



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)

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From: Commanding Officer, USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Copy of the Message from COMSUBPAC 311200Z DEC 96
(5) Copy of the Message from COMSUBPAC 010930Z JAN 97
(6) Copy of the article from "HAWAII NAVY NEWS" of Jan 97
(7) Copy of the article from "HAWAII NAVY NEWS" of Aug 96
(8) Copy of the article from "THE PATROL" of 31 May 96
(9) Copy of the article from "THE PATROL" of 5 Apr 96
(10) Copy of the article from "THE PATROL" of 12 May 95
(11) Copy of the Proclamation from the Office of the Mayor
of 3 Dec 96
(12) Copy of the Resolution of Expression from the City
Council of 5 Dec 96

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (12) are submitted.

[Signature]
D. R. SIGG

USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)
COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1996

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 of 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 undersea warfare (USW), anti-surface warfare (ASUW), deployment of special operation forces, mine laying, 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 CDR Daniel R. Sigg. LCDR Russell T. Janicke-Executive Officer, LCDR [REDACTED] Engineer, LT [REDACTED]-Weapons Officer, LT [REDACTED] Navigation/Operations Officer, LTJG [REDACTED]-Supply Officer, and ETCM(SS) Richard S. Ford-Chief of the Boat are responsible for maintaining the ship at its maximum state of readiness at all times.

CHRONOLOGY TO 1996
USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)

1. CHRONOLOGY.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
January	Western Pacific Deployment Port call - Hong Kong
February	Western Pacific Deployment Port call - Yokosuka, Japan Port call - Subic Bay, Philippines
March	Western Pacific Deployment Port call - Apra Harbor, Guam SPECWAREX with Navy SEALs Participated in associated support of the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62) battle group during the China/Taiwan Crisis. Port call - Yokosuka, Japan
April	Western Pacific Deployment
May	Western Pacific Deployment Return to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Post deployment leave period
June	Post deployment leave period Crew training at Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific
July	Tactical Weapons Proficiency Dependents cruise to Lahaina, Maui
August	Upkeep W.W.II Submarine Veterans Tour Family Appreciation Night Deployment Awards Ceremony Royal Thai Navy VIP Tour
September	Local at-sea operations Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination
October	Local at-sea operations Crew Training at Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific

CHRONOLOGY TO 1996 CONTINUED
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November	Pacific Northwest Deployment Port call - Esquimalt, British Columbia Operations with Canadian Navy Tactical Readiness Evaluation
December	Commanding Officer and Chief of the Boat visit host city of Columbus, Ohio Logistics Readiness Evaluation Upkeep Holiday leave period

NARRATIVE TO 1996
USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)

1. NARRATIVE.

COLUMBUS began 1996 at sea while deployed to the Western Pacific on her first deployment since being commissioned. Following a mission vital to the security of the United States, COLUMBUS pulled into Hong Kong harbor and anchored next to the USNS NARANGANSETT on January 25. The crew enjoyed 5 days of liberty in Hong Kong. The Officers were invited to a dinner hosted by the American Club, a club of American businessmen, in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange building in downtown Hong Kong. The President of the club was presented with a plaque and ballcap from the ship. In addition, the Wardroom was invited to a Sunday brunch in the town of Stanley on Hong Kong Island sponsored by the American club. Some crew members took part in a community service project where they did minor repairs, maintenance, and yard work at a shelter for single women with children. The ship's basketball team played the varsity team from the Hong Kong International Boy's High School and presented their team with photographs and stickers of the ship. On Super Bowl Sunday, the crew enjoyed food and beverages and a great football game at the Fenwick Pier Naval facility courtesy of the local Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center. The crew enjoyed the opportunity to experience the local culture and the incredible shopping that Hong Kong provided. As a result of the superior crew participation in numerous Recreation Committee sponsored community service events, the ship was awarded the 1996 BUPERS Fleet Recreation Committee Award for the small command, inport category. The COLUMBUS left Hong Kong on January 29th and headed towards her next port call.

On February 5th COLUMBUS pulled into Yokosuka, Japan for an upkeep and to replenish stores and other supplies. While inport, COLUMBUS hosted ADM Gentaro Hiraga, Commander of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Submarine Force, for a VIP lunch and tour. In addition, the ship exchanged tours with the crew of the JDS TAKESHIO submarine. Several crewmembers of the COLUMBUS toured the TAKESHIO and ate lunch onboard. The Officer's and Chief's of the TAKESHIO each hosted their counterparts from the COLUMBUS to a dinner at restaurants in downtown Yokosuka. After making some minor repairs and other preparations, the ship departed Tokyo harbor on the 16th and headed South.

On the 22nd, the COLUMBUS entered Subic Bay, Philippines and moored alongside one of the piers at the old Naval base. The crew enjoyed 5 days of liberty and then went back to sea to on the 26th to prepare for the next scheduled operations.

On March 2nd, the ship arrived in Apra Harbor, Guam where the COLUMBUS took part in a Special Warfare Exercises (SPECWAREX). The ship worked closely with SEAL Team 5 to prepare the ship and the

NARRATIVE TO 1996 CONTINUED
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SEALs for the SPECWAREX. Throughout the exercise the ship conducted several evolutions that it had never done before and the experience was very valuable training for both the ship and the SEALs. When the ship pulled into port on the morning of March 11th, the last day of the SPECWAREX, it was notified that it was to get underway in 5 hours for an emergent deployment to Taiwan in response to increasing tensions across the Strait of Taiwan. The ship immediately began loading to support operations for an unknown time period and got underway on the afternoon of the 11th at flank speed towards Taiwan.

