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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, November 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT ltr ser 1/6925 of 2 October 1968

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
(9) Operation SEA LORDS Summary

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

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

J. P. RIZZA
Chief of Staff

Copy to:
COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, SJS)
CNO (OP-09B9E)
Director of Naval History ✓

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OPERATION SEA LORDS SUMMARY
November 1968

In mid-October of this year Operation SEA LORDS was conceived and initiated. This operation brought together for the first time in the Vietnamese conflict the three U. S. Naval Task Forces in country. The original objectives of the operation were:

a. The interdiction of Viet Cong infiltration routes from Cambodia along canals from the Bassac to the Gulf of Thailand.

b. Pacification of selected Trans-Delta waterways.

c. Pacification and clearance of the Bassac Islands, namely Tan Dinh and Dung Islands.

d. Harassment of the enemy to keep him off balance.

A large portion of U. S. Naval assets have been continually engaged, frequently in areas that have been under Viet Cong control for years. Thus far the following has been accomplished toward the attainment of these original objectives:

(1) TG 117.2/VNMC Riverine Operations in the Rach Gia, Three Sisters area pacified the areas to the extent that 24-hour PBR/ASPB patrols were initiated on the Rach Gia to Long Xuyen and Cai San canals between the Gulf of Thailand and the Kien Giang/An Giang province boundary. This patrol is influencing GVN officials to continue development along the canals in terms of outpost development, hamlet resettlement, and intensified use of province and VNN boats. A renewed quality of aggressiveness appears to have been instilled in the local RF/PF troops as evidenced by their willingness to conduct ground sweeps rather than remaining close to their base camps.

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(2) On 16 November the Vinh Te canal patrol by PBR's was initiated and within five days of its commencement strong enemy reaction indicated that at least two platoon size elements had been thwarted in their attempted crossings. At the same time PGF patrols were commenced in the Giang Thanh River. Together these patrols are attempting to interdict the infiltration at the Cambodian Border along the Western Delta. SEAL operations have been conducted in coordination with these patrols.

(3) The Cho Gao canal was cleared of sunken obstructions by TG 117.1 and harbor clearance units, opening it to normal traffic.

(4) A PBR blockade was thrown around the islands in the Can Tho crossing corridor and ground sweeps were conducted on Tan Dinh, Cu Lao May, and Cu Lao Nai Islands. This island complex is still under heavy surveillance while a tight blockade has been placed around the Dung Island complex where ground sweeps have been completed.

(5) Since 18 October, CTF 115 has raided Viet Cong areas to keep the enemy off balance. The effectiveness of these operations is evidenced by blockades of logs constructed by Viet Cong in the rivers to stop these raids.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY
November 1968

Coastal activity continued to drop off due to sea and surf conditions along the South China Sea during the Northeast Monsoon. Total detections of junks and sampans fell to 32,655, over 10,000 less than in October. Nearly 75 percent of these detections were checked by 14,386 visual inspections and another 10,000 boardings. As a result of these boardings 391 persons were detained for improper identification, violation of restricted area, possession of contraband and other suspicious activity. A group of seven detainees picked up by PCF 53 on 19 October 30 miles southwest of Vung Tau were classified as prisoners of war during November as a result of interrogation. Also during November there were 1,123 detections of steel-hulled vessels in MARKET TIME areas. All were determined to be on innocent passage as a result of 773 inspections and 40 boardings.

Due to weather conditions the tempo of Task Force 115 naval gunfire activity was down for the first time in several months. The November record for naval gunfire support came to 634 missions including 46 hostile fire incidents, 8 evading craft taken under fire, and more than 40 raids and intelligence probes up rivers and canals. These river incursions in support of Operation SEA LORDS in the IV CTZ were carried out by from two to five "Swift" boats. The PCFs were supported by naval gunfire from off-shore

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patrol units and accounted for approximately two-thirds of the damage and destruction inflicted on the enemy by Task Force 115 during November. Again in connection with Operation SEA LORDS, "Swift" boats relieved Task Force 116 PBR's of river patrol duties in the lower portions of the Ham Luong and Hau Giang rivers in the Mekong Delta. In addition, on 16 November PCF's began routine patrol operations on the Rach Giang Thanh up into the Vinh Te Canal to interdict enemy supply lines from Cambodia and disrupt enemy extortion of Vietnamese river craft.

On the morning of 3 November three PCF's along with VNN Coastal Group 41 units with a Regional Force company embarked carried out a raid up the Ong Doc River, 65 miles south of Rach Gia on the Gulf of Thailand. While PCF 36 remained a few miles from the river mouth to support a Regional Force sweep to the south, PCF 43 and PCF 50 proceeded to a point 10 miles up river to take suspected enemy positions under fire. Sniper fire was received killing the after mount operator of PCF 50. During the operation USS DuPONT (DD 941) and USCGC INGHAM (WHEC 35) provided 5-inch naval gunfire support.

During a naval gunfire mission 7 miles east of Quang Ngai on 7 November enemy recoilless-rifle and small-arms fire were encountered by PCF 70 and PCF 75. Two enemy recoilless-rifle rounds struck PCF 70 causing heavy damage, killing one crewman, wounding three others, and knocking a Marine rider over board. Both craft also received several small arms hits. The Marine lost overboard was not found by the search carried out by PCF 75 and three other

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"Swift" boats which promptly arrived at the scene to assist.

A very successful river incursion was made on the Cua Lon and Bo De rivers at the southern tip of the Ca Mau Peninsula on 11 November. Five PCF's transiting the waterway from east to west were supported by both fixed-wing and helicopter air strikes as well as by naval gunfire from USS WASHOE COUNTY (LST 1165) at the mouth of the Bo De and USCGC INGHAM (WHEC 35) at the exit from the Cua Lon. Light hostile fire was encountered causing no damage or casualties during the six-hour transit. The air support accounted for 59 structures/bunkers/sampans destroyed or heavily damaged plus 7 secondary explosions. The MARKET TIME units destroyed or heavily damaged 248 structures/bunkers/sampans, set off 4 secondaries, and killed one Viet Cong.

These successes apparently prompted the enemy to stiffen his defenses of these areas as heavy hostile fire was encounted on two subsequent river probes. On the 13th while providing support for a VNN Coastal Group 41 operation at the mouth of the Cua Lon PCF 6 and PCF 36 encountered automatic weapons and rocket fire. One B-40 round hit PCF 36 causing moderate damage and wounding one crewman. The enemy lost 20 structures and 24 sampans destroyed. Late on the afternoon of the 24th five PCF's entered the Bo De River prior to the arrival of their air cover and ran into a well prepared enemy ambush from both banks of the river about two miles inland. The "Swift" boats were not able to suppress the heavy enemy fire and cleared the area after destroying two automatic weapons positions and killing an estimated five Viet Cong. Three "Swift" boats were damaged and three crewmen wounded,

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one seriously. Late in November it was discovered that the enemy had installed a series of log barriers or fences across the mouth of the Gua Lon River. These barriers consist of tall poles vertically emplanted in the river bottom at short intervals and strengthened by cross pieces at the top above the waterline. It is presumed that these structures have been erected to prevent CTF 115 PCF's from gaining complete access from the Gulf of Thailand to the South China Sea. Attempts to destroy these barriers have not been successful to date.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
November 1968

GAME WARDEN forces in addition to their normal mission were deeply involved in Operation SEA LORDS with its related Can Tho crossing corridor blockade and sweeps of the Bassac islands, and patrols on the Rach Gia-Long Xuyen and Vinh Te canals. Activity this month was substantially higher than last month. PBRs detected 212,937 watercraft during this reporting period and accounted for 48,715 inspections and 100,364 boardings. The enemy was showing an increased willingness to fight as was clearly evidenced by his attacks on PBRs and his stepped up attacks on merchant ships.

On 3 November, two PBRs on a routine patrol of the upper Bassac River about 20 miles northwest of Long Xuyen came under automatic weapons fire. They returned the fire and saw about 15 Viet Cong running. They pursued them and took them under fire, killing 9, wounding 2 and capturing 4. A half-hour later another section of PBRs keeping the area under surveillance observed a sampan with two occupants set out from the east bank of the river. As the PBRs approached, the sampan tried to evade and ignored five warning shots. The PBRs then took the sampan under fire and probably killed the two occupants. On 4 November, the Vietnamese Navy PBRs relieved U.S. PBRs of Dong Nai River patrol responsibilities.

On 7 November eight PBRs, two "Seawolf" helicopters, one LCPL with 150 PF troops from Phong Thaun SS and the USS HUNTERDON COUNTY attacked an area 12 miles southeast of Can Tho in search of an arms cache. The PFs were directed by three informers. The cache when located contained 5 Mauser

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rifles, 48 hand grenades, 45 rifle grenades, 500 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 15 kilos of documents, 100 photographs, 3,500 rounds of 7.9 ammunition, one foot mine, 2 land mines, one claymore mine and 2 rounds of 81-mm mortar. No friendly casualties occurred. The next day, two PBRs on blockade patrol with Vietnamese LSIL 330 came under heavy automatic-weapons and recoilless-rifle attacks from 13 positions in the same general area as the previous days operation. After four firing runs by the PBRs and two by the LSIL, "Seawolf" helicopters took the entire target area under fire. The PBRs medevaced the seriously wounded from the LSIL to Can Tho. Two relief PBRs then arrived to maintain the blocking forces. There were no U. S. casualties. This attack was determined to be a retaliation strike for the previous day's operation with the LSIL as the primary target.

On 8 November in the Rung Sat Special Zone 14 miles southeast of Saigon, two PBRs came under RPG rocket and automatic weapons fire. The cover boat received two rocket hits on the starboard side wounding three of the personnel. The patrol officer shifted to the cover boat to aid the wounded and had the boats reverse course and make a firing run along the west bank of the small canal. The enemy attack became heavier and an Army LHFT diverted to the scene and a Navy LHFT was scrambled. While directing his patrol through the kill zone that was nearly a kilometer long, the patrol officer, Chief Quartermaster Theodore SMITH was hit by a rocket and died instantly. Chief SMITH has been recommended for the Silver Star Medal for his actions. Two subsequent fixed-wing air strikes were called in to

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complete the attack.

On 15 November SEALs set up an ambush 4 miles southwest of My Tho. Ten Viet Cong were seen in and about the area. The SEALs took them under fire and during the ensuing firefight a Vietnamese civilian guide was killed. "Seawolves" were called in to cover the extraction and the mike boats used for the operation placed 81-mm mortar rounds in the area. Five Viet Cong were killed during this engagement.

On 21 November, two PBRs, components of Operation SEA LORDS, fell into an enemy ambush while transiting from Rach Soi to Rach Gia. One PBR was hit by 3 or 4 B-40 rounds along with automatic weapons fire directed from both banks. The stricken PBR beached and the other boat came alongside to render medical assistance. Both PBRs attempted to suppress the fire during the entire operation. Three additional PBRs, one monitor, three ATCs, and "Seawolves" converged on the area. When the enemy broke contact the damaged PBR was taken in tow and eventually proceeded under its own power to the JENNINGS COUNTY. Five USN casualties were suffered in this encounter.

On 21 November on the Vinh Te Canal, southwest of Chau Doc, two PBRs, participating in Operation SEA LORDS, came under RPG and automatic weapons attack. One PBR was hit by a RPG round starboard-broadside forward. The PBRs attempted to suppress the fire with no success. An ASPB that was patrolling with them and apparently not sighted by the Viet Cong opened up with 20-mm fire and the enemy broke contact. "Seawolves" were sent

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into the area but were unable to place strikes due to lack of identifying marks. Two nights later, the patrol officer who had been ambushed led another patrol through the same area. The enemy opened fire on the boats from both banks of the canal. "Seawolves" placed a strike on the ambush area and a ready reaction force was scrambled from the Vietnamese special forces camp. The PBRs and ASPB cleared the ambush area and reversed course to go back through the area with the "Seawolves" overhead. Again the enemy attacked. This time each of the surface craft were hit by B-40 rockets. The patrol cleared the kill zone and medevaced the eight wounded to Vinh Gia. The patrol officer, Lieutenant Jack BERKEBILE, USN, was killed during the encounter. He has been nominated for the Silver Star Medal for his actions.

On 24 November while on normal patrol on the upper Mekong River, about 4 miles east of Sa Dec, two PBRs came under moderate automatic weapons fire. They reversed course to engage the enemy. At this point the patrol came under intense rocket and automatic-weapons fire from at least 15 to 20 positions. Two B-40 rounds hit the lead boat and both PBRs received numerous hits from automatic weapons. Several B-40 rounds narrowly missed both boats. The lead boat was beached to prevent it from sinking and the cover boat went alongside to evacuate two seriously wounded crewmen. At the same time 13 PBRs and two "Seawolf" helicopters were scrambled to provide cover for the damaged boats and destroy the enemy. First re-inforcements to arrive rescued the three remaining crewmen of the beached boat. The

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helos placed several strikes on the area while attempts were made to refloat the beached boat. During the salvage operation, two mortar rounds impacted close by. The helo pilots spotted the enemy mortar position and destroyed it. All 11 crewmen of the original patrol were wounded. The beached boat was later brought to Vinh Long.

On 27 November, GAME WARDEN forces suffered their third and final fatality of the month. Two PBRs on patrol of the Rach Gia-Long Xuyen Canal, as part of Operation SEA LORDS, came under B-40 rocket and heavy automatic-weapons fire about 8 miles northeast of Rach Gia. Both boats were hit by B-40 rockets, one of the boats beached. Additional PBRs and an ASPB were dispatched to the scene and suppressed the fire. Six other USN personnel were wounded in the attack.

Attacks on merchant shipping in the channels to Saigon were up appreciably. Five attacks were made this month as opposed to the one made in October. On 1 November the ammunition ship SS SIOUX FALLS VICTORY came under rocket and automatic-weapons fire 12 miles southwest of Saigon. The ship was not hit in the attack and suffered no casualties. PBRs in the area rushed to the scene and took the enemy firing positions under fire. Navy "Seawolf" helos scrambled from Nha Be and joined the attack. After expending their ammunition they were relieved by an Army LHFT. Damage to the enemy was unknown. On 5 November, the SS PRESIDENT JEFFERSON came under recoilless-rifle attack in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The attack caused swift retaliation by GAME WARDEN forces and VNN and RF

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forces. On 13 November SS FRED MORRIS received a RPG round on the starboard side forward of Number One hatch, causing a fire. The ship cleared the channel and continued to Vung Tau. PBRs and LHFT made repeated firing runs on the enemy position receiving no return fire. Regional Force Quick-kill troops put in to make a sweep of the area but made no contact. On 14 November, the merchant ship TRANSGLOBE came under rocket attack 10 miles southeast of Saigon. The rocket, estimated to be 107-mm, fell short. PBRs raked the area, Army LHFT placed strikes followed a fixed-wing attack. Regional Force troops were inserted to conduct a sweep but made no contact. There were no friendly casualties. The last merchant ship attack took place on 18 November when the English tanker HALIA was attacked by B-40 rockets and automatic-weapons fire. The ship sustained a minor hole in the after deck house. Two PBRs, 100 yards astern of the tanker, suppressed the enemy fire. A Navy LHFT airborne at the time joined the fight. Vietnamese Quick-kill troops were inserted and made a sweep of the area. The troops found one B-40 round and blood trails but no enemy personnel were sighted.

Prevention of minings continued to be the order of the day. On 16 and 18 November, insulated conductor wire was discovered in retrieved sweep gear. On 18 November, a crewman of an ATC moored at Nha Be Naval Base heard a blowing noise in the water and sighted a man in the water with what appeared to be scuba equipment. The crew member threw two concussion grenades in the water immediately. A subsequent search by the harbor patrol and anti-swimmer patrol produced negative results.

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A routine search of a water taxi uncovered two women with an excessive amount of medicine in their possession. The women claimed they were taking the medicine to their homes. Included in the confiscated medicine was 30 bottles of streptomycine, 16 bottles of penicillin, 60 ampules of glucose and assorted other pills. The two women and medicine were turned over to the National Police at Vinh Long.

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MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

In the devastating attack on the USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST1167) at 0323 on 1 November, the U. S. Navy suffered the heaviest loss of life to enemy action in a single incident, of the Vietnam war. Eighteen U. S. Navy men died in the attack. In addition five U. S. Army, one Vietnamese Navy and one Vietnamese Army "Tiger Scout" were killed. Seven of the 24 Navy wounded required medical evacuation. Three U. S. Army personnel were also wounded.

After offloading all troops, River Assault Squadron personnel, and their equipment, the WESTCHESTER COUNTY was beached in Dong Tan harbor on 4 November in order to accomplish temporary repairs to make her seaworthy. Just ten days later, on 14 November, the ship got underway - testimony to the professionalism and hard work of the Navy men from the several different units who cooperated in getting the repairs completed expeditiously. WESTCHESTER COUNTY arrived at Yokosuka, Japan, her home port, on 26 November.

The MRF continued the pattern of operations which began with the reorganization of the MRF on 15 October, with MRD ALFA operating in the eastern Delta and MRD BRAVO to the west. Of the five River Assault Divisions assigned to MRD ALFA, RAD 91 supported the THIRD Battalion Vietnamese Marine Corps in operations in Kien Hoa Province; RAD 92 was assigned Base Defense duties; RAD 111 supported the 3/34th Artillery Battalion of the Ninth Division; RAD 112 operated with the U. S. 3/60th Inf. Bn. in Kien Hoa Province; and RAD 151 continued to work with the 3/39th Inf. Bn. in eastern Long An Province, operating out of the Navy base at Nha Be. Of the three remaining divisions which were

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assigned to MKD BRAVO, RAD 131 provided for Base Defense, RAD 132 supported SPA EDGE interdiction operations, and RAD 152 supported the FOURTH Battalion Vietnamese Marine Corps. The Riverine Assault Craft also supported other troop units in particular operations during the month.

River Assault Division 151 provided boat support to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team and Harbor Clearance Unit personnel during the period 1-6 November for salvage clearance operations on the Cho Gao Canal. Four sunken barges had been partially blocking the canal. During the operation 1520 pounds of explosives were used in twelve detonations. A survey following the successful operation indicated a minimum depth of six feet over the former obstructions.

Early on the morning of 3 November operation DELTA RAIDER began when RAD 112 got underway with troops of the 3/60th Inf. Bn. and RAD 91 loaded elements of the 3rd VNMC for multiple riverine and air mobile insertions designed to locate and engage units of the Viet Cong 516th Main Force Battalion and several Viet Cong Local Force Companies which were operating in Kien Hoa Province. The operation lasted until 10 November, netting more than 100 Viet Cong Killed. On the last day of the operation RAD 91 was ambushed twice while transferring Vietnamese Marines from the Ben Tre River to assault landings on the Ong Ruong Stream. In the first ambush two monitors were hit as about 30 rounds of recoilless-rifle fire, with small arms and automatic weapons fire, were directed at the craft. One Navy gunner was killed on M-91-2 and three were wounded. Z-92-11 took a rocket hit in the second ambush but there were no personnel casualties

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Enemy swimmer/sappers again struck the MRF the night of 15 November. The Light Lift Craft FOUR (YLLC-4), an LCU converted to salvage work by the addition of a large boom and miscellaneous salvage and diving equipment, was mined and sunk while at anchor on the Ham Luong River near the entrance to the Ben Tre River. Two explosions within seconds of each other were observed and the craft sank by the stern almost immediately. Two sailors were killed and 13 were wounded, including 4 crewmen of R-92-2 which was moored alongside. Investigation by Task Force 117 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team personnel revealed one large hole along the port side about 15-feet long and extending around the stern of the craft. Command detonating wire and other implements of mining were discovered on further searching. Almost immediately the YLLC-2 was sailed to the scene and the craft was carefully surveyed to determine the feasibility and method of salvaging it. Because of the severe damage to YLLC-4 and the hazardous location, Commander Service Group THREE recommended that the Medium Lift Craft (YMLC) not be risked in an uneconomical salvage effort. COMNAVFORV directed the destruction of YLLC-4 to eliminate it as a navigational hazard. Detonation of demolition explosives and the total destruction and clearance of YLLC-4 took place on 26 November.

