



PRESS RELEASE

Public Affairs Office
Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue,
Suite 250
Norfolk, Va. 23551-2487
(757) 836-3600
Fax: (757) 836-3601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release 02-13

January 04, 2013

USS Montpelier Commanding Officer Relieved of Duty

NORFOLK, Va. – Capt. Blake Converse, Commander, Submarine Squadron Six, relieved Cmdr. Thomas Winter, commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Montpelier (SSN 765), of his duties Jan. 4 due to loss of confidence in Winter's ability to command.

The relief comes after a thorough command investigation into the collision that occurred between USS Montpelier and the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS San Jacinto (CG 56) off the coast of Florida Oct. 13, 2012.

The investigation revealed that the principal cause of the collision was human error, poor teamwork by the Montpelier watch team, and the commanding officer's failure to follow established procedures for submarines operating at periscope depth. Additionally, the investigation revealed contributing factors threaded among the various command and control headquarters that provide training and operational oversight within Fleet Forces Command.

Winter has been reassigned to administrative duties at Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic in Norfolk, Va. Cmdr. Stephen Mongold, who previously served as the executive assistant for Commander, Submarine Forces, will assume all duties as commanding officer of USS Montpelier.

For questions related to this release, contact LCDR Jennifer Cragg, Commander, Submarine Group 2, at (860) 694-3148.

- USFF -