



COMMANDING OFFICER

USS CANOPUS (AS-34)
FPO NEW YORK 09501

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From: Commanding Officer, USS CANOPUS (AS-34)

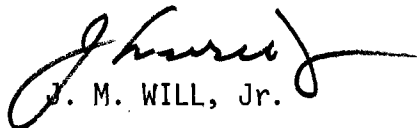
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History, 1977 (Report Symbol 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Basic History
(2) List of Ships Serviced
(3) "The Helmsman" (4 issues)
(4) Lisbon Fact Sheet
(5) CHINFO Merit Award
(6) Lisbon Press Release
(7) List of Official Visitors

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted as the Command History for USS CANOPUS for calendar year 1977.


J. M. WILL, Jr.

COMMAND ORGANIZATION

CANOPUS was under operational control of Submarine Squadron SIXTEEN Rota, Spain for the entire period. The Commanding Officer, Captain John M. WILL, Jr. and the Executive Officer, CDR Samuel W. ADAMS, Jr., served throughout the entire period.

1977 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

FEB 21-22	Underway, local operations
MAR 21-22	Underway, local operations
APR 1	SUBLANT RCPE
APR 17-19	SURFLANT PEB Mobile Training Team Assist
APR 18-19	Underway, local operations
APR 29	PARE Inspection
MAY 9-12	COMSUBLANT Inspecting/Visit
MAY 18-19	Propulsion Examining Board OPPE
JUN 27-28	Command Personnel Management Effectiveness Inspection
JUL 13-15	SUBLANT RCPE
AUG 20-24	Annual Supply Inspection (ASI)
AUG 28-30	SUBLANT RCPE
OCT 19	CINCLANT RCPE
NOV 15-17	SUBLANT NTPI
NOV 22-28	Lisbon, Portugal, Port Visit

NARRATIVE

January 1977 found the CANOPUS on station in Site II, Rota, Spain. The previous resident tender, USS SIMON LAKE (AS-33) was still in Rota preparing for her visit of the Propulsion Examining Board (PEB). With the crossdecking of personnel completed by 6 January, the CANOPUS now had all of her crew in place and was ready to get to the work at hand. Within one month after assuming Site functions, CANOPUS had five submarines in refit simultaneously, one of these in an Extended Refit Period (ERP). Over the year CANOPUS was to see the same submarines time and again. Approximately every 10 days another boat arrives to begin a refit.

During 1977, CANOPUS would complete 32 refits, 3 ERPs along with special tasks such as 2 resin discharges, 3 battery replacements, 3 BQR-15 installations and 20 Portable Effluent Tank hookups. Almost one half million manhours were directed to the maintenance of submarines of Squadron SIXTEEN. Each refit consisted of hundreds of jobs, from calibration of test equipment to recovering furniture, from offload of Poseidon Missiles to the transfer of pyrotechnics and small arms ammunition. Battery replacements were particularly demanding, requiring around-the-clock work from 20 men for ten days, to break down the new battery shipment, remove the old batteries, install, and clean up. In addition to the hours spent directly on submarine support, hundreds of thousands of manhours were spent in each of the various tender service areas for the submarines, the tender, and the Site. The Supply Department, for example, served three meals a day, seven days a week, holidays included. The Disbursing Office issued checks averaging \$1.5 million a

month, of which \$500,000 were cashed and 12 million Pesetas exchanged. The laundry handled eight tons of dirty clothes while Shipping and Receiving distributed one million pounds of cargo a month.

During 1977, the Operations Department would process over 84,000 messages, with over one million copies being routed. Many of these messages would go to the Administrative Department, where they were processed into service record entries, orders or action items for reports and information. The personal affairs and careers of between 1200 to 1500 men were looked after day to day. Other parts of the ship's force could be found doing things as routine as cleaning and preservation to fighting fires.

