

Operation: PBR 7116 Rescue

The Veterans Garage is honored to participate in the recovery and restoration of Vietnam PBR 31RP7116. This particular PBR has a long and interesting history, from service in Vietnam, to Navy Pilot Rescue Boat, to Ohio USCG River Rescue Boat.

After over 40 years of active service, PBR7116 was retired and purchased by former Navy PBR Captain John McClurg. His goal was a complete restoration to make the Boat operational.

A local organization leased the boat from the owner and attempted to begin the project. For reasons unknown, they were unable to accomplish anything. Unfortunately, PBR7116 sat in the harsh Chicago weather unprotected for nearly 5 years. When the lease expired, the owner tried to retrieve the Boat but was told its' whereabouts were unknown. After a lengthy search, PBR 7116 was located and retrieved by **The Veterans Garage**.

Initially, **The Veterans Garage** mission was simply to help locate and retrieve PBR7116. Once that mission was accomplished, our volunteers took great interest in helping the owner achieve his goal of complete restoration and operational capability. With the owners support, we have begun the process of bringing PBR7116 back to her original glory.

Now the task of a complete restoration begins. The first step will be dismantling PBR7116 to the bare hull. Engines, jet drives, fuel tanks, electrical, etc. will all have to be removed in order to access and repair the entire fiberglass structure. Media blasting to remove all remaining paint, followed by re-glassing the entire hull interior and exterior, and paint

Engines and Jet drives will be completely overhauled, missing items must be found or remanufactured and ultimately, she will regain her proud heritage as a Vietnam River Patrol Boat.

We hope you will check back periodically to see our progress. It will take some time, but we are a determined group.

Thank you to John McClurg (Owner, Retired Vietnam PBR Captain) for your trust and confidence in The Veterans Garage.

Joe Werner

The Veterans Garage