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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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From: Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(BLUE)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center (N09BH)

Subj: 2001 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command History and Narrative
(2) USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) Welcome Aboard Packet
(3) Biography and Photograph of Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(BLUE)
(4) Biography and Photograph of Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD)

1. Enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded as required by reference (a).

2. Point of contact is ENS Christopher A. Thomas, DSN 744-6550 or commercial (360) 396-6550.

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USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(BLUE)
COMMAND HISTORY

1. Command Composition and Organization. USS FLORIDA (UIC: 35957). The ship's mission is to remain submerged and undetected and serve as a strategic deterrent. The ship's parent command is Commander, Submarine Squadron SEVENTEEN and the ship is homeported at Naval Submarine Base, Bangor, Washington. Two crews alternate manning on approximately 105 day cycles. When not manning the ship, the "off-crew" is under administrative command of Commander, Submarine Group NINE.

2. 2001 Chronology

Date	Event
01 - 03 Jan	Port visit, NAVSUBASE Bangor, WA
25 Jan	Ship moored at Delta Pier, NAVSUBASE Bangor.
27 Jan	BLUE crew relieved by the GOLD crew.
27 Jan	Commenced Refit 60.
26 Feb	Completed Refit 60.
27 Feb	Conducted Sea Trials, Dabob Bay, WA.
01 Mar	Conducted Dependant's Cruise and Commanding Officer's Discretionary Time (CODT) Dabob Bay, WA.
15 Mar	Moored Bangor, WA for Change of Command.
19 Mar	CDR Kevin M. Torcolini relieved CDR Barry L. Bruner as Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD).
21 Mar	Underway for patrol 56. Participated in POLOHAT 01-1.
27 Mar	Conducted MEDVAC IVO Sequim Bay, WA.
05 Apr	Conducted KILOEX with USS MICHIGAN (SSBN 727).
12 Apr	Moored Ford Island, HI to conduct weapons load.
13 Apr	Underway Ford Island, HI.

18 Apr	Moored Ford Island, HI for weapons load and port visit.
24 Apr	Underway Ford Island, HI.
09 May	Moored Bangor, WA.
11 May	USS FLORIDA (BLUE) received the inaugural CSG-9 Command Excellence Award for 2000, recognition for retention and leadership excellence.
14 May	Underway for SSBN Hovering Operability Test in Dabob Bay, WA Conducted BSP IVO Naval Submarine Base Bangor, WA to embark Tiger Cruise Members.
15 May	Moored Bangor, WA.
16 May	Conducted Defense Nuclear Surety Inspection.
18 May	GOLD crew relieved by the BLUE crew.
18 May	Commenced Refit 61.
08 Jun	Received U.S. Strategic Command's Omaha Trophy for 2000, recognition as the best TRIDENT Submarine in the Navy.
08 Jun	CDR David M. Duryea relieved CDR Kevin M. Torcolini as Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD).
18 Jun	Completed Refit 61.
19 Jun	Bay trials at Dabob Bay.
21 Jun	Blue crew departed on Patrol 57.
27 Jun	Port visit Bangor, WA to conduct emergent repairs to #1 periscope.
28 Jun	Underway from Bangor, WA.
20-22 Jul	Port visit San Diego, CA.
23 Jul	Underway from San Diego, CA. Embarked Supply Technical Assist Team and Midshipmen in support of CORTRAMID.

27-29 Jul	Port visit San Diego, CA.
30 Jul	Underway from San Diego, CA. Embarked Midshipmen in support of CORTRAMID.
02-06 Aug	Port visit San Diego, CA.
07 Aug	Underway for patrol from San Diego, CA. Embarked CSG-9/CSS-17 Engineering Assist Team.
11 Aug	BSP IVO NAVSUBASE San Diego, CA to HUMEVAC crewmember.
27-29 Aug	Conducted Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE).
30 Aug	Moored at Delta pier, NAVSUBASE Bangor, WA.
01 Sep	BLUE crew relieved by GOLD crew.
02 Sep	Commenced Refit 62.
04 Oct	Completed Refit 62.
05 Oct	Underway for Bay Trials in Dabob Bay, WA.
06 Oct	Underway for Commanding Officer's Discretionary time (CODT)/Refresher Training (REFTRA).
16-18 Oct	Participated in VP-40 Operational Readiness Examination.
08-14 Nov	In port Bangor, WA for port visit.
29 Nov	Conducted Humanitarian Evacuation IVO Sitka, Alaska.
17-19 Dec	Conducted Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE).
19 Dec	Moored Bangor, WA to commence Refit 63.
21 Dec	GOLD crew was relieved by the BLUE crew.
21 Dec	Commenced Refit 63.
31 Dec	USS FLORIDA Refit 63 in progress.

a. The year 2001 found USS FLORIDA enjoying a holiday port visit in Bangor, WA during Patrol 55. The ship was underway on 5 January and returned to strategic patrol. The ship conducted a Tiger Cruise on 23 - 25 January. Crewmembers were able to bring on male guests for an overnight cruise. The "tigers" were brought aboard during a personnel transfer near Sequim, WA. Each group of "tigers" was able to see the ship dive and surface while also seeing the day-to-day lives of their family member. At the completion of the tiger cruises, the ship conducted a VIP cruise on 25 January, to Dabob Bay where celebrity guests from the Seattle Mariners professional baseball team and other VIPs were escorted around the ship.

