



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

PD/NAC.  
(Comeback)

#97

27 JUN 1975

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

In reply refer to:  
I-7017/75

Mr. George T. Churchill, Director  
International Security Operations  
Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Churchill:

Enclosed are six copies of the brief of significant military exercise UNITAS XVI.

A detailed schedule of events appears at paragraph 4 of the brief and a brief outline of the exercise is in paragraph 8.

The recommended general public information policy set forth in paragraph 14 of the brief is being coordinated separately with State's Bureau of Public Affairs by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs).

In view of the need to accomplish detailed pre-exercise coordination, we would appreciate receiving State Department views regarding this exercise as soon as possible.

Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 U.S.C. 552  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 01 Sep 2017 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: ☒ Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
MDR: 17 -M- 2284  
Enclosure  
a/s

Signed  
W. Y. Smith  
Major General, USAF  
Director, Policy Plans  
and NSC Affairs

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: SEP 01 2017

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OASD(PA), OASD(ISA)IA (with attachments)  
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PD/NAC Chron, Subj

Prepared by Colonel D.S. Mahlberg, USA  
OASD(ISA)PD/NAC, X54327/eg/26 Jun 75  
For Coord see 161.

MFR - 8 July

Received a telephone call from Mr. John Scott  
Asst to Dir PM/ISO, State, who said Mr. Churchill had signed  
a letter approving UNITAS XVI and it would be sent out  
tonight.  
R. S. Mahlberg Col USAF



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20 June 1975

## ATLANTIC COMMAND

### BRIEF OF A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EXERCISE

1. (U) Name of Exercise: UNITAS XVI.
2. (U) Type: Combined naval operations involving the navies of the major maritime nations of South America (less Ecuador), emphasizing ASW and other ocean control exercises.
3. ~~(C)~~ Aims: (U)
  - a. To conduct combined operations with the South American (SOAM) navies.
  - b. To improve readiness posture of SOAM navies by demonstrating procedures and methods utilized by modern forces (surface, sub-surface, and air) and to improve overall SOAM naval effectiveness.
  - c. To assess capability of SOAM navies to execute various warfare missions, i.e., antisubmarine warfare (ASW), antiair warfare (AAW), electronic warfare (EW), gunnery, etc.
  - d. To evaluate potential of SOAM navies in contingency situations.
  - e. To promote goodwill among citizens and foster professional rapport among the hemispheric navies.
4. ~~(C)~~ Dates: UNITAS XVI operations will commence 24 July 1975 with arrival of US Forces in Roosevelt Roads (ROOS RDS), P.R., and will terminate with departure of US Forces from ROOS RDS on 4 December 1975. Proposed schedule for UNITAS XVI is as follows:

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~~Classified by CINCPAC~~  
~~Subject to General Declassification~~  
~~Schedule of Executive Order 11652~~  
~~Automatic Downgrading~~  
~~When Intervall~~  
~~Declassified on December 31, 1991~~

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PHASE NR	LOCATION	DAYS AT SEA	DAYS IN PORT	INCLUSIVE DATES	COUNTRIES	REMARKS
I	ROOS RDS		2	24-26 Jul	US	CTF 138 embark
	ROOS RDS Santa Marta, Col	2		26-28 Jul	US	TF-138 en route RDVU COLNAV
	Santa Marta		1	28-29 Jul	US/Col	RDVU/presail
	Santa Marta- Cartagena	3		29-31 Jul	US/Col	Bilateral operations
	Cartagena		3	31Jul-4Aug	US/Col	Refuel/tech assist/in port training
	Cartagena- Rodman	4		4-7 Aug	US/Col	TF underway Cartagena 4 Aug; training Anchorage vic Punta Baru P.M. 4 Aug; 5 Aug, U/W en route Panama Canal; TF transit canal 7 Aug
	Rodman		4	7-11 Aug	US/Col	TF refuel, tech assist/ symposium for COLNAV by CTF-138
II	Rodman-Paita, Peru	5		11-16 Aug	US/Col	Units U/W Rodman 11 Aug, with training Anchorage vic Bahia de Copica 12-13 Aug. COLNAV detaches 14 Aug, at sea, US ships proceed to Paita for RDVU PERNAV
	Paita		1	16 Aug	US/Peru	Presail conf

