



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771)
FPO AE 09566-2427

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From: Commanding Officer, USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771) 08 MAR 1996
To: Naval Historical Center (SH)

Subj: USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771) 1995 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History
(2) Commissioning Book
(3) Commissioning Plan of the Day
(4) Letter to ADM Flatley, Ret concerning use of CL-56
Bell
(5) Photographs
(6) Ship's Seal Decal
(7) Welcome Aboard Booklet (includes CO's biography)
(8) Voice Call Sign and International Call Sign
Assignments Letter

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are forwarded.


D. R. GOVAN

USS COLUMBIA Command History - 1995

I. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

A. Mission. USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771) is a Los Angeles (SSN 688) class fast attack nuclear submarine. Columbia is distinguished from earlier SSN 688I (SSN 751 and later) ships by the "MOD 25" propulsion system. Its mission has been new construction at Electric Boat Company, trials and shakedown, training services for Atlantic Fleet units, and research and development support. USS COLUMBIA was placed "in service - active" on 31 May 95, delivered to the Navy on 18 Aug 95, and placed in commission on 9 Oct 95.

B. Organization.

1. Command relations. Prior to commissioning, USS COLUMBIA's immediate superior in command (ISIC) was Commander, Submarine Group Two (COMSUBGRU 2). During this period, USS COLUMBIA operated at-sea under operational control of COMSUBGRU 2 (Commander, Task Group 42.5) Commander, Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet (COMSUBLANT - Commander, Task Force 42).

Upon commissioning, Commander, Submarine Squadron Two (COMSUBRON 2 - Commander Task Unit 42.4.1) assumed administrative control and exercised operational control along with COMSUBLANT. As part of SUBRON 2, USS COLUMBIA was assigned as Task Element 42.4.1.21. Homeport is Groton, CT. Following post-shakedown availability (PSA), USS COLUMBIA will change homeport to Pearl Harbor, HI as part of SUBRON 7 in the Pacific Fleet.

2. Unit organization. In accordance with the U. S. Navy and Submarine Force Standard Organization and Regulation Manuals (SORM), USS COLUMBIA is organized with the following departments: Engineering, Combat Systems, Medical, Navigation/Operations, Supply. USS COLUMBIA's internal organization differs slightly from the SORM in that the Navigation and Operations departments have been combined into a single department with two divisions: Radio Frequency Electronics Technicians (RFET) and Navigation Electronics Technicians (NAVET). RFET division is comprised of the Communications and Electronics divisions from the Operations department. Interior Communications division (normally part of the Engineering department) has been combined with the Quartermaster and Navigation Electronics divisions from the Navigation department to form NAVET division. This reorganization anticipates organization manual revision based on the merger of the quartermaster (QM), radioman (RM), and interior communications electrician (IC) ratings into the electronics technician (ET) rating (scheduled for July, 1996).

Enclosure (1)

II. CHRONOLOGY FOR 1995

1 Jan Columbia (SSN 771) under construction at Electric Boat Company in Groton, CT. CDR Dale R. Govan is the prospective commanding officer (PCO) of the ship and is serving as the commanding officer of the Precommissioning Unit (PCU COLUMBIA). The Columbia crew occupied offices spaces in building 80. Nuclear engineering watches set.

14 Feb COMSUBGRU 2, RADM Richard Buchanan visited Columbia's office spaces and addressed the crew

22 Feb Pre-Reactor Safeguards Examination conducted by representatives from COMSUBGRU 2

7-8 Mar Reactor Safeguards Examination conducted by representatives of Naval Reactors (NAVSEA 08)

1-15 Apr Initial criticality and power range testing

24 May Phase I crew certification and hability inspection conducted by representatives from COMSUBGRU 2.

31 May USS COLUMBIA placed "in service-active." CDR Govan assumes Officer-in-charge (OIC) status of the ship. Watches set in accordance with the submarine SORM. Crew moved aboard ship.

14-16 Jun Phase II crew certification conducted by representative from COMSUBGRU 2

19-23 Jun Pre-sea trials fast cruise conducted

26-27 Jun Alpha sea trial. Initial at-sea operations. Embarked dignitaries included ADM Demars (NAVSEA 08), RADM Buchanan (COMSUBGRU 2), and Mr. Turner (President - Electric Boat Company).

28-30 Jun Bravo sea trial.

21 Jul-3 Aug Charlie sea trial. Acoustic trials in Exuma sound.

8-11 Aug Combined acceptance trials and INSURV inspection.

17-18 Aug Delta sea trial and tiger cruise.

18 Aug USS COLUMBIA delivered to the Navy. Columbia moored at SUBASE New London.

Enclosure (1)

5-10 Sep Enroute Port Canaveral. Provided services for Standard Garnet testing.

11-21 Sep Port Canaveral for Weapons System Acceptance Testing (WSAT). While in port, crew members observed a space shuttle landing at the Kennedy Space Center.

22-24 Sep Enroute AUTEK for WSAT. Embarked media from KOMU-TV Columbia, MO; KTVI-TV St. Louis, MO; St. Louis Post Dispatch; and University of South Carolina.

9 Oct USS COLUMBIA commissioned at Naval Submarine Base New London and became part of Submarine Squadron Two. CDR Govan assumed position of commanding officer. Commissioning officer - VADM Emery (COMSUBLANT), principal speaker - Secretary of the Navy John Dalton. Mayors of the namesake cities (Missouri, Illinois, and South Carolina) attended, as well as crew members from the last USS COLUMBIA (CL-56). Columbia's sponsor, Hillary Rodham Clinton was unable to attend, but by taped statement, she invited the crew and families to visit the White House on 4 Jan 96. Commissioning reception was held at the Tavern on the Green on Subase.

11 Oct Conducted VIP cruise in Long Island sound for commissioning guests.

16-29 Oct Transit to Exuma Sound for pre-PSA (post-shakedown availability) acoustic trials. Provided services for CNO project 0762-03 (extended echo ranging).

30 Oct-4 Dec IMA upkeep - Groton. Installed BSY-1 ECI-10.

5-7 Dec Refresher training in local OPAREA.

8 Dec Returned to port for repair of trim overboard valve TD-7.

9-18 Dec Transit to AUTEK to provide target services in support of Tactical Readiness Exam (TRE) per COMSUBLANT OPORD 44-95.

19-31 Dec Holiday standdown - Groton, CT.

Enclosure (1)

III. NARRATIVE

1995 included a number of "firsts" for USS COLUMBIA. As the new construction phase drew to a close, these included:

- the first at-power operation of the reactor plant,
- the first habitation of the ship's living spaces,
- the first at-sea operations,
- delivery to the Navy,
- commissioning,
- the first fleet support operations, and
- the first port visit (Port Canaveral, FL).

These events and operations provided the framework in which USS COLUMBIA left the ship-building mode to become a proficient operational fleet submarine. Classroom and submarine school training was replaced by actual hands-on, at-sea operations. Columbia completed this transition successfully and the crew's performance was commendable.

The crew of Columbia enjoyed close relations with its namesake cities in Missouri, South Carolina, and Illinois, as well as World War II veterans from USS COLUMBIA (CL-56) who provided their ship's bell for the commissioning ceremony. The cities contributed significantly toward the various commissioning functions. Surround-sound audio-visual entertainment systems in the crew's mess, wardroom, and CPO quarters were purchased by the cities' commissioning committee as gifts to the crew. Some of these Columbia friends embarked for a a one-day cruise on 11 Oct.

Operations during 1995 primarily supported new construction and shakedown. Sea trials were conducted in the local operating areas with builder's acoustic trial in Exuma sound. Between delivery and commissioning, Weapons System Acceptance Testing (WSAT) was completed in Port Canaveral, FL and AUTEC range. USS COLUMBIA returned to Exuma for pre-PSA acoustic trial and to AUTEC in support of a COMSUBLANT Tactical Readiness Exam. Guests were embarked on several occasions for one and two day cruises.

Enclosure (1)

USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771)

SATURDAY, 7 OCTOBER 1995, SUNRISE: 0650, SUNSET: 1820
SUNDAY, 8 OCTOBER 1995, SUNRISE: 0651, SUNSET: 1819
MONDAY, 9 OCTOBER 1995, SUNRISE: 0652, SUNSET: 1817

SHIP'S DUTY OFFICER

LT [REDACTED]
LT [REDACTED]
LT [REDACTED]

DUTY CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

YNC(SS) [REDACTED]
FTC(SS) [REDACTED]
SKC(SS) [REDACTED]

ENGINEERING DUTY OFFICER

LT [REDACTED]
LTJG [REDACTED]
LTJG [REDACTED]

ENGINEERING DUTY PETTY OFFICER

MMCM(SS) [REDACTED]
MMC(SS) [REDACTED]
ETC(SS) [REDACTED] / MM1(SS) [REDACTED]

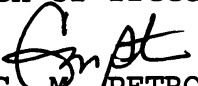
SATURDAY/SUNDAY ROUTINE (SECTION 3/4)

0600 Reveille
0630-0800 Breakfast
0700 Oncoming Duty Section Muster in Control
0800-1000 Delinquent Personnel Muster with the Duty Chief
1130-1230 Lunch
1430 Duty Section Training
1600 Commence Housekeeping
1700-1800 Dinner

MONDAY ROUTINE (SECTION 1)

0530-0630 Breakfast
0530 Reveille for All Hands
0600 Clean Up Ship
0700 Oncoming Duty Section Muster in Control
0915 Liberty Expires for All Hands
~~1130-1230 Lunch~~
1100 Commissioning Ceremony
1300-1400 Lunch
1530 Clean Up Ship
1600 Commence Housekeeping
1700-1800 Dinner
1700-2400 Crew's Party (Ramada Inn, Norwich)

1. Commissioning Deck Log Entry: In the year nineteen-ninety five, a new COLUMBIA comes alive. On Columbus day in September, brought forth a day to remember. Like seven ships of the past, the nautical tradition is meant to last. The first submarine to bear the name, of the Statue of Freedom that brought us fame. Launched by the First Lady with pride, she is the last submarine to slide. Commissioned in Groton at pier thirty-two, thirty years is her life, give or take a few. Three cities host the honor, In Illinois, Missouri and South Carolina, of sponsoring the ship and the crew, and building a lasting friendship too. Commander Govan is her skipper, leading the crew, bright-eyed and chipper. For twenty-two months the COB and XO have developed a crew that's ready to go to perform our tasking in any mission. Well trained, ready and well conditioned. COLUMBIA the sub, a man-of-war, is built in hope that war is no more. Last of a kind she may have earned, but the torch of freedom will continue to burn.


G. M. PETRO
Executive Officer