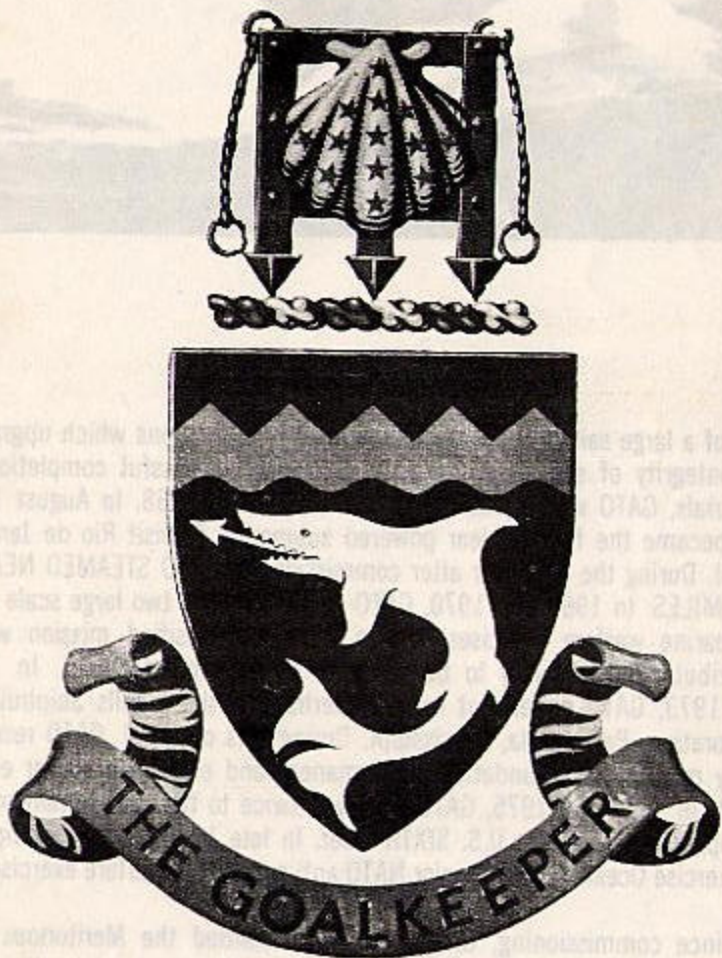


# COAT OF ARMS



USS GATO (SSN 615)

# UNITED STATES SHIP GATO

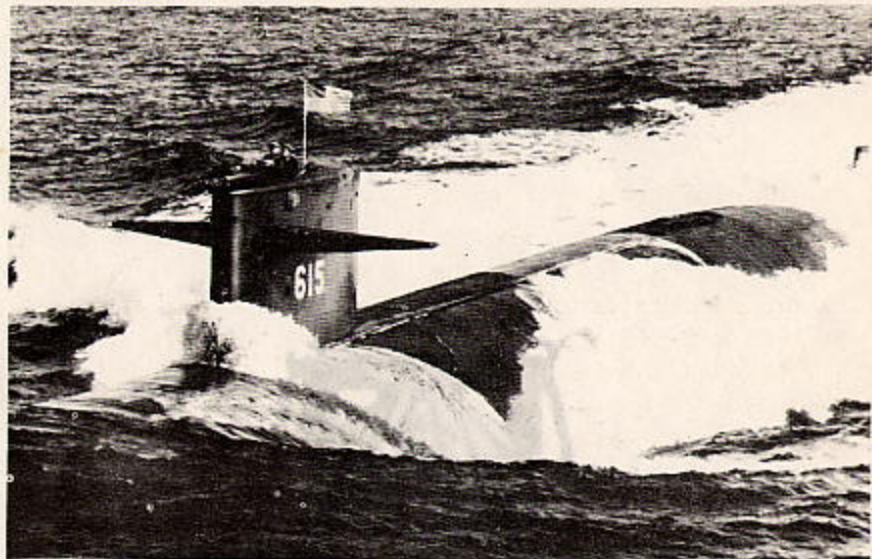
(SSN 615)

The USS GATO (SSN 615) is 292 feet long with a beam of 32 feet and a displacement of 4600 tons. Her mission is to seek out and destroy enemy ships — primarily other submarines. To accomplish this mission GATO has highly advanced sound detection and ranging equipment and a computerized weapons control system. Combined with long range torpedoes and the SUBROC missile, these systems permit detection and destruction of enemy submarines at great distances. As are all nuclear powered submarines, GATO is capable of operating independently of the earth's atmosphere for long periods of time. This characteristic is a result of power generation by a pressurized water reactor and associated steam plant which requires no oxygen supply or atmospheric exhaust. The power generated by the reactor provides propulsion and drives auxiliary turbine generators which provide the ship with all necessary light and electrical power. To support human life in this enclosed environment, the ship is completely air-conditioned and the atmosphere is highly controlled to prevent buildup of any toxic substances hazardous to life or equipment.

## USS GATO HISTORY

GATO (SSN615), the second ship to bear the name, was authorized to be constructed in the 1960 Shipbuilding Program. The keel to the ship was laid on 15 December 1961 at the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation, Groton, Connecticut. The ship was launched 14 May 1964 at Groton after being christened by Mrs. Lawson P. Ramage, wife of then Rear Admiral Ramage, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Originally intended as the twelfth submarine to the PERMIT Class, GATO was extensively modified during the construction period at the Quincy Division of General Dynamics Corporation. These alterations included lengthening of the hull by adding a new section amidships, installa-



tion of a large sail, and accomplishment of modifications which upgraded the integrity of sea water systems. Following successful completion of sea trials, GATO was commissioned on 25 January 1968. In August 1968 she became the first nuclear powered submarine to visit Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. During the first year after commissioning, GATO STEAMED NEARLY <sup>50,000</sup> MILES. In 1969 and 1970, GATO participated in two large scale anti-submarine warfare exercises and in a highly classified mission which contributed significantly to the defense of the United States. In 1972 and 1973, GATO underwent regular overhaul at the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation, Pascagoula, Mississippi. During this overhaul, GATO received many modifications, undating her armanent and electronic sensor equipment. In 1974 and 1975, GATO deployed twice to the Mediterranean Sea for operations with the U.S. SIXTH Fleet. In late 1975, GATO participated in Exercise Ocean Safari, a major NATO anti-submarine warfare exercise.

Since commissioning, GATO has been awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation twice, the Battle Efficiency "E" as the outstanding submarine in her Squadron in 1969, 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1975, and the ASW "A" for outstanding anti-submarine warfare performance in 1974 and 1975.



## **UNITED STATES SHIP GATO**

**Welcome Aboard,**

On behalf of the officers and crew, I take pleasure in extending to you the hospitality of the Submarine Force of the United States Navy. It is our desire to make your stay with us as pleasant as possible. All members of the ship's crew are ready to assist you in any way possible — you have only to ask.

As a warship, GATO is necessarily neither spacious nor designed for large numbers of people. We ask that you bear with us in this respect since we share your inconvenience. This pamphlet has been prepared as a memento of your visit. It also provides that information necessary to ensure your health and comfort while on board.

As your hosts, all of us in GATO hope your visit will be informative, interesting, and pleasant.

**Commanding Officer  
USS GATO (SSN615)**