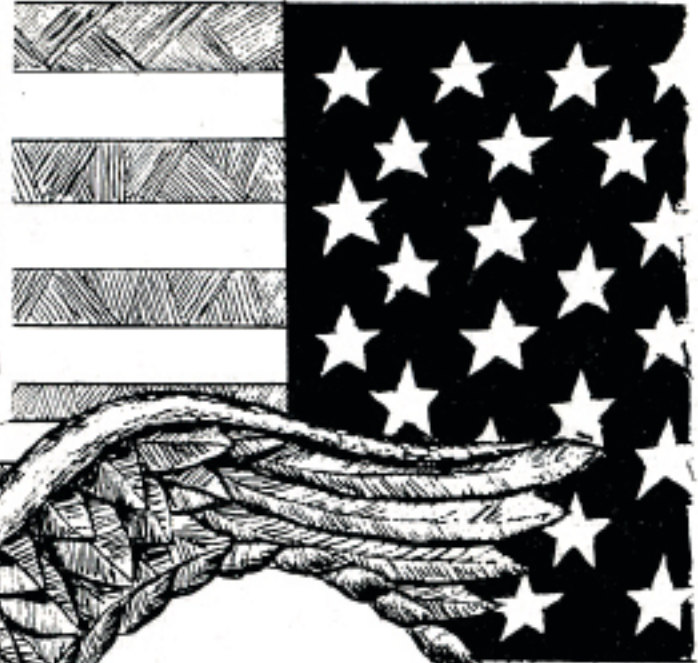


# THE JACKSTAFF NEWS

Vol. 2 No. 17 U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon, June 29, 1968



INDEPENDENCE DAY



Editorial

# Ideals Not Changed

Two centuries ago, when men wore powdered wigs and ladies wouldn't show a bit of ankle, life was very different than it is today. As a matter of fact, very little of that society has been carried over into today's way of life. We have today, however, one remnant of that society—an impressive document that is as alive and important today as it was on July 4, 1776—the Declaration of Independence.

Back in 1776, after years of discontent with the rule of England's George III, a group of colonists—members of the Continental Congress—wrote and signed the Declaration of Independence. Although little more than a sheet of paper, this document set a precedent for many of the nations of the world. The Declaration stated that when a government failed to protect the rights of its people to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, "it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it." The United States became the first colony of a major power in that day to break away from colonial rule and declare independence. Here, half a world away from home, we are helping the South Vietnamese to solve a different, although parallel, problem. The people of this country are living under a government which they themselves elected. The people of South Vietnam are not trying to overthrow their government; they are trying to insure their government is not overthrown by a power whose idea of rule is dictatorial and tyrannical.

The spirit of '76 is still alive today. Here in Vietnam we are demonstrating to the world that we still believe freedom and liberty to be more than mere words found in the dictionary; we believe them to be precious commodities well worth fighting and dying for. Fashions may change, but ideals do not. And while the powdered wigs have disappeared and ladies' hemlines have changed, the Declaration of Independence beats on as the heart of our nation.

# States Control Own Voting Laws

By LT. R.C. Failla

This is the first of a two part series about election laws and rules printed with the hope that it will help you understand the rules which govern our voting.

Earlier this year there was much talk in the national news media about the feeling of alienation arising from a lack of participation in the destiny of our great country. This feeling was said to be particularly wide spread among the youth of America. Then a seemingly amazing transformation took place. As the Primary elections began to unfold, youthful workers became one of the prime motivating forces in the campaigns of all the major candidates. They were determined to

make use of the system that provides for true self-determination instead of just standing by and bad mouthing it. Our presence here in Vietnam has as one of its long range goals the preservation of the right of self-determination for the American people. Many of us risk our life to that end. You are doing as much, and more, as the untiring campaign worker simply by your presence here in Vietnam. You are actively participating in securing for future generations of Americans

what we have always proudly referred to as our rights, including our right to vote. But, merely having those rights is not enough, we must exercise them. Casting our ballots, especially in the upcoming presidential election, is the ultimate act in our participation in the control of the future direction of our country.

Under our constitution each state controls its own voting laws, even when they pertain to federal elections. The only universal mandate imposed is that those laws must apply equally to all people within each individual state. Thus, the voting age in the vast majority of states is twenty-one but Hawaii's minimum voting age is twenty, Alaska's is nineteen, and in Georgia and Kentucky 18-year-olds may vote. The states also impose requirements of U.S. citizenship, residency, character and registration.

The requirement of U.S. citizenship is easily enough understood and a simple reflection will reveal its reasonableness.

The residency requirement is imposed by most states to prevent an unscrupulous few from trying to vote in more than one state during the same election. While the residency requirements vary from state to state, it is fairly safe to assume you have met those requirements if you have lived in your home state for at least one year and in your county for six months prior to coming in the service.

# She Left Him

By CAPT. J.J. Killeen, CHC

This happened about ten years ago but it could happen today. I was in San Diego and a chief who had returned one week before, after a year in Yokosuka, Japan, asked me if I would try to convince his wife that she should not leave him.

They had been married seven years and had four children and were quite happy until a few days before. At my request the wife came to my office with her husband. She got to the point very quickly. "That pig," pointing to her husband, "wants me to do the same things for him that the girl in Japan did whom he lived with for the last year. He was a good man when he

left, but he is a pig now". She walked over to him, spit in his face and left my office. She left him, too. It might be a good thing if there was some electronic gadgetry that a man could pass through as he boarded the plane for the States which would eradicate any bad habits and attitudes that he picked up while in Vietnam. As far as I know no such gadget exists.

# Did You Know?

NAVAL FACTS BY HUMMEL

**John P. Holland** **First Sub**



INVENTOR OF THE SUBMARINE. BORN IN IRELAND LATER TO BECOME A SCHOOL TEACHER. COMING TO THE U.S. HE TAUGHT SCHOOL IN NEW JERSEY UNTIL 1872. HE BEGAN WORK ON THE SUB ALSO IN 1872. THE FIRST SUB FAILED. THE SECOND HAD PASSED THE NAVY TESTS. "THE HOLLAND," PURCHASED IN 1900.

THE NAVY BOUGHT ITS FIRST SUBMARINE FROM HOLLAND IN 1900 AND BEGAN TO MODIFY IT. BEFORE THE "FULTON" WAS LAUNCHED IN 1900, HE PROTESTED: "THE NAVY DOES NOT LIKE SUBMARINES BECAUSE THERE IS NO DELTA TO SPUR ON."

## Hummel's Vietnam



"WE RECEIVED AN INTELLIGENCE REPORT, SIR... IT SAYS, THERE IS A LARGE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE LIVING IN SAIGON..."