b. On 27 January, the BLUE crew was relieved by the GOLD crew. The GOLD crew took the ship into Refit 60.

c. FLORIDA underwent a normal upkeep during refit 60 and got underway for sea trials in Dabob Bay, WA on 27 February. On 01 March FLORIDA got underway for patrol 56. The patrol began with a dependant's cruise in conjunction with Commanding Officer's Discretionary Time (CODT). Five days later the Refresher Training (REFTRA) team arrived. This team was composed of Commander, Submarine Group NINE and Commander Submarine Squadron SEVENTEEN personnel.

d. FLORIDA returned to port on 15 March for a change of command. On 19 March, CDR Kevin M. Torcolini relieved CDR Barry L. Bruner as Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD).

e. FLORIDA participated in a tactical exercise with USS MICHIGAN (SSBN 727) and conducted a Strategic Readiness Evaluation (SRE). After the SRE, FLORIDA embarked visitors from the Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) for a short cruise. After disembarking the OLA riders FLORIDA moored at Ford Island, HI for a weapons load and to embark the Tactical Weapons Proficiency (TWP) Team. On 18 April FLORIDA moored in Pearl Harbor, HI for weapons load and port visit. On 24 April FLORIDA was underway again steaming for Bangor, WA. FLORIDA embarked the Inspection and Survey (INSURV) team on 07 May. FLORIDA embarked yet another group of riders for a VIP cruise. FLORIDA moored Bangor, WA by the close of the day.

f. USS FLORIDA (BLUE) was presented the inaugural CSG-9 Command Excellence award, recognition for retention and leadership excellence.

g. FLORIDA was underway 14 May for SSBN Hovering Operability Test and Tiger Cruise where family and friends were able to experience submarine life and day-to-day operations. FLORIDA moored in Bangor, WA to conduct the Defense Nuclear Surety Inspection and Augmenting Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection.

h. On 18 May, the GOLD crew was relieved by the BLUE Crew. The BLUE crew took the ship into Refit 61.

i. On 8 June, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) was presented the U.S. Strategic Command Omaha Trophy, recognition as the best TRIDENT Submarine in the Navy.

j. Also on 8 June, CDR Kevin M. Torcolini was relieved by CDR David M. Duryea as Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD).

k. FLORIDA underwent normal upkeep during the refit and got underway for Dabob Bay sea trials on 19 June. After Refit 61 was completed, the ship got underway for Patrol 57 on 21 June - a very demanding but rewarding patrol for FLORIDA. FLORIDA began Patrol 57 with Commanding Officer's Discretionary Time (CODT), and Refresher Training (REFTRA) periods where riders from Commander, Submarine Group NINE (CSG 9) and Commander, Submarine Squadron SEVENTEEN (CSS-17) evaluated the ship's strategic and tactical abilities. Problems were discovered with the number one periscope. This forced the ship's REFTRA period to be cut short as the ship was pulled into port for emergent repairs. The ship was underway the next day to resume her strategic patrol.

l. FLORIDA performed three consecutive weeks of Midshipmen operations off the southern California coast. Each day the ship conducted personnel transfers in the vicinity of Naval Submarine Base San Diego, CA, to embark and/or disembark new groups of Midshipmen. Monday through Wednesday groups of Midshipmen spent a night aboard FLORIDA where they were given an opportunity to see how a TRIDENT submarine operates. The Midshipmen were given an opportunity to see how submarines perform against each other as FLORIDA exercised with other submarines, USS HOUSTON (SSN 713) and USS HELENA (SSN 725), while off the Southern California coast. Female Midshipmen rode on Thursdays and were taken underway for approximately 8 hours. They were also given the opportunity to see how FLORIDA performs her mission. After completion of the Midshipmen operations and in-port period, the

FLORIDA got underway with an Engineering Assist Team consisting of CAPT Trost, COMSUBGRU NINE and CDR Solms, COMSUBRON SEVENTEEN. After completion of three days of engineering drills and evolutions, the ship conducted a personnel transfer in the vicinity of Ballast Point to disembark the Engineering Assist Team. After the personnel transfer, the FLORIDA went back to sea and resumed her strategic commitments. In late August, an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE) was held. The ORSE team was led by CDR Rogers. CDR Rogers and his team engineering experts were embarked during a personnel transfer near Sequim Bay, WA on 27 August. The ship moored at Bangor, Washington, on 29 August. The Gold crew relieved the Blue crew on 31 August, and commenced Refit 62.

m. FLORIDA underwent a normal refit and on 5 October conducted sea trials in Dabob Bay, WA.

n. FLORIDA got underway for patrol 58 on 6 October beginning Commanding Officer's Discretionary Time (CODT). On 19 October the Refresher Training (REFTRA) team was embarked. FLORIDA moored Bangor, WA from 08-14 November for a port visit.

o. On 17 December FLORIDA embarked the Operation Reactor Safeguards Examination Team as well as the Logistics Readiness Evaluation Team in Sequim Bay, WA. Both evaluations were highly successful.

p. On 21 December, the GOLD crew was relieved by the BLUE crew and commenced Refit 63.

q. FLORIDA BLUE took the ship into refit at the close of 2001.