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 FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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Jmc Rev AT 1823  
 T- CO AND Rde 9th Inf  
 CRF-1 DET 30NG TA  
 APL-26  
 CCD-17-DONG TAM

DAILY INTERNAL INFORMATION SUMMARY NO. 03-15  
 THE FLOTILLA SUFFERED THE COSTLIEST DAY IN ITS 13 MONTHS OF OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM THURSDAY AS TWO BOATS WERE DESTROYED--ONE OPERATING WITH COMMANDER RIVER ASSAULT SQUADRON ELEVEN IN I CORPS AND A SECOND INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS WEST OF DONG TAM.  
 ONE CREWMAN WAS KILLED, FIVE ARE MISSING AND ONE WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED WHEN ATC 112-7 HIT AN ESTIMATED 500-POUND MINE WHILE MINE-SWEEPING IN THE THACH HAN RIVER IN I CORPS. THE EXPLOSION FLIPPED THE BOAT UPSIDE DOWN, CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE AND THROWING THE CREW OVERBOARD.

THE BLAST OCCURRED AT 0719 THURSDAY AS THE BOAT WAS MINESWEEPING IN FRONT OF A CONVOY MAKING THE TRANSIT BETWEEN CUA VIET ON THE COAST AND THE SUPPLY CENTER AT DONG HA. HEAVY DAMAGE TO THE BOW AND STARBOARD SIDE LEFT THE BOAT A TOTAL LOSS.

ORIGINAL

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EXACTLY ONE HOUR LATER, ASPB 92-7 WAS SUNK BY ENEMY FIRE AS IT WAS OPERATING WITH A RIVERINE ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE ELEMENT ON THE SAM GIANG RIVER NINE KILOMETERS WEST OF DONG TAM. THE BARE WAS ABLE TO SUPPRESS A BARRAGE OF SMALL ARMS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE, BUT A HOLE ONE FOOT IN DIAMETER WAS OPENED ON THE ASPB'S STERN WHEN IT EITHER RECEIVED A LARGE ROCKET ROUND OR PICKED UP A MINE IN ITS SWEEP GEAR.

THE ASPB'S BOW WAS IMMEDIATELY BEACHED, BUT THE STERN WAS UNDER 15 FEET OF WATER AND THE RISING TIDE EVENTUALLY LEFT THE CRAFT TOTALLY SUBMERGED.

TIDAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA AND THE INABILITY OF THE LIGHT LIFT CRAFT TO PASS BENEATH A LOW BRIDGE AND THE NARROWNESS OF THE STREAM MADE SALVAGE OPERATIONS IMPOSSIBLE. ALL WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT WERE REMOVED FROM THE SUNKEN BOAT, AND IT WAS DESTROYED BY EOD PERSONNEL AT 1826.

MIRACULOUSLY, NO CREW MEMBERS OF THE ASPB WERE INJURED IN THE ATTACK, ALTHOUGH A MEMBER OF FLAMETHROWER-92-5 WAS HIT IN THE ARM WITH A SMALL ARMS ROUND.

IN THE TWO BATTALION SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION, ONE VC WAS KILLED BY GUNSHIPS AND FOUR OTHERS WERE CAPTURED BY ELEMENTS OF 3/68 INFANTRY.

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ONE ARMY INFANTRYMAN WAS KILLED AND TWO OTHERS WERE WOUNDED AT 0840 WHEN THEY WERE HIT BY FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRE. THE ONLY OTHER U.S. CASUALTY OF THE DAY WAS AN INFANTRYMAN WHO WAS WOUNDED WHEN ONE OF OUR OWN GRENADES EXPLODED CLOSE TO HIS POSITION.

THE MRF WENT TO GENERAL QUARTERS AT 0105 THURSDAY WHEN WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE A 57 MM RECOILLESS RIFLE ROUND STRUCK THE HULL OF THE WASHTENAW COUNTY WITHOUT PENETRATING.

THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES AND ONLY MINOR DAMAGE IN THE ATTACK. A BID PATROL REPORTED THAT THE ROUND APPEARED TO ORIGINATE FROM THE NORTH BANK, BUT A LIGHT HELO FIRE TEAM RECONNING THE AREA SPOTTED NO UNUSAL ACTIVITY.

INTERMITTENT TRACER FIRE HAD BEEN REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE MRB FOR 45 MINUTES BEFORE THE RECOILLESS RIFLE ATTACK, BUT NO ROUNDS STRUCK THE SHIPS AND IT IS BELIEVED THIS WAS FIRE FROM A DONG TAN BUNKER RESPONDING TO SNIPER FIRE.

LT. DAVID WYRICK ASSUMED COMMAND OF RIVER DIVISION 92 WEDNESDAY, RELIEVING LT. GEORGE KITCHEN WHO IS COMPLETING NINE MONTHS WITH RIVER SQUADRON NINE. AFTER A 30-DAY LEAVE, LT. KITCHEN WILL RETURN TO COM RIV FLOT ONE AS A MEMBER OF THE FLOTILLA OPERATIONS STAFF.

THE MRF WAS VISITED THURSDAY BY GENERAL EDGAR C. DOLEMAN, DEPUTY

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COMMANDER, U.S. ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC.  
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TOD:1800Z/14 MAR 68/S-S/1823Z/TRC/

SUPVR: *[Signature]*

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