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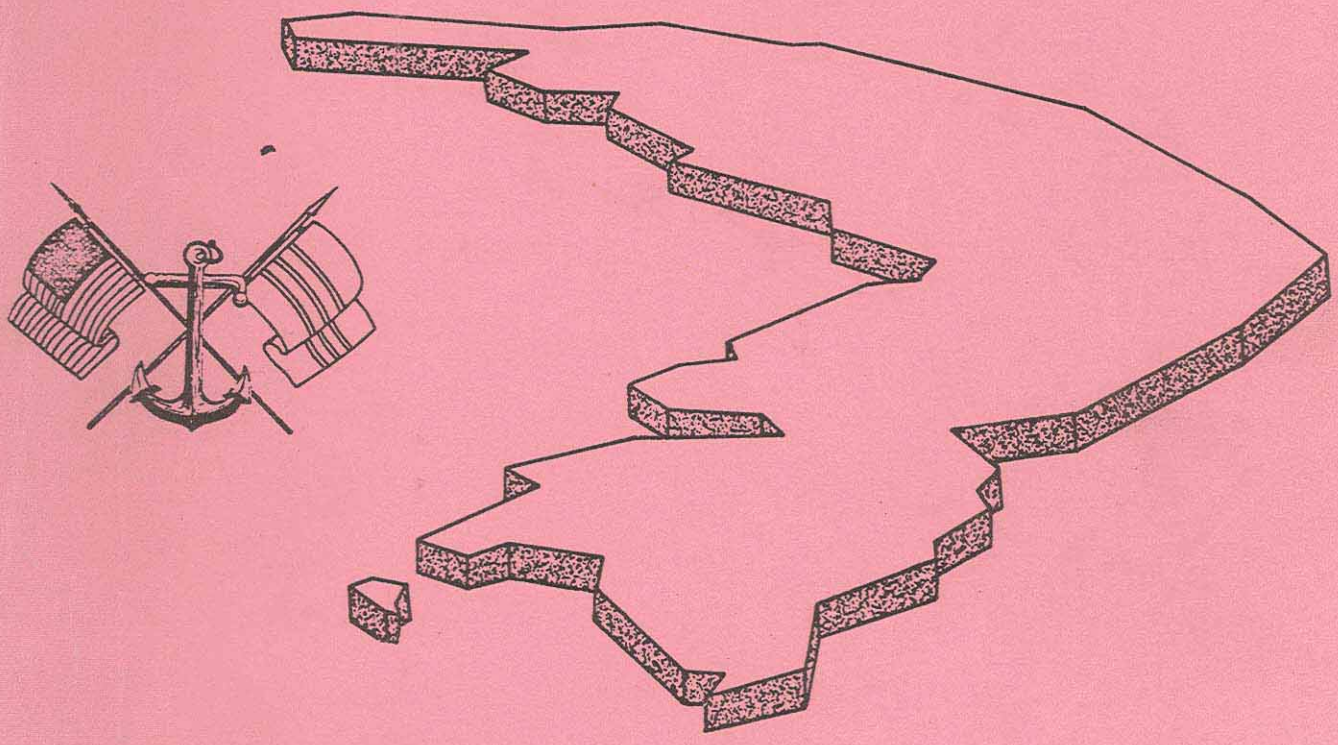

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SEPTEMBER, 1969

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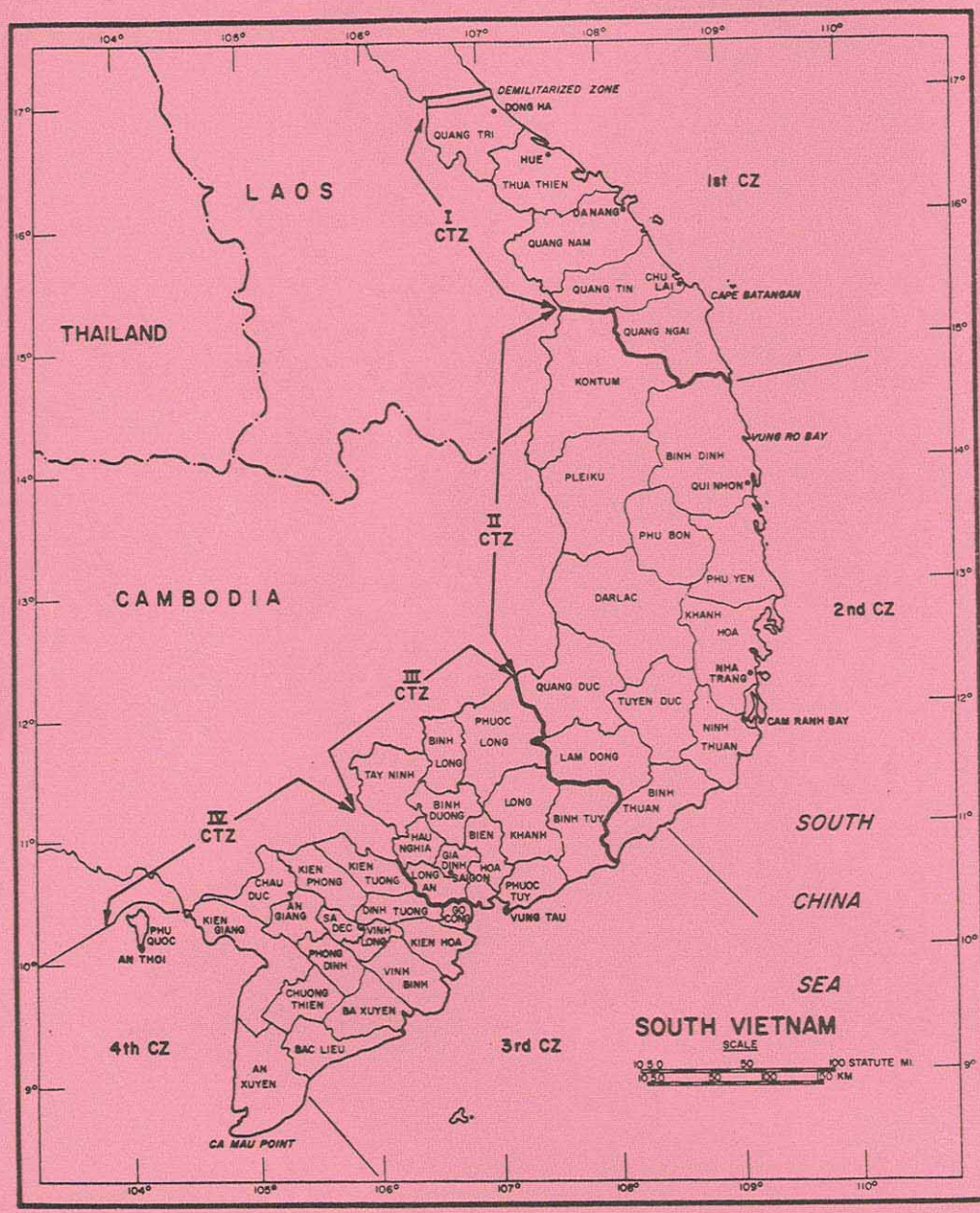

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SEPTEMBER 1969

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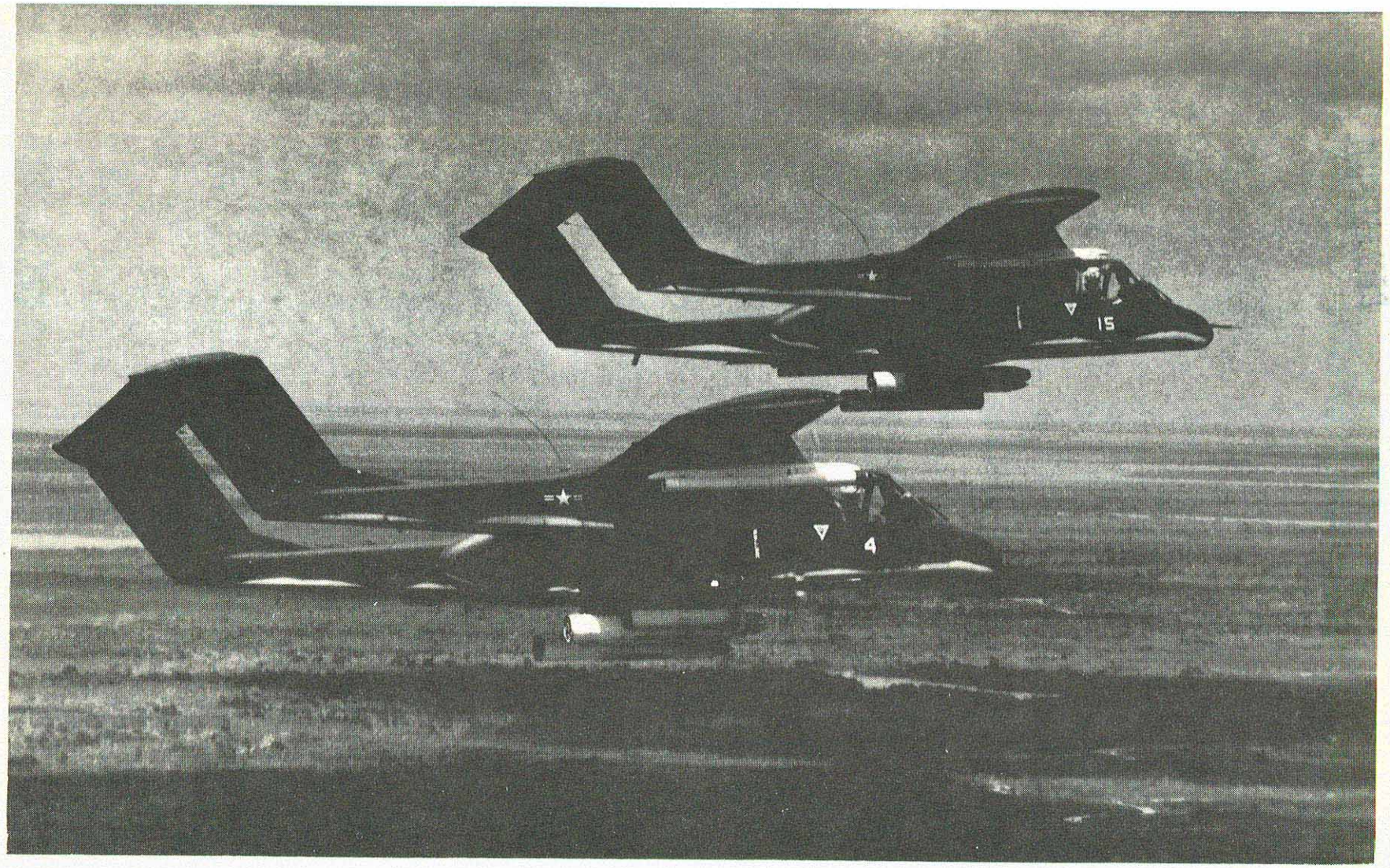

Navy OV-10 "Bronco" aircraft provide fast and powerful air support for Operation SEA LORDS throughout the Mekong Delta.

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Operation Sea Lords Summary

Operation Sea Lords, which began on 18 October 1968, is a continuous overall effort which has several principal operational parts: Giant Slingshot/Barrier Reef East (CTG 194.9), Tran Hung Dao/Barrier Reef West (CTG 194.4), Search Trun (CTG 194.3), Market Time Raiders (CTG 194.5), Riverine Strike Group (CTG 194.7), and Breezy Cove (CTG 194.2). Sea Lords main objectives have been: (1) to interdict infiltration from Cambodia by placing naval units along infiltration routes; (2) to clear and open Delta waterways; and (3) to penetrate long held enemy areas with raider operations.

Now, after nearly a year of Sea Lords operations, naval forces have succeeded, along with the Army and Air Force, in contributing to the interdiction of supplies coming into Vietnam from Cambodia and to the return to government control of the rivers in the lower Delta and various VC strongholds. To date, more than 3070 VC have been killed and 500 tons of munitions and supplies in caches found and destroyed.

Perhaps even more important than these statistics are the intangible results such as inhabitants along the waterwyas being able to move about with greater freedom and safety and the fact that areas once controlled by the VC are now open to economic development. Waterways, once used with impunity by the enemy, are now closed to him, backing up his supplies which now take him longer to get through. This, in turn, has lessened the frequency and duration of enemy "high points."

The Mang Thit Campaign (CTG 194.6), which began on 18 July 1969, had as its basic objective the pacification of the area adjacent to the canal in order to stimulate the resettlement of this area and the promotion of the government image. This campaign terminated 20 September the initial objectives having

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been achieved. During the tensure of naval units, traffic on the Mang Thit/ Nicolai Canal doubled from approximately 1,000 units to 2,000 units per month. There also was a noticeable pacification improvement as evidenced by numerous hootches being built in previously uninhabited areas, the enthusiastic response of people along the canal bank to the PBR presence, and the increased response to medical aid missions. During the first twenty days of the month, PBR's of RIVDIV 535 made no significant contact with the enemy and were chopped to CTU 194.4 and relocated to YRBM 20 in the vicinity of Chou Doc.

As an extension of Sea Lords and in support of the Fourth CTZ pacification program, Operation Breezy Cove was activated on 25 September. The mission is to implement USN Game Warden type PBR Operations on the Song Ong Doc in An Xuyen Province in order to prevent enemy infiltration, movement, and resupply along the inland waterways in the Song Ong Doc area in order to enhance the government of Vietnam's pacification program. Active Vietnamese Navy participation will begin during late October or November pending future PBR turnovers.

On 24 September, the USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 786) arrived in the vicinity of the Song Ong Doc from Rach Gia with HAL 3, DET 6 embarked to provide support for the off loading, positioning, and outfitting of the ammi pontoons that were consolidated into an Advanced Tactical Support Base (ATSB). RIVDIV 572 arrived from Binh Thuy on 26 September and assumed designator CTU 194.2.1 commencing operations on 28 September. They were joined on the 30th by 2 ASPB's, 3 ATC's, and a Monitor which became CTU 194.2.3.

On 28 September, the District Chief, Song Ong Doc, who had been in WBGP position for several nights in order to observe two yound ladies who had recently moved into town to set up shop, was forced to send them back to Saigon.

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Apparently, these young ladies had heard in Saigon that the Navy was moving in (to Song Ong Doc) and wanted to be there firstest with the mostest. There were no casualties reported on either side. Xinh Loi!

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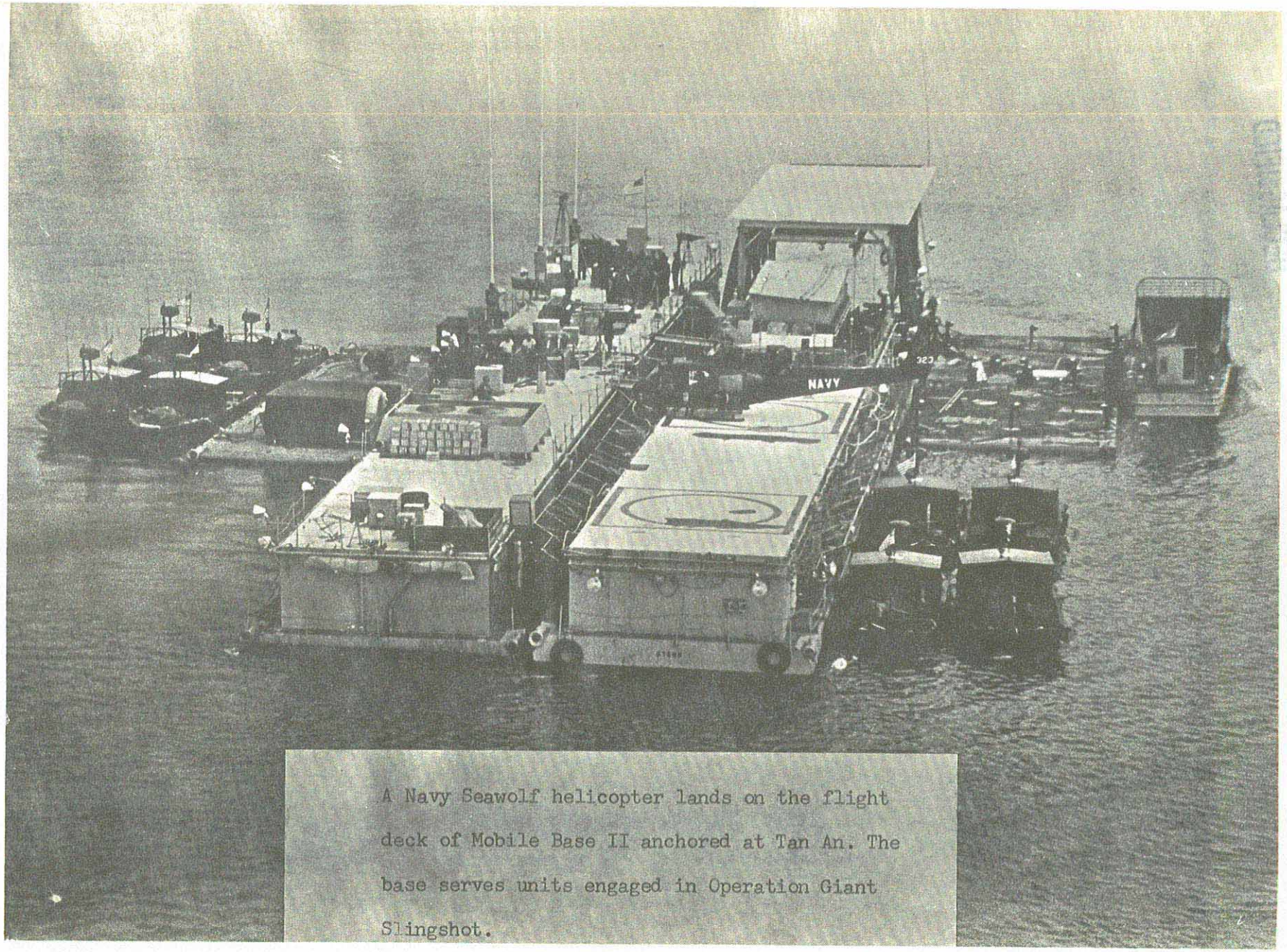

A Navy Seawolf helicopter lands on the flight deck of Mobile Base II anchored at Tan An. The base serves units engaged in Operation Giant Slingshot.

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Giant Slingshot Campaign

With over 118 USN and VNN craft committed to the Giant Slingshot Campaign along with U.S. and ARVN ground troops, this campaign continues to be the most active and effective of the SEA LORDS interdiction barriers. Conducted on the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers, Giant Slingshot forms a natural barrier around the "Parrot's Beak" area of Cambodia which protrudes into Vietnam and is an enemy sanctuary only 35 miles west of Saigon.

Intelligence reports continue to come in describing the difficulty caused to the enemy by the constantly patrolling units not only in terms of physically preventing his freedom of movement, but also denying him adequate weapons, foodstuffs, and medical supplies.

During the month, increased river bank activity and river crossing attempts in the daylight hours suggests that certain areas of the Vam Co Dong are so difficult to cross at night due to the constant pressure of RIVDIV units that the Viet Cong prefer to attempt crossing during the hours of peak sampan traffic.

Compared to the previous months, Giant Slingshot in September was extremely quiet. Hostile fire incidents which had been averaging 130 per month for the past six months, dropped to 56 in September. Enemy KIA's (BC and EST) correspondingly decreased from 363 in August to 146 this month while friendly casualties decreased from 36 killed and 204 wounded in August to 33 wounded in September.

At 2215 on 3 September, two PBR's of TU 194.9.1 inserted a company of U.S. Army troops nine miles southwest of Ben Luc (XS 722 662). As one of the

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PBR's was backing off the beach, small arms fire was received from the northwest and a sampan with five occupants was detected pulling into the bank 20 meters away. As the friendly units opened fire, they received grenades and small arms fire in return wounding two Army troops. Enemy casualties were considerably greater since their losses were: five killed; one sampan destroyed; and two AK-47's, a K-59 pistol, and a large amount of medical supplies captured.

About mid-day on 5 September, while on a routine patrol on the Vam Co Tay River 5½ miles northwest of Tan An (XS 480 700), two PBR's of TU 194.9.2 were hailed by a water taxi because two men on the taxi desire to rally. Surrendering an M-1 carbine and a 30 round magazine, they stated that there were other VC in the area who might also want to rally. The PBR's returned to base for loudspeakers, and one of the Hoi Chanhs made a live broadcast in the VC base area with negative results. Before taking the Hoi Chanhs to Tan An Chieu Hoi Center, the PBR's pulled into the Hoi Chanhs' village so they could talk to their families and friends. The PBR's received an enthusiastic welcome from the villagers.

That afternoon, on the Vam Co Dong River, PBR's of CTU 194.9.3 on routine patrol two miles northwest of Tra Cu received from three to four rockets and light automatic weapons fire from the east bank. The bulk of the fire was directed at the cover boat which took a rocket hit on the port side of the coxswain flat below the armor plating resulting in three USN and one VNN wounded (boat captain seriously). The PBR went out of control and beached on the west bank as the other PBR's returned fire and remained in the area to support the beached boats. Four to six VC were seen evading the area and were taken under fire with unknown results. A Seawolf and FAC both arrived

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on station and proceeded to place strikes in the contact area which were followed by artillery. Thirty-seven minutes after the initial engagement, a PBR patrol and VNN ATC that had been scrambled arrived with a platoon of Army troops for insertion. The troops swept the contact area and found fresh trails, ambush positions on the bank, and two bunkers which they destroyed. After a strike by an OV-10 that had arrived on the scene, plus an additional strike by a second Seawolf, the VNN ATC pulled the beached PBR clear. Enemy casualties for the engagement were 1 VC killed and 1 VC probably killed.

Two PBR's of the Upper Vam Co Tay Patrol Unit, acting on local intelligence, inserted, supported, and extracted 36 PRU troops on the Rach Bach Chan 4 miles southwest of Moc Hoa (WS 975 890) on the morning of 6 September. The troops located two arms caches containing 500 Chicom grenades, 40 B-40 rockets and assorted small arms ammunition.

Acting on intelligence that VC sappers were operating in the area, VNN RAC of RAG 22 embarked a battalion of ARVN troops and inserted them on the Vam Co Dong River 14 miles southwest of Saigon (XS 592 795) on the morning of 9 September. During the sweep, the troops located a cache buried in tin boxes which consisted of: 6 boxes of TNT; 1,000 pounds of C-4; 224 60mm mortar rounds; 216 82mm mortar fuzes; 150 B-40 rockets; 100 B-40 boosters; 31 mines of various types; 16 hand grenades; 10 AK-47's; and 31 boxes of AK-47 ammunition.

All the material in the cache was in very good condition, and it is estimated that the cache had been in place less than seven days. There was no enemy contact.

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Operating on SEAL intelligence, SEAL Team, DET GOLF, Golf platoon, squad BRAVO conducted interdiction of a reported special supply convoy on 14 September 3½ miles south southeast of Ben Luc (XS 629 710). While in waterborne guardpost position, the SEAL's observed a large sampan containing approximately 12 men exit the canal. They allowed the craft to reach mid-stream before initiating contact. The sampan was sunk by direct M-79 hits, and 25 kilos of personnel effects and one kilo of documents were recovered from the water. Enemy casualties were 6 VC killed while three SEAL's were wounded. PBR support and artillery illumination was called for, and the PBR's made firing runs along the river bank and then cleared to the opposite bank. A SEAL platoon from Alpha squad was inserted at 2245 and patrolled inland observing numerous blood trails and fresh footprints on both sides of the canal, but they failed to gain contact.

