



**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-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY (1988)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) 1988 Command History  
(2) Welcome Aboard Booklet  
(3) Photograph of ship  
(4) Directory  
(5) 1988 Underway Schedule  
(6) Copies of 1988 Cablegram

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded.

  
J. D. PORTER

## USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40)

### COMMAND HISTORY

The USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40) provides a mobile support base for nuclear powered SSN 688 LOS ANGELES Class, and SSN 637 SURGEON class high-speed attack submarines. FRANK CABLE is an auxiliary ship that provides maintenance, supplies, and other services to these submarines. The ship contains 53 specialized shops for submarine support as well as various services such as laundry, repair parts, medical and dental facilities, legal counseling, mail, disbursing services, barber shops and ship's stores. There are living quarters for up to 1351 officers and enlisted personnel, both men and women. Submarines moored alongside for servicing can be provided with compressed gases, steam, diesel fuel, water, electricity and various other services. The Commanding Officer of FRANK CABLE is Captain John D. Porter. Captain Porter assumed the title as Commanding Officer of USS FRANK CABLE on 25 APR 1987. The USS FRANK CABLE is homeported in Charleston, South Carolina.

FRANK CABLE received the Communications "C", Medical "M", and third place (NEY) Award. From May through November, FRANK CABLE conducted a successful six month deployment to the Mediterranean. The following items were completed during that time: twelve submarine refits and one surface ship refit, a massive clean up of the beaches on the islands of the Archipelago of La Maddalena, repairs and renovation of the Sisters of Charity Orphanage, a joint military and civilian 4th of July picnic for over 3,000 personnel and numerous dinners and receptions were held on board for local dignitaries.

Enclosure (1)

The Supply Department continued its sustained superior performance during FY 88. These efforts resulted in the department receiving an "ABOVE AVERAGE" grade during the SUBLANT Supply Management Inspection (SMI) held in January. For the second year in a row, all service areas (Food service, Sales, Disbursing and ADP) were rated OUTSTANDING; FRANK CABLE was the only tender to achieve this distinction. Also rated as OUTSTANDING was the Navy Stock Fund Financial Management area. The Food Service Division and Sales Division continued their award winning efforts. In the food service area, the ship won third place in the 1988 Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Award competition, Tender/Repair category. The Sales and Service Division placed second in the Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command Best Sales and Services Award, Large Afloat category.

The Supply Department met the challenge of a deployment that was logistically unique because of the requirement to not only support the fast-attack submarines of COMSUBRON TWENTY-TWO deployed in the Mediterranean, but to provide total financial, depot level repairable and requisition maintenance management and partial requisition expenditures for the fourteen units of the ship's parent squadron, COMSUBRON FOUR. The outstanding manner in which this complex challenge was accomplished is a credit to each crew member in the department.....it was truly an "All hands effort".

The Engineering Department is an extremely capable and confident department which is service-oriented and has the reputation for expert organization and superb material and operational readiness. The following are but a few examples of their capabilities and accomplishments:

- Met every scheduled and unscheduled underway commitment.
- Completed the very detailed DSRA planning phase, ensuring that equipment requiring work received the proper documentation to ensure a comprehensive and cost-effective overhaul.
- Conducted a very comprehensive training program which allowed the successful completion of the OPPE inspection and successful Sixth Fleet deployment.
- Conducted numerous boiler flexes on all propulsion boilers with nothing less than Level 1 being assigned.
- Conducted main propulsion boiler inspections on all boilers with zero restrictive deficiencies, completing just four weeks prior to a major deployment.
- Provided tended units alongside with services including shore power, CHT removal, high pressure air, nitrogen and oxygen charges, telephones, chilled water air conditioning, and closed circuit television, while in home port, as well as deployed to the Sixth Fleet.

- Completed annual crane inspection certification.
- Overhauled three 250 ton air conditioning plants, including the complete retubing of one chiller and two salt water condensers, and rebuilding of all three chilled water and salt water pump motors.
- Completed extensive safety and operational upgrade of all ship's conveyors and elevators.
- Installed "stay-warm oil" MachAlt on emergency diesel generator engine, a prototype installation for AS tenders.
- Installed two upgraded bilge and ballast pumps in the engine room, complete with motors and controllers. These pumps are the prototype for AS tenders.
- Overhauled and repaired oily water separator system for the fire room and engine room.
- Maintained all cranes at 100% operational capability to support over 1000 crane lifts.
- Provided valuable technical assistance to the Repair Department for a casualty to a tended unit's Mk 19 Gyrocompass. The assistance resulted in the unit being able to meet her underway commitments on time.
- Installed a NAVSEA-approved Ship Alt for SSTG external overspeed test circuitry for all SSTG's, a prototype for AS tenders.

