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Monthly Historical Summary

US NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM

APRIL, 1970

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U. S. NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96626

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1. The U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary is forwarded for information and retention.

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W. O. McDaniel

W. O. McDANIEL
Chief of Staff

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PHIBTRADET MARIS
NSRDC PANFLA
NIOTC MARIS
Project Manager, Naval Inshore Warfare Project, Washington, D. C. 20360
CG Aerospace Studies Institute (Code ASAD), Maxwell AFB Ala. 36112
CHNAVSEC C&GS Col., Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas 66027
CHNAVSEC Air University (AUL (SE)-69-10), Maxwell AFB Ala 36112
USA Special Warfare School (USN/MC Liaison Officer) Ft. Bragg, N. C. 28307
USMC Rep., U.S. Army Infantry School, Ft. Benning Ga. 31905
DIA (DIAAP-4A2/Pentagon)
Office of the Senior Marine Advisor, Naval Advisory Group, Box 9, FPO San Francisco 96626
Commander Naval Ship R&D Center, Washington, D. C. 20007
Commander Mine Squadron ELEVEN

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MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY

April 1970

Force Historian ..... LCDR Forrest L. Edwards

Assistant Historian ..... LCDR Donald G. Roller

Field Historians ..... LTJG Stephen W. Frantz

LTJG Richard C. Schisler

LTJG Michael W. Taylor

LTJG George G. Lynn

Historical Yeoman ..... YNC Antonio T. Armas

Historical Journalists ..... JO2 Ralph P. Goldman

JOSN Robert Drew

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FOREWORD

On the night of 31 March/1 April, the enemy launched a country-wide offensive called Campaign X. Activity was initiated through the entire gamut of actions in the enemy's offensive capability in all allied Corps areas: 82 mm mortar attacks, B-40 rockets, 107 mm and 122 mm rockets, small unit harassments using small arms and grenades, assassination of hamlet officials, and low level propaganda activity. After this initial flurry of activity throughout the country, the enemy's activity reduced to a low level and remained at a low level for the remainder of the month.

Additional phases of Campaign X were anticipated during the month but never materialized, possibly due to the enemy's activity in Cambodia.

Cambodian developments, by 10 April, had effectively cut off the VC/NVA resupply to lower RVN by stopping all logistic support through the port of Sihanoukville. Intelligence information indicated that the enemy could live off previously stored and cached material from six months to a year if a low level of activity was assumed.

By mid-month, the Salvation Government of Cambodia continued to consolidate its control of the country. By this time, the VC/NVA effectively controlled that part of Cambodia along the Cambodian/Republic of Vietnam border to a depth of approximately 20 kilometers in some sections.

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At the end of the month, the political situation in Cambodia continued to improve, but militarily, the situation in Cambodia continued to deteriorate. The VC/NVA Forces continued to advance their hold on Cambodia by capturing several towns, and commercial shipping on the Mekong River had been stopped because of firing attacks on the last convoy and the non-availability of pilots above the border in Cambodian waters.

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Giant Slingshot

During April, political events occurring in Cambodia had an influence on the Giant Slingshot Area of Operations (AO). During the latter half of the month, refugees from Cambodia began crossing the border in large numbers into Tay Ninh Province in the Giant Slingshot AO.

There was a larger than usual amount of activity in the Giant Slingshot AO this month, but most of the activity had nothing to do with actual enemy activity. The activity was in preparation for the scheduled turnover of assets to the Vietnamese Navy. On 5 May 1970, the Vietnamese Navy is scheduled to assume operational control of the Giant Slingshot AO. After 5 May, U. S. Navy personnel will assist the Vietnamese Navy only in an advisory capacity.

During the month of April, there were 76 engagements with enemy forces. U. S. Navy forces accounted for seven enemy killed while suffering ten USN wounded.

Significant Engagements During the Month of April

On 1 April, two U. S. Army LCMs were mined at the Advanced Tactical Support Base (ATSB) Tuyen Nhon. The mine had apparently been placed by sappers between the LCMs and approximately fifteen feet forward of the sterns. PBRs immediately attempted to assist the LCMs to dewater, but the damage was too extensive. Both boats sank at their moorings. Divers investigating found that one boat had a 7 foot by 2 foot hole in the side and bottom, and the other boat had a 3 foot by

two foot hole in the side and bottom. EOD personnel estimated that a 50 pound charge of C-4 would be required to produce such extensive damage.

On 7 April, PBRs 62 and 135 were proceeding to a Waterborne Guardpost (WBGP) in Kien Tuong Province when they came under B-40 and heavy automatic weapons (A/W) fire from a position at WS 902 945. PBR 62 received a hit on the 60 mm mortar mount which wounded all five personnel on board and set the PBR on fire. Both boats were able to return fire and cleared the area. Three additional PBRs were diverted from WBGP to assist. A USA LHFT put in a strike on the enemy, then hovered over the stern of PBR 62 and evacuated two critically wounded USN personnel. The personnel remaining on the boat put out the fire. Additional personnel were later evacuated from the boat, and the boat was taken in tow back to the base at Moc Hoa. Black Ponies and Seawolves provided support.

On 7 April, PBRs assisted U. S. Army personnel in locating a large cache in Hau Nghia Province at XT 461 055, approximately three kilometers from Tra Cu City. The cache was reported as: 134 B-40 rockets with boosters, 50 Chicom grenades, 16 Chicom anti-tank mines, two 107 mm rockets, 12 60 mm mortar rounds with fuses and boosters, and 24 82 mm mortar rounds with boosters. All of the captured material was in usable condition. An EOD team later disposed of most of the captured material.

On 9 April, two boats were entering WBGP in Long An Province, about five kilometers from Ben Luc, with U. S. Army personnel embarked.

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U. S. Army personnel began insertion into ambush positions. When the point man was approximately 20 meters from the boats and approximately one half of the troops had debarked, an explosive device was detonated which was directed toward the boats. Seven personnel were wounded, including two USN. A VNN crewmember observed one man approximately 150 meters inland fleeing the area. It is believed that the mine was command detonated.

On 13 April, the first of several MEDCAPs for refugees from Cambodia was conducted at a camp near Go Dau Ha in Tay Ninh Province.

On 16 April, two unidentified personnel were observed in the vicinity of the ATSB Moc Hoa. Later, four males were spotted in the water under a canal bridge directly across from the ATSB. Clearance to fire in the area of the swimmers was requested but was denied due to friendly personnel operating in an adjacent area. Swimmers were then observed to work their way downstream. The lead swimmer was on his back towing a package. A PBR was scrambled to attempt to intercept and apprehend the swimmers. The swimmers gained the bank and disappeared into tall grass. The bank was taken under fire. The attack was thwarted, but the sapper team escaped.

On 19 April, the ATSB at Ben Keo came under rocket attack. The crews of one PBR and a Monitor were in a position to observe the incoming rockets. Ten rockets were observed. All rockets cleared the base by a good distance. An LHFT later conducted a strike on an area from which the rockets were believed to have been fired.

On 30 April, a Boston Whaler was in WBGP at XS 578 786, approximately seven kilometers from Ben Luc in Long An Province. A supporting Army unit was proceeding to an ambush position approximately 50 meters inland. The Army unit encountered two enemy personnel who apparently mistook them for friendlies as they beckoned and called for the Army personnel to follow them. Army personnel took the enemy under fire and saw both men fall.

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Tran Hung Dao V / Operation Ready Deck

On 1 April, additional units of RPG 52 arrived in the operating area. The arrival of these units brought the total of assigned boats to 48. On 10 April, the ten PBRs of RivDiv 593 departed the operating area enroute to the vicinity of Chau Doc on the Bassac River for assignment to the Operation Barrier Reef forces.

With the departure of RivDiv 593, all operating forces on the Saigon River are now units of the Vietnamese Navy. U. S. Navy advisors are, however, still on the scene and taking an active part in all operations.

On 20 April, Operation Ready Deck, which had been designated TG 194.6, was redesignated TG 215.1 and assumed a Vietnamese Navy Task Force designator. RAG 24, RPG 52, and RAG 30 are now designated TU 215.1.1, TU 215.1.2, and TU 215.1.3, respectively.

During the month, USN and VNN forces were involved in 27 firefights. As a result of these encounters, 23 VC were killed. Friendly casualties were three U. S. Navy personnel wounded and four Vietnamese Navy personnel wounded.

Significant Activity During the Month of April

On 3 April, two U. S. Navy PBRs of RivDiv 593 were in Waterborne Guardpost (WBGP) at XT 598 336, approximately 28 kilometers northwest of Phu Cuong on the Upper Saigon River in Binh Duong Province. At 2328H, one VC approached the boats. No additional VC were sighted, so the

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boats held their fire until the VC reached a range of only 15 feet. The VC was taken under fire at this close range and killed.

In a very similar situation on 6 April, within approximately 600 yards of the position of the firefight on 3 April, two Vietnamese Navy PBRs, with EM1 Moceri embarked as an advisor, had two VC approach their boats. The VC were taken under fire at a range of only 30 feet. In this instance, however, it is not known if the VC were actually killed.

On 6 April, two U. S. Navy PBRs had assumed WBGP at XT 666 295, approximately 30 kilometers northwest of Phu Cuong. At 2239H, one VC swimmer attempted to board one of the PBRs. He was immediately killed.

On 7 April, two VNN PBRs were in WBGP at XT 722 223, approximately 12 kilometers northwest of Phu Cuong. At 2009H, a VC threw a grenade which landed on one of the boats. A quick acting VNN crewmember kicked the grenade over the side. The detonation of the grenade caused some minor hull damage, but there were no personnel casualties.

On 17 April, two VNN PBRs were in WBGP at XT 652 315, approximately 30 kilometers northwest of Phu Cuong. At 2135H, the PBRs were attacked and received a total of five grenades thrown from the east bank of the river. One VN was slightly wounded, and material damage to the boats was light. The bank area was taken under fire, and two VC were probably killed.

In approximately the same position on the night of 21 April, two VNN PBRs observed one VC about 50 meters distant. The units broke WBGP

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and took the man under fire. In return, the boats received heavy A/W fire from a nearby treeline. A helo fire team was requested and later placed strikes in the area. Two U. S. Navy advisors and one Vietnamese crewmember were slightly wounded in this encounter.

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Border Interdictions

Border Interdiction operations as reported in this section will include only those operations conducted by units assigned to the Barrier Reef Area of Operations (AO). Operations conducted in the Tran Hung Dao I AO are contained in the Naval Advisory Group Summary.

During the month of April, the forces assigned to the Barrier Reef AO engaged the enemy on 28 occasions. U. S. Navy units accounted for 11 enemy killed while the Vietnamese Navy units accounted for three enemy killed. Friendly losses for the month totalled three U. S. Navy personnel killed and four wounded.

The number of boats assigned to the Barrier Reef AO for the month averaged 100. The average number of boats available for daily assignments was 78, while the average number of Waterborne Guardposts (WBGP) established by the available boats was 66. On the last day of the month, RPG 56 units departed the Barrier Reef AO for the adjacent Giant Slingshot AO, reducing the number of units assigned to the Barrier Reef AO to 80.

Significant Engagements During the Month of April

On 2 April, a Strike Assault Boat (STAB) of STABRON 20 was in WBGP near the north bank of the Grand Canal at WS 947 765, approximately 20 kilometers west of Ap Bac. The boat was hidden in a dense treeline port side to the north bank with rain falling and sheet lightning illuminating the area. At 020010H, the boat crew heard movement on the

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opposite bank, breaking twigs, and voices talking. The boat captain was requesting Sector clearance to take the movement under fire when the enemy initiated the attack. All the other boat crew members were manning their weapons ready for unrestricted combat. The enemy launched a veritable barrage of B-40 rockets and heavy automatic weapons (A/W) fire. The boat received three B-40 rocket hits almost simultaneously which killed three crewmembers instantaneously and wounded one other member of the crew. The boat lost all communications, but due to the communications conducted prior to the enemy attack, Seawolves were enroute and arrived on the scene in less than ten minutes. After the enemy attack, the boat broke WBGP using the one engine still in commission. One crewmember returned fire on the enemy positions with an M-60 while another crewman controlled the boat proceeding to join ATC-1 at a WBGP at WS 951 764. The one wounded crewmember was transferred to the ATC and medevaced by helo.

An inspection of the STAB after the above action indicated that the boat had been hit by two B-40 rockets. One rocket penetrated the forward starboard side near the waterline and detonated adjacent to the forward fuel bladder such that fragments penetrated the fuel bladder which self-sealed. The second B-40 detonated on the starboard side amidships dishing in the hull, ceramic armor and penetrating the ballistic blanket with fragments apparently crossing the cockpit and penetrating the port ballistic blanket and the port hull.

The inspection report further specified that "another possible recoilless round detonated stbd hull penetrating ballistic blanket and

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after portion of stbd cockpit severing and causing extensive damage to control cables from instrument panel to stbd engine rendering stbd engine inoperative."

The inspection report concluded that from the B-40 rocket which detonated adjacent to the fuel bladder, it is evident that the combination of the ceramic armor and foam helped absorb the detonation, and the foam-filled fuel bladder prevented a gasoline explosion by self-sealing. In the amidships area, the combined ceramic armor and the ballistic blanket reduced the penetration fan of fragments, but did not stop them entirely.

This was the first STAB damaged so extensively in an engagement with the enemy.

On 5 April, ATC-28 was in WBGP at XS 000 754, approximately 17 kilometers west of Ap Bac. At 2253H, T-28 came under heavy B-40 and A/W attack from the vicinity of a lighted hootch on the south bank. T-28 sustained nine B-40 rocket hits and numerous A/W hits injuring all the personnel on board; two VNN were killed; four VNN were wounded; and three USN were also wounded. The rockets had been fired in three volleys of three rockets each.

T-28 broke WBGP and proceeded east. T-33, in WBGP one kilometer to the east, and T-29, in WBGP one kilometer to the west, broke their respective WBGPs and proceeded to the contact area. At 2258H, T-28 reported the status of the wounded and requested a medevac helo. By 0056H, medevac was completed.

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Black Ponies and Seawolves reported overhead but could not obtain clearances for conducting air strikes due to the number of friendlies reported to be in the area and the close proximity of several hootches occuppied by local Vietnamese.

At 151257H April, PCF 59, on the Mekong River border patrol, observed what appeared to be a major firefight on the Cambodian side of the border. Approximately 150 people were seen fleeing from the market area of the village at WT 204 060 and two large junks were afire near the village. PCF 59 remained clear of the area but continued to keep the area under surveillance. At 1400H, PCF 59 observed four craft at WT 208 088. Two of the craft were 80 foot junks, one craft appeared to be an LCM-6, and the other craft appeared similar to an ATC. The boats under observation received heavy fire from both banks. The two wooden junks caught fire and later sank. The other two craft sailed out of sight to the north. A short time later, two T-28 type aircraft appeared and put in repeated rocket and machine gun strikes in the vicinity of WT 200 065. The aircraft had no identifying markings.

At 161220H April, PCF 97, on the Mekong River border patrol, chased and apprehended a water taxi sampan at WT 206 048. The water taxi had one U. S. civilian male wearing camouflage greens and three Vietnamese males on board. The U. S. male readily identified himself as an NBC Correspondent. He stated that he was in the area to verify a report of 400 to 600 Vietnamese bodies floating down the Mekong River as a result of a massacre of Vietnamese by Cambodians. Since the correspondent had no military escort or apparent permission to be in the border

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control region, PCF 97 was instructed to deny access to the border control region to the newsman and the others in the water taxi and to escort the taxi south and out of the area. The newsman stated that he would return to Chau Doc and await further developments.

While the taxi occupants were being questioned, a Piper Cub type single engine aircraft passed close overhead. The plane had unknown markings. The newsman stated that the occupants of the plane were probably CBS correspondents on a similar assignment to his own. The water taxi departed the area at 161315H.

At 161925H April, a PBR of RPG 56 was proceeding at top speed down the Grand Canal enroute to WBGP. Suddenly, the boat lost steering control. Before the boats speed could be reduced, the boat hit the canal bank and turned over at WS 530 809, approximately 11 kilometers east of the Mekong River, and sank with only the bow remaining above water. All crewmembers and advisors escaped unhurt with the exception that one VNN crewmember was missing. ATC 22 proceeded to the scene to assist. An unsuccessful attempt was made to right the boat. Divers conducted a search for the missing crewmember in the forward and midships section of the boat with no success. It was concluded that the missing crewmember must possibly be trapped between the stern and the canal bottom.

On the following day, the body of the Vietnamese sailor was located. On 18 April, ATC 22 and the USS SATYR salvage crew completed salvaging the PBR. Hull damage to the PBR was considered slight.

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At 171108H April, PCF 97, on the Mekong River border patrol, once again apprehended a water taxi with the same NBC correspondent and passengers as apprehended on 16 April. The correspondent was on the same mission and still lacked military escort or apparent permission to be in the border patrol area. He was once again escorted clear of the area.

On 21 April, a PBR of RPG 56 was returning from night WBGP in the early morning at high speed through the Grand Canal. At 0710H, the PBR careened off the bank of the canal and capsized at WS 515 811, approximately ten kilometers from the Mekong River. A short time later, salvage assistance arrived on the scene. Salvage operations were completed by 1600H. The PBR suffered heavy damage and required extensive work by a repair facility.

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Search Turn

During the month of April, the forces assigned to the Search Turn/Tran Hung Dao VI Area of Operations (AO) engaged the enemy on 50 occasions. U. S. Navy units accounted for 52 enemy killed while other friendly units accounted for 23 enemy killed. Friendly losses for the month were one killed and 12 wounded which included six U. S. Navy personnel.

On 2 April, another type of enemy struck at the RivDiv 553 personnel. This enemy, however, attacked by means of the water supply. This enemy goes by the name shigellosis and is indicative of an impure water supply. Shigellosis reached epidemic form among the RivDiv personnel at Kien Son. At the peak of the epidemic, 22 personnel were being treated on the USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) and six were being treated at an Army hospital, including the RivDiv Commanding Officer. The epidemic required a 48 hour standdown from normal operations.

On 20 April, CTG 194.3 promulgated a new Task Group organization as follows:

Designator	Unit	Location
CTG 194.3	Search Turn Commander	Rach Gia
CTU 194.3.1	CO RivDiv 553	USS HUNTERDON COUNTY
CTU 194.3.2	CO RivDiv 573	Rach Gia
CTE 194.3.2.1	RivDiv 573	Rach Gia
CTE 194.3.2.2	CO RivDiv 554	Rach Gia
CTE 194.3.2.3	CO RivDiv 513/515	Rach Gia
CTU 194.3.3	CO RAID 75	Rach Gia
CTU 194.3.4	OIC HAL 3 DET 8	USS HUNTERDON COUNTY
CTU 194.3.5	CO USS HUNTERDON COUNTY	USS HUNTERDON COUNTY
CTU 194.3.6	OIC SEAL TEAM DET G, D PLT	Rach Gia

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CTE 194.3.6.1	OIC SEAL TEAM DET G, D PLT, A SQD	Rach Gia
CTE 194.3.6.2	OIC SEAL TEAM DET G, D PLT, B SQD	Rach Gia
CTE 194.3.6.3	OIC MST-2 DET ECHO	Rach Gia

Significant Engagements During the Month of April

On 12 April, two PBRs of RivDiv 573 were requested by MAT 68 (Military Advisory Team) to pick up an advisor and a Vietnamese radioman and proceed to assist an outpost under attack at WR 168 883. The PBRs arrived in the area and made firing runs into the area of enemy activity. A US Army light fire team and flare ship were on station and coordinated strikes with the boats. Upon completion, the PBRs were returning to the MAT 68 outpost when the boats came under heavy B-40 and automatic weapons (A/W) fire from the south bank at WR 160 886, 19 kilometers south of Rach Gia in Kien Giang Province. The ambush zone was approximately 700 meters long, and ten B-40's were observed to have been fired at the boats. The boats returned fire until their ammunition was expended. Seawolves arrived on the scene, but the boats were not able to remain in the area and coordinate air strikes due to their lack of ammunition.

At 131610H April, PBRs of RivDiv 513 on patrol sighted two camouflaged sampans near the south bank of the Cai Lon River at WR 208 760, approximately 30 kilometers southeast of Rach Gia. The units investigated the area and discovered a recently used campsite with a fire still burning. Search of the campsite revealed two freshly painted signs saying "YOU DIE HERE" in Vietnamese, a five gallon milk can full of rice, some clothes, 20 chop sticks, and an empty 50 caliber ammo can.

