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

Subj: U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, December 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT ltr ser 1/6925 of 2 October 1967

Encl: (1) Operation SEA LORDS Summary
(2) Coastal Surveillance Force Summary
(3) River Patrol Force Summary
(4) Riverine Assault Force Summary
(5) USN Statistical Summary
(6) Naval Advisory Group Summary
(7) VNN/VNMC Statistical Summary
(8) Selected Psychological Operations
(9) USN Civic Action Statistical Summary

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (9) are submitted.

2. The data contained in enclosures (5), (7) and (9) is based on information available this date. Any adjustments to enclosures (5), (7) and (9) will be reflected in December's Historical Supplement.

J. P. RIZZA
Chief of Staff

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

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OPERATION SEA LORDS SUMMARY
December 1968

During the month Operation SEA LORDS continued to expand the U. S. Navy area of operations on the inland waterways of the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones. Working with both U. S. and Vietnamese ground units, the combined efforts of the three Navy task forces made significant progress in the interdiction, pacification, and harassment campaigns.

Interdiction patrols continued on the Rach Gia-Long Xuyen Canal in Kien Giang Province and along the Cambodian border on the Rach Giang Thanh and Vinh Te Canal. Combined PBR/ASPB patrols on the Rach Gia-Long Xuyen Canal were supplemented by frequent Regional Force (RF) sweeps along the canal banks. On the Vinh Te enemy opposition encountered early in the month was met by occasional employment of RF and CIDG sweeps and adding ATC's to the patrol force until falling water levels prevented ATC operations late in the month. An ATC was also employed with the PCF's operating on the Rach Giang Thanh. Here it was found that night patrols using night observation devices gave the patrol units an advantage over the enemy in ambush situations. U. S. Navy SEAL operations were also carried out along the Vinh Te Canal early in the month. Enemy opposition to these two interdiction campaigns decreased significantly toward the end of December.

A third interdiction campaign was initiated with Operation GIANT SLINGSHOT on 6 December. River Patrol Force and Mobile Riverine Force units have operated on the Vam Co Tay and Vam Co Dong up to 35 miles west and 50 miles northwest of Saigon in an effort to cut enemy infiltration from the "Parrot's

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Leak" area of Cambodia. This operation has met with both heavy enemy opposition and notable success in the discovery of enemy arms caches. Cooperation with U. S. Army units northwest of Saigon has been excellent with several joint operations being carried out along the Tam Co Tung on a daily basis. Progress in obtaining ground reaction force operations from [illegible] and [illegible] along the [illegible] has been less satisfactory.

Strike operations by [illegible] "A" and [illegible] units were carried out along the [illegible] and [illegible] rivers southeast of Rach Gia in Chuong Thien Province from the 6th until mid-December. An operation with [illegible] units on the west bank of the Massac southeast of Can Tho was conducted beginning 13 December. After completing Operation SILVER MACE on the Cua Lon River in An Xuyen Province, [illegible] "B" moved into the area south of Rach Gia in Kien Giang Province and began operations along the Can Cao Canal on 26 December.

Operation SILVER MACE was carried out between 21 and 24 December with the objective of destroying barriers erected on the Cua Lon River at the southern tip of Vietnam which had prevented "Swift" boat raids there since late November. This first [illegible] strike operation into an enemy stronghold in that area was easily able to open the river against light opposition. Numerous "Swift" boat incursions, [illegible] operations, air strikes, and naval gunfire continued to harass the enemy in southern An Xuyen and Ca Xuyen Provinces. In addition to the river incursions from the Gulf of Thailand and South China Sea "Swift" boats of the Coastal Surveillance Force on patrol on the lower Co Chien, Hau Giang, and Soi Rap rivers carried out frequent incursions in

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the adjoining rivers and canals and naval gunfire support missions.

