



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40)  
FPO MIAMI 34086

5757  
Ser 11/ 468

30 MAR 1987

From: Commanding Officer, USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40)  
To: Director of Naval History, (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20374

Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY (1986)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) 1986 Command History  
(2) 1986 Command Family grams

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded.

  
N. W. MIMS, JR.

**USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40)  
COMMAND HISTORY, 1986**

**COMPOSITION and ORGANIZATION:**

USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40) provides a mobile support base for nuclear powered SSN 637 Sturgeon class and SSN 688 Los Angeles class high-speed attack submarines. FRANK CABLE is an auxiliary ship, homeported in Charleston, SC, under the operational control of Commander Submarine Group SIX/Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR, and is commanded by Captain Norman W. Mims, Jr.

**CHRONOLOGY:**

Underway Schedule, 1986:

19-26 March: Independent Steaming Exercises.  
Port visit, Fort Lauderdale, FL.  
6-13 June: Operational Propulsion Plant Examination.  
22 June-10 July: Operation Swamp Fox '86, St. Thomas, USVI.  
5-12 September: Independent Steaming Exercises.  
Port visit, Nassau, Bahamas.  
15-17 December: Independent Steaming Exercises.

**UNIT AWARD:**

Battle Efficiency "E"

**NARRATIVE:**

The impressive operational performance record established in 1986 by fast-attack submarine tender FRANK CABLE, "The Navy's Only 4.0 Tender," has not been equalled by any other ship in its class. FRANK CABLE has excelled Navy-wide as demonstrated by winning the 1986 Battle Efficiency "E" in the Attack Submarine Tender category, Communications Green "C", Supply Blue "E", Medical Yellow "M", Engineering Red "E", the Ney Award for food service excellence, the first-ever awarded Best Sales and Services Award for ship's store operations in the large afloat category, and by completing an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) with the highest grades assignable in every category, a first for any auxiliary ship. Only five warships have received an "Above Average" during OPPE since the implementation of this grading standard.

Weapons Repair Department maintained all assigned units in a high state of readiness, completing all commitments on schedule. This year, the Weapons Repair Department safely handled 490 MK 48 Torpedoes, 47 Harpoon Missiles, 26 SUBROC Missiles, 10 TOMAHAWK Missiles, 4,736 Pyrotechnic Devices and 32,561 rounds of small arms ammunition. The Quality Assurance/Weight Test Division conducted 877 MK 48 QA inspections, 84 Harpoon QA inspections, 372 SUBROC QA inspections, 18 TOMAHAWK QA inspections, and 890 weight tests.

Engineering Department's Operational Propulsion Plant Examination was completed with an "Above Average" grade, a major factor in the department winning the Engineering Red "E". Engineering support provided to every submarine in refit was on schedule as requested. While anchored in St. Thomas, services were provided to four submarines and one surface craft.

During the year, Deck Department conducted over 400 SUBRON FOUR unit moves providing linehandling and mooring support, over 7,000 crane lifts (200 of them critical nuclear material and weapons moves), over 600 boat runs and over 750 combined lifts. The YD-232 also supported two SSN screw change operations.

Supply Department has continued its outstanding performance in SUBLANT as evidenced by the "Above Average" grade in the annual Supply Management Inspection (SMI), selection as the 1986 Edward F. Ney Memorial Award winner, Large Afloat category, winning the Supply Blue "E" for the third consecutive year (1984-1986), and selection as the winner of NAVSUP's Best Sales and Service Award, Large Afloat category (first year of award).

The Communications Center supports the embarked staff and the fifteen units of SUBRON FOUR. An average of 10,000 incoming and outgoing messages are processed per month. FRANK CABLE was awarded the Communications Green "C", in large part because of the "Above Average" grade given during a Communications Readiness Evaluation (CRE) administered during November 1985. Additionally, all communications antennas on board were renovated during 1986.

The Medical Department is tasked with maintaining the health of the ship's force and with providing support to 11 tended units and two ASR's. Proof of their abilities is seen in the winning of the Medical Yellow "M". Average monthly services include 650 outpatient visits, 105 physical exams, 1,425 laboratory tests, 130 audiograms, 1,060 pharmacy units and 195 immunizations. In addition, required HTLV III testing was completed. On-going program implemented to insure new check-ins are tested and to be certain program remains current with new requirements.

Dental Department was instrumental in upgrading the readiness posture of SUBRON FOUR. In 1986 the average dental readiness status for all tended units was increased to over 90%. Eight units deployed at 100%. Dental spaces were significantly revised and upgraded and new equipment installed resulting in expanded patient care capabilities. 3,371 patients received dental examinations and 2,499 patients received comprehensive care of some type.

FRANK CABLE Repair Department has the heaviest workload and the highest average productive hours/man/day of all SUBLANT tenders. The material support provided by FRANK CABLE to SUBRON FOUR ships is best indicated by the performance on Operational Reactor Safeguards Examinations (ORSE) wherein one ship was evaluated as excellent, seven as above average, and two as average in the material condition area.

Repair continued to set the pace in executing complex and significant repairs to tended units of SUBRON FOUR. In addition to normally scheduled inspections, the ship successfully completed an intense audit conducted by NAVSEA 08. Significant improvements and upgrade programs were initiated in the areas of training, quality assurance, and nuclear repair management.

The nuclear weld shop of the Hull Repair Division conducted many nuclear repairs to various submarines and played a critical role during three Steam Generator Eddy Current Inspections.

Both the Inside and Outside Machine Shops continued to perform in an outstanding manner, completing work on a multitude of equipment (pumps, valves, hydraulic assemblies, shafts, etc.) vital to the mission of SUBRON FOUR.

FRANK CABLE's Nuclear Support Facility supported timely completion of steam generator inspections with significant man-rem savings. This division continues to support time consuming nuclear repair jobs fully, in addition to providing routine services.

FRANK CABLE's divers completed three authorized civilian medical treatments with the use of hyperbaric oxygen. These treatments have significantly increased the limited knowledge of oxygen treatments under pressure and its tremendous healing potential. Divers also supported significant nuclear jobs (XC systems, hull flanges, goose neck hook-ups).

INSPECTIONS:

Industrial Plant Equipment Inspection:	Satisfactory
Radiological Controls Practices Exam:	NAVSEA 08 Audit replaced
Proficiency & Readiness Evaluation (PARE):	Satisfactory
Quality Assurance Audit:	Satisfactory
Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection:	Satisfactory
Tactical Weapons Capability Review (TWCR):	Satisfactory
Explosive Safety Survey:	Satisfactory
Magazine Sprinkler System Inspection:	Satisfactory
Operational Propulsion Plant Examination:	Above Average
CMS Inspection:	Satisfactory
Cosmic Control Point Inspection:	Satisfactory
Supply Management Inspection:	Above Average
Medical Readiness Inspection:	Above Average
3-M Inspection:	Above Average
PMS evaluation:	Excellent
PMS performance rate:	95%
Maintenance Data Systems Evaluation:	Excellent
NAVSEA 08 Audit:	Satisfactory
Dental Readiness:	Outstanding

SUMMARY:

FRANK CABLE's performance has improved significantly during 1986. FRANK CABLE has met every challenge and commitment in spite of potential set backs such as a declining trend in manning and increased "Hotel" (outside normal manning) requirements. By making maximum use of personal initiatives and applying sound management techniques, FRANK CABLE has attained a reputation for excellence in all areas of shipboard operation.

From an outstanding record on all inspections during 1986 to continued superb achievements in all departments on board has taken FRANK CABLE to the top performer among submarine tenders.