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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MARYLAND (SSBN 738)

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From: Commanding Officer, USS MARYLAND (SSBN 738) (BLUE)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy  
Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY USS MARYLAND (SSBN 738)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E (Command Histories)

Encl: (1) Command History of USS MARYLAND (SSBN 738) for  
calendar year 1992

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*J. W. Francis*  
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## USS MARYLAND COMMAND HISTORY:

### Part I: Command Composition and Organization

- A. Mission: Conduct Strategic Deterrent Patrols
- B. Organizational Structure:
  - Immediate Superior in Chain of Command : Commander
  - Submarine Group TEN
  - Subordinate Units: NONE
- C. NAME of Commander:
  - Blue Crew : CAPT John W. FRANCIS
  - Gold Crew : CAPT Harold E. Marshall
- D. Permanent Duty Station: Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, GA

### PART II: CHRONOLOGY

- June 15 1990: Initial formation of Precommissioning Unit MARYLAND.
- AUG 16, 1991: Ceremonial Launching of USS MARYLAND (SSBN 738) at Electric Boat Shipyard, a Division of the GENERAL DYNAMICS Corporation, Groton, CT.
- MAR 27, 1992: PCU MARYLAND First puts to sea for Initial Builder's Trials. Propulsion plant successfully makes rated speed.
- MAR 31, 1992: Bravo Sea Trials. PCU MARYLAND was underway for a 2 week period. Successfully conducted all underway testing and builder's sound trials in Exuma Sound.
- JUN 10, 1992: PCU MARYLAND is delivered to the United States Navy following inspection by the Board Of Inspection and Survey (INSURV).
- JUN 13, 1992: USS MARYLAND is commissioned. The Blue and Gold Crew Officially split and CAPT Harold E. Marshall assumed command of the Gold Crew. The Gold Crew changed homeports to Kings Bay, GA and commenced an offcrew training cycle.
- JUN 15, 1992: USS MARYLAND Blue Crew departs the New London Area enroute to Kings Bay, GA.
- JUN 20, 1992: USS MARYLAND Moors at Kings BAY, GA. First time MARYLAND arrives at her new home port.
- JUL 7, 1992: USS MARYLAND arrives at Port Canaveral, Florida for the commencement of Trident II Demonstration and Shakedown Operations (DASO).

JUL 29, 1992: USS MARYLAND Blue successfully launches D-5 missile.

AUG 4, 1992: USS MARYLAND conducts one-day cruise to local operating areas for dependents of the crew.

AUG 31, 1992: USS MARYLAND Blue crew conducts first operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE), Grade of Average overall obtained. Also conducted Supply Management Inspection (SMI) with a grade of Average overall.

SEP 4, 1992: Commanding Officer of USS MARYLAND (BLUE) is relieved by the Commanding Officer of USS MARYLAND (GOLD). USS MARYLAND Blue crew commenced a training cycle at Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, GA.

SEP 5, 1992: USS MARYLAND departs Kings Bay for Annapolis, Maryland.

SEP 11, 1992: USS MARYLAND moored at Annapolis, Maryland for good will visit.

SEP 15, 1992: USS MARYLAND underway for Kings Bay, GA.

SEP 21, 1992: USS MARYLAND Moors at Kings Bay, GA

SEP 25 1992: USS MARYLAND Gold crew arrives at Port Canaveral, Florida for the commencement of Trident II Demonstration and Shakedown Operations (DASO).

OCT 19 1992: USS MARYLAND Gold crew successfully launches D-5 missile.

NOV 24, 1992: USS MARYLAND Gold crew conducts first Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination. Overall grade of Average. USS MARYLAND Gold also conduct first Supply Management Inspection (SMI) with a grade of Average assigned.

DEC 15, 1992: USS MARYLAND Gold crew conducts MK-48 Torpedo Certification. The first launch of a MK-48 Torpedo aboard the ship.

