



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS JACKSONVILLE (SSN 699)
FPO NEW YORK 09575

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From: Commanding Officer, USS JACKSONVILLE (SSN 699)
To: Directory of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: Command history of USS JACKSONVILLE (SSN 699)
(Report Symbol OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Basic historical narrative
(2) SECRET operational summary of deployment 15 June to 15 December 1982
(3) Biographies of commanding officers
(4) Roster of commissioning crew
(5) Ship's emblem

1. Enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted in accordance with reference (a). This is the first command history submitted for USS JACKSONVILLE and covers the period through 31 December 1982.


R. K. MORRIS

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COMSUBRON EIGHT

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BASIC HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

1. This is the first command history submitted for USS JACKSONVILLE (SSN 699). It covers the period from the keel laying through the end of the first full calendar year as a commissioned ship on 31 December 1982.
2. USS JACKSONVILLE is the twelfth ship of the "LOS ANGELES" (SSN 688) Class. It is named after the city of Jacksonville, Florida and is the first ship of the fleet to bear the name. The ship's motto, "The Bold One," is taken from Jacksonville's motto as "The Bold New City of the South."
3. JACKSONVILLE was built by General Dynamics, Electric Boat Division, Groton, Connecticut. The keel was laid at Electric Boat on 21 February 1976. Cylinder 5 of the hull (frames 35 to 39) were used for the keel laying. The ship's sponsor was Dorothy Faye Bennett, wife of the Honorable Charles E. Bennett, U.S. Representative from the Third District of Florida.
4. Manning of the crew began on 15 August 1978. The first crewmember to report to the precommissioning unit was YNC(SS) [REDACTED], USN. The first officer to report aboard was Lieutenant [REDACTED], USN, who reported on 16 August 1978. The Prospective Commanding Officer, Commander Robert B. Wilkinson, USN, reported aboard on 28 August 1978. The Pre-Commissioning Unit, JACKSONVILLE was a subordinate unit of Submarine Squadron TWO at Groton, Connecticut.
5. JACKSONVILLE was launched on 18 November 1978. She was the first ship to be launched from the new Land Level Facility at Electric Boat. The program for the launching was opened by Mr. P. Takis Veliotis, General Manager, Electric Boat Division. Mayor Hans G. Tanzler of Jacksonville, Florida; The Honorable W. Graham Claytor, Secretary of the Navy; and The Honorable Charles E. Bennett made remarks. The blessing of the ship was performed by Commander David Bowers, Jr., Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy. Mrs. Bennett, the ship's sponsor, christened the ship at 1145, with Mrs. R. E. Fay, Matron of Honor, standing by. The ship was manned with sixty-five of the officers and enlisted men standing topside.
6. JACKSONVILLE was placed "In Service" on 21 December 1979. At this point in construction, almost all ship systems were under the operational control of the crew. In January 1980, questions arose concerning possible construction defects related to quality assurance documentation of structural welds. As inspections increased, progress on the ship came to a standstill. On 22 July 1980, most of the ship's stores were removed and control of ship systems were returned to the shipyard to facilitate extensive reinspection of welds.
7. The ship systems were returned to ship's force control on 20 December 1980, and the ship commenced preparation for Initial Builder's Sea Trials.
8. Phase I Crew Certification was held 12 January 1981, during which the crew simulated underway operations and conducted operational and casualty drills while the ship was moored alongside the pier at Electric Boat. Phase II Crew Certification immediately followed, during which personnel from the staff of the Commander, Submarine Squadron TWO observed the ship's crew during simulated underway operations and casualty drills.

9. On 16 January 1981, "Fast Cruise" commenced, consisting of two 48 hour simulated underway periods, in preparation for the ship's initial builder's sea trials.
10. "ALPHA" Trials commenced 25 January 1981. This was the ship's first underway period, in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of New England, and included the ship's initial dive and extensive testing and certification of ship systems. ALPHA Trials were completed in a record-breaking 34.1 hours.
11. "BRAVO" Trials commenced 2 February 1981 and ended 13 February 1981. During this period the ship traveled to the AUTECH Range in the Bahama Islands for sound trials.
12. "CHARLIE" Trials and INSURV commenced 2 March 1981 and were completed 5 March 1981. The ship was delivered to the Navy on 1 April 1981 and moved from the Electric Boat Division shipyard to the Naval Submarine Base at Groton, Connecticut.
13. USS JACKSONVILLE was placed in commission 16 May 1981 at the Naval Submarine Base, New London, Groton, Connecticut. Captain Robert B. Wilkinson, USN, who had been Officer in Charge of the Pre-Commissioning Unit, assumed command. Coincident with commissioning, the ship's homeport was changed to Norfolk, Virginia and she was assigned to Submarine Squadron EIGHT.
14. On 30 May 1981, the first change of command ceremony was held, at which Commander Dennis G. Feuerbacher, USN, assumed command.
15. In June 1981, JACKSONVILLE commenced her shakedown cruise, after which she made her first visit to her namesake city. A large ceremony was held upon the ship's arrival at Naval Station, Mayport, Florida, including presentation of "planks" to plankowners by the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and a reception for visitors and crewmembers. Also at the ceremony, "silver dolphins" were presented to forty enlisted crewmembers who had completed qualification in submarines.
16. After return to Norfolk, Virginia, JACKSONVILLE entered the Newport News Shipyard and Dry Dock Company shipyard at Newport News, Virginia on 7 July 1981 to commence a Post-Shakedown Availability (PSA) period which lasted until 19 December 1981. During this period, a Retractable Towed Array sonar system was installed, and other lesser modifications were accomplished. PSA sea trials commenced 19 December 1981 and were completed 21 December 1981.
17. On 15 January 1982, JACKSONVILLE departed Norfolk for underway operations which lasted 38 days and included MARK 48 Torpedo Certification and sound trials again at the AUTECH Range. The ship made port calls at Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands; and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Upon her return to homeport, JACKSONVILLE commenced a series of upkeep and short at-sea periods in preparation for her first extended overseas deployment.
18. On the evening of 22 March 1982, while proceeding on the surface out from Norfolk, Virginia, JACKSONVILLE was involved in a collision with a Turkish merchant vessel, the "General Z. Dogan." JACKSONVILLE immediately returned to homeport. The Turkish vessel sustained damage but entered port in Norfolk safely. On 23 March 1982, Commander Feuerbacher was relieved of command pending an

investigation into the collision and was reassigned to the Staff of the Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Commander G. Michael Hewitt, the Prospective Commanding Officer, BUFFALO (SSN 715), assumed command of JACKSONVILLE on 23 March 1982 as an additional duty.

19. On 26 March 1982, JACKSONVILLE moved to Norfolk Naval Shipyard at Portsmouth, Virginia for repairs incident to the collision. The shipyard period was conducted concurrently with the ship's major pre-overseas movement (POM) upkeep period and was completed on 27 April 1982. After sea trials, JACKSONVILLE returned to the Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia.

20. On 3 May 1982, the ship departed again for an underway period, returning 21 May 1982. This period included in port Refresher Training at the Naval Submarine Base, New London, Groton, Connecticut, and a POM workup period.

21. On 28 May 1982, Commander Hewitt was relieved of command by Commander Ricky K. Morris, USN in ceremonies at Pier 23, Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia.

22. After POM certification in early June 1982, JACKSONVILLE departed on 15 June 1982 for its first extended overseas deployment. This was the date originally scheduled for the departure, and JACKSONVILLE's ability to meet that deadline despite the significant amount of extra work involved in collision repairs was a significant accomplishment.

23. An operational summary of the events of the deployment is contained in enclosure (3). Salient statistics are as follows:

Date of departure:	15 June 1982
Date of return:	15 December 1982
Days underway:	183
Days submerged:	149
Days in upkeep/stores load:	27
Days in liberty port:	7

Distance traveled: 46,965 nautical miles

During this deployment, JACKSONVILLE completed an around-the-world cruise, including a transit of the Panama Canal (11 December 1982) and one liberty port visit at HMAS Stirling, Garden Island, Perth, Australia (16-23 November 1982). The deployment also included an upkeep period alongside USS SIERRA (AD 18) in August and September 1982.

24. JACKSONVILLE returned to Norfolk, Virginia on 15 December 1982 and was in a post-deployment standdown period at the close of the year.



ENCLOSURE (5)