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NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY

AUGUST 1966
### INDEX

**Chronology of Significant Events** ........................................... 1

**Long Tau River Mining** ...................................................... 3

**River Patrol Force** .......................................................... 8

- Delta River Patrol Group .................................................. 8
- Rung Sat Special Zone Patrol Group ................................... 16
- GAME WARDEN Units ......................................................... 20
- Mutual Interference .......................................................... 21

**Coastal Surveillance Force** ................................................ 23

- Hostile Fire Incidents ....................................................... 23
- USCGC POINT WELCOME Incident ........................................ 24
- Evading Junk Incidents ...................................................... 26
- Operations ................................................................. 28
- Naval Gunfire Support ...................................................... 30
- Search and Rescue Operations .......................................... 31
- MARKET TIME Units ......................................................... 32
- Con Son Island Radar ....................................................... 34

**Naval Support Activity, Saigon** ......................................... 35

**Civic Action and Psychological Operations** .......................... 38

**Naval Advisory Group** ....................................................... 41

- Vietnamese Navy ............................................................. 41
- Operations ................................................................. 42
- Maintenance and Logistics ............................................... 47
- Vietnamese Marine Corps .................................................. 48

**APPENDIX I** MARKET TIME Statistical Summary, August 1966

**APPENDIX II** GAME WARDEN Statistical Summary, August 1966

**APPENDIX III** Summary report of activities of U.S. Naval Support Activity, DaNang for the period 22 March through 20 June 1966
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CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS, AUGUST 1966

1 - Can Tho based PBRs break up large Viet Cong river crossing attempt. p. 8.

4 - Coastal Group 36 has firefight with Viet Cong junk at mouth of Bassac River. Two Viet Cong killed, junk captured. p. 43.

4-30 - An Thoi based MARKET TIME units and Coastal Groups, VNN Fleet Command units, USS TUTUILA provide support for Operation SEA MOUNT on Phu Quoc Island. p. 28.

5 - RAG 22 supports RF/FF Operation RUNG SAT 29/66. Three Viet Cong killed, large quantity of supplies captured. p. 45.

PBRs arrive at Vinh Long Base. p. 20.

SEAL Team captures two sampans with 2800 pounds of rice in RSSZ. p. 19.

7 - Coastal Group 14 captures large quantity of medicines and other supplies in land operation. p. 42.

11 - USCGC POINT WELCOME erroneously attacked by USAF aircraft; 2 killed and 5 wounded; extensive damage to POINT WELCOME superstructure. p. 24.

12 - TORTUGA Fire Team launches strikes on Viet Cong base camp; 5 structures destroyed, 13 damaged; 6 Viet Cong killed (est.). p. 19.

14 - PCF 11 recovers pilot from downed aircraft. p. 31.

15 - Coastal Group 36 and Vinh Binh subsector troops, supported by PCF 607, capture one recoilless rifle, 18 rifles, 124 mines, 30 rockets and three tons of ammunition in land operation. p. 43.

16 - Long Tau Fire Team launches strike in RSSZ resulting in large secondary explosion and the uncovering of a rice storage area. p. 18.

Eight PBRs arrive aboard BRAZIL VICTORY. p. 20.

16-28 - Cat Lo based PCFs support Operation DECK HOUSE III. p. 29.

17 - Eight PBRs arrive aboard DUKE VICTORY. p. 20.
18 - PBRs on Socrap River patrol capture two sampans with two weapons and supplies after heavy firefight. p. 17.

SEAL Team discovers 200 tons of rice in RSSZ; storage area destroyed by NQPS and air strikes. p. 19.

19 - One SEAL Team member killed in ambush while on reconnaissance mission in RSSZ. p. 19.

Eight PBRs arrive aboard AMERICAN MAIL bringing total boats in country to 95. p. 20.

20 - PBRs arrive at Sa Dec Base. p. 20.

22 - My Tho based PBRs capture large quantity of classified documents, and kill two Viet Cong attempting to cross My Tho River. p. 10.

23 - VNN MINS attacked by recoilless rifle while sweeping the Long Tau River. One VNN killed, three wounded. p. 3.

BATON ROUGE VICTORY mined while transiting the Long Tau River to Saigon; grounded out of the shipping channel. Seven crewmen killed. p. 3.

24 - Two PBRs and PCF 38 engage in accidental firefight at mouth of Bassac River; first incident of GAME WARDEN-MARKET TIME mutual interference. p. 21.

28 - VNN MINS demolished by a Viet Cong mine while sweeping the Long Tau River; two VNN KIA, three VNN and two U.S. advisors wounded. p. 4.

29 - U.S. MSB 54 mined while sweeping the Long Tau River; mine exploded 15 feet off the port bow causing extensive material damage; no casualties. p. 5.

Viet Cong unsuccessfully attempt to mine PBR patrol on Co Chien River. p. 12.

USS TORTUGA moves from mouth of Bassac River to mouth of Long Tau River to provide additional security for ship channel. p. 21.
LONG TAU RIVER MININGS

The problem of security of the Long Tau River channel was emphasized during the month as the Viet Cong, operating from bases in the Rung Sat Special Zone, for the first time mined a merchant ship transiting to Saigon. The attack occurred in two phases.

Prior to first light on 23 August, two Vietnamese Navy Motor Launch Minesweepers (MLMS) started to sweep northward from the mouth of the Long Tau River to Nha Be, while two other MLMSs started the southward sweep from Nha Be to the river mouth. At 0640 the boats sweeping to the south were ambushed from Viet Cong positions on the shore, receiving heavy recoilless rifle and small arms fire (see chart for positions). MLMS-151 suffered one man killed and three wounded. The two craft then reversed course and returned to Nha Be. Meanwhile, the other two MLMSs completed their northward sweep; and a Regional Force reaction operation was launched in the region of the ambush.

With the passage of the minesweepers and with no FBRs on station in the area of the planned attack, the Viet Cong set their ambush 12 miles from the entrance to the river. The first merchant ship to proceed north from Vung Tau to Saigon passed through the area without incident. The second was not as fortunate. At 0910, the BATON ROUGE VICTORY experienced an explosion under her port side, believed to be the result of a command detonated mine.\(^1\) The explosion caused a hole 16 feet by

\(^{1}\) COMNAVFORV msg 230755Z Aug 66.
45 feet, and resulted in flooding of the engineroom and the number three hold. The main propulsion plant and the steering gear were rendered inoperative. Seven crew members were killed, all in the engineroom.

In spite of the damage, the ship's master was able to put the BATON ROUGE VICTORY aground on the south bank and keep the channel open. PBRs were the first to arrive on the scene to provide protection, and tugboats and LCUs were sent to the site to hold the stricken ship in position. Troops from the U.S. Army First Infantry Division, assisted by the SEAL Team from Nha Be, established a defensive perimeter and units from River Assault Group 22 and PBRs provided afloat security. The main channel remained passable, but was closed for one day to permit U.S. Navy MGBs to conduct minesweeping operations.

Harbor Clearance Unit One was tasked with salvage operations, and the following day the HCU-1 salvage master arrived from Subic Bay, P.I., to take charge. The ship was secured in position with beach gear and selective offloading of cargo was started. The morning of 30 August the BATON ROUGE VICTORY broke loose with the current, and all available pushing capabilities were utilized to ground her on the opposite side of the river around a bend. The salvage master evaluated her as seaworthy and able to make the trip to Vung Tau; at 1200 on 30 August she was escorted clear of the river.

The second mining took place the morning of 28 August, when at 0740, VKN MLAM-156 conducting a normal sweep of the Long Tau
River was demolished by a Viet Cong mine. Two crewmembers were killed, and two U.S. advisors and three crewmembers were wounded. The survivors managed to make the river bank, where they were rescued and the wounded personnel received medical evacuation. Otherwise, the minesweeping operations continued uninterrupted. This was the first minesweeper lost to enemy action since VNN units started sweeping the Long Tau River channel in 1963.

On 29 August at 0655, USN MSB 54, sweeping the Long Tau River in company with MSB 16, became the third mining victim of the month when an explosion occurred fifteen feet off the port bow. The MSBs and two PBR patrols in the area immediately received heavy automatic weapons fire from both banks. The patrols suppressed the fire and escorted MSB 54 out of the area. The Maritime Emergency Assistance Boat (MSB 32) and the Long Tau helicopter fire team were dispatched to the area. MSB 54 returned to Nha Be with extensive damage. There were no personnel casualties.

Although there had been no previous minings of shipping on the Long Tau River prior to 23 August, the fact that the narrow channel provided an excellent opportunity for such attacks had long been recognized by the U.S. Navy. Advisors had encouraged use of effective countermeasures and development of contingency plans. The first step had been the transfer of 12 HMMSs to VNN in 1963. On 15 April 1964, VNN assumed responsibility for pacification of the Rung Sat Special Zone surrounding
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the main channel. However, in August of 1965 it was reported that VNN mine-countermasures activity in the major rivers was of low priority. An intensive advisory effort was directed toward improving this situation. By mid-August 1965 the MLMSs were conducting two daily sweeps of the Long Tau River, utilizing two boats for each sweep, one with chain drag gear and the second with a serrated grapnel. A plan to remove damaged vessels from the channel was forwarded to MACV for approval on 20 October; and in November was accepted by MACV and forwarded to the Corps of Engineers for further development.

Until December 1965 the only indication of possible mining attempts was the recovery of pieces of wire similar to the type used on captured mines. On 2 December 1965, an attempt was made to mine the Danish merchant ship KINN, transiting to Saigon. Although unsuccessful, this was the first time a mine had been exploded in the vicinity of shipping on the Long Tau River.

In the only other significant attacks on Long Tau River shipping prior to the BATON ROUGE VICTORY incident, the Viet Cong had used recoilless rifles. On 17 February 1966, the LORINDA, of Panamanian registry, received 11 rounds of recoilless rifle fire and was forced aground; and on 3 March the PALOMA, a

1 Historical Review of Naval Advisory Group Activities, 1964, p. 13 (S).
2 Naval Advisory Group Historical Review, August 1965, p. 5.
4 Naval Advisory Group Historical Review, December 1965, p. 3.
Vietnamese self-propelled fuel barge, received five rounds of recoilless rifle fire, and was set afire and forced aground.

Prior to the mining of the BATON ROUGE VICTORY, Long Tau River security was provided by continuous daylight minesweeping by USN MSBs and VNN MAMSs; and by continuous patrols by PBRs. After the attack, the minesweeping effort was intensified as were the PBR patrols. On 29 August USS TORTUGA was transferred to the mouth of the Long Tau River to provide an extra patrol section. In addition, MSTS Office was requested to clear with CTF 116 before releasing the first ships from Vung Tau and Nha Be to preclude the possibility of passage through unswept waters.¹

¹ COMM/VFORV msg 230610Z Aug 66.

** ** ** **
RIVER PATROL FORCE

During August GAME WARDEN forces were augmented by 24 PBRs and by the activation of three bases in the Mekong River Delta. An increase in operational activity occurred as the PBRs successfully continued their mission of interdicting Viet Cong river movement, while a corresponding increase in Viet Cong harassment of patrol units was noted. Navy pilots assumed operation of the first of the support helicopter fire teams. In the Sung Sat Special Zone the SEAL Team detachment had a successful month of seeking out and destroying enemy facilities.

DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

INTERDICTIO OF VIET CONG MOVEMENTS

A series of incidents during August gave indication that the PBRs were becoming increasingly successful in one phase of their primary mission, that of interdicting Viet Cong river crossings. On 1 August at 2345, PBR 39 and PBR 41, operating 23 miles southeast of Can Tho on the Bassac River, detected three beached sampans. As beaching in the area was unusual, PBR 39 closed and illuminated the sampans, and received heavy small arms and machine gun fire from the bank. The PBRs returned the fire, retired and then rendezvoused with a patrol, consisting of two armored LCVPs, from VNN River Assault Group 25. The combined units returned to the attack, again receiving heavy fire including several anti-tank grenades from two locations.

\[1\] See Appendix II for GAME WARDEN Statistical Summary.
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The firefight continued until the patrol units had expended the majority of their ammunition and were forced to withdraw. They were unsuccessful in suppressing the enemy fire.

Three additional RHC units, including two FOMs and a Monitor, and four additional PBRs supported by an AC-47 aircraft were dispatched to the scene, but the Viet Cong had withdrawn and there was no further action. Friendly units received several minor hits. There were no friendly casualties; Viet Cong casualties were unknown. Due to the location of the action, the tidal conditions and the volume of enemy fire, it was evaluated that the PBRs had broken up a Viet Cong crossing attempt.¹

At 1750 on 15 August, a spotter aircraft observed a sampan debarking eleven armed men on an island in the Bassac River estuary. The aircraft relayed the message to VNN Coastal Group 36 who in turn relayed it to a PBR patrol from USS TORTUGA. The aircraft marked the area with smoke and the PBRs opened fire on the Viet Cong, who were wading with their rifles over their heads. At least three enemy were killed or wounded. A Coastal Group 36 patrol later recovered the sampan motor, one helmet and a Viet Cong flag.

PBR patrol ALFA, 15 miles upstream from the Bassac River mouth, observed a sampan evading into the underbrush along the south bank at 1500 on 17 August. Two other sampans were discovered hidden along the bank. Permission was obtained from

the Long Phu District Chief to engage the contacts. The initial .50 caliber machine gun fire from the PBRs resulted in a secondary explosion which destroyed all three boats and possibly killed three Viet Cong.

At 1900 on 21 August, PBRs 34, 38 and 40 received heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from both banks of the Bassac River 14 miles southeast of Can Tho. The boats suppressed the fire, withdrew 1000 meters upstream and requested an artillery strike. Thirty 105mm artillery rounds were placed on target by the Tra On battery. The incident was evaluated as an attempt by Viet Cong fleeing from an ARVN operation to cross the river, and four PBRs and a VN IN SSL were assigned to continue surveillance. No additional activity was detected.

The night of 22 August provided My Tho PBRs with the most significant GAME WARDEN action of the month; the capture of a large number of intelligence documents. The initial action of the evening occurred at 2008 when PBR 101 and PBR 105 received light machine gun fire from positions on Thai Son Island five miles west of My Tho. As PBR 103 and 107 drifted in the area to watch for a possible Viet Cong crossing, PBR 101 and PBR 105 again approached the area of the original attack and again drew fire. Artillery support was then called in on the enemy positions. Continued PBR patrols, augmented by RAG units from My Tho, drew additional sniper fire but detected no crossing, and the action was evaluated as a diversion for a crossing in another area.

At 2213 PBRs 103 and 105, now patrolling 12 miles west of My Tho
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My Tho, received fire from approximately 75 rifles on the north bank. During the ensuing firefight the patrol leader detected a contact moving rapidly from north to south. PBR 105 moved to intercept it. Upon illumination a single shot was received from the sampan and additional fire was received from 10 positions on the south bank. PBR 103 returned the fire to the south while PBR 105 strafed the north bank and the sampan, killing the two green-uniformed occupants. PBR 105 grappled the sampan and the patrol proceeded eastward out of range of enemy fire. The PBR patrol leader was wounded slightly in the action.

Among the contents of the sampan were 31 top secret documents with overlays, two secret documents, 58 confidential documents and nine unclassified documents. All documents were from the Viet Cong 261st Main Force Battalion of the Dong Thap regiment, and indicated that the two Viet Cong killed were high ranking members of the Battalion. Also captured were assorted uniforms and personal gear, tools, and one pistol.

Another type of activity was proving more difficult for the Viet Cong as PBRs continued to impede the movement of Viet Cong tax collectors. In a typical action on 6 August at 1730, PBRs 34 and 40 observed a sampan 12 miles southeast of Can Tho with one male occupant aboard calling other boats alongside. The PBRs immediately suspected that he was a tax collector. Upon approach, the sampan evaded to the bank. The pursuing PBRs then came under fire from positions in the area of evasion, evaluated as special covering fire for the tax collector. The
patrol suppressed the fire and kept the area under surveillance. On other occasions during the month fire was received from suspected tax collection points.

ANTI-PBR ACTIVITIES

The Viet Cong made one attempt during the month to mine a PBR. At 0005 on 29 August, PBRs 29 and 111, operating on the Co Chien River 20 miles southeast of Vinh Long, sighted a lighted sampan approximately 20 yards from the river bank. The patrol approached to 100 yards and illuminated the craft. The sampan appeared empty and was not moving with the current; no mooring or anchor lines were visible. The patrol closed to 50 yards for a closer inspection. When the sampan was illuminated a second time a large explosion occurred 20 yards from the lead PBR. Light automatic weapons fire followed from the shore. There was no damage to the boats and the fire was suppressed as the PBRs cleared the area.

Prior to this patrol the crew had been briefed by the U.S. Army intelligence officer at Vinh Long that the Viet Cong had four mines weighing approximately 160 pounds each which probably would be planted in the Mekong River. Additionally, the VNN RAG commander at Vinh Long had provided information that the above method might be used to attempt to sink a PBR. This intelligence information possibly prevented the loss of, or damage to, a PBR.

Throughout the month PBR patrols received harassment of increasing intensity from Viet Cong positions on the river banks. Although fire received covered the spectrum from small arms to
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anti-tank rockets, there were no significant personnel casualties or material damage. The following were some of the more significant incidents:

12 - Between 1505 and 1514, PBRs 37 and 38 received heavy automatic weapons fire from the bank and from a junk on the Bassac River 10 miles southeast of Can Tho. The fire was suppressed. Surveillance by PBRs, RAG units and a spotter aircraft produced no results.

13 - Operating in the same area, PBRs 38 and 39 received heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from a house on the shore. The fire was returned, and two houses were set afire with M-79, 40mm grenades. PBR 38 experienced one hole beneath the waterline which was temporarily patched until return to Can Tho.

17 - Between 1805 and 1810, PBRs 30 and 36 received heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from both banks of the Bassac River 12 miles southeast of Can Tho. The PBRs received several hits, but there was no damage nor personnel casualties.

18 - Between 1933 and 2005, PBRs 101 and 105 received automatic weapons and small arms fire from an ambush position three miles southwest of My Tho. Fragmentation from one round inflicted a slight wound on the patrol leader. There was no material damage.

25 - Between 2155 and 2200, PBRs 38 and 40 received small arms fire and three rifle grenades from the treeline.
adjacent to a friendly outpost 12 miles southeast of Can Tho. The PBRs returned fire and called in artillery which delivered eight rounds of 105mm fire on target. The PBRs were credited with breaking up an attack on the outpost by an estimated two Viet Cong squads.

27 - At 1830, PBRs 82 and 29 observed two sampans with approximately 15 Vietnamese Regional Force troops under fire near their outpost north of Tra On on the Bassac River. The patrol proceeded to assist and came under light fire which was immediately suppressed. The action was evaluated as an attack on the outpost with the fire on the PBRs incidental.

On 15 August a ten battalion ARVN operation, DAN CHI 254, was launched in the area 15 miles southeast of Can Tho on the south bank of the Bassac River in reaction to continual Viet Cong harassment of PBR patrols. The troops were moved by land, helicopter and RAG units. RAG units maintained a beach blockade while six PBRs patrolled in the main channel. The operation resulted in 18 Viet Cong killed and 23 captured, along with five rifles and seven grenades. Friendly forces suffered one killed and two wounded. DAN CHI 254 was the first ARVN operation launched in support of GAME WARDEN.

TORTUGA FIRE TEAM

One helicopter fire team operated from USS TORTUGA (LSD-26) at the mouth of the Bassac River until the ship was transferred.
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to Long Tau River support on 29 August. The fire team operated in support of PBR patrols as well as launching strikes at targets of opportunity in known Viet Cong areas. The following strikes resulted in significant damage or casualties:

3 - The fire team spotted two sampans in the Long Toan Secret Zone and received permission to launch a strike from the Long Toan District Chief. Both sampans were damaged despite heavy enemy small arms fire.

10 - Automatic weapons fire was received while the fire team was investigating a reported Viet Cong company in the Long Toan Zone. Permission was received to engage the area; four structures were damaged.

11 - The helo fire team received small arms fire while on an armed reconnaissance mission in response to a report from the Long Toan District Chief that a number of Viet Cong were in the area. Two sampans and six structures were damaged.

12 - At 1630 the fire team, acting in response to a request from the Long Toan District Chief, launched a strike on a base camp area housing an estimated Viet Cong company. Four structures were destroyed and two sampans and thirteen structures were damaged. Six Viet Cong were killed (estimated).

22 - Heavy automatic weapons fire was received from the vicinity of a sampan in the Long Toan Zone. The fire team engaged the sampan and destroyed it, killing three Viet Cong.
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24 - While flying over the Long Toan Zone at 1000 feet the fire team received heavy automatic weapons fire. One crewman was critically injured.

25 - At 0750 a fire team, after receiving enemy fire from the village and the adjacent river bank, hit structures in a village at the mouth of the Bassac River in the Long Toan Zone. Seven structures were damaged and a second fire team was called in to assist. This action was followed by a fixed wing air strike.

PER MEDEVAC

On 21 August at 0200, three ARVN outposts 10 miles southeast of Can Tho on Cua Loa May Island came under simultaneous attack by an estimated two Viet Cong companies. Upon request of the Tra On District Chief PBRs 30 and 31 initiated a blocking action on the southeastern side of the island while an AC-47 assumed surveillance on the northwestern side. PBRs were requested for medical evacuation of 23 seriously injured Regional Force and Popular Force troops. PBRs 39 and 41 assumed the MEDEVAC mission. While enroute they received fire from the bank which was suppressed, and they arrived at Can Tho with the wounded at 0715. Meanwhile PBRs 30 and 31 maintained the barrier, checking 635 persons leaving the island and detaining 33 persons for identification card discrepancies.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE PATROL GROUP

The increased Viet Cong activity in the Rung Sat Special Zone carried over to the PBRs as patrol units on the Soirap
River made significant contact on several occasions. At 1950 on 18 August, a PBR petrol detected two contacts crossing the Soirap River into the RSSZ eight miles south of Nha Be. The patrol approached to within 75 meters of the contacts and illuminated the area, detecting two sampans, one with four occupants and the other with two. Simultaneously, light automatic weapons and small arms fire was received from both banks, and small arms fire was received from both sampans. The fire was returned and the patrol proceeded south out of range, calling in another two boat patrol to assist.

Upon arrival of the second patrol the PBRs reentered the area, discovering the two sampans abandoned. No further opposition was encountered. Among the contents of the sampans were one rifle, one carbine, two cartridge belts, 120 rounds of ammunition, assorted clothing items, 200 pounds of food, a small quantity of medicine and assorted documents. The fate of the occupants of the sampans was unknown. The action was evaluated as a Viet Cong attempt to run supplies into the RSSZ.

A patrol operating in the same area on 22 August detected a sampan crossing the Soirap River, and upon closing received small arms fire from the sampan and automatic weapons fire from both banks. The fire was returned, and another PBR patrol and a helicopter fire team were dispatched to the area while a U.S. Air Force flareship provided illumination. The PBRs suppressed all fire from the banks and the sampan. A subsequent search for the sampan, believed badly damaged during the firefight, was unsuccessful.
The same area, one of the narrowest stretches of the Saigon River, was the scene of intensive PBR harassment on 19 August. At 2135, four PBRs on patrol received heavy automatic weapons fire from both banks. The fire was suppressed, but the patrol received fire from another location on the east bank. Two additional PBRs joined the patrol, and at 2225 a fixed wing air strike was called in on the ambush positions. There was no damage to the PBRs, nor were there any friendly casualties.

In activity on the Long Tau River on 29 August at 0620, a PBR patrol detected an unoccupied, drifting sampan with a cargo covered by a tarpaulin and bushes. Unable to determine if the sampan contained cargo or a possible booby-trap, the patrol took it under fire from a distance and destroyed it. The patrol officer was slightly wounded by grenade shrapnel from his own M-79.

The GAME WARDEN helicopter fire teams operating in the Rung Sat Special Zone saw only limited action during the month. In significant strikes on 22 August the fire team detected a camouflaged sampan 12 miles southeast of Nha Be. VNN authorities requested that it be destroyed. While taking the sampan under fire the helicopter spotted three structures, apparently used for storage. VNN authorities requested that they also be taken under fire, and the subsequent strike resulted in a large secondary explosion from the largest structure. Assessment indicated that the area was also used for rice storage; a U.S. Air Force strike was called in to complete the destruction.
SEAL Team Detachment Golf operating from the GAME WARDEN base at Nha Be made contact with Viet Cong units twice while on ambushes in the Rung Sat Special Zone, and discovered and destroyed one large rice storage area. On 5 August at 0600, the SEAL Team came upon three camouflaged sampans 16 miles southeast of Nha Be. A Viet Cong in the lead sampan spotted the SEAL ambush and fired a warning shot. The occupants jumped overboard and escaped into the mangrove. The SEAL Team followed the escaping Viet Cong but were unable to establish contact. However, the three sampans—two of them motorized—were captured. They contained 2800 pounds of rice, a small quantity of medicine, four reams of typing paper and three notebooks.

At 1100 on 18 August a SEAL reconnaissance team discovered two large silos (20' x 12' x 12') and one bunker (9' x 12' x 4') in an area 14 miles southeast of Nha Be. The structures were of reinforced wood and contained an estimated 200 tons of rice. At 1300 the SEAL Team was extracted by LCH to allow naval gunfire and fixed-wing aircraft to destroy the rice. At 1735 the SEAL Team was inserted to evaluate the destruction efforts and to destroy the remaining rice and structures.

The morning of 19 August the SEAL Team discovered a series of bunkers and an automatic weapons emplacement along the Dinh Ba River 13 miles southeast of Nha Be while on a reconnaissance mission. They were extracted and reinserted into a region farther upstream on the Dinh Ba River where a loaded sampan and a hut had
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been spotted by a helicopter. Fresh tracks were discovered in the area, and then the sampan was spotted 500 yards from the SEAL Team position. Before the Team could move in to investigate, a short burst of fire was heard, followed by automatic weapons fire from both banks of the river. One man was killed, the first SEAL Team casualty in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The SEALs were extracted by the LCM. There were no additional casualties.

GAME WARDEN UNITS

Twenty-four PBRs arrived in country during August, bringing the total to 95 boats. Eight PBRs arrived aboard the BRAZIL VICTORY on 16 August; eight on 17 August aboard the DUKE VICTORY; and eight aboard the AMERICAN MAIL on 19 August.

The number of operational GAME WARDEN bases increased to seven during the month as PBRs made the transit to new bases at Vinh Long, Sa Dec and Long Xuyen. On 4 August RIVPATSECT 513 became operational with 10 PBRs, and on 5 August made the transit from Cat Lo to Vinh Long with a stop at My Tho for fuel. On 20 August RIVPATSECT 521 reported operationally ready with 9 PBRs and made the transit to the base at Sa Dec. On 15 August RIVPATSECT 522 was activated at Cat Lo, and on 22 August RIVPATSECT 523 was activated at Cat Lo. The two sections underwent outfitting and operational testing, and on 24 August, RIVPATSECT 522 with 10 PBRs and RIVPATSECT 523 with five PBRs reported ready for the transit to Long Xuyen. The transit commenced on 25 August. The boats arrived at Long Xuyen on 26 August.
USS TORTUGA (ISD-26) supported GAME WARDEN operations at the mouth of the Bassac River until 29 August, when she was transferred to an anchorage off the mouth of the Long Tau River to provide additional security for the Long Tau ship channel. RIVPATSECT 512 continued to operate from TORTUGA during August.

On 30 August, Navy pilots and crewmembers from Detachment 29 of Helicopter Support Squadron One began operating the GAME WARDEN helicopter fire teams aboard TORTUGA. Previously, the UH-1B helicopters had been flown by U.S. Army personnel.

RIVPATSECT 512, operating from TORTUGA, continued to experience difficulty patrolling in heavy weather. 39 hours were lost during the month due to adverse weather conditions. Several PBRs from TORTUGA experienced hull cracks resulting in absorption of water by the styrofoam. The cracks apparently were caused by boat handling. Repeated hoisting and lowering of the boats and misplacement of PBRs in the skids failed to distribute weight evenly throughout the boats. Up to 100 gallons of water have been drained from the PBRs after operations.

During August a team of military and civilian specialists arrived to implement and install a Planned Maintenance System for PBRs, and to instruct personnel in the mechanics of the system.

MUTUAL INTERFERENCE

The first incident of mutual interference between MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN units occurred the night of 24 August. Intelligence information indicated a possible infiltration attempt in the vicinity of the Bassac River. Intensified patrols were
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stationed near the river mouth. PCF 38 was assigned to area 70 and two PBR patrols were assigned surveillance in the estuaries.

At 2100, PCF 38 detected two contacts near the river mouth and closed to investigate. A challenge was initiated with no response. Immediately, two additional contacts were detected and challenged. All four contacts were PBRs, but the PCF was unable to determine this fact. At a range of one mile an illumination round was fired, followed by a second round at 1500 yards.

PBRs 22 and 25, on patrol near the Can My Thanh canal, spotted a blinking red light 400 yards from shore, followed by a second blinking light on the beach. They mistook the PCF’s challenge for an attempt by a possible enemy craft to signal Viet Cong on the shore. The illumination rounds were then spotted, and the PBRs suspected that they had been caught in an ambush. A firefight ensued between the PBRs and the PCF.

