



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS AUGUSTA (SSN 710)
FPO AE 09564-2390

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From: Commanding Officer, USS AUGUSTA (SSN-710)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)
Subj: USS AUGUSTA (SSN-710) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1996
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

1. Command Composition and Organization

a. USS AUGUSTA (SSN-710) is the fifth ship of the fleet to bear the name AUGUSTA, and the first to be named for the capital of Maine.

b. USS AUGUSTA is a nuclear powered attack submarine of the Los Angeles (SSN-688) class, currently assigned to Submarine Development Squadron TWELVE, which is homeported in Groton, Connecticut. Commanded by CDR James J. Colgary, her principal mission is to operate against enemy submarines and surface ships and to provide sea to land attack strike capability. Surpassing the underwater capabilities of any class of ship before her, USS AUGUSTA carries detection, communications, navigation and computerized weapons systems of the most advanced design.

2. 1996 Chronology

1 Jan-7 Feb	IMA Upkeep, Computer LAN installation by Newport News Ship Yard.
8-16 Feb	Sea Trials and Independent Steaming in Narragansett Bay Operating Areas.
17-23 Feb	Inport Groton.
23 Feb-1 Mar	Underway, Independent Steaming in Narragansett Bay and Virginia Capes Operating Areas.
1-11 Mar	Inport Groton.
11-16 Mar	Independent Steaming, Transit to Halifax, Nova Scotia.
16-19 Mar	Port Visit, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
19-26 Mar	Operations with HMCS NIPOGAN, Independent Steaming.
26 Mar-4 Apr	Inport Groton.
5 Apr	Drydock SHIPPINGPORT ARDM-4.

6 Apr-6 Jun	Selected Restricted Availability 4-1 by Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.
22-29 May	Members of the crew participated in "Fleet Week" in New York City.
28 May	Undock SHIPPINGPORT ARDM-4
29 May-10 Jun	Inport Groton.
11-13 Jun	Sea Trials in Narragansett Bay Operating Areas.
13-17 Jun	Inport Groton.
18-27 Jun	Underway, Transit, Midshipman Operations near Port Canaveral, FL.
27 Jun-1 Jul	Port Visit, Port Canaveral, FL.
1-12 Jul	AN/SQQ-110 Sonar Testing with Maritime Patrol Aircraft, Independent Steaming.
13-15 Jul	Port Visit, Port Canaveral, FL.
16-18 Jul	Sound Trials; Exuma Sound, Bahamas.
19-22 Jul	Transit to Narragansett Bay Operating Areas.
23-24 Jul	Inport Groton.
24-27 Jul	Underway, Narragansett Bay Operating Areas; Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination Workup.
28-30 Jul	Inport Groton.
30 Jul-2 Aug	Underway, Narragansett Bay Operating Areas; Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination.
3-7 Aug	Inport Groton.
8-9 Aug	Transit to Winter Harbor, ME.
9-10 Aug	Anchored; Port Visit, Winter Harbor, ME, crew members participated in "1996 Winter Harbor Lobster Festival".
11-12 Aug	Transit to Groton.
13 Aug	VIP Cruise-SEAWOLF Commissioning Committee from Akron, OH.
14 Aug-15 Sep	Pre-Overseas Movement Availability by Naval Submarine Support Facility, Groton and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.
10-11 Sep	Logistics Readiness Evaluation.
16-17 Sep	Post Upkeep Sea Trials.
17-18 Sep	Inport Groton, Load TB-29 Tactical Sonar Array.
18- 26 Sep	Sound Trials with USS RHODE ISLAND, TRACKEX and TB-29 Evaluation with USS HARTFORD.
27 Sep-10 Oct	Inport Groton.

11 Oct-15 Oct	Pre-Overseas Movement Certification Workup Exercise, Narragansett Bay Operating Areas with USS SAN JUAN (SSN-751) and USS BILLFISH (SSN-676).
16 Oct-21 Oct	Inport Groton.
21-25 Oct	Pre-Overseas Movement Certification with USS CITY of CORPUS CHRISTI (SSN-705) and USS BILLFISH (SSN 676), COMSUBDEVRON TWELVE embarked.
26 Oct-12 Nov	Inport Groton, Pre-Voyage Repair Period.
13 Nov-31 Dec	North Atlantic Deployment (scheduled return to homeport February 1997).
23 Dec-31 Dec	Port Visit, Faslane Scotland, UK.

3. Narrative

a. 1996 was a very busy year for AUGUSTA over a wide spectrum of areas including public relations, extensive maintenance periods, new age technological advancements in data processing and tactical systems, and highly successful at sea operations, including the first ever deployment of the TB-29 tactical sonar array.

b. AUGUSTA took a major step into the new age of Automated Data Processing (ADP) aboard submarines this year. A Local Area Network (LAN) system was installed by Newport News Naval Shipyard. The LAN system main frame, located in the ship's log room, houses over 200 compact disks containing ship's plans, SNAP-3 automated supply system software, technical manuals, as well as word processing, message writing, and E-mail programs.

c. The ship was drydocked for two months for an extensive Selected Restricted Availability (SRA). Combining the outstanding and untiring conjunctive efforts of ship's force, Naval Submarine Support Facility New London, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and various other outside activities, a modern warship was once again ready for mission taskings. A few significant accomplishments included: the ship's shaft was replaced, the sonar dome was replaced, the AN/BQG-5 Wide Aperture Array sonar system was upgraded, and the OTH (Over the Horizon) targeting system was upgraded.

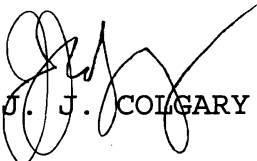
d. Many members of the crew had the opportunity to participate in "FLEET WEEK" festivities held in New York City, New York. Some of the highlights included tours of, an aircraft

carrier, dinner parties and a New York Mets baseball game. Some sailors even had the privilege to shake hands with the President of the United States during his visit to the event.

e. AUGUSTA hosted several other public relations and naval promotional opportunities throughout the year. These included midshipman operations off the coast of Florida, anchorage and tours at the Winter Harbor, Maine "1996 Lobster Festival", and a VIP cruise for the SEAWOLF Commissioning Committee. These efforts allowed AUGUSTA to do her part in showing the public and future naval officers the importance of the submarine role in the future of our nation's defense.

f. The navy's latest technology in submarine tactical towed sonar arrays, the TB-29, was installed on the ship in September. The ship performed extensive operational evaluations of this array which produced outstanding results. AUGUSTA was the first ship to embark on a deployment with this new type array.

g. The ship finished out the year in the midst of a highly successful deployment to the North Atlantic Ocean. Despite some minor material problems, the crew's excellent technical ability and pre-deployment preparation ensured that the ship was able to successfully support all required taskings. The ship and its crew had a port visit while on deployment in Faslane, Scotland, UK for the Christmas Holidays. The visit was well received by the local people. Several sailors were invited to join in a traditional Christmas dinner with Scottish families. This helped immensely in lifting the crew spirits so far from home for the holidays.


J. J. COLGARY