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On 17 April, units of RivDiv 573 provided a blocking force for a District operation at WR 220 755, approximately 31 kilometers from Rach Gia. At 0830H, units on station as a blocking force made contact with an enemy force and called for air assistance. U. S. Army gunships and VNAF Tacair units provided air support for the continuation of the troop sweep. Upon completion of the sweep, the PBRs transported 60 troops to an outpost. The results of this combined Kien Giang Sector operation were: one PF killed, five PFs wounded; 23 enemy killed; 2 AK-47's, one K-2, one B-40, 105 B-40 rounds, one Chicom pistol, and three kilos of documents captured.

On 20 April, four units of RivDiv 553 set two Waterborne Guardposts (WBGP) at WS 044 430, approximately 37 kilometers northwest of Rach Gia, in the vicinity of a food cache captured the previous day. The units observed that the small village near the WBGPs was deserted although on the previous day, the village had contained approximately 100 people. At 2105H, the units observed about 50 enemy troops approach the northern WBGP from the northeast. The PBRs requested that Black Ponies and Seawolves be scrambled and remain south of the area until the enemy closed the range and the PBRs could initiate fire. At 2210H, about 50 more enemy troops were observed about 500 meters from the west bank of the canal. At 2240H, the PBRs initiated fire on both groups. Simultaneously, the Black Ponies and Seawolves rolled in and placed strikes.

The PBRs remained in WBGPs, and Black Ponies continued overhead. At 0213H, 82 mm mortar rounds began walking in on the boats. The boats broke WBGP and moved 300 meters south as mortar rounds straddled the old

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positions. At 0220H, a Black Pony placed a strike on the mortar position and silenced it. In the morning, a sweep of the area was conducted and the following materials were captured: ten Chicom grenades, four full M-16 magazines, a small quantity of medicine, ten canteens, one plastic gas mask, one AK-47, one homemade NVA transceiver, one head set, one telegraphic key, 50 feet of antenna wire, one Chicom multimeter, three sets of flotation gear, three shovels, six hammocks, three kilos of documents, and two NVA Hero medals awarded for killing Americans (Grade 3).

In action, 17 enemy were confirmed kills. Friendly casualties were one USN wounded.

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Riverine Strike Group

During April, all RAC formerly assigned to CTG 194.7 (Riverine Strike Group) remainedout-chopped to other operational commanders with the exception of those crafts undergoing overhaul or alteration.

By mid-April, 3.5 inch bazookas had been installed on 12 ASPBs. All 12 ASPBs so configured are scheduled for turnover in the ACTOV Program.

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Operation Breezy Cove

Operation Breezy Cove, designed to pacify the Ca Mau peninsula in conjunction with Operation Sea Float, experienced the same drop in activity in April as other naval operations. The nine enemy killed was the lowest total in five months while the number of craft assigned to Operation SEA LORDS' smallest component remained at about 23. No Americans were killed in April and 14 were wounded.

COMUSMACV conducted an Operations Security Survey of CTG 194.2 during April in an effort to minimize the enemy's prior knowledge of Breezy Cove operations. The inspection team's findings are applicable to all allied units participating in shallow water counterinsurgency programs. While Breezy Cove's security was evaluated favorably, the six following weaknesses were found:

1) A large AO precludes the necessary density of craft to thoroughly patrol waterways.
2) Noise of approaching boats forewarns the enemy.
3) Guerrilla mobility permits enemy to initiate the majority of firefights.
4) Size of PBRs and limited camouflage capabilities contribute to easy detection of WBGPs.
5) Pattern of never setting a WBGP in the same place allows enemy "safe" use of the area where one was previously set.
6) Some communication equipment is not secure.

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Significant Combat Activity During April

The Breezy Cove patrol craft themselves reported only scattered action throughout the month. Combined air and land retaliatory strikes accounted for the majority of enemy casualties.

On April 9, CTG 194.2 scrambled Seawolves in answer to an attack on a water taxi at WR 005 044. Forward air controllers called in ARVN artillery strikes to hold the estimated 25 enemy troops until the helicopters arrived. Black Ponies joined the attack, hitting Viet Cong who were running through an opening for a hootch line. PBRs landed 30 ARVN troops at Old Song Ong Doc and stood by for support. The entire action lasted over three hours. A thorough sweep of the area revealed seven VC killed (BC), five probably killed, three wounded, and two captured. Allied forces suffered no losses.

On April 11, PBRs 141 and 767, patrolling 14 kilometers east of New Song Ong Doc, observed two rockets fired at them from the north bank. They returned fire while clearing the area and called in air support from Seawolves. Breezy Cove transport units landed troops summoned from Old Song Ong Doc. They captured two rocket launchers and one B-50 rocket 100 meters from the bank and found two blood trails. There were no friendly casualties.

An unexplained explosion sank PBR 101 150 meters south of Song Ong Doc on April 19. The boat was withdrawing from the beach after landing SEAL team members when an underwater blast destroyed the starboard pump, sinking the craft in four feet of water. The boat captain

surmised that a dud round had been sucked into the pump. Salvage operations raised the craft.

On April 23, guerrillas rocketed two Armored Transport Craft (ATCs 10 and 12) carrying civilian workers back to Old Song Ong Doc. One B-50 rocket exploded in the port side bar armor of ATC 10. The units returned fire but cleared the area because of the civilian passengers. Seawolves struck the area and received no return fire. One American sailor and one Vietnamese civilian incurred slight wounds.

One unfortunate incident marred Breezy Cove's record during the month. On April 11, during a routine patrol by units of RivDiv 572, a young Vietnamese trainee on PBR 767 accidentally discharged a 40 mm mortar round on the roof of a civilian home in Vam Song Ong Doc. Three civilian occupants were slightly wounded and were treated and released by an ATSB corpsman. Property damage was minimal.

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Proposed Improvements for Operation Breezy Cove

By the end of April, LCDR L. H. Thames, Commander of Operation Breezy Cove, foresaw the need for re-evaluating the Navy's assets and tactics in the SongOng Doc District. Pacification efforts in the district had been progressing favorably as 7,500 refugees had come to the area in the last six months, but certain USN and VNN weaknesses threatened to reverse the trend. As in most areas of Vietnam, the Navy, expecting the enemy to move at night, had emphasized nocturnal patrols and WBGPs. Recent intelligence now indicated that the Viet Cong were now conducting the majority of their infiltration, propaganda, and tax extortion in the daylight hours. In addition, increased demands for transportation by ARVN troops in the district rendered the present number of Breezy Cove units inadequate. CTU 194.2 consequently made the following recommendation to First Sea Lord: 1) Employ only 30 per cent of assets in nightly WBGPs, freeing the remainder for daytime patrolling; 2) Increase the number of River Assault Craft by seven; 3) Permanently locate River Assault Division 13 at Old Song Ong Doc to provide greater operational flexibility and control.

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Market Time Raider Campaign

Market Time Raiders continued to conduct SEA LORDS missions along the rivers and canals of the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones in April. The enemy lost 35 killed, eight wounded, and one captured during Raider operations. Also, 103 structures, 44 bunkers, and 47 watercraft were destroyed. Friendly losses were one LDNN killed and another wounded. There were no U.S. personnel or material casualties during the month.

In the late afternoon hours of 7 April, the USCG WPBs PT BANKS, PT MARONE, and PT WELCOME conducted a visual reconnaissance of an area approximately eighteen miles east of Tra Vinh (VIC XR 776 907) where considerable enemy activity was reported. Skimmers from the PT BANKS and PT MARONE soon observed, and attempted to halt a sampan with one occupant. When the occupant attempted to evade, he was taken under fire and killed. Another male was wounded as he evaded through a rice paddy following warning shots by the skimmers. Many other people were observed fleeing into large bunkers in the area and were taken under fire by the 81 mm mortars of the three WPBs. Five persons and one sampan loaded with over 1,000 pounds of rice were detained by the skimmers. The WPBs also destroyed 11 structures and four sampans while damaging ten structures and two bunkers.

SEALS from CHARLIE Platoon of SEAL Team One Detachment GOLF, in company with an LDNN platoon, were inserted by LSSC into an area 20 miles southwest of Tra Vinh (VIC XR 243 701) in the early morning

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hours of 9 April. Shortly after commencing their patrol, the SEALs and VN LDNNs spotted five armed NVA attempting to evade. They were immediately taken under fire, and three were killed while the other two were wounded. One of these WIA was killed as he ran into the patrol minutes later. At this juncture, the patrol began to receive heavy A/W fire from all sides. OV-10's were scrambled, and a Slick was called in to extract the surrounded patrol. Before this could be accomplished, one of the LDNN was critically wounded. The Slick medevaced him under heavy fire, and Cobra gunships arrived to place strikes in the area. The OV-10's and Cobras continued their air strikes in the face of heavy enemy A/W fire. Due to this fire, the Slick was unable to extract the rest of the patrol which, using OV-10's for support, cleared an extraction route to PCFs 103 and 55 and MST 2 Detachment DELTA which extracted them successfully under fire. Air strikes into the area continued and the two "Swifts" fired H and I into the area for another four hours. Later information revealed that six of the enemy had been killed by the LDNN while another 12 were killed by supporting aircraft which wounded another 15. This superb air support enabled the beleaguered patrol to extract successfully. One LDNN was killed and another wounded during the engagement.

The PT BANKS and PT LOMAS were conducting a patrol approximately 13 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (VIC XR 771 894) on 26 April, destroying bunkers and structures when the skimmer from the PT BANKS captured an evading VN female. This woman persuaded over 65 other VNs in bunkers to give up and come out. The bunkers were searched, and a sampan

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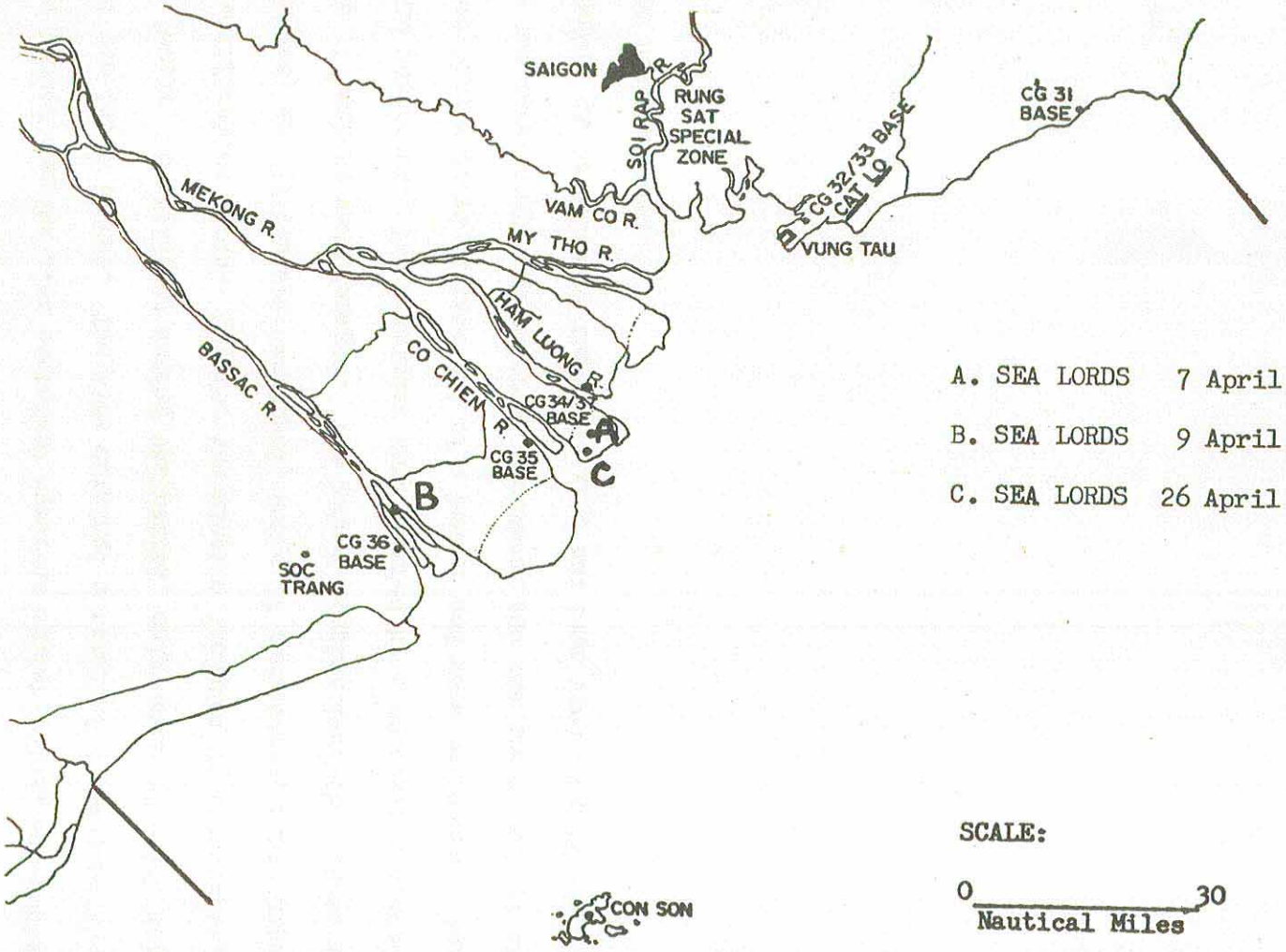
factory, 4000 pounds of rice, a bicycle repair shop, and enough eating utensils and cooking pots to support a large enemy force were found. The bunker complex also contained numerous spider holes, sub-bunkers, and one large tunnel. The WPBs detained a total of 78 persons (4 male, 26 female, 48 children) during the patrol, only seven of which held identification cards. GDA for the mission included 28 structures, 18 sampans, and 19 bunkers destroyed, while 27 structures, nine sampans, and 12 bunkers were damaged. The bunker complex described above was also destroyed. Two detainees were wounded by a concussion grenade when they refused to come out of a bunker and were medevaced. Based on the large amount of material uncovered and the great numbers of people, it is believed that this area had been used as a VC staging and resupply area.

MARKET TIME RAIDERS

SEA LORDS

OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



A. SEA LORDS 7 April

B. SEA LORDS 9 April

C. SEA LORDS 26 April

SCALE:

0 _____ 30

Nautical Miles

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NAVAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY (AS OF 30 APR 70)

	TRAN HUNG DAO	GIANT SLINGSHOT	BARRIER REEF	BREEZY COVE	SEARCH TURN	READY DECK
ENEMY KIA						
BY USN	289 (18)	1103 (7)	103 (11)	137 (9)	294 (52)	360 (20)
BY VNN	69 (0)	170 (8)	34 (3)	50 (1)	0 (0)	87 (2)
BY OTHER	295 (0)	1114 (57)	111 (0)	59 (8)	74 (23)	247 (1)
ENEMY CIA						
BY USN	12 (0)	25 (0)	19 (1)	46 (2)	11 (2)	14 (0)
BY VNN	2 (0)	9 (0)	1 (0)	8 (0)	0	0
BY OTHER	20 (0)	211 (4)	34 (0)	26 (0)	31 (0)	122 (0)
FRIENDLY KIA						
USN	12 (0)	38 (0)	9 (3)	1 (0)	16 (0)	6 (0)
VNN	9 (0)	17 (0)	0	0	0	0
OTHER	30 (0)	140 (11)	17 (0)	2 (0)	22 (1)	20 (0)
FRIENDLY WIA						
USN	124 (1)	518 (10)	51 (1)	97 (14)	76 (4)	33 (3)
VNN	79 (0)	167 (11)	11 (0)	11 (1)	8 (2)	21 (4)
OTHER	143 (1)	698 (35)	89 (0)	9 (0)	116 (6)	84 (0)

() - Monthly totals

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NAVAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY (AS OF 30 APR 70)

	TRAN HUNG DAO	GIANT SLINGSHOT	BARRIER REFF	BREEZY COVE	SEARCH TURN	READY DECK
START OF OPERATION	21 NOV 68	6 DEC 68	2 JAN 69	28 SEP 69	1 NOV 68	1 JUN 69
FRIFF	258 (11)	521 (12)	83 (10)	92 (21)	193 (18)	55 (4)
ENIFF	204 (6)	734 (18)	59 (3)	65 (13)	100 (10)	68 (6)
UNILATERAL FIRINGS	437 (11)	1433 (46)	240 (15)	188 (22)	310 (22)	234 (17)
MININGS	23 (0)	17 (1)	6 (0)	8 (1)	5 (1)	1 (0)
AMMUNITION CACHES & CACHE WT. (TONS)	7 (0) 11.5 (0)	277 (2) 142.9 (0)	1 (0) .4 (0)	0 0	14 (0) 12 (0)	22 (0) 4.3 (0)
OTHER CACHE & CACHE WT. (TONS)	1 (0) 0	24 (0) 384.9 (0)	0 0	1 (0) 1.1 (0)	2 (1) 3.2 (2.2)	2 (0) .5 (0)
REPORTS OF ENEMY PLANS TO ATTACK PATROL CRAFT	*	*	*	*	*	*
SAMPANS DESTROYED	258 (6)	332(5)	161 (1)	293 (27)	313 (4)	146 (2)

( ) - Monthly totals

* - Statistics not available

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY

Market Time and Stable Door forces, blessed with generally good weather throughout the Republic of Vietnam, continued their normal operations during the month of April. There were a total of 46,492 craft detected by Market Time and Stable Door units in their patrols along the coasts, rivers, and harbors of the republic. Of these craft, 10,647 underwent inspection while another 7,025 were boarded. These inspections and boardings resulted in the detention of 93 craft and 537 persons. The primary reasons for detainment, as in previous months, included lack of or faulty identification papers, incorrect or faulty manifests, violation of restricted zones, or other suspicious activity. There were 139 Viet Cong suspects detained during the month. In the Game Warden area of operations along the lower Ham Luong, Cua Tieu, and Bassac Rivers, the number of detections declined from those of March. During the month of April, Market Time Units detected 2,778 watercraft, inspected 958, and boarded another 1,373. There were 15 persons and one craft detained during this period.

Task Force 115 units continued to provide Naval gunfire support, troop lifts, blocking patrols, and waterborne guardposts in support of friendly ground operations along the coasts and in the rivers and canals. There were no known attempts of large scale infiltration of either men or supplies by the enemy during the month. One U.S. sailor and one friendly were killed while 11 U.S. Navymen and four friendlies were wounded in April. Enemy losses to the Naval gunfire

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of Market Time units came to 119 confirmed killed, 66 probably killed, 30 wounded, and 34 captured.

Operation Market Time

There were a total of 543 Market Time Naval gunfire support, SEA LORDS, Sea Float, and Sea Tiger missions conducted during April. Gun damage assessment for these missions remained at a high level with 42% reporting GDA. The number of enemy confirmed killed, 119, was the highest monthly total to date by Market Time forces. The overall results of these missions were:

185 Viet Cong killed (119 body count, 66 probable)
30 Viet Cong wounded
34 Viet Cong captured
210 Junks/sampans destroyed
739 Junks/sampans damaged
198 Structures/bunkers destroyed
15 Structures/bunkers damaged.

Surveillance operations resulted in the detection of 10,859 craft during the month. 4,993 of these were inspected and another 2,909 were boarded. There were 509 steel hulled vessels detected in Market Time areas and of these, 304 were inspected.

A steel hulled SL-4 type trawler, presumably North Vietnamese, was detected by Market Time aircraft approximately 260 miles southeast of the Ca Mau penninsula on 21 April. The trawler was on a northwes-

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terly course toward the penninsula when detected. She immediately changed course to the southwest and attempted to evade surveillance by circling south of the Indonesian Natuna Islands. The USS TOMBIGBEE (AOG 11) relieved the shadowing aircraft on 23 April and, on the same date, the trawler evidently aborted her mission. She headed northeast on the usual return track at that time. The USCGC MELLON (WHEC 717) picked up the surveillance on 26 April and continued it until the trawler approached Hainan Island on 28 April (POSIT 19-28N, 111-18E).

In a continuing effort to maintain a position of optimum readiness throughout the Market Time operation, a penetration exercise, utilizing TF 115 PG/MSO/MSC/WHEC and SEVENTHFLT units as simulated trawlers was begun during the month. This exercise continued into May.

SEAL units attached to Market Time continued their high tempo of operations in April. As in March, the operations were conducted in support of Sea Float operations in the IV Corps Tactical Zone and in support of the Market Time Raiders conducting SEA LORDS operations in the III Corps Tactical Zone.

On 17 April CDR Thomas F. Mullane, USN, relieved CAPT J. J. Shanahan, Jr., USN, as COMCOSFLOT ONE and COMCOSURVFOR (CTF 115).

The SS COLUMBIA EAGLE incident was closed in early April when that ship was released from Cambodian waters. On 8 April, the USCGC CHASE (WHEC 718), with a Navy EOD team embarked, rendezvoused with the COLUMBIA EAGLE in international waters. The EOD team conducted a thorough search

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for explosives with negative results while the CHASE steamed to An Thoi to embark the remaining members of the COLUMBIA EAGLE's crew. These crewmembers were transferred to the COLUMBIA EAGLE and that ship, in company with the CHASE, proceeded to Subic Bay in the Philippines, arriving on 12 April.

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First Coastal Zone

The number of watercraft detected by Market Time units in the First Coastal Zone rose slightly during the month of April. A total of 1,477 craft were detected and, of these, 1,133 were inspected and another four boarded.

There were 47 Naval gunfire support and Sea Tiger missions conducted in April. These were mostly Sea Tiger operations utilizing the PBRs of Commander River Division 543 in the shallow rivers, bays, and canals inaccessible to the "Swift" boats.

On a Sea Tiger mission in the late evening hours of 6 April about nine kilometers west of Hoi An (BT 046 562), two PBRs of RivDiv 543, with Patrol officer RDC Armstrong and Boat Captains GMG1 Maxfield in PBR 47 and SM1 Hern in PBR 139, set a night WBGP in support of an ROK Marine Corps sweep of a nearby island. At 2205H, the sailors in the two PBRs sighted four VC/NVA crossing the river near their position. The PBRs held their fire, and fifteen minutes later two more VC/NVA were observed walking along the south bank of the river. The PBRs opened fire and both persons fell. The night was far from over, however, as five minutes later a second pair appeared and were taken under fire. Fifteen minutes later, a third pair appeared and were killed by the PBR's guns. The PBRs continued firing into the area throughout the remainder of the night. The results of the mission were five enemy killed (2 BC, 3 PROB) and a satchel of documents captured which revealed that one of the bodies recovered was probably that of a district level VCI within the Current Affairs Committee Organizational Section..

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Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) 11, Detachment HOTEL, under Officer in Charge LTJG McCrary, and one company of Regional Force/ Popular Force (RF/PF) troops conducted a river bank recon and sweep in an area three kilometers southwest of Hoi An (BT 123 548) during the morning and afternoon of 13 April. PBRs of RivDiv 543 provided flank security during the operation and took small groups of enemy troops under fire several times during the day. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties were unknown. Eleven bunkers and six structures were destroyed, and a cache containing one 60 mm mortar, eight B-40 rockets, one AK-47, three bags of C-rations, 400 pounds of rice and four rucksacks was found.

On 16 April, PBR 47, with Boat Captain GMG1 Maxfield, and PBR 139, with Boat Captain SM1 Hern, were on a routine Sea Tiger day patrol on the Thu Ban River two and one half kilometers south of Hoi An (BT 146 530) when the lead boat, PBR 139, observed what appeared to be a tracer ricochet into the air between the boats after hitting the water. Shortly afterwards, PBR 139 received two RPG-7 rounds, one detonating in the water near the boat. The other entered the starboard side amidships at the waterline and detonated inside the boat. PBR 47 received one round alongside or underneath the boat which partially lifted her out of the water. PBR 47 then received two additional rounds, one which entered the forward compartment and detonated and the other which exploded outside the boat showering it with shrapnel. The enemy fire was received from the south bank of the river and was returned and suppressed by the two PBRs. Casualties included four USN

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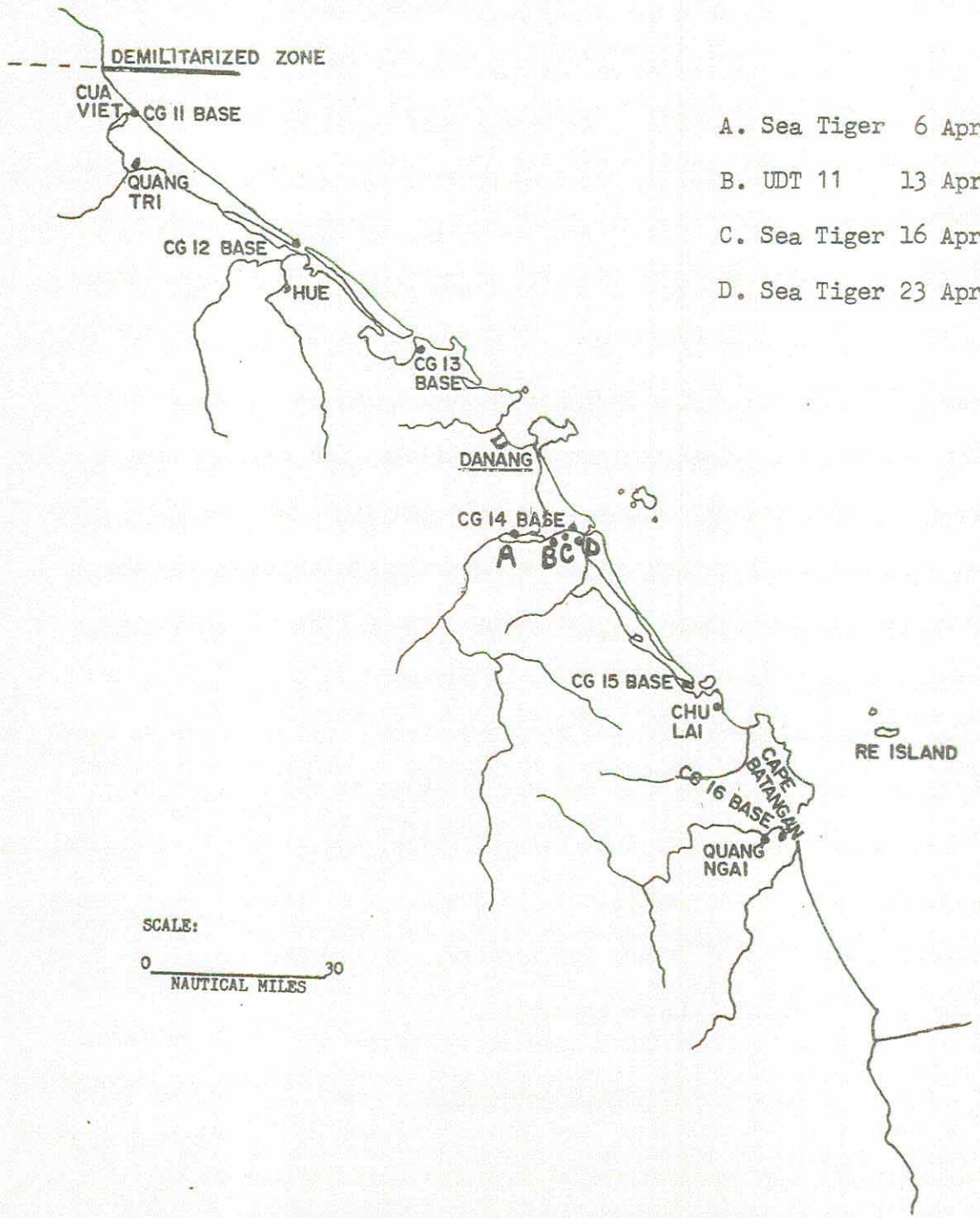
OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE



A. Sea Tiger 6 April

B. UDT 11 13 April

C. Sea Tiger 16 April

D. Sea Tiger 23 April

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wounded, one seriously, and one VNN also seriously wounded. Enemy casualties were unknown. Repairs to the two boats are being made by YR 70 and NAVSUPPACT DaNang.

While enroute to a Sea Tiger night WBGP about three and one half kilometers south of Hoi An on the night of 23 April, PBRs 67 and 33, under Patrol Officer LTJG R. Kelly and Boat Captains BM1 Mansfield and BM1 Douglass respectively, received approximately two rounds of RPG/B-40 and small arms fire. PBR 67 was hit by the RPG/B-40 fire and sank (BT 153 533). PBR 33 returned the fire and picked up the crew of PBR 67 and then ran aground (BT 155 534). GMGSN Eric Tuller and one U.S. Marine aboard PBR 67 were killed during this engagement while three other Navymen, including Boat Captain BM1 Mansfield, and two VNN were wounded. Enemy casualties were unknown. Two helo gunships, two VNN PCFs, PBRs 95 and 131, and one lightship provided security at the scene for the remainder of the night. The following morning PBRs of RivDiv 543, Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) 11 Detachment HOTEL, LCM 826, and a CH-54 skycrane commenced salvage operations. PBR 67 broke up when being lifted by the skycrane and was returned to MSB-1 for survey. PBR 33, which had sunk in four feet of water, was lifted free of the water by the skycrane and allowed to drain. The boat was then pumped out and towed to SCRF DaNang for repairs. No further casualties were incurred during the salvage operation.

Second Coastal Zone

Although good weather conditions prevailed throughout the Second Coastal Zone for much of the month of April, the number of

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detections of craft by U. S. Navy forces plummeted sharply. This was mainly due to the turnover of seven USN PCFs and the patrol responsibilities for inshore areas four and five to the Vietnamese Navy under the operational designator CTG 115.2 VNN/CTG 213.2 which occurred at Nha Trang on 1 April. A total of 901 watercraft were detected, and, of these, 702 were inspected and another three boarded.

The number of Naval gunfire support missions also fell off sharply with only three reported during April as opposed to 20 in March. Gun damage assessment for these missions was negligible.

On 10 April, PCF 57 ran aground at the southwest corner of Refugee Island (CQ 172 565). She was pulled off some five hours later by PCF 54 and returned to port under her own power. Both screws and the starboard skeg were damaged. Repairs were effected at the Market Time Base, Qui Nhon, on 13 April.

On 12 April, PCF 58 detained one VC male for suspected false identification papers (CQ 14 80). The person's sampan had been taking water and was kept afloat by the PCF towing it. PCF 58 requested that a CG 23 (US) skimmer tow the sampan to shallow water. However, when the skimmer began towing, the tow line broke and the sampan sank. The detainee was turned over to CG 23.

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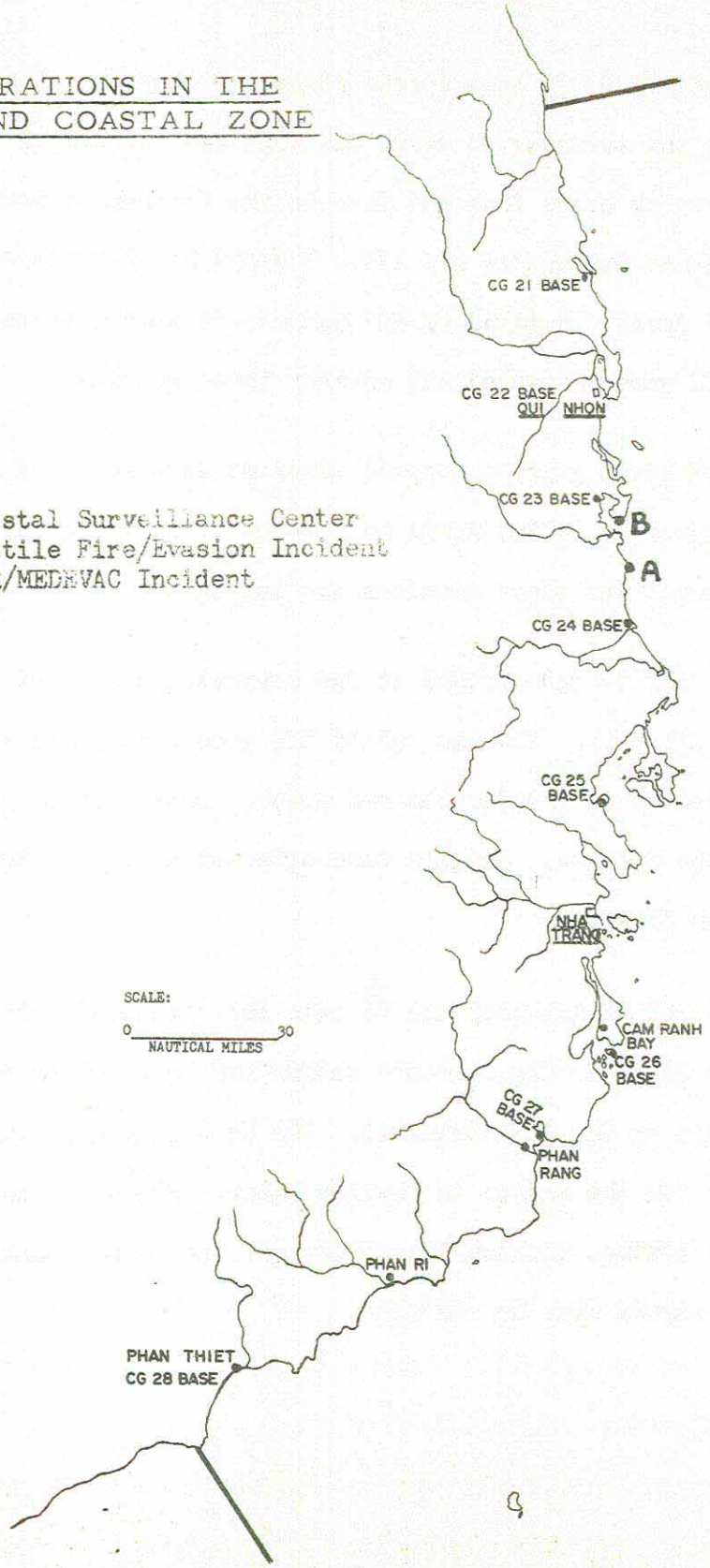
OPERATIONS IN THE SECOND COASTAL ZONE



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

A. PCF 57 10 April

B. PCF 58 12 April

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Third Coastal Zone

Water traffic in the Third Coastal Zone remained at a fairly high level during the month of April with 5,812 craft detected, 2,268 of which were inspected and another 2,422 boarded. Market Time "Swift" boats also continued their patrols in the Game Warden area of operations. The lower Bassac River was patrolled continuously during the month while the lower Ham Luong was patrolled from 1-16 April and 26-30 April and the lower Cua Tieu from 19-24 April. There were a total of 2,778 craft detected with 958 of them inspected and another 1,373 boarded. There were no incidents of evading craft, and only one craft and 15 persons were detained by the PCFs operating in the Game Warden AO.

Naval gunfire support missions by Market Time units in the Third Coastal Zone increased significantly over the 125 recorded in March. In April, there were more than 178 missions fired by these units. These missions consisted of H and I, targets of opportunity, pre-planned river and canal incursions, and requests for urgent gunfire support. Gun damage assessment of these missions was substantial.

On 29 April, two USCG WPBs, PT CAUTION and PT WELCOME, were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy in ceremonies at Cat Lo.

On 2 April, USCG WPBs, PT CYPRESS and PT WELCOME, under the command of LTJG Godfrey and LTJG Wyche respectively, launched skimmers in an area 23 kilometers northeast of CG 35 (VIC 835 901) and stood by for support. The PT CYPRESS skimmer encountered three VC males in a sampan shortly after starting its patrol. The VC dove into the

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water and attempted to make the bank. The skimmer took the VC under fire and called in 81mm mortar support. The skimmer then captured a grenade and documents from the abandoned sampan. Both skimmers were extracted and picked up by PT CYPRESS and PT WELCOME. The three VC were killed with no casualties to the U.S. personnel. The two WPBs, continuing their patrol, destroyed eight sampans and three long shaft motors.

The USCG WPBs, PT BANKS, under the command of LT Lashley, and PT LOMAS, under the command of LTJG Foskey, entered a canal approximately 21 miles southeast of Ben Tre (XS 734 028) on the afternoon of 10 April and proceeded to destroy enemy offensive bunkers, camouflaged sampans, and reinforced structures along the canal bank. In the vicinity of XR 733 983, an apparent VC staging area for a VC intelligence office was found with a VC rice paper flag and numerous revolutionary slogans glued to numerous tree trunks. The staging area was destroyed and the PT BANKS and PT LOMAS extracted with no contact with enemy forces. Gun damage assessment for PT BANKS included two non-motorized sampans, 13 bunkers, five structures, and one haystack destroyed. The PT LOMAS captured a sampan and turned it over to CG 34.

Also on 10 April, PCF 65, with Officer in Charge LTJG Wallace, detected a sampan exiting from a canal some 22 miles east of Soc Trang (XR 340 673). When PCF 65 closed and illuminated the sampan, the single occupant leaped into the water and attempted to evade. He was immediately taken under fire and probably wounded. The sampan was searched and

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destroyed. Two hand grenades, one M-2 carbine magazine, two bags of rice, one bundle of documents, and one bundle of confirmed VC mail were captured.

PT BANKS, LT Lashley commanding, and the VNN PCF 3825 were inserted into an area 12 miles south of Soc Trang (XR 155 442) on the afternoon of 23 April in order to fire on the suspected positions of two VC companies. After 25 minutes of firing 15 to 20 VC, all young men, were observed fleeing from a structure. They attempted to hide in vegetation and irrigation canals and the PT BANKS saturated the area with intense 81 mm, .50 cal., and 7.62 mm fire which restricted the enemy's movement. Meanwhile, VAL 4 OV-10s arrived on the scene and put an air strike into the area. However, the smoke from burning structures limited their identification of individual targets. The PT BANKS killed three VC and wounded four more. The Coast Guard unit also destroyed 12 structures and three sampans while damaging two structures and two bunkers and capturing one 18 foot sampan. VNN PCF 3825 destroyed one structure and damaged several others.

The PT BANKS continued her high tempo of operations on the afternoon of 29 April when she fired a Naval gunfire support mission 20 miles southeast of Se Tra Vinh (VIC XR 70 77 to 72 76) with a unit from the 199th FAC spotting. Gun damage assessment for this mission was four structures. three bunkers, and one sampan destroyed while one bunker and two structures were damaged.

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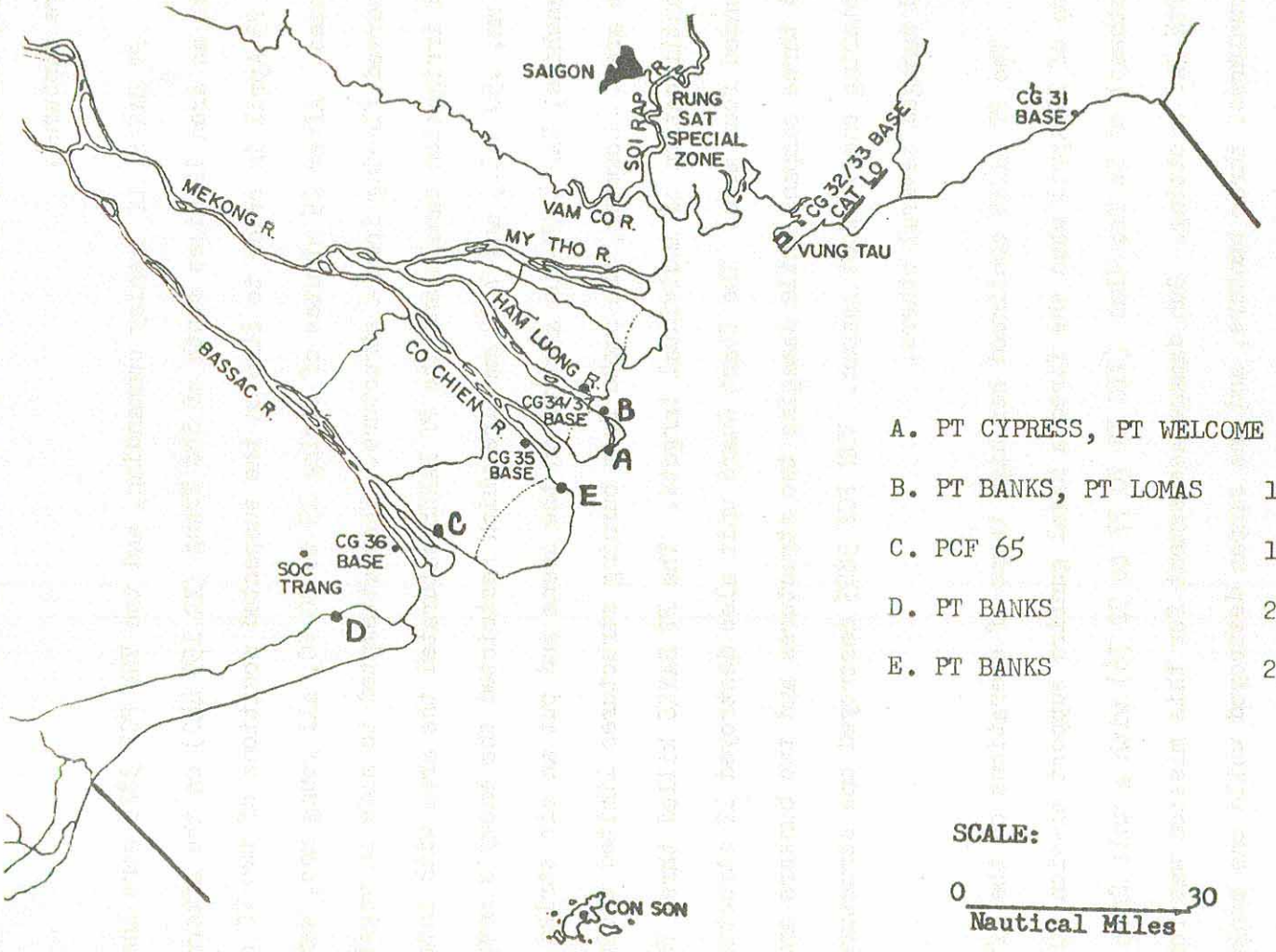
OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



A. PT CYPRESS, PT WELCOME 2 April

B. PT BANKS, PT LOMAS 10 April

C. PCF 65 10 April

D. PT BANKS 23 April

E. PT BANKS 29 April

SCALE:

0 30

Nautical Miles

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Fourth Coastal Zone

Market Time units continued to man special patrol areas in area Nine in the Fourth Coastal Zone during the first seven days of April. These special Gulf of Thailand patrols were discontinued on 8 April after it was determined that the results did not substantiate intelligence reports of large scale enemy infiltration in this area. The four PBRs of this special patrol were returned to the operational control of CTG 194.3 while the four PCFs remained to continue Market-Time patrols in areas 9E1 and 9D1.

The Market Time units involved in the special Gulf of Thailand patrols detected 2,802 craft during the month. Of these, 964 were inspected and another 570 boarded.

Special Gulf of Thailand Patrols

On 3 April, PCF 72 detected a motorized sampan in a restricted zone 19 miles southwest of Rach Gia (VR 84 86). A search of the sampan revealed 1600 pounds of unmanifested rice. The rice, and the two occupants of the sampan, were turned over to the Fourth Coastal Zone Intelligence Officer at Rach Gia.

USS ASHEVILLE (PG84) detected and detained a sampan 26 miles north of Sang Ong Doc (VR 78 45) on 7 April. The sampan was carrying a large quantity of medicine, shovel heads, foodstuffs, soap, candles, candy, wire, mosquito nets, writing paper, and, in the words of the message reporting the incident, "enough supplies to stock a small general store." The cargo was confiscated due to the lack of a proper manifest.

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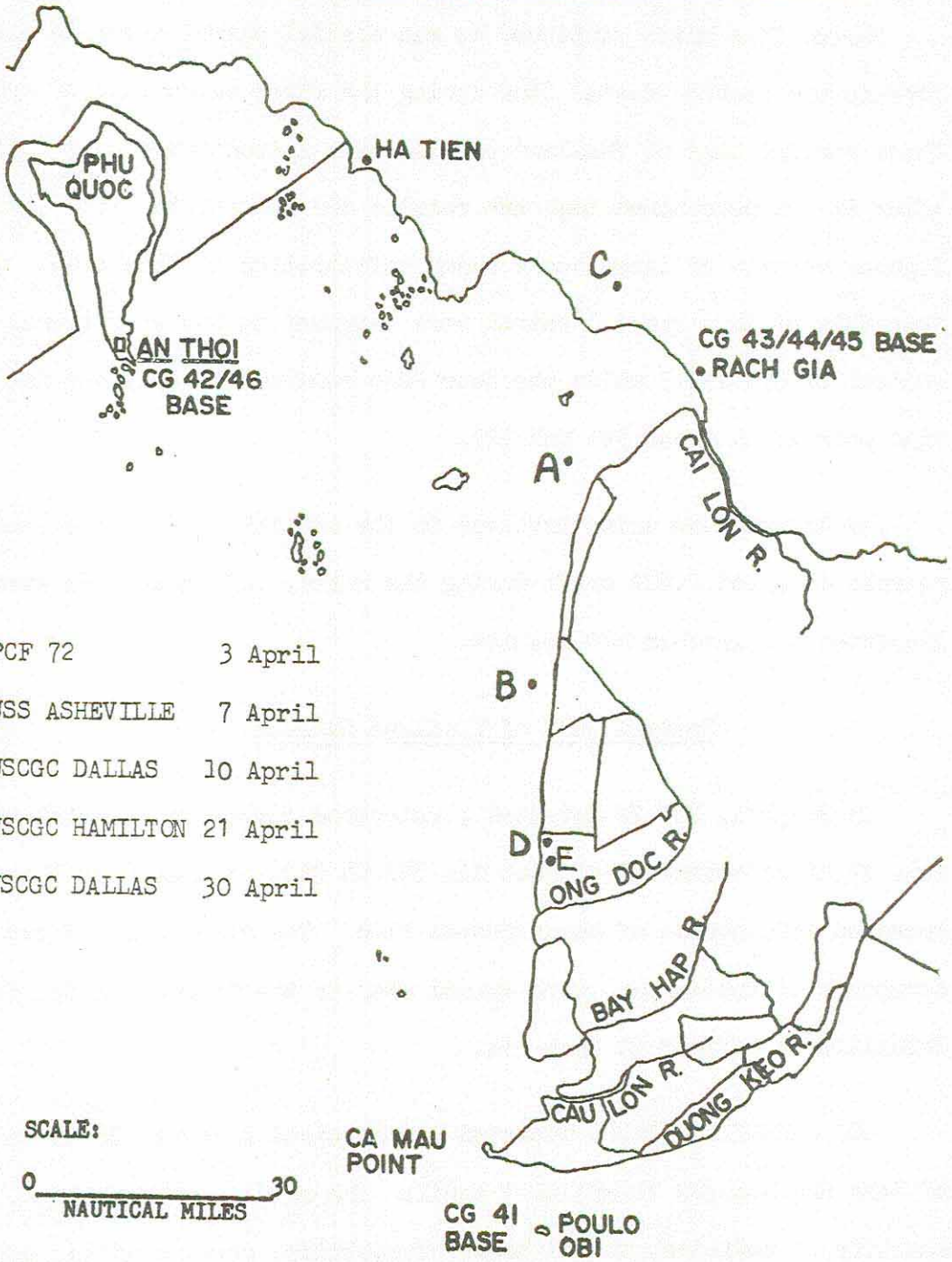
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



A. PCF 72 3 April

B. USS ASHEVILLE 7 April

C. USCGC DALLAS 10 April

D. USCGC HAMILTON 21 April

E. USCGC DALLAS 30 April

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Gulf of Thailand Offshore Patrol
Unit Area 8/9 (WHEC Assigned) CTG 115.6

On 10 April, the USCGC DALLAS (WHEC 716) fired a gunfire support mission in Market Time area Nine about four miles east of Duong Dong (VIC VS 95 31). The mission was requested by the Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO) at An Thoi and consisted of VC staging areas, base camps, liaison routes, and shelter areas. The five inch gun of the cutter accounted for five bunkers and four structures destroyed as well as interdicting several hundred meters of trails and wooded areas.

The USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715) fired a gunfire support mission arranged by CTG 194.2 on 21 April approximately nine and one half miles north of new Song Ong Doc (VIC VR 837 144, 827 176). The HAMILTON destroyed four structures, damaged six others, and also damaged one sampan. There were two VC probably killed during this mission.

On the afternoon of 30 April, the USCGC DALLAS (WHEC 716) was requested to standby in support of a sweep being made by a company of the 21st ARVN Division, approximately six and one half miles north of Song Ong Doc (VR 825 104). Gunfire support was called for by the ground troops, and the cutter quickly responded. Shortly after the DALLAS opened fire, a Dustoff helicopter with six ARVN casualties landed on board for emergency medical attention by the ship's doctor. After an hour of steady firing, the cutter had expended all her HC and CVT projectiles and repositioned the vessel to seaward in order to take the targets under fire with rocket assisted projectiles (RAP).

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During a brief lull, the Dustoff helicopter lifted the wounded ARVN to Ca Mau. The DALLAS remained on station into the evening hours and continued to provide gunfire support for the troops ashore. The cutter's gunfire killed 14 VC (4 BC, 10 PROB) and destroyed six structures during the operation.

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Operation Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III

There were over 223 gunfire support missions, including Sea Float and SEAL missions, conducted in the Sea Float AO during the month of April. These missions were part of a continuing attempt to keep the enemy off balance by destroying his base camps, extortion stations, and secret areas while interdicting his known and suspected routes of travel.

Although the random sweeps by U.S. and VN SEALS, Kit Carson Scouts, and Mobile Strike Force and Regional Force troops has continued to disrupt enemy operations and has prevented him from reasserting his control over a once secure haven, the VC presence is still evident in the area. This presence was acutely felt by Sea Float personnel on the night of 21 April when Sea Float was attacked by four enemy swimmers who were carrying enough explosives to completely destroy the MASTB. Alert sentries and immediate reaction by Sea Float personnel thwarted this attack, the first since Sea Float was established in June, 1969, and all four swimmers were killed.

One of the continuing problems at Sea Float has been that of adequate resupply of diesel fuel, fresh water, and food. A cloudiness of the water at the Solid Anchor site (probably aqua-gel) has precluded its use as a source of potable water to date. Part of the shortages were alleviated during the last days of April when VNN LSM HQ-404 made back to back resupply runs from Nha Be to Sea Float, but a permanent solution to the problem has not yet been found.

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Solid Anchor construction continued throughout the month. The Seabees, plagued by an absence of sand at various times, had finished a water tower and taken great strides in land clearance by the end of April. Work continued on showers, the sewer system, and the perimeter fence.

The following U.S. and VNN craft and units operated in the Sea-Float AO during part of or all of the month: PCFs 3, 9, 16, 17, 18, 22, 35, 37, 38, 50, 52, 56, 64, 82, 89, 93, 96, 691, 693, and 695; USS TERRELL COUNTY (LST-1151), USS IREDELL COUNTY (LST-839), USS ASHEVILLE (PG 84), USS ANTELOPE (PG 86), USS READY (PG 87); LCPL; Sea Float River Assault Craft Detachment consisting of ATCs 4, 9, and 13, ASPBs 2 and 3, Zippo 2, Monitor 3, and Utility Boat 2; SEAL Team 1, Detachment GOLF; Underwater Demolition Team 11, Detachment GOLF; Duffle Bag Team CTE 194.1.5.2; Seawolves; Slicks; OV-10s; LSMs HQ-401, HQ-402, and HQ-404, LSSL HQ-231; LSIL HQ-331; VNN PCFs 00, 05, 07, 12, 13 and 14; Coastal Groups 33, 35, and 36 craft and personnel; VNN POLWAR Team; VNN Reaction Team; VNN Rangers; Mobile Strike Force troops; Mobile Strike Team Two, Detachments CHARLIE, FOXTROT, and GOLF Regional Force troops; Kit Carson Scouts; EODMUPAC Team 70, Elements FOUR, FIVE, and SIX; and EODMUPAC Team VNN 03. These forces conducted psyops missions and escort services for logistics craft along the rivers and canals. Air assets provided psyops missions in those areas inaccessible to water craft. The afloat units and the Mobile Advanced Tactical Support Base conducted nightly H and I fire into known and suspected VC base camps and extortion stations.

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On 6 April, LT F. G. Winant, OIC of SEAL Team One, Detachment GOLF, FOXTROT Platoon, relieved LT R. J. Flanagan, OIC of SEAL Team One, Detachment GOLF, GOLF Platoon, as CTE 115.7.6.2.

Also on 6 April, CDR Paul F. Treagy, Jr., USN, was relieved as Commander Task Group 115.7 by CDR Robert W. Curran, USN.

RADM Douglas H. Plate, USN, and a party of five visited Sea Float on the afternoon of 22 April and were briefed on current operations, intelligence, and psyops. The party then toured the Solid Anchor site prior to departing for Binh Thuy.

RADM Hoefer, USNR-R, and NBC-TV newsman Jim Bennet along with a Chicago Tribune representative visited Sea Float and Solid Anchor on 23 April. The group also visited the Sea Float Annex area where they observed refugees being resettled in the hamlet.

On 24 April, Captain Packer, MACMA, CAPT Robertson, Staff COMNAVPHIL, and party visited the Sea Float complex. After a C-ration lunch and a briefing, the group toured the Sea Float Annex and the Solid Anchor site.

On 25 April ENS Willie L. Holt, USNR, was relieved as OINC MST Two, Detachment Two, Detachment CHARLIE, (CTE 115.7.6.3) by LTJG John B. Barnes, USN.

Sea Float Missions

On the evening of 21 April, the VC attempted their first swimmer attack on the Sea Float complex. At 2050H, bubbles were sighted in the vicinity of Sea Float, indicating the possible presence of a scuba-

equipped swimmer. The area was immediately brought under fire with grenades and the bubbles ceased. Some five hours later loin cloth garbed swimmers using snorkels were sighted coming in from two directions. The first swimmer sighted had actually reached the ammo-storage ammi before being seen. Sea Float personnel immediately went to General Quarters and saturated the area with small arms fire and concussion grenades. H and I illumination was also provided. The swimmers, believed to be four in number, submerged and were not seen again. Approximately one hour later, firing was secured in order that UDT personnel could inspect the MATSB. However, nothing was found. By 1430H on 24 April, four bodies had been found and three recovered. Three of the four swimmers were equipped with Soviet defensive grenades, time fuse pencils, blasting caps, nylon line, snorkel breathing tubes, plus other assorted mining and swimming paraphernalia. In addition, one of the three swimmers carried 250 one quarter pound TNT blocks in a case interspersed with ten pounds of plastic explosive. The explosives were recovered and subsequently destroyed by EOD team members. Of the four swimmers, two were killed by gunfire and one probably by concussion grenade. The other body was not recovered. The alert sentries and aggressive and immediate reaction by all hands to the swimmer attack saved Sea Float from almost certain destruction.

MSF elements and Seawolves from Sea Float were also kept busy on the night of 21 April. While on patrol in the vicinity of WQ 124 757, the MSF patrol came into contact with seven VC and took them under fire. Two fell while the others ran into a treeline. The MSF unit then began to receive S/A fire from an estimated 10 to 15 VC from various sides.

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Seawolves were scrambled and placed strikes into the VC positions. Four of the enemy were caught by the Seawolves' strobe light possibly attempting to set up a mortar. The VC fled into the treeline, and after a further strike, contact ceased. Six VC are estimated to have been killed in this encounter.

While providing cover for a Dustoff helo on a MSF Medevac on the afternoon of 22 April, Seawolves spotted a sampan with the occupants fleeing in the vicinity of WQ 134 773. The enemy was taken under fire by the Seawolves, and one was killed (BC). Receiving S/A fire from a nearby position, the Seawolves put in another strike which resulted in the death of another VC (BC). Black Ponies called in to cover the Seawolves assisted in making further strikes which killed a third VC (BC). Fifteen sampans were also destroyed during the mission.

SEAL Operations

On the morning of 1 April, Echo platoon of SEAL Team One, Detachment GOLF, under the command of LTJG Ward, was inserted by Army Slick into an area approximately 20 kilometers northeast of Sea Float (VIC WQ 065 857). The target for this mission was a VC village office, communication section, and grenade factory. Heavy A/W fire was received during the insertion, and minutes later, the SEALs received word that the Slick had gone down in the vicinity of WQ 060 877. Seawolf strikes were called in, and the SEALs proceeded to the downed helo and set up a security perimeter. Shortly after the perimeter was set, a swing-ship Slick from Ca Mau arrived and extracted the crew of the downed Slick. The covering Seawolves began to receive A/W fire at this time

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and, after putting in strikes of their own, called in Black Ponies. While SEALS, Seawolves, and Black Ponies continued to provide security, the downed chopper was rigged for extraction, and at 1200H, three hours after it went down, the Slick was lifted out by a Chinook. The SEALS were then extracted by Slick and Seawolves while the Black Ponies of VAL-4, Detachment Six, remained on the scene and put in further strikes on VC positions. The outstanding coordination between the SEAL unit and air assets resulted in the successful extraction of both the Slick and the SEALS without incurring any personnel casualties while the enemy lost one VC killed (BC) and two wounded by the SEAL's fire, and four others killed (BC) by the Seawolves and Black Ponies.

Two SEALS of SEAL Team One, Detachment GOLF, along with a KCS platoon, were inserted by Slick into an area 14 kilometers northwest of Sea Float (VQ 878 742) on the morning of 6 April to seek out a VC cache containing 40 tons of rice. The cache was quickly found and 35 tons of rice were destroyed while 1500 pounds were airlifted by Slick for use by Sea Float and Sea Float Annex personnel. Also captured were two kilos of documents and a VC flag.

On 16 April, Foxtrot Platoon of SEAL Team One, Detachment GOLF, under LT Winant, was inserted by Army Slick into an area 15 kilometers northeast of new Nam Can (WQ 195 883). Three VC were captured by the point element shortly after insertion while the security element discovered a bunker with three persons inside. After four unsuccessful attempts to call them out, a concussion grenade was thrown at the base

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of the entrance but deflected into the bunker and wounded the three persons who were later found to be civilians. Following the medevac of the civilians, the security element captured two more VC in a bunker. In less than one hour, the SEALs had captured five of the enemy. Seawolves flying cover for the mission killed one VC (BC) after receiving A/W fire from a hooch one kilometer southwest of the objective area.

Echo Platoon also encountered action on the evening of 16 April. The SEALs were inserted by Army Slick about 16 kilometers southeast of old Nam Can (WQ 134 615) on a mission to interdict traffic on a suspected VC supply route. About four and a half hours later two groups of sampans were observed moving toward the SEAL's position. Two of the sampans were approaching from the south with approximately eight persons embarked while the other three sampans, with approximately six occupants, were approaching from the north. The SEALs hailed the occupants of the sampans who then attempted to evade and were taken under fire. Six of the evading VC were killed (4 BC, 2 prob) and one, a wounded female with a small child, was captured. All five of the sampans were destroyed as were ten kilos of tobacco and 40 kilos of rice. Three sampan motors, two VC grenades, a U.S. smoke grenade, a VC flag, and five kilos of documents were also captured. The SEALs were then extracted by an MSSC from MST Detachment GOLF under LTJG Henderickson. As the MSSC was returning to Sea Float, it was hit by B-40 rocket and AK-47 fire which ruptured a fuel tank and did a great deal of damage to the hydraulic system, electrical wiring, and cooling system, causing a loss of steering. The fire was suppressed and Seawolf strikes called into

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the ambush site. Meanwhile PCFs 18 and 89, with Patrol Officer LTJG Swift, rendezvoused with the crippled MSSC and towed her back to Sea Float. One U.S. sailor was slightly wounded during the attack.

LTJG Ward and Echo Platoon were inserted by Slick into an area 16 kilometers north of Sea Float (WQ 044 847) on a mission to destroy a VC rice cache on 26 April. Supporting Seawolves led by LTJG McCamy spotted a VC attempting to flee the area and pinned him in a bunker until the SEALs arrived and captured him. The platoon then continued its patrol and captured another VC hiding in a fighting hole and found the rice cache. The two prisoners were extracted and an L/P set at the cache site. 30 minutes later seven armed VC were observed approaching the cache site from the east and southeast. However, a female in a nearby hooch detected the SEALs and shouted a warning to the VC who evaded and were taken under fire. Seawolves were called and took one VC under fire while receiving heavy S/A and A/W fire. The rice cache was destroyed, and the SEALs were extracted by Slick and returned to Sea Float. There were four VC killed (2 BC, 2 PROB), one wounded, and seven tons of rice destroyed. The two prisoners were identified as a village VC Farmers Association Chief and a VC Farmers Association member.

