Debris from the steel-hulled trawler intercepted 14 March is examined on the fantail of USS BRISTER (DER 327).
At 0612 the trawler opened fire on BRISTER and the latter returned the fire with her .50 caliber machine guns and 3"/50 battery. Five minutes later the trawler grounded approximately one mile south of Phuoc Thien village and 60 miles southeast of Danang.

The MARKET TIME units continued to return the trawler's fire until first light when the source of the enemy fire shifted to a wooded area behind the beach. By the light of sunrise the trawler's bluish-grey hull was seen to be 80-100 feet long, with a deckhouse aft, a slightly raised bow and a light mast and boom one-third of the way aft from the bow. Two minutes after sunrise, at 0655, the trawler virtually disintegrated in a single explosion, evidently caused by charges set by her crew. A U.S. Air Force AC-47 on the scene observed personnel running across the wooded area behind the beach, and took them under fire with unknown results.

Boarding parties found little of the trawler's remains except charred flotsam. The largest single piece discovered was part of the stem, measuring seven by 15 feet.

The contraband removed during subsequent salvage operations included one 12.7-mm. heavy machine gun, one 57-mm. recoilless rifle, 1,200 7.62-mm. Type-53 carbines, 30 7.62-mm. Type-43 sub-machine guns, a case of "claymore" mines, 5,000 hand grenade detonation devices, and assorted ammunition for small arms, recoilless rifles and 60-mm. mortars. Also found was personal gear, shipboard life-saving equipment, and medical supplies such as...
vitamin, plasma and two surgical kits. The surgical kits appeared to be designed for issue to a field hospital. Each kit contained 195 instruments of high quality, with Chinese lettering on the diagrammatic packing list. The quality of the instruments suggested Japanese origin.

First Coastal Zone

During the month the First Coastal Zone—the seaward area of the I Corps Tactical Zone—was the scene of over 20,000 detections by MARKET TIME units, as well as exfiltration patrols and a number of evasion and detention incidents.

Operation DECKHOUSE VI, conducted by the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet Amphibious Ready Group, 90 miles southeast of Danang, ended at 1800 on the 3rd. MARKET TIME PCFs and WPBs provided exfiltration patrols during the entire operation, which began on 16 February.

On 4 March PCF 79 sighted a junk with two occupants just off the coast, 35 miles northwest of Danang. The occupants ignored warning signals, evaded into the surfline and successfully fled ashore. The junk was then destroyed by gunfire from the PCF.

Before daylight on the fifth, PCFs 20 and 56, U.S. Air Force helicopters and a C-47 "Flareship" joined in a search and rescue effort at the entrance to Danang harbor for seven Vietnamese citizens. Their junk had collided with the Vietnamese Navy's PGM 613 and sunk. Four survivors and two bodies were recovered. When the mission was terminated at 1100 one person was still missing.

At 0820 that day PCF 101, patrolling 94 miles southeast of...
Danang, turned to investigate a group of approximately 50 fishing junks. Six of the junks left the group and evaded toward shore; four were abandoned at the surfline and two successfully evaded. Two of the four abandoned craft were subsequently damaged by fire from the PCF.

At mid-morning on the 13th, PCF 21 detected two fishing junks near the shore, 30 miles southeast of Danang. The two junks were beached and their five occupants fled to a nearby wooded area. As PCF 21 continued to approach the beach it received 40 rounds of small arms fire from the tree line. PCF 75, operating in an adjacent patrol area, joined PCF 21 and assisted in suppressing the enemy fire and damaging the junks. There were no U.S. casualties; the extent of the enemy casualties was undetermined.

During the evening of the 16th, 24 miles northwest of Danang, PCF 56 detained a junk with six occupants transporting 500 pounds of unmanifested rice. At 1430 on the 19th, PCF 52 detained two persons as suspected Viet Cong tax collectors at the boundary line between the First and Second coastal zones, 100 miles southeast of Danang. On the morning of the 23rd PCF 75, conducting a surfline patrol 85 miles southeast of Danang, detained two suspects after they had abandoned their junk and attempted to evade ashore.

At 1100 on 26 March, 20 miles southeast of Danang, PCF 15 destroyed two basket boats after the occupants had beached the craft and fled. At 2200 on the 28th, USCGC POINT DUME attempted to intercept a junk 68 miles northwest of Danang. The occupants,
ignoring hails and warning shots, evaded to the beach.

At noon on 30 March, 70 miles southeast of Danang, USCGC POINT BANKS observed a motorized sampan proceeding from boat to boat among a group of fishing sampans. The sampan was boarded and, when $1,300 piasters was found, the three occupants were detained as possible Viet Cong tax collectors and delivered to the Vietnamese authorities.

Second Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the Second Coastal Zone—the longest of the four coastal zones with 285 miles of coastline—detected over 33,000 junks and sampans, provided blocking forces and gunfire support for major ground operations, and participated in a search and rescue mission.

On 9 March, MARKET TIME units participated in one phase of Operation PARAGUT, a U.S. Army search and destroy operation in Khanh Hoa province. At 0600, a blocking force comprised of PCFs 3, 12 and 63, two junks from Coastal Group 27 and the Vietnamese Navy's PCE 12 was stationed to seaward of Son Hai village, 52 miles south of Nha Trang. However, weather conditions deteriorated rapidly and effectively precluded any exfiltration attempts by sea. At 1030 all units were released except PCE 12, which remained to provide gunfire support, and PCF 63, which was re-positioned in the lee of Mu Dinh, ten miles south of Son Hai. By evening the coastal phase of the operation was completed as ground units secured the coastline area.
At 2158 on the 12th, a U.S. Air Force F-100 aircraft crashed just after taking off from Tuy Hoa, 50 miles south of Qui Nhon. PCF 59, a helicopter and a C-47 "Flareship" were the first units at the scene. Additional units arrived throughout the night to assist in the search. When the search was terminated at 1800 the next day only a helmet and two nose cones had been recovered.

At 1820 on 18 March, PCF 87 detained two small passenger junks 27 miles north of Qui Nhon. The occupants were carrying unmanifested medicines and were turned over to personnel of Coastal Group 22.

On 25 March, USCGC POINT COMFORT and PCF 89 provided gunfire support to an element of the FIRST Cavalry Division participating in Operation PERSHING, 50 miles north of Qui Nhon. The MARKET TIME units fired 58 rounds of 81-mm. mortars into caves sheltering Viet Cong firing on the ground forces. The mortar fire triggered three secondary explosions.

MARKET TIME participation in Operation PERSHING ended on 26 March. During the operation, PCFs, WPBs and Vietnamese Navy Coastal Group junks conducting exfiltration patrols detained 157 suspects in March; 40 others had been detained in February. Of the 197, 14 were subsequently determined to be Viet Cong.

On 29 March a SWIFT boat crewman, Seaman D. R. PUCKETT, USN, was fatally injured when he fell overboard and was struck by the screws of PCF 63 while the SWIFT boat was relieving PCF 60 on station, 50 miles northeast of Qui Nhon. After he was pulled from the water, with deep lacerations about the head and chest, PCF 63
rushed him to USS McCaffery (DD 860) for aid. From McCaffery Seaman PUCKETT was evacuated to the First Cavalry Aid Station at Ben Son by helicopter. He died enroute.

Third Coastal Zone

During the month, in addition to surveillance patrols, MARKET TIME units in the Third Coastal Zone exchanged fire on numerous occasions with enemy positions ashore.

At 1900 on 3 March, PCF 71 and USCGC POINT WHITE provided mortar fire against Viet Cong positions which had been firing on spotter aircraft, 62 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. The gunfire effectively suppressed the hostile fire and destroyed three enemy structures.

On the morning of 4 March, USCGC POINT GAMMON received automatic weapons fire from a nearby tree line while attempting to tow a suspicious junk off the beach, 65 miles northeast of Vung Tau. POINT GAMMON returned the fire with unknown results.

On the 7th, USS KOINER (DER 331), operating 33 miles northeast of Vung Tau, answered a gunfire request from a ground spotter. The target—a Viet Cong troop concentration area—was saturated by the ship’s fire. The extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

Late in the afternoon of 11 March, the 81-mm. mortar aboard PCF 39 exploded, killing one crewman and seriously injuring another. At the time, the PCF was conducting a gunfire exercise in Ganh Ria Bay, eight miles north of Vung Tau. The boat’s gunner, Seaman G. W. FRIEDMAN, USN, was blown over the side by the explosion. When his body was recovered two days later it was determined that Seaman
FRIEDMAN had died from multiple shrapnel wounds in the face and chest. Until the cause of the explosion could be determined, MARKET TIME forces were directed to fire 81-mm mortars only in the drop-fire mode.

On 20 March, USCGC POINT LEAGUE fired 56 rounds of 81-mm mortars against a Viet Cong position 56 miles southwest of Vung Tau. Although the extent of the enemy's casualties was unknown, two structures were damaged and two secondary explosions were observed.

PCFs 38 and 68 were fired upon from Viet Cong positions on two occasions 45 miles southwest of Vung Tau. In the first incident, on the afternoon of 20 March, small arms and automatic weapons fire was received by PCF 68. The SWIFT boat returned the fire and was joined by PCF 38. The combined gunfire subsequently resulted in one enemy structure and four bunkers destroyed and two secondary explosions. In the second incident, on the morning of the 21st, PCF 68 was fired upon by small arms and automatic weapons from Viet Cong bunker positions. PCF 38 again joined to assist and both PCFs suppressed the hostile fire and also destroyed a nearby enemy sampan. There were no friendly casualties in either engagement. The extent of Viet Cong casualties was undetermined.

At 0945 on 21 March USCGC POINT WHITL, operating 52 miles southwest of Vung Tau, fired 32 rounds of 81-mm mortars against Viet Cong positions ashore. The mortar fire destroyed two bunkers and two structures, damaged four structures, and resulted in one
secondary explosion.

On the morning of 23 March, PCF 38 destroyed three of five
camouflaged sampans in a known Viet Cong operating area, 22 miles
east-northeast of Vung Tau.

Toward the end of the month two gunfire missions were conducted
by Coast Guard cutters against camouflaged Viet Cong positions along
the shore of the Delta, southwest of Vung Tau. On the afternoon of
24 March, 80 miles from Vung Tau, POINT PARTRIDGE destroyed three
enemy structures and observed one secondary explosion. On the
afternoon of 27 March, POINT CYPRESS destroyed eight structures, and
damaged five structures, two bunkers and two sampans.

On 30 March, PCF 36 rendezvoused with USS MADDOX (DD 731) ten
miles south of Vung Tau and evacuated an injured sailor to the 36th
Evacuation Hospital at Vung Tau.

**Fourth Coastal Zone**

**MARKET TIME** units in the Fourth Coastal Zone (which includes
Phu Quoc Island and extends from the boundary between Ba Xuyen and
An Xuyen provinces around the Ca Mau Peninsula to the Cambodian
border) detected over 14,000 junks and sampans during the month.
In addition, the SWIFT boats and Coast Guard cutters conducted
several gunfire missions.

At noon on 4 March, PCF 71 and USCGC POINT KENNEDY conducted
a gunfire mission against Viet Cong troops and structures 46 miles
northeast of Ca Mau Point. Spotter aircraft reported the naval
fire destroyed four structures and four bunkers and damaged two
PCF 9, on patrol in the Fourth Coastal Zone
structures. The extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

On 6 March, PCFs 3 and 92 conducted a gunfire mission against Viet Cong sampans and a rice cache, 91 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The mission suppressed the ground fire being directed at a spotter aircraft, destroyed one sampan, and damaged a cache containing between three and five tons of rice.

USCGC POINT CLEAR detained a sampan and a suspected Viet Cong tax collector during the early morning hours of 14 March. The sampan, intercepted 62 miles north of Ca Mau Point, carried a large quantity of fish but no fishing equipment. The boat and the suspect were turned over to the national police at Rach Gia.

At 0710 that morning, PCF 94 became involved in the first of a series of incidents along an eight mile stretch of the west coast of the peninsula, 14 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. When several suspicious junks observed near the beach did not respond to warning shots, the PCF opened fire on them and received small arms fire from the shore. The fire was suppressed and one of the junks was severely damaged. Ten hours later, PCF 94 fired on an evading sampan. The sampan reached shore successfully and the occupants fled.

At 1040 on the 16th, in the same area, PCF 94 attempted to investigate two sampans. The sampans ignored warning shots and commenced evading toward the shore. One of the sampans successfully evaded into a canal; the second one was abandoned on the beach. The PCF then damaged the abandoned craft with direct fire. An hour
later, in a similar incident, an enemy sampan was destroyed after it had evaded to the beach and its occupants had fled.

On the night of 19 March PCF 94, patrolling 19 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point, spotted a sampan with five occupants and fired warning shots while closing to investigate. When the occupants opened fire on the PCF the SWIFT boat returned direct fire, forcing the Viet Cong to abandon the sampan. During the engagement, three of the Viet Cong were killed and the sampan was captured. There were no U.S. casualties.

On the afternoon of 24 March PCF 9, assisted by a local Vietnamese junk, captured two 20-foot sampans and one 25-foot sampan, 50 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The sampans' occupants had evaded to the beach and fled. A local junk then pulled the sampans off the beach and delivered them to the PCF; they were subsequently towed to the MARKET TIME base at An Thoi.

Four days later PCF 9, operating approximately 14 miles north-east of Ca Mau Point, detected a 40-foot junk and three 25-foot motorized sampans close to shore. When the PCF closed to investigate, the junk and the sampans began to evade and were taken under fire. However, because of the shallow water, the SWIFT boat could not continue the pursuit and the enemy craft made good their escape.

During the morning of 29 March, USCGC POINT MAST provided gunfire support for Coastal Group 41 junks which had detected seven evading sampans two miles east of Ca Mau Point. POINT MAST's mortar fire destroyed two junks and suppressed hostile fire from the beach.
CONFIDENTIAL

directed at the Coastal Group junks. In addition, three sampans were captured.

On the last day of the month, USCGC POINT GARNET came to the assistance of a U.S. Air Force L-19 spotter plane under attack by enemy ground fire. POINT GARNET's mortar fire, directed at a position 57 miles north of Ca Mau Point, suppressed the hostile fire, destroyed one enemy structure and damaged seven others.

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MARKET TIME UNITS

Aircraft from six patrol squadrons provided air surveillance during March for Operation MARKET TIME. On the 31st, a detachment of Patrol Squadron 42, flying SP-2A Neptunes from Tan Son Nhut Air Base, relieved a similar detachment from Patrol Squadron 17. A detachment of Patrol Squadron 4 flew P-3A Orion aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, and detachments from Patrol Squadrons 16 and 46 flew Orions from Sangley Point and U Tapao, Thailand.

On 19 March, the seaplane tender USS CURRITUCK (AV 7) and the P3Ms of Patrol Squadron 40 returned to Cam Ranh Bay to augment MARKET TIME air patrols, and remained through the end of the month.

On 31 March, the number of minesweepers in Operation MARKET TIME was reduced from seven to six with the permanent return of an MSC to the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet. The reduction did not affect MARKET TIME operations because additional radar surveillance in the Fourth Coastal Zone is provided by the LSTs supporting Operation GAME WARDEN.
CONFIDENTIAL

