

USS KENTUCKY (SSBN 737)
COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1991

1. Command Composition and Organization

a. Mission. Commissioned 13 July 1991, KENTUCKY's mission consisted of shakedown operations to demonstrate the ship and crew's readiness and ability to perform its ultimate mission of strategic deterrence.

b. Organizational Structure. Upon Commissioning, KENTUCKY came under the cognizance of Submarine Group TEN, commanded by RADM T. A. Meineke. The Commanding Officer of the GOLD crew was CAPT Joseph G. Henry, USN, (biography attached). The BLUE crew was commanded by CAPT Michael G. Riegel, USN, (biography attached).

c. Duty Station. Once commissioned, KENTUCKY's homeport changed from Groton, CT where the ship was built to the Submarine Base at Kings Bay, GA.

2. Chronology of Events

a. 13 July 1991 - USS KENTUCKY (SSBN 737) Commissioned at New London, CT. Homeport shifted to Kings Bay, GA, the Blue crew commanded by CAPT M. G. Riegel, manned the ship for the first on-crew period. The GOLD crew, commanded by CAPT J. G. Henry, commenced the first off-crew training period.

b. July 1991 - KENTUCKY arrives for the first time in its homeport of Kings Bay, GA.

c. July - September 1991 - KENTUCKY operates from Port Canaveral, FL, conducting Demonstration and Shakedown Operations (DASO) Missile Launch.

d. September 1991 - KENTUCKY BLUE launches a test trident missile as part of its DASO operations.

e. 5 October 1991 - Exchange of command takes place, the GOLD crew, under the command of CAPT J. G. Henry, mans the ship. The BLUE crew begins its off-crew training period.

f. October - November 1991 - KENTUCKY operates from Port Canaveral, FL, conducting Demonstration and Shakedown Operations (DASO) Missile Launch.

g. November - KENTUCKY GOLD launches a test trident missile as part of its DASO operations.

3. Narrative

a. USS KENTUCKY's DASO operations were extremely successful, with the ship being fully certified to undertake its principle mission of strategic deterrence. During the shakedown period, major inspections were conducted in the areas of Engineering, Supply, Tactical Systems, Strategic Weapons, and Navigation/Operations, with each inspection being passed satisfactorily, certifying the ship and the crew's for full operation.

4. Supporting Documents

a. The following supporting documents are submitted:

- (1) Biography of Captain Joseph G. Henry
- (2) Biography of Captain Michael G. Riegel
- (3) Ship's Welcome Aboard Booklet
- (5) Ship's Commissioning Booklet
- (6) Photograph of the Ship

JOSEPH G. HENRY COMMANDING OFFICER

Captain Joseph G. Henry, a native of Madison, New Jersey, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in June, 1970. He subsequently attended Nuclear Power training at Bainbridge, Maryland and West Milton, New York.

In January, 1972, following completion of Submarine School in Groton, Connecticut, he reported to USS PUFFER (SSN 652), where he served as Reactor Controls Officer and Damage Control Assistant. This tour was followed by two years in Washington, D.C. as the Nuclear Power Junior Officer Detailer at the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

After attending the Submarine Officer Advanced Course at Submarine School, Captain Henry reported in July, 1977, to USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN 658)(BLUE), as Engineer Officer. This tour was followed by two years as a member of the CINCLANTFLT Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board.

Captain Henry reported to USS BIRMINGHAM (SSN 695) as Executive Officer in March, 1983. In June, 1985, he was named the Force Nuclear Power Officer on the staff of Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Captain Henry was appointed Commanding Officer of USS KEY WEST (SSN 722), then the Navy's newest attack submarine, in October, 1987. The tour included two extended overseas deployments. He relinquished command of KEY WEST in October, 1990 and received orders to take command of USS KENTUCKY, Gold Crew, the Navy's newest TRIDENT submarine.

Captain Henry is entitled to wear the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold star, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon with bronze star.

Captain Henry is married to the former Patricia Ann Grazul of Syracuse, New York. They have two children, Shannon Elizabeth and Joseph Gerard.