



rec'd 8/17/90

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

ASHEVILLE (SSN-758) PRECOMMISSIONING UNIT
SUPERVISOR OF SHIPBUILDING, CONVERSION AND REPAIR, USN
NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING AND DRYDOCK CO.
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA 23607-2785

5750

Ser SSN758/311-90

6 AUG 90

From: Commanding Officer, ASHEVILLE (SSN758) Precommissioning Unit
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B11), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: FORWARDING OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Commanding Officer's Biography
(2) Christening of ASHEVILLE brochure
(3) PRECOMUNIT ASHEVILLE ltr 9030 Ser SSN758/95 dtd 20 OCT 89
(4) PRECOMUNIT ASHEVILLE ltr 9030 Ser SSN758/34 dtd 15 JAN 90
(5) ASHEVILLE Christening Poster

1. The Command History for the period 17 July 1989 to 28 February 1990 is submitted in accordance with reference (a).

2. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

a. ASHEVILLE (SSN758) Precommissioning Unit was established on 17 July 1989. Its mission is to support the construction and testing of this improved 688 Class fast attack submarine and train/prepare the crew to take her to sea. When the ship is commissioned, the Precommissioning Unit will become the initial crew.

b. ASHEVILLE is under construction at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Newport News, VA. The Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair, USN under the command of Captain Charles D. Wasson is responsible for overseeing and administering Navy contracts for the ship. ASHEVILLE is administratively responsible to Commander Submarine Squadron 8, Norfolk, VA; Commander Submarine Group 6, Charleston, SC; and Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

c. CDR Patrick J. Casey is the Commanding Officer of the Precommissioning Unit and the Prospective Commanding Officer of USS ASHEVILLE (SSN758). Enclosure (1) provides his biography.

3. CHRONOLOGY

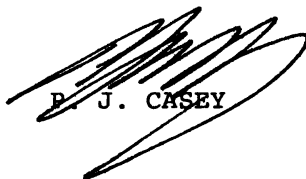
17 JUL 89 PRECOMUNIT ASHEVILLE established at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. LCDR P. J. CASEY, USN, Commanding Officer, 2 officers and 32 enlisted men reported for duty.

06 SEP 89 Executive Officer, LCDR D. L. OLBERDING reported aboard for duty.

- 28 OCT 89 Mrs. Dorothy C. Helms officially christened Hull No 633D as ASHEVILLE at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Newport News, VA. Mrs. Dorothy C. Helms is ASHEVILLE's sponsor and wife of United States Senator Jesse C. Helms. Maids of Honor included Jennifer J. Knox, Ellen H. Stuart and Katherine C. Stuart. Guests of Honor included the Honorable Jesse C. Helms, United States Senator from North Carolina and principal speaker; the Honorable Herbert H. Bateman, United States Congressman from Virginia; the Honorable W. Louis Bissette, Jr., Mayor of Asheville, NC; and VADM Daniel L. Cooper, Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Undersea Warfare. Enclosure (2) provides details on the Christening Event.
- 30 OCT 89 First watches manned aboard ASHEVILLE by the Engineering Department. Commenced pre-core reactor testing.
- 11 FEB 90 Completed pre-core phase of reactor plant testing.
- 23 FEB 90 ASHEVILLE moved from outboard ways of the Submarine Modular Outfitting Facility to the drydock ED CAMPBELL in preparation for launch.
- 26 FEB 90 ASHEVILLE launched. Ship moved to Pier 6 to establish trim condition for loading the reactor core.

4. NARRATIVE. Since its establishment, PRECOMUNIT ASHEVILLE has grown to 10 officers and 78 enlisted personnel. Major objectives of the command during this reporting period were:

- a. Efficient, safe conduct of pre-core Reactor Plant testing.
- b. Timely qualification of watchstations necessary to support testing and ensure security of assigned spaces.
- c. Continuing training and qualification of the crew to support sea trials and shakedown operations of the ship.
- d. Construction progress of the ship has proceeded without any major delays since crew manning. Key events for the construction period are outlined in enclosures (1) and (2). A detailed description of the ship's material status is included in enclosures (3) and (4).


E. J. CASEY