



**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  
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Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Copy of Meritorious Unit Commendation

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) through (4) are submitted.

*N. B. Moore*  
N. B. MOORE

**USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)**  
**COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1999**

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 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 Commander Norman B. Moore. Lieutenant Commander Jeffrey E. Trussler, Executive Officer; LCDR [REDACTED], Weapons Officer; LCDR [REDACTED], Engineer; LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Navigator; ENS [REDACTED], Supply Officer, and FTCS (SS) Daniel J. Niclas, Chief of the Boat are responsible for maintaining the ship at its maximum state of readiness at all times.

**CHRONOLOGY TO 1999  
USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
January	Western Pacific Deployment
February	Western Pacific Deployment
March	Western Pacific Deployment Port Call - Singapore Singapore Dignitary and VIP Tour/Luncheon Tandem Thrust Exercise Port Call - Guam Korean Submarine LEE CHUN Officer Tour
April	Return to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Post deployment leave period
May	Post deployment leave period Local at-sea operations Dependants Cruise to Lahaina, Maui Upkeep
June	Upkeep Deployment Awards Ceremony
July	Upkeep Local at sea operations Crew Training at Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific Prospective Commanding Officer Operations
August	Prospective Commanding Officer Operations Local at-sea operations
September	Local at-sea operations Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination Change of Command
October	Underway Material Inspection/INSURV Upkeep
November	Upkeep
December	Local at-sea operations Holiday leave period

**NARRATIVE TO 1999  
USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)**

COLUMBUS began 1999 at sea while deployed to the Western Pacific on her second deployment since her commissioning. Following a mission vital to the security of the United States, COLUMBUS arrived in steamy Singapore on February 28. She had been at sea for a grueling 85-day period. The crew was invigorated after 9 days of liberty in the immaculate nation of Singapore. Two officers were awarded their gold dolphins from Rear Admiral Kroll, Commander Submarine Group Seven, while he visited the ship. COLUMBUS gave tours and hosted a luncheon for various dignitaries including U.S. Ambassador Steven Green, Ambassadors from China, Chile, Brazil, as well as prominent heads of state from Singapore. The ship hosted professional training for members of the Singaporean Navy, and she provided a towing demonstration for local harbor pilots. Some crewmembers took part in a community service project for the Singapore Children's Society. Crewmembers fixed broken lights, repaired floors and performed various yard work for some of the society's buildings.

After a challenging two and one half-week period of independent operations, COLUMBUS arrived off of Guam on 23 March to participate in Tandem Thrust, a multinational exercise that included units from Australia, Canada, South Korea, and the USS KITTY HAWK Battlegroup. During the exercise, COLUMBUS hosted two South Korean officers from the ROK submarine LEE CHUN. RADM Kroll also joined COLUMBUS during the exercise. On 26 March COLUMBUS sailed into Apra Harbor, Guam.

Guam was the first working port for the ship in 1999. She conducted a rapid and efficient upkeep with the assistance of USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40). Most working days were long, but sailors found time to enjoy themselves with all of Guam's exciting nightlife, spectacular diving and sunny beaches. Some charitable crewmembers volunteered to participate in a housing restoration project; these homes were to be used for the upcoming Special Olympics hosted by Guam. Cleaning, minor repair and restoration of these homes helped to provide housing to over 5,000 Special Olympians, their families, coaches and trainers. COLUMBUS's and LEE CHUN's wardrooms exchanged tours of each other's submarines.

On April 3, COLUMBUS left Guam to make an expeditious run to arrive at Pearl Harbor on April 10. Tired sailors were given a ceremonious hail as the ship returned through the familiar waters of Pearl Harbor. All the ships and subs in the harbor sounded their whistles in accolade and honor of her return. Greeted by family and friends, crewmembers were welcomed home with open arms and began a four-week post deployment stand-down. During the deployment, COLUMBUS steamed 36,000 miles with over an eight-five percent operational tempo.

Leave ended all too soon and the ship left on 12 May to operate independently in local Hawaiian waters. On May 21, COLUMBUS got underway with over 40 friends and family members of the crew for a dependant's cruise to Lahaina, Maui. In addition to receiving tours, the dependants drove the ship, watched submarine movies, shot simulated torpedoes and looked out of the periscopes. Each person was presented with an Honorary Submariner Certificate, a ship photo and a COLUMBUS seal sticker. After a series of high speed maneuvers and large angles, the ship surfaced using an emergency blow of all main ballast tanks. The power and speed of COLUMBUS dazzled all aboard. The ship anchored in Lahaina Harbor and the crew enjoyed four days of liberty on the beautiful western shores of tropical Maui. COLUMBUS returned to Pearl Harbor on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May to begin an upkeep.

