

COMMISSIONING



UNITED STATES SHIP
NEW YORK CITY
SSN 696

NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE NEW LONDON
GROTON CONNECTICUT

3 MARCH 1979



COLDWARBOATS.ORG



THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY AND PENNANT

The Commissioning Ceremony marks the acceptance of a ship as a unit of the operating forces of the United States Navy. At the moment the commissioning pennant is broken, USS NEW YORK CITY (SSN696) becomes the responsibility of the Commanding Officer, who, together with the ship's officers and men, has the duty of making and keeping her ready for any service required by our nation, whether we be at peace or at war.



The commissioning pennant has for centuries been the symbol of a man-of-war. It is believed to date from the 17th century, when the Dutch were at war with the English. The Dutch Admiral, Maarten Harbertszoon Tromp, hoisted a broom at his masthead to symbolize his intention to sweep the English from the sea. This gesture was answered by British Admiral William Blake, who hoisted a horsewhip indicating his intention to chastize the Dutch. The victorious British thus set the precedent for a long, narrow commissioning pennant to symbolize the original horsewhip as the distinctive symbol of a ship of war.



The modern U.S. Navy commissioning pennant is blue at the hoist with a union of seven white stars, and a horizontal red and white stripe at the fly.



The initialing of the keel of NEW YORK CITY on December 15, 1973 by Mrs. James L. Buckley marked the start of construction on the eighth of the Navy's newest class of nuclear powered submarines. Principals for the keel laying ceremony were the Honorable James L. Buckley, former Senator from New York State, Ann Buckley, the Honorable J. William Middendorf, II, former Secretary of the Navy and Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, Director of the Navy Nuclear Propulsion Program.



USS NEW YORK CITY SSN696



NUCLEAR POWERED ATTACK SUBMARINE

KEEL LAID DECEMBER 15, 1973 AT GENERAL DYNAMICS' ELECTRIC BOAT DIVISION
BY
MRS. ANN BUCKLEY

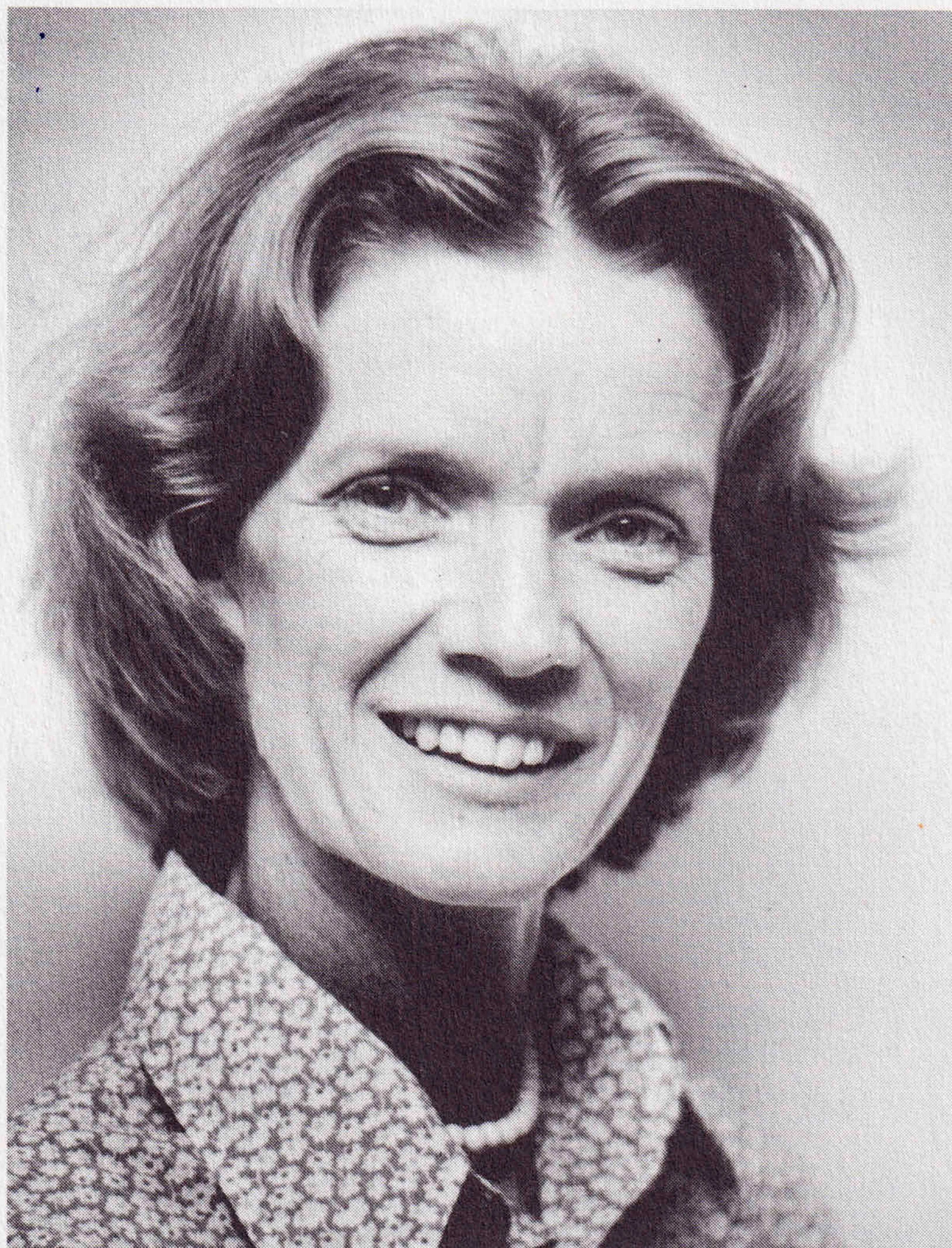
"MILITARY FORCES ARE NOT A LUXURY BUT A NECESSITY.
SO LONG AS WE LIVE IN A WORLD IN WHICH SOME NATIONS
FEEL A COMPULSION TO DOMINATE, OR INTERFERE IN THE
AFFAIRS OF OTHERS, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MAINTAIN
THOSE LEVELS OF DEFENSE THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR
SURVIVAL."

THE HONORABLE JAMES L. BUCKLEY
United States Senator from New York



VITAL STATISTICS

KEEL LAID.....	15 November 1973
LAUNCHED.....	18 June 1977
LENGTH.....	360 Feet
BEAM.....	33 Feet
DISPLACEMENT	6900 Tons
COMPLEMENT.....	115 Enlisted 12 Officers



SPONSOR
Mrs. James R. Schlesinger

Rachel Mellinger Schlesinger was born in Springfield, Ohio and grew up on a two-hundred acre family farm in Clark County. She graduated cum laude from Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she had studied American history and literature. At Radcliffe, she won the *Mademoiselle* Magazine College Board Contest and, upon graduation, went to work for the magazine. Within two years she was editor of the College section of that publication.

In 1954, she married James R. Schlesinger. Dr. Schlesinger has served as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Head of the Central Intelligence Agency, Secretary of Defense, and, most recently, Secretary of Energy.

Mrs. Schlesinger's interest in education has led her to serve in several PTA's and to take a public stand on issues that affect the local schools. She also served on a county task force to set up criteria for expository writing and on the Arlington Scholarships for Teachers Board.

In addition to caring for the eight Schlesinger children and in managing a busy life in official Washington, Mrs. Schlesinger finds time to play the violin and to join her husband in a favorite pastime of bird watching on weekends.



NEW YORK CITY was christened by Mrs. James R. Schlesinger and launched on June 18, 1977, into the Thames River at the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation. Principals present included the Honorable W. Graham Claytor, Jr., Secretary of the Navy; the Honorable Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Senator from New York State; and Admiral Hyman G. Rickover. The nucleus of the Navy Precommissioning Crew, which has formed at Electric Boat under the command of Commander James A. Ross, was on board to ride the ship down the ways.

COMMISSIONING PROGRAM

ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY

INVOCATION

The Most Reverend Joseph T. Ryan
Archbishop of the Military Diocese

INTRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

The Honorable George A. Peapples
Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management)

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

The Honorable Joseph P. Addabbo
United States Representative, Seventh Congressional District
Queens County, New York

INTRODUCTION OF BUILDER'S REPRESENTATIVE

Captain William L. Martin III, USN
Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair, Groton

REMARKS

Mr. P. Takis Veliotis
General Manager, Electric Boat Division
General Dynamics Corporation

COMMISSIONING

Rear Admiral Carl A. Brettschneider, USNR
Commandant Fourth Naval District

ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND

Commander James A. Ross, USN
Commanding Officer, USS New York City (SSN696)

INTRODUCTION OF NEW YORK CITY REPRESENTATIVE

Rear Admiral Carl A. Brettschneider, USNR

REMARKS

The Honorable Peter A. Piscitelli
Representing the City of New York

REMARKS

Commander James A. Ross, USN
Commanding Officer

BENEDICTION

The Most Reverend Joseph T. Ryan
Archbishop of the Military Diocese

MUSIC

Northeast Navy Ceremonial Band
Under the Direction of MUC Terrance Chesson, USN



PRINCIPAL SPEAKER
The Honorable Joseph Patrick Addabbo

Congressman Joseph Patrick Addabbo was born on 17 March 1925 in Queens County, New York. A graduate of Boys' High School, he attended City College and subsequently received his Bachelor of Law degree from St. John's Law School. Representing the 7th Congressional District, Queens County, he was elected to the 87th Congress and each subsequent Congress. Congressman Addabbo is a member of the House Appropriations Committee and Chairman of the Defense Subcommittee on appropriations. Married to the former Grace Salamone, he is a resident of Ozone Park, New York. The Addabbos have three children, Dominic, Dina and Joseph. Mr. Addabbo is active in numerous civic, religious and community organizations.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

“The Big Apple”

It is fitting that the first naval ship to be named in honor of the City of New York is a submarine. It was in New York Harbor during the American Revolution that a submarine was first used as an offensive weapon in naval warfare. The TURTLE, a one-man submarine, was used in an unsuccessful attempt to sink a British man-of-war. In 1900, New York Harbor was the site of the initial sea trials of the USS HOLLAND, the Navy's first submarine.

New York City was first settled by the Dutch as New Amsterdam in 1626. The city remained New Amsterdam until 1664 when it was seized by the English and renamed New York in honor of the Duke of York, brother of King Charles, II, of England. On July 9, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read to the American troops in the presence of George Washington near the City Hall. New York City became the first United States Capital under the Constitution (1789-1790). George Washington took the oath of office as the first President on the balcony of Federal Hall, Broad and Wall Streets. Until 1797 the city was also capital of New York State.

The founding of the Bank of New York in 1790 under Alexander Hamilton and the beginning of the Stock Exchange established New York City as the nation's financial center. Because of a magnificent natural harbor, the city soon developed into the leading seaport and international trade center of the United States. The city grew rapidly in the 1800's; it became and still is the nation's largest city. New York flourished in other areas becoming a national leader in business, manufacturing, communications, service industries, fashion, and the arts.

