



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 Submarine Squadron ONE. CDR Ralph C. Ward, USN, is the Commanding Officer.

2. Chronology

01 Jan-04 Feb: Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF) Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) I Upkeep
05 Feb-09 Feb: Combat Systems Readiness Review
10-12 Feb: Voyage Repair period
13-16 Feb: Local Operations
17 Feb-04 Mar: Dry Deck Shelter (DDS) Onload and Voyage Repair period
05-17 Mar: Local DDS Operations and DDS Independent Certification by ISIC
18-25 Mar: DDS Offload
26-30 Mar: Local Operations
31 Mar-15 Apr: POM Classroom Training at Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific (NSTCP) and Voyage Repair period
16-21 Apr: Local Operations
22 Apr: In Port
23-28 Apr: SILENT FURY Fleet Exercise with U.S. surface, sub and air assets
29 Apr-06 May: Pre-Overhaul Testing (POTS)
07 May-13 Jun: Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF) POM II Upkeep and advanced attack center training at NSTCP
14-25 Jun: Local Operations and VLF certification by ISIC
26-28 Jun: POM Certification by ISIC
28-29 Jun: POM Weapons Loadout
30 Jun-13 Jul: POM Loadout and Voyage Repair period
14-23 Jul: Transit to Seventh Fleet AOR
23-24 Jul: In Port Okinawa for Exercise SHAREM 138 preparations

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24 Jul-02 Aug: Multinational Exercise SHAREM 138 with
Japanese/U.S. surface, sub and air assets
03-04 Aug: Transit to Yokosuka, Japan
05-12 Aug: In Port Yokosuka for Voyage Repair period
13 Aug-04 Sep: Special Operations in Seventh Fleet AOR
05-11 Sep: DDS Onload in Guam
12-16 Sep: DDS Operations with members of Seal Delivery
Vehicle Team One (SDVT-1) and Seal Team One IVO
Guam
17-18 Sep: In Port Guam for Voyage Repair period
19-21 Sep: DDS Operations IVO Guam
22-23 Sep: In Port Guam for Voyage Repair period
24-28 Sep: DDS Operations IVO Guam
29 Sep-01 Oct: In Port Guam for Voyage Repair period
01-04 Oct: DDS Operations IVO Guam
05-10 Oct: In Port Guam for Voyage Repair period
11-16 Oct: Local Operations IVO Guam and sub vs. sub
exercise with USS GREENEVILLE (SSN 772)
16-29 Oct: Special Operations in Seventh Fleet AOR
30 Oct-01 Nov: In Port Guam
02-04 Nov: DDS Operations IVO Guam
05-08 Nov: In Port Guam for Voyage Repair period
09-11 Nov: Local Operations IVO Guam
12-18 Nov: In Port Guam for Voyage Repair period
19 Nov-21 Dec: Special Operations in Seventh Fleet AOR
22-28 Dec: In Port Yokosuka, Japan for voyage repairs
29-31 Dec: In transit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

3. Narrative. USS BUFFALO began 2001 preparing for a Western Pacific Deployment. The pre-overseas movement (POM) process started with the POM I upkeep period at the Pearl Harbor Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF). Underway training commenced with Dry Deck Shelter (DDS) refresher training and independent certification. The DDS was removed for the remainder of the POM period. The fleet exercise Silent Fury gave Buffalo an opportunity to interact with surface, sub, and air assets in further preparation for deployment. The POM process culminated with final repairs in the POM II upkeep and successful certification by the ISIC.

Additionally, integrated into the POM period, BUFFALO conducted a number of tests and inspections in preparation for the ship's Engineered Refueling Overhaul scheduled to begin shortly after the deployment.

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On 14 July 2001, BUFFALO transited to the Seventh Fleet AOR and commenced a six-month Western Pacific deployment by participating in the tactical development exercise SHAREM-138. The Surface Warfare Development Group conducted the exercise that included U.S./Japanese surface, sub, and air assets. Following a personnel transfer in Okinawa, BUFFALO proceeded to Yokosuka, Japan for a brief repair period.

BUFFALO then conducted special operations in the Seventh Fleet AOR and upon completion, proceeded to Guam for the first-ever forward deployed submarine Dry Deck Shelter onload.

With the shelter loaded, BUFFALO commenced several weeks of DDS operations with Seal Delivery Vehicle Team One (SDVT-1) and members of Naval Special Warfare Unit One and deployed personnel from Seal Team One. The exercises ranged in scope from basic familiarization to simulated full mission profiles. The ship was able to smoothly transition into the SPECWAR role, demonstrating the diversity and flexibility of a modern SSN.

Following DDS Operations, BUFFALO conducted special operations in the Seventh Fleet AOR, returning once again to Guam for voyage repairs and additional SPECWAR exercises.

On 19 November 2001, BUFFALO departed Guam for the last time and conducted several weeks of special operations in the Seventh Fleet AOR.

After the special operations, BUFFALO proceeded to Yokosuka for a holiday inport period and to conduct voyage repairs.

BUFFALO closed out 2001 enroute to Pearl Harbor and the completion of a successful deployment.

The year was filled with operational commitments. The ship and crew performed superbly throughout the year and earned several awards recognizing her strong performance. BUFFALO was awarded the Commander Submarine Squadron One 2001 Battle Efficiency "E" and Navigation Red and Green "N" for operational and navigation excellence.



R. C. WARD