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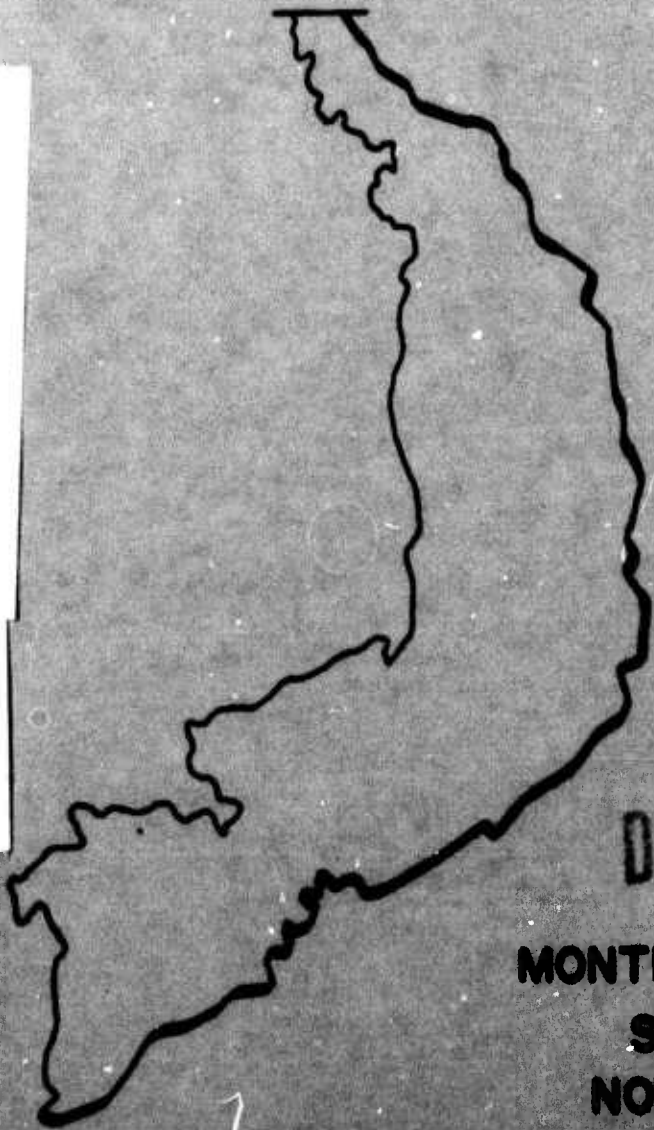
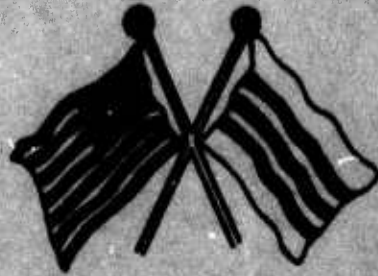
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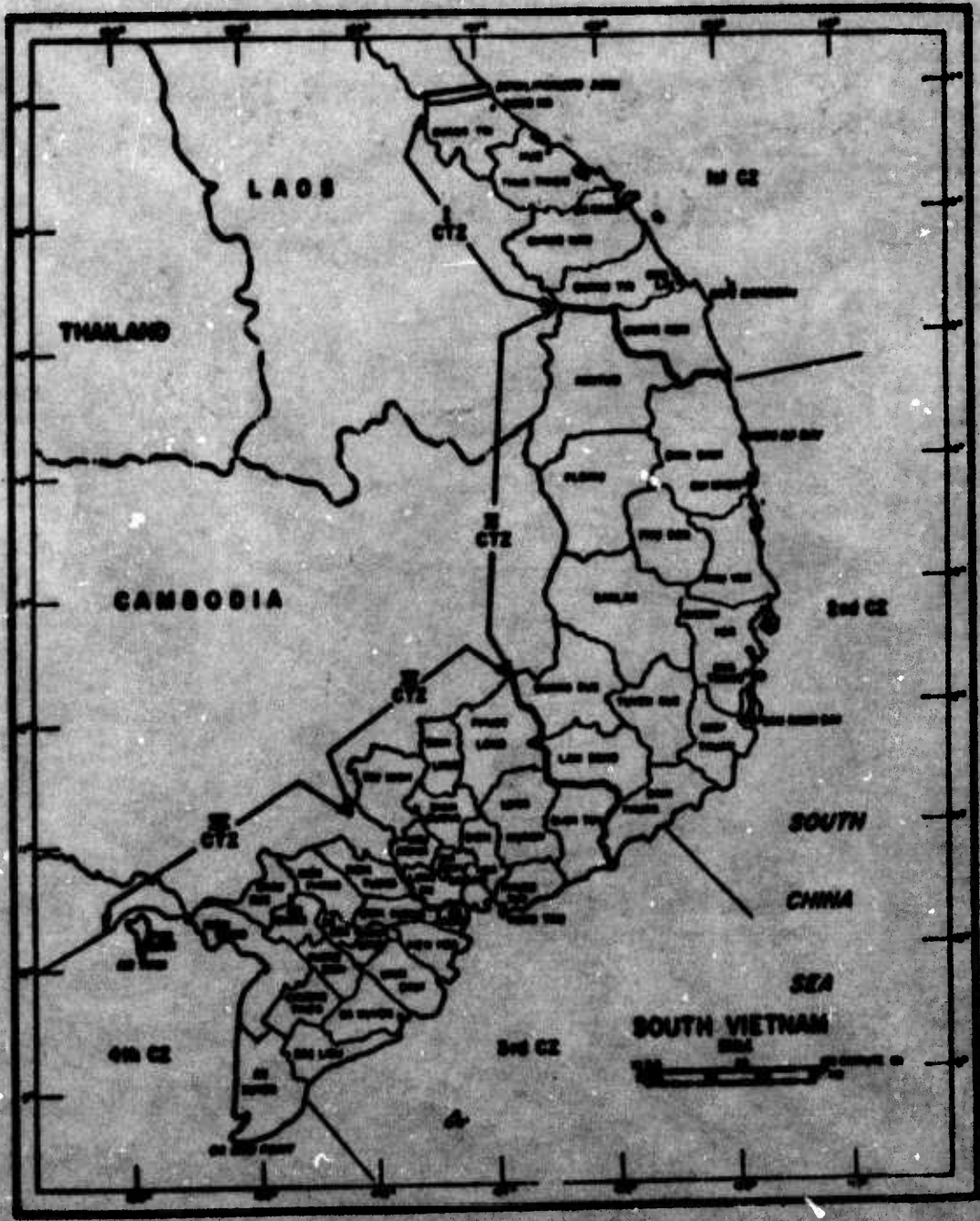
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UNITED STATES

NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT

NOVEMBER 1967

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FOREWORD

In November two firsts were recorded in U. S. Navy and Vietnamese coordination and integration. On 1 November four Vietnamese Navy Fleet Command ships relieved U. S. units in four coastal patrol areas in the most significant integration of the VNN into Operation MARKET TIME to date. November 9th marked the initial deployment of the 5th Battalion of the Vietnamese Marine Corps as the third maneuver battalion of the Mobile Riverine Force. This integration of the Vietnamese Marines with Task Force 117 riverine units in combat operations represents a milestone in Vietnamese/ U. S. cooperation.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1 Nov - Four VNN Fleet Command ships relieve U. S. units in four coastal patrol areas in the most significant integration of the VNN into Operation MARKET TIME to date. p. 95.
- Seabees from nine different construction battalions complete the Quang Tri air facility in six weeks of intensive work. p. 71.
- 5 - PCF 11 receives automatic-weapons fire from a position six miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. The Swift boat's return fire suppresses the enemy fire, destroys one sampan, one structure and one bunker, and initiates five secondary explosions. p. 11.
- 6 - PCF 76 capsizes in the Cua Viet channel. All the crewmembers are rescued but the Swift boat is lost. p. 2.
- 9 - Two PBRs, pursuing an evading sampan behind Tan Dinh Island, 17 miles southeast of Can Tho, are attacked by heavy Viet Cong recoilless-rifle, automatic-weapons and small-arms fire. PBR 28 is hit by a recoilless-rifle round and begins sinking stern first. The cover boat, PBR 37, rescues all crewmen from the sinking boat which was later determined to be beyond repair. Two U. S. Navy men are wounded and a U. S. Army observer is killed. p. 39.
- The 5th Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps, becomes the first VNNMC battalion to be assigned as a permanent unit of the MRF. p. 49.
- 11 - Admiral Ulysses S. G. SHARP, USN, CINCPAC, visits the MRF and is briefed on current and future MRF operations. p. 93.
- 13 - PCE 12 conducts a highly successful gunfire support mission against enemy forces attacking the Coastal Group 16 base. The PCE's fire kills 19 Viet Cong, wounds 20 more and destroys several weapons. p. 98.
- 15 - A Long Tau River PBR patrol detects six sampans with 10 Viet Cong leaving a canal entrance. The Viet Cong fire on the PBRs with automatic weapons and the PBRs' return fire kills two Viet Cong with five others declared

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- 15 Nov - possible kills. The patrol captures four sampans, three carbines, a hand flare and 100 pounds of assorted clothing and documents. p. 23.
- RAGs 21 and 33, in conjunction with the ARVN SEVENTH Division and the U. S. Mobile Riverine Force, support three combined operations, eight miles north of Vinh Long. Sixty-eight Viet Cong are killed, 64 captured and 104 suspects detained. One ARVN soldier is killed and 32 wounded. p. 112.
- 16 - Seven RAG 25 craft, together with two Regional Force companies and an ARVN 21st Division battalion, sweep the Bac Lieu canal, 15 miles south of Soc Trang, killing 22 Viet Cong and capturing 21 individual weapons and eight mines. p. 111.
- 17 - "Seawolves" attack enemy troops in an open rice paddy five miles east of Phu Vinh killing 20 and wounding 20. The Tra Vinh senior U. S. Army advisor is killed and the province chief is captured by the Viet Cong. p. 34.
- 17-19 - RAGs 23, 26, 31 and 32 conduct Operation LONG PHI 9/139 with units of the ARVN NINTH Division. The forces kill 47 Viet Cong, capture five others and seize over six tons of assorted ammunition, 62 individual weapons and 40 mines. One ARVN soldier is killed and 36 wounded. p. 113.
- 18 - The MRF moves to a new location near Sa Dec, its deepest penetration of the Mekong Delta to date. During this phase of Operation CORONADO IX, MRF forces kill 46 Viet Cong, capture seven and detain 32 suspects. p. 53.
- SS PRESIDENT BUCHANAN, a U. S. merchant ship, is attacked in the Long Tau River, 30 miles south of Saigon, and is hit 19 times. PBRs and Army and Navy helicopters rush to the scene and kill 23 Viet Cong; there are no friendly casualties. p. 25.
- 22 - MARKET TIME airborne patrol tracks are revised in an effort to improve the air surveillance and, at the same time, reduce total flight hours. p. 1.
- 24 - YRBM-16, a GAME WARDEN support barge anchored at the confluence of the Ham Luong and Ben Tre rivers, is holed

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- 24 Nov - by a Viet Cong water mine that also starts a raging fire. USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838), PBRs and "Seawolves" rush to aid the barge and the fire is finally brought under control 15 hours after it started. Seven Navyman are killed and 12 wounded. p. 31.
- 26 - A Navy helicopter light fire team attacks approximately two Viet Cong companies two miles east of Tra On. The "Seawolves" kill 37 Viet Cong and wound 10. Both helicopters are hit by enemy fire and one aircrewman is wounded. p. 42.
- 27 - Operation SUN DEVIL commences against a Viet Cong supply base along the Bong Boat Canal, which empties into the lower Bassac River. In the 13-hour operation 41 structures and 17 sampans are destroyed and one Viet Cong is killed. One Navyman is wounded slightly. p. 43.
- 30 - PCF 14 capsizes in the Cua Viet channel. At the same time PCF 55 takes an 85 degree roll, but rights herself, throwing all her crewmembers into the water with the exception of one man. All crewmembers from both PCFs are rescued. p. 2.
- NAVFORV numerical strength stands at 26,393.

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

During November, units of Operation MARKET TIME and Operation STABLE DOOR detected 76,585 craft along South Vietnam's coastline and harbors; 19,444 of these were boarded or inspected. The boardings resulted in the detention of 45 craft and 488 persons.

On 22 November MARKET TIME airborne patrol tracks were revised in an effort to improve surveillance and simultaneously reduce the total number of flight hours. Three coastline sectors replaced the existing two, thereby increasing the "re-visit" time along each track, and "high-boy" flights were terminated. During the month, as a result of heavy swells, two Swift boats--PCFs 14 and 76--capsized and sank near the entrance to the Cua Viet channel. On 30 November the deployment of PCFs to the Cum Viet area was suspended pending an improvement in weather conditions.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

During November, MARKET TIME units detected 35,424 junks and sampans; the lowest figure recorded since January 1967. Approximately 39 percent of the detected craft were inspected and almost 23 percent were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 31 craft and 270 persons. In addition, 1,158 steel-hulled craft were detected transitting MARKET TIME areas; 55 of the steel-hulled craft were boarded.

The continued decrease in MARKET TIME activity, especially in

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the northern coastal zones, was attributed to the inclement weather associated with the Northeast Monsoon, which kept the aggregate of junk and sampan traffic well below October's level.

Other MARKET TIME activity during the month included support for two ground operations, 76 naval gunfire support missions, 14 hostile fire incidents, and five SAR and "medevac" missions. As a result of the various operations, 20 structures, eight bunkers, and 30 craft were destroyed. In addition, 18 Viet Cong were killed (three probables).

#### First Coastal Zone

During November there was a continued decline in Operation MARKET TIME activity in the First Coastal Zone. Junk and sampan coastal traffic was very light because of the heavy weather associated with the Northeast Monsoon and only 8,414 craft were detected in the zone, a decrease of over 5,000 from October's figure. More than 2,500 of the detected craft were inspected or boarded.

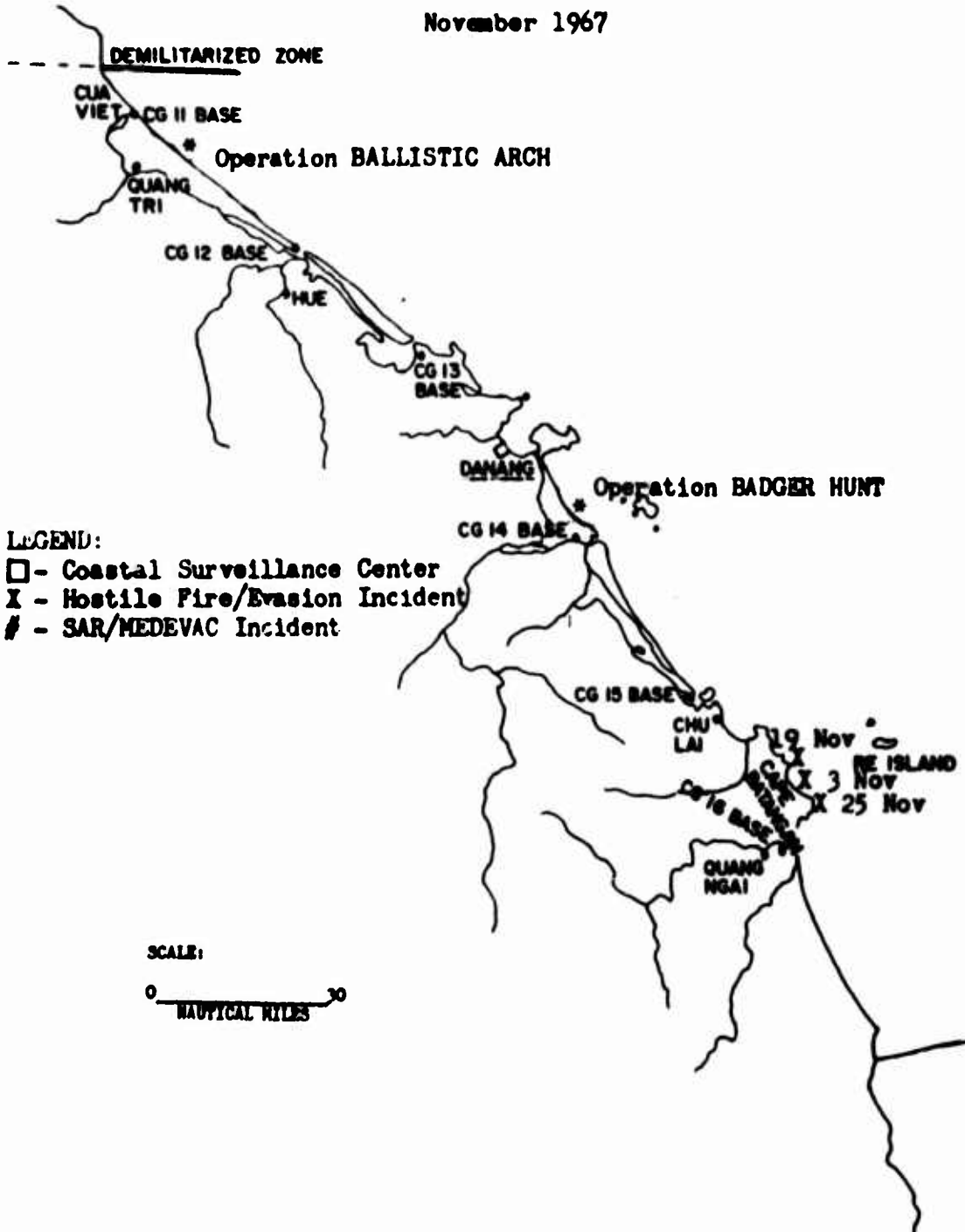
Heavy seas and treacherous waters at the Cua Viet channel entrance were responsible for the loss of two PCFs during the month. On 6 November, while conducting a weather probe at Cua Viet, PCF 76 capsized in the channel. All of the Swift's crewmen were rescued, but the craft was lost after continued pounding by the heavy surf. Salvage efforts included dragging and SONAR search, but contact could not be regained. On 30 November, while rescuing

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OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE

November 1967



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Vietnamese personnel from overturned sampans, PCF 14 also capsized in the surf at the Cua Viet channel entrance. PCF 55 took an 85 degree roll and had all but one man washed overboard during rescue operations. The one remaining man held on and PCF 55, as well as all PCF 14's crew members and the Vietnamese personnel were returned safely to port. Because of the continuation of deteriorating sea conditions generated by the Northeast Monsoon, the Cua Viet detachment operations were terminated on 30 November. The detachment will be reestablished when the monsoon abates.

On 3 November a Korean L-19 spotter aircraft sighted six Viet Cong in two sampans just off Cape Batangan. As the Coast Guard's POINT COMFORT closed the area, the sampans attempted to evade to the beach and were taken under fire by the WPB. The firing resulted in five Viet Cong killed and two sampans destroyed.

On 19 November a Korean spotter aircraft came under fire near the northern tip of Cape Batangan. PCF 15 was requested to fire an emergency naval gunfire mission, and with the aircraft spotting, the Swift boat suppressed the enemy fire and destroyed three structures.

In response to a request from a Korean 5th Battalion ANGLICO who spotted for the mission, PCF 57 provided gunfire support against a position on the southern tip of Cape Batangan on 25 November. As a result of the firing, 11 structures were damaged.

Also during the month, First Coastal Zone units supported two

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ground operations. On the 13th the WPB assigned to area 1G, approximately 15 miles southeast of Danang, provided a blocking patrol for Operation BADGER HUNT. On the 24th, POINT GAMMON and one PCF provided exfiltration patrols in conjunction with Operation BALLISTIC ARCH, which took place along the coast of Quang Tri province.

#### Second Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME activity in the Second Coastal Zone also decreased sharply during November. The Zone's units detected approximately 13,700 junks and sampans during the month, a decrease of approximately 10,000 from October's figure. More than 5,800 of the detected craft were boarded or inspected. Heavy surf along the Zone's coastline held the aggregate of junk and sampan traffic to a minimum and required many of the MARKET TIME units to return to port or seek lee areas on numerous occasions throughout the month.

On the 18th, POINT PARTRIDGE took a Viet Cong staging area approximately 18 miles northeast of Phan Thiet under fire. One concrete structure was damaged and numerous secondary explosions were produced by the firing.

On 29 November five Swift boats—PCFs 60, 65, 87, 88 and 89—provided naval gunfire support for an ARVN 22nd Division operation at the request of the II Corps Tactical Zone Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer who also spotted for the mission. The firing, which took place approximately eight miles northeast of Qui Nhon, resulted in

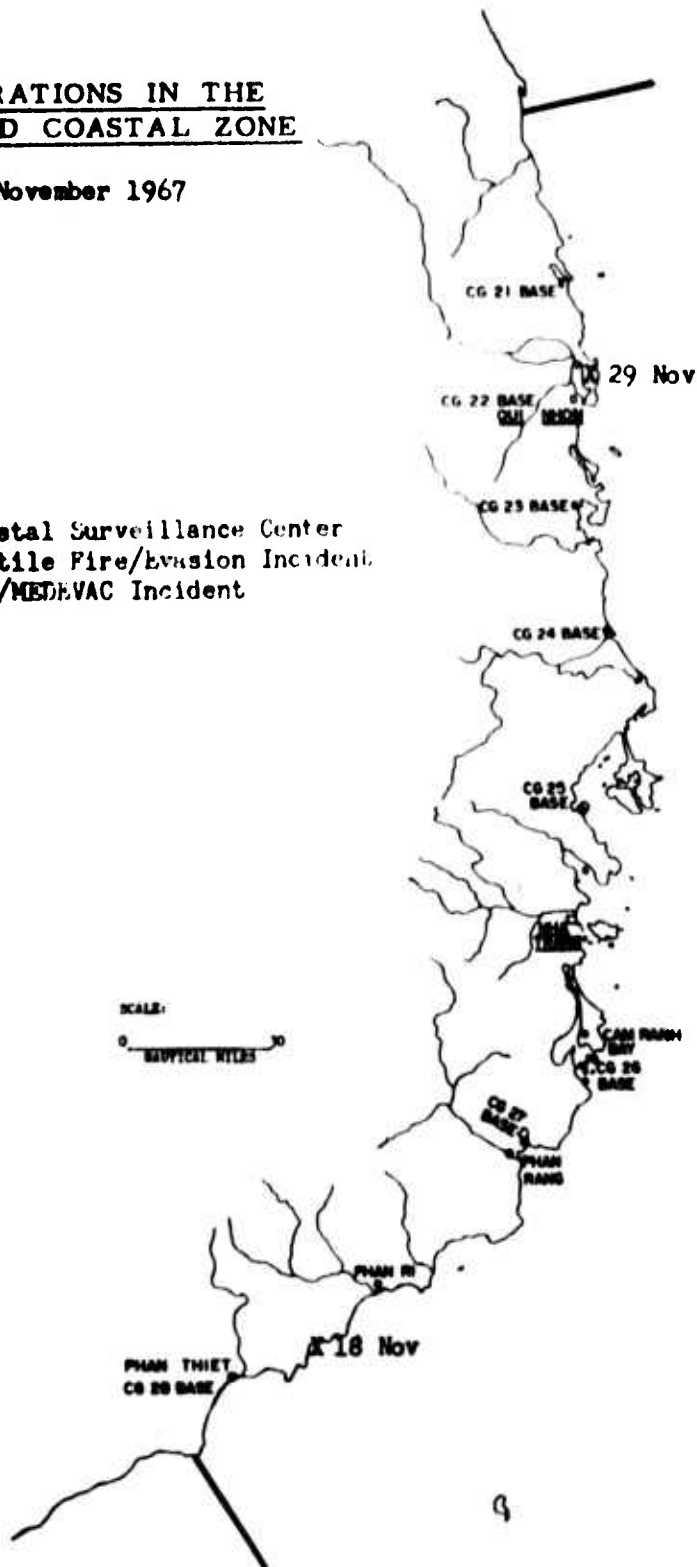
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OPERATIONS IN THE  
SECOND COASTAL ZONE

November 1967

LEGEND:

- - Coastal Surveillance Center
- X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
- # - SAR/MEDEVAC Incident



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two structures destroyed, and one structure and numerous caves and bunkers damaged.

#### Third Coastal Zone

Although junk and sampan traffic was light in the Third Coastal Zone, hostile fire incidents and gunfire support requests increased with the advent of fair weather in the southern zones.

MARKET TIME units patrolling the areas in the Third Coastal Zone detected over 5,600 junks and sampans during November, a decrease of approximately 3,000 from October's figure; 2,316 of the detected craft were inspected or boarded.

On 6 November USCGC YAKUTAT provided 5-inch gunfire support against Viet Cong structures approximately 30 miles northeast of Vung Tau. The firing, which was requested by a III Corps spotter, resulted in one secondary explosion and one structure destroyed.

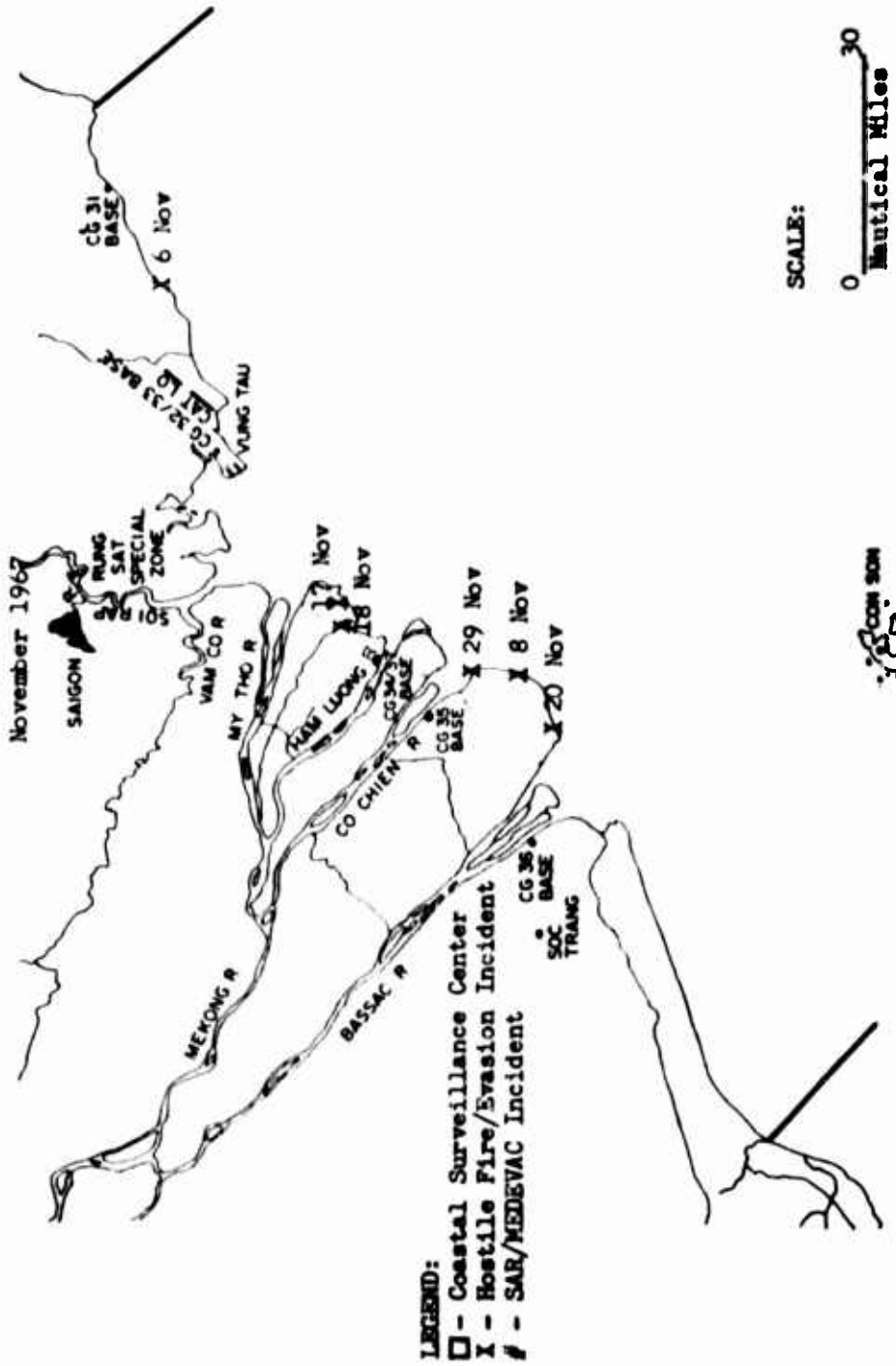
On the 8th, POINT SLOCUM took enemy structures and bunker lines in the Long Toan Secret Zone under fire at the request of a IV CTZ spotter. The results of the firing included three bunkers destroyed and three structures damaged.

On 17 November, in response to a request from sector authorities, PCF 40 took an area 40 miles south of Saigon under fire. As a result of the firing, eight sampans and three structures were destroyed, and five sampans and three structures were damaged.

On the 18th, PCF 67 took two sampans under fire when they

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OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



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attempted to evade up the mouth of the Ba Lai River approximately 42 miles south of Saigon. The Swift boat's firing destroyed one sampan and severely damaged the other.

On 20 November, at the request of a IV CTZ spotter, and with the Tra Vinh NILO spotting, POINT WHITE provided naval gunfire support against an enemy position in the Long Toan Secret Zone. The WPB's firing destroyed one structure and 400 square meters of crops.

On the 29th, in response to a request from sector authorities, POINT MARONE, utilizing an airborne spotter, took an enemy position in the Long Toan Secret Zone under fire and damaged one structure.

#### Fourth Coastal Zone

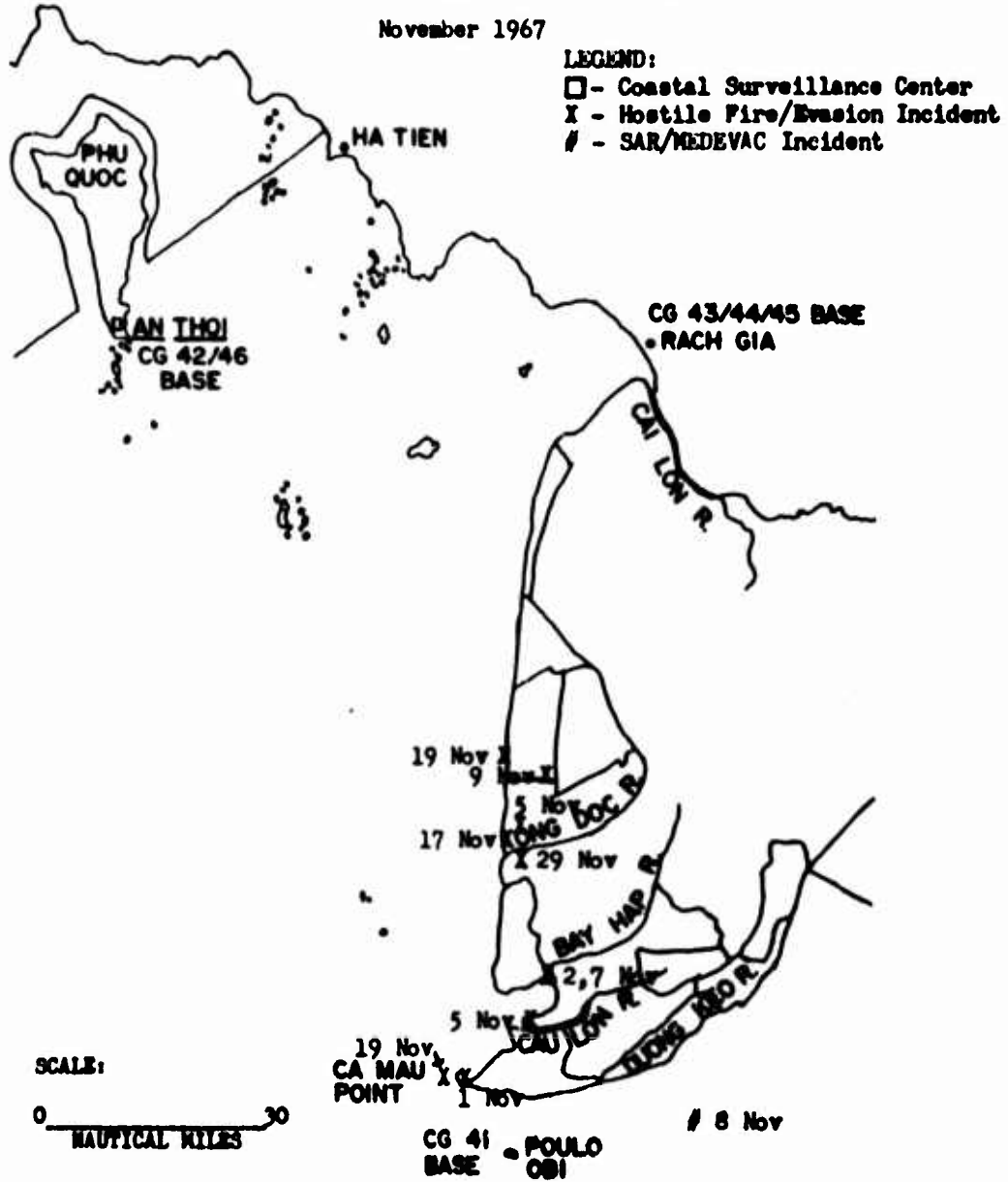
Continued fair weather in the Fourth Coastal Zone allowed MARKET TIME units to remain particularly active during November. In addition to detecting over 9,000 junks and sampans, over 3,000 of which were boarded or inspected, the Zone's units were involved in numerous hostile fire incidents and gunfire support missions during the month.

On 1 November PCF 72 took enemy positions on the western-most tip of Ca Mau Point under fire after two Army L-19 aircraft had reported receiving heavy small-arms fire from the area. The full extent of enemy casualties was unknown; however, one sampan and one structure were destroyed and one sampan was damaged.

On the 2nd, PCF 22 received hostile fire from a position

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OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



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approximately 14 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. The fire was returned and suppressed and resulted in one structure and four bunkers destroyed, and two sampans captured.

On 5 November PCF 11 received automatic-weapons fire from the beach while attempting to close and inspect a sampan six miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. PCF 11 returned the fire, utilizing an airborne spotter, and destroyed one sampan, one structure, and one bunker. Five secondary explosions also resulted from the firing.

In another incident on the 5th, USCGC BERING STRAIT heavily damaged 12 structures and destroyed one sampan during a gunfire support mission 28 miles north of Ca Mau Point.

On 7 November PCF 11 provided naval gunfire against a Viet Cong position 14 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. Coastal Group 41 had received hostile fire from the area earlier. Results of the firing included one bunker, one sampan, and two structures damaged, and five sampans captured.

On the 9th, BERING STRAIT conducted a gunfire mission against enemy positions 33 miles north of Ca Mau Point. An airborne spotter, utilized during the mission, reported 18 structures damaged.

On the 17th, U. S. Special Forces reported two Viet Cong companies in an area 27 miles north of Ca Mau Point and requested PCF 94 take the area under fire. A later assessment of the damage indicated seven enemy wounded, four sampans with undetermined cargo

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destroyed, and four structures damaged.

On 19 November while POINT BANKS was conducting small-boat operations with one Boston Whaler, a sampan attempted to evade up a canal 34 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The WPB's firing destroyed the sampan and the occupant was killed (probable).

Also on the 19th, POINT GARNET sighted a suspicious sampan just off the tip of Ca Mau Point. The two occupants of the sampan fled ashore when hailed by the WPB, then returned and attempted to evade with the craft. At the same time, POINT GARNET received fire from the beach. The sampan was taken under fire and destroyed and the occupants were believed to have been killed.

On the 29th, USCGC GRESHAM provided naval gunfire against an estimated enemy company approximately 29 miles north of Ca Mau Point. An airborne spotter reported 100 percent coverage of the target area with two structures and two sampans damaged.

A SAR mission was conducted by PCF 103 on 8 November when an Army Mohawk aircraft crashed in full view of the Swift boat approximately 28 miles east-southeast of Ca Mau Point. The Swift boat reached the impact area within 90 seconds and commenced an immediate search for survivors. The Coast Guard Cutter POINT HUDSON also arrived on scene and assisted in the search. One helmet and one inflated life raft were located but no survivors could be found.

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### MARKET TIME UNITS

During the month of November the Vietnamese Navy had an average of eight PGMs and three PCEs assigned daily to MARKET TIME forces. In addition, the Royal Thai Navy had one PGM assigned to MARKET TIME forces in the Fourth Coastal Zone.

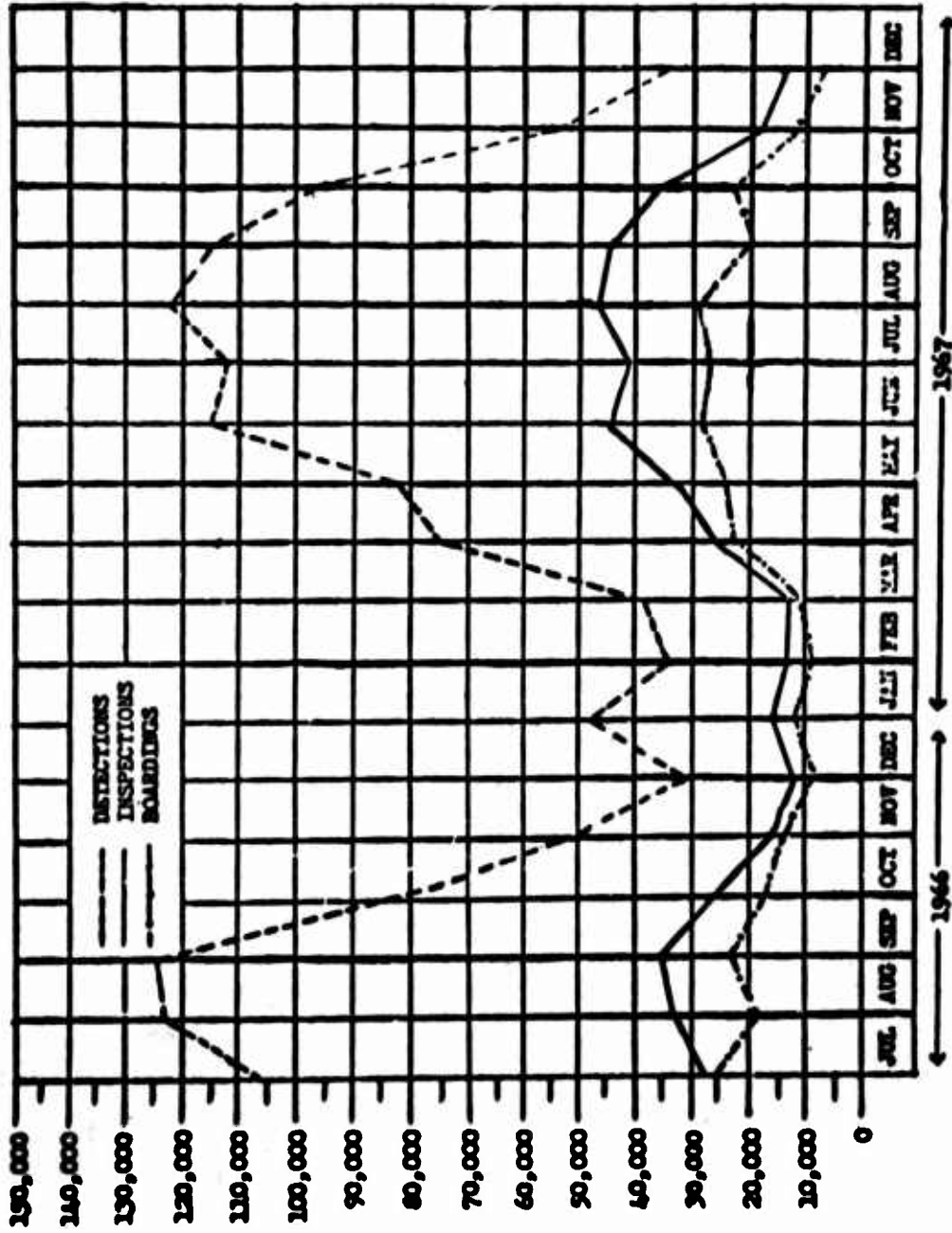
At month's end, aircraft from three patrol squadrons were providing air surveillance for Operation MARKET TIME. A detachment of Patrol Squadron TWO (VP-2) flew SP-2H Neptunes from Tan Son Nhut Air Base and a detachment of VP-17 flew Neptunes from Cam Ranh Bay. Meanwhile, a detachment of VP-47 flew P-3A Orions from U Tapao, Thailand.

Throughout the month the following U. S. SEVENTH Fleet ships operated as MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:

		<u>Dates</u>
DER 251	USS CAMP	1-18
DER 328	USS FINCH	19-30
DER 325	USS LOWE	1-2
DER 322	USS NEWELL	2-30
DER 386	USS SAVAGE	15-30
LST 509	USS BULLOCK COUNTY	1-5
LST 1150	USS SUTTER COUNTY	5-30
MSC 199	USS PHOEBE	12-30
MSC 206	USS WARBLER	1-12
MSO 426	USS CONFLICT	1-13
MSO 488	USS CONQUEST	13-30
MSO 435	USS ENDURANCE	1-13
MSO 438	USS ESTERN	13-30
MSO 489	USS GALLANT	24-30
MSO 448	USS ILLUSIVE	13-24
MSO 455	USS IMPLICIT	1-13
MSO 491	USS PERSISTENT	1-13
MSO 492	USS PLEDGE	13-30

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TONNE UNITS



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PG 84	USS ASHEVILLE	1-30
PG 85	USS GALLUP	1-30
WHEC 381	USCGC BARATARIA	11-30
WHEC 382	USCGC BERING STRAIT	1-18
WHEC 387	USCGC GRESHAM	1-11, 18-30
WHEC 378	USCGC HALFMOON	21-30
WHEC 380	USCGC YAKUTAT	1-21, 30

\*\*\*

MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
November 1967

1. U. S. Ships/Craft:

	<u>DER</u>	<u>MSO</u>	<u>MSC</u>	<u>WPB</u>	<u>PCF</u>	<u>LST</u>	<u>WHEC</u>
Daily average number of craft on patrol	2	4	1	16	33	1	3

2. U. S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY	<u>23,845</u>	NIGHT	<u>11,579</u>		<u>36,582</u>
	STEEL - DAY	<u>592</u>	NIGHT	<u>566</u>		
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY	<u>9,183</u>	NIGHT	<u>4,866</u>		<u>14,781</u>
	STEEL - DAY	<u>363</u>	NIGHT	<u>369</u>		
TOTAL BOARD	WOOD - DAY	<u>6,119</u>	NIGHT	<u>2,092</u>		<u>8,266</u>
	STEEL - DAY	<u>44</u>	NIGHT	<u>11</u>		
TOTAL DETAINED	JUNKS	<u>31</u>	PEOPLE	<u>270</u>		

3. Naval Gunfire Support Missions:

Total Missions 76

Structures 20 destroyed

Bunkers 8 destroyed

Craft 30 Destroyed

Personnel 18 Viet Cong killed (three probables)

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4. Hostile Fire:

Total Missions 14

5. SAR/MEDEVAC:

Total Missions 5

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#### OPERATION STABLE DOOR

During November Operation STABLE DOOR patrols detected 40,003 junks and sampans; 4,663 of these were inspected. Of the 3,366 craft boarded, 14 were detained along with 218 persons.



Crewmen of LCPL 43 inspect a sampan in Cam Ranh Bay during a STABLE DOOR patrol.

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Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit ONE (IUWU 1) at Vung Tau detained a total of 12 junks and 73 persons during the month. The suspects were detained for improper identification, curfew violations, and suspicious actions.

In November IUWU 2 at Cam Ranh Bay detained a total of 55 persons and one junk.

On 8 November Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team 20 successfully removed one satchel charge which had been placed against a fuel tank in the compound of NAVSUPACT, Saigon's Qui Nhon detachment. Three other satchel charges detonated within the compound, damaging one fuel tank and one water tank. No personnel injuries were sustained as a result of the explosions.

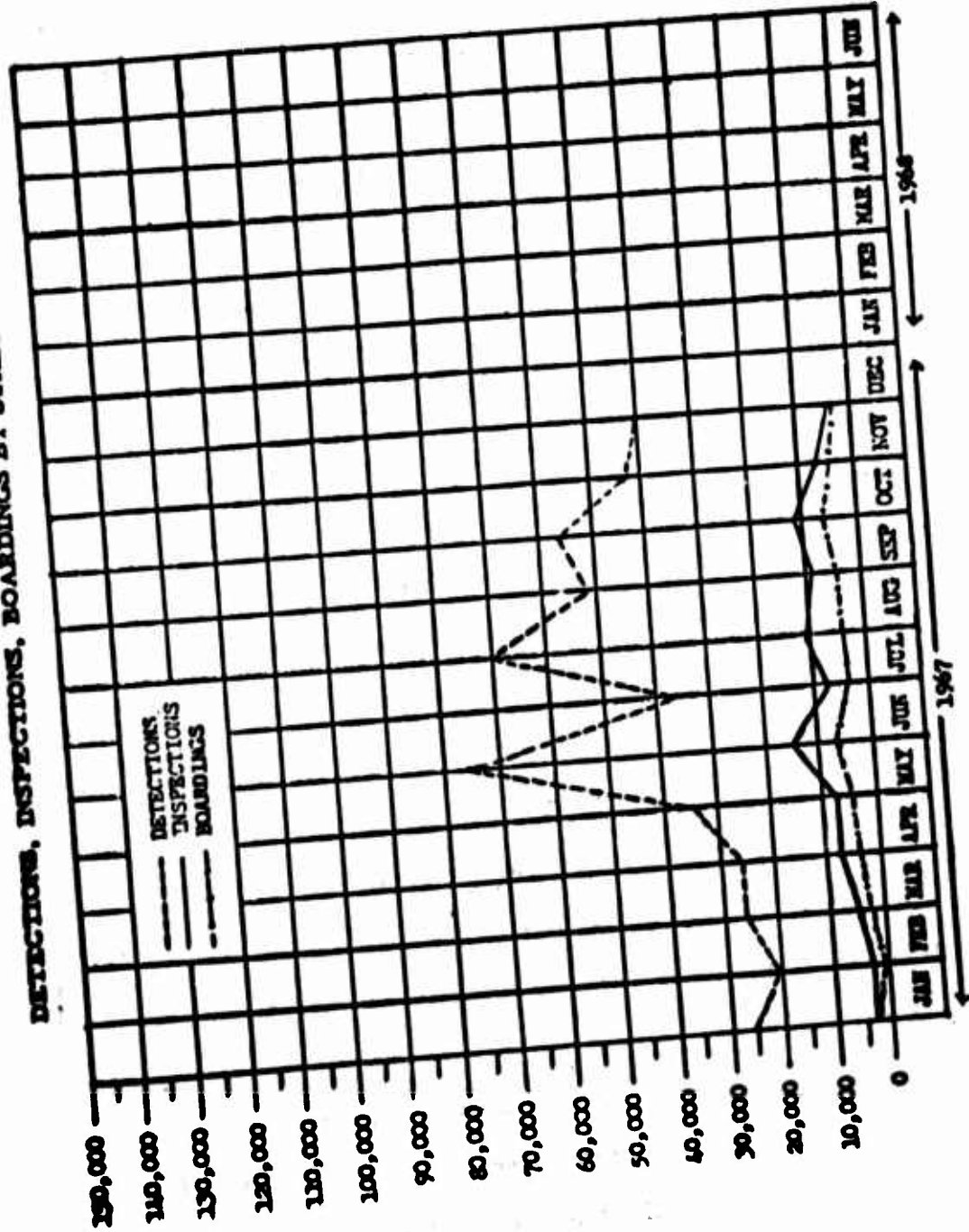
On 21 November IUWU 3 personnel, while on a routine STABLE DOOR patrol at Qui Nhon, discovered a male Vietnamese body floating in the water. Investigation revealed that the body had multiple gun shot wounds and was carrying Viet Cong papers, two MK 26 grenades, one first aid kit and one canteen.

IUWU 4 continued operations in the Nha Trang area during November. The unit detained a total of 86 persons and two junks during the month.

On 3 November LCPL 47 was holed by an explosive charge while alongside Nha Trang's pontoon pier. With the exception of the engine, shaft and installed ordnance, the LCPL was a total loss.

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS



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Two sections of the pontoon pier were also demolished by the explosion.

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A "Seawolf" fires a rocket at Viet Cong positions in the Mekong Delta while PERs prepare to take the area under fire.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

During the month of November units of the River Patrol Force continued to inflict heavy losses on the enemy amid increased activity in the central Ham Luong and Bassac rivers and along the main shipping channel to Saigon. GAME WARDEN forces came to the aid of beleaguered Vietnamese troops on three occasions, killing over 60 of the enemy.

On the 15th and 18th the Long Tau River was the scene of Viet Cong attacks against friendly merchant ships. The second attack proved rather costly to the enemy as counter-attacking forces killed 23 Viet Cong and captured two recoilless-rifles.

The Navy suffered a serious casualty when YRBM-16 was mined in the early morning hours of 24 November. The quick reaction and professional competence of the Navymen in extinguishing the raging fire that ensued after the explosion of the mine prevented what could have been a major catastrophe. Seven sailors died in the incident.

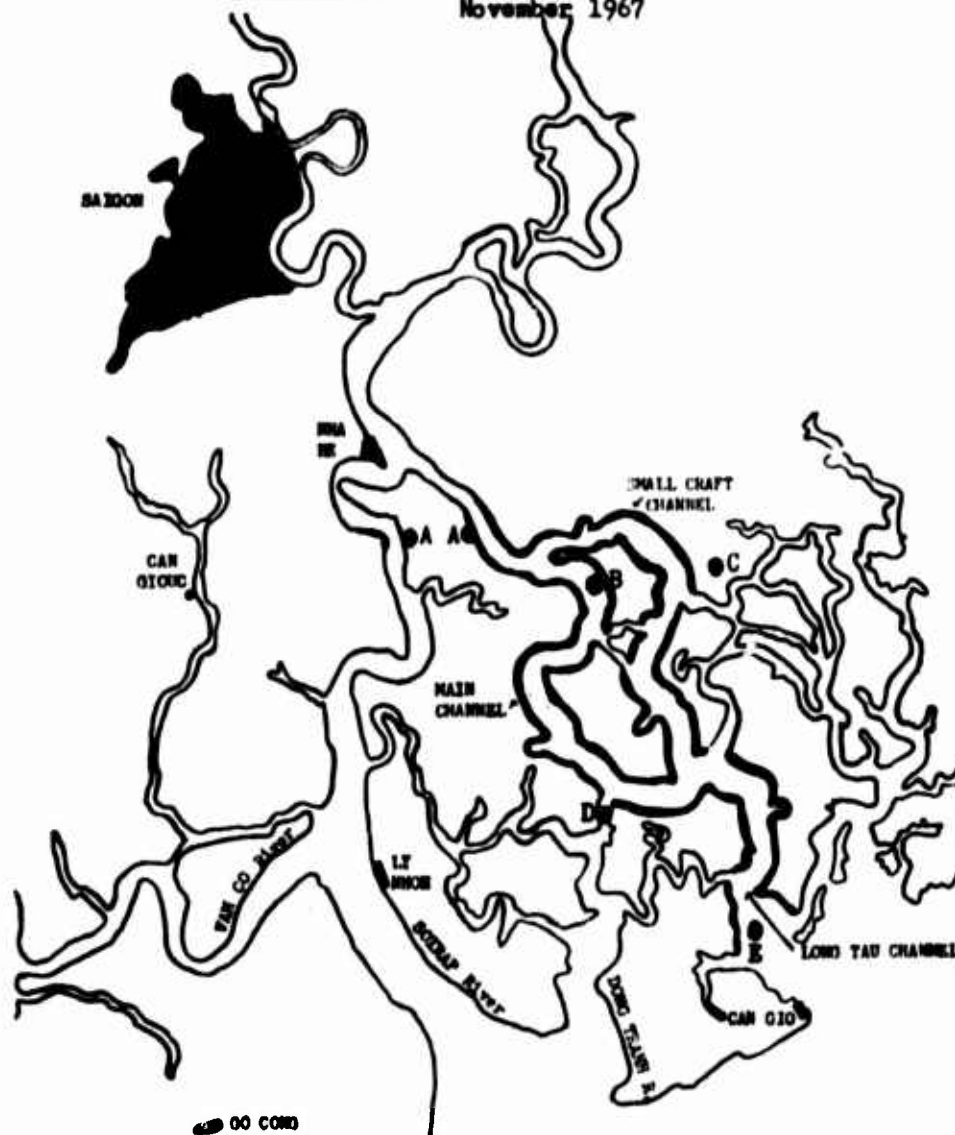
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

At dawn on the morning of 12 November a squad of SEALs debarked from a helicopter near the Ba Gioi River at a point 12 miles east-southeast of Nha Be. Throughout the day, the SEALs could hear from their ambush site, voices, short bursts of heavy automatic machine-gun fire and grenades exploding. It was surmised that a

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RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

November 1967



- A - PBRs - 15 Nov
  - B - YIT AY - 15 Nov
  - C - SEALs - 12 Nov
  - D - PBRs - 17 Nov
  - E - PRESIDENT BUCHANEN - 18 Nov
- SCALE: 0 5  
(Nautical Miles)

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Viet Cong training area was close by. At 2215 the squad ambushed a heavily-loaded sampan, with three Viet Cong aboard, heading south. Another sampan, 100 meters astern of the first, evaded and escaped the ambush. The long day of waiting resulted in three dead Viet Cong. The SEALs were withdrawn from the area by an LCM fifteen minutes later with no casualties.

At 0100 on 15 November, a PBR patrol on the Soirap River fired on a sampan that had evaded into a stream, about three and a half miles down river from Nha Be, with unknown results. PBRs on the Long Tau River, to the east, were alerted to a possible Viet Cong crossing attempt at a point adjacent to where the sampan had evaded. At 0120 the Long Tau patrol detected six sampans with ten people exiting from the west bank at the suspected crossing point three miles downstream from Nha Be. The enemy, having been detected, opened fire on the patrol with automatic-weapons from the sampans and from both banks of the river. The PBRs quickly retaliated and suppressed the Viet Cong fire. There were two Viet Cong killed and five others were declared possible kills. The patrol captured four sampans, one CHICOM carbine, two U. S. M-1 carbines, 1 U. S. hand flare and 100 pounds of assorted clothing and documents. There were no friendly casualties. Helicopter air strikes and artillery fire was called in on the possible escape routes with unknown results.

On 15 November at 1125, Viet Cong forces attacked the Nationalist

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Chinese merchant ship YIT AY, with Russian-made rockets, in the Long Tau shipping channel 15 miles southeast of Saigon. The ship was hit in an area below the bridge by four RPG-7 rounds. There were no casualties and damage was minor.

A Navy helicopter light fire team and a U. S. Army spotter aircraft coordinated with PBRs and Popular Force troops at the scene of the attack to flush out the enemy forces. At 1200 two young Vietnamese males were apprehended after they appeared to be evading the helicopters. The Popular Forces commenced a sweep of the area. About an hour later a PBR patrol on a blocking station captured an evading sampan and killed the two Viet Cong occupants. The sampan contained a CHICOM carbine, eight clips of ammunition and miscellaneous documents and supplies.

A PBR patrol, while proceeding to investigate Viet Cong harassment of wood cutters on the 17th, received small-arms fire from an enemy position located about 14 miles southeast of Nha Be on the Dinh Ba River. Shortly after the small-arms fire began a mine detonated ten feet from one PBR, spewing water 150 feet into the air. The PBR received minor damage to the hull, radar and radio but remained in action to suppress the enemy fire. The enemy position was later attacked by Navy "Seawolves" and fixed-wing aircraft after the PBRs withdrew. The airstrikes destroyed three bunkers and damaged three others. There were no personnel casualties.

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At about 1245, 18 November, the U. S. merchant ship, SS PRESIDENT BUCHANAN, was attacked by recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire about 30 miles south of Saigon, on the Long Tau River, while en route to the South Vietnamese Capital. During the attack, that lasted about ten minutes, the ship was hit 19 times. The enemy fire hit the hull and superstructure, ripping holes ranging from six inches to two and one-half feet in diameter. There were



SS PRESIDENT BUCHANAN after a Viet Cong ambush on the Long Tau river in the Rung Sat Special Zone on 18 November.

no casualties. When word of the attack was received by CTG 116.2 at Nha Be, four PBRs and Army and Navy helicopters were immediately

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dispatched to the area. Air strikes were made against the enemy position and shortly thereafter Vietnamese Popular Force troops were airlifted into the area to engage the Viet Cong. The PBRs set up blocking forces to prevent the enemy from escaping via the river. At 1645 the enemy attempted to break contact and began to flee. An Army spotter plane observed 20-30 Viet Cong and shortly thereafter an airstrike was made against them. Sixteen Viet Cong were killed.

Contact with the enemy was broken at 1730. One 57-mm recoilless-rifle, one CHICOM 75-mm recoilless-rifle, two CHICOM carbines, one CHICOM grenade and miscellaneous ammunition were captured during the afternoon engagement. One U. S. Army helicopter was downed by enemy fire and recovered without personnel casualties.

The following day the Popular Forces made another sweep of the area and found 16 freshly-dug graves and seven Viet Cong bodies. Also found were miscellaneous personal equipment and one scope for a 57-mm recoilless-rifle. The total enemy casualty figure was 23 killed and five probably killed in the action. One Vietnamese Popular Force soldier was wounded--the only friendly casualty.

The aggressive reaction and professional competence demonstrated by participating units earned a "well done" from Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam.

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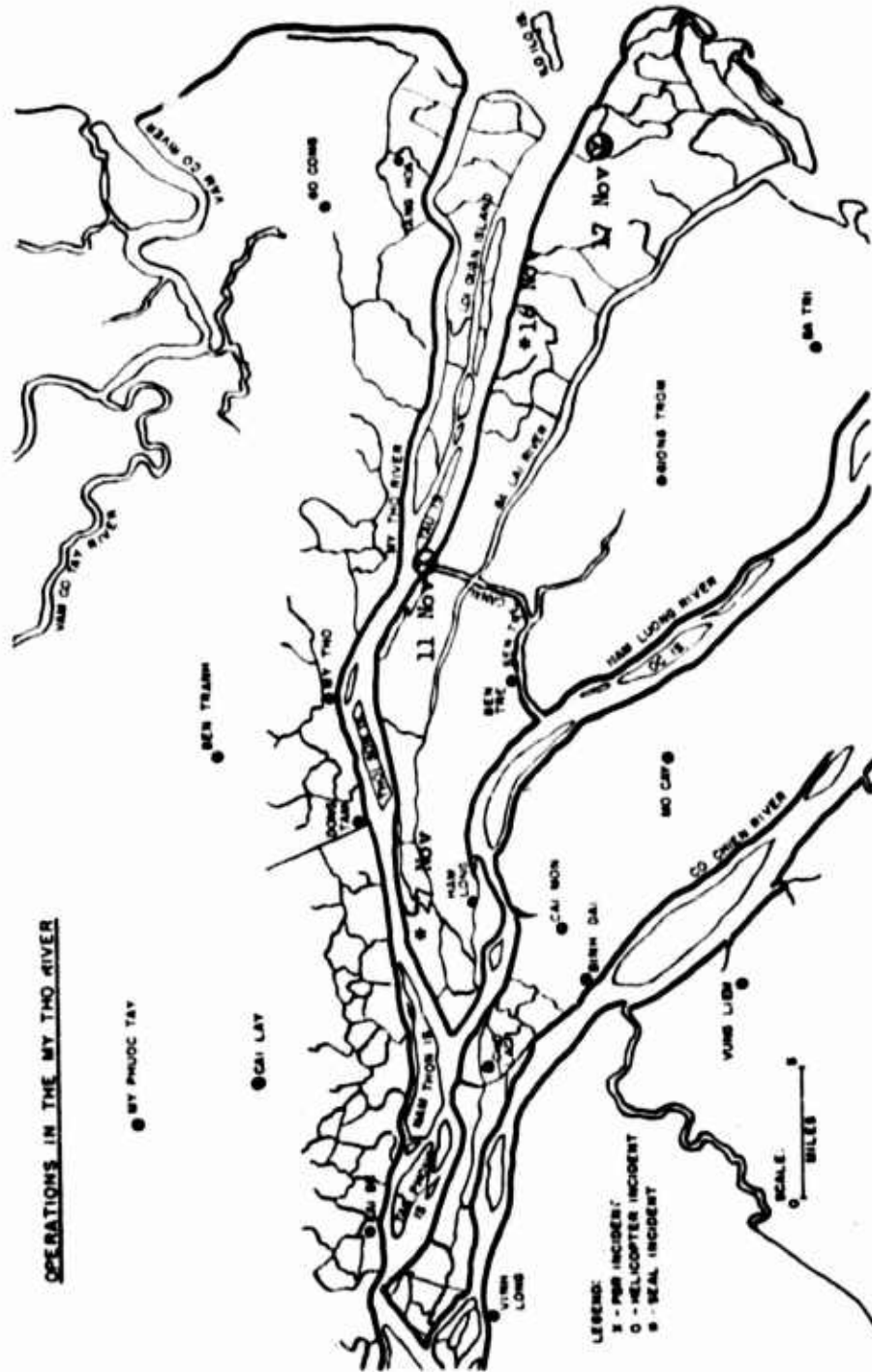
DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

On 16 November, while operating in an area 17 miles southeast of My Tho, SEALs discovered a heavily booby-trapped bunker complex. While in the process of clearing the booby traps, ICC R. T. GALLAGHER, USN, a highly-qualified explosive ordnance demolition-man, received severe injuries to his left hand when a booby-trapped grenade he was disarming exploded. The grenade, a new innovation in the Viet Cong inventory of booby traps, was designed to detonate when the spoon touched the grenade case, thereby electrically activating the firing device. Discovery of this new enemy booby-trap grenade resulted in the publishing of orders directing that all enemy grenades were to be destroyed after discovery. The grenades were not to be kept as war trophies and no attempts to disarm them were to be made.

On 11 November, PERs on routine patrol were advised by the Kien Hoa sector advisor that three Viet Cong companies had attacked a Vietnamese outpost located about seven miles southeast of My Tho. The advisor needed PER assistance. PERs 123 and 126, the first of eight boats to arrive on the scene, commenced to engage the enemy. Navy armed helicopters soon joined in the attack and in the midst of the action PER 121 medically evacuated two seriously wounded Popular Force troopers from the outpost. The PERs received enemy

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fire from both banks of the Giao Hoa Canal. PBR 131 had two B-40 rockets explode close astern, as it pressed its attack against the enemy positions. The coordinated attacks of the Navy "Seawolves" and the patrol boats soon forced the Viet Cong to withdraw after sustaining five Viet Cong killed and eleven wounded. There were no U. S. casualties.

Navy "Seawolves", on 17 November, attacked sampans located in a canal on the south side of the river near the mouth of the My Tho. The helicopters made multiple rocket and machine-gun passes into the Viet Cong staging area. As the "Seawolves" were attacking, PBR 142 provided cover support and fired 60-mm mortars into the enemy positions. Six Viet Cong were killed, three sampans and two structures were destroyed and three structures were damaged in the 30-minute engagement. There were no friendly casualties.

On 27 November, two SEAL squads landed at two points on the south bank of the river, about ten miles southwest of My Tho, in a pre-dawn operation. Squad 7B patrolled south 200 meters and while searching a village killed two Viet Cong as they attempted to flee. Squad 7A that had patrolled 500 meters south of their landing position encountered resistance in a village that they had begun searching. In the brief fire fight one Viet Cong was killed and one SEAL was wounded. The SEALs extracted without further incident, with one detainee, about five hours after landing.



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Operations in the Ham Luong River

On 1 November, USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) while transitting down the Ham Luong, conducted harassment and interdiction fire in a specified strike zone that extended along the west bank of the river for a distance of ten miles from a point located four miles southwest of Ben Tre. The 50-minute bombardment with 40-mm cannons destroyed ten structures and damaged fifteen. The LST's guns killed six Viet Cong and wounded nine others.

At 0118 on the morning of 24 November, YREM-16, a FBR support unit anchored at the confluence of the Ham Luong and Ben Tre rivers, was racked by a violent explosion from a Viet Cong-planted water-mine that ripped a gaping eighteen- by seventeen-foot hole below the waterline in the starboard side abreast the mast. A raging fire, fomented by a ruptured fuel tank, ensued.

A call for assistance was received by USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838), on station at the mouth of the Ham Luong River, at 0130. General Quarters was sounded and twenty minutes later the ship was underway and two helicopters loaded with firefighting equipment were en route. The LST anchored at 0356, 1,000 yards from the YREM-16 that was now burning fiercely. Rescue and assistance parties with fire fighting equipment were dispatched to the YREM to aid in the valiant efforts of the crew to control the fire.

By 0530 the fire was gradually being contained, but everything

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depended on receipt of additional fire fighting foam. The task of foam resupply was being carried out by relay system involving the "Seawolf" helicopters that shuttled the much needed item from Dong Tam to the LST for further transfer to the fire scene by PBRs from River Patrol Section 521. Additional PBRs mounted P250 portable fire pumps to aid in battling the fire, while others conducted area searches and provided a security cordon around the stricken barge.

Personnel were evacuated to the HUNTERDON COUNTY at first light and as the personnel were being accounted for the casualty toll mounted to fourteen Navymen wounded (three were serious) and five missing. Two of the seriously wounded, who were crewmen of the YREM-16, died later from burns and the five missing, all attached to River Section 522, were later found dead in a flooded compartment.

The fires were finally put out and flooding was under control by 1600 that afternoon. The barge had been saved, however, extensive damage was wrought throughout and PBR 116, on board for repairs, was totally destroyed by the fire. The barge was towed to Dong Tam and beached for temporary repairs. On 26 December it was towed to Sasebo, Japan for overhaul.

The assistance rendered by all units and the skillful performance by all hands were instrumental in reducing the extent of

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The remains of PBR 116, destroyed by fire on YRBM-16 on 24 November.

damage and averting a disaster. USS HUNTERDON COUNTY, in her dash up the river to render assistance, made an unprecedented night transit of the Ham Luong River.

Two Navy armed helicopters scrambled from their base at Vinh Long on the 28th of November and attacked a concentration of enemy sampans and structures located in a specified strike zone 24 miles to the east-northeast. The "Seawolves" expended their ordnance load in aggressive attacks and killed eight Viet Cong, destroyed four sampans and three structures, and damaged 10 sampans and six structures.

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Operations in the Co Chien River

On the morning of 15 November, while conducting special operations in an area approximately five miles southeast of Vinh Long, a SEAL platoon engaged the enemy. In the ensuing fire fight one Viet Cong was killed. It was later learned that the SEALs had achieved a prize kill as the victim was the Viet Cong district security chief. The Vietnamese Army and local forces had long sought this individual. It was further reported that the local inhabitants were very excited and impressed by the loss of such an important Viet Cong. The success of the operation was somewhat lessened, however, as LTJG F. H. MARKS, USNR, Officer in Charge of the SEAL unit, sustained a serious bullet wound in his left upper chest.

On 17 November "Seawolves", responding to a request for support from the Tra Vinh sector advisor, attacked enemy troops in an open rice paddy about five miles east of Phu Vinh. The enemy tried to thwart the helicopter attack with heavy automatic-weapons fire; however, the "Seawolves" awesome firepower killed 20 of the Viet Cong and wounded another 20. The U. S. Army senior advisor was killed and the province chief was captured by the Viet Cong. There were no casualties sustained by the "Seawolves".

On the 23rd "Seawolves" scrambled from their base at Vinh Long to attack a reported concentration of about 200 Viet Cong located

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in an area about 15 miles southeast of the base. The armed helicopters put in their strikes and killed seven and wounded two of the enemy forces before the Viet Cong broke contact.

Operations in the Bassac River

On 2 November, a two-boat PBR patrol supported a Popular Force (PF) sweep up the Mai Ciam River, located about eight miles southeast of Can Tho off the southern bank of the Bassac River. Initially, light contact was established with the enemy, netting one Viet Cong killed. As the sweep continued heavy enemy contact was gained and 20 Viet Cong were seen retreating into a bunker located on a canal leading off the river. One PBR entered the canal to provide support to the friendly troops and suppress the fire coming from the enemy bunker. In the meantime, the cover PBR loaded PF troops from within the sweep area and landed them at the bunker site. Five separate, heavily blooded trails were found in the area of the bunker, indicative of numerous enemy casualties. Found on one trail was a hand severed by .50-caliber fire. As the sweep progressed, the PBRs continued their supporting role as they destroyed a 35-foot sampan and a motor. The boats also fired on 10 Viet Cong that had fled into a tree line. The result of the action was unknown. The Popular Forces were extracted by PBR upon completion of five hours of sweeping.

The PBR support of PF troops has proven very successful. The



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PBRs can remain in the main river until the PF troops have the Viet Cong committed, at which time the boats enter the minor waterways taking advantage of the element of surprise. It has been noted that PF troops are very aggressive when supported by the PBRs.

On 4 November, four PBRs, operating from the PBR base at Binh-Thuy, made a planned incursion into the Bong Bo Canal located approximately ten miles southeast of their base. The patrol received heavy automatic-weapons and small-arms fire after they fired upon 10 Viet Cong detected on the bank of the canal. The patrol made three firing runs against the enemy positions and continued up the canal as Navy armed helicopters were called in and made a strike. The patrol again received heavy enemy fire the entire length of the canal as the boats withdrew. During the action three Viet Cong were killed and two were wounded; however, six U. S. Navymen were wounded, two requiring medical evacuation by USAF medical helicopters. The combined firepower of the PBR and the "Seawolves" destroyed five structures, damaged 31 others, and sunk seven sampans and damaged eight. Employed during the operation were flaming arrows fired from a "Robin Hood"-type long bow. The successful use of the bow and arrow accounted for the destruction of one structure. The use of the flaming arrow was initiated by LCDR Donald R. SHEPPARD, USN, Commander River Division 51, as an effective means of eliminating Viet Cong ambush sites concealed under flammable

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bamboo huts. Another innovation used was pop hand flares\* modified to accommodate psychological operation leaflets which were distributed along both banks of the canal.

A PBR patrol, on the afternoon of 9 November, observed and pursued two sampans that were evading the patrol. As the boats gave chase behind Tan Dinh Island, approximately 17 miles southeast of Can Tho, light sniper fire was received from the tree line. The PBRs returned the fire and continued down the river a short distance when they were attacked by heavy automatic-weapons, small-arms and recoilless-rifle fire from both banks of the river. PBR 28 was hit by a recoilless-rifle round on the port side at the water line in the forward end of the engine compartment, temporarily disabling the port engine. The engine was restarted and the damaged boat cleared downstream, rapidly taking on water. The craft then began sinking stern first. PBR 37, the cover boat, rushed to the aid of the sinking craft, experiencing two near misses by recoilless-rifle rounds. One crewmember was recovered from the water and five others were taken off the sunken craft. The rescue was made while under intense enemy automatic-weapons and small-arms fire. Two Navymen were wounded and one U. S. Army observer was killed during the initial engagement.

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\* A hand-held pyrotechnic device used for signaling or illuminating.

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"Seawolves" scrambled from the deck of the USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) to support the patrol and a medical helicopter was called in to evacuate the casualties. COMRIVDIV 51, when advised of the ambush, sortied from Binh Thuy with eleven PBRs, a helicopter light fire team and units of River Assault Group 25 to counter the attack and salvage the sunken PBR. Artillery batteries at Tra On provided 105-mm harassing fire in the vicinity of the sunken boat, while the "Seawolves" provided firing runs to ensure the security of the stricken PBR.

Automatic-weapons and small-arms fire intensified once again as the additional PBRs arrived on the scene to commence salvage operations, wounding another Navyman. The PBRs raked the banks with .50-caliber fire, killing at least one of the enemy. As PBR 28 was towed from the engagement area and all salvage units were clear, a fixed-wing airstrike was placed against the enemy positions. The aircraft encountered heavy automatic-weapons fire during their strikes.

PBR 28 was later hoisted aboard USS JENNINGS COUNTY for repairs; however, investigation revealed the boat was beyond repair. Four additional PBRs received minor hull damage from bullet hits and shrapnel and two helicopters also sustained minor damage.

At dawn on the morning of 12 November a platoon of SEALs landed on the southern end of Tan Dinh Island to conduct a search of an

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area that had been the scene of PBR harassment the past several days. The patrol moved inland about 150 meters and then swung southeast a short distance where they encountered four Viet Cong while conducting a house search. Three of the four were killed as they attempted to escape. One of the Viet Cong killed was later identified as the Viet Cong district chief. The SEALs extracted without any casualties after finding numerous well-concealed punji pits in the area.

On 14 November, CTU 116.1.1 initiated Operation PLAQUEMINES I against enemy units in the Tan Dinh Island area who had stubbornly resisted all PBR, armed helicopter and SEAL attempts to neutralize their positions. The mission was to conduct a well-coordinated assault utilizing PBRs, helicopters and SEALs against a target area located 16 miles southeast of Can Tho along the east bank of the Tan Dinh Canal. In reserve would be additional "Seawolves", the 105-mm battery at Tra On and a fixed-wing airstrike.

The planned tactics were to have a PBR open fire at the northern end of the canal to alert the enemy thereby permitting them to arm and man their positions. Helicopters would then make a low-level pass of the designated strike area dropping a riot control agent (RCA). PBRs would then enter the area and continue saturating the enemy positions with M-79 RCA grenades. Upon completion of this phase the SEALs would be landed to sweep the area while

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the enemy was incapacitated, capturing as many as possible for interrogation; in addition to the capture of weapons and documents.

The operation was launched as scheduled and all units began their assigned tasks; however the wind conditions increased following an otherwise highly successful gas-laying attack causing the gas to rapidly disperse negating the desired results. The SEALs failed to gain contact with the enemy, but action along the canal was much the opposite. The river units encountered a methodical and violently opposed egress as the Viet Cong retaliated with a high volume of accurate sniper and light automatic-weapons fire from positions extending along the banks for 2,500 yards. GAME WARDEN units continued to engage the enemy with all available weapons, plus a requested U. S. Air Force fixed-wing airstrike during the four-hour running gun battle. LT R. J. NOVAK, USN, was seriously wounded when he received a bullet wound in the head and shrapnel wounds on both legs. He was evacuated by helicopter during the height of the battle. One U. S. Army man, serving as a PBR gunner, received a slight wound and was the only other personnel casualty. Four PBRs and one LCM received multiple bullet and shrapnel damage. Personnel casualties to the enemy were unknown; however two sampans and two structures were destroyed. (CTU 116.1.1 conceded this round to the Viet Cong).

On 26 November a Navy helicopter light fire team responding

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to a request from the Vinh Long subsector advisor, rushed to the aid of Popular Force (PF) troops that were pinned down in an open rice paddy, about two miles east of Tra On, by approximately two well-organized Viet Cong companies. Due to the close proximity of the PF troops to the enemy positions, the "Seawolves" pressed their attacks close-in to the enemy positions achieving maximum effectiveness and accuracy in the ordnance delivery. Heavy automatic-weapons fire was received during the firing passes; however, all enemy fire was suppressed after the fifth firing run, allowing the PFs to withdraw. The "Seawolves'" destructive fire power accounted for 37 Viet Cong killed and 10 wounded. As a result of this action one aircrewman was wounded by shrapnel when a .30-caliber bullet hit his chest protector. Both aircraft received hits. The only casualty to the PFs was one wounded and that occurred when initial contact was made by them with the enemy. It was noted that the enemy units were well disciplined in that the helicopters could not draw their fire on the initial passes. When the enemy did return fire it was "massed fire".

On 27 November Operation SUN DEVIL was conducted by units of River Division 51 (TU 116.1.1) against a Viet Cong supply base in the area bordering the Bong Boat Canal, which enters the lower Bassac River south of Tan Dinh Island. The assault began with a shore bombardment by 40-mm cannon and five-inch rockets from USS JENKINGS.

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COUNTY (LST 846) and by five-inch rockets launched from an LCM(R) plus 105-mm howitzers from Cau Ke battery. Upon completion of the bombardment, two PBRs, an armored LCPL, and an armored LCM entered the canal, preceded by a Navy light helicopter fire team to provide covering fire. The armada raked the Viet Cong structures on both sides of the waterway with all weapons at their command, plus three back pack flame throwers operated from the sterns of the PBRs. Forty-one structures and 17 sampans were destroyed and one known Viet Cong was killed in the 13-hour operation. One U. S. Navyman was wounded slightly in the action.

Following the capture of one sampan on 28 November near the mouth of the Bassac River, a PBR patrol with EMI L. D. YOCKEY, USN, as patrol officer, detected a large inboard motorized sampan close to the north shore. When the occupants spotted the approaching PBRs, they beached the sampan and fled leaving the motor running. EMI YOCKEY's PBR closed the sampan, taking the fleeing personnel under fire. As fire was received from the beach EMI YOCKEY jumped into the sampan and drove it out into the river. The captured sampan contained three Soviet RKG-3 HEAT grenades, one belt of 160 rounds of .30-caliber M1 ammunition, one belt of 150 rounds CHICOM 7.62 cartridges, one gas mask, back packs, uniforms, 12 sealed letters, 150 pounds of antibiotics, injectable medicines and 25 pounds of dressings. The contents were transferred to the PBRs and the

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sampan was destroyed. The above action prompted Commander Task Force 116 to send the following message:

AGGRESSIVE INTERDICTION AND QUICK REACTION IN CONFISCATING VIET CONG CACHE COMMENDABLE. HEROIC ACTS SUCH AS THOSE BY EMI YOCKEY CONTINUE TO UPHOLD AND BUILD THE PBR TRADITION. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. CAPTAIN GRAY SENDS.

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#### GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 11 November, River Section 534 relocated from Cat Lo to Nha Be and was assigned the first Mark II PBRs. However, Engineering problems associated with the new exhaust system delayed commencement of GAME WARDEN operations with the modified boats.

On 21 November, Commander River Division 55 was activated at Binh Thuy, LCDR H. R. BRENNEMAN, USN, commanding.

On 25 November, Commander River Division 55 relocated to Nha Be.

On 26 November, River Section 522 relocated from YREM-16 to My Tho.

On 30 November, Commander River Division 55 relocated to Danang.

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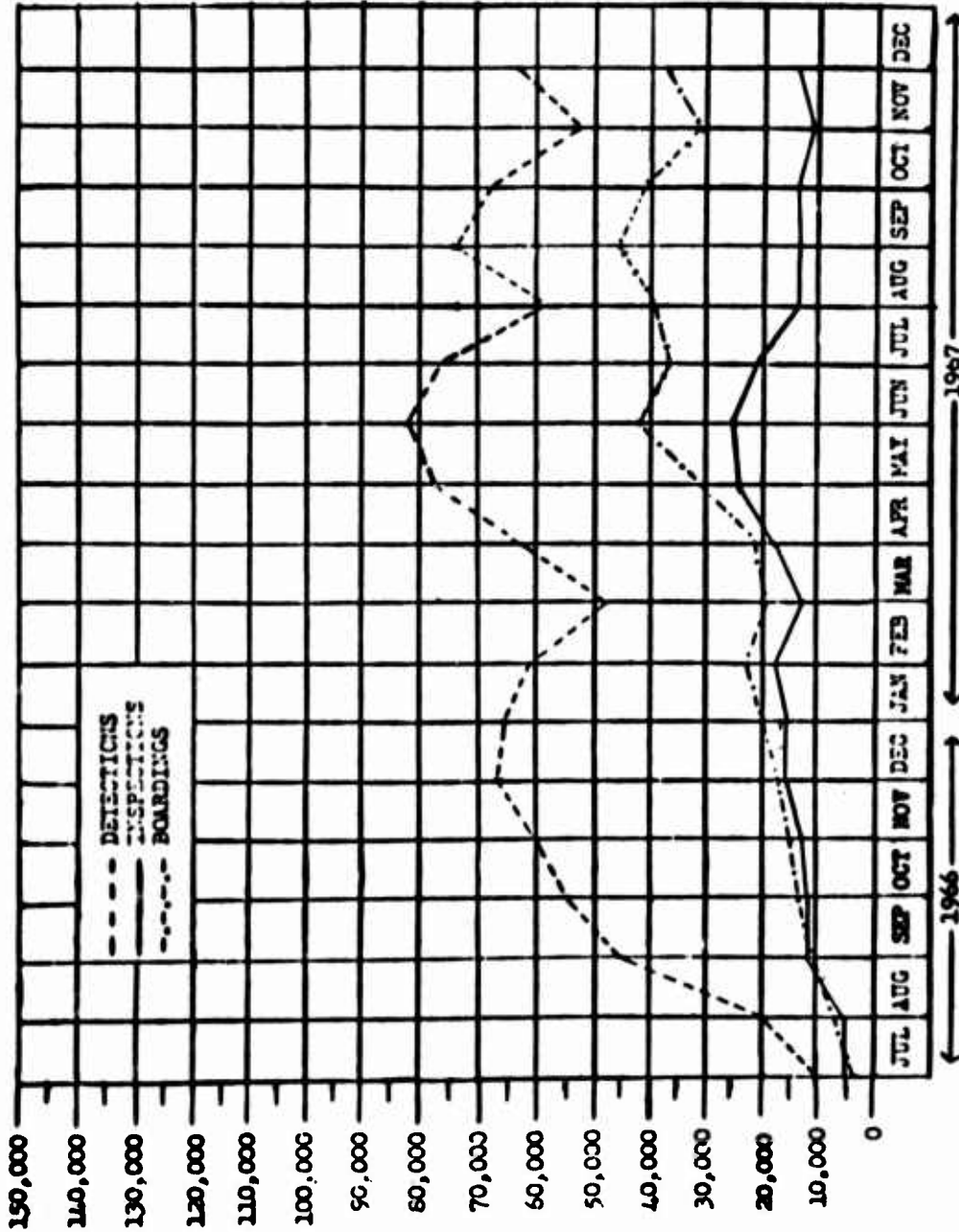
#### GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY

1. PBR Statistics:

a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 738.1 Night 731.5

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS



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- b. Total Contacts: Day 58,979 Night 4,131
- c. Total Inspected: Day 13,649 Night 1,174
- d. Total Boarded: Day 35,031 Night 2,537
- e. People Detained: 356
- f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 48
- g. Total Patrol Hours: 35,750.5

2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics

- a. Total Flight Hours: 1,045.3
- b. Helicopter Missions:
  - (1) Pre-planned strikes: 99
  - (2) Reaction: 98
  - (3) Targets of Opportunity: 155
  - (4) Support: 275

3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

- a. Fire Fights:
  - (1) PBR 46
  - (2) Helo 79
  - (3) MSB 0
  - (4) LCM 1
  - (5) LCPL 1
  - (6) STAB 0
- b. Sampans: Destroyed 102 Damaged 95 Captured 11
- c. Junks: Damaged 2
- d. Structures: Destroyed 149 Damaged 155
- e. Bunkers: Destroyed 25 Damaged 9
- f. Enemy: KIA 227 KIA (Poss.) 68 WIA 71 Captured 5
- g. Friendly: KIA 7 WIA 45
- h. Friendly Battle Damage:
  - (1) PBR 40
  - (2) Helo 5
  - (3) LST 0
  - (4) YRBM 1
- i. PBR MEDEVAC: 64

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**A task group of Riverine Assault Force craft moves down a canal in  
convoy during an operation (CORONADO IX) in the Mekong Delta.**

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

Throughout the month of November the Mobile Riverine Force was engaged in Operation CORONADO IX in an area north of the Mekong/My Tho River from the Plain of Reeds area (vicinity of the Cambodian border) east to the Soirap River.

On 9 November, the 5th Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps, joined the MRF to become the first VNMC battalion to be assigned as a permanent unit of the Riverine Assault Force.

On 18 November the Mobile Riverine Base made its deepest penetration into the Mekong Delta, moving 35 miles from its previous anchorage near Dong Tam, westward up the Mekong River to the vicinity of Sa Dec.

Operations in Dinh Tuong Province

On 1 November the MRF shifted its base of operations from Vung Tau to the Dong Tam area in preparation for Operation CORONADO IX. Due to heavy seas and high winds in the South China Sea, the transiting units of the MRF made very slow progress because of the requirement to tow their AMMI pontoons with them. When the ships reached the relative calm of the Mekong/My Tho Rivers, towing speeds of ten knots were realized.

During the relocation of the Mobile Riverine Base, an armored troop carrier, T-111-7, conducting minesweeping operations ahead of the main task group, surfaced a 170-pound moored, conical-shaped

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mine in the Cua Tieu river eight miles east of My Tho. This incident was the first positive indication that chain-drag minesweeping operations conducted by TF 117 assault craft were effective. The water mine was later disarmed by EOD personnel, and determined to be a command-detonated mine.

On 2 November the units of the MRF commenced Operation CORONADO IX (2 November) in southeastern Giao Duc district (My Luong Peninsula) of Dinh Tuong province. This one-day operation was designed to destroy enemy ambush positions which had been harassing TF 116 PBR patrols in the area. The ground troops destroyed 141 bunkers and eight spider holes, and detained ten Viet Cong suspects.

After a brief respite from combat operations, the MRF continued Operation CORONADO IX (4-6 November) and conducted a three-day search and destroy operation in the southern Cai Lay district of Dinh Tuong province (Cam Son Secret Zone) to entrap and destroy elements of the Viet Cong 263rd Main Force Battalion and the 514th Provincial Mobile Battalion. During this period five Viet Cong were killed and 84 bunkers were destroyed in a series of light skirmishes.

On 9 November, following a two-day preventative maintenance period, Operation CORONADO IX (9-11 November) was recommenced in the Cam Son and Ban Long Secret Zones of Dinh Tuong province. This three-battalion, riverine and airmobile search and destroy operation marked the initial deployment of the 5th Battalion of the

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Vietnamese Marine Corps as the third maneuver battalion of the MRF.

The Vietnamese battalion, staging from its base camp on the north side of the My Tho River just south of Dong Tam, was supported by River Assault Division 112 throughout the operation. This integration of the Vietnamese Marines with Task Force 117 riverine units in combat operations, represents a milestone in Vietnamese/ U. S. cooperation.

Although heavy contact with the 263rd Main Force Battalion was not established, the combined forces killed 11 Viet Cong, captured eight others, destroyed 113 enemy bunkers and detained 51 suspects. Friendly casualties consisted of one U. S. soldier killed and 11 personnel wounded.

At 0915, an ATC, T-112-10, patrolling on the Rai River five miles west of Dong Tam, in company with M-111-2 and T-112-9, experienced a small water mine explosion beneath it. There were no personnel casualties and the riverine craft was not damaged. M-111-2 took the immediate area under fire with unknown results.

The next day at 1335, a TU 117.2.1 riverine unit, which had established a waterborne block on Rang Creek, 11 miles northwest of My Tho, after landing troops, sighted a water mine on the beach which was later destroyed by EOD personnel.

On 13 November the ships of the MRB shifted anchorages as a precautionary defensive measure. During the anchorage shift each

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ship fired all of its weapons into a specified strike zone on the south bank of Tien Giang River in Kien Hoa province. To date, it had not been necessary for the major ships of the MRB to fire their weapons in defense or support; consequently, periodic firing of this type proved itself essential to combat efficiency and operational readiness.

On 14 November the MRF conducted a one-day, two-battalion riverine and airmobile saturation patrolling and search operation in Dinh Tuong province to enhance the security of Highway 4 and the Dong Tam base. TF 117 provided close support to the 4/47th Infantry Battalion and the 5th Battalion of the VNMC. The VNMC battalion integrated very smoothly into the MRF, and rapidly adapted to riverine operations.

Contact with the enemy was very light (one Viet Cong killed and five Vietnamese Marines wounded); however, the ground troops destroyed 83 bunkers and detained 35 Viet Cong suspects. Twenty-eight of the detainees were innocent civilians and were released; six were detained on civil charges and one suspect was a Viet Cong squad leader from the 514th Provincial Mobile Battalion.

During a three-day maintenance period the MRB made preparations to relocate to a new Mekong River anchorage 32 miles west of Dong Tam in order to conduct Operation CORONADO IX (18-20 November) in western Dinh Tuong and eastern Kien Phong provinces. This

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operation, part of KIEN GIANG 9-1, was conducted in coordination with the ARVN SEVENTH and NINTH Divisions, in order to encircle and entrap the Viet Cong 261st and 267th Main Force battalions. The initial phase of MRF participation commenced on the 18th and involved the transit of a riverine assault unit, with the VMC 5th Battalion embarked, from the MRF at Dong Tam to the area of operations, a distance of 32 miles. This marked the MRF's deepest penetration into the Mekong Delta. In an attempt to provide additional security for the MRB, an infantry company was deployed on the land mass surrounding the anchorage site.

During the course of the operation, the riverine craft transited waterways fraught with obstacles not heretofore encountered. Prior operational intelligence revealed that a bridge spanning the Ruong Stream about six miles northeast of Sa Dec was not high enough to allow assault craft to pass under. Rather than destroy the bridge, a team of ARVN engineers was employed to dismantle the center span. On the morning of 18 November, in an operation which required less than two hours, the span was successfully removed and floated clear on pontoons.

Meanwhile, the MRF EOD team removed a number of Viet Cong-erected wire barriers from the Ruong Stream, thereby opening a complex of waterways not used by riverine craft of any type since 1963. This enabled the riverine craft, with their embarked

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Vietnamese Marines, to penetrate 15 miles inland from the Mekong River. At the same time that the Marines were landing, the soldiers of the 4/47th Infantry Battalion were lifted to the north of the Marine's position in an attempt to entrap the fleeing Viet Cong.



An Assault Support Patrol Boat (ASPB), searching for Viet Cong ambush positions on the bank, escorts a landing force of Armored Troop Carriers (ATCs) down a Mekong Delta canal.

During the first day of search and destroy operations, there were 34 Viet Cong killed and 56 bunkers destroyed. Cumulative results for this phase of Operation CORONADO IX (18-20 November) were 46 of the enemy killed, 32 detainees apprehended and seven Viet Cong guerrillas captured. There were also 18 enemy weapons

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and over 1,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition captured. The combined U. S. Navy/Army and VNMC assault forces destroyed 162 bunkers, 16 sampans, six water barriers and four military structures.

On 20 November the CTF 117 Special Operations Team conducted an intelligence collection mission on the Con Qui Island complex four miles east of Sa Dec, resulting in two enemy killed and two confirmed Viet Cong captured. One of the captives, Captain Nguyen Van THOI, was a Viet Cong Intelligence Chief in the IV Corps area, who provided valuable information concerning the Viet Cong intelligence internal organization throughout the Mekong Delta.

The next day the MRB relocated to Dong Tam in preparation for another phase of Operation CORONADO IX (21-24 November) to be conducted in the Cam Son Secret Zone of Dinh Tuong province. Prior to the MRF entering the new area of operations on 23 November, a B-52 strike saturated the area. The presence of Air Force heavy bombers in this operation indicated the strategic importance assigned to Dinh Tuong province by senior military commanders.

Immediately after the airstrike, ground assault troops from the 3/47th and 4/47th Infantry Battalions, which had been prepositioned by TF 117 riverine craft, made an airmobile assault into the area. At approximately the same time, other RAF units carried the VNMC 5th Battalion to landing zones up the Tra Tan River.

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The cumulative destruction inflicted on the enemy during this four-day period consisted of eight Viet Cong killed, and two prisoners captured. The MRF also captured 40,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition, 16 Chinese communist carbines, 50 grenades and destroyed 111 bunkers and four sampans.

After a three-day maintenance period, the Mobile Riverine Force conducted Operation CORONADO IX (27-30 November) in the Cai Lay and Long Dinh districts of Dinh Tuong province. The primary mission of this operation was to clear the Xang Canal (Canal Commercial) of obstructions from Dong Tam to a point 19 miles up the canal. This waterway had been closed since 1964 by a series of waterblocks constructed by the Viet Cong, and its subsequent opening allowed the MRF to have water access to northern Dinh Tuong Province as far west as My Phouc Tay, 17 miles northwest of Dong Tam.

Early on 27 November, two infantry companies of the 4/47th Infantry Battalion were lifted to Dong Tam for airlift and surface moves to fire support bases in the objective area. At 0800 one infantry battalion was landed at various locations along the Xang Canal to provide security for ARVN engineers who, assisted by EOD Team 26 and Harbor Clearance Team THREE, began clearing water obstacles while river assault craft provided security in the waterway.

Later that evening at 2102, T-92-4 was hit by one RPG-2 (B-40)

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rocket round from the west bank of the Xang Canal, eight miles northwest of Dong Tam. The rocket impacted against the stern of the boat and ruptured a fuel tank. Retaliatory fire was not returned because the rocket was launched from a nearby friendly village. There was one sailor slightly wounded and minimal damage caused to the boat.

As a result of Operation CORONADO IX (27-30 November), the MRF killed five Viet Cong, captured one enemy prisoner and destroyed two earthen water barriers and two massive stake-type water obstacles. Friendly casualties consisted of one U. S. soldier killed by enemy action and two more killed by friendly artillery. There were also eight soldiers and one sailor wounded during this phase of Operation CORONADO IX.

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#### RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE UNITS

Effective 1 November River Assault Division responsibilities were reassigned as follows:

RAD 91 - MRB Defense,

RAD 92 - Support for the 4/47th Infantry Battalion,

RAD 111 - Support for the 3/47th Infantry Battalion,

RAD 112 - Support for the VMMC 5th Battalion.

In order to provide support and coordination of operations, personnel were relocated as follows:

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RAD 91 shifted to the USS BENEWAH (APB 35),

RAD 92 shifted to APL 26,

RAD 111 shifted to the USS COLLETON (APB 36),

RAD 112 moved ashore to Dong Tam.

RAS 9 and RAS 11 staffs remained aboard APL 26 and COLLETON respectively.

During the month of November, six assault support patrol boats (ASPBs) arrived in country and were assigned to the Mobile Riverine Force.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

Despite the occasional adverse weather associated with the northeast monsoon season, Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPACT), Danang, continued to offload and clear cargo expeditiously during the month of November. A total of 15 new monthly tonnage records were set during November by NAVSUPACT, Danang and its various detachments. NAVSUPACT, Danang's 235,489 short-tons throughput for the month and its daily throughput average of 7,849 short-tons were among the new records set as were the 342,719 short-ton monthly throughput for the combined I CTZ effort and the 38,630 short-ton monthly throughput for Dong Ha. A high level of LST activity, the utilization of fleet cargo ships, and an increased availability of small craft contributed to the month's impressive performance.

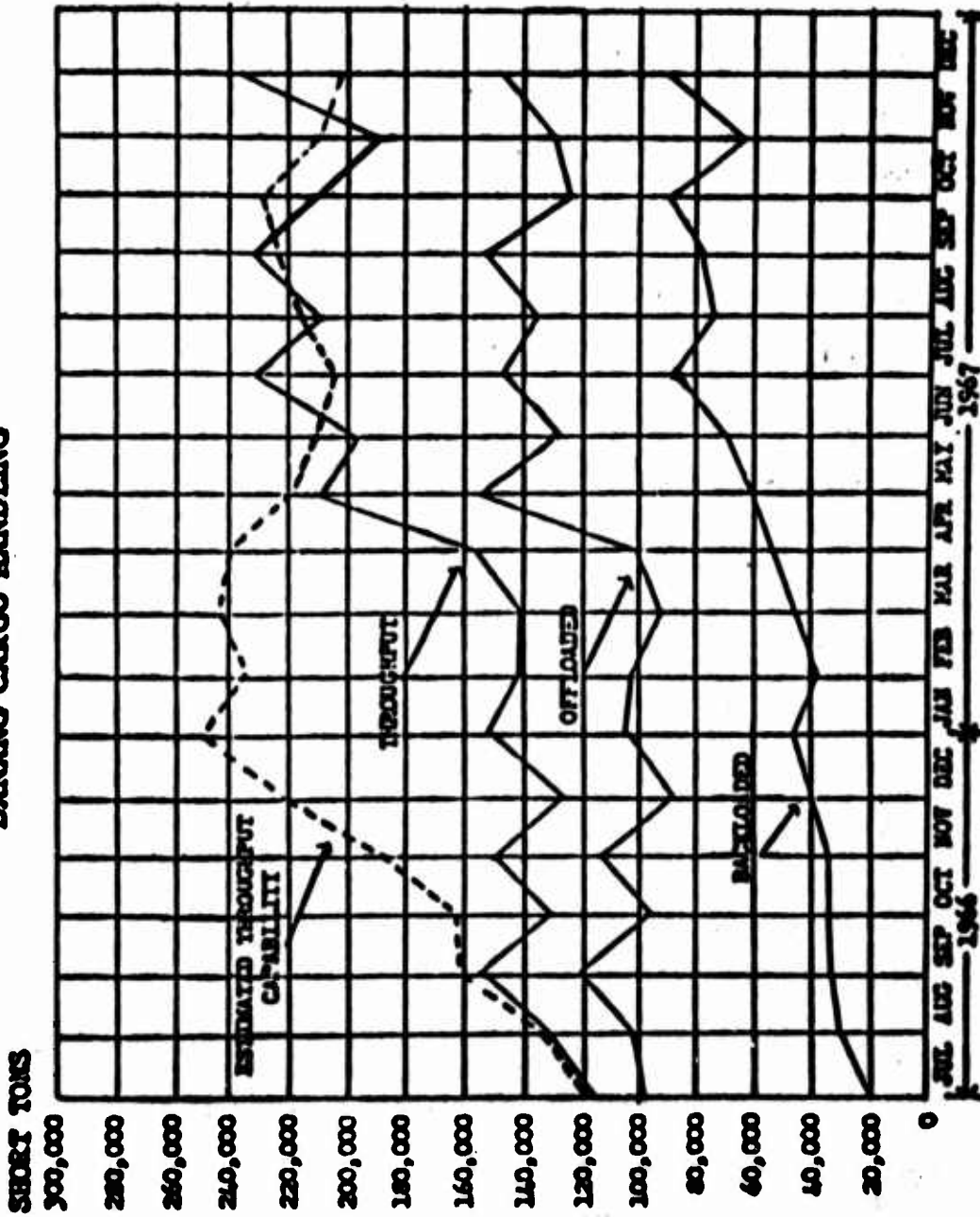
The Hue-Tan My port was opened for 542-class LSTs and on 1 November USS CLARKE COUNTY (LST 601) was the first LST to offload at the Col Co ramp causeway at Tan My. An offload rate of 268 short-tons per day was maintained at the Hue-Tan My port during the month of November.

Another first occurred on 18 November when USS PATAPSCO (AOG 1) became the first AOG to enter Tan My harbor to discharge POL (Petroleum, Oil, Lubricants) to bladder boats.

On 11 November, Okinawa to Danang RO/RO (Roll on-Roll off)

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BAKANG CARGO HANDLING



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service was commenced with the arrival of SS TRANSGLOBE at Danang's deep-water piers. During this first port call, TRANSGLOBE discharged 44 trailers and 15 miscellaneous vehicles in five hours. TRANSGLOBE returned to Danang on 24 November and discharged 50 trailers in a seven-hour period. This coordinated NAVSUPACT-USMC Force Logistic Center port clearance effort proved very successful and it was felt that this service could be increased when an expanded hardstand marshalling area near the discharge pier is available.

The overall net effectiveness for the Danang-Chu Lai support complex decreased from October's 94.5 percent to 89.7 percent in November. Overall gross effectiveness decreased from 91.2 percent to 85.5 percent during the same period, primarily as a result of increased demands. However, it was felt that material in the pipeline should improve availability during the month of December.

On 15 November NAVSUPACT, Danang's Boat Support section assumed the responsibility for supply support for all MARKET TIME-GAME WARDEN operations in I CTZ. The net effectiveness for boat support during the first month of operations was 94.0 percent.

Repairs to the Khe Sahn runway were completed during the month and the C-130 capability was restored on the 26th. The scope of repairs to this strategic runway exceeded initial expectations in that a total of 2,300 lineal feet of new rock subgrade was required

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in addition to 500 feet of weather proofing. The repair project as originally envisioned called for a new rock subgrade of only 1,500 lineal feet, but additional repairs became necessary as the runway continued to deteriorate during the period of construction.

There were 19 sniper incidents reported from the various NAVSUPACT installations during the month. These incidents varied from single sniper rounds to several attacks involving more than a hundred incoming rounds. No casualties or damages were sustained as a result of any of these incidents.

The number of patients admitted to the NAVSUPACT hospital in Danang during November totalled 1,061. Of this total number received at the 467-bed hospital, 289 were admitted for combat injuries, 574 for various diseases, and 198 for non-combat injuries. A total of 441 persons were treated and returned to duty during the month and 281 were evacuated out of Vietnam.

On 1 November Vice President Hubert H. HUMPHREY toured the NAVSUPACT hospital while on a tour of various military facilities in the Danang area. The Vice President, accompanied by: General William C. WESTMORELAND, Commanding General U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam; Lieutenant General Robert E. CUSHMAN, Commanding General Third Marine Amphibious Force; and Captain Harry P. MAHIN, USN, the hospital's senior medical officer, toured the wards, shaking hands and chatting with some of the

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nearly 400 patients and 550 staff members. The visit was highlighted by the presentation of six purple hearts by Mr. HUMPHREY.



While visiting the NAVSUPACT Danang hospital, Vice President HUMPHREY pins the purple heart on a wounded serviceman.

At month's end, the NAVSUPACT Danang personnel level was 8,435 and the number of United States and other free-world forces supported by NAVSUPACT was 131,100.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

During November the Viet Cong intensified their activities directed against Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPACT), Saigon, and its detachments in an attempt to disrupt the essential MARKET TIME/GAME WARDEN support that is provided by these detachments.

At approximately 0200 on 5 November, NAVSUPACT's My Tho detachment came under an enemy mortar attack. The attack, which lasted approximately 10 minutes, slightly damaged one personnel billet and two vehicles which were located in the downtown complex. The detachment's waterfront area was not damaged and no personnel casualties resulted from the attack.

On 7 November, YREM-16, anchored on the Ham Luong River near the city of Ben Tre, engaged the enemy in a fire fight and expended forty-six rounds of 81-mm ammunition. As a result of the action, three Viet Cong were killed and four were wounded. There were no U. S. personnel casualties.

Three large satchel charges were exploded inside the perimeter of NAVSUPACT's Qui Nhon detachment between 0140 and 0340 on 8 November. Material damages resulting from the explosions included: total loss of one 46,000 gallon water tank and one 20,000 gallon fuel tank, and numerous windows and lamps broken. Two minor injuries to U. S. personnel resulted from the explosions and no personal contact with the enemy forces occurred.

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At approximately 0110 on 24 November, a large explosion ripped an 18-by 9-foot hole in the side of YREM-16, which was located in its usual mooring near the city of Ben Tre. The explosion, which occurred on the starboard side of the craft, outboard of the engineering spaces, ripped through the diesel wing tank and into adjacent living spaces and the engine room. A fire ensued following the explosion and within minutes the entire after section of the craft was enveloped by the flames. The craft immediately lost all power which resulted in the loss of fire main pressure and all illumination, except that provided by emergency battle lanterns.

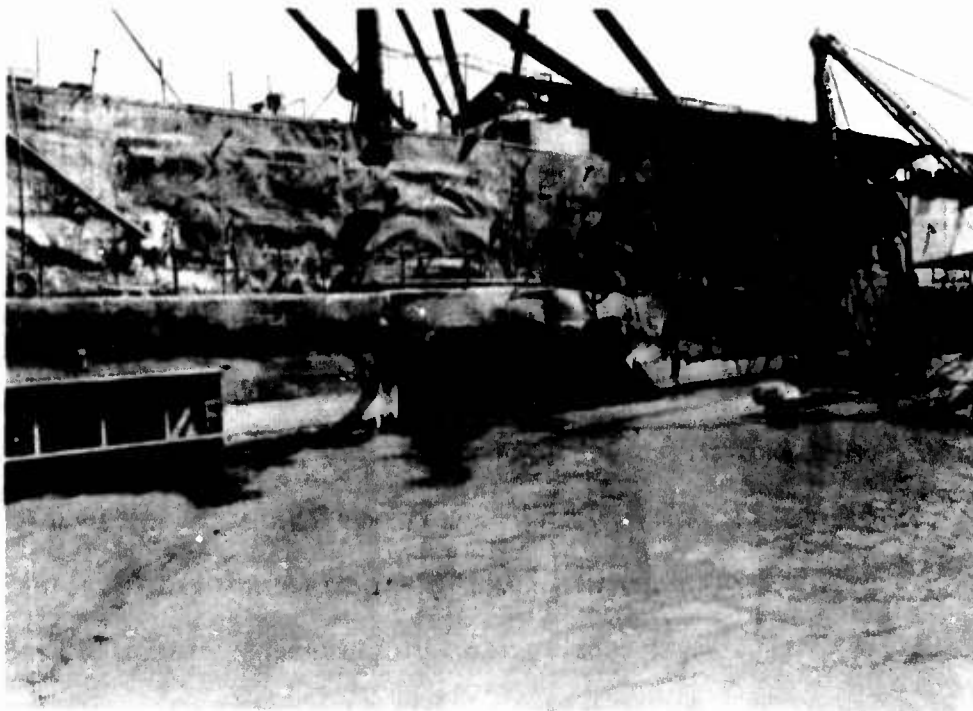
With the fire raging aft, smoke filling passageways and compartments, and unable to actuate portable fire fighting pumps, the Officer in Charge ordered abandon ship. All crew members and embarked personnel were loaded into two LCMs which were moored port and starboard in the vicinity of the bow. After all personnel who could be located were on board, the two LCMs stood off from YREM-16. Injured personnel and personnel not needed for emergency duties or lacking clothes and shoes were segregated into one LCM which then proceeded to the MACV compound at Ben Tre. At Ben Tre the personnel were either treated for injuries or "medevaced". The PERs, which had been alongside at the time of the explosion, got underway as soon as their crews embarked and later contributed to the fire fighting effort. Additional fire fighting assistance was provided by boats from

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the USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) and other craft which congregated in the vicinity of the burning YREM-16.

At approximately 0230 a fire party, composed of volunteer members of YREM-16's crew and other individuals, led by Chief Boatswain's Mate Michael P. QUIGLEY, USN, boarded over the stern of the craft and commenced fighting the fire. The fire fighting team battled the blaze throughout the day and finally extinguished the flames at approximately 1700.



YREM-16

Five personnel were killed as a result of the explosion and thirteen were injured. Two of the injured personnel later died

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while undergoing treatment. Fire damage was extensive to the entire after section of the craft and the engineering and shop spaces were completely gutted. YREM-16 was subsequently towed to Dong Tam and beached stern first on the river bank where temporary hull repairs were to be made prior to towing the craft to SRF Sasebo for permanent repairs.

Reports from the Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer at Ben Tre indicated that the attack was made by a Viet Cong sapper team employing swimmers and command-detonated mines.

The Naval Support Activity detachment at Ben Tre was temporarily disestablished following the YREM-16 casualty.

During November, the number of line items carried by NAVSUPACT, Saigon, totalled 45,319, an increase of nearly 10,000 over October's total. The overall gross and net material support effectiveness for the month were 67 percent and 82 percent, respectively.

Newly acquired warehouse space was undergoing renovation at month's end, and occupancy during January was anticipated. Acquisition of additional leased warehousing was discontinued in view of indications of planned construction of permanent warehouse space at Newport.

At month's end, NAVSUPACT, Saigon, was viewing with concern the low Common Item Listing effectiveness of the U. S. Army's 506th Field Depot. Of 86 requisitions submitted under the "fill or

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kill" procedure for items on the Common Item Listing in November, none were filled. Positive cancellation status was received on 17 of the requisitions. Of these 17, additional status cards have been received indicating that nine of these cancelled requisitions have been referred to Okinawa. In addition to the above requisitions, 255 routine requisitions have been forwarded to the 506th Field Depot for items appearing on the in-country Army Stock List. The net effectiveness of the Depot on these requisitions was two percent.

NAVSUPPACT, Saigon, November inventory of Operational logistic aircraft consisted of three C-117s, one US-2B, one C-45 and one UH-34. Two additional UH-34s and one additional US-2B were expected in-country in December.

A total of 2,901 passengers and 203,211 pounds of cargo were air transported by NAVSUPPACT, Saigon, during November. During the same period, NAVSUPPACT surface craft transported a total of 1,591 short-tons of cargo.

NAVSUPPACT, Saigon, had a total on board count of 2,103 personnel as of the end of November.

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A Marine CH-53 helicopter hooks up to a Seabee "dozer" for a rapid transport to a remote construction site in northern Quang Tri province.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

Six weeks of intensive effort by Seabees from nine different construction battalions was culminated on 1 November when the new Quang Tri air facilities were formally presented to the Commanding General, FIRST Marine Aircraft Wing, by Commander, THIRD Naval Construction Brigade. To complete this project in the short time allowed, after receiving only a few days prior notice, it was necessary to form a composite crew from the most readily available men and equipment from several different battalions. With the Commanding Officer of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion THREE (NMCB 3) in overall command of the project, the Executive Officer of NMCB 121 led 50 Seabees onto the site to begin construction on 15 September.

While the Marines set up a perimeter defense and a horde of Vietnamese civilians removed the 11,000 graves that occupied the sandy site, the Seabees pulled heavy construction equipment onto the site and began rough grading for the 3,500-foot airstrip with its two 300-foot overruns, 20,000 square yards of parking apron, and 90,000 square yards of helicopter pad. As the working space developed, the Seabee force increased to 200 men and included 30th Naval Construction Regiment elements from NMCBs 1, 4, 7, 74, and 133; and 32nd Naval Construction Regiment elements from NMCVs 3, 11, and 121. Convoys bearing supplies and construction materials,

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including 175,000 bags of cement and 30 acres of AM2 and M8A1 matting, arrived to keep pace with the work. Meanwhile, NMCB 10, the alert battalion on Okinawa, was ordered to Vietnam to assist on this and other high priority work.

Only 38 days after the start of the job the first C-130 aircraft landed on the airstrip, and by 1 November all of the work specified, which actually is the first increment of a much larger complex to follow, was complete. The initial construction, in addition to the airstrip facilities, included a 500-man galley, 30 hootches, and a temporary ammunition supply point.

Despite a prolonged diet of C-rations and two enemy mortar attacks during the busy six weeks, spirits were high as reflected by the huge black skull-and-crossbones flag that flew over the camp, proclaiming it to be the headquarters of the Ghost Battalion, a subtle tribute to those who formerly occupied the site, and a reminder that even a composite group need not be nameless.

During November, NMCB 10 moved its base camp from Phu Bai to the new combat base at Quang Tri and was accomplishing all military construction work there. In order to provide a stable working surface in wet weather, the Seabees were soil-cementing the air freight terminal, staging areas, and roads throughout the base. They completed 35 ammunition supply points and four earth berms at the bulk fuel storage area. For aircraft protection, NMCB 10

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erected 750 feet of pre-engineered metal revetments on the 90,000 square yard helicopter pad. Anchor pins for the helicopter pad matting continued to be driven and areas needed for expansion of the pads were being leveled and compacted. A mortar tower, a water tower, and two water tanks were also erected, and work was continuing on administrative buildings and supply facilities for the FIRST Marine Air Wing and the Force Logistics Command (FLC).

During the month, roadwork on National Route #1 was taking place from north of Dong Ha to Quang Ngai. In the Quang Tri area, Seabees from NMCB 10 replaced three culverts which had been destroyed by the Viet Cong. Asphalt patching and seal coating was being conducted by NMCB 121 and NMCB 3 in the Phu Bai area and a detail from NMCB 74 replaced three culverts blown by the Viet Cong and enlarged four others. In addition, they repaired 12 deep trenches which the enemy had dug into the road. NMCB 6 Seabees completed repairs on 11 miles of Route #1 between Binh Son and Quang Ngai and NMCB 1 Seabees completed the installation of security lighting for the newly reconstructed Nam-O Bridge which is located just north of Nam-O village.

A detail from NMCB 11 completed the Army Special Forces Camp at Lang Vei within six months after their arrival, despite heavy rains, severe logistics problems, and enemy harassment. Other Seabees of NMCB 11 completed 10 butler buildings for the THIRD

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Marine Division and a 250-man galley at Camp Carroll. Work was also continuing on the two 500-man galleys which were turned over to NMCB 10 for completion.



Seabees remove mud and silt from the abutment forms for a bridge under construction in I Corps Tactical Zone.

NMCB 3 completed two 10,000-barrel, three 3,000-barrel, and one 1,000-barrel POL (Petroleum, Oil, Lubricants) tanks at the Tan

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My port facility and were continuing work on the piping system to complete the first increment of the project. Seabees from NMCB 3 were also working on the Hue television studio and on various structures in the Gia Le combat base. They also completed a special services building and finished 80 percent of an officer's club for the THIRD Marine Division camp at Phu Bai.

NMCB 7, located at Danang East, completed three generator sheds at the Marble Mountain Air Facility and an extensive drainage system for the Light Anti-Aircraft Missile site on Monkey Mountain. Seabees from NMCB 7 were also rehabilitating barracks at Camp Tien Sha, constructing the Naval Support Activity, Danang Public Works Department shops, and working on an NSA 200-bed hospital expansion project.

NMCB 128, also located at Danang East, completed a 43,000 square foot helicopter pad at Ammunition Supply Point ONE and was continuing to work on the ammunition storage pads, roads, and security fencing there. Seabees from NMCB 128 were also working on the construction of three 10,000-barrel tanks for the Marble Mountain fuel farm.

During the month NMCB 74 completed the fifth increment of Ammunition Supply Point TWO and finished the shells of nine 40- by 100-foot rigid frame storage buildings for Force Logistics Command. Also at FLC, NMCB 1 completed eight butler buildings and constructed

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the shells for eight others. By month's end NMCB 1 had also nearly completed the 500-man galley for the FIRST Shore Party Battalion.

During the month NMCB 9 made good progress on a cantonment complex at the Danang airfield which included 13 enlisted barracks, two BOQs, an EM club, and an administrative building. When completed, this project will be occupied by NAVSU/PACT Danang and Early Warning Squadron ONE (VW 1) personnel.

Four concrete flightline pads for Marine Air Group TWELVE were completed during November at Chu Lai by Seabees of NMCB 6. They were also working on a permanent power distribution system for the Chu Lai combat base and had completed two covered storage warehouses, 15,000 square yards of open storage, and six ammunition bunkers for the Army. NMCB 40, also at Chu Lai, completed 17 ammunition bunkers and three five-cell modules in the first increment of a Class V Ammunition Supply Point. They were also continuing work on a Republic of Korea medical facility.

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MILITARY PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS

Although psychological operations and civic action projects are distinct in concept and execution, the value of one often weaves itself through the fabric of the other. The river patrol sections of Operation GAME WARDEN, for example, conducted MEDCAPs regularly



An elderly Vietnamese man describes his ailments to an interpreter while Hospital Corpsman Third Class Bill HERRING looks on.

for residents of the Delta. The visits involve not only the treatment of villagers for diverse ailments, but also the distribution of vital commodities, including soap, and assistance to the Vietnamese in matters of individual and communal hygiene. In November the

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Catholic Relief Services made available to U. S. Navy units four and one-half tons of medical supplies. These supplies were delivered to Delta-based units for use during MEDCAPs and similar missions. In addition, five tons of soap, procured through US/FWMAF Military Civic Action and Psychological Warfare funds, was also made available to the GAME WARDEN units for dissemination.

In addition to MEDCAPs and other related projects, river patrol craft regularly conducted "psyops" missions, as did other naval units throughout Vietnam, which included loudspeaker broadcasts and the distribution of leaflets and other literature. Naval forces conducted 410 hours of surface and aerial broadcasts and distributed over 122,000 Free South Newspapers and magazines to villagers whose only source of current events was that provided by the Viet Cong. There were 30 250-watt loudspeaker systems supplied to River Squadron FIVE and Coastal Squadron ONE for installation on GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME craft. To increase the broadcast capability of the Navy units, an additional 108 systems were ordered.

In an effort to improve the poor conditions found in the isolated schools in the Delta region, 150 teacher kits, supplied by USAID, and 100 blackboards were distributed by the various River Patrol Sections along the Ham Luong, Co Chien and Bassac Rivers.

The Vietnamese hospital ships, HAT GIANG (HQ 400) and HAN GIANG (HQ 401), treated more than 11,000 residents in need of

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medical or dental assistance as they conducted psychological and civic action operations in the Fourth Riverine Area, 16 through 30 November.

There was a marked decrease in the Hoi Chanh rallying rate in the Delta during the month. Intelligence sources indicated that one of the primary reasons for this was that the local force guerrillas were remaining at home to complete the rice harvest. There were also indications of increased Viet Cong pressure to prevent desertions coinciding with the commencement of the Winter-Spring offensive.

A number of Viet Cong propaganda leaflets were recovered by units of the Mobile Riverine Force (TF 117) during operations conducted in the Mekong Delta. These leaflets included appeals to Korean soldiers in their native language, appeals to U. S. Negro servicemen and appeals to U. S. servicemen with anti-war sentiments.

The U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalions continued to demonstrate an active civic action program in their respective areas of operation as they applied their many building talents to the improvement of the living and sanitation conditions of the local populace. Efforts were also expended in improving various school and religious facilities. Members of Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN contributed 10,670\$ VN (\$90.42) to a scholarship fund that permitted needy children from Sou Cha village to attend school for

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another month. The importance that this battalion places on education can best be exemplified by the following excerpt from a battalion report: "Our basic trust in civic action has been in the area of education. It is the feeling of the NMCB SEVEN Civic Action Team that there is no greater contribution that can be made to the future of a strong Vietnam than in providing for the impressionable young people the opportunity to learn and thus be prepared to be the leaders of tomorrow. It is felt the greatest gift we can leave behind is the gift of education and facilities for education. In our work with the people we have found in them a great desire to learn and gain an education, especially among the children, and older people will often go to great lengths to ensure an education for their children. We have thus focused our attention in this direction. We have set up a scholarship fund for fifty children to go to school and hope that this can be expanded as time goes on. We have built or assisted in building additions to three and now possibly four schools. Up until two months ago we paid the partial salary of two teachers in My Thi hamlet. Now we are hoping to provide living facilities for two new teachers to come to this area to teach. In addition to this we are teaching English to the Vietnamese on an average of 46 hours a month. Our greatest sense of personal satisfaction has been in knowing that we have provided an opportunity to learn and grow for some young people in East Danang."

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PBR sailors gently lift a seriously ill Vietnamese from their boat after evacuating him from an outpost to the medical facilities at My Tho.

The following is a tabulation of certain civic action projects conducted during November by U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces.

Construction projects involving renovation or repair are so indicated with an R.

1. Construction:	
a. Bridges	1R
b. Culverts	3
c. Dispensaries	1
d. Dwellings/Number of families	3/6, 1R
e. Hospitals	2R
f. Leveling/grading projects	2
g. Orphanages	1
h. Playgrounds	3

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1. Roads (tenth of Km)	1R
j. Toilets/public	2
k. Wells	8, 7R
2. Medical treatments:	
a. General medical	36,514
b. Dental	3,428
c. Surgery	129
d. Emergency evacuations	140
3. Health and Sanitation:	
a. Classes on personal hygiene/attendance	5/226
b. Medical aides or nurses trained	17
c. Spray insecticide operations	18
d. Swamp areas drained	2
e. MEDCAPs	172
f. Immunizations	1,254
g. Patients hospitalized	17
h. Health books	220
4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):	
a. Blacksmith kits (number)	6
b. Cement	57,300
c. Clothing	6,100
d. Fertilizer	600
e. Food	217,000
f. Lumber (board feet)	373,000
g. Medical, non-prescription	213
h. Medical kits (number)	75
i. Physical education kits (number)	26
j. School kits (number)	1,500
k. Soap	810
l. Tin sheets (number)	1,187
m. Woodworker kits (number)	35
n. Maternity kits (number)	24
o. Mason kits (number)	3
p. School binders (cases)	8
q. Paper blankets	330
r. Text books	940
s. Anvils (number)	2
t. Barber kits (number)	6
u. Brick makers (number)	6
v. Textile kits (number)	37
w. Sandbags (pallets)	3
x. Hand pumps (number)	6

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y. Sewing machines (number)	2
5. Educational efforts:	
a. English classes/attendance	91/485
b. Teacher kits	12
6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:	
a. Hospitals	120,950
b. Orphanages	14,850
c. Schools	17,590
d. VNN housing	76,280
e. Refugees	7,100

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 5 November Team 3 of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE, embarked in YLLC-2, recovered a USAID forklift which had sunk in 30 feet of water alongside a pier at Newport near the Bien Hoa bridge the previous day.

On 14 November Team 3 of HCU 1, embarked in YLLC-2, proceeded to Don Rach Cat (French Fort), 11 miles south of Nha Be on the Soirap River, to conduct a salvage survey and remove a sunken barge which was a menace to navigation. The survey revealed that the obstruction was part of an old pier complex weighing 70 tons and heavily reinforced with concrete. On 19 November the salvage job was completed with the removal of the marine hazard.

At 1825 on 16 November, USS CLARK COUNTY (LST 601) broached in the vicinity of Duc Pho, 88 miles south-southwest of Danang, when her starboard screw became fouled by the stern anchor cable. USS IREDELL COUNTY (LST 839), in attempting to assist the broached SEVENTH Fleet LST, beached herself in order to avoid broaching and was unable to retract from the beach.

An immediate call for assistance set a massive salvage effort into operation. The next day at 1205, IREDELL COUNTY was refloated and proceeded to Danang for a thorough underbody inspection and damage assessment.

While the major portion of the salvage operation was accomplished

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by salvage craft from U. S. SEVENTH Fleet assets, there were several NAVFORV units involved. During the two-week recovery operation, NAVSUPACT Danang provided valuable assistance in ferrying salvage equipment to the scene and Team 5 of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE and Underwater Demolition Team 11 contributed immensely toward the successful salvage operation. Month's end found the CLARK COUNTY still broached at Duc Pho with a major pull scheduled for the next day.

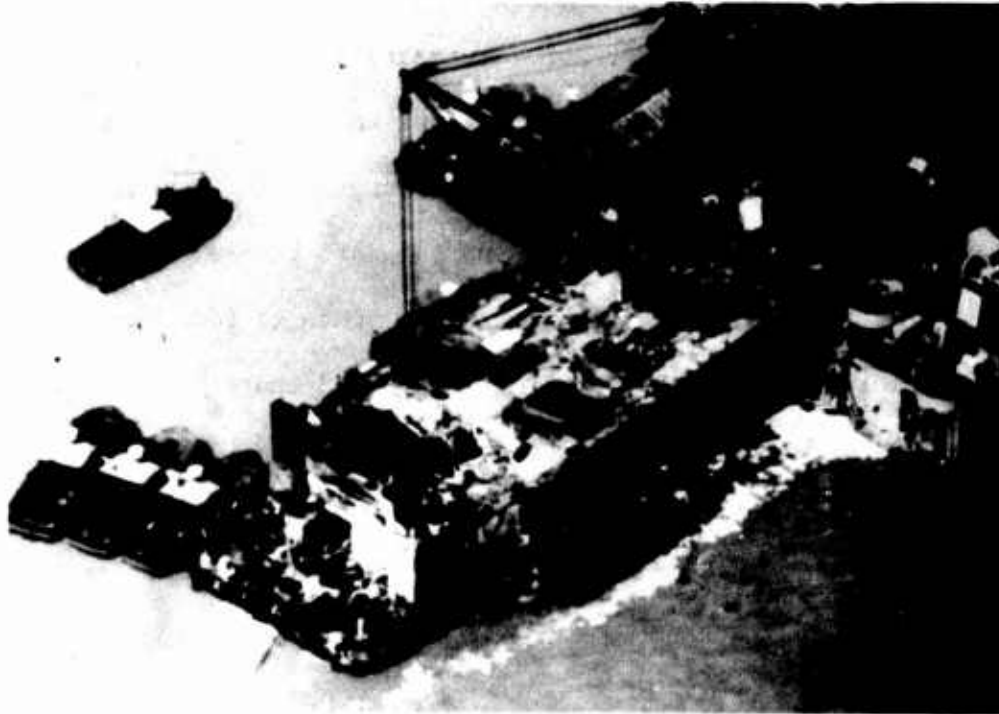
In the early morning hours of 24 November, YREM 16, anchored at the confluence of the Ham Luong and Ben Tre rivers, suffered an underwater explosion which ripped an 18- by 17-foot hole in the craft's hull below the waterline. A raging fire, fomented by a ruptured fuel tank, ensued. The fire raged out of control for several hours, and completely gutted the engineering and shop spaces before being extinguished. USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838), on station at the mouth of the Ham Luong river, came to the aid of the stricken GAME WARDEN support barge, and provided major assistance in extinguishing the fire. YLLC 4, with Team 3 of HCU ONE embarked, rushed to the scene from Dong Tam and provided emergency power and firemain pressure.

Following the explosion, YREM-16 settled nine feet by the stern because of flooded engineroom stowage spaces and adjacent living compartments. The most serious flooding was confined to these

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spaces and was quickly contained. Later that morning COMNAVSUPP-  
ACT Saigon arrived and assumed the duties of on-scene commander.



YREM-16

At 0900 on 25 November, YTB-784, escorted by two ASPBs, PBRs and HUNTERDON COUNTY, commenced towing the disabled support barge to Dong Tam for emergency hull repairs. At 1405 YREM-16, with YLLC-4 alongside, was moored to a buoy off of Dong Tam in the My Tho river.

On 27 November divers from HCU ONE recovered the remains of two of the five missing Navymen from the flooded after berthing compartment. The following day, the Officer in Charge of Harbor

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Clearance Team ONE arrived and assumed control of the salvage operation. On 29 November the remaining three bodies were recovered.

The 17-foot draft of YREM-16 precluded its entering shallow Dong Tam basin. It was therefore necessary to off-load all ammunition, frozen and fresh provisions, fuel and lube oil and all PER spare parts in order to lighten the barge to the maximum extent possible. The lightened support ship was beached on 30 November, stern first on the My Tho river bank south of Dong Tam to take advantage of the ten-foot tidal range and thereby facilitate temporary underwater hull repairs for an ocean tow to the shipyard repair facility at Subic Bay.

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COMMUNICATIONS

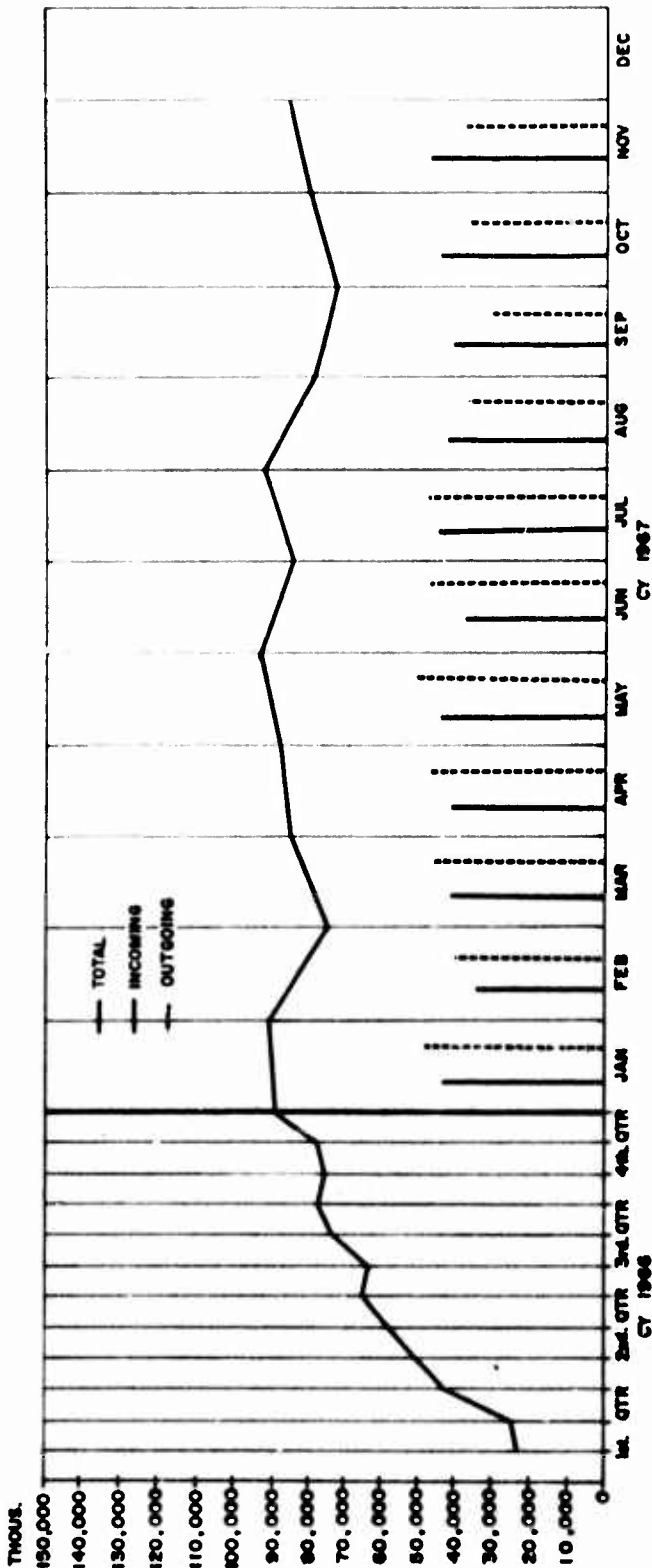
A total of 86,202 messages were handled by the COMNAVFORV Message Center during November. This was an increase of 5,577 messages over the October total.

The Project STARBOARD TACK (the use of communication vans transportable by helicopters) VHF/UHF vans shipping date was further delayed until 8 December. The UHF units of the vans were shipped to the contractor on 1 September for installation, while the VHF units were undergoing testing by contractor personnel. The six AN/TRC-97A microwave vans were stored at NAVSUPACT Danang awaiting arrival of 400-cycle converters which were scheduled for shipment on 1 December. Two RCA Technical Representatives, presently in country, were designated to report to COMNAVSUPACT, Danang to support, and provide on-the-job training for the AN/TRC-97A microwave equipment.

Meanwhile, the Project SEARCHLIGHT installation at the COMNAVFORV Headquarters Communications Center became operational, even though the air conditioning equipment and acoustic tile were not yet installed. The status of the remaining uncompleted sites was unchanged, and it was estimated that work will commence at these sites upon the return of the Electronics Installation Team from Hawaii in early January.

Project BOWLINE (NAVCOMSTA Cam Ranh Bay) continued to be plagued with electrical power problems. An investigation of the

# MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC



PERCENT OF TOTAL

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
FLASH	1	1	1	1	1	.2	.5	.9	1.4	1.3	1.3	
IMMEDIATE	21	20	19	18	16	17.5	18.1	17.9	21.2	23.3	19.7	
PRIORITY	60	61	63	63	66	64.6	62.9	61.6	57.3	57.4	58.9	
ROUTINE	18	18	17	18	17	17.7	18.5	19.6	20.1	18.0	20.1	

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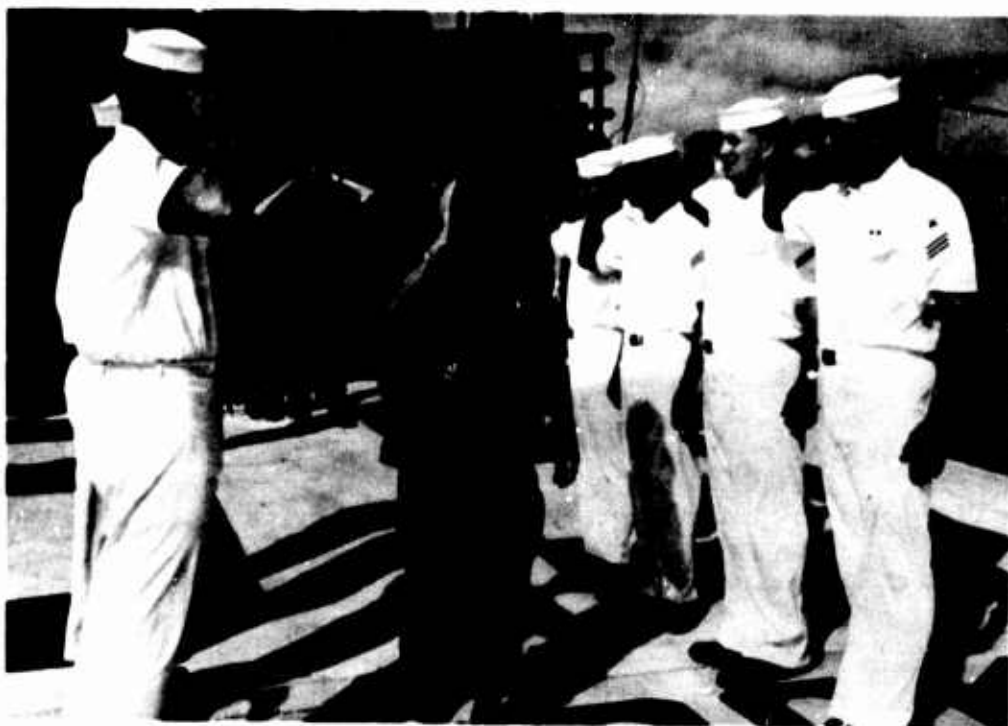
circumstances surrounding the recent power failures at the transmitter site revealed that unqualified Army enlisted operators and unqualified Army contractor (Pacific Architects and Engineers) maintenance personnel were manning the generators which provided the sole power and backup to the site. Further investigation revealed that the PA&E maintenance personnel did not have on hand the capability to repair or supervise the repair of the three 700-KW MUSE generators in use.

Pending installation of the permanent power plant in early CY 68, arrangements were made with the U. S. Army to extend the Vinnell Corporation power distribution line to both the NCS Cam Ranh Bay transmitter and receiver sites. This temporary power arrangement, in conjunction with the use of two 700-KW MUSE generators and four 200-KW generators, was deemed sufficient to provide both the primary and backup power required.

Action was also initiated to amend the NAVSUPPACT Danang Philco-Ford contract to include the operation and maintenance of the NAVCOMSTA Cam Ranh Bay power plant.

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Admiral SHARP, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, arrives on board USS BENEWAH (APB 35).

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 5 November Vice Admiral Francis J. BLOUIN, USN, Commander Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet, began a five-day tour of South Vietnam for a series of orientation and up-date briefings. Included in Vice Admiral BLOUIN's itinerary were visits to the Saigon headquarters of COMNAVFORV, the Naval Support Activity at Danang, the Coastal Surveillance Force (CTF 115) headquarters at Cam Ranh Bay, and the River Patrol Force (CTF 116) headquarters at Binh Thuy. On 8 November Vice Admiral BLOUIN visited the Mobile Riverine Base at Dong Tam where he addressed the assault boat crews at a Flotilla Parade and Inspection and also presented 18 Purple Heart Medals to members of the boat crews recently wounded in action.

On 11 November Admiral Ulysses S. G. SHARP, USN, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, accompanied by Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, visited the Mobile Riverine Force where he received an up-date briefing on current operations and future plans for the MRF.

On 21 November Senator John G. TOWER (Republican-Texas), of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, visited the MRF for an inspection and briefing on the concept and operational employment of the MRF. Senator TOWER expressed considerable interest in the capabilities, armor and armament of the riverine craft.

On 28 November Captain Meryl A. IIAMS, USN, relieved Commander

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Jospeh K. STANLEY, USN, as the commanding officer, U. S. Naval  
Air Facility, Cam Ranh Bay.

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SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED  
NOT RELEASABLE TO  
FOREIGN NATIONALS

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

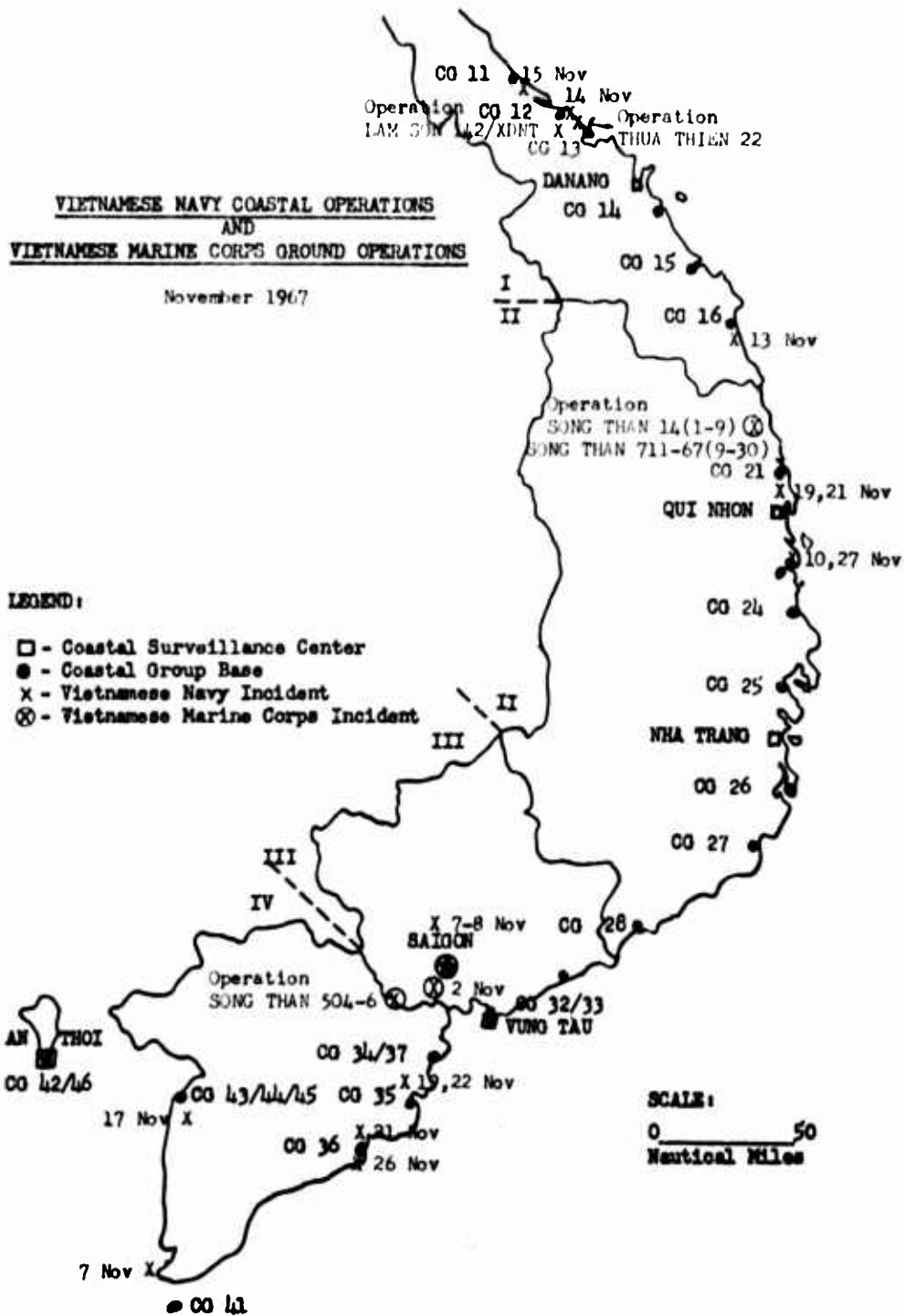
VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy on 30 November was 16,238 officers and enlisted men; of this number 1,245 were officers, 3,151 were non-commissioned officers, and 11,842 were enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged as deserters decreased from 38 in October to 36 in November, however the number of unauthorized absentees increased from 283 in October to 327 in November.

On 1 November, in the most significant integration to date of the Vietnamese Navy into Operation MARKET TIME, four Fleet Command ships relieved U. S. units of the surveillance responsibilities in coastal patrol areas 1G (25 miles southeast of Danang), 4E (just east of Nha Trang), 6C (50 miles northeast of Vung Tau), and 9L (west of Phu Quoc Island). At the start of the month six ships were qualified for MARKET TIME duties, by the end of the month this number had risen to eight.

The Mekong River convoys of commercial shipping to Cambodia resumed on 3 November after having been suspended since 14 October. The Vietnamese Joint General Staff had directed that the convoys be stopped until the VNN could implement special operations to reduce the increased mine threat. Additional minesweeping patrols by

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River Assault Groups 26 and 32 discovered three mines in late October and a U. S. Navy Mobile Riverine Force craft swept a fourth mine on 1 November. With the increased patrols on the rivers the Joint General Staff felt that the Viet Cong would not be able to re-mine the main channel and directed that the convoys be resumed.

On the 16th, at the Naval Training Center, Nha Trang, the midshipmen of the Naval Academy Class 18 completed their 10-week preparatory program and began their 21-month major program. On the 25th, 27 men completed the Naval Training Center's Class "A" school for Electronics Technicians. At the Naval Advanced Training Center, Saigon, on 3 November 99 men completed class "B" schools in several technical ratings. On the 16th, PCE 11 completed the underway training program. The program, set up for training the commissioning crews of the four newest PGMs and re-training the crews of the older PGMs, was expanded to include all Fleet Command units.

#### Fleet Command

In November the Fleet Command had 25.5 ships available daily and maintained 13 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam, five ships on river patrols and one ship on convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. The month's operations included MARKET TIME and other anti-infiltration activities, psychological warfare and civic action visits, escort patrols and gunfire support

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missions. The ships fired 55 gunfire support missions during the month, searched 1,121 junks and 4,734 persons, and detained two persons.

The Fleet Command's patrol craft, consisting of PCs, PCEs, gunboats (PGMs) and minesweepers (MSCs), patrolled the coasts of the four naval zones; the PGMs also patrolled the Soirap and Long Tau Rivers in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The PCEs fired five gunfire missions during the month and the gunboats 11; most of the missions involved nighttime support to Coastal Group bases and other Vietnamese outposts. On the 13th, 70 miles southeast of Danang, PC's 12 conducted a gunfire support mission that helped repel and disperse an enemy force advancing on the Coastal Group 16 base. In one of the VNN's most successful gunfire missions this year, the PCE's accurate fire killed 19 Viet Cong, wounded at least 20 more, and destroyed one 82-mm mortar and several individual weapons.

Meanwhile, the landing support ships (LSILs and LSSLs) provided coastal patrols, river patrols, convoy escort and gunfire support services in the Third Naval Zone, the Fourth Riverine Area and the RSSZ. The LSILs conducted 13 gunfire missions and the LSSLs conducted 26.

Throughout the month, two of the Fleet Command's more specialized units continued their tasks; the motor-launch minesweepers

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patrolled the ship channel from the sea to the Port of Saigon and the Dong Ngai River from Saigon to Bien Hoa, and the underwater demolition team (LDNN) detachments conducted nightly hull inspections of ships berthed in the Port of Saigon and operated with the U. S. Navy SEALs in the RSSZ and the Fourth Riverine Area.

#### Coastal Force

In November the Coastal Force searched 30,889 junks and sampans and 104,988 persons, detaining four junks and 267 suspects. On a daily average 86 percent of the Force's 192 available junks were on patrol. On 15 November, Commander Phung Nhat TAN, VNN, relieved Commander Nguyen Huu CHI, VNN, as the Commander, Fourth Naval Zone at An Thoi. Commander CHI is now the Political Warfare Officer on the staff of the Commander in Chief, VNN.

In the First Naval Zone during November, the emphasis remained on river, bay and lagoon patrols since the monsoon weather continued to make open-sea patrols dangerous for the Coastal Group junks, and the civilian craft were using the inland waterways. Coastal Groups 11, 12, 13 and 14 felt the increased desire of the enemy to remove the government forces restraining his use of the coastal waters. The Coastal Group 11 base, near the mouth of the Cua Viet, received a barrage of 30 rounds of 105-mm artillery fire at 0120 on the 2nd. The rounds, which landed short of the base itself, were fired from gun positions in, or north of, the

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Demilitarized Zone. On the 11th, in response to an intelligence report of a Viet Cong concentration nine miles south of their base, and 34 miles northwest of Danang, a Coastal Group 12 ambush party located an ammunition cache containing assorted rounds of ammunition varying from small arms to a B-40 rocket. On the 15th, Coastal Group 11, with a Popular Force platoon, killed two Viet Cong and detained two suspects in a sweep three miles south of the Cua Viet. The same day, three Coastal Group 13 junks and 130 Popular Force troops made a second sweep in the area identified in the Coastal Group 12 intelligence report of the 11th, killing one Viet Cong and capturing 19 others. From the 15th to the 17th, other Coastal Group 13 junks with the I Corps RAG detachment and ground forces from Thua Thien sector conducted Operation THUA THIEN 22 in the island area between the Coastal Groups 12 and 13 bases. Two Viet Cong were killed, seven others were captured and 123 enemy suspects were detained.

At 0118 on 28 November, the Coastal Group 14 base at Hoi An, 15 miles south of Danang, was attacked by a Viet Cong force armed with mortars, recoilless-rifles and automatic weapons. The 20-minute attack started when two mortar rounds landed in the compound and recoilless-rifle rounds or mines detonated against two junks at anchor 50 yards from the base pier. One Viet Cong, armed with two grenades, was captured in the water as he approached the

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base. During the attack, PCF 21 provided illumination support and a U. S. Marine helicopter fire team conducted area fire into the enemy's weapons positions. One sailor was killed, one was wounded and five others are missing in action; the Viet Cong casualties are unknown.

In the Second Naval Zone in November, Coastal Group 23 sailors made three sweeps of the southern portion of a peninsula 25 miles south of Qui Nhon and evacuated a total of 55 families from the peninsula to secure areas near the Coastal Group base. On the 10th, one sailor was killed by enemy fire from the evacuation site when a patrolling junk passed the area. On the evening of 19 November, one Coastal Group 22 junk killed three Viet Cong and detained five suspected Viet Cong in a fire fight along the shore of upper Qui Nhon harbor, five miles north of Qui Nhon. Two nights later, another patrol in the same area attempted to stop a sampan containing three men. On being ordered to stop one man pulled the pin of a hand grenade and was immediately shot over the side leaving the live grenade in the boat. When the grenade exploded it caused the second occupant to drop a live grenade and the damage caused by the two grenades sank the sampan. Viet Cong propaganda was recovered from the scene and additional documents were taken from the bodies of two of the men when they were recovered. On the 27th, as a result of the two incidents, four companies from Binh Dinh sector

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and Coastal Group 22, supported by two Swift boats, began sweeping the entire peninsula. At month's end the operation was still continuing.

Enemy activity began in the Third Naval Zone on the 1st, when the Viet Cong sank two Coastal Group 37 junks and attacked the Coastal Groups 34/37 bases with mortar fire. The destruction of the junks, moored to a single buoy, at 2155 started the attack and was immediately followed by several mortar rounds which hit near the Coastal Group 34 base. The USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838), a GAME WARDEN support ship, fired its 40-mm guns into the site of the muzzle flashes and at 2230 PCF 37, the MARKET TIME patrol unit offshore, commenced illumination fire. The two U. S. units, coupled with the fire from a nearby ARVN artillery battery, broke the attack at 2305. Local intelligence sources reported the counter-battery fire killed nine Viet Cong and wounded 13 others; one sailor, on board one of the destroyed junks, is missing and presumed killed.

Just before dawn on the 19th, in response to an intelligence report, units of Coastal Group 35 struck a Viet Cong staging area near the Co Chien River, four miles southeast of Tra Vinh. The Coastal Group units attacked the enemy site with machine-gun and 60-mm mortar fire, killing 11 of the Viet Cong and wounding several more. Three days later, at 1500 on the 22nd, the Coastal Group 35

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mortar-men again shelled the area killing three of the enemy and wounding one high-ranking member of the district cadre.

Meanwhile, Coastal Group 36, based on the south bank of the Bassac River 37 miles downstream from Can Tho, undertook a series of four operations along the river between the 21st and 29th. During the afternoon of the 21st, two enemy sampans successfully ran the junk blockade between Dung Island and the southern shore. Requesting a third junk with a reaction party embarked, the two patrolling junks closed the beach, suppressed the enemy fire and retrieved one motorized sampan from the beach. The third junk landed the reaction party and joined in the "hold-down" operation while the sailors ashore closed the Viet Cong and engaged them. The 10-minute fire fight ended with three Viet Cong killed, one captured and two rifles and the sampan seized. On the 26th, three junks blockaded the shore from one to four miles south of the Coastal Group base while four companies of ARVN troops swept from an inland road to the river. One fleeing Viet Cong was killed by the sailors; three others were killed and one was captured by the ARVN troops. On the 28th and 29th, the reaction force conducted two one-day ambush and destroy operations; the first, one-half mile south of the base, and the second, one mile north of the base. No contact was made with the enemy but many bunkers and punji stake traps were destroyed.

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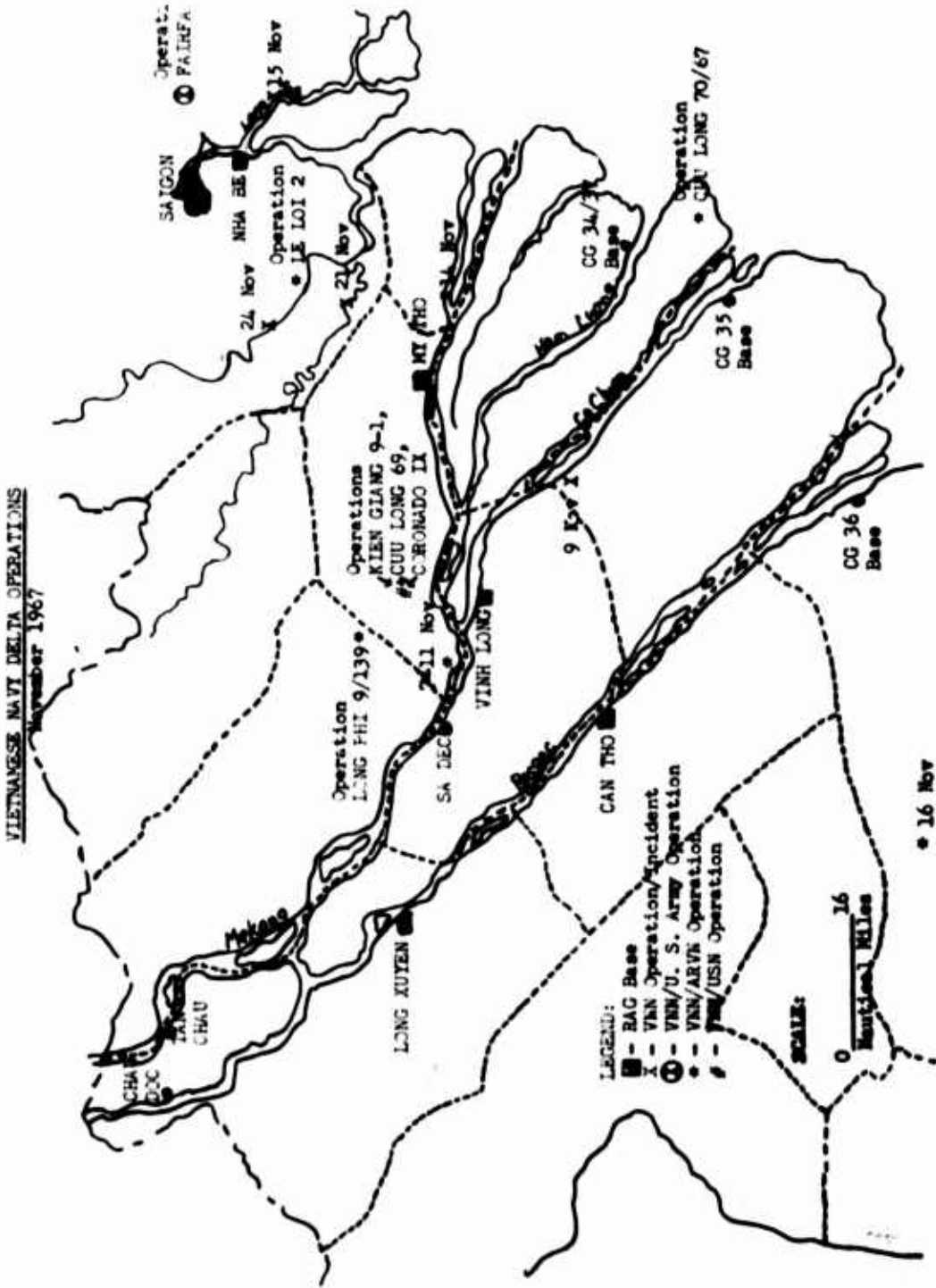
In the Fourth Naval Zone on 7 November, the raider platoon of Coastal Group 41, using civilian junks, made a pre-dawn sweep on a group of Viet Cong sampans fishing 15 miles east of Ca Mau Point. During the fire fight two Viet Cong were killed and two were wounded but escaped to shore. One sampan containing numerous documents was seized. At 0600, one of the Coastal Group junks and PCF 11, patrolling in the bay 17 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point, were taken under fire from prepared fighting positions at the mouth of the Bai Hap river. The two units destroyed or damaged all of the bunkers causing unknown casualties.

On the afternoon of the 17th, several junks from Coastal Groups 43, 44 and 45 supported the Cai Nuoc defense post, three miles up the Cai Lon river from the Coastal Group base at Kien An. Together, the Regional Force company and the junks were able to break the machine-gun attack. Three soldiers were killed and two others and two sailors were wounded in the action.

#### Riverine Area Naval Commands

In November the River Assault Groups conducted four operations in the First Naval Zone, 11 in the Third Riverine Area and the Rung Sat Special Zone, and 28 in the Fourth Riverine Area. The RAG units also performed escort duty and conducted river patrol, base defense and psychological warfare missions. With a daily average employment of 85 percent of the 158 available craft the RAG units

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searched 5,878 junks and 15,898 persons and detained two junks and 295 persons.

The First Naval Zone's RAG detachment, co-located with Coastal Group 12, supported the ARVN 3rd Infantry Regiment in Operation LAM SON 142/XDNT, five miles southeast of Hue, from 2 through 5 November. The combined force killed five Viet Cong, captured two others, and detained 17 suspects. Four ARVN soldiers were wounded. In the three remaining operations the detachment supported sector and sub-sector troops on two-day search and destroy operations which made only light contact with the enemy.

The November activity of the RAGs in the Third Riverine Area was concentrated in Long An province where nine of the area's 11 operations were conducted. However, the first activity of the month was in Binh Duong province, 23 miles northwest of Saigon on the 7th and 8th, when RAGs 27 and 28 and a Regional Force boat company supported the U. S. Army 25th Infantry Division in search and destroy operations. With the RAG craft providing river blockade and gunfire support, the Regional Force LCVPs\* transported the troops into all the streams and canals along a five mile portion of the Saigon river. Twenty-five Viet Cong suspects were detained and 15

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\* LCVP - A 36-foot wooden-hulled, ramp-bowed, landing craft capable of carrying 36 troops. The LCVPs are armed with one .50 caliber and three .30 caliber machine guns.

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junks and many enemy records were seized.

In Long An province, between 9 and 19 November, RAGs 24 and 27 supported four ARVN operations along the Vam Co Tay and Vam Co Dong Rivers. On the 21st, while returning from an operation to their advance base at Tan An, RAG 24 was attacked three times in a five-mile portion of the Vam Co Tay river, 22 miles south of Saigon. At 1225 the enemy detonated a water mine between units in the column but caused no damage. Two hours later, two B-40 rocket rounds hit an LCM damaging the starboard side of the ramp. Upon clearing the area of the rocket attack, the formation received heavy automatic-weapons fire from the west bank, returned fire and continued through the ambush area without any major casualties. The Viet Cong continued their attacks when, on the morning of the 24th, they ambushed a RAG 27 patrol on the Vam Co Dong river three miles south of their advance base in Ben Luc and 18 miles southwest of Saigon. A river patrol craft (RPC), minesweeping ahead of the column, was hit with automatic-weapons fire, killing one sailor and wounding two others.

On the 26th and 27th, RAG 30 craft supported units of the U. S. Army 199th Light Infantry Brigade conducting Operation FAIRFAX along the Dong Ngai river 10 miles east of Saigon. From information found in a sampan seized by a RAG unit, the ground forces swept inland and found three Viet Cong equipment caches

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containing 30 individual weapons, 140 rounds of 60-mm mortar ammunition, over 10,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition, five claymore mines, four office machines, four radio sets and assorted radio and telephone components.

Two days later, Long An sector forces and RAG 24 conducted Operation LE LOI 2 along the Vam Co Dong river 19 miles southwest of Saigon. The combined force killed four Viet Cong, captured four others and seized two tons of rice and 900 pounds of salt. Two sailors were wounded by the enemy's fire. At 1600, while en route back toward Tan An, and five miles west of the operation area, the RAG craft were ambushed by the enemy using B-40 rockets; one craft was damaged and two crewmen were injured by the detonation of the round.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, in November RAG 22 and the two Regional Force boat companies maintained a daily average of 11.4 craft patrolling the rivers of the area; at the same time, the Regional Force companies stationed in the RSSZ conducted a daily average of 13 squad-, platoon- and company-sized ambushes.

On 15 November, the Nationalist Chinese merchant ship YIT AY, on the Long Tau River en route to Saigon, was struck by rocket fire from a Viet Cong position on the river bank 22 miles southeast of Saigon. Within minutes a U. S. Navy helicopter fire team and a PBR patrol was on the scene, covering the ship and searching the

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possible enemy escape routes. Within 20 minutes after the attack, Regional Force troops, embarked in RAG 22 craft and under the control of the RSSZ commander, were landed in the vicinity of the ambush positions. The troops swept the area and other areas to which they were directed by various aircraft overhead. At 1500 on the 16th the troops made contact with the enemy force, killing two of their number and locating the body of one Viet Cong killed



Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, discusses the operation of a Russian-made rocket launcher with Commander Donald WARTHEN, senior advisor, Rung Sat Special Zone. The RPG-7 rocket launcher was captured by Vietnamese Regional Force troops after the Viet Cong attacked a Chinese merchant ship on the Long Tau river in the Rung Sat Special Zone on 15 November.

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the day before. Also, the troops seized two RPG-7 rocket launchers, a sight and one rocket. U. S. Navy units killed the one man located by the Regional Force troops and two others in the two-day incident.

During November, craft from the eight RAGs in the Fourth Riverine Area provided 1,147 boat-days of river patrols on the major rivers, in addition to conducting or supporting 28 amphibious operations. The effectiveness of the VNN in controlling the rivers in conjunction with the U. S. Navy's Operation GAME WARDEN, is seen in the Viet Cong's attempts to kill, capture or otherwise reduce the number of VNN sailors in the delta. On the 9th, a new tactic was tried by the enemy; waving a signal lantern, a group of Viet Cong lured two patrol craft near shore where they could hear loudspeaker appeals for the seamen to desert the Navy. As the craft continued to close the beach to lure the Viet Cong from their bunkers to the shoreline, the sailors opened fire, wounding or killing several of the enemy.

