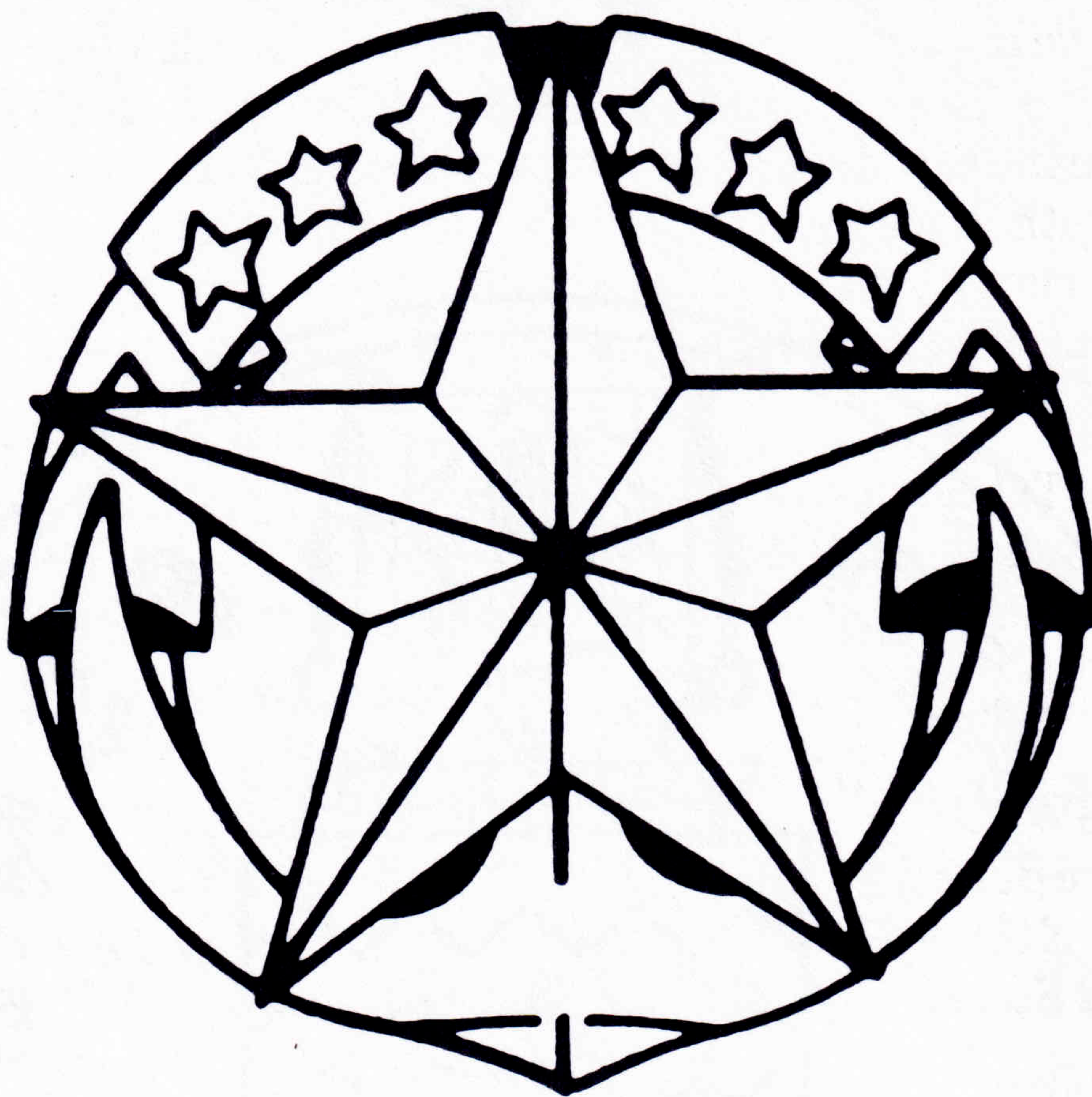


Change of Command



**USS GATO
SSN 615**

27 JANUARY 1984



THE CEREMONY



The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition which formally restates to the officers and personnel of the command the continuity of the authority of the command. It is a formal ritual conducted before the assembled company of the command. The change of command of a naval unit/activity is nearly unique in the world today; it is a transfer of total responsibility, authority and accountability from one individual to another.

