

ASSAULT SUPPORT PATROL BOAT (ASPB)

CHARACTERISTICS

ARMAMENT

Length overall	50' 1½"	20mm Cannon	1
Beam	13' 8½"	81mm Mortar	1
Engines(Diesel)	2	7.62. or 50-Caliber Machinegun	1-twin mount
Crew	5	MK-18 Grenade launch.	2
Speed	15 knots		

Known as the "destroyer" of the small craft fleet, the ASPB has as its initial task, the job of escort and protector of the slower ATC during the troop transport phase. It provides primary mine countermeasures for the River Assault Squadrons.

The ASPB is also used for blocking and interception in the waterways around the area of operations and for afloat base security, patrol, and escort.

A boat captain, radio operator, engineman and two non-rated men make up the crew of an ASPB. Each crew member is cross-trained to do any job on the boat.