

was also taken under fire. Results of the Sea Tiger mission were 12 bunkers and five structures destroyed and one large secondary explosion. There were eight VC killed (3 body count, 5 probable) and no friendly casualties.

The USCGC TANEY (WHEC-37) responding to a request for destructive fire by the U.S. Americal Division, destroyed 17 structures and two bunkers and heavily damaged 21 structures. In addition, a large quantity of rice drying in baskets was destroyed. The action took place on the morning of 8 November about 20 miles southeast of Chu Lai (BS 699 954).

On 11 November, Sea Tiger units consisting of PCF's 69 and 80, PBR's 47, 59, 67, 91, and 131, Coastal Group 14, helo gunships, and four companies of RF troops participated in a joint Free World Military Assistance Force (FWMAF) operation about six miles south of Hoi An (BT 175 484). Coastal Group 14 units, the PBR's and PCF's inserted the RF troops at various locations along the Song Truong and Song Ba Ren for sweeps. The waterborne units remained in the waterways throughout the day supporting the ground forces. Numerous uniformed Viet Cong were sighted during the operation and taken under fire. The helo gunships were continually utilized for direct fire support and air coordination. The operation resulted in 12 bunkers destroyed. There were 17 Viet Cong killed, seven by the helo gunships, and one Viet Cong wounded. There were no friendly casualties.

PBR's 67, 91, and 131 conducted a joint cordon and search operation with RF/PF troops on the afternoon of 12 November on the Ba Ren River about four miles southwest of Hoi An (BT 115 512). As the PBR's entered

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the area to coordinate the movement of the RF/PF troops, several VC were sighted near bunkers. The PBR's turned around to make a reconnaissance of the area when an enemy initiated fire fight (ENIFF) ensued. A B-40 rocket hit PBR 131 on the forward coxswain flat cowling, port side, glancing up through the canopy and radome. The boat captain ABH1 Jackson was critically wounded, the forward gunner SN Mabry was seriously wounded and three VNN received minor wounds. PBR 67 was hit by automatic weapons fire, however, there were no personnel casualties and only minor damage to the PBR. The PBR's and helo gunships placed heavy saturation fire into the area of the ENIFF. The wounded were MEDEVACED by a helo gunship and the Sea Tiger mission was terminated without further incident. There were six Viet Cong killed in the operation.

On the afternoon of 13 November, Sea Tiger units, consisting of PCF'S 13 and 69, and Coastal Group-14, provided support for Regional Forces (RF) ground troops conducting sweeps along the north bank of Song Ba Ren about 4 miles south of Hoi An (BT 135 510). The troops were inserted and extracted at various locations along the river by skimmers, and during the numerous transits, sporadic enemy sniper fire was received and suppressed. The troops were extracted at 1830H without further incident. There were six Viet Cong killed and two Viet Cong captured. There were no friendly casualties.

PCF's 69 and 80 while on normal Sea Tiger patrol on the Cua Dai and Truong Giang Rivers (BT 175 542/173 538) received 11 Hoi Chanh on 20 November. One male with a rifle at sling arms and arms raised above

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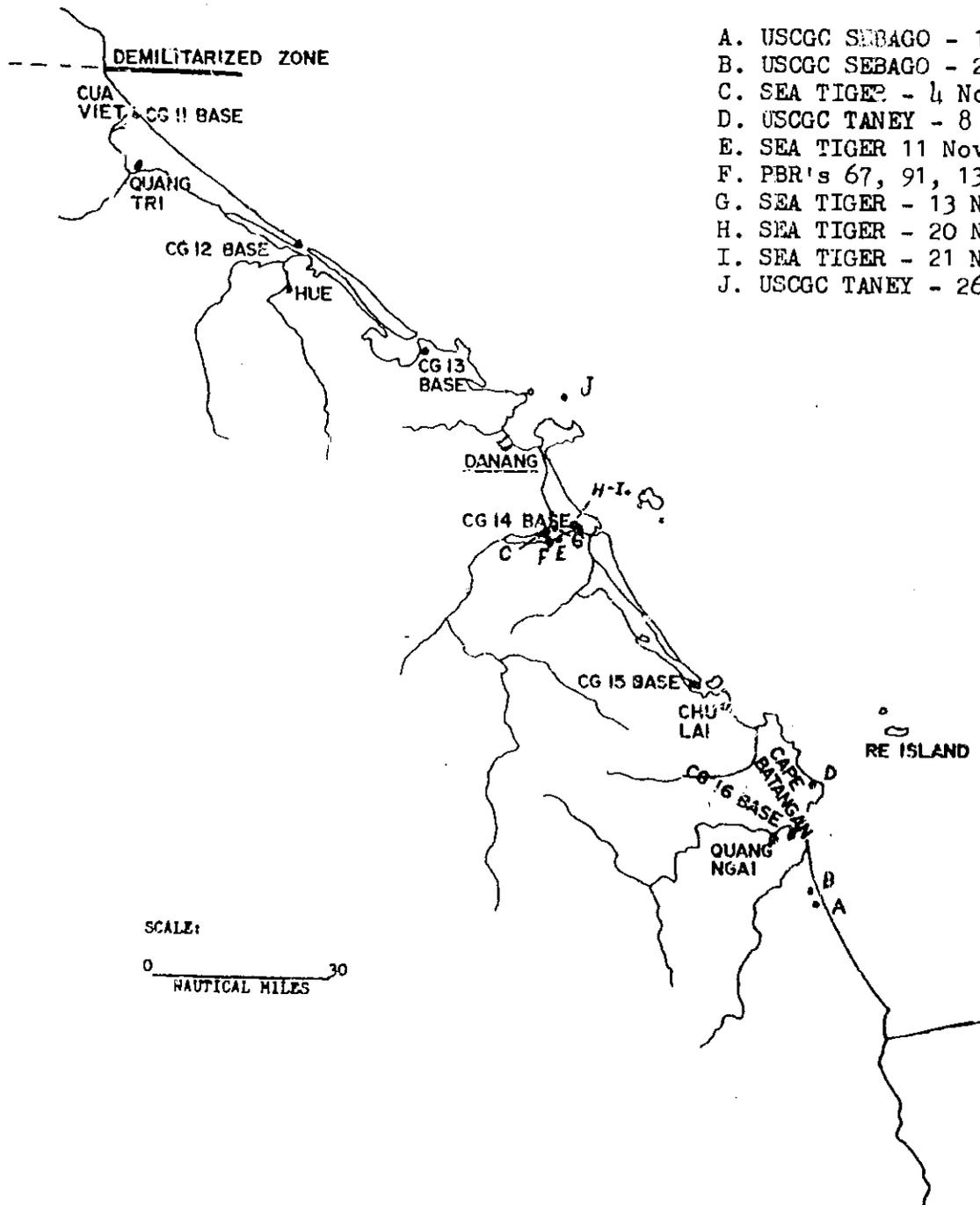
his head was sighted on the river bank. PCF 69 stood by for support in the event of an ambush while PCF 80 proceeded to the beach. Just prior to beaching, 10 additional personnel filed out onto the open beach and all personnel were taken aboard without incident. The nine males and two females ralliers were turned over to the Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO) at Hoi An. Preliminary interrogation indicated that all personnel were between the ages of 14 and 36 years of age, and were members of a hamlet VC guerilla force from Xuyen Tho village with two months to one year participation.

On 21 November, PCF's 69 and 80, while on a Sea Tiger patrol, sighted three young male ralliers in the same area as the previous day. The Hoi Chanhs were taken aboard without incident and turned over to the Quang Nam Sector. Preliminary questioning indicated that two of the ralliers had been associated with the VC information cadre, the other as a VC platoon leader from the Cam Thanh Island area.

The Panamanian cargo vessel GOLDEN MOUNTAIN in a distress report requested assistance from any American ship on 26 November. The GOLDEN MOUNTAIN reported poor buoyancy and decreasing freeboard due to leaks in the deck. The USCGC TANEY (WHEC 37) was directed to the scene and assumed the on scene commander. The TANEY and GOLDEN MOUNTAIN proceeded toward Danang at two knots. At 0800H on the 27th the GOLDEN MOUNTAIN went dead in the water with an engine casualty. The TANEY took the GOLDEN MOUNTAIN in tow and requested assistance. The USS RECLAIMER (ARS-42) was directed to the scene and took the cargo ship in tow and arrived at Danang at 1330H on 28 November for necessary repairs.

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OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE



- A. USCGC SEBAGO - 1 Nov.
- B. USCGC SEBAGO - 2 Nov.
- C. SEA TIGER - 4 Nov.
- D. USCGC TANEY - 8 Nov.
- E. SEA TIGER 11 Nov.
- F. PBR's 67, 91, 131 - 12 Nov.
- G. SEA TIGER - 13 Nov.
- H. SEA TIGER - 20 Nov.
- I. SEA TIGER - 21 Nov.
- J. USCGC TANEY - 26 Nov.

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Second Coastal Zone

Weather in the Second Coastal Zone was a major factor in the more than 15,000 less detections of craft than during October. In addition, seven patrol stations, areas 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, 3G, 3H, and 3I, were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy during November. The Coastal Surveillance Center at Qui Nhon was also turned over to the Vietnamese Navy on 5 November. These stations were patrolled by the 13 PCF's that were turned over to the VNN on 31 October. There were 4,321 detections, 2,240 inspections and SO9 boardings of craft during November resulting in the detention of 142 persons. The reasons for detainment were possession of contraband, curfew violators, lack of or faulty identification papers, draft dodgers, and restricted zone violators. Of those detained, 46 were Viet Cong suspects.

There were approximately 30 naval gunfire support missions conducted during the month, 70 less than during October with only a minimum amount of damage being inflicted on the enemy.

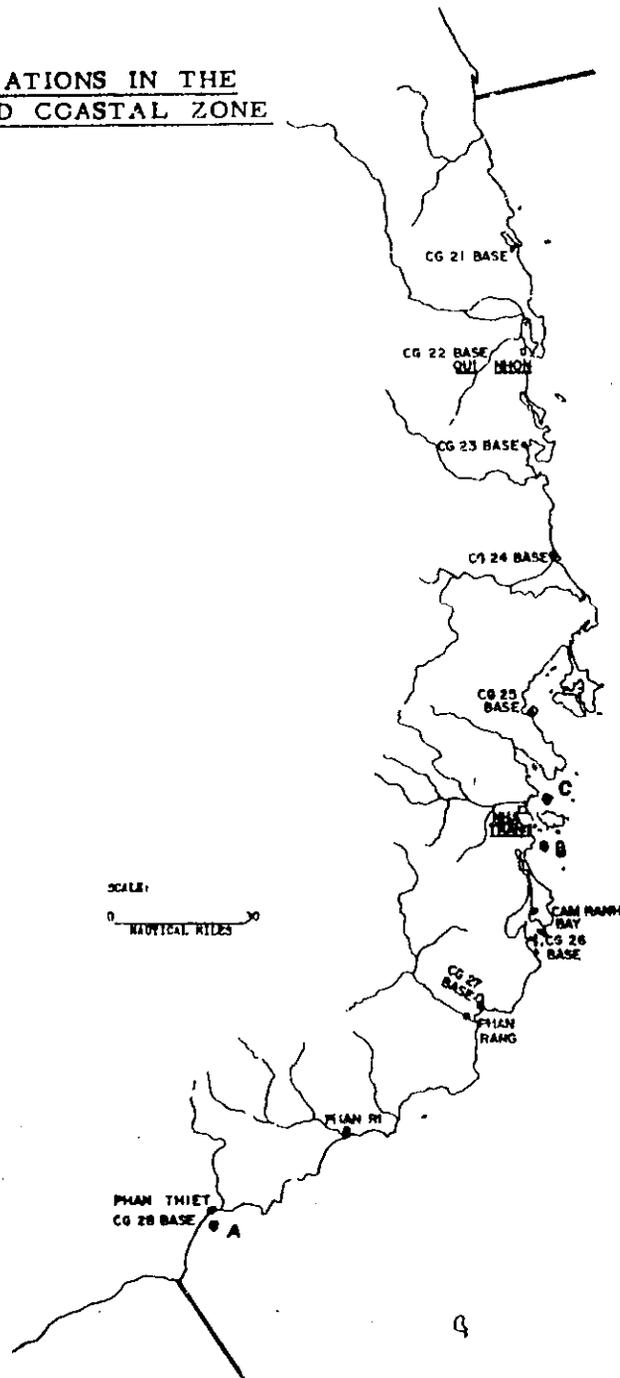
On 4 November, the PT GRACE (USCG WPB) sighted a junk PT 459 adrift about two miles south of Phan Thiet (AN 8205) with four persons on board. The junk was enroute to Phan Thiet when engine trouble developed. The junk was taken in tow and turned over to Coastal Group 28.

On the night of 13 November, PCF 90 collided with an unlighted 12 foot Vietnamese sampan about three miles southeast of Nha Trang (CP 11 48). There were three boys on board, ages 9, 10, and 12. The 9 year old boy was recovered in good health. LCPL 46 and skimmers assisted in the

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OPERATIONS IN THE  
SECOND COASTAL ZONE



- A. PT GRACE - 4 Nov.
- B. PCF 90 - 13 Nov.
- C. PCF 74 - 15 Nov.

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search for the two missing boys with negative results. A subsequent investigation of PCF 90's hull revealed the 12 year old boy entangled in the screws along with an anchor and assorted nets and line.

PCF 74, while acting as a blocking force on 15 November, two miles east of Nha Trang (CPO 080 531), picked up a swimmer in the water. The swimmer had no papers and claimed to have been thrown overboard from a junk. On resumption of patrol, a junk with five men on board was stopped, boarded, and searched. The swimmer claimed that one man on the junk was his brother. However, all five men denied knowing the swimmer. None of the five men had proper identification papers, and all were turned over to the Second Coastal Zone Intelligence Officer for disposition.

#### Third Coastal Zone

Indigenous coastal traffic remained at about the same level as in October as good weather prevailed throughout the month of November. There were 12,183 craft detected, 4,289 inspections, and 4,089 boardings recorded during the month resulting in the detention of 36 persons for lack of or faulty identification papers, possession of contraband, and restricted zone violators. In the Game Warden area of operation in the lower Lassar and Co Chien Rivers, the "swift" boats detected 7,666 water craft. Of these 3,015 were inspected and 2,991 were boarded resulting in six craft and 11 persons being detained. There were two incidents of evading craft reported on the Co Chien River.

There were approximately 140 naval gunfire support missions conducted

during November in response to requests for urgent gunfire support, targets of opportunity, H and I, or in preplanned river and canal incursions. This was about 60 missions less than the previous month as the tempo of operations have slowed and the enemy avoided contact where and when ever possible.

On the night of 1 November a U.S. Army OH-6A helicopter was reported down about two miles southwest of Sa Dec (WS 850 373). PCF's 37, 59, and 102 proceeded to search the area with PCF 102 locating the helo partially submerged at the waters edge. The three U.S. occupants were dead. The PCF's stood by to assist in the removal of the bodies and to provide security for the ordnance remaining on board the helo. A Vietnamese stated that the helo was burning at the time of the crash. PCF 59 remained on the scene until relieved by U.S. Army personnel.

The PT GREY (USCG WPB) while on normal Market Time patrol on 3 November spotted six people in the water about 13 miles east of Ham Tan (ZS 271 835). All six were taken aboard the PT GREY and on interrogation they stated their fishing junk had sunk at about 0200H.

The PT CYPRESS (USCG WPB) fired a gunfire support mission on VC structures about 25 miles northeast of Soc Trang (XR 298 635) on 8 November. The mission had sector clearance and resulted in three structures destroyed, four structures damaged, and one large secondary explosion.

A squad of Regional Forces troops were ambushed by a VC company estimated at 100 troops with small arms, automatic weapons, and B-40

rockets on the morning of 9 November, about 13 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 034 910). PCF's 28 and 63 embarked 65 RF troops and inserted them along the canal and then stood by for support. The PCF's were detached at 1530H and at that time the ground forces had not made contact with the enemy. As a result of the ambush, the RF force suffered six killed, four wounded and one missing in addition to losing seven M-16's, one M-60, and one M-79. Enemy casualties are unknown.

In a special operation on the morning of 14 November, PCF's 25 and 53 inserted troops along the Bassac River about 20 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 183 757). The "swift" boats stood by for gunfire support, and at 0515H extracted the troops without incident. The ground forces killed three VC and captured one mauser weapon. There were no friendly casualties.

PCF 28 observed an RF outpost about 18 miles southwest of Tra Vinh (XR 347 669) come under small arms and automatic weapons fire at 2225H, 17 November. The "swift" boat placed accurate 81mm fire support in the area, and at 2355H, the enemy broke contact. There were two VC killed and one AK-47 rifle captured. RF troop casualties are unknown.

The PT CYPRESS (USCG WPB) conducted small boat covert surveillance on 22 November about 20 miles south of Phu Vinh (XR 575 554). Eight males with fish nets were sighted, and all attempted to evade over the sand dunes. The small boat took the evaders under fire, killing two VC.

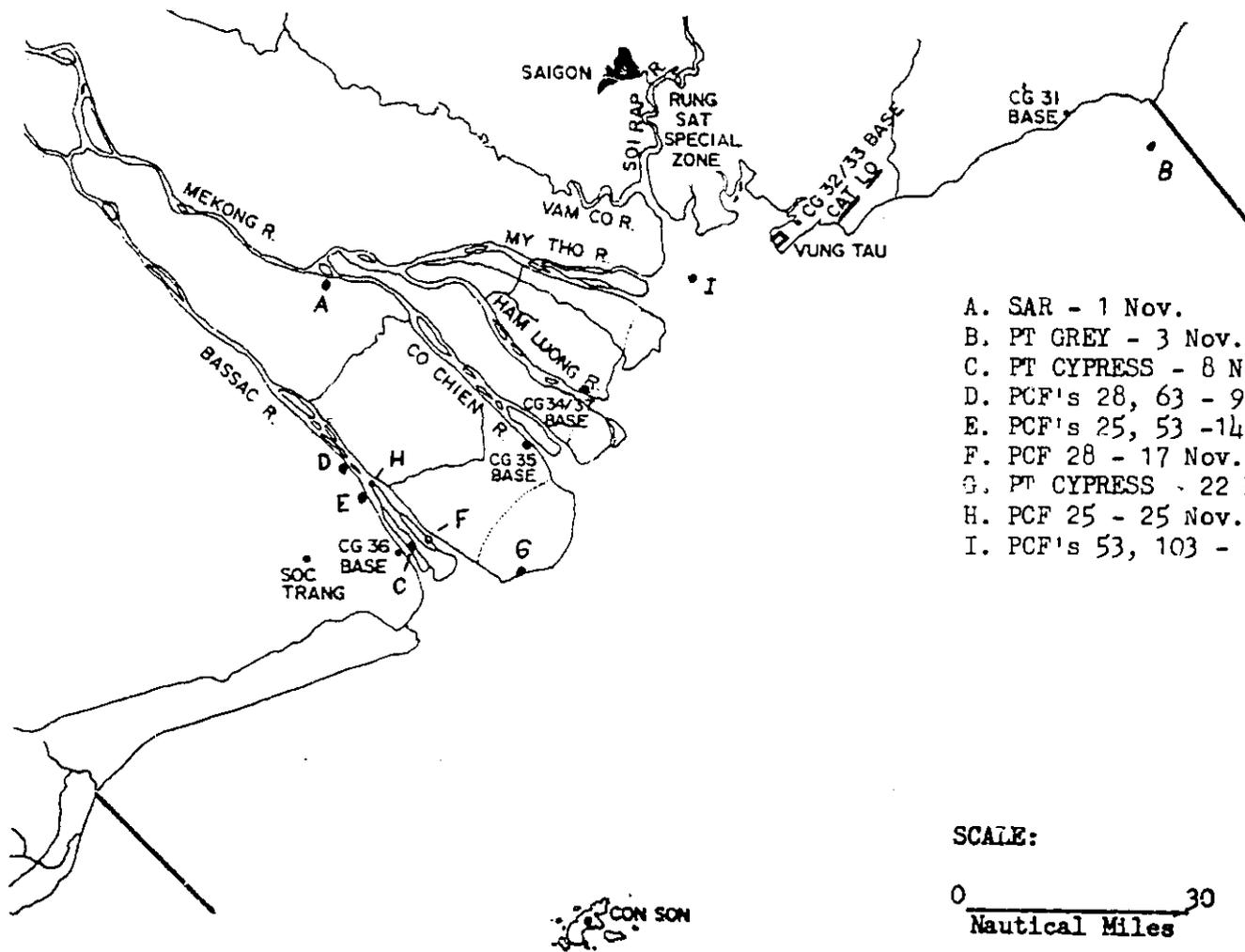
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PCF 25, while on normal Market Time patrol on the night of 25 November, sighted a small unlighted sampan about 10 miles north of Soc Trang (XR 200 795). When the sampan was illuminated, three persons jumped over the side and were taken under fire. One U.S. sailor fell overboard while throwing concussion grenades and was recovered after the strong current had carried him approximately 150 yards. The "swift" boat recovered numerous documents, 100 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, and several items of personal clothing before the sampan sunk. There were three VC killed and no friendly casualties. The documents indicated that one of the VC killed was a doctor.

At 1120H on 30 November, the Alaska Barge and Transport Company office at Vung Tau reported that the civilian tug R PACE with three barges was sinking in the vicinity of channel marker number 2 in the Cua Tieu River (YS 080 300) about 12 miles southwest of Vung Tau. PCF's 53 and 103 enroute to Binh Tuy overheard the tug's SOS transmission and proceeded to the scene. The tug was sighted at 1155H and PCF 103 assumed the position of On-scene Commander. At 1216H, the PCF evacuated all 11 crewmembers. Two MSTS tugs had been dispatched to the scene, and at 1245H the R PACE tug master was transferred to the MSTS salvage tug ANN B. The tug master stated that the R PACE was badly holed when she went aground.

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OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



### Operation Market Time

There were 542 naval gunfire, SEA LORDS, Sea Fleet, and Sea Tiger missions conducted during November, approximately 60 less than in October. Gun damage assessment on these missions was 35.6 percent compared to the 40.6 percent the previous month and the high of 42.3 percent recorded in May 1969. Results of these missions were:

95 Viet Cong killed (67 body count, 28 probable).

14 Viet Cong wounded.

32 Viet Cong captured.

182 Junks/Sampans destroyed.

7 Junks/Sampans damaged.

282 Structures/Bunkers destroyed.

132 Structure/Bunkers damaged.

There were six incidents of evading craft and personnel reported during the month and taken under fire resulting in 13 sampans destroyed, two sampans damaged, and one Viet Cong killed, one wounded, and three captured.

Surveillance operations resulted in the detection of 17,128 wood craft. Of these, 6,492 were inspected and 5,536 were boarded. Detection of steel hulled vessels in Market Time areas totaled 282. Of these, 179 were inspected and another six boarded, and all determined to be non-suspicious. This is the lowest number of detections since the inception of Market Time operations, and is contributed to adverse weather in the First and Second Coastal Zones during most of the month.

In addition, seven patrol areas in the Second Coastal Zone were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy in November. This brought the total Market Time areas patrolled by the Vietnamese Navy to 27 stations of the 54 assigned.

In support of Operations SEA LORDS and Sea Float, in the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones, "swift" boats conducted 67 multi-craft missions during November. The results of the missions were not as impressive as in previous months as the enemy continued to avoid contact. The "Swift" boats continued to support the PSYOPS campaign in the lower Ca Mau peninsula. These operations are discussed under Market Time Raiders in the SEA LORDS summary and operation Sea Float summary.

SEAL units attached to Task Force 115 conducted almost daily operations in the IV Corps Tactical Zone in support of Sea Float operations.

A new enemy tactic was employed against the PCF's in the Song Gang Hao during November. Four B-40 rockets were found rigged for remote firing by wire leading into the line. The rocket launchers were fastened to a small raft which was floating in a notch cut into the river bank. The raft was held in place by four small pilings or stakes, and it was free to ride up and down on these pilings with the tide. The elevation on the rocket launchers was thus set to hit a passing boat. This arrangement eliminated the problem of elevation adjustment with tidal change.

On 3 November, LCDR Edwin B. McConville, USN, 622446/1100 relieved LCDR Joseph W. Streuli, USN, 606698/1100 as Commander Coastal Division Thirteen.

The Coastal Surveillance Center at Qui Nhon and the operational control of the seven inshore stations in area 3 were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy on 5 November.

The PT GAMMON (USCG WPB) was decommissioned and turned over to the Vietnamese Navy in a ceremony at the Small Craft Repair Facility, Danang on 11 November. The vessel was renamed the NGUYEN DAO (HQ 703).

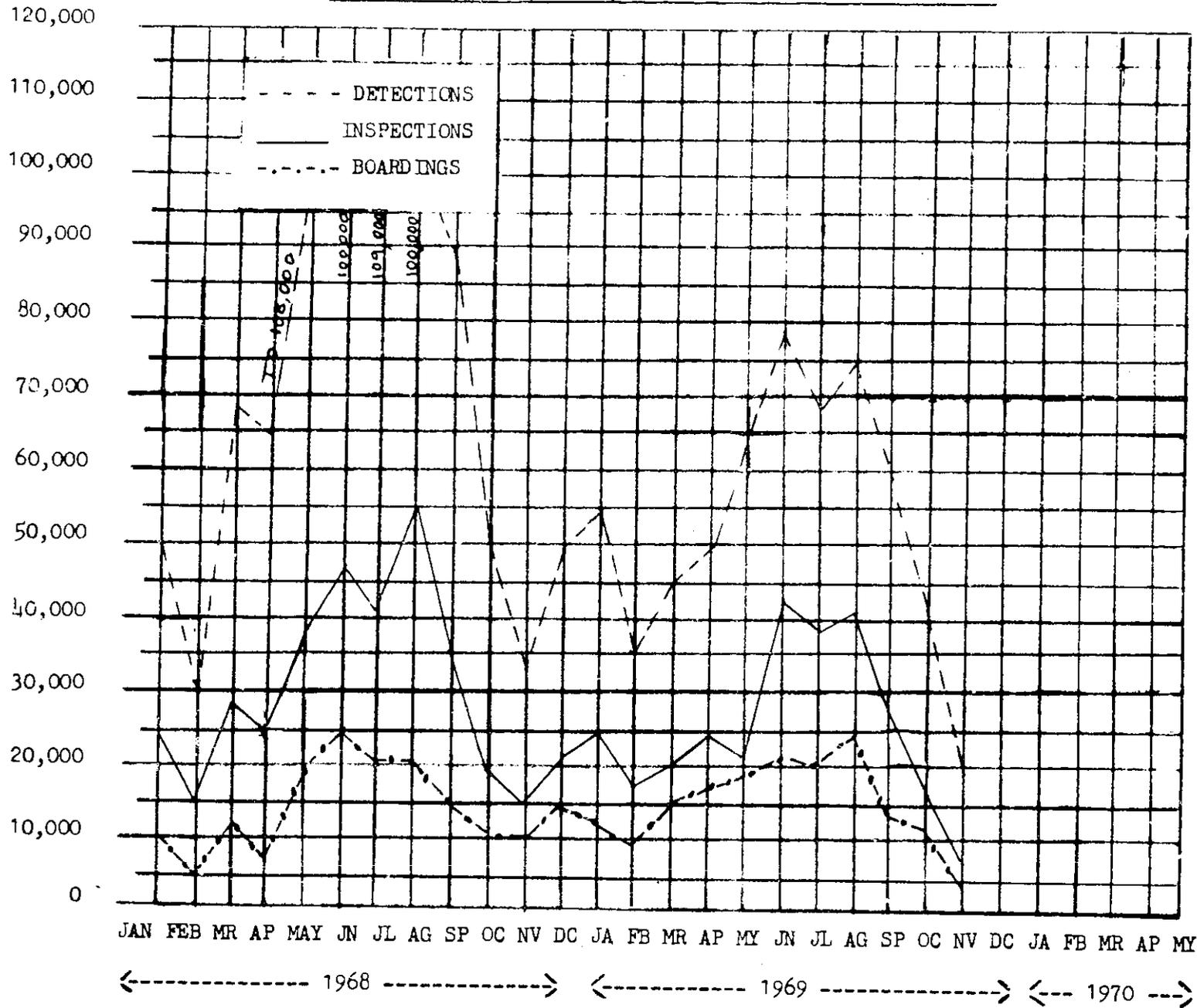
On 17 November the PT COMFORT (USCG WPB) was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy and renamed the DAO THUC (HQ 704).

At 150757H the PT GRACE (USCG WPB) while on normal Market Time patrol sighted a OV-1 (MOHAWK) crash and two parachutes about 19 miles southeast of Phu Vinh (XR 730 700) in the Long Toan Secret Zone. In addition to the pilot, an Army Lieutenant, the 73rd SAC aircraft carried the III Coastal Zone Intelligence Officer, LCDR John George Graf, USN, 181318/6632. At 0800H, OV-10 aircraft were scrambled from Binh Thuy and helo assistance was requested from the Vinh Binh sector Tactical Operations Center. The PT GRACE recovered portions of the aircraft and then entered the canal with OV-10 and helo gunships overhead, to search for the personnel. The canal probe was completed at 1205H with negative results. A Vietnamese boy stated that he saw two Americans captured and agreed to lead troops to the capture point. At 1255H, two ejection seats were located. Troops were inserted at 1635H and, led by the VN boy, found one chute 200 meters from the ejection seats. A helmet and leggings were also recovered by the troops prior to their extraction at 1900H. Emergency beeper signals were heard at various times throughout the day.

Surveillance and blockade operations continued throughout the night of 15-16 November. At 161030H, PSYOPS broadcast were commenced offering a 100,000 piaster reward for return of the prisoners. At 1400 an ARVN battalion was inserted and one of the aircraft engines was located and salvaged. The remainder of the aircraft was destroyed. The troops were extracted prior to darkness. A four unit blocking force with aircraft overhead was maintained throughout the night. Troop search and sweep operations were continued on 17 and 18 November with a blocking force being maintained at night. The search for the pilot and observer of the OV-1 MOHAWK was terminated at 191500H with negative results.

At 1248H on 16 November, Market Time patrol aircraft MESS MAN 702 detected an unidentified SL-4 type trawler at position 7-20N, 105-05E, on course 340 degrees, speed 15 knots. After the trawler was sighted it changed course to 050 degrees. The contact was designated 16F1. The USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC-715) was designated to intercept and identify the contact and to maintain a positive surveillance. The trawler entered CHICOM territorial waters at 0620H on 20 November. Surveillance was discontinued at 0720H on 21 November when radar contact was lost with the trawler at position 19-16.6N and 110-41.4E.

DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



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Operation Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III

There were 55 Sea Float and SEAL missions conducted in November in support of operation Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III in the lower Ca Mau Peninsula. Assets assigned to Sea Float were 10 PCF's, one PG, one LST, one ASPB, one minitor, three ATC's, and one Zippo. These missions and craft supported SEAL, EOD, and UDT team operations and daily air support was provided by Slicks, Seawolves, and OV-10 aircraft. The following Vietnamese Navy assets and forces were also assigned: two LSM's, one LSSL, two PCF's, Coastal Groups 33, 35, and 36, VNN POLWAR Team, Mobile Strike Team Two, VNN Reaction Force, VNN Biet Hai, RF troops, VNN Rangers, and an RD cadre. The afloat units conducted day and night Psyops patrols along the rivers and canals of the Sea Float operating area, and airborne units continued to provide Psyops missions in those areas inaccessible to the craft. The "swift" boats provided gunfire support, waterborne guard posts, blocking forces and escort services for logistic craft along the Bo De and Cua Lon Rivers and adjacent canals. The Mobile Advance Tactical Support Base and all afloat units conducted nightly H and I fire into known VC base camps and extortion areas.

Land clearing operations commenced for the construction of the coastal group junk and PCF base at Old Nam Can under operation Solid Anchor. There were 31 Seabees assigned during the month and were utilized in the construction of sea huts, the laying of matting for vehicle support, and improving the camp area. An RF company arrived

at Solid Anchor on 4 November from New Nam Can and set up camp on the north shore of the MATSB.

Commander Amphibious Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, was briefed on operation Sea Float and Solid Anchor and given a tour of the area on 8 November.

Rear Admiral Henry J. Johnson, USN, Officer in Charge Construction, and party inspected the Solid Anchor Base construction on 9 November. Also on 9 November, COL Vuong, An Xuyen Province Chief and accompanied by members of the Vietnamese Senate and lower house toured the MATSB. The visitors thought the operation was very impressive and important, and appeared pleased with the extent to which the area was being reclaimed to GVN control by Sea Float operations.

Admiral Bernard A. Clarey, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Vice Admiral Ralph L. Shipley, USN, OP-04, Vice Admiral Walter H. Raumberger, USN, Deputy Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, Vice Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, USN, Commander Naval Forces, Vietnam, and Commodore Tran Van Chon, VNN, Chief of Naval Operations, visited Sea Float on 10 November and were given a tour of the MATSB followed by a briefing by USN and VNN briefing officers. All expressed interest in the general success of operations, diversity of assets assigned, and the increasing Vietnamese participation in all aspects of Sea Float operations. The Province determination to return the Districtal Headquarters to Old Nam Can once the VNN base is completed was viewed as an important consolidation of the progress made since Sea Float operations began.

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On 14 November, Rear Admiral John G. Dillon, USN, Commander Third Naval Construction Brigade visited Sea Float for an inspection of the Solid Anchor base site.

Four PCF's and LSSL 225 established Sea Float Annex EAST at the confluence of the Dam Doi, Cua Lon, and Bo De Rivers on 17 November. The PCF's patrolled the principle waterways playing PSYOPS tapes advising of the availability of a doctor and corpsman, and urging people to visit the LSSL. The first visitors were received on 26 November indicating that PSYOPS were beginning to produce results.

At 0410H on 20 November, the Sea Float Annex located at the confluence of the Cua Lon River and Cau Nhap canal was attacked by the VC. An inspection of the area revealed that eight VC had entered the area via a small canal, positioned six claymore mines in a fan shape 10 meters from the RF quarters and then retreated to firing positions. Four claymores were fired, only one of which detonated, followed by small arms fire. The VC then left the area via sampans. After the attack, five claymores, five hand grenades, and one clip of M-1 ammo were found. There were nine persons wounded, three civilians, and six RF troops.

Commander J.M. White, USN, COMNAVFORV Public Affairs Officer, accompanied AP, UPI, and Newsweek reporters on a 24 November visit to Sea Float for an informal briefing and a tour of the area.

On 25 November, Vice Admiral E.R. Zumwalt, USN, Commodore Tran Van Chon, VNN, and party visited Sea Float, Solid Anchor, and the Sea Float Annex. Discussions on the various areas were held with emphasis

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on logistics, base defense, the Kit Carson Scout program, and progress in the No Fire Zone (NFZ) community. All appeared to be impressed with the continuing progress in the Sea Float area of operations.

A SEAL mission was conducted on 9 November based on information provided by a Hoi Chanh to destroy a VC rice mill and capture four VC district cadre. Eighteen SEALS were inserted by Slick helos about 18 kilometers north of Sea Float (VQ 971 883) and patrolled south about 200 meters where the rice mill was located. Patrolling further south, two VC males were captured near a hootch. Continuing the patrol, a VC store with a table set for 20-30 people was found and two VC females were captured. The district chief's house was located and four VC females and several documents were captured. Seawolves received enemy fire about two kilometers to the south, and took the area under fire. At 1700H, 10 SEALS and the prisoners were extracted via Slicks while the remaining SEALS patrolled north to the rice mill and received small arms fire. Seawolves were called in to suppress the fire. The remaining SEALS were extracted at 1730H and returned to Sea Float without further incident. Destroyed in the operation were three VC hootches, eight 50 gallon drums oil/gasoline, two large motor-driven sampans, 1,000 pounds of rice and the rice mill with a large amount of machinery. There were small amounts of assorted ammunition and four kilos of documents captured. There were no friendly casualties and eight VC were captured, six females and two males.

On the afternoon of 13 November, PCF's 55, 94, and 35 and VNN PCF 09 with an EOD team, a Psyops team and a 10 member VNN reaction

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force conducted a Psyops patrol along the Rach Cai Ngay about two miles northeast of the Sea Float Annex (WQ 127 736). Psyops broadcasting commenced immediately upon entering the canal. A few minutes later as the "swift" boats passed a large wooden structure used to support a fishing net, the PCF's began receiving small arms fire from the north bank. The boats beached on the opposite bank and suppressed the enemy fire. Seawolf 14, providing aircover, spotted many camouflaged hootches and sampans and took them under fire. The VNN reaction troops were inserted for a sweep of the area and discovered several small hootches about 300 meters from the canal, and retained several documents and hand grenades. Numerous VC signs were noticed in the area, and many punji stakes were uncovered by the low tide. The troops were extracted at 1800H and the PCF's departed the canal without further incident. There were 10 sampans, one structure, 400 pounds of shrimp, 75 pounds of fish, 50 pounds of rice, and two fishnets destroyed. The troops captured 350 pounds of shrimp and fish, two sampans, 100 feet of fishing net, and several documents. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties are unknown.

On 13 November, SEAL team One, Det. Golf, conducted a mission to capture six district level Viet Cong infrastructures. The SEALs, two Kit Carson Scouts, and one guide were inserted by Slick about 16 kilometers southeast of Old Nam Can (WQ 115 672), and after patrolling 200 meters to the northwest located six hootches and took 16 detainees into custody. The hootches were destroyed when the guide identified them as VC. The detainees were extracted via Slick and the SEALs continued their patrol and located a three hootch complex. They detained

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20 personnel. Initial interrogation revealed that they were civilians and desired to go to the Sea Float Annex. The SEALs assisted in loading the persons and their property into sampans, and sent them to the Annex. One of the females was detained after she was identified as the wife of a VC. The SEALs patrolled back to the landing zone and were extracted without incident. There were no friendly casualties and 17 relatives of VC were taken into custody. Nine hootches, five sampans, numerous water jugs, 300 pounds of rice and various foods were destroyed, and two kilos of documents were captured. There were 19 civilians relocated to the Sea Float Annex.

River Assault Craft units, consisting of T-4, T-9, Z-2, and M-2 were underway at 0700H, 14 November with VNN Rangers, VNN reaction force, an EOD, and UDT team embarked for a Sea Float mission on the Rach Ong Dinh about 3 miles southeast of Sea Float (WQ 015 637). The rangers were inserted on the east bank and the reaction force on the west bank for a sweep south. Several bunkers with connecting trenches were destroyed. The troops were extracted at 1200H, without making contact with the enemy, and were returned to Sea Float. There were 10 bunkers, two structures, 100 pounds of salt, and two fishnets destroyed.

Two platoons of VNN Rangers were inserted along a canal by ATC 4 on the morning of 18 November about six miles northeast of Sea Float. The troops were divided into five elements and swept generally north and then east. PCF's 11, 27, 40, and 51 and Zippo 2 provided cover. There was no contact made with the enemy, however, several structures were encountered and 15 women and children were detained. The troops were extracted along the Rach Cai Ngay and returned to Sea Float.

The sweep resulted in 15 structures, two bunkers, 13 water cisterns, 1,000 pounds of rice and one fish trap destroyed and two sampans, 75 pounds of shrimp, two VC flags and assorted VC money and documents captured. There were no friendly casualties.

While proceeding east on the Cua Lon River for the Sea Float Annex at 1030H on 28 November, LSSL 225 fired into a suspicious area about 11 miles northeast of Sea Float (WQ 202 719) and initiated an ambush receiving two B-40 rockets, one 3.5 rocket and small arms fire. The LSSL immediately opened fire with all guns and continued slowly eastward making a thorough firing run. At the same time, PCF's 40, 05, and 27 were proceeding north leaving the Bo De River and immediately beached opposite the ambush site, and commenced 81mm fire. Seawolves were scrambled and put strikes into the general vicinity. At noon a landing party was put ashore and they found six B-40 rockets, four triple B-40 launchers and several boobytrapped grenades. PCF's 55 and 06 arrived on the scene and inserted a VNN reaction force which found several spider holes and blood trails. Seawolves inserted EOD and UDT personnel who destroyed booby traps in the area and three bunkers. All personnel were extracted without further incident. Evidence just north of the ambush site suggested that the VC were caught by surprise while setting up a second ambush. Along with the weapons cache, hot food was found indicating the LSSL 225 might have initiated the enemy ambush before the VC were ready. All the weapons were retained. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties are unknown.

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STATISTICAL SECTION

Average number U.S. ships/craft on patrol during month.

	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	LST	PG	WHEC
Avg.	1	1	12	35	1	1	3

Average number VNN ships/junks employed during month.

	Sea Force	River Force	Coastal Force
Total	41	305	190

U.S. Activity

Total Detected	Wood - Day	14,514	Night	2,614	17,410
	Steel - Day	146	Night	136	
Total Inspected	Wood - Day	5,045	Night	1,147	6,371
	Steel - Day	86	Night	93	
Total Boarded	Wood - Day	4,130	Night	372	4,508
	Steel - Day	6	Night	0	

VNN Activity

Junks Searched	75, 523	Junks Detained	70
Persons Searched	264, 054	Persons Detained	331

U.S. Activity

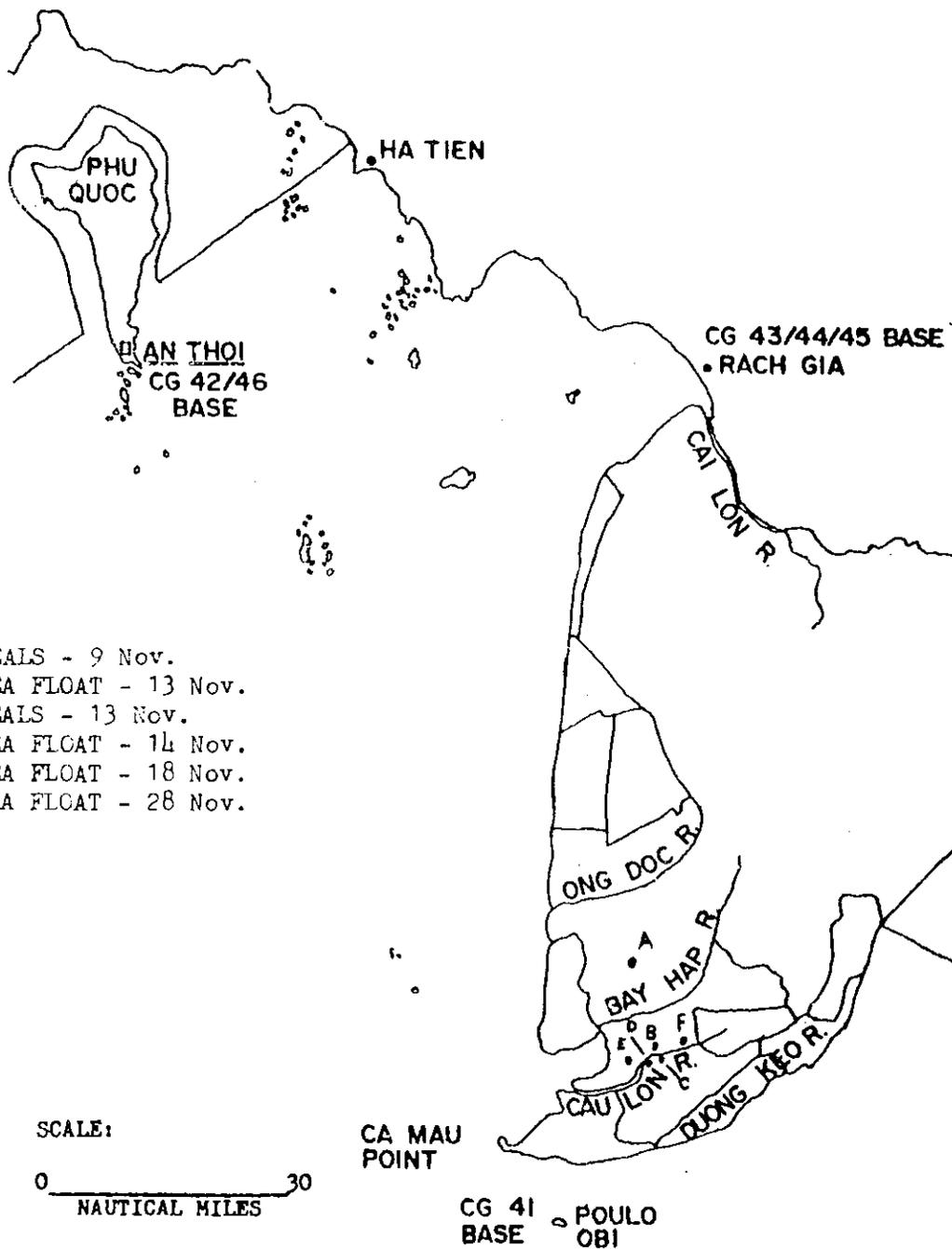
Junks Detained	92
Persons Detained	291

Stable Door Statistics

Number of Junks Detected	35,917
Number of Inspections	2,933
Number of Boardings	2,458

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SEA FLOAT  
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



### Operation Stable Door

Adverse weather during most of November slowed the Stable Door operations as 35,917 craft were detected. Of these, 2,933 were inspected and another 2,458 were boarded. Patrol units continued to support ground operations with blocking forces and landing reconnaissance patrols.

### Unit One - Vung Tau

There were eight junks and 31 persons detained during November for improper or no identification or boat registration papers, curfew and restricted zone violators.

On 6 November, YW 126, while getting underway from Naval Support Activity Detachment Cat Lo, lost control and collided with Picket 29, Picket 26, LCPL 52, a Vietnamese junk, and the IUWG-1 pier. The pickets sustained cracked ribs, the Vietnamese junk sank, and there was no apparent damage to LCPL 52. The pier was dislodged and moved approximately 15 feet, bending several pilings and length poles and severing an electrical power cable.

LCPL 33 while on routine patrol on 16 November, boarded a coastal junk (PT 16TTHH) and found approximately 60 tons of unmanifested rice. The owner had no identification papers. The junk, owner and rice were turned over to Coastal Group Thirty Three for disposition.

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The USNS SGT ANDREW MILLER while anchored on 16 November, reported that a napalm bomb in a wooden case had fallen overboard. LCPL 33 conducted a search of the area and was joined by LCPL's 35 and 52 who searched and provided illumination. The bomb was spotted on 17 November by a U.S. Army helicopter and Unit One Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel destroyed the bomb.

Picket 29 stopped a fishing junk (PR 1208NTHH) on 16 November, for the fifth curfew violation. The junk and owner were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy Police for disposition.

Unit Two - Cam Ranh Bay

During November there were eight junks and 10 persons detained for curfew or restricted zone violations, invalid or no registration, and identification papers.

On 2 November, the sentry on Pier 2 reported a floating mine. LCPL 39 and Skimmer 26 were sent to investigate. The duty officer on the scene identified the explosive device as one of two missing, classified firing devices destined for the U.S. Air Force. Unit Two EOD personnel destroyed the device.

The Harbor Master reported on 10 November that an unknown number of barges had broken loose from their anchorage in the outer harbor and were drifting toward Binh Ba Cove. Unit two was requested to send boats to check the barges drift until tugs arrived. Three barges were adrift and LCPL's 23 and 66 attached lines and succeeded in holding them until the tugs arrived and took them in tow.

LCPL 37 stopped and boarded a junk on 20 November for operating in a restricted zone. The junk was running in circles around the SS AMERICAN LEADER, and upon searching two, 100 pound bags of unmanifested rice were discovered. The junk, owner, and rice were turned over to the Vietnamese National Police at the Cam Ranh Bay Village pier.

On 20 November the U.S. Air Force Salvage team from the 559th Tactical Fighter Squadron requested Unit Two's assistance in locating a downed F-4 Phantom jet which went down in the northern sector of the inner harbor about 2030H on 18 November. LCPL's 32 and 39 and Stable Door Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team assisted in the search, and through combined operations located the aircraft about 1505H on 22 November. Unit Two's EOD personnel attached a marker and the LCPL's were secured from the operation.

On 22 November Skimmer 27 made a routine check of a fishing junk off Cam Ranh Bay village and found two persons with expired identification cards and whose names were on the Viet Cong Black list. The persons were detained and turned over to the Military Police for further transfer to the Navy Intelligence Liaison Officer at Cam Ranh Bay.

Unit Two received their semi annual administrative/material inspection on 21 and 22 November. CDR G. H. Overstreet, USN, OFFICER IN CHARGE OF IUWG-1 was the senior inspector and was assisted by personnel from Staff, Unit Four and Naval Support Facility, Cam Ranh Bay.

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On 24 November LCDR W. G. Dyer, USNR, relieved LCDR L.V. Cooper, Jr., USN as OFFICER IN CHARGE OF UNIT TWO. LCDR Cooper was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for meritorious service.

Unit Three - Qui Nhon

There were only two junks and four persons detained by Unit Three during the month and those for suspected black marketing.

On 4 November, Skimmer 32 and 89 investigated a burning junk in the junk anchorage of Hai Minh village. Inspection revealed that the fire was caused by a new engine installed in the junk.

On 11 November, Sea Cobras operating in the upper harbor observed one sampan with two personnel on board traveling along the southern bank. When the sampan was within six feet of the Sea Cobra's position it was challenged and the occupants surrendered. The Sea Cobras found two AK-47 rifles, 12 Chicom grenades, 6 loaded AK-47 magazines and 100 rounds of AK-47 ammunition in the sampan.

During operations on 15 November, using one of the prisoners captured on 11 November as a guide, the Sea Cobras moved into a Viet Cong base camp. As the trail came into the camp, the prisoner tried to escape and was killed. The base camp consisted of two bunkers 50 meters apart and 100 meters from the trail. The team proceeded northwest where one VC was spotted but he evaded into the elephant grass. An air strike was called in on the base camp after the team departed with negative results.

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While on routine patrol on 15 November, LCPL 42 stopped a water taxi (Q 85) after it had departed from alongside the Liberian Cargo ship TUNG SING anchored in C-2. A check of the water taxi revealed one man putting something under his shirt which turned out to be 237,000 piasters. The water taxi, two detainees, and the piasters were turned over to the NILO Qui Nhon for further investigation.

On 17 November, a Unit Three boat intercepted a sampan with two teenagers aboard who had 237,000 piasters in their possession. The boys stated they were going to buy cigarettes from ships in the outer harbor. The boys were put in custody that night and turned over to the Chief of National Police. The boys received jail sentences as black market operators. They had little knowledge of black market details and indicated that they were given the money by an unknown man and told to go to the ships in the outer harbor where they would be given sealed packages for the money. It appeared that the boys were mere pawns in a large scale black market operation.

#### Unit Four - Nha Trang

During November there were 23 junks and 42 persons detained in Unit Four's area of operation. Detainments were for curfew and restricted zone violations, lack of or faulty identification papers and no boat registration papers.

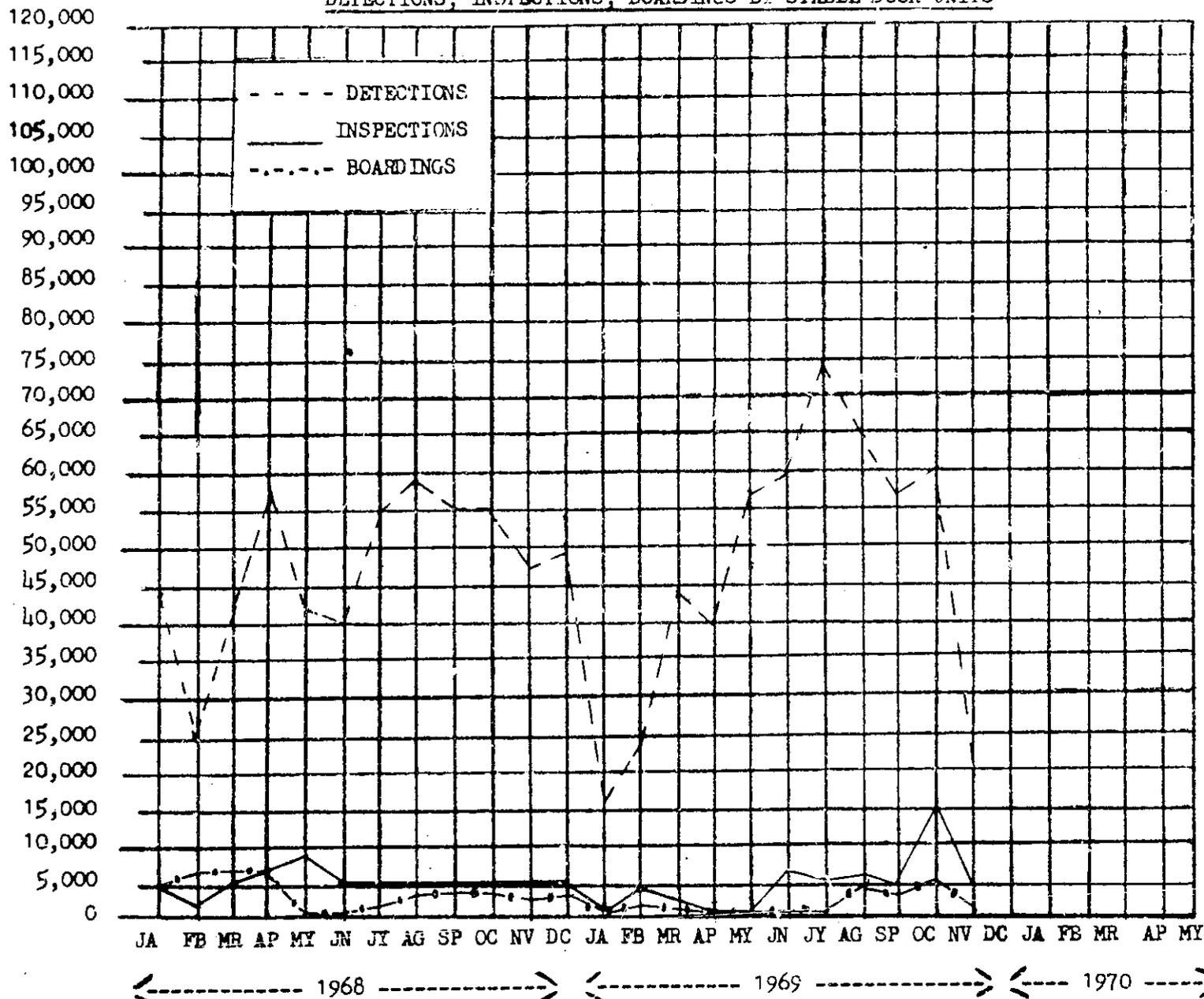
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On 5 November, LST 581 was beached at the LST ramp and reported a man overboard. Skimmer 89 proceeded to the scene and recovered the man. Attempts to revive him using mouth to mouth resuscitation were unsuccessful and he was pronounced dead by the 51st Medical Company personnel, who also assumed custody of the body. The man was identified as Hisao Maedo, Able Seaman, age 42.

Commander Task Group 115.2 notified Unit Four on 12 November that PCF 90 had collided with a small fishing craft and requested assistance in the search for survivors. The fishing craft sank immediately and one man had been picked up by PCF 90. LCPL 56, Skimmers 25 and 28 proceeded to the area and commenced searching. After approximately one hour the search was terminated with negative results.

On 25 November LCPL 46 was hailed by a Korean security guard on a Korean barge at anchor in the harbor. The guard had caught a Vietnamese trying to steal "C" rations off the barge. LCPL 46 transferred the security guard and the detainee to the Cam Da pier for further transfer to the Vietnamese National Police.

DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS



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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY

Throughout November, the River Patrol Force countered enemy pressure in the I Corps Tactical Zone, Mekong Delta, along the upper Saigon River, and in the Rung Sat Special Zone and in addition provided major support to on-going and recently activated Operation Sea Lords Interdiction Campaigns: Giant Slingshot, Border Interdiction (consisting of Tran Hung Dao and Barrier Reef Campaigns), Search Turn (Rach Gia Canal), Mang Thit-Nicholai Canal and Cho Cao Canal Operations.

During November the groups, units, and elements of Command Task Force 116 were as follows:

<u>Designator</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Location</u>
CTF 116	COMRIVPATFOR/COMRIVPATFLOT FIVE	Binh Thuy
CTG 116.4	CO VAL 4	Binh Thuy
CTU 116.4.8	OIC VAL 4 Det A	Binh Thuy
CTU 116.4.9	OIC VAL 4 Det B	Vung Tau
CTU 116.6.7	OIC MST-2	Binh Thuy
CTE 116.6.7.1	MST-2 Det ALFA	Nha Be
CTE 116.6.7.2	MST-2 Det BRAVO	Ben Luc
CTE 116.6.7.3	MST-2 Det CHARLIE	Song Ong Doc
CTE 116.6.7.4	MST-2 Det DELTA	Nha Be
CTU 116.6.8	BJU-1 Team 13	Binh Thuy
CTU 116.6.8	ECU Team 38	Binh Thuy
CTG 116.8	CO HAL 3	Binh Thuy
CTG 116.9	COMRSSZRIVPATGRU	Nha Be

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CTU 116.9.1	COMRIVDIV 571	Nha Be
CTU 116.9.2	COMINEDIV 112	Nha Be
CTU 116.9.5	SEAL Team Det ALFA 10th Platoon	Nha Be
CTU 116.9.6	SEAL Team Det A 9th Platoon	Nha Be
CTU 116.9.8	OIC HAL 3 Det 2	Nha Be

Operating in the Rung Sat Special Zone during the month of November, Task Group 116.9 and VNN River Patrol Group 52 patrolled the Long Tau, Soi Rap, Thi Vai, and Go Gia Rivers day and night. The night patrols supported Regional Forces, Provincial Reconnaissance Units, and SEAL Teams or set waterborne guardposts. Troops from Quang Xuyen and Can Gio Districts engaged in anti-extortionist operations in conjunction with the National Police in areas adjacent to authorized work areas (Nhon Trach, Can Giuoc, and Long Le). Operations aimed at multiple targets were conducted by junks, PBR's, and UH-1 B (Seawolf Helicopters). The Rung Sat Special Zone Regional Forces conducted Long Tau Security sweeps as directed by sub-sector commanders. Task Group 116.9 and River Patrol Group 52 pursued the following number of patrols per 24 hour period with PBR and ASPB between 9 and 15 November:

Long Tau Channel	- 4 patrols a day/5 patrols a night
Soi Rap	- 1 patrol a day/1 patrol a night
Gai Vai/Go Gia	- 1 patrol a day/1 patrol a night

A majority of PBR's (140 out of 190) were engaged in the support of Sea Lords Campaigns.

Interdiction of the enemy in the Rung Sat Special Zone during November received special attention, in addition to joint operations

conducted with Vietnamese forces, one named joint operation was undertaken with other free world forces. This joint operation was WOLFPACK II which commenced 14 November and continued through 17 November. WOLFPACK II was a combined operation consisting of United States and Republic of Vietnam Forces engaging in operations with the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Forces; 6th Army of the Republic of Vietnam; and units of the 1st Australian Task Force in the Northern Rung Sat Special Zone and Southern Nhon Trach areas. Their mission was to seek out and destroy elements of the Viet Cong Tenth Sapper Group (Doan 10). Noteworthy of the success of Operation WOLFPACK II were the following results:

Friendly casualties:	Four WIA (U.S.)
Enemy casualties:	42 KIA (34 BC-8 Prob)
Enemy material destroyed:	19 sampans; 12 structures; 13 bunkers; 8,700 lbs. of rice; 1,300 lbs. of salt; numerous cooking utensils; 50-10 ft. lengths of rebar; one water container
Enemy material captured:	One B-40 launcher; three B-40 rocket rounds; two AK-47's; two SKS rifles; one CKC rifle; three K-54 pistols; numerous rounds AK and SKS/webb gear; 25 rounds U.S. 75mm howitzer ammo; one M-16 rifle w/magazine; one mortar sight; 20-meter detonation cord; 10 kilos of TNT and C-4; one

blasting cap w/batteries and firing wire; one carbine magazine w/ammo; 12 kilos of documents; one communist flag; two fish nets; four transistor radics; numerous fish hooks; 20 packages typing paper (1000 sheets each); numerous yards flag material; 1000 ft. fishing line; one ohmmeter; one bomb fuse; 11 reams carbon paper; two adjustable wrenches; two wood saws; 25 hacksaw blades; two bellows; one hand-driven lathe w/pipe; two coleman stoves; two hatches; two hammocks; and misc. clothing.

Operation Game Warden aircraft assets during November were 33 UH-1B helicopters deployed as follows: Detachment ONE (two helos) aboard USS TERREL COUNTY (LST 1157) supporting Task Force 115 in Operation Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III in the lower Cau Mau Peninsula; Detachment TWO (four helos) aboard USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) in an area five miles south southwest of Ha Tien; Detachment THREE was supporting Task Group 194.4 in Barrier Reef operations extending to Ha Tien; Detachment FOUR (two helos) at Ben Luc; Detachment FIVE (two helos) aboard YRBM-16 on the Upper Bassac River south east of Chau Doc; Detachment SIX (two helos) aboard USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 748) in the lower Cau Mau Peninsula area;

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Detachment SEVEN (two helos) at Tay Ninh; Detachment EIGHT (two helos) aboard USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) located approximately ten miles west of Rach Gia; Detachment NINE (two helos) aboard YREM-21 located approximately three miles north west of An Long and a maintenance pool of 13 helicopters at Binh Thuy. The 13 OV-10A's (Black Pony) aircraft were deployed as follows: Detachment A (five OV-10A's) at VNAF, Binh Thuy; Detachment B (five OV-10A's) at VNAF, Vung Tau; and a maintenance pool of three OV-10A's at Binh Thuy. These aircraft (OV-10A) accounted for over 1,061 flight hours in combat missions in addition to their normal surveillance patrols. A breakdown of these missions follows:

	<u>UH-1B</u>	<u>OV-10A</u>
Pre-planned Strikes	157	3
Reaction Strikes	110	45
Targets of Opportunity	188	142
Support Missions	288	46

There were 2,483 Game Warden resources and population control patrols which accounted for 86,829 detections, 36, 207 inspections and 25, 590 boardings.

#### Clearwater Operations

Command Task Force Clearwater noted a great increase in enemy activity in the vicinity of the Naval Support Activity Detachment at Cua Viet during November. On 1 November a combined North Vietnamese regular and Viet Cong group of 25 to 30 men engaged Task Force Clearwater PBR's and a marine reconnaissance team with automatic weapons and B-40 rocket fire. On

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3 November, five to six North Vietnamese regulars and Viet Cong personnel engaged PER 118 of River Division 521, Reconnaissance Team Barcroft from 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, and elements of the 3rd Marine Division in a fire fight. One Viet Cong was wounded in that encounter. There were no friendly casualties suffered during either encounter with the enemy. Both fire fights took place about 1,000 meters south of the NSAD Cua Viet.

Enemy activity in Xuan Khanh (VD 322 682), which was resettled by former inhabitants of the DMZ, increased irrespective of the numerous MEDCAPS, PSYOPS, and Civic Action Self-Help projects which had been performed by TF Clearwater. The village has continued to harbor the Viet Cong and sniper rounds have been received from the vicinity of the village on a regular basis during the month. Intelligence reports indicated that the sappers who mined and sunk YOG 76 on the 13 of November came from Xuan Khanh and enemy movement has been detected south of the Cua Viet perimeter several nights during the week of 16-22 November.

With the departure of the Third Marine Battalion and their 105mm battery from Cua Viet during November, base defense was reduced to one platoon, three 81mm mortars, and one 4.2 mortar. Commander Task Force Clearwater attempted to obtain additional troop support from the 2nd Regiment, 1st ARVN Division during November but this support was still pending at the end of the month. As a result, the Cua Viet defense perimeter was thinly manned throughout November.

Clearwater operations during the month of November involved resource and population control, daily chain drag sweeps of the Cua Viet and Perfume

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Rivers, canal incursions for waterborne traffic, inspections, distribution of psyops material, and MEDCAPS (see Psychological Operations and Civic Action Summary for detailed Psyops and MEDCAP missions). Clearwater PBR assets at the end of the month were 20 boats, ten PBR's each assigned to RIVDIV 521 and RIVDIV 543.

Clearwater River Patrol Units inspected 9,560 personnel and detained 14 persons who were suspected of being Viet Cong during the month of November.

Game Warden PBR, UH-1B, And OV-10A Operations

From 0730 to 1400H on 2 November, two ASPB's and a Douche Boat (high velocity water firing craft) carried out bunker destruction missions on the Ba Giong River 11 miles south southeast of Nha Be (XS 978 608) in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The total results of the mission were six bunkers destroyed. There were no friendly or enemy personnel casualties during the mission.

On the evening of 4 November, Black Ponies 113 and 102 were scrambled to give overhead air cover to a SEAL detachment which was partially surrounded by a group of Viet Cong in an area five miles north of Nam Cam (VQ 975 847). The enemy ground fire was so intense that Seawolf helicopters (UH-1B) were unable to effect an extraction of the SEAL's. With clearance from command task force 116, Black Ponies 113 and 102 placed multiple rocket and machine gun strikes from 1717 to 1725. Black Pony strikes silenced the enemy fire and the Seawolves extracted the SEAL's. The LAFT continued to place strikes until approximately 1800H. A farther reconnaissance of the area revealed that one sampan proceeding out from the area

was transporting members of the Viet Cong group. The Black Ponies placed rocket fire on the evading sampan and destroyed it. Enemy personnel casualties were one VC killed (prob) and one sampan damaged. There were no friendly casualties.

Black Ponies 113 and 101 of Task Unit 116.4.8 were on a routine patrol with clearance from CTF 116 to place strikes on two groups of junks and sampans at a canal in an area 12 miles north of Cal Lanh (WS 658 835) on the night of 7 November. The Black Ponies expended 19-5" rockets, 75 rounds of 20mm fire, 3,000 rounds of 7.62mm fire; and 22-MK-45 paraflares and accounted for 12 sampans and three junks being destroyed, and 15 VC killed in action.

On the morning of 9 November, a U.S. Navy LHFT of Task Unit 116.9.8 spotted a beached sampan with its occupants attempting to camouflage the sampan in an area 18 miles southeast of Nha Be (YS 188 690) in the Rang Sat Special Zone. The LHFT placed strikes on the area and succeeded in destroying the sampan. There were no reports of enemy casualties.

While on a waterborne guardpost, four Rang Sat Special Zone PBR's of TU 116.9.1 (PER 61, 62, 128 and 148) sighted one sampan with two VC crossing a canal in an area 13 miles east southeast of Nha Be (YS 148 753) on the night of 10 November. PER's 123 and 148 took the sampan under fire, killed the two VC and destroyed the sampan. While interdicting the sampan, the PBR's received heavy automatic weapons fire from the west bank of the canal. PBR's 61 and 62 broke their guardpost and proceeded to the aid of PER's 128 and 148 with support fire and illumination. At approximately

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2100 one B-40 rocket was fired at PBR 128 from the north west bank of the stream and impacted astern of the PBR inflicting no damage. PBR 61 provided illumination, sighted the attacker, and succeeded in killing him. The PBR's requested the aid of a LHFT who arrived at 2050 and placed strikes on the north bank of the area. The LHFT was relieved by a USA Nighthawk at 2145 who saturated the area with rocket fire. One U. S. sailor was injured by enemy fire but friendly counter fire accounted for three sampans destroyed and one Viet Cong killed.

While providing air support to one platoon of Regional Troops of 361 Company A, a USN LHFT of TU 116.9.8 made contact with Viet Cong personnel approximately 18.5 miles south east of Nha Be during the morning of 10 November. While directing automatic weapons fire at the LHFT, the VC evaded west into a wooded area. The four Viet Cong who had fired upon the LHFT were killed by RF Company 361. Investigation of the area by the Regional Troops uncovered a VC base camp that contained the following items which were confiscated: one B-40 launcher; one B-40 round; one CHICOM submachine gun with eight full magazines; two CHICOM anti-tank mines (30 kilos each); one kilo of documents and a small quantity of food and clothing. There were no friendly casualties.

While engaged in Operation WOLFPACK II in an area 15.5 miles east southeast of Nha Be (YS 165 829) during the pre-dawn hours of 14 November, three RSSZ ASPB's, and PBR's were underway with Hunter/Killer Team, and Regional Forces of Company 363 and RSSZ EOD Team aboard. At 0925H the embarked Hunter/Killer Team sighted an evading Viet Cong swimmer and

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received sporadic sniper fire from the canal bank. The Hunter/Killer Team returned the fire and killed the swimming VC. At 1058H the group sighted one beached sampan in the vicinity of YS 158 833 and placed fire upon the sampan to destroy it. The group continued a ground sweep of the area until 1320H at which time the Hunter/Killer Team vectored one platoon of Regional Forces of Company 363, with their advisor, aboard the PBR's to provide a canal sweep of the area. No further contact was made and the PBR's extracted the units at 1640H.

On a patrol that was scrambled to support CTU 194.9.7, Black Pony 110 and 116 of TU 116.4.9 placed strikes in an area (XS 136 858) 31 miles west of Saigon on the Van Co Tay River on the night of 16 November. The LAFT received small arms fire from the enemy during their strikes but succeeded in silencing the return fire. The results of the strike were determined to be six VC killed.

With clearance from CTF 116 on the afternoon of 16 November, Black Ponies 106 and 101 placed strikes on an enemy force of an unknown size that was inflicting heavy damage to friendly forces with machine gun fire 12 miles west southwest of Rach Gia (WS 350 001 to WS 345 002). The LAFT neutralized the machine gun fire and destroyed three structures.

Engaged in WOLFPACK II Operations, four ASPB's, one ZIPPO (flame throwing craft) of TU 116.9.1, and PBR's with troops embarked between the hours of 0600H and 1800H on 17 November commenced a search of suspected enemy positions in an area 17 miles east southeast of Nha Be. Friendly troops found ten kilos of TNT and C-4 (explosive), and ten kilos of

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documents. After the troops were extracted by Slick at 1645H, Hunter/Killer Teams placed weapons fire on a VC Base Camp, destroying six sampans, 1,200 pounds of rice, one bunker and three sleeping platforms. A U.S. Navy Zippo proceeded to the area in which the contraband had been discovered and expended two minutes of flame while PBR's 128 and 62 made firing runs on the area. This Operation WOLFPACK II, accounted for two VC's wounded and captured; two VC killed (prob) and two VC killed in action (BC). There was one friendly soldier wounded during the action.

On a scramble, with clearance from CTG 194.3 and CTF 116, Black Ponies 113 and 115 placed strikes 24 miles south southwest of Rach Gia (VR 835 665) on the evening of 20 November in support of friendly forces who were in contact with a VC platoon. One portion of the VC platoon broke contact with the friendly forces and proceeded south, while the remaining portion of the VC platoon proceeded to sea in five sampans. The Black Ponies pursued the evading sampans, illuminated one sampan, and received small arms fire from them. Intensified air strikes destroyed the sampan. Intelligence gained from the captured VC revealed the position of a company size base at VR 837 647. Black Pony strikes were placed in these coordinates with unknown results. The entire scramble accounted for four enemy killed in action and one sampan destroyed.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone 14.5 miles south of Nha Be, Regional Forces of Company 782 observed six rockets impact approximately 500 meters south of their compound (XS 942 572) on the evening of 22 November. The Regional Forces contacted OV-10A's (Black Ponies) and requested strikes

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to be made on the VC positions. The Black Ponies succeeded in neutralizing the enemy rocket fire.

On the morning of 26 November a Navy LAFT reported that several sampans were in a restricted area 16.5 miles southeast of Nha Be (YS 161 599). UH-1B (Seawolf Helicopter) 304 and 316 were directed by the U.S./VNN Tactical Operations Officer to drop smoke in order to drive the sampans in an easterly direction toward an authorized fishing area. The LHFT fired M-79 CS rounds (smoke bombs) in the restricted area and the door gunner on UH-1B 304 reported that one of the sampans may have been inadvertently hit by a smoke bomb. The LHFT reconned the area but saw nothing unusual. At 0941H on 29 November the Vietnamese TOC Watch Officer was notified by the Provincial Forces Platoon 001, Thanh An Village, that one Vietnamese male had been hit by LHFT bombs and knocked out of his sampan. The incident was reported to the Regional Forces Platoon by the second occupant of the sampan (the father of the missing Vietnamese male). The Vietnamese male was listed as missing as of the last of November.

During a routine aerial reconnaissance of an area 12 miles southeast of Nha Be (YS 108 753) a United Air Force SNAP (Light Observation Aircraft) sighted two Viet Cong evading into nippa palm. The SNAP maintained continuous overhead surveillance until a Rung Sat Special Zone Advisor scrambled a Navy LHFT. Arriving in the area, the LHFT placed strikes on enemy positions and succeeded in neutralizing the two Viet Cong. This action took place on the afternoon of 30 November.

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SEAL Operations

SEAL Detachment ALFA, 9th Platoon, of CTU 116.9.6 departed Nha Be on the afternoon of 8 November and were inserted by USA Slick (helicopter) 5 miles southwest of Nha Be (XS 888 713). In the process of searching a house in a reported Viet Cong sympathizing village, the SEAL's apprehended one district level Viet Cong. The SEAL's were extracted by Slick at 1745 without further incident.

After an insertion by USA Slick in the area 10 miles southwest of Nha Be (XS 869 627) on the morning of 10 November, SEAL Detachment ALFA, 9th Platoon, CTU 116.9.6 searched a nippa palm area and found one Viet Cong cache and recovered one kilo of documents and maps, two CHICOM hand grenades and two K-54 magazines. The squad was extracted around noon without making contact with the enemy.

Conducting operations in pursuit of WOLFPACK II requirements, SEAL Detachment ALFA, 10th Platoon, Squad ALFA, of CTU 116.9.5 was inserted by Slick 15 miles east of Nha Be in the Northern RSSZ area (YS 180 785) on the morning of 14 November and set a trail guardpost. At approximately 1215H the squad heard a Viet Cong make sounds approximately 25 meters to the north of their guardpost. While using overhead helicopter noise for cover, the patrol moved to a strategic position and scrambled a Hunter/Killer Helo Team to a position overhead the Viet Cong (position YS 178 782). The Hunter/Killer Team fire accounted for four Viet Cong being killed but return enemy fire was received from hidden positions and accounted for one SEAL being slightly wounded by automatic weapons fire.

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In the same area of action, a light observation helicopter received automatic weapons fire which resulted in one U.S. sailor being wounded (not seriously). A USA Slick dusted off and MEDEVACED the wounded SEAL, while the LOH returned to Nha Be with its wounded member. After the SEAL Squad was extracted by Slick the entire area was saturated by air strikes. Noteworthy in this operation was the capture of one kilo of documents which identified one Viet Cong Executive Officer A-1 (political staff section) Doan 10. The remaining documents were political propaganda except for a type written resume of Viet Cong operations during September and October of 1969.

After departing Nha Be by Slick on 15 November and inserting 10 miles east of Nha Be (YS 106 787), five SEAL's of Detachment ALFA, 9th Platoon, Squad ALFA of CTU 116.9.6 with 13 Provincial Reconnaissance personnel patrolled approximately 700 meters northeast of their trail guardpost and observed three Viet Cong walking west. The group detonated a pre-set claymore mine and took the Viet Cong under fire while requesting Navy LHPT strikes on the area. The group was extracted by Slick and received sporadic enemy ground fire during their departure. The encounter accounted for one Viet Cong killed (BC), two Viet Cong killed (prob), and one CHICOM sub-machine gun being captured.

Two members of SEAL Detachment ALFA, 10th Platoon suffered wounds (one slight and one serious) when their squad's guardpost position was taken under enemy automatic weapons fire 11 miles east of Nha Be (YS 102 782) on the afternoon of 24 November. A scrambled LHPT dusted off the

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wounded SEAL's to Nha Be and the remaining SEAL's patrolled the area without making contact with the enemy.

After departing Nha Be 261600H in a LSSC (Light SEAL Support Craft) SEAL Detachment ALFA, 10th Platoon, Squad BRAVO of CTU 116.9.5 set a waterborne guard post 17 miles east of Nha Be (YS 198 776). At 2000H the SEAL's detected a sampan traveling west and took the sampan under fire, killing the sampan's three occupants. The squad destroyed the sampan and returned to Nha Be at 2230H on the 26 of November.

Enemy Mining/Harassment/Attacks on Merchant Shipping

The RSSZ Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team removed a mine from the SS SEATRIN MAINE on the night of 5 November. The ship was anchored approximately 1,000 meters north of Nha Be, 400 meters off the Shell Tank Farm Pier (XS 920 820). The Vietnamese EOD team observed a line attached to the ship's anchor chain. The team cut the line and towed the mine clear of the ship to the east of the river where they determined that the mine was a four feet by 20 inches by 20 inches and contained six sections with a pointed buoyancy tank in front. The mine was held together by metal rods and contained approximately 150-200 pounds of explosives. The RSSZ EOD team stated that the mine failed to detonate due to a faulty firing mechanism (water soluble washer type). The EOD team destroyed the mine at 1040 on 6 November. Throughout the operation a USN PBR and ASPB provided surveillance of the ships in the area. Vessels in the immediate area were:

<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Distance from SS SEATRIN MAIN</u>
SS TRANS CARIBBEAN	Cat Lai Anchorage 1	8,000 meters
SS ANTINOUS	Cat Lai Anchorage 3	8,000 meters

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There were reports that three rocket rounds impacted within 700 yards of LST-287 while transiting the Long Tau River at approximately 1320H on 20 November. The U.S. Navy sources stated that PBR's in the area reported no enemy activity on the river at the time. The pilot embarked on LST-287 stated that there was firing on shore by friendly forces and that the rounds could have been misfires. The USNS LST-287 received no hits and there were no casualties to personnel or equipment.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 1969

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>
Detections	17,410	86,829
Inspections	6,371	36,207
Boardings	4,508	25,590
Craft detained	92	2
Persons detained	291	*
Viet Cong suspects	58	5
Hostile fire incidents	50	366
Enemy casualties:		
a. Killed	95 (67BC & 28PROB)	453(225BC & 228PROB)
b. Wounded	14	43
c. Captured	32	5
USN casualties:		
a. Killed	0	8
b. Wounded	27 (14US, 7VNN, 6RF)	66
c. Captured	0	0
d. Missing	0	0
Enemy material losses:		
a. Destroyed:		
(1) Junks or sampans	182	219
(2) Structures	282	145
b. Captured:		
(1) Junks or sampans	*	5
(2) Weapons	*	41
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	26,991
(4) Rice (tons)	*	4
c. Damaged:		
(1) Junks or sampans	7	43
(2) Structures	132	118
USN material losses:		
a. Destroyed:		
(1) Surface craft	0	1
(2) Helicopters	0	0
b. Damaged:		
(1) Surface craft	2	14
(2) Helicopters	1	1
SAR missions	4	*

Remarks:

\* - Information not available or not applicable

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3 year intervals  
Declassified after 12 years

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY

Fleet Command

The 13 U. S. Navy PCF's that were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy on 31 October in Saigon were delayed in their transit to Qui Nhon by adverse weather. However, on 5 November, along with the turnover of the Coastal Surveillance Center at Qui Nhon, the Vietnamese Navy assumed the responsibilities for Market Time stations 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, 3G, 3H, and 3I. The PCF's have been patrolling all these stations with the exceptions of 3E and 3H which have been assigned to CG 21 and CG 23. With the additional seven Market Time stations, the Vietnamese have a total of 27 stations under their operational control. The receipt of two more WFB's on 17 November was reflected later in the month when these two units began Market Time patrols in the 1st and 3rd Coastal Zones.

The total number of people and junks searched by Fleet Command units in November was 18,011 and 5,084 respectively. The corresponding detainment figures in November were 17 and zero.

There was a significant reduction in the number of gunfire support missions fired in November in comparison to the figure for October. While 52 NGFS missions were fired by Fleet Command ships in October, only 28 missions were recorded in November. As in the preceding months, the greatest majority of the fire support operations were designated as harassment and interdiction missions.

One exception was reported on 10 November when LSIL 328 was called in to render assistance to a VN outpost on the upper Mekong River that was under enemy