

Parche welcomes new Commander

The USS PARCHE (SSN 683), a fast attack nuclear submarine homeported here at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, welcomed a new Commanding Officer in change of command ceremonies held December 20. Commander Richard A. Buchanan relieved Captain Peter J. Graef in ceremonies which took place at the shipyard. Commander Ralph H. Stoll, Executive Officer, was the Master of Ceremonies. Captain John H. Maurer, Commander Submarine Development Group One, was the guest speaker.

Captain Graef, a native of New Jersey, graduated from the University of Michigan and was commissioned in 1964 under the provisions of the Regular NROTC program. Upon completion of submarine training, Captain Graef reported for duty aboard USS BLUEBACK (SS-151). In April 1967, he entered the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program and completed courses in instruction at Mare Island, and Schenectady, New York.

Captain Graef reported to USS POLLACK (SSN-603) in June 1968. After three years on POLLACK, he reported to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for duty aboard USS SARGO (SSN-583) as Engineer Officer.

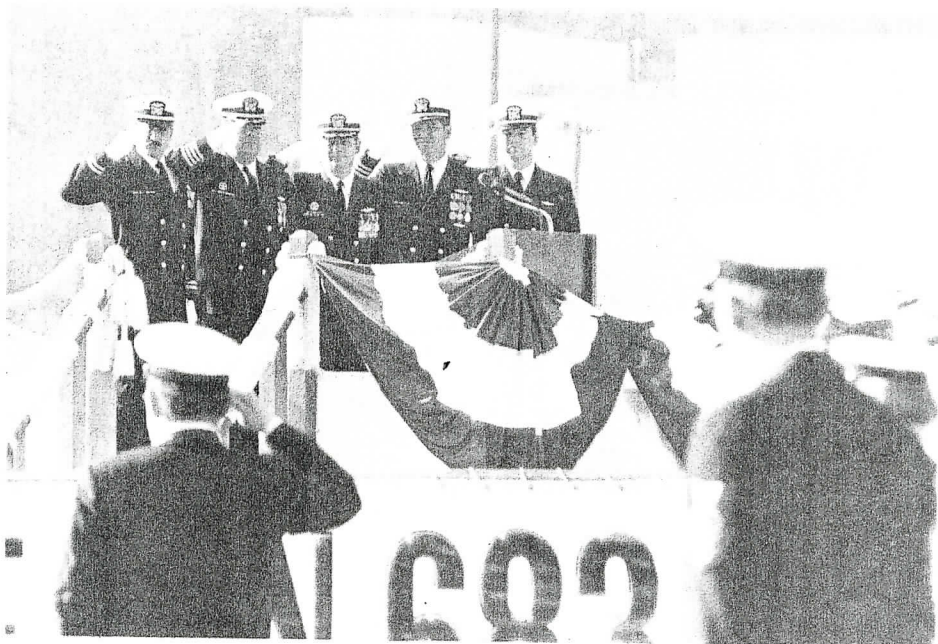
From June 1975 to August 1977, Captain Graef served as Executive Officer of USS PUFFER (SSN-652) and then served two years as the Force Nuclear Power Officer on the staff of Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. He reported to USS PARCHE (SSN-683) in May 1980 following completion of Prospective Commanding Officer Schools in the Pacific Fleet and at the Division of Naval Reactors, Washington, D.C.

During his four years as Commanding Officer USS PARCHE (SSN-683), the ship completed four restricted availabilities and four deployments. The ship received three Presidential Unit Citations and was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E" twice.

New Commanding Officer

Commander Buchanan graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1968. After attending Nuclear Power School in Bainbridge, Maryland, he received propulsion plant practical training at the S3G reactor prototype in West Milton, New York.

He attended the U.S. Naval Submarine School, New London, Connecticut graduating in February 1970. He reported to USS LAPON (SSN 661) in Norfolk, Virginia where he served as Damage Control Assis-



CHANGE OF COMMAND — Captain Peter J. Graef, USN, departing Commanding Officer USS PARCHE (SSN 683) (center) was relieved by Commander Richard A. Buchanan (2nd to right) USN, at the recent Change of Command Ceremony. Also pictured are (left) Lt. J.M. Barentine, Protestant

tant and Weapons Officer and completed qualification in submarines.

Commander Buchanan reported to the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1973 and served for two years as the First Company Officer. He attended the Submarine Officers Advanced Course at the U.S. Naval Submarine School, New London. Following graduation in December 1975, Commander Buchanan reported to USS TREPANG (SSN 674) in New London, Connecticut as Engineer Officer, completing the assignment in May 1979.

Following completion of Prospective Executive Officer's training at Submarine School and Guided Missile School in Dam Neck, Virginia, Commander

Lay Leader USS PARCHE, Captain John H. Maurer, (2nd left) Commander Submarine Development Group ONE and Lt.(J.G.) A.W. Palowitch, Catholic Lay Leader USS PARCHE (far right).

Buchanan reported in August 1979 to the Gold Crew of USS LAFAYETTE (SSBN 616) as Executive Officer where he completed two Poseidon strategic deterrent patrols.

He attended Prospective Commanding Officer School at Naval Sea Systems Command, Naval Submarine School and Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet prior to reporting to USS PARCHE (SSN 683) in June 1984 to relieve as Commanding Officer.

Mrs. Buchanan is the former Theresa Anne Twaddle of Wayne, Pennsylvania. They have one son, Thomas, and reside at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

USS PARCHE is one of six submarines homeported at Mare Island.