

SFChronicle JUN 22 1973

Elite Guard Sailors Hit In Pot Case

Washington

The Navy said yesterday that it has transferred 35 sailors accused of using marijuana, including 13 who took part in official ceremonies welcoming Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev, out of its elite Washington ceremonial guard unit.

It was the third such incident in less than two months involving Navy and Marine Corps personnel assigned to work near President Nixon and visiting heads of state.

A total of 65 Navy men and 28 Marines have been reassigned to less sensitive posts as a result of the incidents, the Navy said.

Rear Admiral Arthur G. Esch, commandant of the naval district of Washington, said the 35 men from the ceremonial guard — all between the ages of 18 and 23 — were transferred Wednesday. They constituted almost one-fourth of the 137-man ceremonial unit.

The first incident resulted early last month in 28 Marines and 18 sailors being transferred out of the security and maintenance force at the Camp David, Md., presidential retreat.

Late last month, the Navy said, 12 more sailors assigned to the unit which operates President Nixon's yacht, the Sequoia, were moved to new jobs after

some were discovered smoking marijuana.

United Press