



Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

COMSUBPAC Press Release

USS William H. Bates inactivates after 25 years of service

Story by JO3 McClain Shewman

USS William H. Bates (SSN 680) was inactivated after 25 years of faithful service in a ceremony held recently at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The first Commanding Officer of the Bates, Glenn Arthur, retired Navy Capt. and former Conn. State Representative, was the guest speaker.

The submarine force in the Pacific will continue to shrink from as many as 40 in the early 1990's to only 25 early in the next decade. Ironically, demand for submarines in support of specific national tasking has more than doubled since the end of the Cold War.

"The Bates has established an enviable record. The sweat and tears and long separations by each of us who have gone to sea with her have been well spent," said Arthur. "We have operated [William H. Bates] to accomplish many significant events. Each of the crewmembers can stand proud, for they have done their job well - just as the man for whom this ship was named, William H. Bates, did his job well for all of us as a U.S. Congressman," added Arthur.



Arthur served in the Navy from 1955 to 1977 as a graduate from the Naval Academy. After his tour as Commanding Officer of Bates, Arthur went on to become Deputy Commodore for Training Submarine Squadron Ten before becoming a Comm. State Representative.

"With Capt. Glenn Arthur, my Commanding Officer when I was the engineer on the Bates, we breathed life into this fine ship," said Rear Adm. Al Konetzni, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "He taught me a lot, and I do mean a lot, about being a successful engineer, a professional naval officer, about being a shipmate, and most of all about being true to yourself and others," added Konetzni.

The Bates recently returned from its final Western Pacific Deployment (WESTPAC), which was the last ever for a Pacific-based Sturgeon-class submarine.

The submarine William H. Bates was named in honor of the late United States Representative William H. Bates of Massachusetts. Rep. Bates was devoted to the vital importance of U.S. seapower, and served in the Navy for 10 years. Rep. Bates served from 1950 to 1969, becoming the senior Republican member of the House Armed Services Committee and the second ranking House member of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee.

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