In addition to the daily operations of the Site, Force and Squadron Commanders conducted a continuous series of inspections and visits of CANOPUS designed to maintain the IMA and support forces at peak readiness. Early 1977 found two major inspections scheduled. A new inspection for CANOPUS was the Propulsion Examining Board (PEB). This inspection of the material condition and training of the Engineering Department was scheduled for all submarine tenders of COMSUBLANT. CANOPUS would be the third SUBLANT ship to take the PEB, and only the second to pass. The ship received above average scores for the examination and completed it in one half the time allotted. The second inspection was the Radiological Controls Practices Examination (RCPE). The qualifying RCPE was administered by CINCLANTFLT, but Commander Submarine Force Atlantic performed a series of pre-inspections to insure readiness. The CINCLANTFLT RCPE on 19 October 1977 was preceded by SUBLANT RCPEs in April, July, and August. In August Commander Submarine Force, Atlantic conducted the Annual Supply Inspection with outstanding results for CANOPUS.

During this period CANOPUS was visited by two Atlantic Submarine Force Commanders, VADM Joe WILLIAMS in the Spring just prior to his relief, and VADM Kenneth CARR, 28 October to 2 November, as the new Commander, Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet.

A ballistic missile submarine tender, CANOPUS can and does provide services to any unit in need. In 1977 CANOPUS provided repairs to units as varied as the sail training ship, USCGC EAGLE; the latest attack submarine, USS LOS ANGELES (SSN 688); aircraft carriers, amphibious ships, destroyers, and units assigned to the Naval Station, Rota. A list of some of the units that passed through Rota and were serviced by CANOPUS in 1977 can be found as enclosure (2). These vessels sometimes limped in one at a time, and at other times arrived as an entire fleet. In April 1977 the INCHOP units of the Sixth Fleet encountered a tremendous storm in the Atlantic which cracked masts and even ripped catwalks off the aircraft carriers. All units needing assistance were met on arrival by CANOPUS personnel who performed the necessary repairs and returned them to operations.

The summer also saw Submarine Squadron SIXTEEN nominate CANOPUS for the SUBLANT series of battle efficiency awards. Results were announced in October 1977 and CANOPUS received three of the four possible departmental awards for fiscal year 1977. These were the red Engineering "E", the red Damage Control "DC" and the green Communications "C."

Preparations began in the summer of 1977 for a port visit of Lisbon, Portugal. Permission was granted to go ahead with the plans and a tentative period in September was selected for the visit. Commitments to our submarine brood and the forthcoming CINCLANTFLT RCPE in October postponed the dates for the visit from 23-27 November, over the Thanksgiving weekend.

CANOPUS passed the RCPE and went on to a Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI) from 15 to 17 November. This inspection resulted in grades of outstanding in seven inspection categories and excellent in two more. With these inspections out of the way, CANOPUS was ready for her first port visit of this deployment to Lisbon, Portugal. Over 200 persons were able to go on organized tours and the rest went out and did the town on their own. This visit also provided Navy personnel in the Lisbon area a chance to visit CANOPUS ship's store to buy American items not normally available to them. The visit was a great success. It was highlighted in the ship's newspaper, "The Helmsman" which had just received the CHINFO Merit Award for best ship's newspaper for the 4th quarter, FY 77 (enclosures (3) and (4)). One significant incident, which detracted from the festive atmosphere of the visit, was the death of IMSA Jeffrey L. REEVER, the victim of a robbery attempt while on liberty in Portugal. Suspects are in custody of Portugese authorities and a trial is expected sometime in 1978, enclosure (6).

Departing Lisbon November 27, 1977, CANOPUS arrived in Rota the next day to resume her essential mission. In December CANOPUS was visited by the Secretary of the Navy during his round-the-world tour and the evaluation team for the Navy Food Services Ney Awards. CANOPUS finished third in SUBLANT with a high score, and is expected to go all the way in 1978.