One crewman was wounded on PBR 22, and several additional hits were sustained. The PBRs reported to TORTUGA that they were in a firefight with an unidentified junk. Upon receipt of the message TORTUGA contacted CTU 115.3.9 aboard USS FLOYD COUNTY (LST-762) to determine if there were any additional friendly forces in the area. The inquiry was intercepted by the Officer in Charge of PCF 38, who replied that he had been in a firefight with two unidentified contacts. The PCF then established communications with the PBRs. An investigation was conducted and measures were promulgated to prevent future mutual interference.

* * * * *

22 CONFIDENTIAL
MARKET TIME units, augmented by the arrival of sixteen PCFs at the end of July, continued to operate at a high level of activity during August. Numerous hostile fire and evading junk incidents were recorded, and patrol units frequently delivered gun fire support. MARKET TIME craft supported two ground operations, Operation SEA MOUNT and Operation DECKHOUSE III, and conducted four search and rescue missions. U.S. Air Force planes erroneously attacked USCGC POINT WELCOME on patrol near the Demilitarized Zone.

HOSTILE FIRE INCIDENTS

MARKET TIME units on patrol within firing range of the beach came under attack on numerous occasions during August. There was no serious damage nor any friendly casualties. The following is a chronology of significant hostile fire incidents during August:

3 - At 2315 USCGC POINT JEFFERSON received hostile fire from the beach on the Ke Ga Peninsula sixty miles northeast of Vung Tau. The fire was returned with unknown results.

8 - At 1815 PCF 39 received four rounds of mortar fire in the same area.

9 - At 1000 PCF 58 received machine gun fire 10 miles north of Qui Nhon while transiting the area. The fire was returned with unknown results.

1 See Appendix I for MARKET TIME Statistical Summary
CONFIDENTIAL

10 - At 1340 PCF 62 was taken under heavy small arms fire while patrolling 10 miles north of Qui Nhon. The fire was returned and suppressed with unknown enemy casualties. At 1655 PCF 62 received fire while closing the beach to investigate suspicious contacts in the same area. The PCF returned the fire while clearing the area. The contacts beached. Enemy casualties were unknown.

12 - At 1710, again in the same area, PCF 62 received heavy small arms fire. The fire was returned and hostile fire ceased. Enemy casualties were unknown.

16 - PCF 62 approached the beach to investigate a junk in the same area. Small arms fire was received. The fire was returned with unknown results.

17 - At 1030 PCF 65 and Coastal Group 21 units received small arms fire 45 miles north of Qui Nhon. The fire was returned and the patrol cleared the area.

21 - PCF 68 on patrol off the Cau Mau Peninsula, 135 miles southwest of Vung Tau, received automatic weapons fire from the shore while closing to investigate a sampan. Return fire resulted in two secondary explosions. Enemy casualties were unknown.

USCGC POINT WELCOME INCIDENT

While patrolling in Area 1A1, adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone, USCGC POINT WELCOME was attacked by three U.S. Air Force planes at 0340 on 11 August. POINT WELCOME was sighted by an
Air Force Forward Air Controller who illuminated the WPB but failed to identify it as a friendly craft. He called in one B-57 and two F4Cs for the attack.

POINT WELCOME was underway at approximately eight knots, and when illuminated turned on her docking and running lights. The ensign and Coast Guard flag were properly displayed. At the time of the attack the Executive Officer had the deck and the Commanding Officer was on the bridge signalling the aircraft with the Aldis Lamp. During the initial strike the Commanding Officer was killed and the Executive Officer and all others on the bridge were wounded. The senior chief petty officer came to the bridge at 0350 and assumed command, immediately accelerating to full speed and commencing evasive maneuvering to avoid the illuminated area and the attacking aircraft.

The attack continued for approximately one hour under continuous illumination with the aircraft making from seven to nine passes. The signal searchlights and all electronics and communication equipment were disabled during the initial pass. A gasoline-can fire on the fantail was extinguished by the survivors who simultaneously were occupied caring for the wounded. All wounded were brought topside and strapped into life jackets. At 0415 the decision was made to beach the craft and abandon ship to avoid additional casualties from the attacking aircraft. Able bodied personnel paired off with the wounded and assisted them into the water and toward the beach, but the attempt to reach shore was thwarted by automatic weapons and mortar fire from an unknown source.
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Prior to losing communications POINT WELCOME transmitted the report that she had been illuminated, fired upon and hit. CTG 115.1 directed USCGC POINT CAUTION and USCGC POINT ORIENT to the scene, and patrol units from VNN Coastal Group 11 were dispatched to assist. At 0425 POINT ORIENT and POINT CAUTION located POINT WELCOME, and at 0445 started to rescue survivors with the help of Coastal Group 11 junk. Coastal Group 11 also assisted by firing mortar illumination rounds. The wounded were carried by junk to Coastal Group 11 for helicopter medical evacuation.

The Commanding Officer and an engineman from POINT WELCOME were killed in the attack. In addition, nine crewmembers, the Vietnamese Navy liaison officer and one newman were wounded. The heaviest damage to the boat was in the pilot house area where there were numerous fragmentation holes and extensive damage to all equipment. There were nine holes, five to nine inches in diameter, in the main deck, but no structural damage. There was no damage to the hull or loss of watertight integrity. POINT WELCOME was escorted to DaNang under her own power.

EVADING JUNK INCIDENTS

The intensification of MARKET TIME patrols led to an increased number of junks attempting to evade contact with patrol units during August. Significant incidents were as follows:

1 - At 0955 PCF 63 destroyed a small fishing junk that had ignored warning shots 40 miles north of Qui Nhon. The occupants escaped.
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At 1030 USCGC POINT ELLIS detected three evading junks 38 miles northwest of DaNang. One junk was destroyed, but the remaining junks beached in the vicinity of a village and were not fired on.

3 - At 0955 PCF 63 fired warning shots at an evading junk 20 miles north of Qui Nhon. The occupants beached the boat and fled. Recovery of the craft revealed three hand grenades.

5 - At 2015 USCGC POINT ORIENT detected and illuminated a junk moving south along the coast 25 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. The junk beached and was destroyed by mortar fire as the occupants fled.

7 - At 0920 PCF 19 took a junk under fire 65 miles north of Qui Nhon after it evaded to the beach and the occupants fled. The junk was damaged by mortar fire. At 1115 USCGC POINT WELCOME recovered a junk that had evaded to the beach 60 miles north of Qui Nhon. A search revealed no contraband and the junk was turned over to Coastal Group 16.

At 2305 PCF 73 received small arms fire after illuminating a sampan 50 miles east of An Thoi. Fire was returned, but the sampan evaded into foliage along the coast and damage was not determined.

15 - At 2030 USCGC POINT CAUTION detected a junk moving south along the beach 40 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. When signalled the junk evaded and was taken under fire and heavily damaged. Enemy casualties were unknown.
20 - At 2205 PCF 64 closed and illuminated a junk with two occupants 38 miles north of Qui Nhon. After it ignored signals to stop, the junk was destroyed. The occupants escaped.

21 - At 1230 PCF 76 fired warning shots at two evading junks 25 miles south of DaNang, and in return received automatic weapons and small arms fire from the beach. Fire was returned at the junks and at the beach, resulting in damage to the junks. Two PCF crewmen received minor wounds. Viet Cong casualties were unknown.

25 - At 1255 PCF 76 assisted Coastal Group 15 units in taking two evading junks under fire 40 miles south of DaNang. The junks were destroyed and Coastal Group 15 took 13 suspects into custody.

30 - At 2230 PCF 66 closed and illuminated a junk 32 miles north of Qui Nhon. After warning shots were ignored, the evading junk was destroyed. Casualties were unknown.

OPERATIONS

An Thoi based MARKET TIME units operated in support of Operation SEA HOUND on Phu Quoc Island from 4 August until 30 August. The operation was conducted by eight U.S. Special Forces personnel and a 220 man Mike Force (a specially recruited unit of indigenous personnel) periodically augmented by 10 to 30 Vietnamese National Policemen from Duong Dong Village on Phu Quoc Island. In addition to gunfire and patrol support from MARKET TIME PCFs and WPBs, Seventh Fleet Destroyers and VNN
Fleet Command ships provided gunfire support; VVN Coastal Groups supplied junks and USS TUTULIA (ARG-4) supplied an LCM for troop and logistic lifts. U.S. Air Force and Army aircraft provided air support.

SEA MOUNT was divided into three phases. In the initial phase a sweep was conducted from An Thoi north to latitude 10° 13' N. In the second phase a series of amphibious raids were conducted on the East Coast of the Island and against targets of opportunity. In the final phase a base camp was established near Duong Dong and probes were made into the areas of heaviest Viet Cong concentration.

The Operation marked the first major military operation to attempt to clear Phu Quoc Island of Viet Cong. Sixteen Viet Cong were killed by body count; however, subsequent prisoner interrogation revealed over 75 Viet Cong killed with an undetermined number wounded. Two U.S. Special Forces personnel were killed and one was wounded. Seven other friendly troops were wounded. SEA MOUNT was considered successful. 1

During the period 16 August to 28 August, PCFs from Division 103 at Cat Lo conducted infiltration/exfiltration patrols off Phuoc Tuy Province in support of Operation DECK HOUSE III, a Seventh Fleet Marine Special Landing Force probe. Patrol units detected no Viet Cong waterborne movements during the period. PCFs also provided security on 29 and 30 August during salvage operations for an LCM swamped during withdrawal of the Special Landing Force.

1 CTF 115 Historical Summary, August 1966
NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT

MARKET TIME units delivered 19 naval gunfire support missions during the month in support of ground operations and friendly forces under attack. The following missions resulted in enemy material and personnel casualties:

1 - PCF 35 provided urgent gunfire support for a spotter aircraft receiving ground fire on the Ca Mau Peninsula 120 miles southwest of Vung Tau. One company, one bunker and one structure were destroyed.

2 - PCF 35, operating in the same area, fired support for a reconnaissance aircraft under ground attack. Thirty-one rounds of 81mm mortar were expended in destroying one junk, three structures and damaging two structures.

10 - USCGC POINT WELCOME fired a mission against two camouflaged junks believed used for Viet Cong exfiltration. The mission was coordinated by an aircraft spotter. The two junks were damaged.

USCGC POINT MARONE fired 22 rounds of 81mm HE against a Viet Cong company near Duong Dong on Phu Quoc Island in support of Operation SEA MOUNT. Enemy casualties were unknown.

14 - PCF 74 assisted Coastal Group 42 units in returning fire on the eastern coast of Phu Quoc Island. The mission was spotted by aircraft and resulted in three structures destroyed and seven damaged.

15 - PCF 52 provided urgent gunfire support for a Popular
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Force unit under attack 23 miles north of Nha Trang. The mission was spotted by a U.S. Army advisor. One secondary explosion was observed.

16 - Coastal Group 42 units received heavy small arms fire while recovering a U.S. Special Forces reconnaissance team from the eastern shore of Phu Quoc Island during Operation SEA MOUNT. Fire was returned with enemy casualties unknown.

17 - USCGC POINT YOUNG fired a support mission at Viet Cong mortar, automatic rifle and platoon positions on the western shore of Phu Quoc Island. Forty-four rounds of 81mm HE were expended, resulting in 35 structures damaged.

22 - USCGC POINT WHITE provided urgent gunfire support for a spotter aircraft receiving ground fire on the Ko Ga Peninsula 60 miles northeast of Vung Tau. Fifty-two rounds of 81mm mortar were fired resulting in three Viet Cong killed (possible) and one secondary explosion.

29 - USCGC POINT CAUTION provided 81mm mortar support for Coastal Group 11 and Popular Force units conducting a ground operation ten miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. Six Viet Cong were killed during the operation.

SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

MARKET TIME units conducted four search and rescue operations during August, two of them successful. On 10 August PCF 16

31 CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

recovered two wounded Viet Cong suspects from a damaged boat eight miles south of DaNang. The boat had been attacked by an armed helicopter during ground operations in the area. PCF 78 recovered a downed pilot after observing him bail out of his disabled aircraft 20 miles south of DaNang on 14 August. The pilot was uninjured and was lifted by helicopter to DaNang.

On 14 August a HU-12 LCPL and PCF 71 unsuccessfully attempted to recover a merchant seaman who had gone under while swimming alongside the USNS GENERAL PATCH in Vung Tau Harbor. An air/sea rescue helicopter assisted in the attempt. On 31 August USS SAVAGE (DER 322), USCGC POINT MAST, USCGC POINT BANKS and a VP-2 aircraft searched unsuccessfully along the track of a civilian contractor tugboat whose engineer had been lost overboard in the vicinity of Rach Gia.

MARKET TIME UNITS

Seventy PCFs and 26 MPBs operated in support of MARKET TIME during August. There was no change in the number of PCFs and MPBs; however, USCGC POINT IOMAS, USCGC POINT DUME and USCGC POINT GAMMON were relocated from DaNang to Cat Lo on 27 August to provide additional patrols in Areas Six and Seven. The move was in response to intelligence reports indicating possible infiltration attempts, particularly into Phouc Tuy Province. In another shift on 19 August, three PCFs with supporting crews were moved from DaNang to Hue to strengthen the northern barrier.

In air operations, USS SALISBURY SOUND (AV-13) maintained the seadrome at Cam Ranh Bay until 8 August. From 1 Augu
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until 5 August VP-40, VP-48 and VP-50 flew SP2B aircraft out of the seadrone in support of the coastal surveillance effort. Seven SP2Hs from Patrol Squadron Two flew daily patrols out of Tan Son Nhut Airfield. VP-8, VP-9 and VP-47 supported MARKET TIME with P3A aircraft flying out of Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, P.I. The VP aircraft flew patrols 20 to 50 miles off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam to detect possible infiltrators and to identify radar contacts passed by MARKET TIME surface units. They also flew special patrols farther out to sea during the dark of the moon periods.

The three PACVs of PACDIV 207 were engaged in completing modifications and preparations for MARKET TIME operations scheduled to commence in mid-September.

Harbor Defense, designated Operation STABLE DOOR, continued to expand. During August forces rose, with the arrival of 34 boat crew personnel, to 23 officers and 231 enlisted. The construction of semipermanent facilities, including barracks and mess halls, continued during the month. Eight of the eleven boats assigned to STABLE DOOR were operational. Eight junks and 80 persons were detained by patrol units.

The following Seventh Fleet units operated in MARKET TIME during August:

USS SAVAGE (DER-321)    USS ROSE (KSC-207)
USS NEWELL (DER-322)    USS WHITPOO (MSC-207)
USS SAVAGE (DER-386)    USS ADVANCE (MSC-410)
USS HAVENFIELD (DER-393)    USS FORTIFY (MSC-446)
USS CAMP (DER-251)    USS ENGAGE (MSC-343)
USS KIENER (DER-331)    USS IMPERVIOUS (MSC-449)
USS KRETSCHMAR (DER-329)    USS INFLECT (MSC-456)
USS PHOEBUS (MSC-199)    USS LOYALTY (MSC-457)
USS WIDOW (MSC-205)    USS FLOYD COUNTY (IST-762)
CON SON ISLAND RADAR

The first land based radar installation for coastal surveillance became operational during August on Con Son Island, 100 miles south of Cap St. Jacques. The installation, an AN/TPN-8 Ground Control Approach radar with a surveillance mode, underwent testing and evaluation during late July and August and went into full operation on 28 August. The radar is operated from 2000 to 0800 daily by a three man crew permanently based on the island. Communications are maintained with Coastal Surveillance Center, Vung Tau, utilizing a PRC-47 single side band radio.

