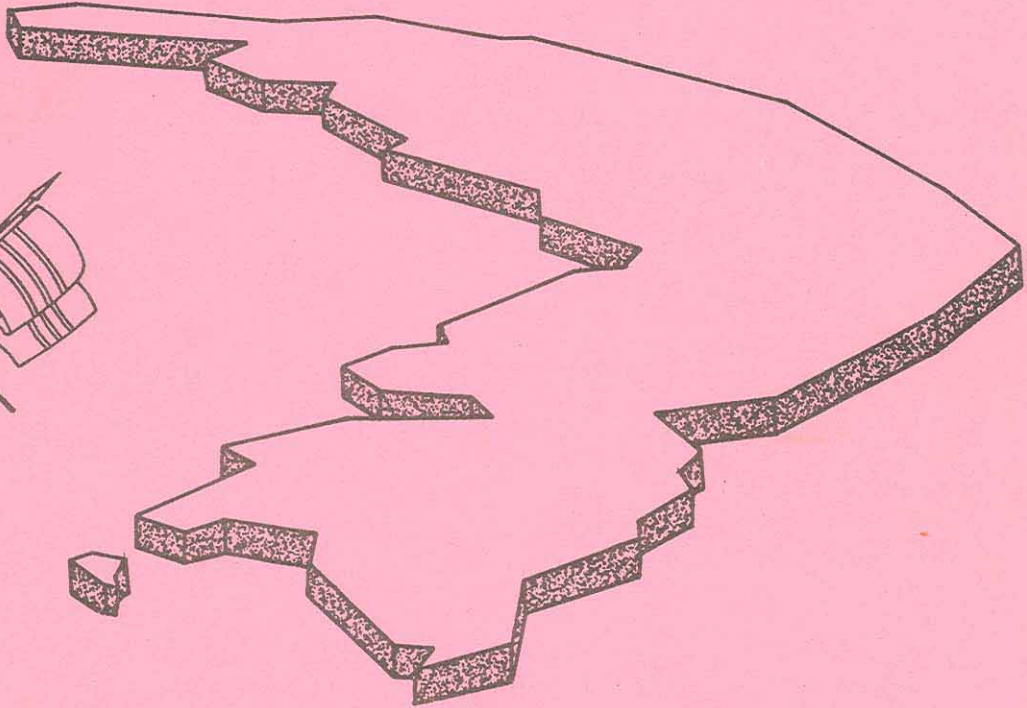
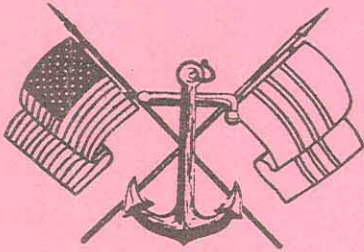


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# COMMANDER U.S. NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM



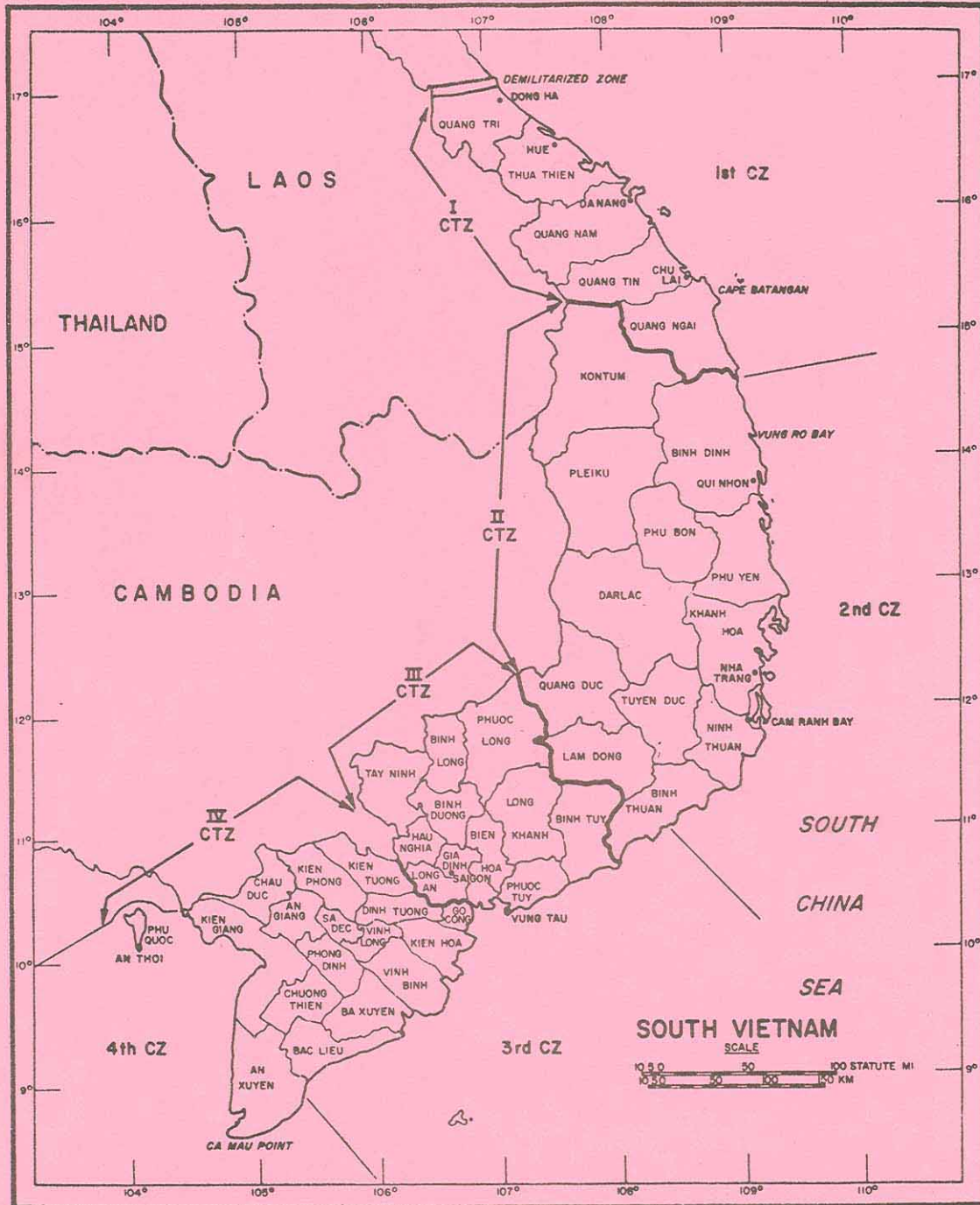
MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY

JUNE 1969

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam  
FPO San Francisco 96626

FF5-16/23:cl  
5750  
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07 AUG 1969

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From: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam  
To: Distribution List

Subj: U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary for  
June 1969, forwarding of

Encl: P (1) Operation SEA LORDS Summary  
P (2) Operation SEA LORDS Statistical Summary by Campaign  
P (3) Coastal Surveillance Force Summary  
P (4) River Patrol Summary  
(5) Riverine Assault Force Summary  
(6) USN Statistical Summary  
D (7) Naval Advisory Group Summary  
(8) VNN/VNMC Statistical Summary  
O (9) Psychological and Civic Action Summary  
O (10) USN Civic Action Statistical Summary  
(11) Accelerated Turnover Program and Training Summary  
(12) Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

} MISSING ON RECEIPT

1. Enclosures (1) through (12) are forwarded.
2. Beginning with this issue, full distribution of the COMNAVFORV Monthly Historical Summary is made in order to provide addressees with a timely assessment of events.
3. The Summary will henceforth serve as the COMNAVFORV Monthly History. It will be expanded and updated as necessary by means of annexes forwarded at a later time. Previous editions of the Summary will be mailed to close gaps which exist between this June Summary and those histories which have previously been forwarded to the distribution list.
4. The Civic Action Statistical Summary includes data which applies to the period 25 April through 25 May.

  
EMMETT H. TIDD  
CHIEF OF STAFF

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Ref: (a) COMNAVFORV Ltr ser 0401 of 07 August 1969

Encl: (1) Pages 9, 10 of encl. 7, enclosures 8 and 9 of reference (a).

1. It is requested that enclosure (1) be inserted in the appropriate place in reference (a). These pages were inadvertently omitted from the Monthly Historical Summary for June.

*J. D. Stutz*  
J. D. STUTZ  
By direction

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List IV A. (1)  
List V A. (1)





OPERATION SEA LORDS  
June 1969

Operation SEA LORDS is a coordinated naval/ground operation employing the combined efforts of elements of the Coastal Surveillance, River Patrol and Mobile Riverine Forces, in conjunction with other U. S. and Vietnamese forces and is oriented toward the broad objectives of interdicting infiltration routes from Cambodian territory into the Mekong Delta regions, pacifying vital trans-delta inland waterways, and harassing the enemy in his base areas.

The various SEA LORDS Campaigns (Giant Slingshot, Barrier Reef, Tran Hung Dau, Search Turn and Market Time Raiders) while interdicting and disrupting the flow of enemy traffic, are also hampering his efforts sufficiently for him to devote valuable men and material to oppose them. Captured documents have identified elements of the North Vietnamese First and Ninth Divisions in attacks on river patrols on the Vam Co Dong. Interrogation of a prisoner of war has confirmed this information. He stated he was a member of a 16-man unit armed with 13 AK-47's, four B-40s and one B-41 and described enemy ambush tactics in use against patrol craft. At the same time reports were received indicating that there are 400 enemy in the Thanh Dinh area 8 miles southwest of Tay Ninh City armed with 122mm, 107mm, B-40, and B-41 rockets in addition to individual weapons, and that their intentions are to attack Tay Ninh City and ambush patrol boats on the Vam Co Dong. Until now only small-unit local guerilla and commo-liason personnel were thought to have been involved in such attacks in the III CTZ.

Enemy losses attributable to SEA LORDS (combined results) during June included 405 killed (262 body count plus 143 estimated), 41 wounded, and

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71 captured. Friendly losses came to five Americans killed and 99 wounded, while the Vietnamese lost nine killed and 111 wounded. A description of the individual Campaigns with corresponding USN and VNN statistics follows.

Giant Slingshot Campaign

With more than 139 river craft and 12 aircraft committed to the Giant Slingshot Campaign, it continues to represent the largest and most productive segment of the Sea Lords Interdiction Barrier. Task Group 194.9 river patrol craft, river assault craft, minesweeping craft, OV-10 Black Pony aircraft, and UH-1 Seawolves operated on the Vam Co Dong and the Vam Co Tay Rivers along with VNN RAIDS in this campaign designed to cut enemy infiltration from the "Parrot's Beak" area of Cambodia into the strategic western approaches to Saigon. Enemy opposition, as was the case last month, was by far most frequent on the Vam Co Dong.

The total number of hostile fire incidents increased from 75 in May to 126 in June resulting in a corresponding increase in casualties on both sides. Enemy losses came to 166 killed (103 body count plus 63 estimated), six wounded and five captured, while friendly losses were three USN killed and 60 USN and 15 VNN wounded. Despite the increased tempo of activity during the month, a sharp decline in enemy initiated action was noted during the last week in June.

The following materials were included in caches discovered in June or in items recovered from water craft, enemy structures, or bunkers.

- 13 cases AK-47 ammunition
- 7 cases .50 cal. ammunition
- 1 M-60 machine gun
- 3 AK-50 rifles
- 53 pistols

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333 grenades  
900 add'l rounds small arms ammunition  
185 B-40 and B-41 rockets  
25 60mm mortar rounds  
8 75mm recoilless rifle rounds  
100 82mm fuzes  
25 U. S. blasting caps  
1 B-41 booster  
1 122mm rocket motor  
2 mines  
150' electrical wire  
1 PRC-10 radio

Day by day activity within the Giant Slingshot area of operations is outlined by the following incident narratives:

On the morning of 2 June VNN RAID 71 craft of TU 194.9.1 inserted ARVN troops on the banks of the Vam Co Dong River, nine miles east of Tan An (XS 710 627, 714 630). While in blocking positions the VNN's caught one person hiding in the nippa palm along the river, and after interrogation they concluded he was a local VC tax extortionist. Later in the afternoon the ARVN troops returned to the boats with five captured VC and one AK-47.

A monitor and two ATC's of TU 194.9.1 were returning to base after a troop insertion when they came under enemy rocket attack at 2325 on 2 June. Fire was received from both banks of the Vam Co Dong River 2 miles south of Ben Luc (XS 628 732). The monitor's 105mm howitzer quickly suppressed the enemy fire. Although no hits were taken, one sailor was slightly wounded in the action. Enemy casualties are unknown.

On the night of 3 June, 2 ATC's and 2 PBR's were patrolling south on the Vam Co Dong 11 miles northwest of Tra Cu (XT 403 167) and came under heavy A/W and B-40 rocket fire at 2114. Units returned fire and reconnoitered to make a firing run before clearing to the north. Artillery support requested at 2115 was delayed until 2143 due to the close proximity of

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RF/PF ambushes set in the area and difficulty in getting firing clearance.

Two nights later an ATC and a monitor of Task Unit 194.9.4 were in ambush positions on the Vam Co Tay River, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles northwest of Tan An (XS 340 788), when they observed 20 to 25 objects floating downriver toward their positions. The objects proved to be floats with VC psyops material attached and apparently were to be a unique trend in VC waterborne psyops campaigns. About 20 minutes later, the boats observed 6 to 8 personnel along the south bank using small uprooted bushes as camouflage. When the VC were within 70 feet, RAC opened fire at 2005 and broke ambush. At this time a swimmer was observed in the water and he was countered with 2 hand grenades. Units then made one firing run and cleared the area. An artillery H and I strike was then called in. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties were unknown.

Two RAID 71 units and members of the Long An intelligence team were led by a VC prisoner of war to an area adjacent to a small stream off the Vam Co Dong, eight and one half miles southeast of Ben Luc (XS 735 650) on 6 June. After the RAID boats prepped the river banks, the force went ashore and uncovered four arms caches pointed out by the VC prisoner. The amount of captured items was substantial and included two binoculars, 100 82mm fuzes, 50 cal ammunition, thirteen cases of AK-47 ammunition, 25 60mm mortar rounds, eight 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, 50 flashlight batteries, and 171 B-40 and B-41 rockets. Four days later on 10 June RAID 71 river craft on a routine patrol four miles northwest of TRA CU (XT 452 048) uncovered another enemy cache that contained 116 CHICOM anti-tank grenades

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in factory issue condition. In this case the VNN noticed fresh tracks on the beach which led to a rectangular plot of spaded ground eight meters square that was protected by booby traps at each corner.

