military equipment and supplies as they thoroughly swept an area which had never been penetrated by the MRF. After no contact was made with the Viet Cong by the morning of 17 July, all infantry units were backloaded and returned to the MRB at 1745.

Meanwhile at 1655 on 16 July the Navy elements became actively engaged with the enemy when the boats of RAD 112 were attacked from both banks of the Cai Hap Stream, 8 miles southwest of Mo Cay. The ambush, which consisted of rocket, recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire, occurred as the riverine craft were enroute to the fire support base with their embarked troops. Miraculously, there were no U.S. casualties despite the fact that one of the monitors, M-112-1, received two direct hits from the enemy rocketeers. One of the RPG-7 rockets penetrated both of the monitor's fuel tanks and the other round struck the portside admidelships, penetrating the boat's bar armor and styrofoam. The boats silenced the guns of the enemy, and transported their troops to the fire support base. Enemy casualties were unknown.

The cumulative destruction inflicted on the enemy during this three-day period (15-17 July) consisted of 62 Viet Cong killed, and 18 bunkers and 20 Chinese Communist booby traps destroyed. MRG ALFA forces also captured five prisoners and four weapons and detained 57 suspicious Vietnamese. U.S. casualties amounted to one Armyman killed and 18 soldiers and two sailors wounded.

Interrogation of prisoners-of-war and detainees taken during the
ASPB's of RAD 92 lead a column of river assault patrol craft up a small canal in South Vietnam. The monitor 92-1 (background) is referred to as the "battleship of the Delta."
operation in Cang Long District revealed that MRG ALFA had been in contact with the Viet Cong 509th and 511th Battalions, and that the 511th Battalion was formed by reinforcing the 509th Battalion and then splitting it into two battalions. There was also mention of the 510th Battalion operating in the area and information about an all-female Viet Cong company (strength of 60) operating in Vung Lien and Cang Long districts. On 15 July the 511th Battalion supposedly suffered more than 40 casualties from air strikes and artillery barrages. Intelligence experts felt that the existence of the 509th, 510th and 511th battalions was probably true; however, it appeared that Viet Cong units were calling themselves battalions regardless of size.

Operations in Kien Hoa Province

After seven days of operations in the area south of Mo Cay, MRG ALFA departed the Co Chien anchorage at dawn on 18 July and arrived at Dong Tam at 1222 the same day. Two days later the assault forces of MRG ALFA conducted a one-battalion search and destroy operation against elements that had utilized Thoi Son Island to launch mortar attacks on the MRB and Dong Tam. In conjunction with this sweep operation the combined forces of TF 116/117 established a 40-boat naval blockade around the entire island to catch any Viet Cong attempting to flee Thoi Son Island.

PBR's from TF 116 were deployed on both sides of the island for use as chase boats to interdict any high-speed blockade runners. Firm contact with the elusive enemy was not established and the operation was
terminated on 21 July. The cumulative results of the two-day operation (20-21 July) on Thoi Son Island and in Truc Giang District amounted to two Viet Cong killed, 31 persons detained and 12 bunkers destroyed while U.S. forces suffered 12 soldiers wounded.

About 0130 on 23 July, Engineman Second Class Charles S. ROY, USN, a crewmember of CCB-111-1, left his command and communications boat to go aboard USS SPHINX (ARL 24) for a can of oil. He was last seen boarding an AMMI pontoon alongside SPHINX. A search of the area revealed that the oil can that ROY was carrying was found wedged between the AMMI-barge and SPHINX. An intensive search of the adjacent waters yielded negative results. The following day Petty Officer ROY’s body was recovered from the My Tho River near the Dong Tam base by assault craft of RAD 131.

On 23 July MRG ALFA commenced a three-day riverine operation in the Giong Trom and Ben Tre districts about 10 miles southeast of Ben Tre. As in previous operations Task Force SIX GUN got underway the previous night under the cover of darkness and proceeded to fire support bases along the Ham Luong River. The assault craft of MRG ALFA proceeded to the operating area on the morning of 23 July.

RAD 91 riverine units with the 3/60th Inf. Bn. embarked were enroute to beaching areas on Giong Trom Canal 8 miles southeast of Ben Tre, when they were ambushed on the Ben Tre Stream about 6 miles southeast of Ben Tre. The boats immediately turned toward the ambush positions, saturated the area with machine-gun and cannon fire, and landed the infantrymen to
counter-attack the enemy and search the area. The minesweeping ASPB's, the lead monitor and an ATC at the lead of the formation bore the brunt of the attack which consisted of a barrage of recoilless-rifle, rocket and heavy automatic-weapons fire. ASPB-91-4 received several severe hits from the well-entrenched enemy rocketeers who were firing from both banks of the narrow waterway.

During the battle, the boat captain of ASPB-91-4, Boatswain's Mate First Class John F. ROBB, USN, was killed when a rocket hit the coxswain's flat of his boat. In his last heroic act before he died, ROBB beached his boat to prevent it from hitting the other boats in the formation. The gradient where the boat was grounded was very steep, and the boat swamped and subsequently sunk. The ASPB was recovered the following day and returned to the RB for repairs. The 20-mm gunner, Fireman David A. PEARSON, USN, was also killed when a 75-mm recoilless-rifle round severely damaged his gunmount.

As a direct result of the ferocious attack, two other crewmen aboard ASPB-91-4 and two men from ASPB-91-2 were seriously wounded, and were "medevaced" from the battle area. Five of the seven sailors aboard ATC-91-12 and one aboard a monitor also received wounds of a less serious nature. ASPB-91-2 received moderate damage in the fierce firefight. Although this was the most serious incident of the day with two Navymen killed and 10 wounded, the Viet Cong initiated five more attacks in the same general area to emphasize their determination to deny the riverine
A Monitor, a used truck tire, and an Army trooper make up a strange daisy chain to free a trooper of the 9th Division's Second Brigade from waist deep mud in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta.
craft the use of the Ben Tre/Ong Huong/Giong Trom waterways. These narrow and confining streams and canals were referred to as "Rocket Alley" by the men of the Mobile Riverine Force.

Army ground elements of MRG ALFA found numerous signs of Viet Cong activity in the area, but found no enemy personnel as they continued to sweep through the Giong Trom District southeast of Ben Tre on 24 July. The only hostile contact of the day was reported by U. S. Navy "Seawolves" of TF 116 who drew automatic-weapons fire while flying cover for the assault boats east of Ben Tre, and by ALFA Company of the 3/60th Inf. Bn. The ALFA Company commander was killed by the first burst of enemy fire and was the only casualty of the brief attack. Later that night the MRB relocated 13 miles further down the Ham Luong River, anchoring less than 15 miles from the mouth of the river.

Contact with the enemy was sporadic on 25 July; significant was the capture of 40 suspected Viet Cong by BRAVO Company of the 3/60th Inf. Bn. The detainees were found in concealed positions as the infantrymen swept through a village in the Giong Trom District south of Ben Tre. Most of the suspects were males in their early 20's and were detained because they attempted to evade and were not carrying proper identification papers. Several of the suspected enemy were pulled from bunkers; six were found locked in a closet and one attempted to conceal himself in a barrel. The first 12 of the captives were classified as prisoners-of-war after interrogation, while the remainder were to be
classified by Army authorities at Dong Tam. The final interrogation report was not available.

Enemy losses as a result of the three-day operation (23-25 July) were 12 Viet Cong killed, 12 prisoners captured (incomplete), 121 detainees held (interrogation results incomplete), and 142 bunkers destroyed. U.S. forces had two Navymen and two Armymen killed, and 10 sailors and three soldiers wounded.

The majority of MRF ALFA remained in a ready reaction posture on 26 July conducting maintenance and drying out after spending three days of discomfort in the wet and soggy fields of the Giong Trom District. RAD 111 remained on the offensive and was utilized to transport Regional Force (RF) troops into an area along the Mo Cay Canal for a search and destroy operation. Contact with the enemy was light resulting in two insurgents killed and three more captured in the five-hour operation. There were no friendly casualties and the RF troops were returned to Ben Tre at 1230. Two and one-half hours later MRF ALFA got underway from the Ben Tre anchorage and transited to Vinh Long in preparation for a further relocation to Can Tho via the Van Nao Crossover on 28 July.

**Operations in Chuong Thien Province**

MRF ALFA arrived at Can Tho at 1530 on 28 July, where they were joined by USS ASKARI (ARL 30) which had spent the past month undergoing a routine overhaul in Singapore. Four ATC's of RAD 131 also joined the group to augment the MRF assets in the southern Mekong Delta. On 30 July MRF ALFA
commenced a three-battalion protracted riverine operation near Vi Thanh, 29 miles southwest of Can Tho. This operation conducted in coordination with the hard-hitting 5th Vietnamese Marine Corps Battalion was the largest venture of the war into this Viet Cong-dominated territory, and also marked the MRF's deepest penetration into the Mekong Delta. This region of Chuong Thien Province was under uncontested Viet Cong control for many years and was reported to be a major depot area for supplies infiltrated from Cambodia via the Seven Mountains Region.

Riverine access to the area could be gained only via the Can Tho River and the Xa No Canal into the Cai Tu River. Because of the distance from the MRF at Can Tho, it was decided to establish a forward base at Vi Thanh. The Army elements set up their advance post 26 miles southwest of Can Tho near Vi Thanh, while the Navy commander, CTG 117.1, utilized a CCB in the same vicinity as his command post. All operational assault craft of RAS 9 and RAS 11 (plus a few RAS 13 ATC's) were committed to this week-long, all-out riverine assault designed to catch the Viet Cong off-guard in an area where they have had a secure sanctuary for years.

The initial penetration into Chuong Thien Province commenced at 0130 on 30 July when RAD 91 embarked the 5th Battalion Vietnamese Marines for a 40-mile waterborne transit via the Can Tho River and Xa No Canal to beaches 12 miles southwest of Vi Thanh. RAD 92 followed with two companies of the 3/60th Inf. Bn., which were landed at Vi Thanh at 0820 and immediately configured for airmobile assault into the operating area. After
debarking their assigned troops RAD 92 returned to the MRB anchored near Can Tho. Traffic on the narrow waterways became heavier when RAD 111 departed the MRB 15 minutes after RAD 92 and transported the 4/47th Inf. Bn. to an assembly area near Vi Thanh Airfield where they established their forward base.

Contact was unexpectedly light until 1610 when the Vietnamese Marines, led by Major Pham NHA, gained contact with a Viet Cong element of undetermined size 37 miles southwest of Can Tho. These Marines, remembered for their participation in the Battle of Rach Ruong in Dinh Tuong Province (4-6 December 1967) where they killed the majority of the Viet Cong, cornered the Communist troops in a bunker complex along the Cai Lon River and flushed them out of their hiding places. The besieged Viet Cong panicked and bolted across an open field where they were annihilated by a barrage of cannon and machine-gun fire from the heavily armored monitors and troop-carriers of RAD 91. U. S. Army helicopters gunships later saturated the area with rocket and machine-gun fire. At the cessation of the two-hour gun battle the Vietnamese Marines counted 50 dead Viet Cong.

On the last day of the month the VNMC continued their pursuit of the enemy guerrillas as they swept from the Cai Lon Stream 10 miles southwest of Vi Thanh toward the Cai Tu River where RAD 91 had established a waterborne blockade. The Marines reported only light contact, but still managed to kill 17 more Viet Cong.

Meanwhile U. S. Army helicopter gunships, supporting the ground elements, reported killing 31 of the enemy troops. Two more guerrillas
were killed by infantrymen of the 3/60th Inf. Bn. who reported only sporadic contact in the Kien Hung District. The total enemy casualties inflicted on the Viet Cong were 102 killed (incomplete), while friendly forces had two Vietnamese Marines and one U. S. soldier wounded. The assault troops of the MRF also captured a large amount of weapons and ammunition which included 68 weapons, 324 mortar rounds, 220 grenades, 13 claymore mines, two 75-mm pack howitzers, one 106-mm howitzer and 12,500 rounds of small-arms ammunition. At month's end RAD 91 and the Marines established night defensive positions along the Cai Tu River 13 miles southwest of Vi Than. RAD 111 and the 4/47th Inf. Bn. remained at the forward base near Vi Than while the 3/60th Inf. Bn. continued airmobile operations in the area.

MOBILE RIVERINE GROUP BRAVO

Operations in Gia Dinh Province

After conducting one day of indoctrination training, Army personnel of the 5/12th Battalion of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, supported by RAD 131, conducted a sweep operation in an area about 7½ miles south of Saigon. The following day the same units operating from Nha Be swept an area in western Non Trach District 5 miles east-southeast of Saigon.

Operations in Dinh Tuong Province

Early on 3 July all MRG BRAVO assault craft departed Nha Be enroute to Dong Tam via the Cho Gao Canal, while MRB Group BRAVO (USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST 1170)) transited to Vung Tau to load Army/Navy supplies.
Troop-laden ATC's of RAS 13 on riverine operations in the Nha Ba area of Gia Dinh Province.
and ammunition. Two days later WINDHAM COUNTY steamed to Dong Tam and anchored in the vicinity of MRG ALFA. The following day was spent conferring and conducting liaison visits with representatives from the U. S. 9th Infantry Division's Third Brigade on matters pertaining to future riverine operations.

