

# **DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY**

## **USS HAWKBILL (SSN 666)**



**15 MARCH 2000**

**PUGET SOUND NAVAL SHIPYARD  
BREMERTON, WASHINGTON**



## **USS HAWKBILL (SSN 666) COMMANDING OFFICERS**

CDR C. H. Brown	4 Feb 1971 - 6 Jan 1973
CDR T. E. Ross	6 Jan 1973 - 6 Mar 1975
CDR J. L. Willis Jr.	6 Mar 1975 - 30 Apr 1975
CDR I. H. Coen Jr.	30 Apr 1975 - 11 Apr 1979
CDR F. R. Crawford	11 Apr 1979 - 28 Jan 1983
CAPT G. J. Roletter	28 Jan 1983 - 11 Oct 1985
CDR S. A. Arndt	11 Oct 1985 - 19 Aug 1988
CDR B. B. Scott	19 Aug 1988 - 18 Apr 1991
CDR M. B. Duncan	18 Apr 1991 - 6 Dec 1993
CDR S. R. Howard	6 Dec 1993 - 12 Dec 1996
CDR J. W. Graveen	12 Dec 1996 - 14 Jul 1997
CDR R. H. Perry	14 Jul 1997 - 15 Mar 2000





# *PROGRAM OF EVENTS*

## **ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY**

### **INVOCATION**

*Lieutenant Commander Edwin Carroll, CHC, USN*

### **WELCOMING REMARKS**

*Lieutenant Commander John A. Camara, USN*

### **PRINCIPAL SPEAKER**

*Rear Admiral George E. Voelker, USN*

### **DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSING REMARKS**

*Commander Robert H. Perry, USN*

### **BENEDICTION**

*Lieutenant Commander Edwin Carroll, CHC, USN*

## **DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL PARTY**



**REAR ADMIRAL GEORGE E. VOELKER**  
**United States Navy**  
***Commander Submarine Group NINE***

Rear Admiral Voelker, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, attended the United States Naval Academy and graduated with the class of 1972. Following a year of postgraduate school, he was awarded an M.S. degree and subsequently attended nuclear power and basic submarine training.

His operational tours include service in four attack submarines as a Division Officer in USS STURGEON (SSN 637), as Engineer in USS SEAHORSE (SSN 669), as Executive Officer of USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN 711), and in command of USS HELENA (SSN 725) from 1987 to 1990. While under his command, HELENA conducted two extended Northern Pacific operations and a deployment to the Western Pacific. He served briefly as Deputy Commander of Submarine Squadron ONE and later commanded Submarine Group 7 in Yokosuka, Japan, with additional duty as Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Seventh Fleet (CTF 74) and Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (CTF 157). He relieved as Commander, Submarine Group NINE in July 1998.

Rear Admiral Voelker's shore duty assignments include service in the Bureau of Naval Personnel as the Submarine Department Head Assignment Officer, at Pacific Fleet Headquarters as Executive Assistant and Senior Naval Aide to the Deputy Commander in Chief and Chief of Staff, as a Division Director for the Director of Naval Intelligence in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and most recently on the Joint Staff. While on the Joint Staff, Rear Admiral Voelker served as the Director of the Commander in Chief (CINC) Liaison Office and later as Executive Assistant to the Director of Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment. He then served as Executive Assistant and Senior Military Aide to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from July 1997 to July 1998.

Rear Admiral Voelker has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two Gold Stars in lieu of second and third awards, the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three Gold Stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various unit and service awards.

Rear Admiral Voelker is married to the former Diane Lynne Berner of Detroit, Michigan. They have three children: Timothy, Christopher, and Katherine.





**REAR ADMIRAL GEORGE E. VOELKER**  
United States Navy  
*Commander Submarine Group NINE*



## USS HAWKBILL (SSN 666)

The keel for the HAWKBILL was laid on September 12, 1966 at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California. She was launched on April 12, 1969 and commissioned on February 4, 1971 by Mrs. Bernard Roeder, wife of Vice Admiral Roeder.



Launched 12 April 1969

Shortly after her commissioning, HAWKBILL was assigned to Submarine Squadron FIVE in San Diego, California and commenced "Mother Sub" operations with DSRV 1 off San Clemente Island. On October 26, 1971, HAWKBILL made submarine history with the first successful mating of a DSRV, and welcomed aboard Captain S. H. Packer, Commander Submarine Development Group ONE in the first submarine DSRV personnel transfer.

The following March, HAWKBILL left on her first deployment to the Western Pacific earning the Vietnamese Service Medal and the Navy Expeditionary Medal. Upon her return from deployment, HAWKBILL made history again as the first submarine to operate in shallow water under ice. After returning from a second deployment to the Western Pacific, HAWKBILL participated in the initial testing of the submarine launched Tomahawk Cruise Missile.

Completing her first regular overhaul at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington in November 1975, HAWKBILL was transferred to Submarine Squadron ONE, homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The next year, HAWKBILL conducted her third Western Pacific deployment, earning the Navy Unit Commendation and the Battle Efficiency "E". In 1978 she conducted her second Western Pacific Deployment receiving her second Battle "E". HAWKBILL then conducted local operations until October 1979, when she departed Pearl Harbor for a refueling overhaul at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Returning to Pearl Harbor and Submarine Squadron ONE in early 1982, HAWKBILL spent the remainder of the year completing post-overhaul certification and local operations. In February 1983, HAWKBILL deployed to the Western Pacific for the fifth time, and was awarded her third Battle Efficiency "E". The following year HAWKBILL conducted additional under ice operations, setting a record of 38 ice breakthroughs. After 65 days of continuous submerged operations HAWKBILL received another Battle Efficiency "E" in October 1984.



Battle Insignia



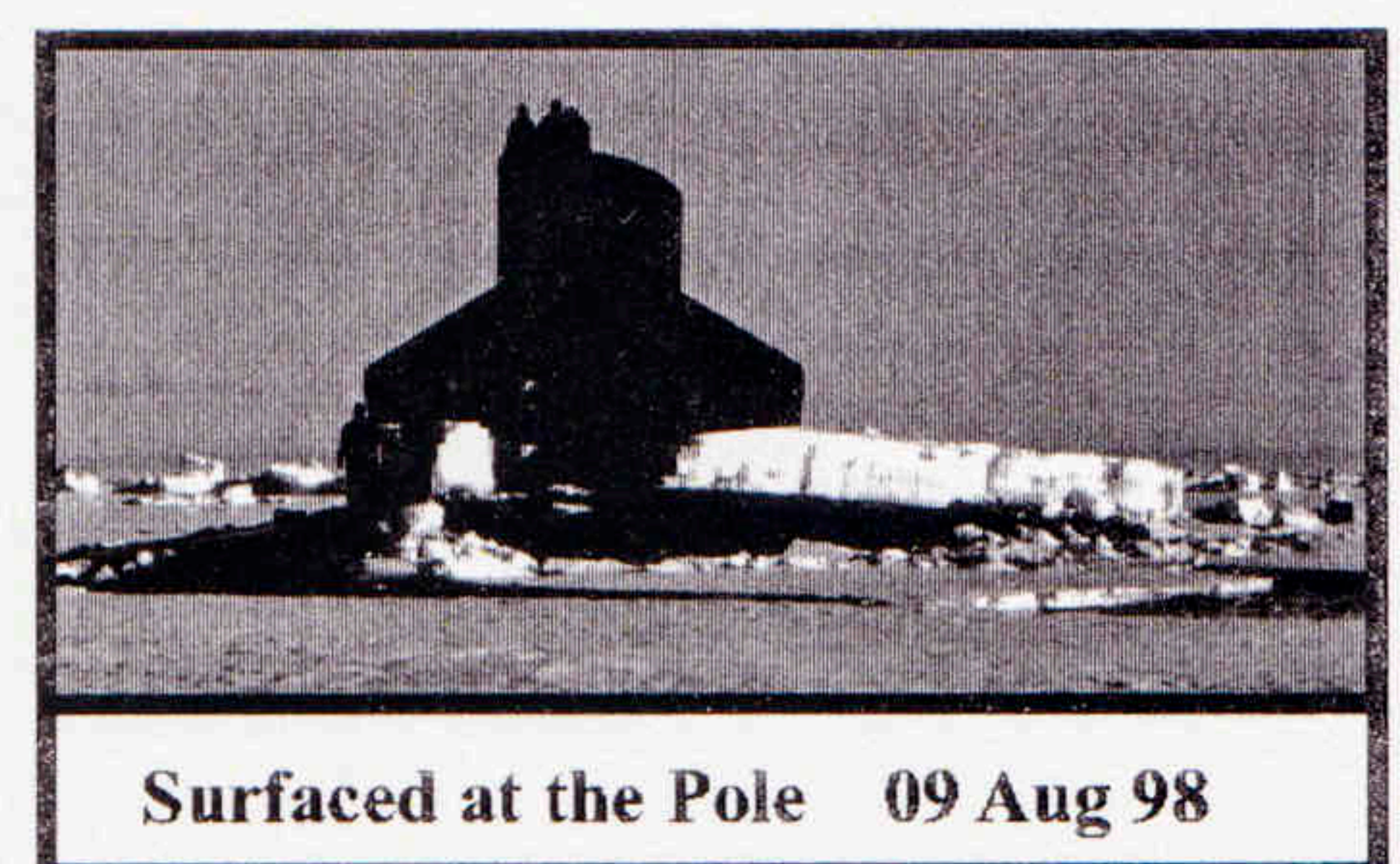
HAWKBILL returned to the Western Pacific for her sixth deployment in March 1985, operating with the MIDWAY and CONSTELLATION Battle Groups. During the deployment HAWKBILL provided assistance to a Vietnamese refugee boat with 14 people onboard in need of food and water. HAWKBILL returned to Pearl Harbor in September and received her fifth Battle Efficiency "E".

