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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, September 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 September's Historical Supplement.

H. "J" KERR, JR
Flag Secretary

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

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY
September 1968

Although hampered by rough seas and bad weather during the early part of the month, MARKET TIME units maintained a high level of activity during September. Enemy positions and installations along the coast were taken under fire at every opportunity. Participation in ground sweeps with blocking patrols and naval gunfire support became more frequent as liaison with forces ashore continued to improve. Surveillance operations resulted in a total of 77,058 detections of junks and sampans. Patrols inspected 35,180 of these craft and boarded another 16,633. A total of 779 persons were detained from the craft boarded due to improper papers, repeated violation of fishing restrictions, or suspicious activity. In addition, the surveillance units made 1,138 detections of steel-hulled vessels in MARKET TIME areas during September. A total of 728 inspections and 52 boardings found all to be on innocent passage.

During one 24-hour period of poor weather when "Swift" boats were unable to remain on some patrol stations, PCF 21 earned special recognition. While operating in extremely poor weather PCF 21 engaged four evading sampans, sinking one, killing three of the evaders and probably killing two others with her accurate mortar and machine-gun fire. Overall during the month MARKET TIME units carried out 794 naval gunfire missions and participated in 40 ground operations. Included in the total number of missions are 39 cases of evading craft taken under fire and 13 instances

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of hostile fire suppression. Good targets for the 5-inch and 3-inch guns of the offshore patrol units were not as numerous as in previous months resulting in a slight decrease in the total damage and casualties inflicted upon the enemy.

The only casualty due to enemy fire was received on the afternoon of 9 September. As PCF 96 closed the shoreline 18 miles southwest of Tan An for a harassment and interdiction mission heavy automatic weapons and recoilless rifle fire was received. The fire was returned killing an estimated five of the enemy as the "Swift" boat cleared the area. One crewman died of wounds received in the action.

On 9 September USCGC POINT YOUNG sighted a sampan displaying a Viet Cong flag attempting to evade near the mouth of the Bassac River. The sampan was stopped by warning shots from the cutter. The three occupants of the craft, two men and a woman, were detained as probable Viet Cong.

Also, on the 9th three MARKET TIME units took part in a combined operation against an estimated Viet Cong company on Phu Quoc Island. With USCGC BIBB (WHEC 31) on station to the west of the island, USCGC POINT BANKS and USCGC POINT PARTRIDGE along with South Vietnamese Navy gunboats and junks landed Regional Force troops in an amphibious landing on the eastern shore about 10 miles north of An Thoi. The cutters provided naval gunfire support prior to the landing and throughout the day. When contact was made with a group of about 30 enemy troops POINT PARTRIDGE was able to provide immediate support with mortar fire killing at least two of the enemy plus an estimated

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two others and destroying three bunkers. Heavy blood trails were found and the Viet Cong were seen carrying men from the area. In addition, the operation netted a total of ten enemy captured in action.

On 13 September the cutter BIBB inflicted heavy damage on enemy supply areas 65 miles south-southwest of Rach Gia. Firing nearly 300 rounds against six targets using an airborne spotter the following results were recorded: 8 structures and 7 sampans destroyed; 21 structures and 16 sampans damaged; 6 Viet Cong killed; plus an estimated 20 Viet Cong wounded.

During the afternoon of 17 September, USCGC POINT GREY, PCF 97 and PCF 45 took part in an action which resulted in six Viet Cong killed, two additional probable kills, one structure destroyed and another damaged, and the capture of six rucksacks containing grenades, a mine, military equipment and clothing, and papers of intelligence value. An Army sweep had chased a group of Viet Cong to an area near the coast 13 miles south of Phan Rang. All three MARKET TIME units took the area under fire with mortars and .50 caliber machine guns at the request of the Army unit commander on board PCF 97. The captured material was discovered during a search of the target area by ground units.

On Phu Quoc Island an ambush of Regional Force troops on the 20th brought a rapid and deadly response from nearby MARKET TIME patrol craft. The troops, ambushed five miles south of Duong Dong, called USCGC POINT CYPRESS and the Vietnamese Navy MSC 116 for support in escaping the Viet Cong trap. Heavy mortar and machine-gun fire was directed into the

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enemy positions, leaving 8 dead and at least 14 wounded. During the action USCGC POINT HUDSON, USCGC POINT KENNEDY, PCF 50, and PCF 3 also arrived on the scene and joined in the gunfire support. Small boats from the cutters also assisted in the evacuation of wounded Regional Force troops.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
September 1968

GAME WARDEN forces continued to make their presence known on the inland waterways of the Delta as they pressed their attacks against enemy force and tax collectors depriving them of complete freedom of movement. PBR's detected over 169,500 water craft, inspected over 37,800 and boarded over 73,800. Enemy harrassment continued as the Viet Cong ambushed PBR patrols and merchant ships in hit and run attacks. The number of attacks against merchant ships was down considerably from last month with only three enemy initiated attacks being made, each without scoring a hit. SEAL's were active conducting operations against the enemy that continued to fade into the country side following any encounters with allied forces. Significant of the SEAL's activity were a series of three highly successful interrelated operations over a four day period (15-18 September). Timely reaction to current intelligence resulted in the capture and exploitation of POW's which in turn led to the recovery of a significant amount of Viet Cong war material. Included were six crew-served weapons, seven individual weapons, numerous B-40/B-41 rockets, hand grenades, mortar and small arms ammo, associated ordnance equipment and valuable intelligence documents. The SEAL's also operated in the Qui Nhon peninsula area for a two week period with highly profitable results. Captured were over 10 pounds of highly classified Viet Cong documents revealing Viet Cong plans of pending attacks and Viet Cong

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infrastructure in the Qui Nhon area. During an ambush on 19 September the SEAL's thwarted a planned mortar attack on Qui Nhon when they engaged a Viet Cong mortar squad enroute to the city. Eight Viet Cong were probably killed in the encounter.

On 1 September, 10 miles north of Chau Doc, a PBR was hit by a B-40 rocket killing one crewman and wounding three others. The same day a PBR operating on the Cua Viet River in I CTZ was also hit by a B-40 rocket killing one sailor and wounding another.

On 4 September, 14 miles northwest of Sa Dec on the Mekong River, the merchant ship HEAVEN DRAGON sustained three near misses of B-40 rockets. PBR quick reaction against the enemy firing position killed two Viet Cong, broke up the intended ambush of the five ship convoy. On the Long Tau shipping channel two attacks occurred on the 7th and 17th of September when the SS SEA TRAIN TEXAS and SS KALYDON respectively, came under attack. PBR and helicopter gunship reaction once again thwarted the enemy.

On 12 September, however, the communist aggressors proved more successful in an attack on a GAME WARDEN support LST. At 1815 USS HUNTERDON COUNTY while enroute up the Ham Luong River was ambushed from both sides of the river 5 miles south of Ben Tre. The enemy directed heavy recoilless-rifle fire and B-40 rockets against the ship. The LST countered with her organic ordnance and cleared the area. PBR's and Navy Seawolves hit the enemy firing positions with unknown results. Two Navymen on the LST were killed and 25 wounded in the hail of gunfire. One ten ton boom, one PBR and one

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LCVP were damaged. Two days later YFR 866 was hit by six rockets or recoilless-rifle rounds, 4 miles north of Vinh Long on the Mekong River, wounding six crewmen. PBR's and Navy armed helos suppressed the heavy enemy fire in a counter-attack. On 18 September a PBR patrol operating near the scene of the LST incident was ambushed by recoilless-rifle and automatic weapons fire. PBR 153 received one directed hit from a recoilless-rifle killing the coxswain immediately and wounding three other crewmen. Seawolves, PBR's and CTF 117 units responded to and suppressed the enemy fire.

On 30 September, acting on info that Viet Cong Tax Colectors were operating 15 miles southeast of Vinh Long on the Co Chien River, PBR sailors and VN Maritime Police boarded a civilian junk proceeding to the area. When the junk was hailed by the Viet Cong, the junk turned to the shore. When the collectors came out into the open the trap was sprung and four Viet Cong were killed in the fusilade. Recovered were documents, tax receipts and money. Found in one document was a notation that tax collecting was made more difficult by the presence of PBR's. The receipt book showed that 966,400 piasters had been collected during the period 1 April - 31 August 1968.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
September 1968

Ambushes of the riverine assault craft were all too frequent during the month. On the evening of 6 September Task Unit Starlight landed Army elements on the banks of Dua Stream. While returning to their night position the boats were ambushed with rocket and automatic weapons fire from the south bank of the stream, 3 miles east of Can Giuoc, wounding 11 Navymen. Six of the wounded required helicopter evacuation. A subsequent search of the area indicated that 10 Viet Cong were involved in the ambush.

