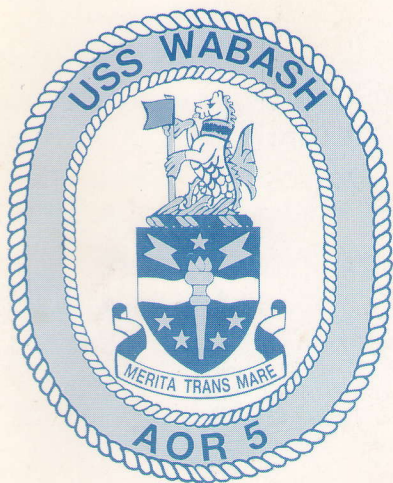


Contributed by Ralph Harris



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**DECOMMISSIONING**  
*USS WABASH (AOR 5)*  
Long Beach Naval Ship Yard  
September 30, 1994

## DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Each unit of the Navy holds two unique ceremonies during the course of its existence. The commissioning ceremony bears the promise for a bright future. The decommissioning ceremony, signifying the end of an era, honors all of the men and women who have given so much to fulfill and surpass the aspirations of those who stood in the commissioning ceremony. This ceremony is not prescribed specifically by Naval regulations. Custom has established that this decommissioning ceremony be formal and impressive - a solemn occasion on which we pause to reflect upon the rich heritage of this ship and the United States Navy.



## COMMISSIONING PENNANT

The Commissioning Pennant is believed to date from the 17th century, when the Dutch were at war with the English. The Dutch admiral hoisted a broom at his masthead to indicate his intention to sweep the English from the seas. The gesture was answered by the English Admiral who hoisted a horsewhip, indicating his intention to subdue the Dutch. The English emerged victorious and since then, all nations have adopted the narrow "Coachwhip" pennant as a distinctive mark of a warship.

## USS WABASH (AOR 5) 1971 - 1994

USS WABASH (AOR 5), a Fleet Replenishment Oiler, represents a versatile class of Navy Combat Logistics Force ships. WABASH bears a proud name, one not only famous in American naval and merchant annals, but also one of a city and river rich in American heritage and traditions.

The primary mission of WABASH is to replenish operating ships at sea with a variety of provisions including fuel, cargo and munitions. WABASH employs modern transfer-at-sea equipment and techniques to carry out her mission. WABASH also deploys with two CH-46 helicopters which operate from her flight deck and hanger bay areas. The ship's mission has taken her from the cold waters of the North Pacific Ocean to the troubled waters of the Arabian Gulf.

WABASH is manned by a crew of 24 officers and 411 enlisted men. Displacing 41,360 tons, she is 659 feet long with a beam of 96 feet. Living quarters are modern with air conditioned messing and berthing compartments. The ship also has a barber shop, store, lounge, post office, dispensary and a fully equipped galley to support the crew.

Built by General dynamics corporation at Quincy, Massachusetts, WABASH was commissioned on 20 November 1971. WABASH has been homeported in Long Beach, CA since 1984.

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Keel Laid.....               | 21 January 1970  |
| Christened and Launched..... | 10 February 1971                                       |
| Commissioned.....            | 20 November 1971                                       |
| Length Overall.....          | 659 feet   |
| Maximum Beam.....            | 96 feet  |
| Navigational Draft.....      | 36 feet  |
| Displacement.....            | 41,360 tons  |
| Speed.....                   | In excess of 20 knots                                  |
| Armament.....                | NATO Sea Sparrow Missile System<br>Vulcan Phalanx CIWS |



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

A MESSAGE FOR THE OFFICERS AND CREW OF  
USS WABASH (AOR 5)

As you prepare to decommission USS WABASH (AOR 5), I congratulate current and former crew members on your historic contributions to our nation's security. It is always difficult to bid farewell to old friends, but each of you can take justifiable pride in your accomplishments throughout WABASH's distinguished career.

For over two decades, WABASH crews have served their country with distinction. She was one of the first U.S. Navy ships to rescue Vietnamese refugees and part of the first battle group sent to the Indian Ocean to support the Iranian hostage crisis in 1980. She has received many awards including the Battle Efficiency "E" Award five times. WABASH also received many commendations which include the Joint and Navy Meritorious Unit Commendations and other campaign medals.

