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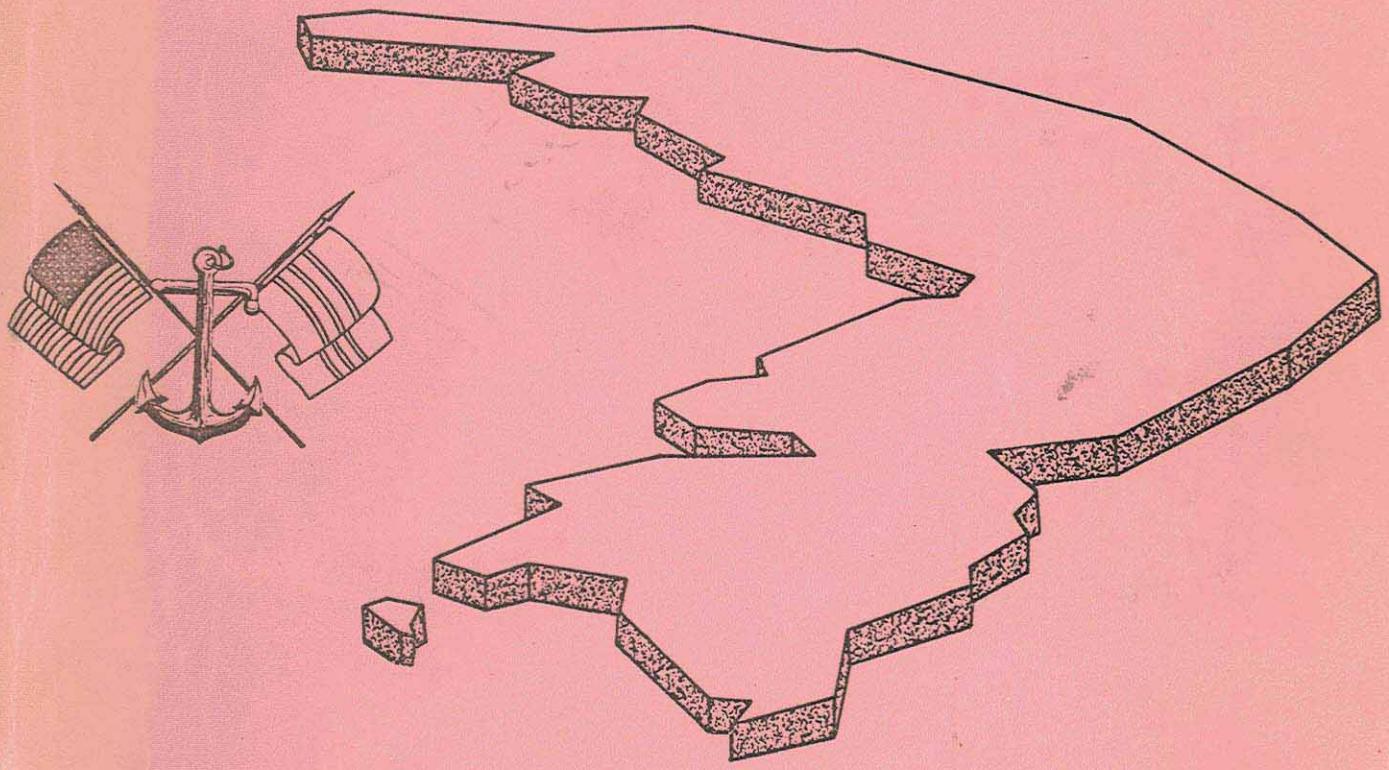

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT

JUNE 1968

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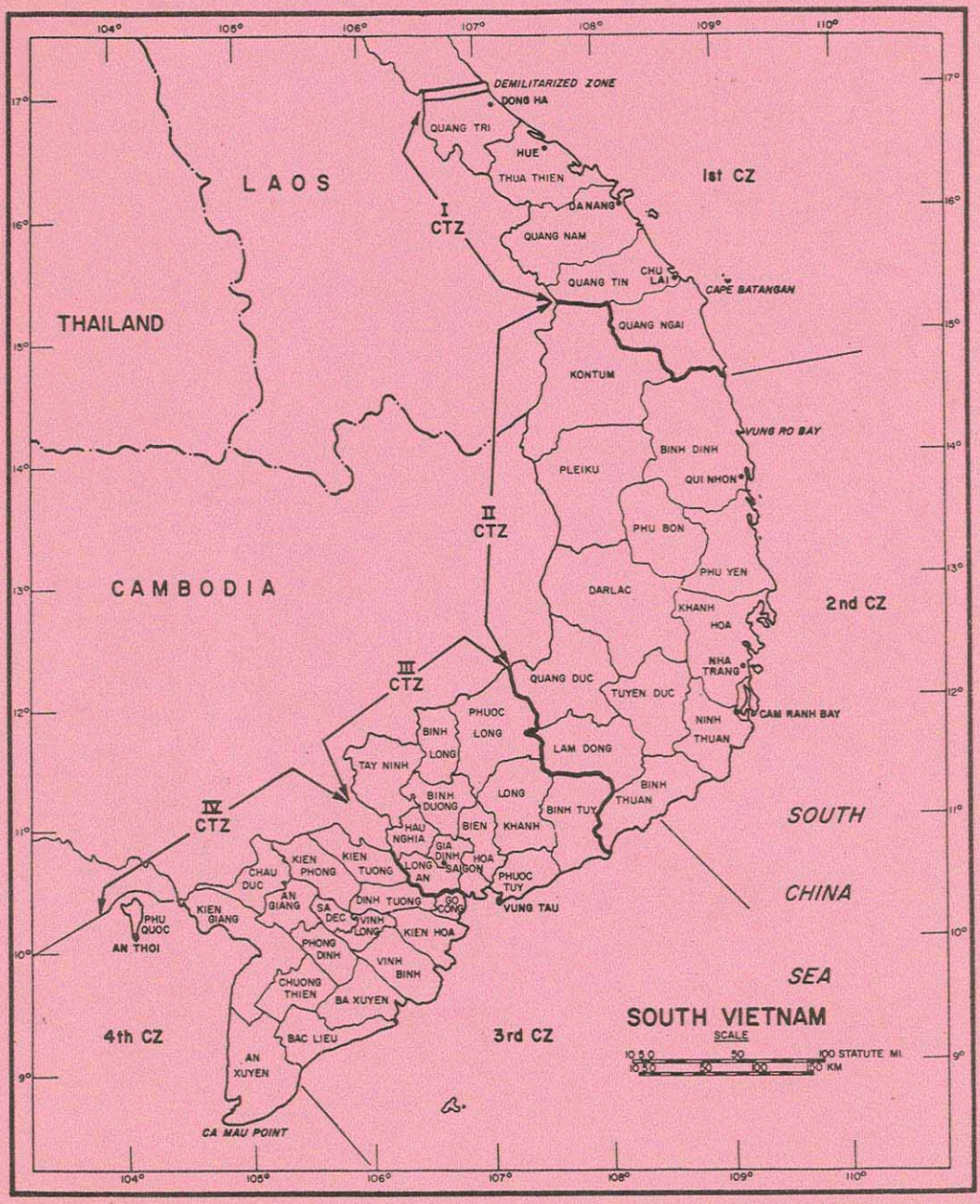

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MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT

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FOREWORD

During June, Navy river forces were prepared to counter expected enemy attacks against Delta urban areas. Contact with reported large scale enemy forces failed to materialize; instead, firefights with small enemy units characterized Navy combat activity throughout the month.

Nine U.S. Navymen lost their lives during the month. In one disastrous battle, which involved the destruction of PBR 750 on the My Tho River 2 miles southeast of Sung Hieu, on 21 June, Patrol Officer Lieutenant William E. DENNIS, USN, BM1 Scott C. DELPH and GMG2 Patrick O. FORD were lost in a murderous machine-gun and rocket ambush. GMG2 FORD was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross in recognition of the heroic action he displayed in saving the lives of his wounded shipmates.

The planned reorganization of Task Force 117 into two task groups, 117.1 and 117.2, was put into effect as River Assault Squadron 13 became operational. Expanded Mobile Riverine Force operations immediately began.

Of special significance this month was the acquisition of 14 U. S. Naval river craft by the government of the Republic of South Vietnam. The craft -- six LCM(M)'s (Landing Craft Medium Minesweeper) and eight PBR's (River Patrol Boat) -- were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy by United States Naval Forces, Vietnam, during ceremonies held in Saigon. With these additional naval craft, the Vietnamese Navy assumed complete responsibility for minesweeping operations along the Long Tau River Shipping Channel to Saigon. Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, made this remark at the

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turnover ceremonies:

> "...to my knowledge the Vietnamese Navy is the first of the services of the Republic of Vietnam to assume an exclusive military responsibility previously held by United States forces."

The total strength of U. S. Naval personnel under the operational control of NAVFORV was 32,666. In addition, U.S. Naval personnel assigned to III Marine Amphibious Force was 3,644, while U.S. Coast Guard strength was 475.

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CHRONOLOGY

1 - 2 June - Elements of the U. S. Army 1st Infantry Division along with Vietnamese Rangers waged a battle in defense of Saigon. Enemy deaths amounted to 121 plus 7 Viet Cong captured. Friendly losses were 4 marines killed, 15 wounded and one marine accidentally drowned. p. 139

1 - 7 - LAM SON 224 campaign (3rd phase) in the First Naval Zone resulted in 112 enemy killed; 20 aggressors captured; seizure of 31 individual and 5 crew-served weapons, plus 29 tons of rice. Two U. S. and 5 ARVN soldiers were liberated from the enemy. Friendly losses and sufferage amounted to 9 ARVN soldiers killed and 35 others wounded. p. 109

2 - An Army/Navy team terminated a 2-day waterborne sweep operation through Duc Ton District. The cumulative results of the operation were 14 Viet Cong killed, 9 suspects detained, 6 bunkers and 5 booby traps destroyed. p. 53

- ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68) began a number of fire support missions which spanned over an 8-day period. The missions inflicted heavy damage upon Viet Cong supply points and troop concentrations in vicinity of Ong Doc River. Other results from the missions included 6 Viet Cong killed and another 32 enemy probably killed. p. 15-16

3 - 5 - Task Force A killed 60 Viet Cong and captured 13 while making sweeps south and east of Saigon. p. 135-136

5 - MRF launched a two-battalion riverine reconnaissance-in-force operation in the Cao Lanh and Kien Van districts to engage the Viet Cong 502A and 502B battalions. The results of the one-day operation were 81 bunkers and 25 sampans destroyed, 44 Viet Cong suspects detained for questioning. There were no MRF casualties. p. 54

- Two suspected Viet Cong tax collectors were turned over to Qui Nhon military police after being apprehended from a sampan by PCF 89. The two suspects had a large sum of money in their possession. The sampan contained a few small fish and no nets. p. 9

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6 June - Three U. S. military personnel were killed following an enemy attack on the Harbor Entrance Control Post at Nha Trang. The attack consisted of a mortar and rocket barrage, followed by infantry/sapper attacks with satchel charges, grenades and small-arms fire. p. 21-23

7 - Operation 51-68, a two-battalion MRF operation in the Giao Duc District netted 3 Viet Cong killed, 4 prisoners captured, 77 suspects detained, and 82 bunkers destroyed. Friendly losses amounted to one Vietnamese "Tiger" scout killed and 10 U. S. soldiers wounded. p. 54-55

- Three ARVN infantry battalions, an artillery unit, VNAF aircraft and RAG 28 river craft combined in Operation TOAN THANG 60/A/68 south of Phu Cuong. An area sweep yielded 30 Viet Cong killed and one captured. Friendly losses were 5 killed and 47 wounded. p. 122

10 - Seven crewmen of Monitor 111-2 were wounded during a fire-fight involving a MRF two-battalion reconnaissance-in-force contingent and elements of the 516th Viet Cong Battalion and the 570th DCU in Giong Trom District. Monitor 111-2 was struck by a rocket. The assault craft killed 4 Viet Cong. p. 55

- A violent exchange of fire erupted following the landing of infantrymen along the banks of Tai River, near Ben Tre, by boats of RAD 111. The firefight resulted in 16 Viet Cong killed, 3 enemy sampans destroyed and three secondary explosions achieved by the RAD 111 craft. p. 55-56

- VNN took command of 14 U. S. Navy river craft. Among them were six LCMMs. p. 103

- Heavy enemy recoilless-rifle fire from the beach brought retaliatory fire from PBRs escorting the Mekong Delta resupply ship USS MARK and Vietnamese Navy LSIL 328 on the Mekong River, 7½ miles west-southwest of My Tho. The enemy gunners scored several hits on the Vietnamese vessel, wounding 13 and killing 2 others. Enemy casualties were unknown. p. 31-32

11 - 14 - A battle near Phu Cuong City left 30 enemy dead on the battlefield, 2 Viet Cong were captured and 18 soldiers sustained wounds. The battle involved TOAN THANG 269/A/8 forces -- two 8th ARVN Infantry Regiment battalions and units of RAG 24 and 28. p. 124

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12 June - MSTS chartered merchantman, SS JOHN C. ran aground on North Reef, Paracel Island while carrying cargo from the U.S. to Danang. p. 90

- USCGC WINONA (WHEC 65) fired a 4-day gunfire mission in the vicinity of Ong Doc River, destroying and damaging a sizeable number of structures and sampans; causing secondary explosions; killing 19 Viet Cong; wounding 7, plus another 43 enemy probably killed. p. 16

13 - PACV's join Task Force CLEARWATER under the operational control of Commander, Hue River Security Group. p. 70

- Enemy artillery hit fuel farm at Cua Viet, destroying 13 bladders, 130,000 gallons of fuel and wounding one man. p. 71

- TRUONG CONG DINH VB/60 yielded 15 Viet Cong killed and 3 captured in Vinh Binh Province. p. 115

- A terrorist mining incident occurred in the NAVSUPPACT, Danang Procurement Office, causing extensive damage as well as wounding 7 military men and 2 Vietnamese civilians. The charge was believed to have been carried into the office by a Vietnamese woman. p. 73

14 - General Creighton W. ABRAMS, USA, visited the MRB for the first time since assuming command as Commander, U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. p. 95

- One-hundred VNN recruits left Saigon for 8 weeks of basic training at the U. S. Naval Recruit Training Command, San Diego, California. p. 104

15 - Operation QUYET THANG 53/T, a joint effort northwest of Tam Ky, involving Coastal Group 15 units, TF 115 PCFs, PF battalion, units of U.S. 1st Cavalry and 2 ARVN battalions, netted 16 Viet Cong killed; 3 captured; 4 tunnels destroyed; more than 100 small boats destroyed; 17 larger boats and 3 enemy controlled hamlets damaged. p. 109

16 - River Division 53 PBR's medically evacuated a Vietnamese woman in labor, and while enroute to the hospital the woman delivered. p. 86-87

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16 June - RAS 13 personnel and craft were ambushed twice in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The enemy sprung the ambush from both banks of the Ong Keo Stream, 8 miles southeast of Nha Be. Four sailors and one Vietnamese soldier were wounded in the attack. Three boats received minor damage. p. 57-58

- TOAN THANG 199/252, conducted on the Vam Co River, resulted in 17 enemy killed, 4 captured and 5 suspects detained. ARVN troops suffered 4 wounded and one killed. RAG 24 also participated in the operation. p. 125

- PCF 19 reports being under attack by unknown aircraft while on patrol near the Demilitarized Zone. USS BOSTON (CAG-1) and HMAS HOBART were also attack by unidentified aircraft in the same general area. p. 4-5

17 - Fire support from Task Force 116.3.5 PBR's resulted in the capture of 24 Viet Cong, the detention of 35 deserters/ draft dodgers and the death of 5 enemy soldiers while supporting a sweep operation on Tan Phong Island, 5½ miles northeast of Vinh Long. p. 32

- An enemy ambush killed one Army artilleryman and wounded 13 other soldiers on the Can Tho River. The Armymen were attacked by B-40 rockets, 6 miles southwest of Can Tho. Retaliatory fire was not returned due to the area being heavily populated. p. 59

- MRF operated on Bassac River for the second time in its 16-month history. At 0615, MRF landed two infantry battalions on beaches 3½ miles southwest of Can Tho to exploit B-52 airstrike which had commenced 30 minutes prior to the assault landing. The enemy evaded the ground troops but air cavalry helicopter gunships killed 33 of the fleeing Viet Cong. p. 59

18 - First and Sixth battalions formed a triangular cordon around enemy elements north of Gia Dinh Sector. An enemy break-through attempt netted the marine battalions 113 Viet Cong captured and 65 killed. p. 140

- Viet Cong used another of his many hideous booby traps. This one was discovered during a careful inspection of a sampan. The booby trap was a snake, tacked to a floor board in a manner that allowed the reptile to strike at whoever lifted the board. p. 31

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19 June - A series of sporadic encounters netted MRF ground troops 9 enemy aggressors killed. This brought the total of a three-day operation to 66 Viet Cong killed, while friendly forces lost 4 soldiers, and sustained 27 wounded, 3 of which were U. S. Navymen. p. 59-60

- Second Coastal Zone PCF's established a tight exfiltration patrol for a Korean Tiger Division sweep. This operation lasted for several days. The allied effort cornered an estimated North Vietnamese regiment and resulted in more than 140 enemy killed or wounded, with five of the enemy being the victims of naval gunfire. p. 10

20 - Dong Ha Combat Base came under attack by enemy artillery. Secondary explosions and fires destroyed much of the detachment cantonment, including 16 bladders and 160,000 gallons of fuel. Three men were wounded in the attack. p. 71-72

- MRF assault troops engaged an undetermined size enemy force west of Can Tho. Heavy airstrikes and artillery barrages were placed on the enemy positions. The Viet Cong exfiltrated under the cover of darkness, but left 15 dead comrades behind. p. 60

- RAD 112 units were struck by enemy rockets and automatic weapons on the Can Tho River, 6 miles southwest of Can Tho. One troop carrier was struck by a recoilless-rifle round. Shrapnel dispersion wounded 8 embarked Armymen. An artillery barge burst into flames following a direct hit as 105-mm howitzer ammunition exploded. One 105-mm tube was also destroyed in the ambush. p. 60-61

21 - PBR 750 was the target of enemy gunners near Cai Be. With a sampan in tow and the lone occupant, a female, aboard, plus three other Viet Cong suspects captured earlier, PBR 750 came under fire while clearing a canal. Enemy gunners scored two rocket hits on the boat, setting it ablaze. The boat went out of control and headed toward the beach receiving four more B-40 rocket hits. The patrol cover boat, PBR 723, opened with counter automatic-weapons and rocket fire. GMG2 Patrick O. FORD, USN, with his clothing afire, was seen pushing wounded PBR 750 crewmen over the side. PBR 723 rescued four persons; two sailors, one Vietnamese policeman and one Viet Cong suspect. The female was sighted swimming toward the beach to freedom.

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21 June - The enemy fire was suppressed following the arrival of two additional PBRs and four Navy helicopter gunships. p. 33

- The charred body of BM1 Scott G. DELPH, USN, was found in the cockpit of PBR 750 following the ensuing battle near Cai Be. The body of the patrol officer, LT William E. DENNIS, USN, was retrieved from the water later that evening, as well as the bodies of two Viet Cong suspects. GMG2 FORD was still missing. Three other PBR 750 crewmen were missing. A search was initiated by 9 PBRs and 100 Vietnamese PF troops for the missing bodies. p. 34

- MRF units and ground troops terminated a 5-day operation and returned to the MRB in the vicinity of Can Tho. The operation tallied 82 Viet Cong killed, 2 prisoners and 19 weapons captured, 24 persons detained and 39 bunkers destroyed. U. S. casualties were 4 soldiers killed, 38 Armymen and 3 Navymen wounded. p. 61

- PBR's and "Seawolves" conducted a joint operation with a Provincial Reconnaissance Unit in southern Vinh Binh Province. The U. S. contingent provided cover support for the troops who stormed ashore to assault a Viet Cong prison camp west of Long Toan. The joint effort resulted in the release of 29 Vietnamese prisoners. When the tide of the battle turned against the enemy, Viet Cong prison guards fired on prisoners killing 4 and wounding 8 inmates. p. 39-41

- Four PBR crewmen were killed and one PBR destroyed during two separate firefights on the My Tho River. The destruction of the PBR marked the 8th Navy river patrol boat (PBR) lost in combat. p. 25-27

22 - Friendly forces incurred 12 ARVN killed, 24 wounded and one VNN sailor wounded during a sweep in Phu Cuong Province. The operation, TOAN THANG 280/A/7, also yielded 17 enemy killed and the seizure of a sizeable weapons cache. p. 125

24 - Navy "Seawolves" conducted two airstrikes against a suspected enemy mobile unit 6 miles north of Sa Dec. Results of the strikes included 18 Viet Cong killed, 12 wounded and 6 sampans destroyed. p. 34

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24 June - Responding to a VNN Coastal Group 13 request, PCF 12 conducted urgent naval gunfire mission against target southeast of Tan My. Intelligence reports revealed that the mission trapped 30 Viet Cong in a trench, killing one and wounding at least three other communist aggressors. p. 6

24 - 25 - Coastal Group 35 and PRU forces freed 29 government officials held captive since the Tet Offensive during Operation SONG THAN 31. A Hoi Chanh led the land force to the enemy prison camp, 24 miles south of Phu Vinh. p. 116-117

25 - Two separate actions north of Saigon tallied 17 Viet Cong killed, 2 captured and the seizure of 11 AK-47s and assorted ammunition during TOAN THANG 50/LD.3. RAG 24 and 28 participated, supporting two companies of the 2nd Battalion Vietnamese Airborne. p. 124-125

26 - SEALs landed on Dung Island east of Long Phu. The landing resulted in 4 Viet Cong killed, 8 enemy suspects captured, plus the seizure of 2 German Mauser rifles; 50 rounds of ammunition; 4 U. S. M-26 grenades; one CHICOM grenade and numerous documents. One SEAL was wounded by a CHICOM grenade, thrown by a fleeing Viet Cong. p. 41

26 - 29 - Thomas D. MORRIS, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations and Logistics, tours military bases in Republic of Vietnam. p. 96

30 - USCGC MINNETONKA fired on six targets south of Phu Cat Mountains, destroying 15 structures and damaging 14 others. p. 11

- The total strength of U. S. Naval personnel under the operational control of NAVFORV was 32,666. In addition, U. S. Navy personnel assigned to III Marine Amphibious Force was 3,644, while U. S. Coast Guard strength was 475.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

Fishing activity was light in many areas along the east coast of South Vietnam due to late afternoon squalls and choppy seas during June. This caused a very slight decrease in total detections from the previous month and made boarding operations difficult at times. However, surveillance units of Task Force 115 were able to maintain very high percentages of on station time and to continue the increased pressure on enemy forces along the coast through naval gunfire. During June MARKET TIME and STABLE DOOR operations detected a total of 147,108 craft in their patrol areas. Because of sea conditions the percentage inspections or boardings was somewhat lower than usual. Inspections totaled 52,235 and boarding totaled 25,781. Suspicious activity or improper identification and craft papers led to the detention of 72 craft and nearly 1600 persons for further investigation by intelligence and police authorities.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

Although MARKET TIME units remained alert to prevent any major enemy infiltration from the sea during June, the tempo of gunfire support and blocking patrols in coordination with ground operations reflected the strong emphasis upon maximum utilization of all firepower resources. The total number of naval gunfire missions was slightly less than the 357 carried out in May, however, more frequent use of spotters and closer liaison with forces ashore for both targeting and gun damage assessments resulted in a significant increase in the verified enemy losses. These losses included:

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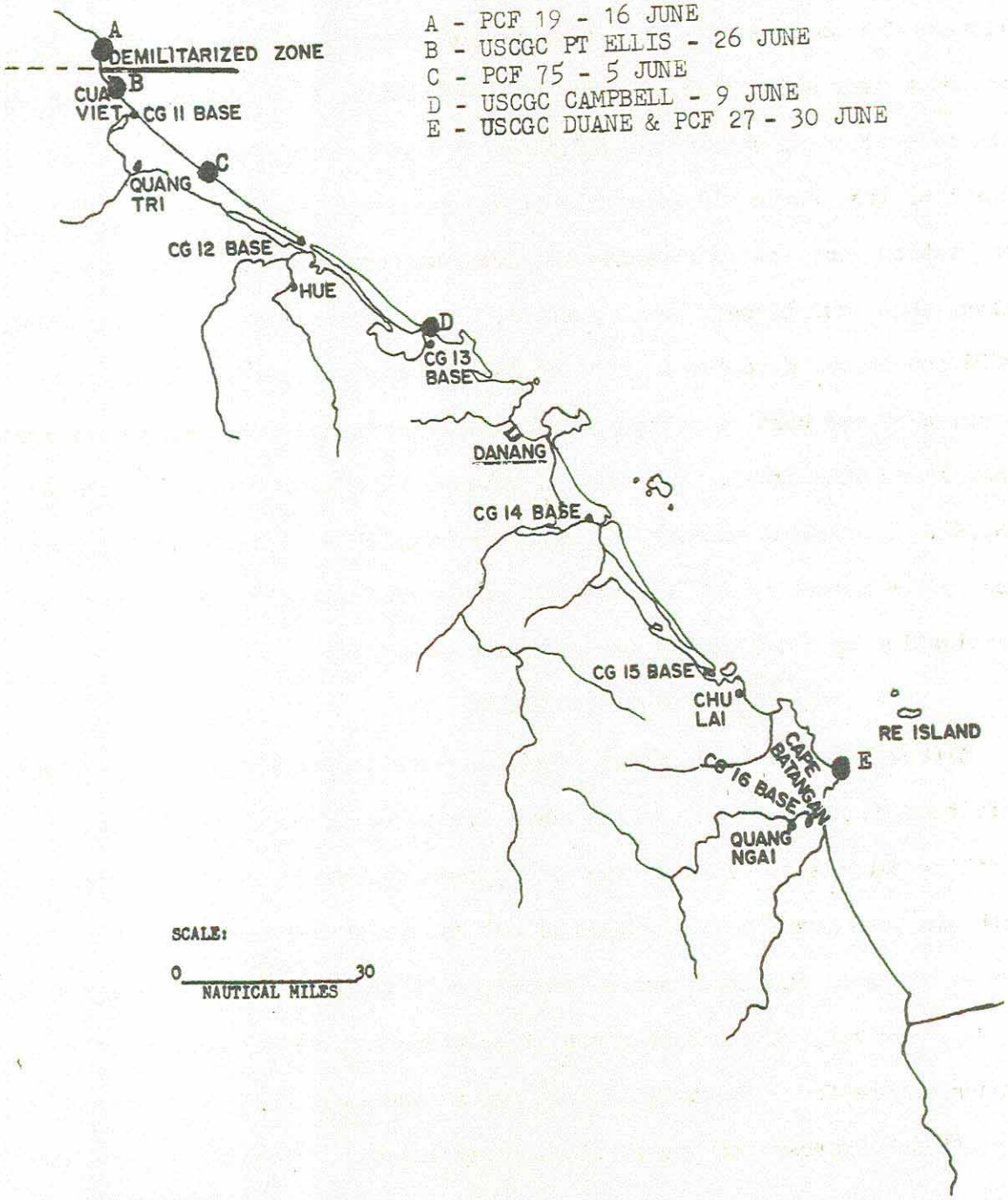
OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE

A - PCF 19 - 16 JUNE
B - USCGC PT ELLIS - 26 JUNE
C - PCF 75 - 5 JUNE
D - USCGC CAMPBELL - 9 JUNE
E - USCGC DUANE & PCF 27 - 30 JUNE



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144 Viet Cong killed (86 probable, 58 by body count)

101 junks or sampans destroyed

255 structures destroyed

80 junks or sampans damaged

413 structures damaged

Surveillance results for MARKET TIME units included 105,543 detections of junks and sampans, of which 46,687 were inspected and another 23,768 were boarded. In addition, a total of 1,184 detections were made of steel hulled vessels in MARKET TIME areas during June. All were determined to be non-suspicious by 807 inspections and 83 boardings during transit or on arrival in South Vietnamese ports. There were no indications from intelligence sources that large scale enemy sea infiltration had been attempted or carried out during the month. Alert patrol personnel detained persons who were apparently Viet Cong tax collectors moving among the local fishermen twice during June and a number of other craft were destroyed while attempting to evade patrol units.

First Coastal Zone

With the exception of a few late afternoon rain squalls the weather remained excellent in the First Coastal Zone during June. This permitted a high percentage of boardings by in shore PCF patrols and frequent use of small boats for boarding operations by WPB's. Junk and sampan detections in the First Coastal Zone totaled 43,390. Of these, 40 percent were inspected and almost 30 percent were boarded. In addition to favorable

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weather aiding patrol effectiveness, maximum coverage was obtained in area 1A1 by the use of one "Swift" boat with two crews being serviced by the offshore patrol in area 1B. This allowed a unit to be on patrol 24 hours a day and eliminated the 5-hour transit time from Danang until the base at Cua Viet can be reestablished. With the exception of a few areas, violations of restricted zones became less frequent during the month. High numbers of detainees indicated good area coverage and effectiveness of the surveillance operations.

Naval gunfire was employed by First Coastal Zone units more than 130 times during June. At least 80 of these missions represented harassment and interdiction fire with no gun damage assessment possible. More than 30 other missions were carried out against specific enemy targets at the request of ground units and blocking patrols supported three ground operations. In addition, evading junks or sampans were taken under fire 15 times. Hostile fire was returned on four of five occasions.

The apparent use of helicopters by North Vietnamese forces in and just north of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) was a development which proved to have tragic consequences for a First Coastal Zone PCF. At approximately 0100 on the 16th PCF 19 reported it was under attack from unknown aircraft while on patrol just off the DMZ. From their positions in adjacent patrol areas PCF 12 and USCGC POINT DUME proceeded to the support of PCF 19. Shortly after the initial report of the attack two rockets fired at PCF 19 were observed by POINT DUME. One hit the "Swift" boat and the other appeared to be a

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near miss. Within minutes the PCF disappeared from the cutter's radar. Two wounded survivors were rescued by POINT DUME as attacks from unidentified aircraft against both the cutter and PCF 12 continued for more than an hour. During this time USS BOSTON (CAG-1) and HMAS HOBART were also attacked by aircraft in the same general area. Observers ashore and the MARKET TIME units reported both fixed wing aircraft and helicopters were involved in the action. Air Force pilots called in response to earlier reports of enemy aircraft near the DMZ, reported shooting down several helicopters. However, no evidence of wreckage could be found. Subsequent investigation of the events indicated that in the confusion following the initial reports of helicopter sightings the friendly aircraft had attacked targets which appeared to be on radar. These radar targets probably included PCF 19. The use of helicopters by the enemy was neither conclusively proved nor disproved although observers ashore and MARKET TIME units continued to observe lights and other indications of helicopter activity along the North Vietnamese coast and between the coast and nearby Tiger Island. Salvage attempts on PCF 19 revealed that the "Swift" boat had been hit by three rockets, two in the cabin and one in the engine compartment. Four Navymen and one Vietnamese Navy (VNN) petty officer were killed. POINT DUME and PCF 12 were not damaged.

Early in the evening of 5 June, PCF 75 observed two friendly helicopter gunships draw enemy fire from a position about 20 miles southeast of Cua Viet. Although radio communications could not be established, one of the

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gunships hovered alongside the "Swift" boat and indicated a desire for assistance in engaging the enemy position. With the helicopter marking the target with smoke PCF 75 furnished 81-mm mortar and .50 caliber machine gun suppressive fire. The hostile fire was silenced and one bunker destroyed.

During the afternoon of 9 June USCGC CAMPBELL (WHEC 32) carried out five naval gunfire support missions in conjunction with Operation HOUSTON II 20 miles northwest of Danang. Expending more than 75 rounds from her 5"/38 gun the cutter caused severe damage to Viet Cong base camps, trench lines, and a supply route. One secondary explosion was observed in the vicinity of the supply route. In another mission on the 12th against enemy positions approximately 10 miles further northwest along the coast the CAMPBELL again achieved impressive results. This time some 170 rounds of 5"/38 ammunition were expended damaging a causeway, 2 masonry structures and 19 houses, destroying 11 houses and starting 2 secondary fires. Enemy personnel casualties could not be determined.

At 1925 on the 24th PCF 12 was requested by VNN Coastal Group 13 to conduct urgent naval gunfire against a target 20 miles southeast of Tan My. The "Swift" boat responded rapidly expending 15 high explosive rounds from her 81-mm mortar. Intelligence reports the next day revealed that the mission had caught 30 Viet Cong in a trench, killing one and wounding at least three.

In the early morning of 26 June USCGC POINT ELLIS detected a sampan in the surfline while conducting small boat operations about 5 miles

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northwest of Cua Viet. After the cutter commenced illuminating with her 81-mm mortar the sampan began to evade toward the beach. A warning shot was fired and POINT ELLIS closed to take the sampan under fire when heavy hostile automatic weapons and rocket or mortar fire was received from the tree line. The cutter opened to about 2,000 yards while returning the fire with her .50 caliber machine gun. Then 20 rounds of 5"/54 gunfire from USS BLANDY (DD 943), a Seventh Fleet gunfire support ship, were spotted by the cutter on the enemy position. The sampan was damaged and one Viet Cong was probably killed. POINT ELLIS was hit on the starboard side of the bridge by one .50 caliber round which caused no personnel casualties.

On 30 June USCGC DUANE (WHEC 33) carried out naval gunfire along with PCF 27 using an I Corps spotter. Three targets were taken under fire on Cape Ba Lang An about 20 miles southeast of Chu Lai. Firing nearly one-hundred and thirty 5"/38 projectiles the cutter's gunners destroyed 10 structures and 2 bunkers, damaged 5 other structures and one bunker, and probably killed 2 and wounded 2 Viet Cong.

