



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 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

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 1996

#### 1. Command Composition and Organization:

USS BUFFALO (SSN 715) is a LOS ANGELES Class nuclear-powered attack submarine capable of a variety of missions: anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, intelligence collection, land attack (strike) warfare, mine laying, and special forces insertion. 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: Post-deployment stand down. Completed ship's force upkeep and pre-arrival testing prior to Selected Restricted Availability (SRA).
- February: Underway providing target services for various ships and submarines of the Pacific Fleet.
- March: Conducted upkeep period prior to SRA. Commenced SRA.
- April: SRA.
- May: SRA.
- June: Completed SRA.
- July: Conducted post-SRA sea trials and independent steaming exercises. Hosted Submarine Squadron 1 change of command.
- August: Completed Tactical Weapons Proficiency and Tactical Readiness Evaluation.
- September: Conducted two-week SPRUCE (painting) upkeep. Commenced Eastern Pacific deployment.
- October: Conducted GUNSLINGER anti-submarine warfare exercise. Conducted acoustic trials at Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility.
- November: Completed Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination. Commenced post-deployment upkeep. Completed Combat Systems Readiness Review.
- December: Completed Nuclear Weapons Assessment and Logistics Readiness Evaluation. Completed upkeep and post-upkeep sea trials. Conducted a one-day dependents' cruise.

### 3. Narrative:

1996 commenced with a two-week stand down period following the western Pacific deployment which ended in late December, 1995. The early months of 1996 then focused on preparations for the upcoming Selected Restricted Availability (SRA). Pre-arrival testing and a short upkeep period by ship's force were completed late in January, allowing two months of planning prior to SRA commencement in March.

The month of February was spent in several underway periods for independent steaming and providing target services for various units of the Pacific Fleet. SRA preparations began in earnest in March. A short upkeep with Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF), Pearl Harbor was completed in early March, and SRA work began thereafter. The ship was dry-docked on April 1st.

SRA continued through the months of April, May and June, and was followed by post-SRA sea trials in July. The ship completed brief underway periods for independent operations and training, and hosted the Submarine Squadron 1 change of command July 26th.

Following post-SRA testing, the ship spent the month of August in preparation for and conducting a Tactical Readiness Evaluation and Tactical Weapons Proficiency firings. It was then back into homeport for a two week painting and preservation upkeep prior to a deployment to the eastern Pacific.

The eastern Pacific deployment was highlighted by extensive acoustic monitoring operations at the newly completed Southeast Alaska Acoustic Monitoring Facility. Following a port call in Bangor, Washington, home of the Pacific Fleet TRIDENT submarine force, the ship completed the return transit to Pearl Harbor and conducted training in preparation for the upcoming Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE).

Following the ORSE in early November, the ship commenced an upkeep period with IMF Pearl Harbor and underwent a Combat Systems Readiness Review. In December the ship conducted a Nuclear Weapons Assessment and a Logistics Readiness Evaluation. Following completion of the upkeep and post-upkeep sea trials, the ship was able to host dependents for a one-day dependents' cruise, a rare opportunity for crewmembers' family and friends to experience, first hand, what life is like underway on a submarine. The year ended with the normal holiday stand down period.