



DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY

2 April 2002



USS KAMEHAMEHA
SSN 642

USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSN 642)

Keel Laid	2 May 1963	
Launched	16 January 1965	
Commissioned	10 December 1965	
Decommissioned	2 April 2002	
Sponsored by	Mrs. Samuel Wilder King	
Length	425 Feet	
Displacement	Surfaced	7300 tons
	Submerged	8200 tons
Hull Diameter	33 Feet	
Draft	29 Feet	
Speed	In Excess of 20 Knots	
Diving Depth	Greater than 400 Feet	
Complement	Officers	14
	Chief Petty Officers	15
	E-6 and below	121
	<i>Total</i>	<i>150</i>

HISTORY OF USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642 / SSN 642)

KAMEHAMEHA was built at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. She was commissioned on 10 December 1965 and was the 30th of America's Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarines. Mrs. Samuel Wilder King served as the ship's sponsor at the launching. Her husband was one of the first Hawaiian's to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy, was Governor of the territory of Hawaii, and strove for Hawaiian statehood.

After commissioning, KAMEHAMEHA joined Submarine Squadron 15 at its forward base in Guam, Marianas Islands. The ship was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for operations as a member of Submarine Squadron 15 while in the Pacific.

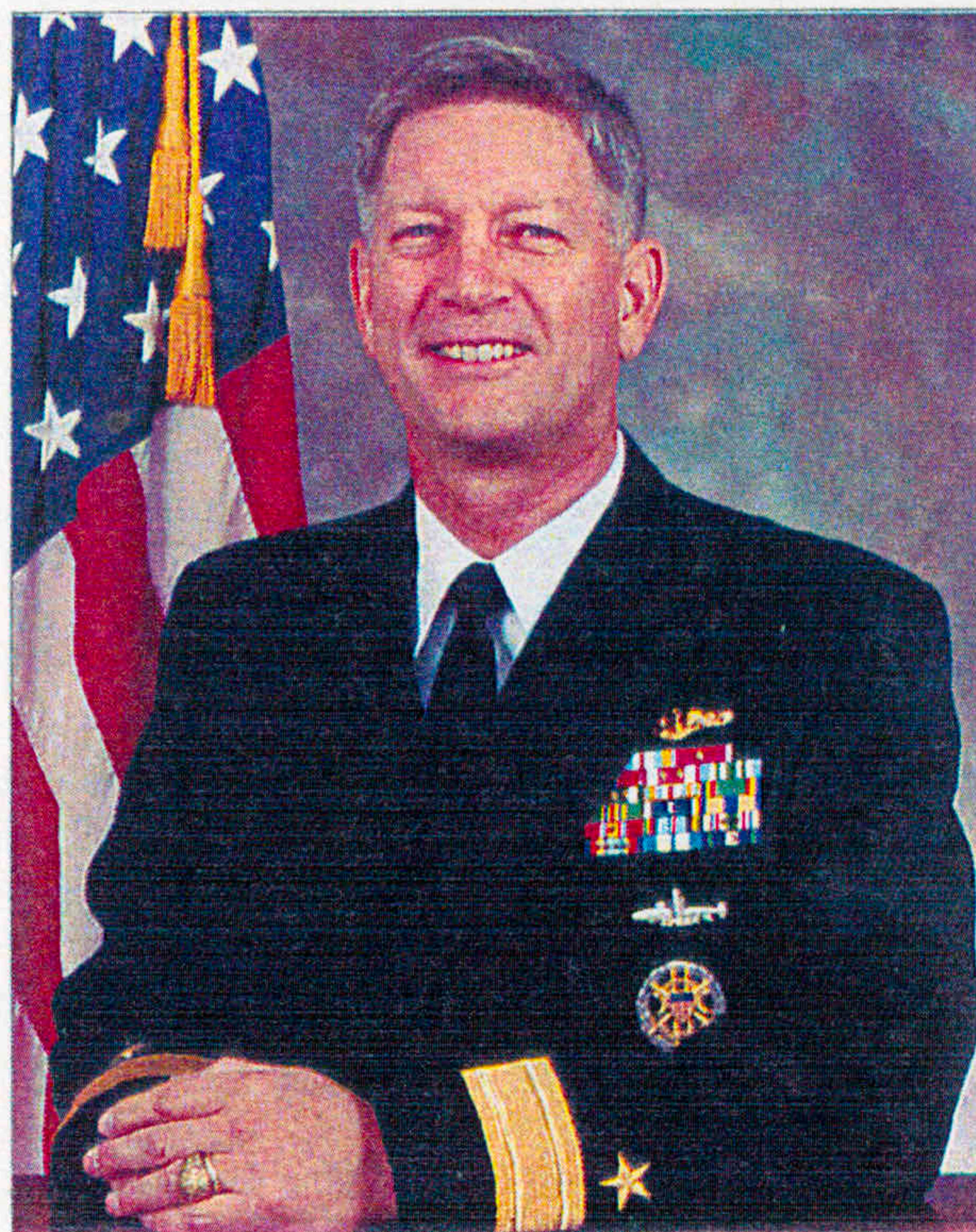
In July 1969, the ship was transferred to the Atlantic Fleet and joined Submarine Squadron 18 in Charleston, South Carolina. In July 1971, KAMEHAMEHA was transferred to Groton, Connecticut for weapons conversion and a refueling overhaul.

Upon completion of the conversion and overhaul in October 1972, KAMEHAMEHA conducted operations off the east coast of the United States. In June 1973, she joined Submarine Squadron 16 and made patrols out of Rota, Spain. Six years later, in July 1979, KAMEHAMEHA rejoined Submarine Squadron 18 and made patrols out of Charleston, South Carolina.

The ship was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for operations in 1984 and 1985 as a member of Submarine Squadron 14. In 1985, KAMEHAMEHA was selected as the Atlantic Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine Top Performer.

After completing a total of 63 deterrent patrols, KAMEHAMEHA's missile systems were inactivated in July 1992 and she was converted to a special purpose attack submarine at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California. This conversion installed modifications to support the surfaced and submerged deployment of Special Operations Forces. In August 1993, KAMEHAMEHA arrived in Pearl Harbor to become part of Submarine Squadron ONE.

KAMEHAMEHA deployed regularly in support of special warfare objectives throughout the Pacific. KAMEHAMEHA participated in numerous exercises with U.S. Asia-Pacific allies prior to arrival at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in September 2001 for inactivation and recycling.



**REAR ADMIRAL
CHARLES H. GRIFFITHS, JR.
UNITED STATES NAVY
COMMANDER SUBMARINE
GROUP NINE**

RDML Griffiths is the 12th officer to command Submarine Group 9. His most recent assignment was Director, Combat Plans (J5A) and Deputy Director, Plans and Policy (J5), United States Strategic Command.

RDML Griffiths graduated from the United States Naval Academy in June 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering. Trained in nuclear submarine and joint commands, RDML Griffiths has served in several challenging sea and shore duty assignments. At sea, his assignments included tours aboard five nuclear fast attack and ballistic missile submarines. He commanded USS PITTSBURGH (SSN 720) from 1988 to 1991, during which the ship received the Battle "E", Meritorious Unit Commendation, and for her historic offensive role in DESERT STORM, the Navy Unit Commendation. His next command was Submarine Squadron 2 (the "ARMADA"), where he was responsible for sixteen nuclear submarines, several drydocks and support craft, and a large nuclear capable shore maintenance facility in Groton, Connecticut.

Ashore, he has served on the Atlantic Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board; Head of Submarine Assignment Branch and Executive Officer Detailer at BUPERS; Special Assistant to the Deputy Director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program; as Executive Assistant to the Chief of Naval Personnel, and as Deputy Director for International Negotiations on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. RDML Griffiths, a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College, also attended the Senior Officers in National Security Course at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and participated in the Advanced Management Program for International Senior Executives (AMP 151) at the Harvard Business School. RDML Griffiths' awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal (two awards), Legion of Merit (two awards), Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (four awards), and other unit and campaign awards.

RDML Griffiths' wife Cindy is the daughter of a World War II submariner. Their older son Brandon is an Ensign in the Navy, while Matthew attends Westminster College in Missouri.



**COMMANDER
EDWARD B. SEAL
UNITED STATES NAVY**

Commander Edward B. Seal is a 1983 graduate of Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania, where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Nuclear Engineering. He was commissioned in 1983 via the NROTC program.

Following commissioning and completion of nuclear power training, Commander Seal reported to USS BIRMINGHAM (SSN 695) in Norfolk,

Virginia, where he served from November 1984 to November 1987. During this tour he qualified in Submarines and as Engineer Officer, and completed one Western Pacific deployment. He then reported to NROTC Unit, University of Illinois, serving as Sophomore Class Advisor from December 1987 until January 1990. While there he earned his Master's Degree in Nuclear Engineering, and received the Colonel Leo A. Codd Memorial Award for Outstanding ROTC Instructor for 1989.