On 9 July assault craft of MRG BRAVO landed two companies of the 4/39th Inf. Bn. on the Gam Stream 3 miles west of Dong Tam. The landings were opposed and the infantrymen swept the area but were unsuccessful in their search for the Viet Cong rocket/mortar sites which had been constantly harassing Dong Tam. After destroying 18 enemy bunkers the troops were returned to WINDHAM COUNTY by RAD 131 later that same day.

On 11 July WINDHAM COUNTY (TG 117.2 flagship) shifted its anchorage from Dong Tam and transited to the confluence of the Ky Tho and Ham Luong rivers to support riverine operations on the Ba Rai Stream. The 4/39th Inf. Bn. reconnoitered along the Ba Rai Stream and captured a prisoner who had been wounded and claimed to be a member of the Viet Cong 514th Main Force Battalion. The Army troops continued their sweep operation for the next two days, but could not effect contact with the enemy.

On 10 July the riverine assault craft of RAD 131 established waterblocks on the waterways enclosing the objective area and conducted waterborne patrols. At 0810 on 11 July an enemy rocket, a recoilless rifle and machine gun attack occurred 7 miles south of Cai Lay as the
boats were proceeding south on the Ba Rai Stream to offload troops
of the 4/39th Inf. Bn. Six boats received minor damage during the attack
and 16 U. S. personnel were wounded, nine of whom were Navymen. The
hostile fire was suppressed by the river assault craft and air strikes.
A ground sweep through the area by the embarked troops revealed that
seven Viet Cong had been killed by the return fire. There were also
three RPG-7 rocket launchers found in the ambush area.

Later that morning at 1136 a TG 117.2 troopcarrier, ATC-131-8,
beached at the mouth of the Ba Rai Stream on the Tien Giang River, was
mined. The underwater explosion took place 7 miles southwest of Cai
Luy and ripped an 18-inch hole in the boat's starboard fuel tank.
Approximately two hours later another troopcarrier, ATC-131-13, located
less than 500 meters from the initial mining incident, was damaged
by an underwater explosion which ripped an 18-inch hole in its lazaret.
Both of the riverine craft were returned to Dong Tam for repairs.

MRG BRAVO results against the Viet Cong for the period 11-13 July
were seven killed, 41 suspects detained, 75 bunkers destroyed and three
RPG-7 rocket launchers captured. There were 16 friendlies wounded during
this period.

On 14 July MRG BRAVO relocated from the junction of the My Tho and
Han Luong rivers and arrived at Dong Tam at 1230. Operations could not
be scheduled with the 3rd Brigade until 21 July due to the non-availa-
bility of troops from the 4/39th Inf. Bn. which had been airmobiled to
the outskirts of Saigon on 15 July for an undetermined period.

MRB BRAVO relocated to an anchorage near My Tho on 20 July to support projected operations in Long An Province. On 21-22 July RAD 131 provided support to Regional and Popular Force troops in a joint operation on Thoi Son Island near My Tho. During this same period a detachment of RAD 131 assault craft, operating from Nha Be, provided support to the 6/31st Inf. Bn. which conducted search operations in an area 4 miles southwest of Nha Be.

**Operations in Long An Province**

On 22 July MRB BRAVO relocated to the Dong Tam anchorage 6 miles west of My Tho. Two days later RAD 131 loaded the 4/39th Inf. Bn. at Dong Tam and commenced a night transit to an area just north of Ben Luc in Long An Province. The pontoon bridge at Ben Luc, 13 miles southwest of Saigon, was opened and Vietnamese National Police boarded the boats to take part in the forthcoming operation. The task group landed troops on the banks of the Vam Co Dong River 5 miles northwest of Ben Luc Bridge at 0900 after minor opposition. At 1000 air cavalry scout ships acquired contact with the enemy 4½ miles northwest of the bridge and airmobiled troops of the 2/60th Inf. Bn. into the area to develop the contact. In the ensuing firefight 11 Viet Cong were killed and one prisoner was captured. The units of the MRF also captured 10 large enemy sampans laden with ammunition, clothing and a large amount of medical supplies. The seizure of this equipment indicated that MRF BRAVO had located a Viet
Cong crossing point.

RAD 131 continued operations on the Van Co Dong River throughout the remainder of the month. All daily troop landings were unopposed as enemy continued to evade the infantrymen of MRG BRAVO. On 27 July the boats received some sporadic small-arms fire while in night positions 16 miles west of Saigon. Later that evening three TG 117.2 boats proceeding to Ben Luc for fuel were attacked by recoilless-rifle and small-arms fire, but there were no material or personnel casualties.

On the evening of 30 July units of RAD 131 were ambushed again while transiting south on the Van Co Dong River to Ben Luc for fuel. The enemy rocket fire occurred 3 miles west of Ben Luc and caused slight damage to two assault craft. ASPS-92-6 received one rocket hit and ATC-131-3 was struck twice during the brief attack. There were no friendly casualties and enemy losses were undetermined. Cumulative results of MRG BRAVO operations (25-30 July) were 19 Viet Cong killed; 6 weapons and 10 sampans captured; 340 bunkers and 20 sampans destroyed. One soldier was killed and two others were wounded during this period.

**RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE UNITS**

USS SATYR (ARL 23) arrived at the MRB anchorage on the Co Chien River on 12 July. SATYR, after a 10-day shakedown period in company with USS SPHINX (ARL 24) in MaG ALFA, was scheduled to operate with MRG BRAVO.

The next day the river assault divisions shifted duties as follows:

RAD 91 --- Support for the 3/60th Inf. Bn.
RAD 92 —- Support for Task Force SIX GUN and utility division.
RAD 111 —- MRB defense.
RAD 112 —- Support for the 4/47th Inf. Bn.

On 14 July four new ATC's of RAD 132 arrived at Dong Tam after transiting from Vung Tau via the Cho Gao Canal. As of this date there were 17 Task Group 117.2 troopcarriers in-country.

On 19 July USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST 1169) relieved USS WASHTENAW COUNTY (LST 1166) as the MRG ALFA support LST.

After a one month routine overhaul in Singapore, USS ASKARI (ARL 30) rejoined the MRB on 29 July and assumed tender responsibilities for River Assault Squadron ELEVEN.

