

CHAPTER EIGHT

SUPPLY

1. Pre-Deployment Preparations

As in previous AWS deployments, much of the pre-deployment preparations were started prior to BURTON ISLAND's return from Deep Freeze 1977.

Due to the short in-port period between the training assist at San Diego and change of home port to San Francisco, the Supply Department ordered as much as possible in the way of general supplies while en route to Long Beach, from Deep Freeze 1977. This eventually turned out to be 70% effective as the BURTON ISLAND was quite low in essential cleaning supplies that had to be reordered during the time in San Francisco. Most items that were low were readily available in the San Francisco-Oakland area and we departed with a full load of supplies.

During the short in-port period at Naval Supply Center, Oakland approximately 85 purchase orders totaling more than \$52,000.00, numerous GSA credit cards, and MILSTRIP walk-throughs at NCS Oakland were processed by the ship's supply office. In particular, it was found that some of the departments had waited until the last minute to order essential supplies. This, needless to say, caused a mad last minute rush and is something that can be alleviated by proper record keeping and better planning.

Pre-deployment preparations while at NSC Oakland also included repairing 61 foul weather jackets and cleaning of over 100.

2. Disbursing

Again the permanent \$350,000.00 limitation for the cashier proved beneficial. During the in-port period, necessary cash for emergency cash purchases was readily available. In May, additional checks were requested from the Regional Disbursing Office in the amount of \$200,000.00 to meet deployment needs for AWS-77. This amount was based largely on a payroll of more than \$27,000.00 per pay period. During the deployment, an additional number of exchange-for-cash checks were requested to alleviate a cash build-up in view of limited port calls during this cruise.

No major pay problems were encountered during deployment and message traffic was kept to a minimum compared with previous trips.

The ship requested, but did not receive, copies of the crew's pay records prior to our departure; and this did cause some problems in working out pay problems and questions. We finally received the copies on 28 August, the same day we departed for our return to home port.