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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS DALLAS (SSN 700)  
FPO AE 09567-2380



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From: Commanding Officer, USS DALLAS (SSN 700)  
To: Director, Naval Historical Center

Subj: USS DALLAS COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Supporting Documents

1. The USS DALLAS command history is submitted per reference (a).

*M. P. Holland*  
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By direction

DECLASSIFIED BY: CNO (N09N2)  
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## COMMAND HISTORY

### Command Composition and Organization

#### Command short title and Unit Identification Code (UIC):

USS DALLAS (SSN 700), unit identification code 20811, is the first United States Naval ship to bear the name of the City of Dallas, Texas. DALLAS is a nuclear powered fast attack submarine of the Los Angeles class built by Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation. Her keel was laid on 9 October 1976. She was launched on 28 April 1979 and placed in Commission on 18 July 1981.

#### Command mission:

DALLAS is a nuclear powered fast attack submarine of the LOS ANGELES (SSN-688) class. Her principle mission as an attack submarine is to operate against enemy submarines and surface ships. Surpassing the underwater capabilities of any class of ship built before her, DALLAS carries detection, communications, navigation, propulsion and computerized weapons systems of the most advanced design. For months she can cruise quietly submerged with a maximum of comfort for her crew, and with an ever ready potential for delivery of any submarine tactical weapon the Navy possesses against submerged or surface or land based targets. When coupled with the talents of a well-trained submarine crew, USS DALLAS provides tactical capability of major importance to our nation's defense.

#### Name of Commander:

As luck may see it, the COMMANDING OFFICER, Commander Sykora graduated from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1983. He entered the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program upon commissioning in 1984 and reported to USS Tennessee (SSBN-734) for new construction in 1986. During this tour, he served as Reactor Controls Assistant, Main Propulsion Assistant, Chemistry and Radiological Controls Assistant and Tactical Systems Officer. He completed submarine qualifications aboard USS ALABAMA (SSBN-731) GOLD.

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After completing Submarine Officer Advanced Course, Commander Sykora reported to USS PENNSYLVANIA (SSBN-702) BLUE as Engineer Officer for post shakedown availability in 1990. He completed four strategic deterrent patrols before reporting as a junior member of the Atlantic Fleet Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board.

Following a deployment to the north Atlantic aboard USS PHOENIX (SSN-702) in 1994, Commander Sykora relieved as Executive Officer aboard USS TOLEDO (SSN-769). During his tour, TOLEDO conducted new construction shakedown, post shakedown availability, and a homeport change to Groton. After serving one year as a legislative fellow for Senator John Warner of Virginia, Commander Sykora reported to the staff as an operations officer. During the assignment, he attended Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia.

Commander Sykora wears the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (3 awards), and the Navy Achievement Medal (3 awards).

**Organization structure (immediate senior command):**

After Commissioning, DALLAS was attached to Submarine Development Squadron Twelve, New London, Connecticut, where she was involved in many essential research and development projects. Since September 1988, DALLAS has been a proud member of Submarine Squadron TWO, New London, Connecticut. During her time with Squadron TWO, she completed the first ever Depot Modernization Period and various oversea deployments.

DALLAS completed an Engineered Refueling Overhaul (ERO) in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. As part of the overhaul DALLAS was fitted with a Dry-Deck Shelter configuration. This array of air, water and hydraulic systems allows DALLAS to employ the latest submarine arsenal: The Seal Delivery Vehicle. A large "shelter" mated on the back of the ship will provide special forces a highly mobile and virtually undetectable means of carrying out missions.

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Chronology

<u>DATES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
01JAN00 - 03JAN00	NEW LONDON, CT	STAND DOWN
04JAN00 - 03APR00	NARRAGANSETT BAY OPERATING AREAS (NBOAS)	PRE OVERSEAS MOVEMENT CERTIFICATION (POMCERT)
04APR00 - 04OCT00	MEDITERRANEAN	DEPLOYMENT
04OCT00 - 06NOV00	NEW LONDON, CT	STAND-DOWN
06NOV00 - 14NOV00	NEW LONDON, CT	UPKEEP
14NOV00 - 17NOV00	NBOAS	AUGUSTA POMCERT
17NOV00 - 28NOV00	NEW LONDON, CT	UPKEEP
28NOV00 - 11DEC00	NBOAS/WESTERN ATLANTIC	SEAWOLF OPEVAL
11DEC00 - 01FEB01	NEW LONDON, CT	UPKEEP/STAND-DOWN
30JAN01	NEW LONDON, CT	FAST CRUISE
01FEB01 - 12FEB01	NBOAS	AUGUSTA POMCERT
12FEB01 - 08MAR01	NEW LONDON, CT	UPKEEP

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## Chronology (Con't)

08MAR01- 15MAY01	NEW LONDON, CT	SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY (SRA)
14MAY01	NEW LONDON, CT	FAST CRUISE
15MAY01- 21MAY01	NEW LONDON, CT	INDEPENDENT STEAMING EXERCISES (ISE)
22MAY01- 26MAY01	VIRGINIA CAPE OPERATING AREAS (VCOAS)	PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER OPERATIONS, ISE
26MAY01- 11JUN01	NEW LONDON, CT	INPORT
11JUN01- 23JUN01	NBOAS, WESTERN ATLANTIC, AUTECH	ISE, TACTICAL READINESS EVALUATION (TRE)
23JUN01- 26JUN01	PORT CANAVERAL, FL	PORT VISIT
26JUN01- 29JUN01	WESTERN ATLANTIC, NBOAS	TIGER CRUISE
29JUN01- 30JUL01	NEW LONDON, CT	INPORT
30JUL01- 23AUG01	NBOAS, WESTERN ATLANTIC, VCOAS	ISE, JOINT FLEET EXERCISE (JTFEX)
23AUG01- 24AUG01	NORFOLK, VA	INPORT
24AUG01- 26AUG01	VCOAS, NBOAS	TRANSIT, OPERATIONAL REACTOR SAFEGUARDS EXAM (ORSE)
26AUG01- 05SEP01	NEW LONDON, CT	INPORT

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Chronology (Con't)

05SEP01- 07SEP01	NBOAS	TRE OPEN-OCEAN NAVIGATION RE- EVAL
07SEP01- 08NOV01	NEW LONDON, CT	UPKEEP
08NOV01	NEW LONDON, CT	BERTH SHIFT
08NOV01- 08DEC01	NEW LONDON, CT	UPKEEP
08DEC01- 14DEC01	NBOAS, WESTERN ATLANTIC, PCANOAS	TRANSIT, ISE
14DEC01- 17DEC01	PORT EVERGLADES OPERATING AREAS (PEVOAS)	LITTORAL OPERATIONS TRAINING
17DEC01	PORT CANAVERAL, FL	BSP
17DEC01- 21DEC01	PCANOAS, WESTERN ATLANTIC, NBOAS	TRANSIT, ISE
22DEC01- 31DEC01	NEW LONDON, CT	CHRISTMAS STAND DOWN

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### Narrative

DALLAS completed an extraordinary transition from the post-overhaul phases to becoming a top performing, highly effective and proficient submarine capable of performing every mission with which a 688 class submarine might conceivably be tasked. Specific accomplishments follow.

#### **SUPERIOR TACTICAL EXCELLENCE**

- **Flawlessly completed first ever 688-class submarine Dry Deck Shelter (DDS) deployment.** Significant because of the substantial ship control differences between the 688 class and previous classes of ships.
- Conducted exercises with three other nations' Special Warfare Forces. These operations were vital to COMSIXTHFLEET's need to validate his special warfare capability. These exercises were a resounding success.
- Flawlessly conducted a mission vital to the security of the United States. This mission was conducted with the DDS attached in significantly shallow water with most of the ship's time spent at periscope depth.
- Executed the first ever swap-out of the DDS for a Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) in a foreign port and completed an exercise that validated the United States' ability to conducted submarine rescue wherever needed. During the exercise, the ship performed an amazing recovery of the DSRV after it lost all propulsion power. This recovery required positioning of the ship within inches while backing down submerged. This recovery kept the exercise from getting cancelled at a sensitive time only two weeks after the KURSK sinking.
- Evaluated by the COMSUBPAC TRE Team as having one of the best sonar divisions on the waterfront.
- 100% placement or hit percentage during a Tactical Weapons Proficiency.
- Regarded as the best weapons handling team on the waterfront. Handled over 20 weapons flawlessly during a Tactical Weapons Proficiency and the tactical reload following completion of assigned exercises.

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**Narrative (Con't)**

- Received highest accolades from TACTRAGRULANT for performance during three SLAMEX and twelve other Tomahawk exercises. Twelve of these exercises were conducted during the six-month deployment. This is significant given ships are only required to participate in one exercise per quarter.
- Graded as above average by the Tactical Readiness Evaluation (TRE) Team. The ship received grades of above average or excellent in 38 separate areas.
- Awarded the COMSUBRON 2 Battle Efficiency "E" for 2000. The second year in a row the ship won this award.

**FLAWLESS NAVIGATION EXCELLENCE**

- Safely navigated the ship over 12,000 miles, much of it in very shallow water and unfamiliar ports.
- Safely moored twice at Aksaz, Turkey amid 8 frigates of the Turkish Navy. This was only the second SSN visit to this port.
- Prepared and reviewed over 200 navigational charts, many developed on short notice changes, for transits throughout the Mediterranean Sea, for ten complex operations, and for over forty piloting evolutions.
- The TRE Team graded the ship as above average in piloting operations.

**UNMATCHED ENGINEERING READINESS**

- Top performance in COMSUBRON 2 during an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE), including several areas receiving the highest grades possible.
- Regarded as having the best Engineering Department on the waterfront. Other ships are continually routed to DALLAS to get copies of work packages, training administration, and standing orders.
- Received the COMSUBRON 2 Engineering "E" for the second consecutive year in 2000.
- Received the Damage Control "DC" from COMSUBRON 2 in 2000.

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### Narrative (Con't)

#### EXCELLENT SUPPLY AND FOOD SERVICE REPUTATION

- Noted as the best Food Service Division in SUBASE NLON and a definite Ney Award contender by the New London Navy Food Management Team.

#### SUPERB COMMAND RETENTION

- Overall retention improved from 50% in 1999 to 56% in 2000. There has also been a 60% improvement in overall retention over the last 2 years. The number of re-enlistments went up by 50% from 1999 to 2000. Retention stayed in the mid to high 50% range in 2001.

#### IMMACULATE SHIP APPEARANCE

- Restored topside fixtures to new construction condition using an under-manned deck division. The results were spectacular and resulted in the ship being awarded the COMSUBRON 2 Deck Seamanship "D" for two consecutive years, 2000 and 2001.

#### STRONG COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- DALLAS is a first choice for VIP tours. Conducted numerous tours while on deployment, embarking Admirals and Generals from the United States, Italy and Spain.
- Fostered excellent relationships with both the New York Navy League and the Dallas Navy League.
- DALLAS crewmembers completed a highly successful public affairs and VIP visit to the city of Dallas, Texas. This included many public appearances and participation in the Dallas Veteran's Day Parade.
- Completed several community projects while visiting Spain and La Madalena, Italy.

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Narrative (Con't)

**EXCEPTIONAL MAINTENANCE STANDARDS**

- DALLAS complete the first Selected Restricted Availability with Electric Boat as the lead maintenance activity in many years. Obviously, a change of this magnitude is significant and could cause the availability to founder. DALLAS performed superbly as was noted by the local chain of command as other ships went in to availability's after us.

**READY FOR COMBAT**

- After 9/11 DALLAS spent the rest of 2001 preparing to deploy early by honing our DDS skills as well as all of the other traditional submarine skills.

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