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Navy detachment area. The stern winch on one Light Lift Craft was damaged by a mortar round and five berthing hootches and a mess hall sustained direct hits. The remainder of the rounds landed in open areas or adjacent to buildings, causing shrapnel damage. Personnel casualties resulting from the attack included 31 Navymen and four Army personnel wounded. The detachment remained fully operational and all battle damage repairs were completed by 15 October.

During October, the number of line items carried by NAVSUPPACT Saigon totalled 35,798. The overall gross and net material support effectiveness were 66 percent and 85 percent respectively.

During the month NAVSUPPACT continued to requisition on a "fill or kill" basis from the 506th Field Depot. Of 136 requisitions submitted during October, two percent were filled, 12 percent were killed, and 86 percent had no status.

The lack of warehouse space continued to be a critical problem during October. One additional warehouse was leased during the month and occupancy was expected to begin during November. Another warehouse was rejected for lease because of the in-country ceiling on rentals. At month's end, the search for additional warehouse space was continuing.

The Selected Item Management (SIM) program, which provides the means to identify and focus management attention on the relatively few items in inventory that account for the majority of demands,

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had been instituted at all NAVSUPPACT detachments and at the Naval Support Facility, Cam Ranh Bay by month's end. Initial reports indicated that beneficial results were being realized from the program and inventory control was definitely improving.

Also during October, a Quality Assurance Section was established at the NAVSUPPACT disbursing branch. This section was designed to insure maximum quality control of all phases of disbursing.

NAVSUPPACT Saigon's October inventory of operational logistic aircraft consisted of two C-117s, one C-47, and one C-45. One H-34 helicopter was received in October and was expected to be operational by 15 November. Anticipated receipts of logistic aircraft include an additional C-117 and two US-2Bs.

A total of 2,980 passengers and 361,575 pounds of cargo were transported by NAVSUPPACT aircraft during the month of October. During the same period, NAVSUPPACT surface ships and craft hauled 2,473 short tons of cargo.

At month's end, NAVSUPPACT Saigon had a total on-board count of 1,992 personnel and was providing support to approximately 15,000 military personnel in the II, III, and IV CTZs.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

During October enemy attacks continued against the bases and work projects of the naval construction forces in Vietnam and as a result of the attacks, four Seabees were killed and 10 wounded. On 13 October two men from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Three (MCB 3) were wounded when their truck struck a land mine near Phu Bai. Two men from MCB 11 were wounded during an enemy artillery shelling of the Dong Ha combat base on 29 October. Six men from MCB 74 were wounded during mortar attacks on the battalion's Route 1 work crew on 4 October. On 23 October three men from MCB 121 were killed when the vehicle in which they were riding hit a land mine two miles south of Phu Bai. An MCB 128 equipment operator was killed on 24 October by a booby trap land mine near the 3rd AMTRAC cantonment south of Marble Mountain.

The alternate airfield for Dong Ha, which consists of a 3,500 foot runway with C-130 capability, a 20,000 square yard parking apron, and a 90,000 square yard helicopter facility was completed on 30 October, just 45 days after the first elements of a special task force formed by the Third Naval Construction Brigade arrived at the Quang Tri site. The airfield was capable of receiving aircraft and MCB 10 was continuing work on a 500-man cantonment area, an ammunition supply point, and miscellaneous infantry and aircraft facilities.

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Seabees spread cement used to produce a soil base for the new airstrip at Long Ha.

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During the month, MCB 11, located at the Dong Ha Combat Base, completed the LST/LCU ramps at Cua Viet and began an additional ramp and staging area at Dong Ha. MCB 11 had been tasked with the construction of an ammunition supply point at Dong Ha, and by month's end five modules, consisting of five and six cells each had been completed and another two modules started. MCB 11's detail at the Lang Vei Special Forces Camp near Khe Sanh continued work on 17 machine gun bunkers, a medical bunker, an operations center bunker, and an above ground civilian medical building.

MCB 10, with headquarters at Phu Bai, completed a 146-hut cantonment for an AMTRAC unit operating at Cua Viet during the month and continued work on the alternate airfield for Dong Ha at Quang Tri. MCB 10 started a cantonment area at Camp Carroll for the Marines and another cantonment area at Phu Bai for Marine Air Group SIXTEEN (MAG 16). Also during the month, a detail from MCB 10 was at the Khe Sanh airfield constructing a Special Forces Camp, the first increment of which consisted of four underground bunkers and supporting facilities.

During October, MCB 3, also located at Phu Bai, completed one of two aircraft hangars for MAG 16 and began a second. During the same period, the battalion was working on a parking apron for the 131st Aviation Company, and details from MCB 3 participated in the construction of the alternate airfield for Dong Ha. MCB 3 units

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also completed a culvert on Route 1 and all bridges and culverts on Col Co Road between Hue and Tan My. All work on the interim LST ramp at Hue was completed during the month by MCB 3.

Another Phu Bai-based battalion, MCB 121, completed the fifth increment of the THIRD Marine Division's cantonment. MCB 121 took over the construction of Camp Evans from MCB 1 during the month and continued to maintain the portion of Route 1 from Phu Loc to Hue.

MCB 74, located at Camp Haskins, Red Beach, Danang, completed construction of the first four increments of Ammunition Supply Point 2 (ASP 2) during the month. They completed six 40' by 100' rigid frame buildings for the Force Logistic Command (FLC) and a permanent sewer system for the 1st Marine Air Wing Headquarters. MCB 74 also completed one 1,000-barrel and five 3,000-barrel POL storage tanks for the Army's new Americal Division at Duc Pho, and on Route 1 they constructed a 150-foot bridge at Nuoc Ngot and a 60-foot bridge at Phu Loc.

MCB 1, also located at Camp Haskins, completed upgrading all bridges and culverts in the Hai Van Pass area of Route 1. They completed seven of nine butler buildings at the bridge cargo facility and stabilized the road from Danang to the Happy Valley Quarry.

The Dia Loc bridge was repaired by MCB 9, working from Danang, after heavy rains began to wash out the approaches. A 250-man

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galley for the 2/11 Marines was completed by MCB 9 during the month. They also continued working on a 500-man galley for the 1/7 Marines and began construction of 14 two-story barracks, two BOQs and six showers at the Danang Airfield for the Naval Support Activity, (NAVSUPPACT), Danang.

MCB 7, located in Danang East, completed a warehouse at the NAVSUPPACT Service Craft Repair Facility and 5.6 acres of soil cement hardstand at the NAVSUPPACT covered storage area. At the NAVSUPPACT hospital work was underway on a 200-bed expansion which was to include wards, barracks, surgical facilities, expansion of the sewer system, additions to the water system, a urology clinic, and nurse's lounge.

MCB 133, which was relieved by MCB 128 in late October, completed a 25,000 square yard helicopter parking apron for the 212th Aviation Battalion in the extremely short period of ten days. Also completed during the month was a 500-man galley for the 212 Aviation Battalion and a 500-man cantonment for the 3rd AMTRAC Battalion south of Marble Mountain. MCB 133 finished its tour by completing various berthing and logistic facilities for the 1st Logistic Command and at month's end, MCB 128 was continuing work on Ammunition Supply Point 1 for the Force Logistic Command near Danang.

During the month, MCB 6, located at Chu Lai, began a major ammunition supply point for the Americal Division. By month's end

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four of a planned thirteen 10,000 square foot earth berm revetments had been completed. MCB 6 also completed three 10,000-barrel POL tanks for the NAVSUPPACT detachment at Chu Lai. On Route 1 they finished one bridge and rebuilt 200 feet of an approach which had been washed out by floods. Ten miles of Route 1 was rocked by MCB 6 and at month's end was ready for asphalt paving.

MCB 71, which was relieved on the 29th by MCB 40, worked on an ammunition supply point at the south end of the Chu Lai combat base. At month's end, work was continuing on twenty 25' by 48' covered magazines and five cell modules with five pads containing facilities for covered storage. The supply point was to have a capacity of 6,000 short tons of ammunition. Also under construction was the supporting cantonment area.

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MILITARY PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS

Although the U. S. Navy has been involved for years in people to people programs throughout the world, psychological operations being conducted in South Vietnam was a new field of endeavor and the level of expertise was still minimal. In Naval Forces Vietnam there were thirteen officers and ten enlisted personnel with psychological operations schooling, all but two of whom were advisors to the Vietnamese Navy. Most psychological operations advisors were co-located with U. S. Navy units and provided guidance and assistance to the U. S. Navy Psychological Operations Program. Through Program Five, additional officers have been requested for U. S. Task Force and Task Group staffs to enable them to be more independent of the advisory effort.

The magnitude of effort by naval forces continued to increase as the various naval units prosecuted psychological operations in their areas of responsibility. U. S. naval forces engaged in GAME WARDEN operations in the Delta area and MARKET TIME operations along the coast inspected approximately three thousand waterborne craft daily and had contact with as many as ten thousand people during the course of their inspections. This personal contact and hand-to-hand distribution of propaganda material was an ideal media for conducting psychological operations. The coastal and river patrol boats will ultimately be equipped with a tape recorder and loud-speaker capability

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so that the people in the hamlets and villages along the coastline and river banks of South Vietnam can be reached.

On three separate occasions, as a result of an intensive psychological and civic action program conducted along the eastern My Tho River, GAME WARDEN River Patrol Section 532, based at My Tho, received voluntary intelligence from people along the river regarding Viet Cong ambushes against the river patrol boats. Although the informants were entitled to remuneration for the highly reliable information provided, no rewards were desired.

Hoi Chanhs (returnees) were a most lucrative source of intelligence and by acting on rallier-provided information the following results were achieved during the month in the Delta:

- 8 operations conducted
- 40 Viet Cong captured
- 32 Viet Cong killed
- 8 individual weapons seized
- 1 crew-served weapon captured

Throughout the month U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces continued to conduct extensive medical civic action projects (MEDCAPs), while U. S. Navymen performed a diversity of civic action projects that included a shipboard type "field day" at the province hospital in Qui Nhon, teaching in a Vietnamese school in Danang, delivering scrap lumber to a Roman Catholic priest for construction of a school for NINTH Division ARVN children in Sa Dec, and the construction of schools, churches, and sanitation facilities in various areas of South

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Vietnam.

The Vietnamese hospital ship HAT GIANG HQ 400* continued to ply the waterways of the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone, as did her sister ship the HAN GIANG HQ 401. It was not unusual for the ships to treat more than 800 patients on a typical day's operation. On one occasion, surgery was performed, aboard the HQ 400, for the removal of a carbine bullet from the back of an eight year old boy shot by the Viet Cong one year ago.

On 26 October, about 9 miles southeast of Vinh Long, HQ 400 held a MEDCAP for the people living at the mouth of the Mang Thit River, in spite of information that the Viet Cong would probably attempt to attack the ship. Upon arrival the Medical team found the villagers in hiding, due to the Viet Cong threats of terrorism. After four hours of persuasive psychological operations the people began to immerge and in the following 3½ hour period more than 460 patients were treated. Elements from River Assault Group 23 (RAG) based at Vinh Long provided protection while the hospital ship was in the Viet Cong infested area.

The next day the ship, once again with escorts from RAG 23, returned to conduct a second MEDCAP. On arrival it was found that the village outpost had been attacked during the night. However, disregarding the Viet Cong threats, the people of the village

* Converted Landing Ship Medium (LSM)

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assembled at the water's edge to receive medical treatment. The hospital ship's boats, while under sniper fire, ferried the patients to the hospital ship. With artillery thunder and small arms fire as a background setting, the MEDCAP was performed and at the end of the day over 852 patients were treated aboard. The ship's captain commented: "This proves to be another defeat for the V. et Cong. People of the remote area welcome our ship and medical teams."

For some time now U. S. Coast Guardsmen have taken an active interest in a needy group of Saigon boys they fondly refer to as "The Dead End Kids", most of whom are orphans, or from poor families. During off-duty periods, volunteer Coast Guardsmen provide wholesome recreation for these boys, with an eye to improving the lot of the unfortunate youngsters. Recreation is one way of doing this, but to qualify for the fun, the boys must meet at a Vietnamese-run health clinic, where they are treated for the cuts and sores that boys are heir to. They are also bathed and given a clean change of clothing before departing for a day's outing and picnic.

During the month MCB 71 departed Vietnam, however, the people of Chu Lai in I Corps Tactical Zone will remember them for years to come because of their tremendous civic action program. The battalion completed, during the period 10 April--23 October, the following projects:

2 orphanages

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The new eight-room school at Chu Lai built by MCB 71.

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1 eight-room school with furnishings and a teacher's quarters
1 market place with a two-story building plus storage hut on
a 75' x 85' concrete slab
Completely furnished a second school and installed toilets
3 huts for churches
1 street, 2/10 of a mile long
1 church
10 homes plus lumber for 27 homes built by the Vietnamese

In recognition for its role in the civic action program, the Naval Support Activity, Danang received a letter from the Director of the Danang Polytechnic School where an 8-man team from the NSA Civic Action Office has been acting as technical advisors for the past year. An excerpt expressing the value of the program follows:

"...The Danang Polytechnical School now operates the finest and most extensive vocational program in Vietnam outside of the capital. It benefits hundreds, even thousands of people both directly and indirectly and is a significant step forward in improving the lives and conditions of the Vietnamese people on which depends the ultimate outcome of the war. It must also be frankly and honestly admitted that the U. S. Navy advisors have been the key to the success of this program. They have spent long and laborious effort beyond the normal requirements to do the job. They have given both time and resources in generous quantities to build the program and make it the success that it now is. Unlimited thanks must be extended to them, not only from myself but from countless refugees who have benefited. Considered alone the program is a definite and outstanding success..."

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

1. Construction:

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a. Bridges	4/1R
b. Dispensaries	1R
c. Dwellings	9/23
d. Hospitals	1R
e. Leveling/grading projects	3
f. Libraries	1
g. Market places	3
h. Orphanages	1/1R
i. Playgrounds	2
j. Schools/classrooms	0/3R
k. Toilets, public	5/2R
l. Wells	9
2. Medical treatments:	
a. General	47,586
b. Dental	3,895
c. Surgery	307
d. Emergency evacuations	121
3. Health and Sanitation:	
a. Classes on personal hygiene/attendance	312/4,950
b. Medical aides or nurses trained	7
c. Spray insecticide operations	22
d. MEDCAPs	121
4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):	
a. Blacksmith kits (number)	2
b. Cement	133,000
c. Clothing	18,750
d. Food	140,650
e. Lumber (board feet)	200,600
f. Medical, non-prescription	200
g. Physical Education Kits (number)	2
h. School Kits (number)	1,520
i. Soap	2,502
j. Tin sheets (number)	1,380
k. Woodworker Kits (number)	15
l. Sandbags (number)	5,200
m. 55-gallon drums (number)	52
n. Concertina wire (roll)	48
o. Resettlement Kits (number)	7
p. Textile Kits (number)	25
q. Carpenter Kits (number)	6
r. Farm Kits (number)	6
s. Sewing Machines (number)	6

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t. Personal Kits (baby powder, hair cream and bandaids)	2,790
u. Fill (cubic yards)	75
v. Livestock feed	9,600
5. Educational efforts:	
a. English classes/attendance	190/3,284
6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:	
a. Orphanages	11,000
b. Religious Activities	3,000
c. Schools	25,670

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SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 4 October USNS GEIGER (T-AP 197) with 1,700 ROK troops aboard ran hard aground in 13 feet of water in Danang Harbor. After removing all excess weight from the 17,000-ton ship, a major pull, utilizing six harbor tugs and three commercial tugs, was attempted on the evening of 5 October. However, all attempts to dislodge the ship were unsuccessful. The next morning an Army barge commenced dredging sand and mud from the port side and the area around GEIGER's bow. Shortly after midnight on the 7th, with the assistance of USS ABNAKI (ATF 93) and several harbor tugs, GEIGER was refloated. A subsequent investigation of the ship's underbody revealed no hull damage.

