



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS BUFFALO (SSN 715)

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1 May 03

From: Commanding Officer, USS BUFFALO (SSN 715)
To: Director of Naval Historical Center, 805 Kidder Breese
SE, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-5059.

Subj: USS BUFFALO (SSN 715) COMMAND HISTORY

1. Command Composition and Organization. USS BUFFALO (SSN 715), UIC 20996, is a Los Angeles Class Fast Attack Submarine home-ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. BUFFALO's ISIC is Submarine Squadron ONE. CDR Ronald Murray Gero, Jr, USN, is the Commanding Officer.

2. Chronology (Jan - Dec 2002)

01 Jan-11 Jan: Transiting back to homeport after a Western Pacific deployment. Conducted an Operational Safeguards Examination (ORSE).
11 Jan-21 Feb: In Port
Ship went into stand down
Awarded Submarine Squadron One Battle "E", and Navigation "N" for 2001.
21-22 Feb: Berth Shift to West Loch Naval Magazine
Weapons offload and Special Operations Forces (SOF) offload
22-25 Feb: Local Operations
25 Feb-19 Apr: In Port
Pre-overhaul testing
19 Apr: Berth Shift
19 Apr-8 May: In Port
Pre-overhaul testing
8-10 May: Local Operations
Trim Dive
Torpedo exercise
10-29 May: In Port
Ship Offload
29 May: Underway for docking into Dry Dock One
29 May: In Dry dock One
Ship is resting on keel blocks at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
10 July: Change of Command
CDR Ronald Murray Gero, Jr relieved as Commanding Officer, USS BUFFALO (SSN 715)
14-29 Nov: Defueling operations

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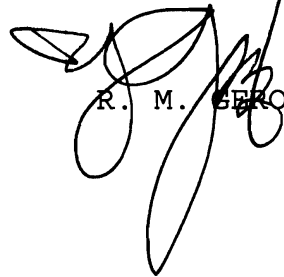
29 May-31 Dec In Port, Dry Dock One
Continuing with a 23 Month Engineering Refueling
Overhaul (ERO)

3. Narrative. USS BUFFALO began 2002 transiting back from a Western Pacific Deployment and performed an ORSE. The focus of BUFFALO after the deployment was preparing to enter the Engineered Refueling Overhaul in late May. In-port times prior to drydocking required the BUFFALO to perform a myriad of pre-overhaul tests and inspections.

On 29 May, BUFFALO entered Dry-Dock One and was laid on the keel blocks that day. The remainder of BUFFALO's task was to begin the long and arduous process of turning over control of ship systems to the shipyard. The crew performed well as demonstrated by the quick start to the ERO.

The BUFFALO's aggressive plan for success resulted in an early defueling. BUFFALO continues to make progress ahead of schedule.

The year was filled with tremendous challenges for the ship and crew, which had to shift focus from a purely operational platform to the heavy industrial environment of a scheduled 23-month Engineered Refueling Overhaul, with all the training, administration, and pre-overhaul testing that is required. Anticipation, rapid adaptation, and detailed planning for success became focal points for BUFFALO, and the crew performed superbly in this capacity as displayed by the ship surpassing shipyard projected timelines, its record of safety, and low cost performance ratios.



R. M. GERO