

**PROGRESS ACHIEVED  
BY THE HYDROGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT  
OF THE ROYAL THAI NAVY  
DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS (1952 - 1957)**

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I would like to lay before you some facts that may justify, to some extent, the interest that you kindly take in the Hydrographic Service of Thailand. These facts will speak for themselves as to the progress achieved by the Hydrographic Department of the Royal Thai Navy during the last five years, that is from 1952 to 1957.

It goes without saying that, for us, education is of the utmost importance and has been instrumental in bringing about subsequent expansion and improvements in certain branches of the Service. Those facts are :

#### EDUCATION

In the course of the last 5 years, the Hydrographic Department of the Royal Thai Navy has sent officers and students to further their technical studies abroad, namely :

1. *In 1952*

1.1. *Astronomy* : One officer to Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, U.S.A. for a period of 3 years. At present, this officer has already graduated with a Master's Degree.

1.2. *Chart Reproduction and Aerial Mapping*: One officer to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, in the United States of America, for a period of 2 years.

1.3. *Tides & Currents* : One officer to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey for a period of 1 year.

1.4. *Gyro-Compasses* : Three officers to the Sperry Gyroscope Company, Inc. Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. for a period of 6 months.

1.5. *Aeronautical Charts* : Two officers to study and observe the working of International Civil Aviation in Canada, and also to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, for a period of approximately 2 months.

1.6. *Hydrographic Surveying* : One officer to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, for a period of 1 year.

1.7. *Geodetic Surveying*: One officer to the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey, for a period of 1 year.

2. *In 1953*

2.1. *Optical Instruments*: One officer in the U.S.A. for a period of 3 years.

2.2. *General Hydrography*: One officer to the French Hydrographic Service (Service Hydrographique de la Marine), for a period of 4 years.

2.3. *Marine Chemical Oceanography*: One officer to Liverpool University, England, for a period of approximately 3 years.

3. *In 1954*

3.1. One Naval Cadet to enter the Spanish Naval College (Escuela Naval Militar) for a period of 5 years. After graduation, he is to be trained at the Spanish Hydrographic Office for a period of 1 year.

4. *In 1955*

4.1. *Hydrographic Surveying*: One officer to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, for a period of 1 1/2 year.

4.2. *Geomagnetic Survey*: One officer to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, for a period of 1 year.

5. *In 1956*

5.1. *Photogrammetry*: One officer to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, for a period of 1 year.

5.2. *Chart Construction*: One officer to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, for a period of 1 year.

5.3. *Chart Reproduction*: One officer to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, for a period of 1 year.

5.4. *Mathematics & Astronomy*: One Naval Cadet to Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, for a period of 4 years.

5.5. *Physics & Oceanography*: One Naval Cadet to Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, for a period of 4 years.

5.6. *Marine Physical Oceanography*: One officer to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, for a period of 1 year.

EXPANSION OF THE WORKING UNITS OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT  
OF THE ROYAL THAI NAVY

1. *In 1952*

Owing to the fact that the scope of activity of chart construction, which heretofore was under the Marine Survey and Chart Construction, has greatly increased, it was deemed proper to raise its status to that of a Division, to be known as the Chart Construction Division.

2. *In 1954*

As the work of the Printing Section, which was under the Maritime Security Division, has greatly increased ever since its formation, it was deemed proper that it should become a higher grade unit, to be known as the Printing Division.

The Astronomical Section was also formed within the Maritime Security Division, so as to enable those officers, who are now being specialized in astronomy abroad, to materialize, upon their return, the expected progress in this field of activity.

### 3. In 1955

In order to cope with developments in the field of Oceanography, the Chemical Oceanographic Section and the Tides & Currents Section have been set up accordingly.

In the same year, a Gyro School was opened within the Marine Instruments Section. Naval Officers of various branches of the service have benefited, both theoretically and practically, by the knowledge imparted thereby.

The Organization Chart is shown hereafter.

## NEW EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED

### 1. In 1953

One 57 x 72 cm Off-set Press was purchased from Germany.

### 2. In 1955

The Royal Thai Navy approved the transfer of 2 tenders, namely H.T. M.S. *Suriya* and H.T.M.S. *Kram* to be affected to the Hydrographic Department of the Royal Thai Navy for hydrographic surveying and aid to navigation activities.

### 3. In 1956

3.1. One 29-foot surveying inboard motor vessel was purchased from England.

3.2. Two 90-ton oceanographic surveying vessels were purchased from Germany. These two vessels are now being used for oceanographic surveys in national waters.

3.3. The Royal Thai Navy has been granted about U.S. \$ 1,200,000 by the Thai Government to have a surveying vessel of 800 tons built in Germany.

## TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS

### 1. In 1952

A start was made with the use of the tide predicting machine delivered by A. Legé & Co., England, resulting in the publication of a Tide Table, with predicted levels at important ports throughout the country.

### 2. In 1953

A start was made with the use of modern technique in chart reproduction, according to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey method. In the same year, a start was also made with aeronautical chart reproduction, according to international practice, for the benefit of the Civil Aviation Organization, according to conditions arrived at between this Organization and the Hydrographic Department of the Royal Thai Navy.

### 3. In 1955

Upon the return home of our officers, after completion of astronomy courses in America, notable improvements were made in the time service field. In the course of that year, astronomers of the Hydrographic Department had taken part, jointly with American astronomers, in the observation of the total solar eclipse, and on another occasion, astronomers of the Hydrographic Department had observed by themselves an annular eclipse.

### 4. In 1956

After taking delivery of the two 90-ton oceanographic surveying vessels, officials of the Hydrographic Department undertook a scheduled oceanographic survey throughout the Gulf of Thailand, as from February onward.

I may add that works are to be carried out by stages within the scope of the limited budget allowed. There is no question of achieving them *en bloc*. Formation of officers and technical personnel are therefore of first importance, while acquisition of instruments and equipment will follow its course. In the last instance, we largely benefit by the assistance and co-operation of ICA, of the United States, which has its USOM office in Bangkok. Some assistance has also been received from other Units and Organizations as mentioned in the items under the heading « Education ».

Owing to insufficiency of technical personnel, the benefit derived yearly from publications still leaves much to be desired. However, no efforts will be spared to obtain better results in connection therewith.

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ORGANIZATION CHART OF HYDROGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT  
ROYAL THAI NAVY  
1956

TABLEAU DE L'ORGANISATION DU SERVICE HYDROGRAPHIQUE  
MARINE ROYALE THAI  
1956

