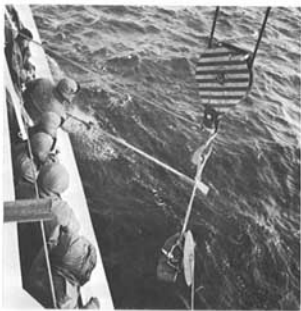




Buoy is held by whip while line is accurately measured and spliced to the current meters.

Buoy Operation



Buoy anchor weighing 1400 pounds about to be dropped.

Current meter held just above the water.

Westwind's final project prior to leaving the Antarctic involved the placing and recovering of a group of seven Current Array Buoys for the US Naval Oceanographic Office. Designed to measure and record both the speed and direction of current at various depths for a long period of time, these arrays were carefully placed so they could be located when they later came to the surface. Each array consisted of a large orange buoy to return the meters to the surface; two to four current meters, the distance between which was carefully spaced; a very accurate timer and release mechanism to release the weights; and hundreds of pounds of iron weights.

Worsening Antarctic weather, high winds and stinging snow made placing and recovering the buoys both difficult and dangerous. However, on February 19 the final buoy was brought aboard. Every one of the buoys set by **Westwind** was recovered — Another item to add to **Westwind's** good record.

