



rec'd 6/1/90
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS BUFFALO (SSN 715)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96661

5750
Ser SSN715/PAO 0282
16 MAY 1990

From: Commanding Officer, USS BUFFALO (SSN 715)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History - USS BUFFALO (SSN 715)

1. The command history of USS BUFFALO (SSN 715) for the period of 1 January to 31 December 1989 is submitted as enclosure (1) per reference (a).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. D. Nelson".

H. D. NELSON

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT (PAO)
COMSUBPAC (PAO)
Submarine Museum, Groton, CT
Pacific Submarine Museum, Pearl Harbor, HI

I. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS BUFFALO (SSN 715) FACT SHEET

Keel Laid:	25 January 1980
Launched:	08 May 1982
Commissioned:	05 November 1983
Sponsored by:	Mrs. Jack Kemp
Ship's Complement:	13 Officers
	14 Chief Petty Officers
	120 Enlisted Men
Length:	360 feet
Beam:	33 feet
Maximum Depth:	In excess of 400 feet
Maximum Speed:	In excess of 20 knots
Surface placement:	6200 tons
Submerged displacement:	6900 tons

The USS BUFFALO (SSN 715) is the Navy's 25th LOS ANGELES Class Fast Attack Submarine. Her keel was laid on 25 January 1980 and she began her waterborne career on 8 May 1982, when she was launched by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company in Newport News, Virginia. USS BUFFALO (SSN 715) was commissioned on 5 November 1983 in Norfolk, Virginia. BUFFALO's assignment upon commissioning was to Submarine Squadron EIGHT. During November 1984, BUFFALO conducted an inter-fleet transfer to the Pacific via the Panama Canal and was assigned to Submarine Squadron ONE in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

USS BUFFALO is a streamlined, highly advanced and maneuverable anti-submarine warfare platform that employs the best the industry can offer in three major areas.

First, she is powered by a pressurized water nuclear reactor of advanced design. This safe, reliable, and extremely powerful reactor plant gives BUFFALO the ability to operate independently of the outside atmosphere for extended periods at high speeds.

Second, the state-of-the-art combat systems and electronics suites installed on board BUFFALO provide the nervous system that allows BUFFALO to perform her assigned mission. Computers are the backbone of the ship's sonar, fire control and navigation systems, the systems that give BUFFALO her formidable hunter-killer capability.

Finally, BUFFALO, like other 688 class submarines, is capable of carrying the most advanced weapons available to the submarine force, including the MK-48 long range anti-submarine, anti-ship torpedo; the HARPOON anti-surface ship cruise missile; and the TOMAHAWK anti-surface ship and land attack cruise missile.

COMMANDING OFFICERS

CDR D. P. MILLER (1 JANUARY - 28 NOVEMBER 1989)
CDR H. D. NELSON (28 NOVEMBER - 31 DECEMBER 1989)

TYPE COMMANDER: COMMANDER SUBMARINE FORCE, U.S. PACIFIC FLEET
SQUADRON COMMANDER: COMMANDER, SUBMARINE SQUADRON 1

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII

Enclosure (1)

II. CHRONOLOGY

1 JANUARY - 12 APRIL	DEPLOYED TO THE WESTERN PACIFIC
11 - 12 APRIL	OPERATIONAL REACTOR SAFEGUARDS EXAMINATION
MAY - SEPTEMBER	LOCAL OPERATIONS
18 - 21 AUGUST	PORT VISIT TO LAHAINA, MAUI
31 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER	SUPPLY MANAGEMENT INSPECTION
5 - 11 SEPTEMBER	TACTICAL READINESS INSPECTION
14 SEPTEMBER - 3 NOVEMBER	DEPLOYED TO THE WESTERN PACIFIC FOR
	PACEX 89
1 - 2 NOVEMBER	SURPRISE OPERATIONAL REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
	EXAMINATION
16 - 18 NOVEMBER	NAVY TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY INSPECTION
28 NOVEMBER	CHANGE OF COMMAND IN PEARL HARBOR

III. NARRATIVE

USS BUFFALO (SSN 715) began 1989 with a port visit to Yokosuka Japan while deployed for a six month Western Pacific deployment. She departed her homeport of Pearl Harbor Hawaii on 12 October 1988. This operation was BUFFALO's third Western Pacific deployment.

During this deployment, BUFFALO conducted several operations and visited the following ports for short upkeeps and liberty: Yokosuka, Japan; Subic Bay, Republic of the Phillipines; Chin Hae, Korea; Pattaya Beach, Thailand; and Guam, Marianas Islands.

Before returning to her homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 12 April, BUFFALO completed an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination with satisfactory results.

After a short standdown period the ship completed three months of local operations with a port visit to Lahaina on the island of Maui.

In early September two major command inspections were held. The Supply Management Inspection and the Tactical Readiness Evaluation were conducted with superior results. On 14 September the BUFFALO deployed on 14 hour notice to conduct operations in the Western Pacific for a major exercise, PACEX 89. On 15 October the BUFFALO received her third consecutive Battle Efficiency "E" award and second consecutive Supply "E" for superior performance.

On 1 November, the ship was given a surprise Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination with satisfactory results. A Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection was conducted on 18 November with satisfactory results.

IV. ATTACHMENTS

1. Biography of Commanding Officer
2. Photograph of Commanding Officer