During the afternoon of 16 September, two RAID 71 units attached to TU 194.9.3 extracted a U.S. Army platoon directly across from Tra Cu (XS 479 986) and reinserted them a mile downriver (XS 487 974) at the request of 3rd Brigade units. Once ashore, the troops swept inland toward an area where a USA scout team had made recent contact with 3 VC during which one Army man was seriously wounded. The sweeping troops discovered 3 VC bodies, 3 NVA ponchos, assorted clothing, cooking utensils, and 50 wooden planks.

on 17 Septem ber, while in night waterborne guardpost three miles west of Ben Luc (XS 575 752), four PBR's of TU 194.9.1 observed three VC in a sampan exit a nearby canal. The sampan was taken under fire killing four VC and capturing four AK-47's. One USA trooper was wounded seriously when he was hit in the left shoulder by automatic weapons fire. He was dusted off to the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon.

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Three days later, four different PBR's from TU 194.9.1 were in night waterborne guardpost positions four miles northwest of Ben Luc (XS 554 810) with a U.S. Army company. Eight to twelve VC were spotted and taken under fire by the troops after which they were extracted to allow the PBR's to take the area under fire and a Black Pony air strike. The troops were then reinserted for a sweep which discovered 4 VC bodies.

Two Upper Vam Co Dong Patrol Unit PBR's inserted U.S. Army troops eight miles south of Tay Ninh (XT 244 353) prior to daylight on 22 September. After only a few minutes ashore, the troops reported seeing five lights and 15-20 persons moving 200 yards to the northwest of their location (XT 242 355). Seawolves were scrambled and were overhead in five minutes making M-60 and 40mm firing runs. Afloat units remained in the area as a reaction force, and as they patrolled along the bank, they discovered a small cache containing an AK-47, four B-40 rockets, and a small amount of AK-47 ammunition. Results of the action were three VC killed and three probably killed. There were no friendly casualties.

On the 28th of September, combined units of RAID 70, 71, and RAD 151, while in night waterborne guardpost position with a U.S. Army platoon, observed three VC on the riverbank opposite their position on the Vam Co Dong River seven miles southwest of Ben Luc (XS 723 660). The three VNN craft opened fire and caught the VC in a crossfire while receiving negative return fire. Artillery was then called in after which the units returned to the area and spotted three bodies near the water line. There were no friendly casualties.

In a turnabout is fair play routine, ASPB units of 194.9 "psyopsed" one of the Viet Cong's newest psyops devices. These units were in waterborne

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guardpost position 8 miles northwest of Tuyen Nhon on the Vam Co Tay River (XS 187 843) on 29 September when they observed movement on the river banks. They broke position and found 2' by 2' floats with VC leaflets attached. After close examination, the floats were picked up, and the area was reconned by fire with negative results. The floats were returned to Tuyen Nhon where the leaflets were removed and turned over to NILO. The favor was then returned as US/VN leaflets were attached to the same floats which were then returned to the original position and released on the following night.

Two units from RAID 71 and RIVDIV 151 in support of a U.S. Army platoon on 29 September discovered 225 pounds of TNT in ½ pound blocks packaged in six crates. The condition of the crates and explosives indicated that they had been cached for a considerable length of time. The Army units were led to the cache site 100 meters from the bank of the Ben Luc River 2½ miles north of Ben Luc (XS 638 798) by a Kit Carson scout who had recently Chieu Hoid. The cache was located in the bottom of a bomb or artillery crater.

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Border Interdiction Campaign

Task Group 194.4 had an average of nearly 120 USN and VNN craft assigned during September. Interdiction operations were conducted in the Tran Hung Dao area of operations which included approximately 22 WBGP's with 300 RF/PF troops placed nightly increasing to 35 WBGP's at month's end, the locations of the sites being determined by current intelligence, by recommendations of local commanders, and by analysis of historical intelligence to determine previously used infiltration routes or areas. Ten PBR's and four to five RAC's were employed during the month to carry out interdiction operations on Barrier Reef West.

In an effort to tighten the interdiction barrier and because of the seasonal flooding with its resultant water table that has inundated large areas compounding interdiction problems, a new tactic for this particular area came into use during September. Sampans were utilized by friendly troops to extend the WBGP front and thus challenge the enemy at his own game. Under the present rules a squad size, three sampan, independent WBGP is positioned 300 meters from the PBR's thus permitting a much wider dispersion of waterborne interdiction forces. At the end of the month, conventional WBGP tactics were further altered by the use of single boat WBGP's throughout the Tran Hung Dao/Barrier Reef TAOR. PCF's, VNN Junks, PBR's and RAC were assigned geographical sectors in which they changed station randomly. These assigned craft were complemented by troops, sampans, air boats, and Kenner Ski Barges in order to achieve maximum probability of detection and countering enemy infiltration.

In additional changes, on 13 September, the USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) arrived off Ha Tien to support RIVDIV 532 and provide other assistance as feasibe for operations in Ha Tien TAOR and assumed designator TU 194.4.9 with TU 194.4.8.1, DET 3, embarked to provide air support in western Tran Hung Dao.

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On 15 September, RAD 132 relieved RAD 131 in Operation Tran Hung Dao and chopped to CTG 194.4 as RAD 131 returned to Dong Tam. On 27 September, HAL 3, DET 9, consisting of two UH-1B gunships arrived at YRBM 21 (WS 392 895) and assumed CTE 194.4.5.1 and will operate primarily in support of Barrier Reef West.

Two PBR's of TU 194.4.4 were in WBGP on the Vinh Te Canal six miles southwest of Chou Doc (WS 049 796) on 4 September when they observed 50 or more enemy troops in a column of 20 to 25 sampans approaching from the east moving west. The PBR's opened fire and requested artillery illumination. After forty-five minutes, artillery illumination had still not been received, and Black Pony aircraft in the area made illumination runs with negative sightings, however, visibility was very poor due to rain. Enemy troops were believed to have retreated across the Cambodian border one mile to the northwest.

Three days later, a mile down the canal (WS 035 787), two additional TU 194.4.4 PBR's were in WBGP when they observed one sampan crossing from south to north. The PBR initiated fire and destroyed the sampan. Three enemy were killed and two grenades, an NVA uniform, four ponchos, a first aid kit, and some articles of clothing were found in the sampan.

Still another mile farther to the west on the Vinh Te Canal (WS 020 788), TU 194.4.4 PBR's in WBGP observed two VC in a sampan with two VC swimming alongside crossing the canal towards the north on 19 September. When the VC saw the PBR's, they attempted to evade and were taken under fire and were killed. At this time, the PBR's received scattered small arms fire from unknown positions to the south resulting in very slight damage to one PBR. Enemy casualties were 4 VC killed. There were no friendly casualties.

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VNN junks and a Coastal Group 44 reaction team in WBGP the following night 13 miles northeast of Ha Tien on the Vinh Te Canal (VS 600 634) sighted approximately 20 persons to the north of their position proceeding south. When the reaction force opened fire, they received return automatic weapons fire as the enemy evaded north into Cambodia. A sweep conducted later by the reaction force with Black Pony aircraft orbiting to the south of the canal produced negative results. Enemy casualties were estimated as three VC killed while friendly casualties were one VNN killed and one VNN slightly wounded.

While on Cambodian border patrol, units of MINDIV 113 on 11 September sighted a funeral float drifting down the Mekong River 13½ miles northeast of Chou Doc (WT 210 030). One unit followed the float until it was 17 miles east northeast of Chou Doc (WS 380 930) where it ran aground and was partially destroyed. The remains of the float were towed into the river and destroyed by M-79 fire.

Two ATC's of RAD 132 were in waterborne guardpost position 15½ miles northeast of Ha Tien on the Vinh Te Canal (VS 645 635) on 19 September when two persons were observed in the vicinity of an abandoned hootch near their position. A sniper opened fire and shot one man through the head and is believed to have hit the other one. A sweep at first light revealed large amounts of blood on the ground near the hootch. There were no friendly casualties.

PBR's of RIVDIV 512 were in WBGP positions in the early morning of 24 September on a small canal off the Vinh Te Canal 21 miles southeast of Chou Doc (VS 870 560) when they spotted two groups of VC/NVA approximately 200 yards apart. The first group, which was 200 yards from the PBR's, evidently

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sighted the 512 units as they were observed setting up mortars. The PBR's initiated fire on the first group and received sporadic AK-47 fire in return. A USN OV-10 was diverted and was overhead in five minutes. Placing multiple strikes in the contact area, it obtained one secondary explosion. The OV-10 was relieved by an LHFT which also placed a strike in the area. A morning sweep by CIDG troops produced negative results with only miscellaneous equipment located. Enemy casualties were 10 KIA/KBA (Prob). There were no friendly casualties.

In the early morning on 26 September, a VN outpost in the Tien Binh district 5½ miles southwest of Chou Doc (WS 049 798) was reported under attack by 50 VC. An LHFT of HAL 3, DET 3, was scrambled and sent to the scene where it searched the area with negative results. Meanwhile, personnel manning an NOD approximately two miles away (WS 088 799) reported moving lights were seen about 1½ miles southwest of their position (WS 075 782). The LHFT then made a low level reconnaissance using its landing lights and observed four or five sampans with 10-15 people aboard. With clearance from the province and concurrence from CTG 194.4, the LHFT placed multiple machine gun and rocket strikes in the area. Enemy losses were 5 VC killed (Prob) and 2 to 5 sampans sunk or damaged (Prob) while there were no friendly casualties.

Junks of Coastal Group 42, while proceeding to WBGP on 27 September on the Vinh Te Canal about 13 miles northeast of Ha Tien (VS 572 640 to VS 585 635), received two B-40 rounds at an estimated range of 10 meters. The units returned fire for 20 minutes, then one unit cleared the area to evacuate two wounded VNN. At that time, the remaining unit received A/W fire. A few minutes later, an LHFT arrived on the scene to provide close support. The LHFT made five firing runs and received A/W fire on all runs.

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The LHFT cleared the area as an LAFT arrived to provide support and illumination for a ground sweep, which showed that an estimated five men has been in ambush position approximately 200 meters to the north and an estimated company sized unit had beaten down the undergrowth. It is believed that the ambush was planned as a diversion for an enemy crossing which had been prevented in the intended area. Enemy casualties are unknown while friendly casualties were two VNN wounded (one serious).

On the evening of 28 September, PBR's of RIVDIV 514 sighted three sampans each carrying two persons 150 feet from their WBGP position 6 miles west southwest of Chou Doc on the Vinh Te Canal (WS 037 790). The PBR's initiated fire with illumination provided by an LHFT with unknown results. Several minutes later, fire was once more initiated. A sweep discovered 2 VC bodies and one sampan. The two enemy bodies appeared to be under sixteen.

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Two "Swift" boats tow a third damaged by enemy fire during the incursion as gunners watch for enemy ambush positions.

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Search Turn Campaign

Task Group 194.3 with an average of 30 PBR's and four Seawolves assigned continued routine sorties, waterborne guardposts, and interdiction patrols in Kien Giang Province and the Gulf of Thailand, in addition to supporting the 21st ARVN Division in the "Three Sisters" area. Commencing on 12 September, the Search Turn AO was broken down into the following areas of responsibility: (1) RIVDIV 554, TU 194.3.5, to patrol Kien Tan, Kien Tanh, and Kinh Binh Districts out of Rach Soi; (2) RIVDIV 513, TU 194.31., to patrol the Song Cai Lon, Kien An District, and the lower Gulf out of Rach Soi; and (3) RIVDIV 553, TU 194.3.2 to patrol Kien Son and Kien Phung District including the upper Gulf out of Kien Son.

During September the enemy suffered 76 killed by Search Turn units which is two more than the previous month. However, this was accomplished while reducing friendly casualties from 4 killed and 10 wounded in August to 2 killed and four wounded in September. The following incident narrative are typical of activity in the Search Turn AO.

On 6 September, two PBR's of RIVDIV 553 supporting 21st ARVN Division operations sighted and took under fire three swimmers crossing from east to west on the Luynh Quynh Canal 18 miles northwest of Rach Gia (VS 861 238). Seawolves were diverted from their patrol and placed air strikes while the PBR's provided illumination. The PBR's and Seawolves both received return fire from the banks and returned and suppressed same. As the Seawolves departed station, Black Ponies arrived and placed additional air strikes. A troop sweep at daylight turned up four VC bodies, a small amount of clothing, and some freshly used medical dressings. There were no friendly casualties.

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On 11 September, two PBR's of RIVDIV 513 in WBGP on the Song Cai Be 11 miles south southeast of Rach Gia (WR 178 888) observed two sampans approaching their position after curfew. The number of occupants could not be determined due to the extreme darkness. The sampans were taken under fire and a subsequent search of the area resulted in the capture of one VC suspect and one sampan. In addition, one VC was probably killed and a sampan destroyed while there were no friendly casualties. Also on the 11th in a typical Seawolf mission, two Seawolves on southern coastal patrol were cleared by CTG 194.3 to strike targets of opportunity in a designated target area 18 miles southwest of Rach Gia (VR 940 810). The results were seven structures destroyed and eight damaged, seven sampans destroyed and 18 damaged, and four VC probably killed.

Two RIVDIV 553 PBR's were in WBGP positions on 14 September when they sighted six unoccupied sampans floating toward their position on the Vam Ray Canal 24 miles northwest of Rach Gia. Taking the sampans under fire resulted in several secondary explosions. At the same time, small arms fire was received from the west bank, which was returned and suppressed. Seawolves were scrambled and arrived on the scene after the PBR's had engaged in a second firefight. The Seawolves placed a strike which was followed at daybreak by a troop sweep. A search of the area and the sampan wreckage produced one VC body and indications that six more were probably killed. In addition, three AK-47's, two cases of AK-47 ammunition, two B-40 rockets, one M-16 rifle, ten M-16 magazines, and four pieces of web. There were no friendly casualties.

An unfortunate accident occurred on 15 September when Seawolf 302 of TU 194.3.3 crashed into the Gulf of Thailand during a scramble takeoff in a rain squall. The two pilots were wounded (one seriously) and the two crewmen were killed.

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PBR's 677 and 679 of RIVDIV 513 were in WBGP on the Cai Lon River 20 miles south southeast of Rach Gia (WR 200 772) on 20 September when the after gunner on one of the boats was hit in the chest by an enemy grenade which then fell on the boat's pump covers. The quick thinking gunner quickly retrieved the grenade hurling it back into the nippa plam bush from which it eminated. The grenade exploded probably killing one VC.

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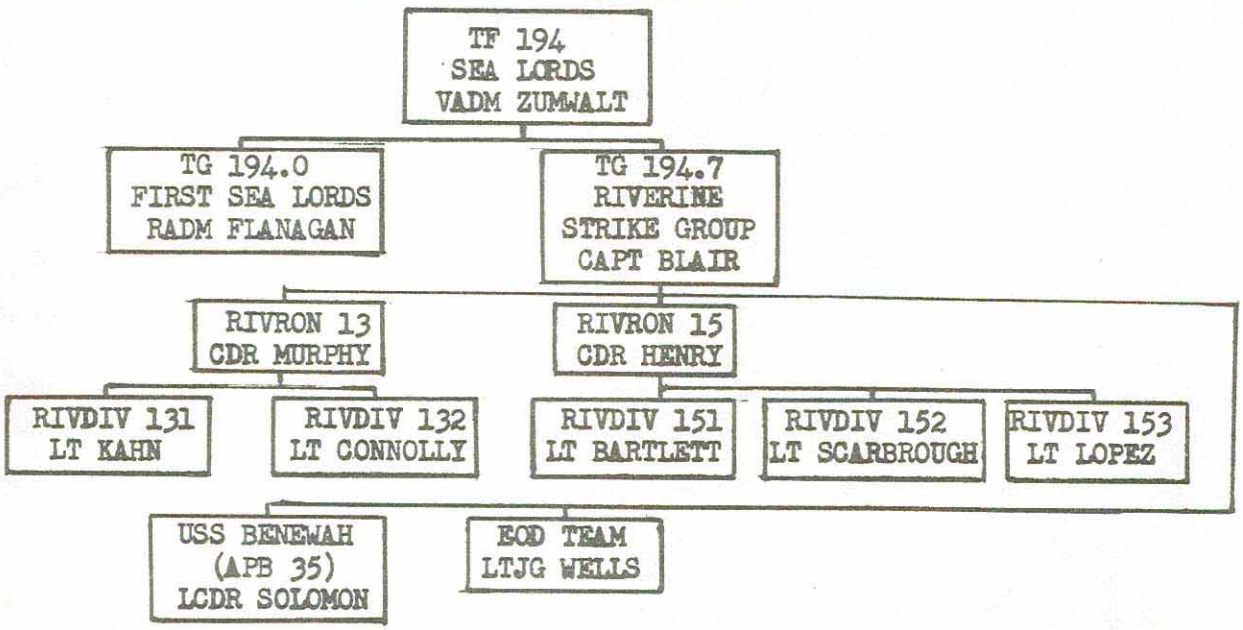
Riverine Strike Group
(Task Group 194.7)

The remnants of the now defunct (as of 25 August 1969) Mobile Riverine Force consist of River Assault Divisions 13 and 15 and continue operational commitments as the Riverine Strike Group (RSG) within the Operation SEA LORDS organizational structure as depicted in the following chart:

OPERATIONAL ORGANIZATION



Captain Carvell Blair, formerly Commander Task Force 117 and River Flotilla ONE, assumed primary duties as the Senior Advisor, Vietnamese Navy Amphibious Task Force 211 with additional duties as Commander Task Group 194.7 and on the staff of Commander River Patrol Flotilla FIVE in charge of River Assault Craft matters.

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Limited operations by the Riverine Strike Group, as compared with the large scale, extensive, and relentless offensive activity of the Mobile Riverine Force, continued during September. Riverine Assault Operations in support of various PRU, ARVN, and RF troops were conducted in areas in Kien Hoa, Go Cong, and Dinh Tuong Provinces. These troop insertion and extraction operations were conducted on request of the respective unit U.S. advisor and usually developed on short lead time. Reconnaissance in force operations in support of the 6/31 Infantry Battalion of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. Ninth Infantry Division in the Can Giuoc District of Long An Province were carried out. As began last month, RSG units continued patrol and interdiction operations on the Song Vam Co, Rach Cat, Rach Cac, and Song Nha Be. The Cho Gao Canal became a CTG 194.7 operating area on 1 September, and an average of six assault craft were on patrol there. Emphasis in all areas was given to inspection as 8448 persons and 25,565 persons were checked.

Operations were in general routine, and contact with the enemy was very light or non-existent in all operating areas except on the Cho Gao Canal. Five enemy ambushes were sprung on RAC along this waterway during September whereas none are recorded for the other areas. Casualties were light again this month - enemy casualties were listed as 9 Viet Cong killed; friendly casualties were one USN killed, and six USN and 4 VNN were wounded.

Dispostion of RAC in the Giant Slingshot and other campaign areas continued as in previous months as shown in the accompanying table which depicts the situation on the last day of September.

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Operation/ Location	Assault Division	ATC	ASPB	(1) MON	CCB	(2) Utility	Refueler	Total
Dong Tam	RAD 131	14	6	4 (IF)	2	1		27
Tran Hung Dao	132	13	6	3 (IF)	1	1	1	25
Giant Slingshot	151	12	6	4 (IF)	1	1		24
Nam Co River	152	13	6	3	1	1	1	25
Rung Sat Special Zone & Giant Slingshot	153		16					16
Total		52	40	14	5	4	2	117

(1) F - flame thrower (2) Utility craft are MSM

RAC were ambushed on the Cho Gao Canal on two successive nights. At 2050 on the 4th, RAD 132 craft on patrol came across several sampans. As soon as the area was illuminated the patrol received 5 B-40 rockets and A/W fire from both banks at a position 5½ miles east of My Tho (XW 595 438). Fire was returned and suppressed with unknown enemy casualties. ATC-9 took 3 rocket hits and 3 Navymen were wounded in the action. Again, the next night, RAC received rocket fire from both banks of the canal 4 miles southeast of My Tho (vicinity XS 569 432) as ATC 23 took 3 hits and ZIPPO 2 took one hit. The patrol suppressed the fire and the ZIPPO flamed the area. Later investigation revealed that 3 VC were killed; one Vietnamese sailor was slightly wounded.

A U.S. Navyman was killed at 0525 on 5 September when a single enemy mortar round made a direct hit on the flight deck of ATC 22 (RAD 132) as it was tied up to Pier Charlie at Dong Tam. The security watch was mortally wounded and three other sailors received wounds.

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At 2130 on the 17th, RAC were again ambushed on the Cho Gao Canal. One B-40 rocket struck ZIPPO-1 resulting in minor damage and no personnel casualties. Just after midnight on the 24th, RAC on the Cho Gao interdiction patrol received 10 B-40's and A/W fire from a 300 meter long ambush position on the south bank in the vicinity of XS 565 432. Two RAC received hits resulting in light material damage and 3 U.S. and 3 Vietnamese sailors wounded. Subsequent reports indicated that 8 Vietnamese civilians were asphyxiated as the ZIPPO flamed the ambush area to suppress enemy fire. Another ambush erupted at 2300 on 26 September as RAC on the Cho Gao Canal received B-40 and A/W fire 8 miles northeast of My Tho (XS 637 472). Fire was returned and suppressed and an embarked reaction team inserted. Three USN were wounded while enemy casualties were unknown.

RAC of RAD 152 inserted 6/31 Infantry Battalion troops along a canal in Long An Province. During late morning of the 27th, the troops, with the aid of a Hoi Chanh 3 miles east of Can Giouc (XS 879 720) discovered a 450 pound cache of explosives. EOD personnel destroyed the rusted and deteriorated rockets and primers in place.

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Market Time Raider Campaign

Enemy base areas and fortifications along the navigable waterways of the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones were hit frequently by the combined sea, ground, and air punch of the "Swift" boat river incursion operations. Employing two or more PCF's and supported by helicopter, OV-10, and OV-6A aircraft and USCG WPB's, the III and IV Coastal Zone Raiders conducted 78 missions in support of operations SEA LORDS and Sea Float during September. The "Swift" boats, in addition to conducting H and I fire and responding to requests for urgent naval gunfire support and manning of waterborne guardposts, inserted, extracted, and supported ground forces consisting of Underwater Demolition Teams, Explosive Ordnance Teams, SEAL's, PRU's, RF/PF troops, MSF and ARVN soldiers. Enemy initiated hostile fire incidents decreased from 43 in August to 25 during the month of September. These were suppressed on all occasions except when nearness of friendly forces prevented return fire in the area. There were no U.S. or VNN "Swift" boats damaged in the missions while one Seawolf supporting the operations received minor damage, and seven U.S. sailors were wounded during the month.

Enemy personnel losses by combined allied forces increased over August with 109 Viet Cong killed (80 body count, 29 probable), 10 wounded, and 22 captured. There was a decrease in enemy material losses over the previous month with over 100 watercraft and 254 structures damaged and six craft captured.

Although these operations continued to produce maximum damage in secret zones and enemy base areas, the primary emphasis continued to center on the pacification of the Ca Mau peninsula under operation Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III.

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A new tactic utilized by Market Time Raiders include a drifting waterborne guardpost wherein two PCF's drift downriver with the current to intercept VC traffic. Another tactic is the utilization of the lead PCF of three or more PCF's as a decoy. When transiting the river, the lead PCF proceeds out ahead at maximum speed steering a zig zag course. The remaining boats stay in a column formation at a speed approximately 500 RPM's less than the lead boat. Upon reaching a distance of approximately 2,000 yards ahead of the others, the lead PCF returns and then commences his run again. The rationale is to lure the enemy into thinking only one "Swift" boat is on patrol. If shot at, all PCF's converge at a point on the opposite bank and saturate the area with 81mm mortar fire.

On 3 September, PCF's 54, 24, 28, and 59 and the PT GREY (USCG WPB) embarked two companies of RF/PF troops (vicinity XR 521 643) about 50 miles southeast of Can Tho. The units then proceeded to a small canal (XR 476 622) just south of the Kinh Quan Chanh Bon and after prepping the beach with .50 caliber machine gun fire, inserted the troops. The troops made light contact with the enemy; however, the close proximity of friendlies preclude the "Swift" boats from providing gunfire support. Shortly thereafter, the RF/PF troops were extracted and disembarked at XR 485 636. The units then exited the canal without further incident. The Sea Lords mission resulted in eight sampans, four structures, and two bunkers destroyed. There were no friendly casualties while four VC were killed and seven VC captured.