Besides certain operational restrictions and increased attention to ASPB limitations, the following corrective measures have been accomplished to make the craft more seaworthy, in order to mitigate the alarming rate at which ASPB's were sinking in February and March:

(a) All engine armor was removed.
(b) All 81-mm mortars were removed.
(c) Ammunition load was reduced by 40 percent (all craft).
(d) Forward well hatch cover sealed (all craft).
(e) Installed 10-inch coamings on inner side of door frames to both forward deckhouse doors (18 craft).
(f) Installed an 8-inch coaming around the after well deck (19 craft).
(g) Replaced the original "thin wall" engine exhaust hose with a heavy duty hose on all craft.
(h) Cut 6-inches off the bottom of the engine exhaust spray shields (all craft).

(i) Modified the upper carrier bearing on each rudder post to prevent excessive wear and leakage through the gland packing (approximately 50 percent completed).

(j) Completed installation of backfit kits (flotation spionsons) on two craft. A third backfit was completed at the end of the month.
Routine operations continued on the Cua Viet and Perfume rivers during July. With the exception of several artillery attacks on the Cua Viet base and one mining/sapper attack also at Cua Viet, enemy activity was at a low level throughout the month. The beginning of Patrol Air Cushion Vehicle (PACV) operations by Coastal Division SEVENTEEN from its new base near Tan My marked a significant increase in capability to pressure enemy units on the Tam Giang, Song Huong, Cau Hai Bay and Thuy Tu waterways. Blocking patrols by both PACV's and PBR's supported several ground operations in Phu Ta, Vinh Loc, Phu Yang, and Huong Dyen districts. Both river security groups stepped up psychological operations with numerous broadcasts, distribution of psyops materials, and MEDCAP visits to hamlets bordering the patrol areas.

Enemy artillery aimed at the Cua Viet base made its first and most destructive attack at 0020 on 1 July. A direct hit on the galley damaged three reefers and another hit destroyed three fuel bladders. Eight more rounds were received at about 0140 the same night. No damage was done although one man received minor wounds. There were four more artillery attacks on Cua Viet during July. Between 1020 and 1035 on the 19th 10 rounds of mixed artillery fell near the base causing no damage or casualties. On the 23rd at 0830 the Cua Viet base received 18 rounds of mixed artillery and another 10 rounds came in at 1710. Most of this fire impacted in the river and no damage or casualties resulted. Minor material
A. USMC SWEEP - 30 JULY
B. LCM's DAMAGED - 27 JULY
C. ARTILLERY ATTACKS ON CUA VIET BASE
D. LCM MINED - 27 JULY
E. USMC REACTION TEAM INSERTED - 27 JULY
damage was received at 1510 on the 25th when the base was hit by 20 rounds of mixed artillery. Finally on the 30th between 0725 and 0859 approximately 20 rounds of artillery/rocket fire impacted to the east of the base along the river causing no damage.

Three LCM-8's moored to a buoy at Cua Viet sustained heavy damage early on the 27th. The detonations of swimmer-placed satchel charges damaged the first craft at 0415, the second minutes later as it was leaving the nest, and the third at about 0435 after it had towed the first craft clear of the nest. Later that same day at 0920 an LCM-8 bladder boat enroute to Dong Ha was damaged by a command detonated mine three miles up the river from Cua Viet. The river was closed to logistics craft until 1200 when chain drag sweeps of the entire river and a USMC platoon sweep of the river banks adjacent to the mining had been completed.

On the night of the 27th two PBR's inserted a USMC reaction team which established an ambush position two miles east-northeast of Dong Ha in an area of known enemy activity. No contact was made with enemy troops. However, the operation was significant in that it marked the first employment of Cua Viet PBR's and USMC reaction force in an ambush mission. During the remainder of the month USMC reaction force elements and snipers accompanied night PBR patrols. Another insertion was carried out on the 28th without contact. On the 30th PBR's commenced a 24-hour blocking operation in support of a 1st Marine Regiment sweep of Xuan Dhanh resettlement village north of the river one-mile west of Cua Viet.
OPERATIONS IN THE PERFUME RIVER

A. CAP INSERTED BY PACV - 22 JULY
B. VC CAPTURED - 17 JULY

CUA HAI BAY
15 miles SE
Children along the river bank continued to turn munitions over to PBR patrols in return for piasters and C-rations. On 15 occasions during the month small amounts of enemy and U. S. ammunition were recovered in this manner. The total amount recovered included:

- 1 - 105-mm projectile
- 2 - 4.2-inch mortar rounds
- 15 - 82/81-mm mortar rounds
- 71 - 60-mm mortar rounds
- 5 - B-40 rocket rounds
- 4 - 75-mm recoilless rifle rounds
- 1 - 57-mm recoilless rifle round
- 690 - 12.75-mm/.50 caliber rounds
- 1200 - assorted small arms rounds
- 20 - 40-mm grenades
- 40 - U. S./Chinese grenades
- 2 - claymore mines

Operations of the Hue River Security Group encountered no enemy initiated action during July. On 3 July, PACV-2 and 3 began familiarization and reconnaissance patrols on the Perfume River, Tam Giang Bay, Thuy Tu, and Cua Hai Bay. Night operations by the PACV's were commenced on the evening of 6 July. A total of 485 patrol hours were recorded by the PACV's during the month. Operation EAGER YANKEE was supported by PACV and PBR patrols on the Thuy Tu and Cua Hai Bay from 9 through 15 July. On the 13th while engaged in blocking
patrols in support of Operation EAGER YANKEE, a wounded marine was medevaced by PACV's 1 and 3 from the Thuy Tu waterway to Tam My. Ground sweeps were supported on three other occasions during the month on the 4th, 6th, and 25th.

A routine check of a sampan 10 miles southeast of Tam My by a PSR on the evening of 17 July resulted in the detention of one male who did not have identification. He was turned over to Coastal Group 12 where interrogation revealed that he was a Viet Cong liaison officer attempting to cross the Thuy Tu.

Other achievements of the PACV operations included an emergency troop extraction on the 19th and a planned insertion on the 22nd. An urgent call from a surrounded Special Forces team at 0015 brought a rapid response from PACV's 1 and 2. The team was extracted without incident from their position on the eastern shore of Cau Hai Bay and the PACV's were back in their patrol areas by 0200. At 0630 on 22 July, PACV's 1 and 3 inserted an 18-man Marine and Vietnamese combined action platoon near a village in Phu Vang District 3 miles east of Tan My. During the month since the start of PACV operations sampan traffic on Cau Hai Bay during curfew hours was reduced and fishermen began to adhere to prescribed fishing areas.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

The high level of logistic operations by Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang was sustained in July as the total throughput for the combined I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ) port exceeded 465,000 short tons. This total included new monthly records for measurement tons backloaded at Danang and Dong Ha/Cua Viet, 22,046 M/T and 16,587 M/T respectively. The tempo of the operations at Wunder Beach picked up to 27,565 short tons total throughput, a 57 percent increase over June.

