

WELCOME ABOARD



USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771)



LAUNCHING THE ATTACK SUBMARINE
USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771)
24 SEPTEMBER, 1994

“THE LAST SLIDER”



UNITED STATES SHIP COLUMBIA

WELCOME ABOARD!

The officers and crew take great pride in extending to you the hospitality of the Submarine Force of the United States Navy. It is our desire to make your stay with us as pleasant as possible. All members of the ship's crew are ready to assist you in any way possible — you have only to ask.

As a warship, COLUMBIA is neither spacious nor designed for large numbers of people. We ask that you bear with us in this respect since we share your inconvenience. This pamphlet has been prepared as a memento of your visit. It also provides information necessary to ensure your health and comfort while onboard.

As your hosts, all of us in COLUMBIA hope your visit will be informative, interesting, and pleasant.

COMMANDING OFFICER
USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771)

OTHER SHIPS NAMED COLUMBIA

The submarine COLUMBIA (SSN 771) is the seventh commissioned U.S. Navy warship to bear the name that personifies freedom and the United States.

The first COLUMBIA commissioned as a Navy ship was a frigate launched in 1836, which later became one of the first U.S. Navy ships to circumnavigate the globe. The ship was scuttled and burned by union forces at the outbreak of the Civil War.

In December 1862, a captured Confederate blockade runner became the second commissioned COLUMBIA. She was assigned to the U.S. Navy's North Atlantic Blockading Squadron. This ship ran aground and was wrecked off Wilmington, N.C., the following year. The third COLUMBIA was originally a Confederate-built ironclad seized by Union forces when they occupied Charleston, S.C., in February 1865. She saw limited action and was decommissioned in June of the same year.

In 1892, Cruiser 12 was christened as the fourth COLUMBIA at the Philadelphia Shipyard. She participated in both the Spanish-American War and the First World War. This ship served as part of Squadron 5 Patrol Force, Squadron 2 Destroyer Force, and as the Flagship of the Submarine Flotilla. She was decommissioned in 1921.

In 1921, the USS GREAT NORTHERN, a Naval Transport ship, was renamed COLUMBIA. During World War I, she carried 28,248 troops to Europe and 22,852 back to the U.S. in 18 round trips. After service as the Flagship for the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet she was decommissioned in 1922.

The sixth and most famous of the long COLUMBIA line, was the CL-56. The Light Cruiser was launched at the Camden Navy Yard in December, 1941, just after the U.S. entered World War II. She immediately reported to the South Pacific and participated in numerous actions in the Solomons, including the Battle of Empress Augusta Bay. She also supported the Palaus Landing and the invasion of the Philippines. During her involvement in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, she was credited with sinking a battleship that forced other enemy units to retire. She also participated in the landing at Lingayen Gulf, the invasion of Borneo, and operated with Task Force 95 in the East China Sea. In all the ship was awarded ten battle stars and the Navy Unit Commendation prior to being decommissioned in 1946.

HISTORY OF USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771)

USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771) is the 33rd and last 688 class submarine to be built at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut. With her sister ships, GREENEVILLE (SSN 772) and CHEYENNE (SSN 773), COLUMBIA is the most advanced and capable submarine of the improved Los Angeles Class. These ships incorporate SEAWOLF class technology and stealth into their construction.

COLUMBIA's keel was laid in March 1993. After many months of intensive new construction efforts by Electric Boat, Hillary Rodham Clinton, our ship's sponsor, christened COLUMBIA during the official launching ceremony on 24 September, 1994. On this day, COLUMBIA earned the title of "*The Last Slider*" as the last submarine to be launched in the United States by sliding down the building ways into the water.

