



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval  
Historical Center, Washington, D.C. 20374-5060  
Subj: 1997 ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F  
Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Command Chronology  
(3) Command Narrative  
(4) Supporting Documents

1. Enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted in accordance with reference (a).

*M. A. Zieser*  
M. A. ZIESER

## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. **USS HOUSTON'S MISSION:** USS HOUSTON (SSN 713) is a Los Angeles Class nuclear powered fast attack submarine that was designed primarily as a high speed escort for carrier task forces. She supports national military objectives with the ability to carry the fight to the enemy at sea or on land with torpedoes and cruise missiles. Because of her stealth, HOUSTON is the ideal platform for such missions as Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare, Strike Warfare, Mine Warfare, Special Forces Operations, Intelligence gathering and Search and Rescue.
2. **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:** USS HOUSTON is one of six nuclear-powered submarines attached to Submarine Squadron Eleven, homeported in San Diego, California. USS HOUSTON's Immediate Senior in Command (ISIC) is Commander, Submarine Squadron Eleven.
3. **COMMANDING OFFICER PROFILE:** USS HOUSTON is commanded by DALE M. NEES, Commander, USN. Commander NEES, a native of Sarasota, Florida, graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1979. He relieved as the Commanding Officer of USS HOUSTON on 5 May 1995.

Encl (1)

USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1997

01 JAN - 13 JAN	INPORT GUAM
13 JAN - 16 JAN	SEAL OPERATIONS-GUAM
16 JAN - 17 JAN	INPORT GUAM
17 JAN - 29 JAN	WESTPAC OPERATIONS
29 JAN - 31 JAN	OPERATIONAL REACTOR SAFEGUARDS EXAMINATION (ORSE)
31 JAN - 10 MAR	INPORT SAN DIEGO
10 MAR - 14 MAR	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
14 MAR - 17 MAR	INPORT SAN DIEGO
17 MAR	UNDERWAY FOR LA JOLLA VIP CRUISE
17 MAR - 25 MAR	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
25 MAR - 08 MAY	INPORT SAN DIEGO
08 MAY - 09 MAY	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
09 MAY - 15 MAY	INPORT SAN DIEGO
15 MAY - 15 MAY	NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND
15 MAY - 23 MAY	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
23 MAY - 27 MAY	INPORT SAN DIEGO
27 MAY - 28 MAY	UNDERWAY FOR TACTICAL WEAPONS PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION (TWTCP)
28 MAY - 02 JUN	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
02 JUN - 05 JUN	UNDERWAY FOR TACTICAL READINESS EXAM (TRE)
05 JUN - 10 JUN	INPORT SAN DIEGO
10 JUN - 11 JUN	UNDERWAY FOR INSURV INSPECTION

Encl (2)

USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1997

11 JUN - 25 JUN	INPORT SAN DIEGO
25 JUN - 18 SEP	INPORT SAN DIEGO CONDUCTING SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY (SRA)
18 SEP - 26 SEP	INPORT SAN DIEGO
26 SEP - 28 SEP	UNDERWAY FOR POST SRA SEA-TRAILS
28 SEP - 06 OCT	INPORT SAN DIEGO
06 OCT - 14 OCT	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
14 OCT - 29 NOV	INPORT SAN DIEGO
29 NOV - 19 DEC	UNDERWAY FOR COMPTUEX 98-1 WITH ABRAHAM LINCOLN BATTLE GROUP (ALBG)
19 DEC - 31 DEC	INPORT SAN DIEGO

USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)

COMMAND NARRATIVE

1997

13 JAN - 16 JAN SEAL OPERATIONS - A three day operation with SEAL TEAM ONE exercising dry deck launches.

29 JAN - 31 JAN OPERATIONAL REACTOR SAFEGUARDS EXAMINATION - A two day administrative review of engineering documents, personnel interviews and monitored drill and evolution performance. Successfully completed this comprehensive exam administered under the supervision of Naval Reactors.

31 JAN - 10 MAR LEAVE AND STANDOWN PERIOD - Scheduled leave and standown period for crew relaxation following the six month deployment.

17 MAR UNDERWAY FOR LA JOLLA VIP CRUISE - Public Affairs event for city of La Jolla, California businessmen to promote community sponsorship. USS HOUSTON substituted for USS LA JOLLA which was unable to get underway due to a material problem.

27 MAY - 28 MAY TACTICAL WEAPONS PROFICIENCY - Demonstrated the ability to successfully employ exercise torpedoes, and to simulate the launch of numerous Tomahawk missiles in an simulated hostile environment. Evaluated by Commander, Submarine Squadron Eleven.

02 JUN - 05 JUN TACTICAL READINESS EXAM - An extensive three day examination in which the ship demonstrated the ability to operate the ship in a wartime scenario. Evaluated by Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

10 JUN - 11 JUN INSURV INSPECTION - Completed the underway testing phase of an inspection which ensures all ship's systems operate at design tolerances by the Board of Inspection and Survey.

25 JUN - 18 SEP SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY - A short labor intensive maintenance availability scheduled with Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for accomplishment of industrial maintenance and modernization.

USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)

COMMAND NARRATIVE

1997

29 NOV - 19 DEC      COMPTUEX 98-1 - Training period  
consisting of numerous exercises of varying complexity,  
scheduled as a work-up for the ABRAHAM LINCOLN BATTLE GROUP.  
HOUSTON participated as an Opposing Force for several  
exercises; and practiced all aspects of Coordinated  
Operations including Anti-Submarine Warfare, Communications,  
and Water Space Management.

Encl (3)