

USS GATO



SSN 615



DEPARTURE CEREMONY

**UNITED STATES SHIP
GATO
(SSN 615)**

07 APRIL 1995



**NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE
GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

Coat of Arms



The scarlet, yellow (gold) and blue of the shield are the colors of the Presidential Unit Citation. The five points in the shield, which simulate sharks teeth, symbolize the five World War II patrols for which the first USS GATO was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. The yellow wavy area above the blue represents enemy vessels, naval, and civilian, against the red sky of war.

The shark "submerged" beneath the waves, alludes to the name of the ship. GATO is a small species of shark found on the west coast of Mexico. The opened jaws and the arrow, simulating a torpedo, depicts GATO's constant readiness and aggressiveness in the accomplishments of its mission in the world's oceans, symbolized by the blue background.

The Portcullis above the shield, a device to prevent access to or from a castle, is used as a symbol of the pertinacity with which the first USS GATO hunted the north entrance of Bouganville Sound. The unswerving determination with which this was carried out led Admiral Halsey to nickname the ship "THE GOALKEEPER," a sobriquet fittingly used as the ship's motto. The scallop shell, a symbol of pilgrimage, is used in this instance to symbolize "patrol," the 13 stars representing the 13 war patrols made by USS GATO (SS 212) in World War II, and the 13 Battle Stars subsequently awarded.

This Coat of Arms was designed by the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry.