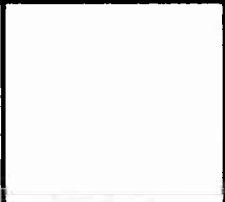


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FOREWORD

During the month of September the U. S. Navy continued to make a vital contribution to the prosecution of the conflict in South Vietnam. The importance of this contribution was probably best expressed by General WESTMORELAND's comments made at a Mission Council Meeting on 19 September.

"The United States Navy has not received due credit for the sizeable contributions its forces have made to the war in South Vietnam. MARKET TIME activities have, for all practical purposes, sealed off the coast. GAME WARDEN operations are increasingly denying the enemy the use of inland waterways. Thirdly, the Riverine Operation has no parallel in the history of warfare. All of these operations are unique innovations effectively adapted to the situation in South Vietnam. The fine efforts of the Navy should not continue to go unnoticed."

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1 Sep - The U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon, Detachment Cam Ranh Bay is redesignated the U. S. Naval Support Facility, Cam Ranh Bay. p. 67.
- 3 - VNN LSIL-329 is hit by two 75-mm recoilless-rifle rounds at the waterline in the Bassac River at Can Tho. p. 99.
- 6 - PCFs provide gunfire support for Coastal Group 23, breaking up an enemy mortar attack. p. 6.
- "Seawolves" kill seven Viet Cong and destroy five sampans in an engagement in the Ham Luong River. p. 31.
- 7 - Ten RAG 23 craft, LSSL-230 and a U. S. Navy PBR patrol begin a coordinated bombardment mission against Viet Cong fortifications on the bank of the Co Chien River near Gai Island. Numerous enemy structures are destroyed or damaged. p. 109.
- 8 - A major overhaul program is established for PCFs at a planning conference held in Cam Ranh Bay. p. 1.
- MRF units discover an enemy cache in southwest Bien Hoa Province containing 97 individual weapons, eight machine guns, 56,150 rounds of small-arms ammunition, 165 grenades, 50 rounds of 75-mm howitzer shells, several mortar rounds and numerous booby traps. p. 48.
- 12 - USCGC HALF MOON's 5-inch gunfire destroys three structures and one sampan, damages twelve structures, initiates a secondary explosion and kills at least one Viet Cong while providing gunfire support in the Ca Mau Peninsula. p. 10.
- 15 - MRF units encounter the heaviest fire they have experienced to date during a four-hour battle with entrenched Viet Cong forces along Ba Rai Creek in Dinh Tuong Province. During the engagement, 18 RAF boats were damaged, three U. S. sailors were killed and 77 were wounded; 213 Viet Cong were killed and 66 others were probably killed. p. 49.
- GAME WARDEN and VNN RAG units conduct Operation CRIMSON TIDE I, 15 miles southeast of Can Tho. Five Viet Cong are killed and 168 houses, 120 sampans and 75 bunkers are destroyed; one U. S. sailor is slightly wounded. p. 37.

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- 18 Sep - USS HUNTERDON COUNTY, with 10 PBRs embarked, arrives at Cau Hai Bay, 23 miles northwest of Danang, to begin Operation GREEN WAVE. p. 23.
- 22 - Operation BON HUU II (Friendship II), a large scale combined civic action program, begins on Thoi Son Island in the My Tho River adjacent to My Tho. p. 82.
- 24 - RAG 31 craft support a PRU force which enters a Viet Cong hamlet and captures 12 Viet Cong, including the hamlet chief and his entire family. p. 111.
- 25 - VNN PCE 09 assumes the patrol responsibility of MARKET TIME Area 9L off the west coast of Phu Quoc Island. p. 98.
- 26 - USCGC YAKUTAT destroys or damages 27 enemy fortifications, four sampans, an enemy canal blockade, and initiates a secondary explosion, kills four Viet Cong and wounds 12 during a gunfire support mission off the Ca Mau Peninsula. p. 10.
- PBRs on patrol in the Mekong River are ambushed and come under fire from a series of extremely accurate B-40 rockets; PBR 116 sustains three rocket hits. Six U. S. sailors are wounded and two Viet Cong are killed during the engagement. p. 27.
- 28 - PBR 100, on patrol in the Mekong River, is struck by a B-40 rocket which causes a fire that completely consumes the boat. Four U. S. sailors are wounded and two are missing in action. p. 29.
- 30 - In the Third Coastal Zone, the boundary lines between MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN operational areas at the major river mouths are shifted inland. p. 1.
- NAVFORV numerical strength stands at 25,506.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

During September units of Operation MARKET TIME and Operation STABLE DOOR detected over 154,000 craft along South Vietnam's coastline and harbors; more than 57,000 of these were boarded or inspected. The boardings resulted in the detention of 346 craft and 3,138 suspects.

On 8 and 9 September, at a planning conference held in Cam Ranh Bay, a major overhaul program was established for PCFs. The hulls of many of the older Swifts have been reduced to as much as one-half their original thickness by corrosion. The overhaul cycle will begin in December and, over a six-month period, 24 craft will be overhauled in increments of four each at Subic and Sasebo.

On 30 September, in the Third Coastal Zone, the boundary lines between MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN operational areas at the major river mouths were shifted inland an average of five miles; the adjustments were designed primarily to improve delineation and to take advantage of the greater seaworthiness of MARKET TIME craft.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

During September MARKET TIME units detected 95,602 junks and sampans; over 45 percent of these were inspected and almost 25 percent were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 260 craft and 2,713 suspects. In addition, 1,550 steel-hulled craft were detected transitting MARKET TIME areas; 89 of the

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steel-hulled craft were boarded.

The month's MARKET TIME activity also included support for five ground operations, 141 Naval Gunfire Support missions, 36 hostile fire incidents, and six search and rescue missions. As a result of the various operations, 22 structures, six bunkers, and 16 craft were destroyed. In addition, 14 Viet Cong were killed. No U. S. personnel casualties resulted from the operations, however, two PCFs and two WPBs were slightly damaged.

First Coastal Zone

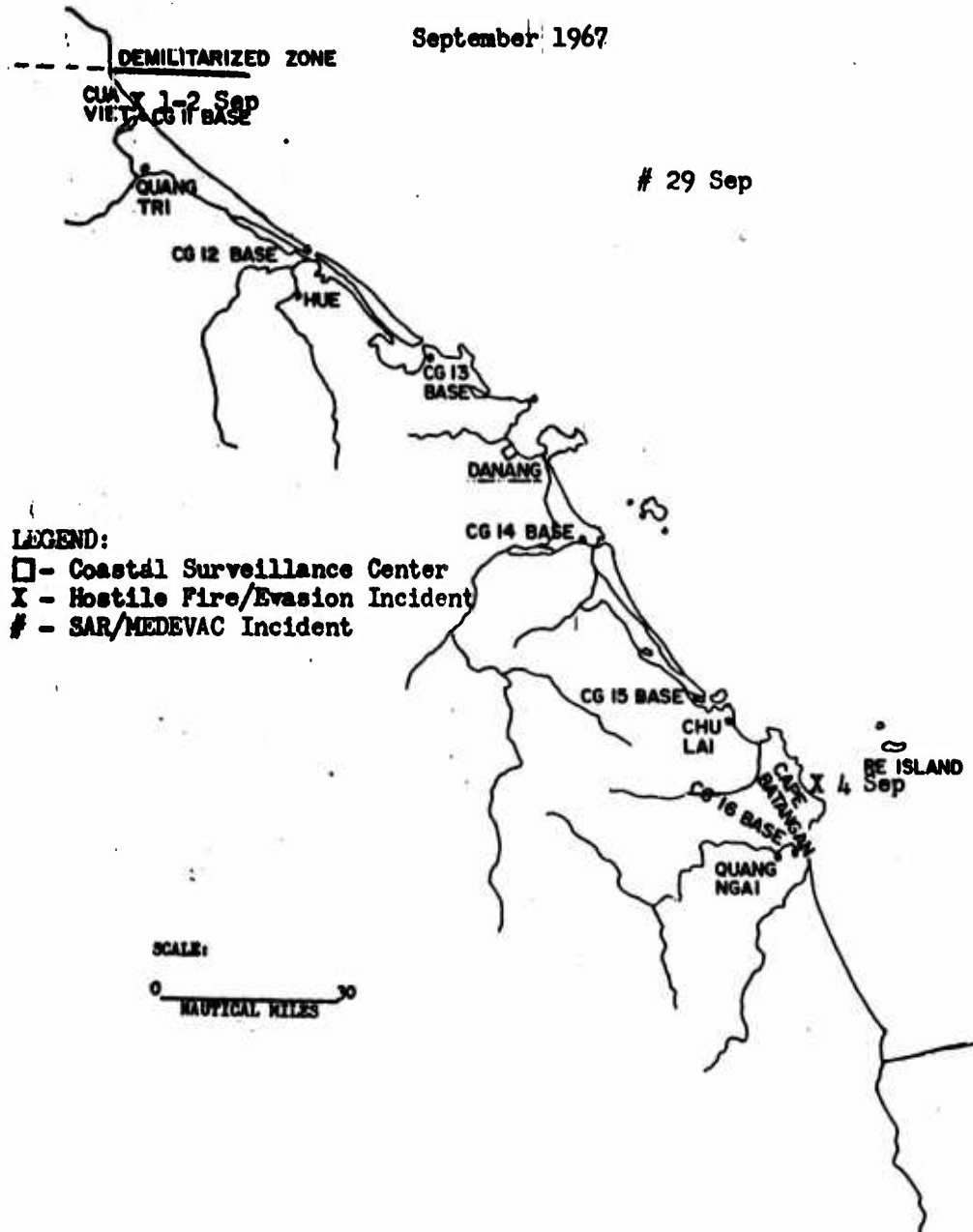
In September MARKET TIME activity was especially high in the First Coastal Zone. In addition to detaining an unprecedented number of craft and people, the Zone's Swift boats and WPBs supported three operations conducted by the SEVENTH Fleet's Amphibious Ready Group and provided exfiltration patrols for two additional ground operations.

On 1 and 2 September one PCF and one WPB supported a SEVENTH Fleet amphibious operation, BEACON POINT, conducted in Thua Thien Province. Other amphibious operations which First Coastal Zone units supported during the month were BALLISTIC CHARGE, which took place 15-21 September in the Cua Dai River approximately 16 miles southeast of Danang, and FORTRESS SENTRY, which took place 16-18 September in Quang Tri Province.

Also on 1 and 2 September, the facilities of Coastal Division

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OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE



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14's Cua Viet detachment were hit a number of times during the course of four B-40 and 140-mm rocket attacks; the facilities sustained minor damage. The detachment's Swift boats sortied at the time of the first attack and came under fire from North Vietnamese artillery batteries located just south of the Demilitarized Zone. The Swifts subsequently spotted for USS BOSTON (CAG 1) and USS DUPONT (DD 941) as both ships hammered the enemy sites.

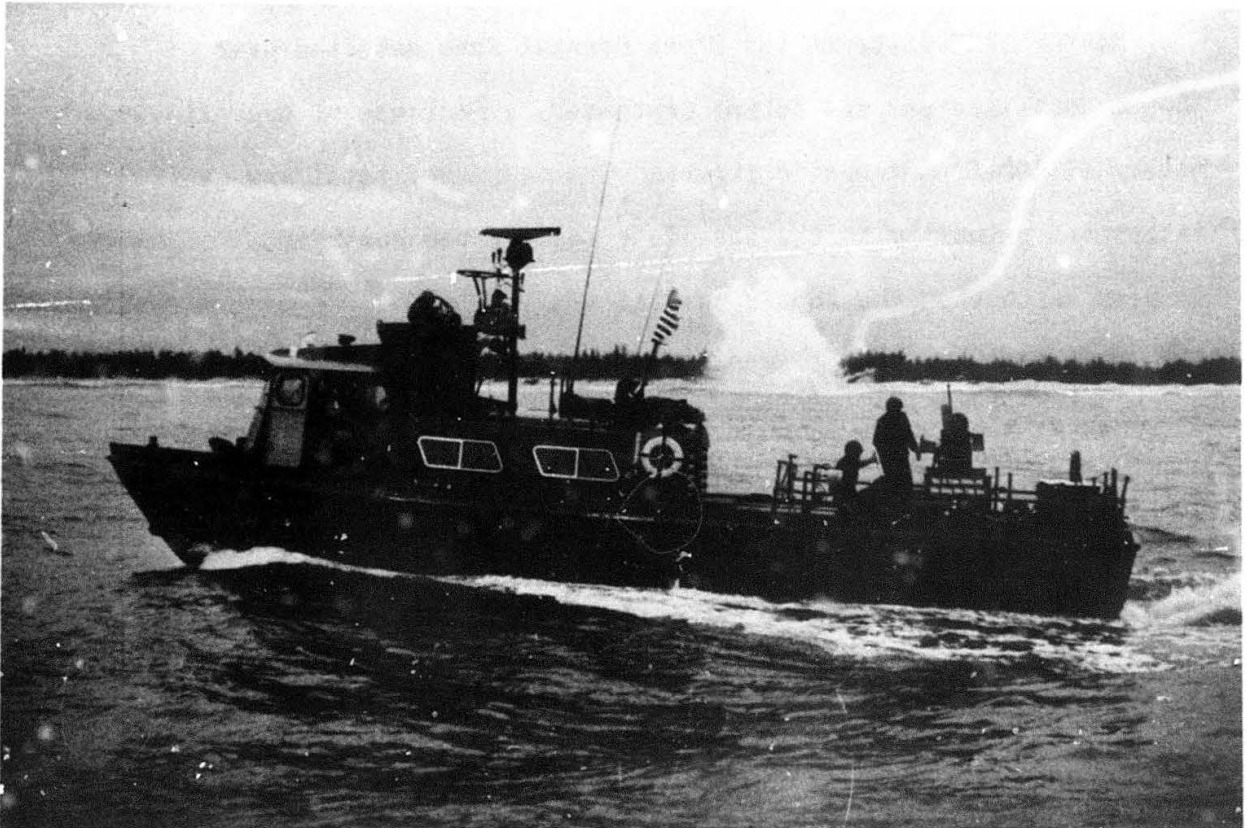
On 4 September PCF 65 conducted a roundup of sampans near Cape Batangan in response to a request by U. S. Army units conducting a sweep in the area. The roundup resulted in 14 sampans and 43 persons being turned over to the Army units. Three of the detainees were confirmed Viet Cong.

On 6 September, one WPB and two PCFs provided exfiltration barriers for a ROK Marine operation on Cape Batangan. During the patrols a total of 95 junks and 1,061 persons were detained by the MARKET TIME units.

MARKET TIME patrols were intensified from 13 to 15 September along the coast from the Cua Dai River south to Chu Lai. These patrols were in support of Operation SWIFT, a large combined ground operation in central Quang Tri Province.

On 29 September WPBs POINT DUME and POINT ELLIS rescued two U. S. Marine Corps pilots from a downed aircraft 58 miles northeast of Danang. The pilots were then transferred to USS GOLDSBOROUGH

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PCF 49, operating just south of the Demilitarized Zone, fires at enemy coastal positions in the DMZ on 16 September.

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(DDG 20) for treatment. On the 30th, PCF 15 rescued a Marine pilot whose aircraft had crashed 48 miles southeast of Danang.

MARKET TIME units in the First Coastal Zone detected over 34,000 junks and sampans during September, a decrease of approximately 15,000 from August's figure. The decreased total was attributed primarily to the adverse effect of the Northeast Monsoon weather on the Zone's coastal traffic.

Second Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units patrolling the Second Coastal Zone during September detected over 43,000 junks and sampans.

At 2000 on 6 September, PCFs 59 and 90 provided urgent gunfire support for Coastal Group 23, located approximately 20 miles south of Qui Nhon, which was under mortar attack. The PCFs quelled the mortar attack and continued firing on the enemy position until 2330 when harassment and interdiction and illumination fire was commenced in an attempt to keep the enemy from reactivating the mortar position. PCF 59 was relieved by PCF 87 at 2400 and the Swifts continued their fire until friendly units entered the target area at approximately 070600. No friendly casualties resulted aboard the PCFs. CG 23 personnel found eight Russian 82-mm rounds during a sweep of the area and reported that large amounts of blood indicated many enemy casualties.

At 0320 on 19 September, approximately 15 miles east of Phan

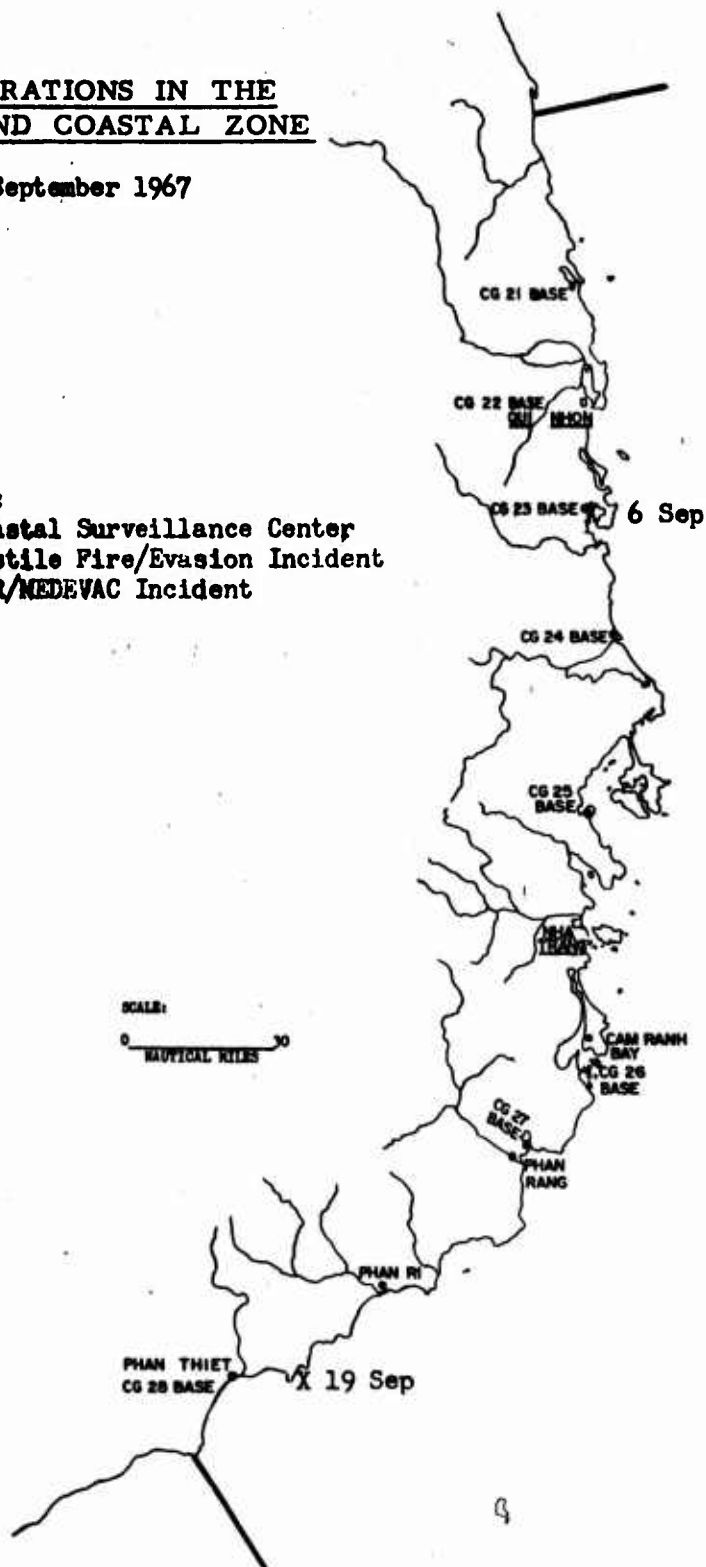
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OPERATIONS IN THE
SECOND COASTAL ZONE

September 1967

LEGEND:

- - Coastal Surveillance Center
- X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
- # - SAR/NEDEVAC Incident



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Thiet, PCF 98 and POINT JEFFERSON (WPB 82306) detained a junk and 60 occupants when the junk ignored warning signals to stop. Two U. S. rifles were confiscated from Vietnamese Army personnel who had no ID cards. The weapons and occupants were turned over to the Navy Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO) Phan Thiet for further interrogation.

Third Coastal Zone

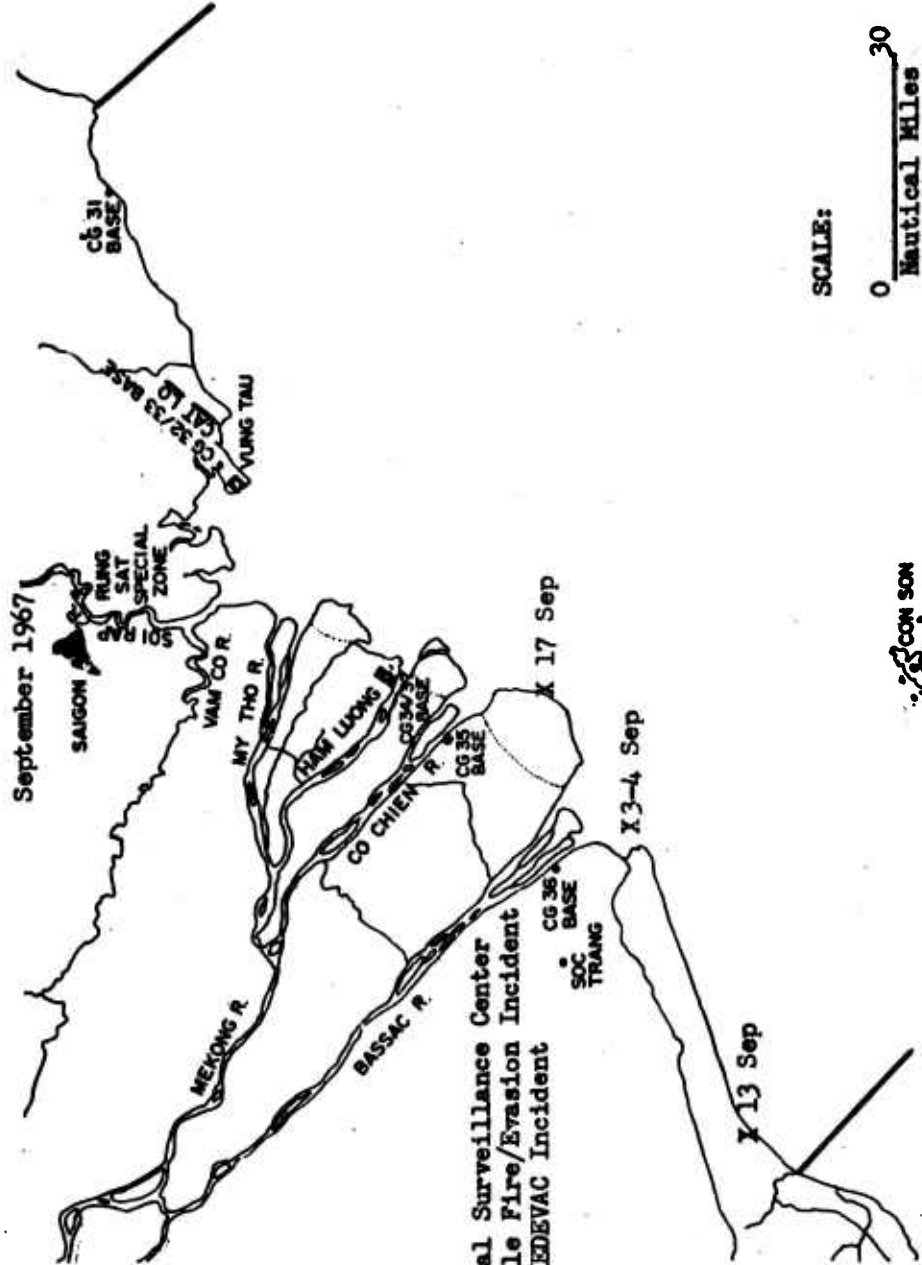
MARKET TIME units in the Third Coastal Zone detected over 11,000 junks and sampans during the month of September.

On 3 and 4 September, Third Coastal Zone units touched off repeated secondary explosions in an area along the South Vietnamese coast, approximately 88 miles south-southwest of Saigon. On the 3rd, POINT WELCOME (WPB 82329) lobbed mortar rounds into camouflaged enemy fortifications in the area, and produced one large secondary explosion and two smaller ones. On the morning of the 4th, PCF 36 fired on the same area, causing one secondary blast after its 81-mm mortar shells hit on target.

About 1120 on 13 September, gunfire from PCF 95 damaged two enemy bunkers and two other fortifications along the coast of Bac Lieu Province. The action took place after the NILO in the area reported enemy troops attacking his post.

While investigating suspicious activity along the coast of Vinh Binh Province on 17 September, POINT GRACE (WPB 82323) came

OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



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

SCALE:



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under heavy automatic-weapons, small-arms, and recoilless-rifle fire from enemy beach positions. The WPB returned fire with mortar and .50 caliber machine guns. During the firing runs, the craft received two recoilless-rifle hits. There were no friendly personnel casualties during the action and POINT GRACE returned to her home base at Cat Lo for repairs under her own power.

Commander Robert F. CONNALLY III, USN, relieved Commander William C. NATION, USN, as Third Coastal Zone Advisor (CTG 115.3) on 30 September.

Fourth Coastal Zone

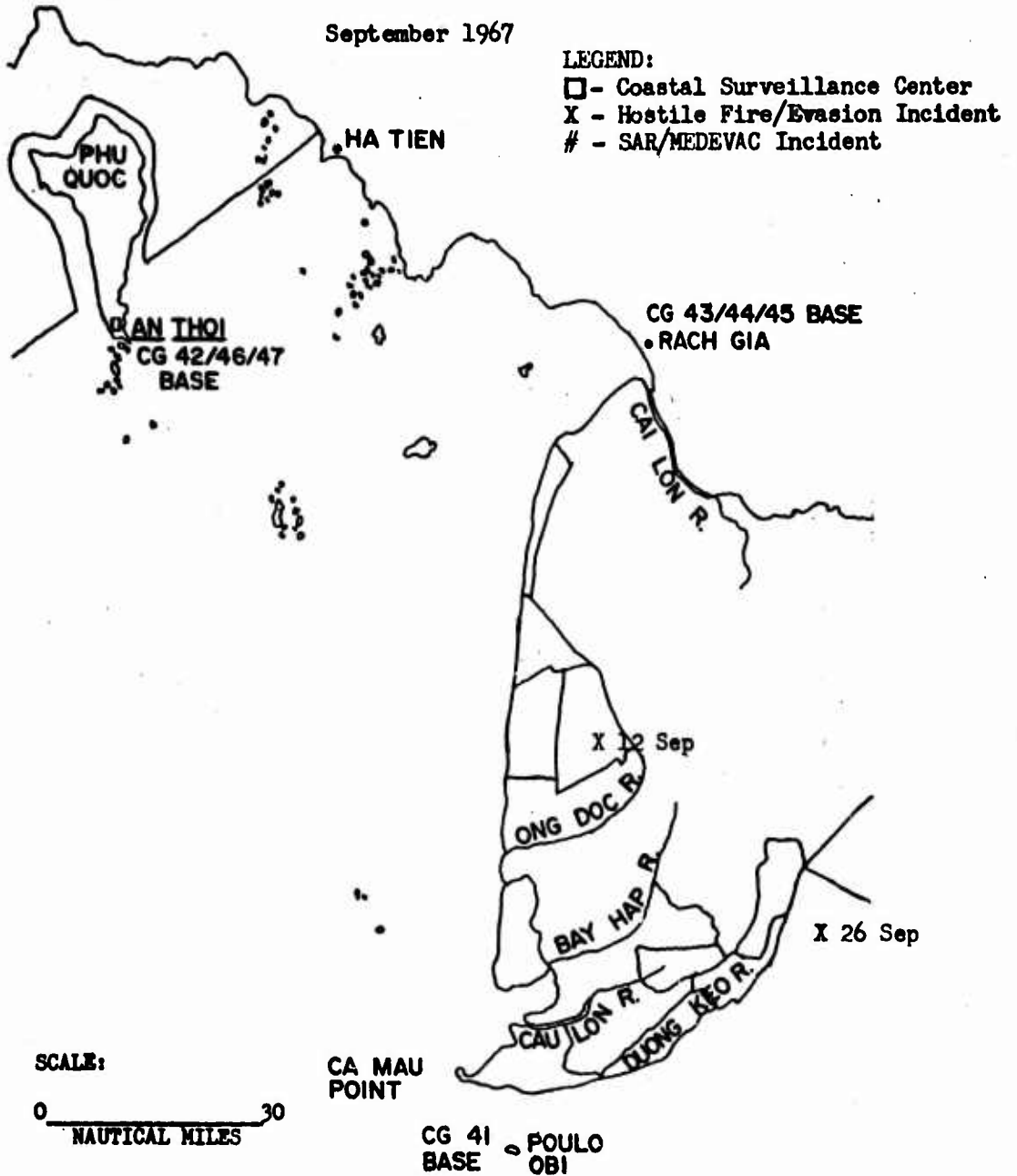
MARKET TIME units in the Fourth Coastal Zone detected over 7,000 junks and sampans in September.

On 12 September USCGC HALF MOON (WHEC 378), acting on last minute intelligence information, responded to a hurried call for gunfire support from U. S. Army Special Forces at Song Ong Doc in An Xuyen Province, 155 miles southwest of Saigon. HALF MOON shelled a Viet Cong concentration of two hundred troops eight miles northeast of the Army camp, inflicting heavy damage. As a result of the shelling, three structures were destroyed, twelve damaged, and one sampan was destroyed. One large secondary explosion was observed and one Viet Cong was known to have been killed, however, total damage was unknown.

On 26 September USCGC YAKUTAT (WHEC 380) destroyed or damaged

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OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



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27 enemy fortifications, four enemy sampans, and an enemy canal blockade while patrolling in the Gulf of Thailand off the coast of An Xuyen Province. The MARKET TIME craft had been requested to provide naval gunfire support against known enemy positions in a five mile area. The YAKUTAT's 5-inch shells also caused a secondary explosion with a 500-foot streamer, killed four Viet Cong and wounded 12 others.

MARKET TIME UNITS

During the month of September the Vietnamese Navy had an average of seven PGMs and two PCEs assigned daily to MARKET TIME forces. In addition, the Royal Thai Navy had one PGM assigned to MARKET TIME forces in the Fourth Coastal Zone.

Also during the month, aircraft from four patrol squadrons provided air surveillance for Operation MARKET TIME. A detachment of Patrol Squadron 42 (VP-42) flew SP-2H Neptunes from Tan Son Nhut Air Base until 29 September when they were relieved by a VP-2 detachment, and a detachment of VP-1 flew Neptunes from Cam Ranh Bay. Meanwhile, a detachment of VP-5 flew P-3A Orion aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, and a VP-47 detachment flew Orions from U Tapao, Thailand.

Throughout the month the following U. S. SEVENTH Fleet ships operated as MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:

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		<u>Dates</u>
DER 328	USS FINCH	19-30
DER 391	USS HAVERFIELD	9-30
DER 322	USS NEWELL	1-19
DER 386	USS SAVAGE	1-9
LST 509	USS BULLOCK COUNTY	19-30
LST 901	USS LITCHFIELD COUNTY	1-19
MSC 289	USS ALBATROSS	12-30
MSC 208	USS WIDGEON	1-12
MSO 488	USS CONQUEST	16-30
MSO 437	USS ENHANCE	1-8
MSO 438	USS ESTEEM	8-30
MSO 439	USS EXCEL	1-8
MSO 489	USS GALLANT	8-30
MSO 447	USS GUIDE	1-8
MSO 448	USS ILLUSIVE	8-30
MSO 490	USS LEADER	1-8
MSO 458	USS LUCID	1-16
MSO 492	USS PLEDGE	8-30
WHEC 381	USCGC BARATARIA	2-24
WHEC 382	USCGC BERING STRAIT	1-2, 24-30
WHEC 387	USCGC GRESHAM	5-25
WHEC 378	USCGC HALF MOON	1-17, 25-30
WHEC 380	USCGC YAKUTAT	1-5, 17-30

MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
September 1967

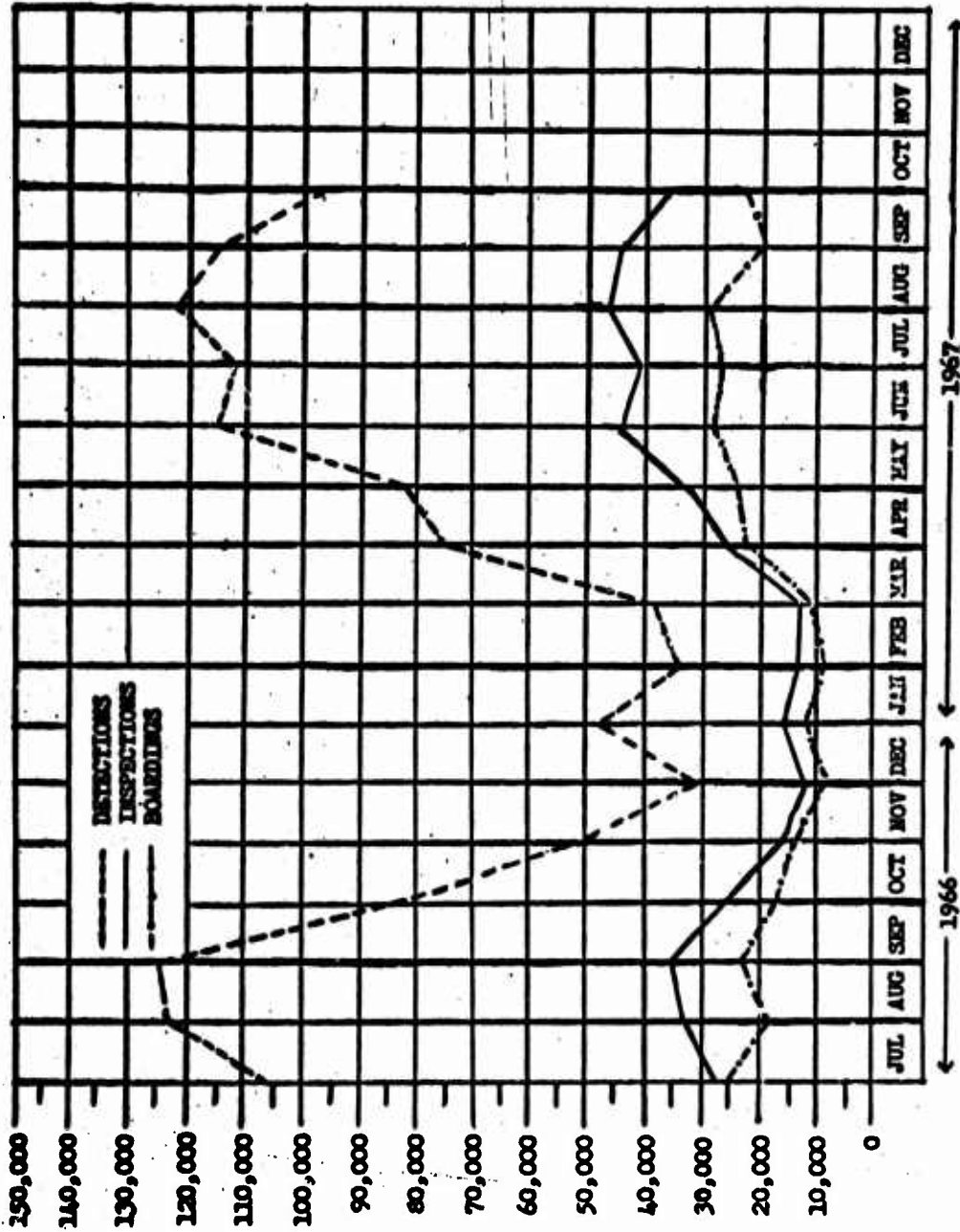
1. U. S. Ships/Craft:

	<u>DER</u>	<u>MSO</u>	<u>MSC</u>	<u>WPB</u>	<u>PCF</u>	<u>LST</u>	<u>WHEC</u>
Daily average number of craft on patrol	2	4	1	14	40	1	3

2. U. S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY	<u>51,496</u>	NIGHT	<u>44,106</u>	<u>97,152</u>
	STEEL - DAY	<u>774</u>	NIGHT	<u>776</u>	
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY	<u>20,231</u>	NIGHT	<u>15,326</u>	<u>36,556</u>
	STEEL - DAY	<u>495</u>	NIGHT	<u>504</u>	

DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



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TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD - DAY	<u>14,462</u>	NIGHT	<u>7,861</u>	
	STEEL - DAY	<u>60</u>	NIGHT	<u>29</u>	<u>22,412</u>
TOTAL DETAINED	JUNKS	<u>260</u>	PEOPLE	<u>2,713</u>	

3. Naval Gunfire Support Missions:

Total Missions 141

Structures 22 destroyed

Bunkers 6 destroyed

Craft 16 destroyed

Personnel 14 Viet Cong killed

4. Hostile Fire:

Total Missions 36

OPERATION STABLE DOOR

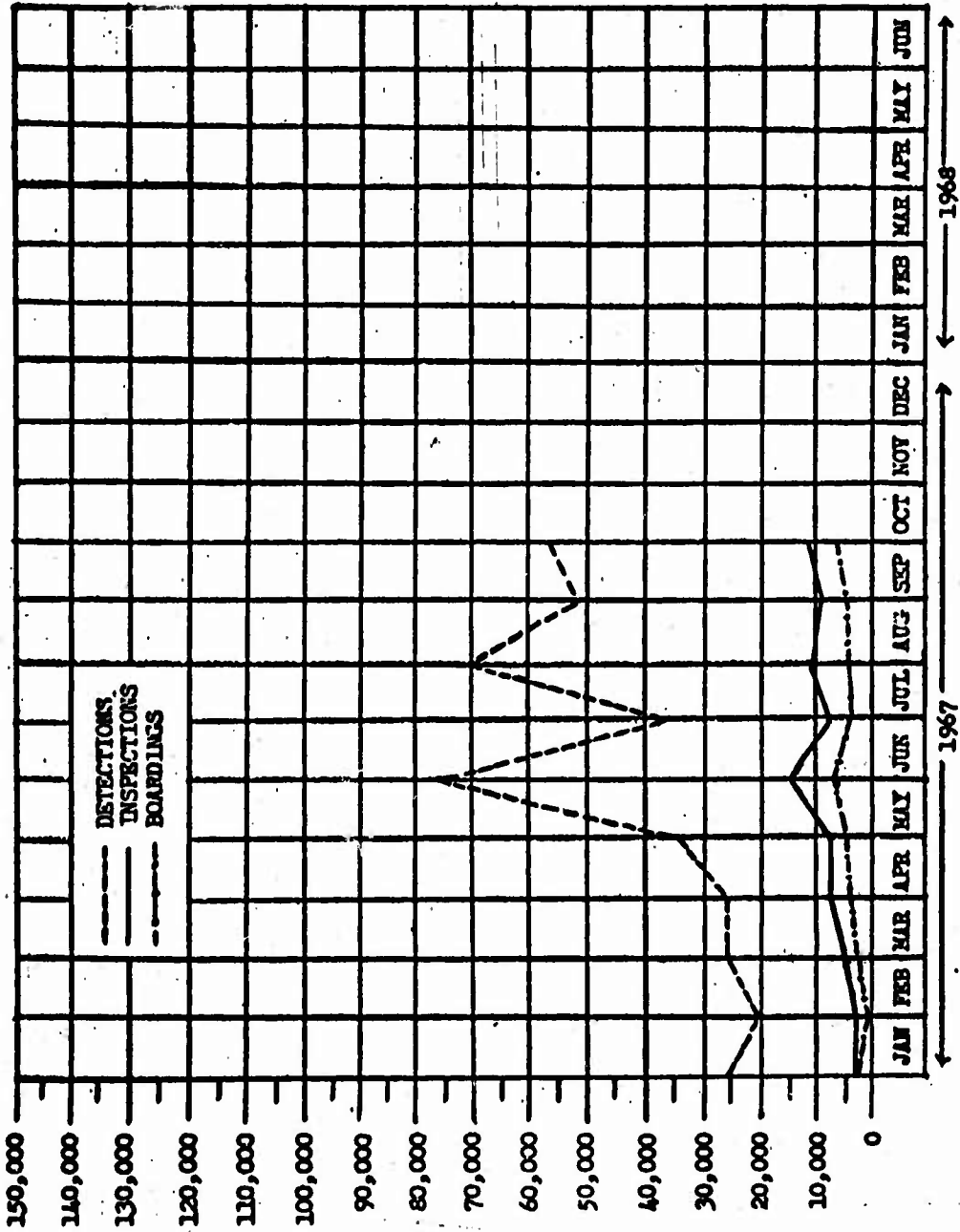
In September Operation STABLE DOOR patrols detected over 57,000 junks and sampans; over 10,000 of these were inspected. Of the 6,104 craft boarded, 86 were detained along with 425 suspects.

Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 1 (IUWU-1) at Vung Tau detained 53 junks and 226 persons; IUWU-2 at Cam Ranh Bay detained six junks and 73 persons; IUWU-3 at Qui Nhon detained 11 junks and 107 persons.

All STABLE DOOR units were especially alert during the month for swimmer attacks. Recent intelligence reports indicated an increasing swimmer threat.

On 7 September an Army skimmer with three Army personnel on

DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS

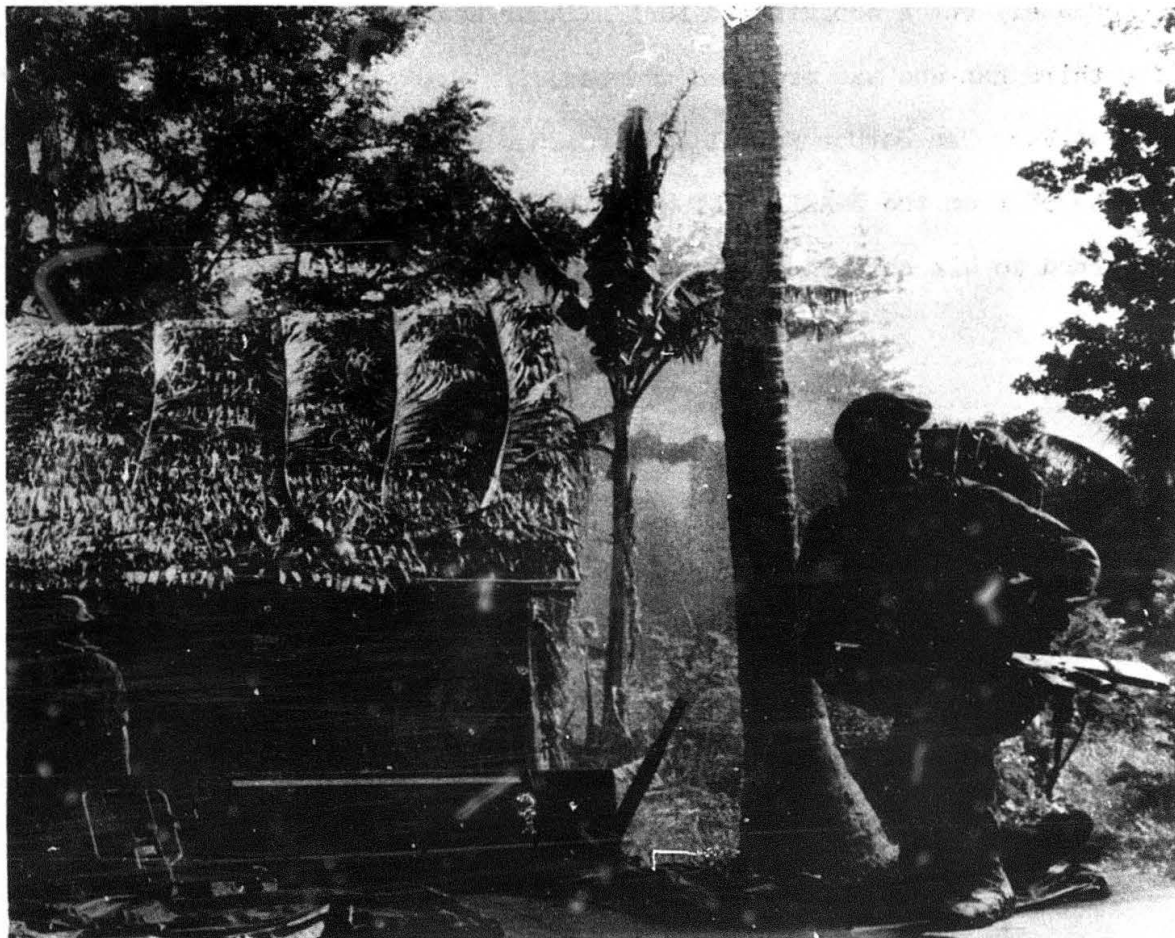


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board overturned in the Cam Ranh harbor. Two men were recovered immediately but a coordinated LCPL/skimmer search failed to find the third man who was presumed drowned.

A Vung Tau Harbor Patrol LCPL rescued a crewman who fell overboard from the BRAZIL VICTORY on 18 September. The man was returned to his ship in good condition.

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SEALs go ashore during Operation CRIMSON TIDE I which was conducted 15 miles southeast of Can Tho along the Bassac River on 15 September.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

During the first three days in September, Viet Cong terrorists in the Mekong Delta continued their attempts to disrupt the national elections, held on 3 September. Enemy attacks on small hamlets, villages and regional outposts were particularly intense during this period. However, all over South Vietnam the emphasis was to "get out the vote". From the Rung Sat Special Zone to the Bassac River, the PBRs of the River Patrol Force were supporting the Vietnamese authorities in their efforts to get the local populace to vote in a relative haven of safety.

More than 52 firefights between GAME WARDEN forces and the communist enemy were noted in September. Known enemy losses from these engagements included 40 killed, 16 wounded, and 12 captured; an additional 30 were possibly killed. GAME WARDEN losses were three killed, 10 wounded and two missing in action. In addition to combat operations, PBR units conducted 74 missions of mercy by furnishing medical aid and transportation to ill and infirm Delta residents. During the month, there were 176 enemy sampans destroyed, 39 damaged, and 10 captured. U. S. material losses consisted of one UH-1B and one PBR destroyed and three UH-1Bs and 46 PBRs damaged.

On the 15th of the month, Operation CRIMSON TIDE began along a five-mile stretch of the Bassac River behind Tan Dinh Island

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about 15 miles from Can Tho. This operation, utilizing the combined sea, air, ground and gunfire support of the GAME WARDEN forces, and the RAG boats of the Vietnamese Navy inflicted a heavy toll of destruction on the enemy.

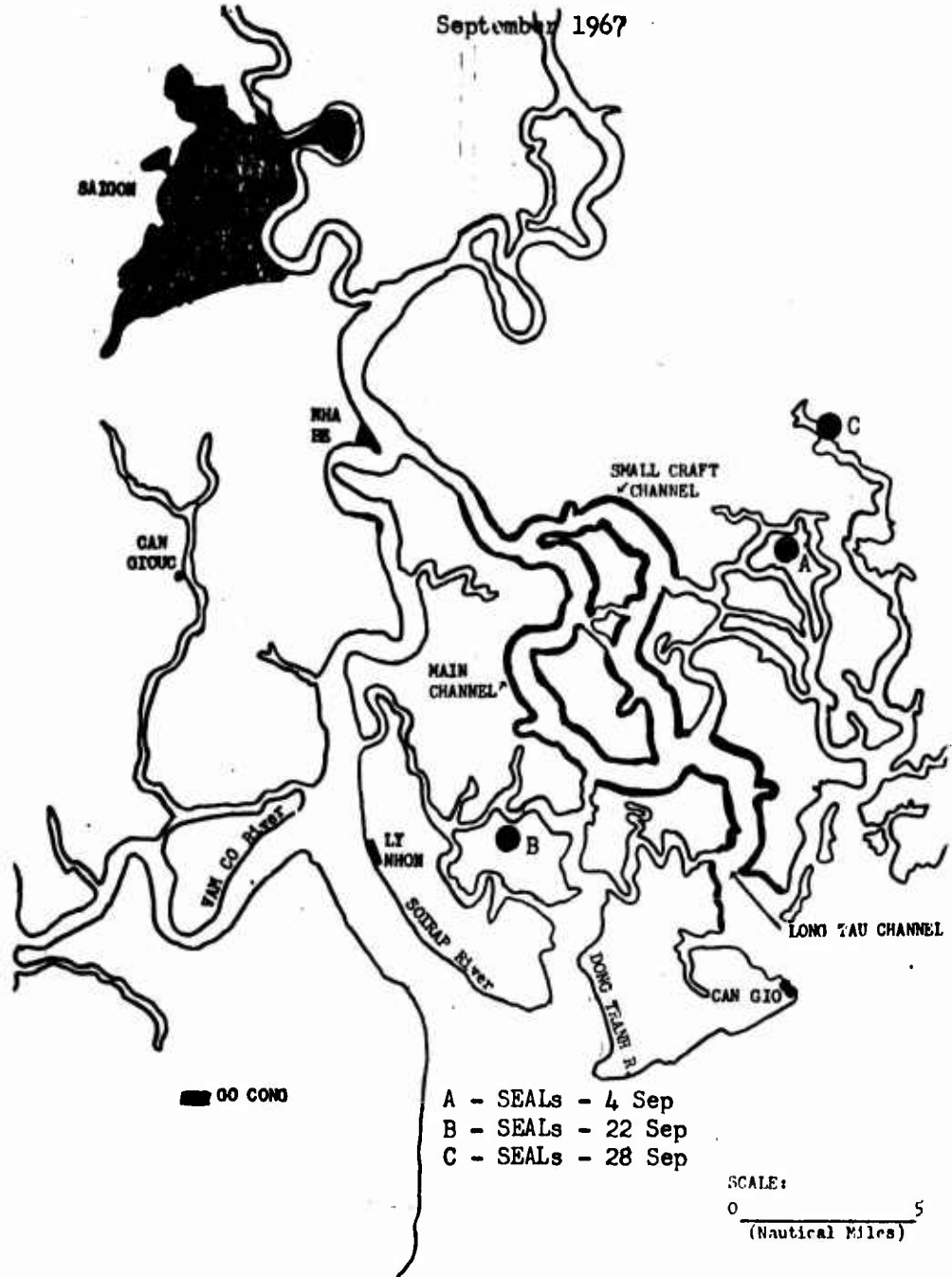
On 18 September, USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838), with 10 PBRs embarked, arrived off the mouth of the Cau Hai Bay, 23 miles northwest of Danang, to begin Operation GREEN WAVE. This marked the first time that GAME WARDEN units have operated outside of the Delta and the surrounding region. The principal mission of this operation was to determine the feasibility of PBR operations in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

During the last week of the month, PBRs, in the upper Mekong and central and lower Bassac Rivers, came under heavy mortar, recoilless rifle and B-40 rocket fire. Meanwhile, on 28 September, in the I Corps Tactical Zone, HUNTERDON COUNTY relocated its anchorage to the mouth of the Cua Dai River, 15 miles southeast of Danang, for the second phase of Operation GREEN WAVE.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

Activity in the RSSZ consisted primarily of SEAL team ambushes with PBRs and "Seawolf" helicopters providing firepower support. In the early morning of 4 September, a SEAL team, waiting in an overnight ambush about 14 miles east of Nha Be on the Ba Gioi River, spotted a sampan approaching with two Viet Cong. The

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS



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ambush was sprung, and one of the enemy was probably killed, and the other wounded. Due to total darkness the SEALs were unable to get an accurate body count or recover the sampan. Later in the day, while reconnoitering by helicopter, the sampan was sighted and two rifles were captured from it. The sampan was subsequently destroyed.