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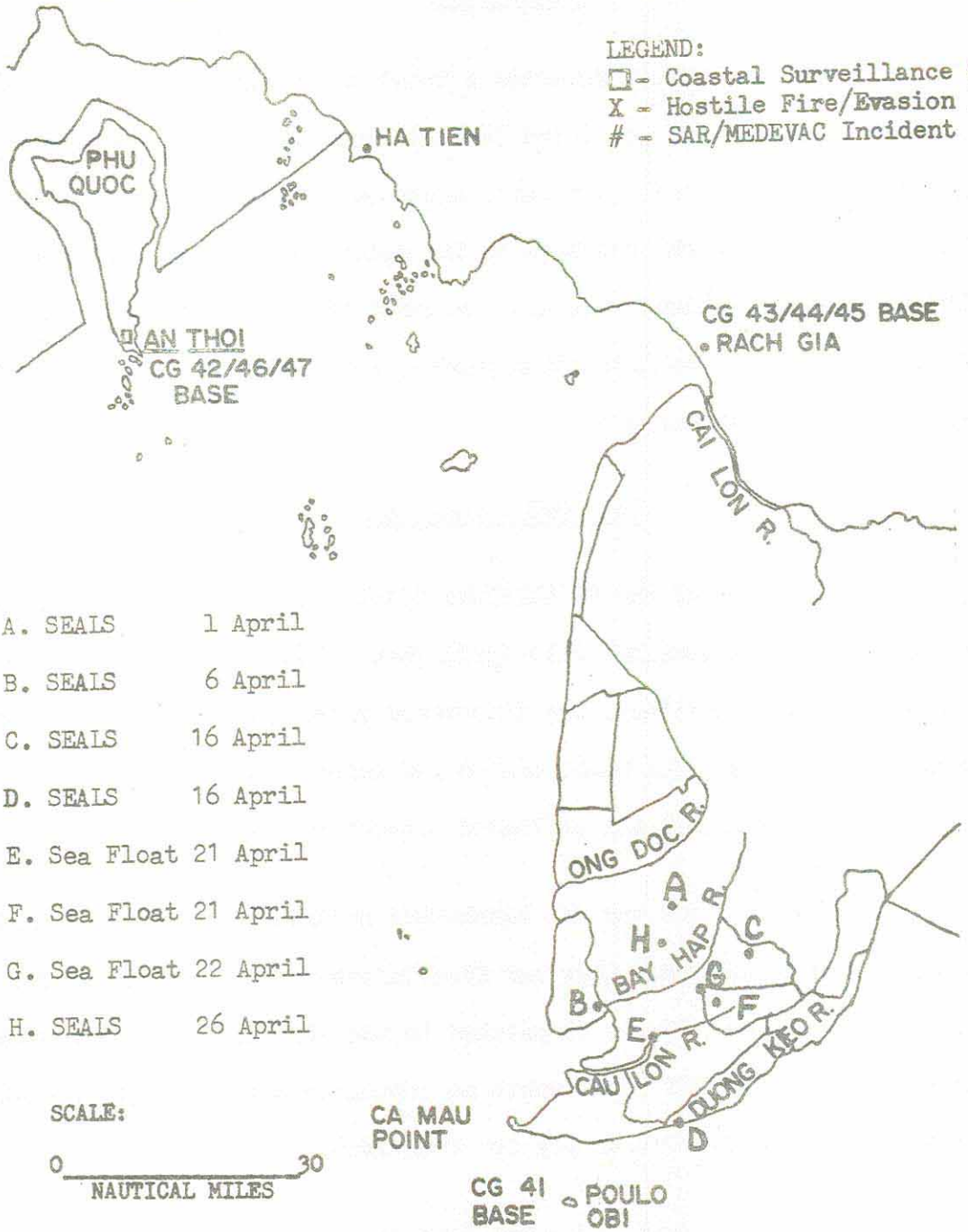
OPERATION SEA FLOAT/TRAN HUNG DAO III

SOLID ANCHOR

OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



A. SEALS 1 April

B. SEALS 6 April

C. SEALS 16 April

D. SEALS 16 April

E. Sea Float 21 April

F. Sea Float 21 April

G. Sea Float 22 April

H. SEALS 26 April

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Stable Door

Stable Door forces detected a total of 35,633 watercraft in the harbors of the Second and Third Coastal Zones during the month of April. 5,654 of these craft were inspected, and another 4,116 were boarded. These checks resulted in the detention of 183 craft and 169 persons for various reasons. Included in these reasons were faulty or missing identification papers, possession of contraband, and restricted zone violations.

Unit ONE - Vung Tau

Crew members of the SS KEYSTONE STATE uncovered a large surprise late in the evening of 16 April when a 750 pound bomb, not on the ship's cargo manifest, was discovered under the general cargo in hold number three. The bomb, crated and unfused, was examined by Unit ONE EOD personnel and offloaded without incident.

On 25 April, the tug M/T KAMEHAMEHA notified the Harbor Entrance Control Post (HECP) that they had five injured men aboard and requested assistance. Picket 27 was dispatched to the ship and transported the injured men to the MST piers where an ambulance met them and took them to the 345th Medical Dispensary for treatment.

Unit TWO - Cam Ranh Bay

The silence of the late evening hours of 31 March was shattered by the sounds of an explosion in the vicinity of the Army POL farm. Navy EOD personnel were alerted and proceeded to the ammo piers to

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conduct an inspection of the piers, and the ships and barges in the harbor for possible satchel charges. At about 0112H on 1 April, four rocket rounds impacted some four hundred meters northwest of the HECP. Moments later Picket 51 observed five more rockets being fired from the vicinity of CP 020 089 along the free fire zone and was given permission to open fire. Artillery fire was also called into the area. At 0409H, six more rounds impacted near the ammo piers, and EOD personnel commenced another check of ships and barges in the harbor with negative results. One RPG 107 round was found by Skimmer 31 following these attacks.

On the afternoon of 19 April, LCPL 43 reported that an Army diving barge had found two mines in the water at BP 006 110. The mines were attached to a hand detonator at the end of forty feet of wire. EOD personnel arrived on the scene within minutes and received S/A fire from the beach. EOD personnel were ordered to depart the area while LCPL 43 commenced a firing run. However, the LCPL's .50 cal machine guns jammed, and receiving S/A fire from the beach, she was forced to depart the area. Twenty minutes later, two explosions were observed on the beach. LCPL 66 then arrived on the scene and commenced firing runs on the beach. No S/A fire was received, so the EOD team was sent back to recover the suspected mines. They found the hand detonator, the wires, and the blasting caps, but the charges had been removed. The EOD team also found a partially disassembled claymore mine and a half pound block of TNT buried in the sand. Army gunships were called into the area and put in strikes for

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approximately 20 minutes. Some S/A fire was observed by LCPL 66 which directed the gunships to concentrate fire in that area. Enemy casualties were unknown.

Unit THREE - Qui Nhon

On 27 April, Skimmer 89, with SM3 James Jernigan and two VN crew members, was on a routine harbor patrol when a piece of styrofoam some 20 inches by 18 inches by 6 inches was observed floating in the water. SM3 Jernigan retrieved the styrofoam and placed it in the skimmer. The skimmer then proceeded to a mooring buoy, and SM3 Jernigan started to put the styrofoam on top of it. As he did so he noticed a grenade on the buoy and immediately had the boat start backing. However, the grenade exploded wounding all three crew members. A later investigation revealed that the grenade had been placed on the buoy with the pin pulled so that it would explode at the slightest movement, which it did when SM3 Jernigan put the styrofoam on the buoy. The two VN crewmen were treated and returned to duty while SM3 Jernigan, who lost the tips of two fingers of his right hand and suffered injuries to his right leg, arms, and face as well, was medevaced to USNH, Yokosuka, Japan, on 29 April.

Unit FOUR - Nha Trang

A special services craft containing two U.S. Army personnel and one U.S. civilian developed engine trouble and beached at CP 047 450 in the afternoon of 1 April. Upon completing repairs, the U.S.

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personnel sighted ARVN troops emerging from the undergrowth nearby. As the craft began to move away from the beach, the ARVN troops opened fire, wounding one Army man. Assistance was requested, and the HECP dispatched Skimmer 25 to the scene. The special services craft was directed to the harbor defense boat for landing, and the wounded man was taken to the 8th Field Hospital by a Unit FOUR truck.

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Seventh Fleet Units

The following Seventh Fleet units operated in Market Time during the month of April, 1970:

USCGC KLAMATH (WHEC 66)	1	
USCGC PONTCHARTRAIN (WHEC 70)	17-25	27-30
USCGC MELLON (WHEC 717)	7-25	
USCGC CHASE (WHEC 718)	15-16	
USCGC DALLAS (WHEC 716)	1-2	9-16
USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715)	3-8	17-25
USS PRIME (MSO 466)	1-13	
USS LUCID (MSO 458)	14-30	
USS PEACOCK (MSC 198)	1-3	
USS WIDGEON (MSC 203)	1-7	
USS WOODPECKER (MSC 209)	7-12	
USS ADVANCE (MSO 510)	12-30	
USS ORLECK (DD 886)	1-4	
USS TERRELL COUNTY (LST 1157)	1-30	
USS O'CALLAHAN (DE 1051)	5-14	
USS PIVOT (MSO 463)	12-30	

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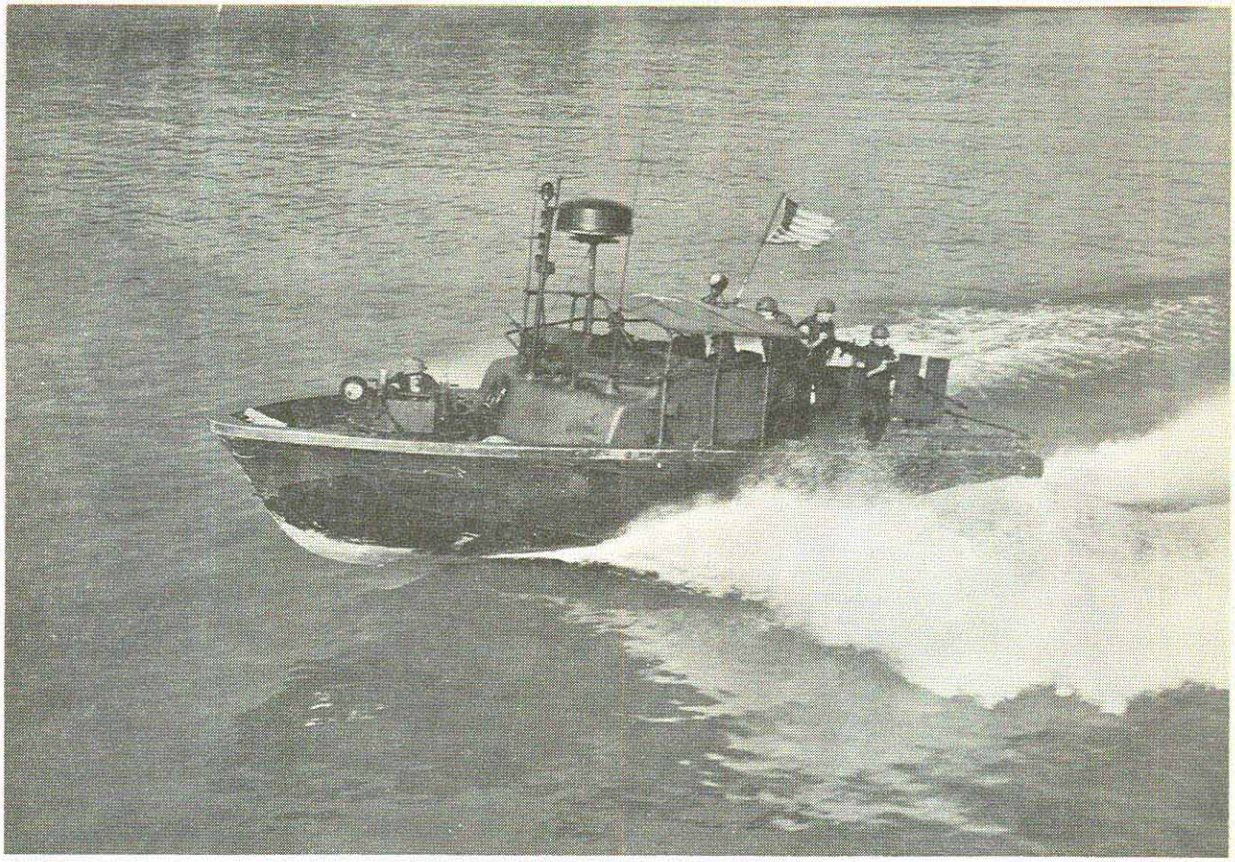

A U. S. Navy river patrol boat (PBR) speeds through a river in the Mekong Delta while patrolling to interdict movement of Viet Cong personnel and materials. The heavily armed craft are the backbone of the River Patrol Force in the Republic of Vietnam.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY

Reduction of the River Patrol Force continued in the month of April. The Bassac River Patrol Group was reduced to one river division, River Division 535. The two operational forces remaining included TF 116.8, Clearwater, at Tan My, and TF 116.9 in the Rung Sat Special Zone. Task Units 116.9.2, COMINDIV 112; 116.9.5, SEAL Detachment ALPHA; 116.9.6, SEAL Detachment BRAVO; and 116.9.8, HAL 3, Detachment Two, operated from Nha Be Naval Base. Mobile Support Team Two, Detachments ALPHA and BRAVO, and the EOD Team remained at Nha Be.

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CTF Clearwater

There was a slight decrease in enemy activity during April. However, enemy efforts remained high around the Cua Viet River. Intelligence reported a Viet Cong/NVA meeting was held on the 17th concerning increased mining operations on the Cua Viet. Representatives from a Combined Assault Company, the Gio Linh Armed Company (an artillery unit), and local guerrilla units planned attacks on Allied units near Gio Hai. The attacks were to increase in intensity after the 20th. This plan conformed to a Corps-wide high point effort during the same time frame. The enemy's concern with the resettlement of the north bank of the Cua Viet and the turnover of assets to the VNN indicates a strong local government and an effective Vietnamese armed force so close to North Vietnam is a long term military/political impediment. Reestablishment of South Vietnamese influence near the DMZ constitutes a distasteful loss of face for the enemy. Consequently, enemy efforts increased toward the end of the month during the phase of decreased lunar illumination.

Sapper team activity was reported as early as 5 April. Sapper teams of up to six people were operating north of the Cua Viet River. One team, four men and two women, carried individual weapons and sapper equipment. The mission of the unit was to observe activities of U.S. and VNN forces, plant mines in the Cua Viet River, and to harass U.S. Army units on the north bank with artillery fire. Their activity concentrated around the villages of Xuan Khanh and Kuan Ngang. There was a continued high level of mining in the river but no artillery

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attacks materialized. There has been no artillery attack on the Cua Viet River since the 7 December 1969 rocket attack on the NSAD Cua Viet. However, such an artillery attack by the enemy is within his capability and could be launched if so desired.

Resettlement of Vietnamese civilians along the north bank of the Cua Viet River caused violations of restricted areas. Approximately 43 sampans and over 500 persons were reported in the restricted areas during the month. The heavier settlements concentrated in Quang Tri province about four kilometers southwest of the Clearwater ATSB. While pacification and resettlement of these areas is one of the goals of military operations, the early surge of eager settlers in these areas hampered military operations, masked Viet Cong infiltration, and otherwise made the task of securing the LOC more difficult.

Patrol units conducted weekly medcaps in the province throughout the month. Weekly revisits were made to the Hay Tay, An Gia, Gai Do, Thon Hoa Duan, and An Soi Phong villages. The treatment most frequently required was for colds and skin infections, particularly about the eyes. In some cases, whole families were infected. The medcap teams distributed soap and psyops literature. The medcap missions were well received.

The PBR units, LCPL units, and the MCM units, conducted patrols, daily swept the river with chain drags, and set waterborne guardposts. Mine detonations occurred almost daily. The mines were detonated by scare charges, dredged up by chain drags, and caught up in fish nets by local fishermen.

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An example of one day's routine operations for the combined forces in the JOC occurred on 4 April. Patrol units operating as a blocking force with the Phu Vang S/S and 2/501 BN 101st ABN Division detained 81 draft dodgers, nine deserters, 14 AWOL, and one Viet Cong infiltrator, believed to be the VC Commissioner of the area. From the 280 persons checked, five M-1 rifles and six 12 gauge shotguns were collected.

At 1000H on the 4th of April, an ARVN LCM-8 carrying ten Vietnamese civilians detonated a mine on the Cua Viet River wounding eight of the civilians. The craft was beached. The mine was a pressure mine of the type generally used by 126th Naval Sapper Regiment. A complete mine of this type was recovered the previous day. This mine was equipped with an arming delay device, which, if properly set, hinders effective minesweeping. It is possible that the morning scare charge sweep of the Cua Viet did not detonate this mine because of the arming delay. In addition to the scare charge sweep, the river had been swept twice with two chain drag sweeps. The LCM-8 was traveling west at an undetermined speed on the south side of the river outside of the swept channel when the explosion occurred.

On the 5th of April, PBR Mobile Base One shifted the site of the base to Tan My Cove. During the move, the base remained fully operational.

At 2330H on the 2nd, LCPL 13 on waterborne guardpost observed three persons moving along the riverbank and took them under fire. At the same time, three kilometers to the northeast, the 2nd Platoon A/4/12 Cavalry Troop in night defensive position made contact with an estimated 15 to 20 NVA. 35 minutes later, RF/PF forces engaged a

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squad sized enemy element in Xuan Khanh village. At 0107H an MSM in waterborne guardpost saw people moving along the river bank and took them under fire.

A ground sweep of the contact areas by the A/4/12 Cavalry Troop platoon yielded eight NVA KIA, one RPG-7, two packs each containing a pressure mine, nine back packs containing C-3 plastic explosives, five AK-47's, 20 pineapple grenades, ten potato masher grenades, two litters, and assorted swimmer equipment. Another Viet Cong was killed and one AK-47 captured in the Xuan Khanh village.

The following morning a scare charge run in the river produced one secondary explosion, probably from an NVA pressure mine planted the previous evening by the NVA group before they were intercepted.

This brought to nine the total of watermines detonated in the Cua Viet River from the 4th through the 9th of April. The increased enemy mining activity was believed to be related to the resettlement of the north bank of the Cua Viet.

Out of the estimated 200 to 300 people resettling in the old My LOC area, many were seen leaving their new homes and returning to Xuan Khanh village several hours before enemy contact was made on the evening of the 8th. This movement had not been noticed on other evenings, indicating the local people knew the enemy had come into the area.

The 14th and last mining attempt of the month was discovered at 1740H on the 29th. LCPL 24 was on patrol about four kilometers south-

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west of the Clearwater ATSB when they observed a waterspout about 35 feet astern of a sampan. Fishermen in the sampan were recovering their net when the explosion occurred producing a waterspout of about 50 feet. An NVA pressure mine was caught up in the net and detonated when the men began to haul in the net. There were no casualties to the sampan or its occupants.

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SEAL Operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone

SEAL Detachment ALPHA, 5th Platoon, Squads ALPHA and BRAVO, CTU 116.9.5, operated throughout the RSSZ during the month of April. Although insertions, patrols, and guardposts were set almost nightly, contact with the enemy remained relatively light.

One contact with the enemy occurred on the night of the 3rd ; 14 SEALs including LT Jarkoski and LTJG Norris departed Nha Be at at 1500H and proceeded by LSSC to Cat Lai for a briefing on the night's patrol. EMS Scott and one VNN LDNN accompanied the SEAL team. At Cat Lai, the patrol transferred to VNN PBRs and proceeded to the insertion point. The SEALs proceeded up the Dong Nai River to YS 042 938 where Squad ALPHA went ashore at 1945H to set a trail guardpost. Squad BRAVO continued up the Song Nai River turning left into the Giang Canal to set a guardpost at YS 048 955, about 15 kilometers northeast of Nha Be. The squads remained at their guardposts through the long dark night, and at 0300H, ALPHA Squad heard an unknown number of Viet Cong on both sides of the canal south of their position. The squad called in a night hawk aircraft which reconned the area with night light and mini-gun fire. At 0425H, the squad observed three Viet Cong swimming across the canal toward Squad ALPHA. The SEALs broke guard-post and took the swimmers under fire killing three Viet Cong. The patrol then directed an LHFT strike on the left bank of the Dong Nai River. The strike resulted in a secondary explosion. One SEAL was wounded in the initial fire fight. There were no other friendly casualties.

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Eight SEALs from SEAL Detachment ALPHA, with LT Sarick in charge, proceeded to An Thoi on Phu Quoc Island for a special mission. Intelligence reports indicated infiltration efforts on the part of the NVA had increased. At 2100H on the 26th, the SEAL team departed An Thoi in a VNN PGM accompanied by two PCFs and a Ski Barge. The group arrived at the selected point of insertion at 0530H the following day. On arrival at US 960 520, the Ski Barge commenced ferrying RF troops ashore to the landing area, US 939 512. At 0730H, the operation was aborted and the RF troops extracted. A support craft casualty resulting in possible compromise of the mission during daylight hours led to the abort decision, and the group returned to An Thoi at 1400H on the 28th.

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Rung Sat Special Zone Shipping Incidents

At 0944H on the morning of the 3rd, the SS LOMA VICTORY reported observing three rounds of rocket fire from the west bank of the Long Tau shipping channel. The LOMA VICTORY was in transit north in the channel when the attack occurred. The rounds came from the junction of the Don Canal and the Long Tau channel. Regional Forces Company 601 conducting a daily sweep on the left bank heard the B-40 rocket explosions. Two more RF companies were inserted for a sweep of the firing area. No enemy were sighted. There was no damage to the LOMA VICTORY from the rocket attack.

The second attack of the month occurred on the 14th as the SS ARCA was transiting the shipping channel north at 1030H. Three B-40 rocket rounds exploded off the port side of the ARCA causing no damage. The rounds were fired from the west bank from the junction of the Dan Xay River and the shipping channel. One round exploded in the air short of the ship and small parts of the rocket booster landed on the ship's deck.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY

	Market Time	Game Warden
Detections	10,859	16,573
Inspections	4,993	5,776
Boardings	2,909	5,542
Craft detained	93	0
Persons detained	537	0
Viet Cong suspects	139	*
Hostile fire incidents	23	*
Enemy casualties:		
a. Killed	185 (119 BC, 66 EST)	12
b. Wounded	30	1
c. Captured	34	0
USN casualties:		
a. Killed	1	1
b. Wounded	11	9
c. Captured	0	0
d. Missing	0	0
Enemy material losses:		
a. Destroyed:		
(1) Junks or sampans	210	3
(2) Structures	198	10
b. Captured:		
(1) Junks or sampans	*	0
(2) Weapons	*	0
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	*
(4) Rice (tons)	*	*
c. Damaged:		
(1) Junks or sampans	239	*
(2) Structures	15	*
USN material losses:		
a. Destroyed:		
(1) Surface craft	0	1
(2) Helicopters	0	0
b. Damaged:		
(1) Surface craft	6	0
(2) Helicopters	2	0
SAR missions	0	*

Remarks:

* Information not available or not applicable

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY

Fleet Command and Coastal Surveillance Forces

During the month, the forces of the Coastal Surveillance Forces were augmented by the turnover of seven PCFs at Nha Trang on 1 April and two WPBs at Cat Lo on 29 April. Ships of the Fleet Command involved in Market Time operations and the Coastal Surveillance Forces searched 10,259 junks and 35,252 people. These figures were comparable to those for March. The number of gunfire support missions fired by ships of the Fleet Command was 86, 20% above that for March. However, the results of almost all missions fired were unknown. In the SEA FLOAT AO, the demand for naval gunfire support was especially heavy. As a result, almost nightly H and I missions were fired by LSSL 231 and LSIL 331. The operational patrols of the Fleet Command units were almost uniformly without incident. In ICTZ, PCFs of the Coastal Surveillance Forces engaged in numerous sweep operations which resulted in light and scattered contact with the enemy.

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Coastal Junk Force

During the month of April the strength of the Coastal Junk Groups remained at 225 junks, of which an average of 159 were employed daily. The weather was generally quite favorable for junk operations, and the surveillance figures for the month were only slightly less than those for March. During the course of the month, 62,553 junks and 223,120 people were searched, and 40 junks and 277 people were detained by the coastal junk forces.

First Coastal Zone

Enemy activity in the First Coastal Zone was at a moderately low level throughout the month of April. An attack on CG 14 at Hoi An was indicated by intelligence but never materialized. On the Cua Viet River, however, there was a strong resurgence of the enemy's mining campaign. A total of 15 mining incidents occurred during the month, three times the number in March.

On the morning of 4 April, an LCM-8 of the 101 ARVN Transportation Battalion detonated a probable pressure mine at YD 272 645, about half way between Cua Viet and Dong Ha on the Cua Viet River. The boat was heavily damaged and beached. A CG 11 patrol unit in the vicinity rendered immediate assistance and medevaced the nine ARVN personnel who had been wounded.

During the month, there were two attempts by swimmer-sappers to sabotage the CG 14 base at Hoi An. In the first incident, during the night of 2/3 April, the sapper was seen and chased away before he

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could plant a charge. In the second incident, on the evening of 8 April, a heavy charge was detonated in the vicinity of the base pier. Although little damage was done, the force of the explosion was sufficient for the coastal group's generator, located at the far end of the base, to be tripped off the line.

CG 14 conducted several sweep operations during the month, but there was little contact with the enemy. An operation on Cam Thanh Island was conducted on 16 and 17 April in conjunction with USN PBRs and UDTs. Thirty bunkers and four structures were destroyed, and three VC were killed.

Second Coastal Zone

With the exception of a high point at the beginning of the month, enemy activity in the Second Coastal Zone was light and scattered during April. The Coastal Groups conducted routine patrols, base defense operations, and several sweeps.

On 2 April and again on 14 April, CG 23, in conjunction with national and military police, conducted sweep operations of Lao Chua Island (CQ 175 570), which had little contact with the enemy but netted a number of suspected deserters.

On the evening of 8 April, a junk of CG 21 on a routine patrol was fired on by an unknown unit. The junk withdrew rapidly and further investigation proved the unknown unit to be a company of the U.S. 173rd Airborne. The Army unit had not known that Navy units were patrolling the area and had thought the junk's behavior suspicious.

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2nd Coastal Zone Junk Employment as of 27 April 1970

CG/Homeport	No. of Junks	Type Ops
CG21/DEGI	11	Patrol/Base Defense
CG23/Song Cau	11	Patrol/Base Defense
CG25/Dong Hai	8	Patrol/Base Defense
CG26/CRB	7	Patrol/Base Defense Special Ops
CG27/Phan Rang	8	Patrol/Base Defense Special Ops
CG28/Phan Thiet	9	Special Ops/Base Defense

Third Coastal Zone

Enemy activity in the Third Coastal Zone during the month of April was light. Numerous sweep operations were conducted by the c coastal groups with RF and PF forces, but there were only scattered contacts with the enemy.

On 5 April an ingenious and highly praised operation was carried out by CG 35. Six members of the coastal group, wearing civilian clothes and carrying weapons, boarded a water taxi. On the Song Co Chien (XS 470 047),a VC tax team fired shots in the air to call the water taxi. As the taxi closed the beach, two men in a sampan approached to extract money from the passengers. Much to their surprise (we must suppose) they were met by a hail of gunfire from the CG 35 personnel in the taxi. The two men in the sampan were killed and one other was wounded.

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VADM Zumwalt, COMNAVFORV, sent the following message commending CG 35's action:

> The CG 35 Trojan Horse Ops ...will create a fear of uncertainty that can be significant in reducing enemy extortionist activities. Well done for your ingenuity and success.

Third Coastal Zone Junk Employment as of 24 April 1970

CG/Homeport	No. of Junks	Type/Location Ops
CG 33/Vung Tau	16	Base defense; River patrol (Rach Cua Lap); Coastal patrol (Rach Ong Ben); 4-TAD SeaFloat
CG 34/Tien Ton	16	Base defense; River and Coastal patrol (Song Ham Luong)
CG 35/Hung My	15	Base defense; River and Coastal patrol (Song Co Chien); 3-TAD SeaFloat
CG 36/Dai An	15	Base defense; River and Coastal patrol (Song Hau Giang); 3-TAD SeaFloat

Fourth Coastal Zone

After the initial high point at the beginning of the month, enemy activity in the Fourth Coastal Zone remained at a fairly low level. Both the number of junks searched and the number of people searched showed a 24% decline from the figures for March.

At the end of the month the forces of CTG 115.4 VNN/213.4 were augmented by two PBRs which were transferred from CTG 194.2 in order to conduct close-in night surveillance in patrol areas 9D1 and 9E1.

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There were no significant combat actions in the Fourth Coastal Zone during April.

Fourth Coastal Zone Junk Employment as of 25 April 1970

CG/Homeport	No. of Junks	Type/Location of Ops
CG 41/Poulo Obi	12	River patrols (Ha Tien) Logistics (Kien Giang)
CG 42/An Thoi	15	River patrols (Ha Tien) Patrols (Poulo Panjang) 9L
CG 43/Hon Tre	14	River patrols (Ha Tien) Logistics (Rach Soi)
CG 44/Hon Tre	14	River patrols (Ha Tien) Logistics (Kien Giang) Security (An Thoi)

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River Patrol Groups

The strength of VNN TF 212 was increased from 88 to 140 PBRs by the turnover at the beginning of the month of 12 boats to augment RPG 55 and 40 boats to form RPGs 56 and 57. With these added assets, an ever increasing number of operations were carried out to deny the waterways of the 3rd and 4th Riverine Areas to the enemy. An average of 35.4 craft were engaged in river patrols and 79.7 were engaged in amphibious assaults daily.

Contact with the enemy was light and scattered during the month. No significant combat actions were reported by the RPG advisors.

The RPGs were deployed to the following homeports during April:

RPG 51 Nha Be (RSSZ)

RPG 52 Phu Cuong (THD 5)

RPG 53 Ben Luc and Ben Keo (Giant Slingshot)

RPG 54 My Tho (212.2) and Tan An (Giant Slingshot)

RPG 55 Chou Doc (THD 1)

RPG 56 Vinh Long (194.4)

RPG 57 Nha Be (RSSZ)

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RAIDS / River Assault and Interdiction Divisions

Virtually all significant action for RAID units this month was in connection with efforts to salvage HQ 1236, the ATC sunk by a mine on 22 March in the Ben Tre River. On 1 April, units of RAID's 72 and 74 were supporting VNMC Brigade BRAVO in Kien Hoa Province: RAID 72 patrolled near the salvage site (XS 615 245) while RAID 74 kept five boats in that vicinity, and the remainder patrolled the Song Ham Luong from XS 56 16 to XS 60 11. Salvops personnel had arrived on the scene on 30 March, pulled the sunken boat to shore, and immediately began an unsuccessful parbuckle attempt. At this time, security for the operation was provided by two companies of the VNMC Fourth Battalion and RAID 72, which patrolled during the day and assumed a guardpost position at night near the capsized craft. However, this seemingly tight security did not prevent a sapper from successfully planting a charge on HQ 6527, a RAID 72 monitor, on the morning of 2 April, and upon detonation at 0315, it took her approximately five minutes to sink with all gear aboard. Daylight found the monitor capsized and 90% submerged. The only two reported casualties were minor: LTJG J. C. Jones received superficial schrapnel wounds in the right leg, and SF1 Larry D. Sweaney's right eardrum was perforated when eight 20 mm ammo cans toppled over on him.

The high points for the rest of the month all revolved around getting the two damaged and unwieldy RAC to a safe position in the face of constant harassment from both banks of the Ben Tre. RAID 73,

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which had been supporting the 32nd Regiment, 21st ARVN Division, along the Song Trem Trem south of the U Minh Forest for the first week of April, relieved RAID 74 on 10 April and commenced a patrol of the Song Ham Luong from XS 51 25 to XS 60 13, with two companies of the 5th Battalion embarked. On 10 April at 0420, RAID 72 units took two B-40 rounds causing minor flooding and damage to one TANGO Boat and one CCB; there were no friendly casualties. On 13 April, a 31 kilo mine was discovered in the early morning between two RAID 72 units moored together; earlier that night, a swimmer had been taken under fire and killed in the same vicinity. The mine had not detonated because of a faulty connection. At 1100 on the same day, RAID 72 boats incurred B-40 and A/W fire at XS 577 276 killing four VN Marines, wounding 23 of them, and wounding six VNN. Aircraft fired rockets into the area killing three VC.

These skirmishes continued in spite of the fact that 5th Battalion troops were inserted on both sides of the river at the salvops site. On 14 April at 1800, a 72 TANGO Boat on patrol received B-40 rounds downstream from the site at XS 582 270. The port engine was knocked out of commission and the boat towed to a safer location; seven VNN were wounded, four seriously, and one American, GMG2 J. R. Eckert, was dusted off after receiving serious frag wounds to the face, left arm, and legs. His prognosis was later reported as good. A monitor and ALPHA Boat also received B-40 rounds on the same occasion with no major damage.

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Meanwhile, the salvage team was encountering extreme difficulty floating the sunken craft. On 15 April at about noon, the Army advisor to the 7th ARVN Division recommended to Commanding General, DMAC, that both boats be blown in place, in view of the fact that the craft could only be raised with heavy flotation equipment and that the security requirements for the operation were diverting VN Marines from a previously planned Army operation. The salvage team took some of the fire from this request by successfully floating HQ 1236 the next day; COMNAVFORV's recommendation to CG, DMAC, was thus to forestall blowing the monitor until another salvage attempt was made, and this recommendation carried the day. While headquarters was asking for more time, however, additional difficulties developed at the scene of the action. HQ 1236 had been floated, but that was literally, only half the battle. The tenacious enemy had stretched a cable across the Ben Tre at XS 585 285, and once the RAID 72 units towing HQ 1236 were successfully impeded, the air began to sizzle with B-40's and A/W fire. The damaged ATC was stuck in the mud, the TANGO Boat towing her was hit, and while an air strike was successfully subduing the ambushers, the friendly forces cut the towing cables and regrouped at the mouth of the Ben Tre for the night, preparing to continue the melee the following day. The attack produced three VNN KIA and two U. S. sailors wounded -- one minor, the other, SF1 J. D. O'Connell of HCT-5, seriously.

On 18 April, units of RAID 73, CSB 1, LCM 8192, and EOD personnel returned to the HQ 1236 position at 1040, raised her, and took

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her in tow, once again receiving a rocket attack, this time with only minor damage thanks to air support, during her transit downriver. The embattled units finally emerged from the Ben Tre, towed by two ASPBs from RAID 72, on 20 April, and prepared the boat for towing to Dong Tam.

It remained necessary to relive the entire event, however, as HQ 6527 had to be brought out of the same area. On April 23 at 0652, RAID 73 units, CSB1 and LCM 8192, arrived at the site, 7th ARVN units supplying security. The enemy was equally determined this time around, however, and on 23 April at 1815, six 60 mm mortar rounds landed in the immediate area of the salvops, bracketing CSB1 within 25 meters; again, on the night of 24 April as the salvage and RAID 73 units were leaving the salvage area, they received a B-40 attack which produced only one minor U. S. casualty. This time, headquarters was convinced, due in part to the difficulty in obtaining sufficient ground support for the operation. On 23 April at 2042, CNO VNN and COMNAVFORV agreed that the salvage ops could be temporarily discontinued upon ARVN recommendation, with the stipulation that the sunken monitor not be destroyed, and on 24 April, HCU-1 received instructions to discontinue the operations, which were scheduled to recommence on 15 June. RAID 73 units and the salvage party arrived in Dong Tam with HQ 1236 at 1130 on 27 April. Nine boats of RAID 73 were then sent to a new AO in Kien Hoa Province in support of the 10th Regiment, 7th ARVN Division. RAID 72 operated independently for the remainder of the month, also in support of 7th ARVN along the Song Ham Luong.

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RAID 74 had a relatively easy time of it, although it too saw its share of action for the month. Upon being relieved by RAID 73 on the 10th, 74 transited to Dong Tam for refueling and rest, and then got underway on 12 April for Ca Mau. On 17 April, they picked up 250 2nd Battalion VNMC troops at Ca Mau and carried them to the Sea Float AO, arriving at Nam Can at 1800. She continued troop lifts and an occassional Medcap for the remainder of the month, operating according to the positions of the VNMC units. On 23 April at 1505, RAID 74 units took two B-40 rounds near WQ 28 77 with minor damage and three VNN seriously wounded. The end of the month found 74 back in Can Tho for fuel preparing to go to Chuong Thien Province for further VNMC support operations.

RAIDs 70 and 71 remained attached to Operation Giant Slingshot for the entire month. The latter reported on 13 April that he was having serious maintenance problems and that only six of his 21 boats were fully operational, the others either being in an overhaul status or operating on one engine and inadequate electrical systems. Seeing no relief in sight for these chronic upkeep difficulties, he requested three additional ENs and one EM: he was informed that additional advisors were currently unavailable. And of course it should be mentioned that once again, in view of her superior performance, RAID 75 was ordered to extend her operations on Search Turn for one month as of 23 April.

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Of administrative importance, CDR J. E. Quick, USN, relieved CAPT C. H. Blair, USN, as Senior Advisor, ATF 211 and CTG 194.7, at 1000, 1 April.

River Assault Groups

During the month of April, the 15 River Assault Groups of the Vietnamese Navy engaged in numerous river patrols, amphibious assaults each day.

Homeported at Dong Tam during the month of April, RAGs 21/33 conducted almost daily amphibious and troop support operations with elements of the 7th ARVN division. At 1515 on 12 April, units of RAG 21/33 were proceeding north on the Ham Luong River carrying the 3/10 Battalion of the 10th Regiment, 7th ARVN Division. They were ambushed by an unknown size enemy force using automatic weapons and 75 mm recoiless rifles between XS 510 219 and XS 494 244. All units returned fire with 40 mm and 20 mm cannons, 81 mm mortars, and 50 and 30 caliber machine guns. Two helo gunships already on station providing cover for the RAG boats also took the enemy under fire. Two additional helo gunships requested by the embarked RAG advisor, GMG1 A. G. Jones, arrived from Ben Tre in 10 minutes.

One LCM-6 received two direct hits amidships from a 75 mm recoiless rifle which killed four ARVN, wounded 13 ARVN, and killed one VC prisoner. The boat sustained extensive hull damage, much of it below the waterline, which caused flooding, resulting in a sharp port list. While the other RAG units continued to return the enemy's

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fire, the damaged LCM-6 beached on the southern end of Cu Lao Lan Island (XS 504 253). All killed and wounded were loaded on two FOMs and taken to the Ham Luong Ferry Landing from where they were medevaced.

By 1550, enemy fire had been suppressed. Enemy casualties in the action were put at 22 killed and two captured. The RAG commandant and Monitor tied up to the damaged LCM-6 and towed it to the Ham Luong Ferry Landing where it was beached. The VNN officer in charge decided that although the boat was heavily damaged, it could still be floated and towed. Two other LCM-6's were brought alongside the beached boat and made fast, whereupon they proceeded to Dong Tam.

RAG 25/29 operated out of Ca Mau during the month of April under the opcon of the 21st ARVN Division. LT T. A. Fitzgibbons, the RAG advisor, had a rather unhappy experience with his unit on the night of 9/10 April. A night amphibious operation was conducted in the vicinity of WH 017 055 with the 367th and 967th RF companies. There was little contact with the enemy and the RAG advisor stated in a message to the 4th Riverine Area advisor that he thought the operation had been of doubtful value for the following reasons: the insertions had been made one and a half hours late due to unscheduled stops and firing enroute; the operation had been announced by 35 minutes of heavy fire prior to insertion; no patrol or blocking effort had been maintained during the operation; and finally, numerous sightseers aboard the command craft had created crowded and unsafe conditions. The commander of the 4th Riverine Area was very unhappy with the results of this operation. The commander of the 4th Riverine Area and the 4th

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Riverine Area advisor visited the Ca Mau sector, and the CO of RAG 29 was relieved by the CO of RAG 25.

RAG 27 and special RAGs 81 (escort) and 91 (minesweeping), homeported at Cat Lai, were attached to CTF 214. They engaged in numerous operations to insure the security of the Long Tau shipping channel. Units of RAG 27 conducted nightly troop lifts and river security patrols. On 15 April, a unit of RAG 91 recovered 20 feet of single conductor electrical wire at the end of a minesweep patrol on the Long Tau.

RAG 32 continued its operations on the Perfume River in ICTZ.

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Rung Sat Special Zone

On 7 April, the Senior Advisor, Rung Sat Special Zone, reported the following billets/incumbents in advisory capacity for the RSSZ; Senior Advisor RSSZ, CDR C. J. Wages, Jr., USN; Assistant Advisor RSSZ, LCDR L. H. Thames, USN; Logistics Advisor, ENS N. A. Baker, USN; Tactical Operations Center Officers, LTJG W. R. Kerivan, USNR, and LTJG J. P. Albanese, USNR; and District Intelligence Operations Coordinators, LTJG J. A. Spears, USNR, and LTJG W. G. Applegate, USN.

Combined operations continued in the RSSZ throughout the month with Naval Advisors, USMC Advisors, EOD Teams, and SEAL Teams participating in the operations. The cumulative result of operations in the RSSZ for the month of April included 48 Viet Cong killed, two VC captured, and 17 individual weapons and one crew served weapon captured. Friendly casualties included three killed and eight wounded.

