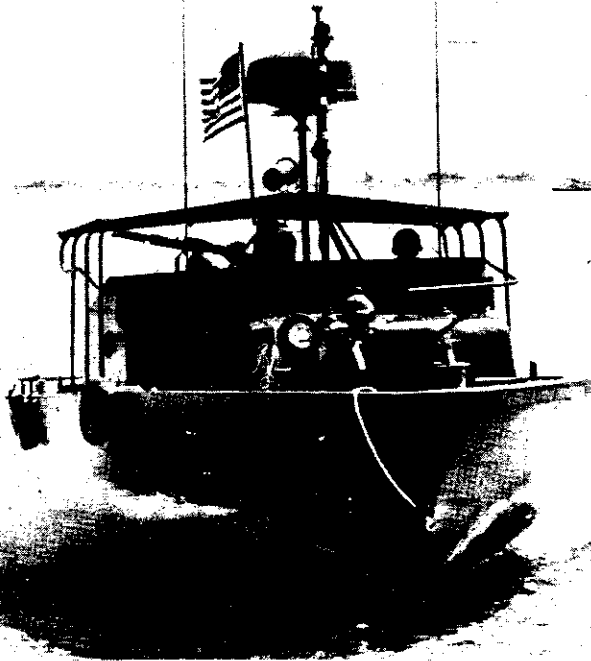


MARK II PBRs REPORT

CNFV—An improved version of the old reliable river patrol boat (PBR) has joined the river war in the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone.



NEW BOAT—A Mark II U.S. Navy river patrol boat (PBR) speeds through the waters of the Long Tau River near Nha Be. (Official U.S. Navy Photo by LTJG T.S. Storck)

It is the Mark II, an improved version of the heavily-armed, 31-foot, fiberglass-hulled PBR that has harassed the Viet Cong on Delta waterways for nearly two years.

It is a product of suggestions and ideas submitted by veteran PBR crewmen and officers for improving operational capabilities.

As units of Operation Game Warden, the PBR's mission is to prevent the movement of enemy troops or supplies along the rivers and canals of the Delta and Rung Sat. The Rung Sat is a 400-square mile swamp area surrounding the main shipping channel from the sea to Saigon.

As one of the new craft moves swiftly to its assigned patrol area in the delta, one of the men of the enlisted crew of four explained some of the modifications.

Engineman Third Class Robert B. Summerhill, acting as coxswain, pointed out the long "rooster tail" of foam blown up in the speeding boat's wake.

"It looks like we're going a lot faster than we really are," he grinned. "The hull is flatter to give us a shallower draft than the other boats and it throws out more spray," he continued. "The boats are clocked at more than 25 knots".

The boat captain, Boatswain's Mate First Class Dave S. Besteda, discussed the new twin .50-caliber forward machine gun mount. "On the new boats the forward .50s are fired electrically," he said, "and the mount is lower to the deck, lessening the chance of the gunner getting hit."

The new boats are 11 inches wider and have a foot more length-wise room. This gives the crews more working space, particularly around the engine. The two diesel 6V-53 engines are side by side and, in the new boats, underway engineering repairs are simplified by easy access and more working room between them.

Enlarged mufflers permit the boat to move on night operations with a new quietness which, while not completely silent, is considerably less noisy than the roar of the original PBR.

The Mark II's radios are below the main deck, provided. (Continued on page 11)

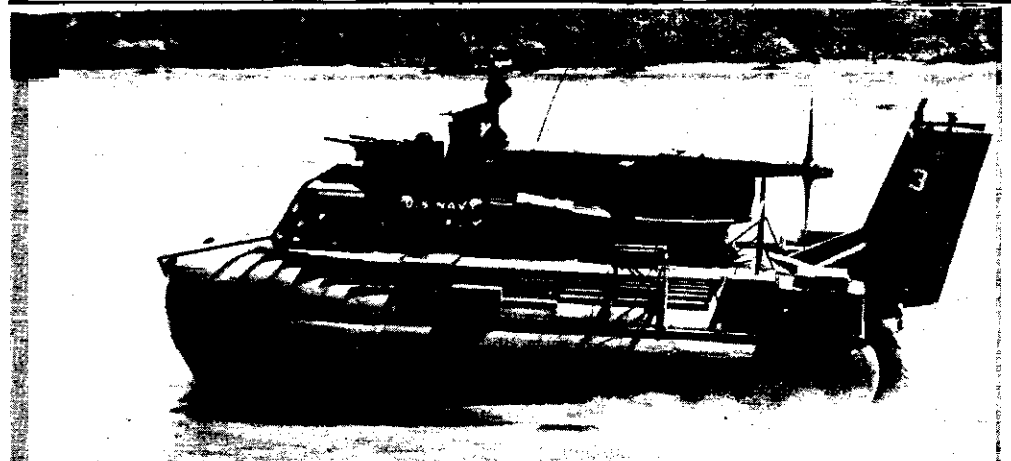
PACVs RETURN

The hovering "monsters" have returned to Vietnam—to the Mekong Delta—following the successful testing and evaluation in 1966. Highlight of that trial period was Operation Quai Vat (Monster) during November 1966 in the rain-flooded plain of Reeds, where the Viet Cong threw down their weapons and fled at the sight of the 39-foot-long Patrol Air Cushion Vehicle (PACV).

The Navy's PACV looks like a giant elliptical water-bug riding on a cushion of air. The air cushion is created by a turbine-powered fan located under the armored craft, while forward propulsion is generated by a tailmounted propeller.

The PACV can travel over water, swamp and relatively flat land, seeking the enemy, finding him and pursuing him at speeds of nearly a-mile-a-minute.

Operating as a unit of the joint Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force, one of its principal values will be in fast firefight reaction as it carries an array of machine guns and grenade launchers to confront the enemy. Each of the craft has a crew of four enlisted men and two commissioned officers. The PACVs began operations with the Mobile Riverine Force December 28, 1967.



HOVERING MONSTER—A PACV speeds along the My Tho River in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta. (Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH2 B.W. Wendell)



VOL. 2 No. 7 U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon, January 27, 1968

LST Wins Battle "E"

The tank landing ship Jennings County, serving in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta, has received the Navy's first "PBR Support LST Battle Efficiency" award.

The LST earned the award for her performance as support ship for Operation Game Warden in the Mekong Delta from November 11, 1966 through June 30, 1967.

Notifying the Jennings County of her award, Vice Admiral Francis J. Blouin, Commander Pacific Fleet Amphibious Force remarked, "the excellence displayed by all of you is attained only through personal devotion and enthusiasm to all duties assigned."

Since arriving in Vietnam, Jennings County pioneered techniques of ship-board river water purification, river navigation and gunfire support and made maximum use of her mobility and weapons in bombardment of enemy positions.

Back on station after a recent upkeep period at Subic Bay, R.P., the LST quickly returned to action by attacking enemy positions on the Bassac River in the Mekong Delta.

Sailor Awarded Navy-Marine Medal

NAF CAM RANH BAY — Aviation Structural Mechanic Third Class Albert R. Bueno was presented the Navy-Marine Corps medal for heroism here January 3, for the rescue of a drowning Army enlisted man May 28.

On that day, Bueno was on the beach sunbathing, when he noted two swimmers caught in a riptide about 150 yards off-shore. Clutching an air mattress, he made his way toward the two panic stricken swimmers.

Upon reaching the first swimmer he found him barely afloat. Assisting him onto the air mattress, Bueno told him to follow on the mattress as he turned to aid the second swimmer. Due to his exhausted condition, the first swimmer could not comply.

Swimming to the spot he had last seen the second swimmer, who was no longer afloat, he began to dive in search of him in the 10 foot wafer. Although nearly exhausted himself from fighting the riptide, he continued to dive for some time before being forced to give up. Then, with the air mattress contain- (Continued on page 11)

EDITORIAL

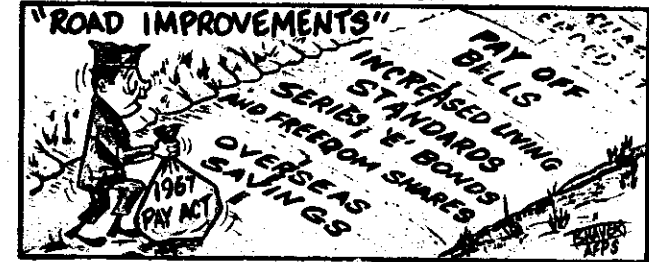
More Money - More Savings

You, the American serviceman, are richer today than ever before.

The Uniformed Services Pay Act of 1967, signed into law by the President Dec. 16, has given you the fifth pay raise in as many years, supplemented by other improvements in the military pay program.

First, Congressional action has provided you with a 5.6 per cent per annum increase in your basic pay, and second, included a number of other provisions such as:

- Increased Dependents Assistance Act allowances for certain personnel in the lower pay grades;
- Authorization of a basic allowance for quarters (BAQ) and dislocation allowances for certain bachelor personnel in connection with permanent changes of station;
- Creation of a special basic pay rate of \$844.20 a month for the senior NCO position of each of the services;
- Travel and transportation allowances for one round trip from a continental U.S. medical treatment facility to a point selected by the serviceman and approved by his Service Secretary when traveling during convalescent leave resulting from illness or injury incurred while eligible for hostile fire pay.



That's not all. The pay bill also provides for future military pay increases tied in both date and amount to average future increases granted federal civil service classified employees.

Now, you have more money in your pocket. The question is—what are you going to do with this windfall?

You could buy any number of attractive items currently on sale in the post exchange or offered through civilian outlets off-base. You could pay off current indebtedness and declare yourself financially solvent.

Or, you could invest in your own future and save through two sound savings programs offered the serviceman for the wise and prudent use of his money—U.S. Savings Bonds and Uniformed Services Savings Deposits.

Consider, while counting that pay increase, that the new "Freedom Shares," which mature in four and a half years and earn 4.74 per cent interest, are sold as packages with Series E Savings Bonds. With \$39, you can buy a \$25 Freedom Share and a \$25 Series E bond.

If overseas or about to be transferred outside the continental U.S. limits, you can use the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program which pays 10 per cent interest annually on deposits up to \$10,000.

Make that 5.6 per cent increase work for you, while remaining within the same budget you operated under before the pay raise. (AFPS)

We Can Contribute To a Better World

by

CDR R.A. Canfield
Senior Chaplain, NAVSUPACT

One of the phrases often used by Chaplains in response to an inquiry concerning human behavior is, "Would your actions in the situation be pleasing to God?" Often within that context the same ministers say, "Have you sought the will of Jesus Christ in this matter?" Such statements may have meaning to the theologian, but it is highly probable that they merely confuse the average "man in the street."

Yet, today, a good part of the human family faces the dilemma of what is right and what is wrong. Choices and alternatives appear to come quite hard for some individuals. Moral decisions are not being made in spite of the fact that we are faced with a rising crime rate, strikes that strangle cities, and depressed slum areas that remain unchanged in the face of the greatest prosperity our country has ever known. Such incidents as these leave little room for vacillation, compromise, or self-excusing. Sooner or later, we are called

to make a stand, and stand we must.

Paul the Apostle once said, "It is our aim, therefore, to please God for every one of us will have to stand (without pretense) before Christ our judge, and we shall be rewarded for how we have lived our lives on earth, whether good or bad."

God gave us all the breath of life for a good reason—to glorify Him and to exalt Him. To be part of the world's problems is not the answer. The real answer is to be a part of the solutions. By seeking in prayer God's guidance in all matters that affect people and acting accordingly we make our contribution to a better world.

Did You Know?

NAVAL FACTS - BY HUMMEL

CAPT. ANDREW H. FOOTE
CIVIL WAR... THE FLEET OF GUN BOATS BUILT UNDER THE WAR DEPARTMENT ON SEPTEMBER 6th, 1861 HE TOOK OVER COMMAND TO CARRY ON TO COMPLETION. HE LATER GAINED HIGH PRAISE FOR THE SUCCESSES HE WON WITH HIS GUN BOATS ON THE WESTERN RIVERS. FIGHTING WAS SECONDARY. THE CREATION OF THIS FLEET WAS THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENT OF HIS LIFE....



DINNER TO GO FOR FOUR

"Would you please have dinner to go for four," was the word radioed to the USS Harnett County (LST-821), by the weekly admin. helicopter.

"Of course, anything for the men who bring the mail," the U.S. Navy "Seawolves" aboard the helo were told as they neared the ship anchored in the Co Chien River in the Mekong Delta.

When Lieutenant Roger Hulson and Lieutenant Bob Britts, "Seawolves" attached to HAL 3 and two passengers arrived, they were met by a steward holding a silver platter—filled with combat rations.

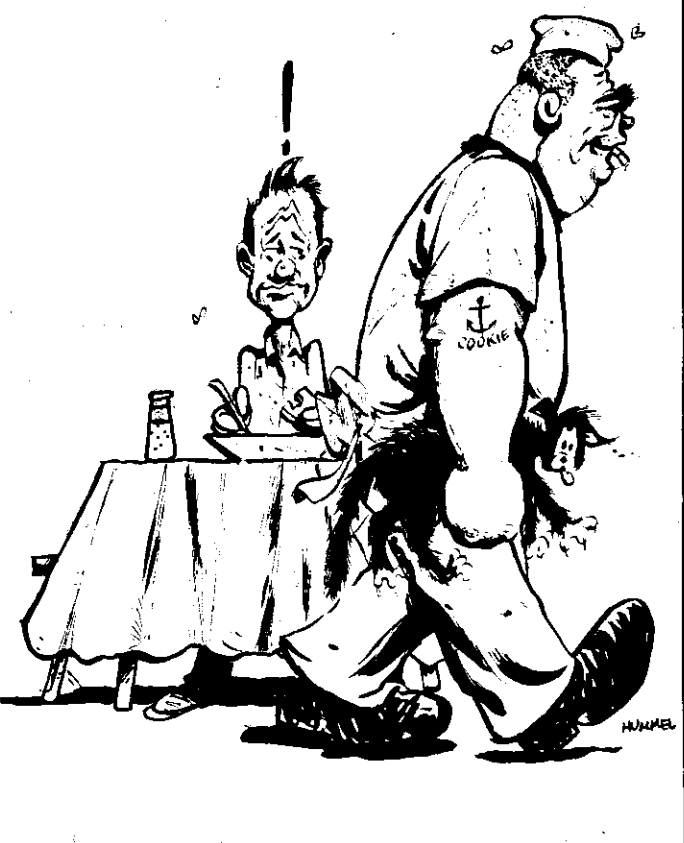
LCDR Ralph Schwartz, commander of Det. Five, explained, "We don't run a cafeteria or a Hot Shoppe on this ship, so we decided to fill their order combat style—with C-Rats on a silver platter. After a laugh, dinner was served.

NAVAL EXPRESSIONS

PEACOCK: THE EXACT DERIVATION OF THE WORD IS NOT KNOWN. FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS IT HAS BEEN THE NAME FOR THE HEAVIER TOP COAT WORN BY SEAFARING MEN IN COLD WEATHER. THE COAT WAS ORIGINALLY MADE OF A MATERIAL CALLED PILOT CLOTH....



Hummel's Vietnam



Customers Can Ask

Even the smallest retail facility operating under the Vietnam Regional Exchange today has a machined price list. Every item of merchandise that is sold in the PX can be found on it with the one and only correct price indicated.

Sometimes clerks in marking merchandise do so from memory or may copy an already priced article whose figures are out of date. Customers who feel that some discrepancy exists in the price of an article they are buying should feel free to ask for the catalog or they should at least ask the store manager or a responsible official to check the price for them.

The Jackstaff News

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Commander U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon
Commander W.L. Cranney, Jr. USN
Chief Staff Officer
Lieutenant (junior grade) L.A. Van Rooy, Jr., USNR
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THE CRACKER BARREL

BY Charlie Noble

In a few weeks it will be examination time again. Besides the Navy Commissaryman 3 & 2 or I & C the Food Operations Reference Manual (NAVSUP 421) and Manual of Naval Preventative Medicine (NAVMED P5010), Chapter I, Food Sanitation, are the recommended publications on your reading list.

Here is an original dessert recipe:

- Rice Raisin Stuffed Apples for 100 servings. Rice Cooked 12 1/2 cups Raisins 6 1/4 pounds Apples 100 Maple Syrup (Imat) 1 1/2 gallons.

Core the apples from the stem end, but not through the blossom end, place in a buttered roasting pan, Combine

the rice with the raisins and fill the apples with the mixture. Pour syrup over the apples, cover and bake in a 400°F oven for 30 minutes, Remove cover and baste the apples with the syrup continue baking until apples are tender, 15 to 30 minutes more. Serve warm or cold. Whipped topping makes an excellent garnish and furnishes an additional taste treat.

The Meaning Of TET

by CDR R.L. Mole

Personal Response Projects Officer

The full name of this three to seven day Vietnamese holiday period is TET NGUYEN DAN. The dates for TET, like those of the Chinese New Year are determined by the time of the Spring Equinox. This Vietnamese National Holiday marks the end of the Vietnamese Year of the Goat and the beginning of the Year of the Monkey. Vietnam has a cyclic twelve-year calendar with each year named after some animal.

Due to the combination of religious beliefs and age-old traditions and customs, TET is the most important holiday season in Vietnam. TET provided opportunity through the veneration offered by those living at present. TET is the time when Vietnamese families want to be together much as do Americans at Christmas. It is the opportunity for the renewal of family bonds, the settling of all material, financial and spiritual accounts. TET is the time when the "God of the Hearth" must go and render a yearly account of each family to the Heavenly Emperor who dwells in the Jade Palace. To insure good reports, some families may place honey or other sweets on their paper Gods before these are sent on their way by burning. Sometimes, gifts of fruits, a new paper coat, a paper sacred carp for riding, or other animals may be added as extra inducements for a good report. (Continued on page 5)

Admiral Hooper To Be Transferred

Rear Admiral Walter V. Combs, Jr., is scheduled to relieve Rear Admiral Edwin B. Hooper as Commander Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet in February.

Rear Admiral Hooper will report to Washington, D.C., as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for logistics. Rear Admiral Combs is presently Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla THREE in Long Beach.

The logistic arm of the Pacific Fleet, the Service Force sustains the combat operations of the Seventh Fleet, of all U.S. Navy forces in Vietnam, and of the Marines and all other U.S.

and Free World forces in the I Corps Zone.

Admiral Hooper assumed command of the Service Force on July 20, 1965. Earlier in the year major shore facilities in the Western Pacific had been added to the afloat units of the Service Force. With added responsibilities the command has grown from 91 to 120 ships, from 33 to 284 other afloat units, and from 14 to 31 shore facilities.

During this period, military personnel have expanded from 23,000 to 57,000 of whom 20,000 are on duty in Vietnam.

The command's responsibilities include such diverse as repairs, supply, mail, movies, ammunition, ship and aviation fuel, towing, salvage, survey, hospitals afloat and ashore, Seabees, the setting-up of advance bases and management of funding for the Fleet.

Police Dogs Go On Patrol

by SN V.J. Longobardo

Recently, two ARVN police dogs went on patrol with River Section 513's Sa Dec-based PBRs. Due to their keen sense of hearing they were placed on top of the canopy for a period of six hours apiece trying to detect distant sampan motors or even a man paddling along the bank.

At another time they were able to discover some curfew violators who were transitting across the river.

Sergeant First Class John Tomkins, stationed with the 9th Division Advisory Group in Sa Dec, is in charge of the

scout dogs which are attached to the ARVN 9th Division. They have proved effective in tracking down VC in infantry patrols, reconnaissance ambush sites, search and clear operations and also in search and destroy missions.

Sgt. Tomkins discussed the effectiveness of the dogs with BM1 Dee Adamson one night. Adamson in turn discussed it with the O-in-C of 513, LT Peter Huchthausen. Both agreed it would be worth a try and take the dogs on night patrol to see what kind of results they would get in detecting unauthorized river traffic.

When asked about what role the scout dogs can play aboard a PBR, Sgt. Tomkins commented, "They can be used effectively on river night patrols and in addition can be used in checking large junks since they are trained to detect false floors and walls."

The dogs undergo a twelve week training course at Thanh Tuyha at ARMDTC (Army Reconnaissance Military Dog Training Center). Sentry dogs are also trained at this location and have an eight week course. The animals range in age from 3 to 5 years and their Vietnamese master accompanies them from the outset of the training period. He has to have at least six months prior service in the Army and agree to extend for a two year period. The ARVN's have been using the American breed police dogs since 1961 which are being used to a greater extent than ever before.

LT Huchthausen praised the dogs on their success, (Continued on page 5)

Seabees Build Highway in the Sky

Navy Seabees, under the operational control of Commander Naval Support Activity, Saigon, believe in getting up in the world.

On November 28, LT M.H. Harper, CEC, Commanding Officer, CBMU 302, officially turned over the first all weather road to "the top of Rock," as Harbor Defense Qui Nhon is affectionately known. Lieutenant Commander D.C. Gann, Officer-in-Charge of the site accepted the road and a LCM ramp which were com-

pleted after seven weeks by a crew headed by Chief Equipment Operator R.L. Sears. The process known as soil cementing was used to up grade the road for all weather use.

CBMU 302 has been in country since mid-September and the these two projects were among the first assigned by Captain B.W. Spore.



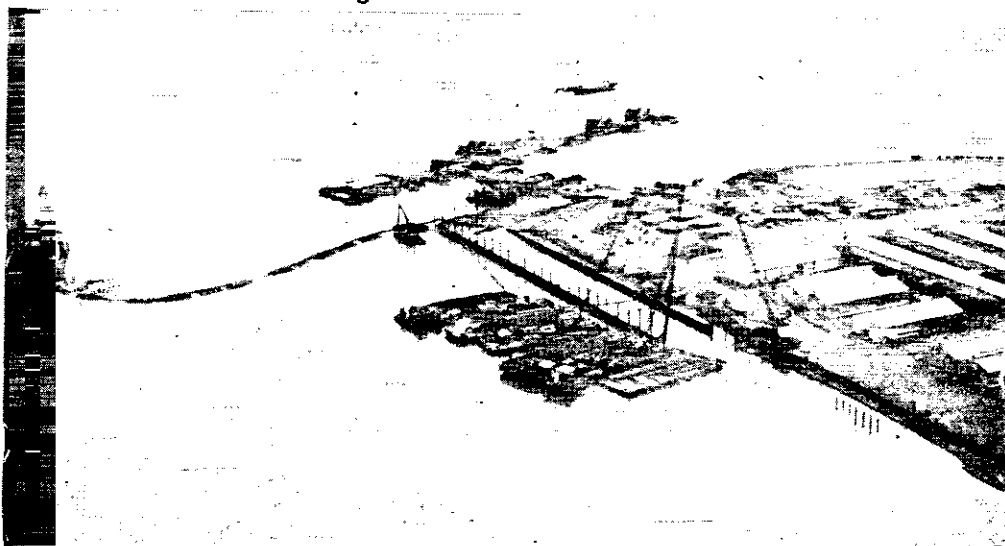
THE ROAD—LT M.H. Harper, CEC, Commanding Officer, CBMU 302, officially turns over the road to Harbor Defense Site 3, Qui Nhon, to LCDR D.L. Gann, Officer in-Charge, EOC R.L. Sears, crew leader for the project, looks on. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

FROM SWAMP TO SUPPORT BASE

NHA BE—What was once rice paddy, marsh and swamp land has developed into a bustling, and rapidly expanding Game Warden base at this site just eleven miles south of Saigon.

Under the supervision and coordination of the Officer-in-Charge of Construction for Vietnam, (OICC), the joint construction venture of RMK-BRJ in Cinderella fashion has transformed 28 acres of what was termed a "swampy marsh" into a key logistic support base for the U.S. Navy's Operation Game Warden.

The substantial foundation upon which this base and its facilities abide is comprised entirely of dredge-fill. The important role of the dredge is still in evidence as the OICC's dredge Fedredge Bess is operating around the clock to provide a firm fill for a bulkhead which will support soon-to-be constructed docking facilities. The dredge first pumped unstable mud and silt from the future docking area, and is now pumping firm sand-



"UMBILICAL" PIPELINE—An "umbilical" pipeline joins the dredge "Fedredge Bess" to the shore line at Nha Be where she pumps sand fill behind metal bulkheads. (Official U.S. Navy Photo by LT Richard A. Bennett)

fill in. When completed the 61-foot wide dock will provide the Navy's river patrol boats and minesweepers with 1,243 feet of waterfront facilities.

The rapid-pace construction effort is evidenced throughout the base. OICC and RMK-BRJ have recently completed construction of concrete retaining walls designed to protect recently completed petroleum oil lubricant fuel storage tanks, a water filtration and distillation plant, two concrete ammunition storage bunkers,

and an enlisted and petty officer's club.

Work is also proceeding on a 2,000 kilowatt power house, an operations building, vehicle maintenance shops, and three administrative buildings for NSA, Saigon.

The rapid growth of this sprawling complex has been largely due to the effort of

the Navy Civil Engineer Corps officers of the OICC and the contractor. They have accounted for construction of barracks, BOQs, mess halls, administrative buildings, a laundry and a Chapel/theater to mention a handful.

The Resident Officer in Charge of Construction, Lieutenant (junior grade) Ed Scott, is extremely pleased with the construction progress. "The contractor has been doing an outstanding job and at a remarkable pace," the young officer remarked.

The Nha Be Navy base serves as a center for the Navy's operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone. Translated "Rung Sat" means "Forest of Assassins" and the title is most appropriate as this delta area has been a favorite haven for Viet Cong, pirates and hoodlums for many years. The Navy through its Game Warden operations is bringing security and hope to the hundreds of thousands of people crowded into this rich fertile area.



PILE DRIVER—Marine engineers and Vietnamese construction men drive steel sheet piling into the river bottom to provide a stable bulkhead to contain the sand fill which is being pumped into the area by the dredge "Fedredge Bess." (Official U.S. Navy Photo by LT Richard A. Bennett)



DISCHARGE—Water and sand explode from the dredge discharge pipe into the "fill area." The water is drained off leaving firm sand upon which waterfront facilities will be constructed.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by LT Richard A. Bennett)

New Courts-Martial Manual Proposed

A new Manual for Courts-Martial has been proposed by the Judge Advocate Generals of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

An effective date of July 1, is proposed for the new manual, which has been formally approved by the services and DOD. It has been sent to the Bureau of the Budget for final staffing and promulgation as an Executive Order.

Following are the most significant policy changes in the proposed manual:

More liberal rules are provided for detail of law officers and court members from armed forces other than that of

the accused.

Procedure for processing requests for individual military counsel is clarified and simplified. The manual makes it clear that if a counsel is requested who is not a member of the command of the convening authority, the determination of the availability of the requested counsel is made by the commanding officers or head of the organization, activity, or agency with which that counsel is on duty.

A more liberal rule is pro-

(Cont. on Page 10)

Mines Captured

CNFV—Two U.S. Navy river patrol boats (PBRs) captured an enemy sampan full of munitions January 3, on the Ham Luong River, 50 miles southwest of Saigon in the Mekong Delta.

The enemy craft contained 60 bangalore torpedos and 40 claymore mines, 150 rounds of Chinese communist ammunition and six hand grenades.

The two 13-foot fiberglass patrol boats were operating some 10 miles in from the mouth of the Ham Luong when they detected the sampan crossing towards the east bank. As they moved in to investigate, the sampan's two occupants jumped overboard leaving their motor running.

As the PBR crews fired on the fleeing VC, other enemy on the river bank opened up with automatic weapons fire. Patrol officer Chief Boatswain's Mate Troy N. Fincher had PBR 101 take the enemy positions under fire while PBR 103 hooked onto the sampan and sped from the area.

Earlier in the day the same two-boat patrol, PBR 101 commanded by Boatswain's Mate First Class Iven F. Moon and PBR 103 commanded by

Quartermaster, First Class Ray J. Verhasselt came under enemy fire three times from an area some 15 miles up river.

Twice the heavily armed boats suppressed the enemy's fire. Shortly before the third firing incident the PBRs had called for artillery which then blasted the positions.

There were no casualties among the PBR crewmen in any of the actions. Extent of enemy personal casualties is unknown.

War Without Guns

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Yakutat (WHEC-380), of Coast Guard Squadron Three operating off the coast of South Vietnam, has been active in supplying medical aid to civilians in the coastal town of Song Ong Doc.



OPEN WIDE—Doctor Stuart F. Mackler, LCDR, Public Health Service, examines the throat of a young Vietnamese boy for respiratory infections.

(Official U.S. Coast Guard Photo by SN John C. Powers, USCG)

The ship on two occasions has provided a medical team headed by Doctor Stuart F. Mackler, Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Public Health Service, and assisted by Seaman Gerald R. Gagnon, USCG, to aid native Vietnamese medics under the auspices of the Medical Civilian Aid Program (MEDCAP).

Song Ong Doc, a fishing town of about 3,000, is entirely surrounded by Viet Cong-infested territory. Entry by any means other than water or air is difficult.

No medical doctors have stayed in the town since the French left more than 10 years ago, and for many of the villagers, Dr. Mackler was the first qualified physician they had ever seen.

Ferried in by Swift boat from the cutter, the MEDCAP team set up shop in a small wooden frame structure which serves as the town's medical clinic.

"There was no need for the word about the MEDCAP to be passed. "It appeared as if the entire population of the village had already lined up to be seen when we arrived," Dr. Mackler stated".

During two recent MEDCAPs over 125 persons were examined and treated. While many patients could be easily treated, others required laboratory tests and X-rays which the primitive clinic could not provide.

An acute shortage of medical supplies and an uneducated people's fear of modern

medicine also added to the challenge of providing treatment for all.

While all could not be treated in the two days the doctor was able to spend ashore, many villagers did benefit from the minor surgery and basic treatment the team provided.

For all those treated, and for the town of Song Ong Doc in general, the MEDCAP visit had a great psychological effect in making the Vietnamese aware of the desire on the part of the Americans to do what they can to aid to the people.

TET

(Continued from Page 3)

TET combines many of the secular features of American holidays and the religious features of Christmas, All Soul's Day, etc., with concepts of animism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Hinduism. Each may contribute conflicting features and ideas, but all combine to make a valid holiday for our Vietnamese allies.

TET is the high point of the year for special Vietnamese foods. It is also a time for the exchange of gifts and special visits. The first visitor of the New Year is vitally important as this establishes a precedent for the whole year.

Show Flag In VC Haven

by

JOI Bill Rozier

The Mekong Delta's Bassac River was a strip of black, distinctly separate from the greenish night of the jungle riverbanks.

At 4:30 a.m. on December 29, six U.S. Navy river patrol boats (PBRs) left their flood-lit pier at Binh Thuy and disappeared into the darkness. Only faintly visible white wakes marked their movement.

The boats were part of a combined Vietnamese and U.S. Navy force moving a long-time enemy stronghold to let the villagers in the area know they were not forgotten...and neither were the VC.

The heavily armed, 31-foot PBRs were to enter the southern end of a narrow canal. The canal traversed the land area between the Bassac and Co Chien Rivers, a distance of 20 miles. Except for attacks from the air most of the area surrounding the canal has been a safe haven for the enemy.

From the Co Chien, or northern end of the canal, four other U.S. patrol boats from Sa Dec and a Vietnamese Navy River Assault Group composed of heavily armed and armored craft from Vinh Long, moved into the canal mouth and waited. U.S. Navy armed helicopters flew overhead providing air cover and spotter service for the boats.

The target was a canal system forming a triangle around a large enemy infested area.

The Binh Thuy boats made the long trip to the canal mouth moving west on the Bassac. Except for the roar of boat engines there was no sound but shuffling of the crews getting their weapons ready for possible combat.

Lashed together

Just before dawn the crews of four PBRs lashed the boats together and moved slowly up river with one pair of engines running. As day broke the two command boats roared past the rafted PBRs. Lines were cast away, throttles opened and the little flotilla moved together to the canal mouth.

The boats slowed as they entered the canal and formed a single line, led by the senior command boat. Aboard it Captain Paul N. Gray, commander of the U.S. Navy's River Patrol Force (Task Force 116) directed the operation.

Local villagers, including dozens of children up and working before dawn, lined

the canal banks and waved happily at the boats.

During the slow transit the boats stopped three times at small Vietnamese military outposts near the canal. Capt. Gray and his staff officers went ashore to visit the outpost commanders and assure them of assistance at any time if needed.

Everywhere along the canal banks children waved and danced as the PBRs passed.

"Some of these people have never seen a PBR. Some of them have probably never seen an American," remarked Petty Officer Second Class Michael A. O'Kelly, a PBR boat captain.

While visiting the third outpost at the base of the triangle target area, Capt. Gray ordered the Sa Dec boats to move off the main canal and into the triangle. This time the enemy chose to hide, so the Sa Dec boats returned to the main canal joining the River Assault Group and the Binh Thuy boats for the final stage of the canal transit.

The ten PBRs and the Vietnamese craft moved out together at the base of the triangle.

Houses Deserted

Suddenly, on the main canal, all the houses were deserted. Only occasionally a face half-hidden in a window or doorway. The silence along the canal banks was a warning.

"It looks like this is going to be a good one," frowned Petty Officer First Class John H. Soucy as he stood ready behind the .50-caliber machine gun on the stern of his PBR.

But the large passed the triangle without receiving even a single sniper round. Further up the canal, the banks began to appear normal again. People moved about their regular chores and children began waving at the boats.

Then, as the boats neared the Co Chien River and Sa Dec, the people began cheering them and waving, the children shouted, "My, My" (Americans) and, with the flag waving proudly, the boats finished their hazardous transit and moved into the central canal of the city of Sa Dec.

The enemy had not been engaged but the cheers of the people was success enough.

Dogs on Patrol

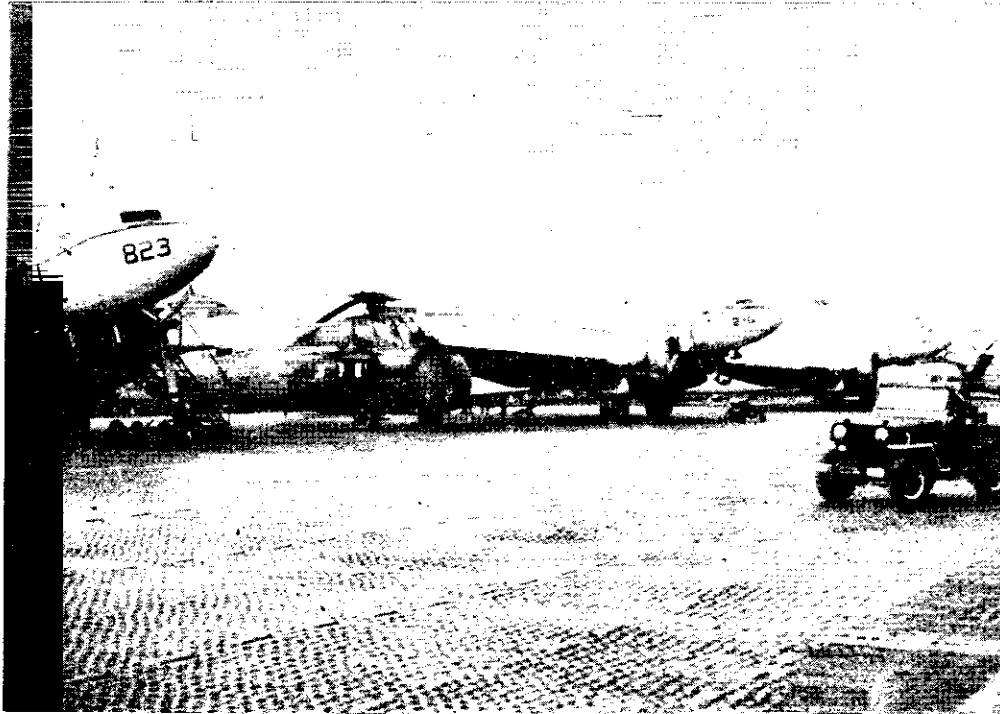
(Continued from page 3)

"The use of the scout dogs in conjunction with PBR patrols has proven to be effective, especially at night. The dog's keen senses can be used to detect contacts on the river not normally detected by the human ear."

The services possible by using these dogs was effectively demonstrated on a patrol when the two dogs utilized were responsible for the apprehension of twelve curfew violaters moving on

the river. With the boats drifting it was possible for the dogs to alert the crewmen and point to the direction of the otherwise undetected curfew violaters.

Although it has yet to be proven, the dog's successes in the field with infantry units gives reason to believe they would be effective in warning PBR's of possible ambushes when transiting small canals or traveling to the river banks."



MORNING LINE-UP—Three C-117s and a UH34-D Helo are in the morning's line up ready to begin the day's flights.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH1 C. Williams)

"YOU CALL-

Naval Support Activity, Saigon's nine aircraft airline, often referred to by its nickname of Air Cofat, has the vital mission of providing dependable logistic air support service to the Navy units of Operation Game Warden, Operation Market Time and the Mobile Riverine Forces in the II, III and IV Corps Areas of South Vietnam.

Its headquarters is located on the outskirts of Saigon at the large Tan Son Nhut Airport, the world's busiest, with a plane landing or taking off every eight seconds, twenty-four hours a day.

The Air Cofat terminal can easily be recognized by the white picket fence which sur-

JOSN Author



AIR COFAT TERMINAL—These three supply trans-shipping point and repair shops.

(Official

Officer, Lieutenant Commander Richard Corey, the ten pilots, one ground officer and thirty-three enlisted men work long and vigorous hours seeing that their task of logistic support is completed on time and up to par.

Daily courier runs are made six days a week throughout the II, III and IV Corps Areas and to Chu Lai and Danang, which are in the I Corps Area. These daily flights keep the movement of administrative traffic and personnel flowing smoothly. Often special runs are sent to resupply the detachments with priority cargos such as food, mail or to replace ammunition that the river sections may have expended the night before in various delta fire-fights.

The working day for the men at Air Cofat begins bright and early—usually at 5:30 a.m. By 6 a.m., thousands of pounds of cargo are being

loaded by forklifts onto the big trucks at 6:15 a.m. The men are giving the preflight inspection which consists of checking on engine, landing gear, systems and general readiness.

Now passenger service begins at the terminal. Once the passengers are manifested, they sit on the benches awaiting final booking and flight. Air Cofat transports up to 200 passengers depending on the cargo and space available.

Usually by 9 a.m. the northern runs have departed. At Cam Ranh Bay, Qui Nhon, Chuoi, and Chuoi. At the other end of the line, another C-117

TAXIING—A US2B, back from a passenger run taxis onto the Air Cofat ramp at Tan Son Nhut Airport.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH3 F.C. West)



LCDR RICHARD COREY, Naval Support Activity, Saigon's Air Operations Officer, prepares for take-off in a UH34-D Helo.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH3 F.C. West)

rounds the three quonset hut buildings. Of course, the terminal can't compare to the multi-million dollar, ultra-modern O'Hara International Airport in Chicago, nor can the planes compare to the sleek, comfortable jets that whiz you through the "friendly skies" at six hundred miles an hour, but Air Cofat is fulfilling the important mission of delivering passengers and cargo to and from the ten widely scattered and remote detachments of Naval Support Activity, Saigon—detachments located from Qui Nhon in the II Corps Area to An Thoi, located on Phu Quoc Island in the Gulf of Thailand.

Neither a squadron nor detachment, Air Cofat is the only air operation of its kind in the Navy. Led by NAVSUPACT's Air Operations



MANIFESTING—Passengers wait to be manifested for northern or southern flights.

(Official

—WE HAUL—

y
y G. Popowitz



Quonset huts serve as the terminal, offices, for Air Cofat.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH3 F.C. West)

ift or by hand, southern delta run to the "birds". At NAVSUPACT Detachments of Vung Tau, Vinh Long, Binh Thuy and An Thoi, often stopping at the Navy rader site on Con Son Island. The helicopters are busy flying other support missions to the detachments throughout the delta.

er manifesting Around noon the planes return, but they aren't finished flying for the day. At 2p.m. the flights will start over again—flying the same northern and southern runs and special "on call" emergency runs.

gers per day, The men work anywhere from 12 to 18 hours a day, seven days a week maintaining the aircraft. When all the planes have returned to base finished with their runs, the four crewmen of each plane are just about finished for the day—except for a wipe-down of the plane and a few minor adjustments. It's

available. a.m., all planes for their sche- ne C-117 flies n, which stops ay, Na Trang, Lai and Da- e same time, is flying the



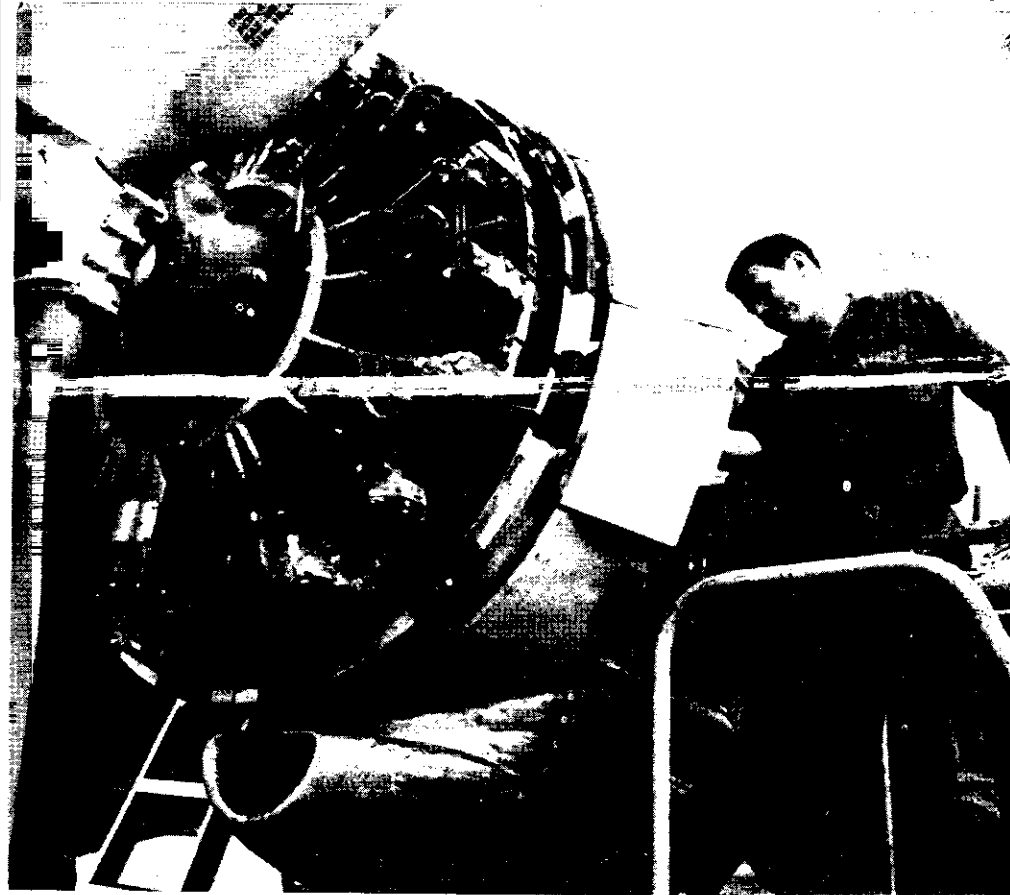
manifested on either of the two daily scheduled

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH1 C. Williams)

been a long day and finally time to go home—usually around 8 p.m.

But now it's the night crew's turn to work. The eleven night crewman, which usually consists of the mechanics and technicians, work from 5p.m. until all the planes are "up" for the next morning's flights.

Air Cofat flies enough miles in one month to encircle the earth approximately three times. First started in 1963 as a one plane operation, they now have three C-117s, 2-US2Bs, three UH34-D heli-



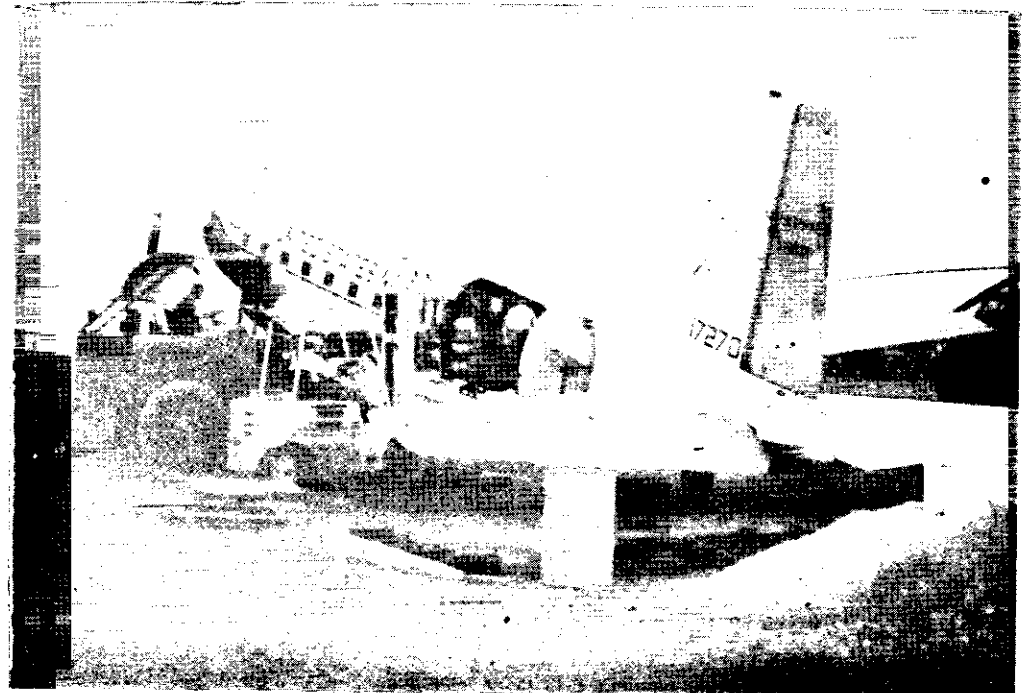
ENGINE CHECK—Airman Dale A. Johnson gives a C-117 an engine check.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH3 F.C. West)

copters and one C-45 "Beachcraft."

Some interesting statistical facts are; it takes approximately eight working man hours to keep the planes airborne one hour.—The cargo handling record for one day is 20,000 pounds. In 1963 Air Cofat flew 1,864 passengers, whereas in 1967, Air Cofat, with nine aircraft, flew 41,193 passengers and moved approximately 3,500,00 pounds of cargo—thus showing the rapid growth of its logistic support capabilities.

Carrying everything from ash trays to ammunition, anytime or anyplace, Naval Support Activity, Saigon's Air Cofat truly lives up to its motto— "You call—we haul!"



