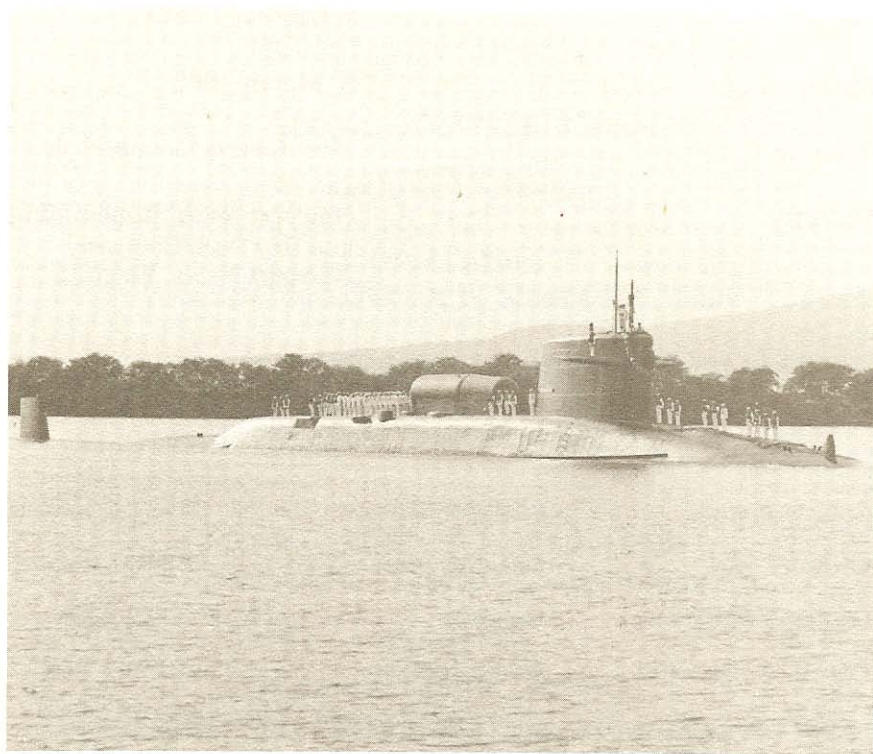


DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY



**USS SAM HOUSTON (SSN-609)
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII
1 FEBRUARY 1991**

USS SAM HOUSTON (SSBN-609)

Keel Laid 28 December 1959
Launched 2 February 1961
Commissioned 6 March 1962
Sponsor Mrs. John B. Connally, Jr.
Built By Newport News Shipbuilding
and Dry Dock Company
Newport News, Virginia

Commissioning Officers

Blue		Gold
CAPT W. P. Willis	Commanding Officer	CAPT J. H. Hawkins
LCDR J. P. Wise	Executive Officer	CDR F. W. Graham
LCDR D. F. X. McPadden	Navigator	LCDR R. L. Enos
LT L. M. Markham III	Weapons Officer	LCDR R. L. Hart
LT C. L. Gooding, Jr	Launch Div Officer	LT C. N. Diesel
LCDR R. P. McDonald	Engineer	LT W. S. Cole, Jr
LCDR G. A. Hines, Jr	Machinery Div Officer	LT G. N. Arthur, Jr
LT J. E. Jones	Electrical Div Officer	LT D. J. Ohmen
LT H. L. Mathis, II	Auxiliary Div Officer	LT E. J. Covey
LT J. P. McNichols, Jr	Communications Officer	LT D. A. Kratch
LT D. E. McGlasson	Supply Officer	LT P. F. Carter, Jr
ENS R. P. Sheldon	Assistant Weapons Officer	
LCDR Barnhill	Medical Officer	LT K. T. O'Donnell



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Arrival of Official Party

National Anthem

Invocation

Lieutenant Steven B. Sloat CHC, USN

Remarks And Introduction Of Guest Speakers

Commander Willard C. Butler, Jr. USN

Commanding Officer, USS Sam Houston (SSN-609)

