



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) ✓
FLEET POST OFFICE
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98799-2099

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From: Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington
D. C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command History 1986
(2) Command History 1987

1. Enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted to add to the command history for USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(Gold) per reference (a).

D. E. HUELLE
Executive Officer

USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD) COMMAND HISTORY

Part 1.

COMMAND ORGANIZATION:

1986

- Home port: Bangor, Washington
- Operational Commander: Commander Submarine Squadron 17
Captain J. Michael Barr, USN
- Administrative Command: Commander Submarine Group 9
Rear Admiral Wayne E. Rickman, USN
- Blue Crew Commanding Officer: Captain Lachata
- Gold Crew Commanding Officer: Captain Robert W. Boyce, USN

Captain Robert William Boyce was born in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. He attended Monsignor Bonnor High School in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania and entered the University of Pennsylvania through the regular NROTC program in 1960. He graduated and was commissioned in 1964 having earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

Captain Boyce was selected for the Naval Nuclear Propulsion program prior to graduation from the University of Pennsylvania. After a short tour on the diesel submarine USS TIGRONE (AFSS-419), he completed submarine school in New London, Connecticut and nuclear power training in Bainbridge, Maryland and Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

Following nuclear power training Captain Boyce was ordered to the USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571) in July of 1966. During his tour in NAUTILUS he qualified in submarines and completed his Engineering Officer's qualification in July of 1969. He immediately reported to USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (SSBN 640) in Guam as Engineer Officer. During this duty assignment he completed two Polaris Deterrent Patrols while in the Pacific Fleet, and following conversion of the ship to Poseidon, he completed two Atlantic Fleet Deterrent Patrols.

From August 1973 to June of 1975, Captain Boyce served on the staff of the Division of Naval Reactors, of the Atomic Energy Commission in Washington D. C. He then reported to USS NARWHAL (SSN 671) as Executive Officer and served until October of 1977 when he reported to the staff of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet.

Captain Boyce was a member of the Atlantic Fleet Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board from November of 1977 to January of 1980, when he commenced the Prospective Commanding Officer training program. Following PCO training, Captain Boyce commanded USS SEA DEVIL (SSN 664) from August 1980 to January 1984. During this tour the ship earned the Navy Unit Commendation for operations in the Mediterranean. Immediately upon relief of command of SEA DEVIL, Captain Boyce entered the Trident command training pipeline. He reported to USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD) in April 1984.

- Commanding Officer: Captain Peter M. Galbraith, USN relieved Captain Robert W. Boyce as Commanding Officer USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD).

Encl (1)

USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD) COMMAND HISTORY

- Commanding Officer: Captain Peter M. Galbraith, USN relieved Captain Robert W. Boyce as Commanding Officer USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD), on 14 June 1986.

Captain Galbraith was born in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. He attended the United States Naval Academy, graduating in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering. After graduation he reported to the Nuclear Power School in Vallejo, CA. Upon completion of nuclear power training and submarine school, Captain Galbraith reported to USS JAMES MONROE (SSBN 622)(BLUE) completing four strategic deterrent patrols, a refueling overhaul and interfleet transfer to the Pacific. Captain Galbraith next served on board USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN 598) (BLUE). On board from March 1971 to March 1974 as Weapons Officer, he completed patrols in both Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. In April 1974, Captain Galbraith reported to the staff of Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, serving as the FBM Weapons Readiness Officer and Strategic Plans Officer for a period of two years. From August 1976 to May 1980, Captain Galbraith served as Executive Officer of USS JOHN C. CALHOUN (SSBN 630)(BLUE). During this period the ship underwent a regular overhaul at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, predeployment operations, and three strategic deterrent patrols. After Prospective Commanding Officer Training, Captain Galbraith assumed command of USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN 658)(GOLD) in Kings Bay, GA. In October 1982, the crews of USS Mariano G. VALLEJO combined crews for overhaul, and Captain Galbraith then assumed command of USS JOHN ADAMS (SSBN 620)(BLUE), patrolling from Charleston, SC, until May 1984. In June of 1984 Captain Galbraith reported to the staff of Commander, Submarine Squadron 17 as the Deputy Commander for Readiness and Training, serving until April 1986.

Captain Galbraith has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Stars in lieu of second, third, and fourth awards, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Captain Galbraith is married to the former [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. They, and their daughter [REDACTED], reside in Bremerton, Washington.

USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD) COMMAND HISTORY

Part 2.

