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## **Polar Science Support**

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### **LONG-TERM GOAL**

To provide logistics support for Arctic and Antarctic field programs.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The objective of this project is to assist ONR in implementing its research goals in the Arctic. The primary obligation under this grant is to provide logistical support to the University of Washington, as well as other national and foreign ONR-sponsored investigators.

### **APPROACH**

The objective was met by assuming major responsibilities in the area of planning, coordination, and management of field programs. This included the procurement of logistical equipment and supplies, contracting for services such as ship and aircraft support, and hiring temporary field personnel. Additionally, the grant maintains a substantial oceanographic and logistics equipment pool for use by ONR-sponsored investigators.

### **WORK COMPLETED**

The past year was devoted to providing logistics support for the SHEBA experiment.

The Canadian Coast Guard Icebreakers *Des Groseilliers*, and *Louis S. St. Laurent* were stationed at Tuktoyaktuk, NWT in September 1997, where project equipment and personnel were loaded for deployment at the SHEBA camp. The two ships traveled north and on 2 October 1997, the SHEBA site was selected at 75°N, 143°W, 330 Nmiles northeast of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. The *St. Laurent* returned south and the *Des Groseilliers* was set in the Arctic pack ice for the duration of the SHEBA project.

Logistics support was provided to the SHEBA program in the following areas:

- Temporary logistics offices were set up in Deadhorse and Barrow, Alaska, to support staging and rotation of science personnel, ship's crew, cargo, and supplies.
- Aircraft support was contracted from Era Aviation and Bradley/First Air.
- Helicopter support was contracted from the Canadian Coast Guard.

- Shipping was provided to and from the SHEBA site for project participants.
- Equipment and supplies were provided to the project.
- Temporary and permanent personnel were hired to support scientists and ship's crew.

## **RESULTS**

The SHEBA program was successfully carried out from October 1997 to October 1998. The early melt season offered the logistics staff many challenges. In light of the large number of personnel that participated, many with limited or no arctic experience, and considering the many hazards that were present in the course of a year, it is very gratifying to note that the project was spared serious accidents.

## **IMPACT/APPLICATION**

None

## **TRANSITIONS**

None

## **RELATED PROJECTS**

None