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observers. This part of the training program was designed to
acquaint personnel with the environment in which they would be
operating, and to familiarize them with local customs and regulations
and applied rules of engagement.

The Riverine Assault Force was initially commissioned as River
Assault Flotilla ONE at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado,
California, on 1 September 1966, with Captain W. C. WELLS, USN, as
Commander. Activation of the task force is planned for late
February or early March.

* * * * *
In January, Naval Support Activity, Danang continued to offload and clear cargo expeditiously despite adverse weather.

A new monthly throughput\(^1\) record of 254,856 measurement tons\(^2\) was established for the port of Danang. The total exceeded the previous record, set in December 1966, by 4,149 measurement tons. Total throughput for I Corps was 331,477 measurement tons, a decrease of 15,693 measurement tons from the previous month.

During January 43 ships arrived at Danang and 48 ships completed offloading for a net decrease in backlog of 20,600 measurement tons. The daily backlog in deep draft ships steadily decreased until 31 January when it reached a low of 1,436 measurement tons.

Coastal resupply operations, however, were significantly affected by monsoon weather. Despite maximum use of all available Landing Craft Utility/Covered Lighters (LCU/YFUs), the backlog in Danang of transshipment cargo for Dong Ha and Hue increased throughout the month. Heavy seas and winds forced cancellation of resupply operations on 16 separate occasions, and delayed the return of LCU/YFUs to Danang for periods as long as eight days.

During January, LCU/YFUs made 69 round trips to Dong Ha, delivering 9,144 measurement tons of cargo. In 46 round trips,

\(1\)Throughput: Total cargo offloaded from incoming ships plus cargo backloaded for delivery to other in-country ports or to the United States.

\(2\)Measurement ton: Forty cubic feet of cargo.
DANANG

HARBOR

JACKET PIERS

DELONG PIER

1ST RAMP AREA

RED BEACH AREA

1ST MAW

NSA COVERED STORAGE AND REEFER DEPOT

DANANG RIVER BRIDGE

AIR BASE

SOUTH CHINA SEA

SCALE(Approximate):

0 1
Statute Mile

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LCU/YFUs also delivered 6,897 measurement tons of cargo to Hue for resupply at Phu Bai.

Chu Lai was resupplied by tank landing ships (LSTs) which, in 30 trips, delivered 34,784 measurement tons of cargo. The total volume delivered to Dong Ha, Hue and Chu Lai from Danang by sea was 50,825 measurement tons.

Monsoon weather also continued to affect POL (petroleum, oil, lubricants) resupply operations. At Chu Lai, heavy seas prevented repairs to the leaks in the 4-inch and 8-inch fuel lines; replenishment was accomplished by a YOG and a shallow draft T-1 tanker running directly into refueler trucks at the inner harbor. On 14 January, the POL picture was improved significantly when the new 12-inch fuel line was raised and began pumping JP-4.

Replenishment at Dong Ha was accomplished by using LCM-8s with fuel bladders to shuttle fuel from an AOG. Phu Bai was replenished by commercial trucks from Danang and by Marine refueler trucks from Col Co Island.

At Danang the China Beach 10-inch seaload line was utilized for the initial filling of the Shell tanks at My Khe. The filling of the tanks and transfer of fuel to the Shell Nha Hien terminal, USAF tanks and the northwest tank farm was completed on 9 January.

The number of functions performed by NAVSUPPACT increased. On 1 January, NAVSUPPACT assumed full responsibility for port clearance in the Danang area. Control and support of the China Beach rest and recreation center also was assumed on 1 January.
PORT OF DANANG CARGO HANDLING OPERATIONS

THOUS

THROUGHPUT

OFFLOAD

BACKLOAD

M/T

3rd QTR 4th QTR JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

300 250 200 150 100 50 0

300 250 200 150 100 50 0

CY-66 CY-67
Responsibility for operations of utilities systems and maintenance support continued to expand. On 7 January the Public Works shop began providing maintenance support to the First Marine Air Wing. The shop was also tasked with minor maintenance support for the First Marine Division Command Post.

On 18 January NAVSUPPACT assumed partial responsibility for the operation of the Force Logistics Supply Group ALFA ice plant. Limited facilities support of the Third Marine Division Command Post at Nha Dai was begun by the Maintenance Division on 20 January.

Class II and class IV supply support continued to improve. On 12 January the NAVSUPPACT SERVMART opened. Over 1,600 fast-moving line items were stocked by the new self-service facility. In addition, net supply requisition effectiveness during January increased from 70 per cent to 73 per cent.

Service craft assets increased on 6 January with the return of a refrigerated lighter (YFRN-597) from overhaul and the arrival of a garbage lighter (YG-51). Lighterage assets were augmented by the arrival of YFRs 58, 59 and 62 from Japan on 9 January.

Transportation assets also increased. One 40 passenger bus, four trailers and six trucks were received in January.

On 12 January, the NAVSUPPACT C-47 aircraft suffered brake failure while landing at Danang and was severely damaged. Prior to the accident, the plane had transported 11,520 pounds of cargo and 148 passengers since the first of the month. A replacement
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aircraft was received on 31 January.

Danang was visited 98 times by Seventh Fleet ships during January. NAVSUPPACT delivered 793,912 gallons of diesel fuel and 1,110,150 gallons of potable water to the visiting ships. Additional services provided included disbursing, mail, freight, boats, tugs and transient billeting.

During January, 28 separate instances of harassing small arms fire occurred at various locations in the Danang area. No friendly casualties resulted.

On 2 January Team One of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE suspended Danang River wreck clearance operations to assist Seventh Fleet units in the salvage of USS MAHOMEN COUNTY (LST-912). Upon termination of the salvage operations on 31 January, Team One returned to Subic Bay.

On 31 January Naval Support Activity personnel strength (including APLs) totaled 8,048, a decrease of 138 from the 31 December on-board count.

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50 CONFIDENTIAL
U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

Construction of interim and permanent facilities at GAME
WAIKIN and MARKET TIME bases progressed satisfactorily in January. At Sa Dec, the boat ramp was completed, work on a sea wall commenced, and the construction of three berthing huts near completion.

A significant increase in the support capability at Vinh Long was achieved with the installation of boat engine lifting gear. A boat ramp, driveway and concrete sea wall were also completed.

At My Tho, the supply warehouse and shop were approximately 75 per cent complete at the end of the month. Work on an administration building, generator shed and water purification building neared completion. Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT) My Tho detachment personnel provided extensive support for the JAMAICA MAY salvage operation during January.

At Vung Tau, a public works team continued the construction of four huts, a mess tent and installation of a water tank at the Harbor Defense site. At Nha Be, construction of a BEQ and a mess hall neared completion, and the framework for a new repair building was erected. Other projects under construction at month’s end included BEQ/LEDs at Can Tho, and extension of the boat ramp at Long Xuyen.

On 1 January, YD-220 arrived at Cat Lo, providing the first in-country afloat lift with a 100-ton capacity. During the month, YD-220 was used extensively for a variety of jobs, including
off-lifting PBRs from the USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST-846), the lift of MSB-14, sunk in a collision with a civilian freighter, and the lift of a commercial dredge.

Lift capability also improved at Qui Nhon. The crane pad at Qui Nhon was completed during the month and a PCF was successfully lifted out of the water and cradled on the pontoon float.

Efforts to produce fresh water at Cat Lo continued, as the Officer in Charge of Construction (OICC) proceeded with the construction of a shallow well system. Installation of power outlets in the interim pier at Cat Lo was completed by Public Works.

On 27 January, a NAVSUPPACT detachment arrived at Dong Tam and began work on a support base for the newly-established Riverine Assault Force. Construction was begun on a 250-man cantonment.

During January the number of line items stocked by Naval Support Activity, Saigon increased by 2,000. At the end of the month, the total stock level exceeded 25,000 items.

Supply requisition effectiveness, however, declined. The decrease was attributed to a variety of factors, including funding limitations, delays in receipt of overhaul materials for various boat programs and increased demand for General Services Administration (GSA) materials subsequent to distribution of the recently published GSA catalog.

Overall supply requisition effectiveness was 40 per cent gross and 62 per cent net. The gross availability of material for
priority TWO casualty report requisitions was 72.85 per cent.

The resupply of bulk diesel fuel in the IV Corps area improved considerably in January with the positioning of 120,000-gallon capacity fuel storage barges at Vinh Long and Long Xuyen. In addition, portable refueler units with a 1,000-gallon capacity were provided by the U.S. Army to the various Delta GAMBIT WARDEN detachments to ensure an organic capability to resupply storage tanks.

The overall logistic support posture was further enhanced in January by the delivery of rough-terrain fork trucks to Delta-based detachments. The trucks have a three-ton lift capability.

The overall transportation situation remained generally satisfactory. The NAVSUPPACT aviation section (Air Cofat)* transported 4,113 passengers (1,090 more than December’s total) and over 140 short tons of cargo during January. The increase in the number of passengers carried resulted from scheduling additional flights to Danang after NAVSUPPACT Danang’s C-47 aircraft was damaged in an accident on 12 January.

Water-borne shipments by USS MARK (AKL-12), USS BRULE (AKL-28) and YKR-889 totaled 1,134 displacement tons of cargo plus an additional 125 tons of water and 30 tons of fuel.

**Cargo Handling Battalion TWO**

On 31 January, Cargo Handling Battalion TWO (CHB-2) completed

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*Cofat is derived from the name of a French cigarette, no longer produced. NAVSUPPACT Saigon is situated on the site previously occupied by the factory that made Cofats.
nearly 20 months of almost continuous service in Vietnam.

Composed of two officers and 80 enlisted men, the battalion's mission was to assist in cargo handling operations and to provide supervision and training to other personnel as required.

Originally deployed to Vietnam in April of 1965, the battalion helped provide vital support to cargo operations in Danang and Chu Lai until its return to Subic Bay in August of 1966.

On 19 September 1966, CHB-2 was deployed to Cam Rahn Bay to help train three newly-formed Army terminal service companies. The battalion remained through January to assist in reducing the backlog of cargo awaiting discharge at Cam Rahn Bay.

Largely as a result of CHB-2's assistance, by the end of January Cam Rahn Bay had developed an effective organic cargo handling and training capability, and the battalion returned to Subic Bay.

* * * * *
THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

In January heavy rains continued to slow construction in I Corps, with vertical construction reduced and horizontal construction (earth work) halted in some instances. However, satisfactory progress was made on many projects despite the adverse weather conditions.

The logistic picture improved with the arrival of materials for the Air Force Tigerhound project at Khe Sanh. Three bunkers were under construction at month’s end.

At Phu Bai, the base camp of Mobile Construction Battalion (MCB) 62 came under enemy fire several times during the month. The most significant attack occurred on 20 January, when the battalion compound received 82mm mortar fire. Two battalion huts sustained direct hits and were destroyed. Two Seabees were killed, and 17 were wounded.

Work under construction by MCB-62 during January included construction of a helicopter parking apron at Phu Bai, installation of a new deck for the Nong River Bridge and various well-drilling projects.

A major project completed by MCB-58 was the construction of 32 houses for Vietnamese civilians whose homes were destroyed when a civilian cargo aircraft crashed into the village of Hoa Cuong on 24 December. Deeds to the new homes were presented to the villagers during formal dedication ceremonies on 23 January.

Well-drilling projects at An Khe and Cu Chin were completed.
in January. Two producing wells were drilled at An Khe and five at Cu Chi.

On 22 January, MCB-10 completed construction of a 165-foot bridge over the Song Tuy Loan River. Built of timber, the new bridge has a 60-ton capacity.