On the evening of 1 November Task Group 117.2 joined with units of Task Force 115 and 116 in the first combined operation in the Delta. Under the operational control of Commander Task Group 194.0 (FIRST SEA LORD), the assault operation was launched into Kien Giang Province to stop the flow of men and equipment across the Cambodian border southeastward into the Delta.

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Task Group 117.2 provided troop lift and close support for the FOURTH Battalion Vietnamese Marine Corps, while conducting riverine strike operations, and also conducted interdiction operations to prevent the flow of Viet Cong supplies through the area. Mobile Riverine Base BRAVO relocated to the vicinity of Long Xuyen on 2 November to enhance support. The River Assault Craft met with several ambushes along the Rach Gia - Long Xuyen Canal during the operation. The first phase of the operation, the assault phase, ended on 6 November, while the interdiction phase continued.

As part of the same general SEA LORD operation, Task Group 117.2 supported reconnaissance-in-force operations in the Soc Son area of Kien Giang Province from 9 through 11 November, using the Ha Tien - Rach Gia and the Tri Ton Canals to transport the troops into the area of operations about 20 miles north northwest of Rach Gia. This was followed by operations from 12 to 14 November in the "Three Sisters" area about 10 miles northwest of Rach Gia. During the operation nine rounds of 105-mm were fired from a monitor indirect at a range of about 3½ miles. The rounds were spotted by an Army artillery officer and achieved an accuracy of about 30-60 yards after the initial spotting round. The firing was done while the monitor was beached on the Tri Ton Canal. Lacking a fire-control computer three reference points were used: a stake on the craft's bow, an aiming stake about 25 feet from the shoreline, and an open sight positioned just forward of the coxswain's flat. With the bow as the pivot point, the crew maneuvered the monitor to keep the reference points in line with the sight. On the 14th the troops were backloaded and returned to Rach Gia.

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From 16 to 21 November River Assault Craft of Task Group 117.2 shifted their area of operations to an area about 25 miles south southeast of Rach Gia. After landing the Fourth Bn. VNMC the craft set up interdiction patrols in the surrounding waterways. Later, on 25 November, RAS 13 loaded ARVN troops at Can Tho and then proceeded down the Bassac River to conduct riverine assault operations on the Dung Island complex. While the troops searched for Viet Cong ashore t he RAC joined PBR's in blockading the islands. The operation enod on 29 November, the same day that River Assault Division 151 concluded its lengthy operations at Nha Be and rejoined MRG BRAVO.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
November 1968

On 4 November, the VNN River Patrol Group (RPG) 51 PBR's assumed total responsibility for patrolling the Dong Nai River. This relieved U. S. PBR's of TF 116 of waterway denial operations in the Capitol Military District (CMD) and released them for redeployment to the RSSZ and the Delta. The 12 PBR's of RPG 51 now provide two day and three night patrols on this strategicially located and important river east of Saigon. U. S. Navy enlisted advisors ride the VNN PBR's which this month commenced amphibious operations with SEAL, LDNN and ARVN troops embarked. Night raids and ambushes were conducted throughout the month as the PBR's supported the landed troops in gunfire support and river blocking operations. Psychological operations (Tapes and leaflet drops) were conducted during the normal patrols in addition to routine search and inspection activities.

On 6 November, while conducting a probe of the Cai Lon River, 10 miles south of Rach Gia City during a SEA LORDS operation, three Coastal Group 44 junks were attacked by B-40, recoilless-rifle and small arms fire. Three VNN sailors were killed and seven others wounded, including the U. S. Navy enlisted advisor. This ambush took place in an area where a SEA LORDS PCF had just received and suppressed enemy fire.

On 8 November, LSIL 30 was ambushed by B-41 and 75-mm recoilless-rifle fire from the south bank of the Bassac River near Cu Lao Nai Island. The ambush was immediately followed by automatic weapons fire from both banks

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of the river. The ship reversed course, returned to the area and layed down heavy reconnaissance fire. "Seawolves" were called in for follow-up strikes and medevac PBR's rushed in to on-load the seven VNN sailors who were injured in the opening volley. This incident served as a prelude to the Can Tho Crossing Corridor Campaign which began on 11 November.

