U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Monthly

Historical Summary, Nov. 1968

Best Available Copy
DISCLAIMER NOTICE

THIS DOCUMENT IS BEST QUALITY PRACTICABLE. THE COPY FURNISHED TO DTIC CONTAINED A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PAGES WHICH DO NOT REPRODUCE LEGIBLY.
COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FROM SURVEY
November 1968

Coastal activity continued to drop off due to sea and surf conditions along the South China Sea during the Northeast Monsoon. Total detections of junks and sampans fell to 22,655, over 12,000 less than in October. Nearly 75 percent of these detections were checked by 11,356 visual inspections and another 10,500 boardings. As a result of these boardings 391 persons were detained for improper identification, violation of restricted area, possession of contraband and other suspicious activity. A group of seven detainees picked up by PCF 53 on 19 October 30 miles southwest of Yung Tau were classified as prisoners of war during November as a result of interrogation. Also during November there were 1,123 detections of steel-hulled vessels in Naiket Teng areas. All were determined to be an innocent passage as a result of 773 inspections and 40 boardings.

Due to weather conditions the tempo of Task Force 115 naval gunfire activity was down for the first time in several months. The November record for naval gunfire support came to 634 missions including 46 hostile fire incidents, 8 evading craft taken under fire, and more than 40 raids and intelligence probes up rivers and canals. These river incursions in support of Operation SEA LIONS in the IV CTZ were carried out by from two to five "Swift" boats. The PCFs were supported by naval gunfire from off-shore.
patrol units and accounted for approximately two-thirds of the damage and destruction inflicted on the enemy by Task Force 115 during November. Again in connection with Operation S2A LEAD, "Swift" boats relieved Task Force 116 PFR's of river patrol duties in the lower portions of the Vam Ling and Hau Ching Rivers in the Mekong Delta. In addition, on 16 November PCF's began routine patrol operations on the Bach Ming Thanh up into the Vinh Te Canal to interdict enemy supply lines from Cambodia and disrupt enemy extortion of Vietnamese river craft.

On the morning of 3 November three PCF's along with VMN Coastal Group 41 units with a Regional Force company embarked carried out a raid up the Cong Doc River, 65 miles south of Bach Gia on the Gulf of Thailand. While PCF 36 remained a few miles from the river mouth to support a Regional Force sweep to the south, PCF 43 and PCF 50 proceeded to a point 10 miles up river to take suspected enemy positions under fire. Sniper fire was received killing the after mount operator of PCF 50. During the operation USS DEPT (DU 941) and USCGC ITEXHA (WHEC 35) provided 5-inch naval gunfire support.

During a naval gunfire mission 7 miles east of Quang Ngai on 7 November enemy recoiless-rifle and small-arms fire were encountered by PCF 70 and PCF 75. Two enemy recoiless-rifle rounds struck PCF 70 causing heavy damage, killing one crewman, wounding three others, and knocking a Marine rider over board. Both craft also received several small arms hits. The Marine lost overboard was not found by the search carried out by PCF 75 and three other
"Swift" boats which promptly arrived at the scene to assist.

A very successful river incursion was made on the Cua Lon and Bo De rivers at the southern tip of the Ca Mau Peninsula on 11 November. Five PCF's transiting the waterway from east to west were supported by both fixed-wing and helicopter air strikes as well as by naval gunfire from USS WASHOE COUNTY (LST 1165) at the mouth of the Bo De and USS GRO HAM (MHC 35) at the exit from the Cua Lon. Light hostile fire was encountered causing no damage or casualties during the six-hour transit. The air support accounted for 59 structures/bunkers/sampans destroyed or heavily damaged plus 7 secondary explosions. The MARKET TIME units destroyed or heavily damaged 248 structures/bunkers/sampans, set off 4 secondaries, and killed one Viet Cong.

These successes apparently prompted the enemy to stiffen his defenses of these areas as heavy hostile fire was encountered on two subsequent river probes. On the 13th while providing support for a VN Coastal Group 41 operation at the mouth of the Cua Lon PCF 6 and PCF 36 encountered automatic weapons and rocket fire. One 3-40 round hit PCF 36 causing moderate damage and wounding one crewman. The enemy lost 20 structures and 24 sampans destroyed. Late on the afternoon of the 24th five PCF's entered the Bo De River prior to the arrival of their air cover and ran into a well prepared enemy ambush from both banks of the river about two miles inland. The "Swift" boats were not able to suppress the heavy enemy fire and cleared the area after destroying two automatic weapons positions and killing an estimated five Viet Cong. Three "Swift" boats were damaged and three crewmen wounded.
one seriously. Late in November it was discovered that the enemy had installed a series of log barriers or fences across the mouth of the Guai son River. These barriers consist of tall poles vertically implanted in the river bottom at short intervals and strengthened by cross pieces at the top above the waterline. It is presumed that these structures have been erected to prevent CTF 115 PRT's from gaining complete access from the Gulf of Thailand to the South China Sea. Attempts to destroy these barriers have not been successful to date.
GMD forces in addition to their normal mission were deeply involved in Operation cao loc with its related Can tho crossing corridor blockade and sweeps of the Bassac islands, and patrols on the Han-Song Long Nuyen and Vinh Thao canals. Activity this month was substantially higher than last month. PIBs detected 218,937 watercraft during this reporting period and accounted for 43,713 inspections and 100,964 boardings. The enemy was showing an increased willingness to fight as was clearly evidenced by his attacks on PIBs and his stepped up attacks on merchant ships.

On 3 November, two PIBs on a routine patrol of the upper Bassac River about 20 miles northwest of Long Nuyen came under automatic weapons fire. They returned the fire and saw about 15 Viet Cong running. They pursued them and took them under fire, killing 9, wounding 2 and capturing 4. A half-hour later another section of PIBs keeping the area under surveillance observed a sampan with two occupants set out from the east bank of the river. As the PIBs approached, the sampan tried to evade and ignored five warning shots. The PIBs then took the sampan under fire and probably killed the two occupants. On 4 November, the Vietnamese Navy PIBs relieved U.S. PIBs of Dong Hai River patrol responsibilities.

On 7 November eight PIBs, two "Seawolf" helicopters, one UMT with 150 PF troops from Phong Thanh 55 and the USS HUNTSVILLE COUNTY attacked an area 12 miles southeast of Can Tho in search of an arms cache. The PFs were directed by three informers. The cache was located containing 5 boxes of...
rifles, 48 hand grenades, 45 rifle grenades, 500 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 15 kilos of documents, 100 photographs, 3,500 rounds of 7.9 ammunition, one foot mine, 2 land mines, one claymore mine and 2 rounds of 81-mm mortar. No friendly casualties occurred. The next day, the PHIs on blockade patrol with Vietnamese LSIL 350 cases under heavy automatic-weapons and rocket--missile attacks from 13 positions in the same general area as the previous day's operation. After four firing runs by the PHIs and two by the LSIL, "Seawolf" helicopters took the entire target area under fire. The PHIs medevaced the seriously wounded from the LSIL to Can Tho. Two relief PHIs then arrived to maintain the blocking forces. There were no U. S. casualties. This attack was determined to be a retaliation strike for the previous day's operation with the LSIL as the primary target.

On 8 November in the Bung Sat Special Zone 14 miles southeast of Saigon, two PHIs came under RPG rocket and automatic weapons fire. The cover boat received two rocket hits on the starboard side wounding three of the personnel. The patrol officer shifted to the cover boat to aid the wounded and had the boats reverse course and make a firing run along the west bank of the small canal. The enemy attack became heavier and an Army LIFT diverted to the scene and a Navy LIFT was scrambled. While directing his patrol through the kill zone that was nearly a kilometer long, the patrol officer, Chief Quartermaster Theodore F. Smith was hit by a rocket and died instantly. Chief Smith has been recommended for the Silver Star Medal for his actions. Two subsequent fixed-wing air strikes were called in to
complete the attack.

On 15 November SEALs set up an ambush 4 miles southwest of My Tho. Ten Viet Cong were seen in and about the area. The SEALs took them under fire and during the ensuing firefight a Vietnamese civilian was killed. "Seawolves" were called in to cover the extraction and the mine boat used for the operation placed 11-mm mortar rounds in the area. Five Viet Cong were killed during this engagement.

On 21 November, two PBIs, components of Operation S2A LAKOS, fell into an enemy ambush while transiting from Rach So to Rach Gia. One PBI was hit by 3 or 4 B-40 rounds along with automatic weapons fire directed from both banks. The stricken PBI beached and the other boat came alongside to render medical assistance. Both PBIs attempted to suppress the fire during the entire operation. Three additional PBIs, one monitor, three ATCs, and "Seawolves" converged on the area. When the enemy broke contact the damaged PBI was taken in tow and eventually proceeded under its own power to the JENNINGS COUNTY. Five USN casualties were suffered in this encounter.

On 21 November on the Vinh Te Canal, southwest of Chau Doc, two PBIs, participating in Operation S2A LAKOS, came under RPG and automatic weapons attack. One PBI was hit by a RPG round starboard-broadside forward. The PBIs attempted to suppress the fire with no success. An ASPB that was patrolling with them and apparently not sighted by the Viet Cong opened up with 20-mm fire and the enemy broke contact. "Seawolves" were sent.
into the area but were unable to place strikes due to lack of identifying marks. Two nights later, the patrol officer who had been ambushed led another patrol through the same area. The enemy opened fire on the boats from both banks of the canal. "Seafox" placed a strike on the ambush area and a ready reaction force was scrambled from the Vietnamese special forces camp. The F-11I and H-20s cleared the ambush area and reversed course to go back through the area with the "Seafoxes" overhead again the enemy attacked. This time each of the surface craft were hit by 3-4 rockets. The patrol cleared the kill zone and rendezvous the eight wounded to Vinh Cia. The patrol officer, Lieutenant Jack BERKEL, USN, was killed during the encounter. He has been nominated for the Silver Star Medal for his actions.

In 21 November while on normal patrol on the upper Mekong River, about 10 miles east of Saigon, two F-11Is came under moderate automatic weapons fire. They reversed course to engage the enemy. At this point the patrol came under intense rocket and automatic-weapons fire from at least 15 to 20 positions. Two 3-40 rounds hit the lead boat and both F-11Is received numerous hits from automatic weapons. Several 3-40 rounds narrowly missed both boats. The lead boat was beached to prevent it from sinking and the cover boat went alongside to evacuate two seriously wounded crewmen. At the same time 19 F-11Is and two "Seafox" helicopters were scrambled to provide cover for the damaged boats and destroy the enemy. First reinforcements to arrive rescued the three remaining crewmen of the beached boat. The

Enclosure (2)
helos placed several strikes on the area while attempts were made to refloat the beached boat. During the salvage operation, two mortar rounds impacted close by. The helo pilots spotted the enemy mortar position and destroyed it. All 11 crewmen of the original patrol were wounded. The beached boat was later brought to Phu Long.

On 27 November, 1969, ASPB forces suffered their third and final fatality of the month. Two PB4s on patrol of the Rach Jia Long - Layem canal, as part of operation "Sa Bank," came under 5.56 rocket and heavy automatic-weapon fire about 3 miles northeast of Rach Jia. Both boats were hit by 3.54 rockets, one of the boats beached. Additional PB4s and an ASPB were dispatched to the scene and suppressed the fire. Six other USN personnel were wounded in the attack.

Attacks on merchant shipping in the channels to Saigon were up appreciably. Five attacks were made this month as opposed to the one made in October. On 1 November the ammunition ship SS 31 AU ST VICTORY came under rocket and automatic-weapon fire 12 miles southwest of Saigon. The ship was not hit in the attack and suffered no casualties. PB4s in the area rushed to the scene and took the enemy firing positions under fire. Navy "Seawolf" helos scrambled from Ha Be and joined the attack. After expending their ammunition they were relieved by an Army Lift. Damage to the enemy was unknown. On 5 November, the SS PRESIDENT JEFFERSON came under recoilless-rifle attack in the Muong Sat Special Zone. The attack caused swift retaliation by G.V.N. forces and FNS and B7
forces. On 13 November 15 FSK-140615 received a RPG round on the starboard side forward of Number One hatch, causing a fire. The ship cleared the channel and continued to Vung Tau. PFEs and LHF
made repeated firing runs on the enemy position, receiving no return fire. Regional Force Quick-kill troops put in to make a sweep of the area made no contact. On 14 November, the merchant ship MIAU-11 was under rocket attack 10 miles southeast of Saigon. The rockets, estimated to be 127-mm, fell short. PFEs raced the area, Army LHF placed strikes followed by a fixed-wing attack. Regional Force troops were inserted to conduct a sweep but made no contact. There were no friendly casualties. The last merchant ship attack took place on 16 November when the English tanker MAIA was attacked by B-40 rockets and automatic-weapons fire. The ship sustained a minor hole in the after deck house. Two F6As, 200 yards astern of the tanker, suppressed the enemy fire. A Navy LHF airborne at the time joined the fight. Vietnamese Quick-kill troops were inserted and made a sweep of the area. The troops found one B-40 round and blood trails but no enemy personnel were sighted.

Prevention of minings continued to be the order of the day. On 16 and 18 November, insulated conductor wire was discovered in retrieved sweep gear. On 18 November, a crewmen of an ATC moored at Nha Be Naval Base heard a blowing noise in the water and sighted a man in the water with wire appeared to be scuba equipment. The crew member threw two concussion grenades in the water immediately. A subsequent search by the harbor patrol and anti-submarine patrol produced negative results.
A routine search of a water taxi uncovered two women with an excessive amount of medicine in their possession. The women claimed they were taking the medicine to their homes. Included in the confiscated medicine was 30 bottles of streptomycin, 16 bottles of penicillin, 60 ampules of glucose and assorted other pills. The two women and medicine were turned over to the National Police at Minh Long.
In the devastating attack on the U.S. WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST-1167) at 0323 on 1 November, the U.S. Navy suffered the heaviest loss of life to enemy action in a single incident of the Vietnam war. Eighteen U.S. Navy crewmen died in the attack. In addition five U.S. Army, two Vietnamese Navy and one Vietnamese Army "river boat" crew members were killed. Seven of the 24 Navy wounded required medical evacuation. Three U.S. Navy personnel were also wounded.

After offloading all troops, River Assault Squadron personnel, and their equipment, the WESTCHESTER COUNTY was beached in Haiphong harbor on 1 November in order to accomplish temporary repairs to make her seaworthy. Just ten days later, on 14 November, the ship got underway - testimony to the professionalism and hard work of the Navy men from the several different units who cooperated in getting the repairs completed expeditiously. WESTCHESTER COUNTY arrived at Yokosuka, Japan, her home port, on 26 November.

The LST continued the pattern of operations which began with the reorganization of the LST on 15 October, with LST ALFA operating in the western Delta and LST BRAVO to the west. Of the five River Assault Divisions assigned to the ALFA, LAD 51 supported the THIRD Battalion Vietnamese Marine Corps in operations in Kien Hoa Province; LAD 52 was assigned Base Defense duties; LAD 111 supported the 3/34th Artillery Battalion of the Ninth Division; LAD 112 operated with the U.S. 3/60th Inf. Bn. in Kien Hoa Province; and LAD 151 continued to work with the 3/39th Inf. Bn. in eastern Long An Province, operating out of the Navy base at Bien Hoa. Of the three remaining divisions which were...
assigned to 3rd BN 57th, 55th CMB provided for Base Defense, 1-152 supported SEA FIRE interdiction operations, and 152 provided the 222nd Battalion Vietnamese Marine Corps. The Riverine Assault Craft also supported other troop units in particular operations during the month.

The 152nd Division 112 provided base support to Operation Cobar. The troop and Marines Ships used to support the period had become less effective due to damage to vessels and ships. The 152nd Division 9-112 had taken over the loading and small boats for use in the Pacific Ocean. The operation included the use of explosives in twelve operations. The successful operation indicated a minimum depth of six feet over the former obstructions.

Early on the morning of 3 November, operation BUNCAM began when 112 yet underneath with troops of the 3/60th Inf Regt and 112th loaded elements of the 3rd BN 152, multiple riverine and air mobile insertions designed to locate and engage units. The 152nd Battalion and several 152nd, Local Force Companies which were operating in the area. The operation lasted until 10 November, setting more than 100 Viet Cong killed.

On the last day of the operation, the 112th was unleashed twice while transferring Vietnamese forces from the Ben Tre River to assault landings on the Long Creek. In the first attack, the two monitors were hit by about 60 rounds of recoilless rifle fire, while the second attack was hit by automatic weapons fire, and directed at the craft. The craft burned was killed in W12-2 and three were wounded.

152-11 took a rocket hit in the second attack but there were no personnel casualties.
Every cylinder/capron a-ain struck the LRF the night of 15 November.
The Light Lift Craft FOUR (LIC-4), an LCU converted to salvage work by
the addition of a large boom and miscellaneous salvage and diving equip-
ment, was mined and sunk while at anchor on the Han Long River near the
entrance to the Han Tien River. The explosions within seconds of each other
were observed and the craft sunk by the storm almost immediately. Two sailors
were killed and 13 were wounded, including 8 crewmen of LIC-2 which was
moored alongside. Investigation by Task Force 117 Explosive Ordnance Dis-
posal Team personnel revealed one large cable along the port side about 15-
fart long and extending around the stern of the craft. Command detonating
dire and other implements of mining were discovered on further searching.
Almost immediately the LIC-2 was called to the scene and the craft was
carefully surveyed to determine the feasibility and method of salvaging it.
Because of the severe damage to LIC-4 and the hazardous location, Commander
Service Group THREE recommended that the Medium Lift Craft (MLC) not be
risked in an uneconomical salvage effort. COMMAND directed the destruc-
tion of LIC-4 to eliminate it as a navigational hazard. Detonation of de-
molition explosives and the total destruction and clearance of LIC-4 took
place on 26 November.

On the evening of 1 November Task Group 117.2 joined with units of Task
Force 115 and 116 in the first combined operation in the Delta. Under the
operational control of Commander Task Group 117.0 (TFG 117.0), the
assault operation was launched into Khan Dow Province to stop the flow of
men and equipment across the Cambodian border southeastward into the Delta.
Task Group 117.2 provided troop lift and close support for the 27th Battalion Vietnamese Marine Corps, while conducting riverine strike operations, and also conducted interdiction operations to prevent the flow of Viet Cong supplies through the area. Mobile Riverine Base 1101 relocated to the vicinity of Long Vayan on 2 November to enhance support. The river assault craft met with several ambushes along the pack 11 - Long Vayan Canal during the operation. The first phase of the operation, the assault phase, ended on 6 November, while the interdiction phase continued.

As part of the same general SINC 1530 operation, Task Group 117.2 supported reconnaissance-in-force operations in the Sin Son area of Dak Toa Provence from 9 through 11 November, using the Da Tien - Bach Dua and the Tri Ton Canals to transport the troops into the area of operations about 20 miles north northwest of Bach Dua. This was followed by operations from 12 to 14 November in the "Three Sisters" area about 10 miles north of Bach Dua.

During the operation nine rounds of 105-mm were fired from a monitor indirect at a range of about 3/4 miles. The rounds were spotted by an Army artillery officer and achieved an accuracy of about 30-40 yards after the initial spotting round. The firing was done while the monitor was beached on the Tri Ton Canal. Lacking a fire-control computer three reference points were used: a stake on the craft’s bow, an aiming stake about 25 feet from the shoreline, and an open sight positioned just forward of the cannon’s flat. With the bow as the pivot point, the crew maneuvered the monitor to keep the reference points in line with the sights. On the 14th the troops were backloaded and returned to Bach Dua.
From 16 to 21 November River Assault Craft of Task Group 117.2 shifted their area of operations to an area about 25 miles south-southeast of Rach Gia. After landing the Fourth BN, TARO the craft set up interdiction patrols in the surrounding waterways. Later, on 25 November, Task Group 117.2 loaded ARVN troops at Can Theo and then proceeded down the Bassac River to conduct riverine assault operations on the Dung Island complex. While the troops searched for Viet Cong across the Bassac, Task Group 117.2 joined Task Groups in blockading the islands. The operation ended on 25 November, the same day that River Assault Division 171 concluded its lengthy operations at Can Theo and rejoined Task Group 117.2.

