

Smooth as Ice



The calendar said it was spring, but above the Arctic Circle the newly established USAF weather station on Ice Island T-3 was still icebound in April 1952. The pilot of this Grumman SA-16 from the 10th Air Rescue Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, improvised a ski landing in order to deliver scientific equipment to the

floating research station. Such belly landings on snow and ice were not uncommon back then; one of the first to do it was Col. Bernt Balchen, who landed a PB4Y (OA-10) flying boat on a Greenland ice cap to rescue a group of downed airmen in World War II.