CHRONOLOGY:

1986

- 20 February - Gold Crew relieved Blue Crew
- 14 March - Departed for Patrol Eight
- 23 May - Returned from sea
- 25 May - Blue Crew relieved Gold Crew
- 14 June - Captain Peter M. Galbraith relieved Captain Robert W. Boyce.
- 06 September - Gold Crew relieved Blue Crew
- 29 September - Departed for Patrol ten
- 13 December - Returned from sea

USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD COMMAND HISTORY

Part 3.

NARRATIVE:

1986

The year began with the crew in training in preparation for patrol eight. On 20 February 1986 the Gold Crew relieved the Blue Crew beginning refit eight.

FLORIDA departed for patrol eight on 14 March 1986, and returned to port on 23 May 1986. A Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection took place from 21 May to 23 May 1986, the ship receiving a grade of satisfactory.

The Blue Crew relieved the Gold Crew on 25 May 1986 to begin the workload of refit in preparation for patrol nine.

Captain Robert W. Boyce, USN, relinquished command of USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD) to Captain Peter M. Galbraith on 14 June 1986. Captain Galbraith had previous command of USS MARIANO G VALLEJO (SSBN 658)(GOLD), and USS JOHN ADAMS (SSBN 620)(BLUE). Captain Boyce departed for duty as N-4 Department Head on Commander Submarine Force Pacific Fleet Staff.

On 6 September 1986 the Gold Crew relieved the Blue Crew. During refit 10 major modifications were completed on DCT 4-way valves, and coolant discharge piping. Other work included a reduction gear inspection and drydocking.

FLORIDA departed for patrol ten on 29 September 1986 and returned to port on 13 December 1986. The patrol ended successfully with an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination, receiving a grade of average, and receipt of Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet's Golden Anchor Award.

The Blue Crew relieved the Gold Crew on 16 December 1986. The Gold Crew celebrated Christmas at home and prepared for a challenging off-crew to prepare for an upcoming Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection and Tactical Readiness Examination.

USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD) COMMAND HISTORY

Part 4

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1986

- Command Sailing List Patrol eight.
- Command Sailing List Patrol ten.
- Retention Statistics.
- Advancement Information.
- Change of Command Pamphlet.



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15 January 1987

From: Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(BLUE)
To: Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC
20374-0571 (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1986

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command History Narrative
(2) USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (BLUE) Welcome Aboard Booklet

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (a) and (b) are forwarded.


R. J. LABRECQUE

a. Command Composition and Organization. The ship's mission is to remain submerged and undetected and serve as a strategic deterrent. The ship's commander is Commander, Submarine Squadron 17 and is homeported in Bangor, Washington.

b. Chronology.

17 February	Blue Crew completes Patrol #7, docks at Explosive Handling Wharf, Bangor
17 March	Off-crew training period begins
23 May	Blue Crew begins Refit #9
13 June	FLORIDA underway for submarine readiness exercise
17 June	Following exercise, FLORIDA returns to port
20 June	FLORIDA underway to begin Patrol #9
7-11 July	70 midshipmen in two shifts, embark FLORIDA for summer training
2-6 August	FLORIDA returns to port for configuration to support Operational Test (OT) launch of two Trident I (C-4) missiles
14 August	FLORIDA launches both OT missiles in a very successful test
22-28 August	FLORIDA returns to port for post-launch operations
4 September	Following Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination FLORIDA returns to port as Blue Crew completes Patrol #9
24 September	Captain Robert J. Labrecque relieves Captain Donald M. Lachata as Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA BLUE.
6 October	Off-crew training period begins
16 December	Blue Crew relieves Gold Crew of FLORIDA and begins Refit #11.

c. Narrative. 1986 arrived with USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) at sea on Patrol #7. The Blue Crew was working at a frenzied pace in preparation for three upcoming inspections. During the final week of January and beginning of February, FLORIDA received a lot of high powered attention with RADM Rickman, Commander, Submarine Group 9 and CAPT Woodworth, Commander, Submarine Squadron 17 heading the list which also included CAPT McDonald from the staff of

Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; CAPT Galbraith from Staff, Submarine Squadron 17 and CAPT Egan, Chief of Staff, Submarine Group 9. USS FLORIDA shined under this limelight, doing very well on all of her inspections, including a Tactical Readiness Evaluation, a Submarine Squadron 17 Engineering Department Evaluation, and a Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection.

