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Subj: U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly Historical Summary, May 1969; submission of

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Encl: (1) Operation SEA LORDS Summary
(2) Operation SEA LORDS Statistical Summary by Campaign
(3) Coastal Surveillance Force Summary
(4) River Patrol Force Summary
(5) Riverine Assault Force Summary
(6) USN Statistical Summary
(7) Naval Advisory Group Summary
(8) VNN/VNMC Statistical Summary
(9) Psychological and Civic Action Summary
(10) USN Civic Action Statistical Summary

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1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (10) are submitted.

2. Due to a change in reporting procedures, the information for the USN Civic Action Statistical Summary is not available for the current month's Historical Summary. The Civic Action Statistical Summary will carry the figures for the previous month's work i.e., May Historical Summary contains 25 March through 25 April Civic Action Statistical Summary.

3. The data contained in enclosures (2), (6), (8) and (10) is based on information available this date. Any adjustments to enclosures (2), (6), (8), and (10) will be reflected in May's Historical Supplement.

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OPERATION SEA LORDS SUMMARY
May 1969

Normal operations continued in each SEA LORDS campaign during a month of generally lower levels of enemy activity. The number of enemy contacts fell off noticably, especially those initiated by hostile fire. Units of the Mobile Riverine Force, Coastal Surveillance Force, and River Patrol Force along with Vietnamese Navy river craft and coastal units conducted interdiction patrols and ambushes as well as many combined operations with ground and air forces in the Giant Slingshot, Barrier Reef, and Tran Hung Dao campaigns. River patrol craft continued interdiction and pacification operations on inland waterways northeast and southeast of Rach Gia and coastal patrols in the shallow waters of Rach Gia Bay in the Search Turn campaign. Numerous river raids and patrols on the rivers and canals of southern Ca Mau Peninsula and along the mouths of the Mekong were conducted by "Swift" boats of the Coastal Surveillance Force as the MARKET TIME RAIDER campaign remained in high gear. [illegible]

Giant Slingshot Campaign

Task Group 194.9 consisting of nearly 150 river patrol craft, river assault craft, minesweeping craft and Vietnamese river assault and interdiction craft maintained a fast tempo of operations in the GIANT SLINGSHOT campaign. This effort on the Vam Co Dong and Van Co Tay Rivers represents the largest and most active portion of the interdiction barrier between enemy supply sources in the "Parrots Beak" area of Cambodia and the strategic area west of Saigon.

GROUP 4
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Declassified after 12 years

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Enemy opposition was most frequent along the Vam Co Dong although the total of 75 hostile fire incidents for both rivers in May represents a substantial decrease from that encountered in prior months. The number of contacts initiated by patrol craft also decreased slightly to 69 successful ambushes on evading craft taken under fire. Both friendly and enemy losses decreased reflecting the decline in enemy activity. Enemy casualties came to 119 killed (50 body count plus 69 estimated), six wounded, and seven captured. Other losses were probably inflicted in more than 30 cases where air strikes, gunships, or artillery hit enemy positions in response to hostile fire, targets of opportunity, and tactical intelligence. Friendly casualties came to one American killed plus 38 Americans and 15 Vietnamese wounded. Four patrol craft received moderate damage while an additional 19 were lightly damaged.

Ground units and patrol craft probing the river banks continued to uncover caches of enemy arms along the Vam Co Dong. The following materials were included in the 11 caches discovered during May:

4 individual weapons

24,350 rounds of small arms ammunition

243 B-40/41 rockets and 1 launcher

136 75mm recoilless rifle rounds

578 82mm & 60mm mortar rounds

107 120mm mortar rounds

6 water mines

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424 blocks of explosives, electric cables and fuzes

41 grenades and 1 land mine

A combined cordon and search operation known as Caesar II was conducted on 17 - 24 May in an area bounded on the west by the Vam Co Dong river and extending eastward to Route 4 which connects Ben Luc and Tan An. Afloat units of River Assault Squadron 13 and Vietnamese RAID (River Assault and Interdiction Division) 70 provided blocking forces and waterborne ambushes as an adjunct to ground operations conducted by U. S. Army 199th Light Infantry Brigade and Vietnamese Army forces. Enemy contact was light and results of the operation were fourteen Viet Cong killed (3 body count and 11 probable), four sampans destroyed and one sailor wounded.

On the night of 22 May a new combined Army-Navy operation known as BUSHWACK I, was begun on the Vam Co Cong river. Utilizing newly developed tactics, the concept of operations calls for elements of Echo Company, 5/60 Infantry Battalion of the U. S. 9th Infantry Division to embark in PBRs and provide flank security on the shore adjacent to waterborne ambushes set by the PBRs. The general area of operations extends from Ben Luc to the confluence of the Vam Co River tributaries. Three VC were captured along with one sampan loaded with small arms ammunition, rocket boosters and mortars. Three U. S. Army personnel were wounded.

Day by day activity on the Giant Slingshot area of operations in

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outlined by the discussion of incidents following:

Seabees, while digging post holes for a perimeter fence near Tuyen Nhon (XS 280 775) on the afternoon of 2 May, uncovered two 60mm mortar rounds without fuses. Army EOD was called to the scene and uncovered four additional rounds. A mine detector indicated the presence of more rounds but digging operations were secured due to darkness. The following morning 26 more rounds were unearthed and their decomposed state indicated they had been buried for several years. One round had the date 1953 on it. All rounds were destroyed and the Army EOD Team continued to sweep the area to be used for the fence for any additional ammunition.

While conducting a routine patrol eight miles southeast of Tan An on the Vam Co Tay river (XS 674 582) on the early morning of 6 May, two VN ASPB's of River Assault and Interdiction Division 70 (RAID 70) came under heavy B-40 rocket and automatic weapons fire from the south bank. One of the ASPB's took a B-40 rocket hit and the other received several .30 caliber rounds. The two patrol boats returned the fire and proceeded to Tan An for a dust off of the three casualties including one seriously wounded U. S. Advisor. This was the third ambush of the month against RAID 70 between Tan An and the junction of the Vam Co Dong and the Vam Co Tay Rivers. The VN RAID commander felt that the ambushes were a show of VC loyalty in reaction to the intensive psyops missions that were performed in the area during the previous week.

On 7 May, two ASPB's of Task Unit 194.9.4 were patrolling the Vam Co Dong

river, 11 miles northwest of Tra Cu (XS 392 175) when, at 1934, ATC-112-5 reported it was taking on water and would have to beach. In the process an enemy initiated firefight utilizing automatic weapons and B-40 rockets took place; one of the estimated five B-40's landed close aboard ATC-112-5 wounding two sailors. The boats returned fire and cleared the area at high speed. At 300 yards past the ambush site the flooding ATC was beached on the east bank to prevent sinking. Navy "Seawolves" and OV-10A's on patrol were diverted to the scene and were overhead within seven minutes; the "Seawolves" then put in an airstrike. Two ATC's were sent to go alongside the beached boat to hold it in place on the river bank as it had settled with the after third under water. Additionally two PBR's arrived with 30 RF/PF troops who set up a defensive perimeter around the ATC. On the next low tide, at 0700 the following morning, the boat was refloated and towed to USS Askari (ARL-30) for repair. The source of flooding was determined to have been a ruptured cooling line to the starboard engine. Enemy casualties in the action were unknown.

On the night of 10 May, units of TU 194.9.4 inserted and supported a LRRP (Long Range Reconnaisance Patrol) of the 75th Rangers for coordinated ambush operations about one mile south of Go Dau Ha (XT 390 230). After insertion the boats sighted two people on the east bank of the river. They were taken under fire with unknown results. Later movement was heard in the tree line and one boat broke ambush while the other remained. Eight VC were taken under fire simultaneously by the boats and the LRRP.

Six of the VC were killed and the other two were listed as probably killed. After the extraction of the LEEP, precleared artillery and OV-10A air strikes were called into the area. There were no friendly casualties.

At daybreak on 12 May two RAID 70 ASPB's were transporting RF troops to the vicinity of the Thu Tuno District to .. (XS 536 722) which had come under enemy attack during the night. As the river craft approached the canal leading to the town, they were fired upon from three machine gun positions about 200 yards inland from the north bank. The VNN quickly overcame this fire and then took under fire seven armed VC who were moving across a nearby field. Two of them were probably killed. The order to insert the RF's was cancelled and the ASPB's were returning to Thu An when they received word to reinsert the troops above Thu Thua (XS 478 711). Having placed the troops ashore the VNN were enroute to Thu Thua when a hail of AK-47 and recoilless rifle fire interrupted their transit. The enemy fire was silenced and the house that had been pouring out AK-47 rounds was destroyed. The two units along with a heavily armed VNN Monitor proceeded about 400 yards into the Thu Thua canal where they received more enemy fire from two houses to the northwest and the nearby tree line. With the added firepower of the Monitor, the two houses, which reportedly contained five VC were reduced to rubble and the fire from the tree line suppressed. The three VNN craft remained on the canal until they were forced to leave by friendly artillery and air strikes.

PBRs in waterborne ambush on the night of 15 May sighted three sampans

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with 8 - 12 persons aboard coming out of a canal 6½ miles northwest of Tan An. The boats took the sampans under fire and the occupants jumped into the water and attempted to reach the beach. Concussion grenades were then employed to neutralize the personnel in the water. Five VC were killed. The abandoned sampans were searched and then destroyed. The search of the sampans uncovered 51 flare parachutes, one case of Cambodian cigarettes and ten pounds of miscellaneous clothing. There were no U. S. casualties.

An outpost under heavy mortar attack caused two PBR's of TE 194.9.3.2 to break their night ambush position and proceed to the aid of the outpost in the post midnight hours of 17 May. When the PBRs were about four miles northwest of Moc Hoa (WS 983 942) they came under intense automatic weapons fire from both banks of the river. The patrol returned the fire and cleared the area immediately. One sailor was fatally wounded in the firefight when he was shot through the heart by an AK-47 round. Artillery and Spooky aircraft were called in and fired into the enemy positions. Enemy casualties were unknown.

Seawolves were scrambled on the evening of 18 May to support an ARVN platoon with U. S. advisors who were in contact with a VC squad about nine miles northeast of Tra Cu (XT 600 060). The helos placed multiple rocket and machine gun strikes on the enemy positions and finally suppressed the enemy fire. Enemy casualties were listed as three killed and ten probably killed. There were no U. S. casualties.

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Two VNN units of RAID 71 were participating in Operation CAESAR II on 17 May when they observed a single sampan with two occupants crossing the Van Co Dong river in a restricted area (XS 596 772). Warning shots were fired but the sampan disregarded them and successfully evaded into a small stream. Although the VN sailors were able to recover the sampan and the long shaft motor, they could not take the VC under fire because of friendly forces and civilians nearby.

An operation involving two ASPB's, two ATC's, a Monitor and a Zippo was planned on 20 May based on intelligence that a Viet Cong squad was located in a position along the Van Co Tay river, 15 miles southeast of Moc Hoa (XS 345 805) with an assigned mission to attack patrol boats. The ASPB's assumed ambush positions while the other boats were prepositioned near the ambush site. At 2115 two Viet Cong were sighted about 35 feet from the ASPB's and noises were heard off the bow and stern. The ASPB's commenced fire and broke ambush while making seven firing runs. The prepositioned boats also moved in and placed concentrated fire on the enemy positions. These units received automatic weapons fire, suppressed it, and observed several secondary explosions. Units cleared the area and called in an OV-10A strike. There were no friendly casualties and enemy losses were unknown during the encounter.

On 24 May, PBRs and a Reconnaisance Platoon of the U. S. 9th Infantry Division established a coordinated land/waterborne ambush, 10 miles east-northeast of Tan An (XS 722 651). A sampan with three

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occupants was detected moving north along the west bank of the river. When the sampan was almost abreast of the awaiting PBR, it turned and started to cross toward a stream on the east bank. The patrol then illuminated the area and drove the occupants into the water with small arms fire. With the Army platoon protecting the west bank of the river the PBR's successfully captured all three VC unharmed. The sampan was seized and found to contain 2,750 rounds of AK-47 ammunition. 50 B-40 boosters, 30 rounds of 62 mortar and two pounds of documents. No friendly casualties were sustained.

Barrier Reef Campaign

Contact with the enemy remained light again this month in the Barrier Reef operating area along the La Grange, Ong Lon, and Dong Tien canals. Thirteen firefights, enemy or friendly initiated, occurred during May. Operating procedures included routine interdiction patrols, floating night ambushes, insertion and support of ground troops, and harrassment and interdiction fire. Enemy casualties were 23 killed (12 probable), seven captured and 11 wounded (2 probable); there were 11 VNN and 1 USN wounded during the month.

From 16 through 21 May there was a reduced U. S. presence on Barrier Reef east due to a PBR Division transfer to the RSSZ for augmentation of operations there. A daily presence was maintained in the Barrier Reef area with the remaining units of TE 194.9.3.1.

On the evening of 3 May, Barrier Reef units in waterborne ambush

observed VC moving along the bank approximately 150 meters from their position about two miles southwest of Ap Bac (XS 129 701). The PBR's opened fire and received automatic weapons fire in return. Black Ponies (CV-104) on routine patrol were directed to the area and placed strikes on the enemy positions. Enemy casualties were one killed and two probably killed.

PBR's inserted, supported and extracted a group of SEALS and LDNN's in a night ambush 11 miles southwest of Moc Hoa (WS 935 766) from 0100 until 0300 on 4 May. Seven VC were captured; four of the prisoners were turned over to the U. S. Advisor at Ap Bac.

On 10 May a PBR and an ATC inserted two platoons of Tram Chim Popular Force troops 19 miles west southwest of Moc Hoa. The insertion was in response to intelligence indicating that 200 kilograms of enemy explosives were cached in the area. The cache was located in fish traps adjacent to a small canal and 125 packets of plastic explosives were found. Each packet weighed three killos. Three AK-47 magazines were also discovered with the aid of a metal detector.

After reports of VC in the area, a PBR and ASPB placed mortar fire in a treeline eight miles northwest of Mei Ann (WS 875 743) on the suspected VC positions at 0130 on 12 May. Four secondary explosions were observed. Regional Force troops making a sweep of the area at first light found fresh graves containing five VC bodies. Enemy casualties were listed as five killed.

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In response to information provided by a Hoi Chan, Seawolves of TU 116.5.8 were directed to cover a ground sweep 18 miles southwest of Moc Hoa (WS 770 798) on the morning of 12 May. At 1035 the ground troops came under fire from an estimated squad of VC. The Seawolves immediately placed strikes in the area and the fire was suppressed. An agent later reported that five VC were killed and three wounded in the Seawolf strikes.

On the morning of 28 May, Seawolves of TU 116.5.8 placed strikes in support of ground troops in contact with the enemy 15 miles northwest of Ma Ann (WS 740 770). The aircraft received light automatic weapons fire during their attacks. Enemy casualties were six wounded and six probably killed. The ground troops during their sweep destroyed 15 structures, four tons of rice, and three bunkers.

Tran Hung Dao Campaign

The river patrols performed by the U. S. and VNN PCF's and VNN junk force on the Rach Giang Thanh encountered the same quiet atmosphere and lack of enemy activity as during April. The situation along the Vinh Te canal was entirely different as numerous sightings of VC attempting to cross the canal, firefights, and mining incidents took place during the month. Intelligence reports indicated that infiltrating VC elements quite possibly were trying to reinforce enemy forces in the Seven Mountains area. The canal between the area just north of Tinh Bien (VS 9575/6) and Chau Doc (WS 1082/1) reported the highest concentration of enemy activity. From 19 May through the end of the month there were four

mines destroyed in a small area just southwest of Chan Doc (WS 095825) and along the entire length of the Tran Hung Dao tactical area. There were 22 fire fights (four enemy initiated) which produced 35 VC killed (11 probable) and one VC captured at the loss of one U.S. Navy and two VNN killed and a total of 25 wounded (USN & VNN).

In order to combat the enemy's increased infiltration effort, PBR and VNN junk force patrols and ambushes, SEAL, and Duffel Bag sensor missions were intensified. Difficulties occurred near the end of the month as extremely low water levels prevented even the shallow draft PBR's from patrolling the canal west of the north-south grid line VS 99, four miles northeast of Tinh Binh. On 26 May nine U.S. PBRs went aground at Tinh Binh and VNN junks enroute to an ambush site six miles southwest of Chau Doc (WS 049 998) ran aground several times. One VNN FOM (French River Patrol Boats) equipped with minesweeping gear commenced sweeping operations on 28 May. Running aground approximately nine miles southwest of Chau Doc (WS 000 768), the FOM reversed course and conducted a second run on the canal. Since this left approximately 56 kilometers of the western half of the canal without waterborne patrols, the number of aerial surveillance missions and night ambushes and patrols by ground forces was increased accordingly.

During a routine river patrol two VNN "Swift" boats were returning from Giang Thanh (VS 565 639) to Ha Tien on the evening of 11 May when they came under B-40 rocket and automatic weapons fire from the north

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bank (VS 555 615). The VNN returned and suppressed the enemy fire within two minutes but sustained a B-40 rocket hit in the bow of one boat which slightly wounded one sailor. The Swift patrol continued to Ha Tien and at first light on 12 May five VNN junks and reaction teams swept the ambush area with negative results.

The same evening two PBR's enroute to an ambush position spotted two VC crossing the Vinh Te canal about 16½ miles southwest of Chau Doc (VS 920 670). When the VC saw the PBR's they dropped their packs and fled south into the treeline. As the PBR crewmen pursued them the VC ran across an open field and were taken under fire but escaped. A search of their packs uncovered 12 chicom grenades, 200 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, six packs of plastic explosives, assorted personal gear, and two record books with names and dates.

Four VN junks and two FCMs were patrolling westward on the Vinh Te Canal on the afternoon of 12 May when the 50 cal. gunner of the lead junk initiated fire against VC entrenched in positions on the north bank of the canal seven and one half miles southwest of Chau Doc (WS 027 782). While a squad sweeping the south bank was redeployed to the north bank, LT. Cook, the U.S. advisor, and four VNN including the VN Commanding Officer landed on the enemy's flank to determine the size of the force and their exact location. Before being forced to withdraw under a hail of enemy fire the small reconnaissance force killed two north Vietnamese troops (NVA) and captured one. Seawolves 305 and 309

that were scrambled to the scene and four PBRs that were involved in the fighting shortly after it was initiated, combined with the VNN to put down the enemy force and suppress his fire. During the first Seawolf attack heavy automatic weapons fire was received from the enemy. After two additional air strikes the fire was suppressed, and ground forces quickly swept the area to find eight more VC dead. The total damage for the day was one U.S. advisor and one VNN wounded; ten NVA killed and one NVA captured.

Two PBR's of TU 116.5.1 in night observation positions on the evening of 13 May sighted 20 VC in a field seven miles southwest of Chau Doc (WS 027 734). The boats took them under fire and received B-40 rocket and automatic weapons fire in return. U. S. casualties were three wounded. Enemy casualties were unknown.

On the evening of 19 May SEALs were inserted by PBR seven miles southwest of Chau Doc (WS 030 785). After setting up an ambush position the SEALs sighted two swimmers approaching from the south. They illuminated the area and sighted two additional VC north of their position. All four were taken under fire and listed as probably killed. There were no U.S. casualties. Fourteen VNN reaction troops with junks and POM's in support were performing routine canal bank sweeps five and one half miles southeast of Chau Doc on 19 May when they uncovered wires leading to an eight kilogram watermine positioned fifteen feet from the bank in five feet of water. The force cleared the area and detonated

the mine. During another routine patrol on 22 May four VN junks and twelve reaction troops found a rock laden sampan (WS 095 825) which local villages stated that the VC had sunk with a mine earlier that morning. While investigating the area the troops found wires leading to a second mine that was so placed that river craft avoiding the sunken sampan would pass over it. Continuing the search many new spider holes were found and six B-40 rockets were recovered from a fish trap (WS 070 810). A third mine was detonated by a routine junk patrol on the morning of 23 May when wires leading into the water (WS 030 785) were applied to a battery and a large explosion was observed in the middle of the canal.

On the afternoon of 20 May VNN junks on routine patrol observed ten VC in the treeline six miles south of Chau Doc (WS 040 795). The junks open fired and called for Seawolves and PBR support. The Seawolves arrived on the scene and placed a strike in the area. VNN troops engaged the VC on the north bank who scattered and withdrew. The PBR's picked up local PF troops and inserted them to aid in the fight. Sweeping the area the VNN reaction troops found a seven and one half pound watermine and four blasting caps. Encountering no further contact, the ground forces returned to the junks and PBR's and the patrol proceeded to the northeast. Transiting only a short distance, the junks came under automatic weapons fire. The ground forces went ashore and Seawolves were called and placed a strike in the area. The action of the entire day resulted in two VNN wounded and nine VC probably killed.

SEALs and PBR's set a joint ambush on the night of 21 May at a location six and a half miles southwest of Chau Doc (WS 037 789). The SEALs were deployed approximately 500 yards southwest of the PBR position. Personnel on the PBR's observed about 15 VC approaching from the north and opened fire killing two of the enemy. The sailors then withdrew to their boats and sighted two more VC moving along the bank. These were also taken under fire and were listed as probably killed. As the cover boat moved to extract the SEALs from their positions, the lead boat which was still beached received an RPG-7 round which killed one navyman and wounded five others. Both boats then cleared the area and returned the enemy fire, receiving heavy enemy fire in the process. Seawolves arrived on the scene and placed strikes on the north bank and then medevaced the wounded and dead to Chau Doc. PBR's continued to place harassment and interdiction (H & I) fire in the enemy positions throughout the night. A sweep at first light uncovered many blood trails and parts of bodies.

Search Turn Campaign

Patrol craft of TU 116.1.3 made minimal contact with enemy forces while on routine patrols in the Gulf of Thailand, Rach Gia Bay, the Rach Gia, Long Xuyen and Tach Soi canals, and various other adjoining waterways. However, an increase in enemy activity over the previous month became apparent and was centered along a 5 nautical mile stretch of the Cai Lon river (WR 170 790 to WR 240 740) 17 miles south southeast of Rach Gia.

On the night of 3 May, PBR's of TU 116.1.3 attempted to hail two sampans on the Cai Lon river 19 miles south southeast of Rach Gia (WR 215 755). The sampans ignored the warning shots and the occupants attempted to evade upon beaching the sampans. The evadees were taken under fire and two were killed and five others listed as probably killed. The two sampans were also destroyed. There were no U. S. casualties.

About one mile to the southeast of the above site on 15 May, PBR's came under light A/W fire and received 1 B-40 rocket. Units returned and suppressed the enemy fire (VIC 235 740) then continued on to Rach Soi with 4 VN detainees previously stopped for possible possession of altered ID Cards and excess piasters.

In the same general area, while conducting a psyops mission on the Cai Lon river, a TU 116.1.3 patrol came under heavy A/W fire from both banks (VIC WR 170 785) at noon on 23 May. The fire was returned and two additional firing runs were made. The two PBR's were forced to clear the area due to low ammunition and Seawolves were called in to place a strike on the contact area. Enemy casualties were unknown; friendly casualties were 1 USN wounded and minor damage to one PBR.

Also in the same general area two days later (VIC WR 213 758) PBR's on patrol received 3 B-40 rockets and heavy A/W fire. An OV-10 (Bronco) fire team was diverted to place a strike in the area and upon arrival the enemy shifted fire to the aircraft. An enemy small arms round penetrated

the canopy of one aircraft killing the pilot. The copilot took over, regained control of the aircraft at an estimated altitude of 35 feet over the river, and then landed safely at Binh Thuy.

MARKET TIME RAIDER Campaign

Operating from An Thoi and Cat Lo with the support of USS TERRELL COUNTY (LST 1157) off southern Ca Mau Peninsula "Swift" boats of the Third and Fourth Coastal Zones continued to strike at Viet Cong base areas on the rivers and canals of IV CTZ. Nearly 50 separate missions were conducted employing from two to eight PCF's supported by helicopters and OV-10 aircraft. In southern Ca Mau Peninsula operations on the Cua Lon, Bay Hap, Bo De and Dam Doi rivers and their tributaries were conducted with Mobile Strike Force (MSF) troops embarked to conduct ground sweeps and provide a reaction force in the event of enemy contact. Raids into the secret zone at the mouths of the Bassac, Co Chien, and Ham Luong rivers also employed embarked troops from local RF/PF units. While these operations continued to achieve the maximum possible damage in areas of known enemy strength, the emphasis was shifted toward pacification of the more populated areas north of the Bay Hap river. Psychological operations consisting of leaflet drops and loudspeaker operations urged cooperation with Government authorities and the display of Government flags in their villages and on their watercraft.

During May naval gunfire by "Swift" boats and off shore support units killed 20 Viet Cong by body count. This figure is 8 higher than

in April; however, in May there were only 4 probable KIA's as opposed to 43 in April. In general, enemy opposition was lighter this month with hostile fire incidents occurring 15 times, three fewer than last month, and friendly casualties running lower than in May with four killed and 27 wounded. Material losses inflicted on the enemy this month include a total of 515 enemy craft destroyed or heavily damaged and 1209 structures either destroyed or damaged.

On the morning of 5 May in response to an intelligence report that enemy troops were living in a village about five miles up the Duong Keo river (WQ 040 578), six PCF's with MSF (Mobile Strike Force) and UDT (Underwater Demolition Team) personnel embarked set out to locate and destroy the village. While still four miles from the entrance to the Duong Keo (WQ 005 495) the PCF's sighted a white popflare at the mouth of the river, apparently a warning signal for enemy forces along the river banks. The PCF's proceeded up river in two sections of three boats each and in the event of an ambush planned to envelop the enemy in a pincher movement. Shortly thereafter, the lead boat was hit by three B-40 rounds; in addition, heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire was received. The lead boat, severely damaged, beached immediately on the south bank of the river (WQ 035 532) opposite the enemy positions and was joined by the other two PCF's in the lead section. Thirty MSF troops then quickly established a defensive perimeter around the beached craft. In the meantime the other three PCF's were directed to beach and did so

on the north bank of the river (WQ 027 528) just downstream of the ambush. Another thirty MSF troops were put ashore, and began to move upriver toward the ambush site coming under increasing enemy fire. At this time Seawolves arrived overhead, expended their ordnance, then medevaced three wounded MSF troops from the south bank despite heavy enemy fire from the opposite side of the river. The first of five fixed wing airstrikes arrived on the scene a short time later laying accurate fire on well fortified enemy bunkers only 25 meters from friendly positions. The accuracy and effectiveness of these deliveries throughout the day was considered extraordinary. The overall results of the engagement were 10 VC KIA (BC), 10 bunkers destroyed, three B-40 rockets and a large quantity of documents captured. Friendly casulties included one USN KIA, eight USN WIA, one MSF KIA, four MSF WIA, and one VNN WIA. In addition, two PCF's were damaged, one severely and one moderately.

On the afternoon of 10 May five PCF's with an OV-10 (Bronco) fire team providing cover executed a preplanned canal incursion to gather intelligence and seek targets of opportunity. Numerous canals in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone including the Rach Eo Lon, Rach Con Oc, Rach Ho Hoa, Rach Bang Cung, and the Rach Ben Thay were transited in this operation. Only one PCF received hostile small arms fire two miles up the Rach Ben Chay (XS 746 004) and one mile up the Rach Cu (XS 7302) which was suppressed. The days operation netted the following: 1 VC KIA

(probable), 55 sampans destroyed and 6 damaged, 41 structures destroyed and 50 damaged, 5 bunkers destroyed and 14 damaged, and 2 mortorized sampans destroyed and 2 captured. There were no U. S. casualties.

On 16 May, after completion of a combined operation with RF/PF troops, five PCF's were transiting downriver to the mouth of the Bay Hap. Just prior to reaching the river mouth the lead PCF of the two groups struck a submerged object between two fish stakes. The second PCF in the lead group swung left to avoid hitting the same obstruction and at that time a water mine detonated between the two fish stakes causing no damage. It is believed the submerged object hit by the lead PCF was a command detonated water mine. The second group of three PCF's stopped short of the area and all boats poured .50 cal. fire on both banks. Two air strikes were directed into the suspected area. This was the sixth mining incident on the Bay Hap since 1 February.

On the afternoon of 19 May four PCF's on a probing mission were transitting north on the Rach Co Oc in Kien Hon Province when they became involved in an enemy initiated firefight one mile upriver (XR 795 957). The enemy fire was returned immediately and suppressed while the "Swift" boats cleared the ambush site. The forward gunner on PCF 59 suffered serious shrapnel wounds from a B-40 rocket and although medevaced to Dong Tam, later died of those wounds. The results of the probing missions were as follows: 31 sampans destroyed, 36 structures

destroyed and 29 damaged, and 15 bunkers damaged. In addition, ECD teams embarked destroyed 2 large log barricades and a wooden foot bridge on the Rach Cai Bai and 1 large bunker.

Late at night on the 24th of May, two PCF's were returning to the TERRELL COUNTY after an uneventful night ambush held in conjunction with Seawolves dropping psyops leaflets on a suspected VC concentration between the Bay Hap and Cua Lon (VQ 9372/9672/9369/9669). In the vicinity of Old Nam Can on Cua Lon (VQ 918 605 to VQ 930 609), the PCF's observed several large and evenly spaced banners on the south bank of the river proclaiming that the area belonged to the VC.

In a separate incident the following day, a superbly executed counter attack by five PCF's, 70 RF troops, and Seawolves resulted in 11 VC KIA (BC) and no significant friendly casualties. The PCF's with troops embarked were transiting the Song Ong Doc with Seawolves providing cover with the intention of inserting the troops ten miles upriver (VR 949 015) for a sweep of the north bank. Prior to reaching the objective area the second boat in the lead element received two B-40 rounds and all the boats in the lead element came under small arms fire. They then cleared the area (VR 890 003) and inserted troops about 600 yards east of the ambush site. The second element beached to the west. All troops were inserted and a grinding pincer movement began while Seawolves laid down a fusilade fire to the rear. In addition to the 11 VC killed, 1 bunker and 3 sampans were destroyed. Captured were: 1 B-40 launcher

with 2 rounds, 1 B-40 launcher with 2 rounds, 1 KZ automatic rifle, 2 hand grenades and 10 rounds of 7.62 ammunition.

Operation SEA LORDS Campaign in Enemy Base Area 480

The joint Vietnamese Marine Corps (VNMC)/Task Group 117 operation under the operational control of CTG 194.7 in the Twin Rivers area of Chung Thien Province (enemy base area 480) begun on 25 April, continued until 4 May (the April portion of this campaign was reported in last month's summary - SEA LORDS section). The operations continued the government presence in the area while enemy contact by ground forces was minimal and only one enemy initiated firefight (ENIFF) was encountered this month. RAC activity consisted of troop assault landings, riverine assault and reconnaisance element activity (RARES), and interdiction and blocking missions.

After a one day stand down by the VNMC on 1 May, the RAC embarked 1st Battalion VNMC troops from Kien Hung (WR 332 750) and proceeded on 2 May along the Song Cau Lon toward landing beaches. The RAC received 2, B-40 rounds at 1030 from the northeast bank, at a position 15 miles southeast of Rach Gia (WR 190 776), both of which missed. The enemy fire was returned with unknown results. Task unit 194.7.2 proceeded to WR 167 788 where an uneventful troop landing was made. During the last two days of operations, 3 and 4 May, the MRF penetrated the northern portion of the U Minh Forest in Kien Gian Province (enemy base area 483) along the Kinh Can Gao. The RAC embarked 6th Battalion

VNMC troops at Kien Hung at 021500H and proceeded to RCN positions at WR 141 908. Enroute along the Kinh Can Gao on 3 May two underwater barricades, constructed of heavy logs and extending across the entire width of the canal, were encountered 9 miles from the canal entrance (WR 005 783). These were destroyed by joint efforts of a VNMC Engineering team and a U. S. Navy EOD team. Later in the morning, two similar barricades at VR 990 769 were also destroyed. The RAC continued and troop landings were accomplished. An Army helo gunship providing air cover for the RAC received ground fire and was forced to land at 1415 adjacent to the Kin Can Gao 24 miles southwest of Rach Gia (VR 940 640). Troops were immediately landed to provide security. There were no personnel casualties and only light material damage to the helo. (information as to the final disposition of the helo is unavailable, it is presumed, however that repairs were made and the helo departed on 3 May). Two VC were captured by the security force and 6,000 pounds of rice, 2 sampans and 1 VC structure were destroyed. During the night of 3 May, five POW's and four detainees were apprehended by the VNMC. At 1400 on 4 May, the task unit commenced egress from the canal and arrived at the MRB at1100 on 6 May. During the transit of "rocket alley" (Song Cai Tu), OV-10 Black Pony aircraft provided air cover as a successful deterrent to ENIFF's.

Total results of the 12 day operation included 9 Viet Cong killed (8 body count and 1 probable), and two USN killed and 18 wounded (all the

foregoing occurred in April). Nineteen VC were captured, and 9 sampans and 8 structures were destroyed. A total of 5 ENIFF's were encountered during the operation (1 in May).

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OPERATION SEA LORDS STATISTICAL SUMMARY BY CAMPAIGN
May 1969

	GIANT SLINGSHOT	BARRIER REEF	TRAN HUNG DAO	SEARCH TURN	MARKET TIME RAIDERS
Enemy casualties:					
a. Killed	50 (BC) + 69 EST	23(BC) + 12 EST	24(BC) + 11 EST	6(BC) + 7 EST	20(BC) + 4 EST
b. Wounded	6	11	7	2	12
c. Captured	7	7	1	0	2
USN casualties:					
a. Killed	1 USN	0	1 USN/2VNN	6	3 USN/1MSF
b. Wounded	38 USN/15 VNN	1 USN/11 VNN	11 USN/14 VNN	5	12 USN/2 VNN, SMSF
c. Captured	0	0	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:					
a. Destroyed					
(1) Junks & sampans	31	5	7	11	483
(2) Structures	14	5	3	9	779
b. Captured					
(1) Junks & sampans	2	3	0	1	7
(2) Weapons	11	1	6	0	3
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	25,000 S/A	255 Kg. TNT	500 S/A 6 (B-40)	0	15 Mortar 7 (B-40)
(4) Rice (tons)	0	0	0	0	.9
c. Damaged					
(1) Junks & sampans	2	0	6	11	32
(2) Structures	3	5	2	19	430
USN material losses:					
a. Destroyed					
(1) Surface craft	0	0	0	0	0
(2) Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0
b. Damaged					
(1) Surface craft	15 US/8 VNN	0	2 US/3 VNN	3	0
(2) Aircraft	0	0	0	2	1
Hostile fire incidents:	75	13	11	17	15

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY
May 1969

Coastal activity increased again in May as weather and sea conditions continued to improve in the coastal waters of South Vietnam. Maintaining an effective barrier against the infiltration of arms and ammunition by sea, MARKET TIME surveillance units detected 64,007 junks and sampans, an increase of about 15,000 over April. A total of 33,783 inspections and 12,194 boarding of junks and sampans resulted in the detention of 1,148 persons and 31 Viet Cong suspects. Swift boats operating in the normal GAME WARDEN river patrol areas of the lower Ham Luong and Co Chien rivers detected 6,226 craft, inspected 2,228 and boarded 2,838. Task Force 116 units assumed the Ham Luong River patrol from 131000H to 250800H May. There were 1,158 steel hull detections in the MARKET TIME patrol area. No suspicious activities were disclosed by 723 inspections and 69 boardings. On 10 May USS VANCE (DER 387) completed her MARKET TIME assignment marking the end of Seventh Fleet DER participation in coastal surveillance which had begun with the onset of Operation MARKET TIME in March 1965.

Routine river patrol operations continued on the Rach Giang Thanh as part of operation Tran Hung Dao. Operation SEA TIGER in the First Coastal Zone on the Cua Dai River continued at a fast pace with 110 gunfire support mission, 26 instances of hostile fire suppression and one enemy water mine attack. In addition 11 ground operations along the river were supported. Friendly casualties were three U. S. sailors and one Vietnamese sailor wounded while six "Swift" boats received moderate to light damage.

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Enemy material losses to SEA TIGER forces increased over April with 51 junks and sampans and 304 structures destroyed and 59 structures heavily damaged. In addition, "Swift" boats accounted for at least 28 Viet Cong killed (13 body count and 15 probable).

In May normal MARKET TIME patrols conducted 336 naval gunfire support missions in addition to 40 cases of hostile fire suppression and two evading craft taken under fire. MARKET TIME patrols provided blocking patrols or inserted troops along the coast in direct support of six ground operations. Enemy material losses totaled 54 junks or sampans destroyed and 10 craft damaged. A total of 152 structures were destroyed and 181 heavily damaged. Viet Cong casualties were 17 killed (13 body count and four probable), and three wounded. There were no friendly casualties or "Swift" boat damage due to enemy action in normal MARKET TIME Operations. "Swift" boats conducting Operation SEA LORDS river incursions in III and IV CTZ maintained a fast tempo of operations with nearly 50 multi-craft missions carried out during the month.

During May SEAL units attached to TF 115 units carried out two special operations in the coastal area which made significant enemy contact. During these operations ten Viet Cong were killed (eight body count and two probable).

On the morning of 1 May, CTU 115.1.0, consisting of PCFs 15, 58, 70, USN EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Team, Coastal Group 14 units, VNN Engineering Team from Quang Nam Sector and a VNN Security Force Team.

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conducted SEA TIGER operations in the Song Oua Dai and Song Thu Bon rivers about five miles southeast of Hoi An (BT 17 53). The search and destroy mission involved river penetration into a known Viet Cong concentration. Units of CTU 115.1.0 and Coastal Group 14 acted as a river blocking force while the EOD Team, VNN Engineering Team and VNN Security Force Team were inserted for a bunker destruction sweep. Two PCFs penetrated several miles upriver and fired at targets of opportunity and Viet Cong hamlets on both river banks until shallow water and man-made obstructions halted further penetration. The two PCFs received moderate hostile S/A fire which was quickly suppressed. Several people were taken under fire while running for fortified positions and firing at CTU 115.1.0 units. Heavy enemy small arms fire was then received from the fortified position and was immediately suppressed by the PCF's. The units ashore destroyed the bunker complexes. The operation resulted in 14 structures, 43 bunkers, nine sampans and 10 fishing weirs destroyed and 15 structures damaged. There were no friendly casualties while two Viet Cong were probably killed.

At 0820 on 2 May the USS HISSEM (DER 400) on normal MARKET TIME patrol conducted harassment and interdiction fire into three sniper positions about three miles south of Dong An (BS 75 61). The gunfire support was requested by the Vietnamese ground forces prior to their making a sweep near the sniper positions. Seven bunkers and seven military support structures were destroyed by the DER's 3"/50 guns.

and one secondary fire was started. There were no friendly casualties.

On the morning of 3 May PCFs 61, 58, 39, Coastal Group 14, a Regional Force Unit from Quang Nam, 2 OV-10A, an Underwater Demolition Team and the TG 115.1 EOD Team conducted SEA TIGER operations along the Song Thu Bon and Truong Giang rivers about 3 miles southeast of Hoi An. PCFs 61, 58, and 39 prepped the beach and inserted UDT and EOD Teams near the mouth of the Truong Giang River (BT 162539) to destroy bunkers and structures, while Coastal Group 14 inserted the Quang Nam RF units to provide perimeter defense. PCF 39 and Coastal Group 14 units provided a river blocking force while PCF 61 and PCF 58 proceeded about one mile up the Truong Giang River to destroy bunkers and structures. Upon completion of the initial mission Coastal Group 14 extracted the Quang Nam RF units while PCFs 61 and 39 withdrew the EOD and UDT teams and reinserted them about three miles up the Truong Giang River to continue bunker destruction. There was no hostile fire encountered during the entire operation which lasted about six hours. Enemy losses were four sampans, 16 structures and 42 bunkers destroyed and 16 structures and 8 bunkers damaged. Seven large fires continued to burn as SEA TIGER units withdrew from the area. The Quang Nam Regional Forces received two Hoi Chanh as a direct result of the operation. There were no friendly casualties.

On the afternoon of 5 May USCGC WINNEBAGO (WHEC 40) fired a gunfire support mission called in by the Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer from Phon Thiet. The target was a Viet Cong bunker and tunnel complex about 12 miles south southwest of Phan Thiet (AK 732 967). WINNEBAGO expended 113 rounds

of 5"/38 ammunition, destroying 15 bunkers and 50 meters of tunnel complex and damaging seven bunkers. Dense foliage precluded gun damage assessment of additional structures damaged or destroyed.

On the evening of 5 May the PT CAUTION (USCG WPB) on normal MARKET TIME patrol conducted a gunfire support mission in an area of suspected Viet Cong concentration about four and one-half miles southwest of Tuy Phong (BN 482 372). Upon closing the beach on the initial run the PT CAUTION received four B-40 rockets and assorted small arms and automatic weapons fire from the target area. The hostile fire was quickly suppressed. Two large sustained fires were observed in the wooded area while the PT CAUTION had one minor fire which was quickly extinguished and caused no damage. There were no friendly casualties.

At 0530 on 7 May while on normal MARKET TIME patrol PT DUKE (USCG WPB) detected an unlighted contact on radar moving southwest toward the beach 29 miles north of Qui Nhon (CR 043 702). Due to shallow water a small boat was lowered to investigate the contact. Upon approaching the sampan five men jumped overboard attempting to swim away. One man swam toward the beach but was cut-off and picked up while one man headed seaward and also was picked up. Two more men swam to the small boat after warning shots were fired and these were apprehended. The fifth man surfaced as the warning shots were fired but could not later be found. Meanwhile the sampan with children aboard was sent seaward to wait while the five men were picked up. During the confusion the sampan successfully evaded to the beach before

the small boat could reach it. The four detainees were between the ages of 20 and 35 and had no papers or identification. The detainees were turned over the Coastal Group 21 for further transfer to the Navy Intelligence Liaison Officer at Qui Nhon.

On the afternoon of 8 May PCF 69 and PCF 70 with UDT 13 Detachment F embarked proceeded about three and one half miles up the Truong Giang River (BT 162 515) south-southeast of Hoi An to conduct SEA TIGER operations. The UDT team was inserted to destroy bunkers while PCF 69 and PCF 70 provided security and destroyed bunkers and structures along the river bank with M-79 mortars and concussion and thermite grenades. After four hours of operations the UDT team was extracted without any contact with the enemy. Enemy losses were 28 bunkers and 17 structures destroyed, 14 structures damaged and 150 pounds of rice destroyed.

