



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER
USS ALBANY (SSN 753)
FPO AE 09564-2409

5750
Ser SSN 753
3 Mar 98

*Rec'd 3/25/98
w/o disk*

From: Commanding Officer, USS ALBANY (SSN 753)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard, 901 M. Street,
SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: USS ALBANY (SSN 753) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) USS ALBANY (SSN 753) Command History for Calendar Year 1997
(2) Biography of CDR Brian C. O'Neill, USN
(3) Photograph of CDR Brian C. O'Neill, USN
(4) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.

Brian O'Neill
BRIAN O'NEILL

USS ALBANY (SSN 753) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1997

1. Command Composition and Organization:

a. Mission:

(1) USS ALBANY (SSN 753), the 43rd ship of the Los Angeles class is one of the Navy's newest nuclear powered attack submarines.

(2) The 360 ft long, 6900 ton ship is well equipped to accomplish any assigned mission. Faster than her predecessors, she is equipped with "State of the Art" highly accurate sensors and weapons control systems, and is armed with sophisticated MK 48 anti-submarine torpedoes, Advanced Capability (ADCAP) torpedoes, mines, and twelve vertical launch tubes in the bow which carry TOMAHAWK cruise missiles. USS ALBANY carries a crew of 139 officers (14 officers and 125 enlisted men).

b. Organizational Structure

(1) Immediate Senior Commands:

Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet- VADM R. Mies
Commander, Submarine Group TWO- RADM M. Fages
Commander, Submarine Squadron SIX- CAPT R. Terpstra
Commander, Carrier Group TWO- RADM Williamson
Commanding Officer- CDR B. O'Neill

(2) Permanent Duty Station: Norfolk, Virginia.

2. Chronology:

Dates	Events
01-01-97	HOLIDAY STAND DOWN
01-01-97 to 01-24-97	IN DRYDOCK RESOLUTE (AFDM 10)
01-25-97 to 02-06-97	IMA UPKEEP USS L.Y. SPEAR (AS-36)
02-07-97 to 02-13-97	UNDERWAY FOR COMPTUEX PHASE II WITH JFK BATTLEGROUP
02-21-97	CHANGE OF COMMAND. CDR BRIAN O'NEILL RELIEVED CDR KEVIN RYAN
02-14-97 to 03-02-97	IMPORT NORFOLK
03-02-97 to 03-21-97	UNDERWAY FOR JTFEX WITH JFK BATTLEGROUP
03-22-97 to 04-22-97	IMA UPKEEP
04-23-97	DEPENDENTS CRUISE
04-24-97 to 04-25-97	UNDERWAY FOR SEA TRIALS
04-26-97 to 04-28-97	IMPORT NORFOLK
04-29-97	UNDERWAY FOR DEPLOYMENT
05-10-97	INCHOP TO COMSIXTHFLEET: VADM ABBOT COMSUBGRU EIGHT: RADM GROSSENBACHER COMSUBRON TWENTY TWO: CAPT JOHNSON
05-12-97 to 05-16-97	IMPORT GIBRALTAR
05-17-97 to 05-19-97	UNDERWAY
05-19-97 to 05-27-97	IMPORT LA MADDALENA, SARDINIA
05-27-97 to 06-04-97	UNDERWAY
06-04-97 to 06-10-97	IMPORT TOULON, FRANCE
06-10-97 to 06-13-97	UNDERWAY
06-13-97 to 06-17-97	ANCHORED AT PALMA, SPAIN
06-17-97 to 06-21-97	UNDERWAY
06-21-97 to 07-01-97	PARTICIPATED IN SHAREM 121 NATO USW EXERCISE
07-01-97 to 07-07-97	UNDERWAY

