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U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
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OICC, RVN (Code 10A)
CNO (Ops. Eval. Group)
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**APPENDIX I** The Vietnamese Naval Academy

**APPENDIX II** Religious Activities
FOREWORD

During August enemy forces attempted to counter the growing number of Viet Cong setbacks with a series of mortar and troop attacks against U.S. and Vietnamese naval installations. Owing in large measure to timely intelligence and equally timely responsiveness, Allied units thwarted most of the attacks and frustrated the enemy's increasing need for psychological gains. On one occasion, however, in the First Coastal Zone, a battalion-size Viet Cong force overran the Coastal Group 16 base 70 miles southeast of Danang. Eventually the enemy troops were forced to retreat, but not before the base had sustained extensive damage and the Coastal Group commander and 13 Vietnamese sailors had been killed. During the attack the Coastal Group's senior advisor, Lieutenant William C. FITZGERALD, USN and his three assistants joined in the effort to repel the invaders and resisted until the advisors' bunker was virtually surrounded. Lieutenant FITZGERALD then requested an artillery strike on his position and provided covering fire while his men escaped to the river. Before Lieutenant FITZGERALD could make good his own escape he was killed by small-arms fire.

*******

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### LIST OF CHARTS/GRAFHS/PHOTOGRAPHS

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1 Aug - The Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay is commissioned. p. 69.
- The NAVSUPPACT detachment previously stationed at Can Tho is officially redesignated NAVSUPPACT Detachment, Binh Thuy. p. 53.
- The MRF, operating in conjunction with ARVN and VNMC units, concludes Operation CORONADO II in Dinh Tuong province. Enemy losses include 675 killed and over 500 suspects detained. p. 39.
- The 32nd Naval Construction Regiment is established. p. 59.
- A U. S. merchantman, SEATRAIN FLORIDA, is attacked twice in the Long Tau channel. Seven Viet Cong are killed by supporting PBRs and an Army helicopter fire team. p. 21.
- SS BVIENVILLE arrives in Danang, marking the beginning of conventional containership service in South Vietnam. p. 48.
- The headquarters of Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade is shifted from Saigon to Danang. p. 61.
- SEALS kill three Viet Cong and capture another during a raid on an enemy village in the Binh Bai Secret Zone. p. 25.
- Water Taxi Association in Kien Hoa province expresses gratitude for PBR operations. p. 63.
3 - Nha Be comes under an intense Viet Cong mortar and recoilless-rifle attack. Twenty-four U. S. Navy personnel are wounded, none seriously. p. 53.
- USSC POINT CLEAR's mortar fire against a Viet Cong supply site north of Ca Mau Point initiates 12 secondary explosions and a large petroleum fire. p. 12.
6 - LCU-1537 is mined while at anchor 200 yards from the LCU-LCM ramp at Dong Ha. p. 117.
7 - Coastal Group 16's base is overrun by Viet Cong forces. The Coastal Group commander, LTGO N. H. THOM, VN, and the Coastal Group's senior naval advisor, LT W. C. FITZGERALD, USN, are among those killed during the attack. pp. 3 and 83.
7 Aug - A Navy helicopter fire team kills at least 10 members of the Viet Cong's main-force 261st Battalion during a strike along the Ham Luong River. p. 25.

10 - Class 16 of the Vietnamese Naval Academy is commissioned during ceremonies at the Academy's site in Nha Trang. p. 75.

- RAG 30 units surprise and capture eight Viet Cong, including a battalion commander, near the Saigon River. p. 89.

18 - Coastal Squadron THREE is commissioned at Cam Ranh Bay. p. 1.

- Coastal Group 13 sailors kill two Viet Cong swimmers attempting to penetrate the Coastal Group's base defenses. p. 80.

- MRF elements conducting CORONADO IV operate up to 40 miles away from the Mobile Riverine Base. p. 42.

22 - A GAME WARDEN helicopter fire team destroys approximately 60 enemy sampans in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone. One of the co-pilots is mortally wounded by sniper fire. p. 28.

23 - The radar surveillance site on Poulo Obi Island, 12 miles south of Ca Mau Point, becomes operational. p. 1.

- Coastal Group 35 personnel capture 12 Viet Cong attempting to infiltrate a village near the Coastal Group base. p. 82.

