



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730)
FLEET POST OFFICE
AP 96698-2106

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From: Commanding Officer, USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730)(BLUE)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical Center, Washington Naval Yard,
901 M Street SE, Bldg 57, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730) (BLUE)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.


D. D. MERICLE

USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730 BLUE)

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION: To conduct submerged undetected patrols, maintaining the ship in the highest state of readiness in order to launch strategic missiles for the purpose of deterrence or attainment of national military objectives.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Commanding Officer

Executive Officer

Executive Dept	Nav/Ops Dept	Weapons Dept	Engineering Dept	Supply Dept
Chief of the Boat	Strategic Navigation	Strategic Weapons	Machinery	Stores
Yeoman	Navigation	Deck	Electrical	Food Services
Medical	Radio	Fire Control	Reactor Controls	
	Interior Communications	Torpedo	Chemistry and Radiological Controls	
	Sonar	Data Systems	Auxiliary	

IMMEDIATE SUPERIOR IN COMMAND: COMSUBRON 17

COMMANDING OFFICER: D. D. MERICLE, CAPT, USN

HOMEPORT: Bangor, Washington

**USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730) (BLUE)
CHRONOLOGY (1996)**

01 JAN - 26 FEB	Offcrew Training Period 39
25 FEB	Exchange of Command, Blue Crew relieves Gold Crew
26 FEB	Commenced Refit 39
27 MAR	Ship departed on Patrol 39
29 APR	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
08 - 10 MAY	Tactical Readiness Evaluation (TRE)
10 - 14 MAY	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
30 MAY	End of Patrol 39
31 MAY	Defense Nuclear Surety Inspection (DNSI)
02 JUN	Exchange of Command, Gold Crew relieved Blue Crew
06 JUN - 21 JUL	Refit Assist/Standown Period
22 JUL	Offcrew Training Period 41
08 SEP	Exchange of Command, Blue Crew relieved Gold Crew
09 SEP	Commenced Refit 41
11 OCT	Ship departed on Patrol 41
17 OCT	Underway cruise for media representatives
24 - 26 NOV	Logistics Readiness Evaluation (LRE)
04 - 09 DEC	Mini - Demonstration and Shakedown Operation (DASO)
09 - 10 DEC	Tiger Cruise
22 DEC	Exchange of Command, Gold Crew relieved Blue Crew
24 DEC	Commenced Refit Assist Period

USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730 BLUE)
NARRATIVE (1996)

- * In March 1996, the Blue crew conducted a refit including 30,000 man-hours of Trident Refit Facility (TRF), Bangor maintenance. The ship responded to a short-notice berth shift for a Recovery Vehicle On-Site Inspection. Seawater maintenance was completed in less than 24 hours to meet this operational commitment.
- * During Patrol 39, the ship responded successfully and without errors to two Weapons Systems Readiness Tests, two Retargeting exercises, and one Command and Control exercise. Also, the ship participated in Polo Hat and Global Guardian exercises, and conducted a Kilo-ex with an attack submarine.
- * The Blue crew completed a successful TRE in May 1996, highlighted by an ABOVE AVERAGE grade and designation as a "TRE Top Performer" for 1996.
- * At the end of Patrol 39 the Blue crew conducted a successful Defense Nuclear Surety Inspection. The command received excellent grades in 6 of 7 areas.
- * The Blue crew completed Patrol 39 with 100 percent Navigation Subsystem and Strategic Weapons readiness.
- * The Blue Crew commenced a complex drydocking period during September 1996 by completing an efficient docking and tank entry evolution. Over 100,000 man-hours of Trident Refit Facility and Puget Sound Naval Shipyard work was completed.
- * In October 1996, reporters and photographers from the Bremerton Sun Newspaper and KIRO News station were onboard to gather data for stories on Trident submarines. Both groups generated informative coverage of life at sea on a Ballistic Missile Submarine.
- * During Patrol 41, the ship responded successfully and without errors to two Weapons Systems Readiness Tests, two Retargeting exercises, and one Command and Control exercise. Also, the ship participated in Polo Hat 96-3 and Global Guardian exercises.
- * In November 1996, the Supply Department completed a very successful Logistical Readiness Exam (LRE), scoring an overall grade of EXCELLENT. The Food Service Division was specifically mentioned by the inspectors as the best food service operation in Submarine Pacific Fleet. The Squadron Commander sent the Commanding Officer a message congratulating the department on its performance and designated the ship as the LRE top Squadron performer for 1996.

Encl (3)

- * In December the ship conducted a very succesful Mini-Demonstration and Shake Down Operation, which provided outstanding training for the ship's strategic weapons, navigation, and ship-control personnel.
- * A Tiger Cruise for 35 male family members of the crew was conducted in December. A late lunch was ready for the Tigers upon their arrival. Each Tiger was given a a simplified qualification card to assist him in acquiring submarine knowledge. Each Tiger was allowed to go on the bridge, look out the periscope and operate the helm and fairwater planes. In addition, each observed fire drills and simulated torpedo and missile launches. In the evening and well into the early morning hours, the Tigers watched movies and ate Scoop's famous pizzas. In total, the family members spent approximately 18 hours on board.
- * The Blue crew completed Patrol 41 in December 1996 with 100 percent Navigation Subsystem and Strategic Weapons readiness.
- The command received the following awards for 1996 from COMSUBRON 17:
 1. Battle Efficiency "E"
 2. Supply Blue "E"
 3. Strategic Operations White "S"
 4. Navigation Red and Green "N"
 5. Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund Award
 6. Bremerton Navy League Olympic Trophy for best Pacific Trident SSBN crew.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730) (GOLD)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
901 M Street SE, Bldg 57, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: 1996 COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS HENRY M. JACKSON
(SSBN 730) (GOLD)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology and Narrative
(3) Ship's Photo
(4) Commanding Officer's Biography and Photo
(5) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(6) Article from The Sun, 14 Jan 97 Edition
(7) Diskettes (6), containing enclosures (1), (2) and (5)

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted.


F. W. STEWART

USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730)(GOLD)

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

Length Overall: 560 ft
Maximum Beam: 42 ft
Navigational Draft: 36 ft
Speed: >25 knots
Keel laid: 19 JAN 1981
Commissioned: 6 OCT 1984

Submerged Displacement: 18,700 tons
Missile Tubes: 24
Torpedo Tubes: 4
Complement: 146 Enlisted, 16 Officers
Homeport: Bangor, WA

The USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730) is the fifth powerful OHIO class TRIDENT submarine of the class. The ship is named after the late Henry M. Jackson, a proponent of the TRIDENT submarine program. The HENRY M. JACKSON was built at General Dynamics, Electric Boat Division in Groton, CT. Following new construction, the ship successfully completed sea trials and Demonstration / Shakedown Operations (DASO) in Florida. The ship transited through the Panama Canal to it's current homeport of Bangor, WA arriving in June 1985.

TRIDENT submarines are undersea intercontinental ballistic missile launching platforms whose primary mission is strategic nuclear deterrence. The submarine is under the operational control of Commander Submarine Group Nine while inport and under the operational control of Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet and the United States Strategic Command while deployed at sea.

The ship has completed 42 strategic deterrent patrols to date and has participated in successful Operational Tests of the Trident I missile system.

CHRONOLOGY AND NARRATIVE

25 FEB 96	Exchange of Command, Gold Crew relieved by Blue Crew
1 MAR 96	Gold Crew commenced refit assist
8 APR 96	Off-crew training period for Patrol 40
24 MAY 96	Completion of training period
31 MAY 96	Exchange of Command, Blue Crew relieved by Gold Crew
3 JUN 96	Gold Crew commenced refit period
5 JUL 96	Underway, commence Patrol 40
2 SEP 96	Operations in the Puget Sound Operating Areas which included: Operational Reactors Safeguard Examination (ORSE)
4 SEP 96	Operations in the Puget Sound Operating Areas which included: A Naval Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI)
6 SEP 96	Inport SUBASE Bangor, WA, Patrol 40 complete
8 SEP 96	Exchange of command, Gold Crew relieved by Blue Crew
12 SEP 96	Gold Crew commenced refit assist
21 OCT 96	Off-Crew training period for Patrol 42
13 DEC 96	Completion of training period
15 DEC 96	Exchange of command, Blue Crew relieved by Gold Crew
18 DEC 96	Gold Crew commenced refit period
23 JAN 97	Underway, commence Patrol 42

Awarded the Battle Efficiency "E" as the outstanding submarine in Squadron 17.
Awarded the Strategic "S" for superior performance of strategic mission, the Supply "E" for outstanding supply operations, Navigation "N" for superior performance of navigation, and Medical "M" for superior performance medicine on board.

USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730)(GOLD)

And it won several departmental awards, including the Strategic "S" (for superior performance of its strategic mission), the Supply "E" (for efficient stewardship of taxpayers' dollars), the Navigation "N" and the Medical "M".

To be eligible to win the Battle "E", a submarine must have sustained superior day-to-day performance, pass all inspections with flying colors and demonstrate overall readiness to carry out its assigned wartime tasks, according to official Navy instructions.

In addition, the ship must maintain high morale and retention of sailors in the Navy.

But what it really boils down to is the crews' resourcefulness and self-reliance while operating alone out there 100 fathoms under the sea, said Stewart and Donahue.

"We didn't have any way to influence this other than through good performance," said Stewart.

The following article by Lloyd Pritchett appeared in the January 14, 1997 edition of *The Sun*:

"E award doesn't stand for easy"

About 400 feet below the surface of the North Pacific, a fierce but silent competition is taking place that few people know about.

As the Navy's eight Bangor-based Trident missile submarines carry out their stealthy undersea mission, their crews try each year to out-perform, out-navigate, out-prepare and generally out-do each other to earn the coveted Battle "E" - for efficiency.

The winner for 1996: USS HENRY M. JACKSON, namesake of the late U.S. senator from Washington state.

The winning submarine is considered the best in the Bangor squadron, known as Submarine Squadron 17. And the two alternating Blue and Gold crews that man the ship get bragging rights for a year, a ribbon to pin on their chests and an entry in their service records. Plus they have to try and keep an edge so they can keep the title a second year - while all seven of the other subs' crews are gunning for them.

"It's like winning the Super Bowl two years in a row," says Capt. Frank Stewart, commanding officer of HENRY M. JACKSON's Gold crew.

"There's a responsibility that comes with this award, to do better in the coming year, to try and repeat... You're the standard, and in order to be competitive you have to lift your standards even higher."

All squadrons in the Navy have a Battle "E" competition, including surface ships, but few are as keen as the one among Bangor-based subs, says Capt. Conrad J. Donahue, commanding officer of the HENRY M. JACKSON's Blue Crew.

"This squadron here in Bangor is one of the most competitive in the Navy, and all of these ships are in top readiness," said Donahue.

As a result, the winning margin is usually "razor-thin," says Stewart. "We're dealing in margins here, and it's due to the efforts of the entire crew... You set yourself apart."

Capt. Stewart said he was at home on New Year's Day when he got a call from the squadron duty officer informing him that his sub got the "E."

His first phone call afterward was to Capt. Donahue.

The award was a fitting climax to Donahue's tour as commanding officer, which ended a week after the sub won the award. He now will report to a new job at the Pentagon, working for the chief of naval operations.

Relieving Donahue was Capt. Dave Mericle, who must now try to keep up the sub's winning performance in 1997.

It's the HENRY M. JACKSON's first Battle "E" in 12 years of commissioned service.

During 1996, the 18,700-ton HENRY M. JACKSON made four patrols in the Pacific, with its 24 nuclear-tipped missiles at the ready to deter an attack against the United States. The sub also underwent four maintenance periods at Bangor.