On 14 September, an LCM attached to MINRON ELEVEN, DET/A, out of Nha Be, while recovering sweep gear upon the completion of a routine afternoon chain drag sweep of the Long Tau River, discovered entangled in the gear approximately 30 feet of two-conductor wire, presumably control detonating wire. This lends credibility to the fact that the mine threat to shipping still exists on the Long Tau River.

On the 22nd, shortly after midnight, a SEAL ambush, set up 15 miles southeast of Nha Be, observed two sampans approaching. The lead sampan had five Viet Cong aboard, who were either all knocked into the water or jumped out of the boat when they were ambushed. An illumination of the area failed to reveal any bodies, however, the two sampans were recovered along with the capture of two Chinese carbines, one U. S. M-1 carbine, and 200 rounds of small arms ammunition. There were also several documents as well as a quantity of electrical mine detonating equipment. The documents indicated that the Viet Cong had been members of the D-2 Sapper

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Company, the unit reportedly responsible for several of the mining incidents that have occurred in the lower Long Tau River.

SEAL operations in the RSSZ continued at an accelerated pace when on 28 September, LCMs, from Nha Be, inserted a SEAL team along the Thi Vai River, 17 miles east of Nha Be. About 50 minutes later at 1935, a motorized sampan, approximately 18 feet long with five men aboard, approached the ambush site and was taken under fire. At the end of the first volley, three men were still swimming away, and five large boxes were observed floating downstream. A second burst of fire was followed by loud moaning from the far bank of the river and then--silence. The ambush resulted in four Viet Cong killed (probable) and one wounded. The sampan and several documents were recovered.

PBRs in the I Corps Tactical Zone

On 18 September, HUNTERDON COUNTY with her brood of 10 PBRs embarked, arrived off the mouth of Cau Hai Bay, and commenced Operation GREEN WAVE. Initial operations were characterized by several boat groundings due to unfamiliarity with the area, and excessive sea swells, which made the launching and recovery of PBRs extremely hazardous.

At 0055 on the 20th, HUNTERDON COUNTY, while at anchor at Chon May Bay 19 miles northwest of Danang, received four rounds of 60-mm mortar fire, which impacted 500 yards from the ship. The

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LST rapidly returned the fire, with her 40-mm guns saturating the entire area. The enemy guns were suppressed, however Viet Cong casualties were unknown.

During the period 18-27 September, enemy contact was very light in the Cau Hai Bay area. On the 28th, HUNTERDON COUNTY relocated its anchorage to the mouth of the Cua Dai River, about 18 miles southeast of Danang, in order to commence operating in the Cua Dai River. Heavy contact with the Viet Cong was established immediately and continued throughout the remainder of the month. Within three hours of arrival, four PBRs proceeded to Coastal Group 14 for their initial briefing prior to patrol. Shortly afterwards, upon commencement of the patrol, while still less than 1,000 yards from the coastal group base, the Viet Cong attacked the boats with 400 rounds of concentrated automatic-weapons fire. PBR 118 received five hits on the starboard side, perforating the lube oil filters and causing all of the lube oil to be pumped out. The high speed withdrawal from the battle area coupled with the loss of lube oil caused both engines to seize with the resultant cracking of both engine blocks. PBR 118 was rendered out of commission pending the receipt of replacement parts. One Vietnamese junk sailor was shot through the buttocks and groin in the engagement, and was evacuated to Coastal Group 14.

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On 29 September, a day described by the on-scene commander, CTU 116.1.3, as a "running gun battle", the river craft engaged the enemy in 15 reported incidents. PBRs 54 and 79, operating in an area near Hoi An in Quang Nam Province, about 42 miles northwest of Chu Lai were engaged in three separate firefights. Just before noon the two boats received 20 rounds of rifle-grenade and 200 rounds of automatic-weapons fire. Fire Control Technician Third Class D. M. AGAZZI was killed when a bullet impacted behind his left ear after passing through his flak jacket. Another sailor was also wounded in the action. The extent of enemy casualties was unknown.

About three hours later, two other units of River Patrol Section 521, PBR 53 and PBR 84, patrolling in the same general area, were taken under fire by automatic weapons. The PBRs and an Army helicopter light fire team counter-attacked the enemy position and destroyed 15 structures. Later, the same two patrol boats engaged a group of evading sampans, and again called in the helicopter light fire team to block off the escape route. The coordinated Army-Navy teamwork resulted in the death of seven Viet Cong, and the destruction of three sampans and one bunker. The PBRs also left two structures burning. There were no U. S. casualties.

At 1844 on the 29th, the Quang Dai Sector Advisor requested that HUNTERDON COUNTY provide harassment and interdiction fire

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into an area about 21 miles southeast of Danang. The advisor stated that there were 500 Viet Cong troops in the area. The LST laid down a barrage of 40-mm cannon fire to harass the enemy. Viet Cong casualties were unknown. The next day, another request from the advisor resulted in the same type of firing mission, however this time there was a large secondary explosion, which sent an "orange-colored ball rising above the tree tops". On 30 September, the patrols on the Cua Dai River ceased and preparations were made to move out of the area before heavier Viet Cong weapons could be brought to bear on the PBRs.

A lesson learned during Operation GREEN WAVE is that in transiting through breaking seas on approaching a narrow channel, a slow speed is necessary to control the PBR.

DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

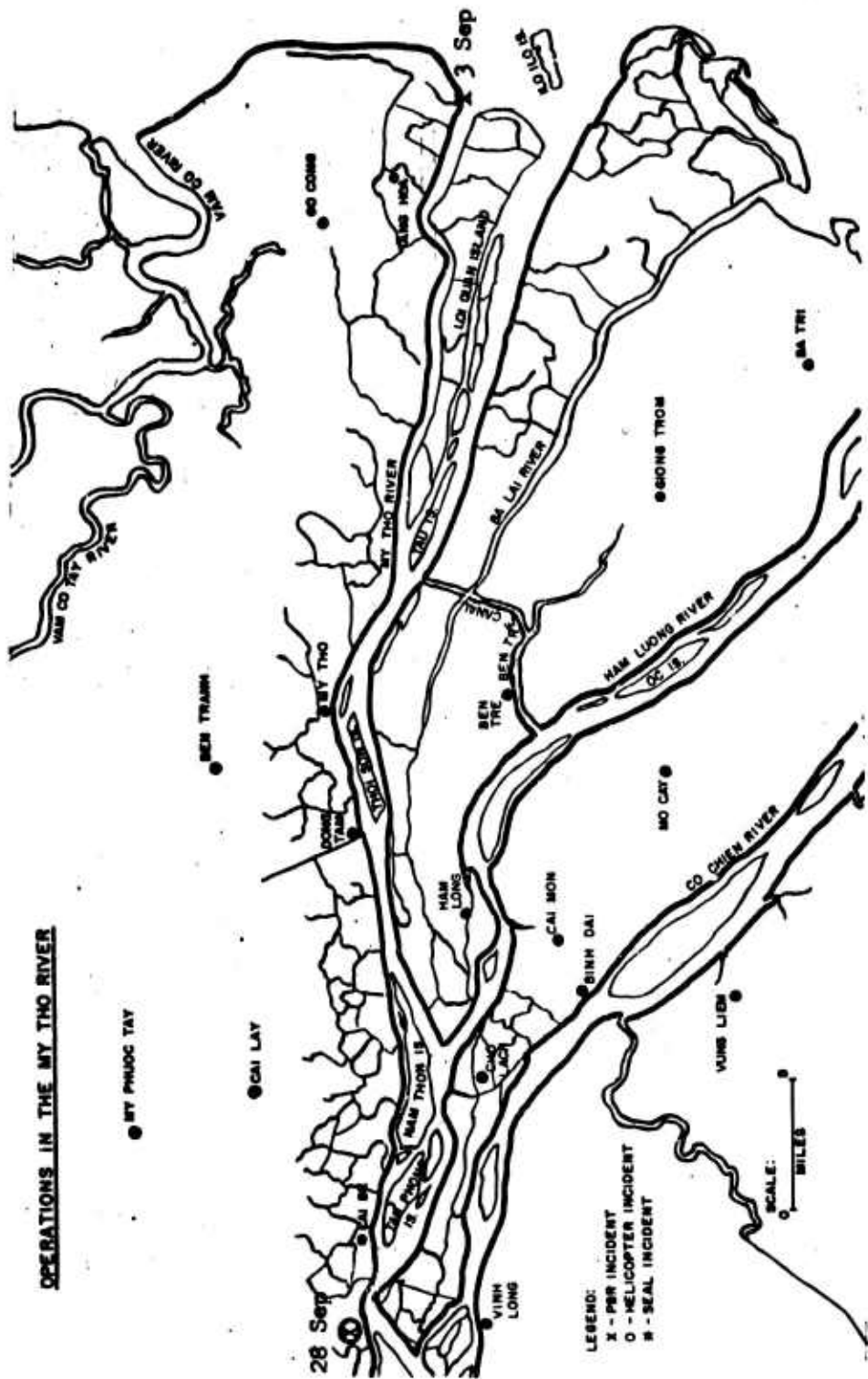
On 3 September, the Binh Dai Subsector Advisor of Kien Hoa Province advised two PBRs, patrolling near the mouth of the Mekong River, of the presence of a Viet Cong company armed with automatic weapons, and further requested that the river boats take the area under fire. Directed by an Army spotter plane, the PBRs commenced a series of grenade and machine gun attacks into the enemy infested area which was 26 miles southeast of My Tho. The enemy did not

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return fire. A nearby friendly outpost sent a reconnaissance patrol into the area to assess the casualties, and they discovered six Viet Cong bodies with their rifles by their sides.

On the 18th, PBRs 86 and 116, on a routine patrol of the Mekong River, five miles northeast of Sa Dec, encountered three suspicious sampans; two of which were lashed together with the third one following close behind. The PBRs hailed the craft, but the sampans continued on their course. Three warning shots from the patrol boats triggered off a quick volley of automatic weapons fire from the lead sampan. The PBRs returned the fire as the occupants turned over the sampans and swam for the shore. Direct hits by M-79 grenades and .50 caliber machine guns were observed against the swimmers resulting in the death of six Viet Cong. One sampan was destroyed and two others were captured. There were no U. S. casualties. This is the first time in many weeks that the enemy had attempted to engage PBRs in a water confrontation or try a water crossing in this area.

On 26 September, PBRs 116 and 117 were transitting east on the Mekong River about five miles east of Sa Dec, when they were suddenly ambushed by a series of extremely accurate B-40 rockets. The lead boat, PBR 116, sustained a rocket hit causing an eight inch hole in its port side, one foot forward of the coxswains flat and two feet above the waterline. Two crew members were



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blown over the side by the rocket concussion. About five seconds later, a second B-40 rocket impacted against the lead boat causing a four-inch hole about six inches above the first hole, and knocked two more crew members overboard. Meanwhile, PBR 117 commenced a furious retaliatory attack into the ambush position, but the hidden enemy continued firing rockets at the PBRs. After the second rocket explosion, a fire erupted in the coxswains flat of PBR 116. The boat coxswain, with his clothes and hair on fire, leaped over the side to douse the flames. Meanwhile the forward gunner extinguished the fire and maneuvered the boat to recover his shipmates. Approximately 70 seconds after the second rocket hit, a third B-40 rocket hit PBR 116 at the waterline in the same location as the other rockets. Shortly afterwards, a fourth rocket exploded in the water about three feet astern of the boat. With all crew members safely aboard, PBR 116 rejoined PBR 117, and the two boats suppressed the enemy fire as they cleared the kill zone. Friendly casualties were six U. S. sailors wounded in action, one radar and two radios destroyed, one PBR coxswain's control console heavily damaged and three holes in PBR 116. There were two Viet Cong killed in the brief fire fight.

During the afternoon of 28 September, PBRs 86 and 100 were investigating sampan traffic in the Cai Can Canal off of the Mekong River about five miles north of Vinh Long. While in the process

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of checking a sampan, PBR 100 was ambushed with a B-40 rocket round and small arms fire. The PBRs evaded to the west to clear the ambush site. Four Navy UH-1B armed helicopters scrambled to escort the river boats as they transitted east back through the enemy positions to reenter the main river. Upon approaching the ambush site, a B-40 rocket struck the lead boat, PBR 100, inside the coxswain's flat and exploded. Three U. S. sailors and one Vietnamese policeman were blown over the side from the explosion which started a raging fire aboard the craft. PBR 100 went out of control and beached on the south bank of the river, where it was completely consumed by fire. Meanwhile PBR 86 recovered the three U. S. sailors from the water as the overhead helicopters made attacks into the ambush area to drive any looters away from the stricken PBR. The Vietnamese policeman could not be found initially, but was later recovered in the main river by a passing sampan. Later that evening, Vietnamese Navy RAG units salvaged two .50 caliber machine guns and one gun mount from the demolished boat. The bodies of Engineman Second Class J. T. MUSETTI, Jr., and Seaman G. J. GRAHAM were not recovered, but a survivor's eye-witness account stated that MUSETTI was cremated aboard the boat, and GRAHAM was not seen after the first explosion. Pending further investigation, both of these men are officially considered missing in action. There were also four sailors wounded in this encounter.

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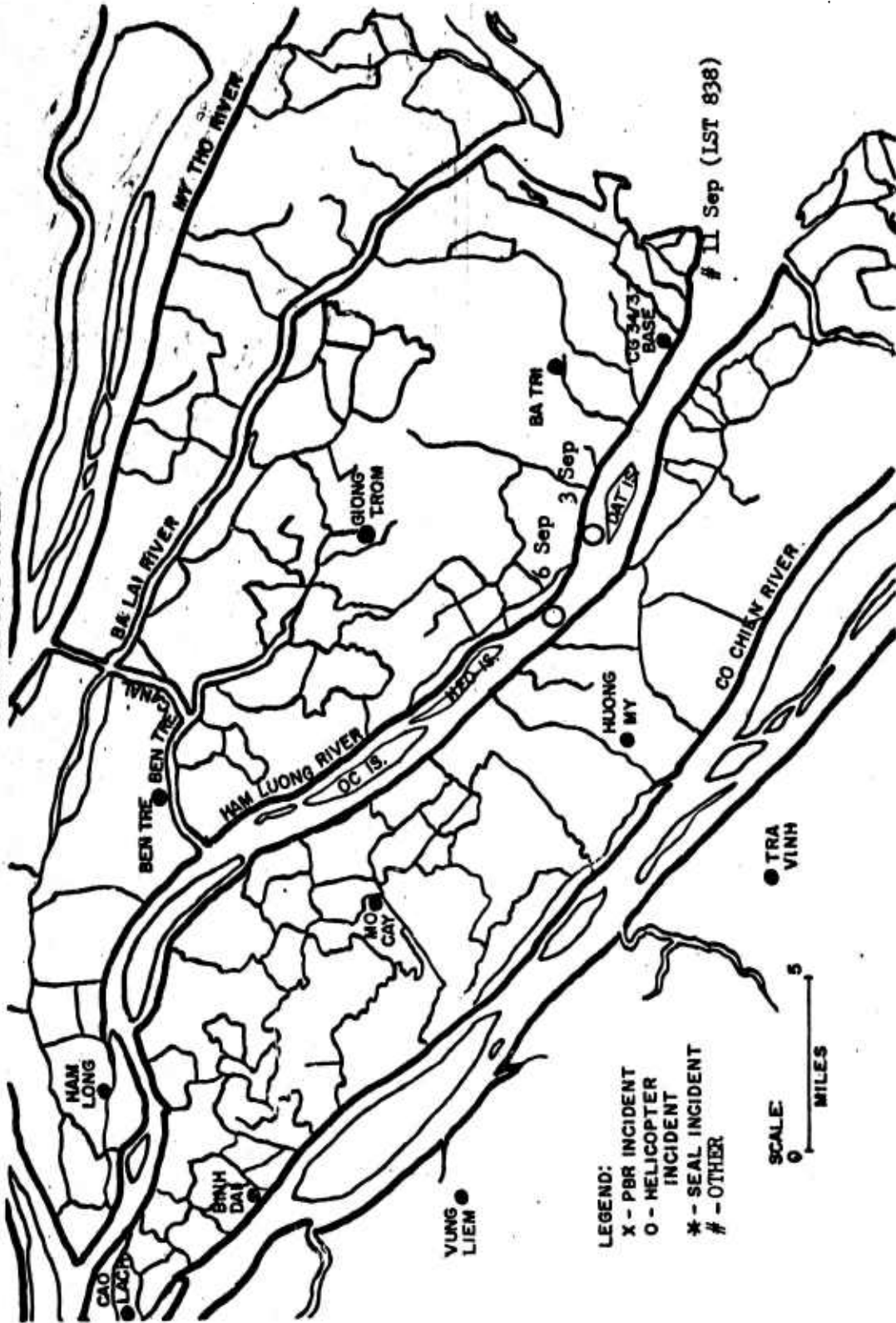
Viet Cong casualties were unknown.

Operations in the Ham Luong River

On 3 September, two UH-1B armed helicopters from HUNTERDON COUNTY patrolling the Ham Luong River about 17 miles southeast of Ben Tre, spotted several camouflaged sampans loading cargo. The helicopter light fire team conducted an attack into the area and destroyed three sampans and damaged another. Four hours later, another light fire team from Dong Tam struck at the suspected Viet Cong supply cache with rockets and machine guns resulting in a large secondary explosion which burned for several minutes. These attacks were conducted in a known commo-liaison supply route from the Thanh Phu Secret Zone to Kien Hoa main-force units.

On the 6th, two Navy gunships, "Seawolf 41" and "Seawolf 43", while on an armed reconnaissance of the Ham Luong River, 14 miles southeast of Ben Tre, observed several large heavily-loaded sampans in an area of known Viet Cong activity. Upon receiving permission from the Giong Trom Senior Advisor, the Navy helicopters destroyed two sampans, damaged four others and killed three of the enemy. Continuing their airborne surveillance patrol 14 miles upriver, the same gunships detected three more sampans with men and cargo aboard in a 24-hour curfew enemy resupply route. The "Seawolves" launched a rocket and machine gun attack and killed four more Viet Cong and destroyed the three sampans.

OPERATIONS IN THE
HAM LUONG RIVER



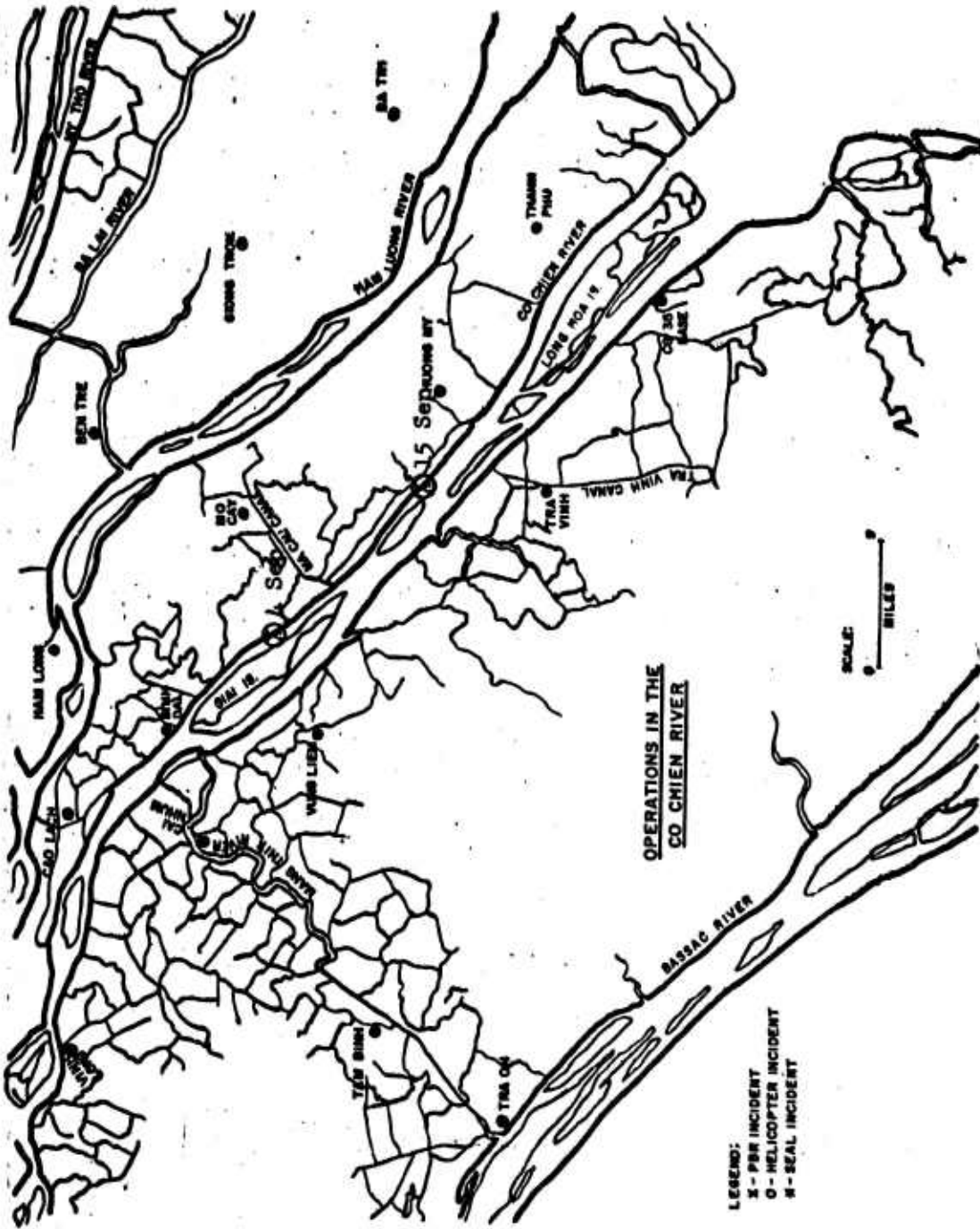
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Early in the morning of 11 September, 23 miles southeast of Ben Tre, HUNTERDON COUNTY, at anchor in the Ham Luong River, experienced a large underwater explosion in close proximity to the ship. A thorough inspection revealed no damage to the ship and there were no personnel casualties. Although the origin of the explosion was not positively known, it was believed to have been a command detonated mine planted on the bottom of the river.

Operations in the Co Chien River

On 4 September, five Vinh Long-based PBRs, patrolling along the Pang Tra River, about 12 miles southwest of Ben Tre, were ambushed with automatic and semi-automatic weapons from six to eight well-bunkered positions along the north river bank. The river boats retaliated with a series of firing runs into the two mile long ambush site. A Navy helicopter heavy fire team of four gunships arrived on the scene, and the GAME WARDEN team conducted several coordinated rocket and mortar attacks to prevent the Viet Cong from exfiltrating. Four additional PBRs joined the battle and assisted in routing out the enemy and suppressing the fire. At the end of the three hour battle, Viet Cong casualties were two killed with nine structures destroyed and 30 damaged.