New York City has many notable landmarks – modern and historic. Among these are the New World Trade Center located in lower Manhattan, United Nations Headquarters bordering the East River, Statue of Liberty on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor, and Fraunces Tavern in lower Manhattan where Washington bade farewell to the officers of the Continental Army after the Revolution. With its cultural and educational resources, famous shops and restaurants, places of entertainment, striking architecture, colorful nationality neighborhoods, and rich historic background, New York is one of the great cities of the world.



COMMISSIONING OFFICER

Rear Admiral Carl A. Brettschneider, USNR

After graduation from the Naval Academy in 1951, Rear Admiral Brettschneider served on the destroyer USS KNAPP and the submarine USS DOGFISH. While on inactive duty from 1956 to 1964, he served with two Naval Reserve submarine divisions. Upon his return to active duty, he served on the aircraft carrier USS INDEPENDENCE. Subsequently, he was Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Training Center, Philadelphia, Pa., after which he served in the office of the Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Naval Reserve. He next served as Assistant Chief of Staff for Naval Reserve and Training at the First Naval District Headquarters in Boston. In 1973, he was assigned to the staff of the Commander Navy Recruiting Command and later was Officer in Charge of the Navy Recruiting Exhibit Center. In 1975, he became Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel for Naval Reserve.

Rear Admiral Brettschneider became the Commandant, Fourth Naval District, on September 15, 1978.

During his inactive duty period, he attended Harvard Business School and worked in the book publishing field.



COMMANDING OFFICER

Commander James A. Ross, USN

Commander James Andrew Ross was born in El Paso, Texas, and was raised in Denver, Colorado. He graduated from the University of Colorado where he received degrees in Electrical Engineering and Applied Mathematics. He was commissioned in 1962 as an Ensign in the United States Navy under the NROTC program.

After attending Nuclear Power School, Nuclear Prototype Training, and Submarine School, Commander Ross reported to the commissioning crew of the USS ULYSSES S. GRANT (SSBN631) (GOLD) at General Dynamics Corporation, Electric Boat Division. He then served as an instructor at the U.S. Naval Nuclear Power School, Mare Island, California.

During a tour as Engineer Officer, USS JAMES MONORE (SSBN622) (GOLD), he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal and Navy Achievement Medal. Commander Ross has also served on the staff of Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, as a member of the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board, and as Executive Officer, USS HADDOCK (SSN621). Following Prospective Commanding Officer training, he served as the Tactical Systems Director of Submarine Development Group Two.

Commander Ross established the USS NEW YORK CITY (SSN696) Pre-commissioning Unit at General Dynamics Corporation, Electric Boat Division, on 2 May 1977.

Commander Ross is married to the former Miriam Eileen Carroll of Detroit, Michigan. They currently reside in Gales Ferry, Connecticut with their two sons, James, Jr., and Jonathan.

COMMANDING OFFICER

EXECUTIVE OFFICER – LCDR JOSEPH P. CROCIATA

Ward Room

LCDR R.A. Crotteau – Navigator
LCDR S.J. Frasher – Engineer
LT. R.W. Monks – Supply
LT. M.J. Kane – Weapons
LT. D.P. Helmer – Electrical
LT. M.J. Grimsley – Asst. Engineer
LT. T.R. Morse – DCA
LT. D.A. Kalix – RCA
LT. D.A. Scott – Communicator
LTJG D.M. Ziebell – MPA
LTJG J.C. Stuller – Sonar

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

HMCS(SS) Biscoe
YNC(SS) Hoffman
YN2(SS) Cutillo

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Food Service
MS2 Deguzman
MS3 Mabe
MSSN Petzolt
MSSN Moore
MSSN Walker
MSSN Adams

Supply

SK1(SS) Manuguid
SK3(SS) Crawford

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Quartermasters
QM1(SS) Sulzer
QM2(SS) Geiger
QM3 Mann
QM3 Akerson
QMSN Koller

Communications

RMC(SS) Campbell
RMC(SS) Moss
RM1 (SS) Van Cleve
RM2(SS) Donohoo
RM3 Johnston
RMSN Malcolm
RMSN Garcia

Electronic Material

ETC(SS) Flynn
ET1(SS) Philipps
ETN2(SS) Guzman
ETN2 Crist
ETR3 Blackburn
ETN3 Puckett

WEAPONS DEPARTMENT

Fire Control
FTGC(SS) Williams
FTG3 Kuehn
FTG3 McInery
FTG3 Witte

— CDR JAMES A. ROSS

CHIEF OF THE BOAT – ETCM(SS) LARRY R. LUTTRELL

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Torpedo

TMC(SS) Johnson
TM1(SS) Cardinale
TM1(SS) Tyler
TM3 Holiman
TMSN Walsh

Sonar

STSCS(SS) Wasden
STS1(SS) Bruhns
STS1(SS) Curzio
STS1(SS) Moss
STS2(SS) Alford
STS2(SS) Deisher
STS2(SS) Dobson
STS2(SS) Wilson
STS3 Matthews
STS3 Witt
STSSN Goyco
STSSN Whisennand
STSSN Wright

DS

DS1 Cushing
DS2 Kersch

Deck

FN Anderson
SA Flanagan
SA Seekings
SA Foster
FA Wear
SR Donovan

Machinery

MMCS(SS) Lewis
MMC(SS) Russom
MM1(SS) Askam
MM1(SS) Ivins
MM1(SS) Freed
MM1(SS) Stafford
MM1(SS) Strote
MM1(SS) Beasley
MM1(SS) Soer
MM1(SS) Larose
MM1(SS) Ellis
MM1(SS) Purcell
MM2 Rankin
MM2 Gackstetter
MM2 Werner
MM2 Maiolini
MM2 Holland
MM2 Phalin
MM2 Perry

