



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)
FPO AP 96667-2393

5750
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From: Commanding Officer, USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, 805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington
Navy Yard, D.C. 20374-5059

Subj: USS HOUSTON (SSN 713) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2002 AND 2003

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

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

1. Due to an administrative oversight, USS HOUSTON's command history for calendar year 2002 was not submitted in accordance with reference (a). Therefore, USS HOUSTON's command history for calendar years 2002 and 2003 are submitted together in a single report as enclosures (1) through (4).


C. J. KAISER

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. Command Short Title: USS HOUSTON (SSN 713)
2. Unit Identification Code (UIC): 20994
3. Mission: USS HOUSTON (SSN 713) is a Los Angeles Class nuclear powered fast attack submarine that was designed for covert, independent operations or as a high speed escort for carrier task forces. HOUSTON 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 Undersea Warfare, Surface Warfare, Mine Warfare, Special Forces Operations, Intelligence Gathering, and Search and Rescue.
4. Organizational Structure: While undergoing an Engineered Refueling Overhaul (ERO), HOUSTON is temporarily attached to Commander, Submarine Group Nine in Bangor, Washington. Following completion of ERO and follow-on modernization period, HOUSTON will be assigned to Commander Submarine Squadron, Fifteen in Guam. This reassignment is scheduled to occur in January 2005.
5. Name of Commander: Commander Christopher J. Kaiser.
6. Permanent Duty Station: HOUSTON is currently stationed at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington. HOUSTON is scheduled to change homeports to Guam in January 2005.

2002

1 Jan - 31 Dec Inport Bremerton, Washington, at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, on the blocks in Drydock Number One, conducting an Engineered Refueling Overhaul.

1 - 6 Jan Holiday stand down period.

7 Jan Commenced the nuclear reactor refueling process.

20 May Change of Command.

20 Jun Completed removal of the old reactor core.

6 Dec Restored all major AC electrical switchboards.

20 Dec Completed installation of the new reactor core.

21 - 31 Dec Holiday stand down period.

2003

1 Jan - 31 Dec Inport Bremerton, Washington, at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, conducting an Engineered Refueling Overhaul.

1 - 5 Jan Holiday stand down period.

10 Jan Completed the nuclear reactor refueling process.

29 Apr Energized the new reactor instrumentation and control suite.

30 May Completed alignments to all reactor plant detectors.

8 Aug Completed all electrical switchgear testing.

20 Aug Commenced reactor plant Cold Ops; reactor plant fill & vent, reactor coolant pump testing, and primary hydrostatic testing.

9 Oct Undocked from Drydock Number One and shifted berths to Pier Six at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

3 Nov Completed reactor plant Cold Ops.

19 Dec "Readiness to Steam" called.

22 - 31 Dec Holiday stand down period.

Refueling (7 Jan 02 - 10 Jan 03)

With HOUSTON's original reactor core nearing the end of useful life, a new reactor core was installed. During this complex process, the reactor plant was drained, the reactor vessel head was removed, the old reactor core was removed (20 Jun 02), a new reactor core was installed (20 Dec 02), the vessel head was welded back into place, and all control rod drive mechanisms were replaced.

Change of Command (20 May 02)

In a ceremony held at the Naval Undersea Warfare Museum at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Keyport, Washington, Commander Christopher J. Kaiser relieved Commander Daniel P. Mack as Commanding Officer of USS HOUSTON (SSN 713).

Switchboard Restoration (6 Dec 02)

Following extensive overhaul and detailed inspections, power was restored to the ship's major AC electrical switchboards.

Energized Reactor I&C (29 Apr 03)

Power was applied to a new microprocessor reactor instrumentation and control suite. This ship alteration marks a revolutionary jump in technology, replacing an analog system designed decades earlier.

Completed Reactor Plant Detector Alignments (30 May 03)

Many reactor plant instruments were replaced during the overhaul, necessitating their alignment. Reactor Control Division completed this grueling work inside the Reactor Compartment while in shift work.

Completed Switchgear Testing (8 Aug 03)

Following electrical switchboard overhaul and repair, the functionality of every electrical breaker, circuit, and interlock required testing. Electrical Division completed this complex task in the vicinity of energized equipment while in shift work.

Cold Ops (20 Aug - 3 Nov 03)

Filled and vented the reactor vessel, both reactor coolant loops, and pressurizer; tested all reactor coolant pumps (four of the six were previously replaced); restored primary chemistry; and conducted hydrostatic pressure testing of the entire reactor plant.

Undocking (9 Oct 03)

After 26 months in drydock, HOUSTON was waterborne! Drydock Number One was flooded down, the caisson was removed, and HOUSTON conducted a dead stick move to Pier Six a few hundred yards away.

Readiness to Steam (19 Dec 03)

This critical milestone is declared when it has been determined that the propulsion plant is in a condition to support reactor plant heatup and engine room steaming.

Enclosure (3)