



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: 1998 ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Command Chronology
(3) Command Narrative and Commanding Officer's Biography
(4) Supporting Documents

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

M. A. Zieser
M. A. ZIESER

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 such missions 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 five nuclear powered submarines attached to Submarine Squadron Eleven, homeported in San Diego, California. USS HOUSTON's Immediate Senior in Command (ISIC) is Commander, Submarine Squadron Eleven.
3. **COMMANDING OFFICER PROFILE:** USS HOUSTON is commanded by MICHAEL A. ZIESER, Commander, USN. Commander ZIESER, a native of [REDACTED], graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1980. He relieved as the Commanding Officer of USS HOUSTON on 30 January 1998.

USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1998

01 JAN - 05 JAN INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA; HOLIDAY STAND-DOWN

05 JAN - 11 JAN TRANSIT TO SEAFAC, AK

11 JAN - 13 JAN ACOUSTIC TRAILS, SEAFAC, AK

13 JAN - 18 JAN TRANSIT TO SAN DIEGO

19 JAN INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA

19 JAN - 22 JAN UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS

22 JAN - 26 JAN INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA

26 JAN - 28 JAN UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS; COMPLETED
OPERATIONAL REACTOR SAFEGUARDS EXAMINATION (ORSE)

28 JAN - 30 JAN INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA

30 JAN CHANGE OF COMMAND, COMMANDER MICHAEL A. ZIESER
RELIEVES AS COMMANDING OFFICER

30 JAN - 06 MAR INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA; FMAV WITH USS MCKEE

06 MAR - 08 MAR UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS; CONDUCTED A
COORDINATED SUBMARINE RADIATED NOISE ANALYSIS (CSRNA)

08 MAR - 16 MAR INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA

16 MAR - 27 MAR UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS; COMPLETED
TACTICAL WEAPONS PROFICIENCY (TWP)

27 MAR - 30 MAR INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA

30 MAR - 03 APR UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS

03 APR - 06 APR INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA

06 APR - 09 APR UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS; COMPLETED
TACTICAL READINESS EVALUATION (TRE) AND PRE-OVERSEES
MOVEMENT CERTIFICATION (POMCERT).

09 APR - 27 APR INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA; FINAL LOADOUT

27 APR - 28 APR UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS; CONDUCTED A
COORDINATED SUBMARINE RADIATED NOISE ANALYSIS (CSRNA)

28 APR - 01 MAY INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA

01 MAY - 09 MAY TRANSIT TO WESTERN PACIFIC

09 MAY	INCHOP TO SEVENTH FLEET
09 MAY - 13 MAY	TRANSIT TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
13 MAY	PERSONNEL TRANSFER, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
13 MAY - 15 MAY	TRANSIT TO OKINAWA, JAPAN
15 MAY	PORT VISIT OKINAWA, JAPAN
15 MAY - 14 JUN	WESTPAC OPERATIONS
15 JUN - 18 JUN	PORT VISIT SASEBO, JAPAN
19 JUN - 27 JUN	COMPLETED SHINKAME AND JAPANESE DEFENCE FORCE ADVANCED EXERCISE
27 JUN	PERSONNEL TRANSFER, SASEBO, JAPAN
27 JUN - 03 JUL	TRANSIT TO SOUTH CHINA SEA
04 JUL - 05 JUL	COMPLETED EXERCISE MERGATE WITH ROYAL SINGAPORE NAVY
06 JUL - 07 JUL	TRANSIT TO GULF OF THAILAND
08 JUL - 12 JUL	PORT VISIT PATTAYA, THAILAND
13 JUL - 16 JUL	COMPLETED EXERCISE CARAT-THAILAND PHASE
17 JUL - 25 JUL	TRANSIT TO GUAM
25 JUL - 20 AUG	INPORT GUAM, FMAV WITH USS FRANK CABLE
21 AUG - 24 AUG	TRANSIT TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
25 AUG - 30 AUG	PORT VISIT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
31 AUG - 13 OCT	WESTPAC OPERATIONS
14 OCT - 16 OCT	PORT VISIT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
17 OCT - 20 OCT	TRANSIT TO EASTPAC
21 OCT	INCHOP TO THIRD FLEET
21 OCT - 23 OCT	TRANSIT TO PEARL HARBOR, HI
23 OCT	PERSONNEL TRANSFER; PEARL HARBOR, HI
23 OCT - 29 OCT	TRANSIT TO SAN DIEGO, CA
29 OCT	PERSONNEL TRANSFER; SAN DIEGO, CA
29 OCT - 30 OCT	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS; COMPLETED OPERATIONAL REACTORS SAFEGUARDS EXAMINATION (ORSE)

31 OCT - 29 NOV INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA; POST DEPLOYMENT STANDOWN

30 NOV - 05 DEC UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS; CONDUCTED
SPECIAL OPERATIONS

06 DEC - 10 DEC INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA

10 DEC UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS; CONDUCTED A VIP
CRUISE FOR THE SENIOR SEMINAR AT THE FOREIGN
INSTITUTE

11 DEC - 31 DEC INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA; HOLIDAY STANDOWN

USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)

COMMAND NARRATIVE

1998

11 JAN - 13 JAN ACOUSTIC TRAILS, SEAFAC, AK - Conducted acoustic monitoring of HOUSTON's sound signature. This involved numerous test runs with various equipment line-ups and ship control parameters. Precise ship handling coupled with extremely accurate navigation was required to successfully complete the agenda.

