

PBRs Break Up VC Lunch Break

A few stray sniper shots recently led river patrol boat (PBR) crewmen of the 458th Transportation Company and 127th MP Company, to the discovery of a cache of Viet Cong documents, weapons and medical supplies near Qui Nhon harbor.

The PBR was on routine patrol in busy Qui Nhon harbor during an early afternoon when a sniper on the nearby shore fired about 15 rifle rounds at the vessel.

"In our investigation, we went about a mile up a nearby slough until we found what looked like a small bunker complex on the shoreline," Sgt Terry Cumberland, crewmember, explained.

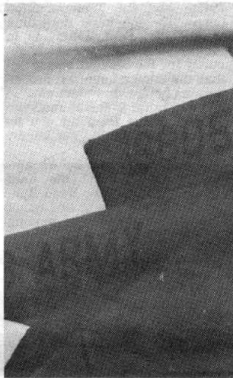
Joined by another PBR, the craft went about 100 meters past the bunkers where the crewmen spotted two Vietnamese men near the complex.

The waterborne MPs approached the bank of the slough and spotted small packets of food. "I guess we surprised them on their lunch break," Cumberland commented.

"We found the bundles the enemy dropped which contained

documents. We also picked up a couple of fragmentation grenades and pistol belt."

The documents were turned over to intelligence authorities.



Preparing for an Operation Over of the 720th MP Battalion and pilot Duso were on such an overflight above story).

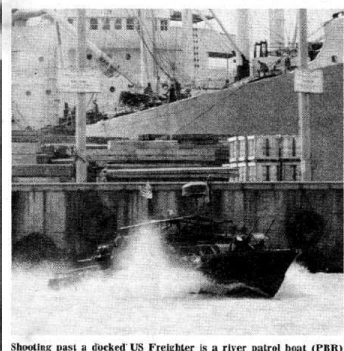
93rd Launches Five Patrol Boats To Keep Qui Nhon Harbor Secure

The MP's "fleet" is growing rapidly. And the reason is the increased commitments of river and port security that the MPs have assumed.

In the newest commitment, Military Policemen of the 93rd

MP Battalion have recently assumed the responsibility of keeping the inner portion of the third busiest harbor in Vietnam secure.

In November MPs from the 127th MP Company, began providing security for the inner harbor at Qui Nhon when they launched five river patrol boats (PBRs) into action. These PBR patrols supplement the MP's previous mission of providing security for ships docked in the harbor.



Shooting past a docked US Freighter is a river patrol boat (PBR) from the 127th MP Company, 93rd MP Battalion. This boat and four others like it were recently launched into action to safeguard ships in Qui Nhon Bay. The PBRs supplement the MP ship security teams which board the ships and stand watch until the vessels leave port.

The PBRs constantly patrol the port of Qui Nhon in pairs, to intercept Viet Cong who may attempt to cross the harbor in sampans to supply their comrades. The PBRs also provide security for ammunition ships in harbor and set up ambushes in the swampy shore for VC infiltrators.

To cut the VC supply lines, the patrolers, led by the Quan Canh or Canh Sat, board and search suspect Vietnamese sampans and fishing vessels. They not only look for VC weapons and supplies but also stolen US property.

To prevent "Charlie" from getting too close to US installations, PBRs set up night ambushes in likely infiltration routes near the shore.

The PBRs have the firepower to cope with almost anything "Charlie" has to offer. Each carries twin electric firing .50 caliber machine guns at the bow and a conventional .50 caliber machine gun at the stern.

Before the use of the PBRs the only MP security of the harbor was provided by four policemen who boarded the ships as they arrived in the port, and kept a constant, 24 hour watch.

Viet Cong Bombard 66th, But MPs Repel Attackers

Military Policemen of the 66th MP Company, 93rd MP Battalion, repulsed a savage enemy attack on their compound recently, killing two VC and capturing a large amount of explosives.

An estimated squad of Viet Cong swarmed the company's area near Qui Nhon with rockets, hand grenades, satchel charges and automatic rifle fire which destroyed the NCO club and damaged defense towers on the perimeter.

"The attack began about 6:30 when a B-40 rocket was fired at the base of one of the defense towers," said the company First Sergeant Harold E. Minton. "Then they fired about five or six more rockets at us which damaged other towers. One hit

the NCO club and set it on fire." Specialist Four, David R. Carpenter, a tower guard, was the first to spot and fire on the attackers. Meanwhile, the commander of relief, Sergeant Rodger Albritton, went through barracks sounding the alarm.

"I was in the orderly room when I heard the explosions. I ran outside and saw the club hit and burning rapidly so I ran inside the building because I thought the club manager might have been in there."

"The manager was gone but there was a Vietnamese boy who worked in the club still in there but I got him out just before another grenade hit."

"Then I ran into the barracks," Albritton continued,

"got the men, hit the perimeter and opened up in the direction of the incoming A-K fire. Then I took four men over towards where the initial attack had begun to help the guys in the defense towers."

Private First Class Richard Hinkley, a Military Policeman from Roxbury, New York, was in one of the towers and had three VC pinned down in the brush with his automatic rifle. Hinkley pointed their location to Albritton who sent for some hand grenades.

"When I got the grenades," the sergeant said, "we went down to the perimeter wall and got as close to the enemy as we could. Then I threw the grenades. The first one was a little off-center but the other two were right in there."

1SG Minton added that there was no more incoming fire after Albritton's grenades went off. "After the fight, flare ships flew over the area," the first sergeant continued, "and we saw two dead VC lying where the grenades had exploded. The next morning the ARVN's swept the area and found several blood trails."

He also said they found three B-40 rockets, 20 hand grenades, two satchel charges and a bag containing three AK-47 magazines, and a first aid packet just outside the perimeter.

"We searched our own area and found several grenades and a satchel charge which we sent jugged right away," the first sergeant said.

Several days earlier, a river patrol boat (PBR) of the 17th MP Company, 62d MP Battalion and the 48th Transportation Company, destroyed an explosive-laden Viet Cong sampans lurking through the dense jungle marshes of the shoreline in nearby Qui Nhon Harbor.

A spotter plane flying overhead sighted the VC vessel and radioed the enemy position to the PBR. The patrol boat sped to the site and crewmembers shouted warnings to the sampans. The warnings went unheeded so the PBR opened fire.

A grenade from the Honeywell grenade launcher struck the sampans causing a large secondary explosion.

PBRs in Vung Tau Foil Sabotage Try

River patrol boat MPs from the 560th Military Police Company and crewmembers from the 48th Transportation Company, both of the 93d Military Police Battalion, detained enemy suspects during a daring communist attempt to blow up De Long Pier and ships at the sub-port of Vung Tau.

About 1:20 a.m. a PBR patrolling Vung Tau Port received an urgent call from the MP desk at Vung Tau that there were reports of saboteurs swimming in the vicinity of De Long Pier. The PBR manned by two men from the 48th Trans. Company, coxswain Spec. 4 Donald D. Owens and engineer, Spec. 4 Charles W. Kempfer, Jr. and two 560th MPs, Spec. 4 Ronald L. Craft and Spec. 4 Robert W. Groff rushed to the scene.

"As we were circling the area with the PBR we saw a swimmer in the water but he dived under the water and we lost him. We threw concussion grenades and one of them landed

close enough to push him up to the surface again," said Groff.

Owens guided the boat over to the swimmer and Groff pulled him out of the water while Craft covered him. Craft said, "I wasn't going to take any chances with this guy — I couldn't see his other hand, but he knew he was going to get on the boat one way or another. He was smart under the circumstances, he got on the boat." The suspect was turned over to an MP unit on shore.

The search was still on and the PBR was joined by another PBR manned by 458th coxswain Spec. 5 Robert S. Elliot, Jr., 458th engineer Pfc. William F. Harris and 560th MPs Spec. 4 John Jensen from Phoenix, Arizona and Pfc. Howard V. Krawatsky.