Command at Sea

THE PRESTIGE, PRIVILEGE AND BURDEN OF COMMAND

by Joseph Conrad

Only a seaman realizes to what an extent an entire ship reflects the personality and ability of one individual, her Commanding Officer. To a landsman, this is not understandable, and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend — but it is so.

A ship at sea is a distant world in herself and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of the fleet units, the Navy must place great power, responsibility and trust in the hands of those leaders chosen for command.

In each ship there is one man who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who alone is ultimately responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfiring and morale of his ship. He is the Commanding Officer. He is the ship.

This is the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small; nevertheless command is the spur which has given the Navy its great leaders.

It is a duty which most richly deserves the highest time honored title of the seafaring world — “CAPTAIN.”



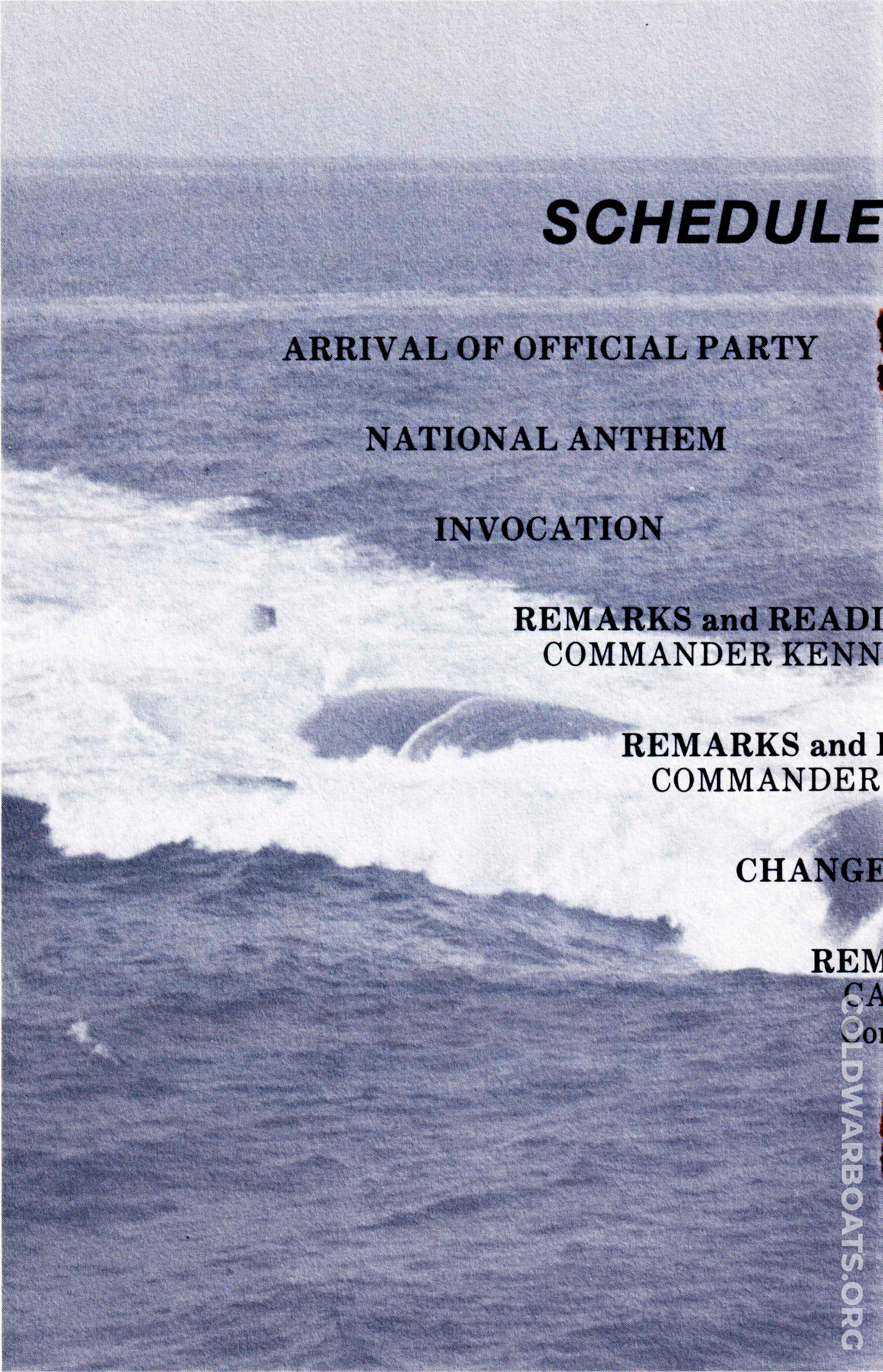
COMMANDER KENNETH A. LEE
UNITED STATES NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER

Commander Kenneth A. LEE, a native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, received his commission through the NROTC Program in June 1965 upon graduation from Purdue University. Following commissioning he completed Navy nuclear power training and then graduated from Basic Officer Submarine School. Commander LEE's first submarine tour was in USS SARGO (SSN 583) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii where he served as Supply, Communications, Electrical, Reactor Control, and Weapons Officer while earning his submarine officer gold dolphins. His next assignment was as Engineer Officer in USS SIMON BOLIVAR (SSN 641) for three deterrent patrols and a reactor refueling overhaul. He then served as Submarine Officer Advanced Course Instructor at Naval Submarine School. Following duty as Executive Officer in USS THOMAS JEFFERSON (SSBN 618) (GOLD) in Pearl Harbor, Commander LEE served as the Nuclear Enlisted Program Manager in the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C. prior to reporting to USS GATO (SSN 615) in December 1980.

Commander LEE is entitled to wear the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Submarine Deterrent Patrol Insignia.

Commander LEE's next assignment will be on the staff of Commander Submarine Group FIVE in San Diego, California.



SCHEDULE

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COMMANDER KENNEDY**

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COMMANDER KENNEDY**

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mmander Submarine Squadron TEN

BENEDICTION

DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL PARTY



**COMMANDER ALLEN E. LAWVER
UNITED STATES NAVY**

Commander Allen E. LAWVER is a 1967 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. Immediately following graduation and commissioning he completed a Master of Science Degree in Mathematics at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Following completion of postgraduate school in March 1968, he entered nuclear power training and in September 1969 reported to USS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY (SSBN 657) (B) where he completed four Polaris strategic deterrent patrols.

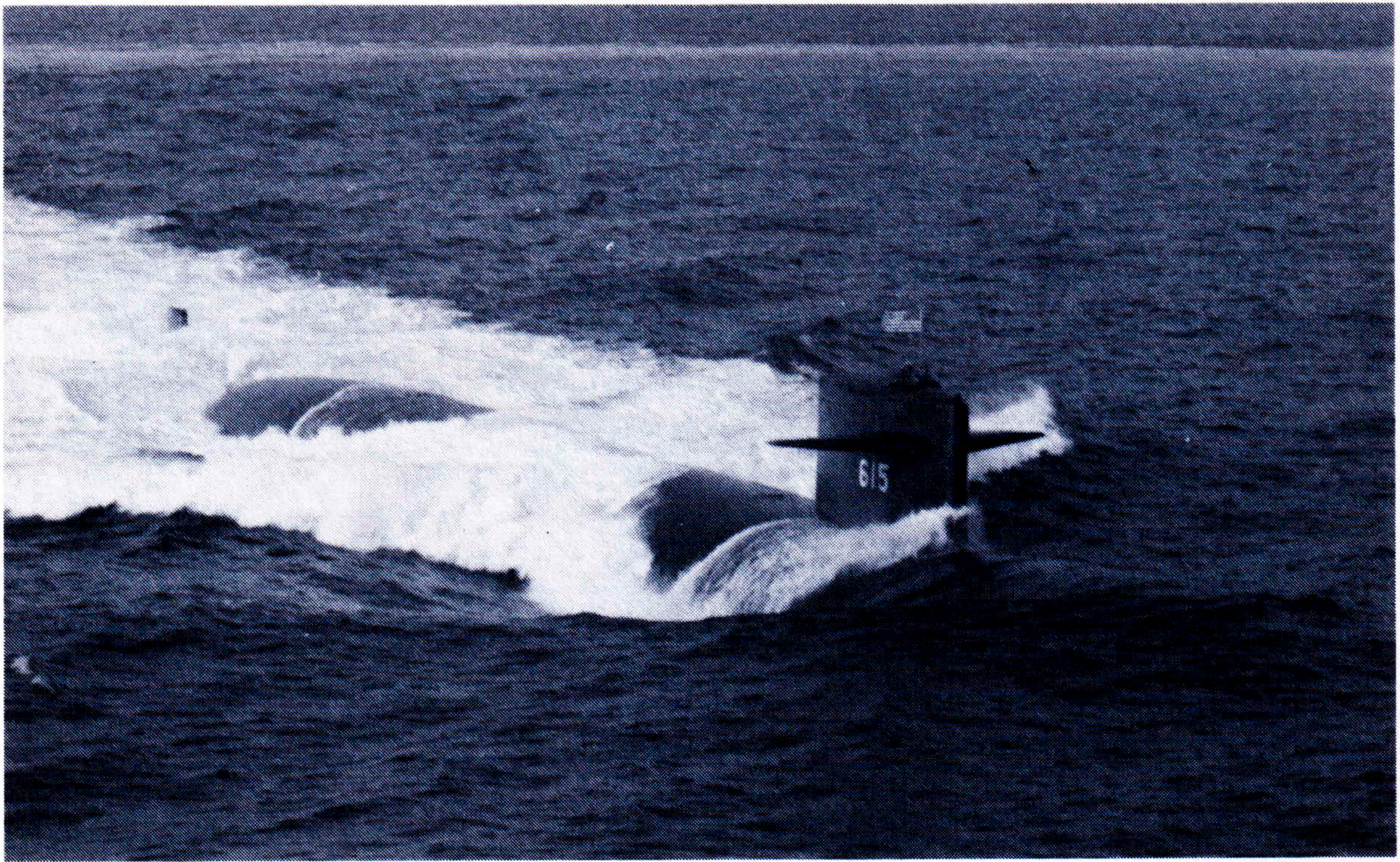
From August 1971 to September 1973, he was assigned to Nuclear Power Training Unit, Idaho Falls, Idaho. After attending Submarine Officers Advanced Course in Groton, Connecticut, Commander LAWVER reported in April 1974 as Engineer Officer in USS PARGO (SSN 650), serving 45 months onboard.

From February 1978 to July 1978, he attended Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia, after which he reported for duty on the staff of Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. During his two year tour on the material division of the staff he served as the Submarine Force SSBN Overhaul Officer.

Commander LAWVER reported to the Precommissioning Unit of the USS ATLANTA (SSN 712) as Executive Officer in July 1980, serving through the ship's construction, post shake-down availability and operations with the fleet through June 1983.

Commander LAWVER is entitled to wear the Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy Achievement Medal and the Navy Unit Commendation.

Commander LAWVER is married to the former Mary Berger from Groton, Connecticut. They have 5 children. Commander LAWVER is from Louisville, Ohio.



SHIP'S HISTORY

USS GATO (SSN 615), the second ship to bear the name, is one of thirteen submarines of the PERMIT class. The keel of the ship was laid on 15 December 1961 at the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation, Groton, Connecticut. The ship was launched 14 May 1964 at Groton after being christened by Mrs. Lawson P. Ramage, wife of then Rear Admiral Ramage, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

GATO was extensively modified during the construction period at the Quincy Division of General Dynamics Corporation. These alterations included lengthening of the hull by adding a new section amidships, installation of a large sail, and accomplishment of modifications which upgraded the integrity of sea water systems. Following successful completion of sea trials, GATO was commissioned on 25 January 1968.

In August 1968, GATO became the first nuclear powered submarine to visit Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and has revisited that beautiful port city again in 1976 and 1982.

GATO has deployed to the Mediterranean Sea three times for operations with U.S. Sixth Fleet and twice to South America and Caribbean nations as the submarine element of the U.S. UNITAS Task Force. In 1976 GATO was the first nuclear submarine to transit the Straits of Magellan and circumnavigate the South American Continent. GATO has been awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation twice for highly classified missions contributing significantly to the defense of the United States.

GATO has completed two reactor refueling overhauls, in 1972-73 and 1977-80, and has steamed over 380,000 miles submerged in her many and varied missions.

Since commissioning, GATO has been awarded the Engineering "E" for outstanding engineering performance in 1976, the ASW "A" for outstanding navigation and antisubmarine warfare performance in 1974, 1975, 1976, 1982 and 1983, and the Battle Efficiency "E" as the outstanding submarine in Submarine Squadron TEN in 1969, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976 and 1982.

