On 30 April Naval Support Activity personnel strength (including AP1s) was 7,963, a decrease of 258 from the March on board count. Meanwhile, the number of United States and Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPPACT Danang reached 123,500 by month's end.
On 21 April Captain Burns W. SPORE, USN, relieved Captain Herbert T. KING, USN, as Commander U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon. Captain KING had commanded the activity since it was established on 17 May 1966.

During April the construction of interim and permanent facilities at GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME support bases continued to progress satisfactorily.

At Nha Be, a helicopter landing field and a new post office building were completed. Meanwhile, preparations continued for the construction of a permanent waterfront facility. YFNB-16 was moved several hundred yards to a new mooring to make space for the installation of the sheet pile bulkhead required for the construction of a deep-water wharf.

At Qui Nhon, construction of personnel bunkers and an explosive ordnance demolition armory were completed. On 12 April, the permanent fuel supply system became operational and the system's ten storage tanks were filled to capacity. Work on a barbed-wire perimeter fence neared completion at month's end.

At Vinh Long, work was started on the renovation of recently-acquired living quarters; construction of a security fence and a 250-barrel water storage tank also was begun. At My Tho, work on an enlisted men's club was begun, and at An Thi preparations were made for construction of a new recreational facility.

On 1 April, operations began at the new naval air facility in
Cam Ranh Bay with the arrival of the first VP aircraft. Construction of temporary living quarters and sanitary facilities was completed during the month. The installation of permanent shore power at the MARKET TIME base pier was also completed.

At the new base in Dong Tam, dredging operations to remove an obstruction in the turning basin were completed, and well-drilling operations were begun. An improved support capability was acquired during the month with the arrival of YPFB-24 and APL-26.

On 29 April, the NAVSUPPACT detachment at Long Xuyen was deactivated. All leased property was returned to its owners, and the redistribution of equipment to other sites was completed.

The water supply and storage situation improved at some bases in April. At Cat Lo, the well began producing 12,000 gallons per day. At Nha Be, three fresh water distillation units arrived and were phased into the potable water system. At Sa Dec, a 500-barrel storage tank was completed and the existing shallow well was extended.

The number of line items stocked by NAVSUPPACT Saigon increased by 10.4 per cent to a total of 26,244. Gross supply requisition effectiveness was 47 per cent, and net requisition effectiveness rose from March's rate of 64 per cent to 72.1 per cent in April.

During the month the operational availability of boats for MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN continued to be generally excellent, ranging from 91 per cent for PCFs to 96 per cent for PBRS. The availability of MSBs averaged 83 per cent.
On 21 April, the NAVSUPPACT aviation section (Air Cofat) began regular logistical flights in support of the new GAME WARDEN base at Tan Chau. The twice-weekly flight lands at An Long, which has the closest airfield; passengers and cargo are then transported 15 miles by boat to Tan Chau.

On 23 April a C-47 aircraft was received as a replacement for the NAVSUPPACT C-47 lost in a crash on 10 March. During the month, the NAVSUPPACT aviation section transported 3,155 passengers and 199 short tons of cargo.

In April YFR 889 successfully transited the lower Bassac River from the sea to Can Tho, initiating a new resupply route into the Delta. The lower Bassac route will reduce the time required to complete the Delta resupply cycle, thereby increasing the number of days cargo ships will be available for supply operations.

Another resupply procedure instituted in April involved the use of LCMs to shuttle cargo between Saigon and Vung Tau. The new service obviated the need for stops at Vung Tau by other resupply craft enroute to the Delta. During the month, LCMs transported 112 short tons of cargo from Saigon to Vung Tau.

The ships and craft of NAVSUPPACT, Saigon transported 1,330 short tons of cargo during April, the highest monthly total to date.

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CONFIDENTIAL

THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

As the tempo of combat operations in I Corps increased, construction work by the Seabees proceeded at a stepped-up pace, with emphasis placed on the construction of combat-support facilities and lines of communications.

Two Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (MCBs) were relieved in April. At Chu Lai, MCB-71 relieved MCB-40 on the 10th. During the month MCB-71 completed the second increment of a 1,600-man cantonment for Republic of Korea Marines, and also began construction of seven observation towers for U.S. Marines in the Chu Lai area.

On 16 April MCB-1 relieved MCB-9 at Camp Haskins, located at Red Beach, ten miles north of Danang. Projects completed by MCB-9 included the upgrading of the airfield at the Minh Long Special Forces camp in order to accommodate C-123 aircraft, and the construction of a 15-building complex for the U.S. Marine 11th Motor Transport Battalion.

A major project begun by MCB-4 involved the construction of a 2,000-foot-long lumber bridge near An Hoa. Named the "Liberty Bridge," the structure, when completed, will form the last link in the "Liberty Road" from Danang to An Hoa.

At Con Thien, a detachment from MCB-4 began construction of a Special Forces "A" camp, about 2,000 yards from the Demilitarized Zone. Because concrete was not available, MCB-4 personnel used large timbers, steel conex boxes (shipping containers) and earth
to construct reinforced bunkers. Well-drilling operations were begun, and the rough grading of an airstrip was completed.

Other major projects completed by MCB-4 included the upgrading of the An Hoa airfield to accommodate C-130 aircraft, the repair of three major roads south of Danang, and the construction of a 1,000-man indoor movie theater for the THIRD Marine Amphibious Force.

In Danang MCB-5 added a two-story, 90-patient ward to the naval hospital complex and, at NAVSUPPACT's covered storage area, completed a warehouse module comprised of eight Butler buildings. A 150-man detachment from MCB-5 completed six 50-foot-tall wooden watch towers for U.S. Marines along the IMZ, and also made major repairs to the airstrip at Dong Ha. In addition, construction was begun on a permanent LST/LCU facility at the mouth of the Cua Viet River to replace the temporary staging area built in March.

