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including 175,000 bags of cement and 30 acres of AM2 and M8A1 matting, arrived to keep pace with the work. Meanwhile, NMCB 10, the alert battalion on Okinawa, was ordered to Vietnam to assist on this and other high priority work.

Only 38 days after the start of the job the first C-130 aircraft landed on the airstrip, and by 1 November all of the work specified, which actually is the first increment of a much larger complex to follow, was complete. The initial construction, in addition to the airstrip facilities, included a 500-man galley, 30 hootches, and a temporary ammunition supply point.

Despite a prolonged diet of C-rations and two enemy mortar attacks during the busy six weeks, spirits were high as reflected by the huge black skull-and-crossbones flag that flew over the camp, proclaiming it to be the headquarters of the Ghost Battalion, a subtle tribute to those who formerly occupied the site, and a reminder that even a composite group need not be nameless.

During November, NMCB 10 moved its base camp from Phu Bai to the new combat base at Quang Tri and was accomplishing all military construction work there. In order to provide a stable working surface in wet weather, the Seabees were soil-cementing the air freight terminal, staging areas, and roads throughout the base. They completed 35 ammunition supply points and four earth berms at the bulk fuel storage area. For aircraft protection, NMCB 10

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erected 750 feet of pre-engineered metal revetments on the 90,000 square yard helicopter pad. Anchor pins for the helicopter pad matting continued to be driven and areas needed for expansion of the pads were being leveled and compacted. A mortar tower, a water tower, and two water tanks were also erected, and work was continuing on administrative buildings and supply facilities for the FIRST Marine Air Wing and the Force Logistics Command (FLC).

During the month, roadwork on National Route #1 was taking place from north of Dong Ha to Quang Ngai. In the Quang Tri area, Seabees from NMCB 10 replaced three culverts which had been destroyed by the Viet Cong. Asphalt patching and seal coating was being conducted by NMCB 121 and NMCB 3 in the Phu Bai area and a detail from NMCB 74 replaced three culverts blown by the Viet Cong and enlarged four others. In addition, they repaired 12 deep trenches which the enemy had dug into the road. NMCB 6 Seabees completed repairs on 11 miles of Route #1 between Binh Son and Quang Ngai and NMCB 1 Seabees completed the installation of security lighting for the newly reconstructed Nam-O Bridge which is located just north of Nam-O village.

A detail from NMCB 11 completed the Army Special Forces Camp at Lang Vei within six months after their arrival, despite heavy rains, severe logistics problems, and enemy harassment. Other Seabees of NMCB 11 completed 10 butler buildings for the THIRD

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Marine Division and a 250-man galley at Camp Carroll. Work was also continuing on the two 500-man galleys which were turned over to NMCB 10 for completion.



Workers remove mud and silt from the abutment forms for a bridge under construction in I Corps Tactical Zone.

NMCB 4 completed two 10,000-barrel, three 3,000-barrel, and one 1,000-barrel POL (Petroleum, Oil, Lubricants) tanks at the Tan

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My port facility and were continuing work on the piping system to complete the first increment of the project. Seabees from NMCB 3 were also working on the Hue television studio and on various structures in the Gia Le combat base. They also completed a special services building and finished 80 percent of an officer's club for the THIRD Marine Division camp at Phu Bai.

NMCB 7, located at Danang East, completed three generator sheds at the Marble Mountain Air Facility and an extensive drainage system for the Light Anti-Aircraft Missile site on Monkey Mountain. Seabees from NMCB 7 were also rehabilitating barracks at Camp Tien Sha, constructing the Naval Support Activity, Danang Public Works Department shops, and working on an NSA 200-bed hospital expansion project.

NMCB 128, also located at Danang East, completed a 43,000 square foot helicopter pad at Ammunition Supply Point ONE and was continuing to work on the ammunition storage pads, roads, and security fencing there. Seabees from NMCB 128 were also working on the construction of three 10,000-barrel tanks for the Marble Mountain fuel farm.

During the month NMCB 74 completed the fifth increment of Ammunition Supply Point TWO and finished the shells of nine 40- by 100-foot rigid frame storage buildings for Force Logistics Command. Also at FLC, NMCB 1 completed eight butler buildings and constructed

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the shells for eight others. By month's end NMCB 1 had also nearly completed the 500-man galley for the FIRST Shore Party Battalion.

During the month NMCB 9 made good progress on a cantonment complex at the Danang airfield which included 13 enlisted barracks, two BOQs, an EM club, and an administrative building. When completed, this project will be occupied by NAVSUPACT Danang and Early Warning Squadron ONE (VW 1) personnel.

Four concrete flightline pads for Marine Air Group TWELVE were completed during November at Chu Lai by Seabees of NMCB 6. They were also working on a permanent power distribution system for the Chu Lai combat base and had completed two covered storage warehouses, 15,000 square yards of open storage, and six ammunition bunkers for the Army. NMCB 40, also at Chu Lai, completed 17 ammunition bunkers and three five-cell modules in the first increment of a Class V Ammunition Supply Point. They were also continuing work on a Republic of Korea medical facility.

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MILITARY PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS

Although psychological operations and civic action projects are distinct in concept and execution, the value of one often weaves itself through the fabric of the other. The river patrol sections of Operation GAME WARDEN, for example, conducted MEDCAPs regularly



An elderly Vietnamese man describes his ailments to an interpreter while Hospital Corpsman Third Class Bill HERRING looks on.

for residents of the Delta. The visits involve not only the treatment of villagers for diverse ailments, but also the distribution of vital commodities, including soap, and assistance to the Vietnamese in matters of individual and communal hygiene. In November the

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Catholic Relief Services made available to U. S. Navy units four and one-half tons of medical supplies. These supplies were delivered to Delta-based units for use during MEDCAPs and similar missions. In addition, five tons of soap, procured through US/FWMAF Military Civic Action and Psychological Warfare funds, was also made available to the GAME WARDEN units for dissemination.

In addition to MEDCAPs and other related projects, river patrol craft regularly conducted "psyops" missions, as did other naval units throughout Vietnam, which included loudspeaker broadcasts and the distribution of leaflets and other literature. Naval forces conducted 410 hours of surface and aerial broadcasts and distributed over 122,000 Free South Newspapers and magazines to villagers whose only source of current events was that provided by the Viet Cong. There were 30 250-watt loudspeaker systems supplied to River Squadron FIVE and Coastal Squadron ONE for installation on GAME WARDEN and MARKET TIME craft. To increase the broadcast capability of the Navy units, an additional 108 systems were ordered.

In an effort to improve the poor conditions found in the isolated schools in the Delta region, 150 teacher kits, supplied by USAID, and 100 blackboards were distributed by the various River Patrol Sections along the Ham Luong, Co Chien and Bassac Rivers.

The Vietnamese hospital ships, HAT GIANG (HQ 400) and HAN GIANG (HQ 401), treated more than 11,000 residents in need of

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medical or dental assistance as they conducted psychological and civic action operations in the Fourth Riverine Area, 16 through 30 November.

There was a marked decrease in the Hoi Chanh rallying rate in the Delta during the month. Intelligence sources indicated that one of the primary reasons for this was that the local force guerrillas were remaining at home to complete the rice harvest. There were also indications of increased Viet Cong pressure to prevent desertions coinciding with the commencement of the Winter-Spring offensive.

A number of Viet Cong propaganda leaflets were recovered by units of the Mobile Riverine Force (TF 117) during operations conducted in the Mekong Delta. These leaflets included appeals to Korean soldiers in their native language, appeals to U. S. Negro servicemen and appeals to U. S. servicemen with anti-war sentiments.

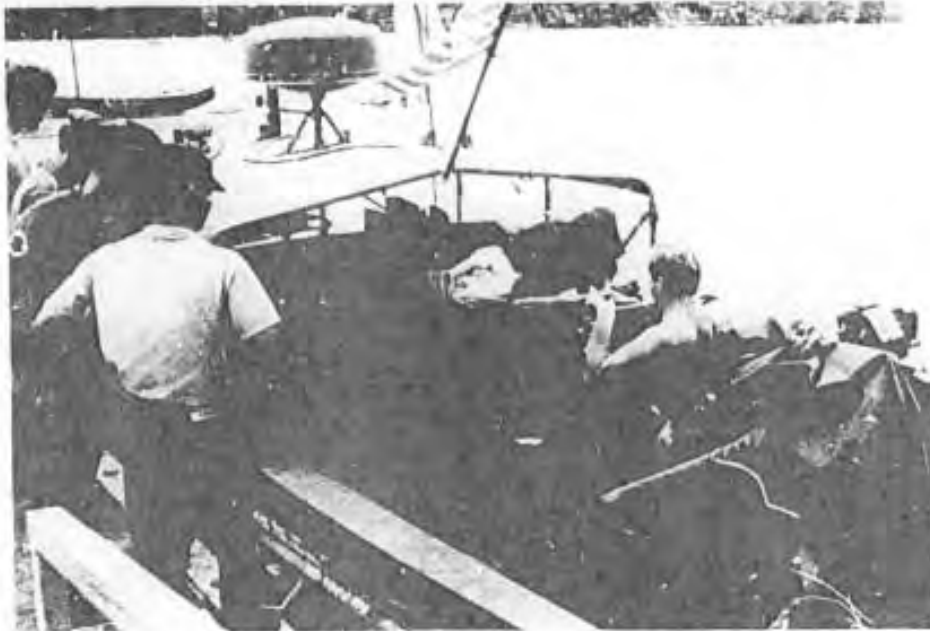
The U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalions continued to demonstrate an active civic action program in their respective areas of operation as they applied their many building talents to the improvement of the living and sanitation conditions of the local populace. Efforts were also expended in improving various school and religious facilities. Members of Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN contributed 10,670\$ VN (\$90.42) to a scholarship fund that permitted needy children from Sou Cha village to attend school for

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another month. The importance that this battalion places on education can best be exemplified by the following excerpt from a battalion report: "Our basic trust in civic action has been in the area of education. It is the feeling of the NMCE SEVEN Civic Action Team that there is no greater contribution that can be made to the future of a strong Vietnam than in providing for the impressionable young people the opportunity to learn and thus be prepared to be the leaders of tomorrow. It is felt the greatest gift we can leave behind is the gift of education and facilities for education. In our work with the people we have found in them a great desire to learn and gain an education, especially among the children, and older people will often go to great lengths to ensure an education for their children. We have thus focused our attention in this direction. We have set up a scholarship fund for fifty children to go to school and hope that this can be expanded as time goes on. We have built or assisted in building additions to three and now possibly four schools. Up until two months ago we paid the partial salary of two teachers in My Thi hamlet. Now we are hoping to provide living facilities for two new teachers to come to this area to teach. In addition to this we are teaching English to the Vietnamese on an average of 46 hours a month. Our greatest sense of personal satisfaction has been in knowing that we have provided an opportunity to learn and grow for some young people in East Danang."

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PBR sailors gently lift a seriously ill Vietnamese from their boat after evacuating him from an outpost to the medical facilities at My Tho.

The following is a tabulation of certain civic action projects conducted during November by U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces. Construction projects involving renovation or repair are so indicated with an R.

1. Construction:	
a. Bridges	1R
b. Culverts	3
c. Dispensaries	1
d. Dwellings/Number of families	3/6, 1R
e. Hospitals	2R
f. Leveling/grading projects	2
g. Orphanages	1
h. Playgrounds	3

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i. Roads (tenth of Km)	1R
j. Toilets/public	2
k. Wells	8, 7R
2. Medical treatments:	
a. General medical	36,514
b. Dental	3,428
c. Surgery	129
d. Emergency evacuations	140
3. Health and Sanitations:	
a. Classes on personal hygiene/attendance	5/226
b. Medical aides or nurses trained	17
c. Spray insecticide operations	18
d. Swamp areas drained	2
e. MEDCAPs	172
f. Immunizations	1,254
g. Patients hospitalized	17
h. Health books	220
4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):	
a. Blacksmith kits (number)	6
b. Cement	57,300
c. Clothing	6,100
d. Fertilizer	600
e. Food	217,000
f. Lumber (board feet)	373,000
g. Medical, non-prescription	213
h. Medical kits (number)	75
i. Physical education kits (number)	26
j. School kits (number)	1,500
k. Soap	810
l. Tin sheets (number)	1,187
m. Woodworker kits (number)	35
n. Maternity kits (number)	24
o. Mason kits (number)	3
p. School binders (cases)	8
q. Paper blankets	330
r. Text books	940
s. Anvils (number)	2
t. Barber kits (number)	6
u. Brick makers (number)	6
v. Textile kits (number)	37
w. Sandbags (pallets)	3
x. Hand pumps (number)	6

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y. Sewing machines (number) 2

5. Educational efforts:

a. English classes/attendance 91,485

b. Teacher kits 12

6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:

a. Hospitals 120,950

b. Orphanages 14,850

c. Schools 17,590

d. VNN housing 76,280

e. Refugees 7,100

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 5 November Team 3 of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE, embarked in YLLC-2, recovered a USAID forklift which had sunk in 30 feet of water alongside a pier at Newport near the Bien Hoa bridge the previous day.

On 14 November Team 3 of HCU 1, embarked in YLLC-2, proceeded to Don Rach Cat (French Fort), 11 miles south of Nha Be on the Soirap River, to conduct a salvage survey and remove a sunken barge which was a menace to navigation. The survey revealed that the obstruction was part of an old pier complex weighing 70 tons and heavily reinforced with concrete. On 19 November the salvage job was completed with the removal of the marine hazard.

At 1825 on 16 November, USS CLARK COUNTY (LST 601) broached in the vicinity of Duc Pho, 88 miles south-southwest of Danang, when her starboard screw became fouled by the stern anchor cable. USS IREDELL COUNTY (LST 839), in attempting to assist the broached SEVENTH Fleet LST, beached herself in order to avoid broaching and was unable to retract from the beach.

An immediate call for assistance set a massive salvage effort into operation. The next day at 1205, IREDELL COUNTY was refloated and proceeded to Danang for a thorough underbody inspection and damage assessment.

While the major portion of the salvage operation was accomplished

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by salvage craft from U. S. SEVENTH Fleet assets, there were several NAVFORV units involved. During the two-week recovery operation, NAVSUPACT Danang provided valuable assistance in ferrying salvage equipment to the scene and Team 5 of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE and Underwater Demolition Team 11 contributed immensely toward the successful salvage operation. Month's end found the CLARK COUNTY still broached at Duc Pho with a major pull scheduled for the next day.

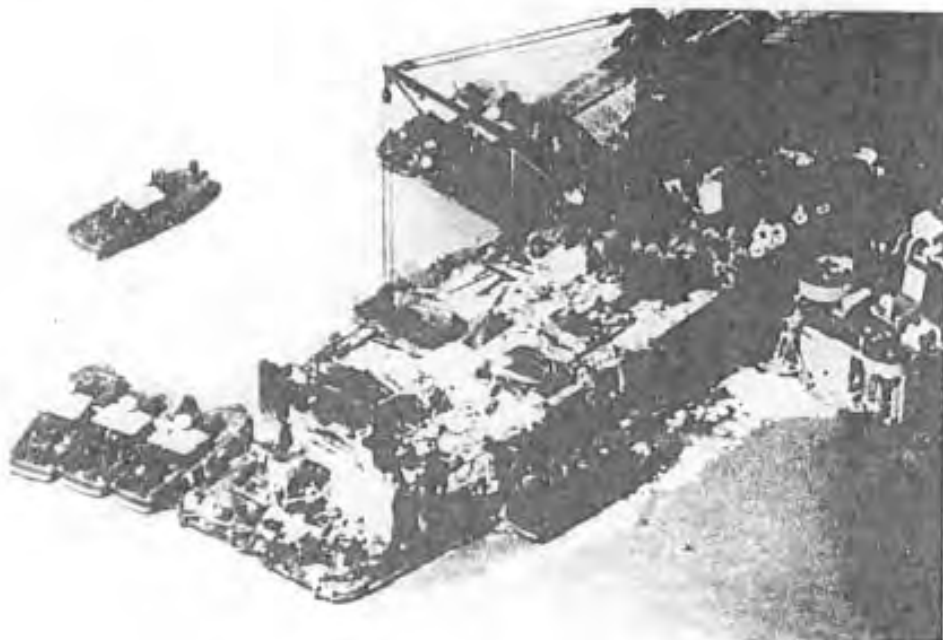
In the early morning hours of 24 November, YRBM 16, anchored at the confluence of the Ham Luong and Ben Tre rivers, suffered an underwater explosion which ripped an 18- by 17-foot hole in the craft's hull below the waterline. A raging fire, fomented by a ruptured fuel tank, ensued. The fire raged out of control for several hours, and completely gutted the engineering and shop spaces before being extinguished. USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838), on station at the mouth of the Ham Luong river, came to the aid of the stricken GAME WARDEN support barge, and provided major assistance in extinguishing the fire. YLLC 4, with Team 3 of HCU ONE embarked, rushed to the scene from Dong Tam and provided emergency power and firemain pressure.

Following the explosion, YRBM-16 settled nine feet by the stern because of flooded engineroom stowage spaces and adjacent living compartments. The most serious flooding was confined to these

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spaces and was quickly contained. Later that morning COMNAVSUPP-
ACT Saigon arrived and assumed the duties of on-scene commander.



YRBM-16

At 0900 on 25 November, YTB-784, escorted by two ASPBs, PBRs and HUNTERDON COUNTY, commenced towing the disabled support barge to Dong Tam for emergency hull repairs. At 1405 YRBM-16, with YLIC-4 alongside, was moored to a buoy off of Dong Tam in the My Tho river.

On 27 November divers from HCU ONE recovered the remains of two of the five missing Navymen from the flooded after berthing compartment. The following day, the Officer in Charge of Harbor

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Clearance Team ONE arrived and assumed control of the salvage operation. On 29 November the remaining three bodies were recovered.

The 17-foot draft of YREM-16 precluded its entering shallow Dong Tam basin. It was therefore necessary to off-load all ammunition, frozen and fresh provisions, fuel and lube oil and all PER spare parts in order to lighten the barge to the maximum extent possible. The lightened support ship was beached on 30 November, stern first on the My Tho river bank south of Dong Tam to take advantage of the ten-foot tidal range and thereby facilitate temporary underwater hull repairs for an ocean tow to the shipyard repair facility at Subic Bay.

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COMMUNICATIONS

A total of 86,202 messages were handled by the COMNAVFORV Message Center during November. This was an increase of 5,577 messages over the October total.

The Project STARBOARD TACK (the use of communication vans transportable by helicopters) VHF/UHF vans shipping date was further delayed until 8 December. The UHF units of the vans were shipped to the contractor on 1 September for installation, while the VHF units were undergoing testing by contractor personnel. The six AN/TRC-97A microwave vans were stored at NAVSUPACT Danang awaiting arrival of 400-cycle converters which were scheduled for shipment on 1 December. Two RCA Technical Representatives, presently in country, were designated to report to COMNAVSUPACT, Danang to support, and provide on-the-job training for the AN/TRC-97A microwave equipment.

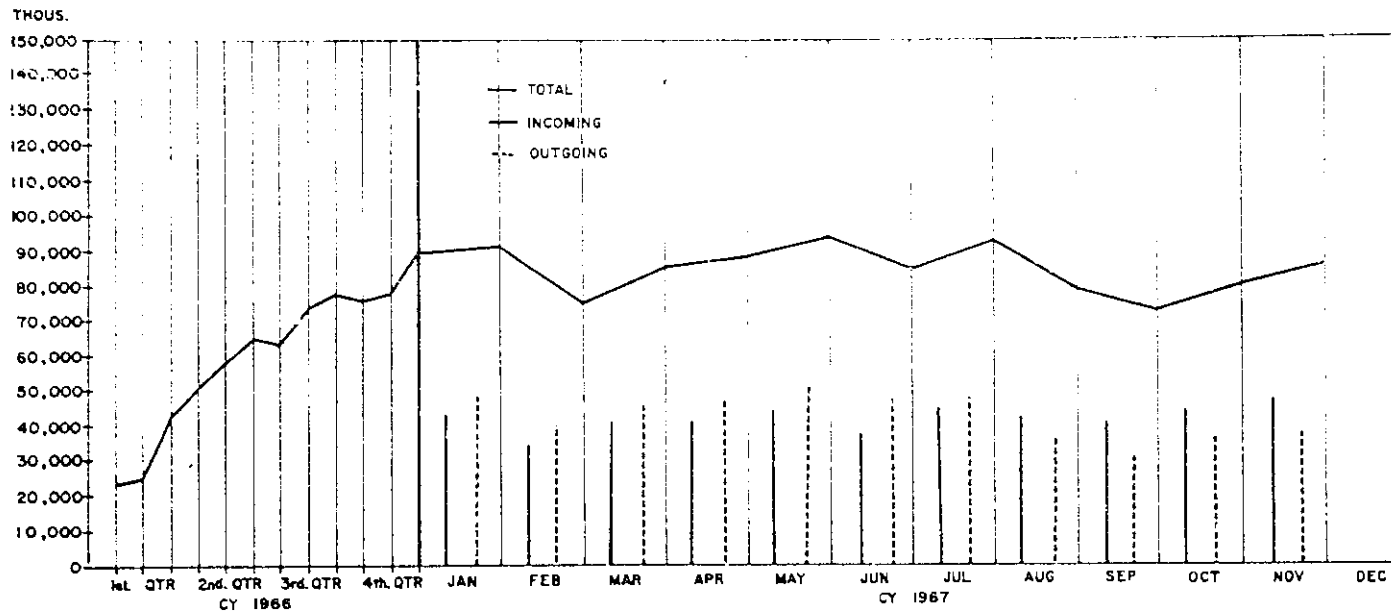
Meanwhile, the Project SEARCHLIGHT installation at the COMNAVFORV Headquarters Communications Center became operational, even though the air conditioning equipment and acoustic tile were not yet installed. The status of the remaining uncompleted sites was unchanged, and it was estimated that work will commence at these sites upon the return of the Electronics Installation Team from Hawaii in early January.

Project BOWLLINE (NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay) continued to be plagued with electrical power problems. An investigation of the

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MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC

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PERCENT OF TOTAL

FLASH	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	9	1.4	1.3	1.3	
IMMEDIATE	21	20	19	18	16	17.5	18.1	17.9	21.2	23.3	19.7	
PRIORITY	60	61	63	63	66	64.6	62.9	61.6	57.3	57.4	58.9	
ROUTINE	18	18	17	18	17	17.7	18.5	19.6	20.1	18.0	20.1	

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circumstances surrounding the recent power failures at the transmitter site revealed that unqualified Army enlisted operators and unqualified Army contractor (Pacific Architects and Engineers) maintenance personnel were manning the generators which provided the sole power and backup to the site. Further investigation revealed that the PA&E maintenance personnel did not have on hand the capability to repair or supervise the repair of the three 700-KW MUSE generators in use.

Pending installation of the permanent power plant in early CY 68, arrangements were made with the U. S. Army to extend the Vinnell Corporation power distribution line to both the NCS Cam Ranh Bay transmitter and receiver sites. This temporary power arrangement, in conjunction with the use of two 700-KW MUSE generators and four 200-KW generators, was deemed sufficient to provide both the primary and backup power required.

Action was also initiated to amend the NAVSUPFACT Danang Philco-Ford contract to include the operation and maintenance of the NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay power plant.

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Admiral SHARP, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, arrives on board USS BENDWAH (APB 35).

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 5 November Vice Admiral Francis J. BLOUIN, USN, Commander Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet, began a five-day tour of South Vietnam for a series of orientation and up-date briefings. Included in Vice Admiral BLOUIN's itinerary were visits to the Saigon headquarters of COMNAVFORV, the Naval Support Activity at Danang, the Coastal Surveillance Force (CTF 115) headquarters at Cam Ranh Bay, and the River Patrol Force (CTF 116) headquarters at Binh Thuy. On 8 November Vice Admiral BLOUIN visited the Mobile Riverine Base at Dong Tam where he addressed the assault boat crews at a Flotilla Parade and Inspection and also presented 18 Purple Heart Medals to members of the boat crews recently wounded in action.

