

## Supply

Service is the motto of the Supply Department, and each of its functions is directed toward serving the crew and the ship's mission.

A ship operating at sea has to be almost entirely self-sufficient. When a shop runs out of bolts or screws, they can't run down to the corner hardware store and replenish their stock. So the stores and aviation stores divisions of the supply department have to be the hardware store for this floating city. They maintain more than 50 storerooms which stock 65,000 items necessary for the maintenance of the ship and the carrying out of its mission as a home and airport for 45 aircraft.

Keeping the morale of 2,300 officers and men at the highest possible peak during extended periods at sea can only be done if they are well-fed, regularly paid, and given the services they would receive if land-based. Three well-balanced meals are served daily in the wardrooms and the enlisted mess keeps most of the crew "fat and healthy". The barber shops, cobbler shop and laundry keep the crew clean and squared away - at no cost - Disbursing division holds payday twice a month, as well as processing travel claims, allotments, and keeping each man's pay record up to date. Supply even operates a soda fountain where the men can get an occasional ice cream sundae or candy bar to satisfy their "sweet tooth" during at-sea periods.

Supply has one division that deals exclusively with the welfare and morale of the officers on board. The Wardroom Division prepares and serves all officer meals and maintains their staterooms and dining areas - no small achievement when the air group is aboard increasing the numbers of officers to be cared for to about 250.

