On the afternoon of 30 August, the PT DUKE (USCG WPB) responded to a U.S. Army request for an emergency gunfire support mission on bunkers and people on the beach about 10 miles southeast of Quang Ngai (38° 763603). The mission was cleared by the Sector Advisor from No Duc and spotted by the Army. There were no friendly casualties while three Viet Cong were killed (body count). In addition, 11 structures and eight watercraft were destroyed and two bunkers heavily damaged.
OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE

---

LEGEND:

- Coastal Surveillance Center
- = Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
# = SAR/MEDEVAC Incident

SCALE:

0 NAUTICAL MILES ~ 30

A. Sea Tiger - 2 Aug
B. Sea Tiger - 6 Aug
C. Sea Tiger - 7 Aug
D. SAR - 20 Aug
E. Sea Tiger - 22 Aug
F. Sea Tiger - 23 Aug
G. Sea Tiger - 27 Aug
H. PT DUME NGPS - 30 Aug

---

CONFIDENTIAL
SECOND COASTAL ZONE

Good weather prevailed throughout August in the Second Coastal Zone as patrol units detected a total of 41,919 watercraft. Of these, 24,649 were inspected and another 6,656 were boarded while five craft evaded. There were 42 craft and 256 persons detained for lack of or faulty identification papers, curfew or restricted zone violations, draft dodger, incorrect or faulty manifests and possession of contraband.

There were 81 naval gunfire missions reported in the Second Coastal Zone during August with a minimum amount of gun damage assessment reported. On the night of 15 August, PCF 47, while on normal Market Time patrol, received information of known VC coastal transit routes from the Tuy Phong Intelligence Officer. The Swift boat proceeded to a point about five miles northeast of Tuy Phong (BN 5647), shut down its engine and established a surveillance position close to the beach. Shortly a craft was detected on radar and later captured, resulting in four persons being detained. One offered 2,500 piasters for their release. A later report from the Tuy Phong Intelligence Officer stated that one detainee was the Binh Hai District Head VC Recruiting Officer and the other three detainees had just been recruited.

On the morning of 19 August, the PT HUDSON while on normal Market Time patrol conducted a gunfire support mission on a fortified VC village about 20 miles southeast of Quang Nga (BS 8244). The mission
was requested, cleared and spotted by an Army gunfire liaison officer in an observation aircraft. The spotter reported good coverage of the target area with the following damage reported: two bunkers destroyed and three bunkers damaged; four structures destroyed and eight structures heavily damaged.

From 19 to 21 August, Market Time PCF's provided gunfire support, illumination and acted as a blocking force in support of Korean forces in a combined operation. The objective of the ROK sweep was the Viet Cong Secret Base 19 located about nine miles northeast of Phan Rang (BN 9484). Although there was no gun damage assessment reported for the "Swift" boats, the ROK forces killed 81 Viet Cong and captured 45 individual weapons, seven crew served weapons, 100 hand grenades, four bangalore torpedoes, 38 documents and various food, uniforms and small arms ammunition. There were no friendly casualties reported.

PCF's 11, 23 and 91 and IUWG 1 - Det 3 skimmers provided a waterborne blocking force for the ROK Capital (Tiger) Division from 23 to 26 August in the vicinity of Qui Nhon (CR 06.25.). The results of the ROK sweep were 51 VC killed and two VC captured. In addition, 26 individual weapons, one crew served weapon and various documents were captured. The ROK forces suffered seven killed and eight wounded. The operation was considered extremely successful as battalion size operations had not previously been conducted in this area. The blocking force was very effective, preventing all escape by sea.
In the afternoon of 28 August, the USCGC TANEY (WHEC 37) fired a gunfire support mission at a Viet Cong base camp and infiltration route about 17 miles north of Qui Nhơn (CR 095506). The mission was requested and spotted by the ROK Capital Infantry Division. The results of the mission were one bunker destroyed, 200 meters of supply route interdicted, a base camp completely destroyed, and two large secondary fires started.
OPERATIONS IN THE SECOND COASTAL ZONE

A. P.C.F 47 - 15 Aug
B. PT HUDSON - 19 Aug
C. OPS - 19-21 Aug
D. OPS - 23-26 Aug
E. USCOC TANEY - 28 Aug
THIRD COASTAL ZONE

Surveillance operations in the Third Coastal Zone reflected an increase in indigenous coastal traffic with 6,923 detections of watercraft during August. Patrol effectiveness remained high with 3,473 inspections and 2,130 boardings of detected craft. There were no incidents of evading craft along the coast, while 14 craft and 117 persons were detained. In addition, Swift boats patrolling the lower Bassac and Co Chien Rivers detected 5,016 craft and of these 2,322 were inspected and 2,233 were boarded resulting in four craft and 15 persons being detained. Seven craft attempted to evade on the Bassac River.

There were 180 naval gunfire support missions conducted during August in response to requests for naval gunfire support, targets of opportunity, H&I or in pre-planned river and canal incursions. These missions accounted for 42 enemy killed (30 body count, 12 probable), six wounded and two captured. In addition, there were 137 structures and 61 watercraft destroyed and another 248 structures and 4 craft heavily damaged and 10 large secondary explosions.

On the afternoon of 1 August, the PT MARONE (USCG JPB) fired on two VC-occupied villages at the mouth of the Bassac River about 45 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 435 615 and XR 440 615). The missions had sector clearance and were spotted by an Army observer. The afternoon operation resulted in six structures destroyed and
heavily damaged with three large fires ignited. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties are unknown.

Again on 3 August, the PT N.ROK scored heavily on two more VC hamlets about 47 miles southeast of Can Tho (X: 442610 and X: 439609). Firing at a range of less than 2,000 yards the WPB destroyed seven structures and damaged 16 more and ignited three fires.

PCF's 28 and 92 and two Coastal Group junks inserted 100 Regional Force troops from Long Phu about 30 miles southeast of Can Tho (X: 236 743) on the morning of 4 August. The Swift boats and Coastal Group units stood by to provide fire support and act as a blocking force. Prior to completion of the operation PCF's 60 and 11 relieved PCF's 28 and 92 on station. The RF troops completed their sweep and were extracted at noon having captured 11 Viet Cong. There was no gun damage assessment for this operation and there were no friendly casualties.

