



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS CANOPUS AS 34
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From: Commanding Officer, USS CANOPUS (AS-34)
To: Director, Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History, USS CANOPUS (AS-34), 1979
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Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) Basic History
(2) List of VIP's and Visitors
(3) List of ships tended

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1), (2), and (3) are submitted as the Command History for USS CANOPUS (AS-34) for calendar year 1979.


D.O. GRIFFITH

COMMAND ORGANIZATION

USS CANOPUS (AS-34), was under the operational control of Submarine Squadron SIXTEEN, commanded by Captain J. D. Williams, USN, at Rota, Spain from January 1 to June 10. CANOPUS assumed duties as resident tender at SSBN Refit Site IV at Charleston, S.C. on July 1, under the operational control of Submarine Squadron EIGHTEEN, Captain D. G. Smith, who was relieved by Captain C. H. Brickell, Jr., on December 7, 1979 as the Squadron Commander. CANOPUS Commanding Officer, Captain D. O. Griffith, and Executive Officer Captain R. K. Slaven, Jr., served aboard throughout the entire period.

1979 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

March	26-28	Underway, Rota, local operations
April	23-27	Quality Assurance Inspection PARE Inspection
May	7	COMSUBLANT Inspection/visit
June	10	Disestablishment of SSBN Refit Site II
June	10-21	Underway from Rota to Charleston
July	1	Assumed duties as resident tender at SSBN Refit Site IV
July	27-28	COMSUBLANT RCPE
September	7-9	Hurricane David/Frederick shifted from Naval Weapons Station to Charleston Naval Station
November	6-7	CINCLANTFLT RCPE
November	27	NTPI
December	11	COMSUBLANT Inspection/visit
December	14	USMC Inspector General Inspection

NARRATIVE

January 1979 found USS CANOPUS, (AS-34) on station at SSBN Refit Site II in Rota, Spain. Preparations were underway at this time for the disestablishment of Refit Site II and the relocation of CANOPUS to SSBN Refit Site IV at Charleston, South Carolina. This evolution would prove to be the biggest event for CANOPUS during 1979.

For example, as part of the home port shift project, the supply department took on the task of arranging for shipment of 842 household goods shipments, 572 express baggage shipments and ocean transportation of 432 personally owned vehicles to the United States. This took a great burden off the Naval Station, Rota Supply Department, which would have been overwhelmed by the mass exodus of dependents and cargo associated with the Site disestablishment.

During 1979, the CANOPUS Repair Department expended over one million man-hours on submarine upkeep and repair during 31 refits, two extended refits, six fast attack upkeeps, and repair services for 24 surface units, ranging from tugboats to nuclear powered aircraft carriers. This work included everything from the manufacturing of small screws to the construction of entire bulkheads on two submarines after installation of 300KW ship's service motor generators. Upon return to Charleston, CANOPUS began one of the biggest and most exhausting efforts ever undertaken by a submarine tender. This was two back-to-

back steam generator-eddy current inspections, an inspection that is normally a shipyard function. This effort required the full time efforts of 60 specialized CANOPUS technicians under the supervision of five officers. These men were highly trained in radiological controls procedures and went through steam generator school and mock-up practice at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. Each inspection required this team to work around the clock in 12 hour shifts for five weeks. The second steam generator-eddy current inspection, scheduled on short notice, began within one week after completion of the first.

The Supply Department processed approximately 12,000 requisitions per month. CANOPUS became the first tender to meet the SUBLANT receipt processing standard of five days or less per requisition. The Supply Department spent an average of 4.6 days to process a supply requisition chit. The Department's net and gross effectiveness increased to 96.2 and 90.4 respectively, peaking at 97.3 in May, the very hectic last month at Refit Site II. This was the month that saw the department move over 20,000 measurement tons of cargo to various ports in the United States as part of the disestablishment of Site II and the relocation to Site IV. Again, the department kept up the normal workload associated with the replenishment of the submarines alongside.

The CANOPUS Weapons Repair Department's Torpedo Repair Division handled a total of 936 warshot and exercise torpedoes during the year and completed 160 systems and deck checks of torpedo tubes on submarines. The Special Weapons Division participated in one Poseidon Operational Test which included the demating of the tactical reentry vehicles and the processing and remating of test reentry vehicles. This evolution was completed two days ahead of schedule. The Missile Repair Division coordinated the transfer of 141 Poseidon missiles to and from CANOPUS, submarines alongside, and the visiting T-AK supply ships. Navigation Repair Division completed one ESMG backfit installation of a 5KW Static Inverter under the design test program associated with the equipment. The Gunnery Division transferred a total of 61,000 rounds of pyrotechnics and small arms ammunition during 1979.