Remarks

Captain Clifford A. Wiese, USN

Commander, Submarine Squadron 1

Remarks

Captain Emil D. Morrow

Deputy Director, Attack Submarine Division

Office of Chief of Naval Operations

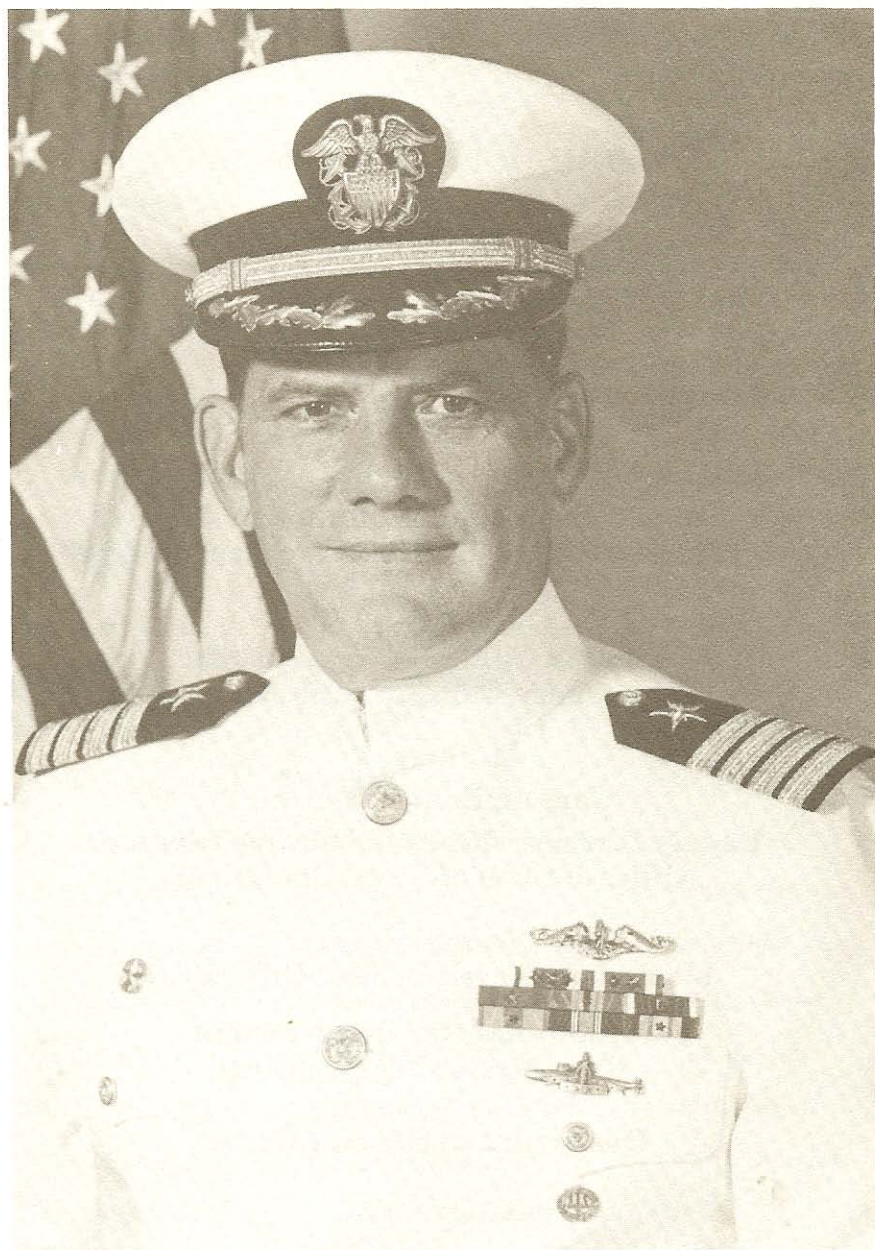
Benediction

Lieutenant Steven B. Sloat CHC, USN

**Ceremonial Hauling Down of
Commissioning Pennant**

Departure of Official Party





CAPTAIN EMIL D. MORROW UNITED STATES NAVY

Captain Morrow was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1964.

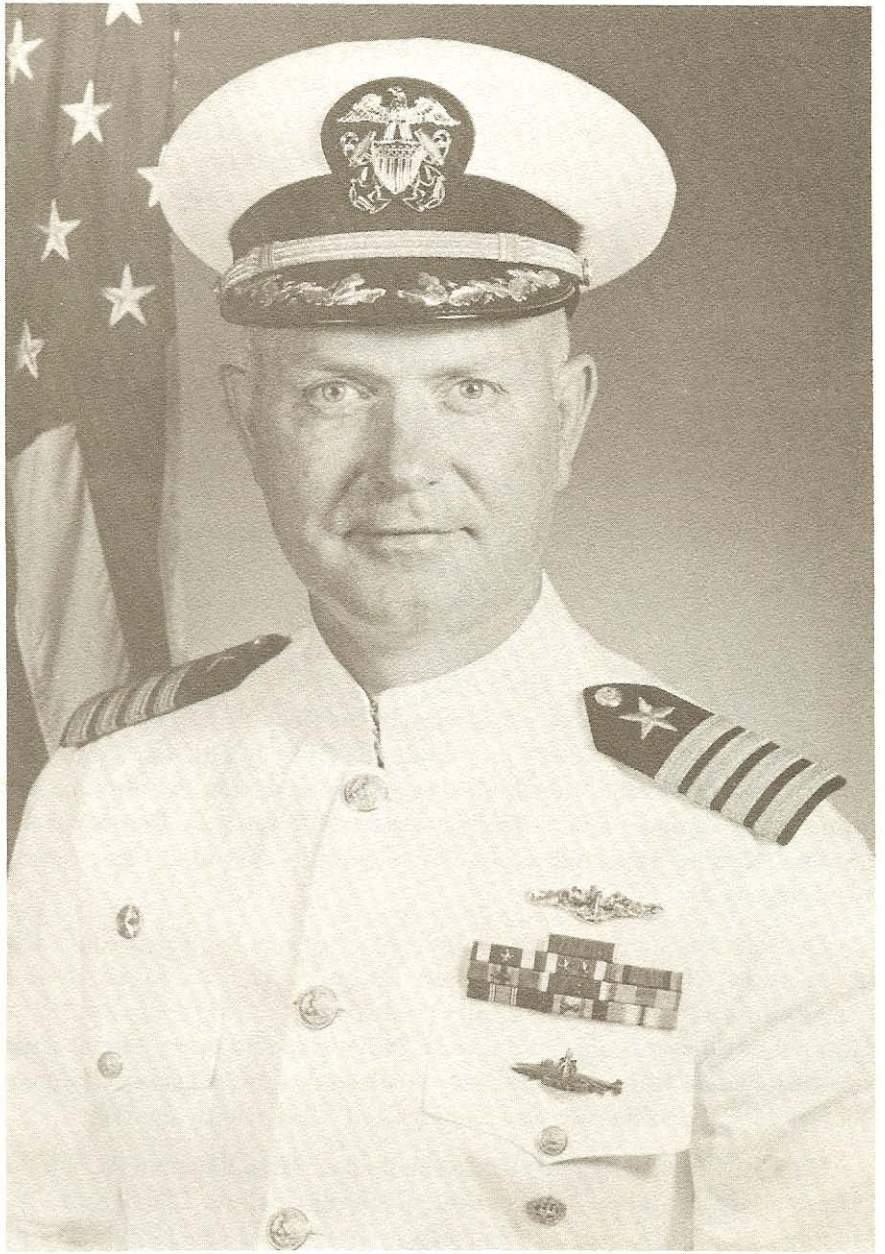
Captain Morrow has served aboard the USS CROAKER (SS 246) as the Electrical Officer, USS COBBLER (SS 344), as the Communications and Operations Officer, USS GATO (SSN 615), as the Weapons Officer and Main Propulsion Assistant, and USS SAM HOUSTON (SSBN 609) (BLUE) as Engineer. Captain Morrow served on the staff of Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet as a member of the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board from June 1975 to September 1977. Upon detachment he served as Executive Officer of USS PHILADELPHIA (SSN 690) from November 1977 to July 1980.

In January 1981, Captain Morrow assumed command of USS WHALE (SSN 638). During his command the ship conducted numerous successful deployments and won the Battle Efficiency "E". Captain Morrow then rotated ashore to become Deputy Commander for Readiness at Submarine Squadron 2, New London, Connecticut.

In December 1983 he assumed command and was the first Commanding Officer of USS PROVIDENCE (SSN 719), the first vertical launch Tomahawk submarine in the fleet. In October 1985, he assumed duties as the first Commanding Officer of Nuclear Field "A" School. In July 1988, Captain Morrow assumed duties as Commander, Submarine Squadron 1. After a successful tour as Commodore, Captain Morrow reported to the Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Captain Morrow's awards include: Meritorious Service Medal with three stars, Navy Commendation Medal with two stars, Navy Achievement Medal with one gold star, Meritorious Unit Commendation with one bronze star, Navy Expeditionary Medal with one star, Battle Efficiency "E" Award with one star, National Defense Service Medal and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with one star.

Captain Morrow is married to the former Miss Rosemary Costello Propst of Grand Island, Nebraska. Children include LTJG Emil W. Morrow, SC, USN, Susan Elizabeth, a student at the University of Colorado and Stephen Decatur Morrow, a high school student.



CAPTAIN CLIFFORD A. WIESE UNITED STATES NAVY

Captain Clifford A. Wiese was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana and graduated from high school in New Haven, Indiana in 1962. He then entered the United States Naval Academy graduating with distinction in June 1966. He completed Nuclear Power Training and Submarine School in 1968.

After qualifying in submarines aboard USS ARGONAUT (SSN 475) in December 1968, he attended the SSBN Weapons Officer course in Dam Neck, Virginia. He next served aboard USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN 598) (Blue) until January 1972 during which time he qualified as Engineer Officer. From January 1972 to June 1972 he was assigned as the Plant Performance Evaluation Officer for the S3G prototype at the Nuclear Power Training Unit West Milton, New York. He then served as Navigator of the USS GURNARD (SSN 662) until 1977 and as Executive Officer of the USS DRUM (SSN 677) from September 1977 to July 1980. Captain Wiese served as Executive Assistant to the Trident System Project Manager (PM-2) Naval Material Command Washington, D. C. from September 1980 to August 1982. He commanded USS GURNARD (SSN 662) from April 1983 until March 1987. Captain Wiese assumed command of Nuclear Power Training Unit Idaho Falls, Idaho in June 1987. Captain Wiese's most recent assignment is Commander Submarine Squadron 1.

Captain Wiese wears the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, the Navy Commendation Medal with two Gold Stars, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the "E" Ribbon, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Arctic Service Ribbon and Polaris Patrol Pin (3 patrols).

The son of Mrs. Ludella Wiese of Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is married to the former Yvonne Villaluz of San Diego, California. They have three sons, Todd, Peter, and Andrew.



COMMANDER WILLARD C. BUTLER, JR UNITED STATES NAVY

Commander Butler, a native of Barstow, California, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in June 1974. He reported to USS QUEENFISH (SSN 651) homeported in Hawaii in November 1975 after completion of Submarine School in Groton, Connecticut and nuclear power training at Mare Island, California and Idaho Falls, Idaho. During this tour he served as Division Officer and Weapons Officer. He participated in two Western Pacific deployments and completed Submarine and Engineer qualification on board USS QUEENFISH.

Commander Butler served as Engineer Officer from July 1979 to June 1982 on USS TAUTOG (SSN 679) homeported in Hawaii. During this time the ship received the battle "E" in 1980 and the Engineering "E" for 1980, 1981 and 1982. In addition, the ship completed two deployments to the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans.

In June 1982, Commander Butler reported to the staff of Commander Submarine Squadron ONE in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii as Material Officer. He returned to sea duty and served as the Executive Officer on USS DRUM (SSN 677) homeported in San Diego, California from July 1984 to July 1987. During this time USS DRUM completed a Western Pacific deployment followed a year later by a refueling overhaul at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Commander Butler attended the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Virginia from August 1987 to February 1988, and then he reported to the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska. During this tour he was the Nuclear Options Planning and NATO Support Officer for the Plans Directorate of JSTPS. Commander Butler assumed command of the USS SAM HOUSTON (SSN 609) in December 1990.

Commander Butler is entitled to wear the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars, the Navy Achievement Medal and other unit commendations and service awards.

Commander Butler is married to the former Gail Lynn Day and they have two children, Eric and Vanessa.

USS SAM HOUSTON (SSN 609)

USS SAM HOUSTON was the third nuclear powered submarine and the first 608 class SSBN to be built at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. The keel for this revolutionary weapons system was laid on 28 December 1959. On 2 February 1961, the ship was christened "SAM HOUSTON" by Mrs. John B. Connally, wife of the then Secretary of the Navy. The launching followed an address by the late Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN, in which he remarked, ". . . the recent development of nuclear propulsion has probably done more for the submarine than for any other type of vessel and when equipped with the POLARIS missile system, the submarine becomes one of the deadliest weapons in our arsenal." The ship slid down the ways as the nation's seventh POLARIS submarine.

Upon completion of sea trials, SAM HOUSTON was commissioned on 6 March 1962. Thereafter she departed on initial shakedown cruise, fired her first missiles and subsequently departed on her first patrol in October 1962.

The third patrol provided two historic "firsts" in FBM submarine history. SAM HOUSTON was the initial FBM submarine to deploy to the Mediterranean and join the NATO forces there, and also the first POLARIS submarine to make a port-of-call during a patrol, when she made a short operational visit to Izmir, Turkey.

SAM HOUSTON was overhauled after her seventeenth POLARIS deterrent patrol. Following overhaul, SAM HOUSTON operated out of HOLY LOCH, SCOTLAND until the summer of 1970. The Secretary of the Navy awarded SAM HOUSTON the Meritorious Unit Commendation for performance during a mission conducted in the fall of 1969.

After her 36th POLARIS patrol, SAM HOUSTON completed her second overhaul at Charleston Naval Shipyard. This overhaul included refueling the nuclear reactor, converting the weapons system for the A-3 missile, and installing the capability to fire the most modern torpedoes available in the fleet today.

After her overhaul period, SAM HOUSTON made an inter-fleet transfer to the Pacific, passing through the Panama Canal en route to her new homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After the successful completion of her Demonstration and Shakedown Operation by both the Blue and Gold Crews, which included a Functional Operational Test of her missile system, SAM HOUSTON shifted to her new advanced site of Apra Harbor, Guam.

During her 41st POLARIS patrol, SAM HOUSTON accomplished another "first" by becoming the first FBM to make a mid-patrol port-of-call in the Pacific at Chinhae, Republic of Korea.

After her 54th POLARIS patrol, SAM HOUSTON combined her BLUE and GOLD Crews into one and shortly thereafter, the sixteen POLARIS missiles were off loaded, the ship was redesignated SSN 609 and the crew underwent extensive training for SAM HOUSTON's new role as an attack submarine. A change in homeport to Bremerton, Washington occurred with the change in the ship's role. Here, SAM HOUSTON entered into a comprehensive overhaul that concluded in August 1985. Alterations were made to allow SAM HOUSTON able to operate with the Dry Deck Shelter atop her missile deck. Following sea trials, SAM HOUSTON again changed homeports to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

As an attack submarine USS SAM HOUSTON certified and conducted manned operational testing of the first SSN-608 class Dry Deck Shelter (DDS) system in the

Pacific fleet. Since operations with the Dry Deck Shelter, SAM HOUSTON has accomplished numerous "firsts," among them are:

- Establishing the first Pacific Fleet submarine capable of employing Naval Special Warfare forces on sustained operations in a forward area due to her expanded ordnance stowage and berthing abilities as well as physical conditioning equipment maintained on board.

- Served as the host SSN for the Manned Operational Testing of the first Dry Deck Shelter in the Pacific Fleet. From March 1988 to July 1988, USS SAM HOUSTON was the host SSN for Cold Water Operational Testing of the MK-9 and MK-9 Seal Delivery Vehicle in the Puget Sound area. USS SAM HOUSTON conducted full mission profile operations to evaluate SDV/DDS radiated noise and to evaluate procedures and capabilities for conducting submarine naval special warfare operations in a cold water environment. These operations significantly enhanced both procedures and planning for potential real world contingencies in the northwest Pacific Ocean theater.

- In July 1988, USS SAM HOUSTON conducted six varied Naval Special Warfare missions in support of RIMPAC-88. This marked the first integration of submarine drydeck shelter delivered naval special warfare forces into this multinational exercise and significantly broadened the capability and experience of THIRD FLEET to employ the unique capabilities of the fast attack submarine in this role.