PBR's based at Tra Cu responded to a call for assistance from the U. S. Army Advisor at Hiep Hoa in the early morning hours of 6 June. Four craft were sent to provide assistance in suppressing heavy enemy B-40 and recoilless rifle fire. As the leading two boat patrol unit passed a point approximately one mile south of Hiep Hoa (XT 428 058), it came under B-40 and recoilless rifle fire but all rounds detonated in the water causing only shrapnel wounds to three men. The boats returned the fire and continued their upstream movement. A Spooky aircraft was called to provide air cover but when it arrived on scene low visibility prevented its use. The second PBR patrol came under attack at the same location with more serious results. The lead boat sustained two hits at the waterline which wounded five men and created a 1 by 4 foot hole in the side. Seawolves were immediately scrambled but once again the low cloud cover prevented their successful employment. As the damaged PBR began to sink rapidly, the crew beached on the east bank of the river and evacuated the craft, removing wounded, publications and weapons while under fire. The first patrol then returned to the scene to assist in the firefight and again received enemy fire, but no further casualties were sustained. The first patrol was able to escort the remaining boat of the second patrol safely through the kill zone. Vietnamese RAID units were diverted to the scene but came under enemy fire while enroute that caused two wounded and damaged one boat to the extent that it beached to make repairs before going on. Another PBR patrol with

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a monitor and ATC escort were detached from base defense duties at Hiep Hoa to aid the engaged forces. The monitor was able to provide cover for the other boats while they retrieved the beached PBR and towed it out of the area. Total friendly casualties were eight navymen and two Vietnamese wounded plus material damage to the boats. Enemy casualties are unknown.

PBR's of River Division 591 in a coordinated waterborne/land ambush with a reconnaissance team of the U. S. 9th Infantry on the night of 6 June sighted a sampan with two occupants proceeding north on the Vam Co Dong River ten miles east of Tan An (XS 778 648). At the same time the ground units observed three VC in the nippa palm nearby the PBR position. As the PBR's took the sampan under fire the VC on the beach tossed fragmentation grenades at the boats. The recon team fired on these VC and killed all three of them. The PBR's then extracted the recon element and started toward the sampan which sank before it could be recovered. There were no friendly casualties. Enemy casualties were five VC killed.

Black Pony aircraft of TU 194.9.8.2 on routine patrol 9 June were cleared to place a strike on a location three miles north of Go Dau Ha (XT 394 301) where 60 VC were believed to be concentrated. The strike was accomplished with no return fire from the enemy. A sweep of the area the following day by Vietnamese troops placed enemy casualties as 20 probably killed. There were no U. S. casualties.

The enemy's elaborate use of booby traps was well illustrated on 9 June as two ATC's of TU 194.9.3 supported CIDG personnel in a bunker destruction operation. Sixty CIDG's swept along a two mile stretch of the Vam Co Dong River in the area 4 to 6 miles northwest of Tra Cu (XT 456 045 to XT 438 058)

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while RAC conducted Eagle Float operations. Booby traps consisting of hand grenades or B-40 rounds with trip wires were discovered along paths from VC bunkers to the river. Other booby traps were found which were designed to detonate as boats beached along the shore. Minesweeping operations by RAC uncovered 100 feet of detonating wire. A total of 12 bunkers and 15 booby traps were destroyed in the operation, along with the capture of enemy documents. A special bunker destruction operation utilizing the high pressure water spray of the "Douche" boat, ATC-151-5, was conducted during the early morning hours of 10 June along an 11 mile stretch of the Vam Co Dong (XT 460 045 to XT 392 175). The spray destroyed 16 bunkers and 5 spiderholes and detonated 2 booby traps. Again on the 12th, during a day long operation the Douche boat destroyed 12 bunkers, 3 booby traps and 4 spiderholes, and on the 15th, the Douche boat destroyed 14 bunkers 8 spider holes, and 2 booby traps along the Vam Co Dong.

Two PBR's on a routine patrol located an arms cache three miles south-east of Tra Cu (XS 520 965) on the morning of 11 June. The cache was in a 50 gallon barrel which became exposed on the west bank of the river at low tide. The arms captured included one M-60 machine gun, 76 booby traps, 25 grenades, one ten kilo mine, and 25 percussion caps and igniters.

PBR's in waterborne ambush positions on the Vam Co Dong River on the night of 14 June observed a sampan crossing the river from east to west, approximately three miles north of Hiep Hoa (XT 408 108). When the sampan approached to within 15 yards of the ambush position, the PBR's opened fire. All four occupants of the sampan fell into the water. The boats then broke ambush, placing fire on both banks of the river and dropping concussion

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grenades in the water. The captured sampan yielded 12 full AK-47 clips, one B-41 booster, one PRC-10 field radio, three AK-50's, one grenade, and one K-54 pistol with two full magazines. There were no U. S. casualties and enemy casualties were placed at four killed.

A PBR patrol from River Division 591 set a waterborne ambush to observe the Rach Muong crossing area, four miles northwest of Ben Luc (XS 589 794) on the night of 16 June. On the way to the site, the boats proceeded north at full speed, slowed after rounding a bend in the river and then cut engines and drifted south back into ambush positions. Immediately thereafter they sighted a sampan with three occupants exiting Rach Muong and proceeding south along the east bank of the river. Due to the enemy's proximity to the bank and their distance from the patrol, heavy caliber weapons were used on the sampan when it attempted to evade. While closing the sampan a second sampan with one occupant was sighted hiding in the nippa palm apparently having followed the first sampan out of Rach Muong. As the patrol approached the second sampan a grenade was thrown at the PBR by a previously unseen second person in the boat. The grenade bounced off the gunwale of the boat and landed in the water while the PBR's took the sampan under fire and killed both occupants. As the patrol continued to close the sampan a VC on the river bank stood up and fired at the forward gunner who returned the fire and killed the man. Seawolves were called in and placed strikes on the banks as the patrol thoroughly checked the area. A 25 pound bag of rice,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of documents and some personal clothing and medical bandages were removed from the two sampans before they were destroyed. Enemy casualties were six VC killed. There were no U. S. casualties.

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Patrolling on the Vam Co Tay River near the junction of the Vam Co Tay and the Vam Co Dong (XS 715 572) during the late afternoon of 17 June, two RAID 70 boats received automatic weapons fire from the east bank. The RNN quickly suppressed the fire and continued on their patrol. ARVN troops in the proximity of the ambush site swept the area with negative results. This was the first time in three months that RAID boats have been ambushed prior to darkness.

On the night of 17 June, a Vietnamese fisherman reported that ten VC were waiting to ambush PBR's on patrol. Shortly thereafter a U. S. Intelligence report indicated a possible VC crossing point in the area the fisherman had indicated. As the patrol proceeded to the area they came under enemy fire about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Tay Ninh (XT 160 434). Fifteen RPG and recoilless rifle rounds were fired at the boats from the west bank of the river and small arms and automatic weapons fire came from both banks. One PBR received three hits which wounded four people and required the boat to be beached. The other boat received four hits and four crewmen were wounded. The boats returned the enemy fire and two additional PBR patrols and Seawolves were scrambled to the area. An hour later an additional call went out for OV-10A assistance. All aircraft placed strikes in the area with unknown results. After the strike a dustoff aircraft and Seawolves medevaced the eight wounded. The beached boat was then towed from the area. When all units were clear artillery fire was called into the area. Friendly casualties were eight wounded and two boats moderately damaged. Enemy casualties are unknown.

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A PBR patrol proceeding north on the Vam Co Dong River on the night of 18 June sighted a sampan attempting to cross from east to west about three miles northwest of Ben Luc (XS 589 787). As the patrol closed the sampan, it evaded back to the east bank and its two occupants made their escape. The sampan was retrieved and found to contain only a small amount of clothing. The patrol then proceeded south with the sampan in tow, shortly thereafter they heard AK-47 and heavy caliber automatic weapons fire somewhere further south. The units continued on and passed a RF/PF outpost with still no sign of trouble. A little more than a mile past the post (XS 583 770) the patrol came under intense automatic weapons and rocket fire, which killed the patrol officer and wounded two other navymen. The patrol returned the fire and cleared the area to the south. Dustoff and Seawolves were scrambled. As dustoff was completed, the Seawolves placed strikes in the area and Black Ponies on routine patrol were diverted to the area for additional strikes. Enemy casualties are unknown.

A PBR patrol escorting craft carrying RF/PF troops intended to relieve an overrun LRRP position on the morning of 19 June came under automatic weapons and RPG fire as the troops were being inserted four miles southwest of Tay Ninh (XT 179 408). As the boats attempted to suppress the enemy fire an additional patrol and Seawolves were scrambled to the area. The Seawolves placed strikes but enemy fire continued. The first patrol was required to clear the area and rearm. Returning with a third patrol and a monitor boat, allied forces continued to hit the enemy and then cleared the area prior to emplacement of an artillery barrage. When the artillery fire was lifted,

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the ground troops made a sweep of the area and found 50 of the enemy killed. There were no friendly casualties.

At 2022 on 20 June a Monitor and two ATC's of TU 194.9.1 with U. S. Army troops of the 2/60th Infantry Battalion of the 9th Division aboard came under B-40 and A/W fire 5 miles southeast of Ben Tre on the Vam Co Dong (XS 658 682). Units returned and suppressed the fire while clearing to the south. Artillery was not requested due to the near proximity of a friendly outpost and village. The units continued with the troop insertion mission.

Three ATC's enroute on the Vam Co Dong came under enemy B-40 and S/A fire twice during the early night hours of 20 June at points 6 and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles northwest of Tra Cu (XT 449 048 and XT 428 057). Two B-40's were received in each ambush. ATC-132-8 received one hit in the well deck causing a small fire which was quickly extinguished. One USN crewman was wounded (minor). The units continued their transit. The ambushes occurred along the same stretch of river where bunker destruction operations were conducted on the 9th and 15th of June.

Two PBR's, a Zippo and a Monitor of TU 194.9.5 on routine night patrol on the Vam Co Dong received two rockets from a position 11 miles northwest of Tra Cu (XT 402 167) at 2205 on 21 June. RAC suppressed the fire with heavy machine-gun and flame; this was followed by a firing run made by the PBR's which were trailing 150 yards behind the heavies. A second flame and firing run was made at 2215 by the RAC while PBR's at the same time set an ambush across from the area of contact. At 2245 a man attempted to enter the stern of one of the PBR's and was hit with a burst from the after .50

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caliber machine-gun. Units then cleared and placed fire into the ambush zone. The Zippo received minor damage during the firefight. No friendly personnel casualties were sustained and enemy losses were one VC killed. This same position was the scene of an ENIFF on 3 June (described earlier).

A quick reaction capability and efficient coordination among U. S. forces was evident on the night of 22 June when 3 PBR's and 3 RAC's of TU 194.9.5.1 called for air and artillery strikes against enemy positions on the banks of the Vam Co Dong River, 6 miles south of Tay Ninh (XT 191 415). While in night ambush positions, boats observed and heard enemy movements in the area. At 2025, the craft broke from ambush and placed .50 caliber fire on the enemy positions. They received return fire from both banks. OV-10 Black Pony aircraft were requested at 2025 and placed a strike in the contact zone at 2028. Artillery was requested at 2026 with the first round on deck one minute later. Additional TU 194.9.5.1 boats arrived on scene and reconned the area using all weapons including flame. No friendly casualties were suffered and known enemy casualties were two VC killed.

On 24 June, approximately two miles south of Ben Luc (XS 627 720), three RAID 71 riverine boats were on routine patrol when they came under a barrage of B-40 rocket fire. The command and communications boat (CCB) received a direct hit and GMGI D. E. Weber, the U. S. Advisor, was killed instantly by the flying shrapnel. Three other VN sailors were slightly wounded. While returning the fire, the patrol cleared the area and returned to Ben Luc. Artillery was not called in due to the proximity of friendly units.

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Just after setting an ambush for a BUSHWACK operation with members of the U. S. 82nd Airborne six miles Northwest of Ben Luc (XS 560 804), on the night of 24 June, a PBR patrol detected a sampan crossing the river and then moving north along the west bank of the river. The sampan was illuminated and a second sampan was found to be following the first. The occupants of the sampans immediately started to throw packages over the side. The patrol officer fired a warning burst at the enemy and was answered with return fire. The sampans and their occupants were destroyed. Seawolves were called in to provide cover and illumination while the patrol searched for the objects thrown over the side. No material was found and it is believed that all objects sank. There were no U. S. casualties. Enemy casualties were eight killed and two sampans destroyed.

#### Barrier Reef Campaign

During June, revisions were made to the normal Barrier Reef patrol line which extended from Tuyen Nhon on the Vam Co Tay River westward along the La Grange, Ong Lon and Dong Tien Canals to An Long on the Upper Mekong River. This patrol line was established as a connecting anti-infiltration link between the Giant Slingshot and Tran Hung Dao Campaign areas. On 6 June patrols on Barrier Reef East (Tuyen Nhon to a position west of Ap Bac) were reduced and the western portion of Barrier Reef West was extended to include portions of the Upper Mekong and Bassac Rivers and the Tan Chau/ Chau Doc Canal from An Long to Chau Doc. The reduced presence on Barrier Reef East was not considered to adversely affect the interdiction effort since the Giant Slingshot patrols to the north on the Vam Co Tay River effectively cover the area.

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and Barrier Reef East was in an effect a multiple barrier. A friendly presence will be maintained in the area by the use of ASPB's based at Tuyen Nhon on a random basis. On 17 June, the eastern boundary of Barrier Reef West was extended to Ap Bac (WS 162 727). On 20 June, the Cai Cai River (XT 547 100/WT 613 002) was also added to Barrier Reef, when six PBR's were airlifted to the river and took up their patrols at 201800.

Enemy activity throughout Barrier Reef remained low during the month with only ten hostile fire incidents reported. Enemy casualties were likewise down with two killed and an additional six probably killed. The marked decrease in enemy infiltration across the canal since 1 April was evaluated by the Task Group Commander to be the result of improvement of friendly operations. Prior to 1 April Vietnamese ground troops rarely swept beyond two kilometers from the canal. They now enthusiastically operate eight to ten kilometers inland. This in conjunction with the employment of 105mm howitzer equipped Monitors and Seawolves has seriously hindered enemy activity. Operating procedures remained the same as in past months with the use of interdiction patrols, floating night ambushes, insertion and support of ground troops, and harassment and interdiction fire.

On the morning of 23 June PBR's, with CIDG troops embarked, inserted the troops about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east of Cai Cai (WT 618 000) for a search and destroy mission. Navy personnel led the troops and located and destroyed 12 hand grenade booby traps, five bunkers and one tunnel. One Navyman set off a booby trap that resulted in four Navyman wounded, one of them seriously. There were no enemy casualties.

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Tran Hung Dao Campaign

The USN and VNN patrols and ambushes from Ha Tien northeast on the Rach Giang Thanh were uneventful as personnel and junk searches yielded negative results. On 20 and 21 June two VNN PCF's and two USN PCF's were detached from Tran Hung Dao operations leaving two USN and two VNN PCF's and ten VNN junks to conduct river patrols from the base at Ha Tien.

The intensified USN and VNN effort along the Vinh Te Canal evidently created a formidable deterrent to the enemy's infiltration attempt into Chau Doc Province as there was a notable decrease in enemy activity as the month progressed. The low water problem in the canal that restricted the waterborne patrol area in May gradually became less critical as the rains of the southwest monsoon season filled the canal. On 5 June the water was high enough to support PBR operations west to the Cay Mit Locks at grid line VS 995. The deeper drafted FOM's, junks, Zippo, and ASPB were restricted to the canal east of the north south grid line WS 060. By 23 June, PBR's were able to transit along the entire length of the canal and the junks could support operations to Tinh Binh (VS 943 719).

Firefights involving PBR's on 6 and 7 June five miles southwest of Chau Doc City (WS 100 828) occurred well to the northeast of the VC pipeline between gridlines WS 010 and WS 050. This agreed with intelligence reports that the enemy was moving his activity closer to Chau Doc City. The second and third attempts to attach explosives to PBR's in ambush positions in the Vinh Te Canal were reported on 10 June. (The first was recorded on 27 May in the upper Bassac River near the canal.) In both cases (one at

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grid line WS 056 and the second at WS 048) PBR crewmen found objects secured to the intake gates of the boats. On 15 June a PBR observed a swimmer in the canal (WS 057 802). A hull check revealed an object wedged in the starboard intake. When it was removed it sank to the bottom and exploded. A fourth mining attempt was successful against PBR's on 25 June. (See last incident below for details). The overall efforts of the enemy to sabotage patrol craft was indicative of his desire to disrupt the patrols which have interfered with his activities.

In the entire Tran Hung Dao operational area USN and VNN forces reported 29 hostile fire incidents for the month (5 by VNN, 15 by PBR, 9 by helo and OV-10) which produced 30 VC killed (25 probable, 5 body count), 18 VC wounded, and one VC captured. Eight USN and eight VNN were wounded, and 5 USN and 3 VNN surface craft were damaged.

VNN units in night ambush positions with PBR's on the early morning of 2 June observed a PF outpost under mortar fire (WS 070 815). Both the junks and PBR's opened up on the VC positions with 60mm and 81mm mortars. The PBR's broke ambush and closed the outpost in order to medevac one seriously wounded VNN who had been manning the mortar at the outpost.

Shortly after mid-night the same day PBR's in ambush position eight miles southwest of Chau Doc (WS 012 780) observed approximately 12 VC moving toward their position. The boats opened fire and Seawolves and Army gunships were scrambled and placed strikes on the enemy positions. After the strikes ten PF's and two U. S. Army advisors conducted an immediate sweep of the area and found two dead VC and managed to capture some enemy equipment before being driven off by VC fire. The Army gunships then placed

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another strike in the area and suppressed the enemy fire. At first light another sweep was made and two more bodies were discovered along with several blood trails. Enemy casualties were listed as four killed and two AK-47 rifles and four backpacks containing 46 quarter pound blocks of TNT and C4 explosive captured. There were no friendly casualties.

On the evening of 6 June two PBR's were in night ambush positions three miles southwest of Chau Doc (WS 083 818) with five ARVN troops deployed on each bank of the canal when an estimated five VC were observed approaching their positions. The troops on the north bank initiated a firefight and the VC fled toward the border carrying one man. A few minutes later the PBR's observed a sampan apparently crossing and recrossing the canal. Illuminating the area with a pop flare the PBR's discovered three sampans in the middle of the canal. After two of the VC dove into the water, a barrage of B-40's, large caliber machine-gun and small arms was unleashed from the banks by undetected enemy. The lead PBR was hit by a B-40 and both boats took numerous small arms and automatic weapons hits. As the patrol officer tended the wounds of the forward gunner the boat glanced off some fish traps and he was thrown overboard. Both boats cleared the area and when Seawolves arrived overhead they were unable to receive sector clearance for firing due to the large number of houses in the area. A two boat reaction patrol was scrambled and managed to negotiate the low water levels with the Seawolves providing illumination. As they approached the ambush area the boats came under heavy RPG and automatic weapons fire and were unable to find the missing man. The Seawolves placed strikes in support of the

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PBR's and the boats retired to the east. Harassment and interdiction fire was then put into the area by artillery at Chau Doc. At first light a sweep of the area located the missing patrol officer who was hiding in a hay stack with only a slight wound. Many blood trails were discovered and enemy casualties were placed at ten wounded. Six Navymen were wounded in the encounter and five ARVN were also wounded (two serious).

PBR's in ambush late on the night of 11 June sighted approximately 40 Viet Cong 250 meters west of their position 16 miles southwest of Chau Doc (VS 920 690). Seawolves and Black Ponies were called and made strikes on the enemy positions. Only light ground fire was received during the attacks and that was suppressed. A ground sweep of the area produced negative results. Enemy casualties were placed at five probably killed. There were no friendly casualties.

A small group of VC were observed approaching a PBR night position seven miles southwest of Chau Doc (WS 030 789) shortly after midnight on 17 June. The units took the enemy under fire as they evaded without returning the fire. Seven VC were probably killed and there were no U. S. casualties.

Vietnamese Navy junks and troops had set an ambush on the evening of 22 June when they sighted an estimated 10 VC just east of their position. The enemy initiated the firefight with B-40, automatic weapons, and mortar fire. The VNN troops returned and suppressed the fire. The VC withdrew after fifteen minutes and although the ground units attempted to maintain contact they were unable to do so. A sweep at first light yielded only expended brass. Enemy casualties were reported as unknown.

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Early on the morning of 25 June, two PBR's returning to their base with troops embarked were 11 miles southwest of Chau Doc (VS 969 749) when a mine detonated ten meters ahead of the second boat. An immediate sweep of both banks of the canal revealed no wires and no sign of the enemy. Two Navymen were wounded in the explosion and the PBR sustained minor cracks in the hull.

#### Search Turn Campaign

At present 10 PBR's (Task Unit 116.1.3) are operating in the Gulf of Thailand, the Cai Lon River, the Rach Gia-Long Xuyen, Ba The, and Triton Canals, and various other adjoining waterways. Search Turn units are positioned to interdict southward infiltration of enemy supplies and personnel from the Seven Mountains area of Chau Doc Province. During June, a force of 10 PBR's conducted the various patrols, and the entire area was reported to be unusually quiet with enemy losses amounting to eleven killed (probable) and four captured. Ten of these were killed during two airstrikes by USN fixed wing aircraft and one as a result of PBR's action. There were no friendly casualties incurred in nine hostile fire incidents during the month. The report of "Routine patrol-negative contact" became commonplace during the month.

#### MARKET TIME RAIDER Campaign

Enemy base areas and fortifications along the navigable waterways open to coastal waters along IV CTZ were hit frequently by the combined sea, ground and air assaults of the "Swift" boat river incursion operations. Employing from two to eight PCF's supported by helicopters and OV-10 aircraft,

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43 separate missions were conducted. In the southern Ca Mau Peninsula operations on the Cua Lon, Bay Hap, Bo De, Duong Deo and Dam Doi Rivers and their tributaries were conducted with Mobile Support Force (MSF) troops embarked to conduct ground sweeps and provide a reaction force in the event of attack. Operations into the enemy secret zones at the mouths of the Bassac, Co Chien, and Ham Luong Rivers were conducted with Regional Force/Popular Force (RF/PF) troops embarked. An additional 14 missions were conducted in the normal GAME WARDEN area of operation into canals along the Bassac, Co Chien, and Ham Luong Rivers. Enemy opposition was generally light as only 18 incidents of hostile fire were encountered (three more than last month) and these were suppressed in all except one case when the location of friendly troops was uncertain. Friendly casualties were lower in June with 12 wounded and none killed.

Enemy material losses for June were 171 craft destroyed and 472 structures destroyed or heavily damaged. Although these operations continued to achieve the maximum possible damage in areas of known enemy strength, the emphasis continued on pacification of the Ca Mau Peninsula. A psychological operation began on 26 June with the Mobile Advanced Tactical Support Base located at Old Nam Can (VQ 992 673). This operation was nicknamed SEA FLOAT/TRAN HUNG DAO III and is discussed in detail within the Coastal Surveillance Force section of this summary.

On the morning of 3 June, PCF's 3, 5, 38, 50 and 93 with Regional Force (RF) troops and an Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) embarked entered the Rach Duong Keo (WQ 005 444) and conducted raids on known Viet Cong living areas. Under OV-10 and Seawolf cover the RF troops and UDT team

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were inserted five miles up the Rach Duon Keo. The PCF's and USS CROCKETT (PG-38) provided gunfire support at villages sighted by an OH-6A observation helicopter. The ground forces sweeping to the northwest entered and destroyed two villages. The houses were on stilts four feet above ground and connected by an elevated walkway. Each house had a defensive bunker nearby and these were destroyed. At mid-afternoon, as the troops became mired in waste deep mud and water the operation was terminated and the troops extracted. The days work netted 80 structures/bunkers destroyed and 9 damaged and 15 sampans destroyed. In addition one fishtrap, a barricade, three - one cylinder diesel engines, two AP mines, and 45 water jugs were destroyed and six CHICOM bolt action rifles were captured. There were no friendly casualties.

On the morning of 5 June PCF's, 67 and 100, entered a canal about 100 miles south of Saigon (XR 734 873) to fire at targets of opportunity at the request of the Sector Advisor from Thanh Phu. The area was covered by a maze of canals and swampland, believed to be impassable at low tide. During the three hour operation three canals were entered and bunkers and structures were taken under fire. The PCF's destroyed or heavily damaged 35 structures, 26 bunkers, three sampans, one large fish net and 1000 kilos of rice. Three Vietnamese males and two small children were detained. There were no friendly casualties.

On the morning of 5 June, five PCF's with UDT 13 Detachment G and RF troops from Hai Yen embarked, entered the Duong Keo River for an intended sweep along the Xeo Duong Keo River (WQ 072 567). Enroute to the target

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area, the lead boat, PCF5, received small arms fire and shrapnel hits from two claymore mines detonated from the southeast side of river. The PCF's were beached and OV-10 strikes were called into the area and Seawolves scrambled. On completion of the OV-10 strikes the ground forces were inserted and destroyed the ambush site. At noon the troops were extracted and original mission aborted. One sampan, 12 bunkers, eight structures, 15 booby traps and one mine were destroyed, while three U. S. sailors and one Vietnamese PCF trainee received minor wounds.

On the morning of 6 June, six PCF's with UDT 13 Detachment G and RF/PF troops from New Cai Nuoc entered the Bo De River to conduct a combined sweep operation along the Rach Cai Nhap from WQ 088 810 to WQ 078 775. The PCF's beached and inserted troops to sweep an area as a target of opportunity. The sweep revealed a Viet Cong training camp which was destroyed along with bunkers in the area. The troops were reinserted for a second time when an OH-6A reported a village at WQ 198 696. The troops received light sniper fire for a few seconds and swept on to the village capturing three VC flags, one sniper rifle and destroying three structures. A sweep of the main objective area revealed three hootches occupied by women and children with papers from the District Chief granting permission to live in the area. Prior to extracting troops two PCF's transitted to a reported tax station but found nothing. While exiting via the Son Cua Lon the door gunner of the OH-6A providing cover was wounded by ground fire and was the only friendly casualty sustained. The days operation netted 22 structures/bunkers and 17 sampans destroyed. Two Viet Cong were killed (body count) and two were

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wounded.

At 0300 on 10 June, four PCF's with RF troops from New Nam Can conducted a sweep two kilometers west of Old Nam Can city to search for a reported ammo cache and to check the area prior to commencement of operation SEA FLOAT. During the sweep a Viet Cong POW or base camp in the building stage was destroyed. The ground forces made no enemy contact although the OH-6A providing cover received and suppressed S/A fire with machine-gun and rocket fire. The OH-6A sighted and took under fire two evading sampans killing three and wounding one Viet Cong. The PCF's then fired at bunkers and structures spotted by the OH-6A. The PCF's extracted the troops and exited via the Cua Lon River without further contact. Fourteen structures, three bunkers, seven sampans, 300 pounds of rice and several coconuts were destroyed. There were no friendly casualties.

Five PCF's , with UDT 13 Detachment G and 60 RF/PF troops aboard, entered the Song Cua Long (VQ 810 640) to conduct a sweep of Xom Ong Dinh village (WQ 008 590) at first light on 11 June. After transiting the Rach Ong Dinh and proceeding south one B-40 rocket round exploded close aboard PCF-35 causing only minor topside damage and slightly wounding the forward M-60 gunner. It was believed the ambush was a token attempt to direct the PCF's from main objectives since further B-40 rounds and the normal supporting small arms fire were not received. Proceeding to target area the PCF's encountered two sampans and detained a 40 year old male who under questioning, provided what proved to be accurate information on

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the distribution of enemy units in the target area. The troops discovered an extensive complex along the canal network containing about 80 newly constructed structures, 150 sampans and a sampan factory. Anticipating the presence of a sizeable enemy force the PCF's requested air coverage; however, the enemy had departed the area and no contact was made. The PCF's and supporting OV-10's took the village under fire and destroyed 40 structures, 10 bunkers, one sampan factory, 42 sampans, one diesel generator and 900 pounds of rice. In addition the troops captured four longshaft engines, two sewing machines, 10 VC flags, 15 pounds of medical supplies and 3 bundles of PUNJI sticks. One Viet Cong was killed and one VN detained while the only friendly casualty was one U. S. sailor slightly wounded.

About noon on 11 June, PCF's 102, 95 and 60, Coastal Group 34 junks with R/F troops embarked entered the Rach Bang Cung (XS 232 070) to probe small canals and fire at targets of opportunity. An enemy initiated fire fight occurred about five miles up the canal. One Yabutai junk received a direct B-40 rocket hit starting a fire. After suppressing the enemy fire the units exited the canal without further contact. Enemy losses were 20 structures and two bunkers damaged and 9 sampans destroyed. Friendly casualties were two U. S. sailors and eight VN troops wounded. PCF 102 suffered two holes in the hull above the water line.

On 15 June, four PCF's were patrolling the Song Bo De and Song Cua Lon conducting harassment and interdiction (H&I) fire against a reported Viet Cong staging area and location where Seawolf units had received enemy fire (WQ 195 697). No contact was encountered as the enemy chose not

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to fight. Searching sampans in the vicinity of Old Nam Can (WQ 023 681) one 30 foot craft was captured containing 1000 rounds AK-47, 12 B-40 rocket launchers, 5 cases ammo, three large water mines, five claymore type land mines, 25 hand grenades, 20 rocket fins and assemblies and three pounds of documents. The craft was taken under tow; however, in rough seas the motor and aft section broke off and the boat sank in about 15 feet of water with all the captured weapons aboard. Only the documents were recovered. The water mines floated to the surface and were sunk by .50 caliber fire. UDT personnel later returned to the area to salvage the craft and ammo cache but were unable to locate it due to murky water and a strong current. There were no friendly casualties.

On 16 June, five PCF's with UDT 13 Detachment G and RF/PF troops from New Nam Can conducted an operation to locate a weapons cache and a VC squad reported operating in the vicinity about 10 miles northwest of New Nam Can (VQ 950 800). The troops were inserted at first light and immediately sighted 15 Viet Cong, two of which were captured as the others escaped. The troops were extracted and reinserted five miles further south to search two structures along the bank. Five pounds of documents and two VC flags were captured. At noon the PCF's with troops embarked commenced the transit to New Nam Can via the Rach Mang Do. Ten minutes later PCF 35 received five B-40 rockets, all near misses, and several bursts of A/W fire. The PCF's beached and the troops were inserted for a sweep while the area was taken under mortar fire. A VN woman and child were wounded by the mortar fire, and medevaced for treatment and returned

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to New Nam Can. After returning the troops to New Nam Can and transiting the Song Bay Hap the PCF's were again ambushed. Seawolves 12 and 15 in the area spotted the rocket fire and rolled in for strikes while the fire fight was still in progress. The VC fire was completely silenced and the PCF's exited the Song Bay Hap without further contact. The days work netted 10 sampans, five structures, nine bunkers, one store house and 600 pounds of rice destroyed and 500 pounds of rice, five pounds of documents, and two Viet Cong captured. It was estimated that two VC were killed while one U. S. sailor was wounded.

