SALVAGE OPERATIONS

Salvage operations on the dredge, JAMAICA BAY, which was sunk by Viet Cong mines in January, continued throughout the month. In a series of consecutive lifts during optimum tidal conditions, JAMAICA BAY was systematically moved toward the river bank.

Excellent progress was made, and on 8 February the dredge was lifted on a rising tide, turned 180 degrees and moved up a six-foot dredged step approximately 300 feet toward shore.

However, on 9 February one of the four heavy lift craft (HLC-2) engaged in the operation sank alongside JAMAICA BAY in 30 feet of water, temporarily suspending the salvage operations. An around-the-clock effort on the part of Harbor Clearance Unit personnel resulted in refloating HLC-2 on 13 February.

On 16 February, JAMAICA BAY again was lifted and by 21 February the dredge had been moved sufficiently close to shore to permit the placement of patches. Dewatering was delayed, however, by the discovery of additional damage to the JAMAICA BAY's port side, apparently caused by the heavy lift wires cutting into the hull. By month's end, 70 per cent of the starboard side and 90 per cent of the port side had been patched.

Another salvage operation in February involved a U.S. Navy minesweeper. On 15 February, while conducting a chain drag sweep of the Long Tan River in an area 15 miles southeast of Saigon, MSB 47 was taken under heavy enemy fire from both banks of the river. The minesweeper was struck on the port side by 75-mm. recoilless
rifle fire and began to sink. Another minesweeper and a PBR pushed MSB 49 to the beach, and secured it with mooring lines to trees along the shore line.

In addition to severe damage to the pilot house and bridge, MSB 49 suffered a three by four foot hole in the port side amidships below the water line. Electrical and engineering equipment were extensively damaged by water.

Salvage operations were begun immediately. A temporary patch was placed on the hole in the port side and, less than two hours after the enemy attack, MSB 49 was taken under tow to Nha Be.

*** ***
LSE-15 REACHED IN THE LONG TAU CHANNEL FOLLOWING WEST CONG AERUSH
ON 15 FEBRUARY 1967
The volume of message traffic handled by the COMNAVFORV communications center dropped from January's record high of 91,094 messages to 75,000 in February. The daily average number of messages handled dropped by 210 from the previous month's average. The February daily volume of traffic handled at Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang remained the same as in January.

NAVSUPPACT Danang handled priority traffic for Marine and Army advisors in I Corps for three days after the interim tape relay facility at Danang was destroyed during a Viet Cong rocket attack on 27 February. The Danang communications center also helped reduce the backlog of low-precedence Marine message traffic by acting as a relay from the Defense Communications System station at Nha Trang.

Progress at Danang on Project SEA ANCHOR was satisfactory during the month. The percentage of construction completed at the communications center, receiver site and transmitter site was 57, 50 and 29 per cent, respectively. Delivery of electronic equipment to the building sites had begun.

At Cam Ranh Bay, construction work on the communications center and the transmitter and receiver sites (Project BOW LINE) was 50 per cent complete. Installation of electronic equipment at the various sites was in progress.

USS ANNAPOLIS (AGMR-1) returned to station on 16 February and reactivated the local area broadcast (ANNALAB). MARKET TIME DERS
MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>CY 1966</th>
<th>CY 1967</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLASH</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMMEDIATE</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIORITY</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROUTINE</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and MSOs shifted to the ANNALAB broadcast and reported excellent results. Also, a CW circuit was established for MSOs without an on-line crypto capability.

****

55 CONFDIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

COVERED TELETYPewriter LINES

NAVSUPPACT DET CAM RANH BAY
CSC DANANG

CSC NHA TRANG
MSTSG SAIGON

CSC QUI NHON
NAVCOMMSTA PHIL

CSC VUNG TAU

NAVSUPPACT DET CAT LO

NAVSUPPACT DET/CTG 116.2 NHA BE

MACV COC
VNN HQ SAIGON

RIVSEC HQ LONG XUYEN

DCS2 RELAY PHU LAM

CTF 117 VUNG TAU

NAVSUPPACT SAIGON

NAVSUPPACT DANANG

ATCU1 100A/CTF 116 OPCEN CAN THO

RIVDIV HQ MY THO
RIVDIV HQ SA DEC

RIVSEC HQ VINH LONG

1ATCU - Air Transportable Communication Unit
2DCS - Defense Communications System
3LONG XUYEN - Will terminate March 1967
MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

During February, military civic action and psychological operations revolved around the Lunar New Year (Tet) season, the most important holiday in the Vietnamese calendar. Special leaflet and broadcast appeals were made to the Viet Cong, stressing the traditional family nature of the holiday.

