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# U.S. NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM

AD-A953 610



MONTHLY HISTORICAL  
SUPPLEMENT  
MAY 1967

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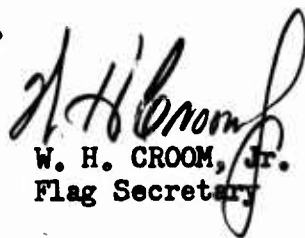
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W. H. CROOM, Jr.  
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NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT

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FOREWORD

The month of May was marked by numerous incidents involving underwater activity by the enemy. In the Mekong Delta at least three Viet Cong swimmers were killed during a series of abortive attempts to sabotage units of Operation GAME WARDEN. In the First Coastal Zone a dredge and a lighter were mined in the Cua Viet approaches to Dong Ha, 85 miles northwest of Danang.

On 15 May and again on the 19th, elements of the Riverine Assault Force operating in the Delta experienced their first major contact with the Viet Cong. During the encounters, conducted at close range, the special armor of the assault craft proved effective against 57-mm. recoilless-rifle fire. However, 82-mm. caliber ammunition penetrated the armor.

The unit composition of Operation MARKET TIME underwent a number of changes in May. Two of the newly-constructed, high-speed gunboats (PGs) arrived for duty, and three high-endurance Coast Guard cutters (WHECs) arrived as replacements for DERs. In addition, two patrol craft of the Vietnamese Navy operated as MARKET TIME units during the second half of the month.

The continuing fierce tempo of combat operations in the I Corps Tactical Zone took its toll of Seabees in May as two battalions suffered 21 casualties. Most of the injuries occurred on 8 May, 2,000 yards from the Demilitarized Zone, when 13 men were wounded during an attempt by enemy troops to overrun a Special Forces camp the Seabees were building.

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Saigon's Naval Support Activity detachment at Nha Be battled two intense POL fires during the month. On 3 May a 60-foot junk loaded with gasoline caught fire and eventually exploded after it was towed away from a fuel pier. On 11 May a blaze aboard a Philippine tanker carrying 10,000 gallons of JP-4 fuel was finally brought under control after almost nine hours of sustained effort by detachment personnel.

In May the Vietnamese Navy activated a River Assault Group detachment at the Coastal Group 12 base near Hue, marking the first time RAG craft have operated beyond the Delta and surrounding region since South Vietnam became an independent nation. On 11 May, two of the four new motor gunboats (PGMs) recently acquired by the VN Navy completed underway training and were assigned to the Fleet Command.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 3 May - GALLUP, a newly-designed patrol gunboat, begins MARKET TIME patrols. Sister ship, ASHEVILLE, begins patrols on the 12th. p. 29.
- Support Activity personnel at Nha Be battle intense fire aboard junk loaded with gasoline. p. 51.
- 6 - PBR fire triggers a series of sustained secondary explosions during an engagement off Con Coc Island, in the mouth of the Bassac River. p. 12.
- 8 - Thirteen Seabees are wounded when enemy troops attempt to overrun a Special Forces camp at Con Thien. p. 57.
- The 6th Battalion, VNMC, is activated as a combat unit. p. 88.
- 9 - Dredge HYDE is mined in the Cua Viet supply route to Dong Ha. p. 43.
- 11 - HUNTERDON COUNTY's 40-mm. fire blows up an ammunition cache in the Long Toan Secret Zone. p. 14.
- 13 - SEALs ambush an enemy sapper unit on Thoi Son Island, in the My Tho River; documents dealing with sabotage activities are seized. p. 9.
- 15 - VNN PCE 08 begins MARKET TIME patrols in the First Coastal Zone. pp. 30 and 74.
- Coast Guard cutters BARATARIA, BERING STRAIT and GRESHAM begin replacing SEVENTH Fleet DERs on coastal patrols. p. 30.
  - Riverine Assault Force units, in first major contact with Viet Cong, engage enemy forces armed with heavy automatic weapons and recoilless rifles; action occurs 15 miles west of My Tho. Eight U.S. personnel are wounded; four Viet Cong are killed. p. 37.
- 17 - For the first time since the establishment of an independent government in South Vietnam, a River Assault Group detachment is activated outside of the Delta and surrounding region. p. 73.
- VNN PCE 12 begins MARKET TIME patrols in the Second Coastal Zone. pp. 30 and 74.

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- 23 May - MARKET TIME units supporting Operation BEAU CHARGER intercept a group of enemy junks carrying arms and supplies. p. 23.
- 24 - PBR patrol is ambushed in the Ham Luong River, six miles south of Ben Tre. Four Americans and one Vietnamese maritime policeman are killed. p. 5.
- 28-29 - Enemy swimmers try unsuccessfully to sabotage HARNETT COUNTY in the Delta. p. 15.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

During May the River Patrol Force inflicted and suffered its highest rate of fatalities for any month since Operation GAME WARDEN began. One hundred and sixteen Viet Cong were killed in May; 37 other Viet Cong were listed as possibly killed. Meanwhile, enemy fire killed five U.S. Navymen.

Four of the Americans as well as a Vietnamese maritime policeman were killed on the 24th of May when a GAME WARDEN patrol was ambushed in the Ham Luong River; the other five sailors aboard the two PBRs involved were wounded. Two days earlier, in the My Tho area of the Mekong Delta, a Navy petty officer was killed while accompanying Vietnamese Popular Force troops and directing PBR gunfire support for the mission.

During the month U.S. Navy SEALs conducted a number of successful operations in various areas of the Delta. In one incident, on 13 May, a SEAL patrol ambushed several members of an enemy sapper unit. The ambush resulted in the seizure of documents containing valuable intelligence data about Viet Cong sabotage methods--a subject of growing concern in a month marked by a considerable increase in enemy swimmer activity.

One such area of activity was the mouth of the Ham Luong River where, on several occasions, enemy swimmers tried unsuccessfully to sabotage USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821), one of the GAME WARDEN support ships.

The GAME WARDEN LSTs fired a number of gunfire missions in May,

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A PBR on patrol in the Rung Sat Special Zone.

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either against targets of opportunity or in response to requests. On the evening of 11 May, in the Long Toan Secret Zone, USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) blew up an ammunition cache by using a night observation device to spot the fall of shot as 40-mm. fire was "walked" up to the target.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

In May there was no major hostile fire activity in the Rung Sat Special Zone. In a series of minor incidents GAME WARDEN units engaged small groups of Viet Cong along enemy lines of communications and ambush sites.

On 18 May a helicopter fire team discovered a 50-foot watchtower overlooking the junction of the Lo Ren and Vam Sat rivers. The helicopters took the tower under fire and killed its two occupants while they were attempting to flee. That same day, in Long An province, Navy helicopters supporting the Vietnamese Army's 46th Regiment in operations southwest of Can Giouc killed at least five, and possibly ten more, Viet Cong. Two Navy pilots were slightly wounded during the engagement.

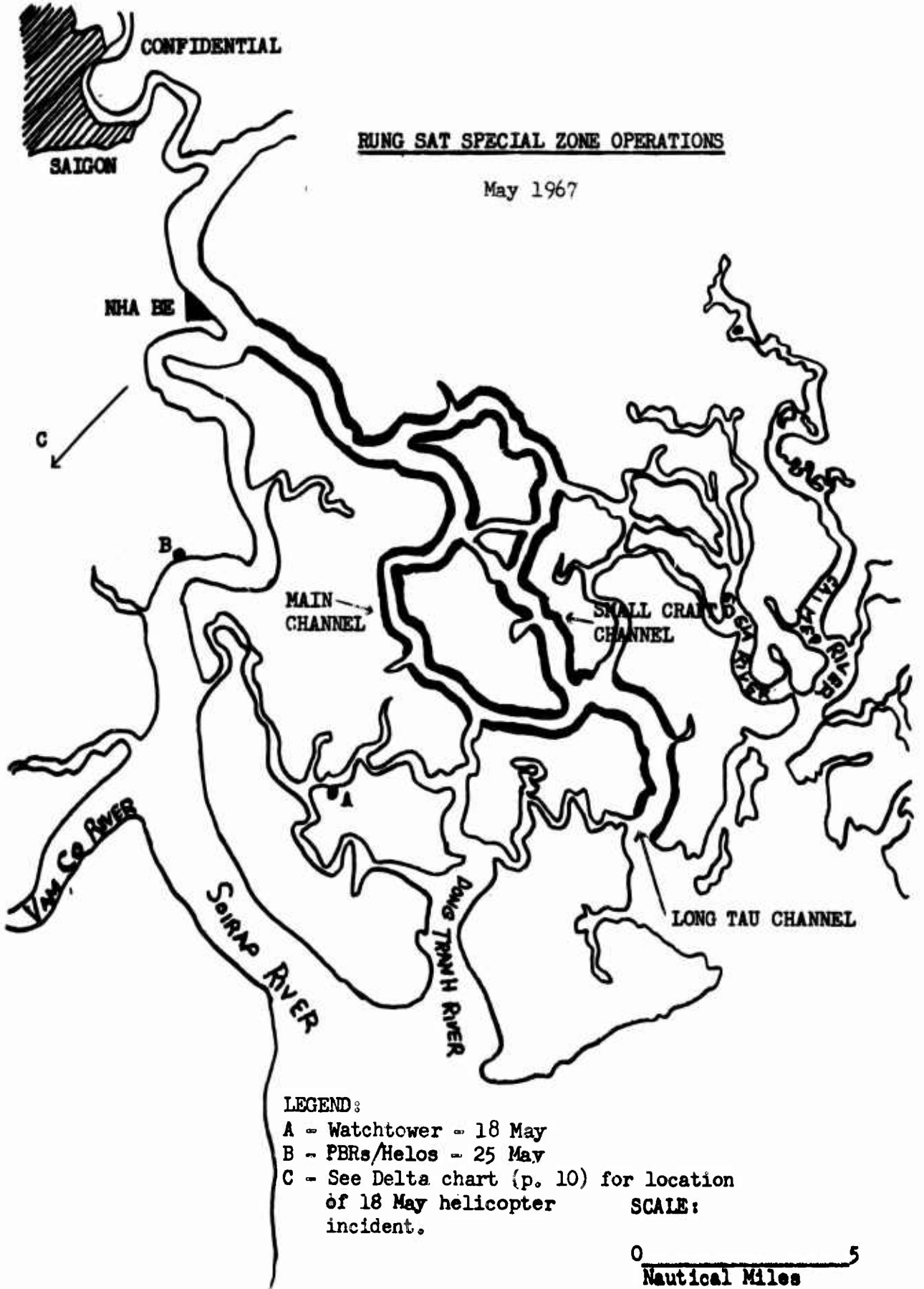
On the night of 25 May a PBR patrol in the central Soirap River received about 30 rounds of automatic-weapons fire from a sampan near the north bank. The patrol returned the fire and was joined by a helicopter fire team, which discovered and destroyed 16 sampans and two huts in the area. In addition, fire from the helicopters triggered one secondary explosion. There were no U.S. casualties. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

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RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

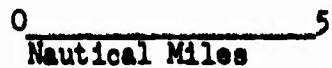
May 1967



LEGEND:

- A - Watchtower - 18 May
- B - PBRs/Helos - 25 May
- C - See Delta chart (p. 10) for location of 18 May helicopter incident.

SCALE:



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DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Ham Luong River

During May most of the activity in the Ham Luong River occurred near Cu Lao Oc, a long, narrow island four miles south of Ben Tre.

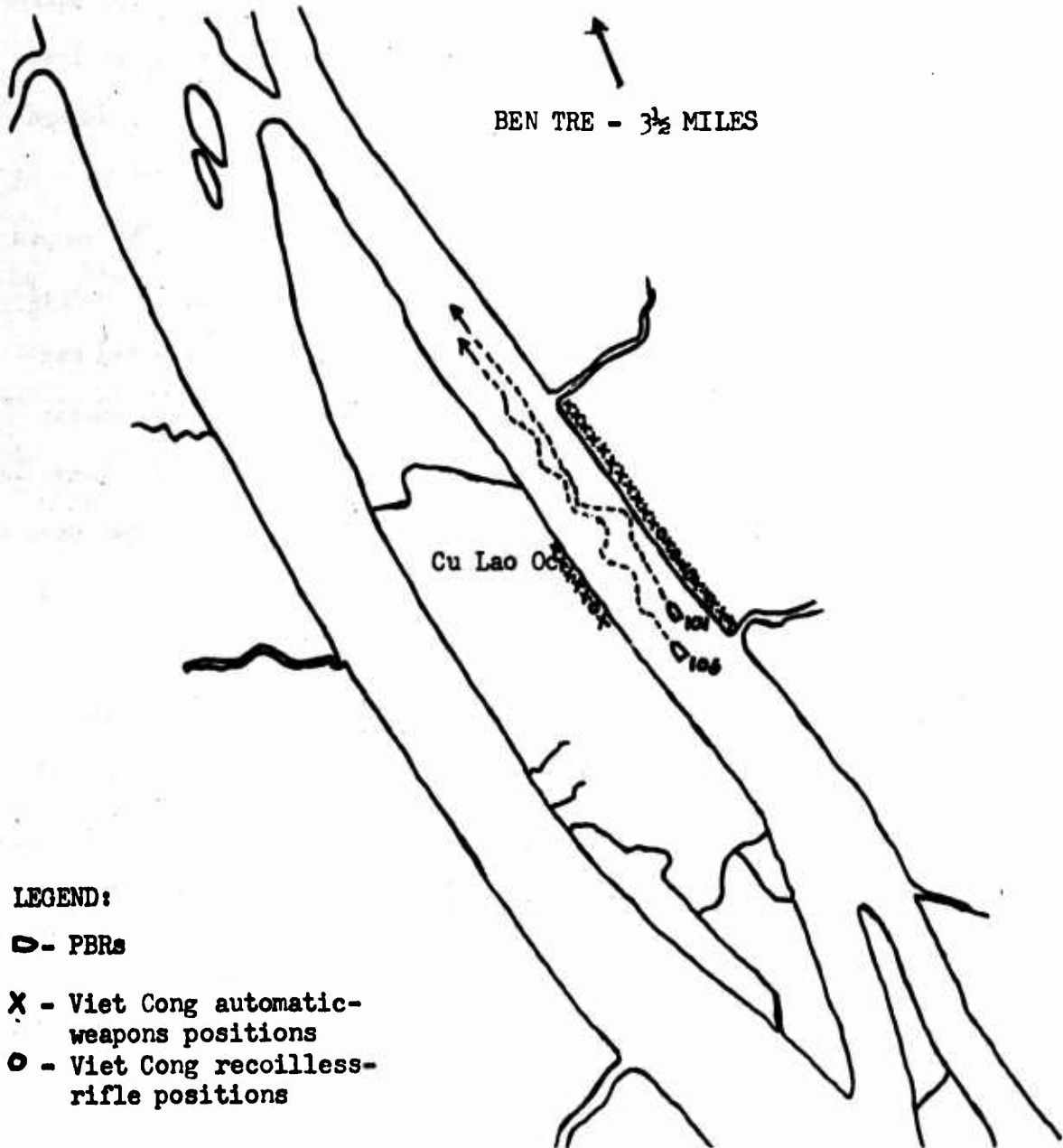
On 19 May a PBR patrol intercepted a sampan near the southern tip of Cu Lao Oc. When the sampan attempted to evade after warning shots were fired, the patrol took the craft under fire. The sampan and enemy positions on the river bank then opened up on the patrol with automatic weapons. The PBRs' return fire suppressed the bank emplacements and triggered two secondary explosions in the sampan. Subsequent intelligence reports indicated that four of the enemy were killed, including a deputy company commander of the Viet Cong's main-force 261st Battalion. In addition, a company commander and six other Viet Cong were wounded during the engagement.

On 24 May the Officer in Charge, River Patrol Section 531, three PBR crewmen and a Vietnamese maritime policeman were killed by intense enemy fire from the north bank of the Ham Luong, six miles south of Ben Tre. Five other U.S. sailors were wounded during the action.

The river patrol, composed of PBRs 101 and 106, was attacked by automatic-weapons fire from several Viet Cong positions along the bank. The leading boat, PBR 101, returned the fire and was almost immediately hit forward by a round of 57-mm. recoilless-rifle fire. The burst killed the patrol officer, LT C. D. WITT, USN, the forward gunner, Fireman T. F. LEAZER, USN, and the boat

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**24 MAY INCIDENT IN THE HAM LUONG RIVER**



BEN TRE - 3 1/2 MILES

Cu Lao Oc

Ham Luong River

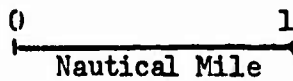
**LEGEND:**

**○ - PBRs**

**X - Viet Cong automatic-  
weapons positions**

**○ - Viet Cong recoilless-  
rifle positions**

SCALE:



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captain, Electronics Technician Second Class R. L. CASTLEBERRY, USN. Moments later, machine-gun fire killed the midships gunner, Seaman M. O. QUINN, USN, as the PBR veered toward the bank out of control.

The PBR's sole survivor, Seaman M. J. DEVLIN, USN, was wounded but managed to bring the stricken boat under control and turn clear of the range of fire.

PBR 106 covered 101's withdrawal and launched a high-speed run against the enemy positions. During the ensuing heavy exchange of fire, a 57-mm. round struck the boat's vertical armor, killing a Vietnamese, National Maritime Policeman Troung Houng CHAU, and seriously wounding the boat captain and the after gunner. In addition, the round's impact disabled the boat's port engine. The PBR continued the engagement, weaving and delivering a high volume of fire at the stretch of enemy sites until the PBR's supply of ammunition was nearly exhausted.

Shortly thereafter a PBR patrol from an adjacent area rendezvoused with PBRs 101 and 106 and escorted them to Ben Tre. As a result of the action, PBR 101's radar and forward gun mount were destroyed, and PBR 106 sustained extensive damage to its engines and hull. Intelligence reports later indicated that the fire from the PBRs and subsequent air strikes killed at least 19 Viet Cong and wounded 36 others.

On 31 May, in the same area, Navy helicopters acting on intelligence reports disrupted an enemy attempt to set up an ambush. During the air strikes, fire from the helicopters killed seven Viet

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Cong and destroyed ten enemy structures.

On 6 May, to meet the threat posed by the presence of almost 3,000 main-force Viet Cong troops in Kien Hoa province, the commander of the Delta River Patrol Group redeployed certain forces (Operation OVERLOAD) in an effort to interdict enemy lines of communications within the province and from adjacent provinces. Units were moved from the upper rivers to provide patrol density in the My Tho, Bassac and Ham Luong rivers, and to pave the way for incursions into the Ba Lai, a narrow river running between the Ba Tri and Binh Dai areas of Kien Hoa province. On 25 May HARNETT COUNTY, with River Patrol Section 513 and Detachment 4 of Light Helicopter Attack Squadron THREE (HA(L)3) embarked, anchored in the mouth of the Ham Luong and began surveillance operations in the lower reaches of the river.

