2. Task Group 117.2 (MRG BRAVO)

a. Consists basically of:

(1) RIVRON THIRTEEN
(2) RIVRON FIFTEEN (not in-country yet)
(3) USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST-1170) (Assigned from 7th Fleet for a two-month tour with MRG)
(4) USS SATYR (ARL-23) (not in-country yet)
(5) APL 26 (When assigned)
(6) APL 30 (not in-country yet)

The basic concept is: the new organization is to have MRG ALFA operate throughout the Mekong Delta as a fully mobile group with its infantry troops embarked on the ships of the task group. MRG BRAVO (TG 117.2) will operate primarily along the My Tho/Mekong River with its assigned infantrymen staging from the Dong Tam Base 5 miles west of My Tho.

On 11 June USS SPHINX (ARL 24), a sister ship of USS ASKARI (ARL-30), joined the Mobile Riverine Force.

The final contingent of TF 117 boats which were at Cua Viet providing gunfire support to the logistic convoys plying the Cua Viet River, returned to Dong Tam on 18 June.

Two days later USS WASHTENAW COUNTY (LST-1166) relieved USS VERNON COUNTY (LST-1161) as the MRF support ship for MRG ALFA.

On 21 June USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST-1170) joined Task Group 117.2 (MRG BRAVO) as its first support LST.

The next day the three PACV's departed from Dong Tam en route to Vung Tau on the first leg of their voyage to Tan My in I Corps. On 24 June the PACV's arrived at the PBR Mobile Support Base I at Tan My and chopped to Commander Task Force CLEARWATER at that time.

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Task Force Clearwater

Patrol and minesweeping operations on the Perfume and Cua Viet rivers were continued during June by Task Force CLEARWATER units for the protection of logistics craft transiting these waterways. Logistic movement on the Perfume River between Hue and Tan My continued essentially without incident during the month. However, enemy artillery and rocket attacks against the Cua Viet base facilities were both frequent and heavy during the latter half of June.

The only significant action involving the Hue River Security Group took place in an area 10 miles southeast of Tan My on the Thanh Lam Lagoon. From the 1st through the afternoon of the 5th River Section 521 PBR's provided blocking patrols in support of a 101st Airborne Division/First ARVN Ranger Group sweep of Phu Tu District. Hostile fire was received and suppressed by .50 caliber machine-gun fire from the PBR's three times on 1 June. No casualties resulted from any of the incidents. On the 2nd, PBR's 51, 84 and 118 sighted personnel in the water during a blocking patrol in the same area. Five prisoners were taken and one Viet Cong was killed. While the Viet Cong were being picked up out of the water, six others evaded ashore and surrendered to nearby Army units. The prisoners and weapons captured were turned over to the Army. One prisoner indicated that he would lead ground units to an arms cache.

The first of many rocket and artillery attacks on Cua Viet came on the 2nd when 18 rounds were received between 1000 and 1025. Shortly after
the attack ended an underwater explosion sent a column of water more than 200 feet into the air about 10 meters off the port quarter of an LCM-8 in mid-channel. The craft was heavily damaged and one man was slightly wounded by the blast from what was probably a command detonated mine. Since the enemy had established a pattern of using mines in pairs the mouth of the river was closed to all traffic until a sweep and survey of the area could be completed.

Traffic on the Cua Viet River was delayed again on the morning of the 9th following a night of enemy rocket attacks on patrol craft from several river bank positions a few miles northeast of Dong Ha. The first attack shortly after midnight inflicted several casualties to the crew of an LCP(L) on routine patrol when a rocket hit close aboard the starboard side. Although damage to the craft was light, two men were killed (one lost overboard), three were seriously wounded, and one suffered minor wounds. Four more attacks by rockets on PER's occurred between 0241 and 0401 without causing damage. The river was opened for traffic at 0725 after mine sweeping units had completed a transit of the river. A company of Marines was lifted into the ambush area by ATC's for a daytime ground sweep to secure the river bank.

River patrol operations were essentially routine for the remainder of the month. Enemy harassment continued in the form of mortar, artillery or small arms fire on Cua Viet patrol craft on 11, 12, 14, 17 and 29 June. No hits or damage was caused by these widely scattered attacks.
An evading sampan was taken under fire by PBR 46 on the 16th with unknown results. However, routine inspection of sampans in the area later that night turned up a wounded female who was turned over to Coastal Group 11 along with six companions.

South of Tan My an evading sampan was recovered on the 15th by a River Section 521 patrol after the occupants had escaped into the treeline. The sampan contained 600 pounds of rice and a Chieu Hoi pass. A week later on the 22nd, one man from the same area turned himself over to a patrol. Later that day with the assistance of the Vietnamese policeman embarked, he made a psyops broadcast appealing to other Viet Cong in the area to Chieu Hoi.

Rocket and artillery attacks began against Cua Viet again on the 13th when the fuel farm was hit destroying 16 POL bladders. On 19 June the Marine ammunition dump was hit and partially destroyed. On the 20th Dong Ha received six rounds which set off a destructive series of secondary explosions in the ammunition supply point there. Cua Viet was hit again on the 21st and 24th with no damage to TF CLEAwater units. The attack on the 24th consisted of more than 100 rounds which impacted in the Naval Support Activity detachment and Third Marine Regiment headquarters areas. The pattern of the attacks and the sighting of possible signal lights in a nearby village indicated the probable use of a forward observer by the enemy.

More attacks on Cua Viet came on the 25th and 27th. No River Section 543 casualties were incurred, however, one Navyman was killed on the 25th and two were seriously wounded. On the 27th two other logistics craft personnel
were wounded.

On 13 June the last of the Mobile Riverine Force craft headed south to resume operations in the Mekong Delta. A new addition to the forces of TF CLEARWATER was received on the 24th when the three Patrol Air Cushion Vehicles (PACV) of Coastal Division ONE-SEVEN arrived at Tan My. Under the operational control of Commander, Hue River Security Group the PACV's began preparation to start regular operations early in July.

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Routine logistic support of I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ) forces by Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang, appeared to level off in June. Although the total monthly throughput for the combined I CTZ ports was less than in April or May, it was still the third largest in history at nearly 450,000 short-tons. Supply operations statistics also reflect the leveling in the tempo of operations after the period of rapid build up of forces in I CTZ in preceding months. Total supply decreased from 199,009 in May to 184,171 during June. The most noticeable change was at Chu Lai where Army demands were down to 32,096 as compared with 47,050 in May. For Danang and Chu Lai combined gross and net supply effectiveness were 85 percent and 88.8 percent respectively as compared with 87.1 percent and 89.9 percent in May.

Enemy attacks against NAVSUPPACT, Danang logistic craft were not significant during June, however, rocket/artillery attacks on detachment bases and facilities were numerous. There were seven separate attacks on Cua Viet, two on the Dong Ha ramp, two on Chu Lai, and one hitting the Danang open storage yard. The most significant damage was incurred on 13 and 20 June.