At the end of January, major projects under construction by MCB-9 included cantonments for the First Marine Division and buildings for the First Military Police Battalion. In the Danang East area, MCB-5 continued construction of the Naval Support Activity Exchange facility at Elephant Beach and the amphitheater at the China Beach rest and recreation center.

* * * * *
SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 9 January the 2,300 ton dredge, JAMAICA BAY, was mined by the Viet Cong. The dredge, stationed in the My Tho River at Dong Tam, was sunk at 0525 by at least two large, controlled mines placed on either side of the hull. The huge craft, one of the few of its kind in the world, had been engaged in dredging operations incident to the establishment of the Riverine Assault Force support base at Dong Tam.

There were 20 American civilians and five Vietnamese on board the civilian-owned dredge at the time of the mining. Three Americans were killed and one American, trapped below decks, was rescued and treated for shock. There were no other serious casualties. At the time of the explosion, the dredge was shut down for normal weekend maintenance and most of the crew were ashore.

JAMAICA BAY suffered extensive damage. One explosion tore a hole seven feet high and nine feet long in the starboard side. On the port side, the blast opened a hole 15 feet long and seven feet high. The main deck was ruptured and distorted extensively. An LCM-6 moored to the port side of the dredge also was sunk.

The dredge came to rest on the river bottom in approximately 25 feet of water, in a position 100 yards east of the Dong Tam entrance channel and approximately 150 yards from the north bank of the river. Because its starboard spud was in a lowered position at the time of the explosions, the dredge settled with a 40 degree port list.
Salvage operations were begun immediately by Harbor Clearance Unit ONE (HCU-1). Harbor Clearance Team Three (HCT-3) was sent from Vung Tau with two heavy lift craft (HLCs 1 and 2) and one light lift craft (LLC-2). On 12 January HCT-4 and eight personnel of HCT-5 arrived from Subic Bay to assist.

On 11 January the HCU-1 Salvage Master and COMSERVPAC and COMNAVFORV salvage officers conducted a joint preliminary salvage inspection. It was subsequently decided to raise the wreck in successive stages until the holed areas were exposed and could be patched above water.

Because of the heavy dead weight of the sunken dredge, two more heavy lift craft (HLCs 3 and 4) were dispatched from Subic Bay and arrived on the scene by the end of the month. Harbor Clearance Team 2 and the remainder of HCT 5 also were deployed to operate the lift craft. In addition, YDT-11 was towed from Subic Bay to the salvage site to provide berthing, messing and shop facilities for salvage personnel.

Excellent progress was made by the salvage forces during the month. By 30 January all heavy lift wires had been passed under the dredge, the starboard spud had been removed and the JAMAICA BAY had been returned to an essentially upright position.

Meanwhile, efforts continued to make the hull watertight from the keel to the 02 level in the event dewatering of the dredge became necessary to supplement the force supplied by the lift craft. A patch for the hole in the port side was constructed, and
fabrication of the starboard side patch was begun. Patching of the
deckhouse at the 01 level on the starboard side was completed.

Another salvage operation conducted in January involved a U.S.
minesweeper. On 14 January MSB-14, while conducting minesweeping
operations in the Long Tau River, collided with the Norwegian motor
vessel, MUI FINN, and sank. The collision occurred at 0625 in the
vicinity of buoy six at the mouth of the Long Tau channel. Three
of the MSB's crew were lost and one of the four survivors was
seriously injured.

Harbor Clearance Team 4 and the Salvage Master of HCU-1 were
dispatched to the scene from Dong Tam and began salvage operations
on 15 January. The wooden-hulled minesweeping boat was located
with at least 50 per cent of the port mid-section missing or
demolished.

On 17 January the MSB was raised to the surface by YD-220.
However, the lift effort was stopped because the hull showed signs
of breaking in half amidships while being lifted clear of the
surface. The MSB was then secured alongside YD-220 and transported
to Vung Tau. There the hull was cut in two pieces and lifted onto
a barge for delivery to Nha Be, where the hull was to be dismantled
and the machinery and parts salvaged.

On 1 January off Chu Lai, USS MAHOMEN COUNTY (LST-912)
dragged anchor, broached parallel to the beach and came aground on
rocks inside the surf zone. Seventh Fleet salvage forces, assisted
by HCU-1 Team 1 from Danang, immediately began an intensive but
unsuccessful effort to save the stricken ship.

All attempts to free MAHOMEN COUNTY were consistently thwarted by a rock ledge that extended to seaward along the full length of the ship. In addition, salvage efforts were subjected to northeast monsoon weather with winds as high as 40 knots and an 18 foot plunging surf. As a result of the initial impact on grounding and the working of the ship in heavy surf, MAHOMEN COUNTY suffered severe damage. All spaces below the third deck were holed and open to the sea, and the tank deck was cracked completely athwartships at frame 22. The main deck suffered small cracks in several areas and the bow doors were sprung open and the foundations cracked.

Salvage operations were terminated on 31 January. Because of the extensive damage, COMSERVPAC recommended that the ship be decommissioned and stripped of usable equipment.

Several minor salvage operations were completed during the month. At Cat Lo, a commercial dredge pumping fill into the waterfront area sucked up an 81mm shell which exploded and ruptured the suction pipe. The pipe section was removed but not blanked. The incoming tide caused the dredge to tilt and take on water through the open tube. The craft subsequently sank. The Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT) Saigon detachment at Cat Lo used YD-220 to raise the dredge.

On 8 January the NAVSUPPACT Danang detachment at Dong Ha used Mobile Construction Battalion 5 equipment to refloat Landing Craft Utility (LCU) 1493. The LCU had broached and grounded south of the mouth of the Cua Viet River on 31 December.

