



## USCGC EDISTO WAGB-284

In June 1967 EDISTO again left from Boston for resupply operations in the Arctic where she assisted in the laying of yet another DEW line cable in the area of Thule Air Base. At the conclusion of this operation, she was joined by USCGC EASTWIND for an attempt to circumnavigate the world via the Arctic Basin for the first time in history. The squadron, under the command of EDISTO's skipper, Captain William K. Earle, succeeded in progressing as far as 81° 27' N off the west coast of the Severnaya Zemlya Islands of the Soviet

Arctic. Extraordinarily difficult ice conditions forced a turn south and an attempt to make passage through the Straits of Vilkitskogo. These Straits are claimed as territorial waters by the Soviet Union, whose government filed a protest with the State Department. The squadron was ordered to terminate the circumnavigation mission and return to her operations in the Greenland Arctic. An oceanographic survey in the Baffin Bay area was undertaken before EDISTO returned to Boston.