The PT GREY (USCG WPB) and PT CAUTION (USCG WPB) conducted a Sea Lords mission on the afternoon of 4 September about six miles southeast of Thanh Phu (XR 76 95). The WPB's entered the Kinh Eo Loi taking targets of opportunity under fire and firing at a VC machine shop. During the engagement, small arms fire was received and suppressed. The afternoon operation resulted

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in four bunkers, 21 structures, and eight sampans destroyed and 13 structures heavily damaged. In addition, several small fires were ignited. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties are unknown.

On the night of 4 and 5 September, PCF's 63 and 64 inserted a Kien Hoa Province Kit Carson Scout platoon (KCS) on the Co Chien River in Base Area 490 about six miles north of Phu Vinh (XR 461 082). Following the insertion, the "Swift" boats stoodby to provide support as necessary. The scouts were extracted at 0200, 5 September and returned to Ben Tre. The "Swift" boats made no contact with the enemy, but the KCS captured four VC suspects and destroyed 200 feet of trip wire and 200 gallons of gasoline. There were no friendly casualties.

At 0615 on the morning of 14 September, six PCF's and the USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST 1170) got underway and proceeded to the Song Ong Doc (VQ 805 985) where 60 RF were embarked on the "Swift" boats. The troops were inserted on the south bank of the Song Ong Doc (VR 910 007) and swept east and then south (to VQ 918 998) where contact was made with a two squad size enemy force. In the ensuing firefight, seven VC were killed and two VC were captured along with numerous weapons, ammunition, and field gear. Continuing the sweep, one large rice mill and 200 kilos of rice were destroyed. Three PCF's provided mortar support for the troops while the other three "Swift" boats with UDT embarked destroyed river barricades in the vicinity in preparation for future PBR operations. During the operation, the IST provided H and I fire while Seawolves providing air cover took targets of opportunity under fire. The troops were extracted at 1530, and all units exited the river without further incident. There were no friendly casualties while enemy losses were 12 VC killed and three captured. There were three structures destroyed

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and four heavily damaged. One 30 foot sampan loaded with cardboard boxes was destroyed. One of the detainees indicated that the VC were holding a meeting, and the RF troops had surprised them, and two of the VC killed were hamlet level cadre.

On the night of 22 September, three PCF's proceeded up the Song Ong Doc to the northeast corner of the Kinh Ba Kheo (VR 889 002) where PCF 17 dropped out of the formation and inserted an RF company, UDT, and PF personnel to establish a night guardpost. PCF's 103 and 25 continued up the river about 2,000 meters to simulate a night patrol, then reversed course and along with PCF 17 returned to the Song Long Doc to standby. The troops took a sampan under fire when it did not respond to a call to stop for a search and wounded two civilians. The "Swift" boats returned up the river, embarked the wounded, and returned them to Song Ong Doc for treatment. One man was identified by another detainee as a VC. The river traffic increased after the second trip by the PCF's; apparently, the operators thought the troops had been extracted. One sampan was called over for a search and at first slowly approached the troops then attempted to evade to the opposite canal bank. It was taken under fire and destroyed, and the four occupants were killed. During the night, 15 other persons and their motorized sampan were detained. The troops were extracted at 230315H, and all units exited the river without further incident. There were four VC killed and one VC captured while sixteen civilians were detained as curfew violators. One sampan was destroyed. There were no friendly casualties.

On the night of 25 September, PCF's 63 and 54 inserted Kien Hoa Province PRU's off the Ham Luong River about 12 miles northeast of Phu Vinh (XS 540 170). The "Swift" boats then waited to render support as necessary. A short time later an emergency call for fire was received from the Kien H oa PRU Advisor

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whose forces were receiving heavy enemy A/W fire. The "Swifts" reacted quickly, and the enemy attack was suppressed. The troops were extracted at 0300 the next morning by PCF 63 while PCF 54 fired H and I in the area evacuated by the troops. There were no friendly casualties while four VC were killed and two VC captured. One field hospital was destroyed and documents were captured.

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OPERATION SEA LORDS STATISTICAL SUMMARY BY CAMPAIGN

SEPTEMBER 1969

	GIANT SLINGSHOT	BARRIER REEF	TRAN HUNG DAO	SEARCH TURN	MARKET TIME RAIDERS	RIVERINE STRIKE GROUP	MANG THIT CAMPAIGN (Term. 20 Sep)
Enemy casualties:			29 BC &	41 BC &	48 BC &		
a. Killed	56 BC & 63 PROB	0	54 EST	35 EST	28 EST	3 BC	0
b. Wounded	2	1	1	4	10	0	0
c. Captured	3	0	0	0	12	0	0
USN & VNN casualties:							
a. Killed	0	0	1 VNN	0	0	1 USN	0
b. Wounded	11 USN & 2 VNN	0	2USN & 3VNN	3 USN	7 USN	6USN & 4VNN	1 USN
c. Captured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:							
a. Destroyed							
(1) Junks & sampans	8	0	31	82	90	2	0
(2) Structures	91	0	18	109	219	3	11
b. Captured							
(1) Junks and sampans	1	0	0	2	2	1	0
(2) Weapons	10	0	2	6	11	0	0
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	50	0	100	100	60	5	0
(4) Rice (tons)	.1	0	0	.1	3	0	0
c. Damaged							
(1) Junks & sampans	6	0	7	107	5	0	0
(2) Structures	30	0	17	110	88	0	0
USN material losses:							
a. Destroyed							
(1) Surface craft	1 USN	0	0	0	0	0	0
(2) Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
b. Damaged							
(1) Surface craft	4 USN	0	1	0	0	5 USN	0
(2) Aircraft	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
Hostile fire incidents:	49	1	18	28	25	4	1

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OPERATION SEA LORDS STATISTICAL SUMMARY BY CAMPAIGN

SEPTEMBER 1969

	GIANT SLINGSHOT	BARRIER REEF	TRAN HUNG DAO	SEARCH TURN	MARKET TIME RAIDERS	RIVERINE STRIKE GROUP	MANG THIT CAMPAIGN (Term. 20 Sep)
Enemy casualties:							
a. Killed	73 BC & 73 PROB	0	31 BC & 54 EST	41 BC & 35 EST	80 BC & 29 EST	9 BC	0
b. Wounded	2	1	1	4	10	0	0
c. Captured	7	0	0	0	22	0	0
USN & VNN casualties:							
a. Killed	0	0	0	0	3	1	0
b. Wounded	33	0	8	4	19	10	1
c. Captured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:							
a. Destroyed							
(1) Junks & sampans	11	0	31	82	100	3	0
(2) Structures	153	0	18	109	254	8	11
b. Captured							
(1) Junks and sampans	1	0	0	3	6	1	0
(2) Weapons	44	0	2	6	14	0	0
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	1000	540	100	100	70	80	0
(4) Rice (tons)	.1	0	0	.1	3	0	0
c. Damaged							
(1) Junks & sampans	6	0	7	107	5	0	0
(2) Structures	30	0	17	110	101	0	0
USN material losses:							
a. Destroyed							
(1) Surface craft	1 USN	0	0	0	0	1	0
(2) Aircraft	0	0	0	0	1 USN	0	0
b. Damaged							
(1) Surface craft	4 USN	0	1 USN	0	0	5	0
(2) Aircraft	0	0	1 USN	2 USN	1 USN	0	0
Hostile fire incidents:	56	1	19	28	33	4	1

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY

Market Time had Stable Door forces continue routine operations during September. Market Time units retained patrol responsibility in the Game Warden area of operations on the lower Bassac and Co Chien rivers during the entire month, detecting 5,388 watercraft, inspecting 1,920 and boarding another 2,474. There were seven craft and 20 persons detained with no reported incidents of evading craft in the rivers. Task Force 115 surveillance units detected 119,167 craft in their patrol areas along the coast and in the harbors of the Republic of Vietnam. This is more than 20,000 fewer detections than in August; adverse weather conditions in the First and Second Coastal Zones caused the decrease. There were a total of 33,180 inspections and 18,693 boardings during September. As a result of these checks 236 craft and 1364 persons were detained for possession of contraband, violation of restricted areas, improper personnel or craft papers and other suspicious activities. There were 32 Viet Cong suspects detained in addition to the above.

Enemy activity during the entire month of September remained at a generally low level as during the previous two months. Increases in enemy activity predicted for the latter part of September failed to materialize.

On 1 September, Market Time Barrier Aircraft reported a modified SK-6 Cau Mau class trawler in the Gulf of Thailand at position 09-25N, 103-37E about 100 miles west of Song Ong Doc on course 320 degrees true at a speed of 8 knots. On initial sighting the trawler

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was observed to have a green hull, white deckhouse and white canvas cover astern and appeared to be heavily loaded. The aircraft commenced covert surveillance and ready alert aircraft were launched to maintain the barrier integrity. The contact was designated 1 F 1 by the Commander Coastal Surveillance Force. Shortly after the initial detection the trawler changed course to a southerly heading, approximately 100 miles off the coast until past Ca Mau Peninsula when it changed course to a northerly heading toward the Paracel Islands. The USS WILKES (DD 441), USS GEORGE K. MACKENZIE (DD 836) and USCGC SPENCER (WHEC 36) took station on the trawler and maintained a continuous covert surveillance. At 031440H SEVENTH Fleet Units assumed surveillance responsibility and all Market Time units returned to normal patrol duties. On the evening of 6 September the Seventh Units lost contact with the trawler when she entered the Paracel Islands in the vicinity of Lincoln Island. A possible infiltration attempt was aborted.

Task Force 115 units continued to provide naval gunfire and blocking forces in support of friendly ground operations along the coast and in the rivers and canals. During September one U.S. Navyman and one U.S. Coast Guard man were killed and 11 U.S. sailors were wounded. Enemy losses were 79 confirmed kills and 39 probably killed, 27 wounded and 18 captured.

At 1150 on 31 August while enroute from An Thoi to Ha Tien, PCF 62 on a heading of 035 degrees magnetic crossed into Cambodian

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waters (VS 220 440). At coordinate VS 260 530 small arms fire was received but was not returned. As soon as the officer in charge realized he was in Cambodian waters he altered course to 140 degrees magnetic to clear the area as soon as possible and entered South Vietnamese waters (VS 330 480). The PCF penetrated approximately six miles inside Cambodian territory.

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FIRST COASTAL ZONE

The first half of September found several of the patrol stations in area 1 and 2 vacant due to heavy weather and as a result there were 13,475 detections of watercraft which was nearly 8,000 less than during August. Of these craft, 4,991 were inspected and another 3,725 were boarded. There were 32 craft detained and 270 persons detained for curfew violations, improper personal or craft papers and violation of restricted areas.

First Coastal Zone patrols participated in more than 160 naval gunfire support missions during September. Of these, 57 were SEA TIGER missions or patrols with about half reporting no gunfire damage assessment due to heavy rain, darkness, heavy foliage or no troops available to sweep the area.

On the morning of 1 September PCF's 65 and 79 while on a normal SEA TIGER patrol inserted a Vietnamese Navy landing team about 15 miles southeast of Danang and provided security while the team made a sweep to the east. After destroying bunkers and an ammo/medicine cache the team was extracted and reinserted in two groups about three miles to the southeast where they swept toward each other and then to the east. The team detained three Vietnamese females and destroyed bunkers in the area prior to extraction and the PCF 65 took several structures under destructive fire. The morning operation resulted in the destruction of 10 bunkers, four structures and three sampans. There were no friendly casualties while three Vietnamese females were detained and turned over to Coastal Group 14 (CG-14).

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On the morning of 5 September, PCF's 13 and 15 inserted an Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) and PCF's 39 and 75 inserted RF troops off the Song Thu Bon for a combined sweep through coordinates BT 143 535 and BT 153 535 about 15 miles southeast of Danang. While the "Swift" boats provided security the ground forces destroyed bunkers in the sweep area and observed four large secondary explosions. The troops were extracted at 1400 without incident. There were no friendly casualties while one VC was probably killed. The sweep resulted in 45 bunkers, three structures, two 105mm rounds and four 81mm rounds being destroyed.

A SEA TIGER mission was conducted on 11 September to implant Duffel Bag sensors on Thuan Tinh Island in the Song Cua Dai (BT 187 553) about 16 miles southeast of Danang. The operation commenced with helo gunships prepping the area with rockets and miniguns. PCF's 39 and 78 then inserted the EOD, UDT and Duffel Bag personnel, while the helo gunships and "Swift" boats stoodby to provide security. Completing a beach and underwater recon the UDT commenced implanting two sensor strings in the water while the Duffel Bag team implanted two sensor strings on Thuan Tinh Island. During the operation some AK-47 fire was received, but it was immediately suppressed by the PCF's and helo gunships. The sensor string was laid by 1130 and all personnel were extracted without further incident. There were seven structures, two bunkers and one 155mm duel round destroyed and one AK-47 rifle captured. There were no friendly casualties while four VC were killed.

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At 2120 on 16 September, PCF 61 on a SEA TIGER patrol observed a large explosion on the Song Cua Dai (BT 207 568) about 17 miles southeast of Danang. Subsequent investigation revealed two Coastal Group 14 junks were completely destroyed, probably by a floating mine. PCF's 61 and 78 provided illumination and assisted in a search for survivors. A MEDEVAC helo was called in to evacuate four wounded VNN while artillery fire was placed on the west bank of the river.

On 22 September, the PT LOMAS (USCG WPB) while on normal Market Time patrol detected 11 sampans underway without running lights (vicinity of YD 772 375/YD 700 420) about 60 miles northwest of Danang. Eight of the sampans were boarded and 9 Vietnamese without identification were detained. Three sampans evaded and after they ignored warning shots were taken under fire with M-16's by sailors in the small boats. There were no friendly casualties while eight VC were killed. The nine detainees were turned over to CG-12 for further transfer to the Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO) at Hue for disposition.

On the night of 22 September PCF's 13 and 69 in a night water-borne guardpost sighted a sampan with two occupants on board about 14 miles south of Danang (BT 170 545). With clearance from the Quang Nam Sector the sampan was taken under fire, resulting in two VC killed and one sampan destroyed. One belt of VC grenades and one bag of medicine was recovered from the wreckage. There were no friendly casualties.

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Intelligence sources reported underwater caves about 75 southeast of Danang (vicinity BS 792 858) as being used by the Viet Cong. A Seawolf conducted visual reconnaissance of the area on 23 September to determine the feasibility of a joint Army/Navy operation to detect and destroy the underwater caves. Five VC were sighted emerging from the underwater caves and when they attempted to return were taken under fire and killed. Further reconnaissance of the area indicated a high density of mines and booby traps and based on this information further operations in this area were recommended.

On the afternoon of 26 September a helo gunship escorting two PBR's during a probe of the Truong Giang River received automatic weapons fire from the vicinity of BT 168 497 about 18 miles southeast of Danang. The helo's gas tank was hit and it was forced to land. PCF's 61 and 65 along with the two PBR's returned the fire immediately and effectively suppressed it. As the units were closing the area PCF 61 received one incoming M-79 round which caused no damage. There were no friendly casualties while one bunker, three structures, one sampan and two fish traps were destroyed. Two structures were damaged and one sampan captured. Enemy casualties are unknown.

At 0830 on 30 September on a SEA TIGER mission, Coastal Group 14 and River Assault Group 32 units in serted three VNN sweep/security teams followed by a PCF insertion of EOD and UDT personnel (vicinity of BT 154 532) about 16 miles southeast of Danang. CG-14, RAG-32, two helo gunships and an O-1G (light observation aircraft bird dog)

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providing waterborne and air cover the VNN team conducted a sweep to the east of Lang Dong Island while the OD and UDT teams conducted beach recon and bunker destruction along the south bank. All personnel were extracted at 1330 without incident. One VC was sighted in the area and taken under fire by the helo gunships. The operation was terminated at 1430 with no friendly casualties and one VC killed. The ground forces destroyed 77 large bunkers, five structures, one sampan, one 1, 000 lbs. bomb, one 105mm round, one 155m round and various quantities of fresh food. The average size of the bunkers were 10X15 feet with the largest being 20X30 feet.

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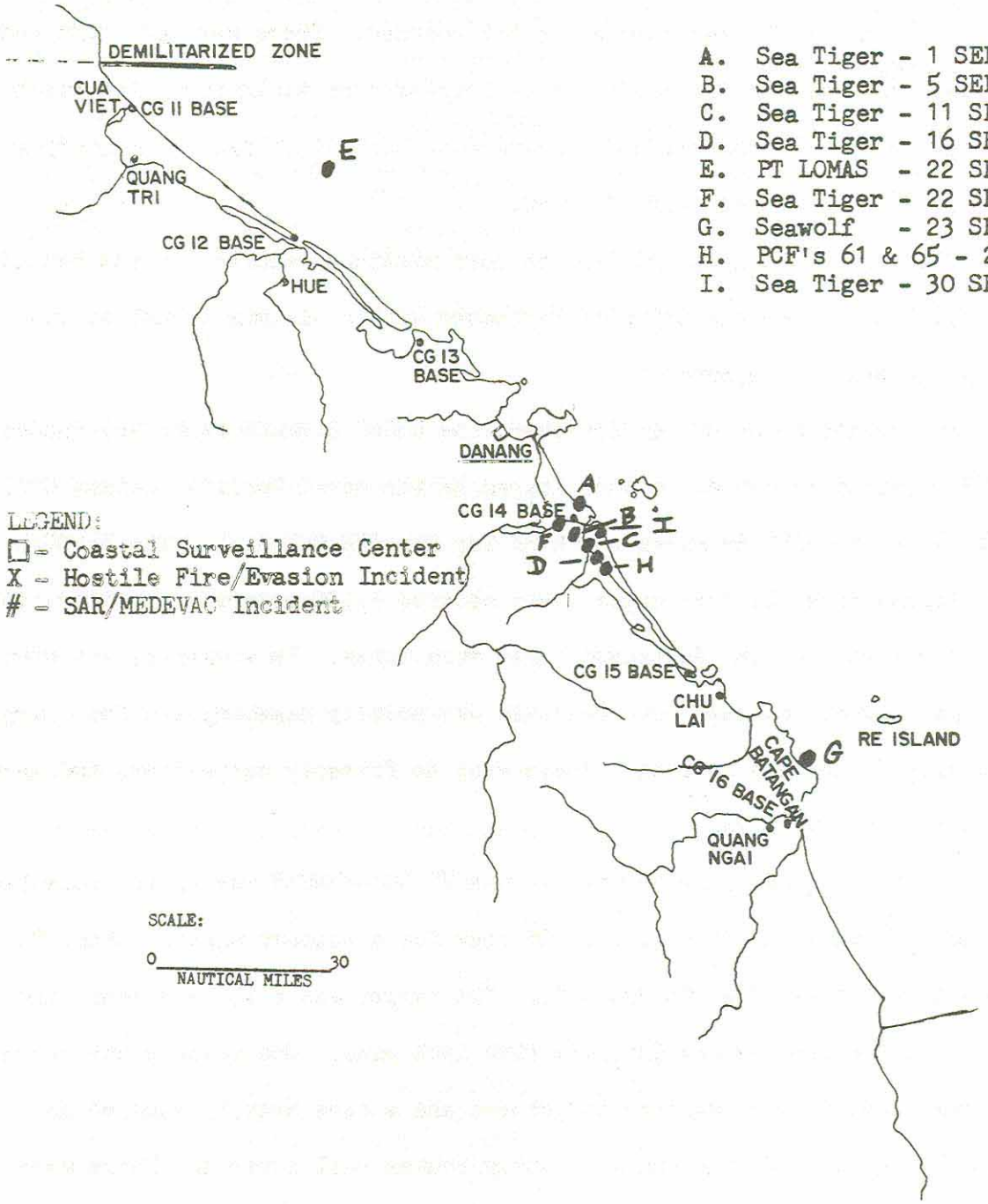
OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE



A. Sea Tiger - 1 SEP
B. Sea Tiger - 5 SEP
C. Sea Tiger - 11 SEP
D. Sea Tiger - 16 SEP
E. PT LOMAS - 22 SEP
F. Sea Tiger - 22 SEP
G. Seawolf - 23 SEP
H. PCF's 61 & 65 - 26 SEP
I. Sea Tiger - 30 SEP

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Second Coastal Zone

Weather throughout the Second Caostal Zone was generally good during the month of September although the number of detections was approximately 10,000 less than in August. There were 998 detections of watercraft with 16,511 of the craft inspected and 5,847 boarded. There were 42 craft and 281 persons detained for curfew or restricted zone violations, incorrect or faulty manifests, possession of contraband, lack of or faulty identification papers or as suspected draft dodgers.

There were 109 naval gunfire support missions reported in the Second Coastal Zone during the month of September with a minimum amount of gun damage assessment reported.

On the afternoon of 24 September, the USCGC SPENCER (WHEC 36) conducted a NGFS mission as requested and cleared by the Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer (NGLO) of the ARVN 68 miles north of Tuy Hoa (CR 027 526). The SPENCER neutralized three VC base camps, well covered 1,200 meters of infiltration and supply routes, and destroyed three structures. In addition, six structures were destroyed, one massonry structure was heavily damaged, and four large secondary fires were ignited. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties are unknown.

On the morning of 25 September, the USCGC SPENCER was again requested by the ARVN Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer for a support mission about 70 miles north of Tuy Hoa (CR 026 548). The target was a VC base camp, and it was neutralized by the Cutter's five inch guns. One masonry structure was destroyed and two masonry structures and a cave heavily damaged and 3,000 meters of infiltration and supply routes well covered. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties are unknown.

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At 0200 on the morning of 27 September, two suspicious Nationalist Chinese fishing vessels were spotted within the restricted zone by PCF 57 about 25 miles south of Phan Rang (BN 88 39). The two vessels were closed; however, heavy seas prevented boarding. The vessels then retrieved their nets and departed the area escorted by PCF 57.

On the afternoon of 28 September, the USCGC TANEY (WHEC 37) conducted a gunfire support mission in support of the Capitol ROK Infantry Division about 70 miles north of Tuy Hoa (CR 013 490). The mission was requested and spotted by the ROK Infantry Division NGLO. The NGLO reported the target area well covered with 300 meters of assembly area and 400 meters of infiltration route well covered, one cave partially closed, and one secondary fire. There were no friendly casualties while one VC was killed and three VC were wounded.

On the morning of 29 September, the TANEY was called on again for a gunfire support mission two miles to the east of the previous day's mission (CR 032 505). The Cutter's five inch guns destroyed five bunkers and damaged five more. On the morning of 29 September, PCF 49 patrolling in Market Time area 3G was informed of a possible search and rescue mission about 14 miles southeast of Qui Nhon (CR 205 035). An emergency beeper signal had been picked up by an aircraft on patrol. Investigation by the "Swift" boat revealed the emergency beeper to be aboard a small Vietnamese fishing vessel. The fishing vessel was then brought alongside the USCG TANEY (WHEC 37) for questioning of personnel by the VNN liaison officer aboard the cutter. Interrogation revealed that the fishing boat had been in the area since 281800H and a approximately 290530H discovered the radio in the water and brought it aboard. They further stated they had seen no aircraft crash or any indication that one had crashed. Two Vietnamese were detained and transferred to PCF 49 for transportation to Qui Nhon for further interrogation.

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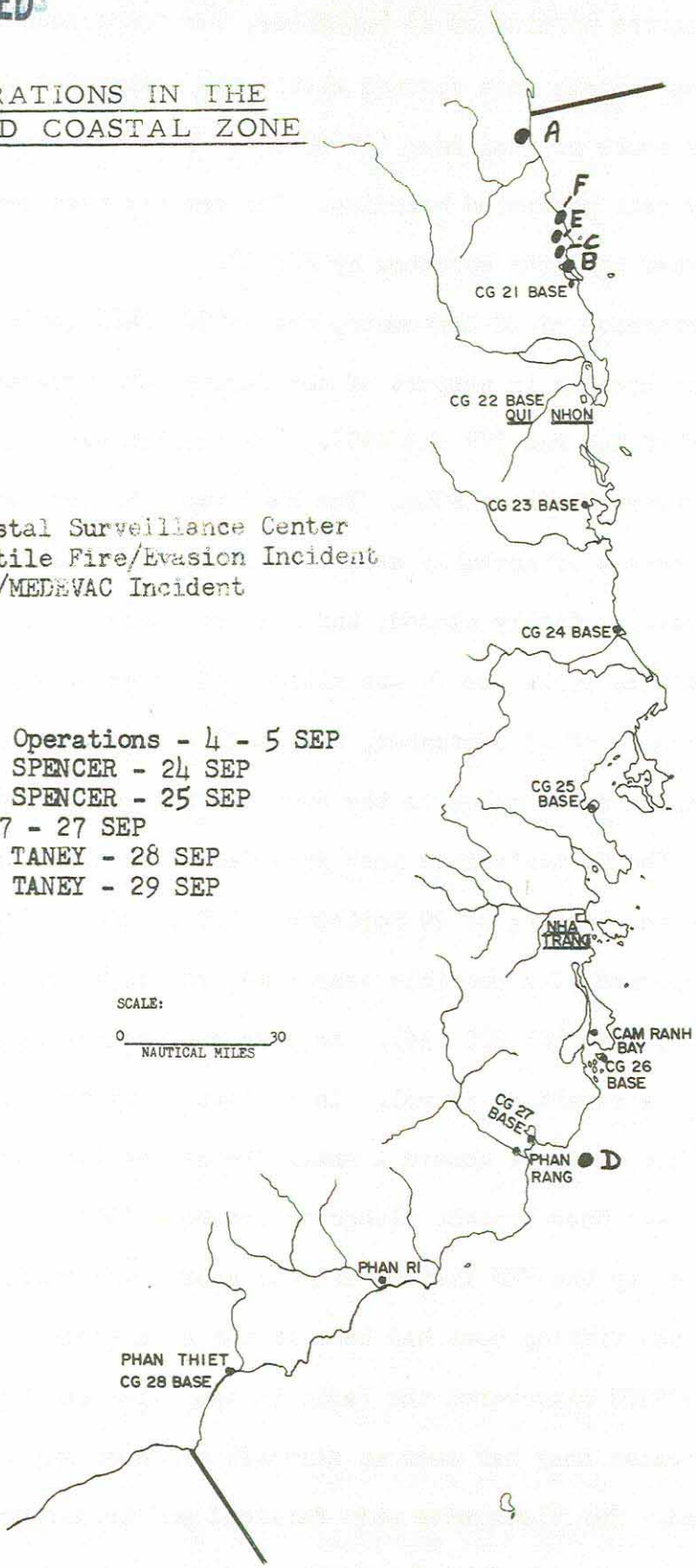
OPERATIONS IN THE SECOND COASTAL ZONE



LEGEND:

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

A. Joint Operations - 4 - 5 SEP
B. USCGC SPENCER - 24 SEP
C. USCGC SPENCER - 25 SEP
D. PCF 57 - 27 SEP
E. USCGC TANEY - 28 SEP
F. USCGC TANEY - 29 SEP

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Third Coastal Zone

In the Third Coastal Zone, the number of detections was about the same as the preceding month indicating no increase in indigenous coastal traffic during September. Surveillance operations resulted in the detection of 6,381 watercraft. Patrol effectiveness remained high with 3,085 inspections and 1,943 boardings. There were no incidents of evading craft while 19 craft and 83 persons were detained. In addition, "Swift" boats patrolling the lower Bassac and Co Chien Rivers detected 5,388 craft, and of those, 1,920 were inspected, and 2,474 were boarded resulting in four craft and 13 persons being detained. There were no incidents of evading craft reported for either the Bassac or Co Chien Rivers.

There were 163 naval gunfire support missions conducted during September. These missions were in response to requests for urgent naval gunfire support, targets of opportunity, H and I, or in preplanned river and canal incursions.

On the morning of 6 September, the PT COMFORT (USCG WPB) observed three people running across the beach about 35 miles northwest of Old Nam Can. They were immediately taken under fire, after sector clearance had been obtained, killing one VC and wounding two others. Two camouflaged sampans were also taken under fire and destroyed.

The PT COMFORT (USCG WPB) while on normal Market Time patrol conducted a NGFS mission on 7 September on a suspected VC weapons and food cache at the mouth of the Co Chien River about 15 miles southeast of Phu Vinh (XR 680 875). Firing at a range of from 600 to 2,000 yards with direct spotting, the WPB destroyed six structures with her 81mm mortars. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties are unknown.

On 7 September, PCF's 17 and 28 inserted PRU, National Police Field Forces, and PF forces about 40 miles southeast of Can Tho on the Bassac River (XR 338 627)

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The "Swift" boats then withdrew to provide a blocking force and gunfire support. The ground forces led by Hoi Chanhs found an abandoned VC prison camp. Sweeping to the west, another POW camp was found and six prisoners were liberated. The troops were then extracted, and on the return trip, PCF 17 conducted a psyops mission. The ground forces killed two VC and captured 15 pounds of documents. As a result of the psyops broadcast, two Hoi Chanhs rallied to the "Swift" boats. There were no friendly casualties.

The PT BANKS (USCG WPB) was conducting routine boardings and inspections on the morning of 12 September when one sampan failed to stop and evaded into a treeline 1,000 yards down a canal about 45 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 425 623). The WPB closed the position, and the sampan emerged from the canal and came alongside. One Vietnamese male without identification was detained as a suspected Viet Cong. Upon inspecting the sampan, 75 packs of cigarettes, 600 pounds of rice, 40 gallons of gasoline, 10 pounds of sugar, 40 cans of American sardines, and one case of medicine, all unmanifested, were captured. The damaged sampan was delivered to CG-36 for further transfer to the NILO Soc Trang. There were no friendly casualties.

The PT PARTRIDGE (USCG WPB) fired a sector approved NGFS mission on the afternoon of 13 Spetember about 62 miles southwest of Can Tho (WQ 47 96). The WPB gunfire accounted for two structures and one sampan destroyed and another six structures heavily damaged. There were no friendly casualties.

Early on the morning of September, PCF 87 inserted 30 PF/RF troops about 16 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 07 93) and then stoodby as a blocking force. The mission was an attempt to capture a Viet Cong Infrastructure (VCI). The mission was aborted when the intelligence agent failed to show.

The PT CYPRESS (USCG WPB) was requested to provide support for a troop insertion on 22 September off the Song My Than (XR 150 444) about 43 miles

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southeast of My Tho. The WPB provided 81mm NGFS and stoodby for .50 caliber support should the enemy come into the open. Enemy S/A fire was received and quickly suppressed. The mission terminated at 0830 with the WPB having destroyed five bunkers. There were no friendly casualties while enemy casualties are unknown.

On the morning of 27 September, the PT BANKS (USCG WPB) conducted a gunfire support mission in a VC area about sixteen miles southeast of Phu Vinh (XR 757 864). The WPB spotted two people in a field who fled into the treeline and two people in a structure and were taken under fire with 81mm and automatic weapons. There were no friendly casualties while two VC were killed and two VC wounded. One structure was destroyed and six damaged.

On the afternoon of 29 September, PCF 63 detained two VC suspects while conducting routine board and search operations in the Co Chien River about 41 miles southeast of Vinh Long (XR 493 025). One suspect had three separate sets of ID papers in his possession and 300 kilos of unmanifested rice. When apprehended, the suspect attempted to bribe the crew members. Under initial interrogation by VNN crew members, the suspect admitted to being a VC and had been acting as a courier for three months. The second suspect had illegal medicine and blank draft deferment papers. He admitted to being a VC when interrogated at Coastal Group 36 Headquarters near Dong Phu. The confiscated medicine, 300 kilos of rice, blank draft deferment papers along with one sampan were turned over to NILO Tra Vinh for disposition.

At 0800 on 29 September, PCF 95 rendezvoused with the PT ELLIS (USCG WPB) and commenced patrolling the Cua My Thanh taking offensive bunkers under fire. At 2000, a water taxi heavily loaded with cargo was stopped and searched. The

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taxi master had an altered ID card, no date entries in his boat log, no travel papers, and no military papers. The taxi was detained until first light when it was released to the taxi master's wife. During the night, two other sampans were searched with negative results and released after strong warnings. The occupants stated that the reason for traveling at night was that during the day, aircraft would take them under fire. There were seven bunkers destroyed and six bunkers heavily damaged along with assorted hammers, chisels, knives, and saws. There were no friendly casualties, and one Vietnamese was detained.

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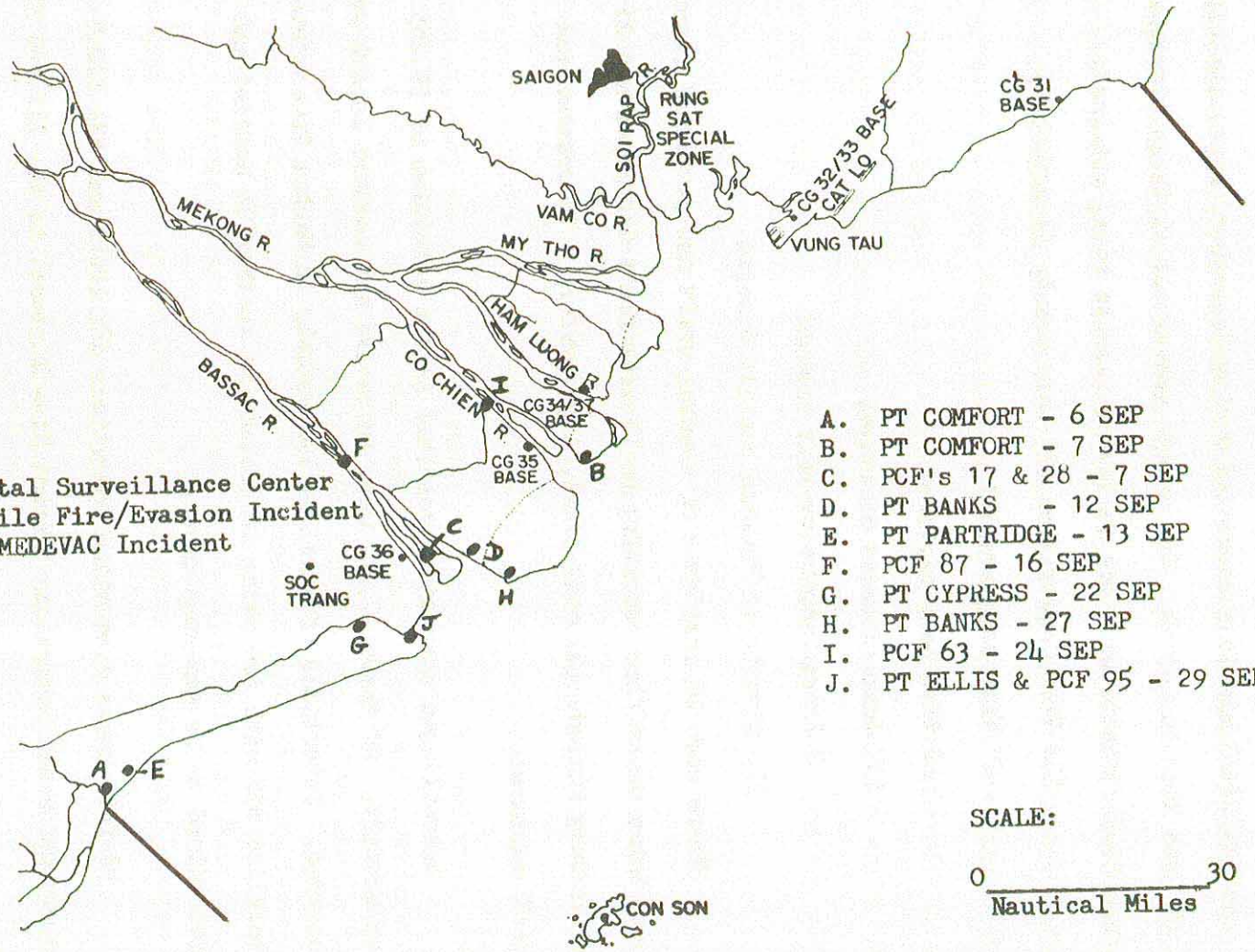
OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



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

A. PT COMFORT - 6 SEP
B. PT COMFORT - 7 SEP
C. PCF's 17 & 28 - 7 SEP
D. PT BANKS - 12 SEP
E. PT PARTRIDGE - 13 SEP
F. PCF 87 - 16 SEP
G. PT CYPRESS - 22 SEP
H. PT BANKS - 27 SEP
I. PCF 63 - 24 SEP
J. PT ELLIS & PCF 95 - 29 SEP

SCALE:

0 _____ 30
Nautical Miles

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OPERATION MARKET TIME

There were 541 naval gunfire support, SEA LORDS, SEA FLOAT and SEA TIGER missions conducted during September, approximately 27 less than in August. Gun damage assessment on these missions was 34.9 percent, with the following results being attained:

118 Viet Cong killed (79 body count, 39 probable)

27 Viet Cong wounded

18 Viet Cong captured

131 Junks/Sampans destroyed

8 Junks/Sampans heavily damaged

212 Structures/Bunkers heavily damaged

There were 20 incidents of evading craft and personnel reported and taken under fire resulting in 15 watercraft destroyed and 28 Viet Cong killed, (24 body count, 4 probable), 3 VC wounded and 2 VC captured.

Surveillance operations resulted in the detection of 59,255 watercraft. Of these 27,247 were inspected and another 14,400 were boarded. Detections of steel hulled vessels in Market Time areas totalled 656 with 466 being inspected and another 24 boarded and all determined to be non-suspicious.

"Swift" boats conducting Operations SEA LORDS and SEA FLOAT river and canal incursions (Market Time Raiders) in the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones conducted 78 multi-craft missions during

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September. The results of the missions were not as impressive as in previous months as the enemy avoided contact whenever possible. During the month the "Swift" boats in the IV Corps Tactical Zone when not engaged in SEA LORDS missions were involved in the SEA FLOAT/TRAN HUNG DAO III PSYOPS Campaign in the lower Cai Mau Peninsula. These operations are discussed under Market Time Raiders in the Operation SEA LORDS summary and Operation SEA FLOAT summary.

SEAL units attached to Task Force 115 continued routine operations during September in the IV Corps Tactical Zone in support of Operation SEA FLOAT. A tactic which proved very successful in the SEAL operations and will be used again was a false extraction by helicopter and then establishment of an interdiction post.

The Market Time P-3 air patrol barrier remains the principle deterrent and detection of infiltration from sea. On 1 September, due to a cutback in funds, the number of air barrier flights was reduced from 150 flights per month to 125 flights per month. By concentrating the majority of these flights during those periods which are more favorable to trawler infiltration and by randomizing the remaining flights, the probability of detection of a 20-knot non-intelligence trawler has remained at 60% or above. The periods considered most probable for trawler infiltration are during the dark of the moon, during the hours of darkness, during periods of high tides (Delta areas), during periods of adverse weather conditions, and during truce or holiday periods.

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A tactic which proved successful occurred when Market Time inshore patrol units combined with larger offshore units (MSO/MSC) in a follow on of the wolf pack technique, wherein the command and control platform (MSO/MSC) maintained a plot of all contacts and vectors the participating PCF's, WPB's, or skimmers to investigate the surface contacts in the area. The command and control platform by maintenance of a plot was able to detect any unit within the area attempting to evade bearding and search.

On 1 September two U.S. Navy hydrofoil patrol gunboats the USS FLAGSTAFF (PGH 1) and the USS TUCUMCARI (PGH 2) arrived in Vietnam for an extended combat test and evaluation. The two craft were assigned to the First Coastal Zone under the operational control of Commander Task Group 115.1 and will be based at Danang. The PGH's reported ready in all respects to assume patrol duties on 15 September. The craft will make random patrols along pre-established tracks both day and night at speeds in access of 40 knots.

PCF-10 Sinking

PCF 10 arrived alongside USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST 1170) at 1300H on 6 September and moored alongside to starboard. There was a westerly wind, 20 to 25 knots with gusts to 40 knots and the seas were six to eight feet from the west. At 1730 PCF 10 began taking water internally and the damage control party was called away and rigged portable pumps. The PCF commenced taking water over the stern faster than the pumps could remove it. At 2000H a sudden squall

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occurred which negated all efforts to save the boat and it sank at 2015H in about 25 feet of water at VQ6870. All classified material, small arms and personal effects were removed prior to the sinking. PCF 10 was dewatered and afloat at 211500H ; salvage operations having been delayed by heavy weather. It was intended to tow the "Swift" boat to Vung Tau; however, after inspection she was found to be totally unseaworthy for two and was loaded on board the USS WHETSTONE (LSD 27) and lifted to Cat Lo for repairs on 25 September.

The USS NOXUBEE (AOG 56) was anchored at the POL buoy at the Naval Support Activity Detachment, Cua Viet (YD 3670) on the morning of 8 September when a white object and two swimmers were sighted and taken under fire with small arms and grenades. EOD divers inspected the hull for mines with negative results and then the NOXUBEE moved approximately five miles offshore and anchored for the night. At 090158H the NOXUBEE received a mine explosion on the port side forward causing a three to five degree list to port. Inspection of the damaged area showed magazine A-306-M flooded, port ballast tank A-310-W open to sea and flooded, a three to five foot hole below the waterline between frames 31 and 32, and a 15-inch hole in deck cargo hold A-204-A, and split seams along the deck in cargo hold. Flooding was under control at 0303H. Cargo was offloaded to raise the hole above the waterline and the NOXUBEE proceeded to Danang where the USS GRAPPLE (ARS 7) assisted in applying a 6X8 foot, 3/8 inch steel plate over the hole. Temporary repairs were completed on 13 September and the USS NOXUBEE was able to perform her assignments.

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On 15 September the PT CLEAR (USCG WPB) was decommissioned from the U.S. Coast Guard and turned over to the Vietnamese Navy.

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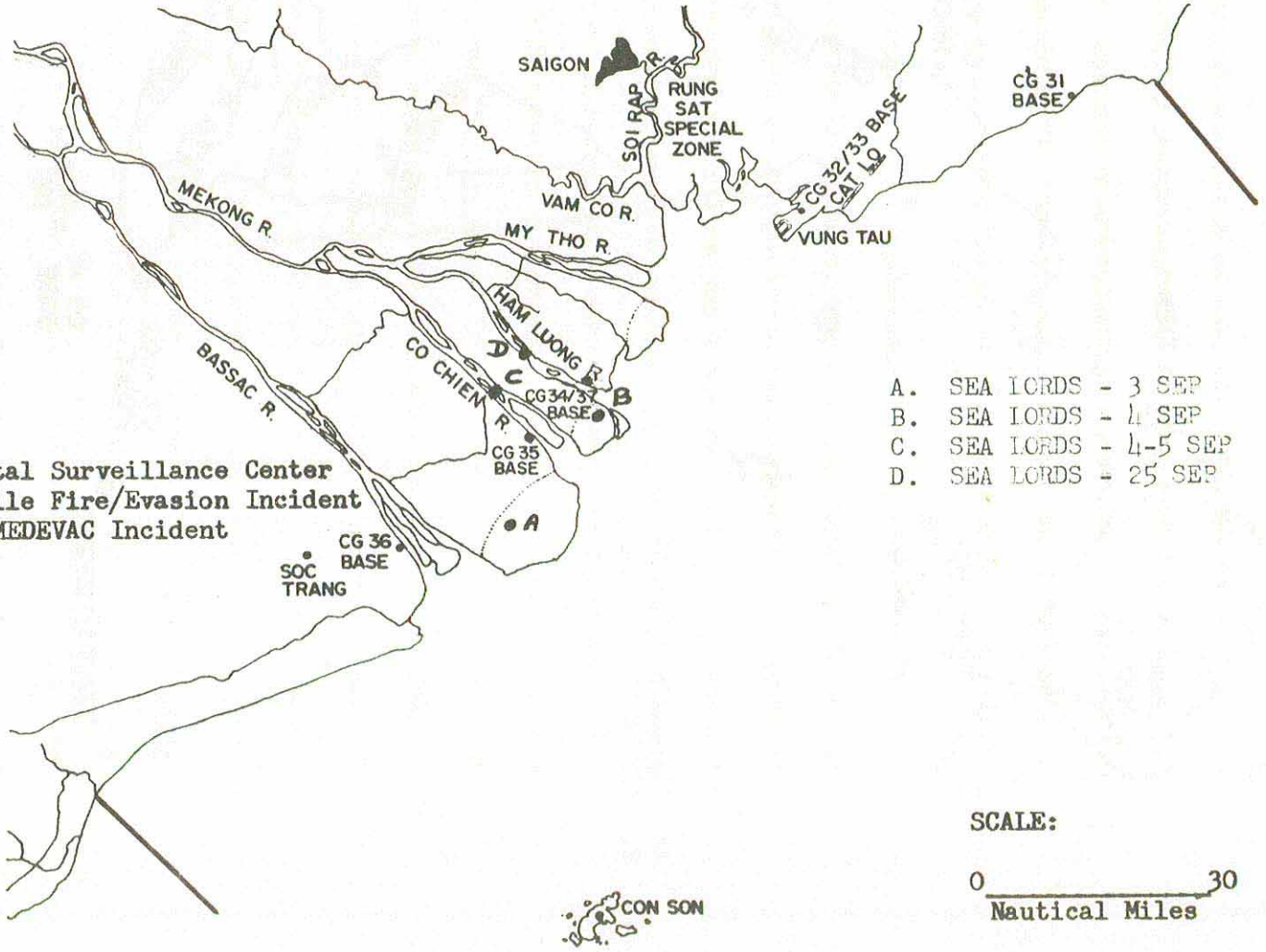
MARKET TIME RAIDERS

SEA LORDS

OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



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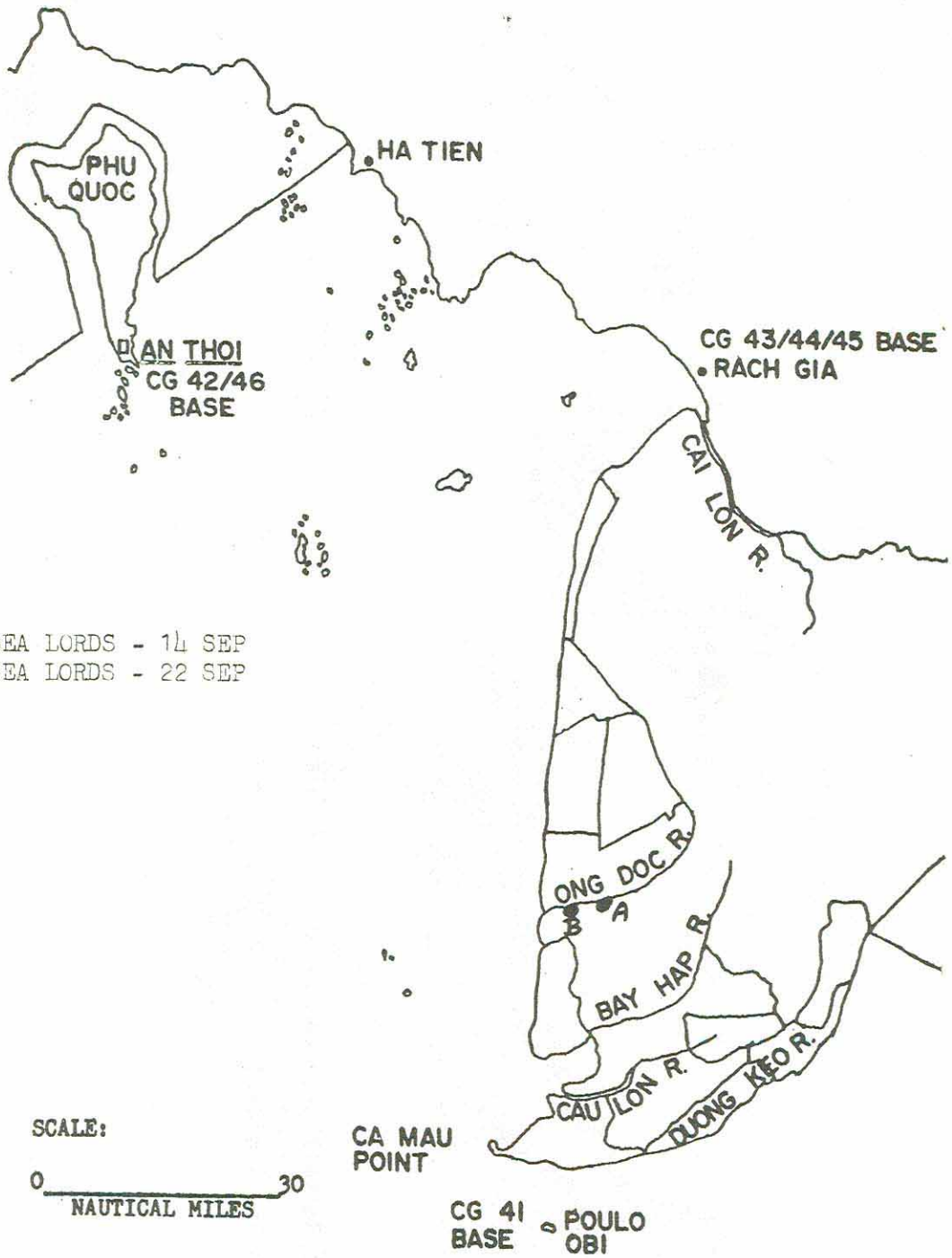
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



