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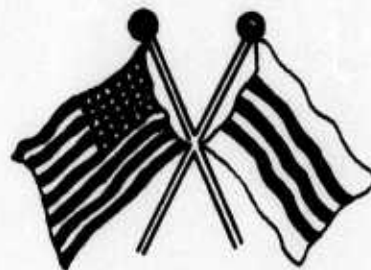
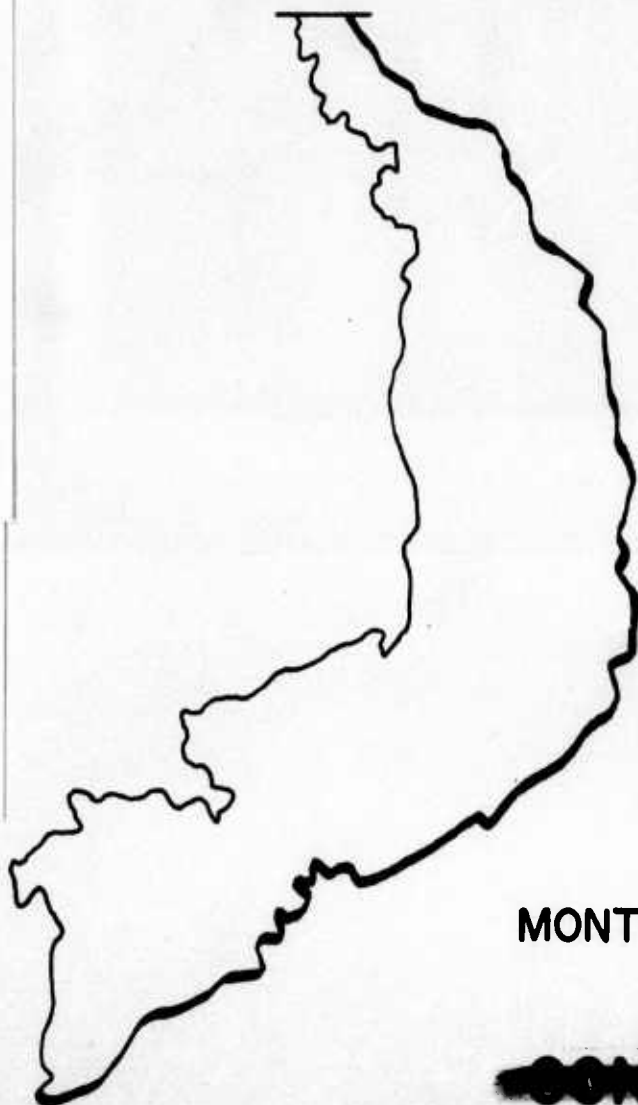
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U.S. NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM

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MONTHLY HISTORICAL
SUMMARY
JUNE 1967

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NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY

JUNE 1967

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FOREWORD

In June the Riverine Assault Force demonstrated its versatility as an instrument of delta warfare. Operating in support of hard-pressed U.S. Army elements in Long An province, the mobile RAF units provided accurate, close gunfire support which helped disrupt two companies of the enemy forces.

Units of Operation GAME WARDEN, meanwhile, continued to exert pressure along Viet Cong crossing routes and "tax" collection sites. The growing influence of the PBRs' familiar presence was perhaps best illustrated by two incidents during the month in which inhabitants of the Mekong Delta hailed patrols, accompanied them to collection sites, and pointed out Viet Cong.

In the First Coastal Zone, there were continued attempts by the enemy to interrupt the flow of waterborne traffic in the Cua Viet approaches to Dong Ha. On one occasion, enemy rockets and artillery fire struck an LST ramp site near the channel entrance. On another occasion, an LST was mined while discharging cargo.

In one of the most significant operations of the month, two River Assault Groups of the Vietnamese Navy joined with Vietnamese Army troops in sweeping the canal complex that links the Delta's Co Chien and Bassac rivers. As a result of the operation the marketplace at Mang Thit, dormant for years because of Viet Cong domination, was opened for business.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

The number of hostile fire incidents in the Rung Sat Special Zone increased during June.

On the evening of the 6th, Army and Navy helicopters, PBRs, and an Air Force AC-47 supported Popular Force troops in a counter-attack against Viet Cong units that had surrounded and infiltrated certain sections of Ly Nhon. The helicopters struck enemy positions on the outskirts of the village while the "Dragonship" provided illumination and fire support. The action lasted throughout the night and forced the Viet Cong to retreat. A subsequent sweep of the area revealed that the enemy had suffered heavy casualties. One Popular Force soldier was killed during the engagement and seven others were wounded. There were no U.S. casualties.

There were two attacks on U.S. minesweepers in the Saigon channel during the month. Both involved "claymore" mine detonated from the south bank of the Long Tau River, about 13 miles southeast of Nha Be. In the first incident, which occurred on the morning of 18 June, the MSB sustained minor damage from shrapnel. On 30 June a "claymore" exploded near an MSB during the craft's first sweep of the day; no damage resulted. There were no personnel casualties in either incident.

Four U.S. Navy personnel were wounded on 29 June when their PBR was struck by recoilless-rifle fire. The incident occurred in the upper Dong Tranh River, eight and one-half miles southeast of Nha Be.

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The PBR was part of a special four-boat patrol operating near the suspected headquarters of the Viet Cong commander of the RSSZ. When the patrol came under intense fire from positions on the north bank of the river, the PBRs returned the fire and withdrew under the covering fire of air and artillery support. The damaged PBR subsequently proceeded to Nha Be under its own power after the wounded had been evacuated by helicopter.

DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

On two occasions in June information obtained from Delta inhabitants helped PBR patrols detain Viet Cong cadre operating along the My Tho River. On the 13th, one such informant accompanied a patrol to an area near the mouth of the river and pointed out two men who subsequently admitted being Viet Cong. Two days later, 12 miles east of My Tho, a sampan owner complained to a PBR patrol that two Viet Cong "tax collectors" had confiscated his rice. When the patrol apprehended the men pointed out by the boatman, one of the detainees attempted to bribe the patrol officer. Both suspects were then taken to My Tho for interrogation by the Vietnamese authorities.

On the morning of 18 June, two six-man SEAL squads raided a Viet Cong-controlled hamlet two and one-half miles southwest of My Tho. As one of the squads approached a group of houses, a number of men emerged and took the SEALs under fire. The return fire killed three of the men and wounded three others. Four additional suspects were detained. Subsequent interrogation revealed that the men were local

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Viet Cong guerillas. There were no U.S. casualties in the engagement.

Operations in the Ham Luong River

During the month the Ham Luong River was the scene of several major clashes between river patrols and main-force Viet Cong units operating in Kien Hoa Province.

On 4 June a three-boat patrol engaged a number of enemy positions near the mouth of Cai Mit creek, seven miles southeast of Ben Tre. The heavy fire from the patrol boats flushed 50 to 60 Viet Cong from the bank, at least 20 of whom were felled by the PBRs as they attempted to evade across an open field.

On 7 June a Navy helicopter was shot down by intense ground fire while it was attacking a large enemy troop concentration three miles west of the town of Thanh Phu. The helicopter crashed into a paddy dike and suffered extensive damage; the four crew members were injured slightly. A second helicopter rescued the crew and kept the enemy away from the downed helicopter, which was later picked up by a heavy lift helicopter. Three Viet Cong were killed during the action.

That same day four U.S. sailors and a Vietnamese maritime policeman were wounded when Viet Cong attacked a PBR patrol, 11 miles southeast of Ben Tre. One large-caliber round hit the leading boat, wounding the entire crew and the embarked policeman. A second round passed through the covering boat without exploding. The patrol returned the fire and withdrew while artillery fire and air strikes were delivered into the area. The PBRs then proceeded to a

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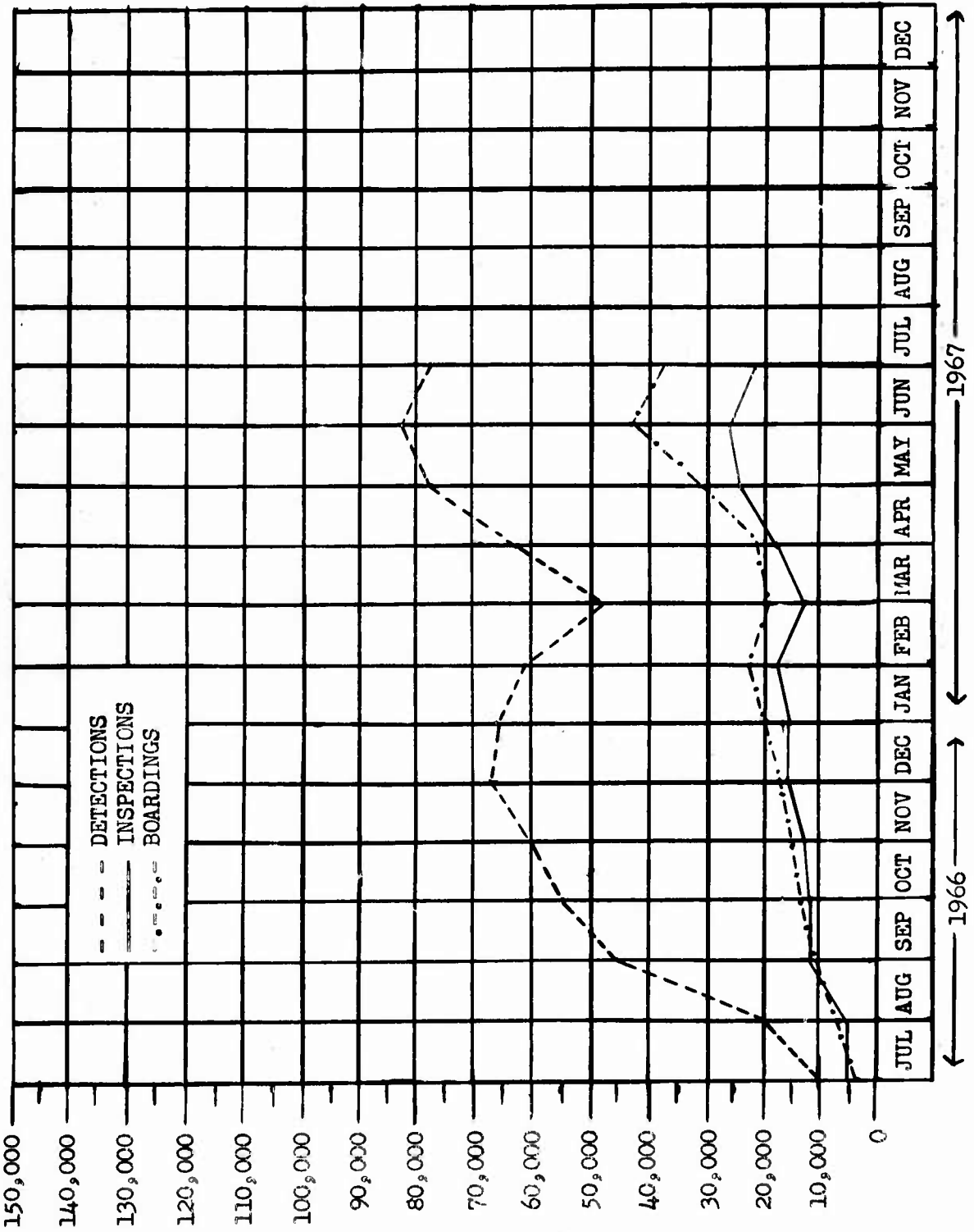
nearby Popular Force outpost where the wounded were evacuated by helicopter.

Operations in the Co Chien and Upper Mekong Rivers

On the evening of 6 June Sa Dec-based PBRs broke up a Viet Cong crossing attempt in the upper Mekong River, four miles east of Sa Dec. The engagement began when a patrol sighted numerous sampans moving along the north bank. The sampans were taken under direct fire as they attempted to evade into an inlet. During the pursuit, PBR 118 went hard aground on a mud bank. At the same time heavy automatic-weapons and small-arms fire broke out from nearby Cat Island. The fire was returned and artillery support was requested. The Giao Duc sub-sector battery then placed nine rounds of artillery fire into the area, which silenced the enemy positions. During the three hour engagement nine Viet Cong were killed and seven sampans were sunk. There were no U.S. casualties. The grounded PBR was subsequently pulled off the mud bank by an LCM.