Today's ceremony is not the final call of USS WABASH's journey. Your ship's memory will live on in the hearts of all those who served, and in the hearts of freedom-loving people around the world.

J. M. BOORDA  
Admiral, U.S. Navy



*Commander in Chief  
United States Pacific Fleet*

25 July 1994

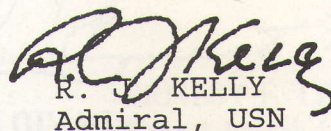
Dear Captain Chamberlain,

Congratulations to the crew of USS WABASH as you decommission after 23 years of loyal and dedicated service. This ship and her many generations of outstanding sailors were true team players in the Pacific Fleet. Her trustworthy service over the years played a key role in preserving our nation's interests in this important and highly volatile region.

Providing invaluable fleet logistics support, WABASH served exceptionally throughout nine deployments and countless naval exercises. She proved her versatility by winning the National Defense Transportation Award in 1980 and earning the Battle Efficiency "E" five times.

The accomplishments and standards WABASH set over the years will serve as benchmarks for future generations of naval ships and personnel to follow. On behalf of all your shipmates in the fleet, well done!

Sincerely,

  
R. J. KELLY  
Admiral, USN

Captain C. W. Chamberlain, USN  
Commanding Officer  
USS WABASH (AOR 5)  
FPO AP 96683-3027



COMMANDER NAVAL SURFACE FORCE  
U.S. PACIFIC FLEET

15 August 1994

Dear Captain Chamberlain,

Congratulations and best wishes to your crew as they prepare WABASH for her decommissioning on 30 September 1994.

WABASH has enjoyed a long and prestigious career beginning on her 20 November 1971 commissioning. After nine extremely successful WESTPAC deployments, including the first deployment of a Battleship Battle Group; winning of the National Defense Transportation Award in 1980; and most recently the award of the Battle Efficiency "E" during the past two evaluation cycles, WABASH has received many accolades over the years. Your crew has been a constant source of pride and professionalism for myself and all Naval Surface Forces in the Pacific Fleet.

WABASH is retiring in a most prestigious manner. As WABASH decommissions, she does so with distinction and honor. "Fair winds and following seas."

Sincerely,

DAVID B. ROBINSON  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy

Captain C. W. Chamberlain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer  
USS WABASH (AOR 5)  
FPO AP 96683-3027



COMMANDER COMBAT LOGISTICS GROUP 1  
BUILDING 221-2W  
NAVAL SUPPLY CENTER  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94625-5001

23 September 1994

Dear Captain Chamberlain,

Please extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to your outstanding crew as they complete a tremendously successful year and prepare WABASH for her decommissioning on 30 September 1994.

WABASH is a "Winner!" Two consecutive "clean sweeps" in all warfare areas and receipt of the Battle Efficiency Award the past two cycles is testimony to the crew's pride and professionalism. WABASH is retiring in a most prestigious and professional manner. In addition, WABASH's performance in her last operation, RIMPAC 94 was outstanding in all respects.

WABASH is decommissioning with distinction and honor. I wish "Fair winds and following seas" to all "WABASH Cannonballers."

Sincerely,

ERNEST F. TEDESCHI, JR.  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

Captain C. W. Chamberlain, USN  
Commanding Officer  
USS WABASH (AOR 5)  
FPO AP 96683-3027



PHOTOGRAPH BY  
SP-4 J. W. BROWN

110 AF 96683-3057



**Ernest F. Tedeschi, Jr.**  
**Rear Admiral, United States Navy**  
**Commander, Naval Base San Francisco**  
**Combat Logistics Group One**

Rear Admiral Tedeschi, a native of New Britain, Connecticut, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1965. Upon commissioning, he reported to USS BUCK (DD 761) in San Diego, California as First Lieutenant. In January of 1967, he joined the pre-commissioning crew of USS RAMSEY (FFG 2) at Lockheed Shipyard, Seattle Washington as ASW Officer. Following this, and a tour as Flag Lieutenant for COMCRUDESFLT NINE, Rear Admiral Tedeschi attended the U.S. Naval Destroyer School in April 1970 before reporting to USS BROWNSON (DD 868) as Weapons Officer. In October 1972, he was assigned to the staff of the Naval Destroyer School as an Instructor in ASW Systems/Weapons. This was followed by a tour as a student at the Naval War College, Command and Staff Course, and then to USS GRIDLEY (CG 21) as Weapons Officer. In January 1977, Rear Admiral Tedeschi reported to USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DD 32) as Executive Officer. His next assignment was as Head of Surface Missile Evaluation for Operational Test and Evaluation Force, Pacific, after which he commanded USS DUNCAN (FFG 10) from June 1982 until January 1985.

In other assignments, Rear Admiral Tedeschi served as the Senior Combat Systems/Cruiser-Destroyer Instructor on the PCO/PXO training staff at the Surface Warfare Officer School Command in Newport, Rhode Island. In July 1987, he assumed the position as Head, Aegis Cruiser-Destroyer Branch on the Staff of the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Surface Warfare). He commanded USS VALLEY FORGE (CG 50) from May 1990 until September 1991 during which time he was selected for Flag Rank.

In February 1992, Rear Admiral Tedeschi assumed duties as Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Policy for the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic until assuming his current position as Commander, Naval Base San Francisco and Commander, Combat Logistics Group ONE in October 1993.

His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Gold Star, Bronze Star with Combat "V", Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star, along with other campaign and service decorations.

Rear Admiral Tedeschi is married to the former Christine DiEleuterio of Trenton, New Jersey. They have one son, Ernest, and one daughter Gina.



BAND SELECTIONS

\*\*\*\*

ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY

\*\*\*\*

PARADE THE COLORS

NATIONAL ANTHEM

\*\*\*\*

INVOCATION

\*\*\*\*

WELCOMING REMARKS AND  
INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

*Captain Carl W. Chamberlain, USN  
Commanding Officer*

\*\*\*\*

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

\*\*\*\*

REMARKS

*Captain Carl W. Chamberlain, USN  
Commanding Officer*



CEREMONIAL HAULING DOWN OF THE NATIONAL ENSIGN,  
UNION JACK AND COMMISSIONING PENNANT

TAPS

\*\*\*\*

SECURING THE WATCH

*LCDR Charles W. Cunningham, USN*  
*Executive Officer*

SEMPER FIDELIS

\*\*\*\*

BENEDICTION

\*\*\*\*

NAVY HYMN

\*\*\*\*

RETIRE THE COLORS

\*\*\*\*

DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL PARTY

\*\*\*\*

BAND SELECTIONS



**Carl W. Chamberlain**  
**Captain, United States Navy**  
**Commanding Officer, USS WABASH (AOR 5)**

Captain Carl W. Chamberlain was born in Long Beach, California in 1945. He graduated from California State University at Long Beach in 1968 with a degree in Management. He was commissioned in October of that year, and was designated a naval aviator in April 1970. He earned a Master's Degree in International Relations from Salve Regina College, Newport, Rhode Island.

Following his first tour of duty at Naval auxiliary Landing Field Monterey, California, Captain Chamberlain joined Attack Squadron 113, deployed onboard USS RANGER, just prior to the cessation of hostilities in Vietnam. After two more WESTPAC cruises, he transferred first to Training Squadron 26 then to the Chief of Naval Air Training Staff where he served as flight instructor standardization officer. Returning to sea in 1976, he served as Flight Deck Officer in USS NIMITZ, where he deployed twice to the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean. In 1980, Captain Chamberlain returned to Light Attack aviation in Lemoore, California as a department head in Attack Squadron 94 where he deployed to WESTPAC, once in USS KITTY HAWK and again in USS ENTERPRISE. Following two years ashore at Naval War College and OPNAV Staff, he returned to sea with Attack Squadron 94 where he was privileged to become Executive, then Commanding Officer. While there, he deployed twice again in USS ENTERPRISE. Following his command tour, Captain Chamberlain remained at sea on the staff of Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group THREE. His next tour was again at sea as Executive Officer in USS RANGER where he deployed to the Arabian Gulf for Desert Storm. His last assignment was a year's study at National War College. Captain Chamberlain has flown more than 5,000 hours, including 3,200 in the A-7E. He has piloted 21 different models of Naval aircraft and has made arrested landings on nine different aircraft carriers.

