

CHAPTER ONE

SHIP OPERATIONS

1. Pre-deployment Operations

With three major projects planned for this deployment, a pre-deployment conference was held to coordinate events as well as determine cargo stowage requirements. As outlined in advance planning all cargo was received at least one week prior to departure.

2. En route Nome, Alaska

BURTON ISLAND departed Oakland the morning of 9 July and changed her operational control to COMPACAREA. Immediately outside the Golden Gate heavy seas were encountered which, coming from the north, tested BURTON ISLAND's seaworthiness early in the deployment. On 12 July a crewmember was evacuated for humanitarian reasons by an H-3 helicopter out of Air Station Astoria.

BURTON ISLAND arrived in Juneau the evening of 14 July. On 15 July RADM HAYES, CCGD17, boarded with full honors for an official visit. Public open house was held on 16 July and departure was made from Juneau on the morning of 17 July.

Transit across the Gulf of Alaska was uneventful and seas were exceptionally calm. Passage was made through the Unimak Pass into the Bering Sea. Shipboard drills and training occupied BURTON ISLAND's time so that we arrived off Nome on the evening of 23 July.

3. Arctic Submarine Laboratory, Chukchi Sea Project

BURTON ISLAND departed Nome the evening of 24 July en route to the Chukchi Sea to commence this first of three projects. BURTON ISLAND followed the pack ice margin throughout the Chukchi Sea, stopping at various stations to measure conductivity, temperature, depth and current. The ship's helicopters were employed to gather more information by penetrating the ice pack up to 40 miles, making oceanographic casts with a portable CTD probe. Effective use of ship and aircraft enabled the embarked scientists to gather more data than anticipated, and as a result this project was concluded one day ahead of schedule. BURTON ISLAND anchored off Point Barrow in the early afternoon of 5 August. Fog prevented debarking personnel and equipment until the morning of 6 August.