assorted quantity of documents

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APPENDIX I

USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
July 1968

	MARKET TIME	GAME WARDEN	Mobile Riverine Force
Detections	109,795	148,814	*
Inspections	42,124	40,687	*
Boardings	22,993	65,931	*
Craft detained	*	2	10
Persons detained	734	1,009	365
Viet Cong suspects	14	80	*
Hostile fire incidents	25	33	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	35 (+85 Prob)	82	216
b. Wounded	5 (+53 Prob)	10	1
c. Captured	2	22	32
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	4	2 USN/7 USA
b. Wounded	4	3	22 USN/57 USA/2 VNMC
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	227	75	24
(2) Structures	367	131	678
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	1	10
(2) Weapons	*	**	324***
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	410	13,103****
(4) Rice (tons)	*	0	1
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	239	272	*
(2) Structures	656	131	*
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	0	*
(2) Helicopters	0	1	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	3	3	13
(2) Helicopters	0	4	*
SAR missions	1	*	2

Remarks: * Information not applicable or not available this date.
** Two 122-mm rocket launchers, seven AK-47 rifles, one Chicom pistol and six B-40 rounds
*** Includes 222 grenades and 15 mines.
**** Includes 333 rockets/mortar/recoilless-rifle rounds

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APPENDIX II

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY (DANANG) STATION HOSPITAL

Erected approximately 80 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) is the largest medical complex in Vietnam -- the Naval Support Activity (NSA), Danang, Station Hospital. It boasts the first frozen blood bank ever to operate in a combat zone.

Construction began on the station hospital in July 1965. In October of that year, the Viet Cong attacked the nearly-completed hospital, causing major damage to buildings and equipment, and its opening was delayed. The hospital opened on 10 January 1966 with 60 beds and was formally commissioned on 17 January 1966. Additional construction by U. S. Navy Seabees over the past two years increased its bed capacity to 600 beds.

Furnished with the latest in hospital equipment, the station hospital's facilities also include a helicopter landing pad, nurses quarters, laboratory building for Naval Medical Research Unit TWO (NMRU-2) detachment, an optical fabricating and dispensary unit, dermatology clinic, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat (EENT) clinic, surgery clinic, urology clinic, orthopedic clinic, neurosurgery clinic, medical clinic, dental clinic, officers' mess, library, and quonset huts for enlisted quarters. Air-conditioning is installed in the hospital area and in some living, messing, and recreation spaces.

An expansion program in recent months also produced several new

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buildings. Included in the construction program were a chapel, hobby shop, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat building, oxygen storage building, four small storage buildings, an 80-100 man barracks and a new lavatory in the north area of the hospital. Plans are also underway for the construction of an amphitheater and a new triage area.

In the first nine months of operation, the NSA Station Hospital admitted 4,548 patients, with 27 percent of them being evacuated out of the country. During this same period, 67 percent of its patients were returned to full duty in-country, after an average 10-days hospitalization.

Total admissions during the period from July 1966 to July 1967 were more than 10,000 patients. Approximately 3,300 of these were combat casualties. In addition, an average of more than 16,000 out-patients are treated each month at the hospital and its dispensaries throughout I Corps. From July 1967 to July 1968, the station hospital admitted 18,683 patients for varied ailments and performed over 12,345 operation procedures in the main operating rooms. Seven thousand five hundred and fifty-three of the admissions were a direct result of combat action. During this same period, 6,491 patients were evacuated out of the country and 6,482 were returned to full duty in-country. In calendar year 1968 which saw the Tet Offensive and Spring Offensive, the hospital averaged nearly 2500 admissions per month.

A staff of about 550 Navy doctors, Medical Service Corps officers,

dentists, nurses, corpsmen and dental technicians is assigned to operate the station hospital and its dental clinics. About 160 other Navy personnel and a like number of Vietnamese employees are assigned to perform such duties as drivers, mess cooks, stewards, etc. In addition, the hospital has assigned a Marine Corps Security unit, a fire department and public works maintenance force.

The hospital is headed by Captain Richard LAWRENCE, MC, USN. He is assisted by a medical administrative officer, boards and committees, Navy chaplains, American Red Cross personnel, and numerous other persons in the medical profession. All basic medical specialties are represented at the NSA Station Hospital with the exception of psychiatry. The specialties are general surgery, orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, pathology, anesthesiology, opthalmology, radiology, internal medicine, otolaryngology, dermatology and urology.

The initial group of nurses, 20 volunteers, arrived at the NSA Station Hospital in August 1967. The nurses' valuable assistance was cited as being more than just a professional adjunct. These Navy women in their white uniforms brought a refreshing, feminine touch to the hospital.

At the outbreak of the Communist Tet (Vietnamese Lunar New Year) Offensive on 30 January 1968, the hospital increased its nurse staff to care for the mounting number of casualties.

Chief Hospital Corpsman Arthur BARTLETT, USN, leading petty officer

Stretcher bearers rush casualties from Medevac helicopters to the receiving area of the Naval Support Activity (Danang) Station Hospital where doctors and corpsmen are ready to begin medical treatment.

in the hospital's emergency receiving unit at the time of the Tet Offensive stated, "We've been pretty lucky. We've had a number of them come in that were almost dead, but with pumps, heart massage and some of the most determined doctors and corpsmen in the world, we've brought them back. Some of the corpsmen work for 24 or 48 hours at a stretch, giving first aid, preparing patients for surgery, wheeling them in and out of operating rooms and helping out in any other way they can." Chief BARTLETT added, "The corpsmen in the field have also been doing a great job keeping these guys going until they get here. I've seen them use everything from bamboo shoots and ballpoint pen casings for breathing tubes to leaves in place of bandages."

The Preventive Medicine Section is also a significant contingent of the hospital. This unit is actively engaged in the battle against infectious and communicable diseases. Composed of officers and enlisted men, specialized in many aspects of preventive medicine (e.g., entomology, bacteriology, sanitary engineering), this group wages campaigns against malaria, encephalitis, cholera, plague and other diseases prevalent in the I Corps Zone. Simultaneously the unit conducts scientific research in the fields of bacteriology, entomology and mammalogy.

Assisting preventive medicine personnel and doctors at the hospital are laboratory technicians serving in several specified laboratories. The laboratories also wage war against disease through test and research.

One of the hospital's busiest laboratories is bacteriology. A monthly

A Vietnamese Popular Forces soldier makes sure Navy dentist Lt. Charles DREW gets a good look at his daughter's teeth. During a visit to Pho An hamlet near Hue Dr. DREW, accompanied by a Navy enlisted dental assistant, treated 95 patients.

average of 6,000 to 8,000 tests are performed to identify disease bacteria. The hematology and serology laboratories perform a variety of blood tests to pinpoint diseases and check a patient's progress. As a result of these tests, the hospital doctors and corpsmen have been able to move effectively detect and treat patients with malaria and other febrile illnesses.

The hospital's blood bank distributes 8,000 to 10,000 units of blood monthly to field facilities north of Chu Lai. About 2,000 transfusions are given at the hospital each month. The blood bank performs 4,000 to 5,000 cross-matches each month. If a cross-match is impossible, due to previous transfusions, frozen blood can be used successfully for the transfusions.

Since its inception, the NSA Station Hospital has worked closely with other U. S. agencies in a vast civic action program in South Vietnam. The hospital's program has been primarily medical assistance, including surgery, to thousands of Vietnamese nationals. Many of the hospital staff -- medical doctors and corpsmen -- have volunteered their services in civilian hospitals, orphanages, hamlets, towns and villages. For the 12-month period ending 30 June 1968, NSA personnel assigned duties in "MEDCAP" teams rendered medical assistance to 32 villages in the greater Danang area. This effort provided medical services for a total of 80,297 outpatients during that year. Station hospital personnel also continued to teach the rudiments of hygiene

and sanitation to the Vietnamese citizens in many areas, including inoculation procedures, assistance in vector control, dental assistance and other specialty care and treatment.

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APPENDIX III
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 activiated 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 I CTZ 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 Aphibious 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 with 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 III
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 LST's.

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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

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ARG (Con't.) propulsion plants. This ship is 442 feet long and mounts three 3"/50 caliber guns. It has a speed of 11.5 knots and a crew of 19 officers and 493 enlisted men.

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

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.

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ATC (Con't.) -The craft can carry approximately 40 combat troops 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 to 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 motor 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

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CCB (Con't.) -crew of 11 enlisted men. The craft also has special armor similar to that installed on ATCs.

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

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.

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

YLLC -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

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LST (Con't.) -of the deckhouse. In addition, the transient berthing facilities on board have been increased to accommodate eight officers and 112 enlisted men. An ancillary role performed by the LST is radar surveillance in support of MARKET TIME units in the area. The ship's speed is 12 knots, and the crew consists of 17 officers and 123 enlisted men.

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

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MSB (Con't.) -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 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.

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

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PBR (MK I) (Con't.) -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 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 caliber gun, one 81-mm mortar and two .50 caliber machine guns. The craft's speed is 37 knots under turbine power and 16

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PG (Con't.) -under diesel power. The crew consists of three officers and 21 enlisted men.

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

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

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

STAB -SEAL Team Assault Boat - An armed version of the civilian runabout; used to land and recover SEAL units.

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STAB (Con't.) -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 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 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 employed on operation MARKET TIME off-shore barrier parols. The radar-equipped

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WHEC (Con't.) -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 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

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YFNB (Con't.) -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. 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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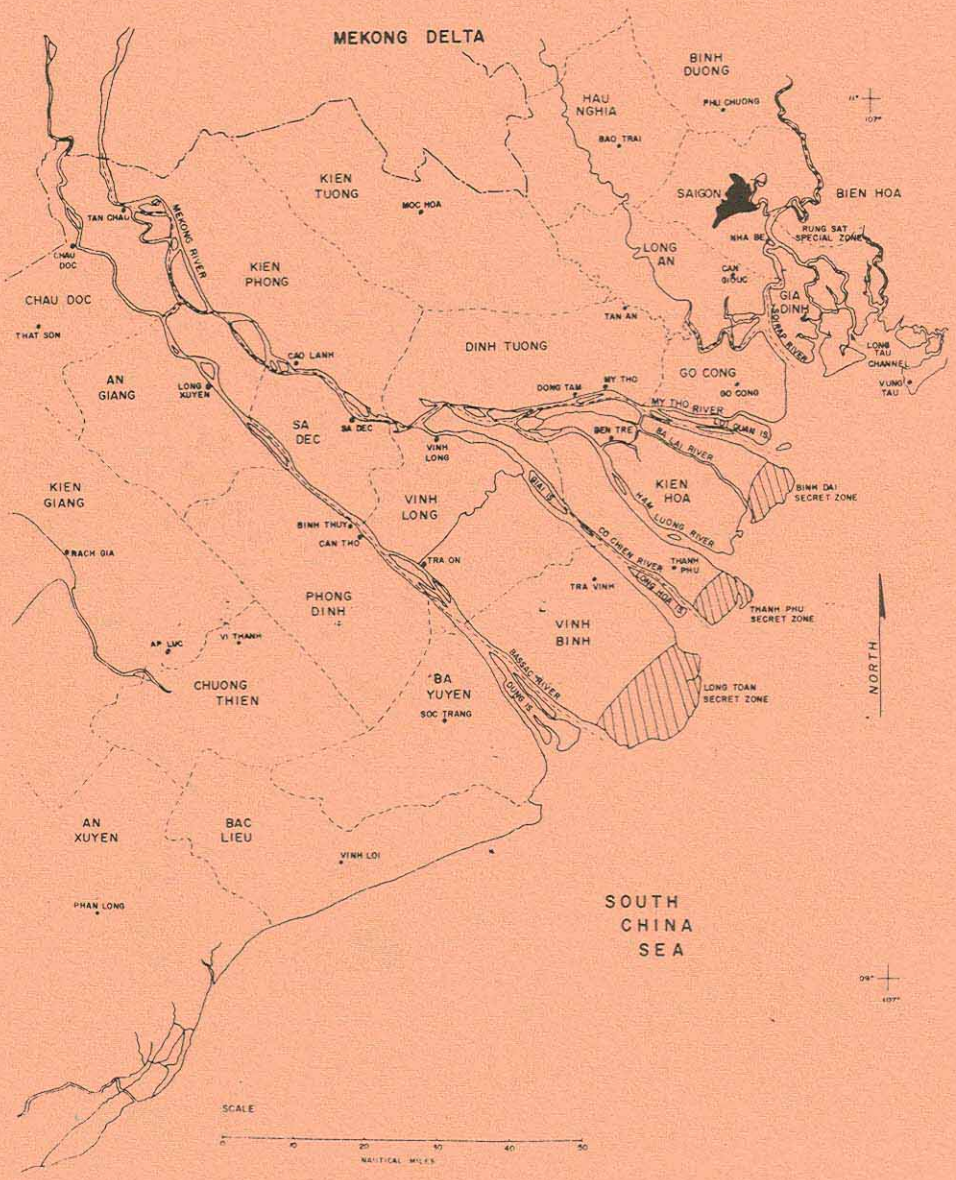

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From: Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)

Subj: U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, July 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. Any adjustments to enclosures (6), (7) and (8) will be reflected in July's Historical Supplement.

J. W. THOMPSON
Flag Secretary

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

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 1)
July 1968

During July MARKET TIME operations continued at a high level. Units were able to maintain high percentages of on station time because of favorable weather. Coastal junk and sampan traffic and fishermen also took advantage of the good weather as indicated by the 108,476 craft detected by the surveillance units. The pace of naval gunfire operations continued to build during the month. An increasing percentage of the missions were fired using spotters and the results reported reflect improved gun damage assessments.

Of the junks and sampans detected, a total of 41,336 were inspected and 22,896 were boarded. The results of these boardings brought the detention of 734 suspicious persons including 14 Viet Cong suspects. Detections of steel hulled vessels transiting MARKET TIME areas during the month totaled 1,319. All were found to be on innocent passage through 788 inspections and 102 boardings.

Exfiltration/infiltration patrols and naval gunfire support were provided for 19 ground operations along the coast. Naval gunfire support missions reached a new high level of 604 for harassment and interdiction, urgent and planned attacks on enemy positions, and in response to 25 hostile fire incidents.

In An Xuyen Province USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC-68) again scored impressive results against Viet Cong positions along the east and west coasts of the Ca Mau Peninsula. Three of the ANDROSCOGGIN's most

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successful days were the 6th, 9th, and 13th. On these dates more than 560 projectiles from the cutter's 5"/38 gun destroyed 47 structures, 25 sampans, one junk, and 18 bunkers; damaged an additional 101 structures, 54 sampans, and 15 bunkers; killed 2 enemy plus an estimated 38 killed, and caused at least 20 large secondary explosions.

On the 10th PCF 22 observed approximately 35 men walking on the beach and several others carrying weapons crossing a nearby river at a point 25 miles south of Chu Lai. The area was taken under fire at the request of the 5/46th Infantry, Americal Division. The personnel scattered into tree-line bunkers as the "Swift" boat's 81-mm mortar killed 4, wounded an estimated 20 others, destroyed 2 structures, and started a fire following a possible secondary explosion.