During the latter part of the month helicopters conducting patrols along the Ba Lai (where a 24-hour curfew had been placed in effect) killed 22 Viet Cong, destroyed 25 sampans and 18 structures, damaged four sampans and five structures, and triggered three secondary explosions.

#### Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

During May there was an increase in the number of hostile fire and evasion incidents along the My Tho stretch of the Mekong River.

On 10 May PBRs interdicted a crossing by three Viet Cong in a sampan three miles east of Cai Be. The three men took to the water upon being hailed and swam ashore; from the beach they opened fire

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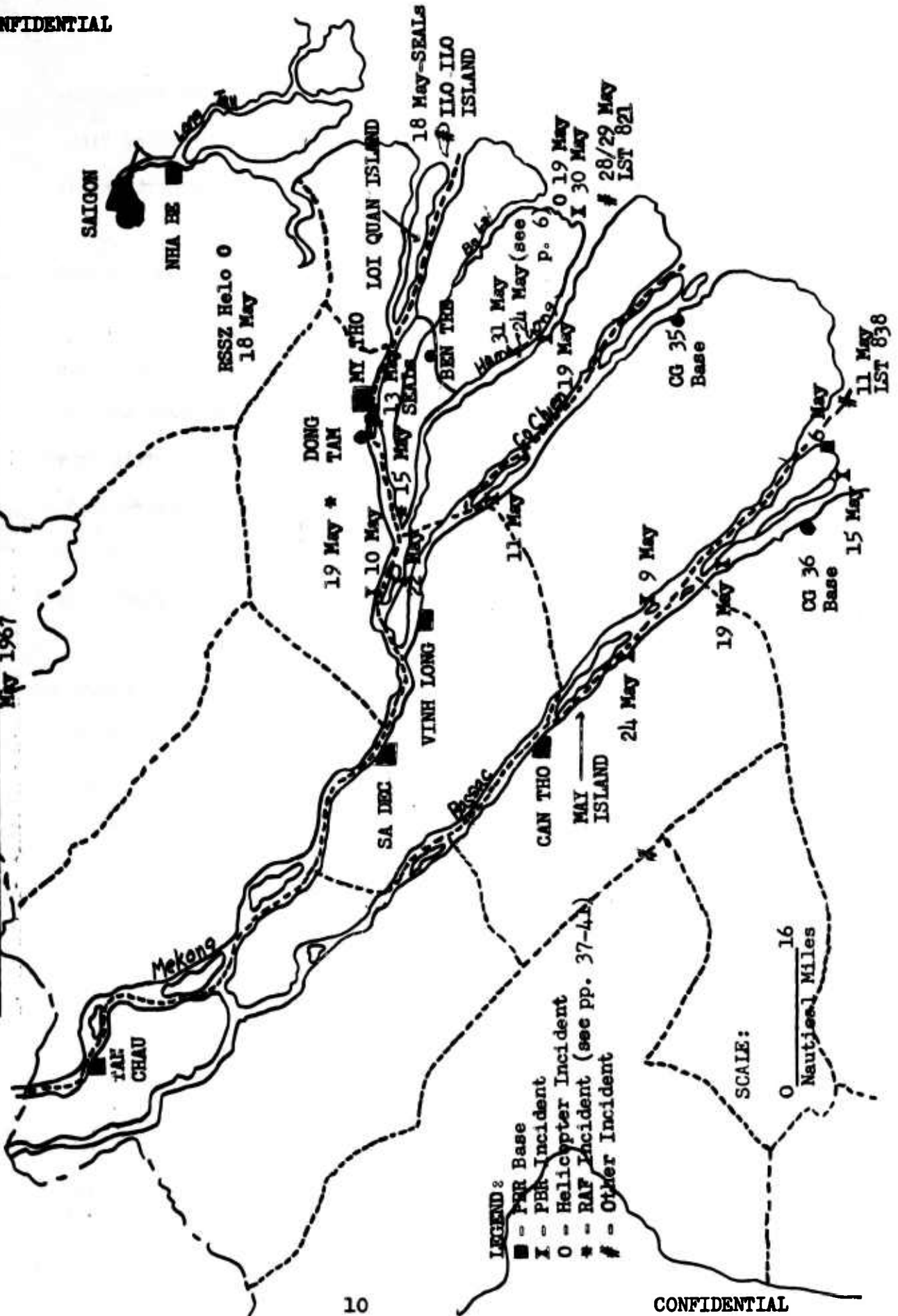
on the patrol with small arms. The PBRs' return fire killed one man and wounded another, who managed to escape. The third Viet Cong was captured and delivered to the Vietnamese authorities at My Tho for interrogation.

At 0515 on 13 May, a four-man SEAL patrol was landed on Thoi Son Island to set up a "listening post" near the house of a suspected Viet Cong. An hour later seven men were landed on the island by a water-taxi and entered the house. The SEALs waited 15 minutes, then called the group out. The men immediately tried to escape and the SEALs opened fire, killing two of the men and wounding two others. Documents subsequently found on one of the corpses indicated that the man had been a member of a sapper squad (a Viet Cong sabotage unit).

Among the other documents found by the SEALs were a roster of the 1st squad, 332nd Sapper Platoon, descriptions of some of the unit's past activities (including data linking the platoon to the January mining of the dredge JAMAICA BAY) and reconnaissance reports on potential targets.

On 18 May a seven-man SEAL reconnaissance team was landed on Ilo Ilo Island, near the mouth of the My Tho, in response to an intelligence report about the presence of a Viet Cong medical training center. The team found an aid station and confiscated assorted medicines, medical supplies and medical books. Moving southwestward, the SEALs discovered a camp containing three huts, two bunkers, numerous booby traps, and six Viet Cong. The team

RIVER PATROL FORCE AND RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE DELTA OPERATIONS  
May 1967



- LEGEND:
- - PBR Base
  - X - PBR Incident
  - O - Helicopter Incident
  - \* - RAF Incident (see pp. 37-41)
  - # - Other Incident

SCALE:  
0 16  
Nautical Miles

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killed five of the Viet Cong, wounded the sixth, and captured four Chinese Communist rifles. The SEALs then destroyed the camp, two sampans and a rice cache, and withdrew under the covering fire of their armored LCM with a number of Viet Cong in unsuccessful pursuit.

On 22 May Boatswain's Mate First Class W. K. BATCHELDER, USN, was killed by enemy fire while accompanying Popular Force troops on a sweep of a small island four miles southeast of Cai Be. At the time, Petty Officer BATCHELDER was coordinating fire from PBRs supporting the Vietnamese troops. Two Viet Cong were killed and one Chinese Communist carbine was captured during the operation.

#### Operations in the Co Chien River

In May most of the encounters with the Viet Cong along the Co Chien River involved PBR support for Vietnamese outposts under attack, or enemy fire directed at the PBRs from the river banks or from evading sampans.

On 11 May PBRs 141 and 143, pursuing an evading sampan, were taken under small-arms fire from the south bank of the river near the mouth of the Mang Thit canal. The PBRs suppressed the fire with M-16 rifles and then embarked three Popular Force troops at a nearby outpost in order to investigate the sampan, which had been beached and abandoned a short distance up the canal.

Once inside the canal the patrol noted considerable sampan activity and once again came under small-arms fire. The return fire from the PBRs triggered one secondary explosion from a sampan on the bank. The PBRs then came under heavy automatic-weapons fire

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from the tree line, which was silenced. Shortly thereafter, Vietnamese Navy units relieved the PBRs and the patrol withdrew, its supply of ammunition nearly depleted. The PBR fire had killed at least one Viet Cong, and destroyed two junks and a sampan. There were no U.S. casualties.

#### Operations in the Bassac River

On the morning of 6 May the Viet Cong exploded a mine against PBRs conducting Operation FERRET near the mouth of the Bassac. Simultaneously, the enemy opened fire on the PBRs from at least four machine-gun emplacements on nearby Con Coc Island. The patrol--PBRs 37 and 38--was joined by PBRs 31 and 32, and the four boats delivered a high volume of .50 caliber machine-gun and 60-mm. mortar fire into the enemy positions.

Then the helicopter fire team from HUNTERDON COUNTY arrived in the area and conducted a series of strikes against the ambush sites. When the helicopters departed, the PBRs fired additional mortars on the Viet Cong positions, triggering a series of secondary explosions which lasted for approximately 30 minutes.

Although the mine explosion had lifted one PBR about five feet out of the water, there were no U.S. casualties or material damage during the engagement. At least one Viet Cong was killed.

On 9 May, PBRs supporting a SEAL ambush team destroyed one junk and six sampans and killed at least two Viet Cong in the narrow channel between Tan Dinh Island and the north bank of the Bassac. The PBRs--35 and 36--had entered the channel, which lies

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between two Viet Cong-controlled areas, in an attempt to draw enemy units toward the northern tip of the island, where the SEAL ambush was set. However, the enemy opened fire on the patrol from two bunkers and a junk situated on the mainland side of the channel. The PBRs silenced the fire from the junk and one bunker, killing at least two Viet Cong. A helicopter strike then neutralized the other bunker with a direct 2.75-inch rocket hit.

With the bunkers silent the PBRs continued down the channel, engaging snipers and automatic-weapons positions on both banks. Supported by the helicopters the PBRs suppressed the enemy fire, then rendezvoused with the SEALs and withdrew from the island. A Vietnamese policeman embarked in one of the PBRs suffered slight wounds during the engagement. At least two, and probably six, of the enemy were killed.

On 19 May PBRs 36 and 38 disrupted a Viet Cong loudspeaker team which had been broadcasting propaganda in connection with the birthday of the North Vietnamese President, Ho Chi Minh. The patrol boats, which had been informed of the team's location by the commanding officer of Coastal Group 36, surprised the Viet Cong as they were leaving Tron Island in sampans. When the sampans attempted to evade to the bank they were taken under fire, which resulted in seven of the enemy being killed.

Throughout the month a half-mile-long area on the south bank of the Bassac, 12 miles downstream from Can Tho, was the scene of a series of sharp encounters between PBRs and enemy positions on the

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bank and on nearby Nai Island. On 14 May, four PBR crewmen were wounded when a blocking force composed of PBRs 35 and 127 was ambushed by Viet Cong on Nai Island employing heavy automatic weapons and rifle grenades. In the first burst of fire the patrol officer, Boatswain's Mate First Class H. R. MOONEY, USN, was struck in both legs. Despite his wounds, Petty Officer MOONEY continued to direct the patrol's movements as the PBRs made firing runs on the enemy emplacements. Then PBR 39 relieved PBR 127 and the wounded were evacuated to Can Tho. In the meantime, helicopter strikes and 105-mm. howitzer fire from Tra On damaged three enemy bunkers and two trenches in the area. The extent of Viet Cong casualties was undetermined.

\*\*\*

GAME WARDEN Support Ships

On several occasions during the month GAME WARDEN support LSTs conducted gunfire missions against targets of opportunity or in response to requests. On 11 May HUNTERDON COUNTY blew up an ammunition cache in the Long Toan Secret Zone. The ship had detected a moving contact on radar as it entered a canal. At the request of the Vietnamese Sub-sector Control Center, the contact was taken under fire. A night observation device was used to spot the fall of shot as semi-automatic 40-mm. fire was "walked" up the canal. The fire triggered a secondary explosion 75-100 feet in height and several smaller explosions. Thirty minutes later the bright orange flash of another explosion, accompanied by a fireball 100-125 feet

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in diameter, erupted in the same area.

\*\*\*

Viet Cong Swimmer Activity

During May Viet Cong swimmers were encountered in several areas of the Mekong Delta amid intelligence reports that the Thanh Phu Secret Zone was being used as a sapper training area.

On the night of 15 May a PBR patrol killed two Viet Cong swimmers near Dung Island in the Bassac River. On 19 May a Navy helicopter spotted six Viet Cong in black rubber suits and swim fins off the Thanh Phu Secret Zone. The helicopter killed one of the swimmers prior to being driven off by enemy ground fire.

Later in the month several unsuccessful sabotage attempts were made against USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) while she was anchored in the mouth of the Ham Luong River, near the Thanh Phu Secret Zone. On 28 May, when a deck sentry killed a man astride a log near the ship, a small secondary explosion ensued. On 29 May a sentry threw a grenade at a man who was seen in the water near the forward boat boom. Subsequent investigation disclosed that a boat at the boom had been tampered with.

On the morning of 30 May a PBR patrol engaged two swimmers near the mouth of the Ham Luong. Four rounds of M-79 grenades were fired at the swimmers, who disappeared.

\*\*\*

GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 11 May USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) relieved USS GARRETT

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COUNTY (LST 786) in support of RIVPATSEC 543 at the mouth of the Soirap River.

On 25 May HARNETT COUNTY, with RIVPATSEC 513 and HAL 3 (Det. 4) embarked, shifted to the mouth of the Ham Luong River from the mouth of the Co Chien River.

\*\*\*

**GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
May 1967**

**1. PBR Statistics:**

- a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 685 Night 737
- b. Total Contacts: Day 65,982 Night 15,431
- c. Total Inspected: Day 20,736 Night 5,646
- d. Total Boarded: Day 34,759 Night 7,722
- e. People Detained: 776
- f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 2
- g. Total Patrol Hours: 36,109

**2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:**

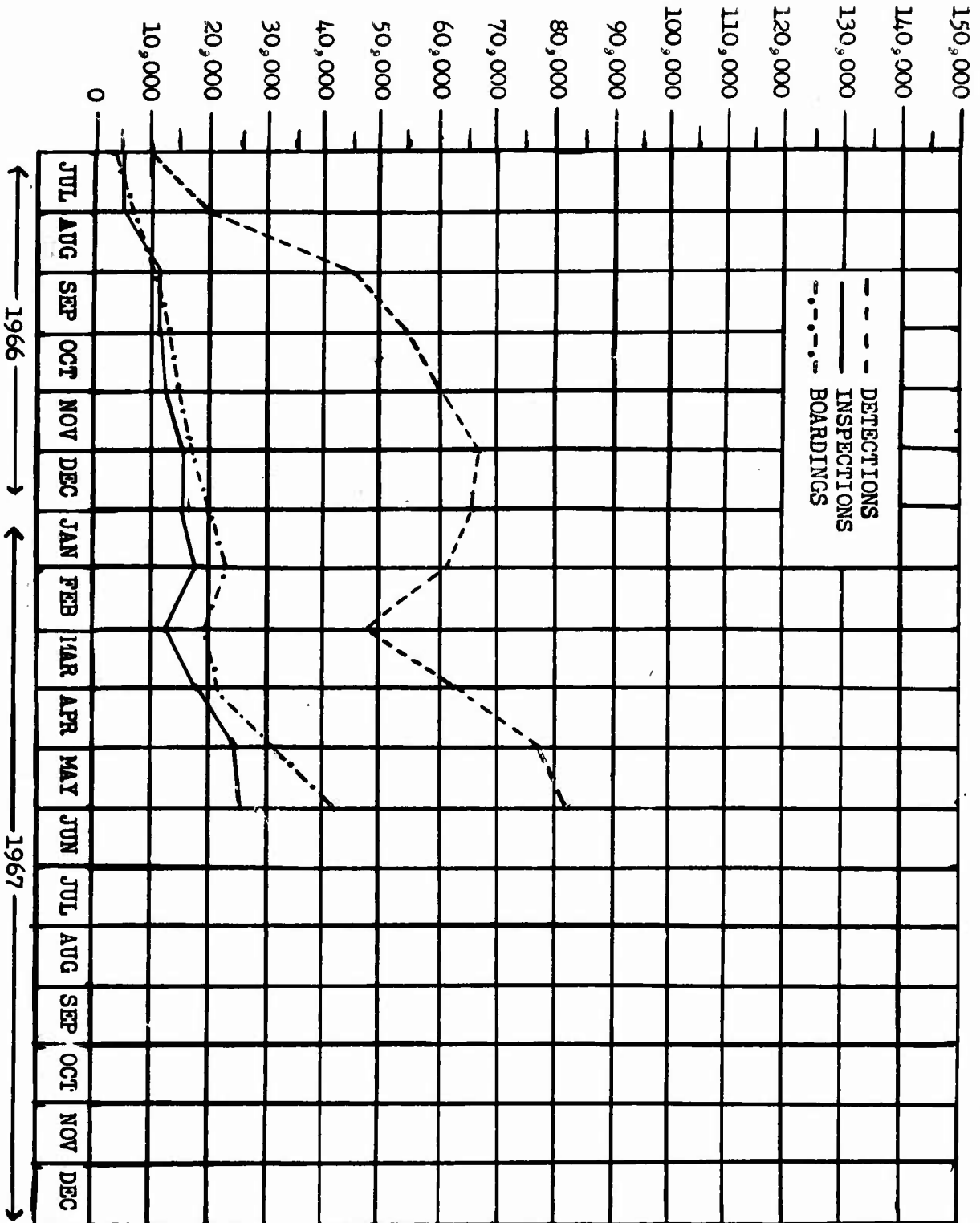
- a. Total Flight Hours: 437,85
- b. Helo Missions:
  - (1) Pre-planned strikes: 15
  - (2) Reaction: 19
  - (3) Targets of Opportunity: 8
  - (4) Support: 121

**3. GAME WARDEN Totals:**

- a. Fire Fights:
  - (1) PBR 71
  - (2) Helo 15
  - (3) LCM 2
  - (4) LCPL 2
  - (5) STAB 2

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS



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- b. Sampans: Destroyed 59 Damaged 11 Captured 3
- c. Structures: Destroyed 11 Damaged 7
- d. Junks: Destroyed 6
- e. Huts: Destroyed 14
- f. Bunkers: Destroyed 43 Damaged 1
- g. Enemy: KIA 116 KIA (Poss.) 37 WIA 44 Captured 7
- h. Friendly: KIA 5 WIA 24
- i. Friendly Battle Damage:
  - (1) PBR 21
  - (2) Helo 3
- j. PBR MEDEVAC: 33

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**COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)**

In May the unit composition of the Coastal Surveillance Force underwent a number of changes.

Early in the month the first of the newly-constructed gunboats--USS ASHEVILLE (PG 84) and USS GALLUP (PG 85)--arrived and began Operation MARKET TIME patrols. In mid-May the first three 311-Class, high-endurance Coast Guard cutters--USCGC BARATARIA (WMEC 381), USCGC BERING STRAIT (WMEC 382) and USCGC GRESHAM (WMEC 387)--chopped to CTF 115 as MARKET TIME replacements for U.S. SEVENTH Fleet DERs.

On 15 May, the Vietnamese Navy's PCE 08 relieved USS LUCID (MEC 458) of MARKET TIME duties in the First Coastal Zone and remained on station until the 29th. On 17 May, the VNN's PCE 12 relieved USS GANNET (MEC 290) in the Second Coastal Zone and conducted MARKET TIME patrols through the end of the month.

GANNET proceeded to the Fourth Riverine Area for special patrol duties. LUCID, meanwhile, proceeded to Danang for special mine-sweeping duty occasioned by the sapper threat to Danang's harbor and bay.

In May MARKET TIME units detected almost 115,000 junks and sampans; one-third of these were inspected and one-fourth were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 106 junks and 1,292 suspects. In addition, MARKET TIME units detected 728 steel-hulled craft during the month; some of these were detected more than once as they transited from one MARKET TIME area to another. More than one-third of the 728 craft were inspected or boarded.

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Operation  
BEAU CHARGE

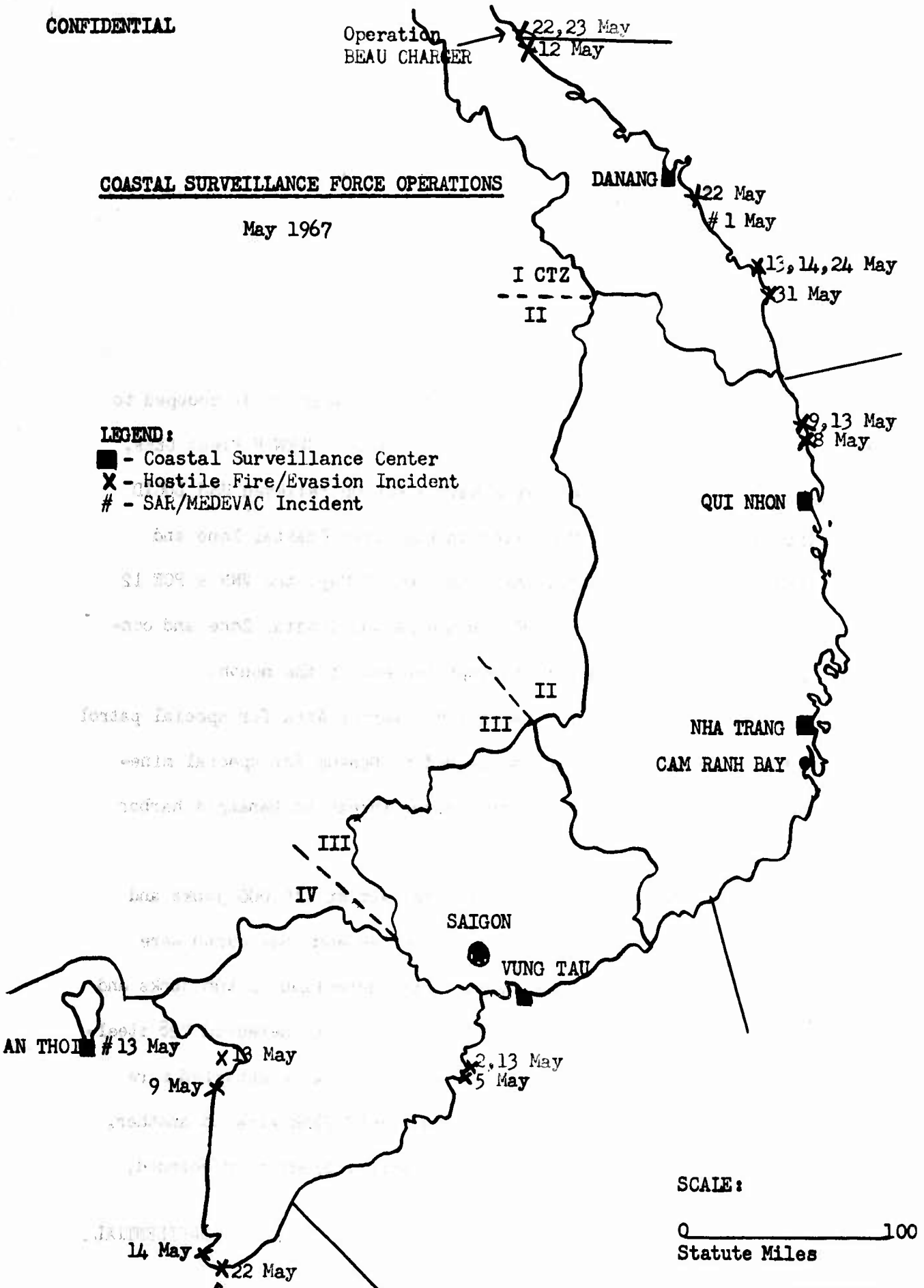
22, 23 May  
12 May

COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE OPERATIONS

May 1967

LEGEND:

- - Coastal Surveillance Center
- ✕ - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
- # - SAR/MEDEVAC Incident



SCALE:

0 100  
Statute Miles

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Other MARKET TIME activity included participation in eight ground operations, 20 gunfire support missions, 50 hostile fire incidents, 12 evasion incidents, and six search and rescue missions.

Units of Operation STABLE DOOR, meanwhile, detected 76,000 junks and sampans during the month; 16,000 of these were inspected. Both figures represented more than twice the number of any previous month's total since STABLE DOOR operations began in November 1966. In May nearly 8,000 craft were boarded; 38 of these were detained together with almost 400 suspects.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

First Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the First Coastal Zone detected 48,000 junks and sampans during May, over twice the number detected in April. In addition, Swift boats and Coast Guard cutters provided exfiltration patrols and gunfire support for four ground operations as well as participating in several search and rescue missions.

On the evening of 1 May a CH-46 helicopter enroute to USS SANCTUARY (AH 17) with 13 patients aboard crashed 31 miles south of Danang. USCGC POINT ORIENT and PCF 19 joined a number of U.S. SEVENTH Fleet units in an all-night search for survivors. Nine of the helicopter's 17 occupants were rescued.

On the morning of the 12th USCGC POINT ELLIS detected three junks near the shore, about one mile south of the Demilitarized Zone. When the junks' six occupants abandoned the craft and attempted to escape to the tree line, POINT ELLIS took them under

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fire. Two of the Viet Cong were probably killed and the three junks were destroyed.

The following day PCF 75 detected a sampan evading into a river 67 miles south of Danang. When PCF 75 sounded its siren and fired warning shots, the craft's three occupants abandoned the sampan and swam for shore. The Swift boat then took the Viet Cong under direct fire, killing all three. With PCF 79 providing cover, personnel of PCF 75 inspected the abandoned sampan and found two diving masks and three home-made explosive units, one of which was fused and contained granulated TNT. The items were removed and the sampan was destroyed.

On the 14th, PCF 99 received automatic-weapons fire from the shore while conducting a "psywar" loudspeaker mission 67 miles south of Danang. PCF 19 joined to assist and provided cover as PCF 99 engaged the enemy positions. During the encounter, PCF 99 sustained eight hits which wounded four of the crew and forced the Swift boat to withdraw. PCF 75 then arrived on the scene and, together with PCF 19, conducted ten firing runs against the ambush area while a fourth Swift boat, PCF 76, provided covering mortar fire. During the action, PCFs 19 and 76 each were struck six times by enemy fire and PCF 75 sustained the loss of an antenna. The extent of Viet Cong casualties was undetermined.

On 22 May PCF 16 found a junk adrift, 16 miles southeast of Danang. The craft's engine was inoperative and the occupants, two adults and a boy, stated that they had been adrift for two weeks

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without food. The Swift boat's personnel gave them some food and towed the junk to the Coastal Group 14 base near Danang for further assistance and disposition.

MARKET TIME units were involved in a series of incidents on 22 and 23 May while supporting Operation BEAU CHARGER, an amphibious assault near the Demilitarized Zone conducted by the SEVENTH Fleet's Ready Group A.

On the 22nd USCGC POINT DUME took an evading junk under fire, 90 miles north of Danang. The junk's three occupants jumped overboard and tried to escape but were apprehended. The junk was then destroyed and the detainees were subsequently turned over to the Vietnamese authorities.

Later that night, in the same area, POINT DUME detected a contact which attempted to evade as the cutter approached. POINT DUME then fired illumination rounds and warning shots, and came under automatic-weapons and small-arms fire. The cutter also received heavy artillery fire from positions on nearby Hon Gio Island. POINT DUME returned the barrage and turned clear of the range of fire. There were no U.S. casualties or damage during the incident. The extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

At 0315 on the 23rd, while enroute to join POINT DUME, PCF 13 detected two junks and approached to investigate. The Swift boat fired warning shots and called one of the junks alongside. The junk's crew took to the water and the other junk evaded to the north. PCF 13 stopped to inspect the abandoned junk and found

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approximately ten 100-pound bags of rice with Communist Chinese markings, ten crates of 81-mm. mortar ammunition, a number of rifles, and a .45 caliber pistol. The Swift boat then fired on the junk's waterborne crew with concussion grenades, and turned toward six nearby junks making for Hon Gio Island. As the PCF approached the nearest craft and fired warning shots, the crew of the junk jumped into the water and dispersed. A check of the junk disclosed a quantity of rice and arms.

The Swift boat and POINT DUME then converged on the remaining junks and came under small-arms and grenade fire during the pursuit. The MARKET TIME units returned the fire, destroying three of the junks and damaging two others. The U.S. craft then began receiving artillery fire from enemy positions on Hon Gio, and withdrew as the SEVENTH Fleet's USS OZBOURN (DD 846) moved in and silenced the artillery emplacements.

MARKET TIME participation in Operation BEAU CHARGER, which began on 19 May, was terminated on the 26th. During this period one member of POINT DUME's crew and two members of PCF 13's crew were wounded slightly by enemy fire. Both craft sustained minor hull damage.

On 24 May USCGC POINT WELCOME and PCF 76 responded to a report from a forward air controller about enemy activity in the vicinity of Cape Batangan, 66 miles south of Danang. PCF 76 arrived on the scene first and came under fire during its approach to the beach. With POINT WELCOME providing cover, the Swift boat suppressed the hostile fire. Later, during a search of the area by POINT WELCOME

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personnel, three men were discovered hiding behind rocks near the beach. The suspects were detained and delivered to the Vietnamese authorities. Two of the detainees admitted to being Viet Cong intelligence agents during subsequent interrogation.

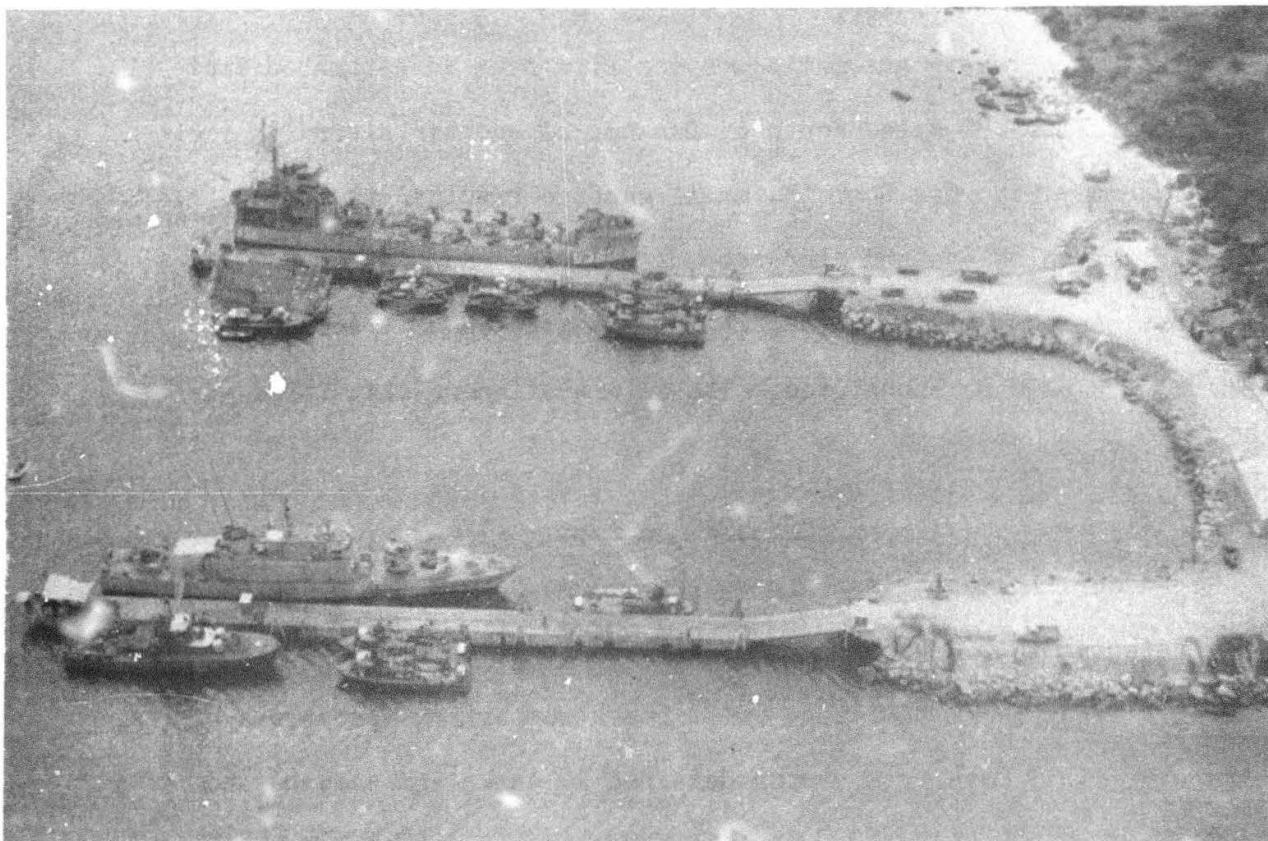
On 31 May USCGC POINT CAUTION, PCF 22 and the SEVENTH Fleet's USS ST FRANCIS RIVER (LSMR 525) provided gunfire support for an aircraft under heavy automatic-weapons fire from an estimated Viet Cong battalion, 79 miles south of Danang. A spotter aircraft subsequently reported that the naval gunfire resulted in three secondary explosions and nine secondary fires, and destroyed 27 bunkers, ten structures, and a 1,200-foot stretch of trenches. There were no U.S. casualties. The extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

#### Second Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units patrolling the Second Coastal Zone during May detected 47,000 junks and sampans--an increase of 13,000 over April's figure. In addition, Swift boats supporting operations of the U.S. FIRST Cavalry Division detained 98 junks and sampans and 539 persons.

On 8 May PCF 65 detained 20 junks and 150 persons attempting to leave the area of the ground operations, 27 miles north of Qui Nhon. The next day PCF 91 detained four junks and 16 persons, 39 miles north of Qui Nhon. On 13 May PCF 90 detained eight sampans and 49 persons in response to a request from a FIRST Cavalry unit, 40 miles north of Qui Nhon.

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Operation MARKET TIME piers at Cam Ranh Bay.

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PCFs 57, 61, 64, 66, 82 and 91 conducted an Operation ROUNDUP sweep on 24 May, 48 miles north of Qui Nhon. That day the Swifts detained 66 junks and sampans and 324 persons.

Third Coastal Zone

In addition to detecting almost 7,000 junks and sampans during the month, MARKET TIME units in the Third Coastal Zone conducted 11 gunfire support missions and assisted a hydrographic survey boat struck by enemy fire.

On the 2nd of May, 52 miles southwest of Vung Tau, USCGC POINT LEAGUE observed approximately ten persons fleeing toward bunkers as the cutter approached the Long Toan Secret Zone. At the request of the Vietnamese Sector Control, POINT LEAGUE took the bunkers under fire. A spotter aircraft subsequently reported that the cutter's 81-mm. mortar and .50 caliber machine-gun fire set at least one of the bunkers ablaze. There were no U.S. casualties; the extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

On 5 May, 55 miles southwest of Vung Tau, POINT LEAGUE fired on a group of bunkers shielding approximately ten Viet Cong. The cutter's fire destroyed one of the bunkers and a number of camouflaged crates in the area.

About an hour later, one mile farther south, USCGC POINT CYPRESS fired 81-mm. mortars on seven camouflaged Viet Cong huts. In addition to damaging all of the huts, the mortars initiated a series of fires. The extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

On 13 May, a survey boat from USS MAURY (AGS 16) was hit by

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57-mm. recoilless-rifle fire while conducting hydrographic operations 53 miles southwest of Vung Tau. USCGC POINT KENNEDY took the stricken craft alongside and provided a repair party equipped with a submersible pump and patching equipment. At this time, POINT KENNEDY began receiving recoilless-rifle fire from the beach. The cutter suppressed the outburst with 81-mm. mortars and kept the enemy positions pinned down while the repair party successfully arrested the flooding in the survey boat. POINT KENNEDY then towed the boat to MAURY. There were no U.S. casualties; the extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

#### Fourth Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the Fourth Coastal Zone detected 11,000 junks and sampans during May, and conducted seven gunfire support missions against Viet Cong positions.

Shortly after midnight on 9 May units of the Vietnamese Navy's Coastal Group 45 detected a Viet Cong junk and sampan which had evaded to the beach, 70 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The VNN units engaged the enemy craft as well as Viet Cong shore positions. In the ensuing exchange, which lasted until 0500 and resulted in the capture of the enemy junk, PCF 03 and USCGC POINT YOUNG provided illumination and harassment fire in support of the VNN units.

On 13 May a forward air controller under heavy automatic-weapons fire from Viet Cong ground positions 51 miles east of An Thoi requested naval gunfire support. PCFs 93 and 94 proceeded to the area and suppressed the hostile fire. The spotter aircraft reported that the PCFs' fire destroyed six sampans and damaged two

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enemy structures. There were no U.S. casualties.

At 1605 on the 13th a Navy US-2C aircraft crashed five miles east of An Thoi. Thirty minutes later PCF 93 arrived on the scene and picked up the sole survivor. The bodies of the other two crew members and most of the wreckage were recovered during subsequent salvage operations.

On 14 May a forward air controller under heavy automatic-weapons fire from a Viet Cong position on Cape Bai Bung received assistance from PCF 92. The Swift boat's fire destroyed one sampan and damaged several other sampans and four Viet Cong structures. There were no U.S. casualties.

On the 22nd, five miles east of Ca Mau Point, one of the Coast Guard's newly arrived 311-Class cutters, USCGC BARATARIA (WHEC 381), furnished naval gunfire support to ground units at the request of the Vietnamese Sector Control. The cutter's fire destroyed five structures and three sampans, and initiated a large fire.

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**MARKET TIME UNITS**

Two of the newly-designed patrol gunboats joined Operation MARKET TIME in May. The first to arrive, GALLUP, reached Cam Ranh Bay on 30 April and began MARKET TIME patrols on 3 May. The gunboat's features include a light, all-aluminum hull, a speed of 37 knots, and one 3"/50 caliber gun, one 81-mm. mortar and two .50 caliber machine guns. A second gunboat, ASHEVILLE, arrived on 10 May and commenced operations on the 12th.