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PHASE NR	LOCATION	DAYS AT SEA	DAYS IN PORT	INCLUSIVE DATES	COUNTRIES	REMARKS
	Paita-Callao	5		16-21 Aug	US/Peru	Bilateral operations at sea
	Callao		6	21-27 Aug	US/Peru	NSC conf/refuel/tech assist/ symposium for PERNAV by CTF 138
	Callao-Ilo	5		27-31 Aug	US/Peru	Bilateral operations at sea
	Ilo		1	31Aug-1Sep	US/Peru	Final critique Phase II
	Ilo- Iquique, Chile	1		1-2 Sep	US	US units en route
III	Iquique	.	1	2-3 Sep	US/Chile	Presail conf
	Iquique- Valparaiso	7		3-10 Sep	US/Chile	US and Chilean Forces U/W for OPS at sea with training anchorage as follows: Vic Majillones 4-5 Sep, Chanaral 6-7 Sep, Pto Aldea 8-9 Sep, TF will refuel at sea 3, 5 and 8 Sep from Chilean AO
	Valparaiso		5	10-15 Sep	US/Chile	Critique/presail conf, symposium and tech assist for CHILNAV by CTF-138
	Valparaiso- Talcahuano	2		15-17 Sep	US/Chile	Bilateral operations at sea

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PHASE NR	LOCATION	DAYS AT SEA	DAYS IN PORT	INCLUSIVE DATES	COUNTRIES	REMARKS
	Talcahuano		5	17-22 Sep	US/Chile	Final critique Phase III, upkeep US ships, SALMON detached to proceed San Diego
	Talcahuano-Pto Montt	1		22-23 Sep	US units Chilean Oiler	US units en route/CHILNAV AO refuel US ships as required
	Pto Montt		3	23-26 Sep	US	R and R
	Pto Montt-Pta Arenas	3		26-29 Sep	US units Chilean Oiler	US units en route via southern channels. CHILNAV AO refuel US ships as required
	Pta Arenas		1	29-30 Sep	US	RON/PORT visit
	Pta Arenas-Pto Belgrano, Arg	3		30Sep-30Oct	US	US units en route will RDVU with ARGNAV oiler 1 Oct for refueling
IV	Pto Belgrano		5	3-8 Oct	US/ARG	SKATE joins TF 3 Oct in Puerto Belgrano, arrival conf, ASW and AAW symposium, SKATE departs for Mar Del Plata 5 Oct
	Pto Belgrano-Mar Del Plata	1		5-6 Oct	USS SKATE (SSN-578)	SKATE en route port visit Mar Del Plata

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PHASE NR	LOCATION	DAYS AT SEA	DAYS IN PORT	INCLUSIVE DATES	COUNTRIES	REMARKS
	Mar Del Plata		2	6-8 Oct	USS SKATE (SSN-578)	Port visit
IV	Pto Belgrano- Montevideo, Ur	2		8-10 Oct	US/ARG	Task group en route RDVU SKATE 9 Oct at sea
	Montevideo		9	10-19 Oct	US/ARG/ UR/BR	TF in Port Montevideo 10-19 Oct. US flag ship DAHLGREN U/W for Buenos Aires 13 Oct
	Montevideo- Buenos Aires, Arg	1		13-14 Oct	USS DAHLGREN	En route Buenos Aires
	Buenos Aires		5	14-19 Oct	USS DAHLGREN	Multilateral presail conf and port visit
	Montevideo- Rio De Janeiro, Br	8		19-27 Oct	US/ARG/ UR/BR	Multilateral operations at sea, DAHLGREN RDVU TF vic Montevideo, URNAV detach 23 Oct
	Rio De Janeiro		6	27Oct-3Nov	US/BR	Presail/critique/refuel
V	Rio De Janeiro- Salvador, Br	3		3-7 Nov	US/BR	Bilateral operations at sea
	Salvador		3	7-10 Nov	US/BR	Refuel/critique/presail

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PHASE NR	LOCATION	DAYS AT SEA	DAYS IN PORT	INCLUSIVE DATES	COUNTRIES	REMARKS
	Salvador- Recife, Br	3		10-13 Nov	US/BR	Bilateral operations at sea
	Recife		3	13-16 Nov	US/BR	Critique
	Recife-Pto La Cruz, Ven	8		16-23 Nov	US	En route
VI	Pto La Cruz		1	23-24 Nov	US/VEN	Presail/refuel
	Pto La Cruz- Pto Cabello, Ven	3		24-27 Nov	US/VEN	Bilateral operations at sea
	Pto Cabello		5	27Nov-2Dec	US/VEN	Critique/presail
	Pto Cabello- ROOS RDS, PR	2		2-4 Dec	US/VEN	US and Ven forces will conduct bilateral operations at sea until 031700Q at which time Phase VI will terminate and respective forces will proceed IAW national directives. US ships to ARR ROOS RDS 4 Dec

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5. ~~(S)~~ Critical Date for President to Cancel Exercise:  
15 July 1975.

6. (U) Political Implications:

a. US commitment to friendly nations for conduct of exercise: Traditional commitment to participate and conduct UNITAS XVI as a combined exercise was made by CINCLANT message proposal/invitation to seven SOAM countries, all countries agreed to participate.

b. Date commitment made: The invitations to participate were delivered on 25 April 1975.

c. Other political implications: None.

7. ~~(S)~~ Geographical Area: UNITAS XVI will be conducted in a counter-clockwise direction around the SOAM continent, commencing in Santa Marta, Colombia.

8. (U) Brief Outline:

a. US Navy Task Group, comprised of one DDG and two FFs, one SS (PAC and CARIB), one SSN (LANT and CARIB), two P3C ACFT, and one C-118 transport ACFT will join units of participating SOAM navies and air forces to conduct ocean control exercising between Puerto Rico and various SOAM ports during 26 Aug - 4 Dec 1975.

b. Exercises to be conducted and UNITAS common OPORDER resulted from combined planning conducted with representatives of participating SOAM ASW forces (naval and air force) coordinated by USCOMSOLANT. Individual planning conferences were conducted in Puerto Rico with representatives of the Venezuelan and Peruvian navies, followed by conferences in Colombia, Chile, and Brazil in turn. Both bilateral planning with representatives of the Brazilian Navy and multilateral planning with representatives of the navies of Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay were conducted in Brazil. Except in the case of Peru and Argentina, representatives of various USMIL-GPs and MAAGs were able to attend, as well as representatives from participating US units.

c. No applicable scenario.

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9. ~~(C)~~ Directing Headquarters: US Commander South Atlantic Force/Commander Task Force 138 with headquarters at US Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, will embark in USS DAHLGREN (DDG-43) for UNITAS operations, then return ashore to US Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

10. ~~(C)~~ Participating Commands, Headquarters, and Forces:

a. United States

- (1) USS BRUMBY (FF-1044) - Commander Destroyer Squadron Twenty Four embarked.
- (2) USS TRUETT (FF-1095).
- (3) USS SALMON (SS-573) (28 Jul - 23 Sep).
- (4) USS SKATE (SSN-578) (3 Oct - 2 Dec).
- (5) Two P3C ORION patrol aircraft from Patrol Squadron Five from Jacksonville, Florida.
- (6) One C-118 logistic support aircraft from Fleet Tactical Support Squadron 52 Detachment located in Detroit, Michigan.
- (7) One LAMPS helo detachment from Fleet Helicopter Sea Control Wing One in Norfolk, Virginia.
- (8) Fleet Composit Squadron 6 Detachment (DRONE target aircraft), embarked in USS BRUMBY. CINCLANTFLT will furnish Navy Show Band.

b. Participating South American navies and air forces (alphabetically):

