



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
USS MINNEAPOLIS-SAINTE PAUL (SSN 708)  
FPO AE 09578-2388

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Ser028  
9 Mar 04

From: Commanding Officer, USS MINNEAPOLIS-SAINTE PAUL (SSN 708)  
To: Commanding Officer, Director of Naval History (N09BH)  
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 2003 USS MINNEAPOLIS-SAINTE PAUL (SSN 708)  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F  
Encl: (1) Command History 2003  
(2) Commanding Officer's Biography  
(3) Executive Officer's Biography

1. Enclosures (1), (2), and (3) are forwarded. Enclosure (1) is USS MINNEAPOLIS-SAINTE PAUL's (SSN 708) Command History for 2003, including Command Composition and Organization, Chronology, and Narrative. Enclosures (2) and (3) are the Supporting Documents for the Command History.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. S. Ratte", written over a horizontal line.

D. S. RATTE

**USS MINNEAPOLIS - SAINT PAUL (SSN 708)  
Command History for 2003**

1. Command Composition and Organization:

Ship's Mission:

USS MINNEAPOLIS-SAINTE PAUL (SSN 708)'s primary mission is to hunt down and destroy enemy surface ships and submarines. The ship is capable of tactical Tomahawk cruise missiles strikes against land-based targets. USS MINNEAPOLIS-SAINTE PAUL (SSN 708) performs Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance as well as Indication and Warnings. The ship is fully capable of supporting Special Forces missions.

**Immediate Senior Command**

Commander, Submarine Squadron SIX

**Permanent Duty Station**

Norfolk, Virginia

**Commanding Officer**

Commander David S. Ratte  
(1 January - 31 December 2003)

**Executive Officers**

Lieutenant Commander Blake L. Converse  
(1 January - 24 January 2003)

Lieutenant Commander Michael D. Lewis  
( 24 January 2003 - 31 December 2003)

2. Chronology:

Jan	At sea training for engineering, weapons and tactical teams Tactical Readiness Evaluation
Feb-June	Interim Dry Docking period for maintenance
July	Sea Trials VIP and Tiger Cruise out of Port Canaveral, Florida

Aug	Supply Management Inspection Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination
Sept	In port Maintenance Upkeep At sea tactical training
Oct-Nov	In port for Maintenance Upkeep
Dec	At sea for Tactical Readiness Evaluation Holiday Stand-down

### 3. Narrative

The year began with three weeks at sea. During this time the USS MINNEAPOLIS-SAINT PAUL (SSN 708) focused on operational proficiency and acclimating the new Executive Officer, LCDR Mike Lewis, to the ship and her crew. This at sea period culminated in a successful Tactical Readiness Evaluation reinspection in the area of Navigation. Following the January underway, the ship prepared for a major maintenance period in the Northrup Grumman Newport News Shipyard.

In February, the ship was dry docked and intensive maintenance began. For four months, the crew endured the rigors of shipyard life, tirelessly spending countless hours away from home in the pursuit of quality maintenance. Finally, the light at the end of the tunnel appeared in June, as the boat and her crew began to come back together, and innumerable retests were completed. At the end of June the warship SSN 708 left the dry dock and returned to the sea, her rightful home.

Successful sea trials were completed in early July. The crew's proficiency was a testament to her dedication to training during those long shipyard days. Following sea trials, the boat once again prowled the sea, stopping in Port Canaveral, Florida for a VIP cruise and a Tiger cruise. The USS MINNEAPOLIS-SAINT PAUL (SSN 708) returned to Norfolk at the end of July for one week in port.

August began with a successful Supply Management Inspection, followed by a return to sea for operational proficiency. An unscheduled Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination was conducted at the end of the month, with the ship once again performing at a level beyond that expected of a boat that had just left the shipyard.

September started with a maintenance availability, then the ship went to sea to evade the path of Hurricane Isabel. During this underway, the crew turned its attention to tactics.

Returning from sea at the beginning of October, the ship began two months of intense maintenance designed to prepare her for her upcoming deployment. In December, the ship once again returned to sea for three weeks to prepare for and conduct a Tactical Readiness Evaluation. The TRE was completed successfully with the ship demonstrating, once again, that she is ready to perform any operational mission. The USS MINNEAPOLIS-SAINT PAUL (SSN 708) then returned to Norfolk, Virginia for a well earned Holiday Stand-down.

The sustained superior performance of the men of the MINNEAPOLIS-SAINT PAUL (SSN 708) throughout the year was awarded with the Battle "E", which recognizes the best submarine in the squadron for that year. The ship also received the Supply Blue E. The self-sacrificing nature of the crew was further demonstrated by its raising almost \$27,000, for the Combined Federal Campaign, exceeding her goal by over 250 percent.

4. Supporting Documents:

- a. Commanding Officer Biography
- b. Executive Officer Biography