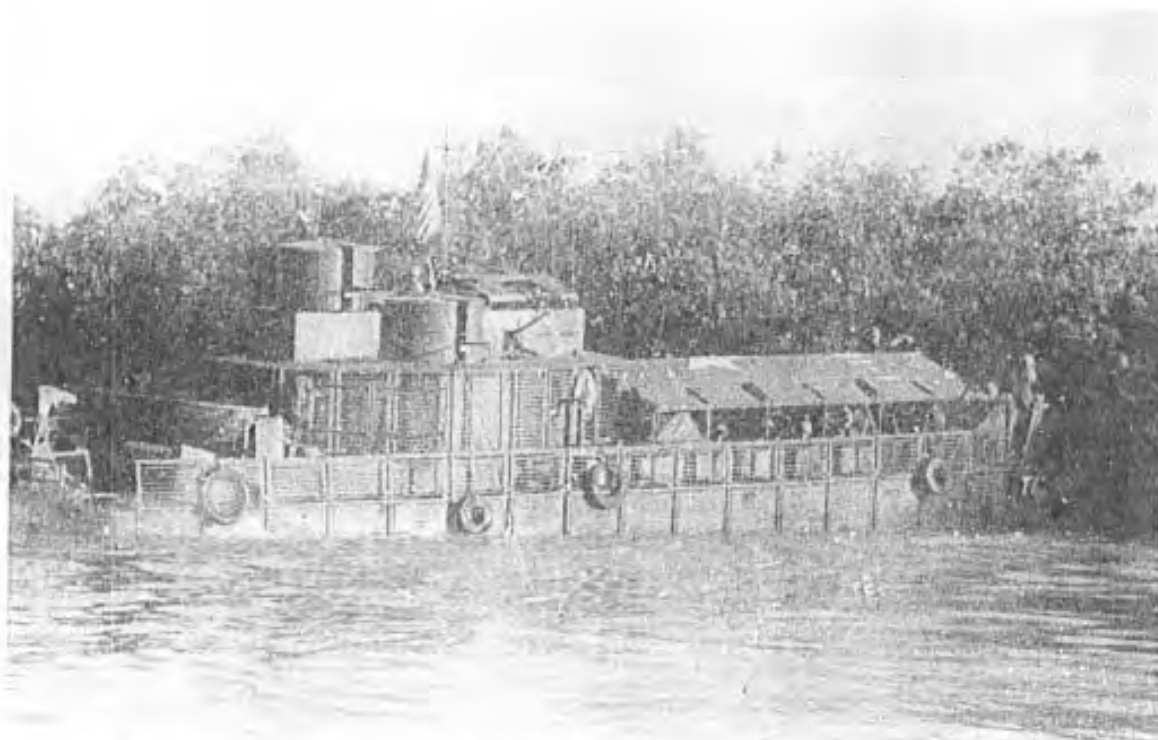


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An armored troop carrier of the Marine Assault Force lands U.S. troops of the NINTH Infantry Division in the Jung Sat Special Zone.

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which also triggered a secondary explosion. Although the damage to the assault craft was relatively minor, it was found that 82-mm. caliber projectiles were capable of penetrating the ATC's armor.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, Task Group 117.1 continued to support Operation SPEARHEAD I until its termination on 11 May. The operation accounted for 13 Viet Cong killed, six more probably killed, and four captured.

During the remainder of the month Task Force 117 units in the RSSZ conducted advanced training exercises, security patrols and interdiction operations. In addition, periodic landing operations in the RSSZ were conducted with troops lifted from Dong Tam by Task Group 117.2 units.

Riverine Assault Force Units

On 1 May USS SNOHOMISH COUNTY (LST 1126) assumed the duties of resupply ship for the Mobile Riverine Force.

On 2 May, with the arrival of USS COLLETON (APB 36), the Mobile Riverine Base was complete and plans were formulated to move the MRB to Dong Tam in early June. By the end of May all LCM conversions, except for two command-control boats and four monitors, had arrived in country. The six remaining craft were expected to arrive in June.

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U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

During May the Cua Viet--the major supply route to Dong Ha from the South China Sea--was the scene of several mining incidents. At approximately 0430 on 9 May the U.S. Army dredge HYDE was mined while operating in the Cua Viet entrance channel. The explosion tore a six by seven-foot hole in the dredge's starboard bow, causing the rapid flooding of several compartments. HYDE immediately unloaded her hoppers and maneuvered onto the beach near the LST ramp.

Approximately two hours later a second explosion, on HYDE's port quarter, blew a one-foot hole in the dredge's hull just above the waterline. Two of the craft's personnel were slightly wounded by the blast. The dredge's crew and NAVSUPACT Danang damage control personnel subsequently repaired the damaged areas, and HYDE was back in operation within 37 hours.

Another incident occurred on 15 May when NAVSUPACT Danang's YFU-59 was mined while anchored near the LCM-LCU ramp at Dong Ha. The force of the explosion, directly beneath the craft, penetrated the bottom plating, blew off a watertight hatch cover and ruptured sections of the main deck outboard on the port side. There were no personnel casualties. The damaged craft subsequently returned to Danang where it was drydocked for repairs.

On 18 May, on the basis of intelligence received from local fishermen, a controlled mine was found in the Cua Viet by Team 12 of Explosive Ordnance Demolition Unit 1. The mine, encased in

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wood, contained 700 one-half pound blocks of TNT and ten pounds of plastic explosive rigged for command detonation; three electrical detonators and 19 non-electrical detonators were distributed throughout the charge.

As a result of the ominous enemy activity, NAVSUPPACT instituted additional security measures. An LCPL and four divers were assigned to Dong Ha to augment the harbor and river security forces in that area. At Danang the number of harbor patrol craft operating at night was increased from five to seven, and the Vietnamese liaison personnel aboard the craft were augmented by Vietnamese national policemen. Also, a floating-barrel fence was positioned around the barracks ships (APLs) and the small boat basin to provide a barrier against swimmers. Additionally, from 24 to 31 May, the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet's LUCID (MSO 458) conducted minesweeping operations in the main channel and anchorage area of Danang's harbor.

During the month the Danang harbor patrol craft apprehended a total of 70 sampans and junks for curfew, identification-card and restricted-area violations. On one occasion bubbles were observed in the water near the NAVSUPPACT boat house. A junk nearby was boarded and found to contain two diving masks. However, an underwater search of the area produced negative results.

On another occasion a patrol craft sighted an object in the water with strings attached. When a hand grenade was thrown near the object, a secondary explosion ensued. The incident took place

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approximately 200 yards from the barricade near the APLs.

At 0110 on 13 May, the NAVSUPPACT detachment compound near Chu Lai and the adjacent compound of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 8 were attacked by a Viet Cong force using 57-mm. recoilless rifles and 82-mm. mortars. One Seabee was killed in the attack; eight other Navy men and two Japanese nationals were wounded.

At the same time two USNS ships beached at the LST ramp were hit by 57-mm. recoilless-rifle fire, resulting in extensive damage to both ships. No major damage was sustained by the compound areas.

From 17 to 22 May NAVSUPPACT's YFUs 55 and 57 were temporarily assigned to Task Group 79.4 of the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet to provide logistic support for Marines engaged in Operation BEAU CHARGER, and to assist in the evacuation of Vietnamese refugees from the Demilitarized Zone. On 19 May, one Navy man was slightly wounded when YFU 55 came under intense enemy mortar fire.

The growing intensity of combat operations in I Corps was evidenced by a 20 per cent increase in the total number of patients admitted to the NAVSUPPACT hospital in Danang. Of the 1,262 patients received at the 404-bed hospital in May, 572 were admitted for combat injuries, an increase of 55 per cent over April's figure. An added factor was the increasing complexity of wounds. Many of the casualties suffered from head wounds that required surgical and neurosurgical treatment.

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As a result of the rising demands placed on Darang's hospital, action was initiated to obtain additional medical personnel. And at month's end, the extent of the need for additional hospital facilities at Danang and other I Corps sites was under review.

Meanwhile, the accelerated pace of combat operations was met by a correspondingly high level of cargo operations at all I Corps ports.

At Danang the volume of cargo back-loaded for transshipment to other ports--69,853 short tons--was the highest monthly total to date. The month's throughput for Danang was almost 200,000 short tons. The combined throughput for all I Corps ports was almost 300,000 short tons.