Declassified
On 4 November, the SVN River Patrol Group (RPG) 51 PEBs assumed total responsibility for patrolling the Song Nai River. This relieved U. S. PEBs of 17.16 of waterway denial operations in the Capital Military District (CMD) and released them for redeployment to the I.G. and the Delta. The 12 PEBs of the 51 now provide one day and three night patrols on this strategically located and important river east of Saigon. U. S. Navy enlisted advisors rode the SVN PEBs which this month conducted amphibious operations with SEAL, LCM, and ARVN troops embarked. Night raids and ambushes were conducted throughout the month as the PEBs supported the landed troops in gunfire support and river blocking operations. Psychological operations (tapes and leaflet drops) were conducted during the normal patrols in addition to routine search and inspection activities.

On 6 November, while conducting a probe of the Ch Long River, 10 miles south of Hoch Oia City during a STA LOIDS operation, three Coastal Group 10 junks were attacked by B-40, recoilless rifle and small arms fire. Three SVN sailors were killed and seven others wounded, including the U. S. Navy enlisted advisor. This ambush took place in an area where a STA LOIDS PEB had just received and suppressed enemy fire.

On 8 November, KML 30 was ambushed by 3-11 and 75-mm recoilless rifle fire from the south bank of the Bassac River near Cu Lao Nai Island. The ambush was immediately followed by automatic weapons fire from both banks.
of the river. The ship reversed course, returned to the area and layed down heavy reconnaissance fire. "Seawolves" were called in for follow-up strikes and medevac FBR's rushed in to on-load the seven VN sailors who were injured in the opening volley. This incident serves as a prologue to the Can Tho Crossing Corridor campaign which began on 11 November.

A river craft team of 01G 25/29 01/29 detachment was killed on 10 November, resulting in one monitor, one 10X and one 12V damaged and seven VN sailors and one RF soldier wounded. These craft had been conducting salvage operations on the damaged boats from the previous mining incident in the same area on 20 October.

VMR RAG units participated in the naval blockade of the Can Tho Crossing Corridor from 11 to 29 November. In concert with TF 116 FBR's, 21/29, 22/31 and 25/29 conducted blocking and search operations around Cu Lao Xay, Cu Lao Hai and Tan Minh islands to deny the enemy a comin-line route from the lower Delta to upper IV CT2 and III Corps. Amphibious operations were pursued as ARVN 9th and 21st Infantry Division and ARVN Rangers were transported, landed and extracted by RAG craft during sweeps of the islands throughout the period of the campaign.

Until 12 November when RAG 26 relieved them, RAG 29 units were employed out of Long Xuyen to the Soc Son area of Kien Giang Province. The ARVN LORDS operation was conducted in the Ka Tien-Sach Gia canal area by TF 117 elements while the RAG craft lifted the VMR 4th Infantry Battalion and artillery units.

Enclosure (4)
Formerly organized as a brigade, the VMC was redesignated a division on 1 October and was comprised of 2 Marine brigades. Brigade A operated in III CTZ under the operational control of the 18th ANH Infantry Division until 2 November for Operation ROSE WINTER, on which day the operational control of the brigade went to the 25th ANH Infantry Division. The brigade, which was comprised of the 1st and 2nd Infantry battalions from 1 to 3 November when the 4th Battalion joined it, performed local unit operations throughout the month and met with no significant enemy contact. Until 3 November, the 4th Infantry Battalion operated independently near the sea under the operational control of the 18th ANH Division with no major enemy contact. On 23 November, 25 Marines of the 6th Battalion were evacuated with the initial diagnosis of malaria.

Brigade 3 was comprised of the 1st Infantry Battalion and participated in Operation SEA LION under the operational control of the 21st ANH Division in coordination with the Mobile Riverine Force near Nha Trang, IV CTZ. The brigade was engaged primarily in reconnaissance-in-force operations with only minor enemy contact this month. Several caches of essential enemy supplies and equipment were uncovered during the operations.

The 3rd Infantry Battalion operated with the 1/2 in the Ky The area under the operational control of the 7th ANH Division. The Marines performed reconnaissance-in-force operations with no significant enemy engagement.

The 5th Infantry Battalion was engaged in operations in Tay Ninh Province under the operational control of the 25th U.S. Infantry Division in close coordination with the U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division. Despite a significant
number of enemy war arms and material captured and/or destroyed, the Marines reported negligible enemy contact this month.
Psychological operations had new fields to exploit this month. Operation ALABAMA launch campaigns provided credibility to the people that that American forces were no anywhere in South Vietnam and that the area was safe. For the Viet Cong, another threat was the emphasis of the bombing halt in the country; to gain an assurance that the local people of the country realize that the aim of the U.S. policy was a conclusion of a just and honorable settlement of the Vietnamese conflict by negotiation and that we were not forsaking our South Vietnamese allies. It was also necessary to have the people understand that the bombing halt was not unconditional. The North Vietnamese had stated that they would never negotiate while the bombing was going on and would never recognize the South Vietnamese government as a separate entity at the peace talks. However, after avoiding it would never do these things, the North government agreed in reality to do both of these actions. The third important theme of the month was the new Paris peace talks with the government of Vietnam attending. This required that the people understand that Hanoi has been forced by SVN/Ally successes on the battlefield and overwhelming popular support of the Vietnamese people to agree to negotiate with the NVA at the conference table. The SVN enters the new talks with the goal of a just, secure, and guaranteed peace in Vietnam and that the SVN will not only play a leading role in the new meetings but will take the lead and be the main spokesman on all matters which are

Enclosure (2)

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

of principal concern to South Vietnam. The treatment of the bombing halt
and Paris Peace Talks was in concurrence with MACV/JCS/TF guidance. The
three foregoing themes easily dovetailed into the persistent theme that
the time was ripe for all those who had not done so rally to the govern-
ment of South Vietnam. Twenty-one Dai Chams rallied to naval forces during the
summer. These are also indications that the union effort in the Delta is
increasing since the start of Operation Deux. The VC also started
increasing in an accelerated pacification program in the Delta area.

In the field of civil action 400 MDCAPs were held and 7,000 personnel
were treated. One MDCAP was held on 12 November in Binh Dai District to
mark the official opening of a new hamlet in an area that was consid-
ered to be under Viet Cong control until 6 November. The MDCAP was highly suc-
cessful and the district chief requested that MDCAP teams return for the
scheduled opening of two more hamlets in the near future. In another area
a C. S. Naval Support Activity Detachment, Qui Nhon, contributed the building
materials and tools necessary for the construction of an outdoor all-weather
TV theater at the hamlet of Dai Xuan. The Vietnamese Naval Repair Facility
built the theater and the Vietnamese information service provided the TV.
The first night's showing of Vietnamese programs on 20 November was witnessed
by a standing room only crowd.

Enclosure (5)

UNCLASSIFIED
USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY
November 1966

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARKET TRENCH</th>
<th>GUN MOUNTED</th>
<th>Mobile Riverine Force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32,778</td>
<td>211,337</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,159</td>
<td>48,715</td>
<td>1,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12,549</td>
<td>150,364</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>79</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy casualties:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Killed</td>
<td>31(BC)+33(22)</td>
<td>46(BC)+22(PA) 224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Wounded</td>
<td>14(BC)+10(22)</td>
<td>5(BC) 9(PA) 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Captured</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy material losses:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Destroyed:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Junk or sampans</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Structures</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Captured:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Junk or sampans</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Weapons</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Ammunition (rounds)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Rice (tons)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Damaged:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Junk or sampans</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Structures</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USN material losses:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Destroyed:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Surface craft</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Helicopters</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Damaged:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Surface craft</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Helicopters</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAR missions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remarks: Information not applicable or not available this date.
** Includes 7 October detainees classified as Viet Cong.
*** Includes 3 USN KIA and 1 USN KIA by ordnance accident during LCF.
**** Includes 1 USNG riding PFG lost when craft hit by rocket.
***** Includes 3 AK-47, 1 M-1 Car., misc. small arms ammo, footsines and grenades.
****** Includes 1,265 grenades and 93 mines.
******* Includes 620 rocket/mortar/rocketless-rifle rounds.

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL
### VÉTÉRANÉE INFOS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Daily Average</th>
<th>Monthly Total</th>
<th>Estimated Daily Losses</th>
<th>Estimated Monthly Losses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>353.9</td>
<td>819</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>56,257</td>
<td>133,635</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VÉTÉRANÉE MARITIME COMPE

- **A/C/MA:** XIA 52
- **Captured:** 25
- **Suspects detained:** 112
- **Chief:** 1
- **RF:** XIA 2, MA 128

* Provided 53 artillery support missions.

* Includes 536 27, 75mm and 82mm.

---

**Note:**
- Compiled at 3 year intervals
- Declassified after 12 years

---

**Exclusion (5)**

---

**DECLASSIFIED**
# USH CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY
## November 1968

### Total Number of Hand-Dose Personnel of Units Engaged in Civic Action Projects:

3,931

### Cost in Cents Contributed by Military Resources Per Civic Action Projects:

763,437,512

### Aggregate Contributions:

763,437,512

### Number of U.S. Military Civic Action Projects Completed:

45,495

### Number of Projects:

- Other VIAP: 4.5
- USAID: 6.7
- U.S. Civilian Voluntary Agencies: 3.3
- Average Percent of Self-Help by VN Civilians: 35.2

### Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Man Days</th>
<th>Expenditures (VNA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>468,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>1,573,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Welfare</td>
<td>2,234</td>
<td>1,750,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>261,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refuge</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>853,388</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Institutions Authorized

- Schools: 69
- Hospitals/Dispensaries: 26
- Orphanages: 33
- Others: 141

---

Best Available Copy

---

Unclassified
In mid-October of this year Operation Sea Lords was conceived and initiated. This operation brought together for the first time in the Vietnamese conflict the three U.S. Naval Task Forces in country. The original objectives of the operation were:

a. The interdiction of Viet Cong infiltration routes from Cambodia along canals from the Bassac to the Gulf of Thailand.

b. Pacification of selected Trans-Delta waterways.

c. Pacification and clearance of the Bassac Islands, namely Tan Dinh and Dung Islands.

d. Harassment of the enemy to keep him off balance.

A large portion of U.S. Naval assets have been continually engaged, frequently in areas that have been under Viet Cong control for years. Thus far the following has been accomplished toward the attainment of these original objectives:

1. TG 117.2/VMC Riverine Operations in the Rach Gia, Three Sisters area pacified the areas to the extent that 24-hour PB/ASPB patrols were initiated on the Rach Gia to Long Xuyen and Cai San canals between the Gulf of Thailand and the Kien Giang/An Giang province boundary. This patrol is influencing GVN officials to continue development along the canals in terms of outpost development, resettlement, and intensified use of province and VNN boats. A renewed quality of aggressiveness appears to have been instilled in the local RP/PP troops as evidenced by their willingness to conduct ground sweeps rather than remaining close to their base camps.
(2) On 16 November the Vinh To canal patrol by 72715 was initiated and within five days of its commencement strong enemy reaction indicated that at least two platoon size elements had been thwarted in their attempted crossings. At the same time all patrols were convinced in the Long Thanh River. Together these patrols are attempting to intensify the harassment of the Cambodian Border along the western side. Air strikes have been conducted in coordination with these patrols.

(3) The two canal was cleared of hidden obstructions by F4-1L75, and harbor clearances units, opening it to normal traffic.

(4) A PBR blockade was thrown around the islands in the canal. The crossing corridor and ground sweeps were conducted on Tan Dinh, Cu Lo Neg, and Cu Lo Hai Islands. This island complex is still under heavy surveillance while a tight blockade has been placed around the Dung Island complex where ground sweeps have been completed.

(5) Since 18 October, 607 115 has raided Viet Cong areas to keep the enemy off balance. The effectiveness of these operations is evidenced by blockades of logs constructed by Viet Cong in the rivers to stop these raids.

Best Available Copy

Deconfidential (2)