

Project Name: AFAR Additional Cable Protection 1972

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Organizations/People Involved:

NAVFAC: PC-2 Walt Eager

UCT-1: LCDR Michael E. Weyler; UCT-1 out of Davisville, RI.

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Project Summary: The UCT-1 diving operations in the summer of 1972 involved the installation of additional protection for the seafloor cables that had been landed at the Azores Fixed Acoustic Range by UCT-1 on the Azores Island of Santa Maria in 1970.

Split pipe cable protection was installed seaward of the previously installed split pipe protection, and was anchored to the seafloor rock with “hairpins” that straddled the split pipe. While the technique used in 1970 involved rock bolt anchors secured to the rock on the seafloor, the 1972 operation involved U rods cemented into the rock. After the holes beside the split pipe were drilled, the U rods along a quick-setting hydraulic cement were inserted in the holes. The cement, exposed to the sea water when inserted into the hole with the U rod, sets up in 30 seconds to 3 minutes, depending upon the water temperature.

Project Report Link: None

(Project ended when UCT-1 was emergency redeployed to Iceland for SOSUS repair.)