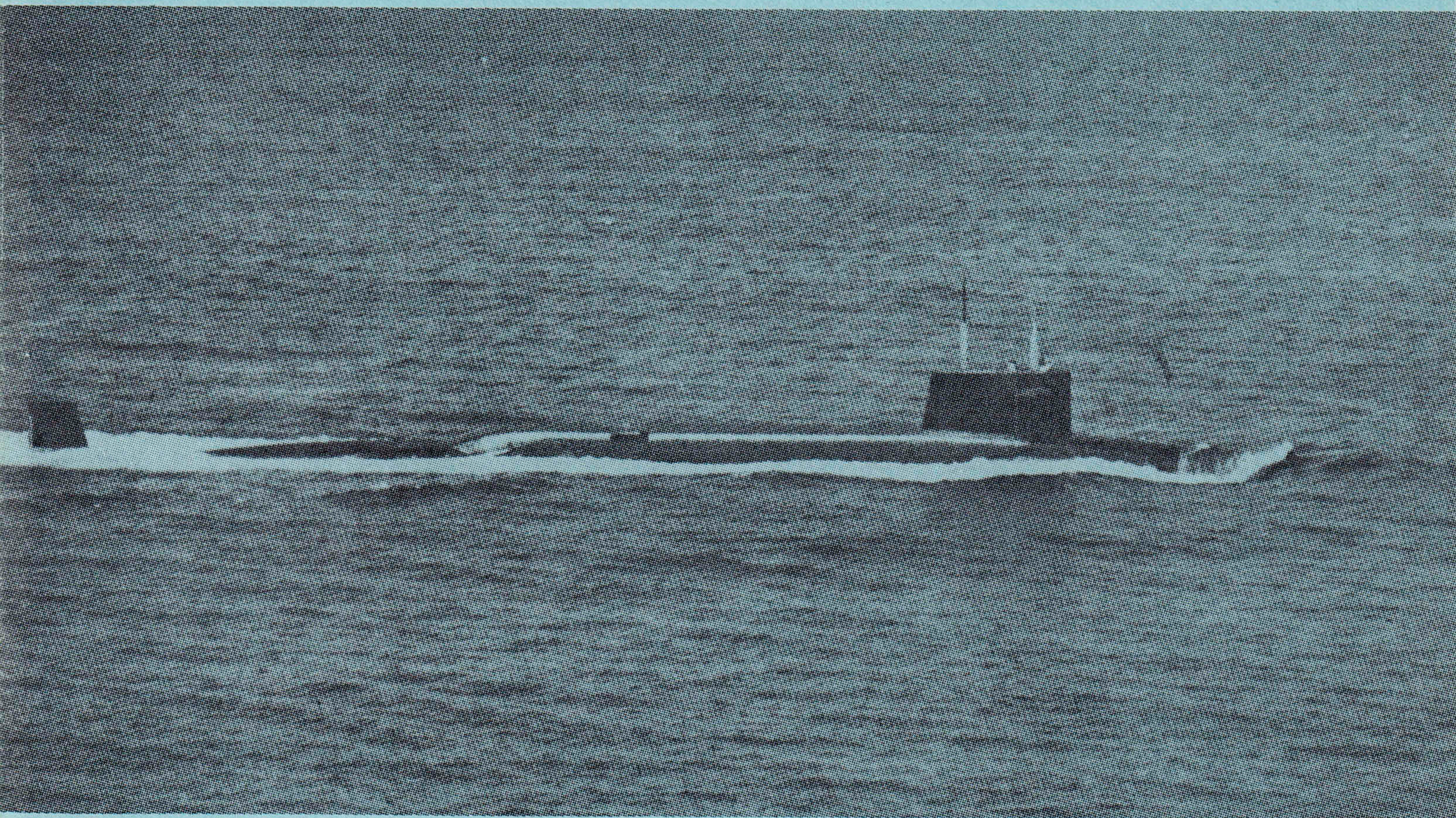


Change of Command



USS THOMAS A. EDISON
(SSN 610)

BREMERTON, WASHINGTON

17 SEPTEMBER 1983

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 is nearly unique in the world today; it is a transfer of total responsibility, authority and accountability from one individual to another.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*** OFFICIAL PARTY ARRIVES**

*** NATIONAL ANTHEM**

*** INVOCATION**

Lieutenant John T. Quinn, CHC, USN

REMARKS

Captain William G. Lange, USN
Commander Submarine Squadron Seventeen

REMARKS AND READING OF ORDERS

Commander Richard E. Fast

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Commander Matthew A. Hutmaker, Jr.

*** BENEDICTION**

Lieutenant John T. Quinn, CHC, USN

*** NAVY HYMN**

(Anchors Aweigh)

*** (Guests Please Stand)**



COMMANDER FAST

Commander Richard E. Fast, U.S. Navy, graduated from Auburn University in 1964. Upon completion of officer candidate school and commissioning as an Ensign, Commander Fast attended eighteen months of Submarine and Nuclear Propulsion Program Training. He then served in USS SCULPIN (SSN 590), USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571), USS TUNNY (SSN 682) and USS JAMES K. POLK (SSBN 645) (Gold). Commander Fast also completed tours of duty on the staffs of Nuclear Propulsion Training Unit, Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Commander Submarine Force Pacific, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Following Commander Fast's assumption of command in June 1982, THOMAS A. EDISON participated in numerous fleet operations and conducted the first extended deployments of a SSBN converted to SSN to the Western Pacific. Upon completion of deployment in February 1983 the ship commenced inactivation, which is currently in progress at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Commander Fast has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star for second award, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Naval Unit Commendation, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Commander Fast is married to the former Alice Rebecca Alverson of Hope Hull, Alabama. They have two children: Julie and Ed.



COMMANDER HUTMAKER

Commander Matthew A. Hutmaker, Jr., the son of LtCol and Mrs. Matthew A. Hutmaker, U.S.A. (Ret.), was born in Philadelphia, in June 1942. He graduated from Ocean City High School, Ocean City, New Jersey, in 1960 and from the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland in June 1964.

Upon graduation from the Naval Academy, Commander Hutmaker completed Nuclear Power Training at Vallejo, California, and A1W prototype at Idaho Falls, Idaho, followed by six months of submarine training at the United States Naval Submarine School at Groton, Connecticut.

Commander Hutmaker reported to USS VON STEUBEN (SSBN 632) (Blue) in April 1966 and served as Communicator, as Main Propulsion Assistant, as Damage Control Assistant, and as Electrical Officer for portions of his tour and completed qualification in submarines. In October 1968 he reported to USS THOMAS A. EDISON (SSBN 610) (Blue) where he served as Engineer Officer.

This duty was followed by a three year tour as Prospective Engineer Officer Instructor at the Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine Training Center, Charleston, South Carolina. During this tour he also earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration at the Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina. In February 1976 Commander Hutmaker reported to the USS NATHAN HALE (SSBN 623) (Blue) where he served as Executive Officer for three years.

This duty was followed by a two year tour in the Manpower and Training Division, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Submarines.

Commander Hutmaker served as Commanding Officer, USS ETHAN ALLEN (SSN 608) from August 1981 until March 1983. He is presently serving as Commanding officer of USS ROBERT E. LEE (SSN 601).

Commander Hutmaker has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star for second award, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation. His wife, Micquel, was originally from Dubois, Wyoming. They are the parents of a daughter, Cara and sons, Cody and Kyle.

USS THOMAS A. EDISON

SSN 610

USS THOMAS A. EDISON (SSBN 610) was built at Electric Boat Division, General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut, and was commissioned on 10 March 1962. EDISON was the first Fleet Ballistic Missile (FBM) Submarine named after an inventor, the third submarine of the Ethan Allen Class and the eighth FBM Submarine to be commissioned.

While Thomas Edison is most notably remembered as the inventor of the electric light bulb, the "Wizard of Menlo Park" was responsible for the invention of 1,150 other items and served with the Navy during World War I, heading the Navy's first Naval Consulting Board. The most far-reaching accomplishment of the board was convincing Congress to appropriate funds for the first naval laboratory. Now known as the Naval Research Laboratory, it has been instrumental in the development of numerous electronic and weapons system advancements.

After her commissioning in 1962, EDISON completed fifty-four Strategic Deterrent Patrols. While on patrol, she remained hidden in the ocean depths, virtually immune from attack. Always ready to answer aggression with devastation, she served as a constant reminder of America's willingness and ability to defend freedom.

After 18 years, EDISON completed her role as a member of the nation's Strategic Deterrent Force. In October 1980, she moved on to new missions and assignments with her redesignation as SSN 610 and homeport change to Bangor, Washington. As SSN 610, she participated in numerous operations and exercises which significantly contributed to Submarine Force and Fleet readiness.

From August 1982 through February 1983, EDISON conducted the first Western Pacific deployment by an ex-SSBN. During deployment, her crew enjoyed visits to Japan, Korea, Thailand and the Philippines. Upon return from WESTPAC, EDISON entered the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for inactivation. Decommissioning is scheduled for 16 December 1983. Twenty-two years of proud and faithful service.

VITAL STATISTICS

Keel Laid March 15, 1960

Launched..... June 15, 1961

Commissioned March 10, 1962

Sponsor..... Mrs. Eyre Sloane
Daughter of Thomas Alva Edison

Builder.....Electric Boat Division
General Dynamics Corp.
Groton, Connecticut

