



USS DOLPHIN (AGSS 555)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
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AGSS555/SAW/sw  
5750  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS DOLPHIN (AGSS555)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20374

Subj: Command History of USS DOLPHIN (AGSS555) for 1981; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C  
(b) COMSUBPACINST 5400.7B

Encl: (1) Ship's Historical Narrative  
(2) Crew Roster  
(3) Updated Ship's Photograph  
(4) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. Enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted in accordance with references (a) and (b).

W. A. CLARKE

Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT (PAO)  
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COMSUBDEVGRU ONE

## SHIP'S HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

January 1981

In January, DOLPHIN, went to sea for type training in the SOCAL OPAREAS and had to return early because an excessive number of cells failed in the ship's Silver Zinc Main Propulsion Storage Battery. The main generators would not stay on the line because propulsion bus voltage was so low.

February 1981

A new Silver-Zinc Battery was installed aboard DOLPHIN at Naval Ocean Systems Center San Diego, Pier Alfa. A Tiger Team was sent from Mare Island Naval Shipyard to do the installation.

March 1981

Sea trials for the new battery were completed and tests were satisfactory. Lt [REDACTED], [REDACTED] relieved LCDR [REDACTED] as Engineering Officer.

April 1981

Type training and a deep dive was conducted off the Northwest side of San Clemente Island. The remainder of the month was spent inport for installation of equipment in support of the Strategic Laser Communications Project.

May 1981

Conducted initial Strategic Laser Communications test at San Clemente Island. Significant accomplishment was to receive laser light signals and messages in both night and day conditions through clouds. LCDR Gregory A. Schwaller relieved LCDR Alan J. Skille as Executive Officer.

June 1981

Another highly successful, one week Laser Communication Project test was conducted off of San Clemente Island in SOCAL. On 13 June, DOLPHIN departed San Diego for Eureka, Ca. in support of still another phase of the Strategic Laser Communications Project. The object of this phase was to do a study of the effects of bioluminescence on the blue/green laser signals. Eureka was specifically chosen because of the nutrient-laden water coming down from the Gulf of Alaska and the upwellings created by the Mendocino Mountain Ridge off the Coast of Eureka.

July 1981

The 4th of July weekend was spent in the port of Eureka, Ca. DOLPHIN arrived in its home port of San Diego, Ca. on the 11th of July after a five week deployment. A two week upkeep was followed by a one week project called SEVA (Submarine Expendable Vertical Array) of the coast of Southern California.

Enclosure (1)

SHIP HISTORICAL NARRATIVE  
(Continued)

August 1981

Most of the month was spent in upkeep with the exception of a three day, at sea, Individual Ship's Exercise period in mid-month. Another three day operation for NOSC was conducted at the end of the month. The purpose of this project was to study Ocean Temperature Thermal Gradients.

September - December 1981

These four months were spent inport in San Diego installing a new prototype Lead-Acid Battery. Again the installation was done by a Tiger Team for Mare Island Naval Shipyard. The installation was hampered by numerous battery well design problems and two extra months were required to complete the installation. The ship would not go to sea again until February of 1982.