FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U. S. SEVENTH FLEET MONTHLY SUMMARY

OCTOBER 1969

Naval Gunfire Republic of Vietnam

The guns of 17 Seventh Fleet warships pounded enemy targets throughout the Republic of Vietnam during October. Navy gunners left 653 enemy bunkers and 452 enemy military structures damaged or destroyed.

Shells from the warships also were responsible for 75 secondary explosions, 29 secondary fires, cuts across 49 supply routes, and 10 enemy killed, according to reports from air and ground spotters. Additional damage reported included 44 caves, 13 weapons positions, 23 vehicles, six sampans, three base camps and 185 meters of trenchline damaged or destroyed.

The most productive day of the month for Navy gunners was October 14 when gunfire accounted for 19 military structures and 19 bunkers destroyed, 42 military structures and 21 bunkers damaged, one secondary explosion and six secondary fires.

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Destroyers that served on the gunline at one time or another during October were the USS Cochrane, DeHaven, H. J. Thomas, Hamner, Hoel, Hull, Nicholas, O'Bannon, Ozbourn, and Waddell. They were joined by the Australian destroyer HMAS Vendetta. Also shelling enemy positions during the month were the cruisers USS Boston and Oklahoma City and the inshore fire support ships USS Carronade, Clarion River, St. Francis River and White River.

Naval Air Strikes Republic of Vietnam

Navy pilots from the Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers USS Bon Homme Richard, Coral Sea, Constellation, Hancock and Oriskany flew 712 sorties, mostly in I and II Corps, against enemy targets in the Republic of Vietnam in October.

Enemy military structures, bunkers and supply routes were the main targets of the jets, which included A4 Skyhawks, A6 Intruders, A7 Corsairs and F4 Phantoms. The main ordnance used in the attacks was 250- and 500-pound bombs and 20mm cannon fire.

The aircraft were credited with 150 military structures, 42 bunkers, seven supply routes, one sampan and three weapons positions damaged or destroyed. Spotters also reported 11 secondary fires, nine secondary explosions and one enemy killed.

The highest number of sorties flown in October was 43 on October 10.

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