On 13 October Team 4 of Harbor Clearance Unit ONE successfully destroyed a sunken wreck at the mouth of the Co Chien River. After the menace to navigation was demolished, a sounding survey conducted at low water revealed that there was 15 feet of water over the remains of the hulk.

The next day Team 4 of HCU-1, embarked in YLLC-4, proceeded to the scene of a downed helicopter in the lower Dong Tranh River 16 miles southeast of Nha Be to conduct salvage operations. The aircraft, lying inverted in 20 feet of water, was recovered later that afternoon as two PBRs and an Army spotter aircraft provided security cover for YLLC-4.

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On 27 October four Navy divers from Team 3 of HCU-1 were ambushed in the vicinity of Tan An in Long An province, while attempting to recover the body of a U. S. soldier from the Vam Co Tay River. One sailor, Electrician's Mate Second Class (Diver) J. T. NELSON, USN, was killed and two other divers were seriously wounded in the Viet Cong ambush.



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COMMUNICATIONS

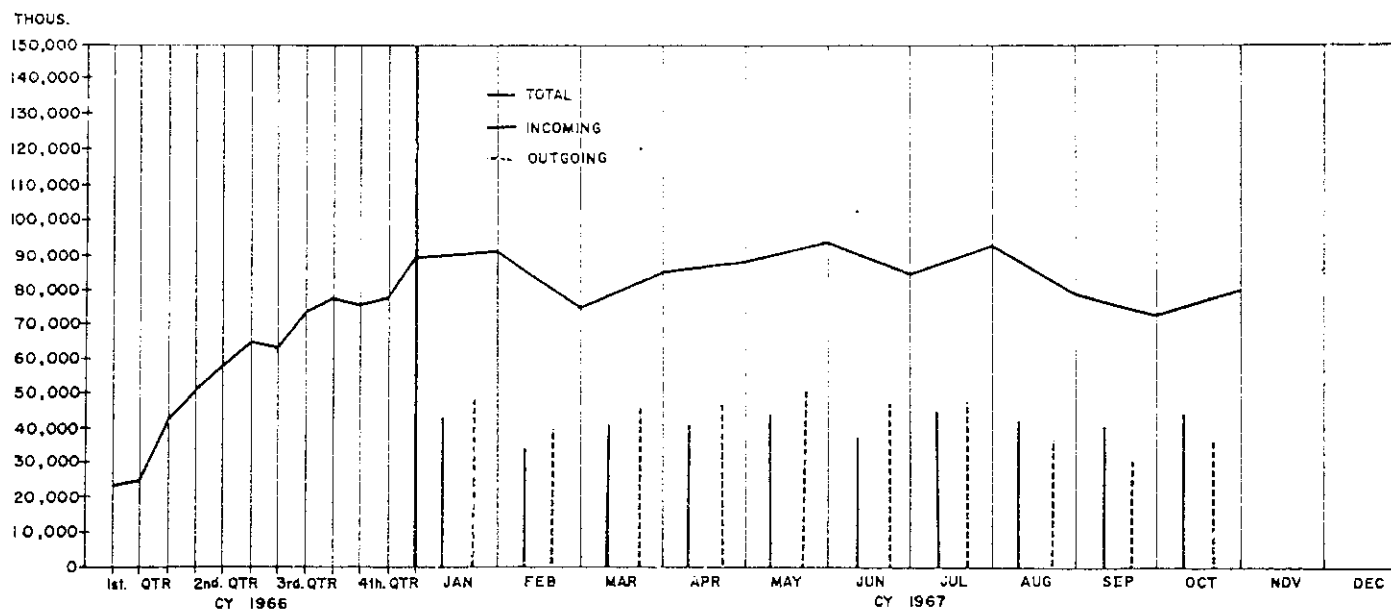
Project SEARCHLIGHT (upgrading communications facilities at COMNAVFORV, the Coastal Surveillance Centers, and GAME WARDEN bases) continued to be plagued with supply and real estate problems. Construction at COMNAVFORV headquarters progressed at a satisfactory rate with the overall electronics installation estimated to be 70 percent complete. Installation at Vinh Long was deferred pending the settlement of a real estate lease problem. An installation team inventoried the equipment at Sa Dec and installed some equipment in racks on foundations. The status at the remaining sites was unchanged.

Project STARBOARD TACK (the use of transportable communication vans for contingency communications) experienced a slippage of delivery dates for the UHF components of the UHF/VHF vans. The latest estimate of shipping date was 27 November.

Project BOWLINE (NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay) was cut into the Integrated Wideband Communications System by microwave at the end of October. During the month of November it is planned to activate a secure voice circuit between the Joint Overseas Switchboard and Cam Ranh Bay, and between Phu Lam and NAVSUPPACT Danang.

During the latter part of October, the transmitter site at NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay suffered a series of generator casualties with a resultant loss of primary and back-up power. All subscribers

MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC



PERCENT OF TOTAL

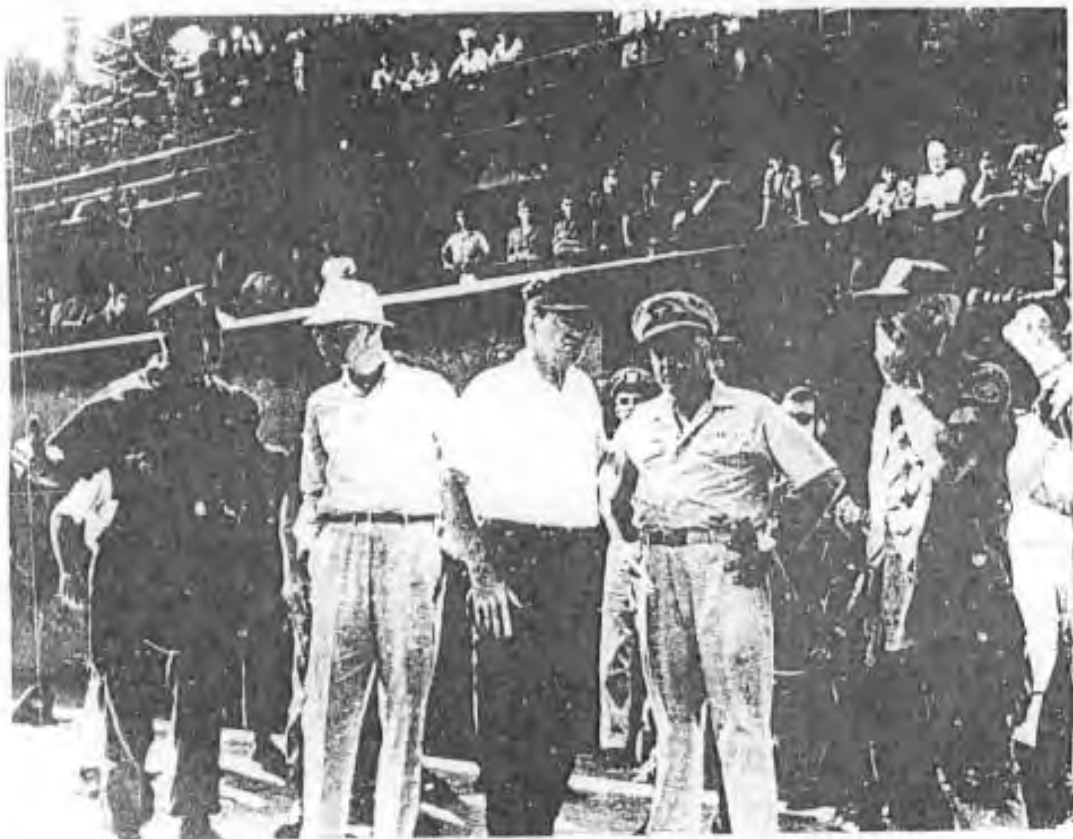
FLASH	1	1	1	1	1	.2	.5	.9	1.4	1.3		
IMMEDIATE	21	20	19	18	16	17.5	18.1	17.9	21.2	23.3		
PRIORITY	60	61	63	63	66	64.6	62.9	61.6	57.3	57.4		
ROUTINE	18	18	17	18	17	17.7	18.5	19.6	20.1	18.0		

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to the Vietnam local area broadcast (VLAB) were directed to copy the fleet broadcast emanating from NAVCOMMSTA Philippines (GRIT), until the power difficulties at Cam Ranh Bay were rectified. Meanwhile COMSEVENTHFLT directed USS ARLINGTON (AGMR 2) to proceed at best speed to a position 80 miles northeast of Cam Ranh Bay in order to provide communication support to CTF 115. At month's end the generator problem at NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay had not yet been rectified.

The number of messages handled by the COMNAVFORV communications center during the month of October was 80,625, an increase of 8,570 messages over last month's total.

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During a visit to USS BENEWAH (APB 35) on 30 October, U. S. Ambassador to Vietnam, Ellsworth BUNKER, and Vice President Hubert H. HUMPHREY are briefed on TF 117 operations by Rear Admiral WETH and Captain WELLS, respectively. Listening (right) is Colonel Bert A. DAVID, Commander, 2nd Brigade, 1st Air Infantry Division.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 10 October Vice President Hubert H. HUMPHREY visited the USS BENEWAH (APB 35), flagship of the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF), at Dong Tam. The Vice President, who was in South Vietnam to represent the United States during the Vietnamese presidential inauguration ceremonies, was greeted in Saigon by Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam (COMNAVFORV). The Vice President was then flown to the BENEWAH accompanied by U. S. Ambassador Ellsworth BUNKER, General William G. WESTMORELAND, Commander U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (COMUSMACV) and nine other dignitaries. On the BENEWAH, the Vice President was briefed on the mission of the MRF and saw many of the craft that are used by the MRF. That day a six-man party from the Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Armed Services also visited the BENEWAH and were briefed on MRF operations. From the BENEWAH the committee members visited the U. S. Navy base at Nha Be before returning to Saigon.

On the 14th, Vice Admiral John J. HYLAND, USN, Commander U. S. SEVENTH Fleet, arrived in Saigon for a three-day tour of U. S. Navy installations in South Vietnam. Included in VADM HYLAND's schedule were visits to COMNAVFORV's headquarters and the Vietnamese Naval Shipyard in Saigon; the BENEWAH, flagship of the MRF; Coastal Surveillance Force headquarters at Cam Ranh Bay; and Danang.

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On the 15th Vice Admiral L. P. RAMAGE, USN, Commander Military Sea Transportation Service (COMSTS), arrived at Vung Tau for a four-day tour of MSTTS facilities in South Vietnam. Included in the tour were visits to Danang, Cam Ranh Bay, Phan Rang, Saigon Port and Newport.

On 1 October, administrative control of Commander, Coast Guard Activities, Vietnam and Commander Coast Guard Squadron THREE was transferred from Commander Western Area to Commander Coast Guard District 14.

On 10 October, General William C. WESTMORELAND, USA, COMUSMACV, and General Cao Van VIEN, ARVN, Chairman, Joint General Staff, visited U. S. Army NINTH Infantry Division elements serving with the MRF. During the visit the decision was made to assign a Vietnamese Marine Corps battalion to the MRF on a rotating, continuing basis. The battalion was to be made available to the MRF by the end of the month and was to be rotated every 60 to 90 days.

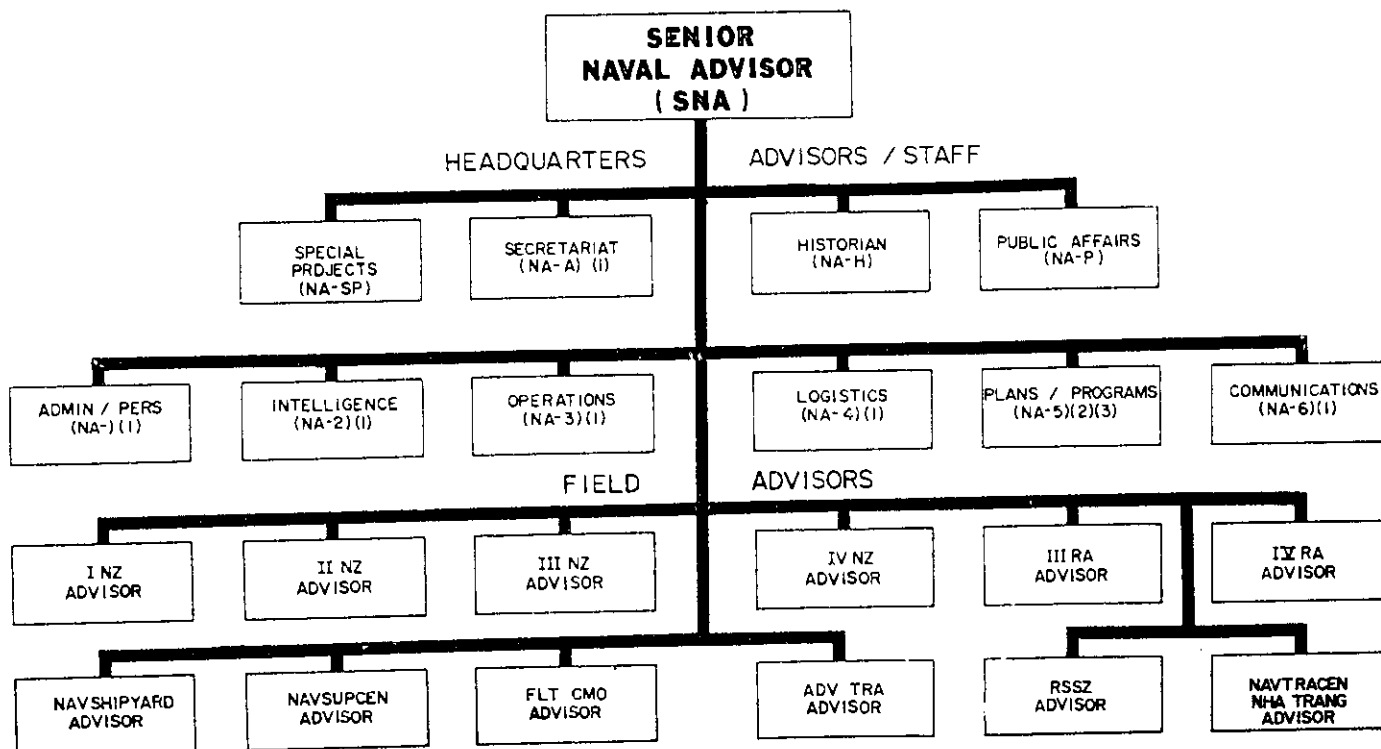
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SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO
FOREIGN NATIONALS

NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

On 11 October a major change in the staff structure of the Naval Advisory Group's organization was initiated; designed to strengthen the diverse aspects of the advisory effort, the new development created, in effect, a separate staff segment to coordinate the various advisory activities. With the buildup of the U. S. Navy effort in Vietnam in 1966 and the designation of the Chief, Naval Advisory Group as Commander Naval Forces, Vietnam on 1 April 1966, the combined CNAG/CNFV staff tended to support the U. S. Navy operational units and the advisory staff effort evolved to the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) Headquarters Advisory Unit and the Military Assistance Service Funding Office (CNFV staff, code 70). Those advisors who were also tactical commanders, in receiving direct, detailed orders from their tactical commanders and broad, general guidance from Naval Advisory Group staff elements, tended to reduce the effort expended to improve the VNN. To strengthen the naval advisory effort to the VNN, the Senior Advisor, VNN Headquarters was redesignated the Senior Naval Advisor and placed in the direct line of authority under Chief, Naval Advisory Group with respect to all naval advisory tasks and functions. To assist him in the accomplishment of these responsibilities the Senior Naval Advisor's staff was increased; the MASF office became the Plans and

NAVAL ADVISORY UNIT ORGANIZATION

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- NOTES:
1. ADVISORS (COUNTERPART RELATIONSHIP)
 2. ADVISOR (COUNTERPARTS ASSIGNED FOR SPECIAL COMBINED PROJECTS)
 3. NA-5 ALSO PROVIDES PLANS AND PROGRAMS SERVICES FOR MARINE ADVISORY UNIT

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Programs Section (NA5); and the Operations Section assumed control of the Coastal Force, River Force and UDT/SEAL advisors and the Base Defense Officer. The U. S. Marine Corps Advisory Unit, already similiarly organized, remained unchanged.

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy on 31 October was 16,140 officers and enlisted men; of this number 1,246 were officers, 3,128 were non-commissioned officers and 11,766 were enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged as deserters decreased from September's total of 50 to 38 in October, but the number of unauthorized absentees increased from 259 in September to 283 in October.

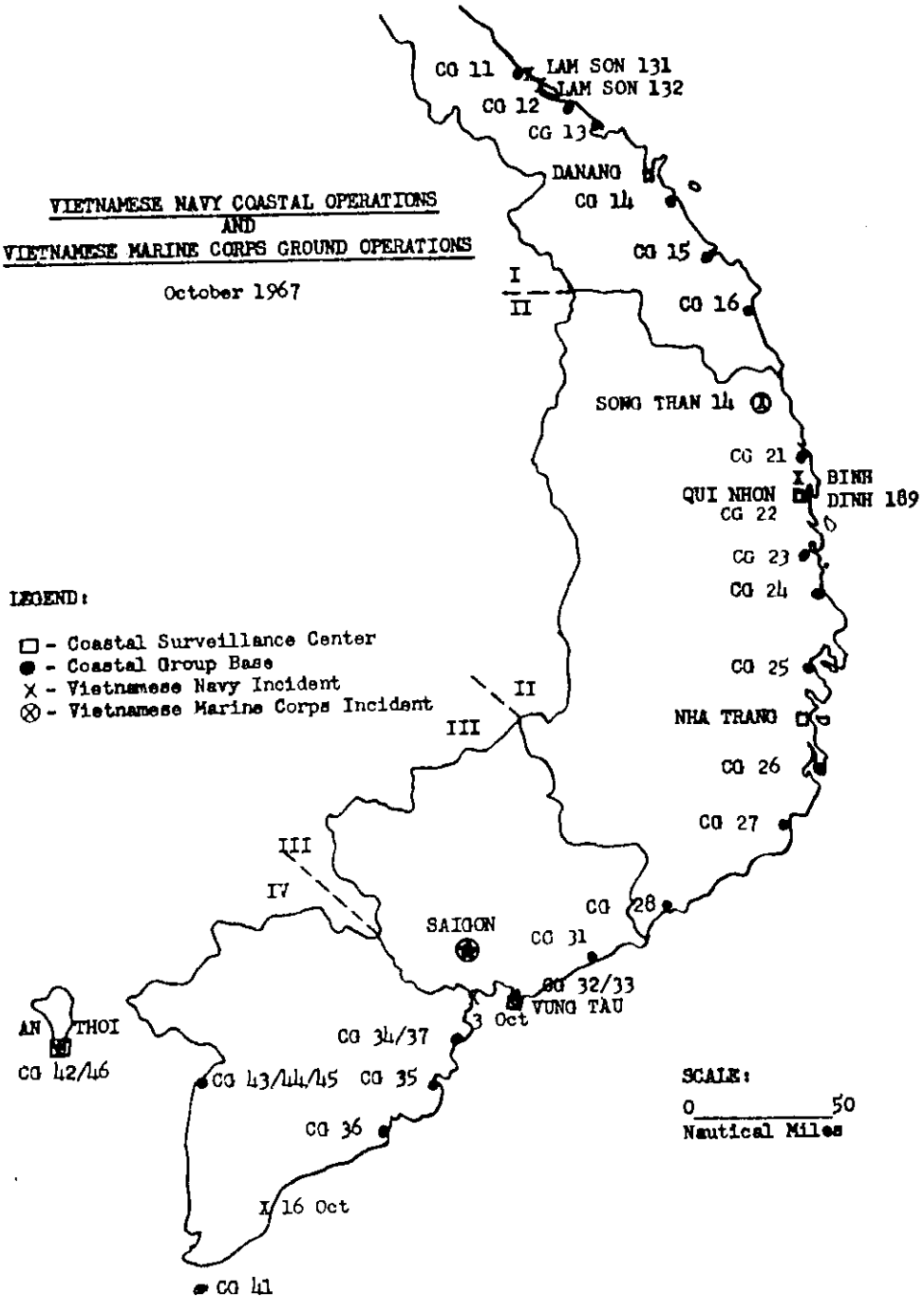
Five Class "A" School classes graduated during the month from the Naval Training Center, Nha Trang; on the 7th, 41 students completed Radioman school, and on the 14th, 33 men completed Boatswain's Mate school, 53 men completed Engineman school, 61 men completed Gunner's Mate school, and 11 men completed Signalman and Quartermaster school. At the Advanced Training Center in Saigon, on 11 October the new oiler, YO-472, completed underway training; on the 20th, PGMs 604 and 606 completed an abbreviated version of the three-week warship underway training program, and on the 31st, 13 enlisted men graduated from the training center's 16-week Special English course.

Between 0230 and 0430 on 7 October a River Assault Group 32 Monitor, anchored for the night in the Mekong River six miles south of

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VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS
AND
VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS

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the Cambodian border, was seized by a seaman in the crew. After casting the craft adrift, the seaman killed the Petty-officer-in-charge and three seamen, wounded a fourth and forced the fifth to assist him in taking the Monitor into Cambodia. During the passing of signals to shore at the border, the hostage dived overboard and was wounded while making his escape. At 0930, the missing craft was spotted two miles north of the border by the RAG 32 advisor flying a reconnaissance mission. Later in the month an intelligence agent reported that the Monitor had been taken to Phnom Penh, the wounded sailor was undergoing treatment in a Cambodian hospital, and the seaman who defected had received a reward of almost \$13,000 for the craft and would be sent to France to live.

On 12 October, the Republic of Vietnam's Joint General Staff directed the suspension of all Mekong River convoys commencing 14 October because of the increased Viet Cong mining threat on the upper Mekong River. The Fourth Riverine Area Commander was directed to increase the number of minesweeping patrols. On 24 October, eight craft from RAGs 26 and 32 commenced special minesweeping patrols on the Bassac River, extending from Chau Doc downstream 20 miles to the Ba The Canal. On the evening of the 29th, one LCM-6 was damaged by a command detonated mine; two drifting mines, camouflaged as fishing floats, were discovered and recovered. By the end of the month, the expanded minesweeping program had been fully

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instituted and on 3 November the convoys were resumed.

Fleet Command

During October the Fleet Command had 25.5 ships available daily and maintained 13 ships on station off the coast of South Vietnam and six ships on river patrol; from the 1st to the 16th, one ship performed convoy escort duties between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. The month's operations included MARKET TIME and river patrols, psychological warfare and civic action visits, escort patrols and gunfire support missions. Fleet Command ships fired 39 gunfire support missions in October and searched 186 junks and 809 persons.

During the month FGMs 612 and 618 completed their MARKET TIME patrol indoctrination and were made available for assignments in the Fourth Naval Zone, joining PCE 09 which had been qualified in September. It is anticipated that on 1 November the VNN will assume the patrol responsibilities for one patrol area in each Naval Zone.

Patrol craft (PCs and PCEs) and gunboats (PGMs) patrolled the coasts of the four Naval Zones and conducted 17 gunfire support missions; the FGMs also patrolled the Soirap and Long Tau Rivers in the Rung Sat Special Zone. On the 2nd, the Japanese merchant ship OKUNI MARU, transitting the Long Tau River to Saigon, was ambushed by an enemy force 21 miles southeast of the capital. The patrol unit assigned to the lower Long Tau River, FGM 608, returned the enemy fire, breaking the ambush, and covered the freighter's passage up river.

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Several windows in the OKUNI MARU's pilot house were broken in the Viet Cong recoilless-rifle attack and constituted the only damage received by either ship. One slightly wounded Japanese crewman was the only friendly casualty; enemy casualties were unknown.

Landing support ships (LSILs and LSSLs) were engaged in gunfire support, convoy escort duties, and river patrols in the RSSZ and the Fourth Riverine Area. During the month, the ships conducted 22 gunfire support missions.

The Fleet Command's three coastal minesweepers (MSCs) were employed in the Second and Third Naval Zones as patrol units, while the 10 motor-launch minesweepers (MLMSs) continued their daily sweep operations in the Long Tau, Nha Be, Saigon and Dong Nai Rivers leading from the sea to the Port of Saigon and the transshipment point of Bien Hoa.

In October, three detachments of the VNN's Underwater Demolition Team (LDNN) were employed; one conducting nightly hull inspections of ships berthed in the Port of Saigon and one each with the U. S. Navy SEAL units based at Binh Thuy and Nha Be. The LDNN participated with the SEALs in seven search and ambush operations during the month.

Coastal Force

In October the Coastal Force searched 29,108 junks and sampans and 99,922 persons, detaining eight junks and 220 suspects. On a

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daily average, 86 percent of the Force's 194 available junks was on patrol.

During the month, in the First Naval Zone, the monsoon, with its higher winds and seas, forced small craft to remain in the bays and rivers. The Coastal Force junks, similarly restricted, increased their patrolling of the inland waterways with the net drop in craft searched from 10,150 in September to 9,500 and personnel searched from 41,200 in September to 33,568 in October.

On 1 October, Thua Thien sector forces and Coastal Group 12 ended the four-day Operation LAM SON 132, 56 miles northwest of Danang. The combined sea patrol and ground sweep resulted in 31 Viet Cong killed, 12 others captured, 29 suspects detained. One Viet Cong woman rallied under the Chieu Hoi program and one mortar, one machine gun and 41 individual weapons were seized.

On the 18th, while participating in Operation LAM SON 131, a month-long search and destroy operation along the coast just south of the Coastal Group 11 base at Cua Viet, the crew of a blockading junk killed a North Vietnamese soldier and wounded a second. The ARVN troops ashore captured one North Vietnamese soldier and detained seven Viet Cong suspects in the same incident.

On the 25th, two Viet Cong political cadre rallied to Coastal Group 11. In their initial statements to the Coastal Group commander, they said other Viet Cong were ready to defect upon hearing of

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the treatment received by the first two. By the end of the month, three Hoi Chanhs rallied to ground forces near Coastal Group 11, one to a Coastal Group 12 junk patrol, and eight to the Coastal Group 14 base.

During October, in the Second Naval Zone, while the number of coastal craft searched remained at September's level of 6,450 and the Coastal Groups continued to conduct and support operations, the enemy avoided contact. On the 20th, Binh Dinh sector forces and Coastal Group 22 units conducted Operation BINH DINH 189, a search and destroy operation eight miles north of Qui Nhon. Nine Viet Cong suspects were detained by the Coastal Group sailors and 11 were detained by the ARVN soldiers. Two days later, using MARKET TIME intelligence reports that Viet Cong had been seen along the shore north of their base, two junks and two platoons of Coastal Group 22 sailors set an ambush a mile north of the base. Four Viet Cong were killed when an enemy squad triggered the ambush. A quantity of documents having high intelligence value was recovered from the scene.

In the Third Naval Zone, on 3 October, the junks of Coastal Group 33 provided a troop lift for Go Cong province Regional Force soldiers into an area one mile north of Vam Long village, at the mouth of the Soirap River 21 miles west of Vung Tau. The operation, planned from information received during a Coastal Group MEDCAP in

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the village the day before, resulted in three Viet Cong killed, 12 Viet Cong suspects detained, and a small-arms ammunition cache seized.

On 6 October, five junks and 30 men from Coastal Group 35 supported two platoons of Vinh Binh sector forces in a one-day search and destroy operation on the north bank of the Co Chien River, seven miles upstream from its mouth. Three Viet Cong were captured, three others were killed, and a cache of 46 grenades was seized.

In a daylight engagement on the 10th, an enemy force of between two companies and battalion size was repulsed by Coastal Group 35 personnel. The enemy attackers, who used at least one 60-mm mortar and one 57-mm recoilless rifle in addition to automatic weapons, were unable to penetrate the base defenses and withdrew when the Coastal Group sailors returned fire. There were no personnel casualties and no major damage to the base facilities. The Viet Cong removed all of their dead or wounded personnel from the field during their retreat. On the 12th, the Coastal Group junks provided blockade forces for the ARVN 14th Regiment conducting Operation LE LOI on the south bank of the Co Chien River 31 miles downstream from Vinh Long. The Regiment killed 11 Viet Cong, captured nine others, and seized several individual weapons and a large quantity of documents while nine ARVN soldiers were wounded. Later in the month the Coastal Group supported two similar operations farther downstream.

During a MEDCAP operation, conducted on 15 October, in a hamlet

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a mile east of the Coastal Group 34/37 base, the VNN Security forces captured one Viet Cong and detained 30 Viet Cong suspects. Over 270 persons in the hamlet received medical or dental treatment during the one-day visit.

On the 21st, an intelligence squad from Coastal Group 35 captured a nine-man communication and liaison team in Hoa village, three miles up the Co Chien River from their base. The team was attempting to locate itself within the village to perform its mission of leading and protecting guerrillas conducting assassination missions.

In the Fourth Naval Zone on the 16th, a Coastal Group 41 two-junk patrol coordinated a reconnaissance mission 50 miles northeast of Cau Mau Point with a Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO) in an aircraft and the USCGC POINT GRACE. In the early afternoon, the junks beached in an area of suspected Viet Cong activity and the crewmen recovered a camouflaged 20-foot sampan with outboard motor. While the party was ashore the NILO spotted two additional camouflaged sampans four miles further to the northeast and received small-arms fire, which the cutter suppressed with its 81-mm mortar fire. The operation was secured before the landing party could recover the two sampans because deteriorating weather conditions made surf-line junk operations hazardous.

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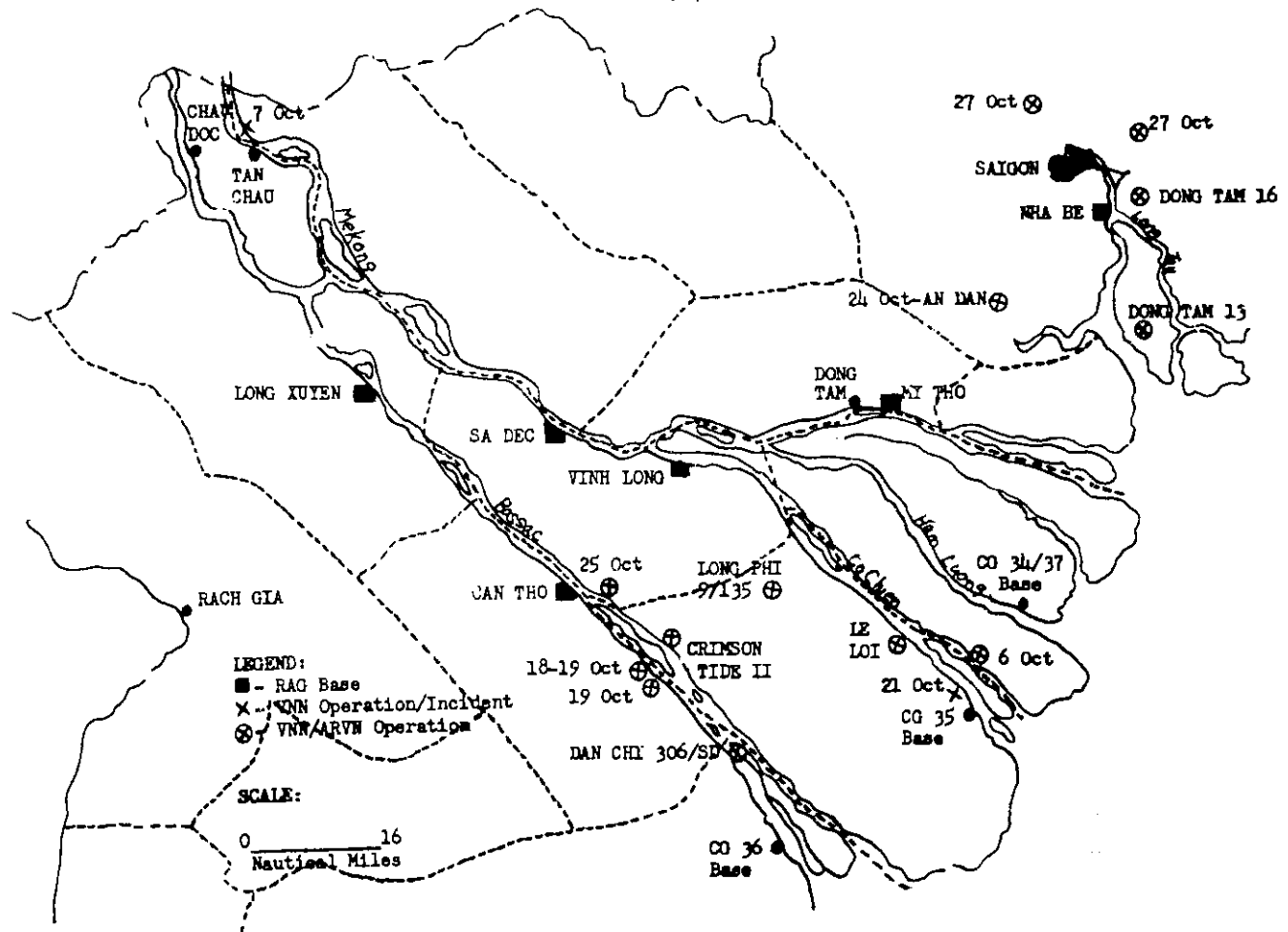
Riverine Area Naval Commands

In October the River Assault Groups conducted three operations in the First Naval Zone, 15 in the Third Riverine Area, and 26 in the Fourth Riverine Area. RAG craft also performed escort duty and conducted river patrol, base defense, and psychological warfare and civic action missions. With a daily average employment of 84 percent of the 156 available craft, the RAG units searched 5,433 junks and 20,326 persons.

On 7 and 8 October, the First Naval Zone RAG Detachment supported Thua Thien sector forces in Operation KAY DUNG NONG THON 16 conducted on the north shore of Cau Hai Bay between Route 1 and Tanh Lam Bay, 35 miles northwest of Danang. The results of the sweeps and blockades included 45 Viet Cong killed, and one machine gun, four individual weapons and 2,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition captured. Three ARVN soldiers were killed and 53 were wounded. Later in the month, two other operations were conducted in the same area.

In the Third Riverine Area on the afternoon of 8 October, Operation DONG TAM 13 was conducted in the southern Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ) 15 miles northwest of Vung Tau by RAG 22 with two platoons of Regional Force troops and two PBRs of River Section 541. The operation, a quick reaction mission to intelligence gathered from a Viet Cong captured the night before by a

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PBR patrol, overran the base camp of a unit of the D-2 Company which has the responsibility for interdicting shipping on the Long Tau River. Recovered in the sweep was one 20-inch diameter watermine, supplies for manufacturing watermines, two sampans, foodstuffs and personal effects and numerous documents. Seven huts and five bunkers were destroyed by an airstrike after the troops were extracted. The enemy unit was the same one that attacked the OKUNI MARU on the 2nd.

On the 16th, in a second quick reaction mission, two squads of Regional Force "Commandos", operating from the RSEZ Headquarters at Nha Be, supported Binh Khanh village during an enemy terrorist attack. The village, across the Soirap River from Nha Be, came under a Viet Cong small-arms attack approximately 2230. After friendly artillery fire could not suppress the attack, the commandos were inserted behind the village by small boats, pinpointed the enemy emplacements for air and artillery strikes, killed one Viet Cong, and detained two suspects before returning to Nha Be at 0145 on the 17th. Friendly casualties were limited to one child killed by enemy fire.

Operation AN DAN, to locate and destroy the Viet Cong 506th Local Force Battalion, was conducted on 24 October along the Vam Co Dong River, 19 miles southwest of Saigon, by RAG 24, two Regional Force companies and the ARVN 50th Regiment. After landing the

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Regional Force companies in the eastern portion of the operating area the RAG craft moved to north and west, taking up positions to prevent the enemy's escape to the north, while the 50th Regiment troops were airlifted into the western perimeter of the area. All units were engaged in the day-long fight which ended with 20 Viet Cong killed, six others captured, 22 individual weapons and one mini-gun seized. Two ARVN soldiers and the assistant advisor to RAG 24 were slightly wounded.

On the 27th, craft from RAGs 28 and 30 supporting ground operations intercepted enemy sampans and junks in re-supply attempts on the Saigon and Dong Ngai Rivers respectively. In the first incident, 12 miles north of Saigon two sampans were seized, containing 19 pounds of TNT, a mortar sight and several Viet Cong propaganda banners; in the second, while supporting Operation FAIRFAX, a five-craft patrol section sank three Viet Cong junks 11 miles east of Saigon.

On the 30th and 31st, Operation DONG TAM 16, a search and destroy operation north of the Long Tau River in the RSSZ was conducted by RAG 22, Regional Force Companies 908 and 909 with the RSSZ "Commando" platoon, PBR River Sections 541 and 542 and LSSL 225. Additionally, two batteries of Royal Thai Army Artillery and a U. S. Army light helicopter fire team were on call. With the mission to locate and destroy the Viet Cong D-1 company and its

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base camps and to interdict any enemy attempts to move men or material into Saigon during the National Day festivities, the two companies and the Commandos were landed near the three known base camps of the enemy company. Shortly after noon, the 908th company engaged the Viet Cong, killing 10 and wounding several others. Pursuing the fleeing Viet Cong, the Regional Force company engaged them a second time about 1600, killing one of the enemy and capturing one, who confirmed that seven men were wounded in the first engagement. The helicopter fire team was called in to fire on the remaining Viet Cong but the crews were unable to locate them in the heavy jungle. The 999th Regional Force company and the Commando platoon each located and destroyed base camps and all three units set night ambushes but no further contact was made. Twelve huts and seven bunkers were destroyed and five sampans, five individual weapons, assorted grenades and small-arms ammunition, three field telephone sets with 2,000 yards of wire, and two RPG-7 rockets were seized. There were no friendly personnel casualties in the operation.

In the Fourth Riverine Area on 3 October, six craft from RAGs 25 and 29 provided gunfire support and troop lift services for U. S. SEALs and Regional Force troops conducting Operation CRIMSON TIDE II behind Tan Dinh Island in the Bassac River 15 miles downstream from Can Tho. The combined force destroyed over 75 enemy

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fortifications and 18 sampans. Four U. S. Navymen were wounded in the day-long mission.

Operation DAN CHI 306/SD was conducted on the northern end of Dung Island at the mouth of the Bassac River on 9 and 10 October, by 16 craft from RAGs 25 and 29 and two battalions of the ARVN 21st Division. One element of the RAG craft landed one battalion on the northeastern shore of the island and blockaded the remainder of the northern shore line while the southern RAG element broke through several canal blocks constructed by the Viet Cong and landed the second battalion two miles to the southwest. The RAG blockade force seized one large junk loaded with uniforms, tools, and Viet Cong propaganda, and destroyed four other junks; while the ground forces killed 40 Viet Cong, captured nine others, detained nine suspects and destroyed two bunkers. A subsequent investigation of the area revealed an enemy cemetery containing 45 graves, a supply of foodstuffs and personal sundries. Some of the sundries were made up into packs for use as a portable "country store".

From 1700 on 18 October until 1600 on the 19th, 11 RAG 25 craft along with three PBRs, several U. S. Air Force aircraft and a U. S. SEAL detachment and a platoon each from a PRU and an Armed Propaganda Unit blockaded and cleared the northern half of Nai Island in the Bassac River 13 miles downstream from Can Tho.

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With airborne surveillance, a SEAL ambush at the most-used departure point and an infra-red searchlight equipped LCM securing the northern shores of the island, the remainder of the force was positioned along the eastern and western shores and the PRU and the Propaganda platoons were landed to the south. As the ground forces swept northward, all detainees from the sweep and from craft leaving the island were taken to an LCM in midstream where a MEDCAP team treated their medical needs and an intelligence team interrogated them for exploitable information. During the day, psychological warfare teams, in the air and on the ground, broadcast Chieu Hoi appeals and dropped leaflets. By the end of the highly successful operation 10 Viet Cong had been captured, four others had rallied to the government as a result of the "Chieu Hoi" appeals, 215 watercraft were searched, 218 medical cases were treated, 480 persons received foodstuffs and clothing, and intelligence naming and locating the homes of 30 additional Viet Cong was gathered.

An hour after the operation on Nai Island ended, the RAG 25 craft were underway on a quick reaction operation to an intelligence report received from a Hoi Chanh from Lac Thon township, on the south bank of the river near Nai Island. On the 18th, U. S. Navy SEALs and PBRs had conducted a psychological warfare and ambush mission in which four Viet Cong were killed. The Hoi

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Chanh revealed that a funeral for the dead Viet Cong would be held on the evening of the 19th and that several Viet Cong leaders would be present. Forty PRU troops and the rallier were airlifted by Army helicopters into the area, penetrated the enemy's security defenses, and abducted 10 Viet Cong including a hamlet chief, a political platoon leader, and three other officials. The troops then fought their way through the enemy lines to the waiting boats while the helicopters and the RAG craft kept the Viet Cong security force pinned down. The successful operation, in which there were no friendly casualties, was completed within six hours of the receipt of the initial intelligence report. In the week that followed nine other Viet Cong, impressed by the ease in which the government forces made the abduction, rallied to the Government.

On the morning of the 25th, after receiving intelligence that the Viet Cong B-10 platoon had moved to the north shore of the Bassac River to provide security for a major enemy unit crossing six miles downstream from Can Tho, RAG 25 with a company of Popular Force troops and an ARVN Special Forces platoon set an ambush to prevent the crossing. After placing the Special Forces platoon to the north, the RAG craft provided a rolling mortar barrage ahead of the Popular Force unit as they swept from the south and east toward the river. Six of the enemy were

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During a patrol in the Mang Thit River, a RAG 23 Monitor fights its way clear of an ambush; suppressing the enemy fire and damaging a Viet Cong reinforced concrete bunker built under a hillock (far right).

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killed during the sweep and the remaining 14 Viet Cong were captured at the river's edge. A U. S. advisor to the Popular Force unit and a Popular Force soldier were wounded.

On the 27th and 28th, RAGs 21 and 33 and units of the ARVN NINTH Division conducted Operation LONG PHI 9/135 in the Cai Hap Canal complex south of the Co Chien River, 30 miles downstream from Vinh Long. The two incursions into the enemy controlled area were met by heavy automatic-weapons fire from extensive bunker complexes on both sides of the canals which prevented the RAG craft from reaching the final objective area. The troops, landed in flanking positions, engaged the enemy on both occasions, killing 16 Viet Cong, capturing seven others, seizing five weapons and destroying a cache of land mines. One ARVN soldier was killed and four were wounded; also, one VNN sailor was wounded.

Logistics

In October the Vietnamese Navy conducted 21 logistics support missions, transporting 4,090 personnel and 2,376 tons of cargo. Medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 2,590 personnel and 1,456 tons of cargo, the landing ship tank (LST) lifted 1,500 personnel and 440 tons of cargo; and utility landing craft (LCUs) lifted 480 tons of cargo. On 2 October, LST 501 arrived at the U. S. Navy Ship Repair Facility at Guam for a three month

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overhaul and on 24 October LST 500 completed a similar overhaul. LSIL 328 and LSM 406 are also undergoing overhauls at the facility.

During the month, the VNN's Supply Center had a gross effectiveness of 75.8 percent on a total of 10,976 requests for items and a net effectiveness of 86.5 percent on 9,360 requests for items normally carried in the supply system.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary
October 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	9,497	33,568	5	85
II NZ	6,454	21,732	2	133
III NZ	9,287	33,832	0	1
IV NZ	3,870	10,790	1	1
Sub-totals	29,108	99,922	8	220
<u>Fleet Command</u>				
<u>Patrol Ships</u>	186	809	0	0
<u>Riverine Area</u>				
<u>Craft</u>	5,433	20,326	0	0
Totals	34,727	121,057	8	220

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

During October the seven battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II and III Corps Tactical Zones, and the Capital Military District. The six infantry battalions and the

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three batteries of the Artillery Battalion were committed to combat operations 88 percent of the time and met very light enemy action. Marine casualties were four men killed and 14 wounded, including one Marine drowned in an attempted river crossing and two Marines wounded by misdirected fire from U. S. Army helicopter gunships.

Task Force A, consisting of a headquarters, the 4th Battalion (relieved by the 2nd Battalion on 10 October), the 6th Battalion and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, continued search and destroy operations in Tan Uyen district 17 miles north of Saigon, through the 20th. The Task Force made no contact with the enemy but had four Marines wounded by a grenade booby trap. After being relieved by the U. S. Army 5th Special Forces Group on 21 October, the Force A units returned to their respective base camps.

On 22 October, the Task Force, now consisting of the 4th, 5th and 6th Battalions and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, deployed to the Hoc Mon, Tan Binh and Binh Chau districts west of Saigon in the Capital Military district for Operation SONG THAN 702-67, with the mission to provide road and area security and to search and destroy the Viet Cong infrastructure and its facilities. In the first enemy activity of the deployment, between 30 and 40 82-mm mortar rounds landed 35 yards

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short of the 5th Battalion command post on the night of the 27th. The next day an element of the 6th Battalion fought a small Viet Cong unit, killing four of the enemy and capturing four individual weapons. Three Marines were wounded by enemy fire and two others were wounded by U. S. Army helicopter gunships. In four other contacts with the enemy three Viet Cong were killed and one Marine was wounded.

Meanwhile, Task Force B, composed of a headquarters, the 1st Battalion, the 2nd Battalion (relieved by the 3rd Battalion on 4 October) and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion continued Operation SONG THAN 14, ten miles south of Bong Song in northern II Corps Tactical Zone. In addition to the primary mission of road security and small area search and destroy sweeps, the Task Force took part in two search and destroy operations with U. S. Army units: SONG THAN 803-67 from 10 to 13 October and SONG THAN 804-67 from 26 to 28 October. Squad- and platoon-sized units made almost daily contact with similar enemy units and killed eight Viet Cong, captured five others and detained 62 suspects. On 30 October one Hoi Chanh rallied to the 3rd Battalion. Three Marines were killed and three were wounded during the month.

The 2nd Battalion, after being relieved from Task Force Bravo on the 3rd and serving as part of Task Force A from 10 to 20 October, was assigned as the ready reaction force for the Capital

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Military District from the 21st through the end of the month. On 30 October, in preparation for the President's inauguration and National Day, two companies and one U. S. Army helicopter company were deployed to the Saigon Race Track on the west side of the city while the other two companies remained at Thu Duc just east of Saigon.

The 5th Battalion operated in Binh Chau district as a security force for the Capital Military District for the entire month. Before being designated as part of Task Force A on the 22nd, the battalion conducted over 130 platoon- and company-sized operations and 380 ambushes.

Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary
October 1967

VC/NVA 15 KIA 6 VCC 69 VCS 1 Chieu Hoi
VNMC 4 KIA 14 WIA (Includes 2 WIA by friendly fire)

Captured Weapons:

Rifles, U. S. Springfield	1
Rifles, SKS w/folding bayonet	1
Rifles, AK-50	2
Rifles, M-1	1
Rifles, AK-44	1
Rifles, U. S. Carbine	1
Rifles, MAS-49	1
Rifles, MAS-36	1
Pistols, Caliber .45	1

Captured or Destroyed Materials or Facilities:

VC Propaganda sign boards	6
MK-2 grenades	7
VC grenades	31
Rice (pounds)	2,400