Supply demands decreased by 3 percent overall during July marking the second monthly decline since the May peak. At Danang demands were down 10 percent to 125,597 for July as compared with 139,489 for June. However, total demands at Chu Lai were up 19 percent to 53,040 for July as compared with 44,682. Much of this increase was in Army demands as the Army remained the largest customer with a combined Danang and Chu Lai total of 80,343 or 45 percent of the total for July. Combined gross effectiveness was up to 85.7 percent as compared with 85.0 percent in June and net effectiveness was up slightly to 88.9 percent, a 0.1 percent increase over June.

A significant increase in enemy activity along the Cua Viet River was noted in July. The Cua Viet NAVSUPPACT, Danang detachment was hit by enemy artillery seven times, twice on 1 July, once on 19 July, twice again on 23 July, once on 25 July, and once on 30 July. No damage or casualties resulted from the attacks on the 19th, 23rd and 30th. A road grader and
some general cargo was damaged by shrapnel on the 25th. The most damage came from the July attacks when three reefers, three fuel bladders, and a forklift were damaged by the first attack. During the second attack one man received minor wounds.

Four LCM's at Cua Viet were damaged by swimmer-placed charges and a mine on the 27th. At 0415 an explosion near the stern of one LCM in a nest of six craft caused damage and flooding. Minutes later a second charge detonated on the starboard bow of another craft as it attempted to leave the nest. A third LCM towed the first craft clear of the area and was returning to mid-stream when a charge under its bow exploded. Moderate damage resulted from the second and third charges. Later at 0920 a LCM-8 bladder boat enroute to Dong Ha was damaged extensively by a command detonated mine. The boat crew reported seeing a large column of water approximately 100 feet high rise ahead of their craft. The bow of the craft was lifted 15 feet out of the water. The bladder and forward section of the bladder frame were thrown out of the boat. One crewman received minor injuries. All four craft were beached at Cua Viet and salvaged. Except for patrol craft, river traffic in the area was stopped until mid-afternoon while swimmers inspected craft and the river area for evidence of other mines.

There were no significant incidents on the Perfume River during July. The Danang area was hit by rocket and mortar attacks on 3, 23, 25 and 27 July. No personnel casualties or damage to NAVSUPPACT, Danang installations resulted from these attacks which centered on the Marble Mountain Air
Facility, Danang Air Base, and Force Logistics Command. Overall more than 50 personnel from other commands were wounded and nine killed with several aircraft and structures destroyed or damaged.

Completion of additional rock crushers in the Danang area plus the arrival of six more tugs helped to ease the rock supply situation. Assets on hand at the month's end for barging rock north included 26 barges, 7 ocean tugs, 3 harbor tugs, and 2 river tugs. Rock shipment to the northern I CTZ totaled 51,981 short tons.

Fuel transfer operations continued without disruption during July with the average daily issue at 1,661,000 gallons. The addition of one AMBL barge on the Cua Viet River increased transfer capacity there to 400,000 gallons per day. Capacity on the Perfume River remained at 200,000 gallons per day.

July was the first month during which all deep draft ammunition ships were unloaded by contractor personnel. No difficulties were encountered. Monitoring of ammunition handling operations was assumed by U. S. Coast Guard Explosive Loading Detachment No. 4 which reported in July. The main body of Cargo Handling Battalion TWO and the Army 565th Transportation Company phased out and departed.

Increased rainfall eased the water shortage in the Danang area, however, water conservation measures remained in effect. Several construction projects were completed in July, including the potable water system for Camp Tien Sha and most of the northern I CTZ water system. Also completed were new galley at Cua Viet and Danang Air Base. The first meal was celebrated at Cua Viet.
on the 6th with steak and lobster tail in spite of Hanoi Hannah's broadcast to the men saying they would never eat a meal in their new mess hall. Continued growth of facilities made the power generation problem critical at Danang. With one generator off the line for maintenance the load comes within 20 KW of the remaining capacity.

A total of 2,200 patients were admitted to the Danang hospital during July, including 59 prisoners-of-war. Of this total 736 were battle casualties, 1,214 were admitted for various diseases, and 250 were admitted for non-combat injuries. The number treated and released for duty was 697 and another 666 were evacuated out of the country. Average patient load was 406 with 480 beds occupied at month's end.

At the end of July United States and other free world military forces supported in the I CTZ by NAVSUPPACT, Danang totaled 198,896. The on board strength of NAVSUPPACT, Danang stood at 9,887.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

Enemy activity involving Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Saigon and the detachments throughout II, III and IV Corps was at a low level during July. Only two of six incidents resulted in damage and personnel casualties were limited to one wounded crewman of YPR-890.

On the evening of 3 July a sweep boat from YRB-18 detonated a probable mine at the confluence of the Ham Luong and My Tho rivers. No damage or casualties resulted from this explosion in the close proximity of the YRBM. While transiting the Co Chien River on the morning of 11 July YFR-890 came under heavy recoilless rifle attack approximately 10 miles east of Vinh Long. The enemy scored an estimated 10 direct hits causing extensive superstructure damage and slightly wounding one crewman. Four rounds of mortar fire from an unknown source were received by the USS LITCHFIELD COUNTY (LST-981) during a transit of the Cua Tien River on the 15th. The closest round was 50 yards off the port beam. No damage or casualties resulted.

On the 19th watches on board YRB-18 heard automatic weapons fire from the vicinity of an outpost near the YRB anchorage in the Mekong River 17 miles west of My Tho. Responding to a request for mortar support from sub-sector authorities the enemy unit was taken under fire with 37 rounds of 81-mm mortar fire. Spots were provided by FBRs on the scene and the enemy fire was quickly suppressed. There were no friendly casualties and the enemy casualties were unknown.
The Navy villa and Vietnamese Navy RAG base at Vinh Long came under enemy mortar fire early on the 23rd. No damage or casualties resulted with the closest round hitting 150 feet from the Navy villa. Late on the 28th an RMK maintenance dredge moored to the west bank of the Kinh Xang Canal near the Dong Tam Basin was mined and sunk by enemy sappers.

Construction work for base development continued at NAVSUPPACT, Saigon and detachments as many projects neared completion. CLARINET SEAWARD projects were completed at Qui Nhon, An Thoi, and My Tho. Structural work was completed on new buildings for the expansion of facilities at Nha Be and Binh Thuy. Work on covers for battleship ammunition pads at Cam Ranh Bay was completed on four of eight pads. At Newport 24,000 square feet of open storage space was made available to NAVSUPPACT, Saigon and work was commenced on a security fence.