26 JAN - 28 JAN OPERATIONAL REACTOR SAFEGUARDS EXAMINATION - A two day administrative review of engineering documents, personnel interviews and monitoring drill and evolution performance. Successfully completed this comprehensive exam administered under the supervision of CINCPACFLT.

30 JAN CHANGE OF COMMAND - Commander MICHAEL A. ZIESER relieved Commander DALE M. NEES as Commanding Officer. Guest speaker was Rear Admiral AL KONETZKI, Commander, Submarine Group Seven.

06 MAR - 08 MAR COORDINATED SUBMARINE RADIATED NOISE ANALYSIS (CSRNA) - USS PORTSOUTH (SSN 707) conducted acoustic monitoring of HOUSTON's sound signature. This involved numerous test runs with various equipment line-ups and ship control parameters. Precise ship handling coupled with extremely accurate navigation was required to successfully complete the agenda.

16 MAR - 27 MAR TACTICAL WEAPONS PROFICIENCY - Demonstrated the ability to successfully employ exercise torpedoes, and to simulate the launch of numerous Tomahawk missiles in a simulated hostile environment. Evaluated by Commander, Submarine Squadron ELEVEN.

06 APR - 09 APR TACTICAL READINESS EVALUATION AND PRE-OVERSEES MOVEMENT CERTIFICATION - An extensive three day examination in which the ship demonstrated the ability to operate in both peacetime and wartime mission scenarios. Evaluated by Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Certified by Commander, Submarine Squadron ELEVEN as ready to deploy to the Western Pacific.

27 APR - 28 APR COORDINATED SUBMARINE RADIATED NOISE ANALYSIS (CSRNA) - USS CHEYENNE (SSN 773) conducted acoustic monitoring of HOUSTON's sound signature. This involved numerous test runs with various equipment line-ups and ship control parameters. Precise ship handling coupled with extremely accurate navigation was required to successfully complete the agenda.

15 MAY - 14 JUN WESTPAC OPERATIONS - Completed special operations under the Tactical Command of Commander Task Group FOURTEEN PT TWO (COMSUBPAC).

19 JUN - 27 JUN SHIN KAME AND JAPANESE DEFENCE FORCE ADVANCED EXERCISE - SHIN KAME (98-2) was a series of submarine tracking and free play exercises conducted in cooperation with JDS WAKASHIO. During the JDS ADVANCED EXERCISE, HOUSTON acted in concert with other Orange Forces simulating attacking a Blue Force Surface Action Group tasked with defending Japanese Territorial Waters. Participants included JDS KONGO, JDS HAMANA, and JDS SAWAKAZE.

04 JUL - 05 JUL EXERCISE MERGATE - MERGATE 98-4 was a bilateral Anti-Submarine Warfare exercise with the Royal Singapore Navy. Participants included Maritime Patrol Aircraft, RSS VIGOUR, RSS GALLANT, and RSS DAUNTLESS.

13 JUL - 16 JUL EXERCISE CARAT-THAILAND PHASE - CARAT-THAI is the Thailand phase of Exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Cruise, a series of bilateral training exercises between the United States and military forces of Southeast Asia. HOUSTON was under the Tactical Control of Commander Task Force SEVEN ONE TWO PT ZERO (COMDESRON 31). Participants included USS MOBILE BAY, USS SIDES, USS HURRICANE, USS MONSOON, HTMS NARESUAN, HTMS RATTANAKOSIN, HTMS KHIRIRAT, HTMS SUKHOTAI, and U.S and RTN Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

31 AUG - 13 OCT WESTPAC OPERATIONS - Completed special operations under the Tactical Command of Commander Task Force SEVENTY-FOUR (COMSUBGRU 7).

29 OCT - 30 OCT OPERATIONAL REACTOR SAFEGUARDS EXAMINATION - A two day administrative review of engineering documents, personnel interviews and monitoring drill and evolution performance. Successfully completed this comprehensive exam administered under the supervision of CINCPACFLT.

30 NOV - 05 DEC SPECIAL OPERATIONS - Completed special operations in local OPAREAS for a priority Chief of Naval Operations sponsored project.

10 DEC VIP CRUISE - Completed a VIP Cruise for the Senior Seminar at the Foreign Service Institute. Senior Official embarked was Ambassador AURELIA E. BRAZEAL, Dean of The Senior Seminar.