His awards include Distinguished Flying Cross (with combat V), two Meritorious Service Medals and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Captain Chamberlain is married to the former Rebecca Gilliland of San Antonio, Texas. He has a son, Steve, and a daughter, Erin.

Following WABASH's Decommissioning, Captain Chamberlain will proceed to San Diego, CA, to assume duties with Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

## USS WABASH (AOR 5)

*"A transfer of total responsibility, authority and accountability from one individual to another individual."*



### COMMANDING OFFICERS

|                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| CAPT R. T. CHRISLER     | November 1971 - September 1973    |
| CAPT G. E. JACOBSEN JR. | September 1973 - January 1975     |
| CAPT A. T. ASHURST      | January 1975 - March 1977         |
| CAPT G. E. ELIE         | March 1977 - August 1978          |
| CAPT J. W. RYAN         | August 1978 - January 1980        |
| CAPT R. P. ILG          | January 1980 - July 1981          |
| CAPT P. R. WOOD         | July 1981 - January 1983          |
| CAPT G. D. O'BRIEN      | January 1983 - July 1984          |
| CAPT J. T. MATHENY      | July 1984 - July 1986             |
| CAPT D. J. POWERS       | July 1986 - February 1988         |
| CAPT D. J. WRIGHT       | February 1988 - August 1989       |
| CAPT G. E. RUD          | August 1989 - February 1991       |
| CAPT S. P. DUERMEYER    | February 1991 - February 1993     |
| CAPT C. W. CHAMBERLAIN  | February 1993 - 30 September 1994 |

### OFFICERS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| LCDR C. W. Cunningham - Executive Officer      | LT J. J. Snare-S-3 Division Officer       |
| CDR S. A. Castillo - Supply Officer            | LTJG R. L. Malachi-EMO                    |
| LCDR H. B. Schirmer - First Lieutenant         | LTJG S.J. Robb-Communications Officer     |
| LCDR J. G. Roark - Chief Engineer              | LTJG W. A. Bowling-1ST Division Officer   |
| LCDR R. J. Tucker - Operations Officer         | LTJG J. D. Van Gorp-Stock Control Officer |
| LT J. M. Chatfield - Chaplain                  | LTJG S. W. West-CSO/CICO                  |
| LT E. E. Maghirang - Administrative Officer    | LTJG W. J. Jackson-Weapons Officer        |
| LT N. J. Carlevato - Medical Officer           | LJTG C. D. Alexander-DCA                  |
| LT D. P. Carstens - Second Division Officer    | ENS L. G. Ward-Main Propulsion Asst.      |
| LT D. W. Reinhardt - Auxiliaries Division Off. | CWO2 R. S. Wessling-Ship's Bos'n          |

## CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

|                  |                     |                   |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| CTMCM(SW) Briggs | MSCM(SW) Villanueva | BMCM(SW) Holley   |
| NCCS(AW) Hafer   | EMCS(SW/AW) Downey  | MMCS(SW) Thompson |
| ETCS Winter      | SMC(SW) Kee         | QMC(SW/AW) Trail  |
| GMC(SW) Valleau  | EMC Coquia          | BMC(SW) Harris    |
| SKC(SW) Vallido  | RMC(SW) Mayfield    | MAC(SW) Sims      |
| DCC(SW) Lewis    | SHC(SW) McCoy       | MMC(SW) Tela      |
| SKC Baiza        | BTC(SW) Shaler      | ETC(SW) Marquardt |
| OSC Losey        |                     |                   |