On the evening of 19 June, PCF 53 and PCF 60 entered a canal at the mouth of the Co Chien River (XR 753 856). A group of five sampans spotted by a cover helicopter were taken under fire by the Swift boats. Exiting the canal, targets of opportunity were taken under fire. There were 10 sampans and 3 structures destroyed, and 5 structures damaged. There were no friendly casualties.

On 28 June, PCF's 71, 82 and 96 with UDT 13 Detachment G embarked patrolled the Bo De and Cua Lon Rivers near the Mobile Advanced Tactical Support Base (MATSB) in support of operation SEA FLOAT. No river traffic was sighted during the transit; however, at 1600 one sampan was inspected and an occupant detained for lack of identification. An hour later seven sampans were sighted stretched across the river along a set of new fish stakes. As the PCF's approached all but one sampan attempted to evade, one to the north bank, the others to the south bank. One VC was shot when he failed to heed warning shots. UDT personnel were put ashore to round up other evaders. The seven sampans, which contained no fishing gear,

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were destroyed. One VC was killed (probable) and seven detained, including one seriously wounded. There were no friendly casualties.

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OPERATION SEA LORDS STATISTICAL SUMMARY BY CAMPAIGN (BY USN & VNN FORCES)

June 1969

	<u>GIANT SLINGSHOT</u>	<u>BARRIER REEF</u>	<u>TRAN HUNG DAO</u>	<u>SEARCH TURN</u>	<u>MARKET TIME</u>
				<u>RAIDERS</u>	
<b>Enemy casualties:</b>					
a. Killed	103 (BC) + 63 EST	2 (BC) + 6 EST	5 (BC) + 25 EST	0 (BC) + 11 EST	11 (BC) + 5 EST
b. Wounded	12	1	18	0	5
c. Captured	8	0	1	4	7
<b>USN Casualties:</b>					
a. Killed	3 USN	0	0	0	0
b. Wounded	60 USN/15 VNN	7 USN/0 VNN	8 USN/8 VNN	0	8 USN/1 VNN
c. Captured	0	0	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Enemy material losses:</b>					
a. Destroyed					
(1) Junks & sampans	29	0	0	4	171
(2) Structures	95	25	29	10	327
b. Captured					
(1) Junks & sampans	11	0	0	0	2
(2) Weapons	60	3	3	1	11
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	8,000 S/A	0	100 S/A	0	70 Mortar
(4) Rice (tons)	0	0	0	0	0
c. Damaged					
(1) Junks & sampans	0	0	0	2	12
(2) Structures	3	0	0	10	145
<b>USN material losses:</b>					
a. Destroyed					
(1) Surface craft	0	0	0	0	0
(2) Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0
b. Damaged					
(1) Surface craft	22 US/5 VNN	1 USN/1 VNN	5 USN	0	5 USN/1 VNN
(2) Aircraft	2	0	1	0	0
Hostile fire incidents:	129	10	29	9	18

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3 year intervals

Declassified after 12 years

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OPERATION SEA LORDS STATISTICAL SUMMARY BY CAMPAIGN (BY ALL FORCES PARTICIPATING)

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June 1969

	GIANT SLINGSHOT	BARRIER REEF	TRAN HUNG DAO	SEARCH TURN	MARKET TIME RAIDERS
Enemy casualties:	211 (BC) + 96 EST	17 (BC) + 6 EST	5 (BC) + 25 EST	2 (BC) + 11 EST	27 (BC) + 5 EST
a. Killed	16	1	18	0	6
b. Wounded	47	13	2	0	9
c. Captured					
Friendly casualties:					
a. Killed	13	0	0	1	0
b. Wounded	133	26	24	2	25
c. Captured	0	0	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:					
a. Destroyed					
(1) Junks & Sampans	40	0	0	4	175
(2) Structures	145	28	29	10	424
b. Captured					
(1) Junks & Sampans	13	0	0	0	2
(2) Weapons	191	4	3	2	18
(3) Ammunition	28,300 +				
(rounds)	1100 lbs. explosives	0	100	0	3,050
(4) Rice (tons)	0	0	0	0	1.5
c. Damaged					
(1) Junks & Sampans	0	0	0	2	12
(2) Structures	4	0	0	10	148
Friendly material losses:					
a. Destroyed					
(1) Surface craft	0	0	0	0	0
(2) Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0
b. Damaged					
(1) Surface craft	22 US/5VNN	1 USN/1 VNN	5 USN	0	5 USN/1 VNN
(2) Aircraft	4	1	2	0	0
Hostile fire incidents:	149	12	31	9	19

GROUP 4

Enclosure (2)

Downgraded at 3 year intervals  
Declassified after 12 years

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY  
June 1969

June commenced with the Vietnamese Navy assuming coastal patrol responsibility for the Fourth Coastal Zone, operating from the Coastal Surveillance Center at An Thoi.

As the weather and sea conditions continued to improve in the First, Second and Third Coastal Zones, detections of junks and sampans increased again in June. MARKET TIME surveillance units detected 77,368 junks and sampans, an increase of over 13,000 over May. Patrol effectiveness improved significantly as over 87% of those detected craft were either inspected or boarded. A total of 42,133 inspections and 15,259 boardings of junks and sampans resulted in the detention of 1,757 persons and 26 Viet Cong suspects. "Swift" boats operating in the normal GAME WARDEN river patrol areas of the Bassac and Co Chien Rivers detected 3,176 craft, inspected 1,326 and boarded 1,328. Task Force 116 units assumed patrol responsibility for the lower Ham Luong River at 0800 on 2 June. There were 708 steel hull detections in the MARKET TIME patrol area. No suspicious activities were disclosed by 424 inspections and 48 boardings.

Operation SEA TIGER in the First Coastal Zone on the Cua Dai River continued at a slower pace as the enemy avoided contact, with eight instances of hostile fire and two enemy mine attacks recorded. The units participated in 78 gunfire support missions, and supported nine ground operations along the river. Friendly casualties were one U.S. sailor wounded while three Swift boats received light damage.

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3 year intervals  
Declassified after 12 years

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Enemy material losses to SEA TIGER forces decreased from May with 15 junks and sampans and 90 structures destroyed and 17 Viet Cong killed (5 body count and 12 probable).

In June normal MARKET TIME patrols conducted 452 naval gunfire support missions, suppressed hostile fire on 36 occasions and took four evading craft under fire. In addition units provided blocking patrols or inserted troops along the coast in direct support of eight ground operations. Enemy material losses were 60 junks or sampans destroyed and 12 damaged. A total of 175 structures were destroyed and 200 structures heavily damaged. Friendly casualties were four U.S. sailors wounded and five Swift boats lightly damaged.

Swift boats conducting Operation SEA LORDS river incursions (Market Time Raiders) in III and IV CTZ continued to score heavily against the enemy with 43 multi-craft missions carried out during the month. (These operations are discussed under Market Time Raiders in the Operation SEA LORDS summary).

During June SEAL units attached to Task Force 115 carried out nine special operations in the coastal area. During these operations five made significant enemy contact resulting in 13 VC killed (body count) and three Viet Cong captured.

A new operation entitled SEA FLOAT/TRAN HUNG DAO III, which involves Swift boat participation, was activated on 27 June. This is a joint USN/VNN operation to establish a secure floating Vietnamese market place on the Cua Lon River. The VNN will use the name TRAN HUNG DAO III. This operation is further discussed later.

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At 0300 on the morning of 1 June, Coastal Group 14 (CG-14) skimmers investigated suspicious stakes on the beach 11 miles north of Nha Trang (BP 995 750) and received sniper fire. The stakes were arranged in the manner used by the VC to sight the B-40 rocket. By starlight scope an unlighted sampan that evaded a few minutes earlier was sighted beached along with 20-30 VC. The VC opened fire which was returned by the skimmers while exiting the area to the south. At the same time VC in ambush positions behind log bunkers opened fire with automatic weapons and B-40 rockets, with one B-40 rocket exploding 30 meters from the CG-14 skimmer. PCF 48 standing by to provide cover silenced the enemy guns with heavy M-79 mortar and M-60 machine gun fire. There were no friendly casualties while five Viet Cong were probably killed.

Early on the morning of 5 June five SEALs and one LDNN were inserted by Boston Whaler, 12 miles southeast of Old Nam Can in An Xuyen Province (WQ 065 521) to detain an inhabitant of the area for interrogation. Proceeding west parallel to the beach for 1,000 meters and then inland on a well defined trail two Viet Cong males were apprehended. In the ensuing interrogation the younger detainee attempted to flee and was taken under fire and killed. As the SEALs resumed the patrol seven vacant hootchs were searched, the occupants having fled upon hearing shots. The patrol mission was then considered compromised and the SEALs extracted without further incident. There were no friendly casualties while one VC was killed and another detained. In addition 400 pounds of rice and one diesel engine were destroyed.

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On the morning of 9 June while in special MARKET TIME operations the Pt. ARDEN (USCGC WPB) and Pt. WELCOME (USCGC WPB) provided naval gunfire support for a Coastal Group 16 (CG-16) landing party, 11 miles southeast of Quang Ngai (BS 775 585). Seven bunkers, five hootches, 16 sampans and six piles of fishing net were destroyed by mortar fire. In addition three sampans were captured and returned to Da Nang for disposition. There were no friendly casualties.

During normal MARKET TIME operations the afternoon of 14 JUNE, USS ASHEVILLE (PG-84) stopped and searched a cargo junk about 14 miles east of Quang Ngai (BT 91 75). The junk was bound from Sa Quynh to Cu Lao Re with cargo and 35 Vietnamese civilians aboard. The following unmanifested cargo was found: 100 pounds rice, 75 pounds wheat, 100 pounds beans, one bail sand bags, three bags C-ration peanut butter, three cases assorted candy, 10 cases Coca Cola, 10 cases beer, eight cases of Vietnamese cigarettes and 10 cartons of Salem cigarettes. The manifest had been signed by a Hamlet Chief and not by required authority. Despite pleas from the junk master to sail to Cu Lao Re to contact friends, the junk and passengers were detained and turned over to PCF 20 for further transfer to the Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO) at Quang Ngai for disposition.

On the morning of 16 June while on normal Market Time patrol Pt. Kennedy (USCGC WPB) provided gunfire support as requested by the Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer of the U.S. Army Americal Division. The target was a village about 14 miles southeast of Quang Ngai (BS 781 517) that had been the origin of hostile fire the previous evening. Three structures

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were completely destroyed, two were heavily damaged and several secondary explosions and fires were started by the Pt. Kennedy's 81mm mortar and .50-caliber machine guns. There were no friendly casualties.

On the morning of 18 June PCF 81 and PCF 39 conducted a normal SEA TIGER patrol in the Troung Giang River while patrolling about 14 miles south of Da Nang (BT 15 51). Both Swift boats received sporadic small arms fire from an irrigation ditch and tree line. With sector clearance the area was taken under fire with 81mm mortar and .50 caliber machine guns. Four sampans were destroyed, two bunkers were damaged and five Viet Cong were killed (probable). No friendly personnel or material damage was sustained.

On the night of 24 June PCF's 15 and 61, while conducting a SEA TIGER patrol on the Troung Giang River about 16 miles south-southeast of Da Nang (BT 171 519), observed a sampan moving from west to east. PCF 15 utilized proper warning procedures but the sampan continued to evade and was taken under fire and destroyed. Three bodies were recovered from the debris. Two survivors tried to evade and were killed. An elderly female in shock, but otherwise uninjured was taken from the water. Continuing the patrol the PCF's received automatic weapons fire and they suppressed it. Four sampans were damaged but the occupants successfully evaded. Departing the area PCF 61 struck a submerged object with it's screws and sustained minor damage. There were no friendly casualties while five VC were killed (body count) and one female was captured.

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While on MARKET TIME patrol, PCF 68 sighted an explosion at 0420 on 28 June and sped to the location which was approximately 63 miles southeast of Phan Thiet (BM 860 700). The PCF arrived at the scene of a mid air collision between a U.S. Airforce F-100 and H-43B rescue helicopter, found debris, and immediately began a search of the area for survivors but with negative results. At 0500, the wingman of the downed aircraft reported five persons in the water to all units participating in the search and rescue operation. PCF 68 proceeded immediately to the position some 2½ miles northeast of the wreckage and recovered one airman, while rescue helos from Cam Ranh Bay recovered four others. All personnel involved in the collision were saved; and were in apparent good health. The survivor aboard the Swift was taken to Phan Rang for further transfer to his unit.

At 2230 on the night of 28 June PCF 54 and PCF 93 and a SEAL team entered a canal at the mouth of the Co Chien River (XR 750 857). The SEALs were inserted about three miles up the canal on a pre-planned ambush mission, while the Swifts stood by to provide fire support. About four hours later the SEALs activated the ambush on a sampan while the PCF's also opened fire. The SEALs were extracted without further contact. Enemy casualties were seven Viet Cong killed (body count) and one sampan sunk. There were no friendly casualties.

Operation SEA FLOAT/TRAN HUNG DAO III (discussed in the Psychological and Civic action summary) began on 27 June under the operational control of Commander Task Force 115. The mission as defined in CTF 115 Operation Order 2-69 is to provide Logistical and

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Communication assistance as required to support PSYOPS programs in the lower Ca Mau Peninsula.

The rules of engagement for this combined U.S. VNN operation provide that all practical means will be employed to limit the risk to lives and property of friendly forces and civilians and that all sampans on the Cua Lon and Bo De Rivers and adjacent canals and streams will be stopped and searched by patrolling units whenever possible. Evasion by a sampan does not in itself constitute a hostile act, and such sampans will not be taken under fire unless occupants are armed, or commit a clearly hostile act, or unless contraband is visible. Offensive bunkers and fortifications, known VC base complexes or support facilities will be destroyed. POW camps may be searched, but not destroyed unless an enemy initiated firefight requires its destruction to protect friendly forces. Specific intelligence indicating offensive action by the enemy will be acted upon to destroy the enemy and his capability. All forces will undertake to conduct a positive PSYOPS operation to demonstrate the GVN presence and sincerity to improve living conditions in the lower Ca Mau Peninsula.

On the afternoon of 24 June six Swift boats escorted the initial SEA FLOAT units into the Bo De River (WQ 255 662) to Old Nam Can (VQ 992 673). During the transit two white flags were sighted on the west bank of the river and two vertical stakes were sighted on the east bank. (WQ 215 683). The flags were believed to mark B-40 rocket firing sites,

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with the vertical poles defining the fire zone. The enemy was not encountered. The following two days were also uneventful as the transit to Old Nam Can was completed and the Mobile Advanced Tactical Support Base was anchored and became operational.

PCFs 21, 52 and 40 with the VNN PSYOPS team embarked patrolled west on the Cua Lon River. Upon reaching the Rach Ong Trang (VQ 866 603) two VC flags were sighted and PCF 40 entered the canal while the other units provided cover. Two B-40 rockets passed over PCF 40 and only one detonated. The Swifts suppressed the fire with unknown results. Two VC propaganda signs were later sighted at VQ 927 607 and VQ 932 611 which read "We kill Americans. Vietnamese soldiers stay out".

An incident on 29 June marred an otherwise uneventful four days of psyops campaigns as Operation SEA FLOAT continued. A command detonated device exploded in an abandoned sampan which PCF 52 was investigating, about six miles northeast of Nam Can (WQ 074 702). There were no personnel casualties while the Swift sustained five broken windows and minor damage to the fathometer.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY  
JUNE 1969

During the month of June there were a number of relocations of TF 116 assets as GAME WARDEN forces responded to enemy activity and expanded their area of operations. On 9 June a river division was relocated to the upper Saigon River to patrol the area between Phu Cuong (WT 808 134) and Dau Tieng (WT 483 468). Two days later the southern limit of this patrol area was extended by four miles (XT 845 080).

In order to counter the increasing enemy rocket attacks on Free World shipping in the Long Tau Channel leading to Saigon, (15 such attacks this month), COMNAVFORV conceived a special RSSZ operation designed to prevent the attacks by destruction of known VC base areas, havens, lines of communications and sources of supply in the Nhon Trach District of Bien Hoa Province, about 19 miles southeast of Saigon. The operation, in the DOAN 10 area of the RSSZ was coordinated by the Commanding General, II Field Force Victor and was conducted from 0600, 24 June until 2400, 30 June. Participating units included two battalions of the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Force (about 2,000 men) reinforced by Vietnamese Regional Force Companies and National Police; one company of the 1st Australian Task Force reinforced by a Regional Force Company; U.S. Army helicopters; one company of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in the

GROUP 4  
Downgraded at 3 year intervals  
Declassified after 12 years

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capacity of a ready reaction team; Vietnamese Navy RAG's; Vietnamese Regional Force Companies and U.S. Navy units under CTG 116.9 including SEALs, PBRs, ASPBs and a Zippo. Overall results of the operation were 51 Viet Cong killed (44 body count and 7 probable) and two POW's. Allied casualties were limited to one Thai killed, 23 Thai wounded and two US wounded.

The foregoing in conjunction with another joint operation, CHOUNG DCUNG 29-69, which involved the use of Vietnamese Regional Force troops, U.S. Navy PBR's, SEALs and Vietnamese LDNN's against VC base camps in the RSSZ and increased aerial surveillance and PBR patrols were believed to have greatly hindered the enemy's freedom of movement and stop the attacks on friendly shipping which ceased after 21 June.

In addition to the special efforts expended in the Rung Sat Special Zone, GAME WARDEN forces maintained their pressure on the enemy throughout the remainder of the Mekong Delta area and continued their participation in the ongoing SEA LORDS interdiction campaigns - Giant Slingshot, Barrier Reef, Tran Hung Dao, and Search Turn. At the end of the month there were 207 PBRs assigned to Task Force 116. SEA LORDS campaigns (TF 194) were supported by 106 of these boats and the remainder were employed in normal GAME WARDEN functions and those portions of the interdiction campaigns which came under the operational control of CTF 116.

Patrols conducted in the execution of GAME WARDEN resources and population control patrols were down somewhat this month with Enclosure (4)

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2,234 two boat patrols conducted. Detections, inspection and boarding were likewise down standing at 178,687; 50,707 and 42,014 respectively. Other employment of GAME WARDEN forces included canal incursions for waterborne traffic inspection, distribution of PSYOPS material, intelligence gathering, and general familiarization; daily chain drag sweeps of the Long Tau shipping channel; support of SEAL and PRU operations; nighttime waterborne ambushes; transportation and support of Regional and Popular Forces; MEDCAPs and Psychological Warfare operations.

GAME WARDEN aircraft assets at the end of the month were 30 Seawolves (UH-1B), six of which were supporting SEA LORDS operations and 14 Black Ponies (OV-10A) six supporting SEA LORDS. These aircraft accounted for over 850 flight hours in combat missions in addition to their normal surveillance patrols. A breakdown of these hours follows (GAME WARDEN/SEA LORDS):

	<u>PRE-PLANNED STRIKES</u>	<u>REACTION STRIKES</u>	<u>TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY</u>	<u>SUPPORT MISSIONS</u>
UH-1B	45/112	37/42	116/46	40/60
OV-10A	49/83	56/23	31/83	31/17

On 5 June Captain Joseph R. Faulk, USN, relieved Captain Arthur W. Price, Jr., USN, as Commander River Patrol Force at the PBR base at Binh Thuy, Vietnam.

#### GAME WARDEN PBR, UH-1B, and OV-10A Operations

On the evening of 9 June, two OV-10A's placed strikes in support of ground troops in contact with enemy forces, ten miles south of Vinh Long (XS 110 160). Heavy automatic weapons fire was received from the enemy positions but there were no Navy casualties. Enemy

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casualties from the strikes were two killed, five probably killed and 10 wounded.

Seawolves were called upon to support Vietnamese ground troops from Don Nhon who were in heavy contact with the enemy, 12 miles west of Ben Tre (XS 325 295) on 12 June. The helos received moderate automatic weapons fire while placing their strikes but no damage was sustained. Enemy casualties were listed as four killed and seven others probably killed.

While heading north on the Ham Luong River on routine patrol on the night of 13 June, PBRs 713 and 774 established a radar contact which they closed on and illuminated, discovering a heavily loaded sampan. This was taken under fire by machine gun and grenade launcher. The occupants of the sampan retaliated with several bursts of automatic weapons fire and then dove into the water as the PBR's continued the attack. Several swimmers in the water raised their hands and were taken aboard. A total of four prisoners were taken, one of which was wounded. The captured sampan contained a variety of military gear such as ponchos, hammocks, mosquito nets, canteens and web belts in addition to some medicine, rice, cooking utensils, 40,200 Piasters, a Chicom radio, 200 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 30 rounds of Chicom ammunition, a Chicom pistol, and 11 pounds of documents. Interrogation of the prisoners by NILO Ben Tre produced the following information: One POW, the sampan pilot, was attached to a Mo Cay district enemy Commo-Liaison unit and was making the first of two scheduled trips when the PBR's made contact. The sampan had 20 occupants and an additional 10 VC were to have made the second

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trip. The sampan made frequent crossings with the crossing points varying every evening. Another POW was a member of the VC Signal Corps and was in possession of top secret code books. The sampan was reported to have contained six AK-47s, four M-1's, and eight M-2's. PBR's dragged the bottom in the contact area and Navy divers from the Mobile Riverine Force searched the bottom but were unable to locate the missing weapons. Enemy casualties were listed as one killed, 15 probably killed and four captured. There were no U.S. casualties. This incident took place approximately four miles northwest of Ben Tre (XS 444 328).

Black Ponies 5 and 7 (OV-10A's) placed strikes on an estimated company of VC, 14 miles southeast of Can Tho (WR 999 889) on the evening of 17 June. Sampans and structures in the area were also taken under fire during the strike which resulted in six VC probably killed, two structures destroyed, and five sampans and four structures damaged. There were no U.S. casualties.

Units of River Division 574 on routine patrol in the post midnight hours of 19 June observed an enemy attack on a Vietnamese outpost, six miles southeast of Can Tho (WS 942 009). The PBR's made a high speed run through the area in an attempt to pin point the ambush site. During the run three mortar rounds detonated near the boats, spraying them with shrapnel and causing a minor injury to one crewman. The patrol located one enemy automatic weapons position and directed suppressive fire into that area. The area around the outpost is heavily populated and the boats restricted themselves to firing only on those positions which could be positively identified.

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OV-10A aircraft and a second PBR patrol arrived on the scene to assist. A Viet Cong mortar position was identified after the area was illuminated. The Black Ponies then placed numerous strikes on this position while receiving heavy automatic weapons fire and causing a large secondary explosion. PBR's and OV-10A's were able to suppress the fire approximately two hours after the enemy initiated the ambush. Enemy casualties were given as 25 VC probably killed and four sampans destroyed. Navy casualties were one man slightly wounded and minor material damage to the PBR hulls.

On 23 June, four PBR's were escorting a RAG 24 convoy to a troop insertion point when the two PBR's bringing up the rear came under rocket and automatic weapons fire from the west bank of the Saigon River, approximately 12 miles northwest of Phu Cuong. A 107mm rocket impacted on one of the boats and killed two Navymen and wounded two others, one of whom subsequently died from his wounds. The cover boat immediately opened fire on the enemy positions and the other two boats towed the stricken PBR from the kill zone. All boats then beached and the troops were inserted for a sweep. Contact was initially established but the enemy broke off and left the area. A bunker/tunnel complex was discovered and later destroyed by artillery fire. Enemy casualties were unknown.

During mid-morning of 25 June, PBR's of TE 116.9.1.8 while supporting RF companies 361 and 999 in an operation CHUONG DUONG 29-69 mission, observed a camouflaged sampan on the bank of a canal, 16 miles

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southeast of Saigon (YS 122 765). As the units approached the sampan an RPG was fired from the bank of the canal and landed between the boats. The PBR's returned the fire and a Navy LHFT and an Airforce Forward Air Control aircraft which were airborne over the Long Tau shipping channel were directed to the area. A second Navy LHFT was scrambled from Nha Be. Black Ponies also arrived and placed strikes on the enemy positions with unknown results. The RF companies and their U.S. advisors were then inserted by PBR's and ASPB's for a sweep of the area. The troops made brief contact with the enemy; Navy Seawolves provided close support after which the VC broke contact. The sweep continued with no immediate action. A VC hospital was discovered and four kilos of documents were seized along with five additional sampans heavily laden with rice and cooking utensils. The sweep continued throughout the day and caches of arms and food were taken. In early afternoon ground contact was again established resulting in 12 VC killed and two wounded VC captured. A Navy helo's engine was hit by automatic weapons fire during the attempt to Medevac a wounded RF; the damaged craft was able to land at a friendly base from which it was eventually lifted by a CH-47 to Nha Be. Results of the day's operation were 13 VC killed and two captured and three tons of rice, 17 B-40 rockets, 5 B-41 rockets, 6 rocket boosters, seven machine guns, five grenades and one case of soap captured. Friendly casualties were one RF killed, two RF wounded and one Navyman wounded.

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The USS Monmouth County (LST-1032), heading south on the lower Bassac River on the morning of 29 June, came under rocket, mortar and heavy automatic weapons fire, approximately 15 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 050 915). PBR's in the area at the time of the attack joined the Monmouth County in returning the enemy fire. It was estimated that 20 rockets and 10 mortar rounds were fired at the ship and that the automatic weapons fire came from at least 15 different positions. Two rockets hit the Monmouth County, wounding six men. A USNS LST following the Monmouth County was stopped by the PBR's before it entered the kill zone and eventually passed through the area, under PBR escort, without incident. After the two LST's cleared the area the PBR's kept the ambush site under observation and sighted four civilians departing the area. The civilians were apprehended and questioned at Phong Thuan District Headquarters where they indicated that 20 to 30 VC had precipitated the ambush which had originally been targeted for the PBR's. The men stated they believed the enemy were still in the area and 20 PF troops were immediately sent to the ambush site. Contact was made as soon as the troops were inserted and the VC were taken under machine gun and small arms fire. Five VC were seen fleeing the area and a subsequent sweep of the area resulted in no further contact. Enemy casualties were unknown.

GAME WARDEN SEAL Operations

Reacting to intelligence on 7 June, a force of 10 SEALs, two LDNN's, and two Hoi Chanhs were inserted by Mike boat, 12 miles west Enclosure (4)

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of My Tho (XS 312 405). They patrolled north and then west to a place where 50 VC were believed to be housed. Before dawn, they set a three fire team ambush outside three hootches and observed VC activity. Black Pony aircraft were ordered to take positions over the My Tho River and await the initiation of the ambush. At 0605 the ground forces opened fire and then the aircraft placed strikes on the enemy positions. Twenty-five minutes later the SEALs broke the ambush and returned to the river under Seawolf cover for extraction by Mike boat. There were no friendly casualties. Enemy casualties were 26 killed and nine wounded.

As part of Operation CHUONG DUONG 29-69, seven SEALs and one LDNN established a special ambush position within the Rung Sat Special Zone, about 18 miles southeast of Saigon (YS 154 774) **on the evening of 23 June. While in ambush, the SEALs took four Viet Cong approaching in a sampan under fire and killed them. The sampan containing one B-41 rocket launcher and several rounds was subsequently destroyed. There were no friendly casualties.**

On the evening of 26 June, nine SEALs, three Hoi Chans and one LDNN departed My Tho by truck for an outpost approximately 10 miles to the east. On arrival they received notification of VC activity and then patrolled south of the outpost and established a trail ambush (XS 679 409). Shortly afterwards two VC walked through the area and were taken under fire and killed. Five more VC seen running approximately fifty meters from the ambush site were also taken under

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fire and two were killed. At this point the friendly troops began taking automatic weapons fire from a treeline northwest of their position and Seawolves were scrambled. The SEALs then patrolled north while awaiting the arrival of the Seawolves. By this time the original ambush site appeared to have been overrun as heavy automatic weapons fire was heard from that area. The helos arrived and provided overhead cover for the friendlies as they returned to the outpost. There were no friendly casualties. Enemy casualties were four killed.

On the same evening, in connection with Operation CHUONG DUONG 29-69, three SEALs and six RF's set an ambush on the south bank of a canal 13 miles south of Saigon in the Rung Sat Special Zone (YS 078 778). After five hours of waiting one sampan with four VC was observed approaching from the west. The sampan was fired on and all four occupants were killed. A search of the sampan uncovered one AK-47 with a full magazine, 50 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 15 pounds of assorted clothing, and a half kilo of documents. The Sampan was then destroyed. There were no friendly casualties.

Three SEALs on another operation CHUONG DUONG 29-69 mission were joined with four LDNN's and inserted by LSSC 19 miles southeast of Saigon (YS 179 775) on the night of 26 June to establish an ambush site. Two hours after insertion an LCM that was working with the SEALs came under fire. The LCM crewmembers returned and suppressed the enemy fire wounding two VC. The SEAL squad remained in ambush positions for another two hours before sighting a sampan with two males

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aboard. The sampan was fired on and one body fell overboard and the second man managed to crawl to the other bank. An LSSC was called for and the SEALs checked the area and found the second man dead. The friendlies were then extracted and returned to Nha Be. There were no friendly casualties.

"Swift" Boat GAME WARDEN Operations

In June, Task Group 115.3 PCF's continued to conduct routine patrols in the normal GAME WARDEN operating areas in lower Ham Luong and Co Chien Rivers. Patrol duties for the lower Ham Luong River were shifted back to TG 116.3 at 0800, 2 June and TG 115.3 assumed patrol of the lower Bassac River. Junk and Sampan detections by PCF's dropped about 50% from May with 3,176 recorded. Of these, 1,326 were inspected and 1,328 were boarded resulting in the detention of 25 junks and 86 suspicious persons.