Early on the morning of 6 August, PCF 11 picked up a Long Phu PRU platoon and a Long Phu National Police platoon for a ground sweep of a suspected VC POW camp located about 36 miles southeast of Can Tho (X: 356 630) on the Bassac River. The troops made a covert landing at 0530, utilizing two junks that were towed to the area by the Swift boat. Two hours later the troops were extracted when they were unable to locate the POW camp; however, they captured one Viet Cong and six guerrillas. There were no friendly casualties.
On 12 and 13 August the USCGC SPENCER (WHEC 36) in two missions accounted for three VC killed (body count), one bunker destroyed, six bunkers damaged, 20 structures destroyed, 34 structures damaged, four secondary fires and one VC base camp completely destroyed. The missions were requested and cleared by the IV Corps Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer (NGLC) from Can Tho and were spotted by the IV Corps spotter from Tra Vinh. The targets were located in the vicinity of XR 689 633 about 25 miles southeast of Phu Vinh.

The FJ MARINE conducted a Naval Gunfire Support mission on the evening of 15 August on a Viet Cong occupied village about 46 miles southeast of Can Tho on the Bassac River (XR 445 615). The mission was fired with sector clearance and no friendlies in the area. The WPB accounted for eight structures damaged, five structures destroyed and one secondary fire.

On the morning of 22 August, PCF 17 escorted four Coastal Group 36 (CG 36) craft with troops embarked into a canal off the Bassac River about 40 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 365 615). The troops were inserted as part of a combined amphibious heliborne assault while the Swift boat stood by for fire support. The senior advisor from Long Phu requested and spotted a gunfire support mission at a suspected VC concentration. The troops were extracted about noon and exited the canal without incident. The troops captured one VC and detained 10 VC suspects. The PCF destroyed two structures. Enemy casualties are unknown; however, VC were confirmed as being in the impact area. There were no friendly casualties.
On 26 August PCF 95 was hailed while passing the LSCO PALINTA.AK Y-45 in the Bassac River about 45 miles southeast of Can Tho. The ship, of Philippine registry, was en route Vinh Long to Long Xuyen and then to USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) at Chau Doc. The Philippine ship had sustained a B-40 rocket hit in the pilot house killing the first officer and a seaman and wounding the 2nd Officer. The wounded man was given first aid and medevaced by DUST-OFF Helo to the 29th Evacuation Hospital at Binh Tuy. The Swift boat then passed through the area of the sapper attack without incident, finding only a populated area.

On the evening of 29 August, PCF 64 was called on to serve as a blocking force for the 14th Regiment of the 9th ARVN Division for an operation already in progress about 25 miles southeast of Can Tho (X 189 816). The Swift boat patrolled the adjacent area and served as a communications relay station. The PCF did not detect any evading craft and was not called on for fire support. The ground troops killed seven VC, captured two VC suspects and liberated 17 civilian prisoners. In addition, air support for the operation killed another seven VC.
LEGEND:
- Coastal Surveillance Center
- Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
- SAR/MEDEVAC Incident

SCALE:

0 30
Nautical Miles

A. PT MARONE - 1 Aug
B. PT MARONE - 3 Aug
C. PCF's 28 and 92 - 4 Aug
D. PCF 11 - 6 Aug
E. USCGC SPENCER - 12-13 Aug
F. PT MARONE - 18 Aug
G. PCF 17 - 22 Aug
H. PCF 95 - 26 Aug
I. PCF 64 - 29 Aug
SEA LORDS

OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE

LEGEND:

- Coastal Surveillance Center
X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
# - SAR/MEDEVAC Incident

A. SEA LORDS - 6 Aug
B. SEA LORDS - 8 Aug
C. SEA LORDS - 7 Aug
D. SEA LORDS - 15 Aug
E. SEA LORDS - 24 Aug

SCALE:

0 30
Nautical Miles
Operation SEA FLOAT/TRAN HUNG DAO III in the second full month of its existence enjoyed the same success as during the month of July. There were over 60 SEA FLOAT missions conducted during August utilizing from two to seven PCF's and supported by a PG, SEAL, EOD, and UDT Teams, Seawolves, Slicks, and OV-10 aircraft. The SEA FLOAT missions were designed to maximize damage to known or suspected enemy base areas, secret zone, and extortion stations. The Swift boats conducted day and night psyops patrols along the waterways of the SEA FLOAT operating area. In those areas inaccessible to the Swifts, psyops missions were carried out by airborne units. In addition the PCF's inserted SEALS, EOD, UDT, and MSF troops, provided waterborne guards, blocking forces, and escort service for logistics craft along the Bo De and Cua Lon Rivers and adjacent canals. The six to ten Swift boats assigned to SEA FLOAt also participated in SEALORDS missions in areas adjacent to the SEA FLOAT AO. In addition, the Mobile Advance Tactical Support Base, PCF's and the PG conducted nightly H and I fire during the month of August into known VC base camps and extortion areas. (Psychological operations aspects of Seafloat are discussed in Psyops)

On 1 August, the first MSF troops arrived at SEA FLOAT by C-177 helicopter. On 15 August these troops departed and were replaced with 228 MSF troops including a combat recon platoon. The USS GALLUP (PG 85) arrived SEA FLOAT on 18 August and assumed the PG duties.

The Vietnamese Navy on 23 August proceeded to Pt. Foxtrot (VQ088720) and established the SEA FLOAT Annex, consisting of
a VNN LSIL HQ327, VNN LSM(H) HQ401, KCS, VNN POLWAR Team and VNN reaction force. The units remained on station all day making the SEA FLOAT Annex an all VN psyops effort for the first time.

Training for the second TF 115 SEA FLOAT team commenced on 4 August and topics include two days of Duffel Bag indoctrination, first aid training, weapons training, SEA FLOAT mission, personal response, psychological warfare, PCF and SEAL operations.

The number of Kit Carson Scouts (KCS) aboard SEA FLOAT will be maintained at the current level of 15 although a total of 50 are authorized and will be available depending on the needs of SEA FLOAT and the status of the Old Nam Can settlement. The KCS have been employed in a variety of jobs since arriving at SEA FLOAT.

These include:

Intelligence: four had operated with the VC in the SEA FLOAT AO and provided operational intelligence support.

Reconnaissance: three to five had been employed on a daily basis to conduct periodic sweeps of the immediate area and to check for booby traps.

Population/Resources Control: used at both SEA FLOAT and SEA Flo Annex to inspect sampans and evaluate VC suspects.

Combat Patrols: Operated with SEAL's and on five operations have killed eight VC.

Interrogation: The older and more experienced KCS have effectively interrogated and interviewed POW's and detainees.

