

AVIATION DETACHMENT 42



The SOUTHWIND's Aviation Detachment, consisting of four officers and eleven enlisted men, was formed as Aviation Detachment 42 at AVTRACEN Mobile on 21 May 1973. HH-52A helicopters CG-1386 and CG-1419 departed Mobile on 25 June 1973 with four pilots and two aircrewmembers. The ferry flight remained overnight at Scott AFB, Belleville, Illinois. The ferry flight terminated at General Mitchell Field, Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the helicopters CHOP to SOUTHWIND on 26 June 1973.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS:

Prior to INCHOP CTF SIX, numerous training and operational flights were conducted aboard the vessel to coordinate ship/helo orientation. One significant mission involved a 160 mile MEDEVAC flight from SOUTHWIND, while transiting the St. Lawrence River, to Loring AFB, Limestone, Maine.

Subsequent to CHOP CTF SIX, the AVDET conducted training flights to indoctrinate CIC personnel for low visibility ADF and radar monitored approaches to the vessel. Numerous photo missions were flown carrying two Disney Productions cinematographers photographing scenes for the movie "Island on Top of the World". In conjunction with these flights 16mm movie PIO coverage of SOUTHWIND and helicopter operations in the Arctic were made for the Coast Guard.

For logistic support, one helo was utilized to airlift 10,000 pounds of food in two hours from SOUTHWIND to USCG Loran Station, Cape Atholl. In support of the Carey Island operations, again, only one helo was utilized to transport 121 barrels of POL from the original cache site to a newly established scientific station. The operation was hampered by fog and the availability of



Our Pilots (Left to Right) LCDR. K.P. Hsu, LT. F.K. Cole, LT. P. Ibsen, and LT. J.W. Young.