



COMMANDER RIVER ASSAULT FLOTILLA ONE
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

031/9
CRF-1/NL:hd
5213
Ser: 208
13 MAY 1967

From: Commander River Assault Flotilla ONE
To: Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam

Subj: Command History for April 1967 (NAVFORV 5750-1); forwarding of

Ref: (a) COMNAVFORVINST 5750.1A

Encl: (1) Command History for April 1967

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with the provisions of reference (a).

W. C. WELLS

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COMRIVFLOT ONE/COMRIVSUPPRON SEVEN

COMMAND HISTORY - APRIL 1967

During April, COMRIVFLOT ONE with units of RIVRON NINE and ELEVEN continued to support the 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division in combat riverine operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone, RVN. Embarked as follows:

1-26 April - USS MONTROSE (APA-212)
26-30 April - USS BENEWAH (APB-35)

A RIVFLOT ONE detachment headed by CDR C.H. BLACK, USN, RIVFLOT Operations/Plans Officer, proceeded to Dong Tam on 10 and 11 April. CDR BLACK was designated Task Group Commander (CTG 117.2) for river assault operations staging from Dong Tam. Elements of River Assault Squadron NINE also deployed to Dong Tam in two increments on 10 and 11 April 1967. One CCB and four ATC made transit from Vung Tau to Dong Tam on 10 April, and nine ATC and one VNN Monitor escorted APL-26 and YFNB-24, which were towed by commercial tugs, on 11 April. Initial operations from Dong Tam commenced on 12 April in support of 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry and 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry. Task Group 117.2 operations to date have been primarily of the quick reaction type. Taking advantage of hard intelligence gained from agent reports, elements of TG 117.2 have embarked company sized reaction forces at Dong Tam and transported them to various locations along Mekong River. Riverine Assault Craft conducting these operations normally remain in support of ground forces until they are extracted. This type of operation has proved highly successful to date.

On Sunday, 2 April, the Vietnamese Commandant suffered a near miss from mining. The resulting violent vibration caused considerable structural deterioration, including some main strength members and void bulkheads. This damage was not immediately apparent, but was discovered upon its return to APA.

USS KEMPER COUNTY (LST-854) arrived in Vung Tau 14 April and reported for duty as first Mobile Riverine Force support ship.

The USS BENEWAH (APB-35) arrived at 1315, 22 April 1967. Transfer of the Staff, RAS-11 and Army unit was completed by 26 April 1967.

A conference regarding the medical support for the Mobile Riverine Base was held aboard the USS BENEWAH on 26 April with the following commands being represented:

44th Medical Brigade
68th Medical Group
9th Medical Battalion, 9th Infantry
River Assault Flotilla ONE

Enclosure (1)

After inspection of the helicopter landing facilities and the medical spaces of the ship the Army representatives concluded that the facilities were inadequate for the functioning of a KA type surgical team. They further concluded that the present available medical staff in each APB would be augmented by one partially trained surgeon. Cases requiring definitive surgery as a result of injuries should be evacuated by helicopter to shore based medical facilities. COMRIVFLOT ONE does not concur completely with this position. These recommendations are to be submitted to higher authority for resolution.

USS BENEWAH (APB-35) conducted its first helicopter operations when a U.S. Army HU-1D, piloted by USN LTJG (considered fitting), landed on board on 26 April. BENEWAH was assisted in its initial operations by the helicopter detail of USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST-846). COMRIVFLOT ONE was a confident passenger on the first helicopter take-off from BENEWAH when he departed to attend COMNAVFORV change of command ceremonies in Saigon. On 27 April eight operational landings and take-offs were accomplished and on 28 April an additional six landings and take-offs were successfully completed. A steady stream, day and night since.

On 29 April helicopter MEDEVAC procedures were tested in Vung Tau Harbor utilizing two RIVRON ELEVEN ATCs and a HU-1D MEDEVAC helo from the 436th Air Ambulance Company, Long Binh. Trials were conducted lifting Stokes stretchers from the ATC utilizing winch lifting device installed in the helo. Results indicate that MEDEVAC from ATC in this manner is entirely feasible. Both day and night tests were conducted.

The following is a summarized list of U.S. designed LCM conversions in-country as of 30 April 1967:

RIVRON NINE

C-91-1	T-92-1
M-91-1	T-92-2
M-91-2	T-92-3
T-91-1	T-92-4
T-91-2	T-92-5
T-91-3	T-92-6
T-91-5	T-92-9
T-91-7	T-92-10
T-91-8	T-92-11
T-91-9	T-92-12
	T-92-13

RIVRON ELEVEN

T-111-1
T-111-3
T-111-4
T-112-2
T-112-3
T-112-4
T-112-5
T-112-6