* * * * *
NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

During August the construction of interim and permanent base facilities at U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon detachments continued. Additional berthing space was rented at Vinh Long and a lease request was submitted for an additional villa at My Tho. Well drilling operations at Nha Be and Qui Nhon failed to produce fresh water and work continued on those projects. At Nha Be interim base, the enlargement of shower and latrine facilities was accomplished; and at Cat Lo arrangements were being made for construction of a helicopter landing site. NAVSUPPACT, Saigon staff reviewed an Advance Base Functional Component for an interim facility at Dong Tam.

Equipment continued to arrive throughout the month, bringing base housekeeping and repair capability to a higher state. Progress on repair shops at GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME bases has been steady. All GAME WARDEN facilities are now operationally ready with the exception of teletype and crypto communications facilities at Long Xuyen and Sa Dec. At Can Tho, the arrival of YFB-9 greatly improved base capabilities. To improve safety conditions at the An Thoi airstrip, NAVSUPPACT, Saigon started procuring personnel and equipment, including improved air/ground communications; wind direction/velocity indicators; crash firefighting equipment; strip operation personnel and NOTAM reporting procedures. At Qui Nhon, channel range lights have been installed.

Transportation and logistical support were highlighted during the month by the one millionth passenger mile flown on MARKET TIME/
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G Kee WhG8N flights since 1 January 1966, and by the arrival of
USS THULE (AL-28) at Nakong Delta bases with material for the
detachments.

At the Saigon headquarters a number of significant develop-
ments took place to assist H.V.SUPPACT in its task of supporting
the naval mission in the II, III and IV Corps Tactical Zones of
Vietnam: The command assumed the responsibility of Seventh Fleet
ammunition storage at Con Honh Bay; a new C-47 aircraft was
programmed for delivery; and H.V.SUPPACT, Saigon assumed operation
of the registered Publications Library.

The Supply Department prepared line item requirements for
the PCF engine overhaul program, and forwarded them to Naval
Ship Systems Command Headquarters in an effort to streamline
repair capability. It was anticipated that significant amounts
of material will be transferred to H.V.SUPPACT, Saigon in future
months by procedures worked out at a conference held at Subic Bay,
P.I., from 15-17 August.

Public Works Department, in a new limited support role for
Naval Advisory Group elements, sent a quonset hut to the junk
base/repair facility at lien in which it is being erected by
H.V.SUPPACT personnel. The Public Works Department is providing
generator maintenance assistance to the Coast Guard LORAN
station on Con Son Island, with increased support anticipated.
Action was taken to establish a repair parts pipeline for public
works and vehicle equipment peculiar to Navy use to ensure first
rate replacement capability on items stocked. At the end of
the month, one-third of the automotive equipment requested had
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been received in country.

The Repair Department assumed crypto, electronic and TTY repair responsibility for Navy units in the II, III and IV Corps Tactical Zones. A boat corrosion control conference was held at Cat Lo on 30 August with a COMPHIL-ESTPAC representative.

In the administrative area, requirements for additional manpower for NAVSUPFAC, Saigon and all detachments were collected into a new personnel request and submitted on 16 August; the Officer in Charge of APL-55 was designated Officer in Charge, NAVSUPFACOTU; service wide examinations were processed for 684 Navy men in the II, III and IV CTZ; and efficient handling procedures for UCI violations were initiated by the Legal Office.

* * * * *
CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

Both Vietnamese Navy and U.S. Navy Civic Action and PsyOps activities were at a high level. Particularly noteworthy were the NWSUPPACT, DaNang civic action teams. On 17 August a Marine F-8 crusader crashed into a village in Hoa Vang District. A NWSUPPACT, DaNang NDCCP team was sent immediately to the scene to render first aid to the injured. Within five hours some 200 refugees had been cared for through provision of seven general purpose tents, 300 blankets, two water buffalo, 1000 pounds of food, and cooking and eating utensils. The tents were set up and the people were fed that night by the Civic Action Team and Hoa Vang District Advisory personnel.

In other activities in the DaNang area, on 29 August, 26 carpentry students and 24 driver students from My Khe, Dong Giang, Phuoc Hai, and Hoa Tien refugee camps completed their courses in the Refugee Vocational Training Program being conducted by NWSUPPACT, DaNang and USAID at the DaNang Polytechnical School.

Personnel of the NWSUPPACT, Saigon Qui Khon Detachment completed a one classroom schoolhouse adjacent to their base. The teacher, hired with funds donated by the Qui Khon Navymen, started classes for 31 first-graders on 25 August. Personnel from NWSUPPACT, Saigon delivered 32 packages of clothing, soap, tissues and toilet articles donated by the Fleet Reserve Association, San Pedro, California to the Go Vap orphanage outside Saigon.

Throughout the month NAVY LAW and NAVY TEA units rendered assistance to disabled indigenous craft and sick and
injured crew members. In a noteworthy incident on 21 August, a
PHR day patrol from Ny Tho observed an overturned sampan. The
patrol rescued a family of five from the current and saved their
sampan and cargo.

1. Construction projects completed during report period. Those
repaired or renovated are marked with an R.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<th>UNH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Bridges</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Culverts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Dwellings/family of families</td>
<td>4/22</td>
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<td>4/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Fences (tenh of km)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Leveling/grading projects</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Playgrounds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>g. Schools/classrooms</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1/2</td>
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<tr>
<td>h. Toilets</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>i. Wells</td>
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<td>j. Playgrounds</td>
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2. Medical treatments:

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<td>a. General Medical</td>
<td>6,476</td>
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<td>9,881</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Dental</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>542</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Surgery</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Emergency evacuations</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Marjolip operations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. X-Rays</td>
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<tr>
<td>g. Laboratory cultures</td>
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<td>h. Routine lab procedures</td>
<td>210</td>
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3. Health and sanitation:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Classes on personal hygiene/attendance</td>
<td>1/35</td>
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<td>1/35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Immunizations</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Physical examinations</td>
<td>239</td>
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<td>239</td>
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<td>d. Spray insecticide operations</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>e. Swamp areas drained</td>
<td>1</td>
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4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):

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<td>a. Cement</td>
<td>37,200</td>
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<td>b. Clothing</td>
<td>1,920</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>12,920</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Food</td>
<td>57,465</td>
<td>70,560</td>
<td>128,025</td>
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<td>d. Lumber (board feet)</td>
<td>116,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>123,000</td>
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<td>e. Medical, non-prescription</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>70</td>
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<td>f. Medical kits (number)</td>
<td>120</td>
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<td>120</td>
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<td>g. School kits (number)</td>
<td>174</td>
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<td>174</td>
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<td>h. Soap</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>2,760</td>
<td>3,613</td>
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<td>i. Tin sheets (number)</td>
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<tr>
<td>j. Woodworker kits (number)</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>k. Textile and sewing kits (number)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,075</td>
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<tr>
<td>l. Family kits (number)</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>2,450</td>
<td>2,760</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. PsyOps buckets (number)</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>2,331</td>
<td>3,279</td>
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<td>n. Vitamins (cases)</td>
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<td>27</td>
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<td>o. Blanket material (rolls)</td>
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<td>p. Midwife kits (number)</td>
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<td>q. Mosquito netting (number)</td>
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<td>r. Toys</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>150</td>
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<td>s. Drying aprons (number)</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>t. Diesel oil (gallons)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>u. Plywood (sheets)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Barrels (number)</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w. Diapers (dozen)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x. Paint (gallons)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y. Nails</td>
<td>1,786</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z. Steel</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aa. Cement blocks (number)</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ab. Blankets (number)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Educational efforts:

a. English classes/attendance 66/670 0 66/670

6. Voluntary contributions in support of (piastres):

a. Schools 30,000 0 30,000
b. Hem lip program 3,690 2,420 6,310

* * * * *
The ability of the Vietnamese Navy to accomplish assigned tasks remained satisfactory. Its ability, however, was impeded by inadequate aggressiveness, unsatisfactory personnel distribution, limited training and an inadequate number of skilled shipyard workers.