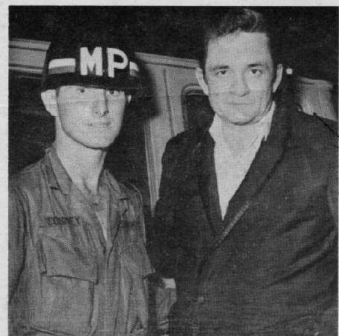
The first PBR had let their two MPs off on the pilings under the pier while Spec. 4 Owens covered them with his M-16. Then they heard shots. The other PBR had spotted another swimmer.

While Pfc. Krawatsky was working the searchlight on the boat, Spec. 4 Jensen and Pfc. Harris spotted the enemy hiding in the water between the two boats. "I fired two shots close to the man to bring him out, but I guess he still thought he was going to escape because he didn't come out," said Pfc. Krawatsky. Then he and Pfc. Harris dropped concussion grenades at a safe distance around the suspect to convince him he was not going to get away by diving under the boats.

Spec. 4 Jensen dropped a rope to the man but he wouldn't take it. "It was then I saw he had a .45 pistol and I shouted for everyone to stand back. Then I untied the ropes and pulled the two boats he was hiding between apart and there he was," said Spec. 4 Jensen. At that moment one of the concussion grenades landed close enough to knock the pistol out of the suspect's hand. The man was convinced. Specialists Craft and Groff pulled him out of the water while being covered by Jensen.

Later that same day an EOD team found two explosive devices.

MP Guards Cash — Johnny, That Is



Private First Class James R. Seavy of Company C, 72nd MP Battalion, escorts Country-Western singing star Johnny Cash during the entertainer's recent appearance at Long Binh Post.

Fire

fine Vietnamese boy, are doing well."

Because of his quick actions in evacuating the patients and assisting in the delivery, Sgt. Jolly was presented an immediate award of the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service by Brig. Gen. Darrie H. Richards, Commanding General of the Qui Nhon Support Command.

ter Roundup

paper is thicker this month, it-page operation. This means, digger—but whether it's better. You see, the reason for the nits in the brigade their proper u come in. If you know some-4 your battalion correspondent re any interesting photographs could be glad to have them and turned). So if you think that in the ROUNDUP, here's your t.

92nd Throws 'River



"Hey Joey! You're supposed to salute with your right hand," says a member of Joey Eishop travelling troupe. Security Guard, SP4 Fred W. Howard of Company C, 87th Infantry, 52nd MP Battalion was there to keep "Charlie" from breaking up the party.

MP on Friendship Kick

opened up on them with small arms. We had three boats and one of them was getting shot at, so we turned the .50 caliber machine guns on them and the incoming fire stopped."

The boats pulled out for several air strikes and artillery barrages. Then the boats moved back in and the MPs swept the area. They found food, ammunition, a .45 caliber U.S. pistol, and communist propaganda leaflets.

After the battle, elements of the Port Security Team of the

5th Transportation Command, including the local MP unit, searched the area. They found the 10 VC bodies within a 200-meter radius of where the attack occurred. The sweep also disclosed that 20 other enemy bunkers had been heavily damaged.

First Lieutenant Larry Bryan, officer in charge of the PBR detachment in Qui Nhon, said that in addition to 10 VC being killed, 13 sampans, 10 bunkers, 10 sleeping areas and a kitchen were destroyed.

While On Harbor Patrol

MPs Kill 10 VC In Qui Nhon



Military Police Take to Water

SP4 Richard Shain

As four Viet Cong maneuver their sampans across a mangrove swamp, an Air Force forward air controller zooms overhead. The pilot radios the location, and in minutes three Army river patrol boats (PBRs) appear on the scene. More enemy emerge from concealed bunkers and begin to slip away. Raking the enemy position with grenades and machinegun fire, the PBRs maneuver around sandbars and mudflats to pursue the VC through hostile fire and dangerously shallow water. After the action, 10 enemy lay dead on the river bank.

