



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)  
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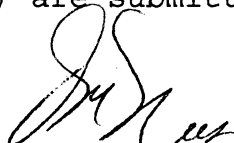
From: Commanding Officer, USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval  
Historical Center, Washington, D.C. 20374-5060

Subj: 1996 ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

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

1. Enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted in accordance with reference (a).

  
D. M. NEES

## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. **USS HOUSTON'S MISSION:** USS HOUSTON (SSN 713) is a Los Angeles Class nuclear powered fast attack submarine that was designed primarily as a high speed escort for carrier task forces. She supports national military objectives with the ability to carry the fight to the enemy at sea or on land with torpedoes and cruise missiles. Because of her stealth, HOUSTON is the ideal platform for missions such as Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare, Strike Warfare, Mine Warfare, Special Forces Operations, Intelligence Gathering and Search and Rescue.
2. **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:** USS HOUSTON is one of eight Los Angeles class nuclear-powered submarines attached to Squadron Eleven, homeported in San Diego, California. USS HOUSTON's Immediate Senior in Command (ISIC) is Commander, Submarine Squadron Eleven, Captain JOHN W. GREENERT.
3. **COMMANDING OFFICER PROFILE:** USS HOUSTON is commanded by DALE M. NEES, Commander, USN. Commander NEES, a native of [REDACTED], graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1979. He relieved as the Commanding Officer of USS HOUSTON on 5 May 1995.

USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1996

01 JAN - 28 JAN	INPORT SAN DIEGO
29 JAN - 14 FEB	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
14 FEB - 15 FEB	OPERATIONAL REACTOR SAFEGUARDS EXAMINATION
20 FEB - 28 FEB	TACTICAL WARFARE TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION/TACTICAL READINESS EVALUATION
29 FEB - 17 MAR	INPORT SAN DIEGO
18 MAR - 23 MAR	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
24 MAR - 30 MAR	TRANSIT TO SEAFAC, ALASKA
31 MAR - 03 APR	SOUND TRIALS AT SEAFAC
12 APR - 14 APR	TRANSIT TO SAN DIEGO
15 APR - 28 APR	INPORT SAN DIEGO
29 APR - 05 MAY	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
04 MAY - 05 MAY	TRANSIT TO SAN FRANCISCO
06 MAY - 08 MAY	INPORT SAN FRANCISCO
09 MAY - 10 MAY	TRANSIT TO SAN DIEGO
11 MAY - 12 JUN	INPORT SAN DIEGO; UPKEEP PERIOD
13 JUN - 14 JUN	SEA TRAILS
15 JUN - 16 JUN	INPORT SAN DIEGO
17 JUN - 26 JUN	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
27 JUN - 01 JUL	OPERATIONAL READINESS EVALUATION
02 JUL - 07 JUL	INPORT SAN DIEGO
08 JUL - 11 JUL	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
12 JUL - 14 JUL	TACTICAL READINESS EVALUATION/PRE-OVERSEAS MOVEMENT CERTIFICATION

USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1996

15 JUL - 04 AUG	DEPLOYMENT LOADOUT
05 AUG - 02 OCT	WESTPAC OPERATIONS
03 OCT - 13 OCT	INPORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
14 OCT - 03 NOV	WESTPAC OPERATIONS
04 NOV - 10 NOV	INPORT OKINAWA, JAPAN
11 NOV - 15 NOV	TRANSIT TO GUAM
16 NOV - 29 NOV	INPORT GUAM
30 NOV - 03 DEC	TRANSIT TO HONG KONG
04 DEC - 09 DEC	INPORT HONG KONG
10 DEC - 12 DEC	TRANSIT TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
13 DEC - 14 DEC	INPORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
14 DEC - 17 DEC	UNDERWAY FOR SHIN KAME 97-1, JOINT OPERATIONS WITH JMSDF
18 DEC - 19 DEC	INPORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
19 DEC - 23 DEC	TRANSIT TO GUAM
23 DEC - 31 DEC	INPORT GUAM; UPKEEP PERIOD

USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)

COMMAND NARRATIVE

1996

29 JAN - 14 FEB. UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS - Provided ASW services while emphasizing qualifications and crew training.

14 FEB - 15 FEB. OPERATIONAL REACTOR SAFEGUARDS EXAMINATION - The ship successfully completed this comprehensive examination of the ship's ability to operate the propulsion plant.

20 FEB - 28 FEB. TACTICAL WARFARE TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION/TACTICAL READINESS EVALUATION - The ship demonstrated the ability to conduct multiple tasks in a simulated hostile environment including the successful employment of eight exercise torpedoes and the simulated launch of numerous Tomahawk and Harpoon missiles. At the conclusion of this examination, HOUSTON was fully re-certified to employ all tactical weapons.

18 MAR - 23 MAR. UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS - Conducted pre-deployment training.

31 MAR - 03 APR. SOUND TRIALS AT SEAFAC - Completed sound monitoring evolutions. All testing was completed as scheduled.

29 APR - 05 MAY. UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS - Conducted pre-deployment training.

17 JUN - 26 JUN. UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS - Provided ASW services while emphasizing qualifications and crew training.

27 JUN - 01 JUL. OPERATIONAL READINESS EVALUATION - Completed pre-deployment training and an Operational Readiness Evaluation in support of final certification for the upcoming deployment.

08 JUL - 11 JUL. UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS - Conducted ASW exercises while emphasizing qualifications and crew training tailored for the deployment. Consisted of multi-tasking on short notice covering virtually every aspect of the submarine mission.

USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)

COMMAND NARRATIVE

1996

12 JUL - 14 JUL. TACTICAL READINESS EVALUATION/PRE-OVERSEAS MOVEMENT CERTIFICATION - An extensive three day examination in a simulated hostile environment. Demonstrated the ability to perform all assigned missions. Fully certified to deploy to the Western Pacific.

14 DEC - 17 DEC. UNDERWAY FOR SHIN KAME 97-1, JOINT OPERATIONS WITH JMSDF - The only US submarine to participate in SHIN KAME 97-1. This exercise emphasized Anti-Diesel Submarine doctrine employment in a real world scenario against a modern Japanese submarine in an adverse and dynamic environment. A post exercise conference was held with all participants to review lessons learned. This was an excellent opportunity to train crews and exchange tactics at the wardroom level. This exercise greatly benefited joint cooperation between the two submarine forces.