Resupply operations for MARKET TIME and GAMMA WARDEN bases was carried out by USS MARK (AKL 12), USS BRULE (AKL 28), YPR-889, YPR-890, YW-126 and LCM shuttles in the Delta. Logistic support for CTF 117 was provided by USS FLOYD COUNTY (LST 752) and USS LITCHFIELD COUNTY (LST 901). Overall NAVSUPPACT, Saigon surface craft carried 8,123 short tons of cargo during July. Supply effectiveness fell during the month to 68 percent gross and 82 percent net as compared with the previous record high levels of 77 and 89 percent set in June. Stock control records were converted to mechanized procedures on 25 July, employing an offset operation and utilizing the IBM 107 accounting machine. Delivery of packaged petroleum products within IV Corps was hampered by refusal of Army craft masters to deck load these
items on barges and tankers necessitating emergency lifts by NAVSUPPACT, Saigon air and surface assets.

Air operations during July carried 3,488 passengers and 249,652 pounds of cargo. On 1 July NAF, Cam Ranh Bay, Detachment Tan Son Nhut was activated and all pilots, flight crews and maintenance personnel were assigned to NAF, Cam Ranh Bay. Wing repairs to the C-117 damaged at Vung Tau in June were completed on 27 July.

On 31 July PBR 130 was launched at Binh Thuy and returned to River Section 511. This PBR had been over 80 percent damaged in enemy action on 5 May and was rebuilt through the efforts of repair personnel at NAVSUPPACT, Saigon, Binh Thuy Detachment. The extent of repairs required demonstrated the detachment's capability to build a PBR from scratch if necessary.

NAVSUPPACT, Saigon personnel strength at month's end was 2,982, an increase of seven since June.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

Sporadic enemy harassment was encountered by the 12 Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCB) during July. Construction activity was not significantly hampered by the scattered incidents which resulted in one Seabee killed and 10 wounded in action. The enemy activity consisted mainly of isolated minings, sniper fire, and rocket/mortar attacks on the quarries and camps.

On the morning of 10 July the NMCB-74 quarry detail was attacked twice by 81-mm mortar, RPG, and small arms fire. At approximately 1100 one Seabee received minor wounds in an attack 10.5 miles west of the Dong Ha Combat Base. At 1240 the enemy struck the detail again 11.5 miles west of the combat base wounding two Seabees, one of them seriously.

A detail from NMCB-58 detonated an enemy booby trap on the 20th. This incident, 4 miles west of Hoi An, resulted in wounds to three men. Two of these wounded men required evacuation. A mortar attack on the NMCB-58 camp at Camp Haskins on the 23rd caused the only Seabee fatality due to hostile action during July. Two 82-mm mortar rounds impacted in a camp at about 0100; two Seabees were wounded in addition to the man killed.

Other hostile incidents were reported by NMCB-1 at Danang and Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 301 at the Dong Ha Combat Base. This consisted of small arms harassment causing no personnel casualties and only minor damage. Work on the Danang barrier was interrupted.
several times by intermittent enemy action during July. A detail of
Seabees operating four bulldozers assisting the Seventh Engineers had
one man wounded and three bulldozers disabled by enemy mines during the
clearing operations.

Several significant construction projects reached completion during
the month. At Hoi An, the largest single Seabee construction effort in
Vietnam was completed when NMCB-58 finished the vertical work on 14
individual .75 acres making up the Korean 2nd Brigade Cantonment. More
than 47,000 man days were expended on construction of facilities for the
8,000-man Korean force. The entire Phu Bai airstrip was resurfaced with
AK2 matting. Work on the 5,600 by 60-foot airstrip was completed in just
51 hours with the field remaining in use for all but a 12-hour period
during one night. On 16 July an Ami pontoon bridge over the Perfume
River at Nam Hoa was dedicated after being completed two weeks ahead
of schedule. This 560-foot bridge is the second of its type completed
in Vietnam and forms a vital link in the lines of communication support-
ing the area.

The joint Navy, Army, Air Force, Vietnamese government refugee housing
project, Operation DONG TAM, neared completion during July. The Seabee
portion of this project includes housing for 675 refugee families made
homeless during Tet and May fighting in the Saigon area. A Dong Tam
dedication ceremony was held at Cholon on 27 July. Among those receiving
awards from Prime Minister Tran Van HUONG were Rear Admiral BARTLETT, the
NMCB-58 project officer, and the enlisted crew leader.

Steady progress continued on the road upgrade program during July. By
month's end the south Hue by-pass was ready for paving and soil cementing
of the Col Co Road was complete except for a one-mile single-lane portion.
Route 1 between Dong Ha and Quang Tri had received 2500 tons of asphaltic
concrete. Also on Route 1, a 600-foot timber bridge over the My Chan River
(Bridge No. 11) was opened to traffic. Work was started on reopening the
railroad between Danang and Hue when Seabees began repairs to the Truoi
River railroad bridge on 15 July. This is the first of four bridges
which will have spans raised and damaged sections repaired or replaced.

A definite improvement in the critical shortage of rock during July
was noted with increased production from Seabee crushers and the completion
of a 400-tons per hour crusher at the Black Rock Bay quarry near Danang.
The new crusher and another at the Freedom Hill quarry which will be
completed in early August were contractor projects with assistance from
Seabee detachments. A 75-ton per hour crusher was installed at Black
Road Bay by Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPPACT), Danang. It will crush
surge rock from the contractor operated site. To help relieve the rock
shortage, 24-hour a day operations began at all crusher sites except Cam
Lo where the road haul between the site and the river rock source remained
a security problem. Full production was hampered by chronic shovel
problems at Phu Loc and Nam Hoa and by equipment failures and enemy action
at Cam Lo. In addition the Nam Hoa crusher was shut down for 10 days in
order to make site improvements. The result was that rock supply improved, but still remained critical with 48,000 tons issued in the Danang area plus another 52,000 tons barged north.

Efforts to expand and improve the water system throughout I Corps moved well during the month. The temporary water system for Dong Ha was completed with the exception of tanks and purification units. The deep well at the Cam Lo rock crusher site was completed. A 12-inch water line from the Nam Hoa quarry to the Gia Le Combat Base was essentially completed. Remaining lines from Gia Le to Dong Ha, the third well, and treatment plant rehabilitation were near completion with the full system to be in operation by mid-August.

At Dong Ha NMCB-7 relieved NMCB-5 on 20 July. Earlier in the month on the 11th, NMCB-128 was relieved by NMCB-3 at Danang East. The THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment and supporting battalions were awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for exceptionally meritorious service in providing construction support in the Republic of Vietnam from 1 September 1966 to 31 July 1967. Battalions included in the citation were NMCB's 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 40, 58, 62, 71, 74, and 133.
Naval units continued this month to use all methods at their disposal to promote psychological operations. These methods included the use of an active airborne and waterborne broadcasting program and the more passive method of printed leaflets, magazines, and newspapers. The main themes utilized were Chieu Hoi, support of the GVN, volunteer informant program and the futility and falsity of the VC/NVA cause. This last theme stressed the points that the Hanoi regime was sacrificing lives for selfish political gain, conscripting children below the age of 14, and that the RVN and its allies have defeated the enemy in their every offensive. Also mentioned was the fact that the communists were attacking and killing innocent people and were destroying Vietnamese culture in their efforts to dominate SVN.

