

Army Lawyers Are Chosen for Trial of Berets

vilian trial experience, he has handled murder cases since he became an Army lawyer in 1965. A law graduate of the University of Iowa, he served on legal staffs with the 7th Army and the Army's European headquarters in Germany. He arrived in Vietnam earlier this year.

LONG BINH, Vietnam (AP) —The U.S. Army has selected two military lawyers with no civilian courtroom experience to prosecute the first Green Beret murder trial against some of the toughest legal talent in the United States.

The Army today announced the selection of Maj. Richard P. Runke, 33, of Chicago, and Capt. Thomas C. Warren, 28, of Wenatchee, Wash., as trial counsel and assistant trial counsel.

They will present the Army's case against three Special Forces captains scheduled for general court-mar-

tial Oct. 20 on charges of murdering a Vietnamese who reportedly was a double agent.

RUNKE AND Warren are members of the Army's staff judge advocate corps at this headquarters base 15 miles northeast of Saigon where six Special Forces officers charged in the case are in custody and two other Green Beret men are confined to the base although the charges against them are being held in abeyance.

Heading the defense in the first trial will be one of America's best known criminal attorneys, F. Lee Bailey of Boston, who has been engaged to defend Capt. Robert F. Marasco, 27, of Bloomfield, N.J. The two other defendants in the first trial will be Capts. Leland J. Brumley, 27, of Duncan, Okla., and Budge E. Williams, 27, of Athens, Ga.

Another prominent trial lawyer, Henry B. Rothblatt of New York, will defend Brumley.

INFORMANTS said the board of officers that will make up the court at the first trial also has been selected, but the number and identity of its members are being withheld.

Army spokesmen said Runke and Warren were selected on an "availability basis" from the military legal staff, without regard to their experience or qualifications despite the controversy the case has aroused.

"If we were to go out and try to find some sharpshooter, we'd probably get a lot of criticism," said one staff officer. "Therefore, this case is being handled just like any other.

"It's the same reason why (Secretary of the Army, Stanley) Resor isn't going to move this case out of the country, in spite of all the gnashing of teeth about it."

ROTHBLATT yesterday accused the U.S. Command in Vietnam of prejudicing any possibility of a fair trial. He said he will ask for dismissal

of the charges and, if this is denied, he will try to get the trial shifted to a civilian federal court in the United States.

Although Runke has no ci-