

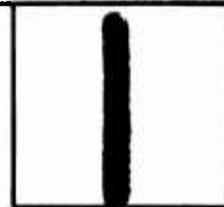
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U.S. Naval Forces Vietnam Monthly
Historical Summary, Nov. 1967

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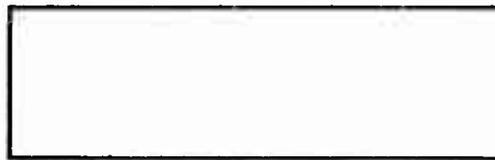
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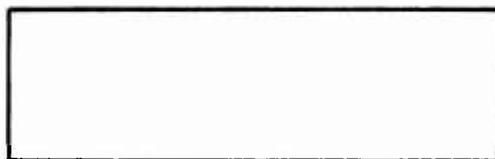
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From: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
To: Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)
Subj: U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, November 1967; forwarding of
Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT ltr FF1-1 5750 ser 1/6925 of 2 October 1967
Encl: (1) Coastal Surveillance Force Summary
(2) River Patrol Force Summary
(3) Riverine Assault Force Summary
(4) Naval Advisory Group Summary
(5) Military Civic Action and Psychological Operations Summary
(6) USN Statistical Summary
(7) VNN/VNMC Statistical Summary
(8) USN Civic Action Statistical Summary
(9) Photograph of USCGC BERING STRAIT (WHEC 382)
(10) Photograph of YRM-16

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (10) are submitted.
2. The data contained in enclosures (6), (7) and (8) are based on information available this date and are subject to revisions as later information is received. Any adjustments of this nature will be reflected in November's Historical Supplement.

J. W. THOMPSON
Flag Secretary

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COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, SJS)
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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY
November 1967

In November there was a continued decrease in Operation MARKET TIME activity, especially in the northern coastal zones, as inclement weather kept the aggregate of junk and sampan traffic well below October's level. The number of junks and sampans detected by MARKET TIME units during November totalled 36,584, the lowest figure recorded since January 1967. Meanwhile, MARKET TIME units conducted 76 gunfire support missions in November. The majority of the missions occurred in the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones, and resulted in the destruction of numerous enemy structures, bunkers and sampans, and the death of 18 Viet Cong (three probables). On 22 November MARKET TIME airborne patrol tracks were revised in an effort to improve surveillance and simultaneously reduce the total number of flight hours. Three coastline sectors replaced the existing two, thereby increasing the "re-visit" time along each track, and "high-boy" flights were terminated. During the month, as a result of heavy swells, two Swift boats--PCFs 14 and 74--capsized and sank near the entrance to the Cua Viet channel. On 30 November the deployment of PCFs to the Cua Viet area was suspended pending an improvement in weather conditions.

On 3 November a Korean L-19 aircraft sighted six Viet Cong in two sampans just off the northeast tip of Cape Batangan, and radioed the positions to USCGC POINT COMFORT. The cutter subsequently took the sampans under fire as they attempted to evade to the beach. The gunfire destroyed

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both sampans and killed five of the enemy. On 5 November, at the request of an airborne spotter, USCGC BERING STRAIT (WHEC 382) provided gunfire support against an estimated company-size Viet Cong unit approximately 50 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The spotter later reported that the gunfire heavily damaged 12 enemy structures, destroyed one sampan, killed two Viet Cong and wounded four others. That same day PCF 11 took an area approximately eleven miles north-northeast of Ca Mau Point under fire after receiving automatic-weapons fire from a bunker on the beach. Responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne spotter, the PCF destroyed a 100-foot-long bunker line; the Swift boat's fire also initiated five secondary explosions. On 16 November BERING STRAIT's gunfire struck a Viet Cong position 27 miles north-northeast of Ca Mau Point. An airborne spotter subsequently reported all rounds on target and assessed the results as follows: one enemy sampan and five structures destroyed, two sampans and six structures damaged, and four Viet Cong killed and six others wounded. On 17 November PCF 94 conducted an harassment-and-interdiction mission against two Viet Cong companies approximately 30 miles north-northeast of Ca Mau Point. The Swift boat's 81-mm. mortar fire wounded at least seven of the enemy, destroyed four sampans, and damaged three Viet Cong structures.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
November 1967

During November units of the River Patrol Force continued to inflict heavy losses on the enemy amid increased activity in the central Ham Luong and Bassac Rivers and along the main shipping channel to Saigon.

On 11 November, seven miles southeast of My Tho, eight PBRs and two Navy helicopters came to the assistance of a Vietnamese outpost under attack by three Viet Cong companies. Fire from the GAME WARDEN units helped repel the attack, killing five of the enemy and wounding at least 11 others. On 15 November, 10 miles southeast of Nha Be, a Nationalist Chinese merchant ship en route to Saigon was struck by Russian-made RPG-7 rockets fired from a Viet Cong position along the river bank. Responding quickly, PBRs, Navy helicopters and Vietnamese Regional Force troops rushed to the area, killed five of the enemy contingent and captured two rocket launchers. On the 17th, five miles west of Tra Vinh, a Navy helicopter fire team came to the assistance of a beleaguered Vietnamese outpost and killed at least 20 Viet Cong and probably 20 more as the enemy tried to flee across an open field. The next day, 15 miles northwest of Vung Tau, a Viet Cong unit armed with recoilless rifles attacked SS PRESIDENT BUCHANAN in the Long Tau River. PBRs, Navy helicopters and Vietnamese Regional Force troops embarked in Army helicopters sped to the scene, encircled the ambush site and killed 23 of the enemy; in addition, two recoilless rifles were captured. In the early morning hours of 24 November, YRRM-16, anchored at the confluence of the Ham Luong and Ben Tre rivers,

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suffered an underwater explosion which ripped an 18- by 17-foot hole in the craft's hull. A raging fire, fomented by a ruptured fuel tank, ensued. USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838), on station at the mouth of the Ham Luong River, came to the aid of the stricken GAME WARDEN support barge and provided major assistance in extinguishing the blaze. Two Navy men died during the incident, 11 were injured and five other sailors were reported missing. PBR 116, aboard YRBM-16 for repairs, was destroyed by the fire. On 26 November, two miles east of Tra On, a Navy helicopter fire team aided Popular Force units pinned down in a stretch of rice paddies by two Viet Cong companies. Firing in close support of the PFBs and against heavy counter fire, the helicopters suppressed the Viet Cong positions, killing at least 37 of the enemy.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
November 1967

In November the Mobile Riverine Force launched Operation CORONADO IX, a multi-phase search and destroy mission whose scope was designed to encompass the area north of the My Tho stretch of the Mekong River and extend eastward from the Plain of Reeds region to the Soirap River. On 9 November the Vietnamese Marine Corps' 5th Battalion, stationed near Dong Tam, began participation in CORONADO IX as part of a plan to have a VMMC battalion operating with the MRF on a continuing basis. On 18 November the Mobile Riverine Base made its deepest penetration into the Mekong Delta to date, moving 35 miles up the Mekong River from its anchorage near Dong Tam to the vicinity of Sa Dec.

On 1 November the MRF shifted its base of operations from Vung Tau to the Dong Tam area in preparation for Operation CORONADO IX. During the MRB relocation an ATC, conducting minesweeping operations ahead of the task group, uncovered a 170-pound moored, conical-shaped mine in the Cua Tieu River, eight miles east of My Tho. The water-mine was subsequently disarmed by EOD personnel. On 4 November the initial phase (4-6 November) of CORONADO IX was conducted in the Cam Son Secret Zone of Dinh Tuong province, and was aimed at elements of the Viet Cong's main-force 263rd Battalion. Contact with the enemy was light as MRF elements killed five Viet Cong and destroyed 84 bunkers. The next phase (9-11 November) of CORONADO IX, conducted in the Cam Son and Ban Long Secret Zones of Dinh Tuong province, marked

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the initial employment of the VNMC's 5th Battalion as an integral unit of the MRF. Although heavy contact with the 263rd Battalion was not established, the combined forces killed 11 Viet Cong, captured eight others, destroyed 113 enemy bunkers, and detained 59 suspects. Between 18 and 24 November, riverine operations conducted in eastern Kien Phong and western Dinh Tuong provinces resulted in the death of 54 Viet Cong, the destruction of 273 enemy bunkers, and the seizure of over 40,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition. During this period 10 U. S. soldiers and three Vietnamese Marines were wounded.

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at least 20 more. The next day, 10 miles east of My Tho, 55 Provincial Reconnaissance Unit troops embarked in a water-taxi were ambushed by Viet Cong armed with recoilless rifles and automatic weapons. Responding quickly, three RAG 21 craft, two PBRs and a Navy helicopter fire team sped to the scene, suppressed the enemy positions, and rescued 49 of the PRUs, 12 of whom were wounded; one PRU was killed during the encounter and five others were reported missing. On the afternoon of the 21st, 11 miles southeast of Nha Be, a 15-man enemy ambush team was killed by the combined efforts of two Regional Force companies, RAG 22 craft, PBRs and Navy helicopters. The Viet Cong had been detected initially by an airborne spotter who subsequently vectored the Allied units to the ambush site. Later, intelligence reports indicated that the enemy contingent had been part of the Viet Cong team that had attacked a Nationalist Chinese merchant ship in the Long Tau channel on the 15th. Just before dawn on the 19th, in response to an intelligence report, units of Coastal Group 35 struck a Viet Cong staging area near the Co Chien River, four miles southeast of Tra Vinh. The Coastal Group units attacked the enemy site with machine-gun and 60-mm. mortar fire, killing 11 of the Viet Cong and wounding several more.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
November 1967

On 1 November, in the most significant integration to date of the Vietnamese Navy into Operation MARKET TIME, four Fleet Command units relieved U. S. units of surveillance responsibilities in coastal patrol areas 10 (southeast of Danang), 4E (east of Nha Trang), 6C (east of Vung Tau) and 9L (west of Phu Quoc Island). During the month the Fleet Command had a daily average of 25.5 ships available and a daily average of 19 ships employed. At the same time the Coastal Force employed a daily average of 166.2 junks of a daily average of 192.6 available, and the River Assault Groups employed a daily average of 137.8 of the 161.5 craft available. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese Marine Corps' six infantry and one artillery battalions were committed to operations 71 percent of the time and experienced light contact with the enemy. On 6 November the VNMC's 5th Battalion deployed to Dong Tam and, on the 9th, joined the MRF (conducting Operation CORONADO IX) as an integral member of the force; henceforth a VNMC battalion will operate with the MRF on a continuing basis.

On the 18th, 70 miles southeast of Danang, PCE 12 conducted a gunfire support mission that helped repel and disperse an enemy force advancing on the Coastal Group 16 base. In one of the VNN's most successful gunfire missions this year, the PCE's accurate fire killed 19 Viet Cong and wounded

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MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS SUMMARY
November 1967

Although civic action projects and psychological operations are distinct in concept and execution, the nature of one often weaves itself through the fabric of the other. The river patrol sections of Operation GAME WARDEN, for example, conduct MEDCAPs (Medical Civic Action Program) regularly for residents of the Delta. The visits involve not only the treatment of villagers for diverse ailments, but also the distribution of vital commodities, including soap, and assistance to the Vietnamese in matters of individual and communal hygiene. In November four and one-half tons of medical supplies and over five tons of soap were delivered to Delta-based units for use during MEDCAPs and similar missions. In addition to MEDCAPs and other related projects, river patrol craft regularly conduct "psyops" missions which include loudspeaker broadcasts and the distribution of leaflets and other literature. On numerous occasions during November, Delta residents hailed PBRs on patrol and voluntarily furnished the crews with reliable intelligence information which was subsequently used in successful operations against the Viet Cong. In recent months the number of such incidents has increased steadily.

