suspects were detained during this period; seven Marines were wounded.

The 1st Battalion and Artillery Battery A had conducted waterway security and search and destroy operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone until 11 May when the 1st Battalion was relieved by the 6th. Two Marines were killed and two were wounded during the operations. Sixth Battalion operations subsequently accounted for one Viet Cong killed and the destruction of an enemy base camp on the 29th. From 19 to 24 May the 1st Battalion maintained security in the Capital Military District, operating principally in the Go Vap sector north of Saigon.

Meanwhile, the 2nd Battalion continued conducting search and destroy missions and civic action projects with units of the U.S. 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Operation FAIRFAX in the Nha Be District.

The 3rd Battalion remained at its base camp until 11 May when it began a week of security duty on the perimeter of Tan Son Nhat Air Base. The battalion then returned to camp until the 24th, when it joined Brigade Force B.

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 May the Corps accounted for 30 enemy killed, 14 captured, and 180 suspects detained. Sixteen Marines were killed and 42 others were wounded.

********

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APPENDIX I
USN/VNN/VNMC STATISTICS FOR MAY 1967

U.S. NAVY:

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<th>STABLE DOOR</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DETECTIONS</td>
<td>116,176</td>
<td>81,413</td>
<td>76,685</td>
<td>274,274</td>
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<tr>
<td>INSPECTIONS</td>
<td>44,688</td>
<td>26,382</td>
<td>15,985</td>
<td>87,055</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOARDINGS</td>
<td>29,210</td>
<td>42,481</td>
<td>7,970</td>
<td>79,661</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERSONS DETAINED</td>
<td>1,292</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>2,446</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNKS DETAINED</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>153</td>
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MARKET TIME Detections of Steel Hulls
Total Steel Hulls Transiting MARKET TIME Areas: 1,926

Disposition of the 728 Steel Hulls:
- Inspected or boarded: 239
- Identified as not suspicious: 102
- Arrived/departed RVN ports: 284
- Unknown, not suspicious: 53

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

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<tr>
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<th>PEOPLE</th>
<th>JUNKS</th>
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<tr>
<td>I NZ</td>
<td>7,095</td>
<td>27,079</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>II NZ</td>
<td>5,360</td>
<td>19,171</td>
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<td>III NZ</td>
<td>6,303</td>
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<td>IV NZ</td>
<td>2,545</td>
<td>9,348</td>
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<td>Sub-Totals</td>
<td>21,303</td>
<td>80,829</td>
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FLEET COMMAND

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<td>939</td>
<td>4,377</td>
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RIVERINE AREA

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>1,827</td>
<td>4,881</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>24,069</td>
<td>90,087</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>652</td>
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VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: 30 KIA, 14 VC CAPTURED, 180 VC SUSPECTS DETAINED.

VNMC: 16 KIA, 2 WIA.
From: Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Distribution

Subj: U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Supplement; forwarding of

Encl: (1) U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Supplement, May 1967

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded.

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UNITED STATES
NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT
May 1967

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
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FOREWORD

The month of May was marked by numerous incidents involving underwater activity by the enemy. In the Mekong Delta at least three Viet Cong swimmers were killed during a series of abortive attempts to sabotage units of Operation GAME WARDEN. In the First Coastal Zone a dredge and a lighter were mined in the Cua Viet approaches to Dong Ha, 85 miles northwest of Danang.

On 15 May and again on the 19th, elements of the Riverine Assault Force operating in the Delta experienced their first major contact with the Viet Cong. During the encounters, conducted at close range, the special armor of the assault craft proved effective against 57-mm. recoilless-rifle fire. However, 82-mm. caliber ammunition penetrated the armor.

The unit composition of Operation MARKET TIME underwent a number of changes in May. Two of the newly-constructed, high-speed gunboats (PCs) arrived for duty, and three high-endurance Coast Guard cutters (WHECs) arrived as replacements for DERs. In addition, two patrol craft of the Vietnamese Navy operated as MARKET TIME units during the second half of the month.

The continuing fierce tempo of combat operations in the I Corps Tactical Zone took its toll of Seabees in May as two battalions suffered 21 casualties. Most of the injuries occurred on 8 May, 2,000 yards from the Demilitarized Zone, when 13 men were wounded during an attempt by enemy troops to overrun a Special Forces camp the Seabees were building.
Saigon's Naval Support Activity detachment at Nha Be battled two intense POL fires during the month. On 3 May a 60-foot junk loaded with gasoline caught fire and eventually exploded after it was towed away from a fuel pier. On 11 May a blaze aboard a Philippine tanker carrying 10,000 gallons of JP-4 fuel was finally brought under control after almost nine hours of sustained effort by detachment personnel.

In May the Vietnamese Navy activated a River Assault Group detachment at the Coastal Group 12 base near Hue, marking the first time RAG craft have operated beyond the Delta and surrounding region since South Vietnam became an independent nation. On 11 May, two of the four new motor gunboats (PGMs) recently acquired by the VM Navy completed underway training and were assigned to the Fleet Command.

*****
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CHRONOLOGY

3 May - GALLUP, a newly-designed patrol gunboat, begins MARKET TIME patrols. Sister ship, ASHEVILLE, begins patrols on the 12th. p. 29.

- Support Activity personnel at Nha Be battle intense fire aboard junk loaded with gasoline. p. 51.

6


8

- Thirteen Seabees are wounded when enemy troops attempt to overrun a Special Forces camp at Con Thien. p. 57.

- The 6th Battalion, VNMC, is activated as a combat unit. p. 88.

9

- Dredge HYDE is mined in the Cua Viet supply route to Dong Ha. p. 43.

11

- HUNTERDON COUNTY's 40-mm. fire blows up an ammunition cache in the Long Toan Secret Zone. p. 14.

13

- SEALs ambush an enemy sapper unit on Thoi Son Island, in the My Tho River; documents dealing with sabotage activities are seized. p. 9.

