HISTORICAL SKETCH OF NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP—U.S. NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM

The U.S. Navy's advisory effort in Vietnam began in 1950. In October of that year, a staff of eight officers and enlisted men established the Navy Section of the U.S. Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG). The primary mission of the Navy Section was to provide aid that would help strengthen the coastal and river security of Vietnam.

Throughout the 1950's and the early 1960's, the advisory effort increased gradually as the Navy Section supervised the transfer of craft and equipment to the Vietnamese Navy and furnished advisors to the various training centers, the Saigon shipyard and the coastal and river patrol units. Assistance was also provided to the Vietnamese Marine Corps.

In 1962 the expanding American effort led to the establishment of the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV). The MAAG, meanwhile, continued to administer the functional aspects of the military aid program. The end of 1962 brought the arrival of the first Seabee Technical Assistance Teams, highly-skilled groups destined to play a key role in the field of military civic action.

By 1963 there were over 700 U.S. personnel in the Navy Section; many of these men were assigned to the Headquarters Support Activity, a Navy command that provided logistic support for most of the U.S. forces in South Vietnam. In 1964, the functions of the MAAG were absorbed by MACV and in May the title of the Navy Section was changed.

In July, U. S. SEVENTH Fleet units engaged in coastal patrols (Operation MARKET TIME) were placed under the operational control of Chief, Naval Advisory Group, and the Coastal Surveillance Force (Task Force 115) was activated. Fast patrol craft (PCFs) and Coast Guard cutters (WPFs) eventually became the backbone of the sea surveillance effort as TF 115 continued to grow in late 1965 and early 1966.

In March 1966 the first river patrol boats (PBRs) arrived in South Vietnam as the River Patrol Force (Task Force 116), established in December 1965, moved to counter enemy activity in the Mekong Delta (Operation GAME WARDEN). At the same time, minesweepers began operations in the Long Tau channel in order to keep that vital shipping lane open from the South China Sea to Saigon.

The need to unify the burgeoning U. S. Navy commitment under a single component commander directly responsible to COMUSMACV led to the establishment in April of a major Navy command, U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam (NAVFORV). On 1 April Rear Admiral WARD assumed the additional duty of Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam. In addition to Task Force 115 and Task Force 116, the new command included operational control of the Naval Support Activity, Danang, the Naval Support Activity, Saigon (the U. S. Army had assumed the Headquarters Support Activity functions), and the 30th Naval Construction Regiment. In June, the activities of all Seabee
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Units in South Vietnam were consolidated with the recommissioning of the THIRD Naval Construction Brigade, under the operational control of COMNAVFORV.

During 1966 COMNAVFORV's widely deployed forces helped improve the posture of the Vietnamese Navy and the Vietnamese Marine Corps, reduced sea infiltration, disrupted enemy lines of communications, constructed facilities valued at 28 million dollars, and supported 100,000 combat forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone as well as naval forces throughout the Republic of Vietnam.

In February 1967 a new component of NAVFORV, the Riverine Assault Force (Task Force 117), was activated under the operational control of COMNAVFORV. The mission of the new force included riverine assault operations in support of U.S. Army forces in the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone.

On 27 April Rear Admiral Kenneth L. Veth, USN, relieved Rear Admiral WARD and assumed the duties of COMNAVFORV/CHNAVADVGRP.

By the end of May the numerical strength of U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam exceeded 24,000 officers and enlisted men.
APPENDIX III

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

The following tabulation is a statistical summary of the religious services conducted during May.

1. Religious Services:
   a. Divine Services:

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

      | Day       | Number of Services | Attendance | Communed |
      |-----------|--------------------|------------|----------|
      | Sunday    | 170                | 5,236      | 1,439    |
      | Weekday   | 136                | 1,318      | 676      |
      | Total     | 306                | 6,554      | 2,115    |

      (2) Other Military Installations

      | Day       | Number of Services | Attendance | Communed |
      |-----------|--------------------|------------|----------|
      | Sunday    | 64                 | 2,443      | 896      |
      | Weekday   | 19                 | 262        | 117      |
      | Total     | 83                 | 2,705      | 1,013    |

      (3) Civilian Churches

      | Day       | Number of Services | Attendance | Communed |
      |-----------|--------------------|------------|----------|
      | Sunday    | 3                  | 647        | 345      |
      | Weekday   | 0                  | 0          | 0        |
      | Total     | 3                  | 647        | 345      |

   b. Religious services conducted by lay leaders and chaplains other than those attached to NAVFORV:

      | Denomination | Chaplains | Lay Leaders |
      |--------------|-----------|-------------|
      | Catholic     | 73  | 2,717  | 6   | 544    |
      | Protestant   | 23  | 611    | 27  | 155    |

   c. Other religious services in which chaplains participated:

      | Type of Service | Attendance |
      |-----------------|------------|
      | Memorial (7)    | 762        |
      | Burial at Sea (1)| 110       |
      | Morning prayer (14)| 48       |
      | Lutheran Communion (1)| 23       |
      | Church of Christ (1)| 18        |