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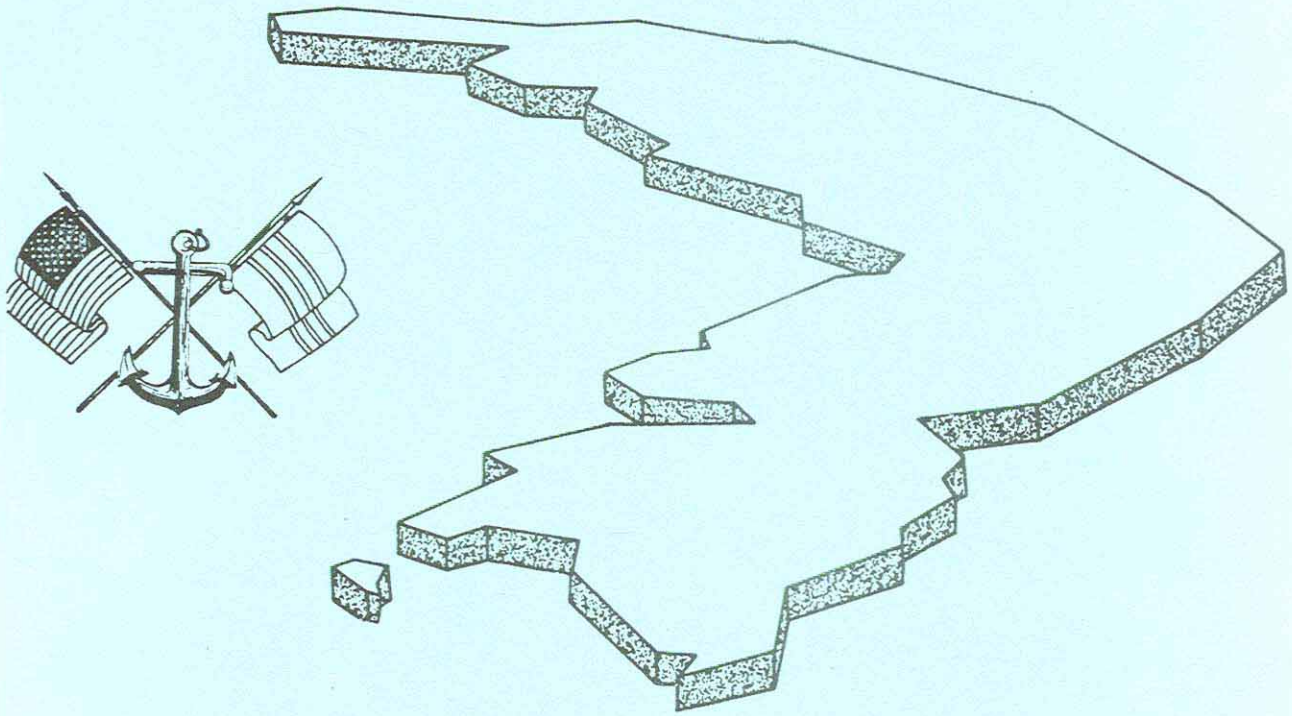

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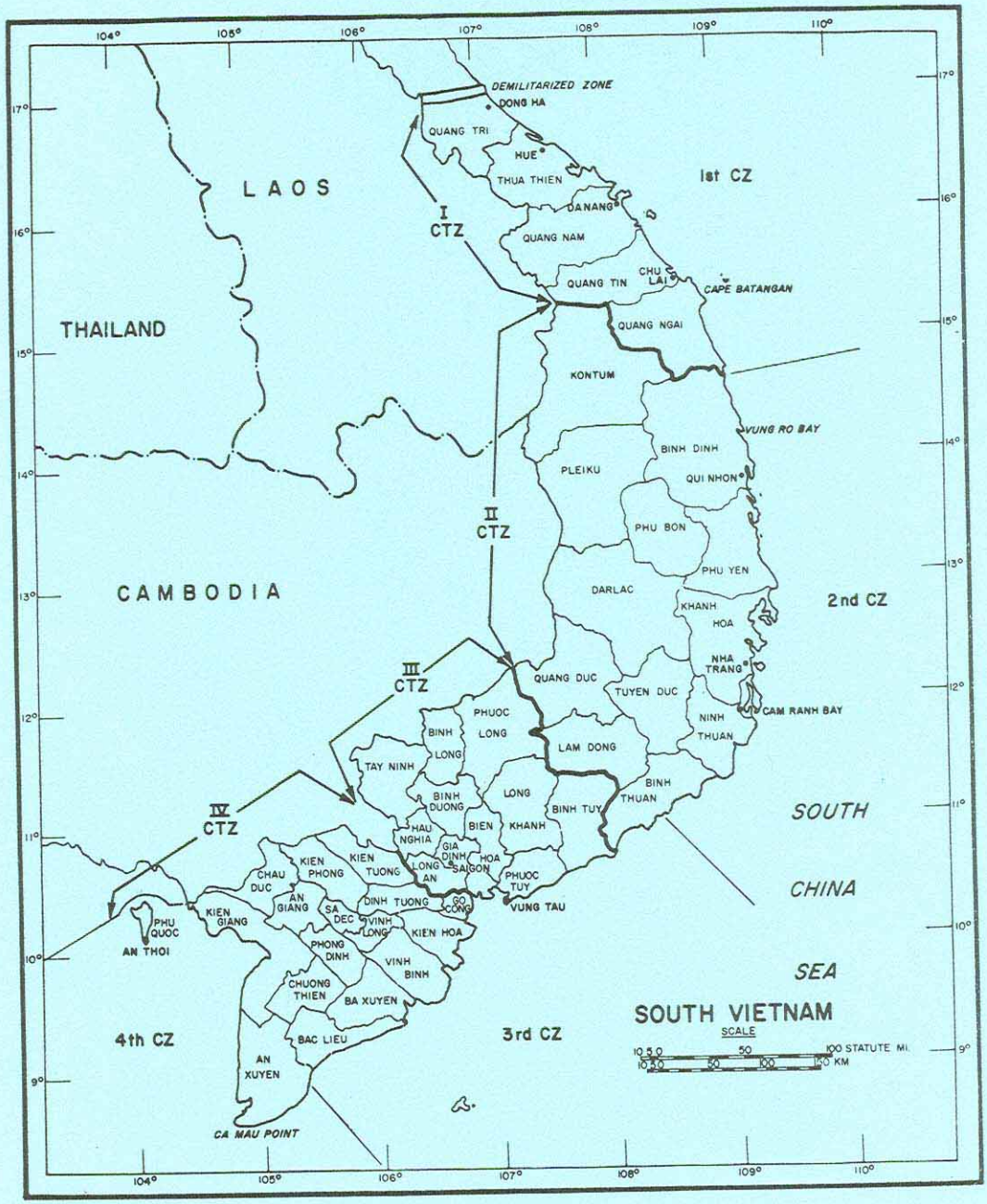
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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FOREWORD

The month of May saw a continuation of hostile action on all fronts. The Vietnamese Navy assisted by their U. S. Navy advisors continued to demonstrate a willingness and ability to meet and defeat the enemy.

U. S. Navy forces engaged in a large variety of actions which included river ambushes, gunfire support, amphibious landings and salvage operations. Acts of valor by Navymen were numerous. One example occurred on 12 May when the hamlet of Giang Long, located about 3 miles northwest of Phu Vinh, was attacked and overrun by the Viet Cong. Storekeeper Third Class Donald H. ZILLGITT, USN, a SEAL, led the Tra Vinh Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (PRU) and two companies of Regional Force troops to counterattack and drive the enemy from the hamlet. The units came under heavy fire and were pinned down in a rice paddy. Heroically exposing himself, Petty Officer ZILLGITT led his unit in an attack which forced the enemy to withdraw. Still leading his unit, and under intense fire, ZILLGITT continued to advance until he was mortally wounded, however, the PRU's continued to press forward, gained their objective and routed the enemy.

Petty Officer ZILLGITT's heroic actions prevented the PBR's from being overrun during their initial engagement and enabled them to gain the initiative and drive the Viet Cong from their prepared positions.

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CHRONOLOGY

Date		Event
1 May	-	USS VALLEY FORGE (LPH8) requested PCF 15, PCF 80 and USCGC POINT LOMAS to proceed to the scene of a helicopter crash at sea approximately 22 miles northwest of Tan My. Four surviviors were rescued. A fifth man was listed as missing when the search ended at 0105. p. 4
	-	Commander Task Force CLEARWATER received five additional PBR's, bringing their strength up to 15. p. 29
	-	Three ATC's were damaged and three RAD 112 sailors wounded by enemy artillery fire directed on Naval Support Activity Cua Viet. p. 70
2	-	RAG's 21/33 and 23/31 participated in Operation TRUONG CONG DINH 7/SD/14 on the Cho Gao Canal, 10 miles northeast of My Tho. During the 2-day operation there were 194 Viet Cong killed, 3 Viet Cong and 64 weapons captured. p. 139-140
	-	RAG 25 craft were ambushed on the Mang Thit/Nicholai Canal, 10 miles east of Can Tho. B-40 and recoilless rifle rounds struck a monitor, a commandament and an LCM; killing 2 VNN sailors and wounding 10 others, including 2 USN advisors and an ARVN soldier. p. 139
	-	PCF 55 poured 600 rounds of .50 caliber fire into an enemy position in the afternoon in response to a request by the 5/46th Infantry Battalion, Americal Division. It was later determined that the PCF's gunners had killed seven Viet Cong and flushed out a hardcore Viet Cong who was captured by the Americal troops. p. 4
2-3	-	Elements of the MRF landed Vietnamese Marines and the 4/47th Battalion in Giong Trom District for Operation TRUONG CONG DINH. During the 2-day operation light enemy contact was made with only one Viet Cong killed, 38 suspects detained and 32 bunkers/structures destroyed or damaged. p. 53-54

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Date		Event
3 May	-	Coastal Group 35 units, three RF companies and eight PF platoons, participating in Operation TRUONG CONG DINH VB/30, killed 5 Viet Cong, uncovered a sizeable ammunition cache and destroyed 30 huts in Vinh Binh Province. p. 126
	-	Admiral HYLAND visited Mobile Riverine Base. p. 71
	-	RAG 25 craft debarked an ambush team which netted 5 Viet Cong killed, 1 Viet Cong and 3 weapons captured. p. 140
4	-	RAG 22 river craft transported an ARVN reconnaissance company along the Vam Co Dong River, 13 miles southwest of Saigon, for a cordon and search operation. The operation netted 10 Viet Cong killed, 2 B-40 rockets and a launcher captured. p. 134
5	-	PCF 78 answered an urgent gunfire support request from the First Marine Division. The PCF hurled 16 rounds of 81-mm mortars into enemy mortar and small arms positions 19 miles north of Danang. A sweep of the area the next day confirmed 2 mortar positions destroyed and 2 Viet Cong killed. p. 4-5
	-	Task Force "A", composed of the 1st, 5th, and 6th Infantry battalions and Batteries "A" and "B", VNMC artillery battalion, received coordinated ground and mortar attacks, east of the Saigon River; at the Bien Loi Bridge in northeast Saigon; and at the Xa Lo Bridge (Route 1A) on the eastern part of the city. Sweeps conducted of these areas resulted in 58 Viet Cong killed, 4 captured and one suspect detained. The marines remained in their positions killing 11 more Viet Cong and captured 3 the next day. p. 146-147
	-	Coastal Group 35 supported a PRU company during Operation TRUONG CONG DINH VB/27, north of Phu Vinh. One PRU was killed as were four Viet Cong. p. 126
	-	RAG 26/32 units provided transport, blocking and gunfire support for three RF/PF companies during an operation in Kien Phong Province, 13 miles northwest of Sa Dec City, which resulted in 25 Viet Cong killed and eight captured with individual weapons. p. 141

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Date		Event
5 May	-	PBR 130 while investigating reported enemy recoilless rifle positions on the upper Bassac River, was hit by recoilless rifle and automatic weapons fire, resulting in two Revolutionary Development (RD) cadre and two USN killed, three USN wounded and 80 percent of the boat demolished. p. 41-44.
	-	Coastal Groups 12 and 13 ambush teams engaged the enemy, resulting in one Viet Cong captured and one wounded by Coastal Group 12, three miles southeast of their base at the mouth of the Perfume River; and one Viet Cong killed by Coastal Group 13 sailors, two miles west of the CG 13 base at Cau Hai Bay. p. 118-119
	-	A RAG 26 river team supported an RF company in a land sweep along the Upper Bassac River, north of Chau Doc City, which netted 20 Viet Cong killed and 7 captured, in addition to a small weapons cache. p. 141
6	-	Coastal Group 35 surprised an enemy platoon on the Co Chien River, killing two Viet Cong and capturing significant amounts of weapons and documents. p. 126-127
	-	A RAG 26/32 LCM was attacked and 80 percent of the boat was destroyed west of Chau Doc. Five VNN sailors were wounded. p. 141
	-	LSSL 226 sustained minor damage and five VNN sailors were wounded while transiting the Co Chien River, six miles east of Vinh Long. The ship returned the enemy fire. p. 116
7	-	PCF 40 destroyed four structures, heavily damaged two bunkers and claimed a probable kill of two Viet Cong seen running from a bunker south of Vung Tau. The "Swift" boat was operating in response to a naval gunfire support request. p. 13
	-	USCGC MINNETONKA unleashed 40 rounds of 5" gunfire on enemy positions 27 miles north of Ca Mau Peninsula. During the shelling one secondary explosion and fire were observed. Later intelligence revealed the cutter's guns had killed three and wounded 15 Viet Cong. p. 16

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Date		Event
7 May	-	A sweep by Task Force A resulted in 17 Viet Cong killed and 4 captured. p. 148
	-	Repeated mortar attacks emanated from Kien Hoa Province; one mortar round narrowly missed the USS BENEWAH (APB35). p. 54
	-	Coastal Group 12 units swept the northern tip of Phu Vang sub-sector netting 20 suspects, including 20 persons without proper identification papers and 20 draft dodgers and deserters. p. 119
8	-	USCGC MINNETONKA's gunfire, directed in the same area as the previous evening, killed four Viet Cong and wounded seven (probable). p. 16
	-	Three monitors, two ASPB's and an ATC flamethrower were hit in two separate ambushes, with a total of 24 U. S. Navymen wounded. p. 56-57
	-	Two Coastal Group 23 junks teamed up with two RF companies in Song Cau sub-sector in a search operation which resulted in two Viet Cong killed and four captured. p. 123
	-	Coastal Group 23 units, in response to intelligence reports, swept a village in northern Qui Nhon Peninsula. A brief firefight resulted in the capture of three Viet Cong. p. 123
8-11	-	Sweep operations by MRF elements in the Ba Lai area resulted in heavy enemy contact. During the 4-day operation there were 18 Viet Cong killed, 40 bunkers destroyed, 30 suspects detained and many weapons captured. p. 59
9	-	USS JENNINGS COUNTY killed 17 Viet Cong and wounded 3 others while bombarding Viet Cong positions along the Co Chien River, north of Phu Vinh. p. 27
	-	Coastal Group 25 units and three RF platoons detained seven Viet Cong suspects in Van Ninh Peninsula. p. 123
	-	The merchant ship HYRIA came under attack 12 miles southeast of Saigon on the Long Tau River. Enemy fire returned but no contact. p. 138

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Date		Event
9 May	-	A RAG 24 commandament was hit by two B-40 rockets, killing two VNN sailors and wounding two others, while transiting the Doi Canal near southern Saigon. p. 134
10	-	RAG 24 units killed eight Viet Cong and captured two weapons during a cordon and search operation in Gia Dinh Province, near Thu Doc. p. 134
	-	PBR's 72 and 75, assigned to provide a security force for the grounded 17,000-ton merchant ship, STEEL RECORDER, demonstrated versatility by changing from river surveillance to salvage in clearing the grounded ship. p. 31
	-	Two Coastal Group 13 junks while firing on suspected Viet Cong junks were taken under fire by a 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines' helicopter. The mishap, resulted in one VNN sailor killed and three wounded. p. 119
	-	LSSL 229 suffered seven wounded when ambushed on the My Tho River, 5 miles north of Vinh Long. The ship's pilot house was hit and after steering was employed. p. 116
11	-	Four Coastal Group 12 junks were credited with five Viet Cong killed during a blocking and NGFS operation for a USMC and PF sweep of Phu Vang sub-sector. p. 119
	-	RAG 25/29 detachment on the Canh Hoa River, 8 miles southeast of Ca Mau, accounted for 50 Viet Cong killed while providing gunfire support for ARVN units ashore. p. 142
12	-	Three U. S. Navymen were wounded, one seriously injured, following an enemy automatic weapons attack on PCF's 98 and 102 on routine patrol near the mouth of the Bo De River. p. 15
	-	A SEAL, SK3 Donal H. ZILLGITT, USN, led PRU's in successful counter-attack on entrenched Viet Cong positions, recapturing a village; killing 17 Viet Cong and capturing several weapons. p. 38-39
	-	Coastal Group 35 craft participated in a joint-operation on the south bank of the Co Chien River, resulting

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Date		Event
12 May (Cont'd)		in at least 53 enemy killed and 5 Viet Cong taken prisoner. p. 127-128
	-	Navy "Seawolves" sank three enemy craft and killed 17 Viet Cong in three separate actions in the Vinh Long-Ben Tre area. p. 38
13	-	Coastal Group 14 sailors with the aid of other American and Vietnamese forces fought off a massive enemy attack on the group base at Hoi An. At least 20 Viet Cong were killed; friendly forces sustained 4 VNN killed, 20 PF troops and numerous civilians wounded. p. 119-120
	-	Vietnamese marines, with the aid of U. S. Army gunships and Vietnamese Air Force air strikes, repulsed an enemy advance leaving 63 enemy dead on the battlefield. p. 148
14	-	ATC-112-2 sustained two RPG-7 rocket hits while anchored on the Cua Viet River, 1½ miles from Cua Viet. p. 70-71
	-	PBR's and "Seawolves" supporting an RF security patrol in Cho Loch sub-sector accounted for 11 Viet Cong killed and 3 wounded. p. 35
	-	Coastal Group 35 killed seven Viet Cong who were engaged in an attack on a friendly village 2½ miles west of the group base. p. 128
	-	SEAL Team Detachment ALFA, Eighth Platoon engaged an 82-man Viet Cong force along the Cambodian border. With "Seawolf" and U. S. Army air-cover the Viet Cong were driven back into Cambodia suffering 24 killed and 40 wounded. p. 25-27
	-	BM1 James E. WILLIAMS, USN, received the Medal of Honor from the President of the United States in ceremonies held in Washington, D.C. p. 28-29
	-	Coastal Group 22 personnel captured five Viet Cong in lower Qui Nhon Peninsula. A subsequent sweep of the area located 20 caves with multiple Viet Cong stores. p. 124
	-	Small unit patrols accounted for 19 Viet Cong killed and one enemy officer captured. p. 148

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Date		Event
15 May	-	The merchant ship TRANSGLOBE came under attack while transiting the Long Tau River. p. 138
	-	Army elements of the MRF killed 47 enemy troops in a day-long battle, 3 miles southwest of Mo Cay. p. 62
16	-	Coastal Group 36 sunk a Viet Cong junk near Dung Island on the Bassac River, killing seven Viet Cong and capturing arms and documents. p. 128
16-21	-	An infantry sweep, supported by Coastal Group 12 units during Operation LAM SON 224, uncovered 15 Viet Cong bodies, while suffering one ARVN killed and 7 wounded during the operation. p. 121-122
17	-	Coastal Group 14 units destroyed 53 bunkers during a sweep of an island in the De Vong River. p. 120
	-	U. S. Army forces, supported by RAG 30, destroyed more than 100 bunkers and killed 20 Viet Cong southwest of Saigon. p. 135
	-	MRF units provided transportation, NGFS and blocking forces in support of a sweep operation which netted 41 Viet Cong killed, 5 captured and 52 suspects detained. p. 63
17-18	-	RAG 26 boats landed and supported RF/PF companies in a sweep operation which resulted in 16 confirmed and 9 probable Viet Cong killed; one Viet Cong, a suspect one deserter, and several weapons were captured. p. 143-144
	-	VNMC 6th Battalion, conducting area searches, engaged an estimated enemy company killing 30 Viet Cong and capturing assorted weapons and war materials. p. 148-149
18	-	In the final engagement of a tri-service, 2-day operation in Can Giouc, 17 Viet Cong were killed. The overall operation netted 126 Viet Cong killed, 180 bunkers destroyed, 5 bunkers and 22 prisoners captured. p. 64
	-	Operation TRUONG CONG DINH SD/9/22, a joint effort which included RAG 23/31, tallied 108 Viet Cong, one Viet Cong and 3 suspects captured. p. 143-144

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Date		Event
18 May	-	Three MRF craft were damaged, 14 sailors and a soldier wounded, in an ambush on the Lo Canal. p. 63-64
18-19	-	PBR's landed an Army patrol and provided gunfire support when the patrol came under enemy fire. When the patrol was backloaded, PBR's illuminated and shelled the area killing 6 Viet Cong and destroyed a decoy sampan. An Army patrol landing the next morning accounted for 9 Viet Cong killed, one sampan and several weapons captured. p. 32
19	-	The ANCO QUEEN came under attack while transiting the Long Tau River. Relief units killed 12 Viet Cong and captured a rocket launcher and 2 AK-50's. p. 138
19-20	-	U. S. Army forces, with RAG 30 in continual support, captured 2 Viet Cong, destroyed 78 bunkers, and uncovered significant enemy arms caches. p. 136
20	-	Coastal Group 13 junks sunk one sampan west of the coastal group base. p. 121
	-	Responding to a call for immediate illumination, USCGC POINT COMFORT, encountered heavy .50 caliber enemy fire. The ship directed 49 rounds of 81-mm fire into the source of the hostile fire, in addition to providing the requested illumination. An unconfirmed report revealed that 15 Viet Cong were killed as a result of the ship's action. p. 10
21	-	RAG 30 supported U. S. Army units operating south of Saigon; two Viet Cong were killed, two sampans and 15 bunkers destroyed, and four automatic weapons captured. p. 136
22	-	POINT ORIENT captured six North Vietnamese officers (1 Captain, 5 Warrant Officers) during a spot-check aboard a junk. p. 7-9
23	-	A Coastal Group sweep with "Seawolf" support, accounted for five Viet Cong killed; quantities of food and equipment captured; three bunkers and other equipment destroyed. p. 129-130
	-	A village, where Coastal Group 33 personnel were conducting "psywar" operations, was overrun. p. 124

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Date		Event
24 May	-	Action involving Coastal Group 32/33 and RF/PF units resulted in three Viet Cong killed and three captured; three bunkers destroyed; and amounts of enemy equipment and documents captured. p. 130
	-	Coastal Group 24 and Tuy Hoa sub-sector police nabbed 19 draft age males during a sweep of Hon Chau Isle. p. 125
25	-	TRUONG CONG DINH/SD 7/20 yielded nine Viet Cong killed, seven captured and three suspects detained. p. 144-145
	-	Moderate enemy contact was encountered by task force battalions resulted in 15 Viet Cong killed and 13 suspects detained. p. 149
	-	VNMC Task Force B engaged an unknown-sized enemy force, resulting in 33 enemy killed. p. 152
	-	"Seawolves" accounted for an estimated 16 Viet Cong killed during an air strike against a reported Viet Cong battalion in a treeline north of Sa Dec. p. 37
26	-	USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN killed seven Viet Cong and wounded one during a naval gunfire support mission. p. 17
	-	The 1st and 2nd battalions engaged an estimated enemy battalion; 32 Viet Cong killed, 5 enemy and numerous weapons and equipment captured, and 3 suspects detained. p. 149
26-27	-	In 7 separate ambushes, 16 MRF craft were damaged, 2 sailors killed and 23 wounded. p. 65-59
27	-	Coastal Group 12 units conducted Operation NGUYEN PHOUC 2, resulting in 4 Viet Cong suspects, 8 deserters and 11 people without proper papers detained. p. 122
	-	Task Force units were credited with 34 enemy killed while defending their Gia Dinh positions. p. 149
29	-	TRUONG CONG DINH/DT/41, an effort by RAG 21/33 and 6 RF companies, accounted for 22 Viet Cong killed and numerous weapons and documents captured. p. 145

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Date		Event
29 May	-	The 2nd Battalion, encountering heavy enemy contact, killed 28 Viet Cong and captured 5 near Cholon. p. 151
	-	A RAG 30 Vedette was sunk by enemy B-40 rockets on the Dong Ngai River. p. 137
29-30	-	A MRF 2-battalion strike operation resulted in 15 Viet Cong killed, 1 captured, 81 bunkers destroyed and 100 suspects detained. p. 69-70
30	-	Coastal Group 26 personnel and Cam Ranh Special Zone police netted 7 junks and 33 suspects. p. 125
31	-	The 2nd Battalion uncovered 217 enemy graves and captured 17 enemy personnel and numerous weapons north of Cholon. p. 151
	-	Enemy recoilless rifle rounds slammed into the barrack ship USS COLLETON (APB36), anchored near Ben Tre. p. 70
	-	Task force units engaged two enemy battalions in a furious battle, killing 127 Viet Cong, capturing 6 Viet Cong, along with numerous weapons. p. 150
	-	The total strength of U. S. Naval personnel under the operational control of COMNAVFORV was 32,666. In addition, U. S. Navy personnel assigned to III Marine Amphious Force was 3,865, while U. S. Coast Guard strength was 461.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

Generally excellent weather conditions brought junk and sampan activity in the coastal waters and harbors to a high level during May. Units of Operation MARKET TIME and Operation STABLE DOOR detected 147,950 craft this month. A total of 45,087 of these craft were inspected and 23,122 were boarded by the coastal and harbor patrols. Some 131 junks and sampans and 949 suspicious persons were detained for investigation as a result of the boardings.

In addition, efforts to fully employ the naval gunfire capabilities of Task Force 115 ships and craft continued to show results. During May the total number of missions of all types fired by these units increased to over 350 from the 242 missions carried out in April. Improvements in the nature and number of targets assigned, as well as increased utilization of the naval units in exfiltration patrols during ground sweeps, have resulted from the experience and better coordination with ground forcesacquired over the past months.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

The weather conditions which favored the heavy fishing and coastal traffic during May also permitted all MARKET TIME stations to be manned through most of the month. Operation MARKET TIME units detected 106,493 junks and sampans. Of these, 39,247 were inspected and 21,521 were boarded. An additional 1,368 steel-hulled craft were detected in MARKET TIME patrol areas with 924 of them inspected and 98 boarded by patrol

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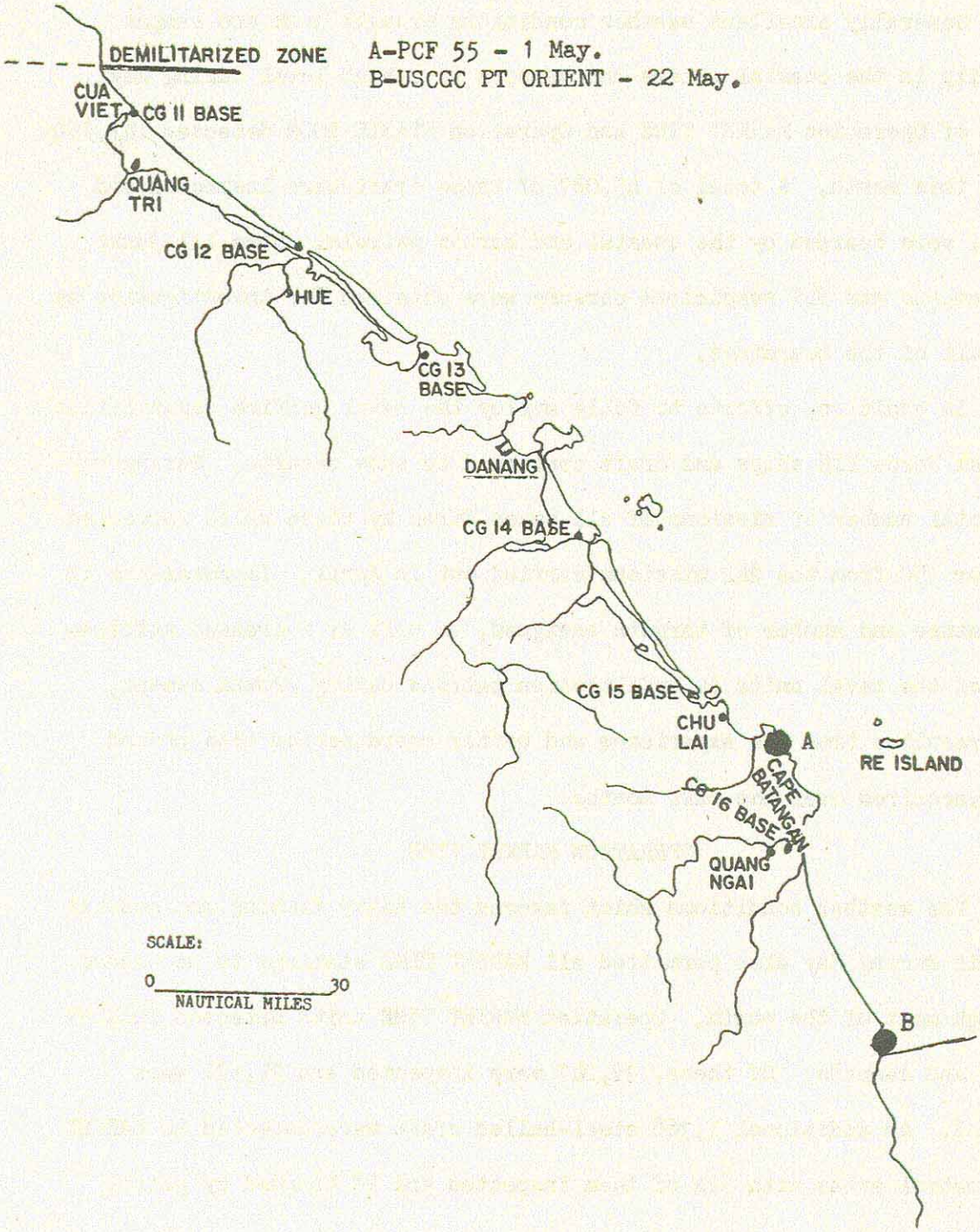
OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE



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units. The boardings and searches resulted in the detention of 124 junks or sampans and 752 suspicious persons.

Along the coast MARKET TIME forces carried out 357 naval gunfire missions for support of ground units, harassment and interdiction, suppression of hostile fire, or against targets of opportunity observed during patrols. Ground operations were supported by gunfire and/or exfiltration patrols on 16 occasions during May. Action was initiated by hostile fire 45 times and there were 6 additional cases of evading junks or sampans being taken under fire. Most of the action was concentrated in the First and Fourth Coastal Zones, accounting for over 240 of the total missions fired. Other than in the Fourth Coastal Zone many of the missions were unobserved by spotters. However, the results which were verified by spotters, ground sweeps, or intelligence include:

43 Viet Cong killed (25 probable, 18 by body count)

25 Viet Cong wounded (23 probable)

33 Junks or sampans destroyed

82 Structures destroyed

16 Junks or sampans damaged, and 60 structures damaged

First Coastal Zone

With the weather steadily improving throughout the month patrols in the First Coastal Zone were able to maintain maximum coverage of their areas. A total of 51,017 junks and sampans were detected with 16,522 of them inspected and another 10,392 craft boarded. Although many of the

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more than 140 naval gunfire missions were conducted without a spotter for harassment and interdiction, First Coastal Zone units also fired on over 30 targets in response to calls from ground units and authorities along the coast. In addition, they participated in eight ground operations and fired their guns in response to hostile fire on five occasions.

In response to a request from USS VALLEY FORGE (LPH8) on the evening of 1 May, PCF 15, PCF 80 and USCGC POINT LOMAS were sent to the scene of a helicopter crash at sea about 22 miles northwest of Tan My. The MARKET TIME units arrived in the area by 2130. Four survivors were rescued after having been in the water since 2056. The search for the fifth man in the aircraft contined until 0105 when normal patrol operations were resumed.

At about 1430 on the 2nd, PCF 55 received an urgent naval gunfire support request from the 5/46 Infantry Battalion, Americal Division. A reconnaissance sweep of an area 14 miles southeast of Chu Lai by A Company of the 5/46th was taken under enemy automatic weapons fire. The "Swift" boat complied by firing 600 rounds of .50 caliber fire into the enemy position. As the ground operation continued it was determined that the PCF's gunfire had killed seven Viet Cong and flushed out another captured by the Army force. It was later reported that the prisoner was a hard core Viet Cong and the "best intelligence source from this area to date."

Another urgent request was received from the First Marine Division late on the night of 5 May. In this action PCF 78 was called on to silence enemy mortars and small arms firing at a Marine combined action company near

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a coastal village 19 miles north of Danang. The enemy fire was suppressed with 16 rounds from the PCF's 81-mm mortar. Two mortar positions were destroyed and two Viet Cong were killed according to reports from a sweep of the area the next day.

After 2 days of rehearsals on 4 and 5 May PCF 18 and PCF 57 successfully landed a 26-man reconnaissance platoon from the 5/46th Infantry at a point 6 miles south of Danang between 0200 and 0245 on the 7th. Using two UDT rafts for the final transit to the beach and engine noise and supporting cover from PCF 57, PCF 18 quietly approached the shoreline to land the troops in two waves.

At 1930 on 6 May PCF 19 closed the shore to investigate a report of two junks closing the beach in response to light signals on the southern shores of Chon May Bay. Following warning shots at the two junks being pulled up on the beach the "Swift" boat came under automatic weapons fire from the treeline. PCF 19 fired illumination and .50 caliber fire into the area destroying the two junks and later directed Marine artillery fire into the area.

On the 16th, PCF 101 received a call for urgent naval gunfire support from Vinh Loc subsector authorities. A large number of Viet Cong had been observed leaving a position about 3 miles east of Vinh Loc and were believed to be preparing for a mortar attack on the subsector location. From 2045 to 2130 PCF 101 fired her 81-mm mortar on the suspected enemy positions resulting in the destruction of four structures and unknown personnel

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casualties. Later at 0415 on the 17th, PCF 16 conducted a harassment and interdiction mission into the same general area at the request of the Vinh Loc subsector. Two structures and a large rice cache were destroyed and two Viet Cong were probably killed by 16 high explosive rounds from the "Swift" boat's mortar.

