gun and one haversack with personal equipment.

Underway at 232030H and returned at 240930H. Four VC were killed (body count), two wounded, and one captured. One sampan was destroyed, one sampan captured and five kilos of documents captured. The wounded were taken to Qui Nhon POW hospital after initial interrogation.

- **24-July**: Underway at 242000H and returned at 250530H with negative contact.
- **25-July**: No operations scheduled.
- **26-July**: Underway at 262000H and returned at 270500H. One VC was killed (body count) and five documents captured. Initial readout of documents indicates the VC killed was a Commo Liaison Courier.
- **27-July**: Underway at 272000H and returned at 280730H with negative contact. Operation hampered by ROK operations in upper Qui Nhon harbor area.
- **28-July**: Underway at 282000H and returned at 300630 with negative enemy contact.

This special operation netted eight VC killed (body count), three VC killed (probable), three VC wounded and five VC captured. Five bunkers and three sampans were destroyed. Two twenty foot sampans heavily loaded with supplies for local VC units were also destroyed. Two sampans were captured along with one AK-47, one 9mm machine gun, two hand grenades, and seven kilos of documents. Based on the results of the interrogation of
prisoners captured 23 July, the ROK Tiger Division made a sweep of a Viet Cong base camp which resulted in nine enemy killed and one captured. The documents also revealed that the supplies destroyed on 23 July were en route to units south of Qui Nhon that had been short of food for over a month.

On the evening of 24 July, a U.S. Army PBR 40 from Vung Tau Bay requested assistance from PCF 64. PBR 40 had detained three Vietnamese in a sampan who were acting suspicious and had over 9000 piasters in their possession which they were trying to hide. One of the detainees had been caught in June attempting to haul something out of the water which was believed to be a cache, but it was not recovered due to the extreme depth of the water. The sampan, which had a false bottom, was detained in a restricted zone. The three detainees were transferred to PCF 64 and the sampan taken in tow. En route to Tuy Hoa the tow line sheared and the sampan flooded and sank. After a thorough search the PCF was unable to recover the sampan or any floatsam. The detainees were turned over to the Tuy Hoa Sector representative for disposition.

Early on the morning of 25 July, the PT ORIENT, PT GLOVER, and USCGC KLAMATH (WHEC 66) provided support for special operations by an Army 173rd Airborne Brigade Team on the Song Lai Giang, about forty miles north of Qui Nhon (BR 975965). During the initial insertion, the WPB's small boats were swamped by heavy surf and the motors became inoperative and they were towed seaward and brought
aboard the PT ORIENT. Shortly after insertion the troops came
under heavy enemy fire and requested emergency NGFS and extraction.
The enemy fire was quickly suppressed and the troops extracted.
The troops were inserted about one mile further north utilizing
the USCGC Klamath's small boat with no further contact being made.
There were two Viet Cong killed and no friendly casualties. Results
of the NGFS are unknown.
OPERATIONS IN THE SECOND COASTAL ZONE

A. PCF 91 - 16 July
B. IUWG - 1 Ops - 17-30 July
C. PCF 64 - 24 July
D. Special Ops - 25 July
There were over 100 naval gunfire missions carried out during July by Third Coastal Zone units, mostly against targets of opportunity, in response to requests for naval gunfire support or in preplanned river and canal incursions. As a result of these missions, 16 VC were killed (6 body count and 10 probable). There were 157 structures and 128 watercraft destroyed. In addition, 318 structures and 13 watercraft were heavily damaged, and 9 secondary fires were ignited.

Surveillance operations reflected a decrease in indigenous coastal traffic with 5,287 detections of watercraft. Patrol effectiveness remained high with 2,850 inspections and another 1,307 boardings of detected craft. There was only one incident of evading craft while six craft were detained along with 64 personnel.

On the evening of 3 July, PCF's 53 and 54 responded to an urgent request from PSA Long Phu for naval gunfire support on the Bassac River about 30 miles southeast of Can Tho (XK 228 751). The target was a VC building complex where approximately 100 Viet Cong were massing for an attack on a nearby SVN outpost. The PCF's saturated the area with 81mm mortars, but due to heavy foliage, no CDA was observed; however, the attack on the friendly outpost did not materialize.

Early on the morning of 4 July, PCF's 53 and 54 provided a covering and blocking force while 50 PRU's from Long Phu were inserted by Coastal Group 36 off a canal along the Bassac River about 31 miles
southeast of Can Tho (XR 215 730). After proceeding about one mile
to the southeast, the troops captured three Viet Cong guerrillas. The
troops were extracted about four hours later without further contact with the
enemy. There were no friendly casualties.

On 4 July, the USCGC MENDOTA (WHEC 69) scored heavily against the
enemy with her five inch guns destroying six structures and five water
craft and heavily damaging 24 structures. The gunfire support mission
was requested and spotted by IV Corps spotter and the target was a
known VC base area about 70 miles southeast of Sa Dec (XR 672 600).

On the afternoon of 7 July, PCF 17 observed a junk ablaze near the
mouth of the Bassac River, 43 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 3168). Upon
approaching the junk, a woman on the bow was trying to extinguish
the flames while three children were on the stern. Due to the intensity
of the fire, the "Swift" boat was unable to immediately extinguish the
fire and proceeded to rescue the people on board. While taking the
children on board, the woman jumped into the water and started swimming
toward the PCF, but the strong current dragged her under, and she was
drowned. PCF 54 was then called to the scene, and after an hour and
a half, the fire was finally extinguished. The junk was totally consumed
by the fire except for the hull. The crew stated that the junk appar-
etly contained a large quantity of gasoline and oil. PCF 17 then towed
the hull out of the Bassac River where it and the occupants were taken
under tow by an accompanying junk.

On the afternoon of 21 July, the USCGC TANEY (WHEC-37) conducted
a gunfire support mission about 26 miles northeast of Old Nam Can
(WQ 4799). Firing at a range of over 11,000 yards, the five inch guns
of the MTB accounted for seven Viet Cong killed (probable) and 13 structures and 9 watercraft destroyed. In addition, eight structures and two sampans were damaged.

Again on 22 July, the TANEY fired on a VC supply camp and bunker and storage area about 16 miles northeast of Old Nam Can (VR 5307). The mission was requested and spotted by the naval gunfire support advisory team 20 and resulted in seven structures and five craft destroyed and nine structures heavily damaged. In addition, there were three POL and two ammunition secondary explosions.
OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE

A. PCF 53 & PCF 54 - 3 July
B. PCF 53 & PCF 54 - 4 July
C. USCGC MENDOTA (WHEC) - 4 July
D. PCF 17 - 7 July
E. USCGC TANEY (WHEC-37) - 21 July
F. USCGC TANEY (WHEC-37) - 22 July

SCALE:

0 — 30 Nautical Miles
The current success of operation Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III, which commenced on 27 June, indicates it's life span will not be short.