On the 13th enemy artillery hit the Cua Viet fuel farm destroying 13 bladders and 130,000 gallons of fuel and wounded one man. The ammunition supply point at the Dong Ha Combat Base was hit by enemy artillery on the 20th. The resulting secondary explosions and fires destroyed or damaged much of the detachment cantonment as well as 16 bladders and 160,000 gallons of fuel. In addition
A rough terrain fork lift unloads cargo from a YFU at the Dong Ha Bridge ramp. Supplies of all classes for forces in the northern I CTZ are transported from Danang up the coast and into Dong Ha via the Cua Viet river by NAVSIPACT, Danang logistics craft.

Three men from the Dong Ha NAVSIPACT, Danang detachment were wounded in this attack, two suffering serious injuries. Cua Viet was hit by artillery on the 25th for the sixth time in June by 12 rounds of 152-mm artillery. Four craft were damaged, one Navyman killed and two seriously injured on the 27th approximately 100 rounds of mixed artillery hit Cua Viet killing one man and causing moderate damage.

Mining and terrorism by the enemy also caused damage and casualties.
to NAVSUPPACT, Danang facilities and personnel. Five terrorist acts were reported in Danang during June including a 13 June explosion at the NAVSUPPACT, Danang Procurement Office. A charge believed to have been carried into the office in a briefcase by a Vietnamese woman caused extensive damage and also wounded seven military personnel and two Vietnamese civilians. During a mortar attack on Chu Lai on 23 June two mines were laid along side an Alaska Barge and Transport barge. The first mine detonated at 0410, three hours after the mortar attack, and the second mine detonated at 0518. The barge was extensively damaged and the quay wall received moderate damage.

In spite of the damage to the Cua Viet and Dong Ha fuel farms, fuel transfer operations on the Cua Viet and Perfume rivers continued without major disruption. In both cases of damage, direct support was provided customers by bladder boats and an AOG was on station with all product as floating storage. Issues reached a new high during June — 1,676,000 gallons per day. Daily river transfer capability remained at 200,000 gallons on the Perfume River and 340,000 gallons on the Cua Viet River. In order to prevent a recurrence of the Cua Viet damage the fuel farm was being relocated further from the cantonment area with greater separation between bladders. Repair of the 8-inch petroleum seaload line at Tan My was completed making the system fully operational with a 6-inch bottom lay line as back up.

Rock shipment to the northern I CTZ was improved by the receipt of 11
additional barges and four tugs. During June, 43,537 short-tons of rock were shipped north from Danang. Two new 400-ton per hour crushers were under construction at Danang as part of the effort to relieve the critical rock shortage. Rock issues continued to be controlled according to priorities established by Commander, Third Marine Amphibious Force.

The number of patients admitted to the Danang hospital totaled 2,156 including 64 prisoners of war. Of this total, 746 were admitted for combat injuries, 1,199 for various diseases, and 211 for non-combat injuries. A total of 756 persons were treated and returned to duty during June and 799 were evacuated out of country. The average patient load was 385 with that number of beds remaining occupied at month's end. A daily record high of 527 occupied beds was recorded during the month. Because medical holding, convalescent, and intensive care beds were to be excluded from the operating bed count, the reported capacity of the NAVSUPPACT, Danang hospital was established at 600 beds during June by CINCPACFLT.

At month's end the NAVSUPPACT, Danang personnel level was 9,439 and the number of United States and other free world military forces supported in I CTZ was 198,791.

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During June the enemy initiated several attacks on Naval Support Activity, Saigon detachments and facilities. One of the attacks was made on this naval complex (aerial view) -- the NAVSUPPACT, Saigon, Detachment at Dong Tam.
During June enemy attacks on Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Saigon detachments and facilities in the Saigon area numbered only six. No significant damage or personnel casualties resulted from any of these attacks. The Dong Tam NAVSUPPACT, Saigon detachment received 30 rounds of 82-mm mortar fire at about 0400 on the 3rd and 11 rounds of 75-mm recoilless-rifle fire at 0200 on the 4th. On the 17th Dong Tam was again attacked between 0100 and 0240 when 68 rounds of 75-mm recoilless-rifle and 120-mm mortar fire were received. From 2322 on 16 June until 0115 on the 17th, My Tho came under enemy mortar fire. Twenty-four rounds exploded near the NAVSUPPACT detachment base causing minor damage to two structures.

At 0600 on 20 June a fire of unknown origin broke out in Nha Be Village damaging a large portion of the business district including the market place built by NAVSUPPACT as a civic action project. The Navy compound at Vinh Long was harassed on 25 June by 11 rounds of 81-mm mortar fire.

Base Development continued with a number of construction projects underway at all detachments. Projects near completion at the end of June included the Cam Ranh Bay Naval Communication Station transmitter power plant, the Qui Nhon CLARINET SEAWARD site, the Cat Lo seawall, and the Nha Trang Harbor Entrance Control Point. Work on the Newport warehouse complex continued to be delayed due to a fill shortage and non-delivery of foundation piling. Because of this delay additional warehouse and open storage facilities in Saigon were acquired during June.
Supply operations continued with the USS BRULE (AKL-28) completing a northern coastal run and the USS MARK (AKL-12) completing a southern coastal run in addition to their regular Delta resupply missions. Also employed on Delta resupply missions was YFR 890 as well as USS PITKIN COUNTY (LST-1092), USS FLOYD COUNTY (LST-762), and YW 126 operating in the Delta to resupply the Mobile Riverine Force. In addition, LCM shuttles continued to augment logistics missions between Saigon, Nha Be, Cat Lo and Vung Tau. Surface craft of NAVSUPPACT, Saigon carried a total of 2,472 short-tons of cargo during June. Both net and gross supply effectiveness reached new high levels of 89 percent and 77 percent respectively. Previous highs were 86 percent net and 73 percent gross. Supply demands totaled 45,084.

The NAVSUPPACT, Saigon aircraft inventory at the end of June was two C-117's, one US2B, one C1A, and three UH-3H's. One C-117 received minor shrapnel damage during a 14 June rocket attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base. Another C-117 was damaged in a landing accident at Vung Tau Army Air Field on 7 June. Repairs were expected to be completed on this aircraft by mid-July. A total of 3,436 passengers and 364,445 pounds of cargo were carried by Air Cofat during June. On 15 June Naval Air Facility, Cam Ranh Bay assumed the maintenance responsibility for NAVSUPPACT, Saigon aircraft.

Although relaxation of curfew restrictions in the Saigon area improved the Vietnamese employee work level, difficulty is encountered in hiring and maintaining a sufficient number of male employees for work requiring physical labor. During the first six months of 1968, twenty-five warehouse men were
drafted and 60 percent of those remaining are eligible for the draft.
Navy personnel attached to NAVSUPPACT, Saigon at the month's end totaled
2,975, a decrease of 9% from the May total.

Mobile Support Base (MSB) II was activated on 2 June at Nha Be
under the operational control of NAVSUPPACT, Saigon and the administra­
tive control of COMSERVPAC. MSB II then commenced shakedown and opera­
tions evaluation at anchor off Nha Be in preparation for PBR support in
the upper Mekong Delta.

