



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KEY WEST (SSN 722)
FPO AP 96683-2402

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From: Commanding Officer, USS KEY WEST (SSN 722)

To: Director of Naval History (OP 09HB)

Subj: USS KEY WEST (SSN 722) 2000 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Organization, Chronology, and Narrative
(2) Supporting Documents

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded.


C. K. MERKEL

COMMAND HISTORY
USS KEY WEST (SSN 722)
2000

1. Command Composition for USS KEY WEST (SSN 722):
 - a. Commanding Officer:
 - (1) CDR Charles K. Merkel
 - b. Immediate superior in command:
 - (2) COMSUBRON THREE
 - c. Mission: Plan for and when ordered
 - Conduct offensive submarine operations, including anti-submarine warfare, mining operations, and other operations as required.
 - Conduct anti-submarine warfare in conjunction with other anti-submarine warfare forces and other operations as required.
 - Conduct offensive strike operations
 - d. Homeport: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
2. Chronology.
 - * 1 January - 4 January
Holiday stand-down period
 - * 5 January - 1 August
Depot Modernization Period availability
 - * 2 August - 7 August
Post-Depot Modernization Period Sea Trials
 - * 8 August - 14 August
Post-Depot Modernization Period stand-down period
 - * 15 August - 7 September
Local operations

- * 8 September - 5 October
Tactical Weapons Certification and Acoustic Trials
- * 6 October - 11 October
Fleet Week 2000 San Francisco
- * 12 October - 27 October
Eastern Pacific operations
- * 28 October - 2 November
In port Pearl Harbor
- * 3 November
Change of Command
- * 4 November - 26 November
Local operations
- * 27 November - 2 December
INSURV inspection
- * 2 December - 15 December
In port Pearl Harbor
- * 16 December - 31 December
Holiday stand-down period

3. Narrative.

a. This was a banner year for the USS KEY WEST (SSN 722). The year saw the successful completion of the Depot Modernization Period (DMP) and return to sea for Sea Trials and an Eastern Pacific Deployment. The KEY WEST welcomed aboard a new Commanding Officer in November. The year was wrapped up with a INSURV inspection and holiday stand-down.

b. The crew of KEY WEST excelled in the DMP and set a new standard for those to follow in Pearl Harbor. The crew's first milestone for the year was preparing for and undocking from drydock early. This set the pace for the rest of the DMP. The Integrated Propulsion Plant Testing Program (IPPTP) was completed successfully in 18 days, nearly two weeks ahead of schedule. The Integrated Logistics Overhaul (ILO) wrapped up early and the entire ship's

repair parts were backloaded a month prior to the scheduled milestone. KEY WEST closed out the DMP with a record setting Fast Cruise and Sea Trials. The timely return of KEY WEST to the fleet saved millions of dollars and invaluable time.

c. The KEY WEST returned to sea for a Tactical Weapons Certification and Acoustic Trials. Just one month out of DMP, KEY WEST sailors' scores were highly competitive with the fleet. KEY WEST then went to San Francisco and participated in Fleet Week 2000. In one weekend over 4,000 bay area residents toured the submarine. The KEY WEST finally returned to Pearl Harbor where CDR Charles K. Merkel relieved as Commanding Officer on 3 November 2000.

d. The KEY WEST finished the year with an Inspection and Survey Board Examination (INSURV) in December, followed by a holiday stand-down period. The INSURV inspection covers the material condition and readiness of the submarine.

Supporting Documents

1. Change of Command Booklet
2. Welcome Aboard Booklet (CDR Merkel)
3. Photograph (Ship/crew Drydock Photo) (2)