15

- VNN PCE 09 begins MARKET TIME patrols in the First Coastal Zone. pp. 30 and 74.

- Coast Guard cutters BARATARIA, BERING STRAIT and GRESHAM begin replacing SEVENTH Fleet DERRs on coastal patrols. p. 30.

- Riverine Assault Force units, in first major contact with Viet Cong, engage enemy forces armed with heavy automatic weapons and recoilless rifles; action occurs 15 miles west of My Tho. Eight U.S. personnel are wounded; four Viet Cong are killed. p. 37.

17

- For the first time since the establishment of an independent government in South Vietnam, a River Assault Group detachment is activated outside of the Delta and surrounding region. p. 73.

- VNN PCE 12 begins MARKET TIME patrols in the Second Coastal Zone. pp. 30 and 74.
23 May – MARKET Time units supporting Operation BEAU CHARGER intercept a group of enemy junks carrying arms and supplies. p. 23.

24 – PBR patrol is ambushed in the Ham Luong River, six miles south of Ben Tre. Four Americans and one Vietnamese maritime policeman are killed. p. 5.

28-29 – Enemy swimmers try unsuccessfully to sabotage HARNETT COUNTY in the Delta. p. 15.
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RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

During May the River Patrol Force inflicted and suffered its highest rate of fatalities for any month since Operation GAME WARDEN began. One hundred and sixteen Viet Cong were killed in May; 37 other Viet Cong were listed as possibly killed. Meanwhile, enemy fire killed five U.S. Navy men.

Four of the Americans as well as a Vietnamese maritime policeman were killed on the 24th of May when a GAME WARDEN patrol was ambushed in the Ham Luong River; the other five sailors aboard the two PBRs involved were wounded. Two days earlier, in the My Tho area of the Mekong Delta, a Navy petty officer was killed while accompanying Vietnamese Popular Force troops and directing PBR gunfire support for the mission.

During the month U.S. Navy SEALs conducted a number of successful operations in various areas of the Delta. In one incident, on 13 May, a SEAL patrol ambushed several members of an enemy sapper unit. The ambush resulted in the seizure of documents containing valuable intelligence data about Viet Cong sabotage methods—a subject of growing concern in a month marked by a considerable increase in enemy swimmer activity.

One such area of activity was the mouth of the Ham Luong River where, on several occasions, enemy swimmers tried unsuccessfully to sabotage USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821), one of the GAME WARDEN support ships.

The GAME WARDEN LSTs fired a number of gunfire missions in May,
A FBx on patrol in the Rupu Set Special Zone.
either against targets of opportunity or in response to requests. On the evening of 11 May, in the Long Toan Secret Zone, USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) blew up an ammunition cache by using a night observation device to spot the fall of shot as 40-mm. fire was "walked" up to the target.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

In May there was no major hostile fire activity in the Rung Sat Special Zone. In a series of minor incidents GAME WARDEN units engaged small groups of Viet Cong along enemy lines of communications and ambush sites.

On 18 May a helicopter fire team discovered a 50-foot watchtower overlooking the junction of the Lo Ren and Vam Sat rivers. The helicopters took the tower under fire and killed its two occupants while they were attempting to flee. That same day, in Long An province, Navy helicopters supporting the Vietnamese Army's 46th Regiment in operations southwest of Can Giovc killed at least five, and possibly ten more, Viet Cong. Two Navy pilots were slightly wounded during the engagement.

On the night of 25 May a PBR patrol in the central Soirap River received about 30 rounds of automatic-weapons fire from a sampan near the north bank. The patrol returned the fire and was joined by a helicopter fire team, which discovered and destroyed 16 sampans and two boats in the area. In addition, fire from the helicopters triggered one secondary explosion. There were no U.S. casualties. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

***

CONFIDENTIAL
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

May 1967

LEGEND:
A = Watchtower - 18 May
B = PB's/Helos - 25 May
C = See Delta chart (p. 10) for location of 18 May helicopter incident.

SCALE:
0 5
Nautical Miles

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DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Ham Luong River

During May most of the activity in the Ham Luong River occurred near Cu Lao Oc, a long, narrow island four miles south of Ben Tre.

On 19 May a PBR patrol intercepted a sampan near the southern tip of Cu Lao Oc. When the sampan attempted to evade after warning shots were fired, the patrol took the craft under fire. The sampan and enemy positions on the river bank then opened up on the patrol with automatic weapons. The PBRs' return fire suppressed the bank emplacements and triggered two secondary explosions in the sampan. Subsequent intelligence reports indicated that four of the enemy were killed, including a deputy company commander of the Viet Cong's main-force 261st Battalion. In addition, a company commander and six other Viet Cong were wounded during the engagement.

On 24 May the Officer in Charge, River Patrol Section 531, three PBR crewmen and a Vietnamese maritime policeman were killed by intense enemy fire from the north bank of the Ham Luong, six miles south of Ben Tre. Five other U.S. sailors were wounded during the action.

The river patrol, composed of PBRs 101 and 106, was attacked by automatic-weapons fire from several Viet Cong positions along the bank. The leading boat, PBR 101, returned the fire and was almost immediately hit forward by a round of 57-mm. recoilless-rifle fire. The burst killed the patrol officer, LT C. D. WITT, USN, the forward gunner, Fireman T. F. LEAZER, USN, and the boat...
CONFIDENTIAL

24 MAY INCIDENT IN THE HAM LUONG RIVER

LEGEND:

○ - PBRs

X - Viet Cong automatic-weapons positions

☐ - Viet Cong recoilless-rifle positions

SCALE:

0 1
Nautical Mile
CONFIDENTIAL

captain, Electronics Technician Second Class R. L. CASTLEBERRY, USN. Moments later, machine-gun fire killed the midships gunner, Seaman M. O. QUINN, USN, as the PBR veered toward the bank out of control.

The PBR's sole survivor, Seaman M. J. DEVLIN, USN, was wounded but managed to bring the stricken boat under control and turn clear of the range of fire.

