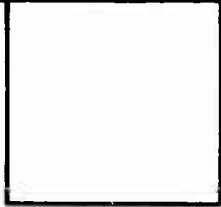


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AD-A953 626

DTIC ACCESSION NUMBER

U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly  
Historical Summary, April 1968

DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION

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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, April 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT ltr FF1-1 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) VNM/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 and is subject to revisions as later information is received. Any adjustments to enclosures (6), (7) and (8) will be reflected in April's Historical Supplement.

S. T. ORME  
Chief of Staff

Copy to:  
COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, SJS)  
CNO (Op-09B9LE)  
Director of Naval History



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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY (TASK FORCE 115)  
April 1968

MARKET TIME patrol units in the four Coastal Zones maintained excellent patrol effectiveness during April as the weather continued to be good throughout a high percentage of the month. Indigenous fishing activity and coastal cargo traffic returned to near normal proportions during the month with a corresponding high level of routine MARKET TIME activity.

In April MARKET TIME units detected 66,543 junks and sampans; 27,216 of these were inspected and 9,807 were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 523 suspicious persons. In addition, 1,256 steel-hulled craft were detected transitting MARKET TIME areas during the month. The month's activity also included providing numerous exfiltration/infiltration patrols in support of ground operations, 242 naval gunfire support missions and 27 hostile fire incidents. As a result of these operations, 37 enemy structures and 12 junks were destroyed. In addition, 46 Viet Cong were killed (eight probable),

On 1 April MARKET TIME air surveillance forces suffered the loss of a P3B Orion and its crew when a Patrol Squadron TWENTY-SIX aircraft crashed at sea, five miles south of An Thoi on Phu Quoc Island in the Gulf of Thailand. The aircraft, operating out of U Tapao, Thailand, was on a routine MARKET TIME patrol when the Coastal Surveillance Center at An Thoi requested assistance in establishing visual reconnaissance of a Cambodian LSSL which was reported to be offloading cargo to sampans near the Cambodian

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Island of Hon Doc in the Gulf of Thailand. The aircraft responded to the request and moments later reported it had received hostile fire and intended to ditch. The aircraft was observed with its outboard starboard engine on fire, a large hole in the outer section of the starboard wing and both starboard engines feathered as it passed over the southern tip of Phu Quoc Island. SAR and salvage operations commenced immediately after the crash. There were no survivors among the 12 crewmembers and at month's end a thorough investigation of the salvaged wreckage was being conducted.

During the afternoon of the 3rd, USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN (WHEC 68) conducted a naval gunfire mission against an estimated enemy battalion 36 miles north-northeast of Ca Mau Point near the coast of the Gulf of Thailand. Responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne spotter, the cutter killed six Viet Cong, wounded four others, destroyed five structures and damaged an additional 15.

On the 6th PCFs 21 and 99 observed approximately 100 people unloading sampans along the beach 19 miles north-northwest of Danang. The Swift boats utilized their loudspeakers in an attempt to summon the people to the PCFs for interrogation with negative results. The Swifts then notified 1st MARDIV authorities of the situation and were requested to commence a naval gunfire mission immediately. The mission resulted in the death of three Viet Cong.

USCGC MINNETONKA (WHEC 67) provided 5-inch naval gunfire against an

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enemy position 3 1/2 miles north of Ca Mau Point on the 11th. Utilizing an airborne spotter, the cutter destroyed one sampan and killed two Viet Cong. In another mission in the same general area on the 15th, MINNETONKA destroyed eight structures and two sampans.

Also on the 15th, a special PCF naval gunfire element consisting of four PCFs conducted an intensive gunfire mission on an area of extensive Viet Cong bunkers, firing positions and structures 43 miles northwest of Rach Gia on the coast of the Gulf of Thailand. The area, which had been the scene of numerous hostile fire incidents in recent weeks, was saturated with 81-mm mortars and .50 caliber machine-gun fire. An airborne spotter reported all rounds on target, destroying 45 structures and killing one Viet Cong (probable).

From the 20th to the 27th of April, a combined operation was held in the Qui Nhon vicinity. While ROK Army forces swept the area, U. S. naval forces utilizing PCFs and PBRs provided blocking patrols. The successful operation, which also utilized helicopter gunships, artillery, attack aircraft and landing craft, resulted in more than 200 enemy troops being killed and 76 others captured. In addition, 90 individual weapons and 14 crew-served weapons were captured.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY

April 1968

The proliferation of enemy automatic weapons and rockets was evidenced in the Viet Cong attacks from ambush against Navy units and commercial shipping. GAME WARDEN units were directed to institute aggressive measures against the enemy to offset any attempt by the enemy to increase his tempo of operations to enhance his position in any possible future negotiations. Minesweepers made repeated recoveries of electrical wire during sweeps on the Long Tau River, indicating a possible step up in enemy mining efforts. Four free-floating mines were found on the Long Tau, about four miles southeast of Nha Be, on 28 April. The mines were identical in design to those found in February and brings to 10 the number detected. On 26 April, while on a Long Tau minesweeping patrol, a LCM was ambushed by the Viet Cong. One U. S. Navyman was wounded, one VNN LCM-trainee was killed and three other trainees were wounded in the attack. The enemy fire was suppressed by return fire from the minesweeper and a PBR patrol. The commercial tug MICHAEL (Alaskan Barge and Tug Company) and the SS TULANE VICTORY (MSTS) were attacked by enemy forces on separate occasions. On 7 April the MICHAEL was hit by rockets and automatic-weapons on the My Tho river, about eight miles north of Vinh Long. The Master and Mate were killed in the attack. PBRs, responding to the attack, arrived on the scene 15 minutes later and escorted the tug clear of the ambush area. On 25 April SS TULANE VICTORY was hit, six miles southeast of Nha Be on the Long Tau, while en

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route to Saigon. The ship received at least two RPG-7 rocket hits, plus heavy automatic-weapons fire, along the starboard side. Penetration damage was sustained in five positions and the starboard life boat was heavily damaged. There were no personnel casualties. PBRs, Navy "Seawolves" and Army helicopters converged on the enemy firing positions and suppressed the fire shortly after the attack began. GAME WARDEN units supported the ROKA Operation, MAENG HO II, on the Qui Nhon peninsula in II Corps Tactical Zone, marking their first entry into this theater of operations. River Section 532 and USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) provided blocking forces for the Korean ground sweep, conducted 20-26 April, and resulted in 206 Viet Cong killed and 76 captured. There were no TF 116 casualties. General KIM, Chief of Staff, ROKA, visiting Korean forces in Vietnam, advised that complete success of operations occurred only as a direct result of the presence of PBR and MARKET TIME units in blocking the waterways.

On 12 April PBRs, "Seawolves" and an LST supported a PF/RF ground operation 15 miles southeast of Can Tho along the Vong Canal. The troops were landed by PBR and contact with the Viet Cong was immediately made. In the ensuing ground fighting, 11 Viet Cong were killed and 10 were captured. The most significant accomplishment of the seven-hour operation was the liberation of 34 Vietnamese prisoners found chained in bunkers when the ground troops overran a Viet Cong prison camp.

On 24 April a Mark II PBR was sunk while transitting the Ben Tre/Chet

Enclosure (2)

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Say Canal. The incident occurred as the four-boat task unit was attacked by the Viet Cong with heavy B-40 and automatic-weapons fire, seven miles southwest of My Tho. PBR 7-12 was disabled by two rocket hits and beached. An attempt was made to tow the boat from the attack area, however, it rapidly flooded and sank in 35 feet of water. Immediate salvage was not considered possible due to the lack of installed flotation material, compounded by the fact that the sinking occurred in a Viet Cong-controlled area. The hulk was destroyed by aircraft bombing to preclude subsequent salvage by the enemy. During the action, all boats suffered battle damage and eight PBR sailors were wounded--one seriously.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY

April 1968

Task Force 117 operations during the month of April consisted primarily of supporting the 2nd Brigade of the U. S. NINTH Infantry Division's participation in Operation TRUNG CONG DINH.

On 4 April the MRF launched a two-battalion reconnaissance-in-force operation in Truc Giang and Giong Trom districts of Kien Hoa province against the Viet Cong 516th Main Force Battalion and the 560th Local Force company. About 0840 that morning, as units of River Assault Squadron NINE, with troops of the 3/47th and 3/60th Infantry Battalions embarked, were proceeding west along the Ba Lai river, they were ambushed four miles northeast of Ben Tre. Short of their designated landing beaches the riverine column was struck with rockets, automatic weapons and small arms from a heavily wooded area on both sides of the river. In spite of the heavy casualties, the boats landed their troops in the face of intense enemy fire, and a violent fire fight ensued. The RPG-7 (B-41) rockets damaged three monitors, six troop carriers and two ASPBs. Fierce, but sporadic, contacts with the enemy continued until 7 April, when RADs 91 and 92, with their assigned infantrymen, returned to the MRB that evening. While the friendly forces killed 102 Viet Cong and captured four prisoners in the action, the four-day operation was a costly one for the MRF. Thirty-one U. S. personnel were killed, three of whom were Navymen, and 152 were wounded, including 36 sailors and two U. S. Marines. On 14-15 April

