



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (BLUE)  
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Subj: 1996 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  
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M. J. ALFONSO

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## USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) 1996 Command History

### 1. Command Composition and Organization.

a. Overhaul/Crew Certification. The ship's mission is to prepare for, conduct, and complete an Engineered Overhaul (EOH) including recertification of the crew for Tactical, Engineering and Strategic Systems. 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.

b. Post Crew Split. The ship's mission is to regain certification in sonar and torpedo employment and begin post-EOH Nuclear Weapons and Engineering recertification requirements. These include a Demonstration and Shakedown Operation, Fleet Training Assist Visit, and Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination. The ship's parent command is Commander, Submarine Squadron 17, and the ship is homeported at Naval Submarine Base, Bangor, Washington. When not manning the ship, the "off-crew" is under the administrative command of Commander, Submarine Group NINE.

### 2. Chronology

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1 JAN 96	Continue Engineered Overhaul
2-4 APR 96	Post Overhaul Reactor Safeguards Examination
14-15 JUN 96	Conducted Phase II Crew Certification
26 JUN - 2 JUL 96	Sea Trials including Shallow and Deep Dives
3 JUL 96	VIP Cruise
4-9 JUL 96	Moored Bangor, WA
5 JUL 96	EOH Complete, Commander M.E. Neller relieved Captain R.G. Speer as Commanding Officer of USS FLORIDA (GOLD). BLUE crew retained the boat.
10-15 JUL	Independent Steaming Exercises
16-21 JUL 96	Moored EHW Bangor, WA
22-25 JUL	Underway Material Inspection
26 JUL - 4 AUG 96	Acoustic Trials, S.E. Alaska Facility (SEAFAC)
5-12 AUG 96	Moored Bangor, WA for DASO On-Load
6 AUG 96	BLUE Crew relieved by GOLD Crew
6-11 AUG 96	Moored Bangor, WA
12 AUG 96	Critical Fast Cruise

13-16 AUG 96	Independent Steaming Exercises/Transit to San Diego, CA
17-22 AUG 96	Underway for Phase III Sonar Certification
23-25 AUG 96	Moored San Diego, CA
26 AUG 96	Underway for Port Canaveral, FL
26 AUG - 9 SEP 96	Transit to Port Canaveral through Panama Canal
11-20 OCT 96	Moored Port Canaveral, FL
21 SEP 96	Critical Fast Cruise
22 SEP 96	DASO At Sea Testing and Evaluation (ASTE)
23 SEP 96	Moored Port Canaveral, FL CDR M.J. Alfonso relieved CAPT R.G. Speer as Commanding Officer USS FLORIDA (BLUE) in Bangor, WA
24-25 SEP 96	DASO At Sea Testing and Evaluation (ASTE)
26 SEP 96	Moored Port Canaveral, FL
24-28 SEP 96	DASO At Sea Testing and Evaluation (ASTE)
29 SEP 96	Moored Port Canaveral, FL
30 SEP 96	DASO At Sea Testing and Evaluation (ASTE)
1 OCT 96	Moored Port Canaveral, FL
2 OCT 96	DASO At Sea Testing and Evaluation (ASTE)
3-9 OCT 96	Moored Port Canaveral, FL
10-13 OCT 96	Underway for Torpedo Proficiency Certification
14-15 OCT 96	Moored Port Canaveral, FL
15 OCT 96	BLUE Crew relieves GOLD Crew in Port Canaveral, FL
16 OCT 96	Critical Fast Cruise
17-20 OCT 96	Independent Steaming Exercises/REFTRA
21-28 OCT 96	Moored Port Canaveral, FL
29 OCT 96	Critical Fast Cruise
30 OCT 96	DASO At Sea Testing and Evaluation (ASTE)
31 OCT 96	Moored Port Canaveral, FL
1-5 NOV 96	DASO At Sea Testing and Evaluation (ASTE)/ Independent Steaming Exercises

6-10 NOV 96	Moored Port Canaveral FL (NWA Tech Assist)
11-27 NOV 96	Underway for San Diego
16 NOV 96	Transit Panama Canal
27 NOV-1 DEC 96	Moored San Diego
2-5 DEC 96	Underway for Phase III Sonar Certification
6-8 DEC 96	Moored San Diego
9-10 DEC 96	Underway for Torpedo Proficiency Certification
11-18 DEC 96	Independent Steaming Exercises
19-21 DEC 96	Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination
23 DEC 96	Moored Bangor, WA

3. Narrative.

a. 1996 was an exciting year for the FLORIDA. She spent the first part of the year completing the Engineered Overhaul. This included a hectic couple of months of Phase II Crew Certification and Sea Trials in the Puget Sound local area.

b. Having successfully passed the rigors of Sea Trials, the crew split on July 5 when Commander Mike Neller relieved Captain Robert Speer as Commanding Officer of the GOLD Crew. Shortly thereafter, the BLUE Crew took the boat up to SEAFAC for Post-EOH Acoustic Trials. The FLORIDA was found to be the "quietest TRIDENT on the West Coast".

c. The BLUE Crew returned from Alaska and loaded 2 DASO launch candidates and 4 Active Inert Missiles (AIMs). The GOLD Crew then relieved the BLUE Crew and headed to San Diego for Phase III Sonar Certification. From there she proceeded to Florida via the Panama Canal. Once she arrived in Port Canaveral, she spent October in the frenzied pace of a firing DASO. Once again, the FLORIDA proved herself capable of achieving an actual missile launch. After the firing DASO, the GOLD Crew easily completed Torpedo Proficiency Certification.

d. While the GOLD Crew was having fun in the sun, CDR M.J. Alfonso relieved CAPT R.G. Speer as Commanding Officer of the USS FLORIDA (BLUE). The BLUE crew then borrowed some friendly Air Force transportation and flew to Florida to relieve the GOLD Crew on October 15. After a quick Fast Cruise and REFTRA period, the BLUE crew then began the non-firing half of the DASO. The BLUE Crew smoothly completed the DASO, followed quickly by a Fleet Technical Assist Visit which was expertly executed.

e. The ship departed her namesake state (after conducting numerous good-will tours) and headed back to the West Coast. The BLUE Crew followed the path of the Spanish Main before heading through the Panama Canal and briefly south for a trip across the Equator. Then it was up to San Diego where the ship completed both Phase III Sonar Certification and Tactical Weapons Certification.

f. Departing San Diego the ship headed back to local Puget Sound areas, where she smartly executed an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination before returning to her home port of Bangor, WA.