## The Jackstaff News

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Commander U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon  
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# "Swift" Boat Sunk Near DMZ

PCF 19, a U.S. Navy "Swift" boat, was sunk early on the morning of June 16 just south of the demilitarized zone in the Tonkin Gulf. The 50-foot aluminum patrol boat was believed to have been hit by enemy shore fire of an undetermined origin or type.

Two other boats, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Point Dume and the PCF 12, were immediately ordered to the scene, about 1 mile offshore, and 3 1/2 miles south of the DMZ. Both reported coming under enemy fire; however, neither craft was hit.

# Rung Sat Hit

A combined United States and Vietnamese force hit the Viet Cong on the morning of June 16, in the Rung Sat Special Zone, 15 miles southeast of Saigon, killing three VC and destroying 26 structures and a sampan.

Involved in the action were units of the joint Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force, U.S. Army and Marine Corps advisors, Navy Seals and Vietnamese forces.

During the day-long operation on the Cong Tranh River, the allied forces received enemy small arms, automatic weapons and rocket fire. Six U.S. soldiers were wounded in the action.

Vietnamese Regional Force troops operating with the force destroyed the enemy sampan. Vietnamese Commandos captured assorted medical supplies, clothing and a variety of enemy weapons and other supplies.

# VN Vets Gets First Pick

The Bureau of Naval Personnel says that men completing Vietnam duty will receive special consideration regarding their change of duty requests.

Personnel that are shore based in Vietnam, the combat forces of the Fleet Marine Force Pacific, and those who are assigned to nonrotating support ships continuously deployed in Southeast Asia, will be given special consideration on requests for reassignment.

Whenever possible these personnel will be given first choice as to shore duty (SEAVEY), schools, other sea duty, and in some instances early separation for hospital corpsmen.

This is being done in view of the personal hardships and difficult working conditions imposed on those working in the Vietnam area.

# VN Navy Gets PBRs

A turning point in the Vietnamese war was reached June 10 when the Vietnamese Navy assumed exclusive responsibility for clearing command-detonated mines from the strategic Long Tau River shipping channel to Saigon.

The changeover came when the Vietnamese Chief of Naval Operations, Captain Tran Van Chon, took command of 14 specialized U.S. Navy rivercraft during turnover ceremonies at the Vietnamese Navy headquarters in Saigon.

The first of the services of the Republic of Vietnam to assume exclusive, military responsibilities previously held by United States forces.

The other eight river craft are river patrol boats (PBRs) identical to those widely used by the U.S. Navy throughout the Mekong Delta.

"The number of craft and personnel are not large," Admiral Veth said, "but the mission is a vital one."

Sinking one of the large merchant ships which daily transit the 35-mile Long Tau shipping channel could block the channel and cut off the flow of commercial and military shipping to Saigon. The Viet Cong continue to deploy several types of river mines in an effort to bring this about.

Command-detonated mines, anchored by swimmers in mid-river and connected by wires to firing positions along the riverbank, continue to be favored by the enemy. LCMMs can "sweep" the waterway clear of this threat, however, by dragging a cutter-studded chain along the river bottom. The cutters snag and sever the electrical wires, making the mines impossible to detonate from shore.

Captain Allan P. Slaff, Senior Naval Advisor and his staff initiated efforts to get the Vietnamese Navy its first eight PBRs.

"This initial squadron," Admiral Veth said, "is just the beginning. These Vietnamese Navy PBRs will be important additions to our joint efforts to deny the use of the strategic waterways in the delta to the enemy, and to ensure their safe availability to those loyal citizens of South Vietnam who desire to use them."

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# From Russia With Love



RUSSIAN MADE — U.S. Navy Yeomen Second Class Thomas R. Burgoon (left) and Thomas F. Landry examine the propellant casing from a Russian made 122mm rocket. They discovered the casing on their way to work June 11. According to the markings on the casing, it was made in January, 1962, and was the 66th one to be made that year. The rocket had hit a tree and exploded, killing two Vietnamese civilians and wounding another. The two Navy men work at the headquarters of Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, in Saigon. (Official U.S. Navy Photograph by JO2 James E. Messner)

# 'Swift' Helps DD Pound Charlie

The destroyer USS Lowry received help June 5, from a Navy "Swift" Boat in preparing a landing zone for U.S. troops 10 miles southwest of Phan Thiet.

The destroyer's surface search radar had been temporarily disabled and, although the ship could navigate using leadline, fathometer and fire control radar, it was desirable to double check the navigational plot for accuracy before and during the naval gunfire support mission.

A "Swift" boat patrolling the area, PCF 23, commanded by Lieutenant Jim Taylor, was asked if they could provide continuous ranges and bearings from the Lowry to her target. Taylor replied, "Roger. Can do." He fixed his position and began feeding the destroyer ranges and bearings.

The Lowry commenced pounding the VC-infested area with high explosive projectiles under the direction of the airborne naval gunfire liaison officer, Mike Beckmyer. Over an hour later, Beckmyer ordered cease fire and reported the area well covered.

Meanwhile repairs to the radar were nearing completion, under the supervision of Chief Electronics Technician Bill Fuller the destroyer-men had the radar functioning properly only 45 minutes after finishing the gunfire mission.

## Close Call



Navyman Xavier C. Caruthers' expression betrays his feelings as he looks critically at the two-inch gash ripped in his helmet by shrapnel from a Viet Cong rocket. Caruthers, was operating with the Navy's River Assault Flotilla One in Vietnam's Mekong Delta when an enemy rocket was fired at his boat. The round exploded in the water just a few yards from his boat, and Caruthers was knocked down by the impact. The Chicagoan got up and

continued manning his 30-caliber machinegun against the guerrilla elements. It was not until he returned to the Mobile Riverine Base of five Navy ships and removed his helmet that he noticed the prominent gash. Caruthers says he will continue to wear the trusty helmet on future operations against Viet Cong units in the marshy delta. It has more than proved its worth.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by PH2 Pasco J. Izzo)

## Texas Voters Can Register by FPCA

Even though absentee voting privileges are afforded military personnel by every state, commonwealth and territory, not all permit absentee registration.

Alabama and Louisiana voting laws still require registration in person.

California recommends that registration and application for absentee ballots be made at least 60 days before election. However, applications received later will be accepted.

Texas provided a special type of registration for military personnel, their spouses and dependents, who did not get a chance to register during the regular 4-month registration period preceding February 1, 1968. If a Texan is stationed outside Texas and did not register during the regular registration period,

his application by Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for an absentee ballot is treated as an application for registration also, and the county clerk will register him for that election if the information on the FPCA shows him to be a qualified voter. Registration by this method is effective only for the election for which the absentee ballot is requested, and no registration certificate or other evidence of registration is issued. This method of registration is available to all legal residents of Texas stationed outside the state, including spouses and dependents who are entitled to use an FPCA.

## VN Recruits to Train in U.S.

The first full company of Vietnamese Navy recruits to train in the United States left Saigon recently for eight weeks of basic training at the U.S. Naval Recruit Training Center, San Diego, Calif.

Fifty-five of the recruits left Tan Son Nhut airport via military aircraft early Thursday, June 14. The remaining 45 recruits departed a day or so later.

A number of Vietnamese sailors have been trained in the United States before, but only for advanced schooling. They were assigned on an individual basis.

Since the Viet Cong's Tet Offensive, the Vietnamese Navy has been swamped with volunteers. The training centers at Saigon and Nha Trang are over flowing and new recruits have been spending many weeks waiting to be trained.

One of the U.S. Navy advisors to the Vietnamese Navy, Lieutenant Gerald A. Bernier, came up with the idea of sending the company of recruits back to the States for training.

He suggested it to Captain Allen P. Staff, senior U.S. naval advisor to the Vietnamese Navy, who in turn made the recommendation through Vietnamese and U.S. Navy channels. Both countries' chiefs of naval operations agreed and the project was begun.

### ALL VOLUNTEERED

The recruits, all volunteers for the project, were selected from more than twice their number. They are all high school graduates, all speak some English and at least half of them hold two-year college degrees. They are highly

motivated and, during the screening process the competition for selection was keen.

Long days of processing followed the final selection. Like recruits the world over, they were given shots and physical examinations, stood in line for clothing issue and sat through hours of briefings. In addition, they received preliminary training in drill, seamanship and swimming and a familiarization course in English, as spoken in America.

### OFFICERS TO ACCOMPANY

Captain Tran Van Chon, Vietnamese Chief of Naval Operations, selected two officers and three chief petty officers to accompany the recruits during their time in San Diego.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Ho Van Trong, VNN, officer-in-charge of the company, and Senior Chief Engineman Pham Van Thieu, VNN, the company commander, both left for San Diego last month for familiarization and indoctrination prior to the recruits' arrival. Chief Thieu has since been selected for promotion to aspirant, the equivalent of the U.S. warrant officer grade.

The assistant officer-in-charge, Ensign Bui Nhat Ich, VNN, and the two assistant company commanders, Chief Boatswain's Mates Pham Cong Thanh, VNN, and Pham Van Tin, VNN, have been in charge of processing the company and

will accompany the recruits on their flight to San Diego.

L.T. Bernier was named U.S. project officer and visited San Diego last month to set up final preparations, curricula and logistic support. Master Chief Damage Controlman Charles I. Fields, has been named U.S. company commander and will also accompany the recruits back to the U.S. He has served for the past year as an enlisted advisor to the Vietnamese Fleet Command and senior enlisted advisor for Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam.

### SAME TRAINING AS AMERICANS

Once in San Diego, the recruits will receive the same training as American sailors, except for classes which deal with strictly U.S. interest; subjects such as history and the U.S. codes of conduct and military justice. They will march, work and compete for honors right along with the U.S. recruit companies.

Although this program is a one time affair to help the Vietnamese accelerate the training of their recruits, it will also give a couple of side benefits.

Besides providing a pool of qualified men for possible future training at U.S. Navy schools, their knowledge of English and understanding of American sailors will enable them to work more closely with their U.S. advisors.



LOOKING SHARP — The Vietnamese Navy recruits catch on fast to military drilling. After only primary training while processing, new sailors step out in perfect unison.

(Official U.S. Navy Photograph by JO1 Tom Walton, USN)



By Charlie Noble

Hi shipmates! You know it may sound funny to be thinking of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year in the summer months, you probably think Charlie should be thinking and talking about the 4th of July, but what with lead time as it is and so many people to plan on we are going to have to do our planning for these big days some six months in advance. Additionally with some of our commissary people DEROS-ing in this time frame, it will be a big help to them to have this ground work laid.

In order to be certain that the holidays are the big event we want them to be, do the following now, if you haven't already done so. Begin forecasting your holiday item requirements for the big meals. Turkey carcass, mixed nuts, fruit, cakes, candy, canned pumpkin and mince meat are, by Army standards, holiday items and normally available at this time. Arrange your menus so that operating units can partake of the holiday fare with either an early or late meal, and not have to look forward to a pre-trayed meal that has been left on an oven door to dry out.

Those of us supporting PCFs and WPBs that will be on patrol over the holiday will have to exercise extra care in order to guarantee their enjoying the holiday meal.

Each WPB can easily take on half of a turkey and fix it adequately in their galley. The newer PCF ranges likewise can handle half a bird if the personnel assigned to do the cooking are given a little instruction. An alternative is

to precook half a bird for the crew, allowing them to merely heat it up whenever they are ready to prepare dinner. For those PCFs equipped with only a hot plate, sliced boneless turkey cooked then well wrapped and frozen with turkey gravy can be conveniently heated in fry pans at a later time.

Above all we should remember that these holidays meals hold a special place in our American tradition. These are the days in which we thank God for being Americans, living in an affluent country. The relevance of these holidays are made even more intense this year by the realization that we are here to help protect these things.

Make your requirements known to the Supply Officer COMNAVSUPACT Saigon now. If you're one of the commissarymen that will be gone by next holiday season, make sure that passing the word on what you've done towards this coming season, and what you did last season, is part of your relieving process.

## New River Squadron Begins Operations

The Navy's riverine assault force reached another milestone last week when its third squadron of heavily armored gunboats began operations in the Mekong Delta.

The first armored troop carriers (ATCs) of River Assault Squadron 13 began arriving in early May. With the arrival of the squadron's commanding officer, Commander Ferveril Blundell, the assault boats began supporting Vietnamese and U.S. infantrymen in search and sweep operations in the delta.

Squadron 13 joins other squadrons in River Assault Flotilla One which have combined with troops of the U.S. Army's Ninth Infantry Division during the past year to score significant victories over Viet Cong units entrenched in the area for years.

Each of the squadrons, consists of heavily-armed and

armored boats. The squadrons are capable of supporting a large force of combat-ready infantrymen.

About half of the boats in Squadron 13 are ATCs, 56-foot converted landing craft that can beach a platoon of infantrymen on the banks of any navigable stream in the delta.

## November 1 Deadline for Freedom Foundation Essay

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." —Article XV, The Constitution of the United States, added in 1870.

"... If (faith in the ... dignity of man) decrees that we, the people, elect leaders not to rule but to serve..." —Dwight D. Eisenhower, Inaugural Address, Jan. 20, 1953.

These are only two examples of the American way of life expressed by Americans. How would you state your own thoughts on a creed that still kindles within peoples the world over a hope for liberty and a better life?

All service personnel are being urged to express their thoughts about this year's topic in the Freedoms Foundation Program: A Free Ballot — A Free Country.

Entries may be in the form of a poem, essay or letter of 100 to 500 words in length. Top awards are \$1,000 and the Defender of Freedom Award for active duty members, and \$1,000 and an encased George Washington Honor Medal for reserve personnel. Some 100 awards of \$100 and \$50, and George Washington Medals and Honor Certificates also will be made in both categories.

You may send in as many entries as you wish any time before November 1, to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481. Be sure to print or type on each entry your full name, rank, service number, full military address, service or reserve component, and full home address.

Supporting the ATCs are Monitors, the battleships of the miniature fleet; command and communications boats (CCBs), which contain elaborate radio equipment to coordinate the assault operations; assault support patrol boats (ASPCs), which act as escorts for the troop carriers and a refueler.

Many of the troop carriers have been equipped with flight decks, allowing helicopters to land on resupply and medical evacuation missions.

Like their predecessors, the boat crewmen of River Squadron 13 will live aboard U.S. Navy barracks ships. These vessels, known collectively as a mobile riverine base, move up and down major delta rivers to wherever the force may be operating.

All personnel assigned to the boats received advanced training in riverine warfare at the Naval Inshore Operations Training Center at Mare Island, Calif. The boats and men of River Assault Squadron 13 will be permanently homeported in San Diego, Calif.



Early on the morning of May 19, the middle-of-the-night silence was shattered by the explosive concussion of Viet Cong 122mm rockets fired into the center of Saigon. Eleven Vietnamese were killed by the explosion and hundreds were left homeless as fire quickly spread through the closely



built houses. At right a Vietnamese girl with a strained smile on her face stands in the midst of her wrecked home. At left a dazed woman walks through the twisted corrugated steel wreckage of her home and the homes of her neighbors. (Official U.S. Navy Photos by RM3 Chan Cochran)



**TURNOVER**—Rear Admiral Kenneth L. Veth, USN, Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, watches CAPT Tran Van Chon, Chief of Naval Operations, Vietnamese Navy, sign the turnover documents for the six LCMMs (motorized minesweep landing craft) and eight river patrol boats (PBRs) during ceremonies held at the Vietnamese Navy Headquarters, Saigon, June 10, 1968. (Official U.S. Navy Photograph by PH1 J.E. Markham)

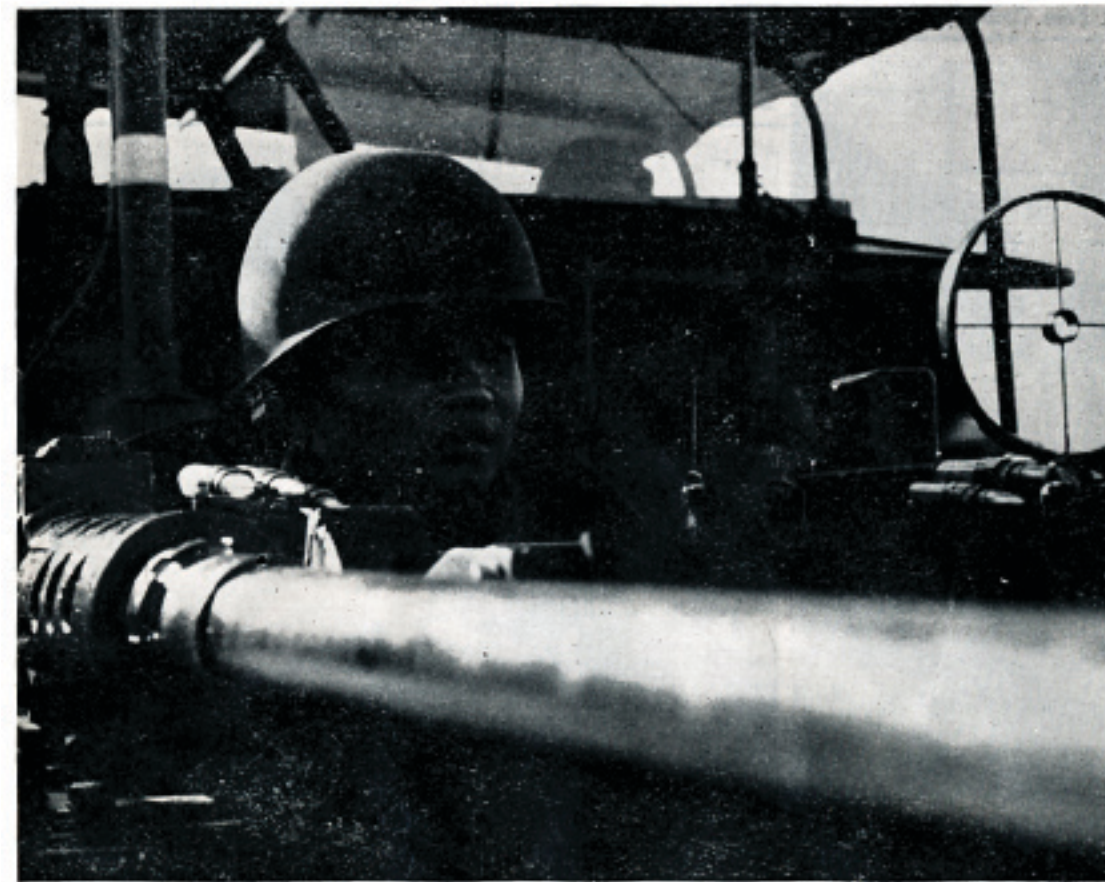


**CHANGE FLAGS** — A U.S. sailor lowers Old Glory on a river patrol boat (PBR) while a Vietnamese sailor stands by with a Vietnamese flag. At right, Vietnamese flag is raised on the boat signifying the signing over of eight PBRs and six LCMMs to the Vietnamese Navy. (Official U.S. Navy Photographs by PH1 J.E. Markham and JO1 K.N. Hartmann)