PBR 106 covered 101's withdrawal and launched a high-speed run against the enemy positions. During the ensuing heavy exchange of fire, a 57-mm. round struck the boat's vertical armor, killing a Vietnamese, National Maritime Policeman Troung Houn CHAU, and seriously wounding the boat captain and the after gunner. In addition, the round's impact disabled the boat's port engine. The PBR continued the engagement, weaving and delivering a high volume of fire at the stretch of enemy sites until the PBR's supply of ammunition was nearly exhausted.

Shortly thereafter a PBR patrol from an adjacent area rendezvoused with PBRs 101 and 106 and escorted them to Ben Tre. As a result of the action, PBR 101's radar and forward gun mount were destroyed, and PBR 106 sustained extensive damage to its engines and hull. Intelligence reports later indicated that the fire from the PBRs and subsequent air strikes killed at least 19 Viet Cong and wounded 36 others.

On 31 May, in the same area, Navy helicopters acting on intelligence reports disrupted an enemy attempt to set up an ambush. During the air strikes, fire from the helicopters killed seven Viet
CONFIDENTIAL

Cong and destroyed ten enemy structures.

On 6 May, to meet the threat posed by the presence of almost 3,000 main-force Viet Cong troops in Kien Hoa province, the commander of the Delta River Patrol Group redeployed certain forces (Operation OVERLOAD) in an effort to interdict enemy lines of communications within the province and from adjacent provinces. Units were moved from the upper rivers to provide patrol density in the My Tho, Bassac and Ham Luong rivers, and to pave the way for incursions into the Ba Lai, a narrow river running between the Ba Tri and Binh Dai areas of Kien Hoa province. On 25 May HARNETT COUNTY, with River Patrol Section 513 and Detachment 4 of Light Helicopter Attack Squadron THREE (HAI(L)3) embarked, anchored in the mouth of the Ham Luong and began surveillance operations in the lower reaches of the river.

During the latter part of the month helicopters conducting patrols along the Ba Lai (where a 24-hour curfew had been placed in effect) killed 22 Viet Cong, destroyed 25 sampans and 18 structures, damaged four sampans and five structures, and triggered three secondary explosions.

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

During May there was an increase in the number of hostile fire and evasion incidents along the My Tho stretch of the Mekong River.

On 10 May PBRs interdicted a crossing by three Viet Cong in a sampan three miles east of Cai Be. The three men took to the water upon being hailed and swam ashore; from the beach they opened fire
on the patrol with small arms. The PBRs' return fire killed one man and wounded another, who managed to escape. The third Viet Cong was captured and delivered to the Vietnamese authorities at My Tho for interrogation.

At 0515 on 13 May, a four-man SEAL patrol was landed on Thoi Son Island to set up a "listening post" near the house of a suspected Viet Cong. An hour later seven men were landed on the island by a water-taxi and entered the house. The SEALs waited 15 minutes, then called the group out. The men immediately tried to escape and the SEALs opened fire, killing two of the men and wounding two others. Documents subsequently found on one of the corpses indicated that the man had been a member of a sapper squad (a Viet Cong sabotage unit).

Among the other documents found by the SEALs were a roster of the 1st squad, 332nd Sapper Platoon, descriptions of some of the unit's past activities (including data linking the platoon to the January mining of the dredge JAMAICA BAY) and reconnaissance reports on potential targets.

On 18 May a seven-man SEAL reconnaissance team was landed on Ilo Ilo Island, near the mouth of the My Tho, in response to an intelligence report about the presence of a Viet Cong medical training center. The team found an aid station and confiscated assorted medicines, medical supplies and medical books. Moving southwestward, the SEALs discovered a camp containing three huts, two bunkers, numerous booby traps, and six Viet Cong. The team
RIVER PATROL FORCÉ AND RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE DELTA OPERATIONS
May 1967

LEGEND:
- = PHR Base
- = PHR Incident
O = Helicopter Incident
* = RAF Incident (see pp. 37-41)
# = Other Incident

SCALE:
0 16 nautical miles

CONFIDENTIAL
killed five of the Viet Cong, wounded the sixth, and captured four Chinese Communist rifles. The SEALs then destroyed the camp, two sampans and a rice cache, and withdrew under the covering fire of their armored LCM with a number of Viet Cong in unsuccessful pursuit.

On 22 May Boatswain's Mate First Class W. K. BATCHELDER, USN, was killed by enemy fire while accompanying Popular Force troops on a sweep of a small island four miles southeast of Cai Be. At the time, Petty Officer BATCHELDER was coordinating fire from PBRs supporting the Vietnamese troops. Two Viet Cong were killed and one Chinese Communist carbine was captured during the operation.

Operations in the Co Chien River

In May most of the encounters with the Viet Cong along the Co Chien River involved PBR support for Vietnamese outposts under attack, or enemy fire directed at the PBRs from the river banks or from evading sampans.

On 11 May PBRs 141 and 143, pursuing an evading sampan, were taken under small-arms fire from the south bank of the river near the mouth of the Mang Thit canal. The PBRs suppressed the fire with M-16 rifles and then embarked three Popular Force troops at a nearby outpost in order to investigate the sampan, which had been beached and abandoned a short distance up the canal.

Once inside the canal the patrol noted considerable sampan activity and once again came under small-arms fire. The return fire from the PBRs triggered one secondary explosion from a sampan on the bank. The PBRs then came under heavy automatic-weapons fire
from the tree line, which was silenced. Shortly thereafter,
Vietnamese Navy units relieved the PBRs and the patrol withdrew,
its supply of ammunition nearly depleted. The PBR fire had killed
at least one Viet Cong, and destroyed two junks and a sampan. There
were no U.S. casualties.

Operations in the Bassac River

On the morning of 6 May the Viet Cong exploded a mine against
PBRs conducting Operation PERRET near the mouth of the Bassac.
Simultaneously, the enemy opened fire on the PBRs from at least
four machine-gun emplacements on nearby Con Coc Island. The patrol—
PBRs 37 and 38—was joined by PBRs 31 and 32, and the four boats
delivered a high volume of .50 caliber machine-gun and 60-mm. mortar
fire into the enemy positions.

