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FOREWORD

On the night of 31 March/1 April, the enemy launched a country-wide offensive called Campaign X. Activity was initiated through the entire gamut of actions in the enemy's offensive capability in all allied Corps areas: 82 mm mortar attacks, B-40 rockets, 107 mm and 122 mm rockets, small unit harassments using small arms and grenades, assassination of hamlet officials, and low level propaganda activity. After this initial flurry of activity throughout the country, the enemy's activity reduced to a low level and remained at a low level for the remainder of the month.

Additional phases of Campaign X were anticipated during the month but never materialized, possibly due to the enemy's activity in Cambodia.

Cambodian developments, by 10 April, had effectively cut off the VC/NVA resupply to lower RVN by stopping all logistic support through the port of Sihanoukville. Intelligence information indicated that the enemy could live off previously stored and cached material from six months to a year if a low level of activity was assumed.

By mid-month, the Salvation Government of Cambodia continued to consolidate its control of the country. By this time, the VC/NVA effectively controlled that part of Cambodia along the Cambodian/Republic of Vietnam border to a depth of approximately 20 kilometers in some sections.
At the end of the month, the political situation in Cambodia continued to improve, but militarily, the situation in Cambodia continued to deteriorate. The VC/NVA Forces continued to advance their hold on Cambodia by capturing several towns, and commercial shipping on the Mekong River had been stopped because of firing attacks on the last convoy and the non-availability of pilots above the border in Cambodian waters.
Giant Slingshot

During April, political events occurring in Cambodia had an influence on the Giant Slingshot Area of Operations (AO). During the latter half of the month, refugees from Cambodia began crossing the border in large numbers into Tay Ninh Province in the Giant Slingshot AO.

There was a larger than usual amount of activity in the Giant Slingshot AO this month, but most of the activity had nothing to do with actual enemy activity. The activity was in preparation for the scheduled turnover of assets to the Vietnamese Navy. On 5 May 1970, the Vietnamese Navy is scheduled to assume operational control of the Giant Slingshot AO. After 5 May, U. S. Navy personnel will assist the Vietnamese Navy only in an advisory capacity.

During the month of April, there were 76 engagements with enemy forces. U. S. Navy forces accounted for seven enemy killed while suffering ten USN wounded.

**Significant Engagements During the Month of April**

On 1 April, two U. S. Army LCMs were mined at the Advanced Tactical Support Base (ATSB) Tuyen Nhon. The mine had apparently been placed by sappers between the LCMs and approximately fifteen feet forward of the sterns. PBRs immediately attempted to assist the LCMs to dewater, but the damage was too extensive. Both boats sank at their moorings. Divers investigating found that one boat had a 7 foot by 2 foot hole in the side and bottom, and the other boat had a 3 foot by
two foot hole in the side and bottom. EOD personnel estimated that a 50 pound charge of C-4 would be required to produce such extensive damage.

On 7 April, PBRs 62 and 135 were proceeding to a Waterborne Guardpost (WBGP) in Kien Tuong Province when they came under B-40 and heavy automatic weapons (A/W) fire from a position at WS 902 945. PBR 52 received a hit on the 60 mm mortar mount which wounded all five personnel on board and set the PBR on fire. Both boats were able to return fire and cleared the area. Three additional PBRs were diverted from WBGP to assist. A USA LIFT put in a strike on the enemy, then hovered over the stern of PBR 62 and evacuated two critically wounded USN personnel. The personnel remaining on the boat put out the fire. Additional personnel were later evacuated from the boat, and the boat was taken in tow back to the base at Moc Hoa. Black Ponies and Seawolves provided support.

On 7 April, PBRs assisted U. S. Army personnel in locating a large cache in Hau Nghia Province at IT 461 055, approximately three kilometers from Tra Cu City. The cache was reported as: 134 B-40 rockets with boosters, 50 Chicom grenades, 16 Chicom anti-tank mines, two 107 mm rockets, 12 60 mm mortar rounds with fuses and boosters, and 24 82 mm mortar rounds with boosters. All of the captured material was in usable condition. An EOD team later disposed of most of the captured material.

On 9 April, two boats were entering WBGP in Long An Province, about five kilometers from Ben Luc, with U. S. Army personnel embarked.
U. S. Army personnel began insertion into ambush positions. When the point man was approximately 20 meters from the boats and approximately one half of the troops had debarked, an explosive device was detonated which was directed toward the boats. Seven personnel were wounded, including two USN. A VNN crewmember observed one man approximately 150 meters inland fleeing the area. It is believed that the mine was command detonated.

On 13 April, the first of several MEDCAPs for refugees from Cambodia was conducted at a camp near Go Dau Ha in Tay Ninh Province.

On 16 April, two unidentified personnel were observed in the vicinity of the ATSB Moc Hoa. Later, four males were spotted in the water under a canal bridge directly across from the ATSB. Clearance to fire in the area of the swimmers was requested but was denied due to friendly personnel operating in an adjacent area. Swimmers were then observed to work their way downstream. The lead swimmer was on his back towing a package. A PBR was scrambled to attempt to intercept and apprehend the swimmers. The swimmers gained the bank and disappeared into tall grass. The bank was taken under fire. The attack was thwarted, but the sapper team escaped.

On 19 April, the ATSB at Ben Keo came under rocket attack. The crews of one PBR and a Monitor were in a position to observe the incoming rockets. Ten rockets were observed. All rockets cleared the base by a good distance. An LHFT later conducted a strike on an area from which the rockets were believed to have been fired.
On 30 April, a Boston Whaler was in WEOP at XS 578 786, approximately seven kilometers from Ben Luc in Long An Province. A supporting Army unit was proceeding to an ambush position approximately 50 meters inland. The Army unit encountered two enemy personnel who apparently mistook them for friendlies as they beckoned and called for the Army personnel to follow them. Army personnel took the enemy under fire and saw both men fall.
On 1 April, additional units of RPG 52 arrived in the operating area. The arrival of these units brought the total of assigned boats to 48. On 10 April, the ten PBRs of RivDiv 593 departed the operating area enroute to the vicinity of Chau Doc on the Bassac River for assignment to the Operation Barrier Reef forces.

With the departure of RivDiv 593, all operating forces on the Saigon River are now units of the Vietnamese Navy. U. S. Navy advisors are, however, still on the scene and taking an active part in all operations.

On 20 April, Operation Ready Deck, which had been designated TG 194.6, was redesignated TG 215.1 and assumed a Vietnamese Navy Task Force designator. RAG 24, RPG 52, and RAG 30 are now designated TU 215.1.1, TU 215.1.2, and TU 215.1.3, respectively.

During the month, USN and VNN forces were involved in 27 firefights. As a result of these encounters, 23 VC were killed. Friendly casualties were three U. S. Navy personnel wounded and four Vietnamese Navy personnel wounded.

Significant Activity During the Month of April

On 3 April, two U. S. Navy PBRs of RivDiv 593 were in Waterborne Guardpost (WBGF) at XT 598 336, approximately 28 kilometers northwest of Phu Cuong on the Upper Saigon River in Binh Duong Province. At 2328H, one VC approached the boats. No additional VC were sighted, so the
boats held their fire until the VC reached a range of only 15 feet. The VC was taken under fire at this close range and killed.

In a very similar situation on 6 April, within approximately 600 yards of the position of the firefight on 3 April, two Vietnamese Navy PBRs, with EM1 Moceri embarked as an advisor, had two VC approach their boats. The VC were taken under fire at a range of only 30 feet. In this instance, however, it is not known if the VC were actually killed.

On 6 April, two U. S. Navy PBRs had assumed WBG at XT 666 295, approximately 30 kilometers northwest of Phu Cuong. At 2239H, one VC swimmer attempted to board one of the PBRs. He was immediately killed.

On 7 April, two VNN PBRs were in WBG at XT 722 223, approximately 12 kilometers northwest of Phu Cuong. At 2009H, a VC threw a grenade which landed on one of the boats. A quick acting VNN crewmember kicked the grenade over the side. The detonation of the grenade caused some minor hull damage, but there were no personnel casualties.

On 17 April, two VNN PBRs were in WBG at XT 652 315, approximately 30 kilometers northwest of Phu Cuong. At 2135H, the PBRs were attacked and received a total of five grenades thrown from the east bank of the river. One VN was slightly wounded, and material damage to the boats was light. The bank area was taken under fire, and two VC were probably killed.

In approximately the same position on the night of 21 April, two VNN PBRs observed one VC about 50 meters distant. The units broke WBG
and took the man under fire. In return, the boats received heavy A.W. fire from a nearby treeline. A helo fire team was requested and later placed strikes in the area. Two U. S. Navy advisors and one Vietnamese crewmember were slightly wounded in this encounter.
Border Interdictions

Border Interdiction operations as reported in this section will include only those operations conducted by units assigned to the Barrier Reef Area of Operations (AO). Operations conducted in the Tran Hung Dao I AO are contained in the Naval Advisory Group Summary.

During the month of April, the forces assigned to the Barrier Reef AO engaged the enemy on 28 occasions. U. S. Navy units accounted for 11 enemy killed while the Vietnamese Navy units accounted for three enemy killed. Friendly losses for the month totalled three U. S. Navy personnel killed and four wounded.

The number of boats assigned to the Barrier Reef AO for the month averaged 100. The average number of boats available for daily assignments was 78, while the average number of Waterborne Guardposts (WBGP) established by the available boats was 66. On the last day of the month, RPO 56 units departed the Barrier Reef AO for the adjacent Giant Slingshot AO, reducing the number of units assigned to the Barrier Reef AO to 80.

Significant Engagements During the Month of April

On 2 April, a Strike Assault Boat (STAB) of STABRON 20 was in WBGP near the north bank of the Grand Canal at WS 947 765, approximately 20 kilometers west of Ap Bac. The boat was hidden in a dense treeline port side to the north bank with rain falling and sheet lightning illuminating the area. At 02001OH, the boat crew heard movement on the
opposite bank, breaking twigs, and voices talking. The boat captain was requesting Sector clearance to take the movement under fire when the enemy initiated the attack. All the other boat crew members were manning their weapons ready for unrestricted combat. The enemy launched a veritable barrage of B-40 rockets and heavy automatic weapons (A/W) fire. The boat received three B-40 rocket hits almost simultaneously which killed three crewmembers instantaneously and wounded one other member of the crew. The boat lost all communications, but due to the communications conducted prior to the enemy attack, Seawolves were enroute and arrived on the scene in less than ten minutes. After the enemy attack, the boat broke WP using the one engine still in commission. One crewmember returned fire on the enemy positions with an M-60 while another crewman controlled the boat proceeding to join ATC-1 at a WP at WS 951 764. The one wounded crewmember was transferred to the ATC and medevaced by helo.

An inspection of the STAB after the above action indicated that the boat had been hit by two B-40 rockets. One rocket penetrated the forward starboard side near the waterline and detonated adjacent to the forward fuel bladder such that fragments penetrated the fuel bladder which self-sealed. The second B-40 detonated on the starboard side amidships dishing in the hull, ceramic armor and penetrating the ballistic blanket with fragments apparently crossing the cockpit and penetrating the port ballistic blanket and the port hull.

The inspection report further specified that "another possible recoilless round detonated stbd hull penetrating ballistic blanket and
after portion of stbd cockpit severing and causing extensive damage to control cables from instrument panel to stbd engine rendering stbd engine inoperative."

The inspection report concluded that from the B-40 rocket which detonated adjacent to the fuel bladder, it is evident that the combination of the ceramic armor and foam helped absorb the detonation, and the foam-filled fuel bladder prevented a gasoline explosion by self-sealing. In the amidships area, the combined ceramic armor and the ballistic blanket reduced the penetration fan of fragments, but did not stop them entirely.

This was the first STAB damaged so extensively in an engagement with the enemy.

On 5 April, ATC-28 was in WBGP at XS 000 754, approximately 17 kilometers west of Ap Bac. At 2253H, T-28 came under heavy B-40 and A/W attack from the vicinity of a lighted hootch on the south bank. T-28 sustained nine B-40 rocket hits and numerous A/W hits injuring all the personnel on board; two VNN were killed; four VNN were wounded; and three USN were also wounded. The rockets had been fired in three volleys of three rockets each.

T-28 broke WBGP and proceeded east. T-33, in WBGP one kilometer to the east, and T-29, in WBGP one kilometer to the west, broke their respective WBGPS and proceeded to the contact area. At 2258H, T-28 reported the status of the wounded and requested a medevac helo. By 0056H, medevac was completed.
Black Ponies and Saswolves reported overhead but could not obtain clearances for conducting air strikes due to the number of friendlies reported to be in the area and the close proximity of several hooches occupied by local Vietnamese.

At 151257H April, PCF 59, on the Mekong River border patrol, observed what appeared to be a major firefight on the Cambodian side of the border. Approximately 150 people were seen fleeing from the market area of the village at WT 20h 060 and two large junks were afire near the village. PCF 59 remained clear of the area but continued to keep the area under surveillance. At 1400H, PCF 59 observed four craft at WT 208 088. Two of the craft were 80 foot junks, one craft appeared to be an LCM-6, and the other craft appeared similar to an ATC. The boats under observation received heavy fire from both banks. The two wooden junks caught fire and later sank. The other two craft sailed out of sight to the north. A short time later, two T-28 type aircraft appeared and put in repeated rocket and machine gun strikes in the vicinity of WT 200 065. The aircraft had no identifying markings.

At 161200H April, PCF 97, on the Mekong River border patrol, chased and apprehended a water taxi sampan at WT 206 048. The water taxi had one U. S. civilian male wearing camouflage greens and three Vietnamese males on board. The U. S. male readily identified himself as an NBC Correspondent. He stated that he was in the area to verify a report of 400 to 600 Vietnamese bodies floating down the Mekong River as a result of a massacre of Vietnamese by Cambodians. Since the correspondent had no military escort or apparent permission to be in the border
control region, PCF 97 was instructed to deny access to the border
control region to the newsman and the others in the water taxi and to
escort the taxi south and out of the area. The newsman stated that he
would return to Chau Doc and await further developments.

While the taxi occupants were being questioned, a Piper Cub type
single engine aircraft passed close overhead. The plane had unknown
markings. The newsman stated that the occupants of the plane were
probably CBS correspondents on a similar assignment to his own. The
water taxi departed the area at 161315H.

At 161925H April, a PBR of RPG 56 was proceeding at top speed down
the Grand Canal enroute to WBOP. Suddenly, the boat lost steering
control. Before the boats speed could be reduced, the boat hit the canal
bank and turned over at WS 530 809, approximately 11 kilometers east of
the Mekong River, and sank with only the bow remaining above water. All
crewmembers and advisors escaped unhurt with the exception that one
VNN crewmember was missing. ATC 22 proceeded to the scene to assist.
An unsuccessful attempt was made to right the boat. Divers conducted a
search for the missing crewmember in the forward and midships section of
the boat with no success. It was concluded that the missing crewmember
must possibly be trapped between the stern and the canal bottom.

On the following day, the body of the Vietnamese sailor was located.
On 18 April, ATC 22 and the USS SATYR salvage crew completed salvaging
the PBR. Hull damage to the PBR was considered slight.
At 171100H April, PCP 97, on the Mekong River border patrol, once again apprehended a water taxi with the same NBC correspondent and passengers as apprehended on 16 April. The correspondent was on the same mission and still lacked military escort or apparent permission to be in the border patrol area. He was once again escorted clear of the area.

On 21 April, a PBR of RPG 56 was returning from night WBOP in the early morning at high speed through the Grand Canal. At 0710H, the PBR careened off the bank of the canal and capsized at WS 515 811, approximately ten kilometers from the Mekong River. A short time later, salvage assistance arrived on the scene. Salvage operations were completed by 1600H. The PBR suffered heavy damage and required extensive work by a repair facility.
Search Turn

During the month of April, the forces assigned to the Search Turn/Tran Hung Dao VI Area of Operations (AO) engaged the enemy on 50 occasions. U. S. Navy units accounted for 52 enemy killed while other friendly units accounted for 23 enemy killed. Friendly losses for the month were one killed and 12 wounded which included six U. S. Navy personnel.

On 2 April, another type of enemy struck at the RivDiv 553 personnel. This enemy, however, attacked by means of the water supply. This enemy goes by the name shigellosis and is indicative of an impure water supply. Shigellosis reached epidemic form among the RivDiv personnel at Kien Son. At the peak of the epidemic, 22 personnel were being treated on the USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) and six were being treated at an Army hospital, including the RivDiv Commanding Officer. The epidemic required a 48 hour standdown from normal operations.