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On 15 May the high-endurance Coast Guard cutters BARATARIA, BERING STRAIT and GRESHAM began replacing SEVENTH Fleet DERs on a one-for-one basis. The ships are units of Coast Guard Squadron THREE, have a speed of 19 knots, and mount one 5"/38 caliber gun, six .50 caliber machine guns, one Mark 10 torpedo launcher with six torpedos, and two 81-mm. mortars.

The Con Son Island radar site--designed to improve MARKET TIME detection capabilities in the Third Coastal Zone--became operational on 15 May, under the cognizance of CTU 115.3.8.

At 0800 on 15 May, the VNN's PCE 08 relieved the ocean minesweeper LUCID of MARKET TIME duties in the First Coastal Zone and remained on patrol until 29 May. At 0600 on 17 May, the VNN's PCE 12 relieved the coastal minesweeper GANNET in the Second Coastal Zone and remained on patrol until 31 May.

During the month aircraft from four patrol squadrons provided air surveillance for Operation MARKET TIME. A detachment of Patrol Squadron 42 flew SP-2A Neptunes from Tan Son Nhut Air Base. A detachment of Patrol Squadron 16 flew P-3A Orion aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, and a Patrol Squadron 46 detachment flew Orions from U Tapao, Thailand. Meanwhile a detachment of Patrol Squadron 1 Neptunes began operations on 18 May at the Naval Air Facility, Cam Ranh Bay, relieving the Patrol Squadron 42 detachment which had been at Cam Ranh since 1 April.

In May 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 327	USS BRISTER	7-15
DER 324	USS FALGOUT	10-31
DER 334	USS FORSTER	1-15
DER 393	USS HAVERFIELD	12-28
DER 400	USS HISSEM	1-7
DER 331	USS KOINER	1-15
DER 329	USS KRETCHMER	1-10, 29-31
DER 387	USS VANCE	1-12
LST 525	USS CAROLINE COUNTY	11-31
LST 819	USS HAMPSHIRE COUNTY	1-12
MSC 290	USS GANNET	12-31
MSC 209	USS WOODPECKER	1-12
MSO 434	USS EMBATTLE	1-6
MSO 437	USS ENHANCE	6-31
MSO 439	USS EXCEL	6-31
MSO 444	USS FIRM	1-6
MSO 445	USS FORCE	1-6
MSO 447	USS GUIDE	6-31
MSO 490	USS LEADER	6-31
MSO 458	USS LUCID	6-31
MSO 466	USS PRIME	1-6
MSO 467	USS REAPER	1-6
PG 84	USS ASHEVILLE	9-31
PG 85	USS GALLUP	3-31
WHEC 381	USCGC BARATARIA	15-31
WHEC 382	USCGC BERING STRAIT	15-31
WHEC 387	USCGC GRESHAM	15-31
WHEC 380	USCGC YAKUTAT	31

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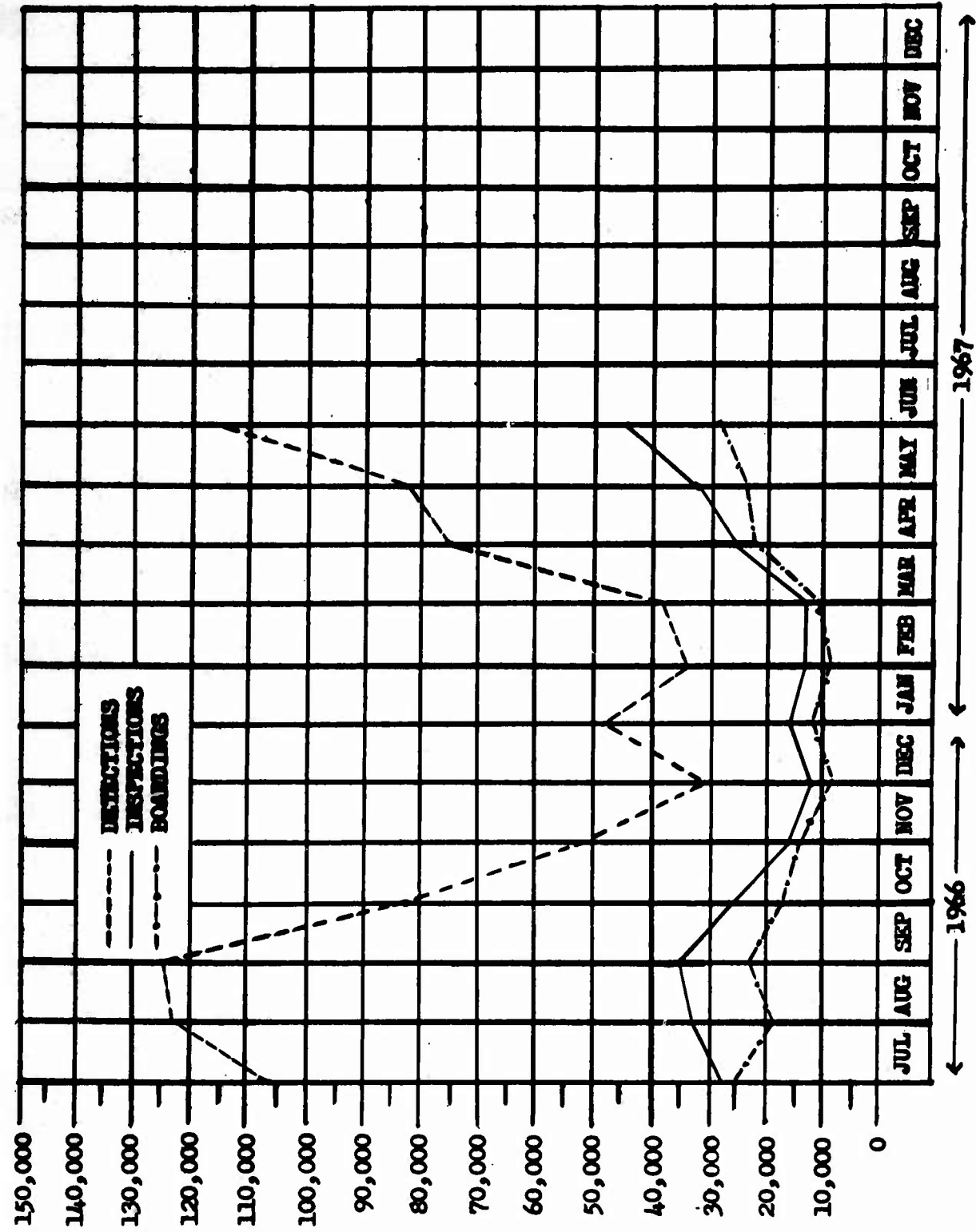
MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
May 1967

1. U.S. Ships/Craft:

	<u>DER/WHEC</u>	<u>MSO</u>	<u>MSC</u>	<u>WPB</u>	<u>PCF</u>	<u>LST</u>
Daily average number of craft on patrol	5	5	1	16	45	1

2. U.S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY	<u>55,265</u>	NIGHT	<u>58,975</u>	
	STEEL - DAY	<u>1,094</u>	NIGHT	<u>842</u>	<u>116,176</u>
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY	<u>21,513</u>	NIGHT	<u>22,092</u>	
	STEEL - DAY	<u>596</u>	NIGHT	<u>487</u>	<u>44,688</u>





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### OPERATION STABLE DOOR

In May units of Operation STABLE DOOR detected 76,685 junks and sampans. Of this number 15,985 were inspected and 7,970 were boarded. Thirty-eight suspicious craft were detained together with 378 persons.

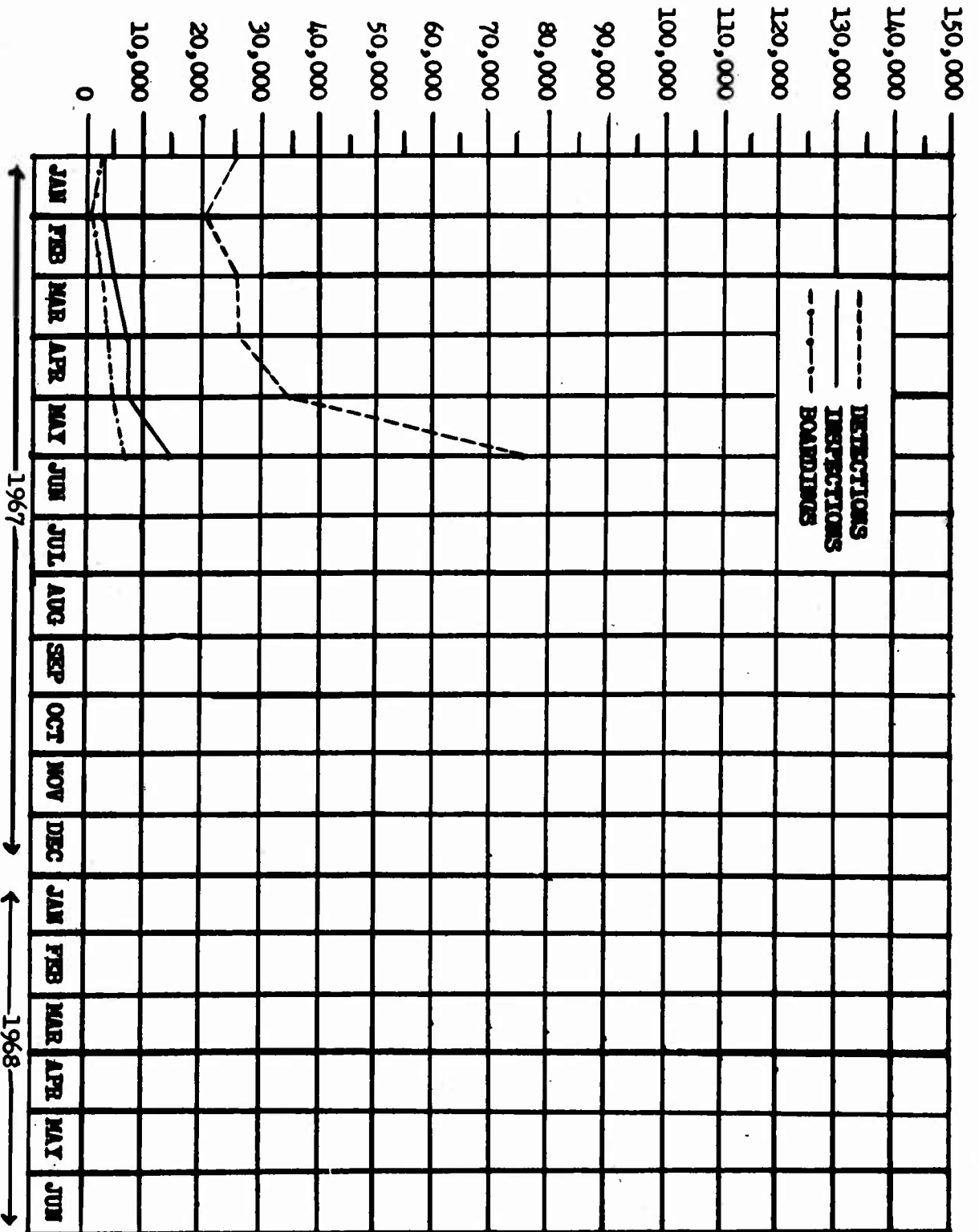
During the month Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 1 (IUWU 1) at Vung Tau--composed of six officers and 122 enlisted men--provided surveillance for a daily average of 25 ships anchored in the harbor. The STABLE DOOR patrols resulted in the detention of 35 junks and 172 suspects. At month's end IUWU 1's inventory of craft had been bolstered by the arrival of the first four 45-foot harbor patrol picket boats.

At Cam Ranh Bay IUWU 2 (seven officers and 129 enlisted men) detained one junk and 40 persons in May while providing surveillance for a daily average of 27 ships in the harbor.

IUWU 3 at Qui Nhon, consisting of seven officers and 136 enlisted men, provided harbor defense for a daily in-port average of 30 ships. The patrols detained two junks and 84 persons, either for improper identification papers or suspicious activity.

At 0730 on 9 May, Skimmers 06 and 12 sighted five sampans in a cove in the inner harbor. After warning shots were fired by the Skimmers, four of the sampans emerged from the cove while the fifth evaded. At this time fire was received from positions behind the cove. The Skimmers returned the fire with unknown results as the occupant of the fifth sampan successfully escaped into the brush.

DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS



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The occupants of the four other sampans (three boys and one old man) were interrogated and subsequently released. There were no U. S. casualties.

On 9 May, harbor defense LCPLs and MARKET TIME PCFs rescued a number of Vietnamese civilians from Qui Nhon's inner harbor following a Viet Cong mortar attack on the port facilities. The mortars struck fuel pumps in the harbor and caused extensive damage.

In May, the six officers and 101 enlisted men of Nha Trang's IUWU 4 detained 83 suspects while providing surveillance for a daily average of 12 ships in port. Two additional Skimmers arrived at Nha Trang during the month, bringing to 12 the total number of Skimmers assigned to Operation STABLE DOOR.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

On 15 May the Riverine Assault Force experienced its first major contact with the Viet Cong when elements of Task Group 117.2 engaged enemy units armed with heavy automatic weapons and recoilless rifles, 15 miles west of My Tho.

Initial contact occurred at 0815 while the monitor and four ATCs of Task Element 117.2.1.2 were proceeding to blocking stations along Tra Tan Creek. The Element had just landed U.S. troops participating in Operation HOP TAC XVIII, a multi-battalion search and destroy mission involving the Second Brigade, NINTH Infantry Division. The enemy opened fire on the riverine craft with small arms, then struck ATC 92-6 with a round of 57-mm, recoilless-rifle fire. The craft's special bar-and-plate armor\* checked the round's impact and helped avert serious structural damage. The enemy fire was subsequently suppressed and the task element continued north along the waterway.

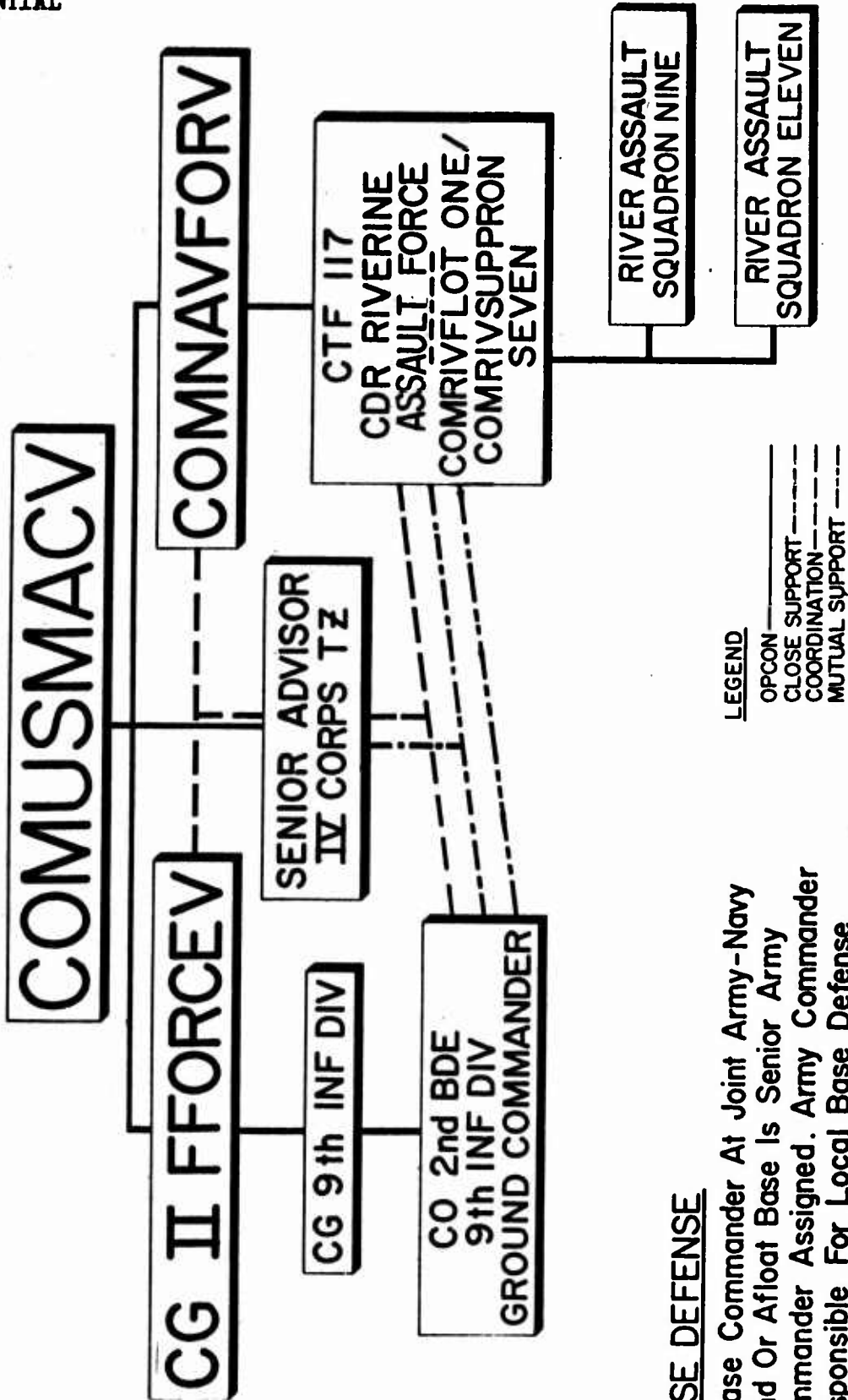
At 1300, during a southbound sweep of Tra Tan, the element was attacked again by Viet Cong forces. A round of recoilless-rifle fire hit ATC 92-6, wounding three of the crew and the embarked river division commander. Two other ATCs and a CCB were also hit

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\*The converted LCMs of the Riverine Assault Force are equipped with an armor arrangement designed to prevent penetration of the craft's vital spaces from projectiles up to and including those of 57-mm. caliber. The sides of the craft are protected by 9/10" thick, high-hardness steel plate. Eighteen inches outboard of the plate, there is a steel shield consisting of spaced rods each with a diameter of 5/8 of an inch; the rods trigger striking projectiles, thereby lessening the impact on the steel plate.

# COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS

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## BASE DEFENSE

Base Commander At Joint Army-Navy Land Or Afloat Base Is Senior Army Commander Assigned. Army Commander Responsible For Local Base Defense.

## LEGEND

- OPCON ———
- CLOSE SUPPORT - - - -
- COORDINATION . . . . .
- MUTUAL SUPPORT - - - - -

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by recoilless-rifle rounds, but sustained no personnel casualties or material damage.