In the early afternoon of the 15th, three PBRs from USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 821) and three Vinh Long-based patrol boats rendezvoused in the middle of the Co Chien River, 25 miles southeast



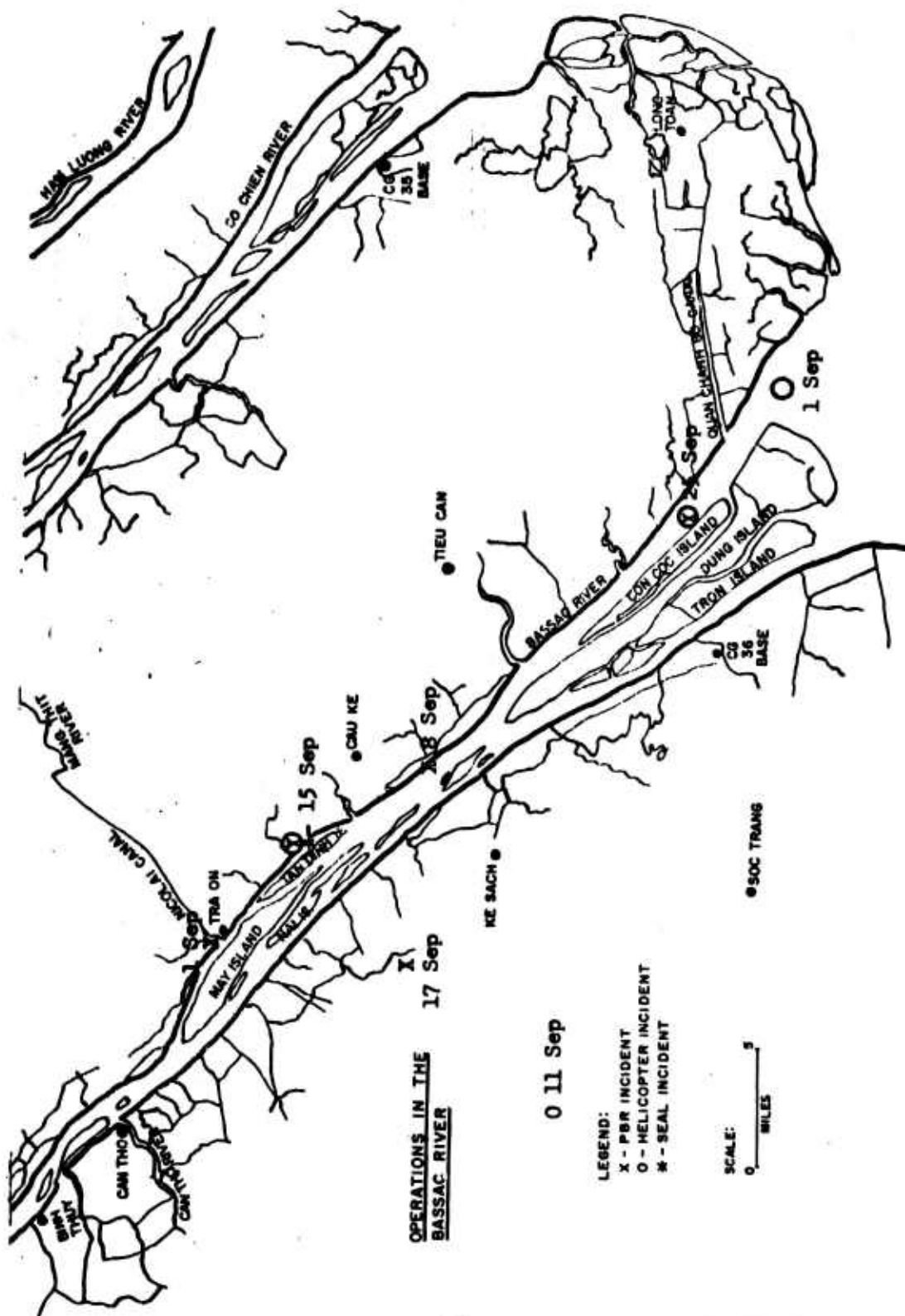
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of Vinh Long, in order to transfer mail and personnel. They were promptly taken under automatic-weapons fire from four different locations on the river bank. The six PBRs immediately dispersed and commenced taking the ambushers under fire. A Navy helicopter heavy fire team scrambled into the ambush area and made two rocket strikes. Enemy casualties were undetermined, however the fire was suppressed. There were no friendly casualties. Personnel and mail transfers had previously been conducted in this vicinity in the past. A lesson learned from this episode is that rendezvous positions should be relocated each time to avoid establishing a pattern.

Operations in the Bassac River

In the early morning hours of 1 September, a GAME WARDEN UH-1B helicopter gunship crashed while scrambling off the deck of GARRETT COUNTY, anchored at the mouth of the Bassac River. The co-pilot and one crew member were immediately rescued by PBRs, however the pilot, Lieutenant Commander Robert D. JOHNSON, and Aviation Machinist's Mate First Class E. L. OTT III, USN, a crew member, were killed in the mishap. Later that evening, four PBRs scrambled from Binh Thuy to suppress a heavy mortar attack on Tra On. After silencing the attack, the boats provided medical evacuation for 12 Vietnamese to Can Tho. There were no U. S. casualties.

On 8 September two PBRs on a blocking station at the mouth of the Cai Trung Canal, 20 miles southeast of Can Tho, evacuated



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seven civilians who were seriously wounded by friendly artillery and air strikes in the area.

Through a joint U. S. military air rescue effort, all four occupants of a Navy helicopter gunship, which crashed on 11 September while on a training mission about 20 miles south of Can Tho, were recovered. While Army and Air Force spotter planes flew overhead cover, a Navy "Seawolf" helicopter and an Army helicopter rescued the slightly injured Navymen, and evacuated them to the 3rd Surgical Hospital for further observation. An Army Chinook helicopter later recovered the fuselage.

On 15 September, Operation CRIMSON TIDE I was conducted 15 miles southeast of Can Tho, along a five-mile stretch of the Bas-sac River on the mainland opposite Tan Dinh Island. The Viet Cong had long held control of this area, and had fortified the banks against PBR river transits. Utilizing nine PBRs of River Section 511 and 512, eight RAG 25 craft, an armored LCM-6, three SEAL platoons, three Navy "Seawolf" helicopters and GARRETT COUNTY, the combined force inflicted a heavy toll of destruction on the well-entrenched enemy. At 0749, five PBRs began making high-speed transits through the canal to draw fire and to identify the Viet Cong positions. The RAG units and an armored LCM-6 entered the target area and commenced landing the SEALs after suppressing the hostile fire emanating from the strike zone. The three-man

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landing parties immediately began capturing weapons and documents and destroying enemy fortifications and sampans. Meanwhile, the support boats moved slowly down the shoreline, providing gunfire support, and repeatedly re-embarked and re-landed SEALs. Shortly afterwards, as Navy "Seawolves" provided overhead cover, the PBRs began landing boat crew personnel at several different locations in order to inflict additional destruction on the enemy stronghold. The operation terminated at 2200 with GARRETT COUNTY saturating the area with 40-mm cannon fire. The cumulative destruction inflicted on the enemy was: five Viet Cong killed, 168 houses, 120 sampans, and 75 bunkers destroyed. There was one sailor slightly wounded in the encounter.

On the morning of the 25th, PBRs 127 and 146 and a U. S. Navy LCM with six Regional Force soldiers aboard, discovered a 22,000-pound Viet Cong rice cache in An Thoi hamlet of Ba Xuyen Province, 17 miles southeast of Can Tho. Led by a Hoi Chanh (Viet Cong returnee), the combined USN/Vietnamese venture destroyed the cache, and also captured two fleeing enemy soldiers and one sampan.

Later, on the same day, the lead PBR of a three-boat patrol, about 3 1/2 miles southeast of Can Tho, was ambushed by extremely heavy and accurate automatic-weapons and 81-mm mortar fire from the river bank. Maneuvering at maximum speed and still under continuous mortar fire, the boat proceeded to the opposite bank,

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awaiting the arrival of the two supporting PBRs. Meanwhile, the awaiting boat received four rounds of recoilless-rifle fire which exploded close aboard and lifted the stern out of the water. Navy helicopters entered the melee and made two rocket and machine gun attacks into the area, both under intense automatic-weapons fire. The PBRs then made high-speed runs into the area, and once again were taken under heavy automatic-weapons and mortar fire. Enemy fire was still not suppressed. Two hours later, two well-placed fixed wing airstrikes were made, resulting in a large secondary explosion with an orange fireball and heavy white smoke. PBRs, in company with Coastal Group 36 junks, then transitted the battle area without further incident. During the engagement, PBR 58 received 13 automatic-weapon and multiple shrapnel hits. Three U. S. Navy sailors received minor wounds in the encounter.

GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 5 September, YREM-16 was relocated from the mouth of the Bassac River to a location opposite Ben Tre District town on the Ham Luong River. The embarked River Section 522 provided escort security during the transit, and assumed duties as TE 116.1.3.4 under the operational control of Commander River Division 53 (CTU 116.1.3) upon arrival.

On 11 September, River Section 534 was activated at Nha Be

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with Lieutenant R. M. WOLIN, USN, as the Officer in Charge.

On 15 September, HUNTERDON COUNTY departed from the mouth of the Ham Luong River en route to I Corps and Operation GREEN WAVE with Commander River Division 53 (CTU 116.1.3) and River Section 521 (CTE 116.1.3.3) embarked.

On the 21st, SEAL Team TWO, Detachment ALFA platoons were re-assigned and relocated under the operational control of the Task Unit Commanders. The Fifth SEAL platoon remained at Binh Thuy, assuming TE 116.1.1.0; the Fourth SEAL platoon moved to My Tho, assuming TE 116.1.3.0; the Sixth SEAL platoon moved to YRBM-16 at Ben Tre, assuming TE 116.1.3.7.

On 25 September, GARRETT COUNTY with River Section 511 embarked moved its patrol sector from the lower Bassac to the central Bassac River.

Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE, Detachment SEVEN, was activated at Binh Thuy on 28 September with Lieutenant Commander W. D. MARTIN, USNR, as the Officer in Charge.

On 30 September, a dedication ceremony was held at the GAME WARDEN headquarters at Binh Thuy for a newly erected memorial to American and Vietnamese personnel killed in action with Task Force 116. Captain Paul N. GRAY, USN, Commander River Patrol Force, made the opening remarks, and the dedication address was delivered by Major General Nguyen Van MANH, IV Corps Commanding General.

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GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
September 1967

1. PBR Statistics:

- a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 593.3 Night 637.5
- b. Total Contacts: Day 63,104 Night 5,208
- c. Total Inspected: Day 13,975 Night 746
- d. Total Boarded: Day 39,954 Night 3,756
- e. People Detained: 606
- f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 35
- g. Total Patrol Hours: 30,262

2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:

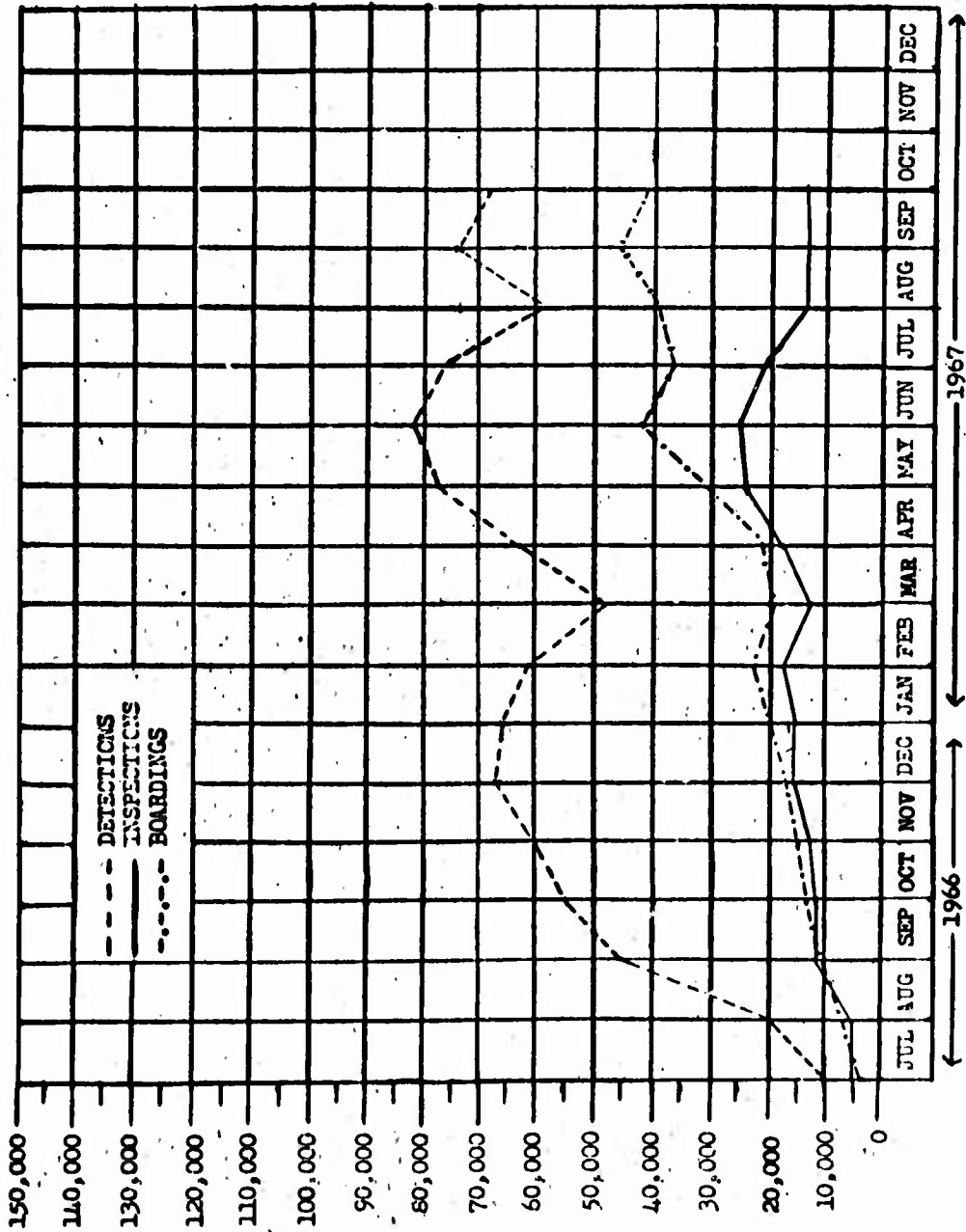
- a. Total Flight Hours: 781.4
- b. Helicopter Missions:
 - (1) Pre-planned strikes: 88
 - (2) Reaction: 93
 - (3) Targets of Opportunity: 99
 - (4) Support: 292

3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

- a. Fire Fights:
 - (1) PBR 23
 - (2) Helo 17
 - (3) LCM 1
 - (4) LCPL 1
- b. Sampans: Destroyed 176 Damaged 39 Captured 10
- c. Junks: Destroyed 1
- d. Structures: Destroyed 237 Damaged 65
- e. Bunkers: Destroyed 86 Damaged 3
- f. Enemy: KIA 40 KIA (Poss.) 30 WIA 16 Captured 12

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS



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g. Friendly: KIA 3 WIA 10

h. Friendly Battle Damage:

(1) PBR 47

(2) Helo 4

i. PBR MEDEVAC: 74

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An ATC(H) tows ATC 91-10 which was hit by a B-40 rocket in Ben Tre creek on 27 September. Medical personnel treat a wounded crewman near the bow; the body of a sailor killed during the engagement lies amidships; back aft, a sailor on the 20-mm gun turret guards five suspects detained after the ambush.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

The month of September found the Riverine Assault Force (RAF) exercising their primary capabilities to the fullest--mobility and naval gunfire support coupled with the striking power of the embarked assault forces. Conducting operations throughout the various regions of the III and IV Corps areas, the Mobile Riverine Force inflicted heavy losses on the Viet Cong. These losses totaled almost four hundred of the enemy killed and the capture or destruction of tons of enemy supplies and munitions. U. S. naval personnel of the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) suffered their heaviest losses since the MRF was activated on 28 February 1967. Six Navymen were killed in action and 84 wounded during the month of September. Most of these casualties were caused by shrapnel from the large caliber RPG-2 and RPG-7 rockets. The introduction of the heavy armor-penetrating (11-12 inches) RPG-7 rocket, with its increased range (500 meters), posed a much more serious threat to the assault craft of the RAF than did the more familiar RPG-2 (B-40), with a penetration capability of 6-7 inches and effective range of 100 meters.

From 1 to 4 September, the MRF, operating from the Mobile Riverine Base at the junction of the Vam Co and Soirap Rivers, provided close support to units of the Second Brigade, U. S. NINTH Infantry Division, primarily the 3/47th and 3/60th Infantry Battalions which conducted Operation CORONADO IV in the Go Cong and Long An

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Provinces. While contact with the enemy was light during this period, the very presence of the MRF in the backyard of the Viet Cong was considered instrumental in the large election day turnout (92.2%) of voters in the Can Giouc area. The commanding officer of the 26th ARVN Division and the commanding officer of the 46th ARVN Regiment both commended the MRF for supporting their areas of responsibility.

Meanwhile, on 4 September, the Riverine Survey Team completed survey operations along the Soirap River, an important waterway route to and from Saigon. On the 8th, ground troops attached to the RAF discovered a large unoccupied Viet Cong base camp and field hospital in southern Bien Hoa Province.

On 11 September, the MRF shifted its anchorage from Vung Tau Harbor to Dong Tam to commence Operation CORONADO V, a riverine search and destroy/water isolation operation. On the 15th of the month, units of the RAF, while proceeding up Ba Rai Creek about 47 miles southeast of Saigon to insert troops, came under intense enemy rocket and recoilless-rifle fire from both banks of the creek. As a result of this ambush, three U. S. sailors were killed and 77 were wounded. Two U. S. Marines attached to the Riverine Survey Team were also wounded. During this phase of CORONADO V, which ended on 16 September, heavy losses were inflicted on the Viet Cong with 213 killed and 66 probably killed. U. S. Army casualties

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consisted of 12 soldiers killed and 67 wounded.

Operation CORONADO V continued, and on 27 September, the RAF commenced landing troops on the west bank of Ben Tre Creek in Kien Hoa Province after an extensive artillery barrage and air strikes. While proceeding to patrol/blocking stations along Ben Tre Creek, the two lead armored troop carriers (ATCs), which were being used as minesweepers, received heavy enemy fire from both banks. Firing at point-blank range, the ATCs suppressed the fire, killing at least two Viet Cong. This engagement, which was practically a repetition of the 15 September encounter along the Ba Rai Creek, resulted in the death of three U. S. sailors and the wounding of six others.

Operations in the Go Cong and Long An Provinces

On 1 September, the two-man TF 117 EOD Detachment assisted C Company of the 84th Engineer Battalion in the demolition of a sunken concrete float and underwater piling at the Cau Noi Ferry in the Vam Co River, eight miles northeast of Go Cong. The Cau Noi Ferry had not been able to transport vehicles for the past several months due to the sunken float. The restoration of this ferry site, an important economic link connecting the Go Cong and Long An portions of National Highway 5, was considered to be a significant contribution to the Revolutionary Development Program.

Mobile Riverine Force operations on 2 and 3 September consisted

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of prosecuting CORONADO IV in the Can Giouc District of Long An Province. This operation was designed primarily to provide the area with a reasonable degree of security in order to permit the local populace to participate in the National Elections. As evidenced by the large election day turn-out of voters (92.2%) in this district, the pacification mission was considered a success.

At approximately 1230 on the 2nd of September, ATC-91-9 observed and took under fire five Viet Cong employing evasive tactics in Can Giouc Creek. This action resulted in two of the enemy killed. At 2210 on the 3rd, ATC-111-9 received one round of RPG-2 from the north bank of the Soirap River about five miles southeast of Can Giouc. One sailor received a slight shrapnel wound. Fire was returned into the area with unknown results. Later in the night at 2330, ATC-91-11 observed about seven suspects evading behind bunkers about five miles northeast of Can Giouc. The bunkers were taken under fire with unknown results.

Operations in Bien Hoa Province

Commencing at 0230, 6 September, the MRB relocated from its position at the junction of the Soirap/Vam Co Rivers to Vung Tau in order to project strike operations into the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ). This search and destroy operation was directed against the Viet Cong 84th Rear Service Group in Bien Hoa Province.

On 8 September, in the southwestern Long Thanh District of

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Bien Hoa Province, during Operation CORONADO V, ground elements attached to the MRF discovered an unoccupied enemy base camp. This camp contained the largest cache of weapons and supplies captured to date by the MRF. The cache consisted of 97 individual weapons, eight machine guns, 56,150 rounds of small-arms ammunition, 165 grenades, 50 rounds of 75-mm howitzer shells, several mortar rounds and numerous booby traps. Shortly afterwards on the same day, an unoccupied hospital complex, consisting of 30 huts and many bunkers, was also discovered in the same general area. This cache consisted of over 850 pounds of assorted medical supplies including 500 bottles of streptomycin, glucose and sulphur. The hospital probably served elements of T-10, the RSSZ Viet Cong headquarters.

Operations in the Dinh Tuong Province

The Mobile Riverine Base (MRB) shifted its anchorage to Dong Tam on 11 September in order to support Operation CORONADO V (12-16 September). Other forces included the 3/47th, 3/60th and 5/60th Infantry Battalions, 2nd Brigade, U. S. NINTH Infantry Division, the 41st Rangers (ARVN) and the 10th Infantry Regiment (ARVN). The objective was to locate and destroy Viet Cong local and main forces and installations in the Cam Son Secret Zone, Dinh Tuong Province.

On the morning of 15 September, Task Group 117.2 proceeding up the Ba Rai Creek, about 47 miles southeast of Saigon, to insert troops was ambushed along a two-mile stretch from well-prepared

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fortifications and dense foliage on both banks of the creek. At the time of the ambush, the task group was conducting reconnaissance by fire. During the ensuing four-hour battle, the river assault craft came under the heaviest fire that they had experienced to date. In all, eighteen boats received battle damage.

Lieutenant Commander Francis E. RHODES, COMRIVRON 11 and CTG 117.2 was in command of the 23 riverine assault craft, which had elements of the 2nd Brigade, NINTH Infantry Division embarked. LCDR RHODES was on board CCB-111-1 when the command boat was hit by two rockets, knocking him and his crew to the deck. Although stunned from momentary unconsciousness, he stationed himself in an exposed position on his command boat and in the face of direct enemy fire from close range, quickly noted the condition and disposition of his units. Taking personal command of all of his units by radio, he ordered them out of the enemy fortified area. He then regrouped his forces, transferred his dead, evacuated his seriously wounded men and reassigned personnel so that all of his boats were properly manned. Then he reentered the melee with his task group, suppressed the heavy enemy rocket and recoilless-rifle fire and successfully landed his assault troops.

In fighting its way past the entrenched, hard-core Viet Cong 263rd Main Force Battalion, the task group inserted a block which prevented Viet Cong exfiltration from the area. Despite the heavy

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barrage of fire from 57-mm recoilless rifles, RPG-2 (B-40) and RPG-7 (B-41) anti-tank grenades, automatic weapons and small arms, not a single boat was placed out of action. Two boats did leave the area for repairs, but were combat-ready within four hours. This attests to the rugged construction of these boats.

Three U. S. Navymen were killed and 77 were wounded in this action. Viet Cong casualties consisted of 213 killed with 66 probably killed. Individual acts of heroism were abundant with wounded sailors refusing to be sent back to the ships of the Mobile Riverine Base so that they could stay with their boats and continue to fight. As a result of this battle, CTF 117 has recommended that the following awards be given to the brave sailors of the RAF: three Navy Crosses, 23 Silver Stars (three posthumously), 34 Bronze Stars, and 10 Navy Commendation Medals.

On 17 September, the commanding general of the U. S. NINTH Infantry Division sent the following congratulatory message to Commander Task Force 117 and the Commanding Officer, 2nd Brigade, U. S. NINTH Infantry Division:

ROSEBOROUGH SENDS FOR COMMODORE W. C. WELLS:

1. PLEASE CONVEY MY CONGRATULATIONS TO TF 117 AND ESPECIALLY RAS-11, COMMODORE RHODES, AND RAS-9, COMMODORE HOROWITZ, FOR THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION THEY DISPLAYED IN SUPPORTING THE SECOND BRIGADE, NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION IN OPERATION CORONADO V. YOU ARE PARTICULARLY COMMENDED FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN CLOSE COMBAT IN THE CAM SON SECRET ZONE ON 15 SEPTEMBER.
2. THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION, "OLE RELIABLES", ARE

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INDEED FORTUNATE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH A SPLENDID PROFESSIONAL MILITARY ORGANIZATION. OUR HIGHEST COMPLIMENTS TO YOU AND ALL YOUR FINE SEAMEN.

Lessons learned from this encounter were:

1. That during riverine operations, it was necessary to have the tactical coordinator airborne in a command helicopter for coordination of waterborne units and for direct liaison with friendly Army units ashore.

2. That the requirement existed for walking artillery and gunship support fire up the river banks when transitting waterways where contact with the enemy was highly probable.

3. That continuous heavy enemy fire from both river banks required long range flame throwers on the monitors of the task force.

4. That the ATC being used as a minesweeper was entirely too slow for these chain drag sweeps. It slowed down the assault force and doubled the exposure time in the kill zone. It further dramatically demonstrated the need for assault patrol boats (ASPB) to perform minesweeping functions at the earliest possible date.

5. That Boston Whalers with gasoline outboard motors should not be carried on river assault craft. During the battle at Ba Rai Creek, fire engulfed the fantails of three ATCs as a result of ignited gasoline which spilled from the outboard motor gasoline tanks.

6. That the ATC(H) was again proven an invaluable asset to MRF operations on 15 September, when 52 battle casualties were treated

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and/or medevaced from one ATC(H) battalion medical aid station. The presence of the ATC(H) with helicopter platforms prevented the disruption of operations due to mass casualties.

The 4/47th Infantry Battalion rotated aboard the ships of the MRF, and the 3/47th Infantry Battalion went ashore at Dong Tam on 17 September. With the exception of the MRB defense elements, all units of the MRF conducted preventive maintenance in preparation for operations commencing 20 September.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

On 20 September, the MRF commenced prosecuting Operation CORONADO V in northwestern Kien Hoa Province to locate and destroy elements of the 516th Viet Cong Battalion and the 550th Company. Minor skirmishes with the enemy occurred in Ham Luong District on 23 September, but major contact never took place during this period.

During a continuation of Operation CORONADO V (27-28 September) the MRF conducted riverine/airmobile assault, search and destroy operations in order to locate elements of the Viet Cong 516th Battalion, 540th Company and enemy installations in the Giong Trom District of Kien Hoa Province. This operation was held in coordination with the 10th Regiment, ARVN SEVENTH Division and the Kien Hoa Sector forces.