In An Xuyen Province on the 27th, PCF's 95 and 102 teamed with USCGC WINONA (WHEC-65) to punish Viet Cong recoilless rifle positions at the mouth of the Bo De River. The "Swift" boats acted as decoys proceeding up the river firing their .50 caliber machine guns into both banks. As they turned to head back to sea the enemy opened fire with 3 recoilless rifle rounds achieving one hit on PCF 95 putting a 2 foot by 1½ foot hole just above the water line on the starboard side. As the "Swift" boats continued to engage the enemy with their mortars and machine guns the WINONA joined in the action with her 5"/38 gun. Effective damage control stopped the flooding to PCF 95 and only two minor personnel casualties were incurred. The enemy lost 3 killed and an estimated 1 wounded plus 2 weapons positions destroyed.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
July 1968

Throughout the area of GAME WARDEN operations there was a reduction in enemy initiated activity as the Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army in general remained elusive and avoided contact. The conditions existing were similar to those that prevailed prior to Tet and the early May enemy offensives. Intelligence sources anticipate that another major attack will occur in the near future. GAME WARDEN units, the reduced enemy activity not withstanding, continued to vigorously search out and destroy the communist insurgents making regrouping efforts of the enemy more difficult. GAME WARDEN units continued to support Vietnamese units that were actively conducting offensive operations against the Viet Cong.

On 13 July a Navy armed helicopter was shot down by enemy ground fire. The "Seawolf" crashed on Dung Island, on the lower Bassac River, killing all four crewmen, the only TF 116 personnel killed in action during the month.

On 3-4 July "Seawolves" flying from HUNTERDON COUNTY killed 23 Viet Cong, destroyed five junks, damaged three others and four sampans. All action took place in Kien Hoa Province around the mouth of the Ba Lai River. Two days later GARRETT COUNTY "Seawolves" killed seven Viet Cong while supporting PRUs in contact with a Viet Cong company 5 miles northwest of Phu Vinh. On the night of 8 July

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PBRs operating on the Dong Nai River 13 miles east of Saigon, in defense of the city, intercepted 3 sampans. The PBRs, supported by "Seawolves" attacked and killed 3 NVA and destroyed the sampans. The PBR sailors captured two 122-mm rocket launchers, one sighting device and a number of top secret documents. On the night of the 16th, SEALs operating in the same general area ambushed a sampan with five occupants. The sampan was taken under heavy fire killing two and probably the remaining three. Captured were four AK-47s, a CHICOM 7.62 pistol and 410 rounds of ammunition.

On 17 July a U. S. Army LCU inadvertently crossed the Cambodian border, on the Mekong River, due to faulty navigation and was detained by the Cambodians (The craft still has not been released). To prevent a recurrence of this incident PBRs patrolling the upper Mekong became "watch dogs" for potential border violators. On 21 July the PBRs intercepted four more lost U. S. Army LCUs near Tan Chau.

On 30 July SEALs raided a Nuoc Mam factory 9 miles southeast of My Tho in search of a reported arms cache. Thirteen Viet Cong were captured, including the factory owner. No arms were found but in the area of the factory were combat fences, pungi pits and offensive bunkers.

During the month there was a resurgence of shipping attacks on the Long Tau. Three merchant ships were harassed (two U. S. and one Japanese) with little or no damage inflicted.

Enclosure (2)

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
July 1968

The month of July was characterized by the increased mobility and striking power of the Mobile Riverine Force as a result of the new MRF organization and expansion. Mobile Riverine Group (MRG) ALFA (CTG 117.1) was composed of the major ships of the Mobile Riverine Base, River Assault Squadron's 9 and 11, the 4/47th and the 3/60th Infantry battalions plus the 3/34th Artillery Battalion. The newly formed MRG BRAVO (CTG 117.2) consisted of USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST 1170), River Assault Squadron 13 and the 4/39th Infantry Battalion. Although there were a series of riverine ambushes along the waterways of the Mekong Delta, the Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army combatants remained elusive and avoided major contact with the MRF, until the last two days of the month.