At 0815 on the 17th, a shore party from USS DIACHENKO (APD123) conconducting beach survey operations, received automatic weapons fire at a position 38 miles southeast of Danang. PCF 81 was directed to provide covering fire and support extraction of shore party. The "Swift" boat expended 1,000 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition and was joined in firing on the enemy position by units of Coastal Group 15. In addition a spotter aircraft from Quang Ngai called in fighter bombers which bombed and strafed the area. All personnel ashore were recovered with no injuries. On the 19th, USCGC POINT GAMMON provided cover for the DIACHENKO during beach survey operations 40 miles south of Quang Ngai.

At 0115 on the 24th, PCF 78 observed muzzle flashes from enemy artillery firing on Marine positions at Cua Viet. The enemy battery was silenced within 15 minutes by mortar fire from the MARKET TIME craft. The next day between 2345 and 0025 at the request of the Third Marines PCF 13 and USCGC POINT GAMMON teamed up against an unknown number of North Vietnamese troops dug into foxholes just north of Cua Viet. With the "Swift" boat providing illumination fire and Marine spotting, POINT GAMMON saturated the target area with high explosive and white phosphorous fire from

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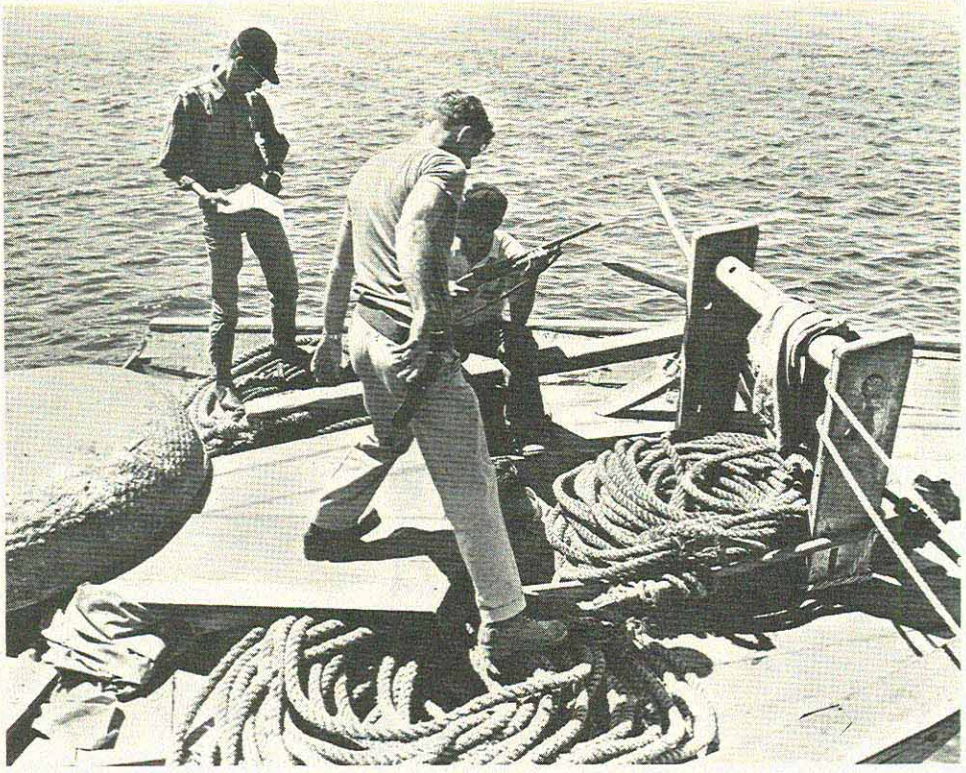

"Swift" boat crewmen search a junk during a routine boarding in the Gulf of Tonkin. The Vietnamese Navy petty officer (extreme left) acts as interpreter and checks the cargo manifest, junk book and identification papers of the persons on board.

her 81-mm mortar.

Two incidents involving the inspection of fishing junks were especially significant. During the inspection of a 45-foot junk containing six Vietnamese males at a point about 20 miles off the coast, 45 miles south of Quang Ngai on the 22nd, USCGC POINT ORIENT became suspicious of the junks registration papers and cargo. The papers appeared almost brand new but were dated from four to six years old and

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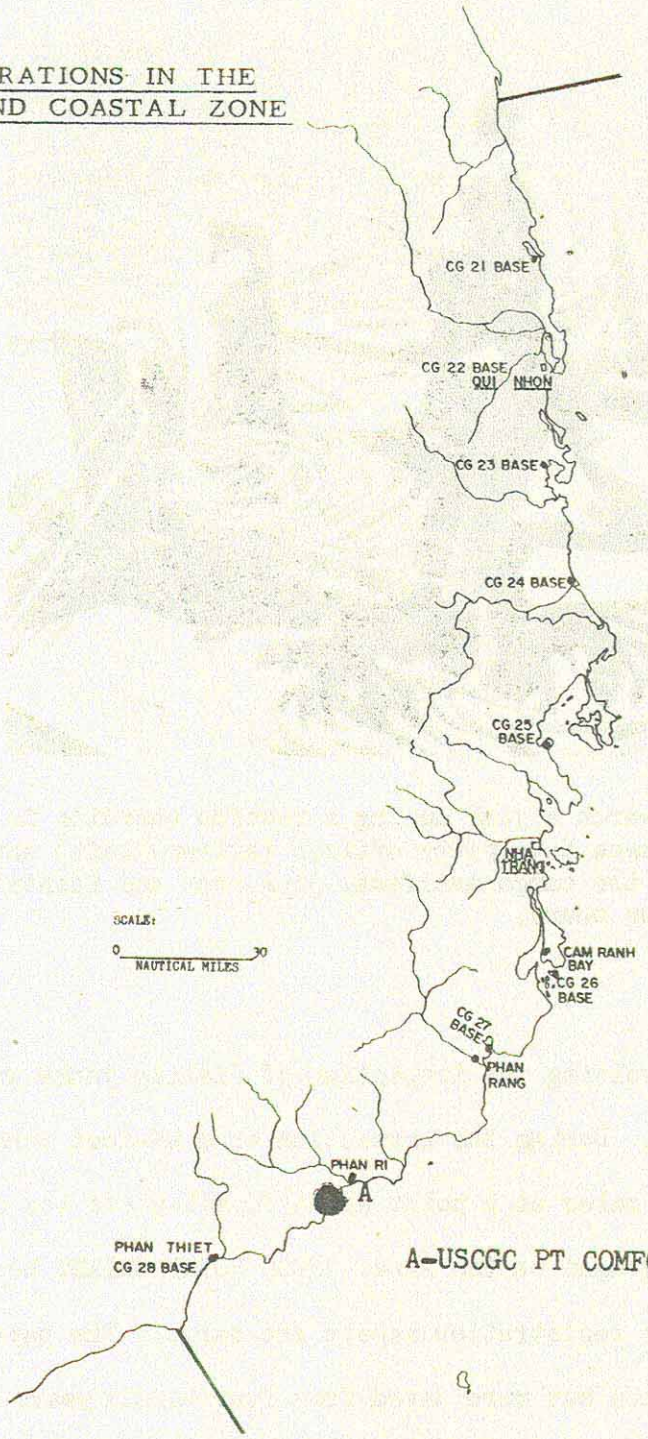
OPERATIONS IN THE
SECOND COASTAL ZONE



A-USCGC PT COMFORT - 20 MAY.

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did not contain any Vietnamese Navy stamps. The cargo consisted of large amounts of rice and salt plus a small quantity of medicines. The suspects were turned over to Vietnamese Navy officials whose interrogation revealed that the alleged fishermen were actually a North Vietnamese Army captain and five warrant officers. On the 28th, about 5 miles north of Cua Viet, PCF 58 intercepted a small junk containing three males waving a white flag. The men stated that they were North Vietnamese fishermen and wanted to Chieu Hoi in order to come to South Vietnam to avoid service in the North Vietnamese Army. They were turned over to the nearest induction center.

Second Coastal Zone

Coastal traffic was light in the Second Coastal Zone during May. Junk and sampan detections totaled 36,781 with 16,163 inspections and 6,519 boardings. Support of ground operations by infiltration/exfiltration patrols or naval gunfire was provided on six occasions. Additional requests for naval gunfire support and harassment and interdiction missions by Second Coastal Zone units numbered more than 50. Hostile fire initiated significant action by "Swift" boat patrols during the month.

Two actions on the 6th and 9th were typical of the support provided for ground operations along the coast. Sector authorities requested PCF 97 to seal off a Viet Cong escape route during a coordinated VNN and ARVN sweep of an area 8 miles east of Phan Rang on the 6th. As the ground forces moved through the operating area toward the sea PCF 97 fired 35 rounds from her 81-mm mortar into the most likely avenue of escape by the Viet Cong.

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Target coverage was reported as outstanding by the ground units. A two platoon sweep of a narrow peninsula 32 miles northeast of Nha Trang by Popular Force troops on the 9th was supported by PCF 44. After escorting the civilian junk carrying the Popular Force troops from an early morning rendezvous in northern Hon Khoi Bay to the landing point, the "Swift" boat proceeded to the seaward side of the peninsula where a blocking patrol was maintained during the sweep.

While investigating a possible infiltration attempt about 10 miles southwest of Phan Thit on the evening of 17 May, PCF 96 came under enemy fire when 200 yards from the shoreline. The hostile fire was quickly suppressed by the "Swift" boat's gunners. Normal patrol of the area was resumed after a check of the beach revealed no sign of an infiltration attempt.

A 0200 attack on Phan Ru on the 20th brought a call for immediate illumination to USCGC POINT COMFORT (WPB-82317) from the Phan Ly Sub-sector. As the cutter closed the beach to comply she came under .50 caliber enemy fire. Illumination was provided as requested and 49 rounds of 81-mm mortar fire were directed into the source of hostile fire. An unconfirmed report of 15 enemy killed was received following this action which eventually involved U. S. Air Force and VNN units as well as the POINT COMFORT.

A Chieu Hoi who surrendered to an IUWU-1 unit near Qui Nhon on the 28th indicated that other Viet Cong in his hamlet guerrilla platoon also

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desired to rally and his willingness to make a live psyops broadcast to his friends. The Chieu Hoi, the Assistant Naval Intelligence officer from Qui Nhon, two officers from IUWU 1, and Coastal Division 15 Psyops officer were taken to the village about 10 miles south of Qui Nhon by PCF 91 the next day. After encountering a group of about 10 Viet Cong in the village, who fled into the mountains to the north, the "Swift" boat continued to move south and resumed the broadcast. After about a half hour four men were observed on the beach a mile south of the village waving a white flag. Broadcasting by the five Hoi Chanhs continued for more than an hour without further results.

On 30 May, USCGC POINT GLOVER was requested to provide naval gunfire support against an enemy position 30 miles southwest of Phan Rang by Tuy Phong Subsector authorities. The Coast Guard vessel complied with 12 rounds from her 81-mm mortar killing two of the enemy and wounding two others.

Third Coastal Zone

Junk and sampan activity in the Third Coastal Zone remained much lighter than in the First or Second Coastal Zones. However, the 9,645 detections of indigenous craft during May represented an increase of nearly 4,000 over the April figure. More than 40 percent of the craft detected were inspected and another 22 percent were boarded. More than 40 naval gunfire missions were carried out and "Swift" boats were engaged by hostile fire 10 times during the month.

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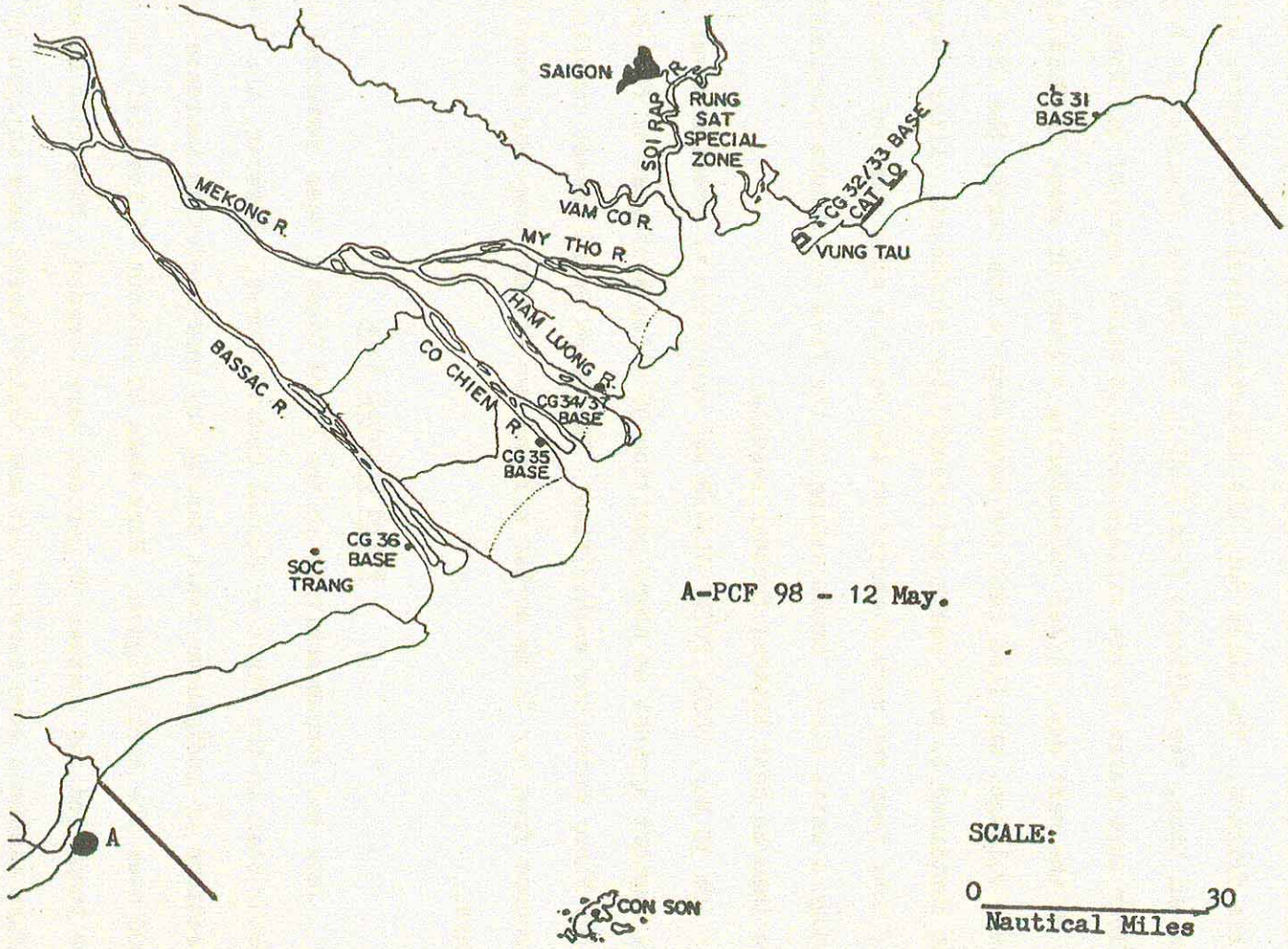
OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



A-PCF 98 - 12 May.

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Four beached sampans were sighted by PCF 54 in Kien Hoa Province about 22 miles southwest of Vung Tau on the 6th. Three of the craft were carried off out of sight when taken under fire by the "Swift" boat. Small arms fire was received from the area during the action. Damage to the enemy included the destruction of two structures and one damaged sampan. Personnel casualties were unknown. No hits were scored on the MARKET TIME unit by the enemy. In the same general vicinity on the 7th, PCF 40 responded to a sector request for naval gunfire on a Viet Cong base camp. During this mission four structures were destroyed, two bunkers heavily damaged, and two Viet Cong seen running from a bunker were probably killed.

On the 9th, PCF 40 acted as a blocking force for an ARVN sweep of an area about 5 miles east of Go Cong. During the operation heavy automatic weapons fire was directed at the ground unit from a position within range of the "Swift" boats mortar. The enemy fire was quickly suppressed and Viet Cong troops observed moving across an open area were also taken under fire. The weapons of PCF 40 killed at least three of the enemy with two more probably killed in the action.

Hostile fire greeted PCF psyops/Chieu Hoi broadcasts directed at the Than Phu Secret Zone on five occasions between the 9th and 19th of the month. The enemy fire was quickly silenced each time and the broadcasts were continued. The targets were not taken under heavy mortar fire due to the nature of the broadcasts. When PCF 40 returned heavy small arms

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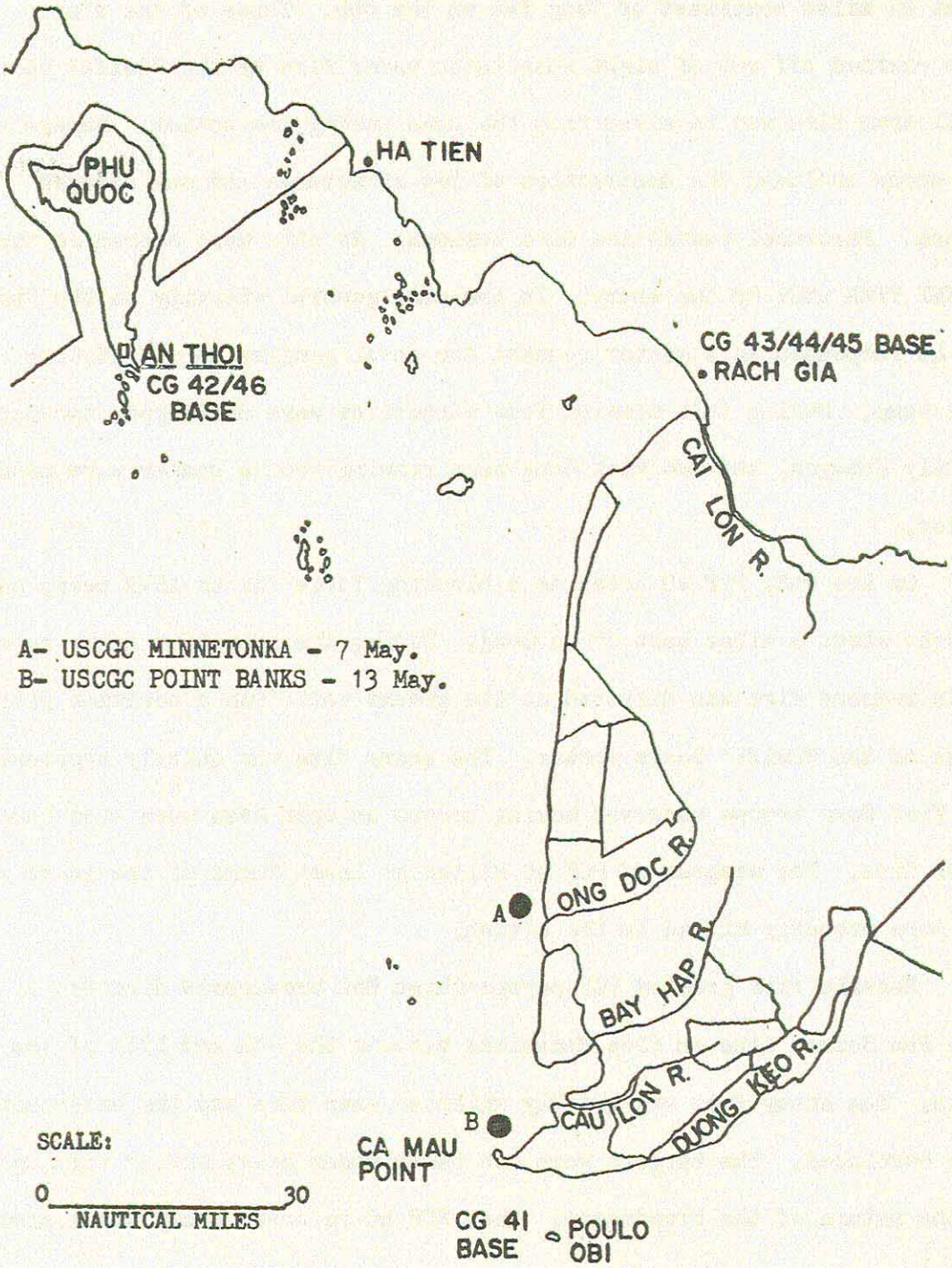
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



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fire received on the morning of the 14th, a large secondary explosion was observed.

PCF 102 and PCF 98 were proceeding to investigate a small radar contact near the mouth of Bo De River, 10 miles east of Tan An, on the evening of the 12th when they received heavy automatic weapons fire from the treeline. PCF 98 was hit by one 57-mm recoilless rifle round in the gun tub wounding three men; one was seriously injured. Another round passed through the pilot house without detonating. The "Swift" boats evaded out of range as they could not match the heavy volume of fire directed at them. During the brief engagement two mortar rounds were observed to hit the recoilless rifle position apparently putting at least that enemy weapor out of action.

Fourth Coastal Zone

Increased utilization of the naval gunfire capabilities of MARKET TIME units in the Fourth Coastal Zone was apparent during May. Over 90 missions were carried out including 17 engagements initiated by hostile fire. Routine patrol activity remained at a high level for this area with the detection of 9,050 junks and sampans. More than 30 percent of these craft were inspected and an additional 20 percent were boarded.

A Vietnamese outpost five miles southeast of Ha Tien came under heavy enemy fire on the evening of 3 May. As PCF 73 closed the beach in response to the urgent request for gunfire support it was greeted by

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automatic weapons fire. Two .30 caliber rounds struck the main cabin of the "Swift" boat shattering two windows. The enemy fire was suppressed with the mortar and .50 caliber response from the MARKET TIME unit. One Navyman received minor cuts from the flying glass.

PCF 6 came under heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire while on patrol 15 miles southeast of Ha Tien on the afternoon of the 5th. The enemy fire was silenced by 27 mortar and 700 fifty caliber rounds which were directed at the position ashore by the "Swift" boat. No hits were sustained by the MARKET TIME unit.

On the evening of the 7th, USCGC MINNETONKA (WHEC 67) fired an harassment and interdiction mission against the suspected position of a Viet Cong company 27 miles north of Ca Mau Peninsula. During the mission one secondary explosion and subsequent fire were observed. Intelligence sources later revealed that the 40 rounds from the cutter's 5"/38 gun had killed 3 and wounded 15 of the enemy. Later in the same general area in the early morning of the 8th, a similar mission was carried out by the MINNETONKA. The results of this firing included four enemy killed plus an additional seven probably wounded.

Alert action by USCGC POINT BANKS on the 13th routed a Viet Cong unit from a camp on Ca Mau Peninsula. Personnel were observed on the shore as the cutter closed for a naval gunfire mission against a bridge target. After taking the area under mortar and machine gun fire destroying the bridge and nearby sampans, the cutter's landing party was sent ashore

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to investigate. Personnel of the landing party recovered small arms ammunition, food supplies, and many documents. Units of Coastal Group 41 later joined in the reconnaissance by small arms fire of the area around the camp.

On the 26th, USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68) conducted a naval gunfire mission against a suspected Viet Cong concentration just north of the mouth of the Ong Doc River. Results reported by the sector authorities credited this mission with killing 7 Viet Cong and wounding one.

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MARKET TIME UNITS

During May the Vietnamese Navy had an average of five PGM's and two PCE's on MARKET TIME patrols daily. In addition, an LSSL and MSC were also used for a number of patrols. In the Fourth Coastal Zone the Royal Thai Navy HMTS PGM 12 was assigned to a patrol station for more than half of the month.

Navy patrol aircraft from four patrol squadrons operated on MARKET TIME air barriers during May. Operating from U-Tapao, Thailand, a detachment from Patrol Squadron TWENTY-SIX (VP 26) manned the Southern Air Barrier with P3A "Orions." From Cam Ranh Bay a detachment from VP 50 operated Orions and two detachments from VP 6 and VP 17 operated SP2H Neptunes. On 1 May the Central and Southern Air Barriers were combined into a single Southern Air Barrier with a five-hour transit time by P3A.

The following U. S. Seventh Fleet Ships operated as MARKET TIME units

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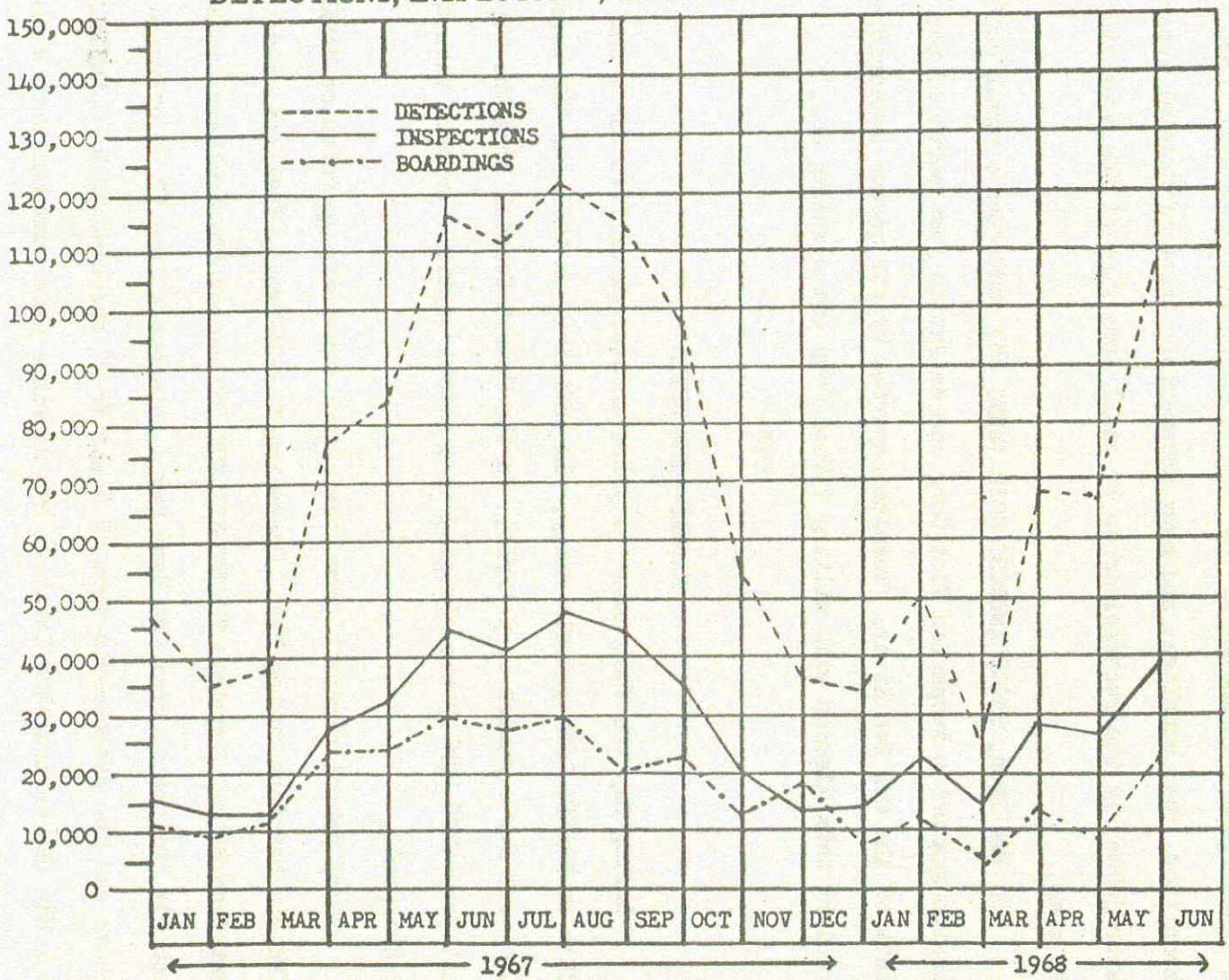
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



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during the periods indicated during May:

		Dates
DER 334	USS FORSTER	1-7
DER 329	USS KRETCHMER	7-31
DER 327	USS BRISTER	1-23
DER 387	USS VANCE	8-31
DER 331	USS KOINER	1-26
DER 324	USS FALGOUT	26-31
LST 509	USS BULLOCH COUNTY	1-8
LST 141	USS STONE COUNTY	8-31
MSO 432	USS DYNAMIC	1-6
MSO 444	USS FIRM	6-31
MSO 433	USS ENGAGE	1-6
MSO 457	USS LOYALTY	6-31
MSO 446	USS FORTIFY	1-6
MSO 434	USS EMBATTLE	6-31
MSC 206	USS WARBLER	1-31
MSC 289	USS ALBATROSS	1-31
PG 88	USS CROCKETT	1-31
WHEC 33	USCGC DUANE	23-31
WHEC 32	USCGC CAMPBELL	1-8
WHEC 67	USCGC MINNETONKA	1-10
WHEC 68	USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN	10-31

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MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
May 1968

1. U.S. Ships/Craft:

	DER	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	PG	LST	WHEC
Daily average number of craft on patrol	3	3	2	15	37	0	1	2

2. U. S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD	=	DAY	54,423	NIGHT	52,070	107,861
	STEEL	=	DAY	737	NIGHT	631	
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD	=	DAY	20,194	NIGHT	19,053	40,171
	STEEL	=	DAY	457	NIGHT	467	

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TOTAL BOARDED WOOD - DAY 14,629 NIGHT 6,892

STEEL - DAY 85 NIGHT 13

21,619

TOTAL DETAINED JUNKS 124 PEOPLE 752 (14 Viet Cong suspects)

3. Naval Gunfire:

TOTAL MISSIONS 357 (Includes 46 hostile fire incidents and 6 evading craft taken under fire)

ENEMY CASUALTIES:

43 killed plus 25 probable

25 wounded plus 23 probable

ENEMY MATERIAL LOSSES:

33 junks or sampans destroyed

82 structures destroyed

16 junks or sampans damaged

60 structures damaged

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OPERATION STABLE DOOR

All STABLE DOOR units maintained normal surface surveillance posture and patrols during May. Detections of junks and sampans totaled 40,089. Of these 4,916 were inspected and another 1,503 boarded. Results of the boardings included the detention of 7 junks and 197 persons for various reasons. STABLE DOOR units also carried out numerous psyops broadcasts and participated in a number of ground operations as blocking patrols.

At Vung Tau Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit ONE (IUWU-1) routine

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS

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patrols were continued throughout May. During the month 11 persons and two craft were detained for curfew violations, improper identification or suspicious actions. The number of ships in Vung Tau harbor came to an average of 18 per day.

May was also a routine month for IUWU-2 at Cam Ranh Bay where the daily average of ships inport came to 20. Patrols by this unit detained 15 persons and 2 craft as a result of their boardings.

Several interesting developments highlighted an otherwise routine month for IUWU-2 at Qui Nhon during May. On the 9th in the upper portion of Qui Nhon harbor, two of the units, skimmers, with members of Coastal Division ONE FIVE propaganda team embarked, encountered heavy small arms fire from the vicinity of Vinh Quanh Village as they attempted to make a psyops broadcast. The skimmers retired from the area and learned from an Army "Hawkeye" aircraft the origin of the small arms fire was a Regional Force (RF) platoon on the beach near Vinh Quanh. On the 19th a sampan halted by LCPL 41 was found to contain 15 Popular Force (PF) troops. The troops indicated that the Viet Cong had occupied their village, Phuoc Mai, at about 1400 that afternoon. They were escorted to Coastal Group 22 for interrogation. In a special operation on the 21st, patrol craft with National Police on board conducted a search of 305 craft of the morning fishing fleet returning to harbor. A total of nine persons were detained by the National Police. A Chieu Hoi accompanied by his wife and child rallied to LCPL 40 on the morning of the 28th. Later a live psyops

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broadcast by this man from MARKET TIME PCF convinced four other men from his village to turn themselves in. During the month a total of 17 persons were detained and the daily average of ships in port was 12.

At Nha Trang patrols of IUWU-4 were particularly active with a total of 154 persons being detained for suspicious activity, improper identification, or curfew violations. Ships in port average 5 per day at Nha Trang and 2 per day at Vung Ro Bay. Patrols of IUWU-5 at Vung Ro Bay did not detain any craft or persons during May, however, they did take part in a combined Korean Army and Popular Force sweep of Hon Nya Island. During the period 4 through 6 May patrol craft provided transportation and blocking patrols for the ground forces during their sweep of the island two miles south-southwest of the harbor entrance control post.

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An armed gunship helicopter, flown by Navy "Seawolves," makes a rocket run on Viet Cong ambush sites in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta. The co-pilot aims and fires the aircraft's flex-guns while the pilot controls 2.75 rockets.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

Activity in the GAME WARDEN area of operation continued at an active pace during May. As the PBR's conducted patrols along the waterways, enemy harassment continued and the patrol boats were engaged in 32 firefights. During this period, however, the number of heavy weapons attack incidents initiated by the enemy decreased. Nevertheless, in one engagement with the Viet Cong on the upper Bassac River, in the vicinity of Chau Doc, a PBR was struck by two 75-mm recoilless rifle rounds killing two Navymen, wounding two and severely damaging the boat.

U. S. Navy "Seawolves," piloting their UH-1B helicopter gunships, continued to strike enemy positions throughout the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ) exacting their toll of enemy casualties. On three separate occasions along the Bassac, Ham Luong and Mekong rivers the armed helicopters killed 44 of the enemy and achieved a total kill of 59 during the month. The Viet Cong, attempting to counter this dreaded air threat, scored several hits on the helicopters causing minor damage and on one occasion killed a door gunner and wounded the pilot.

The SEALs continued their stealthful forays into enemy-controlled areas collecting valuable intelligence and initiated 15 ambushes against the communist forces. On 14 May, SEAL Team Detachment ALFA, Eighth Platoon, (TU 116.1.0) engaged in a fierce firefight with 82 well-disciplined and equipped Viet Cong troops along the Cambodian border, about 12 miles southwest of Chau Doc. The enemy troops, that had crossed the border from

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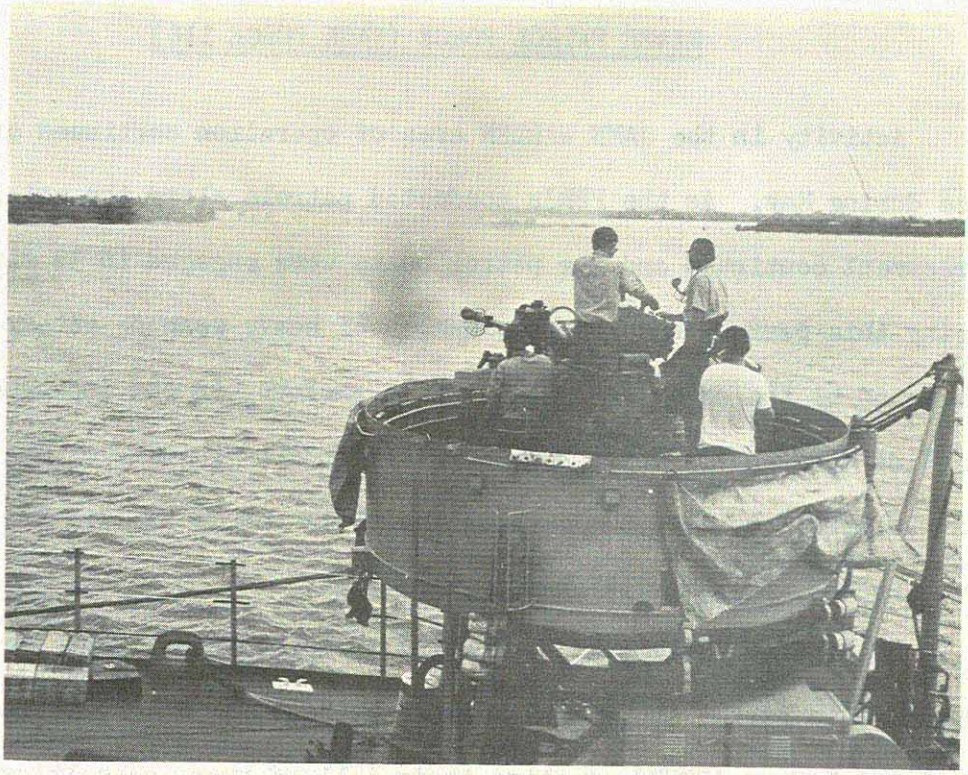

A GAME WARDEN support LST pours 40-mm high explosive rounds into enemy positions in the Mekong Delta. As a mobile support base for River Patrol Boats and armed helicopters, the LST can cruise the major rivers of the Delta providing gunfire support anywhere within the range of her cannons.

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Cambodia under the cover of darkness, had the SEALs pinned down in a graveyard in what seemed like an untenable situation. The hightly trained Navy fighters, led by Lieutenant (junior grade) Richard MARCINKO, USN, beat back each attempt by the enemy to over-run their position. Moving from one tombstone to another the SEALs continued to rake the enemy until Navy "Seawolves" and a U. S. Army aircraft arrived overhead to support the SEALs' ground fighting. The enemy was driven back across the border, dragging their dead and wounded with them. In the exchange of automatic-weapons fire it was reported that 24 of the enemy were killed and 40 wounded. LTJG MARCINKO, who during the height of battle thought that this was "the end for sure," led his men from the battlefield without a single casualty.

A GAME WARDEN support LST, USS JENNINGS COUNTY conducted harassment and interdiction fire on 9 May in an area of Viet Cong activity north of Phu Vinh, along the Co Chien River. The ship's 40-mm cannon fire barrage killed 17 Viet Cong and wounded three.

During the month the number of enemy initiated incidents on the Long Tau shipping channel increased and was indicative of the enemy's aim to intensify the harassment of friendly shipping on this vital waterway. There were ten attacks against merchant ships flying the flags of the United States, Japan, England, and the Philippines. There were two mining attempts, with the remainder being automatic weapons and rocket attacks. In all instances PBR's, and Navy and Army helicopters were rapidly on the scene suppressing the enemy fire. During the attack on the British merchantman

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ANCO QUEEN on 19 May, five PBR sailors were wounded in the ensuing fire-fight with the enemy. Popular Force troops landed at the ambush site killing 11 Viet Cong and captured two 122-mm rocket launchers of a very simple design. The launchers were shaped as a wooden ladder with a sheet-metal trough as the rocket guide. Damage sustained to the merchant ships in all incidents was minor.

On 3 May PBR's commenced operations on the upper Bassac in the vicinity of Chau Doc and the upper Mekong in the vicinity of Tan Chau. The assigned mission was to show the presence of U. S. Naval Forces, curtail the infiltration of arms, ammunition and explosives, collect intelligence, conduct psychological operations, enforce the curfew and render assistance to U. S. and Vietnamese forces in case of a Viet Cong attack. Five days later CTF 116 directed the commanders of Task Group 116.1 and 116.2 to continue the patrols, due to an increased enemy activity, on a five day rotation basis until the activation of the upper Mekong River Patrol Group. CTG 116.1 operated out of Chau Doc, while CTG 116.2 operated from the Special Forces Camp, Tuong Thoi.

On 14 May the second PBR sailor received the Medal of Honor. Among the four men presented the Medal of Honor by the President of the United States was a former member of River Squadron FIVE. Boatswain's Mate First Class James E. WILLIAMS, USN, was cited for his heroic performance on 31 October 1966 during the ceremony dedicating the new "Hall of Heroes" at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. While serving as boat captain of

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PBR 105 and patrol officer of the two PBR patrol, from River Section 531, WILLIAMS aggressively and brilliantly engaged an enemy force superior in both number and firepower. When supporting forces arrived on the scene Petty Officer WILLIAMS took control of the additional PBR's and helicopter gunships. Upon completion of the three-hour battle the victorious Navy forces assessed the damage, a total of 65 enemy water craft had been destroyed or captured and numerous Viet Cong casualties were inflicted.

I CORPS RIVER PATROL GROUP

On 1 May five more PBR's were assigned to CTF CLEARWATER to reinforce the river security on the Cua Viet River, the vital logistics route to Dong Ha. This brought to 15 the number of PBR's operating in I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ) (10 at Tan My and 5 at Cua Viet). Five additional PBR's were scheduled for deployment to Cua Viet.

During the month the Tan My based River Section 521 operating under Commander Hue River Security Group was in frequent contact with the enemy. While on patrol in the opening hour of 7 May a two boat patrol came under heavy automatic weapons and rocket fire. Four additional PBR's sped to the ambush site, two miles north of the city of Hue on the Hue River to aid the boats under attack. When the combined fire power of the six PBR's failed to suppress the fire of the heavily entrenched enemy, all boats were ordered to withdraw from the area. As soon as the boats were clear, artillery fire rained in on the enemy positions. Enemy casualties were undetermined; however, eight

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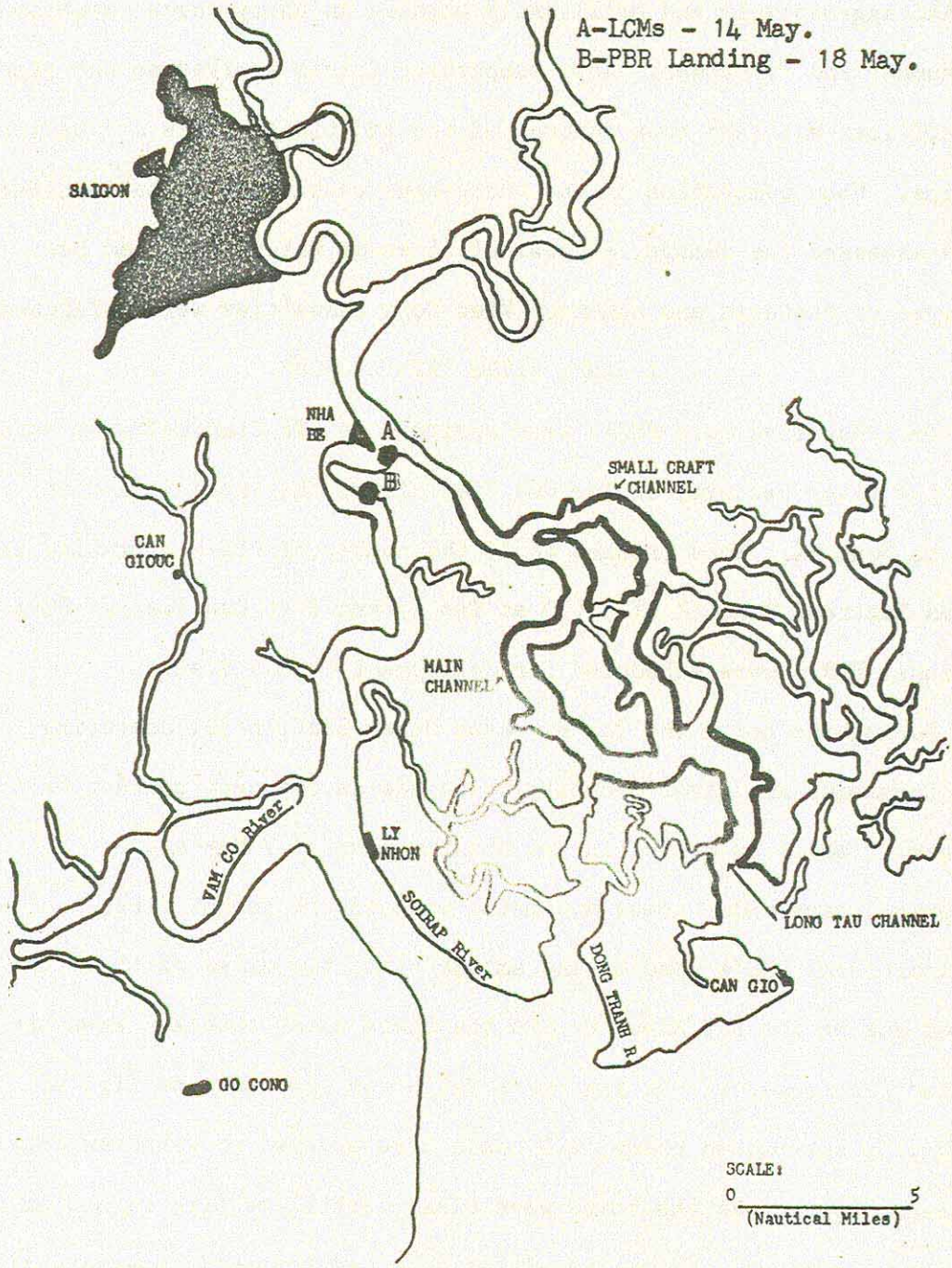
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS



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Navymen received wounds during the engagement.

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RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

On 10 May the versatility of the PBR's was again demonstrated. When the 17,000-ton U.S. merchant ship STEEL RECORDER ran aground 5 miles southwest of Nha Be near the Rach Duo Canal, PBR's 72 and 75 of River Section 542 were ordered to the scene as a security force and to render assistance as feasible. At 1000 the ship was underway again, following a 66 minute delay in her river transit, thanks to the ingenuity of the PBR crews. The Navymen had changed the role of the patrol boats from river surveillance to that of salvage and by pushing on the merchantman's bow cleared it from the mud bank.

At 0315 on the morning of 14 May two LCM minesweepers conducting a chain drag sweep of the Long Tau shipping channel commenced receiving small arms fire from two enemy firing positions located about three miles southeast of Nha Be. The minesweepers returned the fire and soon the enemy was silent. PBR's arrived on the scene and sprayed the area with their guns. This action was followed by an artillery saturation of the area by U. S. Army guns. The minesweepers continued their sweep patrol and about one mile down river the boats came under rocket and automatic weapons fire a half-hour later. This time one crewman was wounded in the attack. The sweeps and PBR's returned and suppressed the fire as helicopter gunships arrived overhead. The gunships received small arms

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fire in response to firing runs made on the suspected enemy positions. Artillery (105-mm) was called into the area once again. Enemy casualties were undetermined due to the darkness and heavy ground cover.

On the evening of 18 May, PBR's landed a U. S. Army Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) about 5 miles south of Nha Be, on the Soirap River. Fifteen minutes after landing the patrol commenced receiving light automatic weapons fire. The hostile fire was returned by the LRRP's and the PBR's and soon suppressed. The patrol was withdrawn since their presence was now known by the Viet Cong. With all troops back aboard, the PBR's illuminated the banks and surrounding area with their spotlights and killed five Viet Cong caught in the light. One other Viet Cong was shot and killed as he was swimming toward one of the PBR's. A further search of the area revealed a sampan. Suspecting that the sampan was booby trapped it was destroyed. Artillery fire was called into the area to destroy any remaining enemy troops and their hidden firing positions. The following morning during a search of the contact area LRRP's were put ashore again. Soon after landing the LRRP's made contact again and quickly killed nine Viet Cong. The LRRP's were withdrawn. A Navy helicopter light fire team placed an air strike on the enemy position setting off a secondary explosion, believed to have been a Viet Cong claymore mine. It now became more apparent that the sampan found the night before was bait for a Viet Cong trap, because a search of the stream banks revealed two claymores set up to take the

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approaches to the sampan under fire. Another sampan was found a short distance away containing two AK automatic rifles and a CHICOM automatic pistol. During the two engagements there were no friendly casualties.

During the month the number of enemy initiated incidents on the Long Tau Shipping Channel rose, suggesting an enemy attempt to intensify harassment of friendly shipping on this waterway. The following is a listing of the attacks against free world shipping:

Date	Name of Ship	Type of Attack
2 May	SS DEL SOL	Automatic weapons, small arms fire.
6 May	SS BANGOR	Possible mining. 30-40 ft, water column 200 meters from ship.
8 May	SS WHITTIER	Small arms.
	SS LSCO BAUEN	Recoilless rifle. Fire started but soon brought under control.
9 May	SS HYRIA SHELL	RPG-7/Automatic weapons.
10 May	SS FAIRLAND	Rocket/Automatic weapons.
15 May	SS TRANSGLOBE	Rocket
	SS NIEKEI MARU	Automatic weapons
17 May	SS FAIRLAND	Water mine explosion under ship. PBR in vicinity of explosion reported that ship appeared to have lifted one foot out of the water. No damage reported.
19 May	SS ANCO QUEEN	PRG-7 and 122-mm rocket fire.

Damage in all cases was negligible, with all ships continuing their voyages. PBR's and armed helicopters reacted to all incidents.

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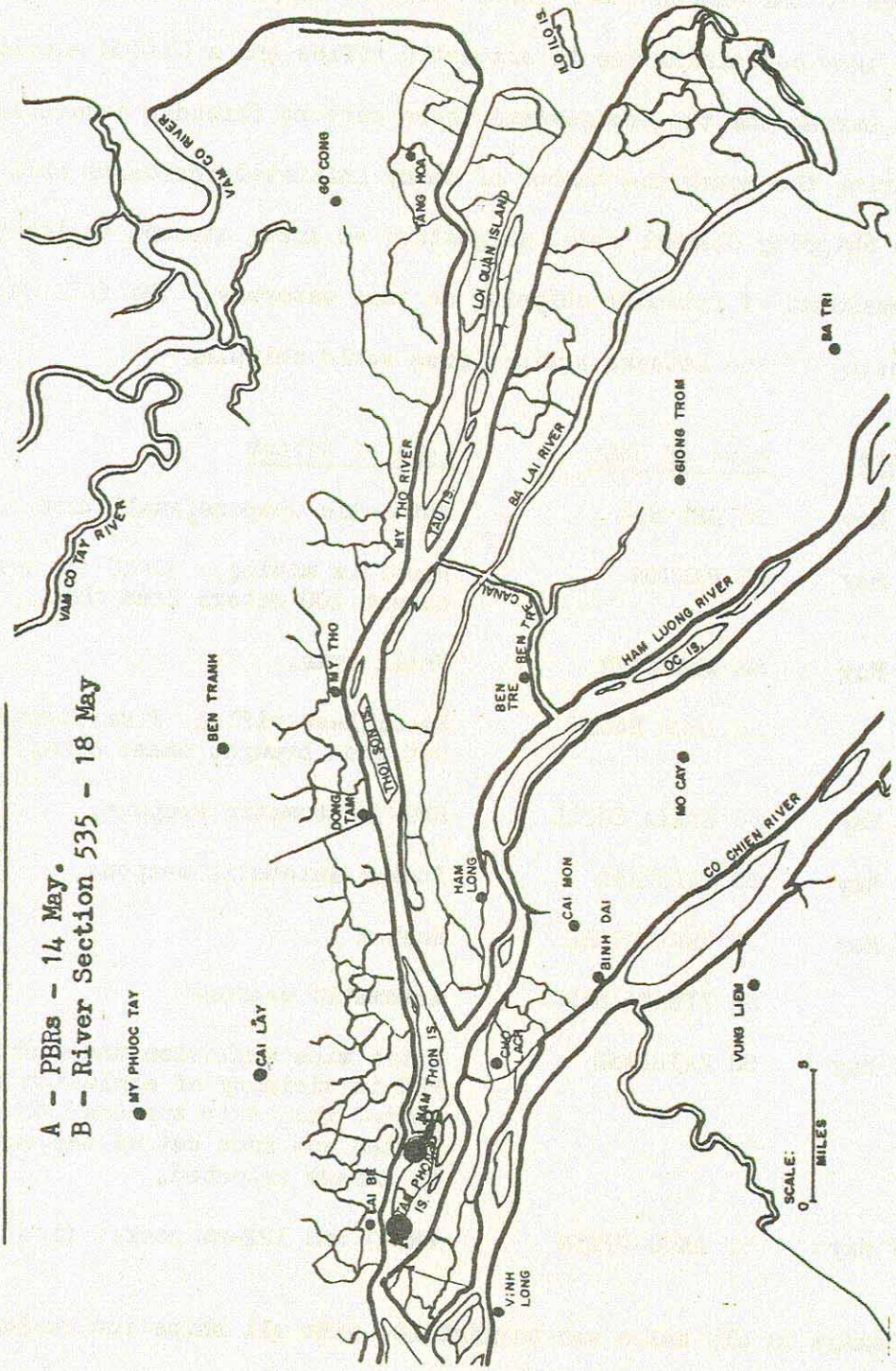
OPERATIONS IN THE MY THO RIVER

A - PBRs - 14 May.
B - River Section 535 - 18 May



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Five PBR sailors were wounded slightly when their PBR was hit four times by B-40 rockets during the engagement with the Viet Cong following the ANCO QUEEN attack. Popular Force troops and U. S. Army gunships accounted for 11 Viet Cong killed.

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DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

On 14 May PBR's and "Seawolves" answered the call for assistance from the Senior Advisor Cho Loch Sub-sector to support a Regional Force security patrol in contact with about 80 Viet Cong. With the "Seawolves" striking from the air the PBR's pounded the area, 5 miles northeast of Vinh Long, with 60-mm mortar and machine-gun fire. The enemy responded to the counter-attack by directing small arms fire at the Navy boats and four civilian tugs with two transiting the area. The engagement lasted for one hour and ten minutes before the Viet Cong broke contact and faded away. There were no U. S. casualties, however, two RF troopers were killed and one wounded. Initial enemy losses were three killed by body count and three structures damaged. A later highly reliable report stated that 11 Viet Cong were killed and three wounded in the action.

On 18 May units of River Section 535 came under heavy enemy fire while distributing psychological operation (psyops) material 5½ miles northeast of Vinh Long. As the two boat patrol was dropping the psyops packages into the canal, designed to float with the tide into the Viet

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A - USS JENNINGS CTY-9 May.
B - SEAL Det "G" - 15 May.
C - PRU & PF - 12 May.
D - CTU 116.3.9 - 12 May.

OPERATIONS IN THE CO CHIEN RIVER

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Cong controlled areas, the PBR's suddenly came under heavy automatic weapons and B-40 rocket fire. A B-40 rocket round smashed into the coxswain's flat of PBR 731, the lead boat, while at the same time the cover boat, PBR 730, was showered with shrapnel from another round that was a near miss. Seven sailors and a Vietnamese policeman were wounded in the initial attack and exchange of fire. The boats cleared the area to attend to the wounded as another patrol in the area and Navy armed helicopters charged to the scene to engage the enemy. The newly committed forces began receiving return fire as strikes were placed on the enemy positions. One helicopter received a hit in the tail rotor before the 40-minute battle was over. Enemy casualties were undetermined. PBR 731 sustained major battle damage, while damage to PBR 730 was minor.

On 25 May the Navy armed helicopter gunships placed an air strike against a reported battalion of Viet Cong located in a tree-line 11 miles northeast of Sa Dec. Ground fire was received during the attack with one helo taking one hit in the main rotor blade. Enemy casualties were undetermined initially, however, a usually reliable intelligence source reported that the Navy pilots killed 16 of the enemy.

Operations in the Co Chien River

On 9 May USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST846), TU 116.2.6, provided harassment and interdiction fire into an area of Viet Cong activity on the Ham Luong River when called upon by the Vinh Binh Province Control for support. Firing 892 rounds of 40-mm the Navy gunners were later advised

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that their shooting killed 17 Viet Cong and wounded 3 others.

On the morning of 12 May, Navy "Seawolves" from CTU 116.3.9 struck a junk, suspected of carrying a 75-mm recoilless-rifle, and two sampans located 12 miles east of Vinh Long. The Navy flyers, after destroying the junk and damaging the sampans, then directed their 2.75 rocket and machine gun fire against a suspected Viet Cong radio station also located in the same area. The area of the air strike was left in flames as the Navy gunships headed east to render support to Vietnamese forces in contact with a Viet Cong platoon. Arriving over the target area, 4 miles east of Ben Tre, the helicopter fire team commenced receiving automatic weapons fire. Once again the helos unleashed their rockets and mini-guns against the enemy positions. The confirmed results of the morning's action, in addition to the water craft casualties, was three Viet Cong killed. An intelligence report received several hours later, however, raised the kill results to a total of 17 enemy troops.

Also on the morning of 12 May the hamlet of Giang Lon, located about 3 miles northwest of Phu Vinh, was attacked and overrun by the Viet Cong. Fifty-three members of the Tra Vinh Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (PRU), led by SK3 Donald H. ZILLGITT, USN, a SEAL, and two companies of Regional Force troops were dispatched to counter-attack and drive the enemy from the hamlet. At about noon the PRU's landed just south of the hamlet where they were immediately in heavy contact with the enemy. The unit was soon pinned down in a rice paddy by the voluminuous hail of automatic weapons

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fire. Petty Officer ZILLGITT, realizing the threat of being overrun, skillfully deployed his troops to counter the threat. Heroically, exposing himself, he then led his unit in the attack against the Viet Cong positions, forcing the enemy to withdraw. Still facing intense fire, and with ZILLGITT still in the lead, the PRU's once again drove into the enemy with unwavering determination to defeat the communist aggressors. It was in this charge that ZILLGITT fell mortally wounded when struck down by enemy gunfire. The PRU's continued their press forward, gained their objective and routed the Viet Cong who left 17 of their dead and 8 individaul weapons on the battlefield. The heroism and leadership of Petty Officer ZILLGITT prevented the PRU's from being overrun by the Viet Cong in the initial engagement and later enabled the PRU's to gain the initiative and drive the Viet Cong from their prepared positions.

Operations in the Ham Luong River

Early on the morning of 15 May during a landing of SEAL Detachment GOLF, Mike Platoon, a violent explosion, believed to have been caused by a mine or a 40-mm grenade, broke the darkened silence. The explosion occurred next to the port bow of the LCPL just as the Navymen were preparing to leave the boat at a point about 4 miles southeast of Cho Loch. CS1 Donnie L. PATRICK, USN, was killed by the detonation that ripped into his body causing massive wounds. Seven other members of the platoon were also wounded. Due to the heavy personnel casualties to the platoon, future

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A-Seawolves - 25 May.

OPERATIONS IN THE BASSAC RIVER

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operations were curtailed until such time as the platoon could be reorganized. On 30 May the reorganization was completed and the unit commenced operations against the enemy again.

Operations in the Bassac River

On 5 May four units of River Section 511 were operating on the upper Bassac River near the city of Chau Doc when word was received from the U. S. Army Special Forces Advisory Team that there was enemy activity down the river. The officer in charge of the patrol boats was asked to investigate. Lieutenant KOLLMEYER's two-boat patrol sped down the river at 0835 to check the area, located about 9 miles southeast of the city. Enroute, however, the cover boat sustained a steering casualty and LT KOLLMEYER elected to continue on alone. Upon arrival two Vietnamese Revolutionary Development (RD) cadre motioned to PBR-130 to embark them from the west bank. The two Vietnamese boarded the boat and indicated that the Viet Cong had a recoilless-rifle position downstream about 1,000 meters. As the two men were pointing to the enemy position, the first round of recoilless rifle fire slammed into the boat's starboard bow at the waterline. The forward gunner was badly wounded and the boat began taking on water. LT KOLLMEYER had the wounded sailor pulled from his mount, meanwhile having the boat captain head for the east bank of the river. The RD cadre jumped from the boat and were not seen again. With the boat listing badly to starboard the wounded gunner and three crewmen were ordered over the side into the protection of the water. The Navy

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lieutenant quickly called for help from his other units on the radio and then manned the after .50 caliber mount, directing its fire against the enemy position. The forward mount was remanned by another crewmember on LT KOLLMEYER's direction and soon was in the action against the Viet Cong.

By the time the boat was beached, automatic weapons fire was coming from enemy positions on the west bank, about 500 meters away. While LT KOLLMEYER radioed for assistance again, the wounded man in the water was pulled ashore. At this time a second recoilless-rifle round hit the boat, impacting on the engine cover and continued directly over the stern. This round inflicted heavy wounds on LT KOLLMEYER, who was standing in the coxswain's flat, and EM3 Ronald SAPORITO, USN, who was attempting to retrieve M-60 ammunition for defense on the beach. SAPORITO was rendered unconscious and died before he could reach comprehensive medical attention. The boat captain was slightly wounded and was blown overboard by the blast. He went into a state of shock at this time, went underwater, and was subsequently pulled ashore by a crewmember.

There were only two crewmen able to perform their duties and they returned to the boat to pull LT KOLLMEYER out. He had sustained wounds in the legs and lower abdomen and was, at this time, still on the radio requesting assistance and passing vital information. He was then assisted to the beach where first aid was performed on all the wounded. During the approximately one-half hour prior to the arrival of the remaining three boats, three more rounds were fired at the heavily damaged boat and the

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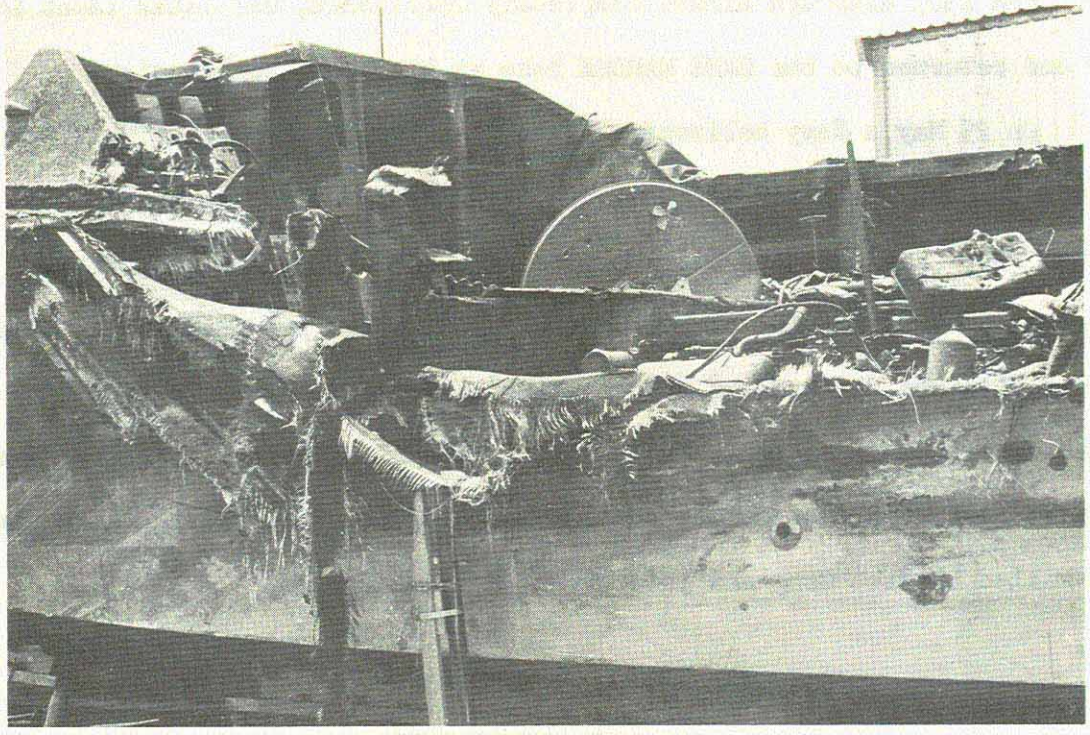

Barely recognizable as a Navy gunboat, the remains of PBR-130, damaged on the upper Bassac River on 5 May, await repair at the Naval Support Activity Detachment, Binh Thuy.

crew. None hit, but AK-47 automatic rifle fire continued to rain around the Navymen. During the first few minutes off the boat, LT KOLLMEYER maintained his grasp of the situation and command of his tactical unit. It was only when the severity of his wounds and deterioration of his condition became apparent, that his shipmates realized he was dying. About 1015 the other PBR's arrived on the scene and engaged the enemy receiving only light fire in return. The wounded were embarked and evacuated to Chau Doc. LT KOLLMEYER died before he could reach medical attention.

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PBR 130, although almost completely demolished, was later taken in tow and returned to the GAME WARDEN Base at Binh Thuy for repairs.

On 25 May a Navy helicopter light team interdicted water traffic in the Ke Sach Specified Strike Zone on the Bassac River just southeast of Can Tho. The gunships hit the concentration of sampans and junks, detected in the vicinity of May Island, with rocket and machine-gun fire. Ground fire was directed at the striking helicopters by the enemy, however, no hits were scored. At the end of the 100-minute airwar the "Seawolves" destroyed one 30-foot covered junk laden with boxes, 11 sampans and killed 11 Viet Cong and possibly 6 additional ones.

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GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 1 May the operational title of Task Unit 116.4.2 was changed from Mine Squadron ELEVEN, Detachment ALFA, to Mine Division ONE-HUNDRED TWELVE.

On 1 May River Section 544 was activiated at Nha Be.

On 2 May USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST838) (TU 116.3.6), with River Section 532 (TU 116.3.4) embarked, returned to station on the lower Ham Luong River, embarked Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE, Detachment FIVE (TU 116.3.8), resumed normal operations.

On 3 May River Section 532 (TU 116.3.4) commenced patrols on the lower Ham Luong River.

On 3 May APL55 shifted location with her embarked river sections,

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to the junction of the Ham Luong and My Tho rivers.

On 3 May Task Element 116.1.1., consisting of four PBR's from River Section 511 and one LCM-6, and SEAL Team Detachment ALFA, Eighth Platoon, Squad ALFA transited to and commenced operations at Chau Doc.

On 4 May Captain Arthur H. MUNSON, USN, relieved Commander Robert W. SPENCER, USN, as commanding officer, Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE located at Vung Tau.

On 5 May Task Element 116.2.1.1., consisting of five PBR's from River Section 524 and one LCM, and SEAL Team Detachment ALFA, Ninth Platoon, Squad ALFA, commenced operations on the upper Mekong River from Thuong Thoi Special Force Camp.

On 15 May River Section 551 and 552 were activated at Nha Be.

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GAME WARDEN STATISTICS SUMMARY
May 1968

I.	PBR	TOTAL	DAY	NIGHT
	(a) Patrols (two boat)	2,052	1,012	1,040
	(b) Contacts	91,979	84,861	7,118
	(c) Inspected	23,247	20,766	2,481
	(d) Boarded	41,641	30,844	10,797
	(e) Patrol Hours	50,658	24,718	25,940
	(f) Sampans/Junks Detained	2		
II.	SEAWOLF LHFT			
	(a)	1,698	1,265	433

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		TOTAL	DAY	NIGHT
II.	SEAWOLF LHFT (CONT'D)			
	(b) Pre-planned Strikes	333		
	(c) Reaction Strikes	114		
	(d) Targets of Opportunity	297		
	(e) Support Mission	318		
III.	SEAL (6 Platoons)			
	(a) Missions	78		
	(b) Contacts	34		
IV.	MINE DET			
	(a) MSB Patrols	60	60	0
	(b) LCM(M) Patrols	80	74	6
	(c) Contacts			
	(1) Wire recovered	9		
	(2) Mines recovered/destroyed	2		
V.	LST			
	(a) Gun Fire Support Missions	15		
VI.	GAME WARDEN TOTALS			

(a) Firefights

PBR	HELO	SEALS	MINE	LST	TOTAL
32	35	15	0	0	82

(b) Sampans Destroyed: 122 Damaged: 156 Captured: 3

(c) Junks Destroyed: 3 Damaged: 5 Captured: 0

(d) Structures Destroyed. 183 Damaged: 227

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VI. GAME WARDEN TOTALS (CONT'D)

(e) Enemy Casualties

Credited to:	KIA (BC)	KIA (POSS)	WIA	CAPTURED
PBR	16	0	8	0
HELO	59	0	0	0
SEAL	18	8	7	6
MINE DIV	0	0	0	0
LST	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	93	8	15	6
Cumulative Since 6/66 :	2,019	430	337	201

(f) Friendly Casualties-Hostile

	KIA	WIA	DOW
PBR	2	28	0
HELO	1	2	0
SEAL	1	8	0
MINE DIV	0	0	0
LST	0	0	0
TOTAL	4	41	0
Cumulative Since 6/66	54	693	6

(g) Friendly Casualties - Non-Hostile

	DEATHS	INJURIES
PBR	0	3
HELO	0	0
SEAL	2	0

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(g) Friendly Casualties - Non-Hostile (CONT'D)

	DEATHS	INJURIES
MIN DIV	0	0
LST	0	0
TOTAL	2	3
Cumulative Since 6/66	15 (Since 4/68)	4

(h) Friendly Battle Damage

	REPAIRABLE	DESTROYED
PBR	9	0
HELO	9	0
MINE DIV	0	0
LST	0	0
SEAL CRAFT	0	0

(i) MEDEVAC

	PBR	72
Since 6/66		817
	SEAWOLF	0
Since 6/67		221

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Wading through mud up to his knees, a trooper of the Mobile Riverine Force sloshes through the marshy Mekong Delta.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

With the advent of May, the deluge of the rainy season began in earnest, adding to the discomfort of both the boat crews and the infantrymen as they searched for the shadowy and elusive enemy. The assault forces of the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) sloshed through Kien Hoa, Dinh Tuong and Long An provinces in quest of the nomadic Viet Cong, who either weren't there or chose not to fight except from small unit ambushes. In spite of good intelligence of substantial enemy forces in the operating areas, multiple landings in the objective areas, and daily reassessments of the situation, heavy contact with a battalion size enemy force was not effected. Enemy rocketeers caused considerable damage to the riverine craft and inflicted numerous casualties in a series of riverine ambushes on 8 May and 26-27 May in the Giong Trom District of Kien Hoa Province. Fortunately there were also a great number of misses; otherwise, the damage and personnel losses would have been much greater.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

Early on the morning of 1 May, the major ships of the Mobile Riverine Base (MRB) anchored at the Dong Tam anchorage, 6 miles west of My Tho, were attacked from the south bank of the My Tho River. An estimated 25 rounds of rocket/recoilless-rifle fire were observed by USS ASKARI (ARL30), USS TOM GREEN COUNTY (LST1159) and APL-26 impacting close aboard. The attack was almost simultaneous with a mortar attack on the Dong Tam support base. The ships returned the fire with 40-mm

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and 3"/50 gunfire. The MRB defense force continued harassment and interdiction fire into the area throughout the night; however, the damage inflicted could not be determined.