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This wreckage, at Dong Ha Combat Base, is one of 78 buildings destroyed or damaged by shock waves from an explosion in the nearby ammunition supply point following a 20 June enemy artillery attack.
Third Naval Construction Brigade

Enemy harassment of Seabee construction activity during June continued with a number of mining incidents, ambushes and mortar/rocket attacks. A 20 June artillery attack on the Dong Ha Combat Base caused the most significant damage to installations and equipment. Most of the other enemy activity was directed at road upgrading work in the Northern I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ). Along Route 9 quarry details from Naval Mobile Construction Construction Battalion FORTY (NMCB-40) were involved in eight enemy initiated engagements and road details from NMCB-8 were attacked on five occasions. During June, 13 Seabees from construction battalions were wounded by hostile fire.

A quarry detail from NMCB-40 was attacked by small arms and mortar fire 6 miles southwest of Dong Ha on the morning of 1 June. One Seabee was wounded. On Route 9, a few miles west of Cam Lo, an NMCV-40 convoy received 30 mortar rounds on the morning of 3 June. On the morning of 5 June, an NMCB-40 hauling crew was mortared at 0930. This attack occurred 7.5 miles west-southwest of Dong Ha. A half-hour later the same Seabee crew was attacked by snipers approximately 7 miles further to the west. Sniper fire from the same vicinity was received by an NMCB-40 convoy about 1100 the same day. None of these four attacks resulted in casualties or damage.

On 4 June a grenade thrown at a scraper from NMCB-8 caused minor damage to the scraper and wounded the operator. This incident occurred 4.5
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miles northwest of Hue. A security vehicle evacuating the wounded man received sniper fire. Also on the 4th a command detonated mine made from a 155-mm projectile was detonated 5.5 miles northwest of Hue as an NMCB-8 and dump passed. One man was wounded and the dump received minor damage.

Two NMCB-40 dump trucks were demolished on the morning of 9 June. At 1030 a dump truck struck a mine 11 miles west of Dong Ha. An hour later a second truck ran over another mine in the same area. No injuries resulted from either incident. Later on the 9th NMCB-40 quarry personnel were pinned down 9 miles west of Dong Ha for over two hours when a Marine convoy was ambushed nearby. A patrol from NMCB-5 detonated an explosive device two miles south of Dong Ha on the 10th, seriously wounding one man.

Later in the afternoon of 20 June, six enemy artillery rounds were fired at the Dong Ha Combat Base, hitting the ammunition supply point. Ordnance from secondary explosives landed in the NMCB-5 camp causing extensive damage to facilities, equipment and construction materials. Three Seabees were wounded, one seriously. The presence of large amounts of unexploded ammunition scattered throughout the camp hampered repair efforts.

A side dump from NMCB-11 struck a mine two miles south of Dong Ha on the 21st extensively damaging the vehicle and seriously wounding one Seabee. More action in the Dong Ha area wounded four Seabees on the 29th. At 1145 a convoy was mortared 11 miles west of Dong Ha damaging an NMCB-53 tractor-trailer and seriously wounding one man. Attempts to remove the truck that
afternoon brought more mortar fire wounding three men and damaging the wrecker.

On the 24th NMCB-1 mortar crews struck back at the enemy 11 miles southeast of Phu Bai. The impact area showed indications that the 16 rounds fired by the Seabees had found their target killing some of the enemy.

The road upgrade program continued to make progress in spite of the enemy harassment. On Route 9, between Dong Ha and Cam Lo, road and bridge widening continued and the rock base was placed on a 2.1 mile section. Route 1, between Dong Ha and Quang Tri, has been widened and more than 7 miles of rock base has been completed. North and south of Camp Evans more than 10 miles of Route 1 has been widened. Timber bridge work on Route 1 includes a 300 foot bridge, 13 miles south of Quang Tri and an 840 foot bridge at An Lo. Work on both projects remained on schedule. Portions of the Tan My end of the Cao Co Road were ready for asphaltic concrete by month's end and the dredge sand fill was 70 percent complete. Work on the center portion of the Hue by-pass continued to be hampered by real estate problems although rock fill on the southern portion was started. On Route 1, between Hue and Phu Bai, asphaltic concrete paving was started with one lane completed between the north and south check points of Phu Bai.

The critical shortage of rock in the I CTZ continued during June. The addition of 11 new barges on 11 June increased the rate at which rock
was being barged north. More than 40,000 tons of rock was shipped north from Danang during the month. However, this requirement to barge rock north seriously limited the quantity of rock available for issue in the Danang area. Rock issues here fell 60 percent short of expectations. Two new crushers are to be set up at Danang and plans were made for night operation at Cam Lo with its output going directly into the work on Route 9 between Dong Ha and Ca Lu.

Other developments during June included the arrival of NMCB-74 at Camp Shields, Chu Lai, relieving NMCB-40.

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Psychological operations continued at an active pace during the month. The Viet Cong recognized the inroads being made by the Naval Forces and continued to intensify their attacks against the psychological missions conducted by Navymen. Forty-two percent of the surface broadcasting missions conducted drew hostile fire, with the majority of the incidents occurring in the Delta. In one incident, PBR's and Navy armed helicopters wounded 18 Viet Cong following an attack on a PBR patrol conducting a speaker mission 6 miles east of Vinh Long.

Captured prisoners and Ho Chi Minh frequently reported that in many Viet Cong units troop morale was low due to lack of food and the B-52 bombing raids. Based on this information the Chieu Hoi program was intensified to capitalize on the reported enemy morale problems.

There were over 400 hours of loudspeaker broadcasts conducted and over 110,000 magazines, newspapers and posters distributed to the local populous throughout the Republic. In response to the Chieu Hoi program 22 Viet Cong rallied to Naval Forces; 11 of these turned themselves in to Vietnamese Navy units. Although National Chieu Hoi activity thus far in 1968 has been relatively low, a noteworthy trend during the past several weeks has been the return of ranking Viet Cong officers and mass ralliers.

In the field of Civic Action US/GVN image building continued with over 12,000 Vietnamese patients receiving treatment during MEDCAPS conducted by USN and Vietnamese Navy personnel. During and following the conduct of
MEDCAPS, intelligence is often provided by the villagers and is indicative of the esteem that the villagers hold for the Navymen's humanitarian acts. In one Delta MEDCAP operation, conducted by PBR sailors and two Vietnamese Nurses, information was received from the villagers on the location of two arms caches and one Viet Cong defense platoon in the Vinh Dai Secret Zone. There were 480 patients treated during this MEDCAP and it was the first conducted at Rach Gia Village. Another MEDCAP was conducted at Giang Chua Village during which time the Navymen and Vietnamese hospital personnel treated another 360 patients. The actions displayed by the Task Force 116 personnel were repeated in hamlets and villages up and down the coast of Vietnam and along the inland waterways where the boats of Task Force 115 and 117 operated. Naval Support Activity, Saigon and Danang and the Navy Construction Battalion likewise were actively participating in civic action programs designed to help the people help themselves.

