

## **From VA's Jan 2010 Comp and Pension bulletin**

### **Policy (211)**

#### **Information on Vietnam Naval Operations**

Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service has initiated a program to collect data on Vietnam naval operations for the purpose of providing regional offices with information to assist with development in Haas related disability claims based on herbicide exposure from Navy Veterans. To date, we have received verification from various sources showing that a number of offshore "blue water" naval vessels conducted operations on the inland "brown water" rivers and delta areas of Vietnam. We have also identified certain vessel types that operated primarily or exclusively on the inland waterways. The ships and dates of inland waterway service are listed below. If a Veteran's service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through military records during the time frames specified, then exposure to herbicide agents can be presumed without further development.

All vessels of Inshore Fire Support [IFS]  
Division 93 during their entire Vietnam tour  
USS Carronade (IFS 1)  
USS Clarion River (LSMR 409) [Landing Ship,  
Medium, Rocket]  
USS Francis River (LSMR 525)  
USS White River (LSMR 536)

All vessels with the designation LST [Landing  
Ship, Tank] during their entire tour  
[WWII ships converted to transport supplies on  
rivers and serve as barracks for brown water  
Mobile Riverine Forces]

All vessels with the designation LCVP [Landing  
Craft, Vehicle, Personnel] during their entire  
tour

All vessels with the designation PCF [Patrol  
Craft, Fast] during their entire tour  
[Also called Swift Boats, operating for enemy  
interdiction on close coastal waters]

All vessels with the designation PBR [Patrol  
Boat, River] during their entire tour  
[Also called River Patrol Boats as part of the  
Mobile Riverine Forces operating on inland  
waterways and featured in the Vietnam film  
"Apocalypse Now"]

USS Ingersoll (DD-652) [Destroyer] [Operated  
on Saigon River, October 24-25, 1965]

USS Mansfield (DD-728) [Destroyer] [Operated  
on Saigon River August 8-19, 1967 and  
December 21-24, 1968]

USS Richard E. Kraus (DD-849) [Destroyer]  
[Operated on coastal inlet north of Da Nang,  
June 2-5, 1966, protecting Marines holding a  
bridge]

USS Basilone (DD-824) [Destroyer] [Operated  
on Saigon River, May 24-25, 1966]

USS Hamner (DD-718) [Destroyer] [Operated  
on Song Lon Tao and Long Song Tao Rivers,  
August 15-September 1, 1966]

USS Conway (DD-507) [Destroyer] [Operated  
on Saigon River, early August 1966]

USS Fiske (DD-842) [Destroyer] [Operated on  
Mekong River, June 16-21, 1966]

USS Black (DD-666) [Destroyer] [Operated on  
Saigon River, July 13-19, 1966]

USS Providence (CLG-6) [Cruiser, Light,  
Guided Missile] [Operated on Saigon River 3  
days during January 1964]

USS Mahan (DLG-11) [Guided Missile Frigate]  
[Operated on Saigon River October 24-28, 1964]

USS Okanogan (APA-220) [Attack Transport]  
[Operated on Saigon River July 22-23, 29-30,  
1968 and August 5-6, 1968]

USS Niagara Falls (AFS-3) [Combat Stores  
Ship] [Unloaded supplies on Saigon River and  
Cam Rahn Bay, April 22-25, 1968]