The DC Division maintained all Damage Control equipment at the highest state of readiness and inventories sufficient to assist tended units with alongside training and equipment to combat any damage control casualty. Specific accomplishments included:

- Completed the Nuclear Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI) with a grade of excellent for Damage Control.
- Provided direct support in overhauling the fire on board USS BONEFISH providing Damage Control training and equipment to the investigating board members. Provided gas free engineering services while alongside until final safe-for-entry criteria was achieved.
- Provided "around-the-clock" ready fire party services during USS BONEFISH fire investigation.
- Trained and certified Helo Crash and Rescue Team with over 7 helo pad landings and Vertreps, in excess of 300 touchdowns.

The Weapons Repair Department maintained all assigned units of Submarine Squadron FOUR and Submarine Squadron TWENTY-TWO in the highest state of readiness, completing every commitment on or before schedule. Prior to deploying for the supporting tender role in La Maddelena, Italy, all CSS-4 submarine schedules were carefully screened to provide the best weapons make-up and

training assets available. During CY 88, the Weapons Repair Department handled in excess of 450,000 pounds Net Explosive Weight (NEW) without an incident or accident. Specific accomplishments include:

- Gunnery exercises were conducted each quarter, including 10 days during the cross-Atlantic transit. Over 900 security force personnel were trained. Daytime and night time firing, plus shipboard security engagement tactics and security lectures were conducted to make FRANK CABLE ready in all respects for the increased security awareness required overseas.

- Twelve areas were inspected during the Nuclear Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection, of these, 9 received grades of "OUTSTANDING" and 3 "EXCELLENT". According to the COMSUBLANT Chief Inspector, "FRANK CABLE is the BEST Weapons Repair Department in the Atlantic Fleet." The 4 areas which improved were: Management and Administration, Technical Operations, Logistic Movement, and Command and Control.

- Technical and logistic support was provided to CSS-4/22 submarines during 4 NTPI, 2 DNSI, and 3 NWA I inspections.

- QEL Surveillance (number of major deficiencies): None

- Quality Assurance Audit Deficiencies: None

- Alterations Performed: On tended unit (2), on tender (1).

- ITEMS Handled:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NBR HANDLED</u>	<u>NBR</u>
<u>PREPARED</u>		
MK 48	348	174
HARPOON	31	31
TOMAHAWK	56	30
MINES	106	60
SUBROC	13	13
MK 34/36	5	3
Pyros	2536	2536
Ammo (rounds)	105,004	105,004

- QA Inspections Conducted 1353

- Weight Test Conducted 459

- IMA Production Data (for CY 88)

Average number personnel assigned repair: 50

Total productive manhours expended: 50,135

Productive manhours expended per man /mo: 84

The Repair Department continued to excel in all areas by completing complex and significant repairs to tended units of Submarine Squadrons FOUR and TWENTY TWO. Total units are as follows : thirteen SSN's, three ASR's, one TWR, one YTB and miscellaneous small craft.

- Received average score on Radiological Controls Examination. Received SATISFACTORY on Maintenance and Material Inspection with comments that the Intermediate Maintenance Activity (IMA) was in excellent material condition and well above other IMA's recently inspected.

- Deployed for six months overseas; successfully completed 1799 jobs for Commander, Submarine Squadron TWENTY-TWO. Completed on board an SSN a rewind of slow speed windings on a MSW Motor, the first repair of this type to be accomplished by an IMA.

Repair Department has accomplished its goal in having the new Crypto Facility manned and at 100% capability. A new layout of the Photo Lab has been completed giving us a better turn around time on various photographic services. The Engraving Shop has installed two new Phonex Computer Controlled Engravers. This gives the shop the ability to produce a product in one fourth the time.

Repair Department was the major contributor in the intercultural relations during our Italian Deployment, by devoting many man-hours for road building, beach clean up, and the restoration of an orphanage for homeless children.

Deck Department readiness and performance during this period was superb in every area of responsibility. The requirements placed on FRANK CABLE'S Deck Department were unique and the most demanding among submarine tenders. Operating under both ashore and afloat criteria, Deck developed and maintained a reputation for superb reliability and excellence. In addition to the normal demanding loads for tended units, Deck further showed superb support and expertise by providing heavy lifting services to COMSUBRON EIGHTEEN, Naval Weapons Station, Charleston and Naval Station, Charleston.

Specific accomplishments included:

- Conducted over 10,000 safe shipboard crane lifts, in Supply, Weapons, and Repair support of USS FRANK CABLE, COMSUBRON EIGHTEEN, COMSUBRON TWENTY-TWO, and the thirteen tended units of SUBRON FOUR.

- Provided line handling services for over one hundred arriving/departing units. Provided liberty boat services for over 1,200 personnel.

- Replaced over 10,000 square feet of Non-skid/PRC deck covering.

- Accomplished five propellor changes, four waterborne and one dry dock.

- Safely removed and replaced four 43 KW MG sets.

- Accomplished numerous weapon loads and unloads on various SSBN's and SSN's utilizing YD-232.