On orders of the Leadership Council, Captain Tran Van Phan, Commander-in-Chief, Vietnamese Navy, was relieved of his duties by Commander Nguyen Van Anh, Chief of Staff, on 1 September 1966.

On 31 August, VN Headquarters reported 15,481 men assigned; however, the distribution of personnel within the VN remained unsatisfactory. For the second consecutive month desertions have declined. This month the VN had 107 deserters as compared with 165 last month.

Leadership improved within the VN. Most commanding officers and executive officers showed initiative in their jobs. PGH 608 and HG 11 advisors reported exceptional performance and reception of advisory efforts by the commanding officers. Petty officer leadership, initiative and professional knowledge improved somewhat, but was still below satisfactory.

Operational reports indicated that training was accomplished by most units in August. Several Coastal Groups made progress in marksmanship and coxswain training. NATC and Fleet Command Training Teams conducted import training on LSSL 227 and FG 10.
To improve base facilities, one hundred steel frame prefabricated buildings were allotted to the VNf for the development of cantonment facilities in all Naval Zones. These units are to be used for offices, BOQs, EZQs, warehouses and other base facilities. Site plans have been turned over to the ANVN Office of Construction Engineers. When approved, the prefabricated buildings will be issued to the Naval Supply Center for distribution to designated Coastal Groups.

The first of the 50 Yabuta junks being constructed in the Naval Shipyard, Sbigon, was completed and 14 more keels have been laid. With 126 carpenters engaged in this program, the maximum rate of junk completions is anticipated at one per week. The FY 66 Junk Construction Program authorized the building of sixty additional Yabuta junks.

OPERATIONS

Vietnamese Navy Coastal Groups maintained a high level of combat activity, participating in blocking and amphibious operations and setting many base defense ambushes. In the First Coastal Naval Zone, on 7 August, a search operation was conducted by Coastal Group 14, five kilometers southwest of Hon An, with support provided by PGC 11. There were no friendly casualties. The Coastal Group units captured a quantity of western medicines, medical manuals and foodstuffs. On 17 August, junks of Coastal Group 16 had a firefight with two Viet Cong companies 9 kilometers east of Quang Ngai. U.S. and VN ships provided timely support.
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The Coastal Group force had three men killed in the action and one wounded, and lost one Browning Automatic Rifle and one sub-machine gun. Enemy casualties were unknown. From 21 to 27 August, Coastal Group 14 and local forces carried out Operation Hai Tuyen, 4 kilometers south of Hoi An. The Coastal Group unit had five wounded, but captured a quantity of weapons, 700 kilograms of rice and 100 kilograms of salt. The Viet Cong had six killed.

In the Second Coastal Naval Zone, an operation was organized by Coastal Group 23, with the support of PCF 07 and PCF 63, in an area 10 kilometers northeast of Song Cau. The operation took place on 24 August. There were no friendly casualties. Four Viet Cong suspects were detained, one Viet Cong flag captured and two men, previously captured by the Viet Cong, were released.

Activities of Coastal Group 31 and Coastal Group 36 were highlighted in the Third Coastal Naval Zone. On 4 August, a patrol team of Coastal Group 36 had a firefight with a Viet Cong junk at the mouth of the Bassac River. As the junk retreated, the four occupants dropped their weapons over the side and abandoned the junk. Two escaped and two were killed. The patrol team took possession of the junk and 20 kilograms of rice. Eleven days later, on 15 August, Coastal Group 36 conducted an operation in the vicinity of Ap Cu Lao on the Bassac River. This operation was coordinated with Vinh Binh sector forces and was supported by PCF 607 and several U.S. aircraft. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties were unknown.
force captured one 57mm recoilless rifle, eighteen Russian made rifles, 124 lines, thirty rockets, one machine gun tripod and three tons of ammunition; and destroyed one junk, two weapon storage areas, and a number of defense works and barracks. On 24 August, Coastal Group 31 captured two junks and destroyed one punji trap while operating in the vicinity of the Ke Ga Peninsula.

The Fourth Coastal Naval Zone conducted 16 amphibious operations and was involved in several firefights. On 16 August, junks of Coastal Group 45 had a firefight 32 kilometers west of Quan Long (Ca Nau). There were no casualties.

Fleet Command PCs and PCEs were utilized for coastal patrol in I, II and IV Coastal Naval Zones and for gunfire support in the Rung Sat Special Zone. An increase of NGFS missions fired by PCs and PCEs was noted during August. The most notable mission took place on 3 August. PCE 09 bombarded a Viet Cong position southwest of Quang Ngai and destroyed three houses and damaged five others. Eight junks were sunk and six damaged. PCs continued primarily in coastal patrol, operating in all Coastal Naval Zones. One PGH carried out gunfire support and blockade duty in the Rung Sat Special Zone. MGCs were deployed on coastal patrol in I and II Coastal Naval Zones. LST 500 supported operations in Rung Sat Special Zone with NGFS while enroute to Nha Trang.

MGCs provided daily sweeps of the Long Tau River. On 18 August, the minesweeper allocation was revised so as to effect a significant improvement in utilization of available craft.
On the morning of 23 August, MiNSs 150 and 151 were attacked from ambush by Viet Cong recoilless rifle and small arms fire (see p. 3 for Long Tau River incidents). Damages resulting from this attack reduced, for two days, the number of craft available for sweeping to four. On the morning of 20 August, MiNS 156 was demolished by a Viet Cong mine at the 26 mile point on the Long Tau River. The LORN (UDT) participated in the recovery of two weapons, some ammunition and miscellaneous minesweeping gear from the MiNS.

The tempo of operations in the Third and Fourth Riverine Areas and hung Sat Special Zone increased. River Assault Groups were well utilized during August.

There were seven operations logged in the hung Sat Special Zone, six by NAG 22 and one by NAG 24. The two most significant operations were NAG Sat 29/66 and NAG Sat 34/66 conducted by NAG 22. Operation NAG Sat 29/66 took place on 5 August with eleven craft of NAG 22 and LF/PF forces participating. There were no friendly casualties; the Viet Cong had three killed. Friendly forces destroyed two bases including sixteen houses, 2200 kilogrammes of unshelled rice, five junks, fifty bags of cement and thirty jars of salted fish. A quantity of fish nets, documents and photographs were captured. On 25 August, seven craft of NAG 22, LSSL 226 and LF/PF forces were involved in NAG Sat 34/66. The friendly unit suffered no casualties and destroyed one base, one water tank and one defensive line. Six U.S. fighter aircraft provided support for both operations.