In March the following SEVENTH Fleet ships operated as MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DER 327</th>
<th>USS BRISTER</th>
<th>1-21</th>
<th>30-31</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AV 7</td>
<td>USS CURRITUCK</td>
<td>19-31</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSO 434</td>
<td>USS ENMBATTLE</td>
<td>27-31</td>
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<td>MSO 437</td>
<td>USS ENHANCE</td>
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<td>USS EXCEL</td>
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<tr>
<td>DER 324</td>
<td>USS FAILOUT</td>
<td>1-19</td>
<td>26-31</td>
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<td>MSO 444</td>
<td>USS FIRM</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSO 445</td>
<td>USS FORCE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>27-31</td>
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<tr>
<td>DER 334</td>
<td>USS FORSTER</td>
<td>21-31</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSO 447</td>
<td>USS GUIDE</td>
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<td>DER 400</td>
<td>USS HISSEM</td>
<td>8-31</td>
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<tr>
<td>DER 331</td>
<td>USS KOINER</td>
<td>1-10</td>
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<td>DER 329</td>
<td>USS KRETCHMER</td>
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<td>MSO 490</td>
<td>USS LEADER</td>
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<tr>
<td>DER 325</td>
<td>USS LOWE</td>
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<td>MSO 458</td>
<td>USS LUCID</td>
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<tr>
<td>LST 1077</td>
<td>USS PARK COUNTY</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSC 198</td>
<td>USS PEACOCK</td>
<td>6-31</td>
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<td>MSC 199</td>
<td>USS PHOEBE</td>
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<tr>
<td>LST 1082</td>
<td>USS PITKIN COUNTY</td>
<td>4-31</td>
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<td>MSO 466</td>
<td>USS PRIME</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSO 467</td>
<td>USS REAPER</td>
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<td>27-31</td>
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<tr>
<td>DER 307</td>
<td>USS VANCE</td>
<td>11-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSC 206</td>
<td>USS WARBLER</td>
<td>12-31</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSC 207</td>
<td>USS WILDPORKWILL</td>
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MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
March 1967

1. U.S. Ships/Craft:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DER</th>
<th>MSO</th>
<th>MSC</th>
<th>WPB</th>
<th>PCF</th>
<th>LST</th>
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<td>155</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>1120</td>
<td>32</td>
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</table>

Total days craft on patrol: 155,155,62,448,1120,32

Daily average of craft on patrol: 5,5,2,14.9,37.4,1

2. U.S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED
WOOD - DAY 45,230
STEEL - DAY 836
NIGHT 30,200
NIGHT 850

36

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3. Naval Gunfire Support Missions:

TOTAL MISSIONS 11

Structures: 21 destroyed 22 damaged
Bunkers: 6 destroyed 2 damaged
Craft: 4 destroyed 2 damaged 1 captured

4. Hostile Fire Reaction Missions:

TOTAL MISSIONS 10

Structures: 1 destroyed
Bunkers: 4 destroyed
Craft: 1 destroyed 2 damaged
Personnel: 2 Viet Cong killed, 2 probables

5. Evasion Incidents:

TOTAL INCIDENTS 11

Junks: 1 destroyed 4 damaged
Sampans: 1 destroyed 1 damaged 4 captured
Basket boats: 2 destroyed

6. Support of Ground Operations:

TOTAL OPERATIONS 2

Persons Detained: 284
7. Search and Rescue Missions:

TOTAL MISSIONS  4
Successful:  2

8. Medical Evacuation Missions:

TOTAL MISSIONS  1
Successful:  1

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OPERATION STABLE DOOR

In March STABLE DOOR units detected 27,018 junks and sampans, inspected 7,547, boarded 4,048 and detained 22 junks and 254 persons.

The firepower of the harbor defense SKIMMER boats was increased by the addition of an M-60 machine gun on each boat. The machine gun is mounted on a swivel in the bow of the craft.

At 1050 on 16 March LCPL 47, patrolling in Nha Trang harbor, detained one Viet Cong suspect after he was observed firing a rifle at a barge moored in the inner harbor. The detainee had two sets of identification papers and five rounds of .30 caliber ammunition in his possession. He was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy at the Coastal Surveillance Center in Nha Trang.

During the morning of 20 March LCPL 40, patrolling in Qui Nhon harbor, collided with and sank a Vietnamese fishing junk. The three occupants and their equipment were rescued immediately after the accident. Later in the morning the junk was raised and returned to the Vietnamese. There was little damage to the junk, none to the
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS

- DETECTIONS
- INSPECTIONS
- BOARDINGS
LCPL and there were no personnel casualties.

During the month Inshore Underwater Warfare Unit (IUWU) 1 at Vung Tau detained six junks and 58 persons; IUWU 2 at Cam Ranh Bay detained one junk and eight persons; IUWU 3 at Qui Nhon detained seven junks and 32 persons; and IUWU 4 at Nha Trang detained eight junks and 156 persons.
An armored troop carrier (ATC) of the Riverine Assault Force underway off Vung Tau.
RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TF 117)

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, River Assault Squadron NINE continued to support the U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, in Operation RIVER RAIDER I. There was no contact with large enemy units, but in several brief skirmishes ground forces killed 12 Viet Cong; 17 more were probably killed. Eight U.S. soldiers were wounded during the operation, which was terminated on 18 March.

In addition to the casualties inflicted on the Viet Cong, numerous enemy camps, bunker complexes, and weapons and supply caches were discovered and destroyed. On 7 March, C Company, 3/47 Infantry, found a large supply of mines, mortar rounds, ammunition and rice in a camp area in Ly Nhon village, in the lower RSSZ. On 10 March, in the same general area, C Company found a camp containing several sampans, 75 TNT blocks, two water mines, and a quantity of documents.

On the last day of Operation RIVER RAIDER I, two Armored Troop Carriers (LCMs especially configured for TF 117 operations) of River Assault Division 91 participated in combat operations for the first time. Previously, all operations had been conducted with River Assault Group boats on loan from the Vietnamese Navy. All together, 12 ATCs arrived during the month.

On 20 March, RAS NINE craft landed a platoon of the 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, at Quang Xuyen to provide security for artillery units, and then landed elements of the 4/47 Infantry to commence Operation SPEARHEAD I. By the end of the month, SPEARHEAD
I units had killed five Viet Cong and destroyed a number of enemy camp, bunker and supply sites.

During the month, an advance detachment of the River Flotilla ONE staff was sent to Dong Tam to prepare for the deployment of River Assault Squadron NINE to the Mekong Delta in April. River Assault Squadron ELEVEN, which is scheduled to relieve RAS NINE in support of operations in the SSZ, arrived in country during the month and commenced training operations.

On 23 March, USS MONTROSE (APA 212) arrived at Vung Tau and relieved USS HENRICO (APA 45) as support ship for riverine operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone.

* * * * *
U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

During March, cargo handling operations in I Corps were again highlighted by new tonnage records. At Danang, records were set for cargo backloaded in short (54,773) and measurement (89,256) tons*. The new totals surpassed the previous records, set in February, by 7,577 short tons and 5,992 measurement tons. A new monthly throughput record—157,091 short tons—exceeded the previous high, set in August 1966, by 2,931 short tons.

Thirty-six ships arrived at the port of Danang in March, and 42 ships completed offloading, decreasing the port's backlog by 5,086 measurement tons. During a three-hour period on 28 March the backlog reached the zero mark.

The coastal resupply situation improved considerably. On the 15th, USS CAROLINE COUNTY (LST 525) and USS SNOHOMISH COUNTY (LST 1126) transited the Cua Viet Channel and beached at the newly-constructed LST ramps on the south bank of the Thach Han River. The opening of the Cua Viet to LSTs initiated a new LST supply route and provided Dong Ha with a significant resupply capability.

To facilitate the shuttle of cargo between the LST ramps and the Dong Ha Bridge ramp, nine LCM-8s were transferred to Dong Ha. In addition, a 17-man detachment was assigned to the Cua Viet facility; at month's end, a survey incident to the construction of a permanent cantonment had begun.

* Short ton: 2,000 pounds; measurement ton: 40 cubic feet of cargo.
LSTs made 12 trips from Danang to the Cua Viet during March. In addition, smaller landing craft completed 135 round trips to Dong Ha with cargo backloaded from Danang. The tonnage transhipped to Dong Ha from Danang totaled 27,532 measurement tons. The total tonnage delivered to all outlying I Corps sites from Danang was 65,919 measurement tons.

New throughput records of 20,118 short tons and 32,558 measurement tons were established for the port of Dong Ha, exceeding the previous records, set in October 1966, by 8,317 short tons and 7,003 measurement tons.

Continued good weather during March facilitated POL replenishment at all coastal sites. Chu Lai was replenished by T-2 tankers through the 12-inch seaload line throughout the month. At Danang, replenishment was effected by T-1 tankers at Red Beach and T-2 tankers at China Beach. Phu Bai was replenished through the 4-inch bottom- lay line to Tan My. Supplementary POL deliveries by commercial trucks from Danang were suspended on 29 March because of the suspected mining of Highway 1.

Replenishment at Dong Ha was accomplished by using LCM-8s with fuel bladders to shuttle fuel from an AOG. On 17 March, a new 4-inch bottom- lay line was positioned by Amphibious Construction Battalion 1.

Class II and Class IV* supply support continued to improve.

* Class I: rations, supplies for post exchanges; Class II: clothing, organizational equipment, vehicles; Class III: fuels, lubricants; Class IV: construction materials, special machinery; Class V: ammunition.
Net supply requisition effectiveness rose to 90 per cent, a six per cent increase over the February performance figure.

In Danang, significant progress was also made in covered storage construction. A new warehouse (the 17th to be constructed) was occupied on 23 March, increasing the total covered storage area of the base supply depot to 554,000 square feet. An 18th warehouse was 95 per cent complete at month's end.

Among the new facilities placed in service in Danang during the month was a milk plant which began operations on 2 March with an initial production rate of 8,000 gallons per day. At Camp Tien Sha, 12 barracks were readied for occupancy with the installation of interior septic tanks by Public Works personnel. Other projects completed included the installation of a 4-inch water-line to the Vietnamese naval base, and the installation of a new 3-inch water-line from a dam on Monkey Mountain to Camp Tien Sha.

Lighterage assets increased with the arrival of ten Navy LARC-Vs on 5 March and an LCM-8 and an LCU on 23 March. In addition, service craft assets were augmented by the arrival of YOG 76 and YTM 762 on 13 March.

The Naval Support Activity's C-47 aircraft flew 54.2 hours and transported 6,000 pounds of cargo and 185 passengers during the first 11 days of March. The aircraft was grounded from 11 to 24 March for a safety inspection after the crash of the C-47 assigned to NAVSUPFAC Saigon. The Danang aircraft departed on the 24th for the naval air station at Sangley Point for a maintenance inspection.
The port of Danang was visited 85 times by U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ships. The ships were provided with 566,460 gallons of diesel fuel and 1,063,478 gallons of potable water, in addition to mail, freight, courier, transient billeting and disbursing services.

During the month, the NAVSUPPACT small craft repair facility completed its first regular overhaul of an LCM-8. Overhaul of the craft's four main engines, ramp equipment, air compressors and all electrical components was completed in 37 days, thereby reducing by more than 50 per cent the usual off-station time incident to an overhaul. In addition, AFDL-23 drydocked 71 craft, and YR-70 overhauled 20 diesel engines and three 80-horsepower gasoline engines during March.

In the Dong Ha area a small repair shop, equipped with spare parts for LCM-6s and LCM-8s, was established at the mouth of the Cua Viet River to provide a maintenance capability for craft operating in that area. A five-man detachment was assigned to operate the new facility.