## ENLISTED MEN

|                     |                |                 |                 |                |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| RM1 Abbott          | MM2 Durham     | SK3 Hitt        | MSSN Kulick     | SA Grant       |
| BT1 Andrews         | MS2 Flores     | HT3 Hunt        | FN MacShane     | SA Horton      |
| BT1 Berry           | MM2 Heiselman  | RM3 Johnson     | BMSN Manchester | SA Jones       |
| OS1(SW) Carpenter   | MS2 Hollister  | DK3 King        | SN McDaniel     | SA Karner      |
| SM1 Carrol          | EM2 Hutchinson | MS3 Kluckman    | BMSN Pauley     | SA Kaupp       |
| QM1 Carroll         | MM2 Hruby      | RM3 Kluckman    | MMFN Rodkey     | SKSA Maarat    |
| MS1 Corpus          | ET2 Jackson    | RM3 Lawrence    | SN Roy          | SA Mueller     |
| MS1 Cortez          | PN2 Leafa      | RM3 Linan       | SN Smallwood    | SKSA Ninorojas |
| MS1 Daduya          | EW2 Martinez   | MM3 Lynn        | SN Smith J.     | ICFA Perkovic  |
| IC1 Fowler          | MS2 Mejia      | PN3 Madlambayan | SN Smith T.     | SA Proffer     |
| BT1 Gamble          | MM2 Poke       | SM3 Matthews    | SN Stiles       | SA Raymond     |
| MM1(SW) Hanssen     | SK2 Sanabria   | MM3 McCloskey   | SN Teel         | SA Rieth       |
| SH1 Herbert         | BT2 Smith      | RP3 Melnik      | SN Terry        | SA Rodenbeck   |
| BM1 Isidore         | OS2 Smith      | IC3 Morris      | SN Tudor        | FA Rogers      |
| HM1(SW) Kunkel      | MM2 Thomas     | PN3 Moya        | ICFN Vornholt   | FA Rosier      |
| SK1 Lamarca         | SK2 Torres     | SH3 Pace        | SN Wilson       | SA Schweighart |
| EN1 Moore           | RM2 Townsend   | MS3 Perry       | DCFN Wolden     | SA Schultz     |
| YN1(SW) Munoz       | FC2 Tunnel     | IC3 Poboy       | SN Young        | SA Scott       |
| GMM1(SW) Oglesby    | YN2 Walker     | BM3 Price       | SA Baltruweit   | SA Shelton     |
| FC1 Papis           | HT2 Warne      | MM3 Schmidt     | SA Burton       | SA Silva, N    |
| SK1 Peach           | BT3 Adams      | HM3 Smith       | SA Causey       | SA Silva, S    |
| BT1 Pendleton       | ET3 Buechi     | QM3 Smith       | SA Cazares      | FA Stewart     |
| MM1(AW/SW) Petronis | MM3 Byfield    | BM3 Stark       | SA Churchill    | SA Traught     |
| BM1 Pinkerton       | OS3 Carter     | BM3 Stevenson   | FA Colavito     | FA Trinidad    |
| BM1 Rettmann        | BT3 Doherty    | EM3 Tacuyan     | SA Davis J.     | SA Vien        |
| BT1 Seidl           | BM3 Elswick    | BT3 Thomas      | SA Davis S.     | SA Voyles      |
| MM1 Serrano         | SH3 Faust      | MM3 Vitek       | SKSA Dolde      | FA Wagstaff    |
| BM1(SW) Thomas      | EW3 Frank      | DC3 Vonflow     | SA Eggen        | FA Willis      |
| DK1(AW) Tisuela     | DC3 Guerrero   | HT3 Walden      | SA Edmonds      | SR Castaneda   |
| MS1 Vita            | MM3 Haddock    | MSSN Abarca     | SA Eismann      | FR Joy         |
| BM2 Alvarez         | BT3 Hager      | FN Brown        | SA Fields       | FR Morgan      |
| HT2 Caraffa         | MM3 Hale       | SN Doser        | SA Gallagher    | FR Nemeth      |
| BM2 Costello        | HT3 Heath      | SN Hickman      | SA Garcia       | FR Russell     |
|                     |                | SN Hobart       |                 |                |

# COMMAND AT SEA

## THE PRESTIGE, PRIVILEGE AND BURDEN OF COMMAND

by Joseph Conrad

"Only a seaman realized 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 at times it is even hard for us to comprehend, but it is so.

A ship at sea is a different world in itself 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 of peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one alone who is ultimately responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfire 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 instance during his tour as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligation are almost ludicrously small; nevertheless, command is the spur which has given the Navy its great leaders.

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

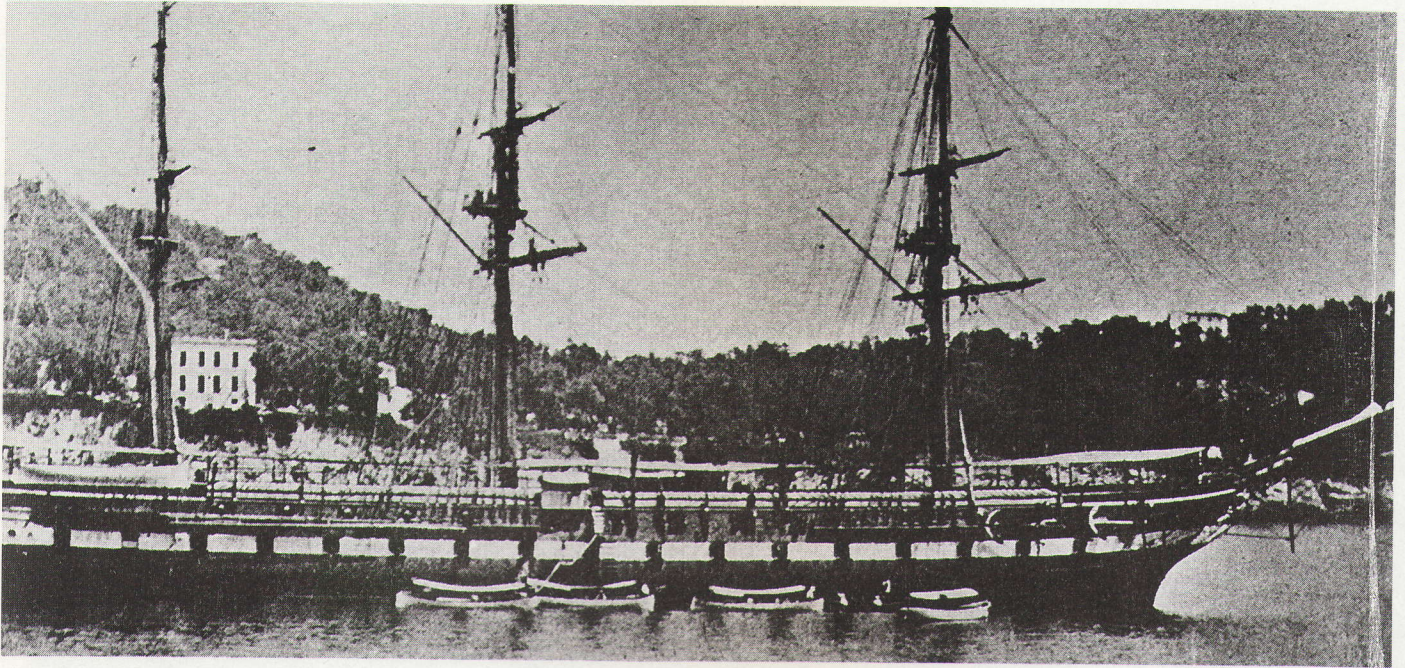
## USS WABASH (AOR 5)

### A SHIP RICH IN HISTORY

WABASH is the fourth ship of the fleet to bear the name. The first WABASH was a forty-gun wooden steam frigate commissioned August 18, 1856. She served with distinction during the Civil War Battles of Charleston, Port Royal and Fort Fisher. The second WABASH was built as a German cargo ship, which was later taken by the United States when America entered World War I. She was commissioned USS WABASH February 9, 1918, and served with distinction during WWI as a convoy ship. The third WABASH was commissioned May 10, 1943 as a gasoline tanker. This WABASH also served with distinction, seeing combat in both World War II and the Korean Conflict.

The latest WABASH follows a legacy that represents a challenge to which she has lived up to admirably. She too has served with distinction during the Vietnam Conflict and Gulf War. More recently she made two consecutive clean sweeps of all warfare awards and won the coveted Battle Efficiency "E". It does not get much better than this. If there should ever be a fifth WABASH, she will be hard pressed to match the exploits of her four predecessors.