Electrical

ICC(SS) Ferguson
EMC(SS) Kroha
EM1(SS) Wheeler
EM1(SS) Vogel
EM1(SS) Truszcienski
EM2 Kurtsinger
EM2 Pyron
IC2 Liddell
EM2 Klepaski
EM3 Montello

Reactor Controls

ET1(SS) Jester
ET1(SS) Marker
ET1(SS) Bright
ET1(SS) Reinhart
ET1(SS) Doran
ETR2 Danner
ETN2 Neujahr
ETN2 Vorlage

Auxiliary

MMCS(SS) Mootry
MM1(SS) Elliott
MM1(SS) Burks
MM2(SS) Campbell
MM2(SS) McKinney
MM2(SS) Rousseau
MM3(SS) Tibbitts
MM3 Schmidt
MM3 Baranello
MMFN Pena

Interior Communications

ICC(SS) Tranchemontagne
IC2 Elliott
IC3 Doherty
IC3 Slack
ICFN Watson



EXECUTIVE OFFICER LCDR Joseph P. Crociata

Lieutenant Commander Joseph P. Crociata reported as Prospective Executive Officer of the NEW YORK CITY in May, 1977. A native of New York City, New York, he was commissioned as Ensign in the United States Navy after graduation from the University of Notre Dame in 1966.

Upon completion of nuclear power and submarine training in April, 1968, he was assigned aboard USS THOMAS A. EDISON (SSBN610) (BLUE) where he served as an Engineering Division Officer and Weapons Officer until August, 1971. His next assignment was a tour as Engineer Officer onboard USS PATRICK HENRY (SSBN599) (BLUE). He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal during the latter tour.

In December, 1974, Lieutenant Commander Crociata was assigned to the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Submarine Warfare, as the head of the Polaris and Poseidon Strategic Weapons Section, until his assignment to the NEW YORK CITY.

Lieutenant Commander Crociata is married to the former Jill Susan Patton of Montreal, Canada. They presently reside in Norwichtown, Connecticut, with their two children.



NAVIGATOR
LCDR Robert A. Crotteau



ENGINEER
LCDR Steven J. Frasher



WEAPONS OFFICER
Lt. Michael J. Kane



Lt. Robert W. Monks
Supply Officer



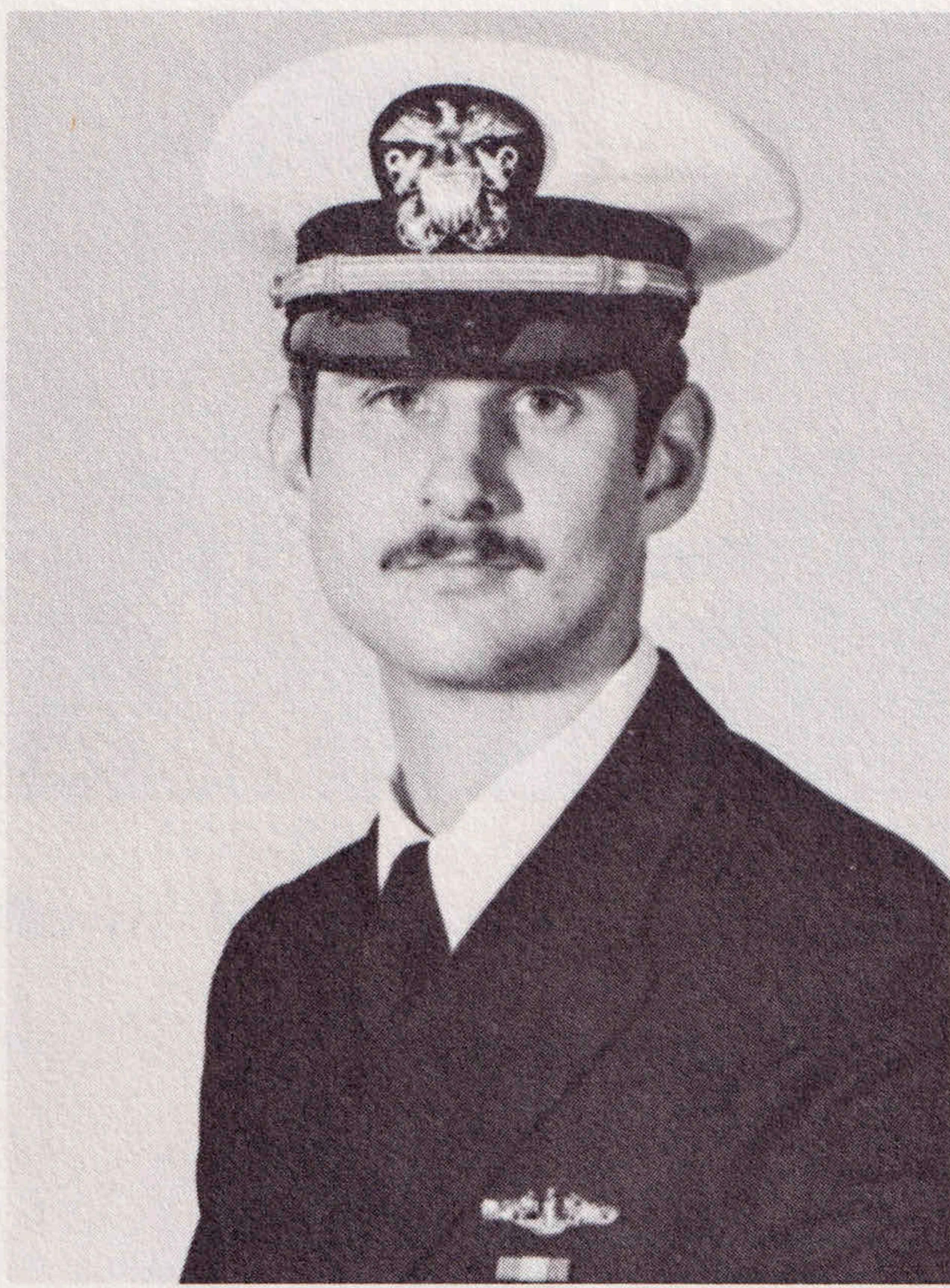
Lt. Michael J. Grimsley
Assistant Engineer



