

Operational training flights were conducted on 31 August for Landing Signal Officer qualifications, fire drill and pilot training. 42 members of the ship's company were flown in conjunction with these training flights.

3. Maintenance

Pre-deployment maintenance on helo 1428 included an engine change and tail rotor pedal adjuster mechanism removal, inspection and replacement. Helo 1449 required a transmission change. All other maintenance problems were encountered on the trip to San Francisco. Helicopters were placed in temporary storage on sailing date to extend aircraft availability.

On 24 July 1977, the port strut on helo 1428 was changed. Being off the coast of Nome, the option was open to change the strut ashore in the Army Air Guard hangar. With all of the possible problems to be encountered, it was decided to change the strut on board because of the ready access of the HSK. The strut was changed in six hours with no major problems.

4. Flight Statistics

	JUL	AUG	SEP
a. Total Flight Hours	21.9	73.1	08.8
b. Polar Operations			
1. Chukchi Sea Project	19.9	04.3	
2. ATON Project		52.8	
3. Geological, Magnetometer Survey			
c. Operational Training	02.0	16.0	08.6
d. Test Flight			00.2

The month of August held one period of heavy flight operations. This period was the installation of the reconnaissance towers. The Aviation Department was split into two sections consisting of two pilots and five enlisted personnel. All aircraft maintenance was routine during this period with the exception of changing the tail pin bushings on helo 1428. No difficulties were experienced with this change.

100 hour engine inspections were performed on both helicopters on 30 August.