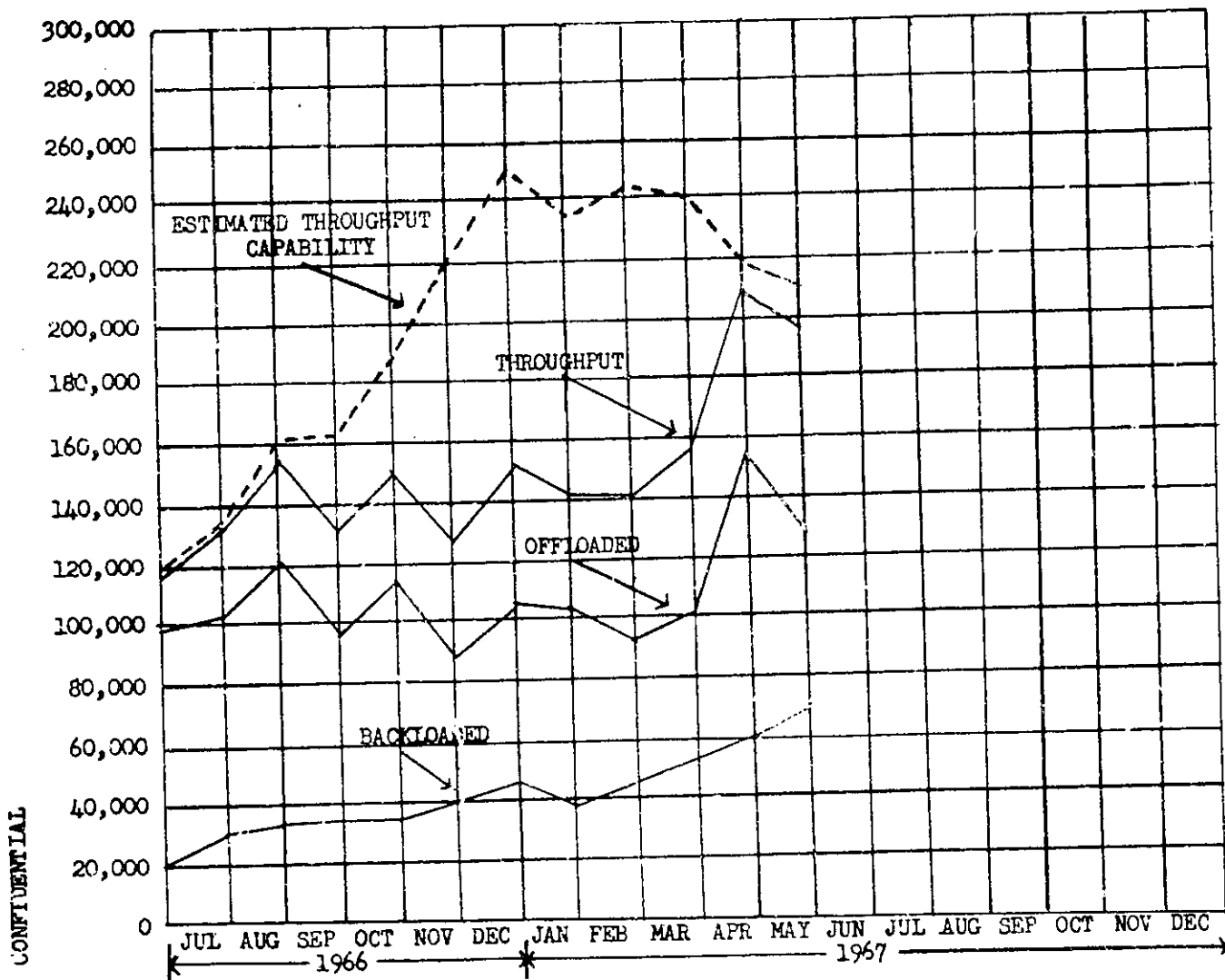
In the Cua Viet LCM-8s and YFUs continued to shuttle between the IST ramp and the LCM-LCU ramp at Dong Ha, transporting approximately 900 short tons of cargo and 40,000 gallons of POL daily. A total of 25,670 short tons of cargo was processed at Dong Ha.

During the month there was continued progress in clearing the Cua Viet approaches to Dong Ha. On 29 May dredging of the Cua Viet entrance channel as well as the turning basin by the IST ramp was completed. Also, action was initiated to procure the services of the suction dredge THUBON for the removal of two sandbars which, during periods of low water, impede craft transiting from the IST ramp to Dong Ha. The sandbars presented the only remaining natural obstacles to the unrestricted transit of the Cua Viet by lighterage.

In May NAVSUPACT's overall support responsibility was expanded

SHORT TONS

### DANANG CARGO HANDLING



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to include Class I and Class III support for U.S. Army units in the Duc Pho area. Class II and Class IV support for all I Corps units continued to be satisfactory. Net supply requisition effectiveness at Danang was 88 per cent. At Chu Lai net effectiveness was 89 per cent, a decrease of nine per cent under April's figure.

The general level of Class I supplies received and expended rose considerably. On 31 May the quantity of C-rations (individual combat meals) available totaled 6,198,962 meals which, based upon the existing THIRD Marine Amphibious Force requirements, constituted a 21-day supply. During the month three and one-half million rations were issued, an increase of two million over the total issued in April.

Meanwhile the availability of sandbags reached a critical stage because of the sharp increase in combat operations and the deployment of additional U.S. Marine and Army units within I Corps. Almost two million sandbags were issued during the month, exhausting NAVSUPACT's stocks. By month's end over 29 million sandbags had been ordered to meet the rising requirements.

The Port of Danang was visited 122 times by U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ships during May. The ships were provided with 545,340 gallons of diesel fuel and over 1,000,000 gallons of potable water, in addition to mail, freight, courier, transient billeting and disbursing services.

The Naval Support Activity's C-47 aircraft made 21 flights during the month, transporting 547 passengers and 47,195 pounds of

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cargo.

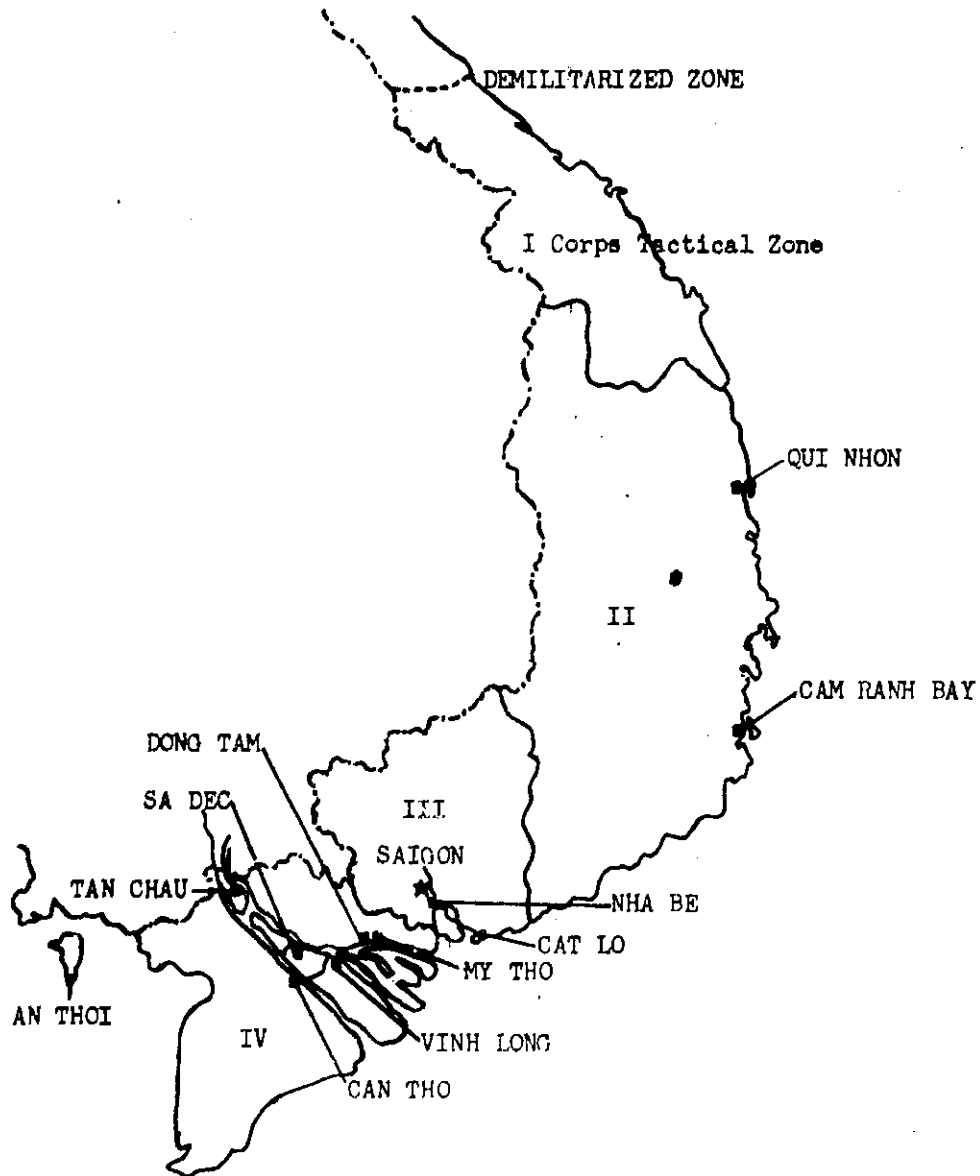
On 31 May the number of personnel assigned to the Naval Support Activity was 7,963. That same day the number of United States and other Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPPACT reached 130,800.

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U. S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

DETACHMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM



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U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

On two occasions in May the efforts of personnel of the Naval Support Activity detachment at Nha Be helped avert major disasters.

