



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MICHIGAN (SSBN 727)  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS MICHIGAN (SSBN 727) (GOLD)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
901 M Street, SE, Washington DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1998

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronological Narrative of 1998  
(3) Narrative  
(4) USS MICHIGAN History  
(5) Ship's Picture  
(6) Commanding Officer's Biography and Picture  
(7) 3½ inch disk  
(8) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. Enclosures (1) through (8) are forwarded, per reference (a).

T. H. BARGE II

USS MICHIGAN (SSBN 727)  
Command Composition and Organization

1. Mission. The mission of the SSBN 726 class submarine is to provide strategic deterrence against hostile attack by maintaining a continuous capability to deliver strategic missile attacks against hostile targets. In order to carry out this mission, SSBN 726 class submarines are designed to:

a. Operate at sea for extended periods as a highly reliable, survivable deterrent to a nuclear attack by a foreign power, and to destroy land targets with strategic, nuclear-armed missiles.

b. Minimize the probability of detection by any potential threat.

c. Operate defensively against submarine and surface ship threats as necessary to accomplish the mission.

2. Organization: USS MICHIGAN, the second in the Trident Class of nuclear strategic ballistic missile submarines, is commanded by Commander Thomas H. Barge, II (Gold Crew) and Commander Clare W. Hanson, II (Blue Crew).

There are presently eight Trident submarines assigned to Submarine Squadron 17, commanded by Captain Glen Ward.

USS MICHIGAN (SSBN 727) (GOLD)  
Chronological Sequence of Events

| <u>Date</u>     | <u>Event</u>  |
|-----------------|---|
| 01 - 21 Jan     | The Gold Crew continues Refit Period.   |
| 23 - 25 Jan     | At sea Refresher Training (REFTRA).   |
| 25 Jan          | Commence strategic deterrent patrol.  |
| 06 - 08 Apr     | Successfully completed Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE) receiving a grade of "Excellent."  |
| 08 Apr          | Returned to port Bangor, WA; completed Patrol 48, 500th Trident patrol.   |
| 09 - 11 Apr     | Exchange of Command. Blue Crew relieves the Gold Crew.  |
| 10 Apr - 14 May | Refit Assist period.  |
| 15 May - 25 May | Leave Period.   |
| 26 May - 31 Jul | Off - Crew Training period.   |
| 19 Jun          | Change Of Command. Commander Thomas H. Barge, II relieves Commander J. E. Sears as Commanding Officer USS MICHIGAN (GOLD).  |
| 19 Jun - 6 July | Leave Period.   |
| 01 - 04 Aug     | Exchange of Command. Gold Crew Relieves the Blue Crew.  |
| 05 - 31 Aug     | Refit Period.   |
| 01 Sep          | DABOB Bay Trials  |
| 03 Sep - 07 Sep | At sea Refresher Training. (REFTRA)   |
| 07 Sep          | Commence strategic deterrent patrol.  |
| 07 - 08 Oct     | Arrive at Point Loma, San Diego to load MK48 Torpedoes in preparation for Tactical Weapons Proficiency and a Tactical Readiness Evaluation. Ship Moored outboard the USS MCKEE.                           |
| 09 - 15 Oct     | Successfully completed a Tactical Weapons Proficiency Inspection and a Tactical Readiness Evaluation. The ship received a grade of "Above Average" and was designated as a COMSUBPAC TRE "Top Performer." |
| 16 - 22 Oct     | In-port Point Loma, San Diego for port visit and DON congressional tour.  |
| 17 - 18 Nov     | Successfully completed a Naval Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI) receiving grades of "Outstanding" in all 10 areas evaluated.   |
| 18 Nov          | Returned to port Bangor, WA; completed Patrol 50.   |
| 19 - 21 Nov     | Exchange of command. Blue Crew relieves the Gold Crew.  |
| 20 Nov- 20 Dec  | Refit Assist period.  |
| 20 Dec - 31 Dec | Holiday Stand down.   |

Narrative

No narrative is provided. The events listed in the chronology need no further amplification.

USS MICHIGAN (SSBN 727)  
History

USS MICHIGAN (SSBN 727) is the second Trident Class Nuclear submarine to be constructed, and is the third U.S. warship to bear the name of the Great Lakes State.

The ship's keel was laid on 4 April 1977 at Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut. The submarine was christened on 26 April 1980 by Mrs. Lucian N. Nedzi and commissioned on 11 September 1982.

After completing Demonstration and Shakedown Operations (DASO) at Cape Canaveral in January 1983, MICHIGAN transited the Panama Canal and arrived at Naval Submarine Base, Bangor, Washington on 16 March 1983.

The Michigan entered an Engineered Overhaul period on 10 OCT 1994 at Naval Submarine Base Bangor, WA. The overhaul was conducted by Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, in conjunction with Trident Refit Facility, and was completed on 07 JUN 1995.

Michigan Gold's performance to date has been demonstrated by receipt of the following awards:

**USS MICHIGAN (SSBN 727) (GOLD)**

**FY 83**

Engineering "E"  
ASW "A"  
Damage Control "DC"

**FY 84**

Communications Green "C"

**FY 85**

Meritorious Unit Commendation  
Damage Control Red "DC"

**FY 86**

Battle Efficiency "E"  
Engineering Red "E"  
ASW "A"  
Silver Anchor Award  
Olympic Flag rophy

**FY 87**

Silver Anchor Award

**FY 88**

Golden Anchor Award

**FY 90**

Golden Anchor Award

**FY 92**

Medical "M"

**FY 93**

Battle Efficiency "E"  
Medical "M"

**FY 96**

Tactical "T"  
Damage Control Red "DC"

**FY 98**

Battle Efficiency "E"  
Communications Green "C"  
Strategic White "S"  
Engineering Red "E"  
COMSUBPAC TRE "Top Performer"  
Best Trident Crew  
USSTRACTOM OMAHA Trophy