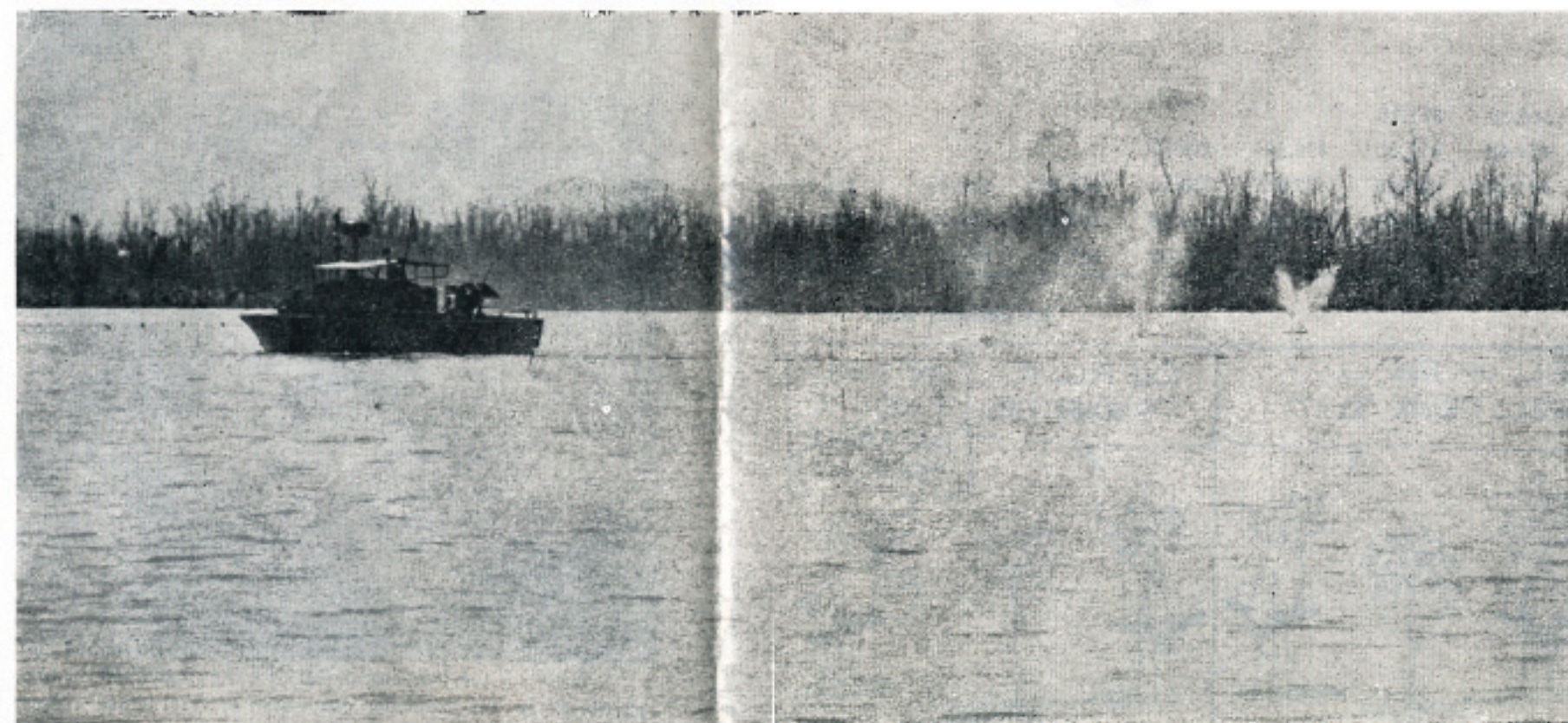


**CUTTER STUDS** — Vietnamese Navy sailors inspect the cutter studs on the chain-drag minesweeping gear aboard a Vietnamese LCMM prior to the morning sweep of the Dong Nai River. (Official U.S. Navy Photograph by LTJG J.F. Pfaff)

# VN Navy Gets Command of PBRs



**MAN BEHIND THE GUN** — A determined Vietnamese sailor mans his twin .50-caliber machinegun aboard a Vietnamese PBR on a patrol in the Rung Sat Special Zone, near Saigon. (Official U.S. Navy Photograph by LTJG J.F. Pfaff)



**TESTING** — Crewman aboard a new Vietnamese Navy river patrol boat test fire their twin .50-caliber machineguns in the Rung Sat Special Zone, near Saigon. (Official U.S. Navy Photograph by LTJG J.F. Pfaff)



**DIRECTING** — Lieutenant (junior grade) Nguyen Cong Anh Kiet, Vietnamese Navy, directs a Vietnamese Navy minesweeping operation on the Long Tau and Dong Nai Rivers. (Official U.S. Navy Photograph by LTJG J.F. Pfaff)

# Proposed Pay Scale Effective July 1

Following are the proposed scales for the pay raise due to become effective July 1. Confirmation has not yet been received by the Naval Support Activity disbursing office, and the actual scales may differ slightly from the proposed scales shown here.

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

PG	Less 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 26
O-1	342.20	379.80	474.30											
O-2	399.30	474.30	569.70	588.60	600.90									
O-3		556.80	594.60	618.50	689.70	714.90	753.30	790.80	810.00					
O-4				696.30	708.60	740.40	790.80	835.20	873.30	911.40	936.90			
O-5						797.70	822.60	866.40	924.30	993.60	1050.60	1082.10	1120.20	
O-6								930.30	962.10	1113.90	1170.90	1196.40	1265.70	1373.10
O-7										1462.20	1563.00	1563.00	1563.00	1563.00
O-8											1664.40	1728.00	1797.60	1797.60
O-9												1728.00	1860.60	1993.80
O-10													1993.80	2126.70

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH OVER 4 YEARS ENLISTED SERVICE

PG	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14
O-1	474.30	506.40	525.30	544.20	563.10	588.60
O-2	588.60	600.90	620.10	652.20	677.40	696.30
O-3	658.50	689.70	714.90	753.30	790.80	822.60

## WARRANT OFFICERS

PG	Less 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 26
W-1			386.10	417.90	436.80	455.70	474.30	493.80	512.70	531.60	550.20	569.70		
W-2				474.30	500.40	519.30	537.90	556.80	576.00	594.60	613.50	638.70		
W-3						582.00	600.90	620.10	638.70	658.50	683.70	708.60	734.10	
W-4							677.40	708.60	734.10	753.30	778.20	804.00	866.40	

## ENLISTED PERSONNEL

PG	Less 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 26
E-1	102.30 (4 Mos)													
	109.50													
E-2	113.40	159.00												
E-3	137.70	192.00	205.50	218.70										
E-4	190.20	238.50	251.70	271.50	285.00									
E-5	226.20	278.70	291.90	304.80	324.90	338.10	351.30	364.20	371.10					
E-6				344.70	358.20	371.10	384.60	404.40	417.30	430.50	437.40			
E-7						417.30	430.50	444.30	464.10	477.30	490.50	497.10	530.40	596.70
E-8								510.30	523.80	537.00	549.90	563.40	596.70	663.00
E-9									603.30	616.50	630.00	642.60	676.50	742.20

B. C. by Johnny Hart



Publishers-Hall Systems, 1968

4-29

1968

# Allied Forces Destroy Viet Cong Positions

U.S. Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Vietnamese Commando units joined forces June 9, to hit Viet Cong positions in the Rung Sat Special Zone, following an enemy attack on the Vietnamese merchant ship, Khanh Hoa.

At least five Viet Cong river patrol boats (PBRs) set up blocking positions along possible escape routes.

The Khanh Hoa came under enemy automatic weapons and rocket fire while steaming along the Long Tau River, 10 miles northeast of Saigon. Damage to the ship was described as light.

U.S. Navy and Army helicopter gunships and Air Force fixed-wing aircraft pounded the enemy force while Navy

Vietnamese Commandos, together with four U.S. Marine Corps advisors, were airlifted to the scene by Army helicopters and conducted two sweeps of the area.

The commandos accounted for at least one enemy killed, and captured a rocket launcher used in the attack.

One U.S. Marine advisor was slightly wounded.



# Behind the Scene

By Dick Morris

## "OUR LITTLE CREED"

Before this scribe goes into his first column in the Republic of Vietnam he has a little information for his reader... I am serving my second tour in the Republic having previously served with the Armed Forces Radio and TV Vietnam Network, reporting there in 1966... We must always remember, readers, that for a newspaper or sports column to function properly it must be thorough in the presentation of the news... We must include all the news that we believe to be of interest, whether to a small or large number of people, or we are not being fair to our readers... As Sports Editor of the Jackstaff I ask everyone connected with the Naval Support Activity Saigon and detachments to become news conscious... Take a minute now and then and ask yourself whether you know someone or something that should be noted in our column or elsewhere in the newspaper... If your answer is affirmative, do not hesitate to call us or to mention the item to us in a letter... Your helping hand will result in a more efficient and more interesting newspaper for all hands serving in the Republic of Vietnam and always remember this corner will call the plays as it sees them.

## "A GOOD START"

This scribe is happy to see some sports activity in the heart of the Mekong Delta coming into its own... We are hoping that some of the detachments will have the time to challenge LT Paul Fenton the Officer-in-Charge of the Sa Dec softball team (see related story)... This corner understands that a sports program here in Vietnam can't be on the same par as ships or other bases, but in our spare time we can organize or take an active part... remember the Navy has always been strong for sports... And for good reasons... Navy life at times can be boring especially during the long periods at sea or the long hours at far away bases... For relaxation and physical fitness nothing beats exercise... Back in the era of sails or should we say the old Navy, bluejackets resorted to "Skylarking" only instead of backslapping and jokes, our sailors fought and dueled... Many captains usually endorsed this method, realizing his men needed to let off steam... We must always bear in mind a command or a detachment small or large with a live wire sports program will always have top morale...

As I pen this column I am hoping more of the Naval Support Activities throughout Vietnam, when operations permit, will be able to follow the spirit demonstrated by the Sa Dec and Vinh Long teams.

## "WE HOPE THE TIGERS STAY HUNGRY"

This corner is hoping the Detroit Tigers won't lose their appetite for the American League flag and will continue to maintain their wide margin lead over the other clubs... Recently in San Francisco this scribe was dining at the famous Lefty O'Doul's restaurant the popular meeting place of some of America's greatest fans and players... As I dug into my prime rib, the topic of who will win the American League pennant came up at the table. The majority at the table, including this scribe, predicted that when the autumn leaves begin to fall on the streets of Detroit, the hungry Tigers will be growling for their World Series meal.

## "TATE HAS TALENT"

In this scribe's opinion SGT. Bob Tate, Sport's Director at the Armed Forces Radio and TV Vietnam Network is a top caster in his field... Although many times this corner and the stocky built commentator have not seen eye to eye on sport issues, I will always respect his opinion... As I see Tate in my sights, I call him a "Thinking Man's Commentator"... This may sound like a popular cigarette advertisement, but it's a perfect description of this talented sports announcer... Fans, in the coming months I will be traveling throughout Vietnam in search of food for this column, but if you have any notes for me just let us know... Well the time has come to secure the pen as the inkwell has run dry... See you all in the next issue.



TRICKY TRANSPORTATION — DMI Jim Chouinard pedals his unicycle down a Saigon street on his way to work at COMNAVFORV headquarters. The stunt evokes expression of mirth on face of the cyclo driver behind him.

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

# Sa Dec Topples Vinh Long

For a change of pace from the war, two Naval Support Activity, Saigon detachments put aside their guns and PBRs for bats and gloves to play a good old American game of softball. The game was played May 26 at Sa Dec, in the heart of the Mekong Delta, and much to the dismay of the visiting Vinh Long team the score wound up 25-9.

The Vinh Long team, comprised of members from River Division 52, River Section 522 and the men from the detachment staff, traveled to Sa Dec by LCM under heavy PBR escort to meet the challenge posed by the Sa Dec team, which consisted of men from River Section 524 and the detachment staff personnel. Spectators from both detachments as well as local Vietnamese arrived on the scene and by game time the crowd had swelled to nearly 200. Once under way, however, the game proved to be a one-sided affair with Sa Dec taking an early lead which it never relinquished. The win was their sixth in a row and upped their unofficial season record to 6-0. After the game a steak fry was held with refreshments. As the Vinh Long team departed, they echoed the famous "Wait until next time" warning and vowed to give a better showing of themselves. Meanwhile, Sa Dec issued a challenge of its own. Said LT. Paul Fenton, Officer-in-Charge, "We'll take on all comers."

## Vietnam's Only Volunteer Firemen



Damage Controlman First Class Robert Hetherington checks equipment on one of the two fire trucks belonging to Naval Support Activity Saigon's detachment Qui Nhon. It is the only known volunteer fire department in Vietnam. Each truck has a five-man crew and carries 600 gallons of water.

Last April the Qui Nhon de-

tachment was notified of a fire aboard an LST moored in the harbor, the Army fire department in the city of Qui Nhon was also notified.

The detachment fire department loaded a truck onto a Mike boat and rigged it while underway across the harbor. They were on the scene and fighting the fire a full ten minutes before the Army's crew arrived.

Hetherington is the "chief" of the fire department. He keeps the trucks operating properly and the men well trained.

The fire department has gone to only four fires in the last eight months, but the trucks are still put to good use hauling water for other detachment needs.

(Official U.S. Navy Photo by JOSN John R. Baker)

## Marine Lends Helping Hand

Ten Vietnamese refugee families are living a little better today, thanks to a Marine.

The 18 adults and 39 children were made homeless by recent Viet Cong attacks on Saigon and outlying areas.

Sergeant Robert J. Franzson noticed some of these families living behind a church. With the aid of a Vietnamese friend, he returned to the church to find out what he could do to help.

After gathering a list of needed supplies, he started contacting his friends and was able

to return with clothes and food for the people.

From his office at the headquarters of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, the 24-year-old sergeant started paper work for money to buy more goods.

The Naval Forces' Community Relations Fund provided funds for 40 cots which Franzson purchased and presented to the refugees.

SGT. Franzson was able to help his new-found friends for only 45 days before he was transferred. "I wasn't able to do enough," he said. "But when I get home, I'll continue to collect clothing to send to these people through the Force Chaplain's Office."



**HAPPINESS IS**—Happiness is many things, but to this little boy it's needed clothing and a pair of shoes. (Official U.S. Navy Photo by J02 James E. Messner)

## Part Time Commandos

Story and Photo By JOSN John R. Baker

You're sitting behind a rock, a bush or a mound of dirt. The night is as dark as pitch and the air is hot and humid. As you look out in front of you, you can see a small valley and the eerie outline of the mountains. You listen carefully to the nocturnal sounds—trying to distinguish and identify them, listening for Viet Cong.

Most sailors never experience anything of this sort, but it's almost a weekend routine for the Ready Reaction Team stationed at Naval Support Activity (NSA), Saigon's detachment Qui Nhon.

The team has been hunting VC since April of this year, usually on weekends, so as not to interfere with their regular daily work load. The team began as a combined volunteer fire department and ready reaction team, but after the Tet Offensive the two were separated and became individual elements. Sometimes patrols are made during the week, but the men still put in a full day's work when they return. They are usually conducted at night, leaving the base at dusk and returning at dawn.

### "THEY HAVE THEIR OWN REASONS"

The team is made up of about thirty men and is run on a two section basis. All are volunteers and anyone may withdraw at any time.

Damage Controlman First Class Robert L. Hetherington, assistant petty officer-in-charge said, "We don't ask the men why they join, they have their own reasons."

Except for weapons training, which is done on a small firing range at the detachment, the men learn their guerrilla skills "OJT"—on the job and have earned the admiration of a local Army Special Forces unit.

### BLENDING IN WITH THE SURROUNDINGS

No deodorants or after-

shave lotions are used before going on patrol since the scent might give them away. Some team members even refuse to take showers—preferring a natural kind of "camouflage".

After mustering at one of the five watchtowers surrounding the base, the team moves into the bush. If the patrol is operating during the daylight hours they search for VC, but at night they set an ambush on one of the many trails that wind through the hills. Some patrols have waited in ambush for as long as 12 hours before contact is made.

A chief boatswain's mate named Nakamoto is the petty officer-in-charge and it is he who decides when and where the patrols go.

The team carries an assortment of weapons: M14s, M16s, Thompson Machine-guns, hand grenades, an M79 grenade launcher and an M60 machinegun.

### STEPPING ON CHARLIE'S TOES

The team has done its job well. Before last April it was not unusual to find the remains of VC camps, even ammunition and food, close to the detachment perimeter.

Said Chief Nakamoto, "Before the patrols started the VC moved men and supplies through the area when ever they wanted, but we have cut down their movements a lot."

Team members take a lot of ribbing, but it's all in fun. Everyone appreciates their work—everyone, that is, except "Charlie."



**PRACTICE**—The men of the Ready Reaction Team practice their shooting at a small firing range.

## JACKSTAFF CO



**REFRESHMENT**—Screen star Yvette Mimieux is quite refreshing.

## ADM Smith Visits PHIBPAC Units

Rear Admiral J.V. Smith, prospective Commander, Amphibious Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, paid a visit to the officers and men of River Assault Flotilla One on May 21 as part of his orientation tour of PHIBPAC units in Vietnam. The Assault Flotilla is the Navy component of the Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force which conducts strike operations against Viet Cong units in the Mekong Delta.

During the Admiral's visit, the assault boats were supporting Army troops in a search and sweep operation in Long An Province 25 miles south of Saigon. After visiting the five ships that act as a floating base for the Force's 3500 soldiers and sailors, the Admiral was taken by helicopter into the area of operations to get a first-hand look at a typical MRF action.

On his trip into the combat zone, the Admiral landed on the Navy's smallest aircraft carrier—a 56-foot armored troop carrier to which a miniature flight deck has been welded. While aboard the mini-carrier, Admiral Smith presented several boat crewmen with awards for heroism in recent MRF battles.

## Taxi for the Troops

Few present day naval officers have participated in even a single close range battle with enemy forces during an entire career. Yet, Lieutenant (junior grade) John P. Collins, Jr. has already led his division of 25 river assault boats through 10 firefights with Viet Cong forces in the Mekong Delta in less than four months.

Collins reported to River Assault Division 92 last November as Chief of Staff Officer. However, when the River Division Commander was killed in action in early March, Collins became the acting commander.

His boat division is part of the Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force which conducts strike operations against Viet Cong guerrillas along the vast network of rivers, streams and canals which interlace the delta.

Collins' first firefight occurred shortly before midnight on January 31, when his boat division was transiting the treacherous Rach Ruong Canal about five miles northeast of Sa Dec. "Suddenly we were being attacked from both banks of the narrow canal (about 50 yards wide) with rockets, recoilless rifle and automatic weapons fire," related the 24-year old lieutenant.

### COULD NOT SEE ENEMY

"We immediately opened fire against an enemy we could not see because of the darkness and because of dense vegetation along the shoreline. However, we could see the flashes made when Charlie fired his weapons and these gave us a target at which to shoot. One of my first concerns was that some of the boats might go aground in the shallow and crooked stream, in which case we might all be trapped in the enemy's front

yard. The fight lasted a good 20 minutes before we were able to maneuver out of the ambush area."

Fortunately only one Navyman was lost in that engagement, probably due to the rugged construction of the river assault craft. All but a few of the boats in the Mobile Riverine Force are World War II LCM-6 landing craft which have been specially reconfigured for close-quarter combat in the delta environs. All are heavily armed and have been equipped with a protective shield of bar trigger armor, a 14-inch layer of styro-foam and a one-inch plate of compressed steel around the original boat hull. Consequently, the craft are able to withstand all but the heaviest armament in the enemy's arsenal.

### RECALLS WORST BATTLE

Collins regards a battle which occurred on April 4, as the most severe engagement in which he has participated.

"We were proceeding up the Ba Lai River and were about to beach a battalion of Army infantry men when the boats of my division came under a heavy rocket attack from both banks of the river," said the U.S. Naval Academy graduate. "In less than a minute 10 of my boats had been hit, including Monitor 92-1, which I was riding."

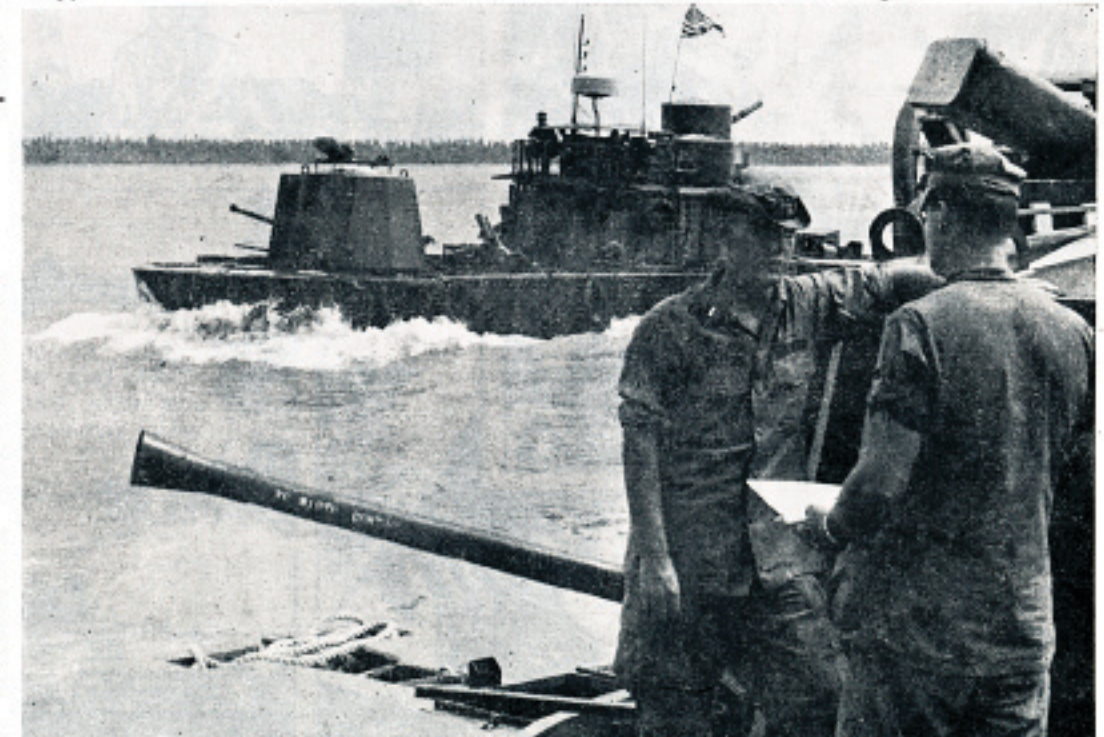
"My boats immediately opened up on the enemy posi-

tions with all of our weapons which included 40mm and 20mm cannons, machine launched grenades, and .50 and .30-caliber machine guns. We completed our mission of beaching the embarked infantrymen who engaged our attackers from positions ashore," he continued.

### REGROUP FOR EVACUATION

As soon as the enemy fire had lifted, Collins ordered his boats to regroup in a relatively safe area so that casualties could be quickly evacuated by helicopter to nearby medical facilities. Three times that day, he had to take his boats back into the ambush area to beach additional troops and to evacuate the Army wounded, as the action ashore was too intense for medical evacuation helicopters to land. On two of the three trips, his boats again came under heavy enemy fire.

As a river assault division commander, Collins believes that his most important tasks in a firefight are to coordinate the fire of his own units and to look out for the safety of the men and his boats. "To minimize our own losses, we must suppress the enemy fire as rapidly as possible and the only way to do this is by overwhelming him with our own firepower. As soon as conditions permit, we provide medical aid to our wounded and make emergency repairs to those boats which have been damaged."



**DISCUSSION**—As a Monitor gunboat passes behind, LTJG Collins discusses an upcoming riverine operation with one of his division's combat sailors. (Official U.S. Navy Photo by ENS J.R. Horne)

# The Betel Nut Smile

By  
CDR R.L. Mole  
Personal Response Officer

Americans serving in the Vietnam countryside will quickly notice the "betel nut smile" which is so obviously different from the "Ipana gleam". The lips and mouth of the betel nut chewer are very red, and the teeth appear to have been coated with black enamel. While "betel chewing" seems to be found largely among the middle-aged and older people, it still is seen frequently enough to create interest in its nature and purpose.

The betel nut is the small fruit of the areca palm. The nut and a leaf of the betel climber, a vine which is usually found growing with the areca palm, and a bit of raw limestone are mixed into a paste. In places such as Da Nang, you may see the user preparing this mixture in a rather small mortar bowl with a pestal. Usually one "chew" is prepared at a time. Sometimes in order to prolong the "chew," tobacco is added.

This mixture creates a red stain which colors the mouth as well as any other spot it touches. Unless forewarned of this colorful habit, when you first see it, you may

think the chewer has a serious chest wound.

While the betel nut smile is predominantly a countryside, village, and low-economic-class affair, occasionally more affluent and better-educated individuals will be seen participating. Continuation of this practice - which seems to be habit forming - turns the teeth black.

Doctors indicate that this "chew" may have some pain killing effects. But a natural question at this point might be, "Which comes first, the betel nut or the pain?" Still, where dentists are so few, this was perhaps an original pain killer.

When Vietnamese villagers seek help from their village mayor (or it may happen when they come to you seeking formal help), they present him with several "chews" or quids of betel as a mark of respect. This is not to be considered a bribe, or even a gift, as the value is too small. Sometimes as little as one betel climber leaf and one areca nut upon a plate are presented. It is understood that the plate will be returned at a later date.

The use of the betel nut "chew," incidentally, is also found in a number of South American countries, particularly among the jungle and mountain people there.

# Elections in September

The following states will hold primary elections in September and October.

September 3; Iowa, Nevada and North Dakota; September 10; Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Arizona, Colorado, Wisconsin

and Virgin Islands; September 11; Georgia; September 17; Massachusetts and Washington; October 5; Hawaii.

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