



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), 805 Kidder Breese
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Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. T. Nisbett".

S. T. NISBETT
By direction

**USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)
CHRONOLOGY FOR JAN 2004 TO DEC 2004**

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>EVENT</u> |
|-----------------|---|
| 01 JAN - 26 JAN | AT-SEA OPERATIONS |
| 27 JAN - 03 FEB | IN PORT: GUAM |
| 04 FEB - 11 FEB | AT-SEA OPERATIONS |
| 12 FEB - 16 FEB | IN PORT: SASEBO, JAPAN |
| 17 FEB - 23 FEB | AT-SEA OPERATIONS |
| 24 FEB - 26 FEB | IN PORT: CHINHAE, KOREA |
| 27 FEB - 07 APR | AT-SEA OPERATIONS - ANNUAL-EX |
| 08 APR - 19 APR | IN PORT: YOKOSUKA, JAPAN |
| 20 APR - 26 APR | TRANSIT |
| 27 APR - 28 APR | OPERATIONAL REACTOR SAFEGUARDS EXAM |
| 29 APR - 06 JUN | INPORT: PEARL HARBOR, HI - STAND DOWN PERIOD |
| 07 JUN - 10 JUN | WEAPONS OFFLOAD |
| 11 JUN - 14 JUN | POTS/PATS |
| 15 JUN - 18 JUN | INPORT POTS/PATS |
| 19 JUN - 27 JUL | UPKEEP - SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS EQUIPMENT INSTALLED |
| 28 JUL - 30 JUL | UNDERWAY |
| 31 JUL - 15 AUG | IN PORT: PEARL HARBOR, HI - DEPOT MODERNIZATON PERIOD TRAINING |
| 16 AUG - 20 AUG | BASIC SUBMARINE ASSESSMENT |
| 21 AUG - 29 AUG | IN PORT: PEARL HARBOR, HI - CHANGE OF HOMEPORT PREPARATIONS INSTALLATION OF SHIFT OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM |
| 30 AUG - 10 SEP | TRANSIT |
| 11 SEP - 13 SEP | IN-PORT: ESQUIMALT, CANADA |
| 14 SEP - 15 SEP | UNDERWAY - CHANGE OF HOMEPORT: BREMERTON, WA |
| 16 SEP - 19 SEP | DMP/DRYDOCKING PREPARATIONS |
| 27 SEP - 28 SEP | DRYDOCKING |
| 23 SEP - 17 NOV | DMP PREPARATIONS - SHIP TURNOVER TO SHIPYARD |
| 18 NOV - 22 DEC | DEPOT MODERNIZATON PERIOD - DEAD ELECTRIC |
| 23 DEC - 31 DEC | CHRISTMAS STAND DOWN |

Encl (2)

USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)
NARRATIVE FOR JAN 2004 TO DEC 2004

After the crew of the COLUMBUS recuperated with nearly a month of recreation and open-ocean transits, they began the year 2004 executing her true purpose, a mission vital to National Security.

At the end of the January, the crew of the COLUMBUS spent some well-needed relaxation time in Guam where the crew enjoyed various activities such as scuba diving, hiking and sightseeing. Several members of the crew also participated in the clean up of a beach. These individuals received letters of commendation for their efforts.

After a brief transit, the COLUMBUS moored in Sasebo, Japan in mid-February. Members of the crew spent time relaxing and seeing historical Nagasaki.

At the end of the month, the crew went to Chinhae, Korea, where the officers and crew of the Korean submarine ROKS LEE EOK GI (SS-071) hosted the USS COLUMBUS for a variety of social activities. The COLUMBUS also hosted tours of the ship for the ROKS LEE EOK GI.

The COLUMBUS set sail on mission for an arduous 6 weeks including Annual-Ex, which involved several ships from the Japanese Self Defense Force Naval fleet.

The final port in the ship's Western Pacific Deployment was Yokosuka, Japan. The ship spent 11 days in mid-April relaxing and recuperating prior to the journey home. While moored in Yokosuka, the crew enjoyed participating in many recreational activities such as touring Mt. Fuji and Tokyo in addition to holding a basketball tournament to bring the crew together one final time in the Western Pacific.

The USS COLUMBUS embarked on its journey home on April 19th, after six difficult months on missions vital to national security. On April 27th, the COLUMBUS pulled into Pearl Harbor, eager to see the home she left six months ago. The crew, however, needed to undergo an Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam (ORSE) prior to ending their deployment. Finally, on April 28th, the crew of the COLUMBUS was reunited with family and friends, and the Western Pacific Deployment of 2003-2004 was history. For the month of May 2004, the crew relaxed on Stand down as a reward for their hard work on deployment.

Starting in June, the COLUMBUS completed its weapons offload and commenced Pre-Overhaul Tests/Pre-Availability Tests (POTS/PATS) which consisted of both an underway and an in port phase. These tests were performed in support of the upcoming Depot Modernization Period (DMP) scheduled to commence in November. The crew displayed their hard work and determination yet again after their well deserved stand down.

Upon the completion of POTS/PATS, the COLUMBUS became one of the first Submarines in the fleet to be equipped with Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBAs) to replace the outdated Onboard Breathing Apparatuses (OBAs), for use in fire fighting. The crew continued with its preparations for the upcoming DMP with various propulsion plant and ship's maintenance and tests.

The crew was underway once again for three days at the end of July to support crew qualifications and proficiency. Upon returning, the COLUMBUS attended further training regarding the DMP. Upon completion of training, the crew underwent a Basic Submarine Assessment (BSA) to evaluate the tactical and operational ability of the ship both forward and aft. The COLUMBUS displayed its exceptional ability and was ready to send the ship to Bremerton for DMP.

On August 30th, the COLUMBUS departed Pearl Harbor for Bremerton, WA. During the 10-day transit, the crew had its final chance for qualifications and training on an operational submarine before taking on the 21-month availability. Prior to pulling into Bremerton, the COLUMBUS spent a 3-day weekend port visit in Esquimalt, Canada, where the crew relaxed and saw the beautiful sights of Victoria and neighboring cities.

Finally, on September 15th, the USS COLUMBUS transited across the Puget Sound into the shipyard, which would be her home for many months to come. In the following two months, the crew spent countless hours in seeing the safe turnover of the ship's systems to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS). The crew displayed its exceptional operational knowledge without any discrepancies or faults found in their work controls programs.

The ship was dry-docked on September 28th, and propelled the COLUMBUS to meet the commencement of the DMP in November. Finally, on November 18th, the DMP began when the ship successfully secured all electricity. The only power provided to individual components, lighting and ventilation would be provided by temporary power in order to perform maintenance on all electrical equipment.

At the end of the year, the crew of the USS COLUMBUS reflected on her struggles and achievements as they took a well-deserved Christmas Stand down period to spend time with family and loved ones.

Encl (3)