



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, Naval Historical Center

Subj: USS KEY WEST (SSN 722) 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

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)
2002

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, to include 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 - 23 January
Holiday stand-down period
- * 24 January - 01 February
Underway local op, CO discretionary time
- * 02 February - 05 May
In port Pearl Harbor, modernization and upkeep.
- * 06 May - 10 May
Underway local ops, Sonar, Fire Control and Navigation System Certifications
- * 11 May - 19 May
In port Pearl Harbor, Standard training between deployment (STBD)

- * 20 May - 31 May
Underway Local Ops, Sonar Certification, technical Onboard Monitoring Assist (TOMA), Basic Submarining Assessment.
- * 01 June - 16 June
In port Pearl Harbor, Combat Systems Readiness Review
- * 17 June - 25 June
Underway local ops, Surprise ORSE
- * 26 June - 27 June
In port Pearl Harbor
- * 28 June - 06 July
Underway local ops, RIMPAC
- * 07 July
In port Pearl Harbor
- * 08 July - 21 July
Underway local ops, RIMPAC, Tactical Readiness Evaluation
- * 22 July - 28 July
In port Pearl Harbor, Planning Availability
- * 29 July - 02 September
In port Pearl Harbor, POM-1 upkeep
- * 03 September - 05 September
Underway local ops
- * 06 September - 22 September
In port Pearl Harbor, Battery change out
- * 23 September - 26 September
Underway local ops
- * 27 September - 01 November
In port Pearl Harbor, POM-2 upkeep
- * 02 November - 26 November
Underway EASTPAC, Battle Group training exercises (COMPTUEX) and deployment certification
- * 27 November - 15 December
In port Pearl Harbor, Voyage repair period

- * 16 December - 20 December
Underway local ops, Commanding Officers discretionary time
- * 21 December - 31 December
In port Pearl Harbor, Holiday stand down

3. Narrative.

a. Summary 2002 KEY WEST split time between a modernization upkeep and underway period designed to prepare them for WESTPAC. After spending the early part of the year in an upkeep and modernization period, the ship completed a Basic Submarine Assessment (BSA), Tactical Readiness Evaluation (TRE), surprise Operational Reactor Safeguard Exam (ORSE) and a Rim of the Pacific exercise (RIMPAC). After this, the KEY WEST ended the year underway on EASTPAC to conduct pre-deployment exercises with the USS CARL VINSON Battlegroup.

b. KEY WEST began the year in an upkeep and modernization period where she received several SHIPALTS. This included the RLGN, AN/WRR-12 SLVR, HUITIS, TIDS Phase I, AN/BQQ 10 ARCI Phase 3 and CCS MOD 2 BLK 1C with SUB ATWICS. Description of the new systems are as follows:

(1) Ring Laser Gyro Navigator replaced the ESGN as the ships primary inertial navigator. The system provides position and attitude data to Fire Control for Tomahawk and MK48 ADCAP employment. Installation included two separate systems, a small computer network, 2 touch screen displays and a printer.

(2) AN/WRR-12 SVLR replaced the AN/WRR-7B. SLVR enables the Submarine to copy two verdin transmitter sites simultaneously. SLVR has improved signal reception over the AN/WRR-7B. The embedded crypto device allows the radio operators to load one month of keymat for up to ten different transmitter sites.

(3) HARRIS UNIVERSAL IMAGE TRANSFER SOFTWARE (HUITIS) allows for secure image file transfer. HUITIS allows a Submarine to transfer both images and text files via EHF to a shore site for processing. It is the most secure means available for a Submarine to transfer image files.

(4) The TIDS Phase I LAN install upgraded ships Local Area Network to SECRET. It gave SIPRNET capability to all users onboard and installed a separate unclassified network. The system is comprised of 8 network servers, 3 network printers and 25 LAN drops in the forward compartment and engine room. This has given the ship the capability to use pier connected SIPRNET in port.

(5) The AN/BQQ 10 ARCI Phase 3 Sonar System greatly improved accuracy, functionality and reliability from the previous legacy Sonar Systems. The AN/BQQ 10 System allows for dual towed array processing, increased number of sonar trackers and swath detection.

(6) CCS MK2 BLK 1C fire control system with SUB ATWICS improved the user's graphical interfaces, fire control algorithms, and weapons employment. SUB ATWICS increased capabilities for TOMAHAWK engagement and planning, allowing large mission storage capacity, quicker strike planning, and improved graphical interfaces.

c. Following the upkeep/ modernization period KEY WEST went through a period of assessments in preparation for deployment. This consisted of a BSA, TRE, Surprise ORSE and a CSRR. KEY WEST also participated in RIMPAC during this time.

d. KEY WEST ended the year with an EASTPAC deployment and predeployment certification. While on EASTPAC, KEY WEST participated in COMPTUEX with the USS CARL VINSON Battlegroup in the Southern California (SOCAL) op area. KEY WEST also completed a predeployment certification while on EASTPAC.

e. During 2002, KEY WEST Food Service Division was named the COMSUBPAC NEY Award first runner up for excellence in food service operations. Additionally, KEY WEST Supply Department was awarded the COMSUBRON THREE Supply Blue "E" of Excellence.

Supporting Documents

1. Welcome Aboard Booklet (CDR Merkel)
2. Photograph (Ship) (2)