- In August 1988, during MARDEZEX - Adak 88, USS SAM HOUSTON further extended the capability to conduct joint special warfare operations. Embarking elements of the US Army's 2nd Special Force Team at a remote site, SAM HOUSTON successfully conducted a covert night time insertion of these forces, using dry deck launch techniques, north of Adak, AK.

- In December 1988, USS SAM HOUSTON was the host SSN, and Commanding Officer USS SAM HOUSTON was the Officer In Tactical Command (OTC), for COMNAVSPECWARGRU ONE SINEX 89-1. This was the first demonstration in which a ship at anchor was sunk by SEALS inserted clandestinely by a swimmer delivery vehicle from a submerged fast attack submarine.

- In 1989, USS SAM HOUSTON conducted a Western Pacific deployment which was the first forward deployment of a dry deck shelter equipped submarine to SEVENTHFLEET.

During her 1989 Western Pacific Deployment, SAM HOUSTON participated in PACEX-89, conducting eighteen highly successful naval special warfare missions. At twenty nine years old, SAM HOUSTON is the oldest nuclear submarine in the Pacific Fleet. She displayed exceptional material reliability throughout her deployment. During that deployment, SAM HOUSTON conducted the largest scale and longest sustained submarine Naval Special Warfare operations on record.

USS SAM HOUSTON was nominated by Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet for the fiscal year 1989 Arleigh Burke Award. This nomination recognized USS SAM HOUSTON as that submarine which demonstrated the most significant improvement in battle readiness during the fiscal year.

USS SAM HOUSTON is soon to take her final voyage. She will do so knowing that she has excelled in all three major warfare roles in which she has served. To all who have served and upheld the tradition of "Try Me;" Farewell.

USS SAM HOUSTON DECORATIONS



MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

USS SAM HOUSTON (SSN 609) has excelled in all three major warfare roles in which she has served. Having led the way in missile system tests and deployment, and having completed ten Strategic Deterrent Patrols proudly and clearly living up to her motto of "TRY ME." USS SAM HOUSTON was awarded her **first** Meritorious Unit Commendation in 1969.

Upon completing a comprehensive overhaul in 1985, SAM HOUSTON left behind the memories of her fifty-four patrols as an SSBN and anxiously looked ahead to operations as an attack submarine. Again, SAM HOUSTON led the way in sonar systems development integrating the thin line towed array into the attack submarine anti-submarine role. Deploying to the Northern Pacific and being the first and the best was recognized by SAM HOUSTON's **second** Meritorious Unit Commendation in 1987.

From 1988 to the present, SAM HOUSTON has served almost exclusively as a platform for employing Naval Special Warfare Forces. Developing the procedures and tactics to best use this asset was SAM HOUSTON's goal. In 1989 USS SAM HOUSTON conducted a Western Pacific deployment which was the first forward deployment of a dry Deck Shelter equipped submarine to SEVENTH Fleet. During that deployment, SAM HOUSTON conducted the largest scale and longest sustained submarine Naval Special Warfare operations on record. For this, her third major Submarine Warfare role, SAM HOUSTON received her **third** Meritorious Unit Commendation in May of 1990.

SAM HOUSTON and her men have continued to serve her country to the best of their ability. They have excelled in each phase of ship's operations and upheld the tradition of "TRY ME."



USS SAM HOUSTON (SSBN/SSN 609) COMMAND HISTORY

SSBN-609, BLUE

W. P. Willis, Jr. CAPT
Mar - 1962 / Apr - 1964
D. P. Brooks, CAPT
Apr - 1964 / Aug - 1966
Z. D. Alford, CAPT
Aug - 1966 / Jul - 1968
H. A. Glovier, Jr. CAPT
Jul - 1968 / Jan - 1972
R. J. Wiltsie, CAPT
Jan - 1972 / Jan - 1975
W. H. Rich, CAPT
Jan - 1975 / Jan - 1977
D. C. Klinger, CAPT
Jan - 1977 / Jan - 1979
B. M. Saft, CAPT
Jan - 1979 / Jan - 1981

