



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-09 BH), Washington Navy
Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

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Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Copy of the article from "The Pacific Navigator"
(5) Copy of the article from "The Pacific Navigator"

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) through (5) are submitted.

N. B. Moore
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**USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)
COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2000**

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. COLUMBUS has the ability to arrive on station quickly, stay for an extended period of time and covertly carry out multiple missions including undersea warfare(USW), anti-surface warfare(ASUW), deployment of special operation forces, mine laying precision strike land attack or deterrence through perceived presence. Home-ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, she is under the cognizance of Submarine Squadron SEVEN, and is commanded by Commander Norman B. Moore. Lieutenant Commander Michael J. S. Sangster, Executive Officer; Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED], Engineer Officer; Lieutenant [REDACTED], Navigator; Lieutenant [REDACTED], Weapons Officer; Lieutenant Junior Grade [REDACTED], Supply Officer and FTCS(SS) Daniel J. Niclas, Chief of the Boat are responsible for leading the crew and maintaining the ship at a maximum state of readiness.

**CHRONOLOGY FOR 2000
USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
January	Holiday leave period In port training Local at-sea operations Prospective Commanding Officer Operations
February	Prospective Commanding Officer Operations Pre-Overseas Movement Upkeep
March	Pre-Overseas Movement Upkeep Sea trials/Local at-sea operations Tactical Weapons Proficiency
April	In-port training Local at-sea operations Pre-Overseas Movement Certification In-port pre-deployment preparations
May	Pre-deployment leave period Western Pacific Deployment Port call - Saipan Port call - Guam Operation SPECWAR SUBEX 1-00 Western Pacific Operations
June	Western Pacific Operations
July	Western Pacific Operations Port call - Pattaya Midshipmen Operations Port call - Okinawa
August	Operation Sharem-134 Port call - Okinawa Upkeep Yokosuka Operation Ellipse Charlie Port call - Sasebo
September	Western Pacific Operations Port call - Sasebo Western Pacific Operations
October	Upkeep Guam Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam Upkeep Return to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

Encl (2)

**CHRONOLOGY FOR 2000
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November	Post-deployment leave period Post-deployment leave period
December	Local at-sea operations Holiday leave period

**NARRATIVE FOR 2000
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1. NARRATIVE

COLUMBUS began 2000 in her homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii enjoying a holiday stand-down. When her crew returned rested and relaxed, they began their training cycle at the Naval Training Center Pacific preparing themselves for Prospective Commanding Officer (PCO) operations. From the 10th to the 14th of January COLUMBUS was underway allowing the crew to train independently at sea. After this brief period, the ship returned to Pearl Harbor and to the attack trainers for continued proficiency.

Following the second round of training in the "schoolhouse," the crew's tactical skills and endurance were tested. On 27 January, the ship left Pearl harbor for local waters with six prospective commanding officers, two from the Pacific fleet and four from the Atlantic fleet, for seventeen days of intense tactical training. The crew was challenged both mentally and physically as they operated in shallow water, planned and executed simulated tomahawk strikes, conducted anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, mine warfare, special force insertion, search and rescue and carrier battle-group operations.

After completing a very successful series of PCO operations, COLUMBUS returned to port for the second of two Pre-Overseas Movement upkeeps. The challenging five-week upkeep was completed on the 21st of March, and COLUMBUS put to sea to conduct sea trials and local operations. During this at-sea period, the crew was evaluated in a Tactical Weapons Proficiency exam. The intense training of PCO operations contributed to the crew's success on this exam as they demonstrated their honed tactical proficiency. On the 31st of March the ship returned home to conduct training in port. Eleven days later, testing their tactical skills again, the crew in a Pre-Overseas Movement Certification; Commodore Byus joined the crew in this challenging underway.

On the 19 of April the ship returned to Pearl Harbor for pre-deployment preparations, including the loading of torpedoes, tomahawk missiles and other munitions. Before departing on 8 May for her third Western Pacific

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deployment, the crew was allowed a brief pre-deployment stand-down to say good-bye to family and friends.

May 8th marked the beginning of a five and one-half month Western Pacific Deployment. This deployment began less than thirteen months after the completion of her last six-month deployment. Fortunately for the crew, COLUMBUS was granted a liberty port just a few days into her deployment. On 17 May, the ship was the first nuclear submarine to arrive pier-side in Saipan.

COLUMBUS hosted a VIP luncheon onboard for Saipan's Governor Pedro P. Tenorio, RADM Krol, Commander Submarine Group SEVEN, Ms. Sukhwant Singh, executive director of Saipan's Chamber of Commerce, and several other business executives and government dignitaries.

Several members of the wardroom and crew were invited to the home of Governor Tenorio for a feast, Saipan-style. They dined on whole-roasted pork, local fish, various local fruits and vegetables together with many delicious desserts; for entertainment, Saipan's favorite: Karaoke was the order for the evening.

