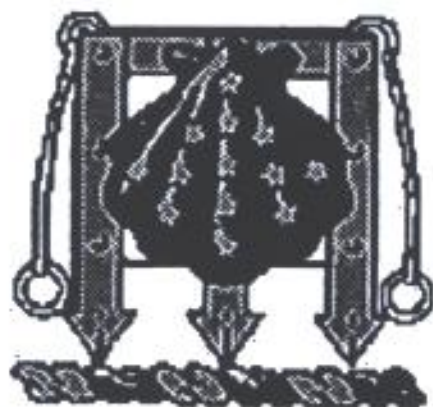


DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY

USS GATO



SSN

615



USS GATO (SSN 615)

**PUGET SOUND NAVAL SHIPYARD
BREMERTON, WASHINGTON**

25 APRIL 1996

UNITED STATES SHIP GATO (SSN 615)

Keel Laid December 15, 1961
Launched May 14, 1964
Commissioned January 25, 1968

Length 292 feet
Beam 32 feet
Max Speed Excess of 22 knots
Surface Displacement 4200 tons
Submerged Displacement 4800 tons

SHIP'S COMPLEMENT

12 Officers
115 Enlisted

ARMAMENT

4 Torpedo Tubes (21")

USS GATO (SSN 615) HISTORY

"594 TOUGH"

USS GATO (SSN 615) was the last of the PERMIT class nuclear fast attack submarines in commission.

GATO, 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, Deputy Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.



USS GATO SSN615

Originally intended as the twelfth submarine of the PERMIT Class, GATO was extensively modified during the construction period. Shortly after launching, she was towed to the Quincy Division of General Dynamics Corporation where various alterations were accomplished to increase her capabilities over previous ships of the class.

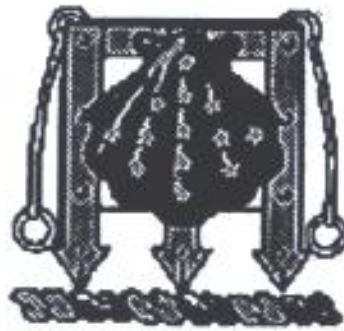
These alterations included lengthening of the hull by adding a new section amidships, installation of a large sail, and accomplishment of modifications which upgraded the integrity of sea water systems. Following successful completion of sea trials, GATO was commissioned on 25 January 1968.

In August 1968 she became the first nuclear powered submarine to visit Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In July 1976 GATO became the first nuclear powered submarine to transit the tortuous Straits of Magellan in her circumnavigation of the South American continent. GATO was commended several times for successfully completing highly classified missions which have contributed significantly to the defense of the United States. GATO has steamed over 650,000 miles during her 28 years of service.

GATO was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation five times and was awarded the following awards as the outstanding submarine in Squadrons TEN and TWO:

ASW "A"	1974, 1975, 1976, 1982, 1983
Battle Efficiency "E"	1969, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1982
Communications "C"	1984, 1985, 1994
Damage Control "DC"	1986, 1992
Engineering "E"	1976
Medical "M"	1991
Retention Silver Anchor	1986, 1987
Supply "E"	1993

USS GATO



SSN

615



COMMANDING OFFICERS OF USS GATO (SSN 615)

A. J. BACIOCCO JR.	25 Jan 68	-	28 Jun 69
L. BURKHARDT III	28 Jun 69	-	03 Sep 71
D. G. HARSHEID	03 Sep 71	-	09 Nov 74
R. G. PARTLOW	09 Nov 74	-	01 Jul 78
J. W. ASHER	01 Jul 78	-	03 Dec 80
K. A. LEE	03 Dec 80	-	27 Jan 84
A. E. LAWVER	27 Jan 84	-	19 Feb 88
L. A. SHATZER	19 Feb 88	-	14 Jun 90
H. A. WILLIAMS	14 Jun 90	-	04 Sep 90
J. B. ALLEN	04 Sep 90	-	24 Mar 92
R. L. ZELLER	24 Mar 92	-	22 Nov 94
R. MARTINEZ	22 Nov 94	-	25 Apr 96



*The Commanding Officer
USS GATO (SSN 615)
announces that GATO was decommissioned
on Thursday, the twenty-fifth of April
Nineteen hundred and ninety-six
at
Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
Bremerton, Washington*