



**USS EMORY S. LAND (AS-39)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK 09545**

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: Command History for calendar year 1981; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Command History of USS EMORY S. LAND (AS-39) by department  
(2) Biography: Commanding Officer, Captain Melvin H. Sollberger  
(3) Picture of Commanding Officer

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded.

  
M. H. SOLLBERGER

## History of USS EMORY S. LAND AS-39

1 January 1981 to 31 December 1981

- a. Captain Dennis Young SLOAN, USN served as commanding officer from 1 Jan to 21 August 1981. Captain Melvin H. SOLLBERGER relieved as commanding officer on 21 August and served through 31 December 1981.
- b. Commander Ray Leroy FERBRACHE, USN, served as Executive Officer from 1 January 1981 through 31 December 1981.
- c. EMORY S. LAND is the flag ship for COMMANDER SUBMARINE SQUADRON EIGHT and is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia.
- d. On 15 January 1981, EMORY S. LAND returned from a 4½ month deployment to the Indian Ocean. As a result of this deployment the crew was authorized to wear the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the Navy Expeditionary Medal.
- e. The EMORY S. LAND conducted a training cruise to Halifax, Nova Scotia from 27 May to 6 June, 1981.
- f. Change of command ceremonies took place onboard 21 August 1981.
- g. The Battle Efficiency "E" was awarded to the EMORY S. LAND for overall force readiness for the fiscal year 1981. EMORY S. LAND was awarded departmental E's in the following functional areas: Communications Green "C", Damage Control Red "DC", Repair Red "R", Deck Seamanship White "D", and the Gunnery White "E".
- h. The Mobile Training Team came aboard in October 1981 for underway training prior to an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination. The EMORY S. LAND passed the examination on first attempt on 21 October, 1981.
- i. The EMORY S. LAND departed on November 26 for a training cruise to Nassau, Bahamas returning on 7 December.
- j. Over one hundred female crewmembers were integrated into the ship in February 1981.

a. ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

In July of 1981, the Executive Staff was disestablished and organized by itself as a separate department with the Administrative Officer assigned as Department Head. This action relieved the Executive Officer of a number of administrative and personnel related duties and has proven very effective in overall coordination of personnel within the Department.

A complete re-location of personnel oriented service offices was begun in attempt to centralize these specific offices for the benefit of the crew.

YN2 [REDACTED], USN, was selected as USS EMORY S. LAND's sailor of the Year for 1981 and was nominated to COMSUBRON EIGHT as Sea Sailor of the Year candidate.

Patches, the LAND's drug detection dog, continued to prove his worth by his performance onboard and on loan to other commands.

USS EMORY S. LAND was named nine consecutive times to the Type Commander's Retention Honor Roll. This was a direct result of the efforts of the Command Career Counselors.

b. REPAIR DEPARTMENT

The Repair Department spent 1981 tending units from both Submarine Squadron SIX and EIGHT.

During this period the ship successfully completed a Radiological Controls Practices Evaluation, a Quality Assurance Inspection, and an Intermediate Maintenance Activity Proficiency and Readiness Evaluation. The Department won the Battle Efficiency Repair Red "R" for SUBLANT for fiscal year 1981.

Upon the ship's return from the Indian Ocean, the divers, with material, an LCM-6 hull, and with the help of many of the shops in Repair Department, designed and fabricated their dive boat. The work was accomplished onboard and at pierside, completed in June and certified by NAVSEA with no discrepancies on its first inspection.

c. SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

In addition to routine material support to both the ship and tended units, several innovative and lasting accomplishments were completed by the Supply Department. Chief among these was the complete renovation of the Enlisted Dining Facility. The entire dining area was remodeled with a Colonial Williamsburg theme. Following renovation of the enlisted dining facility area, the First Class Mess was remodeled to resemble an Old English Tavern, making it one of the most unique facilities of its type in the Navy.

In April the ship commenced a tradition that quickly proved to be quite popular. Family nights were held on a regular basis complete with special menus and uniforms. The CINCLANTFLT band entertained for these candlelight dinners and relatives and friends of the crew were invited to attend.

d. WEAPONS DEPARTMENT

During the year 1981, the Weapons Repair Department kept active in submarine support mission accomplishments. During the year a total of 605 torpedoes, 89 Harpoon Missiles, Eight SUBROC Missiles and numerous support items were handled. The Weapons Repair Department commenced shipboard modifications for acceptance of the Tomahawk Missiles. Several Torpedo Tube Inspections and a Weapons System Inspection (WSI) were conducted as well as numerous Fire Control Technical Assists. Weapons Quality Assurance performed 1728 inspections with 261 rejected. Numerous amounts of weight handling equipment and cranes were inspected and tested. During the year the Weapons Repair Department successfully completed a Tactical Weapons Capability Review (TWCRC) and a Defense Nuclear Surety Inspection (DNSI) with a supplemental Nuclear Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI).

e. OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Upon returning from a four and one half month deployment to the Indian Ocean on January 15, 1981 the Operations Department resumed duties of providing full communications support to Commander, Submarine Squadron EIGHT and assigned units to include the processing of an averaged total of 200 incoming and 50 outgoing messages per day and the repair and maintenance of selected submarine communications equipments.

In June of 1981 the EMORY S. LAND participated in a unique exercise with two 688 class submarines while enroute to Halifax, Nova Scotia. With the SUBRON EIGHT staff embarked, the LAND's communications center successfully exercised all aspects of SSN direct support sub/surface/air communications, thereby providing excellent training in the primary mission area of command/control communications. The passing of two TYCOM inspections, CMS and SAS, contributed significantly to the awarding of the Communications Green "C" for 1981 to the EMORY S. LAND. The LAND made a port visit to Nassau, Bahamas in December. While enroute, the LAND successfully completed two underway replenishments, marking the first AS UNREP in the Atlantic Fleet in over 15 years.

f. DECK DEPARTMENT

The year provided the opportunity for the Deck Department to continue to utilize nearly all the capabilities of this ship. In addition to the normal duties of topside cleanliness and preservation, boat maintenance and operation, manufacture and repair of mooring lines for the ship and tended units, procurement, stowage and issue of paint for all units, operations and preservation of ships cranes, procurement, maintenance, and proper use of ship's rigging equipment, and maintenance of equipment associated with mooring and support of assigned submarines, the department executed a highly successful underway replenishment with the USS Canisteo (AO-99) and highline transfer with the USS Caron. The first time such an evolution was conducted by a SUBLANT tender in 15 years.

Despite the high tempo and varied tasks, the department maintained an outstanding safety record.

The Deck Department was awarded the Deck Seamanship White "D" by COMSUBLANT in October 1981.



g. ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

After four and one half months of continuous steaming underway and on station in Diego Garcia, the Engineers maneuvered EMORY S. LAND into homeport on time and with no machinery discrepancies. Since then, the Engineering Department has arranged for or provided all services (electricity, fuel, oil, steam, telephones, various gases, and sewage disposal) for all the ships and submarines moored on Pier 23, Naval Station, Norfolk. For providing this excellent support, and for maintaining a consistently high perpetual state of readiness in both personnel training and machinery, EMORY S. LAND was again awarded both the Engineering "E" and the Damage Control "DC" for the period 1 October 1980 to 30 September 1981.

The Mobile Training Team shared their expertise with the Engineering Department as they conducted two thorough preliminary inspections of the main propulsion spaces and operations. These pre-inspections were in preparation for the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination, conducted in October 1981. This major examination is to evaluate personnel training and performance, machinery maintenance and preservation, administrative programs, logs and records, casualty control drills and damage control. The EMORY S. LAND passed this extremely difficult examination on the first attempt, an accomplishment that no other submarine tender may claim.

In December 1981, all fleet units in the Hampton Roads area entered a Christmas ship decorating contest. USS EMORY S. LAND won this contest, winning by her originality and composition of her Christmas decorations, and was presented a plaque for the large afloat command category.