Cong may have attempted and exploited during the election period.

On 6 September Coastal Division 14 for the first time distributed Volunteer Informant leaflets to each junk checked. The same day a response was received when a fisherman advised PCF-43 that a Viet Cong squad had entered his village.

In the Third Coastal Zone, Coastal Groups 32 and 33, with the assistance of the USS TUTUILA (ARG 4), instituted Operation SNAPP (Selected Navy Applied Picture Program). Whenever MEDCAPs or other Civic Action Projects are conducted by Coastal Groups 32 or 33, high quality black and white pictures are taken of local villagers involved in the program. The pictures are developed on TUTUILA and three to four weeks later are presented as gifts to the subjects of the pictures by officers and men of the Coastal Groups. Some 8 by 10 enlargements were seen placed at the family shrine.

On 7 September, in the Third Coastal Zone, a Coastal Groups 34 and 37 ambush team, in conjunction with a Regional Force/Popular Force security force, entered the village of Ap Ben Tau, located at the mouth of the Ham Luong River, to provide internal security for a scheduled MEDCAP. A leaflet drop and loudspeaker broadcast were conducted prior to the arrival of the MEDCAP Team so as not to alarm the villagers. Chieu Hoi ("Open Arms"—GVN amnesty program) and other propaganda material plus 1,200 pounds of psychological
operations commodities were distributed. Four hundred medical and 70 dental patients were treated, many of whom were patients from distant villages where previous MEDCAPs had been conducted. A significant first in this area was the presence of adult males, indicative of the trust now being shown the Government of Vietnam by the local populace. No enemy forces were sighted during the period of the operation; however, considerable evidence of very recent Viet Cong activity was detected in the area. Numerous spider holes were found along the main road and high quality bilingual enemy propaganda leaflets were confiscated. These leaflets exploited anti-war movements and the longing for home by U.S. servicemen.

In the My Tho area in the Delta a combined psychological operations committee was organized. The committee, chaired by the Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) representative in My Tho, is composed of the following military units: ARVN SEVENTH Division (Dong Tam), U. S. Navy River Patrol Division 53, Ding Tuong Sector Advisor, U. S. Army 19th Psychological Operations Company Detachment, and River Assault Group (RAG) 21/33 Advisors. The committee meets regularly, maintaining a chart of the area showing where and what type of psychological operations have been conducted. Based on chart updates, profitable areas for exploitation are targeted. All resources are shared by the committee.
Vietnamese children try out a new slide built for them by members of River Section 543 at Nha Be.
The following operation is an example of the cooperation and success of the committee: On 27 September, using loudspeakers and two ARVN soldiers from the Vietnamese 403rd PSYOP Company, River Division 53 commenced speaker missions. On 29 September a Viet Cong rallied to a PBR. When interrogated it was learned that he had heard the speakers the night before. He further stated that the tapes played promoted a feeling of sadness in his Viet Cong friends. The Hoi Chanh (returnee) agreed to make a tape which was played from the PBRs the next night. That tape provoked the Viet Cong into firing upon the PBRs. As a result of these nightly PSYOP broadcasts, five more Viet Cong rallied in this area.

Through the coordinated efforts of the Mobile Riverine Force (TF 117), Task Force FUNSTON (a Battalion of the 2nd Brigade, NINTH Infantry Division), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Ding Tuong Sector Advisor, Operation BON HUU II (Friendship II) began the week of 22 September on Thoi Son Island located in the My Tho River adjacent to My Tho. This civic action program was aimed at pacifying the island and also enhancing the security of the Mobile Riverine Base at the Dong Tam anchorage and Dong Tam itself. The program included construction of a village office; distribution of material to the outpost for self-help projects; construction of a two-classroom school; MEDCAPs;
A U.S. Navy corpsman treats an infection on the head of a baby during a MEDCAP in Tan Thop Hiep village in the RSSZ.
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immunizations and improvement of the existing dock facility at the outpost.

In September the Dinh Tuong Province Chief formally expressed his appreciation to Commander River Assault Group 21 for their previous Psyop-Civic Action efforts, particularly on behalf of the refugee hamlets on Rang Island near My Tho.

Since arriving on station in the Go Chien River, USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) has been conducting weekly MEDCAPs. The MEDCAPs are scheduled with the assistance of U. S. Army Sector and Sub-Sector Advisors and their counterparts as well as Naval Advisors in the area. With JENNINGS COUNTY personnel on hand to advise, the majority of treatments and diagnosis in recent weeks have been conducted by ARVN corpsmen. Through the cooperation of village and province chiefs, the MEDCAPs have reached Vietnamese villagers in areas heavily influenced by the Viet Cong and have contributed to the significant reduction of this influence over the last two months.

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

1. Construction:
   a. Bridges  
   b. Churches/temples/pagodas

4/2R
3R
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c. Dispensaries 1

d. Dwellings/number of families 24,42

e. Hospitals 38

f. Levelings-grading projects 5

g. Playgrounds 2

h. Schools/classrooms 2/5

i. Barbed wire fencing (feet) 400

j. Wells 6

k. Culverts 2

l. Boat landings 1

2. Medical treatments:

a. General 26,784

b. Dental 4,650

c. Surgery 113

d. Emergency evacuations 98

e. Blood tests 20

3. Health and Sanitation:

a. Classes on personal hygiene/attendance 26/957

b. Medical aides or nurses trained 2

c. Spray insecticide operations 21

d. MEDCAPs 92

e. Immunizations 1,427

f. Physical examinations 16

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

a. Cement 103,300

b. Clothing 4,560

c. Food 119,656

d. Lumber (board feet) 163,000

e. Medical, non-prescription 158

f. School kits (number) 999

g. Soap 1,002

h. Tin sheets (number) 501

i. Blackboards (number) 20

j. Woodworker kits (number) 13

k. Midwife kits (number) 44

l. Paint (gallons) 70

m. Sewing machines (number) 59

n. PSYOF packets (number) 50,000

o. Paper blankets (number) 257

p. Plastic envelopes (number) 12,000

q. Toys (number) 11,338

r. Textile kits (number) 50

85 CONFIDENTIAL
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a. Sewing kits (number)  430

5. Educational efforts:
   a. English classes/attendance  110/1,740

6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:
   a. Orphanages  1,000
   b. Religious activities  3,400
   c. Schools  6,000