Lt. Dale P. Helmer
Electrical Officer



Lt. Thomas R. Morse
Damage Control Assistant



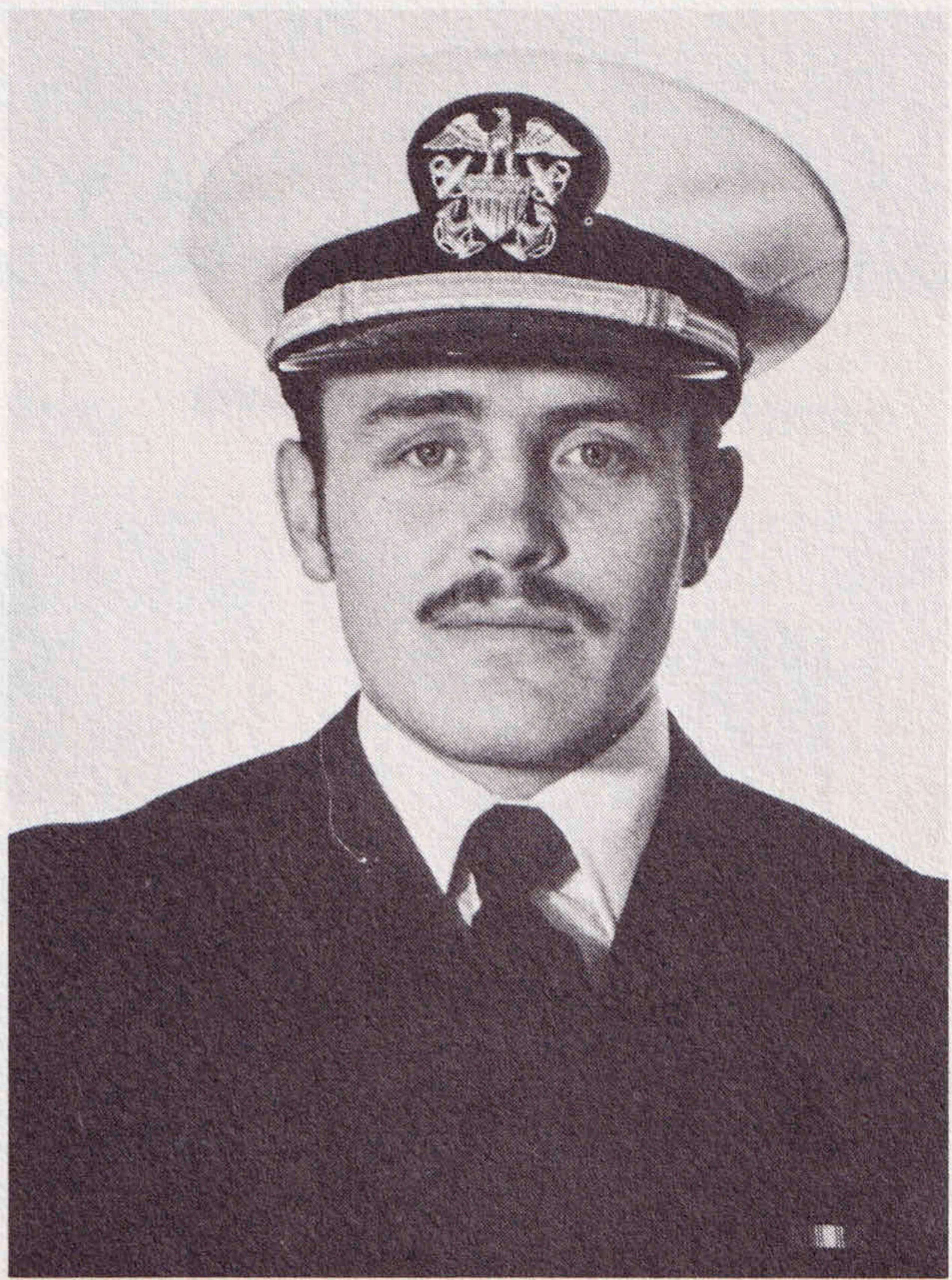
Lt. David A. Kalix
Reactor Controls Assistant



Lt. David A. Scott
Communicator



LTJG David M. Ziebell
Main Propulsion Assistant



LTJG James C. Stuller
Sonar



CHIEF OF THE BOAT
ETCM(SS) Larry R. Luttrell



MMCS(SS)
Dave R. Lewis



STSCS(SS)
Charles L. Wasden



MMCS(SS)
Alex S. Mootry



MMC(SS)
Randall B. Russom



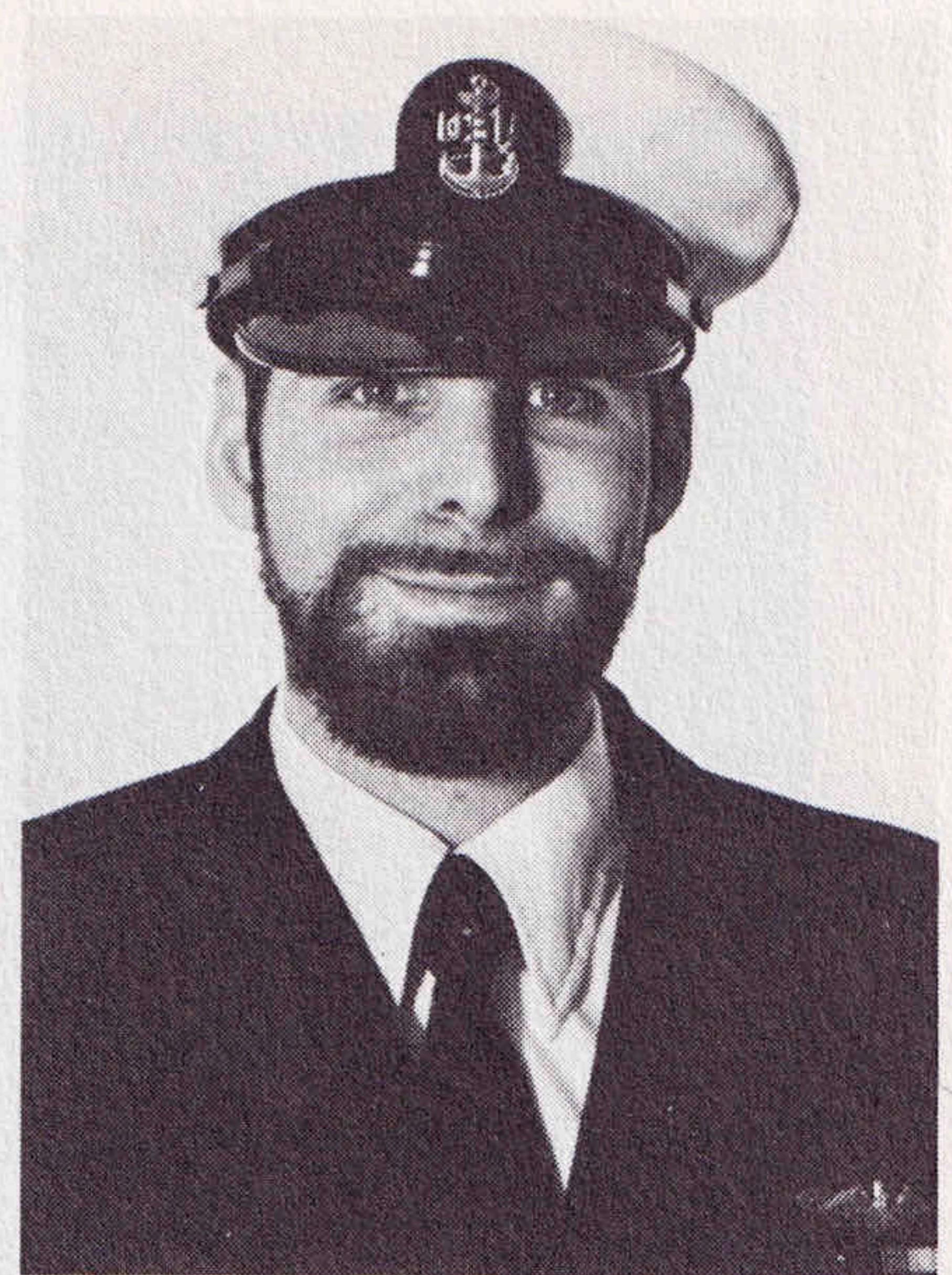
HMCS(SS)
Thomas R. Biscoe



ICC(SS)
Wayne N. Ferguson



FTGC(SS)
Richard A. Williams



ETC(SS)
Kevin Flynn



RMC(SS)
Michael J. Campbell



RMC(SS)
Philip E. Moss



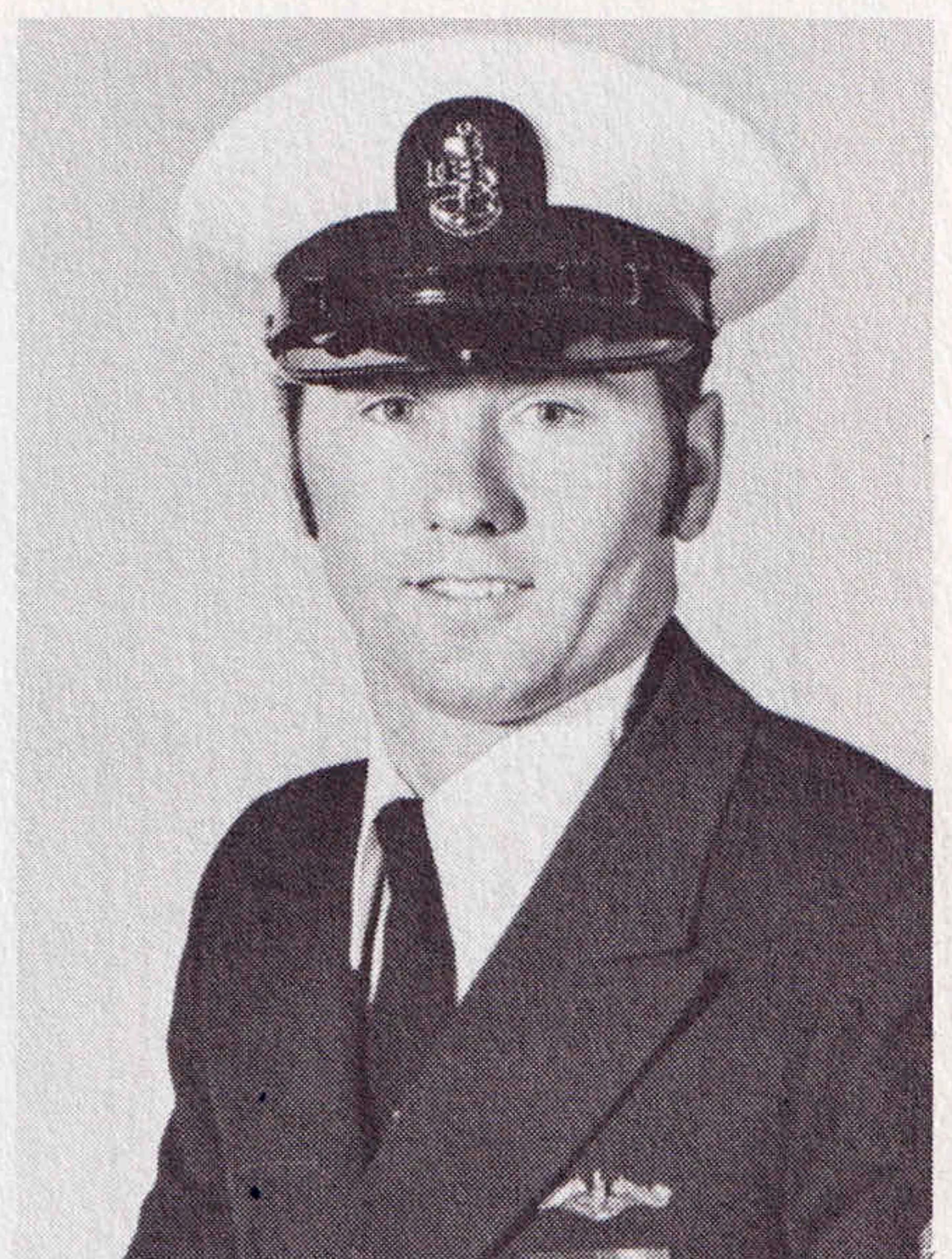
YNC(SS)
John D. Hoffman



TMC(SS)
Sherman A. Johnson



ICC(SS)
George R. Tranchemontagne