1977 LIST OF SHIPS SERVICED BY USS CANOUS (AS-34)

The following ships received services of the USS CANOPUS during 1977. Some visited only once, others were repeat customers. All were satisfied. In roughly the order of their appearance:

USS KALAMAZOO (AOR-9)
USS BASILONE (DD-824)
USS BUTTE (AE-27)
USS DEWEY (DDG-45)
USS SEMMES (DDG-18)
USS SYLVANIA (AFS-2)
USS DACE (SSN 607)
USS TULLIBEE (SSN 597)
USNS PAWCATUCK
USS RICHARD L PAGE (FFG-5)
USS JOHN F KENNEDY (CV-67)
USS NEOSHO (AO-143)
USS JOHN KING (DDG-3)
USS CHARLES F ADAMS (DDG-2)
USS AINSWORTH (FF-1090)
USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62)
USS TRUCKEE (AO-147)
USS W. S. SIMMS (FF-1059)
USS HAWKINS (DD-873)
USS DAVIS (DD-937)
USS TATINAL (DDG-19)
USS ESCAPE (ARS-6)
USS EL PASO (LKA-117)
USS SURIBACHI (AE-21)
USS HERMITAGE (LSD-34)
USNS KANE
USS MOUNT BAKER (AE-34)
USS LOS ANGELES (SSN 688)
USS HOIST (ARS-40)
USS SELLERS (DDG-11)
USS SANTA BARBERA (AE-28)
USCGC EAGLE
USS DANIELS (CG-27)
USS MANITOWOC (LST-1180)
USS AMERICA (CV-66)
USS CALOOSAHATCHIE (AO-98)
USS HART (FF-1092)
USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13)
USS INCHON (LPH-12)
USS CONYNGHAM (DDG-17)
USS DUPONT (DD-941)
USS SAVANNAH (AOR-4)
USS SEA DEVIL (SSN-664)

Enclosure (2)

1977 LIST OF OFFICIAL VISITORS

1 JAN 77	RADM O'CONNER	Chief Navy Chaplain
25 JAN 77	CAPT DEPACE	JUSMAG Naval Attache, Madrid
1 FEB 77	RADM MC LAUGHLIN	COMFAIRMED
25 FEB 77	RADM NICHOLSON	COMSUBGRU 8
17 MAR 77	SEVILLE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	PRES. ROY SILVAN
31 MAR 77	CAPT L. BURKHARDT III	COMSUBRON FOUR
4 APR 77	RADM ISDIN	VICE COMMANDER NAVFACENCOM
31 MAR 77	VADM COOK	DCNO LOGISTICS
29 APR 77	MADRID NAVY LEAGUE	
7 MAY 77	CSS-16 INSPECTION TEAM	
11 MAY 77	DEFENSE ORIENTATION CONFERENCE	
9-12 MAY 77	VADM WILLIAMS	COMSUBLANT
3 JUN 77	RADM SCHAFFER	CMM/CDS PROGRAM COORD.
13 JUN 77	GEN WILSON	COMMANDANT, MARINE CORPS
18 JUN 77	RADM MALONE	COMSUBGRU EIGHT
21-22 JUL 77	EDDIE ADAMS	PHOTOGRAPHER, ASSOCIATED PRESS
26-28 JUL 77	RADM MALONE	COMSUBGRU EIGHT
10 AUG 77	SR. MARTINEZ-CARO	FIRST SECY. TO KING OF SPAIN
20 AUG 77	HON. WELLS STABLER	AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN
13 SEP 77	RADM ANDERSON	NAVY INSPECTOR GENERAL
	MCPON WALKER	MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF NAVY
15 SEP 77	BGEN KILLEN	USMC INSPECTOR GENERAL
23 SEP 77	MARK C. LISTFLET	DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OFFICE
		WEST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS/DEPT OF STATE
28 OCT- 2 NOV	VADM CARR	COMSUBLANT
11 NOV 77	ARTHUR HUGHS	DEPT OF STATE (OIC SPANISH AFFAIRS)
16 NOV 77	VADM MOORER	CINCUSNAVEUR
21-23 NOV 77	RADM MALONE	COMSUBGRU EIGHT
1-2 DEC 77	RADM HOPKINS	CINCLANT MAINTENANCE OFFICER
19 DEC 77	W. GRAHAM CLAYTOR, JR.	SECRETARY OF THE NAVY