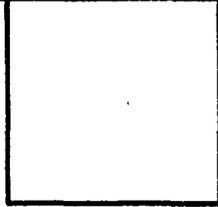


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 To: Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet (Code 12)
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 Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT ltr FF1-1 5750 ser 1/6925 of 2 October 1967
 Encl: (1) Coastal Surveillance Force Summary
 (2) River Patrol Force Summary
 (3) Riverine Assault Force Summary
 (4) Naval Advisory Group Summary
 (5) Selected Psychological Operations
 (6) USN Statistical Summary
 (7) VNN/VNMC Statistical Summary

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

S. T. ORME
Chief of Staff

Copy to:
 COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, 333)
 CNO (Op-09591a)
 Director of Naval History



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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY
May 1968

Routine MARKET TIME activity remained at a high level during May as the aggregate of indigenous junk and sampan traffic along the coast and harbors of South Vietnam reached near normal proportions. Fair weather throughout the major portion of the month and the relaxation of the more stringent curfew restrictions contributed to the increase of activity.

In May MARKET TIME units detected 106,493 junks and sampans; 39,247 of these were inspected and 21,521 were boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 752 suspicious persons, including 14 Viet Cong suspects. In addition, 1,368 steel-hulled craft were detected transiting MARKET TIME areas during the month.

The month's activity also included providing numerous exfiltration/infiltration patrols in support of ground operations, 357 naval gunfire missions and 46 hostile fire incidents. As a result of these operations, 82 enemy structures and 33 junks/sampans were destroyed. In addition, 43 Viet Cong were killed (25 probable).

During the late afternoon of 3 May, PCF 73 responded to an urgent request for naval gunfire support from a Vietnamese outpost 45 miles northwest of Rach Gia that was receiving hostile fire. As the PCF closed the beach to render assistance, it received heavy automatic-weapons fire; two .30 caliber rounds hit the Swift boat, slightly injuring one crewman. The PCF commenced firing her .50 caliber machine

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guns and 81-mm mortar into the area from which the hostile fire originated and suppressed the enemy fire without further incident.

On 5 May PCF 78 received a call from the 1st Marine Division Fire Support Control Center requesting urgent naval gunfire in support of ground troops who were under a mortar and small-arms attack near the coast of Thua Thien province. Firing her 81-mm mortar, in rapid response to the request, the Swift boat destroyed two enemy emplacements and killed two Viet Cong.

On 7 May USCGC MINNETONKA (WMEC 67) responded to a request from sector authorities and took an estimated Viet Cong company under fire 25 miles north-northeast of Ca Mau Point. Firing her 5"/38 gun, the cutter killed three enemy troops and wounded an estimated 15 more. A few hours later, a second gunfire mission by the cutter in the same general area killed an additional four Viet Cong and wounded seven others.

On 12 May PCF 98, in company with PCF 102, received heavy automatic-weapons and 57-mm recoilless-rifle fire while trying to investigate a radar target 30 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. The PCFs were unable to suppress the enemy fire and PCF 98 received several bullet holes as a result of the fire fight. Three PCF 98 crewmembers were wounded by shrapnel during the attack.

On 13 May USCGC POINT BANKS closed the beach at Ca Mau Point on an assigned mission to destroy a bridge with naval gunfire. As the cutter

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approached the area, personnel and sampans were observed in the vicinity of the bridge. The cutter destroyed the bridge and cleared the surrounding area with mortar and machine gun fire and then put ashore a landing party to reconnoiter the area. The landing party reported the bridge, a bunker and seven sampans destroyed, and captured a large amount of food supplies, personal belongings, Viet Cong documents and small-arms ammunition. All of the captured material was either destroyed or confiscated and later turned over to intelligence personnel.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
MAY 1968

Activity in the GAME WARDEN area of operation continued at an active pace. As the PBRs conducted patrols along the waterways, enemy harassment continued; however the number of rocket attack incidents initiated by the enemy lessened. In one engagement with the VC on the upper Bassac in the vicinity of Chau Doc a PBR was struck by two 75-mm recoilless rifle rounds killing two Navy men, wounding two and severely damaging the boat. The OinC of RIVSEC 511 was one of those killed. U. S. Navy "Seawolves", piloting their helicopters gunships, continued to strike enemy positions throughout the Mekong Delta and Hung Sat Special Zone exacting their toll of enemy casualties. On three separate occasions along the Bassac, Ham Luong and Mekong Rivers the armed helicopters killed 44 VC. The enemy, attempting to counter this dreaded air threat, scored several hits on the helicopters inflicting minor damage and on one occasion killed a door gunner and wounded a pilot. The SEALs continued their stealthful forays into enemy-controlled areas collecting valuable intelligence and initiating ambushes against the Communist insurgents. On 14 May, a SEAL squad engaged in a fierce firefight with 82 well-disciplined and equipped Viet Cong troops along the Cambodian border, about 12 miles southwest of Chau Doc. Navy "Seawolves" and an Army aircraft supported the SEALs ground fighting. The enemy troops that had crossed the border from Cambodia sustained casualties of

