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**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

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

Subj: SHIP'S HISTORY 1995

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Ship's History

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

  
J. E. COHOON, JR.

## USS BUFFALO (SSN 715)

### SHIP'S HISTORY 1995

#### 1. Command Composition and Organization:

USS BUFFALO (SSN-715) is a Los Angeles Class nuclear powered attack submarine and is capable of a variety of missions which include the following: anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, intelligence gathering, land attack (strike) warfare, mine laying, special forces insertion and overall as an unseen deterrent. BUFFALO is homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii as part of Submarine Squadron One. The Commanding Officer is Commander John Elder Cohoon, Jr, USN.

#### 2. Chronology:

- January: Completed upkeep and conducted Prospective Commanding Officer (PCO) Operations.
- February: PCO Ops and Tactical Readiness Evaluation.
- March and April: Workup for Tactical Weapons Proficiency Inspection and upkeep.
- May: Pre-deployment upkeep.
- June: Logistics Readiness Evaluation.
- July: Tactical Weapons Proficiency and start of Pre-Overseas Movement certification (POMCERT).
- August: Completed POMCERT and emergent drydock repairs, and started a four month Western Pacific Deployment.
- September: Independent Operations in Seventh Fleet AOR.
- October: Upkeep in Guam, MI.
- November: Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination and transit to Pattaya Beach, Thailand for a liberty port call.
- December: Arrive in Yokosuka, Japan for upkeep and foreign relations tours. Return to Pearl Harbor and completion of WESTPAC.

#### 3. Narrative:

1995 was a very busy year for USS BUFFALO, commencing with PCO operations during which a wide variety of submarine missions were executed. BUFFALO hosted six future submarine commanding officers. The boat performed well, shooting approximately 30 exercise torpedoes against surface ships and other submarines as well as simulating land attacks on simulated enemy forces.

The next several months were spent preparing for the upcoming deployment. The pace quickened in June and July as all equipment was tested and the crew readied for two remaining inspections. At the end of July BUFFALO completed the pre-deployment process with a Tactical Weapons Proficiency Inspection and the Pre-deployment Certification occurring back to back.

Because of an emergent material problem, it was necessary to go into drydock immediately prior to deployment. With exceptional effort, the boat was able to undock earlier than expected and deploy on time.

The start of deployment consisted of a five week independent operation for which the boat earned the Navy Expeditionary Medal. The first port call in WESTPAC was at Guam, MI. The two and a half weeks spent in Guam were spent in upkeep and workup for the Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE). With the successful completion of our ORSE, the ship set out for Hong Kong for liberty.

Just two days short of pulling in to Hong Kong harbor, weather managed to "rain on our parade" and the ship was diverted to Pattaya Beach, Thailand. Whatever disappointment that was felt over missing Hong Kong quickly disappeared once the crew set foot on the beach. The next five days were spent enjoying the shopping bargains, exotic cuisine, and the well known hospitality of the Thai.

Yokosuka provided another small upkeep period, and allowed the opportunity for BUFFALO to further U.S.-Japanese relations on two occasions. The first involved an overnight underway during which two Japanese Ministers of North American Affairs were embarked. They were given a brief and tour of all forward spaces. Both were also given the opportunity to steer the boat and look out the periscope. Since this was their first visit on board a US submarine, they were both very impressed and immensely pleased with their visit. Later BUFFALO hosted four retired Japanese admirals for lunch. Many of the admirals were WWII veterans, and conversation led to their various war experiences which were fascinating for all to hear. After lunch, they were also given a tour.

Leaving Japan and WESTPAC behind in the middle of December, BUFFALO finished the upkeep and headed for home. BUFFALO arrived just prior to Christmas and the crew was able to enjoy the holidays at home during a much deserved standdown period.