



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI (SSN705)

FPO NEW YORK, N.Y. 09566

SSN705:DTP:whd

5750

Ser 25-84

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13 MAR 1984

From: Commanding Officer, USS CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI (SSN705)

To: Director of Naval History (ATTN: OP 09BU)

Subj: Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Command History of USS CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI (SSN 705)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1), Command History for USS CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI (SSN 705) is submitted.


F. L. BOWMAN

DECLASSIFIED BY: CNO (N09N2)
OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES
DATE: 9 Nov 2006

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COMMAND HISTORY OF USS CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI (SSN 705)

The keel of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) was laid on 5 September 1979 at Electric Boat Shipyard, Groton, Ct. Initial manning of the ship occurred on 12 January 1981. The Prospective Commanding Officer was CDR William A. OWENS and the Executive Officer was LCDR Michael G. RIEGEL.

CORPUS CHRISTI was launched and christened 25 April 1981. The ship's sponsor was the Honorable Lilla Burt Cummings TOWER. Also attending the launch were; Senator John G. TOWER, Secretary of the Navy John LEHMAN, and Luther B. JONES, Mayor of the City of Corpus Christi, Texas.

CDR OWENS was relieved as Prospective Commanding Officer by CDR Winford G. ELLIS on 28 August 1981.

On 10 May 1982 the religious controversy surrounding the name "CORPUS CHRISTI" (latin for Body of Christ) resulted in President Ronald REAGAN directing a change of the ship's name to "CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI."

On 17 September 1982 the ship was placed in service, and on 5 October 1982 CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI commenced her initial sea trials. On 21 November 1982 CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI (SSN 705) was delivered to the U. S. Navy, almost a month ahead of original schedule. The ship was assigned as a unit of Submarine Squadron TWO, homeported in Groton, Connecticut.

USS CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI was commissioned on 8 January 1983 at the Naval Submarine Base, New London. The commissioning ceremony was attended by Admiral James D. WATKINS, Chief of Naval Operations; Admiral Wesley L. MCDONALD, Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet; Vice Admiral Steven A. WHITE, Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet; Rear Admiral H. L. YOUNG, Supervisor of Shipbuilding Groton; the Honorable Lilla Burt Cummings TOWER, ships sponsor; the Honorable Luther G. JONES, Mayor of Corpus Christi, Texas and a delegation of sixty citizens of Corpus Christi, Texas. Senator TOWER was the principal speaker at the commissioning ceremony.

Following commissioning USS CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI conducted shakedown operations which included three weeks of Weapons System Acceptance Trials at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico and St Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

From 16 to 22 March 1983, USS CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI conducted a port visit to her namesake city, Corpus Christi, Texas. During this 6 day highly successful visit, approximately sixteen thousand citizens of Corpus Christi, Texas toured the ship. The support and enthusiasm of the people of Corpus Christi could only be described as absolutely outstanding.

The ship's first Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination was conducted 26-27 March 1983 during the return transit from Corpus Christi to Groton, Connecticut.

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On 13 April, 1983 Captain Winford G. ELLIS was relieved as Commanding Officer by CDR Frank L. BOWMAN. Two days later the ship entered Electric Boat Shipyard for Post Shakedown Availability (PSA). During PSA the ship received major modifications to the weapons systems to support employment of the Tomahawk Cruise Missile. PSA was completed on 16 August 1983, approximately two weeks ahead of schedule.

USS CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI underwent six major ship certifications/inspections during the period from end of PSA through December 1983. These inspections/certifications included: Sonar Certification, Combat Systems Certification Trials, Harpoon Certification, Tomahawk Cruise Missile Certification, Annual Supply Material Inspection and MK 48 Torpedo Certification. The grades received by the ship for all of these inspections were "outstanding" or "excellent" and the inspections were frequently commented on as "The Best the Inspector had ever seen." During this same period the ship also received the Commander Submarine Squadron TWO Gold Anchor Award nomination, NEY Award Nomination and was awarded the COMSUBRON TWO Engineering "E" for fiscal year 1983.

The ship conducted her second Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination during the period 26-29 January 1984 and was evaluated as excellent overall by the CINCLANTFLT Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board.

On 1 February 1984 the ship commenced Pre-overseas Movement (POM) period, in preparation for the first extensive overseas deployment, a seven month deployment, to commence in later March 1984 to the Indian Ocean.

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