Commander Seal reported to USS KENTUCKY (SSBN 737), where as a plankowner, he served as Engineer Officer from August 1990 until September 1993. During this tour he completed the new construction period, Demonstration and Shakedown Operations, Post Shakedown Availability and two strategic deterrent patrols from Kings Bay, Georgia. He then reported to Commander, Submarine Squadron TWENTY, serving as Material Officer from October 1993 until February 1996.

Commander Seal served as Executive Officer of USS ARCHERFISH (SSN 678) from April 1996 to April 1998. During this tour he completed a Mediterranean deployment, Science Ice Exercise 97, and the ship's decommissioning. He then reported to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Japan, serving as the Oceanographic Research Station Detachment Officer from June 1998 until June 2000.

Commander Seal's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, the Navy Commendation Medal with one gold star and the Navy Achievement Medal with one gold star.

Commander Seal is married to the former Faryn Ziegler of Monticello, Illinois. Commander Seal and his wife have three daughters, Tricia, Katy, and Jennifer.

DECOMMISSIONING CREW

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>	<u>TRANSFERRING TO</u>
ET2 AITKINS	BOTHELL, WA	USS OHIO (GOLD)
LTJG BALL	LANCASTER, NY	NPTU BALLSTON SPA
MM2 BASIL	LABAM, WA	USS GEORGIA (GOLD)
SK2 BREWSTER	SACRAMENTO, CA	NAVCRUITDIST SAN FRAN
MM2 BRISKO	RADCLIFF, KY	IMF/SHPYD PEARL
ET3 BROWN	MUSTANG, OK	USS JEFFERSON CITY
MM3 BURNS	OGDENSBURG, NY	HONORABLE DISCHARGE
MM3 CARRANZA	SELENAS, CA	USS GEORGIA (GOLD)
MM2 COATNEY	GARDEN CITY, KS	USS WEST VIRGINIA (GOLD)
ET2 COX	VANCOUVER, WA	TTF BANGOR
MM3 CROWDER	GREENFIELD, IN	HONORABLE DISCHARGE
ET1 DALTON	CHARLOTTE, NC	USS GEORGIA (GOLD)
MMC DEYETTE	ROUND LAKE, NY	USS PASADENA (SSN 752)
EM1 DISHER	LAHINA, HI	IMF/SHPYD PEARL
MMC DODSON	RICHMOND, KY	NETPDTC PENSACOLA
LT DONOHUE	SHERBORN, MA	PACSUBFOROPS COMP PACFLT
SK1 FOLTZ	SALT LAKE CITY, UT	USS ALABAMA (BLUE)
EM3 GASKIE	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO	COMSUBGRU 9
LTJG GREEN	BOTHELL, WA	USS KENTUCKY (GOLD)
SA GREEN	ALLENTOWN, PA	USS HENRY M. JACKSON (BLUE)
MM1 HAMMONS	SAN ANGELO, TX	USS HOUSTON
MM3 HAMPTON	BOWLING GREEN, KY	USS TENNESSEE (GOLD)
MM2 HEGER	BRANSON, MO	USS TENNESSEE (GOLD)
MMCS HOFFMAN	CARTHAGE, MS	USS MICHIGAN (BLUE)