Market Time units committed to Sea Float operations included eight PCP's, a SEAL team, and an EOD team supported by Seawolves, helo and OV-10 aircraft. During July more than 70 psyops patrols were conducted utilizing from two to five PCP's. Several airborne psyops missions were conducted in areas inaccessible to the Swift boats. In addition to the psyops patrols, "Swifts" conducted waterborne guardpost operations, inserted SEAL's, EOD teams, RF and MFF troops, provided escort service for logistic craft along the Bo De and Cua Long Rivers and continued Sea Lords operations in areas adjacent to Sea Float. The PCP's have been ambushed four out of every five times they go out on patrol. Although the Mobile Advance Tactical Support Base is within easy range of Viet Cong rockets and small arms fire, it has not been attacked. The reason is not entirely clear, but it is the deterrent factor is the firepower on Sea Float.

On 16 July, two ami pontoons were anchored opposite Sea Float on the north bank of the Song Cua Long (VQ 992 675) to permit sampans to tie up and receive the interview portion of the visitors' psyops briefing thereby eliminating the possibility of a sampan mining the MATSB. On 25 July, PT FOXROT was designated a Sea Float Annex and is located six miles northeast of Seafloat (WQ 085 710) on the Song Cua Long to continue the psyops extension.

Although holding off any shooting action, the VC have been quick with a propaganda campaign against operation Sea Float. Just about everyday,
leaflets are attached to tiny log rafts and dumped upstream to float by the MATSB. Printed in both English and Vietnamese, the leaflets called for an end to "U.S. Aggressive War" and warned that the Viet Cong would "Blast the American Navy out of the water". Banners along the riverbank in Viet Cong controlled areas have been found and read, "American and Vietnamese soldiers who come here will die" and "We kill Americans". In addition, Hanoi Hannah in her daily radio broadcast on 15 July stated that Sea Float would be at the bottom of the Song Cua Lon at 172359H July 1969. However, at month's end, Sea Float also had a record day with 348 visitors. By month's end, visitors to the annex were starting to give more information on VC extortion activities.

As a result of information received from the visitors, the "Swift" boats and Seawolves strike the extortion areas often destroying barricades set up by the VC to stop the flow of traffic on the canals. In addition, harassment and interdiction fire is fired nightly in the vicinity of the MATSB into known VC base and extortion areas.

CDR Paul A. Yost, USCG, relieved CDR Charles M. Plumly, USN, as Commander of Sea Float (CTG 115.7) on 5 July. On 28 July, CDR T. R. Emery, USN, the prospective Commander of Sea Float arrived at MATSB.

On 6 July, Sea Float was visited by the Deputy Corps IV Corps, PSA Ca Mau and ĐSÄ Nam Can and discussed pacification and bank security.

The Province Chief, PSA Province Police Chief and staff of seven visited Sea Float on 15 July and brought three Kit Carson scouts for Sea Float.

The Province Chief was disturbed by Sea Float's rules of engagement stating that all people south of Sea Float are VC and should be fired at on sight and not psyopsed.

On 28 July, Gen. William B. Rosson, USA, Deputy Commander, U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, VADM Elmo R. Zumwalt, USN, MGen. Roderick Wetherill, USA, Commanding General, Delta Military Assistance Command, visited Sea Float and were briefed on Sea Float defense and operations. Gen. Rosson questioned the objectives of Sea Float versus risk. VADM Zumwalt explained the objective and indicated that a two or three month period would be required to properly evaluate results of the operation, and he also pointed out that the actual risks were not excessive. All agreed that troops would be a welcome addition to Sea Float. VADM Zumwalt emphasized that Sea Float forces were to work with Song Ong Doc and Nam Can troops regardless of their willingness to work the Sea Float AO.

On 13 July, COMNAVFORV approved a plan to recruit and train 50 Kit Carson scouts (KCS) in coordination with PSA An Xuyen and DEP Cords MACV for employment with Sea Float forces. Kit Carson scouts are former Viet Cong who have come over to the side of the Saigon government and serve with allied military units. Utilizing housing materials provided by Sea Float, the KCS will build their own houses and eventually settle in Old Nam Can. Until the housing is completed,
the scouts and their families, estimated to be about 200 persons, will be housed and fed at Sea Float. As of 30 July, 15 KCS had been recruited and reported to Sea Float for training and more are forthcoming in the immediate future.
Market Time Units

Patrol aircraft detachments from six Navy patrol squadrons manned the Market Time Air Barrier patrols during July. Patrol Squadron SIX (VP-6) operated out of U-Tapao, Thailand. Detachments from VP-2, VP-40, VP-9, VP-28, and VP-50 operated from Cam Ranh Bay.

The Vietnamese Navy assumed patrol responsibilities for the Fourth Coastal Zone on 1 June 1969, and their statistics are provided under the VNN portion of the history. On 1 July, Yabuta Junks of Coastal Group 21 commenced patrol of area 3E from CR 120 500 to CR 165 350.

On 6 July, Operation Double Shift was executed where 16 PCP's were chopped to CTF 116 for employment in the lower Mekong and Bassac Rivers. Four PCP's were returned to CTF 115 on 25 July and four more on 26 July.
The following SEVENTH Fleet ships operated in Market Time during the month of July.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHIP</th>
<th>DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USS PLUCK (HSC 464)</td>
<td>1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS GALLUP (PG 85)</td>
<td>2-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS CONFLICT (MSC 426)</td>
<td>1-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCGC SPEICER (HEEC 36)</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS MIDGEON (MSC 208)</td>
<td>1-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCGC KIAMAHT (HEEC 66)</td>
<td>9-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS ENDURANCE (HSC 435)</td>
<td>1-8, 11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCGC MENDOTA (HEEC 69)</td>
<td>1-12, 19-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS PLEDGE (HSC 432)</td>
<td>9-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCGC TANZ (HEEC 37)</td>
<td>13-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS WOODPECKER (MSC 209)</td>
<td>23-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS CROCKETT (PG 88)</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS ASHEVILLE (PG 84)</td>
<td>17-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS MASHOE CITY (LST 1165)</td>
<td>20-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCGC SEBAGO (HEEC 12)</td>
<td>1-19, 29-31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY
July 1969

1. U.S. Ships/Craft:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DER</th>
<th>NSO</th>
<th>MSC</th>
<th>WPB</th>
<th>PCF</th>
<th>LST</th>
<th>FO</th>
<th>WHOE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Daily average number of craft on patrol

2. Average number of VNN ships/junks employed during month:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEA FORCE</th>
<th>RIVER FORCE</th>
<th>COASTAL FORCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. U.S. Activity

TOTAL DETECTED

WOOD - DAY 27,376
STEEL- DAY 377

NIGHT 40,678
STEEL- NIGHT 371

TOTAL INSPECTED

WOOD - DAY 13,358
STEEL- DAY 251

NIGHT 21,160
STEEL- NIGHT 260

TOTAL BOARDED

WOOD - DAY 8,327
STEEL- DAY 16

NIGHT 5,414
STEEL- NIGHT 12

TOTAL DETAINED

JUNKS 245
PERSONS 1,426 (26 VC suspects)

4. VNN Activity:

JUNKS SEARCHED 64,449
JUNKS DETAINED 245

PERSONS SEARCHED 269,176
PERSONS DETAINED 864

5. Naval Gunfire:

TOTAL MISSIONS 706 (Includes 60 cases of hostile fire suppression and 31 evading craft taken under fire)

ENEMY CASUALTIES

57 killed plus 64 probable
19 wounded

ENEMY MATERIAL LOSSES

397 junks or sampans destroyed
25 junks or sampans damaged

271 structures destroyed
187 structures damaged
Operation Stable Door

During July all Stable Door units maintained active patrols in their areas of responsibility. During the first part of the month, units of Inshore Undersea Warfare Groups were involved in the training, updating, and familiarization of newly assigned personnel with Stable Door equipment and operating procedures. Patrol units continued to support ground operations with blocking patrols and landing of reconnaissance patrols. Surveillance results included a total of 53,317 detections. Inspections and boardings led to the detention of 47 junks and 136 personnel.

Operations by Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit CN/E/SD 1 (IUWU-1) remained routine during July. No suspicious activity was noted in the harbor of Vung Tau where harbor activity averaged 12 ships per day in port. Operations by IUWU-1 at Vung Tau resulted in the detention of 12 persons for improper identification papers, curfew violations and suspicious activities. In addition, two sampans were detained. On 16 July, Stable Door EOD personnel answered a call from the U. S. Army 184th EOD Team who reported an unknown object jettisoned in the Vung Ro Bay main channel. A circular line search was conducted with negative results.

At Cam Ranh Bay, a total of 144 persons and 16 water craft were detained by IUWU-2 operations. The EOD Team 36 inspected 199 ships at anchor, all with negative results. The daily number of ships in the harbor was 0. On 17 July, a Vietnamese water taxi with 21 persons on board was stopped, boarded, and searched. Two Vietnamese females
were detained for possessing 800 pounds of unmanifested flour and turned over to the Naval Support Activity, Cam Ranh Bay for disposition.

During July, IUWU-3 detained 18 persons and two watercraft for improper identification, curfew violations or suspicious activity. EOD Team 34 inspected 243 ships in Qui Nhon harbor with no suspicious activity noted. The harbor activity averaged 11 ships per day in port.

In the harbor of Nha Trang, there was an average of 7 ships per day in port. The IUWU-4 continued routine operations during July detaining 62 persons and 29 watercraft for suspicious activity, curfew violations or improper identification. EOD Team 37 inspected a total of 154 ships at anchor in Nha Trang harbor, all with negative results.

In the afternoon of 23 July, a 10 year old Vietnamese boy requested assistance from IUWU-4. Accompanying the boy to an area used by ARVN personnel as a firing range, they found seven Vietnamese boys with serious injuries. The boys were medevaced to the 8th Field Hospital for treatment. An Air Force EOD Team discovered that the boys had found a LAW (Light Anti-tank Weapon) rocket which exploded after they hit it with a rock.
RIVER PATROL FORCE (GAME WARDEN)
RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY

The River Patrol Force continued their resources and population control activities throughout the Mekong Delta, Rung Sat Special Zone, and along the Upper Saigon River from a point south of Phu Cuong north-west to Dau Tieng (1°16′50″ to 1°48′36″) during the month of July. Additionally, a majority of the FRB’s assigned (120 out of 220) were engaged in the support of the current SEA LORDS Campaigns - Giant Slingshot, Barrier Reef, Tran Hung Dao, and the newly instituted Mang Thit-Nicolai Canal and Cho Go Canal Operations. The Search Turn Campaign in the Rach Gia area of Kien Giang Province came under the operational control of CTF 116 throughout the month. The expansion and intensification of the SEA LORDS Campaigns as indicated by the above mentioned operations and Operation “Double Shift,” which required the relocation of four river divisions from the Game Warden area to the Tay Ninh area in response to a threat to that III Corps city, necessitated the transfer of 16 PCF’s on 9 July to the operational control of CTF 116. To maintain the proper coverage of the vital Delta rivers, eight of the PCF’s assumed TÜ 116.1.2 for operations on the Bassac River, four assumed TÜ 116.3.2 staging out of Sa Dec, and the remaining four assumed TÜ 116.3.3 staging out of My Tho. The PCF’s reverted to the operational control of CTF 115 on 25 and 26 July with the return of the FRB’s from Operation “Double Shift.”

Game Warden aircraft assets at the end of the month were 30 helicopters deployed as follows: Detachment ONE (two helos) aboard the USS KASHOE COUNTY (LST-1165) supporting TF 115 forces in Operation

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years
Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III in the Lower Cau Mau Peninsula, Detachment TWO (four helos) at Nha Be, Detachment THREE (two helos) aboard the USS HUTTERDGH COUNTY (LST-836) in the area of Chau Doc, Detachment FOUR (two helos) at Ben Luc on the Van Co Dong River, Detachment FIVE (two helos) aboard YREH-16 on the Upper Bassac River southeast of Chau Doc, Detachment SIX (two helos) aboard the USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST-816) on the Upper Co Chien River East of Vinh Long, Detachment SEVEN (two helos) at Tay Ninh on the Upper Van Co Dong River, Detachment EIGHT (two helos) at Binh Thuy on the Middle Bassac River, and a maintenance pool of 12 helos at Binh Thuy. The 13 CV-10A aircraft were deployed as follows: Detachment A (5 planes) at VNAF, Binh Thuy; Detachment B (5 planes) at Vung Tau, and a maintenance pool of three aircraft at Binh Thuy.

Employment of the various waterborne and airborne assets available to the River Patrol Force included missions involving resources and population control, nighttime waterborne ambushes, transportation and support of Vietnamese Regional and Popular Force troops, support of SEAL and PRU (Provincial Reconnaissance Unit) operations, daily chain drag sweeps of the Long Tau shipping channel, canal incursions for waterborne traffic inspection, distribution of Psyops material, intelligence gathering and general familiarization, Medcaps, transportation and support of small group U. S. Army operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone (Chuong Dong 30-69, 30A-69, and 31-69) to thwart enemy attempts to harass allied shipping on the Long Tau River. The effectiveness of these operations is indicated by the fact that only one such attack occurred this month.
Patrol activity for the River Patrol Force waterborne and airborne assets during July is shown below:

**WATERBORNE PATROLS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TF 116 TAOR</th>
<th>TF 194 TAOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TWO BOAT PATROLS</td>
<td>1391</td>
<td>1483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETECTIONS</td>
<td>79,604</td>
<td>93,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INSPECTIONS</td>
<td>23,196</td>
<td>23,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOARDINGS</td>
<td>34,078</td>
<td>14,079</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AIRBORNE** (Hours Flown)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TF 116 TAOR</th>
<th>TF 194 TAOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UH-1B / OV-10 UH-1B / OV-10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREPLANNED STRIKES</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REACTION STRIKES</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>67.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPPORT MISSIONS</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>141.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>82</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL FLIGHT HOURS IN COMBAT MISSIONS - 957.5
A two plane formation of CV-10's enroute on combat patrol in the
Hekong Delta.
Two OV-10A's of TU 116.4.8 placed a strike on two evading sampans approximately 11 miles southwest of Phu Vinh in the early morning hours of 3 July. The strike resulted in one sampan destroyed and one damaged. Enemy personnel casualties were listed as five probably killed. No return fire was received from the sampans and there were no U.S. casualties.