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the MRF culminated a successful two-day operation in Giong Trom district of Kien Hoa province, killing 16 Viet Cong, destroying 223 bunkers, and discovering a large ammunition cache. The cache contained 152 grenades, 102 rockets/recoilless-rifle rounds, four mines, and over 12,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition. On 15 April USS BENEWAH (APB 35) and USS TOM GREEN COUNTY (LST 1159), anchored with the MRB in the Mekong river seven miles southeast of My Tho, were struck with several 57/75-mm recoilless-rifle rounds and sustained minor damage. There were no fatalities, however, 14 Navymen and four soldiers were wounded in the attack. On 17-18 April the MRF continued Operation TRUONG CONG DINH in the Long Dinh and Cai Lay districts of Dinh Tuong province to locate and destroy the Viet Cong 514th Main Force Battalion. The Viet Cong suffered heavy casualties, losing 98 combatants, nine weapons, eight tons of rice and 239 bunkers to the assault forces of the MRF. Friendly forces lost four soldiers killed and 30 Armymen wounded. On 23-24 April the MRF, in coordination and cooperation with the 2nd Battalion of the Vietnamese Marine Corps, conducted a three-battalion reconnaissance-in-force operation in Giao Duc district of Dinh Tuong province in search of the Viet Cong 502 Battalion. The cumulative results of the two-day operation were 61 Viet Cong killed, two wounded and two more captured, while friendly forces lost one U. S. soldier and four Vietnamese Marines. There were three Navymen, six Army soldiers and 27 Vietnamese Marines wounded.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY  
April 1968

During the month the Fleet Command had a daily average of 25 ships available and employed an average of 22 daily. These ships provided 49 gunfire support missions. At the same time the Coastal Force had an average of 178.7 junks available and employed an average of 166.1 of them daily. The RAGs utilized 133.8 of their 141.7 available craft during April. Meanwhile the six infantry battalions and one artillery battalion of the VNMC were committed to operations 100 percent of the time. Task Force A, composed of the 4th, 5th and 6th Infantry Battalions, remained under the operational control of the Capital Military District, experiencing slight enemy contact. On 2 April the 5th Infantry Battalion went to the base camp at Thu Duc as a ready reaction force and the 1st Battalion joined the Task Force. On 8 April, the 4th Battalion returned to their base at Vung Tau and the 5th Battalion rejoined Task Force A. Task Force B, in the first half of April, was composed of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions and operated under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Infantry Division in IV Corps Tactical Zone. On 16 April the 4th Battalion was deployed to IV Corps Tactical Zone to relieve the 2nd Infantry Battalion which augmented the MRF as a two-company ready reaction posture for air mobility on 17 April.

Increased employment of VNN craft and ARVN forces in offensive

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operations during April achieved outstanding success with unprecedented results. Operations of the TRUONG CONG DINH series in particular combined the infantry power of the ARVN 7th Division and U. S. Army troops with the mobility of RAGs 21/33 and 23/31 river craft and VNN Fleet Command ships. Three such operations were TRUONG CONG DINH 7/10/7, 4-7 April, on Oc Island in the Ham Luong river; TRUONG CONG DINH 7/SD/7, 7-10 April, in Binh Tuong province, between Sa Dec and Vinh Long; and TRUONG CONG DINH SD/7/10, 17-19 April, in Binh Tuong province, seven miles northwest of Long Tam. These combined forces operations netted a total of 234 Viet Cong killed, 31 of the enemy captured and 31 suspects detained. U. S. and ARVN forces suffered 63 killed and 304 wounded; there were no VNN casualties. During each operation, the RAG craft and Fleet Command ships carried the troops to the area of operations, inserted them, then conducted blocking and patrolling operations, providing gunfire and medevac support. In addition to the results stated above, a lengthy list of enemy weapons and ammunition, communications and diving equipment, bunkers and numerous other enemy supplies were captured or destroyed. Five ARVN soldiers were liberated during Operation TRUONG CONG DINH 7/SD/7. Continued daily operations, smaller in nature, were carried out by the RAGs and VNN craft that pruned the enemy from their positions on the highways of the Delta; i.e., the rivers, streams and canals. Just such action took place on 16 April when RAG 21 units inserted ARVN forces on

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Thoi Son Island, in the My Tho river. As two Infantry Battalions closed from the north and south of the island, the MAG craft provided the blocking force to the north. Two Viet Cong were killed, six of the enemy were captured, including two female cadre, and another three suspects were detained; one VNN sailor was wounded. Illustrative also of the VNN Coastal Group efforts in combined action was Operation LAM SAN 214, 19-22 April. Conducted in Thua Thien province, I Corps Tactical Zone, Coastal Group 12 junks, local forces, a U. S. Army Special Forces company and a U. S. Marine Corps company killed 40 Viet Cong; 10 Viet Cong were captured and eight suspects were detained. Nine ARVN soldiers were killed and 21 wounded; there were no other friendly casualties.