At 0700 on 10 May, Coastal Group 26 inserted an ambush team just north of Ap My Hoi (BN 985 845). At 0830 PCF 88 on normal MARKET TIME patrol received an urgent request from Coastal Group 26 for gunfire support and a dustoff aircraft to MEDEVAC two wounded who were pinned down by heavy enemy fire. PCF 88 arrived on scene at 0845 and after calling for a dustoff aircraft immediately began gunfire support. PCF 42 arrived on the scene 10 minutes later and provided additional cover fire. Air cover and spotter planes were called from Phan Rang to join the battle and drop smoke flares to mark friendly and enemy positions. Enemy fire was sufficiently suppressed to allow Coastal Group 26 elements to begin

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withdrawing. PCF 36 patrolling area 47 was called in to join the fire fight. By 0930 PCF 42 and Tabu[illegible] began taking Coastal Group 26 elements aboard as they were out of ammunition and unable to defend themselves while being taken under enemy fire from the tree line beyond the beach. PCF 42 again supplied cover fire while Coastal Group 27 began inserting troops just to the north to assist in evacuating troops. At 0930 Coastal Group 27 troops came under heavy enemy A/A fire from dug in positions as PCF 36 arrived on scene and immediately began suppression fire. PCF 36's aggressive attack was so continuous and accurate it halted all enemy fire; this was credited as a significant factor in reducing friendly casualties. Throughout the day PCF 36 organized and coordinated simultaneous strikes by five PCFs in column formation along the hill zone, attacking and then withdrawing to allow air strikes between attacks. At 1700 Coastal Group 26 concluded the mission and all Coastal Group 26 and 27 troops were withdrawn. PCF 36 ordered all PCFs to normal MARKET TIME patrols leaving PCF 82 and PCF 42 on station to provide continuous H and I fire throughout the night. From 0930 to 1700 the PCFs provided uninterrupted coordinated attacks utilizing continuous ammo resupply by PCFs from Cam Ranh Bay. Coordination with strike aircraft was outstanding resulting in continuous heavy bombardment for the entire eight and one-half hour operation. The PCFs expended 13,559 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition and 544 rounds of 81mm mortars. There were two Vietnamese killed and four wounded while six

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enemy were killed (body count). Due to complete and overwhelming bombardment of the entire area, enemy casualties were probably greater than actually counted.

At 0200 on 17 May Commander Task Group 115.2 directed PCF 97 to provide gunfire support for Popular Forces in contact with the enemy about 12 miles northeast of Phan Rang (CP 085 845). The enemy attempted imitative deception when they used a Vietnamese Navy frequency and the PCF 52 call sign. The enemy attempted to give false coordinates for the gunfire support mission. Normal procedures were to use the VNN frequency for coordination with VNN forces through the use of an interpreter. The enemy attempt at luring PCF 97 away from the scene of action was unsuccessful. Popular Forces sweeping the area reported 20 enemy killed (body count) while Popular Force casualties were one killed and two wounded.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY
May 1969

Task Force 116 units maintained constant pressure on the enemy throughout the month of May as regular operations along the vital waterways of the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone continued, as did participation in the ongoing operation SEALORDS interdiction campaigns-Giant Slingshot, Barrier Reef, Tran Hung Dao, and Bach Gia. At the end of the month there were 200 PBR's assigned to Task Force 116; 40 of these were assigned to support Task Force 194 (SEALORDS) operations 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.

In excess of 2600 two boat patrols were conducted during the month by the PBR's in the execution of their resources and population control mission as 218,930 craft were detected, 58,739 were inspected, and 77,051 were boarded. In addition units were also typically employed in nightime waterborne ambushes; transportation and support of Regional and Popular force troops; continued use of RUDD (Remote Underwater Detection Device) at suspected VC crossing points; evaluation of STABs (Strike Assault Boats); support of SEAL and PRU (Provincial Reconnaisance Unit) operations; daily chain drag sweeps of the Long Tau Shipping channel; canal incursions for waterborne traffic inspection, distribution of PSYOPS material, intelligence gathering and general familiarization; MEDCAPS and Psychological warfare operations.

The twenty UH-1B's (four supporting TF 194) and 11 OV-10A's (six

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supporting TF 194) assigned to TF 116 at the end of the month accumulated over 960 flight hours in combat missions during the month, this in addition to normal surveillance patrol flights. A breakdown of these hours follows (figures in parenthesis are hours flown in support of Task Force 194):

	Pre-planned Strikes	Reaction Strikes	Targets of Opportunity
UH-1B	182(86)	70(40)	206(58)
OV-10A	163(83)	34(22)	129(71)

Support Missions

148(46)

30(7)

An exercise in mobility and flexible response was conducted on 3 May, when six PBRs of RIVDIV 574 and their crews were airlifted by Skycrane Helos from Go Dau Ha on the Vam Co Dong River to a point on the upper Saigon River (XT 636 320). The air distance travelled was sixteen miles and the feat was completed in three hours. It is estimated that four days would have been required had the boats used the water route to the area. By the night of the third, the PBRs were on station and seeking out the enemy.

The Honorable John H. Chafee, Secretary of the Navy, during his recent visit to South Vietnam, presented the Presidential Unit Citation to the Delta River Group at Binh Thuy on 22 May. The award was in recognition of the meritorious and heroic service

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of the Group during the TET Offensive of 31 January through 7 April 1968.

GAME WARDEN, PBR, UH-1B, and OV-10A [illegible]

PBR's in a night observation position sighted a sampan on the night of 10 May, 16 miles southeast of Saigon. The PBR's illuminated the area and as the sampan attempted to evade, was taken under fire and five VC were killed. One 9mm pistol and three loaded AK-47 clips were recovered from the sampan before it was destroyed. There were no U.S. casualties.

On the morning of 11 May, two PBRs of TU 116.1.5 investigated a suspected VC withdrawal area, 16½ miles south-southeast of Tieu Can (XR 441 627). They sighted an evading sampan and took it under fire. One of the PBR's then beached and two members of the crew went ashore to search a hootch. As they approached the hootch one VC escaped from the rear of the structure and was pursued. The crewmen then came under fire from an unknown size enemy force and both were wounded; one subsequently died of wounds. The second PBR beached and dispatched three men to bring in the wounded. Once the wounded were on board both boats cleared the area and a LHFT was scrambled to place strikes on the enemy positions. The LHFT destroyed 16 structures with their strikes. Four of the enemy were killed by PBR personnel.

Late on the night of 11 May, two PBR's in night ambush position 20 miles north of Vung Tau (YS 143 757) sighted four sampans and took

them under fire. Seven VC were killed and all sampans were destroyed. There were no U.S. casualties.

Two targets of opportunity were taken under fire by OV-10A aircraft of TU 116.4.8, shortly after noon on 12 May, less than a mile west of Tan Chau (WS 252 938, WS 245 938). During both strikes moderate automatic weapons fire was received by the aircraft. Damage to the enemy was 15 structures destroyed and 14 damaged. No friendly casualties were sustained.

At approximately the same time as the above incident, four PBRs were in contact with an estimated 200 VC three miles northwest of Tan Chau (WS 230 951). Seawolves were scrambled to aid the PBRs and they placed multiple rocket and machine gun attacks on the enemy recoilless rifle and B-40 rocket positions, in turn receiving heavy automatic weapons fire which they were unable to suppress. The Seawolves were followed by OV-10A's who continued the attack on the enemy despite the exposure to concentrated enemy fire. There were no friendly casualties. Enemy casualties were seven probably killed, five structures and two sampans destroyed, and five structures damaged.

PBR's on blocking stations about 11 miles northeast of Long Xuyen (WS 550 650) on 18 May sighted seven men wearing helmets paddling a sampan from west to east on the Mekong River. The PBR's waited until the sampan was in midstream and 75 yards away before opening fire. One of the VC jumped overboard while firing one burst of AK-47. Upon reaching the sampan five bodies that floated momentarily

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before sinking were sighted. There was no sign of the other two occupants and they were presumed to have been killed. There were no friendly casualties.

While drifting on patrol station four miles northeast of Chau Doc (WS 152 899) on 27 May, a crewman of the lead "PBR" heard sounds under the boat. Shortly afterwards he observed a swimmer with snorkel and pouch close aboard. The swimmer was fired on but continued to evade. The sailor then dove into the water and killed the swimmer with his knife. An inspection of the hull revealed a fragmentation grenade attached to the port sea suction intake with a thin wire holding the spoon in place. The grenade was removed after the spoon had been secured with tape. A further investigation of the hull after the boat had returned to base uncovered several lines attached to the hull and the indication that the swimmer had been discovered while attempting to place a second mine to the starboard of the craft. The attack showed a detailed knowledge of PBR characteristics. The Navyman who killed the VC suffered a slight wound during the fight.

GAME WARDEN [illegible] Operations

Early on the morning of 3 May, SEALs with one LDNN (Vietnamese SEAL) and one Hoi Chan were inserted by LSSC (Light SEAL Support Craft) on Thoi Son Island, one mile south of My Tho (XS 493 434) and patrolled inland to begin a house to house search. Four males were detained as a result of the search, and after initial interrogation, all admitted being VC. There were no friendly casualties.

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SEALs were again inserted by an LCM on Thoi Son Island on the morning of 6 May in the same general area as the above incident (XS 492 434). The same LDNN and Hoi Chan, plus a VC prisoner taken on 3 May, again began a house to house search and detained four males and two females. Returning to My Tho with the detainees, the Hoi Chan and POW identified three of the male detainees as VC Guerrillas and after questioning the men admitted their status. The other three detainees were released after brief questioning. There were no friendly casualties.

The afternoon of 8 May, six SEALs, two LDNNs and a POW were inserted by watertaxi, 11 miles west-southwest of My Tho (XS 322 407). Using the POW as a guide they moved north about 50 meters and took two VC under fire, killing them. After returning to the river, the men were safely extracted by LCM. In addition to the two enemy killed, one M-1 carbine and two kilos of medical gear were captured.

Four PBRs of TU 116.3.2 inserted SEALs, five Vietnamese Maritime Policemen, and one Hoi Chan 2½ miles north of Sa Dec (WS 877 413). The Hoi Chan led the inserted units to suspected VC hootchs. Upon approaching the hootches persons were seen running from the area. The units then came under small arms and automatic weapons fire. After suppressing the fire, the area was searched. Three VC suspects and one VC with an arms cache consisting of a CHICOM grenade, 100 rounds of SKS ammunition and 100 rounds of AK-47 ammunition were captured. There were no friendly casualties.

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SEALs enroute to an insertion point sighted an illegal sampan with five occupants, four miles southwest of My Tho (XS 560 410) on the evening of 15 May. Upon sighting the American forces the VC scuttled the sampan, placed documents and gear in plastic flotation bags, and attempted to evade. Illumination flares were fired and the VC were taken under fire. Four VC were killed and the remaining one was captured. PBRs of RIVDIV 535 arrived on the scene and commenced a search of the area for the missing bags. One of the bags of documents and gear was recovered. There were no friendly casualties.

"Swift" Boat GAME WARDEN Operations

Routine patrols by TG 115.3 PCF's were conducted in the normal Game Warden operating areas on the lower Ham Luong and Co Chien Rivers during most of May. On 13 May PBRs of TG 116.3 took over patrol duties on the lower Ham Luong and the PCF patrols on the Co Chien were increased from three to four units. However, requirements for PBR assets on SEA LORDS campaigns made it necessary to shift responsibility for the Ham Luong back to CTG 115.3 on the 25th with two PCF patrols on both the Ham Luong and Co Chien. During the month these Swift boats detected 6,226 junks and sampans. Of these, 2,228 were inspected and another 2,888 were boarded and searched resulting in the detention of seven junks and five suspicious persons.

During these patrol operations the Swift boats on the Ham Luong and Co Chien Rivers and other PCF's probing into the eastern reaches of the Rung Sat Special Zone made good use of their 81mm firepower. Some 46 naval gunfire support missions were conducted resulting in nine watercraft and two structures destroyed and another 12 structures damaged. In addition three Viet Cong were killed, two wounded, and ten captured as a result of the naval gunfire, evading watercraft taken under fire, and direct support provided for eight ground sweeps.

On the Co Chien on 6 May PCF 35 fired a harassment and interdiction mission against suspected Viet Cong positions, 17 miles southwest of Vinh Long (XS 335 235). Local authorities reported the following day that one Viet Cong had been killed and three wounded.

On the 16th PCF's 57, 60, and 67 supported a PRU insertion in search of a Viet Cong prison camp on the large island in the lower Co Chien (XR 655 915). Blocking patrols were provided north of the island where there was a noticable absence of river traffic and fishing activity. The PRU team reported capturing ten Viet Cong and liberating four prisoners.

Enemy attacks on merchant vessels

Enemy attacks on Merchant men transiting the vital Long Tau Channel to Saigon increased significantly this month as a total of

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nine such incidents were recorded. Five attacks occurred on 12 May and the remainder took place between 17-24 May. Only two ships were hit and casualties were limited to three wounded. Allied reaction was swift but the enemy remained elusive and casualties inflicted by friendly firepower are unknown. Increased aerial surveillance was ordered in the wake of the 12 May attacks. A summary of the attacks follows:

DATE	SHIP'S NAME	B-40/HITS	CASUALTIES
12 May	SS Robib Gray	ONE	ONE WIA
12 May	SS Cibao	NONE	NONE
12 May	SS Pacific Alliance	NONE	NONE
12 May	SS Phusan Ho	NONE	NONE
12 May	SS Tamashima Maru	NONE	NONE
17 May	SS Jeff Davis	TWO	TWO WIA
18 May	SS Tidra	NONE	NONE
19 May	SS Transglobe	NONE	NONE
24 May	SS Texaco Edenburg	NONE	NONE

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RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE SUMMARY

May 1969

Mobile riverine forces continued the unyielding pace of operations established in previous months in the delta regions. The Kien Hoa Province Campaign, in support of the U.S. Army 9th Infantry Division, was again the most significant in terms of enemy contact gain and resulted in substantial losses to the enemy. In contrast, the operation in the Twin Rivers area of Chuong Thien Province (enemy base area 480), with the Vietnamese Marine Corps produced little combat as the enemy remained elusive. Approximately 40 river assault craft were assigned to the Giant Slingshot/Barrier Reef Campaign and continued the multi-faceted combined interdiction operations there; contact with the enemy in that area was also less than normal. Training by Vietnamese Navy personnel under the Accelerated Turnover (ACTOV) Program entered an advanced phase as three weeks of on-line training with combined USN VNN crews began on 4 May. The training in support of the 3/60th and 4/47th Infantry Battalion is in connection with the planned turnover of three divisions of assault craft to the VNN in June.

Salvage operations of ATC 132-3, which was sunk by an enemy command detonated mine on the Song Cai Tu (WR 412 753) in Chuong Thien Province on 29 April, were completed by 1 May soon after CSB-3 (Combat Salvage Boat, a converted LCM) arrived on the scene. The heavily damaged boat was towed

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to Dong Tam by CSB-3 in company with escort RAC, and arrived on 2 May. The mining incident is described in last month's summary.

The Honorable John H. Chafee, Secretary of the Navy, and the Honorable Charles A. Bowsher, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, visited the Mobile Riverine base at My Tho on 22 May. The dignitaries witnessed a complete river assault landing demonstration from on board a helicopter.

A cease fire was observed by U.S. and Vietnamese forces from 0600 on 30 May to 0600 on 31 May in recognition of a Vietnamese National holiday, Buddha's birthday.

The disposition of River Assault Divisions during May was as follows:

RAD 92 - began on-line support of the 3/60th Infantry Battalion with c combined USN/VNN crews on 4 May.

RAD 111 -completed in port training under the ACTOV (Accelerated Turnover) program with VNN personnel on 10 May. Assumed support of the 4/47th Infantry Battalion on 12 May with combined USN/VNN crews.

RAD 112 -engaged in support of Giant Slingshot/Barrier Reef Campaigns. Returned to TF 117.1 on 13 May for upkeep after extended operations on the Van Co Dong River. Completed in port training with VNN on 24 May. On 31 May assumed support of the 3/60th Infantry Battalion.

RAD 131 -supported Giant Slingshot/Barrier Reef campaign.

RAD 132 -supported 4/47th Infantry Battalion until 11 May. Joined RAD 131 in Giant Slingshot area on 13 May.

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RAD 151 - completed operations with VNMC Brigade Bravo in Chuong Thien and Kien Giang Provinces (in enemy base area 480 and 483) on 5 May. Assumed utility division duties on 6 May.

RAD 152 - base defense duties

Detachments of 6 to 8 RAC from three divisions supported elements of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 9th Infantry Division in Can Guioc area of Long An Province.

The following table indicates the distribution and employment of river assault craft on a typical day in May:

ACTIVITY/OPERATION	MRF CRAFT ASSIGNED					
	ASPB	ATC	MON	CCB	REFUELER	TOTALS
ACTOV (ACCELERATED TURNOVER) Training with VNN	7	11	2	2	1	23
Support of 2nd Brigade U.S. 9th Infantry Division	6	25	9	3	2	45
Operation GIANT SLING-SHOT/BARRIER REEF	10	23	1	3		37
Base area 480 SEALORDS Operation-Support VNMC	3	15	3	1		22
Base Defense	5	11				16
Overhaul/Casualty Report	9	6	2		1	18
TOTALS	40	91	17	9	4	161

Enclosure (5)

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Task Group 117.1 Operations

The main thrust of TG 117.1 activity in May continued as before in the Kien Hoa Province area of operations. Three excursions lasting up to a week were made by detachments of 6 to 8 RAC into the Can Giuoc District of Long An Province, in support of the 5/60th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Brigade, U. S. 9th Division. Attrition against the Viet Cong was again substantial as 947 enemy were killed by mobile riverine forces. In addition to the standard MRF riverine assault, escort, blocking force, eagle float and sniper actions, RAC performed numerous burn/defoliation (by flamethrower), psyops and medcap missions during May. Lift services were also provided at times for Vietnamese Army, Maritime Police and Regional Force units.

An average of 40 combat boat missions and 28 boat missions in support of base defense, MRB transit escort and medcaps were performed each day by RAC of TG 117.1. The MRB was rotated on a frequent and irregular basis between the Dong Tam, Ben Tre, My Tho and lower Ham Luong anchorages.

Twenty-five enemy initiated firefights (ENIFF's) were encountered by RAC of TG 117.1 during the month; in 7 of these instances enemy fire missed the boats completely while at least one boat received a hit on 18 occasions. In most cases damage to the boats was minor or non-existent. Twenty-two sailors were wounded during the month and none were killed due to hostile fire. One sailor lost his life as a result of falling overboard from an ATC in Dong Tam basin at about 2220 on 12 May.

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On 2 May, river assault craft of River Assault Division (RAD) 132 encountered three enemy initiated firefights emanating from the same location on the Rach Ben Tre 2½ miles east of Ben Tre (XS 556 298). The first incident occurred at 0945 as RAC were enroute to beaching sites with two companies of the 3/47th Infantry Battalion. One B-40 rocket, small arms and automatic weapons fire aimed at the RAC missed causing no damage or casualties. Fire was returned and suppressed. After landing the troops along the Rach Ben Tre, RAC were enroute back to a fire support base and again were ambushed at 1125, receiving about 6 B-40's, one recoilless rifle (R/R) round and small arms and automatic weapons fire. CCB-132-1 was hit by one R/R round resulting in minor damage but no personnel casualties. Fire was again returned and suppressed. During the afternoon, RAC were underway to backload the troops as they encountered similar and progressively accurate enemy fire from the same ambush site. This time ATC-132-4 and ATC-112-2 received direct rocket hits, causing flooding, which was quickly brought under control, on ATC-132-4, and the wounding of one sailor from shrapnel. Fire was again suppressed. Enemy casualties in all cases were unknown. Waterspouts erupting close aboard RAC during the last two firefights were initially considered as mining attempts but were later evaluated, after shrapnel analysis, as exploding recoilless rifle rounds.

The enemy's persistence in use of advantageous ambush sites was again demonstrated on 4 May. RAC, enroute to an extraction point to backload units of the 3/47th Infantry Battalion which had conducted ground opera-

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tions in Kien Hoa Province, destroyed 12 enemy bunkers with 105mm howitzer fire at the triple ambush site location of 2 May. After loading the troops, RAC received rocket, automatic weapons, and small arms fire from both banks at the aforementioned bunker destruction point. No casualties or damage were sustained. Fire was returned and suppressed with three secondary explosions.

On 2 May, ATC 132-11, with a 6/31th Infantry sniper team on board, reported sighting 5 Viet Cong on the north bank of the Song My Tho near the MRB at 2352. The VC were taken under fire resulting in 2 VC killed.

After extracting "C" company of the 3/60th Infantry, during morning hours on 10 May, 9 RAC were enroute west on the Rach Ben Tre ("rocket alley") when they received 2 B-40 rockets from well concealed positions on the west bank, 5 miles southeast of Ben Tre (XS 589 258). Fire was returned. As firing ceased at 1115, 7 more B-40's were launched at the boats. One rocket hit ATC-92-4 in the port .50 calibre gunmount, wounding both gunners and the boat captain. Two other RAC received shrapnel hits. A total of 4 USN were wounded (two serious) and evacuated by helicopter to Dong Tam.

The TF 117 EOD team was dispatched to assist a 3/60th Infantry company to dispose of a 500 pound bomb in an Army operational area 5 miles northwest of Ben Tre (XS 441 372). The bomb was detonated in place. Later the EOD team assisted 4/47th Infantry units in the field in the destruction of 28 anti-personnel mines (south of the Ham Luong river, 4 miles west of

Ben Tre).

The imperative need for the entire spectrum of base and boat defensive measures was reemphasized again this month as several potential enemy swimmer attacks against Mobile Riverine Force vessels were preempted. The first of these incidents occurred just after midnight on 12 May. Tapping was heard on the hull amidships of USS Benewah (APB 35) from 0026 to 0033 while she was anchored in the mobile riverine base (MRB) in the My Tho River in the vicinity of Dong Tam (XS 383 411). Concussion grenades were dropped in the area followed by a hull inspection by UDT personnel. La r, at 0125, Whitfield County (LST 1169) also anchored in the MRB (XS 396 414) sighted a possible swimmer ten yards off her bow. Again grenades were dropped as a countermeasure and the hull was inspected, this time by EOD personnel. Results of hull inspections and grenade drops were negative in both cases. On 19 May, at 0035, the stern sentry on Benewah, anchored in the MRB on the Ham Luong River south of Ben Tre (XS 486 282), sighted an enemy swimmer with tanks on his back approaching the stern of the vessel. The sentry fired three shots at the swimmer, who turned and swam away dropping two 18 inch long objects in the process. Base defense boats were alerted and dropped grenades in the area with negative results. The objects were not recovered. At 2149 the same day, ATC-152-3, engaged in normal base defense patrol around the MRB, was sweeping around APL 30 when an object was noticed in the water about 40 yards off the starboard bow of the APL. A grenade was thrown at the object

which resulted in a small secondary explosion. Additional grenades and a hull inspection of APL 30 yielded no results.