In March the SEVENTH Fleet tank landing ship KEMPER COUNTY (LST 854) offloaded eight tanks on the beach at Phuoc Dien, a Viet Cong-dominated area 50 miles south of Chu Lai. Protective fire was provided by helicopters and jet aircraft during the beaching. A detachment from Underwater Demolition Team 11 at Chu Lai had made a preliminary survey of the beach prior to the landing.

On the 14th the Viet Cong sabotaged a track section of the Vietnamese National Railway System by exploding what was believed
to be a controlled mine. The incident occurred outside the Esso Terminal at Lien Chieu, nine miles north of Danang. The explosion destroyed two tank cars used to transport aviation gasoline and damaged four others.

The next day the Viet Cong shelled the Danang Air Base with approximately 10 rounds of 140-mm. Russian-type rockets. Naval facilities received minor damage. There were no NAVSUPPACT personnel casualties.

Danang River wreck clearance operations were resumed during March by Team 5 of Harbor Clearance Unit 1. Several sections of the wreck (a Dutch freighter sunk during World War II) were lifted clear of the mud, and a 55-foot boom section and 45 feet of the boom drive shaft were located and recovered. In addition, two other sections of the wreck were readied for lift.

On 31 March, Naval Support Activity personnel strength (including APLs) totaled 8,221, an increase of 143 from the February on board count. At month's end, the total strength of United States and Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPPACT Danang was 110,000.

* * * * *
New facilities under construction at Nha Be
During March, construction of interim and permanent facilities resulted in a number of important improvements at certain GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME bases.

At Nha Be, construction of a 150 by 375-foot helicopter pad and runway was essentially complete at month's end. Begun on 14 March, the project entailed the laying of 30,000 square feet of matting and membrane. The material was installed after repeated attempts to achieve soil stabilization at the site had proved unsuccessful. Construction of a post office was also begun, and work on the 1,000-man messhall neared completion.

At Cam Ranh Bay, action was initiated to provide temporary lighting at the pier pending the arrival of the explosive-proof fixtures required for permanent shore power installation. Meanwhile, a new parts warehouse and a garage for automatic repairs were completed. At Qui Nhon, the installation of lighting and temporary shore power outlets at the PCF pier were completed. Erection of a quonset hut to be used as an explosive ordnance demolition (EOD) facility was begun, and the construction of a barbed-wire perimeter fence continued.

At My Tho (which became a permanent base in March), a four-pontoon-deep extension to the original pier was completed. In addition, the power plant and the supply and repair buildings were placed in operation, and work on a POL tank neared completion.

New base construction at Can Tho continued to progress.
satisfactorily. The outer shells were completed on a number of major structures, including the administration building, the hull and machinery repair shops, and the dispensary. Exterior work on the supply building, the laundry, one E0Q and two E2Qs also was finished, and interior work was begun in all buildings. Additional new construction completed included the laying of a foundation slab for two POL tanks, and the installation of pilings and a pier section.

NAVSUPPACT detachment personnel at Long Xuyen continued with their preparations for base disestablishment. By 31 March operations had ceased, the inventory and reallocation of Long Xuyen assets had been completed, and the redistribution of equipment to other sites had started. In addition, action was begun to terminate property leases by 1 May.

On 28 March, a U.S. Naval Support Activity detachment was established at Tan Chau, located on the Mekong River ten miles east of the Cambodian border. The detachment became operational with the arrival of YFN3 21. The support craft is capable of providing repairs, supply support, and berthing and messing facilities for a river patrol boat section composed of ten PBRs and 225 personnel.

At Dong Tam, construction of the new Riverine Assault Force support base proceeded at an active pace. Work continued on living quarters and messing facilities, and the installation of a camp drainage system was begun. On 24 March, work on the
entrance channel was completed. In addition, by the end of the month, a Seabee construction team had commenced pile driving operations incident to the installation of Amm 1 pontoons.

Overall support capability increased at Dong Tam with the receipt of additional advance base functional components material. Four additional LSMs were received, bringing the total assigned up to the allowance of eight. Also, a fuel barge was towed to Dong Tam to provide a fuel-storage and LCM-replenishment capability.

Supply gross requisition effectiveness increased to 50 per cent, and net requisition effectiveness rose to 65 per cent. The number of line items stocked by NAVSUPPACT at the end of March numbered 23,772.

Efforts to expedite receipt of certain repair parts critically required for the boat engine overhaul program progressed satisfactorily. By month's end, 91 per cent of the programmed repair parts for scheduled engine overhauls were in the process of distribution to overhaul sites.

During the month the availability of boats continued to be generally excellent, ranging from 92 per cent for LCMs to 96 per cent for PBRs. The availability of PCFs averaged 89 per cent.

* Simple, lightweight (55-ton) barges; each one measures 90x28x5 feet, has two ramped ends, six spud wells and a flat, open deck. Named for their designer, Dr. Arsham Amerikian, a structural design engineer for the U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command.
The lack of an adequate organic water production capability remained a major problem at some sites. At Cat Lo, failure of the foot-valve in the shallow-well system continued to impede attempts to produce fresh water. The requirements for potable water were met by shuttling water from Vung Tau. In Sa Dec, the repeated difficulties with the shallow well led to preparations for a deep well and the construction of a 600-barrel capacity storage tank.

At Nha Be, potable water storage continued to be critical. Resupply was accomplished by hauling water from Saigon. On 31 March, two newly-arrived 5,000-gallon tank trailers were being readied for use. Meanwhile, fresh water distilling units had been ordered.

On 1 March general messes were established at all NAVSUPPACT detachment sites with the exception of Nha Trang, which was to continue with a field ration mess, and Long Xuyen, where preparations for the disestablishment of the base were in progress. In addition, general mess branches were authorized at Cam Ranh Bay, Cat Lo and Qui Nhon.

On 10 March, a NAVSUPPACT C-47 aircraft crashed near Phan Rang, 18 miles southwest of Cam Ranh Bay, killing all 28 persons aboard. A preliminary investigation indicated that the aircraft suffered in-flight separation of the port wing due to extreme wing structural overload. Subsequently, all C-47s assigned to NAVSUPPACT's aviation branch (Air Cofat) were grounded pending completion of safety inspections.
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In the meantime, U.S. Air Force aircraft and Navy C-54 and US-2C aircraft were used to meet transportation requirements, delivering a total of 367.5 short tons of cargo during the month. In addition, the ships and craft of NAVSUPFACT transported over 1,120 short tons of cargo in March, the highest monthly total to date.

* * * * *
THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

During March—the Seabees' silver anniversary—the eight Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (MCB's) of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment completed almost two million dollars worth of construction in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

A major project completed by MCB-4 was the upgrading of the An Hoa Airfield. A 450-foot parking apron was constructed, and the runway was extended by approximately 1,500 feet to accommodate C-130 aircraft. Additional projects completed by MCB-4 included repairs to the Khe Sanh Airfield and the construction of 19 strongbacks (each one 16 by 32 feet) for the THIRD Marine Division at Khe Sanh.

At Dong Ha, a 149-man detachment from MCB-5 completed the installation of matting for the tank landing ship staging area at the mouth of the Cuu Viet River. At the Dong Ha Airfield, 1,460 feet of the runway and turnaround areas were repaired.

Mobile Construction Battalion 8, located at Chu Lai, repaired approximately 50,000 square feet of the Marine Air Group 13 helicopter pad at Ky Ha. Work on the Chu Lai dairy plant also progressed satisfactorily. By month's end, the structural steel work had been completed and concrete decks had been poured for the five 40 by 40-foot Butler buildings comprising the complex.

Projects completed by detachments of MCB-9 included the construction of a 100-foot bridge and five 50-foot towers for U.S. Marine units at Dai Loc. In addition, an airstrip was built for
U. S. Special Forces at Minh Long, and a complex of 12 Butler buildings was constructed for the FIRST Marine Division.

Mobile Construction Battalion 40, stationed at Chu Lai, completed the construction of five 16 by 64-foot galleys, a 24-foot water tower, and a 40 by 100-foot rigid frame building at the Republic of Korea cantonment at Camp Bi Bong. The battalion also finished work on a large infantry cantonment complex.

In Danang, MCB-58 completed construction of a 23,000 square-yard addition to the southwest parking apron at the air base. A 48 by 144-foot office building for the FIRST Marine Division also was built during the month.

In the Hue/Phu Bai area, a 500-man galley and 6,000 square yards of open storage for the Force Logistics Support Unit were completed by MCB-62. The battalion also constructed 24 buildings, a 500 by 1,350-foot helicopter parking apron and a 100-man galley for a U.S. Marine cantonment.

Newly-arrived MCB-133 continued work on the Vietnamese cantonment at Black Rock Bay. Projects under construction included living structures, a headquarters building, laundry facilities, fuel storage, and sewage, electrical and water distribution systems.

On 7 March, three Seabees from MCB-4 were killed when their jeep, the lead vehicle for a truck convoy traveling from An Hoa to Camp Hoover, struck and detonated a pressure-type mine. As a result of the incident, steel-plating was installed on several trucks as a protective measure. Ten days later one of these trucks...
A member of Peace Team 0307 helps prepare ground for a new school and dorm at the Canhon Monastery in Tuyen Duc province.
struck a mine; although the vehicle was severely damaged, the two persons in the cab received only minor injuries.

During the month, the six Seabee Teams deployed in Vietnam continued to support the United States Agency for International Development in civic action projects undertaken in support of the Vietnamese Government's Revolutionary Development program. The projects included development of village facilities, medical assistance, and the training of Vietnamese in basic construction skills.

Two of the Seabee Teams were relieved in March. At Bao Trai, in the province of Nau Nghia, Seabee Team 0805 was relieved by Team 0406. In the Delta area, Seabee Team 1009 relieved Seabee Team 1107.

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 11 March the dredge JAMAICA BAY, sunk at Dong Tam by Viet Cong mines in January, was successfully refloated, culminating two months of intensive effort by the personnel of Harbor Clearance Unit 1.

However, on 12 March, while being towed from Dong Tam to Vung Tau, JAMAICA BAY suddenly encountered rapidly deteriorating weather. Twenty-five knot winds and eight-foot seas subjected the dredge to a series of lashing waves which cracked seams, submerged pumps, and loosened a door patch on the port side amidships. JAMAICA BAY began flooding and taking progressively greater rolls to port in the heavy seas. Eventually she capsized and sank in 36 feet of water, ten miles southwest of Vung Tau. There were no personnel casualties.

Because of the damage incurred by the dredge prior to sinking and the additional damage likely to result from efforts to right and lift the sunken craft, further salvage efforts were deemed to be impractical. At month's end, the final disposition of JAMAICA BAY was under consideration by a marine survey board.