COUNTRY	CVS	DD	CL	DE	SS	AUX	ASW A/C	ATTACK A/C
Argentina		3			1	1	2 P-2	
Brazil		6			3	1	3 S2A	4 AT-26 4 SH3D 1 T-25
Chile		5	2		1	2	2 C-47 2 SH-57 2 HU-16	2 Hawker Hunter

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COUNTRY	CVS	DD	CL	DE	SS	AUX	ASW	A/C	ATTACK	A/C
Colombia		2		1					1 Mirage	
									1 T-33	
Peru		2			3	1	2	Helo		
							1	C-47		
Uruguay				3			2	S2A		
Venezuela		2			1	2	2	S2E		

11. ~~(S)~~ Scope of Anticipated Participation:

a. Other unified or specified commands: MAP funding for ASW, air and surface gunnery exercise ordnance material for the South American Forces will be provided by USCINCSO.

b. Unassigned forces of the US Military Services:

(1) With exception of Argentina and Peru, CHNAVSECs under COMUSMILGPs of participating navies represented at each planning conference. Administrative matters concerning participating of South American naval forces was coordinated through Navy section chiefs.

(2) US naval attaches in participating SOAM countries provided required liaison for protocol and administrative matters pertaining to visits of US Forces to their respective host countries.

(3) US Naval Communication Stations, Puerto Rico, and Balboa, and US Naval Communication Technical Group, Rio De Janeiro, will be requested to furnish necessary support as determined at planning conference.

c. Other Federal agencies:

(1) State Department, via US embassies, will arrange diplomatic clearances for the scheduled ship visits and required overflight and landing clearances of UNITAS air detachments.

(2) Public relations activities in South America will be coordinated with applicable USIS officials.

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d. Allied nations: It is expected that forces of the various SOAM countries as detailed in paragraph 10 will participate during periods listed in paragraph 4.

12. (U) Simulated Use of Nuclear Weapons: Not Applicable.

13. (U) Coordination Effected with Other Unified, Specified or Service Commands, Governmental Agencies, or Representatives Thereof: As detailed in paragraph 11.

14. ~~(S)~~ Recommended General Public Information Policy:

a. Public affairs within US:

(1) USCOMSOLANT recommends that initial news announcement on UNITAS XVI be made simultaneously by OASD (PA) and CINCLANT/CINCLANTFLT on 15 July 1975.

(2) Subsequent news releases for distribution within the US will be originated by USCOMSOLANT for release through CINCLANT/CINCLANTFLT and CHINFO.

(3) USCOMSOLANT will furnish to CINCLANT/CINCLANTFLT a summary report of public affairs activities occurring after each port visit.

(4) USCOMSOLANT will prepare final news release concerning the exercise and will forward to CHINFO in time to ensure simultaneous release within and outside of the US by 15 December 1975.

(5) Following is the proposed UNITAS XVI initial news release for 15 July 1975.

"For the sixteenth consecutive year, ships and aircraft of the US Navy will join naval and air forces of South American nations in a series of naval exercises occurring in the waters off the South American continent.

"Called UNITAS XVI, the exercise will be under the command of Rear Admiral George F. Ellis, Jr., whose headquarters are in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. The exercise will commence on 24 July 1975 when the US task group will rendezvous with a Colombian navy task group in Santa Marta, Colombia.

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"This year the US task group will proceed around the South American continent in a counter-clockwise direction, operating with the navies of Colombia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, and Venezuela. 'These combined operations should significantly enhance the capabilities and readiness of all participants to neutralize any threat to the sealanes of the hemisphere,' Ellis said.

'This year we will continue the evolving pattern of adding more complexity and realism to our exercises and can expect a notable advance in our training accomplishments,' added Admiral Ellis."