On 17 February, the Blue Crew docked USS FLORIDA at the Explosives Handling Wharf and were definitely "ready to be relieved". It was a cool but sunny day and the crewmembers were enthusiastically greeted by their loved ones. Three days later the Gold Crew took the ship after a shift to the drydock and Refit #8 was already steadily progressing.

After a well-deserved four day off period, the Blue Crew returned to support the Gold Crew for the remainder of Refit #8. Following this refit, the Gold Crew took FLORIDA to sea to once again resume her mission of strategic deterrence.

On 17 March, following a two week leave period, the Blue Crew began their now familiar off-crew training period. Personnel attended various schools and trainers at the Trident Training Facility as well as training lectures held in the Off-Crew Administration Building. The crewmembers also took advantage of their time to participate in sports. The FLORIDA basketball and three softball teams had successful seasons.

Following yet another smooth turnover, the Blue Crew once again took the ship on 23 May. Refit #9 began in earnest with several major jobs to accomplish. On Friday the 13th of June, USS FLORIDA got underway on short notice as part of a submarine readiness exercise. Once again FLORIDA proved her ability to get the job done as her crew quickly and successfully wrapped up the refit and got underway the next day. Upon completion of this exercise, FLORIDA returned to Bangor on 17 June.

On 20 June, the crewmembers said farewell to their loved ones again and FLORIDA got underway for Patrol #9, not knowing that this would not be a standard strategic deterrent patrol. One unique event during the patrol occurred from 7 July to 11 July. During this period, USS FLORIDA embarked 70 second class midshipmen in two groups for two days each as part of their summer training. FLORIDA and her crew put on quite a show and demonstrated the ship's capabilities, allowing the midshipmen hands on operations in all phases of submarining. The week went very well and was enjoyed by the crew as well as the midshipmen.

During the last week of July, FLORIDA received a message tasking her with an Operational Test (OT) Launch of two Trident I (C-4) missiles. In support of this mission FLORIDA pulled in to the EHW at Bangor on 2 August. On 6 August, FLORIDA was underway again with all the necessary test equipment and supplemental personnel for the OT launch. On 14 August, FLORIDA launched both of her OT missiles. All aspects of the operation were flawless, demonstrating the credibility of strategic deterrence. Following the launch, FLORIDA returned to Bangor on 22 August to conduct post-launch operations.

FLORIDA returned to sea again on 28 August. By now the Engineering Department was almost ready for their Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE). The next few days were very hectic as the boat finished preparations

for the inspection. All the efforts paid off as FLORIDA got an Above Average with significant improvement. FLORIDA returned to Bangor to end Patrol #9 on 4 September weary, but satisfied with her accomplishments. CAPT Lachata's last patrol had been a highly successful and unusual Trident patrol.

Following a cooperative two crew refit, the Gold Crew took FLORIDA out on 29 September for patrol #10. The Blue Crew meanwhile, witnessed the time honored transfer of authority as CAPT Robert J. Labrecque relieved CAPT Donald M. Lachata as Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (BLUE) on the sunny fall afternoon of 24 September at the Off-crew Administration Building. CAPT George Woodworth, Commander, Submarine Squadron 17 delivered a warm farewell to CAPT Lachata as the guest speaker.

After an always-too-short leave period, the crew jumped into eight weeks of lectures, schools, and trainers. Not content just to sit and think, however, the fields of autumn were found covered with FLORIDA teams competing in football and soccer, preparing their bodies for the semi-annual Physical Fitness Test. Colder temperatures only redirected energies indoors as crewmembers took to the hoops in basketball league play.

Thanksgiving preceded another short leave period that ended with the arrival of FLORIDA on 13 December when the Gold Crew completed another successful deterrent patrol. CAPT Labrecque and the rest of Blue Crew completed turnover on 16 December and set to the task of refitting the boat for Patrol #11.

In the midst of this feverish travail, FLORIDA had the honor, for the second time in two years, of displaying the nation's most reliable leg of the nuclear deterrent triad to a foreign dignitary. On 19 December, ADM Sven E. Thiede, Royal Danish Navy, Danish Chief of Defense, escorted by RADM Wayne E. Rickman, Commander, Submarine Group 9, toured USS FLORIDA.

As 1986 drew to a close, the Blue Crew could be found inport (albeit in refit) celebrating Christmas and New Year's at home with families for the first time in three years; yet preparing for another voyage in service of the nation's defense.