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A contract was awarded in June 1967 for a PBR Mobile Base Complex, and in November the barge-like base was installed in Vietnam. (119) This Ammi-Pontoon barge complex, as designed for PBR support, was composed of four sections, each 110 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 7 feet high. These were transported to South Vietnam by LSD and then assembled and positioned where needed near Hue.

The barge complex may be described as follows. It is designed to be a complete facility, capable of maintaining one section of PBR's (10 boats) and their entire crews and meeting all logistic needs. When fully loaded, it has a draft of only 4 feet. It is capable of hoisting and accommodating two PBR's out of the water and on board for repairs, and it has a boat repair shop (engine, electronic, ordnance, and hull) capable of maintaining PBR's for 30 days. The barge complex has boat-engine lift equipment and a battery-charging system. Fuel storage is provided within the pontoons for 700 barrels of diesel fuel, both for barge housekeeping generators and PBR refueling. It also has its own fire-fighting system. Additionally, a water purification system capable of providing 5,000 gallons per day supplements a potable water tank capacity of 120,000 gallons, also within the pontoons. Provision storerooms, chill box, and reefer spaces are designed to handle over 28,000 pounds of food in various forms. Messing, berthing, sick bay, laundry, and head facilities are available for a total of 160 officers and men, 60 of whom are Mobile Base Complex personnel, and air-conditioning is provided in most living, messing, and shop spaces. Provision is also made for space to land one UH-B type helicopter on board in an emergency while another is parked aboard.

Beside providing its own power-generating system, the complex has the capability of serving as a communications center for river patrol operations. Furthermore, the barge complex is equipped with radar, fathometer, and two medium-range night observation devices. Armament consists of four over/under .50-caliber machine guns and 81-mm mortars, as well as four 40-mm grenade launchers and an armory of small-arms weapons. A sprinkled ammunition stowage capability is incorporated in the mobile base, accommodating about 92,000 rounds of the various types of ammunition required by the PBR's and by the complex for base defense purposes. (120)

The mobile base complex was designed to be a shallow-water substitute for shipboard basing and, as such, reflects many of the advantages inherent in the afloat-base concept. On the other hand,

(119) Reference 39.

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by virtue of its ability to be raised up on its own pilings through a simple winching arrangement not requiring mechanical power and to become in a sense a shore installation, it acquired some shore-base advantages. The cost for this installation was in excess of \$2 million, excluding government-furnished equipment or supplies.(121) The utility of this type of basing concept for small patrol boats provides the counterinsurgency planner with another inventory item from which to select his mix. The need for an "instant" and "ready made" base for use in remote areas can now be met, even if draft considerations deny the use of LST support ships.

Provision of Logistical Support

Logistic support of Game Warden river patrol operations was provided by Commander Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Although the four specially configured LST support ships that reported for duty in late 1966 and early 1967 were assigned to the Amphibious Force, repair ships, such as USS TUTUILA (ARG4), and the ARL's, which from time to time provided some Game Warden support, were ComServPac ships. Five additional ARL's are presently being recommissioned and fitted out as PBR repair ships. The Naval Support Activity, Saigon, established in May 1966, served as the logistic support activity for the II, III and IV Corps areas in South Vietnam. Various detachments of this command were set up where shore bases were needed, and every form of logistic service required by the PBR's was supposed to be performed by these detachments. Since NSA, Saigon was a subordinate command of ComServPac, all the PBR shore bases in the Mekong Delta thus were administered by ComServPac, although operationally under ComNavForV.

The maintenance concept for Game Warden was hammered out at a conference in which ComPhibPac and ComServPac agreed that ComServPac was to be responsible for all levels of PBR maintenance other than in emergencies. Superimposed upon the maintenance concept was a commitment on the part of ComServPac to provide Game Warden with the complete spectrum of services for base administration (cantonment, personnel, clerical, discipline), base security, communications, disbursing, maintenance, and medical, dental, and supply support. Also at the conference, previously approved Game Warden maintenance personnel were reallocated to ComServPac. (122)

(121) Reference 39
(122) Reference 41

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