



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FLORIDA (SSGN 728)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS FLORIDA (SSGN 728)

To: Director, Naval Historical Center (N09BH)

Subj: 2003 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

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

1. Enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded as required by
reference (a).

2. Point of contact is LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Commercial (757)
[REDACTED]

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DMJ", is written above the printed name "D. M. DURYEA".

D. M. DURYEA

Copy to:
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COMSUBLANT PAO

USS FLORIDA (SSGN 728)
COMMAND HISTORY

1. Command Composition and Organization USS FLORIDA (UIC: 35957). The ship's mission at the beginning of 2003 was to remain submerged and undetected and serve as a warship in the United States Navy. Midyear, the ship's primary mission changed to supporting Engineering Refueling Overhaul (ERO) and SSGN Conversion. The ship's parent command was Commander, Submarine Squadron SIX, and the ship was home ported at Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, Virginia. At present, the parent command is Commander, Submarine Group TWO, and the ship is currently in Drydock 4 at Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY), Portsmouth, Virginia.

2. 2003 Chronology

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
01 - 04 Jan	Inport Norfolk, VA.
04 Jan	Embarked the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM) DEMONSTRATION VALIDATION (DEMVAL) team. Underway to Kings Bay, GA.
07 - 08 Jan	Inport Kings Bay, GA for load of DEMVAL missiles and equipment.
09 Jan	Underway to Gulf of Mexico.
13 - 16 Jan	Launched Exercise TLAM in support of DEMVAL in Gulf of Mexico.
14 Jan	First successful launch of a Tomahawk Missile from an SSGN Ohio Class submarine.
16 Jan	Second successful launch of a Tomahawk Missile from an SSGN Ohio Class submarine.
18 Jan	Inport Port Canaveral, FL for port visit.
20 Jan	Embarked Special Operations Forces (SOF) team. Underway to Caribbean for CNO Limited Objective Experiment GIANT SHADOW.
20 - 28 Jan	Performed GIANT SHADOW experiment including SOF and Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) demonstration in the Caribbean.

29 Jan Inport Kings Bay, GA for offload of some DEMVAL hardware. Disembarked SOF and DEMVAL teams.

29 Jan - Offload remaining DEMVAL items.
04 Feb

04 Feb Underway to Norfolk, VA.

06 Feb Inport Norfolk, VA for upkeep period.

06 - 18 Feb Upkeep in Norfolk, VA.

10 Feb VADM. Konetzni awards dolphins to MM2 Steven P. Mitchell onboard FLORIDA. Commodore Klein of Submarine Squadron SIX awarded FLORIDA the Commander Submarine Squadron SEVENTEEN awards for the 2002 Battle "E", Navigation Red and Green "N" and the Supply Blue "E".

18 Feb Underway for Distinguished Visitors (DV) Cruise to Kings Bay, GA.

20 Feb Inport Kings Bay, GA and disembarked Distinguished Visitors.

20 Feb - Commenced Refit 66 in Kings Bay, GA.
24 Mar

24 Mar Completed Refit 66 and embarked VIPs and Midshipmen. Underway to Norfolk, VA.

26 Mar Inport Norfolk, VA for upkeep. Disembarked VIPs and Midshipmen.

26 Mar - Performed "Z" availability in Norfolk, VA.
23 Apr

23 Apr Underway for SSGN operations and to Port Canaveral, FL for VIP and TIGER Cruise.

30 Apr Inport Port Canaveral, FL.

01 May Underway for first VIP Cruise and then inport Port Canaveral, FL.

02 May Underway for second VIP Cruise and then inport Port Canaveral, FL.

02 - 06 May Inport Port Canaveral, FL for port visit.

06 May Embark TIGERS for TIGER cruise and underway to Norfolk, VA.

08 May Inport Norfolk, VA for upkeep. Disembarked TIGERS.

08 - 18 May Upkeep availability in Norfolk, VA.

19 - 27 May Shipyard training and offload of required items prior to berth shift.

27 May Berth shift to Berth 42/43, NNSY, Portsmouth, VA. Awaiting start of ERO and Conversion to SSGN.

02 Jun Commenced availability at NNSY.

06 Jun Commenced standing watch and living aboard the barge, YRBM 28.

16 Jun Secured galley operations and commenced MWR sandwich mess.

23 Jun - Offload of all repair parts to Integrated
2 Jul Logistics Overhaul (ILO), Portsmouth, VA.

08 Jul Berth shift to Drydock 4, NNSY (ship and living barge).

14 Jul Commenced ILO at St. Juliens Creek, Portsmouth, VA.

01 Aug Start of ERO and SSGN Conversion.

17 - 19 Sep Hurricane Isabel preparations and stationed partial crew onboard to weather storm.

30 Sep All system turnovers complete.

27 Nov Celebrated Thanksgiving in NNSY, Portsmouth, VA.

19 Dec - Christmas Standdown in NNSY, Portsmouth, VA.
05 Jan

3. Narrative

a. The start of 2003 found USS FLORIDA enjoying the holiday season in Norfolk, VA. The ship was underway on 04 January for Kings Bay, GA with the DEMVAL Team for the first ever TLAM launch from an SSGN Ohio Class Submarine. While in Kings Bay, GA all associated equipment was loaded for the launch and then underway for the Gulf of Mexico. Between 13 and 16 January, USS FLORIDA successfully launched the first and second exercise TLAMs. On 18 January 2004 FLORIDA was underway to Port Canaveral for a port visit until 20 January.

b. On 20 January the SOF team embarked and FLORIDA was underway to the Caribbean. Between 20 and 28 January FLORIDA performed the GIANT SHADOW experiment including SOF and UUV demonstration. FLORIDA returned to Kings Bay, GA on 29 January for the offload of DEMVAL hardware and disembarked all SOF and DEMVAL team members.

c. The FLORIDA was underway on 04 February and inport on 06 February for an upkeep period in Norfolk, VA until 18 February. This inport period was highlighted by the awarding of MM2 Steven P. Mitchell's dolphins by VADM. Konetzni onboard FLORIDA. Additionally, Commodore Klein of Submarine Squadron SIX awarded FLORIDA with the Commander Submarine Squadron SEVENTEEN awards for the 2002 Battle "E", Navigation Red and Green "N" and the Supply Blue "E".

d. Florida embarked Distinguished Visitors and got underway for Kings Bay, GA on 18 February. On 20 February FLORIDA commenced Refit 66 in Kings Bay, GA after disembarking Distinguished Visitors. Refit 66 was completed on 24 March and FLORIDA embarked VIPs and Midshipmen for an underway to Norfolk, VA. Arrived Norfolk, VA on 26 March and commenced "Z" availability after disembarking all guests. FLORIDA was home and the crew was able to spend needed time with their families.

e. On 23 April FLORIDA got underway for SSGN operations. FLORIDA arrived in Port Canaveral, FL on 30 April and on 01 May was underway for the first of two VIP cruises. On 02 May the second VIP cruise was completed and the crew spent four days of liberty in sunny Florida. On 06 May FLORIDA conducted a Tiger Cruise to Norfolk, VA. Crewmembers were able to bring on male guests and each group of "Tigers" was able to see the ship dive and surface while also seeing the day-to-day lives of their family member. On 08 May, the ship arrived back home in Norfolk, VA and disembarked "Tigers" and performed an upkeep availability until 18 May.

f. The FLORIDA was now in port awaiting the start of the ERO and SSGN conversion. 19-27 May was packed with required shipyard training and the offload of items prior to the berth shift to NNSY. The berth shift occurred on 27 May to Berth 42/43, NNSY, Portsmouth, VA.

g. On 02 June NNSY commenced the availability and FLORIDA commenced standing watch and living aboard the Barge, YRBM 28. 16 June ended galley operations onboard the FLORIDA and commenced MWR sandwich operations on the barge. The month of June was also packed with the ILO offload of all repair parts to St. Juliens Creek, Portsmouth, VA.

h. On 08 July FLORIDA and the barge performed a berth shift to Drydock 4, NNSY. The start of ERO and SSGN conversion commenced on 01 August, but was soon disrupted by Hurricane Isabel on 17-19 September. One duty section stayed onboard FLORIDA while another duty section stayed in NNSY barracks for support if needed. There were delays due to the storm, but all system turnovers were completed on 30 September.

i. The holiday season soon arrived and FLORIDA celebrated Thanksgiving with their families and with a feast for the duty section in NNSY. The ship closed out 2003 in NNSY, Portsmouth, VA with Christmas standdown commencing on 19 December and the year ending with ERO in full swing and Conversion about to start.