



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS BUFFALO (SSN 715) ✓  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96661

5750  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS BUFFALO (SSN715)  
To: Directory of Naval History, Washington D.C.

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) USS BUFFALO Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded covering the ship's history of USS BUFFALO from new construction until the end of 1984.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carl T. Berry", is centered below the paragraph.

CARL T. BERRY

Copy to:  
COMSUBPAC PAO  
CINCPACFLT PAO

## HISTORY OF USS BUFFALO (SSN715)

The USS BUFFALO (SSN715) is the Navy's 25th Los Angeles Class Fast Attack Submarine. It is the third military vessel to bear the name BUFFALO. The first BUFFALO, a three gun sloop, was purchased by the United States Navy to serve as a flagship of the Delaware flotilla during the War of 1812.

The second BUFFALO was built by Newport News Shipbuilding in 1892 as a commercial vessel, the sixth hull constructed by the young shipyard. The government purchased the ship in 1898, fitted it out as an auxiliary cruiser and named it the BUFFALO.

In 1917, BUFFALO transported a special U.S. diplomatic mission to Russia. Upon its return, it was converted to a destroyer tender, and for the remainder of World War I was stationed off the coast of France and Gibraltar. After a final tour with the Asiatic Fleet in 1921, the ship was permanently decommissioned in 1922.

In 1942, plans were made to name an aircraft carrier BUFFALO. When the keel was laid, however, the vessel was renamed BATAAN, in honor of America's wartime operations in the Philippines.

In April 1944, the keel was laid for yet another BUFFALO...this time a cruiser. Before it was completed, however, the war ended and work on the vessel was cancelled.

The third USS BUFFALO, a nuclear attack submarine, was launched on 8 May 1982, at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. The ship was christened by Mrs. Jack Kemp, the wife of Congressman Jack Kemp of New York's 31st Congressional District. Sixteen months after her launching in September 1983 BUFFALO set out on her propulsion sea trials.

On November 5, 1983 the ship was commissioned in Norfolk, Virginia. Over 500 proud citizens from the city of Buffalo, New York, witnessed USS BUFFALO come to life with Commander George M. Hewitt as her first Commanding Officer. BUFFALO's assignment upon commissioning was to Submarine Squadron EIGHT in Norfolk. On May 5, 1984, Commander Carl T. Berry relieved Captain George M. Hewitt as Commanding Officer at a ceremony in Newport News, Virginia. Upon completion of a five month Post Shakedown Availability, the ship began the voyage to the homeport of her permanent assignment as a member of Submarine Squadron ONE in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

During the interfleet transit to Hawaii, port calls included a seven day stop in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, five days in Fredericksted, St. Croix, and four days in Willemstad, Curacao. The ship transited the Panama Canal on November 12, 1984, and two days later briefly crossed the equator for the ship's first "Shellback" initiation. BUFFALO arrived in Pearl Harbor on November 26, 1984, and spent the remainder of the year in an upkeep status.