



Deck Department

Boatswain's Mate • Gunner's Mate • Seaman

AOS 1994 proved to be a great challenge for POLAR SEA's Deck Department. Faced with a quick 12 week turnaround after returning from a 6-month Deep Freeze deployment, the Deck Force took to the task of preparing the ship for another Arctic deployment.

AOS 1994 was to be the most comprehensive Arctic science expedition ever undertaken. The extensive program required many tons of support gear and technical equipment. As a result, in addition to normal shipboard maintenance, our "deckies" had to complete the largest cargo load-out in the history of the Polar Class vessels.

Personnel issues also added to the challenge. When the ship sailed in mid-July, the department was short-handed due to transfers and the need to leave personnel behind in order to make room for the large science party. Many members of the group were new on-

board or "veterans" that were now in unfamiliar leadership positions. The fast pace of the expedition required everybody to learn quickly, and they did not disappoint! The group rapidly developed into an effective team.

In addition to normal underway watches, the team was tested 24 hours a day: moving cargo and personnel to the ice at the numerous science stations. Constant flight operations also kept them busy.

Throughout the mission, without exception, the Deck Department maintained a positive and professional attitude which was obvious in their outstanding performance on this historic deployment.



Anchor Detail drops the port anchor just before entering the Panama Canal.



back row (left to right): SN Sean Johanssen, SN James McMurphy, SA Collin Maas, SN Adam High, SN Jason Crandall, SN Cobran Lappin, SN Justin Jolley, SN Loren Huggins, SA Jeffrey Williams, SA Jakob Baldwin, SN Matthew Kenny, GM1 Vincent Demeyer, SN Derrick Cross, SN Wesley McMillan III

middle row (left to right): SA Lara Etchison, SA David Gore, SN Bradley Tull, SA Matthew Kor, SN Peter Jagel, SN Mitchel Barker, SN Andy Stafford

front row (left to right): CWO3 Donald Knesebeck, BMCS Charles Buckley, BM1 Christopher Buell, BM2 Anthony Whiting, BM3 Hans Esteves
not pictured: SA Jason Lopez