- Salvaged a deep draft camel for NAVSTA, Charleston.
- Successfully completed three mediterranean moors while deployed to the mediterranean.
- During a four week period of catastrophic failure of the site's small boats in La Maddalena, Italy, Deck Department assumed all small boat operations with no interruption in service, safely transporting over 1,500 military and civilian personnel daily. This was only possible due to the high state of readiness of USS FRANK CABLE's boats.

Deck Department has conducted a myraid of hazardous operations without accident or personnel injury. This flawless record of safety is a direct result of a rigorous ongoing training program and is a trophy for her Deck Department Professionals.

The Navigation Department completed a successful Mediterranean cruise across the Atlantic and back.

- Completed portcalls to Monaco, Naples, Malaga and Bermuda.
- Supported the tug USS OCALA on all underways with charts, supplies and personnel.
- Contributed significantly to the award of the Communication's Green "C".
- Implemented and maintained Squadron TWENTY-TWO deployment schedule.

The FRANK CABLE Communications Center supported the embarked staff and the thirteen units of SUBRON FOUR with extreme efficiency until mid-May of 1988 when the ship deployed to relieve the Mediterranean deployed submarine tender, USS ORION as the support tender for SUBRON TWENTY-TWO and all U. S. Submarines in that theater. An average of 9,000 incoming and outgoing messages were processed per month. All messages on FRANK CABLE were processed by utilization of 100 WPM teletype/tape system without the benefit of high-speed automated processing and distribution systems. FRANK CABLE, serving the embarked staff, processes approximately 1,000 outgoing message through the message center per month with an average intervention rate of 2.2%. All incoming and outgoing messages are sent and received via 100 WPM multi-channel termination with Naval Communications Area Master Station; Mediterranean (NAVCAMS MED), Naples, Italy. Specific accomplishments include:

- Completed Type Commander's Communications Readiness Evaluations in May and October 1988 with a grade each time of 93.8 (ABOVE AVERAGE) of a possible 100 points.
- While underway in local Atlantic Operating Areas and while transmitting to the Mediterranean, completed numerous White Pinnacle and Esteem Highly exercises correctly and within time constraints.

- Completed Top Secret and Cosmic Control Point inspections with no discrepancies.

The Medical Department directed the first helicopter MEDIVAC at sea in the FRANK CABLE history. While inport in La Maddelena, conducted two emergent helicopter transports to Sassari Medical Center due to the unavailability of timely advanced military medical care. During a port visit to Monaco, MEDIVACED an acute abdominal case by small boat to the local hospital. While in Malaga, Spain evacuated a patient to Naval Hospital Rota, Spain. During the deployment while inport in La Maddelena, 65 patients used the MEDIVAC systems for appointments in specialty clinics and for hospitalization in Naples, Italy and Landstuhl, Germany. Specific accomplishments include:

- 100% HIV testing complete before deployment
- Awarded Medical Yellow "M" for Medical Department excellence in the fleet
- Because of the lack of orthopedic support while inport in La Maddelena, implemented a "cast clinic". Involved application, repair, and removal of a total of 38 casts.
- Implemented sexual responsibility training during "I" Division Training.
- Outstanding completion of Medical Readiness Inspection, assisted other departments in their inspections, RCPE, OPPE, Conventional Weapons and SMI.
- Implemented Sickcall Appointment System which has significantly cut down on patient wait and time lost from work.
- Mass casualty protocol developed by the FRANK CABLE Medical Staff was adopted by the Sixth Fleet Surgeon's Office in Naples.

The FRANK CABLE possesses an exceptional Dental Department. Three officers and nine enlisted personnel provide a quality oriented and comprehensive array of dental care including porcelain fused to metal prosthesis and temporomandibular joint splint therapy. The Dental Department supports ship's company as well as the embarked staff and fourteen tended units of Submarine Squadron FOUR. Additionally, while deployed to Sardinia, Italy, the department provided support for 12 submarines, 1 surface ship and the staff of Submarine Squadron TWENTY-TWO. This contributed directly to the readiness and performance of those units and the Sixth Fleet as a whole. Following the annual dental administrative inspection, sublant awarded the department an overall grade of "OUTSTANDING". Specific areas receiving an outstanding were: professional services, equipment and supply, training and safety.



UNDERWAY 1988

FEB 88 PORTCALL

23 - 26 FEB 88

OPPE Inspection

MAR - APR 88 PORTCALL

21 MAR - 01 APR 88

Fort Canaveral

MAY - NOV 88 (DEPLOYED)

20 MAY - 19 NOV

6 month deployment to La Maddalena, Italy.

JUL 88 PORTCALL

13 JUL - 19 JUL 88

Naples, Italy

SEP 88 PORTCALL

08 SEP - 15 SEP 88

Monaco

NOV 88 PORTCALL

02 NOV - 05 NOV 88

Malaga, Spain

88NOV02 - 88NOV19

CHARLESTON (HOME PORT)

Enclosure (5)