The proliferation of enemy automatic weapons and rockets was evidenced in the Viet Cong attacks initiated from ambush against Navy units and commercial shipping. GAME WARDEN units instituted aggressive measures against the enemy to offset any attempt by the Viet Cong to increase his tempo of operations thereby enhancing his position in any possible future peace negotiations.

A freighter sails the Long Tau Shipping Channel under the watchful eyes of U. S. Navy Minesweeping Boat (MSB) crewmembers. TF-116 MSB's conduct daily sweeps of the channel to keep it free of Viet Cong mines.

On the Long Tau shipping channel, minesweepers made repeated recoveries of electrical wire during sweep operations indicating a possible
step up in enemy mining efforts. On 28 April, about 4 miles southeast of Nha Be, on the Long Tau, four free-floating contact mines were recovered. The mines were identical in design as those found in February and brings to 10 the number detected. On 26 April, while on a Long Tau minesweeping patrol, a LCMM was ambushed by the Viet Cong. One U. S. Navyman was wounded, one VNN LCMM-trainee was killed and three other trainees were wounded in the attack that occurred about 8 miles southeast of the Navy base at Nha Be.

During the month, commercial shipping came under enemy attack on three occasions. The Alaskan Barge and Tug Company tug MICHAEL was hit on the My Tho River and the ships SS PLAIN BLUFF VICTORY and SS TULANE VICTORY received enemy fire on the Long Tau.

GAME WARDEN units saw action in II CTZ for the first time when SS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST838) and 10 PBR's of River Section 532 journeyed to Qui Nhon on 16 April to participate in a Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) operation. The excellent performance of the units earned accolades from the ROKA Chief of Staff and COMNAVFORV.

On 17-18, CTF 116 activated TG 116.9, comprised of six PBR's each from TG 116.3 and TU 116.3.9 and TU 116.4.8, to conduct a two-pronged incursion of the Cho Gao Canal. The canal extends from Cho Gao, located 5 miles east of My Tho, in a northeasterly direction meeting the Co Cong River. The purpose of the mission was to extend US/VNN presence into an area of Viet Cong influence. The My Tho based PBR's remained overnight.
at Nha Be while the Nha Be units stayed at My Tho, with the respective units returning to their home bases on 18 April. During the transit, psychological operations were conducted, water traffic was checked and people along the waterway were interrogated. There were no hostile incidents encountered during the two days.

GAME WARDEN PBR's, helicopters and support IST's continued support and assisted Vietnamese units in their pursuit and encounters with the enemy.

During the month Task Force 116 units were engaged in 160 fire-fights, killed 76 of the enemy, wounded 18 and captured 3. One PBR sailor was killed in action and one PBR was lost to enemy fire.

The PBR's detected 96,670 craft, the highest figure to date, plying the river; inspected 23,341, the second highest total; and boarded 50,074 for another all time high. There were 824 persons detained for varied reasons.

OPERATIONS IN I AND II CORPS TACTICAL ZONES

In I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ) PBR's of River Section 521 continued to operate in support of CTF CLEARWATER in providing river security for logistical craft, operating on the Perfume River, supporting Hue. (See Commander Task Force CLEARWATER).

GAME WARDEN units supported the ROKA operation, MAENG HO II (Fierce Tiger), on the Qui Nhon Peninsula in II Corps Tactical Zone (II CTZ), marking the first entry of TF 116 units into this theater of operations. River
A U.S. Navy river patrol boat (PBR) patrols the inland bay at Qui Nhon as U.S. Air Force aircraft blast enemy positions on the beach in support of ROK troops.

Section 532 and USS HUNTERDON COUNTRY (LST838) provided blocking forces for the Korean Army ground sweep, conducted 20-26 April, that resulted in over 200 enemy killed and 76 captured. There were no TF 116 personnel casualties sustained by the units that actively engaged the enemy. The PBR's on one occasion captured and detained 11 Viet Cong that had attempted to escape by sampan.

During the operation HUNTERDON COUNTY coordinated PBR communications with elements of Korean, U.S. Army, TF 115, and U.S. Air Force units. During the operation it became evident that HUNTERDON COUNTY'S extensive com-
munication package gave the ship a unique capability among the diverse units actively involved. The capability to guard four FM frequencies simultaneously was of a great advantage and a major factor in the ship's participation in the operation.

General KIM, Chief of Staff, ROKA, advised that complete success of the operations occurred only as a direct result of the presence of PBR and harbor defense units in blocking the waterways.

In recognition of the splendid performance of River Section 532 and HUNTERDON COUNTY, COMNAVFORV dispatched the following message:

"I HAVE READ WITH PLEASURE THE MANY GLOWING REPORTS OF THE OUTSTANDING SUPPORT YOU PROVIDED THE ROK UNITS INVOLVED IN OPERATION MAEM HO II. IT IS APPARENT THAT A LARGE MEASURE OF SUCCESS OF THIS OPERATION CAN BE ACCREDITED TO U.S. NAVY UNITS. I REALIZE THAT AT TIMES THE GOING WAS ROUGH BUT YOU HAVE EARNED THE ADMIRATION OF ALL CONCERNED, WELL DONE, RADM VETH."

***

RUNG SAY SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

On the morning of 4 April, CS PLAIN BLUFF VICTORY came under enemy heavy weapons fire while transiting the Long Tan shipping channel about 8 miles southeast of Nha Be. PBR's quickly responded to the attack. A Vietnamese woodcutter informed the PBR patrol officer that he saw 12 Viet Cong running west. Army and Navy helicopters soon converged on the area as the PBR's commenced rounding up sampans seen leaving the area. A fixed-wing air strike destroyed three bunkers and two firing positions. The air strike was followed by 105-mm artillery fire. At 1005 PBR's
RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

A - SS TULANE VICTORY
   25 April
B - SS PLAIN BLUFF
   VICTORY - 4 April
C - PER's - 7 April
D - PER's - 8 April
Members of SEAL Team Detachment "G", stationed in Nha Be, listen intently as their officer-in-charge, Lieutenant J. W. Schropp, USN, briefs them on their upcoming mission in RSSZ.

Landed 60 RF soldiers to conduct a ground sweep. The Vietnamese troops found and destroyed ten additional bunkers. Enemy casualties were undetermined. Ship damage was negligible.

At 21h2 on 7 April a PBR patrol from TE 116,4,1,1,, on a special psychological operation (intelligence gathering mission), detected an evading sampan moving west to east on the Dong Tranh River about 9 miles southeast of Nha Be. The sampan was observed by one PBR that had anchored in ambush 20 minutes after the cover PBR had passed through the area as a
diversion. When the sampan, with six Viet Cong aboard, was taken under
fire, the enemy returned the fire. In the ensuing firefight, the PBR
sailors killed four, one of whom was a female nurse, captured one and
probably killed the sixth Viet Cong. The sampan that was destroyed
contained one U.S. M-1 carbine with ammunition belt; one CHICOM carbine
with ammunition belt; six pounds of documents; five pounds of medical
supplies including a complete surgical kit and 20 pounds of clothing.
There were no friendly casualties.

On the evening of 8 April, PBR's from River Section 5kl, while on
a special night patrol, received rocket and heavy automatic weapons
fire from a large enemy bunker located about 11 miles southeast of Mha
Be. The first rocket fired scored a direct hit on the forward .50 cal-
iber gun mount, passed through the gun shield and continued through the
body of the gunner. The after .50 caliber gunner immediately opened
fire in unison with the lead PBR into the enemy positions and cleared the
kill zone. Helicopter gunships were scrambled to the area to cover the
PBR's exit. An Army helicopter was quickly brought into a secured land-
ing zone to the east of the ambush site to medically evacuate Engineman
Third Class Steve D. LEDFORD, USN, the critically wounded forward gunner,
to Vung Tau; LEDFORD was dead on arrival. Other than a secondary explosion
noted in the enemy bunker, enemy casualties were unknown. Three additional
PBR sailors received slight wounds and the PBR sustained moderate damage
in the action.
On 25 April at 1000, SS TULANE VICTORY was attacked about 6 miles southeast of Nha Be on the Long Tau River, while enroute to Saigon. The ship received at least two RPG-7 rocket hits, plus heavy automatic-weapons fire, along the starboard side. The TULANE VICTORY sustained penetration damage in five positions and the starboard life boat was heavily damaged. There were, however, no personnel casualties. Navy "Seawolves" were over the ambush site within 10 minutes of the attack returning the enemy fire. PBR's and a U.S. Army helicopter fire team soon joined the Navy Helicopters, that had drawn enemy fire and received several hits. The combined fire power soon suppressed the enemy action. A fixed-wing air strike was made on the Viet Cong firing positions and withdrawal route, destroying at least two bunkers. Regional Force troops and Vietnamese Commandos were landed and conducted a ground sweep; however, contact with the elusive enemy was not achieved.

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DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

On the morning of 7 April SEAL's operating from the PBR base at My Tho engaged an enemy force 4 miles northeast of Vinh Long. At 0500 6th platoon was landed by PBR on the south bank of the river. The platoon patrolled 300 yards to the south and established an ambush area. At 0530 the 7th platoon landed by STAB about a mile up river where they moved inland about 300 yards and set an ambush. Two hours later the 7th platoon
OPERATIONS IN THE MY THO RIVER

A - SEALS - 7 April
B - Tug MICHAEL - 7 April
C - PBR's/SEAKOLMC - 29 April
D - PBR's - 10 April
opened fire on the forward element of an estimated Viet Cong platoon. A heavy counter fire was received. Meanwhile, Delta platoon engaged 2-3 snipers and began moving west to assist the 7th platoon by providing a flank security for their withdrawal. The 7th platoon withdrew to the river and was picked up by PBR's at 0830 under the cover of Navy helicopters that were striking the enemy positions. Twenty minutes later Delta platoon cleared the area in a STAB. Five Viet Cong were killed during the heavy exchange of fire. It was highly probable that an additional three enemy soldiers were killed. The SEAL's suffered no casualties.

On 7 April the commercial tug MICHAEL, of the Alaskan Barge and Tug Company, under U.S. military contract, was hit by RPG-7 rockets and automatic-weapons fire on the My Tho River, about 8 miles north of Vinh Long. The master and mate were killed in the attack, PBR's responding to the attack, arrived on the scene 15 minutes later and escorted the tug clear of the ambush area. No contact was made with the enemy by the PBR's.

On 10 April five PBR's from 116.2.3 and two PBR's from TU 116.3.5 actively engaged the enemy while providing support to a Vietnamese Armed Propaganda Team operation conducted about 3/2 miles north of Vinh Long. The action began at 1513 when the PBR's landed troops and an Australian advisor, from Vinh Long, who were to sweep north and recapture an outpost that was held by the Viet Cong. PBR 87 landed eight troops and the advisor and had withdrawn as PBR 83 started in to make a landing.
Suddenly the landing area came under automatic weapons and small arms fire. Still with about 100 meters to the landing area, PBR 83 charged in and landed the troops to assist the friendly forces that were pinned down by the enemy fire. The enemy fire increased and the PBR’s began receiving fire. All seven boats with all guns blazing raked the flanks of the friendly position to provide a cover for the troop withdrawal. All troops scrambled back aboard the PBR except the advisor. A minute later the Australian appeared with two Viet Cong firing at him and the PBR. The PBR sailors returned fire and killed one Viet Cong as the advisor killed the other. With all troops now on board PBR 83 rapidly cleared the area. The PBR’s made saturating firing runs on the area, followed by "Seawolf" rocket and machine gun attacks. The Navy armed helicopters and patrol boats continued to draw fire. After the "Seawolves" had completed their air attacks, the PBR’s made three more firing runs on the enemy position, however, they drew fire only on the first pass. At 1602 the action was terminated with four known Viet Cong killed and at least three structures destroyed. There were no U.S. casualties.

With the suppression of the enemy fire, all units departed the area at 1615, except for two PBR’s, from TU 116,3,5, that remained behind to watch for any further enemy activity. The patrol did not have to wait very long, for at 1624, numerous males were seen moving in the tree line. The boats once again came under enemy fire. As the PBR’s responded in kind, they were joined by two more boats from TU 116,3,5 and a helicopter light
fire team in the attack on the Viet Cong positions. The Viet Cong broke contact. Action resumed again at 1650 when a beached sampan was taken under fire by two PBR's. The sampan blew apart in a violent explosion that tossed portions of the craft about 200 feet in the air. At 1700 the Viet Cong opened fire once again, but this time their target was a passing steel hull merchant ship. The enemy was engaged once again and at 1830 the Viet Cong broke contact. The late afternoon action resulted in the destruction of two sampans, and an additional eight structures. The number of casualties inflicted on the enemy was undetermined. There were no friendly casualties.

