

# USCGC GLACIER

## HISTORY and MISSION

USCGC **GLACIER** began to take shape in August of 1953 when her keel was laid at Ingall's Shipbuilding Company in Pascagoula, Mississippi. She was completed and commissioned in May of 1955 and homeported in Boston. Named for Glacier Bay in Alaska, she was originally constructed to penetrate polar ice regions never before accessible to ships. **GLACIER's** polar tasks include channel cutting with close escort of supply ships, logistic support for remote stations, and ocean science deployments. Also the traditional Coast Guard responsibility of search and rescue is projected into polar regions.

**GLACIER** participated in the first Deep Freeze in connection with the International Geophysical Year in 1956-1958 and started her career by discovering a huge iceberg which still holds the record as the largest known to man. The ship continued her yearly Deep Freeze participation with the Navy through the 1966 season.

In June of 1966 she was transferred to the Coast Guard and moved to her present homeport, Long Beach,

California. By joining the Coast Guard fleet, the ship acquired the additional mission of scientific research, and accordingly, a variety of oceanographic equipment was installed and her heavy armament removed. With a new white hull, **GLACIER** continued to participate in Operation Deep Freeze through 1970 when she broke her chain of 15 consecutive Antarctic deployments by assignment to Arctic Ocean Operations. In conjunction with one of the Northern deployments, **GLACIER** paid a goodwill visit to the Soviet merchant port of Nakhodka on the Sea of Japan to become the first Coast Guard vessel to visit a Soviet port since World War II.

In the future, with the phasing out of the Wind-Class icebreakers and while the new Polar-Class is under construction, **GLACIER** will assume a larger and larger icebreaking responsibility. Now approaching twenty years of service to the nation, she has tested her might in the Eastern Arctic, Western Arctic, and Antarctic. Unique in her capabilities and history, **GLACIER's** motto speaks for itself: "Follow Me".

