

# EXTRACT

transferred to the Naval Communication Station, Cam Ranh Bay. Prior to leaving Da Nang, Ensign LOPEZ conducted over 20 RPS Training Visits; which included visits to all USMC and USN RPS accounts in MR I. His outstanding supervision of the detachment's disestablishment and coordination of the transfer of resources and responsibilities to NAVCOMMSTA Cam Ranh Bay, allowed In-country COMSEC functions to continue without interruption during this period.

Shortly after assuming his duties at COMSEC 706 he recommended the establishment of a course in proper communications security practices and procedures for USN advisors and other Navy personnel required to utilize tactical communications equipments in the RVN. Through knowledge gained by visiting forward units and observing riverine operations he developed the learning objectives and curriculum outline for the course. Through his expert guidance a comprehensive course, designed to be presented within 3 days, was developed covering transmission security, physical security, radiotelephone procedure, radio-wave propagation, authentication, the VC/NVA threat to communications, and the proper use of OPCODES, callsign systems, tactical communications and voice crypto equipments. The establishment of the course was approved by COMNAVFORV and the first class was convened on 17 August 1970 at CTF 116 Headquarters, Binh Thuy. To provide additional training to advisory personnel the course was introduced at ATSB Dong Tam on 13 October 1970, and at LSB Nha Be on 18 January 1971. Deputy COMNAVFORV in his message 110954Z Sep 1970, SA CATF 211 in his message 270627Z Nov 1970, and CTF 116 in his message 100225Z Jan 1971 commended the course content, quality of instruction, and recognized the necessity for the indefinite continuance of the course for the continued betterment of In-country COMSEC posture in the operating forces.

In August 1970 COMNAVFORV directed COMSEC 706 to conduct a COMSEC Survey of the RSSZ (Rung Sat Special Zone) to assist CTG 116.9 in isolating communications insecurities and provide recommendations for improvement. Ensign LOPEZ directed the survey and provided his professional guidance in the development of the survey report. Although the survey revealed weaknesses in several areas of RSSZ operations, the most significant insecurities discovered were the use of a checkpoint/mile-marker reference system by USN units and merchant vessels transiting the Long Tau shipping channel and unnecessary parallel reporting by USN and VNN personnel. CTF 116.9 adopted the majority of the recommendations contained in the report including the elimination of the checkpoint/mile-marker system and parallel reporting.

In November 1970 Ensign LOPEZ proposed a COMSEC survey of CTG 116.7 (HAL-3) communications. While the possibility of conducting the survey was being investigated, CINCPACFLT tasked COMSEC 706 to assist in a CINCPAC OPSEC Survey of Naval Air Operations in the RVN. Mr. LOPEZ's proposal was expanded and utilized as the COMSEC input to the OPSEC Survey. Ensign LOPEZ participated in conducting the survey during Nov-

Finished File Pers E243