While proceeding southward along the Ben Tre River to land 4/47th Infantry Battalion troops for operations in Truc Giang and Giong Trom districts of Kien Hoa Province on 15 September RAD 111 was hit with automatic weapons and rocket fire from the west bank 5½ miles southeast of Ben Tre. At 1110 the fire was returned and suppressed as the assault craft pressed on and landed the troops over the designated beaches ½ mile further to the south. Fifteen Navymen were wounded and one monitor damaged in the fight. The infantrymen swept the area but found no Viet Cong. Later in the afternoon, after backloading troops, the same division again was ambushed from the west bank of the river about one mile south of the earlier ambush. In the second ambush return fire was light because of the many civilians in the area. The assault craft cleared the ambush area and continued to a new landing site.

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RAD 111 was again attacked on the Ben Tre River on the 16th; at 1053 from the east bank 6 miles southeast of Ben Tre, and at 1127 from both banks 2 miles east of Ben Tre. A mortar attack at the junction of the Ben Tre River and the Chei Say Canal accompanied the second attack. Three Navymen were wounded during the day and two ATC's were damaged.

On the next day, 17 September, RAD 111 was fired upon for the fifth time on the Ben Tre River, this time from the south bank one mile east of Ben Tre. Only one recoilless-rifle round was fired at the assault craft and the fire was not returned because it came from a populated area. There were no casualties.

On the same day units of RAD 92 went to the assistance of GAME WARDEN PBR's on the Ham Luong River. On arrival the assault craft received recoilless-rifle, automatic weapons and small arms fire from the west bank of the river, 3 miles east of Mo Cay. The fire was suppressed. One Navyman was wounded as a result of a "cookoff" on a 40-mm gun.

At 0900 on 22 September RAD 131 was ambushed while landing 6/31st Infantry Division troops on the Ba Rai Stream 3 miles east of Cai Be. The Viet Cong fired automatic weapons and rockets from both banks. Riverine assault craft fired all weapons, including flame, suppressing the enemy fire. Nine Navymen were wounded.

On 24 September at 0825 RAD 111 received three rockets and small arms fire from the south bank of the Ben Tre River near the eastern edge of Ben Tre, while escorting an Army LCU and LCM-8 with supplies for FSPB DAVID

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3 miles east of Ben Tre. There were no casualties. After delivering the supplies the craft were returning to the Mobile Riverine Base (MRB) when, at 1305, they were again ambushed from the south bank 2 miles east of Ben Tre by small arms, recoilless rifle and mortar fire. Two Navy and three Armymen were wounded. The assault craft suppressed the fire and proceeded on their way.

At 0140 on the 26th an artillery barge at FSPB DAVID was hit by a water mine, killing two Armymen and wounding eight. One man was missing in connection with the explosion which blew an 8- by 10-foot hole through the deck of the personnel compartment. The sapper/swimmer capability of the Viet Cong was amply demonstrated by the incident.

Three more ambushes occurred during the month but without serious damage or casualties. Of greater consequence was the partial disabling of USS MERCER (APB39), flagship of CTG 117.2, as a result of her dragging anchor and colliding with USS SATYR (ARL23) about 2300 on 11 September. The ships were located with MRG BRAVO at the junction of the Vam Co and Rap rivers. As she attempted to pull away from SATYR, the starboard screw of MERCER fouled in the port anchor chain of SATYR and severed the chain. About 45 fathoms of anchor chain with the port anchor still attached, wrapped around the shaft demolishing the screw and seizing the shaft. The anchor and most of the chain was cut free by divers the following day and the remaining three turns of chains were removed on the 13th. Upon removal of the chain it was determined that the shaft was heavily scored, requiring

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replacement. On the 14th the flag shifted to USS VERNON COUNTY (LST1161) and MERCER proceeded to Vung Tau, sailing from there on the 16th to Ship Repair Facility, Subic for repairs. Fortunately the employment of 9th Infantry Division assets was such that the temporary loss of MERCER did not have a seriously adverse effect on MRF operations.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
September 1968

Vietnamese Navy units, advised by U.S. Navy officers and men, hit the enemy hard this month. Large scale joint and combined operations in which the VNN forces played vital roles this month included LAM SON 260 in I CTZ, the TOAN THANG series in III CTZ and the Capital Military District (CMD), and the QUYET CHIEN Campaign in IV CTZ. In addition, waterway denial and amphibious operations were conducted near the capital city of Saigon by VNN River Patrol Group (RPG) 51 and RAG 30.

