

ALL HANDS

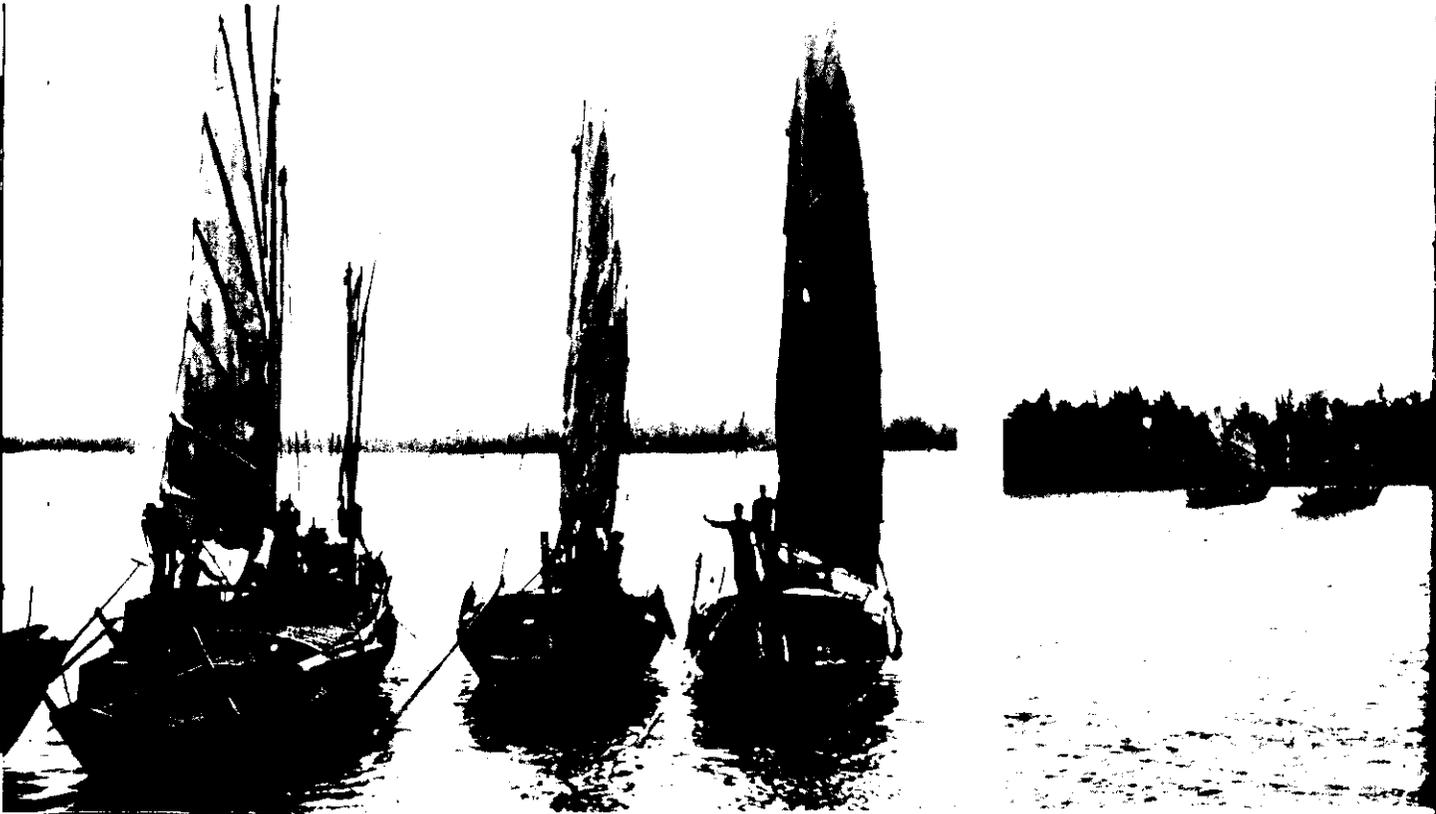
THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL CAREER PUBLICATION

**in this issue:
U.S. NAVY
IN VIETNAM**



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SEPTEMBER 1964



Vietnam Junk Force

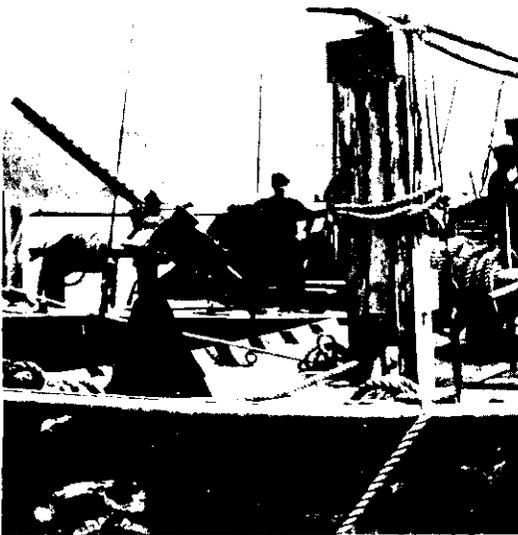


IN THIS MODERN AGE of nuclear carriers and *Polaris* submarines, the U. S. Navy has many different assignments. One that is really different is advising the Vietnamese Navy in the operation of a special fleet of junks.

Located along the coast of the China Sea from the 17th parallel south to the 15th parallel, the First Coastal District Junk Force has 110

junks assigned to patrol 120 miles of coastline. This district, located approximately 400 miles northeast of Saigon, is patrolled by three types of junks: 55-foot command junks, 44-foot motor-sailer junks, and 31-foot sail-only junks.

These vessels are under the direct command of Lieutenant Trinh Xuan Phong, Vietnamese Navy. LT Phong's American counterpart is



The Story In Photos

Clockwise from Upper Left: (1) These junks, with their big sails gleaming in the early morning sun, give one the impression of serenity. Though all may seem peaceful, they are ready and able to do combat with any insurgents they find while on their patrol. (2) Six junks from Junk Division 15, in the First Coastal District of South Vietnam, sail away from their division headquarters, out into the open sea to begin their daily searches. (3) Lieutenant M.V.V. Nelson, usn, and Senior Chief Engineman J. W. McKinsey, usn, look over a captured Viet Cong junk. Note communist star carved on bow. (4)

Lieutenant Nelson, usn, First Coastal District Junk Force advisor and Lieutenant Trinh Xuan Phong, commander of the unit, discuss some of their daily problems aboard their command junk. (5) A member of Vietnam's junk force (in 1962 photo) scans coastal waters in search of Viet Cong shipments and infiltration. (6) Heaviest firepower carried by any of the junks is the 30-caliber machine gun. These are mounted on bow of many command ships. (7) The men attached to the junk force in South Vietnam wear these uniforms so that they will look more inconspicuous, like ordinary fishermen.



on Patrol

Lieutenant Mark V. V. Nelson, uss.

The force is charged with providing a barrier against infiltration by communist insurgent junk movements into Vietnamese waters.

The junk force crews are authorized by the government of Vietnam to board and search any vessel inside the 10-mile fishing limit.

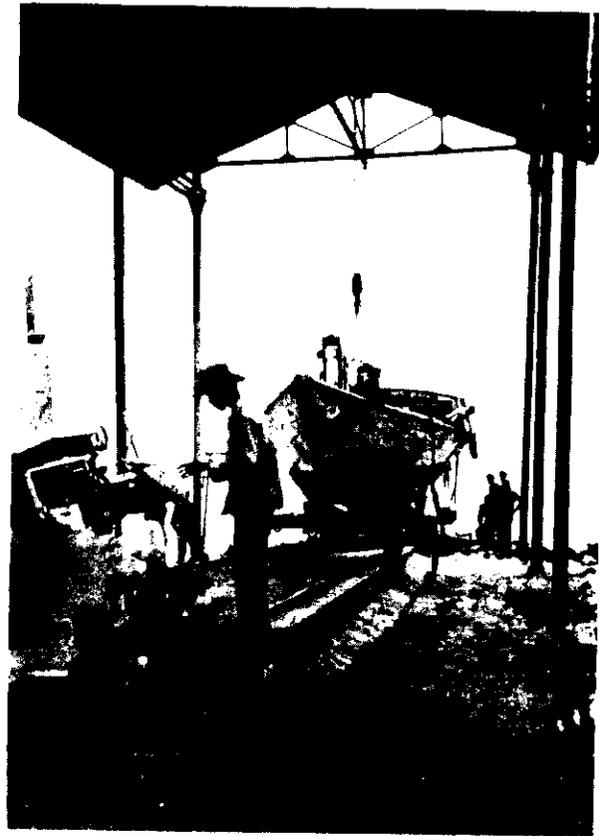
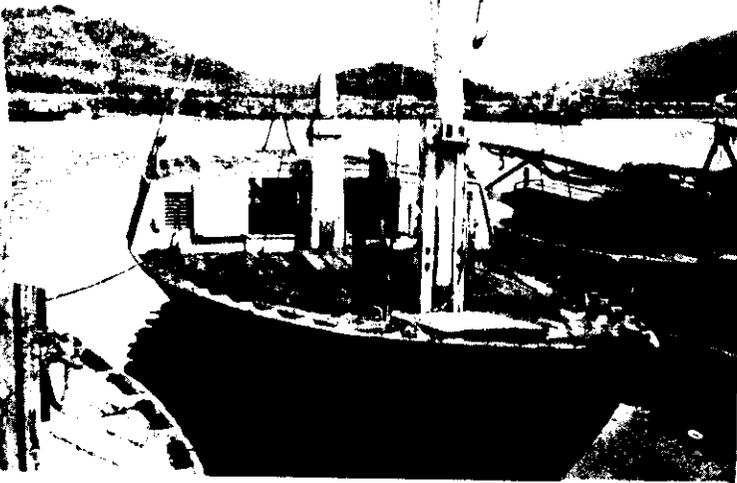
Armed with 30-cal. machineguns, Thompson sub-machineguns, Browning automatic rifles, M-1 carbines, hand grenades, flares, 2½-foot knives and other hand-to-hand combat weapons, this Navy force patrols the seas in groups of seven; one motorized and six sailing junks.

Lieutenant Nelson, Navy Advisory Group, MACV has said that communications between these junks while on patrol has shown to be very effective.

"Although the sailing junks carry no radios," LT Nelson states, "they are able to contact other junks in the patrol by either hoisting a red and white flag or yelling to a junk that may be nearby."

Because of the lack of radio equipment, the patrolling junks always keep in visual contact with each other as they mix with the local fishermen and check the identifica-





tion cards issued by the Vietnamese government.

The motorized junk that is the head of the patrol carries a radio voice transmitter which can relay messages to division headquarters. At each division headquarters there is a short-wave unit which is used to maintain liaison with the district headquarters.

"Most of the junks used by the Junk Force are made of solid wood," said the naval advisor. "These wooden vessels are subject to toredo worms that attach themselves to the underside of the craft and bore their way into the wood."

To exterminate these destructive borers, the junks are docked every

three months. An electric winch, placed at the head of a railroad track that extends into the water at a deep landing point, pulls the junks ashore.

At the docks, maintenance crews scrape the craft clean, drive bamboo plugs into the wormholes and coat the underside of the hulls with resin.

When asked what he particularly liked about the advisory work in Vietnam, Lieutenant Nelson said, "What I like most about Vietnam, and the advisory effort in particular, is the fighting spirit, the attitude and the simple cordiality of the Junk Force."

—Story and Photos by
John E. Jones, J03, USN

Photo Captions

Counter clockwise from Upper Right: (1) A 55-foot command junk is hoisted up onto the beach by using marine railway. This railway can dock a command junk and a motor-sailer junk at the same time. (2) U. S. Navy advisor, Lieutenant Nelson, uss, suggested that boat houses on the command junks be widened so that crews can sleep inside on their night patrols. Junk at left has been widened—

junk on right has not. (3) Most junks in the Vietnamese Navy's Junk Force use wooden anchors, although some iron anchors are also in use. (4) All food that is cooked on the command junks is prepared over a bed of charcoal, such as this one, in a small box lined with sand. (5) Division 11 headquarters—Most of the buildings in the First Coastal District are constructed of woven bamboo with thatched roofs.

'In the Highest Tradition'

JUST ABOUT HALF WAY around the world from the geographical center of the United States a relatively small group of Navymen are going about their business much as Navymen do wherever they may be. Earlier, they had received their orders for overseas assignment, packed their gear and shoved off. Some brought their dependents with them. Others did not.

However, by and large, the business of these men is somewhat different from the usual assignment. Most of these men are attached to the U. S. Navy Advisory Group, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. Others are with the Headquarters Support Activity, Saigon. Some are attached to the Seventh Fleet.

No matter what the organizational structure, an overseas or sea duty assignment has its share of desk work and paperwork. Typewriters and filing cabinets are as essential here as back in the States. Billets, in general, require routine duties, much



the same as Navy hillets anywhere.

But that is not all. Some jobs are more strenuous, more dangerous, than others. All of these men have been aware of the great responsibilities they share while serving along-

side their Vietnamese associates. In the following excerpts from the citations accompanying the awards tendered by the President, one theme is repeated again and again: "... has upheld the highest tradition of the United States Naval Service." The awards are for action occurring here before the events of recent weeks.

Silver Star Medal

• **Lieutenant William J. Greeves, USNR.** Learning that a bomb was being placed in the lobby of the Capitol Kinh-Do Theater in Saigon, LT Greeves, in company with another U. S. officer, entered the main area of the theater and warned the unsuspecting U. S. servicemen and their dependents to take cover.

His warning, given without regard to the great risk to which he was exposing himself, only seconds before the bomb went off, enabled the occupants of the theater to gain protection by lying between the rows of seats, thereby preventing many more serious injuries and fatalities than

AS ALL HANDS went to press the following Navymen had received citations for their outstanding work in assisting and guiding Vietnamese personnel in their attempts to resist aggression. Here are their names:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

LT William J. Greeves, USNR

LEGION OF MERIT

CAPT Joseph B. Drachnik, USN
CAPT Malcolm C. Friedman, USN

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

LT Charles F. Klusmann, USN

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL

LT Gerald C. Griffin (MC) USN

BRONZE STAR MEDALS

LT Daniel R. Cowan, USN
LT Alton I. Crowell, USN
LT Edward J. Dyer, USNR
LT Wesley A. Hoch, USN
BM1 Claude O. Peverill, USN
LT Clyde V. W. Popowich, (CEC) USN
GM1 Joe T. Pritchard, USN
LT Dallas W. Shawkey, USN

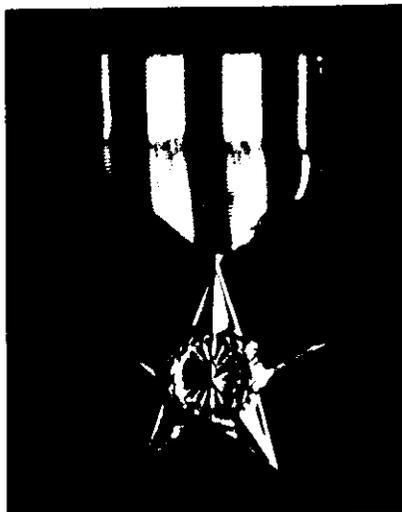
AIR MEDALS

HM3 Richard E. Baldwin, USN (two awards)
HN William V. Boltzer, USN
HMC Clifford D. Carter, USN
LT Robert N. Conrad, USN (four awards) (Medical Corps)
HM3 Dean R. Holmes, USN
HM2 Jose M. Silvas, USN

LT Ronald F. Swanger, USN (two awards) (Medical Corps)

HM2 Anthony M. Vega, USN
LTJG George S. Bason, Jr., USNR
LT Robert L. Brace, USN
LTJG Joseph W. Brant, USNR
LTJG Kenneth L. Burgess, USNR
LTJG Roy O. Campbell, USNR
LT Kent R. Clark, USN
LT James U. Crouse, USN

LCDR Lucius B. Day, Jr., USNR
LTJG Robert L. Edgerton, USNR
LTJG Arnold P. Fust, USNR
LTJG Burton P. Harger, USNR
LT Arthur J. Henderson, USNR
LTJG Rodney L. Mash, USNR
LT Benjamin H. McCart, USNR
LT James F. Meehan, USN
LTJG Michael P. Murray, USNR
LCDR Robert E. Nelsen, USN
LCDR William H. L. Reeder, USN
LT Stuart A. Skelton, USN
LTJG Dean E. Sloan, USNR
LT Duncan P. Stevens, USN



Silver Star Medal

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDALS

LT Robert N. Conrad (MC) USN
HM3 Manuel R. Denton, USN
LT Bruce C. Farrell, (MC) USN
LT Billy D. Graham, USNR
LT Russell F. Holcomb, USNR
HM3 Dean R. Holmes, USN (two awards)
LT William F. Lynch (MC) USN
HN Claude Rice, USN
CDR Francis J. Sisk, USN
LTJG Charles G. Stowers, USNR
YN2 Russell W. Baker, USN (Army Commendation Medal)

SECNAV COMMENDATION FOR ACHIEVEMENT

SFC Ashton H. Cox, USN
DCCA Richard A. Gunn, USN



Legion of Merit



Distinguished Flying Cross



Navy and Marine Corps Medal

actually occurred. Lieutenant Greeves was himself slightly wounded by the explosion. He was cited for "courageous and decisive action in the face of extreme danger," and awarded the Silver Star.

Legion of Merit

• **Captain Joseph B. Drachnik, USN.** Serving as advisor to the Commander, Vietnamese Navy during a period when active counterinsurgency operations were prosecuted by the Vietnamese Navy and Vietnamese Marine Corps, Captain Drachnik contributed significantly to the development of the Vietnamese Navy from an undermanned force with inadequate experience to a fully-manned, well-trained and equipped combat-tested Navy.

Under his supervision the number of Vietnamese Navy ships was nearly doubled, and crews of all ships were trained by facilities which were developed to U. S. Navy standards. In collaboration with Captain Drachnik, his Vietnamese counterpart planned and directed the construction of a large fleet of junks to provide coastal surveillance. Overhaul schedules were consistently met, and ships and boats were kept at a high peak of material readiness.

• **Captain Malcolm C. Friedman, USN.** Assuming duties of great responsibility as the first commanding officer of Headquarters Support Activity, Saigon, at a time when speed was a vital factor, he quickly organized and established full scale logistic support operations to growing numbers of U. S. military personnel moving into the Republic of Vietnam in 1962 and 1963. With brilliant leadership and organization, Captain Friedman rendered valuable and distinguished service and contributed greatly to the success of the U. S. military assistance program to the Republic of Vietnam.

Distinguished Flying Cross

• **Lieutenant Charles F. Klusmann, USN.** Serving with Light Photographic Squadron 63, Detachment C, aboard *uss Kitty Hawk* (CVA 63), Lieutenant Klusmann engaged in unarmed reconnaissance flights over Laos in the Plaines des Jarres area. On 21 May 1964, his first flight into the area, his aircraft was struck by ground fire, and burned for a period of 20 minutes.

Through superior airmanship, he was able to return safely to his ship. On 6 June, on another low-level flight, his aircraft was shot down about 10 miles south of Ban Ban.

Lieutenant Klusmann ejected from his aircraft and was observed on the ground. An attempt was made to rescue him by helicopter from a clearing, but as the helicopter approached the area Lieutenant Klusmann waved it off. Almost immediately, he was observed to be surrounded by Pathet Lao troops.

The rescue helicopter was subjected to ground fire and one of its occupants was wounded before it could depart the area. Subsequently, the Chinese Communist radio announced that the Pathet Lao had captured Lieutenant Klusmann.

Navy and Marine Corps Medal

• **Lieutenant Gerald C. Griffin, MC, USN.** Lieutenant Griffin was serving as a naval flight surgeon aboard a U. S. Marine Corps helicopter which crashed and burned on a densely wooded mountain ridge while en route to an Army of the Republic of Vietnam command post. As one of five survivors of the initial crash and subsequent fire, Lieutenant Griffin, although sustaining serious injuries from which he later succumbed, concerned himself with the condition of his squadron mates, lending them medical advice and words of encouragement throughout a five-hour wait for rescue.

When a doctor and corpsman arrived by helicopter, Lieutenant Griffin steadfastly refused medical assistance for himself until the other survivors were cared for. During this period he aided the medical rescue team with his professional and technical knowledge.

Bronze Star Medals

• **Lieutenant Daniel R. Cowan, USN.** Exposed to rockets, mines and sniper fire during 12 operations involving actual combat with Viet Cong forces, Lieutenant Cowan served as adviser to his Vietnamese counterpart, making a marked contribution to the successful completion of all operations. Lieutenant Cowan constantly sought methods for improving operational techniques within his River Assault Groups.

Mainly through his efforts, the concept of small task groups composed of an LCM and high-speed boats has been developed and employed in support of combined operations. He has been instrumental in establishing combat information centers for tactical information, communications in command boats, methods for deployment of boats in mine-sweeping formations, and techniques to minimize damage.

• **Lieutenant Alton L. Crowell, Jr., USN.** Participating in a combat operation with units of the Vietnamese Navy Coastal Force against hostile Viet Cong forces at Vinh Hy, Lieutenant Crowell displayed leadership and skill in executing his advisory duties while under fire. Although wounded and bleeding profusely with a bullet lodged in his left arm, he refused to be evacuated, thereby contributing significantly to the successful completion of the operation.

• **Lieutenant Edward J. Dyer, USNR.** In the face of concentrated hostile small-arms fire which resulted in two hits on the helicopter in which he was flying, Lieutenant Dyer personally delivered 10,000 rounds of badly needed ammunition to a Vietnamese Navy Junk Division under heavy Viet Cong attack.

This action was directly responsible for preventing the base from being overrun by Viet Cong forces. His outstanding advisory efforts in assisting his Vietnamese Navy counterpart in arranging flare drops, air strikes, and air evacuations won the respect and admiration of all Vietnamese with whom he worked, and instilled within them the same enthusiasm and aggressiveness which characterized his own performance.

• **Lieutenant Wesley A. Hoch, USN.** Lieutenant Hoch exercised leadership and professional competence in inspiring and assisting his Vietnamese counterpart in the operation and administration of seven junk divisions and varying numbers of Sea Force ships assigned area support, resulting in the establishment of firm government control over selected areas and the denial to the Viet Cong of the use of islands of the Gulf of Siam as effective bases of operation.

Control of the counterinsurgency operations in Vietnam was furthered by the continuous harassing pressure extended by the junk divisions assigned; illegal movements by sea were suppressed; attacks against Viet Cong logistic lines and positions were made; and numerous personnel and material casualties were inflicted upon the Viet Cong.

• **Boatswain's Mate First Class Claude O. Peverill, USN.** Sharing the living conditions of the Vietnamese Navy Junkmen, Peverill provided advisory assistance to the seven Junk Division bases in the Third Coastal District, often while under attack or subjected to harassing gunfire.

On two occasions, he accompanied junks and Junk Division personnel in shifting their permanent base locations. In both of these operations, Peverill was instrumental in ensuring the success of the movements and in achieving resumption of operations.

• **Lieutenant Dallas W. Shawkey, USN.** Participating in an operation with units of the Vietnamese Navy Junk Force against Viet Cong forces in Vinh Hy Bay, Lieutenant Shawkey advised his Vietnamese Navy counterpart on the proper tactical deployment of the eight junks and one motor gunboat involved in the operation.

When the command junk in which Lieutenant Shawkey was embarked was subjected to hostile fire from hidden positions ashore, he remained in an exposed position on deck as an example to his associates and to encourage the Vietnamese naval gunners to return the fire. Lieutenant Shawkey was severely wounded during this encounter.

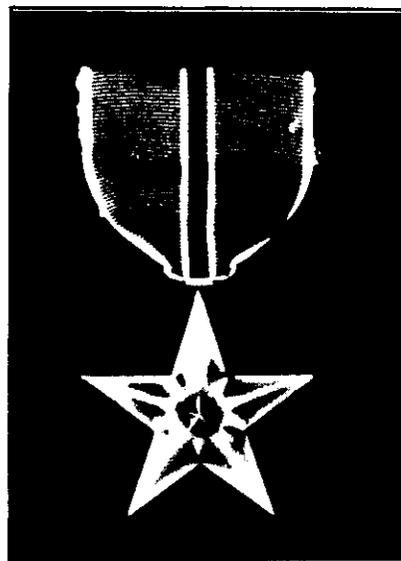
• **Lieutenant Clyde V. W. Popovich, CEC, USN.** Lieutenant Popovich, while serving as commanding officer of a Seabee Technical Assistance Team, was responsible for a counterinsurgency (civic action) mission of construction, contributing greatly to its completion. Subjected to hostile fire throughout this period, he rendered invaluable aid to the U. S. Special Forces in resisting Viet Cong attacks.

An enthusiastic and diligent worker, Lieutenant Popovich assisted in building 17 bridges and 15 kilometers of new road, and regrading 46 kilometers of road to improve commerce and communications between strategic hamlets.

• **Gunner's Mate First Class Joe T. Pritchard, USN.** Sharing hazardous conditions of the Vietnamese Navy Junkmen, Pritchard participated in numerous Junk Force patrol operations against the Viet Cong.

During one of these operations, although wounded by shrapnel, he continued to provide advice and assistance to his Vietnamese counterparts and completed the mission, providing an example of leadership under fire.

In addition, he gave unsparingly of his own time to improve the living conditions of Vietnamese Navy Junk Force crew members and their families and of civilians residing in the area. During one three-week period, he supervised a medical team which treated over 10,000 villagers in the Viet Cong-infested Ca Mau area.



Bronze Star Medal



Air Medal



Navy Commendation Medal