OPERATIONS IN THE
SECOND COASTAL ZONE

Legend:
- Coastal Surveillance Center
X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
# - SAR/MED/HVAC Incident

A. Joint Operations - 1 - 5 SEP
B. USCGC SPENCER - 24 SEP
C. USCGC SPENCER - 25 SEP
D. PCF 57 - 27 SEP
E. USCGC TANEY - 28 SEP
F. USCGC TANEY - 29 SEP
Third Coastal Zone

In the Third Coastal Zone, the number of detections was about the same as the preceding month indicating no increase in indigenous coastal traffic during September. Surveillance operations resulted in the detection of 6,381 watercraft. Patrol effectiveness remained high with 3,085 inspections and 1,943 boardings. There were no incidents of evading craft while 19 craft and 83 persons were detained. In addition, "Swift" boats patrolling the lower Bassac and Co Chien Rivers detected 5,388 craft, and of those, 1,920 were inspected, and 2,174 were boarded resulting in four craft and 13 persons being detained. There were no incidents of evading craft reported for either the Bassac or Co Chien Rivers.

There were 163 naval gunfire support missions conducted during September. These missions were in response to requests for urgent naval gunfire support, targets of opportunity, H and I, or in preplanned river and canal incursions.

On the morning of 6 September, the PT COMFORT (USCG WPB) observed three people running across the beach about 35 miles northwest of Old Nam Can. They were immediately taken under fire, after sector clearance had been obtained, killing one VC and wounding two others. Two camouflaged sampans were also taken under fire and destroyed.

The PT COMFORT (USCG WPB) while on normal Market Time patrol conducted a NGFS mission on 7 September on a suspected VC weapons and food cache at the mouth of the Co Chien River about 15 miles southeast of Phu Vinh (XR 680 87'). Firing at a range of from 600 to 2,000 yards with direct spotting, the WPE destroyed six structures with her 81mm mortars. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties are unknown.

On 7 September, PCP's 17 and 28 inserted PRU, National Police Field Forces, and PF forces about 40 miles southeast of Can Tho on the Bassac River (XR 338 627).
The "Swift" boats then withdrew to provide a blocking force and gunfire support. The ground forces led by Hoi Chanhs found an abandoned VC prison camp. Sweeping to the west, another PCN camp was found and six prisoners were liberated. The troops were then extracted, and on the return trip, PCF 17 conducted a psyops mission. The ground forces killed two VC and captured 15 pounds of documents. As a result of the psyops broadcast, two Hoi Chanhs rallied to the "Swift" boats. There were no friendly casualties.

The PT BANKS (USCG WPB) was conducting routine boardings and inspections on the morning of 12 September when one sampan failed to stop and evaded into a treeline 1,000 yards down a canal about 45 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 425 623). The WPS closed the position, and the sampan emerged from the canal and came alongside. One Vietnamese male without identification was detained as a suspected Viet Cong. Upon inspecting the sampan, 75 packs of cigarettes, 600 pounds of rice, 40 gallons of gasoline, 10 pounds of sugar, 40 cans of American sardines, and one case of medicine, all unmanifested, were captured. The damaged sampan was delivered to CG-36 for further transfer to the NILO Soc Trang. There were no friendly casualties.

The PT PARTRIDGE (USCG WPB) fired a sector approved NCFS mission on the afternoon of 13 September about 62 miles southwest of Can Tho (WQ 47 96). The WPS gunfire accounted for two structures and one sampan destroyed and another six structures heavily damaged. There were no friendly casualties.

Early on the morning of September, FCF 87 inserted 30 PF/RF troops about 16 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 07 93) and then stood by as a blocking force. The mission was an attempt to capture a Viet Cong Infrastructure (VCI). The mission was aborted when the intelligence agent failed to show.

The PT CYPRESS (USCG WPB) was requested to provide support for a troop insertion on 22 September off the Song My Than (XR 150 444) about 43 miles...
southeast of My Tho. The WPB provided 81mm NCFS and stoodby for .50 caliber support should the enemy come into the open. Enemy S/A fire was received and quickly suppressed. The mission terminated at 0830 with the WPB having destroyed five bunkers. There were no friendly casualties while enemy casualties are unknown.

On the morning of 27 September, the PT BANKS (USCG WPB) conducted a gunfire support mission in a VC area about sixteen miles southeast of Phu Vinh (XR 757 864). The WPB spotted two people in a field who fled into the treeline and two people in a structure and were taken under fire with 81mm and automatic weapons. There were no friendly casualties while two VC were killed and two VC wounded. One structure was destroyed and six damaged.

On the afternoon of 29 September, PCF 63 detained two VC suspects while conducting routine board and search operations in the Co Chien River about 11 miles southeast of Vinh Long (XR 493 025). One suspect had three separate sets of ID papers in his possession and 300 kilos of unmanifested rice. When apprehended, the suspect attempted to bribe the crew members. Under initial interrogation by VNN crew members, the suspect admitted to being a VC and had been acting as a courier for three months. The second suspect had illegal medicine and blank draft deferment papers. He admitted to being a VC when interrogated at Coastal Group 36 Headquarters near Dong Phu. The confiscated medicine, 300 kilos of rice, blank draft deferment papers along with one sampan were turned over to NILO Tra Vinh for disposition.

At 0800 on 29 September, PCF 95 rendezvoused with the PT ELLIS (USCG WPB) and commenced patrolling the Cua My Thanh taking offensive bunkers under fire. At 2000, a water taxi heavily loaded with cargo was stopped and searched. The
taxi master had an altered ID card, no date entries in his boat log, no travel papers, and no military papers. The taxi was detained until first light when it was released to the taxi master's wife. During the night, two other sampans were searched with negative results and released after strong warnings. The occupants stated that the reason for traveling at night was that during the day, aircraft would take them under fire. There were seven bunkers destroyed and six bunkers heavily damaged along with assorted hammers, chisels, knives, and saws. There were no friendly casualties, and one Vietnamese was detained.
OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE

LEGEND:

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

A. PT COMFORT - 6 SEP
B. PT COMFORT - 7 SEP
C. PCF's 17 & 28 - 7 SEP
D. PT BANKS - 12 SEP
E. PT PARTRIDGE - 13 SEP
F. PCF 87 - 16 SEP
G. PT CYPRESS - 22 SEP
H. PT BANKS - 27 SEP
I. PCF 63 - 24 SEP
J. PT ELLIS & PCF 95 - 29 SEP

SCALE:

CON SON

0 30
Nautical Miles
OPERATION MARKET TIME

There were 541 naval gunfire support, SEA LORDS, SEA FLOAT and SEA TIGER missions conducted during September, approximately 27 less than in August. Gun damage assessment on these missions was 34.9 percent, with the following results being attained:

118 Viet Cong killed (79 body count, 39 probable)
27 Viet Cong wounded
13 Viet Cong captured
131 Junks/Sampans destroyed
8 Junks/Sampans heavily damaged
212 Structures/Bunkers heavily damaged

There were 20 incidents of evading craft and personnel reported and taken under fire resulting in 15 watercraft destroyed and 28 Viet Cong killed, (24 body count, 4 probable), 3 VC wounded and 2 VC captured.

Surveillance operations resulted in the detection of 59,255 watercraft. Of these 27,247 were inspected and another 14,400 were boarded. Detections of steel hulled vessels in Market Time areas totalled 656 with 466 being inspected and another 24 boarded and all determined to be non-suspicious.

"Swift" boats conducting Operations SEA LORDS and SEA FLOAT river and canal incursions (Market Time Raiders) in the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones conducted 78 multi-craft missions during
September. The results of the missions were not as impressive as in previous months as the enemy avoided contact whenever possible. During the month the "Swift" boats in the IV Corps Tactical Zone when not engaged in SEA LORDS missions were involved in the SEA FLOAT/TRAN HUNG DAO III PSYOPS Campaign in the lower Cai Mau Peninsula. These operations are discussed under Market Time Raiders in the Operation SEA LORDS summary and Operation SEA FLOAT summary.

SEAL units attached to Task Force 115 continued routine operations during September in the IV Corps Tactical Zone in support of Operation SEA FLOAT. A tactic which proved very successful in the SEAL operations and will be used again was a false extraction by helicopter and then establishment of an interdiction post.

The Market Time P-3 air patrol barrier remains the principle deterrent and detection of infiltration from sea. On 1 September, due to a cutback in funds, the number of air barrier flights was reduced from 150 flights per month to 125 flights per month. By concentrating the majority of these flights during those periods which are more favorable to trawler infiltration and by randomising the remaining flights, the probability of detection of a 20-knot non-intelligence trawler has remained at 60% or above. The periods considered most probable for trawler infiltration are during the dark of the moon, during the hours of darkness, during periods of high tides (Delta areas), during periods of adverse weather conditions, and during truce or holiday periods.

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A tactic which proved successful occurred when Market Time inshore patrol units combined with larger offshore units (MSO/MSC) in a follow on of the wolf pack technique, wherein the command and control platform (MSO/MSC) maintained a plot of all contacts and vectors the participating PCF's, WPB's, or skimmers to investigate the surface contacts in the area. The command and control platform by maintenance of a plot was able to detect any unit within the area attempting to evade boarding and search.

On 1 September two U.S. Navy hydrofoil patrol gunboats the USS FLAGSTAFF (PGH 1) and the USS TUCUMCARI (PGH 2) arrived in Vietnam for an extended combat test and evaluation. The two craft were assigned to the First Coastal Zone under the operational control of Commander Task Group 115.1 and will be based at DaNang. The PGH's reported ready in all respects to assume patrol duties on 15 September. The craft will make random patrols along pre-established tracks both day and night at speeds in excess of 40 knots.

PCF-10 Sinking

PCF 10 arrived alongside USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST 1170) at 1300H on 6 September and moored alongside to starboard. There was a westerly wind, 20 to 25 knots with gusts to 40 knots and the seas were six to eight feet from the west. At 1730 PCF 10 began taking water internally and the damage control party was called away and rigged portable pumps. The PCF commenced taking water over the stern faster than the pumps could remove it. At 2000H a sudden squall
occurred which negated all efforts to save the boat and it sank at 2015H in about 25 feet of water at VQ6870. All classified material, small arms and personal effects were removed prior to the sinking. PCF 10 was dewatered and afloat at 211500H; salvage operations having been delayed by heavy weather. It was intended to tow the "Swift" boat to Vung Tau; however, after inspection she was found to be totally unseaworthy for two and was loaded on board the USS WHETSTONE (LSD 27) and lifted to Cat Le for repairs on 25 September.

The USS NOXUBEE (AOG 56) was anchored at the FOL buoy at the Naval Support Activity Detachment, Gua Viet (YD 3670) on the morning of 8 September when a white object and two swimmers were sighted and taken under fire with small arms and grenades. EOD divers inspected the hull for mines with negative results and then the NOXUBEE moved approximately five miles offshore and anchored for the night. At 090156H the NOXUBEE received a mine explosion on the port side forward causing a three to five degree list to port. Inspection of the damaged area showed magazine A-306-W flooded, port ballast tank A-310-W open to sea and flooded, a three to five foot hole below the waterline between frames 31 and 32, and a 15-inch hole in deck cargo hold A-204-A, and split seams along the deck in cargo hold. Flooding was under control at 0303H. Cargo was offloaded to raise the hole above the waterline and the NOXUBEE proceeded to Danang where the USS C. APPLE (ARS 7) assisted in applying a 6X8 foot, 3/8 inch steel plate over the hole. Temporary repairs were completed on 13 September and the USS NOXUBEE was able to perform her assignments.
On 15 September the PT CLEAR (USCG WFB) was decommissioned from the U.S. Coast Guard and turned over to the Vietnamese Navy.
OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE

LEGEND:
☐ - Coastal Surveillance Center
☐ - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident
☐ - SAR/MEDEVAC Incident

SCALE:
0 30 Nautical Miles

A. SEA ICRDS - 3 SEP
B. SEA ICRDS - 1 SEP
C. SEA ICRDS - 4-5 SEP
D. SEA ICRDS - 25 SEP
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE

A. SEA LORDS - 14 SEP
B. SEA LORDS - 22 SEP
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE

A. SEAL's - 3 SEP
B. SEAL's - 5 SEP
C. SEAL's - 12 SEP
D. SEAL's - 16 SEP
E. SEA FLOTAL - 17 SEP
F. SEAL's - 20 SEP
G. SEAL's - 22 SEP
H. SEA FLOTAL/SEAL's - 24 SEP
I. SEA FLOTAL/SEAL's - 26 SEP
J. SEA FLOTAL - 29 SEP
K. SEA FLOTAL - 30 SEP

SCALE: CA MAU POINT
0 NAUTICAL MILES 30
CG 41 - POULO BASE 0BI

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Patrol aircraft detachments from four Navy patrol squadrons manned the Market Time Air Barrier during September. Patrol Squadron SIX (VP-6) operated out of U-Tapao, Thailand. Detachments from VP-17, VP-9, and VP-46 operated from Cam Ranh Bay.

The inshore patrol which consists of 54 stations now has 20 stations manned by the Vietnamese Navy. Two Market Time areas are now patrolled by coastal groups. Coastal Group 21 commenced patrolling area 3 Echo on 4 July 1969 and Coastal Group 26 and 27 have split area 4 Golf and commenced patrolling on 8 September.
Market Time Units

Patrol aircraft detachments from four Navy patrol squadrons manned the Market Time Air Barrier during September. Patrol Squadron SIX (VP-6) operated out of U-Tapao, Thailand. Detachments from VP-17, VP-9, and VP-46 operated from Cam Ranh Bay.

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Market Time Assets

The following is a list of Market Time assets:

4 U.S. Coastal Surveillance Centers
1 VNN Coastal Surveillance Center
1 Command Operations Center CRB
4 Harbor Defense Units
82 PCP's
23 WPB's
5 Coastal Divisions
3 PG's
2 LSSC's
1 LST
3 WHEC's
2 MSO's
1 MSC
2 PCH's
1 Radar Site (Con Son Island)
12 Ammi Pontoons (MATSB)
1 Helo Refueler
4 ATC's
1 Zippo
1 Zippo Recharger
1 LCPL (armored)
18 LCPL, MK II
1 Pier Complex (CG-14 - Cua Dai)
The following SEVENTH Fleet Ships operated in Market Time during the month of September:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship Name</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USS GALLANT (MSO 489)</td>
<td>1 - 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCGC TANEY (WHEC 37)</td>
<td>1 - 3, 27 - 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCGC SPENCER (WHEC 36)</td>
<td>5 - 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS WIDGEON (MSC 208)</td>
<td>1 - 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS WOODPECKER (MSC 209)</td>
<td>13 - 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS PHOEBE (MSC 199)</td>
<td>20 - 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS LOYALTY (MSO 457)</td>
<td>1 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS FIRM (MSO 444)</td>
<td>5 - 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCGC MENDOTA (WHEC 69)</td>
<td>1 - 17, 27 - 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCGC MARATHON (WHEC 66)</td>
<td>18 - 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCGC SANTAGO (WHEC 42)</td>
<td>1 - 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>USS WHINDHAM CITY (LST 170)</td>
<td>1 - 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>USS GALLUP (PC 85)</td>
<td>1 - 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS ASHEVILLE (PG 84)</td>
<td>11 - 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS CROCKET (PG 88)</td>
<td>14 - 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PCF's Assigned to Coastal Divisions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCF's Assigned to Commital Divisions:</th>
<th>PCF's Assigned to Chu Lai Detachment</th>
<th>Total Assigned PCF's (75)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELEVEN: An Thoi</td>
<td>TWELVE: Danang</td>
<td>THIRTEEN: CAT LO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>96</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(23)</td>
<td>(14)</td>
<td>(19)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Non-Assigned PCF's

- **VAN PCF Training Location**: Saigon Boat School

### PCF's in Overhaul

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCF</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>COMMENCED</th>
<th>ETC</th>
<th>EST LENGTH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Cam Ranh Bay</td>
<td>13 Aug 69</td>
<td>09 Oct 69</td>
<td>57 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Cam Ranh Bay</td>
<td>08 Sep 69</td>
<td>27 Oct 69</td>
<td>49 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>Cam Ranh Bay</td>
<td>19 Sep 69</td>
<td>07 Nov 69</td>
<td>49 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Cat Lo</td>
<td>12 Aug 69</td>
<td>10 Oct 69</td>
<td>59 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>Cat Lo</td>
<td>19 Aug 69</td>
<td>01 Nov 69</td>
<td>73 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** PCF-10 at Cat Lo undergoing damage evaluation

### Total Non-Assigned PCF

- **Total Non-Assigned PCF (07)**
- **Grand Total (82)**
Average number U.S. ships/craft on patrol during month.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MSO</th>
<th>WBF</th>
<th>PCF</th>
<th>LST</th>
<th>PG</th>
<th>WHEC</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AVG</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average number VNN ships/junks employed during month.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Force</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>River Force</th>
<th>Coastal Force</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sea Force</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>187</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Activity:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Detected</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Inspected</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Boarded</td>
<td></td>
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U.S. Activity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Total Detected</th>
<th>River Force</th>
<th>Coastal Force</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wood - Day</td>
<td>29155</td>
<td>14488</td>
<td>10293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel - Day</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night</td>
<td>30100</td>
<td>15761</td>
<td>4107</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steel - Day</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night</td>
<td>59,815</td>
<td>27,715</td>
<td>14,424</td>
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VNN Activity:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>River Force</th>
<th>Coastal Force</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junks Searched</td>
<td>77273</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons Searched</td>
<td>257517</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junks Detained</td>
<td>134</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons Detained</td>
<td>509</td>
<td></td>
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U.S. Activity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>River Force</th>
<th>Coastal Force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junks Detained</td>
<td>236</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons Detained</td>
<td>865</td>
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Stable Door Statistics:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Junks Detected</td>
<td>59,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Inspections</td>
<td>5,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Boardings</td>
<td>4,269</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Operation Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III

During September, Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III enjoyed the same success as during July and August. There were over 50 Sea Float and SEAL missions conducted during September utilizing from two to six "Swift" boats and supported by a FG, three RAG ACT's, a zippo, SEAL, EOD and UDT Teams, Seavolves, Slicks, and OV-10 aircraft. In addition, Vietnamese Navy LSH's, LCPL's, LSIL's, Coastal Group 41 Yabuta Junks and PRU's, RF troops, VNN Special Forces, and Kiet Carson Scouts participated actively in these missions. The Sea Float missions were designed to maximize damage to known or suspected extortion stations, VC base areas, and secret zones. The forces conducted day and night psyops patrols along the rivers and canals of the Sea Float operating area. Airborne units continued psyops missions in the area inaccessible to the craft. The "Swift" boats inserted SEAL's, EOD, UDT, PRU's, RF and VNN special forces, provided gunfire support, waterborne guardposts, blocking forces and escort service for logistic craft along the Bo De and Gua Lon Rivers and adjacent canals. The eight to twelve PCF's also participated in SEA LORDS missions in areas adjacent to the Sea Float AO. All afloat units and the Mobile Advance Tactical Support Base conducted nightly H and I fire during the month of September into known VC base camps and extortion areas.

Evidence of the success of the operation is a sign located in Old Man Can which reads, "Sampan Motor Repair Shop Open For Business."
The Sea Float Annex was manned by Vietnamese forces during the entire month of September and consisted of a various mix of the following ships and support forces: LSIL, LSM(H), POLWAR Team, VNN Reaction forces, Coastal Group 41 Yabuta Junks and Kit Carson Scouts.

The following floating assets are assigned to Sea Float: 8-12 PCF's, 1 PG, 1 LSIL, 1 LSM(H), 1 LCPL (Armored), 2 LSSC's, 5 Yabuta Junks, 3 ASPB's, 3 ATC's, and 1 Zippo.

On 3 September, the Chairman of the Joint General Staff, General Cao Van Vien; Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, VADM E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN; CG, DMAC, MGHN Roderick Wetherill, USA, and the Vietnamese Chief of Naval Operations, Commodore Tran Van Chon visited Sea Float and received a briefing and tour and observed a fire power demonstration.

On 4 September, 228 MSF troops were transported by CH-47 from Sea Float to Ca Mau for further transfer to Nha Trang.

On 4 September, the USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD 5) with tug MICHAEL arrived at Sea Float with a new helo and helo refueler ammis. The tug and tow were escorted by "Swift" boats to the MATSB without incident.

On 6 September, a 100-man VVN Special Forces arrived at Sea Float via LSM HQ403 for duty and established a camp on the north shore of the Cuon Lon River in the vicinity of Old Nam Can.
The District Chief and the District Senior Advisor of Nam Can, visited the Sea Float Annex and were briefly and received a tour. They were favorably impressed with the progress in the vicinity of the Sea Float Annex.

On 11 September, PCF's 17, 25, and 13 departed Cat Lo for Sea Float to augment existing forces and to provide a patrol capability on the Song Ong Doc.

Captain J. R. Faulk, USN, CTF 116 and Father Hoa of Ha Tien District visited Sea Float on 16 September and received briefings and tours.

On 16 September, CDR T. R. Emery, USN, Commander Task Group 115.7 was incapacitated due to a leg injury and was relieved by LCDR C. L. Miller, USN, Commander Task Unit 115.7.7. On 17 September CDR J. G. Patrick, USN, Chief Staff Officer of CTF 115 arrived at Sea Float and assumed the duties of Commander Task Group 115.7, Sea Float.

An NBC News Team arrived at Sea Float 17 September and received briefings and a tour of the Sea Float Annex and departed on the 16th via Slick holo for Can Tho.

The Provincial Senior Advisor of An Hueyn Province and the Agricultural Advisor visited Sea Float on 21 September and discussed the movement of RF troops to Sea Float and the development of agriculture at the Sea Float Annex.

Regional Force troops arrived at Sea Float on 22 September and established a base camp and perimeter on the north shore of the Song
Cua Lon. PRU's arrived the same day via Slick helo and commenced operations on 23 September.

On 24 September, the USS WHETSTONE (LSO 8) discharged 2 ATG’s for Sea Float, 2 ATG’s for further transfer to Breezy Cove, one zippo and one zippo recharger for Sea Float.

CDR Minh, the VNMe staff POLWAR Officer, visited Sea Float on 27 September for a briefing and a tour.

The PRU's which have been operating with Sea Float since early August were released and returned to Ca Mau on 28 September. The Deputy, Cords IV Corps, GSA An Inyen and Ambassador Golby's deputy for pacification visited Sea Float for briefings and a tour on the 28th.

Mr. Tom Buckley, a correspondent, arrived at Sea Float on 29 September via Slick helo for a briefing and a tour of the Sea Float Annex and departed that afternoon for Ca Mau.

Commander Task Force 76 and party visited Sea Float for briefings and tours on 30 September.

At 1915 on 3 September SEAL Team Det GOLF with two Kit Carson Scouts (KCS) departed Sea Float aboard an LCVC to interdict water traffic in an attempt to gain intelligence on a possible VC munition factory as reported by a POW. The Bach Gai Chon Canal was entered and the SEAL's were inserted about 11 miles southeast of Sea Float (WQ 134 664). They patrolled 200 meters to the north where an interdiction post
was established. At 2125H an unlighted sampen with four occupants was hailed by the KCS, searched and all persons were detained. Ten minutes later two unlighted sampans with five occupants were hailed, but the occupants immediately went over the side and were taken under fire. At 2210H the LCPL extracted the detainees and conducted a false extraction of the SEAL Team. At 0115H personnel movement was observed on the opposite bank; however, there was no further contact with the enemy and the SEAL's and KCS were extracted at 0600H and returned to Sea Float. There were no friendly casualties while four VC were killed and four detainees were returned to Sea Float. Two of the detainees indicated a willingness to take the SEAL's into their hamlet where 20 VC are reported.

A SEAL mission was conducted on 5 September with the objective of liberating the family of a Hoi Chanh who had rallied to Sea Float forces the previous day. The Hoi Chanh had indicated he had been the security chief of a small hamlet five and one half kilometer south-southeast of Sea Float (WQ 003 561) and that the hamlet contained 33 families. The SEAL team and five Kit Carson Scouts were inserted by Slick helos with Seawolves providing cover. Patrolling toward the objective a small hamlet containing 9 hootches was discovered. Five males were observed running away but they could not be taken under fire due to the close proximity of women and children. The patrol continued via sampen to the edge of the hamlet. As the hamlet was entered, four males were taken under fire resulting in one person killed who was later identified as a VC hamlet guerrilla. The wife
and five children of the Hoi Chanh departed with the patrol to the extraction point via sampans. At the extraction site, the KCS discovered and rendered safe six CHICOM trip-wire booby traps. The SEAL's, KCS, and Hoi Chanh with family were extracted by Slicks and returned to Sea Float with Seawolves providing cover. There were no friendly casualties. Seven kilos of documents and 11 VC flags were captured while 400 kilos of salt were destroyed. The Hoi Chanh's information proved very reliable and extremely helpful in pointing out booby traps.

On the morning of 12 September, two Seawolves with SEAL's embarked departed Sea Float to make a false SEAL insertion vicinity WQ 00 55 about two miles south of the MTSB where the SEAL's had made contact with the enemy the previous day. Upon approaching the landing zone, light machine gun fire was received and quickly suppressed with rockets and machine gun fire by the Seawolves. About an hour later while the NILO was making a visual reconnaissance of the area the helos received a heavy volume of A/W fire which was suppressed by Seawolf strikes. At 1043H, the mission was aborted when one Seawolf developed a hydraulic failure and proceeded to Hai Yen for repairs. OV-10 (Black Pony) aircraft were requested to hit the enemy positions and placed rocket and machine gun strikes on a VC base camp until all ordnance was expended. The morning air strikes resulted in three structures and three bunkers destroyed and four structures and two bunkers damaged along with three machine guns and positions destroyed. There were no friendly casualties while seven VC were probably killed.
On the night of 16 September, a SEAL team embarked in six sampans with Kit Carson Scouts disguised as VC transited canals to a known VC hamlet (NQ 128 852) 15 miles northeast of Sea Float. Upon approaching the hamlet, five VC were observed fleeing from a hooch and were taken under fire. At the same time, sniper fire was received from the opposite bank and was quickly suppressed. The troops then returned to Sea Float having killed one VC and captured two others. Interrogation of the two prisoners indicated they were attending a hamlet military meeting and that the VC killed was a hamlet security leader. There were no friendly casualties.

Six PCE's were underway at 0700 on 19 September as part of a combined operation utilizing USN, VNN, RF, ARVN, and VNAF personnel to conduct a search and clear mission in an area between the Song Ong Doc and U Minh forest and to resupply the city of Song Ong Doc by river convoy. Sixty RF troops were inserted on the north bank and secured a landing zone in about fifteen minutes for a fire base at Old Song Ong Doc (VR 975 025). As soon as the area was secured CH-47's brought in a pair of 105mm howitzers, a crew and ammunition. At 0925, RAG 25 with RF troops embarked arrived from Ca Mau escorting the RF boat company (9LCVP's) with supplies for Song Ong Doc. The ARVN troops were inserted by Slicks at VR 935 078/VR 919 669/VR 904 066 and following several air strikes commenced a search and clear sweep toward the Song Ong Doc. The "Swift" boats with troops embarked provided a blocking force along the river moving several times during the day to provide maximum blocking coverage. During
the afternoon the ARVN made light contact with the enemy resulting in five VC killed. At 1650 the "Swift" boats exited the river without incident. All the troops were extracted by Slicks and the fire base by CH-47 at 1700 while RAG 25 continued to Ce Had escorting the LCVP's. One large bunker complex was destroyed and several small arms and ammunition were captured. There were no friendly casualties while six VC were killed and one VC captured.

Early on the morning of 20 September SEAL Team Det GOLF with Kit Carson Scouts established an interdiction post along the Rach Cat Ngay at the mouth of the Ong Don Canal (WQ 178 777) about eight miles northeast of Sea Float. Two large motorized sampans approached their position and when hailed started to evade and were then taken under fire. The sampans were pushed ashore and one female and two children were detained. A search of the sampans revealed a large amount of rice, VN liquor and fuel. The SEAL's were extracted by LSSC at 0745 and returned to Sea Float. There were no friendly casualties while five VC were killed and one female and two children were detained. Two large sampans, four motors, 2,000 pounds of rice were destroyed along with the VN liquor and fuel. The female detainee when interrogated stated that she had been captured by the VC that the man behind her in the sampan was carrying a pistol.

Reacting to intelligence that a hamlet located 15 kilometers northeast of Old Nam Can WQ 097 775 was occupied by 10 VC and that a 57mm and 75mm recoilless rifles were kept there, SEAL's, 8 PRU's and an EOD team departed Sea Float via slick on the afternoon of 22 September for the objective. The troops were inserted and swept west along
the Ong Don Canal and captured two males in a sampan. Sniper fire was received and suppressed from the treeline east of the hamlet and then Seawolves in the area placed air strikes on the enemy position. After a search of the hamlet with negative results the SEAL's called for a false extraction and set up an interdiction post. Three males returning to the hamlet from rice paddies were taken under fire when they attempted to evade. A Seawolf sighted five males in a sampan heading south in the Cai Keo Canal and when they fired at the helo the fire was returned killing all five VC and destroying the sampan. The SEAL's were then extracted by Slick at 1445. At the same time Seawolf sighted another sampan and returned the enemy fire killing two VC. An air strike was then put on the hamlet. The operation resulted in nine VC killed and three males and one female detained. There were four structures and two sampans destroyed. There were no friendly casualties.

Reacting to an intelligence report, a patrol consisting of 8 SEAL's, 4 EOD, 10 PRU's, 7 KCS and one civilian guide departed Sea Float the morning of 24 September to destroy a VC hospital about 7 kilometers east-southeast of Sea Float (WQ 146 662). The patrol was inserted in two elements and located the hospital complex adjacent to a small canal; however, it had been abandoned for 3 or 4 days. A small amount of medicine was discovered and destroyed along with the hospital. The element sweeping south located a hootah complex and three sampans, one loaded with wood and the other two with food supplies. The two elements continued their patrol until they joined and then swept 300 meters to the south in an attempt to liberate the guide's family;
however, they weren't at home. The patrols were then extracted and returned to Sea Float. One KCS was slightly wounded when he stepped in a punji pit. The patrol destroyed 11 structures, six sampans, 800 pounds of rice, 600 pounds of sweet potatoes, 200 pounds of sugar, 40 cartons of cigarettes, 8 cases of liquor and a small quantity of medicine. There were three males detained and initial interrogation revealed they had been captured by two VC the previous day.

On 26 September eight SEAL's, 10 PRU's, seven KCS's and 4 EOD were inserted at Kiem Lam (WQ 026 524) by Slick helos with Seawolves providing cover. The first element patrolled south while the second element patrolled north and set up an interdiction post. Shortly, six armed males in a sampan were observed proceeding up the canal. When the KCS hailed the sampan the occupants immediately went over the side and were taken under fire. Four VC were killed and two wounded which managed to evade. The first element came upon a hamlet containing seven hooches and after searching and removing documents hidden under floorboards the hamlet was taken under fire by CV-10's. The patrols continued until the afternoon without further contact when all units were extracted by Slick and returned to Sea Float. There were no friendly casualties while four VC were killed and two wounded. There were 11 structures, five bunkers, six sampans, one generator and one VC base camp with all contents destroyed.

Early on the morning of 29 September PCF's 93 and 5 while in a waterborne guardpost about three miles from the mouth of the Bo De River (WQ 219 686) observed a 65-foot ocean-going junk (MT594 NTDG)
proceeding slowly up the Bo De River from sea. The "Swift" boats got underway, illuminated the junk and proceeded alongside. Six males on the bow of the junk threw a small box over the side and were frantically trying to cut free a fishing net hanging over the side. The PCF crewman boarded the junk and seized all males before they could cut the net. The extreme weight of the net precluded bringing it on deck and also precluded towing the junk due to its drag. The net was then cut and sank with its contents. The junk was then towed to Sea Float and while enroute one detainee offered a PCF VNN trainee 3,000 piasters to release them. The six detainees were turned over to Sea Float for interrogation.

About midnight on 30 September PCF's 62 and 72 while enroute to set up a waterborne guardpost observed three sampans proceeding east and north on the Song Gua Lon about seven miles southwest of Sea Float (VQ 879 605). As the "Swift" boats closed the sampans two headed toward the north bank and one to the south bank. People were observed jumping from the sampans and they were taken under fire. When no return fire was received the "Swift" boats proceeded to search the sampans and area. The sampans were 25 to 30-foot in length with two long shaft motors each and each contained an estimated one ton of oysters and 500 pounds of rice. While rigging the sampans for tow, two badly shot up sampans began to sink and two detainees and as much gear as possible were taken off as the sampans sank rapidly. The
remaining sampan with contents was returned to Sea Float. The two
detainees with their belongings were turned over to the NILO Nam
Cam for interrogation. There were no friendly casualties and two VC
were killed.
Operation Stable Door

During September, all Stable Door harbor defense units maintained active patrols in their areas of responsibility with no mining incidents or swimmer/sapper activity reported. Patrol units continued to support ground operations with blocking forces and landing reconnaissance patrols. Surveillance results led to the detection of 59,257 craft. Of these, 5,467 were inspected and another 4,269 were boarded. Description of the four harbor defense units follow:

Unit One - Vung Tau

During September a total of five persons were detained for curfew violation, being in a restricted zone, or invalid identification cards.

On 7 September, Harbor Entrance Control Post (HECP) received a call from the MSTS BATTLE GEAR which reported that an airborne object had landed in the water. The object floated with a four finned tail section protruding out of the water. Picket 29 and LCPL 33 were dispatched to investigate, and the EOD Team determined that the object was a large jettisonable aircraft fuel tank and sank it.

While conducting routine concussion grenade drops on 14 September, one ½ pound TNT block exploded immediately after being armed aboard Picket 27. The boat captain and two crew members received minor shrapnel wounds. The craft received one six-inch hole in the engine hatch cover. Picket 27 proceeded to the MSTS pier and transferred the wounded persons to the 36th MEDEVAC Hospital. The men were treated and released. Subsequent investigation determined the cause of the accident to be personnel error.
On 15 September, a call was received from the USNS KUSKINGUA regarding a seaman who had passed out and experienced muscle spasms and partial paralysis. LCPL 33 with an Army Corpsman from the 36th MEDEVAC Hospital transported the seaman to the Delong Pier for transfer to the hospital.

Unit Two - Cam Ranh Bay

During the month, 23 persons were detained by Unit Two personnel for being in a restricted zone and invalid/altered identification cards.

On 19 September, the Harbor Entrance Control Post received a report from the harbor master that the LAHAINA VICTORY transiting out of the harbor observed an explosion approximately 500 meters off her starboard quarter causing a 65 foot water geyser. The ship was held in the outer harbor until Stable Door 300 personnel could investigate. The investigation revealed no marks, dents, scratches or marks of any kind usually found after an underwater explosion was discovered. All artillery mortar units in the area were queried and claimed no lost rounds, and there was no known lost ordnance by units operating from the Cam Ranh Airbase.

LCPL 43 sighted a junk moving east from the inner harbor to the outer harbor on 26 September. The 8th ROK Company was notified and when advised of no friendlies in the area, the ROK company fired for over an hour into the area of lights on the Cam Tho Peninsula with unknown results.

On 27 September while going alongside a junk, Skimmer 30 observed an object being thrown over the side. The personnel and junk were detained and taken to Picket 51 for questioning. The detainee had been stopped four times since 4 July for curfew violations, restricted zone violation, and running without lights.
Unit Three - Qui Nhon

A total of 94 persons were detained by Unit Three during September for presence in a restricted zone, curfew violations, and invalid/ altered identification cards.

While on patrol in the outer harbor on 1 September, LCPL 41 noticed a Vietnamese cargo vessel, TROUNG KY, had entered the outer harbor and anchored just west of the channel entrance instead of anchoring in an assigned area. LCPL 41 instructed the ship to move from the high risk area to a more secure area; however, the ship's master refused to move and refused protection. The ship was bound from Saigon to Qui Nhon with a cargo of cement.

On 4 September while on patrol in the area bounding the inner harbor of Qui Nhon, Sea Cobras discovered five kilos of documents, one large bag of medical supplies, one rucksack with personal gear, photos and diary, and 2,000 rounds of mixed small arms ammunition. All material was turned over to the Intelligence Officer at Binh Dinh. On 5 September, Sea Cobras destroyed three large well built bunkers and one unexploded 155mm round.

On 15 September, fifty pounds of new and used clothing was distributed to Saint Paul's Charity Orphanage of Qui Nhon. The clothing was donated to a member of Unit Three by the Saint Augustine's Alter Society of Oak Harbor, Washington.

Unit Four - Nha Trang

Unit Four detained 94 persons during September for invalid/ altered identification cards, curfew violation, and for being in a restricted zone.

On 6 September, LCPL 44 boarded and searched a fishing craft detaining 14 persons. Ten females had been aboard the Panamanian ship POLARIS and had
in their possession a paper with names and amounts of money. Detainees were held for being in a restricted zone and suspected black market activity and were turned over to the Vietnamese National Police for disposition.

On 26 September while on routine patrol, LCPL 44 spotted a junk alongside the Panamanian ship POLARIS. Investigation revealed no personnel aboard the POLARIS from the junk or no personnel on the junk. The junk was taken in tow, and an investigation revealed no papers, explosives, or propulsion of any type. Due to adverse weather, the junk broke loose, was causing a hazard to navigation, and was sunk.

LCPL 58, while on a routine patrol, boarded and searched a fishing craft on 29 September. One hundred pounds of unmanifested rice was discovered. Two detainees were held as suspected black marketers and turned over to the Vietnamese National Police for disposition.
The River Patrol Force continued to assert pressure on enemy forces during the month of September, while vigorously pursuing an effective ACTOW (Accelerated Turnover Program) to train and prepare their Vietnamese Navy counterparts to assume increased responsibility in operational matters. Missions including resources and population control, nighttime waterborne patrols, daily chain drag sweeps of the Long Tau shipping channel, canal incursions for waterborne traffic inspection, transportation of troops and support of operations involving Vietnamese Regional and Popular forces, SEAL and PRH teams, and small units of U.S. Army forces engaged in efforts to prevent attacks on merchant shipping. In addition, many hours were spent in distribution of PSYOPS materials, intelligence gathering, general area familiarization, MEDCAPS, and various stages of VNN training, with highly satisfactory results.

As has been the case since Operation Seaborne began, a majority of River Patrol Force assets were engaged in the various campaigns such as Giant Slingshot (by far the greatest concentration of RP assets), Barrier Reef, Tran Hung Dao, Search Turn (Hach Gia), and the Mang Thit/Cho Cao Canal Operation. On 25 September, Operation Breezy Cove was activated under the designation of TG 194.2. This is a joint USN/VNN operation on the Song Ong Doc to support IV Corps waterways security and pacification and to enhance the government presence in the area.

Patrols conducted in the execution of Game Warden resources
Two five inch rockets are fired from the "Rocket Boat" into a known Viet Cong staging area in the Mekong Delta. This unusual craft represents another one of the varied methods used to interdict VC infiltration into the area.
and population control decreased considerably during the month of September as the tempo increased in other operational areas. Only 4,889 two-boat PBR patrols were conducted while 109,364 inspections and 29,036 boardings were recorded for the month. An average of 206 PBR's were assigned to the various operations during the month.

Of these 151 were actively engaged in SIA LAKOS campaigns, 20 with Clearwater, and the remainder in Game Warden operations. At the close of the month, the afloat bases supporting the boats were located as follows: USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST-786) near Song Ong Doc (VR-750010); USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST-821) serving the Rach Gia and Search Turn areas (VS-775091); USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) on the Vinh Thuy canal (VS-368408); TYBM 16 Southeast of Chau Doc on the Bassac River (JS-142845); YREM 21 serving the upper Mekong (JS-392895); USS KRISHNA (ARL-38) near Long Xuyen on the Bassac (XS-415420); Mobile Base II on the Vam Co Tay at Tan An; and USS BENEDAH (APB 35) near the mouth of the Vam Co River (XS-220570)

Airborne assets of Task Force 116 totalled 29 UH-1B helicopters and thirteen (13) OV-10 Broncos which were deployed as follows: HAI(L)-3, Det 1 (2 helos) aboard the WINDOM COUNTY; Det 2 (4 helos) at Nha Be; Det 3 (2 helos) aboard the HUNTERDON COUNTY; Det 4 (2 helos) at Ben Luc; Det 5 (2 helos) aboard YREM 16; Det 6 (2 helos) aboard the HARNETT COUNTY; Det 7 (2 helos) at Tay Minh; Det 8 (2 helos) aboard the HARNETT COUNTY; Det 9 (2 helos) aboard the YREM-21; and a maintenance pool of 9 helos at Ben Thuy. VAL 4, Det A (5 OV-10A's) was operating out of the VNAF base at Ben Thuy, Det B (5 OV-10A's) was at Vung Tau; and a maintenance pool of 3
Black Ponies were at Binh Thuy.

Although none of the thirteen aircraft assigned to VAL-4 units were actually assigned under the operational control of SEA LORDS units, they responded to numerous calls for overhead cover and emergency support of daily operations throughout the entire 3rd and 4th CTZ. TF 116 aircraft accumulated over 12,400 flight hours which represented 845 combat missions as well as daily surveillance patrols. A breakdown of the combat missions follows:

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On 6 September 1969, Commander M.S. SCHUMAN, USN relieved Commander G.L. TINANS, USN as Commanding Officer of VAL-4 at Binh Thuy.

Also on 6 September, LT T.W. PLENZINGER, USN relieved LT C.P. METZLER, USN as Commander, River Division 553; LT T.J. LOPEZ, USN relieved LT F.J. SMITH, III, USN as Commander, River Division 153; and LCDR W.B. LESTER, Jr., USN relieved LCDR D.W. STREY, USN as Officer in Charge, HA(L)-3, Detachment 8.

On 29 September, LT R.J. CARLSON, USN relieved LT N.T. CAMP, USN as Commander, River Division 511.

On 30 September, LCDR J.T. HOCK, USN, relieved LCDR E.J. DENNIS, USN, as Commander, River Squadron 51; LCDR J.A. BUTTERFIELD, USN, relieved LCDR D.J. FLOKIO, USN as O-in-C, VAL-4, Det B at Vung Tau; and LCDR R.H. BALLARD, USN relieved LCDR A.D. SCHAUER, USN as O-in-C.
VAL-4, Det A at Binh Thuy.

AT1 Robert J. ARNOLD, USN, and ATN3 Stephen A. JOHNSON, USN of HA(L)-3 Detachment 8 on board USS HARNETT COUNTY, were drowned when the helicopter on which they were crewmen flew into the water on a night takeoff on 15 September 1969.

On 20 September, ENC George W. SIMMER, Jr., USN, and ENFN William V. FLYNN, USN, of River Division 543 drowned when they were thrown into the water of Cua Viet harbor when the Boston Whaler in which they were riding went out of control.

GAME WARDEN OPERATIONS

The important objectives of the river patrol forces are to conduct river patrols, enforce curfews, inshore surveillance, visit and search to prevent enemy infiltration, movement and resupply efforts within the Game Warden tactical area of responsibility. These objectives have been rigidly pursued without adverse affects to the transition and Vietnamization programs. A significant decrease in the number of merchant ship attacks has been noted since intensified joint force operations were instituted. The level of joint USN/VNN/ARVN/RF/PP small units operations in the RSSZ have been steadily increased and the results are gratifying. Seawolf and Black Pony response to emergency support throughout the 3rd and 4th Coastal Zones has permitted PBR units to quickly reduce sizable odds when unexpectedly ambushed on patrol by VC parties employing automatic and recoilless weapons. The strategic location of units of helicopters and OV-10s permit reaction within five minutes and these aircraft have established an enviable record of enemy killed, structures...
destroyed, and enemy watercraft in close combat support of P3k's and friendly troops. The following incident reports illustrate the combat operation and the highly effective teamwork employed by the elements of Task Force 116.

Shortly after noon on the first day of September, Black Ponies 116 and 113 were engaged in controlling a sector about five miles northeast of Phong Hiep (VN-777284) where, less than an hour before, approximately 80 VC were sighted. Several VC were spotted attempting to take cover in the treeline but the Broncos attacked and killed fifteen of the enemy. Although light small arms fire was returned from the ground, no injuries or damage was sustained by the aircraft. In addition to the kills one airstrike accounted for one structure destroyed and a second badly damaged.

In the afternoon of 3 September, a pair of Seawolves were cleared to strike a group of VC observed in the process of crossing a canal about ten miles southeast of Can Tho (VN-895996). Automatic weapons fire was received and suppressed as the gunships attacked, destroying five sampans and killing ten VC.

On the Saigon River about 20 miles northwest of Phu Cuong in Binh Duong Province (XT-553352), PBR's 752 and 843 were in waterborne guardpost position the night of 5 September, when 20-30 swimmers were spotted attempting a crossing within 100 meters of the boats. After closing the distance, the PBR's engaged the enemy. The action resulted in 5 VC KIA (body count), 3 VC KIA (probable), and 2 CHICOM grenades, 750 lbs of rice, one US .45 caliber pistol, 1 lb. of documents, medical supplies, 2 M-26 grenades, 2 flash-lights, web gear, and various personal gear captured. After setting
waterborne guardpost again, shortly after midnight and just below the previous location (XT-545352), seven more enemy swimmers were discovered and killed before they could escape.

Two Broncos were scrambled on 9 September to place a strike in support of ground troops in the vicinity of Sa Dec (WS-894400). A ground sweep following the air strike disclosed a 20 bed hospital, three bunkers, and a large conference room destroyed and 6 VC killed.

Again on 9 September, a pair of Black Ponies (OV-10) were cleared to strike in support of troops ambushed in the area about 18 miles southwest of Chau Doc (VS-903584). Light automatic fire was received and suppressed by the aircraft who were later credited with 10 VC killed.

At 1150 on 9 September, two PBR's patrolling the Long Tau River just southeast of Nha Be (XS-960780), stopped and searched a Vietnamese junk and discovered the following: 30 hypo syringes, 45 hypo needles, 15 hospital coats, 15 sterile dressings, 1 Bag of sterile cotton, two green fatigue uniforms, one package of penicillin tablets, 1 battery charger, one complete inventory listing of PX items available at Tuy Hoa AFB, 2 X-ray films, and 1 bag of unknown type powder. The junk and six Vietnamese males were detained and turned over to VN authorities.

During early evening hours on 15 September, a group of eight PBR's were transiting the Thi Tinh River about five miles north of Phu Cuong (XT-758242), enroute to extract a company of 82nd airborne troops when an enemy sampan was sighted evading into a small side canal. The two lead PBR's pursued a short distance only to discover that the sampan had been vacated. The PBR's immediately
came under heavy automatic weapon fire from the shoreline and sustained numerous bullet holes and shrapnel damage before they were able to withdraw. The NBR's returned fire, reconed the shoreline and continued on their mission, successfully extracting the troops. 1 USN and 1 VNA were seriously wounded two USN and one VNA slightly wounded during the firefight. One VC was killed as he attempted to escape.

About midday on 16 September, following a ground sweep, a team of SWAL/PRU's revealed 16 bunkers, 12 structures destroyed, one AKI-type CHICK carbine, 12 CHICK grenades, 1 US.45 cal. pistol, two typewriters, 26 3-50 explosives charges, 1 sampan, 1 medical kit, 2 electrical firing assemblies, 100 feet of firing wire, two kilos of documents and five kilos of clothing captured. Following the ground sweep, additional Navy LHPT relieved their fellow airmen on station and sighted a group of enemy evading. They were taken under fire, one wounded, two killed by aircraft fire, and three VC were listed as probable kills. Regional Forces inserted by PBR's then commenced a broad sweep to the northeast as Navy Seawolves continued to provide overhead cover. After obtaining negative results on the sweep, the SWAL/PRU teams were extracted by whaler and the RF by PBR's as additional strikes were laid in by Navy Black Ponies. Two bunkers were damaged and 3 bunkers plus 7 miscellaneous structures were destroyed with no friendly casualties.

Again on 16 September, a pair of Seawolves were cleared to strike an estimated company of VC spotted along a canal just north of the entrance to the Bassac River (K6-37565). One strike was placed along the canal during which 6 sampans were badly damaged. Two more strikes
placed in the surrounding area accounted for the destruction of 48 structures, and 14 VC killed (4 body count).

On a scramble three to aid ground troops heavily engaged in the southwest sector of Kien Giang Province (VR-902797) late in the afternoon of 20 September, Navy Broncos 106 and 113 met with heavy automatic weapons fire from the ground. As strikes were placed on two evading sampans, one Black Pony sustained a .30 caliber hit in the nose section, slightly damaging his hydraulic system. The sampans were destroyed, killing five VC, and eight structures were destroyed and 6 more damaged before the Black Ponies returned to base.

During a two boat PBR waterborne guardpost watch shortly after midnight on 22 September, 25 VC swimmers were spotted about 8 miles southeast of Dau Tieng (XT-554351) on the Saigon River. The PBR's closed and opened fire as light automatic weapon fire was returned from the river banks. All 25 swimmers were killed and 14 bags of clothing, 1 lb. of documents, 1 CHICKA grenade, 1 M-26 grenade, 1 AK-47 with magazine, assorted medical supplies, and a small quantity of food was captured.

The following evening at almost the same location (XT-553352) two PBR's transiting to night WBGF sighted five more VC swimmers in the water. They were taken under fire and killed. Three other PBR's a short distance behind provided assistance and reconed the river banks recovering four packs. Within an hour the three PBR's cleared the area while the original PBR patrol set WBGF just east of where the swimmers had been killed. Nine more swimmers were soon detected
and killed. After reconning the banks with additional fire, the final tally showed 14 VC killed in action (body count) and a quantity of food and weapons captured.

A third major swimmer incident occurred on the evening of 22 September about 5 miles southeast of Us mau Tieng (XT-534362) when three P38's sighted 17 VC approximately 35 meters from their boats in the water. The P38's broke guard post and took the swimmers under fire killing all 17. They then proceeded to capture 7 packs, 170lbs of rice, assorted clothing, and a small quantity of medical supplies.

SEAL Insertion Operations

It is well recognized that the element of surprise can be used against the enemy with inordinate success. Through the use of well trained SEALs employed in many covert operations throughout the Cane, Garden and immeasurable success has been experienced in collection of intelligence and restriction of the establishment of permanent VC headquarters positions. The flexibility of SEAL team insertion operations, permits quickly planned and quickly executed missions which disrupt unknown numbers of enemy operations. SEALs frequently react to intelligence data collected by other sources and conduct routine scouting and familiarization patrols as well. The following incidents portray the SEALs in action:

While enroute from Quang Xuyen to Nha Be by Whaler during the afternoon of 8 September, 3 SEALs and one LDNN were fired on by 3 VC in a sampan transiting east on Moung Long Canal (XS 937738)
toward the Soi and river. The SEALs returned their fire but failed

not to kill the VC. However, one was captured and turned over to the RSSZ

Provincial Recon Unit.

Acting on intelligence collected by PHU personnel, six Navy

SEALs and 12 PRUs departed Nha Be by LSSN/Wheeler on the morning

of 16 September. They were inserted at YS 154776 about 15 miles

east of Nha Be and patrolled stopping just outside a VC camp. Upon

hearing a number of male and female voices, the patrol changed their

position and called in Seawolves to place strikes on the camp. The

patrol then proceeded into the camp still receiving light automatic

weapons fire. They pursued the fleeing VC and returned their fire.

Upon a search of the area, 18 bunkers and 12 structures were dis-

covered. The base camp was believed to be the political head-

quarters of the Viet Cong sapper organization. The team was extracted

by LSSC and returned to Nha Be at 1700 that evening. Four VC were

reported killed by aircraft, and a later report by a captured VC

prisoner indicated that one female medic and another unidentified

male were wounded as the SEALs closed in on the camp. One SKS

carbine, one .45 caliber (US) pistol, 12 CH100M grenades, 26

3-50 explosive charges, and miscellaneous documents and equip-

ment were captured.

On 23 September, 6 SEALs, 11 PRUs and one Ho Chanh departed

Nha Be by Slick and inserted about 12 miles east of Nha Be Naval Base.

They patrolled to the northeast with part of the team dropping off

to occupy a Pagoda ruins. The remainder of the element continued

on about 200 meters to the east toward suspected enemy activity.

At about 1635, a number of VC entered the pagoda and were immed-

67
immediately taken under fire by the awaiting SEALs. The VC fled to the north into thick woods but Navy LHPTs and OV-10s were called in to place strikes in the area. Following the air strikes, a sweep was made by the SEAL/FARUs; one prisoner was taken captive along with two AK-47 weapons, and numerous blood trails were found. Total enemy casualties were 6 VC killed (1 body count), 1 VC wounded and one captured. There were no friendly casualties.

**HARASSMENT/ATTACKS ON MERCHANT SHIPPING**

There was only one attack recorded for the month of September on merchant shipping. On 5 September the USS TRANSCOLORADO was attacked with six B-40 rockets while transitng the Long Tau River toward Saigon just below Nha Be (XS 967782). A Vietnamese LSSL reconed the surrounding area with fire until a sweep could be made but results proved negative. Nine of the rockets hit the vessel and no damage was sustained.

**TASK FORCE CLEMATIS**

Typhoon DOGIS moved up the coast of South Vietnam and went inland near the DMZ at about 1130 on 2 September 1969. Patrols on the Perfume and Cua Viet Rivers were secured when weather deteriorated to an unsafe level for patrol boats. Logistic traffic in the rivers stopped also. MSB-1 at Tan My dragged it's mooring to within 100 feet of the RMK barge complex. One RMK barge broke loose and scraped a PBH moored to MSB-1. Four PBHs received minor hull damage while moored but all remained operational and later resumed regular patrols in the Hue area. Patrol boats at Cua Viet were berthed in a newly dredged lagoon and escaped hull damage. One hull was CONFIDENTIAL
cracked before moving into the lagoon and two radomes were carried away by high winds. Extensive damage was caused to other water craft in the storm area and Naval Support Activity Danang. Cua Viet suffered minor wind and water damage. All Hue River Security Group and PRH patrols were back to normal operations within 48 hours.

Various KC-130 and HH-53 missions were accomplished throughout the Hue and Dong Ha River locales during September by PRH crews supervised by USN Corpsmen and USN Medics with highly favorable results. On one visit to An Gia Hamlet, 75 medical patients were treated, hygiene leaflets were distributed along with 75 bars of soap, and two Vietnamese civilians were medivaced to Dong Ha civilian hospital by the crew.

On the morning of 30 September, three PRH's from River Division 543 were released from Clearwater control at Cua Viet to participate in a Navigational Probe of the Cua Dai/Hoi An River complex under the operational control of CTG 115.1. The operation is expected to be completed about 4 October.
**USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event/Category</th>
<th>Market Time</th>
<th>CAMO JARDEN</th>
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<tr>
<td>Detections</td>
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<td>Inspections</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>c. Captured</td>
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**Remarks:**

* Information not available or not applicable

**GROUP 4**

Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declasified after 12 years