Part of the joint team which sweeps South Vietnam's many rivers, the 18th Military Police Brigade's 458th Transportation Company (PBR) is one of the reasons why VC can no longer roam freely through the country's rivers and harbors.

Mission of the PBRs is to provide security for vessels docked in port; they also act as patrol and escort vessels, and participate in tactical operations when needed. Working in 12-hour shifts, the boats provide



around-the-clock security. After each shift the crews spend additional hours cleaning equipment and preparing for the next assignment.

On Patrol. Every day the PBRs encounter new situations and problems. As PBR 3009 emerges from a river adjoining Qui Nhon harbor, SP4 Jesse DuShane, senior MP aboard, spots two large sampans across the harbor, in an area not usually frequented by fishing vessels. In less than a minute the boat is across the harbor and closing on the sampans. While the crew drops anchor, the MPs signal the sampans to pull alongside.

ARMY DIGEST



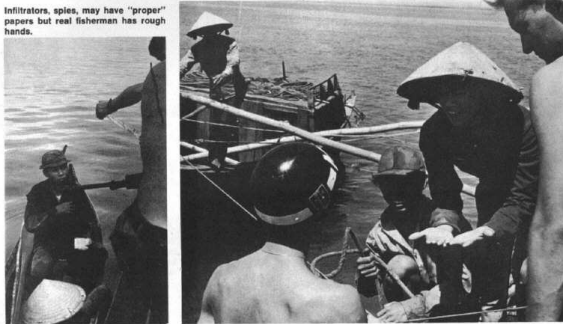
As the fishermen present their identification papers, one MP stands guard while another inspects the documents. One young boy aboard says that he is 14 years old but he has the physical build of a 20-year-old. His papers say that he is the son of a village chief and is authorized to carry weapons and hand grenades to defend his village. What is he doing on the fishing boat? . . . The MP's ask to see the palms of his hands. A fisherman's hands are rough and calloused; the boy's hands are smooth. A National Policeman is called to question the boy, and the MP's suspicions are confirmed. Another suspected VC infiltrator is detained.

**...new situations
and problems
are encountered
every day...**



**Under watchful eye of
forward machinegunner,
fishing sampan approaches
river patrol boat.**

Infiltrators, spies, may have "proper" papers but real fishermen has rough hands.



Speedy Boats. PBRs are ideally suited for their Vietnam mission. These 31-foot fiberglass boats are powered by twin 120-horsepower diesel engines and use a "jet-type" power system instead of the traditional propeller. By taking water into the craft's power system and expelling it at rates up to 47,000 gallons-per-minute, they can reach speeds of 35mph. Highly maneuverable, the craft can make a high speed 180 degree turn or come to a dead stop within its own length.

Each boat is armed with three .50 caliber machineguns and a 40mm grenade launcher. The four-man crews consist of an engineer and a power boat operator from the 458th Transportation Company and two MPs from the 18th Military Police Brigade.

1LT Larry Bryan of Zolfo Springs, Florida, Commanding Officer of the PBR Detachment in Qui Nhon, has high praise for the men. "All of the PBR crews

work extremely long and strenuous hours; they are on the docks or in their boats 14 to 15 hours a day. Often they will volunteer to work an extra 12-hour shift if enemy contact is imminent. The crews have developed into an extremely effective fighting team.

Whenever land forces call for support, the PBRs close in to intercept or detain suspected Viet Cong as they attempt to escape in sampans. At night the crews use starlight scopes and other detection devices to spot clandestine movements.

SP5 Edward Dino, a forward machine gunner, expresses the feelings of many of the men who serve on the PBRs: "We often put in long hours, but no one really minds. Everyone on the boat is a volunteer. We enjoy our job because we know we are seriously hurting the Viet Cong's efforts in the harbor area." **AM**

ARMY DIGEST

Port Gets New Craft

QUI NHON — With the introduction of five new craft, the harbor defense forces here have taken on new dimensions.

