



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS PHILADELPHIA (SSN 690)  
FPO AE 09582-2370

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5000

Ser 690/073

21 MAY 04

From: Commanding Officer, USS PHILADELPHIA (SSN 690)  
To: Director of Naval History (N-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
901 M. Street S.E., Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY-2003

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) Command History for USS PHILADELPHIA (SSN 690)

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted per reference (a).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. M. OXHOLM", written in a cursive style.

S. M. OXHOLM

Copy to:  
DIRSSP (SP-01M)

**USS PHILADELPHIA (SSN 690)**  
**UIC: 20204**  
**2003 Command History (01 Jan - 31 Dec)**

Part 1. Command Composition and Organization

A. MISSION: To provide Anti-Submarine Warfare (USW), Anti-Surface Warfare (SUW), Strike Warfare, and support Naval Special Warfare (NSW) for the U.S. Submarine Force. USS PHILADELPHIA is equipped to carry MK-48 ADCAP torpedoes and all variants of Tomahawk cruise missiles. In 1998, PHILADELPHIA was altered and is now a Dry Deck Shelter (DDS) platform capable of carrying Special Operations Forces and providing Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) mother ship support.

B. ORGANIZATION:

Immediate Superior in Command: CAPT Mark Breor, Commander  
Submarine Squadron TWO

Commanding Officer: CDR Steven M. Oxholm

Executive Officer: LCDR Ryan K. Brookhart

Chief of the Boat: ETCM(SS) Patrick D. Agnew

Engineer: LCDR [REDACTED]

Navigator: LCDR [REDACTED]

Weapons Officer: LCDR [REDACTED]

Supply Officer: LTJG [REDACTED]

Part 2.                    Chronology

5-8 Feb                    Post Selected Restricted Availability Sea Trials

11-14 Feb                 Transit from Groton to Port Canaveral, FL to load SEAL Delivery Vehicle Gear

14 Feb - 7 Mar            SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team Two Task Unit Bravo Independent Certification

11-24 Mar                 Torpedo Exercise and Pre-Overseas Movement Training

26-28 Apr                 Transit from Groton to Norfolk to load SEAL Delivery Vehicle Gear

28 Apr - 20 May          SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team Two Task Unit Charlie Independent Certification and Pre-Overseas Movement Training

20-27 May                 Tactical Readiness Examination

28 May - 4 Jun            Pre-Overseas Movement Certification

6 Jun                      Change of Command. CDR Emil Casciano Relieved by CDR Steven Oxholm

18-30 Jun                 Underway for Deployment

7-10 Jul                    Dry Deck Shelter Operations

11-15 Jul                 Transit from Spain to Italy

22-25 Jul                 Transit from Italy to Greece

29 Jul - 8 Aug            Dry Deck Shelter Operations

11-14 Aug                 Transit from Greece to Italy

25 Aug - 2 Sep            Transit from Italy to Greece

5Sep - 17 Sep            Training exercise operations with a surface ship and aircraft, transit to Italy

30 Sep - 6 Oct            Transit to Greece

10 Oct - 16 Oct          Dry Deck Shelter Operations

16 Oct - 28 Dec Suez Canal transit South (19 Oct), Dry Deck Shelter Operations, Suez Canal Transit North (23 Dec), to Italy

C. NARRATIVE:

Following an extensive Selected Restricted Availability, the PHILADELPHIA began the year with sea trials. After the PHILADELPHIA tested its seaworthiness it tested its operational readiness. The PHILADELPHIA was certified for Dry Deck Shelter operations. The first certification was conducted to certify former commanding officer Commander Casciano. Following a short in-port period, the PHILADELPHIA set out to perform its second certification confirming prospective commanding officer Commander Steven M. Oxholm's ability to conduct independent Dry Deck Shelter operations. In addition, PHILADELPHIA completed its Tactical Readiness Evaluation with a firm average. Undaunted by the arduous inspection and a lengthy in-port period the PHILADELPHIA capped an underway by successfully certifying for overseas movement.

With barely a two-week respite, the PHILADELPHIA set out on its six-month deployment under the command of Commander Oxholm. Initially chopping into the Mediterranean, the PHILADELPHIA spent a majority of the deployment further refining as well as redefining its dry deck shelter operational abilities constantly maintaining battle readiness and never losing sight of potential tasking. Along the way, the USS PHILADELPHIA participated in operations with the USS NICHOLAS demonstrating the relevance of the submarine fleet.

In mid-October the USS PHILADELPHIA began its transit to the Indian Ocean traveling through the Suez Canal and into Central Command area of responsibility. PHILADELPHIA bravely supported Operation Enduring Freedom contributing to the Global War on Terrorism exceptionally employing the attributes of the submarine force.

A. Statistical Summary:

1. Navigation Total Miles Steamed: 48,136 NM
2. Awards: 2003 Battle Efficiency "E"  
2003 Supply Blue "E"