Intelligence sources reported that an increase in Viet Cong pressure on the peninsula east of Qui Nhon was attributed to an active program conducted by the USN Coastal Division 15 (TF 115) and the Vietnamese Coastal Group 22. The Viet Cong continued their attempts to counter medical and refugee relief and other civic action programs which have resulted in improved relations between USN/VN personnel and villagers.

On 16 June, PBR's of River Division 53, while attempting to medically evacuate a Mekong Delta woman in labor, lost the race with the stork when the child was born aboard the boat enroute to the hospital. This marked
the fourth Vietnamese baby to be born en route to the hospital aboard a
PBR. On a previous occasion the parents of the Vietnamese baby gave the
child the middle name "PBR" in honor of the PBR sailors.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
June 1968

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN-DAYS PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN
CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: 2020

COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR
CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS:
VN$ 5,022,628

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS:
VN$ 340,900

PERCENTAGE OF U.S. MILITARY CIVIC ACTION ACTIVITIES
CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH:

Percent

Other FWMAF
11.0
RVNAF
34.0
U.S. Civilian voluntary agencies
17.0
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians
54.5

PROGRAMS

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INSTITUTES ASSISTED

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

In late April an F-100 aircraft of the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing, Tuy Hoa Air Base, RVN, crashed in the sea about 30 miles south-southeast of Qui Nhon. The site of the crash was quickly marked by buoys of USS WARBLER (MSC-206) pending the availability of salvage craft. By mid-May CTF 73 assigned USS CONSERVER (ARG-19) to the task of salvaging the aircraft, but on arrival in the area, CONSERVER discovered WARBLER's buoys were missing and was then diverted to salvage a CH-53 helicopter near Dong Ha. On 1 June CONSERVER again began searching for the F-100 aircraft wreckage, this time with an HCU-1 medical officer onboard because of the depth of the dives required. By 4 June, after searching with WARBLER and divers with hand-held sonar, the aircraft was still hidden in the deep, thick mud, under 148 feet of water. Because of the extreme difficulties encountered and the urgent need for salvage assets elsewhere, COMNAVFORV on 5 June, terminated the salvage effort.

In early June CTG 115.3 attempted unsuccessfully to locate the wreckage of an enemy trawler (designated 28FL) which had been sunk by 5"/38 and .50 caliber gunfire of USCGC WINONA about 0200 on 1 March. The trawler had exploded in a bright fireball and sank just off the eastern coast of South Vietnam about 34 miles south-southeast of Ca Mau. Several weapons were later found in fish nets in the area of the sinking which prompted the June search, although earlier searches had proved fruitless. USS LOYALTY (MSO-457) was assigned to search the vicinity by sonar. The search produced
one contact but it turned out to be negative, and on the 10th of June COMNAVFORV terminated the operation, considering further searching unwarranted in view of previous efforts in March and April.

The MSTS chartered merchant ship, SS JOHN C., ran aground on North Reef, Paracel Island (17-06 North Latitude, 111-31 East Longitude) on 12 June. The ship was carrying cargo from the United States to Danang at the time, proceeding on a course of 240° at 15 knots. The ship ran up on three large coral veins which were at about 45 degree angle from her starboard bow to port quarter, after broaching to a heading of 182 degrees. The major grounding point was a coral head located just forward of the ship's superstructure on the starboard side. The impact caused flooding of the double bottom area but not in the holds or engineering spaces, as far as could be determined in an initial survey by USS SHIPOLA (AO-63), first on the scene. Damage in holds could not be assessed due to blockage of all accesses by cargo. The ship's pumps were adequate to control the flooding.

USS GRAPPLE (ARS-7) arrived on the scene at 2330 on 13 June and CHIPOLA departed at 0100 that night. At 0600 USS SIOUX (ATF-75) arrived to assist. In the meantime USS TILLAMOOK got underway from Danang with Lieutenant Commander GOODWIN, CTF 73 Salvage Officer, embarked and proceeded to the scene, arriving at 1100 on the 15th. After surveying the situation LCDR GOODWIN requested lighterage and cargo handling personnel to remove some of the cargo, and a Harbor Clearance Unit to assist in rigging beach gear
on the John C.

As the tugs which were on the scene laid and tested their beach gear, and constructed runways and chocks on the JOHN C., for additional beach gear, USS GRASP (ARS-24) with HCU-1 personnel embarked and YFN 120 in tow, got underway from Subic about 2300 on the 16th. About 1800 a Navy hatch team from Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang got underway aboard the Alaska Barge and Transport, Incorporated, tug COMANCHE, which towed AB and T Barge 517 (an IST hull) to the JOHN C.

While GRASP and COMANCHE were en route, personnel on the scene continued salvage operations and prepared to receive the barge alongside for the transfer of cargo. On the 16th COMANCHE arrived and cargo began to be offloaded from JOHN C. Also on the 16th TILLAMOOK surveyed the water to seaward of JOHN C., and determined the optimum position for additional beach gear.

The next day GRASP arrived and laid another set of beach gear. By the end of the 19th of June, 375 tons of cargo had been removed from JOHN C., and on the next day the total had grown to 780 tons.

As the high tide predicted for 0640 on the 21st approached, all plans and preparation were made for a maximum effort pull to commence at 0500 on the 21st. The YFN and the AB and T Barge 517 were filled with cargo to capacity by midnight and were taken in tow by COMANCHE to Danang. The Cargo Handling Battalion TWO personnel from NAVSUPPACT Danang had transferred 927 tons of cargo in three days.
With eight legs of beach gear laid and tight, the double bottom tanks deballasting, the maximum pull was begun on schedule and at 0534 on the 21st JOHN C. refloated. After checking her bottom to insure her seaworthiness, JOHN C., accompanied by GRAPPLE, proceeded on to Danang, as the remaining tugs recovered their beach gear.

In May the Military Sea Transportation Service Office, Vietnam, had requested the demolition and removal of the hulk of a sunken tug, the 83-foot NEZ PERCE, which was a hazard to navigation in the harbor at Phan Rang. Work began on 7 June with a survey of the hulk, which rested in 18 feet of water, by personnel of Harbor Clearance Team 4/UR, who had been lifted along with YLCL-1 from Vung Tau in USS CARTER HALL (LSD-3). On the 8th of June the masts were removed and preparations were made for removal of the pilot house. By 11 June the pilot house had been removed and dumped in deep water. The superstructure was cut free from the main deck on the 14th and was entirely removed by the 16th. The bulwarks, bitts and winch were removed from the bow on 17 and 18 June, followed by removal of the side bulwarks, stern winch, bitts, and miscellaneous pieces on 19 and 20 June. With the removal of the last pieces on 20 June, only the hull of the NEZ PERCE remained. At its highest point the hull was 4 feet above the bottom on which it rested, allowing 1½ feet of water over it at mean low water. This satisfied the clearance requirements.

A collapsed bridge over the Tac River about 9 miles east of Saigon blocked waterborne traffic. In order to permit movement of Vietnamese
River Assault Group craft on the river, the Capitol Military Area Commander requested assistance in removing the center span. In a two-day operation on 24 and 25 June the center span was cut length-wise by HCU-1 detachment personnel using explosives. The two pieces were then lifted from the river by a skycrane helicopter and were deposited on the river bank.

In an operation typical of the many minor jobs accomplished by salvage personnel in Vietnam, a mooring buoy was moved from Ben Tre to Dong Tam. YLIC-1, with Harbor Clearance Team THREE embarked, sailed from Vung Tau on 27 June via My Tho for refueling, via Dong Tam to offload her Eels anchor, and arrived at Ben Tre the evening of the 28th. The mooring buoy consisted of three 5,000-pound anchors each connected to 270-foot legs of 2-inch chain cable. The three legs were connected to a garland ring to which was attached a 2-inch chain cable riser 60-feet in length. The entire job was completed on 29 June. The only difficult encountered was in lifting the last anchor. It was buried and attempts to free it with a 5/8-inch hauling wire resulted in overstraining the wire. Using 1-inch wire straps to stop off the chain, the YLIC backed down at two-thirds power, breaking the anchor loose from the mud. By 2300 that night the mooring buoy was in Dong Tam.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 2 June Rear Admiral G. J. CRABB, RAN, Commander Australian Fleet and
Major General A. C. McDonald, RAA, Commander Australian Forces Vietnam,
visited the Mobile Riverine Base and GAME WARDEN headquarters at Binh Thuy
for a briefing on current Mobile Riverine Force operations and CTF 116 PBR
operations. During Rear Admiral CRABB's orientation trip to Vietnam, he
also visited the U. S. Navy facilities at Vung Tau and Commander Naval Forces
Vietnam headquarters in Saigon.

On 4 June Rear Admiral Fillmore B. GILKESON, USN, Commander U. S. Naval
Base, Subic Bay and prospective Director, Logistics and Plans, OPNAV, commenced
a six-day orientation tour of Vietnam. The primary purpose of his visit was
to obtain on-site familiarity with logistics problems in Vietnam. After a
two-day visit with Commander Naval Support Activity Danang and Commanding
General III Marine Amphibious Force at Danang, Admiral GILKESON and his
party visited the Naval Support Facility and Coastal Surveillance Force head-
quarters at Cam Ranh Bay, COMNAVFORV, COMNAVSUPPACT Saigon, and the Officer-in-
Charge of Construction, Vietnam headquarters in Saigon. Rear Admiral
GILKESON also visited the River Patrol Force headquarters at Binh Thuy and the
MRB where he was briefed on GAME WARDEN and riverine operations and logistics.

General Creighton W. ABRAMS, USA, Commander U. S. Military Assistance
Command, Vietnam visited the MRB on 14 June for his first visit since assum-
ing command. The general was brought up-to-date on current and future MRF
plans and operations.
The Honorable Thomas D. MORRIS, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations and Logistics conducted a four-day tour (26-29 June) of military bases throughout the Republic of Vietnam. Included in Mr. MORRIS's itinerary were visits to U. S. Navy commands at COMNAVSUPPACT Danang and THIRD Naval Construction Brigade headquarters in Danang.

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During the month of June, two AUTODIN terminals were successfully tested, accepted by the government and placed in service. The first, an IBM 360/20 terminal assigned to the Force Logistics Command, III Marine Amphibious Force, began processing live traffic on 17 June. This terminal was capable of transmitting and receiving teletypewriter messages at the rate of 1600 words per minute and data cards at the rate of 100 cards per minute. The second terminal, a UNIVAC 1004, terminal assigned to Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity, Danang, was successfully tested and accepted for service during the last week in June. This terminal was scheduled to begin processing traffic on 8 July, when it was to be removed to the Automatic Digital Message Switch Center (ADMSC) at Phu Lam. This UNIVAC was also capable of processing teletypewriter messages at the rate of 1600 words per minute and data cards at the rate of 100 cards per minute.

The status of Project CLARINET SEAWARD's uncompleted sites was as follows:

(a) An Thoi -- Construction completed. Installation team had been on the site since the middle of June. Installation should be completed by 1 August.

(b) Qui Nhon -- will be completed two weeks after the An Thoi site is completed. Lack of modification kits for AN/URT-19 transmitters and circuit breakers has delayed work. The installation team was sent
to An Thoi and will return to Qui Nhon upon completion of their work. The modification kits have been received.

(c) Nha Trang -- Construction is in progress and a beneficial occupancy date (BOD) of 8 August is firm.

(d) Vung Tau -- Construction is in progress and a BOD of 24 August is scheduled.

(e) My Tho -- Awaiting installation team.

(f) Sa Dec -- Awaiting installation team.

(g) Cat Lo -- Awaiting installation team.

(h) Vinh Long -- Awaiting installation team.

The interim "get well" program of Naval Support Activity Saigon to improve coastal surveillance center communications is near completion. The site at An Thoi reported that it was 85 percent completed.

COMNAVFORV has been designated as the central control for the local area Collins Green Phone Hot Line System. This system had been programmed for over a year but had been delayed because of supply and contractor problems. After the equipment arrived in-country, it was decided to utilize naval personnel to effect installation of the system at a cost of 10 percent of the original contractor allocation. Installation was scheduled to begin on 1 July and was to be completed by 1 September. COMNAVFORV will operate and maintain the control switchboard at its Saigon headquarters.

All subscribers will have immediate communications capability with all major U. S. Navy commands in Vietnam. The list of subscribers to the system
includes the following commands:

(a) Commander U.S. Naval Forces Vietnam at Saigon
(b) Commander Task Force 115 at Cam Ranh Bay
(c) Commander Task Force 116 at Binh Thuy
(d) Commander Task Force 117 on board USS BENEWAH (APB 35)
(e) Senior Naval Advisor at Vietnamese Naval Headquarters at Saigon
(f) Commander Military Sea Transportation Service at Saigon
(g) Commander U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam at Saigon
(h) Commander U.S. Naval Support Activity Danang
(i) All CTF 115 Coastal Surveillance Centers.

A total of 125,788 messages were handled by the COMNAVFORV Message Center during the month of June. This was a decrease of 5,540 from the May totals.
RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

In June, NAVFORV chaplains provided more service to men in more places than in any previous month reported. Five-hundred and twenty-eight Divine Services were conducted with a total attendance of 16,835, of which 8,244 were communed. A total of 2,901 Navymen benefited from an additional 64 services which were conducted by Navy and other service chaplains outside the NAVFORV organization.

Four new chaplain billets were filled in June, bringing the total number of U.S. Navy chaplains serving NAVFORV units to 34. The addition of two more clergymen to TF 117 and one each to NSAS and NSA D has brought a broader, more consistent ministry to areas that previously received token coverage. The tight, sometimes grueling schedule our Navy chaplains maintained was lessened to a great extent as the incoming chaplains assumed their share of the ministry responsibility.

LCDR W. L. JONES, Jr., filling a new post as chaplain for NSAS Detachment, Vinh Long, found his services immediately (and unfortunately) required after his arrival in country. FBR sailors suffered numerous casualties, including 4 fatalities in June; and Chaplain JONES was made aware of his purpose and the role he will fill for the 11 months while ministering to Navymen in Vietnam.

LCDR F. W. LOVE, assigned a new chaplain billet at NSAD, was introduced to the complexities of the Navy chaplain's responsibilities in Vietnam as he set up programs for worships and counselling at Tan My, Hue, Phu
Bai, Cua Viet and Dong Ha in I Corps Tactical Zone. In the past, Navy­
men operating in these areas along the Perfume and Dong Ha river basins
were visited by the chaplains of NSAD on circuit or Seabee, Marine or
Army chaplains located nearby. With this new billet came the assurance
to these fighting men of readily available and much needed spiritual,
emotional, and psychological guidance. Chaplain LOVE began at once to
conduct six Divine Services a week in his area of responsibility and
held 128 personal conferences in the first three weeks of his assignment
there.

Meanwhile, other chaplains stationed throughout Vietnam continued to
provide support and guidance to men assigned to units under their cognizance. These clergymen endeavored to assist, comfort and encourage the
men through their prayers, advice and counsel. Traveling by boat, heli­
copter, jeep or truck, holding worship services, individual counsel,
group discussions, or conducting memorial or other special services, the
routine of the Navy chaplains was anything but routine.

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At the close of June the personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) was 17,611, including 1,354 officers, 3,407 petty officers and 12,850 enlisted men. The number of unauthorized absentees decreased from 581 in May to 491 in June. There were 71 men discharged as deserters in June.

Numerous significant events marked the end of the tenure for the present Senior U. S. Advisor to the VNN, Captain Allen P. SLAFF, USN. Prior to his departure on 29 June, Captain SLAFF witnessed the VNN's assumption of 14 U. S. Navy craft for their continued use under VNN auspices, the establishment of the VNN's PBR River Patrol Group (RPG) 51, and the first full company of VNN recruits leave for basic training at NTC, San Diego.

On 10 June the VNN took command of 14 specialized U. S. Navy river craft and assumed exclusive military responsibilities that previously were held by the U. S. Naval forces. Six of the boats were Landing Craft Medium Minesweepers (LCMM), specially configured landing craft for chain-drag minesweeping. The boats are now commanded, operated and supported by officers and men of the VNN and perform the vital job of clearing mines from the strategic Long Tau River channel to Saigon. The LCMM's have augmented the ten operating VNN MIM's that have been conducting mine countermeasures operations on the Long Tau and Dong Nai rivers.
The other eight river craft were PBR's identical to those utilized by Operation GAME WARDEN forces. The newly formed VNN RPD 51 currently patrols the Long Tau River along with the Task Force 116 units of GAME WARDEN. The VNN PBR's ultimately will join other U.S. units on the major rivers of the Delta as important additions to the GAME WARDEN efforts to deny the use of strategic waterways to the enemy and to ensure their safe usage to the citizens of the Republic of Vietnam.

The first full company of VNN recruits (100) left Saigon on 14 June for eight weeks of basic training at the U. S. Naval Recruit Training Center, San Diego, California. Two VNN officers and three chief petty officer accompanied the hand-picked, highly motivated volunteer recruits. Since the Tet Offensive the VNN had been swamped with volunteers and the recruit training centers at Saigon and Nha Be have been overloaded, the recruits spending weeks awaiting training. The recruits selected to attend NRTC San Diego were all high school graduates, spoke some English and at least half of them held 2-year college degrees. Preliminary training in Saigon included drill, seamanship and swimming, and a familiarization course in English. At NRTC San Diego, the recruits receive the same training as American sailors, except for classes which deal strictly with U.S. interests, such as history, the U.S. Code of Conduct and military justice. Besides providing a pool of qualified men for possible future training at U. S. Navy schools, their knowledge and understanding of American sailors will enable them to work more closely with their U.S. advisors.

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Meanwhile, at the Recruit Training Center, Cam Ranh, 233 men graduated on 29 June and three more classes of recruits, numbering 636, continued training. In Nha Trang 277 men continued training in June at the Naval Training Center there. At the Naval Advance Training Center, Saigon, 84 graduated from Class "A" Technical School on 8 June. Additional 395 men continued in three Class "A" Technical Schools and one Class "B" Technical School. On 24 June a two-week course for seven PBR personnel convened which covered radio and radar operations. A two-month English course began for seven VNN students on 24 June which also will enable them more advanced technical training in the United States.

The VNN LDNN (VNN UDT) Replacement Class III, consisting of 2 officers and 38 men graduated on 22 June. After one week the class resumed four weeks of advanced training at Vung Tau. At Phu Quoc Island, eight PCF crews remained in training in preparation for the VNN's eventual assumption of command of those boats in July.

**Fleet Command**

The Fleet Command Patrol Ships of Flotilla I maintained 16 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam, 5 ships on river patrol, 2 ships on static defense and one on commercial convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. Fleet Command patrol ships continued active participation in MARKET TIME operations in each naval coastal zone and maintained responsibility for six MARKET TIME stations. Patrol units fired 87 gunfire support missions, searched 2,330 junks and 11,111 persons, detained
18 junks and 76 persons.

Patrol craft (PC's and PCE's) in the 1st and 2nd Naval Zones, and PGM's in all four naval zones and the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ), were utilized for coastal patrol and gunfire support. On 15 June, PGM 600, MSC 114 and a TF 115 PCF supported elements of three Regional Force (RF) companies off the southwest coast of Phu Quoc Island. The three craft provided naval gunfire support after the ground units had made contact and had begun to encircle the enemy force. A sweep of the area revealed several blood trails and numerous items of clothing. Enemy losses were unknown; there were no friendly casualties.

Support landing ships (LSSL's and LSIL's) provided patrol, gunfire support, static defense and convoy escort in the 4th Naval Zone, RSSZ and the 4th Riverine Area. On 8 June the Viet Cong bombarded the VNN headquarters area in Saigon with nine 107-mm rockets. One round hit the deck of LSIL 328 and three VNN sailors were wounded while the ship received light structural damage. Two days later, the same ship was escorting a civilian convoy on the My Tho River, 16 miles west of My Tho when it came under attack from three different positions. The ship suffered 25 percent casualties to her crew in the initial blast. A direct hit to the pilot house killed two crewmembers immediately, and wounded 16 others. The ship's commanding officer, officer-of-the-deck and U. S. Navy advisor were also wounded. The commanding officer rallied his crew and brought his guns to bear on the enemy position. TF 116 PBR's in the
area responded also and the hostile fire was suppressed.

Coastal minesweepers (MSC) were deployed in the 3rd and 4th Naval Zones in Operation MARKET TIME and motor launch minesweepers (LCMM) continued daily sweeps on the Saigon, Long Tau, Nha Be and Dong Nai rivers. On 16 June, one of the newly acquired LCMM's received two rocket rounds and automatic weapons fire on the Long Tau River, 5 miles southeast of Nha Be. VNN LSSL 228 and TF 115 PBR's were on the scene and laid down a barrage of fire which suppressed the enemy's guns. The LCMM received one rocket round in the after section below the water line incurring minor damage.

