The new GAME WARDEN base at Binh Thuy.
near the top of a 1,000-foot mountain, serves as the living quarters as well as the working area for the seven men assigned to the station. Prior to occupancy the lighthouse's foundation was reinforced with steel in order to accommodate the radar antenna and associated equipment. Two 30-kilowatt generators supply the electrical power requirements. The station, which has no access road, will be resupplied by helicopter on a 30-day replenishment cycle.

On the evening of 10 July, NAVSUPPACT's Qui Nhon detachment dispatched a 16-man patrol to assist a nearby U.S. Army outpost under attack. The patrol's assistance helped repulse the Viet Cong unit. There were no U. S. casualties. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

During July the number of line items carried by NAVSUPPACT increased 13 percent to a total of 32,376. Gross and net material support effectiveness rose slightly during the month to 45 percent and 67 percent, respectively. The shortage of PCF and PER repair parts continued to exist but the problem was being alleviated to some extent by expeditious procurement and direct shipment by cognizant CONUS commands.

The ships and craft of NAVSUPPACT transported a total of 1,629.7 short tons of cargo during the month. At the same time, NAVSUPPACT aircraft carried 3,927 passengers and 164.8 short tons of cargo.

On 8 July, COMNAVSUPPACT's Saigon headquarters was moved from the Cofat Compound in Cholon to a new location across the street from COMNAVFORV's headquarters. The NAVSUPPACT Communications Center was also moved to the new location and redesignated a Naval Message Center.
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Henceforth, all NAVSUPPACT message traffic will be processed by the COMNAVFORV Communications Center. NAVSUPPACT's Supply and Repair Departments remained in Cholon.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

During July the various Seabee battalions continued their efforts to complete as much horizontal-type construction as possible prior to the onset of the northeast monsoon season. The upgrading of roads, particularly Route 1, the repair or replacement of bridges, and the construction of ammunition supply sites at major combat bases in the I Corps Tactical Zone received special emphasis.

The work on Route 1 consisted of grading, repaving and sealing roadway sections, and shaping shoulders and cleaning drainage areas. While Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ELEVEN (MCB-11) worked on a 13-mile stretch north of Quang Tri, MCB-62 concentrated on the section between Phu Bai and Gia Ie. At the same time, Danang-based MCB-1 repaired and upgraded portions of Route 1 north of their camp at Red Beach, and Chu Lai-based MCB-8 worked southward toward Quang Ngai. During the month MCB-8 upgraded two miles of Route 1, constructed three drainage culverts, and began construction of a 120-foot timber bridge.

In the Hai Van pass, north of Danang, MCB-1 repaired four bridges and began making repairs to four others. South of Danang, MCB-4's "Liberty Bridge" project (across the Thu Bon River) continued to progress. At month's end 1,680 feet of the 2,000-foot bridge had been completed.

In Danang, MCB-133 continued the building of ammunition and napalm storage areas at the Air Base, and began working on 30 bunkers for other ammunition supply points. In nearby Red Beach,
The Liberty Bridge nears completion.
members of MCB-74 continued construction work at the Marines' ammunition supply point. To the north, MCB-3 worked on pads and berms for an ammunition supply site at Phu Bai, as well as repairing and widening the road between the Col Co landing craft facility and Hue.

Among the construction projects which neared completion were the cantonments and operational facilities for the Marines' tactical data system complex on Monkey Mountain. The work was performed by MCB-74 and, on 31 July, the battalion was engaged in the project's final phase—installing a water-supply system.

At the entrance to the Cua Viet, where MCB-11 is expanding the LST- LCU facility, members of the battalion drove sheet pilings for the loading ramps, hauled away 46,000 cubic yards of sand, and cemented 1,000 square yards of the planned staging area. When completed, the facility's ramps will accommodate two LSTs, four LCUs and eight LCMs.

At Dong Ha MCB-11 completed work on eight of 30 planned helicopter pads, erected seven Butler buildings and four quonset huts, and laid the concrete foundation for a new 500-man galley.

At Chu Lai, MCB-8 completed work on a morale project—an ice plant—for the Army's Task Force OREGON. Nearby, MCB-71 drilled a well for the Korean laundry facility serving the Chu Lai base; the well will produce 150,000 gallons of water daily. Meanwhile, at Vung Tau, a detachment from MCB-71 completed the construction of barracks and office buildings for the Navy's newly-formed Light Helicopter Attack Squadron THREE.
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During the second half of the month, four battalions (MCB's 4, 7, 74 and 133) helped complete emergency repairs at the Danang Air Base following the rocket attack of 15 July. The work included clearing debris from the runways and parking aprons, restoring electrical power, and making temporary repairs to damaged berthing huts and galleys.

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Since the middle of June the region surrounding the Coastal Group 14 base south of Danang has been the scene of numerous "psychowar" loudspeaker broadcasts originated from Vietnamese Navy junks and U.S. Navy MARKET TIME units. On two occasions in July Viet Cong propaganda teams beamed broadcasts at the Coastal Group base. During one of the broadcasts, on the 23rd, a PCF with a U.S. Army loudspeaker team embarked sped to the scene and responded in kind to the enemy's attempt to persuade Government personnel to desert. As the U.S. team countered the Viet Cong broadcast, mortar fire from the Coastal Group base struck and silenced the enemy's positions.

Among the month's notable civic action and psychological warfare projects were a series of visits along the Third Coastal Zone by LSM(H) 401, the VNN's hospital ship. Operating in this Zone between the 21st and the 30th of July, the ship's doctors and corpsmen treated over 2,000 Vietnamese in need of medical or dental care. During the visits the ship's crew distributed 30,000 pounds of commodities as well as 20,000 leaflets and posters espousing the Government's cause. In addition, the ship's "culture platoon" entertained villagers on five different occasions, and the embarked "psychowar" team conducted numerous loudspeaker broadcasts.

In a continuing military civic action program, the Naval Support Activity, Danang has been assisting the villagers of nearby
The Vietnamese Navy's hospital ship arrives for a civic action visit in the Third Coastal Zone.
A Vietnamese Navy doctor treats a civilian on board LSM(H) 401.
Truyen Tln to rebuild 152 homes which were destroyed during the Viet Cong rocket attack on Danang in February. NAVSUPPACT Danang has been supplying and delivering the materials, and the villagers have been erecting the structures. By the end of July, 68 of the homes had been finished and another 56 were under construction.

In another self-help project, Seabee Team 0308 assisted residents of Trung hamlet, about four miles west of Saigon, to build a road through the center of the hamlet. Working with a Vietnamese Revolutionary Development Team, the Seabees staked, cleared and "bulldozed" a path for the road. At the same time, the residents hand-cleared areas which were too restrictive for the bulldozer.

Meanwhile, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion THREE conducted an active civic action program near Hue during the month. Medical civic action teams from the battalion treated nearly 700 medical or dental patients; other members of the battalion donated materials to local hospitals, schools and refugee centers.

On 18 July, COMNAVFORV promulgated an Operation Order delineating the responsibilities of subordinate commanders in support of the Vietnamese Government's Revolutionary Development Program. The Op-order was based on the lessons learned thus far in carrying out military civic action programs, and included guidance for the conduct of Medical Civic Action Programs (MEDCAPs), Winning Hearts and Minds Operations (WHAMOs) and psychological operations campaigns in coordination with the efforts of the Vietnamese Navy.

The following is a tabulation of certain military civic
action projects conducted during July by U.S. and Vietnamese naval forces. Construction projects involving renovation or repair are so indicated with an R.

1. Construction:

a. Bridges 2
b. Dispensaries 1R
c. Dwellings/number of families 6R/37
d. Hospitals 2R
e. Leveling-grading projects 2
f. Playgrounds 1R
g. Schools/classrooms 1R/1
h. Toilets 3
i. Water tanks 1
j. Wells 1

2. Medical treatment:

a. General medicine 22,881
b. Dental 3,004
c. Surgery 120
d. Emergency evacuations 45
e. Cleft-palate operations 1
f. Blood tests 116
g. X-rays 2

3. Health and sanitation:

a. MEDCAPs 57

4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):

a. Cement 36,670
b. Clothing 12,070
c. Food 138,094
d. Rice (bags) 550
e. Lumber (board feet) 70,112
f. Medicine, non-prescription 473
g. School kits (number) 480
h. soap (bars) 3,391
i. Tin sheets (number) 743
j. Nails 500
k. White wash 1,200
l. Plywood (sheets) 200
m. Aluminum roofing (sheets) 515
n. Firewood (tons) 30
o. Rock-laterite (cubic yards) & 1,000 \\
p. Sand (cubic yards) & 500 \\
q. Magazines (number) & 4,400 \\
r. Beds (number) & 1 \\
s. 55 Gallon drums (number) & 150 \\
t. Khaki uniforms (number) & 484 \\
u. Toothpaste (tubes) & 530 \\
v. Paper blankets (number) & 965 \\
w. Office paper (reams) & 25 \\
x. Ball point pens (number) & 350 \\
y. School supplies & \\
z. Plastic envelopes (number) & 400 \\
aa. Toys (number) & 250 \\
ab. Paint (gallons) & 45 \\
ac. Medical supplies (cases) & 4 \\
ad. Wool blankets (number) & 100 \\
ae. Textile kits (number) & 30 \\
af. Powdered beverages (cases) & 11 \\
ag. Cooking oil (cases) & 5 \\
ah. Cigarettes (cases) & 10 \\
ai. Junk tool boxes (number) & 20 \\
aj. Sewing kits (number) & 9 \\
ak. Sewing machines (number) & 6 \\
al. Bricks (number) & 1,000 \\

5. Educational efforts:
   a. English classes/attendance & 79/1040 \\

6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:
   a. Schools & 6,000 \\
   b. Scholarships & 3,000 \\

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 2 July Team 5 of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE, together with PCF 95 and the SEVENTH Fleet's USS OAK HILL (LSD 7), successfully completed the salvage of PCF 97. The 22-ton MARKET TIME craft had been sunk by enemy fire on 25 June during a routine patrol off the Ca Mau Peninsula. Working from PCF 95, Team 5 divers hooked up the sunken craft to OAK HILL's 35-ton capacity crane. The Swift boat was then lifted clear of the surface, dewatered, and lowered into the LSD's well-deck. Seven hours after the recovery operation had begun, PCF 97 was on its way to Subic for repairs.

On 17 July Team 5 began salvage operations to recover a floating PBR pier at Nha Be which had sunk in 40 feet of water during a severe storm two days earlier. The pier had consisted of two 14-section steel treadways laid athwartships across 13 aluminum bridge-pontoons; an additional 40-foot section of wooden decking had been positioned at the end of the pier.

Using an LCM-8 as a working platform, the Team 5 divers first removed the various wire straps, turnbuckles and small chains which had held the pier together. Then the various sections of the pier were dragged onto the beach by a "caterpillar" tractor. By 23 July all of the pontoons, the treadway sections, and the wooden decking had been recovered.

On 28 July Team 5 and a light lift craft (LLC-1) arrived at Dong Tam to provide a rapid-response capability to Task Force 117 requirements for salvage assistance. Meanwhile, Team 1 of Harbor
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Clearance Unit ONE arrived in country and, on 30 July, proceeded to Dong Tam to relieve Team 5, which was scheduled to return to Subic in early August.

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COMMUNICATIONS

The number of messages handled by the COMNAVFORV Communications Center during July was 92,763, an increase of 3,001 over June's figure.

During the month the center relinquished the communications guard for 61 various activities. The decrease occurred as a result of the shift by CTF 115 from Saigon to Cam Ranh Bay and the subsequent transfer of associated circuits to the Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay.

At the Cam Ranh Bay station the construction work and installation of equipment (Project BOWLINE) was virtually completed. The station was scheduled to be commissioned on 1 August.

At Danang the work designed to improve NAVSUPPACT's communications capability (Project SEA ANCHOR) also neared completion. By month's end the communications center, transmitter site and receiver site were 85, 97 and 92 percent complete, respectively; the installation of electronic equipment was 92 percent complete at all three sites.

Meanwhile, the program to upgrade the communications facilities at the GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME bases and COMNAVFORV headquarters (Project SEARCHLIGHT) lagged somewhat behind schedule because of delays in the procurement of construction materials. At month's end, the SEARCHLIGHT site at Nha Be was operational and the construction and installation phases had begun at COMNAVFORV's headquarters in Saigon. The remaining sites were in varying stages of progress; among these the first expected completion was the Binh Thuy site, scheduled to become operational in early September.
MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC

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In Project STARBOARD TACK (the use of communication vans transportable by helicopters), the procurement of components had begun. The first HF vans were expected in August and the first UHF-VHF vans in September.

The Naval Support Activity detachments at Dong Ha and Hue-Phu Bai were earmarked for the initial deliveries. The capabilities of each STARBOARD TACK facility will include secure, full-duplex teletype circuits and HF tactical FM and UHF voice-radio circuits. In addition, through the use of microwaves, each facility will be able to patch into the circuitry of the in-country Defense Communications System.
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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 7 July the Honorable Robert S. McNAMARA, Secretary of Defense, began a five-day tour of military installations in South Vietnam, including the Mobile Riverine Base anchored at the junction of the Vam Co and Soirap rivers. On 10 July, on board CTF 117's flagship, USS BENEWAH (APB 35), Mr. McNAMARA was briefed on the status and plans of the Mobile Riverine Force by the respective Navy and Army commanders, Captain Wade C. WELLS, USN, and Colonel William B. FULTON, USA.

On 13 July the Surgeon General of the Navy, Vice Admiral Robert S. BROWN, MC, USN, arrived in Saigon for briefings at COMNAVFORV's headquarters, followed by an extensive tour of the Navy's medical facilities in the I Corps area, the Naval Support Activity's hospital in Danang plus USS REPOSE (AH 16) and USS SANCTUARY (AH 17). Vice Admiral BROWN also visited the medical facilities at Cam Ranh Bay, Long Binh, Dong Tam and Nha Be.

Saigon Naval Shipyard Review

On 26 July COMNAVFORV submitted to Commander U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam a comprehensive study concerning the critical shortage of skilled personnel at the Saigon Naval Shipyard. The study analyzed the shipyard's inequitable pay scales, reviewed the shipyard's declining production schedules, and concluded that the deteriorating skilled-worker level could eventually destroy the military effectiveness of the Vietnamese Navy. Accordingly, COMNAVFORV recommended that CCMUSMACV make strong representation to the
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Vietnamese Government to increase the pay of shipyard workers to a level consistent with the current labor market. It was estimated that such action would cost $800,000 annually at the shipyard’s present manning level and approximately $1,100,000 annually if the shipyard were fully manned.
The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) on 31 July was 15,925 officers and enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged as deserters declined from 10 in June to 7 in July.

On 1 July RAG 27 was placed in a reserve status. Ten of the unit's 20 craft remained temporarily at My Tho to operate with RAG 21; the other craft shifted to Cat Lai, near Saigon, to operate in the Third Riverine Area under the operational control of the chief of the VNN's Operations Division.

On 3 July, at Saigon's Naval Advanced Training Center, 44 selected warrant officers and petty officers were enrolled in a special six-month program leading to commissioned status. The program's newly-revised curriculum consists of courses in Leadership, Gunner, Navigation, Engineering, Electronics, Mathematics and Tactics. The students will be commissioned as Deck or Engineer Officers depending upon their previous specialties.

On 19 July Captain Allan P. Slaaff, USN, relieved Captain Carson R. Tallent, USN, as Senior Advisor, Vietnamese Navy Headquarters. For his role in furthering the advisory effort, the Government of Vietnam awarded Captain Tallent the National Order of Vietnam and the Gallantry Cross (with Palm). South Vietnam's Chief of Naval Operations, Captain Tran Van Ghon, VNN, made the
presentations.

On the 23rd PCM 605 completed the Naval Advanced Training Center's three week underway refresher program. Initially instituted in April to train the crews of the four new PCs, the program has been continued in an effort to upgrade the training of the crews of all ships in the VNN. On the 24th, two new Class "A" Schools—for boatswain's mates and gunner's mates—began at the Recruit Training Center in Cam Ranh. The initial classes comprised 116 students.

On 30 July Coastal Group 21 completed its move from the base on Gambir Island to the newly-completed base at Dugi, 21 miles north of Qui Nhon.

**Fleet Command**

In July the Fleet Command had 24 ships available daily and maintained 11 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam, five ships on river patrol and one ship on convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. The month's operations included MARKET TIME and other anti-infiltration patrols, psychological warfare and civic action visits, escort patrols and gunfire support missions. Fleet Command ships fired 30 gunfire support missions in July and searched 575 junks and 2,839 persons.

Patrol Craft (PCs and PCEs) and gunboats (PGMs) patrolled the coasts of the four Naval Zones; the PGMs also patrolled the rivers of the Rung Sat Special Zone. At 2000 on 9 July, 12 miles south of Saigon, a junk containing at least six Viet Cong was detected
by PGM 602 while the junk was attempting to cross the Saipan River into the RSSZ. As the PGM closed in pursuit, the junk opened fire on the gunboat at a range of about 200 yards. The gunboat immediately returned the fire with her .50 caliber machine gun, igniting the gas tank and after section of the junk and killing at least one of the Viet Cong. Two other bodies were subsequently seen in the water but could not be recovered. Later, intelligence reports indicated that five other Viet Cong had been wounded during the engagement. The Viet Cong gunfire shattered two windshields on the gunboat but caused no personnel injuries.

Landing support ships (LSILs and LSSLs) provided gunfire support and acted as convoy escorts in the Third Naval Zone, the Fourth Riverine Area and the RSSZ. The ships conducted 21 gunfire missions in July. At 1130 on 9 July LSIL 331 was ambushed while patrolling the Bassac River, 22 miles downstream from Can Tho. Almost immediately a direct hit by a 75-mm. recoilless-rifle round struck the ship at the waterline on the port side. The ship returned the fire and received two additional recoilless-rifle hits as well as automatic-weapons and small-arms fire. Five VNN sailors were wounded during the incident, one of whom was evacuated to Can Tho by a PBR. The LSIL then proceeded to Can Tho for repairs. A reaction force subsequently put ashore from RAG craft operating in the area detained six suspects in connection with the ambush.

In another Bassac River incident, on 26 July, LSSL 230 came to the assistance of PBRs 4 and 39 under fire from Viet Cong ground
positions, 16 miles southeast of Can Tho. The combined firepower of the three craft disrupted the enemy unit. During the engagement, PBR 39 was struck by a recoilless-rifle round, wounding four crewmen and disabling the boat's starboard engine. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

Throughout the month a detachment of the VNN's Underwater Demolition Team (LDNN) continued to conduct nightly hull inspections of ships berthed in the Port of Saigon. Meanwhile two other detachments operated with U.S. Navy SEAL units based at Nha Be and Binh Thuy.

Coastal Force

In July Coastal Force units searched 24,497 junks and 88,929 persons, detaining 21 junks and 419 suspects. On a daily average, 68 percent of the Force's 198 available junks was on patrol.

On the first of the month, Coastal Group 14 forces engaged several Viet Cong units in an intense fire fight at the mouth of the Thu Bon River, 14 miles south of Danang. The enemy eventually broke contact and retreated, leaving behind nine of their dead.

Throughout the month, units of Coastal Groups 14 and 16 conducted a series of one-day sweeps in their respective areas. On the 15th, Coastal Group 14 units and Quang Nam sector forces conducted Operation PHI HUNG 30, 10 miles south of Danang, capturing four Viet Cong and detaining 38 suspects and 97 junks and sampans. That same day Coastal Group 16 units and Quang Ngai sector forces conducted Operation QUIET THANG 71/0, 70 miles south of Danang.
(just east of Quang Ngai City), killing five Viet Cong and detaining 25 suspects.

Shortly after midnight on 11 July, a junk and a sampan from Coastal Group 25 and PCF 44, in response to an intelligence report, established a blockade along a section of the Hon Heo peninsula, 20 miles north of Nha Trang. At 0030, two Viet Cong sampans carrying food and weapons attempted to run the blockade and were intercepted. In the ensuing fire fight one of the sampans was rammed, sunk, and recovered by the junk. The second enemy sampan escaped to the beach. Six Viet Cong were killed during the engagement, and four automatic weapons, 11 grenades and three small bombs were seized. Two Vietnamese sailors were killed and a third, seriously wounded, was evacuated to Nha Trang by the Swift boat.