On the morning of 16 April PBR's while pursuing an evading sampan, about 7 miles northeast of Vinh Long, suddenly received three rocket rounds and automatic weapons fire. The boats were not hit in the attack. Three "Seawolves" were soon overhead and placed three coordinated air attacks on the enemy positions on the north bank of the river. When the helicopters made their first firing run they encountered heavy automatic weapons fire. The Navy flyers met only sporadic fire on their second pass and all fire was suppressed on the final strike. The helicopter/PBR team killed six Viet Cong, detained one suspect, destroyed six sampans and nine structures, and damaged six other sampans. No casualties were sustained by the Navymen.

On the evening of 29 April, at the request of the Truc Giong Subsector advisor, a coordinated strike on a suspected Viet Cong meeting
place, 3 miles southeast of My Tho, was launched by PBR's and "Seawolves."
What was believed to have been a harassment and interdiction firing resulted in the killing of seven enemy soldiers and the probable wounding of four others.

**Operations in the Ham Luong River**

On the afternoon of 2 April a two-boat patrol from River Section 532 was taken under fire by Viet Cong troops about 1/2 miles south of Ban Tre at the northern end of Oc Island. The enemy firing from the west bank of the river forced the PBR's toward the west bank of the island where enemy firing positions opened up with automatic weapons. The PBR's engaged the enemy now firing on both flanks until "Seawolves" arrived and with multiple machine gun and 2,75 rocket attacks soon suppressed the Viet Cong fire. Meanwhile, suspecting that the ambush was a diversion for a river crossing attempt, an additional PBR patrol took station on the lower eastern side of the island. The patrol encountered fire from the west bank of the river near the Tran Stream. Fire was returned by the PBR's and Navy helicopters suppressing the enemy fire. At the northern ambush site PBR 124 attempted to retrieve some sampans, noted at the Oc Island firing position and encountered rifle grenade and automatic weapons fire. The boats returned fire and the "Seawolves" swept back in with guns blazing, setting off three secondary explosions, while the PBR caused another secondary explosion. USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST838), home base for the PBR's and helicopter fire teams, moved up river and took up a position at the
northern end of the island and provided supporting fire with her 40-mm cannons.

Meanwhile, at the southeastern end of the island, one sampan managed to slip through the friendly fire barrage and disappeared up the Thu Cuu Stream on the east bank of the river. No other sampans attempted a crossing. It was reported by an island refugee that one platoon of Viet Cong was on the island. There was no attempt made to blockade the island due to the unavailability of quick reaction forces and the unacceptable risks of maintaining boats on the eastern side of the island for any period of time.

Three sampans were destroyed during the firefights by the PBR's and helicopters and three structures and two sampans were destroyed by the LST's guns. Three PBR sailors slightly wounded and PBR 124 suffered moderate damage in the enemy encounter.

On 24 April four Mark II PBR's from River Section 534 while transiting the Ben Tre/Chet Soy Canal came under heavy weapons fire, about 3 miles east of Ben Tre. PBR 712, the last boat in the column, received the brunt of the attack when at least two B-40 rockets slammed into the boat, disabling it and wounding several crewmen; the craft ran up on the west bank of the canal. The remaining boats reversed course to provide fire for the stricken PBR. PBR 716 proceeded alongside PBR 712 and removed the wounded crewmen. PBR 719 was then hit by a rocket that put the starboard engine out of operation. Volunteers returned to PBR 712 and while
under enemy fire removed as much equipment and classified material as possible. As the firefight continued, with Navy helicopters providing overhead cover until their ammunition was exhausted, salvage of the boat was attempted. Two PBR's pulled the 712 boat clear of the bank; however, the stricken craft rapidly flooded, despite efforts to stem the incoming water, and sank, stern first in about 35 feet of water at high tide. In view of the tactical situation and a low ammunition supply remaining on board the PBR's, the boats cleared the area. The enemy, later identified as elements of the Viet Cong 516th Battalion, continued their fire with a determined intent to stop the boats. The boats returned down river since the worst stretch of the canal still lay ahead at the Va Nai junction. Equally important was the necessity to render medical attention to the wounded.

A fixed-wing air strike was called in later to destroy the sunken boat to prevent the enemy from salvaging it.

A total of eight PER sailors were wounded in the action, one seriously. PBR 712 was destroyed, PBR 719 sustained major battle damage and PBR 716 and 717 received minor bullet and shrapnel damage. Enemy casualties were undetermined.

It was strongly felt that PBR 712 could have been towed to safety, even though partially sunk, if flotation gear similar to that installed in Mark I boats was present.
A — PBR's 49/136
13 April
B — SEAWOLVES — 1 April

OPERATIONS IN THE CO CHIEN RIVER
Operations in the Co Chien River

On the morning of 1 April the USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST786) based helicopter light fire team sighted several sampans in a specified strike zone at the mouth of the river on the south bank. The "Seawolves" took the targets under fire damaging four of the enemy craft. A short time later another sampan was sighted on the north bank. This craft was attacked and damaged by the Navy flyers. The patrol, then acting on intelligence from the Thanh Phu sector advisor that a company of Viet Cong were located along a known communications-liaison route about a mile east of Thanh Phu, headed northwest. The "Seawolves" arrived on target and commenced multiple machine-gun and rocket attacks on the enemy small arms fire. Three Viet Cong soldiers were killed and five were wounded in the attacks.

On 13 April PBR's 49 and 136, while on a routine patrol on the lower Co Chien River, came under an enemy B-40 rocket attack about 3 miles north of Phu Vinh. One rocket, fired from the west bank, hit PBR 49 on the port-side amidships wounding three crewmen—one seriously. PBR 136 returned the enemy fire as PBR 49 withdrew from the attack site and headed for GARRETT COUNTY to evacuate the wounded. Navy "Seawolves" on patrol were diverted to the scene of the action and took under fire two Viet Cong seen running from the rocket firing position. One Viet Cong was gunned down. The gunships soon suppressed the enemy fire that the helicopters encountered. PBR 136 was joined by PBR's 143 and 145 and the three boats
A -- SEAWOLVES -- 10 April
B -- LIVDIV 51, GAME WARDEN,
Popular Forces -- 12 April

OPERATIONS IN THE BASSAC RIVER
proceeded into a canal in search of targets. The PBR sailors were soon engaged with the enemy when the boats began receiving small arms and automatic weapons fire. Two firing runs were made against the enemy position and the enemy guns were silenced. The boats, however, were under attack once again as they exited the canal. Fire was returned and soon suppressed by the PBR's and a Navy helicopter gunship. GARRETT COUNTY also joined in the fight by saturating the area with her 40-mm cannons. Destruction inflicted on the enemy totaled one Viet Cong killed, six structures destroyed, five structures damaged and three offensive bunkers damaged.

