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Historical Summary, October 1967

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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, October 1967; submission 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) Selected Civic Action Projects
 (6) USN Statistical Summary
 (7) VNN/VNMC Statistical Summary
 (8) Civic Action Statistical Summary
 (9) Photograph of PBR 64 (two views)
 (10) Photograph of Flamethrower Tests (two views)

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 October's Historical Supplement.

S. T. ORME
 Chief of Staff

Copy to:
 COMUSMACV (Hist. Branch, EJS)
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UNCLASSIFIED~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED~~
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~~FOREIGN NATIONALS~~COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY
October 1967

During October there was a sharp decrease in Operation MARKET TIME activity, especially in the First and Second Coastal Zones, as the northeast monsoon season arrived earlier than usual. Junk and sampan detections in the first two zones numbered 37,485, less than half the number recorded in September; in some cases, seas of over ten feet in height and winds in excess of 25 knots prevented patrol craft from leaving port. Meanwhile, MARKET TIME units in the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones conducted 52 gunfire support missions in October, more than three times the total conducted in September. In the Third Coastal Zone, Coast Guard WPBs and Navy PCFs fired 16 missions against enemy positions in the Long Toan and Thanh Phu Secret Zones. Certain patrol areas and patrol units were realigned during the month. Airborne patrol tracks were extended farther westward in the Gulf of Thailand to include surveillance of sea traffic bound for Cambodia; and the northern mine-sweeper-destroyer escort barrier patrol was extended 40 miles eastward along the 17th parallel to help increase the probability of detecting southbound infiltrators. The semi-annual shift of WPB and PCF units, involving, in October, the movement of nine of the more seaworthy cutters to the First and Second Coastal Zones, occurred during the latter part of the month.

On the 12th of the month USCGC POINT HUDSON carried out a gunfire

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mission against a Viet Cong training area in the Long Toan Secret Zone, 55 miles southwest of Vung Tau. Responding to corrections transmitted by an airborne spotter, the cutter struck six enemy structures and two bunkers, and initiated two fires. That same day, 25 miles north of Ca Mau Point, the Coast Guard cutter BARATARIA (WMEC 381) provided gunfire support for a U. S. Army Special Forces outpost threatened by a Viet Cong company. BARATARIA's fire destroyed two enemy structures and one sampans, initiated a secondary fire, and helped disperse approximately 100 Viet Cong advancing on the outpost. On the 22nd, in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone, PCF 68 responded to a gunfire support request from an Army aircraft and, with spotting assistance from the aircraft, destroyed three enemy structures, two sampans and one bunker in a Viet Cong staging area. That day the Coast Guard cutter GRESHAM (WMEC 387) came to the assistance of the Special Forces outpost aided by BARATARIA 10 days earlier. The outpost was once again threatened by a Viet Cong company and the GRESHAM's gunfire disrupted the enemy contingent while simultaneously destroying five Viet Cong structures and damaging 16 others.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
October 1967

Throughout the month there were continued indications that the destruction of PBRs has become a major Viet Cong objective. In a series of incidents along the Bassac, Ham Luong and Mekong Rivers, Operation GAME WARDEN units came under heavy recoilless-rifle and mortar fire. In addition, in October the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone were the scene of several abortive mining attempts aimed at PBRs. Although the Viet Cong's diverse and intense efforts were largely unsuccessful, on 25 October a PBR in the Ham Luong caught fire and sank after being struck by enemy fire. Besides the PBR operations, a key factor in the mounting Viet Cong frustration (on the 2nd, 23 miles southeast of Can Tho, the commander of the Viet Cong's 505th Company defected to a PBR) was the growing effectiveness of the pressure applied by GAME WARDEN helicopters. The aircraft flew over 1,000 missions in October, involving more than 1,300 combat hours, one-fourth of which occurred at night. On 7 October Operation GREEN WAVE--began in September to help determine the feasibility of PBR operations in the I Corps Tactical Zone--was terminated. Among the principal problems encountered by the 10 PBRs participating in GREEN WAVE were restrictive navigation and heavily-bunkered enemy positions. During the three-week-long operation, five of the PBRs were simultaneously out of commission due to groundings or battle damage.

On the 3rd of October, 67 miles southwest of Saigon, a combined USN and VNN force consisting of SEALs, PBRs, helicopters, and LST and RAO craft conducted Operation CRIMSON TIDE II against Tam Dinh Island and

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its environs. During the one-day mission the units destroyed 67 Viet Cong structures and fortifications, nine bunkers, 18 sampans and 22 punji pits; four U. S. Navy men were wounded by booby traps. On 5 and 6 October, in five separate incidents along the Ham Luong River and the Ba Lai Canal, Dong Tam-based Navy helicopters killed five Viet Cong, destroyed nine enemy junks and 15 sampans, and severely damaged 14 other craft. On the 15th, nine miles west of My Tho, three Navy helicopters responded to a distress call from a downed U. S. Army spotter aircraft, and rescued the two crewmen. During the subsequent successful recovery of the aircraft, PBRs and a Navy helicopter suppressed heavy enemy fire directed at the salvage operation; as a result, seven Viet Cong were killed. On 18 October, 13 miles southeast of Can Tho, two SEAL squads and two PBRs conducted a joint ambush and psychological warfare mission in the township of Lac Thon. After the SEALs had taken up positions inland, the PBRs beamed Chieu Hoi appeals from the river. During the operation two Viet Cong rallied under the amnesty program and four fleeing Viet Cong were killed by fire from the SEALs; a fifth Viet Cong was captured. On the morning of the 25th, along the outskirts of Ben Tre, a PBR patrol was ambushed by an enemy unit. In the ensuing fire fight, one of the craft--PBR 64--was struck by recoilless-rifle fire and burst into flames and sank. Navy helicopters and two PBRs rushed to the scene and silenced the enemy positions. Nine sailors were wounded during the engagement and a Vietnamese national maritime policeman was reported missing. At least two Viet Cong were killed.

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY
October 1967

Throughout the month of October the Mobile Riverine Force continued to demonstrate the versatility of its flexible strength as it struck at main-force enemy positions in the Mekong Delta and overran Viet Cong installations in the Rung Sat Special Zone. In a series of search and destroy operations, units of the MRF killed 107 Viet Cong, destroyed numerous enemy bunkers, and seized or destroyed several caches containing large quantities of supplies and ammunition. U. S. casualties included 10 killed and 48 wounded; ten of the wounded were Navy men. On 10 October the major portion of the MRF's movement from Dong Tam to Yung Tau was conducted at night, marking the first time that the principal ships of the MRF have transited the Mekong River complex under the cover of darkness. During the transit, minesweeping was conducted ahead of the force by the newest members of the MRF—the two ASPBs that arrived in late September. Later in the month, in the Can Giouc district of Long An province, the presence of the MRF contributed significantly to the area's security as 83.2 percent of the district's voters went to the polls to cast their ballots in South Vietnam's Lower House elections.

On the morning of 6 October the MRF shifted the CORONADO V area of operations from the Ban Long Secret Zone, where contact with the enemy had been light, to the Cam Son Secret Zone in Dinh Tuong province. That afternoon U. S. troops of the NINTH Infantry Division gained contact with a main-force Viet Cong unit, the 263rd Battalion. The MRF elements battled the enemy force for three days and when the operation ended, on the

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8th, the number of Viet Cong killed had reached 95; in addition, 171 enemy bunkers were destroyed and a large quantity of small-arms ammunition was captured. During this period seven U. S. soldiers were killed and 27 were wounded; one sailor was wounded by sniper fire. On 10 October the MRF transited from Dong Tam to Vung Tau and, the following day, commenced Operation CORONADO VI in the Rung Sat Special Zone. That day, 17 miles northwest of Vung Tau, riverine assault craft rescued the nine survivors of an Army helicopter crash which occurred while the UH-1D was making a landing approach to an ATC(H) in the lower Dong Tranh River. The aircraft's pilot was killed during the mishap. CORONADO VI was terminated on the 18th. Although contact with the enemy was light (three Viet Cong were killed and six U. S. soldiers were wounded), the Army troops destroyed 99 enemy bunkers and captured a large quantity of materiel, including 6,000 rounds of machine-gun ammunition, 500 rounds of small-arms ammunition, 200 grenades and 700 pounds of TNT. On 20 October the MRF shifted anchorage to the junction of the Soirap and Vam Co rivers and began Operation CORONADO VII in Long An province. The following evening, 12 miles southwest of Nha Be, an ATC on patrol in the Bach Cac River was struck by a B-40 rocket. Although damage to the craft was minor, five U. S. sailors were wounded. CORONADO VII ended on the 23rd; overall contact with the enemy was light but MRF elements continued to uncover and destroy enemy bunkers (62) and booby traps (17). Between 27 and 29 October the MRF conducted Operation CORONADO VIII in the Nhon Trach and Long Thanh districts of Bien Hoa province. During this period troop elements captured 6,900 rounds of assorted ammunition, 190 grenades and over 500 pounds of medical supplies.

