



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS BUFFALO (SSN 715)

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24 Aug 04

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

01 Jan: Ship is resting on keel blocks at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Dry Dock One, continuing refueling operations (started 27 Aug 02).  
17 Mar: Ship completed refueling the reactor.  
17 Jul: Ship commenced Ship's Service Motor Generator Testing.  
02 Sep: Ship completed motor generator testing.  
23 Oct: Ship commenced filling the reactor plant and Reactor Plant Cold Operational testing.  
11 Nov: Ship completed Reactor Plant Cold Operational testing.  
14 Nov: Ship undocked from Dry Dock One.  
15 Nov: In Port, moored at Bravo One. This is the first time two major key events (and undocking the ship) were simultaneously completed. USS BUFFALO completed both key events without incident.  
15 Nov-31 Dec: In Port, Moored at Bravo One  
Continuing with a 27-Month Engineered Refueling Overhaul (ERO).

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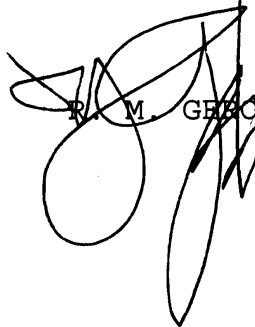
3. Narrative. USS BUFFALO began 2003 with the refueling portion of the Engineered Refueling Overhaul. BUFFALO's focus was the preparation for simultaneous refilling of the reactor plant and undocking of the Ship. In order to accomplish both tasks, BUFFALO worked around the clock for two months. Electrical Division successfully waded through a myriad of technical challenges associated with restoration of the Ship's electrical switchboards and both Ship's Service Motor Generators.

On 14 November, the shipyard began to fill Dry Dock One, the first time it had seen water in over seventeen months. Through the immeasurable sacrifice of the crew, BUFFALO had successfully spearheaded efforts to undock the Ship and enable USS BREMERTON to proceed with her ERO.

Once pierside at Bravo One, BUFFALO'S focus shifted towards training and Combat Systems testing. Sail restoration, through the efforts Communications division, was months ahead of schedule. This enabled Combat Systems testing to proceed well ahead of schedule. Training was the number one focus of the Ship and intentions were to carry this training momentum to the New Year.

The BUFFALO'S aggressive planning enabled the Ship to dictate its own schedule. BUFFALO continued to progress the schedule.

The year was filled with tremendous challenges for the Ship and crew, which had to shift focus from a heavy industrial environment, to one that required competence in all aspects of basic submarining, tactical ship handling, and weapons employment. Rapid adaptation and planning for success will be the cornerstone of the BUFFALO philosophy. I am confident that the dedication of my crew, displayed over the course of this year, will ultimately yield impressive results.

  
R. M. GREGG