Later that evening a MRF Bushmaster (ambush team) platoon from the 3/47th Infantry Battalion (Inf. Bn.) conducted multiple diversionary landings on the south bank of the My Tho River 4 miles west of My Tho. Bushmaster operation 03-68 was terminated early the next morning without substantial contact with the enemy and the troops were backloaded by Assault Support Patrol Boats (ASPB) about 0145 for return to the MRB. It was a dark, moonless night and fair weather with an ebbing tide of 5 knots. During the backloading of the ambush platoon 4 miles west of My Tho, enemy fire was received while the infantrymen were scrambling aboard an ASPB. Personnel departed the river banks and proceeded diagonally toward the starboard side of the boat. They stepped off into deep water before reaching the boat. There were no casualties readily attributable to the enemy fire; however, subsequent to leaving the area five soldiers were reported missing.

An intensive land and waterborne search for the missing men was put into effect by the boats and the ready reaction force, but the men were not found. At 1028 the body of one of the missing soldiers was found floating in the river near the scene of the incident. The search for the missing soldiers delayed the MRB relocation to the new anchorage near Ben Tre until 1030. This marked only the second time that the MRB

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had transited the Ham Luong River. At 1200 the search was terminated, although GAME WARDEN PBR's were alerted to keep the area under surveillance for the missing men. The bodies of the four Armymen were subsequently discovered on 3 May by PBR's in the area. All five men had drowned.

After assuming a one-day ready reaction posture the MRF continued Operation TRUONG CONG DINH by launching riverine strike operations in the Giong Trom District. The reconnaissance-in-force operation, in cooperation and coordination with the 2nd Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps, was commenced on 2 May to locate, engage and destroy the Viet Cong 516th and 560th Local Force Battalions and other local enemy guerrillas.

On 2 May the Vietnamese Marines and the 4/47th Inf. Bn., were beached in the area at 0830 and 0900 respectively, followed by the air mobile movement of the 3/47th Inf. Bn., to blocking stations. Initial contact was light and remained so, for the first two days of the operation. On the evening of 3 May, plans to continue the operation for a third day were changed when Commanding General, U. S. 9th Infantry Division requested that the MRF relocate to the Dong Tam anchorage. This was done so that the MRF could react more rapidly to threatened Viet Cong attacks in the Vunh Long/My Tho/Gai Lay/Cai Be areas and to supplement the forces defending Saigon if heavy attacks occurred on that city. Results of the two-day operation were discouraging with 1 Viet

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Cong killed, 38 suspects detained, 17 bunkers/structures destroyed and 15 structures damaged. Friendly losses amounted to five drowned soldiers and one other soldier wounded.

On the morning of 4 May the MRB relocated to Dong Tam, and assumed a ready reaction posture. Later that evening as the MRB ships commenced their evening shift of anchorages, Boatswain's Mate Third Class Charles L. PERRY, USN, fell overboard from a pontoon alongside TOM GREEN COUNTY. The man apparently went under the nest of boats and did not resurface. An intensive search was immediately instituted but produced negative results. The body was subsequently discovered two days later near the Dong Tam Base by ASPB-112-8.

There was no significant ground action on 5-6 May; however, a number of Delta cities including My Tho, Vinh Long, Nha Be and Can Tho reported receiving heavy mortar fire. MRF operations against the enemy (4-6 May) resulted in the detention of 11 Viet Cong suspects, while friendly forces had 3 men wounded by a booby trap and 2 others wounded in a non-hostile incident.

During the early morning hours of 7 May the support base at Dong Tam came under repeated mortar attacks emanating from the direction of Kien Hoa Province. At 0340 one mortar round impacted 10-15 yards off the port quarter of USS BENEWAH (APB35), narrowly missing ASPB-112-8 which was on MRB defensive patrol. Since there was no other evidence of an attack on the MRB, it was surmised that the round was intended for

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Dong Tam and fell short.

Operations in Dinh Tuong Province

At 0615 the MRB commenced relocation to the vicinity of Vinh Long to provide support for riverine operations in Giao Duc District just north of Sa Dec. The reconnaissance-in-force operation was formulated to locate and engage rear service elements of Military Region II Headquarters, the 502 Provincial Mobile Battalion and local guerillas.

RAD 111 landed the 2nd Battalion, VNMC on the Ruong Stream 4 miles north of the Mekong River at 0815, while RAD 91 beached the 4/47th Inf. Bn. approximately one mile east of the Vietnamese Marines. The two Battalions conducted a converging sweep operation, but experienced negative results. Later that morning a third landing was made south of the other MRF units by RAD 112 and the 3/47th Inf. Bn. Due to the lack of a target the decision was made to withdraw the two U.S. battalions back to the MRB and the Vietnamese Marines to a base-camp west of Vinh Long.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

Plans were formed to conduct riverine operations in the Sa Dec-Vinh Long area 5 miles southeast of Sa Dec; however, these plans were aborted late on the evening of 7 May when the city of Ben Tre in Kien Hoa Province was threatened by Viet Cong forces. Reports were received stating that elements of the 7th ARVN Division were engaged in heavy fighting with elements of the Viet Cong 516th Local Force Battalion in a wooden area between the Ba Lai River and the city of Ben Tre.

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RAD 112, with two companies of the 3/47th Inf. Bn. and one battery of artillery, immediately departed Vinh Long en route to Ben Tre to stand-by as a ready reaction force. Later that same evening RAD's 91 and 111, with the 4/47th Inf. Bn. and the 2nd Battalion, VNMC embarked, proceeded to the operating area. Arriving at the Ba Lai River early on 8 May, the units landed unopposed and commenced their sweep toward the west. In the meantime, the MRB relocated to an anchorage about 5 miles east of My Tho on the My Tho River.

Later that afternoon 14 Navymen were wounded in two separate ambushes of RAD 91 units as they provided close support for ground operations along the Ba Lai River 8 miles southeast of My Tho. In the first attack at 1330, two monitors, M-91 and M-91-2, and two ASPB's, A-91-3 and A-91-8, were struck with highly accurate RPG-7 rocket, 75-mm recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire. There were four sailors wounded during the attack which also caused moderate to heavy damage on all four craft. RAD 91 suppressed the Viet Cong ambush in a furious 10-minute firefight, then landed their infantry troops to sweep the area. The four damaged boats were returned to ASKARI for repairs.

Damage suffered by assault craft involved in the first attack was as follows:

(1) M-91-1 was struck by two projectiles believed to have been 75-mm recoilless-rifle rounds. Both rounds impacted above the waterline causing moderate hull damage.

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(2) M-91-2 received three rounds of 75-mm recoilless-rifle fire resulting in moderate damage.

(3) A-91-3 was hit by two 75-mm recoilless-rifle rounds. One round caused extensive damage in the coxswain's flat.

(4) A-91-8 was struck three times. Two rounds were RPG-7 (B-41) rockets causing moderate hull damage forward and extensive superstructure damage in the after section of the boat. The third hit was from a 75-mm recoilless-rifle. Both ASPB's were expected to require one week for the completion of repairs.

About an hour later near the location of the first attack, a monitor, M-91-3, and an ATC flamethrower, T-92-7, sustained light damage when assailed with recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire. The attack was again suppressed but 10 more Navymen received minor wounds in the firefight. None of the men were seriously wounded in the two ambushes which occurred at virtually the same location where 3 Navymen were killed and 36 sailors were wounded on 4 April. Enemy casualties were undetermined in both encounters.

On 9 May the MRF was again reduced to a two-battalion force when the 2nd Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps was transported back to Dong Tam by RAD 111 for reassignment to the Saigon area. Meanwhile the U.S. Army elements continued their reconnaissance-in-force operation in Kien Hoa Province and were in sporadic contact with the Communist aggressors.

U. S. Navy riverine craft reported an uneventful day in the area

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Hospital Corpsman First Class Ira V. "Doc" BIDDLE, USN, of Dry Prong, La., looks around the flight deck of the medevac boat to ensure the wounded are tended to. An Army medic checks the flow of intravenous solution being given a wounded sailor, Boatswain's Mate First Class William M. MILLER, USN, from Calhoon, Ky., boat captain of Monitor 92-1 who was within several feet of a B-40 explosion when the Viet Cong hit his boat from ambush in the Mekong Delta.

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of operations, but a crewmember of an ATC flamethrower was accidently shot and killed while his boat, T-111-7, was tied up alongside ASKARI at the MRB. Boatswain's Mate Third Class Roy A. COX, USN, was struck in the head by a .30 caliber machine-gun round that was accidently discharged from the mount of another boat.

Sweep operations of the Ba Lai area continued on 10 May, and at 1300 the infantry units gained firm contact with the enemy. This action precluded the scheduled withdrawal as MRF elements pressed the attack against the elusive Ba Lai local Viet Cong forces. Some of the heaviest fighting with the enemy units, estimated to be larger than company size, occurred after 1700 as the Second Platoon of Charlie Company of the 4/47th Inf. Bn. was pinned down by automatic weapons and rocket fire. During the next three hours three companies were pinned down at least once in heavy crossfire as contact continued until darkness.

The final results of the four-day operation (8-11 May) were; 18 Viet Cong killed, 40 bunkers destroyed, 30 suspicious Vietnamese detained, and 6 weapons, 31 mortars/rocket/recoilless-rifle rounds and over 2,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition captured. Friendly casualties amounted to 2 soldiers killed, and 41 personnel wounded, 14 of whom were Navymen. The infantrymen were returned to the MRB on 11 May to dry out after spending four exhausting days in the inundated Ba Lai River area.

On 14 May the MRF commenced a two-battalion riverine assault operation approximately 5 miles north of Mo Cay in Kien Hoa Province to locate

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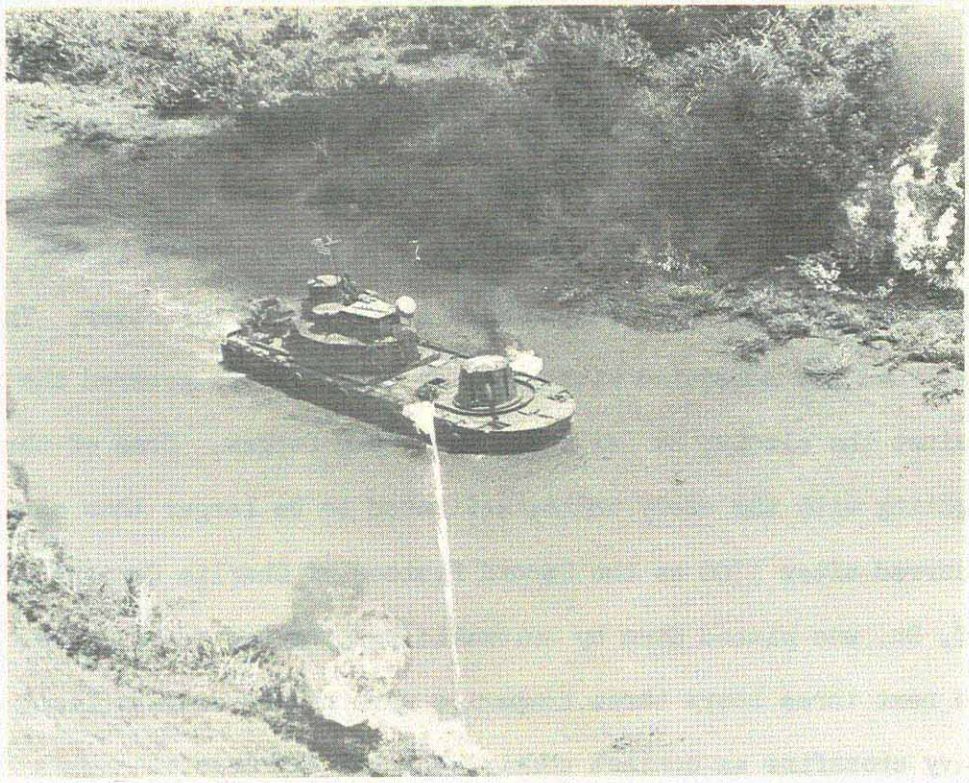

A monitor -- the "battleship" of the riverine Navy in South Vietnam -- uses its flamethrower to destroy possible enemy ambush sites along a narrow stream in the Mekong Delta.

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and engage elements of the Viet Cong 516th Battalion. At 0615 the MRB relocated from Dong Tam to an anchorage at the junction of the Ben Tre and Ham Luong rivers 2 miles south of Ben Tre. All landings were unopposed and the two infantry battalions swept toward each other for a distance of 5 miles, encountering several signs of Viet Cong activity but only minor enemy contact.

The boats of RAD 91 were involved in the most heated action of the day as they were ambushed twice while transiting the narrow Mo Cay Stream about 2 miles south of the MRB anchorage. The first attack occurred near the mouth of the Mo Cay Stream at 0905 as the craft were leaving the stream after landing the 4/47th Inf Bn. There were no casualties or damage despite the heavy barrage of small arms, automatic weapons and B-40 rockets fired at the rear elements of the column. The enemy fire, coming from an estimated 7-10 man squad, was rapidly suppressed as the boats thoroughly razed the ambush positions. Enemy casualties were unknown.

Several of the RAD 91 boats reentered the Mo Cay Stream about 2 miles south of the MRB anchorage in the early afternoon to support a bridge removal project. By 1530 the wreckage was successfully removed and the boats were escorting the combat salvage boat out of the area when they were ambushed from a point just west of the earlier attack. The boats retaliated with all weapons, including flamethrowers and numerous Viet Cong were observed scrambling out of the fire-engulfed bunkers.

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Both the riverine craft and a light helicopter fire team took the fleeing communists under fire, with the Navy gunboats accounting for at least three killed. At 1600 RAD's 91 and 111 returned to the MRB where they remained for the night in a ready reaction posture.

The next morning three Navymen of RAD 112 received minor wounds as a result of an exhange of fire with Viet Cong units on the Mo Cay Stream 4 miles north-northwest of Mo Cay. The boats were attacked but not damaged as they were escorting a Vietnamese resupply convoy of 10 civilian boats and 5 VNN RAG craft from Ben Tre to the city of Mo Cay. The assault craft suppressed the fire; however, enemy casualties were undetermined.

Meanwhile on the beach the Army troops established firm contact with the enemy in a day-long battle, 3 miles southwest of Mo Cay. The fighting broke out at 1005 when the 3/47th and the 4/47th Inf Bns. closed in on a Viet Cong company and called in 13 airstrikes and continuous artillery barrages. Late in the afternoon, the ground troops swept the body-strewn battlefield counting numerous bodies and capturing 13 weapons. The enemy withdrew from the area that evening, and the infantrymen were returned to the MRB on 16 May.

There were 47 enemy combatants killed in the day-long battle bringing the total results for the Mo Cay operation to 57 killed. Friendly losses were 6 Armymen killed and 14 soldiers wounded. During this period there were also four sailors wounded in a series of riverine ambushes.

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On 16 May at 2200, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Kenneth A. CARROLL, USN, attached to RAS 11, fell into the water between pontoons alongside TOM GREEN COUNTY. An extensive search of the area failed to locate him, and the Navyman was declared offically missing. The body was found two days later floating in the river near the Dong Tam base.

Operations in Long An Province

Based on intelligence reports that a lucrative target existed in the area southeast of Can Giouc in Long An Province -- the southern approaches to Saigon -- the MRF immediately commenced making preparations for strike operations into the area. After a brief respite at the MRB, the riverine units commenced the night-long, 40-mile transit via the Co Gao Canal toward Can Giouc on the evening of 16 May.

The MRB relocated to the junction of the Soirap and Vam Co rivers on the morning of 17 May, crossing through the South China Sea for the first time since last November. Meanwhile the riverine assault craft transited the inner passage (Cho Gao Canal) and beached their troops on the tributaries of the Vang Stream at 0800. The boats conducted water-blocks as the ground troops swept the area just 12 miles south of Saigon, killing 41 Viet Cong while capturing 5 prisoners and seizing 52 suspects. A Navy boat killed one Viet Cong with small-arms fire after he was flushed from a thick growth of nipa palm by a monitor flamethrower.

On the next afternoon, RAD 91 units were involved in a heated skirmish when they were ambushed from both banks of the Lo Canal 5 miles

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east of Can Giouc. The boats, which were in the process of landing troops, silenced the intense enemy fire while the infantrymen continued their landing. Three craft were damaged and 14 Navymen and 1 soldier were wounded during the battle, including 5 crewmembers of monitor 91-1, 4 crewmen from flamethrower T-92-11, and 3 sailors from ASPB-91-5. ASPB-91-2 and monitor 91-3 also reported one casualty each.

In the final engagement of the two-day operation (17-18 May), 17 Viet Cong were annihilated by the combined, awesome fire power of air cavalry units, Navy riverine gunboats and ground troops. The U.S. forces caught the guerrillas in a devastating crossfire as they fled across open rice paddies. The final results of the very productive Can Giouc operation were 126 Viet Cong killed, 180 bunkers destroyed and 5 prisoners and 22 weapons captured. U. S. casualties consisted of 6 soldiers killed and 38 men wounded, 14 of whom were Navymen.

On 22 May the MRB got underway from their Soirap anchorage and arrived at Dong Tam at 1530. After a fruitless search and clear operation (21-22 May) in the Cho Gao District of Long An Province and the Binh Phuoc District of Dinh Tuong Province the assault craft transited the inner passage (Cho Gao Canal). Results of the operation were 30 bunkers destroyed, one weapon captured and 10 suspects detained.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

On 24 May the MRF conducted a one-battalion operation on the South bank of the My Tho River opposite Thoi Son Island in the Ham

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Luong District. This operation was planned to locate and destroy the 550th District Control Unit (DCU) and other Viet Cong elements reportedly in the assigned zone. The infantrymen swept the area throughout the day making contact once late in the afternoon. RAS 11, with the 3/47th Inf. Bn. embarked, returned to the MRB at 1805, thereby, culminating a week of frustrating and relatively unproductive operations. Cumulative results for the one-day operation were: 3 Communist guerrillas killed and 28 bunkers destroyed, while one U. S. Army soldier was killed in action.

Later that evening at 1919, Engineman Frederick V. AREN, USN, a crewmember of ASPB-112-1, while proceeding aft on his boat, tripped on a cleat and fell overboard 1 mile south of Dong Tam. One of his shipmates leaped over the side and attempted to rescue him, but he was unable to keep him afloat in the strong current. An immediate search of the MRB anchorage failed to find the missing man. The boat was moored alongside TOM GREEN COUNTY at the time of the incident. The body was discovered the next day near the Dong Tam base.

On 26 May the MRF commenced riverine operations in the Giong Trom District to locate and engage the Viet Cong 570th Main Force Battalion. In a series of bitterly contested ambushes along the Ben Tre River and the Ong Huong Stream 8 miles southeast of Ben Tre, the MRF riverine craft were subjected to repeated rocket/recoilless-rifle attacks on 26-27 May. There were 2 sailors killed and 23 Navymen wounded in 7 separate ambushes which also caused light to heavy damage to 16 riverine

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craft of the MRF.

In the first and most vicious ambush, RAD 111 was proceeding to land elements of the 3/47th Inf. Bn. along the Ong Huong River 8 miles southeast of Ben Tre when they were attacked at 0715 from both banks of the river by Viet Cong rocketeers. The lead units in the column bore the brunt of the attack, as ASPB-111-1 was struck with two RPG-2 rockets (B-40) and two 75-mm recoilless-rifle rounds. Two of the rounds hit the 20-mm cannon, disabling it; another hit the mast; the fourth tore into the coxswain's flat instantly killing the boat captain, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Ronald W. DURBIN, USN, and Radioman Third Class Jerry L. WILLIAMS. Two other members of the crew were also wounded in the attack.

Four crewmen of ASPB-111-5 were wounded during the first attack as an enemy rocket blew the top off their 20-mm gun mount. Monitor 111-2, the first boat behind the lead ASPB's, took heavy fire which wounded two sailors. ASPB-111-3 and ATC-111-6 also took direct rocket hits, but did not suffer any personnel casualties. The fire was suppressed with the assistance of a TF 116 helicopter light fire team, and the troops were landed in the face of withering rocket and automatic-weapons fire to rout the Viet Cong ambushers.

Meanwhile RAD 91 units were also under heavy automatic-weapons attack from both banks of the Ben Tre Stream, approximately 1,000 yards west of the attack on RAD 111. The attack, which wounded one sailor, occurred at 0750 and was rendered ineffective by an immediate counter-

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attack. There was no significant battle damage to the boats and enemy casualties were unknown.

A few hours later, the craft of RAD 91 were struck again at 1145, at virtually the same location as the devastating rocket attack on the RAD 111 units earlier in the morning. Four sailors were wounded by the automatic-weapons, recoilless-rifle and rocket fire, but there was no significant damage to the boats. Once again the fire was silenced by the timely and effective assistance of TF 116 "Seawolves" (Navy light helicopter fire team). This close fire support was instrumental in keeping the assault boat and troop casualties down in the face of repeated enemy rocket attacks.

The boats were attacked on several other occasions throughout the afternoon, but there were no other personnel casualties. At 1330 ASPB-111-2 was hit by four recoilless-rifle rounds, but managed to suppress the enemy gun's and carry out its mission with one operable engine. Two hours later two ATC's, T-111-1 and T-111-7, received hits on the port side below the waterline while transiting the Ben Tre River 2 miles east of Ben Tre. The gunboats suffered minor damage but there were no personnel casualties.

Meanwhile, the ground forces were relentlessly pursuing the enemy in an area 7 miles southeast of Ben Tre. As of 1430, with the fighting still in progress, 24 Viet Cong had been killed.

At 2109, the MRB, anchored 3 miles east of Ben Tre, was attacked

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by enemy recoilless-rifle fire from the east bank of the Ham Luong River. APL 26 was struck twice on the starboard side but neither round exploded. Retaliatory fire could not be delivered into the ambush position because of the presence of MRB defense troops in the areas.

The furious action continued on 27 May as riverine craft of RAD's 91 and 111 were ambushed three more times. In the first attack at 0720, the boats were hit by rocket, recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire from both banks of the Ben Tre Stream 4 miles east-southeast of Ben Tre. Two crewmembers of ATC-111-10 and one aboard monitor 111-3 were wounded when each boat was hit by two rocket/rocoilkss-rifle projectiles. Several other boats were struck during the attack, but the damage was minimal on the other craft. After a brisk 10-minute firefight, the enemy gun's were quiet.

At 1144, two troopcarriers, with elements of the 3/47th Inf Bn. embarked, were ambushed from both banks of the Ben Tre Stream 8½ miles southeast of Ben Tre. ATC-111-10 and ATC-111-3 each received one rocket/recoilless-rifle round resulting in minimal damage to the two craft, but wounding two sailors and two soldiers. The enemy guns were silenced with the assistance of U. S. Army helicopters which strafed the ambush positions.

The final attack occurred at 1415 as the riverine units of RAD 91 and 111 were transiting west of the Ben Tre Stream 4 miles east-southeast of Ben Tre and moving out of the area of operations. Six boats were struck

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by an enemy fusilade of rockets, recoilless-rifle and automatic weapons. ATC-111-3 and ATC-111-12 were both hit below the waterline and ATC-111-4 was hit amidships, but none of them sustained any serious damage; CCB-111-1 received several .50 caliber machine-gun hits on its starboard bow. A total of five sailors were wounded during this incident, but none were seriously wounded. The boats silenced the enemy guns, killing two Viet Cong during the action.

Despite the intense enemy contact along "rocket alley," there was no significant ground action on 27 May and the assault boats carried the infantrymen back to the MRB on the following morning. Enemy losses amounted to 41 Viet Cong killed, 66 bunkers destroyed, 4 prisoners captured and 30 suspects seized for additional interrogation. U. S. Army casualties were 8 men killed and 26 more wounded, while Navy casualties amounted to 2 killed and 23 wounded during the two-day operation.

A post-operative evaluation of the extensive rocket ambushes encountered on 26-27 May in the Giong Trom District indicated that the Viet Cong were firing at the boats while far back from the river banks. Presumably, this was in recognition of the boat's direct firepower and flamethrower capabilities. As a result, there were an unusually large number of misses; otherwise, the damage and personnel losses would have been much greater.

The MRF culminated the month's operation with a two-battalion riverine strike operation on 29-30 May in the Mo Cay District to locate

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and engage the Viet Cong 540th DCU. As a result of MRF operations there were 15 Viet Cong killed, 1 prisoner captured, 81 bunkers destroyed and 100 suspects detained for further questioning. There was one soldier reported missing in action as a result of the operation.

At 0038 on 31 May USS COLLETON (APB36), anchored with the MRB near Ben Tre, received five rounds of recoilless-rifle fire from the east bank of the Ham Luong River. Only one round impacted against the barracks ship, causing a three-inch hole in the hull of the ship. There were no casualties and no significant damage as the round failed to detonate.

MRF Operations in I Corps

Late on the evening of 1 May the Naval Support Activity Detachment at Cua Viet received approximately 60 rounds of artillery fire, which caused slight damage to 3 ATC's and wounded 3 RAD 112 sailors. The attack was one of the most severe on the supply depot since the MRF units began providing gunfire support services in early March.

Earlier that same day Lieutenant J. R. NELSON, USN, Commander River Assault Division 112, received multiple fragment wounds of the face when monitor 111-2 was attacked with small-arms and automatic-weapons fire. The riverine units were supporting a U. S. Marine Corps sweep along the Cua Viet River.

At 0125 on 14 May ATC-112-2 was struck by two RPG-7 rocket rounds while anchored for the night on the Cua Viet River 1½ miles from Cua Viet. There were no personnel casualties, but one of the rounds penetrated

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into the engine room on the starboard side aft just above the waterline. The second round partially detonated and lodged between the bar trigger armor and the hull, midships. EOD personnel removed and destroyed the rocket.

On 29 May COMRIVDIV 112 with one CCB, three monitors and three troopcarriers embarked in USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD5) for return to the MRF in the Delta. Lieutenant D. F. HOUSER, USN, remained at Cua Viet with six troopcarriers to continue operations with CTF CLEARWATER.

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MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE UNITS

On 3 May Admiral John J. HYLAND, USN, Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, visited the MRB for an up-date briefing on MRF operations. He also presented awards to several MRF personnel, including the Silver Star Medal to Boatswain's Mate First Class Vernon M. WARE, USN, of River Assault Division 111.

Three days later the first increment of River Assault Squadron THIRTEEN officially joined the MRF after a day of test firing and training.

On 11 May River Assault Squadron FIFTEEN was commissioned with Commander Walter C. DEAL, Jr., USN, as its first commander. The administrative and operational control of the new assault squadron was assigned to COMPHIBPAC until COMRIVRON FIFTEEN deploys and reports to COMRIVFLOT ONE.

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On 25 May USS VERNON COUNTY (LST1161) relieved USS TOM GREEN COUNTY (LST1159) as the MRF support LST.

On 28 May Colonel Robert ARCHER, USA, assumed command of the 2nd Brigade of the U. S. 9th Infantry Division. He replaced Colonel Bert A. DAVID, USA, who served as the Brigade Commander since 1 August 1967.

During the month, rats have been noted aboard the pontoons and boats of the MRF. All available protective measures were taken to prevent the rodents from boarding the ships. Assistance was requested from the local Preventative Medicine Unit at Dong Tam, and they provided rat poison suitable for use on the pontoons and boats. Relocation of the MRB and stricter control of the handling of garbage and refuse have contributed to a lessening of the number of rats noted on the pontoons.

Since arriving on station with the MRF after a ship conversion period, USS COLLETON (APB36) with its improved medical spaces has served as a primary casualty receiving facility for all elements of the MRF. The medical staffing of the facility was jointly provided by U. S. Army/Navy elements of the MRF and are listed below:

1 general surgeon, 9th Medical Battalion, USA
2 general medical officers, 9th Medical Battalion, USA
1 dermatologist, 9th Medical Battalion, USA
1 general medical officer, USS COLLETON, USN
1 anesthesist, captain, Nurse Corps, USA
1 ward supervisor nurse, captain, Nurse Corps, USA

The enlisted medical personnel of the ship and the "D" Medical Company, 9th Medical Battalion were united into an effective casualty receiving and treatment team.

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The following statistics for the period 26 January to 27 April 1968 reflect this capability:

(1) Total number of patients treated at surgical facility aboard COLLETON:

January	14
February	325
March	223
April	322

(2) Total number of casualties received as a result of wounds sustained in hostile action:

January	6
February	295
March	176
April	208

(3) Total number of casualties evacuated electively to hospitals ashore after definitive surgical treatment (usually one to two days after combat):

January	5
February	97
March	50
April	50

(4) Total number of casualties admitted as in-patients:

January	9
February	54
March	93
April	41

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OPERATIONS IN THE CUA VIET RIVER

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TASK FORCE CLEARWATER

Task Force CLEARWATER continued its mission of expediting and protecting logistic craft movement on the Perfume and Cua Viet rivers during May. Although the level of enemy activity remained low along the Perfume River, attempts to interdict craft on the Cua Viet River increased utilizing both mining and ambush along the waterway as well as rocket and artillery attacks on the Dong Ha and Cua Viet staging areas. The Naval Support Activity, Detachment, Cua Viet and nearby areas received at least 15 rocket or artillery attacks during the month and the Dong Ha ramp was hit twice.

The month started with a brief delay in logistic movement on the Cua Viet River. Following a 30 April ambush about one mile east of Dong Ha the river had been closed to logistic craft and two Marine companies began a search of the ambush site. The minesweeping operation on the morning of the 1st was stopped near the ambush site where the Marines were engaged with what developed to be an estimated enemy battalion. Logistic movement resumed at 1300 when the fighting on the river bank subsided. Mortars, rocket, automatic weapons and small arms fire continued further inland throughout much of the day. The Marines supported by air strikes and artillery had counted about 150 NVA bodies at this time on the 1st as the action continued intermittently until the 8th.

The most significant development of the month occurred on the 2nd when the enemy was caught in the act of preparing magnetic influence mines on the Cua Viet River. At 0230 Patrol Boat 24 using infra-red

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illumination observed a group of people on the north bank of the river just south of continuing Marine operations through the 30 April ambush area. After illuminating the area with white light the craft was able to identify about 25 NVA in full battle dress and 5 others in black suits that appeared to be wet. The enemy was immediately taken under fire with M-79 grenade launchers. Two were seen to fall as the group fled to the northwest. Patrol boats 21 and 28 joined in the action as two large objects, each about six feet long and one foot in diameter were spotted near the water's edge. These objects were taken under fire resulting in a large explosion with a 40 foot ball and several secondary detonations. Several additional can shaped objects were observed and taken under fire, one of which continued to burn for over an hour. As the craft continued to patrol the area a large group of NVA were observed in the open about 400 yards northeast of the previous encounter. Heavy small arms fire was received from this group as they were again engaged with M-79's. Friendly machine guns could not be employed due to the proximity of friendly forces inland. A heavy rain broke off the action at 0500. Navy EOD personnel called to the scene at 0800 discovered one completely assembled magnetic influence mine and part of another. The search of the river by EOD personnel continued for several days and by the 5th a total of six mines had been located.

Attacks on patrol craft on the rivers were very frequent early in the month. From the 1st through the 7th patrols and logistics craft on

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the Cua Viet River were fired on by enemy rockets, artillery or mortars a total of 13 times. No casualties and only minor damage resulted from these attacks. Action on the Perfume River was less frequent, however, one Navyman was wounded when YFU-64 was hit by a B-40 rocket on the 6th just east of the Hue ramp. Early on the morning of the 7th a PBR patrol section received heavy automatic weapons and rocket fire from the same location. Two additional PBR sections moved to assist in the action which wounded eight men, two seriously. Three PBR's 77, 80 and 84 were damaged before the six boats could clear the area. Four craft remained in the vicinity to block any possible river crossing. Artillery, directed by a Marine forward observer on a PBR, was fired into the ambush site and fixed wing air strikes hit the area at first light. Logistic craft were held at Tan My until Army airborne units completed a sweep of the area that afternoon. Another ambush from this same location on the 10th wounded one man.