LOADING—As dawn breaks over Tan Son Nhut Airport, the last of the cargo is being loaded aboard this C-117.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH1 C. Williams)



NEW ENGINE — Air Cofat's aviation mechanics install a new engine on a C-45

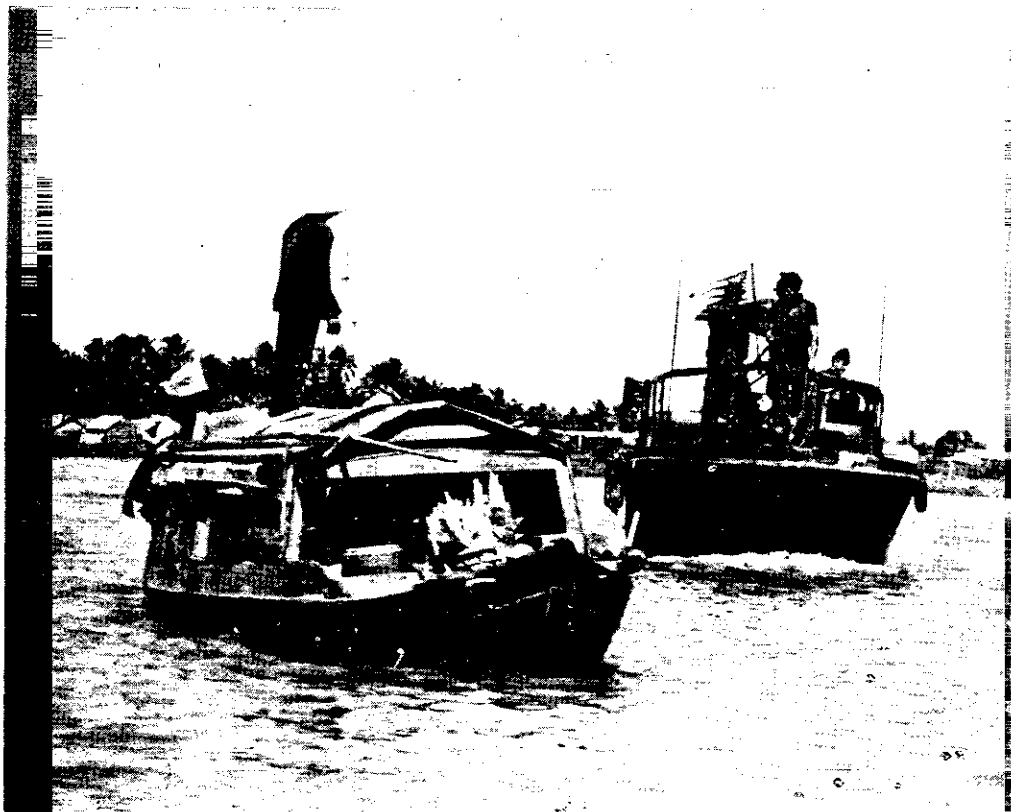
A War Of Words and Deeds

Story by JOI E.T. Tompkins
Photos by PHI L.R. Robinson

Ever since the closing days of World War II, nations of differing ideologies have placed great emphasis on exposing their politico-social theories and cultural programs to others. Employing various methods in explaining their ideas, they continue to compete for the minds of men. This is known as "Psychological Operations".



INTELLIGENCE — ENS Raber listens as a Vietnamese villager gives information about the VC.



FACE TO FACE CONTACT — A PBR approaches a civilian river craft (junk) for a closer look.

"Psychological" has been defined in dictionaries as meaning . . . "the science which treats the mind, . . . dealing with the traits, feelings and actions collectively of the mind, . . . intended to affect morale, as to weaken that of an enemy."

Psy-Ops, as psychological operations is commonly referred to, is nothing more than a concentrated effort to win the support and confidence of other people.

In Vietnam today, Psy-Ops is playing an ever increasingly important role in the war by converting an uncertain enemy into a responsible, confident citizen who supports his government.

Vietnamese and Free World Forces, working through the Vietnamese Government's Chieu Hoi (open arms) Program, are making significant progress in reducing the fruitless efforts of an insurgent enemy by using psychology.

The U.S. Navy's Psy-Ops programs have, in recent months brought particularly good results — especially in the Mekong Delta region of South Vietnam.

Many of the Viet Cong (Vietnamese Communist) forces are located in the Mekong "Rice Bowl" of Southeast Asia, an area laced with hundreds of navigable waterways. To reach them by means other than by water is very difficult because of the heavy jungles surrounding the thousands of rice paddies. This is where the Navy and its small shallow-water patrol boats have seen results in a Psy-Ops program.

River Patrol Boats (PBRs) policing the rivers and canals, come into daily contact with the Viet Cong in the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone. This affords them an excellent opportunity to employ various elements of Psy-Ops.

The daytime PBR patrols hand out leaflets and brochures explaining the Chieu Hoi program, as well as soap, toothpaste and other badly-needed items to the working and traveling people of the area. The night patrols, taking advantage of the fact that most of the people are at home then, use loud speakers in reaching the VC with their message.

With 350-watt loud speakers mounted on the sides of the PBRs taped Chieu Hoi appeals are broadcast every night up and down the rivers and canals. The voices and music played over the speakers sometimes reach as much as two miles inland, depending on the weather.

Concrete evidence of the success in employing this type of program are the Hoi Chanhs (Chieu Hoi returnees) who turned themselves in after hearing some of the PBR broadcasts. During one 90-day period, 25 Hoi Chanhs turned themselves in as a result of PBR Psy-Ops of River Division 53, based at My Tho, 35 miles southwest of Saigon.

Psy-Ops Officer of River Division 53 is a former PBR patrol officer, Ensign Gerald D. Raber. He has been direct-



OPEN ARMS APPEAL — ENS Raber assists a Hoi Chanh in recording a Chieu Hoi appeal.

ing the Psy - ops of the River Division since its beginning three months ago.

Working with Lieutenant Commander Samuel Steed, the commander of the patrol boat division, Ensign Raber spends his entire time working on Psy - Ops methods, and new and better ways to employ them.

"Our primary aim" says ENS Raber, "is to convert as many Hoi Chanh as possible.

"We not only help the person involved, when we convert him, but we also obtain valuable information about the enemy," he stated.

Many potential Hoi Chanh are afraid to cooperate because of fear that VC terror tactics will be used against their families. Such was the case of 36-year-old Nguyen Van Muoi, a former VC who turned himself in to one of the PBRs about two months ago.

"I was a VC," Muoi said, "mainly because I was living in a VC area. Because we were there, our people were given false propaganda about the Americans. We were told that the Americans would harm or kill us if we turned ourselves in."

"But as time went on," continued Muoi, "our families were worked harder and we had to pay higher taxes to the VC. It was then that I decided that even death was better than the tortures we were having to live with, so I hailed a PBR and gave myself up."

"Now that I know Hoi Chanh are treated well and given a new chance in life," Muoi concluded, "I am doing all I can to help convince other VC that they should

stop the useless fighting and join with our government to help all the people."

In addition to the PBR patrol elements of the Psy - Ops, the river divisions in the Delta are employing other effective programs aimed at winning the hearts and confidence of the people. Medical civic action programs (MEDCAPS), in which doctors and hospital corpsmen provide voluntary treatment in the remote villages and hamlets, are also helping to convince the people that their government is actively interested in their welfare. MEDCAPS are held every day somewhere in the Delta. Medical teams from River Division 53 hold a MEDCAP once a week.

Medical evacuations (MED-EVACS) have also done much to gain the confidence of the people and convince them that they should stop submitting to the VC and give their full support to their government. The people have come to realize that if they have someone sick who needs to be evacuated to medical facilities, they only have to hail one of the patrolling PBRs, and the sick person will be rushed to a doctor. The PBRs of the two River Sections of River Division 53 performed more than 70 MEDEVACS during November.

Another facet of RivDiv 53's Psy - Ops is the people-to-people support given by one of the river sections to remote villages. The PBR sailors have been supporting five schools in areas where the VC have isolated them by destroying bridges and roads. For their efforts, much information about enemy activities has been given to the



PSY-OPS PACKAGE — A Vietnamese interpreter assists ENS Raber in packing rural development material to be distributed to people along the rivers and canals of the Mckong Delta.

PBR men by the villagers.

As Lieutenant Commander Steed put it, "The Psy - Ops units of the four river divisions in the delta and Rung Sat are doing a fine job."

"When", LCDR Steed con-

tinued, "you multiply what our division is doing by four, then you can see just how successful the Navy's Psy-Ops are here."

"The VC realizes," he concluded, "that the PBRs

are taking an ever increasing number of his supporters each day. And because of this, he has increased the number and intensity of his attacks on our boats in a desperate tribute to our success."



BROADCASTING — Ensign Gerald D. Raber stands beside loud-speakers that are broadcasting an appeal to the VC to return to the side of their government.



SPREADING THE WORD — Ensign Gerald D. Raber (right), looks on as a Vietnamese interpreter explains new government information material to a local villager.

Friends Across the Sea

by JO1 Tom Walton

The hoard of Vietnamese children, wearing tattered, dirty clothes, accepted the gifts with a squeal, a simple smile or just a look of awe.

These are children of Tan Thanh village, a poor settlement in the Viet Cong-infested Rung Sat Special Zone, a 400-square-mile mangrove swamp that lies between Saigon and the South China Sea.

The poor but hard working villagers were accepting the clothes, shoes and toys from their friends, the American Navy men who patrol the many waterways of the Rung Sat to check the Viet Cong's movement of troops and supplies.

They were unaware however, that the gifts had come to Vietnam from other friends whom they had never met—the citizens of Sacramento, California.

Sacramento became involved with Tan Thanh village through Lieutenant Ronald J. Calhoun, assistant officer-in-charge of River Patrol Boat Section 542. The river section adopted the river-side village last September and have made monthly MEDCAP (Medical Civic Action Program) visits ever since.

When LT Calhoun saw the raggedness and, in some cases, the nakedness of the village children, he wrote to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Calhoun and asked if they could gather up some children's clothes he could give to the villagers.

The older Calhoun, president of the Southeast Sacramento Kiwanis Club, proposed that his organization start "Project Vietnam" to get the needed goods for the villagers. His club, along with a number of other Kiwanis Clubs in the Sacramento area, immediately went to work.

They gathered shoes, clothing and toys, boxed it up and hauled it out to the Sacramento Army Depot Special Services, which took care of the mailing. After the shipment—55 boxes—arrived in Vietnam, a MEDCAP visit was scheduled.

When the three river patrol boats (PBRs) left their base at Nha Be, on the northern edge of the Rung Sat, they carried the

boxed goods, two Navy doctors, three medical corpsmen and both nurses, from the Catholic Relief Society.

The boats announced their arrival through a tapped message in Vietnamese broadcast over the loud speakers. The children lined the banks of the river as they always do when the PBRs stop at the village, but their eyes fairly popped out when the combat crews began carrying the boxes towards the schoolhouse.

One room was quickly arranged as the clinic and patients began filing through. Meanwhile, the boxes were placed in one of other rooms. Soon the schoolmaster began handing out the toys. Once the toys were gone and the medical needs taken care of, the village chief called in representatives of each family to receive the clothing and shoes.

Other boxes were carried by boat across the river to the local militia outpost there and to the other end of the village



THE LINK—LT Ronald J. Calhoun, assistant officer-in-charge of River Section 542, is the link between the citizens of Sacramento, California and the citizens of Tan Thanh village.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by JO1 Tom Walton)

where a second outpost is located. The local soldiers' families live within the compounds and they, too, received their share of the gifts.

As the visit ended and the PBR crews once again manned their boats, the villagers again lined the river bank. This time a little better clothed, a little healthier, and seemingly a little happier.

This isn't the end however. The sailors of River Section 542 will continue to make their monthly visits to their adopted village, and, according to LT Calhoun, the Kiwanis Clubs' of Sacramento are continuing their "Project Vietnam" and already have another shipment of similar goods ready for mailing.

WHATSAFIELDWAIVER?

by LTJG David M. Hill

NSAS Educational Services Officer

Just what is a field waiver? What, exactly, is a waiver, and what requirements must you still meet in order to be eligible for advancement? It's no wonder people come to my office with these questions so frequently; the advancement program in Vietnam couldn't be much more confusing. Maybe I can answer your questions and give you some tips in this article.

The field waiver program is a route by which a man can get advanced without ever taking the applicable Navy-wide advancement examination. Of course, he must meet certain criteria set down in NAVFORVINST 1430.1C:

1. He must be an "in-country personnel," that is, permanently assigned in Vietnam or to a headquarters physically located in-country.

(TAD personnel who are in-country for a considerable length of time must be recommended by their parent commands.) Determinations of eligibility under the field waiver program is made by COMNAVFORV.

2. It must be reasonably expected that he would pass the advancement examination if he were to take it.

3. He must have been deprived of the opportunity to prepare adequately for the advancement examination by operational commitments in Vietnam.

4. He must be in-country on examination date ("or, if in country on the country for thirty consecutive days"). Eligibility date is 1 Jan or 1 July.

Now let's get down to the facts.

1. Upon attainment of 30 consecutive days in-country, an E-2 may be advanced to E-3 without any further ado. (If a man receives a field promotion to E-3 and subsequently goes up for E-4 via the field waiver route or the regular examination route, he must complete E-4 and E-3 eligibility requirements and have a total of 13 months active service.

2. For advancement to E-4 through E-7 the field waiver program waives the present advancement examination (E-6's must have passed the E-7 examinations within three years of current examination date in order to be considered for a field waiver to E-7). But

all other eligibility requirements must be met:

a. time in rate (TIR)

½ year to E-4; 1 year to E-5
2 years to E-6; 3 years to E-7.

b. military requirements course, enlisted correspondence course for applicable rating; practical factors, and performance test (if applicable). An "A" school graduate may not have to take the professional "3&2" course in order to make PO2 (or the training course for E 3 if that rate had not been attained by the time of graduation from school), but will have to complete this course for PO2. Likewise, satisfactory completion of a "B" school satisfies the requirement for completion of the mandatory training course for the applicable E-5 and E-6 ratings.

c. No mention has been made about the military/leadership examinations because while you are in Vietnam they are waived. However, they are still offered in Vietnam through my office (see NAVSUPACTNOTE 1430.2 of December 22, 1967 for information on how to take this examination.) If you are going up for rate or rating or being advanced while you are in country, military/leadership examinations will never enter the eligibility picture, but as you get "in-United States," you'd better believe that

these military examinations are part of the normal eligibility requirements for advancement to E-4 and E-5.

d. Don't forget, you must find someone to recommend you. That recommendation is all-important; without a recommendation I'll never see your name. And there's another Vietnam waiver I might mention here. Personnel may be authorized a 6-month TIR waiver, be sure your "recommender" states this on his recommendation.

Well, that's what'sfield-waiver. You'll find all this information in more precise language in NAVFORV INST 1430.1A (the latter being a restatement of and supplement to the former). Too many people finding themselves ineligible to go up for rate or rating in the February cycle—that number is staggering, about 50% of those nominated. Don't you get caught.

Many people have tried to tell me about other general-type waivers in Vietnam, but I don't know of any others than the ones mentioned above. If I haven't answered your questions, get in touch with me at the office (T-4765); I still answer questions like "Whatsafieldwaiver?" In fact, let me know what information I can put in the JACKSTAFF to help you.

Courts-Martial

(Continued from Page 4)

vided in regard to previous convictions which may be considered by court members in determining appropriate sentences. This revision removes the current enlistment limitation and permits consideration of previous convictions within a six-year period. Sentences to suspension from rank, command and duty would no longer be authorized punishments.

The values of \$20 and \$50, upon which many maximum punishments are based in the 1951 are changed to \$50 and \$100, respectively. Except for arson, dishonorable discharge and confinement for more than a year are limited to

those cases involving more than \$100.

A less stringent rule is provided concerning corroboration required to establish admissibility of a confession or admission. The new rule would permit introduction of a confessional when independent evidence is introduced which raises an inference of the truth of statements made.

Provision is made for the admissibility of written translations of machine, electronic and coded official records. Without this, it is necessary to call an expert witness in every case involving these records to translate them for the court.

New Parcel Post Rates

Military personnel serving outside the continental U.S. will be able to mail parcels weighing up to 30 pounds via air mail at rates nearly as low as those for surface mail. The new service was effective January 7.

Provided for in the Postal Rate Bill signed into law December 16, the new airlift service is in addition to the present Surface-Airmail (SAM) regulation. Under SAM, packages weighing five pounds or less are airlifted at parcel post surface rates to U.S. ports of entry and then go by surface transportation to their destination.

Under the new program, parcels weighing 30 pounds or less and not exceeding 60

PBRs Kill Two VC

CNFV — U.S. Navy river patrol boat (PBR) crewmen killed two Viet Cong and sank an enemy sampan January 14, during two separate Game Warden actions in the Mekong Delta of South Vietnam.

One Viet Cong was killed by PBR crewmen who were supporting a Vietnamese outpost under attack in Vinh Binh Province, 55 miles southwest of Saigon.

When the outpost came under enemy mortar attack, PBRs on patrol in the Co Chien River and Navy "Seawolves," piloting their armed helicopters, came to its aid.

The "Seawolves" suppressed the mortar and heavy automatic weapons fire.

When the PBR crewmen approached the shore to lend additional assistance, the enemy again opened fire. The PBR crews returned the fire, killing one Viet Cong.

One Viet Cong was killed and a sampan sunk when PBRs on routine patrol in the Bassac River, 70 miles southwest of Saigon, sighted the sampan with two men aboard.

When the sampan was hailed it began to evade the PBR at high speed. The PBR crewmen opened fire on the craft with .50-caliber machine gun and 40mm grenade fire, sinking it and killing one of the men.

There were no U.S. casualties in either action.

inches in combined length and girth will be carried on "space available" basis from all overseas APOs at parcel post surface rate plus \$1.

The additional dollar insures air transportation all the way from the overseas base to the destination address.

The special airlift regulation also applies to packages mailed from the U.S. to military personnel served by APOs and FPOs.

The airlift rates are an example, the Post Office Department pointed out, a serviceman in Vietnam will pay \$3.30 to send a 15-pound package to Chicago. The regular air parcel post rate for the same package is \$12.08.

In some cases, the Postmaster General said, it will be cheaper to use regular air parcel post. He advised servicemen to check with military post office officials for information on the best service to use.

VC—TERRORISM AND DEATH

CNFV—Stories of Viet Cong terrorism are not new to U.S. Navyman serving in Vietnam. But the crewmen of a Swift boat on Market Time patrol had never heard one first-hand until they picked up two young Vietnamese boys recently who had a strange tale to tell.

Crewmen on the heavily-armed, 50-foot Navy boat spotted the boys in a sampan while patrolling the western coast of Vietnam. They took the two boys, one 17, the other about 12, aboard at 6:30 p.m.

The Viet Cong, the boys reported, had moved into their little back-water village three days before. The boys managed to escape 12 hours before the Swift boat had picked them up, and had managed to reach the coast without being spotted by the enemy.

They revealed that the Viet Cong had come in force. There were more than 200 enemy sampans in the village canals when the last contingents arrived. The older, more educated boy estimated 500 guerrillas to be in his village.

Shows Movie

Besides troops, he said, the sampans brought a generator, a loud-speaker and a movie projector and screen. One purpose of the visit was "recruitment" of guerrillas and laborers.

They began by showing a

movie picturing a great Viet Cong victory. A male and female drama team presented skits glorifying service to the Viet Cong.

The enemy "recruitment" plan was for men and women over 45 to serve three months. Those between 18 and 45 would serve six months.

The plan provided three options. "Recruits" could work as laborers or they could sign a document, be given a weapon, and fight as guerrillas. If neither of these appealed... the third choice was death.

Then the terrorism began.

Eight men and two women defied the Viet Cong and refused to serve. They died.

One of the men was the older boy's father. He died, the son reported, with his throat cut. Some of the dead were knifed, some shot.

70 to 80 Signed up

Rather than face death 70 to 80 persons signed up as laborers. The Viet Cong told them they must have a black uniform. Also, each family would be required to make 30 bamboo foot traps to be used against government forces.

The people of the village, the boys related, have always been heavily taxed by the Viet Cong, both in money and rice. The VC, they said bitterly, make the people sing songs that say how happy they are to give rice to the guerrillas.

A large enemy rice cache had been destroyed by an air strike about six months ago, they said.

The younger boy's father died years ago and his mother now is quite old. He said that his one sister and six brothers are not VC but that they have been forced by the VC to work as laborers for a long time. The boy eventually wants to return to the village and live with his mother.

The older boy, dejected over his father's death, wants to visit relatives in Long Xuyen for about a month. Then, he wants to join the Vietnamese Army and kill Viet Cong.

Mark IIs...

(Continued from page 1)

ing added protection from the effects of weather. Remote speakers and microphones are located in the cockpit. Optional headsets provide a means for easier handling of communications equipment in

battle. Modifications in the water-jet pump system are the major causes of increased speed in the new craft.

The boat is built lower to the water to give the enemy

less of a target. And for those bullets that find their mark, there are metal gunshields to protect the boat's gunners.

Inspecting suspicious river traffic is not the only job for

the boats.

Others include giving fire support to Vietnamese outposts, providing blockade forces for ground operations, raiding enemy base camps and other positions and acting as ambulances to transport wounded or sick civilians or servicemen to hospitals.

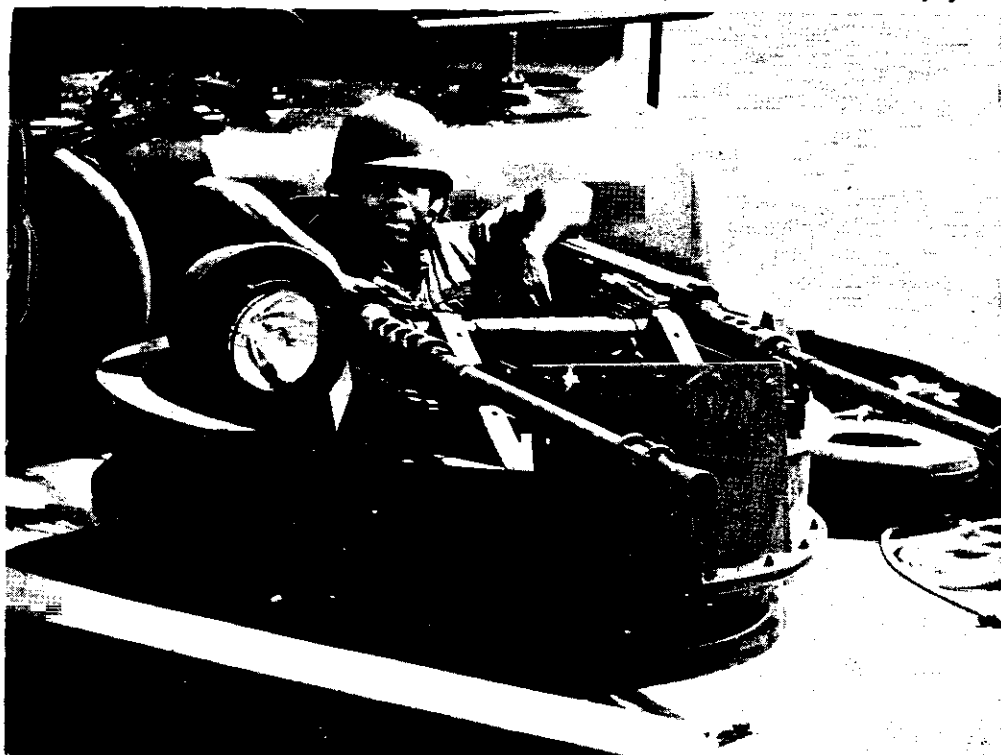
From July 1966, when PBRs first began operating extensively, to September 1967, surface and air units of Operation Game Warden have killed at least 1,400 enemy and destroyed, damaged or captured 1,641 of his sampans and junks.

The new boats will find plenty of opportunity for action while giving some of the valiant, older craft a chance to rest and collect needed repairs.

Medal...

(Continued from page 1) ing the first swimmer in tow, he began swimming for shore.

The Presidential Award was presented to Bueno by Capt. Meryl A. Iiams, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Facility in a formal presentation ceremony.



READY—Gunner's Mate Third Class Earnest McGowan sits in the guntub of the twin .50-caliber gun mount aboard a new Mark II.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by LTJG T.S. Storck)

Police Want You!

You're a wanted man! Wanted by law enforcement agencies to strengthen their ranks.

The Armed Forces are now teaming up with police departments across the nation to build up the forces of these key public servants. Included in the program is a 90-day "early out" for men with a firm offer of employment.

The drive for recruits is aimed at filling some 15,000 vacancies in duly constituted public police agencies across the country and onpost interviews by the law enforcement agencies will highlight the campaign. The military will also provide physical examination and testing assistance.

Servicemen who are interested are invited to contact the police department of their choice. However, the Department of Defense will soon have its Fact Sheet 1, "Help Wanted: MEN," distributed throughout the military and this includes a two-page, tear sheet application that may be filled out by the applicant and forwarded to the agency he selects.

The program, initiated at the request of the president, fills a vital need in our nation and offers an opportunity for service to the community. Pay in many areas is rising to attractive levels and there are many fringe benefits that include paid vacation, sick leave, family hospitalization, retirement pension program, job protection, uniform allowance and paid holidays.

You are wanted by the police—because the background of discipline and service you acquired in the armed forces tailors you to the high standards of peace officers across the nation.

COLA is Going Up

COLA's going up and HOLA's going down. COLA is the cost of living allowance paid to servicemen living on the economy in certain countries overseas. HOLA is the housing allowance paid to some of those men.

The increase in the COLA will be a result of the increase in basic pay being voted on by Congress. The hikes will amount to about a nickel or a dime a day in most places.

However, the housing allowance losses may be more substantial — perhaps as high as ten percent in some cases.

The HOLA cuts will occur in those countries which devalued their currency last month, the devaluators include Great Britain, Spain, Israel, Guiana, Malta, Bermuda, Fiji, Ireland, Denmark and New Zealand. Not all stations in New Zealand and Spain get HOLA and none is paid at all in Guiana. The largest number affected is likely to

be in Britain. Although the devaluation in the pound and the other currencies was about 14 percent, the HOLA cuts are not expected to go that high. Prices have gone up in some stations. The Defense Department's Per Diem Committee, which sets the rates, will continually

review the housing costs in those areas to see if further adjustments in the rates should be made.

COLA went into effect when the President signed the pay bill.

The effective date of the HOLA decrease is still undetermined.

Mail Home

FROM:

APO

TO:

Postage
1st Class 12cents
Airmail 20cents

Jim Scott RIVER PATROL

HERE LET ME HAVE A LOOK, PAT....

WHAT THE HECK? THERE'S A KID TIED ON TO SOMETHING... THEY'RE USING HIM AS A SHIELD.... THOSE ROTTEN.....

YEP/AND I BET HE'S TIED TO A CLAYMORE MINE...

SET THE MINE OFF AS SOON AS WE REACH PBR..THEY WON'T SHOOT THE BOY....

THE SAMPAN TURNED AND HEADED FOR THE LEAD BOAT FOR INSPECTION... COLLINS DISCOVERED SOMETHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THE JUNK.

IT'S EITHER THE KID OR US... I HATE TO DO THIS, MAN....

NO WAIT/ I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, PAT... JUST STICK AROUND FOR AWHILE!

JIM THREW OFF HIS SHIRT AND EASED OVER THE SIDE.... MAKING SURE THE VC ABOARD THE JUNK DON'T SEE HIM.....

GET IT DONE IN A HURRY, MAN. I DON'T WANT TO SIT AROUND HERE TOO LONG.... GOOD LUCK...



LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. WE'RE SITTING DUCKS HERE....

ROCKETS!!!



CALL FOR AIR SUPPORT... TAKE THE BOAT INTO THE ROCKET FIRE... WE HAVE TO KNOCK THAT THING OUT... AND CALL THE COVER BOAT, TELL THEM TO PICK UP SCOTT...

THE COVER BOAT HAS BEEN HIT, MAN. THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING... OUR LUCK LOOKS BAD.

LUCK LOOKS BAD FOR JIM... WHEN HE DOES GET TO THE JUNK HE MAY FIND A BATTLE HE CAN'T WIN..... TO BE CONT....