Admiral Ellis will be embarked in USS DAHLGREN (DDG-43), a guided missile destroyer homeported in Norfolk, Virginia. Other US Navy ships taking part in UNITAS XVI include: the frigate USS BRUMBY (FF-1044) homeported in Charleston, S.C., with Commander Squadron Twenty-Four embarked; the frigate USS TRUETT (FF-1095) homeported in Norfolk, Va; the submarine USS SALMON (SS-575) homeported in San Diego, California, which will participate during the period 26 July - 22 September; and the submarine USS SKATE (SSN-578) homeported in New London, Conn., participating during the period 3 October - 2 December. US naval aviation units participating will be: two anti-submarine patrol aircraft from Patrol Squadron Five in Jacksonville, Fla.; a transport aircraft from Fleet Tactical Support Squadron Fifty-Two Detachment in Detroit, Mich.; and a 3H-2 LAMPS helicopter detachment from Fleet Helicopter SA Control Wing One of Norfolk, Va., embarked in USS TRUETT; and a drone detachment from Fleet Tactical Support Squadron Six of Norfolk, Va., embarked in USS BRUMBY. As the US task group operates at sea, the 15 member Navy Show Band furnished by the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet, will tour South America. This band will make an estimated 100 live and televised performances before approximately 13 million spectators during the UNITAS operation.

After 4 1/2 months of operations and port visits in eight countries, the US task group will return to Roosevelt Roads in mid-December.

b. Public affairs outside US:

- (1) Public affairs will become a national responsibility.
- (2) News releases pertaining to the exercise, made by the task force commander, will be coordinated with appropriate local US officials.

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(3) Public affairs activities, including news briefings, communiques, and reports of significant national and/or international implications, will be conducted and/or issued by the task force commander, keeping CINCLANTFLT advised.

(4) Media representatives will be embarked in US units (surface or air) only with explicit approval of USCOMSOLANT.

(5) As expressed by individual authorities of host governments, handclasp materials will not be delivered by the task group ships, except to Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay; however, personnel of US task group will participate in community service projects in each country to be visited.

(6) In coordination with USIS representatives in the various countries, the Navy Show Band will be utilized to the fullest extent for musical programs to reach maximum audience in furtherance of US objectives in South America.

15. ~~(S)~~ General Policy Concerning:

- a. Diplomatic information: Material which of necessity requires handling via diplomatic channels will be coordinated through the appropriate US embassy.
- b. Security restrictions: Details of UNITAS XVI will normally be classified CONFIDENTIAL.
- c. Public relations: In every instance, efforts will be made to present the US and the US Navy in a most favorable light.
- d. Other unusual elements: The marked improvement and continuing development of South American navies is a direct result of the combined UNITAS exercises. UNITAS, in addition to the excellent training afforded our South American allies, also provides an excellent opportunity for the overall promotion of goodwill and cultural/social changes.

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16. ~~16~~ Additional Remarks:

a. As in UNITAS XV, fuel conservation will be a major consideration during UNITAS XVI. In the cases of Chile and Colombia, the concept of training anchorages gears towards fuel conservation, and was examined and made part of the programmed training schedule based on successful application in UNITAS XV. During periods of US only operations (transits between countries), an economical speed of advance was developed. It should be noted that the importance placed on the UNITAS operation by each SOAM navy is evidenced by the fact that each country issued the CINCLANT invitation elected to participate, despite whatever effects the fuel shortage may have had on that country.

b. The estimated number of US naval personnel who will participate in UNITAS XVI is one thousand.

Prepared by: CAPT G. R. MCKEE, USN  
LANT/SOUTH/AL-REDCOM Division, J-3, OJCS  
Extension 53779

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

334 JCS

22 JUL 1975

In reply refer to:  
I-6966/75

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Significant Military Exercise UNITAS XVI

Reference: DOD Directive C-5030.43, as changed November 4, 1971

Significant military exercise UNITAS XVI has been approved by the White House in accordance with the brief.

Signed

W. Y. Smith  
Major General, USAF  
Director, Policy Plans  
and NSC Affairs

Page determined to be Unclassified  
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS  
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Prepared by Col Donald S. Mahlberg, USA  
OASD(ISA)PD/NAC/eg/22 Jul 75/X54327



354.2 UNITAS XVI

22 July 1975