Throughout the month of June, the ship was in an upkeep. On the night of the fourth, the ship sponsored an awards banquet at Lockwood Hall to recognize the crew for superior performance while deployed to the Western Pacific. The ship's Recreation Committee provided food and beverages. Many crew members and their families raved at the exquisite meal prepared by the committee's culinary aficionado and president EM1 [REDACTED].

The challenging seven-week upkeep was completed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, and COLUMBUS put to sea to conduct sea trials and local operations. The ship returned for one and one half weeks to load stores and supplies and to prepare tactically for Prospective Commanding Officer (PCO) operations.

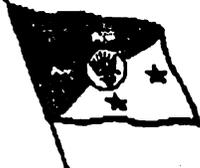
On the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, the ship left Pearl Harbor for local waters with six PCOs, five from the Pacific fleet and one from the Atlantic fleet for ten days of intense

tactical training. The crew was challenged both mentally and physically as they exuded great vigilance under stress while they operated in shallow water, planned and executed simulated tomahawk strikes, and conducted anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, mine warfare, special force insertion, search and rescue and coordinated operations. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, the ship returned to Pearl Harbor for a day to exchange these seven PCOs for seven new PCOs. The next four days proved to be just as challenging as similar exercises were conducted.

After completing a very successful series of PCO operations, COLUMBUS returned to port for a short week of preservation, and then it was back to local operating areas to work up for the ship's Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination.

The return to port marked a significant milestone in the history of the ship. On September 20 CDR Norman B. Moore relieved CDR T. A. Fischer as Commanding Officer. In attendance was the famous television actor and singer Jim Nabors. In addition to the change of command ceremony, COLUMBUS was awarded her second Meritorious Unit Commendation award for her outstanding accomplishments during her Western Pacific deployment. On October 18<sup>th</sup>, only a few weeks after assuming command of COLUMBUS, CDR Moore took his ship underway for the first time to conduct an Underway Material Inspection/INSURV.

After returning from the inspection, COLUMBUS commenced her first six-week Pre-Overseas Movement Upkeep. The ship conducted sea-trials and trained in local Hawaiian operating areas during the first half of December. Special guests, RADM Konetzni, Commander Submarine Force Pacific Fleet, and Submarine Force Command Master Chief George rode the ship for one week observing COLUMBUS and her crew hard at work. For the last two weeks of the year, crewmembers were able to enjoy a well-deserved holiday leave period and ring in the new millennium with family and friends.



# Chief of Naval Operations

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION to

CARL VINSON BATTLE GROUP  
AND  
USS CHEYENNE (SSN 773)

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

For meritorious service while deployed in support of independent operations in the North Arabian Sea from 19 December 1998 to 19 May 1999. Remaining on station for a period far exceeding normal endurance and with extremely limited logistical support, CARL VINSON Battle Group and USS CHEYENNE (SSN 773) successfully completed extensive operational and training missions in support of FIFTH Fleet. Displaying extraordinary determination and professionalism, they routinely provided timely intelligence information on foreign forces and commercial traffic in their area while maintaining continual readiness to carry out their assigned taskings. Demonstrating exceptional operational readiness and superb teamwork, these ships worked together to effectively support one another and to ensure that all maintained the highest possible state of readiness. They developed innovative procedures to safely execute over one dozen submarine replenishment evolutions, despite challenging environmental conditions. Additionally, they implemented a comprehensive training plan that enabled them to maintain proficiency in all warfare areas. The successful accomplishment of this demanding mission is a testament to the perseverance, innovation, and "can do" attitude of the officers and crew of each unit. By their truly distinctive achievements, untiring efforts, and unflinching devotion to duty, the officers and enlisted personnel of CARL VINSON Battle Group and USS CHEYENNE (SSN 773) reflected credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the Secretary,

J. L. JOHNSON  
Admiral, United States Navy  
Chief of Naval Operations

Presented to LCDR Jeffrey E. Trussler, [redacted]  
USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)  
Participating Unit of the CARL VINSON Battle Group

Executive Officer: