



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40)  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40) Command History for 1980;  
forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C  
(b) OPNAV ltr Ser?SH 2346 of 17 DEC 1981

Encl: (1) USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40) Command History for 1980

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with references  
(a) and (b).

  
H. A. BUNCH, JR.  
By direction

## COMMAND HISTORY

SHIP: USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40)

HOMEPORT: Charleston, South Carolina

COMMANDING OFFICER: Captain Gerald E. Green, USN, assumed the duty as Commanding Officer of USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40) precommissioning unit on 9 July 1979 and assumed the duty as Commanding Officer of USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40) on 20 October 1979. Captain Green served as Commanding Officer through 31 December 1980.

HISTORY: The USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40) is the second of three 644-foot submarine tenders built for the Navy by Lockheed Shipbuilding and Construction Company in Seattle, Washington. USS FRANK CABLE was launched 14 January 1978 and placed in commission in Seattle, Washington 20 October 1979. Subsequent to commissioning, USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40) transited to Charleston, South Carolina via the Panama Canal.

MISSION: To provide a mobile support base for nuclear-powered SSN-688 LOS ANGELES class high-speed attack submarines. To provide maintenance, supplies, and other services to these submarines. To serve submarines and their crews with repairs, spare parts, provisions and medical, dental, mail, and legal services. To provide living quarters for the more than 1000 men manning the shops and operating the ship. To provide the submarines moored alongside compressed gases, steam, diesel fuel, water, electricity, and various other services as required.

### JANUARY

1-31 Engaged in the organization of the Weapons Weight Test and Quality Assurance Shops. Familiarization firing and qualification firing began for required personnel to continue throughout 1980.

27 Conducted Programmable Switching System Test and Cable Verification on Guidance/Auxiliary Power Unit Test Set (T-3054A) and certified missile testing capability.

### FEBRUARY

5 Formal commissioning ceremony.

11 Underway for Shakedown Training and Refresher Training, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

### MARCH

1 Port Call Montego Bay, Jamaica.

12 Completed Refresher Training.

14 Port Call Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

## **APRIL**

7 Commenced Tending Submarines. Officially assigned USS RAY (SSN-653) and USS STURGEON (SSN-637). Tending of submarines occurred six weeks ahead of original schedule.

7-10 MK 48 Torpedo/Harpoon Certification Inspection resulted in certification to handle, maintain, and stow MK 48 Torpedoes.

23-25 Nuclear Weapons Technical Assist Visit Inspection successfully completed. FRANK CABLE became the first submarine tender to receive nuclear weapons certification without undergoing a formal Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection.

## **MAY**

6 Certified to handle and stow Encapsulated Harpoon Missile.

8 Performed FRANK CABLE's first SSN weapons loadout.

12-14 Completed final inspection and survey (INSURV).

## **JULY**

1 Contractor Sea Trials.

2 Moored pier side at Naval Weapons Station, Charleston, South Carolina for initial ordnance and ordnance related item onload.

3 Moored Pier Mike 1A, Naval Station, Charleston, South Carolina.

16 Completed initial Radiological Controls Practice Examination (RCPE) with excellent results. Authorized to handle radioactive material associated with naval nuclear powered ships for one year.

## **AUGUST**

4 Prepared first Quality Assurance Service Test (QAST) Missile for operational test firing.

29 First successful test firing of a Quality Assurance Service Test Missile prepared by FRANK CABLE.

## **SEPTEMBER**

10 Successfully completed first PMS inspection conducted on AS-40 by Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR.

## **NOVEMBER**

21 Completed Type Commander Initial Annual Intermediate

Maintenance Activity (IMA) Proficiency and Readiness Evaluations, Quality Assurance and 3-M Inspections.

## **DECEMBER**

3 Conducted FRANK CABLE's first nuclear weapons movement by waterborne craft.

8-18 First successful open ocean recovery of MK 48 Torpedoes (4) by a submarine tender was accomplished by FRANK CABLE.

## **JANUARY-DECEMBER**

During the 1980 calendar year four (4) MK 14 Mod 5 Exercise Torpedoes were made ready for public display, to be placed in various areas on Naval Base Charleston, South Carolina. Nineteen (19) MK 32 Mod 2 Exercise Torpedoes, One hundred and twenty-one (121) MK 48 Exercise Torpedoes, two hundred and forty-four (244) MK 48 Warshot Torpedoes and twenty-four (24) Harpoon Encapsulated Missiles were transferred/received. A total of four hundred and eight (408) MK 48 Torpedoes/Harpoon Missiles were transferred/received in 1980.

In support of Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR training and inspection requirements, seven (7) MK 34 Dummy Guided Missiles (DGM's), two (2) MK 35 Dummy Guided Missiles, and eight (8) MK 36 training weapons were handled between FRANK CABLE and Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR units. A total of 55 SUBROC/Training Weapons were handled during 1980.

The Weapons Repair Department tested and assembled nineteen (19) MK 28 Missiles. Nineteen (19) MK 28 Missiles were tested and disassembled to stowage configuration. Six Adaption Kit exchanges were completed, sixteen LLC Kits were received and eight LLC exchanges were accomplished.

Six hundred and eight (608) quality assurance inspections conducted with thirty-two (32) rejections. Five hundred and thirty-one (531) weight test evolutions performed with thirty-two (32) rejections. Eight (8) Surface Spotting Exercises were conducted with the 22MM Rapid Fire Gun Mounts and 40 MM Grenade Launchers. Six hundred and thirty-four (634) personnel familiarization fired .45 caliber pistol expending 6,340 rounds of ammunition. Eight hundred and twenty-three (823) personnel familiarization fired the M-14 rifle expending 2,436 rounds of ammunition. In support of Submarine Squadron FOUR units, 7,785 miscellaneous pyrotechnics and 191,010 rounds of small arms ammunition were transferred or received with an ammunition transaction error rate consistently less than 1%.

FRANK CABLE's ability to tend nuclear submarines was noted during the initial type commanders annual Immediate Maintenance Activity Proficiency and Readiness Evaluation. This inspection noted that throughout the year, the Repair Department had to overcome many new construction and initial outfitting deficiencies. These efforts required significant expenditures of time and resources to define various problems, to establish viable corrective actions, and to track them to completion. The net result is an Immediate Maintenance Activity and ship which is capable of doing it's job --- fix submarines.

FRANK CABLE Immediate Maintenance Activity completed 104 assigned upkeep weeks during 1980 expending 203,500 man-hours.

The ship was delivered on time, passed two crew certifications and Light Off Exam (LOE) on initial try, conducted an inter-ocean transfer, completed a highly successful shakedown exempting requirements for an Operational Propulsion Plant Exam (OPPE), commenced tending early, was certified to handle SUBROC without an NWAI, and received a year certification on initial RCPE while maintaining the highest morale.