



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

UNCLASSIFIED

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5830  
Ser N00J/ S0032  
15 APR 05

~~SECRET NOFORN~~ - Unclassified upon removal of basic  
correspondence and enclosures

THIRD ENDORSEMENT on Rear Admiral (Select) [REDACTED], USN,  
letter 5830 of 3 Feb 05 (as modified by change  
transmittal on 18 Feb 05) (U)

From: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
To: File

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION OF THE SUBMERGED GROUNDING OF  
USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN 711) APPROXIMATELY 360 NM  
SOUTHEAST OF GUAM THAT OCCURRED ON 08 JANUARY 2005

Encl: (264) Summary of [REDACTED] Taken by COMSUBRON  
FIFTEEN, dtd 29 Mar 05  
(265) COMSUBRON FIFTEEN ltr 5812 Ser N000J/131 of 22  
Mar 05  
(266) COMSUBRON FIFTEEN ltr 5812 Ser N00J/134 of 25  
Mar 05  
(267) COMSUBRON FIFTEEN ltr 5812 Ser N00J/135 of 25  
Mar 05  
(268) COMSUBRON FIFTEEN ltr 5812 Ser N00J/136 of 25  
Mar 05

1. (U) Pursuant to reference (a), I have completed my review of  
this investigation and endorsements and hereby close out this  
investigation.

2. (U) On 08 January 2005, USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN 711), while  
submerged at a depth of 525 feet and transiting at flank speed  
in the vicinity of the Caroline Islands, grounded on a seamount.  
The high-speed impact ultimately resulted in the death of one  
crewmember, injuries to 98 of 137 crewmembers, damage estimated  
to be in excess of \$88,000,000.00 to the submarine, and the loss  
of SAN FRANCISCO to the fleet for a period of time estimated to  
be in excess of four hundred days pending completion of  
extensive repairs.

(b)(6) (b)(7)(c)

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION OF THE SUBMERGED GROUNDING OF  
USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN 711) APPROXIMATELY 360 NM  
SOUTHEAST OF GUAM THAT OCCURRED ON 08 JANUARY 2005

3. (U) The events leading up to the grounding are fully documented in the subject investigation. Subject to the following, I concur with and approve the findings of fact, opinions, and recommendations of the investigating officer and the endorsements and actions taken by previous endorsers.

4. (U) Administrative actions:

a. Add enclosures (264) - (268). Enclosures (265) - (268) are [REDACTED] in the cases of LCDR [REDACTED], USN; LCDR [REDACTED], USN; ETCS(SS) [REDACTED], USN; and ET1(SS) [REDACTED], USN.

b. Add Finding of Fact 527: COMSUBRON FIFTEEN conducted [REDACTED] on 22 March 2005 with the following results:

i. LCDR [REDACTED] was found to have [REDACTED] and was [REDACTED]. [encls (264), (265)]

ii. LCDR [REDACTED] was found to have [REDACTED] and was [REDACTED]. [encls (264), (266)]

iii. ETCS(SS) [REDACTED] was found to have [REDACTED] and was [REDACTED]. [encls (264), (267)]

iv. ET1(SS) [REDACTED] was found to have [REDACTED] and was [REDACTED]. [encls (264), (268)]

v. ET2(SS) [REDACTED] found to have [REDACTED] and was [REDACTED]. [encl (264)]

vi. ET2(SS) [REDACTED] was found to have [REDACTED] and was [REDACTED]. [encl (264)]

vii. ET2(SS) [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]. [encl (264)]

(b)(6)

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION OF THE SUBMERGED GROUNDING OF  
USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN 711) APPROXIMATELY 360 NM  
SOUTHEAST OF GUAM THAT OCCURRED ON 08 JANUARY 2005

c. Based in part on coordination with Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA 08), the following modifications are made to the classification markings in the basic correspondence:

i. Page 1: Replace classification marking of report ("SECRET") with "SECRET--NOFORN". Replace "DOE-DOD Classification Guide CG-RN-1 Revision 3 dtd February 1996" with "Multiple Sources." Replace "RESTRICTED DATA - This document contains Restricted Data as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Unauthorized disclosure subject to Administrative and Criminal Sanctions" with "NOFORN: This document is subject to special export controls and each transmittal to foreign governments or foreign nationals may be made only with prior approval of the Naval Sea Systems Command." Change classification marking for enclosure (5) from "(U)" to "(C)".

ii. Page 2: Change classification marking for enclosure (16) from "(U)" to "(C)". Add classification marking "(U)" to enclosure (23).

iii. Page 5: Add classification marking "(C)" to enclosure (83). Change "NOTE" to "SUBNOTE" in reference to enclosure (91).

iv. Page 6: Change classification marking for enclosure (103) from "(U)" to "(C)".

v. Page 14: Change classification marking for finding of fact 7 from "(U)" to "(C)".

vi. Page 45: Change classification markings for findings of fact 215 and 216 from "(U)" to "(C)".

vii. Page 57: Change classification markings for findings of fact 290 and 291 from "(U)" to "(C)".

viii. Page 59: Add classification marking "(U)" to findings of fact 301 - 304.

ix. Page 60: Change classification marking for finding of fact 310 from "(C)" to "(U)".

x. Page 61: Change classification marking for finding of fact 314 from "(C)" to "NOFORN".

