



## COMMISSARY

Military chow, whether by habit or tradition, has always been the object of many depreciative remarks—some warranted, some not—by servicemen throughout the world. The crew of Wachusett is no different when it comes to hurling expletives at the cooks, but our complaints were far from valid. Our commissarymen prepared twenty regular meals each week for the 146 enlisted men or 876,000 meals during our 300 day deployment — not to mention the fact that more than 20 meals had to be prepared each night for the mid-watch standers or that we sometimes had as many as a dozen "Swift" boats or 82-footers alongside requiring hot meals for their crews. And yet, Friday and Saturday nights usually found the cooks making a few pizzas, french fries, or fresh, warm rolls. Holidays, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas found a virtual feast prepared for us. The cooks maintain their own supply records, anticipate the ship's needs and order as much as a month in advance, and must stay within a strict budget. They also load and supervise the stowage when stores are taken aboard.

During General Quarters the cooks must take on another role. CS2 Carpenter, better known as "Chopper," became one of our best men on the .50 caliber machine guns. The Commissarymen are: standing, CSC Robert

Southard, SNCS Kenneth Case, CS2 Thane Carpenter, and CS2 Lonnie Hodgin. Kneeling, are: CS3 James Moore and CS3 Robert Davis.