* * * * *

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JAMAICA BAY RESTING ON THE MEKONG RIVER BOTTOM AFTER BEING MINED BY THE VIET CONG ON 9 JANUARY 1967
HEAVY LIFT CRAFT RIGHT JAMAICA BAY
T.M.-21 IS TAKING IN THE LONG TAU CHANNEL.
In January, the volume of message traffic handled by the COMNAVFORV Communications Center increased to 91,094, the highest single month total to date. Totals during the past six months were as follows:

- August - 73,060
- September - 75,970
- October - 75,694
- November - 76,975
- December - 88,687
- January - 91,094

Three new circuits were activated during the month: a half-duplex covered teletype circuit to the Coastal Surveillance Center at An Thoi; and two circuits (voice and teletype) to Commander River Assault Flotilla ONE embarked in USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST-1169) at Vung Tau.

At Cam Ranh Bay, construction work (PROJECT BOWLINE) on the Communications Center, the transmitter site and the receiver site was, respectively, 87 per cent, 32 per cent and 87 per cent complete. When complete, the facilities will provide communications support for Fleet Air Activities and Coastal Surveillance Forces in addition to message center functions for naval activities in the Cam Ranh Bay area. The electronics installation phase of the project was expected to begin on 1 February.

In Danang, the construction of new facilities (PROJECT SEA ANHOR) designed to upgrade Naval Support Activity communications progressed satisfactorily. At month's end, the Communications Center was 40 per cent complete, the receiver site 30 per cent complete, the transmitter site 20 per cent complete and the electronics installation phase 10 per cent complete.
complete, and the transmitter site 15 per cent complete. The electronics installation was scheduled to start in mid-March.

* * * * *
MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

In January, psychological operations aimed at Viet Cong defection were intensified amid preparations by the Vietnamese people to celebrate the lunar New Year (Tet). In accordance with the renewed emphasis the Tet season places on family reunion, special appeals were made to persuade Viet Cong to return to their families under government protection. U.S. and Vietnamese naval forces also continued to provide varied assistance, including support for Vietnamese school teachers, medical attention for indigenous civilians, and distribution of commodities to needy villagers.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, plastic bags containing government literature, safe-conduct passes and cigarettes were air-dropped in Viet Cong areas; also dropped were plastic buckets containing, in addition to soap and cigarettes, a personal appeal from the Guang Xuyen District Chief directed at Viet Cong commanders.

Along the coast, loudspeaker appeals made from PCFs were used in areas in which the Viet Cong rank and file were known to be particularly susceptible. Especially effective were personal appeals made by recent returnees. Some of these ralliers reported a mounting disposition on the part of Viet Cong to join the government cause.

In Danang, there were increasing indications that the Naval Support Activity's Military Civic Action program was making significant progress. A key aspect of the program is the Village
UNCLASSIFIED

Assistance Team (VAT). Six four-man teams are now in the field, virtually living in villages and performing such varied services as helping to build homes and schools and holding sick call for civilians on a daily basis.

Medical officers and hospital corpsmen in Danang held sick call on Monday mornings for orphans and other children at the dispensary of the Stella Maris Convent. At the Station Hospital, over 300 Vietnamese civilians received outpatient treatment and 31 were admitted as major surgical cases. In addition, in various hamlets south of Danang, a medical team composed of two volunteer hospital corpsmen treated over 5,000 civilians for various ailments.

In the First Coastal/Naval Zone, personnel of Coastal Group 14 continued to resettle refugees in villages near the Coastal Group base, providing the refugees with food and medical aid. Meanwhile, near Chu Lai, Coastal Group 15 personnel helped build a permanent dispensary in the village of Ké Ha.

In the Third Coastal/Naval Zone, personnel of Coastal Group 32 conducted an independent medical civic action project (MEDCAP) involving Vietnamese doctors, dentists and corpsmen. The project was conceived, organized and executed by the Vietnamese.

In January, a Vietnamese Navy hospital ship, LSM(H) 401, conducted an extended psychological warfare mission at Vung Tau and at the Coastal Group 35 base in Hung My. During the 13-day mission, a total of 401 medical and 55 dental patients were treated. In addition, the ship's cultural platoon provided entertainment.
CAPTAIN C. O. PACETTI, USN, HOLDS DAUGHTER OF THE VILLAGE OF HUI CHOW IN AN HUNG SHOIN
UNCLASSIFIED

for the inhabitants of the areas visited.

On 20 January in the Fourth Riverine Area, eight craft of River Assault Groups (RAGs) 31 and 33 conducted a psychological warfare mission in the villages of Vam Ky Mom and Xuan Do, in Dinh Tuong province. In addition to providing medical treatment for over 350 villagers, RAG personnel distributed 40 sacks of rice, 50 rolls of cloth, and assorted government literature. On 23 January, elements of RAG 25 conducted a psychological operation with American medical help in the remote hamlet of My Binh in Phong Dinh province. The hamlet, situated near the strategically important Tra On canal, became the scene of a flurry of activity as hundreds of inhabitants received medical treatment from Vietnamese and American corpsmen. In addition, foodstuffs and periodicals were distributed to the people.

In January, the number of special SeaCee Teams in country increased to six with the arrival of teams 0510 and 0807.

During the month, Team 0510, assigned to the city of Tan An in Long An province, conducted extensive training sessions at the Chieu Hoi (open arms) village in Tan An. The training included instruction in cement mixing, block mold tamping and curing techniques. Twelve Hoi Chans (returnees) worked with the team. Eventually, four of the returnees will be permanently assigned to the team as construction workers. The team's hospital corpsman and his Vietnamese trainee held sick call twice a week at the Chieu Hoi Village.
Meanwhile, Team 0807 was assigned to Dien Khanh in Khanh Hoa province. During the month the team began a number of construction jobs as well as land fill and road grading projects. The team also started fabricating playground equipment for schools in the district. In addition, the team began training inhabitants of a nearby hamlet in the techniques of mixing and placing reinforced concrete.

Throughout the month, the other Seabee Teams continued to help the Vietnamese build and improve homes, schools, hospitals, roads, and storage and sewerage systems. At the same time, team corpsmen treated hundreds of civilian patients in remote villages and hamlets. In An Giang province, the corpsman of Team 0509 received letters of appreciation from the Nui Choc Hamlet Chief for the corpsman’s medical assistance.