Second Coastal Zone

Choppy seas reduced inshore fishing activity and hampered boarding operations in portions of the Second Coastal Zone. Yet there were also heavy concentrations of fishing junks and sampans in areas such as 4C. Also coastal junk traffic transiting Area 5 was moderate to heavy for most of June. A total of 44,532 junks and sampans were detected by

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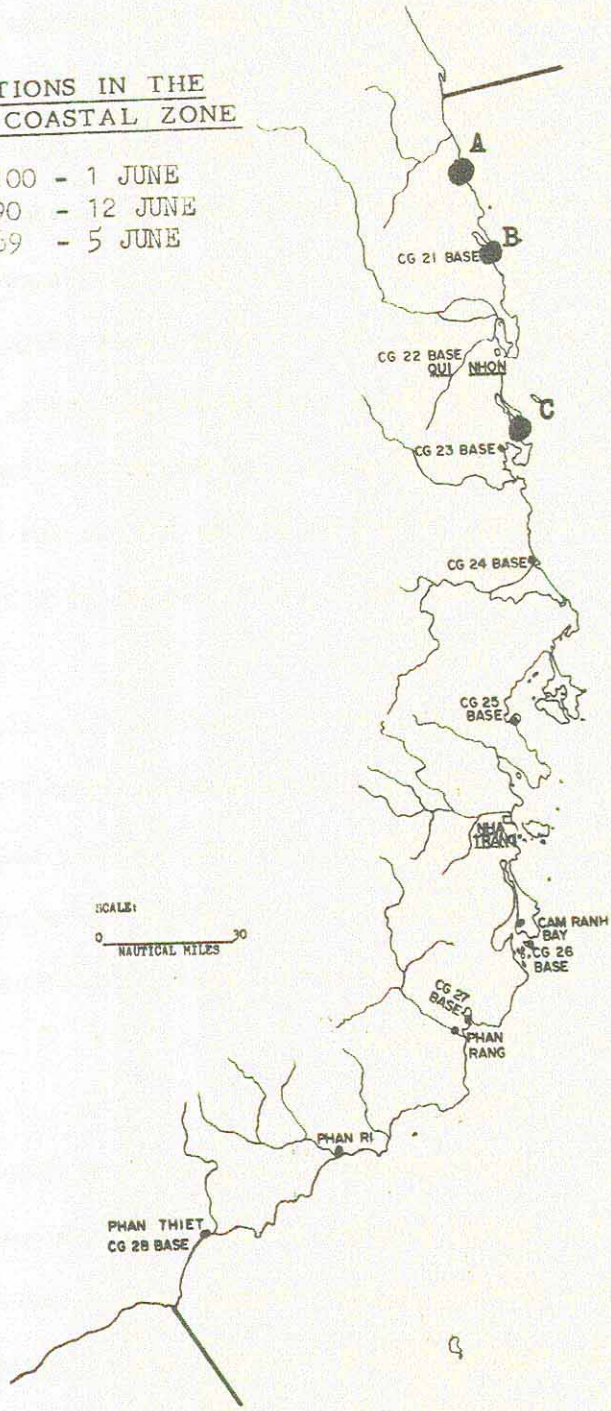
OPERATIONS IN THE
SECOND COASTAL ZONE

A - PCF 100 - 1 JUNE
B - PCF 90 - 12 JUNE
C - PCF 69 - 5 JUNE



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Second Coastal Zone surveillance units during June. More than 60 percent were boarded or inspected.

Second Coastal Zone "Swift" boats and off shore patrol ships were also active in providing naval gunfire during June. More than 40 harassment and interdiction missions were carried out plus another 20 missions fired in response to requests for support by ground forces. In addition, hostile fire was suppressed on two occasions and three evading junks or sampans were taken under fire. Several blocking patrols were also carried out in connection with ground sweeps of areas near the coast.

In the early evening of 1 June, PCF 100 conducted naval gunfire in coordination with USS MANSFIELD (DD 728) at the request of an Army forward observer. The observer had sighted Viet Cong moving on a hillside near the coast about 45 miles north of Qui Nhon. The "Swift" boat fired white phosphorous mortar rounds to aid the spotter and then continued firing high explosive rounds when on target while the MANSFIELD covered the area with 5-inch VT projectiles. PCF 100 moved to within 200 yards of the shore in order to observe the effect of the destroyer's firing. Viet Cong could be seen running down the hill and two were probably killed by the naval gunfire.

Between 0300 and 0400 on the morning of 5 June PCF 89 on patrol about 10 miles south of Qui Nhon observed a sampan moving from fishing boat to fishing boat. The suspicious sampan was boarded and searched revealing that the two occupants had a large sum of money in their possession. The sampan contained only a few small fish and no nets. The suspects and sampan

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were turned over to the Qui Nhon military police as probable Viet Cong tax collectors.

On the 12th about 30 miles north of Qui Nhon, PCF 90 carried out a gunfire support mission against a known Viet Cong bunker complex. Expending 100 mortar rounds the "Swift" boat destroyed two structures, damaged two other structures and caused two secondary explosions.

USCGC MINNETONKA (WHEC 67) fired naval gunfire in support of a landing by VNN Coastal Group 22 on the Qui Nhon Peninsula on the morning of 21 June. The landing followed one-hour of gunfire by the cutter and turned up grenades, clothing and cooking utensils. There were indications that at least five Viet Cong had been in the objective area when the MINNETONKA commenced firing.

Second Coastal Zone PCF's supported a Korean Tiger Division sweep of the Phu Cat Mountains north of Qui Nhon with the establishment of a tight exfiltration patrol on the 19th. During the operation which lasted several days the "Swift" boats expended 130 mortar rounds in naval gunfire and illumination missions for the Korean forces. An estimated North Vietnamese regiment was surrounded and suffered more than 140 killed or wounded with an estimated five of the enemy being the victims of the naval gunfire.

On 30 June MINNETONKA supported units of the Korean Capitol Division by firing on six targets a few miles south of the Phu Cat Mountains. Expending 170 rounds from her 5"/38 gun, the cutter destroyed 15 structures and damaged 14 others.

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Third Coastal Zone

Light to moderate coastal traffic and favorable weather in the Third Coastal Zone combined to make this month's inspections or boardings of junks and sampans a high percentage (78) of the total number detected. Routine patrols were considered effective with all stations manned close to 100 percent of the time. A total of 9,300 indigenous craft were detected in the Third Coastal Zone during June, or about 300 less than in May. Of these detections a total of 7,198 junks and sampans were either boarded or inspected. Operational control of patrols in Areas 8C and D remained with CTG 115.3 due to the unreliable communications between these areas and CTG 115.4 at An Thoi more than 100 miles away on the opposite side of the Ca Mau Peninsula.

As in the other coastal zones naval gunfire support comprised a significant portion of the month's activity. In addition to numerous harassment and interdiction missions, there were more than 30 naval gunfire support missions conducted against specific targets at the request of ground forces or local authorities. Five ground operations were supported by blocking patrols and/or naval gunfire. Hostile fire was suppressed at least five times during the month of June.

Hostile fire was received during psyops broadcasts near enemy positions 25 miles southwest of Vung Tau twice during the month. On the evening of the 1st PCF 37 encountered light small arms fire. Later in the month on the morning of the 17th PCF 103 was fired on by small arms from the same general

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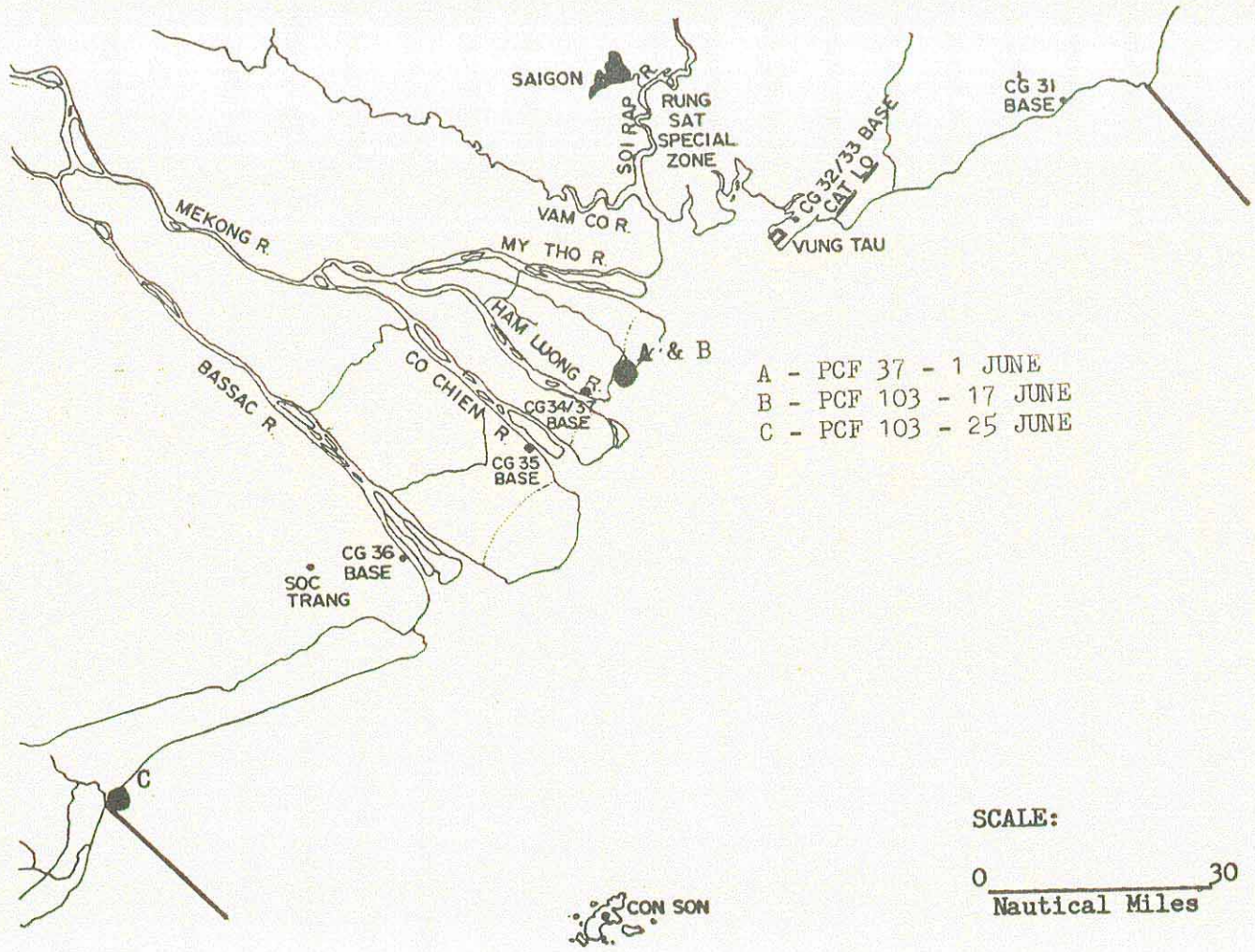
OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



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area. On both occasions the "Swift" boats returned the hostile fire with their .50 caliber machine guns and continued their broadcasts.

Using a forward air control aircraft from Vinh Binh Province as a spotter USCGC POINT LEAGUE conducted a naval gunfire mission against enemy positions in the Long Toan Secret Zone on 4 June. After sighting personnel on the beach at 1420 the cutter notified sector authorities who provided the spotter aircraft requesting that the area be taken under fire. At 1435 POINT LEAGUE complied with 81-mm mortar fire on the personnel and nearby structures. Damage was estimated at two structures destroyed and four damaged with one Viet Cong probably killed.

While conducting naval gunfire against enemy positions near the mouth of the My Thanh River in Ba Xuyen Province on the 10th, PCF 103 received hostile fire from the beach. The enemy fire was quickly suppressed, but not before one crewman on the "Swift" boat received minor wounds in the engagement.

Hostile fire from the Long Toan Secret Zone in Vinh Binh Province was encountered again on the 15th by USCGC POINT COMFORT during a naval gunfire mission. As the cutter was firing on huts and bunkers in an area about 65 miles southwest of Vung Tau she received automatic weapons and recoilless rifle fire. After the cutter suppressed the hostile fire while opening the range to the beach a light fire team from HAL-3 arrived on the scene. The "Seawolves" saturated the area with rockets and machine gun fire and also encountered hostile fire. Several huts and bunkers were

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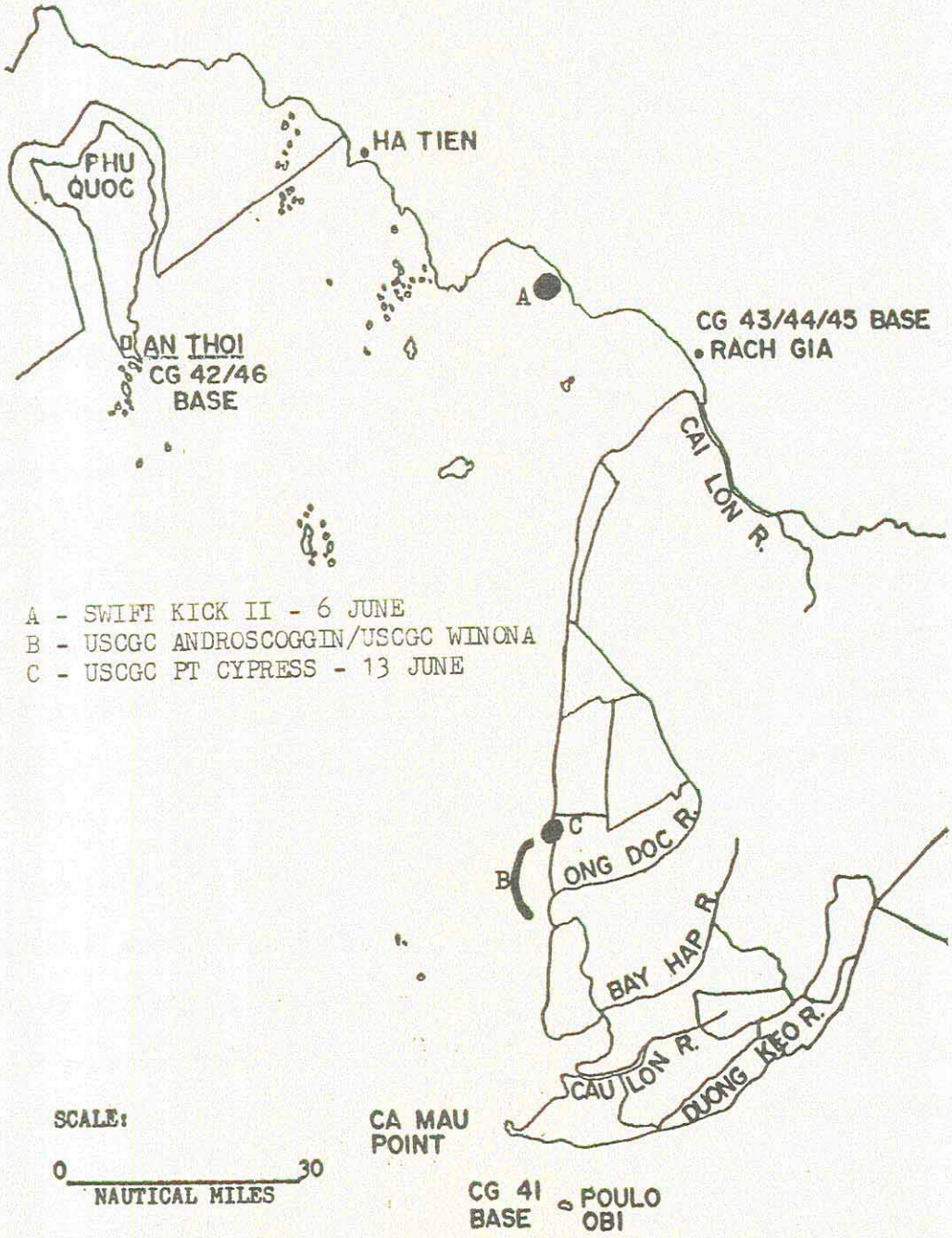
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



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damaged and many fires were burning in the area when the action ended. There were no friendly casualties.

In another action involving PCF 103 the enemy lost four (probably killed) and one wounded. During a routine patrol off An Xuyen Province near the mouth of the Ganh Hao River on 25 June the "Swift" boat observed 12 persons on the beach in a restricted zone. The MARKET TIME unit complied with a sector request to take the area under fire by expending 15 rounds from her mortar and another 300 rounds from her .50 caliber machine guns.

Fourth Coastal Zone

As in the Second Coastal Zone boarding operations by Fourth Coastal Zone patrols were hampered by sea conditions during June. High winds and rough seas were frequently encountered during the latter part of the month. Total junk and sampan detections reflect the deteriorating weather. The figure of 8,321 is the lowest in several months. Of this total, more than 3,000 were inspected and another 2,641 were boarded.

More than 80 naval gunfire missions were carried out in June by Fourth Coastal Zone patrol craft. Twelve of these were in response to urgent requests from Army or Vietnamese sector authorities. The most impressive results recorded were obtained with the 5-inch guns of the offshore patrol High Endurance Cutters (WHEC) using airborne observers to adjust the fire.

In naval gunfire support missions carried out against targets requested and spotted by Army observers in observation aircraft USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN

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(WHEC 68) inflicted heavy damage upon Viet Cong supply points and troop concentrations in the vicinity of the Ong Doc River. Firing on more than 12 point and area targets in missions on 2,4,5,6,7,22,27, and 29 June (see map for locations) the cutter accounted for 64 structures and 52 sampans destroyed, another 180 structures and 36 sampans damaged, 6 Viet Cong killed plus another 32 probably killed, and 5 Viet Cong wounded. Firing in the same general area (see map) on the 12th, 14th, 15th and 17th USCGC WINONA (WHEC 65) scored the following results against 9 targets requested and spotted by Army observers:

40 structures and 18 sampans destroyed

64 structures and 7 sampans damaged

2 large secondary explosions and one fire

19 Viet Cong killed plus another 43 probably killed/an estimated 7 Viet Cong wounded

Fourth Coastal Zone "Swift" boats also were active in naval gunfire during June. On 6 June PCF's 3, 11 and 74 conducted Operation SWIFT KICK II against Viet Cong positions on the coastal mountains 30 miles southeast of Ha Tien. With their fire coordinated on three separate targets and spotted by an Army aircraft the "Swift" boats expended more than 200 mortar rounds in a two-hour period beginning at 0800. Heavy vegetation prevented damage assessment, but one fire was started in the vicinity of a suspected supply structure.

On the 13th USCGC POINT CYPRESS conducted a naval gunfire mission against

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an enemy supply point 12 miles north of the Ong Doc River in response to intelligence reports. A follow-up report received on the 17th indicated that the cutter had damaged four structures, burned an ammunition supply dump, killed four Viet Cong and wounded two others in 20 minutes of firing from her 81-mm mortar.

Responding to an urgent request from an Army unit just south of the Ong Doc River on 18 June POINT CYPRESS was joined by USCGC POINT KENNEDY in suppressing enemy fire on the Army unit. With POINT KENNEDY providing illumination both cutters expended a total of 60 high explosive mortar rounds into the enemy positions at the direction of the Army spotter. Excellent target coverage was reported and contact was broken after about an hour.

Three "Swift" boats combined their firepower against enemy positions 25 miles northwest of Rach Gia during the morning of the 26th using an Army spotter aircraft. During the mission by PCF's 5, 10 and 38, heavy small arms and .50 caliber plus occasional recoilless-rifle fire was encountered. Results of the mission included the destruction of 10 structures and one secondary explosion. There were no friendly casualties.

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MARKET TIME UNITS

The Vietnamese Navy had an average of six PGM's and two PCE's on MARKET TIME patrols daily during June manning eight patrol areas on a

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regular basis. In addition, an LSSL was used for a few patrols near the end of the month and an MSC was on station for more than half the month. The Royal Thai Navy HMTS PGM 12 was assigned to patrol stations in the Fourth Coastal Zone for much of the month and fired several harassment and interdiction missions.

Patrol aircraft from five Navy patrol squadrons participated in the MARKET TIME air barrier during June. A detachment from Patrol Squadron TWENTY-SIX (VP-26) continued to man the Southern Air Barrier flying P3A Orions from U-Tapao, Thailand. Detachments from VP-6, VP-42, VP-49, and VP-50 operated Orions and SP2H Neptunes from Cam Ranh Bay.

The following U. S. SEVENTH Fleet ships operated on MARKET TIME off-shore stations during June in the periods indicated:

	Dates
DER 329	USS KRETCHMER 1-2
DER 387	USS VANCE 1-8
DER 331	USS KOINER 8-20
DER 324	USS FALGOUT 1-24
DER 328	USS FINCH 24-30
LST 141	USS STONE COUNTY 1-29
LST 1076	USS PAGE COUNTY 29-30
MSO 444	USS FIRM 1-6
MSO 508	USS ACME 6-30
MSO 458	USS LUCID 6-30
MSO 457	USS LOYALTY 1-6
MSO 466	USS PRIME 6-30
MSO 434	USS EMBATTLE 1-6
MSO 467	USS REAPER 6-30
MSC 206	USS WARBLER 1-6
MSC 289	USS ALBATROSS 1-6
MSC 208	USS WIDGEON 6-30
PG 88	USS CROCKETT 1-30
WHEC 32	USCGC CAMPBELL 2-30
WHEC 33	USCGC DUANE 1-22

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WHEC 67	USCGC MINNETONKA	22-30
WHEC 68	USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN	1-9,20-30
WHEC 65	USCGC WINONA	9-30

***

MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
June 1968

1. U. S. Ships/Craft:

	DER	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	LST	PG	WHEC
Daily average number of craft on patrol	2	4	1	16	36	1	1	3

2. U. S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED — WOOD - DAY 50,315 NIGHT 55,228; STEEL - DAY 619 NIGHT 565 — 106,727

TOTAL INSPECTED — WOOD - DAY 23,039 NIGHT 23,648; STEEL - DAY 409 NIGHT 398 — 47,594

TOTAL BOARDED — WOOD - DAY 16,026 NIGHT 7,742; STEEL - DAY 59 NIGHT 24 — 23,831

TOTAL DETAINED — JUNKS 61 PEOPLE 1,286 (9 Viet Cong suspects)

3. Naval Gunfire:

TOTAL MISSIONS — 335 (Includes 30 cases of hostile fire suppression)

ENEMY CASUALTIES — 58 killed plus 86 probable

11 wounded plus 10 probable

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ENEMY MATERIAL LOSSES

101 junks or sampans destroyed

255 structures destroyed

80 junks or sampans damaged

413 structures damaged

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OPERATION STABLE DOOR

All STABLE DOOR units maintained normal surface surveillance posture and patrols during June. Junk and sampan detections totaled 40,281. There were 4,741 inspections and 1,930 boardings which resulted in the detention of 11 junks and 298 suspicious persons. Support of ground sweeps with blocking patrols and numerous psyops broadcasts continued during the month.

Routine operations were carried out by Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit ONE (IUWU-1) at Vung Tau during June with 77 persons and 4 junks being detained for improper identification, curfew violations, or suspicious actions. June was also routine at Cam Ranh Bay where IUWU-2 detained 25 persons and 7 junks. Ships in port average 16 per day at Vung Tau and 25 per day at Cam Ranh Bay. Activity was at a low level at Vung Ro where an average of two ships per day were in port and routine patrols by IUWU-5 disclosed no suspicious activity.

On 6 June routine operations at Nha Trang were disrupted by a Viet Cong attack on the Harbor Entrance Control Post and surrounding compound. The

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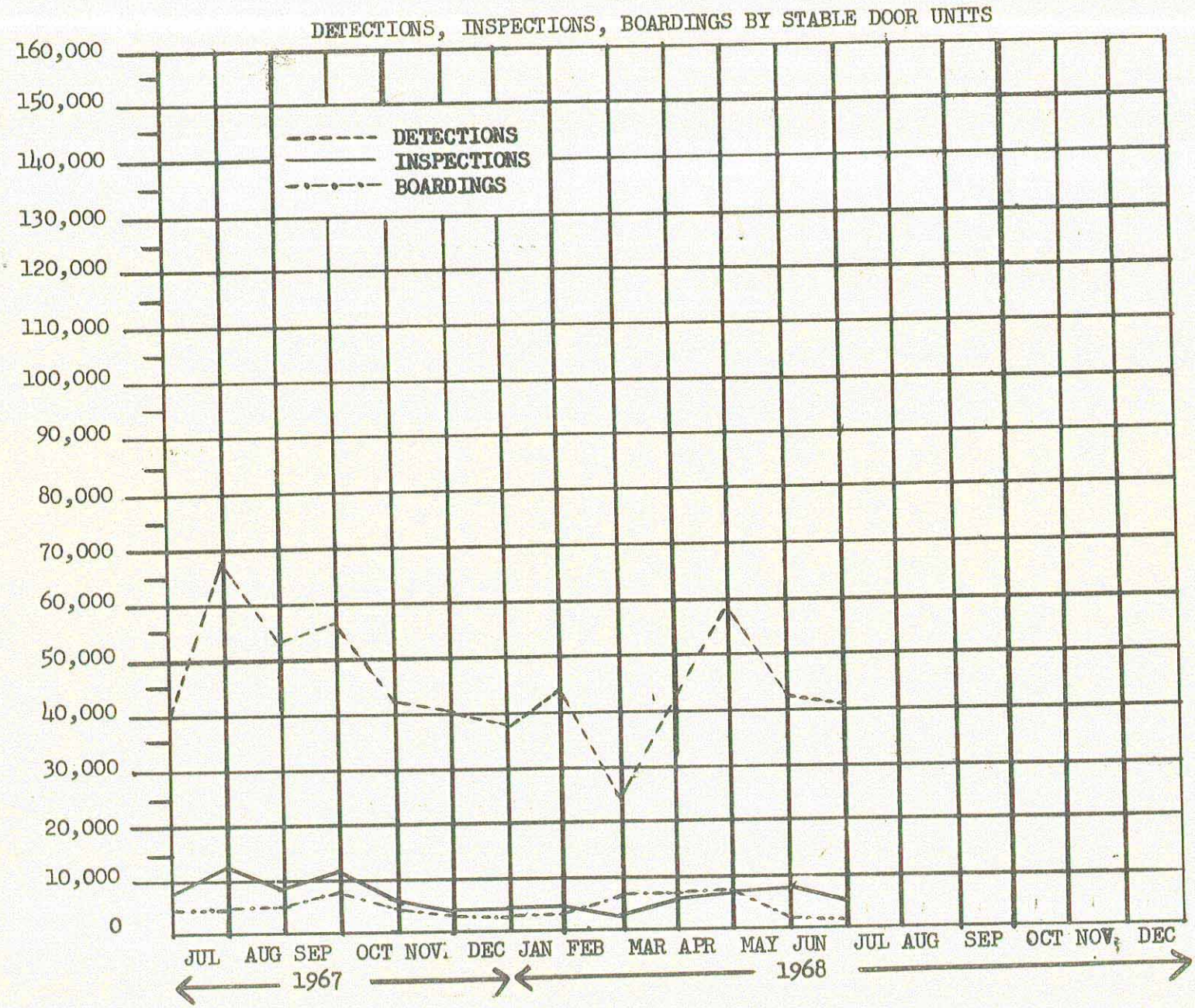

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attack consisted of a 60-mm mortar and B-40 rocket barrage followed by infantry/sapper attacks with satchel charges, grenades and AK-47 fire. At the onset at 0130 in the morning two direct hits on the boat control station killed the assistant officer-in-charge of IUWU-4 and three enlisted watch standers. The enemy forces penetrated the perimeter of the U. S. facility and caused extensive damage with grenades and recoilless rifles. A Korean Army reaction force arrived on the scene shortly after U. S. personnel had been evacuated into boats. The enemy force of about one company retreated after failing in attempts to destroy bomb loaded trucks parked at the facility with satchel charges. All ships and craft in the area were able to clear the harbor and anchor out without sustaining any damage. Two other IUWU-4 men were wounded in the fighting. Enemy casualties were unknown. During the month no craft or personnel were detained and the average number of ships in port was three per day.

Operations were normal for IUWU-3 at Qui Nhon where the harbor activity averaged 16 ships per day in port. Surveillance patrols detained five persons during the month.

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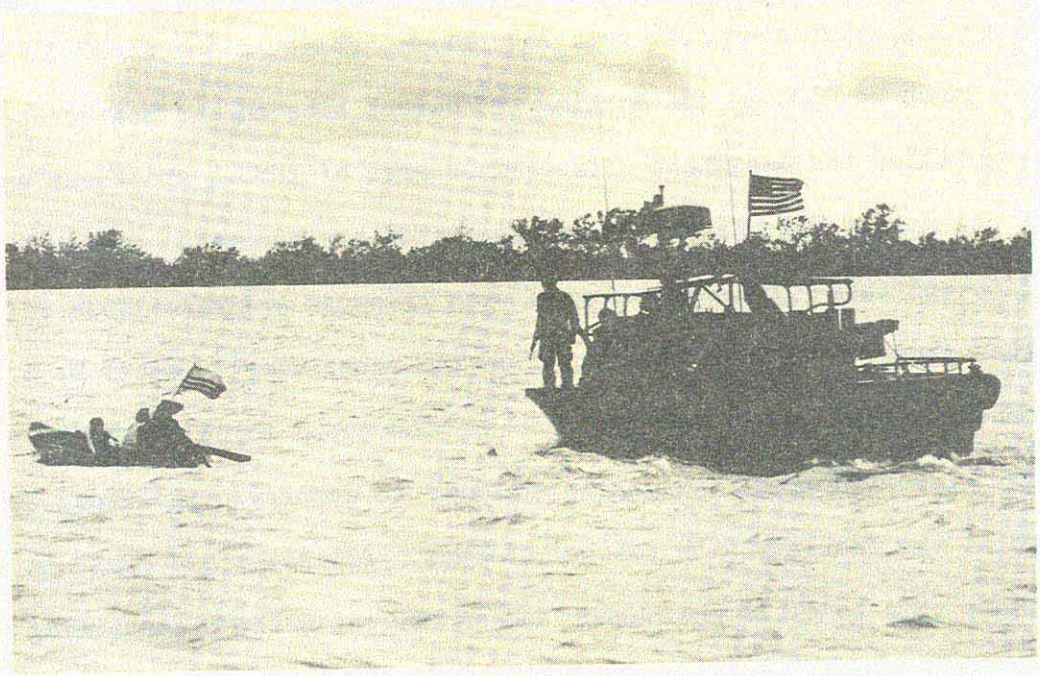
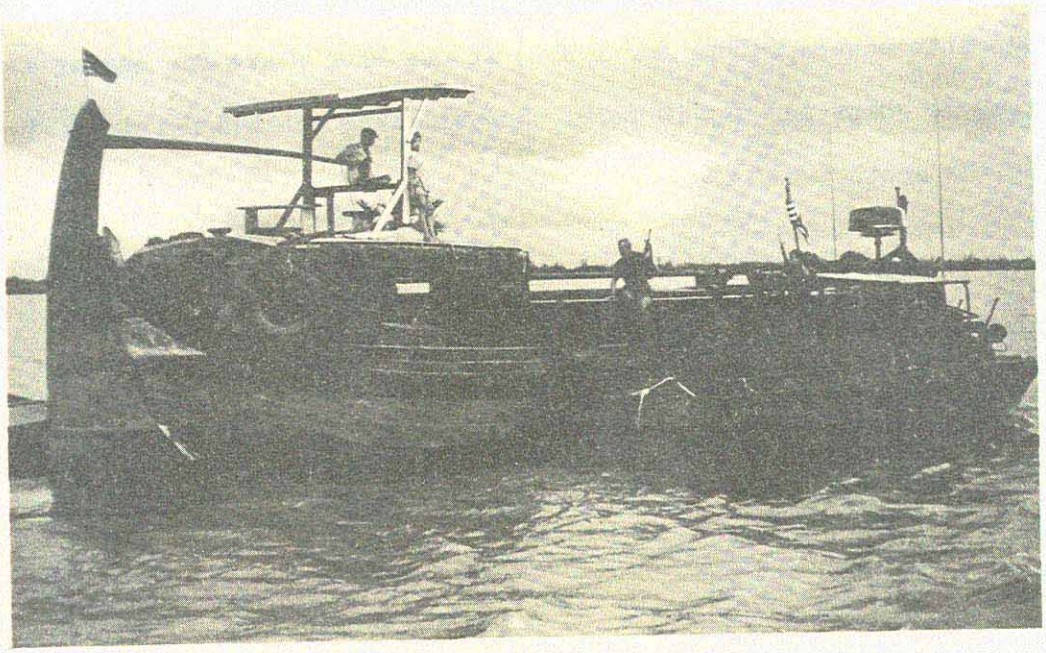


Size is no guarantee of innocence. PBR's of the Rung Sat Special Zone inspect water traffic on the Dong Nai River east of Saigon.



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RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

In early June, intelligence reports indicated that the Viet Cong planned to move segments of their existing forces in IV Corps Tactical Zone (Mekong Delta) to support their continuing pressure and harassment on the Capitol Military District of Saigon/Cholon and its environs. As the month continued indications of increased Viet Cong activity were prevalent. GAME WARDEN units continued to conduct round-the-clock patrols and were poised to meet any new enemy threats.

To counter the Viet Cong movement toward, and the enemy threat against the Capitol Military District, GAME WARDEN operations were extended to provide one river section of PBR's to patrol the Dong Nai River between Nha Be and a portion 4 kilometers south of the Long Binh Bridge northeast of Saigon. SEALs also commenced operations for the first time along the waterways to the east of Saigon.

During the month enemy harassment against the river patrol boats on the Bassac River decreased slightly, while action on the remaining rivers in the Delta showed little change. In the Rung Sat Special Zone, there was a definite rise in the number of incidents involving PBR's, aircraft and evading sampans. An average of five such incidents per month for the past three months increased three-fold in June.

Four PBR crewmen were killed during June in two separate firefights when patrol craft were attacked by enemy gunners. During the engagement that occurred on 21 June on the My Tho River, one PBR was destroyed

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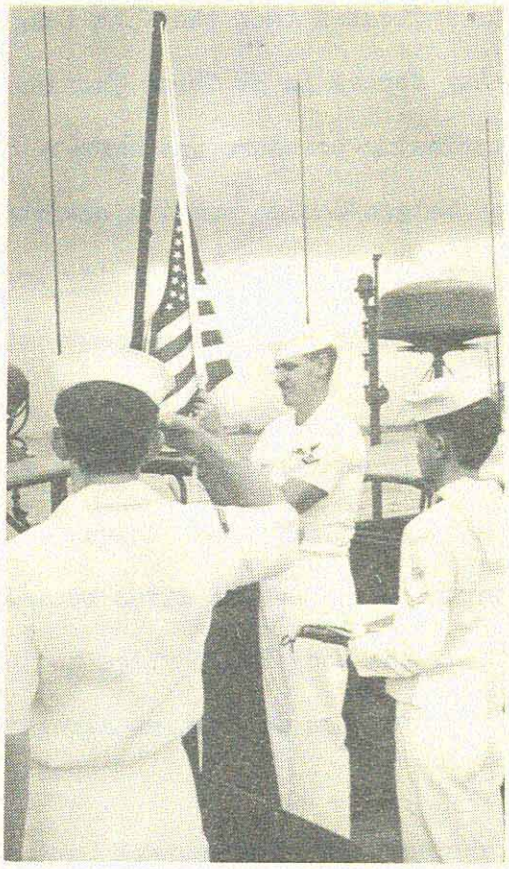

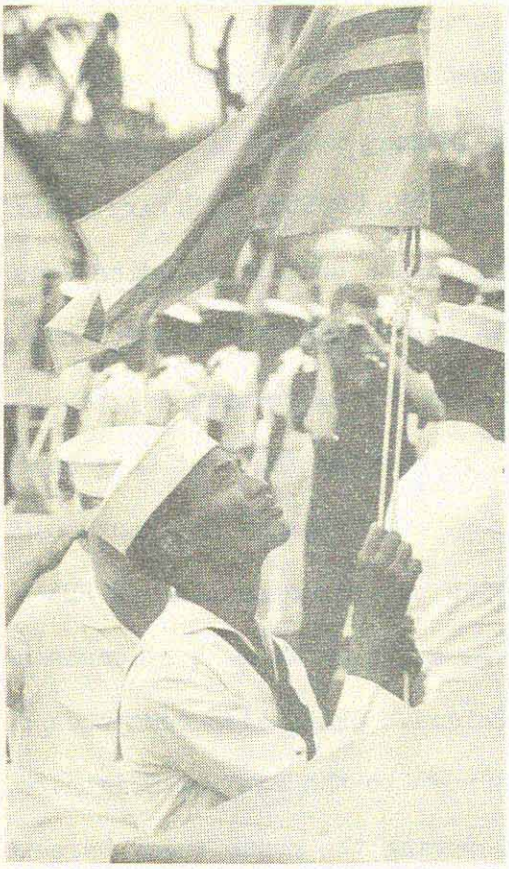

Old Glory is lowered aboard a river patrol boat (PBR) on the Dong Nai River east of Saigon. At right, the Vietnamese flag is raised on the same boat signifying the transfer of eight PBR's and six LCMM's to the Vietnamese Navy.

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beyond repair. This was the eighth PBR lost in combat.

GAME WARDEN support to Vietnamese Regional Force, Popular Force and Provincial Reconnaissance Unit troops continued as the Vietnamese units exhibited more aggressiveness and conducted more frequent operations against the Viet Cong.

At the end of the month there were 193 PBR's in-country of the planned total of 250.

During the month Task Force 116 units engaged in 183 firefights, and accounted for 75 enemy killed, 38 wounded, and 12 captured. Friendly losses included four PBR crewmen killed and 12 wounded.

This month a record 118,698 craft were detected by river patrol forces; of these 31,919 were inspected and 41,428 were boarded.

Mine sweeping operations reached a turning point as the Vietnamese Navy assumed exclusive responsibility for clearing command-detonated mines from the Long Tau River Shipping Channel to Saigon. Six (LCM(M)'s (Landing Craft Medium Minesweeper)) from Mine Division 112 (TU 116.4 2) and eight PBR's were transferred to the Vietnamese Navy. Mine Division 112 retained the responsibility for mine countermeasures against moored mines. Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam at the change over ceremonies conducted at the Vietnamese Navy Headquarters in Saigon, commented as follows: "...to my knowledge the Vietnames Navy is the first of the services of the Republic of Vietnam to assume exclusive responsibility previously held by United States forces."

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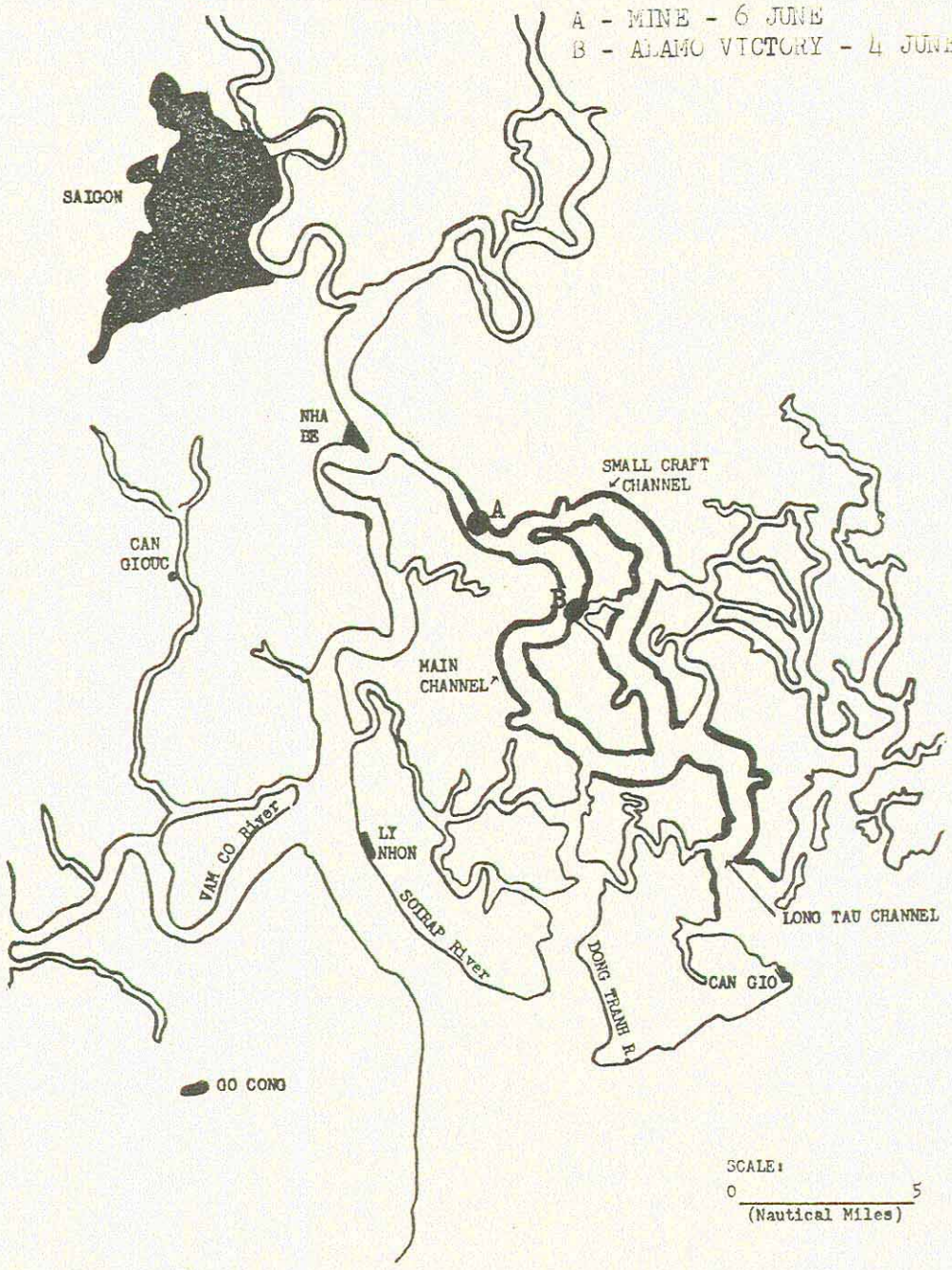
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

A - MINE - 6 JUNE
B - ALAMO VICTORY - 4 JUNE



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OPERATIONS IN I CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

PBR's continued to support CTF CLEARWATER in providing security forces for logistical craft operating on the Perfume and Cua Viet rivers. Five additional PBR's joined River Section 543 bringing the River Section to 10 boat strength for operations on the Cua Viet River under the operational control of CTF CLEARWATER. (See Task Force CLEARWATER)

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RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

At 0803 on the morning of 4 June the merchant ship ALAMO VICTORY, transiting the Long Tau Shipping Channel, was fired upon by Viet Cong forces using automatic weapons about 7½ miles southeast of Nha Be. PBR's on patrol sped to the scene and took the ambush site under fire with machine guns and M-79 grenades. Contact with the enemy was lost as they fled into the dense ground-cover. There were approximately 30 rounds fired at the ship with all shots missing the target. Enemy casualties were unknown.

On 6 June at 0540 PBR's on the Long Tau River detected a mine 150 feet from the east bank of the river at a point about 3 miles southeast of Nha Be. The mine consisted of a spherical object about 8 inches in diameter connected to a drum like device about 2½ feet in diameter. The device was kept under surveillance awaiting the arrival of EOD personnel and at 0638 the mine exploded from unknown cause. It was later noted that minesweepers had recovered 48 feet of a conductor wire in the area where

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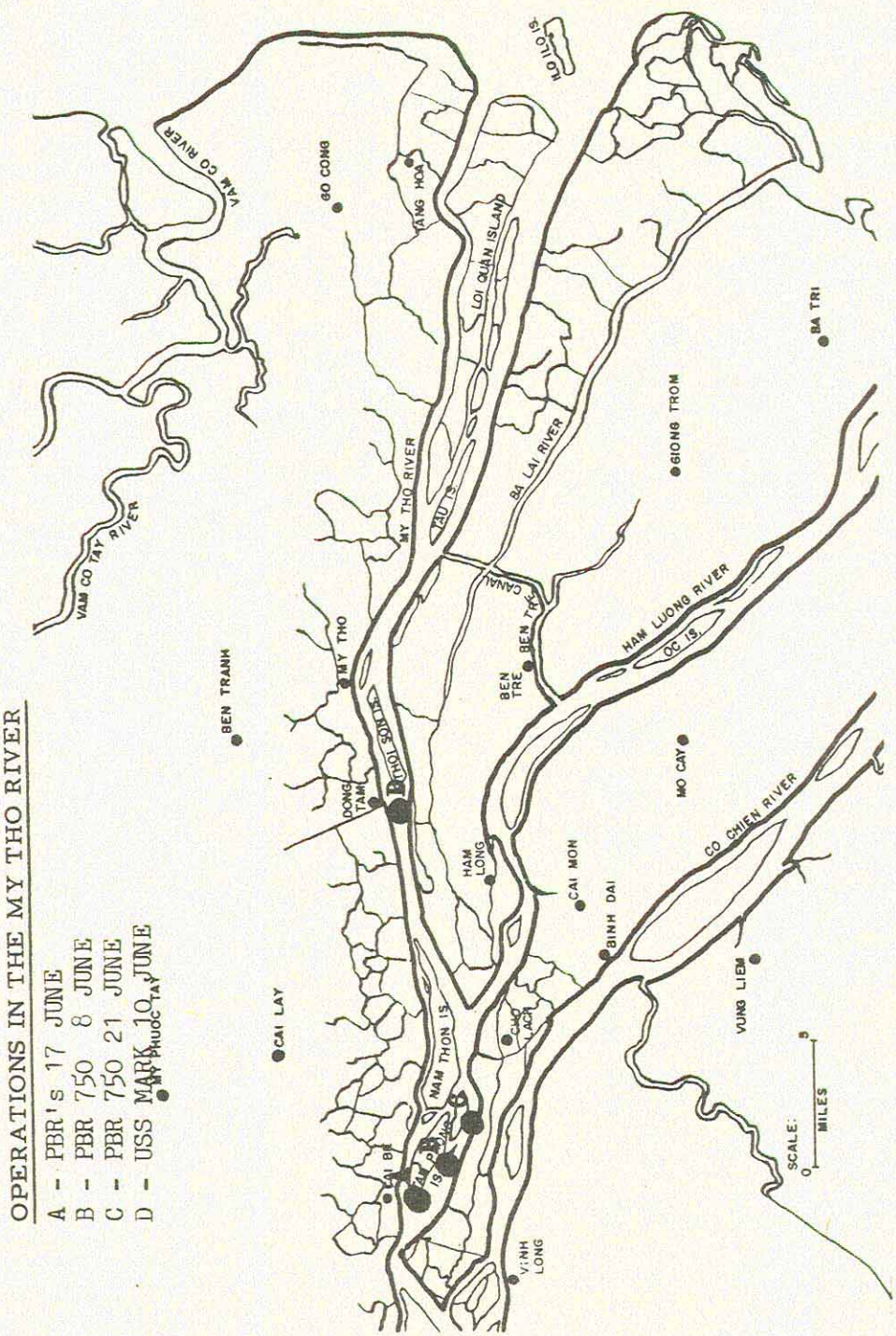

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the mine was located during a sweep made between 0500 and 0700 that morning. There were no casualties.

While on a routine morning river patrol, on 18 June, PBR's observed a sampan with a single occupant about 6½ miles southwest of the Navy base at Nha Be. Upon sighting the PBR patrol the sampan headed for shore, the occupant beached the sampan, detached the motor and disappeared in the heavy undergrowth along the river's edge. The sampan was retrieved and during a careful inspection a snake was found tacked to a floorboard in a manner that would allow the snake to strike whomever lifted the board. Also found was a gas mask and a fishing net.

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DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

On 10 June three PBR's were escorting USS MARK (AKL-12), a Mekong Delta resupply ship, and Vietnamese Navy ship LSIL 328 along the My Tho River in an area of active Viet Cong harassment, located about 7½ miles west-southwest of My Tho City, when heavy recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire erupted from the beach. The PBR's immediately commenced firing runs against the three enemy firing positions.

Prior to the attack, the Patrol Officer, Signalman First Class DAVIS, having been advised of potential ambush areas, manuevered his patrol close to the beach. The intense flat trajectory fire of the patrol boats' guns coupled with artillery fire that was called for

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resulted in the suppression of the enemy fire after the third firing run by the Navy boats. Although the enemy positions were under heavy counter-fire the Viet Cong gunners scored at least five recoilless-rifle hits on the Vietnamese Navy ship, wounding 13 and killing 2 others. The immediate grasp of the tactical situation and quick reaction by Petty Officer DAVIS undoubtedly resulted in keeping casualties to a minimum. Casualties inflicted on the enemy was undetermined.

On 17 June four PBR's from Task Unit 116.3.5 acted as a blocking force for a RF/PF, RAG 31 sweep operation of Tan Phong Island, located 5½ miles northeast of Vinh Long. The morning operation, with the PBR's lending fire support from the river's edge, netted the capture of 24 Viet Cong, the detainment of 35 deserters and draft dodgers and the death of 5 Viet Cong soldiers. The ground troops also destroyed 30 bunkers and 17 Viet Cong flags and captured 5 pounds of medical supplies. There were no friendly casualties during the 40-minute operation.

On 8 June a PBR patrol on the My Tho River, about 2½ miles southeast of Cai Be, came under heavy rocket and automatic-weapons fire about 30 minutes after the patrol ceased psychological operations broadcasts. The cover boat, PBR 750, was hit by a B-40 rocket that caused minor wounds to three of the crewmen. An additional PBR patrol and a "Seawolf" helicopter fire team were called in to suppress the intense fire of the enemy. The firefight lasted 50 minutes and Navymen had killed at least one Viet Cong, destroyed three structures and damaged four others.

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On 21 June, PBR 750 was once again the target of enemy fire in the same area. This time the Viet Cong achieved devastating results. PBR 750, with a Vietnames National Policeman and three Viet Cong suspects aboard, had pursued and captured an enemy sampan that had evaded up a small canal off the My Tho River. As the patrol boat cleared the canal, with the sampan in tow and the lone female occupant aboard, the Viet Cong unleashed a heavy barrage of automatic-weapons and rocket fire from ambush. Two rockets scored direct hits on the boat setting it ablaze. The burning boat went out of control and headed for the beach as four more B-40 rockets smashed into the disabled craft. PBR 723, the cover boat, returned fire, and GMG2 Patrick O. FORD, USN, was last seen, with his clothing ablaze, pushing wounded crewmen from the burning boat. The cover boat moved in and with guns still firing at the enemy positions, picked up two wounded PBR sailors, one Vietnamese National Policeman and one Viet Cong suspect from the water. The female in the sampan was last sighted swimming toward the beach.

Two additional PBR's and four Navy helicopter gunships were on the scene within 10 minutes and the enemy fire was soon suppressed. The cover boat had expended all available ammunition except for side arms which the crewmen were firing as the boat cleared the area. Casualties inflicted on the enemy were undetermined.

At the conclusion of the battle three crewmen were still missing and and intense search was initiated by nine additional PBR's and 100 Vietnamese

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Popular Force troops. The charred body of BM1 Scott G. DELPH, USN, was found in the cockpit of PBR 750 that had burned to the waterline. The hulk was later destroyed. The body of the patrol officer, Lieutenant William E. DENNIS, USN, was recovered from the water later that evening, as well as the bodies of two Viet Cong suspects that had been aboard the stricken craft. FORD was still missing. In addition to the above casualties, two other Navymen were wounded.

The recovery of the body of GMG2 FORD, which occurred on 25 June, illustrates the rapid response of both Viet Cong and Vietnamese forces to circumstances. The body of FORD was found by a Viet Cong patrol after the bitter engagement. The Viet Cong positioned his body in plain view of any passing patrol on the river and set an ambush around the body. The Popular Force outpost chief learned of the Viet Cong plan and sent his own force to attack the Viet Cong and recover the body. They accomplished both missions and probably saved a PBR patrol from a particularly devastating ambush. Petty Officer FORD was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic actions.

On 24 June, Navy "Seawolves" conducted two airstrikes against a suspected Viet Cong mobile unit reported about 6 miles north of Sa Dec. The two strikes conducted within a 4-hour span accounted for 18 Viet Cong killed by the helicopters' machine guns and 2.75-inch rockets, 12 wounded and 6 sampans destroyed.

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Operations in the Ham Luong River

Shortly after noon on 18 June a PBR patrol operating 6 miles south of Ben Tre suddenly came under a heavy barrage of automatic weapons fire from the western bank of the river. The boats returned the fire and were soon supported by Navy helicopter gunships that rained their ordnance on the Viet Cong firing positions. USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST-838) arrived on the scene and commenced bombarding the enemy with her 40-mm cannons. The engagement was soon over as the enemy broke contact. The all-Navy team destroyed 5 structures, 12 bunkers and damaged 5 other structures. The number of enemy killed and wounded was undetermined. There were no friendly casualties.

Operations in the Co Chien River

At 0225 on 21 June PBR's landed SEALs of MIKE Platoon on the west bank of the Co Chien River about 4 miles north-northeast of Phu Vinh. The platoon patrolled inland a short distance where they spotted several "hootches" (Vietnamese huts). When they entered the first hootch one male attempted to escape -- he was taken under fire and killed. At the second hut two more Viet Cong were encountered and as they attempted to escape they were also shot. One was identified as the village chief. As the Navymen continued their search a third hootch was searched and another escaping Viet Cong was killed. The patrol continued to move to the north-east where enemy movement was noticed in a treeline. Two Viet Cong were killed when a SEAL opened fire on the area of movement. "Seawolves" were

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OPERATIONS IN THE CO CHIEN RIVER

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then called in to secure the remainder of the treeline. Following the gunships' firing runs, a search revealed three more enemy killed. The patrol moved back toward the river in the morning darkness and burned a hootch and blew up a bunker. Following this action the SEALs returned to the hootch of the village chief and questioned the remaining occupants. The SEALs then destroyed the hootch, returned to the rivers' edge and withdrew. The area patrolled was intensely fortified with bunkers and fighting holes. There were no casualties to the friendly forces. A total of nine Viet Cong were killed and one Viet Cong captured during the 7-hour operation.

On 25 June, PBR's and Navy armed helicopters teamed up and wounded 18 Viet Cong in an action initiated when the Viet Cong ambushed a PBR patrol conducting a psychological operations broadcast mission 6 miles east of Vinh Long. The action commenced when the patrol boats were taken under fire at 1537. The boats' return fire soon suppressed the enemy fire, wounding one Viet Cong. Word was received that an outpost on the eastern end of the island had spotted a Viet Cong squad heading west on the north side of the island. The PBR's sped around the north side and saturated the area with their guns. Meanwhile, "Seawolves" were launched and headed to assist the patrol boats. The PBR's took a sampan attempting to evade under fire, wounding one occupant while the other occupant escaped into the treeline. The sampan was destroyed. Seven more Viet Cong were sighted in a treeline and the "Seawolves" made a firing run wounding four of them.

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Three more of the enemy were sighted as they moved west carrying weapons and attempted to swim a canal. The three were fired upon and wounded. As the action continued another sampan was detected and destroyed. Its occupant was wounded. The scene was repeated again by the PBR's as their guns zeroed in on another sampan and its lone occupant. Two more Viet Cong were shot and wounded as they attempted to cross an open field. As the enemy continued to disperse five more fleeing Viet Cong with weapons were wounded by machine gun fire from the PBR's and "Seawolves." The Navy team continued to fire into the enemy occupied area and several large junks and hootches where Viet Cong were seen entering. One hootch and two large junks were destroyed. At 1848 a reaction force of Popular Force troops were landed and a sweep was conducted; however, no contact was made with the enemy ground troops. The Vietnamese troops detained three persons, one of which was later confirmed as a Viet Cong. Many blood trails were found leading from the area where the PBR's had taken running Viet Cong under fire. There were no friendly casualties. Enemy losses confirmed were 18 Viet Cong wounded, one hootch destroyed, 2 junks destroyed, 3 sampans destroyed, one secondary explosion, one Viet Cong captured and 2 Viet Cong suspects detained.

On 26 June, in the early morning darkness, a SEAL platoon (TU 116.2.0) waited in ambush about 5 miles north of Phu Vinh. This time the Navymen's guns were first to break the darkened silence when two enemy sampans with troops aboard moved into the kill zone. Eight more communist aggressors

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would fail to witness the morning sunrise. The SEALs withdrew without a casualty -- another mission completed with gratifying results.

On 29 June, SEAL Team JULIETT platoon landed on an island in the Co Chien River 7 miles northwest of Phu Vinh and in a period of three hours encountered and killed 8 Viet Cong. There were no Navy casualties.

Operations in the Bassac River

On 7 June about 1800 a PBR patrol from River Section 514 came under heavy automatic weapons fire from four positions on the northern tip of Tan Dinh Island, located about 14 miles down river from the PBR base at Binh Thuy. The boats received numerous hits as they sped to the north to clear the ambush area. One crewman on the cover boat was hit in the head and another one was lost overboard. It was believed that GMG2 Mitchell A. WENTZ, USN, was dead or seriously wounded when he entered the water due to the enemy rounds that smashed into the area where WENTZ was standing while firing his 40-mm grenade launcher. Unable to suppress the enemy fire the PBR's departed the area to medically evacuate the wounded sailor. A search was commenced for Petty Officer WENTZ by nine PBR's and two helicopters. The search was unsuccessful and was terminated at 2030 due to darkness. Two days later WENTZ's body was recovered from the river by Vietnamese fishermen several miles from the scene of the engagement.

On 21 June, two PBR's and a Navy helicopter light fire team conducted a joint operation with 90 Vietnamese Provincial Reconnaissance Unit troops

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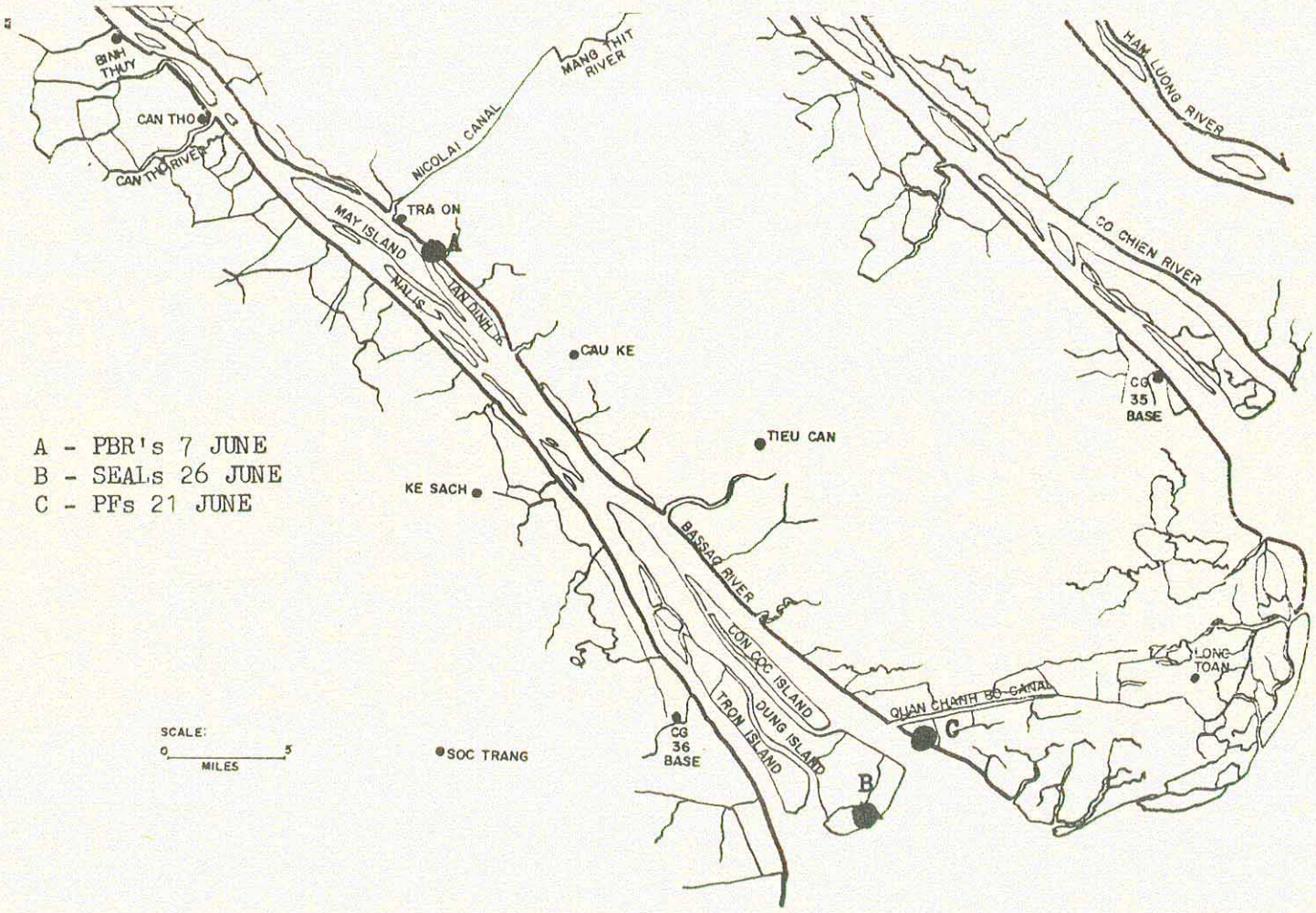

A - PBR's 7 JUNE
B - SEALs 26 JUNE
C - PFs 21 JUNE

OPERATIONS IN THE BASSAC RIVER

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in southern Vinh Binh Province. The PBR's and "Seawolves" provided cover support for the troops that stormed ashore to assault a Viet Cong prison camp 8 miles west of Long Toan, near the mouth of the Bassac River. The whirlwind attack culminated in the release of 29 Vietnamese prisoners. During the fighting, as the tide of battle turned against them the Viet Cong prison guards fired on the prisoners killing four and wounding eight.

On 26 June SEALs from SEAL Team Detachment GOLF, JULIETT Platoon were landed on Dung Island, 6 miles east of Long Phu, at 0330. The patrol moved north a short distance and waited until first light before they entered two structures. Four Viet Cong found in one structure were killed as they attempted to escape. Near the structure four more enemy troops were found and captured. A search of the structures revealed weapons, ammunition and grenades. The SEALs continued to patrol the area and came upon three Viet Cong hiding in bunkers. One was shot and wounded. A fourth Viet Cong was found hiding in the river. At 0735 the Navymen withdrew from the island, having killed four Viet Cong. Eight Viet Cong suspects were captured along with 2 German Mauser rifles, 50 rounds of ammunition, 4 U.S. M-26 grenades, one CHICOM grenade and numerous documents. One SEAL was wounded slightly when struck in the face by a CHICOM grenade, thrown by a fleeing Viet Cong, which failed to explode.

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GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 1 June, USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST-838) departed station on the

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Ham Luong River, proceeded to My Tho and debarked River Section 532, which vacated task unit designator 116.3.4 and assumed 116.3.1. After embarking River Section 533, which vacated task unit designator 116.3.1 and assumed 116.3.4., HUNTERDON COUNTY proceeded to station on the lower Ham Luong River.

On 1 June Task Force 116 realigned task organization as follows:

Numerical Designator	Operational Title	Command
TF 116	River Patrol Force	COMRIVPATFOR
TG 116.1	Bassac River Patrol Group	COMRIVDIV 51
TG 116.2	Co Chien River Patrol Group	COMRIVDIV 52
TG 116.3	My Tho River Patrol Group	COMRIVDIV 53
TG 116.4	Rung Sat Special Zone Patrol Group	RSSZ Advisor
TG 116.5	Upper Mekong Delta River Patrol Group	COMRIVDIV 55
TG 116.6	Special Operations Group	OinC SEAL Team Det ALFA
TG 116.7	PBR Support Group	COMRIVRON 5
TG 116.8	Helo Support Group	CO HA(L)-3
TF 116.9	Special River Support Group	COMRIVPATFOR

The task force organization was revised to establish the Upper Delta River Patrol Group (TG 116.5), the Special Operations Group (TG 116.6), the PBR Support Group (TG 116.7) and the Special Operations River Patrol Group (TG 116.9).

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On 1 June,River Section 551 assumed task element designator 116.4.1.6. and River Section 552 assumed task element designator 116.4.1.7. Also APL-55 was reclassified as the YRBM-18.

On 2 June, River Section 543 Detachment "B" vacated task element designator 116.4.1.3 and rejoined River Section 543 Detachment "A" in Danang.

Also on 2 June the PBR base at My Tho received 10-15 rounds of enemy mortar fire. One Navyman was slightly wounded.

On 5 June USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 786) changed to the operational control of CTF 116 and arrived on station in the lower Co Chien River and on 6 June embarked River Section 523 (TU 116.2.4) and Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE, Detachment FOUR (TU 116.2.8), and relieved USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) TU 116.2.6 and commenced GAME WARDEN operations.

On 6 June USS JENNINGS COUNTY proceeded to Japan for overhaul, changing to the operational control of CTF 76 enroute.

On 11 June SEAL Team Detachment GOLF, JULIETT platoon relieved SEAL Team Detachment ALFA, Ninth Platoon at Vinh Long and assumed task unit designator 116.6.2. SEAL Team Detachment ALFA, Ninth Platoon relieved SEAL Team Detachment ALFA, Eighth Platoon at Binh Thuy and assumed task unit designator 116.6.1.

On 16 June River Section 543, under the operational control of CTF CLEARWATER relocated to Cua Viet from Danang.

On 23 June SEAL Team Detachment ALFA, Third Platoon under the operational control of CTG 116.4 became active in the Capital Military District for the defense of Saigon. This was the first use of SEALs in this area.

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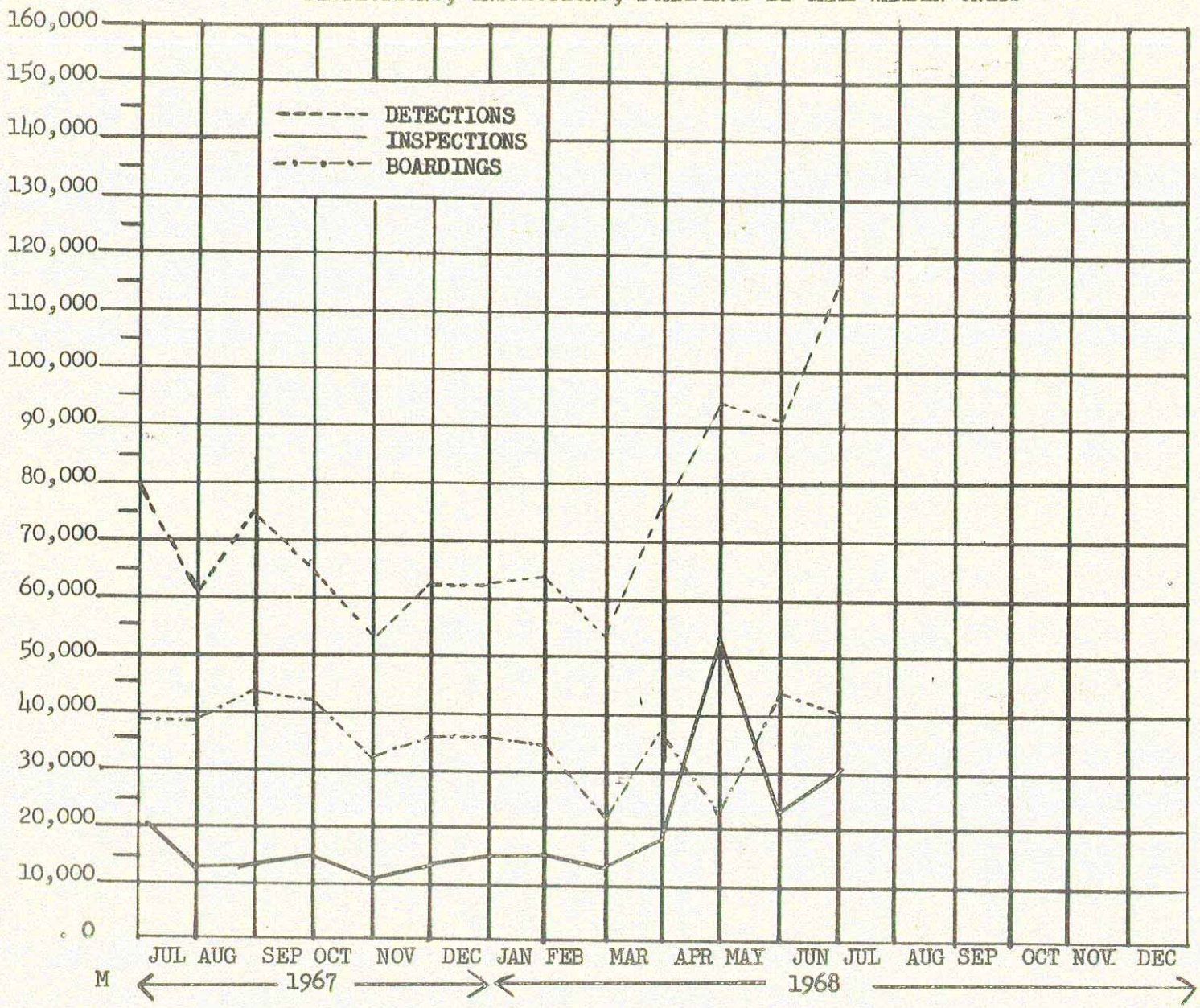
DECTECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS



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GAME WARDEN STATISTICS SUMMARY
JUNE 1968

		TOTAL	DAY	NIGHT
I.	PBR			
	(a) Patrols (two boats)	2,238	1,109	1,129
	(b) Contacts	118,698	105,585	13,113
	(c) Inspected	31,919	28,066	3,853
	(d) Boarded	41,428	38,743	2,685
	(e) Patrol Hours	59,927	33,650	26,277
	(f) Sampan/Junks Detained	1		
II.	SEAWOLF LHFT			
	(a) Helo Hours	1,430	1,115	315
	(b) Pre-Planned Strikes	326		
	(c) Reaction Strikes	58		
	(d) Targets of Opportunity	225		
	(e) Support Missions	240		
III.	SEAL (6 Platoons)			
	(a) Missions	57		
	(b) Contacts	24		
IV.	MINE DET			
	(a) MSB Patrols	60	30	30
	(b) LCM(M) Patrols	9	0	9
	(1) Mine Division 112 turned over 6 LCM(M)'s (Landing Craft Medium Minesweep) to the Vietnamese Navy			

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IV. MINE DET (CONT'D)	TOTAL	DAY	NIGHT
and the Vietnamese Navy assumed exclusive responsibility for chain drag minesweeping of the Long Tau and Dong Nai shipping channels.			
(c) Contacts			
(1) Wire recovered	11		
(2) Mines recovered	0		

V. LST

(a) Gun Fire Support Missions	20

VI. GAME WARDEN TOTALS

(a) Firefights

PBR	HELO	SEALS	MINE	LST	TOTAL
78	87	17	1	0	183

(b) Sampans	Destroyed 73	Damaged 101	Captured 1	
(c) Junks	Destroyed 3	Damaged 4	Captured 0	
(d) Structures	Destroyed 118	Damaged 196		
(e) Bunkers	Destroyed 19	Damaged 6		

(f) Enemy Casualties

Credited to:	KIA(BC)	KIA(POSS)	WIA	CAPTURED
PBR	18	5	10	1
HELO	15	6	19	0
SEAL	42	8	5	11
MINE DIV	0	0	1	0

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VI. GAME WARDEN TOTALS (CONT'D)

Credited to:	KIA(BC)	KIA(POSS)	WIA	CAPTURED
LST	0	0	3	0
TOTAL:	75	19	38	12
Cumulative (Since 6/66)	2,094	449	375	213

(g) Friendly Casualties-Hostile

	KIA	WIA	DOW
PBR	4	8	0
HELO	0	2	0
SEAL	0	2	0
MINE DIV	0	0	0
LST	0	0	0
TOTAL:	4	12	0
Cumulative (since 6/66)	58	705	6

(h) Friendly Casualties-Non-Hostile

	DEATHS	INJURIES
PBR	1	6
HELO	0	0
SEAL	0	3
MINE DIV	0	4
LST	0	0
TOTAL	1	13
Cumulative (Since 6/66)	16	(Since 4/68)17

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(i) Friendly Battle Damage

	REPAIRABLE	DESTROYED
PBR	7	1
HELO	6	0
MINE DIV	0	0
LST	0	0
SEAL CRAFT	0	0

(j) MEDEVAC

PBR	133	Since 6/66:	950
SEAWOLF	4	Since 6/66:	225

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

During the month of June the Viet Cong displayed the ability to avoid contact with the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF). Although MRF targets were selectively chosen, based on reportedly large-scale Viet Cong activity and preparations to attack cities in the Delta, significant contact with the enemy (larger than platoon) did not develop. The MRF ranged the Mekong Delta to meet the reported multi-battalion strength of the nomadic enemy; first at Cao Lanh; then Can Tho; and finally Saigon; however, the Viet Cong chose not to fight. Another MRF milestone was attained when a third river assault squadron commenced combat operations on 12 June. River Assult Squadron THIRTEEN, operating from the Nha Be Naval Base in Gia Dinh Province, received its "baptism under fire" when it engaged the enemy on 16 June, 8 miles southeast of Nha Be. Casualties in the MRF were at the lowest level since November 1967 as U. S. Navy forces had no fatalities and 24 wounded, while U. S. Armymen suffered 15 killed and 81 wounded. Cumulative enemy casualties for the month were 147 killed.