Then the helicopter fire team from HUNTERDON COUNTY arrived in
the area and conducted a series of strikes against the ambush sites.
When the helicopters departed, the PBRs fired additional mortars on
the Viet Cong positions, triggering a series of secondary explosions
which lasted for approximately 30 minutes.

Although the mine explosion had lifted one PBR about five feet
out of the water, there were no U.S. casualties or material damage
during the engagement. At least one Viet Cong was killed.

On 9 May, PBRs supporting a SEAL ambush team destroyed one
junk and six sampans and killed at least two Viet Cong in the
narrow channel between Tan Dinh Island and the north bank of the
Bassac. The PBRs—35 and 36—had entered the channel, which lies
between two Viet Cong-controlled areas, in an attempt to draw enemy units toward the northern tip of the island, where the SEAL ambush was set. However, the enemy opened fire on the patrol from two bunkers and a junk situated on the mainland side of the channel.

The PBRs silenced the fire from the junk and one bunker, killing at least two Viet Cong. A helicopter strike then neutralized the other bunker with a direct 2.75-inch rocket hit.

With the bunkers silent the PBRs continued down the channel, engaging snipers and automatic-weapons positions on both banks. Supported by the helicopters the PBRs suppressed the enemy fire, then rendezvoused with the SEALs and withdrew from the island. A Vietnamese policeman embarked in one of the PBRs suffered slight wounds during the engagement. At least two, and probably six, of the enemy were killed.

On 17 May PBRs 36 and 38 disrupted a Viet Cong loudspeaker team which had been broadcasting propaganda in connection with the birthday of the North Vietnamese President, Ho Chi Minh. The patrol boats, which had been informed of the team’s location by the commanding officer of Coastal Group 36, surprised the Viet Cong as they were leaving Tron Island in sampans. When the sampans attempted to evade to the bank they were taken under fire, which resulted in seven of the enemy being killed.

Throughout the month a half-mile-long area on the south bank of the Bassac, 12 miles downstream from Can Tho, was the scene of a series of sharp encounters between PBRs and enemy positions on the
bank and on nearby Nai Island. On 14 May, four PBR crewmen were wounded when a blocking force composed of PBRs 35 and 127 was ambushed by Viet Cong on Nai Island employing heavy automatic weapons and rifle grenades. In the first burst of fire the patrol officer, Boatswain's Mate First Class H. R. MOONEY, USN, was struck in both legs. Despite his wounds, Petty Officer MOONEY continued to direct the patrol's movements as the PBRs made firing runs on the enemy emplacements. Then PBR 39 relieved PBR 127 and the wounded were evacuated to Can Tho. In the meantime, helicopter strikes and 105-mm. howitzer fire from Tra On damaged three enemy bunkers and two trenches in the area. The extent of Viet Cong casualties was undetermined.

***

GAME WARDEN Support Ships

On several occasions during the month GAME WARDEN support LSTs conducted gunfire missions against targets of opportunity or in response to requests. On 11 May HUNTERDON COUNTY blew up an ammunition cache in the Long Toan Secret Zone. The ship had detected a moving contact on radar as it entered a canal. At the request of the Vietnamese Sub-sector Control Center, the contact was taken under fire. A night observation device was used to spot the fall of shot as semi-automatic 40-mm. fire was "walked" up the canal. The fire triggered a secondary explosion 75-100 feet in height and several smaller explosions. Thirty minutes later the bright orange flash of another explosion, accompanied by a fireball 100-125 feet
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in diameter, erupted in the same area.

***

Viet Cong Swimmer Activity

During May Viet Cong swimmers were encountered in several areas of the Mekong Delta amid intelligence reports that the Thanh Phu Secret Zone was being used as a sapper training area.

On the night of 15 May a PBR patrol killed two Viet Cong swimmers near Dung Island in the Bassac River. On 19 May a Navy helicopter spotted six Viet Cong in black rubber suits and swim fins off the Thanh Phu Secret Zone. The helicopter killed one of the swimmers prior to being driven off by enemy ground fire.

Later in the month several unsuccessful sabotage attempts were made against USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) while she was anchored in the mouth of the Hau Luong River, near the Thanh Phu Secret Zone. On 28 May, when a deck sentry killed a man astride a log near the ship, a small secondary explosion ensued. On 29 May a sentry threw a grenade at a man who was seen in the water near the forward boat boom. Subsequent investigation disclosed that a boat at the boom had been tampered with.

On the morning of 30 May a PBR patrol engaged two swimmers near the mouth of the Hau Luong. Four rounds of M-79 grenades were fired at the swimmers, who disappeared.

***

GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 11 May USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) relieved USS GARRETT
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COUNTY (LST 786) in support of RIVPATSEC 543 at the mouth of the Soirap River.

On 25 May HARNETT COUNTY, with RIVPATSEC 513 and HAL 3 (Det. 4) embarked, shifted to the mouth of the Ham Luong River from the mouth of the Co Chien River.

***

GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
May 1967

1. PBR Statistics:
   a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 685 Night 737
   b. Total Contacts: Day 65,942 Night 15,431
   c. Total Inspected: Day 20,736 Night 5,646
   d. Total Boarded: Day 34,759 Night 7,722
   e. People Detained: 776
   f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 2
   g. Total Patrol Hours: 26,199

2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:
   a. Total Flight Hours: 437.85
   b. Helo Missions:
      (1) Pre-planned strikes: 15
      (2) Reaction: 19
      (3) Targets of Opportunity: 8
      (4) Support: 121

3. GAME WARDEN Totals:
   a. Fire Fights:
      (1) PBR 7
      (2) Helo 15
      (3) LCM 2
      (4) LCPL 2
      (5) STAB 2

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b. Sampans: Destroyed 29  Damaged 11  Captured 2

c. Structures: Destroyed 11  Damaged 7

d. Junks: Destroyed 6

e. Huts: Destroyed 14

f. Bunkers: Destroyed 43  Damaged 1

g. Enemy: KIA 116  KIA (Poss.) 27  WIA 44  Captured 7

h. Friendly: KIA 2  WIA 24

i. Friendly Battle Damage:
   (1) PBR 21
   (2) Helo 2

j. PBR MEDEVAC: 33

********
COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCEx TASK FORCE 115

In May the unit composition of the Coastal Surveillance Force underwent a number of changes.

Early in the month the first of the newly-constructed gunboats--USS ASHEVILLE (PG 61) and USS GALLUP (PG 85)--arrived and began Operation MARKET TIME patrols. In mid-May the first three JDL-Class, high-endurance Coast Guard cutters--USCGC BARATARIA (WHEC 381), USCGC BERING STRAIT (WHEC 382) and USCGC GRESHAM (WHEC 387)--chopped to CTF 115 as MARKET TIME replacements for U.S. SEVENTH Fleet DKS.

On 15 May, the Vietnamese Navy’s PCE 06 relieved USS LUCID (WBC 158) of MARKET TIME duties in the First Coastal Zone and remained on station until the 29th. On 17 May, the VNN’s PCE 12 relieved USS GANNET (WBC 290) in the Second Coastal Zone and conducted MARKET TIME patrols through the end of the month.

GANNET proceeded to the Fourth Riverine Area for special patrol duties. LUCID, meanwhile, proceeded to Danang for special mine-sweeping duty occasioned by the sapper threat to Danang’s harbor and bay.

In May MARKET TIME units detected almost 115,000 junks and sampans; one-third of these were inspected and one-fourth were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 106 junks and 1,292 suspects. In addition, MARKET TIME units detected 728 steel-hulled craft during the month; some of these were detected more than once as they transited from one MARKET TIME area to another. More than one-third of the 728 craft were inspected or boarded.
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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE OPERATIONS
May 1967

LEGEND:

- Coastal Surveillance Center
- Hostile Fire/evasion Incident
# - SAM/REDEvac Incident

SCALE:

0 100 Statute Miles

AN THOMPSON

SAIGON

VUNG TAU

CAM RANH BAY

NHA TRANG

QUI NHON

DANANG

BEAUSOIR VALLEY

AN THOM # 13 May
9 May

14 May
22 May

20, 13 May
8 May

12, 14, 24 May
31 May

12 May
22, 23 May

1 May
22 May

3 May
Other OPERATION MARKET TIME activity included participation in eight ground operations, 20 gunfire support missions, 50 hostile fire incidents, 12 evasion incidents, and six search and rescue missions.

Units of Operation STABLE DOOR, meanwhile, detected 76,000 junks and sampans during the month; 16,000 of these were inspected. Both figures represented more than twice the number of any previous month's total since STABLE DOOR operations began in November 1966. In May nearly 8,000 craft were boarded; 36 of these were detained together with almost 400 suspects.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

First Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the First Coastal Zone detected 18,000 junks and sampans during May, over twice the number detected in April. In addition, Swift boats and Coast Guard cutters provided exfiltration patrols and gunfire support for four ground operations as well as participating in several search and rescue missions.

On the evening of 1 May a CH-46 helicopter enroute to USS SANCTUARY (AH 17) with 13 patients aboard crashed 31 miles south of Danang. USCGC POINT ORIENT and PCF 19 joined a number of U.S. SEVENTH Fleet units in an all-night search for survivors. Nine of the helicopter's 17 occupants were rescued.

On the morning of the 12th USCGC POINT ELLIS detected three junks near the shore, about one mile south of the Demilitarized Zone. When the junks' six occupants abandoned the craft and attempted to escape to the tree line, POINT ELLIS took them under
Two of the Viet Cong were probably killed and the three junks were destroyed.

The following day PCF 75 detected a sampan evading into a river 67 miles south of Danang. When PCF 75 sounded its siren and fired warning shots, the craft's three occupants abandoned the sampan and swam for shore. The Swift boat then took the Viet Cong under direct fire, killing all three. With PCF 79 providing cover, personnel of PCF 75 inspected the abandoned sampan and found two diving masks and three home-made explosive units, one of which was fused and contained granulated TNT. The items were removed and the sampan was destroyed.

On the 14th, PCF 99 received automatic-weapons fire from the shore while conducting a "psywar" loudspeaker mission 67 miles south of Danang. PCF 19 joined to assist and provided cover as PCF 99 engaged the enemy positions. During the encounter, PCF 99 sustained eight hits which wounded four of the crew and forced the Swift boat to withdraw. PCF 75 then arrived on the scene and, together with PCF 19, conducted ten firing runs against the ambush area while a fourth Swift boat, PCF 75, provided covering mortar fire. During the action, PCFs 19 and 76 each were struck six times by enemy fire and PCF 75 sustained the loss of an antenna. The extent of Viet Cong casualties was undetermined.

On 22 May PCF 16 found a junk adrift, 16 miles southeast of Danang. The craft's engine was inoperative and the occupants, two adults and a boy, stated that they had been adrift for two weeks.
without food. The Swift boat's personnel gave them some food and
towed the junk to the Coastal Group 14 base near Danang for further
assistance and disposition.

MARKET TIME units were involved in a series of incidents on
22 and 23 May while supporting Operation BEAU CHARGER, an amphibious
assault near the Demilitarized Zone conducted by the SEVENTH Fleet's
Ready Group A.

On the 22nd USCGC POINT DUME took an evading junk under fire,
90 miles north of Danang. The junk's three occupants jumped over-
board and tried to escape but were apprehended. The junk was then
destroyed and the detainees were subsequently turned over to the
Vietnamese authorities.

Later that night, in the same area, POINT DUME detected a
contact which attempted to evade as the cutter approached. POINT
DUME then fired illumination rounds and warning shots, and came
under automatic-weapons and small-arms fire. The cutter also received
heavy artillery fire from positions on nearby Hon Gio Island. POINT
DUME returned the barrage and turned clear of the range of
fire. There were no U.S. casualties or damage during the incident.
The extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

At 0315 on the 23rd, while enroute to join POINT DUME, PCF 13
detected two junks and approached to investigate. The Swift boat
fired warning shots and called one of the junks alongside. The
junk's crew took to the water and the other junk evaded to the
north. PCF 13 stopped to inspect the abandoned junk and found
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approximately ten 100-pound bags of rice with Communist Chinese markings, ten crates of 81-mm mortar ammunition, a number of rifles, and a .45 caliber pistol. The Swift boat then fired on the junk's waterborne crew with concussion grenades, and turned toward six nearby junks making for Hon Gio Island. As the PCF approached the nearest craft and fired warning shots, the crew of the junk jumped into the water and dispersed. A check of the junk disclosed a quantity of rice and arms.

The Swift boat and POINT DUME then converged on the remaining junks and came under small-arms and grenade fire during the pursuit. The MARKET TIME units returned the fire, destroying three of the junks and damaging two others. The U.S. craft then began receiving artillery fire from enemy positions on Hon Gio, and withdrew as the SEVENTH FLEET's USS OZBOURN (DD 816) moved in and silenced the artillery emplacements.

MARKET TIME participation in Operation BEAU CHARGER, which began on 19 May, was terminated on the 26th. During this period one member of POINT DUME's crew and two members of PCF 13's crew were wounded slightly by enemy fire. Both craft sustained minor hull damage.

On 24 May USCGC POINT WELCOME and PCF 76 responded to a report from a forward air controller about enemy activity in the vicinity of Cape Batangan, 66 miles south of Danang. PCF 76 arrived on the scene first and came under fire during its approach to the beach. With POINT WELCOME providing cover, the Swift boat suppressed the hostile fire. Later, during a search of the area by POINT WELCOME
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personnel, three men were discovered hiding behind rocks near the beach. The suspects were detained and delivered to the Vietnamese authorities. Two of the detainees admitted to being Viet Cong intelligence agents during subsequent interrogation.

On 31 May USOOGC POINT CAUTION, PCF 22 and the SEVENTH FLEET's USS ST FRANCIS RIVER (LSMR 525) provided gunfire support for an aircraft under heavy automatic-weapons fire from an estimated Viet Cong battalion, 79 miles south of Danang. A spotter aircraft subsequently reported that the naval gunfire resulted in three secondary explosions and nine secondary fires, and destroyed 27 bunkers, ten structures, and a 1,200-foot stretch of trenches. There were no U.S. casualties. The extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

Second Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units patrolling the Second Coastal Zone during May detected 47,000 junks and sampans—an increase of 13,000 over April’s figure. In addition, Swift boats supporting operations of the U.S. FIRST Cavalry Division detained 98 junks and sampans and 539 persons.

On 8 May PCF 65 detained 20 junks and 150 persons attempting to leave the area of the ground operations, 27 miles north of Qui Nhon. The next day PCF 91 detained four junks and 16 persons, 39 miles north of Qui Nhon. On 13 May PCF 90 detained eight sampans and 49 persons in response to a request from a FIRST Cavalry unit, 40 miles north of Qui Nhon.

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Operation MARKET TIME piers at Cam Ranh Bay.
PCFs 57, 61, 64, 66, 82 and 91 conducted an Operation ROUNDUP sweep on 24 May, 48 miles north of Qui Nhon. That day the Swifts detained 66 junks and sampans and 324 persons.

Third Coastal Zone

In addition to detecting almost 7,000 junks and sampans during the month, MARKET TIME units in the Third Coastal Zone conducted 11 gunfire support missions and assisted a hydrographic survey boat struck by enemy fire.

On the 2nd of May, 52 miles southwest of Vung Tau, USCGC POINT LEAGUE observed approximately ten persons fleeing toward bunkers as the cutter approached the Long Toan Secret Zone. At the request of the Vietnamese Sector Control, POINT LEAGUE took the bunkers under fire. A spotter aircraft subsequently reported that the cutter's 81-mm. mortar and .50 caliber machine-gun fire set at least one of the bunkers ablaze. There were no U.S. casualties; the extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

On 5 May, 55 miles southwest of Vung Tau, POINT LEAGUE fired on a group of bunkers shielding approximately ten Viet Cong. The cutter's fire destroyed one of the bunkers and a number of camouflaged crates in the area.

About an hour later, one mile farther south, USCGC POINT CYPRESS fired 81-mm. mortars on seven camouflaged Viet Cong huts. In addition to damaging all of the huts, the mortars initiated a series of fires. The extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

On 13 May, a survey boat from USS MAURY (AGS 16) was hit by
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57-mm. recoilless-rifle fire while conducting hydrographic operations 53 miles southwest of Vung Tau, USCGC POINT KENNEDY took the stricken craft alongside and provided a repair party equipped with a submersible pump and patching equipment. At this time, POINT KENNEDY began receiving recoilless-rifle fire from the beach. The cutter suppressed the outburst with 81-mm. mortars and kept the enemy positions pinned down while the repair party successfully arrested the flooding in the survey boat. POINT KENNEDY then towed the boat to MAURY. There were no U.S. casualties; the extent of enemy casualties was undetermined.

Fourth Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the Fourth Coastal Zone detected 11,000 junks and sampans during May, and conducted seven gunfire support missions against Viet Cong positions.

Shortly after midnight on 9 May units of the Vietnamese Navy's Coastal Group 45 detected a Viet Cong junk and sampan which had evaded to the beach, 70 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The VNN units engaged the enemy craft as well as Viet Cong shore positions. In the ensuing exchange, which lasted until 0500 and resulted in the capture of the enemy junk, PCF 03 and USCGC POINT YOUNG provided illumination and harassing fire in support of the VNN units.

On 13 May a forward air controller under heavy automatic-weapons fire from Viet Cong ground positions 51 miles east of An Thoi requested naval gunfire support. PCFs 93 and 94 proceeded to the area and suppressed the hostile fire. The spotter aircraft reported that the PCFs' fire destroyed six sampans and damaged two
enemy structures. There were no U.S. casualties.

At 1605 on the 13th a Navy US-2C aircraft crashed five miles east of An Thoi. Thirty minutes later PCF 93 arrived on the scene and picked up the sole survivor. The bodies of the other two crew members and most of the wreckage were recovered during subsequent salvage operations.

On 14 May a forward air controller under heavy automatic-weapons fire from a Viet Cong position on Cape Bai Bung received assistance from PCF 92. The Swift boat's fire destroyed one sampan and damaged several other sampans and four Viet Cong structures. There were no U.S. casualties.

On the 22nd, five miles east of Ca Mau Point, one of the Coast Guard's newly arrived Jll-Class cutters, USCGC BARATARIA (WHEC 381), furnished naval gunfire support to ground units at the request of the Vietnamese Sector Control. The cutter's fire destroyed five structures and three sampans, and initiated a large fire.

MARKET TIME UNITS

Two of the newly-designed patrol gunboats joined Operation MARKET TIME in May. The first to arrive, GALLUP, reached Cam Ranh Bay on 30 April and began MARKET TIME patrols on 3 May. The gunboat's features include a light, all-aluminum hull, a speed of 17 knots, and one 3"/50 caliber gun, one 81-mm. mortar and two .50 caliber machine guns. A second gunboat, ASHEVILLE, arrived on 10 May and commenced operations on the 12th.
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On 15 May the high-endurance Coast Guard cutters BARATARIA, BERING STRAIT and GRASHAM began replacing SEVENTH Fleet DERs on a one-for-one basis. The ships are units of Coast Guard Squadron THREE, have a speed of 19 knots, and mount one 5"/38 caliber gun, six .50 caliber machine guns, one Mark 10 torpedo launcher with six torpedos, and two 81-mm mortars.

The Con Son Island radar site—designed to improve MARKET TIME detection capabilities in the Third Coastal Zone—became operational on 15 May, under the cognizance of CTU 115.3.8.

At 0800 on 15 May, the VNN's PCE 08 relieved the ocean minesweeper LUCID of MARKET TIME duties in the First Coastal Zone and remained on patrol until 29 May. At 0600 on 17 May, the VNN's PCE 12 relieved the coastal minesweeper GANNET in the Second Coastal Zone and remained on patrol until 31 May.

During the month aircraft from four patrol squadrons provided air surveillance for Operation MARKET TIME. A detachment of Patrol Squadron 42 flew SP-2A Neptunes from Tan Son Nhat Air Base. A detachment of Patrol Squadron 16 flew P-3A Orion aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, and a Patrol Squadron 46 detachment flew Orions from U Tapao, Thailand. Meanwhile a detachment of Patrol Squadron 1 Neptunes began operations on 18 May at the Naval Air Facility, Cam Ranh Bay, relieving the Patrol Squadron 42 detachment which had been at Cam Ranh since 1 April.

In May the following U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ships operated as MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:

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MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
May 1967

1. U.S. Ships/Craft:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DER/DER</th>
<th>USS BRIESTER</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DER 327</td>
<td>USS BRISTEIR</td>
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<tr>
<td>DER 324</td>
<td>USS FALGOUT</td>
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<td>DER 334</td>
<td>USS FOSTER</td>
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<td>DER 393</td>
<td>USS HAVENFIELD</td>
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<td>DER 400</td>
<td>USS HISSEM</td>
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<td>DER 331</td>
<td>USS KOINER</td>
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<td>DER 329</td>
<td>USS KRECHMER</td>
<td>1-10, 29-31</td>
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<td>DER 387</td>
<td>USS VANCE</td>
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<tr>
<th>LST 525</th>
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<tr>
<td>LST 819</td>
<td>USS HAMPISHIRE COUNTY</td>
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<td>MSC 290</td>
<td>USS GANNET</td>
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<td>MSC 209</td>
<td>USS WOODPECKER</td>
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<td>MSO 167</td>
<td>USS REAPER</td>
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<td>PG 81</td>
<td>USS ASHEVILLE</td>
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<td>PG 85</td>
<td>USS GALLUP</td>
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<td>USCGC BARATARIA</td>
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<td>USCGC BERING STRAIT</td>
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<td>USCGC GRESHAM</td>
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<td>WHEC 380</td>
<td>USCGC YAKUTAT</td>
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2. U.S. Activity:

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<th>TOTAL DETECTED</th>
<th>WOOD - DAY 55,265</th>
<th>NIGHT 58,975</th>
<th>TOTAL INSPECTED</th>
<th>WOOD - DAY 21,513</th>
<th>NIGHT 22,092</th>
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<td>NIGHT 812</td>
<td>STEEL - DAY</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>NIGHT 487</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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TOTAL BOARDED
WOOD - DAY 17,643  NIGHT 11,439  29,080
STEEL - DAY 91  NIGHT 37  128

TOTAL DETAINED
JUNKS 106  PEOPLE 1,292

3. Naval Gunfire Support Missions:
TOTAL MISSIONS 20
Structures: 18 destroyed  12 damaged
Bunkers: 28 destroyed  12 damaged
Craft:  11 destroyed  11 damaged  01 captured

4. Hostile Fire Reaction Missions:
TOTAL MISSIONS 50
Structures: 6 destroyed
Craft:  8 destroyed
Personnel:  2 Viet Cong suspects captured

5. Evasion Incidents:
TOTAL INCIDENTS 17
Junks:  1 destroyed  2 damaged
Sampans:  2 destroyed
Basket boats:  2 destroyed  2 captured
Personnel:  2 Viet Cong captured  6 killed (probables)

6. Support of Ground Operations:
TOTAL OPERATIONS 8

7. Search and Rescue Missions:
TOTAL MISSIONS 6

***
OPERATION STABLE DOOR

In May units of Operation STABLE DOOR detected 76,685 junks and sampans. Of this number 15,985 were inspected and 7,970 were boarded. Thirty-eight suspicious craft were detained together with 378 persons.