27 - PCFs 61, 68 and 91 disrupt a Viet Cong attack on a Popular Forces outpost on Hon Heo Peninsula. p. 7.

- RAG 23 craft and units of the ARVN NINTH Division kill 15 Viet Cong along the banks of the Mang Thit River. p. 91.

29 - Seabees complete the Liberty Bridge, 15 miles southwest of Danang. p. 59.

31 - NAVFORV numerical strength stands at 25,667.

*****
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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

During August units of Operation MARKET TIME and Operation STABLE DOOR detected 168,000 craft along South Vietnam's coastline and harbors; almost one-half of this number were inspected or boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 130 craft and 1,098 suspects.

On 16 August Coastal Squadron THREE was commissioned in a ceremony held on board USS GALLUP (PG 85) at Cam Ranh Bay. Commander William P. HOLDEN, USN, Commander Coastal Squadron ONE, assumed the additional duty of COMCOSRON 3. The new squadron consists of GALLUP and USS ASHEVILLE (PG 84) and will include other MARKET TIME gunboats as they arrive in country.

On the evening of 23 August the radar surveillance site on Poulo Obi Island, 12 miles south of Ca Mau Point, became operational, providing the surveillance effort with an all-weather detection capability in the southern portions of the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones.

OPERATION MARKET TIME

In August Operation MARKET TIME units detected 114,000 junks and sampans; over 50 percent of these were inspected or boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 103 junks and 892 suspects. In addition, 676 steel-hulled craft were detected transiting MARKET TIME areas, 99 of which were boarded.
The radar surveillance site on Pulo Obi Island.
CONFIDENTIAL

The month's MARKET TIME activity also included 112 gunfire support missions, 35 hostile fire incidents, four evasion incidents, one medical evacuation and seven search and rescue missions, and support for four ground operations and two amphibious operations.

As a result of these operations, 30 enemy structures, five junks and 18 sampans were destroyed, and 26 structures and two sampans were damaged. In addition, 33 Viet Cong were killed (26 probables) and seven were wounded. Two Coast Guard officers and three Swift boat sailors were wounded during the month.

First Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the First Coastal Zone detected over 49,000 junks and sampans during August. In addition, Swift boats and Coast Guard cutters provided exfiltration patrols and gunfire support for two ground operations and two amphibious operations.

On 1 August, seven MARKET TIME craft came to the assistance of Coastal Group 16 when its base, 70 miles southeast of Danang, was assaulted by a battalion-size force of Viet Cong.

The attack on the base began at 0300. PCF 20 reached the area by 0315 and began providing 81-mm fire at the request of the base's naval advisor; shortly thereafter PCF 75 and the Vietnamese Navy's PCE 10 arrived to lend additional fire support. By 0345, however, an advancing enemy contingent—approximately 300 in number—had overrun the base. At this time USS GALLUP (PG 85), USS CAMP (DER 251)
and two other Swifts were in the area, furnishing fire support and
exfiltration patrols, and helping to evacuate the wounded. Thirty-
two miles to the northwest, USS WIDRON (MSC 208) had assumed the
duty of a relay station for communications between the battle scene
and the First Naval Zone's headquarters unit at Danang. Since
there was a possibility that the attack on the base might be combined
with an infiltration attempt along the coastline, CTG 115.1, in
Danang, ordered GALIUP to return to the southern portion of her
patrol sector. Meanwhile, air and artillery strikes countered the
enemy's movements within the Coastal Group base and two Vietnamese
Army (ARVN) companies and one U.S. Army company were dispatched to
the scene. By 0730 the Viet Cong were forced to retreat from the
heavily-damaged base.

During the enemy attack Swift boats evacuated three Navy
advisors and approximately 40 Vietnamese to USS CAMP for treatment
and shelter; fifteen of the Vietnamese were subsequently transferred
to the hospital at Quang Ngai by helicopter. CAMP remained on
station until the 11th, providing illumination fire and gunfire
support as the task of rebuilding the base was begun.

At 1100 on 9 August, 600 yards from the Demilitarized Zone
(DMZ), PCF 51 was struck by small-arms fire from an enemy shore
position. The Swift boat was soon joined by USCGC POINT ORIENT,
and the PCF and the cutter each made a mortar-firing run past the
enemy site, followed by machine-gun firing runs at close range. Air and artillery strikes were then requested, and a spotter subsequently confirmed that the enemy position had been destroyed and that at least one of the enemy had been killed. One member of the PCF's crew was wounded and was evacuated to Dong Ha for treatment.