Operations in Vinh Long Province

On 1 June the MRF conducted a two-battalion riverine strike operation in the Sa Dec area, approximately 4 miles southeast of the city of Sa Dec in the Duc Thon District. The operation commenced at 2300 the night before, when RAD 112 assault craft escorted Task Force SIX GUN to establish Fire Support Base (FSPB) CONNIE on the south bank of the Mekong River 1½ miles east of Sa Dec. The artillery barges made the 33-mile transit from

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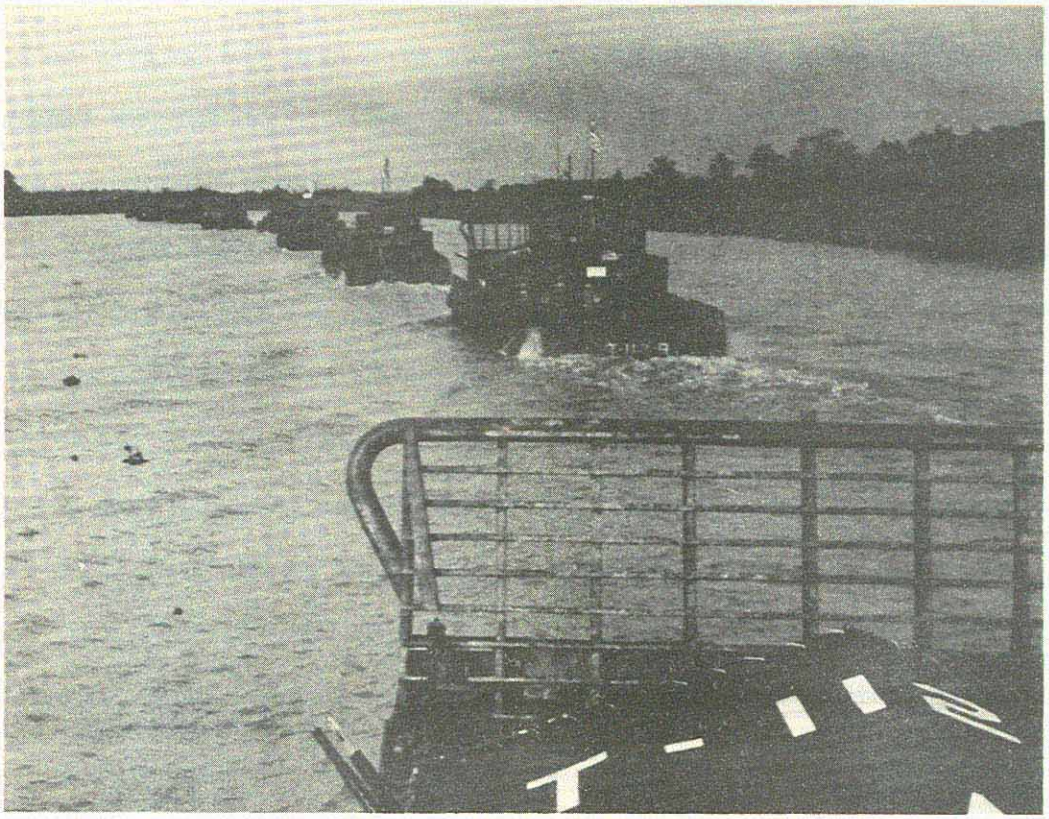

Task Force SIX GUN, enroute to a Fire Support Base (FSPB), gets escort support from RAD 112 assault craft as the riverine contingent transit the Mekong River to their objective.

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Ben Tre without incident and their 105-mm howitzers were laid and ready to fire as RAD's 91 and 111 entered the Nha Man Stream at 0820 en route to the beaching area.

The Nha Man Stream had heavily wooded banks that were known to be oriented toward the waterway. With artillery coverage on call and an Army helicopter fire team flying overhead, the two RAD's with their embarked troops were alert and ready for a tough fight as they cautiously proceeded up the treeline and densely foliated waterways. Much to their surprise, both divisions landed their infantrymen without any opposition.

Meanwhile, as the MRF troops kept pressing inland in search of the elusive enemy, the MRB relocated from the vicinity of Ben Tre and arrived at 1015 at an anchorage on the Mekong River 3½ miles northwest of Vinh Long. The infantrymen encountered several squad size elements late that afternoon and continued their pursuit well into the night. The action commenced at 1600 when elements of the 3/60th Inf. Bn. came under attack from several bunkers 5 miles southeast of Sa Dec. Sporadic action continued during the night as TF 117 assault craft provided direct support from the narrow waterways with gunfire, flamethrowers and riot control gas. The armored troop carriers, under intense enemy fire, repeatedly beached their craft to remove wounded soldiers from the battle zone.

At 1915 that same evening, swimmers were sighted in the MRB anchorage near ships of TF 117. USS BENEWAH (APB-35) and USS ASKARI (ARL-30) personnel reported positive identification of swimmers in the water near

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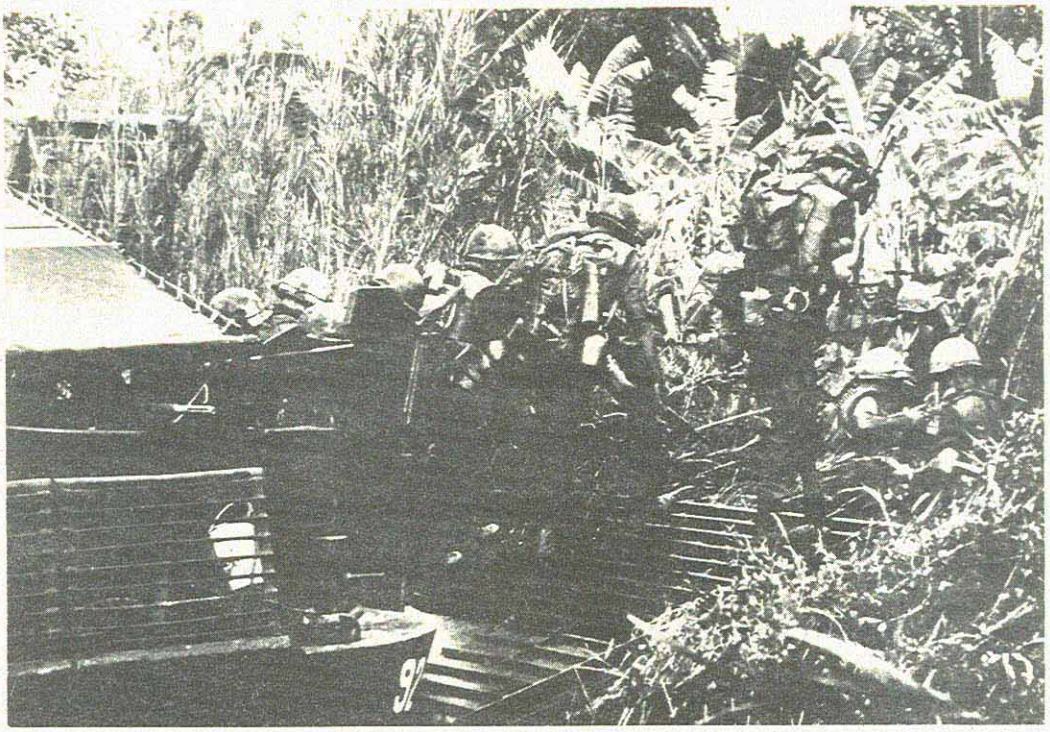

Troops of the Ninth Infantry Division, the Army component of the Mobile Riverine Force, move off the ramp of an armored troop carrier during an assault landing in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

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their ships. The area was saturated with concussion grenades by RAD 92 MRB defense patrols with negative results. Minesweeping operations were immediately intensified and an additional anti-swimmer defense boat commenced patrolling to counter the enemy swimmer threat.

At 1600 on 2 June riverine craft of RAD 111 were ambushed by small-arms and automatic-weapons fire from the west bank of the Cai Tau River 8 miles west of Vinh Long. The boats, in the process of backloading troops of the 3/47th Inf. Bn., could not return the fire because friendly troops were in close proximity to the point of origin of the hostile fire. One sailor received minor wounds during the engagement.

About 30 minutes later units of RAD 91 were attacked by light sniper fire and one rocket round from an unknown-size Viet Cong force. The attack came from both banks of the Cai Tau River, 8 miles southeast of Sa Dec, just as the boats were withdrawing from the objective area. ATC-91-5 took one rocket hit below the waterline which failed to explode. The boat started taking on water, but the flooding was immediately brought under control. There were no friendly personnel casualties and enemy losses were unknown.

The Army/Navy team completed their ground and waterborne sweep through the Duc Ton District and returned to the MRB at 1730 on 2 June, after experiencing only light contact with the Viet Cong. The cumulative statistical results of the two-day operation were 14 Viet Cong killed, 9 suspects detained, and 6 bunkers and 5 booby traps destroyed.

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Operations in Kien Phong Province

On 5 June the MRF commenced a two-battalion riverine reconnaissance-in-force operation in the Cao Lanh and Kien Van districts to locate and engage the Viet Cong 502A and 502B battalions. The five major ships of the MRB relocated from the vicinity of Sa Dec to an anchorage on the Mekong River about 3 miles south of Cao Lanh. The MRF units launched their sweep of the objective area along the Can Lo River about 4½ miles east of Cao Lanh at 0745, but failed to establish contact with the enemy. The only significant results of the one-day operation was 81 bunkers and 25 sampans destroyed, and 44 Viet Cong suspects held for questioning. There were no MRF casualties, and the operation terminated that evening when the troops were returned to the MRB.

Operations in Ding Tuong Province

MRF operation 51-68 commenced early on 7 June when the MRF conducted a two-battalion operation in the Giao Duc District to locate and engage the Giao Duc District Control Unit (DCU) and the elusive Viet Cong 502 Main Force Battalion. On the previous morning the MRB relocated without incident to an anchorage on the Mekong River 5 miles east of Sa Dec.

Once again the enemy chose not to challenge the power of the MRF as contact with the Viet Cong consisted of sporadic small-arms fire. After two days of negligible contact with the enemy aggressors, the infantrymen were returned to the MRB by units of RAD's 92 and 111 at 1415 on 8 June. The MRB immediately departed the Sa Dec anchorage and returned to Dong

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Tam. The statistical results of this operation were 3 Viet Cong killed, 4 prisoners-of-war captured, 77 suspects detained, and 82 bunkers destroyed. Friendly losses amounted to one Vietnamese "Tiger" scout killed by a booby trap and 10 U.S. soldiers wounded.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

On 10 June the MRF commenced a two-battalion reconnaissance-in-force operation in the Giong Trom District to locate and destroy elements of the 516th Viet Cong Battalion and the 570th DCU.

In a pre-dawn attack, units of RAD 111, en route to beaching areas, were ambushed along the heavily wooded Giao Hoa Canal by enemy forces armed with recoilless rifles, automatic weapons and small arms. In the ensuing firefight, which occurred at the crossroads of the Giao Hoa Canal and Ba Lai River 8 miles southeast of My Tho, the assault craft killed four Viet Cong. The enemy fire was rapidly silenced by RAD 111 gunners but not before one boat was hit by a rocket and nine Navymen were wounded. Seven of the nine sailors wounded were crewmembers of monitor 111-2.

The infantry units were beached without opposition and commenced a sweep to the northwest along both banks of the Ben Tre River. The soldiers of the MRF destroyed numerous bunkers but did not gain contact with the enemy.

Just prior to sunset a violent exchange of fire erupted when the heavily armed boats of RAD 111 killed 16 Viet Cong, destroyed 3 enemy sampans and achieved three secondary explosions. The battle developed shortly after

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the boats had landed three companies of infantrymen along the banks of the winding Tai Phu River 4 miles southeast of Ben Tre. Three sampans, full of Viet Cong, were attempting to cross the river in front of the riverine column, when one of the three boats opened fire on the MRF units with automatic-weapons and small-arms fire. The assault craft retaliated with a deafening and deadly volley of return fire. Almost immediately, other enemy elements hidden on the east bank of the river took the boats under rocket and intense machine-gun fire. The assault boats elected to run the ambush and strafed the ambushers with their 40-mm and 20-mm cannons, and .30 caliber and .50 caliber machine guns. All three sampans were demolished and three secondary explosions were observed near the ambush position. Due to the densely foliated jungle along the river banks, an accurate assessment of enemy casualties was impossible; although, there were 16 Viet Cong bodies counted.

In addition to the naval battle which occurred at the intersection of the Tai Phu and Ben Tre rivers, Army helicopter gunships operating with the MRF killed 20 communist troops in sporadic incidents throughout the day. There was one sailor slightly wounded during the ambush. Meanwhile, the Army troops were still pursuing the enemy but could not effect contact.

On 11 June the infantrymen were returned to the MRB at Dong Tam after a relatively quiet day in the operating area. The results of MRF action against the enemy (10-11 June) were 45 Viet Cong killed, 36 persons detained, 139 bunkers and 3 sampans destroyed and 11,000 rounds of .30 caliber

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ammunition captured.

The river assault craft of RAD 131 commenced their first riverine operation on 12 June with a one-company search and destroy operation along the Doi Stream 3½ miles southeast of Saigon. USS INDRA (ARL-37), on loan to the MRF for a six-month period, shifted her anchorage from Vung Tau to Nha Be in Gia Dinh Province to provide logistic and repair support to the new squadron. One monitor and three ASPB's from Dong Tam were assigned to the new squadron to provide gunfire support until their own support craft arrived in-country. The Army element involved in the operation was from the 4/39th Inf. Bn., of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division's Third Brigade.

After a one-day preventive maintenance period the MRF (MRG ALFA) conducted a one-day operation on 13 June in search of the Viet Cong 516th Main Force Battalion and the 560th DCU. The entire operation, conducted along the Ba Lai River 11 miles east of Ben Tre, was unopposed and the troops were backloaded to the MRB at 2030 that same evening, thus terminating an unproductive operation.

Operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone

River Assault Squadron THIRTEEN personnel and craft received their "baptism of fire" on 16 June when ambushed twice in the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ). The action unfolded as units of RAD 131 with embarked troops were en route to beaching areas when at 0815 they were assailed with rocket and automatic-weapons fire from both banks of the Ong Keo Stream 8 miles southeast of Nha Be. The enemy fire was suppressed by the combined

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firepower of the RAS 13 gunboats and TF 116 armed Navy helicopters flying overhead. Ther were four sailors and one Vietnamese soldier wounded in the attack, which also caused minor damage to three boats.

Four hours later as the craft were moving south on the Dong Thanh River, they were ambushed again from both banks of the river with B-40 rockets and automatic weapons. The attack, which took place 8½ miles southeast of Nha Be, occurred as the boats with embarked troops were attempting to clear the operating area prior to the arrival of an air strike in the area. There were five crewmembers of monitor 91-1 wounded when their craft was hit by B-40 rockets and machine-gun fire. The monitor was assigned to RAS 13 from RAD 91. Three other boats also suffered minor damage during the encounter and all were subsequently repaired by the repair ship, INDRA.

Operations in Phong Dinh Province

While MRG BRAVO (TG 117.2) was being initiated in the RSSZ into the rigors and hazards of riverine strike operations, MRG ALFA (TG 117.1) shifted anchorages on the morning of 16 June from Dong Tam to Can Tho. This was implemented in order to support scheduled MRF operations in the Can Tho area. This relocation was in direct response to a request from the IV Corps Tactical Zone Commander to conduct riverine assault operations in Phong Dinh Province. The MRB made the 110-mile transit without incident via the Mekong River, the Vam Nao crossover and the Bassac River, and arrived at Can Tho at 1900 on the same day.

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Operations in the Can Tho area commenced at 0400 on 17 June with RAD 112 escorting Task Force SIX GUN to FSPB GULCH on the Bassac River 8 miles southeast of Can Tho. This marked only the second time in its 16-month history that the MRF had operated on the Bassac River. The previous operation in the area was conducted during the later stages of the Tet Offensive in February.

At 0615 two infantry battalions were landed without opposition at beaches 3½ miles southwest of Can Tho by the river assault craft to exploit a B-52 airstrike that had commenced approximately 30 minutes prior to the assault landings. The Viet Cong again successfully evaded the ground troops; however, air cavalry helicopter gunships annihilated 33 of the fleeing guerillas as they were evacuating the MRF objective area. Meanwhile, the Navymen on the waterways experienced a relatively quite day.

The most costly incident of the day occurred at 1500 when an Army artilleryman was killed and 13 other soldiers were wounded in an ambush on the Can Tho River. The Army artillery resupply LCM-8 was attacked with B-40 rockets 6 miles southwest of Can Tho. Retaliatory fire could not be returned due to the area being heavily populated.

The ground troops continued their pursuit of the enemy as they shifted the area of operations on 19 June to a position 12 miles southwest of Can Tho. Nine communist aggressors were killed by Army elements of the MRF in a series of sporadic encounters throughout the day. The totals for

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the three-day-old operation were 66 Viet Cong killed, while friendly forces had 4 soldiers killed, and 27 personnel wounded, 3 of whom were Navymen.

At 1725 on 19 June, units of RAS 11, transiting west on the Can Tho River, were attacked by an enemy force armed with rocket launchers and automatic weapons. The ambush was initiated about 5 miles southwest of Can Tho as the boats were proceeding to pick up infantrymen of the 3/47th Inf. Bn. Three Navymen were slightly wounded as ASPB-112-1 received a direct hit on its 20-mm gunmount from a 57-mm recoilless rifle. A Navy "Seawolf" light helicopter fire team from TF 116, providing overhead cover for the boats, placed a strike on the enemy rocketeers and achieved a secondary explosion while helping the river boats silence the hostile fire.

On 20 June the assault troops of the MRF engaged an undetermined size enemy force 13 miles west of Can Tho. The contact continued throughout the afternoon as heavy airstrikes and artillery barrages rained down on the enemy positions. Under the cover of darkness the Viet Cong exfiltrated from the area, leaving behind 15 of their dead comrades.

The Navy craft, manuevering on the labyrinth of streams and waterways that interspersed the area, experienced a very uneventful day until 1940 when units of RAD 112 were struck with rockets and automatic weapons. The attack occurred on the Can Tho River 6 miles southwest of Can Tho, as the boats were escorting the artillery barges of the 3/34th Artillery

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Battalion. One troop carrier was struck with a recoilless rifle round, which sprayed hundreds of pieces of hot shrapnel into the well deck of the boat, wounding eight embarked Armymen (three serious). One of the artillery barges was also hit and burst into flames as its 105-mm howitzer ammunition started exploding. The moderately damaged barge was immediately cast off and beached; it was later towed back to the MRB for repairs. One 105-mm howitzer tube was destroyed as a result of the ambush.

The five-day operation terminated on 21 June and the foot-soldiers of the MRF were returned to the MRB which was in the vicinity of Can Tho. The summary results of MRF action against the enemy during this successful operation were 82 Viet Cong killed, 2 prisoners and 19 weapons captured, 24 persons detained and 39 bunkers destroyed. American casualties amounted to 4 soldiers killed and 38 Armymen and 3 sailors wounded.

All operations in the Can Tho area were completed by 23 June and MRG ALFA commenced a two-day transit to Dong Tam in preparation for strike operations in Long An Province. The transit to Dong Tam was coupled with a two-RAD/two-battalion operation on 23 June along the Mang Thit/Nicholai Canal 11 miles southeast of Can Tho. This operation was planned to destroy the bunker complexes and Viet Cong elements that had been harassing and interdicting traffic along that essential waterway. Thirty-two bunkers were destroyed and 10 Viet Cong suspects were detained during the three-hour sweep along the Mang Thit/Nicholai Canal. Viet Cong defensive complexes were not as large as anticipated. After completing the sweep, the

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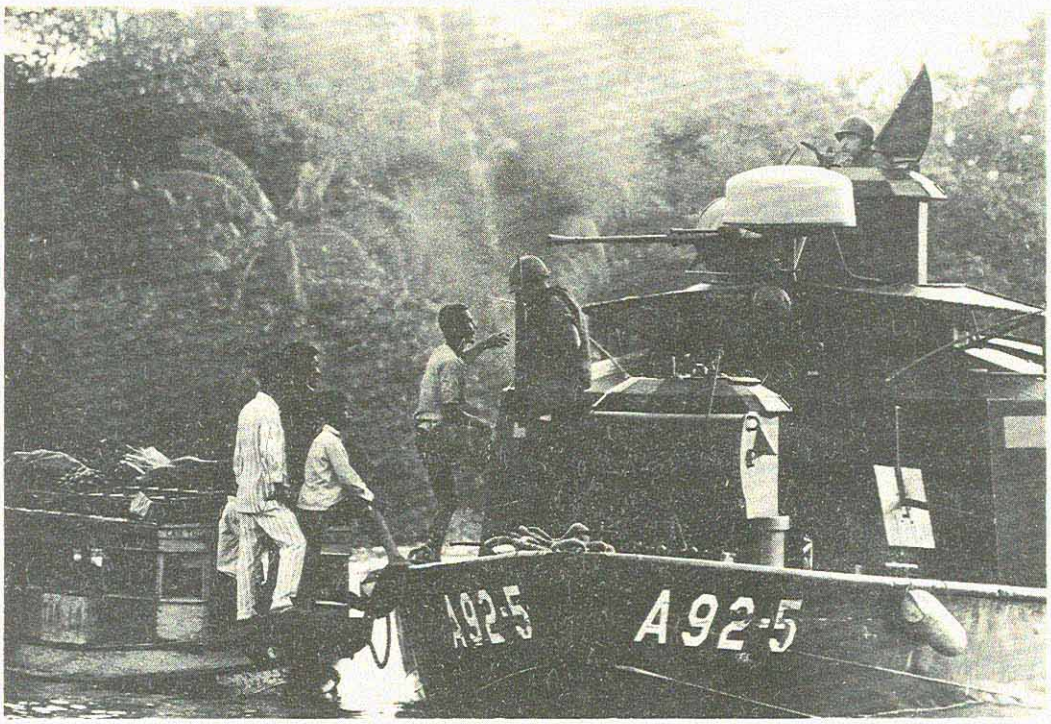

Following the detention and inspection of this Vietnamese craft, personnel of a RAD 92 unit, while participating in a reconnaissance-in-force operation, received some intelligence from the craft's occupants.

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ground troops were backloaded by RAD's 92 and 111 and transported to night defensive positions on the My Tho River 4 miles west of Dong Tam.

Operations in Long An Province

On 26 June the MRB of TG 117.1 (MRG ALFA) transited from Dong Tam to an anchorage at the junction of the Vam Co and Soirap rivers. The river assault craft made the transit via the inner passage (Cho Gao Canal) while the boats of the MRB exited the Cua Tieu River and transited the South China Sea.

The objective of the reconnaissance-in-force operations in the Can Giouc area was to interdict enemy lines of communications and supply, thereby relieving Viet Cong pressure on Saigon from the south. The operation commenced the next morning as MRF assault troops landed 3 miles southwest of Nha Be and swept east to west across Thanh Duc District from the Soirap River to the Can Giouc River. While RAD's 92 and 111 were supporting the widely dispersed ground troops ashore, 17 assault craft of RAD 131 and 4 PBR's of TG 116.4 proceeded from Nha Be to establish water blockades on Cat Creek and Cac Creek in lower Long An Province to prevent enemy exfiltration to the south. Although the RAD 131 craft did not see any action during the Can Giouc operation, they made their presence known by inspecting 85 junks, 15 water taxis and 278 sampans in the area of operations.

In view of the lack of enemy contact the operation was terminated on 28 June. The results were rather sparse with 2 Viet Cong killed, 5 persons held for interrogation, 24 bunkers and 2 Chinese Communist booby traps

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destroyed, and 3 weapons and 5 grenades captured. There were no friendly casualties.

During the remaining days of the month the Viet Cong continued to avoid contact as the MRF completed a series of reconnaissance-in-force operations south of Saigon. Intelligence reports kept indicating that Viet Cong units were massing south of Saigon for a possible assault on that city; however, protracted riverine operations and sweeps across the region failed to unearth any significant Viet Cong units.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE UNITS

Throughout the first week of the month the Patrol Air Cushion Vehicles (PACV) conducted test runs on the My Tho River in preparation for their future deployment to the I Corps Tactical Zone. During a month fraught with mechanical failures, Commander Coastal Division SEVENTEEN experienced great difficult in keeping the three "monsters" operational. PACV ONE recently completed an engine change and was tested on 3 June; PACV TWO required an engine change and none were in-country; PACV THREE will require an engine change between 20 and 40 hours of operation.

A portion of the Cua Viet MRF contingent (CTU 117.4.2) arrived at Nha Be on 1 June. The task unit, one CCB, three monitors and three ATC's, transited to Dong Tam the next day via the Cho Gao Canal, and rejoined the MRF at Vinh Long on 3 June.

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Effective 3 June, MRG ALFA River Assault Division responsibilities were assigned as follows:

RAD 91 -- MRB defense

RAD 92 -- Support for the 3/60th Inf. Bn.

RAD 111 -- Support for the 3/47th Inf. Bn.

RAD 112 -- Support for Task Force SIX GUN.

In order to provide support and coordination of operations, personnel were relocated as follows:

RAD 91 -- Shifted to USS BENEWAH (APB-35)

RAD 92 -- Shifted to USS COLLETON (APB-36)

RAD 111 -- Remained aboard APL 26

RAD 112 -- Remained aboard USS VERNON COUNTY (LST-1161)

With the arrival of River Assault Squadron THIRTEEN, the new Mobile Riverine Force task organization was put into effect. A brief resume follows:

1. Task Group 117.1 (MRG ALFA)

(a) Consists basically of:
(1) RIVRON NINE
(2) RIVRON ELEVEN
(3) USS BENEWAH (APB-35)
(4) USS COLLETON (APB-36)
(5) USS ASKARI (ARL-30)
(6) USS SPHINX (ARL-24)
(7) USS VERNON COUNTY (LST-1161) (Assigned from 7th Fleet a two month tour with the MRF)
(8) APL 26 (See item 9 below)
(9) When USS NUECES (APB-40) and USS MERCER (APB-39) arrive in-country, they will be assigned to MRG ALFA and APL 26 will be reassigned to MRG BRAVO.

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2. Task Group 117.2 (MRG BRAVO)

a. Consists basically of:
(1) RIVRON THIRTEEN
(2) RIVERON FIFTEEN (not in-country yet)
(3) USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST-1170) (Assigned from 7th Fleet for a two-month tour with MRF)
(4) USS SATYR (ARL-23) (not in-country yet)
(5) APL 26 (When assigned)
(6) APL 30 (not in-country yet)

The basic concept of the new organization is to have MRG ALFA operate throughout the Mekong Delta as a fully mobile group with its infantry troops embarked on the ships of the task group. MRG BRAVO (TG 117.2) will operate primarily along the My Tho/Mekong River with its assigned infantrymen staging from the Dong Tam Base 5 miles west of My Tho.

On 11 June USS SPHINX (ARL 24), a sister ship of USS ASKARI (ARL-30), joined the Mobile Riverine Force.

The final contingent of TF 117 boats which were at Cua Viet providing gunfire support to the logistic convoys plying the Cua Viet River, returned to Dong Tam on 18 June.

Two days later USS WASHTENAW COUNTY (LST-1166) relieved USS VERNON COUNTY (LST-1161) as the MRF support ship for MRG ALFA.

On 21 June USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST-1170) joined Task Group 117.2 (MRG BRAVO) as its first support LST.

The next day the three PACV's departed from Dong Tam en route to Vung Tau on the first leg of their voyage to Tan My in I Corps. On 24 June the PACV's arrived at the PBR Mobile Support Base I at Tan My and chopped to Commander Task Force CLEARWATER at that time.

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TASK FORCE CLEARWATER

Patrol and minesweeping operations on the Perfume and Cua Viet rivers were continued during June by Task Force CLEARWATER units for the protection of logistics craft transiting these waterways. Logistic movement on the Perfume River between Hue and Tan My continued essentially without incident during the month. However, enemy artillery and rocket attacks against the Cua Viet base facilities were both frequent and heavy during the latter half of June.

The only significant action involving the Hue River Security Group took place in an area 10 miles southeast of Tan My on the Thanh Lam Lagoon. From the 1st through the afternoon of the 5th River Section 521 PBR's provided blocking patrols in support of a 101st Airborne Division/First ARVN Ranger Group sweep of Phu Tu District. Hostile fire was received and suppressed by .50 caliber machine-gun fire from the PBR's three times on 1 June. No casualties resulted from any of the incidents. On the 2nd, PBR's 51, 84 and 118 sighted personnel in the water during a blocking patrol in the same area. Five prisoners were taken and one Viet Cong was killed. While the Viet Cong were being picked up out of the water, six others evaded ashore and surrendered to nearby Army units. The prisoners and weapons captured were turned over to the Army. One prisoner indicated that he would lead ground units to an arms cache.

The first of many rocket and artillery attacks on Cua Viet came on the 2nd when 18 rounds were received between 1000 and 1025. Shortly after

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the attack ended an underwater explosion sent a column of water more than 200 feet into the air about 10 meters off the port quarter of an LCM-8 in mid-channel. The craft was heavily damaged and one man was slightly wounded by the blast from what was probably a command detonated mine. Since the enemy had established a pattern of using mines in pairs the mouth of the river was closed to all traffic until a sweep and survey of the area could be completed.

Traffic on the Cua Viet River was delayed again on the morning of the 9th following a night of enemy rocket attacks on patrol craft from several river bank positions a few miles northeast of Dong Ha. The first attack shortly after midnight inflicted several casualties to the crew of an LCPL on routine patrol when a rocket hit close aboard the starboard side. Although damage to the craft was light, two men were killed (one lost overboard), three were seriously wounded, and one suffered minor wounds. Four more attacks by rockets on PBR's occurred between 0241 and 0401 without causing damage. The river was opened for traffic at 0725 after mine sweeping units had completed a transit of the river. A company of Marines was lifted into the ambush area by ATC's for a daytime ground sweep to secure the river bank.

River patrol operations were essentially routine for the remainder of the month. Enemy harassment continued in the form of mortar, artillery or small arms fire on Cua Viet patrol craft on 11, 12, 14, 17 and 29 June. No hits or damage was caused by these widely scattered attacks.

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An evading sampan was taken under fire by PBR 46 on the 16th with unknown results. However, routine inspection of sampans in the area later that night turned up a wounded female who was turned over to Coastal Group 11 along with six companions.

South of Tan My an evading sampan was recovered on the 15th by a River Section 521 patrol after the occupants had escaped into the treeline. The sampan contained 600 pounds of rice and a Chieu Hoi pass. A week later on the 22nd, one man from the same area turned himself over to a patrol. Later that day with the assistance of the Vietnamese policeman embarked, he made a psyops broadcast appealing to other Viet Cong in the area to Chieu Hoi.

Rocket and artillery attacks began against Cua Viet again on the 13th when the fuel farm was hit destroying 16 POL bladders. On 19 June the Marine ammunition dump was hit and partially destroyed. On the 20th Dong Ha received six rounds which set off a destructive series of secondary explosions in the ammunition supply point there. Cua Viet was hit again on the 21st and 24th with no damage to TF CLEARWATER units. The attack on the 24th consisted of more than 100 rounds which impacted in the Naval Support Activity detachment and Third Marine Regiment headquarters areas. The pattern of the attacks and the sighting of possible signal lights in a nearby village indicated the probable use of a forward observer by the enemy. More attacks on Cua Viet came on the 25th and 27th. No River Section 543 casualties were incurred, however, one Navyman was killed on the 25th and two were seriously wounded. On the 27th two other logistics craft personnel

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were wounded.

On 13 June the last of the Mobile Riverine Force craft headed south to resume operations in the Mekong Delta. A new addition to the forces of TF CLEARWATER was received on the 24th when the three Patrol Air Cushion Vehicles (PACV) of Coastal Division ONE-SEVEN arrived at Tan My. Under the operational control of Commander, Hue River Security Group the PACV's began preparation to start regular operations early in July.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

Routine logistic support of I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ) forces by Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang, appeared to level off in June. Although the total monthly throughput for the combined I CTZ ports was less than in April or May, it was still the third largest in history at nearly 450,000 short-tons. Supply operations statistics also reflect the leveling in the tempo of operations after the period of rapid build up of forces in I CTZ in preceeding months. Total supply decreased from 199,009 in May to 184,171 during June. The most noticeable change was at Chu Lai where Army demands were down to 32,096 as compared with 47,050 in May. For Danang and Chu Lai combined gross and net supply effectiveness were 85 percent and 88.8 percent respectively as compared with 87.1 percent and 89.9 percent in May.