Meanwhile, from 7 to 11 November, the ARVN SEVENTH Division and RAGs 21 and 33 had been sweeping the area five miles east of Sa Dec, between the Mekong River and National Route 4, five miles to the north. When the enemy disbanded his units to flee, the RAG-borne soldiers killed 20 of the insurgents, and captured one, seized several communications equipment components, medical supplies and

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equipment, 24 mines, 900 pounds of plastic explosive and over 100 hand grenades. Also, the troops destroyed two weapons factories, five medical stations, 20 additional mines and 86 small buildings. All the friendly casualties were in the ground units; 11 soldiers killed, 64 wounded and one soldier missing.

On the 14th, 10 miles east of My Tho on the My Tho branch of the Mekong River, 55 Provincial Reconnaissance Unit troops, embarked in a water-taxi while enroute to an operation, were ambushed by an estimated battalion of Viet Cong armed with recoilless-rifles and automatic weapons. Responding quickly, three RAG 21 craft, two PBRs and a Navy helicopter fire team sped to the scene and suppressed the enemy fire while rescuing 49 of the PRUs, 12 of whom were wounded; one PRU was killed during the encounter and five others were reported missing. Two PBR crewmen were slightly wounded during the rescue efforts.

On the 16th, in a quick reaction mission against a Viet Cong unit which had been harassing RAG 25 patrols and the Saigon-to-Bac Lieu commercial convoys, seven RAG 25 craft, two Regional Force companies and a battalion of the ARVN 21st Division swept the banks of the Bac Lieu canal, 15 miles south of Soc Trang. The enemy unit, caught against the canal, was badly mauled, suffering 22 men killed, 21 individual weapons and eight mines and command wiring captured and four other individual weapons destroyed. The ground

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forces reported that the accurate mortar fire from the RAG craft and the ARVN artillery accounted for most of the enemy killed.



**A Vietnamese RAG 31 sailor checks a suspicious hut near the Mang Thit-Nicolai canal in the Mekong Delta.**

On 15 November, RAGs 21 and 33 and the ARVN SEVENTH Division began operating in western Dinh Tuong province, eight miles north of Vinh Long in coordination with the U. S. Mobile Riverine Force in the combined Operations CUU LONG 69/SD, KIEN GIANG 9-1, and

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CORONADO IX. On the 18th, RAG 33 units carried and supported a Vietnamese Engineer unit while they removed a 40-foot portion of a low bridge enabling the U. S. riverine craft to enter the Ban Long Secret Zone; the remainder of the Vietnamese units provided blockades and holding forces in the western portion of the area. When the successful operation ended on the 24th, the RAG sailors and the ARVN troops had one soldier killed and 32 soldiers wounded while 68 Viet Cong were killed, 64 others were captured and 104 enemy suspects were detained. Equipment captured included 23 individual weapons, 660 pounds of TNT and one portable generator. Concurrently, from the 17th to the 19th, RAGs 23, 26, 31 and 32 conducted Operation LONG PHI 9/139 with units of the ARVN NINTH Division, eight miles west of Operation CUU LONG 69/SD and 16 miles northwest of Vinh Long. The government forces, capitalizing on the blocking forces of the larger operation to the east, killed 47 Viet Cong, captured five others, and seized over six tons of assorted ammunition, 62 individual weapons and 40 mines. ARVN forces again received all the casualties; one killed and 36 wounded.

In the final major operation of the month, 41 craft from RAGs 21 and 33 and LSSL 231, under the control of the commander of RAG 21, supported the ARVN SEVENTH Division operation, CUU LONG 70/67, in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone, between the mouths of the Co Chien and Ham Luong rivers. The RAG craft transported the troops from

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their camps at Cai Be and My Tho to the Co Chien River side of the operation area and then proceeded around the seaward side of the secret zone to the Ham Luong River where they provided a blockade and fire support, and transportation to return the troops to their camps after the operation. Five Viet Cong were killed, 10 were captured and 36 suspects were detained. Additionally, 10 individual weapons and one machine gun, 31 cases of ammunition, and 380 pounds of medicine were seized and 21 houses, six bunkers, seven indoctrination centers and 1,800 pounds of rice were destroyed. This was the first operation, in recent years, where a Fleet Command ship was integrated into an amphibious force and where large-size trooplifts were made over a significant distance.

#### Logistics

In November the Vietnamese Navy conducted 17 logistical support missions, transporting 3,095 personnel and 2,840 tons of cargo. The tank landing ships (LSTs) lifted 2,000 personnel and 931 tons of cargo; medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 575 personnel and 1,296 tons of cargo; and utility landing craft (LCUs) lifted 520 personnel and 613 tons of cargo.

On 12 November, LST 501 was driven aground in the harbor of Apra, Guam after breaking loose from its moorings at the U. S. Naval Repair Facility. After being refloated on the 14th, six minor holes were temporarily patched; permanent repairs will be

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made during the drydock portion of the overhaul. On the 18th, LST 500 returned to Saigon after completing a three-month overhaul at the Guam facility and, on the 29th, LSIL 328 returned to Saigon after a six-month overhaul.

During the month the VNN's Supply Center had a gross effectiveness of 74.3 percent on a total of 9,248 requests for items, and a net effectiveness of 84.7 percent on 8,113 requests for items normally carried in the supply system.

On 5 November, the floating workshop (RY-24) arrived in Saigon. The barge, on loan by the U. S. Navy as part of the upgrading of VNN repair capabilities, will be placed in service at the Naval Shipyard with the dual mission of training Vietnamese sailors and relieving the shipyard of many smaller repair jobs. The YR-24 is manned by a 38-member U. S. Navy advisory unit and approximately 81 VNN personnel.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary

November 1967

<u>Coastal Force</u>	<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
I NZ	11,264	36,475	2	128
II NZ	8,308	26,649	2	136
III NZ	8,355	32,528	0	3
IV NZ	2,962	9,336	0	0
Sub-totals	30,889	104,988	4	267
<u>Fleet Command</u>				
<u>Patrol Ships</u>	1,121	4,734	0	2

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<u>Riverine Area</u>				
<u>Craft</u>	5,878	15,898	2	26
Totals	37,888	125,620	6	295

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VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

In November the seven battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II, III and IV Corps Tactical Zones and the Capital Military District. During the month, the six infantry battalions were committed to operations 97 percent of the time while the three batteries of the artillery battalion were committed 70 percent of the time.

From 1 to 3 November Task Force A, consisting of a headquarters, the 4th, 5th, and 6th Battalions and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, continued its road security and search and destroy missions in Operation SONG THAN 702-67 in the western part of the Capital Military District. On the 2nd, a platoon from the 5th Battalion, in an outpost 10 miles southwest of Saigon, was attacked by a Viet Cong platoon armed with 60-mm mortars and automatic weapons. The Marines repulsed the enemy attack but suffered five men wounded from mortar rounds which landed in their perimeter; concurrently, two men in the 4th Battalion were wounded in a similar attack on an outpost four miles north of the city.

On 8 November, the Task Force A headquarters and the 4th

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Battalion deployed to the Bong Song area of the II Corps Tactical Zone and relieved the Task Force B headquarters and the 1st Battalion. The Task Force, now consisting of the headquarters, the 3rd and 4th Battalions and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion began Operation SONG THAN 711-67, a continuation of Task Force B's Operation SONG THAN 14. On the evening of the 9th, the Viet Cong successfully sabotaged three bridges in the 4th Battalion's area of responsibility. A company of the 3rd Battalion detained 18 Viet Cong suspects in a sweep on the 17th, while 4th Battalion company-sized sweeps detained 39 and 45 suspects on the 18th and 20th, respectively. Meanwhile, on the 21st, an element of the 4th Battalion located a cache on an enemy commo-liaison route, detaining one suspect and seizing 22 pounds of Viet Cong newspapers, 200 personal letters, three anti-personnel mines and 700 rounds of ammunition. On the 29th, one Hoi Chanh rallied to the 3rd Battalion.

Task Force B, consisting of a headquarters, the 1st and 3rd Battalions and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion, operated south of Bong Song conducting Operation SONG THAN 14 through the 9th. The operations, which began on 26 July, ended with the relieving of the Task Force headquarters and the 1st Battalion by the Task Force A headquarters and the 4th Battalion. On 12 November the Task Force B headquarters, now

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commanding the 1st and 2nd Battalions and Batteries A and B of the Artillery Battalion, was designated the ready reaction force for the III Corps Tactical Zone with the 1st Battalion and Battery A (after 20 November) deployed to southern Tan Binh district, four miles west of Saigon. The 2nd Battalion, assigned to the ready reaction force on the 3rd, remained in base camp at Thu Duc, north-east of the Capital. The ready reaction force made no contact with the enemy during the month.

The 5th Battalion, which deployed on the 6th for duty as the third maneuver battalion of the Mobile Riverine Force, was committed to contact in Operation CORONADO IX on the 9th. Landed from craft of the MRF, into an area five miles west of Dong Tam, the Marines captured one Viet Cong, detained 22 suspects (two of whom were determined to be Viet Cong) and destroyed one Viet Cong grenade factory in the three-day operation. Two Marines were wounded. On the 14th, the Battalion made a one-day sweep of the area just west of Dong Tam, detaining 27 suspects of whom one was identified as a squad leader in the Viet Cong 514th Local Force Battalion. Six other persons were held under civil charges and the remainder were released as innocent civilians.

From the 18th to the 24th, the MRF and the Marines operated in conjunction with the ARVN SEVENTH and NINTH Divisions' Operation KIEN GIANG 9-1 in eastern Kien Phong province. The mission

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of the operation was to encircle and destroy the Viet Cong 261st and 267th Main Force Battalions. The Marines made the 32-mile transit aboard the assault craft and were landed in the southeastern portion of the operation area at 0800 on the 18th while troops of the U. S. NINTH Division were landed on the northern perimeter of the area. After returning to base camp on the 20th, the battalion rested and was re-committed to the operation in an area 15 miles west of Dong Tam on the 23rd. At 1300 the 3rd Company uncovered an enemy weapons cache which contained 17 Chinese carbines and 40,000 rounds of ammunition. The operation ended with the return of the 5th Battalion and the U. S. units of the Mobile Riverine Force to Dong Tam. Three Marines were wounded during the six days while the Marines killed one Viet Cong, captured three others and detained 13 enemy suspects.

From the 28th through the 30th, the 5th Battalion took part in Operation SONG THAN 504-67, five miles northwest of Dong Tam. Only scattered, light contacts were made with the enemy and the Battalion returned to Dong Tam on the afternoon of the 30th.

The 6th Battalion was deployed in the Binh Chau district six miles west of Saigon as a security force for the Capital Military District. The only enemy contact of the month was made on the 29th when an enemy force attacked a Marine unit returning to the Battalion bivouac from an outpost; one Marine was killed, two were

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wounded and one is missing. During the month the battalion conducted 12 company-sized searches, 131 platoon-sized searches and 574 squad-sized night ambushes.

On 30 November two platoons (four 75-mm howitzers) of Battery A of the Artillery Battalion were placed under the control of the VNN for employment in the RSSZ.

Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary  
November 1967

VC/NVA	17 KIA	18 VCC	197 VCS	1 Chieu Hoi
VNMC	2 KIA	1 MIA	29 WIA*	(Includes one by accidental discharge and two in a truck accident.)

Captured Weapons:

Rifle, U. S. Carbine	2
Rifle, Mauser	1
Rifle, AK-47	1
Rifle, Chinese Carbine	17

VNMC Weapons Lost:

Rifle, M-16	3
Grenade Launcher, M-79	1

Captured or Destroyed Materials or Facilities:

VC grenades	64
M-26 grenades	4
AP mines	2
Claymore mines	2
Bucket mines	1
Rounds, machine-gun ammunition	600
Rounds, carbine ammunition	100
Meters, communications wire	300
VC newspapers, kilograms	10
VC Mail pouch	1
VC letters	200
Radio antenna	1
Trench System	2

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Hand Grenade molds	200
Duck Eggs	300
Rounds, miscellaneous small arms ammunition	40,083
Documents, kilograms	1
Bandages, kilograms	6
Magazines, carbine	4
Magazines, BAR	50
Field pack	1
Black pajamas, pair	2
Quantity of rice, medical supplies, miscellaneous supplies	

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APPENDIX I

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

In November, the ministry of the chaplains and the lay leaders continued to expand to care for the needs of Navy personnel. The Force Chaplain also conducted Mass in the Saigon Cathedral for the English speaking community of the Capital. On the other hand, Army chaplains have assisted in services for Navy units operating in their areas and a Roman Catholic priest from a monastery near the MCB 10 cantonment, 80 miles northwest of Danang, celebrated Masses for the Seabees and nearby Marine units.

The following tabulation is a statistical summary of the religious services conducted during November:

1. Religious Services:

a. Divine Services:

(1) U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Installations

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	159	165	325
Attendance	6,241	1,724	8,165
Communed	2,100	889	2,989

(2) Other Military Installations

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	42	45	87
Attendance	825	302	1,127
Communed	473	210	683

(3) Civilian Churches

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	4	0	4
Attendance	2,800	0	2,800
Communed	1,280	0	1,280

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b. Religious services conducted by lay leaders and chaplains  
other than those attached to NAVFORV:

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Chaplains</u>		<u>Lay Leaders</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Attend.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Attend.</u>
Catholic	51	2,307	0	0
Protestant	13	605	2	34
Jewish	4	20	0	0
L.D.S.	4	25	4	52
Al-Islam	0	0	90	210

c. Other services in which chaplains participated:

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Memorial services	1	85
Thanksgiving	6	256
Devotional leader	1	11
VN Protestant service	1	47

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APPENDIX IIGLOSSARY

ANGLICO Air-Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (U. S.).

ARVN Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

CG Coastal Group (VNN) - A coastal patrol command consisting of six to ten junks with the responsibility of patrolling from 30 to 60 miles of coastline.

CIDG Civilian Irregular Defense Group (VN) - Paramilitary troops used in their local area for limited area operations.

CHIEU HOI "Open Arms" (VN) - The Republic of Vietnam's amnesty program of rehabilitation and re-location of Viet Cong who voluntarily return to government control.

CORDS Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support.

COSURVFOR Coastal Surveillance Force (USN) TF 115 - The U. S. forces participating in Operations MARKET TIME and STABLE DOOR.

COSVN Central Office for South Vietnam - The highest Viet Cong headquarters in South Vietnam.

CTZ Corps Tactical Zone - The major divisions of South Vietnam into military regions.

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DIA DOAN KET      National Reconciliation Program - Program which is aimed at helping qualified returnees find employment commensurate with their previous training and experience.

GAME WARDEN      The operation performed by U. S. Navy forces to interdict Viet Cong movement on the major waterways of the Mekong Delta and the RSSZ. The force is composed of River Patrol Boats, Minesweepers, helicopter fire teams and SEAL teams.

HEAT              High Explosive Anti-Tank - A shaped-charge projectile with high armor penetration capability normally used in 57-mm or 75-mm recoilless rifles.

HHPT              Heavy Helicopter Fire Team (U. S.) - A helicopter fire team with three or more gunships used in support of ground and water-borne units. The use of three helicopters allows continuous firing on the target.

HOI CHANH      "Returnee to the Just Cause" (VN) - An individual (Viet Cong) who returns under the Chieu Hoi program.

IUWU              Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit (U. S.) - The U. S. forces conducting Operation STABLE DOOR.

IWCS              Integrated Wideband Communication System.

LDNN              Lien Doc Nguoi Nhia (VNN) - Literally "soldiers

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who fight under the sea." UDT force of the VNN.

LHFT Light Helicopter Fire Team (U. S.) - A helicopter fire team composed of two gunships used in support of ground and waterborne units.

LRRP Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol.

MARKET TIME The operation conducted by U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces to interdict Viet Cong infiltration of men and supplies from the sea.

MEDCAP Medical Civic Action Program.

MG Machine Gun - An automatic, crew-served weapon adaptable to many mountings. The four types currently used by USN and VNN forces are the M-60, the .30 caliber light machine gun, the .50 caliber heavy machine gun, and the 7.62-mm mini-gun.

MILPHAP Military Provincial Health Assistance Program - MILPHAP teams, normally staffed by three doctors, a Medical Service Corps officer and 12 corpsmen, work with Vietnam's Ministry of Health at the province hospital level to improve health services available to Vietnamese civilians.

MRF Mobile Riverine Force (U. S.) - A force made up of Navy craft and Army units designed and trained for amphibious assaults in the Mekong Delta and the RSSZ.

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NGFS Naval Gunfire Support (USN-VNN) - Naval gunfire used to assist operations ashore; often spotted and corrected by spotter aircraft or forward observers.

NILO Naval intelligence Liaison Officer.

NLF National Liberation Front - Actually the "National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam." A Communist political-front used to give the appearance of popular non-Communist support to their insurgency activities in South Vietnam.

NUOC MAM (VN) A fermented fish sauce served with almost any dish. A national delicacy.

NVA North Vietnamese Army.

PRU Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (VN) - Para-military personnel whose principal mission includes clandestine operations designed to destroy the Viet Cong infrastructure. Each unit consists of one or more teams of 18 to 20 civilians who have had prior military service.

RAF Riverine Assault Force (USN) - The U. S. Navy contingent of the MRF.

RAG River Assault Group (VN) - An amphibious warfare command with the capability to transport and support a battalion of infantry. Similar to a boat

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division in the RAF.

RED HAZE      Infra Red Detector (U. S.) - Sensitive heat detectors used as an airborne locator of personnel, equipment and military sites.

RF             Regional Force (VN) - Forces under ARVN control which operate within their home province.

RIVPATFOR    River Patrol Force (USN) TF 116 - The forces used in conducting Operation GAME WARDEN.

RPG            Rocket Propelled Grenade - A Soviet or Chinese Communist-manufactured, fin-stabilized, anti-tank grenade. RPG-2 (B-40). RPG-7 (B-41).

RSSZ          Rung Sat Special Zone - Literally "forest of assassins." A special military area located about 21 miles southeast of Saigon in Gia Dinh Province and composed of Can Gio and Quang Xuyen districts.

RVNAF        Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces - Consists of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and RF/FF.

SEAL          Sea, Air, Land. (USN) - Special duty personnel qualified as underwater demolition, paratroop and jungle warfare specialists.

SECRET ZONE    A Viet Cong-dominated area utilized as a base, training camp and logistic resupply area.

SLAR          Side-Looking Airborne Radar (U. S.) - An accurate

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airborne radar for detecting small, moving objects.

STABLE DOOR      The U. S. Navy operation conducted to provide harbor defense.

STAR LIGHT      Ambient light equipment (USN) - A portable system to enhance vision under conditions of starlight or moonlight.

UDT              Underwater Demolition Team (USN) - Specially trained swimmers used for underwater work in the Navy.

USAID            United States Agency for International Development.

USSF            United States Special Forces (USA) - Army personnel specially trained for use as advisors to indigenous personnel.

VIET CONG      Vietnamese citizens under the control and leadership of North Vietnam. These persons may be local sympathizers, guerrillas, or hard-core, full-time workers for the Communist domination of South Vietnam.

VNAF            Vietnamese Air Force.

VNMC            Vietnamese Marine Corps.

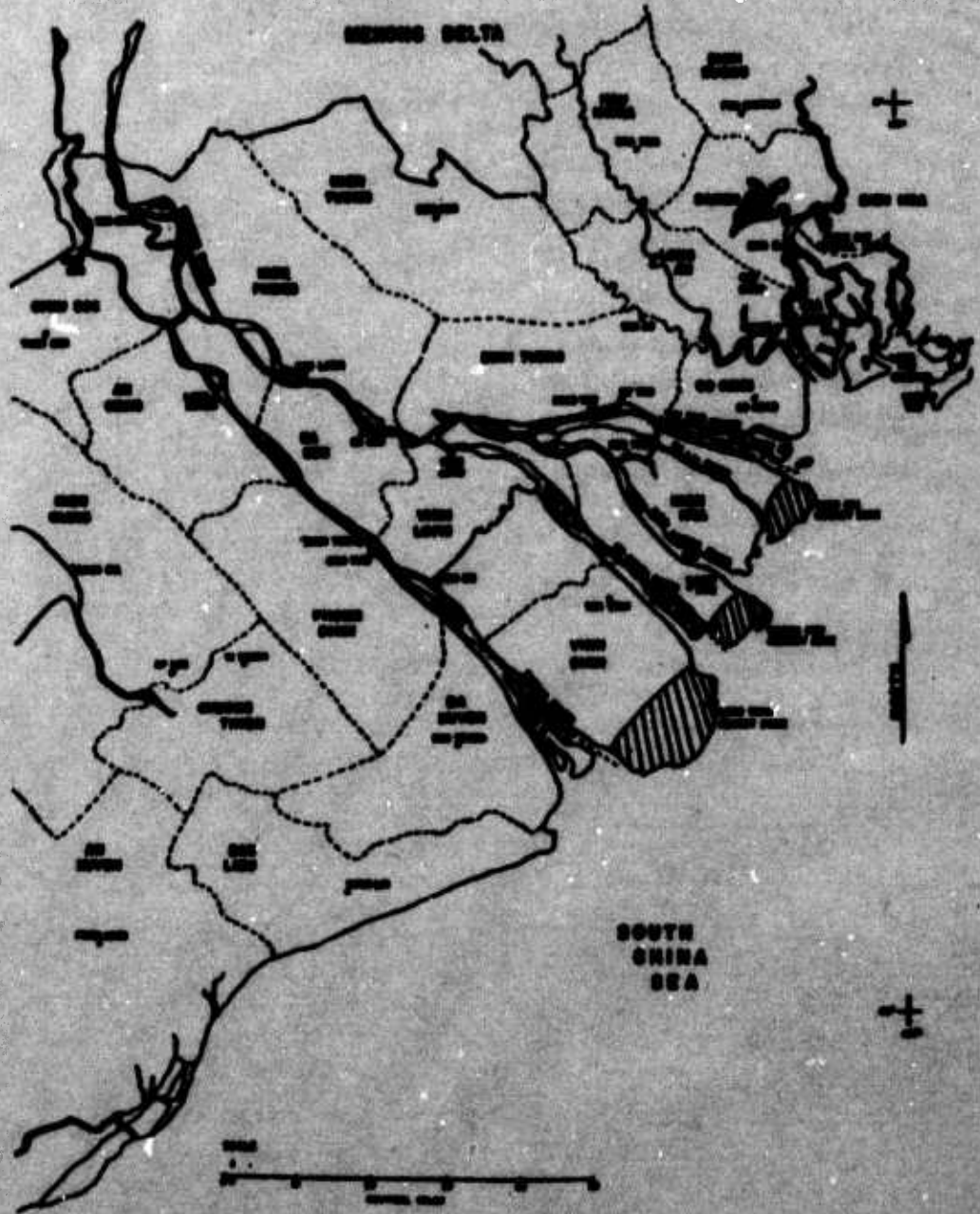
VNN             Vietnamese Navy.

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