SSBN-609, GOLD

J. H. Hawkins, CAPT
Mar - 1962 / Jul - 1965
Z. D. Alford, CAPT
Jul - 1965 / Nov - 1967
A. C. Bivens, CAPT
Nov - 1967 / Oct - 1970
C. P. Griffing, CAPT
Oct - 1970 / Jan - 1973
C. H. Otto, CDR
Jan - 1973 / Jan - 1975
J. P. Weikert, CAPT
Jan - 1975 / Jan - 1977
W. A. Owens, CAPT
Jan - 1977 / Jan - 1981

SSN-609

J. J. Hyland III, CDR
Jan - 1981 / Jun - 1983
E. R. Lockwood, CDR
Jun - 1983 / Jun 1987
R. S. Collins, CDR
Jun - 1987 / Jan - 1988
G. D. Jensen, CDR
Jan - 1988 / Apr - 1988
P. J. Keuhlen, CDR
Apr - 1988 / Dec - 1990
W. C. Butler, Jr. CDR
Dec - 1990 / Present

DECOMMISSIONING CREW

Officers

CDR Willard Butler, Jr	Commanding Officer
LCDR Walter Sedlacek	Executive Officer
LT William Kellerhals	Navigation/Weapons Officer
LT Timothy Luffy	Engineer Officer
LT Bruce Breth	Supply Officer
LT J. D. Thompson	Sonar Officer
LT Ronald Focia	Chemical Radiological Assistant
LT Anthony Scherschel	Communicator
LT Thomas Dendy	Damage Control Assistant
LT Ross Beaton	Main Propulsion Assistant
LTJG John Mosier	Reactor Controls Assistant
LTJG James Christie	Electrical Division Officer
LTJG Robert Moore	Assistant Weapons Officer
ENS Robert Shafer	Interior Communications Officer

Chiefs and Leading Petty Officers

CHIEF OF THE BOAT

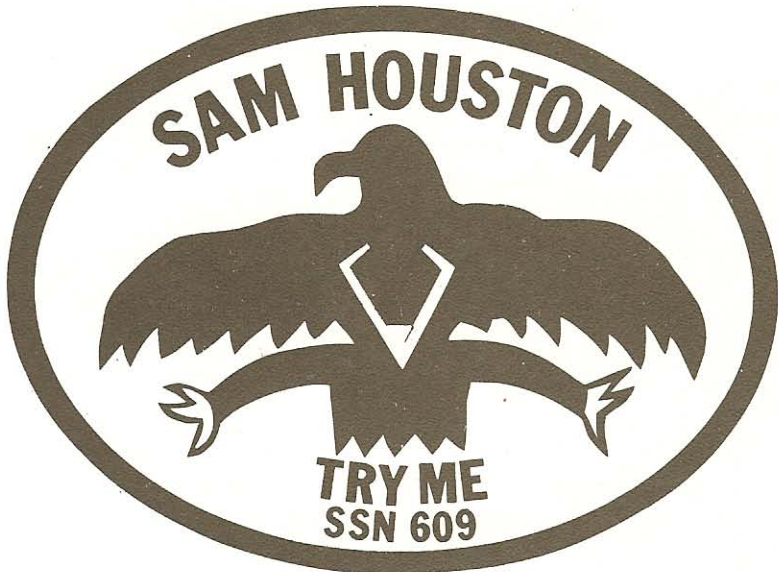
ETCM(SS) Wayne Smith

ETCS(SS) Einar	NAV ET LCPO	MS1(SS) Spencer	Mess Management Specialist LPO
MMCS(SS) Wolski	Engineering Dept. Assistant	SK1(SS) Rynerson	Storekeeper LPO
MMC(SS) New	Machinery LCPO	MM1(SS) Dille	Engineering Lab Technician LPO
EMC(SS) Kauffman	EDEA	STS1(SS) Ishmael	Cmd Career Counselor
ETC(SS) Catmull	Reactor Controls LCPO	EM1(SS) Vallance	Electrical LPO
MMC(SS) Ryan	Auxiliary LCPO	QM1(SS) Tate	Quartermaster LPO
MMC(SS) Smith	Auxiliary Division	RM2(SS) Dutter	Radio LPO
YNC(SS) Ivory	Yeomen LCPO	IC2(SS) Sacchetti	Interior Communication LPO
HMC(SS) West	Corpsman	TM2(SS) Castillo	Torpedomen LPO
ICC(SS) Sorenson	3M Coordinator	STS2(SS) McCool	Deck LPO
STSC(SS) Ransom	Sonar LCPO		