On the 24th, one mile south of the DMZ, the commanding officer and the executive officer of USCGC POINT ELLIS were wounded by enemy fire while the cutter was firing a harassment-and-interdiction mission in support of an ARVN ground operation. The incident occurred about 1845 when two .30 caliber rounds struck the WPB's pilot house. The executive officer's wound produced paralysis and he was quickly transferred to PCF 80 and taken to USS REPOSE (AH 16) for surgery. The commanding officer's wound was less serious and he was treated on board as the cutter returned to continue and complete its mission.

On the evening of the 31st, four miles south of the Cua Viet, POINT ELLIS, POINT ORIENT and PCF 50 came to the assistance of an ARVN FIRST Division headquarters unit surrounded by a battalion-size enemy force. Firing in close support (200 yards) of the ARVN troops, the three craft helped keep the enemy pinned down until U. S. Air Force C-47s arrived to strike the enemy positions. The cutters were then released but the Swift boat remained on station, providing mortar fire until about 2315 when the engagement ended with the
enemy in retreat.

**Second Coastal Zone**

In the Second Coastal Zone MARKET TIME units detected over 48,000 junks and sampans during August. The patrol craft also participated in four search and rescue missions and supported two ground operations.

Just before noon on 3 August, 43 miles south of Qui Nhon, PCF 60 rescued a junk containing seven South Vietnamese; the craft had become disabled in heavy seas. The Swift boat provided the occupants with first aid and food, then towed the junk a distance of four miles to the Coastal Group 24 base at Tuy Hoa. In a similar incident, on the 13th, PCF 57 towed a disabled junk with four persons on board to Qui Nhon.

Shortly after midnight on 27 August a Popular Forces unit on Hon Heo Peninsula was routed from its outpost by a Viet Cong attack and was forced to re-group in a nearby village. At 0315 PCF 91 intercepted a gunfire support request radioed to PCF 61 and, within 15 minutes, PCF 91 had reached the scene and was providing .50 caliber machine-gun fire along a stretch of the beach and up toward a hill beyond the village. The officer in charge of the Swift boat then received a report that the Viet Cong had taken refuge behind a ridge of the hill; accordingly, the OinC requested approaching PCF 61 to take the ridge under indirect mortar fire. PCF 61 commenced
OPERATIONS IN THE
SECOND COASTAL ZONE

August 1967

LEGEND:
☐ - Coastal Surveillance Center
X - Hostile Fire/evacuation Incident
# - SAR/MEDEVAC Incident

SCALE:

CONFIDENTIAL
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firing at 0345 and struck the enemy positions with spotting assistance from an ambush party dispatched to the scene by Coastal Group 23. At this time PCF 68 joined the engagement and was directed to proceed to a position northwest of the peninsula and act as a blocking unit. By 0430 the enemy attack was completely disrupted and the Viet Cong dispersed, leaving behind five of their dead; several others, either killed or wounded, were carried away. One member of the Popular Forces was killed during the attack and another was wounded. There were no U. S. casualties.

At 1245 on 28 August PCF 82 ran aground on a sand and coral reef while investigating the source of tracer fire coming from the beach, 38 miles south of Nha Trang. Following a series of unsuccessful attempts by PCF 47 and an LCM from Cam Ranh Bay to free the Swift boat, a commercial tug, NEZ FORCE, pulled PCF 82 clear at 0335 on the 30th. The Swift boat was then towed to Cam Ranh Bay for repairs to its struts, shafts and screws.

Third Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units patrolling the Third Coastal Zone during August detected over 8,000 junks and sampans. In addition, the patrol craft participated in one medical evacuation and two search and rescue missions.