On 20 April, CTG 194.3 promulgated a new Task Group organization as follows:

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Significant Engagements During the Month of April

On 12 April, two PBRs of RivDiv 573 were requested by MAT 68 (Military Advisory Team) to pick up an advisor and a Vietnamese radio-man and proceed to assist an outpost under attack at WR 168 883. The PBRs arrived in the area and made firing runs into the area of enemy activity. A US Army light fire team and flare ship were on station and coordinated strikes with the boats. Upon completion, the PBRs were returning to the MAT 68 outpost when the boats came under heavy B-40 and automatic weapons (A/W) fire from the south bank at WR 160 886, 19 kilometers south of Rach Gia in Kien Giang Province. The ambush zone was approximately 700 meters long, and ten B-40's were observed to have been fired at the boats. The boats returned fire until their ammunition was expended. Seawolves arrived on the scene, but the boats were not able to remain in the area and coordinate air strikes due to their lack of ammunition.

At 13160H April, PBRs of RivDiv 513 on patrol sighted two camouflaged sampans near the south bank of the Cai Lon River at WR 208 760, approximately 30 kilometers southeast of Rach Gia. The units investigated the area and discovered a recently used campsite with a fire still burning. Search of the campsite revealed two freshly painted signs saying "YOU DIE HERE" in Vietnamese, a five gallon milk can full of rice, some clothes, 20 chop sticks, and an empty 50 caliber ammo can.
On 17 April, units of RVNDiv 573 provided a blocking force for a District operation at WR 220 755, approximately 31 kilometers from Rach Gia. At 0830H, units on station as a blocking force made contact with an enemy force and called for air assistance. U.S. Army gunships and VNAF Tacair units provided air support for the continuation of the troop sweep. Upon completion of the sweep, the PBRs transported 60 troops to an outpost. The results of this combined Kien Giang Sector operation were: one PF killed, five PFs wounded; 23 enemy killed; 2 AK-47's, one K-2, one B-40, 105 B-40 rounds, one Chicom pistol, and three kilos of documents captured.

On 20 April, four units of RVNDiv 553 set two Waterborne Guardposts (WBGP) at WS 644 430, approximately 37 kilometers northwest of Rach Gia, in the vicinity of a food cache captured the previous day. The units observed that the small village near the WBGP's was deserted although on the previous day, the village had contained approximately 100 people. At 2105H, the units observed about 50 enemy troops approach the northern WBGP from the northeast. The PBRs requested that Black Ponies and Seawolves be scrambled and remain south of the area until the enemy closed the range and the PBRs could initiate fire. At 2210H, about 50 more enemy troops were observed about 500 meters from the west bank of the canal. At 2240H, the PBRs initiated fire on both groups. Simultaneously, the Black Ponies and Seawolves rolled in and placed strikes.

The PBRs remained in WBGPS, and Black Ponies continued overhead. At 0213H, 82 mm mortar rounds began walking in on the boats. The boats broke WBGP and moved 300 meters south as mortar rounds straddled the old
positions. At 0220H, a Black Pony placed a strike on the mortar position and silenced it. In the morning, a sweep of the area was conducted and the following materials were captured: ten Chicom grenades, four full M-16 magazines, a small quantity of medicine, ten canteens, one plastic gas mask, one AK-47, one homemade NVA transceiver, one head set, one telegraphic key, 50 feet of antenna wire, one Chicom multimeter, three sets of flotation gear, three shovels, six hammocks, three kilos of documents, and two NVA Hero medals awarded for killing Americans (Grade 3).

In action, 17 enemy were confirmed kills. Friendly casualties were one USN wounded.
Riverine Strike Group

During April, all RAC formerly assigned to CTG 194.7 (Riverine Strike Group) remained out-chopped to other operational commanders with the exception of those crafts undergoing overhaul or alteration.

By mid-April, 3.5 inch bazookas had been installed on 12 ASPBs. All 12 ASPBs so configured are scheduled for turnover in the ACTOV Program.
Operation Breezy Cove

Operation Breezy Cove, designed to pacify the Ca Mau peninsula in conjunction with Operation Sea Float, experienced the same drop in activity in April as other naval operations. The nine enemy killed was the lowest total in five months while the number of craft assigned to Operation SEA LORDS' smallest component remained at about 23. No Americans were killed in April and 14 were wounded.

COMUSMACV conducted an Operations Security Survey of CTG 194.2 during April in an effort to minimize the enemy's prior knowledge of Breezy Cove operations. The inspection team's findings are applicable to all allied units participating in shallow water counterinsurgency programs. While Breezy Cove's security was evaluated favorably, the six following weaknesses were found:

1) A large AO precludes the necessary density of craft to thoroughly patrol waterways.
2) Noise of approaching boats forewarns the enemy.
3) Guerrilla mobility permits enemy to initiate the majority of firefights.
4) Size of PBRs and limited camouflaging capabilities contribute to easy detection of WBGPs.
5) Pattern of never setting a WBGP in the same place allows enemy "safe" use of the area where one was previously set.
6) Some communication equipment is not secure.
Significant Combat Activity During April

The Breezy Cove patrol craft themselves reported only scattered action throughout the month. Combined air and land retaliatory strikes accounted for the majority of enemy casualties.

On April 9, CTG 194.2 scrambled Seawolves in answer to an attack on a water taxi at WR 005 044. Forward air controllers called in ARVN artillery strikes to hold the estimated 25 enemy troops until the helicopters arrived. Black Ponies joined the attack, hitting Viet Cong who were running through an opening for a hootch line. PBRs landed 30 ARVN troops at Old Song Ong Doc and stood by for support. The entire action lasted over three hours. A thorough sweep of the area revealed seven VC killed (killed in action), five probably killed, three wounded, and two captured. Allied forces suffered no losses.

On April 11, PBRs 141 and 767, patrolling 14 kilometers east of New Song Ong Doc, observed two rockets fired at them from the north bank. They returned fire while clearing the area and called in air support from Seawolves. Breezy Cove transport units landed troops summoned from Old Song Ong Doc. They captured two rocket launchers and one B-50 rocket 100 meters from the bank and found two blood trails. There were no friendly casualties.

An unexplained explosion sank PBR 101 150 meters south of Song Ong Doc on April 19. The boat was withdrawing from the beach after landing SEAL team members when an underwater blast destroyed the starboard pump, sinking the craft in four feet of water. The boat captain
surmised that a dud round had been sucked into the pump. Salvage operations raised the craft.

On April 23, guerrillas rocketed two Armored-Transport Craft (ATCs 10 and 12) carrying civilian workers back to Old Song Ong Doc. One B-50 rocket exploded in the port side bar armor of ATC 10. The units returned fire but cleared the area because of the civilian passengers. Seawolves struck the area and received no return fire. One American sailor and one Vietnamese civilian incurred slight wounds.

One unfortunate incident marred Breezy Cove's record during the month. On April 11, during a routine patrol by units of RivDiv 572, a young Vietnamese trainee on FBR 767 accidentally discharged a 40 mm mortar round on the roof of a civilian home in Vam Song Ong Doc. Three civilian occupants were slightly wounded and were treated and released by an ATSB corpsman. Property damage was minimal.
Proposed Improvements for Operation Breezy Cove

By the end of April, LCDR L. H. Thames, Commander of Operation Breezy Cove, foresaw the need for re-evaluating the Navy's assets and tactics in the SongOng Doc District. Pacification efforts in the district had been progressing favorably as 7,500 refugees had come to the area in the last six months, but certain USN and VNN weaknesses threatened to reverse the trend. As in most areas of Vietnam, the Navy, expecting the enemy to move at night, had emphasized nocturnal patrols and WBGPs. Recent intelligence now indicated that the Viet Cong were now conducting the majority of their infiltration, propaganda, and tax extortion in the daylight hours. In addition, increased demands for transportation by ARVN troops in the district rendered the present number of Breezy Cove units inadequate. CTU 194.2 consequently made the following recommendation to First Sea Lord: 1) Employ only 30 per cent of assets in nightly WBGPs, freeing the remainder for daytime patrolling; 2) Increase the number of River Assault Craft by seven; 3) Permanently locate River Assault Division 13 at Old Song Ong Doc to provide greater operational flexibility and control.
Market Time Raider Campaign

Market Time Raiders continued to conduct SEA LORDS missions along the rivers and canals of the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones in April. The enemy lost 35 killed, eight wounded, and one captured during Raider operations. Also, 103 structures, 44 bunkers, and 47 watercraft were destroyed. Friendly losses were one LDNN killed and another wounded. There were no U.S. personnel or material casualties during the month.

In the late afternoon hours of 7 April, the USCG WPBs PT BANKS, PT MARONE, and PT WELCOME conducted a visual reconnaissance of an area approximately eighteen miles east of Tra Vinh (VIC XR 776 907) where considerable enemy activity was reported. Skimmers from the PT BANKS and PT MARONE soon observed, and attempted to halt a sampan with one occupant. When the occupant attempted to evade, he was taken under fire and killed. Another male was wounded as he evaded through a rice paddy following warning shots by the skimmers. Many other people were observed fleeing into large bunkers in the area and were taken under fire by the 81 mm mortars of the three WPBs. Five persons and one sampan loaded with over 1,000 pounds of rice were detained by the skimmers. The WPBs also destroyed 11 structures and four sampans while damaging ten structures and two bunkers.

SEALS from CHARLIE Platoon of SEAL Team One Detachment GOLF, in company with an LDNN platoon, were inserted by LSSC into an area 20 miles southwest of Tra Vinh (VIC XR 243 701) in the early morning.
hours of 9 April. Shortly after commencing their patrol, the SEALs and VN LDNNs spotted five armed NVA attempting to evade. They were immediately taken under fire, and three were killed while the other two were wounded. One of these WIA was killed as he ran into the patrol minutes later. At this juncture, the patrol began to receive heavy A/W fire from all sides. OV-10's were scrambled, and a Slick was called in to extract the surrounded patrol. Before this could be accomplished, one of the LDNN was critically wounded. The Slick medevaced him under heavy fire, and Cobra gunships arrived to place strikes in the area. The OV-10's and Cobras continued their air strikes in the face of heavy enemy A/W fire. Due to this fire, the Slick was unable to extract the rest of the patrol which, using OV-10's for support, cleared an extraction route to PCFs 103 and 55 and MST 2 Detachment DELTA which extracted them successfully under fire. Air strikes into the area continued and the two "Swifts" fired H and I into the area for another four hours. Later information revealed that six of the enemy had been killed by the LDNN while another 12 were killed by supporting aircraft which wounded another 15. This superb air support enabled the beleaguered patrol to extract successfully. One LDNN was killed and another wounded during the engagement.

The PT BANKS and PT LOMAS were conducting a patrol approximately 13 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (VIC XR 791 891) on 26 April, destroying bunkers and structures when the skimmer from the PT BANKS captured an evading VN female. This woman persuaded over 65 other VNIs in bunkers to give up and come out. The bunkers were searched, and a sampan
factory, 4,000 pounds of rice, a bicycle repair shop, and enough eating utensils and cooking pots to support a large enemy force were found. The bunker complex also contained numerous spider holes, sub-bunkers, and one large tunnel. The WPBs detained a total of 78 persons (4 male, 26 female, 48 children) during the patrol, only seven of which held identification cards. GDA for the mission included 26 structures, 18 sampans, and 19 bunkers destroyed, while 27 structures, nine sampans, and 12 bunkers were damaged. The bunker complex described above was also destroyed. Two detainees were wounded by a concussion grenade when they refused to come out of a bunker and were medevaced. Based on the large amount of material uncovered and the great numbers of people, it is believed that this area had been used as a VC staging and resupply area.
MARKET TIME RAIDERS

SEA LORDS

OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE

A. SEA LORDS 7 April
B. SEA LORDS 9 April
C. SEA LORDS 26 April

SCALE:

0  30
Nautical Miles
### Naval Statistical Summary (As of 30 Apr 70)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enemy KIA</th>
<th>Tra Hng</th>
<th>Giant</th>
<th>Barrier</th>
<th>Breezy</th>
<th>Search</th>
<th>Ready</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>By USN</strong></td>
<td>289 (18)</td>
<td>1103 (7)</td>
<td>103 (11)</td>
<td>137 (9)</td>
<td>294 (52)</td>
<td>360 (20)</td>
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<td>170 (8)</td>
<td>34 (3)</td>
<td>50 (1)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
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<td>1114 (57)</td>
<td>111 (0)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Enemy KIA</th>
<th>Slingshot</th>
<th>Reef</th>
<th>Cove</th>
<th>Turn</th>
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<td><strong>By USN</strong></td>
<td>12 (0)</td>
<td>25 (0)</td>
<td>19 (1)</td>
<td>16 (2)</td>
<td>11 (2)</td>
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<td><strong>By VNN</strong></td>
<td>2 (0)</td>
<td>9 (0)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>8 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
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<td>20 (0)</td>
<td>211 (1)</td>
<td>3 (0)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Friendly KIA</th>
<th>Tra Hng</th>
<th>Giant</th>
<th>Barrier</th>
<th>Breezy</th>
<th>Search</th>
<th>Ready</th>
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<td>9 (3)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>16 (0)</td>
<td>6 (0)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VNN</strong></td>
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<td>17 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
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<td>140 (11)</td>
<td>17 (0)</td>
<td>2 (0)</td>
<td>22 (1)</td>
<td>20 (0)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friendly WIA</th>
<th>Tra Hng</th>
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<th>Barrier</th>
<th>Breezy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>USN</strong></td>
<td>124 (1)</td>
<td>518 (10)</td>
<td>51 (1)</td>
<td>97 (14)</td>
<td>76 (4)</td>
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<td><strong>VNN</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
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<td>9 (0)</td>
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() - Monthly totals
**NAVY STATISTICAL SUMMARY (AS OF 30 APR 70)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TRAN HUNG DAO</th>
<th>GIANT SLINGSHOT</th>
<th>BARRIER REFF</th>
<th>BREEZY COVE</th>
<th>SEARCH TURN</th>
<th>READY DECK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>START OF OPERATION</strong></td>
<td>21 Nov 68</td>
<td>6 Dec 68</td>
<td>2 Jan 69</td>
<td>28 Sep 69</td>
<td>1 Nov 68</td>
<td>1 Jun 69</td>
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<td><strong>FRIFF</strong></td>
<td>258 (11)</td>
<td>521 (12)</td>
<td>83 (10)</td>
<td>92 (21)</td>
<td>193 (18)</td>
<td>55 (4)</td>
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<td><strong>ENIFF</strong></td>
<td>204 (6)</td>
<td>734 (18)</td>
<td>59 (3)</td>
<td>65 (13)</td>
<td>100 (10)</td>
<td>68 (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>UNILATERAL FIRINGS</strong></td>
<td>437 (11)</td>
<td>1433 (46)</td>
<td>240 (15)</td>
<td>188 (22)</td>
<td>310 (22)</td>
<td>234 (17)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MININGS</strong></td>
<td>23 (0)</td>
<td>17 (1)</td>
<td>6 (0)</td>
<td>8 (1)</td>
<td>5 (1)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7 (0)</td>
<td>277 (2)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14 (0)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.5 (0)</td>
<td>142.9 (0)</td>
<td>.4 (0)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12 (0)</td>
<td>4.3 (0)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER CACHE &amp; Cache Wt. (Tons)</strong></td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>24 (0)</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>1.1 (0)</td>
<td>3.2 (2.2)</td>
<td>.5 (0)</td>
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<td><strong>REPORTS OF ENEMY PLANS TO ATTACK PATROL CRAFT</strong></td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SAMPANS DESTROYED</strong></td>
<td>258 (6)</td>
<td>332 (5)</td>
<td>161 (1)</td>
<td>293 (27)</td>
<td>313 (4)</td>
<td>146 (2)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

() - Monthly totals

* - Statistics not available
Market Time and Stable Door forces, blessed with generally good weather throughout the Republic of Vietnam, continued their normal operations during the month of April. There were a total of 46,492 craft detected by Market Time and Stable Door units in their patrols along the coasts, rivers, and harbors of the republic. Of these craft, 10,647 underwent inspection while another 7,025 were boarded. These inspections and boardings resulted in the detention of 93 craft and 537 persons. The primary reasons for detention, as in previous months, included lack of or faulty identification papers, incorrect or faulty manifests, violation of restricted zones, or other suspicious activity.

There were 139 Viet Cong suspects detained during the month. In the Game Warden area of operations along the lower Ham Luong, Cua Tieu, and Bassac Rivers, the number of detections declined from those of March. During the month of April, Market Time Units detected 2,778 watercraft, inspected 958, and boarded another 1,373. There were 15 persons and one craft detained during this period.

Task Force 115 units continued to provide Naval gunfire support, troop lifts, blocking patrols, and waterborne guardposts in support of friendly ground operations along the coasts and in the rivers and canals. There were no known attempts of large scale infiltration of either men or supplies by the enemy during the month. One U.S. sailor and one friendly were killed while 11 U.S. Navymen and four friendlies were wounded in April. Enemy losses to the Naval gunfire
of Market Time units came to 119 confirmed killed, 66 probably killed, 30 wounded, and 34 captured.

Operation Market Time

There were a total of 543 Market Time Naval gunfire support, SEA ICRDS, Sea Float, and Sea Tiger missions conducted during April. Gun damage assessment for these missions remained at a high level with 42% reporting GDA. The number of enemy confirmed killed, 119, was the highest monthly total to date by Market Time forces. The overall results of these missions were:

- 185 Viet Cong killed (119 body count, 66 probable)
- 30 Viet Cong wounded
- 34 Viet Cong captured
- 210 Junks/sampans destroyed
- 739 Junks/sampans damaged
- 198 Structures/bunkers destroyed
- 15 Structures/bunkers damaged.

Surveillance operations resulted in the detection of 10,859 craft during the month. 4,993 of these were inspected and another 2,909 were boarded. There were 509 steel hulled vessels detected in Market Time areas and of these, 304 were inspected.

A steel hulled SL-4 type trawler, presumably North Vietnamese, was detected by Market Time aircraft approximately 260 miles southeast of the Ca Mau peninsula on 21 April. The trawler was on a northwea-
terly course toward the peninsula when detected. She immediately changed course to the southwest and attempted to evade surveillance by circling south of the Indonesian Natuna Islands. The USS TOMBIGBEE (AG 11) relieved the shadowing aircraft on 23 April and, on the same date, the trawler evidently aborted her mission. She headed northeast on the usual return track at that time. The USCGC MELLON (WHEC 717) picked up the surveillance on 26 April and continued it until the trawler approached Hainan Island on 28 April (POSIT 19-28N, 111-18E).

In a continuing effort to maintain a position of optimum readiness throughout the Market Time operation, a penetration exercise, utilizing TF 115 FG/MSO/MSC/WHEC and SEVENTHFLT units as simulated trawlers was begun during the month. This exercise continued into May.

SEAL units attached to Market Time continued their high tempo of operations in April. As in March, the operations were conducted in support of Sea Float operations in the IV Corps Tactical Zone and in support of the Market Time Raiders conducting SEA LORDS operations in the III Corps Tactical Zone.

On 17 April CDR Thomas F. Mullane, USN, relieved CAPT J. J. Shanahan, Jr., USN, as COMCOSFLOT ONE and COMCOSURVFOR (CTF 115).

The SS COLUMBIA EAGLE incident was closed in early April when that ship was released from Cambodian waters. On 8 April, the USCGC CHASE (WHEC 718), with a Navy EOD team embarked, rendezvoused with the COLUMBIA EAGLE in international waters. The EOD team conducted a thorough search
for explosives with negative results while the CHASE steamed to An Thoi to embark the remaining members of the COLUMBIA EAGLE's crew. These crew members were transferred to the COLUMBIA EAGLE and that ship, in company with the CHASE, proceeded to Subic Bay in the Philippines, arriving on 12 April.
First Coastal Zone

The number of watercraft detected by Market Time units in the First Coastal Zone rose slightly during the month of April. A total of 1,477 craft were detected and, of these, 1,133 were inspected and another four boarded.

There were 47 Naval gunfire support and Sea Tiger missions conducted in April. These were mostly Sea Tiger operations utilizing the PBRs of Commander River Division 543 in the shallow rivers, bays, and canals inaccessible to the "Swift" boats.

On a Sea Tiger mission in the late evening hours of 6 April about nine kilometers west of Hoi An (BT 046 562), two PBRs of RivDiv 543, with Patrol officer LCDR Armstrong and Boat Captains CMGt Maxfield in PBR 47 and SM1 Henn in PBR 139, set a night WBG in support of an ROK Marine Corps sweep of a nearby island. At 2205H, the sailors in the two PBRs sighted four VC/NVA crossing the river near their position. The PBRs held their fire, and fifteen minutes later two more VC/NVA were observed walking along the south bank of the river. The PBRs opened fire and both persons fell. The night was far from over, however, as five minutes later a second pair appeared and were taken under fire. Fifteen minutes later, a third pair appeared and were killed by the PBR's guns. The PBRs continued firing into the area throughout the remainder of the night. The results of the mission were five enemy killed (2 BC, 3 PROB) and a satchel of documents captured which revealed that one of the bodies recovered was probably that of a district level VCJ within the Current Affairs Committee Organizational Section.
Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) 11, Detachment HOTEL, under Office in Charge LTJG McCrary, and one company of Regional Force/Popular Force (RF/PF) troops conducted a river bank recon and sweep in an area three kilometers southwest of Hoi An (BT 123 548) during the morning and afternoon of 13 April. PBRs of RIVDIV 543 provided flank security during the operation and took small groups of enemy troops under fire several times during the day. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties were unknown. Eleven bunkers and six structures were destroyed, and a cache containing one 60 mm mortar, eight B-40 rockets, one AK-47, three bags of C-rations, 400 pounds of rice and four rucksacks was found.

On 16 April, PBR 47, with Boat Captain GM3 Maxfield, and FBR 139, with Boat Captain SM1 Hern, were on a routine Sea Tiger day patrol on the Thu Ban River two and one half kilometers south of Hoi An (BT 146 530) when the lead boat, PBR 139, observed what appeared to be a tracer ricochet into the air between the boats after hitting the water. Shortly afterwards, PBR 139 received two RPG-7 rounds, one detonating in the water near the boat. The other entered the starboard side amidships at the waterline and detonated inside the boat. PBR 47 received one round alongside or underneath the boat which partially lifted her out of the water. PBR 47 then received two additional rounds, one which entered the forward compartment and detonated and the other which exploded outside the boat showering it with shrapnel. The enemy fire was received from the south bank of the river and was returned and suppressed by the two PBRs. Casualties included four USN
OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE

A. Sea Tiger 6 April
B. UDT 11 13 April
C. Sea Tiger 16 April
D. Sea Tiger 23 April
wounded, one seriously, and one VNN also seriously wounded. Enemy
casualties were unknown. Repairs to the two boats are being made by
YR 70 and NASSIPACT DaNang.

While enroute to a Sea Tiger night WBG to about three and one half
kilometers south of Hoi An on the night of 23 April, PBRs 67 and 33,
under Patrol Officer LTJG R. Kelly and Boat Captains B\'M Mansfield and
B\'M Douglass respectively, received approximately two rounds of RPG/B-40
and small arms fire. PBR 67 was hit by the RPG/B-40 fire and sank
(X: 253533). PBR 33 returned the fire and picked up the crew of PBR 67
and then ran aground (BT 153533). GMSA Eric Tuller and one U.S. Marine
aboard PBR 67 were killed during this engagement while three other
Navy\'en, including Boat Captain B\'M Mansfield, and two VNN were wounded.
Enemy casualties were unknown. Two helo gunships, two VNN PFPs, PBRs 95
and 131, and one lightship provided security at the scene for the
remainder of the night. The following morning PBRs of RivDiv 543,
Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) 11 Detachment HOTEL, LCI 826, and
a CH-54 skycrane commenced salvage operations. PBR 67 broke up when
being lifted by the skycrane and was returned to MSB-1 for survey.
PBR 33, which had sunk in four feet of water, was lifted free of the
water by the skycrane and allowed to drain. The boat was then pumped
out and towed to SCRF DaNang for repairs. No further casualties were
injured during the salvage operation.

Second Coastal Zone

Although good weather conditions prevailed throughout the
Second Coastal Zone for much of the month of April, the number of
detections of craft by U. S. Navy forces plummeted sharply. This was mainly due to the turnover of seven USN PCFs and the patrol responsibilities for inshore areas four and five to the Vietnamese Navy under the operational designator CTG 115.2 VNN/CTG 213.2 which occurred at Nha Trang on 1 April. A total of 901 watercraft were detected, and, of these, 702 were inspected and another three boarded.

The number of Naval gunfire support missions also fell off sharply with only three reported during April as opposed to 20 in March. Gun damage assessment for these missions was negligible.

On 10 April, PCF 57 ran aground at the southwest corner of Refugee Island (CQ 172 565). She was pulled off some five hours later by PCF 54 and returned to port under her own power. Both screws and the starboard skeg were damaged. Repairs were effected at the Market Time Base, Qui Nhon, on 13 April.

On 12 April, PCF 58 detained one Viet male for suspected false identification papers (CQ 14 80). The person's sampan had been taking water and was kept afloat by the PCF towing it. PCF 58 requested that a CG 23 (US) skimmer tow the sampan to shallow water. However, when the skimmer began towing, the tow line broke and the sampan sank. The detainee was turned over to CG 23.
OPERATIONS IN THE
SECOND COASTAL ZONE

□ Coastal Surveillance Center
× Hostile Fire/evacuation Incident
✓ SAR/MEDevAC Incident

A. PCF 57 10 April
B. PCF 58 12 April
Water traffic in the Third Coastal Zone remained at a fairly high level during the month of April with 5,812 craft detected, 2,268 of which were inspected and another 2,422 boarded. Market Time "Swift" boats also continued their patrols in the Game Warden area of operations. The lower Bassac River was patrolled continuously during the month while the lower Nam Iung was patrolled from 1-16 April and 26-30 April and the lower Cua Tieu from 19-24 April. There were a total of 2,778 craft detected with 958 of them inspected and another 1,373 boarded. There were no incidents of evading craft, and only one craft and 15 persons were detained by the PCFs operating in the Game Warden AO.

Naval gunfire support missions by Market Time units in the Third Coastal Zone increased significantly over the 125 recorded in March. In April, there were more than 178 missions fired by these units. These missions consisted of H and I, targets of opportunity, pre-planned river and canal incursions, and requests for urgent gunfire support. Gun damage assessment of these missions was substantial.

On 29 April, two USCG WPBs, PT CAUTION and PT WELCOME, were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy in ceremonies at Cat Lo.

On 2 April, USCG WPBs, PT CYPRESS and PT WELCOME, under the command of LTJG Godfrey and LTJG Wyche respectively, launched skimmers in an area 23 kilometers northeast of CG 35 (VIC 835 901) and stood by for support. The PT CYPRESS skimmer encountered three VC males in a sampen shortly after starting its patrol. The VC dove into the