At Chu Lai, MCB-8 built two miles of roads and completed installation of an electrical distribution system for a 1,000-man troop-housing facility. The battalion also built a 48-foot control tower for Marine Air Group 36, and constructed two timber bridges on Route 1 south of Chu Lai.

Mobile Construction Battalion 58, stationed at Camp Haskins in Danang, completed the interim upgrading of six miles of Highway 1. The work, accomplished mostly at night, involved removing the existing surface and resurfacing the road with asphalt laid over crushed rock. The battalion also began construction of the Marine tactical data system compound on Monkey Mountain. Since the project...
involves the relocation of a Marine Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion, the construction work includes housing facilities for its 380 personnel.

At Phu Bai, MCB-62 completed a 67,000-square-yard parking apron. The battalion also repaired the road from Hue to the LST ramp at Col Co, and constructed 200 strongbacks and erected 39 Butler buildings for the THIRD Marine Division.

In the Danang area, MCB-133 completed installation of a 1,000-barrel POL tank at the Marble Mountain air facility, and began construction of the second increment of a Vietnamese Army POW compound just north of Marble Mountain. The latter project, when completed, will increase the capacity of the compound to 1,000. MCB-133 also built a wooden chapel for the Danang detachment of the U.S. Army's FIRST Logistical Command. Decorated with the flags of each of America's 50 states, the building was dedicated as the "Chapel of the Flags" on 26 April.

Naval construction forces also continued to assume responsibility for many projects formerly assigned to civilian contractors. Four well-drilling teams from MCB-133 commenced operations at An Khe, Pleiku, Long Binh and Dong Ha. Other projects taken over by Seabees included the operation of rock quarries at Danang and Chu Lai.

By month's end, the number of Seabee Battalions deployed in South Vietnam had increased to nine with the arrival of MCB-11 at Dong Ha. The newly-arrived battalion was the first to be deployed to the Dong Ha area.
SALVAGE OPERATIONS

During the month NAVFORV and U.S. SEVENTH Fleet units joined in several salvage operations.

At 0005 on 12 April S.S. AMASTRA, a Shell Oil tanker of British registry, was mined while discharging fuel at Nha Trang. The explosion, caused by two charges placed against the stern, tore a six by seven-foot hole between the engine room and fireroom, ten feet below the water line.

Following the explosion, AMASTRA settled by the stern and eventually the main deck aft was awash. The most serious flooding was confined to the machinery spaces and was quickly contained. However, the ship continued to settle slowly because of seepage and the master of AMASTRA requested salvage assistance.

On 13 April salvage operations were started by Team 3 of Harbor Clearance Unit 1 with the COMNAVFORV Salvage Officer in charge. Two SEVENTH Fleet salvage vessels, USS CURRENT (ARS 22) and USS GREENLET (ASR 10), were dispatched to the scene from Vung Tau. On 14 April the SEVENTH Fleet Salvage Officer arrived and assumed control of the operations.

A temporary patch was installed across the ruptured section. By 20 April all leaks had been repaired and the flooded spaces had been de-watered. In addition, over 600,000 gallons of diesel fuel was off-loaded to help restore buoyancy. After the damaged area was clear of the water, the temporary patch was removed and a towing patch was welded in position. The salvage operations were terminated.
On 13 April, a U.S. Air Force C-141 "Starlifter" crashed into the sea just after takeoff about 2,500 yards north of Cam Ranh Bay. Seven of the nine persons aboard were killed. The aircraft was carrying 13,000 pounds of ordnance and 13,700 pounds of other cargo. The Military Airlift Command requested salvage assistance to recover the ordnance and other high-priority items from the scene of the crash.

Personnel from the Cam Ranh Bay Harbor Control Post and a Navy Explosive Ordnance Demolition (EOD) Team located the wreckage in 63 feet of water and began recovery operations. Meanwhile, GREENLET was released from the AMASTRA salvage operations and arrived on the scene on 16 April.

Some of the priority items recovered included the pilot instrument panel, remnants of cockpit documents, the rudder-angle power assembly, and the flight data recorder. Various electronic components, a wing section, and items from the center fuselage section and cockpit area were also salvaged.

Navy EOD divers removed the explosive ordnance from the largest concentration of wreckage, and also took photographs of the cockpit instruments and controls. On 22 April, CURRENT joined the operation and recovered one of the aircraft's four engines. The salvage operation was terminated on 23 April.

Another salvage operation concluded in April involved a U.S. Army aircraft. On 16 April a helicopter assigned to the 14th
Transportation Battalion at Nha Trang crashed off Cam Ranh Bay in 45 feet of water. The impact completely demolished the helicopter and scattered wreckage over a large area.

Salvage operations were conducted on 20 April by Team 3 of Harbor Clearance Unit 1. The entire transmission section, 60 percent of the cabin section, and the bodies of personnel killed in the crash were recovered.
The number of messages handled by the COMNAVFORV communications center in April was 88,315, a slight increase over March's total.

During the month a Naval Command Operational Network (NAVCOMOPNET) circuit was activated at the Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay. As a result, the COMNAVFORV communications center was relieved of the responsibility for providing a communications guard for 15 various activities in the Cam Ranh Bay area.

At Cam Ranh Bay, the installation of electronic equipment at the new communications center was 64 per cent complete; at the transmitter and receiver sites the electronic installation was 47 and 49 per cent complete, respectively. Meanwhile, construction work was more than 90 per cent complete at each of the sites.

At Danang, construction work on the new communications center and the transmitter and receiver sites was 76 per cent complete. The power supply installation was 90 per cent complete in the communications center, 87 per cent complete at the receiver site, and 75 per cent complete at the transmitter site. In addition, the installation of air conditioning was 60 per cent complete at all three sites.

In April a voice radio circuit was activated between the respective Base Development offices of COMNAVFORV in Saigon and the COMNAVFORV Representative in Danang. The new circuit was established to provide a more rapid and efficient communication capability than that afforded by the limited telephone service available between the two areas.
CONFIDENTIAL

ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 21 April Admiral Roy L. JOHNSON, USN, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, arrived in South Vietnam to confer with key officers at various naval activities. Following a tour and briefings at the MARKET TIME and STABLE DOOR facilities in Cam Ranh Bay, Admiral JOHNSON visited Saigon, Can Tho, Binh Thuy, Dong Tam and Nha Be.

12-Month Tour Review

In the fall of 1966, in response to a request by Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam reviewed all key NAVFORV billets and submitted that none of the billets (other than flag-rank positions) required an extension beyond the normal 12-month tour.

In February of this year, COMUSMACV informed COMNAVFORV that the Chief of Staff to COMNAVFORV was considered to be serving a tour of unspecified length beyond 12 months. In a message to the Chief of Naval Personnel requesting guidance, COMNAVFORV reiterated his previously-stated position. Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet concurred and BUPERS subsequently concurred and reaffirmed the 12-month tour policy for all non-flag billets.

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MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

In recent months there has been a significant upswing in the number of independent, intensive and well-coordinated civic action projects conducted by the Vietnamese Navy. The effective results of such operations have, in turn, generated increased emphasis and widened the scope of succeeding efforts.

Typical of the trend has been the work of Can Tho-based River Assault Group 25, which has been conducting concerted psychological operations in the Delta aimed at the inhabitants of Viet Cong-dominated areas. The RAG's "psywar" missions have been thoughtfully planned and have been preceded by leaflet drops and taped broadcasts tailored to fit the circumstances of the particular island, village or hamlet. Repeatedly, the affinity between the RAG sailors and the river-minded civilians has been stressed and exploited.

During the actual missions, commodities such as grain, salad oil and textile kits obtained from South Vietnamese and U.S. agencies have been distributed; simultaneously, doctors and corpsmen have treated needy civilians. In the course of dispensing food and medicine, government literature has been distributed and special appeals disseminated concerning the government cause. In some cases, cultural teams have provided entertainment.

The missions have been brief and have been repeated as often as possible. Even after an area has become relatively "secure," periodic visits have been made.
The follow-up visits have probably determined the extent of the campaign's success. Three months ago RAG 25 units conducted a mission near the village of Lac Thon. The sailors were met with open hostility by the inhabitants. Additional visits were made. Then, during a visit in April, the village chief welcomed the RAG boats, extended an invitation to all the sailors to come ashore and offered guarantees for their safety and security. Six Hoi Chanss (returnees) have rallied from this area and three small-scale, successful military operations have been conducted in the area based on intelligence furnished by the Vietnamese civilians.

Among the U.S. Navy's civic action projects conducted during April was the treatment by Danang medical officers and hospital corpsmen of over 1,000 civilians at the dispensary of the Stella Maris Convent. In addition, 45 Vietnamese were admitted to the Danang Hospital; 39 of these were major surgical cases. Also, 333 civilians received outpatient care at the hospital.

Meanwhile, in various provinces the Seabee Teams, now eight in number, continued to build, heal and teach in villages and hamlets. In April, Team corpsmen treated almost 2,500 Vietnamese in need of medical attention.

During the month Team 0509, located in the village of Thaoi Son in An Giang province, finished work on the Thaoi Son Public Eating Place, a messing facility for the more than 3,000 people living in the area. The project was made possible by the combined efforts of personnel of the Team, the Vietnamese Navy, RMK-BRJ, and
the Office of Civil Operations.

On 4 April Rear Admiral Norvell G. WARD, USN, COMNAVFORV, presented to officials of the University of Saigon a $690 donation from Class 701 of the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School at Newport, R. I. The gift, in the form of a checking account, represented the start of a scholarship fund designed to help needy Vietnamese medical students.

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

Construction projects involving renovation or repair are so indicated with an R. Projects involving joint efforts by U.S., Vietnamese and other Free World Forces are indicated with a J.

1. Construction:

   a. Bridges: USN 1, VNN 0, TOTAL 1
   b. Dispensaries: 1/3R 0, 1/3R
   c. Dwellings/number of families: 63/63 0, 63/63
   d. Hospitals: 1J/1R 0, 1J/1R
   e. Information booths: 1J/1R 0, 1J/1R
   f. Playgrounds: 1 0, 1
   g. Schools/classrooms: 4/2R 0, 4/2R
   h. Showers, public: 1 0, 1
   i. Toilets, public: 19/6R 0, 19/6R
   j. Wells: 4/3R 0, 4/3R
   k. Boat docks: 1 0, 1

2. Medical treatments:

   a. General medicine: 30,673 1,200, TOTAL 31,873
   b. Dental: 2,319 0, 2,319
   c. Surgery: 91 1, 92
   d. Emergency evacuations: 142 20, 162
   e. Cleft palate operations: 1 2, 3
   f. Artificial legs: 1 0, 1

3. Health and sanitation:

   a. Classes on personal hygiene/attendance: 14/620 0, 14/620
   b. Immunizations: 1,152 250, 1,402

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c. Medical aides or nurses trained 11 0 11
d. Physical examinations 662 0 662
e. Spray insecticide operations 71 0 71

4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):
   a. Cement 179,573 0 179,573
   b. Clothing 20,268 16,902 37,170
   c. Fertilizer 1,300 0 1,300
   d. Food 174,007 45,307 219,314
   e. Lumber (board feet) 165,662 0 165,662
   f. Medical, non-prescription 1,490 137 1,627
   g. Midwife kits (number) 11 0 11
   h. Physical education kits (number) 1 1 2
   i. School kits (number) 1,016 900 1,916
   j. Soap 10,459 595 11,094
   k. Tin sheets (number) 2,222 0 2,222
   l. Woodworking kits (number) 29 0 29
   m. Paper blankets 2,589 216 2,805
   n. Plastic bags (number) 0 13,000 13,000
   o. Personal kits (number) 260 233 493
   p. Toothpaste tubes (number) 5 0 5
   q. Sewing kits (number) 171 100 271
   r. Magazines (number) 21,100 25,000 46,100

5. Educational efforts:
   a. English classes/attendance 38/712 0 38/712

6. Voluntary plaster contributions in support of:
   a. Schools 82,338 0 82,338
   b. Salatia 3,000 0 3,000
   c. Needy Families 1,000 0 1,000

***END***
At the end of April the personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy stood at 16,040 officers and enlisted men. During the month, the number of personnel discharged as deserters was 93 and the number of unauthorized absentees was 330, a decrease of 24 and 61, respectively, under March's figures.

The distribution of personnel for the operating units was satisfactory except for the Coastal Force, which was 23 per cent under allowance. The Coastal Force units had an allowance of 4,154 officers and enlisted men and an on-board total of 3,212. The main causes of the shortage were: 1) the Fleet Command and River Assault Groups were being kept at full strength; 2) the Coastal Force headquarters was 360 men over its allowance of 1,187; 3) the "pipeline" of personnel in transit and training for the Vietnamese Navy was being drawn from the allowance of the Coastal Force operating units.

In April the organizational structure of the Third Riverine Area underwent a major revision. The principal change—decentralization of control—was aimed at providing more rapid and effective responsiveness at the unit levels.

Fleet Command

The Fleet Command maintained 11 ships on station off the coast, four ships on river patrol and one ship on convoy escort.
VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS
AND
VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS
April 1967
duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. The daily availability of Fleet Command ships increased from 24 in March to 27 in April.

During the month the ships increased their counter-infiltration operations and made greater use of their gunfire support capability. Forty-five gunfire support missions were fired in April, an increase of 14 over March, and the number of junk searched increased from 197 to 515.

Patrol Craft (PCs and PCEs), maintaining patrol stations off the coasts of the First, Second and Fourth naval zones, fired three gunfire support missions. On 11 April, PCE 12 relieved two U.S. Navy PCFs on patrol in the southern portion of the First Naval Zone, as part of the continuing effort to phase Vietnamese Navy units into the operations of the Coastal Surveillance Force.

Gunboats (PGMs) conducted coastal and river patrols in the four naval zones and the Rung Sat Special Zone, firing 12 gunfire missions and supporting two ground operations. PGM 600 fired three gunfire support missions and assisted in the exfiltration blockade for Operation HON HEO, a joint U.S. and Korean operation on the Hon Ha Peninsula, 17 miles north of Nha Trang, from 1 through 10 April. On 21 April PGMs 603 and 608, together with three U.S. MARKET TIME units, provided shore bombardment and exfiltration patrol support for Operation SONG THAN I (Big Wave 1), 34 miles north of Cau Mau Point.

Support landing ships (LSSLs and LSILs) conducted patrol,
gunfire support, and convoy-escort missions in the Third Naval Zone, the Fourth Riverine area, and the RSSZ. The support ships fired a total of 28 gunfire missions in April. On 24 April, LSSL 230 acted as a blocking unit for an operation conducted by the 14th ARVN Regiment on Con Coc Island, in the Bassac River 41 miles south of Can Tho. On 29 April LSSL 230, together with two river patrol craft from RAG 29, supported the Coastal Group 36 base at Long Phu when it came under attack by an estimated two-platoon force of Viet Cong.

Minesweepers (MSCs) were deployed on coastal patrol in the First and Second Naval Zones. MSC 116, on exfiltration patrol for Operation HUN HEO, conducted two gunfire support missions. In addition, MLMSs continued to sweep the Saigon, Long Tau and Nha Be Rivers daily.

The month's 24 logistical missions resulted in the movement of 4,514 personnel and 2,051 tons of cargo. Medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 1,824 personnel and 1,148 tons of cargo; utility landing craft (LCUs) lifted 1,239 personnel and 478 tons of cargo; and tank landing ships (LSTs) lifted 1,151 personnel and 425 tons of cargo. LST 500 departed on 17 April for overhaul in Guam.

The VNN Underwater Demolition Team (LDNN) was very active during April. A six-man detachment, operating with the U.S. Navy SEALs based at Nha Be, conducted 24 operations in the RSSZ. At the request of the U.S. Military Sea Transportation Service, four LDNN personnel conducted nightly bottom-searches of ships in the
Port of Saigon. In addition, six other LDNN personnel conducted a beach survey near Duc Pho, in Quang Ngai province, from 10 to 14 April.

**Coastal Force**

During April the Coastal Force had a daily average of 238 junks available, of which 128 were utilized. On 30 April the Coastal Force had 300 operational junks and about 70 motor-sail and Kien Giang junks recently surveyed or in the process of being surveyed. Newly-constructed Yabuta junks were scheduled to replace the surveyed junks.

Coastal Force units searched 21,607 junks—3,605 more than March's total—in April for an average of 5.9 junks per patrol unit per day. The increased activity was attributed to the normal increase in junk traffic that follows the end of the Northeast Monsoon season.

From 1 to 6 April, Coastal Group 16 and units of the SECOND ARVN Infantry Division conducted Operation LIEN KET, two miles north of Quang Ngai. On the afternoon of the 3rd, the explosion of a bomb released accidentally by a U.S. Air Force aircraft mortally wounded LT J.R. CHAPMAN, USN, Senior Advisor to Coastal Group 16 and injured five Vietnamese sailors and 30 refugees.

Coastal Group 14, supporting Operation CANYON from 6 to 10 April, detained 152 persons, seven of whom were determined to be Viet Cong cadre. In addition, patrol craft along the Thu Ban
River and the sea coast destroyed 26 enemy sampans and captured eight others.

A Coastal Group 13 junk, on patrol 26 miles northwest of Danang on the evening of 7 April, captured two wounded Viet Cong and a 40-kilogram block of TNT after a brief fire fight. A third Viet Cong was probably killed. Preliminary interrogation indicated that the Viet Cong were tax collectors.