Typical of the Vietnamese Navy's increasing efforts in the field of civic action and "psyops" is the work of the VNN's two hospital ships, HAT GIANG (HQ 400) and HAN GIANG (HQ 401). The two ships, both of which are converted LSMs (Landing Ship, Medium), visit coastal and riverine

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areas on a continuing basis, and provide medical and dental care for the needy, as well as distributing commodities. Often the ships' crews also distribute magazines, leaflets and posters, and embarked Government "psyops" teams conduct loudspeaker broadcasts. Sometimes "culture platoons" subsequently entertain the villagers, and the entire visit is capped by a brief address from a former Viet Cong who defected under the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Program. During November the VNN's hospital ships visited numerous hamlets and villages along the rivers of the Delta and, over a two-week period, treated more than 11,000 residents in need of medical or dental assistance.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
November 1967

	<u>MARKST TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>	<u>Mobile Riverine Force</u>
Detections	36,584	62,729	*
Inspections	13,732	14,876	*
Boardings	8,323	37,399	*
Craft detained	2	*	*
Persons detained	283	397	221
Viet Cong suspects	9	30	18
Hostile fire incidents	11	129	5
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	18 (3 prob.)	230	75
b. Wounded	8	34	*
c. Captured	0	2	18
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	1 [#]	0
b. Wounded	0	37 ^{##}	1
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	5 ^{###}	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	30	100	22
(2) Structures	20	175	765
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	2	20	0
(2) Weapons	*	21	28
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	315	41,655
(4) Rice (tons)	*	.7	1
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	19	78	*
(2) Structures	72	130	*
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	2 ^{**}	1 (PBR)	0
(2) Helicopters	*	0	0
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	0	12	4
(2) Helicopters	*	1	0
SAR missions	4	*	*

Remarks:

- * Information not applicable or not available this date.
- ** Two PCFs capsized and sank as a result of heavy swells.
- # Two other Navymen died as a result of the YRBM-16 incident.
- ## Includes 11 Navymen injured in the YRBM-16 incident.
- ### These five Navymen were reported missing following YRBM-16 incident.

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VIETNAM/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY

November 1967

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

<u>COASTAL FORCE</u>	<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
I NZ	11,264	36,475	1	133
II NZ	8,612	26,648	2	124
III NZ	8,358	32,528	0	3
IV NZ	2,962	9,336	0	0
Sub-totals	31,196	104,987	3	260
<u>FLEET COMMAND</u>				
PATROL SHIPS*	1,121	4,824	1	4
<u>RIVERINE AREA</u>				
CRAFT	5,880	15,698	2	26
 <u>TOTALS</u>	 38,197	 125,709	 6	 290

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: 9 KIA** 16 CAPTURED** 159 SUSPECTS DETAINED**
 VMC: 1 KIA** 23 MIA**

Remarks:

*Conducted 52 gunfire support missions during November.

**Through 25 November.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY

November 1967

1. Construction:
 - a. Dispensaries *
 - b. Dwellings/number of families 8/4
 - c. Schools/classrooms *
 - d. Wells 6
 - e. Churches *

2. Medical treatment:
 - a. General medicine 18,335
 - b. Dental 755
 - c. Surgery 26
 - d. Emergency evacuations 127

3. Health and sanitation:
 - a. Classes on personal hygiene/attendance 4/106
 - b. Immunizations 1,254
 - c. Medical aides or nurses trained 9
 - d. Physical examinations *
 - e. Spray insecticide operations 13
 - f. Swamp areas drained 1

4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):
 - a. Cement 28,800
 - b. Clothing 4,020
 - c. Food 49,140
 - d. Lumber (board feet) 287,300
 - e. Medical, non-prescription 110
 - f. Midwife kits (number) *
 - g. School kits (number) 1,087
 - h. Soap 711
 - i. Tin sheets (number) 1,177
 - j. Woodworking kits (number) 3
 - k. Paper blankets (number) *
 - l. Personal kits (number) *
 - m. Magazines (number) *

5. Educational efforts:
 - a. English classes/attendance 83/307

6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:
 - a. Orphanages 14,800
 - b. Schools 12,590
 - c. Hospitals 120,950
 - d. VNN Housing 76,280

Remarks:

* information not available this date.