In addition to normal patrol operations "Swift" boats on the Bassac and Co Chien Rivers provided security for Phung Hiep and Soc Trang rock barges and escort services for tugs. Other PCF's supported 15 ground operations and conducted 54 naval gunfire support missions. Hostile fire was received and suppressed on seven occasions, while one evading craft was taken under fire. Ten junks or sampans and nine structures were destroyed and three structures damaged. Ground sweeps netted 11 Viet Cong killed (7 body count, 4 probable), three Viet Cong wounded and 14 VC captured, including an Assistant District Chief.

On the morning of 4 June, PCF's 11, 32 and 37 entered a small river off the Ham Luong to pick up the Sector Advisor and RF troops

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and insert them about 45 miles southwest of Saigon (XS 483 204). The PCF's then stood by as a blocking force and to provide close-in fire support. The three Swifts received small arms fire from an ambush position near the exit area which was quickly suppressed. Upon completion of the ground troop's reconnaissance sweep they were extracted by the PCF's and returned to their home base. The ground troops accounted for one VC killed and 12 suspects detained. The Swifts destroyed five bunkers/structures and damaged six others and captured one sampan. There were no friendly casualties.

On the evening of 7 June a Coastal Group 36 junk detained a water taxi carrying an elderly female, two boys and three kilos of medical supplies on the Bassac River, about 65 miles southwest of the capital (XR 220 780). An 11 year old boy confessed to obtaining the medical supplies from the Viet Cong for 500 Piasters and had done so on previous occasions. Since a rendezvous was scheduled between the VC and the water taxi, PCF 28 was requested to provide assistance for an ambush. The water taxi with an ambush team embarked then proceeded to the rendezvous point (XR 272 690). When the Viet Cong pick-up personnel arrived a firefight began and PCF 28 quickly provided suppressing fire. The ambush successfully completed, the Swift took the water taxi in tow and exited the canal receiving and suppressing small arms fire. There were no friendly casualties and no material damage was sustained. One Viet Cong was killed, seven were captured and three suspects were detained. In addition one sampan motor was

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captured and two sampans destroyed.

At noon on 8 June PCF's 28 and 103 embarked PRUs and advisors from Ba Xuyen Sector, about 38 miles southeast of Sa Dec (XR 183 758) for special ground sweep operations. Following the troop insertion, about 10 miles down the Bassac River, the Swifts silenced enemy harassing fire. During the sweep the PRU troops, guided by Hoi Chanh, destroyed one structure occupied by a Viet Cong doctor. The troops were extracted and while exiting the small canal to the north, heavy small arms fire was received by both patrol boats. The enemy fire was quickly suppressed. One PRU suffered a minor shrapnel wound for the only friendly casualty. Two Hoi Chan families were extracted and three suspicious persons detained. In addition five structures were destroyed and 10 enemy mines and various machine shop equipment was captured.

On the morning of 12 June, PCF's 28 and 59 provided blocking force and gunfire support for two Coastal Group 36 Junks and ambush teams and fourteen Long Phu PRUs conducting a search for a reported enemy rice cache about 54 miles southeast of Sa Dec (XR 292 629). The troops received heavy small arms fire about an hour after insertion. With the PRU advisor acting as spotter the Swifts silenced the enemy fire. The troops located and burned the rice cache about 300 meters from where they were inserted. They were then extracted by the waiting PCF's. The action resulted in one Viet Cong killed (body count) and one VC wounded in addition to destroying 1,200 kilos of rice. There were no friendly casualties.

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On the morning of 18 June, PCF 59, Coastal Group 36 Junks and a Long Phu PRU team conducted a ground sweep off a canal about 57 miles southeast of Sa Dec (XR 365 615). Sweeping to the southwest to find enemy personnel the PRU team made contact with the enemy and requested PCF 59 to provide immediate gunfire support. Firing at a range of 2,700 meters with friendly troops within 100 meters of the target area the enemy fire was quickly suppressed by the Swift's accurate 81mm mortar fire. The PRU forces were then extracted after killing two Viet Cong (body count), wounding two more and capturing one. One sampan was destroyed while there were no friendly casualties.

At 0930 on the morning of 28 June two Coastal Group 36 Junks inserted 30 PRU troops and advisors from Phong Phu, about 54 miles southeast of Sa Dec (XR 340 618). PCF's 11 and 67 were positioned about a mile to the north to act as a blocking force and to provide gunfire support. Approximately 15 minutes following insertion of the ground troops heavy enemy fire was encountered and the Swifts were requested to make .50-caliber firing runs on the enemy positions. Following the first run the Viet Cong were evading toward the PRU troops position as the PCF's laid in 81mm mortar fire on them. Soon thereafter, however, the enemy broke contact. The PRUs were extracted at 1100 without further incident. There were no friendly casualties while two Viet Cong were killed (body count) and two VC captured. In addition four sampans and one structure were destroyed.

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Merchant shipping on the Long Tau channel to Saigon continued to receive increased enemy attention during the month of June as 15 enemy attacks took place. On two occasions merchantmen took rocket hits; no casualties and only minor damage resulted. Allied response on the immediate tactical level consisted of air and waterborne strikes into the suspected enemy positions and ground sweeps by Vietnamese troops. Two special joint operations, DOAN-10 and CHUONG DUONG 29-69 (described earlier) were conducted in the Rung Sat Special Zone and in the Nhon Trach District of Bien Hoa Province (see beginning of this enclosure) in order to counter the rising trend of merchant ship attacks. There was a cessation of attacks on friendly allied shipping after 21 June and the improved situation was ascribed to the effectiveness of these joint operations.

A summary of the attacks follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SHIP'S NAME</u>
1 June	SS Vantage Progress
6 June	SS Oregon Bear
6 June	USNS P. F. Petrarca *
6 June	SS Texaco Britannia
9 June	SS Green Bay (two attacks)
9 June	SS Central Ocean
11 June	SS U.S. Pilot USNS Muskingum
12 June	SS Buckeye Victory *

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>SHIP'S NAME</u>
13 June	SS American Scout
14 June	Wako Maru
15 June	SS M. M. Dant
16 June	SS Aluca
17 June	USNS LST 551
20 June	SS Korenia
21 June	USNS Provo SS President Monroe

\* Signifies successful attacks

Attacks on 11 and 21 June involved two ships.

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MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE SUMMARY

June 1969

Two events which took place in June significantly affect the composition and future employment and status of the Mobile Riverine Force:

1. The 2nd Brigade, U.S. Ninth Infantry Division is scheduled to redeploy and phase out of MRF operations during July and August as a consequence of President Nixon's announcement, made at the Midway Island conference, that 25,000 American servicemen would be redeployed from South Vietnam by the end of August.

2. A large reduction in U.S. Navy river assault craft assets took place as a total of 64 RAC, valued at \$18.5 million, were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy under the ACTOV program.

A substantial portion of the 1,200 Navymen affected by the withdrawal announcement will come from the MRF. Coincident with the RAC turnover, sailors with less than three months tour time remaining will be made available for redeployment. Also scheduled for redeployment are the Navy MRF staff, and the MRF support ships USS MERCER (APB-39), USS NUECES (APB-40), USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST-1169), and APL-26.

The 64 assault craft turnover took place in three phases on 10, 15 and 21 June. Specific craft turned over are shown in the table following:

GROUP 4  
Downgraded at 3 year intervals  
Declassified after 12 years

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<u>CRAFT</u>	<u>10 June</u>	<u>15 June</u>	<u>21 June</u>	<u>Total</u>
ATC	12	12	11	35
ASPB	8	8		16
MONITOR	2	3 (1 Zippo)	3 (1 Zippo)	8
CCB	2	1	1	4
Refueler	1			1
Total:	<u>25</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>64</u>

Vietnamese sailors have undergone on the job training while integrated with U.S. RAC crews during the past several months in preparation for the operation of the craft.

River Assault Squadrons 9 & 11 were decommissioned on 10 and 27 June respectively. The 97 RAC which remain in TF 117 are assigned between River Assault Squadron 13 & 15 as follows:

<u>CRAFT</u>	<u>River Assault Squadron 13</u>		<u>River Assault Squadron 15</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>RAD 131</u>	<u>RAD 132</u>	<u>RAD 151</u>	<u>RAD 152</u>	
ATC	14	14	14	14	56
ASPB	6	6	6	6	24
Monitor	3	2	3	2	10
CCB	2	1	1	1	5
Refueler	0	1	0	1	2
Total:	<u>25</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>97</u>

After turnover, RAC employment during June was as shown below:

	<u>ASPB</u>	<u>ATC</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>CGB</u>	<u>Refueler</u>	<u>Total</u>
Support of 2nd Brigade U.S. 9th Infantry Div.	17	30	4	4	2	57
Operation Giant Slingshot/ Barrier Reef		7	5	1		13
Rung Sat Special Zone Operation	3	1				4
Base Defense *	3	13				16
Overhaul/Casualty Reports	1	5	1			7
TOTALS	<u>24</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>97</u>

\* Three MSM's chopped from CTG 116.9 to TF 117 are assigned to base defense.

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TG 117.1 Operations

Mobile Riverine Force activities were concentrated primarily in Kien Hoa Province during June and consisted primarily of assault landings, troop sweeps and ambush, blocking force, escort, sniper and burn/defoliation missions, although psyops and medical civic action programs were conducted as well. Riverine assault operations of limited duration also took the MRF into Go Cong, Long An and Vinh Binh Provinces. The total of 544 enemy killed by MRF forces, although substantial, was the lowest figure since January 1969, indicating a reduced tempo of operations.

Enemy initiated activity on the rivers was also down this month as assault craft and the Mobile Riverine Base (MRB) were subjected to hostile fire on 14 occasions, as compared to 34, 27, 33, 12, 25 such ENIFF's January through May. As a result of the firefights, one U.S. Navyman and four soldiers were killed, and 30 USN and 22 USA were wounded. There were no ENIFF's during the last eight days of the month; this reflected both a decrease in enemy activity as well as a reduced employment of RAC after the turnover.

Reported during the month were 1,037 combat boat missions and 662 boat missions in support of base defense and MRB relocation (2 days of boat missions are unreported) for a daily average of 36 combat and 24 support missions daily.

Burn/Defoliation missions were conducted throughout the month along the Xang Canal and Rach Cam bordering Dong Tam on the west to eliminate enemy infiltration areas. The continuing operation is in

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response to requests from the 9th Division.

**Significant** enemy caches were found by 3/47th Infantry Battalion troops along the east Ba Lai River on 22 and 23 June.

Several medcaps/dentcaps were held by TF 117 personnel in villages within the MRF operating area on the 8th, 12th and 18th of the month in the continuing program of civic actions.

Night sniper missions were carried on with good effect throughout the month of June resulting in a total of 35 VC killed and three detainees captured from a sampan violating curfew. Sniper teams of the 6/31st Infantry Battalion, transported by ATC's 151-9, 132-3 and 132-9, made contact on seven separate occasions during the month. Enemy casualties due to sniper fire were especially heavy on the night of 7-8 June when a team spotted 13 VC by Night Observation Device. The VC were moving on the north bank of the My Tho River carrying what appeared to be rockets or mortars, when the marksmen took them under fire resulting in 13 Viet Cong KIA.

At 2010 on 1 June, seven RAC of RAD 151 were supporting the 5/60 Infantry Division of the 3rd Brigade and elements of the 25th ARVN Division in the Can Guioc District of Long An Province when they encountered an ENIFF (enemy initiated firefight) while on a canal two miles northeast of Can Guioc City (XS 862 742). B-40 rocket and automatic weapons (A/W) fire was received by RAC; one B-40 hit the engine room of ATC-151-1 resulting in one sailor killed (died enroute to hospital after dustoff), and two sailors wounded.

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A special search and destroy operation targeted against a suspected Viet Cong staging area on Go Cong Island in the mouth of the My Tho River was begun on 3 June. Ten assault craft of TE 117.1.4.1 (River Division 111) boarded two companies of the 3/60th Infantry Battalion from USS COLLETON and landed them on the northeastern side of Go Cong Island (XS 862 365 and XS 884 355) at 0740. The RAC then withdrew, and later returned to establish blocking stations along with PBR's on the north and south side of the eastern end of the island, as U.S. Army and ARVN troops began a sweep of the operating area. An additional company and a LRRP (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol) were also airlifted in the area. Only six sampans were searched with negative results as RAC on the northern side of the island secured the operation at 0600 on 4 June, the RAC in blocking positions on the southern side departed at 1800. PBR's continued in blocking stations until 5 June. Overall results of the operation were disappointing in that only 5 detainees were apprehended. The indication was that the VC anticipated the operation and departed the area prior to the establishment of the waterblocks.

Until the 10th of the month only two ENIFF's against RAC were recorded. Between 10-15 June however, 7 ENIFF's were encountered as RAC operated in various areas: The series began at 0830 as nine RAC were enroute to landing beaches on the Ba Lai River in Kien Hoa Province with a company of the 3/47th Infantry Battalion embarked. At a position 4 miles northeast of Ben Tre (XS 565 358) units received two B-40 rockets, small arms and automatic weapons fire. All rockets missed and no casualties or damage resulted. Suppressive fire was laid in with unknown results.

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A series of operations entitled "Soft Shoe" began along the Cai Hap River in Vinh Binh Province on 11 June. This area had not been worked by the MRF for over six weeks. Several days of water-mobile assault landings, infantry sweeps and interdiction operations were planned. On 11 June, 13 RAC, with two companies of the 3/60th Infantry embarked, proceeded along the Kinh Ma Cau toward landing beaches. At 0820 they were ambushed by heavy B-40 rocket, small arms and A/W fire from enemy positions within the dense foliage along the banks. One B-40 hit ATC-112-1 resulting in three U.S. Army wounded (minor). Fire was returned and suppressed. Three troop insertions were accomplished in the Soft Shoe area on 12 June and the 3/60th troops were extracted in late afternoon all without incident. In transit along the Ma Cau canal enroute to the MRB, one enemy B-40 was fired at the RAC from a position 10 miles southwest of Ben Tre (XS 417 166). The round penetrated the port bow of M-112-2 to the mortar pit wounding one Vietnamese sailor and causing flooding which was quickly brought under control. Three USN were slightly wounded due to friendly shrapnel in the ensuing suppressive fire. At 1905, this time on the Mo Cay River, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles southwest of Ben Tre (XS 482 238) and within sight of the MRB, the transiting RAC were again fired on by one B-40 which missed. No damage or casualties resulted. Fire was returned and suppressed by RAC and the overhead Navy Command and Control helo.

TU 117.1.5, consisting of M-131-1, A-132-6 and R-132-1 were ambushed at 1540 on 11 June from the east bank of the Mo Cay River, one mile north of Mo Cay City (XS 468 220) enroute from the MRB to a Fire Enclosure (5)

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Support Base (FSB) to pick up troops. Two B-40's were fired; one hit Monitor 131-1 on the port side forward below the waterline which caused moderate flooding, A-132-6 received the other rocket on the port side aft causing minor damage. The units returned and suppressed the fire with 20mm and 105mm howitzer fire. Eight sailors were wounded in the action, five requiring medevac. The units proceeded to the FSB to effect repairs.

