



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS HONOLULU (SSN-718)
FPO AP 96667-2398

*Rec'd 4/17/01
w/o disk*
5750
Ser 107/068
5 Apr 01

From: Commanding Officer, USS HONOLULU (SSN 718)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
901 M Street SE,, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: SUBMISSION OF BASIC HISTORICAL NARRATIVE FOR CALENDAR
YEAR 2000

Ref: OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command and Composition
(2) Chronological Order of Events
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents
(5) 3.5" Disk in MSWord 97 Format

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted
for inclusion in the historical package of USS HONOLULU
(SSN 718).


J. M. RICHARDSON

Copy to:
COMSUBRON THREE

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS HONOLULU (SSN 718) is the 31st of the LOS ANGELES CLASS SSNs and the 97th FAST ATTACK nuclear submarine to be commissioned. FAST ATTACK submarines are deployed throughout the world performing various missions including intelligence gathering, anti-submarine warfare, over-the-horizon targeting and battle group operations. Commanded by Commander John M. Richardson, United States Navy, of Petersburg, VA. USS HONOLULU is attached to Submarine Squadron THREE homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The Commander of Submarine Squadron THREE is Commodore David H. Thieman, United States Navy.

CHRONOLOGY

Jan 01 - Jan 10	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
Jan 10 - Jan 14	Underway Pearl Harbor, HI (MRCI and TORPEX)
Jan 14 - Jan 27	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
Jan 18 - Jan 26	Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR)
Jan 27 - Feb 11	Underway Pearl Harbor, HI (PCO Operations 00-1)
Feb 11 - Feb 15	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
Feb 15 - Feb 16	Underway Pearl Harbor, HI (INSURV Inspection)
Feb 16 - Feb 28	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
Feb 28	Underway Pearl Harbor, HI (Dependents Cruise)
Feb 28 - Mar 16	Underway Pearl Harbor, HI (Operational Reactors Safeguard Examination (ORSE))
Mar 16 - Apr 25	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI (Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) Upkeep-1)
Apr 25 - May 05	Underway Pearl Harbor, HI (Noise Evaluation)
May 05 - Jun 05	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI (Ship's Force Upkeep and Basic POM Attack Centers)
Jun 05 - Jun 16	Underway Pearl Harbor, HI (Noise Evaluation)
Jun 16 - Jul 24	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI (POM Upkeep-2)
Jul 24 - Jul 28	Underway Pearl Harbor, HI (Sea Trials)
Jul 28 - Aug 11	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI (Advanced POM Attack Centers)
Aug 08	Hosted Submarine Squadron Three Change of Command
Aug 11 - Aug 23	Underway Pearl Harbor, HI (POM and VLFA Certification)
Aug 23 - Sep 07	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI (Deployment Load-out)
Sep 07	Beginning of Westpac Deployment 2000 - 2001
Sep 07 - Sep 18	Underway (Transit to Yokosuka, Japan)
Sep 18 - Sep 22	Inport Yokosuka, Japan
Sep 22 - Oct 20	Underway (Special Operations)
Oct 20 - Oct 22	Inport Chinhae, Korea
Oct 22	VIP tour for ROKN VADM SONG KEUN HO
Oct 22 - Nov 02	Underway (Exercise Foal Eagle)
Nov 02 - Nov 08	Inport Sasebo, Japan
Nov 06	VIP tour for 21 members of the Japanese Press
Nov 08 - Nov 18	Underway (Exercise Annualex)
Nov 18 - Nov 21	Inport Yokosuka, Japan
Nov 21 - Dec 24	Underway (Special Operations)
Dec 24 - Dec 31	Inport Yokosuka, Japan

NARRATIVE

On the heels of what was unanimously considered the 'Best Holiday Stand-down' period in memory, USS HONOLULU celebrated the new millennium with yet another opportunity to display her diverse war-fighting capabilities. From 10 to 14 January, during a Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI) and Torpedo Exercise, the ship successfully transited a 'hostile' training minefield off the coast of Kauai, HI, then planned and executed mine laying operations in these same waters. The busy five-day underway also consisted of shooting two exercise torpedoes during a simulated confrontation with an enemy surface combatant. This event culminated an incredible three month stretch during which the USS HONOLULU shot every weapon (Tomahawk Missile, MK-67 Mine (simulated) and MK-48 ADCAP Torpedo) in the U.S. Navy submarine arsenal.

Following this challenging five days at sea, a two-week administrative inspection of the Weapons Department during the Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR) followed. The ship passed with flying colors, and as the inspection team crossed the brow for the last time, the officers and crew shifted focus back to operational commitments- Prospective Commanding Officers (PCO) Operations.

Selection for participation in PCO operations affords the ship the opportunity to conduct nearly every operation tasked to U.S. Submarines-- mine, strike, and undersea and special warfare, in addition to intelligence gathering. From 27 January to 11 February, the ship shot twenty MK-48 ADCAP torpedoes, simulated a Tomahawk launch, conducted mine laying operations and a photo reconnaissance mission-- an incredible opportunity for an operational submarine. The Officers and Crew of the Honolulu helped train the next group of Commanding Officers entering the submarine force.

