



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)
FLEET POST OFFICE
AP 96698-2099

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

Subj: 1999 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

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].


B. L. BRUNER

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT PAO
COMSUBPAC PAO

1. Command Composition and Organization. USS FLORIDA (UIC: 35958) 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 - 16 Jan 99	Moored Bangor, WA. Refit 53 and upkeep period.
16 Jan 99	Underway for Patrol 49.
04 - 06 Mar 99	Conducted Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination.
11 Mar 99	Moored Bangor, WA.
15 - 19 Mar 99	Conducted Mini-DASO exercise.
20 Mar 99	Exchange of Command. BLUE Crew relieved by GOLD Crew.
22 Mar 99	Conducted Mini-DASO In-Port Training Exercise.
23 - 26 Mar 99	Conducted Mini-DASO At-Sea Training Exercise
26 Mar 99	Moored Bangor, WA to commence Refit 54.
27 - 28 Mar 99	Completed Year 2000 (Y2K) Verification Testing.
29 Apr 99	Conducted Sea Trials at Dabob Bay, WA.
30 Apr 99	Conducted Dependents cruise at Dabob Bay, WA. Underway for patrol.
25 May 99	Conducted BSP IVO Sequim Bay, WA to embark PACSODASOEX Team.

Enclosure (1)

26 May 99 Participated in POLOHAT/STRATEGIC 99-1.

27 May - 01 Jun 99 Conducted PACSODASOEX.

01 Jun 99 Conducted BSP IVO Sequim Bay, WA to disembark PACSODASOEX Team and embark Engineering Assist Team.

01 - 04 Jun 99 Conducted Engineering Assist Operation.

05 Jun 99 Conducted BSP IVO Sequim Bay, WA to disembark Engineering Assist Team. Returned to patrol operations.

12 Jul 99 Conducted BSP IVO Sequim Bay, WA to embark Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam (ORSE) Team.

12 - 14 Jul 99 Conducted ORSE.

14 Jul 99 Conducted BSP IVO Sequim Bay, WA to disembark ORSE Team.

15 Jul 99 Conducted VIP Cruise to Dabob Bay, WA. Moored Bangor, WA to commence Refit 55.

17 Jul 99 Exchange of Command. GOLD Crew relieved by BLUE Crew.

19 Jul 99 Commence Refit 55.

19 Aug 99 Underway Patrol 51.

19 - 26 Aug 99 VIP Cruise Dabob Bay, WA. Refresher training in local operating areas.

13 - 17 Oct 99 Port visit Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, HI.

30 - 31 Oct 99 Conducted Naval Technical Proficiency Inspection.

31 Oct 99 Moored Bangor, WA.

01 - 02 Nov 99 TIGER Cruise.

02 Nov 99 VIP cruise at Dabob Bay, WA. Moored Bangor, WA to commence Refit 56.

04 Nov 99 Exchange of Command. BLUE Crew relieved by GOLD Crew. Commenced Refit 56.

06 Dec 99 Conducted Sea Trials at Dabob Bay, WA.

08 Dec 99 Conducted Dependents cruise at Dabob Bay, WA. Underway for CO's Discretionary Time (CODT) and Refresher Training (REFTRA).

11 Dec 99 Conducted BSP IVO Sequim Bay, WA to disembark COMSUBGRU 9 and embark REFTRA Team.

11 - 15 Dec 99 Conducted REFTRA.

15 Dec 99 Moored Bangor, WA for port visit.

20 Dec 99 Underway for Patrol 52.

20 - 31 Dec 99 Patrol 52 operations.

2. Narrative

a. 1999 started out as a typical TRIDENT year for the FLORIDA. The ship began the year with the normal refit and upkeep period. Patrol 49 ended with an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination for the Blue Crew, and Mini-DASO exercises for both crews.

b. Refit 54 and Patrol 50 included unique opportunities during both events. As well as being an extensive drydock refit, Refit 54 also included the satisfactory completion of Year 2000 (Y2K) testing. For Patrol 50, the Gold Crew was afforded the chance to conduct a PACSODASOEX with another TRIDENT submarine. Patrol 50 ended with an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination for the Gold Crew.

c. Patrol 51 began as a normal TRIDENT patrol for the Blue Crew, however, due to world circumstances, the Blue Crew's Tactical Weapons Proficiency and Tactical Readiness Evaluation were cancelled. The Blue Crew made a port call to Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, HI. Before returning to Bangor to

commence Refit 56, the Blue Crew also conducted a Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection, a TIGER cruise for the crew's family and friends, and finally, a VIP cruise at Dabob Bay, WA.

d. Patrol 52 began with a Dependent's cruise to Dabob Bay, WA, Commanding Officer's Discretionary Time (CODT) with COMSUBGRU 9 embarked, and a Refresher Training period. The Gold Crew returned to Bangor for a five day port visit prior to getting underway for the remainder of 1999.

COMMANDING OFFICERS



BLUE CREW

CAPTAIN W. L. POWELL, USN
June 1983 – August 1984

CAPTAIN D. M. LACHATA, USN
August 1984 – September 1986

CAPTAIN R. J. LABRECQUE, USN
September 1986 – December 1988

CAPTAIN L. D. MEIER, USN
December 1988 – February 1991

CAPTAIN P. F. SULLIVAN, USN
February 1991 – May 1993

CAPTAIN T. W. MADER, USN
May 1993 – July 1995

GOLD CREW

CAPTAIN G. R. STERNER, USN
June 1983 – May 1984

CAPTAIN R. W. BOYCE, USN
May 1984 – June 1986

CAPTAIN R. M. GALBRAITH USN
June 1986 – September 1988

CAPTAIN K. V. L. MACNEILL, USN
September 1988 – April 1990

CAPTAIN G. E. KEEFE, USN
April 1990 – July 1992

CAPTAIN K. M. TRAUTMAN, USN
July 1992 – November 1994

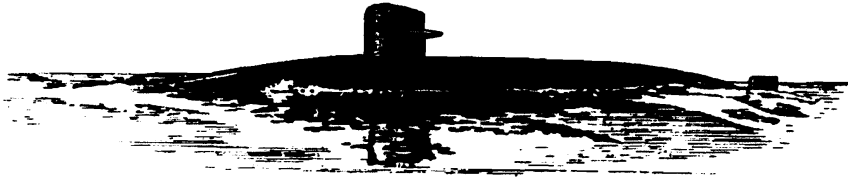
CAPTAIN R. G. SPEER, USN
November 1994 – September 1996

COMMANDER M. J. ALFONSO, USN
September 1996 – August 1997

COMMANDER M. E. NELLER, USN
July 1996 – July 1998

COMMANDER G. M. BILLY
August 1997 –

COMMANDER B. L. BRUNER, USN
July 1998 –





THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in commending

USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (BLUE)

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious service during naval operations in the Northern Pacific from 1 August 1997 to 31 December 1999. The unsurpassed professionalism and dedication of the officers and crew of USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (BLUE) enabled national authorities to confidently rely on the strategic deterrence inherent in their undetected operations. FLORIDA (BLUE) consistently demonstrated unparalleled resourcefulness and dedication through four strategic deterrent patrols while responding to the dynamic operational tasking of United States Commander in Chief Strategic Command and CTF 134. Participation in the testing and evaluation of vital tactical systems contributed significantly to the understanding of TRIDENT vulnerabilities in real-world situations. Through an aggressive training program, the ship consistently received the highest scores on tactical, engineering, and logistics inspections, setting a higher standard for future operations. The superior performance of the crew during numerous media events resulted in exceptionally positive national news coverage for the Navy. By their truly distinctive achievements, superior performance, and unfailing devotion to duty, the officers and enlisted personnel of USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (BLUE) reflected credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Richard Danzig
Secretary of the Navy