Enemy attacks against NAVSUPPACT, Danang logistic craft were not significant during June, however, rocket/artillery attacks on detachment bases and facilities were numerous. There were seven separate attacks on Cua Viet, two on the Dong Ha ramp, two on Chu Lai, and one hitting the Danang open storage yard. The most significant damage was incurred on 13 and 20 June. On the 13th enemy artillery hit the Cua Viet fuel farm destroying 13 bladders and 130,000 gallons of fuel and wounded one man. The ammunition supply point at the Dong Ha Combat Base was hit by enemy artillery on the 20th. The resulting secondary explosions and fires destroyed or damaged much of the detachment cantonment as well as 16 bladders and 160,000 gallons of fuel. In addition

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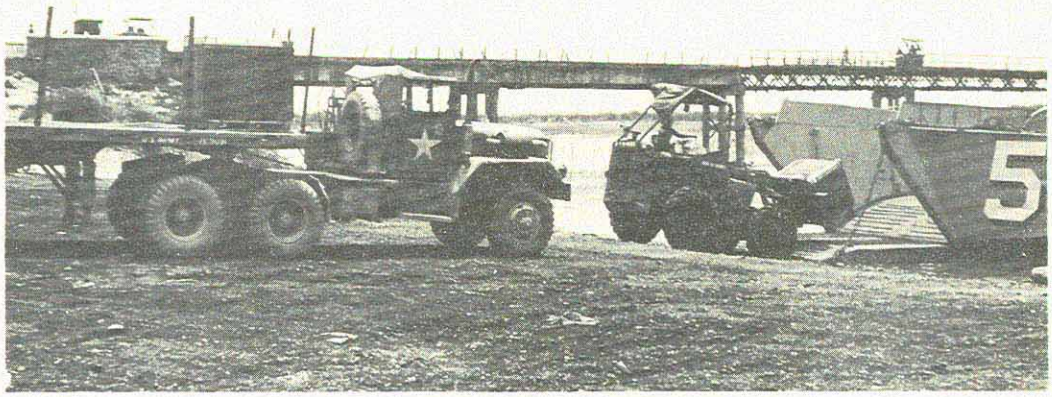

A rough terrain fork lift unloads cargo from a YFU at the Dong Ha Bridge ramp. Supplies of all classes for forces in the northern I CTZ are transported from Danang up the coast and into Dong Ha via the Cua Viet River by NAVSUPPACT, Danang logistics craft.

three men from the Dong Ha NAVSUPPACT, Danang detachment were wounded in this attack, two suffering serious injuries. Cua Viet was hit by artillery on the 25th for the sixth time in June by 12 rounds of 152-mm artillery. Four craft were damaged, one Navyman killed and two seriously wounded. On the 27th approximately 100 rounds of mixed artillery hit Cua Viet wounding one man and causing moderate damage.

Mining and terrorism by the enemy also caused damage and casualties

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to NAVSUPPACT, Danang facilities and personnel. Five terrorist acts were reported in Danang during June including a 13 June explosion at the NAVSUPPACT, Danang Procurement Office. A charge believed to have been carried into the office in a briefcase by a Vietnamese woman caused extensive damage and also wounded seven military personnel and two Vietnamese civilians. During a mortar attack on Chu Lai on 23 June two mines were laid along side an Alaska Barge and Transport barge. The first mine detonated at 0410, three hours after the mortar attack, and the second mine detonated at 0518. The barge was extensively damaged and the quay wall received moderate damage.

In spite of the damage to the Cua Viet and Dong Ha fuel farms, fuel transfer operations on the Cua Viet and Perfume rivers continued without major disruption. In both cases of damage, direct support was provided customers by bladder boats and an AOG was on station with all products as floating storage. Issues reached a new high during June -- 1,676,000 gallons per day. Daily river transfer capability remained at 200,000 gallons on the Perfume River and 340,000 gallons on the Cua Viet River. In order to prevent a recurrence of the Cua Viet damage the fuel farm was being relocated further from the cantonment area with greater seperation between bladders. Repair of the 8-inch petroleum seaload line at Tan My was completed making the system fully operational with a 6-inch bottom lay line as back up.

Rock shipment to the northern I CTZ was improved by the receipt of 11

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additional barges and four tugs. During June, 43,537 short-tons of rock were shipped north from Danang. Two new 400-ton per hour crushers were under construction at Danang as part of the effort to relieve the critical rock shortage. Rock issues continued to be controlled according to priorities established by Commander, Third Marine Amphibious Force.

The number of patients admitted to the Danang hospital totaled 2,156 including 64 prisoners of war. Of this total, 746 were admitted for combat injuries, 1,199 for various diseases, and 211 for non-combat injuries. A total of 756 persons were treated and returned to duty during June and 799 were evacuated out of country. The average patient load was 385 with that number of beds remaining occupied at month's end. A daily record high of 527 occupied beds was recorded during the month. Because medical holding, convalescent, and intensive care beds were to be excluded from the operating bed count, the reported capacity of the NAVSUPPACT, Danang hospital was established at 600 beds during June by CINCPACFLT.

At month's end the NAVSUPPACT, Danang personnel level was 9,439 and the number of United States and other free world military forces supported in I CTZ was 198,791.

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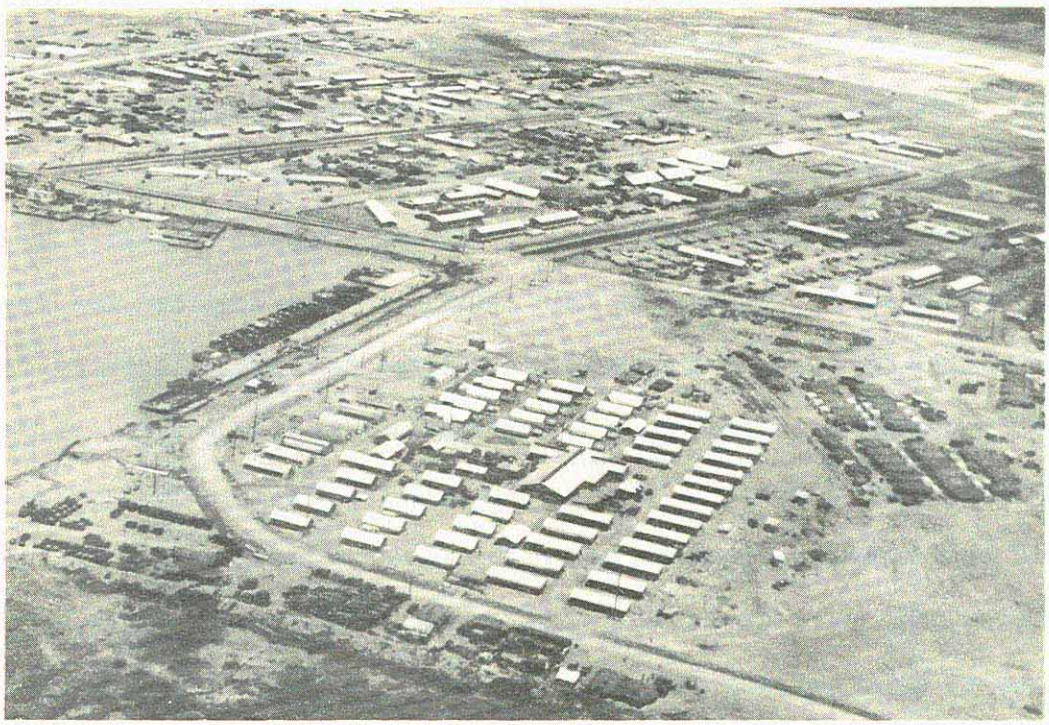

During June the enemy initiated several attacks on Naval Support Activity, Saigon detachments and facilities. One of the attacks was made on this naval complex (aerial view) -- the NAVSUPPACT, Saigon, Detachment at Dong Tam.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

During June enemy attacks on Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Saigon detachments and facilities in the Saigon area numbered only six. No significant damage or personnel casualties resulted from any of these attacks. The Dong Tam NAVSUPPACT, Saigon detachment received 30 rounds of 82-mm mortar fire at about 0400 on the 3rd and 11 rounds of 75-mm recoilless-rifle fire at 0200 on the 4th. On the 17th Dong Tam was again attacked between 0100 and 0240 when 68 rounds of 75-mm recoilless-rifle and 120-mm mortar fire were received. From 2322 on 16 June until 0115 on the 17th, My Tho came under enemy mortar fire. Twenty-four rounds exploded near the NAVSUPPACT detachment base causing minor damage to two structures. At 0600 on 20 June a fire of unknown origin broke out in Nha Be Village damaging a large portion of the business district including the market place built by NAVSUPPACT as a civic action project. The Navy compound at Vinh Long was harassed on 25 June by 11 rounds of 81-mm mortar fire.

Base Development continued with a number of construction projects underway at all detachments. Projects near completion at the end of June included the Cam Ranh Bay Naval Communication Station transmitter power plant, the Qui Nhon CLARINET SEAWARD site, the Cat Lo seawall, and the Nha Trang Harbor Entrance Control Point. Work on the Newport warehouse complex continued to be delayed due to a fill shortage and non-delivery of foundation piling. Because of this delay additional warehouse and open storage facilites in Saigon were acquired during June.

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Supply operations continued with the USS BRULE (AKL-28) completing a northern coastal run and the USS MARK (AKL-12) completing a southern coastal run in addition to their regular Delta resupply missions. Also employed on Delta resupply missions was YFR 890 as well as USS PITKIN COUNTY (LST-1082) USS FLOYD COUNTY (LST-762), and YW 126 operating in the Delta to resupply the Mobile Riverine Force. In addition, LCM shuttles continued to augment logistics missions between Saigon, Nha Be, Cat Lo and Vung Tau. Surface craft of NAVSUPPACT, Saigon carried a total of 2,472 short-tons of cargo during June. Both net and gross supply effectiveness reached new high levels of 89 percent and 77 percent respectively. Previous highs were 86 percent net and 73 percent gross. Supply demands totaled 45,084.

The NAVSUPPACT, Saigon aircraft inventory at the end of June was two C-117's, one US2B, one C1A, and three UH-34's. One C-117 received minor shrapnel damage during a 14 June rocket attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base. Another C-117 was damaged in a landing accident at Vung Tau Army Air Field on 7 June. Repairs were expected to be completed on this aircraft by mid-July. A total of 3,436 passengers and 364,445 pounds of cargo were carried by Air Cofat during June. On 15 June Naval Air Facility, Cam Ranh Bay assumed the maintenance responsibility for NAVSUPPACT, Saigon aircraft.

Although relaxation of curfew restrictions in the Saigon area improved the Vietnamese employee work level, difficulty is encountered in hiring and maintaining a sufficient number of male employees for work requiring physical labor. During the first six months of 1968, twenty-five warehouse men were

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drafted and 60 percent of those remaining are eligible for the draft. Navy personnel attached to NAVSUPPACT, Saigon at the month's end totaled 2,975, a decrease of 94 from the May total.

Mobile Support Base (MSB) II was activated on 2 June at Nha Be under the operational control of NAVSUPPACT, Saigon and the administrative control of COMSERVPAC. MSB II then commenced shakedown and operations evaluation at anchor off Nha Be in preparation for PBR support in the upper Mekong Delta.

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This wreckage, at Dong Ha Combat Base, is one of 78 building destroyed or damaged by shock waves from an explosion in the nearby ammunition supply point following a 20 June enemy artillery attack.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

Enemy harassment of Seabee construction activity during June continued with a number of mining incidents, ambushes and mortar/rocket attacks. A 20 June artillery attack on the Dong Ha Combat Base caused the most significant damage to installations and equipment. Most of the other enemy activity was directed at road upgrading work in the Northern I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ). Along Route 9 quarry details from Naval Mobile Construction Construction Battalion FORTY (NMCB-40) were involved in eight enemy initiated engagements and road details from NMCB-8 were attacked on five occasions. During June, 13 Seabees from construction battalions were wounded by hostile fire.

A quarry detail from NMCB-40 was attacked by small arms and mortar fire 6 miles southwest of Dong Ha on the morning of 1 June. One Seabee was wounded. On Route 9, a few miles west of Cam Lo, an NMCV-40 convoy received 30 mortar rounds on the morning of 3 June. On the morning of 5 June, an NMCB-40 hauling crew was mortared at 0930. This attack occurred 7.5 miles west-southwest of Dong Ha. A half-hour later the same Seabee crew was attacked by snippers approximately 7 miles further to the west. Sniper fire from the same vicinity was received by an NMCB-40 convoy about 1100 the same day. None of these four attacks resulted in casualties or damage.

On 4 June a grenade thrown at a scraper from NMCB-8 casued minor damage to the scraper and wounded the operator. This incident occurred 4.5

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miles northwest of Hue. A security vehicle evacuating the wounded man received sniper fire. Also on the 4th a command detonated mine made from a 155-mm projectile was detonated 5.5 miles northwest of Hue as an NMCB-8 end dump passed. One man was wounded and the dump received minor damage.

Two NMCB-40 dump trucks were demolished on the morning of 9 June. At 1030 a dump truck struck a mine 11 miles west of Dong Ha. An hour later a second truck ran over another mine in the same area. No injuries resulted from either incident. Later on the 9th NMCB-40 quarry personnel were pinned down 9 miles west of Dong Ha for over two hours when a Marine convoy was ambushed nearby. A patrol from NMCB-5 detonated an explosive device two miles south of Dong Ha on the 10th, seriously wounding one man.

Later in the afternoon of 20 June, six enemy artillery rounds were fired at the Dong Ha Combat Base, hitting the ammunition supply point. Ordnance from secondary explosions landed in the NMCB-5 camp causing extensive damage to facilities, equipment and construction materials. Three Seabees were wounded, one seriously. The presence of large amounts of unexploded ammunition scattered throughout the camp hampered repair efforts.

A side dump from NMCB-11 struck a mine two miles south of Dong Ha on the 21st extensively damaging the vehicle and seriously wounding one Seabee. More action in the Dong Ha area wounded four Seabees on the 29th. At 1145 a convoy was mortared 11 miles west of Dong Ha damaging an NMCB-53 tractor-trailer and seriously wounding one man. Attempts to remove the truck that

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afternoon brought more mortar fire wounding three men and damaging the wrecker.

On the 24th NMCB-1 mortar crews struck back at the enemy 11 miles southeast of Phu Bai. The impact area showed indications that the 16 rounds fired by the Seabees had found their target killing some of the enemy.

The road upgrade program continued to make progress in spite of the enemy harassment. On Route 9, between Dong Ha and Cam Lo, road and bridge widening continued and the rock base was placed on a 2.1 mile section. Route 1, between Dong Ha and Quang Tri, has been widened and more than 7 miles of rock base has been completed. North and south of Camp Evans more than 10 miles of Route 1 has been widened. Timber bridge work on Route 1 includes a 300 foot bridge, 13 miles south of Quang Tri and an 840 foot bridge at An Lo. Work on both projects remained on schedule. Portions of the Tan My end of the Col Co Road were ready for asphaltic concrete by month's end and the dredge sand fill was 70 percent complete. Work on the center portion of the Hue by-pass continued to be hampered by real estate problems although rock fill on the southern portion was started. On Route 1, between Hue and Phu Bai, asphaltic concrete paving was started with one lane completed between the north and south check points of Phu Bai.

The critical shortage of rock in the I CTZ continued during June. The addition of 11 new barges on 11 June increased the rate at which rock

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was being barged north. More than 40,000 tons of rock was shipped north from Danang during the month. However, this requirement to barge rock north seriously limited the quantity of rock available for issue in the Danang area. Rock issues here fell 60 percent short of expectations. Two new crushers are to be set up at Danang and plans were made for night operation at Cam Lo with its output going directly into the work on Route 9 between Dong Ha and Ca Lu.

Other developments during June included the arrival of NMCB-74 at Camp Shields, Chu Lai, relieving NMCB-40.

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MILITARY PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS

Psychological operations continued at an active pace during the month. The Viet Cong recognized the inroads being made by the Naval Forces and continued to intensify their attacks against the psychological missions conducted by Navymen. Forty-two percent of the surface broadcasting missions conducted drew hostile fire, with the majority of the incidents occurring in the Delta. In one incident, PBR's and Navy armed helicopters wounded 18 Viet Cong following an attack on a PBR patrol conducting a speaker mission 6 miles east of Vinh Long.

Captured prisoners and Hoi Chanhs frequently reported that in many Viet Cong units troop morale was low due to lack of food and the B-52 bombing raids. Based on this information the Chieu Hoi program was intensified to capitalize on the reported enemy morale problems.

There were over 400 hours of loudspeaker broadcasts conducted and over 114,000 magazines, newspapers and posters distributed to the local populous throughout the Republic. In response to the Chieu Hoi program 22 Viet Cong rallied to Naval Forces; 11 of these turned themselves in to Vietnamese Navy units. Although National Chieu Hoi activity thus far in 1968 has been relatively low, a noteworthy trend during the past several weeks has been the return of ranking Viet Cong officers and mass ralliers.

In the field of Civic Action US/GVN image building continued with over 12,000 Vietnamese patients receiving treatment during MEDCAPS conducted by USN and Vietnamese Navy personnel. During and following the conduct of

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MEDCAPS, intelligence is often provided by the villagers and is indicative of the esteem that the villagers hold for the Navymen's humanitarian acts. In one Delta MEDCAP operation, conducted by PBR sailors and two Vietnamese Nurses, information was received from the villagers on the location of two arms caches and one Viet Cong defense platoon in the Vinh Dai Secret Zone. There were 480 patients treated during this MEDCAP and it was the first conducted at Rach Gia Village. Another MEDCAP was conducted at Giong Chua Village during which time the Navymen and Vietnamese hospital personnel treated another 360 patients. The actions displayed by the Task Force 116 personnel were repeated in hamlets and villages up and down the coast of Vietnam and along the inland waterways where the boats of Task Force 115 and 117 operated. Naval Support Activity, Saigon and Danang and the Navy Construction Battalion likewise were actively participating in civic action programs designed to help the people help themselves.

Intelligence sources reported that an increase in Viet Cong pressure on the peninsula east of Qui Nhon was attributed to an active program conducted by the USN Coastal Division 15 (TF 115) and the Vietnamese Coastal Group 22. The Viet Cong continued their attempts to counter medical and refugee relief and other civic action programs which have resulted in improved relations between USN/VNN personnel and villagers.

On 16 June, PBR's of River Division 53, while attempting to medically evacuate a Mekong Delta woman in labor, lost the race with the stork when the child was born aboard the boat enroute to the hospital. This marked

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the fourth Vietnamese baby to be born en route to the hospital aboard a PBR. On a previous occasion the parents of the Vietnamese baby gave the child the middle name "PBR" in honor of the PBR sailors.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
June 1968

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN-DAYS PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: 2020

COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: VN$ 5,022,628

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: VN$ 340,900

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

	Percent
Other FWMAF	11.0
RVNAF	34.0
U.S. Civilian voluntary agencies	17.0
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	54.5

PROGRAMS

	Man Days	Expenditures (VN$)
Economic Development	58	187,100
Education	315	1,381,268
Social Welfare	1393	2,311,472
Transportation	122	380,840
Refugee	132	761,948

INSTITUTES ASSISTED

	Number
Schools	45
Hospitals/dispensaries	31
Orphanages	16
Others	59

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

In late April an F-100 aircraft of the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing, Tuy Hoa Air Base, RVN, crashed in the sea about 30 miles south-southeast of Qui Nhon. The site of the crash was quickly marked by buoys of USS WARBLER (MSC-206) pending the availablity of salvage craft. By mid-May CTF 73 assigned USS CONSERVER (ARS-39) to the task of salvaging the aircraft, but on arrival in the area, CONSERVER discovered WARBLER's buoys were missing and was then diverted to salvage a CH-53 helicopter near Dong Ha. On 1 June COMSERVER again began searching for the F-100 aircraft wreckage, this time with an HCU-1 medical officer onboard because of the depth of the dives required. By 4 June, after searching with WARBLER and divers with hand-held sonar, the aircraft was still hidden in the deep, thick mud, under 148 feet of water. Because of the extreme difficulties encountered and the urgent need for salvage assets elsewhere, COMNAVFORV on 5 June, terminated the salvage effort.

In early June CTG 115.3 attempted unsuccessfully to locate the wreckage of an enemy trawler (designated 28F1) which had been sunk by 5"/38 and .50 caliber gunfire of USCGC WINONA about 0200 on 1 March. The trawler had exploded in a bright fireball and sank just off the eastern coast of South Vietnam about 34 miles south-southeast of Ca Mau. Several weapons were later found in fish nets in the area of the sinking which prompted the June search, although earlier searches had proved fruitless. USS LOYALTY (MSO-457) was assigned to search the vicinity by sonar. The search produced

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one contact but it turned out to be negative, and on the 10th of June COMNAVFORV terminated the operation, considering further searching unwarranted in view of previous efforts in March and April.

The MSTS chartered merchant ship, SS JOHN C., ran aground on North Reef, Paracel Island (17-06 North Latitude, 111-31 East Longitude) on 12 June. The ship was carrying cargo from the United States to Danang at the time, proceeding on a course of 240° at 15 knots. The ship ran up on three large coral veins which were at about 45 degree angle from her starboard bow to per port quarter, after broaching to a heading of 182 degrees. The major grounding point was a coral head located just forward of the ship's superstructure on the starboard side. The impact caused flooding of the double bottom area but not in the holds or engineering spaces, as far as could be determined in an initial survey by USS SHIPOLA (AO-63), first on the scene. Damage in holds could not be assessed due to blockage of all accesses by cargo. The ship's pumps were adequate to control the flooding.

USS GRAPPLE (ARS-7) arrived on the scene at 2330 on 13 June and CHIPOLA departed at 0100 that night. At 0600 USS SIOUX (ATF-75) arrived to assist. In the meantime USS TILLAMOOK got underway from Danang with Lieutenant Commander GOODWIN, CTF 73 Salvage Officer, embarked and proceeded to the scene, arriving at 1100 on the 15th. After surveying the situation LCDR GOODWIN requested lighterage and cargo handling personnel to remove some of the cargo, and a Harbor Clearance Unit to assist in rigging beach gear

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on the John C.

As the tugs which were on the scene laid and tested their beach gear, and constructed runways and chocks on the JOHN C., for additional beach gear, USS GRASP (ARS-24) with HCU-1 personnel embarked and YFN 120 in tow, got underway from Subic about 2300 on the 16th. About 1800 a Navy hatch team from Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang got underway aboard the Alaska Barge and Transport, Incorporated, tug COMANCHE, which towed AB and T Barge 547 (an LST hull) to the JOHN C.

While GRASP and COMANCHE were en route, personnel on the scene continued salvage operations and prepared to receive the barge alongside for the transfer of cargo. On the 18th COMANCHE arrived and cargo began to be offloaded from JOHN C. Also on the 18th TILLAMOOK surveyed the water to seaward of JOHN C., and determined the optimum position for additional beach gear.

The next day GRASP arrived and laid another set of beach gear. By the end of the 19th of June, 375 tons of cargo had been removed from JOHN C., and on the next day the total had grown to 780 tons.

As the high tide predicted for 0640 on the 21st approached, all plans and preparation were made for a maximum effort pull to commence at 0500 on the 21st. The YFN and the AB and T Barge 547 were filled with cargo to capacity by midnight and were taken in tow by COMANCHE to Danang. The Cargo Handling Battalion TWO personnel from NAVSUPPACT Danang had transferred 927 tons of cargo in three days.

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With eight legs of beach gear laid and tight, the double bottom tanks deballasting, the maximum pull was begun on schedule and at 0534 on the 21st JOHN C. refloated. After checking her bottom to insure her seaworthiness, JOHN C., accompanied by GRAPPLE, proceeded on to Danang, as the remaining tugs recovered their beach gear.

In May the Military Sea Transportation Sevice Office, Vietnam, had requested the demolition and removal of the hulk of a sunken tug, the 83-foot NEZ PERCE, which was a hazard to navigation in the harbor at Phan Rang. Work began on 7 June with a survey of the hulk, which rested in 18 feet of water, by personnel of Harbor Clearance Team FOUR, who had been lifted along with YLLC-1 from Vung Tau in USS CARTER HALL (LSD-3). On the 8th of June the masts were removed and preparations were made for removal of the pilot house. By 11 June the pilot house had been removed and dumped in deep water. The superstructure was cut free from the main deck on the 14th and was entirely removed by the 16th. The bulwarks, bitts and winch were removed from the bow on 17 and 18 June, followed by removal of the side bulwarks, stern winch, bitts, and miscellaneous pieces on 19 and 20 June. With the removal of the last pieces on 20 June, only the hull of the NEZ PERCE remained. At its highest point the hull was 4 feet above the bottom on which it rested, allowing 14 feet of water over it at mean low water. This satisified the clearance requirements.

A collapsed bridge over the Tac River about 9 miles east of Saigon blocked waterborne traffic. In order to permit movement of Vietnamese

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River Assault Group craft on the river, the Capitol Military Area Commander requested assistance in removing the center span. In a two-day operation on 24 and 25 June the center span was cut length-wise by HCU-1 detachment personnel using explosives. The two pieces were then lifted from the river by a skycrane helicopter and were deposited on the river bank.

In an operation typical of the many minor jobs accomplished by salvage personnel in Vietnam, a mooring buoy was moved from Ben Tre to Dong Tam. YLLC-1, with Harbor Clearance Team THREE embarked, sailed from Vung Tau on 27 June via My Tho for refueling, via Dong Tam to offload her Eells anchor, and arrived at Ben Tre the evening of the 28th. The mooring buoy consisted of three 5,000-pound anchors each connected to 270-foot legs of 2-inch chain cable. The three legs were connected to a garland ring to which was attached a 2-inch chain cable riser 60-feet in length. The entire job was completed on 29 June. The only difficult encountered was in lifting the last anchor. It was buried and attempts to free it with a 5/8-inch hauling wire resulted in overstraining the wire. Using 1-inch wire straps to stop off the chain, the YLLC backed down at two-thirds power, breaking the anchor loose from the mud. By 2300 that night the mooring buoy was in Dong Tam.

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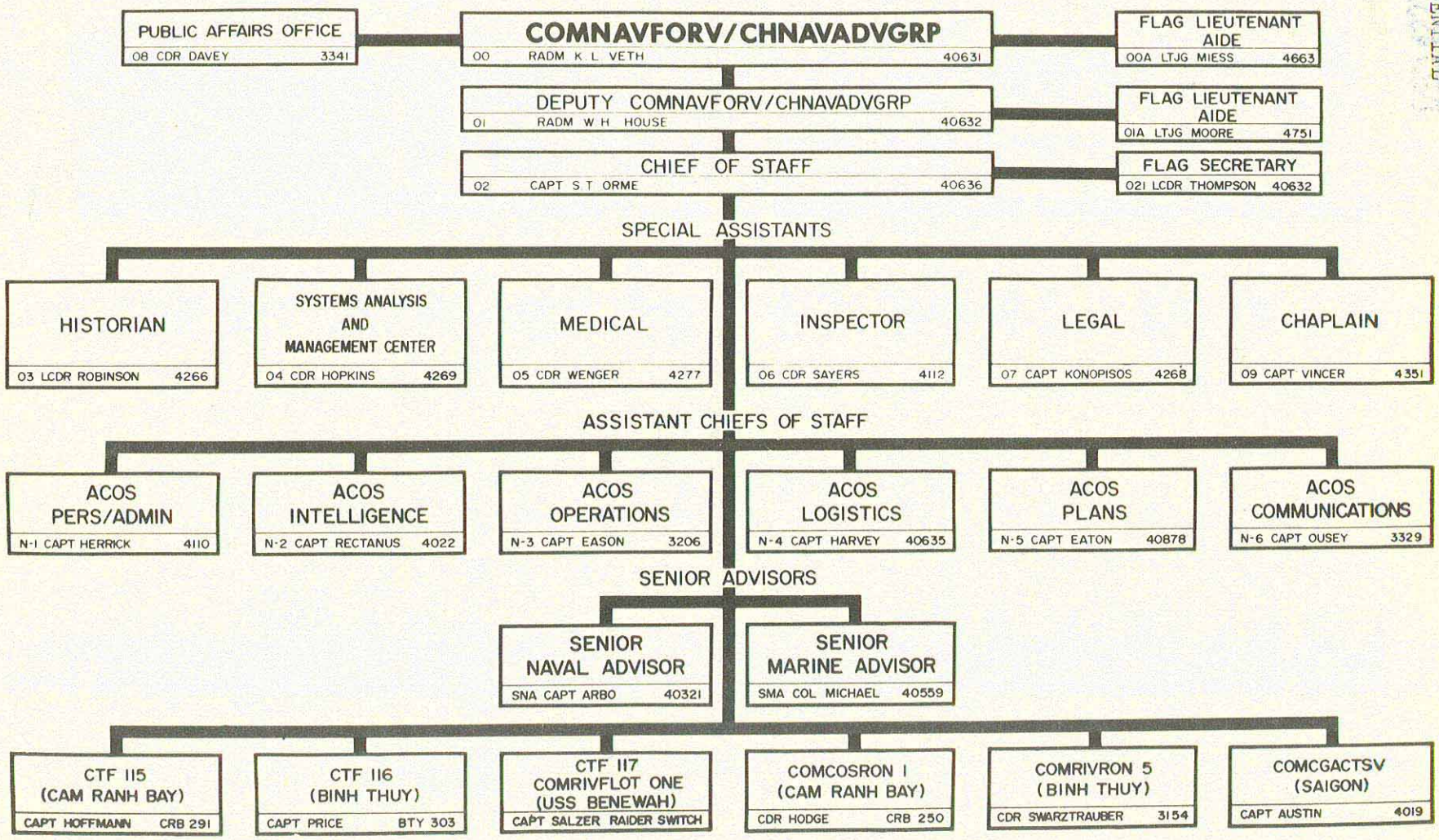
COMNAVFORV/CHNAVADVGRP STAFF ORGANIZATION



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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 2 June Rear Admiral G. J. CRABB, RAN, Commander Australian Fleet and Major General A. C. McDonald, RAA, Commander Australian Forces Vietnam, visited the Mobile Riverine Base and GAME WARDEN headquarters at Binh Thuy for a briefing on current Mobile Riverine Force operations and CTF 116 PBR operations. During Rear Admiral CRABB's orientation trip to Vietnam, he also visited the U. S. Navy facilities at Vung Tau and Commander Naval Forces Vietnam headquarters in Saigon.

On 4 June Rear Admiral Fillmore B. GILKESON, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Base, Subic Bay and prospective Director, Logistics and Plans, OPNAV, commenced a six-day orientation tour of Vietnam. The primary purpose of his visit was to obtain on-site familiarity with logistics problems in Vietnam. After a two-day visit with Commander Naval Support Activity Danang and Commanding General III Marine Amphibious Force at Danang, Admiral GILKESON and his party visited the Naval Support Facility and Coastal Surveillance Force headquarters at Cam Ranh Bay, COMNAVFORV, COMNAVSUPPACT Saigon, and the Officer-in-Charge of Construction, Vietnam headquarters in Saigon. Rear Admiral GIKESON also visited the River Patrol Force headquarters at Binh Thuy and the MRB where he was briefed on GAME WARDEN and riverine operations and logistics.

General Creighton W. ABRAMS, USA, Commander U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam visited the MRB on 14 June for his first visit since assuming command. The general was brought up-to-date on current and future MRF plans and operations.

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The Honorable Thomas D. MORRIS, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations and Logistics conducted a four-day tour (26-29 June) of military bases throughout the Republic of Vietnam. Included in Mr. MORRIS's itinerary were visits to U. S. Navy commands at COMNAVSUPPACT Danang and THIRD Naval Construction Brigade headquarters in Danang.

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COMMUNICATIONS

During the month of June, two AUTODIN terminals were successfully tested, accepted by the government and placed in service. The first, an IBM 360/20 terminal assigned to the Force Logistics Command, III Marine Amphibious Force, began processing live traffic on 17 June. This terminal was capable of transmitting and receiving teletypewriter messages at the rate of 1600 words per minute and data cards at the rate of 100 cards per minute. The second terminal, a UNIVAC 1004, terminal assigned to Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity, Danang, was successfully tested and accepted for service during the last week in June. This terminal was scheduled to begin processing traffic on 8 July, when it was to be removed to the Automatic Digital Message Switch Center (ADMSC) at Phu Lam. This UNIVAC was also capable of processing teletypewriter messages at the rate of 1600 words per minute and data cards at the rate of 100 cards per minute.

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

(a) An Thoi -- Construction completed. Installation team had been on the site since the middle of June. Installation should be completed by 1 August.

(b) Qui Nhon -- will be completed two weeks after the An Thoi site is completed. Lack of modification kits for AN/URT-19 transmitters and circuit breakers has delayed work. The installation team was sent

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to An Thoi and will return to Qui Nhon upon completion of their work. The modification kits have been received.

(c) Nha Trang -- Construction is in progress and a beneficial occupancy date (BOD) of 8 August is firm.

(d) Vung Tau -- Construction is in progress and a BOD of 24 August is scheduled.

(e) My Tho -- Awaiting installation team.

(f) Sa Dec -- Awaiting installation team.

(g) Cat Lo -- Awaiting installation team.

(h) Vinh Long -- Awaiting installation team.

The interim "get well" program of Naval Support Activity Saigon to improve coastal surveillance center communications is near completion. The site at An Thoi reported that it was 85 percent completed.

COMNAVFORV has been designated as the central control for the local area Collins Green Phone Hot Line System. This system had been programmed for over a year but had been delayed because of supply and contractor problems. After the equipment arrived in-country, it was decided to utilize naval personnel to effect installation of the system at a cost of 10 percent of the original contractor allocation. Installation was scheduled to begin on 1 July and was to be completed by 1 September. COMNAVFORV will operate and maintain the control switchboard at its Saigon headquarters.

All subscribers will have immediate communications capability with all major U. S. Navy commands in Vietnam. The list of subscribers to the system

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includes the following commands:

(a) Commander U. S. Naval Forces Vietnam at Saigon

(b) Commander Task Force 115 at Cam Ranh Bay

(c) Commander Task Force 116 at Binh Thuy

(d) Commander Task Force 117 on board USS BENEWAH (APB 35)

(e) Senior Naval Advisor at Vietnamese Naval Headquarters at Saigon

(f) Commander Military Sea Transportation Service at Saigon

(g) Commander U. S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam at Saigon

(h) Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity Danang

(i) All CTF 115 Coastal Surveillance Centers.

A total of 125,788 messages were handled by the COMNAVFORV Message Center during the month of June. This was a decrease of 5,540 from the May totals.

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RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

In June, NAVFORV chaplains provided more service to men in more places than in any previous month reported. Five-hundred and twenty-eight Divine Services were conducted with a total attendance of 16,835, of which 8,244 were communed. A total of 2,901 Navymen benefited from an additional 64 services which were conducted by Navy and other service chaplains outside the NAVFORV organization.

Four new chaplain billets were filled in June, bringing the total number of U.S. Navy chaplains serving NAVFORV units to 34. The addition of two more clergymen to TF 117 and one each to NSAS and NSAD has brought a broader, more consistent ministry to areas that previously received token coverage. The tight, sometimes grueling schedule our Navy chaplains maintained was lessened to a great extent as the incoming chaplains assumed their share of the ministry responsibility.