An hour later Monitor 91-2 took one of the recoilless-rifle positions under fire, killing one Viet Cong. At the same time four of the monitor's crew were wounded by small-arms fire. The riverine assault units then withdrew from the area while air strikes were delivered against the enemy sites.

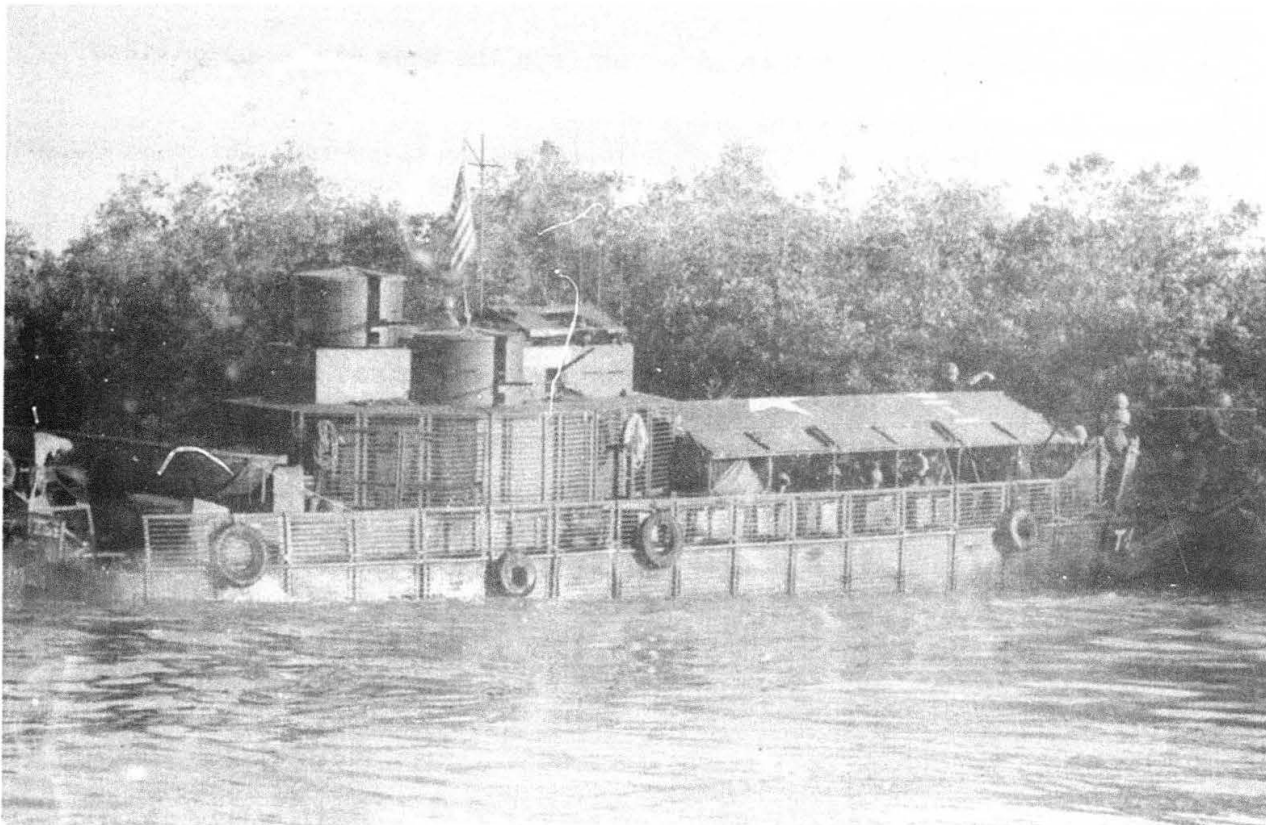
About 1630, in the same general area, Task Element 117.2.1.4 (three ATCs) killed three Viet Cong before aircraft moved in to launch strikes against the withdrawing Viet Cong.

The action on 15 May was the only major contact between riverine assault units and the enemy during the month. On several other occasions units engaged in troop-lift, blocking or patrol operations exchanged fire with the enemy in the My Tho-Dong Tam area. Most of these incidents involved small-arms fire. However, on 19 May three ATCs were hit by three 82-mm. caliber projectiles (probably B-40 rockets\*) in the Xang Canal, just south of the Long Dinh Bridge. Three Viet Cong were killed by the ATCs' return fire,

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\*The B-40 is the Viet Cong designation for the Russian anti-tank grenade launcher, Model RPG-2, or the Chinese Communist Type-56 anti-tank grenade launcher. The launcher has a 40-mm. bore and the rocket's warhead has a diameter of 82 millimeters. According to the MACV-Vietnamese Joint General Staff handbook, War Material Used by the Viet Cong in South Vietnam or Presumably Available to North Vietnam, this weapon has an effective range of 165 yards, and its high explosive anti-tank (HEAT) round is capable of penetrating six to seven inches of armor. The HEAT round fired by a Chinese Communist 57-mm. recoilless rifle, Type 36, is capable of penetrating two and three-quarter inches of armor.

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An armored troop carrier of the Riverine Assault Force lands U.S. troops of the NINTH Infantry Division in the Kung Sat Special Zone.

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which also triggered a secondary explosion. Although the damage to the assault craft was relatively minor, it was found that 82-mm. caliber projectiles were capable of penetrating the ATC's armor.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, Task Group 117.1 continued to support Operation SPEARHEAD I until its termination on 11 May. The operation accounted for 13 Viet Cong killed, six more probably killed, and four captured.

During the remainder of the month Task Force 117 units in the RSSZ conducted advanced training exercises, security patrols and interdiction operations. In addition, periodic landing operations in the RSSZ were conducted with troops lifted from Dong Tam by Task Group 117.2 units.

**Riverine Assault Force Units**

On 1 May USS SNOHOMISH COUNTY (LST 1126) assumed the duties of resupply ship for the Mobile Riverine Force.

On 2 May, with the arrival of USS COLLETON (APB 36), the Mobile Riverine Base was complete and plans were formulated to move the MRB to Dong Tam in early June. By the end of May all LCM conversions, except for two command-control boats and four monitors, had arrived in country. The six remaining craft were expected to arrive in June.

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U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

During May the Cua Viet—the major supply route to Dong Ha from the South China Sea—was the scene of several mining incidents. At approximately 0430 on 9 May the U.S. Army dredge HYDE was mined while operating in the Cua Viet entrance channel. The explosion tore a six by seven-foot hole in the dredge's starboard bow, causing the rapid flooding of several compartments. HYDE immediately unloaded her hoppers and maneuvered onto the beach near the LST ramp.

Approximately two hours later a second explosion, on HYDE's port quarter, blew a one-foot hole in the dredge's hull just above the waterline. Two of the craft's personnel were slightly wounded by the blast. The dredge's crew and NAVSUPACT Danang damage control personnel subsequently repaired the damaged areas, and HYDE was back in operation within 37 hours.

Another incident occurred on 15 May when NAVSUPACT Danang's YFU-59 was mined while anchored near the LCM-LCU ramp at Dong Ha. The force of the explosion, directly beneath the craft, penetrated the bottom plating, blew off a watertight hatch cover and ruptured sections of the main deck outboard on the port side. There were no personnel casualties. The damaged craft subsequently returned to Danang where it was drydocked for repairs.

On 18 May, on the basis of intelligence received from local fishermen, a controlled mine was found in the Cua Viet by Team 12 of Explosive Ordnance Demolition Unit 1. The mine, encased in

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wood, contained 700 one-half pound blocks of TNT and ten pounds of plastic explosive rigged for command detonation; three electrical detonators and 19 non-electrical detonators were distributed throughout the charge.

As a result of the ominous enemy activity, NAVSUPPACT instituted additional security measures. An LCPL and four divers were assigned to Dong Ha to augment the harbor and river security forces in that area. At Danang the number of harbor patrol craft operating at night was increased from five to seven, and the Vietnamese liaison personnel aboard the craft were augmented by Vietnamese national policemen. Also, a floating-barrel fence was positioned around the barracks ships (APLs) and the small boat basin to provide a barrier against swimmers. Additionally, from 24 to 31 May, the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet's LUCID (MSO 458) conducted minesweeping operations in the main channel and anchorage area of Danang's harbor.

During the month the Danang harbor patrol craft apprehended a total of 70 sampans and junks for curfew, identification-card and restricted-area violations. On one occasion bubbles were observed in the water near the NAVSUPPACT boat house. A junk nearby was boarded and found to contain two diving masks. However, an underwater search of the area produced negative results.

On another occasion a patrol craft sighted an object in the water with strings attached. When a hand grenade was thrown near the object, a secondary explosion ensued. The incident took place

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approximately 200 yards from the barricade near the APLs.

At 0110 on 13 May, the NAVSUPPACT detachment compound near Chu Lai and the adjacent compound of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 8 were attacked by a Viet Cong force using 57-mm. recoilless rifles and 82-mm. mortars. One Seabee was killed in the attack; eight other Navymen and two Japanese nationals were wounded.

At the same time two USNS ships beached at the LST ramp were hit by 57-mm. recoilless-rifle fire, resulting in extensive damage to both ships. No major damage was sustained by the compound areas.

From 17 to 22 May NAVSUPPACT's YFUs 55 and 57 were temporarily assigned to Task Group 79.4 of the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet to provide logistic support for Marines engaged in Operation BEAU CHARGER, and to assist in the evacuation of Vietnamese refugees from the Demilitarized Zone. On 19 May, one Navyman was slightly wounded when YFU 55 came under intense enemy mortar fire.

The growing intensity of combat operations in I Corps was evidenced by a 20 per cent increase in the total number of patients admitted to the NAVSUPPACT hospital in Danang. Of the 1,262 patients received at the 404-bed hospital in May, 572 were admitted for combat injuries, an increase of 55 per cent over April's figure. An added factor was the increasing complexity of wounds. Many of the casualties suffered from head wounds that required surgical and neurosurgical treatment.

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As a result of the rising demands placed on Danang's hospital, action was initiated to obtain additional medical personnel. And at month's end, the extent of the need for additional hospital facilities at Danang and other I Corps sites was under review.

Meanwhile, the accelerated pace of combat operations was met by a correspondingly high level of cargo operations at all I Corps ports.

At Danang the volume of cargo back-loaded for transshipment to other ports—69,853 short tons—was the highest monthly total to date. The month's throughput for Danang was almost 200,000 short tons. The combined throughput for all I Corps ports was almost 300,000 short tons.

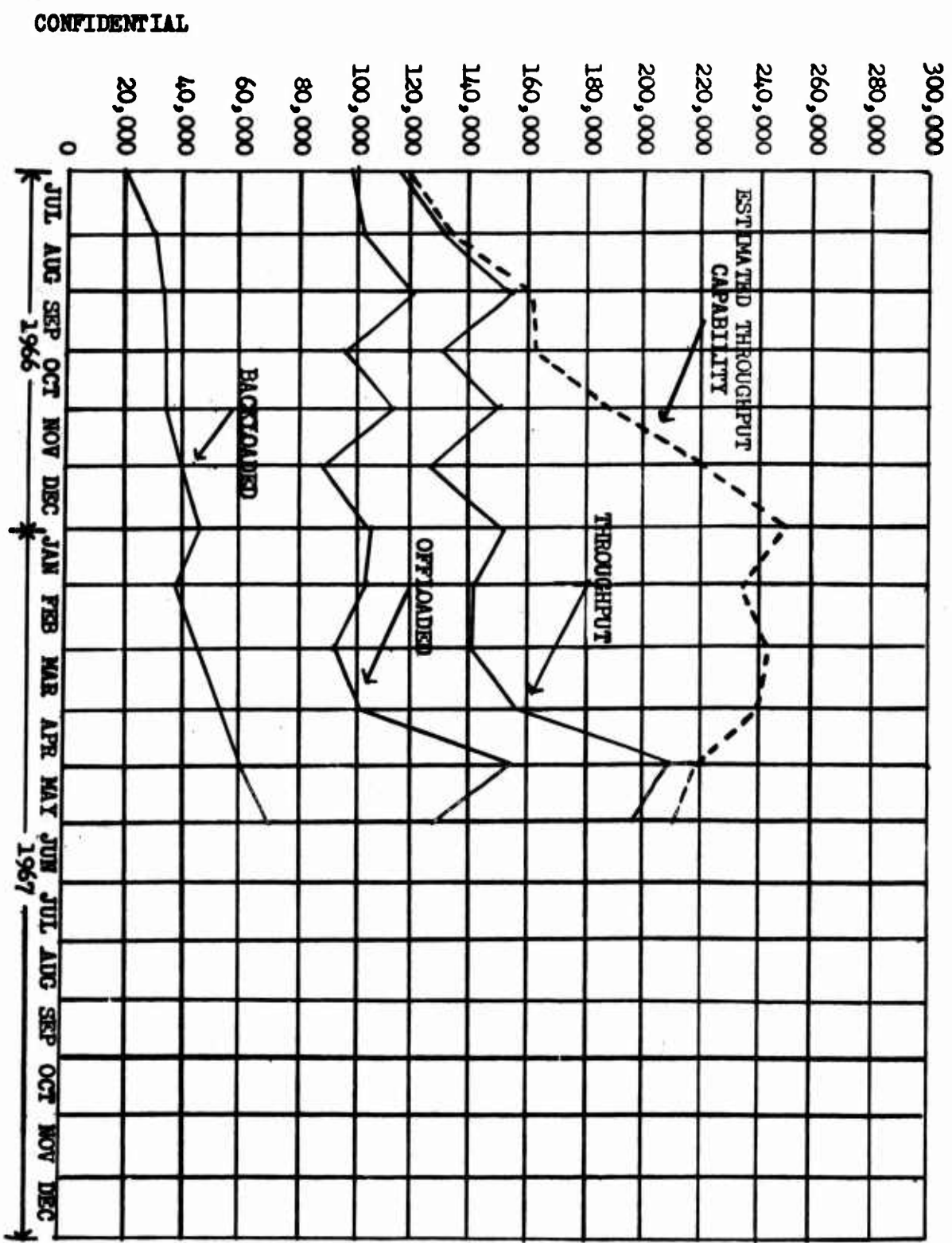
In the Cua Viet LCM-8s and YFUs continued to shuttle between the LST ramp and the LCM-LCU ramp at Dong Ha, transporting approximately 900 short tons of cargo and 40,000 gallons of POL daily. A total of 25,670 short tons of cargo was processed at Dong Ha.

During the month there was continued progress in clearing the Cua Viet approaches to Dong Ha. On 29 May dredging of the Cua Viet entrance channel as well as the turning basin by the LST ramp was completed. Also, action was initiated to procure the services of the suction dredge THUBON for the removal of two sandbars which, during periods of low water, impede craft transiting from the LST ramp to Dong Ha. The sandbars presented the only remaining natural obstacles to the unrestricted transit of the Cua Viet by lighterage.

In May NAVSUPACT's overall support responsibility was expanded

SHORT TONS

DANANG CARGO HANDLING



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to include Class I and Class III support for U.S. Army units in the Duc Pho area. Class II and Class IV support for all I Corps units continued to be satisfactory. Net supply requisition effectiveness at Danang was 88 per cent. At Chu Lai net effectiveness was 89 per cent, a decrease of nine per cent under April's figure.

The general level of Class I supplies received and expended rose considerably. On 31 May the quantity of C-rations (individual combat meals) available totaled 6,198,962 meals which, based upon the existing THIRD Marine Amphibious Force requirements, constituted a 21-day supply. During the month three and one-half million rations were issued, an increase of two million over the total issued in April.

Meanwhile the availability of sandbags reached a critical stage because of the sharp increase in combat operations and the deployment of additional U.S. Marine and Army units within I Corps. Almost two million sandbags were issued during the month, exhausting NAVSUPACT's stocks. By month's end over 29 million sandbags had been ordered to meet the rising requirements.

The Port of Danang was visited 122 times by U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ships during May. The ships were provided with 545,340 gallons of diesel fuel and over 1,000,000 gallons of potable water, in addition to mail, freight, courier, transient billeting and disbursing services.

The Naval Support Activity's C-47 aircraft made 21 flights during the month, transporting 547 passengers and 47,195 pounds of

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cargo.

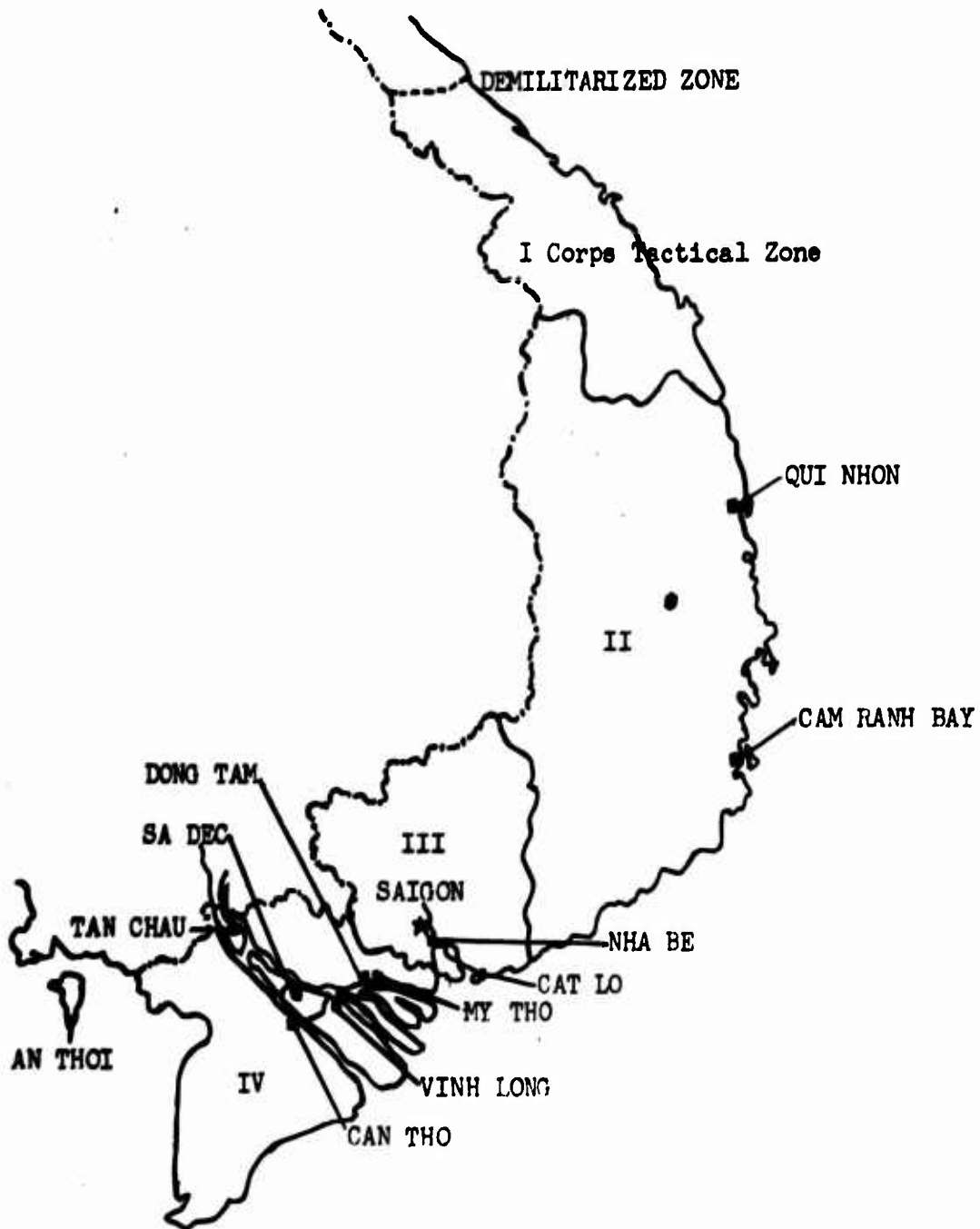
On 31 May the number of personnel assigned to the Naval Support Activity was 7,963. That same day the number of United States and other Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPPACT reached 130,800.