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On the morning of 5 September YRBM-16, which was to provide PBR support, was moored in the Ham Luong River just off the entrance to the Ben Tre River. The initial four-buoy moorage, which consisted of four 5,000 pound anchors, four concrete clumps and one-inch chain, proved inadequate in the swift currents encountered in the Ham Luong River. One of the seven-eighths inch shackles used in the initial moorage carried away, losing one of the 5,000-pound anchors. Personnel of Harbor Clearance Team ONE (HCT 1), embarked in LLC-1, were directed to proceed to the Ben Tre site to inspect the moorage and render assistance as necessary. It was determined that the entire system would have to be relaid to ensure an adequate moorage. By month's end, HCT-1 had installed a new two-buoy moorage with each buoy held in place by two 5,000-pound anchors with 175 feet of two-inch chain to a common ring and 50 feet of two-inch chain connecting the ring to the large buoy. The new moorage proved more than satisfactory as YRBM-16 experienced no difficulty withstanding strong currents, high winds, and squalls.

In the early morning hours of 1 September, the Vietnamese Navy's LSM 405 parted her anchor chain and went aground about two miles northwest of Phan Thiet Light. The impact of grounding ripped a small hole in the craft's engine room, but flooding was quickly controlled. The Vietnamese Navy requested salvage assistance.
Two MARKET TIME units, PCF 102 and USCGC POINT WHITE, quickly responded, arriving on scene approximately an hour after the grounding. The two units were soon joined by PCE 08 and POMs 116 and 117, and on the 2nd, personnel of Harbor Clearance Team 4 arrived to provide additional assistance. Repeated efforts by the MARKET TIME units to free the stricken vessel proved unsuccessful, however, and the LSM remained hard aground from amidships forward on a shale and rock bottom.

On 3 September the SEVENTH Fleet Salvage Ship RECLAIMER (ARS 42) and the SERVGRU THREE salvage officer arrived and assumed control of the salvage operation. At 0950 RECLAIMER pulled LSM 405 free and towed her to deep water, where an inspection revealed that the craft's propeller tips were badly bent and that two additional holes had been torn in the hull. After temporary repairs were effected by RECLAIMER, LSM 405 proceeded for Saigon under her own power.

Another salvage operation conducted during the month involved the attempted recovery of a contractor-owned barge which sank one-half mile west of My Tho in early July. The barge, loaded with an estimated 300 tons of coarse gravel, went down in 30 feet of water and came to rest in an upright position.

Harbor Clearance Team 4 proceeded to the scene with LLC-2 and on the 8th of September began to remove the gravel from the barge by the use of two six-inch suction pumps. Off-loading was completed
four days later. Because of the generally deteriorated condition of the craft and the discovery of numerous small holes underneath its tar-coated exterior, recovery of the barge was subsequently determined to be infeasible, and salvage operations were terminated on 19 September.

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Project SEA ANCHOR, the CNO sponsored project to provide upgraded communications facilities for the U. S. Naval Support Activity, Danang, was completed and the facility became fully operational during the first week of September. The new facility consists of the communications center located in the "Triangle Building", in Danang East, the transmitter site at Marble Mountain, and the receiver site at Monkey Mountain. Microwave links tie the communications center into: The Danang Integrated Wideband Communications System for in and out of country message distribution, the Harbor Entrance Control Point, Naval Support Activity Headquarters, and the remote radio transmitter and receiver sites.

Another communication net activated during the month was a classified meteorological net extending from Sangley Point, in the Philippines, to the Naval Support Activity, Danang. This net provides meteorological data that is of special use to naval operations.

The overall completion status of Project BOW LINE (NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay) increased slightly during the month. The installation has been operational since 1 August and it is anticipated that microwave communications between Cam Ranh Bay and the Integrated Wideband Communications System will be available during November.

During the month, a Joint Pacific (JP) Command and Control circuit was activated between Cam Ranh Bay and Tan Son Nhut Air
### MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC

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#### Percent of Total

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Base. This special purpose teletype circuit was designed to provide CINCPAC and authorized users of the net with a means for rapid exchange of command and control communications. The net was further extended by activating a circuit to COMNAVFORV in Saigon.

Project SEARCHLIGHT proceeded slowly during the month as a result of slippages in construction which were caused by excessive delays in the receipt of construction and electrical materials. By month's end, only two sites, Nha Be and Binh Thuy, had been completed. Qui Nhon and My Tho were both nearing completion but were awaiting delivery of required equipment in order to complete the project. SEARCHLIGHT construction at Sa Dec was completed and installation of equipment was to commence during early October. Construction at COMNAVFORV headquarters was at a virtual standstill awaiting electrical materials necessary for the completion of power installation. Electronic installation was progressing satisfactorily and at month's end was approximately 60 percent complete. With the exception of the Cat Lo site, which will require little or no construction, construction at the remaining SEARCHLIGHT sites had not begun.

The number of messages handled by the COMNAVFORV communications center during the month of September was 72,115, a decrease of 6,525 from August's figure.