The following is a tabulation of certain military civic action projects conducted by naval forces during January 1967. Construction projects involving renovation or repair are so indicated with an R.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USN</th>
<th>VNN</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>Bridges</td>
<td>1R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Culverts</td>
<td>1R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>Dispensaries</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>Dwellings/number of families</td>
<td>44/56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>Levelings/grading projects</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>Market places</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g.</td>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>2R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h.</td>
<td>Schools/classrooms</td>
<td>1/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i.</td>
<td>Toilets, public</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j.</td>
<td>School desks</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

66
### UNCLASSIFIED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>k. School swings</th>
<th>USN</th>
<th>VNN</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/4R</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4/4R</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Medical treatments:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. General medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Dental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Emergency evacuations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Cleft palate operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Medical patrols</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. Health and sanitation:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Immunizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Medical aides/nurses trained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Physical examinations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Blacksmith kits (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Cement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Lumber (board feet)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Medical, non-prescription</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Physical education kits (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. School kits (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Soap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Tin Sheets (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Woodworker kits (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l. Building supplies (nails)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Salad oil (gallons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. Blankets (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o. Scrap lumber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. Fire wood (truck loads)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>q. Corn meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r. Rolled wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s. Powdered milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t. Baby food (jars)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u. Cigarettes (packs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Toothbrushes (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w. Pencils (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x. Toothpaste (tubes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y. Textile kits (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z. Toys (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aa. Sand (bags)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bb. Personal kits (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cc. Health kits (each)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Recovered goods redistributed to the people:
   a. Sewing machines
      USN | VNN | TOTAL
      92  |  0  |  92
   b. Sampans
      2   |  0  |   2

6. Educational efforts:
   a. English classes/attendance
      173/2,412 | 0 | 173/2,412
   b. Movies/attendance
      4/500    | 0 |  4/500

7. Voluntary contributions (piasters) in support of:
   a. Religious needs
      1,000 | 0 | 1,000
   b. Schools
      197,713 | 0 | 197,713
   c. Festivals
      4,800 | 0 | 4,800
   d. Teachers' salaries
      5,000 | 0 | 5,000
   e. Needy families
      2,000 | 0 | 2,000

* * * *

68  UNCLASSIFIED
At the end of January, the personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy was 16,222 officers and enlisted men. This increase of 244 men over last month's total placed personnel strength 146 men over the authorized allowance of 16,076. The number of deserters discharged during the month increased from December's total of 39 to 62. The number of unauthorized absences rose from 214 to 229. However, 293 returned deserters were reintegrated into the Navy and were assigned billets with river assault and coastal groups.

Fleet Command

The Vietnamese Navy maintained 13 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam while four ships were assigned to river patrols and one ship escorted convoys to Cambodia. Fleet Command ship operations included: patrols; gunfire support missions; psychological warfare operations; and river assault operations support. ISIL 329, assigned escort duty, provided security for merchant ship convoys transiting the Mekong River to Tan Chau near the Cambodian border. The duration of each convoy transit from Vung Tau to Tan Chau and return is eight days. Each convoy is composed of seven or eight ships carrying fuel and other commodities to Cambodia.

PCs and PCEs patrolled coastal areas in the 1st, 2nd and 4th
VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS
AND
VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS

January 1967

LEGEND:

☐ - Coastal Surveillance Center
● - Coastal Group Base
X - Vietnamese Navy Incident
☒ - Vietnamese Marine Corps Incident

SCALE:
0 50
Nautical Miles
Naval Zones. These ships fired three gunfire missions in support of coastal group bases harassed by the enemy.

On 11 January, the wife of Nguyen Van Thieu, South Vietnam's Chief of State, christened a new patrol craft (PCE-12) in a ceremony held in Saigon. The craft, named NGOC HOI (formerly USS BRATTLEBORO (KPCER-852)), was refurbished at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Virginia, and delivered to a Vietnamese Navy crew. The crew sailed the ship to Saigon.

P GMs were utilized for coastal and river patrols in all four Naval Zones and in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The PG M s conducted four gunfire support missions. At 1355 on 8 January, PGM 602 detained one of two Thai fishing boats violating the territorial waters of the Republic of Vietnam at Fausse Obi Island, 30 miles west of the coast of the Ca Mau Peninsula. The PGM towed the fishing vessel to An Thoi where a search was conducted in liaison with the crew members of the Thai PGM 12 which serves with the Free World Military Forces in Vietnam. After a search that revealed nothing suspicious, the craft was released.

LSS1s and LSH1s provided patrol, gunfire support and convoy escort services in the 2nd and 3rd Naval Zones, the Rung Sat Special Zone and the 4th riverine Area. These ships conducted three gunfire support missions. LSS1 228 supported River Assault Group 23 in Operation DECKHOUSE IV during the first ten days of January.
MSCs were deployed on coastal patrol in the 1st Naval Zone.

MSC 116 carried out a psychological warfare mission on Cu Lao Cham Island 22 miles southwest of Danang.

MLMSs continued their daily sweep operations on the Saigon, Nha Be, and Long Tau rivers in spite of increased Viet Cong harassment. Six hostile fire or mining incidents occurred in these rivers during the month:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION1</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1110</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>MLMSs 154 and 159 came under recoilless rifle attack. One U.S. enlisted advisor and six Vietnamese sailors were wounded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>1130</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>MLMS 153 personnel noticed a pronounced strain on the sweep gear cable just before a mine exploded 65 feet astern of the boat. The sweep gear was slightly damaged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>MLMSs 153 and 160 received automatic weapons fire. Two Vietnamese sailors were wounded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>0740</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>MLMS 161 was sunk by a Viet Cong mine. Five Vietnamese sailors were wounded and the U.S. advisor, Boatswain's Mate First Class Frederick A. SIMS, USN, was reported missing. Later, his body was recovered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>1040</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>MLMS 160 personnel observed a mine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1The main shipping channel numbering system begins one mile from Saigon (Mile 1) and continues to Vung Tau; e.g., Mile 32 is 32 miles downstream from Saigon. See chart on page 73 for locations of incidents.
VIETNAMESE NAVY
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS
January 1967

SCALE:
0 5
Nautical Miles

CONFIDENTIAL
In 5

LOCATION (Mile) 27

ACTION

explosion 25 feet off the port bow. One Vietnamese sailor was wounded as the boat received minor damage.

