



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) ✓
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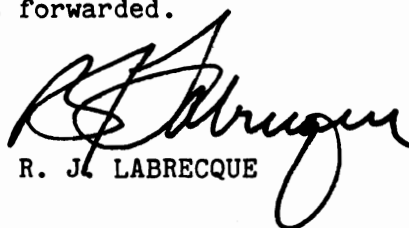
From: Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(BLUE)
To: Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1987

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command History Chronology and Narrative

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.


R. J. LABRECQUE

YN851.01

COMMAND HISTORY

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.

7 January. FLORIDA underway for Patrol #11.

12-15 January. FLORIDA conducts PACSECEX 1-87 with USS SALT LAKE CITY (SSN 716).

20-22 January. FLORIDA returns to Bangor, Washington for emergency repair to her sonar system towed arrays. Repairs complete, she departs to resume patrol.

18 March. FLORIDA moors at Explosive Handling Wharf, Bangor, Washington to complete Patrol #11. Two day Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection begins which ends with all grades outstanding.

27 April. Off-crew training period begins.

30 June. Blue crew begins Refit #13.

22 July. FLORIDA underway for Patrol #13.

26 August. FLORIDA moors at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

29 August. Opposed by USS LOS ANGELES (SSN 688) and with COMSUBPAC riding, FLORIDA gets underway for Tactical Readiness Evaluation (TRE) and MK-48 Torpedo Certification.

2 September. FLORIDA returns to Ford Island, shifts berths to berth S-21 at SUBASE, Pearl Harbor the following day. FLORIDA was the first Trident to moor at this berth; the vicinity of the berth had just been dredged prior to the ship's arrival.

8 September. FLORIDA departs Hawaii to complete Patrol #13.

5 October. Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination complete, FLORIDA ties up at Delta Pier South, Bangor, Washington to complete patrol.

26 October. Off-crew training period begins.

18 December. Holiday leave period begins.

c. Narrative.

Before 1987 had a chance to notice, FLORIDA was back at sea again, departing 7 January for Patrol #11.

FLORIDA's Mod-alert period this patrol was a bit more unusual and interesting than most as she participated in PACSECEX 1-87 with USS SALT LAKE CITY (SSN 716) from 12 to 15 January. On board to observe this security and tracking exercise were CAPT Bajuk, COMSUBRON 17 Readiness and Training Officer, LCDR [REDACTED], COMSUBDEVRON 12; and Mr. Paul Worley and Mr. Richard Simmons, both of COMSUBDEVRON 12. Following a personnel transfer in Ketchikan, Alaska, FLORIDA returned to Bangor for emergent repairs to her sonar system on 20 January.

Returning to sea again on 22 January with repairs complete, FLORIDA soon assumed the alert status she would maintain until the end of patrol. The crew used this time to train exhaustively for the upcoming Tactical Readiness Evaluation (TRE) and Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI). Unfortunately operational constraints forced the extension of FLORIDA's alert time and as a result her TRE was rescheduled for Patrol #13.

Concluding patrol on 18 March, FLORIDA moored at Explosive Handling Wharf and commenced her two day NTPI. Two days later after a shift to dry dock, the NTPI results were OUTSTANDING in all areas and turnover with the Gold crew was ready to begin. CAPT Galbraith and Gold crew relieved CAPT Labrecque and Blue crew on 23 March.

Following refit assist with the Gold crew to prepare the boat for Patrol #12, Blue crew enjoyed a well deserved leave period and returned to begin off-crew training on 27 April. Schools, lectures, and trainers once again became the norm interspersed with softball games and occasional picnics. The recreation committee sponsored softball team competed in various local tournaments and all hands enjoyed themselves at the Boat Picnic 6 June at Keyport.

Rested from a short leave period, the Blue crew dug in once again for refit relieving the Gold crew of FLORIDA on 30 June 1987. A scheduled drydocking availability, Refit #13, proved to be demanding, yet one that the crew tackled with dedication, hard work, and perseverance. All scheduled work and maintenance completed, many of the crew surprisingly found themselves eager to return to sea.

Underway on 22 July 1987, no time was wasted as preparations began for the upcoming Tactical Readiness Evaluation, MK-48 Torpedo Certification, and Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination. Each crewmember would be tested and from the start they found themselves driven like nails into soft pine, building a solid damage control organization. Repeated drills honed the casualty response of watchstanders and by late August the crew was ready for any catastrophe. Yet all the while, the ship's track progressed south to Hawaii, the location of the TRE and TCP. For many young crewmembers this would be a first visit and for older ones a welcome return.

FLORIDA moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor on 26 August 1987 to swap warshot torpedoes for exercise variants. Out to sea again in the morning of 29 August, the simulated "war" used for the TRE scenario began. Opposed by a formidable adversary, the USS LOS ANGELES (SSN 688), FLORIDA simulated execution of her strategic mission and subsequent ASW operations while simultaneously fighting simulated shipboard casualties and malfunctions. The crew's damage

control efforts showed throughout so brightly that during one drill an actual lube oil rupture occurred which the mechanics handled with such ease that the drill continued uninterrupted. A day later, when the battle was over, FLORIDA had earned herself a grade of Above Average overall from the COMSUBGRU 9 TRE team headed by CAPT Gerry Egan.

The next day, following a personnel transfer to embark COMSUBPAC, RADM Reynolds, the ship's fire control party demonstrated proficiency shooting nine exercise MK-48 torpedoes scoring five hits. Acoustic trials and performance tests of the high frequency sonar system followed, before return to Ford Island to reload MK-48 warshots.

After a berth shift to Naval Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, liberty went down for all hands not on duty, commencing 3 September 1987 and continuing through the Labor Day weekend. Sustained and refreshed, on the morning of 8 September 1987 FLORIDA once again got underway to assume her posture as a strategic deterrent.

For the last four weeks of patrol, training picked back up where it had left off as the ship headed north to pick up the CINCPACFLT Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board. Once onboard the ORSE team put the Engineering Department through its paces with the final result of another solid "Above Average".

Weary from a job well done, FLORIDA tied up at Delta South on 5 October 1987 welcomed by the warm embraces of loved ones. To complete the cycle, on 8 October 1987 CAPT Labrecque and the Blue Crew stood relieved by CAPT Galbraith and the Gold Crew.

Blue Crew again lent a hand in refit assist before beginning another off-crew training period. The ship's racquetball tournament produced MM2(SS) [REDACTED] as top player and the wardroom and crew combined to produce a basketball team. All hands enjoyed themselves in numbers at the recreation committee sponsored Christmas party on 5 December at Poulsbo's Eagles Lodge. And when the lectures, trainers and schools were complete, FLORIDA BLUE took advantage of December inport to take leave for the holidays. Scattering on 18 December to celebrate the holidays, they would return to a new year and Refit 15.

USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD) COMMAND HISTORY

Part 1.

COMMAND ORGANIZATION

1987

- Home Port: Bangor, Washington
- Operational Commander: Commander Submarine Squadron 17
Captain George P. Woodworth, Jr., USN
- Administrative Command: Commander Submarine Group 9
Rear Admiral Wayne E. Rickman, USN
- Commanding Officer: Captain Peter M. Galbraith, USN

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 for overhaul and Captain Galbraith assumed command of USS JOHN ADAMS (SSBN 620)(BLUE). He remained in command, 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.

1987

CHRONOLOGY:

- 23 March - Gold Crew relieved Blue Crew.
- 14 April - Departed for patrol twelve.
- 26 June - Returned from sea.
- 30 June - Blue Crew relieved Gold Crew.
- 8 October - Gold Crew relieved Blue Crew.
- 30 October - Departed for patrol fourteen.

Part 3.

1987

NARRATIVE:

The year began with the crew enjoying rest and relaxation following patrol ten. Off-crew training for patrol twelve began in mid-January and on 23 March 1987 the Gold crew relieved the Blue crew and began refit twelve.

FLORIDA departed for patrol twelve on 14 April 1987 and returned to port on 26 June 1987. Patrol included transit to and from Pearl Harbor, HI for the scheduled Tactical Readiness Examination and MK-48 Torpedo Certification Proficiency Firing. Both were completed with grades of above average and the crew enjoyed a five day port visit including Memorial Day weekend. Patrol ended with a very successful Defense Nuclear Surety Inspection, Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection and Supply Material Inspection conducted after return to Bangor, WA.

The Gold crew was relieved by the Blue crew and their new Commanding Officer, Captain R. J. Labrecque on 30 June 1987.

On 8 October 1987 the Gold crew relieved the Blue crew and began refit fourteen.

FLORIDA departed for patrol fourteen on 30 October 1987.

The crew celebrated their first Christmas at sea with religious services and Christmas carols in the Crew's Mess. The crew looked forward to New Year's Day and the conclusion of patrol fourteen with an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination.