

## **NSFA's homeport representative, Port Hueneme 1982-1983**

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As in years past, the Naval Support Force, Antarctica's homeport representative at Port Hueneme, California, was responsible for moving passengers and cargo to the Antarctic and South America in a timely manner. This summer support season, the homeport period was from 4 October 1982 to 5 March 1983.

The homeport detachment consisted of a terminal operations movement center and supply, medical, communications, and personnel departments for a total of 13 personnel.

Cargo operations centered around three major evolutions: Special Assignment Airlift Missions (SAAM), kilo shipments, and the annual resupply vessel.

This year two SAAM missions were loaded at Point Mugu, California. Each mission moved 12 passengers and over 58,000 pounds of cargo to Christchurch, New Zealand.

Kilo shipments were moved to Christchurch from Port Hueneme via Military Airlift Command channels or shipped in containers on commercial vessels.

The annual resupply vessel, the USNS *Southern Cross*, was loaded at Port Hueneme with a total of 2,132 long tons and 7,661 measurement tons of cargo 3-8 January. Additionally 48 container loads were sent to Christchurch, for the *Southern Cross'* second shuttle to McMurdo Station.

Passenger movement to Christchurch via commercial airlines, totaled 1,353 military and civilian personnel, while 79 personnel were moved to South America.

The return of personnel to the United States began in mid-January and was successfully concluded in March.

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## **Detachment Christchurch 1982-1983**

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U.S. Naval Support Force, Antarctica Detachment Christchurch, is a vital link in the logistical chain between the United States and McMurdo Station in support of the U.S. Antarctic Research Program. Base facilities are located on 86 acres of property adjacent to the Christchurch International Airport. Approximately 47 permanent U.S. Navy personnel and 25 U.S. and New Zealand civilians operate the base under the command of Commander W. A. Jones. The Detachment

processes supplies and passengers bound for Antarctica and maintains the complex of 81 buildings that house, feed, and otherwise support transient personnel on their way to and from Antarctica.

Organizational departments constituting the Detachment include Administration, Communications, Air, Supply, Transportation, Public Works, and Medical. A tenant command at Detachment Christchurch is the U.S. Air Force's 619 Military Airlift Support Squadron, Operating Location Delta. The National Science Foundation also maintains (under contract) a small force of personnel and a cold weather clothing warehouse at the base.

During the austral summer season, the Detachment is augmented by personnel from Naval Support Force, Antarctica, Antarctic Development Squadron Six, the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and the New Zealand Army.

During a normal operating season, Detachment Christchurch handles over 200,000 recorded messages, about 1,000 high-frequency voice conferences, and some 300,000 pounds of mail and issues cold weather clothing to approximately 1,300 personnel for use in Antarctica.