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION OF THE SUBMERGED GROUNDING OF  
USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN 711) APPROXIMATELY 360 NM  
SOUTHEAST OF GUAM THAT OCCURRED ON 08 JANUARY 2005

xi. Page 74: Change classification marking for finding of fact 400 from "(C)" to "NOFORN".

xii. Page 119: Change classification marking for opinion 63 from "(C)" to "(U)".

5. (U) By copy of the investigation and first endorsement, recommendations 2 through 14 were forwarded to other activities for review and appropriate action. The following amplifying details are provided:

a. Recommendations 2 through 8, addressing [REDACTED] for members of SAN FRANCISCO, were forwarded to COMSUBRON FIFTEEN for review and appropriate action. As reported in paragraph 4b, above, action is now complete on recommendations 2 through 8.

b. Recommendation 9 calls for review of various regulations, instructions and procedures and appropriate action following that review by COMNAVSUBFOR. By copy of this endorsement, request COMNAVSUBFOR report final disposition of action on recommendation 9 by 01 July 2005.

c. Recommendation 10 calls for review and appropriate action by COMNAVSUBFOR and OPNAV, working with NGA, of the procedures and specifications used to update charts. By copy of this endorsement, request COMNAVSUBFOR report final disposition of action on recommendation 10 by 01 July 2005.

d. Recommendation 11 calls for BUMED to review material and training issues identified by the investigation and to take appropriate action. By copy of this endorsement, request BUMED report final disposition of action on recommendation 11 by 01 June 2005.

e. Recommendation 12 calls for COMSUBPAC, in coordination with COMPACFLT, to review personnel detailing practices for submarine staff manning and address needed policy changes with NAVPERSCOM (PERS 4). By copy of the second endorsement, COMSUBPAC reports completion of the manning review and has forwarded recommendation 12 to COMNAVSUBFOR for additional review and appropriate action. On 09 March 2005, COMNAVSUBFOR assumed responsibility for Pacific Submarine Force manning. By copy of this endorsement, request COMNAVSUBFOR report final disposition of action on recommendation 12 by 01 June 2005.

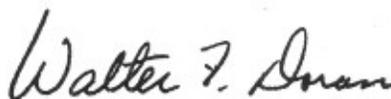
(b)(6)

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION OF THE SUBMERGED GROUNDING OF  
USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN 711) APPROXIMATELY 360 NM  
SOUTHEAST OF GUAM THAT OCCURRED ON 08 JANUARY 2005

f. Recommendation 13 calls for COMSUBGRU SEVEN to assess SAN FRANCISCO Navigation Team proficiency and compliance with standards regarding chart preparation and open ocean navigation, and implement a training and certification plan as warranted. By copy of this endorsement, COMSUBGRU SEVEN is directed to report final disposition of action on recommendation 13 by 01 June 2005.

g. Recommendation 14 calls for COMNAVSUBFOR and BUMED to provide lessons learned from this incident to the submarine force and appropriate medical personnel. By copy of this endorsement, request COMNAVSUBFOR and BUMED report final disposition of action on recommendation 14 by 01 June 2005.

6. (U) I note in particular my concurrence with opinion 1 and the related comments in the first endorsement by Commander, SEVENTH Fleet. Though not able to state with absolute certainty that the grounding was avoidable given all the circumstances, I am convinced that the ship would have most likely avoided grounding had prudent measures been taken based on an assessment of the risks. If not wholly avoided, the grounding would have been far less severe. The investigation reveals a series of bad judgments, faulty assumptions, poor attention to detail, and complacency among the navigation department, watch standers, and command leadership, that culminated in SAN FRANCISCO running at flank speed until striking a seamount. But for outstanding damage control efforts and impressive post-grounding leadership, this event could have had far more disastrous consequences. We have again been reminded of the critical importance of individual diligence, attention to detail, and the absolute requirement to be ever vigilant in operations at sea.

  
WALTER F. DORAN  
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Copy to:  
VCNO  
BUMED  
NAVSAFCEM  
NAVPERSCOM (PERS 4)  
COMFLTFORCOM  
COMNAVSUBFOR  
COMSUBPAC

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION OF THE SUBMERGED GROUNDING OF  
USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN 711) APPROXIMATELY 360 NM  
SOUTHEAST OF GUAM THAT OCCURRED ON 08 JANUARY 2005

COMSEVENTHFLT  
COMSUBGRU SEVEN  
COMSUBRON FIFTEEN  
RDML (SEL) [REDACTED]