On 11 November Admiral Ulysses S. G. SHARP, USN, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, accompanied by Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, visited the Mobile Riverine Force where he received an up-date briefing on current operations and future plans for the MRF.

On 21 November Senator John G. TOWER (Republican-Texas), of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, visited the MRF for an inspection and briefing on the concept and operational employment of the MRF. Senator TOWER expressed considerable interest in the capabilities, armor and armament of the riverine craft.

On 28 November Captain Meryl A. IIAMS, USN, relieved Commander

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Jospeh K. STANLEY, USN, as the commanding officer, U. S. Naval
Air Facility, Cam Ranh Bay.

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SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO
FOREIGN NATIONALS

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

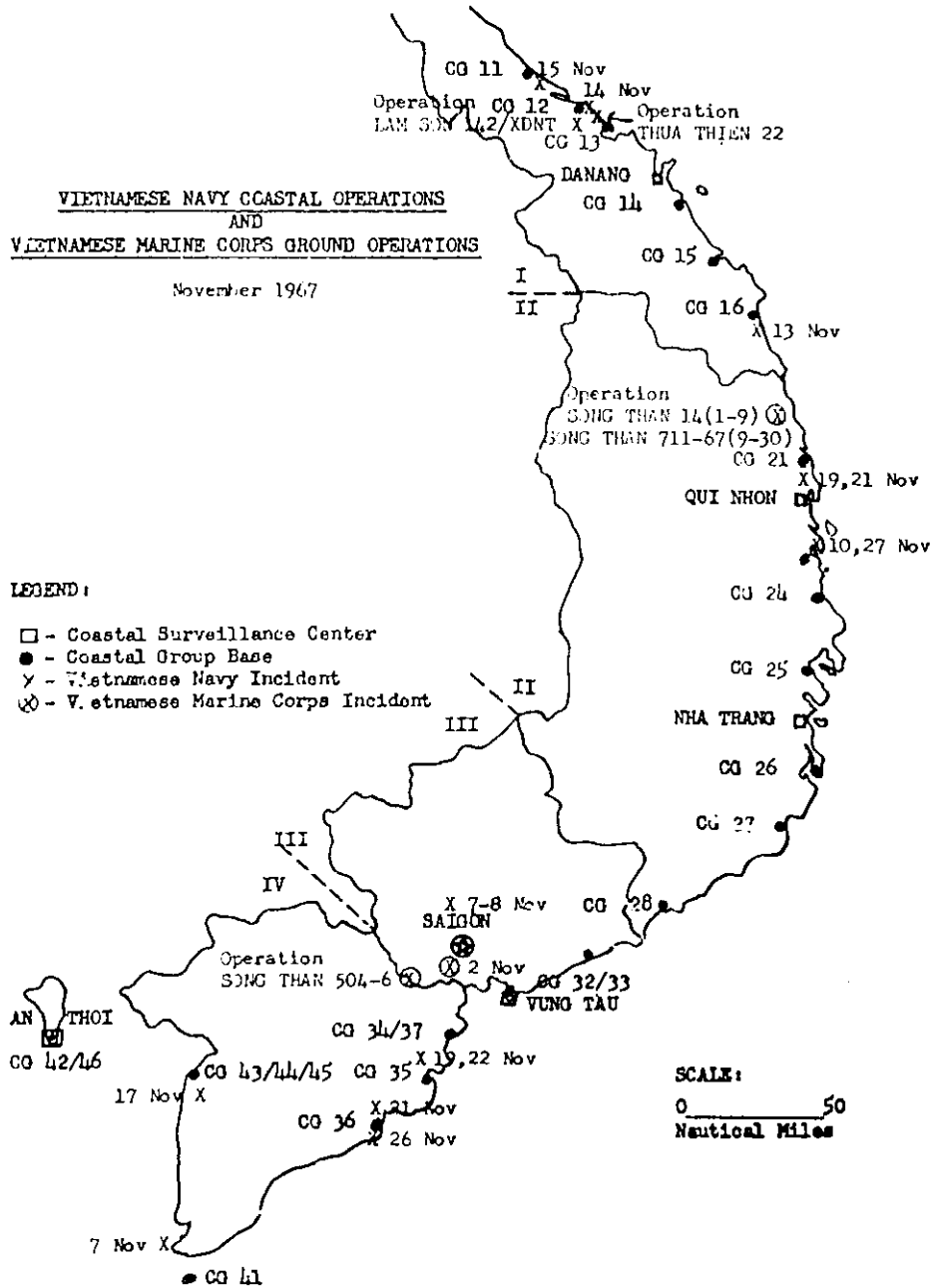
VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy on 30 November was 16,238 officers and enlisted men; of this number 1,245 were officers, 3,151 were non-commissioned officers, and 11,842 were enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged as deserters decreased from 38 in October to 36 in November, however the number of unauthorized absentees increased from 283 in October to 327 in November.

On 1 November, in the most significant integration to date of the Vietnamese Navy into Operation MARKET TIME, four Fleet Command ships relieved U. S. units of the surveillance responsibilities in coastal patrol areas 1G (25 miles southeast of Danang), 4E (just east of Nha Trang), 6C (50 miles northeast of Vung Tau), and 9L (west of Phu Quoc Island). At the start of the month six ships were qualified for MARKET TIME duties, by the end of the month this number had risen to eight.

The Mekong River convoys of commercial shipping to Cambodia resumed on 3 November after having been suspended since 14 October. The Vietnamese Joint General Staff had directed that the convoys be stopped until the VNN could implement special operations to reduce the increased mine threat. Additional minesweeping patrols by

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River Assault Groups 26 and 32 discovered three mines in late October and a U. S. Navy Mobile Riverine Force craft swept a fourth mine on 1 November. With the increased patrols on the rivers the Joint General Staff felt that the Viet Cong would not be able to re-mine the main channel and directed that the convoys be resumed.

On the 16th, at the Naval Training Center, Nha Trang, the midshipmen of the Naval Academy Class 18 completed their 10-week preparatory program and began their 21-month major program. On the 25th, 27 men completed the Naval Training Center's Class "A" school for Electronics Technicians. At the Naval Advanced Training Center, Saigon, on 3 November 99 men completed class "E" schools in several technical ratings. On the 16th, PCE 11 completed the underway training program. The program, set up for training the commissioning crews of the four newest PGMs and re-training the crews of the older PGMs, was expanded to include all Fleet Command units.

Fleet Command

In November the Fleet Command had 25.5 ships available daily and maintained 13 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam, five ships on river patrols and one ship on convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. The month's operations included MARKET TIME and other anti-infiltration activities, psychological warfare and civic action visits, escort patrols and gunfire support

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missions. The ships fired 55 gunfire support missions during the month, searched 1,121 junks and 4,734 persons, and detained two persons.

The Fleet Command's patrol craft, consisting of PCs, PCEs, gunboats (PGMs) and minesweepers (MSCs), patrolled the coasts of the four naval zones; the PGMs also patrolled the Soirap and Long Tau Rivers in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The PCEs fired five gunfire missions during the month and the gunboats 11; most of the missions involved nighttime support to Coastal Group bases and other Vietnamese outposts. On the 13th, 70 miles southeast of Danang, PCE 12 conducted a gunfire support mission that helped repel and disperse an enemy force advancing on the Coastal Group 16 base. In one of the VNN's most successful gunfire missions this year, the PCE's accurate fire killed 19 Viet Cong, wounded at least 20 more, and destroyed one 82-mm mortar and several individual weapons.

Meanwhile, the landing support ships (LSILs and LSSLs) provided coastal patrols, river patrols, convoy escort and gunfire support services in the Third Naval Zone, the Fourth Riverine Area and the RSSZ. The LSILs conducted 13 gunfire missions and the LSSLs conducted 26.