LCDR W. L. JONES, Jr., filling a new post as chaplain for NSAS Detachment, Vinh Long, found his services immediately (and unfortunately) required after his arrival in country. PBR sailors suffered numerous casualties, including 4 fatalities in June; and Chaplain JONES was made aware of his purpose and the role he will fill for the 11 months while ministering to Navymen in Vietnam.

LCDR F. W. LOVE, assigned a new chaplain billet at NSAD, was introduced to the complexities of the Navy chaplain's responsibilities in Vietnam as he set up programs for worships and counselling at Tan My, Hue, Phu

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Bai, Cua Viet and Dong Ha in I Corps Tactical Zone. In the past, Navymen operating in these areas along the Perfume and Dong Ha river basins were visited by the chaplains of NSAD on circuit or Seabee, Marine or Army chaplains located nearby. With this new billet came the assurance to these fighting men of readily available and much needed spiritual, emotional, and psychological guidance. Chaplain LOVE began at once to conduct six Divine Services a week in his area of responsibility and held 128 personal conferences in the first three weeks of his assignment there.

Meanwhile, other chaplains stationed throughout Vietnam continued to provide support and guidance to men assigned to units under their cognizance. These clergymen endeavored to assist, comfort and encourage the men through their prayers, advice and counsel. Traveling by boat, helicopter, jeep or truck, holding worship services, individual counsel, group discussions, or conducting memorial or other special services, the routine of the Navy chaplains was anything but routine.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

At the close of June the personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) was 17,611, including 1,354 officers, 3,407 petty officers and 12,850 enlisted men. The number of unauthorized absentees decreased from 581 in May to 491 in June. There were 71 men discharged as deserters in June.

Numerous significant events marked the end of the tenure for the present Senior U. S. Advisor to the VNN, Captain Allen P. SLAFF, USN. Prior to his departure on 29 June, Captain SLAFF witnessed the VNN's assumption of 14 U. S. Navy craft for their continued use under VNN auspices, the establishment of the VNN's PBR River Patrol Group (RPG) 51, and the first full company of VNN recruits leave for basic training at NTC, San Diego.

On 10 June the VNN took command of 14 specialized U.S. Navy river craft and assumed exclusive military responsibilities that previously were held by the U.S. Naval forces. Six of the boats were Landing Craft Medium Minesweepers(LCMM), specially configured landing craft for chain-drag minesweeping. The boats are now commanded, operated and supported by officers and men of the VNN and perform the vital job of clearing mines from the strategic Long Tau River channel to Saigon. The LCM's have augmented the ten operating VNN MLM's that have been conducting mine countermeasures operations on the Long Tau and Dong Nai rivers.

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The other eight river craft were PBR's identical to those utilized by Operation GAME WARDEN forces. The newly formed VNN RPG 51 currently patrols the Long Tau River along with the Task Force 116 units of GAME WARDEN. The VNN PBR's ultimately will join other U.S. units on the major rivers of the Delta as important additions to the GAME WARDEN efforts to deny the use of strategic waterways to the enemy and to ensure their safe usage to the citizens of the Republic of Vietnam.

The first full company of VNN recruits (100) left Saigon on 14 June for eight weeks of basic training at the U. S. Naval Recruit Training Center, San Diego, California. Two VNN officers and three chief petty officer accompanied the hand-picked, highly motivated volunteer recruits. Since the Tet Offensive the VNN had been swamped with volunteers and the recruit training centers at Saigon and Nha Be have been overloaded, the recruits spending weeks awaiting training. The recruits selected to attend NRTC San Diego were all high school graduates, spoke some English and at least half of them held 2-year college degrees. Preliminary training in Saigon included drill, seamanship and swimming, and a familiarization course in English. At NRTC San Diego, the recruits receive the same training as American sailors, except for classes which deal strictly with U.S. interests, such as history, the U.S. Code of Conduct and military justice. Besides providing a pool of qualified men for possible future training at U. S. Navy schools, their knowledge and understanding of American sailors will enable them to work more closely with their U.S. advisors.

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Meanwhile, at the Recruit Training Center, Cam Ranh, 233 men graduated on 29 June and three more classes of recruits, numbering 636, continued training. In Nha Trang 277 men continued training in June at the Naval Training Center there. At the Naval Advance Training Center, Saigon, 84 graduated from Class "A" Technical School on 8 June. Additional 395 men continued in three Class "A" Technical Schools and one Class "B" Technical School. On 24 June a two-week course for seven PBR personnel convened which covered radio and radar operations. A two-month English course began for seven VNN students on 24 June which also will enable them more advanced technical training in the United States.

The VNN LDNN (VNN UDT) Replacement Class III, consisting of 2 officers and 38 men graduated on 22 June. After one week the class resumed four weeks of advanced training at Vung Tau. At Phu Quoc Island, eight PCF crews remained in training in preparation for the VNN's eventual assumption of command of those boats in July.

Fleet Command

The Fleet Command Patrol Ships of Flotilla I maintained 16 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam, 5 ships on river patrol, 2 ships on static defense and one on commercial convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. Fleet Command patrol ships continued active participation in MARKET TIME operations in each naval coastal zone and maintained responsibility for six MARKET TIME stations. Patrol units fired 87 gunfire support missions, searched 2,330 junks and 11,141 persons, detained

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18 junks and 76 persons.

Patrol craft (PC's and PCE's) in the 1st and 2nd Naval Zones, and PGM's in all four naval zones and the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ), were utilized for coastal patrol and gunfire support. On 15 June, PGM 600, MSC 114 and a TF 115 PCF supported elements of three Regional Force (RF) companies off the southwest coast of Phu Quoc Island. The three craft provided naval gunfire support after the ground units had made contact and had begun to encircle the enemy force. A sweep of the area revealed several blood trails and numerous items of clothing. Enemy losses were unknown; there were no friendly casualties.

Support landing ships (LSSL's and LSIL's) provided patrol, gunfire support, static defense and convoy escort in the 4th Naval Zone, RSSZ and the 4th Riverine Area. On 8 June the Viet Cong bombarded the VNN headquarters area in Saigon with nine 107-mm rockets. One round hit the deck of LSIL 328 and three VNN sailors were wounded while the ship received light structural damage. Two days later, the same ship was escorting a civilian convoy on the My Tho River, 16 miles west of My Tho when it came under attack from three different positions. The ship suffered 25 percent casualties to her crew in the initial blast. A direct hit to the pilot house killed two crewmembers immediately, and wounded 16 others. The ship's commanding officer, officer-of-the-deck and U. S. Navy advisor were also wounded. The commanding officer rallied his crew and brought his guns to bear on the enemy position. TF 116 PBR's in the

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area responded also and the hostile fire was suppressed.

Coastal minesweepers (MSC) were deployed in the 3rd and 4th Naval Zones in Operation MARKET TIME and motor launch minesweepers (LCMM) continued daily sweeps on the Saigon, Long Tau, Nha Be and Dong Nai rivers. On 16 June, one of the newly acquired LCMM's received two rocket rounds and automatic weapons fire on the Long Tau River, 5 miles southeast of Nha Be. VNN LSSL 228 and TF 116 PBR's were on the scene and laid down a barrage of fire which suppressed the enemy's guns. The LCMM received one rocket round in the after section below the water line incurring minor damage.

The VNN Supply Center, Saigon recorded a gross effectiveness of 66.1 percent on a total of 9,715 requests for items and a net effectiveness of 88 percent on 7,321 requests for items normally carried in the supply system in June.

The LDNN detachment at Nha Be conducted 14 combined operations with SEALs of TF 116 this month. A total of 11 Viet Cong were killed, 2 wounded, 2 captured and 15 suspects were detained during these operations. The LDNN detachment at Saigon continued its nightly hull inspections of the ships moored at the Port of Saigon.

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Coastal Force

As in May, the U. S. advisors and their VNN counterparts in the four naval zones continued to direct their forces in offensive operations. A

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total of 394 land operations were pursued this month by the coastal groups in the four zones. In addition, 49 amphibious and 62 blocking operations were conducted in concert with other allied ground forces utilizing an average of 188 of the 190 junks available daily. Coastal force junks searched 71,330 junks and 280,218 persons, detaining 35 junks and 535 persons in June.

In the First Naval Zone, the LAM SON 224 Campaign continued in June with the 3rd phase conducted during 1-7 June. Coastal Group 12 junks with their U.S. advisors aboard provided a blocking force along the banks of Thanh Lam Bay while U.S. Army and ARVN companies swept the Phu Vang Sub-sector, southeast of Phu Bai. This successful ARVN operation resulted in 112 enemy killed and 20 of the enemy captured along with 31 individual and 5 crew served weapons and 29 tons of rice. The soldiers reported destroying an additional 100 bags of rice and 10 trenches. During the 7-day operation 2 U.S. and 5 ARVN soldiers were liberated from the hands of the enemy; 9 ARVN soldiers were killed and 35 others were wounded in the battle.

A Coastal Group 13 ambush team engaged 10 Viet Cong on the opposite beach north of their base in Cay Hai Bay on 4 June. The sailors killed 4 Viet Cong and captured an AK-47, AK-54, 90 rounds of ammunition and a sack of food.

The NGUYEN PHOUC series of operations which commenced in late May continued in June as the Coastal Group 12 personnel sought out the enemy

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in the northern tip of Phu Vang District. NGUYEN PHOUC 3 was conducted on 6 June by two Popular Force (PF) platoons and sub-sector police with Coastal Group 12 providing transport, gunfire and blocking support. The sailors caught 8 evaders and the PF troops brought in 14 additional suspects. Four shelters were destroyed during the sweep. On 13 June THUA THIEN 41, a similar operation in the same area, was conducted by Coastal Group 12 boats and two RF companies. Three Viet Cong were killed and one was captured while two RF troops were killed and three others were wounded during this encounter.

Further north at the Cua Viet River, Coastal Group 11 and U.S. Marines also continued to seek out the enemy jeopardizing the Dong Hoa area. On 14 June a cordon and search operation on the north bank of the river yielded 13 suspects and a store of rice.

Six Coastal Group 15 units and two TF 115 PCF's, in league with one PF battalion, units of the 1st U.S. Cavalry and two ARVN battalions, conducted Operation QUYET THANG 53/T, 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky on 15 June. The ground forces swept through Viet Cong-dominated villages, engaging the enemy and destroying his war materials. The results of the operation were 16 Viet Cong killed, 3 captured, 4 tunnels destroyed, over 100 small boats destroyed and 17 larger boats and 3 enemy controlled hamlets damaged. Numerous weapons and ammunition were uncovered during the action.

On 18 June reconnaissance teams from Coastal Groups 15 and 16 engaged the enemy in two separate actions near their bases. A Coastal Group 15

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intelligence team killed two Viet Cong and captured six female cadre while destroying one junk and capturing another north of the base at An Hoa. Similarly, while on patrol just south of their base near Quang Ngai, a Coastal Group 16 reconnaissance group surprised and killed two Viet Cong that day.

NGUYEN PHOUC 5 on 20 June in northern Phu Vang District yielded 20 draft dodgers and 11 additional personnel without proper identification papers. Coastal Group 12 junks circled the land mass at the mouth of the Perfume River, checking junk traffic and continuing the guard for enemy infiltrators along that strategic waterway in I CTZ.

Between 21 and 23 June the I CTZ coastal groups received harassing enemy artillery, rocket, and mortar fire. In addition, on 21 June, the enemy infiltrated the perimeter of a friendly village near Coastal Group 14 to remove defensive land mines. Six of 24 mines were successfully removed; however, one mine detonated, killing one Viet Cong. After the VNN sailors made a sweep of the area, they reported 16 mines still intact and a great number of blood trails indicating more killed or wounded were carried away. During the attack on the coastal group bases no significant damage was reported although at Coastal Group 15 on 23 June, one enlisted U.S. advisor and two VNN sailors were wounded slightly when two satchel charges exploded near their barge. In much the same manner as the coastal groups to the north, Coastal Group 16, near Quang Ngai, operated along the Tra Khuc River to inhibit enemy movement. On 23 June THONG MINH 10, a

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river block and search operation, netted 23 enemy suspects.

At the Perfume River basin near Coastal Group 12 base, 7 more suspects were detained on the night of 25-26 June. This night search conducted by the VNN sailors and their USN advisors was series 6 of the NGUYEN PHOUC campaign. During a patrol of Thanh Lam Bay on 27 June, 3½ miles southwest of the base, two Coastal Group 12 junks received B-40 rocket and machine gun fire from three sampans in the area. The sailors returned the fire as the enemy evaded to the north. Four of the fleeing enemy were killed while two sailors were wounded in the first volley. Typically, a subsequent search of a nearby village yielded no results.

Although enemy activity in the 2nd Naval Zone remained at a low level the coastal groups continued their small unit patrol in an effort to seek out and destroy the infiltrating enemy forces and their supporters. A Coastal Group 25 platoon set up an ambush just south of their base, 10 miles north of Nha Trang, on the night of 4-5 June. No enemy contact was made; however, 2 enemy suspects were brought in for interrogation. Later on 5 June, Coastal Group 24 units conducted a civic action mission on Hon Chua Isle, 6 miles north of their base at Tuy Hoa. Eight Viet Cong and a junk were apprehended in the area during the VNN sailors' patrol there.

Coastal Group 22 and 3 RF companies swept Qui Nhon Peninsula 2 miles east of the base on 6 June. The land force met no enemy resistance although 30 enemy suspects and a quantity of clothing and documents were captured. The same day, Song Cau based Coastal Group 23 personnel conducted

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a cordon and search operation 7 miles east of their base in Phu Yen Province. A firefight ensued which resulted in 9 Viet Cong killed, 10 captured and another 8 suspects detained; 17 shelters were destroyed and a number of weapons and ammuniton, articles of clothing and documents captured. On 8 June, Coastal Group 25 units patrolled Trau Nam Bay, 15 miles northeast of their base in Khanh Hoa Province. One junk with 14 Viet Cong suspects and a draft dodger were detained that day.

Intelligence indicated the Viet Cong had infiltrated the point of the peninsula where Coastal Group 23 had engaged the enemy on 6 June. At 0200 on 13 June a mortar bombardment of forty 60-mm mortar rounds was directed at the suspect area. A subsequent sweep yielded 2 Viet Cong killed and 6 of the wounded enemy captured. A Coastal Group 25 night ambush team apprehended one junk and 3 suspects on 14-15 June. The suspects, picked up 2 miles south of the base at Hon Khoi, were returned to the base for interrogation.

During patrols from 16-19 June, Coastal Group 23 junks detained 5 suspects and 4 female Viet Cong and one junk east of the coastal group base at Song Cau. Just as their coastal group counterparts in the 1st Naval Zone, 2nd Naval Zone VNN personnel and their U.S. advisors continued to perform waterway patrols in and around the land jetties in their area of operations to interdict the enemy's movement. The Viet Cong/NVA forces and their supporters showed an unceasing attempt to build up forces and logistics near the civilian and military strongholds of the GVN in the

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2nd Naval Zone as well as in the other naval zones.

Coastal Group 22 engaged an estimated 30 Viet Cong on 19 June on Qui Nhon Peninsula, 8 miles north of the coastal group base. Contact was lost with the enemy but 2 Viet Cong were captured along with numerous weapons and documents, and amounts of rice. There were no friendly casualties in the clash. An area sweep 2 days later, supported by MARKET TIME forces off the coast, resulted in no additional enemy resistance; 3 enemy suspects were apprehended by the VNN sailors.

A combined operation on 26 June pitted U. S. Army troops, six Coastal Group 21 and 22 junks, and MARKET TIME units including USS CARRONADE (IFS-1) and USS HOLLISTER (DD-788) against an unknown size enemy force. The amphibious landings were made from the coastal group junks and blocking stations were assumed 2½ miles south of Degi, in Binh Dinh Province. Gunfire support was provided by the off-shore MARKET TIME units. The land force produced 11 enemy killed, 2 captured and 13 suspects detained. In addition, many bunkers, mines and booby traps were destroyed during the battle. A quantity of weapons and ammunition were reported captured by the Army forces.

The ARVN "Peoples Road" Campaign, TRUONG CONG DINH series, was pursued to its end during June and VNN units of the 3rd Naval Zone participated in the final operation as was the case during the month of May. Vinh Binh Province units organized TRUONG CONG DINH VB/52 on 3 June and Coastal Group 35 junks transported 6 RF companies and 2 PF platoon to the area of operations, 7 miles down river from their base on the Co Chien River. The

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three-mile-square land sweep inland netted one Viet Cong killed, and three Viet Cong and eight suspects captured. The province forces reported destroying an enemy liaison point as well as capturing several grenades and anti-personnel mines.

Similarly on the night of 6-7 June, nine Coastal Group 33 junks and four Coastal Group 34 junks provided the mobility for three RF companies and three PF platoons for Operation TRUONG CONG DINH HB/37. The operation was a north-south sweep of the eastern end of Loi Quan Island in the My Tho River while the VNN sailors maintained river blocking stations. The sailors experienced no enemy contact; however, the land force reported killing five Viet Cong during the sweep.

Coastal Group 36 set up a night ambush 6 miles southeast of their base on the Bassac River on 8 June. The sailors surprised four Viet Cong setting up an M-60 machine gun site. The enemy soldiers were killed, three grenades and numerous documents were captured and the machine gun site was destroyed.

Two Coastal Group 32/33 junks lifted 44 PRU's (Provincial Reconnaissance Unit) 13 miles north of the coastal group base into Phuc Tuy Province on 10 June. The operation, SONG NGU 17/68, sought out reported enemy base camps in the area east of the Thi Vai River. While the VNN sailors and the U.S. advisors maintained river security with a TF 115 PCF, the PRU's swept eastward. Five base camps were discovered which appeared to have been occupied recently; however, the camp were stripped of all war materials

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and no enemy contact was gained. The structures were destroyed and the land force embarked on the junks at the completion of the operation. This marked the first use of PRU's in Phuc Tuy Province by the VNN junk force. The next day, the Coastal Group 32/33 junks and RF troops probed further north into the province 24 miles north of their base. During this operation, TRUONG CONG DINH HB/40, the land sweep uncovered an ammunition cache of 830 shells of various types and numerous documents.

Two junks from Coastal Group 33 carried one PF company and two RF companies to Go Cong Province on the west bank of the Soirap River on 13 June. While the VNN sailors conducted blocking operations along the coast, the land troops contacted an unknown number of enemy. Three Viet Cong were killed and two were captured along with their weapons and a quantity of ammunition and several documents. TRUONG CONG DINH VB/60 that day took place in Vinh Binh Province, north of Phu Vinh City with Coastal Group 35 junks, three RF companies and a PRU company. The operation yielded 15 Viet Cong killed and 3 captured with several weapons. Two Coastal Group 35 junks came to the defense of an outpost 5 miles east of the coastal group base on 14 June. TF 116 PBR's and LHFT's supported the sailors in the battle with the advancing enemy. When all fire was suppressed, four of the enemy were killed and five others were wounded.

That same day several Coastal Group 34/37 units with two VNN platoons entered the Sau/Cu and Bien Le canals on the south bank of the Ham Luong River. The troops were landed on each canal bank for an east-west sweep.

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The Coastal Group 34 command junk came under intense fire from the bank and the sailors directed close range fire. "Seawolves" were called in and air strikes were made on the area. A subsequent land sweep met with no enemy resistance. The VNN sailors uncovered many bloody trails indicating the enemy had carried away the dead and wounded. The sailors destroyed numerous punji stakes and tunnels during the sweep. One sailor was killed during the ambush on the command junk and another was wounded.

On 18 June six Coastal Group 35 junks lifted 2 RF companies for a landing from the Lang Thi River in Vinh Binh Province northwest of Phu Vinh City. The boats remained in blocking and fire support positions as the land sweep netted 4 enemy suspects, 900 kilograms of rice, and 7 shelters destroyed.

SONG NGU 18/68, continuing that campaign in Phuc Tuy Province, was conducted on 20 June by four Coastal Group 33 junks, one coastal group ambush team and 30 PRU's. The junks plied the Ca Doi River and then landed the PRU's on the western perimeter of the area of operation and the ambush team on the eastern perimeter, 10 miles west of Vung Tau. The PRU force swept eastward and arrived at the site of the ambush team with no enemy resistance. Two base camps were destroyed composed of four bunkers, two farm houses and two sampans.

SONG THAN 31, an operation which achieved extraordinary results, joined Coastal Group 35 and PRU forces for the 1st time in over 10 months on 24 and 25 June. This successful operation freed 29 government officials

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who had been prisoners of the Viet Cong since the Tet Offensive. A Hoi Chanh led the land force of one PRU company to the enemy prisoner camp, 24 miles south of Phu Vinh near the north bank of the Bassac River. Five Viet Cong guards were in the process of moving the 29 Vietnamese captives. In the firefight that ensued four of the prisoners were killed and seven other were wounded. The PRU's, supported by "Seawolves" and PBR's in addition to the VNN junks off-shore, killed two of the enemy and captured a third; the two remaining escaped or their bodies were unrecovered. "Seawolves" conducted medevacs for the wounded and dead while the Vietnamese junks and PBR's performed troop extraction.

Coastal Group 35 personnel and four RF companies conducted a sweep operation south of the coastal group base in Vinh Binh Province on 29 June. Lifting the troops down the Bong River, the junks then landed the RF units on the east bank. The area sheltered an unknown number of Viet Cong which the land force effectively routed; three of the enemy were killed and one Viet Cong and two suspects were captured. In addition five draft dodgers were apprehended during the sweep. The land troops destroyed a Viet Cong liaison point and numerous bunkers and uncovered a small cache of grenades, knives and mines.

As has been the case in recent months, 4th Naval Zone coastal groups experienced minor enemy contact in June. Daily patrols along the southern and western coast of RVN and surrounding Phuc Quoc and Puolo Obi islands off the mainland coast provided a source of security to the populace.

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These VNN junks, skimmers and PDF's conducted search operations, plying the inland waterways of the southern Delta's coastline, seeking enemy infiltrators. A continual program of civic action and psychological warfare was pursued as the VNN sailors and their U.S. Navy counterparts visited the many villages, hamlets and incidental seaside settlements that dot the coastline. Offensive operations were few this month; and those conducted met with little or no enemy resistance.

On 3 June two Coastal Group 43/44 Boston Whaler and three RF companies conducted a cordon and search operation along a 10-mile sector of the Cai Lon River, south from Kien An. The troops ashore swept east and south as the Boston Whalers, manned by four U. S. Navy advisors, checked river traffic ahead of the advancing column. The sweep resulted in three Viet Cong killed and the seizure of a weapons cache of two AK-47's, one M-1 rifle, 300 grenades, two claymore mines, two CHICOM grenade launchers and six "Bouncing Betty" mines.

Puolo Obi Island based Coastal Group 41 pursued Operation DA DIEU from 13 through 16 June on the western coast of RVN. In a 10-mile area north of the Ong Doc River, the platoon of VNN sailors and two junks searched sampans and bunkers. Enemy fire when received was immediately suppressed and subsequent area sweeps indicated the enemy had carried off dead and wounded and had fled into the sanctuary of the interlands. Three Viet Cong were killed by body count; however, numerous blood trails lent credence to the belief that many more had been killed or wounded. During

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the four-day operation, the sailors captured one Viet Cong, two mines and 10 sampans and they destroyed numerous enemy sampans and bunkers in their path.

Illustrative of typical patrols, on 25 June Coastal Group 43/44 units plied the Cai Lon River north from their base at Kien An, crossed over to the east bank and travelled south to the Cau Gao Canal and headed west. During this patrol 76 junks or sampans were searched and 212 people were checked for proper identification. The search netted one sub-machine gun, two grenades, three ammunition clips, one knife, 100 kilograms of rice, and five kilograms of tobacco which were unauthorized or unmanifested cargo. Kien Giang sector units, operating in concert with the VNN junks, captured a Viet Cong and two Viet Cong suspects and a motorized junk that day.

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Riverine Area Naval Commands

At the end of June, 227 craft were assigned to the Riverine Area Naval Commands and the River Escort and Transport Group (RTEG). A daily average of 175 craft were available for operations and 170 were employed in a total of 49 amphibious operations, 57 blocking missions and 48 logistic and troop lifts.

Increased use of 3rd Riverine Area RAG's was realized in June by their active participation in offensive operations in defense of the Capitol Military District (CMD). Long An, Gia Dinh and Phu Cuong Province

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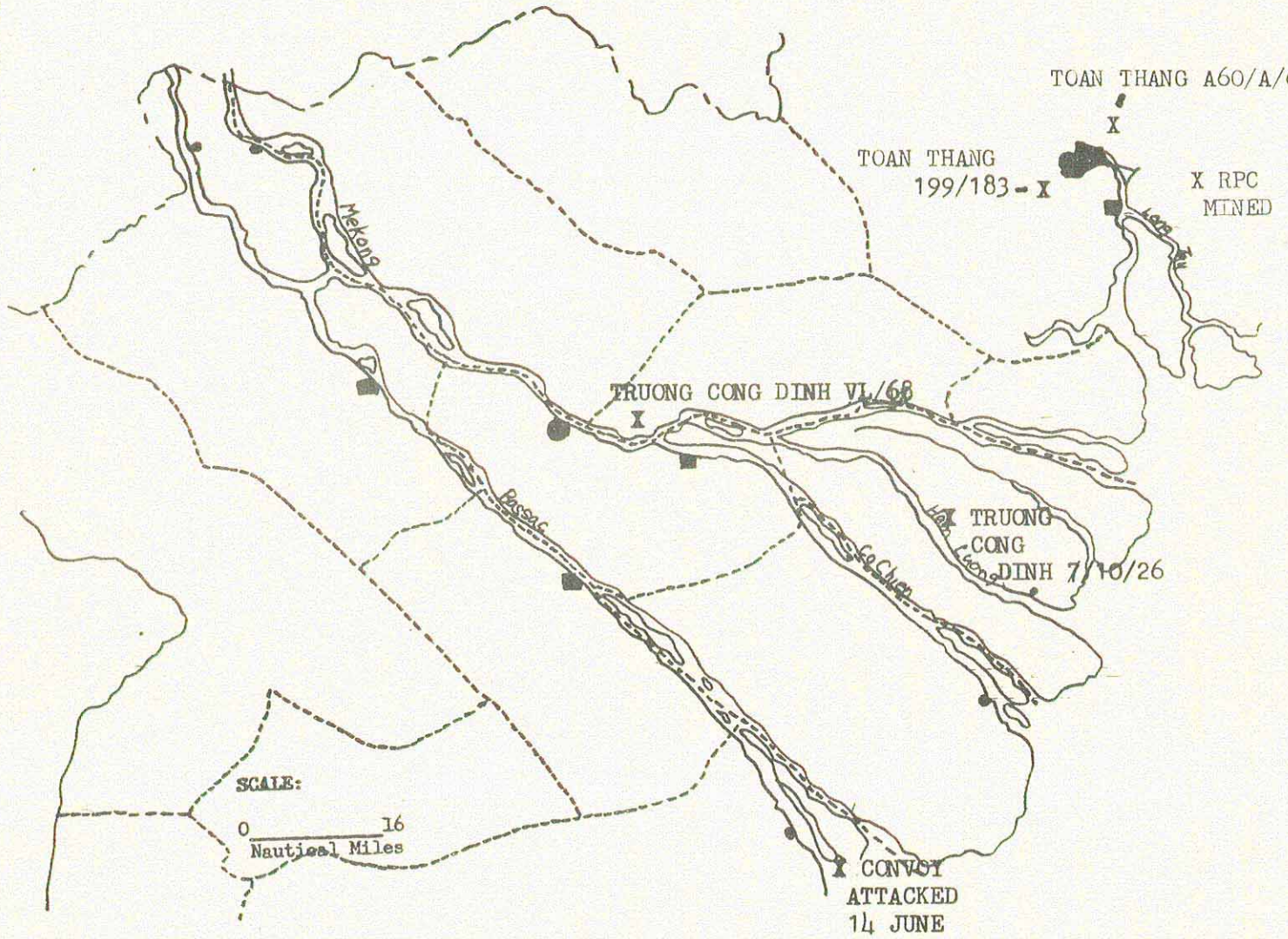
VIETNAMESE NAVY DELTA OPERATIONS



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forces maximized their efforts to guard the CMD and stay the enemy's advance into the area during the TOAN THANG Campaign. The RAG's were fully utilized for troop and logistic lifts, medevac and gunfire support along the Saigon and Dong Nai rivers and the other waterways lacing the area. While RAG's 27 and 30 remained to the south of Saigon, RAG's 22, 24 and 28 operated in the southwest, north and east of Saigon in U.S., ARVN and VNMC amphibious operations. RAG 27 continued to provide reserve power in the RSSZ and transport RF/PF troops. RAG 30 pursued the enemy and ravaged his fortifications and caches in concert with the U.S. 9th Infantry Division elements in Gia Dinh, Binh Chanh and Nha Be districts.

On 1 June RAG 30 craft lifted U.S. 6th Battalion elements down the Can Giuoc River, 6 miles south of Saigon on a search and clear mission. The land force swept a 3-mile area on the west side of the river, destroying one CHICOM grenade booby trap, 11 bunkers and miscellaneous cooking utensils in one bunker; no contact was made with the enemy. The next day, 2 June, the RAG transported units of the 3rd Battalion for a similar operation from the Ba Lao River, 6 miles south of the city. Although no enemy contact was gained that day, the land troops reported destroying 6 more enemy bunkers. That same day a river craft attached to RAG 30 proceeded north on the Dong Nai River. With the guidance of an informer, the location of enemy infiltrators 8 miles south of Bien Hoa was compromised and two Viet Cong were captured.

A RAG 30 river patrol craft (RPC) was mined and sunk on the Dong Nai

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River, 10 miles northeast of Saigon, on 3 June killing all four of its VNN occupants. The RPC was part of a boat element of one LCM and two RPC's assigned to support a 30th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion operation. The boat sank immediately but the sailors' bodies were recovered from the river. Although the engines were salvaged the hull of the boat was declared unsalvageable due to the destructive blast of the swimmer-placed mine. The after .50 caliber mount which had blown clear of the boat was recovered but the remainder of the boat's small arms were not found.

RAG 22 pursued the TOAN THANG Campaign with two ARVN infantry battalions on 5 June. The RAG boats lifted the ARVN forces along the Vam Co River, 13 miles southwest of Saigon. This operation, TOAN THANG 199/183, yielded two Viet Cong and one suspect captured and numerous bunkers destroyed. The next day, Operation TOAN THANG a 60/A/68 pitted three ARVN infantry battalions, an artillery unit, VNAF aircraft and RAG 28 river boats against the enemy. A battle took place south of Phu Guong as the RAG boats maintained river blocking and fire support stations from the Saigon River. At the conclusion of the area sweep on 7 June, the enemy had 30 killed and one captured while the ARVN forces suffered five killed and 47 wounded. Several weapons and enemy equipment were uncovered during the 2-day operation. Also on 7 June, RAG 22 continued in Operation TOAN THANG (199) with three ARVN infantry battalions 11 miles west-southwest of Saigon from the Vam Co Dong River. The ARVN soldiers reported killing two Viet Cong while they destroyed a small ammunition cache of one-hundred

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and five 82-mm and 60-mm mortar shells. One-thousand and four-hundred kilograms of rice and numerous documents were also retrieved during the operation.

The RAG 30 advisor reported that the U.S. 6th Battalion 31st Infantry units destroyed five enemy bunkers on 7 June while operating in Binh Chanh District, 2 miles south of Saigon, west of the Cay Kho River. The next day the RAG carried the 6th Battalion further south along the Cay Kho Canal and Ba Lao River where the west side of the river was swept. The land forces recorded numerous punji stake traps and six bunkers destroyed. On the afternoon of the 8th, a RAG 24 river craft sunk a Viet Cong junks as it attempted to cross the Saigon River south of the Bien Loi Bridge, east of the city; the occupants were assumed killed. The contents of the junk, a Saigon map, one B-40 rocket, a bag of AK-47 cartridges, two grenades, a pair of binoculars and a list of pass words were captured in this spectacular interdiction of enemy infiltrating arms and supplies so near Saigon.

A detachment unit of RAG 27 operated on the Saigon River 3 miles northeast of Saigon south of Thu Duc, in support of U.S. 1st Infantry Division troops on 8 and 9 June. The U.S. advisor to RAG 27 reported that the land force captured one Viet Cong suspect, located 71 tons of rice and destroyed 12 bunkers and two sampans on the west bank of the river. On the 9th, RAG 30 and the 6th Battalion traversed the Ba Lao River and the Xom Cui Stream. The land troops swept the west bank and

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destroyed 20 bunkers, two beds and miscellaneous utensils and one sampan while capturing a B-40 rocket, seven U.S. carbine magazines, 35 M-79 grenades, 20 AK-47 ammunition rounds, two grenades and 20 pounds of rice.

While the RAG 24 boats he was accompanying were patrolling the Saigon River north of the Bien Loi Bridge, 9-12 June, the U.S. advisor was requested to assist the U.S. 1st Division in the recovery of a drowned U.S. enlisted man. This man had been a member of an Army ambush team which had made contact with the enemy. The body was found and the RAG advisor and a VNN platoon reconned the ambush site. Three Viet Cong bodies were located and one wounded Viet Cong was captured.

Beginning on 11 June a series of TOAN THANG Campaign operations were conducted by RAG's 24 and 28 and ARVN forces north of Saigon which achieved noteworthy results. Two battalions of the 8th ARVN Infantry Regiment, in concert with units of RAG's 24 and 28, waged TOAN THANG 269/A/8, 11-14 June, 3 miles south of Phu Cuong City. The enemy left 30 dead on the battlefield and two Viet Cong were captured by the ARVN force; 18 soldiers were wounded. In addition, the land sweep yielded numerous individual and crew served weapons including five bangalore torpedoes, 800 meters of telephone wire and a quantity of medical supplies. The next day, 15 June, TOAN THANG 272/A/7 was organized by the 7th ARVN Division; RAG's 24 and 28 boats lifted 3 ARVN battalions 3 miles north of Phu Cuong. The VNN sailors provided fire support as the land force killed two Viet Cong and captured a cache of B-40 rocket rounds, 82-mm and 60-mm mortar rounds, 420 hand grenades and two anti-tank

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mines and a launcher.

Several RAG 24 craft deployed with two ARVN battalions of the 50th Infantry Regiment to the Vam Co Dong River, 12 miles southwest of Saigon on 16 June. This operation, TOAN THANG 199/252, resulted in 17 of the enemy killed, four captured and five suspects detained while the ARVN troops suffered four wounded and one killed. Numerous bunkers were destroyed during the land sweep and forty 82-mm mortar shells and several individual weapons were captured.

RAG 30 boats lifted U.S. 6th Battalion elements on 18 and 19 June south along the Xom Cui Stream, 3 miles south of Saigon. The ARVN soldiers conducted a sweep of the east side of the stream and reported destroying a total of 22 bunkers and gunpoints while capturing miscellaneous tools, clothing, weapons and ammunition. The enemy sites appeared to have been recently used, some bunkers were still in construction.