DEC 22, 1992: USS MARYLAND conducts helicopter transfer operations while anchored outside Kings Bay, GA as part of the SSBN Continuity of Operations Program (SCOOP).

DEC 23, 1992: USS MARYLAND moored at Kings Bay, GA. Ship remained at Kings Bay until 11 January 1993.

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### PART III: NARRATIVE

At the beginning of 1992, USS MARYLAND (SSBN 738) was in the final stages of construction at the Electric Boat Shipyard at Groton Connecticut. The initial commissioning crew was formed in June 1990 to supervise the testing and operation of the Reactor plant. During the next eighteen months, the crew grew in size and was nearly fully manned by January 1992.

The ceremonial launching of the ship took place on 10 August 1991. The ship's sponsor was Mrs. Sally Elizabeth Larsen, the wife of ADMIRAL Charles R. Larsen, Commander in Chief United States Pacific Command (USCINCPAC).

USS MARYLAND was underway for initial builders trials on 27 March 1992. During this period the crew tested virtually every system aboard the ship to ensure that all design specifications were met. The propulsion plant was operated at 100% power and design test depth. The second builder's trials commenced on 31 March 1992 and lasted for nearly two weeks, including a rigorous sound survey conducted at Exuma Sound off Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas.

The months of April and May consisted of fixing the minor deficiencies noted during the at sea testing period and conducting the acceptance inspections performed by the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV). On June 10 1992, the ship was formally delivered to the United States Navy.

On 13 June 1992, the USS MARYLAND (SSBN 738) was officially commissioned. The Principle speaker was ADM Charles R. Larsen, Commander in Chief United States Pacific Command. Other dignitaries present included VADM Henry G. Chiles, Jr., Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, RADM Thomas W. Evans, COMNAVSEASYS COM Deputy Commander for Submarine, and the Honorable Louis L. Goldstein, State Comptroller of Maryland.

The blue crew retained the ship following commissioning and departed the New London area on 15 June 1992 to begin a year of shakedown operations. Virtually every at sea period included intensive and realistic casualty drills to hone the crew's skills in combating any conceivable situation, and to ready the ship to conduct strategic deterrent patrols.

The ship pulled into Kings Bay, GA on 20 June 1992 for the first time and was warmly welcomed by the Kings Bay community. Following a short inport period to onload several D-5 Missiles, the ship was underway for the D-5 Demonstration and Shakedown Operations (DASO) at Port Canaveral Florida. The DASO commenced on 7 July 1992 and the crew received intensive training in the conduct of her primary mission. The DASO was culminated in the successful launch of a D-5 Missile with all exercise warheads striking within the prescribed system accuracy.

The Blue crew also was able to conduct a one-day cruise for the dependents of the crew members. This at sea period was highly enjoyable and allowed the crew to expose their families to the experience of their day-to-day jobs.

The Blue crew conducted an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE) and a Supply Management Inspection (SMI) on 1 September 1992 and the Gold Crew Commanding Officer, CAPT Harold E. MARSHALL assumed command of the ship for the Gold Crew's shakedown operations on 4 September 1992.

The Gold crew DASO took place from 25 September 1992 to 22 October 1992, with their missile launch occurring on 19 October 1992. Following their DASO, The Gold crew also successfully completed their ORSE AND SMI on 25 November 1992.

The Gold crew conducted sound trials in Exuma sound in early November 1992 and successfully completed a MK-48 Certification on 18 December 1992 where they were certified to employ the MK-48 torpedo.

USS MARYLAND also participated in an exercise to demonstrate the ability to replenish SSBN's at sea using Helicopter transfer in December 1992. The ship moored outside the ST. Marys entrance buoy to Kings Bay and was successfully replenished in helicopter operations. To compensate for the long oncrew period experienced by the gold crew the ship moored at Kings Bay, GA from 23 December 1992 to 11 January 1992 to enable the crew to spend the holidays at home and to provide for a short crew standown period prior to the upcoming Tactical Readiness Evaluation scheduled for early January.