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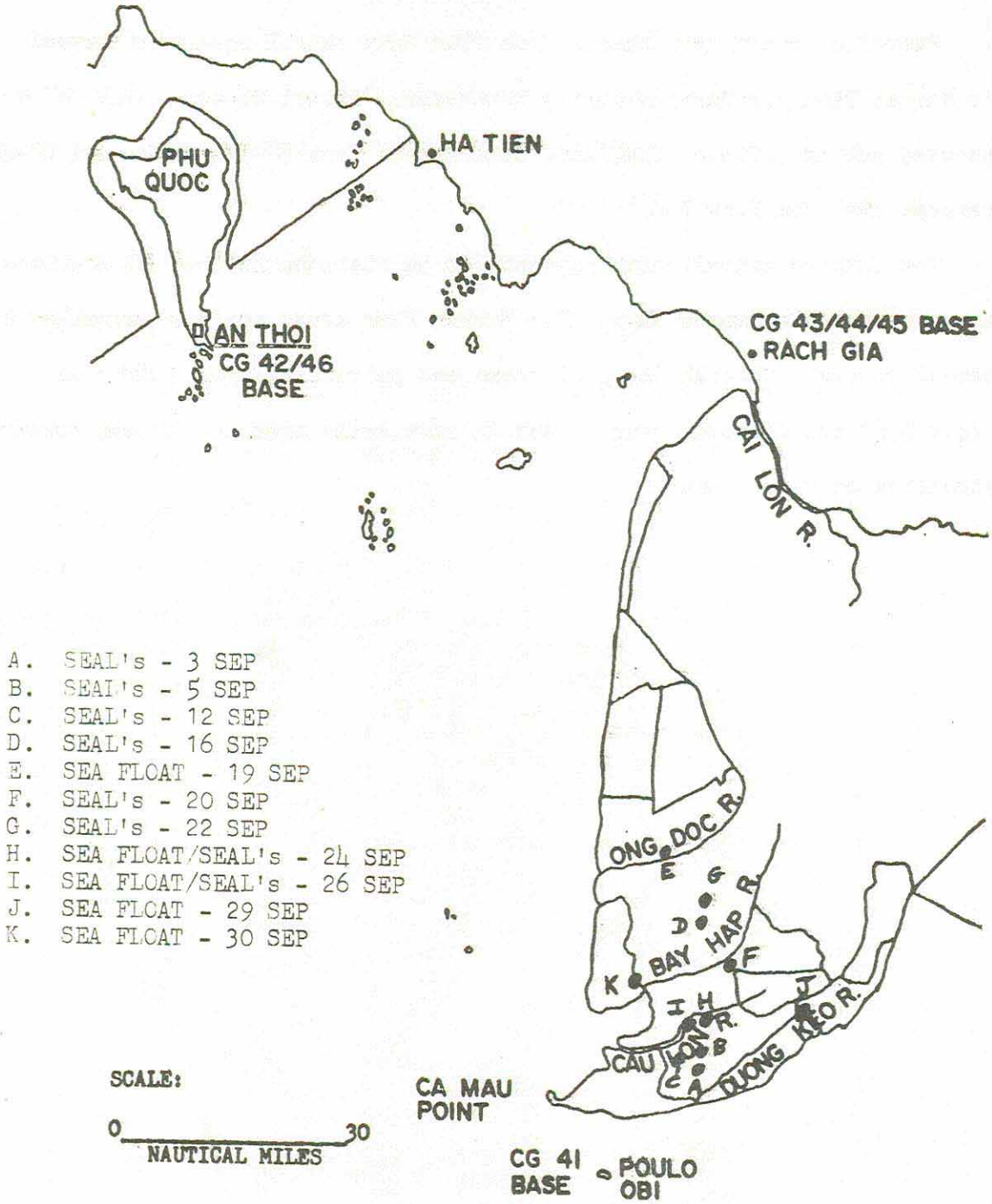
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



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Market Time Units

Patrol aircraft detachments from four Navy patrol squadrons manned the Market Time Air Barrier during September. Patrol Squadron SIX (VP-6) operated out of U-Tapao, Thailand. Detachments from VP-17, VP-9, and VP-46 operated from Cam Ranh Bay.

The inshore patrol which consists of 54 stations now has 20 stations manned by the Vietnamese Navy. Two Market Time areas are now patrolled by coastal groups. Coastal Group 21 commenced patrolling area 3 Echo on 4 July 1969 and Coastal Group 26 and 27 have split area 4 Golf and commenced patrolling on 8 September.

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Market Time Assets

The following is a list of Market Time assets:

4 U.S. Coastal Surveillance Centers

1 VNN Coastal Surveillance Center

1 Command Operations Center CRB

4 Harbor Defense Units

82 PCF's

23 WPB's

5 Coastal Divisions

3 PG's

2 LSSC's

1 LST

3 WHEC's

2 MSO's

1 MSC

2 PGH's

1 Radar Site (Con Son Island)

12 Ammi Pontoons (MATSB)

1 Helo Refueler

4 ATC's

1 Zippo

1 Zippo Recharger

1 LCPL (armored)

18 LCPL, MK II

1 Pier Complex (CG-14 - Cua Dai)

1 Royal Thai Navy PG (WT12)

4 MECP's

8 45 foot Picket Boats

25 18 foot Skimmers

2 MSB's

2 ASPB's

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7th Fleet Ships

The following SEVENTH Fleet Ships operated in Market Time during the month of September:

USS GALLANT (MSO 489)	1 - 31
USCGC TANEY (WHEC 37)	1 - 3, 27 -31
USCGC SPENCER (WHEC 36)	5 - 26
USS WIDGEON (MSC 208)	1 - 12
USS WOODPECKER (MSC 209)	13 - 19
USS PHOEBE (MSC 199)	20 - 30
USS LOYALTY (MSO 457)	1 - 4
USS FIRM (MSO 444)	5 - 30
USCGC MENDOTA (WHEC 69)	1 - 17, 27 - 30
USCGC KLAMATH (WHEC 66)	18 - 30
USCGC SEBAGO (WHEC 42)	1 - 26
USS WHINDHAM CITY (LST 1170)	1 - 30
USS GALLUP (PC 85)	1 - 10
USS ASHEVILLE (PG 84)	11 - 13
USS CROCKET (PG 88)	14 - 30

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PCF'S ASSIGNED TO COASTAL DIVISIONS:

ELEVEN AN THOI	TWELVE DANANG	THIRTEEN CAT LO	FOURTEEN CAM RANH BAY	FIFTEEN QUI NHON
3	13	17	42	11
5	15	21	44	23
9	20	24	47	49
12	39	25	48	67
18	61	28	57	74
22	65	32	58	89
27	69	37	58	91
31	70	46	73	100
35	75	53	88	
36	78	54	90	
38	80	59	97	
40	81	60		
45	99	63		
50	101	64		
51		87		
52		95		
55		98		
62		102		
72		103		
82				
93				
94				
96				
(23)	(14)	(19)	(11)	(08)

*5 PCF's ASSIGNED TO CHU LAI DETACHMENT

TOTAL ASSIGNED PCF's (75)

NON-ASSIGNED PCF's

VNN PCF TRAINING	LOCATION
PCF 6	SAIGON BOAT SCHOOL

PCF's IN OVERHAUL

PCF	LOCATION	COMMENCED	ETC	EST LENGTH
66	Cam Ranh Bay	13 AUG 69	09 OCT 69	57 days
56	Cam Ranh Bay	08 SEP 69	27 OCT 69	49 days
79	Cam Ranh Bay	19 SEP 69	07 NOV 69	49 days
92	Cat Lo	12 AUG 69	10 OCT 69	59 days
71	Cat Lo	19 AUG 69	01 NOV 69	73 days

NOTE: PCF-10 AT CAT LO UNDERGOING DAMAGE EVALUATION

TOTAL NON-ASSIGNED PCF (07)
GRAN TOTAL (82)

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Average number U.S. ships/craft on patrol during month.

	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	LST	PG	WHEC
AVG	2	1	13	42	1	1.5	3

Average number VNN ships/junks employed during month.

	SEA FORCE	RIVER FORCE	COASTAL FORCE
TOTAL	38	252	187

U.S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY	29155	NIGHT	30100	59,815
	STEEL- DAY	336	NIGHT	324	
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY	11488	NIGHT	15761	27,715
	STEEL- DAY	248	NIGHT	218	
TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD - DAY	10293	NIGHT	4107	14,424
	STEEL- DAY	20	NIGHT	4	

VNN Activity:

JUNKS SEARCHED	77273	JUNKS DETAINED	134
PERSONS SEARCHED	257517	PERSONS DETAINED	509

U.S. Activity:

JUNKS DETAINED	236
PERSONS DETAINED	865

Stable Door Statistics:

NUMBER OF JUNKS DETECTED	59,257
NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS	5,467
NUMBER OF BOARDINGS	4,269

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Operation Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III

During September, Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III enjoyed the same success as during July and August. There were over 50 Sea Float and SEAL missions conducted during September utilizing from two to six "Swift" boats and supported by a PG, three RAG ACT's, a zippo, SEAL, EOD and UDT Teams, Seawolves, Slicks, and OV-10 aircraft. In addition, Vietnamese Navy LSM's, LCPL's, LSIL's, Coastal Group 41 Yabuta Junks and PRU's, RF troops, VNN Special Forces, and Kiet Carson Scouts participated actively in these missions. The Sea Float missions were designed to maximize damage to known or suspected extortion stations, VC base areas, and secret zones. The forces conducted day and night psyops patrols along the rivers and canals of the Sea Float operating area. Airborne units continued psyops missions in the area inaccessable to the craft. The "Swift" boats inserted SEAL's, EOD , UDT, PRU's, RF and VNN special forces, provided gunfire support, waterborne guardposts, blocking forces and escort service for logistic craft along the Bo De and Cua Lon Rivers and adjacent canals. The eight to twelve PCF's also participated in SEA LORDS missions in areas adjacent to the Sea Float AO. All afloat units and the Mobile Advance Tactical Support Base conducted nightly H and I fire during the month of September into known VC base camps and extortion areas.

Evidence of the success of the operation is a sign located in Old Nam Can which reads, "Sampan Motor Repair Shop Open For Business."

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The Sea Float Annex was manned by Vietnamese forces during the entire month of September and consisted of a various mix of the following ships and support forces: LSIL, LSM(H), POLWAR Team, VNN Reaction forces, Coastal Group 41 Yabuta Junks and Kit Carson Scouts.

The following floating assets are assigned to Sea Float: 8-12 PCF's, 1 PG, 1 LSIL, 1 LSM(H), 1 LCPL (Armored), 2 LSSC's, 5 Yabuta Junks, 3 ASPB's, 3 ATC's, and 1 Zippo.

On 3 September, the Chairman of the Joint General Staff, General Cao Van Vien; Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, VADM E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN; CG, DMAC, MGEN Roderick Wetherill, USA, and the Vietnamese Chief of Naval Operations, Commodore Tran Van Chon visited Sea Float and received a briefing and tour and observed a fire power demonstration.

On 4 September, 228 MSF troops were transported by CH-47 from Sea Float to Ca Mau for further transfer to Nha Trang.

On 4 September, the USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD 5) with tug MICHAEL arrived at Sea Float with a new helo and helo refueler ammis. The tug and tow were escorted by "Swift" boats to the MATSB without incident.

On 6 September, a 100-man VNN Special Forces arrived at Sea Float via LSM HQ403 for duty and established a camp on the north shore of the Cua Lon River in the vicinity of Old Nam Can.

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The District Chief and the District Senior Advisor of Nam Can, visited the Sea Float Annex and were briefed and received a tour. They were favaorably impressed with the progress in the vicinity of the Sea Float Annex.

On 11 September, PCF's 17, 25, and 13 departed Cat Lo for Sea Float to augment existing forces and to provide a patrol capability on the Song Ong Doc.

Captain J. R. Faulk, USN, CTF 116 and Father Hoa of Ha Tien District visited Sea Float on 16 September and received briefings and tours.

On 16 September, CDR T. R. Emery, USN, Commander Task Group 115.7 was incapacitated due to a leg injury and was relieved by LCDR C. L. Miller, USN, Commander Task Unit 115.7.7. On 17 September CDR J. C. Patrick, USN, Chief Staff Officer of CTF 115 arrived at Sea Float and assumed the duties of Commander Task Group 115.7, Sea Float.

An NBC News Team arrived at Sea Float 17 September and received briefings and a tour of the Sea Float Annex and departed on the 16th via Slick helo for Can Tho.

The Provincial Senior Advisor of An Xuyen Province and the Agricultural Advisor visited Sea Float on 21 September and discussed themovement of RF troops to Sea Float and the development of agriculture at the Sea Float Annex.

Regional Force troops arrived at Sea Float on 22 September and established a base camp and perimeter on the north shore of the Song

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Cua Lon. PRU's arrived the same day via Slick helos and commenced operations on 23 September.

On 24 September, the USS WHETSTONE (LSO 8) discharged 2 ATC's for Sea Float, 2 ATC's for further transfer to Breezy Cove, one zippo and one zippo recharger for Sea Float.

CDR Minh, the VNN staff POLWAR Officer, visited Sea Float on 27 September for a briefing and a tour.

The PRU's which have been operating with Sea Float since early August were released and returned to Ca Mau on 28 September. The Deputy, Cords IV Corps, PSA An Xuyen and Ambassador Colby's deputy for pacification visited Sea Float for briefings and a tour on the 28th.

Mr. Tom Buckley, a correspondent, arrived at Sea Float on 29 September via Slick helo for a briefing and a tour of the Sea Float Annex and departed that afternoon for Ca Mau.

Commander Task Force 76 and party visited Sea Float for briefings and tours on 30 September.

At 1915 on 3 September SEAL Team Det GOLF with two Kit Carson Scouts (KCS) departed Sea Float aboard an LCVC to interdict water traffic in an attempt to gain intelligence on a possible VC munition factory as reported by a POW. The Rach Cai Chon Canal was entered and the SEAL's were inserted about 11 miles southeast of Sea Float (WQ 134 664). They patrolled 200 meters to the north where an interdiction post

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was established. At 2125H an unlighted sampan with four occupants was hailed by the KCS, searched and all persons were detained. Ten minutes later two unlighted sampans with five occupants were hailed, but the occupants immediately went over the side and were taken under fire. At 2210H the LCPL extracted the detainees and conducted a false extraction of the SEAL Team. At 0115H personnel movement was observed on the opposite bank; however, there was no further contact with the enemy and the SEAL's and KCS were extracted at 0600H and returned to Sea Float. There were no friendly casualties while four VC were killed and four detainees were returned to Sea Float. Two of the detainees indicated a willingness to take the SEAL's into their hamlet where 20 VC are reported.

A SEAL mission was conducted on 5 September with the objective of liberating the family of a Hoi Chanh who had rallied to Sea Float forces the previous day. The Hoi Chanh had indicated he had been the security chief of a small hamlet five and one half kilometer south-southeast of Sea Float (WQ 003 561) and that the hamlet contained 33 families. The SEAL team and five Kit Carson Scouts were inserted by Slick helos with Seawolves providing cover. Patrolling toward the objective a small hamlet containing 9 hootches was discovered. Five males were observed running away but they could not be taken under fire due to the close proximity of women and children. The patrol continued via sampan to the edge of the hamlet. As the hamlet was entered, four males were taken under fire resulting in one person killed who was later identified as a VC hamlet guerrilla. The wife

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and five children of the Hoi Chanh departed with the patrol to the extraction point via sampans. At the extraction site, the KCS discovered and rendered safe six CHICOM trip-wire booby traps. The SEAL's, KCS, and Hoi Chanh with family were extracted by Slicks and returned to Sea Float with Seawolves providing cover. There were no friendly casualties. Seven kilos of documents and 11 VC flags were captured while 400 kilos of salt were destroyed. The Hoi Chanh's information proved very reliable and extremely helpful in pointing out booby traps.

On the morning of 12 September, two Seawolves with SEAL's embarked departed Sea Float to make a false SEAL insertion vicinity WQ 00 55 about two miles south of the MATSB where the SEAL's had made contact with the enemy the previous day. Upon approaching the landing zone, light machine gun fire was received and quickly suppressed with rockets and machine gun fire by the Seawolves. About an hour later while the NILO was making a visual reconnaissance of the area the helos received a heavy volume of A/W fire which was suppressed by Seawolf strikes. At 1043H, the mission was aborted when one Seawolf developed a hydraulic failure and proceeded to Hai Yen for repairs. OV-10 (Black Pony) aircraft were requested to hit the enemy positions and placed rocket and machine gun strikes on a VC base camp until all ordnance was expended. The morning air strikes resulted in three structures and three bunkers destroyed and four structures and two bunkers damaged along with three machine guns and positions destroyed. There were no friendly casualties while seven VC were probably killed.

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On the night of 16 September, a SEAL team embarked in six sampans with Kit Carson Scouts disguised as VC transited canals to a known VC hamlet (NQ 128 852) 15 miles northeast of Sea Float. Upon approaching the hamlet, five VC were observed fleeing from a hootch and were taken under fire. At the same time, sniper fire was received from the opposite bank and was quickly suppressed. The troops then returned to Sea Float having killed one VC and captured two others. Interrogation of the two prisoners indicated they were attending a hamlet military meeting and that the VC killed was a hamlet security leader. There were no friendly casualties.

Six PCF's were underway at 0700 on 19 September as part of a combined operation utilizing USN, VNN, RF, ARVN, and VNAF personnel to conduct a search and clear mission in an area between the Song Ong Doc and U-Minh forest and to resupply the city of Song Ong Doc by river convoy. Sixty RF troops were inserted on the north bank and secured a landing zone in about fifteen minutes for a fire base at Old Song Ong Doc (VR 975 025). As soon as the area was secured CH-47's brought in a pair of 105mm howitzers, a crew and ammunition. At 0925, RAG 25 with RF troops embarked arrived from Ca Mau escorting the RF boat company (9LCVP's) with supplies for Song Ong Doc. The ARVN troops were inserted by Slicks at VR 935 078/VR 919 669/VR 904 066 and following several air strikes commenced a search and clear sweep toward the Song Ong Doc. The "Swift" boats with troops embarked provided a blocking force along the river moving several times during the day to provide maximum blocking coverage. During

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the afternoon the ARVN made light contact with the enemy resulting in five VC killed. At 1650 the "Swift" boats exited the river without incident. All the troops were extracted by Slicks and the fire base by CH-47 at 1700 while RAG 25 continued to Ca Mau escorting the LCVP's. One large bunker complex was destroyed and several small arms and ammunition were captured. There were no friendly casualties while six VC were killed and one VC captured.

Early on the morning of 20 September SEAL Team Det GOLF with Kit Carson Scouts established an interdiction post along the Rach Cat Ngay at the mouth of the Ong Don Canal (WQ 178 777) about eight miles northeast of Sea Float. Two large motorized sampans approached their position and when hailed started to evade and were then taken under fire. The sampans were pushed ashore and one female and two children were detained. A search of the sampans revealed a large amount of rice, VN liquor and fuel. The SEAL's were extracted by LSSC at 0745 and returned to Sea Float. There were no friendly casualties while five VC were killed and one female and two children were detained. Two large sampans, four motors, 2,000 pounds of rice were destroyed along with the VN liquor and fuel. The female detainee when interrogated stated that she had been captured by the VC that the man behind her in the sampan was carrying a pistol.

Reacting to intelligence that a hamlet located 15 kilometers northeast of Old Nam Can WQ 097 775 was occupied by 10 VC and that a 57mm and 75mm recoilless rifles were kept there, SEAL's, 8 PRU's and an EOD team departed Sea Float via slick on the afternoon of 22 September for the objective. The troops were inserted and swept west along

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the Ong Don Canal and captured two males in a sampan. Sniper fire was received and suppressed from the treeline east of the hamlet and then Seawolves in the area placed air strikes on the enemy position. After a search of the hamlet with negative results the SEAL's called for a false extraction and set up an interdiction post. Three males returning to the hamlet from rice paddies were taken under fire when they attempted to evade. A Seawolf sighted five males in a sampan heading south in the Cai Keo Canal and when they fired at the helo the fire was returned killing all five VC and destroying the sampan. The SEAL's were then extracted by Slick at 1445. At the same time Seawolf sighted another sampan and returned the enemy fire killing two VC. An air strike was then put on the hamlet. The operation resulted in nine VC killed and three males and one female detained. There were four structures and two sampans destroyed. There were no friendly casualties.

Reacting to an intelligence report, a patrol consisting of 8 SEAL's, 4 EOD, 10 PRU's, 7 KCS and one civilian guide departed Sea Float the morning of 24 September to destroy a VC hospital about 7 kilometers east-southeast of Sea Float (WQ 146 662). The patrol was inserted in two elements and located the hospital complex adjacent to a small canal; however, it had been abandoned for 3 or 4 days. A small amount of medicine was discovered and destroyed along with the hospital. The element sweeping south located a hootch complex and three sampans, one loaded with wood and the other two with food supplies. The two elements continued their patrol until they joined and then swept 300 meters to the south in an attempt to liberate the guide's family;

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however, they weren't at home. The patrols were then extracted and returned to Sea Float. One KCS was slightly wounded when he stepped in a punji pit. The patrol destroyed 11 structures, six sampans, 800 pounds of rice, 600 pounds of sweet potatoes, 200 pounds of sugar, 40 cartons of cigarettes, 8 cases of liquor and a small quantity of medicine. There were three males detained and initial interrogation revealed they had been captured by two VC the previous day.

On 26 September eight SEAL's, 10 PRU's, seven KCS's and 4 EOD were inserted at Kiem Lam (WQ 016 584) by Slick helos with Seawolves providing cover. The first element patrolled south while the second element patrolled north and set up an interdiction post. Shortly, six armed males in a sampan were observed proceeding up the canal. When the KCS hailed the sampan the occupants immediately went over the side and were taken under fire. Four VC were killed and two wounded which manged to evade. The first element came upon a hamlet containing seven hootches and after searching and removing documents hidden under floorboards the hamlet was taken under fire by CV-10's. The patrols continued until the afternoon without further contact when all units were extracted by Slick and returned to Sea Float. There were no friendly casualties while four VC were killed and two wounded. There were 11 structures, five bunkers, six sampans, one generator and one VC base camp with all contents destroyed.