During the month Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 1 (IUWU 1) at Vung Tau—composed of six officers and 122 enlisted men—provided surveillance for a daily average of 25 ships anchored in the harbor. The STABLE DOOR patrols resulted in the detention of 35 junks and 172 suspects. At month's end IUWU 1's inventory of craft had been bolstered by the arrival of the first four 45-foot harbor patrol picket boats.

At Cam Ranh Bay IUWU 2 (seven officers and 129 enlisted men) detained one junk and 40 persons in May while providing surveillance for a daily average of 27 ships in the harbor.

IUWU 3 at Qui Nhon, consisting of seven officers and 136 enlisted men, provided harbor defense for a daily in-port average of 30 ships. The patrols detained two junks and 84 persons, either for improper identification papers or suspicious activity.

At 0730 on 9 May, Skimmers 06 and 12 sighted five sampans in a cove in the inner harbor. After warning shots were fired by the Skimmers, four of the sampans emerged from the cove while the fifth evaded. At this time fire was received from positions behind the cove. The Skimmers returned the fire with unknown results as the occupant of the fifth sampan successfully escaped into the brush.
The occupants of the four other sampans (three boys and one old man) were interrogated and subsequently released. There were no U.S. casualties.

On 9 May, harbor defense LCPLs and MARKET TIME PCFs rescued a number of Vietnamese civilians from Qui Nhon’s inner harbor following a Viet Cong mortar attack on the port facilities. The mortars struck fuel pumps in the harbor and caused extensive damage.

In May, the six officers and 101 enlisted men of Nha Trang’s IUWU 4 detained 83 suspects while providing surveillance for a daily average of 12 ships in port. Two additional Skimmers arrived at Nha Trang during the month, bringing to 12 the total number of Skimmers assigned to Operation STABLE DOOR.

*****
On 15 May the Riverine Assault Force experienced its first major contact with the Viet Cong when elements of Task Group 117.2 engaged enemy units armed with heavy automatic weapons and recoilless rifles, 15 miles west of My Tho.

Initial contact occurred at 0815 while the monitor and four ATCs of Task Element 117.2 were proceeding to blocking stations along Tra Tan Creek. The Element had just landed U.S. troops participating in Operation HOP TAC XVIII, a multi-battalion search and destroy mission involving the Second Brigade, NINTH Infantry Division. The enemy opened fire on the riverine craft with small arms, then struck ATC 92-6 with a round of 57-mm, recoilless-rifle fire. The craft's special bar-and-plate armor* checked the round's impact and helped avert serious structural damage. The enemy fire was subsequently suppressed and the task element continued north along the waterway.

At 1300, during a southbound sweep of Tra Tan, the element was attacked again by Viet Cong forces. A round of recoilless-rifle fire hit ATC 92-6, wounding three of the crew and the embarked river division commander. Two other ATCs and a CCB were also hit.

*The converted LCMs of the Riverine Assault Force are equipped with an armor arrangement designed to prevent penetration of the craft's vital spaces from projectiles up to and including those of 57-mm caliber. The sides of the craft are protected by 9/10" thick, high-hardness steel plate. Eighteen inches outboard of the plate, there is a steel shield consisting of spaced rods each with a diameter of 5/8 of an inch; the rods trigger striking projectiles, thereby lessening the impact on the steel plate.
COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS

COMUSMACV

CG II FFORCEV

- CG 9th INF DIV
- CO 2nd BDE
  9th INF DIV
  GROUND COMMANDER

COMNAVFORV

SENIOR ADVISOR

CTF 117

CDR RIVERINE

ASSAULT FORCE

COMRIVFLOT ONE/
COMRIVSUPPRON
SEVEN

BASE DEFENSE
Base Commander At Joint Army-Navy
Land Or Afloat Base Is Senior Army
Commander Assigned. Army Commander
Responsible For Local Base Defense.

LEGEND
OPCON
CLOSE SUPPORT
COORDINATION
MUTUAL SUPPORT

RIVER ASSAULT
SQUADRON NINE

RIVER ASSAULT
SQUADRON ELEVEN
by recoilless-rifle rounds, but sustained no personnel casualties or material damage.

An hour later Monitor 91-2 took one of the recoilless-rifle positions under fire, killing one Viet Cong. At the same time four of the monitor's crew were wounded by small-arms fire. The riverine assault units then withdrew from the area while air strikes were delivered against the enemy sites.

About 1630, in the same general area, Task Element 117.2.1.4 (three ATCs) killed three Viet Cong before aircraft moved in to launch strikes against the withdrawing Viet Cong.

The action on 15 May was the only major contact between riverine assault units and the enemy during the month. On several other occasions units engaged in troop-lift, blocking or patrol operations exchanged fire with the enemy in the My Tho-Dong Tam area. Most of these incidents involved small-arms fire. However, on 19 May three ATCs were hit by three 82-mm. caliber projectiles (probably B-40 rockets*) in the Xang Canal, just south of the Long Dinh Bridge. Three Viet Cong were killed by the ATCs' return fire.

*The B-40 is the Viet Cong designation for the Russian anti-tank grenade launcher, Model RPG-2, or the Chinese Communist Type-56 anti-tank grenade launcher. The launcher has a 40-mm. bore and the rocket's warhead has a diameter of 82 millimeters. According to the MACV-Vietnamese Joint General Staff handbook, War Material Used by the Viet Cong in South Vietnam or Presumably Available to North Vietnam, this weapon has an effective range of 165 yards, and its high explosive anti-tank (HEAT) round is capable of penetrating six to seven inches of armor. The HEAT round fired by a Chinese Communist 57-mm. recoilless rifle, Type 36, is capable of penetrating two and three-quarter inches of armor.