On the afternoon of 14 August, PCF 68 came under heavy fire from Viet Cong emplacements while conducting a routine inspection
OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE

LEGEND:

- Coastal Surveillance Center
- Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
- SAR/MEDEVAC Incident

SCALE:

0 30
Nautical Miles
CONFIDENTIAL

of fishing junks. The incident occurred 700 yards offshore from the Thanh Phu Secret Zone, 36 miles southwest of Vung Tau. The Swift boat had just completed inspecting one group of junks and was proceeding to a second group when the enemy opened fire with at least one recoilless rifle and several machine guns and automatic rifles. Although none of the rounds struck the PCF, two rounds passed directly overhead and two others fell just short of the craft. After initially maneuvering away from the Viet Cong positions, the officer in charge of the PCF then ordered a reversal of course toward the ambush site in order to keep the fishing boats out of the line of fire. The Swift boat's machine-gun and mortar fire then suppressed the enemy's outburst and destroyed a trenchline. Subsequently, two Air Force F-100s and a Navy "Seawolf" helicopter team struck the Viet Cong site, destroying seven enemy structures and three bunkers. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

On the evening of the 31st, 50 miles southwest of Vung Tau, USCGC POINT HUDSON conducted a gunfire mission against four Viet Cong junks in the Long Toan Secret Zone. The camouflaged 70-foot craft were initially detected by an airborne spotter who subsequently radioed corrections as the cutter's 81-mm. mortars struck the target area. The spotter reported later that the gunfire had damaged three of the junks extensively and that the fourth junk had sustained at least one direct hit.
Fourth Coastal Zone

In August MARKET TIME units patrolling the west coast of the Ca Mau Peninsula and the waters surrounding Phu Quoc Island detected over 9,000 junks and sampans, and conducted a number of gunfire support missions. Most of the gunfire missions occurred either in the area located 30 miles north of Ca Mau Point or in the region that lies 15 miles northwest of Rach Gia.

On 3 August, USCGC POINT CLEAR fired 54 rounds of 81-mm mortars against a Viet Cong supply site north of Ca Mau Point. The barrage detonated 12 secondary explosions and a large petroleum fire which burned for two hours and triggered 15 more explosions as fuel storage containers erupted. Later in the month, in the same area, four gunfire missions resulted in the destruction of two enemy structures and three sampans in addition to initiating secondary fires. On the 27th, five miles farther north, USCGC HALF MOON (WHEC 378) conducted a gunfire mission against a Viet Cong troop concentration. Subsequent intelligence reports indicated that the gunfire killed 11 Viet Cong, destroyed three enemy structures and extensively damaged 15 others, and destroyed or damaged a large quantity of equipment.

On 6 and 7 August there were four separate gunfire missions conducted against enemy positions northwest of Rach Gia. One of the missions—involving enemy craft along the shore—resulted in
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE

August 1967

LEGEND:
□ - Coastal Surveillance Center
X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
# - SAR/MEDEVAC Incident

SCALE:
0 Nautical Miles 30

CONFIDENTIAL
the destruction of three Viet Cong sampans. The other missions were directed against inland sites and resulted in the destruction of a trail and cave complex at a Viet Cong staging area.

***

MARKET TIME UNITS

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 Nhut Air Base and a detachment of Patrol Squadron 1 flew Neptunes from Cam Ranh Bay. Meanwhile, a detachment of Patrol Squadron 5 flew P-3A Orion aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, and a Patrol Squadron 47 detachment flew Orions from U Tapao, Thailand.

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

| DER 251 | USS CAMP | 1-23 |
| DER 329 | USS KEETCHMER | 1-15 |
| DER 322 | USS NEWELL | 23-31 |
| DER 386 | USS SAVAGE | 18-31 |
| LST 601 | USS CLARKE COUNTY | 1-15 |
| LST 901 | USS LITCHFIELD COUNTY | 15-31 |
| MSC 198 | USS PEACOCK | 1-19 |
| MSC 208 | USS WIDGEON | 2-18, 19-31 |
| MSO 488 | USS CONQUEST | 1-12 |
| MSO 437 | USS ENHANCE | 18-31 |
| MSO 139 | USS EXCEL | 1-31 |
| MSO 447 | USS GUIDE | 1-31 |
| MSO 490 | USS LEADER | 1-31 |
| MSO 458 | USS LUCID | 12-31 |
| PG 8L | USS ASHEVILLE | 1-18 |
| PG 85 | USS GALLUP | 1-18 |
| WHEC 381 | USCGC BARATARIA | 1-11 |
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS

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- DETECTIONS
- INSPECTIONS
- BOARDINGS