From 13 February to 16 February, the ship successfully completed a rigorous inspection of submarine systems and capabilities not included during a multitude of yearly submarine inspections. At the conclusion of this four day period (two days inport, two underway), the ship continued her in-port preparations for the yearly Operational Reactor Safeguard Examination (ORSE).

On 28 February, the Officer's and Crew of the HONOLULU invited their loved ones to participate in a one-day Dependents' Cruise. This short underway gave family and friends a first hand account of the complex operations of a U.S. nuclear fast attack submarine. That same day, USS HONOLULU disembarked her loved ones and continued back out to sea to begin a challenging two week period of engineering drills in preparation for the upcoming ORSE. Honolulu returned home on 16 March earning an Average grade on the examination.

Six months shy of yet another Western Pacific Deployment (WESTPAC), USS HONOLULU began the cycle of preparing for her seventh overseas deployment. Month-long Pre-overseas Movement (POM) upkeep periods in April and July installed numerous Sonar, Fire Control and Communications equipment upgrades. In-port training consisted of Basic and Advanced POM attack trainers bringing together the watch teams during simulated deployment conditions.

From 05 to 16 June, USS HONOLULU embarked the Director of the Advanced Physics Laboratory at John's Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. His assistance proved vital to the ship's ability to demonstrate proficiency in operating a newly installed Sonar system upgrade. Underway again from 24 to 28 July, USS HONOLULU further tested her equipment during sea trials.

On 8 August, the ship proudly hosted the change of command for the Commodore of Submarine Squadron Three, Captain Jeffrey Fowler, bidding farewell to the Commodore the ship had hailed the previous year. The ceremony hailed the coming of the new Commodore, Captain David H. Thieman.

The hard work in the Attack Trainers during April and July prepared the ship well for the culmination of the POM period— a two week underway in late-August to certify the ship for deployed operation, as well as Very Low Frequency Acoustic (VLF(A)) submarine tracking. The ship was deemed ready to operate in the shallow water, high contact density environments of the Western Pacific, earning an Above Average grade in tactical readiness.

The ship returned home in late August to make final preparations for an arduous six months away from home. On 7 September, the ship departed to the good-byes of family and friends left waiting on the pier. The first stop on this long journey brought USS HONOLULU and her crew to Yokosuka, Japan. On arrival, the scheduled inport was quickly shortened as tasking vital to national security called Honolulu back out to sea. What followed this 22 September underway was a rapid succession of tasking that lasted until 24 December when USS HONOLULU returned to Yokosuka having spent only fifteen inport days in over three months.

October consisted of special operations and a short inport period in Chinhae, South Korea. On 22 October, USS HONOLULU had the pleasure of hosting VADM Song Keun Ho, Commander in Chief, Republic of Korea Fleet (CINCROKFLT). VADM Song was accompanied by RADM An Pyong Koo, Commander, Submarine Flotilla Nine, Captain Kim, Commander, Submarine Squadron 91, and Captain Kim, Commanding Officer, ROKS Park Wi. The group was toured topside, then through the control room, sonar, crew's mess, the torpedo room, and ended in the wardroom for an exchange of gifts.

Honolulu was underway again, as a participant in Exercise Foal Eagle 2000. This two-week, U.S.- Korean naval exercise consisted of numerous interactions with the Kitty Hawk Battlegroup and South Korean Naval forces, including submarines.

Honolulu participated as both friend and foe during the events and successfully tracked the Korean submarines throughout the exercises.

Returning to port on 2 November in Sasebo, Japan, USS Honolulu spent five challenging days correcting material deficiencies common to all operational submarines after months at sea. Despite arduous repairs, eighteen USS HONOLULU Sailors found time to visit the Hakujuso Nursing Home in Sasebo to spread the spirit of aloha. This was the first time in eight years that the U.S. Navy has sent representatives to the home to perform community service. The experience was a much-needed change of pace for all sailors involved. The Sasebo inport period also included the hosting of twenty-one members of the Japanese Press (7 Print and 13 Broadcast) on board Honolulu. The exchange was extremely positive and marked the first-ever Japanese press tour of a U.S. Submarine.

Honolulu set sail again on 8 November as a participant in the U.S.-Japanese Exercise Annualex. Again participating with the Kitty Hawk Battlegroup, Honolulu made advanced arrangements and cross-decked seven Honolulu sailors to the Kitty Hawk. These sailors experienced first hand what life was like for the submarine 'target'. The exercise involved air and sea forces, and furthered USS HONOLULU's reputation throughout the Pacific Arena.

On 18 November, Honolulu returned to Yokosuka, Japan for a brief stop prior her departure on 21 November for her second special operation. During this operation, Honolulu received word from home that the great efforts of the previous twelve months would not come without reward. USS HONOLULU was awarded the Submarine Squadron Three Battle Efficiency 'E' for the year 2000. The previous twelve months saw Honolulu participate in all aspects of submarine warfare. Her performance during two special operations vital to national security and two multi-national exercises expanded her reputation both at home and abroad.

USS HONOLULU returned to port Yokosuka, Japan on Christmas Eve, 2000 and spent the holidays in Japan awaiting further tasking. The year 2000 was monumental for USS HONOLULU as she found her home as the Best Submarine in the Pacific Fleet.