In the First Coastal Zone the exploitation of two ralliers brought a third by the end of June and the further exploitation of the three produced a fourth member of the same unit by the middle of July. The fourth raller stated that one of the primary factors of his decision was the multiple air and waterborne broadcasts and leaflet drops carried out in the three previous ralliers. Further exploitation of the fourth man was not possible at the time because his family remained in enemy territory.

On 11 July, two Hoi Chans turned in three CHICOM rifles and 33 rounds of ammunition to TF 116 personnel who were conducting a MEDCAP on Tam Phong Island about 6½ miles northeast of Vinh Long. On 24 July, an LSIL anchored outside of Dai Ngai on the Bassac River with a JUSPAO paywar entertainment
HML C. F. DAUPHINAIS of Patterson, N. J. examines a Vietnamese child while on MEDCAP in the hamlet of An Hoa. In the background, the team interpreter and a hamlet health worker screen patients.

The team aboard. Approximately 40 junks and sampans came alongside and a Yabuta was used to ferry people from the city to see the show. An estimated 500 people watched an elaborate show and listened to a Chieu Hoi appeal.

Coastal Group 36 base was given as the best contact point for prospective defectors and informants. The use of a VNN coastal group as a contact point is instrumental in increasing GVN image in an area.

During the month MEDCAPs treated 16,800 Vietnamese personnel. The MEDCAP program in the Delta was extended to the more remote areas.
A total of eight Hoi Chanhs rallied to naval units this month.

There are presently 15 Seabee teams operating as part of the Revolutionary Development Program. During this month in addition to their tasks of road improvements and reconstruction of buildings damaged during Tet or other combat operations, they were training 265 Vietnamese personnel in various construction skills. The corpsmen from these teams are deeply involved in the MEDCAP program and either examined or treated 10,000 patients during July. The value of the work of these teams is attested to by USAID's request that the number of teams be increased from the present 15 to 30. The feasibility of this request is presently being studied by CNO's office.
The Naval Support Activity at Danang reported on three civic action projects this month which show the increased interest of the Vietnamese people in joining U. S. forces to bring about a better life for themselves. In the first incident, a group of villagers at Xuong Binh village donated 90,000$VN to pay for labor to complete a drainage ditch for their village. The villagers felt they did not have the time to spare to work on the ditch themselves but they realized its importance to the future welfare of their community. Repairs to the An Hai Protestant School was the next example of Vietnamese-American cooperation. In an attempt to have the school completed by the beginning of the school year, the Vietnamese contributed many man hours and a good portion of the necessary materials to repair the school. The spirit and determination exhibited by the Vietnamese was due, to a great extent, to outstanding local leadership. The third project involved the filling and grading of the city dump which had become a breeding ground for disease and filth due to the lack of effort on anyone's part to keep it in proper condition and properly supervise the dumping of garbage. The Vietnamese have been enthusiastically participating in helping to relieve this common problem by supplying dump trucks and drivers, five from I Corps Headquarters and one from the city itself, to help haul fill into this area so that it can be properly graded. When this project is completed, it is expected that the amount of plague cases and other diseases among the Vietnamese living in this area will be greatly reduced.
The refugee hamlet of Bac Vinh, being built in the village of Suei Vinh by Cam Ranh Bay and Project TRIM personnel, appears to be a classic example of "helping the people to help themselves." Navy personnel run the concrete mixer to pour concrete foundations and the Vietnamese people build their houses on them. The first foundations were built almost entirely by Navymen but as the project progressed so did the Vietnamese participation. With eight of the 18 houses built the Vietnamese people are now doing about 80 percent of the work.

The elementary school built primarily for the dependent children of the Vietnamese Navy Recruit Training Command personnel at Cam Ranh Bay has been called the "best civic action project school yet built in Vietnam." The seven-room building came from a joint services project initiated and brought to completion by the United States and Vietnamese navies, with construction help from the U. S. Army. The new school replaced one that was poorly equipped, inadequately lighted, overcrowded and understaffed.

In the Fourth Riverine Area, significant civic action success resulted from VNN action to provide for people left homeless by a large fire in the city of Can Tho on 17 July. The homes of approximately 600 people were destroyed in the fire. The VNN cooperated with VNAF and the Catholic Relief Society to provide food and clothing for the needy. Within 24 hours, each family had received sufficient provisions to allow them to begin the task of reconstructing lives and property. The VNN also has completed a program of assistance to the elementary school in An Loc Thon village in Ba Xuyen.
Province. School books have been delivered to the village chief and preparations are underway to begin classes for 2,000 elementary school age children who have received no instruction for two years.

Young Vietnamese elementary school students line up for dedication ceremonies in front of their new seven-room school built by U. S. Navy, Army and Vietnamese Navy personnel.
SALVAGE OPERATIONS

A one-day salvage conference was held on 8 July on board USS AJAX (AR-6) to discuss salvage requirements for Mekong Delta operations as well as First Corps Tactical Zone operations. The conference was called by COMSERVPAC and was attended by representatives of COMSERVGRU THREE, COMNAVFORV and Harbor Clearance Unit ONE. Based upon existing and anticipated requirements, the following assignments of salvage assets were mutually agreed upon:

1. For operations in the river approaches to Saigon and for contingencies - two harbor clearance teams, one light lift craft and two medium lift craft.

2. For Mobile Riverine Force support - two combat salvage boats and one light lift craft (augmented as necessary with divers from a deployed harbor clearance team).

3. Salvage and offshore petroleum line maintenance in First Corps Tactical Zone will continue to be accomplished by USS COHOES (AN-78). COMNAVFORV will evaluate the capabilities of COHOES for the next three to 6 months to determine whether additional or different salvage assets will be required. When COHOES requires upkeep or is otherwise out of the country, the standby AHS of TF 73 will be utilized, as needed, for offshore petroleum line support.

Salvage Operations in First Corps Tactical Zone

Aside from the continuing periodic requirement to repair the POL lines operating at Chu Lai and Wunder Beach (Thon My Thuy), which was accomplished
in July by USS GRASP (ARS 21), most of the salvage work in First Corps Tactical Zone was done on the Perfume and Cua Viet rivers by Light Lift Craft TWO and USS COHOES.

