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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 1990

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History and Narrative

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded. Administrative oversight delayed this report.

H. Gonzales Jr.
H. GONZALES JR.
By direction

Copy to:
USS FLORIDA (GOLD)

1. Command Composition and Organization. FLORIDA's mission is to remain submerged undetected and to serve as a strategic nuclear deterrent. FLORIDA's ISIC is Submarine Squadron 17 and 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 G. E. Keefe, Jr.

2. Chronology:

1 Jan 90 FLORIDA is at sea and manned by the Gold Crew on Patrol 22.

24-26 Feb Conducted an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE) with an overall evaluation of Above Average. Conducted a Supply Management Inspection (SMI) with an overall evaluation of Satisfactory. Three areas were Outstanding with the balance Excellent.

26 Feb Completed Patrol 22. Moored at Explosives Handling Wharf, Bangor, WA.

28 Feb Commenced refit 23.

2 Mar Blue Crew relieved Gold Crew.

31 Apr Underway for Patrol 23.

26 Apr Capt George E. Keefe, Jr., relieved CAPT Kent V. L. MacNeill as Commanding Officer USS FLORIDA (SBN 728)(GOLD)

16 May FLORIDA returns to Bangor, WA for inport preparations for First Trident Mini-DASO (Demonstration and Shakedown Operations)

20 & 23 May Underway for Blue Crew Mini DASO.

31 May Returned to Bangor for crew swap of Weapons Department

1-5 Jun Underway for Gold Crew Mini DASO

14-17 Jun Conducted Commander Submarine Squadron 17 Tactical Readiness Evaluation with an overall evaluation of Above Average.

17 Jun Completed Patrol 23. Moved at EHW Bangor, WA. Commenced Refit 24.

18-19 Jun Conducted Naval Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI) with an overall evaluation of Satisfactory.

Encl (1)

2. Chronology: (Cont)

22 Jun Gold Crew relieves Blue Crew.

16 Jul Dependents Cruise conducted at DABOB Bay, WA.

17 Jul Underway for Patrol 24.

28-30 Sep Conducted unscheduled Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination with an overall evaluation of Excellent.

1-2 Oct Conduct Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI) with an overall evaluation of satisfactory, commenced refit 25.

5 Oct Blue Crew relieved Gold Crew.

27 Oct Underway for Patrol 25.

30 Oct Completed Patrol 24. Moored at EHW Bangor, WA. Commenced refit 25.

3. Narrative:

The New Year of 1990 again found FLORIDA underway on Patrol 22 with Gold Crew at the helm. A successful patrol ended with an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE) conducted on 24 - 26 February during which the Gold Crew was evaluated as Above Average when compared to all submarines in the Pacific Fleet. Commander Submarine Squadron 17 conducted a Supply Management Inspection (SMI). Three of seven areas were evaluated as Outstanding. The remaining four areas were considered Excellent.

FLORIDA Blue crew relieved the Gold crew on 2 March. Refit 23 at Trident Refit Facility, Bangor WA included inspection of the primary and secondary sides of the starboard steam generator. The ship sailed on time on 31 March for Patrol 23.

On 26 April Capt George E. Keefe, Jr. relieved Capt Kent V. L. McNeil in a change of command ceremony conducted at the ceremonial area of the off-crew Administrative Building NSB Bangor, WA.

FLORIDA returned to Bangor, WA on 16 May to prepare for the first Trident Mini Demonstration and Shakedown Operation (DASO). The Mini DASO is an at sea exercise conducted by personnel from Strategic Systems Project Office, Washington, DC. The Mini DASO allowed Weapons Department personnel of both crews to conduct hands on Missile Casualty training with on board hardware.

Before returning to Bangor, and completing Patrol 23, FLORIDA (BLUE) conducted a Tactical Readiness Evaluation (TRE). Conducted by Commander Submarine Squadron 17, the TRE was a three day inspection exercising the ship

3. Narrative: (Cont)

in, strategic and tactical missions. FLORIDA was evaluated as Above Average when compared to other TRIDENT Submarines and one of two submarines in the Pacific Fleet to receive an Above Average in the recent quarter 1990. Upon return to Bangor a Naval Technical Proficiency (NTPI) was conducted on board FLORIDA. The ship was evaluated as satisfactory in Nuclear Weapons Administration and Operation with 10 of 12 specific areas evaluated as OUTSTANDING and the balance evaluated as EXCELLENT.

On 22 June Gold Crew relieved Blue Crew to conduct refit 24. Refit 24 was a typically arduous refit with Gold Crew personnel and TRIDENT Refit Facility (TRF) personnel working hand in hand to complete the refit on time. Completing the refit with time to spare allowed the ship to conduct its first Dependents Cruise in many years. On 16 July 200 dependents had an opportunity to see first hand the excellent and hard work of their loved ones on Dabob Bay. The ship departed for Patrol 24 on July 17.

Patrol 24 proceeded smoothly with the only change of schedule occurring when the Gold Crew was given 3 days notices to prepare for an unscheduled Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE). Quickly shifting gear from TRE preparation, the Gold Crew demonstrated its total ship training concept by achieving the rare evaluation of EXCELLENT on a surprise inspection. The exam was conducted on 28-30 September with FLORIDA returning to port on 30 September. A Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI) completed the Gold Crew's period onboard on 1-2 of October with an overall grade of Satisfactory. Specific areas evaluated include 10 Outstandings and 2 Excellents.

The Blue Crew relieved the Gold Crew on 5 October. The refit included a VIP visit by VADM Bull, prospective Deputy CINCPACFLT as well as many other visits by group sponsored by Commander Submarine Group 9.

The ship got underway on 27 October as scheduled for Patrol 25 for the remainder of 1990.