



USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee

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Initial Sea Trials Complete

The future USS Colorado completed her initial sea trials on August 30 completing both the Alpha and Bravo trials. The first phase, Alpha Trials, lasted from 19th to the 22nd and included a range of submarine and propulsion-plant operations, submerging for the first time, and high-speed runs on and below the surface to demonstrate that the ship's propulsion plant is fully mission-capable. The trials were directed by U.S. Navy Adm. James F. Caldwell Jr., Director Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. Also participating in the sea trials were Capt. Jeffrey Heydon, supervisor of shipbuilding in Groton; and Jeffrey S. Geiger, president of Electric Boat.

The crew performed extremely well testing the boat to its design limits. After an inport period, the boat will return to sea shortly for an inspection by the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV), which is the last major step before a ship is certified ready to be delivered to the Navy. Congratulations COLORADO!



BB-45

Coincidentally, as SSN 788 completed her sea trials on August 30th, that day also marked 94 years since the commissioning of USS Colorado (BB-45). Their [alumni association's website](#) notes:

"Thus in 1921, the third in the COLORADO lineage of fight-

ing ships became the cynosure of international relations. The world saw the epitome of floating potency. Two years of fitting out elapsed between the 1921 launching of USS COLORADO (BB-45) and her commissioning on August 30, 1923. Captain Reginald Rowan Belknap (Annapolis '91), veteran of the Spanish-American and World Wars, the Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion, was ordered to command this newest addition to the United States Fleet, the last such addition for many years in accordance with the Naval treaty."

Commissioning Date

We do not yet have official Navy confirmation that the commissioning date will be March 17th. Our understanding is that the date has been vetted with all required organizations and that it is now awaiting approval by the Secretary of the Navy.

As we indicated in our last newsletter, we will continue to collect names for those wishing an invitation to the Commissioning. We will submit our first list to the Navy about 100 days before Commissioning, or early December. Invitations will close out about a month later and invitations will be sent out about six weeks before the event. Recall that the commissioning ceremony is an official U. S. Navy event for which there is no admission fee, however, due to security reasons and limited seating, admission is by invitation only. The Navy will send out the invitations to the ceremony and you will need to respond to that invitation to receive your tickets to the event. The link to this request form is at:

usscoloradocommittee.org/sign-commissioning-invitation/

Updated Presentation Video

We have recently updated the Committee presentation video. It is available on YouTube and on a link from our web site.

Your Tube Link: