



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

Subj: 1998 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History and Narrative
(2) USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) Welcome Aboard Packet
(3) Biography and Photograph of Commanding Officer,
USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (BLUE)
(4) Biography and Photograph of Commanding Officer, USS
FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (GOLD)

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].


G. M. BILLY

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1. Command Composition and Organization. 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 administrative command of Commander, Submarine Group NINE.

2. Chronology

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
01 - 07 Jan 98	Moored Bangor, WA. Upkeep period.
08 Jan 98	Exchange of Command. Blue Crew relieved by Gold Crew.
09 Jan - 02 Feb 98	Refit 50 and upkeep period.
03 Feb 98	Sea trials at Dabob Bay, WA.
05 - 09 Feb 98	VIP Cruise Dabob Bay, WA. Refresher training in local operating areas.
09 Feb 98	Moored Bangor, WA for emergent repairs of ship's systems.
11 Feb 98	Underway for Patrol 46.
17 Feb 98	Conducted humanitarian evacuation at Sequim Bay, WA.
18 Feb - 01 Mar 98	Independent operations.
21 Mar 98	Conducted humanitarian evacuation at Sequim Bay, WA.
21 - 23 Apr 98	Conducted Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination.
23 Apr 98	Moored Bangor, WA. to commence Refit 51.
27 Apr 98	Exchange of Command. Gold Crew relieved by Blue Crew.

28 Apr - 20 May 98 Refit 51 and upkeep period.

21 May 98 Sea trials at Dabob Bay, WA.

22 - 25 May 98 Upkeep period.

26 - 30 May 98 VIP Cruise Dabob Bay, WA. Refresher training in local operating areas.

30 May 98 Underway for Patrol 47.

01 - 02 Jul 98 Participated in exercise with USS PASADENA (SSN 752).

06 Jul 98 Moored Naval Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, HI for torpedo offload and onload.

07 - 10 Jul 98 Conducted Tactical Weapons Proficiency Certification and Tactical Readiness Evaluation.

11 - 15 Jul 98 Port visit Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, HI.

15 Jul 98 Commander, Submarine Force, Pacific Distinguished Visitor's Cruise.

10 - 13 Aug 98 TIGER Cruise.

13 Aug 98 Dependent's cruise at Dabob Bay, WA. Moored Bangor, WA to commence Refit 52.

14 - 15 Aug 98 Short notice Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection.

16 Aug 98 Exchange of Command. Blue Crew relieved by Gold Crew.

17 Aug - 14 Sep 98 Refit 52 and upkeep period.

15 - 16 Sep 98 Sea trials at Dabob Bay, WA.

17 - 21 Sep 98 VIP Cruise at Dabob Bay, WA. Refresher training in local operating areas.

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21 Sep 98 Underway for Patrol 48.

03 Oct 98 Conducted humanitarian evacuation helicopter transfer at Kodiak, AK.

26 Oct 98 Moored Naval Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, HI. For torpedo offload and onload.

27 - 29 Oct 98 Conducted Tactical Weapons Proficiency Certification and Tactical Readiness Evaluation.

30 Oct - 02 Nov 98 Port visit Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, HI.

02 - 03 Dec 98 Conducted Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection.

03 Dec 98 Moored Bangor, WA to commence Refit 53.

04 - 05 Dec 98 Upkeep period.

06 Dec 98 Exchange of Command. Gold Crew relieved by Blue Crew.

07 - 31 Dec 98 Refit 53 and upkeep period.

3. Narrative

a. 1998 was a typical TRIDENT year for the FLORIDA. The ship began the year with the normal refit and upkeep period. Several auxiliary equipment systems required repair work prior to the start of Patrol 46. While on strategic deterrent patrol, several humanitarian evacuations were executed. Patrol 46 ended with an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination.

b. Patrol 47 included a unique opportunity to conduct anti-submarine warfare exercises with a fast attack submarine. Valuable acoustic data was gathered for analysis and interpretation. The Blue Crew then conducted its annual Tactical Weapons Proficiency Certification and Tactical Readiness Evaluation in the vicinity of Pearl Harbor, HI. A port visit at Naval Station Pearl Harbor followed by a special

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Commander, U. S. Submarine Force, Pacific VIP cruise ended a successful inspection. The patrol also included a TIGER cruise and dependent's cruise for family members and friends. At the end of patrol, the Blue Crew received a short notice Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection, one of the best ever seen by an inspection team.

c. During the Gold Crew off-crew administration period, CDR Michael E. Neller was relieved by CDR Barry L. Bruner as Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (GOLD). The Blue Crew Food Service Division received the Commander, Submarine Squadron 17 Edward F. Ney Memorial Award nomination.

d. Patrol 48 was similar in nature to Patrol 47. The Gold Crew conducted its Tactical Weapons Proficiency Certification and Tactical Readiness Evaluation in the vicinity of Pearl Harbor, HI. At the end of their patrol, the Gold Crew conducted a Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection. The FLORIDA ended 1998 much as it began with a refit and upkeep period.

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