In the early evening of 6 July as PBR's 755 and 841 were returning to Tra Be Navy Base, they came under enemy B-40 and automatic weapons fire from both banks of the Dong Tranh River about nine miles southeast of the base (YS 073 777). Three rocket rounds were fired from the east bank of the river. Two impacted in the water, and the third hit PBR 841 resulting in one Navy man killed, one U.S. Marine wounded, and two Vietnamese wounded. The PBR's immediately returned the fire to both banks, and a Navy LHIT was scrambled to assist and medevac the wounded. A regional force company and troops of the 5th Mobile Strike Force operating in the vicinity made a sweep of the area but made no contact with the enemy.

While in waterborne ambush on the night of 7 July, the cover boat of a two boat patrol sighted two sampans with seven occupants traveling east on the north bank of the Upper Saigon River about 7½ miles northwest of Phu Cuong (KT 706 211). The PBR's illuminated the area and took the camouflaged sampans and occupants under fire. The enemy did not return the fire, and when the partially submerged sampans were checked by the PBR's, all the occupants were dead. The sampans were subsequently destroyed. There were no U.S. casualties.
In the hour before noon of 8 July, the OV-10 Bronco aircraft of TU 116.4.8 were called upon to support friendly ground units in contact with an estimated two platoons of VC approximately nine miles northeast of Soc Trang (XR 181 710). As the enemy retreated, they were effectively trapped in an open fire between large canals on two sides. Air strikes were placed on the enemy throughout their retreat, and in their final position, heavy automatic weapons fire was received from the enemy positions during the engagement. Results of the air strikes were 20 VC probably killed and eight structures destroyed and an additional 11 damaged. There were no Navy casualties.

In a four hour operation on the night of 10 July which took place in an area 9 to 18 miles northwest of Rach Gia, Broncos of TU 116.4.8 in conjunction with PBR’s of RIVDIV 553 were responsible for the detention of 65 personnel, 12 VC killed and 10 others probably killed, and the destruction of six sampans. Beginning at 1829 an OV-10A sighted nine sampans (VS 991 162) and reported their location to PBR’s in the vicinity which were enroute to regular patrol stations. The PBR’s searched the sampans and detained all their occupants for lack of ID cards and having military boots on board. Additional sampans were sighted by the Broncos approximately 15 minutes later (VS 856 173), and after receiving sector clearance, they were taken under fire. Ten minutes later, the Black Ponies spotted additional sampans (VS 838 210) and likewise took them under fire after receiving appropriate clearance. The PBR’s verified the body count on the sampan attacks as 12. A junk signaling two sampans that had evaded the air strikes was subsequently intercepted by a VNN PCC from Hon Tre Island and was found
to contain nothing suspicious. There were no friendly casualties during these attacks.

The Black Ponies were once again called upon to go to the aid of friendly ground forces pinned down by enemy fire just before noon on 12 July. The incident took place 15 miles southeast of Ha Tien (VS 595 283). While delivering their strikes, the aircraft encountered heavy automatic weapons fire. The results of the mission were 15 of the enemy probably killed and two large and two small secondary explosions observed.

While providing overhead cover for a combined operation mid-afternoon of 12 July, Seawolves of TV 116.3.8 placed strikes on an enemy grenade factory eight miles southeast of Thanh Phu (XR 755 899). The helos received no return fire from the enemy positions and accounted for four of the enemy killed, 31 sampans destroyed, four structures and one bunker destroyed. There were no Navy casualties.

In the pre-dawn hours of 13 July, PBR's of TE 116.9.1.3X in a waterborne ambush position sighted a sampan with six occupants on the Upper Saigon River seven miles northwest of Phu Cuong (XT 714 210). The sampan was traveling west along the south bank of the river and was taken under fire at a range of ten feet. The sampan was destroyed and five of the occupants were definitely killed and the other one is presumed killed. A small amount of food was recovered from the area. There were no U. S. casualties.

On the afternoon of 16 July, PBR's of TU 116.3.5 were involved in an enemy initiated firefight three miles south of Cai Nhun on the Mang Thit River (XS 215 200). The boats came under heavy automatic weapons
and B-40 fire. One PBR sustained a B-40 hit on the starboard side. Seawolves and Broncos were scrambled to assist and placed strikes in the area. Friendly personnel casualties were one USN dead of wounds and four others wounded. Enemy casualties were limited to four structures destroyed and ten others damaged by the air strikes.

Responding to a sensor activation during a routine patrol on the night of 19 July, two Broncos of TU 116.4.8 came under enemy fire about 11 miles southwest of Chau Doc (VS 995 750) as they approached the site. It is believed that both pilots of the wing plane were incapacitated by the fire since the plane began a 10° dive and crashed and exploded on a nearby mountain. Transmissions from the diving aircraft were not received and ejection attempts were not observed. Subsequent SAR action by air and ground parties found small pieces of wreckage and additional evidence of fatality to warrant termination of the search. Both pilots were presumed killed.

Shortly after sunset on the 20th of July, six PBR's in night waterborne ambush positions sighted 25-30 VC attempting to swim across the Upper Saigon River approximately 16 miles northwest of Phu Cuong (XT 621 317). The PBR's broke their position and took the swimmers under fire and killed eight of them and captured two grenades, 50 pounds of rice, and a pound of documents. The enemy had not returned the boats' fire, and there were no U. S. casualties.

Broncos on routine patrol on the evening of 24 July took three evading sampans under fire 8½ miles northwest of Rach Gia (VS 990 166). The first sampan with two occupants took a direct hit with a 5" rocket and disappeared. The second, containing three people, was hit by 20mm
fire and disintegrated. The bodies were observed floating in the water. The third sampan with one man in it was shattered and going in circles after the first firing run and was hit a second time and sunk. Total enemy casualties were six killed and three sampans destroyed. There were no U.S. casualties.

Broncos were called upon again on 29 July to take evading sampans under fire in the same area as the preceding incident (VS 990 164). Four sampans were taken under fire resulting in two destroyed, two damaged, and five of the enemy probably killed. There were no U.S. casualties.

Seawolves in the Rung Sat Special Zone attacked five enemy sampans on the morning of 30 July 11 miles east of Nha Be (YS 206 760). Four of the sampans were destroyed, and the remaining one was damaged. Enemy personnel casualties were seven killed and two others probably killed. Once again there were no U.S. casualties.

Game Warden SEAL Operation

In the early morning hours of 2 July, five SEALs and one LDNN were inserted by LCM at a point approximately nine miles southwest of My Tho (XS 355 412). They patrolled north and set a trail ambush but broke the ambush when warning shots were heard. They patrolled farther north and stopped at a hootch where they questioned an old man about VC in the area. He indicated that the enemy were to the immediate north. To substantiate his information, they stopped at another hootch and questioned the woman occupant who at first said that ARVN troops were in the area but later admitted that VC were in the area. Going
back to the original hooch, they once again talked to the old man
when a VC walked down the trail, saw the SEALS and attempted to evade.
The evadee was taken under fire and killed. An additional man was
taken under fire and listed as probably killed. One AK-47 was found
in the area, and four males were noted at about 40 meters up the trail
as the SEALS extracted at 0730. There were no friendly casualties.