The overall results of operation SEA LORDS include the following:

1. Persons detained 166

2. Hostile fire incidents 99

3. Enemy casualties:

   a. Killed 11 (VC) - 87 (NVA)

   b. Wounded 1 (VC) - 22 (NVA)

   c. Captured 15

4. Friendly casualties:

   a. Killed 12 (TF 115 -3, TF 116 -4, TF 117 -3, USMC -1, USA -1)

   b. Wounded 118 (TF 115 -23, TF 116 -35, TF 117 -28, ARVN -3, VNN -5, VNMC -20, USMC -1, USA -3)

   c. Captured 0

   d. Missing 1 (VNN -1)

5. Enemy material losses:

   a. Destroyed:

      (1) Junks or sampans 207

      (2) Structures 699

   b. Captured (see TF 116 statistical summary)

   c. Damaged:

      (1) Junks or sampans 127

      (2) Structures 484

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6. USN material losses:

a. Destroyed:

(1) Surface craft 0

(2) Helicopters 0

b. Damaged:

(1) Surface craft 22 (TF 115 -10, TF 116 -17, TF 117 -20)

(2) Helicopters 0

Note: These figures are partially repetitious of those in the "USN Statistical Summary" but are restricted to USN ONLY operations. Casualties to supporting friendly forces are only those incurred by hostile fire against USN forces.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY
December 1968

Coastal activity increased during December as detections of junks and sampans rose by nearly 15,000 to 47,814. Task Force 115 units checked 74 percent of the craft detected by carrying out 19,686 inspections and 14,353 boardings. A total of 1,119 persons were detained for improper papers or other suspicious activity. There were 1,450 detections of steel-hulled vessels in MARKET TIME areas during the month. No suspicious activity was disclosed by the 970 inspections and 82 boardings carried out to check these vessels. In addition to normal surveillance operations in the MARKET TIME areas, "Swift" boats assumed patrol duties on the lower portions of the Co Chien, Ham Luong and Soirap Rivers. This permitted redeployment of Task Force 116 patrol craft for Operation SEA LORDS' counter infiltration campaigns. On the rivers, PCF's of Task Force 115 detected 11,687 craft, inspected 2,407, and boarded 6,617.

Naval gunfire support and river intrusion operations also increased during December. Of the 43 river operations carried out, all but two took place in IV CTZ as a part of Operation SEA LORDS. Also in support of Operation SEA LORDS, two "Swift" boats conducted daily patrols of the Rach Giang Thanh to counter enemy infiltration along the Cambodian border. Hostile fire was encountered on 23 of the river incursions, resulting in three USN and one VNN killed, 28 USN and one VNN wounded, and 17 "Swift" boats damaged. Enemy losses to gunfire from the MARKET TIME units during

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the river raids and 889 additional gunfire support missions came to 1,405 craft and structures destroyed plus 1,006 heavily damaged, 119 killed (68 body count plus 51 probable), and 47 wounded (10 body count plus 37 probable).

On the morning of 6 December, PCF 36 and PCF 88 were patrolling up the Lach Giang Thann when they were ambushed seven miles northeast of Ha Tien. The enemy fired on the two patrol craft from both banks of the river with small arms, 57-mm recoilless rifles and B-40 rockets. Machine gun, small arms and grenade fire from the "Swift" boats partially suppressed the hostile fire as they cleared the ambush area. The craft beached at Tra Pho, a short distance upriver, to care for the nine crewmen wounded (three seriously). In addition, one crewman was killed in the action and one VNN lost overboard and another wounded. No B-40 or recoilless rifle rounds scored direct hits, however, both craft were damaged by numerous small arms hits. During the return downriver through the ambush area, cover was provided by a Task Force 116 light helicopter fire team that saturated the enemy positions with rockets and machine gun fire. Due to the dense cover along both banks the enemy was unseen throughout the engagement and enemy losses were unknown.

On the morning of 10 December, PCF 70 and PCF 39 entered the Cua Dai River 12 miles southeast of Danang to take enemy bunkers upriver under fire. As the two craft were proceeding back out to sea after destroying seven bunkers, heavy automatic weapons fire was received from three sites at

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very close range. The enemy fire was returned killing at least one Viet Cong. After clearing the area, the craft proceeded to the Coastal Group 14 base for treatment of five wounded crewmen. A naval gunfire support mission was fired on the ambush site by USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5) with unknown results.

When an Army unit was taken under fire by an estimated NVA company 15 miles north of Quang Ngai on the 13th, PCF 18 was called for urgent naval gunfire support. Quickly responding with 39 rounds of mortar fire, the enemy attack was repulsed. A sweep of the area revealed eight bodies and numerous blood trails plus other human parts indicating heavy enemy losses.

