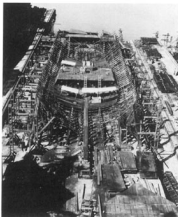


## HISTORY AND MISSION



Construction on USCGC GLACIER began to take shape in August, 1953 when her keel was laid at Ingalls Shipbuilding Company in Pascagoula, Mississippi. She was completed and commissioned in May, 1955 and homeported in Boston by the U.S. Navy. Named for Glacier Bay, Alaska, she was originally constructed to penetrate polar regions never before accessible to ships and to defend remote U.S. military installations.

GLACIER participated in the first Deep Freeze Operation in connection with the International Geophysical Year of 1955-56, where she began her long career with the discovery of what is still the world's largest recorded iceberg. Through 1986 she continued her annual participation in Deep Freeze operations.

In June, 1966, GLACIER was transferred to the Coast Guard and transited the Panama Canal enroute her present homeport of Long Beach, California. Removing her heavy armament and acquiring a fresh coat of white paint, GLACIER prepared for her role as a member of the world's largest search and rescue organization. Her missions now included scientific research and SAR, in addition to channel breaking, escort duty, and logistics support for remote stations. GLACIER's string of 15 consecutive Antarctic deployments was broken with her first Arctic Summer West Operation in 1970. While on one of her early northern trips, she called on 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.

During the transition from Wind-class to Polar-class icebreakers, GLACIER has assumed a much larger icebreaking responsibility. With over twenty years of service, GLACIER is still the uncontested veteran of the polar seas, and "BIG RED'S" motto, as exemplified by her past speaks for itself . . . . . "Follow Me!"