Early on the morning of 29 September PCF's 93 and 5 while in a waterborne guardpost about three miles from the mouth of the Bo De River (WQ 219 686) observed a 65-foot ocean-going junk (MT594 NTDC)

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proceeding slowly up the Bo De River from sea. The "Swift" boats got underway, illuminated the junk and proceeded alongside. Six males on the bow of the junk threw a small box over the side and were frantically trying to cut free a fishing net hanging over the side. The PCF crewman boarded the junk and seized all males before they could cut the net. The extreme weight of the net precluded bringing it on deck and also precluded towing the junk due to its drag. The net was then cut and sank with its contents. The junk was then towed to Sea Float and while enroute one detainee offered a PCF VNN trainee 3,000 piasters to release them. The six detainnes were turned over to Sea Float for interrogation.

About midnight on 30 September PCF's 62 and 72 while enroute to set up a waterborne guardpost observed three sampans procedding east and north on the Song Cua Lon about seven miles southwest of Sea Float (VQ 879 605). As the "Swift" boats closed the sampans two headed toward the north bank and one to the south bank. People were observed jumping from the sampans and they were taken under fire. When no return fire was received the "Swift" boats proceeded to search the sampans and area. The sampans were 25 to 30-foot in length with two long shaft motors each and each contained an estimated one ton of oysters and 500 pounds of rice. While rigging the sampans for tow, two badly shot up sampans began to sink and two detainees and a s much gear as possible were taken off as the sampans sank rapidly. The

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remaining sampan with contents was returned to Sea Float. The two detainees with their belongings were turned over to the NILO Nam Cam for interrogation. There were no friendly casualties and two VC were killed.

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Operation Stable Door

During September, all Stable Door harbor defense units maintained active patrols in their areas of responsibility with no mining incidents or swimmer/sapper activity reported. Patrol units continued to support ground operations with blocking forces and landing reconnaissance patrols. Surveillance results led to the detection of 59,257 craft. Of these, 5,467 were inspected and another 4,269 were boarded. Description of the four harbor defense units follow:

Unit One - Vung Tau

During September a total of five persons were detained for curfew violation, being in a restricted zone, or invalid identification cards.

On 7 September, Harbor Entrance Control Post (HECP) received a call from the MSTS BATTLE GEAR which reported that an airborne object had landed in the water. The object floated with a four finned tail section protruding out of the water. Picket 29 and LCPL 33 were dispatched to investigate, and the EOD Team determined that the object was a large jettisonable aircraft fuel tank and sank it.

While conducting routine concussion grenade drops on 14 September, one ¼ pound TNT block exploded immediately after being armed aboard Picket 27. The boat captain and two crew members received minor shrapnel wounds. The craft received one six-inch hole in the engine hatch cover. Picket 27 proceeded to the MSTS pier and transferred the wounded persons to the 36th MEDEVAC Hospital. The men were treated and released. Subsequent investigation determined the cause of the accident to be personnel error.

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On 15 September, a call was received from the USNS MUSKINGUM regarding a seaman who had passed out and experiened muscle spasms and partial paralysis. LCPL 33 with an Army Corpsman from the 36th MEDEVAC Hospital transported the seaman to the Delong Pier for transfer to the hospital.

Unit Two - Cam Ranh Bay

During the month, 23 persons were detained by Unit Two personnel for being in a restricted zone and invalid/altered identification cards.

On 19 September, the Harbor Entrance Control Post received a report from the harbor master that the LAHAINA VICTORY transiting out of the harbor observed an explosion approximately 500 meters off her starboard quarter causing a 65 foot water geyser. The ship was held in the outer harbor until Stable Door EOD personnel could investigate. The investigation revealed no marks, dents, scratches or marks of any kind usually found after an underwater explosion was discovered. All artillery mortar units in the area were querried and claimed no lost rounds, and there was no known lost ordnance by units operating from the Cam Ranh Airbase.

LCPL 43 sighted a junk moving east from the inner harbor to the outer harbor on 26 September. The 8th ROK Company was notified and when advised of no friendlies in the area, the ROK company fired for over an hour into the area of lights on the Cam Tho Peninsula with unknown results.

On 27 September while going alongside a junk, Skimmer 30 observed an object being thrown over the side. The personnel and junk were detained and taken to Picket 51 for questioning. The detainee had been stopped four times since 4 July for curfew violations, restricted zone violation, and running without lights.

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Unit Three - Qui Nhon

A total of 94 persons were detained by Unit Three during September for presence in a restricted zone, curfew violations, and invalid/altered identification cards.

While on patrol in the outer harbor on 1 September, LCPL 41 noticed a Vietnamese cargo vessel, TROUNG KY, had entered the outer harbor and anchored just west of the channel entrance instead of anchoring in an assigned area. LCPL 41 instructed the ship to move from the high risk area to a more secure area; however, the ship's master refused to move and refused protection. The ship was bound from Saigon to Qui Nhon with a cargo of cement.

On 4 September while on patrol in the area bounding the inner harbor of Qui Nhon, Sea Cobras discovered five kilos of documents, one large bag of medical supplies, one rucksack with personal gear, photos and diary, and 2,000 rounds of mixed small arms ammunition. All material was turned over to the Intelligence Officer at Binh Dinh. On 5 September, Sea Cobras destroyed three large well built bunkers and one unexploded 155mm round.

On 15 September, fifty pounds of new and used clothing was distributed to Saint Paul's Charity Orphanage of Qui Nhon. The clothing was donated to a member of Unit Three by the Saint Augustine's Alter Society of Oak Harbor, Washington.

Unit Four - Nha Trang

Unit Four detained 94 persons during September for invalid/altered identification cards, curfew violation, and for being in a restricted zone.

On 6 September, LCPL 44 boarded and searched a fishing craft detaining 14 persons. Ten females had been aboard the Panamanian ship POLARIS and had

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in their possession a paper with names and amounts of money. Detainees were held for being in a restricted zone and suspected black market activity and were turned over to the Vietnamese National Police for disposition.

On 26 September while on routine patrol, LCPL 44 spotted a junk alongside the Panamanian ship POLARIS. Investigation revealed no personnel aboard the POLARIS from the junk or no personnel on the junk. The junk was taken in tow, and an investigation revealed no papers, explosives, or propulsion of any type. Due to adverse weather, the junk broke loose, was causing a hazard to navigation, and was sunk.

LCPL 58, while on a routine patrol, boarded and searched a fishing craft on 29 September. One hundred pounds of unmanifested rice was discovered. Two detainees were held as suspected black marketers and turned over to the Vietnamese National Police for disposition.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY

September 1969

The River Patrol Force continued to assert pressure on enemy forces during the month of September, while vigorously pursuing an effective ACTOV (Accelerated Turnover Program) to train and prepare their Vietnamese Navy counterparts to assume increased responsibility in operational matters. Missions including resources and population control, nighttime waterborne patrols, daily chain drag sweeps of the Long Tau shipping channel, canal incursions for waterborne traffic inspection, transportation of troops and support of operations involving Vietnamese Regional and Popular forces, SEAL and PRH teams, and small units of U.S. Army forces engaged in efforts to prevent attacks on merchant shipping. In addition, many hours were spent in distribution of PSYOPS materials, intelligence gathering, general area familiarization, MEDCAPS, and various stages of VNN training, with highly satisfactory results.

As has been the case since Operation Sealords began, a majority of River Patrol Force assets were engaged in the various campaigns such as Giant Slingshot (by far the greatest concentration of RP assets), Barrier Reef, Tran Hung Dao, Search Turn (Rach Gia), and the Mang Thit/Cho Gao Canal Operation. On 25 September, Operation Breezy Cove was activated under the designation of TG 194.2. This is a joint USN/VNN operation on the Song Ong Doc to support IV Corps waterways security and pacification and to enhance the government presence in the area.

Patrols conducted in the execution of Game Warden resources

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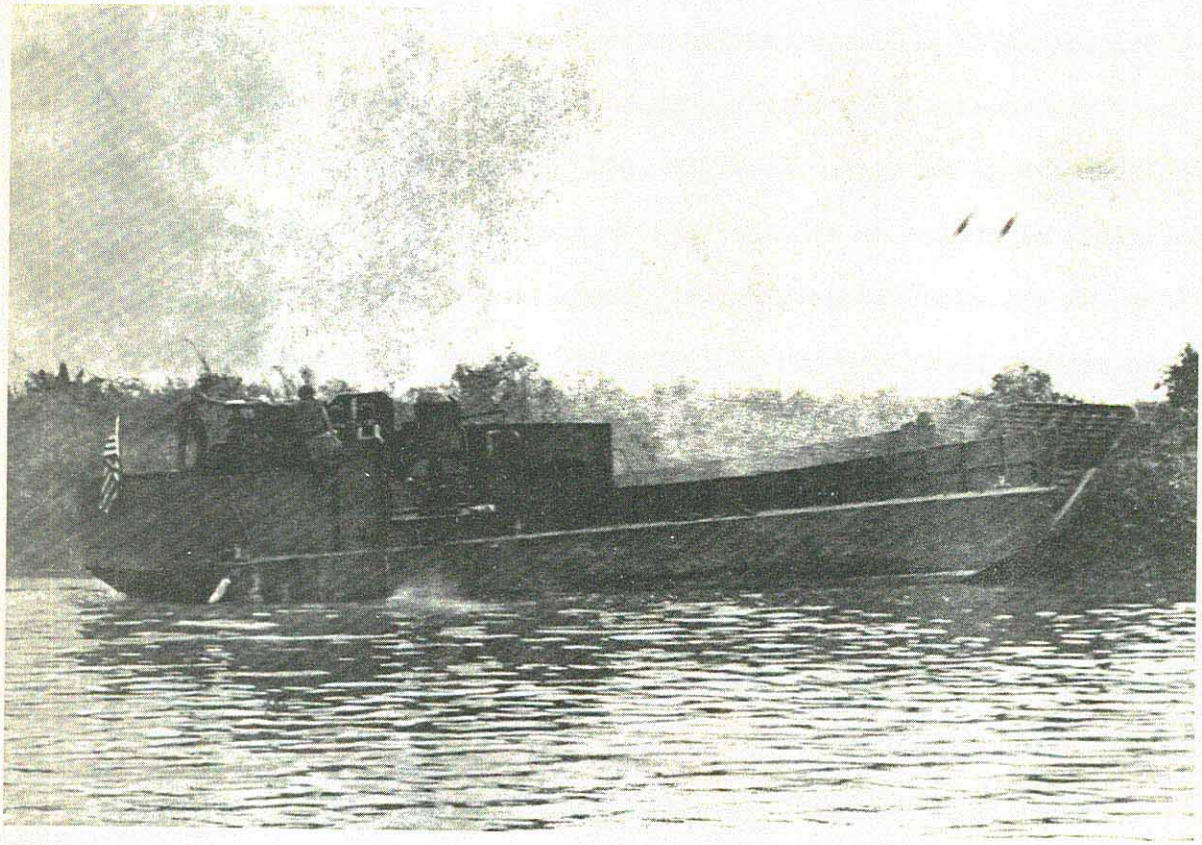

Two five inch rockets are fired from the "Rocket Boat" into a known Viet Cong staging area in the Mekong Delta. This unusual craft represents another one of the varied methods used to interdict VC infiltration into the area.

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and population control decreased considerably during the month of September as the tempo increased in other operational areas. Only 4,889 two-boat PBR patrols were conducted while 109,364 inspections and 29,036 boardings were recorded for the month. An average of 206 PBR's were assigned to the various operations during the month. Of these 151 were actively engaged in SEA LORDS campaigns, 20 with Clearwater, and the remainder in Game Warden operations. At the close of the month, the afloat bases supporting the boats were located as follows: USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST-786) near Song Ong Doc (VR-750010); USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST-821) serving the Rach Gia and Search Turn areas (VS-775091); USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) on the Vinh Thuy canal (VS-368408); TYBM 16 Southeast of Chau Doc on the Bassac River (WS-142845); YRBM 21 serving the upper Mekong (WS-392895); USS KRISHNA (ARL-38) near Long Xuyen on the Bassac (XS-415420); Mobile Base II on the Vam Co Tay at Tan An; and USS BENEWAH (APB 35) near the mouth of the Vam Co River (XS-820570)

Airborne assets of Task Force 116 totalled 29 UH-1B helicopters and thirteen (13) OV-10 Broncos which were deployed as follows: HA(L)-3, Det 1 (2 helos) aboard the WINDOM COUNTY; Det 2 (4 helos) at Nha Be; Det 3 (2 helos) aboard the HUNTERDON COUNTY; Det 4 (2 helos) at Ben Luc; Det 5 (2 helos) aboard YRBM 16; Det 6 (2 helos) aboard the GARRETT COUNTY; Det 7 (2 helos) at Tay Ninh; Det 8 (2 helos) aboard the HARNETT COUNTY; Det 9 (2 helos) aboard the YRBM-21; and a maintainance pool of 9 helos at Ben Thuy. VAL 4, Det A (5 OV-10A's) was operating out of the VNAF base at Ben Thuy, Det B (5 OV-10A's) was at Vung Tau; and a maintainance pool of 3

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Black Ponies were at Binh Thuy.

Although none of the thirteen aircraft assigned to VAL-4 units were actually assigned under the operational control of SEA LORDS units, they responded to numerous calls for overhead cover and emergency support of daily operations throughout the entire 3rd and 4th CTZ. TF 116 aircraft accumulated over 1840 flight hours which represented 845 combat missions as well as daily surveillance patrols. A breakdown of the combat missions follows:

(Game Warden/ Sea Lords Operations)

	Pre-planned Strikes	Reaction Strikes	Targets of Opportunity	Support Missions
UH-1Bs	139	91	171	197
OV-10As	13	31	130	73

On 6 September 1969, Commander M.S. SCHUMAN, USN relieved Commander G.L. WINANS, USN as Commanding Officer of VAL-4 at Binh Thuy.

Also on 6 September, LT T.W. FRENZINGER, USN relieved LT C.P. METZLER, USN as Commander, River Division 553; LT T.J. LOPEZ, USN relieved LT F.J. SMITH, III, USN as Commander, River Division 153; and LCDR W.B. LESTER,Jr., USN relieved LCDR D.W. STREY, USN as Officer in Charge, HA(L)-3, Detachment 8.

On 29 September, LT R.J. CARLSON,USN relived LT N.T. CAMP, USN as Commander, River Division 511.

On 30 September, LCDR J.T. HOCK, USN, relieved LCDR E.J. DENNIS, USN, as Commander, River Squadron 51; LCDR J.A. BUTTERFIELD, USN, relieved LCDR D.J. FLORKO, USN as O-in-C, VAL-4, Det B at Vung Tau; and LCDR R.H. BALLARD, USN relieved LCDR A.D. SCHAUER, USN as O-in-C

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VAL-4, Det A at Binh Thuy.

AT1 Robert J. ARNOLD, USN, and ATN3 Stephen A. JOHNSON, USN of HA(L)-3 Detachment 8 on board USS HARNETT COUNTY, were drowned when the helicopter on which they were crewmen flew into the water on a night takeoff on 15 September 1969.

On 20 September, ENC George W. SIMMER, Jr., USN, and ENFN William V. FLYNN, USN, of River Division 543 drowned when they were thrown into the water of Cua Viet harbor when the Boston Whaler in which they were riding went out of control.

GAME WARDEN OPERATIONS

The important objectives of the river patrol forces are to conduct river patrols, enforce curfews, inshore surveillance, visit and search to prevent enemy infiltration, movement and resupply efforts within the Game Warden tactical area of responsibility. These objectives have been ridgidly pursued without adverse affects to the transition and Vietnamization programs. A significant decrease in the number of merchant ship attacks has been noted since intensified joint force operations were instituted. The level of joint USN/VNN/ARVN/RF/PF small units operations in the RSSZ have been steadily increased and the results are gratifying. Seawolf and Black Pony response to emergency support throughout the 3rd and 4th Coastal Zones has permitted PBR units to quickly reduce sizable odds when unexpectedly ambushed on patrol by VC parties employing automatic and recoilless weapons. The strategic location of units of helicopters and OV-10s permit reaction within five minutes and these aircraft have established an enviable record of enemy killed, structures

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destroyed, and enemy watercraft in close combat support of PBR's and friendly troops. The following incident reports illustrate the combat operation and the highly effective teamwork employed by the elements of Task Force 116.

Shortly after noon on the first day of September, Black Ponies 106 and 113 were engaged in patrolling a sector about five miles northeast of Phong Hiep (WR-977884) where, less than an hour before, approximately 80 VC were sighted. Several VC were spotted attempting to take cover in the treeline but the Broncos attacked and killed fifteen of the enemy. Although light small arms fire was returned from the ground, no injuries or damage was sustained by the aircraft. In addition to the kills one airstrike accounted for one structure destroyed and a second badly damaged.

In the afternoon of 3 September, a pair of Seawolves were cleared to strike a group of VC observed in the process of crossing a canal about ten miles southeast of Can Tho (WR-895996). Automatic weapons fire was received and suppressed as the gunships attacked, destroting five sampans and killing ten VC.

On the Saigon River about 20 miles northwest of Phu Cuong in Binh Duong Province (XT-553352), PBR's 752 and 843 were in waterborne guardpost position the night of 5 September, when 20-30 swimmers were spotted attempting a crossing within 100 meters of the boats. After closing the distance, the PBR's engaged the enemy. The action resulted in 5 VC KIA (body count), 3 VC KIA (probable), and 2 CHICOM grenades, 750 lbs of rice, one US .45 caliber pistol, 1 lb. of documents, medical supplies, 2 M-26 grenades, 2 flashlights, web gear, and various personal gear captured. After setting

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waterborne guardpost again, shortly after midnight and just below the previous location (XT-545352) , seven more enemy swimmers were discovered and killed before they could escape.

Two Broncos were scrambled on 9 September to place a strike in support of ground troops in the vicinity of Sa Dec (WS-894400). A ground sweep following the air strike disclosed a 20 bed hospital, three bunkers, and a large conference room destroyed and 6 VC killed.

Again on 9 September, a pair of Black Pony (OV-10) were cleared to strike in support of troops ambushed in the area about 18 miles southwest of Chau Doc (VS-903584). Light automatic fire was received and suppressed by the aircraft who were later credited with 10 VC killed.

At 1150 on 9 September , two PBR's patrolling the Long Tau River just southeast of Nha Be (XS-980780), stopped and searched a Vietnamese junk and discoverined the following: 30 hypo syringes, 45 hypo needles, 15 hospital coats, 15 sterile dressings, 1 Bag of sterile cotten, two green fatigue uniforms, one package of penicillin tablets, 1 battery charger, one complete inventory listing of PX items available at Tuy Hoa AFB, 2 X-ray films, and 1 bag of unknown type powder. The junk and six Vietnamese males were detained and turned over to VN authorities.

During early evening hours on 15 September, a group of eight PBR's were transiting the Thi Tinh River about five miles north of Phu Cuong (XT-758242), enroute to extract a company of 82nd airborne troops when an enemy sampan was sighted evading into a small side canal. The two lead PBR's pursued a short distance only to discover that the sampan had been vacated. The PBR's immediately

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came under heavy automatic weapon fire from the shoreline and sustained numerous bullet holes and shrapnel damage before they were able to withdraw. The PBR's returned fire, reconned the shoreline and continued on their mission, successfully extracting the troops. 1 USN and 1 VNN were seriously wounded two USN and one VNN slightly wounded during the firefight. One VC was killed as he attempted to escape.

About mid-day on 16 September, following a ground sweep, a team of SEALS/PRU's revealed 18 bunkers, 12 structures destroyed, one SKY-type CHICOM carbine, 12 CHICOM grenades, 1 US.45 cal.pistol two typewriters, 26 B-50 explosives charges, 1 sampan, 1 medical kit, 2 electrical firing assemblies, 100 feet of firing wire, two kilos of documents and five kilos of clothing captured. Following the ground sweep, additional Navy LHFT relieved their fellow airmen on station and sighted a group of enemy evading. They were taken under fire,one wounded, two killed by aircraft fire, and three VC were listed as probable kills. Regional Forces inserted by PBR's then commenced a broad sweep to the northeast as Navy Seawolves continued to provide overhead cover. After obtaining negative results on the sweep, the SEAL/PRU teams were extracted by whaler and the RF by PBR's as additional strikes were laid in by Navy Black Ponies. Two bunkers were damaged and 3 bunkers plus 7 miscellaneous structures were destroyed with no friendly casualties.

Again on 16 September, a pair of Seawolves were cleared to strike an estimated company of VC spotted along a canal just north of the entrance to the Bassac River (XR-375650). One strike was placed along the canal during which 6 sampans were badly damaged. Two more strikes

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placed in the surrounding area accounted for the destruction of 48 structures, and 14 VC killed (4 body count).

On a scramble three to aid ground troops heavily engaged in the southwest sector of Kien Giang Province (VR-902797) late in the afternoon of 20 September, Navy Broncos 106 and 113 met with heavy automatic weapons fire from the ground. As strikes were placed on two evading sampans, one Black Pony sustained a .30 caliber hit in the nose section, slightly damaging his hydraulic system. The sampans were destroyed, killing five VC, and eight structures were destroyed and 6 more damaged before the Black Ponies returned to base.

During a two boat PBR waterborne guardpost watch shortly after midnight on 22 September, 25 VC swimmers were spotted about 8 miles southeast of Dau Tieng (XT-554351) on the Saigon River. The PBR's closed and opened fire as light automatic weapon fire was returned from the river banks. All 25 swimmers were killed and 14 bags of clothing, 1 lb. of documents, 1 CHICOM grenade, 1 M-26 grenade, 1 AK-47 with magazine, assorted medical supplies, and a small quantity of food was captured.

The following evening at almost the same location (XT-553352) two PBR's transiting to night WBGP sighted five more VC swimmers in the water. They were taken under fire and killed. Three other PBR's a short distance behind provided assistance and reconned the river banks recovering four packs. Within an hour the three PBR's cleared the area while the original PBR patrol set WBGP just east of where the swimmers had been killed. Nine more swimmers were soon detected

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and killed. After reconning the banks with additional fire, the final tally showed 14 VC killed in action (body count) and a quantity of food and weapons captured.

A third major swimmer incident occured on the evening of 22 September about 5 miles southeast of Os Dau Tieng (XT-534362) when three PBR's sighted 17 VC approximately 35 meters from their boats in the water. The PBR's broke guard post and took the swimmers under fire killing all 17. They then proceeded to capture 7 packs, 120lbs of rice, assorted clothing, and a small quantity of medical supplies.

GAME WARDEN SEAL OPERATIONS

It is well recognized that the element of surprise can be used against the enemy with inordinate success. Through the use of well trained SEALS employed in many covert operations throughout the Game Warden AO, immeasurable success has been experienced in collection of intelligence and restriction of the establishment of permanent VC headquarters positions. The flexability of SEAL team insertion operations, permits quickly planned and quickly executed missions which disrupt unknown numbers of enemy operations. SEALS frequently react to intelligence data collected by other sources and conduct routine scouting and familiarization patrols as well. The following incidents portray the SEALS in action:

While enroute from Quang Xuyen to Nha Be by Whaler during the afternoon of 8 September, 3 SEALs and one LDNN were fired on by 3 VC in a sampan transiting east on Moung Long Canal (XS 937738)

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toward the Boi Rao River. The SEALs returned their fire but failed to kill the VC. However, one was captured and turned over to the RSSZ Provincial Recon Unit.

