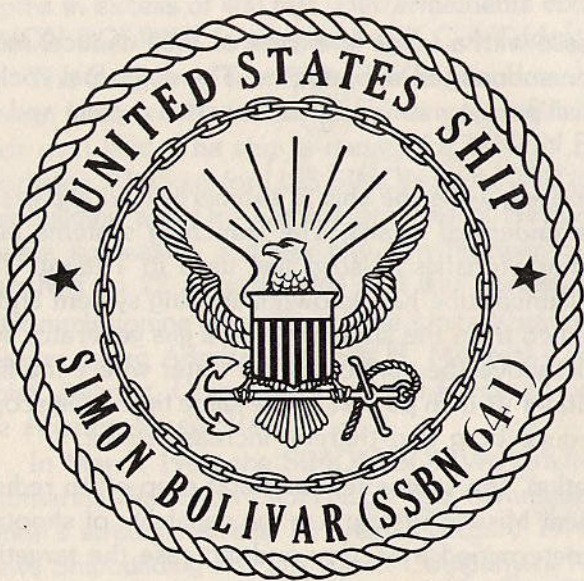


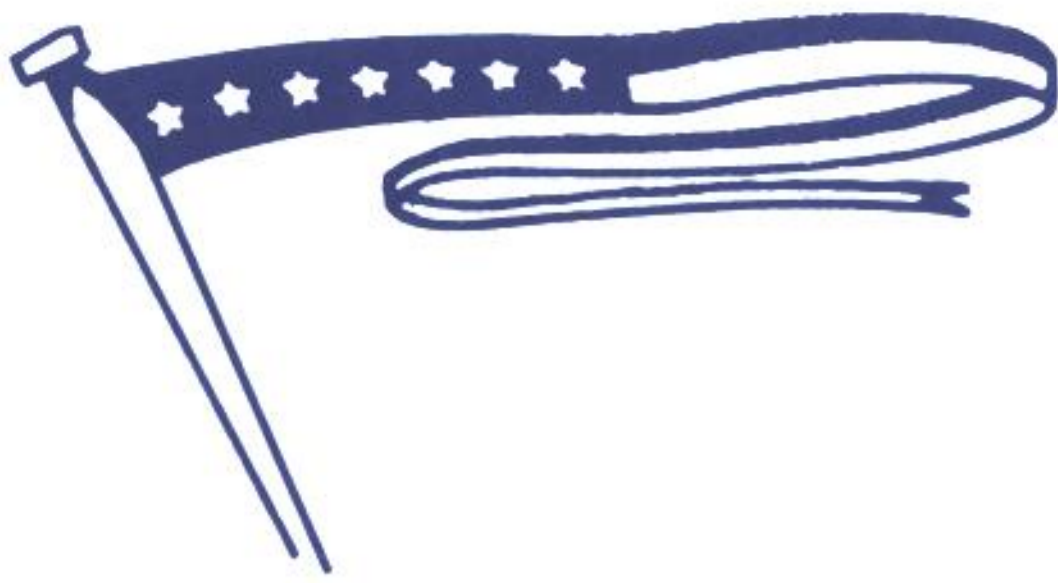
*Welcome*

*Aboard*



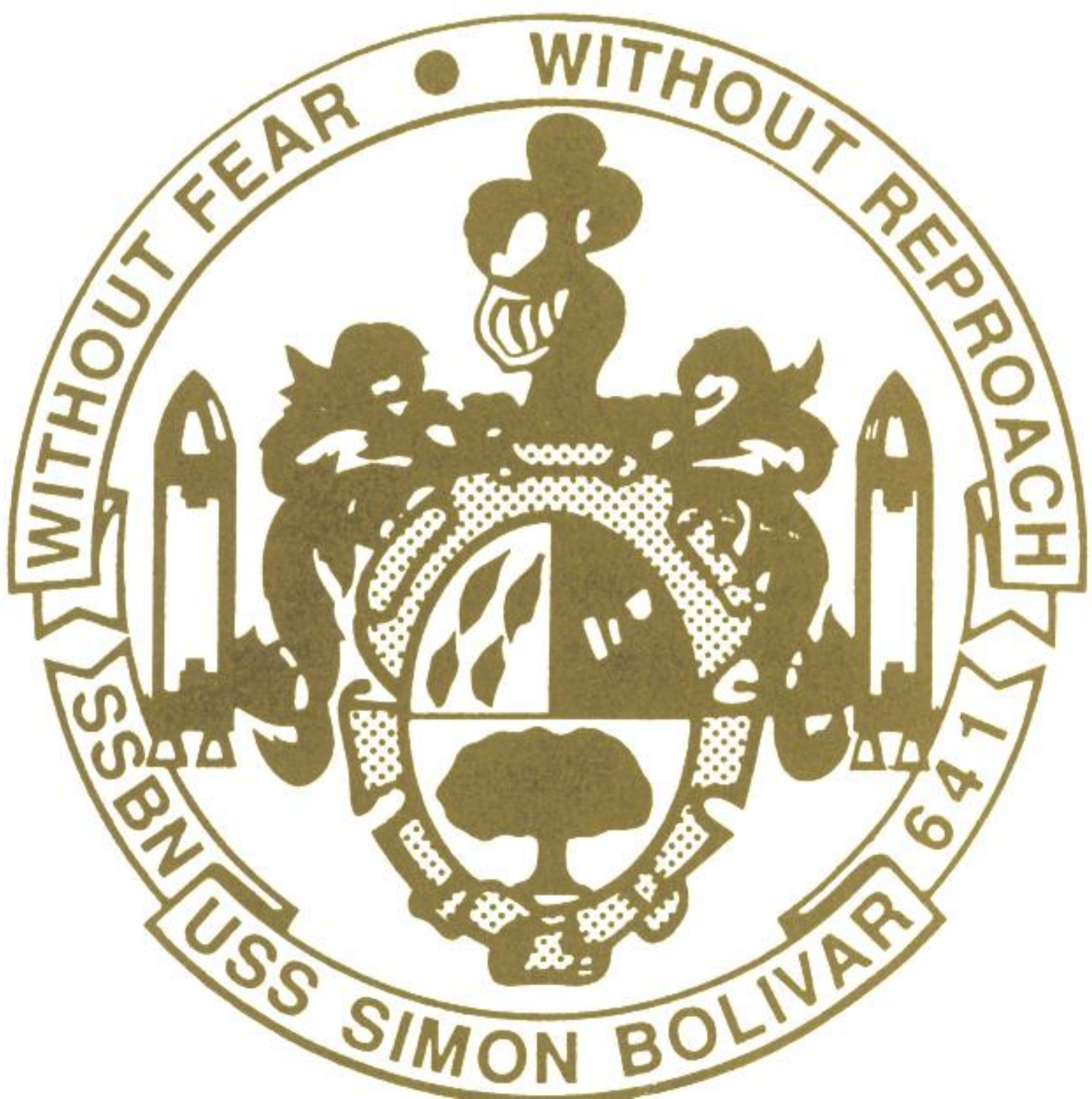
USS  
**SIMON BOLIVAR**

SSBN 641



***"MEN MEAN MORE THAN GUNS  
IN THE RATING OF A SHIP"***

**JOHN PAUL JONES**





From the Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships,  
(1976) Vol. 6, p.511.

## SIMON BOLIVAR

A South American soldier, statesman, and revolutionary leader, Simon Bolivar was born in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1783. He fought under Francisco Miranda in a revolt against the Spanish in 1810 but was forced to flee. He planned and led another revolution in Venezuela (1815 to 1818) which was successful.

Bolivar raised a small army in New Granada (now Colombia) and defeated the Spanish at Boyaca in 1819 and was subsequently made president of the new republic of Colombia with almost supreme power.

In 1821, Bolivar marched south to Quito, Ecuador. In August 1824, his army defeated the Spanish in the battle of Junin which, with General Antonio Sucre's victory at Ayacucho in December, freed Peru from Spain. Bolivar organized a new republic, named Bolivia, in 1825.

Simon Bolivar died on 17 December 1830 on his estate near Santa Marta, Colombia.

## SSBN-641

### Displacement:

Surfaced: 7,320 t.

Submerged: 8,250 t.

Length: 425'

Beam: 33'

Draft: 32'

Speed: 20+ k.

Complement: 122

Armament: 16 Polaris missiles; 4 21 torpedo tubes

Class: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

SIMON BOLIVAR (SSBN-641) was laid down on 17 April 1963 by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., Newport News, Va.; launched on 22 August 1964; sponsored by Mrs. Thomas C. Mann; and commissioned on 29 October 1965, Comdr. Charles H. Griffiths commanding the Blue Crew and Comdr. Charles A. Orem commanding the Gold.

In late December 1965 and most of January 1966, the submarine underwent demonstration and shakedown operations. The normal routine for fleet ballistic missile submarines is for the Gold Crew to make a patrol and then alternate with the Blue Crew. The Gold Crew successfully fired an A-3

Polaris missile off the coast of Cape Kennedy on 17 January, and the Blue Crew completed a successful missile firing two weeks later. In February, the Gold Crew continued shakedown operations in the Caribbean. The following month, her home port was changed to Charleston, S.C., and minor deficiencies were corrected during a yard availability period. Beginning in April, the Blue Crew prepared for and conducted the first and third regular Polaris patrols. The Gold Crew meanwhile entered the training period and later conducted the second patrol, finishing the year in a training status. SIMON BOLIVAR completed her third deterrent patrol in January 1967, operating as a unit of Submarine Squadron (SubRon) 18.

This routine continued until 7 February 1971 when the submarine returned to Newport News for overhaul and conversion of her weapons system to Poseidon missiles.

SIMON BOLIVAR departed Newport News on 12 May 1972 for post-overhaul shakedown operations and refresher training for the two crews which lasted until 16 September. The end of 1972 found the submarine back on patrol.

Into August 1974, the Blue and Gold Crews have alternated in keeping the fleet ballistic missile submarine on deterrent patrols, providing the United States with instant retaliatory capabilities in case of attack.

[Deactivated while still in commission in September 1994, SIMON BOLIVAR was both decommissioned and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 8 February 1995. She entered the Navy's Nuclear Powered Ship and Submarine Recycling Program in Bremerton, Washington on 1 October 1994 and finished in on 1 December 1995. When she emerged from the program, the former ballistic missile submarine ceased to exist as a complete ship and was classed as scrapped.

Internet web site:

United States Naval & Shipbuilding Museum  
[www.uss-salem.org/worldnav/usa/decom.htm](http://www.uss-salem.org/worldnav/usa/decom.htm)

Transcribed by Michael Hansen  
mhansen2@home.com

Length : 425 ft. , Beam: 33 ft. , Displacement: 8200 tons submerged

The USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN 641) was named for the hero of South American independence. The original forty-one Fleet Ballistic Missile (FBM) submarines were named for statesmen and heroes of the American revolution or those who contributed greatly to the cause of freedom in their own land.

The keel for the USS Simon Bolivar was laid on 17 April 1963 at Newport News

Shipbuilding. She was the thirty-first FBM and fifty-fifth nuclear submarine to join the U.S. fleet. Bolivar was the second of 12 boats in the USS Benjamin Franklin (SSBN 640) class. The Bolivar was launched on 22 August 1964 and was sponsored by Mrs. Thomas Mann. The Bolivar was commissioned on 29 October 1965, the principal speaker was Admiral Thomas H. Moorer who was CINCLANT. The first Commanding Officers were Cdr Charles H. Griffiths (Blue) and Cdr. Charles A. Orem (Gold).

In March 1966 the Simon Bolivar joined SUBRON 18 homeported in Charleston, SC and commenced making Polaris deterrent patrols. On 8 August 1967 Bolivar collided with a cargo ship about 70 miles SW of Charleston causing moderate damage.

In 1970 USS Simon Bolivar received the Meritorious Unit Commendation. Bolivar returned to Newport News Shipbuilding in February 1971 for overhaul and conversion to C-3 Poseidon missile capability. With overhaul completed in May 1972 the Bolivar resumed making deterrent patrols as a member of SUBRON 16 from Rota, Spain.

In October 1974 Bolivar returned to Charleston and SUBRON 18. The ship was awarded the Battle "E" for fiscal 1974 and also awarded the Providence Plantation Award for most outstanding FBM in the Atlantic fleet. The Bolivar was also awarded the Battle "E" for 1975 and 1976.

In February 1979, following her 40th patrol, the Simon Bolivar entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, NH for overhaul and conversion to C-4 Trident missiles. Upon completion of overhaul the Bolivar returned to her homeport of Charleston in January of 1981 as a member of SUBRON 16. She continued to make patrols while being refit from Kings Bay, GA and was awarded the Battle "E" for fiscal 1982. Bolivar did a Trident test shoot in the summer of 1983 under the command of Capt. Leon F. King.

In February 1985 Bolivar underwent refueling overhaul which was completed in November 1987 when she then returned to SUBRON 16. In 1989 Bolivar was awarded her fifth Battle "E". In August 1990 USS Simon Bolivar observed 25 years of service with a "Recommissioning Ceremony and Reunion" which was attended by over 250 past and present crew members, including both commissioning COs.

On 1 April 1994 the Simon B. stood down and was removed from patrol status as one of the last three of the original forty-one SSBNs. USS Simon Bolivar was struck from the opsub list in October 94 and decommissioned on 12 Feb 95. Bolivar completed 1040 dives and surfaces during her career.

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION to

USS SIMON BOLIVAR (SSBN-641)  
for service as set forth in the following  
CITATION:

For meritorious achievement during a period in 1970. USS SIMON BOLIVAR, a nuclear Polaris submarine, conducted a highly successful and extremely important submarine operation of vital interest to the national defense of the United States. The superb execution of this operation attested to the professional skill, resourcefulness, dedication, and attention to detail of the officers and men of USS SIMON BOLIVAR. Their inspiring performance of duty was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

(signed)

John H. Chaffee Secretary of the Navy

## USS SIMON BOLIVAR

(SSBN-641)

dp. 7325 tons (surf.), 8251 tons (subm.); l. 425'; b. 33';

s. 16k (surf.), 21k (subm.); td. 1300'; a. 16 missile tubes, 4-21" tt. fwd.;

cpl. 14 officers - 126 enlisted men (each in 2 crews); cl. "BENJAMIN FRANKLIN"

Keel laid down by Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., Newport News, VA, 17APR63;

Launched: 22AUG64; Sponsored by Mrs. Thomas C. Mann;

Commissioned: 29Oct65 with Cdr Charles H. Griffiths [B], Cdr Charles A. Orem [G] in command;

Decommissioned and struck from the Navy List 1OCT94;

Disposed of through SRP at PSNS 8FEB95.

In March 1966 the USS SIMON BOLIVAR (SSBN-641) joined SubRon18 homeported in Charleston, SC and commenced making Polaris deterrent patrols. SIMON BOLIVAR returned to Newport News Shipbuilding in February 1971 for overhaul and conversion to C-3 Poseidon missile capability. With overhaul completed in May 1972 SIMON BOLIVAR resumed making deterrent patrols as a member of SubRon16 from Rota, Spain.