LCDR HOLDAWAY	SAN BERNARDINO, CA	USS OLYMPIA
YNCS HUGHES	BETHLEHEM, PA	NAVSUBSUPPCEN PEARL
MM2 ISHIKAWA	MOORE, OK	USS LOS ANGELES
EM2 JABLONSKI	BUFFALO, NY	USS FLORIDA (BLUE)
YN3 JARMAN	PLATTE CITY, MO	HONORABLE DISCHARGE
LTJG JATIVA	TEANECK, NJ	USS ALASKA (GOLD)
MMC JENNINGS	SILVERDALE, WA	USS HENRY M. JACKSON (GOLD)
ET1 JOHNSON	CONWAY, AR	USS PENNSYLVANIA (BLUE)
YN3 JOHNSON	PHILADELPHIA, PA	USS NEVADA (GOLD)
EM1 LEVY	SACRAMENTO, CA	USS ALABAMA (GOLD)
ET2 MAKOVSKY	RACINE, WI	USS PASADENA
MM1 MARMON	ALBANY, OR	USS FLORIDA (GOLD)
MM2 MARTIN	LAS VEGAS, NV	HONORABLE DISCHARGE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>	<u>TRANSFERRING TO</u>
ET3 MARTINEZ	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX	NAVSUBSCOL GROTON
SN MATA	EL PASO, TX	USS WEST VIRGINIA (GOLD)
EMC MEAD	BREWSTER, NY	USS HENRY M. JACKSON (BLUE)
MM2 MELTON	TAMPA, FL	NSSC NEW LONDON
ET1 MENDEZ	WOODRIDGE, NEW JERSEY	HONORABLE DISCHARGE
ET2 MCINTIRE	CORSICANA, TX	TTF BANGOR
HM1 MILLER	WEST LAYAFETTE, OH	NAVAL HOSPITAL BREMERTON
MM1 MOODY	HUNTINGTON, WV	NAVIMFAC BANGOR
SN MORIARITY	SPRINGVILLE, UT	SONAR TECHNICIAN "A" SCHOOL
ETCS MUNHALL	ALBANY, NY	NAVSUBSCOL GROTON
LTJG MURPHY	PLEASANT HILL, CA	SUBTRAFAC SAN DIEGO
ET3 NOYES	SUNRISE, FL	USS HENRY M. JACKSON (BLUE)
LTJG OFNER	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO	USS COLUMBIA
EM3 PELTIER	STILLWATER, MN	USS OHIO (BLUE)
MMCS PRINE	FT. WORTH, TX	USS FLORIDA (BLUE)
MM3 REES	BEFAIR, WA	HONORABLE DISCHARGE
FT2 RUBENSTEIN	THOMAS, WV	LAN ADMIN SUBSCOL GROTON
MM1 SAVOIE	RUDYARD, MI	NUCLEAR PROTOTYPE CHARLESTON
MM1 SCHILDROTH	SAN ANTONIO, TX	USS OHIO (GOLD)
MM2 SCHLAPKOHL	CHICAGO, IL	USS BUFFALO
ETCM SCHRIER	BURWELL, NE	COMSUBPAC
CDR SEAL	BELLEFONTE, PA	USS NEVADA (GOLD)
ET2 SEBRING	COLUMBIA, SC	USS ALASKA (GOLD)
STSC SEMLER	NEW CASTLE, IN	FLEET RESERVE
MM2 SIGNAIGO	HIGH RIDGE, MO	NAVCRUITDIST ST LOUIS
LTJG SIKES	SANTA MARIA, CA	DEFENSE SUPPLY CNTR RICHMOND
MM3 SKELLY	MARLOW, OK	USS ALABAMA (BLUE)
ET3 SOLGA	BROWNS MILLS, NJ	USS ALABAMA (GOLD)
LCDR STANTON	SANTA BARBARA, CA	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
MM2 STROUD	BIRKBECK, IL	USS MARYLAND (BLUE)
EM2 SVENBY	DENVER, CO	USS MICHIGAN (BLUE)
MM2 SWIES	BENSON, AZ	NAVIMFAC BANGOR
MM2 THOMAS	JACKSONVILLE, FL	USS LOUISIANA (GOLD)
MM1 MCBRIDE	CLEVELAND, OH	USS NEBRASKA (BLUE)
EM1 WATSON	WAYNESBORO, MS	NPTU CHARLESTON
MM1 WHITMER	STRONGVILLE, OH	USS ALABAMA (GOLD)

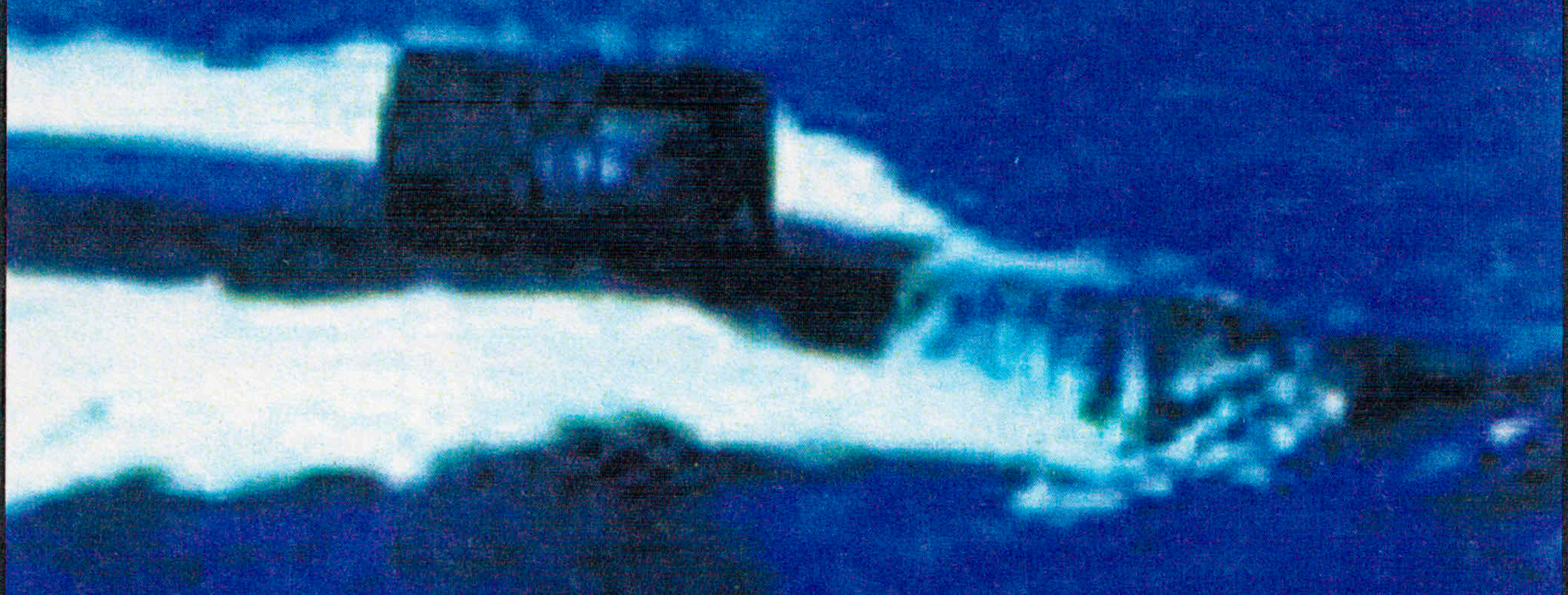


The "Navy Hymn" is *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*. The original words were written as a poem in 1860 by William Whiting of Winchester, England, for a student who was about to sail for the United States. The melody, published in 1861, was composed by fellow Englishman, Rev. John Bacchus Dykes, an Episcopalian clergyman.

The hymn, found in most hymnals, is known as the "Navy hymn" because it is sung at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. It is also sung on ships of the Royal Navy (U.K.) and has been translated into French.

The original words are:

