

# Naval Police History

*This article was sent in by Rick Hannan - Superintendent Naval Police  
1977*

A complete history of the Naval Police Branch would be extremely difficult if not impossible to produce because most of the factual details related to the early days were not officially recorded and the pioneers of the branch are no longer with us. However, the details I have provided below may be of assistance when you are updating the article.

- 1960's      During the mid-1960's a small number of Naval Police were selected to carry out detective training with the NSW Police Force. On completion of training they carried out short periods 'on-job' with a few of the specialist 'Squads' eg. Drug/Motor/Vice/Homicide and Break and Enter). The Naval Police involved did not attend as a single group or class, but as individuals over a period of several years. Most of the members involved also attended the Naval Police Investigators Course either before or after this training. (I attended this training in 1966 and the Naval Police Investigators course in 1969).
1970.        Sergeant R J Hannan was promoted to Sub Inspector Naval Police on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1970 and posted to HMAS Lonsdale as Fire Protection Officer for the Victoria Command and as Divisional Officer for Naval Police in Victoria. Later in the year three Naval Police Officers (Sub-Inspectors Hannan, Swasbrick and Dewsbury) and seven Sergeants from various States attended the NSW Fire Brigade College at Alexandria NSW and carried out a ten-week course in fire protection, firefighting, rescue, equipment use and maintenance, building surveys/inspections and arson. The course also included two days at HMAS Albatross to study aircraft fires.
1973.        In March 1973 Inspector R J Hannan was posted from HMAS Lonsdale to HMAS Kuttabul as the Naval Police Training Officer. He was instructed to revise and update the curriculums of all courses conducted at the Naval Police School and the professional examinations for candidates aspiring to commissioned rank within the branch. Additionally he was to develop and introduce an on-job 'Task Book' for use by Naval Police.
- 1974/75.    The Director of Naval Training and Education (DNTE) at Navy Office in Canberra decided that Coxswain Conversion Courses were to be discontinued at HMAS Cerberus and that future courses would be carried out at the Naval Police School in Sydney. Chief Petty Officer Coxswain Oates was posted to the Naval Police School to assist with the implementation of this new policy and to instruct those subjects specific to Coxswains. Naval Police instructors covered police/law and other subjects common to both branches. Inspector Hannan subsequently devised and introduced a task book for Coxswain Category sailors. Early in 1975 Inspector Hannan was promoted to Chief Inspector and in addition to his existing role as Training Officer became OIC NP Investigations. During this period Naval Shore Patrol and Provost

functions were transferred from the Regulating Branch to the Naval Police Branch.

In 1973 Superintendent Don Hallworth became the first 'Director of Naval Police' and was posted to the staff of the Director General of Naval Manpower at Navy Office in Canberra. In 1974 he also became the first Naval Police Officer to become the Provost Marshal for the RAN. This followed a direction by the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) that the billet of Director of Naval Police was to be extended to include the position and responsibilities of the Naval Provost Marshal for the RAN. Superintendent Don Copp later became DIRNP/NPM in 1975

Chief Inspector R J Hannan had by this time attended the 'National Drug Enforcement Officers Course' at the Australian Police College at Manly NSW and completed on-job training with the NSW Police Drug Squad. He then developed and implemented a 'Drug Education' program. The lectures were initially provided for Naval Police but later for officers and sailors of all branches and occasionally to families of naval personnel.

1975/77. Late in 1975 Chief Inspector R J Hannan became OICNP(NSW) and Deputy Naval Provost Marshal. The most interesting and demanding task undertaken by Naval Police while he was OICNP NSW was the 'Nowra Fire' and early work on the provision of Naval Police Dog Handlers at Nowra. In April 1977 he was posted to HMAS Harman (Navy Office) as Director of Naval Police and Naval Provost Marshal for the RAN.

1977/81. During this period Superintendent Hannan was involved in the development of relevant policy associated with the introduction and duties of NP Dog Handlers. He attended the RAAF Training Centre at Toowoomba Qld on several occasions to negotiate various training programs and the conditions of service for Naval Police while serving at the RAAF Base. Further, to obtain information necessary to ensure that appropriate accoutrements and items of uniform could be made available to NP Dog Handlers when they returned to service at HMAS Albatross.

In response to an ongoing shortage of volunteers from within the RAN to transfer to the Naval Police Branch the previous DIRNP, Superintendent Don Copp had commenced arrangements for the recruiting of suitable serving/ex-members of the Royal Navy to become members of the Naval Police Branch of the RAN. The response to advertising in the UK was quite good and in due course a number of recruits signed-up and came to Australia as migrants. Unfortunately there were a number of 'difficulties' in the early stages after their arrival, many of the problems related to accommodation and family needs. However, a task of that nature had not previously been experienced by the Naval Police so we all had to knuckle down, do our best to sort out the problems and get on with things. However, I think the passage of time has shown that the effort was of benefit both to the Naval Police Branch and to the ex-RN personnel involved. I guess only the ex-RN personnel involved can be judge of that.

During this period the position of Staff Officer Shore Fire Services (SOSFS) was created at Navy Office and the Naval Police rank allocated to the billet was Inspector. This new billet for a Naval Police Officer was not only good for the branch it also did much to standardise fire fighting procedures and equipment in naval shore establishments.

A number of matters related to the duties and responsibilities of Coxswains and Naval Police were reviewed at Navy Office during the late 1970's and early 1980's. It soon became obvious that both the RAN and personnel involved would benefit if the branches were combined. Further studies were carried out and in due course the branches were combined to become the NPC Branch. Further, it was also becoming obvious that the RAN would benefit by introducing female billets into the Naval Police Branch and as DIRNP I had discussed this matter with Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP) and the Director General of Naval Manpower (DGNM). Some of the groundwork was carried out in 1980/81 with a view to progressing toward development of appropriate policy and in due course implementation.

DIRNP was also designated as the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) representative on the Australian Standards Association Committee on security systems. An interesting task that involved representatives from many authorities and businesses associated with physical security and security systems.

In 1980 DIRNP also became custodian of the RAN Identity Card system and after revising the ID Card format, obtaining approval from CNS to introduce the new system and obtaining the appropriate photographic equipment, Naval Police were tasked with the issue of the new photographic identity cards throughout the RAN.

1981. Superintendent R J Hannan RAN retired on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 1981 and Superintendent T M Hoare became the new DIRNP.

There are obviously very many other matters that were dealt with during the period I have covered. However, I think the outline provided will assist in the updating of the article.

#### Note 1

1973 Superintendent Don Hallworth became the first Director of Naval Police (DIRNP) and was posted to HMAS Harman (Navy Office). In 1974 he also became the first Naval Police Officer to become the Naval Provost marshal (NPM) for the RAN. As Head of Branch he was directly responsible to the Director General of Naval Manpower (DGNM) at Navy Office in Canberra.

1975 Superintendent D Copp RAN became DIRNP/NPM

1977(April) Superintendent R J Hannan RAN became DIRNP/NPM

1981(Nov) Superintendent T M Hoare became DIRNP/NPM

I am not sure of details of people involved subsequent to the above dates.

Regards Rick Hannan.

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