



# Change of Command



8 April 1983

# Command At Sea

## THE PRESTIGE, PRIVILEGE AND BURDEN OF COMMAND

by Joseph Conrad

Only a seaman realizes to what great 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, this 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 words — "CAPTAIN".

# Change of Command

COMMANDER CHARLES L. MOORE, III  
United States Navy

relieved by

COMMANDER STEPHEN A. JOHNSON  
United States Navy

as

Commanding Officer  
USS RAY (SSN 653)

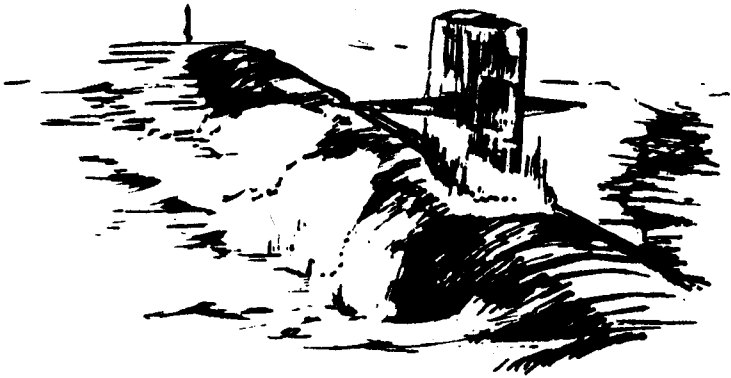
at

Naval Station,  
Charleston, South Carolina



# The Ceremony

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition which formally restates to the officers and men of the command the continuity of the authority of command. It is a formal ritual conducted before the assembled company of the command. The change of command of a naval ship or organization is nearly unique in the world today: It is a transfer of total responsibility, authority and accountability from one individual to another individual.



# Program

Arrival of Official Party

National Anthem

Invocation

Remarks and Reading of Orders  
Commander Charles L. Moore, III, USN

Reading of Orders, Assumption of Command  
Commander Stephen A. Johnson, USN

Remarks by  
Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR  
Captain James E. Collins, USN

Benediction

Navy Hymn

Departure of Official Party

**COMMANDING OFFICER**



**COMMANDER CHARLES LEIGHTON MOORE, III**  
**United States Navy**

## **COMMANDER CHARLES LEIGHTON MOORE, III** **United States Navy**

Commander Charles Leighton Moore III was born in Miami, Florida in 1942. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1964.

Upon completion of Submarine School and Nuclear Propulsion Training, Commander Moore served as a division officer in USS SAM RAYBURN (SSBN 633)(BLUE). During this tour he was designated as "Qualified in Submarines" and completed qualification as Engineer Officer. In June 1969, Commander Moore was ordered to USS PLUNGER (SSN 595) for duty as Engineer Officer.

From December 1973 until June 1976, Commander Moore served as Nuclear Submarine Department Head Assignment Officer in the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

Commander Moore served as Executive Officer in USS FLYING FISH (SSN 673) from July 1976 to February 1979.

Commander Moore relieved as Commanding Officer USS RAY (SSN 653) on 20 November 1979.

Commander Moore is entitled to wear the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with two Gold Stars, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Navy "E" Ribbon, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia.

Commander Moore is married to the former Patricia Marie Hilderbrant of Cape Coral, Florida. They and their children Jennifer Marie, Leighton Earl Micklejohn, and Allen Brinkley reside in Charleston, SC.

**PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER**



**COMMANDER STEPHEN ALGER JOHNSON**  
**United States Navy**



## **COMMANDER STEPHEN ALGER JOHNSON**

### **United States Navy**

Commander Stephen A. Johnson was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1946. He was raised in North Georgia and, from the age of eight, lived in Marietta, Georgia. He graduated from Marietta High School and entered the United States Naval Academy in 1964. He graduated and was commissioned in 1968, having earned a Bachelor of Science degree.

After graduation and following a year at the U.S. Naval Post-graduate School, Monterey, California, Commander Johnson entered the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, for which he attended courses of instruction in Bainbridge, Maryland and Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