A river craft team of RAG 25/29 Ca Mau detachment was mined on 10 November, resulting in one monitor, one LCM and one LCVP damaged and seven VNN sailors and one PF soldier wounded. These craft had been conducting salvage operations on the damaged boats from the previous mining incident in the same area on 20 October.

VNN RAG units participated in the naval blockade of the Can Tho Crossing Corridor from 11 to 29 November. In concert with TF 116 PBR's, RAG'S 21/33, 23/31 and 25/29 conducted blocking and search operations around Cu Lao May, Cu Lao Rai and Tan Binh islands to deny the enemy a commo-liason route from the lower Delta to upper IV CTZ and III Corps. Amphibious operations were pursued as ARVN 9th and 21st Infantry Division and ARVN Rangers were transported, landed and extracted by RAG craft during sweeps of the islands throughout the period of the campaign.

Until 12 November when RAG 26 relieved them, RAG 29 units were employed out of Long Xuyen to the Soc Son area of Kien Giang Province. The SEA LORDS operation was conducted in the Ha Tien-Rach Gia canals area by TF 117 elements while the RAG craft lifted the VNMC 4th Infantry Battalion and Artillery units.

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Formerly organized as a brigade, the VNMC was redesignated a division on 1 October and was comprised of 2 Marine brigades. Brigade A operated in III CTZ under the operational control of the 18th ARVN Infantry Division until 27 November for Operation TOAN THANG, on which day the operational control of the brigade went to the 25th ARVN Infantry Division. The brigade, which was comprised of the 1st and 2nd Infantry battalions from 1 to 9 November when the 6th Battalion joined it, performed local unit operations throughout the month and met with no significant enemy contact. Until 9 November, the 6th Infantry Battalion operated independently near Duc Hoa under the operational control of the 18th ARVN Division with no major enemy contact. On 23 November, 25 Marines of the 6th Battalion were evacuated with the initial diagnosis of malaria.

Brigade B was comprised of the 4th Infantry Battalion and participated in Operation SEA LORDS under the operational control of the 21st ARVN Division in coordination with the Mobile Riverine Force near Rach Gia, IV CTZ. The brigade was engaged primarily in reconnaissance-in-force operations with only minor enemy contact this month. Several caches of essential enemy supplies and equipment were uncovered during the operations.

The 3rd Infantry Battalion operated with the MRF in the My Tho area under the operational control of the 7th ARVN Division. The Marines performed reconnaissance-in-force operations with no significant enemy engagement.

The 5th Infantry Battalion was engaged in operations in Tay Ninh Province under the operational control of the 25th U. S. Infantry Division in close coordination with the U. S. 1st Air Cavalry Division. Despite a significant

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number of enemy war arms and material captured and/or destroyed, the Marines reported negligible enemy contact this month.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS
November 1968

Psychological operations had new fields to exploit this month. OperationsSEA LORDS campaigns provided creditability to the psyops them that allied forces can go anywhere in South Vietnam and that no area was safe for the Viet Cong. Another theme was exxplanation of the bombing halt in the north; it was imperative that the loyal people of the country realize that the aim of the U. S. policy was a conclusion of a just and honorable settlement of the Vietnamese conflict by negotiation and that we were not forsaking our South Vietnamese allies. It was also necessary to have the people understand that the bombing halt was not unconditional. The North Vietnamese had stated that they would never negotiate while the bombing was going on and would never recognize the South Vietnamese government as a separate entity at the peace talks. However, after avowing it would never do these things, the Hanoi government agreed in reality to do both of these actions. The third important theme of the month was the new Paris peace talks with the government of Vietnam attending. This required that the people understand that Hanoi has been forced by GVN/Allied successes on the battlefield and overwhelming popular support of the Vietnamese people to agree to negotiate with the GVN at the conference table. The GVN enters the new talks with the goal of a just, secure and guaranteed peace in Vietnam and that the GVN will not only play a leading role in the new meetings but will take the lead and be the main spokesman on all matters which are

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of principal concern to South Vietnam. The treatment of the bombing halt and Paris Pease Talks was in consonance with MACV/JUSPAO guidance. The three foregoing themese easily dovetailed into the persistent theme that now was the time for all those who had not done so rally to the government of South Vietnam. Twenty-one Hoi Chanhs rallied to naval forces during the period. There are also indications tatt the Chieu Hoi rate in the delta is increasing since the start of Operation SEA LORDS. SEA LORDS is also instrumental in an accelerated pacification program in the delta area.