The VNN Supply Center, Saigon recorded a gross effectiveness of 66.1 percent on a total of 9,715 requests for items and a net effectiveness of 88 percent on 7,321 requests for items normally carried in the supply system in June.

The LDNN detachment at Nha Be conducted 14 combined operations with SEALs of TF 115 this month: 11 Viet Cong were killed, 2 wounded, 2 captured and 15 suspects were detained during these operations. The LDNN detachment at Saigon continued its nightly hull inspections of the ships moored at the port of Saigon.

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Coastal Force

As in May, the U.S. advisors and their VNN counterparts in the four naval zones continued to direct their forces in offensive operations.
total of 394 land operations were pursued this month by the coastal groups in the four zones. In addition, 49 amphibious and 62 blocking operations were conducted in concert with other allied ground forces utilizing an average of 168 of the 190 junks available daily. Coastal force junks searched 71,330 junks and 280,218 persons, detaining 35 junks and 535 persons in June.

In the First Naval Zone, the LAM SON 224 Campaign continued in June with the 3rd phase conducted during 1-7 June. Coastal Group 12 junks with their U.S. advisors aboard provided a blocking force along the banks of Thanh Lam Bay while U.S. Army and ARVN companies swept the Phu Vang Sub-sector, southeast of Phu Bai. This successful ARVN operation resulted in 112 enemy killed and 20 of the enemy captured along with 31 individual and 5 crew served weapons and 29 tons of rice. The soldiers reported destroying an additional 100 bags of rice and 10 trenches. During the 7-day operation 2 U.S. and 5 ARVN soldiers were liberated from the hands of the enemy; 9 ARVN soldiers were killed and 35 others were wounded in the battle.

A Coastal Group 13 ambush team engaged 10 Viet Cong on the opposite beach north of their base in Cay Hai Bay on 4 June. The sailors killed 4 Viet Cong and captured an AK-47, AK-54, 90 rounds of ammunition and a sack of food.

The NGUYEN PHOUC series of operations which commenced in late May continued in June as the Coastal Group 12 personnel sought out the enemy
in the northern tip of Phu Vang District. NGUYEN PHOUC 3 was conducted on 6 June by two Popular Force (PF) platoons and sub-sector police with Coastal Group 12 providing transport, gunfire and blocking support. The sailors caught 8 evaders and the FF troops brought in 14 additional suspects. Four shelters were destroyed during the sweep. On 13 June THUA THIEN 41, a similar operation in the same area, was conducted by Coastal Group 12 boats and two RF companies. Three Viet Cong were killed and one was captured while two RF troops were killed and three others were wounded during this encounter.

Further north at the Cua Viet River, Coastal Group 11 and U.S. Marines also continued to seek out the enemy jeopardizing the Dong Hoa area. On 14 June a cordon and search operation on the north bank of the river yielded 13 suspects and a store of rice.

Six Coastal Group 15 units and two TF 115 PCF's, in league with one PF battalion, units of the 1st U.S. Cavalry and two ARVN battalions, conducted Operation QUYET THANG 53/T, 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky on 15 June. The ground forces swept through Viet Cong-dominated villages, engaging the enemy and destroying his war materials. The results of the operation were 16 Viet Cong killed, 3 captured, 4 tunnels destroyed, over 100 small boats destroyed and 17 larger boats and 3 enemy controlled hamlets damaged. Numerous weapons and ammunition were uncovered during the action.

On 18 June reconnaissance teams from Coastal Groups 15 and 16 engaged the enemy in two separate actions near their bases. A Coastal Group 15
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intelligence team killed two Viet Cong and captured six female cadre while destroying one junk and capturing another north of the base at An Hoa. Similarly, while on patrol just south of their base near Quang Ngai, a Coastal Group 16 reconnaissance group surprised and killed two Viet Cong that day.

NGUYEN PHOUC 5 on 20 June in northern Phu Vang District yielded 20 draft dodgers and 11 additional personnel without proper identification papers. Coastal Group 12 junks circled the land mass at the mouth of the Perfume River, checking junk traffic and continuing the guard for enemy infiltrators along that strategic waterway in I CTZ.

Between 21 and 23 June the I CTZ coastal groups received harassing enemy artillery, rocket, and mortar fire. In addition, on 21 June, the enemy infiltrated the perimeter of a friendly village near Coastal Group 14 to remove defensive land mines. Six of 24 mines were successfully removed; however, one mine detonated, killing one Viet Cong. After the VNN sailors made a sweep of the area, they reported 16 mines still intact and a great number of blood trails indicating more killed or wounded were carried away. During the attack on the coastal group bases no significant damage was reported although at Coastal Group 15 on 23 June, one enlisted U.S. advisor and two VNN sailors were wounded slightly when two satchel charges exploded near their barges. In much the same manner as the coastal groups to the north, Coastal Group 16, near Quang Ngai, operated along the Tra Khuc River to inhibit enemy movement. On 23 June THONG MINH 10, a CONFIDENTIAL

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river block and search operation, netted 23 enemy suspects.

At the Perfume River basin near Coastal Group 12 base, 7 more suspects were detained on the night of 25-26 June. This night search conducted by the VNN sailors and their USN advisors was series 6 of the NOUEN PHOUC campaign. During a patrol of Thanh Lam Bay on 27 June, 3½ miles southwest of the base, two Coastal Group 12 junks received B-40 rocket and machine gun fire from three sampans in the area. The sailors returned the fire as the enemy evaded to the north. Four of the fleeing enemy were killed while two sailors were wounded in the first volley. Typically, a subsequent search of a nearby village yielded no results.

Although enemy activity in the 2nd Naval Zone remained at a low level the coastal groups continued their small unit patrol in an effort to seek out and destroy the infiltrating enemy forces and their supporters. A Coastal Group 25 platoon set up an ambush just south of their base, 10 miles north of Nha Trang, on the night of 4-5 June. No enemy contact was made; however, 2 enemy suspects were brought in for interrogation. Later on 5 June, Coastal Group 24 units conducted a civic action mission on Hon Chua Isle, 6 miles north of their base at Tuy Hoa. Eight Viet Cong and a junk were apprehended in the area during the VNN sailors' patrol there.

Coastal Group 22 and 3 RF companies swept Qui Nhon Peninsula 2 miles east of the base on 6 June. The land force met no enemy resistance although 30 enemy suspects and a quantity of clothing and documents were captured. The same day, Song Cau based Coastal Group 23 personnel conducted
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a cordon and search operation 7 miles east of their base in Phú Yên Province. A firefight ensued which resulted in 9 Viet Cong killed, 10 captured and another 8 suspects detained; 17 shelters were destroyed and a number of weapons and ammunition, articles of clothing and documents captured. On 8 June, Coastal Group 25 units patrolled Tràm Nam Bay, 15 miles northeast of their base in Khánh Hòa Province. One junk with 14 Viet Cong suspects and a draft dodger were detained that day.