On the night of 17 June, 25 miles southeast of Vinh Long, a three-boat patrol joined a Vietnamese Navy LSSL in assisting a beleaguered Popular Force outpost under attack by an estimated 200 Viet Cong. The PBRs exchanged fire with enemy automatic-weapons, small-arms and mortar positions in the ensuing four and one-half hour engagement. Although the outpost was heavily damaged by enemy mortars, the Viet Cong were driven off. The extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS



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Operations in the Bassac River

On the afternoon of 21 June Viet Cong units opened fire on a PBR patrol from the north bank of the Bassac River, four miles downstream from Can Tho. The patrol returned the fire and detected three sampans attempting to evade into a nearby canal. One of the sampans beached and its three occupants were killed by PBR fire as they sought cover in the tree line. The intensity of the automatic-weapons fire from the bank then began to increase and the PBRs requested air and artillery support.

Shortly thereafter, the ARVN artillery battery at Tra On delivered 105-mm. fire into the enemy positions and two Navy helicopters subsequently arrived to conduct strikes on targets marked by tracer fire from the PBRs. The engagement continued for two and one-half hours and resulted in at least six Viet Cong being killed. There were no U.S. casualties.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

In June units of the Coastal Surveillance Force detected 150,000 diverse craft along South Vietnam's coastline; more than half of these were inspected or boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 113 craft and 1,009 suspects.

On 16 June a new patrol unit, Coastal Division 16, was activated on a provisional basis at Chu Lai. The Division's nucleus-- 12 PCFs--was formed by reassigning eight Swift boats from Danang's Coastal Division 12 and four Swift boats from Coastal Division 14 at Qui Nhon. The new Division was designated Task Unit 115.1.8.

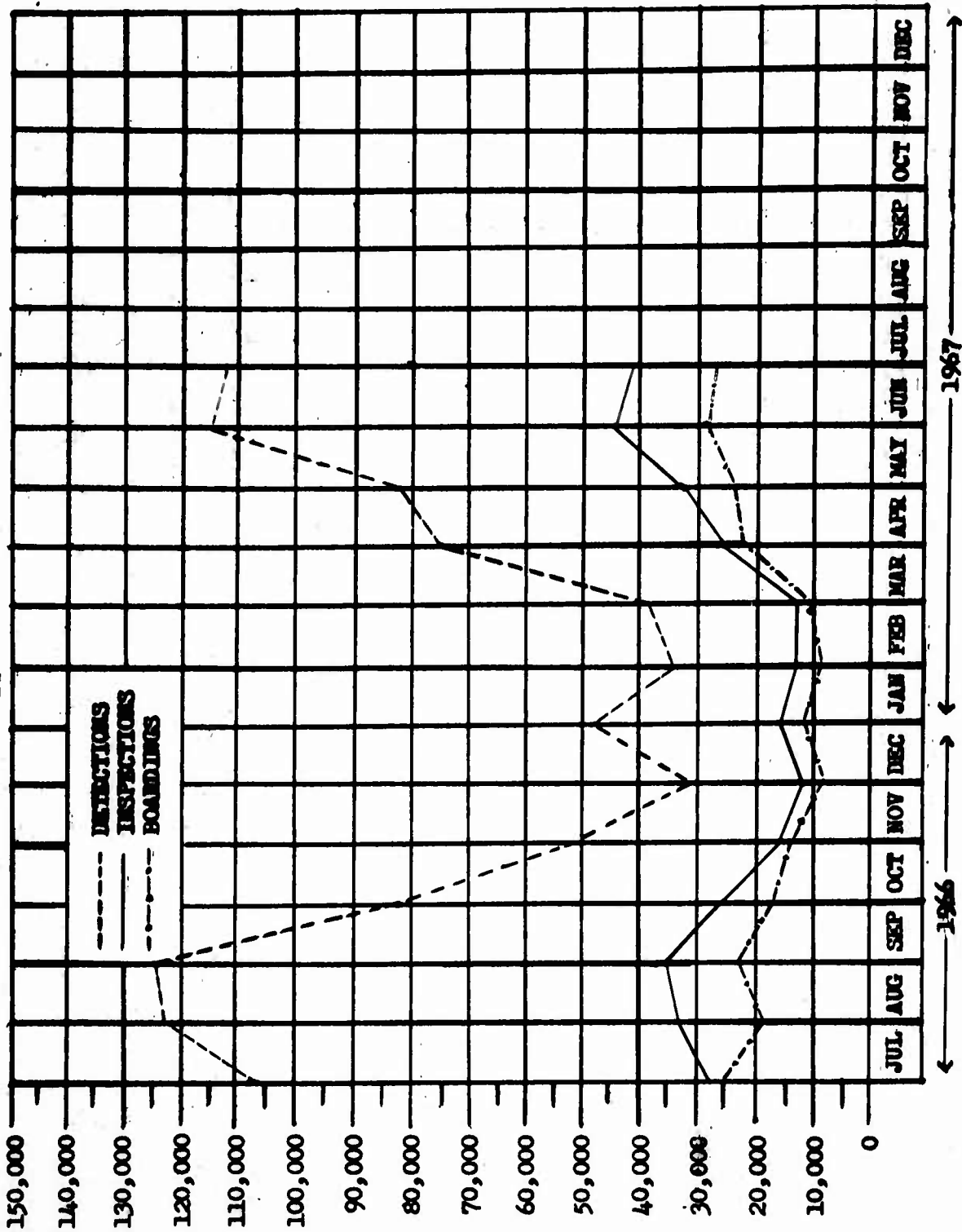
OPERATION MARKET TIME

In June MARKET TIME units detected 111,000 junks and sampans; 60 per cent of these were inspected or boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 82 craft and 869 suspects. In addition, 722 steel-hulled craft were detected transiting MARKET TIME areas during the month.

The month's MARKET TIME activity also included participation in four ground operations, 58 gunfire support missions, 28 hostile fire incidents, 11 evasion incidents, and five search and rescue missions.

As a result of these operations, 70 enemy structures and 16 junks were destroyed; 24 other structures and eight other junks or sampans were damaged. In addition, 18 Viet Cong were killed (probables). Four Swift boat personnel were wounded during the month and, on the 25th, PCF 97 was sunk by enemy fire.

DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



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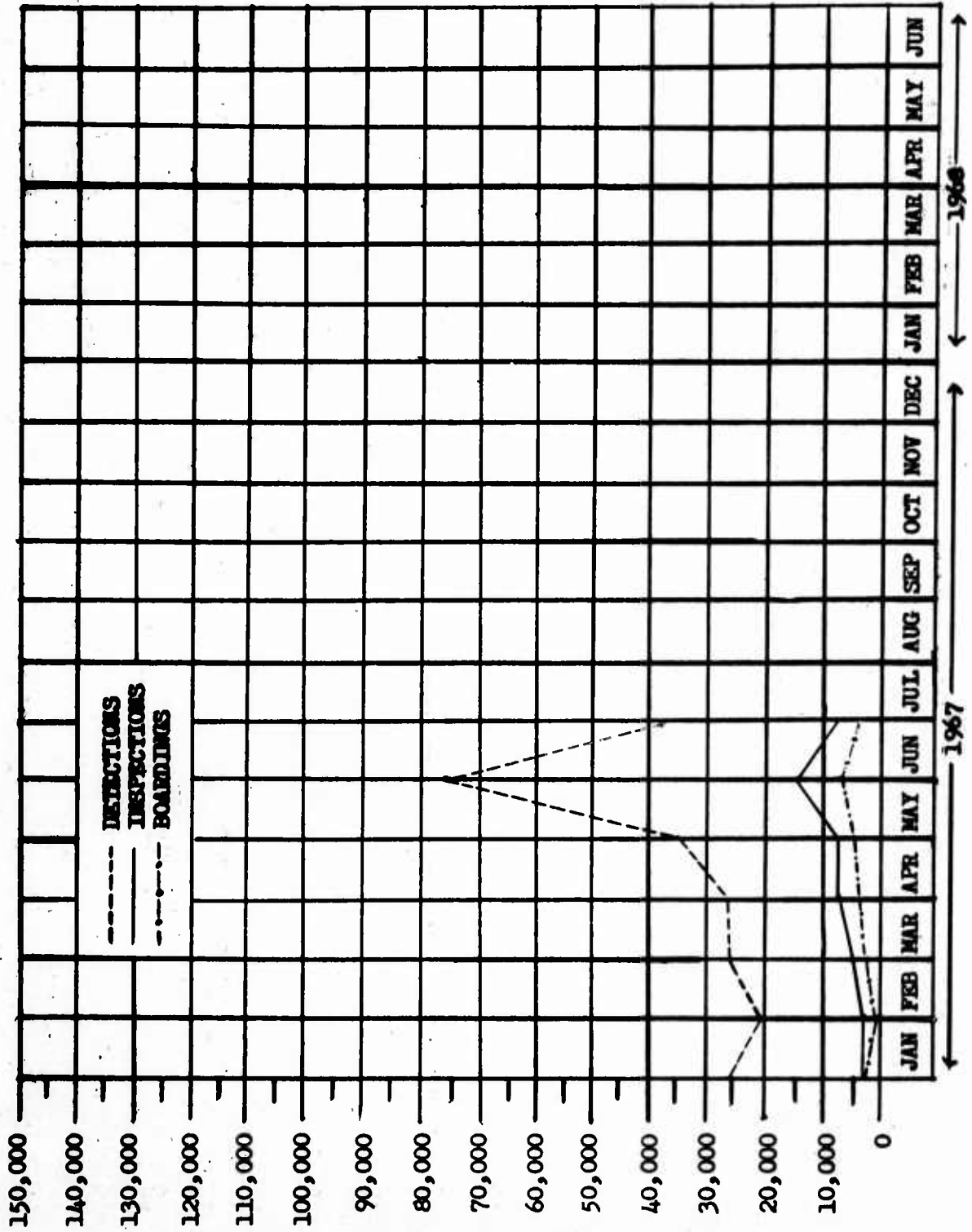
On the 4th of June PCF 76 received automatic-weapons-fire from the beach while conducting a "psywar" mission in the vicinity of Cape Batangan. The Swift boat returned the fire with 81-mm. mortars, which initiated a secondary explosion. Then a forward air controller arrived on the scene and spotted for additional mortar fire; the fire destroyed nine structures and killed three Viet Cong (probables). Three of the PCF's crew received slight wounds during the engagement.

On 10 June, in response to a request by a Republic of Korea ground unit, three PCFs and USS KRETCHMER (DER 329) conducted a roundup operation 60 miles southeast of Danang. Thirty junks and 120 persons were detained during the mission.

On the 12th, based on a report from a spotter aircraft, PCF 98 fired on several junks off-loading materiel onto the beach, 25 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The Swift boat's fire triggered a large secondary explosion, destroyed one junk and damaged another, and damaged five structures and two sampans. There were no U.S. casualties.

On the morning of 25 June, PCF 97 was fired upon by enemy shore positions 45 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. While returning the intense Viet Cong fire, the Swift boat was struck at the waterline by a recoilless-rifle round which tore a two and one-half foot hole in the hull and wounded the Officer in Charge. The PCF flooded rapidly and sank in 40 feet of water. The crew was rescued by PCF 26.

DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS



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Later that day PCF 98 fired on Viet Cong positions in the same area. A spotter aircraft subsequently reported that the Swift boat's fire killed seven Viet Cong (probables) and destroyed a bunker and a sampan.

On the 28th of June USCGC POINT ELLIS took an evading junk under fire, 10 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. The junk was destroyed; the extent of Viet Cong casualties was undetermined.

OPERATION STABLE DOOR

STABLE DOOR patrols detected 38,000 junks and sampans during June; over 7,000 of these were inspected. Of the 4,175 craft boarded, 31 were detained along with 140 persons.

In a search and rescue mission on 25 June, a STABLE DOOR LCPL rescued the ten occupants of an Army helicopter which had crashed in Nha Trang's harbor.

During the month, Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 1 at Vung Tau detained one junk and 18 persons; IUWU 2 at Cam Ranh Bay detained two junks and 18 persons; IUWU 3 at Qui Nhon detained nine junks and 13 persons; and IUWU 4 at Nha Trang detained 19 junks and 91 persons.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

On 1 June the Mobile Riverine Base (MRB) moved from its anchorage at Vung Tau and transited to Dong Tam via the My Tho River. For the next nine days Riverine Assault Force (RAF) units conducted security patrols, troop lifts, and assault landings designed to refine joint doctrine and techniques with embarked elements of the 2nd Brigade, U.S. NINTH Infantry Division.

On 11 June the MRB departed for Nha Be, where it anchored on the 12th. In the week that followed the RAF supported Operation GREAT BEND, a search and destroy mission in the northern part of the Rung Sat Special Zone. On 16 June the Army troops discovered and destroyed a large Viet Cong base area in Bien Hoa province, 11 miles east of Nha Be.

Upon completion of Operation GREAT BEND on 18 June, the Mobile Riverine Base moved to an anchorage near the confluence of the Vam Co and Soirap rivers, and commenced Operation CONCORDIA I, a search and destroy mission in Long An province.

On the morning of the 19th three companies of the 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry were landed on the banks of Van Creek, two and one-half miles southeast of Can Giouc. At the same time a battalion of the ARVN 46th Infantry Regiment was landed three and one-half miles to the southwest. After all the troops were ashore, the Riverine Assault Force units proceeded to blocking stations.

Just before noon Companies A and C of 4/47 engaged two Viet Cong companies in an area approximately midway between the initial U.S.

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and ARVN positions. During the ensuing action, which lasted well into evening, the RAF units provided the hard-pressed troops with close gunfire support and were instrumental in disrupting the enemy forces.

The initial phase of Operation CONCORDIA I terminated on the evening of 21 June. During the three-day period, 255 Viet Cong were killed while 46 U.S. Army troops were killed and 128 were wounded. Fifteen U.S. Navy personnel were wounded. During the engagement on the 19th, ATC 112-4 was holed below the waterline by B-40 rockets, forcing the troop carrier to beach. After emergency patching had been completed, the craft returned to the riverine base under its own power.

Operation CONCORDIA I demonstrated the versatility of the Riverine Assault Force. Throughout the series of engagements, RAF units provided accurate gunfire support close to friendly lines. The mobile forward command post, situated in the command-control boat (CCB), effectively controlled and coordinated the gunfire in response to the requirements of the ground forces. In addition, the RAF craft were employed as medical aid and casualty-clearing stations. Seriously wounded personnel were evacuated to USS BENEWAH (APB 35) or USS COLLETON (APB 36) for treatment, as well as to Nha Be.

During the remainder of June the Mobile Riverine Base remained at the junction of the Vam Co and Soirap rivers, supporting operations in the southeastern sector of Long An province. No major

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contact with the enemy occurred during this period.

With the arrival of two monitors on 12 June, the number of LCM conversions in country reached its programmed strength of 68. Two large harbor tugs (YTBs) joined the Riverine Assault Force in June. The tugs were assigned to tow APLs and ammi pontoons, and to perform other required towing services. On 16 June all assault craft which had been on loan from the Vietnamese Navy were returned to their regular units.

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U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

Enemy attempts to disrupt waterborne traffic in the Cua Viet approaches to Dong Ha continued during June. On 12 June the NAV-SUPPACT LST ramp site at the entrance to the Cua Viet was attacked by an enemy force using rockets and artillery; an estimated 225 rounds landed during the 50-minute barrage. Three 10,000-gallon fuel bladders were destroyed and two were damaged, resulting in the loss of 45,000 gallons of diesel fuel. There were no casualties to naval personnel.

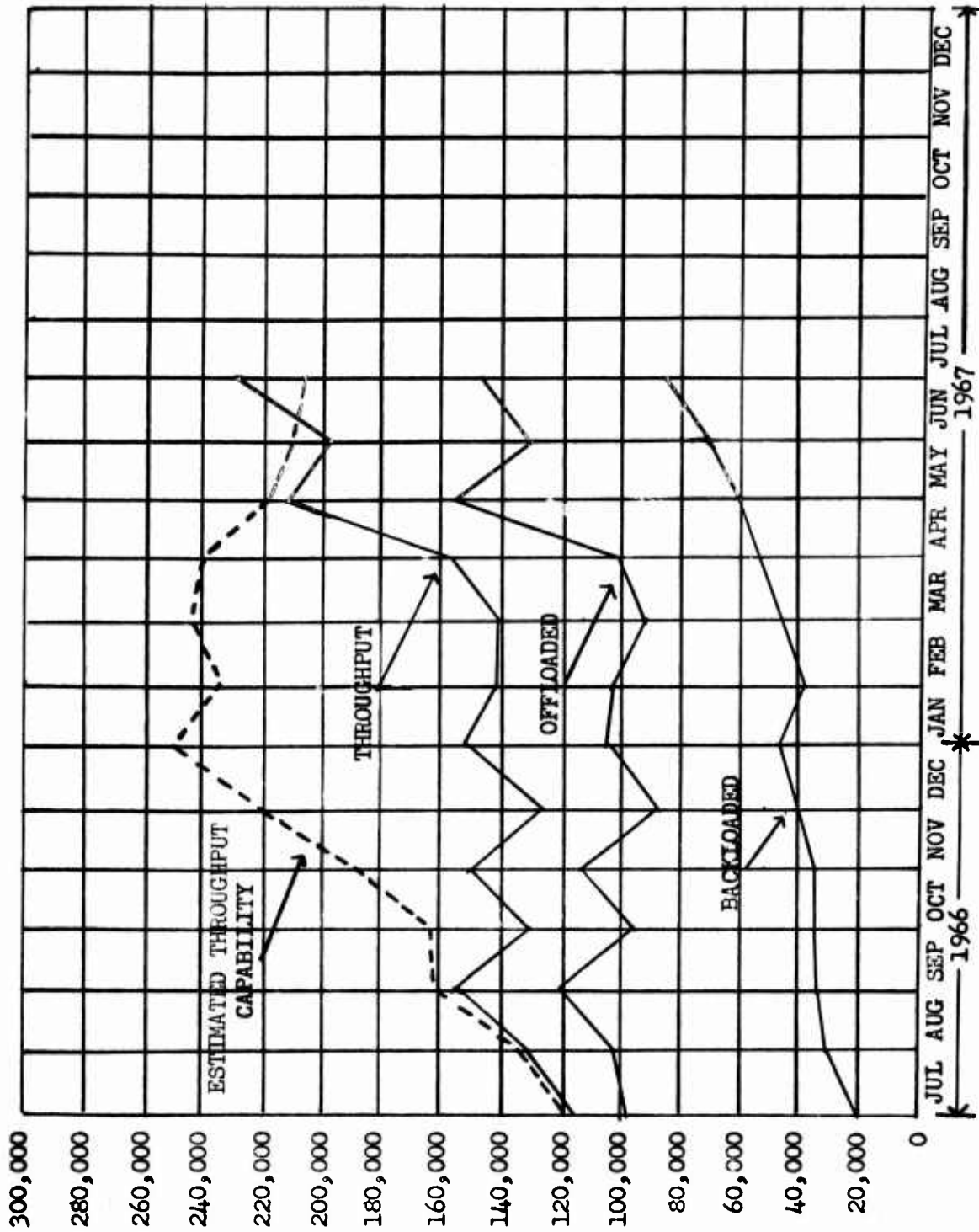
On 29 June the USS COCONINO COUNTY (LST 603) was mined while discharging cargo at the Cua Viet LST ramp. The explosion, which critically wounded one of the crew, tore a three by nine-foot hole in the ship's bottom and led to the flooding of the generator room and the main and auxiliary engine rooms.

Three hours later a second explosion occurred about 15 feet off the ship's starboard quarter. No major damage resulted. Later that day, after all cargo had been off-loaded and temporary patches installed over the damaged areas of the ship's hull, COCONINO COUNTY was towed to Danang for repairs.

During June the volume of cargo processed by NAVSUPPACT Danang again surpassed previous levels. At the Port of Danang, the 83,000 short tons of cargo back-loaded for transshipment to other ports was the highest monthly total to date. The month's throughput for Danang reached an unprecedented 228,000 short tons. The combined throughput for all I Corps ports also reached a new high,

DANANG CARGO HANDLING

SHORT TONS



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exceeding 325,000 short tons.

On 29 June the dredge THUBON completed operations to remove two sandbars which, during periods of low water, had impeded craft transiting the Cua Viet from the LST ramp to Dong Ha. The sandbars had presented the only remaining natural obstacles to an unrestricted transit of the Cua Viet by lighterage.

The Port of Danang was visited 100 times by U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ships during June. The ships were provided with over one million gallons of diesel fuel and almost two million gallons of potable water, in addition to mail, freight, courier, transient billeting and disbursing services.

The Naval Support Activity's C-47 aircraft made 15 flights during June, transporting 444 passengers and 29,911 pounds of cargo.

On 30 June the Naval Support Activity, Danang personnel level was 7,747. The number of United States and other Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPACT was 130,300 at month's end.

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U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

During June the construction of a dispensary, ammunition bunkers and several additional barracks buildings was begun at Nha Be. In addition, work on a new warehouse was 75 per cent complete by the end of the month.

At Vung Tau, the berthing barracks and shop spaces for Light Helicopter Attack Squadron THREE were completed. At Vinh Long, the construction of a water tank was begun and a security fence was erected around the compound. The renovation of the new living quarters was essentially complete on 30 June.

At Dong Tam, the construction of additional berthing and messing facilities sufficient to accommodate 500 personnel was completed during June. At Can Tho (Binh Thuy), efforts to ready the new PBR support base for occupancy included continued work on the installation of galley and laundry equipment and the construction of bunkers, watchtowers and a security fence. During the month, the generator and water-treatment plants became operational.

Meanwhile, the operational availability of MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN patrol boats continued to be generally excellent, ranging from 89 per cent for WPBs and PCFs to 93 per cent for PBRs. The availability of MSBs was 100 per cent.

During June the NAVSUPACT aviation section transported 3,487 passengers and 157 short tons of cargo. At the same time the ships and craft of NAVSUPACT transported 915 short tons of cargo. In addition, 105 short tons of cargo were transported overland by

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trucks.

On 30 June the NAVSUPACT personnel level was 1,952. The number of personnel provided logistic support by NAVSUPACT headquarters in Saigon and its 11 detachments stood at 6,253 at month's end.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

On the 7th of June two Seabees were killed and 12 others were wounded when the U.S. Marines' camp at Khe Sanh, 25 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, was struck by enemy mortar and rocket fire.

During the month MCB-4's detachment at Khe Sanh constructed bunkers, artillery positions and ammunition pits for Marines defending Hill 881. Meanwhile, a 75-man detachment from MCB-11 upgraded the Khe Sanh airfield.

A major project begun by MCB-1 in June involved making repairs to Route 1, the principal highway in I Corps. The Seabees were tasked with improving 139 miles of road sections north of Danang. At Phu Bai MCB-62 laid rock and sprayed asphalt on 60 per cent of the roads in that area.

In another road improvement project, MCB-3 started making repairs to a three and one-half mile stretch of Route 551, which connects Hue with the LST-LCU facility at Col Co. In addition, the battalion began work on a new road between Phu Bai and the Seabees' base camp at Gia Le.

At Danang's Black Rock Bay, MCB-133 completed the first increment of additional housing units for U.S. and Vietnamese military personnel, and built the first of three planned ammunition bunkers at Observation Point. The battalion also started work on a rapalm storage area adjacent to the Danang airfield.

In the Danang West area, MCB-4 completed three observation towers, two along Route 5 and one at An Hoa. At Dong Ha, MCB-11

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completed five 50-foot observation towers as well as six Butler buildings. At Phu Bai, MCB-62 completed 18 Butler buildings for use by the THIRD Marine Division.

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 15 June the merchant ship COSMOS TRADER, laden with dry cargo and crude oil, ran aground while proceeding to anchorage at Vung Tau. Salvage operations were begun immediately by units of Team 5 of Harbor Clearance Unit 1; the units were subsequently augmented by two U.S. SEVENTH Fleet craft, USS HITCHITI (ATF 103) and USS CURRENT (ARS 22).