On 3 May a 60-foot junk berthed at the Esso fuel pier near the Nha Be tank farm caught fire. The junk, loaded with sixty 55-gallon drums of gasoline and forty 55-gallon drums of other inflammable liquids, was set adrift by its crew and subsequently became wedged between the pilings of a highway bridge, threatening the bridge and a heavily-populated marketplace and housing area nearby.

The detachment's fireboat, unable to extinguish the intense fire, towed the burning junk to an uninhabited rice-paddy area three-fourths of a mile away and pushed it against the river bank. As the fireboat turned clear the junk exploded, hurling drums as much as 100 yards away. There were no injuries to the fireboat's crew; three of the junk's Vietnamese crew were hospitalized for burns.

On 11 May the Philippine Tanker MARIKADO caught fire while berthed near the Nha Be tank farm. The tanker had approximately 10,000 gallons of JP-4 fuel on board. The Nha Be detachment's LCM, assisted by PBRs, towed the burning vessel away from the pier to prevent the fire from spreading to the POL storage area. After almost nine hours of sustained effort, the fire was extinguished. At one point four detachment personnel were blown into the water by one of several minor explosions which erupted from the conflagration. None of the men suffered serious injuries.

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On the night of the 7th, Can Tho detachment personnel were called upon to assist in fighting fires when the Binh Thuy Air Base was shelled by Viet Cong using mortars and recoilless rifles. The enemy attack destroyed a number of structures and aircraft and started numerous fires. Fifty Can Tho detachment personnel joined with U.S. and Vietnamese Air Force personnel in evacuating aircraft and equipment and in bringing the fires under control.

During May the construction of interim and permanent facilities at GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME bases continued to progress, within the limitations imposed by a fixed contractor personnel ceiling and a fixed amount of available funds.

At Cam Ranh Bay, NAVSUPACT personnel completed the installation and wiring of a 100-kilowatt generator and an electrical distribution system at the Naval Air Facility. In addition, the construction of an ordnance storage area was begun.

At Nha Be, half of the existing helicopter landing pad was dismantled by NAVSUPACT personnel preliminary to the construction of an enlarged landing pad on a recently-filled site next to the perimeter security fence. The larger pad, which is needed to provide adequate parking space for GAME WARDEN helicopters, will be constructed by U.S. Army personnel.

At Vinh Long renovation of the new living quarters was 25 per cent complete at month's end. The roofing and screening of the building was completed, and concrete foundations had been poured for a water tank and a septic tank.

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At Dong Tam further improvements were made to the repair facilities, boat wharves and the sewer system. At the end of the month, preparations were being made for the construction of additional messing and berthing facilities. The facilities would eventually accommodate a total of 750 personnel.

The number of line items stocked at NAVSUPACT Saigon increased by 1.5 per cent during May to a total of 26,630. Gross supply requisition effectiveness was 38 per cent, nine per cent less than the rate recorded in April. The decline was attributed to a sizable increase in the number of requests for parts not normally carried in stock. Meanwhile net supply requisition effectiveness remained essentially stable at 70 per cent.

The operational availability of GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME patrol boats continued to be generally excellent, ranging from 91 per cent for PCFs and WPBs to 93 per cent for PBRs. The availability of STABLE DOOR craft ranged from 90 to 99 per cent.

On 1 May USS SNOHOMISH COUNTY (LST 1126) was placed under the operational control of COMNAVSUPACT Saigon and began coastal and Delta resupply operations. On 7 May YFG 90 completed outfitting and made its first resupply run to the Delta.

The ships and craft of NAVSUPACT transported a total of 1,976 short tons of cargo during the month. Meanwhile, the NAVSUPACT aviation section (Air Cofat) transported 2,906 passengers and 150.5 short tons of cargo.

On 13 May a Navy US-2C aircraft, temporarily assigned to

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Navy berthing facilities at Dong Tam.

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The wreckage of the Navy US-20 salvaged by KRISHNA.

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NAVSUPPACT Saigon from Fleet Composite Squadron FIVE, crashed shortly after takeoff into the Gulf of Thailand, approximately five miles east of the An Thoi airfield on Phu Quoc Island. The pilot and co-pilot were killed; the third crew member was rescued by PCF 93 which was on patrol nearby.

Salvage operations to recover the plane were conducted by USS KRISHNA (ARL 38) and a ten-man detachment from Team 3 of Harbor Clearance Unit 1. Approximately 85 per cent of the aircraft, including both engines, the tail section and a portion of the fuselage, was recovered.

At 1730 on 24 May USS MARK (AKL 12) struck an uncharted bar at the mouth of the Co Chien River. At the time, the ship had just completed replenishing USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) at Rivermouth Station BRAVO and was standing out on a favorable tide. Eight hours later MARK floated clear on a rising tide. The ship was undamaged and proceeded to Saigon via Vung Tau for further cargo operations.

On 31 May the number of personnel assigned to NAVSUPPACT Saigon was 1,870. The number of personnel provided logistic support by NAVSUPPACT headquarters and its 11 detachments stood at 5,700 at month's end.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

In May the number of Seabee casualties increased markedly. Most of the injuries occurred on 8 May, 2,000 yards from the Demilitarized Zone, when 13 men of a 23-man MCB-4 detachment were wounded by enemy troops attempting to overrun a Special Forces camp which the Seabees were building at Con Thien.

In addition, MCB-8's camp at Rosemary Point in Chu Lai was struck by seven mortar rounds on 13 May, which killed one Seabee and wounded five others. On 10 May, south of Danang, two men from MCB-4 were injured when their truck hit a mine.

On 5 May the number of Seabee battalions in country increased to ten with the arrival at Phu Bai of an advance detachment from MCB-3. The detachment immediately began constructing base camp facilities for the battalion in the Gia Le Combat Camp, five miles northwest of the Phu Bai airstrip.

By the end of the month the detachment had completed 70 per cent of the base camp facilities. In addition, the Seabees erected two Butler buildings for the Marines' 3rd Engineers, and started survey and design work on a Marine air group cantonment at the Phu Bai airstrip and a parking apron and hangar site for the U.S. Army's 131st Aviation Company.

Meanwhile MCB-1 completed three 50-foot-high observation towers for Marines in the Dia Loc area, as well as a 600-foot timber bridge. And, in the Delta, a 64-man detachment from the Battalion began constructing additional cantonments at Dong Tam.

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MCB-4's "Liberty Bridge" project (which will span the Thu Bon River) was bolstered in May by the addition of a second crew. At month's end the bridge was 20 per cent complete. The battalion also paved a 33,000-square-yard parking apron at the Danang Air Base.

At Chu Lai members of MCB-8 and MCB-71 built a helicopter facility for the U.S. Army's Task Force Oregon in 15 days. In addition, MCB-8's personnel completed work on a water and sewer system, a fire station and an electrical distribution system for the area's Naval Support Activity detachment.

At Dong Ha a detachment from MCB-5 constructed a 100-bed hospital. Meanwhile MCB-11 began work on a cantonment for the Marines' Force Logistic Support Unit, and constructed a complex consisting of 16 Butler buildings for the THIRD Marine Division. Also, a 75-man detachment from the battalion was deployed to Khe Sanh to rebuild the airfield.

At Danang MCB-58 completed several buildings for the Vietnamese Army's 801st Ordnance Platoon. The battalion also built communications centers for the FIRST Marine Division and the Marine Force Logistic Command.

At Danang East MCB-133 extended the ARVN POW compound near Marble Mountain to handle an additional 500 prisoners. The battalion also built an LST pier near III MAF's headquarters, and started construction of a major ammunition storage area for the Vietnamese Air Force.

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Members of Sumbawa Team 1009 prepare a concrete foundation for a foot bridge in a barlet west of Vinh Long.

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Major projects completed by MCB-62 in the Phu Bai area during May included an addition to the 131st Aviation Company cantonment, and the completion of galleys (each one able to accommodate 250 men) for the 3rd Medical Battalion and the 3rd Motor Transport Battalion. MCB-62 also improved the LST-LCU ramp at Hue and, together with MCB-3, started repair work on Route 1 between Phu Bai and Hue.

During the month two replacement Seabee Teams arrived in country. At Thoai Son Seabee Team 0309 began preparations to relieve Team 0509. Team 0407, scheduled to relieve Team 0307, was temporarily stationed at Tan Son Nhut Air Base where it will complete a warehouse and supply compound begun by Team 0307. The newly-arrived Team will eventually be deployed to Can Tho to assist in the improvement of provincial hospitals and maintenance facilities in the IV Corps area.

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COMMUNICATIONS

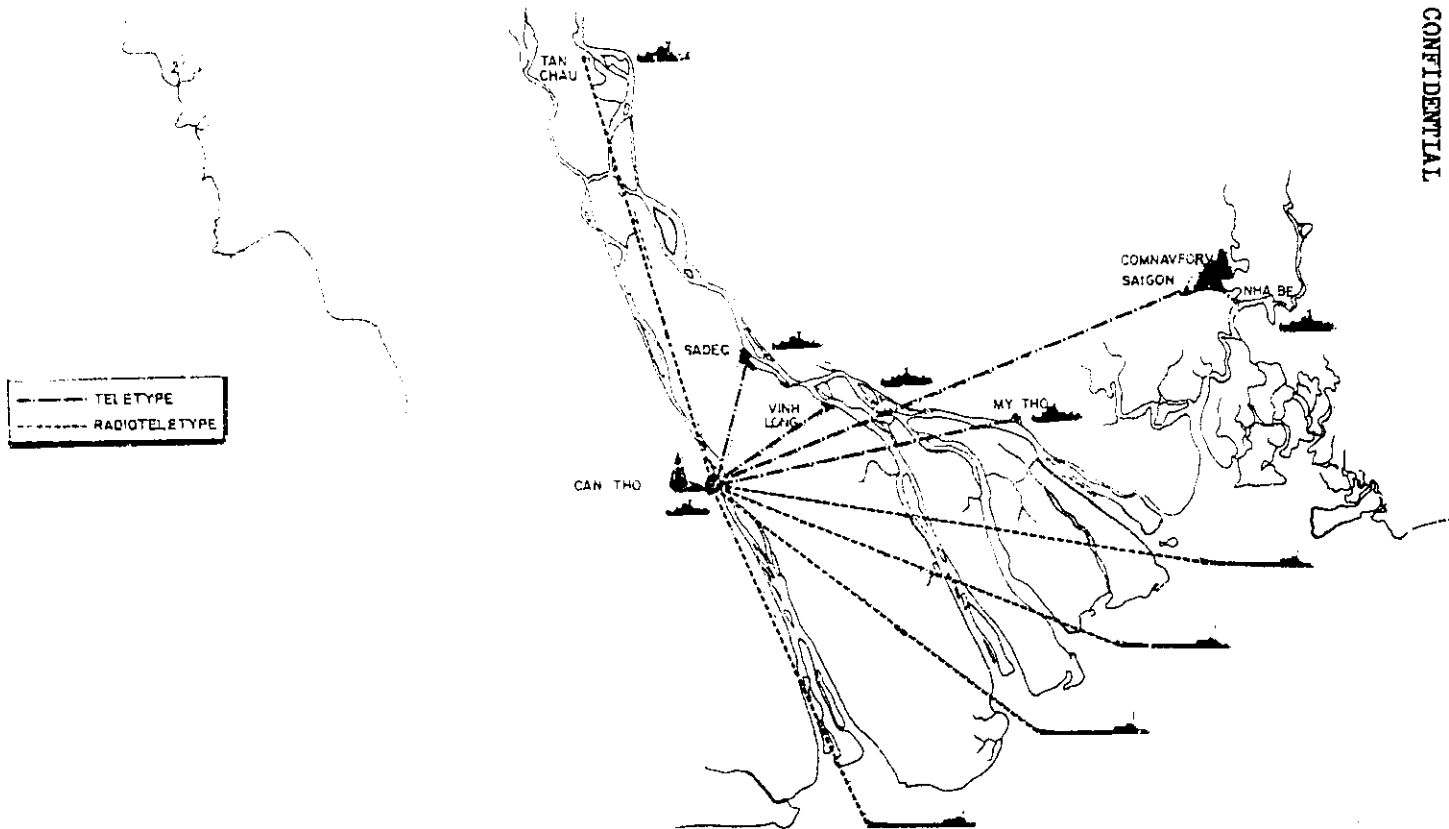
The COMNAVFORV communications center processed 95,280 messages in May, the highest one-month total to date. The figure represented an increase of 6,965 messages over April's traffic.

During the month the equipment installation phase of PROJECT SEARCHLIGHT was begun at Nha Be, where it was scheduled to be completed by 15 June. The project (the basic requirements for which were developed by a survey completed in 1966) is designed to improve the communications facilities at COMNAVFORV headquarters and at GAME WARDEN bases and the Coastal Surveillance Centers. Essentially the project entails procurement, installation and testing of the components required to upgrade voice and teletype communications. After the installation at Nha Be is complete a similar phase will begin at My Tho; the cycle will continue elsewhere as electronic materials become available.

In Project BOWLINE at Cam Ranh Bay the installation of electronic equipment at the new communications center was 77 per cent complete; at the transmitter and receiver sites the completion percentage of the electronic installation exceeded 85 per cent. Meanwhile, the construction phase was more than 90 per cent complete at each of the sites.

In Project SEA ANCHOR at Danang construction work on the new communications center and the transmitter and receiver sites was 80 per cent complete. In addition, the power supply installation was 95 per cent complete in the communications center and 90 per

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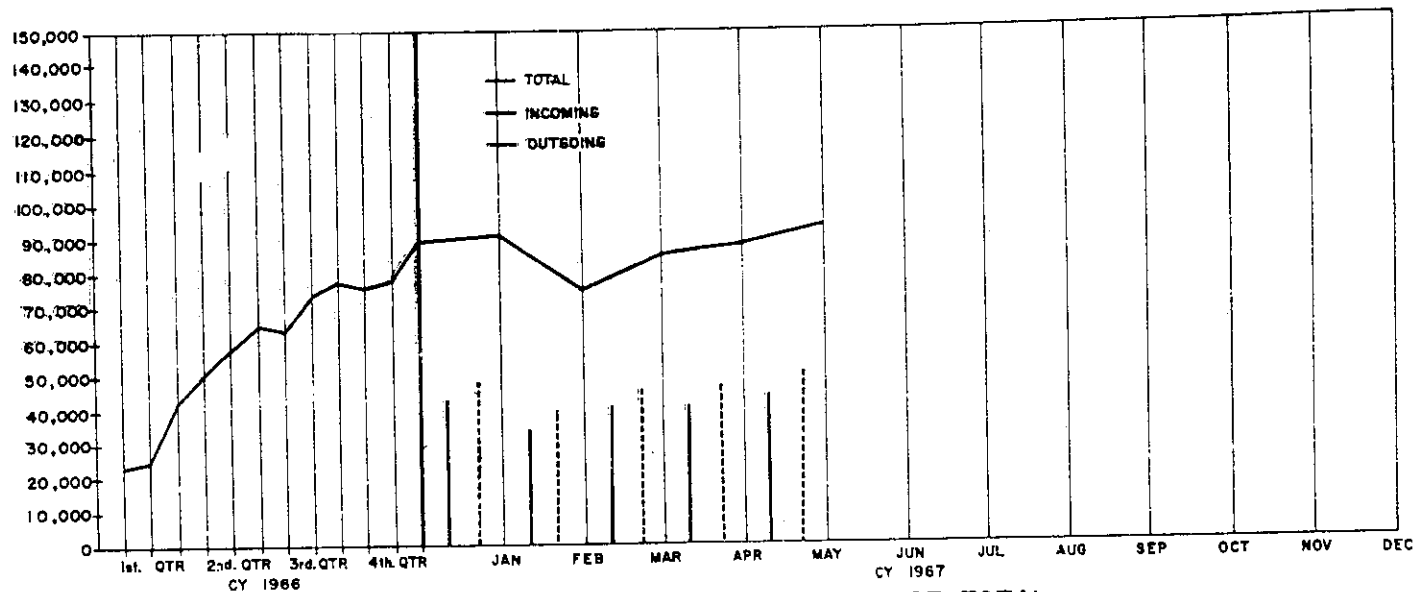
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# GAME WARDEN COMMUNICATIONS

# MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC

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63

PERCENT OF TOTAL

FLASH	1	1	1	1	1								
IMMEDIATE	21	20	19	18	16								
PRIORITY	60	61	63	63	66								
ROUTINE	18	18	17	18	17								

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cent complete at the receiver and transmitter sites. The installation of air conditioning was 80 per cent complete at all three sites.

On 26 May the establishment of a landline teletype circuit between the Naval Air Facility and the Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay ended the need for Air Transportable Communications Unit 100A. The following day the Unit returned to the Naval Communications Station in the Philippines.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 10 May Admiral Willard J. SMITH, USCG, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, arrived in An Thoi to begin a three-day tour of Navy and Coast Guard facilities in South Vietnam. Among the areas visited by Admiral SMITH were Binh Thuy, Saigon, Vung Tau, Cat Lo, Cam Ranh Bay and Danang.

On 12 May Vice Admiral John J. HYLAND, USN, Commander U.S. SEVENTH Fleet, visited the headquarters of Commander River Patrol Force (CTF 116) at Binh Thuy. Vice Admiral HYLAND participated in a PBR patrol and observed certain phases of GAME WARDEN operations.

On 20 May Admiral Ulysses S. Grant SHARP, USN, Commander in Chief, Pacific, arrived in Saigon to confer with COMUSMACV. In the course of his visit Admiral SHARP was briefed by key officers of COMNAVFORV's staff, and visited Chu Lai and Danang.

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Vice Admiral HYLAND and Captain Paul N. GRAY, USN, COMRIVPATFOR, during the former's tour of GAME WARDEN facilities at Binh Thuy.

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MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

During May psychological operations conducted by U.S. and Vietnamese naval personnel continued to produce encouraging results.

