



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS DOLPHIN (AGSS 555)

FPO AP 96663-4000

5750

Ser AGSS555/043

22 Apr 03

From: Commanding Officer, USS DOLPHIN (AGSS-555)
To: Director of Naval History

Subj: USS DOLPHIN (AGSS-555) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2002

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Commanding Officer's Biography
(2) Commanding Officer's Photograph
(3) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(4) Sailing List

1. Command Composition and Organization. USS DOLPHIN (AGSS-555) (UIC: 05072) is the Navy's deep diving research and development diesel-electric submarine. USS DOLPHIN (AGSS 555) is under the operational control of Commander Submarine Development Squadron FIVE. USS DOLPHIN (AGSS 555) is commanded by Commander Edward L. Hasell, and is homeported in San Diego, California.

2. Chronology. The following chronology of events reflect the ships operations for the calendar year 2002:

- a. 01-08 Jan: Holiday Stand down at pier 160A SPAWAR
- b. 29Jan- : Underway conducting Independent Steaming
01Feb Exercise (ISE)
- c. 11-13 Mar: Underway conducting Independent Steaming
Exercise (ISE)
- d. 16-21 Mar: Underway conducting MK 54 torpedo testing
- e. 16-18 Apr: Underway conducting Annual Navigation
Evaluation
- f. 22-26 Apr: Underway conducting Integrated Explosive
Excho Ranging exercise
- g. 06-09 May: Underway conducting Independent Steaming
Exercise (ISE)
- h. 11-14 May: Underway conducting Independent Steaming
Exercise (ISE)
- i. 20-21 May: Underway conducting MK 54 torpedo testing
- j. 22 May: Ship suffered flooding casualty that led to
loss of electrical power, all hands abandoned
ship. All hands recovered safely by M/V MCGAW,
USS THACH (FFG-43), and USCG helicopter.

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- k. 22-23 May: Ship is undertow enroute pier 160A SPAWAR
- l. 04 Oct: CDR S. Z. Kelety was relieved as Commanding Officer by CDR E. L. Hasell
- m. 17 Dec: Shifted berths from pier 160A to drydock Naval Station San Diego, CA.
- n. 17Dec-31Jan: Ship in drydock at Naval Station San Diego, CA

3. Narrative. USS DOLPHIN (AGSS 555) had a challenging and eventful 2002. She received the Engineering "E", Damage Control "DC", Deck Seamanship "D", Navigation Red/Green "N", Medical "M" and the Communications "C", and the Commander Pacific Fleet Retention "Golden Anchor" award. The ship participated in several exercises and tests aimed at developing more effective means of detection of enemy diesel submarines in the littoral environment along with two anti-diesel torpedo experiments and evaluations.

The most significant event was a flooding casualty that led to the order of "ABANDON SHIP". During the night of 21 May 2002, DOLPHIN surfaced for transit and routine battery charging in the vicinity of Cortes Bank, 100 miles southwest of San Diego, California. Swells had an average wave height of 10-11 feet and an average period of 6-7 seconds at the time of the casualty. Close to midnight, after about 5 hours and 10 minutes of diesel operations, the torpedo shield sail side door opened and water began flooding the submarine. This flooding led to numerous electrical fires and the grounding of both of the ship's main storage batteries. With the impending loss of all electrical power, possible capsizing, and the possibility of a battery fire or explosion, the order as given to abandon ship. All hands were rescued and the ship was subsequently towed to port. On 4 October 2002, at pier 160A, SPAWAR Compound, a Change of Command ceremony was held. The ship was moved to drydock in preparation for the first availability in the sixth overhaul cycle. Major work scheduled for this availability are repairs and upgrades following the 22 May casualty. The year ended with DOLPHIN in drydock at Naval Station, San Diego undergoing repairs conducted by Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.



E. L. HASELL