From 11 to 16 April six junks from Coastal Group 16 operated with a U.S. Coast Guard cutter in a test of new patrol tactics. The junks, operating in two 3-craft elements, were vectored by radio to contacts located by radar aboard the cutter. Also, the junks were equipped with night observation devices, enabling them to detect and evaluate the contacts at greater distances. The test period produced good results.

On the evening of 15 April junks from Coastal Group 11 conducted a blocking operation around an island in the Thach Han River, 75 miles northwest of Danang. Viet Cong directed automatic-weapons and small-arms fire at the junks, which returned the fire with 81-mm. mortar fire. At dawn a landing party swept the island and captured one Viet Cong, detained five suspects and found four dead bodies.

The Coastal Group 14 base was attacked on 20 April by Viet Cong using mortars, recoilless rifles, and automatic weapons. U.S. Marine artillery and a U.S. Air Force "Flareship" assisted the base in repulsing the attack. There were no friendly casualties.
During the day of the 29th, Coastal Group 14 junks blocked the Thu Bon River, 13 miles southeast of Danang, to prevent a 25-man Viet Cong unit from crossing the river. The blocking force killed one Viet Cong and supporting artillery destroyed one junk and probably killed five Viet Cong.

In the Second Naval Zone, Coastal Group 23 set up an ambush 20 miles south of Qui Nhon on the evening of the 21st. The ambush party captured two Viet Cong and was withdrawn at noon the next day. On the 27th, Coastal Group 24 conducted a landing operation in a suspected Viet Cong storage area, 52 miles south of Qui Nhon. The landing party seized six tons of rice and turned it over to the sub-sector authorities.

On 7 April, in the Third Naval Zone, Coastal Groups 34 and 37 seized one 25-kilogram water mine and 42 rockets, and destroyed ten Viet Cong structures and several bunkers in an operation 37 miles southwest of Vung Tau. On the morning of the 10th, eight junks from Coastal Group 32 and four U.S. Navy PCFs detained 63 junks and 103 persons fishing in a restricted area 20 miles east of Vung Tau. Subsequently, sector authorities detained four of the persons as draft dodgers and nine as suspected Viet Cong.

On the afternoon of the 26th, seven miles north of Vung Tau, three Coastal Group 33 sailors, disguised as fishermen, were hailed by two Viet Cong tax collectors. In the resulting fire fight, the Viet Cong were killed and their sampan was sunk.
In the Fourth Naval Zone, Operation HAI SON 11/67 was conducted on 5 April, 77 miles north of Ca Mau Point. During the one-day operation, Coastal Groups 43, 44 and 45 transported a 500-man force composed of two battalions, two companies and a mechanized platoon of Regional Force troops. Two U.S. Navy Swift boats provided illumination and gunfire support.

Operation SONG THAN I (Big Wave I), another one-day operation, was held on the 21st on an island just off the coast, 3½ miles north of Ca Mau Point. The forces included a Vietnamese Navy landing party transported in five junks from Coastal Group 41, two VNN PGMs and three U.S. MARKET TIME units. The U.S. and Fleet Command units provided gunfire and blocking support. The landing force swept the island, made no contact with the enemy, and was reembarked at 1900.

Riverine Area Naval Commands

In April there were two River Assault Group operations in the Third Riverine Area, 15 in the Hung Sat Special Zone and eight in the Fourth Riverine Area.

The RAG units also conducted river patrols and escort missions, and assisted in base defense and psychological warfare operations. A daily average of 137 craft was available for use and an average of 104 was used. During the month, the craft of the riverine area commands searched 3,066 junks and 7,035 persons and detained five junks and 346 suspects.
In April the reorganization of the Third Riverine Area Naval Command, as proposed by the area commander, was approved by the Vietnamese Joint General Staff and implemented.

The four RAGs in the area had been under the operational control of the area commander. In the new organization RAG 22 is responsible for the Long Tau River and the RSSZ, under the control of the Commander, RSSZ; RAG 24 is responsible for Long An province and the Vam Co River, under the control of the Commanding General, 31st Defense Tactical Area; RAG 28 is responsible for Binh Duong province and the Saigon River, under the control of the Commanding General, 32nd Defense Tactical Area; and RAG 30 is responsible for Bien Hoa province and the Dong Nai River, under the control of the Commanding General, III Corps Tactical Zone. Additionally, the Regional and Popular Force boat companies on the Saigon and Dong Nai Rivers are now under the control of the commanders of RAGs 28 and 30, respectively.

On 12 and 13 April, in the Third Riverine Area, 11 craft from RAGs 24 and 28 supported the U.S. Army's 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Operation NUTCRACKER. RAG units participating in the operation, which was conducted 18 miles southwest of Saigon, captured one Viet Cong and detained two suspects. Three sailors were wounded. On the 25th, craft of RAG 24 escorting a convoy of barges on the Co Cong River, 15 miles southwest of Saigon, were attacked by Viet Cong using a grenade launcher. One U.S. soldier was wounded and one
LCM-6 was damaged in the action.

RAG 30 provided seven craft from 3 to 7 and 13 to 17 April to support the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Operation FAIRFAX. In addition, seven craft from RAGs 22 and 28 supported the 4th VNMC Battalion in the RSSZ from the 1st through the 12th in Operation RUNG SAT 47/67. From the 12th to the 30th RAGS 22, 26 and 28 provided craft to support the VNMC 1st Battalion in Operation RUNG SAT 69/67. LCUs 536 and 539 and Regional Force craft assisted the RAGs in transporting the Marines.

