



On another occasion, Wachusett went to the aid of a passing freighter with an injured crewman aboard. It was a mission quite typical of the Coast Guard.

The one medical case that we will all remember, however, occurred early in our deployment. Wachusett was flogged down by a Thai trawler that had been fishing in our patrol area. Upon closer inspection, we discovered that one of the Thai fishermen had accidentally gotten his foot caught in an ice crushing machine. His mangled limb was all but amputated above the ankle. He was brought aboard and our sick bay performed the seemingly impossible task of saving the man's life. We called for an urgent helicopter evacuation. The helicopter arrived, and the audacious Army pilot, realizing the urgency of the situation hovered low over the bow, his spinning rotors mere inches over the gun mount, enabling the stretcher containing the injured man to actually be handed up into the helicopter. That Army pilot certainly earned all the respect that our admiring crew could offer. This combined effort not only saved the man's life, but the timely treatment also saved his leg.

