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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)(BLUE)  
To: Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History and Narrative  
(2) Welcome Aboard pamphlet for USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(BLUE)  
(3) Welcome Aboard pamphlet for USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)(GOLD)

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded.

*J. A. Mackowski*  
J. A. MACKOWSKI  
By direction

1. Command Composition and Organization. The ship's mission is to remain submerged and undetected and serve as a strategic nuclear deterrent. The ship's parent command is Submarine Squadron 17 and the ship is homeported at Naval Submarine Base, Bangor, WA. Two crews, Blue and Gold, alternate manning of the ship on approximately 95 day cycles. When not manning the ship, the "off-crew" is under the administrative command of Submarine Group 9. The Blue Crew is commanded by CAPT Lyle D. Meier, and the Gold Crew by CAPT Kent V. L. MacNeill.

2. Chronology:

1 JAN FLORIDA is at sea and manned by the Gold Crew on Patrol 18.

22 JAN FLORIDA returns to Bangor, WA to facilitate repairs following a casualty on the Emergency Diesel.

8-9 FEB Conducted an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination which was awarded a grade of Average.

10 FEB Completed Patrol 18. Commenced Refit 19.

13 FEB Blue crew relieved the Gold crew.

07 MAR Underway for Patrol 19.

03 APR Arrived Pearl Harbor, HI to prepare for Torpedo Certification Proficiency.

04 APR Underway for a MK-48 Torpedo Certification Proficiency.

07 APR Arrived Pearl Harbor, HI. TCP delayed due to poor weather.

10 APR Underway for VIP Cruise with members of the Defense Science Board embarked.

11 APR Arrived Pearl Harbor. After a short stay, departed to conduct Torpedo Certification Proficiency.

13 APR Arrived Pearl Harbor.

14 APR Underway to resume Patrol 19.

01-04 MAY Conducted a Tactical Readiness Examination. Blue Crew evaluated as Excellent - highest grade in Submarine Group 9 in past three years.

08 MAY Commenced Underway Material Inspection (UMI) by the Washington DC Submarine Board of Inspection and Survey.

09 MAY FLORIDA arrives in Bangor, WA ending Patrol 19.

12 MAY UMI completed. Commenced Refit 20.

15-16 MAY Conducted a Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection. FLORIDA Blue achieved Outstanding in twelve of thirteen evaluated areas.

17 MAY Gold crew relieves Blue crew.

10 JUN FLORIDA underway for Patrol 20.

14 JUL FLORIDA arrives at Pearl Harbor, HI to prepare for Tactical Readiness Evaluation and Torpedo Certification Proficiency.

2. Chronology (cont):

16-17 JUL Conducted Tactical Readiness Evaluation and MK-48 Torpedo Certification Proficiency. Awarded a grade of Above Average.

19 JUL Returned to Pearl Harbor for port visit.

24 JUL Underway to complete Patrol 20.  
16 AUG Completed Patrol 20. Commenced Refit 21.

17-18 AUG Conducted Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection. No significant deficiencies noted.

21 AUG Blue crew relieves Gold crew.

12 SEP Underway for Patrol 21.

28 SEP Participated in PACEX 89, conducted a SSBN Continuity of Operations (SCOOP) exercise at Cold Bay, AK.

01 OCT FLORIDA awarded the Submarine Squadron Seventeen Battle Efficiency 'E' for Fiscal Year 1989. First TRIDENT to earn consecutive Battle "E's".  
  
FLORIDA (BLUE) awarded the Submarine Squadron Seventeen Anti-Submarine Warfare 'A' and Strategic Weapons System 'S' for Fiscal Year 1989.

24-26 NOV Conducted Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination. Awarded a grade of Average.

26 NOV Completed Patrol 21. Commenced Refit 22.

29 NOV Gold crew relieves Blue crew.

27 DEC Underway for Patrol 22.

### 3. Narrative:

The New Year arrived with the FLORIDA underway. A casualty to the ship's emergency diesel necessitated the return to Bangor on 22 JAN for repairs. FLORIDA returned to sea following repairs and completed Patrol 18. An Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE) was conducted and FLORIDA (GOLD) was awarded a grade of Average.

FLORIDA Blue crew relieved the Gold crew on 13 February. CAPT L. D. Meier assuming command of the FLORIDA for the first time. Departing Bangor for Patrol 19 following a Refit of 50,000 man-hours, FLORIDA proceeded to Hawaii for a Mk-48 Torpedo Proficiency Certification (TCP). Upon arrival in Hawaii, Mk-48 exercise torpedoes were loaded and preparations were completed for the TCP. The initial attempt at the exercise torpedo firings was cancelled due to inclement weather which precluded the torpedo recovery vessel from safely recovering the torpedoes. Returning to Hawaii, FLORIDA then prepared for a visit by members of the Defense Science Board. Underway with the Defense Science Board embarked, FLORIDA conducted a one day VIP cruise. FLORIDA was commended by the riders for the crew's enthusiasm and professionalism during the conduct of the cruise. After disembarking the VIP's, FLORIDA returned to the torpedo range to resume the TCP. The TCP was conducted with a record of five hits out of seven exercise torpedoes fired. Following the return to Hawaii to reload Mk-48 torpedoes, FLORIDA returned to Patrol 19, and preparations for the upcoming Tactical Readiness Examination (TRE).

Prior to returning to Bangor, and completing Patrol 19, FLORIDA (BLUE) conducted a TRE. The ship and crew conducted themselves with pride and professionalism. The teamwork and training conducted resulted with a highly successful evaluation and a grade of Excellent making FLORIDA BLUE the second TRIDENT crew to achieve this grade and the first in over three years. Following completion of the TRE, FLORIDA was host to a UMI. Conducted in two parts, an underway portion, and an in port portion, extensive testing, tear down, and inspection of the equipment and machinery of the ship was conducted.

On 15 May the Blue crew was relieved by the Gold crew. Refit 20 was in full swing with a typically arduous amount of work to be accomplished prior to setting sail for Patrol 20. All told, over 50,000 man-hours was expended by Trident Refit Facility on this refit.

Underway on 10 June for Patrol 20, FLORIDA was again headed for Hawaii and a TCP and a TRE. FLORIDA (GOLD) continued the superb record of the FLORIDA by being awarded a grade of Above Average. Following a port visit in Pearl Harbor, FLORIDA returned to sea and completed Patrol 20, but not before an end of patrol Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection. No significant deficiencies were noted by the inspection team.

The Blue crew then relieved the Gold crew on 21 August and proceeded through refit 21. This arduous refit consisted of 50,000 man-hours of TRF work, and an Ion Exchanger/Purification Media replacement. This was accomplished during the period of time that is allotted for a normal refit, and not with additional time as is common for this magnitude of work.

Underway on time for Patrol 21, FLORIDA was scheduled to play a part in PACEX 89 in September. With the USS MCKEE in Cold Bay, Alaska, FLORIDA

### 3. Narrative (cont):

was tasked to moor alongside and to take on stores in a proof of concept operation of the forward replenishment of Trident submarines. Though FLORIDA successfully completed the transit to the site, poor weather, and limited assistance from the available tug boats prevented FLORIDA from mooring alongside the MCKEE. The exercise is considered a success, however, as stores and personnel were able to be transferred between the MCKEE and FLORIDA using the tug boats as ferries.

On 1 October, FLORIDA was awarded the second consecutive Submarine Squadron Seventeen Battle Efficiency "E" for Fiscal Year 1989. This achievement is accentuated by the fact that both crews striving for excellence together succeeded in maintaining the record of FLORIDA as the finest boat in the squadron. This is the first time that a boat in Squadron Seventeen has repeated as the recipient of the Battle "E". FLORIDA (BLUE) was awarded the Strategic Weapon System 'S' and the Anti-Submarine Warfare 'A' for Submarine Squadron Seventeen for Fiscal Year 1989. Coming off of patrol, FLORIDA conducted a ORSE which resulted in a grade of average.

On 29 November the Gold crew relieved the Blue crew. Completing refit 22 with 50,000 man-hours of work, FLORIDA departed on Patrol 22 on 27 December 1989.