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From: Commanding Officer, USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center
Subj: USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771) COMMAND HISTORY - 2003 (U)
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H
Encl: (1) Command History (U)
(2) Commanding Officer Biography (U)
(3) Commanding Officer Photograph (U)

1. (U) Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.

M. R. Coughlin
Acting CO

DECLASSIFIED BY: CNO (N09N2)
OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES
DATE: 9 Nov 2005

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USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771) Command History - 2003 (U)

1. (U) Command Composition and Organization.

a. (U) USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771) (UIC 21817) is an improved Los Angeles (SSN 688) class fast attack nuclear submarine. USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771) is assigned to the Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet with Commander, Submarine Squadron THREE as ISIC.

USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771) is a multi-mission capable platform. Missions include tomahawk strike, undersea warfare (USW), anti-surface warfare (SUW), special forces operations, and intelligence collection. In accordance with the U. S. Navy and Submarine Force Standard Organization and Regulation Manuals (SORM), USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771) is organized with the following departments: Navigation/Operations, Engineering, Combat Systems, and Supply. Her Commanding Officer for 2003 was Commander Duane R. Ashton, USN. USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771) is home ported in Pearl Harbor, HI.

2. (U) Chronology for 2003.

01 - 05 Jan	Underway in route to Southern Arabian Gulf.
06 - 09 Jan	Inport in Manama, Bahrain for Voyage Repair.
10 - 12 Jan	Underway conducting CTF 54 Operations.
13 - 16 Jan	Inport in Manama, Bahrain for Voyage Repair.
17 Jan - 04 Feb	Underway conducting CTF 54 Operations.
05 - 16 Feb	Inport in Manama, Bahrain for Voyage Repair.
17 - 28 Feb	Underway conducting CTF 54 Operations.
01 - 10 Mar	Underway conducting C5F Strike Operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.
11 - 15 Mar	Inport in Manama, Bahrain for Voyage Repair.
16 Mar - 09 Apr	Underway conducting C5F Strike Operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.
10 - 13 Apr	Underway In route to Diego Garcia.
14 - 15 Apr	Inport Diego Garcia for liberty.
16 - 25 Apr	Underway in route to Guam Operating Area to participate in Tandem Thrust.

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26 Apr Conducted personnel transfer, Guam.

26 Apr - 04 May Underway in Guam Operating Area in support of Tandem Thrust.

05 - 07 May Inport Guam for liberty.

08 - 14 May Underway in route to Brisbane, Australia.

15 - 26 May Inport Brisbane, Australia for Liberty.

27 May - 05 Jun Underway in route to Pearl Harbor.

06 Jun - 07 Jul Inport Pearl Harbor for post deployment stand down.

08 - 13 Jul Underway in Pearl Harbor Operations Area.

14 Jul - 25 Aug Inport Pearl Harbor for upkeep.

26 - 29 Aug Underway in Pearl Harbor Operating Area for CO's discretionary time.

30 Aug - 08 Sep Inport Pearl Harbor for inport Basic Submarine Assessment.

09 - 12 Sep Underway for CSS-3 Basic Submarine Assessment.

13 Sep - 08 Oct Inport Pearl Harbor for upkeep and Battery change out.

09 - 14 Oct Underway in Pearl Harbor Operations area for CO's Discretionary time.

15 - 26 Oct Inport Pearl Harbor.

27 - 31 Oct Underway in Pearl Harbor Operating Area for Mk 54 testing.

01 - 04 Nov Underway in Pearl Harbor Operating Area for CO's Discretionary time.

05 - 06 Nov Underway in Pearl Harbor Operating Area for Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam.

07 Nov - 18 Dec Inport Pearl Harbor for Upkeep.

19 - 31 Dec Inport Pearl Harbor for Holiday Stand down.

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3. (C) Narrative.

- 01 - 05 Jan The transit to Diego Garcia provided valuable training time for the crew before the ship took on the challenges of the Southern Arabian Gulf.
- 06 - 09 Jan The ship conducted maintenance to prepare for its upcoming mission.
- 10 - 12 Jan COLUMBIA conducted operations in the Southern Arabian Gulf vital to national security.
- 13 - 16 Jan The ship conducted vital repairs to its continuing mission.
- 17 Jan - 04 Feb COLUMBIA conducted operations in the Southern Arabian Gulf vital to national security.
- 05 - 16 Feb The ship conducted vital repairs to its continuing mission.
- 17 - 28 Feb COLUMBIA conducted operations in the Southern Arabian Gulf vital to national security.
- 01 - 10 Mar The ship participated in C5F Strike Operations honing the crew's skills for a coordinated strike.
- 11 - 15 Mar The ship conducted vital repairs to its continuing mission.
- 16 Mar - 09 Apr COLUMBIA played a vital part in the successful strike in the opening weeks of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The ship performed flawlessly, delivering every strike package it was assigned.
- 10 - 13 Apr The ship transited to Diego Garcia.
- 14 - 15 Apr COLUMBIA had the second liberty port of its Western Pacific deployment on the island of Diego Garcia. The island provided ample opportunity for recreation and relaxation, with a golf course, sailing and clubs. On April 14th CDR Shannon E. Kawane reported on board as the Executive Officer.

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16 - 25 Apr The transit to Guam Operating area provided valuable training opportunity for COLUMBIA.

26 Apr On April 26th LCDR James Andrew Wiest reported on board as Engineer.

26 Apr - 04 May COLUMBIA participated in a coordinated multi-national exercise in the Guam Operating Area. COLUMBIA was directly involved in Anti-Submarine problems as an opposing force submarine.

05 - 07 May Inport Guam for liberty.

08 - 14 May COLUMBIA conducted drills and training during the transit to Brisbane, Australia in anticipation of the upcoming Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam (ORSE).

15 - 26 May Inport Brisbane, Australia for Liberty.

27 May - 05 Jun COLUMBIA conducted drills and training during the transit to Pearl Harbor, HI in anticipation of the upcoming ORSE.

06 Jun - 07 Jul Inport Pearl Harbor for post deployment stand down. On June 6th LCDR Michael R. Coughlin reported on board as Executive Officer.

08 - 13 Jul COLUMBIA conducted a short underway for ship wide proficiencies and training.

14 Jul - 25 Aug The upkeep was spent in attack centers conducting scenarios to prepare for the BSA.

26 - 29 Aug COLUMBIA conducted drills and training in preparation for the up coming Basic Submarine Assessment (BSA).

30 Aug - 08 Sep COLUMBIA successfully conducted the inport portion of the CSS-3 BSA.

09 - 12 Sep Underway in the Pearl Harbor Operating Area to conduct a Basic Submarine Assessment (BSA). COLUMBIA performed very well on the BSA. The results of the BSA were:

Overall

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SATISFACTORY

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Self-assessment	AT STANDARDS
Communications	UNSATISFACTORY
Piloting	SBA
Identifying Deficiencies	AT STANDARDS
EKMS Management	UNSATISFACTORY
Watchstanding Formality	SBA
Rig for Dive	SBA
Executing Corrective Action	AT STANDARDS
PMS	SBA

- 13 Sep - 08 Oct The ship completed a difficult upkeep, including a very successful Battery change out.
- 09 - 14 Oct The ship performed drills and training for ship wide proficiency.
- 15 - 26 Oct Inport Pearl Harbor.
- 27 - 31 Oct COLUMBIA conducted several successful tests of the Mk 54 torpedo. The ship provided valuable information for the employment and further development of the new weapon system.
- 01 - 04 Nov The ship was underway in the Hawaiian Operating Area to conduct ship wide casualty training in preparation for the ORSE. Emphasis was placed on Engineering Evolutions and Level of Knowledge.
- 05 - 06 Nov COLUMBIA completed a successful ORSE. The result of the examination were:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Overall | BELOW AVERAGE |
| Day-To-Day Operations | AVERAGE |
| Casualty Response/Evolutions: | BELOW AVERAGE |
| Administration: | AVERAGE |
| Level of Knowledge: | AVERAGE |
| Radiological Controls and Chemistry: | BELOW AVERAGE |
| Material Condition: | AVERAGE |
| Cleanliness/Preservation/Stowage: | AVERAGE |
- 07 Nov - 18 Dec COLUMBIA successfully completed a challenging upkeep performing much needed repairs.
- 19 - 31 Dec Inport Pearl Harbor for Holiday Stand down.

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