Coastal Group 12 and 13 units were employed in the massive LAM SON 260 operations which scourged the Vinh Loc Peninsula, east of Hue in I CTZ. Land sweeps by ARVN, RF/PF and USMC elements were supported by Task Force CLEARWATER PBRs and MARKET TIME PCFs as well as the U. S. Navy advised coastal groups. The operation, 11-20 September, accounted for 72 enemy soldiers killed, 21 of which were credited to the VNN sailors. The sailors also captured 30 Viet Cong and 6 other enemy suspects. An additional 444 Viet Cong and 78 suspects were reported captured by the allied forces. Friendly casualties were light; one ARVN killed and 9 wounded.

In III CTZ the TOAN THANG series of operations was rigorously pursued throughout the month. The ARVN amphibious operations utilized the 3rd Riverine RAGs of the VNN for mobility, river blocking and fire support. It is estimated that by month's end 37 enemy were killed, 8 others were

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captured and 2 Hoi Chanhs were received in these operations. Similarly, the QUYET CHIEN Campaign was conducted in IV CTZ by ARVN and VNN units. The RAGs as well as the 4th CTZ coastal groups participated in these operations which netted at month's end at least 384 enemy killed and 51 captured.

RAG 30 and RPG 51 river craft engaged the enemy on three significant occasions this month in dramatic actions very near Saigon. The RAG 30 boats transported ARVN elements 6 miles southwest of Saigon on the Ben Luc Canal on 4 September. The U. S. advisor reported that 6 Viet Cong were killed during the land sweep and 6 prisoners were taken, one of which stated there were 100 Viet Cong in the area. Several weapons, mortar rounds and a B-41 launchere were also uncovered. On 28 September 4 more of the enemy were killed and 11 were captured plus 3 B-40 launchers, several other weapons and 4 detainees. Finally, in response to a U. S. Army report of swimmers in the area on 27 September, an RPG 51 PBR sped to the scene approximately 10 miles east of Saigon on the Dong Nai River. The west bank was searched and the VNN sailors captured 4 Viet Cong and killed 2 others who attempted to evade. One sailor was wounded when a Viet Cong opened fire on him after feigning surrender. The wounded sailor killed his adversary.

The six infantry battalions and one artillery battalion of the VNMC were employed in operations in defense of the CMD, in Operation TOAN THANG in III CTZ and IV CTZ. Task Force A, composed of the 5th and 6th Infantry battalions until 28 September when the 3rd and 4th battalions relieved them,

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operated under the control of the 21st ARVN Infantry Division in IV CTZ. There was no major enemy contact in this area other than sporadic contact, sniper fire and extensive mines and booby traps.

Task Force B was initially composed of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Infantry battalions and operated in the CMD during Operation TOAN THANG. The 1st Battalion was detached from the task force on 6 September and was assigned to the 25th ARVN Infantry Division in III CTZ. On 21 September the battalion was helo-lifted to Phuoc Thanh in Phuoc Long Province to reinforce a Regional Force outpost. Despite the heavy mortar and ground attack on 21 September, the VNMC was credited with 128 enemy killed and 6 captured while suffering 4 of their own killed and 56 wounded. On 11 September, the 4th Battalion detached from the task force and moved to the southwest outskirts of Tay Ninh. That day the VNMC lost 11 marines and 24 more were wounded when one company engaged an estimated Viet Cong platoon; 5 of the enemy were killed. The 2nd and 3rd battalions composed the task force while it deployed to Tay Ninh from 12 to 21 September. In defense of that provincial capital, the VNMC accounted for 81 Viet Cong killed and 3 captured; 18 marines were killed, another 57 were wounded and 2 USMC advisors were also wounded during the battle. The 2nd Battalion redeployed to Kien Hoa Province on 21 September to join the 5th ARVN Infantry Division. The 3rd and 4th battalions remained in a reserve status and relocated to Thu Duc for refitting. On 28 September the battalions were motor-convoyed to Can Tho to relieve the 5th and 6th battalions.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS
September 1968

Psychological efforts to exploit the enemies vulnerabilities continued to be made by naval units throughout the Republic. It was becoming increasing evident that the devastating strength and persistence of US/RVNAF/FW forces is raising serious doubts in the minds of the Viet Cong/NVA. Waterborne loudspeaker operations were very active during the month with over 144 speaker missions being conducted. Ninty-nine of their missions were conducted along the numerous waterways of the Delta. Indicative of the success of the psyop efforts was the rallying of 39 Viet Cong to USN/VNN forces. This is the highest Chieu Hoi number experienced in one month. The previous highest month was October 1967 when 35 rallied and since January 1967 the average monthly rate has been 12. In order to strengthen the psyop program and to provide adequate intelligence on psyop vulnerabilities, NAVFORV commenced promulgating a weekly intelligence summary to psyop field personnel to apprise them of general trends, attitudes and information on Viet Cong/NVA vulnerabilities. To aid people in the urban areas to hear the "truth of the matter," transistor radios were being distributed to village and hamlet chiefs and to school teachers.