A land force of three ARVN battalions, one recommaissance company and one RF company was supported by RAG 28 river craft and a VNN reconnaissance company in Phu Cuong Province, 4 miles west-northwest of the city on 22 June. The RAG boats reconned by fire and a land company joined the ARVN forces as a battle erupted. Seventeen Viet Cong were killed during this operation, TOAN THANG 280/A/7, and friendly forces incurred 12 ARVN killed, 24 wounded and one VNN sailor wounded. A sizable weapons and ammunition cache including rocket rounds and launchers, bangalore torpedoes, hand grenades, and mortar rounds was uncovered during the day's search.

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TOAN THANG 199, in Long An Province, 15 miles southwest of Saigon, was pursued by units of RAG's 22 and 24 and three ARVN 50th Infantry Regiment battalions on 23 June. Enemy casualties were unknown but the operation uncovered enemy supplies of a quantity of AK-47 magazines, 200 fuses, a case of plastic explosives and 400 litres of gasoline.

On 25 June, RAG's 24 and 28 participated in two separate actions north of Saigon. RAG 24 craft provided troop lift and blocking support to two companies of the 2nd Battalion Vietnamese Airborne 5 miles north of the city on the Saigon River. The operation, TOAN THANG 50/LD/3, resulted in 17 Viet Cong killed and two of the enemy captured along with 11 AK-47's, 3000 rounds of AK cartridges, five B-40 rockets and twenty 80-mm mortar shells. Four ARVN soldiers were killed in the action. Meanwhile RAG 28 supported a three ARVN battalion operation 3 miles northwest of Phu Cuong City. The VNN boats lifted one battalion to the area of operations and maintained perimeter security and fire positions on the Saigon River. The enemy lost two men, one Chieu Hoi turned himself in and the land sweep captured two 122-mm rocket motors, three 122-mm warheads, twelve B-40 rocket rounds, 3000 rounds of AK ammunition, one 82-mm and one 60-mm base plates and destroyed four bunkers.

Continuing the attempt to seek out and repel the enemy, RAG 24 carried two companies of the 2nd Vietnamese Airborne Battalion up the Saigon River, 3 miles north of Saigon on 28 June. As the VNN sailors provided reconnaissance by fire, the landed troops swept the west side of the river. Seven

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Viet Cong were killed and their weapons, five B-40 rockets and two launchers, two CHICOM grenades and one AK-47 were captured. In Operation TOAN THANG 290/A/BD on 29 June, RAG 28 units supported two ARVN battalions and three RF companies west of Phu Cuong City from the Saigon River. The operation yielded three enemy killed, two AK-47's and one Viet Cong captured.

The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps personnel in the RSSZ continued to provide advice and guidance to their Vietnamese counterparts in the conduct of offensive operations. With RF/PF's, Commando and Intelligence elements at their disposal, the Vietnamese pursued the enemy in this water-logged basin which has for years been a haven for Viet Cong infiltrators. The main rivers and lesser waterways that ribbon the RSSZ were plied by VNN Fleet Command ships, River Patrol Group 51 PBR's and U.S. PBR's, ever ready to take enemy positions under fire. Daily ambushes, searches and patrols were conducted by all units in the RSSZ, and overhead "Seawolves", Army helicopters and fix-winged aircraft provided immediate air cover. Despite the ready-reaction forces' responsiveness, the enemy was as elusive as ever; firing upon shipping in the Long Tau River, attacking allied forces, and withdrawing quickly out of reach from friendly counter-attacks.

Illustrative of the fast reaction to attacks on commercial shipping on the Long Tau was an incident on 9 June. TF 116 PBR's reported that the merchant ship, KHANH HOA, proceeding north, 3 miles southeast of Nha Be, had received B-41 and automatic weapons fire. Army L-19 and LHFT were vectored to the vicinity as the PBR's closed the suspect firing positions on the east

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bank of the Long Tau. Army "Slicks" inserted a Commando team and four USMC advisors after airstrikes and artillery had saturated the area. Two RF platoons were landed and swept south and east while the Commandos to the south swept toward the downward thrust. Six Viet Cong were flushed from the sweep; the scattering enemy was simultaneously taken under fire and killed by Army and Navy helos positioned overhead. Additional Vietnamese intelligence squads acted as blocking forces for further possible enemy withdrawal. No contact was made but two bunkers and an anti-aircraft firing position were destroyed by the ground sweep. A B-41 launcher, two sets of web gear, two AK-47's and one plastic canteen were uncovered.

A joint operation on 14 June by Army, Navy and Vietnamese elements sought out enemy bunkers near the Vam Sat River, 10 miles south of Nha Be. Twelve Commandos and four Marine Corps advisors were inserted by "Slicks" on the east bank of the river and swept eastward. A bunker complex was detected which appeared to have been an enemy hospital; the Vietnamese were credited with the destruction of seven large bunkers and 14 smaller ones. In addition, the aircraft overhead were given permission to conduct combined fire and destroy missions. Nine more enemy positions were taken under fire with positive results, secondary explosions resulted from several attacks.

TF 117 river boats were utilized in June for the first time in joint operations to rid the RSSZ of the enemy. On 16 June, during DONG TAM 16/68, six ATC's, two ASPB's and one monitor lifted two RF companies and Commandos

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and their advisors east on the upper Dong Tranh River then north on the Ong Keo River to insertion points. Army LHFT's provided overhead cover for the transit but the convoy came under fire near the turn onto the Ong Keo River. One RF company beached and swept north to an occupied base; the enemy dispersed. The camp of 26 structures and equipment, 300 pounds of rice and one sampan was destroyed. Meanwhile the river craft carried the remainder of the land force further north to their insertion point. The Commandos met an estimated two Viet Cong platoons and three of the enemy were killed during the brief encounter. A USMC advisor to the Commandos was wounded as were three of the Commandos. The land force was re-embarked and awaited fixed-wing and helo air strikes on the enemy positions. Further sweeps met with no additional enemy resistance and the operation concluded.

DONG TAM 17/68 followed on 22 June, 10 miles south-southeast of Nha Be between the La Be and Ba Giong streams east of the Vam Sat River. Army "Slicks" and gunships plus TF 116 PBR's supported two RF companies and the RSSZ Commandos and Intelligence platoons during the operation which sought out two enemy hospitals reported to be in the area. The troops were landed in elements from the stream and a four-sided cordon was established from which the sweep was conducted. Old and partially destroyed base camps were discovered; no enemy contact was experienced. The intelligence regarding the hospital was not substantiated and only a few mines and hand and rifle grenades were captured.

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RAG 27 river craft lifted two RF companies to the Ong Keo Stream for a sweep following early morning B-52 strikes in the vicinity on 24 June. Numerous bunkers were struck with resulting secondary fires reported. The river boats received three B-41 hits as the land force was off-loaded at the insertion point. One ARVN soldier was wounded and an RPC and one monitor were slightly damaged. The land sweep of the east and west banks of the river gained no enemy contact. This operation was number 18/68 of the DONG TAM series.

Again on 27 June the Commandos and RF company were inserted by RAG 27 boats in the areas flanking the Ong Keo Stream and south of the upper Dong Tranh River for a sweep following B-52 raids. The land force met none of the enemy as it foraged through the heavily cratered areas. Four base camps were destroyed along with additional bunkers, all apparently having not been used lately. A set of fresh foot-prints was observed which disappeared in one bomb crater.

In the 4th Riverine Area, a RAG 25/29 Ca Mau detachment convoy, plying the Ong Doc River, 13 miles north of Ca Mau, came under attack on 2 June. The boats returned the fire on the suspected enemy positions and cleared the fire zone. Five sailors were wounded in the initial blast and two boats were 60 percent damaged. Similarly, the next day, a RAG 25 commandament was fired on while transiting the Can Tho River, 4 miles southwest of that city; two VNN sailors were wounded and the boat incurred minor damage.

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Operation TRUONG CONG DINH 7/10/26 was conducted on 4 June in Kien Hoa Province as RAG's 23/31 and 21/23 river craft and LSIL 330 transported two ARVN infantry battalions and two RF companies along the Ham Luong River, 3 miles south of Ben Tre. Prior to off-loading the troops, the VNN guns neutralized the landing zones. The RAG craft remained adjacent to the area of operations to form a blocking force. A cache of 3,100 various types of cartridges and one Viet Cong were captured. Another Viet Cong was reported killed by the ARVN sweep. Also on 4 June, additional RAG 23/31 boats supported a RF battalion as a sweep was made east of Vinh Long City. River traffic was checked and six VNN sailors went ashore to maintain bank security in the vicinity of the operation. The RF troops reported one Viet Cong had been killed while they captured two of the enemy. One RF soldier was killed and two were wounded in the fray.

The next day, 5 June, TRUONG CONG DINH 7/SD/23 combined RAG 21/33 and 7th ARVN Division Rangers in Go Cong Province. LSIL 330 served as a floating command post for the Rangers as the VNN river craft maintained security on the upper channel of the My Tho River, 10-12 miles east-southeast of My Tho City. Enemy contact was gained by the ARVN force and although casualties were undetermined, one Viet Cong was captured. One Ranger was killed and 10 others were wounded that day.

During Operation HAI LONG 3/68 on 7 June, a RAG 21/33 reconnaissance team was inserted from the Tra River, 11 miles northeast of My Tho in Go Cong Province. The sailors engaged an unknown size enemy force and four

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Viet Cong were killed. Several weapons and documents were captured from the enemy as a result of the skirmish; there were no friendly casualties.

Three VNN river craft escorting the Saigon-Bac Lieu convoy were hit by B-40 and recoilless rifle fire on 10 June. One sailor was killed and another five suffered wounds from the blast from ashore, 12 miles northeast of Bac Lieu. The convoy continued on with the limping VNN boats, experiencing no further enemy harassment.

Vinh Long Province officials organized Operation TRUONG CONG DINH/VL on 11 September. RAG's 23/31 and 21/33 boats lifted elements of three ARVN infantry battalions and a Ranger battalion, a reconnaissance company and four RF companies south along the Mang Thit/Nicolai Canal. Bank sweeps produced five enemy killed and one captured. One PF soldier was liberated from the hands of the enemy as a result of this operation.

Bank security continued to be a definite problem for the RAG convoys as they travelled the rivers and canals in the Delta. Just as last month, RF/PF troops inserted at one point along the route had no protective effect on the convoy as it proceeded onward; for the enemy was located ahead of the convoy. On 13 June RAG 25/29 craft came under fire on two occasions during the Can-Tho-Vi Thanh logistics run on the Can Tho River. The RAG advisor noted that the friendly inhabitants near the enemy positions had cleared the area indicating they knew of the impending attack but no word was given to the unsuspecting VNN convoy. Return fire on the enemy gun positions was not evaluated and the convoy proceeded with no further incidents.

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There was minor structural damage to three boats and no friendly casualties were reported.

RAG 23/31 river craft supported an ARVN infantry battalion and an ARVN Ranger battalion during Operation TRUONG CONG DINH VL/68 on 14 June. The land force swept the south bank of the Co Chien River 3 miles east of Vinh Long City while the VNN sailors maintained blocking and gunfire support stations. Enemy contact was gained and five Viet Cong were killed and one suspect was detained for interrogation. Late on 15 June, RAG 21/33 units, PBR's and LSSL 225 conducted a policing operation on Tau Island south of My Tho with a RF company and a National Police platoon. Seven enemy suspects were captured there that night.

TRUONG CONG DINH SD/32/52 was conducted by ARVN 21st Division elements and RAG 25/29 detachment boats along the Ong Doc River south of the Delta city of Ca Mau. During the three-day operation, 16-18 June, the four ARVN battalion sweep resulted in five Viet Cong killed and 11 enemy living quarters destroyed. Meanwhile Operation VINH LONG 2 yielded another five enemy killed on 17 June. RAG 23/31 boats lifted a RF battalion and three RF platoons to the eastern end of Tan Phong Island in the My Tho River. The VNN river craft and PBR's maintained river security and provided gunfire support as the land troops made their sweep. In addition to the five killed, there were 10 Viet Cong captured, 77 enemy suspects and three deserters apprehended. Several weapons were also captured and a PBR destroyed one Viet Cong liaison point with gunfire.

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The Navy advisor to RAG 25/29 reported that his VNN counterpart conceived, planned and coordinated Operation HAI LONG 10/68 on 19 June. Six VNN river craft, two PBR's and LSIL 330 were utilized to lift, cover and extract 80 PF troops at the mouth of the Cai Cau River, near the southern end of Tan Dinh Island in the Bassac River. The land force swept both banks of the river after the area had been saturated with 81-mm mortar, 20-mm and 40-mm fire from the VNN LSIL. Although the results of this operation were mediocre, a satchel of documents and 1,000 pounds of rice captured, seven hootches and 10 bunkers destroyed, the concept was carried out with accurate and effective coordination and communication.

At 2130 on 19 June, RAG 23/31 responded to a call for gunfire support by an ARVN squadron under attack in Vinh Long Province. The VNN sailors arrived at the scene on the Mang Thit River, 11 miles southeast of Vinh Long and fired 81-mm mortar and 40-mm fire at the estimated Viet Cong platoon. When contact was broken, the area sweep yielded five Viet Cong captured and another 15 suspects detained.

Thirty-one Viet Cong were killed and three others were captured as a result of Operation SD/7/11 on 12 June. Elements of the 11th ARVN Infantry Regiment, one ARVN infantry battalion, one Ranger battalion and three reconnaissance companies were supported by RAG's 21/33 and 23/31 river craft from the Tra River in Go Cong Province. The massive operation swept over the borders of Dinh Tuong and Go Cong provinces about 23 miles southwest of Saigon.

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On 25 June VNN sailors of RAG 21/33 and one ARVN infantry battalion participated in Operation GO CONG 6/68 in Go Cong Province, 10 miles east of My Tho City. Although enemy casualties were unknown, the land force reported destroying a cache of 200 grenades in place. The next day RAG 21/33 craft and a 7-man landing party conducted a raid on the northwestern tip of Giai Island in the Co Chien River in response to intelligence previously gained. The sailors made contact with an unknown size enemy force. When the fire was silenced, the sailors discovered one enemy killed and took another prisoner as well as detaining one enemy suspect.

Operation SD 7/10/4 on 27 June pitted RAG 21/33, LSIL 330, two ARVN infantry battalions and a reconnaissance company against the enemy in Kien Hoa Province north of the Mo Cay River. The sailors laid down a barrage of 30-, 40- and 50-mm fire and 81-mm mortar prior to the area sweep. Three bodies were discovered by the land force. Four enemy suspects were taken and 20 Kilograms of documents were captured. There were two PF troops released from the enemy that day and 15 sampans were destroyed by naval gunfire. The next day, RAG 26 carried five RF pompanies and two PF platoons north along the Bassac River to the Cai Sau Canal for Operation SA DEC 4. The land sweep yielded two Viet Cong and one suspect detained.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary
June 1968

	Searched		Detained	
Coastal Force	Junks	People	Junks	People
I NZ	25,740	89,811	9	254
II NZ	24,380	80,793	25	263

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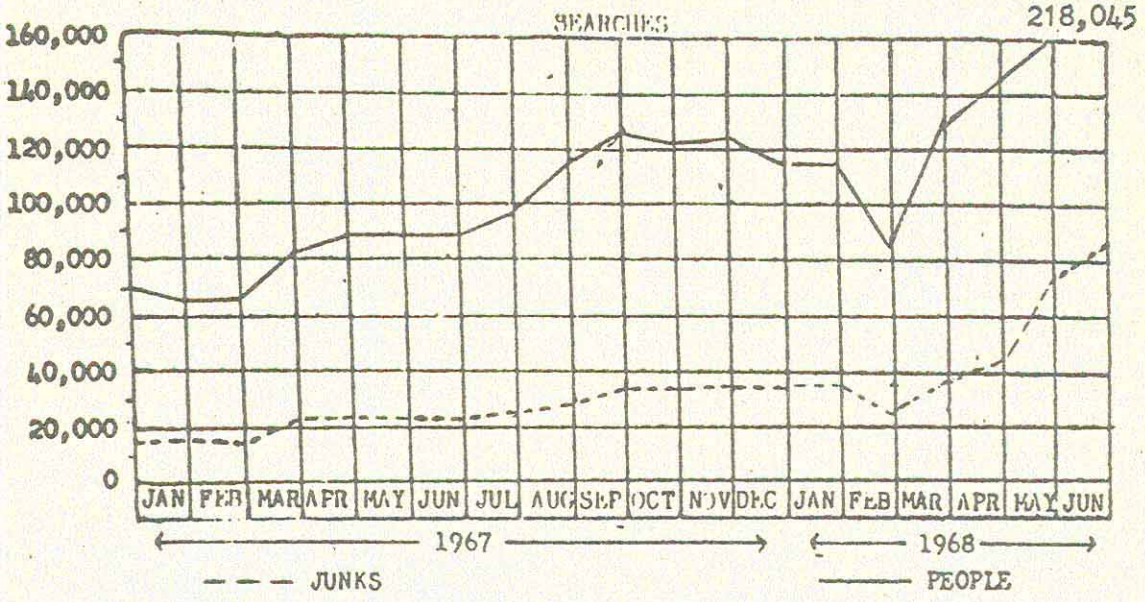
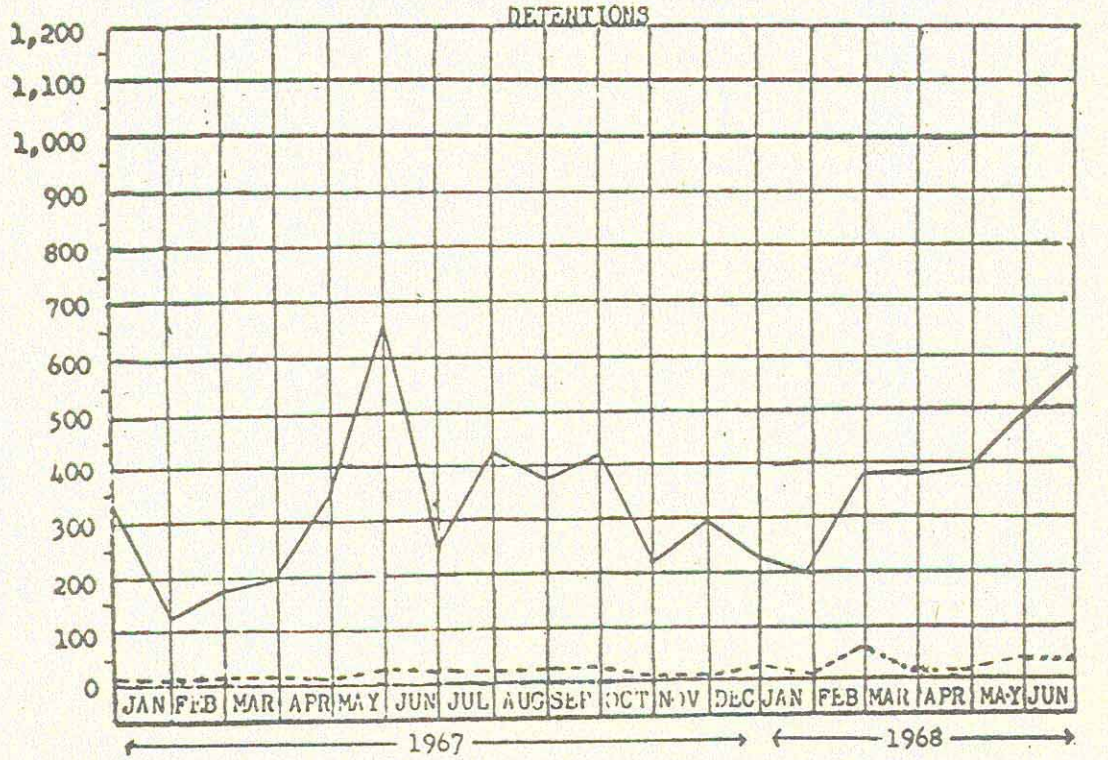
SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS 276,354
BY VIETNAMESE NAVY SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES / 218,045





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	Search		Detained	
Coastal Force (CONT'D)	Junks	People	Junks	People
III NZ	15,090	43,392	0	0
IV NZ	5,369	19,713	0	0
Sub-totals	70,579	233,709	34	517
Fleet Command Patrol Ships	2,217	10,381	16	70
Riverine Area Craft	9,435	32,264	0	0
Totals	82,231	276,354	50	587

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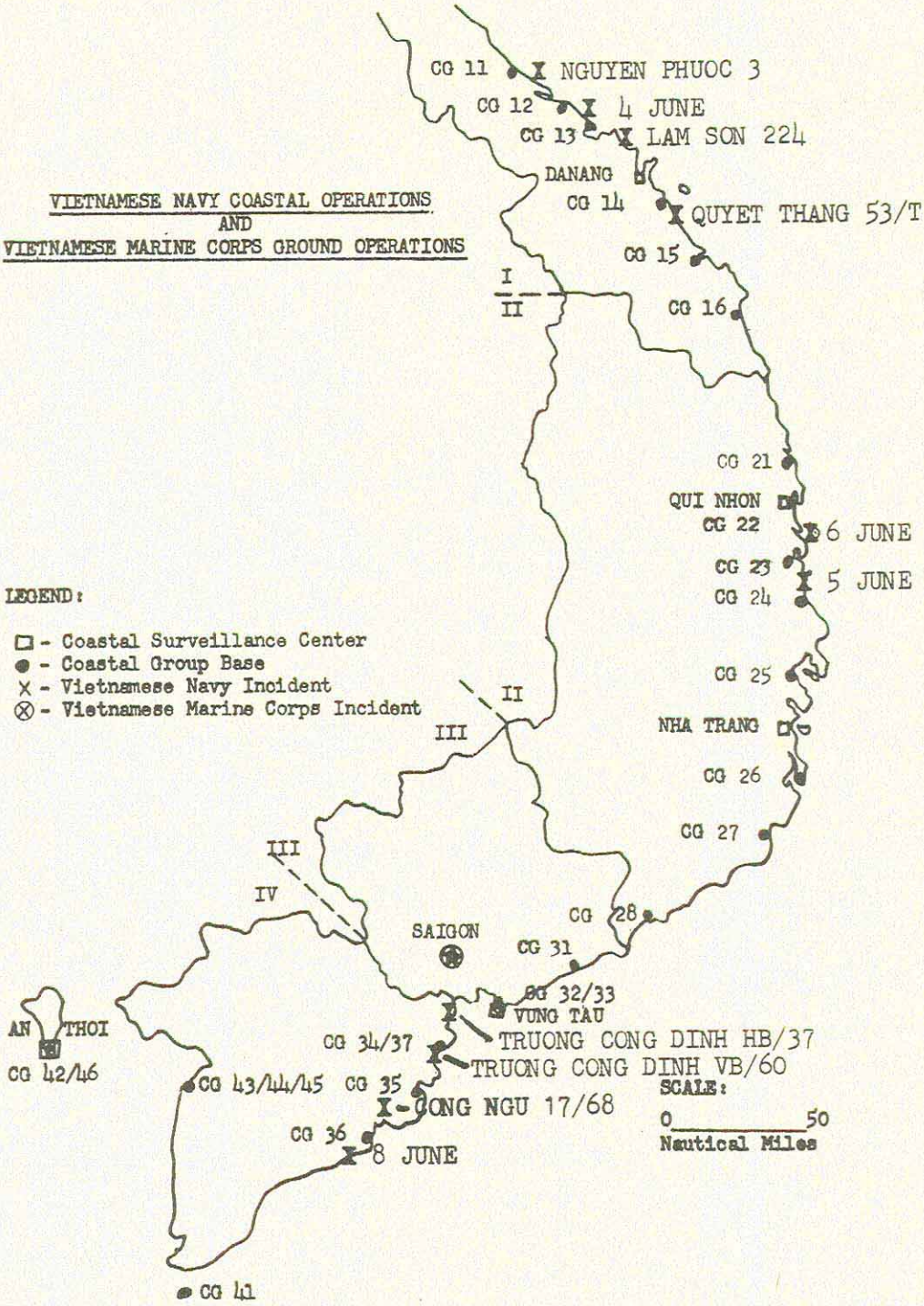

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VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

During the month the six infantry battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps (VNMC) and their USMC advisors operated in the Capitol Military District (CMD) and IV Corps Tactical Zone (IV CTZ). The battalions and one artillery battalion were committed to combat operations 100 percent of the time in June.

Task Force A, composed of the 1st, 5th and 6th battalions and Battery A and B, VNMC artillery battalion continued to operate in the northwestern suburbs of Saigon in Operation TOAN THANG under the operational control of the CMD. For the first half of the month Task Force A experienced moderate to heavy enemy contact in the Gia Dinh Sector, and the area north of Phu Nhuan Sector, west of the Bien Loi Bridge. RAG 24 boats were assigned to the task force for troop lift and gunfire support and they provided perimeter security east of the operation from the Saigon River. In concert with Vietnamese Rangers, U. S. Army 1st Infantry Division elements and supported by Army gunships and VNAF air strikes, the marines waged a mighty battle in defense of the capitol city of Saigon. The heavy contact which began on 31 May continued throughout the 1st and 2nd of June. One-hundred and twenty-one enemy were dead and seven were captured at the conclusion of those two days of fighting. Friendly losses were four marines killed, 15 wounded and one marine accidentally drowned.

The action moved in a southerly direction on 3 and 4 June as the task force continued to meet skirmish after skirmish with deadly precision.

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Twenty-three more enemy bodies were left on the battle field and one Viet Cong was captured while the marines suffered four killed and 31 wounded. The task force pressed east from its positions on 5 June and north again, encircling the enemy. Thirty-seven of the enemy were reported killed that day and 12 were taken captive. The VNMC lost one marine and 11 were wounded. Until 11 June the task force pursued local unit patrols and ambushes in conjunction with Army APC (Armored Personnel Carrier) and Special Force elements. Contact was varied and sporadic throughout this area of heavy enemy infiltration northeast of the capitol.

At 0600 on 11 June Saigon was hit by 122-mm mortar rockets. The task force reacted immediately and deployed its units against the suspected enemy positions. The 2nd Battalion joined the task force and took up defensive positions near the Newport Bridge. The rocket attack was not accompanied by a ground attack as was the case in May. The task force resumed area patrols with light contact until 18 June. On 13 June the task force received 12 Chieu Hoi's in Gia Dinh Sector, seven of whom were reported to be NVA soldiers.

On 18 June the 1st and 6th battalions formed a triangular cordon around elements of two enemy battalions, east of the Bien Loi Bridge, south of the railroad tracks and north of Gia Dinh Sector. Throughout the day the enemy attempted to break through the marine vise but the marines repulsed them. There were 113 Viet Cong captured and 65 killed that day while the marines losses were two killed and 19 wounded. Fifteen more Viet Cong were

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captured on 19 June during clean-up operations in the same vicinity. Five enemy bodies were uncovered and 12 Chieu Hoi's turned themselves in that day. The remainder of the month was characterized by small unit patrols with light to negligible contact reported by Task Force A.

Task Force B remained in IV CTZ this month under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Infantry Division. The 3rd and 4th battalions and Battery C of the VNMC artillery battalion were employed for offensive combat whenever suitable targets were detected; as reserve reaction forces on standby as reinforcements to the ARVN elements; and in security operations near the city of Can Tho to deny the enemy access to the city or sites from which to mortar the city. The VNMC battalions performed missions in conjunction with the TRUONG CONG DINH Campaign unitl 15 June when that massive operation was completed. The forces were then deployed in Operation DAN THIEN, following on the heels of TRUONG CONG DINH. Small unit patrols and reconnaissance in force operations conducted by the task force met with negligible or only slight enemy contact.

The 2nd Battalion was operating with ARVN Rangers in Cholon, Saigon's 6th Precinct under the operational control of the CMD. After being heavily engaged with the enemy at the end of May, the battalion experienced light contact throughout its deployment in Cholon. Daily cleaning sweeps served to strengthen the barrier set up by the U.S. and Vietnamese forces and to uphold the relative calm and safety in that heavily populated area. On 11 June, the 2nd Battalion joined Task Force A in northeast Saigon, taking up positions near the Newport Bridge.

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Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary
June 1968

VC/NVA	294 KIA*	182 VIET CONG CAPTURED	8 VIET CONG SUSPECTS
VNMC	26 KIA**	33 CHIEU HO	

* 26 bodies recovered 1 June results of 31 May action.
** 3 Marines drowned (Non-hostile casualty)

Weapons Captured

2	Mortar, 60-mm
30	Anti-Tank Grenade Launcher, RPG-2 (B-40)
8	Anti-Tank Grenade Launcher, RPG-7 (B-41)
1	Light Machine Gun, 7.62-mm, R-46, Type 58
3	Light Machine Gun, 7.62-mm RPD, Type 56
166	Assault Rifle, Soviet, AK-47
2	Carbine, 7.62-mm, SKS
9	Pistol, 7.62-mm, Type 54
1	Carbine, U.S. Caliber .30
2	Pistol, U.S. Caliber .45

Ammunition Captured

1	Rounds, 75-mm Recoilless Rifle Ammunition
18	Rounds, 60-mm Mortar
115	Anti-Tank Grenades, RPG-2 (B-40)
18	Anti-Tank Grenades, RPG-7 (B-41)
93	Anti-Tank Grenades, RPG-2 & 7 (B-40 & B-41)
2	Mines, Claymore
5	Mines, 10 kilograms
199	Hand Grenades, Viet Cong
2	Hand Grenades, M-26
3	Bangalore Torpedo
17,800	Rounds, AK-47 Ammunition
2	Pole charges
5	Pounds, TNT
1	Box, 105-mm, VT fuse
200	Miscellaneous rounds small arms ammunition

Materiel and Equipment Captured and Destroyed

49	Bunkers
1	Compass, CHI COM

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Materiel and Equipment Captured and Destroyed (CONT'D)

184	Magazines, AK-47
2	Radios, AN/PRC-10
1	Sight 60-mm Mortar
1	Radio Antenna
2	Radio, CHI COM
1	Sampan
1	Mortar Position
5000	Kilograms Rice
1	Company Size Base Camp
	Quantity of Medical Supplies
	Quantity of Documents
	Quantity of Web Equipment
	Number of Bunkers

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APPENDIX I
SECTION I

GLOSSARY

ANGLICO	Air-Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (U. S.).
ARVN	Army of the Republic of Vietnam
CG	Coastal Group (VNN) - A coastal patrol command consisting of six to 10 junks with the responsibility of patrolling from 30-60 miles of coastline.
CIDG	Civilian Irregular Defense Group (VN) - Para-military troops used in their local area for limited area operations.
CHIEU HOI	"Open Arms" (VN) - The Republic of Vietnam's amnesty program of rehabilitation and re-location of Viet Cong who voluntarily return to government control.
CLEARWATER	Task Force CLEARWATER was activiated in February 1968 with the mission of expediting and improving naval supply to combat forces in the northern I CTZ by exercising overall coordination of activities concerning movement and protection of logistic craft on the Perfume River and Cua Viet River lines of communication. This special task force was created in response to heavy enemy pressure directed at these LOC at a time of increasing combat operation and logistic requirements by the built-up Northern I CTZ forces.

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CLEARWATER (Con't.)	Two river security groups were formed from River Patrol Force and River Assault Force craft. Supporting forces available on request included artillery and naval gunfire units, helicopter gunships, logistic craft, and ground reaction forces.
CORDS	Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support.
COSURVFOR	Coastal Surveillance Force (USN) TF-115 - The U. S. forces participating in Operation MARKET TIME and STABLE DOOR.
COSVN	Central Office for South Vietnam - The highest Viet Cong headquarters in South Vietnam.
CTZ	Corps Tactical Zone - The major divisions of South Vietnam into military regions.
DAI DOAN KET	National Reconciliation Program - Program which is aimed at helping qualified returnees find employment commensurate with their previous training and experience.
FWMAF	Free World Military Assistance Forces (all engaged in South Vietnam.)
GAME WARDEN	The operation performed by U. S. Navy forces to interdict Viet Cong movement on the major waterways

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GAME WARDEN (Con't.)	of the Mekong Delta and the RSSZ. The force is composed of River Patrol Boats, Minesweepers, helicopter fire teams and SEAL teams.
HEAT	High Explosive Anti-Tank - A shaped-charge normally used in 57-mm or 75-mm recoilless rifles.
HHFT	Heavy Helicopter Fire Team (U. S.) - A helicopter fire team with three or more gunships used in support of ground and waterborne units. The use of three helicopters allows continuous firing on the target.
HOI CHANH	"Returnee to the Just Cause" (VN) - An individual (Viet Cong) who returns under the Chieu Hoi program.
IUWU	Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit (U. S.) - The U. S. forces conducting Operation STABLE DOOR.
IWCS	Integrated Wideband Communication System.
LCMM	Landing Craft Medium Minesweeper.
LDNN	Lien Doc Nguoi Nhia (VNN) - Literally "soldiers who fight under the sea." UDT force of the VNN.
LHFT	Light Helicopter Fire Team (U. S.) - A helicopter fire team composed of two gunships used in support of ground and waterborne units.
LRRP	Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol.

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MARKET TIME	The operation conducted by U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces to interdict Viet Cong infiltration of men and supplies from the sea.
MAF	Marine Aphibious Force
MEDCAP	Medical Civic Action Program
MG	Machine Gun - An automatic, crew-served weapon adaptable to many mountings. The four types of machine guns currently used by USN and VNN forces are the M-60, the .30 caliber light machine gun, the .50 caliber heavy machine gun, and the 7.62-mm mini gun.
MILPHAP	Military Provincial Health Assistance Program - MILPHAP teams, normally staffed by three doctors, a Medical Service Corps officer and 12 corpsmen, work with Vietnam's Ministry of Health at the province hospital level to improve health services available to Vietnamese civilians.
MRF	Mobile Riverine Force (U. S.) - A force made up of Navy craft and Army units designed and trained for amphibious assaults in the Mekong Delta and the RSSZ.
NGFS	Naval Gunfire Support (USN-VNN) - Naval gunfire used to assist operations ashore; often spotted and corrected by spotter aircraft or forward observers.
NILO	Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer

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NLF	National Liberation Front - Actually the "National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam." A Communist political front used to give the appearance of popular non-Communist support to their insurgency activities in South Vietnam.
NUOC MAM	(VN) - A fermented fish sauce served with almost any dish. A national delicacy.
NVA	North Vietnamese Army
PF	Popular Forces - Military forces recruited and employed with a district; organized in platoons and squads.
PRU	Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (VN) - Para-military personnel whose principal mission includes clandestine operations designed to destroy the Viet Cong infrastructure. Each unit consists of one or more teams of 18 to 20 civilians who have had prior military service.
RAF	Riverine Assault Force (USN) - The U. S. Navy contingent of the MRF.
RAG	River Assault Group (VN) - An amphibious warfare command with the capability to transport and support a battalion of infantry. Similar to a boat division in the RAF.
RED HAZE	Infrared Detector (U. S.) - Sensitive heat detectors used as an airborne locator of personnel, equipment and military sites.

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RF	Regional Force (VN) - Forces under ARVN control which operate within their home province.
RIVPATFOR	River Patrol Force (USN) TF-116 - The forces used in conducting Operation GAME WARDEN.
ROK	Republic of Korea.
RPG	Rocket Propelled Grenade - A Soviet or Chinese Communist-manufactured, fin-stabilized, anti-tank grenade. RPG-2 (B-40). RPG-7 (B-41).
RSSZ	Rung Sat Special Zone - Literally "forest of assassins." A special military area located about 21 miles southeast of Saigon in Gia Dinh Province and composed of Can Gio and Quang Xuyen districts.
RTEG	River Transport and Escort Group.
RVNAF	Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces - Consists of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and RF/PF.
SEAL	Sea, Air, Land. (USN) - Special duty personnel qualified as underwater demolition, paratroop and jungle warfare specialists.
SECRET ZONE	A Viet Cong-dominated area utilized as a base, training camp and logistic resupply area.
SLAR	Side Looking Airborne Radar (U. S.) - An accurate airborne radar for detecting small, moving objects.
STABLE DOOR	The U. S. Navy operation conducted to provide harbor defense.

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STAR LIGHT	Ambient light equipment (USN) - A portable system to enhance vision under conditions of starlight or moonlight.
UDT	Underwater Demolition Team (USN) - Specially trained swimmers used for underwater work in the Navy.
USAID	United States Agency for International Development.
USSF	United States Special Forces (USA) - Army personnel specially trained for use as advisors to indigenous personnel.
VIET CONG	Vietnamese citizens under the control and leadership of North Vietnam. These persons may be local sympathizers, guerrillas, or hard-core full-time workers for the Communist domination of South Vietnam.
VNAF	Vietnamese Air Force.
VNMC	Vietnamese Marine Corps.
VNN	Vietnamese Navy.

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APPENDIX I
SECTION II

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

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

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

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

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AMMI (Con't.) (Pontoon) -In addition to causeway use, the barges can be positioned to embark and debark troops and to serve as platforms for patrol craft hull maintenance.

APB -Personnel Barracks Ship - An LST converted to provide berthing for an Army battalion and a River Assault Squadron. The ship is 328 feet long with berthing spaces for 122 officers and 1,180 enlisted men, and mounts four 4.2-inch mortars, two 40-mm quad gun mounts, two 20-mm twin gun mounts, and ten 7.62-mm machine guns. It has a speed of 12 knots and carries a crew of 11 officers and 161 enlisted men.

APL -Personnel Barracks, Lighter - A non-self-propelled barge with accommodations for the crews of 20 PBRs or 10 PBRs and 10 PCFs. It is 49 by 261 feet, has transient berthing spaces for 39 officers and 290 enlisted men, and mounts six .50 caliber machine guns. The crew consists of five officers and 84 enlisted men.

ARG -Repair Ship, Internal Combustion Engine - A repair ship converted from a C-2 freighter and capable of repairing ships and craft with gasoline or diesel

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

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

ASPB -Assault Support Patrol Boat - A special configured craft designed principally for use by the Riverine Assault Force. The boat is 50 feet long and mounts one 20-mm gun mount, one 81-mm mortar, two MK-18 40-mm grenade launchers, and one twin-.50 and four .30 caliber machine guns. The ruggedly-constructed, high-speed (14.8 knots) boat, with a crew of seven enlisted men, is used as a minesweeping and escort craft for the troop carriers.

ATC -Armored Troop Carrier - A modified, armored LCM-6 designed principally for use by the Riverine Assault Force. The boat is 56 feet long with an extended deckhouse mounting two 20-mm guns, two .50 caliber machine guns, and four M-60 machine guns.

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ATC (Con't.) -The craft can carry approximately 40 combat troops or two and a half to three tons of cargo. It has a speed of eight and a half knots and carries a crew of seven enlisted men. Special bar-and-plate armor has been added to provide protection for the hull and deckhouse against projectiles up to and including 57-mm HEAT rounds.

ATC(H) -Armored Troop Carrier (Helicopter) - An ATC with a portable helicopter landing platform mounted above the craft's well-deck. The platform provides faster handling of medical evacuees and enables the MRF to conduct certain airborne re-supply and assault missions more expeditiously.

BOSTON WHALER -A 16' fiberglass, shallow-draft motor boat.

CCB -Command and Communications Boat - A modified, armored LCM-6 designed for use by the RAF as a task group flagship and afloat command post. The command center is situated in the craft's well. The boat is 60.5 feet long, is equipped with radar, and mounts one 40-mm and one .50 caliber machine gun in a forward turret, and one 20-mm gun, two .50 caliber machine guns and two M-60 machine guns in the deckhouse. It has a speed of eight and one-quarter knots and a

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

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

HLC -Heavy Lift Craft - A non-self-propelled hull, capable of partial submersion, used in salvage work to lift hulks. The craft is 39 by 140 feet, has two 10-ton booms as well as auxiliary equipment for pumping and can raise 300 tons in a bow lift or 750 tons in a midships lift. HLCs are normally used in pairs. Each craft mounts four .50 caliber machine guns. The crew consists of two officers and 20 enlisted men.

LCPL (Mark XI) -Landing Craft, Personnel, Large - A boat used primarily for harbor defense and to guide larger landing craft. The boat is 36 feet long, is equipped with radar, and mounts two .50 caliber machine guns. It has a speed of 19 knots.

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LCU -Landing Craft Utility - Used to deliver cargo throughout the Republic of Vietnam. The primary source of delivering cargo to Dong Ha and Hue in I Corps. The boat is 118 feet long and has a maximum speed of 8 knots. The boat captain is usually a Chief Petty Officer, who commands an enlisted crew of 13.

YLLC -Light Lift Craft - A converted LCU designed to perform limited salvage duty. The craft is 119 feet in length, and has a shear-leg crane capable of 30-ton lifts. Light Lift Craft have four .50 caliber machine guns, a speed of seven knots, and carry a crew of two officers and 15 enlisted men.

LST (GAME WARDEN Support Ship) -A 548-Class tank landing ship specially configured for GAME WARDEN Operations. The cargo hatch has been enlarged to 13- by 32-feet to permit lowering PBRs and helicopters to the tank deck for repairs and maintenance. The main deck forward of the cargo hatch has been strengthened and life-saving nets have been added port and starboard to support helicopter operations. A 10-ton boat lifting boom has been added on the starboard side just forward

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

MONITOR -Monitor - A modified LCM-6 designed primarily for use as a fire support ship by the RAF. The craft has bar-and-plate armor along the hull and deckhouse similar to that of ATCs and CCBs. The boat is 60.5 feet long, is equipped with radar, and mounts one 40-mm and one .50 caliber machine gun in a forward turret, one 81-mm mortar and two M-60 machine guns amidships, and one 20-mm gun, two .50 caliber machine guns and four M-60 machine guns in the deckhouse. It has a speed of eight and one-quarter knots and a crew of 11 enlisted men.

MSB -Minesweeper, Boat - A small minesweeper designed for clearing sheltered waters, e.g., the Long Tau River. The boat is 57 feet long, mounts one .50

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MSB (Con't.) -caliber and one .30 caliber machine gun, two Mark 18 grenade launchers, and is equipped with radar. It has a speed of 11 knots and carries a crew of six enlisted men.

PACV -Patrol Air Cushion Vehicle - The new craft is an all-metal peripheral jet-type hovercraft powered by a single marine gas turbine engine, enabling the craft to reach approximately 50 knots under optimum conditions. With a crew of one officer and four enlisted men, the craft is equipped with radar and mounts one twin .50 caliber machine gun, three MK21 7.62-mm machine guns and one MK18 40-mm grenade launcher. The PACV, with a length of 38.7 feet, a width of 23 feet and a height of 16.5 feet (cushion-borne), is to be used primarily as a rapid reaction craft, a high-speed, logistic re-supply craft for small quantities of high priority material, and for SAR missions.

PBR (MK I) -Patrol Boat, River - A military adaptation of a fiberglass, civilian pleasure boat. The boat is 31 feet long, uses twin water jets as a propulsion system, and mounts one twin .50 caliber machine gun and one .50 caliber machine gun with a Mark 18

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PBR (MK I) (Con't.) -grenade launcher. The craft is equipped with radar, has a speed of 25 knots and carries a crew of five enlisted men. PBRs normally patrol in pairs and constitute the principal craft of Operation GAME WARDEN.

PBR (MK II) -Patrol Boat, River - An improved version of the PBR with the same basic design; principal changes include a lower silhouette, and modifications to the armament.

PCF -Patrol Craft, Fast (Swift) - An aluminum-hulled, offshore patrol craft, used extensively for coastal surveillance in Operation MARKET TIME. The craft is 50 feet long, mounts one twin .50 caliber machine gun and a .50 caliber machine gun with an 81-mm mortar. It has radar, a speed of 23 knots, and a crew of one officer and five enlisted men.

PG -Patrol Gunboat - A patrol boat for use in offshore waters. It is a new design with an all-aluminum hull and a combination diesel/gas turbine propulsion plant. The boat is equipped with radar, is 165 feet long, mounts one 3"/50 caliber gun, one 81-mm mortar and two .50 caliber machine guns. The craft's speed is 37 knots under turbine power and 16

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PG (Cont'd) under diesel power. The crew consists of three officers and 21 enlisted men.

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

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

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

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

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STAB (Con't.) -The boat is 20 feet long, mounts one .50 caliber machine gun, one M-60 machine gun, one Mark 18 grenade launcher, and can also carry a 57-mm recoilless rifle. The boat is powered by two 50-horsepower outboard motors and has a speed of 40 knots.

VEDETTE -A general term referring to any of several classes of old French river boats--utilized by VNN RAGs and GVN police units.

UH-1B -Helicopter (Iroquois) - A U. S. Army helicopter on loan to the U. S. Navy in South Vietnam. Alternately referred to as a "Huey" or a "Gunship" or a "Seawolf," the aircraft mounts four 7.62-mm machine guns in pairs, two M-60 machine guns and two pods capable of firing 14 2.74-inch rockets. The helicopter has a range of 250 miles, a speed of 125 knots, and carries a crew of two officers and two enlisted men.

UH-1D -The unarmed version of the "Huey," commonly referred to as a "Slick." It can carry 10 troops, four litters, or 2,000 pounds of cargo.

WHEC -High Endurance Cutter (USCG) - An ocean-going, Coast Guard patrol ship employed on operation MARKET TIME off-shore barrier parols. The radar-equipped

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WHEC (Con't.) -ship is 311 feet long, mounts one 5"/38 gun, six .50 caliber machine guns, one Mark 10 torpedo launcher with six torpedos, and two 81-mm mortars. The ship has a speed of 19 knots and carries a crew of 13 officers and 140 enlisted men.

WPB -Cutter (USCG) - A modified version of the Coast Guard's offshore, rescue vessel; used extensively in Operation MARKET TIME. The boat is 82 feet long, mounts one .50 caliber machine gun with an 81-mm mortar, and four .50 caliber machine guns. The radar-equipped craft has a speed of 18 knots and a crew of two officers and nine enlisted men.

YDT -Diving Tender - A non-self-propelled lighter equipped with a deckhouse containing accommodations and working spaces for a salvage team. The tender is 54- by 260-feet, has a 12-ton crane, and mounts six .50 caliber machine guns for self-defense. The craft carries a crew of 15 officers and 76 enlisted men.

YFNB -Patrol Boat Tender - A non-self-propelled barge equipped with a large deckhouse containing shops and maintenance facilities for small craft. Currently in use in the Mekong Delta supporting PBRs, the barge has six .50 caliber machine guns and

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YFNB (Con't.) -four 81-mm mortars for self-defense. It carries a crew of four officers and 31 enlisted men.

YFU -Utility Yard Craft - The newest version of this craft is called the SKILAK and is capable of carrying 330 short tons of dry cargo or 86,000 gallons of liquid cargo at a speed of 10 knots.

YRBM -Repair, Berthing and Messing Barge - A converted YFNB equipped with a large deckhouse containing shops and maintenance areas for small craft, and berthing and messing facilities for boat crews. The craft can berth 97 boat-crew personnel. The armament and the size of the permanent crew are the same as that of a YFNB.

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APPENDIX II

USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR JUNE 1968

	MARKET TIME	GAME WARDEN	Mobile Riverine Force
Detections	106,727	118,698	*
Inspections	47,594	31,919	*
Boardings	23,831	41,428	*
Craft detained	*	14	0
Persons detained	1,286	1,062	245
Viet Cong suspects	9	390	*
Hostile fire incidents	30	183	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	58 (86 prob)	75 (BC) 19 (prob)	147
b. Wounded	11 (10 prob)	38	*
c. Captured	2	12	6
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	5	4	0 USN/15 USA
b. Wounded	3	12	24 USN/81 USA
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	102	76	80
(2) Structures	255	137	474
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	1	0
(2) Weapons	*	1 CS/1 Ind	40**
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	0	19,170
(4) Rice (tons)	*	0	1.4
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	80	105	*
(2) Structures	413	102	*
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	1	1	0
(2) Helicopters	0	0	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	1	7	14
(2) Helicopters	0	6	*
SAR missions	*	*	*

Remarks:

* Information not applicable or not available this date.

** Includes 14 grenades and 1 mine.

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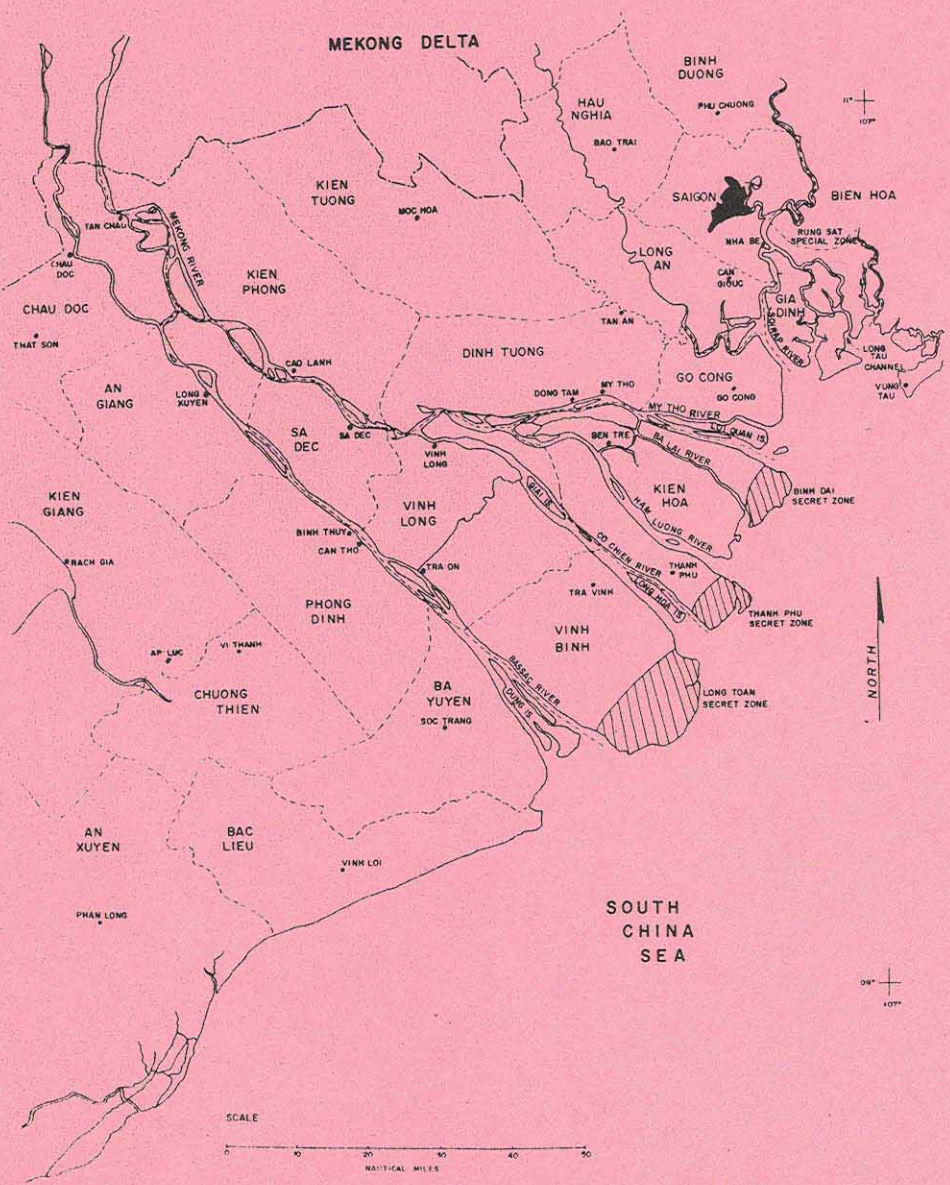

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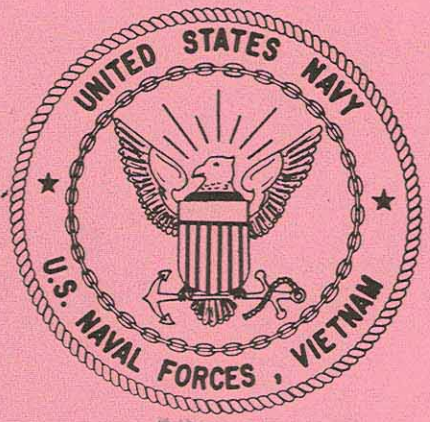

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From: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)

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

Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT ltr FF1-1 5750 ser 1/6925 of 2 October 1967

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

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are submitted.

2. The data contained in enclosures (6), (7) and (8) is based on information available this date. Any adjustments to enclosures (6), (7) and (8) will be reflected in June's Historical Supplement.

J. W. THOMPSON
Flag Secretary

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COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, MUS)
CNO (Op-09B91E)
Director of Naval History

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

During June MARKET TIME patrol units continued to maintain high levels of effectiveness and routine activity. Generally excellent weather conditions throughout the month favored a high level of indigenous junk and sampan traffic along the coast and in the harbors. The development of late afternoon rain squalls followed by gusty winds with choppy seas during the late evening and night in the northern patrol sectors did reduce the density of fishing activity in that area. Improvements in the enforcement of restricted areas by Vietnamese authorities has contributed to the effectiveness of MARKET TIME operations in some areas although many violations continue to occur.

The results of June MARKET TIME activity include the detection of 93,543 junks and sampans. Of these 46,737 were inspected and 23,768 were boarded. During these boardings, 1,286 suspicious persons were detained including 9 Viet Cong suspects. There were also 1,184 steel hulled vessels detected transiting MARKET TIME areas during the month, all of which were determined to be on innocent passage.

MARKET TIME units also participated in 18 ground operations by providing exfiltration/infiltration patrols and naval gunfire support. In addition, 334 naval gunfire missions were carried out for planned harassment and interdiction, targets of opportunity, and in response to 30 hostile fire incidents. These operations resulted in the

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destruction of 208 structures and 101 junks/sampans. Body counts indicated 47 enemy were killed in these actions with an additional 78 estimated as probably killed.

With all types of MARKET TIME units engaged in conducting the year's highest total of naval gunfire missions, Coast Guard units operating in the Fourth Coastal Zone achieved particularly impressive results firing with the aid of U. S. Army airborne spotters. In five of her missions between 2 and 7 June USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68) killed at least 10 Viet Cong, destroyed 23 junks and sampans, destroyed 28 structures, and damaged numerous other craft and structures in Viet Cong supply points and rest areas located along the coast within a few miles of the mouth of the Ong Doc River. From 12 through 17 June USCGC WINONA (WHEC 65) also scored heavily against Viet Cong concentrations in the same area with at least 9 Viet Cong killed (40 probable), 25 junks and sampans destroyed, 14 structures destroyed, and many other craft and structures damaged.

In the Second Coastal Zone PCF 62 participated in a ground operation by the 1st Regiment of the Korean Tiger Division in a mountainous area on the coast about 18 miles north of Qui Nhon. In this operation mortar fire from PCF 62 along with Korean artillery accounted for 5 Viet Cong killed in a three-hour long engagement. The Swift boat was fired on by recoilless rifles from the target area but no hits were sustained. During the entire sweep and search of the seaward slopes of the Phu Cat

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Mountains by the Tiger Division from the 18th through the 27th of the month MARKET TIME PCF's maintained a tight exfiltration patrol of about 15 miles of the coast line and fired several naval gunfire and illumination missions for the Korean forces. Enemy casualties resulting from the sweep totaled 127 killed, 21 captured, and numerous weapons and ammunition captured.

At approximately 0120 on the 16th PCF 19 on patrol near the coast just south of the 17th parallel reported it was receiving rocket shore fire. Communications with the Swift boat were lost shortly thereafter and USCGC POINT DUME which was cruising nearby reported observing two rockets fired at the craft with one near miss and a direct hit. The Swift boat disappeared from the POINT DUME's radar in about two minutes as she was proceeding to the scene. Two seriously wounded survivors were rescued by the Coast Guard cutter and five other Navymen from PCF 19 were lost. Later the POINT DUME, PCF 12, USS BOSTON (CAG 1) and HMAS HOBART were attacked by unidentified jet aircraft and/or helicopters. Air Force and Navy pilots reported downing several enemy helicopters and destroying others on the ground, however no hard evidence of the presence of North Vietnamese helicopters has been discovered. Reports of helicopter sightings at night by MARKET TIME units and Marine observers ashore have continued throughout the rest of the month. The incident is still being investigated by the Seventh Fleet.

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Enclosure (1)

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
June 1968

In early June, intelligence indicated that the Viet Cong planned to move segments of their existing forces in IV Corps to support their continuing pressure on the Capital Military District (CMD) of Saigon/ Cholon and its environs. As the month continued indications of increased Viet Cong activity were prevalent. GAME WARDEN units continued their daily round-the-clock patrols and were poised to meet any new enemy threats. Enemy harassment decreased on the Bassac; however, ambushes continued on the central My Tho and upper Ham Luong rivers.

In the RSSZ there was a definite rise in the number of incidents involving PBRs, aircraft and evading sampans. Where there had been an average of five incidents per month for the past three months the number increased three-fold. To counter the Viet Cong movement toward, and the enemy threat against, the CMD, GAME WARDEN operations were extended to provide one river section of PBRs to patrol the Dong Nai River between Nha Be and the Long Binh Bridge northeast of Saigon. SEALs also commenced operations for the first time along the waterways to the east of Saigon.

Four PBR crewmen were killed in two separate firefights when their patrol craft were attacked by enemy gunners. A PBR was destroyed during one of the engagements - the eighth PBR lost in combat.

GAME WARDEN support to RF/PF/PRU troops continued as the Vietnamese units exhibited more aggressiveness and conducted more frequent operations against the Viet Cong. In one instance, on 21 June, with PBRs and

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Navy armed helicopters providing cover support, 90 PBU's stormed a Viet Cong prison camp 8 miles west of Long Toan, near the mouth of the Bassac River. The whirlwind attack culminated in the release of 29 Vietnamese prisoners. Unfortunately, as the tide of the battle turned against the Viet Cong prison guards they fired on the prisoners killing four and wounding eight.

On 6 June a PBR patrol received heavy automatic weapons fire from four enemy positions on Tan Dinh Island on the lower Bassac. The patrol was unable to suppress the fire that killed GMG2 Mitchell A. WENTZ, USN and seriously wounded one other.

On 8 June PBR 750, while on patrol on the My Tho River about 2½ miles southeast of Cai Be, came under heavy rocket and automatic weapons fire. The boat was hit by a B-40 rocket, wounding three crewmen and causing minor damage. On 21 June, PBR 750 was once again the target of enemy fire in the same area. This time the Viet Cong achieved devastating results. PBR 750 had pursued and captured an enemy sampan that had evaded up a small canal off the My Tho River. As the patrol boat cleared the canal, with the sampan in tow, the Viet Cong unleashed a voluminous hail of rocket fire from ambush. Two rockets scored direct hits on the boat setting it ablaze. The burning boat went out of control and headed for the beach and four more accurately fired B-40 rockets hit the disabled craft. As PBR 723, the cover boat, returned the enemy automatic weapons fire, GMG2 FORD was observed, with his clothing ablaze,

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pushing the wounded crewmen from the burning boat. The cover boat moved in and picked up two wounded PBR sailors, one Vietnamese national policeman and one Viet Cong suspect from the water. Two additional PBR's and four Navy helicopters were on the scene in about 10 minutes and the enemy fire was suppressed. Three crewmen were still missing and an intense search was initiated by nine additional PBRs and one hundred Vietnamese PF troops. The charred body of BM1 Scott G. DELPH, USN was found in the cockpit of PBR 750 that had burned to the water-line. The body of the patrol officer LT WILLIAM E. DENNIS, USN was recovered from the water later that evening; however, the body of GMG2 Patrick O. FORD, USN was not found until 25 June. Casualties inflicted upon the enemy were undetermined.

On 24 June, two "Seawolf" strikes conducted about 6 miles north of Sa Dec killed 18 Viet Cong, wounded 12 and destroyed 6 sampans.

On 25 June PBRs and "Seawolves" teamed up and wounded 18 Viet Cong in an action initiated when the Viet Cong attacked a PBR patrol conducting a psyop loud-speaker mission 6 miles east of Vinh Long. Two junks and three sampans were also destroyed with no friendly casualties.

On 26 June, on the Co Chien River, a SEAL platoon ambushed two sampans, about 5 miles north of Phu Vinh, killing eight Viet Cong. Meanwhile, on the Bassac River, a SEAL platoon killed four Viet Cong and detained eight others in a raid on a small village on Dung Island, 6 miles east of Long Phu. On 29 June SEALs patrolling on an island on

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the Co Chien River, 7 miles northwest of Phu Vinh, encountered and killed 8 Viet Cong.

At the close of the month there were 193 PBRs in country.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
June 1968

The early days of June were characterized by very light and sporadic contact with the enemy, which was in sharp contrast to the bitterly contested battles fought during the previous month. Another MRF milestone was attained when a third river assault squadron commenced combat operations. RAS 13, operating from the Nha Be Naval Base in Gia Dinh Province, received its baptism under fire when it engaged the enemy on 16 June 6 miles southwest of Nha Be in the Rung Sat Special Zone. Casualties in the MRF were at the lowest level since November 1967 as U. S. Navy forces had 24 wounded but no fatalities while U. S. Army forces suffered 15 killed and 81 wounded. Cumulative enemy casualties for the month were 147 killed.

On 10 June riverine units of TF 117 were engaged in three separate clashes with the Viet Cong near Ben Tre in Kien Hoa Province. The most violent fighting took place just prior to sunset after riverine units landed three companies of the 4/47th Infantry Battalion at beaches on the Tai Phu Stream, 4 miles southeast of Ben Tre. Three troop-laden enemy sampans were detected trying to cross the narrow stream and were destroyed. Sixteen Viet Cong were killed in this action, while Navy casualties consisted of one sailor wounded. Earlier, in a pre-dawn fire fight along the Giao Hoa Canal 5 miles northeast of Ben Tre, the assault craft killed four other Viet Cong when one of the U. S. Navy boats was ambushed with enemy rockets and automatic weapons from the heavily wooded

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canal bank. There were nine Navymen wounded (two serious) in the engagement. Meanwhile, the MRF assault troops killed an additional 25 guerrillas, destroyed 139 bunkers and captured 11,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition, while having 9 Armymen wounded.

In the most significant confrontation of the month, the MRF engaged the Viet Cong in a series of skirmishes about 10 miles west of Can Tho in Phong Dinh Province. During the five-day operation (17-21 June) the enemy left 82 combatants dead while friendly forces had 4 soldiers killed and 38 Armymen and 3 sailors wounded. The MRF units also captured 2 prisoners, 19 weapons and destroyed 39 bunkers.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
June 1968

During the month the Fleet Command had an average of 24.5 ships available and employed an average of 23.4. These ships provided 54 gunfire support missions. At the same time the coastal force had an average of 190 junks available and employed an average of 188 of them. The RAGs utilized an average of 170.1 of an average 175.2 available craft during June. Meanwhile, the six infantry battalions and one artillery battalion of the VNMC, with USMC advisors, were committed to operations 100 percent of the time.

Throughout the month, Task Force A, composed of the 1st, 5th and 6th Infantry Battalions, continued to operate in northeast Saigon in Operation TOAN THANG under the operational control of the Capital Military District. The battalions were bitterly opposed on the 1st and 2nd of June near the Bien Loi Bridge on Route #1 crossing the Saigon River, but emerged victorious with a total of 121 enemy dead and 7 captured in those two days of fighting. Four Marines were killed, one drowned and 15 others were wounded. On 11 June the 2nd Battalion was detached from the Sixth Precinct of Saigon and joined Task Force A, assuming an area of operations near the Newport Bridge on Route #1A in northeast Saigon. The 18th of June found the 1st and 6th Battalions again pitted against an aggressive enemy southwest of the Bien Loi Bridge. Having trapped

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the Viet Cong, the marines repeatedly repulsed their attempts to break the encirclement. The results of the day's operations were:

VNMC		VC/NVA		
KIA	WIA	KIA	VCC	CHIEU HOI
2	19	65	113	2

Task Force B, composed of the 3rd and 4th Infantry Battalions, continued the TRUONG CONG DINH Campaign in IV CTZ under the operational control of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam 21st Division. Small unit patrols characterized the month's activities.

On 10 June the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) took command of 14 specialized U. S. Navy river craft and assumed exclusive military responsibilities that previously were held by U. S. Naval forces. Six of the boats are LCMMs, specially configured landing craft for chain-drag minesweeping. The boats are now commanded, operated and supported by officers and men of the Vietnamese Navy and perform the vital job of clearing mines from the strategic Long Tau River channel to Saigon. The LCMMs have augmented the ten operating Vietnamese Navy MLMSs that have been conducting mine counter-measure operations on the Long Tau and Dong Ngai rivers.

The other eight river craft are PBRs identical to those utilized by Operation GAME WARDEN forces. The newly formed VNN River Patrol Group 51 currently patrols the Long Tau River along with the Task Force 116 units of GAME WARDEN. The Vietnamese Navy PBRs ultimately will join

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other U. S. units on the major rivers of the Delta as important additions to the GAME WARDEN efforts to deny the use of strategic waterways to the enemy and to ensure their safe usage to the citizens of the Republic of Vietnam.

The first full company of Vietnamese Navy recruits (100) left Saigon on 14 June for eight weeks of basic training at the U. S. Naval Recruit Training Center, San Diego, California. Two Vietnamese Navy officers and three chief petty officers accompanied the hand-picked, highly motivated volunteer recruits. Since the Tet Offensive the Vietnamese Navy has been swamped with volunteers and the recruit training centers at Saigon and Nha Be have been overloaded, the recruits spending weeks awaiting training. The recruits selected to attend NRTC San Diego are all high school graduates, speak some English and at least half of them hold 2-year college degrees. Preliminary training in Saigon included drill, seamanship and swimming, and a familiarization course in English. At NRTC San Diego, the recruits receive the same training as American sailors, except for classes which deal with strictly U. S. interests such as history, the U. S. Code of Conduct and military justice. Besides providing a pool of qualified men for possible future training at U. S. Navy schools, their knowledge and understanding of American sailors will enable them to work more closely with their U. S. advisors.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS
June 1968

Psychological and civic action operations continued to be actively pursued during the month. The Viet Cong recognizing the inroads being made by the Naval forces continued to intensify their counter-attacks. Forty-two per cent of the broadcasting missions conducted drew hostile fire. The majority of the incidents occurred in the Delta. In one incident, PBRs and Navy "Seawolves" wounded 18 Viet Cong following an attack on a PBR patrol conducting a "psyop" speaker mission six miles east of Vinh Long. Captured Viet Cong prisoners and Hoi Chanhs frequently stated that in many units troop morale was low due to lack of food and the B-52 bombing raids. The intensification of the Chieu Hoi program was initiated to capitalize on the reported Viet Cong morale problems.

In the field of civic action US/GVN image building continued with over 12,000 VN patients receiving treatment during MEDCAPS conducted by USN and VNN personnel. In one MEDCAP operation, intelligence was received from villagers on the location of two arms caches and one Viet Cong defense platoon in the Binh Dai Secret Zone. During another, villagers provided information of two Viet Cong suppliers. Intelligence sources reported that an increase in Viet Cong pressure on the peninsula east of Qui Nhon was attributed to an active program conducted by VNN CG 22 and USN COSDIV 15. The Viet Cong continued their attempts to counter medical and refugee

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relief and other civic action projects which have resulted in improved relations between USN and VNN personnel and villagers.

On 10 June speeding PBRs medically evacuating a pregnant Vietnamese woman to the hospital lost the race to the stork. The birth of the fourth Vietnamese baby on a PBR was witnessed. On a previous incident, in honor of the PBR sailors there is now one Vietnamese child in the Delta with the middle name of "PBR."

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
June 1968

	MARKET TIME	GAME WARDEN	Mobile Riverine Force
Detections	94,727	119,486	*
Inspections	47,544	31,233	*
Boardings	23,851	51,779	*
Craft detained	*	14	0
Persons detained	1,286	1,062	245
Viet Cong suspects	9	390	*
Hostile fire incidents	30	75	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	47 (78 prob)	89	147
b. Wounded	8 (10 prob)	24	*
c. Captured	2	12	6
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	5	4	0 USN/15 USA
b. Wounded	3	43	24 USN/81 USA
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	101	95	80
(2) Structures	208	221	474
b. Captured			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	0	0
(2) Weapons	*	~~1 CS/1 Ind~~	40**
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	0	19,170
(4) Rice (tons)	*	0	1.4
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	79	136	*
(2) Structures	403	224	*
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	1	1	0
(2) Helicopters	0	0	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	1	9	14
(2) Helicopters	0	9	*
SAR missions	*	*	*

Remarks:
* * Information not applicable or not available this date.
** Includes 14 grenades and 1 mine.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY
June 1968

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	Searched		Detained	
COASTAL FORCE	Junks	People	Junks	People
I NZ	25,740	89,811	9	254
II NZ	24,380	80,793	25	263
III NZ	15,090	43,392	0	0
IV NZ	5,369	19,713	0	0
Sub-totals	70,579	233,709	34	517
FLEET COMMAND PATROL SHIPS	2,217	10,381	16	70
RIVERINE AREA CRAFT	9,435	32,264	0	0
TOTALS	82,231	276,354	50	587

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: KIA 294 VC CAPTURED 182 VC SUSPECTS 8

VNMC: KIA 26 WIA 196

USMC: WIA 1

Remarks:

33 Hoi Chanhs rallied to the GVN during Operation TOAN THANG this month.

this also
E

Enclosure (7)

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years

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DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
June 1968

PROGRAM:

	Man Days	Expenditures (VN$)
Economic Development	33	35,000
Education	47	829,857
Social Welfare	601	1,060,047
Transportation	4	- -
Refugee Assistance Support	73	55,500
TOTAL	758	1,980,404

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: 125,970

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	Number
Schools	21
Hospitals/dispensaries	23
Orphanages	11
Others	3

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

	Percent
Other FWMAF	15.5
RVNAF	37.5
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	16.0
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	69.5

Enclosure (8)

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