



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS BUFFALO (SSN 715)  
FPO AP 96661-2395

*Rec'd 5/21/01  
w/o disk*

5750  
Ser/098  
27 Apr 01

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 Ralph C. Ward is the Commanding Officer.

2. Chronology.

01-09 Jan: Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF) Upkeep  
10-14 Jan: Sub vs. Sub exercises in Hawaiian Op Areas  
15 Jan-02 Mar: Purification System resin change and Interim Shipyard Availability in Dry Dock  
03-15 Mar: Completion of Availability waterborne  
16-17 Mar: Sea trials / Torpedo exercise  
18-19 Mar: Ship's force upkeep in port  
20-25 Mar: Sub vs. Sub exercise with USS LOS ANGELES (SSN 688) and USS GREENEVILLE (SSN 772)  
26-27 Mar: In port  
28 Mar: Dependents' Cruise  
29-31 Mar: Sub vs. Sub exercise with USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)  
01 Apr-10 May: Advanced sonar system installation/Battery change out/IMF upkeep  
10 May: Change of Command  
11-19 May: Completion of sonar system installation and repairs  
20-28 May: Sonar system testing  
29 May-01 Jun: Underway sonar testing  
02-08 Jun: In port for voyage repairs  
09-29 Jun: RIMPAC 2000 - Multinational exercise with surface, air, and submarine forces from six nations  
30 Jun-05 Sep: IMF upkeep / Dry Deck Shelter (DDS) installation  
06-08 Sep: Underway for DDS certification  
09-24 Sep: In port for emergent repairs to shaft staves

Subj: USS BUFFALO (SSN 715) COMMAND HISTORY

25 Sep-08 Oct: Underway for DDS certification  
09-12 Oct: DDS offload / Exercise weapons load / In port training  
13-16 Oct: Dependents' Cruise / Port visit Lahaina, Maui  
17-19 Oct: In port tactical training  
20-22 Oct: Sub vs. Sub exercise with JDS ARASHIO  
23-26 Oct: Tactical Warfare Training and Certification Proficiency  
27 Oct-14 Nov: Voyage repair and SPRUCE  
15-22 Nov: CO Discretionary Training (underway)  
23-26 Nov: In port for Thanksgiving Holiday  
27-30 Nov: CO Discretionary Training (underway)  
01-03 Dec: In port for training and repairs  
04-06 Dec: Underway training and preparations for ORSE  
07-10 Dec: In port for emergent repairs to stbd SSMG  
11-18 Dec: Underway training and preparations for ORSE  
19-20 Dec: ORSE  
21-31 Dec: Holiday Stand-down

3. Narrative. USS BUFFALO commenced 2000 by completing an upkeep period with the Pearl Harbor Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF) which was immediately followed by a week of underway training conducting sub vs. sub exercises in the local Hawaiian operating areas.

BUFFALO underwent depot level repairs were performed between mid-January and mid-March including a six week period in dry dock. Underway training and a dependents' cruise were followed by installation of several new components in the sonar system greatly enhancing the capabilities of the ship's towed sonar array systems. Change of command occurred on 10 May with CDR Ralph C. Ward relieving CDR Robert M. Hennegan.

Following the completion of the sonar installation and other repairs, the Buffalo participated in RIMPAC 2000. This multi-national exercise involved ships, submarines, and aircraft from six different nations in an events-driven scenario simulating an escalating regional conflict.

BUFFALO then performed final installation and testing of systems for Dry Deck Shelter (DDS) operations making the ship one of two Los Angeles class submarines configured for this unique special operations mission. DDS operational certification was subsequently performed in conjunction with members of SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One (SDVT-1). Several different types of practice missions were performed and perfected by the BUFFALO crew and SDVT-1, thus adding yet

another capability to the BUFFALO and proving once again the versatility of the modern SSN.

Following the successful completion of DDS operations, BUFFALO enjoyed a trip to Lahaina, Maui for a quality of life port visit and dependents' cruise.

Next, BUFFALO conducted tactical training including in port exercises at Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific (NSTCP) and an underway exercise with the Japanese submarine JDS ARASHIO. Successful completion of a Tactical Weapons Training Certification Program (TWTCP) examination marked the culmination of this period of training.

Following TWTCP, a brief repair period was completed followed by a SPRUCE. The next month was spent conducting local operations for proficiency and training.

BUFFALO then completed an extremely successful Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam (ORSE).

The year was closed out spending time with families and friends during a well-earned holiday standdown.

The year two thousand was a year of significant changes. New systems and/or upgrades to old systems have enhanced the already formidable capabilities of the ship. Additionally, the crew performed admirably throughout the year. BUFFALO, was awarded the 2000 Engineering Red "E" and Communications Green "C" for engineering and communications excellence.

  
R. C. WARD