In the First Coastal Zone the efforts of Coastal Group 14 resulted in four Viet Cong, including an assistant village leader, returning to Government jurisdiction on 18 May. With help from the Zone's U.S. Navy "psyops" officer, the Vietnamese took photographs of the returnees (Hoi Chanhs), obtained written statements, and had both imprinted on leaflets. In addition, interviews with the Hoi Chanhs were taped for broadcast purposes. During the next six days 100,000 of the leaflets were dropped throughout the area, and the former village leader made personal loudspeaker appeals from a Vietnamese Navy junk. As a result, three more Viet Cong rallied. All of the Hoi Chanhs proved cooperative and reported that other Viet Cong were close to defection.

In the Second Coastal Zone loudspeaker missions conducted by Swift boats and junks in the Hon Heo Secret Zone resulted in two ralliers. In the Mekong Delta a PBR patrol playing a taped message in a known hostile area in the Bassac River was taken under fire from three positions on Tan Dinh Island. The PBRs suppressed the fire and continued the mission, attracting a large crowd in the May Island area, a known enemy crossing route. At one point a sampan was rowed out from the bank and its occupants thanked the patrol personnel for the broadcast and informed them that PBRs had killed two Viet Cong and wounded five others during a fire fight in the

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A Vietnamese Navy doctor examines a group of Delta children in a  
hospital ward at Da Nang.

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area the previous week.

Elsewhere in the Delta five Viet Cong rallied to PBRs in May, using the special USN-VNN amnesty leaflets first distributed in March.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone two ralliers, one of whom claimed to be a former Viet Cong platoon leader, turned in a .45 caliber machine gun and led Regional Force troops to an enemy camp. Following a brief fire fight with a Viet Cong platoon, the troops captured a machine gun, two mortars, two carbines and a large quantity of ammunition.

Among the month's civic action projects was an extensive mission in the Second Naval Zone conducted by the VNN's hospital ship, LSM(H) 401. From 20 May until the end of the month the ship stopped at seven different locations between Nha Trang and Phan Thiet. During the trip the ship's doctors and corpsmen treated almost 2,000 villagers in need of medical or dental attention. Some of the cases involved minor surgery.

On the afternoon of 14 May Coastal Group 36 units, Popular Force troops, and a Navy corpsman from USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) visited a village on Dung Island near the mouth of the Bassac River. While the U.S. and Vietnamese medical personnel treated 250 villagers in the area, the troops and sailors distributed literature espousing the Government's cause.

The next day Coastal Group 36 units and a battalion of Ba Xuyen Sector forces conducted a search and destroy mission on the island.

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Five Viet Cong were killed during the operation and another was captured. Following the incident, medical personnel treated 500 villagers for routine ailments while the troops distributed food and gifts.

On the 20th units of Coastal Groups 34 and 37 transported 200 Regional Force troops, a joint U.S., Australian and VNN medical contingent, and the Third Coastal Zone's "psyops" team to the hamlet of Xam Giong Bong, 30 miles southwest of Vung Tau. One Vietnamese sailor was wounded by sniper fire during the landing and one Viet Cong suspect was detained. After the area was "secured," the medical team treated 150 Vietnamese in need of dental care and 500 others requiring medical help; one of the latter was subsequently evacuated for surgical treatment.

Throughout the month, in the Nha Be District south of Saigon, the 2nd Battalion of the Vietnamese Marine Corps conducted a continuing series of civic action missions. The projects were woven into the battalion's participation in Operation FAIRFAX, and resulted in the medical treatment of 2,500 persons, the dissemination of 32,000 "psywar" leaflets and booklets, the construction of 16 roofs for private dwellings, and the distribution of over 300 tons of rice and other foodstuffs.

The following is a tabulation of certain military civic action projects conducted during May by U.S. and Vietnamese naval forces and the Vietnamese Marine Corps.

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1. Construction:
  - a. Dispensaries 1
  - b. Dwellings/number of families 3/6
  - c. Schools/classrooms 3/12
  - d. Wells 5
  - e. Churches 1
  - f. Flagpoles 1
  
2. Medical treatment:
  - a. General medicine 18,743
  - b. Dental 1,278
  - c. Surgery 80
  - d. Emergency evacuations 23
  - e. Cleft palate operations 1
  
3. Health and sanitation:
  - a. Classes on personal hygiene/attendance 3/35
  - b. Immunizations 991
  - c. Medical aides or nurses trained 3
  - d. Physical examinations 2,040
  - e. Spray insecticide operations 4
  - f. Swamp areas drained 1
  
4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):
  - a. Cement 50,854
  - b. Clothing 4,510
  - c. Food 190,147
  - d. Lumber (board feet) 68,664
  - e. Medical, non-prescription 140
  - f. Midwife kits (number) 10
  - g. School kits (number) 468
  - h. Soap 14,237
  - i. Tin sheets (number) 503
  - j. Woodworking kits (number) 2
  - k. Paper blankets (number) 2,256
  - l. Personal kits (number) 810
  - m. Magazines (number) 18,225
  
5. Educational efforts:
  - a. English classes/attendance 52/689
  
6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:
  - a. Orphanages 117,000
  - b. Schools 23,000

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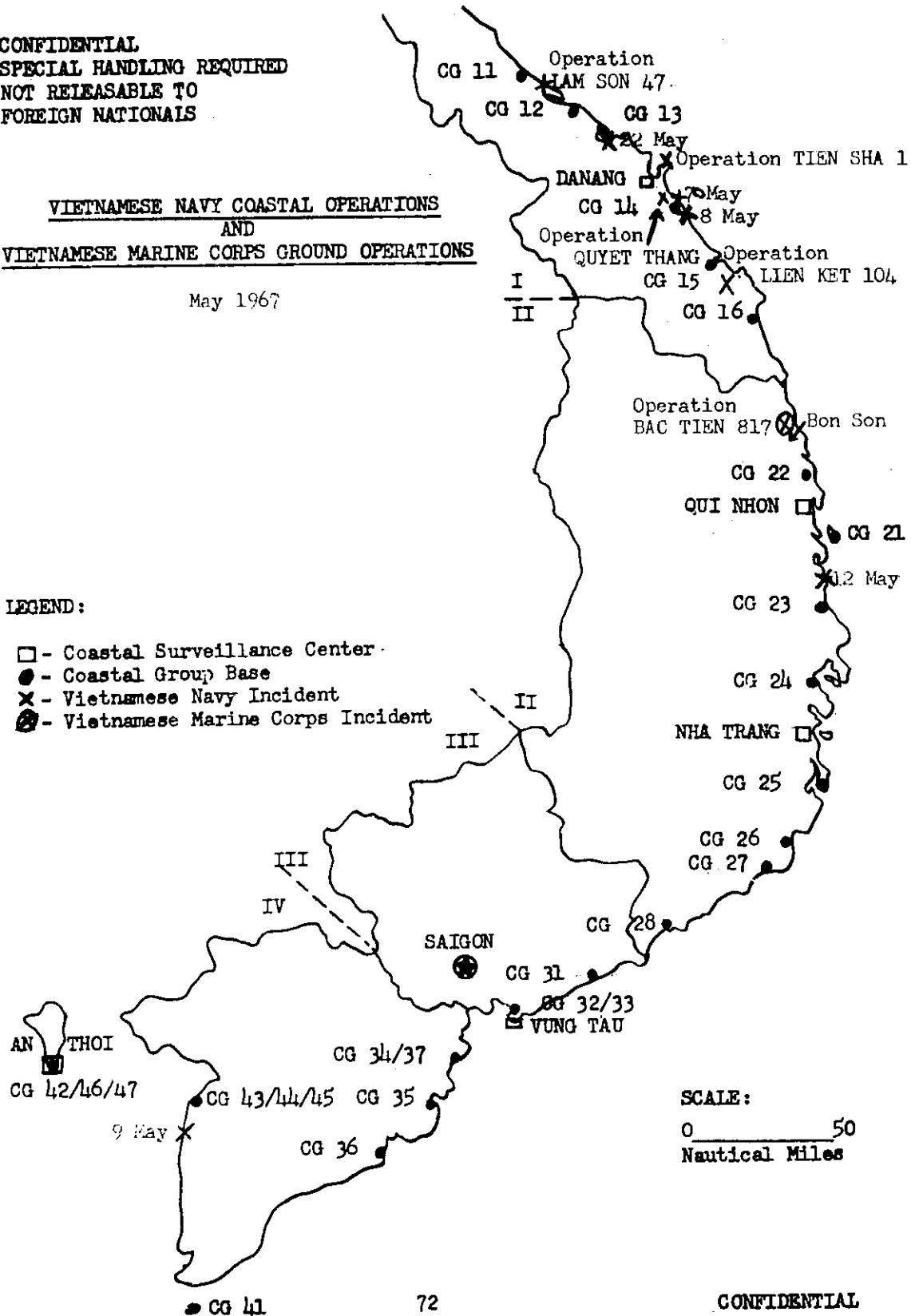
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VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS  
 AND  
VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS

May 1967

LEGEND:

- - Coastal Surveillance Center
- - Coastal Group Base
- ✕ - Vietnamese Navy Incident
- ⊗ - Vietnamese Marine Corps Incident



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FOREIGN NATIONALS

NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

At the end of May the personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy stood at 15,988. Of this number 1,080 were officers, 3,029 were non-commissioned officers and the remaining 11,879 were enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged during the month as deserters and the number of unauthorized absentees was 35 and 314, respectively; the figures represented a continuing decline in both categories.

On 11 May Patrol Motor Gunboats 616 and 618 were made available for assignment to the Fleet Command. Of the four new PGMs which arrived in April, these were the first to complete the training cycle conducted by the VNN's Underway Training Group in Saigon. The formal transfer of ownership of the craft from the U.S. Navy to the Vietnamese Navy was expected to be completed in June.

On 17 May, for the first time since an independent government was established in South Vietnam, a River Assault Group detachment was activated outside of the Delta and surrounding region. The new unit, comprising six craft, was established at the Coastal Group 12 base at Thua Thien, northeast of Hue. The primary mission of the detachment is to conduct patrols and support amphibious operations along the rivers, canals and inland shores of the area 20 to 80 miles northwest of Danang.

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FOREIGN NATIONALS

On 24 May the 241 personnel assigned to the last recruit training class programmed for 1967 completed their indoctrination at the Recruit Training Center, Cam Ranh. At month's end certain sections of the center were being revamped to provide facilities for the Gunner's Mate and Boatswain's Mate Class A schools scheduled to start in July.

#### Fleet Command

Of the 26 ships available to the Fleet Command in May, 12 were maintained on station off the coast of South Vietnam, four conducted river patrols, and one performed convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. During the month the ships of the Fleet Command conducted 32 gunfire support missions, searched 939 junks and 4,377 persons, and detained four junks and 17 suspects.

Patrol craft (PCs and PCEs) patrolled the coasts of the First, Second and Fourth Naval Zones. On 15 May PCE 08 relieved USS LUCID (MSO 458) in the northern surveillance barrier of the First Naval Zone. On 17 May PCE 12 relieved USS GANNET (MSC 290) in the Second Naval Zone. Each PCE remained on station for 14 days, constituting the most significant integration of the VNN Fleet Command and USN Coastal Surveillance Force to date.

Landing support ships (LSILs and LSSLs) provided gunfire support and acted as convoy escorts in the Third Naval Zone, the Fourth Riverine Area and the Rung Sat Special Zone. The ships conducted a total of 24 gunfire missions in May. On 5 and 6 May,

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NOT RELEASABLE TO  
FOREIGN NATIONALS

LSSL 231 conducted three gunfire support missions against enemy positions on the north bank of the Bassac River, 50 miles south-east of Can Tho. The gunfire resulted in the destruction of five Viet Cong structures, one bunker and one sampan. In addition, 24 structures were damaged.

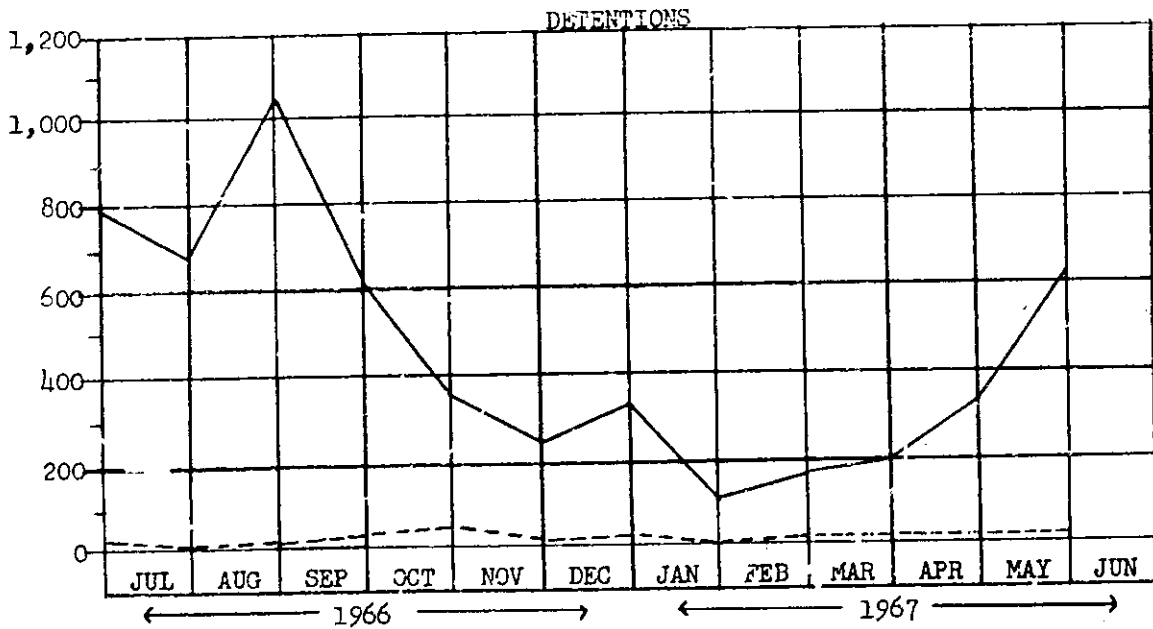
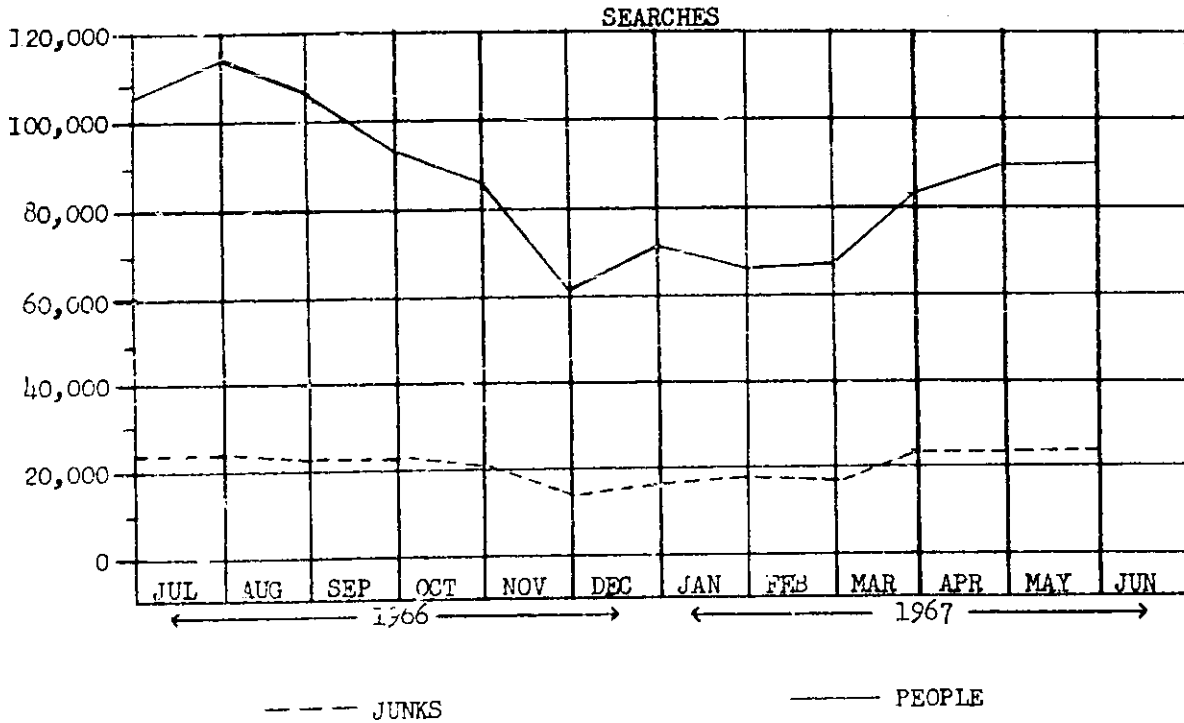
In May the Fleet Command's gunboats (FGMs) conducted river and coastal patrols in the Rung Sat Special Zone and in the four naval Zones, while the coastal minesweepers (MSCs) were deployed on coastal patrols in the First and Third Naval Zones. In the RSSZ, motor launch minesweepers (MLMSs) continued their daily sweep operations on the Saigon, Long Tau and Nha Be rivers.

The month's 19 logistical missions resulted in the movement of 3,270 tons of cargo and 2,423 personnel. Medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 1,523 tons of cargo and 1,968 personnel; tank landing ships (LSTs) lifted 1,522 tons of cargo and 455 personnel; and utility landing craft (LCUs) lifted 225 tons of cargo.

Personnel of the VNN Underwater Demolition Team (LDNN) continued their nightly hull inspections of ships in the Port of Saigon, and conducted four operations during the month. Two detachments operated in the RSSZ with U.S. Navy SEALs from 1 to 6 and 15 to 25 May; three LDNNs worked with SEAL detachments in the Fourth Riverine Area from the 19th to the 31st; a 15-man detachment conducted beach survey operations in the First and Second Naval Zones from 17 May into June; and two LDNNs assisted the ARVN

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SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS  
BY VIETNAMESE NAVY SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES



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303rd Engineering Battalion from 13 through 16 May while the battalion was constructing bridge defenses at Ben Luc.

Coastal Force

In May the available units of the Coastal Force--238--had a daily employment average of 50 per cent. The units searched 21,303 junks and 80,829 persons during the month, detaining 33 junks and 624 persons.

On 2 and 3 May Coastal Group 12 and Headquarters, I Corps Tactical Zone units conducted Operation LAM SON 47, 70 miles northwest of Danang. One hundred and four Viet Cong were killed during the operation and 30 suspects were detained. In addition, 13 crew-served weapons, 80 individual weapons, and 24 cases of BAR-type ammunition were captured.

On the afternoon of 7 May a Coastal Group 14 patrol sighted nine Viet Cong attempting to cross the Cua Dai River, 14 miles south of Danang, and requested and spotted for U.S. artillery fire from a Marine unit. The artillery fire killed two of the Viet Cong. At 0330 the next day, three miles farther east, other Coastal Group 14 units participated in an operation which resulted in the destruction of two Viet Cong check points, the capture of one Viet Cong, and the detention of 11 suspects.

From 16 to 18 May Coastal Groups 11, 13, 14 and 15 conducted a series of small raids and search and destroy missions along the coast. One Viet Cong was killed during this period, another was

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captured, and four others defected. In addition, a 200-pound water mine and a small assortment of small-arms ammunition and grenades were seized.

On the 20th, Coastal Group 14 and U. S. Marine ground units conducted a one-day operation, QUYET THANG, 14 miles southeast of Danang. Four Viet Cong were killed during the operation and one Viet Cong defected. One Marine was wounded.

That same day Coastal Group 16 supported the ARVN FOURTH Division in Operation LIEN KET 104, 67 miles southeast of Danang. During the operation, which ended on the 28th, Coastal Group units detained one junk and 89 suspects. The ground forces, meanwhile, killed 137 Viet Cong and detained over 1,000 suspects.

At 2350 on 22 May a sampan manned by Coastal Group 13 personnel and U.S. Navy advisors encountered two enemy craft on Cau Hai Bay, 28 miles northwest of Danang. During the ensuing 15-minute fire fight 19 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong were killed, and one Viet Cong was captured. The materiel seized included two carbines, a submachine gun, 24 grenades, and a quantity of ammunition and documents. There were no friendly casualties.

On 12 May Coastal Group 24 units in the Second Naval Zone conducted a series of search and destroy operations near My Quang, 23 miles south of Qui Nhon. The units destroyed three tons of rice contained in three caches, and four enemy bunkers.

On 4 May, in the Third Naval Zone, Coastal Group 36 units and

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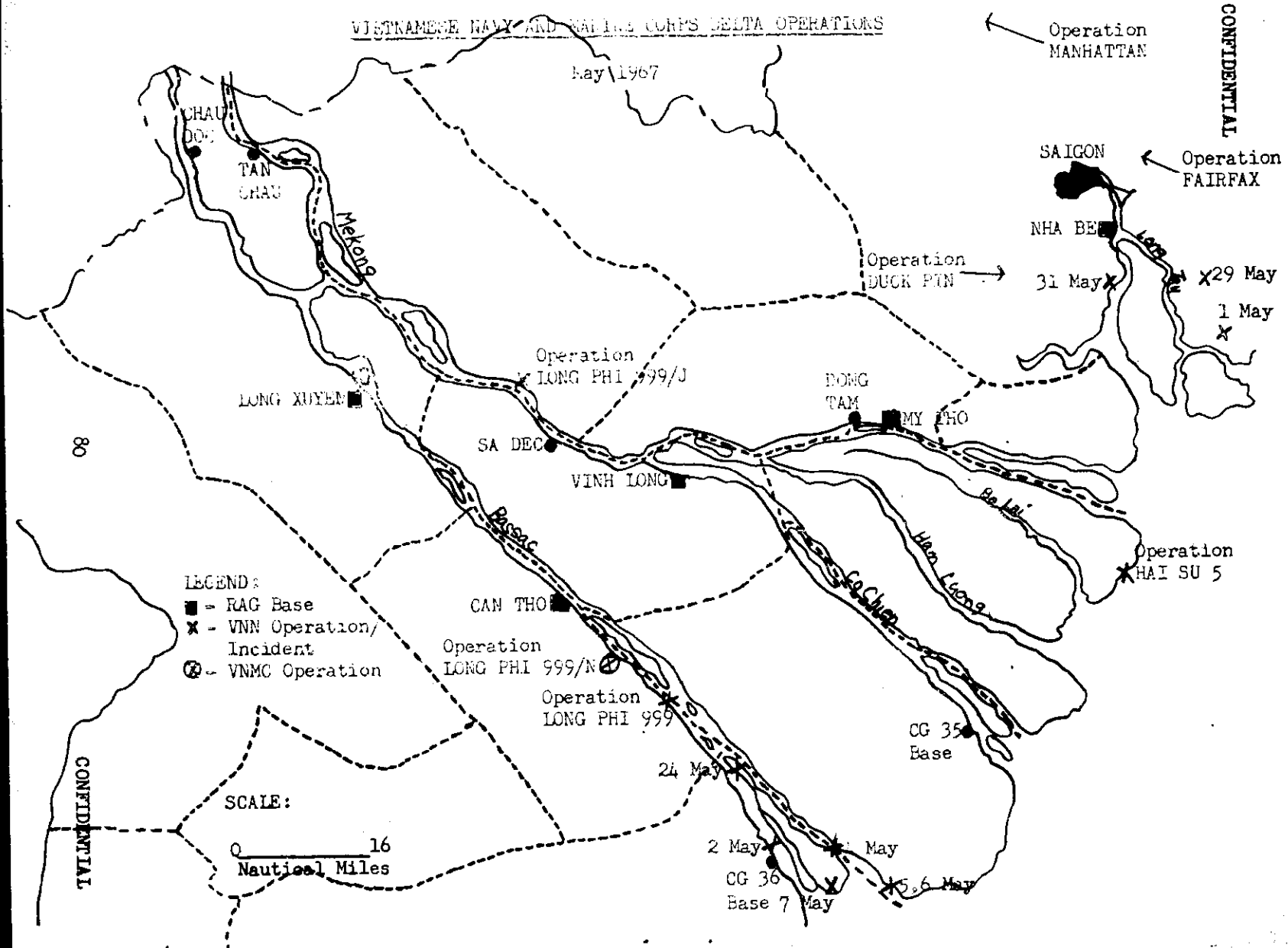
Vinh Binh Sector forces conducted a search and destroy operation on the north shore of the Bassac River, ten miles upstream from the mouth of the river. Two Viet Cong were killed and two individual weapons were seized; five members of the sector force were wounded. On 7 May Coastal Group 36 supported two ARVN Special Forces missions on islands in the mouth of the Bassac River. During the two operations five Viet Cong were killed; two others were captured along with a number of rifles and grenades.

On 8 and 9 May Coastal Groups 32, 33, 34 and 37, together with LSIL 327, LSM 404 and PCF 35 landed and supported Regional Force companies 907 and 983 and landing parties from each of the coastal groups in Operation HAI SU 5. The landing occurred near the mouth of the My Tho River, 24 miles southwest of Vung Tau, and was opposed by a Viet Cong platoon. Six of the enemy were killed (probables) and two were wounded. The ensuing sweep of the area by South Vietnamese troops resulted in the destruction of 200 punji-stake foot traps, and the seizure of a large quantity of documents. The troops also provided protection for VNN medical personnel, who treated approximately 80 villagers during the operation.

On the night of 24 May two Coastal Group 36 junks and four U.S. PRBs supported a platoon of Vietnamese Special Forces from Soc Trang in an operation on the northern end of Dung Island. During the mission the platoon was ambushed by an estimated 40

VICTNAMESE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS BELTA OPERATIONS

May 1967



LEGEND:

- - RAG Base
- ✕ - VNN Operation/ Incident
- ⊗ - VNNC Operation

SCALE:

0 16 Nautical Miles

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Operation MANHATTAN

Operation FAIRFAX

Operation DUCK PIN

Operation LONG PHI 999/J

SA DEC

VINH LONG

CAN THO

Operation LONG PHI 999/N

Operation LONG PHI 999

CG 35 Base

Operation HAI SU 5

2 May  
CG 36 Base 7 May

SAIGON

NHA BE

31 May

✕ 29 May

1 May

✕

80

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Viet Cong. Four Vietnamese troops were killed in the action and another was wounded. One Viet Cong was captured.

At 0030 on 9 May, in the Fourth Naval Zone, junks from Coastal Group 45 detected and forced aground a 40-foot motor junk carrying arms. As soon as the enemy junk grounded, 70 miles north of Ca Mau Point, the occupants began firing on the Coastal Group junks. The Government units, supported by two MARKET TIME craft, suppressed the enemy fire, killing two (probables) of the fleeing Viet Cong. The captured junk was subsequently towed to the Coastal Group base. Included in its cargo were three Russian carbines, one M-1 rifle, three grenade launchers, and 800 rounds of small-arms ammunition.

#### Riverine Area Naval Commands

In May the River Assault Groups conducted one operation in the First Naval Zone, three in the Third Riverine Area, six in the Rung Sat Special Zone and eight in the Fourth Riverine Area.

The RAG units also performed escort duty and conducted river patrol, base defense and psychological warfare missions. With a daily average employment of 70 per cent of the available force of 141 craft, the RAGs searched 1,827 junks and 4,881 persons, and detained two junks and 11 persons.

On 17 May the newly-activated River Assault Group Detachment in the First Naval Zone conducted its first operation, code-named TIEN SHA 1. The one-day operation included the transportation and support of a two-platoon force of ARVN Special Forces and Special

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A River Assault Group craft lands U.S. troops of the FIRST Infantry Division during Operation MANHATTAN, north of Saigon.

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Operations Group personnel deployed near Tien Sha Mountain, 3 miles east of Danang.

The month's three operations in the Third Riverine Area involved support of U.S. Army units. From 5 to 7 May, 13 craft from RAGs 24 and 28 provided blocking forces for units of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade conducting Operation DUCK PIN, 15 miles southwest of Saigon. The sweeps along the banks of the Vam Co Dang River resulted in the detention of five Viet Cong suspects and the seizure of large quantities of explosives, medical supplies and documents. In addition, several bunkers and foxholes and three emplaced 57-mm. rifles were destroyed.

From 6 to 10 May, 14 craft from RAGs 28 and 30 and three craft from the River Transport Escort Group\* participated in the U.S. FIRST Infantry Division's Operation MANHATTAN, 25 miles north of Saigon. Numerous Viet Cong bunkers and tunnel complexes were destroyed during the operation. Afterwards two VNN sailors were wounded when their craft, returning to its base, was mined.

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\* A specially-trained Vietnamese Navy unit under the operational control of the Waterway Transport Office of the Government's Public Works Department. The principal mission of the River Transport Escort Group (RTEG) is to escort commercial traffic along the waterways of the Mekong Delta between Saigon and Bac Lieu. Composed of seven officers, 200 enlisted men, and 28 river assault craft, the RTEG assigns five to seven craft to accompany each convoy; the size of the convoy ranges from 15 to as many as 70 junks and barges. A convoy leaves Saigon approximately every ten days, arriving back in the Capital about 22 days later.

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Units of RAG 30 supported U.S. NINTH Infantry Division units in Operation FAIRFAX from 17 to 20 and 25 through 31 May. On the 28th a RAG unit killed four Viet Cong and captured an enemy sampan during a fire fight on the Tac River, 8 miles northeast of Saigon.

In a one-day operation on the 31st, LSIL 331 and 13 craft from RAGs 22 and 28 landed two Regional Force companies in an area 12 miles southeast of Saigon. Two Viet Cong were killed during the assault as the troops destroyed one junk, seven sampans, 57 structures, one medical aid station, 20 water mines and two cases of locally-made land mines and grenades.

On 2 May seven craft from RAGs 25 and 29, enroute from Can Tho to Ca Mau, engaged an enemy unit in a canal 40 miles south of Can Tho. During the fire fight three main-force Viet Cong of Company 404 were captured, together with a quantity of arms, documents and medical supplies.

On 9 and 10 May RAGs 23 and 31 supported a multi-battalion force of the ARVN NINTH Division and Regional and Special Forces units in Operation LONG PHI 999/J. During the operation, conducted ten miles north of Sa Dec, the ground forces killed ten Viet Cong, captured ten others, and detained ten suspects. At the same time RAG personnel searched 107 junks and 245 persons.

On the 12th and 13th, the VNN's LCU 538 and 21 craft from RAGs 25, 27, 29 and 32 supported the ARVN NINTH Division in Operation LONG PHI 999, 18 miles southeast of Can Tho. Twenty-

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five Viet Cong were captured during this period, another was killed, and four suspects were detained. One RAG sailor was wounded, as well as three ARVN soldiers.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary  
 May 1967

	<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
<u>Coastal Force</u>				
I NZ	7,095	27,079	29	469
II NZ	5,360	19,171	3	144
III NZ	6,303	25,231	0	7
IV NZ	2,545	9,348	1	4
Sub-Totals	21,303	80,829	33	624
<u>Fleet Command</u>				
Patrol Ships	939	4,377	4	17
<u>Riverine Area</u>				
Craft	1,827	4,881	2	11
Totals	24,069	90,087	39	652

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VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

During the month the six battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II and III Corps Tactical Zones, the Rung Sat Special Zone and the Fourth Riverine Area. The infantry battalions were committed to combat operations 84 per cent of the time and the three batteries of the Artillery Battalion were committed 74 per cent of the time.

Brigade Force A, consisting of a headquarters, the 4th and 5th Marine Battalions, and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, continued operations begun in April in the Bong Son area of the

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II Corps Tactical Zone.

The operations resulted in light, scattered contact with Viet Cong units. From the 1st through the 4th there were eight minor incidents which resulted in three Viet Cong being killed. Two Viet Cong were captured in addition to an assortment of grenades, clothes and documents. Three Marines were killed and six were wounded. In an encounter on the 5th, one Marine was killed and two were wounded while four Viet Cong were killed and one was captured. That day the Marines detained 68 suspects.

From 6 to 16 May, in a series of brief incidents, nine Viet Cong were killed, one was captured, and one ARVN deserter and seven suspects were detained. Three Marines were killed and 16 were wounded; two of those killed and nine of the wounded were felled by snipers or booby traps.

At 0400 on 17 May a Viet Cong platoon attacked a Marine outpost and killed two Marines. Between the 17th and the 24th one Viet Cong was killed, two were captured, and six suspects were detained. One Marine was wounded.

On the 24th a unit of the Force made contact with a Viet Cong platoon, killing ten, capturing five, and detaining four suspects. One Marine was killed and another was wounded. Among the items seized were a .45 caliber pistol and 17 grenades.

From the 25th through the 31st, in eight separate incidents, three Viet Cong were captured and nine suspects were detained.

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During this period three Marines were killed and seven were wounded.

Brigade Force B, composed of a headquarters, the 1st and 3rd Battalions, and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion, was activated on 24 May and transported by road convoy from Saigon to the Can Tho area. The Force operated as a reaction and search unit under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Division until 27 May, and under the ARVN NINTH Division from the 28th to the 31st.

On the 28th the Force participated in Operation LONG PHI 999/N, ten miles southeast of Can Tho. Landed by RAG craft, the Marines swept the area on the 28th and 29th, killing two Viet Cong and detaining six suspects. Seven Marines were wounded. On 31 May the Force returned to Saigon.

Earlier in the month, the 1st Battalion and Battery A of the Artillery Battalion had conducted waterway security and search and destroy operations in the RSSZ. Contact with the enemy was sporadic and light. On 1 May the 3rd Company discovered an enemy base camp 16 miles northwest of Vung Tau and destroyed five huts (two of which were booby-trapped), nine sampans, ten land mines and one ton of rice. Two Marines were killed and two were wounded.

On the 11th the 1st Battalion was relieved by the 6th Battalion and returned to its base camp at Thu Duc. From 19 to 22 May the 1st Battalion maintained security in the Capital Military District, operating principally in the Go Vap sector north of

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Saigon. On 24 May the Battalion deployed as a part of Brigade Force B.

The 2nd Battalion, operating in the Nha Be District throughout the month, continued to conduct search and destroy missions and civic action projects together with units of the U.S. 199th Light Infantry Brigade conducting Operation FAIRFAX. The battalion provided daytime security patrols and nighttime ambushes and patrols designed to protect the progress of their civic action undertakings.

The 3rd Battalion remained at its base camp at Thu Duc until 11 May when it began a week of security duty on the perimeter of Tan Son Nhut Air Base. The battalion then returned to camp until the 24th, when it joined Brigade Force B.

At Thu Duc on the 8th of May the 6th Battalion was inspected by Lieutenant General Le Nguyen KHANG, VNMC, Commandant, Vietnamese Marine Corps. In a subsequent dedication ceremony the battalion was formally activated as a combat unit. On 11 May the battalion relieved the 1st Battalion in the RSSZ. There was no contact with the enemy until 29 May when one Viet Cong was killed and another was wounded during an attack on a Viet Cong base camp on the west bank of the Long Tau River, 20 miles northwest of Vung Tau. The battalion destroyed the camp, which contained 23 huts, and withdrew.

The morale of the Vietnamese Marine Corps remained at a high level and the leadership in all units was considered to be excellent

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throughout the month. During May the Corps accounted for 30 enemy killed, 14 captured and 180 suspects detained. Sixteen Marines were killed and 42 Marines were wounded.

Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary  
May 1967

7C/NVA: 30 KIA, 14 captured, 180 suspects detained.

VNMC: 16 KIA, 42 WIA.

Materiel Captured or Destroyed:

Hand Grenades	35
Bangalore torpedos	2
Submachine guns	3
M-1 rifles	1
K-50 SMGs	1
.45 caliber pistols	1
Huts	5
Sampan	13
Rice (tons)	1
Rifle grenades	1
K-50 ammunition (rounds)	1,000
Shelters	26
Trench lines (meters)	100
Bunkers	2
Mines	15

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