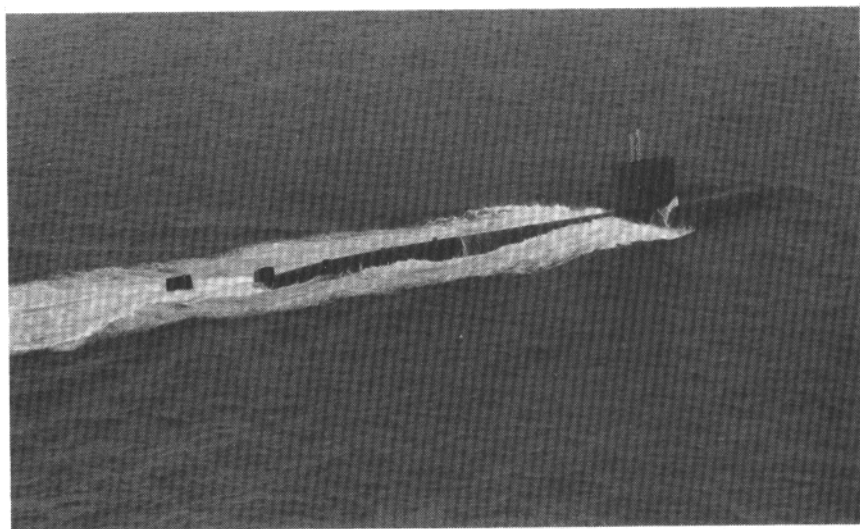
Commander Johnson completed the Submarine Officers Indocination Course at Submarine School, New London, Connecticut and reported to the Pre-commissioning Unit of USS SANDLANCE (SSN 660) at Portsmouth, New Hampshire in September of 1970. During twenty-six months aboard SANDLANCE, he served in various engineering division assignments and one year as Weapons Officer.

After completion of the Submarine Officers Advanced Course at Submarine School, New London, Connecticut, Commander Johnson reported to USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN 658)(BLUE) for a two year tour during which he served as Damage Control Assistant and Main Propulsion Assistant. He left VALLEJO in June 1975 and reported aboard USS SIMON LAKE (AS 33) in Rota, Spain for a two year tour as Radiological Controls Officer.

Commander Johnson reported to USS GEORGE BANCROFT (SSBN 643)(GOLD) in September 1977 where he served two and a half years as Engineer Officer. In January 1980, he was assigned as Executive Officer of USS L. MENDEL RIVERS (SSN 686) where he served for thirty months. Upon completion of Prospective Commanding Officer training, Commander Johnson reported to USS RAY (SSN 653) to relieve as Commanding Officer.

Commander Johnson is entitled to wear the following personal awards: The Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star in lieu of a second award and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Commander Johnson, his wife Nancy and their two sons, Michael and Jeffrey, reside in Charleston, South Carolina.



## Ship's History

USS RAY (SSN 653), the second ship to bear the name is a Sturgeon Class nuclear powered fast attack submarine designed for maximum speed and maneuverability submerged. In the sixteen years since commissioning in April 1967, RAY has conducted numerous highly significant operations in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. In addition to numerous Battle Efficiency awards earned while operating with Submarine Squadron SIX in Norfolk, Virginia and Submarine Squadron FOUR in Charleston, South Carolina, RAY has been awarded 5 Meritorious Unit Commendations and 4 Navy Unit Commendations.

RAY is named for fish of family Rajaidae, especially abundant in the North Pacific and North Atlantic oceans, some growing to a large size and attaining a weight of over 300 pounds. Most rays — or devilfish, as they are also known — are shorefishes, which lie concealed in the sand or mud of the ocean floor and from that hidden point dart suddenly upon unsuspecting prey.

In the past ten months, RAY has completed a five month Mediterranean deployment and a two month deployment in the North Atlantic. RAY is currently making preparations for her second overhaul at Charleston Naval Shipyard which will commence in late 1983.

# Officers

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

LCDR John K. Harrop, USN

## **ENGINEER OFFICER**

LCDR Huston K. Jones, USN

## **NAVIGATOR**

LT Donald R. Timms, USN

## **WEAPONS OFFICER**

LT Michael S. Slaughter, USN

## **COMMUNICATOR**

LT Paul J. Russo, USN

## **DAMAGE CONTROL ASSISTANT**

LT Craig R. Harley, USN

## **MAIN PROPULSION ASSISTANT**

LT Paul T. Wright, USN

## **SONAR OFFICER**

LT Paul C. Marley, III, USN

## **REACTOR CONTROL ASSISTANT**

LT Donald J. Mason, USN

## **ELECTRICAL OFFICER**

ENS John P. Hicks, USN

## **TORPEDO OFFICER**

ENS Michael P. Crowley, USN

## **FIRE CONTROL DIVISION OFFICER**

ENS Richard F. Marsh, USN

## **SUPPLY OFFICER**

ENS Tracy L. Brown, USNR

## **ELECTRONICS MATERIAL OFFICER**

ENS Robert T. MacMillan, Jr., USN

## **CHIEF OF THE BOAT**

RMCS John O'Connor, USNFR

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstances  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbow'd.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the horror of the shade  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul

*William Ernest Henley*  
*"Invictus"*