At 1045 on 27 September, in the Ben Tre Creek 40 miles southwest of Saigon, history repeated itself. As was the case in the 15

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September battle at Ba Rai Creek, the Viet Cong struck at the two lead ATCs of the column, which were performing minesweeping duties. After landing their troops, and en route to their patrol stations, T-91-3 and T-91-10, the lead minesweepers of Task Unit 117.2.1, commenced receiving heavy enemy 57-mm recoilless-rifle, B-40, and automatic-weapons fire from the east bank of Ben Tre Creek. M-111-2, which was one of the five boats in the task unit, moved up to assist and killed two of the enemy just as they were preparing to fire a 57-mm recoilless rifle. The hostile fire was silenced with all naval units returning fire. Once again the enemy was firing from well-entrenched positions. Three sailors were killed in the engagement and six others were wounded. All of the casualties occurred on the two lead ATC minesweepers.

On 28 September, the MRF shifted its anchorage from Dong Tam to a position at the junction of the Cua Tieu and Cua Dai Rivers near the northern end of Loi Quan Island. This move was effected to reduce the lines of communications and logistic distance to the area of operations. In a series of light skirmishes in the Mo Cay and Huong My Districts of Kien Hoa Provinces, five Viet Cong were killed and a quantity of weapons, medical supplies and rice was captured.

This operation was significant in that it marked the first combat employment of the two newly acquired ASPBs, high speed,

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heavily armored minesweepers. The use of the ASPBs resulted in a more rapid speed of advance of movement groups, and further enhanced the possibility of successful surprise troop landings. This operation also marked the first time that American forces had ever struck at the birthplace of the National Liberation Front (Viet Cong). This area, 50 miles south-southwest of Saigon near An Dinh Village in Kien Hoa Province, was the site of the NLF's announcement to the world in 1960 of its intention to combat the established government while creating the impression that its cause was one of indigenous rebellion.

RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE UNITS

On 5 September, the duties of the four River Assault Divisions were shifted as follows:

RAD 91 from support of 3/47th Infantry Battalion to general support (resupply, minesweeping, medical clearing station and miscellaneous),

RAD 92 from base defense to support of the 3/47th Infantry Battalion,

RAD 111 from general support to support of the 3/60th Infantry Battalion,

RAD 112 from support of the 3/60th Infantry Battalion to the Mobile Riverine Base Defense.

In order to provide appropriate support and effective coordination of operations, personnel will be relocated as follows:

RAD 91 from APL-26 to USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST 1169),
RAD 92 from USS BENEWAH (APB 35) to APL-26,

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RAD 111 from WHITFIELD COUNTY to USS COLLETON (APB 36),
RAD 112 from COLLETON to BENEWAH,
RAS 9 staff remains in APL-26 and RAS 11 staff in COLLETON.

On 12 September, Light Lift Craft ONE (LLC-1) with Harbor Clearance Unit Team Detachment embarked, chopped to CTF 117 at Dong Tam in order to provide emergency salvage capability for river assault craft conducting riverine operations in Dinh Tuong Province. On 16 September, LLC-1 was relieved by LLC-2, chopped back to COMNAVFORV and proceeded to Vung Tau for onward sealift to Subic Bay.

During the period 17-18 September, the 3/47th Infantry Battalion was relieved of afloat duties by the 4/47th Infantry Battalion and rotated to Dong Tam.

On 20 September, the first shipment of two assault support patrol boats (ASPB) arrived at Vung Tau and were not off-loaded until the 22nd. The well-armed and heavily armored ASPB will act as escort and provide protection for the slower ATCs during the troop transport phase of the riverine assault. The ASPB, capable of making a speed of 14.8 knots, will also perform minesweeping duties in advance of the river assault squadrons and serve as a blocking and intercepting force in the waterways around the area of operation. The 50-foot ASPB is armed with a 20-mm cannon, an 81-mm mortar, .50 caliber and M-60 machine guns and two rapid-fire grenade launchers.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

During September heavy rains and rough seas marked the advent of the current monsoon season in I Corps, with predictably adverse effects upon the coastal resupply of Dong Ha and Hue-Tan My. During the month worsening sea conditions lengthened the north-bound transit from Danang of LCUs and YFUs to periods ranging from 24 to 36 hours, and on occasion swells and a 10-foot surf at the entrance to the Cua Viet prevented craft from entering the channel. At the same time, the strong current caused by heavy river run-offs seriously impeded the upstream movement of waterborne traffic. At Dong Ha, the ramp was at one time three-fourths under water, with the river level up four feet after cresting seven feet above normal.

The elements also conspired in other ways to disrupt resupply operations in the Cua Viet. On 20 September USS PARK COUNTY (LST 1077) grounded in the center of the Cua Viet channel. A survey subsequently conducted by an Underwater Demolition Team indicated that at the channel entrance a bar had been built up by the swift current to within 10 feet of the surface. The dredge DAVIDSON then began operations to remove the obstruction, which effectively precluded the entry of LSTs into the Cua Viet. At month's end, it was anticipated that by 10 October dredging operations would have cleared the channel sufficiently to permit passage of an LST with a medium load.

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On 13 September, at the request of the Commanding General of the THIRD Marine Amphibious Force, NAVSUPACT assumed responsibility for the operation of the Dong Ha ramp and the coordination of its usage by the various military activities in the area. At the same time, action was initiated to provide the increased cargo-processing capability necessary to support certain THIRD MAF high priority projects. The new requirements called for the processing of approximately 1,500 short tons a day by 24 September, and for 1,700 short tons daily by the 15th of the following month.

On the 14th, NAVSUPACT assigned enough additional equipment and personnel to Dong Ha to permit 24-hour operation of the ramp. The Marine shore party previously assigned to the ramp was redeployed to customer delivery sites to expedite the turn-around of trucks. In addition, action was taken to begin the construction of an additional ramp in order to permanently upgrade the cargo-processing capability at Dong Ha.

Meanwhile, the enemy continued to conduct periodic rocket and artillery attacks against the Naval Support Activity's outlying detachments. At 0500 on 2 September, three LCUs at the Dong Ha bridge ramp were damaged by an underwater explosion. The detonation was attributed to artillery fire rather than a mine; one artillery round was observed to impact in the river prior to the incident, and at the time all of the craft had their screws turning

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and were dropping grenades as a deterrent against swimmers.

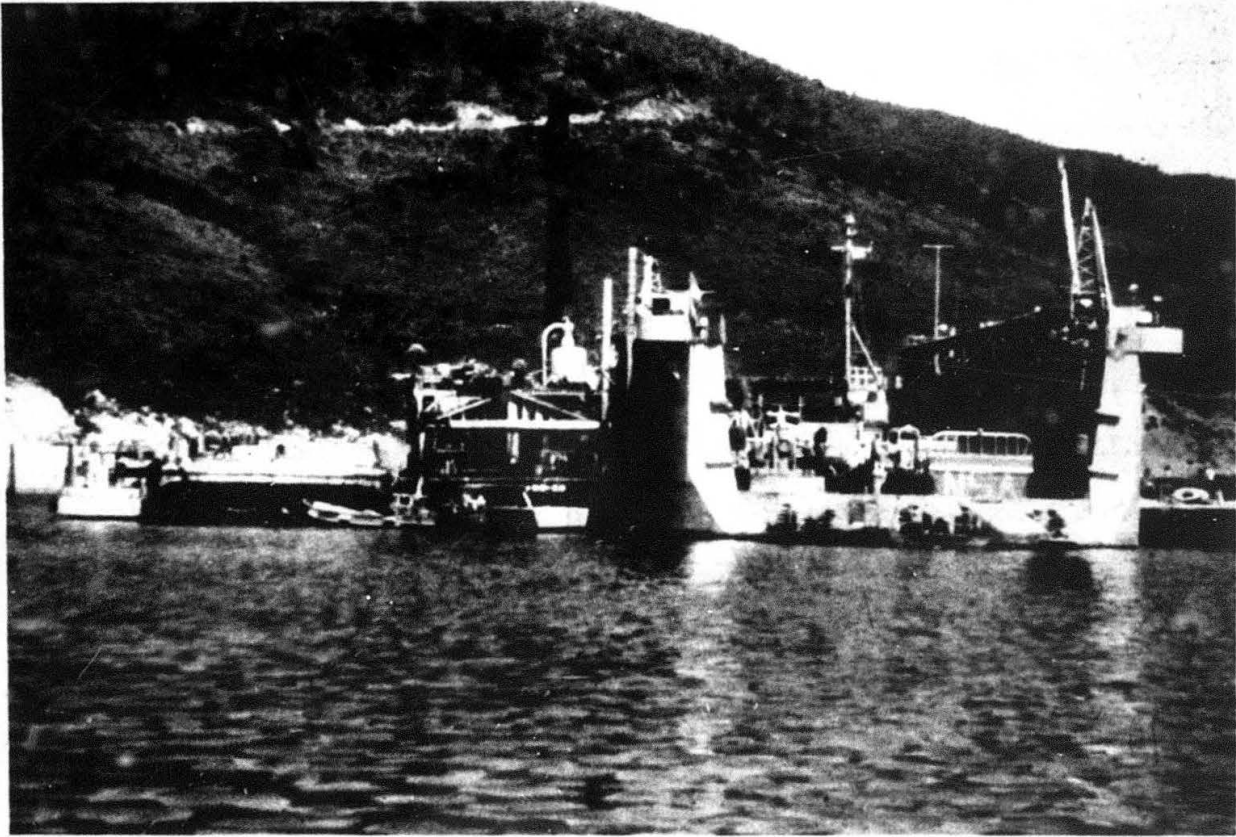
After the explosion one craft slowly began taking on water in the starboard generator room, and its power plant was rendered partially inoperative; the other LCUs sustained only minor damage. Two men were slightly injured as a result of the attack. All three craft were repaired and back in operation within a week.

Shortly after the attack on Dong Ha, the Naval Support Activity's LST ramp site at the entrance to the Cua Viet received several rounds each of 140-mm rocket and 100-mm artillery fire. No material damage or personnel casualties resulted.

Artillery fire continued to harass the various activities located in the Dong Ha combat base area throughout September; 27 separate attacks were recorded between the 2nd and 25th. And, during the latter part of the month, dredging operations in the Cua Viet channel by DAVIDSON were restricted to the hours of darkness because of incoming artillery fire, which bracketed the dredge on several occasions.

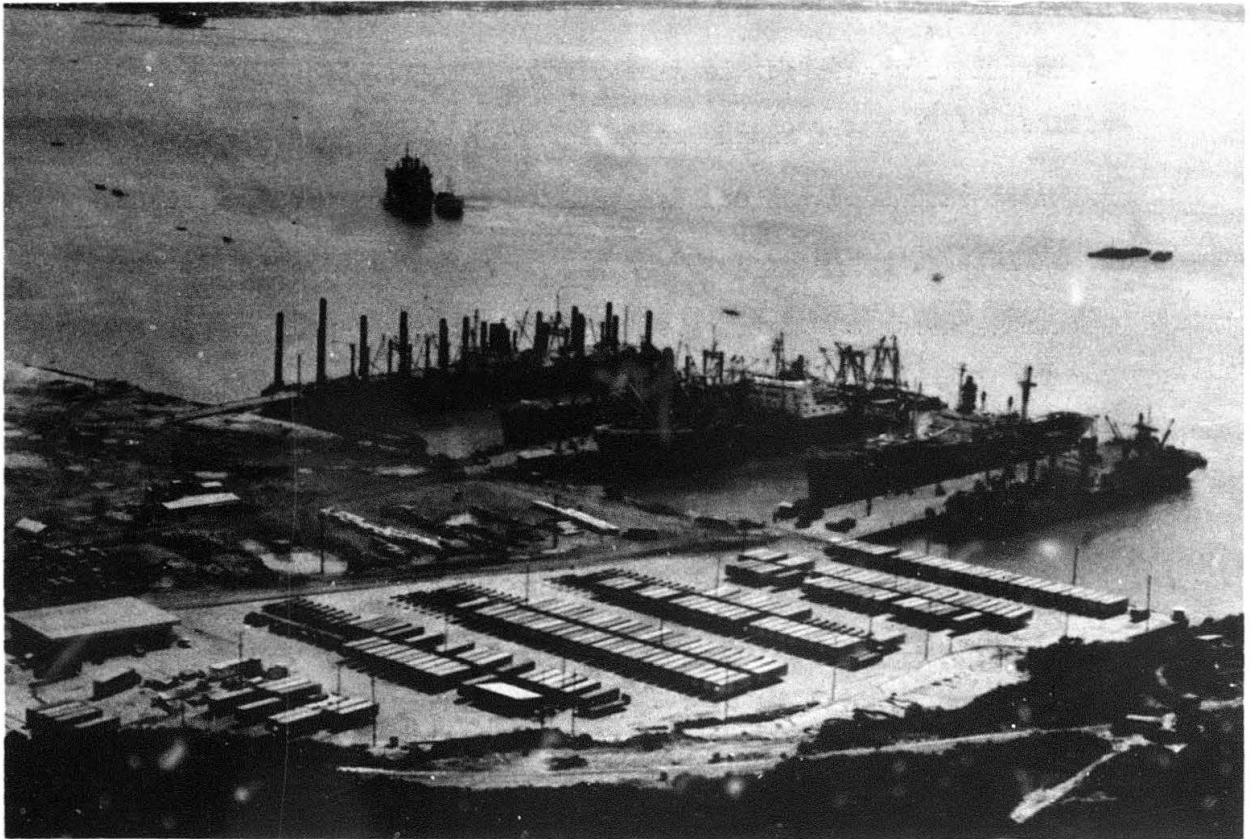
As a result of the continuing enemy effort to disrupt waterborne shipping in the Cua Viet, NAVSUPPACT instituted additional security measures. On 1 September a second LCPL Mark IV patrol boat was assigned to the NAVSUPPACT detachment at Dong Ha-Cua Viet to provide night patrols of the Cua Viet and Dong Ha ramp areas. On the 26th, a patrol boat at the Dong Ha ramp received small arms

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AFDL-23, Naval Support Activity, Danang's floating dry dock.

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Naval Support Activity, Danang's deep-water piers with the containership service facility in the foreground.

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fire from the shoreline. There were no casualties and the boat, although hit five times, sustained only minor damage.

On 3 September, a Danang harbor security patrol boat received five rounds of tracer fire from the shore; no injuries resulted. During the month Danang's patrol craft continued to conduct random searches of Vietnamese junks and sampans in Danang Harbor and the Han River area. As a result, over 583 craft were searched, 72 junks and 188 persons were detained, and one Viet Cong suspect and eight Viet Cong sympathizers were turned over to THIRD MAF intelligence.

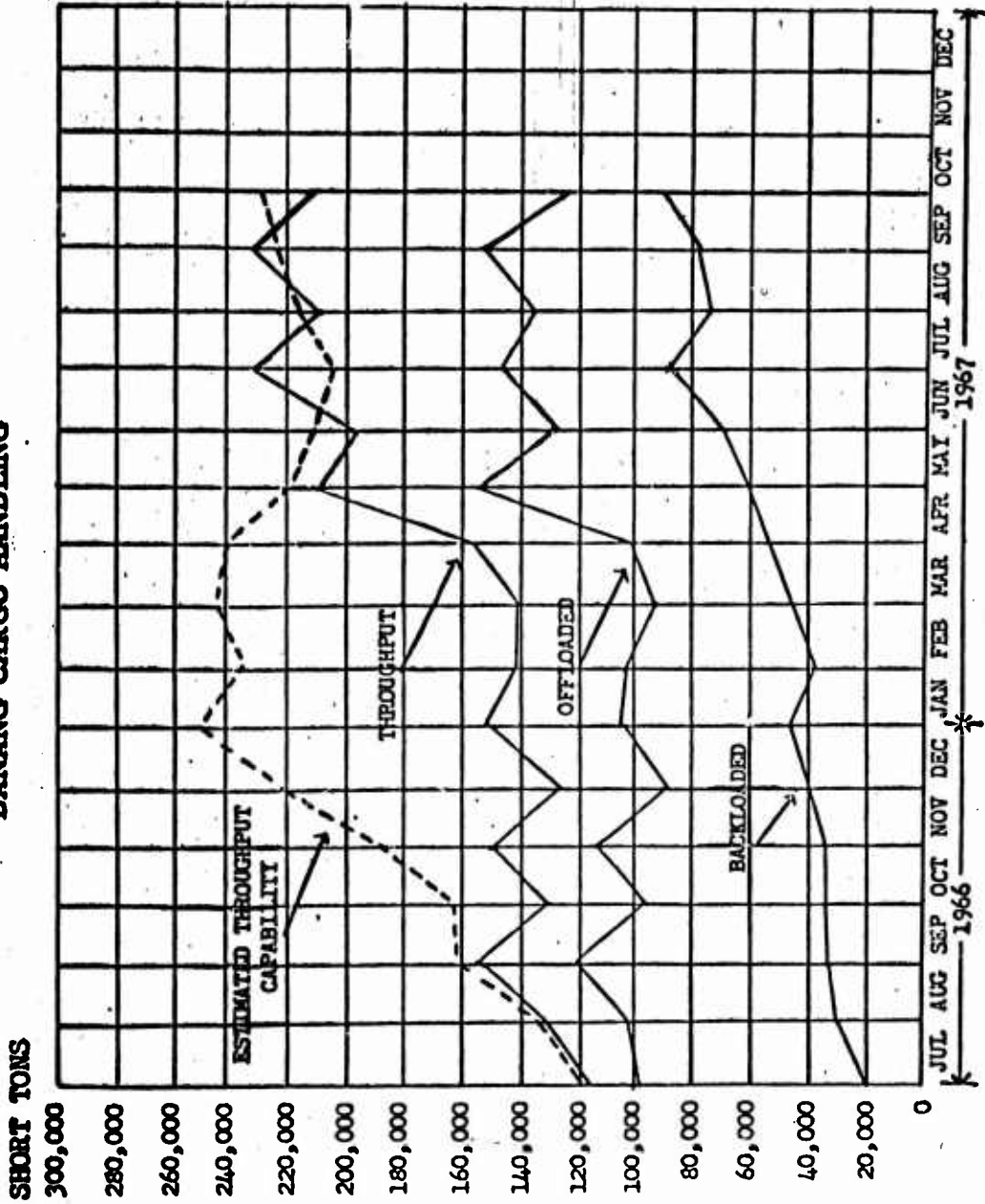
Despite the constraints imposed by the weather and enemy activity, NAVSUPACT Danang and its detachments continued to process large volumes of cargo. At the port of Danang, the 88,674 short tons of cargo back-loaded for transshipment to other ports established a new high. The amounts of cargo back-loaded at Hue and Dong Ha-- 2,564 and 1,636 short tons, respectively--also surpassed all previous levels. The month's throughput for Danang reached 211,876 short tons. The combined throughput for all I Corps ports was almost 300,000 short tons.

Supply support continued to be generally excellent. The combined net requisition effectiveness for Danang and Chu Lai increased from August's 91 percent to 93 percent in September; the combined gross effectiveness rate rose from 84 to 90 percent.

During the month the number of service craft assigned to

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DANANG CARGO HANDLING



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NAVSUPPACT increased with the arrival of four "pusher" boats (converted LCM-3s) from the Ship Repair Facility at Subic.

On the night of 28 September, a two-hour fire fight occurred between U. S. Marines and an unknown number of enemy in the vicinity of the NAVSUPPACT transmitter site at Marble Mountain. The facility, located eight miles south of Danang, is the Navy's largest transmitter site in the I Corps area and the southernmost outpost for which the Naval Support Activity's Security Force is responsible.

During the engagement the northwest perimeter of the site received several hundred rounds of small-arms fire, and one grenade exploded between the outer perimeter and the transmitter building. Members of the 50-man security force assigned to the site, mostly volunteers, returned an estimated 700 rounds and fired 40 flares during the battle. There were no casualties to NAVSUPPACT personnel and no damage to the installation resulted.

Lighters assigned to the Naval Support Activity participated in two search and rescue operations during September. On the 26th, LCU-1615 rescued a Marine jet pilot from the South China Sea near the Cua Viet. The injured aviator, assigned to MAG-13 at Chu Lai, was then delivered to USS PAUL REVERE (APA 248) for medical evacuation. Three days later another injured Marine pilot, one of two downed in the South China Sea approximately ten miles south of the Cua Viet, was recovered by LCU-1619 and transferred to USS GOLDSBOROUGH

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(DDG 20) for evacuation.

During September increasing demands were placed on the facilities of NAVSUPPACT's hospital in Danang. The 1,312 patients received at the hospital in September was the highest monthly total to date. Of the total, 545 were admitted for combat injuries, slightly less than the record number of battle casualties admitted in May.

On 30 September the Naval Support Activity, Danang personnel level was 8,741. That same day, the number of United States and other Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPPACT was 131,800.

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The piers and base at Cam Ranh Bay.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

On 1 September the U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon, Detachment Cam Ranh Bay was redesignated the U. S. Naval Support Facility, Cam Ranh Bay with Commander Ronald A. CAMPBELL, USN, commanding. The facility, which is located on the southern tip of the Cam Ranh Peninsula, is physically divided into two areas: the administration sector with berthing, messing, club and office facilities; and the pier area, which has fuel, repair, and drydock facilities. Among the tenants at the new support facility are Commander Coastal Surveillance Force (CTF 115), Coastal Squadron ONE, Coastal Division FOURTEEN, Inshore Undersea Warfare Group ONE Unit TWO, and the Naval Communications Station.

The main body of Naval Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 302 (CBMU 302), which is under the operational control of NAVSUPACT, Saigon, arrived at Cam Ranh Bay on 20 September. The primary mission of CBMU 302 is the performance of routine maintenance and repair of the naval facilities, equipment and vehicles in the II CTZ. Secondary missions are improvements, alterations, and limited minor construction projects. Personnel assigned to CBMU 302 include 164 enlisted men and four officers.

During September, the number of line items carried by NAVSUPACT, Saigon, totaled 33,393. The overall gross and net material support effectiveness increased slightly to 48 percent and 67 percent

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respectively.

Two new programs that were designed to increase the effectiveness of supply support to naval forces in II, III and IV Corps areas were fully instituted during the month by the NAVSUPACT, Saigon, Supply Department.

The Selected Item Management (SIM) program provides the means to identify and focus management attention on the relatively few items in inventory that account for the majority of demands. Approximately five percent of each detachment's inventory has been designated SIM. Through SIM, meaningful stock levels have been established based on high and low limits determined by usage and requisition lead to insure an adequate stock is on hand at all times. High limits are reviewed and revised monthly, if necessary. From the monthly reports, NAVSUPACT, Saigon, may determine the relative stock positions of the various detachments and direct the redistribution of surplus stock at one activity to alleviate shortages at another.

In September, a program was undertaken by NAVSUPACT to submit all Navy requisitions for common support items to the Army on a "fill or kill" basis, both at the Saigon and detachment level. This program was brought about by the poor fill rate received from the Army and the subsequent lack of status on back-ordered or passed requisitions. NAVSUPACT now knows within two days after

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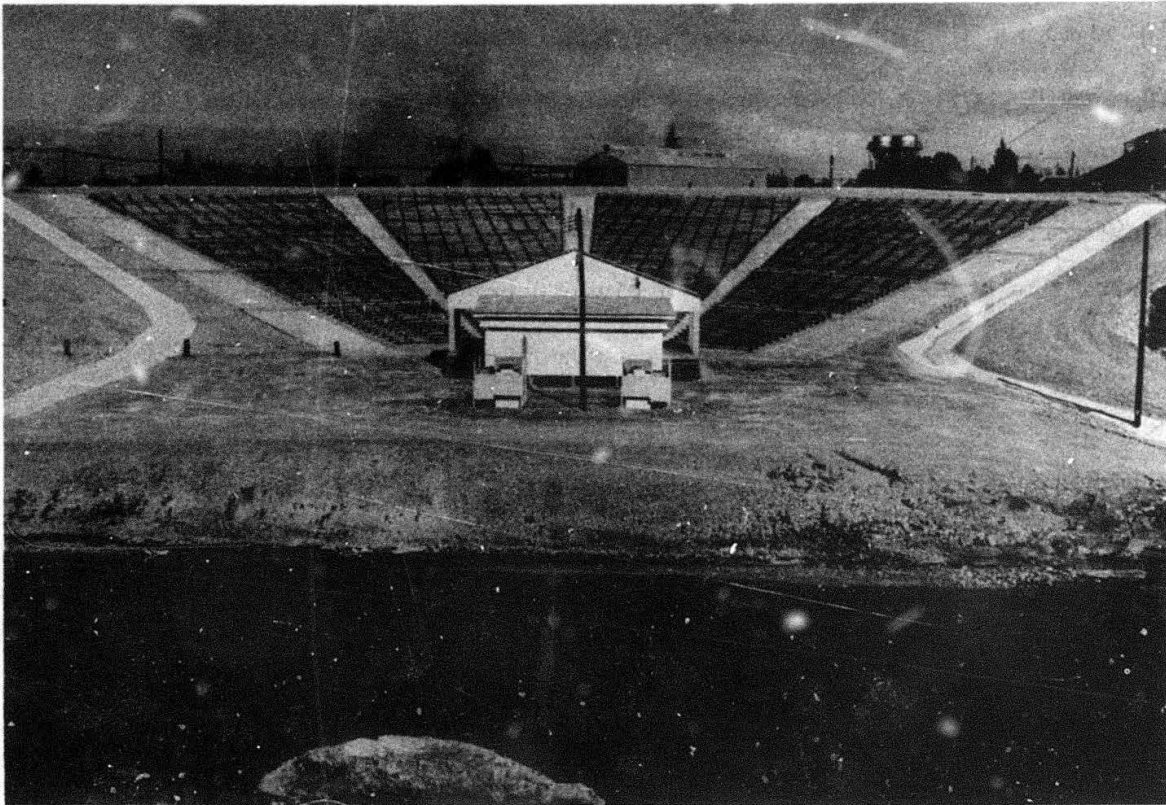
submitting the requisition for common use items whether or not these items will be received from the Army. If the Army records indicate the item is "not in stock", the requisition is immediately submitted to Naval Supply Center, Oakland. It was felt that this program would provide better support to units supplied by NAVSUPPACT Saigon.