In addition to coordinated Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) appeals, U.S. and Vietnamese naval personnel participated in numerous Tet activities in a variety of ways. At Danang, Naval Support Activity personnel provided food for the widows and orphans of 391 Vietnamese Army (ARVN) soldiers in ceremonies presided over by the wife of the Commanding General of I Corps. Near Danang, Seabee Battalion 9 sponsored a Tet party in a Buddhist hamlet; included in the items provided were three pigs and over 1,000 pounds of rice. In the Second Coastal/Naval Zone, Coastal Group 26 hosted a Tet celebration for the village chief and the village elders of Binh Ba, an island near Cam Ranh.

In the Third Coastal/Naval Zone, the effectiveness of a large-scale civic action mission conducted in December (WHAMO 1-66) in the Viet Cong-controlled hamlet of Ap An Loi was demonstrated during the Tet season. On 11 February, three Viet Cong turned themselves in at the Coastal Group 34 base. The returnees (Hoi Chanhs) reported that there were other Viet Cong disposed to defection who were deterred by uncertainty about government treatment and fear of Viet Cong reprisals. The following day two
more Viet Cong rallied.

On 13 February, the five Hoi Chanhs were allowed to return to the village area without guards to spread the word about the good treatment they had received. That afternoon three more Viet Cong became Hoi Chanhs.

By 20 February a total of 19 Viet Cong, including a village chief, had returned to government jurisdiction. Additional WHAMOs (Winning Hearts and Minds Operations) were planned for the Ap An Loi area.

On the morning of 27 February, when the Viet Cong attacked the Danang Air Base with 140-mm. rockets, approximately ten of the rounds landed in Hoa Cuong, a nearby village. Thirty-nine civilians were killed, over 40 others were injured, and about 65 per cent of one hamlet was razed by fire.

Naval Support Activity personnel joined ARVN and Danang city officials in providing immediate relief for the victims of the attack. Assistance included medical care, food, potable water, and clothing. In addition, naval personnel provided tents to accommodate about half of the persons rendered homeless.

Seabee Teams continued to play an important role in civic action programs. In the Bao Trai area in Hau Nghia province, Team 0805 made improvements to the village dispensary and the Duc Lap school, and rebuilt a 300-yard street near the local Catholic church. The team's hospital corpsmen held frequent sick calls at the local prisons and the Chieu Hoi compound, treating 489
Vietnamese during February.

At Vinh Long, Team 1107 neared completion of the surgical suite for the Vinh Long Hospital. Seven Vietnamese construction trainees and ten Vietnamese plasterers and bricklayers are currently working with the Seabees on the project. The finished suite will have three operating rooms, a recovery room and two wards. The hospital is the largest of its kind constructed for civilians in the Mekong Delta.

The following is a tabulation of certain military civic action projects conducted by naval forces during February 1967.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>USN</th>
<th>VN</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Bridges</td>
<td>1R</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Churches/Temples/Pagodas</td>
<td>1R</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Dwellings/Number of Families</td>
<td>35/35</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>35/35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Leveling/Grading Projects</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Roads/ Tenths of Kilometers</td>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Schools/Classrooms</td>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Toilets, Public</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Walls</td>
<td>1R</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Civic Center</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Flag Poles</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Blackboards</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l. Barracks (Squad Size)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Jails</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. Supply Rooms</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o. Kitchens</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. Training Areas with Stage for Lectures</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>q. Dependent Housing for RF Companies (Sq. ft.)</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r. Boat docks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s. Raised Platforms (Sq. ft.)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t. Gardens</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u. Dirt Fill (Cubic Meters)</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>USN</td>
<td>VNN</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Aluminum roofing (sheets)</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w. Wallboard (sheets)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x. Diesel engines</td>
<td>1R</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Medical treatments:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. General medicine</td>
<td>17,380</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>17,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Dental</td>
<td>1,195</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Surgery</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Laboratory procedures</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Health and sanitation:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Classes on personal hygiene/attendance</td>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Immunizations</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Medical aides, nurses, trained</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Physical examinations</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Spray insecticide operations</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Health education literature</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified);</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Cement</td>
<td>155,200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>155,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Clothing</td>
<td>1,520</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>2,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Fertilizer</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Food</td>
<td>101,675</td>
<td>123,900</td>
<td>225,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Lumber (board feet)</td>
<td>130,850</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>130,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Medical, non-prescription</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. School kits (number)</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Soap</td>
<td>2,573</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>3,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Tin sheets (number)</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Woodworker kits (number)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. School supplies</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l. Textile kits (number)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Hygienic supplies (cases)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. Cigarettes (pkas)</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o. Blankets</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1,303</td>
<td>1,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. Garden kits (number)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>q. Sand/Gravel (cubic meters)</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r. Plywood (sheets)</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s. Paint (gallon)</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t. Toys (number)</td>
<td>15,020</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u. Heto-tillers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Salted oil (gallons)</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w. Screen wire (rolls)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x. Fencing (rolls)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y. Firewood (truck loads)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z. Sewing machines</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aa. Personal kits</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>USN</td>
<td>VNN</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ab. Toothpaste (tubes)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>1,499</td>
<td>1,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ac. Wheat (sacks)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ad. Baby food (cases)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ae. Candy</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>af. 55 gallon drums (number)</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ag. Newspapers</td>
<td>11,075</td>
<td>6,975</td>
<td>18,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ah. Magazines</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>9,600</td>
<td>9,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Educational efforts:
   a. English classes/attendance | 157/3,452 | 0 | 157/3,452
   b. Vocational training (daily)/attendance | 4/103 | 0 | 4/103

6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:
   a. Orphanages | 5,600 | 0 | 5,600
   b. Religious needs | 12,000 | 0 | 12,000
   c. Schools | 26,500 | 0 | 26,500
   d. Solatia | 3,000 | 0 | 3,000

* * * * *
The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy was 16,291 at the end of February. The figure represented an increase of 69 over January's total and brought the personnel strength to 215 over the authorized allowance of 16,076.

The number of personnel discharged as deserters decreased by 19 to a total of 43 in February. However, the number of unauthorized absences was 451 or twice as many as January's total. The sharp rise in the number of personnel absent without leave was attributed to the Tet holiday season.

At the Naval Academy in Nha Trang, seven students of Class 16 were set back to Class 17 because of poor scholarship. Class 16 is now composed of 129 students and is tentatively scheduled to be graduated on 3 July 1967.

The Naval Advanced Training Center in Saigon has been training pre-commissioning crews for the patrol motor gunboats scheduled to become operational in the Vietnamese Navy. This training program, which was begun on 30 January, includes gunnery, seamanship and navigation training aboard afloat units.

**Fleet Command**

In February, the Fleet Command maintained 11 patrol ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam in addition to assigning four ships to river patrols and one ship to convoy escort duties.
VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS AND VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS

LEGEND:
- Coastal Surveillance Center
- Coastal Group Base
- Vietnamese Navy Incident
- Vietnamese Marine Corps Incident

Operation QUYET THANG 71
Operation HOANG AN 2
Operation SONG THAN 1
Operation SONG THAN 4
Operation SONG THAN 6
Operation NHA TRANG
Operation MUERTO DOG
Operation VIETNAM

SCALE:
0 50 Nautical Miles

CONFIDENTIAL SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED NOT RELEASEABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS
on the Mekong. Twenty-nine gunfire support missions were fired by Fleet Command ships, an increase of 20 over January's total, and 279 junks were searched.

Patrol craft (PCs and PCEs) conducted coastal patrols in the First, Second and Fourth Naval Zones and fired six gunfire support missions. On 8 February, PCE 8 and units of Coastal Group 16 supported U.S. Marine Corps elements in an operation near Duc Pho in Quang Ngai province. From 10 to 15 February, PCE 12 supported a U.S. Army operation 25 miles southwest of Phan Rang in Ninh Thuan province. The last PCE operation of the month occurred on 21 February when PCE 12 apprehended a junk carrying unmanifested cargo 22 miles northeast of the Coastal Group 25 base in Khanh Hoa province. The cargo included 11 motor bikes and a quantity of medicine and cloth. The junk was released to Coastal Group 25 personnel for delivery to Vietnamese government customs officials in Nha Trang.

Gunboats (PGMs) were utilized for coastal patrols and for river patrols in the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ), firing five gunfire support missions during the month. At 1430 on the first day of February, PGM 611 reported an engineering casualty 8 miles southeast of Mui Dinh in Ninh Thuan province. USS PLUCK (MSO 464) assisted the disabled ship by towing her to Cam Ranh Bay.

Support landing ships (LSSIs and LSIs) participated in patrol, gunfire support and convoy escort services in the Third
Naval Zone, the RSSZ, and the Fourth Riverine Area. These ships fired 18 gunfire support missions. At 1550 on 23 February, LSSL 231 fired 400 40-mm. rounds, five 3-inch rounds and two rounds of 81-mm. mortar fire into the southern bank of the Bassac River 30 miles southeast of Can Tho, destroying two Viet Cong bunkers.

Minesweepers (MSCs) were deployed on coastal patrol in the First Naval Zone while MLMSs continued daily sweep operations on the Saigon, Nha Be and Long Tau rivers.

A total of 22 logistic missions lifted 2,075 tons of cargo and 4,140 personnel during the month. Tank landing ships (LSTs) moved 1,090 tons of cargo and 455 personnel. Medium landing ships (LSTs) lifted 640 tons and 2,485 troops while utility landing craft (LCUs) transported 345 tons of cargo and 1,200 troops.

Vietnamese UDT (IDNN) personnel continued their nightly harbor defense operations in the Saigon port area. On 17 February, six IDNN personnel and their U.S. Navy advisors searched for MSB 45 which had been mined and sunk 15 miles downstream from Nha Be in the Long Tau channel two days earlier. The submerged minesweeper was found and, after it was determined that MSB 45 was not salvageable, the hull was destroyed by explosives to prevent a possible shipping hazard. On 21 February, six IDNN personnel began training exercises with U.S. Navy SEALs at Nha Be.

Coastal Groups

Of the 261 junks available each day for patrol operations,
a daily average of 131 was utilized throughout February. The junk force continued its anti-infiltration patrols throughout the truce period; the number of operating units in the Fourth Naval Zone was increased from 42 to 52 during the Tet holidays. However, because of the adverse effect of the Northeast Monsoon in the First, Second and Third Naval Zones, the total number of junks searched by coastal units was 14,128, a decrease of 1,554 from last month's effort.

During Operation QUEST THANG 71, which was conducted on 16 and 17 February by Quang Tin sector forces and Coastal Group 14 units nine miles southwest of Hoi An in Quang Nam province, one Viet Cong was killed and eight suspects were detained. A number of defensive works and 11 mines were destroyed in the action.

Popular Forces from Tu Hien village and Coastal Group 16 teamed up to conduct Operation HOANG ANH 2 on 17 February just northwest of Co Lay in Quang Ngai province. Six Viet Cong suspects were detained.

At 2010 on 22 February, the Viet Cong shelled the Coastal Group 14 Cua Dai base with ten rounds of 82-mm. mortar fire; LSSL 230 came to the support of the camp. The casualties numbered seven men wounded who were evacuated to Danang after the attack.

On 23 February, the Viet Cong ambushed personnel of Coastal Group 26. One Vietnamese sailor was killed in the attack.

Coastal Group 26 personnel captured five Viet Cong and two
junks during a search operation in Tu Nham village in Phu Yen province on 26 February.

Coastal Group 32 units and Phuoc Tuy sector forces conducted Operation CHU THANG 8 on 12 February and were engaged in a fire fight at the southern foot of Chau Vien mountain in Phuoc Tuy province. Neither friendly forces nor Viet Cong sustained any personnel casualties but Viet Cong defensive works were destroyed.

One Russian rifle, five bayonets and one Viet Cong flag were captured by Coastal Group 35 personnel and Vinh Binh sector forces during a search operation six miles east of Hung My in Vinh Binh province on 26 February.

In the Gulf of Thailand, along the Cai Lon River in Kien Giang province, units of Coastal Groups and Regional Force/Popular Force (RF/PF) troops destroyed numerous Viet Cong shelters in a search operation on 1 February.

Coastal Groups 42 and 46 debarked 240 troops in Operation MUEKTU 003 which swept the western tip of Phu Quoc Island seven miles northwest of Cuu Can village. Thirteen Viet Cong were killed and one suspect was detained. A number of documents and 22 weapons were captured. The action occurred between 3 and 5 February.

**River Assault Groups**

A total of 113 River Assault Group (RAG) craft, of the 155 available, was the daily average utilized for combat operations, escort, river patrol, and static defense operations during
February. Twenty one RAG operations were conducted in the RSSZ and eight operations in the Fourth Riverine Area.

The Fourth Riverine Area commander and the commanding officers of RAGs 21 and 25 continued to be enthusiastic about the training program for the personnel of the U.S. Riverine Assault Force (TF 117). Approximately 140 U.S. Navy personnel have participated in the RAG training program which will prepare them for U.S. river assault operations in the Mekong Delta.

Twenty of the 21 RAG operations in the RSSZ involved support of RF/PF companies assigned to the RSSZ area and Operation FAIRFAX. The results of the combined operations were the capture of the following items: one "claymore" mine, 23 grenades, five 57-mm. rounds, 180 meters of electric wire, and one junk. Also, several trench systems were destroyed.

Fifteen craft of RAGs 22, 26 and 28 were engaged in Operation KUNG SAT 16/67, in an area adjacent to Operation FAIRFAX units, from 3 to 8 February. Five Viet Cong were killed and two enemy camps were destroyed during the operation.

At 1500 on 5 February, two FOMs and one commandament of RAG 24 enroute to Saigon noted a large sampan carrying 15 men taking evasive maneuvers toward the east bank of the Rach Gat River in Go Cong province. The lead FOM and the sampan exchanged automatic weapons fire, and 25 Viet Cong were seen carrying BAR-type weapons along the bank. An air strike was requested and after the
VIETNAMESE NAVY RIVERINE OPERATIONS

February 1967

LEGEND:
- RAG Base
- VNN Operation
- Support Operation

SCALE: 0 - 16 Nautical Miles

Operation FAIRFAX
Operation HUNG SAT 16/67
SAIGON
NHA BE

Operation CHU LONG 55/SD

CONFIDENTIAL
SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS
helicopter fire team had suppressed the hostile fire the RAG sailors landed and searched the tree line and huts in the area. Upon questioning the local inhabitants, the RAG commander ascertained that the Viet Cong were buying supplies and had attempted the daylight movement because it would be unexpected. By 1825, the landing party had returned to the boats with captured weapons that included one .30 caliber Chinese Communist (CHICOM) automatic rifle, one bolt-action CHICOM rifle, one Winchester 7.62-mm. rifle, three CHICOM grenades, one diesel-powered sampan, and five drums of diesel fuel. At 1905, when the boats began to back into the river, enemy fire was again received. The commandment beached and returned the fire with 20-mm. cannon and 81-mm. mortar rounds. At 1920, after the hostile fire had been suppressed, the RAG units continued the transit to Saigon without further incident.

In the Forth Riverine Area, two major operations were conducted. The first, Operation HAI DUONG 1/67 produced few results while the second, Operation CUU LONG 55/SD, accounted for an impressive haul of Viet Cong booty.

Operation HAI DUONG, which was conducted on 10, 11 and 12 February in the Bassac River six miles southeast of Tra On in Vinh Binh province, was designed to prevent reported Viet Cong infiltration. Eleven river craft of RAGs 25 and 29, two RF companies, and one Vietnamese Army (ARVN) battalion, supported by LSSL 229, were the participating forces of the operation in which
no contact with the enemy was established.

Operation CUU LONG 55/SD, a week-long action which began on 20 February, was conducted in the Binh Dai area of Kien Hoa province. Participating in the action were four ARVN battalions, two Ranger battalions and one Regional Force battalion. Sixteen river craft of RAGs 21, 27 and 33 and LCUs 534, 537 and 538 provided troop lift, logistical support and a blocking force for the ground troops.

Friendly casualties, which were limited to the ground forces, were five killed and 16 wounded. Sixty Viet Cong were killed with an additional 40 probably killed; sixty-one suspects were detained.

The following equipment and facilities were either captured or destroyed:

**Equipment Captured:**

- 75-mm. pack howitzers 8
- 60-mm. mortars 4
- Anti-air machine guns 1
- Individual weapons 334
- Tons of assorted ammunition and explosives 40
- Kilos of documents 50
- Radios 1
- Vises 1
- Sewing machines 2
- Kilos of type for printing presses 30
- Paper cutters 1
- Motors for printing press 1
- Sampan motors 2
- Outboard motors 1

**Supplies and Facilities Destroyed:**

- Barges 8
SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS BY VIETNAMESE NAVY
SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES

SEARCHES

120,000
100,000
80,000
60,000
40,000
20,000
0

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

1966
1967

--- JUNKS

--- PEOPLE

DETENTIONS

1,200
1,000
800
600
400
200
0

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

1966
1967

CONFIDENTIAL
The lack of skilled repair facility personnel continued to delay the completion of repairs and overhauls. In an effort to insure the best possible use of the repair facilities at the Saigon shipyard, all shipyard work requests from ships were screened closely and those requests which were determined to be within the repair capability of the ship were rejected. In another effort to alleviate the repair problem, enlisted advisors were assigned to three Fleet Command ships and were assisting with shipboard repair and maintenance problems. During the month, 19 major casualties on eight ships were repaired by ships' personnel.

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

The Vietnamese Marine Corps continued to give evidence that it was a highly effective combat organization as the brigade's five operational battalions were committed to combat operations 77 per cent of the time during February. Although contact with the enemy was scattered and light, the Corps attained a kill ratio of 1:13.7, a substantial increase over the January ratio of 1:2.5.

Brigade Force Alpha was not operational until 20 February
when the force headquarters engaged in planning for Operation JUNCTION CITY. This search and destroy operation was conducted as a joint operation with the U.S. Army 25th Infantry Division northwest of Tay Ninh city in Tay Ninh province. After two days of negative contact with the enemy, a number of weapons and other articles were seized after light contact with the Viet Cong. One Vietnamese Marine was wounded in an action that netted one carbine, one Browning automatic rifle, one Czechoslovakian rifle, one light machine gun, 2,000 reams of paper and 30 cans of ink. On 28 February, one Vietnamese Marine battalion engaged an enemy platoon resulting in the death of one Marine and injuries to two others. One Viet Cong was killed. Captured were five anti-tank mines, one shotgun, one "claymore" mine, 30 hand grenades, 1,600 kilograms (3,600 lbs.) of rice and two bicycles.

Brigade Force Alpha continued participating in Operation JUNCTION CITY through the end of the month. On the last day of the month the force discovered and attacked a battalion-sized enemy base camp, killing one Viet Cong as the enemy fled before the attacking Marines.

Brigade Force Bravo, composed of a headquarters, the Third and Fourth Marine Battalions and Battery C of the Marine Artillery Battalion continued to operate in the Bong Son/Duong Lieu area in Binh Dinh province, under the operational control of the 22nd ARVN Division. From 2 to 6 February, the brigade force was committed.
to a search and destroy and road security operation, named Operation SONG THAN 1, in the Duong Lieu area. This operation resulted in negative contact with enemy forces.

Early on 7 February, the brigade force conducted a sweep north of Bong Son which resulted in only light enemy contact. No friendly casualties were sustained while three Viet Cong and two Chinese Communist hand grenades were captured.

From 14 to 22 February, Brigade Force Bravo, after having been augmented by the Second Marine Battalion, was committed to Operation PERSHING/SONG THANH 4, a search and destroy operation near Bong Son. This successful operation resulted in 54 Viet Cong killed, 51 Viet Cong captured and 90 suspects detained. Three Vietnamese Marines were killed and 27 were wounded. The following material and equipment were captured:

- Grenades 60
- Mauser rifles 3
- M-1 Rifles 1
- M-50 machine guns 3
- M-79 grenade launchers 1
- Sten guns 1
- Mines 13
- Compasses 1
- Satchels containing documents 3
- Rounds of 9-mm. ammunition 200
- Tons of rice 3

On 26 February, Brigade Force Bravo conducted another search and destroy operation (SONG THANH 6) near Bong Son. During the action, one Vietnamese Marine was killed and six Viet Cong suspects were detained.
The First Vietnamese Marine Battalion, with Battery "A" of the Artillery Battalion armed with 75-mm. pack howitzers, was moved into the Rung Sat Special Zone on the night of 2 February. The battalion, which had been moved into the RSSZ by Vietnamese Navy amphibious landing craft and RAG 22 craft, was assigned search and destroy and river security missions under the operational control of the Vietnamese commander of the RSSZ. On 5 February, one Viet Cong was killed and one K-50 machine gun was captured. On 8 February the battalion returned to its base camp at Thu Duc. During the period the First Battalion operated in the RSSZ, no hostile incidents against shipping or friendly operations occurred.

The Sixth Vietnamese Marine Battalion continued its training program at the Thu Duc base camp during February in preparation for its period of advanced training at the National Training Center. The program emphasized platoon and company level tactical exercises including attack, ambush and counter-ambush actions. On 16 February, tactical marches were conducted by all rifle companies. Psychological warfare instruction was included in the training schedule on 17 February with emphasis on techniques and demonstrations.

* * * * *

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PROVINCE BOUNDARIES
OF SOUTH VIETNAM
OCTOBER 1966
APPENDIX II

RESUME OF MINING ATTEMPTS IN THE LONG TAU CHANNEL SINCE DECEMBER 1965

The first known Viet Cong attempt to interdict shipping in the Long Tau River occurred on 2 December 1965, when the enemy attempted to mine the Danish merchantman, KINA. Since that time, there have been eighteen mining attempts directed against merchant ships or minesweepers in the main channel.

Most of the attempts have been unsuccessful. Two merchant ships, two U.S. Navy minesweeping boats (MSBs), and two Vietnamese Navy minesweeping motor launches (MLMs) have been sunk by mines; one MSB has been damaged.

Almost all of the mines have been controlled types, fired electrically from concealed positions on the river banks. Three instances of timed-mines, attached to anchor chains, have been recorded, all on 26 May 1966 in the Nha Be anchorage. One of the timed-mines sank the SS EASTERN MARINER, another exploded near the SS MILOS DEL MAR, and a third was recovered intact from the anchor chain of the SS OUR LADY OF PEACE.

Mines have been swept from the channel on several occasions. All but one of these have been controlled types, either spherical or top-shaped. The exception was a Russian-type contact mine discovered on 31 December 1966.

Intelligence indicates that in the spring or summer of 1966, the Viet Cong established a separate command under a senior colonel with the primary mission of attacking shipping in the Long Tau.
channel. The organization, known as T-10, is reported to have
four composite companies of infantry, heavy weapons, engineer and
reconnaissance elements. Recent intelligence reports have indicated
the addition of an air defense company to the T-10 structure.

To protect shipping, U.S. Navy and Vietnamese Navy (VNN) craft
sweep the channel daily. U.S. minesweepers commence sweep
operations from their base at Nha Be early in the morning, and
conduct a complete sweep of the channel before merchant shipping
begins to proceed. Cropses ("O-type") and chain drag sweeps are
employed in random sweep patterns, and the sweeping continues
until late afternoon. Vietnamese motor launch minesweepers, mean-
while, conduct daily chain drag sweeps from Saigon to Vung Tau.

The minesweepers of both Navies have been the principal
targets of the Viet Cong mines. In addition, the minesweepers
have been struck by recoiless rifle fire, rockets and heavy
automatic weapons fire. To date, seven MSB crewmen, one U.S.
advisor to the VNN and one Vietnamese sailor have been killed in
action; thirty-nine MSB crewmen, one U.S. advisor and 17 Vietnamese
sailors have been wounded.

Chronology of Mining Attempts

2 December 1965 - SS JNA: mine explosion close aboard; no damage;
mile 22.*

17 March 1966 - VNN IST 561: mine explosion; no damage; mile 29.

21 March - Mine explosion close aboard MILS; no damage;
mile 29.

* Location of incident; distance measured from Saigon.
26 May - SS EASTERN MARINER sunk at Nha Be anchorage; attempts on two other ships fail; mile 12.

23 August - SS BATON ROUGE VICTORY mined; ship beaches; floats clear one week later; mile 28.5.

28 August - MSB 156 mined and sunk; mile 25.

29 August - MSB 54 suffers major damage from two mine explosions close aboard; mile 19.

5 September - MIMS; mine explosion; no damage; mile 16.5.

8 September - MSB 49; mine explosion; no damage; mile 23.

9 September - Mine explosion astern merchant ship; no damage; mile 24.5.

6 October - Mine explosion 100 yards astern MIMS; no damage.

1 November - MSB 54 mined and sunk; mile 14.

11 January 1967 - Mine explosion astern MSB 32; no damage; mile 23.

17 January - Mine explosion astern MIMS; no damage; mile 33.5.

25 January - MIMS 161 sunk by mine; mile 32.5.

26 January - Mine explosion astern MSB 49; mile 27.5.

15 February - MSB 45 sunk by mine; mile 33.5.
APPENDIX III

MILITARY PROVINCIAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In February, the six U.S. Navy medical teams assigned to the Military Provincial Health Assistance Program (MILPHAP) continued their efforts toward helping the Vietnamese improve provincial hospital care and rural medical aid. The teams are currently located as follows: Team 1 is in Quang Tri; Teams 2 and 3 are in Quang Nam and Quang Tin, respectively; Team 4 is in Lam Dong; Team 5 is in Kien Phong; and Team 6 is in Ba Xuyen. Often the work of some of the teams includes more than one province.

Team 1 has been in country since early 1966; the other teams arrived in mid-1966. Each team is now composed of three doctors, a Medical Service officer and 15 hospital corpsmen.

The MILPHAP is an advisory program conducted under the auspices of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The program's personnel are assigned to the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam; the U.S. Navy participants are attached to the Naval Support Activity, Saigon for administrative purposes. In concept MILPHAP envisions a medical assistance team in each of South Vietnam's 40 odd provinces, with the advisory effort concentrated at the Province Hospital level. The U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force each have six teams in the field. The remaining provinces are assisted by medical teams representing other Free World Forces.
The efforts of each U.S. Navy team have been devoted almost exclusively to helping improve existing facilities and the administrative and medical functions of the province hospital. The teams have encountered numerous problems and obstacles. Generally, the hospitals have been found to be run-down, unsanitary, overcrowded and lacking adequate laboratory, X-ray or operating room facilities. Under-staffing has been prevalent and the procurement of supplies extremely difficult. Sometimes the hospital director (called the Medecin Chef) has not been a doctor.

Despite the untoward conditions, there is increasing evidence that the Navy teams have made significant progress. At the Quang Tin Provincial Hospital in Tam Ky, Team 3's professional assistance has helped bring about a marked decrease in the hospital's mortality and morbidity rate, particularly in the pediatric ward. In addition, the team's guidance, instruction and training has had a progressive, productive affect on the hospital staff.

In February, combat casualties admitted to the Lam Dong Province Hospital were processed smoothly and efficiently by the staff, assisted by Navy Team 4. The professional handling was an outgrowth of a casualty plan proposed by the team in November 1966 and implemented by the Province Chief. On 24-25 February, 113 U.S. and Vietnamese casualties were treated expeditiously by a joint MILPHAP-ARVN-hospital staff effort.
Many of the provincial hospitals are beginning to display similar progress toward creating the conditions necessary for consistent, professional care. As the hospitals assume an independent stature in the management of health problems, the MILPHAP teams will begin to render assistance at the district levels, with special emphasis on preventive medicine and diversified rural health programs.

Related to but not affiliated with MILPHAP is the work of the U.S. Navy Surgical Team, which has been located at Rach Gia in Kien Giang province since early 1965. The team's mission has been to teach and perform surgery at the Provincial Hospital; MILPHAP, on the other hand, has been concerned with the practice of general medicine.

At present the surgical team is composed of two doctors, three Navy nurses and one hospital corpsman. The team is augmented by two Public Health nurses and a U.S. civilian surgeon. The civilian surgeons are volunteers who rotate approximately every six weeks; they perform their services virtually without pay.

By and large, the basic mission of the surgical team has been served. Thus, during fiscal year 1968 the team will be disestablished and replaced by Navy MILPHAP Team 7.
UNCLASSIFIED

APPENDIX IV

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

In February there were 21 chaplains assigned to U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam. During the month, the chaplains traveled extensively by helicopter, jeep, boat and fixed-wing aircraft in ministering to naval forces stationed in the four tactical corps zones of South Vietnam, and aboard Navy ships operating in contiguous waters. As a group the chaplains logged nearly 50 hours of flying time during diverse transits.

In addition to conducting religious services, chaplains continued to participate actively in civic action projects and also performed a variety of collateral duties. The following tabulation is a statistical summary of the religious services conducted during February.

Religious Services:

a. Divine Services:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Services</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>222</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>4227</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>5060</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communed</td>
<td>1330</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>1814</td>
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(2) Other Military Installations

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<th>Sunday</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Services</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>2409</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>2888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communed</td>
<td>987</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>1229</td>
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(3) Civilian Churches

<table>
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<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Services</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>1087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communed</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>432</td>
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</table>
b. Religious services conducted by persons other than chaplains attached to NAVFORV:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Chaplains</th>
<th>Civilian Clergy</th>
<th>Lay Leaders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>826</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. Other religious services in which NAVFORV chaplains participated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Service</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protestant Rally</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Services (6)</td>
<td>421</td>
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