Heavy casualties were sustained by MRF forces during an ENIFF which occurred at 0945 on 13 June on the Ben Tre River, four miles southeast of Ben Tre (XS 576 282). Nine RAC, with Bravo Company of the 3/47th Infantry Battalion embarked were enroute to a beaching site when they came under heavy B-40 rocket attack. Z-152-1 received four rocket hits, ATC-152-6 received two rocket hits and ATC-152-11 received one. Fire was returned and momentarily suppressed. The RAC were forced to reverse course in order to facilitate evacuation of casualties; as they turned around they again came under attack from the same location. The RAC proceeded toward a FSB while 26 of the wounded were medevaced by an Army dustoff helo and the Navy Command and Control helo. Total friendly casualties were four soldiers killed, and 22 soldiers and four Navymen wounded. At the FSB a company of the 3/47th replaced the decimated troops and returned to the ambush site. A company of the 3/60th was also airmobiled into the ambush area to conduct search and sweep operations which yielded no contact.

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A heavy barrage of accurate enemy B-40 rocket and A/W fire was again hurled against RAC on 15 June at 1515, during extraction of a 4/47th company from an area along the southern Ben Tre River. The fire was directed against the cover boats in midstream, five miles southeast of Ben Tre City (XS 589 262). Two B-40 hits each were sustained by Monitor 152-1 and ATC 152-7; ZIPPO 152-1 received one B-40 hit. Return fire by the RAC suppressed the attack and the area was then thoroughly flamed. Eleven U.S. Navy crewmembers were wounded during the ambush (4 serious, 7 minor); the four seriously wounded sailors were medevaced. A total of 26 USN were wounded over the six day period.

After conducting several troop insertion and extraction evolutions on 22 June, the 9 RAC composing TE 117.1.5 were enroute on the Ben Tre to backload a company of the 3/47th. At 1430, at a position  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east of Ben Tre City (XS 530 310), RAC were ambushed, receiving five B-40 rockets and three recoilless rifle rounds. **ATC 152-10 was hit by two B-40's on the port side near the .50-caliber gun mount; one sailor was wounded and dusted off.** The Ben Tre River "rocket alley" continues as a perennial source of enemy ambush activity.

#### Enemy Activity Against the Mobile Riverine Base

Ships of the Mobile Riverine Base (MRB) reacted swiftly on the night of 6 June as the enemy fired 4 rockets or mortar rounds from the south bank of the My Tho River, one mile southwest of Dong Tam (XS 3949 4042) at the MRB and U.S. Army base at Dong Tam at 0205.

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All rockets passed over the MRB at anchor, and impacted 50 to 300 yards from the ships. Two minutes later, all MRB ships together with "B" battery of the 3/34th Artillery Battalion fired into the reported enemy positions with unknown results. Later, at 0343, and 10 minutes after the base defense boats completed harassment and interdiction (H & I) fire, the Viet Cong fired two more mortar rounds from XS 395 405 which landed 200-300 yards inland on the north bank of the My Tho, about 1700 meters from Dong Tam. All ships in the MRB fired on the suspected enemy positions with 40mm and 3"/50 guns for 10 minutes, then ceased fire for five minutes in anticipation of catching the enemy in his characteristic policing of combat sites. Fire was then resumed for five minutes. Fifteen minutes later, at 0420, H & I fire was resumed. Enemy casualties were unknown.

Anti-swimmer defensive measures within the MRB again prevented possible disaster this month. While USS WHITFIELD COUNTY (LST-1169) was anchored with the MRB at Dong Tam on 15 June, an alert sentry detected a swimmer diving under a camel moored to the port side of the ship. The sentry took the swimmer under fire with his M-16 and dropped concussion grenades. He reported hitting the swimmer and seeing him disappear. A hull inspection was performed by EOD personnel with negative results. The next day a dead Vietnamese body which had been shot came to the surface.

Again on 18 June, WHITFIELD COUNTY became an enemy target, this time as rockets were aimed at her as she lay at anchor with the MRB at

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Dong Tam. Three rockets were launched from the south bank of the My Tho River, seven miles southwest of My Tho (XS 375 409); two landed approximately 100 yards off the starboard beam, the other about 100 yards off the port beam. USS SPHINX (ARL-24) returned fire at the suspected launch sight with 40mm guns. No friendly damage or casualties were sustained; enemy casualties are unknown. The rockets came from a launch site approximately one mile to the east of the site used to fire at the MRB on 6 June.

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(1)  
USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
 June 1969

	(2) <u>MARKET TIME</u>	(3) <u>GAME WARDEN</u>	(4) <u>Mobile Riverine Force</u>
Detections	77,368	181,863	(5)
Inspections	42,133	32,033	(5)
Boardings	15,259	43,342	(5)
Craft detained	122	25	(5)
Persons detained	1,757	726	107
Viet Cong suspects	26	63	(5)
Hostile fire incidents	36	7	14
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	26 (BC)+26 (EST)	102 (BC)+100 (EST)	544 (2 prob)
b. Wounded	13	31	(5)
c. Captured	14	7	8
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	3 (1 DOW)	1
b. Wounded	5	12	32 USN/9VN
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	75	124	28
(2) Structures	265	185	8
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	1	13	0
(2) Weapons	(5)	5	117
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	(5)	577	912
(4) Rice (tons)	(5)	0	0
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	16	51	0
(2) Structures	202	184	0
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	0	0
(2) Helicopters	0	0	0
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	8	5	12
(2) Helicopters	0	1	0
SAR missions	(5)	(5)	(5)

- Remarks: (1) Statistics include only "Standard" Task Force Operations. Operations SEA LORDS statistics not included, see SEA LORDS Statistical Summary.
- (2) Includes SEA TIGER Operations
- (3) Includes "Swift" boat patrols in GAME WARDEN area of operation.
- (4) Includes TG 117.1 operations; additional results of RAC operations included in SEA LORDS Campaign Statistics.
- (5) Information not available or not applicable.

GROUP 4

Enclosure (6)

Downgraded at 3 year intervals

Declassified after 12 years

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY  
June 1969

Vietnamese Navy

On 1 June the Vietnamese Fleet Command units assumed sole responsibility for MARKET TIME surveillance operations in the Fourth Coastal Zone which includes all of areas eight and nine. One U. S. Navy or Coast Guard ship has been patrolling area 8B which begins approximately sixteen miles off the eastern coast of the Ca Mau peninsula and extends twenty miles outward. The U. S. units operating in this area have forwarded their reports through the Vietnamese Task Group 213.4 to CTF 115. Although the VNN PCF's and WPB's reported a slight increase in surveillance figures, the overall totals for the Fleet Command were lower in June. The number of persons searched dropped from 28,052 in May to 17,952 in June. Correspondingly junks searched decreased from 7,615 to 5,038. The number of people and junks detained went from 49 to 29, and from 3 to 6, respectively.

On 27 June three Fleet Command units (one LSIL, one LSM, and one LSM (H)) and one Vietnamese PSYWAR team joined forces with TF 115 to commence a joint Operation SEA FLOAT/TRAN HUNG DAO III, a comprehensive psychological war operation in the vicinity of Old Nam Can City on the lower Ca Mau peninsula.

During a routine minesweeping operation on the morning of 13 June two VNN minesweepers of RAG 91 came under B-40 rocket and automatic weapons fire on the Dong Nai River (YS 064 954). Suppressing the intense fire, the boats continued on the sweep with only minor hull damage to one of

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the boats. There were three additional incidents in June when RAG 91 units were fired upon, all yielding negative results. At the end of three sweeping runs on the Long Tau and the Dong Nai, 235 feet of electric detonating wire was recovered.

The majority of the 44 naval gunfire support missions of the Fleet Command were performed with unknown results. However on 16 June LSIL 228 fired ten 81mm rounds in support of a PF outpost that was under attack approximately seven miles south of Cambodia on the Mekong River (WS 254 924). The VC were repelled and an overall excellent coverage of the area was reported.

During the month the PBR's of River Patrol Group 51 (RPG 51) performed day and night patrols on the Long Tau and Soi Rap Rivers, troop lifts on U. S. and VN forces, PSYOPS and Civic Action missions, and ambush operations. Enemy troops were sighted on two occasions and taken under fire with unknown results. Three enemy cache discoveries by the VNN totaled one B-40 rocket, one 500 pound mine, 100 rounds of small arms ammunition, and a small quantity of clothes and medicine. There was one ENIFF on the evening of 2 June when two PBR's in a waterborne ambush eleven miles east northeast of Saigon came under a B-40 rocket attack from an unknown sized enemy force. The PBR's returned the fire and cleared the area but not without sustaining light damage to one of the boats.

Although the II, III, and IV Coastal Zone Forces recorded a small increase in coastal surveillance figures, those from I Coastal Zone were significantly lower and this accounted for the net decrease in the overall statistics for June. A total of 56,161 junks and 190,483 people were

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searched during the month which represented a 3.9% and 3.1% reduction in comparison to the May totals. The number of junks detained went from 169 in May to 109 in June; similarly the number of people detained went from 870 to 635.

The focus of enemy activity in the Coastal Zones for VNN forces was again in the Cua Dai River area. On the evening of 6 June CG 14 and RAG 32 units observed a sampan crossing the Cua Dai River southeast of Thuan Tinh Island (BT 166 550). Taking the sampan under fire resulted in five VC killed and two AK-47's, one portable rocket launcher, and one bottle of medicine captured. Believing that two occupants had escaped to the island, a landing party went ashore but failed to establish contact. Several days later, on 10 June, while conducting a routine patrol on the Hoi An River (BT 110 552) RAG 32 craft took eight VC in an evading sampan under fire. There was one VC confirmed dead and possibly five others. One M-60 machine gun, twelve B-40 rounds, eight grenades, one AK-54 pistol, and some documents were recovered from the sampan.

A sweep operation conducted by CG 16 units on 29 June just east of Quang Ngai on the south bank of the Tra Khuc River (BS 737 736 to 725 740) resulted in one VC confirmed dead, one VC captured, and four VC suspects detained.

In the 2nd CZ one VN sailor attached to CG 25 was wounded during an ambush mission, KY HOA 25/28/69, that took place on the evening of 16-17 June 40 miles north of Cam Ranh Bay near the Coastal Group (CG) 25 base (CP 086 900).

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While patrolling the Bassac River on 7 June CG 36 junks captured a VC sampan containing six kilograms of medicine near the northern end of the Dung Island complex (XR 200 740). Later in the afternoon the CG 36 ambush team was inserted on Dung Island. Enemy contact was established producing seven dead VC and one VC taken into custody.

Coastal Group 36 junks and ambush team combined with a U. S. Navy PCF and district PRU's on 18 June for an ambush operation on the southern end of Dung Island (XR 320 637). The ground units were inserted before noon and within an hour they had met with enemy resistance. After killing two VC (one by VNN) and capturing two others (one by VNN), the ambush team and PRU's returned to the junks. The USN PCF followed up the extraction with 81mm H and I fire into the area.

Intelligence information of enemy activity in a region of the Rung Sat Special Zone 30 miles southeast of Saigon and near Vung Tau (YS 342 587, 343 584) prompted the CG 33 junks and ambush team to execute an ambush operation in the area on 24 June. Shortly before midnight a sampan was detected moving west on a small stream. As the sampan was taken under fire, its occupants dived into the water to evade. Searching the captured sampan and the river in the immediate vicinity of the incident, the force found one dead VC (four others were probably killed), one AK-47 one 9mm pistol with ammunition, one Russian hand grenade, some documents and personal articles.

The VNN PCF's and junks operating in the TRAN HUNG DAO tactical area encountered a lower level of enemy activity than reported in the previous month. The routine patrols along the Rach Giang Thanh were generally

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uneventful as the enemy infiltration attempts were centered along the northern end of the Vinh Te Canal. (Note: See discussion of TRAN HUNG DAO Campaign in enclosure (1) for further details and incidents.)

In June the Vietnamese River Assault Groups (RAG's) carried out 1,610 amphibious assaults and 1,289 river patrols in the 3rd and 4th Riverine Areas. The remainder of their operations included logistic lifts, NGFS, convoy escort duty, and PSYOPS and medcap missions. The RAG's accounted for four VC killed and one captured at the expense of six wounded VN sailors. From 15-25 June RAG 24 was joined by U. S. PBR's of River Division 554 to provide the waterborne forces for the search and sweep operation, BUSHWACKER, conducted by the 1st U. S. Infantry Division along the upper Saigon River from Phu Cuong (XT 808 138) to Ben Suc (XT 589 333). The first day of the operation quickly verified the enemy presence in the area. RAG boats, PBR's, and ground units initiated two firefights near Ben Suc that resulted in five VC killed and one captured. One soldier was killed and one wounded during one of the incidents. Approximately two hours after midnight the ground forces were returning to the boats when they came under heavy automatic weapons fire from Ben Cha village (XT 550 360). One B-40 rocket passed close to the boats but there was no damage. One half hour later a swimmer placed mine sank one FOM in 20 feet of water, seriously damaged a second FOM, and wounded one VN sailor. It was decided that the sunken FOM could not be economically salvaged and on 20 June VNN divers destroyed it in place.

In other activity along the Saigon River, an ambush team of RAG 28 in night shoreside positions on 17 June observed and took under fire a sampan crossing the river from east to west three miles north of Saigon

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(XT 851 028). The two VC occupants drowned and the sampan and some food were recovered.

In the 4th Riverine area five RAG 23/31 units with Tan Chau troops embarked were proceeding north from Tan Chau on the morning of 18 June to an insertion point approximately one mile south of the Cambodian/South Vietnam international border (WT 205 043). While in the process of landing the troops, the enemy, invisible in the dense undergrowth, opened fire with B-40 rockets, 57mm recoilless rifle, and small arms. The troops continued ashore as the RAG boats laid a blanket of 40mm and 81mm into the enemy positions. The VC quickly broke off contact but not without destroying a 50mm machine gun on one Monitor and wounding three of the soldiers.

Maintaining a constant deterrent to enemy activity in the Giant Slingshot tactical area, River Assault and Interdiction Divisions 70 and 71 (RAID 70 and 71) were employed in amphibious assaults, troop lifts, day and night ambushed, and PSYOPS and Civic Action missions. The RAID's recorded a total of 600 river patrols and 94 amphibious assaults in June. The reduced level of enemy operations had a noticeable effect on the damage inflicted on them by the RAID's. In 21 fire fights (one friendly initiated), seven occasions when they received sniper fire and two when they took evading VC under fire, the RAID's accounted for one VC probably killed and two VC that were wounded but escaped. Seven VNN were wounded, one U. S. advisor was killed, and three RAID boats were damaged. Having successfully demonstrated their ability to perform Giant Slingshot

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Operations, RAID 71 assumed the sole responsibility for the tactical area between Ben Luc and the intersection of the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Rivers on 13 June. (Note: See discussion of Giant Slingshot Campaign in Enclosure (1) for detailed VNN incident).

