



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GEORGIA (SSBN 729) ✓
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Subj: USS GEORGIA (SSBN 729)(BLUE) COMMAND HISTORY

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Encl: (1) Command History for 1984, USS GEORGIA (SSBN 729), Blue Crew

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded per reference (a).


A. W. KUESTER

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Command History for 1984

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USS GEORGIA (SSBN 729)

Blue Crew

USS GEORGIA (SSBN 729), the Navy's fourth Trident submarine, was commissioned on 11 February 1984 at the Naval Underwater Systems Center, New London, Connecticut. Captain Arland W. Kuester, USN, Commanding Officer, Precommissioning Unit assumed command of the ship and the Blue Crew. The Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral James D. Watkins, USN, attended the commissioning ceremonies along with his wife, Mrs. Shiela M. Watkins, the ship's sponsor. The principal speaker was The Honorable Mack Mattingly, United States Senator from Georgia. The Honorable Joe Frank Harris, Governor of Georgia, was also present.

Following commissioning, Georgia conducted various shakedown operations while operating out of Port Canaveral, Florida. These included Demonstration and Shakedown Operations (DASO). DASO culminated in the successful launch of a Trident I missile on 7 April.

During the shakedown period, USS GEORGIA was privileged to have aboard for tours the French Minister of Defense and the French CNO. The Blue Crew's first on-ship period concluded with the successful completion of a Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection on 10 April which certified the crew to carry nuclear weapons. The crew then successfully completed its first Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam on 20 April.

The Blue Crew was relieved by the Gold crew on 23 April. The majority of the crew then moved their families to the ship's homeport, Bangor, Washington. The intensive 6 week training period which followed included an extensive lecture program, numerous formal schools at Trident Training Facility (TTF), Bangor, and other commands, and various team trainers, also at TTF.

Exchange of command was completed on 28 June in New London, Connecticut, and the Blue Crew took the ship back to Electric Boat Shipyard, where the ship was built, for Post-Shakedown Availability (PSA). This period was used to correct various material problems and to make a number of equipment modifications and additions. The most significant of the latter was the installation of the AN/BQQ-9 Thin Line Towed Array System.

Following PSA, USS GEORGIA hosted a number of dignitaries from the State of Georgia for an overnight cruise from Savannah, Georgia to Port Canaveral, Florida from 31 August to 1 September. These included United States Senators Sam Nunn and Mack Mattingly, Georgia Governor Joe Frank Harris, United States Representative from Georgia Lindsay Thomas, and the Mayor Pro Tem of Savannah, Leo Center.

During the last part of this shakedown period, the Blue Crew successfully completed its certification for employing Mark 48 torpedoes and Mobile Submarine Simulators (MOSS). Exchange of command to the Gold Crew was then completed on 21 September.

The Blue Crew's final off-ship training period prior to patrol was conducted from 22 October to 21 December 1984 at Bangor, Washington. The skills which the Blue Crew would shortly put to use on patrol were sharpened during this time.

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