In the field of civic action 46 MEDCAPs were held and 7,002 personnel were treated. One MEDCAP was held on 12 November in Binh Dai District to mark the official opening of a new hamlet in an area that was considered to be under Viet Cong control unitl 6 November. The MEDCAP was highly successful and the district chief requested that MEDCAP teams return for the scheduled opening of two more hamlets in the near future. In another area U. S. Naval Support Activity Detachment, Qui Nhon, contributed the building materials and tools necessary for the construction of an outdoor all-weather TV theater at the hamlet of Hai Khau. The Vietnamese Naval Repair Facility build the theater and the Vietnamese information service provided the TV. The first night's showing of Vietnamese programs on 20 November was witnessed by a standing room only crowd.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
November 1968

	MARKET TIME	GAME WARDEN	Mobile Riverine Force
Detections	33,778	212,937	*
Inspections	15,159	48,715	1,826
Boardings	10,040	100,364	*
Craft detained	*	7	*
Persons detained	391	1,413	418
Viet Cong suspects	14	79	*
Hostile fire incidents	46	*	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	31(BC)+23(EST)	46(BC)82(PROB)	334
b. Wounded	14(BC)+10(EST)	5(BC) 9(PROB)	*
c. Captured	8**	20	317
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	5***	3	22 USN/11 USA/1 VNN/1 NVA/3 VNMC
b. Wounded	11***	42	63 USN/40 USA/1 VNN/50 VNMC
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	1****	0	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	465	126	28
(2) Structures	520	135	977
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	4	2	1
(2) Weapons	*	*****	1,413*****
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	*****	28,720******
(4) Rice (tons)	*	*	5½ tons
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	294	126	*
(2) Structures	786	241	35
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	0	1 (YLLC-4)
(2) Helicopters	0	0	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	66	10	7
(2) Helicopters	0	2	*
SAR missions	*	*	*

Remarks:
- * Information not applicable or not available this date.
- ** Includes 7 October detainees classified as Viet Cong.
- *** Includes 3 USN KIA and 1 USN WIA by ordnance accident during NGFS.
- **** 1 USMC riding PCF lost when craft hit by rocket.
- ***** 3 AK-47, 1 M-1 CAR, misc. small arms ammo, footmines and grenades.
- ****** Includes 1,265 grenades and 93 mines.
- ******* Includes 620 rocket/mortar/recoilless-rifle rounds.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY
November 1966

VIETNAMESE NAVY

COASTAL FORCE	Daily Average Operational	Daily Average Employed	Searched Junk	Searched People	Detained Junks	Detained People
I NZ	34.2	33.9	17,461	56,320	15	166
II NZ	50.9	49.0	20,207	59,268	17	123
III NZ	48.4	47.2	11,779	40,138	1	51
IV NZ	63.2	63.2	7,390	27,423	0	7
		Sub-totals	56,857	183,149	33	347
*FLEET COMMAND PATROL SHIPS	44.3	34.6	2,833	13,000	6	61
RIVERINE AREA CRAFT	131.8	130.4	8,559	28,745	0	31
#GENERAL RESERVE FORCE	46.5	42.9	7,890	17,531	1	13
			76,139	242,425	40	452

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

VC/NVA: KIA 59 Captured 25 Suspects detained 112

Chieu Hoi 1

VNMC: KIA 9 WIA 128

* Provided 53 gunfire support missions.

\# Includes RAG 27, RTBO and RPG 51.

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
November 1968

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN DAYS PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: 3,931

COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: VN$ 4,689,512

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: VN$ 508,469

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

	Percent
Other FWMAF	4.6
RVNAF	6.9
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	3.8
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	36.2

PROGRAMS

	Man Days	Expenditures (VN$)
Economic Development	685	488,599
Education	504	1,573,104
Social Welfare	2,234	1,760,221
Transportation	366	261,635
Refugee	142	833,388

INSTITUTES ASSISTED

	Number
Schools	65
Hospitals/dispensaries	26
Orphanages	33
Others	141

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