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To: Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)

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July 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT ltr FF1-1 5750 ser 1/6925 of 2 October 1967

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

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are submitted.
2. The data contained in enclosures (6), (7) and (8) is based on information available this date. Any adjustments to enclosures (6), (7) and (8) will be reflected in July's Historical Supplement.

Copy to:
COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, SJS)
CNO (Op-09B91E)
Director of Naval History ✓

J. W. THOMPSON
Flag Secretary

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 1)
July 1968

During July MARKET TIME operations continued at a high level. Units were able to maintain high percentages of on station time because of favorable weather. Coastal junk and sampan traffic and fishermen also took advantage of the good weather as indicated by the 108,476 craft detected by the surveillance units. The pace of naval gunfire operations continued to build during the month. An increasing percentage of the missions were fired using spotters and the results reported reflect improved gun damage assessments.

Of the junks and sampans detected, a total of 41,336 were inspected and 22,396 were boarded. The results of these boardings brought the detection of 734 suspicious persons including 14 Viet Cong suspects. Detections of steel hulled vessels transiting MARKET TIME areas during the month totaled 1,119. All were found to be on innocent passage through 788 inspections and 102 boardings.

Exfiltration/infiltration patrols and naval gunfire support were provided for 19 ground operations along the coast. Naval gunfire support missions reached a new high level of 604 for harassment and interdiction, urgent and planned attacks on enemy positions, and in response to 25 hostile fire incidents.

In An Xuyen Province USMC A-BROSCHOFF (AMMC-68) again scored impressive results against Viet Cong positions along the east and west coasts of the Ca Mau Peninsula. Three of the A-BROSCHOFF's most

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successful days were the 6th, 9th, and 13th. On these dates more than 560 projectiles from the cutter's 5"/38 gun destroyed 47 structures, 25 sampans, one junk, and 18 bunkers; damaged an additional 101 structures, 54 sampans, and 15 bunkers; killed 2 enemy plus an estimated 38 killed, and caused at least 20 large secondary explosions.

On the 10th PCF 22 observed approximately 35 men walking on the beach and several others carrying weapons crossing a nearby river at a point 25 miles south of Chu Lai. The area was taken under fire at the request of the 5/46th Infantry, Americal Division. The personnel scattered into tree-line bunkers as the "Swift" boat's 81-mm mortar killed 4, wounded an estimated 20 others, destroyed 2 structures, and started a fire following a possible secondary explosion.

In An Xuyen Province on the 27th, PCF's 95 and 102 teamed with USCGC WINONA (WHEC-65) to punish Viet Cong recoilless rifle positions at the mouth of the Bo De River. The "Swift" boats acted as decoys proceeding up the river firing their .50 caliber machine guns into both banks. As they turned to head back to sea the enemy opened fire with 3 recoilless rifle rounds achieving one hit on PCF 95 putting a 2 foot by 1½ foot hole just above the water line on the starboard side. As the "Swift" boats continued to engage the enemy with their mortars and machine guns the WINONA joined in the action with her 5"/38 gun. Effective damage control stopped the flooding to PCF 95 and only two minor personnel casualties were incurred. The enemy lost 3 killed and an estimated 1 wounded plus 2 weapons positions destroyed.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
July 1968

Throughout the area of GAME WARDEN operations there was a reduction in enemy initiated activity as the Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army in general remained elusive and avoided contact. The conditions existing were similar to those that prevailed prior to Tet and the early May enemy offensives. Intelligence sources anticipate that another major attack will occur in the near future. GAME WARDEN units, the reduced enemy activity notwithstanding, continued to vigorously search out and destroy the communist insurgents making regrouping efforts of the enemy more difficult. GAME WARDEN units continued to support Vietnamese units that were actively conducting offensive operations against the Viet Cong.

On 13 July a Navy armed helicopter was shot down by enemy ground fire. The "Seawolf" crashed on Dung Island, on the lower Bassac River, killing all four crewmen, the only TF 116 personnel killed in action during the month.

On 3-4 July "Seawolves" flying from HUNTERDON COUNTY killed 23 Viet Cong, destroyed five junks, damaged three others and four sampans. All action took place in Kien Hoa Province around the mouth of the Ba Lai River. Two days later GARRETT COUNTY "Seawolves" killed seven Viet Cong while supporting PRUs in contact with a Viet Cong company 5 miles northwest of Phu Vinh. On the night of 8 July

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PBRs operating on the Dong Nai River 13 miles east of Saigon, in defense of the city, intercepted 3 sampans. The PBRs, supported by "Seawolves" attacked and killed 3 NVA and destroyed the sampans. The PBR sailors captured two 122-mm rocket launchers, one sighting device and a number of top secret documents. On the night of the 16th, SEALs operating in the same general area ambushed a sampan with five occupants. The sampan was taken under heavy fire killing two and probably the remaining three. Captured were four AK-47s, a CHICOM 7.62 pistol and 410 rounds of ammunition.

On 17 July a U. S. Army LCU inadvertently crossed the Cambodian border, on the Mekong River, due to faulty navigation and was detained by the Cambodians (The craft still has not been released). To prevent a recurrence of this incident PBRs patrolling the upper Mekong became "watch dogs" for potential border violators. On 21 July the PBRs intercepted four more lost U. S. Army LCUs near Tan Chau.

On 30 July SEALs raided a Nuoc Nam factory 9 miles southeast of My Tho in search of a reported arms cache. Thirteen Viet Cong were captured, including the factory owner. No arms were found but in the area of the factory were combat fences, punji pits and offensive bunkers.

During the month there was a resurgence of shipping attacks on the Long Tau. Three merchant ships were harassed (two U. S. and one Japanese) with little or no damage inflicted.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
July 1968

The month of July was characterized by the increased mobility and striking power of the Mobile Riverine Force as a result of the new MRF organization and expansion. Mobile Riverine Group (MRG) ALFA (CTG 117.1) was composed of the major ships of the Mobile Riverine Base, River Assault Squadron's 9 and 11, the 4/47th and the 3/60th Infantry battalions plus the 3/34th Artillery Battalion. The newly formed MRG BRAVO (CTG 117.2) consisted of USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST 1170), River Assault Squadron 13 and the 4/39th Infantry Battalion. Although there were a series of riverine ambushes along the waterways of the Mekong Delta, the Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army combatants remained elusive and avoided major contact with the MRF, until the last two days of the month.

On 10 July for the first time in its 18 months in the Delta the MRF (MRG ALFA) transited the shallow Co Chien River and operated from an anchorage 7 miles southwest of Mo Cay in Kien Hoa Province. The summary results of this 4-day operation were 5 Viet Cong killed, 132 suspects detained, 5 prisoners captured and 79 bunkers destroyed. There was one soldier wounded during the engagement.

On 13 July at 1136 a Task Group 117.2 ATC, beached at the mouth of the Ba Rai Stream on the Tien Giang River, was mined. The underwater explosion occurred 7 miles southwest of Cai Lay and ripped an 18-inch

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hole in the boat's starboard fuel tank. Approximately two hours later another ATC, less than 500 meters from the initial mining incident, suffered an underwater explosion which ripped an 18-inch hole in its lazaret. Both boats were returned to Dong Tam for repairs.

Moving into Vinh Binh Province MRG ALFA conducted a successful 3-day operation (15-17 July) in the Cang Long and Chau Thanh districts killing 62 Viet Cong, capturing 5 prisoners and destroying 18 bunkers and 20 booby traps. Friendly casualties amounted to 1 soldier killed and 20 others wounded, 2 of whom were Navymen.

On 23 July MRG ALFA commenced a 3-day operation in the Glong Trom and Truc Giang districts of Kien Hoa Province about 10 miles southeast of Ben Tre. At 0840 that morning while proceeding south on the Ben Tre Stream to land troops, riverine craft of TR 117.1.3.1 were ambushed 6 miles southwest of Ben Tre by rockets, recoilless rifles and automatic weapons from well-entrenched enemy positions on both banks of the river. This was the first of six separate ambushes in this area and the most serious of the day. One ASPB received several severe hits from the enemy rocketeers, was beached and sank; however, the boat was recovered the following day. Another ASPB was damaged in the fierce firefight which killed 2 sailors and wounded 10 other Navymen. The troops were immediately landed but the enemy escaped. There were also two Armymen killed and three soldiers wounded in a series of minor skirmishes. Except for the small unit river skirmishes on

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23 July, the reputed Viet Cong concentrations in Giong Trom District avoided heavy contact with the MRF. Cumulative enemy losses were 12 killed, 12 prisoners captured, 120 suspects detained, and 142 bunkers destroyed.

Meanwhile on 25 July MRG BRAVO operating on the Vam Co Dong River in Long An Province 17 miles southwest of Saigon near the Ben Luc Bridge captured 10 large sampans. These boats were laden with ammunition, clothing and a large amount of medical supplies which strongly indicated that MRG BRAVO located a Viet Cong crossing area and thwarted a possible crossing. Cumulative results of MRG BRAVO operations (25-30 July) were 19 killed; 6 weapons and 10 sampans captured; 340 bunkers and 20 sampans destroyed. One soldier was killed and two others were wounded during this period.

MRG ALFA relocated from Vinh Long to Can Tho on 28 July and commenced a three-battalion operation near Vi Thanh, 29 miles southwest of Can Tho on 30 July. This was the largest Allied venture of the war into this Viet Cong dominated territory, and also marked the MRF's deepest penetration into the Mekong Delta. Later that afternoon the 5th Vietnamese Marine Corps Battalion supported by U. S. Navy gunboats from TE 117.1.3.1 cornered an enemy element in a bunker complex along the Cai Lon River in Chuong Thien Province and accounted for the majority of the 55 Viet Cong killed. On 31 July the VNMC 5th Battalion maintained heavy contact with the fiercely resisting guerrillas and

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in coordination with U. S. Army helicopter gunships killed 47 more of the enemy. Total casualties inflicted on the Viet Cong were 102 killed (incomplete), while friendly forces had 2 VNMC and 1 USA soldier wounded. The assault troops of the MRF also captured a large weapons cache which included: 68 weapons, 324 mortar rounds, 220 grenades, 13 claymore mines, two 75-mm pack howitzers, one 106-mm howitzer and 12,500 rounds of small-arms ammunition.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
July 1968

The VNN minesweeping craft, 10 MLMS and 6 LCMMs now provide three-fourths of the mine-countermeasures effort on the Long Tau and Dong Nai rivers, the main shipping channels to Saigon. On 2 July, the VNN MLMS 115, preceding Army barges on the Dong Nai River, cut and released a 250 pound mine. The Navy advisor aboard the minesweeper guided the barges past the mine and called in EOD personnel. The mine was later determined to have been put in the water recently; it was wrapped in a Hanoi newspaper dated March 1968. This was a command detonated mine and the first of its type to be found in over 17 months. It was in the same area where several Army barges were destroyed 2 months ago by Viet Cong from the shoreline.

Among the forces reorganized within the CMC to prohibit the enemy's travel and seek him out in the marshy lands south and east of Saigon, the VNN River Patrol Group (RPG) 51 has already shown its worth and versatility. On 10 July in one of the first operations since its inception last month, RPG 51 units transported BSSZ Commandos and their USMC advisors to an area 22 miles southeast of Saigon to conduct post-strike sweeps of a recent B52 raid. The VNN PBRs provided mobility for the land troops again and again throughout the month. On 17 July, a VNN PBR was the first on the scene of an enemy attack on the merchant ship YOKASUNI MARU on the Long Tau River. USN and VNN PBRs covered by Army LHFTs effectively returned and suppressed any further enemy fire.

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On 19 July, the VNN took possession of four U.S. Navy "Swift" boats. The assumption of responsibility for two more MARKET TIME stations by these PCFs culminated over 6 months of intensive training with U.S. Navy personnel for some 71 VNN officers and enlisted men. The number of MARKET TIME areas controlled solely by the VNN now totals eight and will continue to increase with the aim of eventual VN take-over of all MARKET TIME patrol stations presently manned by the U.S. Navy.

The six infantry battalions and one artillery battalion of the VIMC with USMC Advisors were committed to operations 100 percent of the time. Until 25 July, Task Force A, composed of the 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 6th Infantry Battalions, remained in the northeastern suburbs of Saigon in Operation TOAN THANG under the operational control of Capital Military District. Task Force B was composed of the 3rd and 4th Infantry Battalions until 25 July, and operated in IV CTZ under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Infantry Division. Reconnaissance in force and cordon and search operations resulted in light enemy contact in both areas. On 25 and 26 July respectively, the 5th and 6th Battalions were air-lifted to IV CTZ, and as Task Force A was under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Infantry Division. On the same dates the 3rd and 4th Battalions respectively were relocated to Saigon to form Task Force B with the 1st and 2nd Battalions.

Enemy contact remained at a low level until 30 July when the 5th Battalion in IV CTZ, operating in close coordination with the MRF, engaged an estimated enemy reinforced platoon in Chuong Thien Province. Again on

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31 July, the Marines reported heavy enemy contact in the same vicinity. Confirmed totals as of this writing are not available due to continuing action.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS
July 1968

In the area of psychological operations naval units continued an active broadcasting program. The VC/NVA reaction to the broadcasts was not as aggressive as in the past as fewer speaker missions drew hostile fire. Heavy emphasis was placed on Chieu Hoi themes in light of reported low state of VC/NVA morale. Themes used included the failure of the VC/NVA to achieve victory on the battlefield and that the VC/NVA leaders have deceived, lied to, and forced their troops into suicide missions. Emphasis was placed on the futility of the VC/NVA efforts. During the month at least eight Hoi Chanhs rallied to Navy craft. On one occasion 2 Hoi Chanhs turned in three CHICOM rifles when they rallied to PBR sailors conducting a MEDCAP on Tam Phong Island about 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of Vinh Long.

Civic action activities were continued at a vigorous pace by naval units throughout South Vietnam. Over 10,000 Vietnamese were treated during MEDCAPs conducted by U. S. and Vietnamese Navy men. The navy men were enthusiastically received by the villagers as the program gained support from the populous. PBRs began conducting MEDCAPs in remote and neglected areas in the Delta achieving results that were extremely satisfactory and gratifying to all concerned. This effort demonstrated to another group of people the GVN/PWMAF interest in their welfare and simultaneously cut the roots from the

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VC appeal in these less prominent areas. At Cam Ranh Bay, the U.S. Navy teamed with the Vietnamese Navy and U.S. Army and built a new elementary school for the dependent children of the Vietnamese Navy Recruit Training Command personnel.

AID has requested that the number of Seabee Teams be increased to aid the revolutionary development program. The outstanding work being performed by these units in civic action work is once again manifested by this request. There are now 15 teams deployed in-country actively involved in rural road and bridge improvements, new construction projects (assisted by the villagers) and repair of damaged buildings. Attending to the medical needs of the populous, corpsmen assigned to the teams treated at least 10,000 patients.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
July 1968

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>	<u>Mobile Riverine Force</u>
Detections	109,795	149,559	*
Inspections	42,224	34,393	*
Boardings	22,998	66,005	*
Craft detained	*	9	10
Persons detained	734	1,009	365
Viet Cong suspects	14	80	*
Hostile fire incidents	25	33	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	35 (+84 probable)	78	216
b. Wounded	5 (+47 probable)	8	1
c. Captured	2	20	32
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	4	2 USN/7 USA
b. Wounded	4	4	22 USN/57 USA/2 VMFC
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	227	71	24
(2) Structures	367	133	678
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	1	10
(2) Weapons	*	**	324***
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	410	13,103****
(4) Rice (tons)	*	0	1
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	239	272	*
(2) Structures	656	116	*
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed			
(1) Surface craft	0	0	*
(2) Helicopters	0	1	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	3	4	13
(2) Helicopters	0	5	*
SAR missions	1	*	2

Remarks:

- * Information not applicable or not available this date.
- ** 2 122-mm rocket launchers, 7 AK-47 rifles, 1 Chinom pistol and 6 B-40 rounds
- *** Includes 222 grenades and 15 mines.
- **** Includes 333 rockers/mortar/recoilless-rifle rounds

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY
July 1968

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
<u>COASTAL FORCE</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
I NZ	22,629	92,441	16	427
II NZ	25,236	76,814	56	327
III NZ	15,076	40,422	0	5
IV NZ	4,991	17,743	1	9
Sub-totals	67,932	227,420	73	768
 <u>FLEET COMMAND</u>				
PATROL SHIPS	1,995	9,375	6	22
 <u>RIVERINE AREA</u>				
CRRAFT	7,302	27,903	0	1
TOTALS	77,229	264,698	79	791

#VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA	KIA: 17	VC CAPTURED 2	VC SUSPECTS 2
VM/C	KIA: 8*	WIA 27*	

Remarks:

Figures shown reflect totals for the period 1-20 July only.
* 2 killed and 1 wounded by friendly fire.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
July 1968

PROGRAM:

	<u>Man Days</u>	<u>Expenditures (VN\$)</u>
Economic Development	8	35,000
Education	171	118,120
Social Welfare	681	195,870
Transportation	6	1,371
Refugee Assistance Support	173	80,458
TOTAL	1,039	430,819

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS:

44,134

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	<u>Number</u>
Schools	44
Hospitals/dispensaries	10
Orphanages	40
Others	9

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

	<u>Percent</u>
Other FPMAP	*
HVNAF	*
U.S. civilian voluntary agencies	*
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	*

* Information not available this date.

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