On 10 July for the first time in its 18 months in the Delta the MRF (MRG ALFA) transited the shallow Co Chien River and operated from an anchorage 7 miles southwest of Mo Cay in Kien Hoa Province. The summary results of this 4-day operation were 5 Viet Cong killed, 132 suspects detained, 5 prisoners captured and 79 bunkers destroyed. There was one soldier wounded during the engagement.

On 13 July at 1136 a Task Group 117.2 ATC, beached at the mouth of the Ba Rai Stream on the Tien Giang River, was mined. The underwater explosion occurred 7 miles southwest of Cai Lay and ripped an 18-inch

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hole in the boat's starboard fuel tank. Approximately two hours later another ATC, less than 500 meters from the initial mining incident, suffered an underwater explosion which ripped an 18-inch hole in its lazaret. Both boats were returned to Dong Tam for repairs.

Moving into Vinh Binh Province MRG ALFA conducted a successful 3-day operation (15-17 July) in the Cang Long and Chau Thanh districts killing 62 Viet Cong, capturing 5 prisoners and destroying 18 bunkers and 20 booby traps. Friendly casualties amounted to 1 soldier killed and 20 others wounded, 2 of whom were Navymen.

On 23 July MRG ALFA commenced a 3-day operation in the Giong Trom and Truc Giang districts of Kien Hoa Province about 10 miles southeast of Ben Tre. At 0840 that morning while proceeding south on the Ben Tre Stream to land troops, riverine craft of TE 117.1.3.1 were ambushed 6 miles southwest of Ben Tre by rockets, recoilless rifles and automatic weapons from well-entrenched enemy positions on both banks of the river. This was the first of six separate ambushes in this area and the most serious of the day. One ASPB received several severe hits from the enemy rocketeers, was beached and sank; however, the boat was recovered the following day. Another ASPB was damaged in the fierce firefight which killed 2 sailors and wounded 10 other Navymen. The troops were immediately landed but the enemy escaped. There were also two Armymen killed and three soldiers wounded in a series of minor skirmishes. Except for the small unit river skirmishes on

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23 July, the reputed Viet Cong concentrations in Giong Trom District avoided heavy contact with the MRF. Cumulative enemy losses were 12 killed, 12 prisoners captured, 120 suspects detained, and 142 bunkers destroyed.

Meanwhile on 25 July MRG BRAVO operating on the Vam Co Dong River in Long An Province 17 miles southwest of Saigon near the Ben Luc Bridge captured 10 large sampans. These boats were laden with ammunition, clothing and a large amount of medical supplies which strongly indicated that MRG BRAVO located a Viet Cong crossing area and thwarted a possible crossing. Cumulative results of MRG BRAVO operations (25-30 July) were 19 killed; 6 weapons and 10 sampans captured; 340 bunkers and 20 sampans destroyed. One soldier was killed and two others were wounded during this period.

MRG ALFA relocated from Vinh Long to Can Tho on 28 July and commenced a three-battalion operation near Vi Thanh, 29 miles southwest of Can Tho on 30 July. This was the largest Allied venture of the war into this Viet Cong dominated territory, and also marked the MRF's deepest penetration into the Mekong Delta. Later that afternoon the 5th Vietnamese Marine Corps Battalion supported by U. S. Navy gunboats from TE 117.1.3.1 cornered an enemy element in a bunker complex along the Cai Lon River in Chuong Thien Province and accounted for the majority of the 55 Viet Cong killed. On 31 July the VNMC 5th Battalion maintained heavy contact with the fiercely resisting guerrillas and

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in coordination with U. S. Army helicopter gunships killed 47 more of the enemy. Total casualties inflicted on the Viet Cong were 102 killed (incomplete), while friendly forces had 2 VNMC and 1 USA soldier wounded. The assault troops of the MRF also captured a large weapons cache which included: 68 weapons, 324 mortar rounds, 220 grenades, 13 claymore mines, two 75-mm pack howitzers, one 106-mm howitzer and 12,500 rounds of small-arms ammunition.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
July 1968

The VNN minesweeping craft, 10 MLMS and 6 LCMMs now provide three-fourths of the mine-countermeasures effort on the Long Tau and Dong Nai rivers, the main shipping channels to Saigon. On 2 July, the VNN MLMS 115, preceding Army barges on the Dong Nai River, cut and released a 250 pound mine. The Navy advisor aboard the minesweeper guided the barges past the mine and called in EOD personnel. The mine was later determined to have been put in the water recently; it was wrapped in a Hanoi newspaper dated March 1968. This was a command detonated mine and the first of its type to be found in over 17 months. It was in the same area where several Army barges were destroyed 2 months ago by Viet Cong from the shoreline.

Among the forces reorganized within the CMD to prohibit the enemy's travel and seek him out in the marshy lands south and east of Saigon, the VNN River Patrol Group (RPG) 51 has already shown its worth and versatility. On 10 July in one of the first operations since its inception last month, RPG 51 units transported RSSZ Commandos and their USMC advisors to an area 22 miles southeast of Saigon to conduct post-strike sweeps of a recent B52 raid. The VNN PBRs provided mobility for the land troops again and again throughout the month. On 17 July, a VNN PBR was the first on the scene of an enemy attack on the merchant ship YOKASUNI MARU on the Long Tau River. USN and VNN PBRs covered by Army LHFTs effectively returned and suppressed any further enemy fire.

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On 19 July, the VNN took possession of four U.S. Navy "Swift" boats. The assumption of responsibility for two more MARKET TIME stations by these PCFs culminated over 6 months of intensive training with U.S. Navy personnel for some 71 VNN officers and enlisted men. The number of MARKET TIME areas controlled solely by the VNN now totals eight and will continue to increase with the aim of eventual VN take-over of all MARKET TIME patrol stations presently manned by the U.S. Navy.

The six infantry battalions and one artillery battalion of the VNMC with USMC Advisors were committed to operations 100 percent of the time. Until 25 July, Task Force A, composed of the 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 6th Infantry Battalions, remained in the northeastern suburbs of Saigon in Operation TOAN THANG under the operational control of Capital Military District. Task Force B was composed of the 3rd and 4th Infantry Battalions until 25 July, and operated in IV CTZ under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Infantry Division. Reconnaissance in force and cordon and search operations resulted in light enemy contact in both areas. On 25 and 26 July respectively, the 5th and 6th Battalions were air-lifted to IV CTZ, and as Task Force A was under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Infantry Division. On the same dates the 3rd and 4th Battalions respectively were relocated to Saigon to form Task Force B with the 1st and 2nd Battalions.

Enemy contact remained at a low level until 30 July when the 5th Battalion in IV CTZ, operating in close coordination with the MRF, engaged an estimated enemy reinforced platoon in Chuong Thien Province. Again on

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31 July, the Marines reported heavy enemy contact in the same vicinity. Confirmed totals as of this writing are not available due to continuing action.

Enclosure (4)
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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS
July 1968

In the area of psychological operations naval units continued an active broadcasting program. The VC/NVA reaction to the broadcasts was not as aggressive as in the past as fewer speaker missions drew hostile fire. Heavy emphasis was placed on Chieu Hoi themes in light of reported low state of VC/NVA morale. Themes used included the failure of the VC/NVA to achieve victory on the battlefield and that the VC/NVA leaders have deceived, lied to, and forced their troops into suicide missions. Emphasis was placed on the futility of the VC/NVA efforts. During the month at least eight Hoi Chanhs rallied to Navy craft. On one occasion 2 Hoi Chanhs turned in three CHICOM rifles when they rallied to PBR sailors conducting a MEDCAP on Tam Phong Island about 6½ miles northeast of Vinh Long.