ENLISTED PERSONNEL

MM2(SU) ANCHICK
MMFN(SU) ANDENORA
STS2(SS) AUER
EM3(SS) BALDRIDGE
STS2(SS) BARLOW
MM3(SS) BAYLESS
MM1(SS) BOL
EM2(SS) BRUBACH
FTG3(SS) CAMERON
MSSR(SU) CAMPBELL
FTG2(SS) CARLSON
MM2(SS) CARR
MM3(SS) CARROLL
STS2(SS) CUTTING
ET1(SS) DAVIS
IC2(SS) DONALDSON
MM2(SS) DYROFF
MM1(SS) EDWARDS
MM3(SS) ELLIS
ET3(SS) EVANICK
MM3(SS) EVANS
ET3(SS) FETTERS
SKSN(SS) FOXSCHIFFER
MS3(SS) GIBBONS
QM3(SS) GREENSLADE
MM3(SS) HARPELL
FN(SS) HATCH
MMFN(SU) HAWLEY
TM3(SS) HEALY
EM2(SS) HILTY
STSSN(SS) HODNETT
FN(SS) HOLETON
EM1(SS) HOTTINGER
FN(SS) HUNTER
IC3(SS) IZZO
EM2(SS) JOHNSON
MM3(SS) JONES, B.
MM2(SS) JONES, J.
TM3(SS) JONES, O.
MM3(SU) JONES, S.
MM2(SS) JOYCE
ET2(SS) KORCHNAK
MM1(SS) KRAWCZAK
MM1(SS) KREHER
ET3(SS) LABORTE
SA(SU) LANE
ET3(SS) LARSON
FTG2(SS) LEINWEBER
MM1(SS) LONG, B.

ET2(SS) LONG, J.
SN(SS) MAAG
QM3(SS) MCMILLAN
MM3(SS) METCALF
RM2(SS) MILLER, E.
FTG2(SS) MILLER, G.
QM3(SU) MOELLER
STS2(SS) MOORE
SR(SU) MORRIS
IC3(SS) MURPHY
MM1(SS) NELSON
MM2(SS) NOBLE
ET3(SU) OLIVE
SR(SU) OSBORN
EM1(SS) PETERSON
EM3(SS) PIERCE
EM2(SS) PONSETTO
RM2(SS) PRINCE
MM2(SS) ROBB
IC2(SS) ROBERTS
TM3(SS) ROGERS
SK3(SS) RUSSELL
ET3(SU) SCHAEFER
QMSA(SU) SCHAPER
MM3(SS) SCHULTZ
STS2(SS) SHIPMAN
YN3(SS) SMITH, E.
YNSA(SU) SMITH, M.
MS3(SS) SNEED
EM2(SS) SPENCE
MS2(SS) ST. JOHN
QM2(SS) STILLWELL
ET2(SU) SWARTZ
SA(SU) TORREY
MS3(SS) VAUGHN
EM2(SU) VYVERBERG
YN3(SS) WARDEN
MM3(SU) WARREN
ET2(SS) WATTS
MM2(SS) WEEKS
MM3(SU) WEISS
MM2(SS) WHITE
FA(SU) WILLIAMS
ET3(SS) WILLOUGHBY
EM1(SS) WOOD
MM2(SS) WRIGHT
STS3(SS) YAX
MM2(SS) ZIMMERMAN



THE SUBMARINE...

Sea Power for Peace

Since World War II the submarine has played a vital role in the defense of our nation. Our BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES and ATTACK SUBMARINES are continually on the prowl ready to protect and defend the freedom our forefathers have nurtured.

Today's nuclear submarines are highly complex and sophisticated pieces of machinery. They are manned by dedicated crews of highly skilled technicians. These men of the 'Silent Service' serve proudly in the highest traditions of the United States Navy. The men of the USS SAM HOUSTON serve in that same proud tradition.