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**U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON**

**DETACHMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM**



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U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

On two occasions in May the efforts of personnel of the Naval Support Activity detachment at Nha Be helped avert major disasters.

On 3 May a 60-foot junk berthed at the Esso fuel pier near the Nha Be tank farm caught fire. The junk, loaded with sixty 55-gallon drums of gasoline and forty 55-gallon drums of other inflammable liquids, was set adrift by its crew and subsequently became wedged between the pilings of a highway bridge, threatening the bridge and a heavily-populated marketplace and housing area nearby.

The detachment's fireboat, unable to extinguish the intense fire, towed the burning junk to an uninhabited rice-paddy area three-fourths of a mile away and pushed it against the river bank. As the fireboat turned clear the junk exploded, hurtling drums as much as 100 yards away. There were no injuries to the fireboat's crew; three of the junk's Vietnamese crew were hospitalized for burns.

On 11 May the Philippine Tanker MARIKADO caught fire while berthed near the Nha Be tank farm. The tanker had approximately 10,000 gallons of JP-4 fuel on board. The Nha Be detachment's LCM, assisted by PBRs, towed the burning vessel away from the pier to prevent the fire from spreading to the POL storage area. After almost nine hours of sustained effort, the fire was extinguished. At one point four detachment personnel were blown into the water by one of several minor explosions which erupted from the conflagration. None of the men suffered serious injuries.

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On the night of the 7th, Can Tho detachment personnel were called upon to assist in fighting fires when the Binh Thuy Air Base was shelled by Viet Cong using mortars and recoilless rifles. The enemy attack destroyed a number of structures and aircraft and started numerous fires. Fifty Can Tho detachment personnel joined with U.S. and Vietnamese Air Force personnel in evacuating aircraft and equipment and in bringing the fires under control.

During May the construction of interim and permanent facilities at GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME bases continued to progress, within the limitations imposed by a fixed contractor personnel ceiling and a fixed amount of available funds.

At Cam Ranh Bay, NAVSUPPACT personnel completed the installation and wiring of a 100-kilowatt generator and an electrical distribution system at the Naval Air Facility. In addition, the construction of an ordnance storage area was begun.

At Nha Be, half of the existing helicopter landing pad was dismantled by NAVSUPPACT personnel preliminary to the construction of an enlarged landing pad on a recently-filled site next to the perimeter security fence. The larger pad, which is needed to provide adequate parking space for GAME WARDEN helicopters, will be constructed by U.S. Army personnel.

At Vinh Long renovation of the new living quarters was 25 per cent complete at month's end. The roofing and screening of the building was completed, and concrete foundations had been poured for a water tank and a septic tank.

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At Dong Tam further improvements were made to the repair facilities, boat wharves and the sewer system. At the end of the month, preparations were being made for the construction of additional messing and berthing facilities. The facilities would eventually accommodate a total of 750 personnel.

The number of line items stocked at NAVSUPACT Saigon increased by 1.5 per cent during May to a total of 26,630. Gross supply requisition effectiveness was 38 per cent, nine per cent less than the rate recorded in April. The decline was attributed to a sizable increase in the number of requests for parts not normally carried in stock. Meanwhile net supply requisition effectiveness remained essentially stable at 70 per cent.

The operational availability of GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME patrol boats continued to be generally excellent, ranging from 91 per cent for PCFs and WPBs to 93 per cent for PBRs. The availability of STABLE DOOR craft ranged from 90 to 99 per cent.

On 1 May USS SNOHOMISH COUNTY (LST 1126) was placed under the operational control of COMNAVSUPACT Saigon and began coastal and Delta resupply operations. On 7 May YFG 90 completed outfitting and made its first resupply run to the Delta.

The ships and craft of NAVSUPACT transported a total of 1,976 short tons of cargo during the month. Meanwhile, the NAVSUPACT aviation section (Air Cofat) transported 2,906 passengers and 150.5 short tons of cargo.

On 13 May a Navy US-2C aircraft, temporarily assigned to

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Navy berthing facilities at Dong Tam.

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The wreckage of the Navy US-2C salvaged by KRISHNA.

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NAVSUPPACT Saigon from Fleet Composite Squadron FIVE, crashed shortly after takeoff into the Gulf of Thailand, approximately five miles east of the An Thoi airfield on Phu Quoc Island. The pilot and co-pilot were killed; the third crew member was rescued by PCF 93 which was on patrol nearby.

Salvage operations to recover the plane were conducted by USS KRISHNA (ARL 38) and a ten-man detachment from Team 3 of Harbor Clearance Unit 1. Approximately 85 per cent of the aircraft, including both engines, the tail section and a portion of the fuselage, was recovered.

At 1730 on 24 May USS MARK (AKL 12) struck an uncharted bar at the mouth of the Co Chien River. At the time, the ship had just completed replenishing USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) at Rivermouth Station BRAVO and was standing out on a favorable tide. Eight hours later MARK floated clear on a rising tide. The ship was undamaged and proceeded to Saigon via Vung Tau for further cargo operations.

On 31 May the number of personnel assigned to NAVSUPPACT Saigon was 1,870. The number of personnel provided logistic support by NAVSUPPACT headquarters and its 11 detachments stood at 5,700 at month's end.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

In May the number of Seabee casualties increased markedly. Most of the injuries occurred on 8 May, 2,000 yards from the Demilitarized Zone, when 13 men of a 23-man MCB-4 detachment were wounded by enemy troops attempting to overrun a Special Forces camp which the Seabees were building at Con Thien.

In addition, MCB-8's camp at Rosemary Point in Chu Lai was struck by seven mortar rounds on 13 May, which killed one Seabee and wounded five others. On 10 May, south of Danang, two men from MCB-4 were injured when their truck hit a mine.

On 5 May the number of Seabee battalions in country increased to ten with the arrival at Phu Bai of an advance detachment from MCB-3. The detachment immediately began constructing base camp facilities for the battalion in the Gia Le Combat Camp, five miles northwest of the Phu Bai airstrip.

By the end of the month the detachment had completed 70 per cent of the base camp facilities. In addition, the Seabees erected two Butler buildings for the Marines' 3rd Engineers, and started survey and design work on a Marine air group cantonment at the Phu Bai airstrip and a parking apron and hangar site for the U.S. Army's 131st Aviation Company.

Meanwhile MCB-1 completed three 50-foot-high observation towers for Marines in the Dia Loc area, as well as a 600-foot timber bridge. And, in the Delta, a 64-man detachment from the battalion began constructing additional cantonments at Dong Tam.

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MCB-4's "Liberty Bridge" project (which will span the Thu Bon River) was bolstered in May by the addition of a second crew. At month's end the bridge was 20 per cent complete. The battalion also paved a 33,000-square-yard parking apron at the Danang Air Base.

At Chu Lai members of MCB-8 and MCB-71 built a helicopter facility for the U.S. Army's Task Force Oregon in 15 days. In addition, MCB-8's personnel completed work on a water and sewer system, a fire station and an electrical distribution system for the area's Naval Support Activity detachment.

At Dong Ha a detachment from MCB-5 constructed a 100-bed hospital. Meanwhile MCB-11 began work on a cantonment for the Marines' Force Logistic Support Unit, and constructed a complex consisting of 16 Butler buildings for the THIRD Marine Division. Also, a 75-man detachment from the battalion was deployed to Khe Sanh to rebuild the airfield.

At Danang MCB-58 completed several buildings for the Vietnamese Army's 801st Ordnance Platoon. The battalion also built communications centers for the FIRST Marine Division and the Marine Force Logistic Command.

At Danang East MCB-133 extended the ARVN POW compound near Marble Mountain to handle an additional 500 prisoners. The battalion also built an LST pier near III MAF's headquarters, and started construction of a major ammunition storage area for the Vietnamese Air Force.

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Members of Seabee Team 1009 prepare a concrete foundation for a foot bridge in a hamlet west of Vinh Long.

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Major projects completed by MCB-62 in the Phu Bai area during May included an addition to the 131st Aviation Company cantonment, and the completion of galleys (each one able to accommodate 250 men) for the 3rd Medical Battalion and the 3rd Motor Transport Battalion. MCB-62 also improved the LST-LCU ramp at Hue and, together with MCB-3, started repair work on Route 1 between Phu Bai and Hue.

During the month two replacement Seabee Teams arrived in country. At Thoai Son Seabee Team 0309 began preparations to relieve Team 0509. Team 0407, scheduled to relieve Team 0307, was temporarily stationed at Tan Son Nhut Air Base where it will complete a warehouse and supply compound begun by Team 0307. The newly-arrived Team will eventually be deployed to Can Tho to assist in the improvement of provincial hospitals and maintenance facilities in the IV Corps area.

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COMMUNICATIONS

The COMNAVFORV communications center processed 95,280 messages in May, the highest one-month total to date. The figure represented an increase of 6,965 messages over April's traffic.

During the month the equipment installation phase of PROJECT SEARCHLIGHT was begun at Nha Be, where it was scheduled to be completed by 15 June. The project (the basic requirements for which were developed by a survey completed in 1966) is designed to improve the communications facilities at COMNAVFORV headquarters and at GAME WARDEN bases and the Coastal Surveillance Centers. Essentially the project entails procurement, installation and testing of the components required to upgrade voice and teletype communications. After the installation at Nha Be is complete a similar phase will begin at My Tho; the cycle will continue elsewhere as electronic materials become available.

In Project BOWLINE at Cam Ranh Bay the installation of electronic equipment at the new communications center was 77 per cent complete; at the transmitter and receiver sites the completion percentage of the electronic installation exceeded 85 per cent. Meanwhile, the construction phase was more than 90 per cent complete at each of the sites.

In Project SEA ANCHOR at Danang construction work on the new communications center and the transmitter and receiver sites was 80 per cent complete. In addition, the power supply installation was 95 per cent complete in the communications center and 90 per

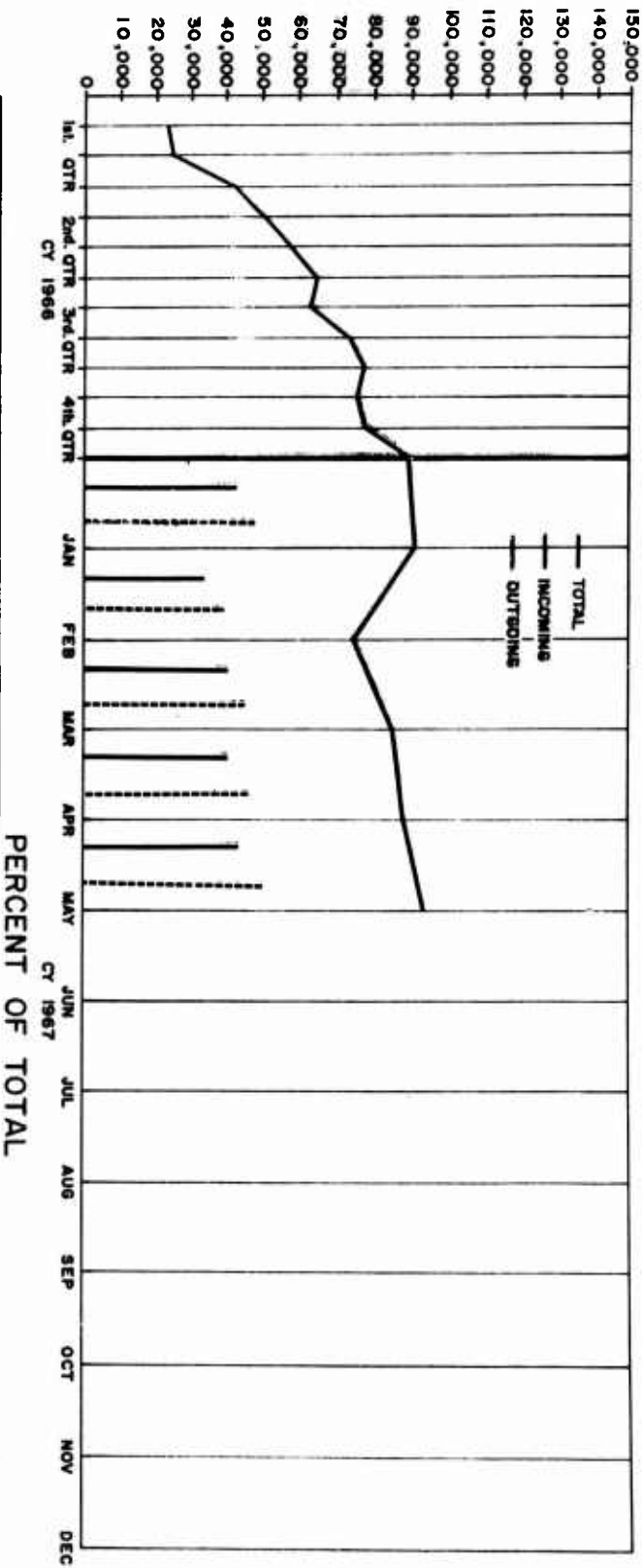
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# GAME WARDEN COMMUNICATIONS

— TELETYPE  
- - - RADIOTELETYPE

# MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC



	PERCENT OF TOTAL											
FLASH	1	1	1	1	1	1						
IMMEDIATE	21	20	19	18	16							
PRIORITY	60	61	63	63	66							
ROUTINE	18	18	17	18	17							

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cent complete at the receiver and transmitter sites. The installation of air conditioning was 80 per cent complete at all three sites.

On 26 May the establishment of a landline teletype circuit between the Naval Air Facility and the Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay ended the need for Air Transportable Communications Unit 100A. The following day the Unit returned to the Naval Communications Station in the Philippines.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 10 May Admiral Willard J. SMITH, USCG, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, arrived in An Thoi to begin a three-day tour of Navy and Coast Guard facilities in South Vietnam. Among the areas visited by Admiral SMITH were Binh Thuy, Saigon, Vung Tau, Cat Lo, Cam Ranh Bay and Danang.

On 12 May Vice Admiral John J. HYLAND, USN, Commander U.S. SEVENTH Fleet, visited the headquarters of Commander River Patrol Force (CTF 116) at Binh Thuy. Vice Admiral HYLAND participated in a PBR patrol and observed certain phases of GAME WARDEN operations.

On 20 May Admiral Ulysses S. Grant SHARP, USN, Commander in Chief, Pacific, arrived in Saigon to confer with COMUSMACV. In the course of his visit Admiral SHARP was briefed by key officers of COMNAVFORV's staff, and visited Chu Lai and Danang.

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Vice Admiral HYLAND and Captain Paul N. GRAY, USN, COMRIVPATFOR, during the former's tour of GAME WARDEN facilities at Binh Thuy.

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MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

During May psychological operations conducted by U.S. and Vietnamese naval personnel continued to produce encouraging results.

In the First Coastal Zone the efforts of Coastal Group 14 resulted in four Viet Cong, including an assistant village leader, returning to Government jurisdiction on 18 May. With help from the Zone's U.S. Navy "psyops" officer, the Vietnamese took photographs of the returnees (Hoi Chanhs), obtained written statements, and had both imprinted on leaflets. In addition, interviews with the Hoi Chanhs were taped for broadcast purposes. During the next six days 100,000 of the leaflets were dropped throughout the area, and the former village leader made personal loudspeaker appeals from a Vietnamese Navy junk. As a result, three more Viet Cong rallied. All of the Hoi Chanhs proved cooperative and reported that other Viet Cong were close to defection.

In the Second Coastal Zone loudspeaker missions conducted by Swift boats and junks in the Hon Heo Secret Zone resulted in two ralliers. In the Mekong Delta a PBR patrol playing a taped message in a known hostile area in the Bassac River was taken under fire from three positions on Tan Dinh Island. The PBRs suppressed the fire and continued the mission, attracting a large crowd in the May Island area, a known enemy crossing route. At one point a sampan was rowed out from the bank and its occupants thanked the patrol personnel for the broadcast and informed them that PBRs had killed two Viet Cong and wounded five others during a fire fight in the

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A Vietnamese Navy doctor examines a group of Delta children in a hamlet north of Can Tho.

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area the previous week.

Elsewhere in the Delta five Viet Cong rallied to PBRs in May, using the special USN-VNN amnesty leaflets first distributed in March.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone two ralliers, one of whom claimed to be a former Viet Cong platoon leader, turned in a .45 caliber machine gun and led Regional Force troops to an enemy camp. Following a brief fire fight with a Viet Cong platoon, the troops captured a machine gun, two mortars, two carbines and a large quantity of ammunition.

Among the month's civic action projects was an extensive mission in the Second Naval Zone conducted by the VNN's hospital ship, LSM(H) 401. From 20 May until the end of the month the ship stopped at seven different locations between Nha Trang and Phan Thiet. During the trip the ship's doctors and corpsmen treated almost 2,000 villagers in need of medical or dental attention. Some of the cases involved minor surgery.

On the afternoon of 14 May Coastal Group 36 units, Popular Force troops, and a Navy corpsman from USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) visited a village on Dung Island near the mouth of the Bassac River. While the U.S. and Vietnamese medical personnel treated 250 villagers in the area, the troops and sailors distributed literature espousing the Government's cause.

The next day Coastal Group 36 units and a battalion of Ba Xuyen Sector forces conducted a search and destroy mission on the island.

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Five Viet Cong were killed during the operation and another was captured. Following the incident, medical personnel treated 500 villagers for routine ailments while the troops distributed food and gifts.

On the 20th units of Coastal Groups 34 and 37 transported 200 Regional Force troops, a joint U.S., Australian and VNN medical contingent, and the Third Coastal Zone's "psyops" team to the hamlet of Xam Giong Bong, 30 miles southwest of Vung Tau. One Vietnamese sailor was wounded by sniper fire during the landing and one Viet Cong suspect was detained. After the area was "secured," the medical team treated 150 Vietnamese in need of dental care and 500 others requiring medical help; one of the latter was subsequently evacuated for surgical treatment.

Throughout the month, in the Nha Be District south of Saigon, the 2nd Battalion of the Vietnamese Marine Corps conducted a continuing series of civic action missions. The projects were woven into the battalion's participation in Operation FAIRFAX, and resulted in the medical treatment of 2,500 persons, the dissemination of 32,000 "psywar" leaflets and booklets, the construction of 16 roofs for private dwellings, and the distribution of over 300 tons of rice and other foodstuffs.

The following is a tabulation of certain military civic action projects conducted during May by U.S. and Vietnamese naval forces and the Vietnamese Marine Corps.

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1. Construction:	
a. Dispensaries	1
b. Dwellings/number of families	3/6
c. Schools/classrooms	3/12
d. Wells	5
e. Churches	1
f. Flagpoles	1
2. Medical treatment:	
a. General medicine	18,743
b. Dental	1,278
c. Surgery	80
d. Emergency evacuations	23
e. Cleft palate operations	1
3. Health and sanitation:	
a. Classes on personal hygiene/attendance	3/35
b. Immunizations	991
c. Medical aides or nurses trained	3
d. Physical examinations	2,040
e. Spray insecticide operations	4
f. Swamp areas drained	1
4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):	
a. Cement	50,854
b. Clothing	4,510
c. Food	190,147
d. Lumber (board feet)	68,664
e. Medical, non-prescription	140
f. Midwife kits (number)	10
g. School kits (number)	468
h. Soap	14,237
i. Tin sheets (number)	503
j. Woodworking kits (number)	2
k. Paper blankets (number)	2,256
l. Personal kits (number)	810
m. Magazines (number)	18,225
5. Educational efforts:	
a. English classes/attendance	52/689
6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:	
a. Orphanages	117,000
b. Schools	23,000

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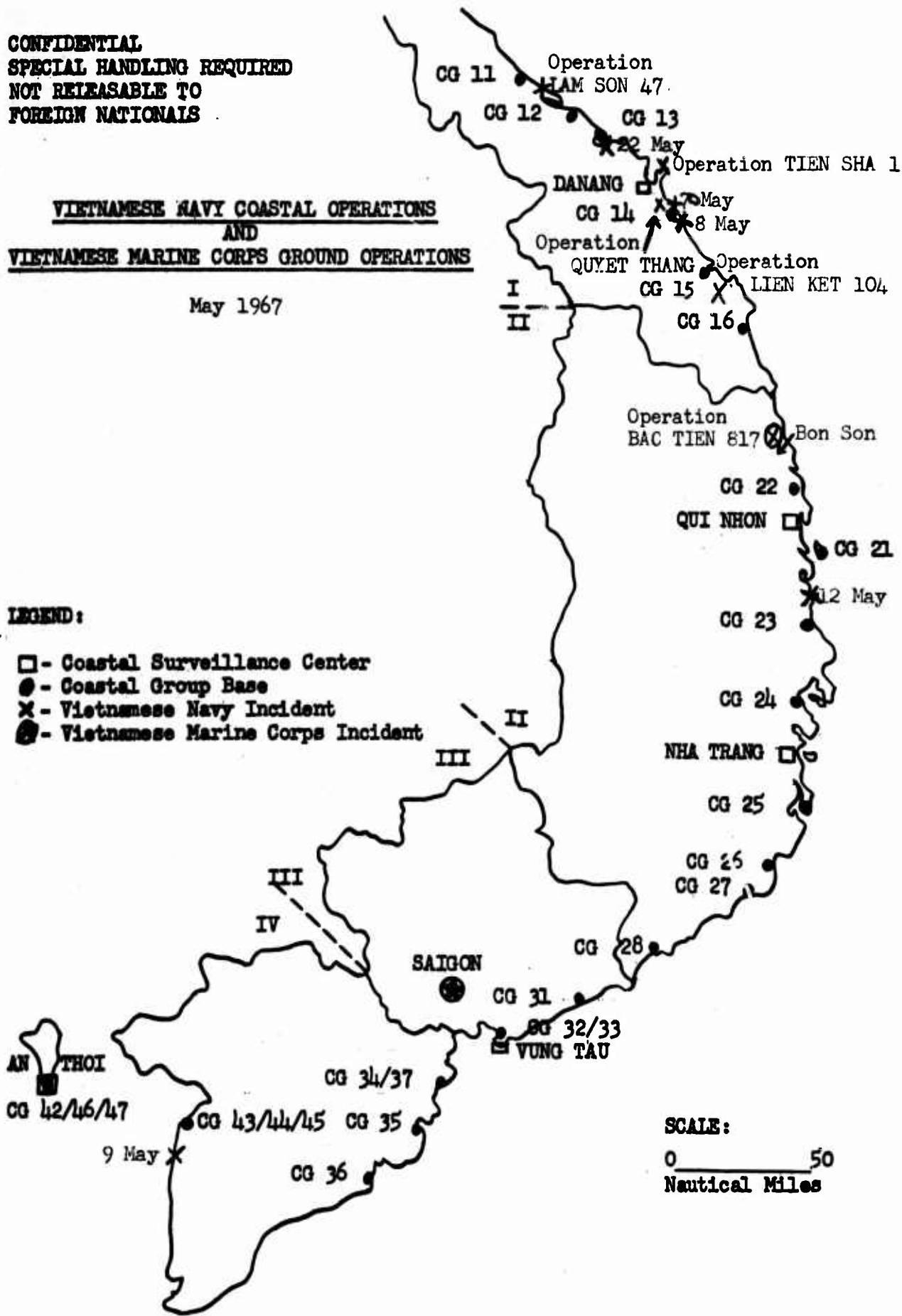
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**VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS**  
**AND**  
**VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS**

May 1967

**LEGEND:**

- ☐ - Coastal Surveillance Center
- - Coastal Group Base
- ✕ - Vietnamese Navy Incident
- ⊙ - Vietnamese Marine Corps Incident



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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

At the end of May the personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy stood at 15,988. Of this number 1,080 were officers, 3,029 were non-commissioned officers and the remaining 11,879 were enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged during the month as deserters and the number of unauthorized absentees was 35 and 314, respectively; the figures represented a continuing decline in both categories.

On 11 May Patrol Motor Gunboats 616 and 618 were made available for assignment to the Fleet Command. Of the four new PGMs which arrived in April, these were the first to complete the training cycle conducted by the VNN's Underway Training Group in Saigon. The formal transfer of ownership of the craft from the U.S. Navy to the Vietnamese Navy was expected to be completed in June.

On 17 May, for the first time since an independent government was established in South Vietnam, a River Assault Group detachment was activated outside of the Delta and surrounding region. The new unit, comprising six craft, was established at the Coastal Group 12 base at Thua Thien, northeast of Hue. The primary mission of the detachment is to conduct patrols and support amphibious operations along the rivers, canals and inland shores of the area 20 to 80 miles northwest of Danang.

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On 24 May the 241 personnel assigned to the last recruit training class programmed for 1967 completed their indoctrination at the Recruit Training Center, Cam Ranh. At month's end certain sections of the center were being revamped to provide facilities for the Gunner's Mate and Boatswain's Mate Class A schools scheduled to start in July.

#### Fleet Command

Of the 26 ships available to the Fleet Command in May, 12 were maintained on station off the coast of South Vietnam, four conducted river patrols, and one performed convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. During the month the ships of the Fleet Command conducted 32 gunfire support missions, searched 939 junks and 4,377 persons, and detained four junks and 17 suspects.

Patrol craft (PCs and PCEs) patrolled the coasts of the First, Second and Fourth Naval Zones. On 15 May PCE 08 relieved USS LUCID (MSO 458) in the northern surveillance barrier of the First Naval Zone. On 17 May PCE 12 relieved USS GANNET (MSC 290) in the Second Naval Zone. Each PCE remained on station for 14 days, constituting the most significant integration of the VNN Fleet Command and USN Coastal Surveillance Force to date.

Landing support ships (LSILs and LSSLs) provided gunfire support and acted as convoy escorts in the Third Naval Zone, the Fourth Riverine Area and the Rung Sat Special Zone. The ships conducted a total of 24 gunfire missions in May. On 5 and 6 May,

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LSSL 231 conducted three gunfire support missions against enemy positions on the north bank of the Bassac River, 50 miles south-east of Can Tho. The gunfire resulted in the destruction of five Viet Cong structures, one bunker and one sampan. In addition, 24 structures were damaged.

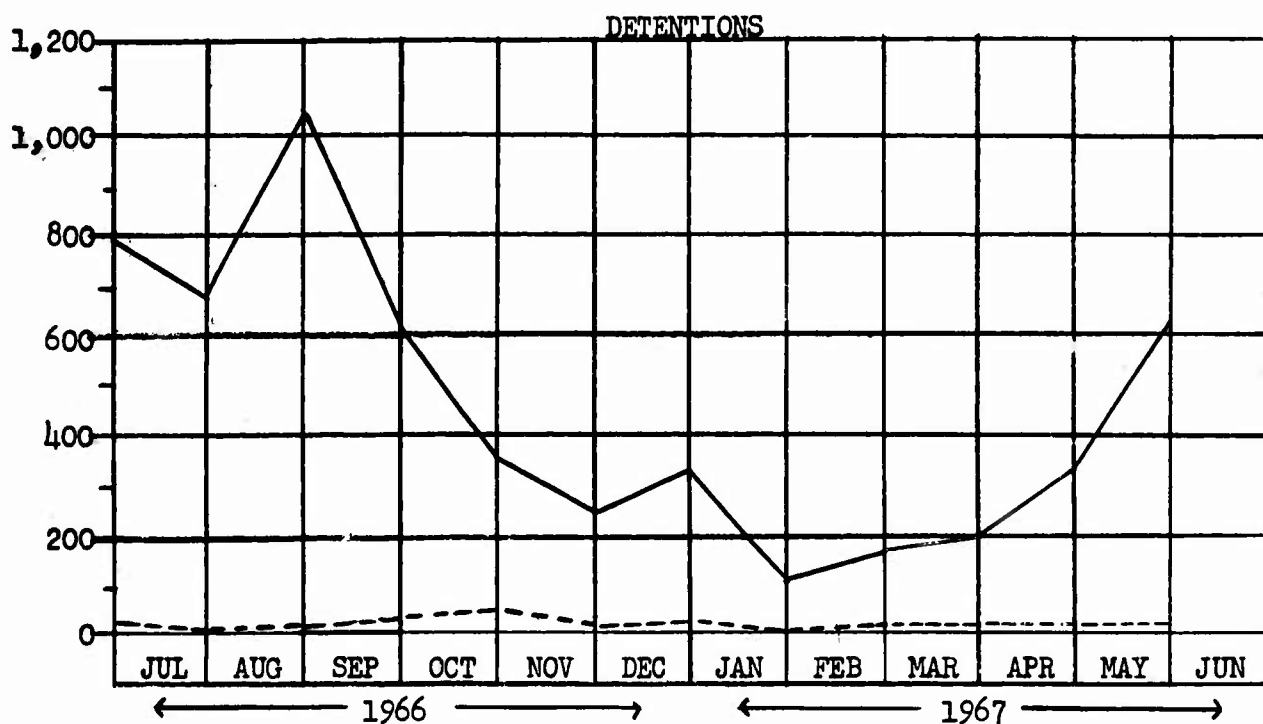
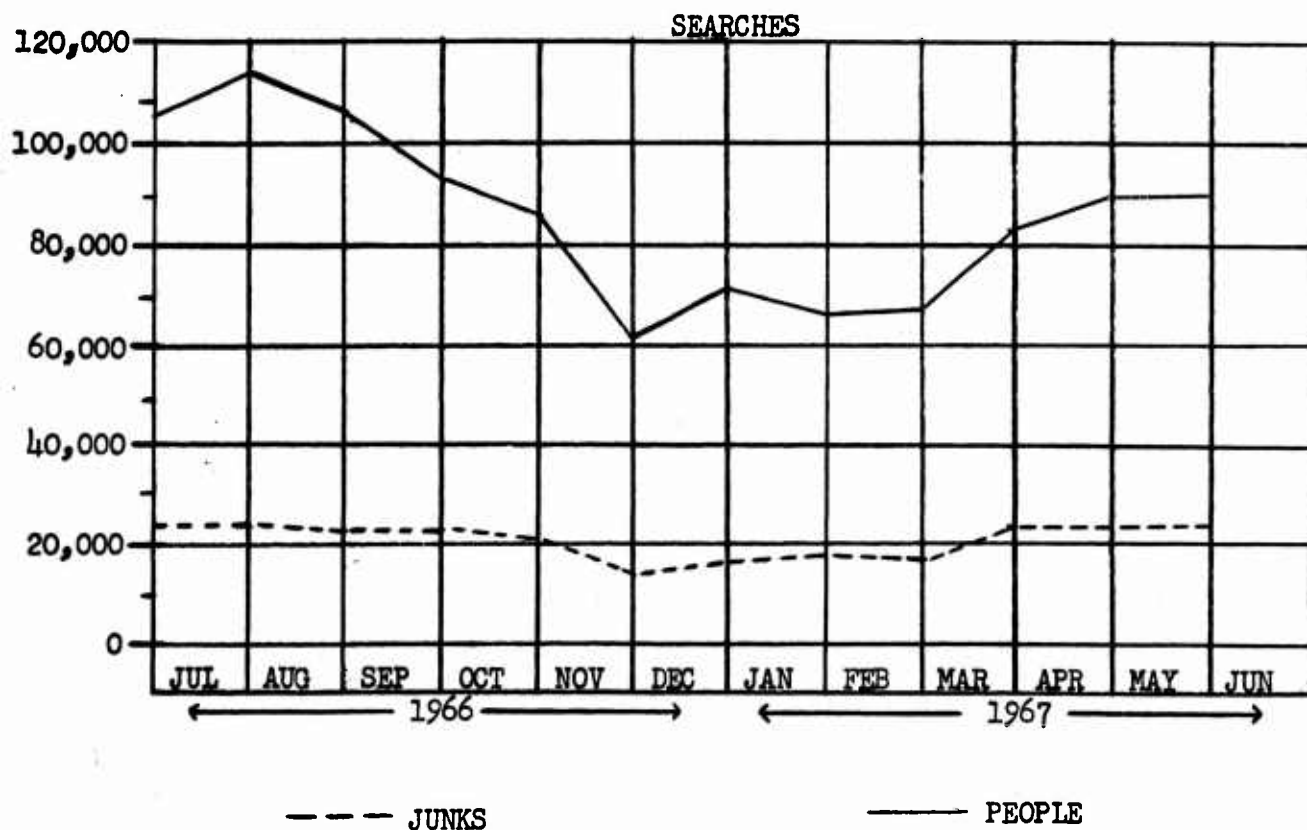
In May the Fleet Command's gunboats (PGMs) conducted river and coastal patrols in the Rung Sat Special Zone and in the four naval Zones, while the coastal minesweepers (MSCs) were deployed on coastal patrols in the First and Third Naval Zones. In the RSSZ, motor launch minesweepers (MLMSs) continued their daily sweep operations on the Saigon, Long Tau and Nha Be rivers.

The month's 19 logistical missions resulted in the movement of 3,270 tons of cargo and 2,423 personnel. Medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 1,523 tons of cargo and 1,968 personnel; tank landing ships (LSTs) lifted 1,522 tons of cargo and 455 personnel; and utility landing craft (LCUs) lifted 225 tons of cargo.

Personnel of the VNN Underwater Demolition Team (LDNN) continued their nightly hull inspections of ships in the Port of Saigon, and conducted four operations during the month. Two detachments operated in the RSSZ with U.S. Navy SEALs from 1 to 6 and 15 to 25 May; three LDNNs worked with SEAL detachments in the Fourth Riverine Area from the 19th to the 31st; a 15-man detachment conducted beach survey operations in the First and Second Naval Zones from 17 May into June; and two LDNNs assisted the ARVN

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### SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS BY VIETNAMESE NAVY SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES



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303rd Engineering Battalion from 13 through 16 May while the battalion was constructing bridge defenses at Ben Luc.

#### Coastal Force

In May the available units of the Coastal Force--238--had a daily employment average of 50 per cent. The units searched 21,303 junks and 80,829 persons during the month, detaining 33 junks and 624 persons.

On 2 and 3 May Coastal Group 12 and Headquarters, I Corps Tactical Zone units conducted Operation IAM SON 47, 70 miles northwest of Danang. One hundred and four Viet Cong were killed during the operation and 30 suspects were detained. In addition, 13 crew-served weapons, 80 individual weapons, and 24 cases of BAR-type ammunition were captured.

On the afternoon of 7 May a Coastal Group 14 patrol sighted nine Viet Cong attempting to cross the Cua Dai River, 14 miles south of Danang, and requested and spotted for U.S. artillery fire from a Marine unit. The artillery fire killed two of the Viet Cong. At 0330 the next day, three miles farther east, other Coastal Group 14 units participated in an operation which resulted in the destruction of two Viet Cong check points, the capture of one Viet Cong, and the detention of 11 suspects.

From 16 to 18 May Coastal Groups 11, 13, 14 and 15 conducted a series of small raids and search and destroy missions along the coast. One Viet Cong was killed during this period, another was

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captured, and four others defected. In addition, a 200-pound water mine and a small assortment of small-arms ammunition and grenades were seized.

On the 20th, Coastal Group 14 and U. S. Marine ground units conducted a one-day operation, QUYET THANG, 14 miles southeast of Danang. Four Viet Cong were killed during the operation and one Viet Cong defected. One Marine was wounded.

That same day Coastal Group 16 supported the ARVN FOURTH Division in Operation LIEN KET 104, 67 miles southeast of Danang. During the operation, which ended on the 28th, Coastal Group units detained one junk and 89 suspects. The ground forces, meanwhile, killed 137 Viet Cong and detained over 1,000 suspects.

At 2350 on 22 May a sampan manned by Coastal Group 13 personnel and U.S. Navy advisors encountered two enemy craft on Cau Hai Bay, 28 miles northwest of Danang. During the ensuing 15-minute fire fight 19 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong were killed, and one Viet Cong was captured. The materiel seized included two carbines, a submachine gun, 24 grenades, and a quantity of ammunition and documents. There were no friendly casualties.

On 12 May Coastal Group 24 units in the Second Naval Zone conducted a series of search and destroy operations near My Quang, 23 miles south of Qui Nhon. The units destroyed three tons of rice contained in three caches, and four enemy bunkers.

On 4 May, in the Third Naval Zone, Coastal Group 36 units and

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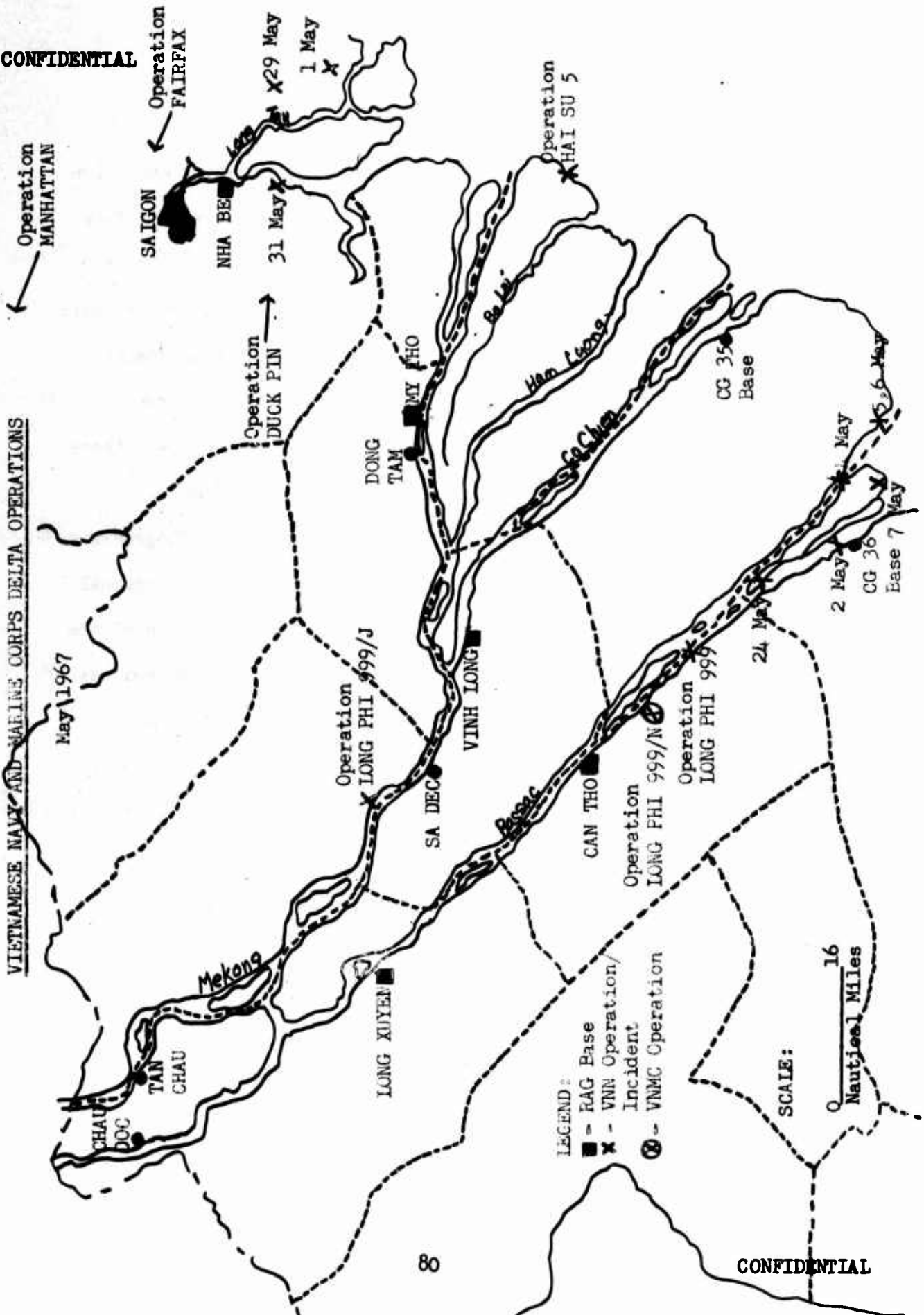
Vinh Binh Sector forces conducted a search and destroy operation on the north shore of the Bassac River, ten miles upstream from the mouth of the river. Two Viet Cong were killed and two individual weapons were seized; five members of the sector force were wounded. On 7 May Coastal Group 36 supported two ARVN Special Forces missions on islands in the mouth of the Bassac River. During the two operations five Viet Cong were killed; two others were captured along with a number of rifles and grenades.

On 8 and 9 May Coastal Groups 32, 33, 34 and 37, together with LSIL 327, LSM 404 and PCF 35 landed and supported Regional Force companies 907 and 983 and landing parties from each of the coastal groups in Operation HAI SU 5. The landing occurred near the mouth of the My Tho River, 24 miles southwest of Vung Tau, and was opposed by a Viet Cong platoon. Six of the enemy were killed (probables) and two were wounded. The ensuing sweep of the area by South Vietnamese troops resulted in the destruction of 200 punji-stake foot traps, and the seizure of a large quantity of documents. The troops also provided protection for VNN medical personnel, who treated approximately 80 villagers during the operation.

On the night of 24 May two Coastal Group 36 junks and four U.S. PERs supported a platoon of Vietnamese Special Forces from Soc Trang in an operation on the northern end of Dung Island. During the mission the platoon was ambushed by an estimated 40

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VIETNAMESE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DELTA OPERATIONS



May 1967

- LEGEND:
- - RAG Base
  - X - VNN Operation/Incident
  - ⊗ - VMMC Operation

SCALE:  
 0 16  
 Nautical Miles

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Viet Cong. Four Vietnamese troops were killed in the action and another was wounded. One Viet Cong was captured.

At 0030 on 9 May, in the Fourth Naval Zone, junks from Coastal Group 45 detected and forced aground a 40-foot motor junk carrying arms. As soon as the enemy junk grounded, 70 miles north of Ca Mau Point, the occupants began firing on the Coastal Group junks. The Government units, supported by two MARKET TIME craft, suppressed the enemy fire, killing two (probables) of the fleeing Viet Cong. The captured junk was subsequently towed to the Coastal Group base. Included in its cargo were three Russian carbines, one M-1 rifle, three grenade launchers, and 800 rounds of small-arms ammunition.

#### Riverine Area Naval Commands

In May the River Assault Groups conducted one operation in the First Naval Zone, three in the Third Riverine Area, six in the Rung Sat Special Zone and eight 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 70 per cent of the available force of 141 craft, the RAGs searched 1,827 junks and 4,881 persons, and detained two junks and 11 persons.

On 17 May the newly-activated River Assault Group Detachment in the First Naval Zone conducted its first operation, code-named TIEN SHA 1. The one-day operation included the transportation and support of a two-platoon force of ARVN Special Forces and Special

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A River Assault Group craft lands U.S. troops of the FIRST Infantry Division during Operation MANHATTAN, north of Saigon.

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Operations Group personnel deployed near Tien Sha Mountain, 3 miles east of Danang.

The month's three operations in the Third Riverine Area involved support of U.S. Army units. From 5 to 7 May, 13 craft from RAGs 24 and 28 provided blocking forces for units of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade conducting Operation DUCK PIN, 15 miles southwest of Saigon. The sweeps along the banks of the Vam Co Dang River resulted in the detention of five Viet Cong suspects and the seizure of large quantities of explosives, medical supplies and documents. In addition, several bunkers and foxholes and three emplaced 57-mm. rifles were destroyed.

From 6 to 10 May, 14 craft from RAGs 28 and 30 and three craft from the River Transport Escort Group\* participated in the U.S. FIRST Infantry Division's Operation MANHATTAN, 25 miles north of Saigon. Numerous Viet Cong bunkers and tunnel complexes were destroyed during the operation. Afterwards two VNN sailors were wounded when their craft, returning to its base, was mined.

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\* 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 ten days, arriving back in the Capital about 22 days later.

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Units of RAG 30 supported U.S. NINTH Infantry Division units in Operation FAIRFAX from 17 to 20 and 25 through 31 May. On the 28th a RAG unit killed four Viet Cong and captured an enemy sampan during a fire fight on the Tac River, 8 miles northeast of Saigon.

In a one-day operation on the 31st, LSIL 331 and 13 craft from RAGs 22 and 28 landed two Regional Force companies in an area 12 miles southeast of Saigon. Two Viet Cong were killed during the assault as the troops destroyed one junk, seven sampans, 57 structures, one medical aid station, 20 water mines and two cases of locally-made land mines and grenades.

On 2 May seven craft from RAGs 25 and 29, enroute from Can Tho to Ca Mau, engaged an enemy unit in a canal 40 miles south of Can Tho. During the fire fight three main-force Viet Cong of Company 404 were captured, together with a quantity of arms, documents and medical supplies.

On 9 and 10 May RAGs 23 and 31 supported a multi-battalion force of the ARVN NINTH Division and Regional and Special Forces units in Operation LONG PHI 999/J. During the operation, conducted ten miles north of Sa Dec, the ground forces killed ten Viet Cong, captured ten others, and detained ten suspects. At the same time RAG personnel searched 107 junks and 245 persons.

On the 12th and 13th, the VNN's LCU 538 and 21 craft from RAGs 25, 27, 29 and 32 supported the ARVN NINTH Division in Operation LONG PHI 999, 18 miles southeast of Can Tho. Twenty-

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five Viet Cong were captured during this period, another was killed, and four suspects were detained. One RAG sailor was wounded, as well as three ARVN soldiers.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary  
 May 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	7,095	27,079	29	469
II NZ	5,360	19,171	3	144
III NZ	6,303	25,231	0	7
IV NZ	2,545	9,348	1	4
Sub-Totals	21,303	80,829	33	624
<u>Fleet Command</u>				
Patrol Ships	939	4,377	4	17
<u>Riverine Area</u>				
Craft	1,827	4,881	2	11
Totals	24,069	90,087	39	652

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VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

During the month the six battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II and III Corps Tactical Zones, the Rung Sat Special Zone and the Fourth Riverine Area. The infantry battalions were committed to combat operations 84 per cent of the time and the three batteries of the Artillery Battalion were committed 74 per cent of the time.

Brigade Force A, consisting of a headquarters, the 4th and 5th Marine Battalions, and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, continued operations begun in April in the Bong Son area of the

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## II Corps Tactical Zone.

The operations resulted in light, scattered contact with Viet Cong units. From the 1st through the 4th there were eight minor incidents which resulted in three Viet Cong being killed. Two Viet Cong were captured in addition to an assortment of grenades, clothes and documents. Three Marines were killed and six were wounded. In an encounter on the 5th, one Marine was killed and two were wounded while four Viet Cong were killed and one was captured. That day the Marines detained 68 suspects.

From 6 to 16 May, in a series of brief incidents, nine Viet Cong were killed, one was captured, and one ARVN deserter and seven suspects were detained. Three Marines were killed and 16 were wounded; two of those killed and nine of the wounded were felled by snipers or booby traps.

At 0400 on 17 May a Viet Cong platoon attacked a Marine outpost and killed two Marines. Between the 17th and the 24th one Viet Cong was killed, two were captured, and six suspects were detained. One Marine was wounded.

On the 24th a unit of the Force made contact with a Viet Cong platoon, killing ten, capturing five, and detaining four suspects. One Marine was killed and another was wounded. Among the items seized were a .45 caliber pistol and 17 grenades.

From the 25th through the 31st, in eight separate incidents, three Viet Cong were captured and nine suspects were detained.

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During this period three Marines were killed and seven were wounded.

Brigade Force B, composed of a headquarters, the 1st and 3rd Battalions, and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion, was activated on 24 May and transported by road convoy from Saigon to the Can Tho area. The Force operated as a reaction and search unit under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Division until 27 May, and under the ARVN NINTH Division from the 28th to the 31st.

On the 28th the Force participated in Operation LONG PHI 999/N, ten miles southeast of Can Tho. Landed by RAG craft, the Marines swept the area on the 28th and 29th, killing two Viet Cong and detaining six suspects. Seven Marines were wounded. On 31 May the Force returned to Saigon.

Earlier in the month, the 1st Battalion and Battery A of the Artillery Battalion had conducted waterway security and search and destroy operations in the RSSZ. Contact with the enemy was sporadic and light. On 1 May the 3rd Company discovered an enemy base camp 16 miles northwest of Vung Tau and destroyed five huts (two of which were booby-trapped), nine sampans, ten land mines and one ton of rice. Two Marines were killed and two were wounded.

On the 11th the 1st Battalion was relieved by the 6th Battalion and returned to its base camp at Thu Duc. From 19 to 22 May the 1st Battalion maintained security in the Capital Military District, operating principally in the Go Vap sector north of

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Saigon. On 24 May the Battalion deployed as a part of Brigade Force B.

The 2nd Battalion, operating in the Nha Be District throughout the month, continued to conduct search and destroy missions and civic action projects together with units of the U.S. 199th Light Infantry Brigade conducting Operation FAIRFAX. The battalion provided daytime security patrols and nighttime ambushes and patrols designed to protect the progress of their civic action undertakings.

The 3rd Battalion remained at its base camp at Thu Duc until 11 May when it began a week of security duty on the perimeter of Tan Son Nhut Air Base. The battalion then returned to camp until the 24th, when it joined Brigade Force B.

At Thu Duc on the 8th of May the 6th Battalion was inspected by Lieutenant General Le Nguyen KHANG, VNMC, Commandant, Vietnamese Marine Corps. In a subsequent dedication ceremony the battalion was formally activated as a combat unit. On 11 May the battalion relieved the 1st Battalion in the RSSZ. There was no contact with the enemy until 29 May when one Viet Cong was killed and another was wounded during an attack on a Viet Cong base camp on the west bank of the Long Tau River, 20 miles northwest of Vung Tau. The battalion destroyed the camp, which contained 23 huts, and withdrew.

The morale of the Vietnamese Marine Corps remained at a high level and the leadership in all units was considered to be excellent

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throughout the month. During May the Corps accounted for 30 enemy killed, 14 captured and 180 suspects detained. Sixteen Marines were killed and 42 Marines were wounded.

Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary  
May 1967

VC/NVA: 30 KIA, 14 captured, 180 suspects detained.

VNMC: 16 KIA, 42 WIA.

Materiel Captured or Destroyed:

Hand Grenades	35
Bangalore torpedos	2
Submachine guns	3
M-1 rifles	1
K-50 SMGs	1
.45 caliber pistols	1
Huts	5
Sampans	13
Rice (tons)	1
Rifle grenades	1
K-50 ammunition (rounds)	1,000
Shelters	26
Trench lines (meters)	100
Bunkers	2
Mines	15

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APPENDIX II

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP-U. S. NAVAL FORCES,  
VIETNAM

The U.S. Navy's advisory effort in Vietnam began in 1950. In October of that year, a staff of eight officers and enlisted men established the Navy Section of the U.S. Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG). The primary mission of the Navy Section was to provide aid that would help strengthen the coastal and river security of Vietnam.

Throughout the 1950's and the early 1960's, the advisory effort increased gradually as the Navy Section supervised the transfer of craft and equipment to the Vietnamese Navy and furnished advisors to the various training centers, the Saigon shipyard and the coastal and river patrol units. Assistance was also provided to the Vietnamese Marine Corps.

In 1962 the expanding American effort led to the establishment of the U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV). The MAAG, meanwhile, continued to administer the functional aspects of the military aid program. The end of 1962 brought the arrival of the first Seabee Technical Assistance Teams, highly-skilled groups destined to play a key role in the field of military civic action.

By 1963 there were over 700 U. S. personnel in the Navy Section; many of these men were assigned to the Headquarters Support Activity, a Navy command that provided logistic support for most of the U. S. forces in South Vietnam. In 1964, the functions of the MAAG were absorbed by MACV and in May the title of the Navy Section was changed

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to Naval Advisory Group. On 10 May 1965 Rear Admiral Norvell G. WARD, USN, assumed the duties of Chief, Naval Advisory Group.

In July, U. S. SEVENTH Fleet units engaged in coastal patrols (Operation MARKET TIME) were placed under the operational control of Chief, Naval Advisory Group, and the Coastal Surveillance Force (Task Force 115) was activated. Fast patrol craft (PCFs) and Coast Guard cutters (WPBs) eventually became the backbone of the sea surveillance effort as TF 115 continued to grow in late 1965 and early 1966.

In March 1966 the first river patrol boats (PBRs) arrived in South Vietnam as the River Patrol Force (Task Force 116), established in December 1965, moved to counter enemy activity in the Mekong Delta (Operation GAME WARDEN). At the same time, minesweepers began operations in the Long Tau channel in order to keep that vital shipping lane open from the South China Sea to Saigon.

The need to unify the burgeoning U. S. Navy commitment under a single component commander directly responsible to COMUSMACV led to the establishment in April of a major Navy command, U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam (NAVFORV). On 1 April Rear Admiral WARD assumed the additional duty of Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam.

In addition to Task Force 115 and Task Force 116, the new command included operational control of the Naval Support Activity, Danang, the Naval Support Activity, Saigon (the U. S. Army had assumed the Headquarters Support Activity functions), and the 30th Naval Construction Regiment. In June, the activities of all Seabee

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units in South Vietnam were consolidated with the recommissioning of the THIRD Naval Construction Brigade, under the operational control of COMNAVFORV.

During 1966 COMNAVFORV's widely deployed forces helped improve the posture of the Vietnamese Navy and the Vietnamese Marine Corps, reduced sea infiltration, disrupted enemy lines of communications, constructed facilities valued at 28 million dollars, and supported 100,000 combat forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone as well as naval forces throughout the Republic of Vietnam.

In February 1967 a new component of NAVFORV, the Riverine Assault Force (Task Force 117), was activated under the operational control of COMNAVFORV. The mission of the new force included riverine assault operations in support of U. S. Army forces in the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone.

On 27 April Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, relieved Rear Admiral WARD and assumed the duties of COMNAVFORV/CHNAVADVGRP.

By the end of May the numerical strength of U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam exceeded 24,000 officers and enlisted men.

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APPENDIX III

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

The following tabulation is a statistical summary of the religious services conducted during May.

1. Religious Services:

a. Divine Services:

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

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	170	136	306
Attendance	5,236	1,318	6,554
Communed	1,439	676	2,115

(2) Other Military Installations

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	64	19	83
Attendance	2,443	262	2,705
Communed	896	117	1,013

(3) Civilian Churches

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	3	0	3
Attendance	847	0	847
Communed	345	0	345

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	73	2,717	6	54
Protestant	23	811	27	155

c. Other religious services in which chaplains participated:

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Memorial (7)	762
Burial at Sea (1)	110
Morning prayer (14)	48
Lutheran Communion (1)	23
Church of Christ (1)	18