



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Gamewardens of Vietnam Association, Inc., Mid Atlantic Chapter**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2006

### **Vietnam Vets to Rededicate Monument and Vietnam-Era River Patrol Boat at Little Creek Amphibious Base**

***Note to editors:** Media crews wishing to attend this event must contact the Gamewardens of Vietnam Association, Mid Atlantic Chapter, Public Affairs Officer (Larry Weatherall – [lweatherall@cox.net](mailto:lweatherall@cox.net)) by no later than 6 p.m., Wednesday, July 20, 2006.*

NORFOLK, VA. – The Gamewardens of Vietnam Association, Inc., primarily composed of Vietnam-era PBR (Patrol Boat, River) and other Brown Water Navy veterans, will rededicate a monument to fallen shipmates and a refurbished Mark One (MK I) PBR at Little Creek Amphibious Base Little Creek on Friday, July 21.

***Media wishing to attend the ceremony must meet a Gamewardens representative at Little Creek Amphibious Base, Friday, July 21 at 12:15 p.m.***

Members of Task Force 116, also known as “Gamewardens”, patrolled the numerous rivers, canals and Mekong River Delta of South Vietnam during the conflict. These boat crews denied the Viet Cong use of the maritime environment and helped ensure legitimate trade.

The task force included two recipients of the Medal of Honor, 14 recipients of the Navy Cross and numerous recipients of Silver Stars, Bronze Stars and Purple Hearts. Veterans of Task Force 116 established the Gamewardens of Vietnam Association, Inc. in 1968.

The units used River Patrol Boats, or PBRs, in their missions. The PBRs were outfitted with a twin .50 caliber machine gun mount forward, a single .50 caliber machine gun aft, carried a light machine gun midships and a 40-millimeter grenade launcher. The MK1 PBR, with a draft of only 12 to 18 inches while dead in the water, could reach speeds of up to 25 knots and operate in as little as nine inches of water while patrolling rivers, canals and the waters of the Mekong Delta.

The Naval Historical Center in Washington, D.C. stored the PBR until 2002 when it was moved, under the auspices of the Gamewardens of Vietnam Association, Inc., to the amphibious base at Little Creek where it was refurbished and put on display.