

**WELCOME
ABOARD**



**H.M.C.S.
PROVIDER**

H.M.C.S. PROVIDER (AOR 508)



H.M.C.S. PROVIDER'S SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH OVERALL: 168 M DISPLACEMENT: 17,500 TONS BEAM: 23 M
DRAUGHT: 10 M MAXIMUM SPEED: 20 KNOTS RANGE: 6500 KM
PROPULSION: STEAM TURBINE DRIVING A SINGLE SHAFT
SHIP'S COMPANY: 16 OFFICERS AND 170 MEN



The Commanding Officer, Officers and Crew of H.M.C.S. PROVIDER welcome you aboard today and sincerely hope that they will be able to make your visit as enjoyable and informative as possible.

H.M.C.S. PROVIDER is at your disposal for viewing. Please remember that it is with both pride and pleasure that PROVIDER's crew open their ship for you to view and that you are never imposing on a crew member when you ask a question, you are merely helping them to talk to you about a topic that is very important to them . . . their ship.

As you begin your tour it might be of interest to you to know a bit of PROVIDER'S background. She was built by the oldest shipyard in Canada, located in Lauzon, Quebec and was completed in September, 1963. At that time she was the largest ship ever built in Canada for the Royal Canadian Navy.

The homeport for H.M.C.S. PROVIDER is Esquimalt, British Columbia, which is located on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, close to the province's capital city of Victoria.

PROVIDER is assigned to Maritime Forces Pacific to assist in the maintenance of sovereignty over Canada's coastal and offshore waters. The scope of this responsibility is best understood by a few geographical facts:

Canada has:

- a. the largest coastline of any nation in the world,
- b. a continental shelf equal to about 40% of the nation's land mass containing:
 - vast offshore oil and gas resources
 - rich fishing grounds
- c. an economic zone to protect which extends 320 kilometers from its coasts,
- d. trading interests with the rest of the world which depend on the free use of the seas.

H.M.C.S. PROVIDER is a Fleet Replenishment Ship whose mission is to supply warships at sea with fuel, ammunition, spare parts and provisions. Over the years PROVIDER has been an integral part of the pioneering of new concepts of fleet support. She has participated in exercises and deployments in both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and has supported the Canadian Navy and the warships of other friendly nations in the completion of their operational tasks.

H.M.C.S. PROVIDER is designed to replenish other ships while underway so as to reduce the length of time that the receiving ships are off task. To do this PROVIDER is equipped with automated replenishment stations which allow fuel and stores to be passed rapidly to ships which take station alongside. Passing the required equipment between relatively large vessels, sailing at close quarters is a complex operation which becomes even more involved if a second ship is being serviced simultaneously. However, through continuous training and practice, this process can be accomplished in a matter of minutes. Fuel is supplied by way of hoses suspended from a wire run between the ships. Spare parts, ammunition, along with dry and refrigerated provisions are transferred on a high speed traveller which runs back and forth along another wire strung between the ships. PROVIDER has the capacity of carrying up to three Sea King helicopters which can, in addition to their primary anti-submarine role, be called upon to effect a transfer of provisions between ships by way of a Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP). During a VERTREP a helicopter will pick-up a cargo net full of provisions from PROVIDER and then deliver it to the receiving ship.