A critical need for additional warehouse space in Saigon exists for new stocks scheduled to arrive in country beginning in October. At month's end, all efforts to acquire the needed space had been unsuccessful. The U. S. Army was negotiating with the owner for one warehouse and with Raymond, Morrison, and Knudson Inc. for a second.

NAVSUPPACT, Saigon-controlled surface ships and craft hauled 1,317 short tons of cargo to the various detachments during the month of September. During the same period, NAVSUPPACT aircraft transported 4,190 passengers and 189.3 short tons of air cargo.

As of the end of the month, NAVSUPPACT, Saigon had a total of 1,973 personnel on board and was providing support to approximately 15,000 military personnel.

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The 5,000-man amphitheater constructed by MCB-71 at Chu Lai.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

Elements of the Naval Construction Forces in Vietnam sustained numerous mortar and artillery attacks during the month. As a result of the attacks, 23 Seabees were wounded. On 1 September, a Seabee from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 (MCB-133) was wounded by a sniper at Danang East. Also on 1 September three men from MCB-121 were wounded when a mortar round exploded inside their Phu Bai camp perimeter. On 3 September, an enemy artillery attack on Dong Ha resulted in five Seabees from MCB-11 being wounded. During a second enemy attack on Dong Ha on 5 September, eight Seabees were wounded when several artillery rounds impacted near the MCB-11 galley. On 6 September, two Seabees from MCB-71 were wounded by shrapnel from a bomb that inadvertently dropped from an aircraft during its takeoff from the Chu Lai airfield. On 28 September, another of the month's numerous attacks on the Dong Ha combat base resulted in four Seabees from MCB-11 being injured.

A task force composed of elements from several MCBs deployed in the Republic of Vietnam was sent to Site "X" on 15 September to begin construction of an alternate airfield for Dong Ha. The airfield, located about six miles south of Dong Ha, is a priority project that is required as an operational facility before the northeast monsoon season. The runway, which has a useable completion date of 1 November, is to be 3,500 feet long and will have a

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C-130 capability. It is being constructed of AM-2 matting laid over an eight-inch thick soil cement base. The urgent requirement that the airfield be operational by 1 November necessitated the temporary assignment of approximately 150 men of the alert battalion, MCB-10 from Okinawa to Vietnam. The completed airbase will include a 20,000 square yard parking apron, a 90,000 square yard helicopter facility with bin type revetments, a 500-man cantonment, bulk POL storage, an ammunition supply point, and miscellaneous infantry and aircraft facilities.

In the past eight months the amount of effort expended toward combat support type construction has greatly increased. In January 1967, the percentage of the total direct labor for this type construction was approximately two percent, while at the present time about 16 percent of the direct labor is expended in this program. It is expected that this percentage will increase further as more of the Tactical Support Functional Components are received in country. The increase of effort by the naval construction forces to support the tactical requirements of the Marine units has resulted in the extension of the beneficial occupancy dates of some construction projects.

At the Dong Ha combat base, MCB-11 was constructing facilities for the Force Logistic Support Unit and by month's end had completed five of 11 Butler buildings and a 500-man galley. They also poured

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the deck for a maintenance quonset and the base fire station. Among other projects completed by MCB-11 were a 250-man galley and 10 of 20 Butler buildings for the THIRD Marine Division. The MCB-11 crew which was upgrading Route 1, completed repairing and seal-coating between Quang Tri and Camp Evans and then shifted to the section of road between Dong Ha and Site "X" to repair damage caused by the heavy traffic to the airfield. MCB-11's detail at Lang Vei Special Forces Camp completed two underground supply buildings and poured foundations for two bunkers.

MCB-3, at the Gia Le combat base, completed the 23,000 square yard parking apron for the 131st Army Aviation Company, a 500-man galley for the 3rd Anti-Tank Battalion, and a 120-foot by 150-foot aircraft hangar for Marine Air Group 16 (MAG-16). The Seabees of MCB-3 also completed a 75-foot timber bridge on Col Co Road and poured the slab for the Hue AFTV station.

MCB-121, working from the Phu Bai combat base, continued general upgrading of Route 1 between Phu Bai and Phu Loc. They completed a 250-man galley and continued work on 41 hootches at the Tan My cantonment. Construction also continued on an 83-hootch and a 138-hootch cantonment plus a 500-man galley for the THIRD Marine Division.

At the Danang Air Base, MCB-133 completed the ARVN/VNAF ammunition storage facility which consisted of hauling and placing nearly 500,000 cubic yards of earth. A NAVSUPACT storage building and the

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Marble Mountain POL tank farm office, both of which were 40-foot by 100-foot rigid frame wooden buildings, were also completed. MCB-133 also continued construction of the large complex of berms for the Ammunition Supply Point ONE (ASP-1) area, a parking apron consisting of 25,000 square yards of M8A1 matting and a 500-man galley for the FIRST Logistical Command.

MCB-7 completed work on the women's quarters at the NAVSUPPACT Danang Hospital. Also completed were a technical stores warehouse for the U. S. Army STRATCOM, a BOQ at the NAVSUPPACT hospital, a salvage equipment storage building at the Service Craft Repair Facility, and the exchange at the China Beach Recreation Area. The first increment of the barracks rehabilitation at Camp Tien Sha had been completed and work was continuing on the remainder. At the NAVSUPPACT hospital work was in progress on an 80-man enlisted barracks and head, a pre-operating room, two armory buildings, a new generator shed, a medical ward (11 - 20- by 48-foot buildings), and additions to the sewer system. A double bituminous treatment had been applied to 6,200 feet of the road on Monkey Mountain. Other projects that were in progress included grading and drainage work in the NAVSUPPACT Public Works complex, a shops stores building at the Service Craft Repair Facility, and 244,000 square feet of soil cement hardstand in the NAVSUPPACT covered storage area.

By month's end, MCB-4 had nearly completed the Hill 327 recreation

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facilities and had finished construction of the Liberty Bridge. During the month, MCB-4 was relieved by MCB-9 who began a 500-man galley for the Marines at Hill 10 and a fire station for the FIRST Marine Air Wing at Danang.

MCB-1 completed construction of 10 bridges on Route 1 in Hai Van Pass and continued to repair the surface of the road and the ditches. They continued to expand and upgrade the Happy Valley Quarry and also continued work on open and covered storage sites for the Force Logistic Command (FLC) at Red Beach.

MCB-74's detail at Phu Loc completed 10 of 28 culverts, finished the bridge south of Phu Loc and began removing the damaged concrete bridge at Nouc Ngot, while continuing to cold patch and recondition the road. They also continued constructing the remaining four increments of Ammunition Supply Point TWO and 32,000 square feet of covered storage for FLC.

A 5,000-man amphitheater for the FIRST Marine Division was completed by MCB-71 at Chu Lai. They also completed extensive emergency repairs to the west runway at the Chu Lai Air Base. This project involved over 30,000 feet of concrete sawing and regrouting. Center-line lights for the runway were installed at the time the runway repairs were made. Other MCB-71 projects included a Korean Army medical facility south of Chu Lai and troop cantonment construction for both the U. S. Army at Duc Pho and the Vietnamese Army near

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Quang Hai.

Also at Chu Lai, MCB-6 completed the dairy plant which is capable of manufacturing most milk products for NAVSUPACT Danang. MCB-6 expended a major effort on the upgrading of Route 1 south of Chu Lai. This project consisted of hauling over 15,000 cubic yards of rock, replacing culverts and installing headwalls. A 120-foot timber trestle bridge was also completed on Route 1 north of Binh Son. Work was also in progress to provide additional operational facilities for the FIRST Marine Air Wing. MCB-6 also had a work detail at Tam Ky, north of Chu Lai, working on a hospital addition and construction cantonment facilities for the Vietnamese Army rifle companies.

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MILITARY PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS

A concerted campaign to step up the rate of defection among the Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army was conducted following the Vietnamese national elections on 3 September. The campaign was designed to capitalize on the psychological advantage provided by the first opportunity the Vietnamese people have had to elect their own government. The Field Development Division of JUSPAO (Joint United States Public Affairs Office) produced printed matter and tapes for national distribution and use. The dominant themes used throughout the September phase were: the people of the Republic of Vietnam are now headed for happiness, prosperity and security; and, the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) and Dai Doan Ket (National Reconciliation)* Appeals. Instructions on how to rally were disseminated throughout the country by aerial leaflet drops, hand-delivered leaflets and loudspeaker broadcasts.

Printed matter and tapes were made available to units throughout areas of naval interest. Crew members of boats (PERs, PCFs, WPBs) hand distributed 334,000 leaflets, 111,000 newspapers, 33,000 magazines and 20,000 posters. In addition over 300 hours of broadcasting was made from U. S. Navy boats and 123 hours of aerial broadcasting was accomplished. Over 11 million leaflets were

* Specifically directed to the higher ranking Viet Cong/North Vietnamese officials.

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dropped. During September, MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN units boarded or inspected 82,462 Vietnamese junks or sampans. In addition to the military objective, these meetings presented an excellent opportunity to influence favorably the attitudes of the people. Since these actions can be associated by the people with the Government of Vietnam, the government's image is favorably enhanced.

Task Force 117 also provided close support for elements of the 2nd Brigade, NINTH Infantry Division (U. S.) in conducting Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) strike operations against Viet Cong forces in Dinh Tuong, Long An and Go Cong provinces and the Rung Sat Special Zone to destroy their capability of disrupting the National elections. The Commanding Officer of the 46th ARVN Regiment indicated that the MRF's presence and the operations conducted in Can Giouc District contributed greatly to the success of the elections in that area. The Commanding General of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 25th Division also expressed pleasure with the assistance rendered by the MRF.

Task Force 116 elements increased psyops efforts throughout the election period, by broadcasting taped psyops messages and providing security for prospective voters.

Task Force 115 increased the readiness posture of the entire force in order to forestall any infiltration attempts that the Viet

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Cong may have attempted and exploited during the election period.

On 6 September Coastal Division 14 for the first time distributed Volunteer Informant leaflets to each junk checked. The same day a response was received when a fisherman advised PCF-43 that a Viet Cong squad had entered his village.

In the Third Coastal Zone, Coastal Groups 32 and 33, with the assistance of the USS TUTUILA (ARG 4), instituted Operation SNAPP (Selected Navy Applied Picture Program). Whenever MEDCAPs or other Civic Action Projects are conducted by Coastal Groups 32 or 33, high quality black and white pictures are taken of local villagers involved in the program. The pictures are developed on TUTUILA and three to four weeks later are presented as gifts to the subjects of the pictures by officers and men of the Coastal Groups. Some 8 by 10 enlargements were seen placed at the family shrine.

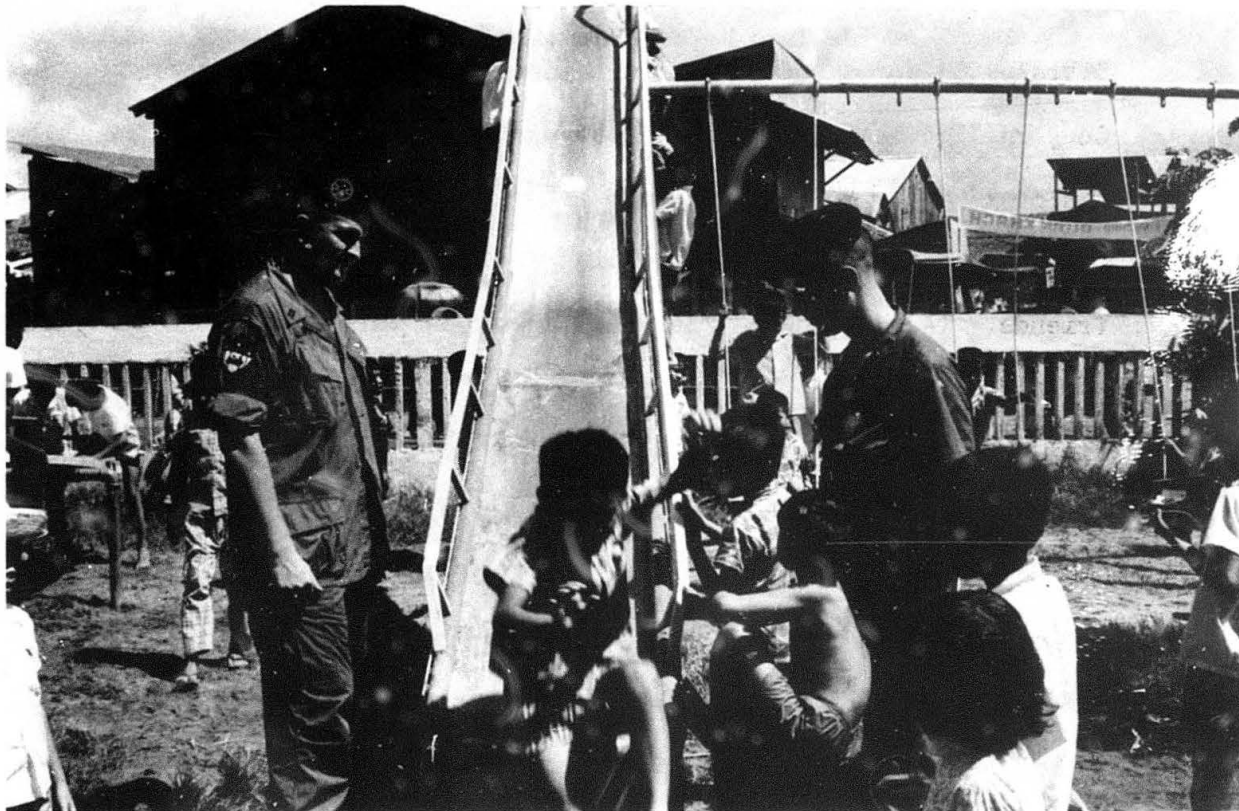
On 7 September, in the Third Coastal Zone, a Coastal Groups 34 and 37 ambush team, in conjunction with a Regional Force/Popular Force security force, entered the village of Ap Ben Tau, located at the mouth of the Ham Luong River, to provide internal security for a scheduled MEDCAP. A leaflet drop and loudspeaker broadcast were conducted prior to the arrival of the MEDCAP team so as not to alarm the villagers. Chieu Hoi ("Open Arms"--GVN amnesty program) and other propaganda material plus 1,200 pounds of psychological

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operations commodities were distributed. Four hundred medical and 70 dental patients were treated, many of whom were patients from distant villages where previous MEDCAPs had been conducted. A significant first in this area was the presence of adult males, indicative of the trust now being shown the Government of Vietnam by the local populace. No enemy forces were sighted during the period of the operation; however, considerable evidence of very recent Viet Cong activity was detected in the area. Numerous spider holes were found along the main road and high quality bilingual enemy propaganda leaflets were confiscated. These leaflets exploited anti-war movements and the longing for home by U.S. servicemen.

In the My Tho area in the Delta a combined psychological operations committee was organized. The committee, chaired by the Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) representative in My Tho, is composed of the following military units: ARVN SEVENTH Division (Dong Tam), U. S. Navy River Patrol Division 53, Ding Tuong Sector Advisor, U. S. Army 19th Psychological Operations Company Detachment, and River Assault Group (RAG) 21/33 Advisors. The committee meets regularly, maintaining a chart of the area showing where and what type of psychological operations have been conducted. Based on chart updates, profitable areas for exploitation are targeted. All resources are shared by the committee.

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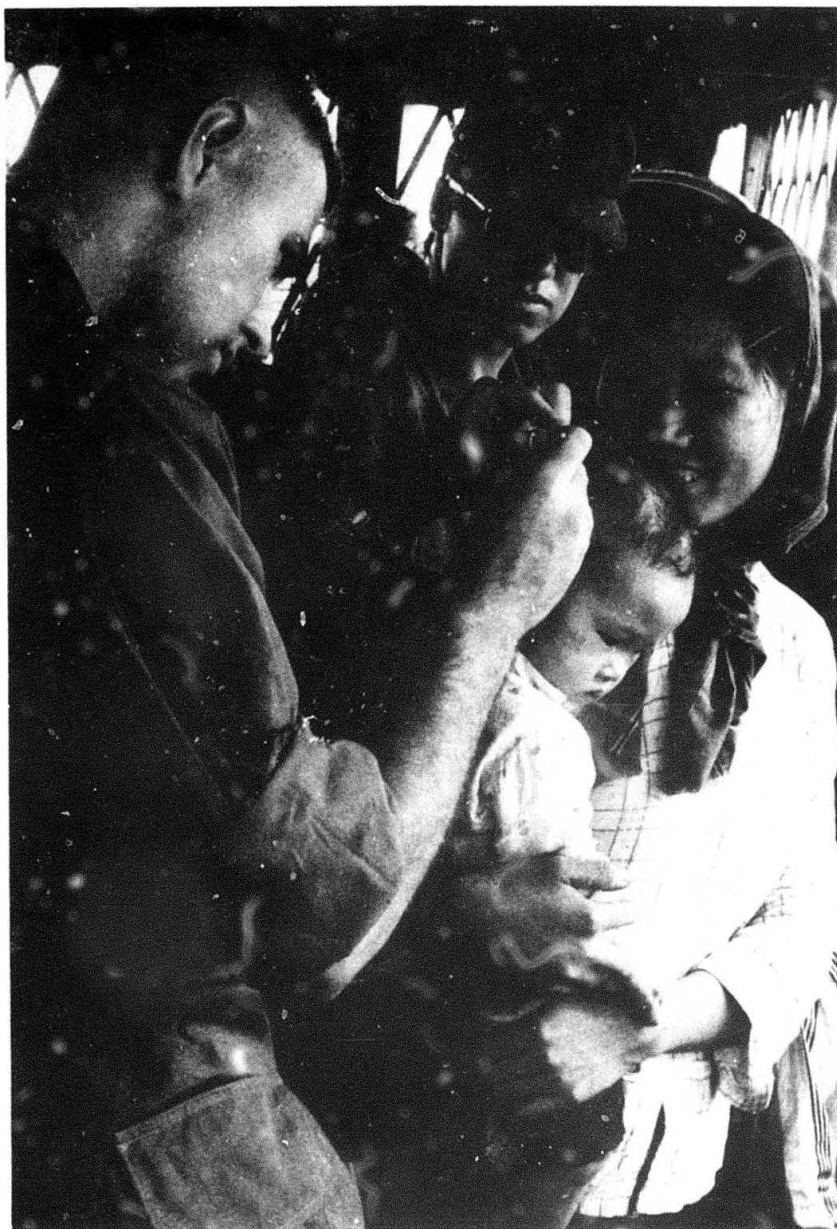
Vietnamese children try out a new slide built for them by members of River Section 543 at Nha Be.

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The following operation is an example of the cooperation and success of the committee: On 27 September, using loudspeakers and two ARVN soldiers from the Vietnamese 403rd PSYOP Company, River Division 53 commenced speaker missions. On 29 September a Viet Cong rallied to a PER. When interrogated it was learned that he had heard the speakers the night before. He further stated that the tapes played promoted a feeling of sadness in his Viet Cong friends. The Hoi Chanh (returnee) agreed to make a tape which was played from the PERs the next night. That tape provoked the Viet Cong into firing upon the PERs. As a result of these nightly PSYOP broadcasts, five more Viet Cong rallied in this area.

Through the coordinated efforts of the Mobile Riverine Force (TF 117), Task Force FUNSTON (a Battalion of the 2nd Brigade, NINTH Infantry Division), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Ding Tuong Sector Advisor, Operation BON HUU II (Friendship II) began the week of 22 September on Thoi Son Island located in the My Tho River adjacent to My Tho. This civic action program was aimed at pacifying the island and also enhancing the security of the Mobile Riverine Base at the Dong Tam anchorage and Dong Tam itself. The program included construction of a village office; distribution of material to the outpost for self-help projects; construction of a two-classroom school; MEDCAPs;

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A U. S. Navy corpsman treats an infection on the head of a baby during a MEDCAP in Tam Thon Hiep village in the RSSZ.

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immunisations and improvement of the existing dock facility at the outpost.

In September the Dinh Tuong Province Chief formally expressed his appreciation to Commander River Assault Group 21 for their previous Psyop-Civic Action efforts, particularly on behalf of the refugee hamlets on Rang Island near My Tho.

Since arriving on station in the Co Chien River, USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) has been conducting weekly MEDCAPs. The MEDCAPs are scheduled with the assistance of U. S. Army Sector and Sub-Sector Advisors and their counterparts as well as Naval Advisors in the area. With JENNINGS COUNTY personnel on hand to advise, the majority of treatments and diagnosis in recent weeks have been conducted by ARVN corpsmen. Through the cooperation of village and province chiefs, the MEDCAPs have reached Vietnamese villagers in areas heavily influenced by the Viet Cong and have contributed to the significant reduction of this influence over the last two months.

The following is a tabulation of certain civic action projects conducted during September by U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces. Construction projects involving renovation or repair are so indicated with an R.

1. Construction:
 - a. Bridges
 - b. Churches/temples/pagodas

4/2R
3R

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c.	Dispensaries	1
d.	Dwellings/number of families	24/42
e.	Hospitals	3R
f.	Levelings-grading projects	5
g.	Playgrounds	2
h.	Schools/classrooms	2/5
i.	Barbed wire fencing (feet)	400
j.	Wells	6
k.	Culverts	2
l.	Boat landings	1
2.	Medical treatments:	
a.	General	26,784
b.	Dental	4,650
c.	Surgery	113
d.	Emergency evacuations	98
e.	Blood tests	20
3.	Health and Sanitation:	
a.	Classes on personal hygiene/attendance	26/957
b.	Medical aides or nurses trained	2
c.	Spray insecticide operations	21
d.	MEDCAPs	92
e.	Immunizations	1,427
f.	Physical examinations	16
4.	Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):	
a.	Cement	103,300
b.	Clothing	4,560
c.	Food	119,656
d.	Lumber (board feet)	163,000
e.	Medical, non-prescription	158
f.	School kits (number)	999
g.	Soap	1,002
h.	Tin sheets (number)	501
i.	Blackboards (number)	20
j.	Woodworker kits (number)	13
k.	Midwife kits (number)	44
l.	Paint (gallons)	70
m.	Sewing machines (number)	59
n.	PSYOP packets (number)	50,000
o.	Paper blankets (number)	257
p.	Plastic envelopes (number)	12,000
q.	Toys (number)	14,338
r.	Textile kits (number)	50

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- s. Sewing kits (number) 430
- 5. Educational efforts:
 - a. English classes/attendance 110/1,740
- 6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:
 - a. Orphanages 1,000
 - b. Religious activities 3,400
 - c. Schools 6,000

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On the morning of 5 September YRBM-16, which was to provide PBR support, was moored in the Ham Luong River just off the entrance to the Ben Tre River. The initial four-buoy moorage, which consisted of four 5,000 pound anchors, four concrete clumps and one-inch chain, proved inadequate in the swift currents encountered in the Ham Luong River. One of the seven-eighths inch shackles used in the initial moorage carried away, losing one of the 5,000-pound anchors. Personnel of Harbor Clearance Team ONE (HCT 1), embarked in LLC-1, were directed to proceed to the Ben Tre site to inspect the moorage and render assistance as necessary. It was determined that the entire system would have to be relaid to ensure an adequate moorage. By month's end, HCT-1 had installed a new two-buoy moorage with each buoy held in place by two 5,000-pound anchors with 175 feet of two-inch chain to a common ring and 50 feet of two-inch chain connecting the ring to the large buoy. The new moorage proved more than satisfactory as YRBM-16 experienced no difficulty withstanding strong currents, high winds, and squalls.

In the early morning hours of 1 September, the Vietnamese Navy's LSM 405 parted her anchor chain and went aground about two miles northwest of Phan Thiet Light. The impact of grounding ripped a small hole in the craft's engine room, but flooding was quickly controlled. The Vietnamese Navy requested salvage assistance.

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Two MARKET TIME units, PCF 102 and USCGC POINT WHITE, quickly responded, arriving on scene approximately an hour after the grounding. The two units were soon joined by PCE 08 and PGMs 116 and 117, and on the 2nd, personnel of Harbor Clearance Team 4 arrived to provide additional assistance. Repeated efforts by the MARKET TIME units to free the stricken vessel proved unsuccessful, however, and the LSM remained hard aground from amidships forward on a shale and rock bottom.

On 3 September the SEVENTH Fleet Salvage Ship RECLAIMER (ARS 42) and the SERVGRU THREE salvage officer arrived and assumed control of the salvage operation. At 0950 RECLAIMER pulled LSM 405 free and towed her to deep water, where an inspection revealed that the craft's propeller tips were badly bent and that two additional holes had been torn in the hull. After temporary repairs were effected by RECLAIMER, LSM 405 proceeded for Saigon under her own power.

Another salvage operation conducted during the month involved the attempted recovery of a contractor-owned barge which sank one-half mile west of My Tho in early July. The barge, loaded with an estimated 300 tons of coarse gravel, went down in 30 feet of water and came to rest in an upright position.