Operations in the Bassac River

On 6 April a light helicopter fire team from Binh Thuy-based Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE, Detachment Seven (TU 116.1.2), flew a mission in support of Popular Force troops operating in Ke Sach subsector, Ba Xuyen sector. The air strike conducted by the "Seawolves" against enemy positions resulted in 30 Viet Cong killed in action.

During the period 8-14 April four PBR's from River Section 511 (TU 116.1.1) conducted special patrols on the upper Bassac River in the vicinity of Chau Doc to extend US/GVN naval presence, collect intelligence, conduct psychological operations, and enforce curfews.

On 10 April the Navy "Seawolves" once again supported Popular Force troops in contact with the enemy about 4 miles northeast of Can Tho. The armed helicopters placed repeated strikes in the areas of Viet Cong
concentrations. Nine Viet Cong were killed and probably at least 14 more were killed by the Navy gunners. There were also three structures destroyed and eight damaged by the air action.

On 11 April, SEAL Team Detachment ALFA, Eighth Platoon, led by Lieutenant Henry J. RHINEBOLT, USN, officer in charge of the detachment, concluded a two-week intelligence gathering operation in the western Mekong Delta. Based in the vicinity of Tach Gia, on the Gulf of Thailand, the SEAL's investigated reports of extensive Viet Cong movement and resupply along the coastline and south from the Cambodian border in Kien Giang Province. Their observations indicated that there was very little activity along the coast; however, there was considerable Viet Cong movement along an inland supply route. During the course of the operation, the SEAL's killed 10 Viet Cong, captured 4 and seized 3 enemy weapons.

On 12 April, Commander River Division 51 conducted a combined GAME WILDEN/Popular Force operation on the Vong and Cu canals, about 15 miles southeast of Can Tho. Eight PBR's from Task Unit 116.1.2 and 116.1.3., two light helicopter fire teams from Task Units 116.1.8 and 116.1.9 and USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST821) participated in the 7½ hour operation. After the troops were landed by the patrol boats in the area of a known Viet Cong concentration, the PBR's provided a blocking force for the troops that made immediate contact with the enemy. The Navy helicopters gunships continued their pre-landing air strikes against the enemy positions and remained overhead throughout the operation. HARNETT COUNTY served as a
rearming and refueling station for the helicopter fire teams. In the
ensuing ground fighting 11 Viet Cong were killed and 10 were captured.
The most significant accomplishment of the operation was the liberation
of 34 Vietnamese prisoners found chained in bunkers when the Popular Force
troops over-ran a Viet Cong prison camp. Eight of the prisoners released
were Popular Force troops that had been held capture for two years by the
enemy. Two rifles, two sampans and documents were captured, three sampans
and two structures were destroyed and six structures were damaged by the
friendly forces. The only casualties sustained were two Popular Force
troops who were wounded slightly by punji pit booby traps.

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GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 3 April Captain Arthur W. PRICE, Jr., USN, relieved Captain Paul
N. GRAY, USN, as Commander River Patrol Force (CTF 116) during ceremonies
held at Binh Thuy, Republic of Vietnam (RVN).

On 3 April River Section 535 relocated from Binh Thuy to APL-55,
vacated task unit designator 116.1.3 and assumed task unit designator
116.3.5. River Section 514 relocated from Nha Be to Binh Thuy and assumed
task unit designator 116.1.3.

On 11 April USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST621) changed to the operational
control of CTF 116 and arrived on station in the Bassac River. HARNETT
COUNTY embarked River Section 513 (TU 116.1.4) and Helicopter Attack
CONFIDENTIAL

(Light) Squadron THREE (HAL-3), Detachment One (TU 116.1.8), and relieved USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST646) as TU 116.1.6 and commenced GAME WARDEN operations. JENNINGS COUNTY proceeded to Subic Bay, Philippines, for upkeep, changing to the operational control of CTF 76.

On 11 April River Section 513 vacated task unit designator 116.1.4 and assumed task unit designator 116.1.3. River Section 514 vacated task unit designator 116.1.3 and assumed task unit designator 116.1.4.

On 14 April USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST838) with River Section 532 embarked departed station on the Ham Luong River in route to Qui Nhon (II CTZ) for special operations in support of elements of the Republic of Korea Army (ROKA). HAL-3, Detachment Five (TU 116.3.8) shifted to Dong Tam for the duration of the operation.

On 16 April APL-55 shifted location to the Ham Luong River near the mouth of the Ben Tre River in order to allow the embarked river sections to more adequately cover the area left vacant when HUNTERDON COUNTY departed station.

On 16 April HUNTERDON COUNTY arrived Qui Nhon, changed to the operational control of CTG 115.2 and began providing a blocking force for the ROKA ground operations.

On 22 April, Commander Charles N. STRANEY, USN, relieved Commander Donald WARTHEN, USN, as Commander Rung Sat Special Zone River Patrol Group (CTG 116.4) at Nha Be.

On 25 April SEAL Team Detachment GOLF, MIKE Platoon, relocated from
the Rung Sat Special Zone to the APL-55 in the Ham Luong River. The platoon vacated task element designator 116.4.0.2 and assumed task element designator 116.3.0.2.

On 29 April USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST846) changed to the operational control of CTF 116 and arrived on station in the Co Chien River. After embarking River Section 523 (TU 116.2.4) and HAL-3 Detachment Four (TU 116.2.8), JENNINGS COUNTY relieved GARRETT COUNTY (LST786) as TU 116.2.6 and commenced GAME WARDEN operations.

On 29 April SEAL Team Detachment ALFA3 Seventh Platoon vacated TU 116.3.0 and was relieved by SEAL Team Detachment ALFA3 Tenth Platoon, which assumed TE 116.3.0.1.

On 29 April River Section 525 assumed task element designator 116.4.1.4.

On 30 April USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST786) proceeded to Subic Bay, Philippines, for upkeep, changing to the operational control of CTF 76 enroute.

**Task Force Organization end of April**

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## Task Force Organization end of April (CONT'D)

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<td>CTU 116.8</td>
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COMRIVDIV 55 and OIC RVSEC 521 located Danang. Task designator unassigned these units.

### GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY

April 1968

1. **FBR Statistics:**
   - a. Total Patrols (Two Boats): Day 886, Night 306
   - b. Total Contacts: Day 88,555, Night 8,115
   - c. Total Inspected: Day 21,170, Night 2,171
   - d. Total Boarded: Day 47,504, Night 2,570
   - e. People Detained: 824
   - f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 0
   - g. Total Patrol Hours: 44,683.5

2. **Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:**
   - a. Total Flight Hours: 1,065.7
   - b. Helicopter Missions:
     - (1) Preplanned strikes: 267
     - (2) Reaction: 159
     - (3) Targets of opportunity: 375
     - (4) Support: 362

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3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

a. Fire Fights:

(1) PBR 23
(2) Helo 126
(3) MSB 0
(4) LCM 1
(5) LCPL 0
(6) STAB 0

b. Sampans:

Destroyed: 127
Damaged: 237
Captured: 2


c. Junks:

Destroyed: 0
Damaged: 4
Captured: 0


d. Structures:

Destroyed: 146
Damaged: 152


e. Bunkers:

Destroyed: 1
Damaged: 8


f. Enemy:

KIA 76
KIA (Pass.) 1
WIA 18 CAP 2

g. Friendly:

KIA 1
WIA 18

h. Friendly Battle Damage:

(1) PBR 38
(2) Helo 18
(3) LST 0

i. PBR MEDEVAC:

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U. S. Army and Navy officers discuss strategy during a planning conference in the Mobile Riverine Force field headquarters at the fire support base. The officers are (left to right) Brigadier General KNOWLTON, USA, Assistant Division Commander, 9th Infantry Division; Colonel Bert A. DAVIS, USA, Commanding Officer of the 9th Division's Second Brigade; Captain R. S. SALZER, USN, Commanding Officer of Navy Riverine Assault Flotilla ONE; and Major General Julian J. EVELI, USA, Commanding General, 9th Infantry Division. The fifth participant (upper right) in the photo is unidentified.
RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

During the month of April the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) operated primarily in Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa provinces. Total losses inflicted on the enemy by the assault forces of the MRF amounted to 285 Viet Cong killed, 11 prisoners captured and 1,665 structures destroyed. MRF casualties during the same period were 41 killed (3 USN, 34 USA, 4 VNMC) and 264 wounded (66 USN, 170 USA, 28 VNMC). After a MRF planning session with IV Corps personnel at Can Tho on 16 April, the 2nd Battalion Vietnamese Marine Corps became firmly committed to operations in cooperation and coordination with the MRF. The battalion moved to bivouac sites near Dong Tam on the following day and immediately commenced familiarization training with River Assault Division (RAD) 112. During April PBR's, SEAL's and Navy armed helicopters of Task Force 116 participated in or supported several Task Force 117 riverine strike operations.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

On 2 April the 4/17th Infantry Battalion (Inf. Bn) conducted a one-day airmobile operation in Ham Luang District, just south of the Dong Tam anchorage, to destroy enemy fortifications, bunkers and gun emplacements in the area from which the MRF had been receiving harassment fire. Two Viet Cong were killed during the sweep operation and 170 bunkers and 3 huts were destroyed. One soldier was wounded, but not as a result of hostile action.

On 2 April while the MRF was anchored in the vicinity of Dong Tam a
homemade booby trap was discovered aboard USS COLLETON (APB36). The explosive device, which consisted of C-4 explosive, shaped like a grenade, with an attached claymore detonator, was found in the auxiliary engine room alongside a pipe. MRF EOD personnel disarmed the device. This marked the first-known possible attempt at sabotage against a ship of the MRF. The source of the booby trap was not determined; however, a thorough investigation was initiated by the Naval Investigative Service, along with the implementation of more stringent internal security procedures and inspections.

On the morning of 4 April the MRF launched a two-battalion riverine and reconnaissance-in-force operation in Truc Giang and Giong Trom districts of Kien Hoa Province. The operation was initiated before dawn when RAD's 91 and 92 lifted the 4/47th and 3/47th Inf. Bns., into the Truc Giang operating area; after Task Force SIX GUN had been established in its fire support base (FSFB) on the Cua Tieu River 7 miles east-southeast of My Tho. Shortly after dawn the Mobile Riverine Base (MRB), less APL-26, relocated from Dong Tam, and was escorted to an anchorage on the My Tho River 5 miles east-southeast of My Tho in order to provide close support for the impending operation.

RAD 91 was unopposed as they reached their battalion at the first light on the banks of the Giao Hoa Canal one mile from the My Tho River. The riverine units continued to support the ground forces from the waterways as the troops ashore moved south on both banks toward the junction of the Giao Hoa Canal and the Ba Lai River -- often referred to as the "crossroads."
At 0643 the assault craft of RAD 92 with their troops came under a vicious ambush from an enemy force of unknown size about 4 miles north-east of Ben Tre. The devastating assault occurred on the Ba Lai River just as the boats were moving in toward the beach to land their troops and consisted of heavy rocket, recoilless-rifle, automatic-weapons and small-arms fire. The land mass bordering the river at this point was a densely foliated jungle lined with coconut palm forests with thick underbrush at the water’s edge, and the enemy fire came from heavily fortified and well-concealed bunkers within this maze. Despite the withering onslaught of intense enemy fire and the heavy casualties suffered, the riverine craft immediately delivered a barrage of cover fire at the attackers and landed their infantrymen. A violent firefight erupted. One company of troops landed directly in front of several enemy bunkers and remained pinned down in that precarious position for the rest of the day. Due to their proximity to the enemy fortification, supporting fire could not be delivered on the bunkers.

Five personnel were killed and more than 60 were wounded in the initial assault with the heavy fighting continuing throughout the morning. Two Navymen aboard monitor 92-2, Chief Boatswains Mate Samuel C. CHAVOUS, USN, the boat captain, and Third Class Boatswains Mate John D. WOODARD, USN, the coxswain, were killed and two others were wounded in the firefight. The Navymen were killed when an RPG-7 HEAT round exploded inside the coxswain’s flat. Twenty-three other Navymen from RAD 92 assault craft were
The Commander of River Assault Squadron 9, Commander L. H. HAMEI, III, USN, appears deep in thought as he contemplates what lies ahead while standing on the bow of a sunken ASPB -- a minesweeping craft from his squadron.
also wounded in the initial attack.