At 1500H on the first day of the month, 18 Provincial Troops inserted in the vicinity of XS 925 722, about eight kilometers southwest of Nha Be. The troops set a trail guardpost on the north bank of the Rach Giong Chon. At 1700H, six of the troopers extracted by Slick helicopter while the remaining troopers waited in their position, three kilometers east of the Nha Be River. Fifty minutes later, the quietly waiting troopers sighted four Viet Cong on the trail and took them under fire, killing three. The fourth VC, wounded, was extracted by helicopter. The troopers then swept east to the Kinh So Canal where they were met by two USN ASPBs. BM1 Baker returned the troops to Nha B[illegible]

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in the ASPBs at 1900H. On departure of the troops, CDR Price and LCDR Kizer in the RSSZ Seawolves placed air strikes in the area.

Action again occurred on the 9th in the same area when BM1 Nelson inserted a Provincial unit on the west bank of the Nha Be River in two ASPBs at 1545H. Four Viet Cong were killed, one sampan destroyed, and one AK-47 captured in the ensuing action. On extraction of the troops, LCDR Kizer, with the Assistant Senior Advisor of the RSSZ aboard, placed air strikes in the area. The PRUs returned to the area the next morning at 1030H, finding five Viet Cong killed by the air strikes the previous day.

USN and USMC advisors participated in a large combined operation (Chuong Duong) on the 16th involving all units in the RSSZ. Six RF companies operated in the area where the Van Sat River, extending from the interior of the RSSZ, flows into the Nha Be River about 15 kilometers south of Nha Be. The action began early in the morning at 0400H when USMC advisors Captain Cowan, CAPT Hickman, CAPT Burch, 1stLT Grosshams, 1stLT James, GY/SGT Bledsoe, and GY/SGT Leith inserted with the PR companies. BM1 Baker provided blocking action with two USN ASPBs. The companies operated in the area through the day until 2230H. As the troops changed positions, the RSSZ NGLO, 1stLT Phipps, USMC, provided airborne coordination aboard an OV-10 from Vung Tau. LT McGinley, USN, embarked in RPG 57, provided naval support. Two U. S. advisors were slightly wounded in action that afternoon as four members of RF Co. 875 in a Boston Whaler WBGP made contact with a VC unit of unknown size on the west bank of the Nha Be River (XS 944 614). LCDR Walniewicz provided overhead Seawolf cover as the wounded were extracted to Nha Be. The day's operations

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resulted in two USN wounded, one VC killed, one sampan captured, three sampan motors and one 45 cal. automatic weapon captured. Nine bunkers, four structures, one grenade booby trap, and one sampan were destroyed.

The RSSZ USN LHFTs, with LCDR Wolniewicz and LTJG Yates, TU 116.9.8, again supported the PRUs on the 23rd. A PRU unit had engaged an unknown number of Viet Cong at XS 911 696 on the west bank of the Nha Be River about 11 kilometers southwest of Nha Be. Under overhead cover of the LHFTs, the PRUs killed nine VC and captured two. Five AK-47's, one K-45 CHICOM pistol, 20 kilograms of documents, 20 kilograms of uniforms, ten CHICOM mines, and two VC flags were captured. Fourteen bunkers were destroyed. Frequent contact in this area of the Nha Be River during the month indicated the VC had used this point as an operating base for some time.

The RSSZ advisors were engaged in the Chuong Duong operation on the 23rd. At 2125H, the previous evening, LCDR Wolniewicz with one LHFT placed strikes on suspected enemy positions in the vicinity of YS 066 788, 21 kilometers east of Nha Be. The position was two kilometers north of the Dong Tranh River and one kilometer south of the Xam Quot Thanh village. At 0700H the next morning, the USN LHFT conducted Sniffer operations in the same area. At 0830H, the USN LHFT and LAFT placed strikes in the vicinity of maximum readings, destroying two bunkers. Shortly after, the LHFT conducted a PSYOPS leaflet drop in the same area prior to the insertion of RF Company 782 with LT Grossham, USMC, as advisor. The troops swept northwest, capturing three SKS rifles and a 75 mm recoiless rifle with tripod.

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At 0940H, GMGC Bracy inserted RF Co. 999, CAPT Hickman, USMC, advisor, from two ASPBs two kilometers south of RF Co. 782 and swept the area with negative results. The ASPBs extracted the company at 1100H. The RSSZ EOD Team inserted by helicopter at YS 173 776 one kilometer north of the Dong Kho River at 1100H. The team destroyed five bunkers, four 75 mm recoiless rifle rounds, and one grenade booby trap. The RSSZ NGLO and ASA RSSZ provided overhead coordination for the operation in an OV-10 Bronco aircraft.

The last combined Chuong Dong operation of the month occurred on the 24th. All advisors and USN units participated in a day long coordinated sweep lasting from 0645H until 1630H that afternoon. The operations were concentrated generally around YS 121 776 on the north bank of the Nga Ba River about 21 kilometers east of Nha Be. The RSSZ ASPBs and PBRs acted as blocking forces for RF troop sweeps and provided lift support. Seven Viet Cong were killed in this operation while two SKS rifles and seven CHICOM grenades were captured. One sampan, eight bunkers, and three structures were destroyed. There were no friendly casualties.

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Tran Hung Dao I

The operations in the Tran Hung Dao I Area of Operations (AO) during the month of April were characterized by the lack of events of significance. This situation may have been influenced by actions pending and occurring across the border in Cambodia.

During the month, 68 spot reports (SPOTREPS) were submitted which reported enemy activity. The majority of these SPOTREPS reported air strikes conducted by Seawolves and Black Ponies or of various forces reacting to sensor activations. Unfortunately, in the majority of reports, no information was available regarding the damage caused to the enemy by such action.

There were a total of 28 engagements with enemy forces. U. S. units assigned to Tran Hung Dao I accounted for all of the reported enemy casualties of 18 killed during the month. Only one U. S. Brown Water sailor was wounded during the month. His wound was slight.

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Vietnamese Marine Corps

Brigade ALPHA operated under the OPCON of the 21st ARVN for the month, starting out the first week with the Third, Sixth, and Seventh VNMC Infantry Battalions and the First VNMC Artillery Battalion minus. During the third week, the Third Battalion shifted to the control of Brigade BRAVO. The entire month was spent in Kien Giang and Chuong Thien Provinces. It shifted from the former to the latter on 2 April and commenced combat operations in the eastern sector of the U Minh Forest. Conducting airmobile ops, Eagle Flight tactics, and infantry RIF missions, the Brigade reported no significant encounters with the enemy for the month of April. On 12 April, the Brigade CP displaced to WR 33 55, northeast of Kien Long. On 22 April, it shifted to WR 248 669 and on the 29th, to WR 250 471.

Brigade BRAVO operated under the OPCON of the 7th ARVN Division with a task organization of the First, Fourth, and Fifth VNMC Infantry Battalions and the Second Artillery Battalion minus and Battery I. It began the month conducting RIF, airmobile, and waterborne operations in Kien Hoa Province, operating with RAID's 72 and 74. No significant contacts were established until 11 April when elements of the First Battalion moved from their Ben Tre AO to the Binh Dai District and accounted for 23 VC killed in a four day operation. The remainder of the month produced no significant encounters.

Cumulative body-count figures for the month's operations are contained in the statistical summary.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	Daily Average		Searched		Detained	
	Oper	Empl	Junks	People	Junks	People
COASTAL FORCE						
I	38.5	37.3	33,338	125,973	38	249
II	43.4	39.3	16,969	51,771	2	28
III	48.3	44.6	7,961	30,376	0	0
IV	39.5	37.4	4,285	15,000	0	0
		Sub-totals:	62,553	223,120	40	277
*FLEET COMMAND						
PATROL SHIPS	28.7	23.6	532	1,763	0	0
WPB's/PCF's	11/42.8	9.8/29.6	9,727	33,489	1	6
		Sub-totals:	10,259	35,252	1	6
RIVERINE AREA						
RIVER ASSAULT GROUPS	108.1	105.7	10,699	33,863	0	4
TF 211	71.0	66.0	2,403	7,766	0	0
TF 212	120.7	115.2	9,164	28,138	2	5
#CENTRAL TASK FORCE	53.0	47.6	4,298	7,664	0	0
			99,376	335,803	44	298
		TOTALS:				

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS: 27 March - 30 April

VC/NVA: KIA 137 Captured 34 Suspects detained 57

VNMC: KIA 26 WIA 175 MIA 0

*Provided 86 gunfire support missions.

#Includes RAG 27 and RTEG

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PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS AND CIVIC ACTION SUMMARY

In early April, the program for the assumption by the Vietnamese Navy of full responsibility, for Psyops, Civic Action, and Welfare Programs was formalized under the title ACTOVPOW (Psyops and Welfare). One of the essential elements of this program will be the strengthening within the Vietnamese Navy of the organizational ability to plan and execute effective programs for carrying out Psyops and Civic Action responsibilities.

Also in early April, COMNAVFORV provided guidance to the U. S. Navy POLWAR Advisors on U.S. Psyops priorities of themes in support of the government of Vietnam's pacification and development plan. Theme priorities are as follows:

First priority: Phung Hoang (Phoenix) Program

Second priority: Political Mobilization Program (Material supporting the province political mobilization committees, established in 1969 to bring Unit Commanders into the Psyops process).

Third priority: Peoples Self-Defense Force (PSDF) and Popular Forces (PF) (Building morale and promoting the image of forces, similar to the VNN POLWAR programs).

Fourth priority: Chieu Hoi Program

Fifth priority: Village Self Development Program (Promoting community spirit of self-help, elections, political organization).

Sixth priority: All other programs.

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On 9 April, COMUMSACV promulgated the Operation Order for U. S. support for Campaign Nguyen Trai III. This campaign is scheduled to commence on 16 April and end on 16 August 1970. During this time frame, the RVNAF and the General Political Warfare Department (GPWD) will conduct an intensive country-wide POLWAR/Psyops campaign designed to encourage enemy defections and stimulate support for the government of Vietnam. The U.S. Navy will take part in this campaign by providing support to other U.S. organizations and by providing advice and assistance to the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) in its assigned tasks. It is estimated that over 40 million leaflets will be distributed country-wide during the course of the campaign.

In Danang, MEDCAPS were held at the Stella Maris Dispensary each week during the month with approximately 35 patients being cared for each week. Dermatology, orthopedic, medical, surgical, and urology clinics plus opthalmological care were held at the NSA Hospital for those in need of these services. Eight DENTCAP visits were conducted during the month. The dentists performed 298 extractions for 255 patients.

The Civic Action Program at Naval Support Activity, Danang was phased out effective 30 April 1970. All Village Assistance Teams have been closed and all residual building materials were provided to the VNN Dependent Shelter program. The Civic Action warehouse and all Project Handclasp materials were turned over to the First Coastal Zone Advisor for use in the COMNAVFORV Psychological Operations

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Program in the First Coastal Zone. Prior to the cessation of Civic Action activities, all committments to the city of Danang were fulfilled.

CTF Clearwater personnel continued to conduct a weekly MEDCAP using small units in order to visit as many villages as possible. Nine villages were visited during the month of April in which 406 patients were given treatment. The major medical problems treated were colds and skin disorders. MEDCAP units distributed 1,185 hygiene leaflets during their visits.

U. S. Navy and Vietnamese Navy Medical and Dental officers conducted weekly MEDCAP/DENTCAPs in the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ). During these operations, 457 people were treated for various medical and dental problems. The units also dispensed 185 Health Kits and provided the people with 450 newspapers.

U. S. Army helicopters with U. S. Marine Corps Psyops advisors on board conducted airborne psyops boadcasts and leaflet drops in the RSSZ during the month. Over 180,000 Chieu Hoi, 75,000 Weapons Reward, and 55,000 Safe Passage leaflets were distributed within the RSSZ during the month.

NILO Qui Nhon and an interpreter accompanied a combined MACV/ New Zealand/British Health Team to Phuoc Chau village on Pouls Gambin Island (CR 225 051). The Health Team gave over 300 vaccinations in one day of treatment.

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At the request of the school teacher of Phuoc Chau village, NILO Qui Nhon provided the school with 110 school kits, two boxes of chalk, one new blackboard, two cans of blackboard paint, and nine prizes to be given to the top students.

Several MEDCAP/DENTCAPs were conducted in the Giant Slingshot area of operations during the month. The most significant operation of this type also included an EOD officer and a magician along with the medical and dental personnel. The medical officer treated over 100 patients for minor medical ailments while the dental officer treated 85 patients and extracted 115 teeth. Through an interpreter, the EOD officer advised the villagers of the dangers of handling enemy arms, ammo caches, and dud ammunition. Additionally, he destroyed some dud ammunition received from a nearby outpost. As the MEDCAP/DENTCAP drew to a close, SM1 Beam, as "Tenkokai, the Magician," presented a 40 minute magic show for the children and adults of the village which was enthusiastically received.

During April, work continued on the new school at Tran Hung Dao II. On three separate occasions, VNN Yabuta junks provided transportation and security for the Psyops Team and several civilians to gather palm leaves along the Rach Cai Nhap. The palm leaves will be used for roofing material on the school. A tailor shop has now been added to the redevelopment project at Tran Hung Dao II.

Since mid-April, a new area for Psyops exploitation has developed in the western areas of Vietnam. Thousands of Vietnamese refugees

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are crossing the Cambodian border and returning to Vietnam. A Psyops mission being planned to take place at Go Dau Ha, a small town in Tay Ninh Province, will provide the refugees with 4,000 kilos of rice, 200 kilos of dried fish, 400 liters of fish sauce, 400 mosquito nets, 400 blankets, and 400 cans of salad oil.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN-DAYS* PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS:		2,130
COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS:	VN$	738,945
EXPENDITURES FROM THE US/FWMAF CIVIC ACTION PSYWAR FUND:	VN$	236,845
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS:	VN$	375,618

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

Other FWMAF		43.9
RVNAF		62.8
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies		4.7
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians:	Labor	62.7
	Material	4.1

PROGRAMS

	Man Days	Expenditures (VN$)
Economic Development	293	60,800
Education	582.9	545,218
Social Welfare	793.5	539,940
Transportation	364	131,050
Refugee	96.6	74,400

INSTITUES ASSISTED

	Number
Schools	25
Orphanages	16
Hospitals/Dispensaries	12
Others	19

* One Man-Day equals one ten hour working day

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ACCELERATED TURNOVER PROGRAM AND TRAINING SUMMARY

The USS BULLOCH COUNTY (LST 509) and the USS JEROME COUNTY (LST 848) became the VNS QUIN NHON (HQ 504) and the VNS NHA TRANG (HQ 505) respectively on 8 April 1970 in a formal turnover ceremony in San Diego. The LSTs were accepted by Commodore Tran Van Chon, CNO, VNN and bring the number of VN LSTs to six. The crews consist of 14 officers and 206 enlisted each; the QUIN NHON will be commanded by LCDR Phan Phi Phung and the NHA TRANG by LCDR Le Thuan Phong. The ships will stay in San Diego for approximately six weeks for training before embarking for Vietnam. Two more LSTs are scheduled for turnover in November 1970.

Other craft turnovers for the month included seven PCFs on 1 April at Nha Trang, three LCMs at Danang on 16 April, and two more WPBs on 29 April at Cat Lo. The PCFs bring the number turned over to 51 and marked the VN assumption of control of Market Time inshore patrol areas four and five, thus disestablishing COMCOSRON 14. Coastal Surveillance Center, Nha Trang, was turned over at the same time. This is technically a shift of "administrative control;" the formal turnover of the craft will not occur until late June. Coast Guard Cutters POINT CAUTION and POINT WELCOME became HQ 716 and HQ 717 respectively, and brought to 18 the number of WPBs turned over to date. CDR Bui Cuu Vien, VNN, accepted the vessels on behalf of RVN.

The PBR Actov Program saw a continuation of its preparation for the large May turnover. The PBR School at Binh Thuy graduated 85 on 22 April, all to be sent to man boats for the May event. All

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personnel reporting to PBRs after 30 April will have had either PBR School or three months' OJT. The most significant developments for the RAG ACTOV program was the final preparation of the 32 boats that will compose RIDs 42 and 44 as of 2 May.

So far as base turnover was concerned, the Ha Tien base commissioning, originally scheduled for April, was postponed until May due to unforseen construction difficulties.

The depot level support base at An Thoi was commissioned on 2 April with a VNN Base Commander and a USN Deputy. It was the first of a series of offshore bases which will progress from USN manning to to USN/VNN combined manning to complete VNN manning in preparation for turnover.

Training in general proceeded at the anticipated pace. Four VNN ETs graduated from the AN/FRC 109 microwave course in Cam Ranh Bay on 9 April, and six more ETs commenced OJT at the Electronic Repair Facility in Danang on 11 April. Class Two of VNN Officer Candidates, consisting of 62 aspirants, arrived in Quonset Point, R.I., on 3 April to begin training. In the logistics program, 36 VNN public works trainees were graduated at NSA, Detachment DONG TAM on 16 April.

The Dependent Shelter Program continued in April with 944 units completed and 845 under construction as of the middle of the month at 16 different VNN sites throughout the country. In addition, 300 family dwellings are being built for the VNMC at Thu Duc near Saigon;

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the VNMC Engineer Company was averaging three buildings per week with the occupancy date scheduled for 25 June 1970.

The problem of deep water wells was further explored in April. Commander, Third Naval Construction Battalion, estimated a $5,500 cost per well, the total for all 11 requested being $60, 500. Wells in the Cam Ranh Bay area were scheduled to begin 13 April, with Long Phu, Poulo Obi, and Thuan An proceeding as soon as possible.

The material for the Dependent Shelter Program was reported as forthcoming by Commander, Eleventh Naval District, who is coordinating the Project Handclasp donations from San Diego. On the negative side, Naval Supply Systems Command Headquarters reported that a thorough review revealed no excess assets which could be donated to the Shelter Program.

The Food Supplement Program, relying as much on the procreative impulse as on a sense of charity, showed predictably steady gains in April, as "Admiral," a nubile sow of the Cam Ranh Bay community, gave birth to 11 piglets on 25 April, increasing the total number of in-country swine -- at least those of immigrant stock -- to 101. As of the middle of the month, 27 projects at 21 VNN bases accounted for 3,500 poultry, 35 swine, and 35 rabbits. Approximately 50 head of swine arrived 15 April to enlarge the foundation herd at CTF 115, Cam Ranh Bay and to initiate one at Saigon.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

There were several Naval Support Activity Saigon bases attacked by the Viet Cong between the hours of 0100H and 0200H on 1 April. The Advanced Tactical Support Base (ATSB) at Tra Cu received two rockets; however, there were no casualties or damage. Two U.S. Army LCMs were mined at the ATSB TUYEN NHON, sinking one and heavily damaging the other. The Dong Tam base received 13 82mm mortar rounds, damaging two BOQ buildings and two vehicles, but causing no USN casualties. Two mortar rounds impacted in the river off the ATSB MOC HOA without causing any damage. The YFR-889 received small arms fire and four rockets from the south bank while transiting the My Tho River above Dong Tam on 6 April. The fire was returned with unknown results. There were no friendly casualties or damage. Three CPOs of a River Division received minor wounds about midnight 7 April when five rifle grenade rounds impacted on the ATSB MOC HOA. Again on 14 April, the ATSB MOC HOA received ten mortar rounds causing no damage or casualties. The base at Dong Tam received 6/7 unidentified rounds about 0200H, 16 April, without any damage being sustained. However, at 2200H, 14 120 mm mortar rounds were received, wounding two USN and causing extensive shrapnel damage to two warehouses and minor damage to a Zippo boat, trailer, and other buildings. The same night four swimmers were sighted attempting to mine the ATSB MOC HOA. PBRs were scrambled, but the swimmers successfully evaded. On 17 April a UH-34 helo crashed on the USS BENEWAH (APB-35) when the mortar struck the yardarm during final approach. The helo was destroyed, but there were

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no casualties. The ATSB BEN KEO received two 107 mm rockets at 2223H, 18 April, damaging one berthing ammi and wounding two USN and four VNN. The USS BENEWAH experienced a large underwater explosion off her port quarter about 2100H, 29 April. There was no damage and no evidence as to the cause.

The personnel status of NSA, Saigon at month's end was as follows:

	Allowance	On Board
Officers	177	169
Enlisted	2,843	3,348 (including 557 NAVCATS)
Civilians	966	966

During April, surface craft hauled 24,670 M/T cargo, 3,140 M/T ammo, 1,200,000 gallons water, 310,000 gallons bulk fuel, and transported 7,729 passengers. In addition, 3,798 passengers and 488,491 pounds of cargo were airlifted.