Psyops: KCS have circulated among visitors on an informal basis and participated enthusiastically in the psyops program.
Tapes have been prepared to be played by PCF’s and helos drawing on their knowledge of local conditions and VC vulnerabilities in the region.

The KCS have shown themselves to be well disciplined, aggressive and eager for contact.

SINL units attached to SEA FLOAT (CTG 115.7) were active during the month of August. Operations included setting up observation/listening posts, interdiction of VC supply routes and extortion sites, night probes along possible VC supply/infiltration routes, combat and combat recon patrols, locating and taking prisoners and reacting to NILU’s intelligence reports on VC activity in the SEA FLOAT AO.

Commander T.R.M. Emery, USN, relieved Commander Paul A. Yost, USCG as commander of SEA FLOAT (CTG 115.7) on 1 August.

On 3 August a COMPHIPTRAPAC representative and the NAVFORV Base Defense Officer visited SEA FLOAT for briefings and discussion on the defense of the SEA FLOAT complex.

Commander Task Force 115, COHANSIPRON NINE, the NAVFORV Communication and PSYOPs Officers visited SEA FLOAT on 5 August for briefings and an update on SEA FLOAT operations and problem areas.

On 10 August the Deputy IV Corps Commander, Major General R. Netherill, U.S. Army received a briefing and tour.

The Vietnamese Navy Chief of Naval Operations, Commodore Tran Van Chon and party in company with the An Xuyen and Bac Lieu Sector advisors and assistants received briefings and tours of SEA FLOAT on 22 August.
On 6 August, Market Time units conducted a mission utilizing 105 MSF troops for ground sweeps west of the Rach Sai Nhap about four miles northeast of the SEA FLOAT MASTB (WQ 045693). The troops were inserted by PCF's 35 and 96. The initial 35 troops swept to the north while 70 troops inserted in the Rach Cai Nhap moved west. PCF's 31 and 45 were called in to provide gunfire support for the 35 troops who had made contact with the enemy. When the enemy fire had been suppressed the two MSF groups joined and swept east to the Rach Cai Nhap destroying a VC village containing fifty multi-room structures and adjoining bunkers. The village was devoid of people, weapons and documents and indications were that the entire populace had departed approximately twelve hours earlier. The day operation resulted in 50 structures, 50 bunkers, and eight craft destroyed. There were no friendly casualties.

Based on intelligence obtained from the SEA FLOAT Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO) and a SEA FLOAT Kit Carson Scout, SEAL team Det. Golf departed SEA FLOAT aboard PCP 94 at 0800 on 8 August to interdict a VC extortionist station along the Cai Nhap Canal in An Xuyen Province. At 1030 the SEAL's were transferred to a VN junk and first proceeded north on the Cai Nhap Canal with negative contact. The SEAL's were then inserted and patrolled north toward the place where the extortionist was last reported and arrived at 1415 and found a hooch; however, it had been abandoned. At 1440 a sampan with four occupants was sighted approaching the area and attempted to evade. After warning shots were fired two of these were killed while one escaped into the treeline. One female was recovered from the water and detained.
After destroying the hooch the SEAL's were extracted by a Seawolf. Miscellaneous documents and photos and a small amount of ammunition were captured and one sampan and motor destroyed. Interrogation of the detainee indicated that she had worked for the VC as a message passer and that the three men were confirmed VC.

On 9 August, a SEA FLOW mission was conducted with seven PCF's, USS Gallup (PG 85) USS Asheville(PG 84), EOD and UDT 1 Det. Golf, MSF troops and Seawolves participating. The operation commenced with the Swift boats inserting the troops on the Rach Ba Thun (WQ055680) and Rach Buong (WQ070682) about five miles east of SEA FLOW for sweeps south. During a day of frequent contact PCF elements were ambushed on five separate occasions with rockets, S/A fire and a mine resulting in PCF's 5, 40, and 31 receiving minor damage. One U.S. sailor and three MSF troops were wounded. The ground troops later swept the ambush areas and captured 58 booby traps, two large charges, 60 Japanese knee mortar grenades, and three hundred rounds of ammunition. Ten bunkers, three structures, and one barricade were destroyed and two VC were killed.

On 11 August, PCF's inserted MSF troops, UDT and EOD personnel in the area west of the Cai Nhap Canal about six miles northeast of Sea Float (WQ 028710). The troops swept west to a VC village taking 11 detainees and firing on four escaping VC. During an assault on a bunker a woman and a child were killed. Sweeping further west the MSF troops detained 40 additional persons.
Six VC were killed and one VC wounded, 13 sampans and three structures were destroyed and four sampans damaged during the sweeps. The MSF and EOD captured 750 pages of documents, one Russian bolt action carbine, three CHICOM claymore mines and three CHICOM grenades. At 2000 the PCF's inserted 15 MSF's on the east bank of the Cai Nhag Canal to remain as a night observation post while the remainder of the troops and the detainees returned to SEA FLOAT. The troops on the night observation post accounted for five VC killed and one VC wounded, and captured one Russian carbine and three CHICOM grenades, seven CHICOM claymore mines and 10 kilos of documents. The documents indicated that one of the VC killed was a high ranking political cadre. There were no friendly casualties in this operation.

At noon on 13 August, two Seawolves on a reconnaissance flight spotted three VC in a bunker complex west of Cai Nhag Canal (NW 075755). With sector clearance air strikes were put in the area. MSF troops were scrambled and inserted by PCF's and captured two pounds of documents, one CHICOM grenade, and one CHICOM claymore mine. The Seawolves destroyed six sampans, five bunkers and 25 structures while killing two Viet Cong. There were no friendly casualties.

On the afternoon of 16 August, three SEAL's and two Kit Carson Scouts departed SEA FLOAT aboard PCF's 52 and 62 to locate and take prisoners from a Viet Cong Indoctrination Center and from Lo Cal VC hamlet located about six miles northeast of SEA FLOAT. The SEAL's were transferred to a sampan and travelled north on the Cai Nhag Canal and were inserted in the vicinity of
the VC Indoctrination Center. They patrolled 700 meters to a hooch and searched it with negative results. Upon arriving at the south end of Lo Cal hamlet five males were observed running into the treeline. In the ensuing battle, two VC were killed and one captured. After the fire was suppressed the patrol moved into the treeline and destroyed two camouflaged sampans with motors and 10 kilos of rice. The patrol then returned to the Cai Nhap and were extracted. Interrogation of the detainee indicated that he had served as a VC guerrilla and he provided information concerning VC plans and meeting places which will be used for future operations.