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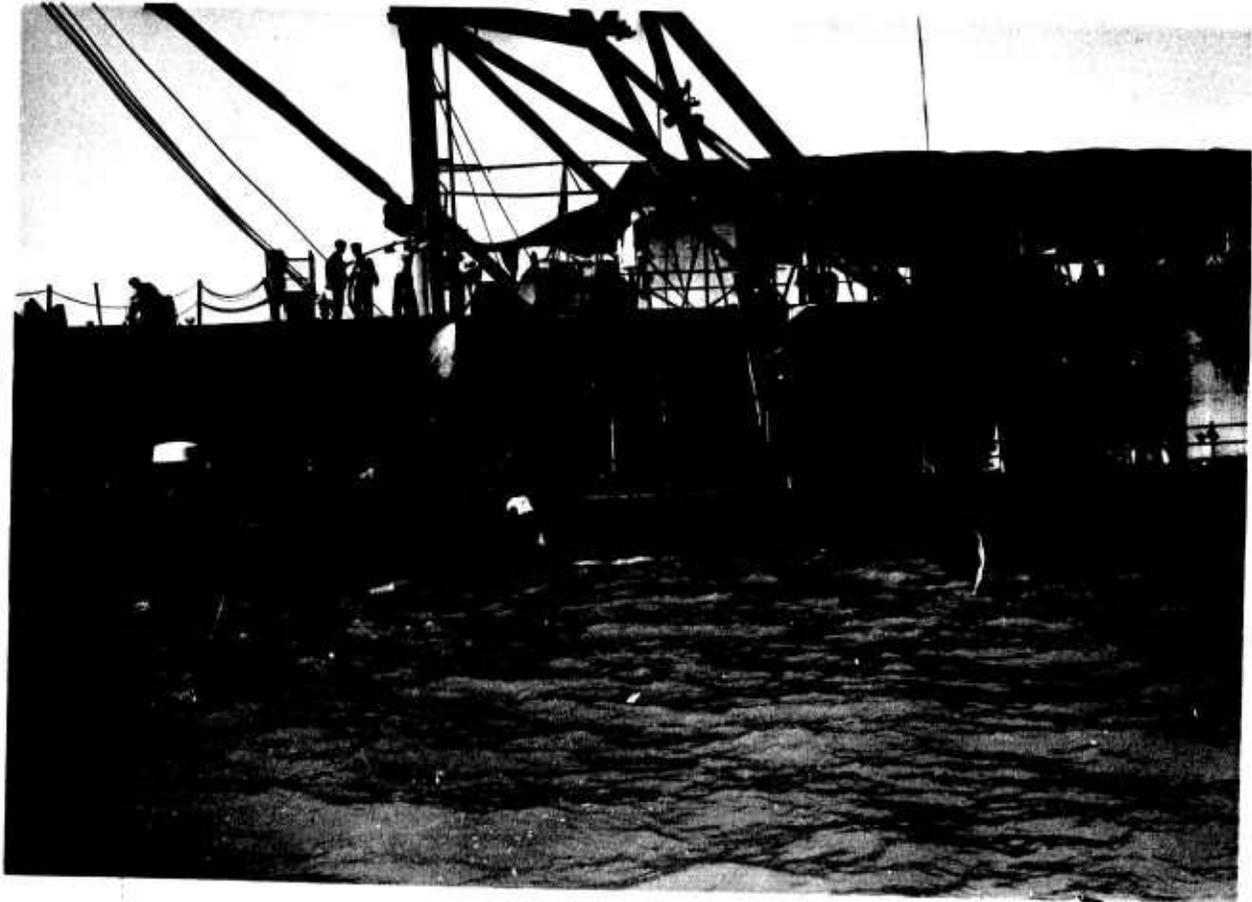


USCGC BERING STRAIT (WHEC 382), one of the five 311-Class
Coast Guard cutters assigned to Operation MARKET TIME.

Enclosure (9)

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Starboard-side view of YRBM-16 following the underwater explosion and subsequent fire on the 24th.

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