



Rec'd 3/24/92

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

5750
Ser X13.056/
11 Mar 92

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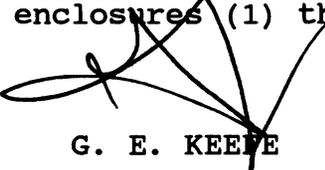
From: Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (GOLD)
To: Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1991

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History and Narrative
(2) USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (BLUE) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(3) USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (GOLD) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(4) USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (BLUE) Sailing List
(5) USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (GOLD) Sailing List

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are forwarded.


G. E. KEEFFE

b. Chronology:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
3-5 January	FLORIDA Blue conducted an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination.
5 January	FLORIDA moored at Bangor, WA, completing Patrol 25.
8 January	Gold Crew relieves Blue Crew; commenced Refit 26.
30 January	FLORIDA underway for Patrol 26.
31 January- 7 February	Conducted technical evaluation of the Propulsion System Test Device with support of the David Taylor Research Center.
21 February	Captain Paul F. Sullivan relieved Captain Lyle D. Meier as Commanding Officer USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (BLUE) at Naval Submarine Base, Bangor Washington.
8 March	FLORIDA moored at Bangor, WA, for weapon system conversion supporting a Follow-on Commander-in-Chief Evaluation Test (FCET).
12 March	FLORIDA underway for FCET. Completed FCET with Satisfactory results.
20-21 March	Conducted Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations with Battle Group Foxtrot.
21 March	Conducted Search and Rescue Operations for survivors of two P-3Cs involved in a mid-air collision.
29 March	FLORIDA moored at Bangor, WA for Post FCET conversion.
4 April	FLORIDA underway for the remainder of Patrol 26.
20-23 April	FLORIDA Gold conducted a Tactical Readiness Evaluation.
23 April	FLORIDA moored at Bangor, WA, completing Patrol 26.
26 April	Blue Crew relieves Gold Crew; commenced Refit 27.

Enclosure (1)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
24 May	FLORIDA underway for Patrol 26.
17 June	Conducted VIP cruise for COMSUBGRU Five in Southern California (SOCAL) OPAREAS.
18-21 June	Conducted Second Class Midshipmen operations (CORTRAMID) in SOCAL OPAREAS.
22-25 June	Port Visit, San Diego, CA.
26-27 June	Conducted MK48 Torpedo Certification Proficiency (TCP) firings.
28-30 June	Port Visit, San Diego, CA.
1-4 July	Conducted Second Class Midshipmen operations (CORTRAMID) in SOCAL OPAREAS.
29-31 July	FLORIDA Blue conducted a Tactical Readiness Evaluation.
01 August	FLORIDA moored at Bangor, WA, completing Patrol 27.
02-03 August	FLORIDA Blue conducted a Nuclear Technical Proficiency Inspection.
06 August	Gold Crew relieves Blue Crew; commenced Refit 28.
26 August	Conducted VIP cruise for Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Douglas and guests at Dabob Bay, WA.
28 August	FLORIDA underway for Patrol 28.
1 October	FLORIDA selected as the Commander, Submarine Squadron 17 Battle Efficiency "E" award recipient for fiscal year 1991.
4 October	Conducted VIP cruise for COMSUBPAC and guests in local Hawaiian OPAREAS.
4-9 October	Port visit, Pearl Harbor, HI.
9-10 October	Conducted MK48 Torpedo Certification Proficiency (TCP) firings.
11 October	Conducted VIP tour for ADM Okabe, Chief of staff, Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF), Japan and staff.

9-11 November FLORIDA Gold conducted an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination and Supply Management Inspection.

11 November FLORIDA moored at Bangor, WA, completing Patrol 28.

12-13 November FLORIDA Gold conducted a Nuclear Technical Proficiency Inspection.

16 November Blue Crew relieves Gold Crew; commenced Refit 29.

8 December FLORIDA underway for Patrol 29.

15 December FLORIDA selected as the Marjorie E. Sterrett Battleship Fund Award recipient for 1991.

c. Narrative.

1991 was a highly successful year for the FLORIDA. Two prominent awards recognizing the exceptional tactical readiness of both crews were presented. For the third time in the last four years, the FLORIDA was selected as the Commander, Submarine Squadron 17 Battle Efficiency "E" award recipient. The Marjorie E. Sterrett Battleship Fund Award recognized the FLORIDA as the top combatant in the Pacific Fleet.

In October 1990, the FLORIDA (GOLD) started fiscal year 1991 accomplishing a TRIDENT first by achieving an EXCELLENT grade during an unannounced Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE). During the first week of January 1991, the BLUE crew kept the standards high receiving another EXCELLENT on their scheduled ORSE. Following an arduous refit, the GOLD crew set sail for Patrol 26 in late January. At the time of underway, FLORIDA was assigned a routine 84 day patrol ending with a Tactical Readiness Evaluation (TRE). However, after the first month at sea, the ship was selected to conduct a special CNO project.

In late February, the FLORIDA was selected to conduct a Follow-on Commander in Chief Evaluation Test (FCET) of the strategic Weapons System. Following the conversion of selected missiles at Bangor, the ship successfully accomplished all tasking elements of this complex operational test. The ship chopped to Submarine Group Five for a series of Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercises in Southern California (SOCAL) OPAREAS. During the latter part of March, the FLORIDA provided services as an ORANGE force submarine during several intensive tactical exercises. BLUE force units included a full Battle Group with air assets, P-3C aircraft, and another submarine. Unfortunately, two P-3Cs collided during one of the exercises with no survivors. FLORIDA was tasked to assist in Search and Rescue efforts and was the first unit to locate debris at the crash site. Given the high operational tempo in March, FLORIDA GOLD excelled during the TRE at the end of patrol earning an ABOVE AVERAGE grade.

Both crews conducted Torpedo Certification Proficiency (TCP) firings on the next two patrols with OUTSTANDING results. The BLUE crew operated out of San Diego. In addition, they conducted several highly successful Midshipmen Operations in SOCAL. FLORIDA was specifically cited for developing one of the most effective Midshipmen Training Programs. FLORIDA GOLD conducted their TCP in Hawaiian OPAREAS with a 100% (six for six) record.

In addition to superior results on all examinations, the FLORIDA was selected to host several high visibility VIP tours and cruises. Two notable guests included Mr. Kirk Douglas underway during Dabob Bay Trials and ADM Okabe, Chief of Staff, Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) Japan during a tour of Pearl Harbor.