Less than 36 hours after receiving tasking, COLUMBUS was on station near Taiwan in an associated support role for the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62) battlegroup. The ship conducted its mission, was relieved by another submarine, and began its transit to Yokosuka, Japan.

COLUMBUS arrived in Yokosuka on the 19th of March for a Ship Repair Facility (SRF) upkeep. While inport, the crew made preparations for the ship's next scheduled operation. After several repairs and the replenishment of stores and other supplies, the ship got underway on March 29th for its final operation in the Western Pacific deployment.

Upon completion of a successful Western Pacific deployment involving several operations, the COLUMBUS returned to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on May 13th. The crew enjoyed a post deployment standdown/leave period to spend time with their friends and families from May 14th through June 23rd.

After the well deserved standdown/leave period, the crew received training at the Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific in preparation for an upcoming Tactical Weapons Proficiency (TWP). On the 9th of July, the ship got underway for local at-sea operations and training. The ship underwent a Tactical Weapons Proficiency from 22 - 25 July in which it was evaluated in several areas to certify the COLUMBUS to carry and shoot all authorized weapons. The ship received an overall grade of ABOVE AVERAGE and was certified to handle and shoot all weapons.

On July 26th, the COLUMBUS got underway with over 40 friends and family members of the crew for a dependents cruise to Lahaina, Maui. In addition to giving tours, the dependents were allowed to drive the ship, watch movies, shoot water slugs from the torpedo tubes and look out the periscopes. Each person was presented with an "Honorary Submariner" certificate, a ships photo, and sticker. After a series of high speed maneuvers and large angles, the ship surfaced using an emergency blow of all main ballast tanks. The ship anchored in Lahaina Harbor and the crew enjoyed 3 days of

NARRATIVE TO 1996 CONTINUED
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liberty on beautiful Maui with their families. COLUMBUS returned to Pearl Harbor on the 29th of July to begin an upkeep.

Throughout the month of August, the ship was in an Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF) upkeep. On August 6th, the ship hosted a local group of World War II submarine veterans for a VIP tour. On the night of the 14th, the ship sponsored a Family Appreciation Night at Lockwood Hall. In addition to food and beverages, the families were able to see a slide show of the crew while underway on the deployment. Each family member was presented with a rose and a certificate of appreciation from the Commanding Officer. On the 16th, an awards ceremony was held to recognize the crew for its superb performance while deployed to the Western Pacific. On the 21st, the ship hosted officers of the Royal Thai Navy for a VIP tour.

The ship completed its upkeep on the 5th of September and got underway for sea trials. The ship then had a brief inport period prior to getting underway on the 16th for local at-sea operations and an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE). The ship conducted several weekly at-sea training periods at the end of September and through October. The crew received training at the Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific in the middle of October in preparation for an upcoming operation in the Pacific Northwest.

On the 29th of October, COLUMBUS left Pearl Harbor and went East of Hawaii for the first time since her change of homeport in September of 1994. COLUMBUS surfaced in the Strait of Juan De Fuca on the morning of November 8th and shortly thereafter moored at the Esquimalt Naval base in Victoria, British Columbia. The crew enjoyed several days of liberty in Canada where the temperature was about 40 degrees cooler than in Hawaii. On the morning of the 13th, the ship was underway along with two other Canadian frigates to conduct a joint exercise off the West coast of British Columbia where Prospective Operations Officers of the Canadian Navy would gain experience in undersea warfare (USW).

After three days of intense operations COLUMBUS headed West towards Hawaii and commenced working up for an upcoming Tactical Readiness Evaluation (TRE). On the 25th of November the ship conducted a small boat transfer to bring on the TRE team and then went back to sea to conduct the inspection. The ship was evaluated in knowledge, navigation, strike planning and execution, undersea warfare, anti-surface warfare, mine warfare, special forces insertion, and search and rescue. The ship again received superior results and returned to port on the 27th.

In the first week of December, CDR Daniel R. Sigg-Commanding Officer, LT [REDACTED] Auxiliary Division Officer, and ETCM(SS) Richard S. Ford-Chief of the Boat went to Columbus, Ohio

NARRATIVE TO 1996 CONTINUED
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as the guest of the Columbus Council of the Navy League. While in the namesake city of the USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762) they visited a monument recently dedicated to all persons who have served on vessels named COLUMBUS, attended a Navy League dinner, visited several high schools and spoke to the NROTC unit at Ohio State University. They also attended proclamation ceremonies by the Mayor of Columbus and the City Council where days in December were officially proclaimed as "USS COLUMBUS DAY." From the 9th through the 11th, the ship underwent a Logistics Readiness Evaluation (LRE) where the overall readiness and effectiveness of the Supply Department was assessed. The ship received an overall grade of EXCELLENT; the ships third consecutive EXCELLENT on an LRE. For the remaining part of December, the ship continued its IMF upkeep and began the Holiday standdown/leave period on the 19th of December. Year end saw COLUMBUS receive the COMSUBRON SEVEN Supply Blue "E" for excellence in supply and the 1996 BUPERS Fleet Recreation Award-Small Inport category.