

DEEP FREEZE '79 was probably one of the most challenging and difficult deployments for any icebreaker since the beginning of Antarctic operations by the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard. The GLACIER was initially slated for scientific work off the George V Coast and in the Ross Sea. However, GLACIER was thrown into the breach to complete the breakout of McMurdo Sound when it was learned that POLAR STAR could not complete her mission due to mechanical problems. The GLACIER was faced with the monumental task of breaking a navigational channel through 30 miles of fast ice, which had an average thickness of 6-7 feet. This required a supreme effort of 9 to 10 main engines operating for a period of 28 days of continuous backing and ramming at full speed. The total icebreaking effort was longer, because of channel tending and escort duties, but the tough part was that 4

weeks of never-ending pounding. Needless to say, the real heroes of this effort were the GLACIER's crew.

As the tale unfolded, we saw a certain amount of traditional frolicking, renewed friendships with our stalwart supporters, the Kiwis, and made new friends, those vivacious Aussies. They will always remain close and dear to our hearts.

We made many personal sacrifices, and suffered the tragic loss of one of our shipmates, Raymond Porter. We carried out a dramatic helicopter MEDEVAC of a critically ill islander from Atafu Atoll, who is now slowly recovering in the hospital at Apia, Western Samoa.

This, then, is the story of the GLACIER crew and scientists during the epic deployment of DEEP FREEZE '79: a story that will live forever in the hearts and minds of all the men and women associated with this magnificent effort.

## CDR P.R. TAYLOR, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

