JANUARY 16, 1965

WE PRESENT THE

U.S. SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUYE
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SPARK MATSUNAGA

KAMEHAMEHA LAUNCHING

SSBN 642

MARE ISLAND
Naval Shipyard
VALLEJO CALIFORNIA
Think Deep! -- Crew Advised

REAR ADM. EUGENE B. FLUCKEY, USN, commander of the Pacific Submarine Force, termed Polaris submarines such as Mare Island’s Kamehameha “absolute deterrents” to nuclear holocaust.

The Congressional Medal of Honor winner in World War II described the huge missile submarines as “always ready” within a moment’s notice to launch retaliatory devastation.

Later in his remarks at Kamehameha’s launching on January 16, Admiral Fluckey admonished the ship’s officers and crew to “Think Deep!”

“Your survivability is assured,” he declared, “for no enemy can afford the size force, or even man such a force to find you as you intelligently rove the lonely dark abyss of the ocean in deepest secrecy.”

“So, Kamehameha reborn, grow well. Next year you will receive a royal and fitting welcome in the Hawaiian Islands. I say fitting because these islands are near the geographic center of the area known as the Pacific Basin. In this basin we have half of all the navigable water that there is in the world.

“Imua Imupa — a laimakila: Forward — On to Victory!”

A Submariner’s Submarine

SHIPYARD COMMANDER AT MARE ISLAND, Rear Adm. Edward J. Fahy, USN, is an old hand at presiding over submarine launchings.

The admiral, who had the important billet of production officer at Mare Island back in 1957 when the Yard was building her first nuclear-propelled submarine, the Sargo, has seen all or most of Mare Island’s 11 A-sub’s glide down the building ways in the intervening years.

And none gave him greater satisfaction than Kamehameha, sixth Polaris boat to be built by Mare Island in a current program of seven.

Admiral Fahy has reason to be proud. Kamehameha, at the time of her launching, was more nearly complete than any of her five Polaris predecessors at the time of their launchings. This means her outfitting will be speeded to completion within a few months, and the big sub with her deadly deterrent missiles will be ready to go “on station” in the Pacific in a relatively short time.

“The trademark of ‘Mare Island’ on a nuclear submarine has all the meaning of the trademark ‘Sterling,’ on fine silver,” the shipyard commander has declared many times.
Daniel K. Inouye, U. S. Senator, a member of the famed "Go for Broke" 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team in World War II, proved himself a warrior in the same mold as King Kamehameha in that conflict.

He won a battlefield commission in Italy, and retired as an Army captain in 1947. In the fighting, he lost an arm. He won, among other medals, the Distinguished Service Cross.

As principal speaker for the launching of the Kamehameha, Senator Inouye chose the occasion to relate incidents and accomplishments in the life of tribal Hawaii's greatest chieftain, who reigned from 1782 to 1819.

First and foremost, the senator recounted, Kamehameha succeeded where others had failed in uniting all the islands of Hawaii under his leadership.

"Once the islands were freed from the ravages of war, Kamehameha devoted much of his time to the wise management of the internal affairs of his kingdom."

"It is fitting—and the people of Hawaii are filled with pride that this great instrument of war—and of peace—will carry the name of that renowned warrior out of Hawaii's past," Senator Inouye concluded.

... Proud Day for Hawaii

Spark Matsunaga, U. S. Representative, of Hawaii, found the launching of the Polaris submarine Kamehameha at Mare Island Naval Shipyard last January 16 "a wonderfully thrilling event."

Representative Matsunaga, only the third person in his fledgling state to serve in the U.S. Congress, was an honored guest at the Kamehameha ceremonies.

"I had never before seen a combatant ship launched," he confessed, "and, as a matter of fact, until Kamehameha, I had never seen a Polaris submarine."

Matsunaga was elected to Congress for his first term in 1962, and won re-election last fall.

"My only Hawaiian colleague in the House is Mrs. Patsy Mink, and she, as am I, is a Democrat," Matsunaga pointed out.

"But political affiliations have no bearing on our national defense, as it is exemplified by weapons systems embodied in such mighty submarines as the Kamehameha," he noted.

"All Hawaii was proud and pleased that the name of one of our great heroes was chosen for a Polaris submarine."

"We worked to achieve this recognition, and I am sure Kamehameha will be a great ship," he added.
Launching Ceremonies At Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California

TIKI SAYS "CAN DO"

Gifts were presented Mrs. Samuel Wilder King, sponsor of the Kamahatsuha, at a reception in her honor following the launching of the Polish Submarine "Kamahatsuha."

Mrs. Samuel Wilder King, center, sponsor of Kamahatsuha, joined with fellow Newliners at post-launching reception at Mare Island.

Mare Island's celebrated "Champagne Walk" to the launching platform is revisited here, with Admiral Pahy escorting Mrs. King (with other members of the official party following).

The Polish submarine Kamahatsuha, her crewmen riding rigidly upright, is shown as she settled in to the waters of Mare Island Channel following her successful launching.

TIKI SAYS "CAN DO"

A part of the crowd of more than 7,000 that attended the Kamahatsuha launching, as well as members of the official party, pose for the camera. The rigging of the "kamahatsuha" is displayed.

Adorned with his traditional Hawaiian chief's mantle, Capt. K. Kanaiyapp, of the U.S. Navy, presents the new Polish submarine Kamahatsuha to her principal launching speaker.

U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, of Hawaii, stands at attention, and Rear Admiral Pahy salutes as Mare Island guns boom out honors for the Kamahatsuha's principal launching speaker.

Members of the sponsor's party, shown in an official photograph taken just prior to the time of the "Champagne Walk" to the launching platform, are shown.
KAMEHAMEHA, (SSBN 642), will join the fleet at Mare Island Naval Shipyard early next fall as the United States’ most modern and most powerful Polaris submarine.

The huge submarine, launched in ceremonial fanfare on January 16 of this year at Mare Island, is the Vallejo shipyard’s 505th ship in the yard’s more than 110-year history.

Additionally, Kamehameha is Mare Island’s 11th nuclear powered submarine, and sixth Polaris boat in a current program of seven.

Only the Gen. Mariano G. Vallejo remains on the Mare Island building ways. Her launching is scheduled for late summer.

The Kamehameha stretches to an overall length of 425 feet and displaces more than 7,000 tons. Nuclear power will drive the ship at speeds in excess of 20 knots submerged and at depths of more than 400 feet.

Two crews will alternate in manning the vessel.

In addition to torpedoes, the Kamehameha will carry 16 Polaris missiles which can be fired from under water. This latest submarine can fire the A-3 missile, nuclear-tipped, with a range of 2,800 miles.

When the current Polaris building program is completed the U.S. will have 41 of the powerful submarines deployed in the Atlantic and the Pacific.
Mrs. Samuel Wilder King, widow of Hawaii's last territorial governor, christened the Polaris submarine Kamehameha at the ship's launching January 16 at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Mrs. King, with her husband, was active in Hawaii's successful struggle to attain statehood.

CMDR. ROTH S. LEDDICK, USN, is skipper of the "Blue Crew" of the Kamehameha. He has had wide experience in nuclear submarines.

CMDR. ROBERT W. DICKIESON, USN, is slated to serve as skipper of the Kamehameha's "Gold Crew." He recently commanded the Swordfish.
Presidential Citation

IS AWARDED TO
Mare Island Naval Shipyard

In special recognition of an outstanding contribution to greater economy and improvement in Government operations during the tenth anniversary year of the Federal incentive awards program.

30 November 1949

EDWARD J. FAHY,
Rear Admiral,
U.S. Navy

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