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Historical Summary, June 1968

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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,  
June 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT ltr FFI-1 5750 ser 1/6925 of 2 October 1967

- Encl:
- (1) Coastal Surveillance Force Summary
  - (2) River Patrol Force Summary
  - (3) Riverine Assault Force Summary
  - (4) Naval Advisory Group Summary
  - (5) Selected Psychological Operations
  - (6) USN Statistical Summary
  - (7) VNN/VNMC Statistical Summary
  - (8) USN Civic Action Statistical Summary

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are submitted.

2. The data contained in enclosures (6), (7) and (8) is based on information available this date. Any adjustments to enclosures (6), (7) and (8) will be reflected in June's Historical Supplement.

J. W. THOMPSON  
Flag Secretary

Copy to:  
COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, SJS)  
CNO (Op-09B91R)  
Director of Naval History



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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

During June MARKET TIME patrol units continued to maintain high levels of effectiveness and routine activity. Generally excellent weather conditions throughout the month favored a high level of indigenous junk and sampan traffic along the coast and in the harbors. The development of late afternoon rain squalls followed by gusty winds with choppy seas during the late evening and night in the northern patrol sectors did reduce the density of fishing activity in that area. Improvements in the enforcement of restricted areas by Vietnamese authorities has contributed to the effectiveness of MARKET TIME operations in some areas although many violations continue to occur.

The results of June MARKET TIME activity include the detection of 93,543 junks and sampans. Of these 46,737 were inspected and 23,768 were boarded. During these boardings, 1,286 suspicious persons were detained including 9 Viet Cong suspects. There were also 1,184 steel hulled vessels detected transiting MARKET TIME areas during the month, all of which were determined to be on innocent passage.

MARKET TIME units also participated in 18 ground operations by providing exfiltration/infiltration patrols and naval gunfire support. In addition, 334 naval gunfire missions were carried out for planned harassment and interdiction, targets of opportunity, and in response to 30 hostile fire incidents. These operations resulted in the

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destruction of 208 structures and 101 junks/sampans. Body counts indicated 47 enemy were killed in these actions with an additional 78 estimated as probably killed.

With all types of MARKET TIME units engaged in conducting the year's highest total of naval gunfire missions, Coast Guard units operating in the Fourth Coastal Zone achieved particularly impressive results firing with the aid of U. S. Army airborne spotters. In five of her missions between 2 and 7 June USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68) killed at least 10 Viet Cong, destroyed 23 junks and sampans, destroyed 28 structures, and damaged numerous other craft and structures in Viet Cong supply points and rest areas located along the coast within a few miles of the mouth of the Ong Doc River. From 12 through 17 June USCGC WINONA (WHEC 65) also scored heavily against Viet Cong concentrations in the same area with at least 9 Viet Cong killed (40 probable), 25 junks and sampans destroyed, 14 structures destroyed, and many other craft and structures damaged.

In the Second Coastal Zone PCF 62 participated in a ground operation by the 1st Regiment of the Korean Tiger Division in a mountainous area on the coast about 18 miles north of Qui Nhon. In this operation mortar fire from PCF 62 along with Korean artillery accounted for 5 Viet Cong killed in a three-hour long engagement. The Swift boat was fired on by recoilless rifles from the target area but no hits were sustained. During the entire sweep and search of the seaward slopes of the Phu Cat

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Mountains by the Tiger Division from the 18th through the 27th of the month MARKET TIME PCF's maintained a tight exfiltration patrol of about 15 miles of the coast line and fired several naval gunfire and illumination missions for the Korean forces. Enemy casualties resulting from the sweep totaled 127 killed, 21 captured, and numerous weapons and ammunition captured.

At approximately 0120 on the 16th PCF 19 on patrol near the coast just south of the 17th parallel reported it was receiving rocket shore fire. Communications with the Swift boat were lost shortly thereafter and USCGC POINT DUME which was cruising nearby reported observing two rockets fired at the craft with one near miss and a direct hit. The Swift boat disappeared from the POINT DUME's radar in about two minutes as she was proceeding to the scene. Two seriously wounded survivors were rescued by the Coast Guard cutter and five other Navy men from PCF 19 were lost. Later the POINT DUME, PCF 12, USS BOSTON (CAG 1) and HMAS HOBART were attacked by unidentified jet aircraft and/or helicopters. Air Force and Navy pilots reported downing several enemy helicopters and destroying others on the ground, however no hard evidence of the presence of North Vietnamese helicopters has been discovered. Reports of helicopter sightings at night by MARKET TIME units and Marine observers ashore have continued throughout the rest of the month. The incident is still being investigated by the Seventh Fleet.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY  
June 1968

In early June, intelligence indicated that the Viet Cong planned to move segments of their existing forces in IV Corps to support their continuing pressure on the Capital Military District (CMD) of Saigon/Cholon and its environs. As the month continued indications of increased Viet Cong activity were prevalent. GAME WARDEN units continued their daily round-the-clock patrols and were poised to meet any new enemy threats. Enemy harassment decreased on the Bassac; however, ambushes continued on the central My Tho and upper Ham Luong rivers.

In the RSSZ there was a definite rise in the number of incidents involving PBRs, aircraft and evading sampans. Where there had been an average of five incidents per month for the past three months the number increased three-fold. To counter the Viet Cong movement toward, and the enemy threat against, the CMD, GAME WARDEN operations were extended to provide one river section of PBRs to patrol the Dong Nai River between Nha Be and the Long Binh Bridge northeast of Saigon. SEALs also commenced operations for the first time along the waterways to the east of Saigon.

Four PBR crewmen were killed in two separate firefights when their patrol craft were attacked by enemy gunners. A PBR was destroyed during one of the engagements - the eighth PBR lost in combat.

GAME WARDEN support to RF/PF/PRU troops continued as the Vietnamese units exhibited more aggressiveness and conducted more frequent operations against the Viet Cong. In one instance, on 21 June, with PBR's and

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Navy armed helicopters providing cover support, 90 PMU's stormed a Viet Cong prison camp 8 miles west of Long Toan, near the mouth of the Bassac River. The whirlwind attack culminated in the release of 29 Vietnamese prisoners. Unfortunately, as the tide of the battle turned against the Viet Cong prison guards they fired on the prisoners killing four and wounding eight.

On 6 June a PBR patrol received heavy automatic weapons fire from four enemy positions on Tau Dinh Island on the lower Bassac. The patrol was unable to suppress the fire that killed GMG2 Mitchell A. WENTZ, USN and seriously wounded one other.

On 8 June PBR 750, while on patrol on the My Tho River about 2½ miles southeast of Cai Be, came under heavy rocket and automatic weapons fire. The boat was hit by a B-40 rocket, wounding three crewmen and causing minor damage. On 21 June, PBR 750 was once again the target of enemy fire in the same area. This time the Viet Cong achieved devastating results. PBR 750 had pursued and captured an enemy sampan that had evaded up a small canal off the My Tho River. As the patrol boat cleared the canal, with the sampan in tow, the Viet Cong unleashed a voluminous hail of rocket fire from ambush. Two rockets scored direct hits on the boat setting it ablaze. The burning boat went out of control and headed for the beach and four more accurately fired B-40 rockets hit the disabled craft. As PBR 723, the cover boat, returned the enemy automatic weapons fire, GMG2 FORD was observed, with his clothing ablaze,

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pushing the wounded crewmen from the burning boat. The cover boat moved in and picked up two wounded PBR sailors, one Vietnamese national policeman and one Viet Cong suspect from the water. Two additional PBR's and four Navy helicopters were on the scene in about 10 minutes and the enemy fire was suppressed. Three crewmen were still missing and an intense search was initiated by nine additional PBRs and one hundred Vietnamese PF troops. The charred body of BML Scott G. DELPH, USN was found in the cockpit of PBR 750 that had burned to the water-line. The body of the patrol officer LT WILLIAM E. DENNIS, USN was recovered from the water later that evening; however, the body of GMG2 Patrick O. FORD, USN was not found until 25 June. Casualties inflicted upon the enemy were undetermined.

On 24 June, two "Seawolf" strikes conducted about 6 miles north of Sa Dec killed 18 Viet Cong, wounded 12 and destroyed 6 sampans.

On 25 June PBRs and "Seawolves" teamed up and wounded 13 Viet Cong in an action initiated when the Viet Cong attacked a PBR patrol conducting a psyop loud-speaker mission 6 miles east of Vinh Long. Two junks and three sampans were also destroyed with no friendly casualties.

On 26 June, on the Co Chien River, a SEAL platoon ambushed two sampans, about 5 miles north of Phu Vinh, killing eight Viet Cong. Meanwhile, on the Bassac River, a SEAL platoon killed four Viet Cong and detained eight others in a raid on a small village on Dung Island, 6 miles east of Long Phu. On 29 June SEALs patrolling on an island on

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the Co Chien River, 7 miles northwest of Phu Vinh, encountered and  
killed 8 Viet Cong.

At the close of the month there were 193 PBRs in country.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY  
June 1968

The early days of June were characterized by very light and sporadic contact with the enemy, which was in sharp contrast to the bitterly contested battles fought during the previous month. Another MRF milestone was attained when a third river assault squadron commenced combat operations. RAS 13, operating from the Nha Be Naval Base in Gia Dinh Province, received its baptism under fire when it engaged the enemy on 16 June 6 miles southwest of Nha Be in the Rung Sat Special Zone. Casualties in the MRF were at the lowest level since November 1967 as U. S. Navy forces had 24 wounded but no fatalities while U. S. Army forces suffered 15 killed and 81 wounded. Cumulative enemy casualties for the month were 147 killed.

On 10 June riverine units of TF 117 were engaged in three separate clashes with the Viet Cong near Ben Tre in Kien Hoa Province. The most violent fighting took place just prior to sunset after riverine units landed three companies of the 4/47th Infantry Battalion at beaches on the Tai Phu Stream, 4 miles southeast of Ben Tre. Three troop-laden enemy sampans were detected trying to cross the narrow stream and were destroyed. Sixteen Viet Cong were killed in this action, while Navy casualties consisted of one sailor wounded. Earlier, in a pre-dawn fire fight along the Giao Hoa Canal 5 miles northeast of Ben Tre, the assault craft killed four other Viet Cong when one of the U. S. Navy boats was ambushed with enemy rockets and automatic weapons from the heavily wooded

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canal bank. There were nine Navymen wounded (two serious) in the engagement. Meanwhile, the MRF assault troops killed an additional 25 guerrillas, destroyed 139 bunkers and captured 11,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition, while having 9 Armymen wounded.

In the most significant confrontation of the month, the MRF engaged the Viet Cong in a series of skirmishes about 10 miles west of Can Tho in Phong Dinh Province. During the five-day operation (17-21 June) the enemy left 82 combatants dead while friendly forces had 4 soldiers killed and 38 Armymen and 3 sailors wounded. The MRF units also captured 2 prisoners, 19 weapons and destroyed 39 bunkers.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY  
June 1968

During the month the Fleet Command had an average of 24.5 ships available and employed an average of 23.4. These ships provided 54 gunfire support missions. At the same time the coastal force had an average of 190 junks available and employed an average of 188 of them. The RAGs utilized an average of 170.1 of an average 175.2 available craft during June. Meanwhile, the six infantry battalions and one artillery battalion of the VMC, with USMC advisors, were committed to operations 100 percent of the time.

Throughout the month, Task Force A, composed of the 1st, 5th and 6th Infantry Battalions, continued to operate in northeast Saigon in Operation TUAN THANG under the operational control of the Capital Military District. The battalions were bitterly opposed on the 1st and 2nd of June near the Bien Lai Bridge on Route #1 crossing the Saigon River, but emerged victorious with a total of 121 enemy dead and 7 captured in those two days of fighting. Four Marines were killed, one drowned and 15 others were wounded. On 11 June the 2nd Battalion was detached from the Sixth Precinct of Saigon and joined Task Force A, assuming an area of operations near the Newport Bridge on Route #1A in northeast Saigon. The 18th of June found the 1st and 6th Battalions again pitted against an aggressive enemy southwest of the Bien Loi Bridge. Having trapped

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the Viet Cong, the marines repeatedly repulsed their attempts to break the encirclement. The results of the day's operations were:

<u>VNMC</u>		<u>VC/NVA</u>	
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>CHIEU HOI</u>
2	19	65	2

Task Force B, composed of the 3rd and 4th Infantry Battalions, continued the TRUONG CONG DINH Campaign in IV CTZ under the operational control of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam 21st Division. Small unit patrols characterized the month's activities.

On 10 June the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) took command of 14 specialized U. S. Navy river craft and assumed exclusive military responsibilities that previously were held by U. S. Naval forces. Six of the boats are LCMs, specially configured landing craft for chain-drag minesweeping. The boats are now commanded, operated and supported by officers and men of the Vietnamese Navy and perform the vital job of clearing mines from the strategic Long Tau River channel to Saigon. The LCMs have augmented the ten operating Vietnamese Navy MLMSs that have been conducting mine counter-measure operations on the Long Tau and Dong Ngai rivers.

The other eight river craft are PBRs identical to those utilized by Operation GAME WARDEN forces. The newly formed VNN River Patrol Group 51 currently patrols the Long Tau River along with the Task Force 116 units of GAME WARDEN. The Vietnamese Navy PBRs ultimately will join

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other U. S. units on the major rivers of the Delta as important additions to the GAME WARDEN efforts to deny the use of strategic waterways to the enemy and to ensure their safe usage to the citizens of the Republic of Vietnam.

The first full company of Vietnamese Navy recruits (100) left Saigon on 14 June for eight weeks of basic training at the U. S. Naval Recruit Training Center, San Diego, California. Two Vietnamese Navy officers and three chief petty officers accompanied the hand-picked, highly motivated volunteer recruits. Since the Tet Offensive the Vietnamese Navy has been swamped with volunteers and the recruit training centers at Saigon and Nha Be have been overloaded, the recruits spending weeks awaiting training. The recruits selected to attend NRTC San Diego are all high school graduates, speak some English and at least half of them hold 2-year college degrees. Preliminary training in Saigon included drill, seamanship and swimming, and a familiarization course in English. At NRTC San Diego, the recruits receive the same training as American sailors, except for classes which deal with strictly U. S. interests such as history, the U. S. Code of Conduct and military justice. Besides providing a pool of qualified men for possible future training at U. S. Navy schools, their knowledge and understanding of American sailors will enable them to work more closely with their U. S. advisors.

Enclosure (4)

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS

June 1968

Psychological and civic action operations continued to be actively pursued during the month. The Viet Cong recognizing the inroads being made by the Naval forces continued to intensify their counter-attacks. Forty-two per cent of the broadcasting missions conducted drew hostile fire. The majority of the incidents occurred in the Delta. In one incident, PBRs and Navy "Seawolves" wounded 18 Viet Cong following an attack on a PBR patrol conducting a "psyop" speaker mission six miles east of Vinh Long. Captured Viet Cong prisoners and Hoi Chanhs frequently stated that in many units troop morale was low due to lack of food and the B-52 bombing raids. The intensification of the Chieu Hoi program was initiated to capitalize on the reported Viet Cong morale problems.

In the field of civic action US/GVN image building continued with over 12,000 VN patients receiving treatment during MEDCAPS conducted by USN and VNN personnel. In one MEDCAP operation, intelligence was received from villagers on the location of two arms caches and one Viet Cong defense platoon in the Binh Dai Secret Zone. During another, villagers provided information of two Viet Cong suppliers. Intelligence sources reported that an increase in Viet Cong pressure on the peninsula east of Qui Nhon was attributed to an active program conducted by VNN CG 22 and USN COSDIV 15. The Viet Cong continued their attempts to counter medical and refugee

Enclosure (5)

relief and other civic action projects which have resulted in improved relations between USN and VNN personnel and villagers.

On 10 June speeding PBRs medically evacuating a pregnant Vietnamese woman to the hospital lost the race to the stork. The birth of the fourth Vietnamese baby on a PBR was witnessed. On a previous incident, in honor of the PBR sailors there is now one Vietnamese child in the Delta with the middle name of "PBR."

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY

June 1968

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>	<u>Mobile Riverine Force</u>
Detections	94,727	119,486	*
Inspections	47,544	31,233	*
Boardings	23,851	51,779	*
Craft detained	*	14	0
Persons detained	1,286	1,062	245
Viet Cong suspects	9	390	*
Hostile fire incidents	30	75	*
<b>Enemy casualties:</b>			
a. Killed	47 (78 prob)	89	1147
b. Wounded	8 (10 prob)	12	*
c. Captured	2	12	6
<b>USN casualties:</b>			
a. Killed	5	4	0 USN/15 USA
b. Wounded	3	43	24 USN/81 USA
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0
<b>Enemy material losses:</b>			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	101	95	80
(2) Structures	208	221	474
b. Captured			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	0	0
(2) Weapons	*	1 CS/1 Ind	40**
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	0	19,170
(4) Rice (tons)	*	0	1.4
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	79	136	*
(2) Structures	403	224	*
<b>USN material losses:</b>			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	1	1	0
(2) Helicopters	0	0	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	1	9	14
(2) Helicopters	0	9	*
SAR missions	*	*	*

**Remarks:**

- \* \* Information not applicable or not available this date.
- \*\* Includes 14 grenades and 1 mine.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
June 1968

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

<u>COASTAL FORCE</u>	<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
I NZ	25,740	89,811	9	254
II NZ	24,380	80,793	25	263
III NZ	15,090	43,392	0	0
IV NZ	5,369	19,713	0	0
Sub-totals	70,579	233,709	34	517
<u>FLEET COMMAND</u>				
PATROL SHIPS	2,217	10,381	16	70
<u>RIVERINE AREA</u>				
CRAFT	9,435	32,264	0	0
<u>TOTALS</u>	82,231	276,354	50	587

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: KIA 294 VC CAPTURED 182 VC SUSPECTS 8  
VNMC: KIA 26 WIA 196  
USMC: WIA 1

Remarks:

33 Hoi Chanh rallied to the GVN during Operation TOAN THANG this month.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
June 1968

PROGRAM:

	<u>Man Days</u>	<u>Expenditures (VI\$)</u>
Economic Development	33	35,000
Education	47	829,857
Social Welfare	601	1,060,047
Transportation	4	-
Refugee Assistance Support	73	55,500
TOTAL	758	1,980,404

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS:

125,970

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	<u>Number</u>
Schools	21
Hospitals/dispensaries	23
Orphanages	11
Others	3

PERCENT OF U. S. CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH:

	<u>Percent</u>
Other FVMAF	15.5
RVNAF	37.5
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	16.0
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	69.5

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