



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER (SSN 709)
FPO, AE 09586-2389

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22 JAN 1997

From: Commanding Officer, USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER (SSN 709)
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1996

Ref: (a) COMSUBLANTINST 5400.4L
(b) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History for 1996

1. The 1996 Command History for USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER (SSN 709) is submitted in accordance with references (a) and (b).

J. A. Walsh
J. A. WALSH

Copy to:
Chief of Information (OI-213)
Navy Department
Washington, DC 20350

CINCLANTFLT (Attn: PAO)
COMSUBLANT (Attn: PAO)

The Submarine Museum
Box 700
Naval Submarine School
Groton, CT 06340

20 MAY - 24 MAY	ASWEX 14-96
25 MAY - 02 JUN	INPORT NORFOLK
03 JUN - 27 JUN	LOCAL OPERATIONS AND SERVICES/ MIDSHIPMAN OPERATIONS
28 JUN - 10 JUL	INPORT NORFOLK (SPRUCE)
11 JUL - 14 JUL	HURRICANE BERTHA SORTIE
15 JUL - 31 JUL	INPORT NORFOLK (SPRUCE)
01 AUG - 02 SEP	INPORT NORFOLK (UPKEEP)
03 SEP - 05 SEP	POST UPKEEP SEA TRIALS
06 SEP - 11 SEP	INPORT NORFOLK
12 SEP - 27 SEP	QAST TOMAHAWK LAUNCH
28 SEP - 03 NOV	INPORT NORFOLK (FMC UPKEEP)
03 NOV - 22 NOV	AUTEC (CNO PROJECTS)
23 NOV - 01 DEC	INPORT NORFOLK
02 DEC - 17 DEC	AUTEC (TRE)
18 DEC - 31 DEC	INPORT NORFOLK

b. Port Visit:

13 MAR - 17 MAR	PORT VISIT, HAAKANSVERN, NORWAY
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3. Narrative.

The ship conducted a highly successful Northern Atlantic deployment from January through March of 1996. Following the deployment, the crew enjoyed some well deserved liberty in Haakansvern, Norway. Upon departing Norway, RICKOVER displayed the pride and professionalism of the submarine force during a two day VIP cruise for Norway's Minister of Defense and several other high ranking Norwegian officials. Upon departing Norway on 19 March, the ship transited to New London, embarked the Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE) team on 27 March and successfully completed an ORSE enroute to Norfolk, VA.

After two weeks of stand-down, the ship began a dedicated maintenance upkeep which lasted until 2 June. In early June, RICKOVER completed sea trials and transited to the Cape Canaveral Operating Areas for three weeks of Midshipmen Operations. These

three weeks provided an excellent opportunity for RICKOVER's crew to show the Navy's future leaders the extensive capabilities of America's finest front line attack submarine.

RICKOVER completed a dedicated Scheduled Preservation Upkeep Coordinated Effort period in July followed by a Fleet Maintenance Center upkeep in August. With the ship in outstanding material condition, RICKOVER transited to the Cape Canaveral Operating Areas in early September and completed a successful TOMAHAWK Quality Assurance Operational Test Launch.

After the launch, RICKOVER returned to Norfolk for a Fleet Maintenance Center upkeep period which lasted through the end of October. On 3 November, the ship transited to the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center Operating Areas for several CNO projects and returned to Norfolk on 23 November.

On 2 December, the ship left Norfolk and transited to Port Everglades to embark Commander, Submarine Group TWO and the SUBLANT Tactical Readiness Team. RICKOVER became the first submarine in the history of this demanding tactically oriented inspection to achieve an overall grade of Excellent on all graded areas on a Tactical Readiness Evaluation. Following this "clean sweep," the ship returned to Norfolk on 17 December and spent the remainder of 1996 celebrating with family and friends. For the ship's sustained superior performance, RICKOVER was awarded the Submarine Squadron EIGHT Battle Efficiency "E" Award for 1996, Submarine Squadron EIGHT Golden Anchor Award for 1996 and was the CINCLANTFLT 1996 Golden Anchor Award First Runner-up in the SSN category.