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24 killed and 40 wounded. There were no friendly casualties. However, another platoon operating on the upper Nam Luong River four miles east southeast of Cho Lach sustained heavy casualties, on the morning of 15 May. Just as the SEALs were preparing to land from their supporting LCPL a violent explosion of unknown origin occurred, killing one SEAL and wounding seven others. A GAME WARDEN support LST, USS JENNINGS COUNTY conducted H & I fire on 9 May in an area of VC activity north of Phu Vinh, along the Co Chien River. The ship's 40-mm cannon fire barrage killed 17 Viet Cong and wounded three. During the month the number of enemy initiated incidents on the Long Tau shipping channel rose and was indicative of the enemy's aim to intensify the harassment of friendly shipping on this vital waterway. There were ten attacks made against merchant ships flying the flag of the U. S., Japan, England and the Philippines. There were two mining attempts, with the remainder being automatic weapons and Rocket attacks. In all instances PBRs, Navy and Army helicopters were rapidly on the scene suppressing the enemy fire. During the attack on the British merchantman ANCO QUEEN on 19 May, five PBR sailors were wounded in the ensuing firefight with the enemy. PF troops landed at the ambush site killed 11 Viet Cong and captured two 122-mm rocket launchers of a very simple design. Damage sustained to the merchant ships in all incidents was minor. On 1 May five more PBRs

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were assigned to CTF CLEARWATER in I CTZ to reinforce the river security on the Cau Vist River, the vital logistics route to Dong Ha. This now brings to 15 the number of PBRs operating in ICTZ (10 at Tam Ky and 5 at Cua Viet). Five more boats are scheduled in the near future. On 3 May PBRs commenced operations on the upper Bassac in the vicinity of Chau Doc and the upper Mekong in the vicinity of Tam Chau. The assigned mission was to show the presence of U. S. Naval forces, curtail the infiltration of arms, ammo and explosives, collect intelligence, conduct psyops, enforce the curfew and render necessary assistance to U. S. and VN Forces in case of a VC attack.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
May 1968

During the month of May, the Viet Cong initiated several ambushes against the heavily armed gunboats of the MRF. A post-operative evaluation of the extensive rocket ambushes encountered on 26-27 May in the Giong Trom district of Kien Hoa province indicated that the Viet Cong were firing at the boats while far back from the river banks. Presumably this was in recognition of the boats' direct fire power and flamethrower capabilities. As a result, there were an unusually large number of misses; otherwise, the damage and personnel losses would have been much greater.

On 8 May, 14 Navyman were wounded in two separate ambushes of KD 91 units, along the Ba Lai river eight miles southeast of My Tho. In the first attack, two monitors and two ASPBs were struck with highly accurate RFG-7 rocket and 75-mm recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire, wounding four sailors and causing moderate to heavy damage on all four craft. About an hour later, a monitor and a flame-throwing troop carrier sustained light damage when assailed with recoilless-rifle and automatic-weapons fire from the same general area as the first attack. Ten Navyman were wounded in this attack while enemy casualties were undetermined in both encounters. Meanwhile, the assault forces of the MRF continued their reconnaissance-in-force operation against the communist insurgents in Kien Hoa province. The cumulative results of the

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four-day operation (8-11 May) amounted to 18 Viet Cong killed, 40 bunkers destroyed and six weapons captured. U. S. Army losses were two soldiers killed and 41 wounded.

On 14 May the MRF commenced a two-battalion operation near Mo Cay in Kien Hoa province to locate and engage elements of the Viet Cong 516th Battalion. The next day, they established heavy contact with a well-entrenched enemy and killed 48 guerrillas in a day-long battle three miles southwest of Mo Cay. The Mo Cay operation (14-16 May) resulted in the death of 57 enemy combatants, while friendly forces suffered the loss of six soldiers and had 14 more wounded. During this period, there were also four sailors wounded in a series of riverine ambushes.

