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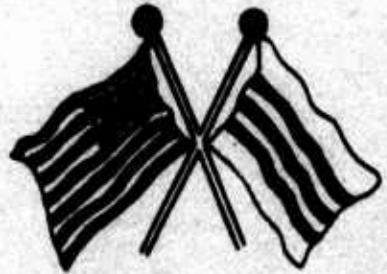
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U.S. NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM

AD-A953 637



MONTHLY HISTORICAL
SUMMARY
JULY 1967

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UNITED STATES
NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY

JULY 1967

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
APO San Francisco 96214

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July 1967

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded. The Summary is a resume of the month's significant events; a more detailed review of the month's activities will be contained in July's Historical Supplement.


W. H. CROOM, Jr.
Flag Secretary

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RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

On the night of 9 July, two miles downstream from Nha Be, a PBR patrol in pursuit of an evading sampan came under heavy fire from enemy emplacements on the bank. The patrol requested artillery support which subsequently silenced the enemy positions and enabled the PBRs to capture two sampans and numerous Viet Cong documents and uniforms. At least one Viet Cong was killed during the engagement. There were no U.S. casualties.

On 20 July, two SEAL squads were landed in an area near the suspected headquarters of the Viet Cong commander of the RSSZ. The squads made contact with small enemy units, killing four Viet Cong and capturing two carbines, a submachine gun, medical supplies, and several pounds of documents. There were no U.S. casualties.

A PBR crewman was killed and another wounded by a Viet Cong sniper in the early morning of 23 July. The incident occurred four miles southeast of Nha Be, with the sniper firing from an estimated range of 400 yards. The results of the PBRs' return fire were undetermined.

On the night of 31 July, in the same general area, PBRs provided gunfire support for elements of Regional Force Company 999 under attack on the east bank of the Long Tau River. The combined fire of the PBRs and RF troops eventually forced the Viet Cong to retreat. There were no friendly casualties. The extent of the enemy's losses was undetermined.

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DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

On 8 July, 11 miles west of My Tho, a Viet Cong shore unit attacked a PBR pursuing an evading sampan. The patrol boat returned the fire then withdrew as artillery fire struck the enemy positions. At least one Viet Cong was killed during the engagement, and two enemy sampans and five structures were destroyed. A U.S. sailor and a Vietnamese maritime policeman were wounded. On 19 July, in a similar incident in the same area, a PBR patrol killed six Viet Cong and destroyed three enemy craft.

On 31 July, a seven-man SEAL squad conducted a daylight raid against a Viet Cong base area on Ilo Ilo Island. After a brief exchange of fire the enemy fled; the SEALs then destroyed 14 structures in the area, and seized several weapons and a quantity of medical supplies and documents.

Operations in the Ham Luong River

On 2 July, nine miles south of Ben Tre, a PBR patrol detected five Viet Cong unloading a large junk on the south bank of the river. As the PBRs approached, they came under fire from enemy positions behind the bank. The PBRs suppressed the shore fire, killed the five Viet Cong and sank the junk. There were no U.S. casualties.

On 25 July, two Navy helicopters disrupted the movements of three enemy companies along the Ba Lai River, three miles north of Ben Tre. The helicopters launched four strikes against the enemy,

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then spotted for artillery fire from Dong Tam. There were no U.S. casualties. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

On the evening of 30 July, the GAME WARDEN support ship USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) attacked enemy positions in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone. Acting on an intelligence report subsequently confirmed by the ship's helicopter fire team, HUNTERDON COUNTY's 40-mm. fire struck a number of enemy sites, triggering a series of secondary explosions. The ship's fire followed two helicopter strikes which destroyed seven Viet Cong structures, damaged six others, and initiated an explosion in a bunker complex.

Operations in the Co Chien and Upper Mekong Rivers

On 7 July, in the Long Toan Secret Zone, two PBRs acting as a blocking force for Vietnamese troops came under fire from a hut near the beach. The PBRs, together with four VNN junks, returned the fire, killing at least two of the Viet Cong. One of the PBR crewmen was killed by the enemy fire.

On 12 July a PBR patrol detained a water taxi near the northern tip of Giai Island, 18 miles southeast of Vinh Long. None of the 23 persons on board had identification papers; and the taxi's cargo, which included 3,000 pounds of rice, a radio, batteries and medicines, was not covered by a manifest. The taxi and its occupants were subsequently turned over to the Vietnamese National Police in Vinh Long.

On the afternoon of 23 July, four miles east of Sa Dec, a PBR patrol investigating the movement of 10 sampans crossing the Mekong

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River came under heavy fire from the sampans and from enemy positions on nearby Cat Island. During the ensuing fire fight, six of the sampans were destroyed by the patrol and at least six Viet Cong were killed. The PBRs' fire on the enemy's ground positions destroyed or damaged four structures and initiated a secondary explosion. There were no U.S. casualties.

On 29 July, four miles north of Vinh Long, a PBR patrol was attacked by Viet Cong bank positions while pursuing three sampans into the mouth of the Cai Coi River. The PBRs returned the fire, turned clear of the kill zone, and radioed for helicopter support. Minutes later a helicopter fire team was overhead and a third PBR had joined to assist. The patrol then re-entered the Cai Coi and engaged numerous enemy positions on both banks. The PBRs' fire and the helicopters' strikes silenced the enemy positions, and the GAME WARDEN units withdrew. At least five Viet Cong were killed during the engagement. There were no U.S. casualties.

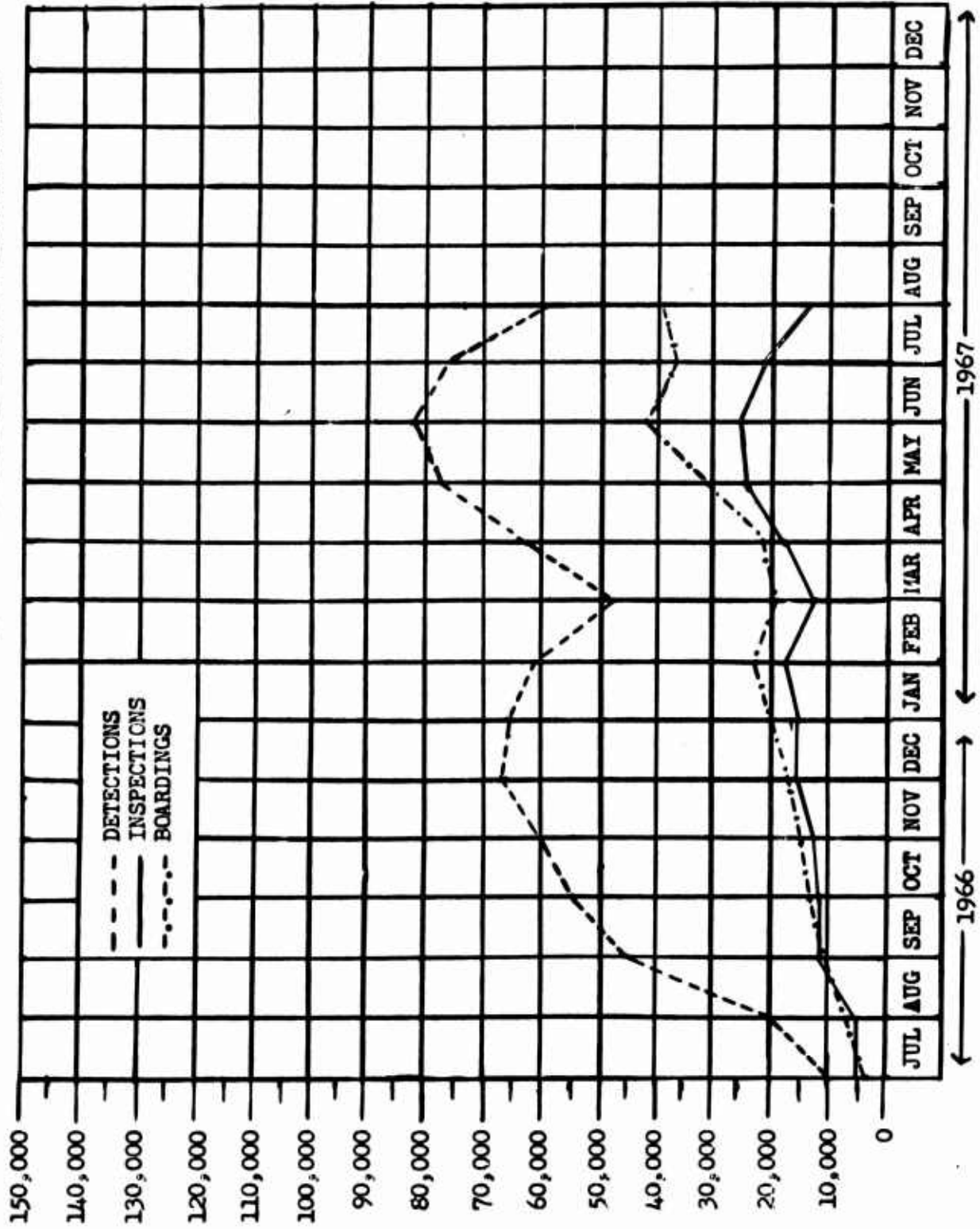
Operations in the Bassac River

During July, the large island complex at the mouth of the Bassac River was the scene of several clashes between GAME WARDEN units and Viet Cong forces.

On 11 July, four U.S. sailors were killed when the enemy detonated a "claymore" mine at their PBR near the northern tip of Dung Island. The incident occurred while six boats of River Section 511 were in column enroute to USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 786) at the river mouth station.

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS



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Moments after the mine had showered the boat with shrapnel, the other boats detected six Viet Cong fleeing from the area and took them under fire, killing at least three. A Navy helicopter fire team then struck the enemy site, damaging six Viet Cong sampans.

On 21 July a Navy helicopter was shot down while conducting a low-level reconnaissance mission over Tron Island. The aircraft crashed into one of the island's small canals, killing one crewman and wounding the other three. A second helicopter rescued the survivors and evacuated them to Soc Trang. A fixed-wing aircraft subsequently struck the enemy positions and a landing party from Coastal Group 36, escorted by PBRs, was dispatched to the scene. The landing party met light opposition in reaching the wreckage and, after the body of the dead crewman was recovered from the wreckage, the hulk was picked up by a heavy-lift helicopter. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

In July MARKET TIME units captured an enemy trawler trying to infiltrate supplies into the First Coastal Zone. Initially detected by a Navy SP-2H aircraft on the 11th, the steel-hulled ship was tracked covertly for three and one-half days and, on the 15th, was engaged by USS GALLUP (PG 85), USS WILHOITE (DER 397), PCF 79, USCGC POINT ORIENT and USS WALKER (DD 517). Eventually the trawler ran aground on a sand bar in the mouth of the Sa Ky River at Cape Batangan. Over 1,500 various weapons and one million rounds of ammunition were found on board.

During the month units of the Coastal Surveillance Force detected over 188,000 craft along South Vietnam's coastline; more than 81,000 of these were boarded or inspected. The boardings resulted in the detention of 242 craft and 1,490 suspects.

On 8 July, a four-boat detachment from Cam Ranh Bay's Coastal Division 14 began operating at a temporary base near the mouth of the Cua Viet, 80 miles northwest of Danang. The purpose of the move was to bolster the barrier patrols operating just south of the 17th parallel and to free more Danang-based Swifts for patrol duties in support of Marine units conducting amphibious operations north of Danang.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

In July MARKET TIME units detected 119,000 junks and sampans; 63 percent of these were inspected or boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 180 craft and 1,249 suspects. In

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addition, 636 steel-hulled craft were detected transiting MARKET TIME areas.

The month's MARKET TIME activity also included participation in three ground operations, 62 gunfire support missions, 18 hostile fire incidents, six evasion incidents and five search and rescue missions. As a result of these operations, 17 enemy bunkers, 17 structures and 21 craft were destroyed; seven other bunkers, 24 structures and 11 craft were damaged. In addition, 19 Viet Cong were killed (16 probables) and three were wounded.

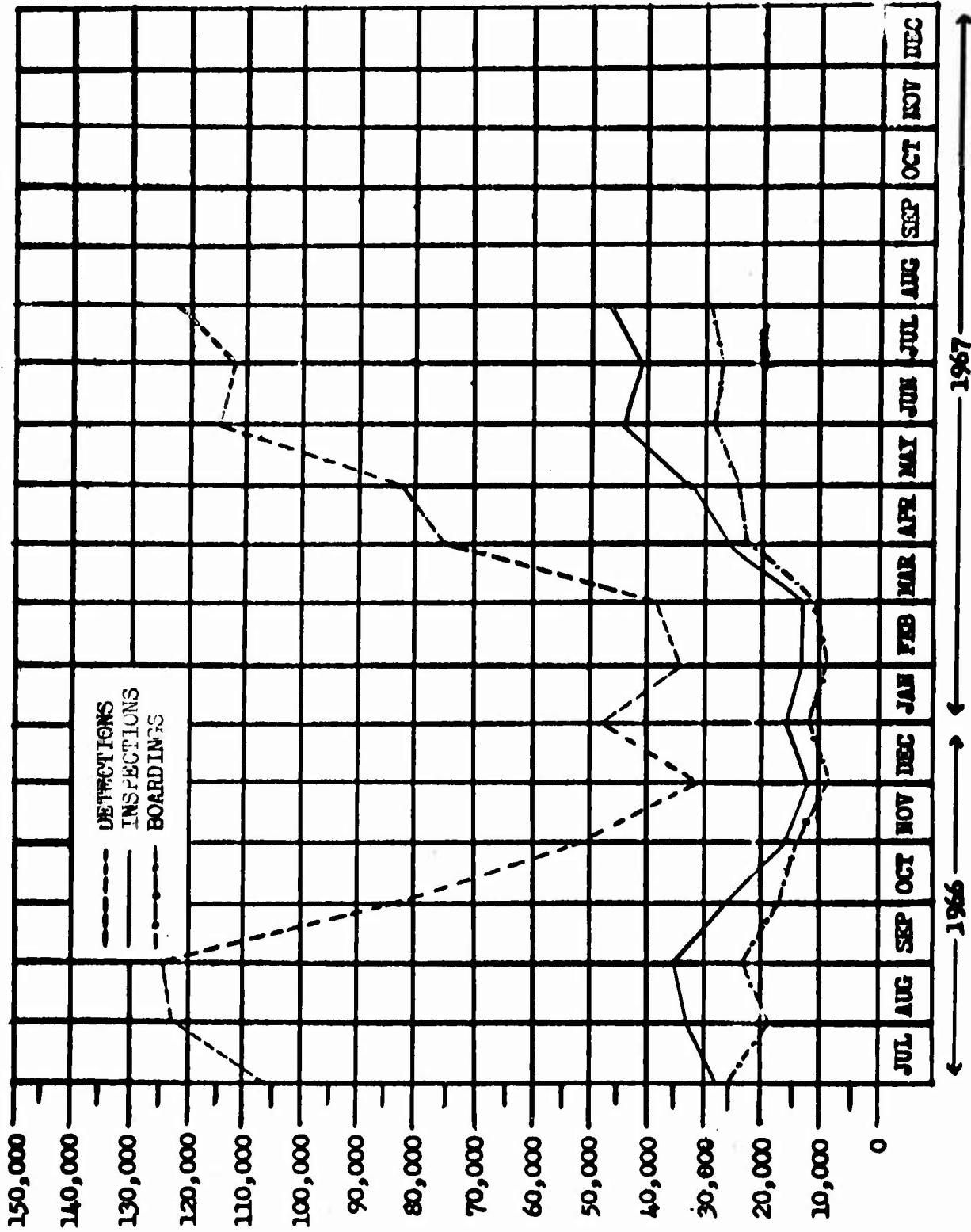
About 0700 on 7 July, four PCFs, USCGC POINT GRACE and USCGC YAKUTAT (WHEC 380) conducted a search and rescue mission, 38 miles south of Vung Tau, for the survivors of a mid-air collision between two B-52 aircraft. The units were joined by U.S. Army helicopters and Australian helicopters and, by mid-afternoon, seven survivors had been rescued. The search for the remaining six crew members continued until noon of the 9th; no other survivors were found.

On the afternoon of 8 July PCF 90 detained 29 small craft and 93 suspects while conducting an exfiltration patrol for a U.S. Army ground operation 43 miles north of Qui Nhon. Subsequent interrogation conducted ashore disclosed that 17 of the detainees were Viet Cong.

About 2300 on 17 July, elements of the ARVN 21st Division under imminent attack along the western edge of the Ca Mau Peninsula urgently requested gunfire support from USCGC POINT BANKS against

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



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advancing Viet Cong units. At the time, POINT BANKS was on coastal patrol 31 miles north of Ca Mau Point. Responding to the request, the WFB moved in and struck the enemy positions with 81-mm. mortars. The cutter's fire initiated 17 secondary explosions and helped repel the enemy forces.

At 0700 on the 25th, 44 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point, PCF 26 conducted a gunfire mission at the request of a spotter aircraft. The aircraft had detected nine evading enemy sampans and relayed the positions to the Swift boat. The craft's mortar fire subsequently sank six of the sampans and damaged the other three.

That same morning, 27 miles north of Qui Nhon, PCF 88 detained 15 junks and 17 suspects attempting to flee from the scene of a ground sweep conducted by units of the U.S. Army's FIRST Air Cavalry Division. Fifteen of the suspects were later determined to be Viet Cong.

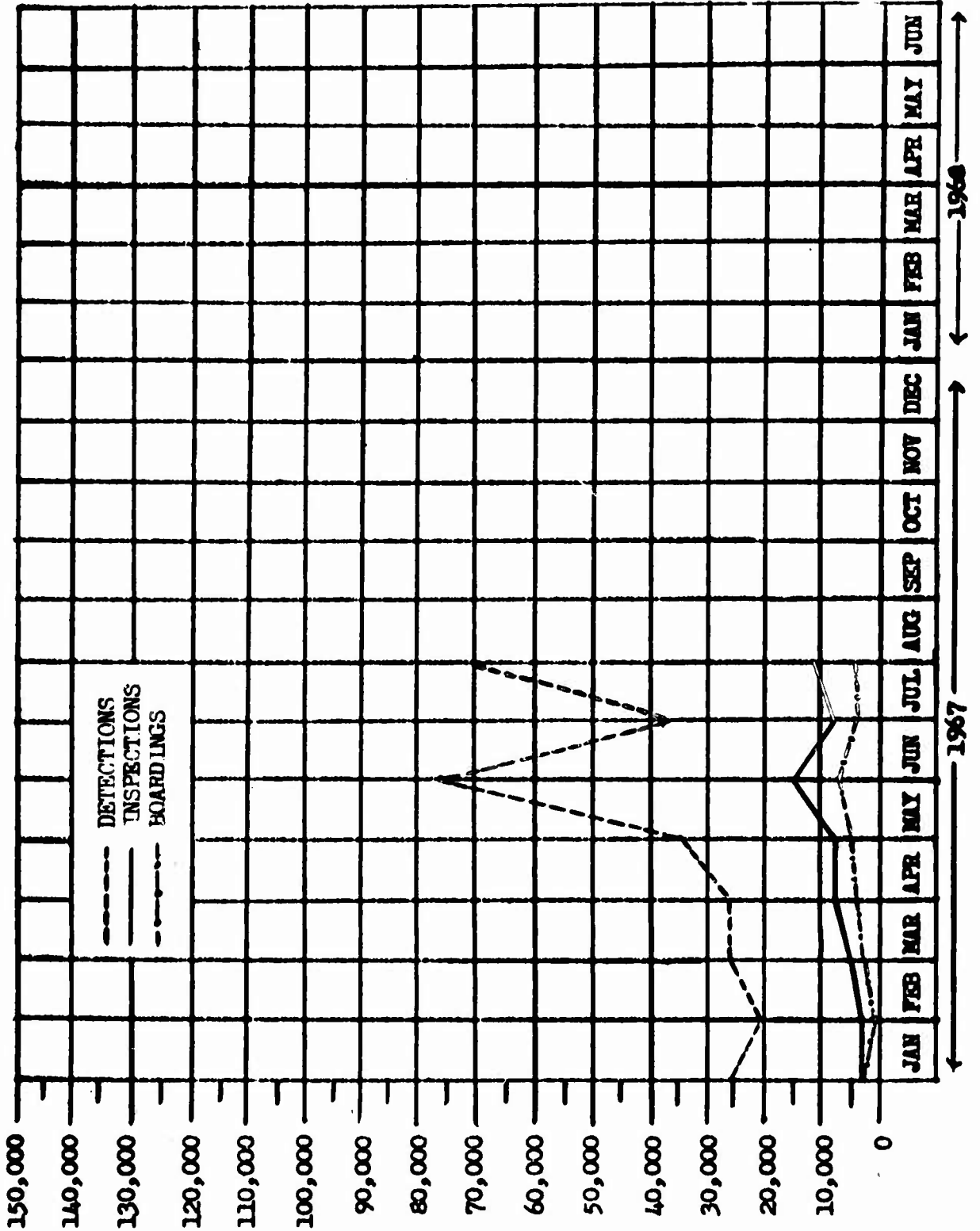
The sole casualty of the month for MARKET TIME forces occurred during an incident just before dawn on the 31st when the Officer in Charge of PCF 49 was wounded by small-arms fire received from an unlighted junk. The incident took place while the Swift boat was conducting a surfline patrol two miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. USS MORTON (DD 948), which was nearby at the time, took the junk under fire and the enemy craft was presumed to have been sunk.

OPERATION STABLE DOOR

In July Operation STABLE DOOR patrols detected over 69,000

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS



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junks and sampans; over 10,000 of these were inspected. Of the 4,453 craft boarded, 62 were detained along with 241 suspects.

Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 1 at Vung Tau detained 30 junks and 85 persons; IUWU 2 at Cam Ranh Bay detained two junks and 16 persons; IUWU 3 at Qui Nhon detained 11 junks and 38 persons; and IUWU 4 at Nha Trang detained 19 junks and 102 persons.

On 31 July a Vietnamese freighter, NAM HAI 2, capsized near the STABLE DOOR site at Vung Tau. Picket Boat 88 rescued one member of the crew and a Vietnamese pilot boat rescued the other nine crewmen. The ship was subsequently salvaged by USS WEISS (APD 135) with assistance from a U.S. Army tugboat.

During the month the new radar and radio installations at Nha Trang and Qui Nhon became operational, completing the cycle begun at Cam Ranh Bay in April. Each Harbor Entry Control Post is now equipped with an SPS-53A surface surveillance radar, providing the site with a significantly improved capability for detecting wood-hulled craft.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

During most of July the Mobile Riverine Force, operating from the Mobile Riverine Base at the junction of the Vam Co and Soirap rivers, conducted Operation CONCORDIA II in Long An and Go Cong provinces.

Between the 4th and the 9th of July, the MRF conducted search and destroy missions near a Viet Cong base area in northern Go Cong province. After landing U.S. troops of the 2nd Brigade, NINTH Infantry Division along the west bank of Go Cong creek, the naval units assumed blocking stations in the Go Cong and Go Gua creeks and their tributaries. In the series of brief skirmishes that ensued, 33 Viet Cong were killed, 78 were captured, and 13 defected. There were no U.S. casualties.

On 11 July the Mobile Riverine Force commenced operations in the Can Giouc district of Long An province. U.S. elements of the 3rd and 4th Battalions, 47th Infantry were landed along the Vang, Nui and Chim Duoi creeks, and, to the west, two ARVN battalions were landed along the Rach Cac River.

Throughout the day, company-size units were frequently reem-barked and re-landed elsewhere in a series of leapfrogging movements. During one of these movements the enemy detonated a "claymore" mine just as ATC 112-4 dropped its ramp. Eleven personnel in the troop carrier were wounded. Simultaneously, the two monitors in company received small-arms and recoilless-rifle fire. The fire was returned and air strikes and artillery fire were

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delivered into the area.

Following the air strikes, A Company of the 4/47th made contact with an enemy unit. The two monitors supported the ground troops and two more monitors were ordered into the area to provide additional fire support. As the assault craft continued to exchange fire with the enemy, a second infantry company was landed to conduct a southward sweep along Xom Cau creek.

Late that afternoon a B-40 rocket struck Monitor 112-1's conning station, killing the boat captain instantly; six other persons, including the embarked river division commander, were wounded.

The action continued into the evening and was eventually broken off by the Viet Cong. The following evening a small band of Viet Cong opened fire on an ATC from the north bank of the Dong An canal. The troop carrier and two nearby monitors quickly suppressed the fire, killing at least two Viet Cong and destroying a hut.

The operation ended on the 14th. During the four-day period 59 Viet Cong were killed, six were captured and three defected. Among the materiel captured from the enemy were 20 water mines, 49 individual and eight crew-served weapons, two radios, and several hundred components for grenades. Eight Americans were killed and 45 others were wounded.

The Mobile Riverine Force continued to operate in Long An province until 26 July. During this period four U.S. soldiers were killed and 21 were wounded. Meanwhile, 48 Viet Cong were

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killed, seven were captured, and a small quantity of weapons was seized. In addition, on the 24th of July, eight Viet Cong defected and reported that at least 32 members of the Viet Cong's C-306 Battalion had been killed during an incident on the 20th.

On 27 July, the Mobile Riverine Base moved southwest to Dinh Tuong province in response to intelligence reports that the Viet Cong were increasing their forces in the vicinity of Dong Tam. The next day the Mobile Riverine Force commenced Operation CORONADO II along the north bank of the Nam Thon River, 10 to 14 miles west of Dong Tam. While troops of the 3/47th swept inland in search of Viet Cong base areas, the naval units conducted blocking patrols.

On 29 July, River Division 91 units supporting elements of the 3/47th engaged the enemy throughout the afternoon and evening. Shortly after noon, Monitor 91-2 and ATC 91-10 were struck by B-40 rockets, wounding 22 Navy personnel.

Operation CORONADO II continued through the end of the month. By 31 July, 73 of the enemy had been killed and 68 had been captured. During this period nine U.S. soldiers were killed and 33 others were wounded. The Navy's casualties included 31 wounded.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

During July the enemy mounted numerous mortar, rocket and artillery attacks against the facilities of Naval Support Activity, Danang and its outlying detachments.

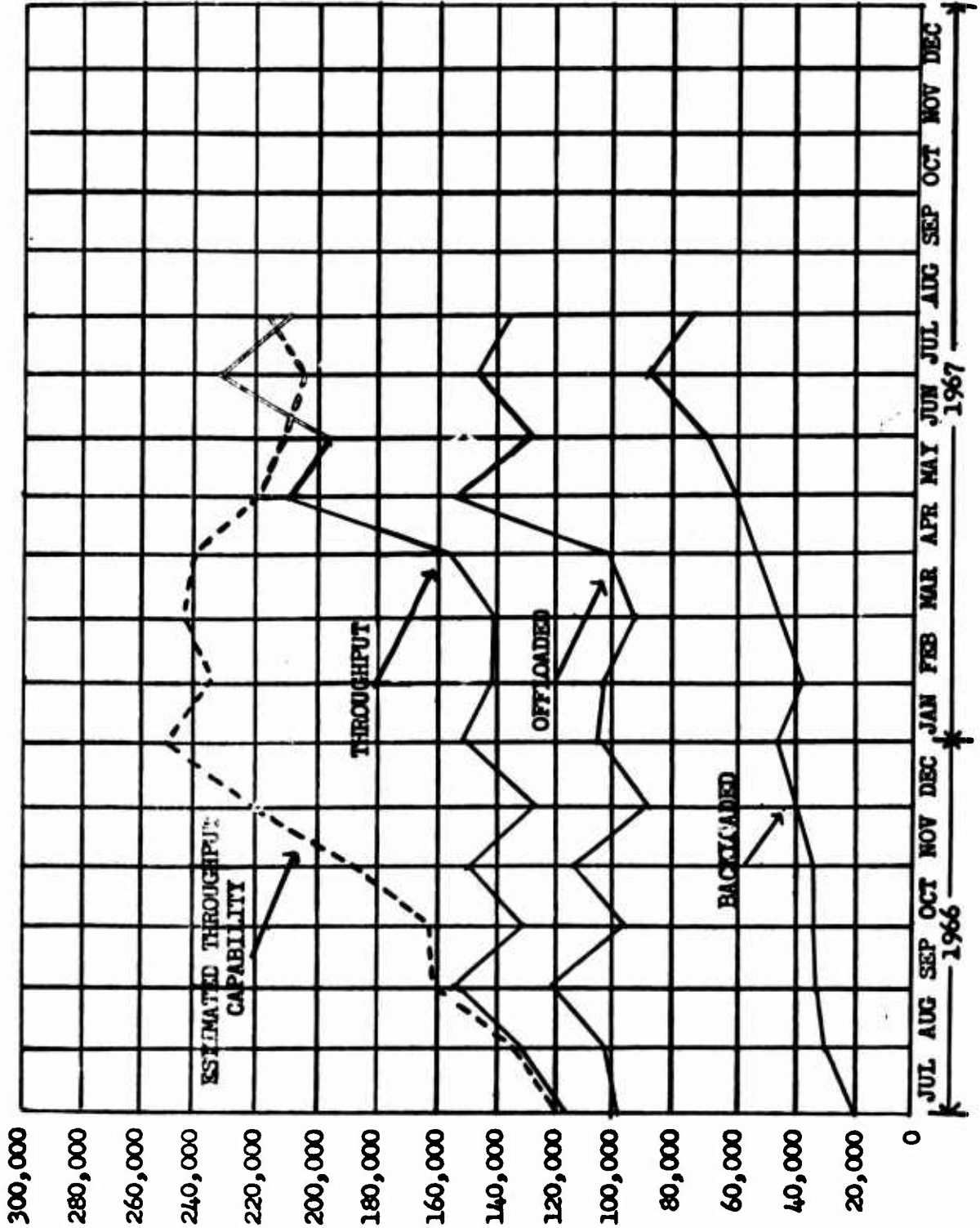
On 3 July the NAVSUPACT detachment at Dong Ha was struck by approximately 200 rounds of enemy mortars and rockets. Shortly after midnight on 15 July the Danang Air Base came under a heavy rocket attack. Eight military personnel were killed during the attack and 153 others were wounded. The enemy barrage, which lasted approximately 30 minutes, started numerous fires and resulted in extensive structural damage to U.S. Navy, Marine and Air Force facilities. In addition, eight aircraft were destroyed and 45 aircraft were damaged during the attack.

Throughout the month NAVSUPACT Danang continued to process large volumes of cargo. At the port of Danang, 41 ships arrived during July and 40 completed off-loading. Over 136,000 short tons of cargo were discharged and over 72,000 short tons of cargo were back-loaded for transshipment to other ports. The total monthly throughput at Danang was 209,100 short tons. The combined throughput for all I Corps ports was almost 300,000 short tons.

On 12, 21, and 29 July, NAVSUPACT harbor security forces conducted combined operations with Vietnamese Navy units and searched, during varying two-hour periods, all junks and sampans entering or leaving Danang Harbor. As a result of the three operations a total of 531 craft were searched, 33 personnel and 12 craft

DANANG CARGO HANDLING

SHORT TONS



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were detained, and three packages containing explosives were uncovered. An additional 166 craft were apprehended for various violations during routine harbor patrols.

The Naval Support Activity's C-47 aircraft returned from Sangley Point on 2 July and on 4 July resumed its regular flight schedule. The aircraft transported 425 passengers and 25,000 pounds of cargo during the remainder of the month.

On 15 July, two LCM-8s assigned to the NAVSUPACT detachment at Chu Lai assisted in retrieving the enemy trawler driven aground and captured on 15 July by units of Operation MARKET TIME. The trawler was pulled free from a reef and towed approximately 15 miles to Chu Lai.

The Port of Danang was visited 134 times by SEVENTH Fleet ships during July. The ships were provided with almost one and one-half million gallons of diesel fuel and over three million gallons of potable water, in addition to mail, freight, courier, transient billeting and disbursing services.

Meanwhile the Naval Support Activity's small-craft repair facility completed the overhaul of 13 diesel engines, one LCM-8 engine-bank, and seven outboard motors in July. The facility also completed interim hull repairs to USS COCONINO COUNTY (LST 603), installed a new port engine in USS ASHVILLE (PGM 84) and replaced the port screw of an MSTC ship, LST-726. In addition, AFDL-23 dry-docked 56 craft during the month.

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On 31 July the Naval Support Activity, Danang personnel level was 8,082. That same day the number of United States and other Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPACT was 131,500.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

On 3 July, the Naval Support Activity detachment at Tan Chau was disestablished and YRBM-16 was moved to Binh Thuy to provide interim support until the operational and maintenance facilities at the new GAME WARDEN base became self-sustaining. The riverfront property rights at Tan Chau were retained in the event that future requirements dictated the return of YRBM-16 to that site.

On 16 July NAVSUPACT's Can Tho detachment completed its move to the new Binh Thuy base. Situated near the Binh Thuy airport and four miles west of Can Tho, the facility is designed to provide berthing, messing, maintenance and medical support for GAME WARDEN units operating along the Bassac River, as well as for CTF 116 and his staff, River Division 51 and River Patrol Section 512. The berthing and messing structures include a BOQ, two 160-man BEQs, and a 500-man galley. Four 150-kilowatt generators provide the base with electrical power and two large repair shops provide for the hull-and-engine-repair needs of the PBRs.

As of 31 July, 85 percent of the permanent construction had been finished. The completed facility will also contain an Administration-Communications Center building, a dispensary, a laundry, a supply warehouse, a water-purification system, a tailor-barber shop complex, and two recreational clubs.

During July the number of line items carried by NAVSUPACT increased 13 percent to a total of 32,376. Gross and net material support effectiveness rose slightly during the month to 45 percent

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and 67 percent, respectively.

The ships and craft of NAVSUPPACT transported a total of 1,629.7 short tons of cargo during the month. At the same time, NAVSUPPACT aircraft carried 3,927 passengers and 164.8 short tons of cargo.

On 8 July, COMNAVSUPPACT's Saigon headquarters was moved from the Cofat Compound in Cholon to a new location across the street from COMNAVFORV's headquarters. The NAVSUPPACT Communications Center was also moved to the new location and redesignated a Naval Message Center. Henceforth, all NAVSUPPACT message traffic will be processed by the COMNAVFORV Communications Center. NAVSUPPACT's Supply and Repair Departments remained in Cholon.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

During July the various Seabee battalions continued their efforts to complete as much horizontal-type work as possible prior to the onset of the northeast monsoon season. The upgrading of roads, particularly Route 1, and the construction of large ammunition supply points at the major combat bases in I Corps received special emphasis.

The work on Route 1 consisted of grading, repaving and sealing roadway sections, and shaping shoulders and cleaning drainage areas. At the same time, a number of bridges were undergoing repairs or replacement as necessary. At month's end, 1,680 feet of the 2,000-foot "Liberty Bridge" had been completed by MCB-4. Spanning the Thu Bon River south of Danang, the bridge was scheduled for completion in early September.

Among the other construction projects which neared completion were the cantonments and operational facilities for the Marines' tactical data system complex on Monkey Mountain. The work was performed by MCB-74 and, on 31 July, the battalion was engaged in the project's final phase--installing a water-supply system.

At Dong Ha MCB-11 completed the work on eight of 30 planned helicopter pads, erected seven Butler buildings and four quonset huts, and laid the concrete foundation for a new 500-man galley.

At the entrance to the Cua Viet, where MCB-11 is expanding the LST-LCU facility, members of the battalion drove sheet pilings for the loading ramps, hauled away 46,000 cubic yards of sand, and

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cemented 1,000 square yards of the planned staging area. When completed, the facility's ramps will accommodate two LSTs, four LCUs and eight LCMs.

Meanwhile, at Vung Tau, a Seabee detachment from MCB-71 completed the construction of barracks and office buildings for the Navy's newly-formed Light Helicopter Attack Squadron THREE.

During the second half of the month, four battalions (MCBs 4, 7, 74 and 133) helped complete emergency repairs at the Danang Air Base following a rocket attack on 15 July. The work included clearing debris from the runways and parking aprons, restoring electrical power, and making temporary repairs to damaged berthing huts and galleys.

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 2 July Team 5 of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE, together with PCF 95 and the SEVENTH Fleet's USS OAK HILL (LSD 7), successfully completed the salvage of PCF 97. The 22-ton MARKET TIME craft had been sunk by enemy fire on 25 June during a routine patrol off the Ca Mau Peninsula. Working from PCF 95, Team 5 divers hooked up the sunken craft to OAK HILL's 35-ton capacity crane. The Swift boat was then lifted clear of the surface, dewatered, and lowered into the LSD's well-deck. Seven hours after the recovery operation had begun, PCF 97 was on its way to Subic for repairs.

On 17 July Team 5 began salvage operations to recover a floating PBR pier at Nha Be which had sunk in 40 feet of water during a severe storm two days earlier. The pier had consisted of two 14-section steel treadways laid athwartships across 13 aluminum bridge-pontoons; an additional 40-foot section of wooden decking had been positioned at the end of the pier.

Using an LCM-8 as a working platform, the Team 5 divers first removed the various wire straps, turnbuckles and small chains which had held the pier together. Then the various sections of the pier were dragged onto the beach by a "caterpillar" tractor. By 23 July all of the pontoons, the treadway sections, and the wooden decking had been recovered.

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COMMUNICATIONS

The number of messages handled by the COMNAVFORV communications center during July was 92,763, an increase of 3,001 over June's figure.

During the month the center relinquished the communications guard for 61 various activities. The decrease occurred as a result of the shift by CTF 115 from Saigon to Cam Ranh Bay and the subsequent transfer of associated communications circuits to the Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay.

At the Cam Ranh Bay station the construction work and installation of equipment (Project BOWLINE) was virtually completed. The station was scheduled to be commissioned on 1 August.

At Danang the work designed to improve NAVSUPACT's communication capability (Project SEA ANCHOR) also neared completion. By month's end the communications center, transmitter site and receiver site were 85, 97 and 92 percent complete, respectively; the installation of electronic equipment was 92 percent complete at all three sites.

Meanwhile, the program to upgrade the communication facilities at the GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME bases and COMNAVFORV headquarters (Project SEARCHLIGHT) lagged somewhat behind schedule because of delays in the procurement of construction materials. At month's end, the SEARCHLIGHT site at Nha Be was operational and the construction and installation phases had begun at COMNAVFORV's headquarters in Saigon. The remaining sites were in varying stages of progress;

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Meanwhile, the program to upgrade the communication facilities at the GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME bases and COMNAVFORV headquarters (Project SEARCHLIGHT) lagged somewhat behind schedule because of delays in the procurement of construction materials. At month's end, the SEARCHLIGHT site at Nha Be was operational and the construction and installation phases had begun at COMNAVFORV's headquarters in Saigon. The remaining sites were in varying stages of progress;

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among these the first expected completion was the Binh Thuy site, scheduled to become operational in early September.

In Project STARBOARD TACK (the use of communication vans transportable by helicopters), the procurement of components had begun. The first HF vans were expected in August and the first UHF-VHF vans in September.

The Naval Support Activity detachments at Dong Ha and Hue-Phu Bai were earmarked for the initial deliveries. The capabilities of each STARBOARD TACK facility will include secure, full-duplex teletype circuits, and HF, tactical FM and UHF voice-radio circuits. In addition, through the use of microwaves, each facility will be able to patch into the circuitry of the in-country Defense Communications System.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 5 July, Commander River Patrol Force (CTF 116) and his staff moved from the temporary base at Tra Noc to the new permanent GAME WARDEN base at Binh Thuy, four miles west of Can Tho.

On 7 July the Honorable Robert S. McNAMARA, U.S. Secretary of Defense, began a five-day tour of military installations in South Vietnam, including the Mobile Riverine Base anchored at the junction of the Vam Co and Soirap rivers. On 10 July, on board CTF 117's flagship, USS BENEWAH (APB 35), Mr. McNAMARA was briefed on the status and plans of the Mobile Riverine Force by the respective Navy and Army commanders, Captain Wade C. WELLS, USN, and Colonel William B. FULTON, USA.

On 13 July the Surgeon General of the Navy, Vice Admiral Robert B. BROWN, MC, USN, arrived in Saigon for briefings at COMNAVFORV's headquarters, followed by an extensive tour of the Navy's medical facilities in the I Corps area, including USS REPOSE (AH 16), USS SANCTUARY (AH 17), and the Naval Support Activity's hospital in Danang. Vice Admiral BROWN also visited the medical facilities at Cam Ranh Bay, Long Binh, Dong Tam and Nha Be.

On 19 July Captain Allan P. SLAFF, USN, relieved Captain Carson R. TALLENT, USN, as Senior Advisor, Vietnamese Navy Headquarters. For his role in furthering the advisory effort, the Government of Vietnam awarded Captain TALLENT the National Order of Vietnam and the Gallantry Cross (with Palm). South Vietnam's

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Chief of Naval Operations, Captain Tran Van CHON, VNN, made the presentations.

On 20 July, Commander Coastal Surveillance Force (CTF 115) and his staff shifted from Saigon to Cam Ranh Bay.

On 29 July, a sixth Light Helicopter Attack Squadron THREE detachment was activated at Dong Tam in support of Operation GAME WARDEN.

Saigon Naval Shipyard Review

On 26 July COMNAVFORV submitted to Commander U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam a comprehensive study concerning the critical shortage of skilled personnel at the Saigon Naval Shipyard. The study analyzed the shipyard's inequitable pay scales, reviewed the shipyard's declining production schedules, and concluded that, if allowed to continue, the exodus of skilled workers could eventually destroy the military effectiveness of the Vietnamese Navy. COMNAVFORV recommended that COMUSMACV make strong representation to the Vietnamese Government to increase the pay of shipyard workers to a level consistent with the current labor market. It was estimated that such action would cost \$800,000 annually at the shipyard's present manning level and approximately \$1,100,000 annually if the shipyard were fully manned.

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MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

Since the middle of June the region surrounding the Coastal Group 14 base south of Danang has been the scene of numerous "psywar" loudspeaker broadcasts originated from Vietnamese Navy junks and U.S. Navy MARKET TIME units. On two occasions in July Viet Cong propaganda teams beamed broadcasts at the Coastal Group base. During one of the broadcasts, on the 23rd, a PCF with a U.S. Army loudspeaker team embarked sped to the scene and responded in kind to the enemy's attempt to persuade Government personnel to desert. As the U.S. team countered the Viet Cong broadcast, mortar fire from the Coastal Group base struck and silenced the enemy's positions.

Among the month's notable civic action and psychological warfare projects were a series of visits along the Third Coastal Zone by LSM(H) 401, the VNN's hospital ship. Operating in this Zone between the 21st and the 30th of July, the ship's doctors and corpsmen treated over 2,000 Vietnamese in need of medical or dental care. During the visits the ship's crew distributed 30,000 pounds of commodities as well as 20,000 leaflets and posters espousing the Government's cause. In addition, the ship's "culture platoon" entertained villagers on five different occasions, and the embarked "psywar" team conducted numerous loudspeaker broadcasts.

On 18 July, COMNAVFORV promulgated an Operation Order delineating the responsibilities of subordinate commanders in support of

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the Vietnamese Government's Revolutionary Development Program. The Op-order was based on the lessons learned thus far in carrying out military civic action projects, and included guidance for the conduct of MEDCAPs, WHAMOs and PSYOP campaigns in coordination with the efforts of the Vietnamese Navy.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy on 31 July was 15,925 officers and enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged as deserters increased from 57 in June to 69 in July; the number of unauthorized absentees declined from 310 in June to 307 in July.

On 1 July, RAG 27 assumed a reserve status. Ten of the unit's 20 craft remained temporarily at My Tho to operate with RAG 21; the other craft shifted to Cat Lai, near Saigon, to operate in the Third Riverine Area under the operational control of the chief of the VNN's Operations Division.

On 3 July, at Saigon's Advanced Training Center, 44 selected warrant officers and petty officers were enrolled in a special six-month program leading to commissioned status. The program's newly-revised curriculum consists of courses in Leadership, Gunnery, Navigation, Engineering, Electronics, Mathematics and Tactics. On the 24th, two new Class "A" Schools--for boatswain's mates and gunner's mates--began at the Recruit Training Center in Cam Ranh. The initial classes comprised 116 students.

On 30 July Coastal Group 21 completed its move from the base on Gambir Island to a newly-completed base at Degi, 21 miles north of Qui Nhon.

During the month the VNN's Supply Center had a gross effectiveness of 71.9 percent on 9,420 requests for general items, and a

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net effectiveness of 84 percent on 8,061 requests for items normally carried in the supply system.

Operations

In July the Fleet Command had 24 ships available daily and maintained eleven ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam, five ships on river patrol and one ship on convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. The month's operations included MARKET TIME and other anti-infiltration patrols, psychological warfare and civic action projects, escort patrols and gunfire support missions. Fleet Command ships fired 30 gunfire support missions in July and searched 575 junks and 2,839 persons. Meanwhile, the minesweeper squadron continued its daily sweep operations in the Saigon, Nha Be and Long Tau Rivers.

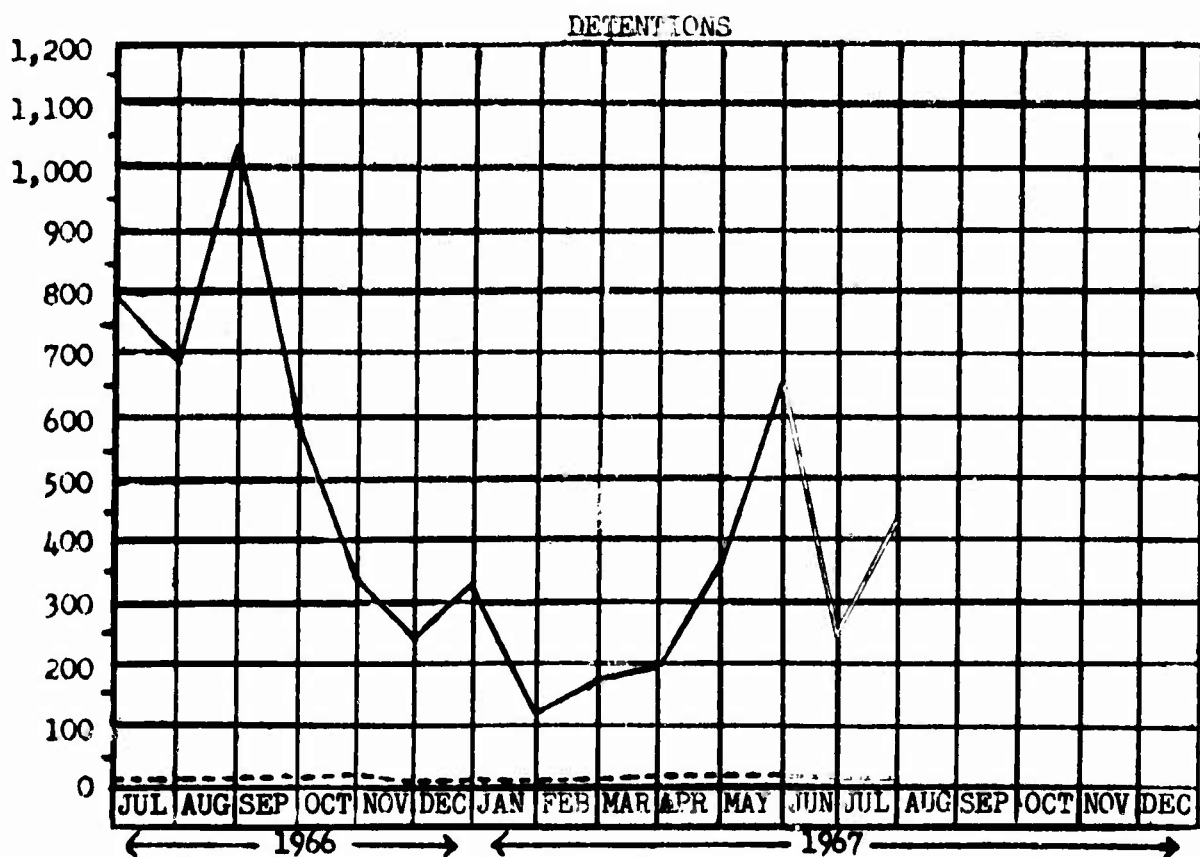
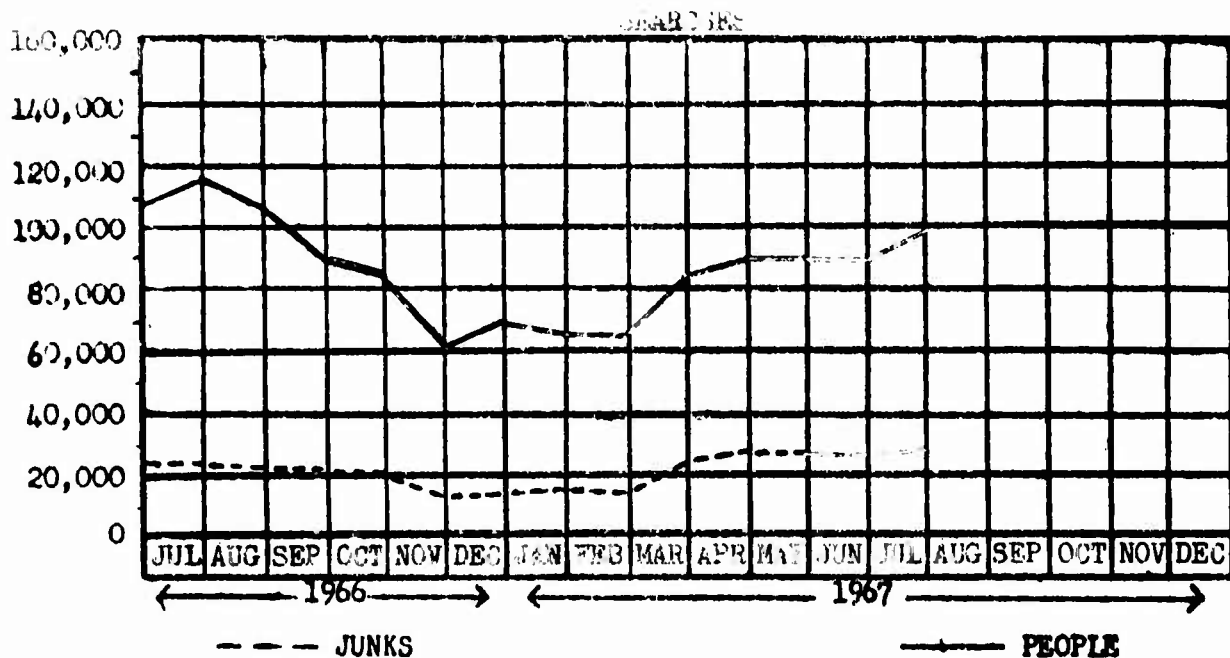
On 9 July, 23 miles downstream from Can Tho, LSIL 331 was attacked by a Viet Cong ambush unit armed with 75-mm. recoilless rifles and several automatic and individual weapons. In the ensuing fire fight the ship was struck by three recoilless-rifle rounds, which wounded two of the crew. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

During the month Coastal Force units searched 24,497 junks and 88,929 persons, detaining 21 junks and 419 suspects. On a daily average, 68 percent of the Force's 198 available junks were on patrol.

On the morning of 7 July, four Coastal Group 35 junks and a company of ARVN Special Forces troops, supported by two U.S. PBRs

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



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and a helicopter fire team, conducted a search and destroy operation along the edge of the Long Toan Secret Zone in lower Vinh Binh province. During the mission the ground forces killed 27 Viet Cong and captured numerous weapons. That afternoon the naval patrol, acting as a blocking unit, received intense automatic- and heavy- weapons fire, which killed a PBR crewman. Two Viet Cong were killed by the return fire.

Shortly after midnight on 11 July, two units from Coastal Group 25, assisted by PCF 44, established a blockade along a section of the Hon Heo peninsula, twenty miles north of Nha Trang. At 0030, two Viet Cong sampans carrying food and weapons attempted to run the blockade and were intercepted. In the ensuing fire fight, one of the sampans was captured and six Viet Cong were killed. In addition, four automatic weapons and a quantity of ammunition were captured. Two Vietnamese sailors were killed and a third, wounded, was evacuated by the Swift boat.

During the month the River Assault Groups conducted eleven operations in the First Naval Zone, seven in the Third Riverine Area and fourteen in the Fourth Riverine Area. With a daily average employment of 74 percent of the 154 available craft, the RAG units searched 2,676 junks and 6,619 persons.

The First Naval Zone's RAG detachment conducted three amphibious operations between 7 and 10 July. One Viet Cong was killed, 32 Viet Cong suspects were detained, and six enemy structures were

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destroyed during the mission. In addition, the detachment alternately acted as a blocking and transport unit for a number of ARVN, Regional Forces, and U.S. Marine operations.

In July the Vietnamese Navy conducted 22 logistical support missions, transporting 4,076 tons of cargo and 3,781 personnel. LSMs carried 40 percent of the cargo and 60 percent of the personnel; LSTs carried 38 percent of the cargo and 30 percent of the personnel; and LCUs carried 22 percent of the cargo and 10 percent of the personnel.

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

During the month Brigade Force A of the Vietnamese Marine Corps continued a search and destroy and pacification operation begun in April in the Bong Son area of the II Corps Tactical Zone. The operation, code-named BAC TIEN 517, ended on 12 July and was followed by similar operations in the same area through the 26th. No significant contact with the enemy occurred during July. In scattered incidents, Force A elements killed 14 Viet Cong, captured three others, and detained 68 suspects. Six Marines were killed and 29 were wounded.

On 26 July Brigade Force B relieved Force A and the latter deployed to the Delta where it joined with U.S. units conducting Operation CORONADO II. On 30 July, about 10 miles west of Dong Tam, the Marines' 3rd Battalion conducted a helicopter assault against a large, well-entrenched enemy force. In the fierce 23-hour

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battle that ensued, 108 Viet Cong were killed, six others were captured, and three suspects were detained. Forty-four Marines were killed and 115 Marines and a U.S. advisor were wounded.

Brigade Force B, meanwhile, began Operation SONG THAN 14 on 27 July, 30 miles north of Qui Nhon. By month's end, three Viet Cong had been killed by the Marines, three others had been captured and seven suspects had been detained.

Earlier in the month Force B had conducted security missions at Tan Uyen, north of Saigon, until 8 July. On the 9th, 43 miles east of Saigon, the Force joined with U.S., Australian and other Vietnamese units in conducting Operation PADDINGTON. Marine elements subsequently killed 43 of the 92 Viet Cong killed during the operation. At the same time 11 Marines were killed and 31 were wounded. The operation ended on the 14th.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, the Marines' 6th Battalion and Battery A of the Artillery Battalion operated through the 21st. No contact with the enemy occurred during this period.

Throughout July the various operations of the Vietnamese Marine Corps accounted for 175 enemy killed, 12 captured and 78 suspects detained. Marine losses included 64 killed and 184 wounded. In addition, one U.S. advisor was wounded.

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APPENDIX I

USN/VNN/VNMC STATISTICS FOR JULY 1967

U.S. NAVY:

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>	<u>STABLE DOOR</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
DETECTIONS	121,055	59,929	69,604	250,588
INSPECTIONS	47,505	12,929	10,310	70,744
BOARDINGS	29,190	9,313	4,453	42,956
PERSONS DETAINED	1,249	620	241	2,110
JUNKS DETAINED	180	32	62	274

MARKET TIME Detections of Steel Hulls 1,654
Total Steel Hulls Transiting MARKET TIME Areas 638

Disposition of the 638 Steel Hulls:

Inspected or boarded	119
Identified as not suspicious	173
Arrived/Departed RVN ports	321
Unknown, not suspicious	25

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	8,314	27,606	12	219
II NZ	5,685	20,991	3	139
III NZ	7,877	32,462	6	56
IV NZ	2,621	7,870	0	5
Sub-Totals	24,497	88,929	21	419
<u>FLEET COMMAND</u>				
PATROL SHIPS	575	2,839	0	0
<u>RIVERINE AREA</u>				
CRAFT	2,676	6,619	0	0
<u>TOTALS</u>	27,748	98,387	21	419

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: 175 KIA, 12 VC CAPTURED, 78 VC SUSPECTS DETAINED

VNMC: 64 KIA, 184 WIA

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