

NHA TRANG, SOUTH VIETNAM
HARBOR DEFENSE BRIEF

11 November 1966

1. This brief has been prepared to acquaint you with some of the measures employed by the U.S. Naval Harbor Defense Unit and some of the measures that should be employed by visiting ships to afford protection to shipping against sneak attacks, pilfering and other illegal activity while anchored in Nha Trang Harbor.

2. Harbor Patrol boats are operated by the U.S. Naval Harbor Defense Unit located in Cau Da and have the following responsibilities:

a. To patrol the Nha Trang anchorage area on a continuous 24 hour basis. Each patrol boat, besides the American crew, also carries one Vietnamese National Policeman, who acts as the civilian authority in making arrests and apprehensions.

b. To insure that only authorized traffic utilizes the anchorage area. All small boats (junks, sampans, fishing craft) will remain clear of all steel hull merchant ships by at least 200 meters.

c. To randomly inspect anchor chains, mooring lines, and water lines of anchored ships and barges.

d. To pass the word concerning impending danger from attack and/or heavy weather.

e. To provide protection to anchored ships from enemy action.

f. To prevent pilfering and other illegal activity in the Harbor.

3. Means of communications available between the Harbor Defense Unit and anchored vessels are:

a. Harbor Common radio circuit - ²⁷¹⁶~~2740~~ KCS.

b. Flashing Light/Semaphore Flags from HEGP tower located at Cau Da.

c. Wave down a Harbor Patrol boat and deliver message verbally.

d. Radio call signs utilized in Nha Trang Harbor are:

MSTS Representative - "Nha Trang Control"

U.S. Naval Harbor Defense Unit - "Control Post"

Alaska Barge and Transport Representative - "Beach TWO"

4. Harbor Security Conditions:

a. will be flown by flag hoist from signal bridge from HECF tower; passed by flashing light; word passed by Harbor Patrol boat and on the Harbor Common radio circuit.

b. The following procedures will be followed in the various security conditions.

(1) WHITE - will exist whenever information indicates the need for unusual precautions to be exercised on the part of vessels anchored in Vietnamese ports:

(a) Post guards on weather decks to watch for approaching swimmers, small boats, drifting objects, and other potential threats to the vessel's security. AP guards are available if requested through the MARS representative.

(b) Keep water line lighted during hours of darkness.

(c) Turn over shaft at random intervals.

(d) Inspect anchor chains at random intervals and prior to weighing anchor.

(2) GREY - will exist in the harbor upon receipt of warning of a disorder where the safety of vessels in the anchorage area is likely to be threatened:

(a) Observe those measures described in Condition WHITE.

(b) Increase the number of guards having at least one forward on either bow and one astern on either quarter.

(c) Detonate concussion grenades, under water, randomly and alongside the hull to force swimmers to abort sabotage missions.

(d) Review the vessel's defensive action plans.

(3) YELLOW - will exist in the harbor when disorders of significance occur which threaten the security of ships in the anchorage area or when an attack has occurred against any of the above:

(a) Observe those measures described in Condition GREY.

(b) Light off boilers and build up sufficient steam to get underway on one hour's notice.

(4) RED - will exist in the harbor when a significant deterioration of internal security within the city limits of Nha Trang, Chutte, Cam Da, or the harbor has taken place or is imminent:

(a) Observe these measures described in Condition YELLOW

(b) Cease cargo operations, secure booms, loose cargo, and hatches.

(c) Set the condition of highest watertight integrity throughout the ship

(d) Standby to weigh anchor and get underway. Stand out of the harbor using the channel as directed by HECF.

c. The following flag hoist signals will be used to denote security conditions in the harbor: (Reference HO 103)

(1) Condition WHITE "Code QMX"

(2) Condition GREY "Code QUD"

(3) Condition YELLOW "Code QYG"

(4) Condition RED "Code MAR"

5. The present security Condition in Nha Trang is _____.

6. The following harbor regulations should be observed by all merchant/men-of-war ships while anchored in Nha Trang Harbor:

a. Do not pump bilges. Do not throw garbage over the side within three miles of the harbor. Do not throw damage into the water.

b. All commercial vessels will anchor at least 100 meters from trawlers, ammunition ships, and POL tankers.

c. Ships anchored in the harbor, not showing anchor lights at night, will be punished and/or fined by the civilian authorities.

d. No ships will anchor within one mile of the beach front where swimmers are present.

7. The U.S. Naval Harbor Defense Unit is ready to serve you at any time of the day or night. Please call us if you require assistance in your defense.

8. Have a pleasant stay in Nha Trang.