On the night of 19 August, three SEAL's and three Kit Carson Scouts (KCS) departed SEA FLOAT aboard two PCF's to conduct a 12 hour interdiction post of a VC supply route about six miles west of SEA FLOAT (VQ 984664). At 2045 the team embarked on a skimmer for insertion; however while enroute to the area they heard four shots and observed a large unlit junk, approximately the size of a PCF approaching four other lighted junks. It was determined by the KCS that the large junk was operated by VC who were making claims on the lighted junks. As the VC Junk pulled away with the two sampans in tow it was taken under skimmer fire with LAW rockets, M-79 grenade launchers and M-60 machine guns. The junk returned the fire but this was suppressed quickly. At 2320 the team departed the area, boarded the PCF's and were returned to SEA FLOAT. There were no friendly casualties while five VC were killed and 3
wounded. One large junk was severely damaged.

On the morning of 20 August, PCF's 56, 35, and 9 with 120
MSF troops embarked, entered the Cai Nhap Canal and inserted
the troops at three locations along the bank about seven miles
northeast of SEA FLOAT (WQ 085730, WQ 082748, WQ 081756). Two
Swift boats exited the canal while PCF's 36 and 56 established a
waterborne guard post for support of the troops. The troops
sweeping west made contact and received and suppressed 60mm mortar
and small arms fire and destroyed four bunkers, three structures
and numerous digging tools. The second group found several anti-
personnel mines and captured two VC suspects at a VC base camp and
detained 28 women and children. This group also received 60mm
mortar, small arms, and A/W fire. Troops and detainees then
moved back to the canal and all were extracted except 20 MSF
ambush troops who took up positions along the bank. At 2045,
the troops observed three sampans travelling north on the Rach
Cai Nhap which stopped to pick up 3-4 persons 200 yards south
of the MSF troop site. When the boats passed the ambush site
they were illuminated and taken under fire at point blank
range; eight VC were killed and the sampans destroyed. About
20 minutes later another sampan with four males came to search for
the bodies. It was also taken under fire at point blank range
and four VC were killed. The MSF troops were then extracted and
returned to SEA FLOAT. The operation resulted in 12 VC killed
and 30 personnel detained. Four sampans, three structures, and
four bunkers were destroyed. One MSF troop was slightly wounded
as the only friendly casualty.

Seven PCF's conducted a SEA FLOAT mission on 25 August when they inserted 115 MSF troops and UDT 13 Det GOLF in two groups along the Rach Cai Nhap about seven miles northeast of SEA FLOAT (WQ085732) for a sweep to the west. The troops made contact with the enemy on two occasions and Slicks and Seawolves were called in for air strikes. The MSF troops established a night camp which came under fire. Night air strikes were made by Seawolves and OV-10A's in the area around the camp. At first light on the 26 of August the MSF broke camp and continued the sweep. The Swift boats embarked an additional 35 MSF troops to establish a northern blocking force, but received B-40 and recoilless rifle fire from an ambush position on the Rach Cai Nhap. The PCF's beached and suppressed the enemy fire and then proceeded to insert the troops. The troops uncovered many structures, bunkers, and food caches which indicated that the area was used as a VC base camp. The troops were extracted on the afternoon of 26 August and were returned to SEA FLOAT. The two day operation resulted in four VC killed and eight VC wounded. There were 48 bunkers and 39 structures destroyed along with 1,000 kilos of salt, 200 kilos of rice, several 57mm recoilless rifle rounds and one CHICOM mine. There were four MSF and one U.S. sailor wounded while one PCF received minor damage.

On 29 and 30 August, six PCF's with 70 MSF troops embarked, inserted them in Kinh Ngang (WQ 010674) with the simultaneous insertion of 35 MSF troops at WQ 050 758 by Slick
helicopter. The troops made sweeps into known VC base areas between the two insertion points, making contact with the enemy at 1230. At the same time, helos providing air cover and troop lifts received heavy A/W fire slightly wounding the left door gunner of the Slick. A short time later, Seawolf 12 also received heavy A/W weapons fire seriously wounding the door gunner. At the same time MSF troops were receiving heavy S/A, A/W, and 60mm mortar fire, when OV-10 aircraft were called in and suppressed the enemy fire. The Swift boats extracted 35 MSF troops in late afternoon without incident leaving 70 troops to establish a night surveillance camp. At 2000 two VC attempting to probe the camp were taken under fire, killing one VC. At first light on the 30th, the troops broke camp and continued their sweep and captured one man whose house was protected by four claymore mines. In another structure several VC documents were found indicating that the area was being held by the Viet Cong Luan-Luu Mobile Guerrilla Force. In the afternoon, a VC base camp was discovered along with an arms cache. The sweep continued to the Cai Nhap Canal and the troops were extracted by the PCF's without making any contact with the enemy on the last day of the operation. The two day operation resulted in 32 structures, 13 sampans, and 29 bunkers destroyed along with 1,000 pounds of rice, 3100 pounds of salt, and 300 pounds of new punji stakes.

The MSF troops captured seven 12 kilo CHICOM mines, five CHICOM grenades, two M-26 grenades, 500 rounds of small arms ammo
and 20 pounds of VC documents. There were seven VC killed (four body count, three probable) and one VC captured. Friendly casualties were one USN, one USA and one MSF wounded. One Seawolf and one Slick were damaged.
SEA FLOAT

OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE

A. Sea Float - 6 Aug
B. SEALs - 7 Aug
C. Sea Float - 8 Aug
D. Sea Float - 11 Aug
E. Seawolves - 13 Aug
F. SEALs - 16 Aug
G. SEALs - 17 Aug
H. Sea Float - 20 Aug
I. Sea Float - 25 Aug
J. Sea Float - 27-30 Aug
MARKET TIME UNITS

Patrol aircraft detachments from five Navy patrol squadrons manned the Market Time air barrier patrols during August. Patrol Squadron SIX (VP-6) operated out of U-Tapao, Thailand. Detachments from VP-2, VP-9, VP-50 and VP-17 operated from Cam Ranh Bay.

Average number of U.S. ships/craft on patrol during August:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>AVG</th>
<th>MSC</th>
<th>WPR</th>
<th>PCF</th>
<th>LST</th>
<th>PG</th>
<th>WHBC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1300</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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Average number VNN ships/junks employed during August:

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<tr>
<th>Force</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>SEA FORCE</th>
<th>RIVER FORCE</th>
<th>COASTAL FORCE</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>179</td>
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U.S. ACTIVITY

Total Detected

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<th>Type</th>
<th>Wood - Day</th>
<th>Night</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steel</td>
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Total Inspected

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<th>Night</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>14,441</td>
<td>24,266</td>
<td>39,254</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steel</td>
<td>376</td>
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Total Boarded

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<th>Night</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steel</td>
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</table>

Total Detained

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junks</th>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Detained</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>189</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>(59 VC suspects)</td>
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</table>

VNN ACTIVITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Junks Searched</td>
<td>80,582</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons Search</td>
<td>264,096</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junks Detained</td>
<td>291</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons Detained</td>
<td>766</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NAVAL GUNFIRE

Total Missions 614 (Includes 120 cases of hostile fire suppression)

ENEMY CASUALTIES

107 Killed plus 42 Probable
21 Wounded
9 Captured

ENEMY MATERIAL LOSSES

228 Junks/Sampans Destroyed
732 Structures/Bunkers Destroyed
20 Junks/Sampans Damaged
423 Structures/Bunkers Damaged

The following SEVENTH Fleet ships operated in Market Time during the month of August:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USS CONFLICT (MSO 426)</td>
<td>1 - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS EXCEL (MSO 439)</td>
<td>4 - 6 10 - 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>USS CROCKETT (PG 88)</td>
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<tr>
<td>USS GALLANT (MSO 489)</td>
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<td>USCGC SEBAGO (WHEC 42)</td>
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<td>USCGC TAKZY (WHEC 37)</td>
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<tr>
<td>USS WOODPECKER (MSC 209)</td>
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<tr>
<td>USS WIDGEON (MSC 208 )</td>
<td>1 - 3 25 - 31</td>
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PCF's were assigned to the following Coastal Divisions on 31 August:

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ELEVEN-An Thoi</td>
<td>TWELVE-Danang</td>
<td>THIRTEEN-Cat Lo</td>
<td>FOURTEEN Cam Ranh Bay</td>
<td>FIFTEEN Qui Nhon</td>
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<td>(24)</td>
<td>(14)</td>
<td>(19)</td>
<td>(11)</td>
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Total Assigned PCF - 76

# - Six PCF's assigned to Chu Lei Detachment

Non assigned PCF's:

VNN PCF Training
PCF 6

PCF's in Overhaul

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<tr>
<th>PCF</th>
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<th>ETO</th>
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<td>93</td>
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<td>31 Aug 69</td>
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<td>69</td>
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<td>Cat Lo</td>
<td>19 Aug 69</td>
<td>18 Nov 69</td>
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Total Non-assigned PCF - 6

Grand Total 82
RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY

Throughout August, the River Patrol Force countered pressure on the enemy in the ICTZ, Mekong Delta, along the upper Saigon River, and in the Rung Sat Special Zone and additionally provided major support to ongoing and some recently activated Operation SEA LORDS Interdiction Campaigns - GIANT SLINGSHOT, Border Interdiction (consisting of Tran Hung Dao and Barrier Reef Campaigns) Search Turn (Rach Gia Canal), Mang Thit-Nicholai Canal and Cho Gao Canal operations.

During the month an average of 220 PBR's were assigned to the force. Twenty of these were assigned to the ICTZ under the OPCON of CTF Clearwater, 20 were assigned to TG 194.3 (Rach Gia) which became operational on 1 August when CTG 116.1 assumed the designator CTG 194.3; a monthly average of 72 were assigned to TG 194.9 (GIANT SLINGSHOT), 20 were assigned to TG 116.3/TG 194.6 with responsibilities for the Central Delta Patrol and the Mang Thit-Nicholai/Cho Gao Canal operations, and an average of 34 were assigned to TG 116.9 operating in the Rung Sat Special Zone and along the upper Saigon River. Additionally PCP's of TG 115.3 continued to patrol the lower Bassac and Co Chien Rivers as replacements for PBR's being utilized in the SEA LORDS Campaigns.

The employment of Task Force 116 assets included the execution of the population and resources control mission which resulted in 2,660 two boat patrols, 100,699 detections, 31,264 inspections, and 23,415 boardings during the month. These figures do not include the results...
of PCF patrols which are reported in the Market Time Raider section of this summary. Other FBR activity included canal incursions for waterborne traffic inspections, distribution of PSYOPS material, intelligence gathering, and general familiarization; daily Chain Drag sweeps of the Long Tau shipping channel by HSB's; support of SEAL and PRU operations; nighttime waterborne guardposts; transportation of Vietnamese and other free world armed forces and MEDCAPS and Psychological Warfare operations.

Game warden aircraft at the end of the month numbered 30 helicopters and 13 OV-10's assigned as follows: Detachment ONE (two helos) aboard the USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST 117C) supporting TF 115 forces in operation 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 HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) on the upper Mekong River southeast of ian Chau, Detachment FOUR (two helos) at Ben Luc on the Vam Co Dong River, Detachment FIVE (two helos) aboard the YRBM-16 on the upper Bassac River southeast of Chau Doc, Detachment SIX (two helos) aboard the USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) enroute to the Gulf of Thailand, Detachment SEVEN (two helos) at Tay Ninh on the upper Vam Co Dong River, Detachment EIGHT (two helos) aboard the USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) in the Gulf of Thailand west of Rach Gia, and a maintenance pool of 12 helos at Binh Thuy. The 13 OV-10A aircraft are based at VNAF, Binh Thuy as detachment A (5 planes), and at Vung Tau as detachment B (5 planes). A maintenance pool of three aircraft exists at Binh Thuy. These air-
craft accounted for over 890 flight hours in combat missions in addition to normal surveillance patrols. A breakdown of these hours follows (Game Warden/SEA LORDS):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>UH-1B</th>
<th>OV-10A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREPLANNED STRIKES</td>
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<td>REACTION STRIKES</td>
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<td>TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY</td>
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<td>147/0</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUPPORT MISSIONS</td>
<td>41/151</td>
<td>56/0</td>
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</table>

Note: Although no SEA LORDS missions are listed to OV-10A's, they nonetheless did support SEA LORDS operations while under the OPCON of CTF 116; some of the missions listed for UH-1B's in support of SEA LORDS are also in support of Game Warden operations, this disparity arises as a result of the split responsibility of TG 116.3/TG 194.6.

The Rung Sat Special Zone continued to receive special attention. In addition to joint operations conducted with Vietnamese forces, two named joint operations were conducted with other free world forces. The first of these, Operation Friendship I (2-4 August) involved TG 116.9 support of Royal Thai Army volunteer force troops in the southern Rhon Trach District of Bien Hoa Province. Navy support consisted of PBR/ASPB blocking forces, waterborne guardposts, and lift of Thai troops; SEAL reconnaissance and guardpost; and Seawolf patrols/strikes. The second operation, Operation Platypus (10-14 August) found TG 116.9 forces supporting units of the 1st Armored Regiment, of the 1st Australian Task Force (ATF) in western Phouc
Tuy Province. SSGs with Phu Scouts set guardposts and conducted recon missions and PBRs/ASPBs conducted traffic checks, canal incursions, and provided waterborne blocking forces. Both of these operations were aimed at cutting enemy commo liaison routes into the Rung Sat Special Zone.

On 11 August, RIVDIV 574 was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy at Nha Be, marking the first ACTOV Program turnover of a PBR Division. On the same day RIVDIV 571 moved its area of operation from Nha Be to Phu Cuong on the upper Saigon River thereby doubling the number of PBR Divisions operating in that area.

Gnome Warden PBR, UH-1B, And OV-10A Operations

On the evening of 1 August, Army units called for an air strike on a bunker and four people in a sampan next to the bunker about 15 miles south of Vinh Long (X: 131 179). Bronco's of TU 116.4.8 were diverted from their patrol to place the strikes. Army observers credited the strikes with four VC killed, two houses destroyed and one bunker damaged. There were no U.S. casualties.

Two PBR's of TE 116.9.1.3 inserted a six man U.S. Army team 12½ miles northwest of Phu Cuong (XT 645 315) on the night of 2 August and then assumed waterborne guardpost positions nearby. At 2045 the soldiers engaged a four man VC point element of an enemy platoon (35-50 VC). The main enemy unit returned automatic and B-40/41 rocket fire resulting in three U.S. soldiers killed and the other three
wounded. The troops then requested immediate emergency extraction and assistance. The FGR's returned and suppressed the enemy fire, and then put ashore a three man landing party to move the dead and wounded to safer positions. Dust-off and artillery illumination were requested. Additional FGR's arrived on the scene and three more sailors were put ashore as naval units and personnel continued to suppress the enemy fire and provided security until the dust-off was completed. The FGR's then safely extracted their own men and withdrew from the area. Enemy casualties were one killed and six others probably killed. There were no Navy casualties.

In the Rung Jat Special Zone, shortly after midnight on 8 August, FGR's in waterborne guardpost 16 miles southeast of Nha Be (X5 178 719) took an enemy sampan under fire. The four occupants of the sampan answered the FGR's with small arms fire which was suppressed. Enemy casualties were placed at four probably killed and one sampan destroyed. There were no U.S. casualties.

Seawolves were cleared by CTG 116.3 to place strikes on an estimated company of VC, ten miles northwest of No Cay (XS 383 235) on the afternoon of 10 August. The strikes resulted in eight structures destroyed, an additional five others damaged, and six of the enemy probably killed.

Bronco's of TU 116.4.8 were scrambled late afternoon of 12 August to go to the aid of an Army forward air controller (FAC) who was receiving ground fire at a point 25 miles northwest of Tra Vinh (XS 249080-XS 260025). The aircraft arrived on the scene and placed all of their ordnance on the target and received light automatic
weapon fire from the enemy positions. The enemy fire was silenced and the Army FAC credited the OV-10's with four enemy killed, four structures destroyed and three damaged. There were no friendly casualties.

Survivors were requested to provide air cover for U.S. Army troops in contact with the enemy on the afternoon of 15 August, 15 miles southwest of Sen Tre (XZ 393 257). The helos placed their strikes on an estimated company of Viet Cong and received sporadic sniper fire during their runs. Enemy casualties were listed as 15 probably killed, five structures destroyed, and five other damaged. There were no U.S. casualties.

On the upper Saigon River, five miles northwest of Phu Cuong (XZ 7561766), on the night of 17 August PDR's in night guardpost positions sighted a column of approximately 40-50 VC/NVA troops moving south on the bank of the river carrying heavy packs and equipment. When the enemy closed to 40-60 feet the PDR's opened fire, killing three of the enemy. Two more PDR's sped to the scene from their guardpost positions to give support. The enemy initially fired rockets and automatic weapons at the boats but scored no hits. On their second firing run, the PDR's suppressed the enemy fire and then withdrew to allow LHT and artillery strikes to be placed in the area. While the support firing was going on, the PDR's sighted an additional 20-30 enemy troops on the north bank of the river and killed five of them. Additional aircraft strikes were credited with killing nine of the enemy. No friendly casualties were sustained.
On 19 August, TUs of T3 116.3.1 were transporting U.S. Army troops on the upper Saigon River about two miles northwest of Phu Cuong (XT 769 155). After inserting the last of the troops, the PBR's remained in the area to provide support and act as a blocking force and found a cache of 15 3-41 rockets lying on the west bank of the river in back of a tree. The rockets were all in individual plastic covers and in good new condition. The entire cache had been covered with a green plastic tarpulin. There was no contact with enemy forces.

Just before dawn on 21 August, PBR's of TUs 197.6.1 were drifting in the Long Thit River approximately 15 miles southwest of Cai Nhơn (3X 143 14C) when they came upon an unlighted sampan proceeding along the east bank of the river. Four armed men in the sampan evaded to the bank of the river when called alongside. The PBR's took the men under fire, two men were observed to be hit and the other two abandoned the sampan and went below the surface of the water. Hand grenades were dropped in the area but none of the bodies surfaced. All four are listed as killed.

Seawolves on a Long Thit River patrol on the evening of 24 August were directed to strike a VC staging area about ten miles southeast of Vinh Long (3X 1629). The helos brought fire to bear on six evading sampans but received no return fire. Enemy casualties were ten killed, two sampans destroyed and four others heavily damaged.

PBR's on patrol seven miles southeast of Dau Tieng (XT 555 351) on the night of 26-27 August sighted approximately 20 VC attempting
to cross the Saigon River from north to south. When the VC were in
the water, the boats illuminated and opened fire. AK-47 fire was
received from both banks and support was requested from fire support
Base Pakon. Mortar illumination was received from FSB Freda. The
eeny then fired two 8-40/41 rockets from the north bank but both
missed and the P-47s then suppressed the enemy fire. Shadow aircraft
(0-47) and H&I placed strikes in the area. When the aircraft departed,
the P-47s continued with H&I fire throughout the night to prevent enemy
rescue and body recovery efforts. Fifteen of the enemy were killed in
the encounter and an additional five were listed as probably killed.
There were no friendly casualties.

Two Bronco’s of TU 116.4.8 were scrambled to assist friendly
ground forces in heavy contact with the enemy about 22 miles southeast
of Soc Trang (WNR 904 425). The enemy forces were armed with at least
two crew served weapons. A ground sweep after the aircraft strikes
revealed 25 of the enemy killed, three structures destroyed, and two
crew served weapons destroyed. The enemy was also estimated to have
suffered ten others probably killed and three probably wounded. There
were no U.S. casualties. This action took place in mid morning
27 August.

On 28 August, Bronco’s were called on once again to support troops
in heavy contact with an estimated two platoons of VC 20 miles south-
east of Soc Trang (WNR 935 457). Their air strikes resulted in ten
of the enemy killed. There were no Navy casualties.
While conducting a PBR recon of Bo Cap Canal, 15 miles north-west of Phu Cuong (N 652 313) on the afternoon of 31 August, a VC was sighted walking on the bank carrying a bag. When the PBRs took the VC under fire, six other VC broke from cover at the canal crossing and ran west. The boats immediately took the additional VC under fire and killed four of them. The other three were wounded and captured. Also recovered was VC personal gear and documents. A readout of the documents revealed that the VC were returning from a mission to purchase rice in Chu Chi and that at least one VC was in Chu Chi. The VC were identified as members of the 294 VC Regiment. There were no U.S. casualties.

GAME WILDER SEAL OPERATIONS

Just prior to midnight on 1 August, SEALs were inserted by LSSC approximately 14 miles east of Nha Be (Y 155 774) in support of operation Friendship I. After establishing a guardpost position, they waited almost five hours before sighting 15 Viet Cong in three sampans. They took the sampans under fire and received heavy automatic fire in return. Seawolves were scrambled and placed strikes on the surrounding river banks. At the end of the encounter 10 VC were listed as probably killed, one sampan was destroyed, four personal weapons were captured and approximately four kilos of documents concerning rocket/mine use and manufacture were taken into custody. There were no U.S. casualties.

Reacting to intelligence received from detainees, seven SEALs and one LDNN were inserted by LSSC 12 miles west of My Tho (Y 305 400)
in the pre-dawn hours of 5 August. They patrolled south 100 meters
to a designated VC hootch and searched it with negative results.
Patrolling to the west they detained three males in another hootch.
When one of the detainees attempted to escape, he was taken under fire and
killed. The two remaining detainees were questioned, classified VC,
and then turned over to authorities at Dong Tam. This was a TG 194.4
operation.

Chieu Hoi and combined intelligence concerning alleged POW camps
triggered a series of TU 194.6.8 SEAL operations on 9 August in an
area 23 miles southeast of Ben Tre (XR 76 90, XR 82 43). The SEAL's
operating with LDNN's and PHU's were inserted by Army slicks and searched
for the three suspected sites with no success. They did however,
discover two VC base camps/work areas and a VC dispensary. The work­
shops and numerous hand grenades that were stockpiled there were
destroyed. Three VC were killed at the first site when an air strike
was called in to destroy the enemy structure. Three VC commo­liaison
personnel and one VC worker were captured at the dispensary. After
destroying the buildings at the second site, all friendly forces and
prisoners were extracted. Upon successful extraction H&I fire from
the USS PRITCHETT was placed in the area of the workshops. Inter­
rogations of the prisoners provided only one person who had heard of
POW's in the area within the last month. There were no friendly
casualties.

Acting on intelligence gathered from previous operations, SEAL's
of TU 194.6.8 with four LDNN's and three Hoi Chans were inserted by
LCM 10 miles west of My Tho (XS 324 409) on the afternoon of 11 August. The objective was a possible arms/weapons cache in a suspected VC base camp. Seawolves were scrambled to cover the operation and the entire objective area was prepped with mini-guns from the LCM. Four VC hooches, three VC sampans, and a 1,000 pound rice cache were destroyed and 1,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, two kilos of documents and some clothing and medical gear were captured.

In Long An Province eight miles southwest of Nha Be (XS 863 704) a combined operation involving 12 SEAL's, 26 PRU's, two LDNN's, PBR's, Bronco's, Seawolves, and U.S. Army slicks took place on the afternoon of 19 August. SEAL's and PRU's were inserted by slick and took cover awaiting the arrival of VC. Five VC met in a hootch and three more were seen approaching in a sampan. Those in the sampan were taken under fire and additional forces were landed by PBR's and LSSC's. After the VC had fled, the friendly forces began boarding the boats; but during extraction, additional VC were sighted in a nipa palm area and taken under fire by the PBR's and LSSC's. When return fire was received from the enemy positions, SEAL's and PRU's were inserted for a sweep of the area, at which point the enemy fled. Seawolves and Bronco's were scrambled to place strikes in the target area and cover extraction. There were no U.S. casualties. Enemy casualties were seven killed, one captured and an additional five listed as probably killed.

In the pre-dawn hours of 27 August, SEAL's and PRU's in waterborne guard-post position sighted three VC in a sampan traveling east on a canal
11" miles east of Nha Be (X: 113777). The sampan was taken under fire and the bodies were seen floating on the water as one man attempted to swim away. The swimmer was taken under fire and killed. Three AK-47 magazines with pouches and some personal gear were captured and the sampan was destroyed. There were no friendly casualties.

*HELY MINING/ABANDONMENT/ATTACKS ON MERCHANT SHIPPING*

The only case of enemy harassment of merchant shipping on the vital Long Tau shipping channel to Saigon occurred on 29 August when the 325 RNDD of Panamanian registry came under rocket fire. The rocket missed the target and there was no damage or personnel casualties.

There were two cases of enemy mining of ships and one possible mining attempt during August. On 20 August, the Japanese ship HIKARI was mined with 200-250 pounds of high explosive that blew a hole 8 ft. through the entire bottom of the stern. One crewman was killed and two others injured. The ship maintained its watertight integrity and empty tanks provided sufficient buoyancy to keep the ship afloat. The mining occurred in the vicinity of the Nha Be Tank Farm (XS 925 325). On 28 August the Dutch ship KENIA at the Nha Be Tank Farm was checked by U.S. Army PBR's between 0315-0330 and found to be secure. At 0345 Army PBR's sighted a white nylon line attached to KENIA's anchor chain and VNN divers were sent to the scene. Just as the divers were to enter the water the mine detonated. It was estimated to have been a 400 pound explosive charge. The explosion caused a 15 ft. by 20 ft. hole in the port side of the ship but once again the watertight integrity of the ship prevented it from sinking.
Three hours later another white nylon line was sighted attached to the US ARPA TAHLE, but no object was attached to it. It was believed that the jacking of the ship's propeller had cut loose a mine which then drifted away. In all cases attempts by Allied Forces to locate persons responsible were unsuccessful.

**TASK FORCE CLEARWATER**

Task Force Clearwater consists of two river security groups made up of ten PBR's each. River Division 521, the Hué River security group is based at Mobile Base I at Tam My Lagoon and River Division 543, based at Cua Viet, makes up the Dong Ha River security group. Enemy activity was light throughout the month with only seven hostile fire incidents. All river transits of the Cua Viet and Perfume Rivers were made without incident. Enemy casualties were three killed, one wounded and one captured. Navy casualties for this area were one killed and nine wounded; only one of these was the result of a fire-fight involving PBR's. Enemy rocket attacks on U.S. installations accounted for one killed and six of the wounded.

On 9 August, the pier security guard at Cua Viet using random scare charges observed a secondary explosion that produced a water spout approximately 60 feet in height. The explosion occurred about 30 feet from the end of the pier. Based on the size of the water spout and discussion with EOD personnel, it was believed to have been a mine of an unknown type.
Cua Viet received approximately ten rounds of 140mm rockets shortly after C200 on 11 August. About 15 minutes later C Battery 2/40 artillery fired 45 rounds of 105mm counter battery. The attack killed one Navyman and wounded two others and one soldier. The results of the counter battery are unknown. There was no damage to Clearwater assets and operations on the Cua Viet were unaffected.

A logistic craft transiting the Cua Viet River on 16 August sighted a possible water mine floating on the surface three miles from the mouth of the river (YD 296 667). PBR and EOD personnel investigated and found the mine to be pressure-influence type with two delay pencils and 82mm chemical long fuse attached. The pressure bulb and pressure chamber were lost during recovery. No explosion occurred. EOD personnel estimated that it contained 150-200 pounds of explosive, the arming circuit had functioned, both blasting caps had fired, and the mine was either a dud or a low order explosion detonated the previous day.
MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE SUMMARY

The Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force phased out of existence as COMLIVFLOT ONE/COMIVSUPRON SEVEN/TF 117 were disestablished on 25 August after operating in the Mekong Delta since February 1967. The redeployment of units of the U.S. Ninth Division from Dong Tam in consequence of the previously announced 25,000 personnel strength reduction, along with previous and planned turnover of river assault craft to the Vietnamese Navy, were major factors in the phase out. Remaining Navy components of the MRF have been designated the Riverine Strike Group and placed under the command of Commander Task Group 194.7, a component of the Operation SEA LORDS task organization. River assault squadron 13 and 15 remain intact under CTG 194.7. USS BENEWAH (APF 35), flagship of the MRF, moved from its usual station on the My Tho River near Dong Tam to the vicinity of French Fort (XS 885 535) on the Vam Co River.

Otherwise during the month, the MRF continued the limited operations which have been characteristic since the stand-down of 9th Division began. Primary emphasis was again given to local security operations in defense of Dong Tam and the preemption of rocket and mortar attacks against the base. Tactics to accomplish these goals, and which involved use of river assault craft, included daily insertion of 6/31 Infantry Battalion troops for interdiction sweeps in the vicinity of Dong Tam, night interdiction and sniper patrols, burn defoliation missions along the Xang Canal, water mobile guardposts, sampan and
personnel inspection, and harassment and interdiction fire into the southern Dong Tam defensive perimeter and reaction fire to Duffel radar sensor indications.

Operations outside the Dong Tam area were diversified and widespread. Numerous riverine assault operations throughout Kien Hoa Province took place on almost a daily basis as RAC supported various ARVN, Tiger Scout, PRU, Maritime National Police and RF/FP activities. The majority of these operations were initiated along the Ham Luong and Bai Lai Rivers. Interdiction patrols involving about 3 RAC were conducted in the vicinity of 36 Dec and Football Island (43 90 40) in the Mekong River. Operations in the Can Giuoc area of Long An Province, targeted against the Viet Cong Dong Phu 265 and 508 Battalions continued as RAC supported the 3/7th Infantry Battalion of the Third Brigade. On the 28th of the month, the newly founded Riverine Strike Group assumed patrol/interdiction responsibilities for the Vam Co River and its tributaries. After the BENGHAH shifted locale to French Fort, RAC also augmented TG 116.9 patrol units on the Nha Be River and supported TG 116.3 as a ready reaction force on the Cho Gao Canal. Inspections of sampans and personnel received special attention in all areas throughout the month.

Significant contingents of RAC supported various SEA LORDS and other operations, i.e. GIANT SLINGSHOT, Tran Hung Dao and the RSSZ. Further details are given in the Operation SEA LORDS summary. The table below illustrates the deployment of RAC at month's end — of
particular note is the significant reduction in boats assigned to Kien Hoa Province operations as compared to other months:

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<th>Operation</th>
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<th>ATC</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base Defense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kien Hoa Province Ops</td>
<td>RAD 132</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2(1F)</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repair &amp; Overhaul</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2(1F)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
<td><strong>13(5F)</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) F - flame thrower configured monitor
(2) 4 M50's utilized in utility role

Enemy contact was inconsequential in all MRF operating areas during the month. Of the 14 hostile fire incidents (HFI) reported, only two were enemy initiated firefights involving an exchange of fire. One friendly initiated firefight took place while the balance of the HFI's were cases of unilateral fire. No U.S. casualties were sustained while 1 PRU and 1 RF were killed and 2 PRU and 7 RF were wounded. Enemy casualties were 23 killed (2 probable). These casualty figures are the lowest on record.

The Honorable John M. Warner, Under Secretary of the Navy, accompanied by Vice Admiral Zumwalt, COMNAVFORV, visited the MRF on 17 August during his tour of Naval activities. As the Secretary observed an H&I fire demonstra-