



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS BUFFALO (SSN 715)  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS BUFFALO (SSN 715)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical  
Center, Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg.  
57, Washington, DC 20374-5060.

Subj: USS BUFFALO (SSN 715) COMMAND HISTORY

1. Command Composition and Organization. USS BUFFALO (SSN 715) is a Los Angeles Class Fast Attack Submarine home-ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. BUFFALO's ISIC is Squadron One. CDR Robert M. Hennegan is the Commanding Officer.

2. Chronology.

01-12 Jan: Underway for Crew Training  
13-15 Jan: Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination  
16 Jan-01 Feb: Ship's Force Upkeep  
02-03 Feb: Local Operations  
04-12 Feb: Sub vs. Sub exercise with USS LOS ANGELES (SSN 688) and USS HAWKBILL (SSN 666)  
13 Feb-29 Mar: Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF) POM II Upkeep BPS-15H/Voyage Management System installation  
30-31 Mar: POM Weapons Loadout  
01-04 Apr: Voyage repair period  
05-16 Apr: Sub vs. Sub with USS LOS ANGELES (SSN 688) followed by Tactical Readiness Examination/POM Certification  
17-29 Apr: POM Loadout  
30 Apr-05 May: Transit to Seventh Fleet AOR  
06-09 May: SHINKAME exercise with Japanese Submarine JDS FUYOSHIO  
10-11 May: DSRVEX with the Japanese DSRV Unit  
12-18 May: Inport Yokosuka for voyage repairs  
19 May-10 Jun: Special Operations in Seventh Fleet AOR  
11-19 Jun: Inport Chinhae, Republic of Korea  
20-23 Jun: Transit to Yokosuka, Japan  
24 Jun-09 Jul: Inport Yokosuka for upkeep and voyage repairs  
10-16 Jul: Sea trials and independent operations for training enroute to the Sea of Japan  
17-24 Jul: Coordinated operations with surface units from the USS CONSTELLATION Battle Group

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25-31 Jul: Transit to Pattaya Beach, Thailand  
01-05 Aug: Liberty port visit in Pattaya Beach, Thailand  
06-27 Aug: Special Operations in Seventh Fleet AOR  
28-29 Aug: Inport Okinawa for Exercise SHAREM 130  
preparations  
30 Aug-10 Sep: Multinational Exercise SHAREM 130 with  
Japanese/U.S. surface, sub and air assets  
11-14 Sep: Inport Okinawa  
15 Sep-04 Oct: Special Operations in Seventh Fleet AOR  
05-06 Oct: Inport Guam  
07-13 Oct: Transit to Brisbane, Australia  
14-18 Oct: Liberty port visit in Brisbane, Australia  
19-27 Oct: Transit to Pearl Harbor and work-up for ORSE  
28-29 Oct: Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination  
30 Oct-28 Nov: Post-deployment stand down  
29 Nov-17 Dec: Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF) upkeep  
18-31 Dec: Christmas Stand down

3. Narrative. In January 1999, USS BUFFALO (SSN 715) was awarded the Coast Guard Special Operations Ribbon for her exceptional performance as part of a special joint operation with the United States Coast and Canadian naval forces in November 1998. This award is rarely presented to a submarine and special authorization was required from the Chief of Naval Operations. USS BUFFALO's 1999 at-sea operations commenced with an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination and preparations for a Western Pacific Deployment. The pre-overseas movement (POM) process was completed with a successful Tactical Readiness Examination/POM certification. On 30 April 1999, Buffalo transited to the Seventh Fleet AOR and commenced a six-month Western Pacific deployment by participating in SHINKAME, a sub-on-sub exercise with the Japanese Submarine JDS FUYOSHIO. Following a brief stop in Yokosuka, Buffalo conducted an exercise with the Japanese DSRV unit.

BUFFALO then conducted special operations in the Seventh Fleet AOR and upon completion, proceeded to Chinhae, Korea for a submarine exercise. The ship then transited to Yokosuka, Japan and conducted a three-week upkeep.

With repairs complete, BUFFALO headed for the Sea of Japan for coordinated operations with the USS Constellation Battle Group. The ship was able to integrate smoothly into the operations of the battle group, demonstrating the diversity and flexibility of a modern SSN.

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Following Battle Group Operations, Buffalo enjoyed a liberty port call in Pattaya Beach, Thailand and then conducted special operations in the Seventh Fleet AOR.

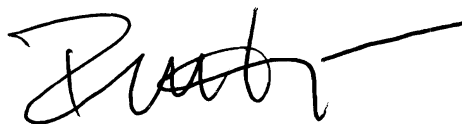
On 27 August 1999, Buffalo arrived in Okinawa to prepare for the tactical development exercise SHAREM-130. The Surface Warfare Development Group conducted the exercise and included U.S./Japanese surface, sub and air assets. SHAREM was followed by several weeks of special operations in the Seventh Fleet AOR.

After the special operations, Buffalo proceeded to Guam for a brief voyage repair and then transited to Brisbane, Australia for a liberty port call. Subsequently, the ship headed for Pearl Harbor and concluded the deployment with a successful ORSE.

The return to Pearl Harbor was followed by a well-earned one-month standown for the crew during the month of November.

BUFFALO closed out 1999 with an upkeep period leading into the Christmas holidays, which were spent with families and friends.

Nineteen ninety-nine was a year filled with operational commitments. The ship and crew performed superbly throughout the year and earned several awards recognizing her strong performance. BUFFALO was nominated for the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy by Commander Submarine Squadron One as the most improved ship in the fleet and was awarded the 1999 Battle Efficiency "E" and Engineering Red "E" for operational and engineering excellence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. M. Hennegan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R. M. HENNEGAN