Intelligence indicated the Viet Cong had infiltrated the point of the peninsula where Coastal Group 23 had engaged the enemy on 6 June. At 0200 on 13 June a mortar bombardment of forty 60-mm mortar rounds was directed at the suspect area. A subsequent sweep yielded 2 Viet Cong killed and 6 of the wounded enemy captured. A Coastal Group 25 night ambush team apprehended one junk and 3 suspects on 14-15 June. The suspects, picked up 2 miles south of the base at Hòn Khoi, were returned to the base for interrogation.

During patrols from 16-19 June, Coastal Group 23 junks detained 5 suspects and 4 female Viet Cong and one junk east of the coastal group base at Sông Câu. Just as their coastal group counterparts in the 1st Naval Zone, 2nd Naval Zone VNN personnel and their U.S. advisors continued to perform waterway patrols in and around the land jetties in their area of operations to interdict the enemy's movement. The Viet Cong/NVA forces and their supporters showed an unceasing attempt to build up forces and logistics near the civilian and military strongholds of the GVN in the

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2nd Naval Zone as well as in the other naval zones.

Coastal Group 22 engaged an estimated 30 Viet Cong on 19 June on Qui Nhon Peninsula, 8 miles north of the coastal group base. Contact was lost with the enemy but 2 Viet Cong were captured along with numerous weapons and documents, and amounts of rice. There were no friendly casualties in the clash. An area sweep 2 days later, supported by MARKET TIME forces off the coast, resulted in no additional enemy resistance; 3 enemy suspects were apprehended by the VNN sailors.

A combined operation on 26 June pitted U. S. Army troops, six Coastal Group 21 and 22 junks, and MARKET TIME units including USS CARRONADE (IFS-1) and USS HOLLISTER (DD-786) against an unknown size enemy force. The amphibious landings were made from the coastal group junks and blocking stations were assumed 2½ miles south of Degi, in Binh Dinh Province. Gunfire support was provided by the off-shore MARKET TIME units. The land force produced 11 enemy killed, 2 captured and 13 suspects detained. In addition, many bunkers, mines and booby traps were destroyed during the battle. A quantity of weapons and ammunition were reported captured by the Army forces.

The ARVN "Peoples Road" Campaign, TRUONG CONG DINH series, was pursued to its end during June and VNN units of the 3rd Naval Zone participated in the final operation as was the case during the month of May. Vinh Binh Province units organized TRUONG CONG DINH VB/52 on 3 June and Coastal Group 35 junks transported 6 RF companies and 2 PF platoon to the area of operations, 7 miles down river from their base on the Co Chien River. The
three-mile-square land sweep inland netted one Viet Cong killed, and three
Viet Cong and eight suspects captured. The province forces reported de-
stroying an enemy liaison point as well as capturing several grenades and
anti-personnel mines.

Similarly on the night of 6-7 June, nine Coastal Group 33 junks and
four Coastal Group 34 junks provided the mobility for three RF companies
and three PF platoons for Operation TRUCONG CONG DINH HB/37. The operation
was a north-south sweep of the eastern end of Loi Quan Island in the My
Tho River while the VNN sailors maintained river blocking stations. The
sailors experienced no enemy contact; however, the land force reported
killing five Viet Cong during the sweep.

Coastal Group 36 set up a night ambush 6 miles southeast of their
base on the Bassac River on 8 June. The sailors surprised four Viet Cong
setting up an M-60 machine gun site. The enemy soldiers were killed, three
grenades and numerous documents were captured and the machine gun site was
destroyed.

Two Coastal Group 32/33 junks lifted 44 PRU's (Provincial Reconnais-
sance Unit) 13 miles north of the coastal group base into Phuc Tuy Province
on 10 June. The operation, SCONG NGU 17/58, sought out reported enemy base
camps in the area east of the Thi Vai River. While the VNN sailors and
the U.S. advisors maintained river security with a TF 115 PCF, the PRU's
swept eastward. Five base camps were discovered which appeared to have
been occupied recently; however, the camp were stripped of all war materials
and no enemy contact was gained. The structures were destroyed and the
land force embarked on the junks at the completion of the operation.
This marked the first use of PRU's in Phuc Tuy Province by the VNN junk
force. The next day, the Coastal Group 32/33 junks and RF troops probed
further north into the province 24 miles north of their base. During
this operation, TRUONG CONG DINH HB/40, the land sweep uncovered an am­
munition cache of 830 shells of various types and numerous documents.

Two junks from Coastal Group 33 carried one PF company and two RF
companies to Go Cong Province on the west bank of the Soirap River on
13 June. While the VNN sailors conducted blocking operations along the
coast, the land troops contacted an unknown number of enemy. Three Viet
Cong were killed and two were captured along with their weapons and a
quantity of ammunition and several documents. TRUONG CONG DINH VB/50
that day took place in Vinh Binh Province, north of Phu Vinh City with
Coastal Group 35 junks, three RF companies and a PRU company. The opers­
tion yielded 15 Viet Cong killed and 3 captured with several weapons.

Two Coastal Group 35 junks came to the defense of an outpost 5 miles east
of the coastal group base on 14 June. TF 116 PBR's and LHFT's supported
the sailors in the battle with the advancing enemy. When all fire was
suppressed, four of the enemy were killed and five others were wounded.

That same day several Coastal Group 34/37 units with two VNN platoons
entered the Sau/Cu and Bien Le canals on the south bank of the Ham Luong
River. The troops were landed on each canal bank for an east-west sweep.
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The Coastal Group 34 command junk came under intense fire from the bank and the sailors directed close range fire. "Seawolves" were called in and air strikes were made on the area. A subsequent land sweep met with no enemy resistance. The VNN sailors uncovered many bloody trails indicating the enemy had carried away the dead and wounded. The sailors destroyed numerous punji stakes and tunnels during the sweep. One sailor was killed during the ambush on the command junk and another was wounded.

On 18 June six Coastal Group 35 junks lifted 2 RF companies for a landing from the Lang Thi River in Vinh Binh Province northwest of Phu Vinh City. The boats remained in blocking and fire support positions as the land sweep netted 4 enemy suspects, 900 kilograms of rice, and 7 shelters destroyed.

SONG NGU 18/68, continuing that campaign in Phuc Tuy Province, was conducted on 20 June by four Coastal Group 33 junks, one coastal group ambush team and 30 PRU's. The junks plied the Ca Doi River and then landed the PRU's on the western perimeter of the area of operation and the ambush team on the eastern perimeter, 10 miles west of Vung Tau. The PRU force swept eastward and arrived at the site of the ambush team with no enemy resistance. Two base camps were destroyed composed of four bunkers, two farm houses and two sampans.

SONG THAN 31, an operation which achieved extraordinary results, joined Coastal Group 35 and PRU forces for the 1st time in over 10 months on 24 and 25 June. This successful operation freed 29 government officials...