Armed with three .50 caliber machineguns, a 40mm grenade launcher, and operated by a four-man crew, the new river patrol boats, popularly called PBR's, constantly protect the harbor facility here.

Operated by the 458th Transportation Company, the 31-foot fiberglass boats are powered by twin 120-horsepower, six-cylinder diesel engines and use a revolutionary power system instead of the traditional screw type propeller.

The lack of a propeller system enables the craft to travel in shallow water.



Crew members ride the bow of one of Qui Nhon Support Command's new river patrol boats as the craft, staffed by men from the 18th MP Brigade and the 458th Transportation Company, patrols an inlet in the harbor.

While On Harbor Patrol

MPs Kill 10 VC In Qui Nhon

QUI NHON (USA) — Ten Viet Cong were killed recently in a battle with waterborne military policemen on the shores of Qui Nhon harbor.

River Patrol Boats (PBRs) from the 458th Transportation Company, 18th MP Brigade, their crews augmented by MPs from the 127th MP Company, 93rd MP Battalion, tangled with an enemy group of unknown size in the swamp surrounding the harbor.

"We were patrolling the harbor near the shore," said Specialist 4 Wayne Staples, "and a spotter plane was overhead." The aircraft spotted movement near the bank and radioed the position to the boats.

A Canh Sat (National Policeman) said that the movement was caused by VC. The MPs told them to come out and surrender. "The VC ran," continued Specialist Staples. "We

opened up on them with small arms. We had three boats and one of them was getting shot at, so we turned the .50 caliber machine guns on them and the incoming fire stopped."

The boats pulled out for several air strikes and artillery barrages. Then the boats moved back in and the MPs swept the area. They found food, ammunition, a .45 caliber U.S. pistol, and communist propaganda leaflets.

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458th PBR Men Find Huge Mine

A huge 300 pound mine, discovered in the early morning hours, tied to the anchor chain of the giant Shell Oil Company tanker USS Aiuco anchored near the Nha Be docks, was removed from the tanker and safely towed away by a river patrol boat (PBR) from the 458th Transportation Company (PBR), 18th MP Brigade.

Spec. 4 Herman D. Roe, a security guard aboard the PBR described the incident: "We were coming down the river about 5 a.m. when we were signaled by a flashing light coming from personnel on the tanker who had spotted the mine tied on their anchor chain. They were shouting at us too, but we couldn't hear them over the noise of our own engines. We got the PBR close to the tanker and took the mine in tow. We pulled it out into the middle of the river with intentions of blowing it up.

"When we saw how big the mine was we decided against exploding it and called a Navy ordnance disposal team to come and take it off our hands."

May 11, 1968

'New' Unit To Patrol All RVN Waterways

CAM RANH BAY. (1st LOG-10)—The 1st Logistical Command's 458th Transportation Company at Cam Ranh Bay has been reorganized and will be the first Transportation Corps' River Patrol Boat Company in the U.S. Army.

The company will have the important task of providing security on rivers, coastal waterways, and ports from the I Corps area through the IV Corps.

Captain Edward F. Ginsburg has been selected to command the 458th Transportation Company, which will move its headquarters to the Vung Tau area and be assigned to the 18th Military Police Brigade.

A number of the main line of patrol crafts for the new unit arrived at Cam Ranh Bay recently. It is the Mark II, a twin-engine diesel-powered, 31-foot, fiberglass boat. It uses the water-jet propulsion system

instead of a propeller and rudder.

The Mark II has some armor plating for protection, and is armed with light and heavy machineguns and grenade launchers. A few will be carrying a deck gun of undisclosed size.

In talking about the unit's new mission of guarding all 1st Logistical Command ports and water-borne operations, in addition to providing security elsewhere, Ginsburg said, "We have a highly trained and select group of men from both the Transportation Corps and the Military Police Corps to accomplish our mission. Most of them were specially trained for this type work."



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"The Spirit of '76"

ARMY DIGEST
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