



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)
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Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762) Command History for 1994

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

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**USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)
COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1994**

1. Command Composition and Organization: The USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762) is the fifty first ship of the Los Angeles class, and the twelfth of the improved version. With her stealth, endurance and agility, COLUMBUS can be used in roles and missions to meet the challenges for the ever changing global geopolitical climate. USS COLUMBUS has the ability to arrive on station quickly, stay for an extended period of time and carry out her mission whether it be antisubmarine warfare, deployment of special forces, minelaying, a precision strike land attack, or simply by her perceived presence, be a deterrent while still remaining undetected. Homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, she is under the cognizance of Submarine Squadron SEVEN and is commanded by Commander Daniel R. Sigg. LCDR Mark Breor-Executive Officer, LT [REDACTED]-Navigation/Operations Officer, LT [REDACTED]-Engineer Officer, LT [REDACTED]-Combat Systems Officer, and ENS [REDACTED]-Supply Officer are responsible for maintaining the ship at its maximum state of readiness at all times.

2. Chronology:

January-June: Post Shakedown Availability
Addition of dihydrals w/six inch countermeasure launch systems
Addition of propeller
Special Hull Treatment
AN/BSY-1 Combat System Upgrade
Change of Command

June: Sea Trials

July: Interfleet transfer to Commander, Submarine Squadron SEVEN at Pearl Harbor, HI

August: Port Call - Port Everglades, FL
Port Call - Kings Bay, GA
Panama Canal Transit (18th)
Shellback Ceremony
Officer of Legislative Affairs Congressional VIP Tour

September: Port Call - San Diego, CA
Behm Canal Sound Trials, Ketchikan, Alaska
Arrive Pearl Harbor, HI (23rd)

October: Upkeep

November: Sonar Certification
Weapons Certification

December: Local at-sea operations
 Office of Legislative Affairs Congressional
 VIP Tour

3. Narrative: COLUMBUS entered the General Dynamics shipyard in Groton, CT on January 5 1994, to complete her Post Shakedown Availability (PSA). In the six months that followed, COLUMBUS received several equipment upgrades, modifications, removal and installations. Some of the more significant and noticeable changes were the addition of two dihydrals with six inch countermeasure launch systems, I3 M propulsor, Special Hull Treatment (SHT), and the most recent hardware and software upgrades to the AN/BSY-1 Combat System. In mid-June PSA was complete and COLUMBUS put to sea for two highly successful weeks of sea trials. Following sea trials COLUMBUS returned to New London Submarine Base in Groton, Connecticut to complete preparations for its interfleet transfer and change of homeport to Pearl Harbor, HI.

On April 30, 1994, Commander Daniel R. Sigg relieved Commander Carl M. Smeigh, Jr. to become the second Commanding Officer of USS COLUMBUS.

When the moving arrangements for all 140 crew members and their families were complete, COLUMBUS on July 25, 1994 set sail to her new homeport in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The first of many stops on the way to Hawaii was Port Everglades, Florida where the crew enjoyed some well deserved liberty in the sun. Several local Navy organizations hosted dinners and parties for the officers and crew of the COLUMBUS. After five days of exceptional hospitality and relaxation, COLUMBUS was rerouted to Kings Bay, Georgia for emergent repairs to its communication equipment. Four days later, COLUMBUS was once again heading south for the Panama Canal. At 0600 on August 18, 1994, USS COLUMBUS arrived at the breakwater entrance to the Panama Canal. Escorted by several patrol boats and one helicopter, COLUMBUS slowly made her way through the five lochs that led to the Pacific. Halfway through the canal while transiting GATUN lake, the crew enjoyed a "Steel Beach" picnic topside. When the last loch was drained down, The Bridge of the Americas was in sight, marking the entrance to the Pacific Ocean. Almost eighteen hours after COLUMBUS first entered the canal, she was in her new home waters. Once in deep water, COLUMBUS made her first dive in the Pacific and turned south towards the equator. On August 20 at 0330Z COLUMBUS crossed the equator and held a special "Shellback" ceremony to mark the occasion. After a fun filled day of events, COLUMBUS headed north towards her next port of call, San Diego, CA.

On the afternoon of 23 August, COLUMBUS pulled into San Diego and immediately began the loading and installation of acoustic monitoring and test equipment for the acoustic and hydrodynamic/recoverability trials that were to follow. Following five days of rest COLUMBUS departed San Diego and turned north for the Behm Canal, near Alaska. Behm Canal is home to an advance underwater acoustic testing range. Acoustic trials would determine COLUMBUS' quietest machinery lineup and develop a noise signature baseline to be used to determine her acoustic stealth following major upkeeps and on a periodic basis. After eight days transit to the underwater acoustic testing facility and eleven days of acoustic testing COLUMBUS started the most demanding part of her journey, Hydrodynamic/Recoverability Trials. The Hydrodynamic/Recoverability Trials were done in route to Pearl Harbor.

The purpose of the Hydrodynamic and Recoverability trials was to determine the hydrodynamic performance characteristics of a 688I class submarine outfitted with the I3 M Propeller. The following five days were filled with high speed angles and turns that simulated every possible maneuver the ship might encounter. By the time the last event was finished, the crew was more ready than ever to pull into Pearl Harbor and be reunited with their families.

On the morning of September 23, COLUMBUS reached her final destination, Pearl Harbor. On the pier to greet COLUMBUS were family members, a host of local dignitaries, a Navy band and several members of the local media.

After a month long upkeep and inport training period, COLUMBUS started an intense training period for her Weapons Certification. The first few weeks of November were spent at sea training Section/Fire Control Tracking parties and Weapons Handling teams for Battlestations Strike and Torpedo. After loading several exercise torpedoes, COLUMBUS put to sea for her weapons certification. The examination was extremely successful. COLUMBUS returned to port fully certified to load, carry and shoot MK48 and ADCAP torpedoes, Harpoon and Tomahawk missiles.

4. Supporting Documents: See attached documents.