The ship left Saipan on 22 May for Guam. Arriving there just eight hours later, the ship trained with US Navy SEALs and Special Forces from Singapore's Navy. The next day COLUMBUS left Guam to conduct at-sea training for one day with both groups in SPECWAR SUB EX 1-00.

Following SEAL operations in Guam, the ship commenced her first of two special operations missions. After successful completion of this mission vital to the security of the United States, COLUMBUS arrived in steamy Pattaya, Thailand on 15 July. She had been at sea for a grueling 49-day period. The crew was invigorated after 9 days of liberty in Thailand. Pattaya, a small seaport on the Gulf of Thailand, was a great place for the crew to relax with sunny beaches, great shopping and an active nightlife. Just three hours away from Pattaya was Bangkok, the capitol of Thailand. Because of the long stay in Thailand, many of the crew were able to travel to Bangkok and see this exotic city.

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COLUMBUS met seven midshipmen in Pattaya and departed on 22 July for Okinawa. The midshipmen learned navigation, piloting, and basic submarine operations. The shallow water of the Gulf of Thailand prohibited the ship from diving and allowed the midshipmen lots of time for conning the ship on the surface and coordinating contacts.

When the ship arrived at White Beach, Okinawa, she bid farewell to these seven midshipmen and welcomed six new midshipmen. In Okinawa, officers completed preparations for Operation Sharem-134. Two days later on the 31st of July, COLUMBUS left for waters off of the southwestern coast of Okinawa to conduct Sharem-134. During the exercise USS CURTIS WILBUR (DDG-54), USS VINCENNES (CG-49), and USS CUSHING (DD-985) practiced anti-submarine warfare against COLUMBUS.

The exercise was cut short due to a typhoon in the vicinity. While the surface ships transited hundreds of miles to avoid the storm, COLUMBUS weathered the storm watching movies at 400ft. (Sometimes it's great to be on a sub!) After the storm, the ship rendezvoused with the three surface ships in Okinawa for a post-exercise brief; she also said farewell to the second group of midshipmen. Departing Okinawa, the ship invited surface sailors from the three warships to ride onboard for the transit up to Yokosuka in an exchange program.

Nine days in Yokosuka provided time for the crew to make voyage repairs to the ship with the assistance of USS Frank Cable (AS-40). RADM Krol and his Submarine Group SEVEN staff hosted a party for COLUMBUS and USS SALT LAKE CITY (SSN-717) at the Submarine Sanctuary where LTJG [REDACTED] was awarded his gold dolphins. The crew found some time for liberty; some enjoyed the nightlife of Tokyo while others visited the famous Mount Fuji.

After the upkeep, COLUMBUS left Tokyo Wan for waters off of Okinawa for exercise Ellipse Charlie. The weather in the Sea of Japan was typical for that time of year and another typhoon caused the exercise to be cancelled.

An unexpected but fortunate message was received after the cancellation of the exercise: Report to Sasebo for

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Liberty! The crew enjoyed a few days of R&R while exploring the Japanese cities of Sasebo and near-by Nagasaki. The ship left Sasebo on August 29th for its second mission. Only a few days into the mission, the ship was forced to return to Sasebo for untimely repairs. The crew was again given liberty as COLUMBUS awaited the arrival of repair parts. On September 10th the ship left to continue her mission.

After a challenging three-week period, COLUMBUS completed her highly successful mission and arrived in Apra Harbor, Guam on 1 October. She conducted a rapid and efficient upkeep again with the assistance of USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40). Most working days were long, but sailors found time to refamiliarize themselves with all of Guam's exciting nightlife, spectacular diving and sunny beaches.

On October 6th COLUMBUS left Guam to make an extended run to return to Pearl Harbor. The voyage home provided training time for the crew as they prepared for the annual Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE). On 17 October COLUMBUS bumped against the S-12 pier in Pearl Harbor to embark the ORSE team.

Thirty-six hours later the ship returned to S-9, her Western Pacific Deployment completed. Tired and seasoned sailors were given a ceremonious hail as the ship returned through her familiar waters of Pearl Harbor. All the ships in the harbor sounded their whistles in accolade and honor of her return. Greeted by family and friends, crewmembers were welcomed home in open arms and began a four-week post-deployment and Thanksgiving stand-down.

Leave ended all too soon for the enduring crew, on 27 November the ship left for West Loch to return unused munitions. After a two-day off-load, the ship returned to briefly to Pearl Harbor, and then departed for local waters for independent training.

The 29th of November was the day the wardroom bid farewell to Lieutenant Commander Jeffrey E. Trussler and welcomed with warm aloha their new Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Michael J. S. Sangster.

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On December 8th, COLUMBUS got underway with over 30 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 made periscope observations. Each person was presented with an Honorary Submariner Certificate, a ship's photo and a COLUMBUS welcome aboard package. After a series of high speed maneuvers, 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 5 days of liberty on the beautiful western shores of tropical Maui. COLUMBUS returned to Pearl Harbor on the 13th of December. For the last two weeks of the year, crewmembers were able to enjoy a well-deserved holiday leave period and ring in the new year with family and friends.