Throughout the month, two of the Fleet Command's more specialized units continued their tasks; the motor-launch minesweepers

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patrolled the ship channel from the sea to the Port of Saigon and the Dong Ngai River from Saigon to Bien Hoa, and the underwater demolition team (LDNN) detachments conducted nightly hull inspections of ships berthed in the Port of Saigon and operated with the U. S. Navy SEALs in the RSSZ and the Fourth Riverine Area.

Coastal Force

In November the Coastal Force searched 30,889 junks and sampans and 104,988 persons, detaining four junks and 267 suspects. On a daily average 86 percent of the Force's 192 available junks were on patrol. On 15 November, Commander Phung Nhat TAN, VNN, relieved Commander Nguyen Huu CHI, VNN, as the Commander, Fourth Naval Zone at An Thoi. Commander CHI is now the Political Warfare Officer on the staff of the Commander in Chief, VNN.

In the First Naval Zone during November, the emphasis remained on river, bay and lagoon patrols since the monsoon weather continued to make open-sea patrols dangerous for the Coastal Group junks, and the civilian craft were using the inland waterways. Coastal Groups 11, 12, 13 and 14 felt the increased desire of the enemy to remove the government forces restraining his use of the coastal waters. The Coastal Group 11 base, near the mouth of the Cua Viet, received a barrage of 30 rounds of 105-mm artillery fire at 0120 on the 2nd. The rounds, which landed short of the base itself, were fired from gun positions in, or north of, the

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Demilitarized Zone. On the 11th, in response to an intelligence report of a Viet Cong concentration nine miles south of their base, and 34 miles northwest of Danang, a Coastal Group 12 ambush party located an ammunition cache containing assorted rounds of ammunition varying from small arms to a B-40 rocket. On the 15th, Coastal Group 11, with a Popular Force platoon, killed two Viet Cong and detained two suspects in a sweep three miles south of the Cua Viet. The same day, three Coastal Group 13 junks and 130 Popular Force troops made a second sweep in the area identified in the Coastal Group 12 intelligence report of the 11th, killing one Viet Cong and capturing 19 others. From the 15th to the 17th, other Coastal Group 13 junks with the I Corps RAG detachment and ground forces from Thua Thien sector conducted Operation THUA THIEN 22 in the island area between the Coastal Groups 12 and 13 bases. Two Viet Cong were killed, seven others were captured and 123 enemy suspects were detained.

At 0118 on 28 November, the Coastal Group 14 base at Hoi An, 15 miles south of Danang, was attacked by a Viet Cong force armed with mortars, recoilless-rifles and automatic weapons. The 20-minute attack started when two mortar rounds landed in the compound and recoilless-rifle rounds or mines detonated against two junks at anchor 50 yards from the base pier. One Viet Cong, armed with two grenades, was captured in the water as he approached the

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base. During the attack, PCF 21 provided illumination support and a U. S. Marine helicopter fire team conducted area fire into the enemy's weapons positions. One sailor was killed, one was wounded and five others are missing in action; the Viet Cong casualties are unknown.

In the Second Naval Zone in November, Coastal Group 23 sailors made three sweeps of the southern portion of a peninsula 25 miles south of Qui Nhon and evacuated a total of 55 families from the peninsula to secure areas near the Coastal Group base. On the 10th, one sailor was killed by enemy fire from the evacuation site when a patrolling junk passed the area. On the evening of 19 November, one Coastal Group 22 junk killed three Viet Cong and detained five suspected Viet Cong in a fire fight along the shore of upper Qui Nhon harbor, five miles north of Qui Nhon. Two nights later, another patrol in the same area attempted to stop a sampan containing three men. On being ordered to stop one man pulled the pin of a hand grenade and was immediately shot over the side leaving the live grenade in the boat. When the grenade exploded it caused the second occupant to drop a live grenade and the damage caused by the two grenades sank the sampan. Viet Cong propaganda was recovered from the scene and additional documents were taken from the bodies of two of the men when they were recovered. On the 27th, as a result of the two incidents, four companies from Binh Dinh sector

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and Coastal Group 22, supported by two Swift boats, began sweeping the entire peninsula. At month's end the operation was still continuing.

Enemy activity began in the Third Naval Zone on the 1st, when the Viet Cong sank two Coastal Group 37 junks and attacked the Coastal Groups 34/37 bases with mortar fire. The destruction of the junks, moored to a single buoy, at 2155 started the attack and was immediately followed by several mortar rounds which hit near the Coastal Group 34 base. The USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838), a GAME WARDEN support ship, fired its 40-mm guns into the site of the muzzle flashes and at 2230 PCF 37, the MARKET TIME patrol unit offshore, commenced illumination fire. The two U. S. units, coupled with the fire from a nearby ARVN artillery battery, broke the attack at 2305. Local intelligence sources reported the counter-battery fire killed nine Viet Cong and wounded 13 others; one sailor, on board one of the destroyed junks, is missing and presumed killed.

Just before dawn on the 19th, in response to an intelligence report, units of Coastal Group 35 struck a Viet Cong staging area near the Co Chien River, four miles southeast of Tra Vinh. The Coastal Group units attacked the enemy site with machine-gun and 60-mm mortar fire, killing 11 of the Viet Cong and wounding several more. Three days later, at 1500 on the 22nd, the Coastal Group 35

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mortarmen again shelled the area killing three of the enemy and wounding one high-ranking member of the district cadre.

Meanwhile, Coastal Group 36, based on the south bank of the Bassac River 37 miles downstream from Can Tho, undertook a series of four operations along the river between the 21st and 29th. During the afternoon of the 21st, two enemy sampans successfully ran the junk blockade between Dung Island and the southern shore. Requesting a third junk with a reaction party embarked, the two patrolling junks closed the beach, suppressed the enemy fire and retrieved one motorized sampan from the beach. The third junk landed the reaction party and joined in the "hold-down" operation while the sailors ashore closed the Viet Cong and engaged them. The 10-minute fire fight ended with three Viet Cong killed, one captured and two rifles and the sampan seized. On the 26th, three junks blockaded the shore from one to four miles south of the Coastal Group base while four companies of ARVN troops swept from an inland road to the river. One fleeing Viet Cong was killed by the sailors: three others were killed and one was captured by the ARVN troops. On the 28th and 29th, the reaction force conducted two one-day ambush and destroy operations; the first, one-half mile south of the base, and the second, one mile north of the base. No contact was made with the enemy but many bunkers and punji stake traps were destroyed.

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In the Fourth Naval Zone on 7 November, the raider platoon of Coastal Group 41, using civilian junks, made a pre-dawn sweep on a group of Viet Cong sampans fishing 15 miles east of Ca Mau Point. During the fire fight two Viet Cong were killed and two were wounded but escaped to shore. One sampan containing numerous documents was seized. At 0600, one of the Coastal Group junks and PCF 11, patrolling in the bay 17 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point, were taken under fire from prepared fighting positions at the mouth of the Bai Hap river. The two units destroyed or damaged all of the bunkers causing unknown casualties.

