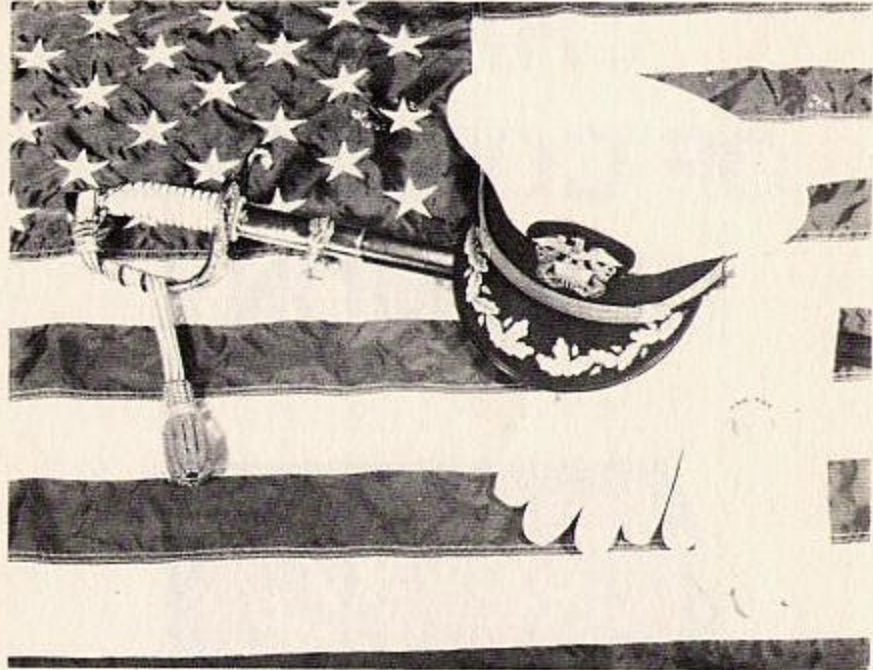


CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY



UNITED STATES SHIP
PHOENIX (SSN-702)

9 JANUARY 1988



CHANGE OF COMMAND TRADITION

The strength and supremacy of today's Navy stems in large measure from the observance of customs and traditions, each founded on need, each contributing its share to stability, combat effectiveness, and smooth transfer of authority. The Change of Command Ceremony you witness today is not prescribed specifically by U.S. Navy Regulations, but rather is an honored product of the rich heritage of Naval tradition. It is a custom wholly naval, without an equivalent counterpart in the Army or Air Force. Custom has established that this ceremony be formal and impressive - designated to strengthen that respect for authority which is vital to any military organization. Parading all hands at quarters and the public reading of official orders stems from those days when movement of mail and personnel was a very slow process. This procedure was designated to ensure that only duly authorized officers held command and that all aboard were aware of its authenticity.

The heart of the ceremony is the formal reading of orders by both the relieving officer and the officer to be relieved. Command passes upon the utterance by the relieving officer, "I relieve you, sir!" The officer being relieved responds, "I stand relieved!" This simple procedure is duplicated hundreds of times daily throughout the navies of the world as each watch officer passes responsibility to his relief in the conduct of each ship's routine.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

COMMANDER WILLIAM HELFEN

UNITED STATES NAVY



BEING RELIEVED BY

COMMANDER MICHAEL E. FEELEY

UNITED STATES NAVY



**Captain
THOMAS A. MEINICKE
United States Navy**

Captain Thomas A. Meinicke, is from Rapid City, South Dakota and is a 1960 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He and Alice Almiede DiZerega of Arlington, Virginia were married in June 1960.

After nuclear power training, Captain Meinicke was assigned to the USS SEADRAGON (SSN-584) at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in November 1961. From 1964 to 1968 he served in the commissioning crews of USS SAM RAYBURN (SSBN-635) and USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN-658). In 1970 Captain Meinicke completed studies for a Master of Science Degree in Operations Analysis at the Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, California and was subsequently assigned as Executive Officer of USS NATHAN HALE (SSBN-623) (GOLD) in Pearl Harbor. In June 1973 he was transferred to the Staff of Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Captain Meinicke served as the Force Nuclear Power Officer on COMSUBLANT Staff until September 1975 when he entered Prospective Commanding Officer training. In May 1976 he assumed command of USS FLYING FISH (SSN-673) in Norfolk, Virginia. Under Captain Meinicke's command, FLYING FISH was awarded a Navy Unit Commendation, two Battle Efficiency "E's", the Marjorie Sterrett Battleship award, and the Atlantic Fleet Golden Anchor award for enlisted retention. Captain Meinicke completed his tour in FLYING FISH in July 1980.

After several temporary duty assignments Captain Meinicke relieved as Commanding Officer, Nuclear Power Training Unit, Idaho Falls, Idaho in June 1981. He completed his tour at NPTU in June 1984 and relieved as Commander, Submarine Squadron Eight in July 1984. He became Chief of Staff for Commander Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet in April 1986 and was selected for Flag Rank in December 1986. Captain Meinicke is presently serving as Director, Attack Submarine Division, (OP-22) and SSN Program Coordinator on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Captain Meinicke's personal awards include the Legion of Merit with two gold stars in lieu of second and third awards, the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars in lieu of second and third awards, and the Navy Commendation Medal with three gold stars in lieu of second, third, and fourth awards.

Captain and Mrs. Meinicke reside in Alexandria, Virginia. Their three daughters, Almiede, Beth and Andrea, also live in Virginia.

**Captain
THOMAS J. ROBERTSON
United States Navy**



Captain Thomas J. Robertson, a native of Bellingham, Washington, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1963. His first submarine assignment in 1965, after submarine and nuclear power training, was in USS JAMES K. POLK (SSBN-645) Precommissioning Unit. Through the construction period and initial operations out of Rota, Spain, he served as Supply Officer, Electrical Officer, Communications Officer and Sonar Officer.

Captain Robertson served as Engineer Officer in USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (SSBN-600) from 1968 through 1970, deploying out of Holy Loch, Scotland. This was followed by duty as Squadron Material Officer on the staff of Commander Submarine Squadron TEN in New London and La Maddalena, Italy.

As Executive Officer and Navigator, Captain Robertson served in USS PARGO (SSN-650) from 1973 to 1975, deploying out of New London. His following assignment was with the U.S. Atlantic Fleet Commander's Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board in Norfolk from 1975 through 1977.

Captain Robertson commanded USS GLENARD P. LIPSCOMB (SSN-685) from July 1978 to October 1982. LIPSCOMB operated with distinction as a unit of Submarine Development Squadron TWELVE in New London and Submarine Squadron SIX in Norfolk during his command tour.

Captain Robertson's next assignment was as Director, Prospective Commanding Officer Training on the staff of Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk from October 1982 to April 1984. He then served on the staff of Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Submarines) as Program Coordinator for the SEAWOLF Class (SSN-21) Attack Submarine until taking command of Submarine Squadron EIGHT in April 1986.

Captain Robertson and his wife Julie reside in Virginia Beach. Their son John and daughter Diana both attend colleges in Virginia.



CHANGE OF COMMAND - USS PHOENIX (SSN-702)

MUSIC MEDLEY
CINCLANTFLT BAND

***ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY**

***NATIONAL ANTHEM**

***INVOCATION**
CDR LAWRENCE A. SHOBERG, CHC, USN

REMARKS
CAPTAIN THOMAS J. ROBERTSON, USN
COMMANDER, SUBMARINE SQUADRON EIGHT

GUEST SPEAKER
CAPTAIN THOMAS A. MEINICKE, USN
DIRECTOR, ATTACK SUBMARINE DIVISION (OP-22)
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
(UNDERSEA WARFARE)

REMARKS AND READING OF ORDERS
COMMANDER WILLIAM HELFEN, USN

READING OF ORDERS AND REMARKS
COMMANDER MICHAEL E. FEELEY, USN

***BENEDICTION**
CDR LAWRENCE A. SHOBERG, CHC, USN

***OFFICIAL PARTY DEPARTS**

***GUESTS PLEASE RISE**

Tom,
I was really glad
you would come to
the change of command.
Bill Helfen



**Commander
WILLIAM HELFEN
United States Navy**

Commander William Helfen was born in Northampton, Massachusetts in 1948 and attended high school in Wrentham, Massachusetts. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1966. Graduating with distinction, he was commissioned in 1970, having earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Commander Helfen was selected for the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program and following commissioning completed courses of instruction in Bainbridge, Maryland and Windsor, Connecticut. He attended Naval Submarine School and then served on USS NATHAN HALE (SSBN-623) (GOLD) in Pearl Harbor and in Bremerton, Washington during overhaul.

In January 1976, Commander Helfen reported to the Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit, Idaho Falls, Idaho for duty as the S5G Prototype Plant Performance Evaluation Officer. In July 1978, he completed the Submarine Officer Advanced Course and reported to the USS BATON ROUGE (SSN-689) where he served as the Engineer Officer. During this tour, BATON ROUGE completed deployments to the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Commander Helfen reported for duty as Executive Officer of USS GEORGE C. MARSHALL (SSBN-654) in August 1981. The ship conducted a combined crew strategic deterrent patrol and then completed a refueling overhaul at Newport News, Virginia.

Commander Helfen relieved as Commanding Officer of USS PHOENIX (SSN-702) on 26 January 1985. During his command tour the ship completed Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea deployments.

Commander Helfen's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars in lieu of the second and third awards, and the Navy Achievement Medal with one gold star in lieu of the second award.

Commander Helfen and his wife, the former Emilyrae T. Drummond of Hallwood, Virginia, reside in Virginia Beach, Virginia with their four children, Stephen, David, Stacy Rae, and Eric.

**Commander
MICHAEL E. FEELEY
United States Navy**



Commander Feeley, a native of Oradell, New Jersey, graduated with distinction from the United States Naval Academy in June 1971 with majors in Operations Analysis and Analytical Management. Following graduation he underwent Nuclear Propulsion Training in Bainbridge, Maryland and West Milton, New York followed by initial submarine training at the Naval Submarine School in Groton, Connecticut.

In October 1972, he reported aboard the Blue crew of the fleet ballistic missile submarine USS JOHN MARSHALL (SSBN-611) where he served until September 1974 as Main Propulsion Assistant. Following completion of the six month Submarine Officer Advanced Course at Submarine School he reported to the USS DRUM (SSN-677) in May 1975 where he served as Weapons Officer until June 1977. In March 1978 he relieved as Engineer Officer in USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (SSBN-640)(GOLD) and in August 1980 became the combined crew Engineer Officer for the FRANKLIN's trident conversion overhaul. In October 1981, he reported to the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet as a member of the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board. Commander Feeley relieved as Executive Officer in USS MEMPHIS (SSN-691) in June 1984. In January 1987, he reported to the staff of Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet where he served as the Submarine Force Training Officer until commencing Prospective Commanding Officer training in July 1987.

Commander Feeley's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star and the Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars.

Commander Feeley and his wife Gail reside in Virginia Beach, Virginia with their three children, Megan, Laura, and Brian.

USS PHOENIX

KEEL LAID: July 30, 1977

CHRISTENED: December 8, 1979

COMMISSIONED: December 19, 1981

SPONSOR: Mrs. Betty Harvey Rhodes

LENGTH: 360 feet

BEAM: 33 feet

DISPLACEMENT: 6,900 tons

PROPULSION: Steam turbine powered by pressurized water reactor

MAXIMUM SPEED: In excess of 20 knots

MAXIMUM DEPTH: In excess of 400 feet

ARMAMENT: Four 21 inch torpedo tubes

COMPLEMENT: 13 Officers and 115 Enlisted

MISSION: Destroy enemy ships, primarily submarines, in order to prohibit the employment or such forces against the United States.

The USS PHOENIX (SSN-702), is the fourth American ship to bear this name. The first ship was the sailing packet, which maintained crucial lines of communication during the American Revolution; the second, a schooner, served before the Civil War. The USS PHOENIX (CL-46) was a Brooklyn Class cruiser displacing 12,207 tons fully loaded and 600ft in length. She distinguished herself by being one of the few ships to get underway during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The name PHOENIX also belonged to a submarine in Her Majesty's Navy British Royal Forces, which was lost while serving in World War II.

Since its commissioning in 1981, the ship has conducted deployments to the Indian Ocean in 1983, the Mediterranean Sea in 1985, and two deployments to the Atlantic Ocean in 1986 and 1987.

Her awards include the Meritorious Unit Commendation for superior performance covering the period of February 1985 to February 1986, two Navy Expeditionary Medals, and three Sea Service Ribbons. In addition, PHOENIX has been selected for the following Departmental Awards for Excellence: Communications "C" in 1985, Supply "Blue E" in 1986, and the Medical Readiness "M" in 1987.



COMMAND AT SEA

THE PRESTIGE, PRIVILEGE AND THE BURDEN OF COMMAND

by Joseph Conrad

Only a seaman realizes to what extent an entire ship reflects the personality and ability of one individual, her Commanding Officer. To a landsman this is not understandable, and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend, but it is so.

A ship at sea is a distant world in herself and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of the fleet units the Navy must place great power, responsibility and trust in the hands of those leaders chosen for command.

In each ship there is one man who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who alone is ultimately responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfiring and morale of his ship. He is the Commanding Officer. He is the ship.

This is the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour of duty as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are most ludicrously small; nevertheless command is the spur which has given the Navy its great leaders.

It is duty which richly deserves the highest, time honored title of the seafaring world -- "CAPTAIN".



SUBMARINE FORCE US ATLANTIC FLEET

SUBMARINE SQUADRON



EIGHT