Routine resupply services were provided by the USS MARK (AKL-28), YF-866, YFR-890, YW 2126, and the 100 foot utility boats MONDERO and MOROCCO. On 23 and 24 April, the MONDERO and YTB-785 assisted in the transporting of ammis to the site of the new ATSB at Phuoc Xuyen. At the end of April, the USS BRULE (AKL-12) was at Subic Bay correcting overhaul descrepancies. During April, River Assault Craft were supported by the USS ASKARI (ARL-38) at Dong Tam, the USS KRISHNA (ARL-30) at Square Bay, the USS SATYR (ARL-23) and USS BENEWAH at An Long, and the USS SPHINX (ARL-24) in the Vam Co River. The PBRs were supported by the YRBMs 16, 20, and 21 in the upper Mekong area

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and by Mobile Base II at Tan An. At An Thoi, PCFs were supported by the USS TUTUILA (ARG-4) and APL-30. The APL-26, APL-27, and YR-9 provided berthing facilities for the ACTOV program in Saigon while at Nha Be, the APL-21 provided overflow transient berthing. During April, the YFUs 4, 24, and 59 continued resupply of the ATSBs in the Gulf of Thailand and the YFUs 55 and 57 made resupply runs in the Vung Tau, Saigon, and Giant Slingshot areas. At month's end the YFR-889 was at Saigon with a casualty to her refrigeration equipment. The USS IREDELL COUNTY (LST-839) provided routine resupply functions between 1-22 April. The USS PAGE COUNTY (LST-1076) was assigned the duty 22-28 April; however, no runs were made due to hull damage incurred after the first loadout. At month's end she was in drydock at Saigon. The USS HAMPSHIRE COUNTY (LST-819) assumed the resupply LST duties on 29 April.

At Cam Ranh Bay, the operation of the brick plant at the Naval Support Facility and the block plant at the Naval Air Facility continued. Construction continued on the VNN dependent shelters and on the upgrade for the VNN SEAL training area. The ammi drydock became operational during the month. The construction of dependent shelters continued at Qui Nhon. The Pacific Architect and Engineer (PA&E) commenced the rehabilitation of the power distribution system. At Nha Be the two desalination units were put on the line, and the construction of the two story structure for the Rung Sat Special Zone Advisors was 50% complete. The construction of dependent shelters at Dong Tam continued. Material was provided at Nha Trang for the rehabilitation

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of the VNNTC electronics labs. The ACTOV construction continued at Binh Thuy, and construction commenced on the temporary berthing huts to house 200 enlisted and 20 officers. In Saigon the upgrade of the air-conditioning for the NAVFORV NOC/COMM center was completed, and construction of additional spaces and a two story office building was 25% complete. At Ben Luc, the dependent shelter construction continued, and the installation of the ammi drydock was commenced. The construction of the ashore galley and the water dog ammi was completed at Go Dau Ha. Construction continued on the Solid Anchor site at Sea Float. At Phuoc Xuyen the construction of the five-ammi complex was completed. The ammis were on site, and the ashore facilities were under construction. The helo night staging area at Rach Gia was 60% complete at month's end. The ACTOV construction continued at An Thoi, Cat Lo, Dong Tam, Ben Luc, Nha Be, Rach Soi, and Ha Tien. The site preparation for the communications upgrade of all Giant Slingshot bases was 80% complete.

Maintenance and Repair Support TF-115/116

The PBR bare hull program was completed at Subic Bay. The final PBR, 31RP6640, was placed in storage at Newport until required. The progress of the PBRs being assembled in-country has been slow due to heavy work loads by the ACTOV stand down boats. All the engines for this program are in-country, but the engines arrived without mounts, which have now been placed on order. The PCF maintenance and repair support was provided at Qui Nhon, An Thoi, Cat Lo, Cam Ranh Bay, and

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Sa Dec, and by the USS KRISHNA (ARL-30) USS TUTUILA (ARG-4) and the USS ASKARI (ARL-38). Operational support was provided at Sea Float. The USCG WPBs were maintained at Cam Ranh Bay and Cat Lo with support to be provided at An Thoi shortly. The LCPLs were supported at Cat Lo and Cam Ranh Bay while the USS BENEWAH (APB-35) and USS SATYR (ARL-23) supported the STABS with NSAD Binh Thuy providing depot level maintenance for STABS, LSSC, and MSSC.

TF-194

Construction and installation of the new VNN/USN Naval Operations Center at Ha Tien was completed. A site survey of Ha Tien, Vinh Gia, Tien Bien, Nui Sam, and YRBM-20 was conducted of the retransmitter communications, and recommendations were submitted to higher authority. The AN/GRC-10 multiplex equipment at Ca Mau, Song Ong Doc, and Sea Float was installed and operating at month's end; it was awaiting official acceptance after inspection by U.S. Army and NAVFORV personnel. The SEALORD communications update was commenced at the Giant Slingshot ATSBs with the ATSB GO DAU HA completed on 11 April, the ATSB BEN KEO completed on 16 April and the ATSB TUYEN NHON completed on 26 April.

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The following craft and personnel were supported during April:

Base	Personnel Officer	Personnel Enlisted	Craft
Cam Ranh Bay	147	1,088	49
An Thoi	64	405	32
Ben Luc	66	724	32
Binh Thuy	334	2,133	47
Cat Lo	95	680	44
Dong Tam	26	470	132
Nha Be	224	1,824	93
Qui Nhon	49	559	27
Sa Dec	92	234	25
Mobile Base II	14	236	30
YRBM 16	25	276	83
YRBM 20	33	387	68
YRBM 21	22	180	35

The general supply gross and net effectiveness for April were 70% and 82% respectively, with 23,737 total issues and 33,718 total demands processed. In addition, 685 back orders were released.

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Three officers involved in the preparations for loading redeploying U. S. Marines and their cargo aboard the USS DURHAM (LKA 114) at the U. S. Naval Support Activity deep water piers, Danang, go over the loading for the ship.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

During April, weather conditions continued to be good as high winds or sea conditions hampered coastal operations in the I Corps Tactical Zone (ICTZ) on only four days when small craft warnings were in effect.

The VNN PCF 3884, which had gone aground south of the Cua Dai River, was salvaged by the USS CURRENT (ARS-22) on 9 April. There were 142 harbor shuttle runs by LCM 8/6's conducted during the month carrying 555 short tons and nine coastal shuttles with six amphibious beachings along the ICTZ coast carrying 179 short tons. The following excess craft were permanently transferred: YG 51, YFR 888, and YFRN 997 to the Ship Repair Facility, Guam; YFU 67 to the Ship Repair Facility, Subic Bay; and YFU 89 to the Naval Support Activity, Saigon.

During April, overall cargo operations were satisfactory, although cargo tonnage throughput decreased slightly. The current export requirements and rates of cargo generation suggest a satisfactory situation during May. CONUS shipping projections indicated substantially the same level of import activity in April as was experienced in March. A record backload for one ship was established when 10,687 M/T were loaded aboard the SS GREEN BAY. The following is the port operations summary for April:

	Offload		Backload		Thruput	
	S/T	M/T	S/T	M/T	S/T	M/T
DaNang	119,118	189,936	78,153	137,078	197,271	327,014
Chu Lai	27,378	36,753	7,255	23,886	34,633	60,639

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On 1 April at 0153H, the China Beach R and R Center received three 122 mm rockets in the sand on the beach. All rounds impacted near the water line and caused no personnel casualties or material damage. The Small Craft Repair Facility (SCRF) compound received two 122 mm rockets at 0212H on 5 April, adjacent to the water towers. A class B fire was reported from oil drums in the area; however, it was extinguished before the fire department arrived. The harbor security reported two confirmed impacts in the water between their compound and the SCRF compound and one impact at the breakwall. There was light material damage but no personnel casualties.

Project MOOD was 85 percent complete for Navy facilities. The remainder of the military-leased facilities were transferred to the U.S. Army Engineer Command Vietnam, (Provisional) on 1 April.

Four PBRs received battle damage during the month and were repaired by SCRF. PBR-47 received a two foot square hole on the starboard bow, a one foot square hole port side amidships, and numerous bullet holes from two B-40 rockets, AK-47, and small arms fire on 18 April. Also on 18 April, PBR-139 received a six inch square hole starboard side amidships at waterline, electrical cable cut by fragments, ruptured fuel tank, and numerous bullet holes from one B-40 rocket, AK-47, and small arms fire. PBR-33 had a burned-out exhaust boot during a firefight on 24 April and sank. After salvage, damage to the electrical system was extensive enough to require rewiring; the electronics gear was salted up, and the main engine required rebuilding. PBR-67 was completely destroyed by two RPG rounds on 24 April and is being surveyed.

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There were 30,455 S/T of rock shipped to the northern ICTZ during April. The depot operations at DaNang and Chu Lai had a gross effectiveness rate of 90 percent and a net effectiveness rate of 95% during the month. The overall Class I situation remained satisfactory. There were five days of supply of A-rations on hand and 4,668,732 C-ration meals on hand and 848,856 meals due in. Two 600 cubic foot reefer boxes were relocated from the SCRF provisions warehouse to Camp Tien Sha. The concrete deck in the Philco-Ford Camp One Galley was raised four inches to improve drainage and sanitation. The Camp Carter Galley was transferred to the DaNang Army Support Depot, 34th Supply and Support Battalion on 15 April. One 600 KW generator and one 1700 KW generator at DaNang West and one 500 KW generator at DaNang East remained deadlined. The installation of three 2000 KW generators at the SCRF was completed and are undergoing operational tests. The new Milcon three million gallons-per-day water treatment plant at the DaNang Air Base was still undergoing operational tests. There has been a considerable number of failures in the distribution system and several discrepancies in the main plant requiring correction by the contractor.

The following was the personnel status at month's end:

Allowance	Officer	Enlisted
NSA	344	6,806
YR-71	2	89
Total	346	6,895
Total on Board	327	6,457

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During April, 54 persons extended their tours in Vietnam bringing the calendar year totals to 387. There were 670 personnel performing base security duties and 133 personnel performing afloat security duties during the month.

Civilian Personnel Status

U.S. Civil Service	Ceiling	On Board	Net Gain/Loss This Mo.
NAVSUPPACT	63	47	minus 4
COMNAVFORVREP	21	15	0
Total	84	62	minus 4
Local Nationals			
NAVSUPPACT	6,157	5,601	minus 610
Other	7,543	7,049	plus 157
Total	13,700	12,650	minus 453

There was an average of 144,702 military personnel supported by the Naval Support Activity, DaNang during April.

The following was the status of the Philco-Ford contract as of 30 April:

	US	LN	TCN	TOTAL
On board, 31 March	106	1,237	1,726	3,069
On board, 30 April	104	1,003	1,589	2,696
Est. on board, 31 May	104	1,000	1,563	2,667

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These figures include program management, personnel in training, and personnel associated with Public Works, Supply, SCRF, and the 32nd NCR.

The performance of the Korean Express - KEANGNAM Ltd. (KEKN) - continued to be satisfactory during April and the guaranteed minimum contract requirements were met both seaside and pierside. The following reflects the cargo handled by KEKN during the month:

Total Offload	61,385 S/T	99,903 M/T
Total Backload	3,338 S/T	5,256 M/T
Daily Average Thruput	2,157 S/T	3,505 M/T

There were 218 LCN and 428 TCN personnel employed during the month, broken down as follows:

LCN - Permanent hire in cargo operations - 46
Permanent hire in support functions - 82
Temporary hire in cargo operations - 90

TCN - Seaside cargo operations - 140
Bridge ramp cargo operations - 52
Deep Water Piers cargo operations - 164
Support personnel (Admin, plumbers, electricians, etc.) - 72

The following facilities were transferred to the U.S. Army during April:

10 April - NSAD PHU BAI - 130 structures - $415,950

15 April - NSA Camp Carter - 33 structures - $189,450

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During April, there were 681 patients admitted to the station hospital at DaNang. Of these, 222 were battle casualties, 35 for minor surgery, and 192 for major surgery. There were 14 single amputations and eight double amputations during the month. The average daily patient census for April was 142 with 98 beds occupied at month's end. Medcaps were held at the Stella Maris dispensary. Approximately 35 patients were cared for each week during the month. Weekly dermatology, orthopedic, medical, surgical, and urology clinics plus opthalmological care were held at the NSA hospital for those in need of these services. There were five in-patient Vietnamese on 30 April. There were 16 Vietnamese admissions during the month with a daily average of five in-patients. There were an estimated 193 Vietnamese outpatient visits and 21 Vietnamese requiring major surgical procedures and five requiring minor surgical procedures.

The Civic Action program at the Naval Support Activity, DaNang, was phased out on 30 April. All Village Assistance Teams were closed and all residual building materials were provided to the VNN dependent shelter program. The Civic Action warehouse and all project Handclasp materials were turned over to the First Coastal Zone Advisor for use in the COMNAVFORV Psychological Operations Program in the ICTZ. Prior to the cessation of Civic Action activities, all commitments to the city of DaNang were fulfilled.

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An NSA Danang harbor pilot uses a walkie-talkie to communicate with his counterpart aboard the USS DURHAM (LKA 114) as tugs nudge the new attack cargo ship toward her pier.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

As in previous months all significant tactical incidents involving Seabees continued to occur in the southern I Corps Tactical Zone. Of major importance were two mining incidents on Route 4 south of Danang. On 29 April, a NMCB-62 MRS scrapper detonated a 40 pound mine destroying the scrapper and wounding the driver, EO3 Jimmy Boyd Patteson, B732606, USN. Normal line of communication work was somewhat disrupted during the month by continued enemy interdiction with minings and sapper attacks against bridges. On 1 April, two spans of the An Tan Bridge near Chu Lai were destroyed. Repairs were made by NMCB-7, and the bridge was reopened on 19 April. Two spans of the Ba Ba Bridge on the Vinh An River were destroyed by sappers on 3 April. The bridge was repaired by NMCB-7 and reopened to traffic on 18 April. On 27 April, the bridge QL-1-13 was destroyed by fire and Seabees of NMCB-10, working around the clock, expected to have the bridge rebuilt and open to traffic by 6 May.

The major effort in the line of communication road upgrade program continued to be directed towards route QL-1 south of Danang between the villages of Thanh Quit and Tu My. There was also a considerable amount of effort directed towards a 2½ inch asphaltic concrete overlay of the Hai Van Pass. Percent complete as of 30 April are shown below:

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	Fill	Base	1st lift	2nd lift
Thanh Quit - Cau Lau River	100%	100%	100%	100%
Cau Lay River - Ly Ly River	92%	82%	0%	0%
Ly Ly River - Tu My	84%	25%	0%	0%

Hai Van Pass - 61% complete

Maintenance continued on routes ML-13C, ML-12E, ML-12W, ML-1C, and ML-1D. In the northern ICTZ, shoulder upgrade continued on route QL-1 between the Long Co Bridge and the city limits of Hue.

Work on the aircraft shelters continued during April. There were no shelters under construction at month's end, five shelters complete except for concrete covers, and 109 shelters complete. There were 122 shelters in the approved program. There were eight shelters for the Fleet Air Support Unit, Danang Air Base, under procurement and not yet scheduled for construction and are currently being reviewed for a continuing requirement.

Construction continued on the Quang Tri highway bridge on Route QL-1. This 901 foot two lane bridge was 22% complete and proceeding on schedule. The airfield patching and overlay of taxiways continued at Phu Bai. The runway overlay was completed during April with a minimum disruption of military and civilian aircraft traffic. The construction of the third of four secondary bridges north of Hue was completed and construction of the fourth was underway with completion scheduled for 1 June. The construction of the Hue detention facility was proceeding on schedule with the facility 49% complete.

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Work on the ACTOV bases in the IV Corps Tactical Zone continued at Ha Tien, Song Phu, Kien An, Nam Can, and Rach Soi. The work at Ha Tien was 98% complete, Rach Soi construction was 42% complete, while extensive fill work continued at Nam Can. Construction of the ATSB at Nam Can continued, and the facilities were 42% complete. Construction at Song Phu and Kien An was started, and percentages of completion are 6% and 9% respectively.

Naval Construction Forces have a projected backlog amounting to 21 weeks of horizontal work and 10 weeks of vertical work. The programmed backlog amounts to an additional three weeks of horizontal and one week of vertical work.

The following was the logistics status during April:

In-Country Shipments

	Phu Bai	Chu Lai	Delta Project	Total
Material (S/T)	552	17.5	1,184	1,753.5
Material (M/T)	621	31.8	1,555	2,207.8
Equipment (Pieces)	1	0	0	1

Material Status

	Issues	Receipts	Total Inventory
Project Macterial ($000)	1,897	506	9,983
Tactical Support Functional Components (TSFC) ($000)	1,631	1,573	6,997

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Repair Parts

	Issues	Receipts	Total Inventory
Dollar Value ($000)	368	156	1,498
Line Items	2,857	1,458	18,902

Equipment Deadline

	Total Equipment	Number deadlined	Percent
NMCB Organic	1,736	91	5.2
32 NCR Augments	549	52	9.5

Number of pieces shipped: 5

Number of pieces scheduled for shipment: 93

The following was the personnel status as of 30 April:

Military:	Ceiling	On Board
Officer	138	132
Enlisted	3,858	3,702
Total	3,996	3,804

Civilian: Regiment Headquarters - 141 (50 TCN, 91 Vietnamese)

NMCB - 387

The following awards were presented to Third Naval Construction Brigade personnel during April:

Legion of Merit	2	Navy Achievement	26
Navy and Marine Corps Medal	1	Combat Action Ribbon	20
Bronze Star	2	Purple Heart	3
Navy Commendation	12	Good Conduct	3

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On 20 April, Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 62 deployed to Vietnam for the fourth time and relieved NMCB-74 at Camp Hoover in Danang.

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APPENDIX I
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
AO	Area of operations
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
CHICOM	Chinese Communist
CIDG	Civilian Irregular Defense Group- mercenaries of Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian descent who fight primarily around their own villages
CMD	Capital Military District
CONUS	Continental United States
CRIP	Civilian Reconnaissance Intelligence Platoon

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CS	Tear gas grenades
CTZ	Corps Tactical Zone
CZ	Coastal Zone
DELTA HAWK	Mohawk OV-1C aircraft
DUSTOFF	Medical evacuation by helicopter
ENIFF	Enemy initiated firefight
FOB	Forward Observation Base
FSB	Fire Support Base
FWMAF	Free World Military Assistance Forces
GDA	Gun Damage Assesment
GVN	Government of Vietnam
HAFT	Helicopter Attack Fire Team
H&I	Harassment and Interdiction Fire Support
JGS	Joint General Staff (Vietnamese)
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

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MACV	Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
MATSB	Mobile Advance Tactical Support Base
MEDCAP	Medical Civic Action Program
MONITOR	Heavily armored LCM-6 (40mm cannon or 105mm Howitzer)
MRB	Mobile Riverine Base
MRF	Mobile Riverine Force
MSB	Minesweeper, Boat
MSD	Minesweeper, Drone
MSF	Mobile Strike Force - mercenaries who deploy and go anywhere
NGFS	Naval Gunfire Support
NILO	Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer
NIOTC	Naval Inshore Operations Training Center
NOD	Night Observation Device
NVA	North Vietnamese Army
OINC	Officer in Charge
OJT	On the Job Training
PBR	Patrol Boat, River
PCF	Patrol Craft, Fast (Swift Boat)
POW	Prisoner of War
PRU	Provincial Reconnaissance unit
PSA	Province Sector Advisor
Psyops	Psychological Operations
RAD	River Assault Division
RAG	River Assault Group (VNN)

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RAID	River Assault and Interdiction Division (VNN)
RAS	River Assault Squadron
RF/PF	Regional Forces/Popular Forces
RPG	Rocket Propelled Grenade or River Patrol Group
RSSZ	Rung Sat Special Zone
RVNAF	Republic of Vietnam Air Force (or Armed Forces)
SAR	Search and Rescue
SEAWOLF	UH-1B Helo, heavily armed, USN operated
SHADOW	C-119 aircraft
SKIMMER	20' fiberglass motor boat
SLICK	UH-1B Helo, USA operated
SPOOKY	C-47 aircraft
SSB	Swimmer Support Boat (skimmer)
STAB	Strike Assault Boat
SCATTOR	Small Craft Asset, Training, and Turnover
SHOTGUN 49	Call sign for Army O1A aircraft
START	Swift Training and Rapid Turnover
TAOR	Tactical Area of Responsibility
USARV	United States Army, Vietnam
VNMC	Vietnamese Marine Corps
VNN	Vietnamese Navy
ZIPPO	Flame thrower equipped ATC or Moniter
RAP	Rocket Assisted Projectile

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