

Office of the Secretary of Defense
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CDR [REDACTED] USN
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05 JUNE 1980

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SUBJECT (U)

DON FOIA Ex 3: 10 USC § 1306

Exercise UNITAS

HIGHLIGHTS (C)

- Begun in 1960, and conducted for 21 consecutive years, UNITAS is an annual combined Inter-American naval exercise for mutual training of participating navies in surface, submarine and air warfare procedures and tactics.
- It is conducted in both bilateral and multilateral phases as the U.S. UNITAS Task Group circumnavigates South America.
- Commander South Atlantic Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (USCOM-SOLANT), serves as UNITAS Task Force Commander.
- This year UNITAS XXI will consist of bilateral operations from June through November with the maritime nations of South America with the exception of Chile.

DISCUSSION (C)

- Planning for UNITAS XXI involved USCOMSOLANT and staff visiting Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Uruguay and planners from Argentina, Peru, and Venezuela visiting USCOMSOLANT Headquarters in Roosevelt Roads, PR.
- U.S. ships will be underway 27 June 1980 for UNITAS XXI Operations.
- USCOMSOLANT for UNITAS XXI will be RADM P. K. Cullins, USN.
- USN units which will comprise the UNITAS U.S. Task Group:
 - USS ARTHUR W. RADFORD (DD-968), USCOMSOLANT embarked.
 - USS KING (DDG-41) COMDESRON 32 embarked.
 - USS PHARRIS (FF-1094).
 - USS SKIPJACK (SSN-585), Pacific Coast Ops.
 - USS SNOOK (SSN-592), East Coast Ops.
 - Two P3C aircraft from PATRON 49.
 - One C-118 aircraft from Fleet Logistic Support Squadron 52 Detachment.
 - One LAMPS helo detachment from Helicopter Antisubmarine (light) Squadron 34.
 - One jet drone detachment from FLECOMPRON 6.
 - Fifteen man Navy Show Band East provided by CINCLANTFLT.

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- South American countries participating in UNITAS XXI will be: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
- State Department disapproved Chilean invitation to participate in UNITAS XXI because of Letelier/Moffit case.
- Ships of U.S. Task Group will visit some 27 ports in 10 different countries and 7 Caribbean Islands.
- Upon completion of UNITAS operations in early November, some U.S. Task Group ships will proceed to visit West African ports. Plans are now being developed for the remaining ships to participate in amphibious operations with Brazil and Colombia and in selected underway exercises with the Canadian, Royal Netherlands and British navies.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

- Provided for information.

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