

## Helicopter Operations



Anywhere that a 378 class cutter such as the HAMILTON goes, she must be prepared at all times to land a helicopter and this was nowhere more true than in Vietnam. Army and Air Force gunfire support spotter helicopters visited the ship quite often, and we also took aboard several helicopters at various times with medical evacuees from ashore, who needed fast treatment by our ship's doctor. In this case particularly, rapid crew preparations were vital, and here the crew's ability to work as a team became evident. The flight deck was consistently made ready for a landing in under five minutes which included lowering antennas and safety nets, and preparing firefighting equipment. Near Hawaii, on our way across the Pacific, we landed a Coast Guard HH-52A helicopter, the last such helo we were to see until our return home.

