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From: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)

Subj: U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, September 1967; forwarding of

Encl: (1) Coastal Surveillance Force Summary
(2) River Patrol Force Summary
(3) Riverine Assault Force Summary
(4) Naval Advisory Group Summary
(5) USN Statistical Summary
(6) VNN/VNMC Statistical Summary

1. In order to provide a more timely account of September's events, enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded herewith in lieu of the comprehensive summary usually prepared. A detailed account of the events will appear in September's Historical Supplement.

2. A summary of September's civic action activity is not available at this time because the individual unit reports are not received until about the 15th of the month. Action will be initiated to obtain this information at an earlier date in the future.

W. H. Croom, JR
Flag Secretary

Copy to:
COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, SJS)
Director of Naval History

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY

September 1967

In September MARKET TIME activity was especially high in the First Coastal Zone. In addition to detaining an unprecedented number of craft and people, the Zone's Swift boats and WPBs supported three operations conducted by the SEVENTH Fleet's Amphibious Ready Group and provided exfiltration patrols for three ground operations. The month was also marked by an increasing number of heavy-weapon attacks on patrolling units and shore facilities in this Zone. On 8 and 9 September, at a planning conference held in Cam Ranh Bay, a major overhaul program was established for PCFs. The hulls of many of the older Swifts have been reduced to as much as one-half of their original thickness by corrosion. The overhaul cycle will begin in December and, over a six-month period, 24 craft will be overhauled in increments of four each at Subic and Sasebo. On 30 September, in the Third Coastal Zone, the boundary lines between MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN operational areas at the major rivermouths were shifted inland an average of five miles; the adjustments were designed primarily to improve delineation and to take advantage of the greater seaworthiness of MARKET TIME craft.

On 2 September the facilities of Coastal Division 14's Cua Viet detachment were hit a number of times during the course of four B-40 and 140-mm. rocket attacks; the facilities sustained minor damage. The detachment's Swift boats sortied at the time of the first attack and came under fire from North Vietnamese artillery batteries located

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just south of the Demilitarized Zone. The Swifts subsequently spotted for USS BOSTON (CAG 1) and USS DUPONT (DD 941) as both ships hammered the enemy sites. From 4 to 14 September two Swifts and one Coast Guard Cutter provided exfiltration patrols for ROK Marines conducting Operation SEA DRAGON, 60 miles south of Danang. During this period the craft detained over 120 craft and approximately 2,000 persons. On 29 September WPBs POINT DUME and POINT ELLIS rescued two U.S. Marine Corps pilots from a downed aircraft, 58 miles northwest of Danang. The pilots were then transferred to USS GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG 20) for treatment. On the 30th, PCF 15 rescued a Marine pilot whose aircraft had crashed 48 miles southeast of Danang.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY

September 1967

During the first three days in September the Viet Cong continued their concerted attempts to deter Mekong Delta residents from voting, on the 3rd, in the national elections. Enemy attacks on Vietnamese outposts were particularly intense. Following the elections, there was a sharp decrease in other enemy activity. During the week of 10-16 September the number of Viet Cong-initiated incidents in the Delta declined to the lowest level recorded since mid-February. On 18 September USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838), with 10 PBRs embarked, arrived off the mouth of Cau Hai Bay, southeast of Hue, to begin Operation JREEN WAVE. The presence of the task unit (TU 116,1.3)--whose principal mission was to determine the feasibility of PBR operations in the I Corps Tactical Zone--marked the first time GAME WARDEN units have operated outside of the Delta and surrounding region. During the last week of the month enemy activity in the Delta began to increase. In a series of attacks in the upper Mekong and central and lower Bassac rivers, GAME WARDEN units came under heavy mortar, recoilless-rifle and B-40 rocket fire.

On the evening of 1 September, nine miles southeast of Can Tho, the town and outposts of Tra On were attacked by Viet Cong mortar fire. Binh Thuy-based PBRs sped to the assistance of the embattled town, engaging enemy emplacements on May Island while helicopters and an AC-47 struck enemy positions on the north side of the Bassac River. The quick-reaction response helped silence the Viet Cong sites, but not before a number of

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Vietnamese were wounded by the enemy fire. Twelve of the wounded were evacuated to Can Tho by the PBRs. In the Rung Sat Special Zone, a SEAL ambush conducted shortly after midnight on 22 September resulted in the death of at least three Viet Cong saboteurs and the capture of several weapons and documents, as well as a quantity of electrical equipment used to detonate controlled mines. The documents indicated that the Viet Cong had been members of D-2 Sapper Company, the unit reportedly responsible for several of the mining incidents that have occurred in the lower Long Tau River. On the 25th, a PBR patrol in the lower Bassac was attacked in mid-river by 81-mm. mortars and recoilless rifles emplaced in the Dung Island complex. Four PBRs, a helicopter fire team, and fixed-wing aircraft destroyed the enemy positions during the course of a three-hour fire fight in which three U.S. sailors were wounded. The following day a PBR patrol was ambushed four miles northeast of Sa Dec, in the Mekong River. The leading boat was hit by two rounds of B-40 rocket fire, which wounded the six personnel on board. Return fire from the PBRs and Navy helicopters killed two Viet Cong. On the 28th, PBR 100 was destroyed by enemy fire in a similar incident at the mouth of the Cai Coi River, three and one-half miles north of Vinh Long, when a cluster of B-40 rockets struck the coxswain's flat. Four crew members were wounded; two others were reported missing. During the first 10 days of Operation GREEN WAVE there was little contact with the enemy. On 28 September HUNTERDON COUNTY shifted to the Cua Dai River, 15 miles southeast of Danang. The next day a PBR crewman was killed during a series of sharp exchanges in which several boats were hit by small-arms and automatic-weapons fire from Viet Cong fortifications on the banks of the river.

RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY

September 1967

During the month the Mobile Riverine Force conducted a number of operations in various regions of the III and IV Corps areas. The operations resulted in the death of over 200 Viet Cong and the loss of tons of enemy munitions and supplies in base areas overrun by troops of the MRF or destroyed by gunfire from RAF craft and artillery positions. Six naval personnel were killed in September and 74 were wounded. Most of the casualties were caused by shrapnel from B-40 and RPG-7 rockets; these large caliber weapons have become the most effective Viet Cong defense against the movements of the Riverine Assault Force.

From 1 to 4 September the Mobile Riverine Force, operating from the Mobile Riverine Base anchored at the junction of the Vam Co and Soirap rivers, conducted Operation CORONADO IV in Go Cong and Long An provinces. Although contact with the enemy was light during this period, the commanding officer of the 46th ARVN Infantry Regiment cited the MRF's presence as a key factor in the large (92.2%) election-day turn-out of voters in the Can Giouc area. On 6 September the MRF began operations aimed at a Viet Cong support battalion in Bien Hoa province. On the 8th, U.S. troops discovered a large enemy base camp and captured 97 individual weapons, eight machine guns, over 50,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition, and several hundred large caliber shells as well as grenades and booby traps. On 11 September, the MRF shifted to Dong Tam to commence Operation CORONADO V against Viet Cong

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main-force and local-force units in Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa provinces. On the 15th three U.S. sailors were killed and 61 were wounded when the enemy ambushed RAF boats while they were taking up blocking stations along Ba Rai Creek. In this engagement, and for the first time in the IV Corps Tactical Zone, the presence of RPB-7 anti-tank rockets in the Viet Cong arsenal was confirmed. During this phase of CORONADO V, elements of the MRF killed 213 Viet Cong and probably killed 66 more. In addition, nearly 600 enemy bunkers, one recoilless rifle, one B-40 rocket launcher, several individual weapons and a quantity of ammunition were destroyed or captured. The operation ended on 16 September. The next phase was conducted against local-force units in base areas south and southwest of Ben Tre. On the 27th, following extensive artillery barrages and air strikes, RAF units landed troops along the west bank of Ben Tre creek. As the naval units were proceeding to blocking stations two ATCs were attacked by Viet Cong forces armed with recoilless rifles, automatic weapons and B-40 rockets. The return fire silenced the enemy positions, killing at least two Viet Cong. Three U.S. sailors were killed during the engagement; six others were wounded. On the 28th, the MRF moved to an anchorage near the northern end of Loi Quan Island to conduct operations in the Mo Cay and Huong My districts of Kien Hoa province. In a series of light skirmishes following the landing of U.S. troops on the 30th, five Viet Cong were killed and a quantity of weapons, medical supplies and rice was captured.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY

September 1967

On 30 September the personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy was 16,093 officers and enlisted men. During the month the Fleet Command, with 41 ships, had a daily average of 23 ships available and a daily average of 18 ships employed. Fleet Command units on coastal and river patrols fired a total of 46 gunfire support missions. On the 25th the VNN's PCB 09 relieved U.S. units of surveillance duties in patrol area 9L, off the west coast of Phu Quoc Island. The assignment was part of the continuing effort to phase VNN units into Operation MARKET TIME. The Coastal Force employed a daily average of 151 junks of the daily average of 166 available in September. The River Assault Groups conducted two operations in the First Naval Zone, seven in the Third Riverine Area and 11 in the Fourth Riverine Area. The RAGs had a daily average of 160 craft employed of the daily average of 167 craft available. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese Marine Corps' six Infantry Battalions and Artillery Battalion were committed to combat operations 83 percent of the time and made only light contact with the enemy. Brigade Force A conducted search and destroy operations east of Tan Uyen, 17 miles north of Saigon throughout the month; Brigade Force B continued operations in the Bong Son area of the II Corps Tactical Zone, and the 3rd Battalion operated in the Rung Sat Special Zone until the 15th.

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On the night of 6 September, six miles north of Qui Nhon, a nine-man ambush team from Coastal Group 22, responding to an intelligence report that a Viet Cong unit was about to attack the village of Vinh Quang, intercepted 10 enemy sampans as the craft crossed a stream en route to the village. With a nearby ARVN artillery unit providing illumination fire, the ambush team disrupted the attack group completely, killing two Viet Cong and probably killing three more. On the 11th, two sailors of Coastal Group 23 were killed when their junk was caught in a Viet Cong ambush in Song Cau Bay, 18 miles south of Qui Nhon. On 15 September, in the Van Co Tay River, a U.S. Army LCM-8 and a rock-laden barge en route to Tan An, were mined 19 miles south of Saigon. The detonation demolished the bow of the barge and blew off the LCM's bow ramp. A quick-reaction force of VNN sailors, on board escorting RAG 27 craft, was landed immediately and detained six suspects. On 24 September RAG 31 craft supported an ambush by a Provincial Reconnaissance Unit in a Viet Cong hamlet on the south bank of the Co Chien River, 14 miles south of Vinh Long. The PRU troops captured 12 Viet Cong and killed three more. The successful operation was planned and conducted on the basis of information provided by a Hoi Chanh.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY

September 1967

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>	<u>Mobile Riverine Force</u>
Detections	96,888	77,294	*
Inspections	36,556	16,603	*
Boardings	22,949	47,518	*
Craft detained	260	*	*
Persons detained	4,484	622	251
Viet Cong suspects	154	49	*
Hostile fire incidents	20	83	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	12	35	237
b. Wounded	22	4	*
c. Captured	0	12	27
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	0	6
b. Wounded	11	18	74
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	2	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	16	187	*
(2) Structures	21	*	*
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	0	3	*
(2) Weapons	1	8	114
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	20	170	50,000
(4) Rice (tons)	2	*	*
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	15	43	*
(2) Structures	61	*	*
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	1 (PBR)	0
(2) Helicopters	0	1	0
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	1 (WPB)	*	16
(2) Helicopters	5 (PCFs)	*	0
SAR missions	4	*	*

Remarks:

*Information not applicable or not available this date.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY

September 1967

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
<u>COASTAL FORCE</u>				
I NZ	10,150	41,200	0	160
II NZ	6,452	21,633	37	245
III NZ	9,034	32,211	0	5
IV NZ	3,914	11,395	0	0
Sub-totals	29,950	106,439	37	410
<u>FLEET COMMAND</u>				
<u>PATROL SHIPS</u>	428	1,944	0	1
<u>RIVERINE AREA</u>				
<u>CRAFT</u>	6,084	19,567	0	4
<u>TOTALS</u>	36,462	128,050	37	415

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: 12 KIA

VNMC: 9 KIA, 39 WIA

Remarks: None.

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Enclosure (6)