

4. Communications and Electronics.

a. Communications.

(1) Coast Guard COMMSTA San Francisco maintained our guard from sailing on 15 July until 30 July, at which time we shifted to Coast Guard COMMSTA Kodiak. Communications were maintained continuously with San Francisco with no difficulties.

(2) Communications were maintained with Coast Guard COMMSTA Kodiak from 30 July until 8 August at which time we shifted to Coast Guard RADSTA Barrow. Communications with Kodiak were good to excellent until after transiting Unimak Pass. As we proceeded further northward, communications diminished with Kodiak.

(3) Communications were maintained with Radio Barrow until 22 September. While in close proximity of Barrow, communications were excellent considering the circumstances under which the radio station operates. Frequency shifting is a great problem for the radio station and in various instances this required a great deal of time. During this deployment we were diverted eastward twice to assist in Dewline icebreaking. On both occasions we were without communications for prolonged periods of time. Whether this was due to the atmospheric conditions which we encountered or to Radio Barrow antenna arrangements is unknown. During these periods of lost communications, we were able to communicate with San Francisco Radio but were unable to contact Radio Barrow. The personnel at Barrow provided excellent mail, logistic and other support to our vessel.

(4) Statistics for 15 July through 2 October are as follows:

	<u>RATT</u>	<u>VOICE</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Sent	975	55	1	1031
Received	1449	36	19	1505

(5) No provisions can be made to receive CMS shipments via ARFCOS, without serious difficulties. Both parties must be in port at the same time and unpredictable weather as well as ships' commitments prevent the setting of a scheduled rendezvous far enough in advance to be effective. We solved this problem by taking sufficient ROB to last well beyond the scheduled end of the deployment. Our only resulting difficulty was our inability to receive changes or unscheduled supersessions on a timely basis.

b. Electronics.

(1) General.

(a) Predeployment preparations. During the two-and-one-half months in port prior to AWS-74, the STATEN ISLAND