



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical Center,  
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Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Copy of the article from "HAWAII NAVY NEWS" of Feb 97  
(5) Copy of the article from "HAWAII NAVY NEWS" of Mar 97  
(6) Copy of the article from "HAWAII NAVY NEWS" of Mar 97  
(7) Copy of the article from "HAWAII NAVY NEWS" of Mar 97  
(8) Copy of the article from "HAWAII NAVY NEWS" of Apr 97  
(9) Copy of the article from "PATROL" of Jan 98  
(10) Copy of the article from "PATROL" of Jan 98  
(11) USS COLUMBUS Welcome Aboard Pamphlet  
(12) Picture of Commanding Officer, USS COLUMBUS  
(13) Picture of USS COLUMBUS and crew following SRA  
(14) Change of Command Pamphlet

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (10) are submitted.

T. A. FISCHER

USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)  
COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1997

1. Command Composition and Organization.

The USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762) is the fifty first submarine 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 including undersea warfare (USW), surface warfare (SUW), deployment of special operation forces, mine laying, precision strike land attack, and by her perceived presence, act as a deterrent while still remaining undetected. Homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, she is under the cognizance of Submarine Squadron SEVEN. CDR Tracey A. Fischer is the Commanding Officer.

Encl (1)

CHRONOLOGY TO 1997  
USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)

1. CHRONOLOGY.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
01JAN97	Awarded SUBRON SEVEN Supply Blue "E" and 1996 Fleet Recreation Award.
01JAN97-06JAN97	Holiday Stand-down.
07JAN97-20JAN97	Upkeep/Crew Training at Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific.
21JAN97-28JAN97	Underway for Sea Trials.
29JAN97-15FEB97	Underway for Prospective Commanding Officers(PCO) Operations.
16FEB97-26FEB97	Ship's Force Upkeep.
27FEB97-05MAR97	Local Hawaiian OPAREAS Operations.
06MAR97-07MAR97	Underway for Tiger Cruise.
08MAR97-13MAR97	Ship's Force Upkeep.
14MAR97-14MAR97	Third Change of Command (CDR D.R. SIGG relieved by CDR T.A. FISCHER).
15MAR97-08APR97	Upkeep.
09APR97-09APR97	Awarded Meritorious Unit Commendation for the 1995-1996 Western Pacific Deployment.
10APR97-06MAY97	Upkeep.
07MAY97-12MAY97	Underway for Sea Trials.
13MAY97-22MAY97	Local Hawaiian OPAREAS Operations.
23MAY97-08JUN97	Ship's Force Upkeep.
09JUN97-02JUL97	Local Hawaiian OPAREAS Operations.
03JUL97-06JUL97	Inport for Fourth of July Holiday.
07JUL97-17JUL97	Local Hawaiian OPAREAS Operations.
18JUL97-19JUL97	Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination.
20JUL97-21AUG97	Upkeep.

**CHRONOLOGY TO 1997 CONTINUED**  
**USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)**

22AUG97-20NOV97 Selected Restricted Activity(SRA) at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

21NOV97-26NOV97 Underway for Sea Trials.

27NOV97-01DEC97 Inport for Thanksgiving Holiday.

02DEC97-10DEC97 Local Hawaiian OPAREAS Operations.

11DEC97-18DEC97 Dependent's Cruise to Lahaina, Maui.

19DEC97-31DEC97 Inport Holiday Standdown.

01JAN98 Awarded CINCPACFLT Silver Anchor Award, SUBRON SEVEN Engineering Readiness "E".

NARRATIVE TO 1997  
USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)

1. NARRATIVE.

The year 1997 began on a high note for USS COLUMBUS. Not only was the crew enjoying Holiday Standdown, but the ship received two honors - the SUBRON SEVEN Supply Blue "E" Award and the 1996 Fleet Recreation Award. Following a short upkeep, COLUMBUS returned to sea for Sea Trials and Prospective Commanding Officer (PCO) operations. Both exercises were a success and a total of 35 exercise weapons were shot during PCO Operations.

After a short inport period, the ship headed out again in the Hawaiian Operating Areas for a Tiger Cruise.

Upon returning home, CDR Tracey A. Fischer relieved CDR Daniel R. Sigg as Commanding Officer. Shortly after the change of command, a fire in the starboard ships service motor generator resulted in an extended inport period as it was rebuilt. Just a few weeks into the upkeep, the COLUMBUS was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for their 1995-1996 Western Pacific Deployment.

CDR Fischer took COLUMBUS to sea for the first time on 7 May 97 for Sea Trials and local at-sea operations and training. This was also the only opportunity for the crew to workup for an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE). The crew's hard work and the superior leadership paid off in July when COLUMBUS earned the highest grade possible on the ORSE - the third such performance in the COLUMBUS' short history.

After returning to Hawaii, COLUMBUS was dry-docked at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard for her first Selected Restricted Availability (SRA). During this period, numerous improvements were made to the ship, including a new battery, Type 8 periscope, a new sonar dome, and Extremely High Frequency radio installation. The new and improved COLUMBUS returned to sea for Sea Trials in November. After a short stay in port for the Thanksgiving holiday the Columbus was off again for additional at-sea training operations.

On December 11th, the COLUMBUS got underway with over 40 friends and family members of the crew for a dependents cruise to Lahaina, Maui. The ship anchored in Lahaina Harbor for five days of liberty. COLUMBUS returned to Pearl Harbor on the 17th of December to begin the Christmas Holiday Standdown.

COLUMBUS ended 1997 as successfully as it began the year - by winning awards. This time it was the 1997 CINCPACFLT Silver Anchor Award for retention program excellence, and the SUBRON SEVEN Engineering Readiness "E" Award.