At high tide on the 20th, with seven sets of beach gear in use to control the grounded ship's movements, COSMOS TRADER was pulled free by the combined effort of HITCHITI, CURRENT, two lift craft, and two commercial tugs. The merchant ship was then moved to an anchorage in the inner harbor where salvage personnel removed a quantity of wire which had become fouled in the ship's screw. The salvage operation was terminated on 25 June.

Later that same day, Team 5 of HUC 1 was dispatched to the Ca Mau Peninsula to try to recover PCF 97, which had been sunk by enemy fire. However, the team's lift craft was unable to raise the PCF clear of the water. The team then stripped the sunken boat of all removable equipment, and remained on the scene to await the arrival of the SEVENTH Fleet's USS OAK HILL (LSD 7), which had a crane capable of lifting the PCF.

On 29 June USS COCONINO COUNTY (LST 603) was mined while discharging cargo at the Cua Viet LST ramp. The explosion tore a three by nine-foot hole in the ship's bottom. A temporary patch was fabricated by the ship's crew and installed with the assistance of

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divers provided by NAVSUPPACT, Danang. Later that day, after all cargo, ballast and fuel had been off-loaded, COCONINO COUNTY was towed to Danang, where the ship was to be readied for further towing to Guam.

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COMMUNICATIONS

During June the COMNAVFORV communications center processed 89,762 messages, 5,522 messages less than were handled in May.

At the GAME WARDEN tactical operations center in Nha Be, work on Project SEARCHLIGHT (upgrading communications equipment), nearly complete, was suspended on 15 June pending the arrival of the materials needed to complete the renovation of the local operating positions. The installation team, composed of personnel from the Naval Shipyard at Pearl Harbor, moved to the GAME WARDEN base at My Tho to begin that phase of the project's cycle.

Meanwhile, the construction work and installation of equipment at the Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay (Project BOWLINE), neared completion. On 19 June the testing of equipment began, with NAVCOMMSTA, Philippines and USS ANNAPOLIS (AGMR 1) assisting in the test program. The communications station was scheduled to be commissioned in early August.

At Danang, the new construction at the Naval Support Activity (Project SEA ANCHOR) continued to progress. By month's end the communications center, transmitter site and receiver site were 80, 85 and 82 per cent complete, respectively. The installation of electronic equipment was over 80 per cent complete at all three sites.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 1 June the task organization of the Delta River Patrol Group (Task Group 116.1) was modified slightly to provide for a more effective distribution of patrol boat sections, and to improve the alignment of the areas of responsibility of the task unit commanders. Operational control of units responsible for patrolling the Co Chien River region was shifted from CTU 116.1.3 at My Tho to CTU 116.1.2 at Vinh Long.

On 22 June the Honorable Charles F. BAIRD, Under Secretary of the Navy-designate, arrived in Vietnam for three days of tours and briefings. Included in Mr. BAIRD's itinerary were visits to the headquarters of NAVFORV, the VNN and the VNMC, and the naval facilities at Cam Ranh Bay, Can Tho, Binh Thuy, and the Mobile Riverine Base.

On 27 June Admiral Thomas H. MOORER, USN, Chief of Naval Operations-designate, arrived in Saigon. During his stay Admiral MOORER conferred with Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, COMNAVFORV, and visited Binh Thuy, Cat Lo, the Naval Shipyard in Saigon, and the naval activities in the Danang area.

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MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

On 13 June, in Binh Thuan province, a joint civic action team went ashore in the hamlet of Long Hai and conducted the kind of mission that has become increasingly characteristic of civic action projects. The team's medical-dentist contingent--Vietnamese Navy and U.S. Army and Navy doctors and corpsmen--treated almost 400 children and adults while other team members distributed foodstuffs, textile kits and school kits. Afterwards, a Vietnamese drama team arrived from Phan Thiet and entertained about 2,000 inhabitants of Long Hai and adjacent hamlets. The mission was capped by a brief address from a former Viet Cong political leader who had recently become a Hoi Chanh (returnee) under the Government's Chieu Hoi (amnesty) program.

Similar appeals (either actual or taped) from Hoi Chanh have proved to be effective inducements in persuading the Viet Cong to defect. In June six Viet Cong "rallied" to the Coastal Group 14 base at Hoi An, south of Danang. The defections raised to 15 the total number of Hoi Chanh processed by the Coastal Group since the 19th of May. On that day the Group began an intensive "psywar" campaign which included broadcast appeals made by former Viet Cong. Three of June's Hoi Chanh rallied as a direct result of the broadcasts. One of the ralliers subsequently pointed out several Viet Cong bunkers and weapons caches during a sweep of the area south of Hoi An by U.S. Marines and elements of Coastal Group 14.

In the Mekong Delta, five Viet Cong rallied to PBR patrols

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during the month. On 4 June a Viet Cong hailed a patrol in the Bassac River, raised his hands, and told the patrol officer that he wanted to defect. He added that three fellow Viet Cong also wanted to become Hoi Chanhs. The next day he was taken back to his village and the three men turned themselves in, along with a quantity of Viet Cong political propaganda material. On the 6th of June a PBR patrol returned to the village and brought the families of two of the Hoi Chanhs to safety.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy on 30 June was 15,995 officers and enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged as deserters increased from 35 in May to 57 in June; the number of unauthorized absentees dropped for the third straight month, declining from 314 in May to 310 in June.

On 11 June the Vietnamese Navy received a yard oiler (YOG), the third oiler received thus far under the Military Assistance Program. The craft was scheduled to become operational in August.

On 20 June, four new gunboats (PGMs) were formally transferred to the Vietnamese Navy in a ceremony at the Vietnamese Navy Headquarters in Saigon. The four ships had arrived in South Vietnam in April; two of the ships completed shakedown training on 11 May and the remaining two on 9 June.

On 20 June the nine remaining River Assault Group craft on loan to the Mobile Riverine Force returned to their assigned units.

Operations

During the month the Fleet Command maintained 12 ships on station daily off the coast of South Vietnam, four ships on river patrol and one ship on convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. The daily availability of Fleet Command ships increased from 26 in May to 30 in June. The month's operations included

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MARKET TIME and other anti-infiltration patrols, psychological warfare and civic action visits, escort patrols and gunfire support missions. Fleet Command ships fired 31 gunfire support missions in June and searched 624 junks and 2,745 persons, detaining seven junks and nine suspects.

On 8 June the minesweeper squadron instituted a revised sweep plan in the Dong Nai, Saigon and Nha Be rivers, increasing the size of the area swept daily from 106 to 192 miles.

During the month Coastal Force units searched 21,030 junks and 81,842 persons, detaining 15 junks and 248 suspects. On a daily average, 59 per cent of the Force's 209 available junks was on patrol.

On the afternoon of 5 June Coastal Group 35 units, responding to local intelligence, ambushed a Viet Cong junk in the Co Chien River, three miles east of Phu Vinh. Six Viet Cong were killed during the ensuing engagement, and several enemy weapons fell into the river. In addition, a quantity of documents was seized.

From 18 to 23 June, Coastal Group 14 and Quang Nam sector forces conducted Operation PHI HUNG 27 in an area 15 miles south-east of Danang. The results of the operation included ten enemy structures and three recoilless-rifle emplacements destroyed, and six Viet Cong captured and 24 suspects detained. Four other Viet Cong defected.

During the month the River Assault Groups conducted three

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operations in the First Naval Zone, six in the Third Riverine Area and nine in the Fourth Riverine Area. With a daily average employment of 70 per cent of the available 147 craft, the RAG units searched 2,512 junks and 6,586 persons, and detained two junks and five suspects.

In a Delta operation which started in May and extended through 16 June, units of RAGs 31 and 23 joined with two battalions of the ARVN 9th Division to drive the Viet Cong from the environs of the Mang Thit River and Nicolai Canal. The river and canal complex link the Co Chien and the Bassac rivers, and had been under Viet Cong domination for many years. During the operation the RAG units employed infrared equipment with effective results. Infrared searchlights were mounted on trucks and jeeps embarked in the RAG craft and the boat crews were equipped with infrared glasses and weapons sights. The equipment greatly enhanced the ability of the RAG patrols to detect enemy activity along and beyond the river banks, and land troop elements accordingly.

As a result of the highly successful sweep of the area, the marketplace at Mang Thit, dormant for years because of the Viet Cong presence, was opened.

In June the Vietnamese Navy conducted 22 logistic support missions, transporting 3,840 personnel and 3,134 tons of cargo. LSMs carried 44 per cent of the personnel and 51 per cent of the cargo; LSTs carried 30 per cent of the personnel and 31 per cent

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of the cargo; and LCUs carried 26 per cent of the personnel and 18 per cent of the cargo.

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

Throughout June Brigade Force A of the Vietnamese Marine Corps, consisting of a headquarters, the 4th and 5th Battalion, and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion continued Operation BAC TIEN 817 in the Bong Son area of the II Corps Tactical Zone. The Brigade encountered scattered action with the Viet Cong while conducting search and destroy and pacification missions. During the month Brigade units killed 66 Viet Cong, captured 27, and detained 115 suspects. Six Marines were killed and 35 were wounded.

Brigade Force B, composed of a headquarters, the 1st and 3rd Battalions, and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion remained in its base camp at Thu Duc until 7 June when it moved by motor convoy to the village of Tan Uyen, 17 miles north of Saigon. The next day the Brigade began operations to the north and east of Tan Uyen, meeting light resistance while destroying several enemy base camps. On 20 June, the 1st Battalion was lifted by helicopter to an area 20 miles north of Tan Uyen to help provide security to a U.S. FIRST Infantry Division support base as well as U.S. Army engineers widening Route 1A. The Battalion returned to Tan Uyen on the 25th. During the month Brigade units killed ten Viet Cong and captured one other. Nine Marines were killed, and 33 Marines and one U.S.

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advisor were wounded.

The 2nd Battalion continued its participation in Operation FAIRFAX, conducting search and destroy, pacification, civic action and rural reconstruction operations in the Nha Be district, south of Saigon. On 14 June the battalion returned to Thu Duc for three days, and then was assigned security duties at Go Vap and Vinh Loc, in the Capital Military District, for the rest of the month. The battalion did not engage any Viet Cong forces in June.

The 6th Battalion and Battery A of the Artillery Battalion, operating in the Rung Sat Special Zone, killed three Viet Cong and detained four suspects in scattered, brief skirmishes. Four Marines were wounded.

In June the operations of the Vietnamese Marine Corps accounted for 79 enemy killed, 28 captured and 119 suspects detained. During this period 15 Marines were killed, and 72 Marines and one U.S. advisor were wounded.

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APPENDIX I

USN/VNN/VNMC STATISTICS FOR JUNE 1967

U.S. NAVY:

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>	<u>STABLE DOOR</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
DETECTIONS	110,053	79,064	38,536	227,653
INSPECTIONS	40,533	21,861	7,217	69,611
BOARDINGS	27,103	39,322	4,175	70,600
PERSONS DETAINED	869	864	140	1,873
JUNKS DETAINED	82	25	31	138

MARKET TIME Detections of Steel Hulls 1,752
Total Steel Hulls Transiting MARKET TIME Areas 722

Disposition of the 722 Steel Hulls:

Inspected or boarded	151
Identified as not suspicious	190
Arrived/departed RVN ports	332
Unknown, not suspicious	49

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	<u>SEARCHED</u>		<u>DETAINED</u>	
<u>COASTAL FORCE</u>	<u>JUNKS</u>	<u>PEOPLE</u>	<u>JUNKS</u>	<u>PEOPLE</u>
I NZ	5,555	22,701	14	175
II NZ	6,783	26,598	1	16
III NZ	6,496	25,703	0	57
IV NZ	2,196	6,841	0	0
Sub-Totals	21,030	81,843	15	248
<u>FLEET COMMAND</u>				
PATROL SHIPS	624	2,745	7	9
<u>RIVERINE AREA</u>				
CRAFT	2,512	6,586	2	5
TOTALS	24,166	91,174	24	262

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

VC/NVA: 81 KIA, 28 CAPTURED, 124 SUSPECTS DETAINED.

VNMC: 14 KIA, 71 WIA.

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