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY
October 1967

During the month the Fleet Command had a daily average of 25 ships available and a daily average of 19 ships employed. At the same time, the Coastal Force employed a daily average of 167 junks of the daily average of 194 available, and the River Assault Groups had a daily average of 131 craft employed of the daily average of 156 available. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese Marine Corps' six Infantry and one Artillery Battalions were committed to operations 90 percent of the time, and experienced light contact with the enemy. Through the 20th, Brigade Force A conducted search and destroy operations near Tan Uyen, 17 miles north of Saigon; the force was then relieved by an ARVN Special Forces unit, and the Marines' 2nd and 6th Battalions, together with the 4th and 5th Battalions, performed security duties in the Capital Military District for the remainder of the month. Throughout October Brigade Force B continued operations in the Bong Son area of the II Corps Tactical Zone. On 11 October a major change in the staff structure of the Naval Advisory Group's organization was initiated; designed to strengthen the diverse aspects of the advisory effort, the new development created, in effect, a separate staff segment to coordinate the various advisory activities.

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As part of the realignment, the Senior Advisor, Vietnamese Navy Headquarters, was redesignated Senior Naval Advisor and was placed in a direct line of authority under Chief, Naval Advisory Group with respect to all advisory tasks and functions.

Between 0230 and 0430 on 7 October a RAG 26 monitor, anchored for the night in the Mekong River, six miles south of the Cambodian border, was seized by one of the crew, a chief petty officer; in the process, the petty officer killed four crew members, wounded a fifth and forced a sixth to assist him in taking the monitor across the border into Cambodia. The hostage subsequently escaped. Later in the day an aircraft spotted the monitor, beached two miles north of the border. On 19 October, in a sequel to an operation conducted the previous day by PBRs and U. S. Navy SEALs, 40 Provincial Reconnaissance Unit troops, supported by RAG 25 craft and Army and Navy helicopters, captured a number of Viet Cong cadre in the Delta township of Lac Thon. Responding to an intelligence report that a funeral would be held that evening for a Viet Cong village chief—one of the four persons killed by the SEALs on the 18th—the PRUs were airlifted to an area near the funeral site and, penetrating the enemy's security defenses, abducted 10 Viet Cong, including a hamlet chief, a political platoon leader and three other officials. The troops then fought their way back through enemy lines to the waiting boats while the helicopters and the RAG craft kept the Viet Cong positions pinned down. The successful operation, in which there were no friendly casualties,

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was completed within six hours of receipt of the initial intelligence report. In the week that followed, nine other Viet Cong from this area rallied to the Government. On the morning of the 25th, RAG 25 units supported a company of Popular Force troops and an ARVN Special Forces platoon in conducting an ambush on the north bank of the Bassac River, 6 miles downstream from Can Tho. The ground forces flanked a Viet Cong crossing point and forced the enemy's security unit toward the river and the fire of the RAG craft. Six Viet Cong were killed during the operation, 14 were captured, and a quantity of weapons and documents was seized. A U. S. advisor to the Popular Force unit and a Popular Force soldier were wounded.