1245

30

MIMs 153 and 158 came under small arms, automatic weapons and recoilless rifle fire. The two boats returned fire. No casualties were sustained.

Fleet Command logistic ships lifted 3,343 tons of cargo and 3,337 personnel in 29 missions during January. LSTs moved 2,004 tons of cargo; LSMs moved 339 tons; LCUs moved 100 tons. LSTs carried 2,417 Vietnamese Army (ARVN) troops while LSMs lifted 900. The logistical effort for January was a marginal improvement over the previous month's effort.

LDCN (UDT) activities were hindered by heavy weather most of the month. A hydrographic reconnaissance operation to be carried out in an area near Vung Tau was finally cancelled on 29 December after 22 LDCN had waited seven days for the seas to subside.

Six LDCN personnel waited on Pculo Obi Island from 2 to 10 January to begin diving efforts to find the remains of a Viet Cong trawler which was possibly sunk off the coast of the Ca Mau Peninsula by MARKET TIME forces on 1 January. However, heavy seas precluded the completion of this mission.

From 25 to 27 January, six LDCN personnel and their U.S. advisor participated in the attempted salvage of MIMS 161 which
had been sunk by a Viet Cong mine on Christmas Day. LCU(R) 537
supported the operation on 27 January. On the same day, a shipyard
diver was drowned; his body was not recovered. Salvage operations
were terminated without success.

Coastal Groups

The Northeast Monsoon continued to hamper maritime and
coastal patrol activity in the 1st and 2nd Naval Zones. The 125
junks employed in the four coastal zones searched 16,144 junks, an
average of 4,2 junks searched each day by each coastal group craft
during the month.

Beginning at 0400 on 13 January, an offensive operation was
conducted by Coastal Group 12 at Tu Nham in Thua Thien province
which was supported by PGM 610. During the operation, four Viet
Cong were killed, one was wounded and seven surrendered. The
coastal group unit also captured 16 of the enemy, eight of whom
were female cadre. The operation, which ended at 1830 on 14
January, also netted a quantity of ammunition and documents
captured.

At 1315 on 14 January, a Coastal Group 16 unit launched an
ambush two miles northwest of Co Lay. The Viet Cong suffered 20
killed or wounded. One M-1 rifle, a number of hand grenades, a
large quantity of mines, and one sampan were captured. Two
sampan were destroyed.
At approximately 0300 on 15 January, the rear base positions of Coastal Group 11 at Cua Viet in Quang Tri province were mortared by the Viet Cong. No casualties were sustained. Four hours later, a militia post just west of the Coastal Group 11 base suffered a Viet Cong attack. Coastal Group personnel came to the aid of the besieged post.

In the 2nd Naval Zone, heavy weather adversely affected patrol activity. One operation was conducted by units of Coastal Group 23 in an area seven miles southwest of the base at Song Cau in Phu Yen province. The operation, which commenced at 2200 on 20 January and ended at 1700 the next day, accounted for two Viet Cong killed, one wounded and one captured.

Blocking operations in support of Operation DECKHOUSE V were conducted by junks of the 3rd Naval Zone during early January. Coastal Groups 34, 35, 36, and 37 supported PER patrols throughout the period of operations by providing temporary base and logistic storage areas for the GAME WARDEN boats.

On 7 January, Coastal Group 36 units engaged the enemy in a fire fight on the Hau Ciang channel near the mouth of the Bassac River, 13 miles east of Soc Trang. Two Viet Cong were killed and one partially burned junk containing foodstuffs was captured.

On the same day, Coastal Group 35 personnel landed and engaged the enemy in a fire fight on the northern bank of the Ham Luong
River, 14 miles downstream from Ben Tre. One Viet Cong, captured in the action, was delivered into the custody of Vinh Binh sector forces.

On 12 January, Coastal Group 36 and Long Phu subsector forces conducted an operation two miles south of the Long Phu base in Ba Xuyen province. Four Viet Cong were killed; two Russian rifles and a number of documents were seized.

At 1200 on 30 December, Coastal Group 43, 44 and 45 units, coordinated with Regional and Popular forces (RF/PF) of Kien An, ambushed the Viet Cong near the Kien An base in Kien Giang province. One sailor, a member of Coastal Group 44, was killed. Enemy casualties could not be determined.

River Assault Groups

Of the 159 riverine craft available each day for operations, 119 were utilized. These boats were employed in escort, river patrol, static defense and combat operations. River Assault Groups (RAGs) provided highly professional support for operations FAIRFAX, CEDAR FALLS, and DECKHOUSE V. Additionally, RAGs of the 4th Riverine Area assisted in the training of approximately 60 U.S. personnel assigned to the new riverine Assault Force. All Vietnamese RAG personnel from commanding officers to non-rated men have been taking an active and enthusiastic part in this training.

In the 3rd Riverine Area the Vietnamese Navy RAGs participated
in Operation XAY DUNG 69/SL (U.S. code name: CEDAR FALLS) which commenced on 8 January and ended on the 20th. The Vietnamese Navy assigned 15 boats from RAGs 24, 26 and 30 and two boats from the River Transport and Escort Group. Also, Regional Force Boat Companies 25 and 28 provided 12 manned boats to support the operation. These RAG and boat company craft were utilized to lift troops, patrol the rivers and transport refugees from the Iron Triangle region into government-controlled areas. By the time Operation XAY DUNG 69/SL was terminated, riverine craft had lifted 1,857 civilian refugees, 240 civilian employees, 2,716 troops, 635 tons of ammunition, ten tons of food, 25 tons of equipment and 32 military vehicles.