Six BAC transiting the Rach Vang in Long An Province on 12 May with troops of the 5/60th Infantry aboard received 2 B-40 rockets at 0145 on 12 May in an ENIFF 13 miles south of Saigon (XS 876 692). One of the rockets struck the flight deck of ATC-151-4 and broke apart but did not detonate. Four USN were wounded slightly due to shrapnel and burns. the enemy fire was returned with unknown results. Troops were then landed with negative results.

BAC in Can Giuoc district of eastern Long An Province were conducting a RARE on 17 May after troop landing when they sighted 5 Viet Cong in sampans crossing the stream 11 miles south of Saigon (XS 879 729). The sampans were taken under fire at 1940 resulting in 5 VC killed (2 body count, 3 probable) and two sampans destroyed.

On 24 May, units of RAS 15 and RAS 9 supported a Navy medcap (Medical Civic Action Program) and Dentcap (Dental Civic Action Program) at Tan My Chanh village, on the north bank of the Song My Tho, 2 miles east of My Tho City (XS 533 437). On 6 May, a sailor from the MRB who had fallen overboard, was assisted by the people of this village in reaching safety, and was then provided transportation to the PBR base at My Tho. TF 117 Medical personnel treated 100 patients and Dental personnel treated 25. Captain J.G. Now, Commander River Assault Flotilla ONE, presented an 18,000 piastre reward to the family which assisted the sailor. Numerous

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articles and gifts were distributed to villagers during the program.

On 24 May, on return from a burn/defoliation mission along an approximate half mile stretch of the Rach Cam in Linh Tuong Province, RAC were engaged in an ENIFF 7 miles west of My Tho (XS 368 427). Heavy B-40 and automatic weapons fire was received at 1420 resulting in a B-40 hit aboard ATC-92-5 and Monitor 92-2. One crewman was wounded. The units returned fire with all weapons and assisted by an LHFT overhead, killed 6 Viet Cong attackers. Artillery called in from Dong Tam destroyed 4 bunkers and 1 structure, damaged 3 structures, and caused a secondary explosion. Twelve additional VC were seen retreating from the area. The RAC cleared the area at 1702.

At 0945 on 31 May, RAC were proceeding to landing sites on the Song Ba Lai with two companies of the 3/47th Infantry embarked when they received five B-40 rockets and one grenade from a position 6 miles southeast of My Tho (XS 555 360). One rocket hit the well deck of ATC-112-4 and wounded 6 Army troops. Fire was returned and suppressed with unknown enemy casualties. All wounded were dusted off, 3 by Army helos and 3 by the TF 117 command helo. The RAC then proceeded to beaching sites, and landed troops without incident at 1007.

Imitative deception was experienced on the River Assault Squadron 11 command frequency at about 1100 on 31 May while RAD 112 was operating on the Kinh Gia Hoa 4½ miles northeast of Ben Tre (XS 580 350). The intrusion was monitored and evaluated in CTF 117 joint Tactical Operations Center near Dong Tam and was believed to be a Vietnamese accented voice

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uttering intermittent English phrases such as "Speed one five, Change course, etc.". The disruption lasted about 20 minutes.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY (1)
May 1969

	MARKET TIME (2)	GAME WARDEN (3)	Mobile Riverine Force (4)
Detections	65,165	225,156	(5)
Inspections	34,506	60,967	(5)
Boardings	12,263	79,939	(5)
Craft detained	233	7	(5)
Persons detained	1,148	1,524	119
Viet Cong suspects	31	29	(5)
Hostile fire incidents	67	(5)	23
Enemy casualties:			
a. Killed	36BC(+19EST)	65BC(+45EST)	947
b. Wounded	3	13	(5)
c. Captured	0	25	21
USN casualties:			
a. Killed	0	1 (DOW)	1 (Fell overboard)
b. Wounded	3+1VNN	9	22+7VN
c. Captured	0	0	0
d. Missing	0	0	0
Enemy material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Junks or sampans	105	91	42
(2) Structures	456	262	148 (by Navy)
b. Captured:			
(1) Junks or sampans	5	2	(5)
(2) Weapons	(5)	6	76
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	(5)	85	255
(4) Rice (tons)	(5)	.5	3 (destroyed)
c. Damaged:			
(1) Junks or sampans	10	29	(5)
(2) Structures	240	212	(5)
USN material losses:			
a. Destroyed:			
(1) Surface craft	0	0	0
(2) Helicopters	0	0	0
b. Damaged:			
(1) Surface craft	6	3	25
(2) Helicopters	0	3	0
SAR missions	4	0	0

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 and Base area 480 and 483 operations; additional results of RAC operations included in SEA LORDS Campaign Statistics.
(5) Information not available or not applicable.

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GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years

Enclosure (6)

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP
May 1969

Vietnamese Navy

Continued progress was evidenced in the Accelerated Turnover Program (ACTOV) in May as existing projects were expanded and new programs were implemented. Near the end of April and the first part of May approximately 88 Vietnamese sailors, all high school and Saigon boat school graduates, began arriving at the U. S. "Swift" boat bases at An Thoi, Danang, Chu Lai, Qui Nhon, Cam Ranh Bay and Cat Lo. Under the title of Project START (Swift Training and Rapid Turnover) the Vietnamese sailors are experiencing on-the-job training that will lead to the eventual turnover of 49 PCF's by July of 1970. On 16 May SCATTER 1 and 2 (Small Craft Assets, Training and Turnover of Resources Programs) were terminated with the turnover of the U. S. Coast Guard WPB's Point League and Point Garnet to the Vietnamese Navy at ceremonies in Saigon. The two VNN WPB's and USCG advisors conducted their first MARKET TIME patrols on 18 May in the III CTZ. SCATTER 3 commenced on 27 May with the arrival of a Vietnamese Navy Lieutenant on board Point Clear.

On 17 May at the Naval Supply Activity in Danang the first graduating class of twenty non-rated Vietnamese sailors received their diplomas for successful completion of twelve weeks of diesel engine instruction.

During May Fleet Command ships searched 28,052 people and 7,615 junks. This was a 18.0% and 15.4% increase respectively over the April figures. A total of 49 people and 3 junks were detained for further interrogation.

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years

Enclosure (7)
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In addition to the MARKE. TIME Patrols, the Fleet Command provided from two to five units for river patrols, escort duty, and Naval gunfire support (NGFS) in the Fourth Riverine Area and two other units generally LSSL or LSIL's for similar operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The LSSL's and LSIL's were again called upon for the majority of the 79 NGFS missions that were fired in May. The VNN minesweeping craft operating on the Saigon shipping lanes received automatic weapons fire on 26 May (YS 039912) and two days later recovered six feet of single conductor wire from their sweeping gear at the end of the Long Tau River sweep. While escorting merchant craft on the Mekong convoy route between Tan Chan and Saigon, PC 06 was attacked with 57mm recoiless rifle and small arms fire on 16 and 19 May at the same location nine miles west southwest of My Tho on the Tien Giang River (XS 330405). On both occasions the patrol craft suffered minor material casualties and during the second incident one VN sailor was slightly wounded.

The routine day and night river patrols conducted by the PBR's of River Patrol Group 51 (RPG 51) on the Long Tan and Soirap Rivers were occasionally interrupted by sniper fire or the discovery of a small weapons cache. During troop insertion operations along the Dong Nai River (XS 048894) on 21 May, the VN PBR's found two hidden sampans, one spider hole with aiming stakes and two expended RPG-47 rounds. One sampan was destroyed and the other one was towed to Cat Lai.

The Vietnamese junk force in all four Coastal Zones recorded a slight reduction in surveillance figures for May. A total of 58,432 junks and 196,516 people were searched during the month which was a 14.0% decrease

and 8.6% decrease in comparison to April. The number of junks detained adjusted downward from 181 in April to 169 in May and similarly the number of people detained went from 941 to 870.

The situation in the First Coastal Zone was generally quiet in May with the exception of increased rocket and mortar attacks and minor ground probes during the early morning hours of 12 May. On 5 May a combined force of U. S. and Korean Marines, Vietnamese Army (ARVN), Task Force 115, Vietnamese River Assault Group (RAG) 32, Coastal Group (CG) 14, U. S. Army Americal Division, and Regional Force/Popular Force (RF/PF) units commenced a clear and search operation, DARING REBEL/VN NINH on Barrier Island south of the Cua Dai River (vicinity BT 210500). The VNN units were responsible for patrols on the estuaries northwest of the CG 14 base, the two channels of the Hoi An River (to BT 097552), and the eastern portion of the Cua Dai River. One ambush team of about 30 men from CG-14 occupied Lang Dong Island (BT 162534) which was considered to be the most likely enemy escape route from Barrier Island. From 5 to 28 May the VNN recorded the following results: fifteen VC captured, 50 Hoi Chanh received, 4,899 people evacuated and 48 bunkers, 32 underground shelters, one 500 kilogram bomb, four mine fields, 150 tunnels and one dam destroyed.

Just after midnight on 19 May two CG 16 junks were anchored at the CG 16 base five miles east of Quang Ngai (BS 734742). One of the VN sailors on watch noticed some movement in the water. After tossing a concussion grenade into the water, two bodies came to the surface. The

junk crews quickly checked their anchor chains. They found one mine attached and after cutting the chain [illegible] at [illegible] way and cleared the area. Within five minutes the mine exploded creating a water spout at least ten meters high.

Two U. S. PCF's provided 81mm illumination for two CG 14 junks that were investigating a suspicious sampan on Cua Dai River (BT 191556) on the evening of 28 - 29 May. When the VN junks open fired on the sampan, the occupants jumped overboard and swam to Thuan Tinh Island (BT 170550). About twenty minutes after the VC evaded to the island, the CG 14 reaction team went ashore for a sweep of the island. One VC, one 57mm recoilless rifle round, and three hand grenades were captured. Two VC were probably killed.

The quiet situation that prevailed for the Second Coastal Zone junks during the month was interrupted on 28 - 29 May when two junks and one platoon from CG 23 employed ambush tactics in Operation KY HOA 23/37/69 on Cape CAG DIEM twenty miles south of Qui Nhon (CQ 155880, 164884, 166875, 157873). Four VC were captured and one killed. Two personal weapons and hand grenades were taken from the VC.

In the third Coastal Zone the VN junk force found most routine patrols and regular night ambush operations to be generally uneventful. Ground forces operating with the junks did conduct several missions that yielded light contact. One of the ambush operations which did produce results occurred during the early morning hours of 24 May on the southern end of Dung Island located at the mouth of the Hau Giang River (XL 335640). At approximately 0350 PRU's and the CG 36 ambush team were inserted on the

island. Within an hour they had established enemy contact. During the struggle one VNN was wounded and three Viet Cong were taken prisoner.