Verse 1: Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

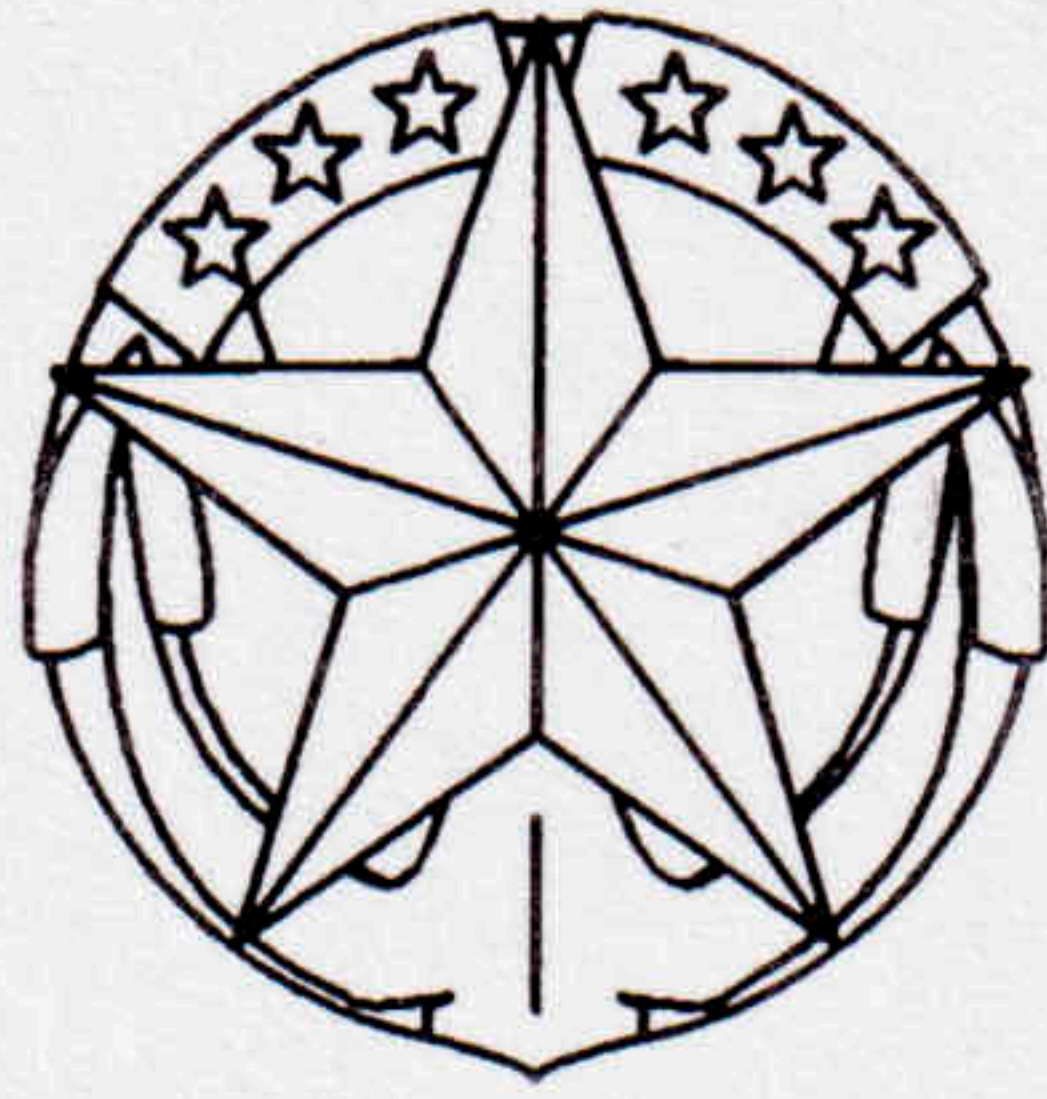


Lord God, our power evermore,
Whose arm doth reach the ocean floor,
Dive with our men beneath the sea;
Traverse the depths protectively.
O hear us when we pray, and keep
Them safe from peril in the deep.

David B. Miller (1965)

And when at length her course is run,
Her work for home and country done,
Of all the souls that in her sailed
Let not one life in thee have failed;
But hear from heaven our sailor's cry,
And grant eternal life on high!

Author/date Unknown



COMMANDING OFFICERS

USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642)

Blue Crew

R. S. Leddick	December 1965 - July 1967
F. W. Kelley	July 1967 - September 1970
L. D. Nace	September 1970 - September 1974
R. J. Noreika	September 1974 - March 1978
D. Porter	March 1978 - April 1980
E. R. Linz	April 1980 - May 1981
R. W. Krom	July 1981 - February 1985
J. H. Almy II	March 1985 - March 1986
C. S. Wunsch	June 1986 - December 1989
D. S. Keefe	December 1989 - January 1992

Gold Crew

R. W. Dickieson	December 1965 - August 1968
J. A. Sagerholm	August 1968 - July 1971
L. D. Nace	July 1971 - October 1972
T. R. Fox	October 1972 - February 1975
G. W. Davis VI	February 1975 - July 1978
J. A. MacCregor	July 1978 - February 1981
E. R. Linz	February 1981 - May 1981
L. L. Schmeling	May 1981 - July 1981
R. W. Krom	July 1981 - December 1982
L. M. Jacobi	December 1982 - February 1986
C. S. Wunsch	February 1986 - December 1989
G. F. Kindel	December 1989 - August 1992

USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSN 642)

One Crew

R. M. Eichelberger	August 1992 - May 1995
H. F. Reese	May 1995 - September 1998
D. H. Hesse	September 1998 - January 2001
E. B. Seal	January 2001 - April 2002

Kamehameha

USS KAMEHAMEHA is named after Kamehameha the Great, the warrior and statesman who first united the Hawaiian Islands under a single rule.

Kamehameha was born into nobility on the island of Hawaii in 1758. He spent his youth learning the arts of war and leadership.

After seizing control of most of the island of Hawaii from his cousins, he started on a campaign for the conquest of all the Hawaiian Islands. His conquest of Oahu in 1795 was followed by the peaceful capitulation of Kauai and Niihau and final unification of the islands.

Kamehameha then sought to develop a stable government. He established strict laws of conduct and was responsible for making the islands safe for all citizens. His policy toward foreigners, an increasingly important factor in the social and economic life of the islands, was one of protection, encouragement of trade and fair dealing. By the time of his death he had consolidated the islands under one government and put an end to the feudal wars and anarchy that had ravaged the islands before his rule.

The submarine KAMEHAMEHA serves today to make the world a safe place to live just as Kamehameha did as ruler of the Hawaiian Islands.