HAWKBILL made history again in May 1986, when she surfaced at the North Pole with two other submarines. She returned to Pearl Harbor to participate in several tactical development exercises. In November 1987, HAWKBILL departed on her seventh Western Pacific deployment, earning the Meritorious Unit Commendation. From March 1988 to September 1989, HAWKBILL participated in RIMPAC 88, CNO projects, a Dependent's Cruise, and returned to the Western Pacific for her eighth time.

In September 1989, HAWKBILL left Pearl Harbor for her last overhaul in Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Although struck by the pier during a 7.1 magnitude earthquake, she suffered no damage. Following the overhaul, HAWKBILL was the first 637 class submarine to utilize the new acoustic range at Behm Canal, Alaska. In September 1992, HAWKBILL withstood Hurricane Iniki tied to the pier without personal injury or material incident. HAWKBILL embarked on her ninth Western Pacific deployment in May 1993, participating in joint exercises with both the Japanese Defense Forces and Singapore Navy and earning another Navy Expeditionary Medal.

HAWKBILL embarked on her tenth Western Pacific deployment in May 1996, conducting operations with the CARL VINSON Battle Group, the Japanese Defense Forces, and the Australian Navy. HAWKBILL was one of the first submarines to fire the new Australian submarine torpedo. HAWKBILL returned to Pearl Harbor in November of 1996 and was awarded the 1996 Communication "C" and the Tactical Operations "T" awards.

In June 1998, HAWKBILL left Pearl Harbor for the fourth of five science Arctic expeditions (SCICEX). Carrying special equipment, she became a mobile research station collecting data on water temperature, mapping the ocean bottom and measuring ice thickness. HAWKBILL returned to Hawaii in September 1998 and was awarded the 1998 Battle Efficiency "E".



In March 1999, HAWKBILL once again departed Pearl Harbor for the Arctic Ocean to conduct the final planned SCICEX. She continued her 1998 efforts, which included mapping of a significant portion of the bottom of the Arctic Ocean. After a circumnavigation of North America and a transit of the Panama Canal, she returned to Pearl Harbor.

Today USS HAWKBILL (SSN 666) will be officially stricken from the register of commissioned Naval ships. She has had an active and successful 29-year life and was a cornerstone of America's defense strategy. God bless all who have served onboard her.



# USS HAWKBILL (SSN 666)

## UNIT AWARDS



NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION	1977
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION	1988, 1999
SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE BATTLE EFFICIENCY	1977, 1978, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1998
NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL	1972
VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL	1972
ARCTIC SERVICE	1998, 1999



SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE BATTLE EFFICIENCY	1977, 1978, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1998
SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE ENGINEERING “E”	1985, 1988, 1997
SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE DAMAGE CONTROL “DC”	1989, 1994, 1998
SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE TACTICAL OPERATIONS “T”	1995, 1996
SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE COMMUNICATIONS “C”	1995, 1996
SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE MEDICAL EXCELLENCE “M”	1988, 1998
SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE SUPPLY EXCELLENCE	1984
SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE DECK SEAMANSHIP	1988
SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE ASW “A”	1978
SILVER ANCHOR AWARD	1983, 1990, 1998