As SEALS returned from an operation which resulted in negative con-
tact on the evening of 10 July 15% miles southwest of My Tho (XS 249 396),
they spotted an unlighted sampan on the river which appeared to evade
after being hailed. The sampan was overtaken, and its two occupants
detained after a search of the sampan revealed a large quantity of goods,
both civil and military, that appeared to be headed for the black market.
After being questioned at NSA My Tho, the detainees were released when
it was determined that the goods had been given to them by Americans
earlier in the day. All goods, however, were confiscated. Included
in the haul were Navy raincoats, windbreakers, jungle boots, mail bags,
foot lockers, two cases of coke, and two cases of beer.

In a series of raids as part of Operation Ranger, SEALS of Detach-
ment Alpha, 6th Platoon, "A" Squad, joined with PRU's, Seawolves, and
the 11th and 121st Army Aviation Companies in attacking a group of
objectives approximately 27 miles south southwest of Ben Tre (XR 780 785)
during the period 10 through 13 July. The principal objective was a
prisoner of war camp in the Than Phu sector of Kien Hoa province. The
camp was finally located on 12 July (XR 764 907). As a result of these
raids, 25 VC were killed, 70 bunkers or hootches were destroyed, 79
sampans were destroyed, 14 VC were captured, and 15 detainees were taken
into custody and six proved to be VC. A grenade factory with approximately 1,000 grenades and equipment was also partially destroyed by air strikes.

Five ARVN soldiers captured during the 1968 Tet Offensive were liberated when the POW camp was overrun. Friendly casualties were two U. S. wounded, three PRU's wounded, two Slicks and two gunships damaged by enemy ground fire.

In Long An Province on 28 July, SEALs of Detachment GOLF, GOLF platoon, with the aid of platoon scouts attacked an admin, finance, and propaganda office of the VC 11 miles northwest of Go Cong (XS 699 562). The SEALs observed a security guard armed with an AK-47 enter a hooch at 1815, and an hour later when contact was made with the SEAL perimeter, the area was taken under fire. Seawolves were scrambled, and after placing attacks, a cease fire was ordered at 0530, and the area was searched with the Seawolves providing overhead cover. Ten VC/NVA were killed by the SEALs, and eight were wounded. Three VC/NVA were listed as probably killed by the Seawolves. Four detainees, three AK-47's, and one .45 caliber pistol were taken into custody as well as 20 kilos of documents. There were no friendly casualties.

On the night of 29 July, two LSSC's assumed an ambush position about 16 miles southeast of Saigon (XS 986 648) after having completed a SEAL insertion. Shortly after midnight, they sighted a sampan with three occupants entering the Bach Ba Giang and took it under fire. Ten rounds of green tracer fire was returned by the enemy before being suppressed by the LSSC's. There were no U. S. casualties. Enemy casualties were one killed and two others probably killed, one sampan destroyed, and one M-1 with 50 rounds of ammunition and some documents captured.
The only reported incident of enemy harassment/attack on Allied shipping on the Long Tau shipping channel occurred on 6 July when an enemy rocket fired at the SS STEEL ADMIRAL detonated about 15 feet from the ship. Shrapnel struck the ship in the vicinity of the boat deck and caused superficial damage to the boat deck and paintwork.

During the early hours of 6 July, the merchant ship WELFARE was subjected to a VC sapper placed watermine containing approximately 200-400 pounds of high explosives while at anchor in the Nha Be River near the Nha Be Tank Farm. Despite the valiant efforts of Navymen from the nearby PBR base to save the ship, it continued to take on water and eventually sank on its port side in the Soi Rap River in about 40 feet of water outside the main shipping channel. There were no personnel casualties in this incident. WELFARE was a non-NLFTS ship.

PCF Operations in Game Warden Areas

On the afternoon of 15 July, PCF 73 inserted Regional Force/Popular Force (RF/FF) troops about 15 miles southeast of Can Tho (HS 942 011) on the Bassac River into a suspected Viet Cong staging area. A few minutes after the insertion, the troops made contact with the enemy and PCF 73 came under enemy fire but was unable to return fire due to friendlies in the area. The ground forces were extracted about an hour later having killed one Viet Cong (body count) and capturing two. In addition, five VC hand grenades and anti-American propaganda material were captured. There were no friendly casualties.
On the afternoon of 17 July, PCF 53 and PCF 97, while on normal Game Varden patrol, entered a canal near the mouth of the Bassac River about 44 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 370 620). About two miles up the canal, the PCF's received several rounds of light anti-tank weapon (LAW) rockets which were quickly suppressed. Four miles farther up the canal, an evading sampan was captured, and shortly thereafter, the PCF's again received LAW fire from a trench on the east bank. In the suppressive fire, one VC was hit with .50 caliber machine gun fire. The PCF's then exited the canal without further contact. One VC was killed (probable) and one VC captured and turned over to SA Coastal Group 36 for interrogation. There were no friendly casualties.

Early on the morning of 19 July, PCF's 32, 67, 73, and 97 inserted 275 RF/PF troops from Phong Thuan sub sector along the Bassac River about 15 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 040 926) for a sweep of the area prior to the establishment of a new outpost. Following the insertion, the PCF's patrolled the river taking targets of opportunity under fire. The Phuong Thuan District Chief also made a live Psyops broadcast for one and one half hours from PCF 32. The troops were extracted by the PCF's with assistance of 6 VVN RAG units at mid-afternoon. One VC was killed, one captured, and four suspects detained. The RF/PF troops captured two kilos of VC documents, two M-67 grenades, one VC gas mask and a large quantity of medical supplies. There were no friendly casualties.
ARMY-NAVY MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE

Command and communications boat (CCPB) serves the Army and Navy as an afloat command post.

Armored troop carrier (ATC) transports troops to landing sites.

Assault support patrol boat (ASPB): "River Destroyer" acts as escort and protector for the ATCs.
The dimension and tempo of MRF operations were substantially reduced in July as the 2nd Brigade of the Ninth Division assumed a stand down in preparation for their scheduled redeployment. Except for a series of 3rd Brigade operations, supported by seven river assault craft, in the Can Gioc District of Long An Province, primary emphasis on MRF activity was directed toward local operations with the 1st Brigade in defense of the military installation at Dong Tam. RAC also supported several operations in Kien Hoa Province involving Vietnamese Army, Regional Forces, and Provincial Reconnaissance Units, in addition to the usual escort, burn/defoliation, and MEDCAP missions.

Contact with the enemy was extremely light as shown by the drastic decline in enemy KIA’s, down to 63. Of the 11 hostile fire incidents reported, only 4 were enemy initiated firefights. These low figures evidently reflect a reduction in both MRF and enemy activities.