Following the first two hours of heavy fighting, enemy resistance slackened off to steady harassment with machine-gun and small-arms fire. At 1230 six sailors aboard monitor 92-3 were wounded when their craft, patrolling on the Ba Lai River 500 yards west of the "crossroads," was attacked with rocket and automatic weapons. Three of the wounded men were "medevaced" from the combat scene; one of whom, Fireman Douglas C. MORTON, USN, died of wounds.

As a result of the combat action on 4 April, 11 assault craft received various degrees of material damage. The most extensive damage was inflicted on A-92-1 and A-92-4. A total of six RPG-7 rockets impacted against the two boats; three of which were direct hits on the .50-caliber gun mounts. One monitor, M-92-2, received a HEAT round through the opening between the 20-mm and .50-caliber gun mounts, killing the boat captain and the coxswain. One ATC received an RPG-7 round through the bow ramp, which severed the ramp winch cable and wounded 30 Army personnel in the well-deck. Another ATC was hit by an RPG-7 rocket amidships near the waterline. The rocket then triggered on the bar armor, penetrated the bulkhead and created a shrapnel effect inside the empty well-deck.

Sporadic contact with the fiercely resisting enemy continued throughout the first day and night. By the evening of 5 April 35 Viet Cong had been killed and 2 prisoners were captured. One of the prisoners identified his unit as the Viet Cong 516th Provincial Mobile Battalion. Friendly
losses at that time were 10 killed (3 USN, 5 USA, 1 ARVN and 1 Vietnamese interpreter), 119 wounded (36 USN, 81 USA, 2 USMC), and 2 Armymen missing.

On 6 April after two days of rigorous fighting the MRF had a day of relative calmness as they shifted the center of operations from the Ba Lai River to a point 4 miles southeast of Ben Tre. Cumulative results for the three-day operation were 102 Viet Cong killed and 6 prisoners captured, while friendly forces had 33 killed (3 USN, 28 USA, 1 ARVN and 1 Vietnamese interpreter), and 152 wounded (36 USN, 81 USA, 2 USMC). The MRF units also destroyed 46 bunkers, captured 4 weapons and detained 25 Viet Cong suspects.

During the afternoon of 7 April the infantrymen were backloaded by RAD's 91 and 92 and returned to the MRF anchorage on the My Tho River about 5 miles east of My Tho; thereby, terminating a very costly operation for the MRF.

Operations in Dinh Tuong Province

On 9 April elements of RAD 111 transported a team of demolition experts from the MRF EOD and UDT detachments and Delta Company of the U.S. Army's 15th Engineers westward on the My Tho River to the mouth of the Cam Stream 2½ miles west of Dong Tam, the scene of a partially sunken bridge. Assisted by YLCC (light lift craft), the Army/Navy demolition team removed the obstruction; thereby, permitting the passage of riverine craft and facilitating MRF operations in the area.

The next day, based on a request from Commanding General, U.S. 9TH Infantry Division, the MRF conducted a one-battalion riverine operation.
against a suspected enemy buildup in the vicinity of Vinh Kim and Long Dinh districts. RAD 92 lifted the 3/47th Inf. Bn. to beaches of the Rai River for a sweep up both river banks. No contact was established with the nomadic enemy, reportedly elements of the 514th Provincial Force Battalion; subsequently, the infantrymen were returned to the MRB later that afternoon.

On 11 April a two-day search and destroy operation was conducted in the Cho Gao District of Long Tuong Province, the Hoa Dong District of Go Cong Province and the Binh Phuc District of Long An Province to locate and engage the Cho Gao District Control Unit (DCU) and elements of the 261st Main Force Battalion. This sizable enemy force was reportedly in the area of the intersection of the Cho Gao Canal and the Tra River 4 miles east-northeast of My Tho. Although contact with the Viet Cong was very light, the MRF destroyed 555 bunkers; 5 Viet Cong were killed and 23 suspects were detained while 1 soldier was wounded. Another Armyman was declared missing and believed to have drowned.

**Operations in Kien Hoa Province**

Early on the morning of 14 April the MRF mounted a two-battalion operation in Giong Trom and Ben Tre districts. The ground elements found many signs of recent Viet Cong activity, but the enemy chose not to fight on the first day and no significant contact was established. Later in the day large caches of weapons and ammunition were discovered along the Ba Lai River 5 miles east-northeast of Ben Tre as the ground troops supported
The monitor -- the "battleship" of the small fleet, leads a formation of River Assault Division 92 armored troop carriers on a river in the Mekong Delta.

by RAS 9 probed deeper into the Viet Cong base area. Among the arms and ammunition captured were 104 grenades, 49 mortars, 43 rocket/recoilless-rifle rounds, 10 bombs of an unknown type, 2 claymore mines, 2 "banglore" torpedoes, over 8,000 rounds of 7.62 ammunition and 40 cans of assorted small-arms ammunition.

The following day the boats of RAD 92 were attacked with rockets and automatic weapons from both banks of the Ba Lai River 6 miles north-east of Ben Tre while en route to backload troops of the 4/47th Inf. Bn.
Although approximately 20 rockets were observed hitting the water around the riverine craft, only 1 rocket impacted against the boats. Fortunately, the rocket, which impeded itself in the styrofoam of ATC-92-10, never exploded. An Army helicopter light fire team was on the scene and assisted the craft in silencing the enemy attackers. There were no friendly casualties and enemy losses in the skirmish were undetermined.

Later that same afternoon at 1410 the MRB, which was anchored on the My Tho River 7 miles southeast of My Tho, was attacked by an unknown size enemy force from the south bank of the My Tho River. The daring mid-afternoon raid by enemy rocketeers armed with 57-mm and 75-mm recoilless rifles wounded 14 sailors and 4 soldiers. USS TOM GREEN COUNTY (LST1159), heavily laden with ammunition, was hit eight times and USS BENEWAH (APB35), the MRF flagship, was struck three times. The rockets all impacted above the waterline and caused only minor material damage to the two ships.

A specially configured LCN-6 AVGAS tanker, which was moored alongside BENEWAH, was struck during the attack and immediately cast-off when it burst into flames. Despite valiant efforts by the two MRF tugboats to extinguish the blaze, the fire raged out of control and was so destructive that the refueler sank.

Operations in Dinh Tuong Province

After a one-day rest at Dong Tam, the MRF launched a two-day riverine strike operation (17-18 April) in Long Dinh and Cai Lay district to engage the 514th Main Force Battalion. Riverine units transported two battalions
of infantrymen up the Xang Canal and landed them along the Tong Doc Loc Canal about 5½ miles northeast of Cai Lay. Both landings were unopposed and the foot-soldiers swept generally south.

About 1100 that morning firm contact was made by the 4/47th Inf. Bn. with an unknown size enemy force 3 miles north of Cai Lay. As the battle raged throughout the afternoon, elements of the 3/47th Inf. Bn. moved in to engage the enemy on his east flank, and at 1535 both battalions were in heavy contact. The battle continued into the evening with both battalions still in contact after darkness; however, sometime during the night or early morning the enemy survivors exfiltrated from the area.

At dawn, the infantrymen resumed the search for the enemy, but it soon became apparent that the Viet Cong had departed the area and the Army men were returned to the MRB. Final casualty figures revealed that 98 Viet Cong were killed and 3 captured at a cost of 4 U. S. soldiers killed and 33 others wounded. There were no Navy casualties during this period. The MRF also destroyed 239 bunkers, and captured 9 weapons and 8 tons of rice.

Noteworthy statistics for the five-day period of operation (14-18 April) were: 114 Viet Cong killed, 462 bunkers destroyed, 19 suspects detained and 4 U. S. soldiers killed.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

On 20 April the MRF conducted a one-day search and clear operation in Ham Luong and Truc Giang districts to locate and engage elements of the
Viet Cong 550th Local Force Battalion and other enemy forces in the area. This marked the first combat operation with the MRF for the newly arrived 2nd Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps. At 0745 the Vietnamese Marines, supported by RAD 111, made an unopposed landing at beaches on the My Tho River 2½ miles southwest of My Tho, and were returned to Dong Tam from the operating area later that afternoon after a fruitless morning of searching for the elusive enemy.

Operations in Dinh Tuong Province

After several days with a minimum of enemy contact the MRF conducted a highly successful three-battalion reconnaissance-in-force operation (23-24 April) to engage the Viet Cong 502nd Main Force Battalion. The operation took place 3 miles northwest of Vinh Long in Giao Duc District.

The Vietnamese Marines were the first unit to establish contact with the enemy at 1000 on 23 April along the Huong Stream 5 miles northeast of Sa Dec. The 3/47th Inf. Bn. immediately moved toward the area of contact to prevent the enemy's escape and to also complement the advance of the 2nd Battalion, VNMC. Working together as a well-coordinated battle team, the combined MRF units pinned down the beleaguered enemy for the remainder of the day.

Meanwhile on the Dao Stream 8 miles east-northeast of Sa Dec, where RAD 111 craft were providing gunfire support to the Vietnamese Marines, ATC-111-7 took a direct hit in the coxswain's flat by an enemy rocket. The enemy attack which took place at 1645, was unleashed from a dense
woodline and wounded three Navymen, one of them seriously. The assault
boats returned and suppressed the enemy fire and then "medevaced" the
three wounded crewmen.

On 24 April contact with the enemy was very light and the allied
forces were withdrawn from the operating area and returned to their bases.
The cumulative results of the two-day operation were 61 Viet Cong killed,
2 wounded and 2 more captured, while friendly forces lost 1 U.S. soldier
and 4 Vietnamese Marines. There were also 3 Navymen, 6 Armymen and 27
Vietnamese Marines wounded during the engagement. The MRF units detained
66 suspects, destroyed 10 enemy structures and captured 5 weapons.

After the Giao Duc operation General William C. Westmoreland, USA,
COMUSMACV, congratulated the men of the MRF when he sent the following
message:

"OUTSTANDING RESULTS OF RIVERINE ASSAULT OPERATIONS ON
23-24 APRIL WEST OF CAI BE EMPHASIZE GREAT VALUE OF THIS
HARD HITTING CONCEPT. OFFICERS AND MEN OF 2ND BN VNMC,
3/47 AND 4/47 INFANTRY AND MRF DESERVE HIGH PRAISE,
CONGRATULATIONS."

At 0215 on 23 April a roving sentry aboard TCM GREEN COUNTY sighted
a swimmer with face mask on the surface of the water about 10-15 yards off
the starboard quarter of the ship. The MRF support LST was at anchor with
the MRF in the Mekong River 4 miles northwest of Ving Long. The lookout
took the swimmer under fire with his M-1 rifle and the swimmer appeared
to hide under a Boston Whaler moored aft of the pontoons. The MRF defense
boats were alerted and saturated the area with concussion grenades, but no
further evidence of the swimmer was detected.

Approximately 30-minutes later, two other TCM GREEN COUNTY personnel sighted a small light below the surface of the water about 45 yards off the starboard quarter. The light blinked several times before going out, as base defense boats moved in to investigate. Once again, the patrols failed to discover anything suspicious, and a thorough hull inspection yielded negative results. The commanding officers of the IST evaluated the incident as a positive swimmer sighting.

This marked the second time in the past month that a swimmer has been sighted in the water at the Vinh Long anchorage -- both times near, and by, TCM GREEN COUNTY. According to captured enemy documents, the Viet Cong sapper squads normally practiced at "dry runs" to probe the target's defense prior to an actual mining attempt. It proved interesting to note that both sightings were near the MRF support LST, suggesting that she was the priority target within the MRF, presumably because of the large ammunition supply on board.

During the period 25 April - 7 May MRF planned operations were tailored to avert a possible large scale Viet Cong attack on My Tho or Cai Lay. This was done by striking at suitable targets in the Cam Son/Ban Long/Ap Bac areas. The operations were planned as two-battalion riverine strikes with one battalion held in reserve as a ready-reaction force.

On 25-26 April local operations were conducted in the Dong Tam area while boat repairs were accomplished and battle plans were formulated for
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a riverine operation in the Cam Son Secret Zone. The local operation, conducted 2½ miles southeast of Dong Tam, resulted in the destruction of 10 enemy bunkers and 2 sampans and the detention of 9 Viet Cong suspects. Two Armymen were wounded during a brief exchange of fire with the enemy; however, Viet Cong losses were undetermined.

Riverine reconnaissance-in-force operations in Chai Be and Cai Lay districts were launched on 27 April to locate and engage the Viet Cong 514th Main Force Battalion and the Cai Lay District Control Unit.

The assault commenced at 0100 when RAD 92 escorted TF SIX GUN to a fire support base on the south bank of the My Tho River near the mouth of the Ba Rai Stream 6½ miles southwest of Cai Lay. A few hours later RAD 91 lifted the 1/47th Inf. Bn. to beaches on the Luu River 4 miles west of Cai Lay and RAD 111 embarked the 2nd Battalion VNMC for landing on the Ba Rai Stream 5 miles southwest of Cai Lay. RAD 112, with the 3/47th Inf. Bn. embarked, landed the ready-reaction force on beaches on the north bank of the My Tho River 6½ miles southwest of Cai Lay. All landings were unopposed and contact was light during the day.

At first light the next day the ground forces recommenced their sweep operation but firm contact with the enemy was not established. Meanwhile the riverine units, patrolling the myriad of narrow waterways around the operating zone, became intensely involved in three separate firefights in which a total of 13 sailors were wounded.

The first ambush occurred at 0900 when boats of RAD 92 operating with

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Flames from an armored troop carrier (flamethrower), as shown above were used to suppress enemy fire during an attack on RAD's 92 and 112 craft on 27 April. On that day, the enemy sprung an ambush while the boats were transiting the Tra Tan Stream.

RAD 112 were transiting the Tra Tan Stream 5 miles southeast of Cai Lay and were attacked by small-arms, automatic-weapons and rocket fire as they approached the Nam Thon River. The fire was immediately suppressed by ATC-111-7 (flamethrower) and the area was saturated with 81-mm mortar fire from the assault boats. ATC-92-7 was struck by one B-40 rocket which caused minor damage to the craft. One crew member of ASPB-112-1 was also wounded in the incident.

During the close-range ambush the effectiveness of flame units as
a counter-ambush weapon was dramatically and vividly demonstrated. ATC-111-7, the flamethrower boat, immediately saturated the ambush site with deadly and accurate flame, and sanitized the entire area (70-80 meters) with scorching fire.

At 1130 units of RAD 71 were ambushed by automatic-weapons and rocket fire near the junction of the Ba Rai Stream and My Tho River 2 miles southeast of Cai Be. All of the rockets missed the boats; however, one man was wounded (minor) as the enemy fire was being silenced. A Navy helicopter fire team from TF 116 which was providing airborne cover assisted in suppressing the enemy fire.

The severest attack of the day occurred at 1145 as RAD 111 riverine craft were strafed by automatic weapons, recoilless rifles and B-40 rockets from both banks of the Rai River 6 miles west of Dong Tam. The boats took at least five B-40 rocket hits with five craft, including one monitor and four troop carriers, reporting moderate material damage. The fire was rapidly silenced, but not before 11 sailors were wounded. None of the wounded men were in serious condition as five were immediately returned to duty and six were "medevaced" to COLLETON for further treatment.

The operation continued until the end of the month with only sporadic contact. Two Viet Cong were captured during the four-day operation and one U.S. soldier was killed by a booby trap. A total of 13 Navymen, 7 soldiers, and 1 Vietnamese Marine were wounded during the reconnaissance-in-force operations. The MRF troops also detained 32 Viet Cong suspects.
captured 8 weapons and destroyed 300 bunkers and 16 booby traps.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE UNITS

During April another modified armored troop carrier (flamethrower) arrived in South Vietnam, augmenting the Riverine Assault Force.

On 13 April the fourth in-country ATC(F) flamethrower boat became operational. In addition, the prototype E-49 mixing unit was installed in an LCM-6 (with MCGAS tanks installed) and was also operational. This addition provided a mobile re-fill capability for the flame boats.

In order to improve the buoyancy/sea-keeping capabilities of the
ASPB, the 81-mm mortars were removed from all ASPB's. An estimated 750 pounds, including ammunition, was removed from each boat. This modification would also be made on all new ASPB's which were still being manufactured.

On 16 April River Assault Squadron THIRTEEN was commissioned with Commander Perveril BLUNDELL, USN, as the first commanding officer. RAS 13 became the third river assault squadron to be assigned to the MRF, and was further assigned a homeport of San Diego, California.

On 19 April the RAD's were shifted and assigned new support duties. RAD 92 moved to BENEWAH and assumed the duties of MRB defense force and TF SIX GUN support. RAD 91 remained alongside COLLETON and continued to support the 4/47th Inf. Bn. RAD 111 provided support for the 2nd Battalion VNMC and will have headquarters in TOM GREEN COUNTY. RAD 112, with the bulk of its boats in I Corps, took over the support of the 3/47th Inf. Bn. The excess boats from the other divisions assisted RAD 112 in supporting its assigned battalion.

On 29 April, 26 awards were received from CINCPACFLT for men of the MRF or those recently transferred. Lieutenant Commander F. E. RHODES, USN, the first COMRIVRON ELEVEN, was awarded the Legion of Merit. Lieutenant Commander D. L. HOROWITZ, USN, the first COMRIVRON NINE, received the Legion of Merit earlier this year.

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TASK FORCE CLEARWATER

During April Task Force CLEARWATER units continued to provide escort and protection for logistic craft on the Cua Viet and Perfume rivers. Although the overall tempo of enemy initiated attacks upon the vitally important logistic craft decreased sharply during the month, the enemy continued to make his presence felt through mortar/artillery attacks on staging bases and occasional mining, small-arms or rocket attacks against the support craft convoys. A very sharp decrease in enemy activity directed toward the logistic craft on the Perfume River was apparent during April. On 5 April the Hue ramp area received approximately 10 rocket rounds. There were no personnel casualties or material damage as a result of the attack. On 30 April a PBG sustained two near misses by B-40 rockets while patrolling the Perfume River; no personnel or material casualties resulted. There were no incidents reported during the remainder of the month.

The logistic craft on the Cua Viet River continued to receive mining, small-arms and rocket/artillery attacks during the month resulting in varying degrees of damage. Craft damaged during the month included three LCU's, two LCM 8's and USS GENESSEE (AOO8). Personnel casualties included 5 Navymen killed and 15 wounded. On 30 April enemy attacks on the logistic convoys and the convoy escort craft necessitated closing the Cua Viet River to all logistic craft until friendly ground forces had secured the river banks. Prior to the closing of the river, the convoy had received RPOs.
recoilless rifle and heavy machine-gun fire resulting in three Navymen being killed and moderate damage to several logistic craft. The staging area at Cua Viet received a total of six rocket/artillery attacks during the month resulting in minor damage to equipment and several huts. During the same period, Dong Ha received a total of three rocket/artillery attacks resulting in minor damage to both river ramps and ramp equipment.

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