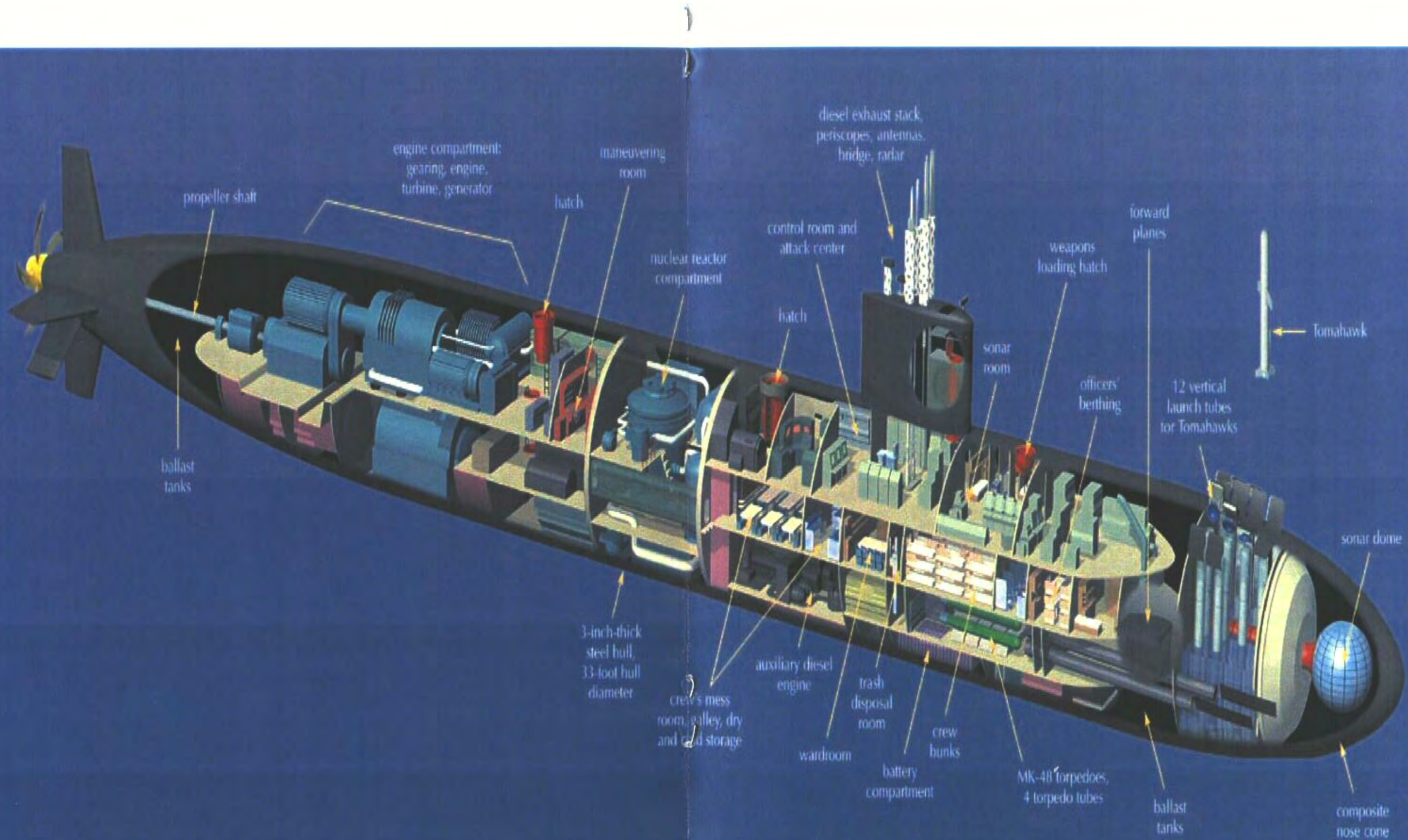
After completing new construction, COLUMBIA was commissioned on 9 October, 1995. Following sea trials, certification and post-construction maintenance periods, COLUMBIA embarked on the long journey to her new homeport in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii via the Panama Canal. Arriving in December 1996, she began the difficult transition into a front-line combat-ready warship.

Following many months of intensive at-sea training and several comprehensive maintenance and refit availabilities, COLUMBIA deployed to the Western Pacific in June 1998 with the Abraham Lincoln battle group on her first Deployment to the Arabian Gulf. In August 1998, COLUMBIA was awarded the Navy's Meritorious Unit Commendation for executing vital National Security Tasking while under operational control of the United States Fifth Fleet.

In December 1998, COLUMBIA returned to Pearl Harbor for a well deserved post-deployment rest and recuperation period. Capping a long string of spectacular successes, COLUMBIA was awarded the 1998 Submarine Squadron Three Battle Efficiency "E" in only her second year of full commissioned service.

USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771)

INTERIOR CUTAWAY



Symbolism of the ship's seal

MOTTO: "Preserving Freedom of the Seas" located at the Statue of Freedom's feet, represents the foundation of her efforts while in service.

SYMBOLISM: The Lady figure represents the Statue of Freedom atop the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. The tradition of having COLUMBIA appearing on the prows of ships dates back to the American Revolution. She is leaning forward and looking ahead to indicate the speed and direction of the United States Navy. Her trident symbolizes sea prowess and naval weaponry, both past and present. The commissioning pennant with seven stars represents her as the seventh commissioned naval ship to bear the name USS COLUMBIA. The ten stars represent the battle stars earned by the last fighting ship USS COLUMBIA (CL 56).

STATES: Located below the lady, the states indicate the support of the people. The states of Missouri, Illinois, and South Carolina represent the locations of our "namesake cities" proudly called COLUMBIA.

