

MESSAGE FROM THE CREW...

The crew takes pleasure in welcoming you aboard this craft, a part of the coastal riverine forces, one of the newest and most versatile organizations in the United States Navy.

Although this organization and the craft are new, developed for use in Southeast Asia, the history and tradition of the coastal riverine forces began with the Revolutionary War in the Battle of Lake Champlain. During the War of 1812, the Battle of Lake Erie and the Defense of Washington and New Orleans were coastal riverine operations. Lesser known use of the U. S. Navy coastal riverine forces include the daring inland waterway raids in open longboats to rout the Caribbean pirates in the 1820s, and the Florida waterways battles in the Seminole and Creek Wars of the 1830s. During the Civil War, battles were fought on nearly every navigable inland waterway and were frequently decisive factors in the outcome of the land battles. In the twentieth century, aside from the famous Yangtze River Patrol of the 1930s, the U. S. Navy had little involvement in coastal riverine warfare. Our latest need developed in the 1960s; to patrol the 4,000 miles of Mekong Delta waterways and provide surveillance of the over 1,000 miles of Vietnam coastline.

Now that the coastal riverine forces are no longer required abroad, they are being maintained here in the United States in a ready status in case they are needed again. There are two Coastal River Squadrons, located in Little Creek, Virginia, and San Diego, California. Reporting to the squadrons are three Divisions located at Great Lakes, Illinois, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Vallejo, California. These forces are U. S. Navy fleet units, operating with other fleet units in some cases, and in others, conducting training for the Naval Reservists who make up a large portion of the crews.

While the boats shown here represent the primary types of craft in use, there are numerous others assigned to the squadrons such as Patrol Gunboats (PG), Armored Troop Carriers (ATC), Patrol Hydrofoils (PH), and a new, larger PCF, designated Patrol Boat (PB).

We're proud to continue the tradition of the United States Navy riverine forces - we hope you find them as interesting as we do.

BE SPECIAL

WELCOME ABOARD



GO NAVY