Project Name: Fort Lauderdale Cable Repair and Cable Installation

Author: Don Wells

Organizations/People Involved:

FPO-1: CDR Jim Osborn (Temporary duty); Bill Sherwood, Al Sutherland; SEACON

NUWC, Fort Lauderdale

UCT-1: BMC Stanfield, 11 Seabee divers

Date: 1977

Project Summary:

The project scope -consisted of: (1) relocating the seaward ends of one inshore range cable and one deep-water range cable; (2) laying three new 110,000-foot cables from the deep-water range to shore; and (3) splicing from the seaward ends of five existing cables and lengthening them by up to 30,000 feet to extend out of the deep-water range. Three vessels were used to perform these operations. These included SEACON and two NUWC vessels, RSB-1 and the UB-646. The SEACON served as the primary cable laying platform. Most of the cable retrieval, raising, lowering, and splicing operations were performed by the RSB-1. Cable ends were passed between the SEACON and RSB-1, using the UB-646. The SEACON would then either lay or recover cable with its deck-mounted winches, while maintaining course or station with its dynamic-positioning system. This area off of the east coast of FL incurs high seas and currents so station keeping capabilities of SEACON were an important asset for these operations. Approximately 465,000 feet of cable were loaded aboard the SEACON from six gondola railroad cars during the overall installation period. The maximum amount of cable loaded on SEACON at any one time was 215,000 feet.

In total, the project included 10 at-sea events, during which 17,000 feet of cable were recovered and re-laid, 3,000 feet of cable were recovered and 465,000 feet of new cable were laid.

Project Report Link: ADA163445 Project Completion Report Cable Field