Operation TRAN HUNG DAO was the exception to the low level of enemy activity that prevailed in the Fourth Coastal Zone. An intensified enemy effort to infiltrate into Chau Doc and Kien Giang Provinces brought about an increased number of incidents, particularly along the Vinh Te Canal. (NOTE: See discussion of TRAN HUNG DAO campaign in enclosure (1) for further details)

While operating in the Third and Fourth Riverine Areas with ARVN, USA, VNMC, RF/PF's, and sector troops the Vietnamese River Assault Group's carried out 1,954 amphibious assaults and 1,297 river patrols. In addition they were called upon for escort service, logistic lifts, NGFS, medcaps, and psyops missions. Twenty three VC were killed and three captured at the expense of ten wounded VN sailors. RAG 28 took the brunt of enemy initiated firefights as they were ambushed five times while conducting operations on the upper Saigon River. On the evening of 11 May RAG 28 units were in night ambush positions on the Saigon River twelve miles north northeast of Saigon (XT 756206) when they detected a camouflaged sampan with their NVN Observation Device (NOD) that was entering the river from one of the small streams (XT 753200). A barrage of accurate fire destroyed the sampan and it quickly disappeared from sight. Closing the sampan's former position, the VNN recoverd two dead bodies, one which was completely nude as if preparing to swim, and some

explosives and fuses.

The same day RAG 25/29 was conducting Amphibious Task Force operations with the 6th Battalion of the Vietnamese Marine Corps (VNMC) on the Cai Lon and Cai Tu Rivers twenty miles southeast of Rach Gia City. Shortly after noon the river craft with marines embarked were proceeding on the Cai Tu River when they came under 57mm recoilless rifle and B-40 fire. One Landing Craft Medium Six (LCM 6) took two hits amidships that killed one marine and wounded three others and one VN sailor. Observing the firing position, the VNN crews of the Monitor and French River Patrol Boat (FOM) beached their units and went ashore. After killing two VC, they captured two loaded B-40 launchers. The marines swept the area with negative results and the task force was again underway. The convoy had not traveled a mile (WR 433759) when a water mine was detonated under an Landing Craft Vehicle/Personnel (LCVP). The boat was completely demolished and four VN sailors were wounded. The marines were able to kill one VC on the north bank who was leaving the scene of the incident.

Near the end of the month on 29 May a patrol team of RAG 23/31 was ambushed from four different positions on the upper Mekong River just south of Vietnam - Cambodian border (WT 204045, 221059, 225030, 205030). The VNN returned the fire and cleared the area. Later Tan Chan sub-sector headquarters reported that twelve VC were killed by the VNN and several others were wounded but were carried away.

River Assault and Interdiction Divisions 70 and 71 (RAID 70 and 71)

conducted amphibious assaults, troop lifts, bank clearing, ambushes, and Chieu Hoi missions on the Van Co Dong and Van Co Tay Rivers. On 17 May river assault craft of RAID 71 joined with U. S. river units, one battalion of the U. S. Army 199th Light Infantry Brigade and ARVN forces to conduct Operation CAESAR II, a cordon and search operation from the Van Co Dong River to ROUTE 4. During the month the RAIDs were involved in 27 fire fights. Five of these were initiated by the VNN. Twelve VC were probably killed and three VC suspects were captured by the RAID sailors. Two U. S. advisors and nine VNN were wounded in May. The river between Tan An and the fork of the Van Co Dong and Van Co Tay Rivers was the scene of heaviest enemy contact for the RAIDs. Enemy contact on the Van Co Dong extended from Tra Cu south. (NOTE: See discussion of GAINT SLING SHOT Campaign in Enclosure (1) for detailed VNN incidents).

Vietnamese Marine Corps

Continuing to operate in the III and IV CTZ in May, the Vietnamese Marine Corps encountered light to heavy contact with the enemy.

From 1 to 4 May Brigade "A", consisting of the Third Infantry Battalion, Battery "A" of the Artillery Battalion and Brigade Headquarters, conducted reconnaissance in force operations in Binh Duong Province (vicinity XT 7[illegible]50) with negligible results. On 5 May the Third Battalion and Battery "A" moved to the Thu Duc base camp and Brigade Headquarters returned to Saigon. While at Thu Duc the Fourth Battalion and Battery "B" relieved the Third Battalion and Battery "A". The

Brigade then moved to Can Tho on 12 May where they joined the First Battalion which had arrived the day before.

Under the operational control of the 21st ARVN Division the Brigade carried out reconnaissance in force operations in Chuong Thien and Kien Giang Provinces. Enemy contact was light and sporadic until the evening of 24 May when the Brigade Headquarters located west of Vi Thanh (vicinity WR 520810) received 82mm mortar and small arms fire that resulted in twelve marines wounded. On the afternoon of 26 May, First and Fourth Battalion Marines established contact with an entrenched VC platoon during a heliborne assault in the Twin Rivers area southwest of Vi Thanh. The VC force grew to battalion size by night fall and contact was maintained throughout most of the night and ended as the VC withdrew. A search of the area revealed six dead VC and four AK-47s. Friendly casualties were four VNMC killed and another seven wounded.

At the beginning of the month Brigade "B", which included the Headquarters, Battery "B", and the First and Sixth Infantry Battalions, was working with the U. S. River Assault Squadron 15 and VNN RAG 25/29 in Kien Giang Province under the operational control of the 21st ARVN Division. Reconnaissance operations produced sporadic contact through 11 May when the Brigade transited to the Thu Duc base and Saigon Headquarters, with the exception of Battery "B" and the First Battalion. The Brigade Headquarters and the Sixth Infantry Battalion remained in a reserve status at their bases for the remainder of the month.

The Second Infantry Battalion and one platoon of Battery "D" first established enemy contact in the Long Bien Special Zone on 15 May when one VC was killed and two grenades and some small arms ammunition were captured north of Bien Hoa. Light contact during the next ten days produced a small cache and two more dead VC. Although the artillery platoon remained in position, the Second Battalion returned to Thu Duc on 25 May and remained in a reserve status for the Joint General Staff (JGS).

The Third Battalion was moved to Khan Province (XT 650095) on 24 May. The next day under the control of the 18th ARVN Division the marines killed two VC and captured one AK-47. Twelve VNMC were wounded during the action. Heavy contact to the west of Xuan Loc on 17 May produced 21 VC killed and two machine guns captured while five VNMC were killed and twelve wounded.

Moving to the north of Xuan Loc on 24 May, the 3rd Battalion Marines came upon a VC Battalion well entrenched in an extensive bunker complex. Fighting continued until almost dawn on 25 May when the VC withdrew. More heavy fighting took place on 27 May. Total results for the four day period were at least six VC killed; five Vietnamese were killed and twenty three were wounded in the action.

Under the operational control of the ARVN Airborne Division the Fifth Infantry Battalion conducted reconnaissance in force operations just north of Saigon. Scattered contact from 1 to 17 May yielded one VC

suspect and a small cache. From 18 through 24 May the battalion was in a reserve status for the JGS and on 25 May the Fifth Battalion relieved the Second Battalion in the Long Bien Special Zone.

Battery "C" provided gunfire support within the Rung Sat Special Zone for the entire month. One platoon of Battery "D" was at Cat Lai and one platoon at Thu Duc. The third platoon was under the operational control of the Second and Fifth Battalions while they operated in the Long Bien Special Zone.

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	Daily Average		Searched		Detained	
	Oper	Empl	Junks	People	Junks	People
COASTAL FORCE						
I	51.9	51.6	19,086	69,030	93	557
II	43.4	42.6	22,884	73.426	15	131
III	50.3	46.5	8,949	28,615	59	175
IV	37.0	37.0	7,513	25.445	02	07
	Sub-totals:		58,432	196,516	169	870
***FLEET COMMAND**						
PATROL SHIPS	24.9	22.4	4,775	17,542	0	37
PCF's	16.6	8.7	2,920	10,510	3	12
RIVERINE AREA						
CRAFT	113.5	112.0	6,404	27,890	0	0
ATF (RAID)	27.0	23.8	1,776	4,303	0	2
#GEN RESERVE						
FORCE	68.5	63.0	7,905	23,195	0	0
	TOTAL:		82,212	279,956	172	721

****VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS:**

VC/NVA:	KIA: 46	Captured: 5	Suspects detained: 13
VNMC:	KIA: 13	WIA: 101	MIA: 0

* Provided 79 gunfire support missions for period 20 April - 20 May.

\# Includes RAG 27, RTEG and RPG 51.

** VNMC statistics cover period 2 - 29 May.

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GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years

Enclosure (8)

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PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIC ACTION SUMMARY
May 1969

The number of Hoi Chanhs rallying to the U. S. and Vietnamese Navy in May was a record high of 115. Operation SEA TIGER in the Cua Dai River area accounted for 85 of the total. The First Coastal Zone PSYOPS Officer believed that the utilization of detailed target audience analysis contributed significantly to the overwhelming success of the Hoi Chanh program in the area.

One of the more interesting programs in May was carried out by PBR sailors of River Division 573 and local government officials in the Tan An area. A "Duck-cap" was instituted whereby 6000 ducklings were distributed to families who were left homeless as a result of combat activity in their village or who were not actively employed in crop production. The actual distribution of the ducks was controlled by local Revolutionary Development Cadre members. In addition to the "Duck-cap" the PBR sailors were instrumental in helping the people rebuild their homes.

The number of Vietnamese treated by U. S. medical teams increased by 5000 to approximately 30,000 in May. The Vietnamese sailors who are participating in PBR operations through on the job training have also been involved in MEDCAP missions. On 6 May a PBR patrol team that included one VN officer, one VN corpsman, and eight VN sailors visited the Phu Lan Village in Sa Dec Province (XS 909353) for an unannounced MEDCAP mission. While the Vietnamese corpsman treated 125 people, the VN sailors talked to the people and distributed soap, magazines, checker sets, and leaflets.

Enclosure (9)

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Before the integrated PBR team left the village, one of the U. S. sailors noticed a small Vietnamese child who had fallen into a canal and was in apparent danger of drowning. The safe rescue of the little toddler by the sailor contributed much to the success of the mission. Similar missions conducted throughout the month continued to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Vietnamese sailors in psyops and civic action missions.

At Danang the Naval Supply Activity reported that there were 102 self help projects underway in the area which did not include the 300 houses that were being repaired as a result of the February rocket attack and the ammo dump explosions. The NAVSUPPACT Danang scholarship fund provided 95.25 monthly scholarships to 236 children. Extensive improvements at the Cham Museum and ARVN amputee hospital were still in progress at the end of the month.

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USM CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY (1)
25 MARCH TO 25 APRIL

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN-DAYS PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: 7,600

COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: VN$ 10,626,010

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS VN$ 631,836

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

	Percent
Other FWMAF	10
RVNAF	9
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	5
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians	80

PROGRAMS

	Man Days	Expenditures (VN$)
Economic Development	289	145,233
Education	683	1,673,341
Social Welfare	6,065	8,996,874
Transportation	341	316,299
Refugee	222	1,170,049

INSTITUTES ASSISTED:

	Number
Schools	51
Hospitals/Dispensaries	27
Orphanages	28
Others	95

NOTE: (1) Statistics shown are those for 25 March - 25 April; see paragraph two of transmittal letter.

Enclosure (10)

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