

8/4/67

NATIONAL POLICE

RIVER POLICE FORCE

HISTORY, COMPOSITION, DISTRIBUTION, DEVELOPMENT

The National Police River Police Force received its first group of 350 volunteers from the National Police during mid-1965. They were assembled and commenced training for Marine Police work at the River Assault Group Training facility, Trai Cuu Long, Thi Nghe, Saigon.

On November 26, 1965, twelve 36 foot, LCPL craft were received in Vietnam under purchase arrangements of the Public Safety Division, USAID, Saigon. These craft were turned over to the River Police Force for training and shakedown cruises.

During February 1966, a Commanding Officer was assigned by the National Police to the River Police after being detached by the GVN from the VN Navy. He is Lt. CDR. Nguyen Kim Huong Giang.

On Washington's Birthday, a U.S. Holiday, February 22, 1966, the River Police Force was formally commissioned when the twelve LCPL craft were turned over to the National Police by Mission Director Mann. Colonel Pham van Lieu, then Director General National Police received the vessels on behalf of the GVN.

During 1966 28 16-foot assault boats were added to the growing fleet of the River Police. These craft are powered by 35 H.P. Mercury Outboard Engines.

In July 1966, using a temporary shelter and moorings at Can Tho, four LCPLs and four assault boats together with 60 River Police personnel commenced operations of one mobile marine checkpoint on the Bassac River.

This checkpoint has continued to function almost continuously during daylight hours for one year. Its results have been considered satisfactory and its efficiency is improving steadily. This daylight checkpoint supplements the US Navy Game Warden Resources Control Operations at night on the Bassac and Mekong Rivers.

Commencing during mid-1966 River Police were assigned to the Game Warden Operation to assist in the boarding activities (visit and search) by those craft. By Spring of 1967 the number of these River Police so assigned had attained its present level of 60 men. The PBRs normally operate in pairs with one River Policeman aboard the

craft engaged in boarding operations.

During 1967 the River Police Force will expand to 1500 men, 50 patrol boats, 100 assault and interceptor boats and five operating bases. All of these facilities and personnel will be in the Third and Fourth Regions. None are located in either Region I or II at present nor will any be assigned to either Region I or II during 1967 so far as can be determined now.

During 1968 and 1969 the River Police Force will increase to 20 Bases, 3500 men, eighty-eight patrol boats, 15 utility boats (30') and 180 assault and interceptor boats. Of the 20 Bases, 10 will be located in Regions I and II, the balance in Regions III and IV.

PSD Advisors to the River Police Force at present are:

- William H. Snyder, Senior Maritime Advisor, Saigon
- Arthur A. Atkinson, Maritime Advisor, Saigon
- Ashton M. Craig, Maritime Advisor, Saigon
- Arthur A. McWilliams, Maritime Advisor, Can Tho
- Jack Campbell, Maritime Advisor, Saigon

*- Wm T. Rawland, Mar. Adv., Saigon (Br.)*

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As of 25 July, 1967 the actual distribution of River Police was as follows:

1. Headquarters and Training Base, Trai Cuu Long, Thi Nghe, Saigon	448
2. Long Xuyen Section Base	79
3. Game Warden, Navy PBR Operation in the Mekong Delta	62
4. My Tho Section Base	68
5. Can Tho Section Base	106
6. Miscellaneous Training Bases, Frogmen, etc.	165
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Total on Board	928

The above figures and distribution indicate the activation of Section Bases at My Tho and Long Xuyen during July 1967 subsequent to the period covered in the preceding two pages of this paper.

At this date, 4 August, 1967 the final Architectural and Engineering planning is reaching completion for the Headquarters, Training and Repair Base at Phu Xuan, Nha Be District. This River Police Base will eventually accommodate upwards of 750 men engaged in such tasks as Administration and Operational control of the River Police organization; maintenance and repair of boats and vessels; instruction and training of River Police Personnel in seamanship, ordnance, drills, law enforcement, boat handling, maintenance and repair of marine engines; and all other activities related to the efficient discharge of duties required of the service.

Ten 40 foot Police Patrol Boats have been delivered in country since April 1967 and 6 more are about to be offloaded from the transporting freighter in Saigon Harbor within a few days.

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8/5/67