Another salvage operation which occurred during the month involved a U.S. Army aircraft. On 9 March, a UH-1B helicopter crashed into the Long Tau River while taking off from Nha Be. The aircraft burst into flames upon impact with the water, killing five persons.

Salvage operations began immediately, with NAVSUPPACT detachment
Nha Be and Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel participating in the search and recovery efforts. The wreckage of the helicopter's fuselage section was subsequently recovered by Light Lift Craft 1 and delivered to the Nha Be helicopter pad. Salvage operations were terminated on 12 March.
During the month, the COMNAVFORV communications center processed 87,446 messages. Since the beginning of the year the center has processed a message approximately every 30 seconds. The number of messages handled in March by the Naval Support Activity in Danang was 37,680.

The new communications center in Danang was 67 per cent complete by the end of the month, and the receiver and transmitter sites were 63 and 54 per cent complete, respectively. The power supply installation was 75 per cent complete in the communications center, 82 per cent at the receiver site, and 50 per cent at the transmitter site. In addition, the installation of electronic equipment had begun.

The reliability of Danang's data circuit with the major relay station at Phu Lam improved significantly during the month, increasing from 50 per cent in February to 77 per cent in March.

At Cam Ranh Bay, the installation of electronic equipment at the new receiver site was 80 per cent complete; at the communications center and the transmitter site the electronic installation was 35 and 40 per cent complete, respectively. At all three sites the power supply installation was about 50 per cent complete.

On 15 March, Cam Ranh Bay's naval communications station instituted a local area broadcast, similar to the one operated by USS ANNAPOLIS (AGMR 1). The broadcast was intended to improve area coverage and to relieve the burden on the fleet broadcast.
MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC

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and fleet broadcast overload circuits.

An Air Transportable Communications Unit was deployed to Cam Ranh Bay on 21 March from the naval communications station in the Phillipines, to help satisfy the communications requirements of the Naval Air Facility, Cam Ranh Bay.

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MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

In March, there was a notable increase in the tempo and scope of military civic action projects conducted by the Vietnamese Navy and the Vietnamese Marine Corps.

In the First Coastal Zone, Coastal Group 16 assisted approximately 600 men, women and children who had fled from the seaport town of Sa Huynh when the Viet Cong overran the area on 18 March. The refugees were given food, medical care and other assistance. Later, after the town had been regained and secured by government forces, the refugees were addressed by psychological warfare personnel, and furnished health pamphlets and Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) leaflets and posters prior to their return to Sa Huynh.

In the Third Coastal Zone, Coastal Group 32 conducted two medical civic action projects (MEDCAPs) during the month, which were planned and executed entirely by Vietnamese naval personnel. Meanwhile, personnel of Coastal Group 36 collected 4,000 piasters to assist in the rebuilding of three houses which had burned down in the village adjacent to their base.

In the Nha Be district, south of Saigon, the Vietnamese Marine Corps' 5th Battalion actively engaged in a pacification mission during the second half of March. Battalion medical teams treated almost 1,500 people. In addition, the battalion built a number of bridges, improved existing structures as requested by local inhabitants, and trucked fresh water daily to as many hamlets as possible.
On 4 March, a second WHAMO (Winning Hearts and Minds Operation) was conducted by Coastal Groups 34 and 37 in the village of Ap An Loi in Kien Hoa province. The operation was announced by leaflets and loudspeaker broadcasts, and some people came from as far away as five miles. One man, in gratitude for the care given his wife, led government personnel to three Viet Cong bunkers and also pointed out the village Viet Cong tax collector.

In Danang, U.S. Navy medical personnel of the Naval Support Activity continued to conduct diverse MEDCAP missions. Doctors and corpsmen from the dispensary held weekly sick call at the Stella Maris Convent, examining and treating over 2,100 patients during the month. In addition, a voluntary medical team of two corpsmen treated 7,803 civilians in hamlets south of Danang, and members of the preventive medicine section of the Danang Hospital performed laboratory work and conducted rodent and pest control operations in villages near Danang, Chu Lai, Phu Bai and Dong Ha. Meanwhile, Seabees of Mobile Construction Battalion 58 (based at Danang's Camp Hoskins) completed the rebuilding of 160 private homes and a five-room maternity clinic. The structures, situated in Phuoc Quang hamlet, had been destroyed by fire.

During the second week of March, a widespread Chieu Hoi campaign was inaugurated by U.S. and Vietnamese naval personnel to inform the Viet Cong that they could rally to ships and craft of both navies. In addition to loudspeaker broadcasts, leaflets were distributed showing pictures of U.S. and Vietnamese craft and
Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Leaflet

Hoi cac ban o vung ben nuoc song be!

Cac ban muon tro ve voi Chinh nghia Quoc gia thi nen theo dung nhung loi chi dan duoi day:

1. GIAU KY SUNG DAN CUAN CAC BAN, NHLO NOI CAT GIATU DE SAU DEN LAY, DEM NAP, LINH THuong.

2. BEN GAN TAU THUYEN HAI QUAN VIET-NAM HAY BONG MINH, CO IN ANH TREN DAY. HAI TAY DO LEN CAO DE TO THIEN CHI CUAN CAC BAN.

3. THUY THU DA DUOC CHI THI NIEM N0 TIEP B0N CAC BAN V0 BUA CAC BAN BEN M0T TRUNG-TAM CHIEU HOI.

Hoi tro ve ngay bay gio voi Chinh nghia Quoc gia de cung toan dan xay dung nuoc Viet-Nam doc lop, phu etrong.

Giai nay cung la giai thong hinh cua cac ban.