ANIMALS: The animals, chosen by each city as that which best represents their people, indicate the spirit instilled by those communities in the personality of the ship COLUMBIA. The tiger, representing Columbia, Missouri, indicates strength and hunting ability. The eagle, representing Columbia, Illinois, indicates speed and the ability to find prey at great distances. The gamecock, representing Columbia, South Carolina, indicates quickness and the courage to fight.

COMMANDING OFFICERS USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771)

CDR D. R. GOVAN
CDR J. N. ROGERS
CDR W. M. DRAKE

APR 1994 - MAR 1997
MAR 1997 - JUN 1999
JUN 1999 -

GENERAL INFORMATION

RADIATION

All radiation warning signs and markers are to be observed. These consist of magenta and yellow signs, ropes or ribbons. Only authorized persons are allowed in areas marked "Radiation Area." No loitering is allowed.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

The Hospital Corpsman should be consulted for any illness or injury that may occur during your visit. If your visit includes a cruise, it is recommended that those personnel susceptible to motion sickness obtain medication prior to getting underway. However, medication for this purpose will be available throughout the cruise.

CAUTION

Do not attempt to operate any equipment, twist knobs, flip switches, or turn any valves. There are members of the crew on watch in every compartment to assist you. Please observe all warning signs.

EMERGENCIES

In the event of an emergency, stand fast but clear of all passageways and water-tight doors so that ship's personnel may be free to proceed to the scene. The crewman in charge of the compartment will direct your movements and keep you informed as soon as he is able. If you are requested to clear an area please do so expeditiously and quietly. Should you see water leaking or smell smoke or have any question concerning the safety of the ship, please call it to the attention of one of the crewmen who will take proper action.

SECURITY

Sonar, Control, the Radio Room, Combat Systems Equipment Space, and all areas of the ship aft of the Forward Compartment are security areas for authorized personnel only. In addition, all information concerning speed, depth, weapons, fire control, sonar, ESM, and the nuclear propulsion plant is classified.

ACCESS AND CONGESTION

Visitors are always welcome in any authorized space when the operations of the ship permit. At most operating and control stations the space is very limited, however. As a result, it is necessary for any person not on watch to have permission of proper authority before being allowed in the space. This regulation is in effect at all times and for all persons embarked, including members of the ship's company. You are asked to abide conscientiously by these regulations.

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

Heads and washroom facilities are located throughout the ship. Before using a head for the first time, please consult a member of the crew for proper flushing procedures. Do not discard any solid object, no matter how small, into a water closet.

Showers may be taken at any time at your convenience, but should be as expeditious as possible to reduce water use. For the same reasons, towels will be changed weekly to reduce operation of the laundry. The ship's water making capacity, while large, does have reasonable limits.

You will be assigned a specific area and time to eat. All meals must be served in shifts, so you are requested to be punctual in your arrival for meals and not to linger over coffee after finishing.

The plan of the day is posted throughout the ship. It contains the times for meals and other significant events.

USS COLUMBIA (SSN 771) VITAL STATISTICS

BUILT BY

ELECTRIC BOAT CORPORATION, GROTON CONNECTICUT

KEEL LAID.....13 MARCH, 1993

LAUNCHED..... 24 SEPTEMBER, 1994

COMMISSIONED..... 9 OCTOBER, 1995

SPONSORED BY..... HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

LENGTH.....362 FEET

BEAM..... 33 FEET

DISPLACEMENT SURFACED.....6127 TONS

SPEED..... GREATER THAN 25 KNOTS

MAXIMUM DIVING DEPTH.....GREATER THAN 800 FEET

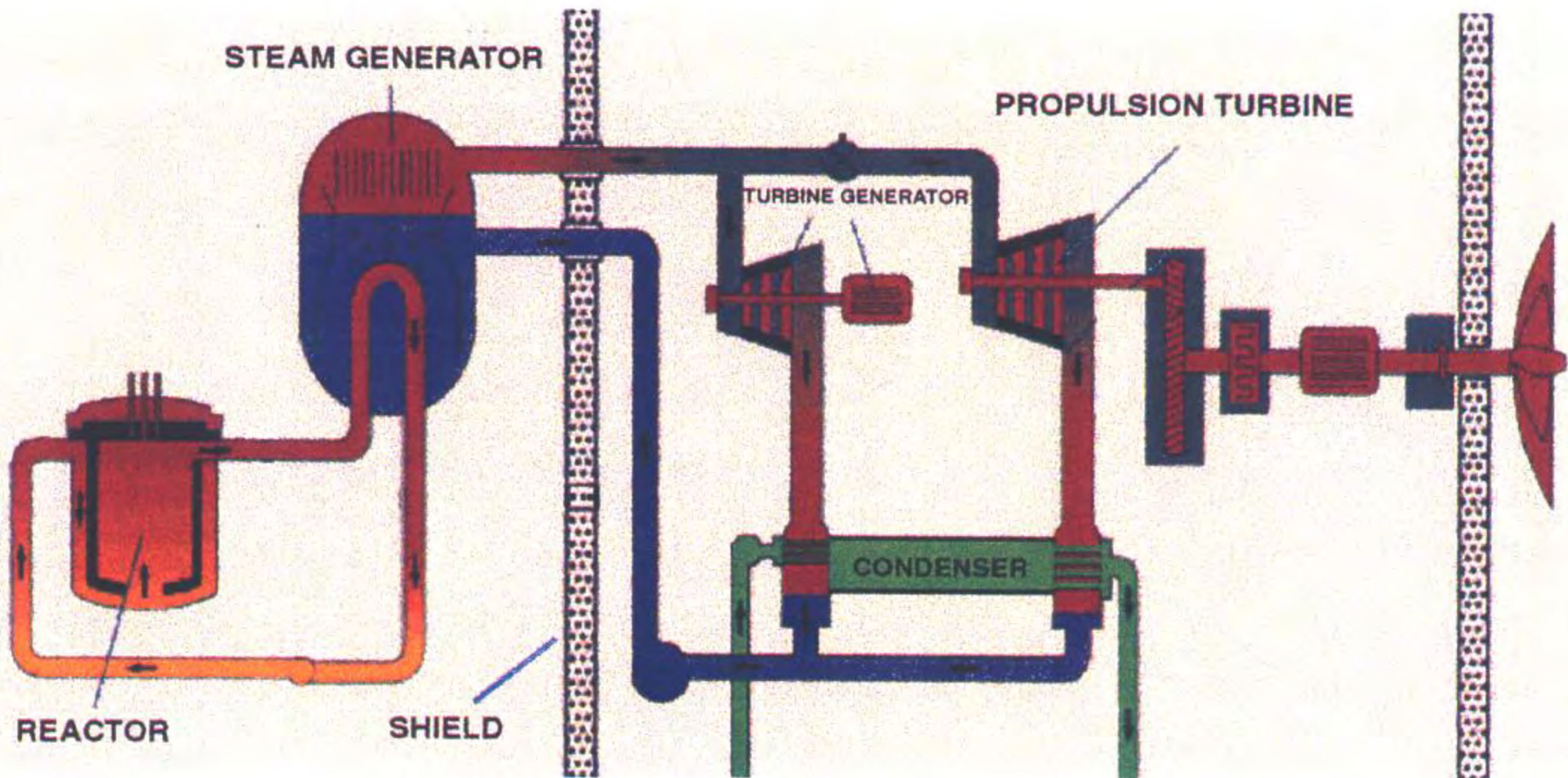
THE POWER PLANT

The propulsion plant of a nuclear powered ship is based upon use of a nuclear reactor to provide heat. The heat comes from the fission of nuclear fuel contained within the reactor. Since the fission process also produces radiation, shields are placed around the reactor so that the crew is protected. The nuclear propulsion plant in this ship uses a pressurized water reactor design which has two basic systems; the primary system and the secondary system.

The primary system circulates ordinary water and consists of the reactor, piping loops, pumps and steam generators. The heat produced in the reactor is transferred to the water under high pressure so it does not boil. The water is pumped through the steam generators and back into the reactor for reheating. In the steam generators, the heat from the water in the primary system is transferred to the secondary system to create steam.

The secondary system is isolated from the primary system so that the water in the two systems does not intermix. In the secondary system, the steam flows from the steam generators to drive the turbine generators, which supply the ship with electricity, and to the main the turbines, the steam is condensed into water which is fed back to the steam generators by the feed pumps.

Thus, both the primary and secondary systems are closed systems where water is re-circulated and reused. There is no step in the generation of this power which requires the presence of air or oxygen. This allows the ship to operate completely independent from the earth's atmosphere for extended periods of time.





THE SUBMARINER

Only a submariner realizes to what extent an entire ship depends on him as an individual. To a landsman this is not understandable and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend, but it is so!

A submarine at sea is a different world in herself, and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of submarines, the Navy must place responsibility and trust in the hands of those who take such ships to sea.

In each submarine there are men who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to each other. These men are ultimately responsible to themselves and to each other for all aspects of operations of their submarine. They are the crew. They are the ship.

This is perhaps the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour as a submariner that he can escape the grasp of responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small, nevertheless, it is the spur which has given the Navy its greatest mariners—the men of the Submarine Service.

It is a duty which most richly deserves the proud and time honored title—Submariner.