Acting on intelligence collected by PRU personnel, six Navy SEALs and 12 PRUs departed Nha Be by LSSN/Whaler on the morning of 16 September. They were inserted at YS 154776 about 15 miles east of Nha Be and patrolled stopping just outside a VC camp. Upon hearing a number of male and female voices, the patrol changed their position and called in Seawolves to place strikes on the camp. The patrol then proceeded into the camp still receiving light automatic weapons fire. They pursued the fleeing VC and returned their fire. Upon a search of the area, 18 bunkers and 12 structures were discovered. The base camp was beleived to be the political headquarters of the Viet Cong sapper organization. The team was extracted by LSSC and returned to Nha Be at 1700 that evening. Four VC were reported killed by aircraft, and a later report by a captured VC prisoner idicated that one female medic and another unidentified male were wounded as the SEALs closed in on the camp. One SKS carbine , one .45 caliber (US) pistol, 12 CHICOM grenades, 26 B-50 explosive charges , and miscellaneous documents and equipment were captured.

On 23 September, 6 SEALs, 11 PRUs and one Hoi Chanh departed Nha Be by Slick and inserted about 12 miles east of Nha Be Naval Base. They patrolled to the northeast with part of the team dropping off to occupy a Pagoda ruins. The remainder of the element continued on about 200 meters to the east toward suspected enemy activity. At about 1635, a number of VC entered the pagoda and were immed-

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iately taken under fire by the awaiting SEALs. The VC fled to the north into thick woods but Navy LHFTs and OV-10s were called in to place strikes in the area. Following the air strikes, a sweep was made by the SEAL/PRUs; one prisoner was taken captive along with two AK-47 weapons, and numerous blood trails were found. Total enemy casualties were 6 VC killed (1 body count), 1 VC wounded and one captured. There were no friendly casualties.

ENEMY HARRASSMENT/ATTACKS ON MERCHANT SHIPPING

There was only one attack recorded for the month of September on merchant shipping. On 5 September the USS TRANSCOLORADO was attacked with six B-40 rockets while transiting the Long Tau River toward Saigon just below Nha Be (XS 987782). A Vietnamese LSSL reconned the surrounding area with fire until a sweep could be made but results proved negative. Nine of the rockets hit the vessal and no damage was sustained.

TASK FORCE CLEARWATER

Typhoon DORIS moved up the coast of South Vietnam and went inland near the DMZ at about 1130 on 2 September 1969. Patrols on the Perfume and Cua Viet Rivers were secured when weather deteriorated to an unsafe level for patrol boats. Logistic traffic in the rivers stopped also. MSB-1 at Tan My dragged it's mooring to within 100 feet of the RMK barge complex. One RMK barge broke loose and scrapped a PBR moored to MSB-1. Four PBRs received minor hull damage while moored but all remained operational and later resumed regular patrols in the Hue area. Patrol boats at Cua Viet were berthed in a newly dredged lagoon and escaped hull damage. One hull was

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cracked before moving into the lagoon and two radomes were carried away by high winds. Extensive damage was caused to other water craft in the storm area and Naval Support Activity Danang. Cua Viet suffered minor wind and water damage. All Hue River Security Group and PBR patrols were back to normal operations within 48 hours.

Various MEDCAP and MINI MEDCAP missions were accomplished throughout the Hue and Dong Ha River locales during September by PBR crews supervised by USN Corpsmen and USA Medics with highly favorable results. On one visit to An Gia Hamlet, 75 medical patients were treated, hygiene leaflets were distributed along with 75 bars of soap, and two Vietnamese civilians were Medivaced to Dong Ha civilian hospital by the crew.

On the morning of 20 September, three PBR's from River Division 543 were released from Clearwater control at Cua Viet to participate in a Navigational Probe of the Cua Dai/Hoi An River complex under the operational control of CTG 115.1. The operation is expected to be completed about 4 October.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY

	MARKET TIME	GAME WARDEN
Detections	59,911	109,364
Inspections	27,713	30,991
Boardings	14,424	29,036
Craft Detained	236	113
Persons Detained	1364	125
Viet Cong Suspects	32	1
Hostile Fire Incidents	48	
Enemy Casualties		
a. Killed	118(79 BC 39 Prob)	77 BC 116 Prob
b. Wounded	27	4
c. Captured	18	7
USN Casualties		
a. Killed	2(1 USN 1 USCG)	0
b. Wounded	11	6
c. Captured	0	0
d. Missing	0	0
Enemy Material Losses		
a. Destroyed		
(1) Junks or Sampans	131	29
(2) Structures	333	131
b. Captured:		
(1) Junks or Sampans	*	3
(2) Weapons	*	127
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	252
(4) Rice (tons)	*	1.3
c. Damaged:		
(1) Junks or Sampans	8	9
(2) Structures	212	76
USN Material Losses:		
a. Destroyed:		
(1) Surface Craft	0	0
(2) Helicopters	0	0
b. Damaged:		
(1) Surface Craft	6	*
(2) Helicopters	1	*
SAR Missions	2	*

Remarks:

* Information not available or not applicable

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years

Enclosure

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
Vietnamese Navy

FLEET COMMAND

There were nineteen Market Time stations patrolled by Fleet Command units (including PCF's/WPB's) in September. Search and detainment figures fell to the pre-August level with 4099 junks and 12,114 people searched and two people detained.

Fleet Command units fired a total of 41 NGFS missions during the month. Since the majority of these were harassment and interdiction operations, the gun damage assessment was generally unknown. However, a direct call for fire was received by LSIL 329 on the evening of 9 September. An observation post near Tan Chau on the Upper Mekong River spotted twenty rounds of 3-inch/50 into the suspected VC locations (WS185945 and WS185990). The mission was considered very successful as the VC were routed.

Minesweepers of RAG 91 recovered ten feet of electrical wire at the end of one patrol of the Dong Nai River (XS895896 to XT020020).

RIVER PATROL GROUPS 51 AND 52

Routine day and night patrols of the Long Tau shipping channels and operations in the RSSZ were continued in September by the VNN PBR's of RPG 51 and 52. The general country wide lull was apparent in the PBR operations as the VNN reported only one incident in which they inflicted casualties on the enemy. There were no VNN or USN advisor casualties as a result of PBR operations. However, on 7 September one enlisted adviser to RPG 51 was killed and one was

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seriously wounded when they were ambushed as they traveled south on the road to Cat Lai (XS920940). Shortly after turning off the Bien Hoa highway onto the Cat Lai road the jeep and its two occupants were showered by the shrapnel of a detonated claymore mine. The one man, IC1 J. W. Sampers, USN, was knocked out of the jeep and killed. Another fifty meters down the road the jeep was hit by two B-41 rockets and subsequently knocked off the road into a upside down position in a rice paddy. After small arms fire directed at the jeep had stopped, the wounded and unarmed driver, EN3 A. R. Joslin, USN, began to look for his fellow advisor. He was soon overtaken and shot twice at close range by three VC who advanced towards him. After the VC had stripped him of his valuables and left him for dead, EN3 Joslin, seriously wounded, crawled to a VN aid station about 500 meters from the wrecked and burning jeep. An immediate sweep of the general area by VN rangers failed to locate the evading VC.

Three VNN PBR's of RPG 51 were patrolling the Dong Nai River ten miles east of Saigon (YS056920) on the morning of 21 September when they hailed two suspicious looking sampans. Ignoring the command the sampans evaded into the Rach Nuoc Trong. The PBR sailors requested air support and then proceeded after the sampans. During the action that followed two VC were captured, three VC were killed (two by the Long Binh air support), and two sampans were gutted.

COASTAL JUNK FORCES

At the end of the month there were 226 junks assigned to the Coastal Junk Groups of all four Coastal Zones. During the month an

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average of 169.5 units were operational and 165.5 were employed. While performing surveillance operations the junks searched 59,626 junks and 190.094 people. They detained 127 junks and 516 people. The search figures were comparable to July and August but the detainment statistics were lower particularly in the Second Coastal Zone.

First Coastal Zone

Just prior to midnight on 4 September VNN personnel in a night observation post one and one half miles east of Hoi An (BT167533) detected and fired upon a lone VC sampan. Three VC were killed including a female VC official of Xuyen Long Refugee Village. Various VC and RVN psyops papers and nine grenades were also confiscated. The captured sampan and fishing equipment were presented to the local village. The particular stretch of the Cua Dai river, where the sampan was sighted has been reported to contain a VC commo-liaison route that crossed the river.

Enemy units delivered a deadly blow on the evening of 16 September when two Yabuta junks of CG14 were mined and sunk near the mouth of the Cua Dai River (BT206568). The two Yabuta junks were lashed together because of engine failure of one of the craft. They were proceeding at a very slow speed when a single detonation occurred between the sterns of the two vessels. The force of the explosion sent the two junks to the bottom of the river, killed three sailors, and wounded four others. Two days later, on 18 September, Vietnamese

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fishermen recovered a fifty pound pressure influence mine in the same vicinity (BT193552). This was the first instance of a pressure influence mine on the Cua Dai River. This occurrence coupled with the successful mining of the two Yabuta junks lent credence to the several low level intelligence reports of water sapper units in the area. On 19 September CG14 personnel discovered two more VC mines composed of eight inch and three inch projectiles, and one 105mm projectile.

Second Coastal Zone

Enemy action in the Second Coastal Zone was very limited with the majority of the coastal group operations emphasizing the PSYOPS effort. Four miles up the coast from Phan Thiet (BN122196) on 4-5 September one platoon and three junks of CG28 and one local RF company carried out a cordon and search operation that resulted in the destruction of five shelters, two wells, one punji stake field, and one mine field.

Eighty miles north of Cam Ranh Bay (CR018645-CR066626-CR070643) CG21 units and one ROK company joined forces to conduct Operation KY HOA 21/108/69 on 9-10 September. Although the Korean statistics of damage and enemy casualties were unknown, the VNN reported that they had destroyed two enemy junks and three enemy shelters.

Third Coastal Zone

The employment of the coastal groups on the major rivers in the Third Coastal Zone continued to represent the bulk of the VNN contact

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with the enemy in their respective areas of operation. The Dung Island complex situated at the mouth of the lower Mekong River was the scene of the most significant incidents in terms of damage inflicted upon the enemy by the VNN.

One exception to the previous statement was the recovery of a 330 pound floating mine by CG35 units that were in blocking positions three miles east of Tra Vinh on the Co Chien River on 7 September (XR532982 to XR550970).

On the morning of 16 September a VC medic Chieu Hoied to CG36 units at the northern end of the Dung Island complex and approximately twenty five miles southeast of Can Tho (XR193773). The VC medic stated that disillusionment with the VC was the reason he turned himself over to the CG36 units. Two days later another VC guerrilla rallied to the VNN at the CG36 base (XR200740). The VC guerrilla said that he was afraid of the VC operations.

Coastal Group 36 units in night positions adjacent to the south western side of Dung Island, thirty miles southeast of Can Tho on 17-18 September detected one sampan crossing the Mekong River from west to east (XR236675). When the sampan attempted to evade, it was taken under fire. In the action that followed one VC was killed and one VC , one sampan, four carbines, and one hundred rounds of ammunition were captured.

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Fourth Coastal Zone

The 57 junks assigned to the four Coastal Groups in September conducted Market Time and river patrols, logistic lifts, and base defense operations from SEA FLOAT at Old Nam Can, Ha Tien, Rach Gia, An Thoi, and Hon Tre Island. Two junks and sixteen raider troops of CG44 participated in Operation NHAT TAO 44/04/69 eleven miles northeast of Ha Tien (VS600635) on the Rach Giang Thanh on 20-21 September. Enemy contact was established which resulted in three VC killed and one wounded. One VNN was killed, one VNN was wounded, and one .30 cal. machine gun was damaged. Later information obtained from the people of Giang Thanh indicated that the VC had thirteen killed and four wounded but they were all carried into Cambodia. (See discussion of Border Interdiction Campaign within Operation SEA LORDS Summary and discussion of SEA FLOAT in Coastal Surveillance Force Summary for further details.)

Third and Fourth Riverine River Assault Groups

The 164 riverine craft assigned to the River Assault Groups (RAG's) conducted a total of 2135 river patrols and 1075 amphibious assaults in the Third and Fourth Riverine areas. In addition to the river patrols and the amphibious assaults the RAG craft were employed in logistic lifts, escort duties, PSYOPS and Civic Action operations.

Riverine craft of RAG 24 were patrolling a section of the Upper Saigon River mineteen miles north-northwest of Saigon from 8 to 10 September (from XT670276 to XT676230). About an hour before midnight on 8 September noise of approaching personnel was detected by

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the guards. The VNN boats sprayed the suspected area of the enemy movements with .30 and .50 cal. machine gun fire. A day light swept of the same area revealed blood trails, two Chinese rifles, forty-four rounds of ammunition, one carbine, one 81mm mortar round, and one knife. Later in the day the patrol recovered one sampan and one U.S. helmet and destroyed one enemy bunker. At approximately 0100 on the morning of 10 September the security units sighted four VC nearing the RAG boats (XT685224). The VNN opened fire with machine guns, killing one VC and probably wounding another. With the arrival of light the VNN transited to Phu Cuong without incident.

After receiving orders from the Long An sector, the main force of RAG 22 moved on 18 September to An Nhut Tan five miles southeast of Ben Luc on the Vam Co Dong (XS665675) in order to provide operational and logistical support for units of the 25th ARVN Division located in the area. River patrols three kilometers north and south of An Nhut Tan were also included in their responsibilities.

The enemy was soon to voice his displeasure toward the arrival of the RAG's. Early on the morning of 20 September the ARVN compound and RAG 22 boats at An Nhut Tan were attacked by an estimated VC squad which was armed with B-40 rockets and 81mm mortars. The ARVN and RAG forces returned fire for approximately fifteen minutes. At dawn the force uncovered five dead VC and several blood trails. Near the end of the month on 29 September RAG 22 boats were ambushed during a supply run for Ben Luc to An Nhut Tan (XS626733). The fire

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was returned with unknown results and RAG casualties were limited to one VNN wounded.

In the Fourth Riverine Area RAG 23/31 boats were patrolling the Mang Thit Canal enroute to Mang Thit on 3 September when they were fired upon from the south bank (XS 200190) by an estimated VC platoon equipped with B-40 rockets, small arms and automatic weapons. At the initiation of the ambush the VC found their mark on the VNN monitor with two B-40 rockets that killed one sailor and wounded two others. The convoy of RAG craft answered the VC challenge with 81mm mortar, 20mm and 40mm, and .30 cal. and .50 cal. ammunition. The RAG 31 advisor requested helo gunship but they were unable to come to the assistance because of the inclement weather conditions. However, Black Pony aircraft and artillery support was received fifteen minutes after the contact was broken off.

Later in the month RAG 21/33 was supporting elements of the 10th ARVN Division southeast of Ben Tre. On the afternoon of 14 September seven RAG 21/33 units had extracted four ARVN companies and were returning to the H am Luong ferry landing. Seven miles south of Ben Tre (XS550190 to XS520220) the convoy began receiving automatic weapons fire, B-40 rockets, and recoilless rifle fire. The fire was returned and artillery was spotted into the enemy positions. Arriving at the ferry landing just southwest of Ben Tre (XS480301), RAG 21/33 had sustained B-40 rocket and 57mm recoilless rifle hits to one LCVP, one FOM, and one LCU. No personnel casualties were reported.

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During the night of 18-19 September a small sampan approached the RAG 25/29 units beached at Ca Mau (WR168135). The sampan was warned away by small arms fire. Based on intelligence reports received from the commanding officer of the 11th RF Boat Company and the suspicious movements of the sampan, the VNN boat officer had the RAG boats move to the 11th RF Boat Company pier. The next morning a diver searched the general area and recovered a fifty pound mine under a bridge that was set to be detonated around 1800 that day. The NILO at Ca Mau indicated that the mine was probably intended for the RAG units in view of the small size and the location of the mine between two bridge piers.

River Assault and Interdiction Divisions 70-75

Although the VNN RAID's had operated with elements of the VNMC in the past, it was not until 1 September that the Amphibious Task Force 211 (ATF 211) was reorganized to officially include both VNN RAID and VNMC forces. The initial intent of the Joint General Staff (JGS) was to employ all the elements of the ATF in the I V Corps Tactical Zone under the operational control of the 21st ARVN Division. However, if this proposal had been carried out, RAID's 70 and 71 would have vacated their assignments in the Giant Slingshot operation. It was finally decided that RAID's 70 and 71 (194.9.7.0 and 194.7.1 respectively and also ATG 211.1 waterborne unit) would contine to participate in Giant Slingshot operations from the bases at Tra Cu, Ben Luc, and Tan An. The VNMC Third Infantry Battalion which had

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been the landing force of ATG 211.1 stationed at Ben Luc was detached from the ATG on 8 September and proceeded to Vi Thanh (WR535827) for operations with ATG 211.3 in the Twin Rivers Area. (See discussion of Giant Slingshot in SEA LORDS Summary for further details of RAID's 70 and 71.)

With the reorganization of the ATF on 8 September, the operational units were assigned as follows:

Task Group	RAID Element	Landing Element	Under the Operational Control of
ATG 211.1 (Ben Luc)	RAID 70,71 (30 boats)		CTG 194.9
ATG 211.2 (Dong Tam)	RAID 73 (18 boats)	VNMC 5th Battalion	21st ARVN
ATG 211.2 (Dong Tam)	RAID 72,74,75 (52 boats)	VNMC 1st, 3rd Battalion	7th ARVN (after 10 Sep)

The ATG 211.2 was assigned to carry out riverine assault operations in Kien Hoa Province (vicinity of Ben Tre, Dong Tam, My Tho). Units of the USN RAS 13 provided an additional lift capability for the marines and VNN LSIL 226 was available for NGFS. RAID 73 supported the marines, conducted river patrols, and carried out base defense operations for the remainder of the month without significant action. (See discussion of the VNMC 5th Battalion in the VNMC Summary for further details of ATG 211.2 operations.)

The ATG 211.3 arrived at Vi Thanh (WR535827) on 10 September and began helo/riverine assault operations in the Twin Rivers Area of Chuong Thien Province the following day. Enemy resistance to the

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arrival of the ATG was evidenced throughout the month. The RAID units were ambushed six times and mined once suffering one VNN killed, sixteen wounded, and two missing in action and presumed dead. The VNN were credited with at least fourteen VC killed. The mining incident took place on 27 September just southwest of Dong Hoa (VR986764). The RAID 74 monitor HQ6529 was cruising the Can Gao Canal when it was struck in the stern by a water mine of about 500 pounds. The boat was immediately beached with the aid of two ATC's but it still sank to the bottom with about 80% of the boat under water. The force of the blast wounded five VNN and killed one civilian who was in a sampan nearby when the explosion occurred. The VNN boat captain and engineer were not found. (See discussion of the VNMC 1st and 3rd Battalions in the VNMC Summary for further details of ATG 211.3.)

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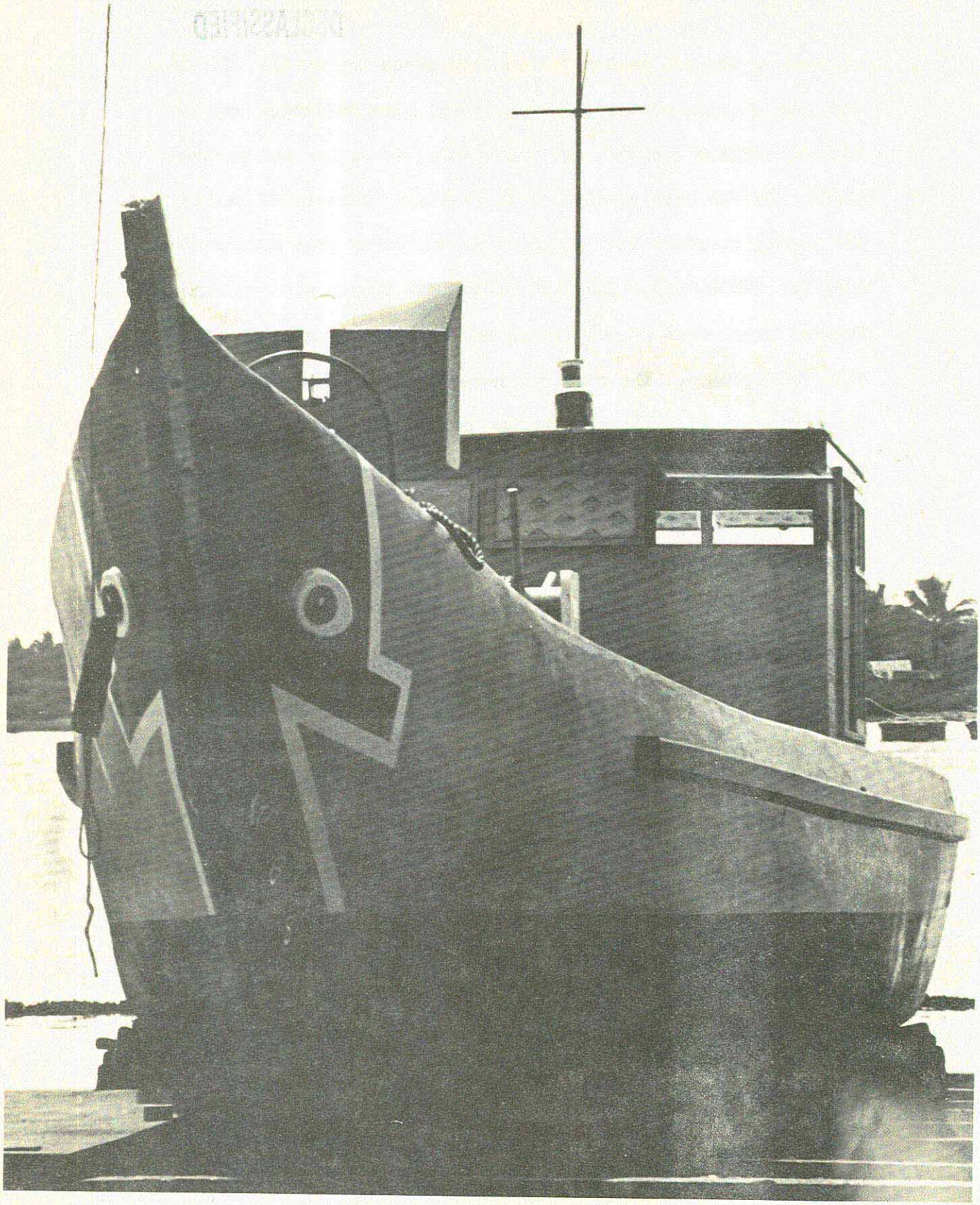

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VIETNAMESE NAVAL SHIPYARD

Launching ceremonies for the prototype craft of the first 60-feet ferro-cement junk were held on 12 September at the Vietnamese Naval Shipyard in Saigon. The idea of using ferro-cement for naval construction was first tried in Europe during the mid nineteenth century. It was introduced to the Vietnamese Navy just four months ago and construction began almost immediately.

The actual procedure involved the pouring of a mixture of Portland cement, pozzolan, sand and water through a mesh of inter-woven chicken wire which was anchored to a water-pipe framework. The cement was smoothed over on both sides of the hull and then damp cured for three weeks. The work on the hull was finished with two applications of epoxy resin. After fitting out the interior, and topside spaces, the entire craft was painted and readied for duty.

The new junk is much stronger than the old models and repair work in the event of damage will be much easier. Handling has been improved and engine vibration reduced. The life expectancy of the ferro-cement boat is much longer that its earlier Sau wooden counter-part. The wood is subject to warping, rotting and insect deterioration but the ferro-cement is impervious to these elements.

While adding seven feet to the length and one foot to the beam, the junk was built in a three month period with an overall savings of $5,000. There was a savings of $1,850 in the ferro-cement hull

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alone. A reduction of 4,631 man-hours was realized in construction time over the Yabuta junk.

In addition to the new junk, a ferro-cement "Swift" boat (PCF) is presently under production at the Saigon VNN shipyard.

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VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

While operating exclusively in the Third and Fourth Corps Tactical Zones in September, the Vietnamese Marine Corps and their U.S. Marine Corps advisors encountered light to moderate fighting which was highlighted by a Third Battalion action on 17-18 September which resulted in 37 VC killed and two VC captured. During the entire month six infantry battalions were committed as follows: combat operations 57%, security operations 37%, and reserve status 9%. The Vietnamese casualties were comparable to those of August with 29 marines killed (15 in August) and 102 marines wounded (79 in August). Enemy losses increased from 23 VC killed and 18 captured in August to 96 VC killed and 17 VC captured in September. In the past several months the VNMC have operated with VNN units, specifically the newly formed RAID's. However, it was not until 1 September that the Amphibious Task Force 211 (ATF 211) was formally activated and placed under the operational control of the Joint General Staff. The operational composition of ATF 211 at it's inception was the following:

ATF 211 Joint Staff: Located at Dong Tam

ATG 211.1: VNN RAID 70 and 71 and the VNMC Third Infantry Battalion: Located at Ben Luc

ATG 211.2: VNN RAID's 72 and 73, and the VNMC Fifth Infantry Battalion, located at Dong Tam.

ATG 211.3: VNN RAID's 74 and 75, and the VNMC First Infantry Battalion, located at Long Xuyen.

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Organization and maintenance affairs of the ATF were effected through 7 September. The following day the First Battalion traveled from Long Xuyen to Can Tho in preparation for a further move to Vi Thanh (WR535827). The Third Infantry Battalion proceeded directly to Vi Thanh on 8 September. Utilizing RAID and helo transportation, the First Battalion advanced into the Twin Rivers area, 8 miles southwest of Vi Thanh (WR355691) on 11 September. Significant contact was established on 13 September. As the Marines were moving toward a treeline 12 miles south-southwest of Vi Thanh (WR397628), they came under heavy machine gun fire. Two marines were killed and eight wounded. Damage to the enemy was not known. Two days later and five miles to the east of the 13 September incident (WR308642) the marines engaged in a firefight with an enemy force of unknown size which ended with the capture of six VC, one carbine, and one K54 pistol. Enemy casualties were three VC killed including the assistant commander of a VC regional base camp. Four more VC were killed and one captured on 17 September nine and one-half miles southwest of Vi Thanh (WR428662). Five marines were slightly wounded during this action.

While traversing a section of the Rach Nga Ba Dinh sixteen miles southwest of Vi Thanh (between WR318630 and WR324603) on 23 September RAID boats with marines embarked came under enemy attack. Sharpnel from B-40 rocket hits killed two marines and wounded another nineteen. Air and artillery support was used extensively on

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29 September when marine elements of the First Battalion made contact with a VC platoon armed with B-40 rockets and automatic weapons twenty-two miles south-southwest of Rach Gia (VR924707). At the end of the battle six VC and two VNMC were dead and eight additional marines were wounded.

The last day of the month sixteen Hoi Chanhs identified as reserves for local enemy forces, surrendered to the marines at the First Battalion command post (WR004781). The continuing pressure of ground, river, and air operations was considered to be a contributing factor in their decision to rally.

The Third Infantry Battalion which arrived at Vi Thanh (WR535827) on 8 September was helo lifted into the Twin River area six miles southwest of Vi Thanh and adjacent to the Rach Cai Loa (WR455710). Operating under the foreward headquarters of the ATF located at Kien Hung (WR302753) the Third Battalion engaged in battle with elements of the 307 and 309 VC Battalions in the area between the Rach Nuoc Trang and Rach Nga Ba Cai Tau (WR370690-430672-430595-398600) on 17 and 18 September. During this action 37 VC and 8 VNMC were killed and ten marines were wounded. Two VC were captured along with three rifles, twenty-one gas masks, thirty shovels, and some miscellaneous field equipment.

A single mining incident which occurred sixteen miles south-southwest of Vi Thanh on 21 September claimed the lives of nine marines and inflicted wounds on another eight marines including the

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Third Battalion Commander. The explosive device was believed to have been a booby trapped 122mm rocket booster. During major action on 30 September, VN marines exchanged fire with an estimated VC squad fourteen miles south-southwest of Rach Gia (WR167798). There were no marine casualties and the VC suffered three killed and eight captured. One rifle, 20 hand grenades, and some miscellaneous cocuments were also recovered.

The Fifth Battalion, the landing force of ATG 211.2, located at Dong Tam, was placed under the control of the 7th ARVN Division on 10 September and began operations of the Song Than Campaign in Kien Hoa Province (vicinity XS551316) on the following day. Battery "B" of the First Artillery Battalion and riverine craft from VNN RAID 73 and the U.S. RAS 13 provided the necessary support and mobility for the marines. Several suspects with unauthorized contraband were apprehended while the battalion carried out routine patrols. On 29 September, operations moved 8 miles to the southwest near Mo Cay (XS467198). Mines and sniper fire wounded five marines during the first day of patrolling. The operation carried over into October with no major action.

The Second Infantry Battalion was in a reserve status for the VNMC Headquarters until 18 September when it relieved the Fourth Battalion of the one hour alert status for JGS and moved from the Thu Duc base camp to Cuu Long (XS874935). While maintaining the alert

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status the Battalion conducted training in general military subjects. On 30 September the Second Battalion traveled to the vicinity of Long Binh (YT038125) where it replaced the Sixth Battalion as the III CTZ reserve force. Numerous ambush patrols failed to produce enemy contact.

The Fourth Battalion remained in a one hour standby status for JGS in Saigon (XS874935) through 17 September. The following day the marines moved to the First Battalion's base camp (XT895035) at Thu Duc in order to train and assume a six-hour standby alert for JGS. This posture and operational status was maintained the remainder of the month.

From 1-30 September, the Sixth Battalion was assigned to the III CTZ as a reserve unit. With their headquarters established east of Long Binh (YT038125) the battalion operated to the northeast and south of the Dong Nai River (vicinity YT090180). Contact with VC units on 10 September accounted for 13 VC killed and the capture of several weapons and some miscellaneous equipment. One VC disguised in an ARVN uniform was killed by an ambush patrol near the Long Binh Airport in the early morning hours of 30 September.

Battery "A" of the First Artillery Battalion was located in Dong Tam (XS409448) with the ATF 211 for the entire month. Battery "C" of the First Artillery Battalion provided direct support from positions at Cat Lai (XS960891) under the control of the CMD. The Third platoon

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was stationed at the Thu Duc base camp. Battalion "E" of the Second Artillery Battalion was in a reserve status to JGS at the Thu Duc base camp the entire month. Battery "A" of the Second Artillery Battalion, which provided direct fire support for operations in the RSSZ, was the target of a sapper attack on 30 September. Six marines were wounded by a B-40 rocket and a grenade that penetrated the artillery position at the Tam Hiep village (YS065700). The close proximity of civilians prevented the marines from returning the fire. However, a subsequent sweep by PF troops with the village Chief of Police and VNMC personnel in company yielded two persons who indentified themselves as VC guerrillas from Tam Hiep Village.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	Daily Average		Searched		Detained	
	Oper	Empl	Junks	People	Junks	People
COASTAL FORCE						
I	39.2	38.1	18,889	70,435	39	214
II	42.6	42.4	24,152	71,107	11	95
III	47.5	45.6	9,723	25,719	77	179
IV	40.2	39.4	6,862	22,833	4	28
	Sub-totals:		59,626	190,094	127	516
*FLEET COMMAND						
PATROL SHIPS	17.3	16.3	1,459	5,740	0	2
PCF's/WPB's	18.4	11.3	1,640	6,374	0	0
RIVERINE AREA						
3RD RA RAG	47.7	47.2	2,221	6,703	0	0
4TH RA RAG	70.4	69.1	3,084	23,800	0	0
ATF	88.6	68.8	2,901	7,798	0	0
CENTRAL TASK FORCE	76.0	69.4	6,103	17,257	4	9
	TOTALS:		77,034	257,766	131	527

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: KIA 96 Captured 17 Suspects detained 30

VNMC: KIA 29 WIA 102 MIA 0

* Provided 41 gunfire support missions.

Includes RAG 27, RAG 32, RPG 51, RPG 52

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years
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PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS AND CIVIC ACTION SUMMARY

There were twelve VC who rallied to USN and VNN forces in September. This figure was comparable to the August total of fifteen but still below the record high of 208 Hoi Chanh that was recorded in July. Personal hardship, family separation and lack of food were the most common reasons why the VC said they surrendered. One Hoi Chanh who rallied to the VNN hospital ship at SEA FLOAT provided extensive intelligence about VC activities and led a SEAL team on an operation.

During the two day period 25-26 September U.S. Naval forces joined the Vietnamese in celebrating Tet Trung Thu, the mid-autumn festival. The PBR sailors of RIVPATFLOT FIVE alone reported that they had contacted an estimated 12,000 people and won the hearts of 10,000 children. Special festival kits and other articles including rubber toys, balloons, candy, gun, ice cream, chocolate brownies and moon cakes were distributed to the people.

In the RSSZ elections were held in the two remaining refugee hamlets without elected local government. Seabee units continued to work on community construction projects with particular emphasis on improvement of the standard of living of the RF/PF dependents. During an aerial PSYOPS mission on 12 September 28,000 Safe Conduct passes, 60,000 Chieu Hoi leaflets, and 60,000 Land Reform phamlets were dropped on villages in the RSSZ.

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There were approximately 25,000 Vietnamese people who were the recipients of USN/VNN MEDCAPS and DENTCAPS during the month. On 17 September as part of a weekly MEDCAP series two U.S. PBR's of River Division 521 accompanied by a Navy corpsman treated 100 Vietnamese living in a small village just southeast of Hue (YD 982185). While assisting the corpsman and providing security, the PBR sailors distributed 200 bars of soap, 700 Ngay Nay newspaper and 24 Huong Que magazines. Under the supervision of one hospital corpsman from NSAD, Cua Viet, U.S. personnel attached to the Dong Ha Security Group including VNN ACTOV sailors treated 60 patients and distributed 150 hygiene leaflets and 100 bars of soap during a mini-MEDCAP held in the Xvan Thanh hamlet southwest of Quang Tri (YD287646) on 30 September. One Vietnamese with a knee injury was medevaced to Dong H a.

At SEA FLOAT near Old Nam Can City (VQ992673) the first sharp-axe cap was initiated on 4 September. Prior to this time the local woodcutters and sampans owners were having difficulty sharpening their tools and sampan outboard motor screws. The hand operated grindstone was used continuously during its first day of operation. On 6 September a 100-man VNN reaction force arrived at SEA FLOAT and joined the operating units that were reacting to intelligence reports and providing the security for the civilian population. A sampan motor repair shop was opened on 12 September and the first Nam Can outhouse was constructed on 19 September. Word has it that it is also used as a shower...but presumably not at the same time.

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During the middle of the month the second birth of a Vietnamese baby was recorded. The father, who had been treated by the VNN aboard the LSM(H) the previous week for wounds incurred when he stepped on a VC booby trap, named the new born child after the VNN LSM(H).

The community in the no fire zone has continued to grow by leaps and bounds. In comparison to the first population census that was taken on 30 August, the population has increased 310% as of 24 September. At the end of the month the total number of people who had received PSYOPS indoctrination was 24,616 (15,345 people at the end of August). The number of people who had visited SEA FLOAT for the first time was 4,350. Nine hundred and nineteen families have indicated a desire to resettle in Nam Can and 702 people have actually resettled.

The economic lucrativeness of the area was indicated by one woodcutter who said that any woodcutter with an average sized sampan could earn a net profit of about 30,000 VN$ per month. Increasingly larger sampans have been transiting to Old Nam Can. At the beginning of the month a fifty ton capacity junk arrived and at the end of the month a 55 ton capacity junk visited the community.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY

26 July - 25 August 1969

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN-DAYS (10 HR DAYS) PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: 4414

COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: VN$ 3,362,159

EXPENDITURES FROM THE US/FWMAF CIVIC ACTION PSYWAR FUND: VN$ 1,067,020

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: VN$ 473,136

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

	Percent
Other FWMAF	6%
RVNAF	14%
U. S. Civilian Voluntary Agencies	6%
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	
a. Self-help labor	74%
b. Materials furnished by the people	4%

PROGRAMS

	Man Days	Expenditures (VN$)
Economic Development	419	217,186
Education	857	1,057,375
Social Welfare	2,410	2,594,430
Transportation	358	527,034
Refugee	370	506,908

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	Number
Schools	71
Hospitals/Dispensaries	13
Orphanages	30
Others	67

ACTCV trainee Nguyen-Thanh Hung requests identification from a Vinh Te Canal boatman who has been stopped at a PBR checkpoint.

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ACCELERATED TURNOVER PROGRAM AND TRAINING SUMMARY

The Coast Guard Cutter POINT CLEAR WPB 82315 which had the designation SCATTOR 3 (Small Craft Assets, Training, and Turnover of Resources Program) was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy during a brief ceremony at the Vietnamese Navy base at Cat Lo on 15 September. Captain Ralph W. Niesz, Commander, Coast Guard Activities in Vietnam, represented the United States and presented the WPB to Commander Bui Cum Vien, the Third Coastal Zone Commander. This occasion marked the third turnover of a WPB under the SCATTOR Program. The new WPB under VNN command rejoined the operating forces at the Cat Lo base and returned to Market Time operations in the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones. Presently there are six WPB's participating in the SCATTOR Program (SCATTOR's 4 through 9) from the WPB bases at Danang, Cat Lo, and An Thoi and they are scheduled for turnover prior to 1 January 1970.

At the end of the month approximately 190 PBR and 35 PCF USN sailors had been relieved by VNN sailors. COMRIVPATFLOT FIVE reported that ACTOV training has been satisfactory. Problems still remained with the VNN pay and clothing. The .50 cal. cocking device that is being evaluated by RIVRON 59 has improved the VNN trainees ability to cock the firing mechanism. However, the trainees have still experienced difficulties with the forward .50 cal. machine gun. Because of the tempo of SEA LORDS interdiction operations, the number of opportunities for training of the VNN PBR sailors has been less than desired. In order to alleviate this situation RIVDIV commanders were instructed to devote the equivalent of a single boat sortie

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The Coast Guard WPB shown above is the type of cutter which is being turned over to the Vietnamese Navy. Under the SCATTOR Program, there have been three such turnovers, the latest being at Cat Lo where the WPB 82315 was presented to the Third Coastal Zone Commander.

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(12 hours) per day to ACTOV training in a comparatively non-hostile environment.

On 1 and 2 September two U.S. PCF's with completely VNN crews from COSDIV 14 visited the VNN training center at Cam Ranh Bay. During the two day period approximately 200 VNN training center students received PCF orientations from the project START trainees. The groups visiting the PCF's consisted of approximately fifteen students and each group received a one half hour tour of the boat and a one half hour underway demonstration. Regular monthly visits to the VNNTC at Cam Ranh Bay by the COSDIV 14 project START PCF's have been scheduled and arrangements have been made for weekly patrol indoctrination rides for four outstanding students. Each Sunday morning two PCF's will pick up two students per boat, take them on their Market Time patrol, and return the students to the VNNTC on the same evening.

In the START Program 25 boatswain's mates and 45 gunner's mates from PCF Class 4 have reported to their respective divisions. With this input all personnel scheduled for the first turnover on 31 October have commenced on-the-job training. As of 25 September 315 trainees were undergoing PCF training including 26 crews who have been conducting Market Time coastal and river patrols aboard nineteen PCF's in preparation for the first turnover. On 5 September CTF 115 presented thirteen VNN sailors with OJT certificates that signified successful completion of the training program. A

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program to fly ensigns of both the U.S. and GVN on PCF's with joint USN/VNN crews has been instituted. The marked increase of pride in the PCF by VNN patrolling under their own flag is encouraging. Disciplinary problems have continued to be a barrier to the complete success of START. Unauthorized absentees have comprised the major problem. In combating this obstacle utilization of VNN Liaison officers and close coordinatination with local VNN authorities on all disciplinary cases have shown the best progress.

On 30 September six of the 33 bases expected to be built under the ACTOV Logistics (ACTOVLOG) Program were under construction. The remaining bases programmed are in various stages of design. A total of 1,579 VNN personnel (29.5% of programmed input) were in craft maintenance training at the several repair facilities. This includes 617 personnel assigned to VNN repair facilities which are being incorporated into the ACTOVLOG bases. There were 80 VNN personnel (20.8% of programmed input) undergoing base maintenance training and 100 VNN personnel (23% of programmed input) undergoing supply "A" school.

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GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations and terms are commonly used in the combat zone by all agencies and are listed here in amplification of those used in the text:

ABF	Attack by fire
AMMI PONTOON	A multi-purpose barge, standard size is twenty-eight feet by ninety feet
ARVN	Army of the Republic of Vietnam
ASPB	Assault Support Patrol Boat
ATC	Armored Troop Carrier
ATSB	Advance Tactical Support Base
A/W	Automatic Weapons
Black Pony/Bronco	OV-10 Twin Engine Turboprop Counterinsurgency Aircraft
CCB	Command and Communications Boat
CG	Coastal Group (VNN)
CHICOM	Chinese Communist
CIDG	Civilian Irregular Defense Group - mercenaries of Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian descent who fight primarily around their own villages
CRIP	Civilian Reconnaissance Intelligence Platoon
CS	Tear Gas Grenades
CTZ	Corps Tactical Zone
CZ	Coastal Zone
Delta Hawk	Mohawk OV-10 aircraft
Dustoff	Medical evacuation by helicopter
ENIFF	Enemy initiated firefight

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FSB	Fire Support Base
FWMAF	Free World Military Assistance Forces
GDA	Gun Damage Assesment
GVN	Government of Vietnam
H&I	Harassment and Interdiction Fire Support
JGS	Joint General Staff
KIA	Killed in Action
Kit Carson Scouts	Former Viet Cong who have come over to the side of the Saigon government and serve with allied military units
LAFT	Light Attack Fire Team (OV-10's)
LAW	Light Anti-tank Weapon
LCPL	Landing Craft, Personnel, Large
LDNN	Vietnamese equivalent of USN underwater demolition team
LHFT	Light Helo Fire Team
LOH	OH-6 Light Observation Helicopter
LRRP	Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol
MACV	Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
MATSB	Mobile Advanced Tactical Support Base
MEDCAP	Medical Civic Action Program
MONITOR	Heavily armored LCM-6 (40mm cannon or 105mm howitzer)
MRB	Mobile Riverine Base
MSB	Minesweeper, Boat
MSD	Minesweeper, Drone
MSF	Mobile Strike Force - mercenaries who deploy and go anywhere
NGFS	Naval Gunfire Support

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NILO	Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer
NOD	Night Observation Device
NVA	North Vietnamese Army
PBR	Patrol Boat, River
PCF	Patrol Craft, Fast (SWIFT Boat)
PG	Patrol Gunboat
PRU	Provincial Reconnaissance Unit
PSA	Provincial Sector Advisor
PSYOPS	Psychological Operations
RAD	River Assault Division
RAG	River Assault Group (VNN)
RAID	River Assault and Interdiction Division
RAS	River Assault Squadron
RF/PF	Regional Forces/Popular Forces
RPG	Rocket Propelled Grenade
RSSZ	Rung Sat Special Zone
SAR	Search and Rescue
SEAWOLF	UH-1B Helo, heavily armed, USN operated
SHADOW	C-119 aircraft
SKIMMER	20' fiberglass rowboat
SLICK	UH-1B Helo
SPOOKY	C-47 aircraft
SSB	Swimmer support boat (skimmer)
STAB	SEAL Team Assault Boat
TAOR	Tactical Area of Responsibility
USARV	United States Army, Vietnam

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VNMC	Vietnamese Marine Corps
VNN	Vietnamese Navy
WGP	Waterborne Guardpost
Xinh Loi	Vietnamese for "Sorry about that!"
ZIPPO	Flame thrower equipped ATC or MONITOR

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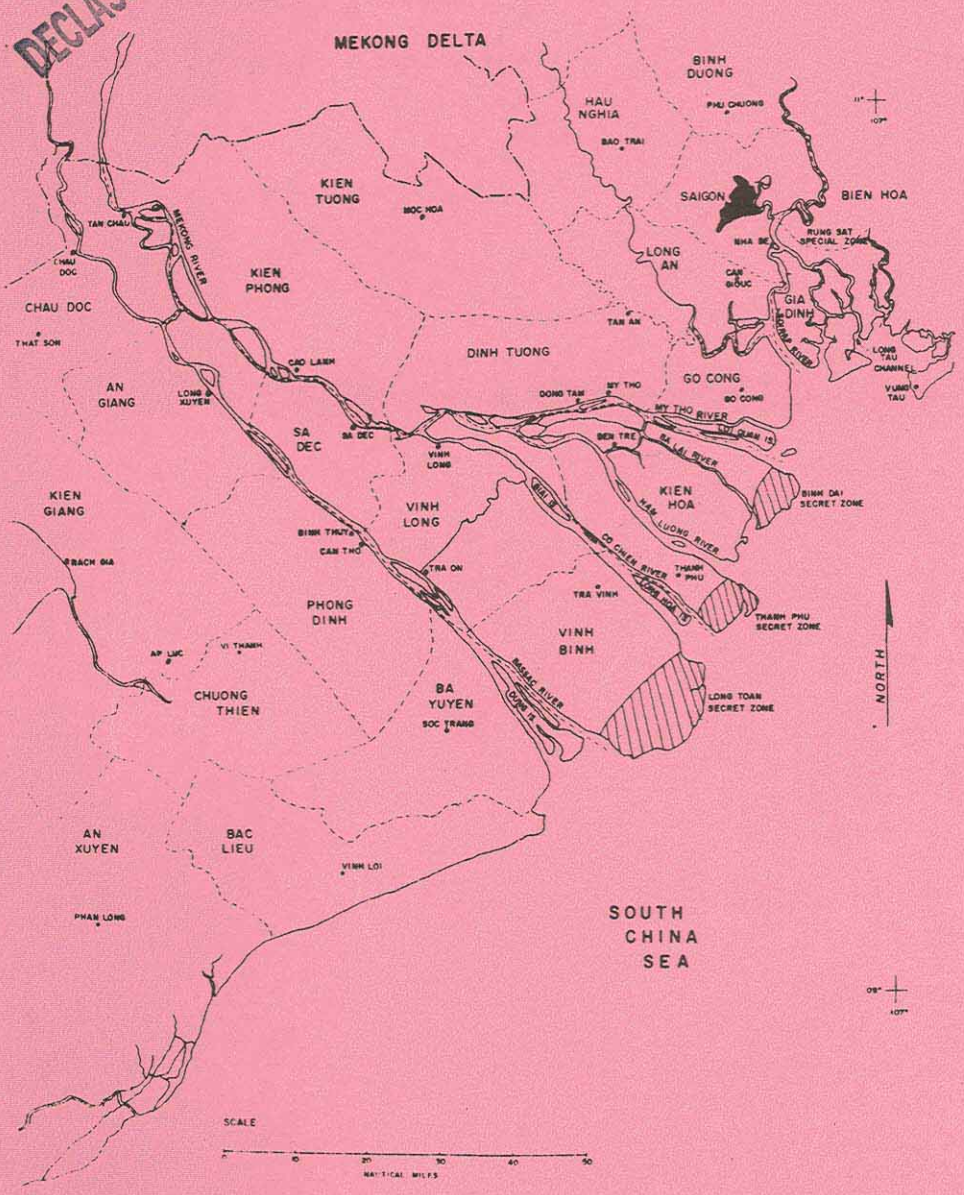

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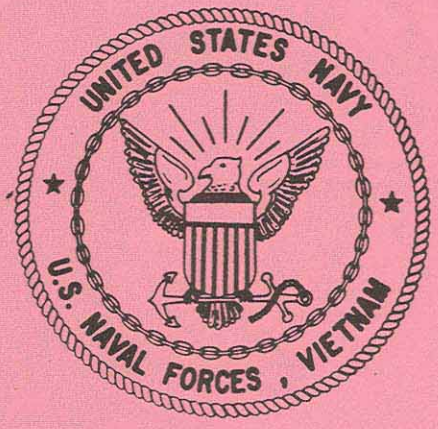

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