

USS LOUISIANA (SSBN-743)
COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1997

1. Command Composition and Organization.

a. Mission: The ship was commissioned 6 September 1997. USS Louisiana's mission, as defined by the Commander, Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet is three fold:

(1) To be ready to fight the ship in war,

(2) To maintain the highest standards of personnel and material readiness for this war action, and

(3) To strive continuously to improve submarine tactics and techniques to achieve the maximum readiness posture.

b. Organizational structure: USS LOUISIANA operated under the cognizance of the Commander, Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, Vice Admiral R.W. Mies; administrative and Off-Crew cognizance of Commander, Submarine Group Ten, RADM C.J. Beers, Jr.; operational and Refit cognizance of Commander, Submarine Squadron Sixteen, Captain T.E. Digan. The commanding officer of the BLUE crew is Captain W. O. Cooke. The commanding officer of the GOLD crew is Commander W. Borger.

c. Duty Station: USS LOUISIANA was homeported at Naval Submarine Base Kingsbay, Georgia.

2. Chronology:

6 Sep	Commissioned at Submarine Base Kingsbay Georgia
8 Sep	Move from dry-dock to pier
9 Sep	Dependents cruise from Kingsbay, Georgia
11 Sep	Depart Kingsbay for Port Canaveral, Fla
12 Sep	Arrive Port Canaveral, Fla
13 Sep	VIP cruise from Port Canaveral, Fla
15 Sep	Depart Port Canaveral for Kingsbay, Ga
22 Sep	Arrive Kingsbay, Ga
24 Sep	Depart Kingsbay, Ga for Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam (ORSE) workups
7 Oct	Arrive Kingsbay, Ga for repairs to evaporator distilling plant
8 Oct	Depart Kingsbay, Ga to continue ORSE workups
21 Oct	Arrive Kingsbay, Ga for repairs to electrical breaker aft

22 Oct	Depart Kingsbay, Ga
29-31 Oct	Operational Reactor Safeguards (ORSE) Exam
29-31 Oct	Logistic Readiness Inspection
31 Oct	Arrive Port Canaveral, Fla
8 Nov	Depart Port Canaveral, Fla
10 Nov	Arrive Kingsbay, Ga for Demonstration and Shakedown Operations (DASO) missile loadout
18 Nov	Depart Kingsbay, Ga for Port Canaveral, Fla
19 Nov	Arrive Port Canaveral, Fla to begin DASO launch preparations
18 Dec	DASO launch of Trident Missile
21 Dec	Depart Port Canaveral, Fla
29 Dec	Arrive Kingsbay Ga, for crew turnover from Blue to Gold
29 Dec	Exchange of command from Blue crew to Gold crew
30 Dec	Depart Kingsbay, Ga for Gold Crew Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam (ORSE) workups

3. Narrative:

USS LOUISIANA (SSBN 743) was commissioned on 6 September 1997, the eighteenth Trident Submarine. LOUISIANA (SSBN 743) is capable of carrying twenty four Trident missiles. LOUISIANA's (SSBN 743) keel was laid on 17 December 1992 at General Dynamics' Electric Boat Shipyard, in Groton, Ct. She was launched on 27 July 1996 where she was christened by the ship's sponsor, Mrs. Patricia Carlin O'Keefe, mother of former Secretary of the Navy Sean O'Keefe. LOUISIANA (SSBN 743) was commissioned on 6 September 1997 at U.S. Naval Submarine Base, Kingsbay by Vice Admiral Richard W. Mies, USN, Commander Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet and Commander Submarine Allied Command Atlantic.

Following commissioning, LOUISIANA (SSBN 743) completed shakedown operations during the months of September and October leading up to an Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam (ORSE). A grade of average was given for the exam. During the same time as the ORSE a Logistics Readiness Inspection was given and a grade of satisfactory was received. The ship also conducted a successful DASO launch of a Trident test missile. Exchange of command was conducted on 29 December 1997 from Blue crew to Gold crew. The ship departed Kingsbay, Ga on 30 December for Gold crew ORSE workups.