Civic action programs continued to gain emphasis as more and more units instituted individual projects with adopted hamlets and villages. The projects in the majority were self-help projects and the response of the people in doing for themselves was most gratifying. The civic action program

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conducted by Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang continues to list outstanding accomplishments. The Village Assistance Team (VAT) is the center for these accomplishments. There are currently 14 teams, made up of two to four men each, living among the people in selected villages within the city, with four more teams planned. These men assist and instruct the people in building houses, schools, dispensaries, latrines public showers and drainage ditches as well as serving as teachers in the technical and academic field. It is not an unusual occurrence for the teams to be advised of Viet Cong activity or given a warm greeting of friendship as they travel around the city. Another contribution made by NAVSUPPACT, Danang was the establishment of the Rear Admiral Paul L. LACEY, Jr., USN, Scholarship Award. On 4 September COMNAVFORV presented the first scholarship valued at $470.00 to Miss Nguyen Thi Xuan who is now attending Saigon University. The money was donated by Navymen at NAVSUPPACT, Danang.

During the month 61 MEDCAPs were reported with over 10,634 people being treated by USN/VNN personnel.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
September 1968

	MARKET TIME	GAME WARDEN	Mobile Riverine Force
Detections	78,196	169,503	*
Inspections	35,908	37,820	*
Boardings	16,685	73,808	887
Craft detained	*	4	1
Persons detained	779	1,301	150
Viet Cong suspects	15	105	*
Hostile fire incidents	14	21	13
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	83(BC)+60(EST)	73	145
b. Wounded	19(BC)+89(EST)	1	*
c. Captured	40	11	13
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	1	5	10 USA/1 ARVN RF
b. Wounded	0	45	40 USN/92 USA/2 ARVN RF
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	1 USA
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	473	79	6
(2) Structures	389	191	551
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	3	1
(2) Weapons	10 Grenades & 2 small arms	**	135***
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	**	684****
(4) Rice (tons)	300 lb	Small amount	½
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	135	172	*
(2) Structures	482	153	10
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	0	0
(2) Helicopters	0	0	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	0	5	14
(2) Helicopters	0	4	*
SAR missions	*	0	*

Remarks:
* Information not applicable or not available this date.
** 11 individual, 4 crew served, 4 rocket launchers (B-40/41). Numerous small arms ammo, grenades, and rockets.
*** Includes 26 grenades, 2 claymore mines and 69 Bangalore torpedoes.
**** Includes 319 mortar, recoilless-rifle and rocket rounds.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY
September 1968

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

COASTAL FORCE	Daily Average Operational	Daily Average Employment	Searched Junks	Searched People	Detained Junks	Detained People
I NZ	35.6	34.7	21,429	69,634	11	325
II NZ	50.6	50.0	24,015	76,625	23	347
III NZ	46.8	46.4	14,734	44,220	0	1
IV NZ	62.9	62.9	4,612	16,276	2	27
Sub-totals:			64,790	206,755	36	700
*FLEET COMMAND PATROL SHIPS	37.6	32.5	2,790	11,642	3	24
RIVERINE AREA CRAFT	131.2	128.5	10,192	38,431	0	2
#GENERAL RESERVE FORCE	40.7	38.5	4,062	8,723	2	2
Totals:			81,834	265,551	41	728

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: KIA: 251 Captured: 12 Suspects detained: 27

VNMC: KIA: 72 WIA: 243 MIA: 0

* Provided 77 gunfire support missions.

\# Includes RAG 27, RTEG and RPG 51.

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USN CIVIC ACTIONS STATISTICAL SUMMARY
September 1968

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN-DAYS PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: 1126

COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: VN$ 709,758

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: VN$ 94,766

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

	Percent
Other FWMAF	*
RVNAF	*
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	*
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	*

PROGRAMS

	Man Days	Expenditures (VN$)
Economic Development	101	21,160
Education	34	57,504
Social Welfare	885	581,034
Transportation	1	*
Refugee	105	50,100

INSTITUTES ASSISTED

	Number
Schools	10
Hospitals/dispensaries	18
Orphanages	6
Others	6

* Information not available this date.

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