

Contact: Jennifer Dellapenta  
(757) 380-3558  
[Jennifer.Dellapenta@ngc.com](mailto:Jennifer.Dellapenta@ngc.com)

North Carolina Sets Sail

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – Dec. 12, 2007 - The *Virginia*-class submarine *North Carolina* (SSN 777) left for its first set of sea trials, referred to as Alpha trials, on Wednesday, December 12 from Northrop Grumman Newport News.

Sea trials provide an opportunity to test all systems, components and compartments and include submerging for the first time, high-speed runs while on the surface and submerged, and a demonstration of the submarine's other capabilities.

Participating in these trials for the fourth ship of the *Virginia* class include Admiral Kirkland Donald, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program; Mike Petters, President, Northrop Grumman Newport News; Rear Admiral William Hilarides, Program Executive Officer, Submarines, and other Navy and industry officials.

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