Y-axis: 0, 10,000, 20,000, 30,000, 40,000, 50,000, 60,000, 70,000, 80,000, 90,000, 100,000, 110,000, 120,000, 130,000, 140,000, 150,000

X-axis: Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec

1966-1967
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| WHEC 382 | USCGC BERING STRAIT | 8-31 |
| WHEC 387 | USCGC GRISHAM | 1-21 |
| WHEC 378 | USCGC HALF MOON | 1-8, 24-31 |
| WHEC 380 | USCGC YAKUTAT | 11-31 |

MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
August 1967

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<th>DER</th>
<th>MSC</th>
<th>WPB</th>
<th>PCF</th>
<th>LST</th>
<th>FG</th>
<th>WHEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily average number of craft on patrol</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. U. S. Activity:

| TOTAL DETECTED | WOOD - DAY | 47,968 | NIGHT | 66,425 |
| STEEL - DAY | 754 | NIGHT | 814 |
| TOTAL INSPECTED | WOOD - DAY | 20,185 | NIGHT | 23,057 |
| STEEL - DAY | 483 | NIGHT | 558 |
| TOTAL BOARDED | WOOD - DAY | 10,538 | NIGHT | 9,689 |
| STEEL - DAY | 70 | NIGHT | 29 |
| TOTAL DETAINED | JUNKS | 103 | PEOPLE | 892 |

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OPERATION STABLE DOOR

Operation STABLE DOOR patrols detected 52,296 junks and sampans in August; 9,315 of these were inspected and 4,928 were boarded. Twenty-seven suspicious craft were detained, together with 206 persons.

During the month Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 1 (IUWU 1) at
STABLE DOOR TASK ORGANIZATION

CTF 115
COMMANDER COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE
(AT CAM RANH)

CTG 115.2
COMMANDER CENTRAL SURVEILLANCE GROUP
(AT NHA TRANG)

CTU 115.8.3
COMMANDER HARBOR DEFENSE OPERATIONAL READINESS UNIT
(AT CAM RANH)

CTU 115.3
COMMANDER SOUTHERN SURVEILLANCE GROUP
(AT VUNG TAU)

CTU 115.21
COMMANDER NORTH CENTRAL SURVEILLANCE UNIT
(AT QU NHON)

CTU 115.22
COMMANDER SOUTH CENTRAL SURVEILLANCE UNIT
(AT NHA TRANG)

CTU 115.24
COMMANDER HARBOR DEFENSE ELEMENT
(NHA TRANG)

CTU 115.25
COMMANDER HARBOR DEFENSE ELEMENT
(CAM RANH)

CTU 115.254
COMMANDER HARBOR DEFENSE ELEMENT
(VUNG TAU)
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS

- DETECTIONS
- INSPECTIONS
- BOARDINGS

-JAN  FEB  MAR  APR  MAY  JUN

1967  1968
One of the newly arrived 45-foot picket boats on patrol in Can Fash Bay.
Vung Tau provided surveillance for a daily average of 14 ships anchored in the harbor. The craft conducting the STABLE DOOR patrols detained 55 persons and 12 junks either for improper identification papers or for suspicious activity.

At Cam Ranh Bay IUWU 2 detained 33 suspects and provided surveillance for a daily average of 30 ships. At Qui Nhon IUWU 3 detained six junks and 12 suspects while providing surveillance for a daily average of 21 ships in port. Meanwhile, IUWU 4 at Nha Trang detained nine junks and 106 suspects, and provided surveillance for a daily average of 14 ships in port.

On the morning of 17 July a GAME WARDEN helicopter crashed into the outer harbor at Vung Tau, about one-half mile from the STABLE DOOR harbor control post. Three of the four men aboard the aircraft were picked up by a fishing junk in the area and transferred to patrol units. Royal Australian Navy divers, members of IUWU 1's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team, found the helicopter's hull the following morning. The body of the fourth crewman was not recovered.

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CONFIDENTIAL

RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

During August the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone were the scenes of several, largely unsuccessful Viet Cong attacks. On the 1st a merchant ship was attacked in Saigon's main channel, the first such incident to occur in the Long Tau River since April. Two days later the naval base at Nha Be was struck by mortar and recoilless-rifle fire; naval units reacted promptly and the quick response helped keep casualties and damage to a minimum.

Meanwhile, along the Delta's Ham Luong River, prompt action by Game Warden units thwarted two enemy attacks aimed at the base of Coastal Groups 34 and 37. Acting on intelligence reports that the attacks were imminent, USS Hunterdon County (LST 838) and PBRs from River Section 521 helped disrupt and disperse the Viet Cong units.

On the 13th, My Tho-based PBRs came to the assistance of an outpost in Ngu Hiep village after it had been attacked by an enemy unit. Fire from the leading boat of a PBR patrol silenced the Viet Cong positions, and members of the patrol subsequently helped evacuate the Vietnamese who were wounded during the attack.

RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

On the morning of 1 August, 12 miles southeast of Nha Be, a U.S. merchantman, SEATRAIN FLORIDA, was attacked from the river bank by Viet Cong riflemen and machine-gunners. The outburst was
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

August 1967

A - SEATRAIN FLORIDA - 1 Aug
B - SEATRAIN FLORIDA - 1 Aug
C - Helo - 27 Aug

SCALE: 0 (Nautical Miles)

22 CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

quickly suppressed by PBRs and an Army helicopter fire team during a brief following action in which three Viet Cong were killed and one helicopter was damaged.

Forty-five minutes later, five miles farther upstream, SEATRAIN FLORIDA came under heavy automatic-weapons and recoilless-rifle fire from the east bank of the Long Tau River. Once again the PBRs and helicopters launched an immediate counterattack, with the patrol boats delivering 60-mm. mortar fire against the enemy positions while the helicopters struck members of the enemy contingent fleeing inland. At least four Viet Cong were killed during the two attacks. There were no U.S. casualties.

On the 3rd, five minutes after midnight, an enemy unit emplaced on the east bank of the Long Tau struck the base at Nha Be and the nearby petroleum tank farms with mortars and recoilless-rifle fire. Within minutes, moored craft got underway and formed counterattack positions while two helicopter fire teams struck the enemy sites.

An AC-117 and an F-100 subsequently joined the GAME WARDEN units and the combined firepower broke up the Viet Cong attack and forced the enemy to flee. Twenty-four naval personnel were wounded during the engagement, none seriously, and a dry-docked MSB sustained extensive damage when it received a direct mortar hit; a number of PBRs and MSBs suffered minor damage. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

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23 CONFIDENTIAL
OPERATIONS IN THE MY THO RIVER

LEGEND:
- = PIR INCIDENT
0 = HELICOPTER INCIDENT
B = SEAL INCIDENT

SCALE: 9 MILES

BY PHUC TAY

GIS TRAMH

NGO NGUEN

THO TRAM

NH KIEN

NH PHU

LUK DAI

VUNG LUCK

VUNG LUC

PHU TRAM

NH TRI
DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

On the night of 1 August, two SEAL squads were landed in the Binh Dai Secret Zone, near the mouth of the My Tho River. During the ensuing three-hour long mission conducted near an enemy village, the squads killed three Viet Cong and captured another; a fifth Viet Cong was wounded by the SEALs' fire but managed to escape. Seized in the raid were a number of documents and a quantity of enemy ammunition. The SEALs then withdrew from the area under covering fire provided by their armored LCM.

On 13 August PBRs 125 and 131 came to the aid of a Vietnamese outpost in Ngu Hiep village, 13 miles west of My Tho. Upon receiving a report that the outpost was under attack, the patrol officer directed PBR 131 to proceed up the narrow Ham Thon River toward the village; PBR 125 remained near the river mouth to provide covering fire. The PBRs' fire helped suppress the enemy attack and, afterward, three crewmen from PBR 131 went ashore to assist in the evacuation, to My Tho, of 19 wounded Vietnamese. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

Operations in the Ham Luong River

On the morning of 7 August a Navy helicopter fire team killed at least 10 members of the Viet Cong's main-force 261st Battalion who were establishing a bunkered ambush-site along a stretch of the Ham...
CONFIDENTIAL

Luong River. Acting on an intelligence report relayed by the Vietnamese commander of Kien Hoa sector, the helicopters struck the enemy positions, which were located along the north bank of the river, six and one-half miles south of Ben Tre. The Viet Cong's return fire was suppressed by the helicopters and, in addition, two enemy sampans and two structures were destroyed. There were no U.S. casualties.

On 19 August, five miles southeast of Ben Tre, a water-taxi operator hailed PBRs 96 and 105 and reported that he had just been forced to pay Viet Cong "taxes." The PBRs and two accompanying helicopters then entered a stream on the south bank of the river and proceeded toward the collection site. As the patrol approached, enemy troops on the bank opened fire on the PBRs with small arms. The PBRs returned the fire and the helicopters swept in to strike at the Viet Cong contingent, forcing the unit to flee from the area. One U.S. sailor suffered minor wounds during the engagement. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

On the night of 29 August USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) helped repel an enemy attack on the Coastal Group 31/37 base, 22 miles southeast of Ben Tre. The LST's 40-mm. fire (which killed at least two Viet Cong) and additional support provided by the PBRs of River Section 521, dispersed the concentration of enemy troops. A similar incident occurred the following night, and
HUNTERDON COUNTY's gunfire support again helped to disrupt an imminent enemy attack.

**Operations in the Co Chien River**

In an attempt to frustrate and discredit PBR patrol methods, the Viet Cong frequently confiscate the identification cards of Delta residents. Sometimes the seizures are accompanied by threatened reprisals unless the residents obtain rice to help alleviate the Viet Cong's growing food shortage.

On 19 August, 17 miles south of Ben Tre, a water-taxi came alongside PBR 122 during the PBR's routine inspection of various craft in the area. The taxi contained 800 pounds of rice and 18 females, aged 15 to 22, all of them residents of Thanh Thoi, in Kien Hoa province; none of the occupants possessed an ID card. Although distraught and reluctant to speak at first, the group eventually disclosed that their ID cards had been confiscated by the Viet Cong and the lives of their families threatened unless the girls proceeded to Phu Vinh, in Vinh Binh province, and purchased rice for the Viet Cong. During the questioning, the taxi owner produced a list prepared by the Viet Cong indicating the amount of rice each girl was to purchase. The taxi and its occupants were subsequently delivered to Vietnamese authorities at the Coastal Group 35 base for further interrogation and disposition.

On 22 August, in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone, two GAME WARDEN
OPERATIONS IN THE CO CHIEN RIVER

LEGEND:
S = PBK INCIDENT
D = HELICOPTER INCIDENT
H = SEAL INCIDENT

SCALE:
1 inch = 1 mile
helicopters that had just completed a spotting mission for the mortar fire of a PBR patrol, attacked a concentration of 120 Viet Cong sampans. In the course of conducting numerous firing runs, the aircraft destroyed approximately 60 of the enemy craft. During the strikes a round of sniper fire hit one of the co-pilots, Lieutenant Junior Grade Thomas E. GILLIAM, USN; the bullet penetrated his left breast plate and lodged near his heart. The helicopters immediately broke off their attack, sped to nearby USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 836) and embarked a corpsman to provide initial treatment, then headed for the medical facility at Dong Tam. LTJG GILLIAM died en route.

Operations in the Bassac River

On 6 August, 13 miles downstream from Can Tho, PBRs 90 and 116 detected a twin-engine sampan headed toward the beach near May Island. As the patrol approached to investigate, the PBRs came under small-arms fire from enemy positions on the island. The PBRs turned and trained their weapons on the Viet Cong site, suppressing the enemy outburst with a barrage of machine gun fire. In the meantime the occupants of the sampan beached their craft and fled. As the PBRs made for the sampan, heavy automatic-weapons and small-arms fire from the opposite bank blocked the attempt, forcing the patrol to request air support. Moments later a Navy helicopter fire team arrived and supported the PBR fire with a series of strikes against
A Navy helicopter team comes under small-arms fire while making a run on a cargo-laden Viet Cong sampan...
The sampan is struck by rocket fire as it approaches two moored sampans. Incident occurred 8 August on Dung Island.
the enemy positions. The sampan was then seized and was found to contain Viet Cong uniforms, ammunition, medical supplies and a number of documents. At least three Viet Cong were killed during the engagement. One of the PBR crewmen suffered minor wounds.

On 9 August, a PBR patrol operating in the vicinity of Dung Island was approached by a sampan containing a single occupant. The occupant stated that he had been a Viet Cong and had decided to rally to the cause of the Vietnamese Government. During the next few days, the rallier provided interrogators with a great deal of reliable information about Viet Cong installations and the intelligence led to several successful raids on enemy facilities in the Dung Island area. During one of the raids, SEALs, Vietnamese UDT personnel and elements of River Assault Groups 25 and 29 attacked enemy sites in the northern part of Dung Island, destroying over 50 structures, 14 bunkers, six sampans and several tons of rice. At least two Viet Cong were killed in the operation and two Viet Cong leaders were captured. At the same time the family of the rallier, living on the island, was evacuated to safety.

On 18 August PBR 59, the second boat of a PBR patrol in the lower Bassac, was hit by a B-40 rocket while the craft was en route to a patrol area near the mouth of the river. The rocket wounded three members of the crew and caused extensive damage to the boat. The patrol was then joined by a second PBR patrol and a Navy
helicopter fire team and the GAME WARDEN units struck and silenced the enemy positions and triggered a large secondary explosion. The extent of the enemy’s casualties was undetermined.

GAME WARDEN Helicopter Losses

During August three UH-1B helicopters were lost as a result of mishaps that did not involve hostile fire. On 11 August, one crewman was killed when a UH-1B crashed short of the runway at Vung Tau. On the 23rd a helicopter was forced to ditch in the Bassac River, near the north end of Dung Island; the entire crew was rescued. On 27 August a helicopter crashed in the Dinh Ba River, 15 miles southeast of Nha Be, killing one of the crew.

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GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 23 August, USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) relieved USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) as GAME WARDEN support ship at the mouth of the Co Chien River. Embarked in HARNETT COUNTY were River Section 531 and HA(L)-3 (Det 5).

On 24 August River Section 533, which had been embarked in JENNINGS COUNTY, commenced operations as Task Element 116.1.3.1, based at My Tho.

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GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
August 1967

1. PBR Statistics:
   a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 588 Night 704
   b. Total Contacts: Day 68,349 Night 5,722
   c. Total Inspected: Day 13,526 Night 6,278
   d. Total Boarded: Day 42,270 Night 3,408
   e. People Detained: 542
   f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 42
   g. Total Patrol Hours: 35,069

2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:
   a. Total Flight Hours: 866
   b. Helo Missions:
      (1) Pre-planned strikes: 65
      (2) Reaction: 1
      (3) Targets of Opportunity: 63
      (4) Support: 163

3. GAME WARDEN Totals:
   a. Fire Fights:
      (1) PBR 45
      (2) Helo 17
      (3) LCM 1
      (4) RPC 1
   b. Sampans: Destroyed 125 Damaged 19 Captured 6
   c. Structures: Destroyed 206 Damaged 64
   d. Bunkers: Destroyed 54 Damaged 1
   e. Enemy: KIA 80 XIA (Poss.) 21 WIA 12 Captured 8
DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY GAME WARDEN UNITS

150,000
140,000
130,000
120,000
110,000
100,000
90,000
80,000
70,000
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

1966 1967
f. Friendly: KIA 1  WIA 53

g. Friendly Battle Damage:
(1) PBR 8
(2) MSB 4
(3) ICM 1
(4) LCPL 1
(5) Base 1

h. PBR MEDEVAC: 65
RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

On the first day of the month, in the Cam Son Secret Zone west of Dong Tam, the Mobile Riverine Force concluded Operation CORONADO II, which began in late July. During CORONADO II the MRF operated in conjunction with units of the Vietnamese Army and the Vietnamese Marine Corps, and the combined forces routed two Viet Cong battalions and destroyed numerous enemy installations.

On 8 August, while the MRF was conducting operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone, the first nighttime medical evacuation mission involving an armored troop carrier was completed successfully. Flight deck lights were installed on the ATC(H) and a helicopter was guided to the landing platform by a landing signal officer using luminous wands. As a result, three wounded personnel, two of whom were stretcher cases, were evacuated expeditiously.

During the latter part of August the MRF conducted Operation CORONADO IV, in the Ben Luc district of Long An province. Although the operation failed to produce any major contact with enemy forces, CORONADO IV produced certain logistical considerations—occasioned by the 40-mile distance between operating units and the Mobile Riverine Base—that were uniquely resolved.

Operations in Dinh Tuong Province

On 1 August the Mobile Riverine Force completed Operation CORONADO II, a search and destroy mission conducted against