

1. Ship Operations.

a. Narrative Summary.

(1) Pre-deployment preparations.

(a) Training and readiness. The nucleus of a well-trained crew remained from the previous deployment. New personnel for the most part were able to break in gradually during the in-port period. However, four new ensigns reported from the Academy just before sailing.

(b) Shakedown Cruise. A three-day cruise to Esquimault, B.C. was taken to shakedown the crew, and to drill for both new and old CO's preparatory to relief of command. Two more one-day trips were made: one to fuel at Manchester, Washington; and another to swing ship for calibrating the RDF and adjusting the compass.

(2) Seattle to Kuskokwim Bay. Flew on helos (AVDET 49) on our way out Puget Sound. Chopped to COMPACAREA upon departing Seattle, and to CCGD17 upon entering the Seventeenth District. Stopped in Kodiak to pickup Phase I personnel and to receive an Alaskan Patrol briefing. The briefing was very informative, but we never encountered any foreign vessels fishing in violation, and consequently had nothing further to do with the program except keep alert for transgressors.

(3) Phase I. Kuskokwim Bay to Nome.

(a) We found that there is considerably less water in some spots in Kuskokwim Bay and Etolin Strait than is charted. Caution should be used in this area when taking the ship close to land.

(b) U. S. Army, Alaska (USARAL), and the Alaskan Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) personnel were transported to certain villages along coastal and inland sites via helicopter, which was the only suitable means. The ship could not get closer than 10 to 15 miles to the villages to be visited in most cases.

(c) The Phase I programs are described in detail in Chapter Five. It illustrates the doubtful value of these programs. USARAL originally intended to bring medical assistance to natives in the isolated areas visited. Somehow that part of the program was dropped by the Army. Generally speaking, this phase consisted of transporting USARAL and ADEC personnel wherever they wanted, within our time schedule.