EMC(SS)
Timothy J. Kroha

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



Auxiliary Division



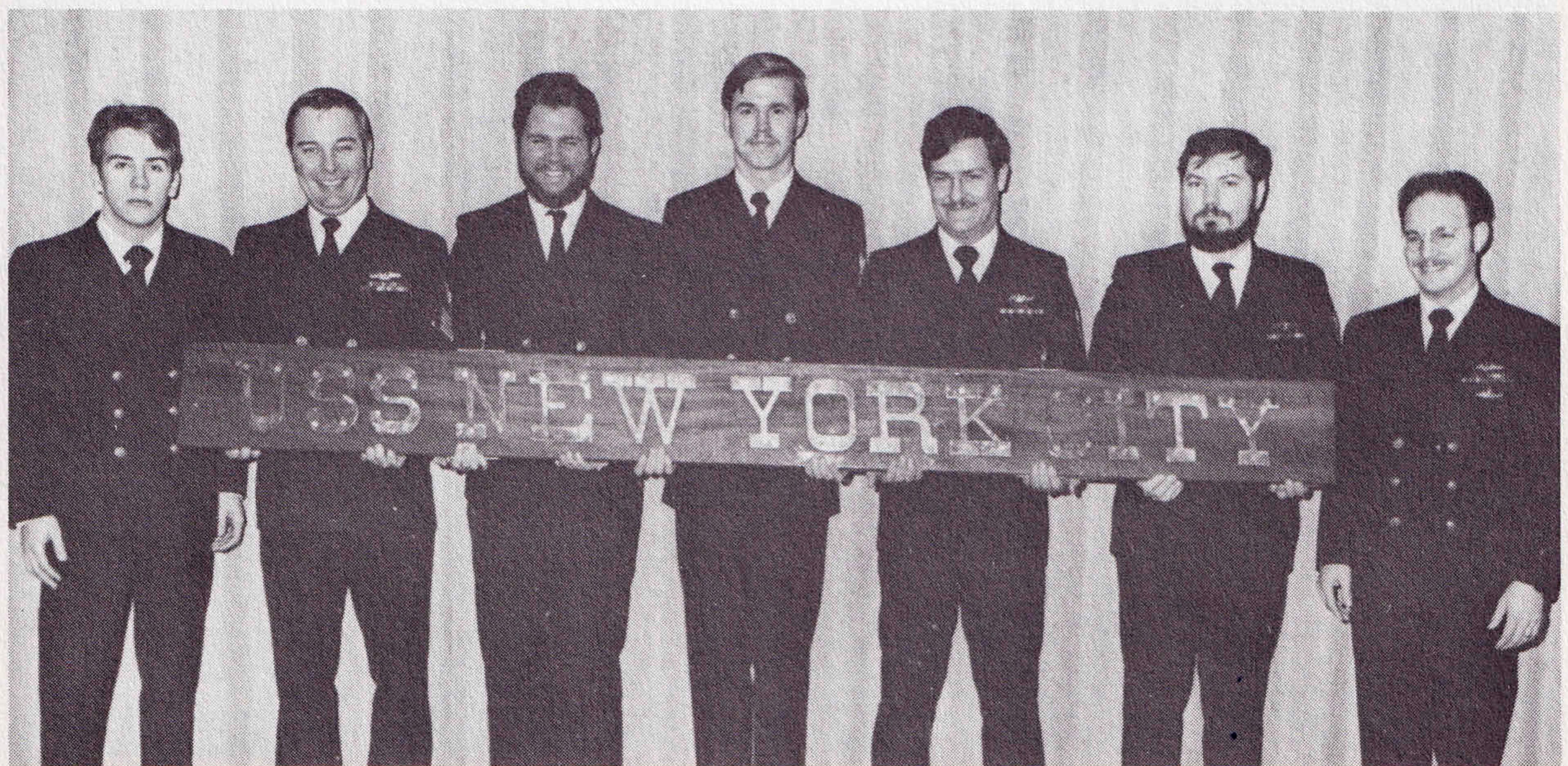
Interior Communications Division



Machinery Division



Electrical Division



Reactor Controls Division

WEAPONS DEPARTMENT



Sonar Division



Torpedo Division



Fire Control/Data Systems Divisions

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT



Quartermaster Division



Radio Division

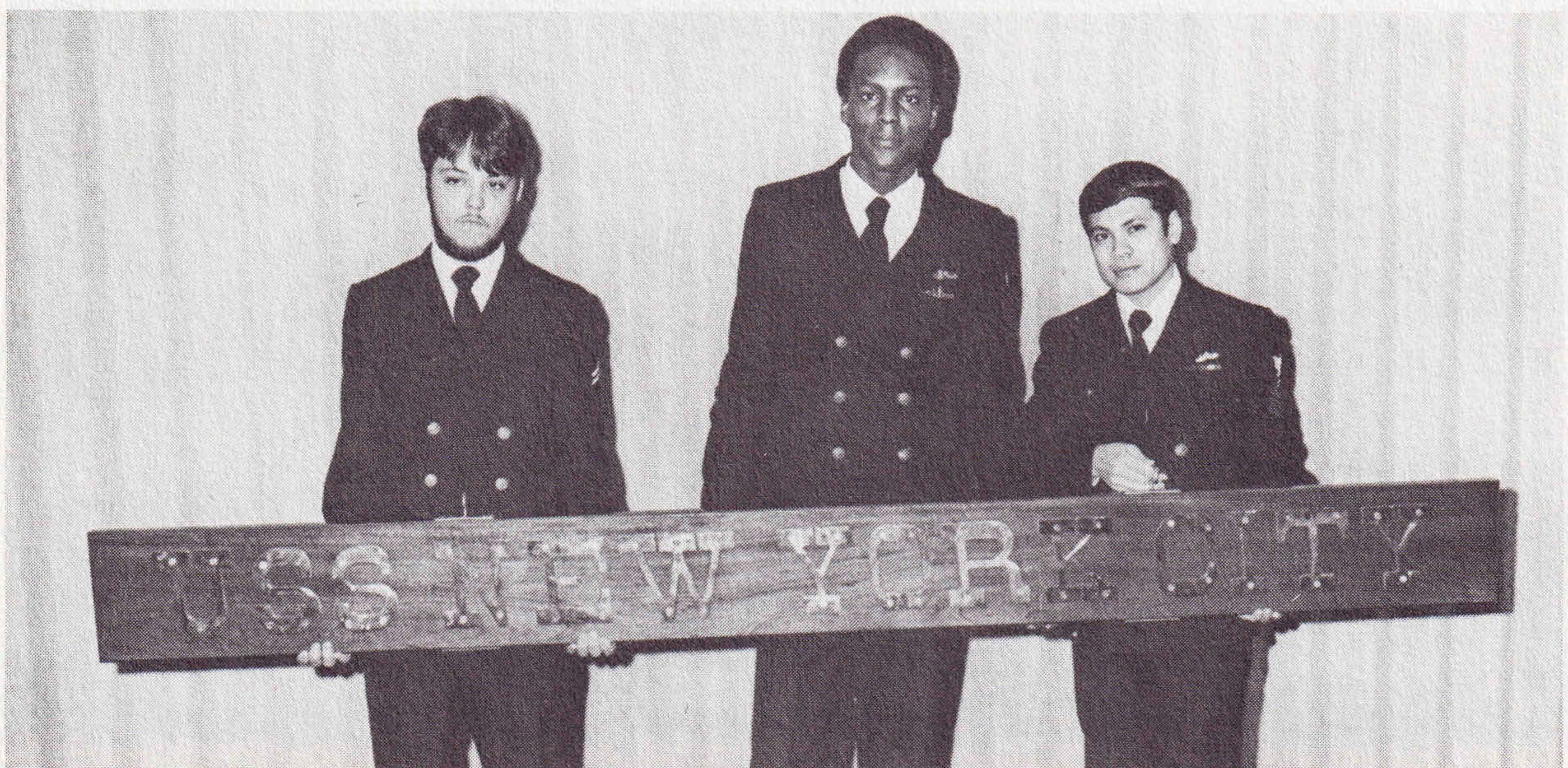


Electronic Material Division

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT



Food Service Division



Supply Division

WITH SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Many people labored long and hard as members of the New York City's precommissioning crew but have since been transferred for duty elsewhere and are not part of the commissioning crew. This page recognizes the significant contributions that they made in the construction of this fine ship.

EMC	Dennis Demots
ETC	Earl E. Courtney
RMC	Lawrence D. Yaeger
MSC	James T. Rhoads, Jr.
MM1	Charles E. Taulbee
IC1	Ronald R. Roth
MM1	Joseph B. Broskey, Jr.
EM1	Michael G. Flower
MS1	Lorenzo U. Ocheda
RM2	David L. Wright
MM2	Kim R. Luginbuhl
FN	Anton Vegel