The CANOPUS Engineering Department, leaving the shore power in Rota, steamed continually from May through the end of the year. The Battle Efficiency Engineering award and the Damage Control DC award were added by the department in 1979.

Throughout the year evolutions requiring crane and boat services were provided for by the Deck Department. Even though the department suffered a lack of trained personnel, all support services were provided in a timely and professional manner.

Three dental officers and seven enlisted dental technicians performed over 22,000 dental procedures to 5,421 patients as well as setting up a dependent preventative dentistry program upon arrival at Site IV.

At the conclusion of the 1979 competitive year, CANOPUS was awarded the following departmental awards for excellence. Repair "R", Engineering "E", Damage Control DC, Deck Seamanship "D", and Gunnery "E".

Perhaps the most significant accomplishment of the year was the continuing improvement shown in the retention rate. Despite the extraordinary turmoil of the home port shift and the unprecedented work load upon arrival at Refit Site IV, CANOPUS completed the year with 1st term reenlistment standing at 56%, 2nd term 80% and career 87%.

LIST OF VIPs AND VISITORS TO USS CANOPUS, (AS-34) DURING 1979

20 JAN CAPTAIN FRITZKE, Commanding Officer, Military Sealift Command, Europe

24 JAN RADM JENKINS, Judge Advocate General Corps, U. S. Navy

13 FEB CAPTAIN HANSON, Commanding Officer, Naval station, Rota

15 FEB MAJOR GENERAL SADLER, U.S. Air Force

2 APR CAPTAIN FRITZPATRICK, ASI Inspector, COMSUBLANT Staff

19 APR Commanding Officer, Spanish Naval Ship DEDALO

24 APR GENERAL MOORE, U.S. Air Force

3 MAY RADM HYDE, Civil Engineer Corps, U.S. Navy

7 MAY VADM CARR, COMSUBLANT

26 JUN RADM BERRY, CINCLANTFLT, Inspector General

5 JUL Mr. YOST, Mr. MONTGOMERY, Congressional Staff
RADM HALL, COMSUBGRU SIX

16 JUL Mr. FALLOWS, former chief speechwriter for President Carter

11 SEP JOINT LOGISTICS COMMAND STAFF

29 SEP Senator Patrick MOYNIHAN (D-N.Y.)

11 OCT RADM MCCLINTON, Commander Naval Base Charleston

6 NOV RCPE TEAM

27 NOV NTPI TEAM

14 DEC MAJOR GENERAL SCHULTZ, U.S. M. C. Inspector General

LIST OF SHIPS AND SUBMARINES TENDED DURING 1979

USS NITRO	AE-23
USS SANTA BARBARA	AE-28
USS MOUNT BAKER	AE-34
USS SEATTLE	AOE-1
HAPPY ACRES	APL-31
USS OAK RIDGE	ARDM-1
USS ALAMAGORDO	ARDM-2
USS PETREL	ASR-14
USS EDENTON	ATS-1
USS R.K. TURNER	CG-20
USS BIDDLE	CG-34
USS SOUTH CAROLINA	CGN-37
USS EISENHAWER	CVN-69
USS FORREST SHERMAN	DD-931
USS SPRUANCE	DD-963
USS VREELAND	FF-1068
USS SPIEGEL GROVE	LSD-32
USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY	LST-1197
PONTIAC	YTB-756
APOPKA	YTB-778
TONKAWA	YTB-786
DECKANAWIDA	YTB-831
WAHAKA	YTM-526

SURFACE UNITS TENDED

USS ANDREW JACKSON	SSBN-619
USS JOHN ADAMS	SSBN-620
USS JAMES MONROE	SSBN-622
USS WOODROW WILSON	SSBN-624
USS HENRY CLAY	SSBN-625
USS TECUMSEH	SSBN-628
USS ULYSSES S. GRANT	SSBN-631
USS VON STEUBEN	SSBN-632
USS CASIMIR PULASKI	SSBN-633
USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN	SSBN-640
USS KAMEHAMEHA	SSBN-642
USS GEORGE BANCROFT	SSBN-643
USS JAMES K. POLK	SSBN-645
USS GEORGE MARSHALL	SSBN-654
USS HENRY STIMSON	SSBN-655
USS GEORGE W. CARVER	SSBN-656
USS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY	SSBN-657
USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO	SSBN-658
USS WILL ROGERS	SSBN-659

33 SUBMARINE REFITS

USS SEAHORSE	SSN-609
USS GATO	SSN-615
USS RAY	SSN-653
USS L. MENDAL RIVERS	SSN-686
USS JAMES MADISON	SSN-627
USS JOHN C. CALHOUN	SSN-630

6 TORPEDO CERTIFICATIONS AND
LOADOUTS