07-07-97 to 07-14-97	ANCHORED AT CORFU, GREECE
07-14-97 to 07-16-97	UNDERWAY
07-15-97	DEATH OF ET3 MATTHEW DAVIS
07-16-97 to 08-02-97	INPORT LA MADDALENA, SARDINIA
08-02-97 to 08-08-97	UNDERWAY
08-08-97 to 08-15-97	INPORT HAIFA, ISRAEL
08-15-97 to 08-17-97	UNDERWAY
08-17-97	TRANSIT SUEZ CANAL. INCHOP TO COMFIFTHFLEET: VADM FARGO COMSUBGRU SEVEN: RADM KONETZNI
08-17-97 to 08-28-97	UNDERWAY
08-28-97 to 09-06-97	INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
09-06-97 to 09-25-97	UNDERWAY
09-25-97	TRANSIT SUEZ CANAL. INCHOP TO COMSIXTHFLEET: VADM ABBOTT COMSUBGRU EIGHT: RADM GROSSENBACHER COMSUBRON TWENTY TWO: CAPT HAYS
09-25-97 to 09-27-97	UNDERWAY
09-27-97 to 09-30-97	INPORT LIMASSOL, CYPRUS
09-30-97 to 10-06-97	UNDERWAY
10-06-97 to 10-11-97	INPORT LA MADDALENA, SARDINIA
10-11-97 to 10-16-97	UNDERWAY
10-16-97	INCHOP TO COMSUBLANT: VADM MIES COMSUBGRU TWO: RADM FAGES COMSUBRON SIX: CAPT TERPSTRA
10-16-97 to 10-28-97	ATLANTIC TRANSIT
10-26-97 to 10-28-97	OPERATIONAL REACTOR SAFEGUARDS EXAMINATION
10-28-97	RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT
10-28-97 to 11-13-97	STAND DOWN
11-13-97 to 11-30-97	IMA UPKEEP
12-01-97 to 12-23-97	SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY
12-02-97	ENTERED DRYDOCK RESOLUTE (AFDM 10)
12-24-97 to 12-31-97	HOLIDAY STAND DOWN

3. Narrative.

USS ALBANY (SSN 753) started off the year making preparations for a Mediterranean Sea and Persian Gulf deployment in support of the USS JOHN F KENNEDY Battlegroup. After completion of a drydock period in the USS RESOLUTE, the ship participated in COMPTUEX Phase II to become proficient in all associated support missions for the battlegroup commander. During ceremonies held pierside on February 21, 1997, CDR Brian O'Neill relieved CDR Kevin Ryan as commanding officer of the USS ALBANY.

The ship soon got underway for JTFEX which involved final certification for the ship's role as a member of the JFK Battlegroup. After a dependents cruise on April 23, the ship completed Sea Trials and was underway on April 29 for an Atlantic Ocean transit to the Mediterranean Sea. ALBANY conducted inchop to Commander, Sixth Fleet on May 10. After a brief port call in Gibraltar, the ship transited to La Maddalena, Sardinia and moored alongside the USS SIMON LAKE (AS-39).

After other port calls in Toulon, France and Palma, Spain, the ship participated in SHAREM 121 from June 23 to June 30. SHAREM 121 was an undersea warfare exercise involving numerous NATO ships and aircraft. After SHAREM 121, ALBANY anchored at Corfu, Greece for liberty. Following the Corfu port call, ALBANY returned to sea to conduct a VIP cruise for several Italian dignitaries off La Maddalena, Sardinia. On July 15, the ship mourned the loss of a shipmate ET3 [REDACTED]. He was transferred to USS SIMON LAKE (AS-33)

early in the morning but died of heart failure due to a previously unknown defect.

The ship completed a transit to the eastern Mediterranean Sea and a five day port call in Haifa, Israel. On August 15, ALBANY hosted all serving Israeli submarine commanding officers during a day long VIP cruise. After debarking the riders, the ship arrived off Port Said, Egypt to embark RADM Grossenbacher in preparation for a transit through the Suez Canal. August 17 saw the first ever trip of the USS ALBANY through the Suez Canal. The ship inchooped to Commander, Fifth Fleet and was an important Tomahawk strike capable asset while conducting operations in the Persian Gulf. The ship visited Mina Sulman, Bahrain from August 28 to September 06 where she hosted VADM Fargo, the Fifth Fleet Commander. ALBANY returned to the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal on September 25.

After a three day stop over in Limassol, Cyprus, the ship made passage to Souda Bay, Crete for a personnel transfer and thence to La Maddalena, Sardinia for a final upkeep before the end of the deployment. The ship hosted ADM Reasons, Commander, Atlantic Fleet for a televised VIP tour while in La Maddalena. ALBANY steamed through the Strait of Gibraltar on October 13, and completed training and engineering plant preparations throughout a crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. After a personnel transfer at Bermuda to embark the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board, the ship conducted an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination and returned home to Norfolk, Virginia on October 28. The ship steamed over 34,000 miles during its deployment and visited eight different ports of call.

After a post deployment stand down and entry into the drydock USS RESOLUTE, the ship commenced a Selected Restricted Availability conducted by the Norfolk Naval Shipyard on December 01. ALBANY completed a dual media discharge and began replacement of both the propulsion shaft and sonar dome.

4. Supporting Documents:

- a. Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
- b. Biography and Photograph of Commanding Officer
- c. Photograph of USS ALBANY (SSN 753)