From 13 to 15 July, Operation NINH THUAN 17/67/20 was conducted by Coastal Groups 26 and 27, PCE 09, PCF 81, and three Regional Force companies in an area near the village of Son Hai, 52 miles south of Nha Trang. At 0800 on the 13th, the RF companies conducted a helicopter-borne assault, while 40-man landing parties from the Coastal Groups conducted a beach assault. The landing parties captured two Viet Cong during their sweeps, the RF troops detained about 25 suspects, and the junks of the blocking force searched 98 junks and 274 persons.

On the morning of 7 July, in the Third Coastal Zone, four Coastal Group 35 junks and a company of ARVN Special Forces, supported by two U.S. F-ARs and a helicopter fire team, conducted a
search and destroy operation along the edge of the Long Toan Secret Zone, in lower Vinh Binh province. During the afternoon the naval units, acting as a blocking patrol, received intense automatic- and heavy-weapons fire, which killed a PBR crewman. Two Viet Cong were killed by the return fire. Meanwhile, the ground forces killed 27 Viet Cong and captured numerous weapons.

On the evening of 9-10 July units of Coastal Group 36 and a platoon of ARVN Special Forces, acting quickly on information obtained from a Hoi Chanh, staged a successful ambush on the southern end of Dung Island, near the mouth of the Bassac River. At 2130 Vietnamese junks landed 40 members of the Special Forces, and almost immediately the troops surprised and disrupted a group of Viet Cong conducting a meeting. A sweep of the area at daylight revealed that nine Viet Cong had been killed. In addition, one Viet Cong was captured, three others were wounded, and one enemy sampan and eight weapons were seized. One Special Forces soldier was wounded.

**Riverine Area Naval Commands**

In July the River Assault Groups conducted eleven operations in the First Naval Zone, seven in the Third Riverine Area and 14 in the Fourth Riverine Area. The RAG units also performed escort duty and conducted river patrol, base defense and psychological warfare missions. With a daily average employment of 74 percent of the 154 available craft, the RAG units searched 2,676 junks and 6,619 persons.
On 13 July, a RAG 25 monitor successfully conducted an indirect gunfire mission against Viet Cong fortifications on Tan Dinh Island, 13 miles downstream from Can Tho. Initially, the target's bearing was marked by smoke grenades and rockets launched by a Forward Air Controller; the FAC then radioed the fortification's range and subsequently transmitted spot corrections as the monitor's salvos struck. Once on target, the monitor "fired for effect" and destroyed the enemy site completely.

The First Naval Zone's RAG detachment conducted three amphibious operations between 7 and 10 July. One Viet Cong was killed, 32 Viet Cong suspects were detained, and six enemy structures were destroyed during this period.

From the 13th through the end of the month the RAG detachment supported a series of amphibious operations conducted just north of Hue by Thua Thien sector forces, the ARVN 3rd Airborne Combat Group, and U.S. Marine units. Included in the results of these operations were 350 enemy killed, 95 captured, 27 suspects detained, and 128 weapons seized. During one of the operations, LAM SON 87/XDNT,* 600 refugees were transported by craft of the RAG detachment to new homes in a pacified area.

From 1 to 21 July, in the Third Riverine Area, a seven-craft detachment of RAG 22 provided lift support for the VNMC's 6th Battalion operating in the Rung Sat Special Zone. From the 21st

* Xay-Dung Nong-Than: rural clearance and construction.
Vietnamese Regional Force troops cross the ramp of a RAG 22 craft following a sweep operation in the Rung Sat Special Zone.
through the end of the month, 11 of the detachment’s craft conducted river patrols and supported Regional Force operations in the RSSZ.

Between 19 and 25 July, 10 craft from RAG 30 supported two companies of the U.S. 199th Light Infantry Brigade in operations conducted along the Dong Nai River, eight miles east of Saigon. During this period the craft transported and debarked troop units on 34 different occasions and patrolled the rivers and major canals in support of nighttime ambushes.

On 27 July, along the same stretch of the Dong Nai River, an RPC from RAG 30 sank a sampan carrying two Viet Cong. Minutes later, one half-mile away, six Viet Cong ambushed the RPC and the RAG 30 commandant. The VNN craft countered the ambush and put a landing party ashore which killed three of the enemy and seized a submachine gun. At 1045 the VNN units sighted several Viet Cong moving along the shoreline near the site of the sunken sampan. Again an attack party was landed and the group killed two Viet Cong and uncovered a cache containing six submachine guns, 146 60-mm. mortar rounds, 2,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition, 224 grenades, 220 pounds of TNT, numerous documents, and miscellaneous equipment used to assemble water mines.

On 3 July, in the Fourth Riverine Area, RAGs 23 and 31 and units of the ARVN NINTH Division conducted Operation NGO QUYEN 13/67, 12 miles southeast of Vinh Long. During the one-day operation, the combined force killed 28 Viet Cong, captured eight, and
detailed 9 suspects. Four weapons, a quantity of documents and almost two and one-half tons of rice were seized.

From 5 to 9 July, 22 craft from RAGs 21, 26 and 33 and LCU 535 conducted multi-battalion troop lifts, landings, gunfire and logistic support missions, and acted as blocking forces for the ARVN SEVENTH Division's Operation CUU LONG 62/67, southeast of Ben Tre. The results of the operation included 22 Viet Cong killed, 42 captured, and 56 suspects detained. Three sailors and three soldiers were killed and three sailors and 19 soldiers were wounded.

In the Bassac River on 6 July, six craft from RAG 25 destroyed 33 structures, 26 bunkers and 11 sampans during a three-hour bombardment of Tan Dinh Island, 14 miles downstream from Can Tho. On the 7th, in the same general area, a two-boat patrol from RAG 25 stationed a three-man ambush party at one end of a Viet Cong-constructed canal on Nai Island. An hour later five of the enemy were detected and taken under fire; whereupon the Viet Cong fled across the island. The ambush party then re-embarked in the patrol craft, circled the island and killed two of the Viet Cong as they approached the other end of the canal.

On 11 July an alert lookout on board one of the RAG 23 craft assigned to the Mang Thit River patrol thwarted a Viet Cong sapper attack when he spotted an approaching palm branch being pushed across the river by a swimmer. As the craft quickly maneuvered to avoid the swimmer, the lookout opened fire and an underwater detonation ensued, driving a column of water a height of 20 to 25 feet
Operation CUU LONG 63 was conducted between 17 and 20 July in the Binh Dai Secret Zone of Kien Hoa province by the ARVN SEVENTH Division and 34 craft from RAGs 21, 23, 26, 31, 32 and 33, and LCU 535. The force uncovered and destroyed three weapons factories containing over 25,000 rounds of ammunition, 200 grenades, 50 signal guns and 1,000 flares. The units also overran a Viet Cong prisoner of war camp, freeing six Vietnamese prisoners. In addition, four Viet Cong were killed during the operation.

On 27 July RAGs 25, 29 and 32 landed a battalion of Vinh Long Regional Force troops and the 3rd Battalion of the ARVN 16th Regiment at opposite ends of May Island. The RAG craft and assisting PBRs then blockaded the island’s flanks as the ground forces swept toward the center of the island. Two Viet Cong were killed and two were captured by the ground forces; meanwhile the RAG craft detained 26 suspects and three junks attempting to leave the island.

Logistics

In July the Vietnamese Navy conducted 22 logistical support missions, transporting 4,076 tons of cargo and 3,781 personnel. Medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 1,629 tons of cargo and 2,283 personnel; tank landing ships (LSTs) lifted 1,549 tons of cargo and 1,134 personnel; and utility landing craft (LCUs) lifted 898 tons of cargo and 364 personnel.

During the month, the VNN's Supply center had a gross effectiveness of 71.9 percent on a total of 9,420 requests for items and a net
SEARCHES AND DETENSIONS
BY VIETNAMESE NAVY SEA, COASTAL, AND RIVERINE FORCES

SEARCHES

DETENTIONS
effectiveness of 84 percent on 8,061 requests for items normally carried in the supply system.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary
July 1967

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coastal Force</th>
<th>Searched Junks</th>
<th>People</th>
<th>Detained Junks</th>
<th>People</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I NZ</td>
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<td>27,606</td>
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<tr>
<td>II NZ</td>
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<td>IV NZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-Totals</td>
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<table>
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<th>People</th>
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<td>6,619</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>27,748</td>
<td>98,387</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>419</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

***

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

In July the seven battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II and III Corps Tactical Zones, the Rung Sat Special Zone and the Fourth Riverine Area. The six infantry battalions and the three batteries of the Artillery Battalion were committed to combat operations 77 percent of the time.

In II Corps' Bong Son area Brigade Force A, consisting of a headquarters, the 4th and 5th Battalions and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, continued a search and destroy and pacification operation begun in April. The operation, code-named BAC TIEN 817, ended on 12 July and was followed by similar operations in the same area until the 26th. No significant contact with the enemy occurred.
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during this period. In 14 scattered incidents Force A elements killed 14 Viet Cong, captured three, and detained 68 suspects. Meanwhile, 12 Viet Cong mine explosions killed six Marines and wounded 24 more; five other Marines were wounded by sniper fire. On 14 July the 1st Battalion, airlifted from Thu Duc, relieved the 4th Battalion in the field. On the 26th Brigade Force B (a headquarters, the 2nd Battalion and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion) relieved Force A and the latter returned to the base camp at Thu Duc.

The next day Force A deployed to Dong Tam and joined U.S. and ARVN units in Operation CORONADO II. At 0800 on the 30th, the Force conducted a helicopter-borne assault 10 miles west of Dong Tam; while 3rd Battalion elements attacked well-entrenched Viet Cong battalions, the Marines' 4th Battalion took up blocking positions 1200 yards to the north of the enemy units. In the fierce 23-hour battle that ensued, the enemy used mortars, B-40 rockets and heavy automatic weapons (several of the weapons were tree-mounted) in an effort to turn back the advancing Marines. Supported by helicopter strikes and artillery fire, the Marines disrupted the enemy positions and forced the Viet Cong to retreat, leaving behind 108 dead; in addition, six Viet Cong were captured. During the engagement 115 Marines and one U.S. advisor were wounded.

At 1300 on the 31st, the Marines' 4th Battalion relieved the 3rd Battalion and the latter and the headquarters unit were airlifted to Dong Tam. At the same time the 5th Battalion, in Thu
Duc, prepared to leave for Dong Tam on 1 August in order to
strengthen the forces participating in the remaining phases of
CORONADO II.

Earlier in the month Brigade Force B, composed of a headquar­
ters, the 1st and 3rd Battalions and Battery C of the Artillery
Battalion, had conducted security operations at Tan Uyen, north of
Saigon, until 8 July. On 3 July seven Viet Cong were killed in a
squad-size encounter; during the week one Marine was killed and
two were wounded in two booby-trap incidents. On the 8th the 2nd
Battalion, having just completed security duty at Vinh Loc, re­
lieved the 1st Battalion at Tan Uyen.

On 9 July Brigade Force B was moved by truck convoy from Tan
Uyen to northern Phuoc Tuy province to participate in Operation
PADDINGTON with U.S., Australian and other Vietnamese units. The
next day Force B conducted a helicopter-borne assault in an area
43 miles east of Saigon. Although the Force’s units met scattered
resistance, the 2nd Battalion uncovered a munitions factory con­
taining 1,000 grenades and 400 mines, and a Viet Cong hospital
complex. On the 12th, in the heaviest engagement of the opera­
tion, the 3rd Battalion made contact with a Viet Cong battalion
and killed 40 of the enemy. That day 11 Marines were killed and
25 were wounded. During the entire operation, which ended on the
14th, Marine elements accounted for 43 of the 92 Viet Cong killed.
At the same time 11 of the 14 Allied troops killed and 31 of the
59 wounded were Marines.
Brigade Force B subsequently returned to the Thu Duc base camp where it remained until 26 July when the Force was airlifted to Bong Son to relieve Brigade Force A. Force B then began Operation SONG THAN 14, nine miles southeast of Bong Son, a search and destroy mission designed to provide road and communications security in the area. By month's end three Viet Cong had been killed by the Marines, three had been captured, and seven suspects had been detained; during this period four Marines were wounded.

On 24 and 25 July the 3rd Battalion joined U.S. and ARVN units in a search and destroy operation in the eastern portion of Long An province, 10 miles south of Saigon. The mission failed to produce any contact with the enemy.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, the Marines' 6th Battalion and Battery A of the Artillery Battalion operated through the 21st. No contact with the enemy occurred during this period. From 25 July through the end of the month the 6th Battalion was assigned security duties at Vinh Loc, four miles west of Saigon.

Throughout July the Brigade accounted for 175 enemy dead, 12 captured, and 78 suspects detained. In the same period 64 Marines were killed and 18 Marines and one U.S. advisor were wounded. The morale of the Vietnamese Marine Corps remained at a high level and the leadership in all units was considered to be satisfactory during the month.

On 24 July Colonel Richard L. MICHAELS, USMC, relieved Colonel Nels E. ANDERSON, USMC, as Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese Marine
Corps. For his role in furthering the advisory effort, Colonel Anderson was awarded the Vietnamese Navy's Distinguished Service Order.

**Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary**

**July 1967**

VC/NVA: 175 KIA, 12 VC CAPTURED, 78 SUSPECTS DETAINED

VNMC: 64 KIA, 184 WIA

**Weapons Captured:**
- Pistols, .45 caliber
- Carbines
- Rifles, MAS-36
- Heavy machine guns, 12-mm.
- AK-47s
- 60-mm. mortars
- Rifles, M-1
- Rifles, Russian
- Rifles, U.S., 03
- AK-50s
- B-40s, RPG
- BARs
- Rifles, Czech

**Captured or Destroyed Materiel/Facilities:**
- Regimental defensive systems
- Regimental medical stations
- Arsenals
- Communications trenches
- Rice (kg.) 2,250
- Salt (kg.) 800
- Explosive charges (Butterfly) 135
- Mines (5-kilogram) 50
- 105-mm. modified mines 30
- 155-mm. modified mines 4
- Homemade mines 400
- Hand grenades 1,090
- Thatched huts 6
- Kerosene cans 4
- Caches of assorted items 16
- Containers of medical supplies 26
- Surgical thread kits 1,000
- Compasses 3
- Assorted small-arms ammunition, rounds 600
- Linked .30 caliber ammunition, rounds 1,200
Claymore mines
Anti-tank mines
Sampans

*****
In recent months the U. S. Navy Research and Development Unit, Vietnam (NRDU-V) has tested and evaluated a buoyant protective vest, an assortment of pyrotechnics, a helicopter landing platform for use by armored troop carriers, and two remote-controlled minesweepers.

The buoyant protective vest, tested during May, was designed to shield wearers from small-arms fire and heavier fragments, and help keep waterborne wearers (e.g., boat crewmen blown over the side) afloat for extended periods. It was found that after 18 hours of immersion, the vest still retained enough buoyancy to withstand 30 pounds of weight. However, the vest's bulk was considered too restrictive, especially for personnel assigned to enclosed firing stations similar to those that exist in Riverine Assault Force craft. Accordingly, NRDU-V recommended a number of modifications to the vest, including larger armholes, "shotgun" pockets, and "velcro" fasteners instead of zippers.

During the latter part of June, in response to the need for all-weather signaling devices and improved short-range illumination devices, NRDU-V began testing a number of pyrotechnics.

Among these the Ex-130 Signal Cartridge, which is fired from a .38 caliber pistol, was found to be inadequate as a daytime signalling device. At night, however, the Ex-130 proved to be an excellent device, even under adverse weather conditions. The different color signals (yellow, red and green stars) were readily discernible out...
to 12,000 yards. Another device—the MK-79—was found to be effective during the day as well as at night. The MK-79, which is normally issued to aviators, consists of a projector and a bandolier containing seven cartridges. Under daylight conditions the device's red star signal was visible up to 4,000 yards; under nighttime conditions the range was 8,000 yards.

Two parachute-type smoke signals—the M-128A (green smoke) and the M-129A (red smoke)—both of which can be fired from an M-79 grenade launcher, produced excellent results. In the Mekong Delta, under late-afternoon, low-overcast conditions, the signals were readily visible and the colors clearly discernible up to 4,000 yards. At sea, in rain squalls, the signals were visible up to 9,000 yards.

Among the short-range illumination devices tested, only one—the M-127A parachute-type white flare—produced useful results. The device was tested from a PBR and a PCF and it was found that the flare provided satisfactory illumination between 450 and 600 yards, and excellent illumination between 300 and 450 yards. At ranges less than 300 yards, the firing craft was illuminated as well as the target area.

In all cases, storage requirements for the tested pyrotechnics were found to be compatible with existing stowage spaces on board patrol craft.

On 21 June, in response to a request from Commander Task Force 117, NRDU-V investigated the feasibility of constructing a portable helicopter landing platform for use in an Armored Troop Carrier (ATC). Within three days, the preliminary design and sketches were completed.
A UH-1D completes a successful landing on the newly-developed helicopter landing platform.
by Mr. Berger M. SHEPARD, one of NRDU-V's civilian advisors.* The materials for the 16' x 20' platform were obtained in Saigon and delivered to USS ASKARI (ARL 30), the repair ship of the Riverine Assault Force, on 27 June.

The 3,000 pound platform, built primarily with two-inch piping and three-inch angle iron, was constructed on the 2nd of July and installed on the 3rd. No modifications to the ATC were necessary and the platform's foundation was secured by cables and turnbuckles lashed to existing padeyes in the craft's well-deck. The platform's landing pad was formed by laying a section of steel matting. The next day four successful landings were made by an OC-23 (Cyclops) helicopter. The platform was then reinforced and, on the 5th, a heavier UH-1D helicopter made a series of equally successful landings. By month's end two additional platforms had been constructed and installed in other ATCs.

The development of the platform has provided the Mobile Riverine Force with an important new capability for faster handling of medical evacuees. The platform's proximity to battle areas will also enable the MRF to conduct certain air borne re-supply and assault missions more expeditiously.

In July NRDU-V completed an extensive series of tests begun in May involving remote-controlled minesweepers. Two types of drones

*NRDU-V's staff consists of five officers and four enlisted men. In addition, the unit has temporary duty billets for six scientific advisors; the billets are normally filled by technical representatives from various naval weapons and electronics laboratories.
The Hydrodyne drone minesweeper underway in the Long Tan River.
were tested: a modified "Boston Whaler" which was developed by CHAMPS-NPAC's Naval Operations Support Group; and a Hydrodyne which was developed by the Navy's Mine Defense Laboratory.

The tests were conducted in the Long Tau River and both craft performed well under favorable environmental conditions. Under less favorable conditions, however, the weight, power and freeboard of the 17-foot "Whaler" rendered the craft less seaworthy than the more powerful 23-foot Hydrodyne.

A lightweight chain-drag system was employed during the tests and it proved to be effective against a variety of simulated Viet Cong controlled-mines. In addition, it was found that the drones could be controlled from a variety of craft, including helicopters. The control range from an MSS was 1,000 yards; from a helicopter, hovering at an altitude of 700 feet, control was maintained up to a slant range of one mile. It was also found that the drones could sweep effectively up to speeds of 15 knots.
APPENDIX II

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

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

1. Religious Services:

a. Divine Services:

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Services</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>334</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>6,157</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communed</td>
<td>1,682</td>
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(2) Other Military Installations

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<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<td>2,432</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communed</td>
<td>872</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>933</td>
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</table>

(3) Civilian Churches

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Services</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>2,442</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>2,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communed</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>903</td>
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b. Religious services conducted by lay leaders and chaplains other than those attached to NAVFORV:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Chaplains</th>
<th>Lay Leaders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>2,784</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>520</td>
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c. Other religious services in which chaplains participated:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type of Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chu Lai Chapel Dedication</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCB-3 Chapel Dedication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapel by the Sea Dedication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protestant Monthly Rally</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invocation and Benediction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial (3)</td>
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II-1