



USNS BLAND

While performing our Ross Sea scientific stations, GLACIER was ordered to McMurdo to assist BURTON ISLAND in the annual channel breakout for the inbound supply ships, USNS BLAND and USNS MALMEE. POLAR STAR was plagued with excessive vibration and aborted work in the ice. GLACIER's 21,000 horsepower made the channel passable.

Operating in the McMurdo Station area afforded the opportunity for eight "distinguished visitors" to spend an afternoon aboard observing "BIG RED" in action, while several crew members were ashore utilizing the station's dental facilities. On 9 January, with mail aboard, the channel cleared, and the BLAND alongside the ice wharf unloading, we pulled alongside the nearby POLAR STAR to receive over 4,000 gallons of lube oil prior to her departure for Seattle.

After completing our Ross Sea projects we returned to McMurdo for our scheduled two-day refueling stop on 17 January. Refueling alongside the MALMEE, we enjoyed a mail call, pillaged McMurdo's exchange, and savored our favorite beers. Content to leave Winter Quarters Bay and McMurdo behind, we got underway on 19 January enroute Palmer Station and our final operating area, the Weddell Sea.



Mount Erebus