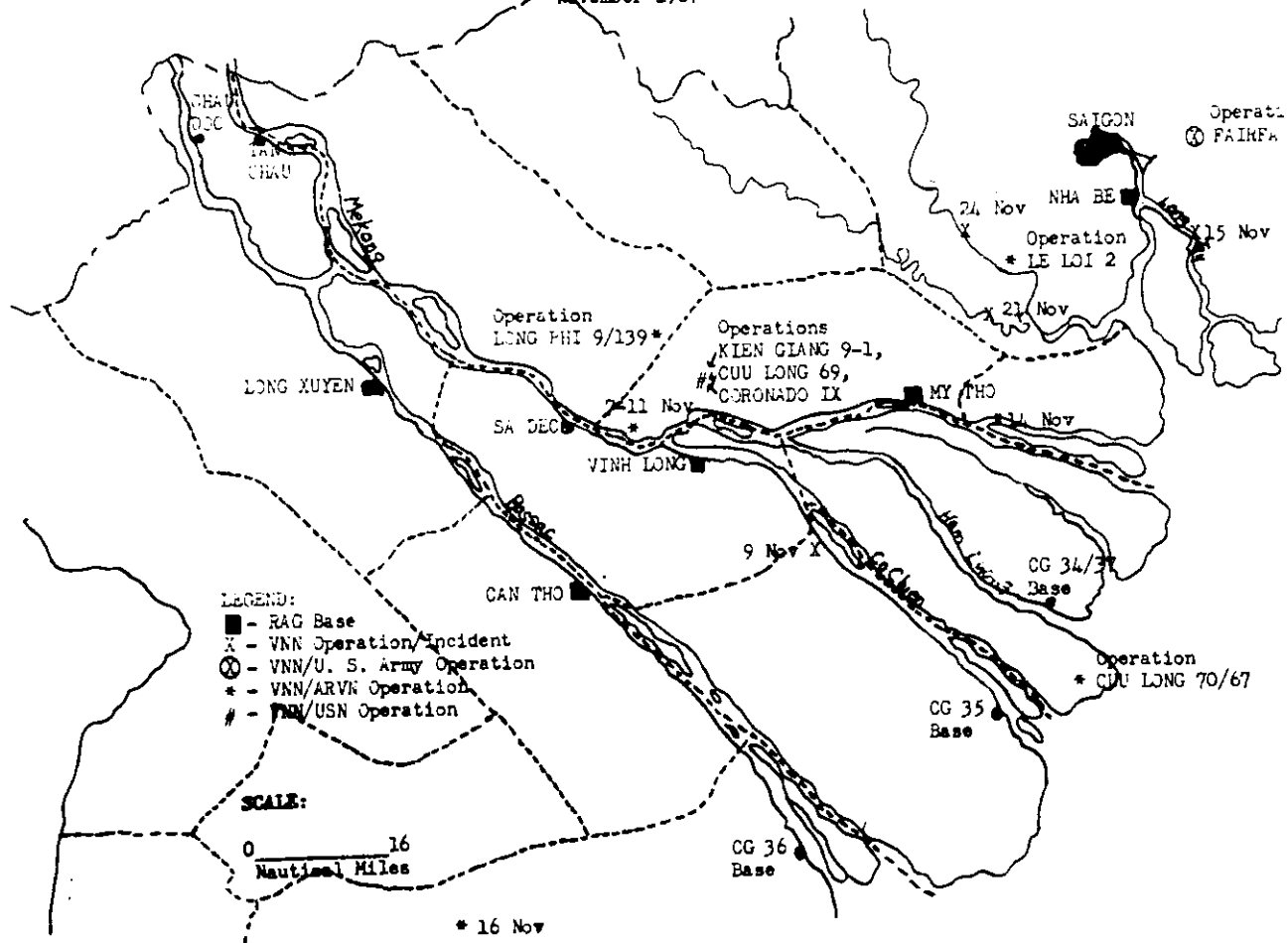
On the afternoon of the 17th, several junks from Coastal Groups 43, 44 and 45 supported the Cai Nuoc defense post, three miles up the Cai Lon river from the Coastal Group base at Kien An. Together, the Regional Force company and the junks were able to break the machine-gun attack. Three soldiers were killed and two others and two sailors were wounded in the action.

Riverine Area Naval Commands

In November the River Assault Groups conducted four operations in the First Naval Zone, 11 in the Third Riverine Area and the Rung Sat Special Zone, and 28 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 85 percent of the 158 available craft the RAG units

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VIETNAMESE NAVY DELTA OPERATIONS
November 1967



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searched 5,878 junks and 15,898 persons and detained two junks and 295 persons.

The First Naval Zone's RAG detachment, co-located with Coastal Group 12, supported the ARVN 3rd Infantry Regiment in Operation LAM SON 142/XDNT, five miles southeast of Hue, from 2 through 5 November. The combined force killed five Viet Cong, captured two others, and detained 17 suspects. Four ARVN soldiers were wounded. In the three remaining operations the detachment supported sector and sub-sector troops on two-day search and destroy operations which made only light contact with the enemy.

The November activity of the RAGs in the Third Riverine Area was concentrated in Long An province where nine of the area's 11 operations were conducted. However, the first activity of the month was in Sinh Duong province, 23 miles northwest of Saigon on the 7th and 8th, when RAGs 27 and 28 and a Regional Force boat company supported the U. S. Army 25th Infantry Division in search and destroy operations. With the RAG craft providing river blockade and gunfire support, the Regional Force LCVPs* transported the troops into all the streams and canals along a five mile portion of the Saigon river. Twenty-five Viet Cong suspects were detained and 15

* LCVP - A 36-foot wooden-hulled, ramp-bowed, landing craft capable of carrying 36 troops. The LCVPs are armed with one .50 caliber and three .30 caliber machine guns.

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junks and many enemy records were seized.

In Long An province, between 9 and 19 November, RAGs 24 and 27 supported four ARVN operations along the Vam Co Tay and Vam Co Dong Rivers. On the 21st, while returning from an operation to their advance base at Tan An, RAG 24 was attacked three times in a five-mile portion of the Vam Co Tay river, 22 miles south of Saigon. At 1225 the enemy detonated a water mine between units in the column but caused no damage. Two hours later, two B-40 rocket rounds hit an LCM damaging the starboard side of the ramp. Upon clearing the area of the rocket attack, the formation received heavy automatic-weapons fire from the west bank, returned fire and continued through the ambush area without any major casualties. The Viet Cong continued their attacks when, on the morning of the 24th, they ambushed a RAG 27 patrol on the Vam Co Dong river three miles south of their advance base in Ben Luc and 18 miles southwest of Saigon. A river patrol craft (RPC), minesweeping ahead of the column, was hit with automatic-weapons fire, killing one sailor and wounding two others.

On the 26th and 27th, RAG 30 craft supported units of the U. S. Army 199th Light Infantry Brigade conducting Operation FAIRFAX along the Dong Ngai river 10 miles east of Saigon. From information found in a sampan seized by a RAG unit, the ground forces swept inland and found three Viet Cong equipment caches

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containing 30 individual weapons, 140 rounds of 60-mm mortar ammunition, over 10,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition, five claymore mines, four office machines, four radio sets and assorted radio and telephone components.

Two days later, Long An sector forces and RAG 24 conducted Operation IE LOI 2 along the Vam Co Dong river 19 miles southwest of Saigon. The combined force killed four Viet Cong, captured four others and seized two tons of rice and 900 pounds of salt. Two sailors were wounded by the enemy's fire. At 1600, while en route back toward Tan An, and five miles west of the operation area, the RAG craft were ambushed by the enemy using B-40 rockets; one craft was damaged and two crewmen were injured by the detonation of the round.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, in November RAG 22 and the two Regional Force boat companies maintained a daily average of 11.4 craft patrolling the rivers of the area; at the same time, the Regional Force companies stationed in the RSSZ conducted a daily average of 13 squad-, platoon- and company-sized ambushes.

On 15 November, the Nationalist Chinese merchant ship YIT AY, on the Long Tau River en route to Saigon, was struck by rocket fire from a Viet Cong position on the river bank 22 miles southeast of Saigon. Within minutes a U. S. Navy helicopter fire team and a PBR patrol was on the scene, covering the ship and searching the

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possible enemy escape routes. Within 20 minutes after the attack, Regional Force troops, embarked in RAG 22 craft and under the control of the RSSZ commander, were landed in the vicinity of the ambush positions. The troops swept the area and other areas to which they were directed by various aircraft overhead. At 1500 on the 16th the troops made contact with the enemy force, killing two of their number and locating the body of one Viet Cong killed



Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, discusses the operation of a Russian-made rocket launcher with Commander Donald WARTHEN, senior advisor, Rung Sat Special Zone. The RPG-7 rocket launcher was captured by Vietnamese Regional Force troops after the Viet Cong attacked a Chinese merchant ship on the Long Tau river in the Rung Sat Special Zone on 15 November.

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the day before. Also, the troops seized two RPG-7 rocket launchers, a sight and one rocket. U. S. Navy units killed the one man located by the Regional Force troops and two others in the two-day incident.

During November, craft from the eight RAGs in the Fourth Riverine Area provided 1,147 boat-days of river patrols on the major rivers, in addition to conducting or supporting 28 amphibious operations. The effectiveness of the VNN in controlling the rivers in conjunction with the U. S. Navy's Operation GAME WARDEN, is seen in the Viet Cong's attempts to kill, capture or otherwise reduce the number of VNN sailors in the delta. On the 9th, a new tactic was tried by the enemy; waving a signal lantern, a group of Viet Cong lured two patrol craft near shore where they could hear loudspeaker appeals for the seamen to desert the Navy. As the craft continued to close the beach to lure the Viet Cong from their bunkers to the shoreline, the sailors opened fire, wounding or killing several of the enemy.

Meanwhile, from 7 to 11 November, the ARVN SEVENTH Division and RAGs 21 and 33 had been sweeping the area five miles east of Sa Dec, between the Mekong River and National Route 4, five miles to the north. When the enemy disbanded his units to flee, the RAG-borne soldiers killed 20 of the insurgents, and captured one, seized several communications equipment components, medical supplies and

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equipment, 24 mines, 900 pounds of plastic explosive and over 100 hand grenades. Also, the troops destroyed two weapons factories, five medical stations, 20 additional mines and 86 small buildings. All the friendly casualties were in the ground units; 11 soldiers killed, 64 wounded and one soldier missing.

On the 14th, 10 miles east of My Tho on the My Tho branch of the Mekong River, 55 Provincial Reconnaissance Unit troops, embarked in a water-taxi while enroute to an operation, were ambushed by an estimated battalion of Viet Cong armed with recoilless-rifles and automatic weapons. Responding quickly, three RAG 21 craft, two PBRs and a Navy helicopter fire team sped to the scene and suppressed the enemy fire while rescuing 49 of the PRUs, 12 of whom were wounded; one PRU was killed during the encounter and five others were reported missing. Two PBR crewmen were slightly wounded during the rescue efforts.

On the 16th, in a quick reaction mission against a Viet Cong unit which had been harassing RAG 25 patrols and the Saigon-to-Bac Lieu commercial convoys, seven RAG 25 craft, two Regional Force companies and a battalion of the ARVN 21st Division swept the banks of the Bac Lieu canal, 15 miles south of Soc Trang. The enemy unit, caught against the canal, was badly mauled, suffering 22 men killed, 21 individual weapons and eight mines and command wiring captured and four other individual weapons destroyed. The ground

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forces reported that the accurate mortar fire from the RAG craft and the ARVN artillery accounted for most of the enemy killed.



A Vietnamese RAG 31 sailor checks a suspicious hut near the Mang Thit-Nicolai canal in the Mekong Delta.

On 15 November, RAGs 21 and 33 and the ARVN SEVENTH Division began operating in western Dinh Tuong province, eight miles north of Vinh Long in coordination with the U. S. Mobile Riverine Force in the combined Operations CUU LONG 69/SD, KIEN GIANG 9-1, and

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CORONADO IX. On the 18th, RAG 33 units carried and supported a Vietnamese Engineer unit while they removed a 40-foot portion of a low bridge enabling the U. S. riverine craft to enter the Ban Long Secret Zone; the remainder of the Vietnamese units provided blockades and holding forces in the western portion of the area. When the successful operation ended on the 24th, the RAG sailors and the ARVN troops had one soldier killed and 32 soldiers wounded while 68 Viet Cong were killed, 64 others were captured and 104 enemy suspects were detained. Equipment captured included 23 individual weapons, 660 pounds of TNT and one portable generator. Concurrently, from the 17th to the 19th, RAGs 23, 26, 31 and 32 conducted Operation LONG PHI 9/139 with units of the ARVN NINTH Division, eight miles west of Operation CUU LONG 69/SD and 16 miles northwest of Vinh Long. The government forces, capitalizing on the blocking forces of the larger operation to the east, killed 47 Viet Cong, captured five others, and seized over six tons of assorted ammunition, 62 individual weapons and 40 mines. ARVN forces again received all the casualties; one killed and 36 wounded.

In the final major operation of the month, 41 craft from RAGs 21 and 33 and LSSL 231, under the control of the commander of RAG 21, supported the ARVN SEVENTH Division operation, CUU LONG 70/67, in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone, between the mouths of the Co Chien and Ham Luong rivers. The RAG craft transported the troops from

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their camps at Cai Be and My Tho to the Co Chien River side of the operation area and then proceeded around the seaward side of the secret zone to the Ham Luong River where they provided a blockade and fire support, and transportation to return the troops to their camps after the operation. Five Viet Cong were killed, 10 were captured and 36 suspects were detained. Additionally, 10 individual weapons and one machine gun, 31 cases of ammunition, and 380 pounds of medicine were seized and 21 houses, six bunkers, seven indoctrination centers and 1,800 pounds of rice were destroyed. This was the first operation, in recent years, where a Fleet Command ship was integrated into an amphibious force and where large-size trooplifts were made over a significant distance.

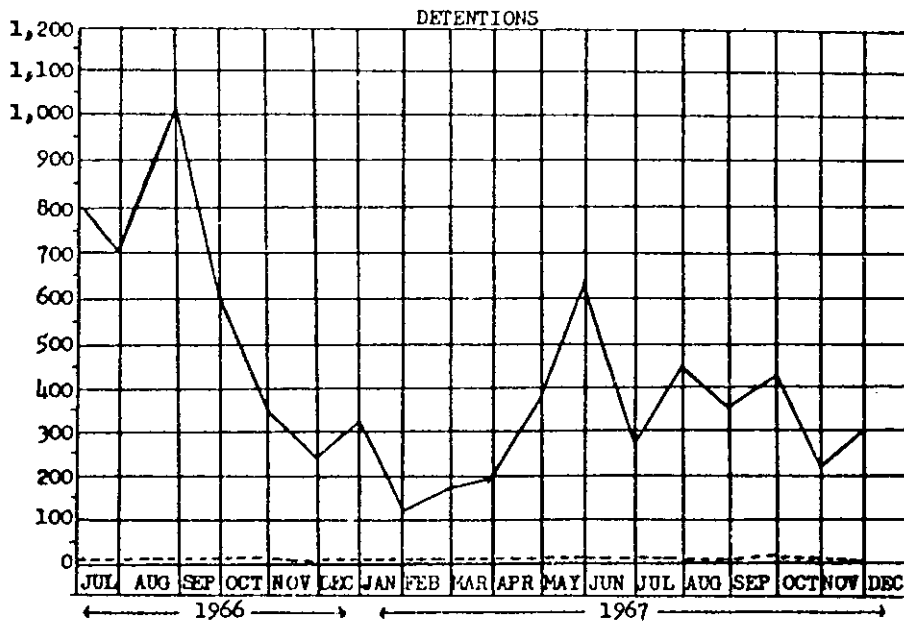
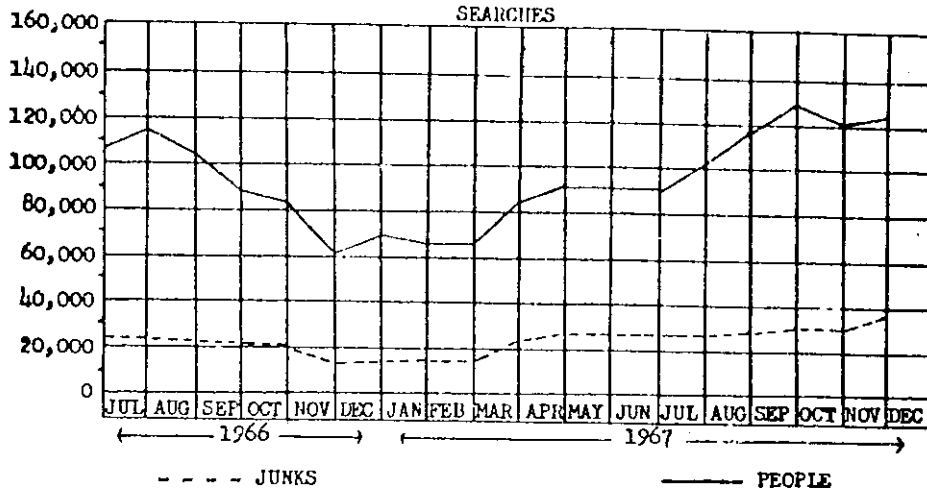
Logistics

In November the Vietnamese Navy conducted 17 logistical support missions, transporting 3,095 personnel and 2,840 tons of cargo. The tank landing ships (LSTs) lifted 2,000 personnel and 931 tons of cargo; medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 575 personnel and 1,296 tons of cargo; and utility landing craft (LCUs) lifted 520 personnel and 613 tons of cargo.

On 12 November, LST 501 was driven aground in the harbor of Apra, Guam after breaking loose from its moorings at the U. S. Naval Repair Facility. After being refloated on the 14th, six minor holes were temporarily patched; permanent repairs will be

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SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS
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made during the drydock portion of the overhaul. On the 18th, LST 500 returned to Saigon after completing a three-month overhaul at the Guam facility and, on the 29th, LSIL 328 returned to Saigon after a six-month overhaul.

During the month the VNN's Supply Center had a gross effectiveness of 74.3 percent on a total of 9,248 requests for items, and a net effectiveness of 84.7 percent on 8,113 requests for items normally carried in the supply system.

On 5 November, the floating workshop (RY-24) arrived in Saigon. The barge, on loan by the U. S. Navy as part of the upgrading of VNN repair capabilities, will be placed in service at the Naval Shipyard with the dual mission of training Vietnamese sailors and relieving the shipyard of many smaller repair jobs. The YR-24 is manned by a 38-member U. S. Navy advisory unit and approximately 81 VNN personnel.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary

November 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	11,264	36,475	2	128
II NZ	8,308	26,649	2	136
III NZ	8,355	32,528	0	3
IV NZ	2,962	9,336	0	0
Sub-totals	30,889	104,988	4	267
<u>Fleet Command</u>				
<u>Patrol Ships</u>	1,121	4,734	0	2

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<u>Riverine Area</u>				
<u>Craft</u>	5,878	15,898	2	26
Totals	37,888	125,620	6	295

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

In November the seven battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II, III and IV Corps Tactical Zones and the Capital Military District. During the month, the six infantry battalions were committed to operations 97 percent of the time while the three batteries of the artillery battalion were committed 70 percent of the time.

From 1 to 3 November Task Force A, consisting of a headquarters, the 4th, 5th, and 6th Battalions and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, continued its road security and search and destroy missions in Operation SONG THAN 702-67 in the western part of the Capital Military District. On the 2nd, a platoon from the 5th Battalion, in an outpost 10 miles southwest of Saigon, was attacked by a Viet Cong platoon armed with 60-mm mortars and automatic weapons. The Marines repulsed the enemy attack but suffered five men wounded from mortar rounds which landed in their perimeter; concurrently, two men in the 4th Battalion were wounded in a similar attack on an outpost four miles north of the city.

On 8 November, the Task Force A headquarters and the 4th

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Battalion deployed to the Bong Song area of the II Corps Tactical Zone and relieved the Task Force B headquarters and the 1st Battalion. The Task Force, now consisting of the headquarters, the 3rd and 4th Battalions and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion began Operation SONG THAN 711-67, a continuation of Task Force B's Operation SONG THAN 14. On the evening of the 9th, the Viet Cong successfully sabotaged three bridges in the 4th Battalion's area of responsibility. A company of the 3rd Battalion detained 18 Viet Cong suspects in a sweep on the 17th, while 4th Battalion company-sized sweeps detained 39 and 45 suspects on the 18th and 20th, respectively. Meanwhile, on the 21st, an element of the 4th Battalion located a cache on an enemy commo-liaison route, detaining one suspect and seizing 22 pounds of Viet Cong newspapers, 200 personal letters, three anti-personnel mines and 700 rounds of ammunition. On the 29th, one Hoi Chanh rallied to the 3rd Battalion.

Task Force B, consisting of a headquarters, the 1st and 3rd Battalions and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion, operated south of Bong Song conducting Operation SONG THAN 14 through the 9th. The operations, which began on 26 July, ended with the relieving of the Task Force headquarters and the 1st Battalion by the Task Force A headquarters and the 4th Battalion. On 12 November the Task Force B headquarters, now

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commanding the 1st and 2nd Battalions and Batteries A and B of the Artillery Battalion, was designated the ready reaction force for the III Corps Tactical Zone with the 1st Battalion and Battery A (after 20 November) deployed to southern Tan Binh district, four miles west of Saigon. The 2nd Battalion, assigned to the ready reaction force on the 3rd, remained in base camp at Thu Duc, north-east of the Capital. The ready reaction force made no contact with the enemy during the month.

The 5th Battalion, which deployed on the 6th for duty as the third maneuver battalion of the Mobile Riverine Force, was committed to contact in Operation CORONADO IX on the 9th. Landed from craft of the MRF, into an area five miles west of Dong Tam, the Marines captured one Viet Cong, detained 22 suspects (two of whom were determined to be Viet Cong) and destroyed one Viet Cong grenade factory in the three-day operation. Two Marines were wounded. On the 14th, the Battalion made a one-day sweep of the area just west of Dong Tam, detaining 27 suspects of whom one was identified as a squad leader in the Viet Cong 514th Local Force Battalion. Six other persons were held under civil charges and the remainder were released as innocent civilians.

From the 18th to the 24th, the MRF and the Marines operated in conjunction with the ARVN SEVENTH and NINTH Divisions' Operation KIEN GIANG 9-1 in eastern Kien Phong province. The mission

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of the operation was to encircle and destroy the Viet Cong 261st and 267th Main Force Battalions. The Marines made the 32-mile transit aboard the assault craft and were landed in the south-eastern portion of the operation area at 0800 on the 18th while troops of the U. S. NINTH Division were landed on the northern perimeter of the area. After returning to base camp on the 20th, the battalion rested and was re-committed to the operation in an area 15 miles west of Dong Tam on the 23rd. At 1300 the 3rd Company uncovered an enemy weapons cache which contained 17 Chinese carbines and 40,000 rounds of ammunition. The operation ended with the return of the 5th Battalion and the U. S. units of the Mobile Riverine Force to Dong Tam. Three Marines were wounded during the six days while the Marines killed one Viet Cong, captured three others and detained 13 enemy suspects.

From the 28th through the 30th, the 5th Battalion took part in Operation SONG THAN 504-67, five miles northwest of Dong Tam. Only scattered, light contacts were made with the enemy and the Battalion returned to Dong Tam on the afternoon of the 30th.

The 6th Battalion was deployed in the Binh Chau district six miles west of Saigon as a security force for the Capital Military District. The only enemy contact of the month was made on the 29th when an enemy force attacked a Marine unit returning to the Battalion bivouac from an outpost; one Marine was killed, two were

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wounded and one is missing. During the month the battalion conducted 12 company-sized searches, 131 platoon-sized searches and 574 squad-sized night ambushes.

On 30 November two platoons (four 75-mm howitzers) of Battery A of the Artillery Battalion were placed under the control of the VNN for employment in the RSSZ.

Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary
November 1967

VC/NVA	17 KIA	18 VCC	197 VCS	1 Chieu Hoi
VNMC	2 KIA	1 MIA	29 WIA*	(Includes one by accidental discharge and two in a truck accident.)

Captured Weapons:

Rifle, U. S. Carbine	2
Rifle, Mauser	1
Rifle, AK-47	1
Rifle, Chinese Carbine	17

VNMC Weapons Lost:

Rifle, M-16	3
Grenade Launcher, M-79	1

Captured or Destroyed Materials or Facilities:

VC grenades	64
M-26 grenades	4
AP mines	2
Claymore mines	2
Bucket mines	1
Rounds, machine-gun ammunition	600
Rounds, carbine ammunition	100
Meters, communications wire	300
VC newspapers, kilograms	10
VC Mail pouch	1
VC letters	200
Radio antenna	1
Trench System	2