The final official ceremony of the Mobile Riverine Force was held at 1500 on 6 July on the flight deck of the flagship, USS BENSWAH (APB-35) as the Presidential Unit Citation was awarded the 2nd Brigade and River Assault Flotilla One for the MRF’s outstanding actions during the period 29 January 1968 to 4 March at the time of the Tet offensive. General William D. Rossen, Deputy Commander U.S. Military Assistance Command presented the awards. The ships and assault craft of Task Force 117
then passed in review to conclude the ceremony.

The 3/60 Infantry Battalion, 2nd Brigade of the U.S. Army Ninth Division departed on 8 July and was the first MRF unit to be redeployed in connection with the 25,000 man reduction announced by President Nixon.

Task Force 117 provided 5 ASPB's on 26 July to CTF 116.3 (Central Delta Patrol Group) in temporary support of river patrol duties on the My Tho and Ham Luong Rivers.

A new RAC numbering system is in effect whereby all craft of a class are assigned a different number, as opposed to the former divisional numbering system, i.e. A-1 designates ASPB number 1, Z-4 is Zippo number 4 etc.

Sixteen ASPB's, formerly assigned to CTF 116 and utilized in a patrol capability as River Division 595 were transferred to CTF 117 during July. The division organization and boat strength of TF 117 during July is shown below:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Craft</th>
<th>RAD 131</th>
<th>RAD 132</th>
<th>RAD 151</th>
<th>RAD 152</th>
<th>RAD 153</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>16</td>
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River assault craft employment on 23 July as shown below is illustrative of the variety of activities which RAC were committed during the month:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ATC</th>
<th>ASPH</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>CCB</th>
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<td>Aquasnipers</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. 9th Defense</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>4(12)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can Gioi Operations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2(12)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation Giant Slingshot</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5(22)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rung Sat Special Zone</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1(12)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>OVHL/CASREP</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Upkeep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>12(52)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) 3 MSM also committed to base defense
(2) (2) Zippo, flame thrower configured monitor
In comparison with previous months, MRF activity in Kien Hoa Province was very limited during July. The former aggressive search and clear operations conducted throughout the province were absent as the 2nd Brigade, stood down and the main effort became defensive as RAC supported the 6/31 Infantry Battalion of the 1st Brigade in local security operations near Dong Tam and along the Kinh Xang which were designed to protect the base from enemy attack. These local operations consisted of troop insertions, sweeps and extractions supported by RAC. The ships of the MRF added their firepower to Dong Tam defense by providing frequent H & I fire into the area bordering the southern perimeter of the base. Night sniper and interdiction patrols were also carried on nightly as part of the base defense measures. Navy aquasnipers and 6/31 sniper teams accounted for ten Viet Cong killed during the patrols along the banks of the My Tho River near Dong Tam and the Mobile Riverine base.

RAC supported 4 Kien Hoa Province RF and 3 PRU operations along the Co Chien, CaI Mon and Ba Lai Rivers during the last ten days of the month. The RF's and PRU's gained contacts on several occasions and accounted for 28 VC killed and 20 captured.

During the last 8 days of July RAC on patrol duties and those in blocking stations after troop insertions inspected 924 sampans resulting in 24 people detained.
Dong Tam Base and the Mobile Riverine Base were again subjected to rocket/mortar fire during the month. At 1605 on the 10th, Dong Tam received a single 107mm rocket which impacted less than 50 feet from the in/out processing center at Dong Tam resulting in three USA killed, and 18 USA and 3 USN wounded. The next night at 2112, Dong Tam received incoming mortar. NUECES (APB 40) and SATYR (ARL 23) took the suspected VC positions on the south bank of the My Tho River under fire immediately with unknown results. A 1st Brigade helo search team was called in to recon the area. They sighted three sampans, took them under fire and sunk them. No signs of enemy activity were evident at first light the following morning as the RIVFLOT ONE Command and Control helo reconed the area. Again on 16 July at 2158, units of the MRB at Dong Tam observed 5 to 7 rockets fired from the south bank of the My Tho toward the Dong Tam Base and the MRB. Two of these landed in the water near the MRB without causing damage. USS TOM GREEN COUNTY (LST 1159) reported swimmers in the area in the same general vicinity as the suspected launch sight. All ships returned fire and base defense boats dropped grenades in the area of the suspected swimmers. No friendly casualties were sustained and enemy casualties are unknown.

The first ENIFF of the month occurred on 13 July when ATG 30 and 47 came under automatic weapons and AK-47 fire from the north bank of the My Kho 3 miles southwest of Dong Tam (XS 369 413) while conducting night patrol and sniper operations. The RAC...
and snipers returned and suppressed the enemy fire with small arms. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties are unknown.

The Navy Command and Control helo, with Captain Carvel Blair, CVNVLVOT ONE aboard, received small arms fire from the south bank of the My Tho (XS 374 402) during a reconnaissance flight on the afternoon of 16 July. No hits were sustained. The helo returned fire and Dong Tam artillery placed a strike into the area. Monitor 44 was dispatched to investigate and later a Navy EOD team entered the area in Boston whalers and towed out two damaged sampans.

During sniper patrol operations along the My Tho, ATC 13 and 48 ran aground on a mudflat 1 1/2 miles southwest of Dong Tam (XS 410 412) at 2330 on the night of 16 July. An underwater explosion blew a 12 inch hole in the stern of ATC 13 as it attempted to back full and caused minor flooding. ATC 5 went to assist and experienced six small underwater detonations before pulling T-13 free at 0330. The explosions were evaluated as caused by discarded friendly ordnance or detonators.

ATC 5, on base defense patrol on the My Tho River received about ten rounds of small arms fire from the north bank of the My Tho (XS 398 419) during early afternoon of 17 July. ATC 3 was dispatched to recon the area and had negative results. The 6/31 Infantry moved troops into the area to investigate the incident.
Beginning at 0700 on July 21, RAS 13 with 2 ASPF's, 16 ATC's, 3 Monitors and 2 CCB's conducted a show of force and 2 MEDCAPS in areas that RAC had not entered since the stand down of the 2nd Brigade. MEDCAPS were conducted at Ap Hoa An and Ap Cho villages along the Ben Tre River; the RAC fired weapons into two areas along the south bank of the Ben Tre and later proceeded 4 miles into the western Bai Lai River and reconnoitered both banks by fire. The LHNPT accompanying the RAC accounted for 3 VC killed, 3 structures destroyed and 1 VC flag destroyed.

River assault craft of TE 117.1.6.2 inserted two Kien Hoa Province Regional Force companies on the north bank of the Co Chien River (XS 375 175) at 0930 on 27 July, and the RAC established blocking stations. The RF's shortly came into contact with an unknown size VC force and accounted for 17 VC killed, 10 captured and 3 wounded. One RF troop was killed. RAC in blocking stations checked 200 personnel in 60 sampans. The RF's were extracted at 1630. On the same day elements of "E" Company of the 6/31 Infantry Battalion also came into contact with 10 to 15 Viet Cong while operating along the Rach Cam 8 1/2 miles southwest of Dong Tam (XS 370 415). One VC was reported killed by the troopers and one by the air cover.

A possible enemy mining attempt against ships of the MRF was thwarted at 2133 on the night of 21 July. ATC-17 while on base defense in the My Tho (LS 418 420) spotted debris about 200 yards from the stern of the USS BENEFON (APB 35). A crewman fired into the debris with a shotgun and a large explosion erupted in a water spout 60-70 feet high. Concussion grenades were then dropped with no further...
results. No damage was sustained by U.S. craft.

At 0730 on 31 July, while inserting troops of the 6/31 Infantry Battalion on the My Tho River (K3 420 408), two ATC's received about 12 rounds of automatic weapons fire. The fire was returned with M-16. There were no friendly casualties. The RAC then established blocking stations and checked 26 sampans. Six detainees were later taken to Dong Tam.

OPERATIONS IN LONG AN PROVINCE:

A detachment of 7 RAC conducted troop lift and airborne blocking services in conjunction with the 3/7 Infantry Battalion, 3rd Brigade, U.S. Ninth Division in the Can Giooc District of Long An Province during the month. Ground contact was generally light as RAC supported day and night ambush and interdiction operations in the area during the periods 5-9, 13-19, and 22-31 July.

At 0920 on 6 July, RAC received enemy sniper fire during a beach prep and bunker destruction operation prior to insertion of troops on the Rach Gia, two miles northeast of Can Giooc (K3 876 741) no friendly casualties were sustained and one enemy bunker complex was destroyed by flame. Troops were extracted at 1520.

An ENIP erupted at 2115 on 14 July as the enemy attacked assault craft with recoilless rifle, B-40, small arms and .50 caliber machine gun fire. RAC were enroute on the Rach Ba Dang, 4 1/2 miles east of Can Giooc (K3 888 913) to insert 3/7 Infantry Battalion ambush platoon when the fire fight started. ATC 45 received a recoilless
rifle hit and ATG 46 took a B-40 rocket hit. Four sailors were wounded, all minor, and the two RAC received minor damage. Firing runs were made on the enemy positions and the area was flamed down. Low tidal conditions precluded troop landings but artillery and air strikes were called in. Enemy casualties were unknown. The only other incident involving RAC occurred on 27 July when RAC, while waiting to backload troops, took a sampan under fire 2 1/2 miles southwest of Can Giuoc (TS 867 714) resulting in one VC killed.
**USN Statistical Summary**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Market Time</th>
<th>Game Warden</th>
<th>Mobile Riverine Force</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Detections</td>
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<td>274,286</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspections</td>
<td>37,518</td>
<td>47,550</td>
<td>924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boardings</td>
<td>13,741</td>
<td>48,796</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft detained</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons detained</td>
<td>1,426</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Cong suspects</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hostile fire incidents</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Enemy Casualties:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Killed</td>
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<td>80(BC)+157(PROB)</td>
<td>63(62BC+1EST)</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Wounded</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Captured</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>USN Casualties:</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>c. Captured</td>
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<td>d. Missing</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>b. Captured</td>
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<td>(1) Junk or sampans</td>
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<tr>
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<td>b. Damaged</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SAR Missions</strong></td>
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**Remarks:**
- * Information not available or not applicable
- ** Search Turn Game Warden Operations

**Group 4**
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years

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Operating in all four Coastal Zones and in the Third and Fourth Riverine Areas, Fleet Command units performed Market Time and river patrols, NGFS, logistic lifts, river escort, Psyops, and Civic Action missions. A total of 57 NGFS missions were fired during the month. The substantial increase in the number of junks searched in relation to the June figure reported by the WTB's and PCF's operating in the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones was reflected in the overall increase for Fleet Command unit statistics which increased from 5038 in June to 5528 in July. The number of people searched decreased for the second straight month from 17,952 in June to 13,903 in July. There were no people or junks detained by Fleet Command units during July whereas in June, 29 people and 6 junks were detained.

The minesweeping craft of RAC 91 recovered electrical wire at the end of six runs on the Dong Nai and Long Tau Rivers. The total length of the wire removed from the sweeping gear for the month was 580 feet. On 29 July, one of the minesweepers patrolling the Dong Nai River noticed a possible mine fourteen to sixteen inches in diameter floating aft of the boat (YS 013 917). Advising the operations center at Cat Lai of their discovery, they were directed to destruct the object which they did by exploding it in place.

Almost all of the NGFS missions were fired with unknown results which has been the standard procedure for the units for several months. The VN are regularly called upon to provide support for outposts and bases that are under attack by enemy forces as on the evening of 10-11
July when LSSL 430 fired 80 rounds of 81-mm ammunition into VC positions that had besieged the Duc My PF outpost on the Co Chien River approximately 21 miles southeast of Vinh Long (XS 409 112).

On the evening of 25 July, a Vietnamese PCF was patrolling a Market Time station northeast of Phu Quoc Island (US 933 523) when it detected by radar a sampan that was about 50 meters offshore in a 24-hour no-boat zone. When the PCF illuminated the sampan, the five occupants waded towards the shore. Two additional VNPCF's from the adjacent Market Time stations in An Thai arrived on the scene. The empty sampan was kept under surveillance until the next morning when it was towed to An Thai.

River Patrol Group 51 (RPG 51) employed an average of 18 PBR's for the day and night patrols on the Long Tau and Soirap Rivers. The PBR's were also utilized for troop lifts, cordon and search, and ambush operations. One enemy initiated firefight damaged one PBR and wounded one U. S. advisor. Enemy caches were recovered on five separate occasions, and two VC in a sampan were probably killed when they attempted to evade a PBR patrol on the evening of 5 July. Three VN PBR's were ambushed on the afternoon of 21 July as they were proceeding west on the Rach Nuoc Trong towards the Dong Nai River eleven miles east of Saigon (YS 063 925). As the PBR's passed the enemy positions, they came under B-40 and B-41 rocket and automatic weapons fire from both banks. One M-60 machine gun was destroyed by a rocket hit, one PRC-25 radio was knocked into the water by the concussion, and the U. S. advisor received minor wounds from the flying shrapnel. The VN units returned the fire for approximately ten minutes and cleared the area.
Vietnamese Coastal Zone Forces rebounded from the slight dip in coastal surveillance figures in June with First Coastal Zone units leading the way. There were 62,797 junks and 25,562 people searched during the month which was a 10.0% increase and a 7.9% increase respectively in relation to the June figures. The number of junks detained more than doubled the June figure of 109. The First and Second Coastal Forces accounted for 173 of the 247 total. Correspondingly, the First and Second Coastal Zone junks were instrumental in the change in the number of people detained from 635 to 862 in July.

Although enemy contact continued to be heaviest in the Cua Dai area of the First Coastal Zone, other VNN Coastal Forces did record several significant incidents in July. In the early hours of dawn on 6 July, the CG 13 ambush team established contact with approximately twenty VC in an area approximately 25 miles northwest of Da Nang (28 126 059). The ambush team with CG 13 waterborne support maintained contact for approximately one and one half hours. They were extracted and then reinstated with the support of the U. S. 101st Airborne Division "spooky" aircraft and VH-13 gunships. Shortly after 0700, the VN units returned to their craft, and the 101st continued a sweep of the area. One VNN and two VC were killed during the fighting; one AK-47, one claymore mine, and twenty kilograms of rice were confiscated.

A CG 14 ambush team observed sampan activity at the junction of the Hoi and Cua Dai Rivers one and one half miles west southwest of Hoi An (BT 190 554) on the evening of 13-14 July. During the firefight that followed, three VC were probably killed, and one VC was captured.
RAG 32 units came under automatic weapons fire from two sampans that were crossing the Cua Lau River three miles west-southwest of Hoi An (RT 108 559) just after dark on 23 July. There were no friendly casualties, and one wounded VC officer, three AK-47's, one AK-62, one Colt 45, two sampans, three pounds of documents, 75 detonators, some ammunition, clothes, and food were captured.

On 29 July, units of OG '16 initiated a firefight with enemy elements of the C75 company on the south bank of the Phu Tho River four and one half miles east of Quang Ngai (BS 733 727). The exchange of fire wounded two VNN and killed five VC (two probably). Before contact broke off, the VNN captured one VC and three personal weapons.

In the Second Coastal Zone, Coastal Group 21 came to the assistance of the Ngai An Village Defense Force on the evening of 6 July. The village was located 21 miles north of Qui Nhon (CR 050 615) and had been attacked by an estimated squad of VC. The coastal group illuminated the area and was instrumental in the dispersion of the enemy forces.

The Dung Island Complex in the Third Coastal Zone continued to yield enemy contact. On the afternoon of 4 July, the CG 36 ambush team wounded one VC and captured two others at the northern end of the island 24 miles southeast of Cam Tho (XR 197 783).

The CG 35 ambush team and local PF troops were ambushed by an unknown number of VC on 15 July six miles southeast of Tra Vinh near the Co Chien River (XR 577 937). Two CG 35 units and reaction team were dispatched to the scene. With the added firepower of the reaction force and the illumination provided by the afloat units, the enemy broke off contact leaving one VNN ambush team member and two PF's dead and
one PF wounded. The following day, the CG 35 ambush team returned to
the area for a ground sweep and an intelligence survey of the ambush
positions. The enemy force was estimated to be squad size and armed
with M-14's, M-1's, and carbines. One hand grenade was recovered from
the area.

Several organizational changes took place in the Fourth Coastal
Zone in July. The first of the month, CG 43 and 44 commenced a shift
of forces from Chau Doc to Ha Tien via two weeks upkeep at Rach Soi.
Coastal Group 41 moved from Ha Tien to Pulil Obi in the middle of
the month. RAID 72 arrived at Chau Doc at the beginning of the month,
and on 7 July, it was assigned to begin carrying out operations with
two raid platoons of the Fourth Coastal Zone from Vinh Gia (VS 810 612)
along the Vinh Te Canal to Chau Doc. (See discussion of Tran Hung Dao
Campaign in enclosure (1) for further details and incidents).

Although there was a low level of enemy activity in the 3rd and
4th Riverine Areas, the VNN River Assault Groups (RAG's) continued
routine river patrols, amphibious assaults, troop lifts, NGFS missions,
extort duty, and psychological operations. A total of 1,982 amphibious
assaults and 112 river patrols were conducted by the RAG's. On 8 July,
the newly formed RAID's 74 and 75 relieved RAG 25/29 as the VNN unit of
the Fourth Coastal Zone Amphibious Task Force.

From 9 to 21 July, a combined force of RAG 24, elements of the U. S.
1st Infantry Division and the ARVN and armed helos carried out Operation
Strangler 1 along the Saigon River from nineteen to thirty-one miles
east northeast of Saigon (XT 680 225 to XT 520 396). The search, sweep,
and blocking operations made contact the first day when a RAG 24 unit
was fired upon by two B-40 rockets. Moderate contact during the entire operation produced the following results: one VNN killed; 27 VNN and friendly forces wounded (14 VNN); eighteen VC killed; and 51 VC captured (all by USA/friendly); two sampans and two mines destroyed by VNN; 18 personal weapons, four B-40 rockets, six grenades, sixteen mines, and 300 kilograms of rice were captured by USA/friendly units; and three sampans and four tunnels were destroyed by friendly forces.

In the Fourth Riverine Area, units of RAG 25/29 (now attached to the Tan Chau sub-sector) sighted a VC junk on 7 July approximately three and one half miles south of the Cambodian/Vietnamese border on the Upper Mekong River (WT 230 000). Taking the junk under fire resulted in the capture of one VC and two VC suspects.

While patrolling the Ham Luong River seven miles east of Ben Tre on 16 July (from XS 555 148 to XS 530 218), RAG 21/33 units began receiving sniper fire from the island in mid-stream (XS 578 154). Due to the absence of ARVN troops and the presence of a large civilian population on the island, the sniper fire was not returned, but instead, a quick reaction landing party consisting of six VNN and one U. S. advisor went ashore at the estimated location of the VC sniper positions. Enemy contact was established, but the VC quickly withdrew. Continuing the sweep, the landing party captured two VC around noon who were found hidden under a hut. Interrogation of the captured enemy at the RAG boats revealed the possible location of additional VC. A larger landing party, led by the captured VC, searched to the east of the original VC positions where they found four more of the enemy (XS 573 148). After disembarking troops which the RAG
boats had extracted along with the six captured VC just south of Ben Tre, the RAG units returned to My Tho and Vinh Long.

An intensification of the security operations along the heavily traveled Mang Thit-Nicolai Canal which connects the Bassac and Co Chien Rivers east of Can Tho (XS 205 235 to XS 103 103) began on 18 July with RAG 23/31, Minh Duc, Mang Thit, and Tam Binh sub-sector forces, 9th ARVN Infantry, and U. S. river craft participating. Enemy objections to the increased Government presence were voiced on 18 and 19 July when river craft of RAG 23/31 were attacked with 60mm mortar rounds (on 18 July at XS 20C 195) and small arms (on 19 July at XS 214 101).

With the incorporation of RAID's 72 through 75 into the Vietnamese Amphibious Task Force 211, the Vietnamese Navy was able to magnify its participation in the riverine warfare effort. The July Task Force 211 statistics reflected the increased number of operational units as there were 902 river patrols and 365 amphibious assaults performed by the RAID craft. The now battle seasoned RAID's 70 and 71 and the new RAID 73 were intimately involved in Giant Slingshot Operations in July (see discussion of Giant Slingshot in SEA LORDS Section for further details). On 9 July, RAID 72 stationed at Chau Doc began conducting operations on the Vinh Te Canal from Vinh Gia (VS 810 612) to Chau Doc (see discussion of Tran Hung Dao Campaign in SEA LORDS Section for further details). RAID's 74 and 75 relieved RAG's 25/29 as the VNN components of the 4th CTZ Amphibious Task Force. The RAG units would continue to carry out routine river patrols while the RAID units concentrated on amphibious assaults.