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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)  
To: Director, Naval Historical Center (N09BH), Washington Navy  
Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: 1995 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

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

1. Enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded as required by  
reference (a).

2. Point of contact is LT [REDACTED] DSN [REDACTED] or commercial  
(360) [REDACTED]

R. G. SPEER

Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT PAO  
COMSUBPAC PAO

## USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) 1995 Command History

### 1. Command Composition and Organization

a. Pre-Overhaul. The ship's mission is to remain submerged and undetected and serve as a strategic deterrent. The ship's parent command is Commander, Submarine Squadron 17 and the ship is homeported at Naval Submarine Base, Bangor, Washington. Two crews alternate manning on approximately 105 day cycles. When not manning the ship, the "off-crew" is under the administrative command of Commander, Submarine Group NINE.

b. Crew Combination/Overhaul. The ship's mission is to prepare for, conduct, and complete an Engineered Overhaul. The ship's parent command is Commander, Submarine Squadron 17 and the ship is homeported at Naval Submarine Base, Bangor, Washington. A single, "combined" crew mans the ship.

### 2. Chronology

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1 January	FLORIDA moored at NSB Bangor under the command of CAPT T.W. Mader, USN, following completion of Patrol 39.
2 January	GOLD Crew, under command of CAPT R.G. Speer, USN, relieved BLUE Crew. Commenced Refit 40.
30 January	FLORIDA departed NSB Bangor for post-refit sea trials.
31 January	FLORIDA moored at NSB Bangor.
4 February	FLORIDA departed NSB Bangor for transit and Special Operations.
24 February	FLORIDA moored NSB Kings Bay, Georgia.
3 March	FLORIDA underway for Follow-on CINC Evaluation Test.
7 March	FLORIDA moored NSB Kings Bay, Georgia.
11 March	FLORIDA underway for Follow-on CINC Evaluation Test.
15 March	FLORIDA moored East Basin, Port Canaveral, Florida.
18 March	FLORIDA underway for Follow-on CINC Evaluation Test.
19 March	FLORIDA moored Port Everglades, Florida to conduct namesake port visit.

USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) 1995 Command History (continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
22 March	FLORIDA underway for transit and Special Operations.
10-12 April	FLORIDA conducted an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE) and Logistics Readiness Evaluation (LRE).
14 April	FLORIDA moored NSB Bangor.
17 April	BLUE Crew relieved GOLD Crew. Commended Refit 41.
18 May	FLORIDA underway for Patrol 41.
20 May	FLORIDA moored NSB Bangor for evaluation and repair of material problem. Patrol 41 aborted.
5 July	CAPT R.G. Speer, Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (GOLD) relieved CAPT T.W. Mader as Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (BLUE). FLORIDA now operating as a single "combined" crew.
12 August	FLORIDA underway for sea trials and VIP cruise.
14 August	FLORIDA moored NSB Bangor.
24 August	FLORIDA underway for acoustic trials.
6 September	FLORIDA moored NSB Bangor following completion of acoustic trials.
8 September	FLORIDA conducted VIP cruise.
12 September	FLORIDA conducted VIP cruise.
13 September	FLORIDA conducted VIP cruise.
14 September	FLORIDA conducted VIP cruise.
15 September	FLORIDA underway for pre-overhaul testing and "Tiger" cruise for crewmember's families.
18 September	FLORIDA moored NSB Bangor.
1 October	FLORIDA commenced Engineered Overhaul.
31 December	Engineered Overhaul continued.

USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) 1995 Command History (continued)

3. Narrative

a. 1995 was an unusual year for FLORIDA. In March, the GOLD Crew conducted a Follow-on CINC Evaluation Test out of Kings Bay, Georgia. The test was highly successful and FLORIDA completed the first six-missile Trident I test ever. The ship took advantage of the time on the east coast to visit its namesake state and there she was welcomed by throngs of well-wishers. Extremely popular public tours were arranged.

b. Upon completion of the Follow-on CINC Evaluation Test, the GOLD Crew took part in an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination and Logistics Readiness Evaluation. FLORIDA then returned to Bangor where the BLUE Crew took command and conducted the most difficult extended refit in Submarine Base Bangor history. After completing a highly complex depot level reactor plant modification, the ship got underway on time for Patrol 41. Unfortunately, an unrelated material problem was discovered which necessitated FLORIDA's return to Bangor. The ship remained at Bangor for analysis and repair of the problem until August.

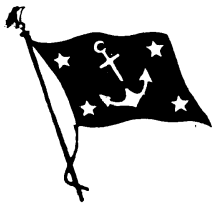
c. Meanwhile, in July, CAPT Mader was relieved as BLUE Crew Commanding Officer by GOLD Crew Commanding Officer, CAPT Speer, thus forming a single crew in preparation for Engineered Overhaul.

d. In August, FLORIDA headed to Alaska to conduct pre-overhaul acoustic trials and participated in a full set of sound trials, including the first-ever submerged mooring of a TRIDENT-class submarine. Upon return to Bangor, FLORIDA took advantage of the time before overhaul to conduct numerous VIP cruises. The ship succeeded in impressing a great number of visitors with its capabilities and highly professional crew.

e. On 1 October, FLORIDA began Engineered Overhaul at Submarine Base Bangor. The overhaul is scheduled to continue until July 1996.

f. FLORIDA's commitment to crew morale and command retention were recognized by the receipt of the following awards:

- (1) 1995 CINCPACFLT Silver Anchor Award
- (2) 1995 Fleet Recreation Awards Program  
Winner for underway program (GOLD Crew)  
Honorable mention for in-port program (BLUE and GOLD Crews)



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in commending

USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious service during assigned missions from 1 April 1993 to 31 March 1995. The personnel of USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) executed their strategic deterrent mission flawlessly, culminating in the successful launch of six TRIDENT C-4 missiles as part of Follow-on Commander in Chief Evaluation Test-46, the most successful test of its kind in the history of the Sea-Launched Ballistic Missile Program. Simultaneously, the ship stood out as a Submarine Force leader in tactical innovation and resourcefulness, highlighted by the development and at-sea testing leading to the scheduled fleet-wide implementation of the Transient Self-Monitoring System. The ship's sustained superior record of accomplishment in the areas of maintenance, reactor safety, tactical readiness, navigation, and supply management, consistently distinguished the FLORIDA as a Submarine Force performance leader. Concurrently, the ship stood out as an outstanding Naval ambassador, both in the Pacific Northwest and in her namesake State of Florida, where the ship's first port visit in over a decade reflected most favorably upon the ship, the Submarine Force, and the United States Navy. By their truly distinctive achievements, unparalleled enthusiasm, and unfailing devotion to duty, the officers and enlisted personnel of the USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) reflected credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

*John H. Dalton*  
Secretary of the Navy