

USS DOLPHIN (AGSS555)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA  
96601

555/XO:dc  
5700  
Ser 33  
4 Mar 1971

From: Commanding Officer, USS DOLPHIN (AGSS555)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09B9)  
Washington Navy Yard  
Washington, D.C. 20390

Submarine Historical Facility  
Bldg 584, Naval Submarine Base  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

Subj: Command history of USS DOLPHIN (AGSS555)

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12 series

Encl: (1) Narrative of ships history  
(2) Chronology of outstanding events (1970)  
(3) Recent photographs of ship  
(4) Congradulatory messages  
(5) Muster roll and roster of officers  
(6) Biography and photograph of Commanding Officer

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded.

  
J. R. FINLEN  
By direction

ENCLOSURE (1)

NARRATIVE OF USS DOLPHIN (AGSS555) SHIP'S HISTORY

DOLPHIN's construction commenced at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, N.H. on the first of June 1962. After six years of construction DOLPHIN was launched on the eighth of June 1968. Mrs. Daniel K. INOUYE (Wife of Senator INOUYE D-Hawaii) acted as ship's sponsor. Two months later on 17 August 1968 DOLPHIN was placed in commission by Rear Admiral Roy S. BENSON, USN, Commandant, First Naval District. The ship was assigned as an operational unit of Submarine Squadron TWO, a component of Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. LCDR John R. McDONNELL, USN, [REDACTED] became DOLPHIN's first Commanding Officer. Initial sea trials took place September through December 1968 with the ship reaching an unprecedented test depth for submarines on 24 November 1968. Board of Inspection and Survey trials were completed in January 1969. After several weeks of torpedo launching test operations off Newport, Rhode Island in February DOLPHIN departed for operations at Atlantic Underseas Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC) range facilities in the Tongue of the Ocean, Bahamas, BWI. Operations at AUTEC took place in March and April of 1969. The ship returned to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, her official homeport in May for a Restricted Availability which lasted into July. Operations during the period July through September 1969 were involved with stability and control trials and a continuation of torpedo test launchings out of Newport, R.I. Thus concluded DOLPHIN's Phase I operations which covered the period September 1968 to October 1969. These operations were primarily directed towards proving that a deep-diving submarine capable of independent operations at sea could be built; and to testing weapons and launches at depth.

On 15 October 1969 DOLPHIN commenced her PSA and Phase II conversion at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, N.H. The conversion primarily consisted of the removal of the ship's torpedo tube and the installation of a bow sonar dome extending the ship's length some 13 feet. On 20 June 1970 CDR John R. SEESHOLTZ relieved CDR McDONNELL to become DOLPHIN's second Commanding Officer. Following the ship's conversion which lasted nearly one year DOLPHIN departed Portsmouth, N.H. September 10, 1970 to change homeports to San Diego, California. The inter fleet transfer took two months with DOLPHIN stopping at Bermuda, San Juan, P.R., Canal Zone, Acapulco and Mazatlan, Mexico. The ship reported to Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet the 7th of October 1970 becoming a unit of Submarine Development Group ONE. Upon arrival in San Diego on 7 November 1970 DOLPHIN moored at Naval Underseas Research and Development Center where an extensive program was begun which would equip the ship with the latest developmental sonar and associated electronics. Sea tests of these new systems were conducted January through March 1971 in preparation for an extended oceanographic research cruise to the Gulf of Alaska.

ENCLOSURE (2)

CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS (1970)

9 May 1970 Undocked from drydock #1, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

15 Jul 1970 Official Change of homeport to San Diego, California. Commenced Sea Trials.

24 Aug 1970 Completed PSA.

10 Sep 1970 Enroute for San Diego, California.

17-20 Sep 1970 Refuel/Replenishment stop and recreational visit at Bermuda, B.W.I.

27 Sep - 1 Oct 1970 Refuel/Replenishment stop and recreational visit at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

7 Oct 1970 Enter Panama Canal. Chop to Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

8-10 Oct 1970 Refuel/Replenishment stop and recreational visit at Rodman, Canal Zone.

20-23 Oct 1970 Refuel/Replenishment stop and recreational visit at Acapulco, Mexico.

28-31 Oct 1970 Refuel/Replenishment stop and recreational visit at Mazatlan, Mexico.

7 Nov 1970 Arrive San Diego, California. Begin Phase II sonar and electronics installation at Naval Underseas Research and Development Center.