#### Vietnamese Marine Corps

The Vietnamese Marine Corps and their U. S. advisors operated exclusively in the Third and Fourth CTZ in June. Reconnaissance in force and security operations produced negligible to intermittent contact for all units during the month with the exception of the 6th Battalion which was engaged in moderate fighting in the Tay Ninh City area from 7-10 and 16-26 June. Although there were VN Marine casualties as a result of hostile fire, the enemy emplaced mines and booby traps took the heaviest toll.

Brigade "A" which included the Brigade Headquarters, Battery B of the VNMC Artillery Battalion, and the 1st and 4th Infantry Battalions at the beginning of the month was carrying out operations under the control of the 21st ARVN Division in Chuong Thien Province throughout the month. On 10-11 June, the 2nd Battalion, which had been in a reserve status for JGS, and Battery "A" relieved the 1st Battalion and Battery B. Near the western end of the Twin Rivers area during the period 20-26 June the Brigade engaged local VC in a heavily mined area. The mines and booby traps accounted for the two Marines that were killed and the 27

that were wounded including two U. S. advisors.

Units of Brigade "B" were in a reserve posture for JGS until 12 June when the Brigade Headquarters, the 6th Battalion, and Battery B moved to

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the vicinity of Lam Sam (XT 845 148) in Binh Duong Province. Under the control of the 5th ARVN Division the Brigade acted as a ready unit for the Toan Thang operation which was designed to inaugurate the opening of a new highway in the province. The Brigade was not utilized during the operation and on 16 June the 6th Battalion was detached to the 2nd Brigade of the ARVN Airborne Division for operations in the Tay Ninh City area. The 3rd Battalion joined Brigade "B" at Lam Som on 17 June and the entire force proceeded to Ben Hoa Province for reserve operations directed by the Long Binh Special Zone in the vicinity of the Long Binh Air Base. Several reconnaissance in force operations carried out by the 3rd Battalion fielded negative results. On 29 June the 5th Battalion joined the Brigade and the next day the entire force deployed to Eastern Ben Hoa Province for reconnaissance in Force Operations. The 1st Infantry Battalion after spending 1-10 June with Brigade "A" returned to the Thu Duc base camp as a reserve unit of the JGS until 30 June when it commenced refresher training at the Van Kiep National Training Center.

From 1-16 June the 3rd Battalion was under the control of the 18th ARVN Division in Long Khanh Province. The reconnaissance in force and sweep operations northwest of Xuan Loc (XT 665 085) produced light contact and the discovery of several VC base camps.

Supported by one platoon of Battery "D", the 5th Battalion carried out security and reconnaissance missions north of Ben Hoa (XT 000 175) for the Long Bien Special Zone the entire month. A total of 32 rounds of 82mm mortar were received on the evenings of 5 and 9 June. Two Marines were killed and two were wounded during the second mortar attack. Later in the month during the period of 20-26 June one VC was killed in

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an ambush; two Marines died and five received wounds from enemy mines and booby traps. The 5th Battalion was relieved on 29 June by the 6th Battalion and proceeded to join Brigade "B" for operations in Eastern Ben Hoa Province.

Refresher training was conducted by the 6th Battalion in the Thu Duc base camp until the afternoon of 6 June when the fighting unit moved by convoy to Tay Ninh City (XT 235 505). The next day the Marines established contact with an estimated enemy battalion approximately three miles southeast of Tay Ninh City. Heavy fighting resulted in eighteen VC and one VNMC killed and twenty VNMC wounded. More fierce contact on 8 June yielded fourteen dead VC at the expense of two Marines who died and another sixteen who suffered wounds. Rejoining Brigade "B" on 12 June, the 6th Battalion was utilized in a reserved status at Lam Som. On the 16th of the month, the 6th Battalion returned to operations south of Tay Ninh City. From 16-19 June the Marines were engaged in moderate fighting that accounted for 32 VC killed; one Marine died and eleven sustained wounds. Operations in the vicinity of Tay Ninh City during the rest of the month were uneventful for the unit.

Throughout the month Battery C of the 1st Artillery Battalion provided direct fire support for operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone.

Two platoons of Battery D were under the operational control of the Capital Military District in June. One was stationed at Thu Duc and the other at Cat Lai. The 3rd platoon provided direct support for the 5th Battalion and her operations during the month. The two new Batteries, E and F, or the 2nd Artillery Battalion, which had been undergoing training at the National Artillery Training Center at Duc My



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in II CTZ since the beginning of May, received their proficiency tests on 11 and 12 June. Returning to the Thu Duc base camp, the newly qualified batteries continued training in preparation for an assignment which had not materialized at the end of the month.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	<u>Daily Average</u>		<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
	<u>Oper</u>	<u>Empl</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
<u>COASTAL FORCE</u>						
I	50.7	50.0	15,937	60,968	27	223
II	45.1	44.1	22,257	74,344	8	131
III	46.9	45.6	9,355	29,828	66	184
IV	38.2	38.2	<u>8,616</u>	<u>25,353</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>97</u>
	Sub-totals:		56,161	190,493	109	635
<u>*FLEET COMMAND</u>						
PATROL SHIPS:	24.8	22.8	1,868	7,196	0	0
PCF's/WPB's :	19.1	11.4	3,170	10,756	6	29
<u>RIVERINE AREA</u>						
CRAFT:	117.8	114.7	6,414	24,870	0	7
ATF (RAID) :	28.1	26.7	1,920	4,387	0	0
<u># CENTRAL TASK FORCE</u>	63.6	59.4	<u>7,498</u>	<u>20,577</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	TOTALS:		77,031	228,279	115	671

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: KIA: 82 Captured: 6 Suspects detained: 20  
 VNMC: KIA: 15 WIA: 106 MIA: 0

USMC ADVISORS: WIA: 2

\* Provided 44 gunfire support missions for period 21 May - 20 June

# Includes RAG 27, RAG 81, 91 and RPG 51

\*\* VNMC statistic's cover the period 30 May - 3 July

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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION SUMMARY  
June 1969

Since October of 1968, U. S. and Vietnamese Naval and Marine forces have conducted operations in the lower Ca Mau Peninsula, including numerous Swift boat river incursions and assault actions by the Mobile Riverine Force. (Silver Mace I and II) These operations have exerted pressure on the enemy and induced a degree of pacification in the area. In order to exploit the advantages gained and to firmly establish the government presence in this Viet Cong dominated area, a joint USN/VNN operation SEAFLOAT/TRAN HUNG DAO III, was conceived.

This effort began on 27 June and is the first large scale operation by USN/VNN forces which has psychological warfare as its major focus. It is designed to bring about resettlement and pacification in the vicinity of Old Nam Can City under the impetus provided by psychological operations and by the secure establishment of a floating Vietnamese market place on the Cua Lon River.

A U. S. Navy mobile advance tactical support base (MATSB), built on AMMI pontoons and towed to the area on 26 June provides the staging platform for the operation. The MATSB and CTF 115 Swift boats supply security, logistic and communications support. In addition, these units assist in carrying out indoctrination lectures and seminars. A Vietnamese hospital ship furnishes medical support.

A Vietnamese Navy Political Warfare (POLWAR) team conducts the indoctrination and PSYOPS programs. This team is responsible to insure that medical aid is provided those civilians who require it, to transact

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MEDCAP's, and to provide food and entertainment for transient civilians. The GTF 115 PSYOPS team assists the VNN team and will supervise the transfer of Hoi Chanhs and captured Viet Cong to Ca Mau.

The initial response by the people has exceeded expectations and the program has been well received. At the end of the month approximately 60 local Vietnamese citizens had expressed interest and had been aboard the units for medical attention and program indoctrination.

The Chieu Hoi rate for Naval forces dropped off drastically from the record high of 115 in May to six who rallied directly to Naval units and six who turned themselves in to other forces as a result of Navy loud speaker broadcasts. Some of the themes of the PSYOPS tapes played in June were: "Wandering Soul", "Women and Children Crying", "Family Separation", and "VC Fighting a Hopeless War".

The Vietnamese Navy ACTOV personnel receiving instruction on U. S. patrol boats have been the recipient of high praise as their natural ability to communicate and assist the local people has enhanced the government position. On 13 June PBR's assigned to River Division 521 and all the VNN personnel under training conducted a MEDCAP/Civic Action project in Vinh Giang approximately fifteen miles southeast of Hue (ZD 060 108). Accompanied by the village chief the Navy corpsman treated 48 patients while the VNN acted as interpreters and assisted the village in the painting and repairing of their school. After discussing the possibilities of digging new wells for the village, the USN and VNN personnel later procured cement and then instructed the people on well construction.

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During another MEDCAP carried out earlier in the month on 5 June USN PBR sailors, ARVN and Revolutionary Development Cadre (RDC) medics, and a RDC cultural drama team from Sa Dec visited a small village just east of Sa Dec (WS 927 348). The VN medics treated 135 patients and administered cholera shots to 225 persons. The cultural drama team distributed PSYOPS material and entertained the children while the PBR's provided security. In all of the Republic of Vietnam in June USN and VNN personnel administered medical and dental treatment to 33,000 people. This was an increase of 3,000 in relation to the previous month.

Seabee Team 0811 deployed on the lower Ca Mau peninsula at Bac Lieu (WR 814 255) completed the Loc Hoa Market (XR 184 346) which consisted of an eight by ten meter structure with concrete pad and columns, and wooden trusses with a sheet metal roof. The Bao-Don Refugee Training center (XT 437 347) and the addition to the Hieu Thien High School were completed by the Go Dau Ha based Seabee Team 0913 during the month. The Tay Ninh Province Chief and other Vietnamese officials attended the dedication of both projects. The refugee center was an eight by sixteen meter, tilt-up slab, and tile block building. The school was a two room addition to the district high school.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
25 April - 25 May 1969

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN-DAYS PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: 4,611

COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: VN\$ 3,829,011

EXPENDITURES FROM THE US/FWMAF CIVIC ACTION PSYWAR FUND: VN\$ 733,075

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: VN\$ 496,028

PERCENTAGE OF U. S. MILITARY CIVIC ACTION ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH:

	<u>Percent</u>
Other FWMAF	17%
RVNAF	10%
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	5%
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians;	
a. Labor	77%
b. Material	7%

PROGRAMS:

	<u>Man Days</u>	<u>Expenditures (VN\$)</u>
Economic Development	585	44,811
Education	869	1,405,463
Social Welfare	2,407	2,397,872
Transportation	412	297,490
Refugee	338	912,478

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	<u>Number</u>
Schools	56
Hospitals/Dispensaries	18
Orphanages	23
Others	98

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ACCELERATED TURNOVER PROGRAM AND TRAINING SUMMARY

The largest single transfer of military hardware thus far in the war took place this month as 64 U. S. Navy river assault craft were transferred to the Vietnamese Navy as part of the skillfully planned Accelerated Turnover Program (ACTOV). Although the Vietnamese Navy took possession of the boats in three small ceremonies at Dong Tam on 10, 15, and 21 June, the official turnover took place on 25 June during ceremonies at the Vietnamese Naval Shipyard waterfront in Saigon with General Creighton Abrams, Commander, U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, and General Cao Van Vien, Chairman of the Vietnamese Joint General Staff signing the official documents and Vice Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., Commander, U. S. Naval Forces Vietnam attending. These 64 boats, plus the 25 U. S. river craft turned over in February, and the twenty new ASPB's that were delivered directly to the Vietnamese Navy in June 1968 under Military Assistance Service Funds (MASF) brought the total number of U. S. river craft presently owned and operated by the Vietnamese Navy, River Assault and Interdiction Force (RAID) to 109.

The 64 river craft which exchanged hands on 25 June consisted of four CCB's, seven Monitors including one Zippo configuration, 35 ATC's, sixteen ASPB's and two refuelers (modified ATC's).

The newly acquired boats are organized into four River Assault and Interdiction Divisions (RAID's), numbered 72 through 75 as follows:

RAID	<u>72</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>75</u>
*4 CCB	1	1	1	0
7 Monitor	2	1	2	2
*35 ATC	8	8	8	8
*36 ASPB	8	8	8	4
*2 Oilers	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total number of units/RAID	19	18	19	15

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\*NOTE: One CCB, three ATC's, and one oiler to existing RAID 71. Eight ASPB's to RAID 70. The total number of ASPB's include the twenty MASF boats.

Following the turnover ceremony the entire assemblage of VNN river craft passed in review as they proceeded to the junction of the Soi Rap and Vam Co Rivers where the armada, popularized the "Great Green Fleet", spent the night before transiting to the Giant slingshot tactical area on 26, 27, and 28 June as a show of force of the Vietnamese Navy and the Republic of Vietnam. During the transit RAID 73 remained at Tuyen Nhon to join Giant Slingshot operations on the Vam Co Tay River. A further subdivision of RAID 73 assets left four ATC's, two ASPB's and one CCB at Tuyen Nhon and assigned four ATC's, six ASPB's and one 40mm Monitor at Moc Hoa. At the end of the month RAID 72 was enroute to Chau Doc and Tran Hung Dao operations in the Vinh Te Canal; RAIDs 74 and 75 were underway for Long Xuyen to replace RAG 25/29 of the 4th CTZ Amphibious Task Force.

Captain Hung, VNN, Commander, Amphibious Task Force 211 (ATF 211) which includes all six RAIDs, his staff and two U. S. Navy officer advisors were in the process of establishing the task force headquarters at My Tho as the month came to a close.

For the Vietnamese sailors operating the new RAID craft the turnover ceremony culminated six weeks of boat school. This training was followed by at least four weeks of actual combat experience on integrated USN/VNN crews operating with the Mobile Riverine Force in Delta operations. In

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GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations and terms are commonly used in the combat zone by all agencies and are listed here in amplification of those used in the text.

ABF	- Attack By Fire
ARVN	- Army of the <b>Republic</b> of Vietnam
ATSB	- Advance Tactical Support Base
A/W	- Automatic Weapons
Black Pony/Bronco	- OV-10A Twin Engine Turboprop Counterinsurgency Aircraft
CHICOM	- Chinese Communist
CIDG	- Civilian Irregular Defense Group
CTZ	- Corp Tactical Zone
Dustoff	- Medical Evacuation By Helicopter
ENIFF	- Enemy Initiated Firefight
GDA	- Gun Damage Assessment
H&I	- Harrassment and Interdiction Fire Support
KIA	- Killed In Action
LDNN	- Vietnamese Equivalent of USN Underwater Demolition Teams
LHFT	- Light Helo Fire Team
LOH	- OH-6 Light Observation Helo
LRRP	- Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol
MRB	- Mobile Riverine Base
MRF	- Mobile Riverine Force

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NGFS	- Naval Gunfire Support
NILO	- Naval Intelligence <b>Liaison Officer</b>
NOD	- Night Observation Device
PRU	- Provincial Reconnaissance Unit
RAD	- River Assault Division
RAID	- River Assault and Interdiction Division (Vietnamese Navy)
RAS	- River Assault Squadron
RF/PF	- Regional Forces/Popular Forces
RPG	- Rocket Propelled Grenade
RSSZ	- Rung Sat Special Zone
SEAWOLF	- UH-1B Helo, Heavily Armed USN Aircraft
TAOR	- Tactical Area Of Responsibility
VNMC	- Vietnamese Marine Corps
VNN	- Vietnamese Navy
ZIPPO	- Flame Thrower Equipped ATC or MONITOR

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