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Psychological and Civic Action Operations  
April 1968

With the emphasis on offensive operations by tactical units, psyops personnel followed suit by a stepped up increase in loudspeaker broadcasts. With the majority of programmed psyops equipment now in country and installed, the naval units were able to reach a greater number of listeners. Ultimately each PCF in TF 115 will be equipped with a 250-watt speaker and cartridge tape recorder; each PBR river section in TF 116 will have one 250-watt and five 25-watt units plus a cartridge tape recorder for each; and in TF 117 there will be three 250-watt units with cartridge tape recorders. In TF 117, tactical psyops, i.e., directed against enemy troops, showed a marked increase as a result of the assignment of Navy psyops personnel to CTF 117 staff. Previously all support was provided by the U. S. Army. In consonance with President JOHNSON's speech on 31 March and in keeping with policy established by Washington concerning the President's initiative and possible peace talks, a program was developed to keep the people of South Vietnam currently informed on the factual developments of the peace talk negotiations. Surface and aerial speaker broadcasts and leaflet distribution was the selected media for the dissemination of information.

In the area of civic action naval units continued to assist the people of South Vietnam in the recovery from the Tet Offensive. Naval units contributed \$4,359 to the Tet Aggression Relief Project (TARP).

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As part of the TARP effort the NAVSUPACT Danang formulated plans to assist in the construction of approximately 30,000 homes in Hue for refugees. In the Delta the River Patrol Force constructed a school and purchased classroom equipment and school supplies for refugee children in the Can Tho area. The conduct of MEDCAPs continued to be evidenced throughout the Republic as navy units in a spirit of friendship traveled to the villages and hamlets to bring medical assistance to those in need.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY

April 1968

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>	<u>Mobile Riverine Force</u>
Detections	67,799	98,445	*
Inspections	28,144	24,677	*
Boardings	9,875	51,365	*
Craft detained	*	16	*
Persons detained	523	938	219
Viet Cong suspects	2	45	*
Hostile fire incidents	27	97	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	46 (8 prob.)	106	285
b. Wounded	22 (12 prob.)	40	1
c. Captured	1	13	11
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	2	3 USN/34 USA/4 VNMC
b. Wounded	0	49	66 USN/170 USA/28 VNMC
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	1 USA
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	12	158	2
(2) Structures	37	290	1,665
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	16	0
(2) Weapons	*	*	143**
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	*	12,365***
(4) Rice (tons)	*	*	10
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	10	288	0
(2) Structures	141	199	0
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	1	0
(2) Helicopters	*	0	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	3	27	15
(2) Helicopters	*	21	*
SAR missions	*	0	0

Remarks:

\* Information not applicable or not available this date.

\*\* Includes 111 grenades and six mines.

\*\*\* Includes 115 mortar, rocket and recoilless-rifle rounds.

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VNM/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
April 1968

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	15,650	50,754	14	195
II NZ	14,315	45,091	17	175
III NZ	8,585	31,327	0	2
IV NZ	4,555	14,711	0	0
Sub-totals	43,105	141,883	31	372
<u>Fleet Command</u>				
<u>Patrol Ships</u>	2,368	9,355	1	16
<u>Riverine Area</u>				
<u>Craft</u>	3,962	15,202	0	21
<u>Totals</u>	<u>49,435</u>	<u>166,440</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>409</u>

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: 72 KIA    7 Captured    38 Suspects detained

VNMC: 10 KIA    68 WIA

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
April 1968\*

PROGRAMS:

	<u>Man Days</u>	<u>Expenditures(VN\$)</u>
Economic Development	6	42,000
Education	69	77,403
Social Welfare	315	1,071,022
Transportation	10	0
Refugee Assistance Support	45	19,470
TOTALS	445	1,209,895

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS:

98,294

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	<u>Number</u>
Schools	22
Hospitals/dispensaries	16
Orphanages	13
Others	5

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

	<u>Percent</u>
Other FVNAF	15
RVNAF	33
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	6
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	59

Remarks:

- \* Reporting period is 26 March - 25 April. This is the new format for the USN Civic Action Statistical Summary.

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