

SWIFT BOATS

We were assisted in our vigilant watch against enemy infiltrators from the sea by many smaller, inshore patrol craft such as the South Vietnamese gunboats, Coast Guard 82-foot patrol boats, and Navy "Swift" Boats. While we were usually assigned to a barrier patrol around ten miles off the coast, and Market Time Aircraft searched the area farther to sea, these fast, shallow draft and highly maneuverable boats randomly searched their respective patrol areas very close to the beach and made river penetration attacks inland in search of the enemy. There are three main means the enemy uses to move or infiltrate troops and supplies: Overland, along the coast line, and directly from the sea. U.S. and South Vietnamese ground forces cover the inland roads and waterways and overland trails, but the bulk of responsibility falls on the waterborne search craft.

