



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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, 1978 (Report Symbol 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Basic History  
(2) List of Ships serviced  
(3) Change of Command Pamphlet  
(4) List of Official Visitors

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted as the Command History for USS CANOPUS (AS-34) for calendar year 1978.

  
D. O. GRIFFITH

Command Organization

CANOPUS was under the organizational control of Submarine Squadron SIXTEEN, Rota, Spain for the entire period. The Commanding Officer, Captain John M. WILL, Jr. was relieved by Captain Dwaine O. GRIFFITH on August 26, 1978. The Executive Officer, Commander Samuel W. ADAMS, Jr. was relieved by Commander Robert K. SLAVEN, Jr. on January 21, 1978.

1978 Chronology of Events

11-12 Jan	COMSUBLANT RCPE
17-18 Jan	Underway, local operations
21-22 Feb	Underway, local operations
3-7 Apr	PARE Inspection/QA Audit
1 May	COMSUBLANT ASI
5 July	Change of Command CSS-16
11-12 July	COMSUBLANT RCPE
20-25 July	Port Visit Palma Mallorca
14-16 Aug	Underway, local operations
21-23 Aug	Underway, local operations
26 Aug	CAPT Dwaine O. GRIFFITH relieves CAPT John M. WILL, Jr. as Commanding Officer, USS CANOPUS (AS-34)
30 Aug to 1 Sept	Underway, local operations
12-13 Sept	Propulsion Examining Board OPPE
17-18 Oct	CINCLANTFLT RCPE
6-8 Nov	NTPI
8-15 Dec	Port Visit, Barcelona, Spain

Narrative

In the last full year of Site II refit operations, CANOPUS completed 30 SSEN refits and 4 Extended Refit Periods. Additional tasks included battery replacements, resin discharges, BQR-15 installations, and Portable Effluent Tank hook-ups, and performing unexpected repairs on two attack submarines and a variety of U.S. Sixth Fleet units. CANOPUS received the second consecutive Engineering Red "E", Damage Control "DC" and Communications Green "C" in 1978. This year also brought a Blue Supply "E", a Repair "R" and a gunnery "E" which almost completed a sweep of the departmental awards. The overall Battle Efficiency "E" still eluded CANOPUS.

Over one half million man hours were expended on submarine services by the Repair Department alone. Hundreds of thousands of hours were spent by the other departments in support of Squadron SIXTEEN units, the Site, and various fleet units. CANOPUS Technicians were sent to visiting warships for technical assistance on everything from boilers to electronics. Communications was selected "Station of the Month" for Europe in April, and was well up in the standings other months.

The Weapons Repair Department torpedo maintenance and preparation efforts resulted in exercise statistics which consistently exceeded the SUBLANT percentage of successful torpedo runs by at least 15 percentage points each quarter. Additional thousands of hours were devoted to the missile systems and various navigation and weapons related maintenance. During 1978 the Dental Department would see a total of 5,807 patients with nearly 20,000 individual procedures performed.

The Supply Department continued its record of outstanding support with an average net effectiveness in excess of 95%. During 1978, supply requisitions were being processed at a new high of about 11,000 per month. The Annual Supply Inspection (ASI) held in May, 1978 and which led to the Supply "E" for this year, was to cite the CANOPUS Supply Department as the "best in the force".

CANOPUS successfully passed three Radiological Controls Practice Examinations (RCPE) during the year. The Propulsion Examining Board (PEB) visited in September to administer the second OPPE. This inspection was successfully completed with overall "above average" grades. In November the ship went through a Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPPI), receiving adjective grades of "excellent" or better in 80% of the graded areas.

Excellence was not limited to duty hours for the CANOPUS. The CANOPUS Drill Team, the "ALL-AMERICANS", was to finish first in the Rota Fourth of July drill competition. The CANOPUS Varsity Softball team took second place in the NAVEUR tournament, just being edged out by an all-star team from Rota, where CANOPUS was already league champion. CANOPUS Varsity basketball, football, touch football, volleyball and bowling teams finished well in local competition and in many instances also competed in European area championships. The Rota Hockey Team, organized and manned primarily by CANOPUS and Site II personnel, defeated a Spanish professional team in Barcelona.

Twice during the year, CANOPUS was able to experience some fleet style liberty. In July the ship went to Palma and then in December to Barcelona. A great time was experienced by all hands. The next port of call is expected to be Charleston, South Carolina, in June of 1979, as Site II prepares to close.

CANOPUS started early in making preparations to leave next year. 1978 saw the initial planning for the movement of hundreds of families and all the gear associated with the Submarine Squadron. CANOPUS will leave Spain right after the last SSBN refit is completed and will to go to work immediately on arrival in Charleston. For the CANOPUS, the tempo never changes.

Non-Submarine Squadron SIXTEEN  
Ships that Received Services for the Year of 1978

USS CONCORD	AFS-5
USNS MARSHFIELD	TAK-282
USS CALIFORNIA	CGN-36
USS FORRESTAL	CV-59
USS AMERICA	CV-66
USS NIMITZ	CVN-68
USS ALBANY	CG-10
USS BUTTE	AE-27
USS SURIBACHI	AE-21
USS HART	FF-1092
USS SOUTH CAROLINA	CGN-37
USS BARRY	DD-933
USS DEWEY	DDG-45
USS TRIPPE	FF-1075
USS PRESERVER	ARS-8
USS BIGELOW	DD-942
USNS NORWALK	TAK-279
USS FORT SNELLING	LSD-30
USS TULLIBEE	SSN-597
USCGC CHASE	WHEC-715
USS MANLEY	DD-940
USS MACDONOUGH	DDG-39
USS GUAM	LPH-9
USS CORONADO	LPD-11
USS SAGINAW	LST-1188
USS BOULDER	LST-1190
USS FAIRFAX COUNTY	LST-1193
USS MULLINIX	DD-944
USS COMPASS ISLAND	AG-153
USS CHARLES E. ADAMS	DDG-2
USS DACE	SSN-607
USS FOREST SHERMAN	DD-931
USS INCHON	LPH-12
USS JONAS INGRAM	DD-938
USS CONYGHAM	DDG-17
USS NITRO	AE-23
USS ESCAPE	ARS-6
USS OPPORTUNE	ARS-41
USS DALE	CG-19

List of Official Visitors

16 Feb RADM TESH (Deputy CINCUSNAVEUR)  
9 Mar RADM CARRIUS (COMSEABASEDASWINGSLANT)  
16 Mar Mr. FOUCHÉ, American Consul in Seville  
29 Mar RADM HEID (COMNAVFACLANT)  
17 Apr Mr. HIDALGO, Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
18 Apr Maj. General NASH, USAF, (Chief JUSSMAAG Spain)  
4 May RADM THOMAS (Dental Corps IG)  
24 May RADM MILNES (Medical Corps IG)  
14 Jun RADM SUANZEO DE LA HIDALGO, Spanish Navy (Commander Air Group, Spanish Ship DEDALO)  
5 Jul VADM CARR (COMSUBLANT)  
2 Aug Ambassador TODMAN, U.S. Ambassador to Spain  
15 Sep Maj. General TOOMEY (USMC IG)  
28 Sep Mr. PURDY, American Consul in Seville  
5 Oct RADM CANAVANTES, Spanish Navy (Commander Air Group, Spanish Ship DEDALO)  
24-25 Oct VADM GRIFFITH (Deputy CNO)  
16 Nov RADM BURKHALTER (NAVINTCOM)  
5 Dec LT. GEN MILLER, USMC (Fleet Marine Force Atlantic)  
12 Dec RADM MARTIN, Spanish Navy, (Commander Sector Naval de Cataluna, Barcelona)