The most serious damage from rocket and artillery attacks on staging areas occurred on the evening of 1 May when Cua Viet received about 60 incoming rounds. Five craft were damaged and six men were wounded. The next night the enemy narrowly missed causing major damage when some of 69 incoming artillery rounds bracketed the YOG in the turning basin at Cua Viet. The largest attack on Cua Viet took place on the 25th when a total of 111 artillery or rocket rounds hit the base and nearby installations during the early morning hours causing no damage to Navy units.

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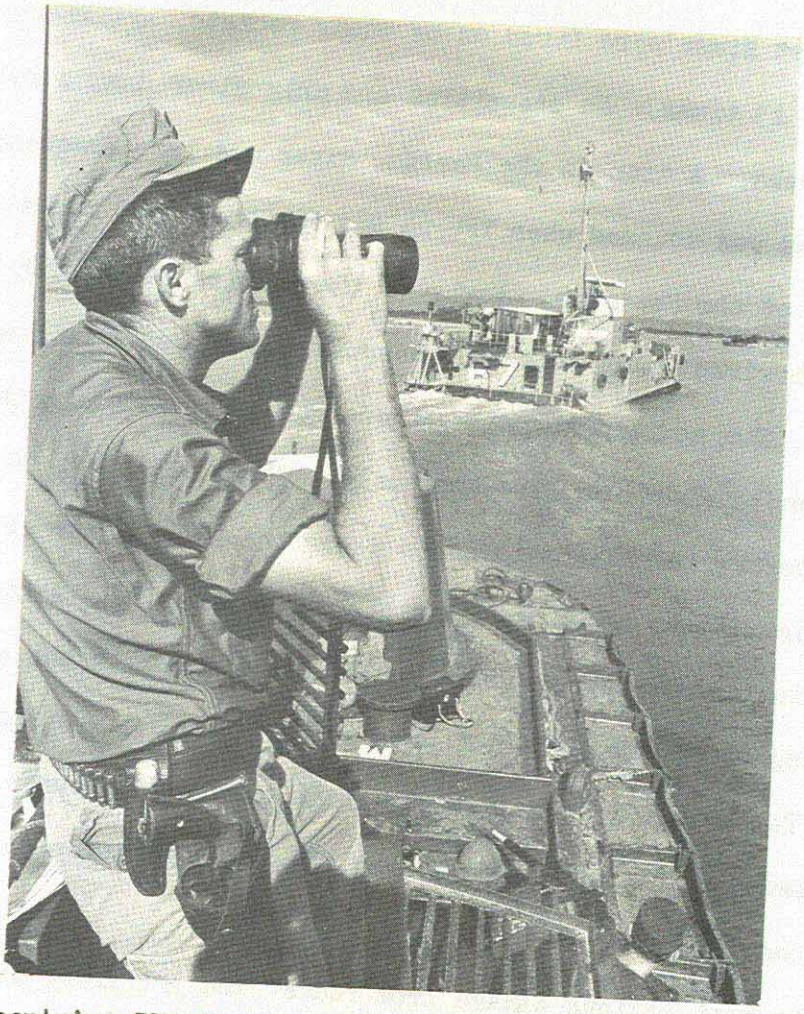

Monitor boat captain, BM1 Mack HAMBRICK, USN, eyes the shoreline of the Cua Viet River during an escort for cargo hauling utility boats.

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However, nearby Marine installation received significant damage. One more attack on the 28th wounded one man at Cua Viet.

On four occasions during the month PBR's on the Cua Viet River were hailed by children on shore in order to turn in weapons and ammunition they had found near their villages. Several claymore mines, various U. S. grenades, B-40 rocket rounds, 5.56 and AK-47 ammunition were turned over to the river patrols by children during May.

The latter part of the month saw action fall off slightly on the rivers. Logistics operations on the Cua Viet were delayed briefly on the 23rd after the capture of two armed Viet Cong on the river bank along with explosives and detonators and other indications that the enemy had planted mines. Most of the units from TF 117 which had been attached to CLEARWATER since March were returned to the Mekong Delta after additional PBR's were received at Cua Viet late in May. It had been determined that continuous patrol and daily mine sweeping along with the river security provided by troops ashore was the best means to meet the existing threat. Logistic craft were dispatched when ready once the river was cleared daily. The patrol functions that CCB's and monitors had been employed in on the Cua Viet could be more efficiently handled by PBR's and LCPL's. However, six ATC's were retained at Cua Viet for mine sweeping.

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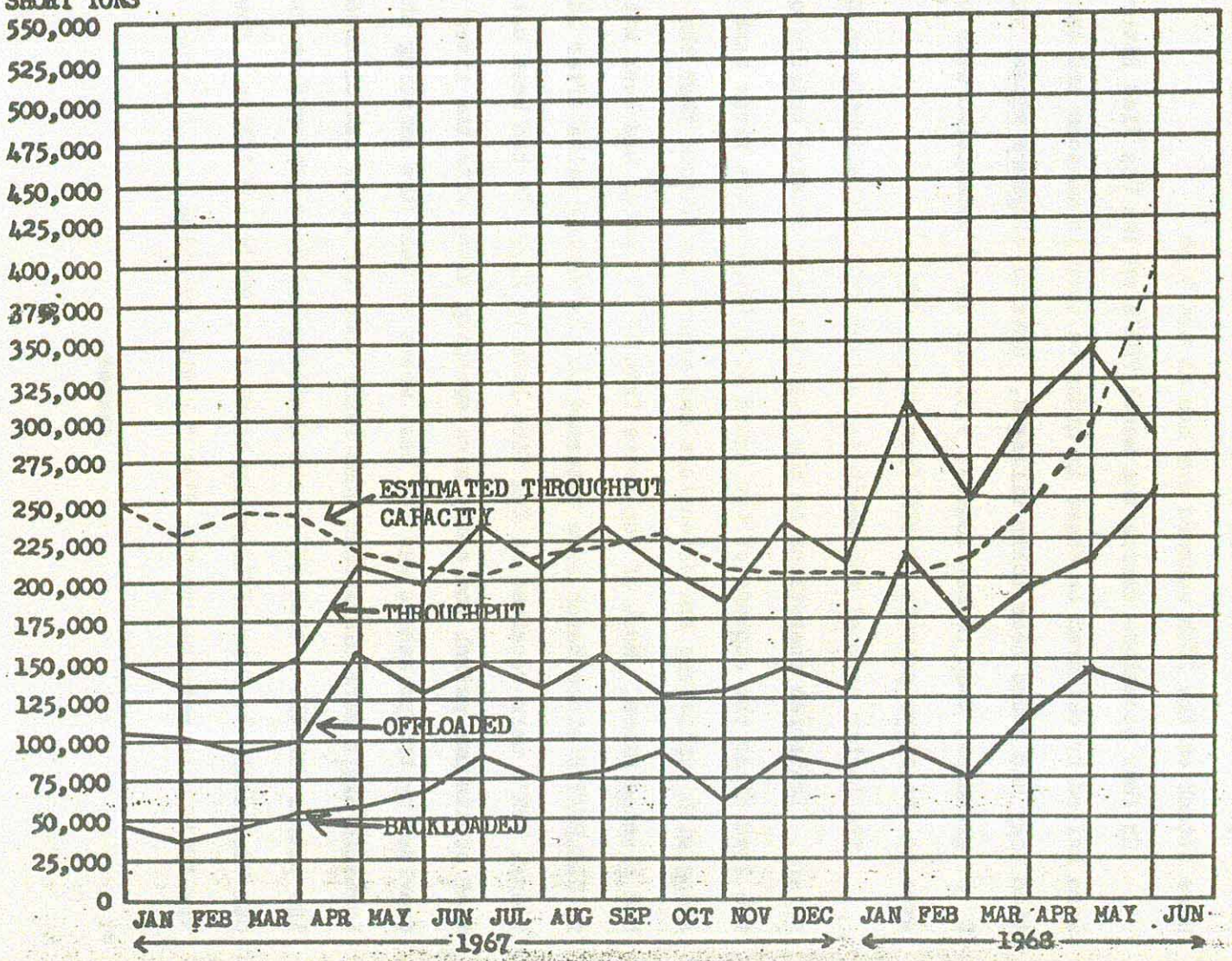
DANANG CARGO HANDLING



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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

Operations by the Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang continued at a high level throughout May. Eleven of the tonnage records established in April were surpassed by May cargo operations. These new records included: 380,878 short-ton monthly throughput at Danang; 5,821 short-ton monthly backload at Dong Ha; and 813,255 measurement-ton monthly throughput for the combined I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ) ports.

The I Corps population buildup began to level off in May and was reflected in a slight decrease in demands. The total of 199,009 supply demands was down from April's record of 208,541, but was still 12.5 percent above the March figure. Overall gross supply effectiveness in May for Danang and Chu Lai combined dropped slightly to 87.1 percent from April's 88.5 percent. At the same time the overall net supply effectiveness was down from April's 91 percent to 89.9 percent for May. Again the Army was the largest customer with 125,314 or 63 percent of the total demands.

Fuel transfer operations on the Cua Viet and Perfume rivers were not subject to as much enemy interdiction as earlier in the year. However, increased rocket and artillery attacks on the Cua Viet base caused one disruption. On 25 May 17 fuel bladders were destroyed by an enemy attack resulting in the loss of 170,000 gallons of product. Until the bladders were replaced on 28 May direct support was provided using AMMI barges with an AOG on station as floating storage. Daily river transit

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capability remained at 200,000 gallons on the Perfume River and 340,000 gallons on the Cua Viet River. Total POL issues for May were up to 1,425,000 gallons per day.

At the Danang Freight Terminal the second female hatch team began work on 18 May. During the last half of the month, one berth was vacant for 7 days, two berths 5 days, and three other berths 1 day. Incoming ammunition was especially low with one period of eight days with no ammunition ships in port. However, by the end of the month both ammunition and general cargo traffic were picking up.

Water supply in the Danang area became a problem during May. Although supply was able to keep up with the demand, it was anticipated that demands would continue to increase as the supply of water steadily decreased during the dry summer months. A water conservation program was initiated to help eliminate the problem. A new dam on Monkey Mountain was completed and an effort was begun to store as much water as possible in this 1,900,000 gallon storage site.

At Cua Viet rocket or artillery attacks on the NAVSUPPACT detachment base numbered 12 during the month with 2 additional attacks on the Dong Ha ramp. The Hue ramp was hit once by enemy rockets and mortars. Two craft on the Perfume River were hit by RPG/rocket fire resulting in one wounded and minor material damage. Also on the Perfume River PBR patrols were taken under heavy automatic weapons fire twice, wounding nine and damaging three of the patrol boats.

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At Danang early on 5 May several military installations were hit in a widespread rocket and mortar attack. No NAVSUPPACT installations were damaged seriously and total NAVSUPPACT personnel casualties were eight. This well-coordinated attack in which all targets were hit almost simultaneously was the first having cargo handling facilities in Danang as a primary target. At about 0130 five 122-mm rockets impacted near the bridge ramp. Two of them hit the forward main deck of MSTS LST 822 resulting in the following casualties to Army personnel; 3 killed, 4 missing, and 23 wounded. Two rounds which landed on the ramp caused minor damage and killed one Navyman. At the same time the transmitter site took heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from several directions. One bunker was attacked with B-40 rockets and the living compound was hit with 82-mm mortars. One Navy sentry dog handler was killed and one enemy was killed attempting to penetrate the perimeter wire. At the ferry landing minor damage resulted when one rocket landed in the lumber cargo aboard YFU-54. Minor damage to one ward was caused by five rockets which hit the northwest corner of the NAVSUPPACT, Danang station hospital. There were several near misses at the supply depot during this attack.

Total admissions at the station hospital reached the record level of 2,542, including 115 prisoners of war. Of these, 1,272 were battle casualties. The daily average patient census was 450 and at the month's end the patient load stood at 410, including 59 prisoners. During the

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month a total of 918 patients were evacuated out of Vietnam and 898 were returned to duty.

At the end of the month the NAVSUPPACT, Danang personnel level was 9,439 and the total U. S. and other Free World forces supported in I Corps totaled 200,148.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

Enemy action during May caused several delays in logistics and construction activity for Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Saigon. The Viet Cong infiltrations of the Saigon/Cholon area caused an approximate 40 percent reduction in civilian man-hours worked during the month. A further strain on available manpower was the need to divert men to compound and warehouse guard duties. In addition, a total of eight rocket or mortar attacks hit NAVSUPPACT, Saigon detachments during May.

In spite of this enemy harassment the overall gross supply effectiveness increased to 69 percent in May from April's 62 percent. Overall net supply effectiveness rose from 73 to 82 percent. Absence of the work force from the 506th Field Depot during the Viet Cong activity in the area degraded support of common items received from the Army.

Surface craft assigned to NAVSUPPACT, Saigon transported 4,623 short-tons of cargo to units supported in the II, III, and IV Corps areas during May. This is more than twice the April total. Aircraft assigned to NAVSUPPACT, Saigon included two C-117's, one US-2B, and three UH-34's. These aircraft carried 440,000 pounds of cargo and 3,160 passengers during the period 25 April through 25 May 1968.

During May warehouse space in Saigon continued to be a problem. Attempts to obtain additional space from Headquarters Area Command were made as all available NAVSUPPACT, Saigon spaces remained filled. Future relief by completion of the Newport warehousing facility is possible and

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the priorty of that project was upgraded.

On 17 May a NAVSUPPACT, Saigon C-117 was struck by ground fire on its approach to Binh Thuy. One round hit the left part of the fuselage, penetrating the bottom and exiting through the top. No significant damage or personnel casualties resulted. Enemy harassment of the Dong Tam Detachment was unusually frequent during May. Mortar attacks were conducted on 4, 5, 6, 7 and 30 May. The only casualties resulted from the 30 May attack were two detachment personnel wounded and nine others from YRBM-17 were wounded. Two other craft and five buildings received minor damage. A mortar attack on Vinh Long on 21 May produced no damage or personnel casualties. Nha Be was attacked on 12 and 30 May with no NAVSUPPACT damage or casualties. During both attacks the nearby Shell tank farm was also hit by rockets or mortars. On the 30th two tanks were hit and set afire. A detachment fire truck was sent to the tank farm to provide assistance.

Use of the Nha Be heliport by Army helicopters to arm and refuel reached a point which began to overload NAVSUPPACT capabilities to support them in addition to meeting operational requirements for TF 116 and the Senior Advisor, Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ). Although the facility is available to support any helicopter to rearm and refuel for immediate combat, the general pattern of visits by Army units indicate that their visits to Nha Be are not always to meet urgent combat needs. An average of 57 Army helicopters land at Nha Be daily with as many as

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16 helicopters on the ground at one time, particularly during the noon meal. In order to continue this level of support the Army was requested to provide Nha Be with regular deliveries of ammunition from Army supplies and reimbursement for fuel given Army units.

Including Naval Support Facility, Cam Ranh Bay and all assigned craft personnel on board NAVSUPPACT, Saigon at the end of May totaled 3,069, an increase of 176 over April.

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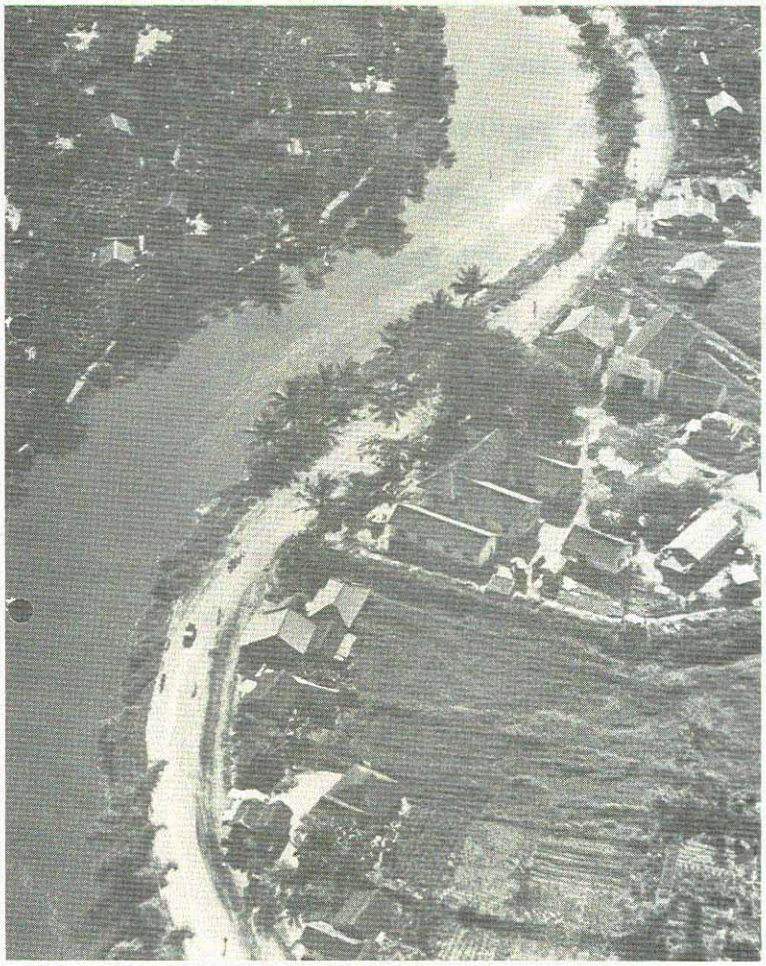

A portion of the widened Col Co Road. Work on the route between Hue and Tan My by NMCB-8 includes both dredge sand and laterite fill which will be followed by soil cementing.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

Enemy activity during May did not significantly hamper Seabee construction projects. Although work on road upgrading progressed well during the month, one setback was received during a 29 May rainstorm. The eight inches of rain which poured on the Dong Ha and Camp Evans areas caused numerous washouts and erosion damage. Also on 24 May the south end of Liberty Bridge was burned by the enemy. About 1,200 feet of the 2,040 foot span crossing the Thu Bon River south of Danang was destroyed.

Other enemy attacks on Seabee units and facilities during May caused minor damage to equipment and installations and wounded 13 men. At about 0300 on the 5th, approximately 25 enemy rockets impacted in the Quang Tri Combat Base. No hits were received in the Seabee camp area and no damage was incurred. One man suffered minor wounds. Between 0200 and 0330 on the dame day, the quarry site of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE-EIGHT (NMCB 58) four miles west of the Gia Le Combat Base received 34 rounds of enemy 82-mm mortar fire. No casualties or damage resulted. Also on the 6th minor damage to an NMCB 58 truck resulted from enemy small arms fire 35 miles west of Hoi An. The camp Evans Combat Base was hit by twenty 122-mm rockets shortly after 0100 on the same date. No damage or casualties resulted from this attack nor from another attack on the morning of the 6th against the NMCB 9 quarry site 11.4 miles south east of Phu Bai. In this attack incoming 82-mm mortar fire was returned by Seabee 81-mm mortars and Marine 105-mm howitzers. Other mortar

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attacks on the NMCB 9 quarry site on the 8th and 10th also failed to cause any damage or casualties.

On the 14th an NMCB 11 two and one-half ton truck struck a mine one mile northwest of the Quang Tri Combat Base causing minor wounds to five Seabees and heavily damaging the vehicle. More casulaties resulted from an artillery attack on the same day which hit the NMCB 5 camp at the Dong Ha Combat Base. Two men were seriously wounded and one received minor wounds. One vehicle and the enlisted club received major damage. Two more Seabees were wounded on the afternoon of the 14th when an NMCB 58 work detail was attacked by small arms and a command detonated mine 3 miles west of Hoi An.

On 19 May Camp Evans was again hit by 122-mm rockets in the early evening causing no damage or casualties. A mortar attack and light ground assault was directed at the Gia Le Combat Base at 0025 on the 21st. The attack was repulsed with no friendly casualties. A quarry detail from NMCB 58 was hit for the third time in the month on the same night. Although some equipment was damaged, there were no personnel casualties. On the 22nd an NMCB 8 road crew working on Route 551 six and one-half miles north east of Hue was attacked by small arms and mortar fire which inflicted no casualties. Camp Barnes received three unknown caliber incoming rounds early on the 27th which caused minor damage to service facilities but no personnel casualties.

Construction programs on the road upgrade program included widening

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of 60 percent of the 7.5 mile portion of Route 9 between Dong Ha and Cam Lo. Five of seven bridges on this section of the road have been widened to MACV standards. On Route 1 a 280 foot timber bridge is being constructed 13 miles south of Quang Tri and widening of the road continued both north and south of Camp Evans. Approximately 50 percent of the dredge sand fill for the Col Co Road was in place by the end of May. Soil cementing and placement of the rock base had started at the Tan My end of this road. Work was also started on the southern Hue by-pass from the end of the Col Co Road to Route 1. Culverts were constructed to replace five short, narrow bridges on the Col Co Road. A 400 foot timber bridge on this section was completed and work continued on another 180 foot timber bridge. Funding was received for land acquistion which had delayed work on widening the Hue by-pass.

Rock production capabilities were increased during May when a Seabee detail set up a camp at Cam Lo and a 200 tons per hour rock crushing operation. Production at this site should begin in early June. At Camp Deshurley another detail began to open a second quarry and set up a 200 tons per hour rock crusher. By the end of the month the crusher pads were placed, work had started on the head wall, stripping operations had begun, and construction of the haul road was underway. During May the existing quarry and rock crushing operation at Camp Deshurley produced an average of 885 tons per day. Production at the Nan Hoa quarry averaged 530 tons per day. Security conditions limited both quarries to daytime

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operations only. A critical shortage of rock continued to exist as barging operations to move rock in the I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ) remained below required levels. The arrival of six additional barges on 24 May brought the total of barges available to 15 with 10 more expected in June. During May a total of 20,500 tons of rock was barged north from Danang.

Other developments included the continuation of the large scale logistic effort within the I CTZ. A total of 32,662 measurement-tons of cargo were shipped to Seabee and Marine units outside the Danang area. Tactical support construction accounted for over 50 percent of the Seabee workload as it will continue to do so in the forseeable future. Reassignment of vertical construction from Seabees to contractors considerably reduced the backlog at Chu Lai. During May Seabees were tasked with the bridge construction required to reopen the railroad betwen Danang and Hue. In late May a 50-man Seabee detachment was sent to Saigon to take part in Operation DONG TAM. They will work on the construction of houses for Vietnamese who lost their homes in recent enemy action. During May NMCB 10 at Quang Tri was relieved by NMCB 11 and NMCB 1 relieved NMCB 9 at Camp Hoover in Danang.

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MILITARY PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS

Psychological operations continued to be stressed by all naval units in their respective operational areas of responsibility during the month. As an adjunct to a more active program, a conference was held at Cam Ranh Bay on 25-26 May with attendees from all naval units throughout the Republic of Vietnam. It was the consensus of the attendees that the Navy had made definite inroads in the field of psychological operations and that expanded efforts were achieving some desired results. It was also determined that a better organization and authorization for trained psychological operations personnel must be forthcoming if a truly progressive and continuous program is to be achieved.

There were a total of 13 Viet Cong that rallied to USN and Vietnamese naval units under the Chieu Hoi program. Leaflet distribution and surface broadcasts continued to be the main avenue of addressing the various target audiences. On 15 May, however, TF 116 PBR's assisted in the execution of the IV Corps Tactical Zone (IV CTZ) CORDS initiated Operation KON TIKI. The mission of the operation was to reach the people in the Delta that lived in areas completely controlled by the Viet Cong. The PBR's deposited plastic packages, containing psychological operations material and small gifts, in the rivers and canals leading into the Viet Cong controlled areas. The packages were designed to float allowing the tide to carry them to the targeted areas.

Harrassment of craft conducting surface broadcast missions continued

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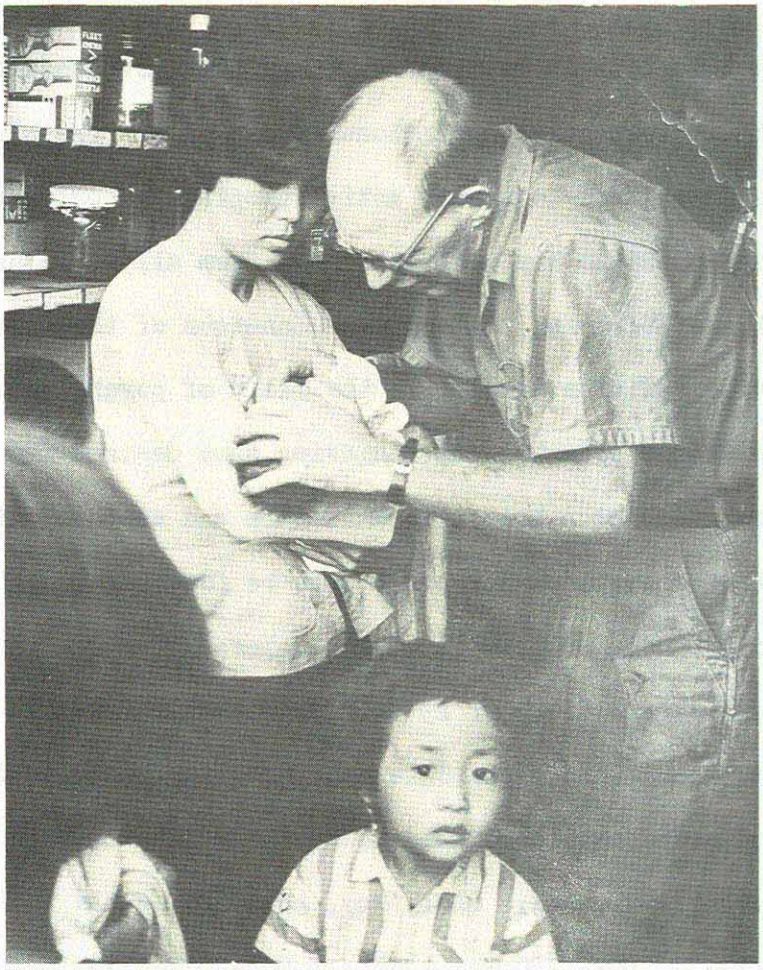

The MEDCAP program provides medical assistance for those living near Seabee Team compound. Here HM1 Harold GUTSCHER, USN, of Seabee Team 5802, located at Soc Trang, examines a young infant as the mother looks on.

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at an accelerated pace. Thirty-eight loudspeaker missions were conducted with a total of 18 of the boats drawing hostile fire. It was stated by one PBR sailor that "if you want to draw enemy fire start broadcasting."

In the field of civic action naval units mostly directed their efforts to aiding the Vietnamese rebuild battle-damaged homes wrought by Viet Cong assaults. In most cases the Navymen provided technical expertise and material to assist in these self-help projects coordinated with local Vietnamese officials.

There were 39 MEDCAP's conducted during which time in excess of 7800 people were treated. In addition Seabee Team corpsmen treated 6,850 patients, 85 of which were battle wounds. There were 14 Seabee Teams in country with the 15th and last team of the current expansion due to arrive in June.

In Quang Tri Province, Seabees of Mobile Construction Battalion TEN presented a total of seven new bicycles and numerous sacks of cement to a protestant church-orphanage, a catholic mission and a buddhist pagoda as a token of friendship. As a result of the enemy attack on Saigon in early May, many civilians were killed and their homes lost due to artillery from both sides. In order to restore the U. S. image which suffered in Districts 6 and 8 of Saigon primarily, Operation DONG TAM, a crash cleanup and refugee housing project, was initiated by COMUSMACV with heavy participation by Mobile Construction Battalion 58.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
May 1968

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN-DAYS PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: 3305.5

COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: (VN$) 4,195,710

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: (VN$) 382,636

PERCENTAGE OF U. S. MILITARY CIVIC ACTION ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH:

	Percent
Other	11
RVNAF	18
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	15
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	23

PROGRAMS

	Man Days	Expenditures (VN$)
Economic Development	58.5	47,497
Education	253.0	750,211
Social Welfare	2,111.0	3,531,801
Transportation	135.0	30,000
Refugee	213.0	1,071,282

INSTITUTES ASSISTED

	Number
Schools	49
Hospitals/dispensaries	29
Orphanages	24
Others	57

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 5 May an LCM-3, belonging to the Naval Support Activity Saigon Detachment at Sa Dec, sunk at the Thuong Thoi Special Force camp 2 miles south of Tan Chau in Chau Doc Province. Light Lift Craft ONE (YLLC-1) under the operational control of CTF 117 got underway from Dong Tam at 1300 on 7 May and commenced a 10-hour transit up the Mekong River en route to the salvage scene.

The next morning the divers made their initial salvage survey. The LCM had beached at the base of a high river bank; had taken on water without it being noticed by the crewmembers; and slid stern first off it beaching point and came to rest on the bottom of the river with its bow out of the water at a 60° angle. The Initial attempt to fully raise the craft was unsuccessful and the boat was lowered back down into the river. The lifting strap was then shortened and the second attempt to raise the craft was successful. The LCM was towed back to Dong Tam in accordance with NSAS Detachment Sa Dec desires and turned over to the Naval Support Activity Detachment at Dong Tam for disposition.

On the night of 5 May the Vietnamese Navy Patrol Gunboat Motor SIX ONE ONE (PGM-611), while on routine patrol in the Gulf of Thailand, grounded on shoal rocks off the northwest corner of Phu Quoc Island 2 miles south of Cambodian terriorial waters. Attempts to free the stranded ship with a tow from PGM 601 proved futile and U. S. Navy salvage assistance was requested.

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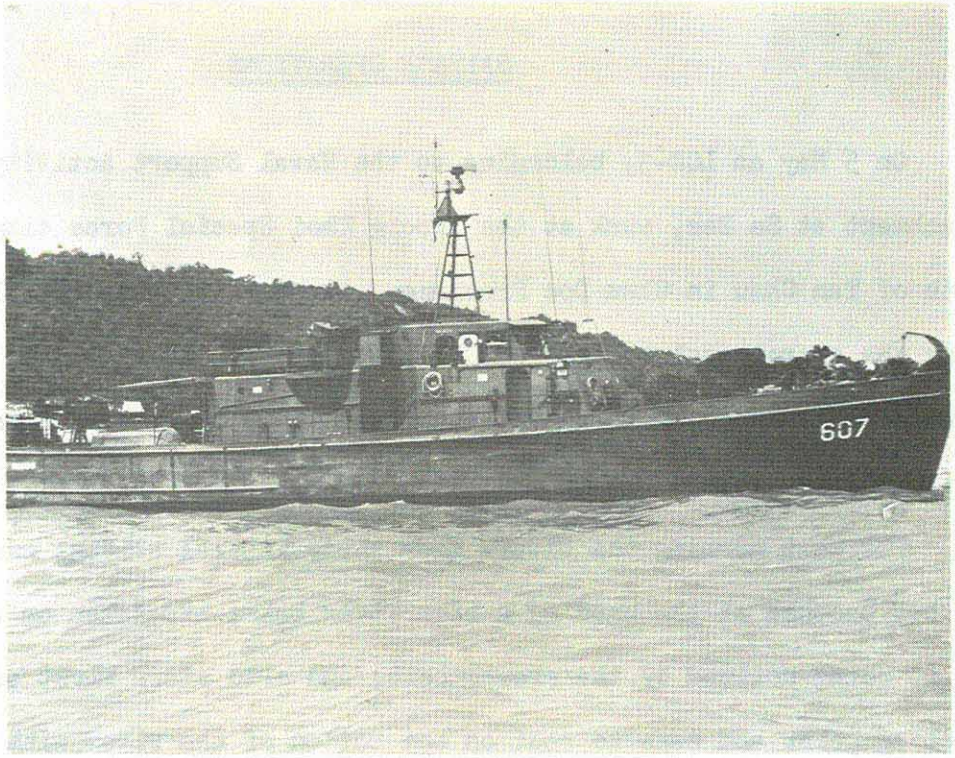

Patrol Motor Gunboat (PGM) 607 rides peacefully at anchor awaiting possible trouble. The boat is the same class as the PGM Navy salvage crews pulled from the rocks near the Cambodian border in May 1968.

Early the following day a salvage officer and four divers from Harbor Clearance Unit ONE detachment (HCU-1) at Vung Tau were flown to the scene, and USS DELIVER (ARS-23) got underway from Danang to proceed to the salvage scene and provide assistance.

The external survey by HCU-1 divers revealed that slightly more than half of the 101-foot ship was hard aground on large rocks with one large rock protruding into the port bottom of the ship at frame 75. The screws, shafts and rudder were bent; the shaft struts were torn loose from the hull; and the ship was listing 15 degrees. Much of the

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underwater hull was inaccessible because the ship was quite lively in three-foot swells. The internal survey revealed that the engine room forward crews berthing, after crews bething and the steering gear lazarette were all flooded.

DELIVER arrived on the scene at 1700 on 9 May, and the divers then went into the flooded compartments with shallow water gear to clear debris and conduct an extensive internal survey. An around-the-clock work schedule was established for the salvage crews, who immediately commenced the removal of all rubble and debris from the flooded spaces.

On 11 May, after a full day of patching up the ship, the off-loading of all 40-mm ammunition, setting up the pumps, and dewatering of the ship commenced. The patrol boat dewatered very rapidly and a tow was attempted by PGM 600 and DELIVER's work boat. The effort failed, when the tow line parted and some water plugs gave away causing the boat to reflood. Patching was recommenced and the following day the reflooded compartments were again dewatered.

At 0933 on 12 May, PGM 611 was afloat and free after being pulled off the rocks by PGM 600. The patrol boat was brought alongside DELIVER for more permanent repairs in preparation for a 329-mile ocean tow to Vung Tau. On 14 May the two ships arrived at Vung Tau. The next day PGM 611 was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy LSSL 225 for tow to the Saigon Naval Shipyard.

On 16 May the Public Works Advisor of Ding Tuong Province requested

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U. S. Navy salvage assistance in raising the spare ferry pontoon which sank in the vicinity of My Tho. The pontoon had been previously raised on 21 March at the Kien Hoa Ferry site and brought to My Tho for civilian repair.

YLLC 5 with Team 4 of HCU-1 embarked arrived at My Tho on 21 May and found the ferry landing barge with eight feet of water over the main deck at low tide. The barge was of concrete construction and consisted of nine separeate cells.

After five days of pumping and patching, a total of five cells were dewatered. Two of the damaged cells were deeply embedded in the mud and were holding down the damaged side of the pontoon. Afer removing mud and silt by educting and washing it from the damaged cells, the salvage team inflated 16 float ballons into the cells for added lift and prepositioned pumps to obtain a greater pumping advantage.

A major lift effort was attempted on 29 May and the ferry landing barge was refloated at 1115. The Provincial Public Works Department took custody of the barge, and had it towed to a new position in the repair yard, thereby completing the salvage job.

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COMMUNICATIONS

The COMNAVFORV Message Center once again established a new monthly high for message handling by processing a total of 131,721 messages, an increase of 12,562 over the April total. A proportionate increase of traffic in servicing message centers was also noted.

During the month, planning and development of vocabulary requirements were completed by representatives of COMNAVFORV, DIRNSA and in-country security teams to provide operational codes (OPCODES) for local use by TF 116, and TF 117. It was determined that the existing OPCODES held by MARKET TIME forces were adequate. CTF 116 and CTF 117 requirements, because of the unique character of patrol and assault operations in the Mekong Delta, could not be satisified by existing codes and as a result, new ones were developed. Rationale and content of the proposed codes was approved, and it was determined that 90 days or less would be required for production and distribution of the codes for CTF 117. The special OPCODE for CTF 116 has already been distributed and will become effective and operational on 1 July 1968.

The status of Project CLARINET SEAWARD (upgrading communications facilities at COMNAVFORV headquarters, the Coastal Surveillance Centers and GAME WARDEN bases) was as follows:

SITE	BOD (Beneficial Occupancy Date)	STATUS
CNFV	- -	Complete
Binh Thuy	- -	Complete
Nha Be	- -	Complete
An Thoi	- -	Building construction,

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SITE	BOD	EST COMP	STATUS
An Thoi (Cont'd)	- -	- - -	awaiting installation team.
Qui Nhon	- -	1 JULY	Installation in progress.
Nha Trang	8 AUG	*	Construction to start week of 3 June.
Vung Tau	15 AUG (Est)	*	Cholon hut for lighthouse personnel to be complete 5 June, installation in lighthouse to start 14 June.
Sa Dec	- -	*	Awaiting installation team
My Tho	- -	*	Awaiting installation team
Vinh Long	15 JUN	*	NSA Saigon installing power cables, complete 15 June then ready for installation team.

* Upon completion of Qui Nhon, the installation team will work An Thoi, Sa Dec, My Tho and Vinh Long in that order.

While awaiting the completion of Project CLARINET SEAWARD, an interim "get well" program was initiated to improve communications at the Coastal Surveillance Centers at Vung Tau, An Thoi and Nha Trang. Teams from NAVSUPPACT Saigon have been at these stations bringing the existing equipment up to optimum performance and instructing station personnel in operation and maintenance procedures. Nha Trang and Vung Tau sites have been completed with considerable improvement noted and the communication facilities at An Thoi were still being worked on at month's end.

Equipment shortages continue to plague various naval communication programs throughout the country. Additional equipment has been programmed and requested for MSTS tugs, Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer field locations and boats operating on the Cua Viet and Perfume rivers. Additional telephone circuits have been requested for COMNAVSUPPACT Danang detachments at Cua Viet and Tan My.

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The activation of the Nha Trang Automatic Digital Message Switching Center (ADMSC) scheduled for 20 May 1968 was delayed until 3 June due to problems of processor and memory failures, low system reliability encountered during operational testing and the lack of qualified maintenance personnel. The effect of this was to delay the entry of several potential Marine Corps Teletype subscribers to the Nha Trang AUTODIN Switch into the AUTODIN system.

During the month of May the decision was made to equip the high speed UNIVAC 1004 terminal assigned to COMNAVSUPPACT Danang with teletype capability, permitting the release of three low speed Mode V teletype terminals. The requisite degree of reliability for entry to and delivery from the AUTODIN system of high precedence messages will be provided by reterminating the high speed terminal to the Phu Lam ADMSC. This will permit the terminals of COMNAVSUPPACT Danang and the III Marine Amphibious Force to function as alternates for each other in the event of terminal equipment failure.

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Admiral John J. HYLAND, USN, Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet (right) and Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, with USS BENEWAH in the background, during Admiral HYLAND's visit to U. S. Naval installations in Vietnam in May 1968.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 2 May, Admiral John J. HYLAND, USN, Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, visited COMNAVFORV for an up-date briefing on U. S. Navy operations in Vietnam. The following day Admiral HYLAND visited CTG 115.4 and the naval activity at An Thoi on Phu Quoc Island in the Gulf of Thailand. Later that afternoon the admiral flew to the USS BENEWAH (APB35), flagship of the Mobile Riverine Force, where he received an up-date briefing on riverine operations.

On 15 May, Captain George SHAW-CORTHORN, USN, assumed command of Task Force CLEARWATER from Captain Gerald W. SMITH, USN, in a change-of-command ceremony at the Naval Support Activity Danang Detachment at Cua Viet.

On 16 May, Captain Roy E. HOFFMAN, USN, relieved Commander Alan G. HODGE, USN, as Commander Coastal Flotilla ONE (Task Force 115). Commander HODGE was the acting COMCOSFLOT ONE since 23 March when the former commanding officer's health forced his return to the United States.

On 17 May, Rear Admiral John V. SMITH, USN, prospective Commander Amphibious Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, commenced a comprehensive 7-day indoctrination tour of naval activities throughout South Vietnam. Included in Rear Admiral SMITH's itinerary were visits to Naval Support Activity Danang; the Coastal Surveillance Force headquarters at Cam Ranh Bay; the Saigon headquarters of COMNAVFORV and COMNAVSUPPACT Saigon; the Mobile Riverine Base at Dong Tam; the River Patrol Force (Operation GAME WARDEN) headquarters at Binh Thuy.

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On 17-18 May, Admiral U. S. Grant SHARP, USN, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, conducted a two-day visit to South Vietnam. Included in Admiral SHARP's itinerary was a visit to CTF 116 headquarters at Binh Thuy where he received an up-date briefing on GAME WARDEN operations.

On the following day, General D. de Brigata Mariote Jaime NEVARES, Argentine Army, and a party of five Argentine Army/Air Force/Navy Officers visited the Mobile Riverine Base at Dong Tam, where they were given an orientation briefing on the Mobile Riverine Force concept. The Argentine observers also visited the GAME WARDEN base at Binh Thuy for a briefing on PBR operations. On 20 May the Argentine observers were briefed on Coastal Surveillance Force operations at the MARKET TIME headquarters of CTF 115 at Cam Ranh Bay. Following the briefing the general and his party were taken on a tour of the Naval Support Facility at Cam Ranh Bay and aboard a PCF ("Swift boat").

On 27 May, Rear Admiral Harvey P. LANHAM, USN, Commander Fleet Air, Western Pacific, arrived at Danang and commenced a 4-day tour of U. S. Naval aviation facilities and activities in Vietnam. After a 1-day tour of NAVSUPPACT Danang, Read Admiral LANHAM visited the Naval Air Support Unit at Chu Lai; the Naval Air Facility at Cam Ranh Bay; Helicopter (light) Attack Squadron THREE facilities at Vung Tau and Binh Thuy. His itinerary also included visits to the Saigon headquarters of COMNAVFORV where he received a command briefing and to COMFAIRWESTPAC Detachment for operational briefing and a tour of Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

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RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

The enemy's May offensive, his first major effort since Tet, was dealt with in such a manner as to reflect the real professionalism and stamina of our fighting men. The ground and rocket attacks throughout RVN served only to strengthen and bring the allied and RVNAF forces together toward the common goal of repelling the enemy. Just as during the Tet Offensive in February, the NVA/VC failed in their efforts to overwhelm the GVN or cause disorientation or schism within its organization.

"Men on the move" befitted the Navy chaplains as they sought out the servicemen throughout the country-side, offering strength for their convictions. A total of 15,010 men attended 467 Divine Services this month. The chaplains were also tasked with the responsibilities of counselling, ministering to the sick, wounded or dying, Bible studies, instructional classes, baptisms, memorial services, guest speaking, preparing letters of guidance or articles for publication and civic action projects. Each chaplain found it necessary to go out in the field to fulfill most of these duties to his congregation vice receive it under a common roof. Lay leaders continued to provide the much needed assistance to the chaplains in the conduct of their ministry.

At the NAVSUPPACT Danang's Station Hospital the record of admissions totaled 2,542 this month, exceeding that during the Tet Offensive. Consequently, the chaplains' presence was more so required to lend

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guidance and encouragement to the sick and dying. The chaplains visited all patients a minimum of once per day and wards such as the Intensive Care Unit more than once. Commander E. T. FLATLEY, Senior Chaplain at NAVSUPPACT, Danang, shared this experience: "...there was a steady influx of hot, tired, dirty, sick, wounded but brave young men being admitted. Although these men were no longer able to be in battle, many of them worried about their buddies still in the field and begged to be patched up and returned to assist their friends. Some of them thanked God for their safety, others took it for granted that their life was spared again."

"As one of these Marines was lying on a stretcher in Receiving, awaiting his turn to be taken to X-ray, it was difficult yet wonderful for me to be asked by him to read a passage from the scriptures to him. this wonderful lad pulled his New Testament from a pocket of his torn and tattered uniform and asked for a reading from St. Mark's gospel. These young lads may not be great saints, but they are good, and surely are fine red-blooded Americans."

Imminent danger surrounded the chaplains in their travels this month as in the past. Flying back to Saigon after a swing through the Delta, Chaplain F. P. BURCHELL Jr. (NAVSUPPACT, Saigon) related: "Artillery was being fired at our altitude so our pilot took the plane down to tree top level. With little effort one could pick coconuts from the high trees. We made it safely through another circuit, and

another month of service for our Lord was completed."

Chaplain C. J. MC COY (NAVSUPPACT, Saigon) was one of very few chaplains serving in Vietnam wounded in battle. His account of his night at the Binh Thuy Air Force Base follows: "At about 0300 I heard the unmistakeable sound of incoming rounds. Putting on a flak jacket and helmet I headed for the nearest bunker. I had checked on its location the previous day. Either they had moved the bunker or it looked different at 0300 in the morning. I ran right by it and found myself alone in the open except for the 20 or 30 rounds which were hitting in the area. I flattened out on the deck, placed my arm over my helmet (so the paint wouldn't get chipped) and waited. I could feel the pieces of schrapnel hit the helmet and was fortunate that I hadn't been hit. It was not until I reached a bunker that the people pointed to my arm and shorts were covered with blood. Then I realized that I had, in fact, been wounded."

The most notable endeaver this month on the part of our chaplains was in the area of civic action projects. After the enemy's attacks had been silenced, the chaplains set out to participate with the Navy and other services to relieve the people who were left homeless and wanting. The chaplains distributed money, food, clothing, items of comfort and hygiene, medical supplies, and building materials to churches, schools, orphanages, villages and outlying hamlets. The construction and reconstruction or ground work for Vietnamese churches and

schools were greatly pursued this month. Each NAVFORV chaplain was busily engaged in raising funds and securing materials and workmen, or obtaining alter paraments and other refinements for churches, or books and writing materials for schools. Whether they were in areas where no school or church existed or where the existing buildings were damaged by the effects of war, the chaplains recognized the need and exerted every effort to aid the people. Typical of the situations faced is the following exerpt from Chaplain J. C. SIMPSON's (NAVSUPPACT, Danang) report of a refugee camp in the Phong Thu village in northeast Danang:

"The dire need when we first observed it was for a place for worship. More than 70 persons on an average are meeting in a room 10 feet square. With the help of dunnage (lumber) from Deep Water Pier plus a monetary gift of 12,100 piasters, the church had undertaken to build a church building, to which they plan to add school rooms later on."

But perhaps Chaplain R. B. LUEBKE (NMCB-58) best summed it up when he stated: "The most notable results of civic action is the deep relationship established with the people as we share with them their struggle for existance. This relationship is more important than materials contributed to projects..."

The following is a statistical summary of religious services/activities - April - June 1968:

RELIGIOUS SERVICES:

1. Divine Services

a. U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam installations

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	597	591	1,188
Attendance	21,807	6,485	28,292
Communed	9,171	3,637	12,808

b. Other military installations

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	200	69	269
Attendance	8,312	1,161	9,473
Communed	4,318	1,082	5,400

c. Civilian Churches

	Sunday	Weekday	Total
Number of Services	19	3	21
Attendance	8,077	138	8,215
Communed	5,230	27	5,257

2. Religious services conducted by lay leaders and chaplains other than those attached to COMNAVFORV:

Denomination	Chaplains		Lay Leaders	
	No.	Attend.	No.	Attend.
Catholic	221	8,677	22	190
Protestant	78	1,389	16	130
Episcopal	2	11	7	105
Reorganized Latter Day Saints	7	21	0	0
Latter Day Saints	26	299	14	104
Russian Orthodox	2	15	0	0
Jewish	1	8	0	0
Al-Islam	0	0	364	789

3. Other services in which chaplains participated:

Type of Service	Number	Attendance
Memorial Service	40	-
Baptism	14	-
Weddings	1	-
Bible Classes	96	471

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Type of Services	Number	Attendance
Choir rehearsal	17	214
Religious Instruction	195	523
Private Communion	2,051	-
Last Rites administered	283	-
Hospital/Sick Bay visits	15,237	-
Brig Visits	119	-
Counselling	4,801	-

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) on 31 May was 17,658 officers and enlisted men; of this number 1,347 were officers, 3,270 were NCOs and 13,041 were enlisted men. The number of unauthorized absentees stood at 581, and 101 men discharged as deserters during May.

Training classes continued throughout the month at the Naval Training Center, Nha Trang, Recruit Training Command, Cam Ranh and the VNN LDNN (VN UDT) Replacement Training Class III at Vung Tau. On 10 May, 15 graduates of the Fleet Command Engineering Officers School received their diplomas. The 5-week course is designed to raise the technical awareness and competency of the engineering officers on Fleet Command ships.

Fleet Command

Flotilla I of the Fleet Command, composed of 41 patrol ships and 10 motor launch minesweepers, maintained 16 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam, 4 ships on river patrol in the Delta, 2 ships on static defense in the RSSZ and one ship on commercial convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. The Fleet Command ships fired 70 missions, searched 1,874 junks and 8,655 persons, and detained one junk and 16 persons in May.

Patrol craft of Squadron 11 (PCs and PCEs) in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd

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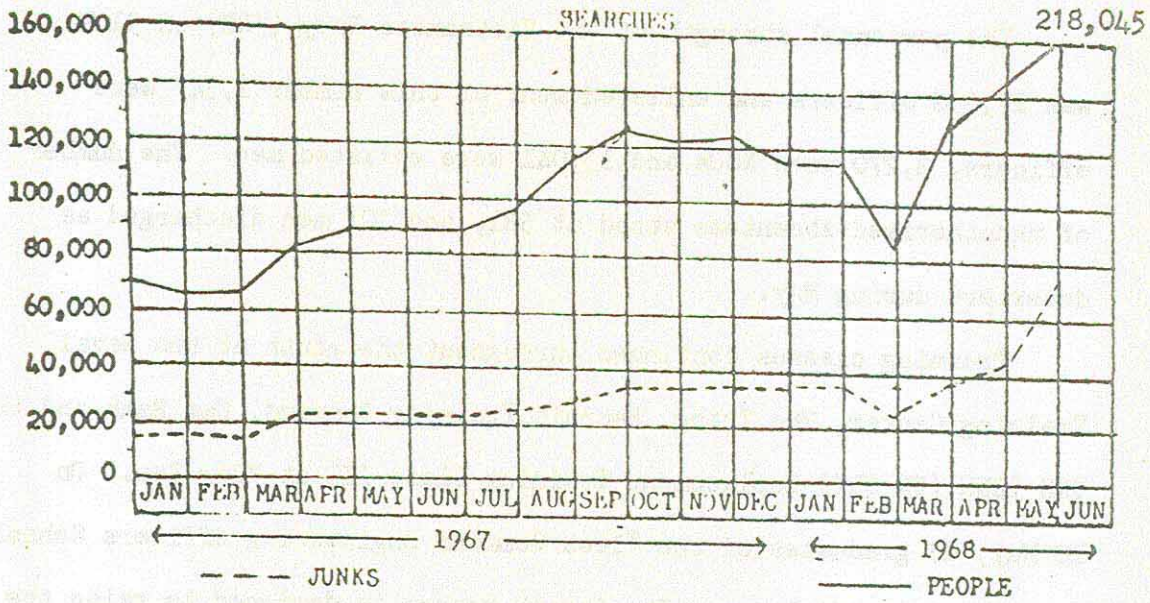
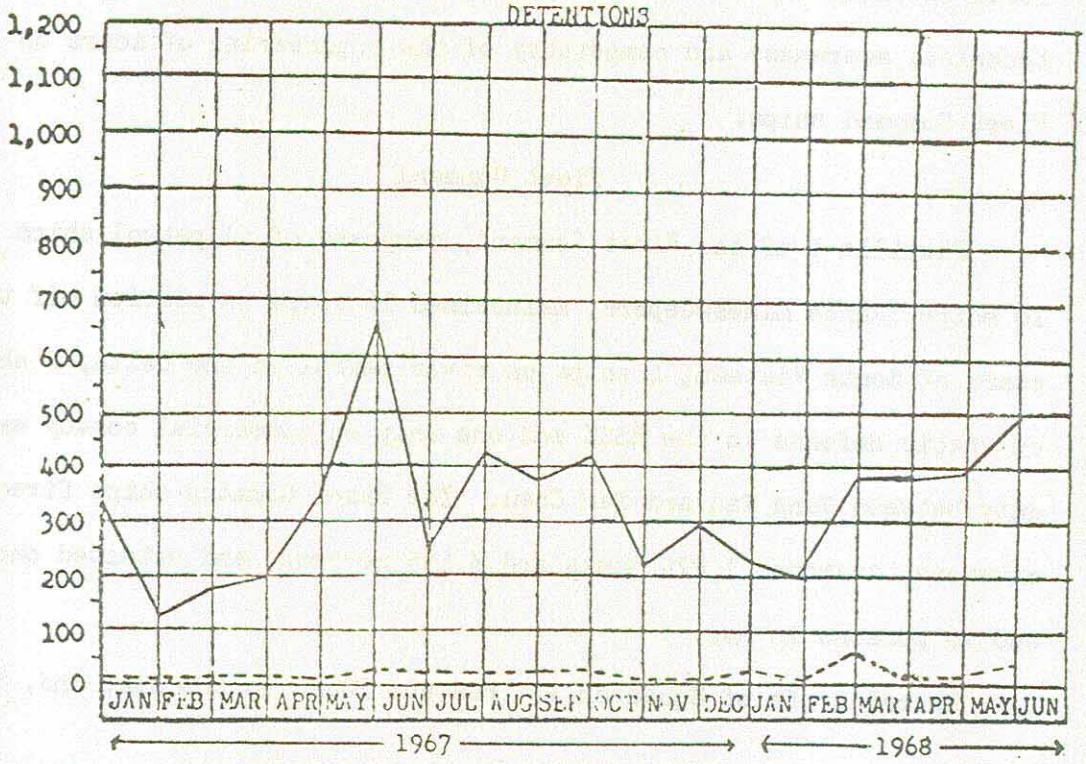
SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS
BY VIETNAMESE NAVY SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES





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Naval Zones, and patrol motor gunboats (PGMs) in Squadron 13 in all four naval zones and the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ), were utilized for coastal patrol and gunfire support. On 4 May PGM 619 rescued 6 civilians from their burning junk laden with rice and gasoline at Ke Ga Point, 16 miles south-southwest of Phan Thiet.

On 5 May, VNN PGM 611 went hard aground while on patrol near the northern tip of Phu Quoc Island, 35 miles north of An Thoi. The ship's stern was impaled on a rock formation; the rudder, screws and struts were torn off and all after compartments were flooded. While awaiting salvage assistance, the ship was stripped of all ordnance, communications equipment and other salvageable items. After an initial survey was made by a salvage officer from HCU-1 Detachment, Vung Tau, USS DELIVER (ARS 23) was dispatched to conduct salvage operations. Assisting in the salvage operations and providing a vital deterrent force against enemy attack were units of the VNN patrol forces; a VNN officer was in charge of the VNN salvage operations. After two and one-half days of around the clock pumping and patching, operations were climaxed when the VNN PGM 600 pulled the stricken vessel free of the rocks. DELIVER then towed the PGM to Vung Tau, while pumping continued on the still flooding, though afloat ship. On 15 May, the VNN LSSL 225 relieved DELIVER of her tow and the PGM was brought to the VNN Shipyard in Saigon where extensive repairs were begun by VNN shipbuilders.

On 19 May PGM 608 participated with U. S. Navy surface and air,

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U. S. Army air and ARVN ground forces in the defense of the commercial ship ANCO QUEEN which had come under heavy enemy automatic weapons fire. The retaliating forces' return fire effectively silenced the enemy's guns as the commercial ship slipped past the area unscathed and progressed up the Long Tau River toward Saigon.

PGM 607 provided gunfire support to Coastal Group 36 operations on 25 May near the coastal group base on the Bassac River. The ship's guns caused several secondary explosions and the VNN ground forces confirmed 3 Viet Cong killed while capturing several weapons and documents.

Squadron 15 craft, support landing ships (LSSLs and LSILs), provided patrol, gunfire support, static defense and convoy escort services in the 3rd Naval Zone, RSSZ and the 4th Riverine Area. While transporting a RAG company on 6 May, LSSL 226 was ambushed from both sides of the Co Chien River, 6 miles east of Vinh Long. The enemy's B-40, 57-mm recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire was returned by the ship's 40-mm and 20-mm cannon, .30 and .50 caliber machine-gun fire and M79 grenades. The ship passed out of firing range with minor damage although 5 VNN sailors were wounded.

Seven more sailors were wounded on 10 May when LSSL 229 was ambushed on the My Tho River 5 miles north of Vinh Long. After steering was used when the pilot house took two B-40 rockets and numerous .50 caliber hits damaging the steering, radar and gyro repeater. One secondary explosion resulted from the ship's return fire. The enemy was silenced as overhead

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"Seawolves" conducted follow-up strikes in the area.

Craft of Squadron 17, coastal minesweepers (MSCs) deployed on coastal patrol in the 2nd and 3rd Naval Zones and motor launch minesweepers (MLMSs) conducting mine countermeasures on the Long Tau and Saigon rivers, continued their respective missions during the month.

Flotilla II, totalling 24 logistic ships, recorded 31 logistic missions; 4,320 troops and 5,569 tons of cargo were lifted in May.

The VNN Supply Center, Saigon, reported a gross effectiveness of 71.3 percent on a total of 10,680 requests for items and a net effectiveness of 84.1 percent on 9,050 requests for items normally carried in the supply system.

The LDNN detachment at Nha Be conducted 29 combined operations with SEALs of TF 116 this month. Three Viet Cong were killed, 3 wounded, 4 captured and 17 suspects were detained during these operations. The LDNN detachment at Saigon continued its nightly hull inspections of ships moored at the Port of Saigon.

Coastal Force

Throughout May the VNN coastal force employment continued to stress participation in offensive operations as well as counter-infiltration sea patrols. In the 4th Naval Zone, Boston Whalers, 16½-foot fiberglass boats, were utilized for access to the shallow water areas. The patrol force averaged 189 junks available daily for

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operations of which an average of 182 were employed daily. These craft searched 67,482 junks and 216,171 persons and detained 45 junks and 478 persons.

Coastal groups of the 1st Naval Zone found their routine coastal patrol missions interrupted, sporadically and weakly, by harassing enemy attacks upon their bases. Small unit ambush and search operations were conducted by coastal group personnel; such patrols often resulted in enemy engagement but more often yielded negative results.

On 1 May and again on 5 and 6 May, the Coastal Group 11 base and adjacent 1st Marine AMTRAC Battalion compound were subjected to multiple incoming mortar rounds. None of these attacks caused substantial damage and no personnel casualties were reported. At 2200 on 6 May a coastal group land patrol made contact with two enemy platoons one-mile south of the coastal group base. Coastal group junks formed a blocking force to the west as U. S. Marines and mortar illumination aided the VNN sailors. Contact was broken when the enemy fled to the south. At first light the coastal group personnel conducted a land sweep of the area. A village nearby reported two NVA platoons had captured three men, imposed taxes on the villagers and distributed literature during the night.

Similarly, Coastal Groups 12 and 13 ambush teams engaged the enemy on 5 May in the vicinity of their coastal group base. Coastal Group 12 personnel captured one of the insurgents and wounded another 3 miles

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southeast of their base at the mouth of the Perfume River, while the Coastal Group 13 sailors killed one Viet Cong in Vinh Loc Sub-sector, 2 miles west of their base at Cau Hai Bay.

Operation LE QUANG THANH 8 was a land sweep of the northern tip of Phu Vang Sub-sector on 7 May by units of Coastal Group 12. Twenty enemy suspects, 20 people without proper identification papers and an additional 20 draft dodgers and deserters were picked up during the operation. That same day mortar fire by Coastal Group 13 provided support to PF troops as they engaged a Viet Cong unit 6 miles east of the coastal group base. Two Viet Cong were killed in the action while the PF unit suffered one killed and eight wounded.

On 10 May two Coastal Group 13 junks were firing on suspected Viet Cong positions when they were mistakenly taken under fire by a helicopter from the 2nd Battalion 9th Marines. The accidental firing 3 miles west of the coastal group base in Cau Hai Bay killed one VNN sailor and wounded three others.

Four Coastal Group 12 junks provided blocking and gunfire support to a USMC and PF ground sweep of the Phu Vang Sub-sector on 11 May. During the operation, LE QUANG THANH 9, the VNN sailors were credited with killing 5 Viet Cong as they escaped the ground force. The day's sweep yielded 66 Viet Cong suspects and 7 guerrillas captured along with 7 grenades and numerous enemy documents.

Shortly after midnight on 13 May the Coastal Group 14 base east of

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Hoi An came under a massive enemy attack. Over 100 Viet Cong were fought off by the beleaguered sailors until help arrived. A Navy "Swift" boat, an Air Force "Spooky" aircraft and the VNN PGM 617 provided gunfire and medevac support. The Viet Cong movement toward a nearby village was a typical enemy tactic as the allied defenders could no longer fire at the enemy without endangering the lives of innocent civilians. The attacking forces were silenced as dawn broke. An accurate enemy body count could not be made but the villagers reported that there were at least 20 dead and many more of the enemy wounded or dead that were carried off. Four VNN sailors lost their lives in the onslaught, 20 PF troopers and numerous civilians were wounded and one VNN and 2 PF defenders were reported missing. Later that day to the north, Coastal Group 12 units were pursuing a suspect sampan in Sam Lake 2 miles south of their base when they were attacked. One VNN sailor was killed and another was wounded. Enemy casualties from the return fire was unknown.

On the 14th and 17th of May, Coastal Group 14 units conducted sweeps of two islands in the De Vong River, northwest of their base at the mouth of the Cua Dai River. The VNN sailors provided security as Vietnamese civilians were landed on each island to chop wood for a refugee village. On 14 May the VNN personnel destroyed 3 mines and several hootches on one island, and on 17 May, they destroyed 53 bunkers discovered on the second island. Also on 17 May, two Coastal Group 12 junks participated in Operation NGUYEN PHUOC 1, a sweep of the northern tip of the Phu Vang

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Sub-sector which yielded 3 Viet Cong suspects and an additional 10 people without proper identification papers.

Two Coastal Group 15 Yabuta junks escorted USS DIACHENKO (APD 123) on 17 May as beach surveys were conducted off Quang Tin Province, 5 miles northeast of Tam Ky. The enemy ashore opened fire on the survey boat and accompanying craft. The return fire from the VNN Yabutas and TF 115 PCF 79 silenced the enemy positions. A landing party confirmed a Viet Cong hamlet was heavily damaged although the Viet Cong casualties were not ascertained. The next evening the coastal group set up a night ambush aimed at Viet Cong tax collectors in an area north of Chu Lai. The ambush team made contact with an estimated squad late that night. One probable kill and two probable wounded Viet Cong were reported but an early morning search revealed no evidence due to the rising tide over the contact area. A nearby hamlet search netted one male and one female Viet Cong captured. There were no VNN casualties.

Late the night of 20 May, two Coastal Group 13 patrol junks contacted 3 Viet Cong sampans in Cua Hai Bay, 5 miles west of the coastal group base. A small firefight ended when the VNN sailors sunk one sampan and the two remaining enemy craft fled to nearby islands. An early morning sweep of the islands failed to route the enemy; a small weapons cache and some food were uncovered there.

The first phase of LAM SON 224, a joint operation with Coastal Group 12 units, an APC troop, two ARVN battalions and a reconnaissance company,

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which began on 16 May, terminated on 21 May. The coastal group provided mobility for the ground forces, then maintained gunfire support and river blocking stations for the mammoth operation. Fifteen Viet Cong bodies were uncovered in the ground sweep south of Phu Bai. One ARVN soldier was killed and 7 were wounded during the 6-day operation.

In league with the 2nd Battalion 4th Marines, three Coastal Group 11 craft conducted a sweep in Quang Tri Province on the night of 23-24 May. With a river blocking force on the Cua Viet and with 40 personnel as a land block on the western perimeter, the sailors participated in a 2½-mile sweep north and west of the mouth of the river for suspected NVA infiltrators. Negative contact was made and intelligence reports of a weapons cache in the area were also disproven; however, there were three Viet Cong apprehended and one suspect detained as a result of the sweep.

Continuing the campaign on the northern tip of Phu Vang sub-sector, Coastal Group 12 units conducted Operation NGUYEN PHOUC 2 on 27 May which yielded 4 Viet Cong suspects, 8 deserters and 11 people without proper identification papers.

On 23 May the second phase of LAM SON 224 commenced with the addition of U. S. Marine troops and Phu Vang sub-sector police. The operation continued until 30 May; the force had killed an additional 7 insurgents, detained 110 suspects and captured 31 Viet Cong. A lengthy list of arms, ammunition and communications equipment was uncovered and 670 tons of rice

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were destroyed. There were 6 ARVN soldiers killed during this phase of the operation.

The enemy directed mortar, rocket and automatic weapons fire at Coastal Group 16 on 19, 20 and 31 May; at Coastal Group 14 on 13, 23 and 24 May and at Coastal Group 11 on 21 and 25 May; however, no personnel casualties or significant damage was reported. Subsequent area searches failed to localize the enemy's positions; he continued to be elusive.

Activity in the Second Naval Zone remained at a low level with small unit searches and ambushes conducted by each coastal group in their areas of concern which yielded little or no results. Qui Nhon based Coastal Group 22 intelligence indicated that approximately 50 Viet Cong had occupied a village in northern Qui Nhon Peninsula the night of 7 May. The next morning, therefore, a landing party conducted a sweep of the village. A small fire fight resulted in the capture of three Viet Cong. The coastal group personnel then conducted a MEDCAP in the village and distributed psyops materials. The village chief confirmed the presence of the enemy during the previous night and was whole-heartedly responsive to the VNN and U. S. advisors help and security.

That same day two Coastal Group 23 junks teamed up with two RF companies in Song Cau sub-sector, northeast of the coastal group base. The cordon and search operation resulted in two Viet Cong killed and four captured. Further south in Van Ninh Peninsula on 9 May, Coastal Group 25 units and three RF platoons swept the area 13 miles northeast of Nha Trang and captured seven

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Viet Cong suspects.

During an operation on 14 May in lower Qui Nhon Peninsula, Coastal Group 22 personnel located and fired upon five Viet Cong observed in the area. The coastal group sailors returned to the base with the enemy captives. The next morning a sweep of the area uncovered 20 caves with quantities of ammunition, clothing, medical supplies and food. It appeared that the enemy had removed some of the war materials during the night but were driven away when Navy "Swift" boats conducted harassing and interdiction fire before the coastal group sweep that morning.

On 17 May one Coastal Group 23 platoon and two junks conducted a cordon and search of the peninsula east of Song Cau which resulted in eight bunkers destroyed, one junk and eight Viet Cong suspects captured. On 23 May Coastal Group 23 personnel were conducting a psywar operation south of Song Cau when they were attacked by the enemy. The sailors called in support of a RF unit nearby as air strikes were placed in the area. An estimated two enemy companies made a ground assault on a village nearby. The outnumbered sailors could not defend their position and the Viet Cong captured 11 civilians, 6 rifles, 11 carbines and a pair of binoculars. The PF unit lost 13 troops, 3 were wounded and 3 others were reported missing in the attempt to defend the village.

That same day two Coastal Group 21 junks were fired upon while on a routine patrol 3 miles north of their base at Degi in Binh Dinh Province. A coastal group command junk and 2 "Swift" boats responded to the call for

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support. Three Viet Cong were seen killed but carried away and 2 enemy watch towers were destroyed. One junk was slightly damaged in the attack; there were no personnel casualties.

Coastal Group 22 personnel and 4 PF companies conducted a police operation in the southern-most tip of Qui Nhon Peninsula on 24 May. The day's operation netted 27 enemy suspects. Meanwhile to the south, Coastal Group 24 and Tuy Hoa sub-sector police swept Hon Chau Isle, 5 miles north of the coastal group base at Tuy Hoa. Nineteen draft-age males were detained during that operation. An early morning search for draft dodgers and enemy suspects was held by Coastal Group 26 personnel and Cam Ranh Special Zone police on 30 May. Seven junks with 33 people were detained as suspects during the 6-hour operation.

Increased activity was prevalent in the 3rd Naval Zone this month as the NVA/VC forces began moving about in the Delta. Allied pressure was directed toward seeking out the enemy and inhibiting his use of the waterways as avenues for infiltrating men and supplies. Intelligence gleaned from Hoi Chanhs, POWs and the people of the Delta themselves precipitated the numerous ambushes, searches and joint operations conducted during May.

An ambush team and a 15-man working party from Coastal Group 36 set out on 2 May for Dung Island where enemy mortar pits had been observed. The ambush party landed on the island across the Bassac River from the coastal group base and made contact with an unknown

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number of Viet Cong. When the enemy was silenced one Viet Cong body was discovered in the area. The working party then filled in the mortar pits while the ambush team maintained security perimeters. Numerous documents and medical supplies were captured during the operation.

Operation TRUONG CONG DINH VB/30, composed of Coastal Group 35 units, 3 RF companies and 8 PF platoons, was conducted on 3 May in Vinh Binh Province, east of Phu Vinh. The ground forces killed 5 Viet Cong, uncovered a sizeable ammunition cache and destroyed 30 huts and numerous documents while the coastal group boats maintained river blocking positions on the Co Chien River. On 5 May this coastal group supported one PRU company during Operation TRUONG CONG DINH VB/27, north of Phu Vinh. One PRU was killed and 2 were wounded while 4 Viet Cong were killed during the battle. The ground forces also captured one Viet Cong and several weapons.

With intelligence that approximately 100 Viet Cong were in the area of Long Son Island attempting to infiltrate 122-mm rockets into the RSSZ, a Coastal Group 33 ambush team landed on the northwest tip of the island during the night of 6 May. Back-up fire power of M-60 machine guns and 81-mm mortar was provided the coastal group personnel. There was no enemy contact although 7 detainees in a sampan were interrogated upon extraction of the ambush team on the morning of the 7th.

Coastal Group 35 that morning surprised an enemy platoon 2 miles northwest of the coastal group base on the Co Chien River. Two Viet

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Cong were killed, 100 grenades, 100 rounds of ammunition, 5 pounds of medical supplies and numerous documents and pamphlets were captured. The next day during Operation TRUONG CONG DINH VB/33, the coastal group transported one RF company down from the base to the mouth of the Co Chien River. After the landing, the boats maintained blocking positions. The ground troops killed one Viet Cong and destroyed a Viet Cong information point and shelter but not before 3 of their own men were wounded by foot mines. The boats took the RF troops back to the base with no further confrontation with the enemy.

A 20-man ambush team from Coastal Group 36 observed a Viet Cong platoon just northwest of their base on 9 May. The enemy would not engage the VNN sailors and the team gave chase to the north. They encountered numerous flags, banners and Viet Cong propaganda leaflets directed toward the U. S. advisor that the enemy had left in his trail. From these methods to goad the advisor, it was surmised that the team was walking into a Viet Cong prepared position and the pursuit was terminated.

At 0630 on 12 May, Coastal Group 35 craft landed two RF companies on the south bank of the Co Chien River, 5 miles west of Phu Vinh for a sweep of a village reportedly overrun by the enemy. As the boats maintained blocking and gunfire support stations, the troops ashore made heavy contact with the enemy. Army and Navy air support was provided and reinforcements of a PRU company and an additional RF company were requested

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and arrived at 1130. The coastal group junks, in conjunction with TF 116 PBRs, conducted medevacs of the friendly casualties. The battle, Operation TRUONG CONG DINH VB/38, was waged throughout the day until 1900 when the enemy withdrew. Two U. S. Army advisors to the PRUs were killed in this action as were 6 RF personnel. Four U. S. Army advisors and 28 RF troops were wounded. The ground forces reported 53 enemy dead on the battle field and 5 Viet Cong were taken prisoners.

Coastal Group 35 fired 81-mm mortar on a suspected Viet Cong position on the night of 14-15 May after receiving reports of a friendly village being under attack. A subsequent search of the area 2½ miles west of the coastal group base revealed 7 Viet Cong were killed. Six civilians from the village were wounded in the cross-fire and were medevaced by the coastal group. A Coastal Group 36 ambush team sank a Viet Cong junk near Dung Island across the Bassac River from their base on 16 May. The 7 occupants were killed and the sampan, a Russian-made rifle, 4 grenades, ammunition and documents were captured.

Coastal Group 36 junks with a 20-man ambush team and a 30-man landing force proceeded from their base toward suspected enemy positions 3 miles south of the Bassac River. The landing force sweep of the area east of Long Phu resulted in negative enemy contact. The ambush team then remained behind as the landing force re-embarked in the junks. Contact was made when the team killed one Viet Cong and captured one mine. The team pressed east toward Long Phu as the landing force was off-loaded

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north of Long Phu from the Tra Bu Stream. The enemy broke contact and the ground sweep resulted in the discovery of 8 Viet Cong bodies and the capture of 14 wounded Viet Cong. Friendlies in the area reported seeing the enemy transporting their dead and wounded in confiscated sampans. One VNN sailor was slightly wounded in this action.

Similarly a Coastal Group 35 operation on 21 May sought out the enemy east of the city of Phu Vinh in Vinh Binh Province during Operation SONG THAN 35/24. Twenty coastal group personnel set up an ambush point 2 miles east of the city while a PRU company swept toward them from the Tra Vinh Canal at Phu Vinh. Two Viet Cong were killed running toward a bunker and 4 others were captured. Two rifles, 2 mines and quantities of food, clothing and documents were uncovered. One booby trap was set off; however there were no friendly casualties. The next day the coastal group conducted Operation SONG THAN 35/25 on Cong Hoa Island in the Co Chien River. A 30-man landing team, supported by TF 116 "Seawolves" put in air strikes. Several bunkers were destroyed and the VNN sailors captured a Japanese two-cylinder diesel engine and a bag of medicine. Viet Cong casualties were unknown and there were no friendly casualties.

Returning to the area south of the coastal group base and east of Long Phu on 23 May, a 20-man Coastal Group 36 ambush team conducted a sweep after VNN PGM 607 had laid down harassing and interdiction fire. Likewise, "Seawolves" made a strike on a Viet Cong staging area. The team's sweep resulted in 5 Viet Cong killed, 3 bunkers and personal and field gear destroyed

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and the capture of weapons, ammunition, food, medical supplies and Viet Cong documents. Two large secondary explosions were observed during the engagement.

On 24 May Coastal Group 32/33, in league with RF/PF units on Loi Quan Island in the My Tho River, pursued the enemy during Operation TRUONG CONG DINH HB/28. While the coastal group junks maintained a blocking force, the land sweep resulted in 5 Viet Cong killed and 3 Viet Cong captured. Three bunkers were destroyed while clothing, documents, grenades and mines were captured. In Ba Xuyen Province on 26 May, RF troops were landed from Coastal Group 36 boats from the Saintard Canal. A ground sweep to the northeast yielded 6 enemy killed and 5 captured.

Coastal group personnel and their U. S. advisors of the 4th Naval Zone continued to probe the less than secure areas of their responsibility in an effort to seek out and rid the enemy and provide security for the people of RVN who must utilized the waterways for their livelihood. Psychological operations in the form of civic action projects and medcaps to aid the populace and psychological warfare programs encouraging the enemy to "Chieu Hoi" were the normal routine once again this month. "Round-ups" conducted through out the month cordoned off the waterways and sampans and occupants were inspected for possible enemy infiltration of men and supplies.

Two Coastal Group 44 junks landed 70 troops from the Kien Giang Province intelligence company 8 miles northwest of Rach Gia on 3 May.

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A ground sweep inland resulted in the capture of one Viet Cong and three sampans while two houses were destroyed and a small cache of rifles, grenades and blasting caps were uncovered. The next morning a Viet Cong was captured when the U.S. advisor and personnel from the Rach Soi Repair Facility conducted a search nearby on the Cai Lon River. Intelligence from this POW indicated there were approximately 60 enemy in the same area dressed in VNN uniforms. On 5 May two enemy suspects were captured during a raid near the Kien An base. The next day four Viet Cong were spotted by the base personnel and one Viet Cong was wounded by their fire before the enemy got away in an evading sampan.

During the night of 7-8 May, two Coastal Group 41 junks engaged the enemy in a continuous fire fight at the Cua Lon River entrance near the southern tip of the Delta. The north bank of the river proved to be heavily foliated and the VNN sailors, despite air support from an Army L-19, could not suppress the fire. Before clearing the fire zone, the coastal group personnel confiscated numerous fishing nets in the area. On 11 and 13 May Coastal Group 41 units engaged the enemy in sampans near Ca Mau Point on the southern tip of the Delta. In both incidents the Viet Cong fled into the shelter of mangroves. The coastal group personnel beached and captured 3 sampans on 11 May while on 13 May 5 more sampans and enemy documents were captured. Utilizing the captured sampans on 15 May the sailors engaged the enemy 3 miles off the western shore of South Vietnam, 30 miles southwest of Rach Gia. Two

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sampans and one wounded Viet Cong were captured while two Viet Cong were killed in the fray; one wounded Viet Cong escaped.

Harassed and frustrated by the enemy so well ensconsed in the thick mangrove of the Ca Mau Point area, 4th Naval Zone coastal groups continuously probed the inland waterways only to be driven back by enemy's fire. The coastal groups harassing and interdiction fire was directed toward suspected and known enemy positions but results were not always determined because the areas were not secured for penetrating ground sweeps. In general the daily, routine gunfire missions conducted by the coastal group junks in support of outposts or against enemy positions were recorded with no results reported.

Riverine Area Naval Commands

At the end of May, 234 craft were assigned to the 3rd Riverine Area, 4th Riverine Area and the RTEG. A daily average of 165 craft were available for operations and 155 were employed. Six additional units, 4 LCPLs and 2 LCMs, continued to be assigned to I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ) as an augmentation force to perform river patrol duties.

In the 3rd Riverine Area, River Assault Group 30 (RAG 30) boats reconned landing zones, assumed blocking positions and embarked units of the U. S. 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade 5 miles south of Saigon on 3 May. Operating from the Ba Lao and Gieu Rivers, the ground troops discovered one Viet Cong killed by supporting artillery and a total of 29 bunkers in the area which they destroyed.

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VIETNAMESE NAVY DELTA OPERATIONS

A-RAG 26/32 -5 May.
B-RAG 22 -12 May.
C-RAG 24-- 9 May.
D-RAG 30 -17 May.
E-SS FENTRESS - 3 May.
F-RAG 22- 4 May.

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On 4 May RAG 22 river craft transported an ARVN reconnaissance company, an infantry company and one RF company along the Vam Co Dong River 13 miles southwest of Saigon for a cordon and search operation. Ten Viet Cong were killed while 2 B-40 rockets and a launcher were captured during this operation. One and one-half miles to the west on 6 May, Operation TOAN THANG 7/14 was conducted from the Vam Co Dong River with RAG 22 craft and 2 ARVN infantry battalions. This land sweep yielded one Viet Cong, 100 AK-47 cartridges and 100 various magazines captured.

Screening traffic on the Cay Kho Canal 3 miles south of Saigon on 7 May, RAG 30 craft were called to provide support to the ARVN 38th Ranger Battalion. The RAG units transported from 800 to 1000 civilians from the area to the north near the Doi Canal in the southern outskirts of Saigon. The RAG performed medevac and gunfire support to the Rangers who were bitterly contesting the enemy. The Rangers lost 5 of their men in the conflict and 22 were wounded; enemy casualties were not reported.

At 0645 on 9 May, RAG 24 river craft were traversing the Doi Canal on the southern limits of Saigon when a commandament took 2 B-40 rockets. The enemy rockets tore into the berthing spaces and killed a VNN officer and enlisted man and wounded 2 other enlisted men. The commandament cleared the fire zone with no further incident. The next day in concert with VNMC Task Force A in Gia Dinh Province near Thu Duc, RAG 24 units conducted a cordon and search operation. The ground forces killed 8 Viet Cong and captured an AK-47 and a sub-machinegun. One VN marine was killed in the

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enemy confrontation.

RAG 22 boats remained to the southwest of Saigon operating from the Vam Co Dong River. On 12 May in one of the TOAN THANG series, the RAG transported 2 ARVN battalions for an area sweep 18 miles west-southwest of Saigon. Several bunkers were destroyed and a cache of 116 AK-47s and 50 cases of ammunition was captured. TOAN THANG 199/72 was held on 17 May 11 miles southwest of Saigon. The 2 ARVN battalions captured four 122-mm rockets, 4 Chicom radios, 11 AK-47s, 2,500 AK-47 cartridges and miscellaneous equipment during this area sweep. About 5 miles to the west the RAG craft lifted 2 ARVN battalions and a reconnaissance company for Operation TOAN THANG 199/81 the next day. Although contact with the enemy was made the number of enemy killed was not reported. The ARVN forces suffered 2 killed and 5 wounded and one VNN sailor was wounded. The friendly forces captured 3 rifles, 3 B-40 launchers, 9 B-40 rockets, 1000 cartridges of AK-47 ammunition and destroyed numerous bunkers in the area.

Meanwhile on 17 May, RAG 30 was operating with the U. S. 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade on the Ben Luc River 6 miles southwest of Saigon. The river craft transported the troops to the landing areas and provided river blocking support during the enemy engagement. One Army soldier was killed and 8 were wounded while there were 20 Viet Cong killed, 2 AK-47s, 2 pistols, 1 U. S. carbine and miscellaneous ammunition and documents captured. The ground forces destroyed over 100

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bunkers during this operation.

On 19 and 20 May, RAG 30 continued to support the U. S. Army 2nd Battalion. Providing the mobility and river blocking support for the land troops, the RAGs traversed the Ben Luc River and the Tam Stream 4 miles southwest of Saigon. During the 2-day operation 2 female Viet Cong were captured along with several ammunition caches in the area. The RAG located and destroyed 10 fighting positions and uncovered 14 B-40 rockets and six 82-mm mortar rounds. The ground sweep resulted in the capture of 279 B-40 rockets, one-hundred and six 82-mm mortar rounds, a B-40 rocket launcher and 2 AK-47 rifles; in addition 78 bunkers were destroyed.

RAG 30 returned to the area south of Saigon on 21 May to operate with the U. S. Army 6th Battalion 31st Infantry 9th Division from the Ba Lao River 4 miles south of Saigon. The results of the day's operation was 2 Viet Cong killed, one Russian machine gun, 2 Chicom machine guns and a AK-50 captured. Two sampans and 15 bunkers were destroyed that day.

Long An City was attacked at 0345 on 21 May. Allied, sector and RAG 22/24 units countered and silenced the enemy by 0600. There were no personnel fatalities and no significant damage was reported; 6 VNN soldiers were wounded in the battle. The city was attacked again on 31 May and the friendly forces once again silenced the enemy with no losses or damage to the city. Enemy casualties were not reported.

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Seven miles south of Bien Hoa on the Dong Ngai River, a vedette of RAG 30 was sunk by enemy B-40 rockets on 29 May. Three VNN crewmen were wounded. The accompanying RAG craft returned fire and silenced the enemy. The boat was towed to the VNN Eastern Repair Facility near Saigon where repairs to the rocket-torn hull were to be made.

In the RSSZ, despite nightly ambushes and daily searches conducted by the VN Commandos and USMC Advisory Team 43 personnel, the enemy remained evasive and under cover, yet his presence was assured by the continuous harassing attacks on friendly outposts, river traffic and merchant ships traversing the Long Tau River. On 3 May, the enemy opened fire on the merchant ship SS FENTRESS on the Long Tau River 3 miles southeast of Nha Be. At the same time PBRs operating in the area were taken under fire. Army "Slick" helos were immediately on the scene and, observing 5 Viet Cong, took them under fire. Aerial observers reported 2 of the enemy were killed and the other three probably killed. A VN Commando team and their USMC advisors followed in with a sweep of the area. A "Seawolf" made air strikes in the vicinity and the Commandos reported one Viet Cong killed by the strike while a second Viet Cong attempted to escape. The Commandos killed the remaining enemy and captured numerous rockets, rifles, ammunition and gear found nearby.

RAG 27 craft supported a RF unit under attack 11 miles southeast of Saigon near the Long Tau River on 9 May. The river craft inserted troops for a sweep but no enemy contact was made. At that time about

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a mile southeast on the river, the merchant ship HYRIA also came under enemy attack. Despite the immediate return fire and troop landing made by the VNN RAG craft and PBRs, the enemy was not located.

The merchant ship TRANSGLOBE came under heavy attack while transiting the Long Tau River on 15 May. This attack occurred in the same area as the previous one on 3 May. PBRs and VNN LSSL 228 took Viet Cong positions under fire and the enemy was suppressed. Covered by Army and Navy helo air power, RF troops swept the vicinity, making no contact but uncovering one Viet Cong body, the result of the prior clearing strikes.

The enemy struck a merchant ship again on 19 May. The ANCO QUEEN was transiting the Long Tau River, 13 miles southeast of Saigon when she received enemy fire. An Army L-19 immediately made a firing run and killed 6 Viet Cong. RAG 27 craft landed 2 RF platoons for a search. A 2-hour firefight ensued in which the RFs killed 6 more of the enemy while one of their own was wounded. Two AK-50s and a Russian rocket-launch adjuster were captured.

The TRUONG CONG DINH campaign which commenced in March continued to be waged with even greater ferver than was demonstrated in the previous months. This combined effort to seek out and destroy the enemy in the Delta utilized the U. S. and VN military powers to achieve unprecedented results. Joint and combined operations were pursued by the river craft of the Fourth Riverine Area RAGs, ARVN forces and the U. S. Navy TF 116 organization. RAG boats ably fulfilled the requirement for mobility,

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both of troops and logistics, and fire power to carry out the operations. In addition to responding in the operational commitments of TRUONG CONG DINH, the RAG companies and their U. S. Navy counterparts continued to meet the schedules of routine patrols, logistic lifts and static defense postures assigned to their RAGs in the face of an ever-increasing number of enemy ambushes on their river craft.

During one such logistic lift of food stuff, base defense materials and ammunition for Vinh Long Province towns, RAG 25 craft were ambushed on the Mang Thit-Nicholai Canal, 10 miles east of Can Tho on 2 May. This canal, a vital waterway, runs northeasterly across the province and connects the Bassac and the Co Chien rivers. It has been a treacherous passage in the past due to the ever-present enemy bunkers and firing positions along its course. The Viet Cong presumably had been informed of the RAG transit for they laid in wait to open fire on the main elements of the convoy. Two VNN sailors were killed, another 10 were wounded and 2 USN advisors suffered light injuries as did an ARVN soldier as B-40 rockets and recoilless-rifle rounds struck a commandament, a monitor and an LCM. "Seawolves" flocked to the area and provided immediate, accurate retaliatory fire and medevac support for the dead and wounded.

That same day units of RAG's 21/33 and 23/31 participated in Operation TRUONG CONG DINH 7/SD/14 on the Cho Gao Canal 10 miles northeast of My Tho. The river craft transported, landed and extracted units of the 7th ARVN Infantry Regiment, 32nd Rangers and 3 reconnaissance companies during

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the 2-day operation. The ARVN forces reported that 194 Viet Cong were killed while 20 of their own soldiers were also killed in the battle and 42 were wounded. In addition, 3 Viet Cong and 64 assorted weapons were captured.

On the night of 3 May RAG 25 craft embarked 90 PRUs and a SEAL team for Operation HAI LONG 6, a night ambush 6 miles southeast of Can Tho. When contact was made at 0630 the next morning, the RAG boats stood off shore for gunfire support. The boats embarked the ambush team at 0900; 5 Viet Cong had been killed, one of the enemy and 3 weapons were captured.

RAG 25 embarked an ARVN battalion on 5 May for transport down the Can Tho River in reserve for an operation to be conducted in that area. Six miles southwest of Can Tho, the convoy was ambushed by B-40 rockets, recoilless rifle, and automatic weapons fire. Two LCMs were hit by gunfire from am abandoned outpost on the south bank. The RAG craft returned fire as they passed through the ambush zone. Troops were landed on the western perimeters and sweeps were conducted as medevac and helo support were provided by "Seawolves." One VNN sailor and one ARVN trooper were killed during the ambush, 2 sailors and 15 ARVN soldiers were wounded. Enemy casualties were unknown. Meanwhile the RAG 25/29 Ca Mau detachment supported 2 ARVN battalions and a reconnaissance platoon in Operation TRUONG CONG DINH SD/21/32 that same day. The area sweep east of Ca Mau resulted in 2 Viet Cong killed and one

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claymore mine captured.

Also on 5 May RAG 26/32 units transported and provided blocking and gunfire support to 3 RF/PF companies during an operation in Kien Phong Province, 13 miles northwest of Sa Dec City. Twenty-five of the enemy were killed and 8 were captured along with several individual weapons. Friendly casualties consisted of one RF/PF killed, 16 wounded and one declared missing. A RAG 26 river team was also operating in support of a RF company on the upper Bassac River, north of Chau Doc that day. The land sweep revealed 20 Of the enemy had been killed while the friendly forces captured 7 Viet Cong, and a small weapons cache of rifles, rockets and carbines. Friendly losses were 5 RFs killed and 7 wounded. RAG 23/31 boats returning from Long Xuyen on 5 May answered a call for support to a RF defense post. The Viet Cong were driven off by the fire from the RAG river craft and 3 Viet Cong bodies were later found by the PFs.

The next morning, 6 May, a RAG 26/32 LCM was attacked west of Chau Duc. Eighty percent of the boat was destroyed and 5 VNN sailors were wounded. Later that day, RAG 25/29 river craft were transporting an ARVN battalion on the Can Tho River when they were attacked 7 miles southwest of Can Tho City. Return fire silenced the enemy. One VNN sailor was killed by the opening blast; the enemy casualties were unknown. On 7 May LSSL 226 received fire from the banks of the Co Chien River, near the Mang Thit-Nicholai Canal. The RAG 31 commanding officer

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disembarked the LSSL to join his units and travel south on the canal. The RAG convoy was also attacked by the enemy who had set up firing positions in former ARVN positions along the banks. "Seawolves" silenced the enemy after several firing runs in which they also received enemy ground fire. There was no report of damage or friendly casualties.

Again on 8 May the RAG 25/29 convoy on a "Can Tho-Vi Thanh Express" logistics lift was ambushed 8 miles southwest of Can Tho. Despite air strikes by light helicopter fire teams (LHFTs) and bank security by local PFs, the estimated enemy company succeeded in posing a severe threat to the mission of the RAG. The convoy cleared the area with no significant damage reported, although one sailor was wounded. The well-entrenched enemy remained in the area to strike again due to the lack of sufficient air, ground and river forces to annihilate him.

While supporting ARVN troops from the Canh Hoa River, 8 miles southeast of Ca Mau, the RAG 25/29 detachment accounted for 50 Viet Cong killed on 11 May. The river craft provided gunfire support during the heated battle in which 6 ARVN soldiers were killed, 4 were reported missing and 49 were wounded. Two RAG craft received direct hits and one sailor was wounded. The ground forces captured two Viet Cong and several individual weapons.

On 13 May, RAG 23/31 boats operated in support of 9th ARVN troops from the Ba Si River, 3 miles east of Phu Vinh in Vinh Binh Province. The RAG provided transport, blocking and gunfire support to the ground

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force. The land sweep netted 6 Viet Cong killed while one soldier was killed and 2 others were wounded. That day, the RAG 21/23 base at My Tho received 2 direct 81-mm mortars. There was extensive minor damage to the main buildings and 4 VNN sailors were seriously wounded.

RAG 25/29 boats, traversing the Mang Thit-Nicolai Canal were ambushed as they were returning to Can Tho from a Vinh Long Province town on 14 May. The attack, which occurred 3 miles northeast of Tra On City, wounded two sailors. Once again bank security troops were unable to conduct a counter-ambush due to their placement further south on the canal. The next day RAG 23/31 boats were attacked 11 miles up the canal from the site of the previous day's attack. The RAG craft cleared the kill zone and called in "Seawolves." After their firing runs the sailors turned their guns on the Viet Cong positions. One monitor and 2 LCMs were hit by B-40 and B-41 rockets and heavy machine gun fire; 10 ARVN soliders aboard and one sailor were wounded during the attack.

TRUONG CONG DINH GC/25 was conducted on 15 May by RAG 21/33, one ARVN infantry battalion and RF troops northeast of the RAG base at My Tho. The ground forces netted 8 enemy killed and several weapons captured while suffering 2 of their own killed and 6 wounded.

RAG 26 boats transported 6 RF/PF companies 10 miles northwest of Can Tho during an amphibious operation in Sa Dec Province on 17 May. While the land troops swept a 4-mile area on the north bank of the Bassac River, the RAG boats conducted blocking and river support operations. The next

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morning the troops were embarked having killed 16 Viet Cong and reporting another 9 possibly killed. The RF/PF captured a Viet Cong, one deserter and a suspect along with several weapons. That day, 18 May, Operation TRUONG CONG DINH/SD 9/22 was conducted by RAG 23/31, 3 ARVN battalions, 2 reconnaissance companies, one Ranger battalion and a RF company along the Nha Man Canal, 4 miles east of Sa Dec. Having been landed in two positions on the south bank, the ground force swept toward each other as the RAG craft carried out blocking and gunfire support. One Viet Cong was captured by the RAG as he was evading the land force. Air strikes were called in as the troops moving from the west made heavy contact with the enemy. The RAG craft medevaced 4 ARVN killed and 2 wounded in the battle. The sailors sighted a swimmer and took him under fire at which time both banks of the canal opened up with automatic weapons fire. The ship's guns silenced the enemy; 10 Viet Cong were killed as a result of the return fire. The land troops were embarked and ferried to Vinh Long at 2000. The ARVN soldiers accounted for 98 enemy dead while they captured one Viet Cong and 3 suspects.

On 22 May the Ca Mau RAG 25/29 detachment supported 2 ARVN battalions and 3 RF companies 6 miles south of the city of Cau Mau. This operation, TRUONG CONG DINH/SD 21/32/38, netted 4 Viet Cong killed and one claymore mine, six 60-mm mortar rounds and seven 700 kilograms of rice destroyed.

TRUONG CONG DINH/SD 7/20 on 25 May combined RAG 21/33 and ARVN units in southeast Long An Province, north of the Vam Co Dong River, 20 miles

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south of Saigon. After landing the ARVN forces, the RAG boats took up blocking positions. The operation yielded 9 enemy killed, 7 captured and 3 suspects detained. Several individual weapons were uncovered during the sweep and a Viet Cong liaison point was destroyed.

On 27 May the RAG 25/29 detachment at Ca Mau lifted ARVN forces for Operation TRUONG CONG DINH 21/32/40 to the south of the city. The sweep met with light enemy resistance; 2 Viet Cong were killed and one was captured. Two ARVN soldiers suffered wounds in the fire fight. On the same day, RAG 21/33 river craft were ambushed at the convergence of the Ham Luong and My Tho rivers. Their return fire accounted for two enemy killed. A landing party uncovered several weapons and ammunition, a long-shaft motor, clothing and medicine at the ambush site.

Twenty-two Viet Cong were killed on 29 May as 6 RF companies and RAG 21/33 conducted Operation TRUONG CONG DINH/DT/41 a few miles east of My Tho in Dinh Tuong Province. Numerous weapons and documents were captured during the sweep. Further south that day, the RAG 25/29 detachment and ARVN troops discovered and destroyed an enemy machine shop 6 miles south of the city of Ca Mau.

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VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

During the month the six infantry battalions of the VNMC and their USMC advisors operated in IV CTZ, the Capital Military District (CMD) and with the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF). The infantry battalions and

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one artillery battalion were committed to operations 100 percent of the time in May.

Task Force A, composed of the 1st, 5th and 6th infantry battalions and Batteries A and B, VNMC artillery battalion, were employed to the northeast of Saigon under the operational control of the CMD. Operation TOAN THANG sought out the enemy and provided blocking measures against the enemy's brazen pressure on the capitol city. Daily area sweeps conducted by small unit patrols generally resulted in some contact. Army gunships and VNAF air strikes were utilized in defense of the marines as they were pitted against the enemy. On 2 May the 1st Infantry Battalion established contact with an estimated 200 enemy force east of the Saigon River; however, the enemy withdrew before the battle could progress. There was no enemy casualty assessment that day.

During the early morning of 5 May each battalion of the task force received coordinated ground and mortar attacks at their positions on the northeast perimeter of Saigon. The 5th battalion east of the Saigon River, the 6th Battalion at the Bien Loi Bridge in northeast Saigon, and the 1st Battalion at the Xa Lo Bridge (Route 1A) on the eastern side of the city, repelled the enemy probes. Sweeps conducted of the areas resulted in a total of 58 Viet Cong killed, 4 of the enemy captured and one suspect detained. The marines suffered 5 killed and 19 wounded that day. The battalions remained in their respective positions the next day, killing a total of 11 Viet Cong and capturing 3 as they defended the

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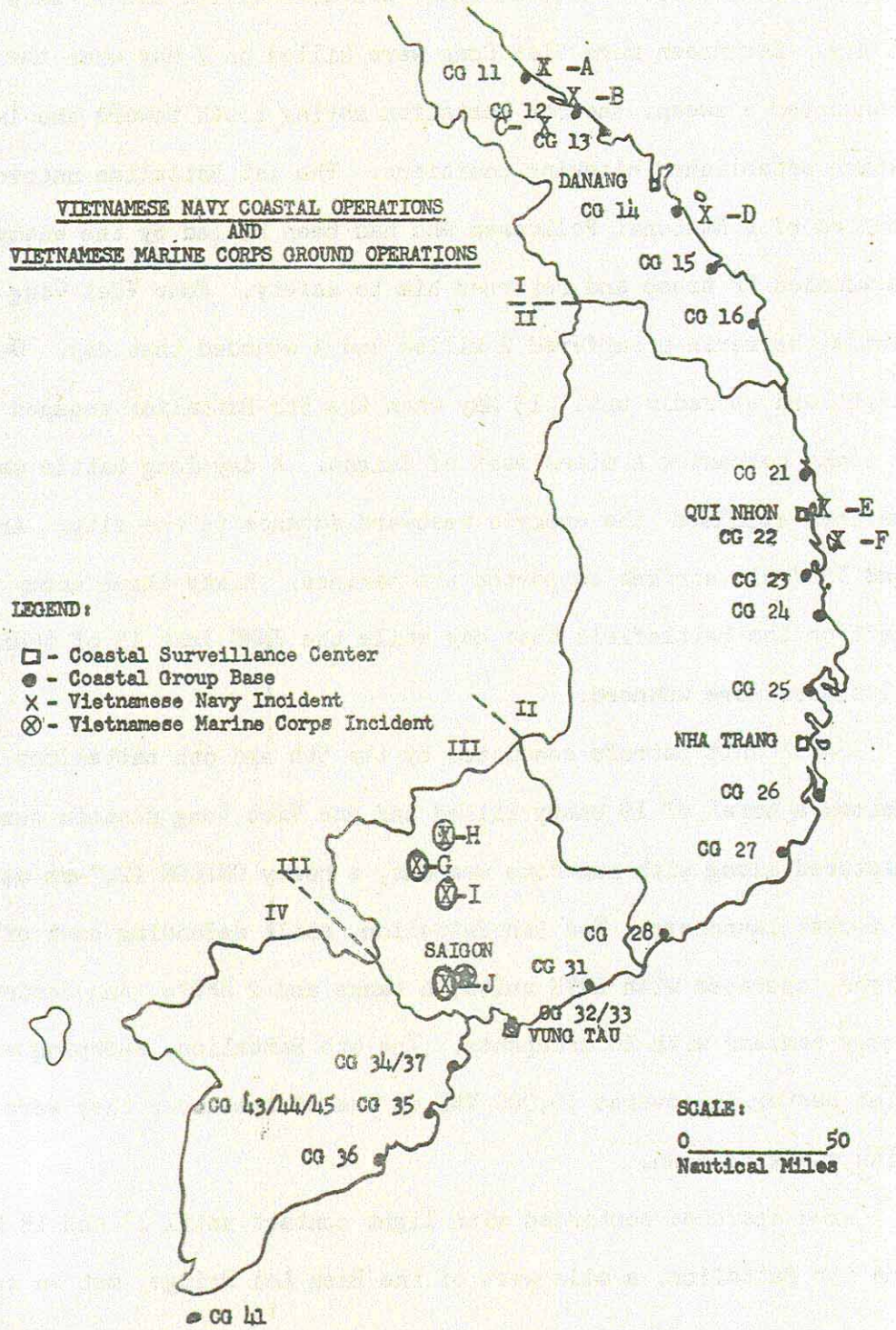

A - LAM SON 224 Phase II-23 May.
B - LE QUANG THANH 9 -11 May.
C - LAM SON 224 Phase I -16-21 May.
D - Hoi An -13 May.
E - CG-22 -24 May.
F - CG-24 - 24 May.
G - VNMC - 26 May.
H - VNMC - 31 May.
I - VNMC - 18-19 May.
J - VNMC - 13 May.

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capitol perimeter. Three of their own were killed and 18 were wounded on 6 May. Seventeen more Viet Cong were killed on 7 May when the task force conducted a sweep, the 6th Battalion moving south toward the 1st Battalion which established blocking positions. The 1st Battalion uncovered the bodies of 4 National Policemen who had been killed by the enemy and found a wounded PF troop and returned him to safety. Four Viet Cong were captured while the marines suffered 2 killed and 3 wounded that day. Contact remained light and sporadic until 13 May when the 5th Battalion engaged an estimated 2 enemy companies 4 miles east of Saigon. A day-long battle was waged as the marines repulsed the enemy's westward advance to the city. Army gunships and VNAF air strikes supported the marines. Sixty-three enemy dead were left on the battlefield that day while the VNMC lost 13 of their own and 31 others were wounded.

Small unit patrols conducted by the 5th and 6th battalions on 14 May netted a total of 19 enemy killed and one Viet Cong platoon company commander captured along with numerous weapons, a heavy CHICOM 12.7-mm machine gun and 2 rocket launchers. The 5th Battalion, still defending east of the Saigon River, operated with ARVN units, 4 tanks and 2 APC's, and destroyed two enemy sampans with 10 occupants. The 6th Battalion, sweeping east of Gia Dinh sector, uncovered 10,000 VN$ on one of the enemy they were credited with striking down.

Area searches continued with light contact until 17 and 18 May when the 6th Battalion, a mile west of the Bien Loi Bridge, met an estimated enemy

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company. The results of this ground assault with Army helo cover fire were 30 enemy dead, 8 weapons and assorted war equipment captured. VNMC casualties were 4 killed and 11 wounded. Reconnaissance in force operations prevailed as the task force pursued the enemy. On 23 May, the 5th Battalion moved its command post west to the Gia Dinh Sector near the 1st Battalion. The next day the 5th Battalion detained 264 suspects as a result of an area search in Gia Dinh. On 25 May the 2nd Battalion joined the task force, operating near the 1st Battalion east of Gia Dinh. Each battalion experienced moderate contact that day as a total of 15 enemy were killed and 13 suspects were detained. The marines sustained 7 of their own killed and 43 wounded on 25 May.

