

## 2. Air Operations.

### a. Pre-deployment preparations.

(1) Aviation Detachment 49 formed at Aviation Training Center, Mobile on 3 June 1974. Four pilots, ten aviation petty officers, one corpsman and two HH-52A helicopters, CGNR 1420 (#4) and 1362 (#9) constituted Detachment 49.

(2) From 3 June to 2 July, Detachment 49 (the 49er's) performed in depth aircraft maintenance, conducted extensive training and completed administrative and supply functions in preparation for the Arctic Summer West deployment aboard STATEN ISLAND.

(3) On 2 July, the Helicopter Support Kit (HSK) was shipped to STATEN ISLAND.

(4) On 3 July helicopters 1362 and 1420 departed Mobile for Seattle. The seven day ferry flight was uneventful with RON stops at Randolph AFB, El Paso, Luke AFB, Bakersfield, Medford and CGAS Astoria. The detachment chopped to STATEN ISLAND 9 July 1974.

### b. Flight operations.

#### (1) Pre-cruise (9-15 July).

(a) Upon arrival Seattle, 9 July, the helos staged from Fort Lawton Army heliport until brought aboard 15 July as the STATEN ISLAND departed on the cruise. Two training flights were conducted.

#### (2) Phase I (16 July - 1 August).

(a) During PHASE I, the helos were used to carry three USARL officers and a representative of the Alaska Environmental Commission to seven Eskimo villages between the greater Yukon River Delta and Kuskoquim Bay.

(b) Additional gravity and environmental data gathering flights were conducted along the eastern shore of Norton Sound.

(3) PHASE II (5-15 August). Phase II helo operations were limited to transporting two technicians from Cape Wales to Fairway Rock and return, CGNR 1362 test flight, ice recon, and logistic/gravity study flights at Point Barrow.

(4) PHASE III (18 August - 18 September). Phase III was the most active helicopter operational Phase of the cruise. Flights were conducted for:

#### (a) Gravity studies.