



This big fellow resembles the warrior porpoises used by the Navy in Vietnam  
—UPI Photo

## The Killer Porpoises

SAIGON — (UPI) — The U.S. Navy has pulled a supersecret team of warrior porpoises out of Vietnam after a year of guarding against enemy frogmen, military sources said yesterday.

The sources said the porpoises, trained at the Navy Undersea Research and Development Center in San Diego, left Vietnam last November, possibly to return to San Diego.

The six porpoises and their dozen trainers had the job of guarding the harbor of the Cam Ranh Bay Air Base from enemy frogmen. Weapons were attached to their snouts and on several occasions they killed underwater guerrillas, the sources said.

### No Details

Although their presence was open knowledge, the Navy stamped "top secret" on the project and refused to talk about the porpoises.

A Navy spokesman issued a brief communique yesterday saying only:

"The collection of research data scheduled for the Republic of Vietnam concern-

ing surveillance capabilities of porpoises was completed in late 1971 and the porpoises have been withdrawn. Further details are not available."

The sources said the porpoises were taken out into the harbor of Cam Ranh Bay each day in a special boat and set loose.

They said sailors used a radio transmitter-receiver system to direct the porpoises to different areas of the harbor or to bring them back to the boat.

### Armed

The sources said an assortment of different weapons, one resembling a switchblade, were attached to the snouts of the porpoises. On seeing a swimmer they signalled their trainers and, if given the okay, attacked.

The sources said there were "several proven cases" of porpoises killing underwater guerrillas.

Frogmen never managed to blow up any ships at Cam Ranh Bay while the porpoises were on duty, although they hit vessels in all of Vietnam's other major ports.