The YLLC-2 began the month by removing the stern section of TFU-12 from the Perfume River; it had been a navigational obstruction. On completion of that job, YLLC-2 proceeded up the coast on 13 July to Cua Viet. The following day YLLC-2 divers removed the forward section of an LCM-8 which was needed by the Vietnamese Navy to repair one their damaged LCM-8's. Explosives were used to cut the bow section from the remainder of the hull. The bow section was then taken to NSAD, and on 15 July, YLLC-2 assisted in loading it onto a barge. The remaining LCM-8 wreckage was not a hazard to navigation and was left in place. On the 15th, YLLC-2 assisted Marines in retrieving a sunken LVT from the river. The busy craft also recovered a sunken "otter", located an anchor and chain and secured it to a mooring buoy.

At the request of COMNAVSUPPACT Danang, USS GRASP, assisted by YLLC-2, which had just returned from Cua Viet, began the work of refloating a construction rock barge chartered by MSTSU Danang and which had sunk in Tan My Cove. The barge was nearly vertical since it was supported on one side by an adjacent barge, wedging it between the bottom and the other barge. After patching holes and pumping on the 23rd, the barge gradually lightened and on the 24th, small river tugs were able to parbuckle it free of the adjacent barge and it refloated. After pumping it dry, the barge was
towed to shallow water.

COHOES arrived at Cua Viet the morning of 6 July. The first salvage project was an LVT which had sunk and was nearly buried in the sand on the river bottom. The LVT was partially lifted on 9 July but the awkward position COHOES was required to be in and the 60-90 ton weight of the lift set COHOES into the sand, making it impossible to retract to deeper water. Since the tide was ebbing, the LVT was set back down and COHOES disconnected for the night. The next day, the Marines requested to attempt a shore recovery and this was agreed on. As they made their preparations, COHOES searched for and found a sunken PCF in the channel entrance. Looking for other wrecks, COHOES found an LCM-6 on the 11th, rigged lifting slings on it, positioned over the sunken craft and raised it the next day. The LCM-6 was dewatered and turned over to a local craft for tow to Cua Viet harbor.

On 13 July, the Marines put four LVT's in tandem to a tow line which COHOES divers attached to the sunken LVT which had been partially raised out of the sand by COHOES on the 9th. The four LVT's succeeded in pulling the sunken LVT onto the shore.

Also on the 13th, COHOES made a three point moor over a sunken workboat that belonged to USS BOLSTER (ARS 38). It was bottom up, and nearly covered with sand. Divers began the chore of washing away the sand with saloon nozzles operating off COHOES fire main pump. Heavy wind and current hampered efforts to wash away the sand. On the 16th, after making
little headway with the nozzles, eductors were rigged as suction lifts to remove the sand. The new method worked with great success. The boat was righted later in the afternoon. Early the next morning, lifting slings and straps were rigged and the boat was lifted to the surface, drained and pumped dry, and then placed on the forecastle of COHOES. On the 18th, COHOES turned the boat over to Naval Support Activity, Danang, and returned to Cua Viet on 20 July.

The next project was the removal of the hulk of PCF 14 from the channel to permit dredging operations which were scheduled to begin in a few days by the dredge SWELL MASTER. After making a three point moor over the craft, COHOES again used eductors to clear the sand away from the wreck. The strong currents and poor holding ground required COHOES to remove several times during the day. That night, the area came under artillery attack and the ship moved out to sea. The next morning it was decided to blast the PCF. With 750 pounds of C-4 explosive hose charges and blocks placed on, in and around the hull and detonated, the PCF was reduced to small sections. COHOES returned and moored over the debris the following morning, 22 July, and began picking up the pieces. Early that afternoon, YOG-31 went hard aground only 100 yards off the COHOES port bow. Since she was already using her 8,000-pound Eells anchor, COHOES passed a 1 5/8-inch wire to the YOG, connected it up to the four-fold 5/8-inch beach gear, and began pulling. Only 59 minutes after the grounding, the YOG was clear, and COHOES divers went back to work picking up PCF pieces.
At 0900 on the 23rd, COHOES, continuing work on the PCF, was fired upon by enemy rockets. While recovering her three-point moor, more rockets came in and as she departed the sixth rocket landed in her former position. Salvage operations were secured for the rest of the day. The next day operations continued until heavy weather forced COHOES out to sea again. By then, about 50 percent of the PCF had been removed. Work could not resume until the 27th and even then was hampered by the high wind and sea conditions. On the 29th it was estimated that 70 percent of the wreckage had been recovered. Enemy rockets again forced COHOES to get underway on the 30th, but not before it was determined that it would be necessary to use more demolition and remove more sand in order to reach the last remaining sections of the PCF. At month's end it was estimated that only a few days would be required to complete the job.

Salvage Operations in Fourth Corps Tactical Zone

On 13 July two armored troop carriers (ATC), which were engaged in operations on the Ba Dai Stream two miles east of Cai Be, were damaged by underwater explosions shortly after beaching on the banks of the stream. The first ATC, T-131-8, took an explosion beneath the engine room, resulting in the flooding of the space. The second ATC, T-131-13, received an 18-inch hole in the lazaret. Salvage work began immediately and defensive perimeters were established by troops of the 1/39th Infantry Battalion. Combat Salvage Boat THREE, divers from USS SPHINX (ARL 24), with damage control equipment from USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST 1170) patched and successfully refloated the
damaged ATC's, which were subsequently towed to the repair facility at Dong Tam.

A U.S. Army leased gravel barge designated the LC-86 sank alongside the Vinh Long sea wall in about 12 feet of water on 16 July, blocking the use of that section of the sea wall for cargo handling. The barge was loaded with about 200 tons of rock. It apparently touched bottom, then slid away from the sea wall and down the river bank at an angle during an extreme low tide, causing flooding over hold coamings along the outboard side as the tide began rising.

Harbor Clearance Team FIVE divers flew to the site on 20 July to survey the barge, returning to Vung Tau that afternoon. The survey indicated that the barge was intact. There was a wire rope under a strain, from the sea wall to the port quarter of the barge, which was countering a tendency for the barge to slide into deeper water. Soundings only 100 feet from the sea wall indicated a river depth of over 60 feet. Army personnel familiar with the barge informed the Navy that the poor material condition of the barge did not justify the time and effort required to raise it, consequently it was decided to slide or parbuckle it into deeper water and abandon it. At first light on 24 July ULC-1, with HCT-5 personnel embarked, sailed from Vung Tau for Vinh Long, arriving the evening of the 25th.

The following day compartments at the after end of the barge were pumped but only about 60 percent of the water could be removed because of the deteriorated condition of the deck and bulkheads. That afternoon