An Operation SEA LORDS mission on 27 December took six "Swift" boats supported by helicopters, fixed wing air strikes and a Seventh Fleet destroyer into the previously unpenetrated Hang Ho, Bo Gui and Dam Doi rivers. Moving north up adjoining canals, the MARKET TIME units probed a Viet Cong headquarters area near the southern tip of Vietnam. During the five-hour-long operation, 30 sampans, 15 structures and four river barriers were destroyed. Another 30 sampans and 24 structures were damaged. During a brief but intense battle, as the craft headed back to sea via the Cua Lan River, one Viet Cong was killed and two crewmen received minor wounds.

On the night of 26 December, PCF 88 closed the shore three miles west of Ha Tien to illuminate a possible contact. The illumination

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rounds apparently revealed the positions of a Khmer Kampuchea Krom (KKK) and Viet Cong unit because a fire fight broke out between the two units ashore that lasted for several hours. Friendly units at Ha Tien stated they were not involved and intelligence reports indicated that the Viet Cong had lost 22 killed and the KKK 15 killed and 7 wounded.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
December 1968

The operations being conducted in support of Operation SEA LORDS e.g., Operation GIANT SLINGSHOT, Vinh Te Canal Campaign and Rach Gia-Long Xuyen Canal Campaign, have taken some RIVPATFOR units off the major rivers of the Delta. Accordingly, there has been a corresponding decrease in numbers of contacts detected and number of persons checked as was expected when moving these units to less dense areas of population and traffic. By assiduous use of previous experience and tactical intelligence, Task Group commanders have positioned their remaining patrols to counter the enemy in the most active areas. This has balanced somewhat the decrease in detections and search and is believed to be the best solution possible under the above circumstances. To further offset the decreased patrol capability of the major rivers by GAME WARDEN units, PCF's of TF 115 began patrolling the lower Ham Luong River as part of Operation SEA LORDS. On 12 December TF 115 was further tasked with patrolling the lower Co Chien and Soirap rivers as part of SEA LORDS. On 28 December TF 115 relieved TF 116 of patrol responsibilities of the lower Ham Luong and Co Chien rivers. During this month PBR's of TF 116 detected 190,913 watercraft and conducted 45,513 inspections and 81,218 boardings.

Intelligence reports during the month looked for the start of the enemy's winter-spring offensive. Initial reports indicated that a large scale offensive could be expected by the 22nd of the month, this was

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later revised to the 25th and eventually was forecast to occur sometime in January. The delay in the start of the offensive was attributed to the apprehension of a considerable number of enemy sapper/commo-liaison agents within the Capital Military District and the disruptive effectiveness of allied operations, in particular the GIANT SLINGSHOT patrols of the Vam Co Dong/Vam Co Tay rivers, on enemy movement of personnel and supplies.

There were four attacks against merchant ships on the Long Tau during this reporting period. On 3 December, a mine detonated about 10 meters astern of the SS GOPHER STATE and 500 meters ahead of the SS CORTAGUA with no friendly casualties or damage. On 4 December, a detonation occurred midships, outboard side, of the SS KARA which was moored alongside the Shell Pier at the Nha Be Fuel Farm. The vessel suffered minor damage but there were no friendly casualties. On 17 December, the MSTS ship CAPE SAN MARTIN came under attack while proceeding north on the Long Tau. All rockets missed the ship. On 20 December, the SS PIONEER MING was attacked by rockets about 18 miles south-southeast of Saigon with no friendly casualties.

On the evening of 1 December, a PBR on routine patrol encountered a junk 75 feet away from the quay wall at Tra On sub-sector compound, about 10 miles southeast of Can Tho. When approached by the PBR's the junk exploded. Investigation revealed that three persons were in the junk as well as a 105-mm howitzer round rigged as a booby trap. The trio had earlier attempted to take the booby trap into the Tra On sub-sector compound but were turned away and told to dump it into the river. The trio remained

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on the river approximately one hour prior to the arrival of the PBR's. After the junk exploded, the PBR's approached the Tra On sub-sector compound. Upon receiving two sniper rounds from the town complex they withdrew. As the PBR's were withdrawing, a hand grenade exploded in the midst of the civilian crowd which had gathered outside the compound, killing nine civilians and wounding 17. Intelligence evaluation concluded that this incident may have been initiated by a Viet Cong terrorist squad with Tra On sub-sector compound as the primary target and the PBR's as a probable alternate target of opportunity.

While on surveillance patrol in the early evening of 2 December, Seawolves 76 and 78 observed 12 sampans, about 12 miles northeast of Rach Gia, in the process of loading/reloading. They proceeded to place multiple strikes on the target until they had expended all of their ammunition. They observed three direct rocket hits on extremely heavily loaded sampans with occupants and other loading personnel hit by heavy weapons fire. Damage estimates were six sampans destroyed and six damaged. Enemy personnel casualties were listed as eight probably killed and seven probably wounded. There were no U. S. casualties.

TU 116.7.3 proceeding to an harassment and interdiction mission in response to intelligence on the morning of 12 December came under heavy automatic-weapons and B-40 rocket fire from both banks of a canal 5 kilometers east of Sa Dec. The cover boat was hit by a B-40 rocket which caused it to lose steering control. When the lead boat reversed course in order to make a covering firing run both units again came under intense

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B-40, recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire. Both boats received B-40 and numerous weapons hits. Seawolves and additional PBR's came to the assistance of the attacked boats and they were able to withdraw to a friendly outpost. Both boats beached and the wounded were medevaced by Seawolves. One of the PBR's was then towed to Sa Dec while the other was left for future salvage. Salvage attempts on the 13th were unsuccessful but on the 14th with the aid of two LCM's the PBR was pulled to higher ground where rocket hits beneath the waterline were plugged and the water pumped out. After refloating the PBR it was towed to Sa Dec. Friendly casualties were two killed in action and four wounded. Enemy casualties based on a report of a reliable Vietnamese agent were placed at 17 killed by PBR and Seawolf fire.

At approximately three o' clock in the morning on 13 December, PBR 731 and ASPB-111-5 were patrolling the Vam Co Tay River, as part of Operation GIANT SLINGSHOT, when they were ambushed 8 miles southeast of Moc Hoa. The ambush site was 100 meters long on both banks of the river with one .50 caliber machine gun at each end of the site on the north bank. Initial firing by the enemy knocked out communications on primary radios on both boats. After about 15 minutes the ASPB was able to contact the special forces personnel at Moc Hoa on a PRC-25. Two Army gunships were scrambled to go to the aid of the boats. The PBR and ASPB returned the fire of the enemy and the Army gunships made one firing run on the north bank suppressing fire. Additional PBR's, ASPB's and Seawolves were sent to the area

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to provide security. The PBR was beached and the wounded medevaced. The ASPB with PBR's and Seawolves providing security was towed to Tuyen Nhon. The PBR proceeded to MND4-18 under its own power. The PBR had suffered three RPG-7 and numerous small arms hits. U.S. casualties were five wounded on the PBR and three on the ASPB. Enemy casualties are unknown.

Late in the afternoon of 14 December, PBR's 717 and 720, operating as TU 194.9.1,2 part of Operation GIANT SLINGSHOT, completed a fire support mission for an artillery strike and were returning to their patrol of the Vam Co Dong River when they came under heavy automatic-weapons and rocket fire about 25 miles west of Phu Cuong. The fire was returned and the units cleared the kill zone. Seawolves scrambled and additional surface units came under attack about 3 miles north-northwest of Hiep Hoa while enroute to the scene. An Army helo team which had also been scrambled placed a strike in the area and the LHFT provided cover and security for the PBR's. Four of the more critically wounded Navymen were medevaced, one of these subsequently died of wounds. Two other PBR personnel were also wounded. Enemy losses are unknown.

While transiting south on Vam Co Dong River mid-afternoon on 29 December, PBR's 8131 and 8134, GIANT SLINGSHOT TU 194.9.4, received B-40 rocket and automatic-weapons fire from the south bank of the river about five miles south of Tay Ninh. The units returned the fire and cleared the area. One rocket struck PBR 8134 starboard side coxswain flat armor plate causing massive shrapnel damage. U.S. casualties were the patrol

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officer killed and three others wounded, one of them seriously. Enemy casualties are unknown.

During the month, a number of enemy arms caches were uncovered and seized. A listing of the items seized at the larger caches may be found on page 2 of enclosure (5). In addition to the arms caches two incidents involving medical supplies occurred. One of these was a sunken sampan on the east bank of the Vam Co Dong River, which contained over 60 morphine syrettes and 10 suturing kits. The site was later identified as one that had been used previously as a Viet Cong medical aid area. The other incident involved an ARVN soldier found aboard a water taxi without the proper papers for the 46 bottles of various type anti-biotics he was transporting. He was turned over to the Senior Advisor Kien Hoa Province for disposition. A routine inspection of a junk by a PBR on 15 December resulted in the confiscation of over 2700 pounds of U.S. Handclasp powdered milk and 60 gallons of Handclasp salad oil by U. S. authorities and the turning over of 3100 pounds of unmanifested sugar to MILO My Tho for disposition.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
December 1968

Riverine warfare in December was again characterized by interdiction, escort and patrol, base area search and pacification operations. Small unit actions over wide areas in Kien Hoa, Kien Giang, Choung Thien, and An Xuyen provinces accounted for 454 Viet Cong killed. Mobile Riverine Group ALPHA operations were confined for the most part to activity in Kien Hoa Province, and the support of the 2nd Brigade, U. S. Ninth Infantry Division. Mobile Riverine Group BRAVO operations consisted largely of a variety of special operations in the southern delta region in coordination with units of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions of Vietnamese Marine Corps.

The following table shows river assault craft employment on a typical day in December and is indicative of the present scope of operations:

ACTIVITY/OPERATION	MRF CRAFT ASSIGNED				
	ASPB	ATC	MON	CCB	REFUELER
2nd Brigade, U. S. 9th Infantry	13	32+2Z	6	2	
2nd Battalion VNMC Brigade	2	25	6	1	
Operation GIANT SLINGSHOT	11	14	3	3	
Vinh Te Campaign					
Rach Gia - Long Xuyen Campaign	2	2			
Chop to CTG 116.9			3	1	
VNN Training					
Mobile Riverine Base "A" Defense	5	10	2	1	

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ACTIVITY/OPERATION (CONT'D)	ASPB	ATC	MON	CCB	REFUELER
Mobile Riverine Base "B" Defense	7	8	1	2	
Support CTG 117.1					2
Support CTG 117.2					2
Casualty report	2				
Overhaul/Conversion/Backfit	2	7	1	1	
Chop to CTG 115.4		1			
TOTAL	44	104	20	10	4

TASK GROUP 117.1 OPERATIONS

During December, Mobile Riverine Group ALPHA engaged in a series of operations (designated Kidney Flush) designed to keep constant pressure on the Viet Cong. With frequent insertions in Ham Long, Mo Cay and Truc Giang districts of Kien Hoa Province, Army ground elements continued to seek out and destroy the enemy. These operations employ riverine, air and ground assets and have produced significant attrition against the enemy. The daily toll to the Viet Cong has been approximately 10 dead coupled with loss of supplies and equipment. Of the many detainees taken during these actions, about 20 percent are subsequently classified as Viet Cong, while the remainder are determined to be innocent civilians.

Night ambush patrols have now been incorporated into the operations of the 3/60th Infantry. This is a definite change in MRF procedures, as night landings were previously avoided as too dangerous. The procedure being followed is to rest the troops during the day, land them after dark,

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and extract them the following morning. This is the same method successfully employed by units of the Ninth Infantry Divisiion in Long An Province and last month in Giong Trom District of Kien Hoa Province.

During the month RAD 92, with infantry embarked, escorted two Army supply convoys composed of LCU's and LCM-8's from Dong Tam to the Special Forces camp at Moc Hoa. Directed from a command and control helicopter, these convoys were heavily supported by artillery, assault helicopter companies and embarked troops and proceeded via the Cho Gao Canal, Vam Co and Vam Co Tay rivers. The convoys are providing support for airfield improvement in the Moc Hoa area.

RAD 132 with six ASPB's from RAS 9 and 11 sailed to MRC "A" on 30 November and chopped to CTG 117.1 on 1 December. The units then joined elements of TF 116 in Operation GIANT SLINGSHOT in the Vam Co Tay and Vam Co Dong rivers. CTG 194.0, FIRST SEA LORD, directs the conduct of this operation.

The following hostile fire incidents are selected to briefly outline the circumstances under which two Navymen were killed in action and seven sailors were wounded:

1. While inserting an Army intelligence gathering Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) at a position 3 miles southwest of My Tho, units of RAD 91 received B-40 rocket and A/W fire. ATC-91-8 received thr B-40 rocket hits, one forward and two below the waterline. One U. S. A soldier was killed, eight were wounded and seven Navy crewmen were wou

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2. On an Operation SLINGSHOT mission on 24 December, two ASPB's enroute to a preplanned ambush site with 1st Air Cavalry elements on board, came under fire at a position 7 miles south of Kiep Hoa on the Van Co Dong River. During the attack, the boat captain of A-91-5, EM2 Wallace GOINS, USN, was killed. Another crewman was wounded. There was only light damage to the ASPB's.

3. On 27 December at 2105H, a patrol in support of Operation SEA LORDS and consisting of one ASPB, three PBR's and one ATC was proceeding south on the Rach Gia - Long Xuyen Canal when the patrol was attacked at a position 3 miles northeast of Rach Gia. One sailor was killed and three others were wounded as the ATC received three B-40 rocket hits. Fire was returned as the patrol withdrew to the south. Two "Seawolf" LHFT were scrambled and placed strikes on the suspected enemy positions.

TASK GROUP 117.2 OPERATIONS

The first five days of the month were utilized for the completion of boat maintenance in preparation for subsequent operations.

On 5 December, RAG 15 got underway from the MRB at Can Tho with 30 assault craft for operations in base area 480. Three companies of the 4th Battalion VNMC came aboard on 6 December and the task unit proceeded to the area to begin operations which lasted until the 11th. Throughout the period VNMC troops conducted ground sweeps in selected locations and the RAC patrolled in the general area within a 10 mile radius to the south and southeast of Kien Hung on the Cai Lon River. Enemy reaction to the MRF

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presence came in the form of 12 B-40 rocket ambushes during the period. The fire was returned and suppressed in all but the one instance in which there were friendly troops in the area. Two assault craft were damaged as a result of these actions and four USN wounded. On two separate occasions, B-40 rounds became lodged in the styrofoam on an ATC and a Zippo, and failed to detonate. This operation proved to be one of the most successful to date and resulted in 55 Viet Cong killed. Only one friendly VNMC was killed. In addition to the large body count, a Viet Cong prison camp was discovered by VNMC units, resulting in the release of 10 Vietnamese prisoners. Several tons of weapons, ammunition and military supplies were captured or destroyed. The units returned to the MRB on 11 December.

The Mobile Riverine Force concept was projected into the open sea for the first time attendant to the conduct of Operation SILVER HACE (TG 194.2) in the western end of the Cua Lon River. Operating as units of Operation SEA LORDS, monitors, ASPB's and ATC's, with one mobile strike force company from Binh Thuy embarked, began late on the night of 16 December and transited Phong Dinh, Chuong Thien and Kien Giang provinces and the western coast of South Vietnam in 36 hours. Meanwhile, the USS MERCER (APB39) with another MSF company and a 30 man UDT/EOD element embarked, USS SATYR (ARL23) and USS IREDELL COUNTY (LST839) (support/resupply LST) proceeded to the rendezvous point in the Gulf of Thailand in three separate transits via the South China Sea and around the southern tip of Vietnam. Rough seas delayed the commencement of the operation designed to destroy a series of 12 fish

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trap type barricades erected across the western end of the Cua Lon River. After encountering difficulty on mud flats at the Cua Lon entrance, the task unit succeeded in transiting the shallows with the aid of a VNN junk pilot. Strike forces were positioned on the bank and UDT/EOD units commenced destruction of the barricades. Meeting light enemy resistance, the SILVER MACE forces had completed barricade destruction on the morning of 22 December, and the task unit began withdrawal from the area.

On 31 December, during reconnaissance in force operations along the Can Cao Canal in the area 19-20 miles southwest of Rach Gia, enemy ambushes against the assault craft produced significant friendly casualties on two occasions. While underway to land units of the 2nd and 3rd battalion VNMC, RAC 15 craft encountered B-40 rocket and automatic weapons (A/W) fire from both banks at 310845H. Although enemy fire was returned and suppressed, one ATC and one monitor were damaged by rocket hits and seven USN were wounded. Later that night between 1950H and 2045H, in the same area, the RAC, again with VNMC troops aboard, came under attack three times and received 40 to 50 B-40 rockets and heavy A/W fire. ATC-151-12 received four B-40 hits, ATC-152-13 received one B-40 hit and ATC-151-6 sustained three B-40 hits producing heavy casualty figures of 10 USN, 28 VNMC and 3 VNN wounded. Enemy fire was returned by the RAC in all cases and at 2145 two "Seawolf" gunships and USAF "Spooky" expended 21,000 rounds on the suspected enemy positions.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
December 1968

	MARKET TIME	GAME WARDEN	MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE
Detections	49,264	190,913	*
Inspections	20,656	45,513	49
Craft detained	*	0	*
Boardings	14,435	81,218	*
Persons detained	1,119	1,474	300
Viet Cong suspects	26	75	*
Hostile fire incidents	23	*	26
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	68(BC)+51(EST)	64(BC)+55(PROB)	454
b. Wounded	10(BC)+37(EST)	8(BC)+23(PROB)	*
c. Captured	5	46	22
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	3	4 (1-DOW)	2 USN/15 USA/6 VN TIGER SCOUT
b. Wounded	28	47	47 USN/118 USA/47 VNMC/ 6 VN TIGER/3 VNN
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	4 USA
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	669	106	131
(2) Structures	736	152	1,276
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	9	33
(2) Weapons	*	SEE PAGE 2	2,452**
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	SEE PAGE 2	32,784***
(4) Rice (tons)	*	1+	30
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	313	72	*
(2) Structures	693	113	*
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	0	0
(2) Helicopters	0	0	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	17	17	23
(2) Helicopters	0	5	*
SAR missions	*	*	*

Remarks: * Information not applicable or not available this date.
** Includes 2,327 grenades.
*** Includes 221 B-40 rockets, 115 mortar rounds, and 8 bangalore torpedoes.

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AMMUNITION AND WEAPONS CAPTURED AS A RESULT OF TF 116 OPERATIONS:

172,600	ROUNDS OF SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION
1,600	ROUNDS OF 12.7mm HEAVY MACHINE GUN AMMUNITION
6	ROUNDS 75mm RECOILLESS RIFLE
10	ROUNDS 57mm RECOILLESS RIFLE
479	ROUNDS 82mm MORTAR
856	ROUNDS 60mm MORTAR
100	MINES OF VARIOUS TYPES
40	CHI COM TORPEDOES RIGGED AS WATER MINES
1,148	PLUS THE CONTENTS OF TWO 55 GALLON DRUMS OF GRENADES OF ALL TYPES (RPG CONCUSSION, FRAGMENTATION)
45	122mm ROCKETS
38	FUZES (ROCKET AND MORTAR)
59	RPG BOOSTERS
116	CASES OF B-40 CHARGES
1	120mm MORTAR INCREMENT
20	½ POUND PACKETS OF C-4
9	15-INCH STICKS OF C-4
1	CHI COM ROCKET SIGHT
1	120mm MORTAR WITH TRIPOD AND BASE PLATE
1	LIGHT MACHINE GUN WITH TRIPOD
1	60mm MORTAR WITH BASE PLATE AND SIGHTING DEVICE
1	MACHINE GUN CRADLE
50,000	FT OF BLASTING CORD
38	BLASTING CAPS
360	BATTERIES

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
December 1968

Four more PCF's were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) this month to bring the total of VNN PCF's to 12. On 27 December, two PCF's conducted the first VNN river patrol in conjunction with Operation SEA LORDS when the Cai Lon River was penetrated into areas never before reached by VNN craft. This first mission was designed as a familiarization with SEA LORDS operations; there was no enemy contact made during the 25-mile trip. In addition, derivative benefits came from a VNN craft flying the Vietnamese flag throughout the passage and in the small Delta village of Kien Hung.

Brigade A, Vietnamese Marine Corps (VNMC), composed of the 1st and 2nd Infantry Battalions and Battery B, VNMC Artillery Battalion, operated in the vicinity of Tay Ninh under the operational control of the 25th ARVN Infantry Division during Operation SONG THAN. The brigade met with no significant enemy contact during the deployment of 1-9 December. On 10 December, the brigade retired to the base camp at Thu Duc.

Brigade B was composed of the 4th Infantry Battalion and Battery D, VNMC Artillery Battalion ffom 1 through 18 December and participated in Operation SONG THAN under the operational control of the 21st ARVN Infa Division in Chuong Thien Province. On 10 December, the marines were c with 41 enemy killed and 6 captured along with a large quantity of we and ammunition. The VN marines suffered seven wounded during this b The 2nd Infantry Battalion relieved the 4th Infantry Battalion on 7

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and on 24 December the 3rd Infantry Battalion joined the brigade. On 28 December the marines, under the operational control of the 21st ARVN Infantry Division, participated in amphibious operations in close coordination with the U. S. Mobile Riverine Force in the northern U-Minh Forest area. On 31 December the marines incurred 28 wounded when the RAS craft in which they were riding came under enemy attack. A firefight ensued with unknown enemy casualties.

The newly instituted Amphibious Task Force (ATF), composed of the 3rd Infantry Battalion, VNN RAG 21/33 and the ARVN 7th and 9th Infantry Divisions, began conducting operations in the My Tho/Ben Tre areas this month and participated in operations SONG THAN and KIDNEY FLUSH. The fledging ATF recorded little enemy contact during its first month of operations.

The 5th and 6th Infantry battalions operated in and around Tay Ninh this month conducting reconnaissance-in-force and small unit patrols on individual assignments. The 5th Battalion was committed to the U. S. 1st Air Cavalry Division and the 1st Airborne Brigade while the 6th Battalion pursued the enemy under the operational control of the ARVN 5th and 25th Infantry Divisions.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	Daily Average		Searched		Detained	
	Oper	Empl	Junks	People	Junks	People
COASTAL FORCE						
I	35.8	35.6	17,368	65,912	39	302
II	49.2	47.1	22,764	66,305	26	237
III	45.9	45.9	12,027	38,239	6	30
IV	63.8	63.7	10,552	32,257	0	2
		Sub-totals:	62,911	204,213	65	571
*FLEET COMMAND PATROL SHIPS	39.7	32.9	2,335	10,265	7	31
RIVERINE AREA CRAFT	130.0	128.7	9,945	30,143	0	0
#GEN RESERVE FORCE	43.7	41.9	8,459	19,931	0	0
		TOTALS:	83,650	264,552	72	602

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: KIA 58 Captured 22 Suspects detained 42

VNMC KIA 14 WIA 97

*Provided 51 gunfire support missions.

#Includes RAG 27, [redacted] and RPG 51

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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS
December 1968

This month 25 Hoi Chanhs rallied to naval forces. The total for this year stands at 235, which is a 46 percent increase over last year's total. The vast majority (153) of these people have rallied during the last four months.

In conjunction with Operation GIANT SLINGSHOT, loud speaker operations were conducted extensively along the Vam Co Dong River. Quick reaction leaflet drops and aerial loudspeaker broadcasts exploited the psychological vulnerabilities of the enemy generated by the presence of U. S. Naval forces, and in particular Navy SEALs, in the areas of the Cai Lon, Bo De and Ong Doc rivers, the Rach Gia-Long Xuyen Canal and Phu Quoc Island. The presence of U. S. forces along the Rach Gia-Long Xuyen Canal has had a strategic effect upon pacification by gaining vital lines of communications and allowing refugees to resettle in their former homes under secure conditions. Psychological operations in this area were also conducted in the form of MEDCAP and MILCAPS to solidify the gains made in the pacification program. The response of the people to these efforts was enthusiastic. Speaker operations and MEDCAPs were also continued along the major Mekong River complex. An insight into the value of waterborne speaker operations might be gained from the following incident: In My Tho through various sources the names of seven members of the Viet Cong infrastructure were gained. These people were appealed to by name in speaker operations urging them

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to rally to the government cause and guaranteeing their personal safety. Two of those appealed to subsequently rallied to the government.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone a major effort was made in pacification to upgrade Ly Nhon village, formerly rated a contested area. PSYOPS were conducted during the month in the form of MEDCAPs, entertainment troups and speeches by the District Chief urging the people to rally behind the government. The results were most effective as evidenced by the radical change in attitude by the populace for the government.

Throughout the rest of the country daily PSYOPS were conducted utilizing the themes of voluntary informant, Chieu Hoi, support of the government and the progress of the Paris Peace Talks. There was also continued use of Armed Propaganda Teams (ex-Viet Cong) participating in live speaker broadcasts.

During the month in excess of 50 MEDCAPs were conducted and 13,862 persons were treated.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
December 1968

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN-DAYS PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: 2,855

COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: VN$ 2,327,662

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: VN$ 302,225

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

	Percent
Other FWMAF	15
RVNAF	20
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	10
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	80

PROGRAMS

	Man Days	Expenditures (VN$)
Economic Development	86	28,368
Education	317	541,665
Social Welfare	2,184	1,952,497
Transportation	268	113,237
Refugee	269	305,144

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	Number
Schools	25
Hospitals/Dispensaries	8
Orphanages	5
Others	51

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