On 11 April, in the Fourth Riverine Area, units from RAGs 21, 27 and 33 supported the 12th ARVN Regiment in Operation GUY LONG 58/12/67. During the operation nine Viet Cong and one ARVN deserter were captured and six Viet Cong suspects were detained. From 12 to 14 April 20 craft from RAGs 25, 29 and 32 supported an eight-battalion force of ARVN, Airborne, Ranger and Regional Force troops in Operation DAN CHI 285. The operation, conducted six miles west of Can Tho, resulted in 230 Viet Cong being killed. Fifty-seven friendly troops were killed and 254 were wounded. There were no RAG casualties. The ground forces seized two crew-served and 19 individual weapons, and a quantity of ammunition. On 15 April, the SEVENTH ARVN Infantry Division and eight craft from RAGs 21 and 33 conducted Operation GUY LONG 58/3D ten miles south of My Tho. During the operation 12 Viet Cong were killed, 15 were captured and 44 suspects were detained.
SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS BY VIETNAMESE NAVY
SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES

**SEARCHES**

- JUNKS
- PEOPLE

**DETENTIONS**
One Russian-type rifle was seized.

**Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary**
April 1967

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coastal Force</th>
<th>Searched</th>
<th>Detained</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>28,458</td>
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<tr>
<td>II NZ</td>
<td>3,942</td>
<td>13,371</td>
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<tr>
<td>III NZ</td>
<td>7,450</td>
<td>36,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV NZ</td>
<td>2,911</td>
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Sub-Totals 21,607 80,025 4 339

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<tr>
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<th>Detained</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrol Ships</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>2,108</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Riverine Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craft</td>
<td>3,066</td>
<td>7,035</td>
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Totals 25,188 89,168 5 346

**VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS**

During the month the five operational battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II and III Corps Tactical Zones and the Rung Sat Special Zone, and were deployed 78 per cent of the time. Meanwhile, the three batteries of the Marine Artillery Battalion were deployed 66 per cent of the time.

Brigade Force B, consisting of a headquarters, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion continued operations begun in March. The brigade operated in the II Corps Tactical Zone’s An Lao Valley, just north of Bong Son, under the control of the Commanding General, 22nd ARVN Division.

From the 1st to the 13th, the brigade moved some 4,000 refugees
from the valley to a resettlement area south of Bong Son. After completing the resettlement the brigade took up defensive positions approximately two miles north of Bong Son.

On 14 April the brigade began a search and destroy operation, code-named SONG THANH 10, north and east of Bong Son. At 1400 a Viet Cong booby trap, constructed from 105 and 155-mm. howitzer rounds, killed 14 Marines and wounded 25 others. One U.S. Marine advisor was also wounded. The operation continued with only light sniper contact and ended at 1200 on 16 April. During the operation, two Viet Cong were killed and ten suspects were detained.

On 19 April, the brigade was relieved by Brigade Force A and was airlifted to Tan Son Nhut Air Base; from there the individual units returned to their respective base camps.

Brigade Force A, composed of a headquarters, the 4th and 5th Battalions and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, was activated on 18 April and was airlifted to English Airfield, near Bong Son, on the 19th.

On 22 April the force was committed to a search and destroy and pacification operation, code-named BAC TIEN 817, in an area between Route 1 and the sea reaching from Bong Son northward ten miles to Tam Quan. The force encountered sniper fire only during the first five days of the operation. Four Marines were killed and four others were wounded by the snipers. Meanwhile, three Viet Cong were killed by the Marines and seven suspects were detained.
In addition, one rifle, three grenades and a mine were seized. On the sixth day, 27 April, the 5th Battalion made contact with an enemy platoon, killing one Viet Cong and seizing a Colt pistol. One Marine was killed and four were wounded during the fire fight.

On the morning of the 28th, the 4th Battalion killed four of the enemy and seized one Thompson sub-machine gun. On the 29th, four Marines were wounded in light contact with the enemy. Two Viet Cong were captured on 30 April as the operation continued into May.

Prior to joining Brigade Force A the 4th Battalion and Battery A of the Artillery Battalion had continued their March search and destroy operation in the Rung Sat Special Zone. In scattered contact with the enemy two Viet Cong were killed and two were wounded. One Marine was wounded. Two 5-kilogram mines, one B-50 anti-tank rocket, one rifle and one sampan were captured.

The 1st Battalion relieved the 4th Battalion on 12 April and continued operations in the RSSZ through the end of the month. In sporadic action the battalion killed seven Viet Cong and wounded two others. One Marine was killed and ten were wounded. In addition, six enemy sampans were destroyed during the month, three by helicopters supporting the battalion.

The 2nd Battalion deployed to the Nha Be District in the RSSZ on 21 April and conducted search and destroy and pacification operations and civic action projects through the end of the month.
Operating with units of the U.S. Army's 199th Light Infantry Brigade on 27 April, the battalion detained 15 Viet Cong suspects.

The 3rd Battalion, in the meantime, remained at its base camp near Thu Duc from the 19th through the 30th.

The 5th Battalion, operating in the Nha Be District from the 1st through the 6th and the 10th through the 16th, conducted 62 company-sized combat operations and 476 ambushes, as well as numerous rural reconstruction and civic action projects.

Meanwhile, the 6th Battalion completed on 26 April the training cycle begun on 6 March. The final exercise was an amphibious landing nine miles east of Vung Tau. The battalion then remained in the area through the 30th, conducting diverse civic action projects.

The morale of the Vietnamese Marine Corps remained at a high level and the leadership in all units was considered to be excellent throughout the month. During April the Corps accounted for 20 enemy killed, two captured, and 32 suspects detained. Twenty-one Marines were killed and 54 Marines and one U.S. advisor were wounded.

***

Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary
April 1967

VC/NVA: 20 KIA, 2 VC captured, 32 VC suspects detained.
VNMC: 21 KIA, 54 WIA.
CONFIDENTIAL
SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO
FOREIGN NATIONALS

Ordinance and Equipment Captured:

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<tr>
<td>Rifles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hand grenades</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mines</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colt pistols</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson sub-machine guns</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech carbines</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. carbines</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claymore mines</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.62-mm. ammunition (rounds)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-50 Russian anti-tank rockets</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sampans</td>
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Seized and/or Destroyed Material:

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<td>Rice (tons)</td>
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*****
APPENDIX II

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOME OF THE SHIPS, SMALL CRAFT AND AIRCRAFT UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF COMNAVFORV

The diverse, widespread responsibilities of Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam have led to the operational control of a large number of ships and small craft and, in addition, numerous aircraft. As of 30 April, with five subordinate commands employing 38 different types of ships and craft, COMNAVFORV exercised control of a total of 548 units. Many of the craft were new or newly-configured for the special requirements of the war in South Vietnam.

The Coastal Surveillance Force (TF 115) had 112 patrol craft and 58 harbor defense and support craft, as well as operational control of 12 U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ships and a detachment of seven patrol aircraft. The River Patrol Force (TF 116) had 120 patrol craft, eight helicopters, and 19 minesweeping and support craft. The Riverine Assault Force (TF 117) had 31 various craft. Meanwhile the Naval Support Activity, Danang had 133 support ships and craft, and the Naval Support Activity, Saigon had 65 similar ships and craft.

The following descriptions include certain key features of some of these units.

AFDL - Auxiliary Floating Dry Dock, Light - A non-self-propelled, open-ended dry dock with a 1,000-ton capacity. It measures 64 by 200 feet and has two 3-ton derricks and a machine shop. The craft mounts no armament.
AKL - Cargo Ship, Light - A small cargo ship used for resupplying small bases and outposts in the Mekong Delta and along the coast. The ship is 177 feet long, can carry 340 tons of cargo, has a 4-ton boom, and mounts two to four .50 caliber and two .30 caliber machine guns and one 81-mm. mortar. It has a speed of 13 knots and a crew of 4 officers and 33 enlisted men.

AMMI (Pontoon) - A multi-purpose barge. It is 5 by 28 by 90 feet and is sectioned into 12 interior spaces. Each barge contains six fittings for columns to raise or lower the barge on spuds, fittings to connect several barges end-to-end for causeway use, and fittings to allow side-mounting on LSTs and LSDs. In addition to causeway use, the barges can be positioned to embark and debark troops, and to serve as platforms for patrol craft hull maintenance.

APB - Personnel Barracks Ship - An LST converted to provide berthing for an Army battalion and a River Assault Squadron. The ship is 328 feet long with berthing spaces for 122 officers and 1,180 enlisted men, and mounts four 4.2-inch mortars, two 40-mm. quad gun-mounts, two 20-mm. twin gun-mounts, and ten 7.62-mm. machine guns. It has a speed of 12
APB (Cont.)  - knots and carries a crew of 11 officers and 161 enlisted men.

APL  - Personnel Barracks, Lighter - A non-self-propelled barge with accommodations for the crews of 20 PBRs or 10 PBRs and 10 PCPs. It is 49 by 261 feet, has transient berthing spaces for 39 officers and 290 enlisted men, and mounts six .50 caliber machine guns. The crew consists of five officers and 84 enlisted men.

ARG  - Repair Ship, Internal Combustion Engine - A repair ship converted from a C-2 freighter and capable of repairing ships and craft with gasoline or diesel propulsion plants. The ship is 442 feet long and mounts three 3"/50 caliber guns. It has a speed of 11.5 knots and a crew of 19 officers and 493 enlisted men.

ARL  - Repair Ship, Landing Craft - An LST converted to repair landing craft and support amphibious ships. The ship is 328 feet long and mounts two 40-mm. quad gun-mounts. It has a speed of 10.6 knots and a crew of 12 officers and 178 enlisted men.

ATC  - Armored Troop Carrier - A modified, armored LCM-6 designed principally for use by the Riverine Assault Force. The boat is 56 feet long with an extended deckhouse mounting two 20-mm. guns, two
ATC (Cont.) - .50 caliber machine guns, and four M-60 machine guns. The craft can carry approximately 40 combat troops or 2.5 to 3 tons of cargo. It has a speed of 8.5 knots and carries a crew of seven enlisted men. Special bar-and-plate armor has been added to provide protection for the hull and deckhouse against projectiles up to and including 57-mm. HEAT rounds.

CCB - Commandament - A modified, armored LCM-6 designed for use by the RAF as a task group flagship and afloat command post. The command center is situated in the craft's well. The boat is 60.5 feet long, is equipped with radar, and mounts one 40-mm. and one .50 caliber machine gun in a forward turret, and one 20-mm. gun, two .50 caliber machine guns and two M-60 machine guns in the deckhouse. It has a speed of 8.25 knots and a crew of 11 enlisted men. The craft also has special armor similar to that installed on ATCs.

C-47 - Transport - A general-purpose aircraft with two reciprocating engines. The plane has a cargo capacity of 12,900 pounds, a take-off weight of 36,800 pounds, a range of 610 miles, and a cruising speed of 153 knots. The crew normally consists of two officers and two enlisted men.
HLC - Heavy Lift Craft - A non-self-propelled hull, capable of partial submersion, used in salvage work to lift hulks. The craft is 39 by 140 feet, has two 10-ton booms as well as auxiliary equipment for pumping and can raise 300 tons in a bow lift or 750 tons in a midships lift. HLCs are normally used in pairs. Each craft mounts four .50 caliber machine guns. The crew consists of two officers and 20 enlisted men.

LCPL - Landing Craft, Personnel, Large - A boat used primarily for harbor defense and to guide larger landing craft. The boat is 36 feet long, has a radar, and mounts two .50 caliber machine guns. It has a speed of 19 knots and a crew of one officer and seven enlisted men.

LLC - Light Lift Craft - A converted LCU (Landing Craft, Utility) designed to perform limited salvage duty. The craft is 119 feet in length, and has a sheer-leg crane capable of 30-ton lifts. Light Lift Craft have four .50 caliber machine guns, a speed of seven knots, and carry a crew of two officers and 15 enlisted men.

LST - A 548-Class tank landing ship specially configured for GAME WARDEN Operations. The cargo hatch has been enlarged to 13 by 32 feet to permit lowering
IST (Cont.) – PBRs and helicopters to the tank deck for repairs and maintenance. The main deck forward of the cargo hatch has been strengthened and life-saving nets have been added port and starboard to support helicopter operations. A 10-ton boat lifting boom has been added on the starboard side just forward of the deckhouse. In addition, the transient berthing facilities on board have been increased to accommodate eight officers and 112 enlisted men. An ancillary role performed by the IST is radar surveillance in support of MARKET TIME units in the area. The ship’s speed is 12 knots, and the crew consists of 17 officers and 123 enlisted men.

MONITOR – Monitor – A modified LCM-6 designed primarily for use as a fire support ship by the RAF. The craft has bar-and-plate armor along the hull and deckhouse similar to that of ATCs and CCBs. The boat is 60.5 feet long, is equipped with radar, and mounts one 40-mm. and one .50 caliber machine gun in a forward turret, one 81-mm. mortar and two M-60 machine guns amidships, and one 20-mm. gun, two .50 caliber machine guns and four M-60 machine guns in the deckhouse. It has a speed of 8.25 knots and a crew of 11 enlisted men.

MBS – Minesweeper, Boat – A small minesweeper designed for
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MSB (Cont.) - clearing sheltered waters, e.g., the Long Tau River. The boat is 57 feet long, mounts one .50 caliber and four .30 caliber machine guns, two Mark 18 grenade launchers, and is equipped with radar. It has a speed of 11 knots and carries a crew of six enlisted men.

PCF - Patrol Boat, River - A military adaptation of a fiberglass, civilian pleasure boat. The boat is 31 feet long, uses twin water jets as a propulsion system, and mounts one twin .50 caliber machine gun and one .50 caliber machine gun with a Mark 18 grenade launcher. The craft is equipped with radar, has a speed of 25 knots and carries a crew of five enlisted men. PCFs patrol in pairs and constitute the principal craft of Operation GAME WARDEN.

PCF - Patrol Craft, Fast (Swift) - An aluminum-hulled, offshore patrol craft, used extensively for coastal surveillance in Operation MARKET TIME. The craft is 50 feet long, mounts one twin .50 caliber machine gun and a .50 caliber machine gun with an 81-mm. mortar. It has radar, a speed of 23 knots, and a crew of one officer and five enlisted men.

PG - Patrol Gunboat - A patrol boat for use in offshore waters. It is a new design with a light all-aluminum
PG (Cont.) - hull and a combination diesel/gas turbine propulsion plant. The boat is equipped with radar, is 165 feet long, mounts one 3"/50 caliber gun, one 81-mm. mortar and two .50 caliber machine guns. The craft's speed is 37 knots under turbine power and 16 under diesel power. The crew consists of three officers and 21 enlisted men.

PICKET - A 45-foot, 13-knot craft designed for harbor defense and anti-swimmer patrols. The boat has radar, mounts one .50 caliber machine gun, and normally carries a crew of five enlisted men.

P-3A - Orion - A long-range patrol aircraft used extensively in Operation MARKET TIME. The plane is powered by four turbo-prop engines, carries 11,000 pounds of bombs, and has a maximum take-off weight of 127,500 pounds. Orions have a range of 3,700 miles, a cruising speed of 310 knots, and a crew of four officers and nine enlisted men.

SSB - Swimmer Support Boat (Skimmer) - The military version of the civilian, fiberglass, triple-V-hulled "Boston Whaler"; used for harbor patrols and UDT, SEAL, and EOD operations. The outboard-powered boat is 16.5 feet long, is controlled from a steering console amidships, and mounts one M-60 machine gun forward. It has a speed of 25 knots and a crew of two enlisted men.
STAB - SEAL Team Assault Boat - An armed version of the civilian runabout; used to land and recover SEAL units. The boat is 20 feet long, mounts one .50 caliber machine gun, one M-60 machine gun, one Mark 18 grenade launcher, and can also carry a 57-mm. recoilless rifle. The boat is powered by two 50-horsepower outboard motors and has a speed of 40 knots.

UH-1B - Helicopter (Iroquois) - A U.S. Army helicopter on loan to the U.S. Navy in South Vietnam. Alternately referred to as a "Huey" or a "Gunship" or a "Sea-wolf," the aircraft mounts four 7.62-mm. machine guns in pairs, two M-60 machine guns and two pods capable of firing 14 2.75-inch rockets. The helicopter has a range of 250 miles, a speed of 125 knots, and carries a crew of two officers and two enlisted men.

UH-1D - The unarmed version of the "Huey." It can carry 10 troops, 4 litters, or 2,000 pounds of cargo.

WHEC - High Endurance Cutter (USCG) - An ocean-going, Coast Guard patrol ship, earmarked as a replacement for DEs and DERs in Operation MARKET TIME. The radar-equipped ship is 311 feet long, mounts one 5"/38 gun, six .50 caliber machine guns, one Mark 10 torpedo launcher with six torpedoes, and two
WHEC (Cont.) - 81-mm. mortars. The ship has a speed of 19 knots and carries a crew of 13 officers and 240 enlisted men.

WPB - Cutter (USCG) - A modified version of the Coast Guard's offshore, rescue vessel; used extensively in Operation MARKET TIME. The boat is 82 feet long, mounts one .50 caliber machine gun with an 81-mm. mortar, and four .50 caliber machine guns. The radar-equipped craft has a speed of 18 knots and a crew of 2 officers and 9 enlisted men.

YDT - Diving Tender - A non-self-propelled lighter equipped with a deckhouse containing accommodations and working spaces for a salvage team. The tender is 54 by 260 feet, has a 12-ton crane, and mounts six .50 caliber machine guns for self-defense. The craft carries a crew of 15 officers and 76 enlisted men.

YFNB - Patrol Boat Tender - A non-self-propelled barge equipped with a large deckhouse containing shops and maintenance facilities for small craft. Currently in use in the Mekong Delta supporting PBRs, the barge has six .50 caliber machine guns and four 81-mm. mortars for self-defense. It carries a crew of four officers and 31 enlisted men.

YRBM - Repair, Berthing, and Messing Barge - A converted