Civic action activities were continued at a vigorous pace by naval units throughout South Vietnam. Over 10,000 Vietnamese were treated during MEDCAPs conducted by U. S. and Vietnamese Navymen. The navymen were enthusiastically received by the villagers as the program gained support from the populous. PBRs began conducting MEDCAPs in remote and neglected areas in the Delta achieving results that were extremely satisfactory and gratifying to all concerned. This effort demonstrated to another group of people the GVN/FWMAF interest in their welfare and simultaneously cut the roots from the

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VC appeal in these less prominent areas. At Cam Ranh Bay, the U.S. Navy teamed with the Vietnamese Navy and U.S. Army and built a new elementary school for the dependent children of the Vietnames Navy Recruit Training Command personnel.

AID has requested that the number of Seabee Teams be increased to aid the revolutionary development program. The outstanding work being performed by these units in civic action work is once again manifested by this request. There are now 15 teams deployed in-country actively involved in rural road and bridge improvements, new construction projects (assisted by the villagers) and repair of damaged buildings. Attending to the medical needs of the populous, corpsmen assigned to the teams treated at least 10,000 patients.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
July 1968

	MARKET TIME	GAME WARDEN	Mobile Riverine Force
Detections	109,795	149,559	*
Inspections	42,124	34,393	*
Boardings	22,998	66,005	*
Craft detained	*	9	10
Persons detained	734	1,009	365
Viet Cong suspects	14	80	*
Hostile fire incidents	25	33	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	35 (+84 probable)	78	216
b. Wounded	5 (+47 probable)	8	1
c. Captured	2	20	32
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	4	2 USN/7 USA
b. Wounded	4	4	22 USN/57 USA/2 VNMC
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	227	71	24
(2) Structures	367	133	678
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	1	10
(2) Weapons	*	**	324***
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	410	13,103****
(4) Rice (tons)	*	0	1
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	239	272	*
(2) Structures	656	116	*
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed			
(1) Surface craft	0	0	*
(2) Helicopters	0	1	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	3	4	13
(2) Helicopters	0	5	*
SAR missions	1	*	2

Remarks:

* Information not applicable or not available this date.
** 2 122-mm rocket launchers, 7 AK-47 rifles, 1 Chinom pistol and 6 B-40 rounds
*** Includes 222 grenades and 15 mines.
**** Includes 333 rockers/mortar/recoilless-rifle rounds

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY
July 1968

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

COASTAL FORCE	Searched Junks	Searched People	Detained Junks	Detained People
I NZ	22,629	92,441	16	427
II NZ	25,236	76,814	56	327
III NZ	15,076	40,422	0	5
IV NZ	4,991	17,743	1	9
Sub-totals	67,932	227,420	73	768
FLEET COMMAND PATROL SHIPS	1,995	9,375	6	22
RIVERINE AREA CRAFT	7,302	27,903	0	1
TOTALS	77,229	264,698	79	791

#VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA KIA: 17 VC CAPTURED 2 VC SUSPECTS 2

VNMC KIA: 8* WIA 27*

Remarks:

Figures shown reflect totals for the period 1-20 July only.
* 2 killed and 1 wounded by friendly fire.

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Enclosure (7)

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
July 1968

PROGRAM:

	Man Days	Expenditures (VN$)
Economic Development	8	35,000
Education	171	118,120
Social Welfare	681	195,870
Transportation	6	1,371
Refugee Assistance Support	173	80,458
TOTAL	1,039	430,819

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: 44,134

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	Number
Schools	44
Hospitals/dispensaries	10
Orphanages	40
Others	9

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

	Percent
Other FWMAF	*
RVNAF	*
U.S. civilian voluntary agencies	*
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	*

* Information not available this date.

Enclosure (8)

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