Harbor Clearance Team 4 proceeded to the scene with LLC-2 and on the 8th of September began to remove the gravel from the barge by the use of two six-inch suction pumps. Off-loading was completed

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four days later. Because of the generally deteriorated condition of the craft and the discovery of numerous small holes underneath its tar-coated exterior, recovery of the barge was subsequently determined to be infeasible, and salvage operations were terminated on 19 September.

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COMMUNICATIONS

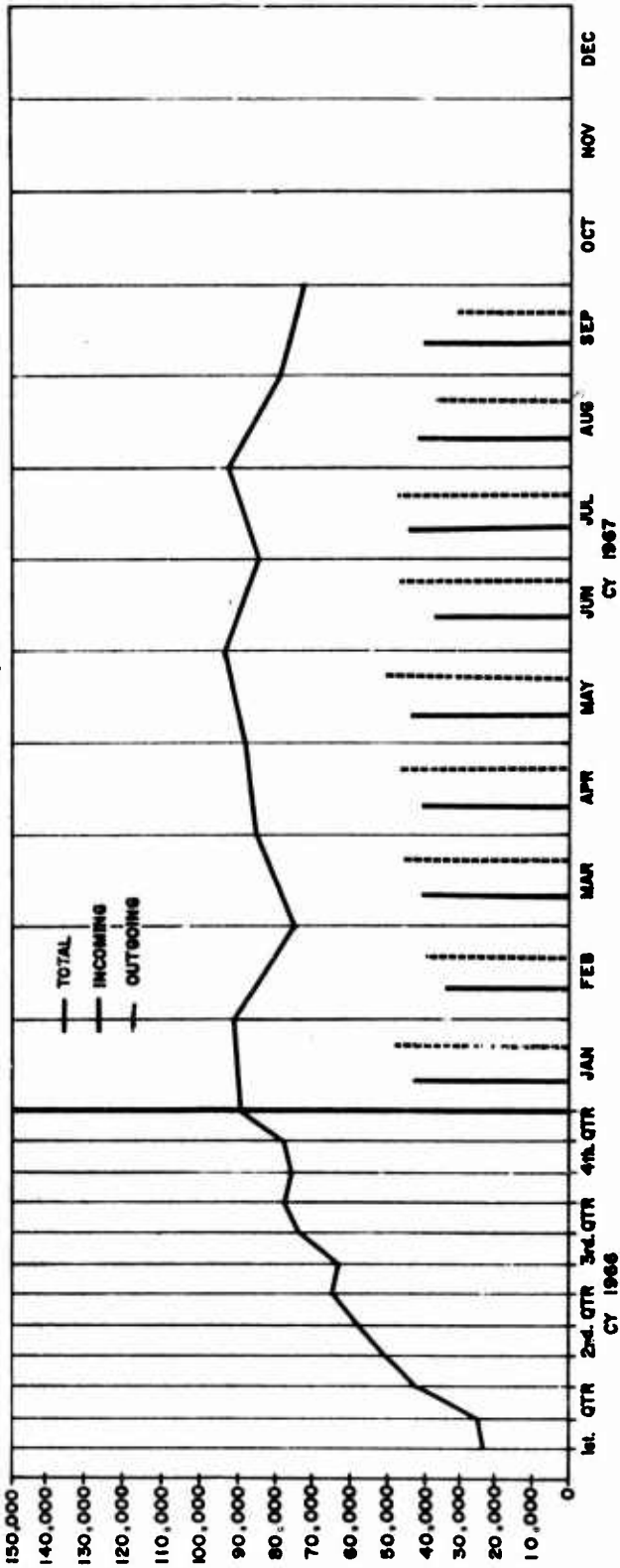
Project SEA ANCHOR, the CNO sponsored project to provide up-graded communications facilities for the U. S. Naval Support Activity, Danang, was completed and the facility became fully operational during the first week of September. The new facility consists of the communications center located in the "Triangle Building", in Danang East, the transmitter site at Marble Mountain, and the receiver site at Monkey Mountain. Microwave links tie the communications center into: The Danang Integrated Wideband Communications System for in and out of country message distribution, the Harbor Entrance Control Point, Naval Support Activity Headquarters, and the remote radio transmitter and receiver sites.

Another communication net activated during the month was a classified meteorological net extending from Sangley Point, in the Philippines, to the Naval Support Activity, Danang. This net provides meteorological data that is of special use to naval operations.

The overall completion status of Project BOW LINE (NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay) increased slightly during the month. The installation has been operational since 1 August and it is anticipated that microwave communications between Cam Ranh Bay and the Integrated Wideband Communications System will be available during November.

During the month, a Joint Pacific (JP) Command and Control circuit was activated between Cam Ranh Bay and Tan Son Nhut Air

MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC



PERCENT OF TOTAL

Category	1st. QTR	2nd. QTR	3rd. QTR	4th. QTR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
FLASH	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.2	.5	.9	1.4			
IMMEDIATE	21	20	19	18	18	16	16	17.5	18.1	17.9	21.2					
PRIORITY	60	61	63	63	66	64.6	62.9	61.6	57.3							
ROUTINE	18	18	17	18	17	17.7	18.5	19.6	20.1							

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Base. This special purpose teletype circuit was designed to provide CINCPAC and authorized users of the net with a means for rapid exchange of command and control communications. The net was further extended by activating a circuit to COMNAVFORV in Saigon.

Project SEARCHLIGHT proceeded slowly during the month as a result of slippages in construction which were caused by excessive delays in the receipt of construction and electrical materials. By month's end, only two sites, Nha Be and Binh Thuy, had been completed. Qui Nhon and My Tho were both nearing completion but were awaiting delivery of required equipment in order to complete the project. SEARCHLIGHT construction at Sa Dec was completed and installation of equipment was to commence during early October. Construction at COMNAVFORV headquarters was at a virtual standstill awaiting electrical materials necessary for the completion of power installation. Electronic installation was progressing satisfactorily and at month's end was approximately 60 percent complete. With the exception of the Cat Lo site, which will require little or no construction, construction at the remaining SEARCHLIGHT sites had not begun.

The number of messages handled by the COMNAVFORV communications center during the month of September was 72,115, a decrease of 6,525 from August's figure.

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Admiral Roy L. JOHNSON, USN, (right), Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet, and Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam at Tan Son Nhut Air Base during the former's visit on 17 September.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 9 September Vice Admiral George G. BURKLEY, MC, USN, the White House Physician, accompanied by Dr. J. C. CAIN, (GS-18), Personal Physician to the President, and Dr. O. P. HAMPTON, (GS-18), Orthopedic Consultant to the Surgeon General of the Army, began a 10-day tour of the Republic of Vietnam to review the treatment of personnel casualties at each of the various echelons of medical care. On 12 September Vice Admiral BURKLEY visited the Saigon headquarters of COMNAVFORV and was briefed on the various aspects of naval operations in Vietnam.

Lieutenant General Sir John WILTON, Chairman, Chiefs of Staff, Australian Military Forces, visited Vietnam during the period 14-17 September. Included in Lieutenant General WILTON's itinerary was a visit to CTF 117's flagship, USS BENEWAH (APB 35), where he was briefed on the operations of the Mobile Riverine Force.

On 17 September Admiral Roy L. JOHNSON, USN, CINCPACFLT began a three-day tour of Vietnam. Admiral JOHNSON's tour included visits to USS BENEWAH and the U. S. Naval Support Base at Binh Thuy where he was briefed on the operation of the Mobile Riverine Force and Operation GAME WARDEN units respectively.

On 27 September Vice Admiral Walter H. BAUMBERGER, USN, Deputy Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, arrived at CTF 117's Mobile Riverine Base just as two Armored Troop Carriers

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(ATCs) returned from a battle near Ben Tre, during which three U. S. Navymen were killed and six wounded. Vice Admiral BAUMBERGER gained first-hand knowledge of Mobile Riverine Force operations from a vivid description of the battle furnished by the returning crew members.

On 30 September Rear Admiral Henry L. MILLER, USN, Chief of Naval Information, visited Saigon for a briefing at COMNAVFORV's headquarters. The itinerary for Rear Admiral MILLER, who was primarily interested in the Navy's public affairs efforts, included a visit to the Mobile Riverine Base, as well as numerous other naval activities throughout Vietnam.

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NOT RELEASABLE TO
FOREIGN NATIONALS**

NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) on 30 September was 16,093 officers and enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged as deserters remained at 50 and the number of unauthorized absentees increased from 235 in August to 259 in September.

During the month the various units of the VNN searched 36,067 junks and sampans and 127,950 persons; detaining 37 junks and 415 persons.

The Naval Training Center at Nha Trang graduated 23 enlisted men from the Electronics Technician Class "A" School on the 2nd and 29 men from the Radioman Class "A" School on the 30th. On 18 September, 100 midshipmen of Class 18 commenced preparatory training at the Naval Academy. Meanwhile, at the Naval Advanced Training Center in Saigon, PUMs 602 and 610 completed the two-week underway training program on 2 September and the crew of the YO-472, received from the United States in June, completed a week of in-port training on the 16th.

Fleet Command

During September, the Fleet Command had 23 ships available daily and maintained 12 ships on station off the coast of South

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Vietnam, five ships on river patrol and one ship on convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. The month's operations included MARKET TIME patrols, river blockades, psychological warfare and civic action visits, escort patrols and gunfire support missions. Fleet Command ships fired 33 gunfire support missions in September and searched 428 junks and 1,944 persons and detained one person.

On 25 September, PCE 09 assumed the patrol responsibility of MARKET TIME Area 9L off the west coast of Phu Quoc Island. The ship, after receiving training from U. S. Navy and Coast Guard personnel in the Fourth Naval Zone, relieved the PCF then assigned and remained on patrol through the end of the month. The use of both Vietnamese and U. S. ships and craft as primary patrol units has required increased coordination at sea and in the Coastal Surveillance Center* at An Thoi.

Patrol craft (PCs and PCEs) and gunboats (PGMs) patrolled the coasts of the four Naval Zones and conducted 10 gunfire support missions; the PGMs also patrolled the Soirap and Long Tau Rivers in the Rung Sat Special Zone. Seven of the gunfire missions were in support of Coastal Group bases in the First and Second Naval

* Coastal Surveillance Center--A joint operational liaison center which acts as a communications relay for all MARKET TIME patrol units and other USN and VNN ships in the CSC's area of responsibility. The U. S. and VNN officers are responsible for coordinating surveillance of all contacts detected and all requests for assistance received.

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Zones that were under attack or had observed the enemy massing to attack. In all cases the accurate fire ended the attacks and dispersed the enemy forces. On the evening of the 14th, PGM 619 provided support for a Coastal Group 13 ambush team under fire from a Viet Cong force in the hills behind the Coastal Group base. While conducting the mission, an explosion in the after 20-mm gun wounded three of the gunboat's crewmen (one seriously). The Coastal Group commander reported that the PGM's gunfire had suppressed the hostile fire and covered the withdrawal of the ambush party. One Coastal Group sailor was wounded in the initial engagement.

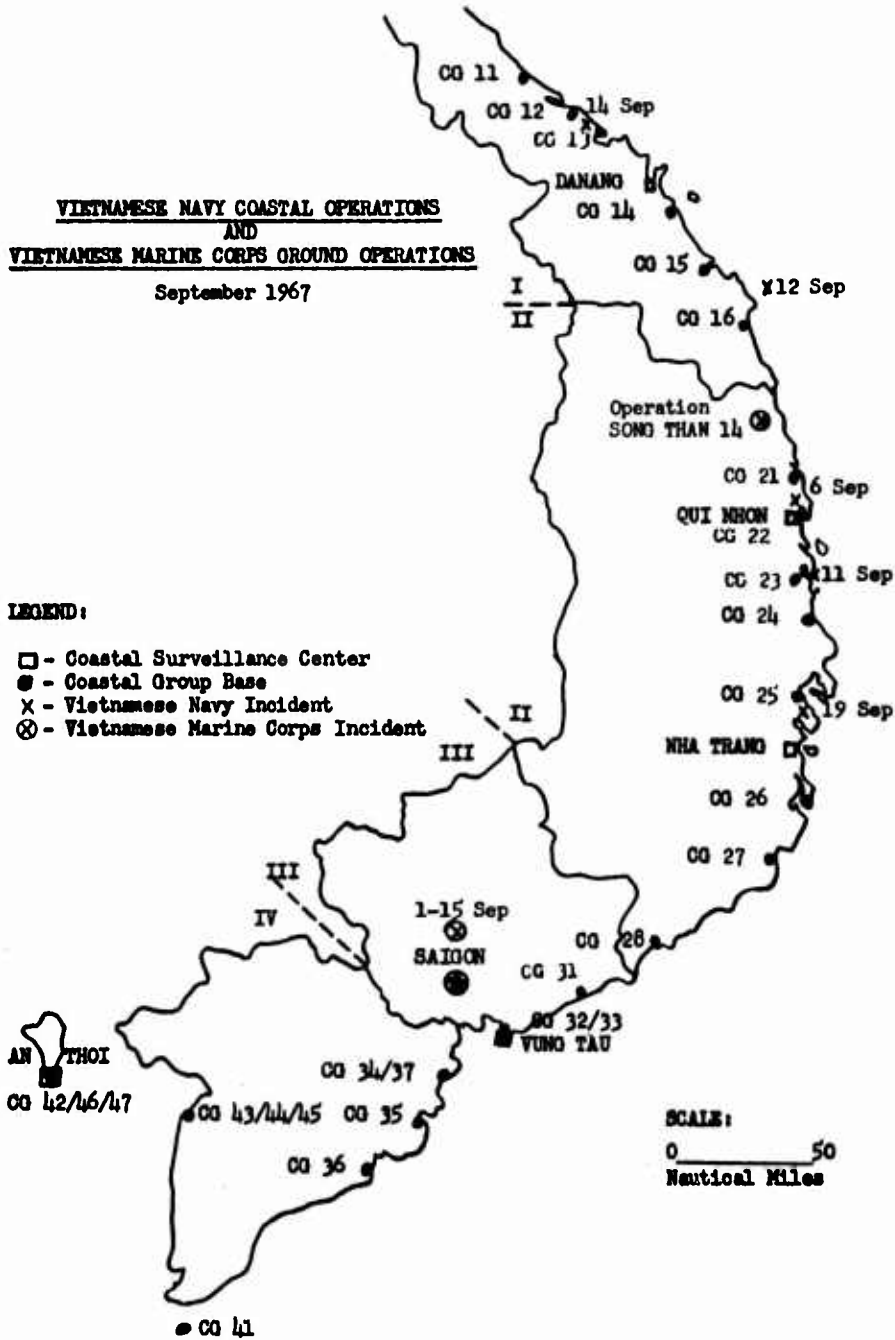
On the morning of 12 September, PGM 619 rescued five women and eight children from a sinking junk off Cape Batangan, 60 miles southeast of Danang, returning them safely to shore at Chu Lai.

Landing Support Ships (LSILs and LSSLs) provided gunfire support, convoy escort and river patrol services in the Third Naval Zone, the Fourth Riverine Area and the RSSZ. The ships conducted 23 gunfire support missions during September. On the afternoon of the 3rd, while coming alongside the pier near the Western Repair Facility at Can Tho, LSIL 329 took two 75-mm recoilless-rifle hits at the waterline near the starboard bow; ten other rounds fired by the enemy fell into the river short of the ship. The LSIL was unable to return fire because of the large number of civilians near the source of the enemy fire. The ship took on a 15 degree

VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS
AND
VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS
 September 1967

LEGEND:

- - Coastal Surveillance Center
- - Coastal Group Base
- X - Vietnamese Navy Incident
- ⊗ - Vietnamese Marine Corps Incident



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starboard list, as a result of flooding, and maneuvered away from the pier to beach in shallow water at the repair facility where the holes were patched and the flooded hold and crews quarters were pumped out. By month's end the ship returned to duty.

In September, a detachment of the VNN's Underwater Demolition Team (LDNN) continued to conduct nightly hull inspections of ships berthed in the port of Saigon. Meanwhile two other detachments operated with the U. S. Navy SEAL units based at Binh Thuy and Nha Be. In operations in the northern RSSZ on 13 and 28 September, the Nha Be-based, combined LDNN-SEAL squad killed 11 Viet Cong and destroyed one junk and one sampan.

Coastal Force

In September, the Coastal Force units searched 29,550 junks and 106,439 persons, detaining 37 junks and 410 persons. On a daily average, 83.4 percent of the force's 181 available junks was on patrol.

Throughout the month the Coastal Groups in the First and Second Naval Zones received reports of impending attacks. In three bombardments directed at Coastal Group 11 on 1 and 2 September, two civilians were killed and seven others were wounded when the mortar and rocket rounds landed in a nearby hamlet short of the base. Coastal Groups 13, 14 and 23 each had their defenses probed once but no major attacks were made. On six occasions Coastal Groups in

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the First Naval Zone either observed the Viet Cong gathering to attack or ambush parties intercepted the enemy in the field. One sailor from Coastal Group 13, wounded in an ambush, and four sailors wounded in the probe of Coastal Group 23 were the only casualties from these incidents. On the 20th, several days after the Viet Cong probe of Coastal Group 14's defenses, a morning reconnaissance patrol discovered a new enemy cache and seized an 85-pound mine and one hundred canisters containing propellant charges for a 155-mm cannon. Continued surveillance of the area failed to locate any other enemy activity.

In the Second Naval Zone at 2200 on 6 September, six miles north of Qui Nhon, a nine-man ambush party from Coastal Group 22, responding to an intelligence report that a Viet Cong unit was about to attack the village of Vinh Quang, intercepted 10 enemy sampans as the craft crossed a stream en route to the village. One of the sampans was seized but the occupants successfully evaded the sailors. Later, with a nearby ARVN artillery unit providing illumination fire, the ambush team opened fire on five men in three sampans as the enemy force began to regroup. Three of the Viet Cong were hit as they leaped into the stream; the other two, killed by a hand grenade thrown into the third sampan, were identified by the village chief as Viet Cong who had immigrated from North Vietnam.

At 0430 on 11 September, two crewmen of a Coastal Group 23

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Command junk were killed when their craft was caught in an ambush on Song Cau Bay, 18 miles south of Qui Nhon. The remaining crewmen, engaged in returning fire and maneuvering the junk away from the ambush, were unable to detect any enemy casualties.

On the 19th, acting on an intelligence report that the Viet Cong were planning to shell their base and the district headquarters, a Coastal Group 25 ambush party intercepted the enemy sapper squad four miles south of the base. The ensuing fire fight ended with the seven Viet Cong killed and their sampan, 81-mm mortar with 18 rounds of ammunition and 23 hand grenades seized.

On the night of 2 September in the Third Naval Zone, the Coastal Group 34 base was attacked by the enemy. USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) conducted a gunfire support mission detonating one secondary explosion; an ARVN artillery battery also provided support. A reconnaissance sweep by the sailors, on the 3rd, revealed that the GAME WARDEN LST's 40-mm shells had destroyed the enemy's 60-mm mortar and its ammunition, killed one Viet Cong and wounded at least five others. There were no friendly casualties and no damage to the Coastal Group base or junks.

On 14 September, Coastal Group 35 conducted Operation SONG NGAM, to search out Viet Cong activity on Long Hoa Island in the mouth of the Co Chien River. During the six hour sweep the combined shore party and blockade force detained six women as suspected Viet

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Cong, and destroyed three Viet Cong meeting rooms, three first aid stations and three tax collection stations, and seized one motorized sampan. An ambush team, placed in the same area a week later, fired on a six-man Viet Cong unit in a sampan, killing one and probably killing the remaining five men. Three carbines, ammunition and a small quantity of documents were seized and the sampan was destroyed. There were no friendly casualties.

In the Fourth Naval Zone on 1 September Ensign BAY, the Executive Officer of the Coastal Group 45, was killed by a grenade explosion, and a U. S. Navy enlisted advisor and two VNN sailors were wounded. The incident occurred aboard a junk on patrol 24 miles west of Rach Gia when the spoon of a hand grenade was accidentally released.

The following day, six junks from Coastal Groups 43, 44 and 45, with two Vedettes*, transporting a Revolutionary Development (RD) Team between towns, nine miles south of Rach Gia, were ambushed by a Viet Cong force. When the sailors returned fire, the enemy retreated. Two RD team members were killed and six others and one sailor were wounded.

Riverine Area Naval Commands

In September the River Assault Groups conducted four operations

* Vedette--A 35-foot, French-designed, river patrol boat which mounts one .50 caliber and three .30 caliber machine guns.

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in the First Naval Zone, seven in the Third Riverine Area and 11 in the Fourth Riverine Area. The RAG units also performed escort duty and conducted river patrol, base defense and psychological warfare missions. With a daily average employment of 78 percent of the 167 available craft, the RAG units searched 6,084 junks and 19,567 persons and detained four persons.

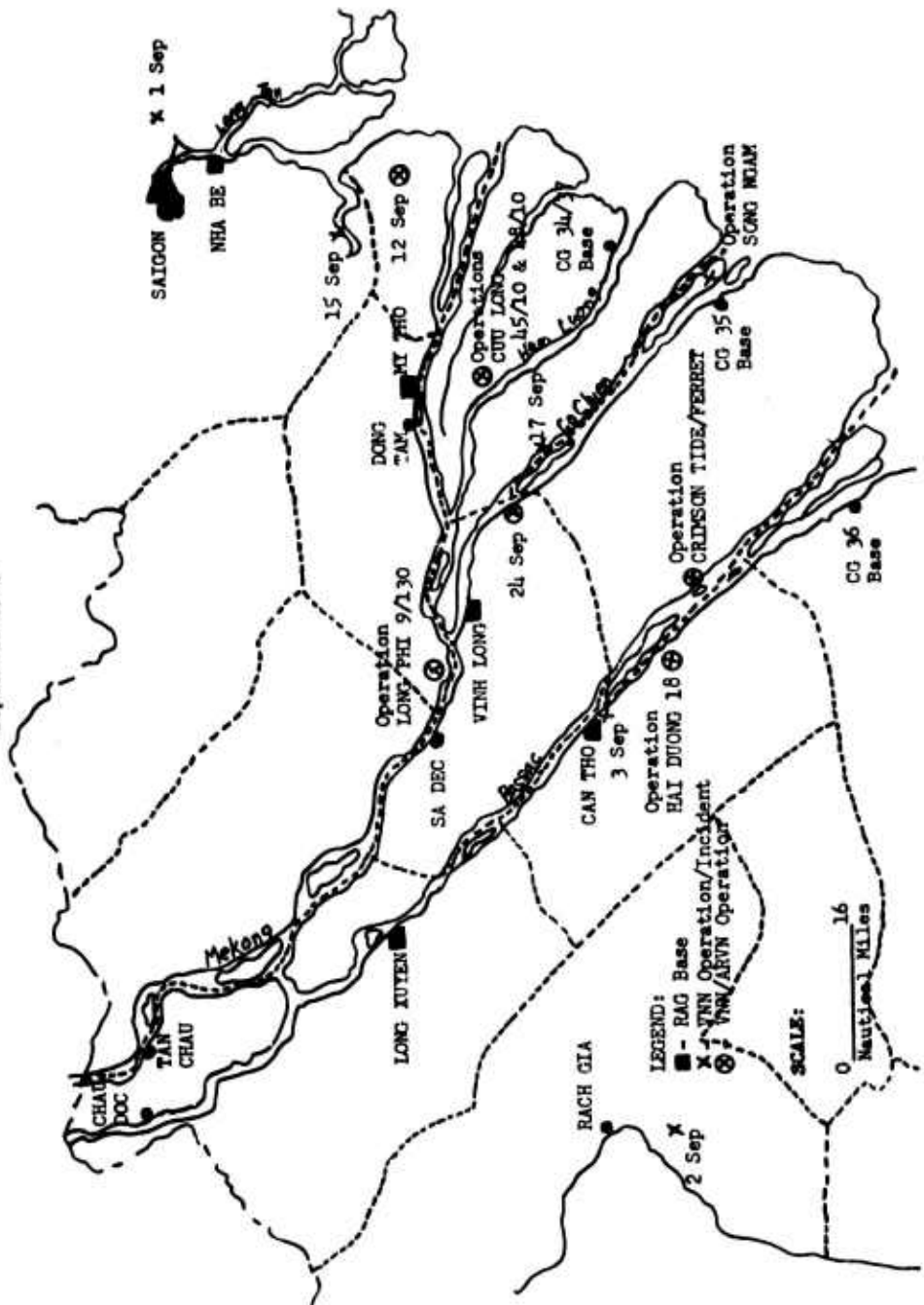
On 12 September, the administrative control of the River Transport and Escort Group* was transferred from the Third Riverine Area commander to the chief of the VNN's Operations Division.

The First Naval Zone's RAG detachment supported the ARVN 3rd Infantry Regiment in two operations and Thua Thieu Sector forces in two operations. The series of two-day search and destroy operations results included 10 Viet Cong killed, six others captured and two enemy suspects detained. Five ARVN soldiers and one RAG sailor were wounded.

From 1 to 15 September, in the Third Riverine Area, a six craft detachment from RAG 22 supported the VNMN's 3rd Battalion in the

* A specially-trained Vietnamese Navy unit under the operational control of the Waterway Transport Office of the Government's Public Works Department. The principal mission of the River Transport Escort Group (RTEG) is to escort commercial traffic along the waterways of the Mekong Delta between Saigon and Bac Lieu. Composed of seven officers, 200 enlisted men, and 28 river assault craft, the RTEG assigns five to seven craft to accompany each convoy; the size of the convoy ranges from 15 to as many as 70 junks and barges. A convoy leaves Saigon approximately every 10 days, arriving back in the Capital about 22 days later.