The remainder of the month showed heavy commitments for all units in the task force. On 26 May the 1st and 2nd battalions engaged an estimated enemy battalion in and around the Gia Dinh Sector. With Army gunships as overhead support the marines claimed 32 enemy killed, 5 captured and 3 other suspects detained while suffering 6 of their own killed and 27 wounded. Numerous amounts of weapons, ammunition and enemy equipment were captured or destroyed that day. The task force was credited with 34 enemy dead on 27 May as the battalions defended their positions in Gia Dinh. Five Viet Cong were captured plus numerous weapons and war materials. The marines had 6 killed and 21 wounded. The second battalion was relocated to Cholon, the city's 6th Precinct, on 28 May in order to relieve the pressure on ARVN Rangers in combat

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with the enemy there. Meanwhile the 1st and 5th battalions netted 18 more enemy killed and one captured as they supported allied forces in Gia Dinh. Seven marines were wounded on 28 May. On 29 and 30 May, the task force moved in a northerly direction and defended positions southwest, then west, of the Bien Loi Bridge.

Beginning at 0100 on 31 May, the task force was heavily engaged with an estimated two enemy battalions. The marines, supported by helo gunships, VNAF air strikes and the VNMC artillery battalion, Batteries A and B, were a formidable barrier to the pressing enemy force. The task force literally stormed the enemy, relieving one another at the Bien Loi Bridge, defending the railroad bridge three-quarters of a mile west of the bridge and the Route 1 bridge leading north from Gia Dinh. A gunship was shot down at 0625 and the 1st Battalion moved in for its defense. It was extracted by a Chinook helo at 0800. A company of U. S. 1st Infantry Division personnel joined the defense of the Bien Loi Bridge at 1100. One USMC advisor was slightly wounded in the action that day. The VNMC lost 13 marines in the day-long battle and 57 were wounded; enemy casualties numbered 127 killed. The task force captured 6 Viet Cong along with a lengthy list of weapons, ammunition and war equipment.

Prior to entering Task Force A on 25 May, the 2nd Battalion participated in operations with the MRF in IV CTZ. Light and sporadic enemy contact typified the battalion's employment there until 11 May. The

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battalion redeployed to Cholon that day, conducting security operations, detaining suspects, and apprehending the enemy and war materials until 24 May. Full scale enemy engagement was negligible. The night of 24 May the battalion recovered over 130 boxes of food stuff pilfered from the USAID Compound in Cholon. The Vietnamese civilians caught in the act were turned over to the National Police.

Returning to Cholon after a brief alliance with Task Force A in northeast Saigon on 29 May, the 2nd Battalion made heavy enemy contact. As the ARVN Rangers pressed south from Route 4, the 2nd Battalion moved northward. Twenty-eight Viet Cong were killed in the cross-fire that day while 5 enemy personnel were captured. The VNMC lost 5 marines and another 21 were wounded. The next day 14 more enemy were killed in the same vicinity as the ARVN-VNMC team scourged the weakening enemy. Seven marines were killed and 13 more wounded on 30 May. On 31 May, the 2nd Battalion, pressing northward met up with the Rangers who had been advancing toward them. Twenty-three Viet Cong had been killed in the last day's battle. Sweeps of the area resulted in the discovery of 217 enemy graves, the enemy who was caught between the allied vise. Seventeen enemy personnel and numerous weapons and materials were captured that day.

Task Force B, the 3rd Battalion, 4th Battalion and Battery C of the VNMC artillery battalion, participated in Operation TRUONG CONG DINH in IV CTZ under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Infantry Division during May. Reconnaissance in force operations south and west of Can

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Tho yielded negligible results until 25 May. On that day the task force engaged an unknown enemy force 2-3 miles west-southwest of Can Tho. The marines were credited with killing 33 enemy while they lost 6 of their own and 42 were wounded. For the next two days the task force confronted the enemy further west of Can Tho and north of the Can Tho River. Twenty-three enemy and one VNMC were killed and two marines were wounded during these two days of fighting. The remainder of the month proved to be relatively quiet for the Vietnamese marines for light contact was gained with the enemy.

Listed below is a tally of enemy weapons, ammunition, other communist war material and/or equipment captured or destroyed during VNMC operations in May, including some weapons lost by VNMC personnel:

Weapons Captured:

1	Mortar, U.S. , 60-mm
1	Recoilless Rifle, U.S., 75-mm
27	Anti-tank Grenade Launcher, Soviet, RPG-2 (B-40)
5	Anti-tank Grenade Launcher, Soviet, RPG-7 (B-41)
1	Grenade Launcher, U.S., M-79
1	Anti-aircraft Gun, CHICOM, Caliber .30
1	Heavy Machine Gun, CHICOM, 7.62-mm, Type 43
1	Heavy Machine Gun, Soviet, 12.7-mm, Model 1938/46, OSHK, CHICOM, Type 54 w/Tripod
1	Light Machine Gun, CHICOM, 7.62-mm, Type 58
6	Light Machine Gun, CHICOM, 7.62-mm, Type 56
1	Sub-machine Gun, U.S., Caliber .45, Thompson
7	Sub-machine Gun, CHICOM, 7.62-mm, K-50
156	Assault Rifle, Soviet, 7-62-mm, AK-47
5	Rifle, U.S., 5.56-mm, M-16
1	Rifle, U.S., Caliber .30, M-1
1	Rifle, CHICOM, Bolt Action, Type unknown
4	Carbine, CHICOM, 7.62-mm, SKS
5	Carbine, CHICOM, 7.62-mm, Type 54

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Weapons Captured:

5	Pistol, U.S., Caliber .45
2	Pistol, Czech, 7.65-mm, Model 1927
11	Pistol, CHICOM, 7.62-mm, Type 54

Weapons lost by the Vietnamese Marine Corps:

1	Grenade Launcher, U.S., M-79 (Destroyed by enemy fire.)
7	Rifle, U.S., 5.56-mm, M-16

Ammunition Captured:

385	Anti-tank Grenades, Soviet, RPG-2 (B-40)
59	Anti-tank Grenades, Soviet, RPG-7 (B-41)
1	Case, Anti-tank Grenades, Soviet, RPG-7 (B-41)
68	Mortar Rounds, 60-mm
7	Mortar Rounds, 82-mm
4	Recoilless Rifle Rounds, 75-mm
9	Hand Grenades, M-26
125	Hand Grenades, CHICOM
13	Grenades, M-79
8	Grenades, Smoke
2	Mines, Pyramidal, 1½" by 10"
8	Mines, Anti-personnel, 3 kilograms each
7	Bangalore Torpedoes
1	Pole Charge, 10 pounds
364	Kilograms, Plastic Explosive
1	Flare, Hand
10	Caps, Blasting
1	Mine, Claymore
9,700	Rounds, Small Arms Ammunition, Assorted
100	Rounds, 7.62-mm Ammunition
189	Rounds, 12.7-mm Ammunition, Linked
15,870	Rounds, AK-47 Ammunition
3	Boxes, Machine Gun Ammunition
76	Hand Grenades, VC, Homemade
5	Hand Grenades, WP, CHICOM
200	Rounds, Caliber .50 Ammunition
16	Pounds, TNT
5	Anti-tank Mines, 15 kilograms
	Quantity of Small Arms Ammunition

Material and Equipment Captured and/or Destroyed:

20	Entrenching Tools

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Material and Equipment Captured and/or Destroyed:

4	Sight, Anti-tank Grenade Launcher, Soviet, RPG-7 (B-41)
2	Radio Batteries, assorted
200	Feet, Electrical Wire
9	Boxes, empty, for 75-mm Recoilless Rifle Ammunition
4	Sampans
1	Bunker
208	Magazines, AK-47
8	Magazines, Carbine, U.S., M-1
2	Helmets
4	Boots, pair
1	Motor Bike
2	Cement Mixer
1	Radio, AN/PRC-10
100	Uniforms, Khaki, U.S.
1	Tent, 2 man
1	House, Thatched
1	Base Camp (XS 576260)
50	Magazines, Ammunition, Assorted
4	Pack, CHICOM
2	Nets, Mosquito
1	Aid Station (XS 040340)
1	Radio Antenna
1	Radio, CHICOM
11	Magazines for Light Machine Gun
3	Magazines, K-50
4	Shovels
1	Barrel, Caliber .30 for CHICOM Anti-aircraft Gun
1	Medical Supply Cache (XS 040340)
	Quantity of Medical Supplies
	Quantity of Documents and Maps

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APPENDIX I

PROJECT JENNY

The U. S. Navy's "Blue Eagle" Television Network, also known as Project JENNY, has provided U. S., Vietnamese and Free World forces with regular radio and television broadcasting in Vietnam since 7 February 1966 when the first television broadcast was made near Saigon.

Project JENNY was conceived as an airborne broadcasting platform for radio and television. The project, currently under the technical control of the Chief of Naval Operations, was instituted in 1962 during the Cuban crisis when two C-118 aircraft were equipped with radio and television equipment. The planes, however, were never used operationally. JENNY was revived in 1965 when the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed that the C-118's be replaced with C-121 Super Constellations, which gave the project improved flexibility as well as greatly increasing time on station, power and capability. The Oceanographic Air Survey Unit at NAS, Patuxent River, Maryland was selected as the parent squadron to command Project JENNY.

Each C-121 was reconfigured to house a large variety of electronic equipment including three independent, two to five thousand watt television transmitters. Video tape, provided by Joint United States Public Affairs Office, was used as the most common source of material for the transmitters but each aircraft was also fitted with a studio for live programming in addition to two 16-mm film projectors and several audio

This Navy aircraft is one of a squadron of C-121 Super Constellations currently operating in Vietnam in connection with "Project JENNY" -- an airborne broadcasting platform for radio and television. Equipped with transmitters and other electronic programming devices, the planes ensure daily regular radio and television broadcasting to U. S., Vietnamese and Free World forces serving in Vietnam.

tape recorders. Each transmitter was designed with the capability to provide full coverage for channels 2 through 13 and each was able to operate simultaneously with another transmitter.

Each aircraft required a four-man technical crew to operate the television and radio equipment and a five-man flight crew. Each aircraft was rotated back to the U. S. periodically to undergo major maintenance checks and update the electronic equipment.

Equipment installation and testing on the first modified C-121, called "Blue Eagle One", was completed during the summer of 1965. In October "Blue Eagle One" was deployed for two weeks to South Vietnam to broadcast the baseball World Series and the Army-Navy football game by relayed AM and shortwave radio. This was the first test of Project JENNY under actual operational conditions and, in addition to proving the feasibility and value of the system, the aircraft was so popular that the original deployment was extended by seven weeks.

Following the successful test, Project JENNY was given the responsibility of providing television-in-the-air to South Vietnam on a two-channel system, one English-speaking and one Vietnamese, until permanent television stations could be constructed. Two additional Super Constellations were modified for Project JENNY needs and they became "Blue Eagles Two and Three." On 3 January 1966 an advance contingent of 4 officers and 21 enlisted men from Oceanographic Air Survey Unit, NAS Patuxent River, Maryland, arrived at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon to form the nucleus crew for Project JENNY.

With two tents, scrap lumber, shipping crates and CONEX boxes, coupled with a "can do" spirit and a great deal of ingenuity, they pieced together an austere operating base for Project JENNY which was designated Oceanographic Air Survey Unit Detachment West Pacific - the home of the "Blue Eagles".

On 7 January "Blue Eagle One" arrived at the base and began to broadcast shortwave radio. "Blue Eagle Two" arrived on 15 January and "Blue Eagle Three" followed six days later. After a series of tests and evaluation flights the first regular television broadcasting began on 7 February.

A normal on-station site was established 15 miles southeast of Saigon where a Super Constellation flew in a tight circle at an altitude of 10,500 feet giving optimum reception to viewers in a 50-mile radius. The schedule called for one hour of Vietnamese programming and three hours of American programming. The U. S. Agency for International Development provided 500 television sets to the Government of Vietnam which were installed in public squares, store windows and other places where large numbers of people could watch the programs.

Project JENNY enjoyed immense success among the Vietnamese people as well as the U. S. and Free World forces. Regular programming continued on every possible day. Not even a Viet Cong mortar attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base on 12 April, which wounded three men of the unit and damaged all three aircraft, was able to interrupt the schedule. In early April a fourth plane was authorized for the "Blue Eagle" Television Network. In the late summer

Vietnamese elections for a constituent assembly drew near and Project JENNY devoted much of its broadcasting time to letting all the candidates speak to the people over television.

Finally, in October, the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service's ground station in Saigon went on the air. Project JENNY relocated its flight pattern to provide television-in-the-air services to the Central Highlands over Qui Nhon and the Mekong Delta over Can Tho which were not receiving television coverage from a ground station.

As of May 1968 the Oceanographic Air Survey Unit, which changed its name to Air Development Squadron EIGHT in July 1967, has logged over 12,000 hours in support of Project JENNY. The squadron, under the command of Commander Robert C. JONES, has a complement of 14 officers, 8 of whom are pilots, and 89 enlisted men.

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APPENDIX II
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 II
SECTION 2

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

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

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

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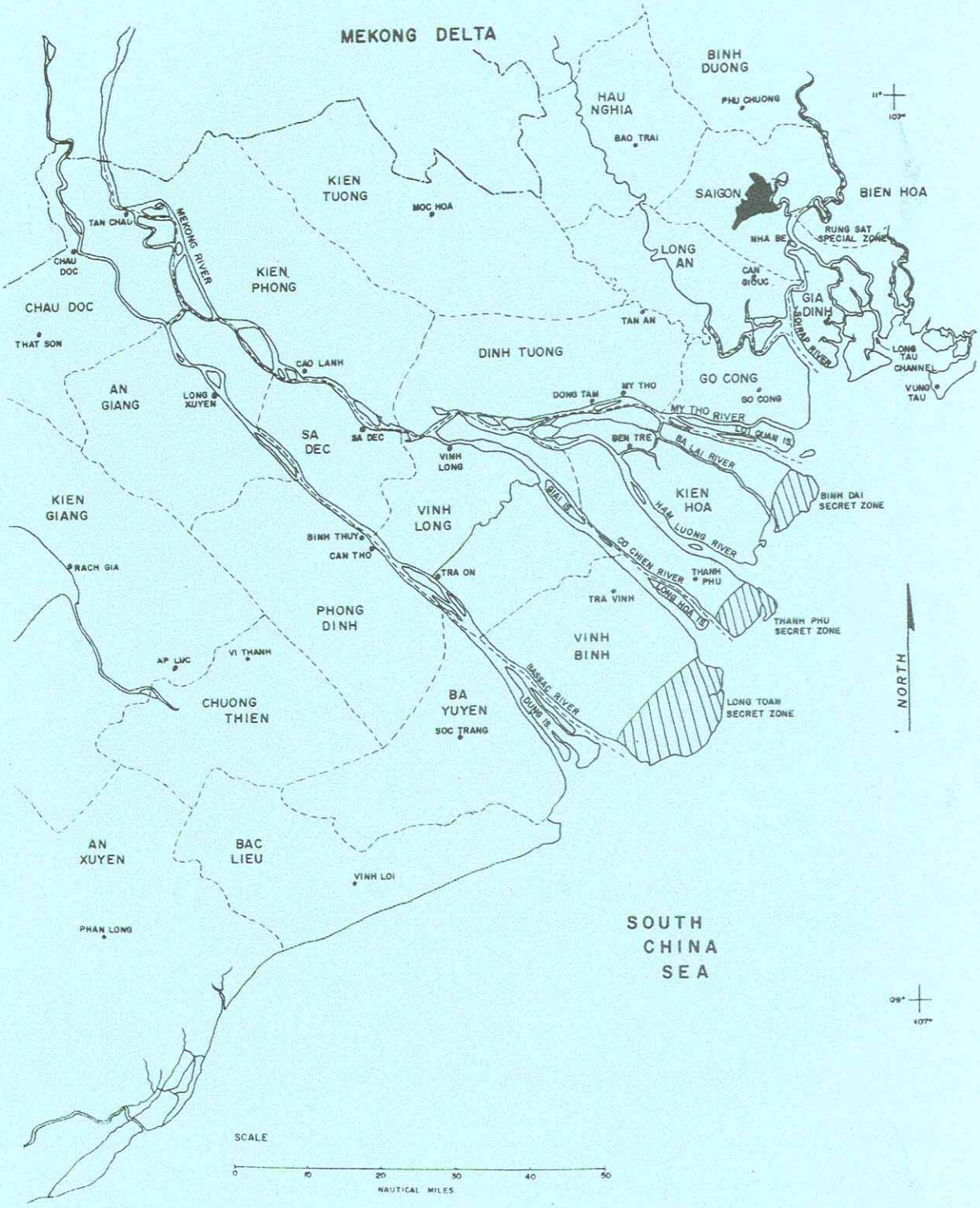

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From: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)

Subj: U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, May 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

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted.

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

S. T. ORME
Chief of Staff

Copy to:
COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, J03)
CNO (Op-09B1A)
Director of Naval History

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY
May 1968

Routine MARKET TIME activity remained at a high level during May as the aggregate of indigenous junk and sampan traffic along the coast and harbors of South Vietnam reached near normal proportions. Fair weather throughout the major portion of the month and the relaxation of the more stringent curfew restrictions contributed to the increase of activity.

In May MARKET TIME units detected 106,493 junks and sampans; 39,247 of these were inspected and 21,521 were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 752 suspicious persons, including 14 Viet Cong suspects. In addition, 1,368 steel-hulled craft were detected transitting MARKET TIME areas during the month.

The month's activity also included providing numerous exfiltration/infiltration patrols in support of ground operations, 357 naval gunfire missions and 46 hostile fire incidents. As a result of these operations, 82 enemy structures and 33 junks/sampans were destroyed. In addition, 43 Viet Cong were killed (25 probable).

During the late afternoon of 3 May, PCF 73 responded to an urgent request for naval gunfire support from a Vietnamese outpost 45 miles northwest of Rach Gia that was receiving hostile fire. As the PCF closed the beach to render assistance, it received heavy automatic-weapons fire; two .30 caliber rounds hit the Swift boat, slightly injuring one crewman. The PCF commenced firing her .50 caliber machine

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guns and 81-mm mortar into the area from which the hostile fire originated and suppressed the enemy fire without further incident.

On 5 May PCF 78 received a call from the 1st Marine Division Fire Support Control Center requesting urgent naval gunfire in support of ground troops who were under a mortar and small-arms attack near the coast of Thua Thien province. Firing her 81-mm mortar, in rapid response to the request, the Swift boat destroyed two enemy emplacements and killed two Viet Cong.

On 7 May USCGC MINNETONKA (WHEC 67) responded to a request from sector authorities and took an estimated Viet Cong company under fire 25 miles north-northeast of Ca Mau Point. Firing her 5"/38 gun, the cutter killed three enemy troops and wounded an estimated 15 more. A few hours later, a second gunfire mission by the cutter in the same general area killed an additional four Viet Cong and wounded seven others.

On 12 May PCF 98, in company with PCF 102, received heavy automatic-weapons and 57-mm recoilless-rifle fire while trying to investigate a radar target 30 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. The PCFs were unable to suppress the enemy fire and PCF 98 received several bullet holes as a result of the fire fight. Three PCF 98 crewmembers were wounded by shrapnel during the attack.

On 13 May USCGC POINT BANKS closed the beach at Ca Mau Point on an assigned mission to destroy a bridge with naval gunfire. As the cutter

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approached the area, personnel and sampans were observed in the vicinity of the bridge. The cutter destroyed the bridge and cleared the surrounding area with mortar and machine gun fire and then put ashore a landing party to reconnoiter the area. The landing party reported the bridge, a bunker and seven sampans destroyed, and captured a large amount of food supplies, personal belongings, Viet Cong documents and small-arms ammunition. All of the captured material was either destroyed or confiscated and later turned over to intelligence personnel.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
MAY 1968

Activity in the GAME WARDEN area of operation continued at an active pace. As the PBRs conducted patrols along the waterways, enemy harassment continued; however the number of rocket attack incidents initiated by the enemy lessened. In one engagement with the VC on the upper Bassac in the vicinity of Chau Doc a PBR was struck by two 75-mm recoilless rifle rounds killing two Navy men, wounding two and severely damaging the boat. The OinC of RIVSEC 511 was one of those killed. U. S. Navy "Seawolves", piloting their helicopters gunships, continued to strike enemy positions throughout the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone exacting their toll of enemy casualties. On three separate occasions along the Bassac, Ham Luong and Mekong Rivers the armed helicopters killed 44 VC. The enemy, attempting to counter this dreaded air threat, scored several hits on the helicopters inflicting minor damage and on one occasion killed a door gunner and wounded a pilot. The SEALs continued their stealthful forays into enemy-controlled areas collecting valuable intelligence and initiating ambushes against the Communist insurgents. On 14 May, a SEAL squad engaged in a fierce firefight with 82 well-disciplined and equipped Viet Cong troops along the Cambodian border, about 12 miles southwest of Chau Doc. Navy "Seawolves" and an Army aircraft supported the SEALs ground fighting. The enemy troops that had crossed the border from Cambodia sustained casualties of

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24 killed and 40 wounded. There were no friendly casualties. However, another platoon operating on the upper Ham Luong River four miles east southeast of Cho Lach sustained heavy casualties, on the morning of 15 May. Just as the SEALs were preparing to land from their supporting LCPL a violent explosion of unknown origin occurred, killing one SEAL and wounding seven others. A GAME WARDEN support LST, USS JENNINGS COUNTY conducted H & I fire on 9 May in an area of VC activity north of Phu Vinh, along the Co Chien River. The ship's 40-mm cannon fire barrage killed 17 Viet Cong and wounded three. During the month the number of enemy initiated incidents on the Long Tau shipping channel rose and was indicative of the enemy's aim to intensify the harassment of friendly shipping on this vital waterway. There were ten attacks made against merchant ships flying the flag of the U. S., Japan, England and the Philippines. There were two mining attempts, with the remainder being automatic weapons and rocket attacks. In all instances PBRs, Navy and Army helicopters were rapidly on the scene suppressing the enemy fire. During the attack on the British merchantman ANCO QUEEN on 19 May, five PBR sailors were wounded in the ensuing firefight with the enemy. PF troops landed at the ambush site killed 11 Viet Cong and captured two 122-mm rocket launchers of a very simple design. Damage sustained to the merchant ships in all incidents was minor. On 1 May five more PBRs

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were assigned to CTF CLEARWATER in I CTZ to reinforce the river security on the Cau Viet River, the vital logistics route to Dong Ha. This now brings to 15 the number of PBRs operating in ICTZ (10 at Tam Ky and 5 at Cua Viet). Five more boats are scheduled in the near future. On 3 May PBRs commenced operations on the upper Bassac in the vicinity of Chau Doc and the upper Mekong in the vicinity of Tam Chau. The assigned mission was to show the presence of U. S. Naval forces, curtail the infiltration of arms, ammo and explosives, collect intelligence, conduct psyops, enforce the curfew and render necessary assistance to U. S. and VN Forces in case of a VC attack.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
May 1968

During the month of May, the Viet Cong initiated several ambushes against the heavily armed gunboats of the MRF. A post-operative evaluation of the extensive rocket ambushes encountered on 26-27 May in the Giong Trom district of Kien Hoa province indicated that the Viet Cong were firing at the boats while far back from the river banks. Presumably this was in recognition of the boats' direct fire power and flamethrower capabilities. As a result, there were an unusually large number of misses; otherwise, the damage and personnel losses would have been much greater.

On 8 May, 14 Navymen were wounded in two separate ambushes of RAD 91 units, along the Ba Lai river eight miles southeast of My Tho. In the first attack, two monitors and two ASPBs were struck with highly accurate RPG-7 rocket and 75-mm recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire, wounding four sailors and causing moderate to heavy damage on all four craft. About an hour later, a monitor and a flame-throwing troop carrier sustained light damage when assailed with recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire from the same general area as the first attack. Ten Navymen were wounded in this attack while enemy casualties were undetermined in both encounters. Meanwhile, the assault forces of the MRF continued their reconnaissance-in-force operation against the communist insurgents in Kien Hoa province. The cumulative results of the

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four-day operation (8-11 May) amounted to 18 Viet Cong killed, 40 bunkers destroyed and six weapons captured. U. S. Army losses were two soldiers killed and 41 wounded.

On 14 May the MRF commenced a two-battalion operation near Mo Cay in Kien Hoa province to locate and engage elements of the Viet Cong 516th Battalion. The next day, they established heavy contact with a well-entrenched enemy and killed 48 guerrillas in a day-long battle three miles southwest of Mo Cay. The Mo Cay operation (14-16 May) resulted in the death of 57 enemy combatants, while friendly forces suffered the loss of six soldiers and had 14 more wounded. During this period, there were also four sailors wounded in a series of riverine ambushes.

Based on intelligence estimates that a lucrative target existed in the area southeast of Can Giouc in Long An province--the southern approach to Saigon--the MRF launched strike operations on 17 May into the area. Riverine units of the MRF conducted waterlocks as the ground forces swept the area just 12 miles south of Saigon, killing 41 Viet Cong while capturing five prisoners and seizing 52 suspects. On the next afternoon, RAD 91 units were involved in a heated skirmish when they were ambushed from both banks of the Lo Canal five miles east of Can Giouc in Long An province. The boats, which were in the process of landing troops, suppressed the intense enemy fire while the troops continued their landing; however, 14 sailors and one soldier were wounded in the attack. As usual in these

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densely foliated and restricted waterways, enemy casualties could not be determined; however, the total enemy losses for the two-day operation were 126 Viet Cong killed, 180 bunkers destroyed, five prisoners and 22 weapons captured. U. S. forces had six soldiers killed, and 38 men wounded, 14 of whom were Navymen.

On 26 May the MRF commenced riverine operations in the Giong Trom district of Kien Hoa province to locate and destroy the Viet Cong 570th Main Force Battalion. In a series of bitterly contested ambushes along the Ben Tre river and the Ong Muong stream eight miles southeast of Ben Tre, the riverine craft were subjected to repeated rocket/recoilless rifle attack on 26-27 May. There were two sailors killed and 23 Navymen wounded in seven separate ambushes which also caused light to heavy battle damage to 16 riverine units of the MRF. U. S. Army forces had eight infantrymen killed and 26 men wounded. Enemy losses amounted to 41 killed, 66 bunkers destroyed, four prisoners captured and 30 suspects detained for further interrogation.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
May 1968

During the month the Fleet Command had a daily average of 23.8 ships available and employed an average of 22 daily. These ships provided 70 gunfire support missions. At the same time the Coastal Force had an average of 188.4 junks available and employed an average of 183.2 of them daily. The RAGs utilized 141 of their 147.3 available craft during May. Meanwhile the six infantry battalions and one artillery battalion of the VNMC were committed to operations 100 percent of the time.

Task Force A, composed of the 1st, 5th and 6th Infantry Battalions, VNMC, continued Operation THAN THANG under the operational control of the Capital Military District throughout the month. Heavy enemy contact was made as the VNMC sought out the harassing enemy ensconced in northeast Saigon. During the early morning hours of 5 May, each battalion of the task force received coordinated ground and mortar attacks at their respective positions on the northeast perimeter of Saigon. Repelling the attacks, the battalions made sweeps of the areas of battle, claiming a total of 58 enemy killed, four Viet Cong captured and one suspect detained. The VNMC suffered five killed and 19 wounded that day. A similar encounter on 31 May but of greater magnitude saw the Task Force pitted against an estimated two enemy battalions near the Bien Loi bridge in northeast Saigon. Although at the close of the day the engagement had

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not been broken, the VNMC accounted for 101 of the enemy killed during this first day of battle.

Task Force B, the 3rd and 4th Infantry Battalions, remained in IV Corps Tactical Zone under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Infantry Battalion. Reconnaissance in force and ambush operations were conducted daily; light contact was made with the enemy. Returning from operations with the MRF in IV Corps Tactical Zone on 10 May, the 2nd Battalion conducted search and clear operations in Cholon, southwest of Saigon, for the remainder of the month. The battalion experienced moderate enemy contact until 29 May when, in combined force with ARVN units, the VNMC engaged an undetermined number of the enemy. Just as Task Force A to the northeast, this battalion was waging battle as the month drew to a close. A reported cumulative total of enemy dead by 31 May was 270. Accurate results are not available at this writing.

On 5 May, VNN PCM 611 went hard aground while on patrol near the northern tip of Phu Quoc Island, 25 miles north of An Thoi. The ship's stern was impaled on rock formations; the rudder, screws, and struts were torn off and all after compartments were flooded. While awaiting salvage assistance, the ship was stripped of all ordnance, communications equipment and other salvageable items. After an initial survey was made by a salvage officer from HCU-1 Detachment Vung Tau, USS DELIVER (ARS 23) was dispatched to conduct salvage operations. Assisting in the salvage

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operations and providing a vital deterrent force against enemy attack were units of the VNN patrol forces; a VNN officer was in charge of the VNN salvage operations. After two and one-half days of around the clock pumping and patching, operations were climaxed when the VNN PGM 600 pulled the stricken vessel free of the rocks. DELIVER then towed the PGM to Vung Tau, while pumping continued on the still flooding, though afloat ship. On 15 May, the VNN LSSL 225 relieved DELIVER of her tow and the PGM was brought to the VNN shipyard in Saigon where the extensive repairs were begun by VNN shipbuilders.

River Assault Groups of the 4th Riverine Area continued supporting ARVN troops during the month conducting the Operation TRUONG CONG DINH series. Of significant note were two such operations, TRUONG CONG DINH 7/SD/14 and TRUONG CONG DINH SD/9/22 which cumulatively yielded 302 enemy killed, five Viet Cong captured and a quantity of enemy weapons and equipment seized. Conducted on 2-4 May along the Cho Goa canal in Go Cong Province, 25 miles south-southwest of Saigon and on 18 May along the Nha Man Canal, four miles east of Sa Dec respectively, RAGs 21, 23, 26, 31 and 33 provided mobile support, blocking and patroling operations, gunfire support and retraction for the ARVN 7th and 9th Infantry Divisions during the amphibious assaults. Friendly losses were 22 ARVN troops killed and 45 wounded.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS
May 1968

Psychological operations were continued by all naval units in their respective operational areas of responsibility during the month. A Psychological Operations Conference was held at Cam Ranh Bay on 25-26 May and attended by Navy representatives from Navy units throughout the Republic. It was the consensus of the attendees that the Navy had made definite inroads in the field of psychological operations and that efforts were achieving some desired results. It was also a conference consensus that better organization and authorized psyop personnel must be forthcoming if a truly progressive and continuous psyop program is to be achieved. There were nine enemy troops that rallied to naval craft in May; three in I CTZ, near the DMZ, five in II CTZ that hailed PCFs and one in IV CTZ that rallied to a PBR. Leaflet distribution and surface broadcasts continued to be the main avenue of addressing the various target audiences. On 15 May, however, TF 116 PBRs assisted in the execution of the IV CTZ CORDS-initiated Operation KONTIKI. The mission of the operation was to reach the people in the Delta that lived in areas completely controlled by the VC. The PBRs floated plastic packages, containing psyop material and small gifts, into the rivers and canals leading into the Viet Cong-controlled areas allowing the tide to carry the packages to the targeted areas. Harassment of Navy boats conducting psyop missions continued at an accelerated pace. It was stated by a PBR

sailor that "if you wanted to draw enemy fire start broadcasting."

In the field of Civic Action naval units mostly directed their efforts to aiding the Vietnamese rebuild battle-damaged homes wrought by Viet Cong assaults. In most cases the Navymen provided technical expertise and material to assist in those self-help projects coordinated with Vietnamese local officials. MEDCAPs were carried out by naval units and in the Phan Rang area alone, in II CTZ, Seabee Team 6201 treated 2,076 patients during the month. In Quang Tri Province, Seabees of NCB 10 presented a total of seven new bicycles and numerous sacks of cement to a protestant church-orphanage, a Catholic mission and a Buddhist Pagoda as a token of their friendship. As a result of the NVA/VC attack on Saigon in early May, many civilians were killed and their homes lost due to artillery from both sides. In order to restore the U. S. image which suffered in Districts 6 and 8 of Saigon primarily, a crash cleanup and buildup program was initiated by COMUSMACV with heavy participation by NCB 50.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
May 1968

	MARKET TIME	GAME WARDEN	Mobile Riverine Force
Detections	107,361	112,189	*
Inspections	40,171	28,212	*
Boardings	21,619	48,633	*
Craft detained	*	*	0
Persons detained	752	553	314
Viet Cong suspects	14	51	*
Hostile fire incidents	46	89	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	43 (25 prob)	207	261
b. Wounded	25 (23 prob)	26	*
c. Captured	*	22	11
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	5	3 USN/23 USA**
b. Wounded	4	50	62 USN/108 USA***
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	*
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	133	162	0
(2) Structures	82	204	518
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	7	0
(2) Weapons	*	*	54****
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	*	2,559*****
(4) Rice (tons)	*	*	0
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	16	220	0
(2) Structures	60	237	15
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	0	0
(2) Helicopters	*	0	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	3	26	31
(2) Helicopters	*	23	*
SAR missions	*	*	*

Remarks:
* Information not applicable or not available this date.
** One USN KIA was non-hostile. In addition three sailors and seven soldiers drowned.
*** Two USA soldiers wounded in non-hostile action.
**** Includes three grenades and 13 mines.
***** Includes 44 mortar, rocket and recoilless rifle rounds.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY
May 1968

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	Searched		Detained	
Coastal Force	Junks	People	Junks	People
I NZ	28,129	83,139	4	175
II NZ	21,178	69,526	38	254
III NZ	13,290	40,960	9	37
IV NZ	6,433	22,555	9	6
Sub-totals	69,030	216,180	60	472
Fleet Command Patrol Ships	1,864	8,655	1	16
Riverine Area Craft	604	28,353	0	5
Totals	71,498	253,188	61	493

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: KIA 768 VC CAPTURED 62 VC SUSPECTS 339

VNMC: KIA 88 WIA 427 MIA 4

USMC: WIA 2

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