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93 CONFIDENTIAL
Vice Adm. (Ret.), Commander in Chief U.S. Navy, and Adm. Kenneth L. JETH, USN, Commander, U.S. Fleet at San Francisco Air Base during the Conference.
On 9 September Vice Admiral George G. Burkley, MC, USN, the White House Physician, accompanied by Dr. J. C. Cain, GS-16), the Personal Physician to the President, and Dr. O. P. Hampton, GS-18), the Orthopedic Consultant to the Surgeon General of the Army, began a 10-day tour of the Republic of Vietnam to review the treatment of personnel casualties at each of the various echelons of medical care. On 12 September Vice Admiral Burkley visited the Saigon headquarters of COMNAVFORV and was briefed on the various aspects of naval operations in Vietnam.

Lieutenant General Sir John Wilton, Chairman, Chiefs of Staff, the Australian Military Forces, visited Vietnam during the period 14-17 September. Included in Lieutenant General Wilton's itinerary was a visit to CTF 117's flagship, USS Benewah (APB 35), where he was briefed on the operations of the Mobile Riverine Force.

On 17 September Admiral Roy L. Johnson, USN, CINCPACFLT began a three-day tour of Vietnam. Admiral Johnson's tour included visits to USS Benewah and the U. S. Naval Support Base at Binh Thuy where he was briefed on the operation of the Mobile Riverine Force and Operation GAME WARDEN units respectively.

On 27 September Vice Admiral Walter H. Baumberger, USN, Deputy Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, arrived at CTF 117's Mobile Riverine Base just as two Armored Troop Carriers
(ATCs) returned from a battle near Ben Tre, during which three U. S. Navymen were killed and six wounded. Vice Admiral BAUMBERGER gained first-hand knowledge of Mobile Riverine Force operations from a vivid description of the battle furnished by the returning crew members.

On 30 September Rear Admiral Henry L. MILLER, USN, Chief of Naval Information, visited Saigon for a briefing at COMNAVFORV's headquarters. The itinerary for Rear Admiral MILLER, who was primarily interested in the Navy's public affairs efforts, included a visit to the Mobile Riverine Base, as well as numerous other naval activities throughout Vietnam.

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The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) on 30 September was 16,093 officers and enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged as deserters remained at 50 and the number of unauthorized absentees increased from 235 in August to 259 in September.

During the month the various units of the VNN searched 36,067 junks and sampans and 127,950 persons; detaining 37 junks and 415 persons.

The Naval Training Center at Nha Trang graduated 23 enlisted men from the Electronics Technician Class "A" School on the 2nd and 29 men from the Radioman Class "A" School on the 30th. On 18 September, 100 midshipmen of Class 18 commenced preparatory training at the Naval Academy. Meanwhile, at the Naval Advanced Training Center in Saigon, PGMs 602 and 610 completed the two-week underway training program on 2 September and the crew of the YO-472, received from the United States in June, completed a week of in-port training on the 16th.

Fleet Command

During September, the Fleet Command had 23 ships available daily and maintained 12 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 patrols, river blockades, psychological warfare and civic action visits, escort patrols and gunfire support missions. Fleet Command ships fired 33 gunfire support missions in September and searched 428 junks and 1,944 persons and detained one person.

On 25 September, PCE 09 assumed the patrol responsibility of MARKET TIME Area 9L off the west coast of Phu Quoc Island. The ship, after receiving training from U. S. Navy and Coast Guard personnel in the Fourth Naval Zone, relieved the PCF then assigned and remained on patrol through the end of the month. The use of both Vietnamese and U. S. ships and craft as primary patrol units has required increased coordination at sea and in the Coastal Surveillance Center* at An Thoi.

Patrol craft (PCs and PCEs) and gunboats (PGMs) patrolled the coasts of the four Naval Zones and conducted 10 gunfire support missions; the PGMs also patrolled the Soirap and Long 'au Rivers in the Rung Sat Special Zone. Seven of the gunfire missions were in support of Coastal Group bases in the First and Second Naval

* Coastal Surveillance Center--A joint operational liaison center which acts as a communications relay for all MARKET TIME patrol units and other USN and VNN ships in the CSC's area of responsibility. The U. S. and VNN officers are responsible for coordinating surveillance of all contacts detected and all requests for assistance received.
Zones that were under attack or had observed the enemy massing to attack. In all cases the accurate fire ended the attacks and dispersed the enemy forces. On the evening of the 11th, PGM 619 provided support for a Coastal Group 13 ambush team under fire from a Viet Cong force in the hills behind the Coastal Group base. While conducting the mission, an explosion in the after 20-mm gun wounded three of the gunboat’s crewmen (one seriously). The Coastal Group commander reported that the PGM’s gunfire had suppressed the hostile fire and covered the withdrawal of the ambush party. One Coastal Group sailor was wounded in the initial engagement.

On the morning of 12 September, PGM 619 rescued five women and eight children from a sinking junk off Cape Batangan, 60 miles southeast of Danang, returning them safely to shore at Chu Lai.

Landing Support Ships (LSILs and LSSLs) provided gunfire support, convoy escort and river patrol services in the Third Naval Zone, the Fourth Riverine Area and the RSSW. The ships conducted 23 gunfire support missions during September. On the afternoon of the 3rd, while coming alongside the pier near the Western Repair Facility at Can Tho, LSIL 329 took two 75-mm recoilless-rifle hits at the waterline near the starboard bow; ten other rounds fired by the enemy fell into the river short of the ship. The LSIL was unable to return fire because of the large number of civilians near the source of the enemy fire. The ship took on a 15 degree
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VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS
AND
VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS
September 1967

LEGEND:
= Coastal Surveillance Center
= Coastal Group Base
X = Vietnamese Navy Incident
= Vietnamese Marine Corps Incident

SCALE:
0 , 50
Nautical Miles

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starboard list, as a result of flooding, and maneuvered away from
the pier to beach in shallow water at the repair facility where the
holes were patched and the flooded hold and crew quarters were
pumped out. By month's end the ship returned to duty.

In September, a detachment of the VNN's Underwater Demolition
Team (UDNTN) continued to conduct nightly hull inspections of ships
berthed in the port of Saigon. Meanwhile two other detachments
operated with the U.S. Navy SEAL units based at Binh Thuy and Nha
Be. In operations in the northern RSSZ on 13 and 28 September,
the Nha Be-based, combined UDNTN-SEAL squad killed 11 Viet Cong and
destroyed one junk and one sampan.

Coastal Force

In September, the Coastal Force units searched 29,550 junks
and 106,439 persons, detaining 37 junks and 410 persons. On a
daily average, 83.4 percent of the force's 181 available junks was
on patrol.

Throughout the month the Coastal Groups in the First and Second
Naval Zones received reports of impending attacks. In three bombard­
ments directed at Coastal Group 11 on 1 and 2 September, two
civilians were killed and seven others were wounded when the mortar
and rocket rounds 1\d in a nearby hamlet short of the base.
Coastal Groups 13, 14, and 23 each had their defenses probed once
but no major attacks were made. On six occasions Coastal Groups in
the First Naval Zone either observed the Viet Cong gathering to attack or ambush parties intercepted the enemy in the field. One sailor from Coastal Group 13, wounded in an ambush, and four sailors wounded in the probe of Coastal Group 23 were the only casualties from these incidents. On the 20th, several days after the Viet Cong probe of Coastal Group 14's defenses, a morning reconnaissance patrol discovered a new enemy cache and seized an 85-pound mine and one hundred canisters containing propellant charges for a 155-mm cannon. Continued surveillance of the area failed to locate any other enemy activity.

In the Second Naval Zone at 2200 on 6 September, six miles north of Qui Nhon, a nine-man ambush party from Coastal Group 22, responding to an intelligence report that a Viet Cong unit was about to attack the village of Vinh Quang, intercepted 10 enemy sampans as the craft crossed a stream en route to the village. One of the sampans was seized but the occupants successfully evaded the sailors. Later, with a nearby ARVN artillery unit providing illumination fire, the ambush team opened fire on five men in three sampans as the enemy force began to regroup. Three of the Viet Cong were hit as they leaped into the stream; the other two, killed by a hand grenade thrown into the third sampan, were identified by the village chief as Viet Cong who had immigrated from North Vietnam.

At 0430 on 11 September, two crewmen of a Coastal Group 23
Command junk were killed when their craft was caught in an ambush on Song Cau Bay, 18 miles south of Qui Nhon. The remaining crewmen, engaged in returning fire and maneuvering the junk away from the ambush, were unable to detect any enemy casualties.

On the 19th, acting on an intelligence report that the Viet Cong were planning to shell their base and the district headquarters, a Coastal Group 25 ambush party intercepted the enemy sapper squad four miles south of the base. The ensuing fire fight ended with the seven Viet Cong killed and their sampan, 81-mm mortar with 18 rounds of ammunition and 23 hand grenades seized.

On the night of 2 September in the Third Naval Zone, the Coastal Group 34 base was attacked by the enemy. USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) conducted a gunfire support mission detonating one secondary explosion; an ARVN artillery battery also provided support. A reconnaissance sweep by the sailors, on the 3rd, revealed that the GAME WARDEN LST's 40-mm shells had destroyed the enemy's 60-mm mortar and its ammunition, killed one Viet Cong and wounded at least five others. There were no friendly casualties and no damage to the Coastal Group base or junks.

On 14 September, Coastal Group 35 conducted Operation SONG NOAM, to search out Viet Cong activity on Long Hoa Island in the mouth of the Co Chien River. During the six hour sweep the combined shore party and blockade force detained six women as suspected Viet
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Cong, and destroyed three Viet Cong meeting rooms, three first aid stations and three tax collection stations, and seized one motorized sampan. An ambush team, placed in the same area a week later, fired on a six-man Viet Cong unit in a sampan, killing one and probably killing the remaining five men. Three carbines, ammunition and a small quantity of documents were seized and the sampan was destroyed. There were no friendly casualties.

In the Fourth Naval Zone on 1 September Ensign Bay, the Executive Officer of the Coastal Group 45, was killed by a grenade explosion, and a U. S. Navy enlisted advisor and two VNN sailors were wounded. The incident occurred aboard a junk on patrol 24 miles west of Rach Gia when the spoon of a hand grenade was accidentally released.

The following day, six junks from Coastal Groups 43, 44 and 45, with two Vedettes, transporting a Revolutionary Development (RD) Team between towns, nine miles south of Rach Gia, were ambushed by a Viet Cong force. When the sailors returned fire, the enemy retreated. Two RD team members were killed and six others and one sailor were wounded.

Riverine Area Naval Commands

In September the River Assault Groups conducted four operations

* Vedette—A 35-foot, French-designed, river patrol boat which mounts one .50 caliber and three .30 caliber machine guns.
in the First Naval Zone, seven in the Third Riverine Area and 11 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 78 percent of the 167 available craft, the RAG units searched 6,084 junks and 19,567 persons and detained four persons.

On 12 September, the administrative control of the River Transport and Escort Group* was transferred from the Third Riverine Area commander to the chief of the VNN's Operations Division.

