



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS HONOLULU (SSN 718) ✓
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From: Commanding Officer, USS HONOLULU (SSN 718)
To: Director of Naval History (Op-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Wash, D.C. 20374

Subj: USS HONOLULU COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

- Encl: (1) Basic Historical Narrative
(2) Ship's Pictures
(3) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(4) Midshipmen Welcome Aboard Pamphlets
(5) Ship's Decal
(6) Commissioning Pamphlet
(7) Change of Command Pamphlet
(8) Launching Pamphlet

1. In response to reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted. Enclosures (2) through (8) are included as supporting documentation.

T. J. FLANAGAN

Copy to:
CINCLANTFLT PAO (w/encls (1) thru (3))
COMSUBLANT 009 (w/encls (1) thru (3))
COMSUBPAC PAO (w/encls (1) thru (8))

BASIC HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The USS HONOLULU (SSN 718) began with the keel laying of the UNNAMED HULL 718 at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company on 10 November 1981. Two years later on 24 May 1983 Captain Robert M. Mitchell reported aboard as the Ship's Prospective Commanding Officer. It was not until August 1983 that the ship was named HONOLULU. She was launched on 24 September 1983.

HONOLULU's first watches were set on 25 January 1984 to support the transfer of operational control of engineering system. During this year an increasing portion of the ship was turned over to the crew as each system was tested and verified operational.

The pace of construction continued to quicken during 1985, with the major portion of engineering and forward ship service systems complete.

On 29 January 1985 the ship was placed "in service". On 3 February 1985 the reactor went critical for the first time and by 26 March 1985 all propulsion plant systems were under control of ship's force.

Starting on 10 April HONOLULU conducted fast cruise, Alpha and Bravo Sea Trials. Admiral Kinnaird R. McKee, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program was onboard to observe Alpha trials. No major discrepancies were noted and the ship returned to port on 23 April 1985. Charlie Sea Trials were completed on 23 May 1985. Significant problems were noted during Charlie trials with the Torpedo Handling System that were not resolved until August 1985. The ship was delivered to the Navy on 14 June 1985.

USS HONOLULU (SSN 718) was commissioned on 6 July 1985 at Destroyer and Submarine Piers #23, Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia. The Honorable Judge William C. Clark, Former Secretary of the Interior was the principal speaker.

On 19 July 1985, Commander Thomas J. Flanagan relieved Captain Robert M. Mitchell as Commanding Officer, USS HONOLULU. Immediately after the change of command the ship returned to Newport News Shipbuilding for extended repairs on the Torpedo Handling System.

HONOLULU got underway on 26 August 1985 for her first extended at-sea period. The ship transited to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for Weapons System Accuracy Trials (WSAT). After a week at Roosevelt Roads, HONOLULU made a short trip to St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands to complete WSAT. Next the ship transited to the Tongue of the Ocean in the Andros Islands for acoustic trials and Phase III Sonar Certification, returning to Norfolk on 28 September 1985.

In early October, HONOLULU began a busy in port upkeep period that included a Harpoon Weapons Certification and an Operational

Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE) workup. The ORSE was conducted on 22-23 October with an overall grade of Average assigned. Tomahawk Missile Certification followed in early November with an overall grade of Excellent assigned.

HONOLULU got underway on 11 November for MK-48 Torpedo Certification. In transit, HONOLULU conducted emergency recovery trials to test the ship's specifically configured split stern planes design. After a brief port stop for weapons loading in Port Canaveral, Florida, torpedo firings on the Weapons Range at the Tongue of the Ocean were conducted. An overall grade of Excellent was assigned for this certification with the ship going "four for four".

HONOLULU returned to Norfolk for a well deserved Christmas Holiday stand down.

STATISTICAL DATA

	<u>1985 Totals</u>	<u>After Commissioning</u>
Days Inport:	186*	132
Days at Sea	78	59
Miles Steamed	16,699 NM	12,106 NM

* Total days since first sea trials on 10 April 1985