On 3 January, 17 boats of RAGs 22 and 28 were assigned to support Operation FAIRFAX, a search and destroy operation in an area adjacent to the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ). The RAG units conducted patrols, transported troops and acted as blocking forces.

In 15 other operations in the RSSZ, RF/PF companies and RAG craft working as a combined force accounted for one wounded Viet Cong and the capture of one junk and a quantity of ammunition.

In the 4th Riverine Area, 17 boats of RAGs 23 and 31 supported two Vietnamese Marine battalions, part of DECKHOUSE V forces, in a search and destroy operation in Kien Hoa province between the My Tho and the Ba Lai rivers. The mission of the RAG craft was to
carry troops and to transport refugees into secure areas.

Operation CUU LONG 51/30 was conducted by the 7th ARVN Division, 8 miles west southwest of Go Cong. Nineteen boats of PAGs 21 and 27 provided support for this operation which began on 27 January and ended 1 February. Vietnamese Army forces reported that nine Viet Cong were killed, 49 Viet Cong defected, and 60 suspects were detained. Four of the detainees were identified as ARVN deserters. Six individual weapons, three mines, five reels of electrical wire, 61 fuses and a quantity of western medicines and documents were seized. Also, 38 mines and one medical station were destroyed.

Maintenance and Supply

Maintenance aboard Fleet Command ships continued to remain below U.S. minimal standards. Although seven major casualties on five ships were repaired by ships' force personnel during January, a shortage of specialists and electronics ratings adversely affected the ability of ships' crews to maintain equipment. To help alleviate this problem, six enlisted U.S. advisors were deployed on four patrol ships in January. By month's end, the advisors had already begun to make their influence felt, and definite improvement was noted on the part of a number of Vietnamese petty officers in such areas as leadership, initiative and professional knowledge.

The Vietnamese Navy repair facilities continued to lack
skilled personnel. Consequently, repair and overhaul periods were
much longer than originally scheduled. This situation received
top-level attention during the month. Captain Tran Van CHON, the
Commander in Chief of the Vietnamese Navy, conducted a thorough
inspection of the facilities of the Saigon Naval Shipyard and
reviewed the yard's administrative policies. As a result of the
inspection, Captain CHON directed that management techniques be
revised in an effort to improve utilization of personnel and
material resources at the yard.

A committee of three Vietnamese Navy officers and three U.S.
field supply advisors has been established to deal with adminis-
tration matters relative to locating a supply depot at each repair
facility. The committee has held briefings in the field to explain
supply procedures.

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

The Vietnamese Marine Brigade's operational battalions were
committed to action 84 per cent of the time in January. Although
enemy contact was light, a favorable kill ratio of 1:2.5 was
attained.

Vietnamese Marine Brigade Force Bravo, composed of two infantry
battalions, a 105mm howitzer battery and other controlling and
supporting elements, participated in Operation DECKHOUSE V, a
combined U.S. Marine Corps and Vietnamese Marine Corps amphibious
operation in the Thanh Phu area of Kien Hoa province. The brigade
force, embarked in U.S. 7th Fleet ships, underwent wet-net training
at Vung Tau on 2 and 3 January. After several postponements
because of heavy weather, the force was landed in a combined
helicopter and surface assault on the operations area on 7 January.
Throughout the operation, light contact was made with the enemy.
No friendly personnel casualties were sustained as a result of
enemy contact. Operation DECKHOUSE V was terminated 15 January
and the brigade force was returned to Vung Tau.

Brigade Force Alpha, composed of three infantry battalions,
a 105mm howitzer battery and other controlling and supporting
elements, conducted operations north and northwest of Dong Ha in I
Corps. The brigade force carried out search and destroy missions
by day and set ambushes at night in an area adjacent to the
demilitarized zone. Contact with the enemy was light.

On 25 January, Brigade Force Bravo, after having completed
participation in Operation DECKHOUSE V, moved to Qui Nhon and Bong
Son in II Corps. The force supported the 22nd Vietnamese Army
Division two days later with the marines acting as a blocking
force.

The 6th Vietnamese Marine Battalion continued Phase II of its
formative training at the base camp in Thu Duc. Small unit tactics
were stressed. The 3rd Vietnamese Marine Battalion completed its
retraining course at the National Training Center, Van Kiep, Binh Phuoc. Other Marine units conducted training as commitments permitted.

During January the Vietnamese Marines accounted for 37 enemy killed, 12 Viet Cong captured and 41 Viet Cong suspects detained. The marines also captured 79 mines, 30 grenade launchers, 17 individual weapons and one crew-served weapon. Friendly casualties were 15 marines killed and 47 wounded during the month.

The Vietnamese Marine Corps continued to demonstrate that it is an efficient fighting force with high morale and excellent leadership.

* * *

Vietnamese Navy Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coastal Force</th>
<th>Searched</th>
<th>Detained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Junks</td>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I CNZ</td>
<td>4,907</td>
<td>21,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II CNZ</td>
<td>2,967</td>
<td>8,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III CNZ</td>
<td>6,204</td>
<td>23,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV CNZ</td>
<td>2,065</td>
<td>6,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet Command</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrol Ships</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>1,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverine Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft</td>
<td>1,792</td>
<td>5,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>12,305</td>
<td>66,876</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistics

Captured Weapons/Equipment/Facilities:

- Grenades: 70
- 60mm mortars: 3 (1 U.S.-made)
- Submachine guns: 82

CONFIDENTIAL
Rifles                       9
Booby traps                  12
Machine gun barrel          1
Machine gun tripod           2
Mixed rounds of small arms   275
Pack                        1
Cartridge belts             3
Arms factory (mines)        1
Pounds lead                 150
Pounds steel                2,000
Pounds copper               1,200
50 KW generator             1
Drill press                 1
Vise, screw turn            1
Bags cement (100 kilogram bags) 100
Boxes TNT (60 pound boxes)  26
Base camp                   1

* * * * *
PROVINCE BOUNDARIES OF SOUTH VIETNAM
OCTOBER 1966

SCALE:
0 100
Statute Miles
APPENDIX II

SOME LESSONS LEARNED DURING RIVERINE OPERATIONS

Since the spring of 1966 the tempo of riverine operations has increased substantially. The following is a summary of some of the lessons learned during these operations.

1. River Patrolling:
   a. Boats should patrol in open column with an interval that will provide maximum radar coverage and at the same time afford mutual support.
   b. Boats should conduct truly random patrols using the following techniques:
      (1) Drift with the tide or current.
      (2) Two boats proceed downstream at low speed while two boats some distance astern drift with the current.
      (3) Patrol to the left or right of the center of the river.
   c. At night, when patrol boats encounter small caliber non-automatic fire from the beach, the best tactic is to ignore the sniping or to answer only with non-automatic small arms until the source of the sniping is pinpointed. If the sniper is within range, the grenade launcher provides an effective response.
   d. Boat patrols should be alert to the Viet Cong tactic of employing harassing fire from one bank in order to drive a patrol craft toward the opposite bank where an ambush has been set.
   e. When fired upon from the shore by heavy weapons, patrol boats should respond with all available fire power and withdraw.
at maximum speed. The attack should be reported and requests made for air or artillery support. The boats should stand by out of range to assist the supporting unit in pinpointing the ambush site.

f. When conducting search operations, boat patrols should be alert to Viet Cong decoy tactics. An example of such tactics is positioning one boat without contraband and proper documents in a manner that will permit detection and the distraction needed to allow other craft to escape.

g. When approaching a contact, patrols should close at an angle that permits the maximum number of weapons to bear on the target. At night, contacts should be approached darkened and at high speeds, and illuminated at close range. Spotlights should be aimed before being turned on.

2. Boarding and Search:

a. Patrol boats should not proceed directly alongside a suspicious contact; instead, when within optimum illumination range, the contact should be called alongside. This allows maximum surveillance at all times. Patrol boats should remain in mid-stream as much as possible. If it is necessary to close a contact it should be done quickly, and the contact taken in tow and returned to mid-stream before searching begins.

b. Boats being searched should not be moored to. The use of boat hooks or the engines to stay alongside will facilitate a quick breakaway.

c. When searching a boat, close attention should be paid to
the drift of the boats in order to avoid grounding or being set
dangerously close to a hostile shore.

d. All lines leading into the water should be checked for
contraband. A line should be passed down both sides and under
the keel when checking a particularly suspicious craft.

e. All craft that are searched should be checked for a false
or double bottom.

3. Offensive River Ambushes:

a. When conducting or planning offensive ambushes, effort
should be made to conduct coordinated ambushes with Vietnamese
Navy (VNN) ships and River Assault Group craft, Regional Force/
Popular Force boat companies, National Police unite and Vietnamese
Army forces ashore.

b. Prior arrangements should be made for air, artillery and
VNN support of the ambush force in case it is attacked by a
superior force.

c. Tidal and river currents should be used to reach ambush
positions with engines shut down. Noise from the boat's engines
carries a long way and warns the Viet Cong of approaching craft.

l. River Assault Group (RAG) Operations:

a. Pre-planning indoctrination should include:

(1) Action to be taken when ambushed.

(2) Requirements for the wearing of life jackets and
flak jackets.

(3) The conditions of readiness required when underway.
b. When planning and conducting operations in new areas, aerial reconnaissance of the areas should be made. Generally, existing maps and charts are not up to date.

c. Each boat in an operation should be clearly marked for identification from the air.

d. The Command Post's location, i.e., ashore, afloat or airborne, should be decided as early in the planning as possible.

e. Timely early coordination with the local district and province chiefs is essential. Canals or rivers often mark the boundaries between districts and provinces.

5. Mines in River Warfare:

a. The Viet Cong use both command-detonated and time-delay water mines.

b. The Viet Cong utilize small craft or swimmers to place mines in rivers and waterways. It is estimated that the majority of water mines are positioned and made ready to fire in a matter of 5 to 10 minutes.

c. The Viet Cong delay placement of mines until patrol craft and minesweepers have passed a selected target area.

d. The Viet Cong mark the locations of mines by use of small floating devices such as coconuts or sticks and utilize them as ranging guides to indicate when an intended target is within lethal range.

e. The Viet Cong emplace water mines in the narrows of a river to limit the length of the command-detonating wire, and to provide

II-4

UNCLASSIFIED
for greater accuracy by capitalizing on the restricted maneuverability of the intended target.

f. As a diversion, the Viet Cong will initiate an ambush against patrol craft and minesweepers at a location other than the area to be mined.

g. The use of a chain drag sweep appears to be the most effective countermeasure against command-detonated mines. However, the slow speed at which it must be towed presents a hazard to the towing craft and prevents its use as a precursor sweep.

6. River Patrol Boat Operations During Delta Flood Conditions:

a. If the Viet Cong remain in a stronghold for at least a short period after the flood waters start rising, River Patrol Boats (PBRs) should be moved into the area before the water reaches flood stages in order to detect the Viet Cong as they move out of the stronghold.

b. Hedging, using a grapnel, is the only effective way of working PBRs through old canals overgrown with moss.

c. The usual planning factors for moving PBRs are not adequate during flood operations. The large amount of debris, and the need to use slow speeds to avoid washing out houses and swamping boats, necessitate an abnormally slow speed during transits.

d. Snakes are a continuing problem during flood operations. Snakes are found not only in the trees and waters; often they clog pumps. Training in recognizing poisonous varieties is essential.

e. Each boat should have a qualified swimmer aboard to go