

USS WILLIAM H. BATES (SSN 680)

FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09501

23 April 1976

Dear Mr & Mrs. Degner,

You are no doubt already aware that WILLIAM H. BATES is scheduled to deploy soon for an extended tour of duty with the U.S. SIXTH Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea. Deployments of this nature are essential elements of Fleet and Submarine Force demonstrated readiness in support of U.S. policy. Periodic extended operations at sea are necessary to test the endurance of the ship and the ability of the crew to operate efficiently without immediate support from home bases.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with as much information as possible to help you understand our mission and to assist you in anticipating and resolving any personal problems that might arise while we are away.

I am sure you have noticed the recent discussions in the press and on television describing the growing Soviet Fleet presence in the Mediterranean Sea. With the continuing tension in the Middle East, the availability of effective United States Naval Forces in the Mediterranean is a major and direct factor affecting United States foreign policy. Essentially, it is our Fleet which lends credence and gives substance to our diplomatic bargaining position. Of particular importance to us is the fact that our national leaders, including of course President Ford, Dr. Kissinger, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and our own Naval Commanders, are very much aware that the United States Submarine Force in the Mediterranean constitutes one of the most effective and professional forces we have. This is not an idle self-congratulation: the experiences gained in recent difficulties in the Middle East have established the Submarine Force's reputation beyond question. BATES' presence will contribute very directly to our national policies and effectiveness in this troubled area. Our contribution, and this means your contribution as well, is very real. The preparations for this deployment are extensive and require the ship to be in excellent material condition prior to departure. These preparations infringe on the time available to use to be with our families, but are vital to insure BATES is ready to make her contribution to our country's defense.

During the deployment, there will be some periods when the ship will not be able to send or receive mail. This should not deter you from writing, however, because your letters will reach the ship eventually, with minor delays. There may be an opportunity to send a limited number of "Familygram" messages. The success of the Navy Familygram can be attested

to by members of our crew on past deployments. Therefore, I encourage you again to take advantage of this system of communication with us while we are deployed. Arrangements have been made for you to send Familygrams during certain periods of our deployment. Instructions and blank forms are included with this letter.

One additional word on mail service: recent experience has shown that delivery of mail takes as little as one week and in some cases as long as six weeks. I recognize that this can be very frustrating, but the reality of the situation should be recognized so that you won't get the feeling that your letters are not being read or answered.

During the deployment I encourage you to stay in touch with our other wives and families. I suggest you let Mrs. ROBISON and Mrs. McDONALD and one or more of your friends know when you leave town, when you expect to return, and the telephone number and address where you can be reached, so that you can be called in the event that any news comes up. The existing Telephone Tree will be used for information that may be of interest to all dependents. In general, the information will originate from my wife who, using the Telephone Tree, calls additional wives. They in turn call several wives for whom they are responsible. For example our arrivals in port overseas during the deployment will be announced using this Telephone Tree.

I hope to see many of you travel to the Mediterranean area to spend some time with us. In hopes that you may be able to use this means of "shortening" the deployment, I have included several items of interest and addresses which should be of assistance to you in your travel plans and preparations.

Prior to our departure, each BATES crew member will have made arrangements to handle as many of his predicted personal and business affairs as possible. Inevitably, however, some questions will arise that can not be anticipated. Should you need assistance in resolving these questions, there are many professional Navy people who are ready to provide guidance and aid. You should not hesitate to ask. Should you have problems or emergencies arise and feel that the Navy officials of the Submarine Base or other BATES wives can assist you, I encourage you to use the Telephone Tree in reverse, and let some of the other wives assist you in dealing with these officials. In this manner I believe you can get the best service. However, if you desire to talk to the Navy officials directly, they will be happy to help you. I highly recommend that you obtain the name of the party you are talking to so that you can establish one point of contact. A list of key control points and the names and phone numbers involved is included in the appendix to this letter or on the Telephone Tree itself. For those of you residing outside the New London area, should you have an emergency, contact the nearest office of the American Red Cross.

I emphasize that you, as an individual, contribute directly to our effectiveness. The ship simply cannot function without the support of the families at home. The family separation imposed by extended deployments is sometimes a difficult experience, but Navy families have long proven to be resourceful, resilient and cheerful in the circumstances. You should know that I feel a personal responsibility for the safety and welfare of your loved ones which extends to your own well being. My wife also feels a responsibility to assist you in any way possible, and you should not hesitate to call her if the need should arise.

We who serve in BATES are proud of our ship and proud of our ability to do our jobs well. You should also be proud of your part and derive deep satisfaction from the knowledge that BATES and her crew are making a significant contribution to the defense of our great nation.

W.P. Houley
W. P. HOULEY

Neal is one of my most valued and talented petty officers. His steadiness and loyalty have directly contributed to my own success and that of his ship. I am certain you are justifiably proud of his superb record.

(H)

ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. The Ship's Schedule -

The actual dates of BATES' movements are classified. The following information is for your use only and should not be released to other people:

BATES will depart on 5 May and is scheduled to return in the first week of November. We expect to be conducting a refit (or "upkeep") at the La Maddalena site (Sardinia) starting in mid July and again later, possibly in September. These times should be considered if a trip to Europe is contemplated. Recognize, however, that the political situation in the Mediterranean area is volatile, and schedules are subject to change on very short notice.

If you do decide to travel overseas, be sure you have an up-to-date passport, inoculation record (the yellow "shot card"), and your military dependent's ID card (Check the expiration date!). Keep in mind the reduced air fare procedures that are available for military dependents: your husband must provide you with signed copies of DD Form 1580 before the ship departs. We have the forms aboard the ship. If you are not sure whether you may travel, ask for the forms, "just in case." As of the date of this letter, reduced fares to Italy are scheduled to go down an additional \$90 on 15 July.

The actual schedule of operations in the Mediterranean between the two refit periods is not available to us yet.

2. Mail -

Our mailing address is:

(Serviceman's name)
USS WILLIAM H. BATES (SSN680)
FPO New York, NY 09501

No special postage is required, but delays in arrival of letters may be expected.

3. Remember that we will usually have a few BATES crew members in the New London area attending training schools and the wives' organization, working through the Enlisted Wives Coordinator, can usually call on these shipmates for help.

4. Specialized Assistance -

Do not overlook the special organizations that exist to provide support and assistance to all of our families. Many of these services are provided by the Government and are properly considered part of the compensation your husband has earned. Other services are provided by volunteers and people who simply care, and want to help.

The Chaplains are generally able to provide advice and assistance on matters that go well beyond the traditional aspects of the ministry. If they cannot provide you the assistance you need, they will know who can. (Catholic: 449-3681. Protestant: 449-3232)

The Navy Relief Society can sometimes provide financial assistance to Service families who are caught by unexpected expenses. (449-3403)

The functions of the American Red Cross are generally well known. The nationwide facilities of this organization make it particularly helpful. (449-3411)

Legal Assistance is available on a walk-in basis at Building 138 (near the main gate) from 1330 to 1600 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Information on Medicare and CHAMPUS is available at 449-4967.

And don't forget the many facilities, courses, and recreational opportunities available through the Special Service Office. (449-3238)

5. Medical Care -

All of the facilities of the Base Hospital are available to dependents while BATES is at sea, but remember that ambulance service is not authorized for dependents except when all other avenues of assistance have been exhausted. In particular, this means that local commercial and civic ambulance services must be called. You are reminded that recent changes to CHAMPUS require a non-availability sheet before the program will pay for care outside a military hospital except in emergencies. Incidentally, I recommend that you post emergency phone numbers (local Ambulance Service, Fire Department, Police, etc.) near your phone.

6. Births, Deaths, Serious Illness, etc. -

If it becomes necessary to send a message to the ship to notify a crew member of a birth or of a medical or other family emergency, the following procedure should be followed:

Contact the Enlisted Wives Coordinator, the Executive Officer's wife, or the Captain's wife. If none of these can be reached, contact the Submarine Development Group Two Staff Secretary.

Enlisted Wives Coordinator:	Ann ROBISON
Executive Officer's wife:	Sylvia McDONALD
	Tomeia (Tim) RAWSON
Captain's Wife:	Judy HOULEY

(As this is written Sylvia McDONALD may be leaving the area midway through the deployment.)

7. FAMILYGRAMS (FAMGRAMS) -

During periods of the deployment, BATES can be expected to operate for lengthy times without mail service. During such times we will attempt to have the word passed via the Telephone Tree so that you may send FAMGRAMS. A familygram is defined as an "All is well" message of a non-urgent nature. Birth announcements, serious illness messages, or messages of other emergencies are not sent as familygrams but are sent separately as discussed in paragraph 6. above.

Addresses and phone numbers -

1. Austrian National Tourist Office
545 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10017
(212) 697-0651
2. French Government Tourist Office
610 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10020
(212) 757-1125
3. Swiss National Tourist Office
Swiss Center
608 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10020
(212) 757-5944
4. German National Tourist Office
630 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10020
(212) 757-8570
5. Luxembourg Tourist Information Office
1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
New York, NY 10017
6. Greek National Tourist Organization
601 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10017
(212) 421-5777
7. Belgium National Tourist Office
720 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10019
(212) 582-1750
8. Spanish National Tourist Office
122 E 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017
(212) 697-3385
9. Italian Govt Travel Office
639 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10020
(212) 245-4822
10. Portugese Natl Tourist Office
570 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10036
(212) 581-2450



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY RECEIVED JAN 10 1976
COMMANDER SUBMARINE FORCE
U. S. ATLANTIC FLEET
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23511

IN REPLY REFER TO:
COMSUBLANTINST 1720.1A
FF4-12:N1

12 JAN 1976

COMSUBLANT INSTRUCTION 1720.1A

Subj: Information for Travel in the Mediterranean Area

Ref: (a) BUPERSINST 4650.14E
(b) BUMEDINST 6230.1G

Encl: (1) Helpful Facilities in European Cities

1. Purpose. To provide assistance to wives (and families) in making arrangements to join their husbands while deployed to the Mediterranean.
2. Cancellation. COMSUBLANTINST 1720.1 is cancelled and superseded.
3. Discussion. During a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean, each ship is assigned two four-week upkeeps in La Maddalena. In addition to the upkeeps, each ship may have the opportunity to visit one or more of the following ports: (R)

<u>TUNISIA</u>	<u>ITALY</u>	<u>PORTUGAL</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>
Tunis Bizerte	Augusta Bay, Sicily La Maddalena, Sardinia La Spezia Naples Taranto	Lisbon	Gibraltar, B.C.C.

The attractions of cities such as Lisbon and Naples are well known; however, the less renowned ports frequently prove just as interesting and enjoyable to visit. Regardless of the ship's port of call, most of Europe and parts of Africa and the Middle East are easily reached by using the excellent transportation facilities available. The distances between many of the major European cities are relatively short and generally easily traversed. For instance, Naples is only forty-five minutes from Rome by airplane and less than two hours by pleasant and inexpensive train.

4. Travel Arrangements and Information.

a. The operating schedule for units deployed to the Mediterranean is promulgated on a quarterly basis by COMSIXTHFLT. This information is available to Navy families through the ship's parent squadron. COMSUBGRU EIGHT will update this scheduling information as necessary to keep it current.



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b. The need for early planning is very real. Two frequent stumbling blocks are immunization inoculations and passports. References (a) and (b), which are available aboard ship and in the administrative office of the ship's parent squadron, describe the requirements and procedures for obtaining the necessary inoculations and passports.

c. Navy men and their wives can make travel arrangements through a variety of organizations in a wide price range. It is suggested that the services of a reputable travel agent be utilized.

d. The USO offices in Europe are especially willing and able to assist in making transportation, hotel and sight-seeing arrangements.

e. Navy families who keep their ship's parent squadron and COMSUBGRU EIGHT advised of their itinerary can expect the assistance of these commands including information on ship movement schedules and modifications thereto, plus assistance in the event of bonafide emergencies.

5. Sources of Information. Reliable sources of information and travel assistance are listed in enclosure (1). It is recommended that the information in this enclosure be locally reproduced and copies provided to each family contemplating travel in conjunction with the ship's deployment to the Mediterranean.



D. S. BOYD
Chief of Staff
Acting

Distribution: (COMSUBLANTINST 5216.1E)

28K1A - (COMSUBGRUs LANT)

28K1B - (COMSUBRONs LANT)

29S9 - (NR-1)

29S4 - (SSNs LANT)

29S8 - (SSBNs LANT)

32DDa - AS(FBM) LANT)

32DDb - (AS(SS/SSN LANT)

32EE - (ASRs LANT)

Copy to:

CINCLANTFLT

CNO (OP-02)

CINCUSNAVEUR

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HELPFUL FACILITIES IN EUROPEAN CITIES

1. U. S. Navy Activities

a. Commander Submarine Group EIGHT

(R)

Mailing Address: Box 16
FPO, NY 09521

Location: NSA Admin Building, NSA Compound, Agnano, IT (Naples)

Telephones: Commercial 760-5400, ext 4190/4191
Autovon 621-9523

Note: A toll-free telephone direct to COMSUBGRU EIGHT Headquarters is available at the Naples Commercial Airfield, Capodichino. The phone is located adjacent to the "Merry-go-round" luggage rack.

b. Commander Submarine Refit and Training Group La Maddalena, IT

(R)

Mailing Address: FPO, NY 09501

Location: Aboard USS HOWARD W. GILMORE (AS 16), Santo Stefano, Sardinia

Telephones: Commercial 0789-77114
Autovon 621-9423

2. European Embassies and Consulates:

a. France

American Embassy
Avenue Gabriel #2
Paris
Telephone: 265-7460

b. Greece

American Embassy
91 Vasilissis Sophias Blvd.
Athens
Telephone: 712-951

c. Italy

American Embassy
Via Veneto 119
Rome
Telephone: 064674

Enclosure (1)

- d. Spain
American Embassy
Serrano 75
Madrid
Telephone: 276-3400
- e. Turkey
American Embassy
110 Ataturk Blvd
Ankara
Telephone: 186-200
- f. Great Britain
American Embassy
34/31 Grosvenor Square
London W/L
Telephone: 499-9000
- g. West Germany
American Embassy
Mehlemer Avenue
53 Bonn/Bad Godesberg
Telephone: 022-291-955
- h. Malta
American Embassy
Valletta
- i. Gibraltar
None

3. USO Facilities in Europe:

a. Office of the European Executive

Military Address: Box 34, FPO, NY 09521
Civilian Address: Naval Support Activity, Naples
Administration Bldg, Room 125
87 Via Scassone
80125 Naples, Italy
Telephone: Naples 7605400, ext. 4515
Cable Address: USO Naples, Italy

b. USO Club, Naples, Italy

Military Address: Box 34, FPO, NY 09521
Civilian Address: Calata San Marco 10, Naples, Italy
Telephone: Naples 313983 or 310428
Cable Address: USO Naples, Italy
Military Cable Address: c/o COMFAIRMED

c. USO Club, Rome, Italy

Military Address: APO, NY 09794

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Civilian Address: Via della Concillazione, Rome
Telephone: 564272 or 564232
Cable Address: USO Rome, Italy
Military Cable Address: c/o Defense Attache, Rome

d. USO Club Vicenza, Italy

Military Address: APO, NY 09221
Civilian Address: Via Ca'Balbi 4, Vicenza, Italy
Telephone: Vicenza 28627, Ext 8102
Cable Address: USO Vicenza, Italy

e. USO Club, Paris, France

Military Address: APO, NY 09777
Civilian Address: 93 Avenue des Champs Elysees
Telephone: Balzac 8760
Cable Address: PAROBUSO Paris, France

f. USO Lounge, Toulon, France

Civilian Address: 1 Rue Charles Roncy, Toulon
Telephone: Toulon 926256

FAMILY GRAMS

You are authorized to send four familygrams during BATES' deployment. A familygram is defined as an "All is well" message of a non-urgent nature. Birth announcements, serious illness messages, or message of other emergencies are not sent as familygrams but are sent separately. They will be handled on a case basis, provided LT GUDIS, SUBDEVGRU TWO Secretary, has all the required information. Four familygram forms have been provided. Be sure to use this form, as familygrams cannot be accepted over the telephone. The form should be properly filled out, not exceeding twenty (20) words and mailed to LT GUDIS. Because we are using Naval Communications, these are rules that must be abided by. The familygrams must be signed and have a clear, precise meaning not only to the recipient, but also to the officer at SUBDEVGRU TWO who accepts it. Any codes, riddles, prearranged wording or offbeat, risque terms will necessitate returning the messages to the originator for corrections prior to transmission. Any change in the operations of the ship may preclude the sending of familygrams. If this should happen, the familygram will be mailed to the ship.

Personal messages should be submitted sufficiently in advance to allow for the time required to process the messages for transmission. Messages having a date reference (for example: Happy Birthday) should be submitted at least 15 days prior to the reference date to ensure delivery on time.