Based on intelligence estimates that a lucrative target existed in the area southeast of Can Giouc in Long An province--the southern approach to Saigon--the MRF launched strike operations on 17 May into the area. Riverine units of the MRF conducted waterblocks as the ground forces swept the area just 12 miles south of Saigon, killing 41 Viet Cong while capturing five prisoners and seizing 52 suspects. In the next afternoon, R&D 91 units were involved in a heated skirmish when they were ambushed from both banks of the Lo Canal five miles east of Can Giouc in Long An province. The boats, which were in the process of landing troops, suppressed the intense enemy fire while the troops continued their landing; however, 14 sailors and one soldier were wounded in the attack. As usual in these

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densely foliated and restricted waterways, enemy casualties could not be determined; however, the total enemy losses for the two-day operation were 126 Viet Cong killed, 180 bunkers destroyed, five prisoners and 22 weapons captured. U. S. forces had six soldiers killed, and 38 men wounded, 14 of whom were Navy men.

On 26 May the MRF commenced riverine operations in the Giong Tron district of Kien Hoa province to locate and destroy the Viet Cong 570th Main Force Battalion. In a series of bitterly contested ambushes along the Ben Tre river and the Ong Huong stream eight miles southeast of Ben Tre, the riverine craft were subjected to repeated rocket/rockillless rifle attack on 26-27 May. There were two sailors killed and 23 Navy men wounded in seven separate ambushes which also caused light to heavy battle damage to 16 riverine units of the MRF. U. S. Army forces had eight infantrymen killed and 26 men wounded. Enemy losses amounted to 41 killed, 66 bunkers destroyed, four prisoners captured and 30 suspects detained for further interrogation.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
May 1968

During the month the Fleet Command had a daily average of 23.8 ships available and employed an average of 22 daily. These ships provided 70 gunfire support missions. At the same time the Coastal Force had an average of 188.4 junks available and employed an average of 183.2 of them daily. The RAGs utilized 141 of their 147.3 available craft during May. Meanwhile the six infantry battalions and one artillery battalion of the VNMC were committed to operations 100 percent of the time.

Task Force A, composed of the 1st, 5th and 6th Infantry Battalions, VNMC, continued Operation TAN DIANG under the operational control of the Capital Military District throughout the month. Heavy enemy contact was made as the VNMC sought out the harassing enemy ensconced in northeast Saigon. During the early morning hours of 5 May, each battalion of the task force received coordinated ground and mortar attacks at their respective positions on the northeast periphery of Saigon. Repelling the attacks, the battalions made sweeps of the areas of battle, claiming a total of 58 enemy killed, four Viet Cong captured and one suspect detained. The VNMC suffered five killed and 19 wounded that day. A similar encounter on 31 May but of greater magnitude saw the Task Force pitted against an estimated two enemy battalions near the Dien Loi bridge in northeast Saigon. Although at the close of the day, the engagement had

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not been broken, the VNMC accounted for 101 of the enemy killed during this first day of battle.

Task Force B, the 3rd and 4th Infantry Battalions, remained in IV Corps Tactical Zone under the operational control of the ARVN 21st Infantry Battalion. Reconnaissance in force and ambush operations were conducted daily; light contact was made with the enemy. Returning from operations with the MRF in IV Corps Tactical Zone on 10 May, the 2nd Battalion conducted search and clear operations in Cholon, southwest of Saigon, for the remainder of the month. The battalion experienced moderate enemy contact until 29 May when, in combined force with ARVN units, the VNMC engaged an undetermined number of the enemy. Just as Task Force A to the northeast, this battalion was waging battle as the month drew to a close. A reported cumulative total of enemy dead by 31 May was 270. Accurate results are not available at this writing.

On 5 May, VNN PGM 611 went hard aground while on patrol near the northern tip of Phu Quoc Island, 25 miles north of An Thoi. The ship's stern was impaled on rock formations; the rudder, screws, and struts were torn off and all after compartments were flooded. While awaiting salvage assistance, the ship was stripped of all ordnance, communications equipment and other salvageable items. After an initial survey was made by a salvage officer from HCU-1 Detachment Vung Tau, USS MULLIN (ARS 23) was dispatched to conduct salvage operations. Assisting in the salvage

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operations and providing a vital deterrent force against enemy attack were units of the VNN patrol forces; a VNN officer was in charge of the VNN salvage operations. After two and one-half days of around the clock pumping and patching, operations were climaxed when the VNN PGM 600 pulled the stricken vessel free of the rocks. DELIVER then towed the PGM to Vung Tau, while pumping continued on the still flooding, though afloat ship. On 15 May, the VNN LSSL 225 relieved DELIVER of her tow and the PGM was brought to the VNN shipyard in Saigon where the extensive repairs were begun by VNN shipbuilders.

River Assault Groups of the 4th Riverine Area continued supporting ARVN troops during the month conducting the Operation TRUONG CONG DINH series. Of significant note were two such operations, TRUONG CONG DINH 7/SD/14 and TRUONG CONG DINH SD/9/22 which cumulatively yielded 302 enemy killed, five Viet Cong captured and a quantity of enemy weapons and equipment seized. Conducted on 2-4 May along the Cho Goa canal in Go Cong Province, 25 miles south-southwest of Saigon and on 18 May along the Nba Man Canal, four miles east of Sa Dec respectively, TAGs 21, 23, 26, 31 and 33 provided mobile support, blocking and patrolling operations, gunfire support and retraction for the ARVN 7th and 9th Infantry Divisions during the amphibious assaults. Friendly losses were 22 ARVN troops killed and 45 wounded.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION OPERATIONS
May 1968

Psychological operations were continued by all naval units in their respective operational areas of responsibility during the month. A Psychological Operations Conference was held at Cam Ranh Bay on 25-26 May and attended by Navy representatives from Navy units throughout the Republic. It was the consensus of the attendees that the Navy had made definite inroads in the field of psychological operations and that efforts were achieving some desired results. It was also a conference consensus that better organization and authorized psyop personnel must be forthcoming if a truly progressive and continuous psyop program is to be achieved. There were nine enemy troops that rallied to naval craft in May; three in I CTZ, near the DMZ, five in II CTZ that hailed PCFs and one in IV CTZ that rallied to a PBR. Leaflet distribution and surface broadcasts continued to be the main avenue of addressing the various target audiences. On 15 May, however, TF 116 PBRs assisted in the execution of the IV CTZ CORDS-initiated Operation KONTIKI. The mission of the operation was to reach the people in the Delta that lived in areas completely controlled by the VC. The PBRs floated plastic packages, containing psyop material and small gifts, into the rivers and canals leading into the Viet Cong-controlled areas allowing the tide to carry the packages to the targeted areas. Harassment of Navy boats conducting psyop missions continued at an accelerated pace. It was stated by a PBR

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sailor that "if you wanted to draw enemy fire start broadcasting."

In the field of Civic Action naval units mostly directed their efforts to aiding the Vietnamese rebuild battle-damaged homes wrought by Viet Cong assaults. In most cases the Navy men provided technical expertise and material to assist in these self-help projects coordinated with Vietnamese local officials. MEDCAPs were carried out by naval units and in the Phan Rang area alone, in II CTZ, Seabee Team 6201 treated 2,076 patients during the month. In Quang Tri Province, Seabees of MCB 10 presented a total of seven new bicycles and numerous sacks of cement to a protestant church-orphanage, a Catholic mission and a Buddhist Pagoda as a token of their friendship. As a result of the NVA/VC attack on Saigon in early May, many civilians were killed and their homes lost due to artillery from both sides. In order to restore the U. S. image which suffered in Districts 6 and 8 of Saigon primarily, a crash cleanup and buildup program was initiated by COMUSMACV with heavy participation by MCB 58.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
May 1968

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>	<u>Mobile Riverine Force</u>
Detections	107,861	112,189	*
Inspections	40,171	28,212	*
Boardings	21,619	48,633	*
Craft detained	*	*	0
Persons detained	752	553	314
Viet Cong suspects	14	51	*
Hostile fire incidents	46	89	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	43 (25 prob)	207	261
b. Wounded	25 (23 prob)	26	*
c. Captured	*	22	11
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	5	3 USN/23 USA**
b. Wounded	4	50	62 USN/108 USA***
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	*
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	133	162	0
(2) Structures	82	204	518
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	7	0
(2) Weapons	*	*	54****
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	*	2,559*****
(4) Rice (tons)	*	*	0
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	16	220	0
(2) Structures	60	237	15
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	0	0
(2) Helicopters	*	0	*
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	3	26	31
(2) Helicopters	*	23	*
SAR missions	*	*	*

Remarks:

- * Information not applicable or not available this date.
- ** One USN KIA was non-hostile. In addition three sailors and seven soldiers drowned.
- *** Two USA soldiers wounded in non-hostile action.
- **** Includes three grenades and 13 mines.
- ***** Includes 44 mortar, rocket and recoilless rifle rounds.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY
May 1968

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
<u>Coastal Force</u>				
I NZ	28,129	83,139	4	175
II NZ	21,178	69,526	38	254
III NZ	13,290	40,960	9	37
IV NZ	6,433	22,555	9	6
Sub-totals	69,030	216,180	60	472
<u>Fleet Command</u>				
<u>Patrol Ships</u>	1,864	8,655	1	16
<u>Riverine Area</u>				
<u>Craft</u>	604	28,353	0	5
<u>Totals</u>	71,498	253,188	61	493

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: KIA 768 VC CAPTURED 62 VC SUSPECTS 339

VNMC: KIA 88 WIA 427 MIA 4

USMC: WIA 2

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