VIETNAMESE NAVY DELTA OPERATIONS
September 1967

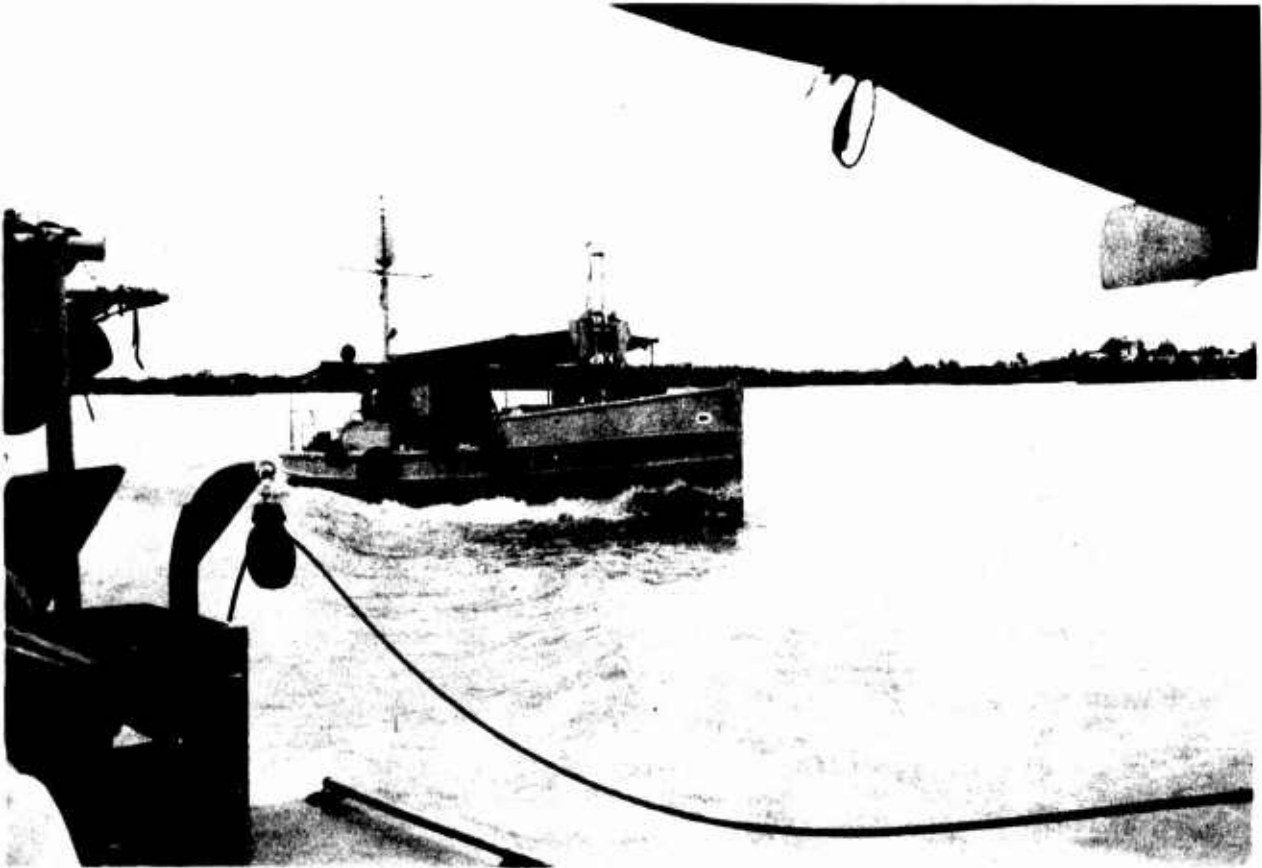


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Rung Sat Special Zone. After the Battalion's departure, ten RAG 22 craft supported Regional Force operations in the RSSZ. Regional Force Boat Company 29 provided six craft daily in support of other Regional Force and Popular Force operations.

On the 1st, the last day of a three-day search and destroy operation, seven miles east of Saigon, RAG 30 units ambushed a sampan, killing the Viet Cong Security Chief for the southern half of Thu Duc district. Two weapons and a quantity of documents were seized. On the same day a RAG 24 unit with Long An Sector forces seized an enemy weapons cache along the Vam Co Tay River, 21 miles southwest of Saigon. Ten individual weapons, five grenades and two rockets were seized; the hut and bunker where the cache was found were destroyed.

On 12 September, acting on the information provided by a Hoi Chanh and under the control of the RSSZ commander, three Regional Force companies and an ARVN Commando platoon, supported by 10 craft from RAG 22, swept the base camp of the Viet Cong D-2 platoon 25 miles south of Saigon. Code-named DONG TAM 12, the one-day mission met only token resistance as the enemy fled south from the attacking government forces. The operation resulted in the seizure of one complete, 24-inch diameter command-detonated watermine, 200 yards of two-conductor electrical cable, five pounds of documents, 220 pounds of rice and two sampans. Additionally, 11 bunkers, seven



A Vietnamese Navy Motor Launch Minesweeper conducting operations in the Long Tau channel.

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huts, one mess hut and 20 water barrels were destroyed; one U. S. Marine advisor was slightly wounded.

On the 15th, in the Vam Co Tay River, a U. S. Army LC4-8 and a rock-laden barge en route to Tan An, were mined 19 miles south of Saigon. The detonation demolished the bow of the barge and blew off the LCM's bow ramp. A quick reaction force of VNN sailors, on board the escorting RAG 27 monitor, was landed immediately and detained six suspects. The suspects told the sailors that the Viet Cong had laid the 220-pound mine on 13 September after observing that the rock barges were making regular trips upriver to Tan An. One U. S. soldier was wounded.

In the Fourth Riverine Area on 7 and 8 September a 10-craft section of RAG 23 patrolled the north channel of the Co Chien River around Giai Island, 17 miles downstream from Vinh Long. Leaving their base at midnight, the boats anchored upstream from the island before dawn, distributed psychological warfare pamphlets to passing watercraft and obtained information on Viet Cong emplacements along the river. Underway at 0900, the RAG craft rendezvoused with VNN LSSL 230 and a U. S. Navy PER patrol from River Section 523 and began a coordinated bombardment mission along three miles of the shore across the channel from the center of Giai Island. Nine heavy bunkers, a lookout station and many Viet Cong structures were destroyed in the one and one-half hour mission. Moving to the

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island, the RAG boat crews handed out relief foodstuffs and other supplies. Later in the afternoon, the patrol force picked up a platoon of Popular Force troops, transported them the length of the eight mile long island, waited while they swept a suspected Viet Cong staging area, then transported the platoon to a Regional Force outpost, arriving at 1800. During the night, pairs of the RAG craft were drifted down the river to ambush any Viet Cong attempting to cross to the island. At dawn on the 8th, the craft joined up and the force patrolled the approaches to the Mang Thit River and in the afternoon, returned to the RAG 23 base at Vinh Long.

Also on the 7th, RAGs 21 and 33 and the ARVN 10th Regiment conducted Operation CUU LONG 45/10, to reduce the Viet Cong presence in Ben Tre District, at the confluence of the Ben Tre and Ham Luong rivers. The ARVN troops killed six Viet Cong, detained six Viet Cong suspects and seized two individual weapons. One soldier was killed and three others were wounded.

On the 15th, eight craft of RAGs 25 and 29 provided gunfire support and troop lift for a destruction operation against Viet Cong fortifications on the northern bank of the Bassac River opposite Tan Dinh Island, 15 miles downstream from Can Tho. The operation, named CRIMSON TIDE by U. S. Navy and FERRET by the VNN, utilized two PBR River Sections, SEAL squads, "Seawolf" helicopter

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gunships and USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 786). The RAG craft followed the PERs into the ambush area, suppressing the hostile fire and landing the SEALs. As each site was destroyed, the craft "leap-frogged" downstream repeating the sequence. The total results of the operation was: 75 bunkers, 120 sampans and 168 structures destroyed, five Viet Cong killed and two individual weapons seized. Five days later, on the 20th, an ambush team, consisting of one RAG 25 RPC and eight sailors, patrolling the same area, seized four Viet Cong suspects, one of whom was identified as a village Finance and Economy leader and confirmed by other intelligence sources.

On 24 September, RAG 31 craft supported an ambush by a Provincial Reconnaissance Unit in a Viet Cong hamlet on the south bank of the Co Chien River, 14 miles south of Vinh Long. The PRU troops entered the hamlet and captured 12 Viet Cong, including the hamlet chief and his entire family, and fought their way back to the river, killing three more Viet Cong and wounding at least five others. The successful raid was planned and conducted on the basis of information provided by a Hoi Chanh who also led the PRU into the hamlet.

Operation LONG PHI 9/130 was conducted nine miles west of Vinh Long, on 25 and 26 September, by 14 craft from RAGs 23 and 31 and elements of the ARVN NINTH Infantry Division and Vinh Long Sector. Sweeping south and west from the divergance of the Mekong and Co Chien rivers, the ARVN soldiers captured six Viet Cong, killed six

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others and detained 14 suspects. Also, one carbine and nine mines were seized and a cache of 100 booby trap grenades was destroyed.

On the 27th, 15 craft from RAGs 21 and 33 based at My Tho, transported and landed Kien Hoa Sector forces at various points between the Ben Tre and Ham Luong Rivers south of Ben Tre. The operation, code-named CUU LONG 48/10, ended on the afternoon of the second day after the ground forces captured seven Viet Cong and detained nine suspects. One ARVN soldier was killed and eight others were wounded.

On the 28th, 14 craft from RAG 25, Ba Xuyen Sector troops, a PRU, a combined LDNN and SEAL squad and supporting aircraft conducted Operation HAI DUONG 18, a clearing operation on Nai Island in the Bassac River 14 miles downstream from Can Tho. Blockading the river through the night, the RAG craft put the various troop units ashore and stopped all sampans and persons leaving the island. At dawn, the troops began to sweep the six mile long island, taking detainees to the blockade units for interrogation and seizing or destroying Viet Cong equipment and facilities. At the same time aircraft ahead of the sweeping units broadcast Chieu Hoi appeals and medical personnel following the sweep provided medical aid to 218 persons and distributed foodstuffs to almost 500 others. The blockade stopped 215 craft in the 24-hour period and the combined forces captured three Viet Cong, detained 12 suspects, received

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four Hoi Chanhs, made a complete census of all the island residents, and identified an additional 30 persons, absent from the island, as Viet Cong.

Logistics

In September, with an average of 9.2 logistic lift ships available daily and eight employed daily, the Vietnamese Navy conducted 19 logistic missions transporting 2,522 tons of cargo and 1,305 personnel. Medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 1,036 tons of cargo and 550 personnel; and utility landing craft (LCUs) lifted 675 tons of cargo and 500 personnel. LCM-405, after running aground on 31 August at Phan Thiet in the southern Second Naval Zone, was refloated on 3 September and returned to Saigon for bottom and anchor machinery repairs.

During the month, the VNN Supply Center had a gross effectiveness of 71.6 percent on a total of 9,301 requests for items and a net effectiveness of 84.4 percent on 7,895 requests for items normally carried in the supply system.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary
September 1967

<u>Coastal Force</u>	<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
I NZ	10,150	41,200	0	160
II NZ	6,452	21,633	37	245
III NZ	9,034	32,211	0	5
IV NZ	3,914	11,395	0	0
Sub-totals	29,950	106,439	37	410

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<u>Fleet Command</u>				
<u>Patrol Ships</u>	428	1,944	0	1
<u>Riverine Area</u>				
<u>Craft</u>	6,084	19,567	0	4
Totals	36,462	128,050	37	415

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

In September the seven battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II and III Corps Tactical Zones, the Rung Sat Special Zone and the Capital Military District. The six infantry battalions and the three batteries of the Artillery Battalion were committed to combat operations 83 percent of the time.

Throughout the month, Task Force B, consisting of a headquarters, the 1st and 2nd Battalions and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion, continued Operation SONG THAN 14 in the northern portion of the II Corps Tactical Zone. The daily activity of the Force included search and destroy sweeps and road security duties, except for the period from the 6th through the 15th when the force made a series of helicopter assaults as part of a joint force with the U. S. Army FIRST Cavalry Division and the ARVN 22nd Division in Operation JOIN HANDS/SONG THAN 807-67. Enemy contact was limited to squad and individual encounters, except on 13 September, when one company of Marines made contact with an estimated two platoons of Viet Cong. During

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Operation JOIN HANDS the enemy, while choosing not to make heavy contact with the Marines, extensively mined and booby-trapped his line of retreat; the men of the Force located and destroyed 35 assorted mines and 21 grenade booby traps. The detonation of four other mines and two booby trap grenades caused the Marines' only casualties, one man killed and nine wounded. The Marines, meanwhile, killed eight Viet Cong, captured 14 others and detained 32 enemy suspects. Other action in the month accounted for four Viet Cong killed, four captured, 27 additional suspects detained; one Chieu Hoi rallied to the Government. One Marine was killed and six were wounded in three mine explosions and one Marine was killed in a fire fight.

Throughout the month, Task Force A, comprised of the headquarters, the 4th and 5th Battalions--until 15 September when the 6th Battalion relieved the 5th Battalion--continued search and destroy and security operations in the Tan Uyen and Bien Hoa area 17 miles north of Saigon. On the 12th and 13th, 5th Battalion Marines located and searched a complex of 15 tunnels, discovering 200,000\$VN (piasters). Three days later, on 16 September, a mis-directed U. S. Army 155-mm round hit the 6th Battalion Command Post, killing three Marines and wounding 11 others. There was no contact with the enemy during the month but three Marines were killed and 11 were wounded by mines and grenades.

The 3rd Battalion continued its search and destroy operations

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in the Rung Sat Special Zone through the 15th, killing two Viet Cong on the 11th, the only contact with the enemy. After several days in base camp, the battalion was deployed to Binh Chon District west of Saigon on the 20th, to be part of the security force for the Capital Military District. The 5th Battalion, after being detached from Task Force A on the 15th, was also assigned to security duties in Binh Chon District and a five-day special security mission in Saigon.

In September the Brigade accounted for 14 enemy dead, 11 captured, 59 suspects detained, and one rallier received. In the same period nine Marines were killed and 39 were wounded. The morale of the Vietnamese Marine Corps remained at a high level and the leadership in all units was considered to be satisfactory during the month.

Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary
September 1967

VC/NVA 14 KIA 18 VCC 59 VCS 1 Chieu Hoi
VNMC 9 KIA 39 WIA (includes 3 KIA and 11 WIA by friendly fire)

Captured Weapons:

Rifles, MAS 49	2
Rifles, British	1
AK-47	1
Rifles, Chinese Communist	1
Rifles, M-1	1

Captured or Destroyed Materials or Facilities:

105-mm modified mines	27
155-mm modified mines	3
Anti-tank mines	9
Butterfly mines	5

Captured or Destroyed Materials or Facilities (Cont.):

Anti-personnel mines	3
Claymore mines	1
Grenade booby traps	21
Hand grenades	6
TNT, sticks	50
Rice, kilograms	500
Thatched houses	3
Caches	1
Sampans	1
Ox carts	1
Tunnels	17
Company-size defensive bases	1
Thompson SMG	2
Plasters	200,000\$VN
Assorted ammunition, rounds	400
Assorted medical supplies	---

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APPENDIX I

MILITARY PROVINCIAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

During recent months the Navy Military Provincial Health Assistance Program (MILPHAP) teams continued to provide direct medical care and health services to Vietnamese civilians, and worked with Vietnamese medical and health personnel to augment, develop, and expand Vietnamese capabilities in clinical health care and public health programs.

The immediate objective of the MILPHAP teams has been the increase in health services available to Vietnamese civilians in the provinces. This aspect of the program involved MILPHAP teams working directly with Vietnam's Ministry of Health, at the province and district levels, to assist and advise the staffs of the Vietnamese provincial hospitals. The MILPHAP teams have frequently extended their activities to villages, and even to hamlets, where they have helped to wage intensive preventive medicine campaigns in addition to treating the villagers' ills.

The Navy MILPHAP teams, which are normally staffed by three doctors, a Medical Service Corps officer, and 12 corpsmen, are currently located in the following provinces: Team ONE in Quang Tri; Team TWO in Quang Nam; Team THREE in Quang Tin; Team FOUR in Lam Dong; Team FIVE in Chau Doc; Team SIX in Ba Xuyen; and Team SEVEN in Kien Giang.

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The Navy MILPHAP teams have encountered numerous problems and obstacles. Generally, the hospitals are in a state of disrepair, wards are overcrowded, and the laboratories are lacking some essential equipment. Under-staffing has also been a problem, and the procurement of supplies extremely difficult. Despite the austere conditions under which the teams function, there has been continuing evidence of significant progress made in the administration and operation of the Vietnamese public health facilities.

The Navy teams have also sustained several personnel injuries as a result of enemy hostile actions. On 27 August, the enemy attempted to overrun the compound of Navy Team TWO in order to capture medical supplies from the team's storehouse. The attackers were repulsed by team members and Marine security forces and there was no loss of medical supplies. During the ensuing fight, three members of Team TWO were seriously wounded while nine enemy were killed and two captured. On 27 September, 10 miles southwest of Chau Doc Village, a member of Navy MILPHAP Team FIVE was slightly wounded while accompanying a reaction team which was investigating the source of enemy sniper fire.

With the adoption of a "patience and persistence" attitude, the Navy teams have established numerous active health programs. Navy Team ONE has instituted an effective sanitation and insect control program in Quang Tri Province. An extensive training program

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for Provincial Health Service personnel in this province has also been accomplished, resulting in significant contributions to the environmental sanitation conditions in the hospital. Navy Team TWO has established personnel sanitation and garbage collection programs for the refugee camp in Quang Nam Province. Extensive work by Navy Team THREE has controlled outbreaks of plague in Tam Ky and Ly Tin districts of Quang Tin Province.

Navy Team FOUR played a key role in the recent organization of a Medical Civil Action Team which is operated and directed by the Vietnamese. This team, under the supervision of Navy Team FOUR, has been responsible for the growth, in size and effectiveness, of the active rural health program in Lam Dong Province.

The "Hygiene Hamlet" Program, a rural health program involving specific projects such as painting and distributing trash cans, inoculation programs and health education programs, has been conducted in Chau Doc Province by the Vietnamese Rural Health Chief under the supervision of Navy Team FIVE.

An educational program instituted by Navy Team SIX continued to function smoothly and without problems. First aid lectures given to RF/PF and ARVN corpsmen have been enthusiastically received. First aid booklets, written in Vietnamese, have been distributed to schools and Vietnamese province medical personnel.

Personal rapport continued at a high level among members of the

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Navy MILPHAP teams and the Vietnamese, and the health assistance programs instituted by these teams continue to gradually improve the health standards of rural Vietnam.

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APPENDIX II

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

In September the number of chaplains assigned to U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam was 25: four Catholic and 21 Protestant.

During the month the chaplains traveled extensively to outlying areas in an attempt to minister to as many naval personnel as possible. The demanding requirements of the small number of chaplains assigned is exemplified by the three "circuit-riding" chaplains of NAVSUPACT, Saigon, who are tasked with serving approximately 6,000 personnel at fifteen different locations.

The following tabulation is a statistical summary of the religious services conducted during September:

1. Religious Services:

a. Divine Services:

(1) U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Installations

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	129	113	242
Attendance	4,734	645	5,379
Communed	1,380	396	1,776

(2) Other Military Installations

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	38	16	54
Attendance	994	160	1,154
Communed	553	117	670

(3) Civilian Churches

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	4	3	7
Attendance	2,400	84	2,484
Communed	950	5	955

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b. Religious services conducted by lay leaders and chaplains other than those attached to NAVFORV:

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Chaplains</u>		<u>Lay Leaders</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Attend.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Attend.</u>
Catholic	45	2,237	0	0
Protestant	18	64	6	44
Jewish	2	13	2	12

c. Other services in which chaplains participated:

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Memorial services	5	949
Vietnamese funeral	1	50
Protestant Monthly Rally	1	105
Prayer meetings	15	47

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APPENDIX III

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 ten junks with the responsibility of patrolling from 30 to 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.

CORDS Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support.

COSURVFOR Coastal Surveillance Force (USN) TF 115 - The U. S. forces participating in Operations 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.

DIA DOAN KET National Reconciliation Program - Program which is

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aimed at helping qualified returnees find employment commensurate with their previous training and experience.

- GAME WARDEN** The operation performed by U. S. Navy forces to interdict Viet Cong movement on the major waterways 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 projectile with high armor penetration capability 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 water borne 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.
- LDNN** Lien Doc Ngoai Nhia (VNN) - Literally "soldiers who fight under the sea." UDT force of the VNN.

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LHFT Light Helicopter Fire Team (U. S.) - A helicopter fire team composed of two gunships used in support of ground and water borne units.

LRRP Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol.

MARKET TIME The operation conducted by U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces to interdict Viet Cong infiltration of men and supplies from the sea.

MEDCAP Medical Civic Action Program.

MG Machine Gun - An automatic crew served weapon adaptable to many mountings. The four types 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

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to assist operations ashore; often spotted and corrected by spotter aircraft or forward observers.

NILO

Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer.

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.

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.

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RED HAZE Infra Red Detector (U. S.) - Sensitive heat detectors used as an airborne locator of personnel, equipment and military sites.

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.

RPG Rocket Propelled Grenade - A Soviet or Chinese Communist manufactured fin-stablized, 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.

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

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airborne radar for detecting small, moving objects.

STABLE DOOR

The U. S. Navy operation conducted to provide harbor defense.

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

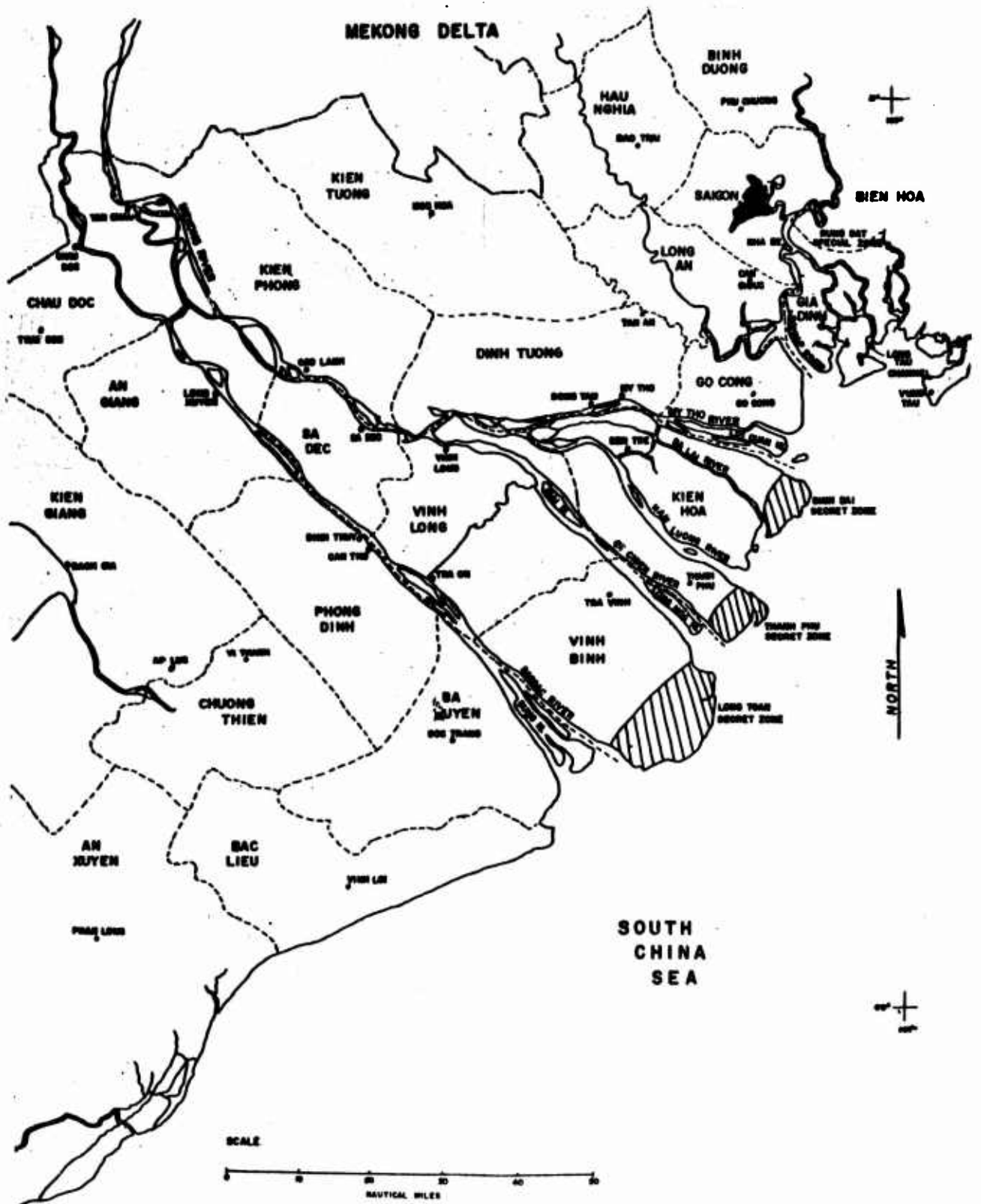
Vietnamese Navy.

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