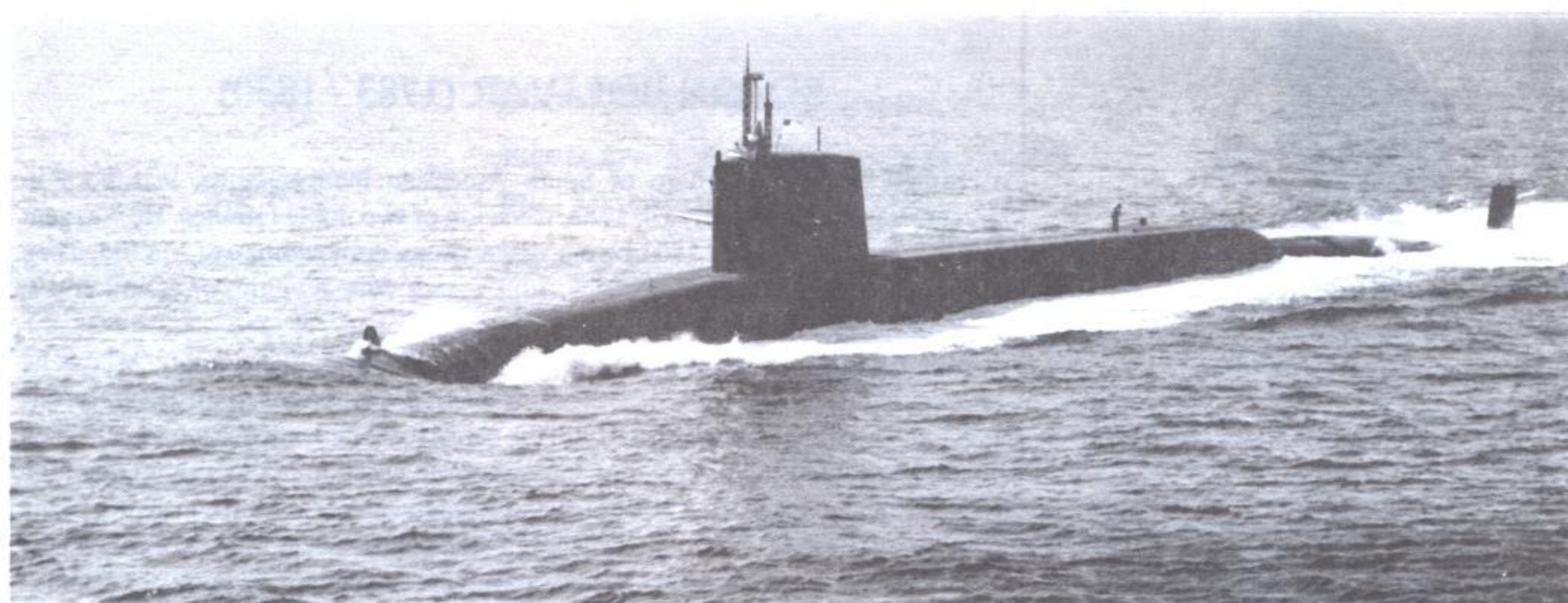
In October 1974 SIMON BOLIVAR returned to Charleston and SubRon18. The ship was awarded the Battle "E" for fiscal 1974 and also awarded the Providence Plantation Award for most outstanding FBM in the Atlantic fleet. SIMON BOLIVAR was also awarded the Battle "E" for 1975 and 1976. In February 1979, following her 40th patrol, SIMON BOLIVAR entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME for overhaul and conversion to C-4 Trident missiles. Upon completion of overhaul SIMON BOLIVAR returned to her homeport of Charleston in January of 1981. She continued to make patrols while being refit from Kings Bay, GA and was awarded the Battle "E" for fiscal 1982. SIMON BOLIVAR did a Trident test shoot in the summer of 1983.

SIMON BOLIVAR was decommissioned and struck from the Navy List 1 OCT 94 and subsequently disposed of through SRP at PSNS 8 February 1995.

Compiled by SUBNET from "UNITED STATES NAVAL SUBMARINE FORCE INFORMATION BOOK"

-- J Christley





*USS SIMON BOLIVAR ON SEA TRIALS SEPTEMBER 1965*

Keel Laid: 17 April 1963

Launched: 22 August 1964

Commissioned: 29 October 1965

First Patrol Commenced: 27 April 1966

Final Patrol Ended: 28 March 1994

Builder: Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company

Sponsor: Mrs. Thomas C. Mann

Length: 425 feet

Beam: 33 feet

Maximum Depth: In excess of 400 feet

Maximum speed: In excess of 20 knots

Submerged Displacement: 8,500 tons

Ship's Complement: 141 Officers and men each crew

Number of missile Tubes: 16

Number of Torpedo Tubes: 4



# TO OUR GUESTS

On behalf of the Officers and Crew of USS SIMON BOLIVAR (SSBN641) it is my pleasure to extend a sincere Welcome Aboard to each of you as our guests. We welcome this opportunity to show you our ship.

The Trident C-4 Missile is a three stage ballistic missile with a range in excess of 3500 nautical miles and is designed to be launched from either surfaced or submerged submarines. The solid fuel rocket motors and the self-contained inertial guidance system will permit missiles to be launched rapidly and on short notice.

Within the submarine, personnel prepare missiles for firing while the ship is submerged. Vital parts of each missile are accessible even when the submarine is underway at sea. The launching systems take advantage of the reliability and instantaneous ignition characteristics of solid fuel used in Trident. The result is increased safety for submarine and crew. Each launch tube has its own launching system and is independent of the other tubes. Trident missiles are launched from the submarine by a gas generator system which uses steam gas to forcefully propel the missile above the surface of the water where the first stage rocket motor ignites to send the missile on its way under its own power. At the same time a telescopic arrow spike extends from the nose of the missile to reduce drag and thereby increase range.

As each of the three rocket motors burn to completion, the stages separate and drop off to reduce weight and increase the range of the warheads. The Trident Missile System has the capability of shooting stars while in flight to make final corrections to the predetermined trajectory and increase the targeting accuracy of the re-entry body which falls to its destination.

As your hosts, all of us in USS SIMON BOLIVAR hope your visit on board will be informative and enjoyable. The Officers and Crew are experts in their profession and most eager to answer your questions.



# SHIP'S HISTORY

USS SIMON BOLIVAR (SSBN641) is one of the newest of a fleet of Poseidon submarines. The BOLIVAR is 425 feet long with a beam of 33 feet. She displaces 8,250 tons of sea water when submerged (equivalent to a light cruiser), and can carry her weapons and crew at speeds in excess of 20 knots and to depths in excess of 400 feet. Her armaments consist of four torpedo tubes and sixteen missile tubes. The SIMON BOLIVAR is equipped with C-4 Trident missiles which have a range of over 3500 nautical miles.

The forty-one Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines are each named after statesmen and heroes, including foreign leaders who stood beside us in our Revolution or contributed greatly to the cause of freedom in their own land. The ship is named for SIMON BOLIVAR (1783-1830), the hero of South American independence. The keel for USS SIMON BOLIVAR (SSBN641) was laid on 17 April 1963 at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company of Newport News, Virginia. She was the thirty-first Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine and the fifty-fifth Nuclear Submarine to join the fleet. The SIMON BOLIVAR was launched on 22 August, 1964 and was sponsored by Mrs. Thomas C. Mann.

Commissioning as a ship of the United States Navy took place on 29 October 1965 with the principal speaker being Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, Commander in Chief, Atlantic Forces, and Commander in Chief, Atlantic, United States Naval Forces. This was followed by a shakedown cruise and operations on the Atlantic Missile Range.

In March 1966, the SIMON BOLIVAR shifted home port to Charleston, South Carolina as a unit of Submarine Squadron EIGHTEEN and commenced making Polaris deterrent patrols as a key part of our nation's strategic forces. Between February 1971 and May 1972, SIMON BOLIVAR was at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company of Newport News, Virginia undergoing conversion to the C-3 Poseidon missile. Upon completion of conversion, the ship once again resumed her place in the strategic defense force, making regular patrols from Rota, Spain as a unit of Submarine Squadron SIXTEEN. In October 1974, the ship returned to her home port Charleston, South Carolina and became a unit of

(Continued on page 6)



## COMMANDER PAUL C. WARD, *United States Navy*



Commander WARD is from Milford, Ohio and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in June 1967. Following graduation he earned a Masters Degree in Mathematics at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He then attended Nuclear Power training and Naval Submarine School.

Commander WARD served in USS WILL ROGERS (SSBN 659)(GOLD) from July 1969 until July 1971, completing four patrols and qualifying in submarines. In August 1971 he reported to the Nuclear Power Training Unit, Idaho Falls where he was an instructor at the S1W prototype. Following the Submarine Officer Advanced Course, he reported to USS JAMES MADISON (SSBN 627)(GOLD) as Navigation and Operations Officer, completing six patrols.

Commander WARD served as Executive Officer in USS DACE (SSN 607) from March 1978 until July 1981. He was then assigned to the Combat Systems Directorate of Naval Sea Systems Command.

Commander WARD is married to the former Debbie Westafer of Marion, Indiana. They have two children, Lynette (10) and Karissa (8).



## COMMANDER CHARLES W. MAYER, JR., *United States Navy*



Commander MAYER is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walter MAYER of Nashville, Tennessee. He received his commission as Ensign, United States Navy in June 1968 upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy.

Following one and one half years in nuclear power training and submarine school, he reported in November 1969 to USS TAUTOG (SSN 639) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. During this tour he served as Assistant Weapons Officer, Sonar Officer and Main Propulsion Assistant. Following his detachment in January 1972 Commander MAYER reported to the Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit at Idaho Falls, Idaho, where he served as a Leading Engineering Officer of the Watch and Staff Training Officer for the S5G propulsion plant prototype. Between April and October 1974 Commander MAYER attended the Submarine Officers Advanced Course at Submarine School, New London, Connecticut, prior to reporting to USS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY (SSBN 657) GOLD in Charleston, South Carolina, as Navigation/Operations Officer. In

July 1977 Commander MAYER reported to the Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine Training Center in Charleston, where he served as the Navigation Department Director until July 1979.

Following Prospective Executive Officer Training at Submarine School, New London, Connecticut, and Guided Missile School, Dam Neck, Virginia, Commander MAYER reported for duty as Executive Officer of USS STONEWALL JACKSON (SSBN 634) BLUE in December 1979. Between January and June 1983 Commander MAYER attended Prospective Commanding Officer Training at Director, Division of Naval Reactors in Washington, D. C., and Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, Virginia, before reporting as Commanding Officer, USS SIMON BOLIVAR (SSBN 641) GOLD in July 1983.

Commander MAYER is entitled to wear the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Battle Efficiency "E" Ribbon with two "E"s, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Commander MAYER is married to the former Jane Greer Brooks of Kingsport, Tennessee. Commander and Mrs. MAYER reside in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, with their three children, Melanie, Alana and Charlie.



## SHIP'S HISTORY (continued from page 3)

Submarine Squadron EIGHTEEN. The ship was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E" award for fiscal year 1974 and also the Providence Plantation Award which is awarded to the most outstanding Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine in the Atlantic Fleet. Continuing to display tenacity and excellence in Poseidon operations, USS SIMON BOLIVAR was presented her third consecutive Battle Efficiency "E" Award in July, 1976. In February of 1979, following completion of her 40th Poseidon Deterrent Patrol, SIMON BOLIVAR entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, New Hampshire to undergo overhaul and conversion to the C-4 Trident Missile.

Upon completion of overhaul in December 1980, both crews conducted Demonstration And Shakedown Operations (DASO) and then SIMON BOLIVAR reported to Kings Bay, Georgia to operate as unit of Submarine Squadron SIXTEEN. Continuing in the tradition set before the overhaul, USS SIMON BOLIVAR was presented the Battle Efficiency "E" award in September 1982.

LENGTH .....	425 Feet	DEPTH .....	Over 400 Feet	ARMAMENT:	
BEAM .....	33 Feet	SPEED .....	Over 20 Knots	4 torpedo tubes forward	16 missile tubes
DISPLACEMENT:		PROPULSION .....	Nuclear Reactor	PERSONAL ALLOWANCE:	
Surfaced: 7500 tons	Submerged: 8200 Tons			Officer: 13 per crew	Enlisted: 124 per crew

## DOLPHINS

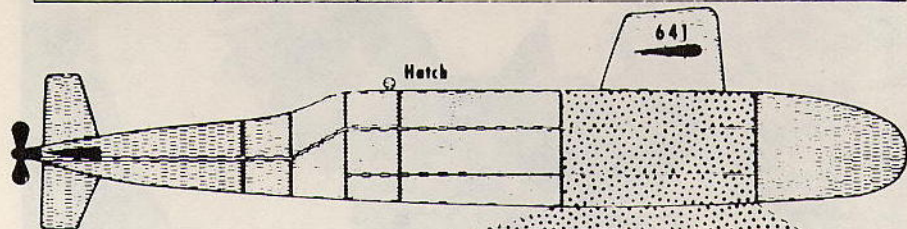
Dolphins, the insignia of the United States Navy Submarine Service, identify the wearer as "qualified in submarines." The officers' insignia is a bronze gold-plated pin, while the enlisted insignia is a silver pin. Both signify completion of a rigorous training program.

The submarine insignia, designed by Captain (later Fleet Admiral) Earnest J. King, was adopted in March 1924. It is a bow view of a submarine proceeding on the surface with bow planes rigged for diving, flanked by dolphins in horizontal position with their heads resting on the upper edge of the bow planes. The dolphins on this insignia are symbolic of a calm sea and are the traditional attendants of Poseidon, Greek god of the sea.

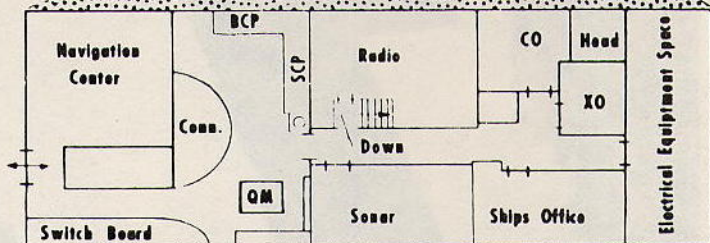
In more recent times, dolphins for specialist officers in the Submarine Force have been developed. These include the engineering duty officer dolphins, medical officer dolphins, and supply corps dolphins. Regardless of the color of the pin or the insignia at the center, dolphins are worn with pride by members of the Submarine Force.

# SSBN 641

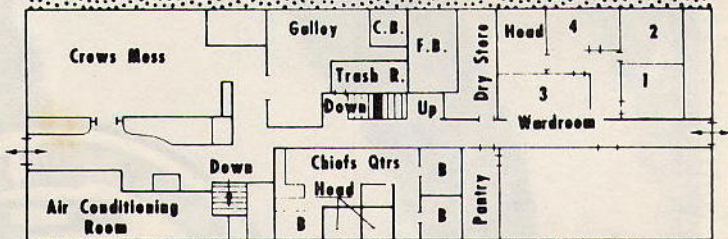
Engine Room	AMR #2	Reactor Compt.	AMR #1	Missile Compt.	Operations Compt.	Bow(torpedo) Compt.
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## UPPER LEVEL



## MIDDLE LEVEL



## LOWER LEVEL