The First Naval Zone's RAG detachment supported the ARVN 3rd Infantry Regiment in two operations and Thua Thieu Sector forces in two operations. The series of two-day search and destroy operations results included 10 Viet Cong killed, six others captured and two enemy suspects detained. Five ARVN soldiers and one RAG sailor were wounded.

From 1 to 15 September, in the Third Riverine Area, a six craft detachment from RAG 22 supported the VNMC's 3rd Battalion in the

* A specially-trained Vietnamese Navy unit under the operational control of the Waterway Transport Office of the Government's Public Works Department. The principal mission of the River Transport Escort Group (RTEO) is to escort commercial traffic along the waterways of the Mekong Delta between Saigon and Bac Lieu. Composed of seven officers, 200 enlisted men, and 28 river assault craft, the RTEO assigns five to seven craft to accompany each convoy; the size of the convoy ranges from 15 to as many as 70 junks and barges. A convoy leaves Saigon approximately every 10 days, arriving back in the Capital about 22 days later.
Rung Sat Special Zone. After the Battalion's departure, ten RAG 22 craft supported Regional Force operations in the RSSZ. Regional Force Boat Company 29 provided six craft daily in support of other Regional Force and Popular Force operations.

On the 1st, the last day of a three-day search and destroy operation, seven miles east of Saigon, RAG 30 units ambushed a sampan, killing the Viet Cong Security Chief for the southern half of Thu Duc district. Two weapons and a quantity of documents were seized. On the same day a RAG 24 unit with Long An Sector forces seized an enemy weapons cache along the Vam Co Tay River, 21 miles southwest of Saigon. Ten individual weapons, five grenades and two rockets were seized; the hut and bunker where the cache was found were destroyed.

On 12 September, acting on the information provided by a Hoi Chanh and under the control of the RSSZ commander, three Regional Force companies and an ARVN Commando platoon, supported by 10 craft from RAG 22, swept the base camp of the Viet Cong D-2 platoon 25 miles south of Saigon. Code-named DON TAM 12, the one-day mission met only token resistance as the enemy fled south from the attacking government forces. The operation resulted in the seizure of one complete, 24-inch diameter command-detonated watermine, 200 yards of two-conductor electrical cable, five pounds of documents, 220 pounds of rice and two sampans. Additionally, 11 bunkers, seven
A Vietnamese Navy Motor Launch Minesweeper conducting operations in the Long Tau channel.
buts, one mess hut and 20 water barrels were destroyed; one U. S. Marine advisor was slightly wounded.

On the 15th, in the Vam Co Tay River, a U. S. Army LCM-8 and a rock-laden barge en route to Tan An, were mined 19 miles south of Saigon. The detonation demolished the bow of the barge and blew off the LCM's bow ramp. A quick reaction force of VNN sailors, on board the escorting RAG 27 monitor, was landed immediately and detained six suspects. The suspects told the sailors that the Viet Cong had laid the 220-pound mine on 13 September after observing that the rock barges were making regular trips upriver to Tan An. One U. S. soldier was wounded.

In the Fourth Riverine Area on 7 and 8 September a 10-craft section of RAG 23 patrolled the north channel of the Co Chien River around Giai Island, 17 miles downstream from Vinh Long. Leaving their base at midnight, the boats anchored upstream from the island before dawn, distributed psychological warfare pamphlets to passing watercraft and obtained information on Viet Cong emplacements along the river. Underway at 0900, the RAG craft rendezvoused with VNN LSSL 230 and a U. S. Navy PBR patrol from River Section 523 and began a coordinated bombardment mission along three miles of the shore across the channel from the center of Giai Island. Nine heavy bunkers, a lookout station and many Viet Cong structures were destroyed in the one and one-half hour mission. Moving to the
island, the RAG boat crews handed out relief foodstuffs and other supplies. Later in the afternoon, the patrol force picked up a platoon of Popular Force troops, transported them the length of the eight mile long island, waited while they swept a suspected Viet Cong staging area, then transported the platoon to a Regional Force outpost, arriving at 1800. During the night, pairs of the RAG craft were drifted down the river to ambush any Viet Cong attempting to cross to the island. At dawn on the 8th, the craft lined up and the force patrolled the approaches to the Mang Thit River and in the afternoon, returned to the RAG 23 base at Vinh Long.

Also on the 7th, RAGs 21 and 33 and the ARVN 10th Regiment conducted Operation CUT LONG 45/10, to reduce the Viet Cong presence in Fen Tre District, at the confluence of the Fen Tre and Ham Luong rivers. The ARVN troops killed six Viet Cong, detained six Viet Cong suspects and seized two individual weapons. One soldier was killed and three others were wounded.

On the 15th, eight craft of RAGs 25 and 29 provided gunfire support and troop lift for a destruction operation against Viet Cong fortifications on the northern bank of the Bassac River opposite Tan Dinh Island, 15 miles downstream from Can Tho. The operation, named CRIMSON TIDE by U. S. Navy and PERRET by the VNN, utilized two PNH River Sections, SEAL squads, "Seawolf" helicopter
gunships and USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 786). The RAG craft followed the PRUs into the ambush area, suppressing the hostile fire and landing the SEALs. As each site was destroyed, the craft "leapfrogged" downstream repeating the sequence. The total results of the operation were: 75 bunkers, 120 sampans and 168 structures destroyed, five Viet Cong killed and two individual weapons seized.

Five days later, on the 20th, an ambush team, consisting of one RAG 25 RPC and eight sailors, patrolling the same area, seized four Viet Cong suspects, one of whom was identified as a village Finance and Economy leader and confirmed by other intelligence sources.

On 24 September, RAG 31 craft supported an ambush by a Provincial Reconnaissance Unit in a Viet Cong hamlet on the south bank of the Co Chien River, 14 miles south of Vinh Long. The PRU troops entered the hamlet and captured 12 Viet Cong, including the hamlet chief and his entire family, and fought their way back to the river, killing three more Viet Cong and wounding at least five others.

The successful raid was planned and conducted on the basis of information provided by a Hoi Chanh who also led the PRU into the hamlet.

Operation LONG PHI 9/130 was conducted nine miles west of Vinh Long, on 25 and 26 September, by 14 craft from RAGs 23 and 31 and elements of the ARVN NINTH Infantry Division and Vinh Long Sector. Sweeping south and west from the divergence of the Mekong and Co Chien rivers, the ARVN soldiers captured six Viet Cong, killed six...
others and detained 14 suspects. Also, one carbine and nine mines were seized and a cache of 100 booby trap grenades was destroyed.

On the 27th, 15 craft from RAGs 21 and 33 based at My Tho, transported and landed Kien Hoa Sector forces at various points between the Ben Tre and Ham Luong Rivers south of Ben Tre. The operation, code-named CUU LONG 48/10, ended on the afternoon of the second day after the ground forces captured seven Viet Cong and detained nine suspects. One ARVN soldier was killed and eight others were wounded.

On the 28th, 14 craft from RAG 25, Ba Xuyen Sector troops, a PRU, a combined LDVN and SEAL squad and supporting aircraft conducted Operation HAI DUONG 18, a clearing operation on Nai Island in the Bassac River 14 miles downstream from Can Tho. Blockading the river through the night, the RAG craft put the various troop units ashore and stopped all sampans and persons leaving the island. At dawn, the troops began to sweep the six mile long island, taking detainees to the blockade units for interrogation and seizing or destroying Viet Cong equipment and facilities. At the same time aircraft ahead of the sweeping units broadcast Chieu Hoi appeals and medical personnel following the sweep provided medical aid to 216 persons and distributed foodstuffs to almost 500 others. The blockade stopped 215 craft in the 24-hour period and the combined forces captured three Viet Cong, detained 12 suspects, received
four Ho Chi Minh, made a complete census of all the island residents, and identified an additional 30 persons, absent from the island, as Viet Cong.

Logistics

In September, with an average of 9.2 logistic lift ships available daily and eight employed daily, the Vietnamese Navy conducted 19 logistic missions transporting 2,522 tons of cargo and 1,305 personnel. Medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 1,036 tons of cargo and 550 personnel; and utility landing craft (LCUs) lifted 675 tons of cargo and 500 personnel. LCM-405, after running aground on 31 August at Phan Thiet in the southern Second Naval Zone, was refloated on 3 September and returned to Saigon for bottom and anchor machinery repairs.

During the month, the VNN Supply Center had a gross effectiveness of 71.6 percent on a total of 9,301 requests for items and a net effectiveness of 84.4 percent on 7,895 requests for items normally carried in the supply system.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary
September 1967

| Coastal Force | Searching | | Detained | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|               | Junka     | People    | Junka     | People    |
| I NZ          | 16,150    | 11,200    | 0         | 150       |
| II NZ         | 6,452     | 21,613    | 37        | 215       |
| III NZ        | 9,034     | 32,211    | 0         | 5         |
| IV NZ         | 3,914     | 11,395    | 0         | 0         |
| Sub-totals    | 29,950    | 106,439   | 37        | 410       |
SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS
BY VIETNAMESE NAVY SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES

- - - JUNKS

- - - PEOPLE

1966

1967

CONFIDENTIAL - NOFORN
CONFIDENTIAL - NOPFORN

Fleet Command
Patrol Ships 428 1,944 0 1

Riverine Area Craft 6,084 19,567 0 4

Totals 36,462 128,050 37 415

***

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

In September the seven battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II and III Corps Tactical Zones, the Rung Sat Special Zone and the Capital Military District. The six infantry battalions and the three batteries of the Artillery Battalion were committed to combat operations 83 percent of the time.

Throughout the month, Task Force B, consisting of a headquarters, the 1st and 2nd Battalions and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion, continued Operation SONG THAN 14 in the northern portion of the II Corps Tactical Zone. The daily activity of the Force included search and destroy sweeps and road security duties, except for the period from the 6th through the 15th when the force made a series of helicopter assaults as part of a joint force with the U. S. Army FIRST Cavalry Division and the ARVN 22nd Division in Operation JOIN HANDS/SONG THAN 807-67. Enemy contact was limited to squad and individual encounters, except on 13 September, when one company of Marines made contact with an estimated two platoons of Viet Cong. During
Operation JOIN HANDS the enemy, while choosing not to make heavy contact with the Marines, extensively mined and booby-trapped his line of retreat; the men of the Force located and destroyed 35 assorted mines and 21 grenade booby traps. The detonation of four other mines and two booby trap grenades caused the Marines' only casualties, one man killed and nine wounded. The Marines, meanwhile, killed eight Viet Cong, captured 14 others and detained 32 enemy suspects. Other action in the month accounted for four Viet Cong killed, four captured, 27 additional suspects detained; one Chieu Hoi rallied to the Government. One Marine was killed and six were wounded in three mine explosions and one Marine was killed in a fire fight.

Throughout the month, Task Force A, comprised of the headquarters, the 4th and 5th Battalions—until 15 September when the 6th Battalion relieved the 5th Battalion—continued search and destroy and security operations in the Tan Uyen and Bien Hoa area 17 miles north of Saigon. On the 12th and 13th, 5th Battalion Marines located and searched a complex of 15 tunnels, discovering 200,000$VN (piasters). Three days later, on 16 September, a mis-directed U. S. Army 155-mm round hit the 6th Battalion Command Post, killing three Marines and wounding 11 others. There was no contact with the enemy during the month but three Marines were killed and 11 were wounded by mines and grenades.

The 3rd Battalion continued its search and destroy operations.
in the Rung Sat Special Zone through the 15th, killing two Viet Cong on the 11th, the only contact with the enemy. After several days in base camp, the battalion was deployed to Binh Chon District west of Saigon on the 20th, to be part of the security force for the Capital Military District. The 5th Battalion, after being detached from Task Force A on the 15th, was also assigned to security duties in Binh Chon District and a five-day special security mission in Saigon.

In September the Brigade accounted for 14 enemy dead, 11 captured, 59 suspects detained, and one rallier received. In the same period nine Marines were killed and 39 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.

**Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary**
September 1967

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VC/NVA</th>
<th>14 KIA</th>
<th>18 VCC</th>
<th>59 VCS</th>
<th>1 Chieu Hoi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VNMC</td>
<td>9 KIA</td>
<td>39 WIA (includes 3 KIA and 11 WIA by friendly fire)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Captured Weapons:**
- Rifles, WAG 109
- Rifles, British
- AK-47
- Rifles, Chinese Communist
- Rifles, M-1

**Captured or Destroyed Materials or Facilities:**
- 105-mm modified mines: 27
- 155-mm modified mines: 3
- Anti-tank mines: 9
- Butterfly mines: 5

117 CONFIDENTIAL
## Captured or Destroyed Materials or Facilities (Cont.):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-personnel mines</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claymore mines</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenade booby traps</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand grenades</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNT, sticks</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice, kilograms</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thatched houses</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caches</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sampans</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ox carts</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunnels</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company-size defensive bases</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson SM'.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piasters</td>
<td>200,000$VN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assorted ammunition, rounds</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assorted medical supplies</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*****
APPENDIX I

MILITARY PROVINCIAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

During recent months the Navy Military Provincial Health Assistance Program (MILPHAP) teams continued to provide direct medical care and health services to Vietnamese civilians, and worked with Vietnamese medical and health personnel to augment, develop, and expand Vietnamese capabilities in clinical health care and public health programs.

The immediate objective of the MILPHAP teams has been the increase in health services available to Vietnamese civilians in the provinces. This aspect of the program involved MILPHAP teams working directly with Vietnam's Ministry of Health, at the province and district levels, to assist and advise the staffs of the Vietnamese provincial hospitals. The MILPHAP teams have frequently extended their activities to villages, and even to hamlets, where they have helped to wage intensive preventive medicine campaigns in addition to treating the villagers' ills.

The Navy MILPHAP teams, which are normally staffed by three doctors, a Medical Service Corps officer, and 12 corpsmen, are currently located in the following provinces: Team ONE in Quang Tri; Team TWO in Quang Nam; Team THREE in Quang Tin; Team FOUR in Lam Dong; Team FIVE in Chau Doc; Team SIX in Ba Xuyen; and Team SEVEN in Kien Giang.
The Navy MILPHAP teams have encountered numerous problems and obstacles. Generally, the hospitals are in a state of disrepair, wards are overcrowded, and the laboratories are lacking some essential equipment. Under-staffing has also been a problem, and the procurement of supplies extremely difficult. Despite the austere conditions under which the teams function, there has been continuing evidence of significant progress made in the administration and operation of the Vietnamese public health facilities.

The Navy teams have also sustained several personnel injuries as a result of enemy hostile actions. On 27 August, the enemy attempted to overrun the compound of Navy Team TWO in order to capture medical supplies from the team’s storehouse. The attackers were repulsed by team members and Marine security forces and there was no loss of medical supplies. During the ensuing fight, three members of Team TWO were seriously wounded while nine enemy were killed and two captured. On 27 September, 10 miles southwest of Chau Doc Village, a member of Navy MILPHAP Team FIVE was slightly wounded while accompanying a reaction team which was investigating the source of enemy sniper fire.

With the adoption of a "patience and persistence" attitude, the Navy teams have established numerous active health programs. Navy Team ONE has instituted an effective sanitation and insect control program in Quang Tri Province. An extensive training program...
for Provincial Health Service personnel in this province has also been accomplished, resulting in significant contributions to the environmental sanitation conditions in the hospital. Navy Team TWO has established personnel sanitation and garbage collection programs for the refugee camp in Quang Nam Province. Extensive work by Navy Team THREE has controlled outbreaks of plague in Tam Ky and Ly Tin districts of Quang Tin Province.

Navy Team FOUR played a key role in the recent organization of a Medical Civil Action Team which is operated and directed by the Vietnamese. This team, under the supervision of Navy Team FOUR, has been responsible for the growth, in size and effectiveness, of the active rural health program in Lam Dong Province.

The "Hygiene Hamlet" Program, a rural health program involving specific projects such as painting and distributing trash cans, inoculation programs and health education programs, has been conducted in Chau Doc Province by the Vietnamese Rural Health Chief under the supervision of Navy Team FIVE.

An educational program instituted by Navy Team SIX continued to function smoothly and without problems. First aid lectures given to RF/PF and ARVN corpsmen have been enthusiastically received. First aid booklets, written in Vietnamese, have been distributed to schools and Vietnamese province medical personnel.

Personal rapport continued at a high level among members of the
Navy MILPHAP teams and the Vietnamese, and the health assistance programs instituted by these teams continue to gradually improve the health standards of rural Vietnam.

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APPENDIX II

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

In September the number of chaplains assigned to U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam was 25: four Catholic and 21 Protestant.

During the month the chaplains traveled extensively to outlying areas in an attempt to minister to as many naval personnel as possible. The demanding requirements of the small number of chaplains assigned is exemplified by the three "circuit-riding" chaplains of NAVSUPPACT, Saigon, who are tasked with serving approximately 6,000 personnel at fifteen different locations.

The following tabulation is a statistical summary of the religious services conducted during September:

1. Religious Services:

   a. Divine Services:
      (1) U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Installations

         |       |        |        |
         | Sunday| Weekly| Total  |
         |-------|-------|-------|
         Number of Services | 129   | 113   | 242   |
         Attendance         | 4,734 | 645   | 5,379 |
         Communed           | 1,380 | 396   | 1,776 |

      (2) Other Military Installations

         |       |        |        |
         | Sunday| Weekly| Total  |
         |-------|-------|-------|
         Number of Services | 38    | 10    | 54    |
         Attendance         | 994   | 160   | 1,154 |
         Communed           | 553   | 117   | 670   |

      (3) Civilian Churches

         |       |        |        |
         | Sunday| Weekly| Total  |
         |-------|-------|-------|
         Number of Services | 4     | 3     | 7     |
         Attendance         | 2,400 | 84    | 2,484 |
         Communed           | 950   | 5     | 955   |

II-1
b. Religious services conducted by lay leaders and chaplains other than those attached to NAVFORV:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Chaplains</th>
<th>Lay Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. Other services in which chaplains participated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorial services</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese funeral</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestant Monthly Rally</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer meetings</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

****
APPENDIX III

GLOSSARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANGLICO</td>
<td>Air-Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (U. S.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARVN</td>
<td>Army of the Republic of Vietnam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CG</td>
<td>Coastal Group (VNN) - A coastal patrol command consisting of six to ten junks with the responsibility of patrolling from 30 to 60 miles of coastline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIDG</td>
<td>Civilian Irregular Defense Group (VN) - Para-military troops used in their local area for limited area operations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIEU HOI</td>
<td>&quot;Open Arms&quot; (VN) - The Republic of Vietnam's amnesty program of rehabilitation and re-location of Viet Cong who voluntarily return to government control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORDS</td>
<td>Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COSURVFOR</td>
<td>Coastal Surveillance Force (USN) TF 115 - The U. S. forces participating in Operations MARKET TIME and STABLE DOOR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COSVN</td>
<td>Central Office for South Vietnam - The highest Viet Cong headquarters in South Vietnam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTZ</td>
<td>Corps Tactical Zone - The major divisions of South Vietnam into military regions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIA DOAN KET</td>
<td>National Reconciliation Program - Program which is</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
aimed at helping qualified returnees find employment commensurate with their previous training and experience.

**GAME WARDEN**

The operation performed by U. S. Navy forces to interdict Viet Cong movement on the major waterways of the Mekong Delta and the RSSZ. The force is composed of River Patrol Boats, Minesweepers, helicopter fire teams and SEAL teams.

**HEAT**

High Explosive Anti-Tank - A shaped-charge projectile with high armor penetration capability normally used in 57-mm or 75-mm recoilless rifles.

**HHPT**

Heavy Helicopter Fire Team (U. S.) - A helicopter fire team with three or more gunships used in support of ground and water borne units. The use of three helicopters allows continuous firing on the target.

**HOI CHANH**

"Returnee to the Just Cause" (VN) - An individual (Viet Cong) who returns under the Chieu Hoi program.

**IUWU**

Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit (U. S.) - The U. S. forces conducting operation STABLE DOOR.

**IWCS**

Integrated Wideband Communication System.

**LDNN**

Lien Doc Nguoi Nhia (VNN) - Literally "soldiers who fight under the sea," UDT force of the VNN.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LHFT</td>
<td>Light Helicopter Fire Team (U. S.) - A helicopter fire team composed of two gunships used in support of ground and water borne units.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LARP</td>
<td>Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARKET TIME</td>
<td>The operation conducted by U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces to interdict Viet Cong infiltration of men and supplies from the sea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDCAP</td>
<td>Medical Civic Action Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG</td>
<td>Machine Gun - An automatic crew served weapon adaptable to many mountings. The four types currently used by USN and VNN forces are the M-60, the .30 caliber light machine gun, the .50 caliber heavy machine gun, and the 7.62-mm mini gun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILPHAP</td>
<td>Military Provincial Health Assistance Program - MILPHAP teams, normally staffed by three doctors, a Medical Service Corps officer and 12 corpsmen, work with Vietnam's Ministry of Health at the province hospital level to improve health services available to Vietnamese civilians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRF</td>
<td>Mobile Riverine Force (U. S.) - A force made up of Navy craft and Army units designed and trained for amphibious assaults in the Mekong Delta and the RSSZ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGFS</td>
<td>Naval Gunfire Support (USN-VNN) - Naval gunfire used</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
to assist operations ashore; often spotted and corrected by spotter aircraft or forward observers.

NILO
Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer.

NLF
National Liberation Front - Actually the "National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam." A Communist political-front used to give the appearance of popular non-Communist support to their insurgency activities in South Vietnam.

NUOC MAM
(VN) A fermented fish sauce served with almost any dish A national delicacy.

NVA
North Vietnamese Army.

PRU
Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (VN) - Para-military personnel whose principal mission includes clandestine operations designed to destroy the Viet Cong infrastructure. Each unit consists of one or more teams of 18 to 20 civilians who have had prior military service.

RAF
Riverine Assault Force (USN) - The U. S. Navy contingent of the MRF.

RAG
River Assault Group (VN) - An amphibious warfare command with the capability to transport and support a battalion of infantry. Similar to a boat division in the RAF.