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SELECTED CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS
October 1967

Throughout the month U. S. and Vietnamese naval forces continued to conduct extensive medical civic action projects. In the Rung Sat Special Zone, units of TF 116 conducted several MEDCAPs, three of which were carried out in the villages of Thanh An and Tan Thanh, and resulted in the treatment of 120 Vietnamese patients. Meanwhile elements of River Patrol Section 532, in cooperation with the Vietnamese Navy's River Assault Group 21, delivered 2,700 sand bags, a 5-ton truckload of lumber and 48 rolls of concertina to a Government outpost under construction at My Tho. When completed, the site will serve as a security post for refugees in the area as well as for military and civilian shipping en route to Saigon.

During the month a Vietnamese Navy hospital ship, LSM(H) 400, conducted several MEDCAPs along the rivers of the Delta. While certain accompanying RAG craft provided the necessary security measures, other craft ferried patients from shore to the hospital ship and back. Each area visit lasted approximately one day and resulted in the daily treatment of approximately 900 local residents in need of medical or dental assistance; some of the patients required surgery. In addition to the medical care provided, quantities of foodstuffs and other commodities were distributed during the visits, often to the widows and children of Vietnamese servicemen killed in action. On one occasion, in the Cho Lach district of Thanh Long province, the commanding officer of the hospital ship presented officials of the local

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high school with 200 textbooks donated by a group of U. S. citizens from Guam. The books had been given to the commanding officer when the ship was in Guam undergoing overhaul.

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October 1967

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>	<u>Mobile Riverine Force</u>
Detections	55,216	55,781	*
Inspections	19,966	11,592	*
Boardings	12,109	33,291	*
Craft detained	8	*	*
Persons detained	504	620	121
Viet Cong suspects	21	59	*
Hostile fire incidents	12	78	*
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	5	87	107
b. Wounded	9	17	*
c. Captured	0	19	5
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	1	0
b. Wounded	2	28	10
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	22	99	1
(2) Structures	38	*	507
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	*	2	0
(2) Weapons	*	4	411
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	*	14,126
(4) Rice (tons)	*	*	3.5
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	37	52	7
(2) Structures	95	*	*
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	1 (PBR)	0
(2) Helicopters	*	0	0
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	2	14	7
(2) Helicopters	1 (F3A)	3	*
SAR missions	5	*	1

Remarks:

* Information not applicable or not available this date.

MARKET TIME units conducted 110 gunfire support missions.

STABLE DOOR units detained 277 persons and 8 craft.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY

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	9,497	34,238	5	93
II NZ	6,454	21,705	2	133
III NZ	8,978	33,158	0	1
IV IZ	<u>3,870</u>	<u>10,950</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Sub-totals	28,799	100,051	<u>8</u>	<u>228</u>
<u>FLEET COMMAND</u>				
PATROL SHIPS	186	809	0	0
<u>RIVERINE AREA</u>				
CRAFT	5,433	20,346	0	0
TOTALS	<u>34,418</u>	<u>121,206</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>228</u>

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:

VC/NVA: 12 KIA* 6 CAPTURED* 62 SUSPECTS DETAINED*

VNMC: 4 KIA* 12 MIA*

Remarks:

* Through 28 October

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
October 1967

1. Construction:		
a. Dispensaries		*
b. Dwellings/number of families		9/9#
c. Schools/classrooms		1/5
d. Wells		1
e. Churches		*
2. Medical treatment:		
a. General medicine		2,990
b. Dental		396
c. Surgery		30
d. Emergency evacuations		112
3. Health and sanitation:		
a. Classes on personal hygiene/attendance		12/363
b. Immunisations		*
c. Medical aides or nurses trained		7
d. Physical examinations		*
e. Spray insecticide operations		19
f. Swamp areas drained		*
4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):		
a. Cement		600
b. Clothing		300
c. Food		24,974
d. Lumber (board feet)		7,600
e. Medical, non-prescription		*
f. Midwife kits (number)		*
g. School kits (number)		311
h. Soap		670
i. Tin sheets (number)		178
j. Woodworking kits (number)		5
k. Paper blankets (number)		*
l. Personal kits (number)		*
m. Magazines (number)		*
5. Educational efforts:		
a. English classes/attendance		60/496
6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:		
a. Orphanages		*
b. Schools		6,000
c. Other		*

Remarks:

* Information not available this date.

Plus one six-room orphanage.

Enclosure (8)