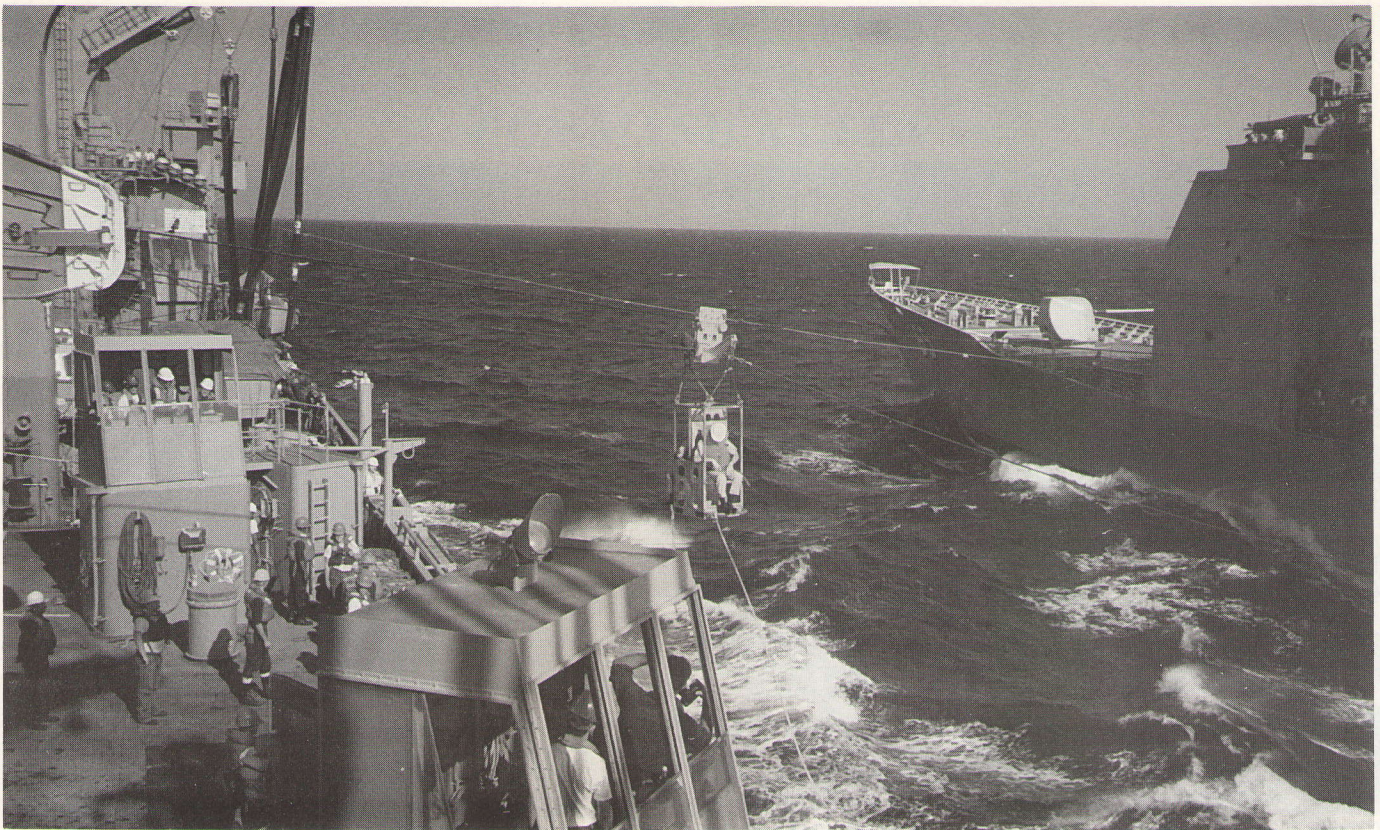




**The First USS WABASH (40 Gun Frigate) at anchor**

**USS WABASH (AOR-5) is christened by her sponsor Mrs. William G. Bray, wife of the Congressman of the SIXTH District of Indiana.**





**Personnel transfer using tensioned highline to USS SHILOH (CG-65)**

**One of WABASH's CH-46 Sea Knight Helicopters conducting Vertical Replenishment**

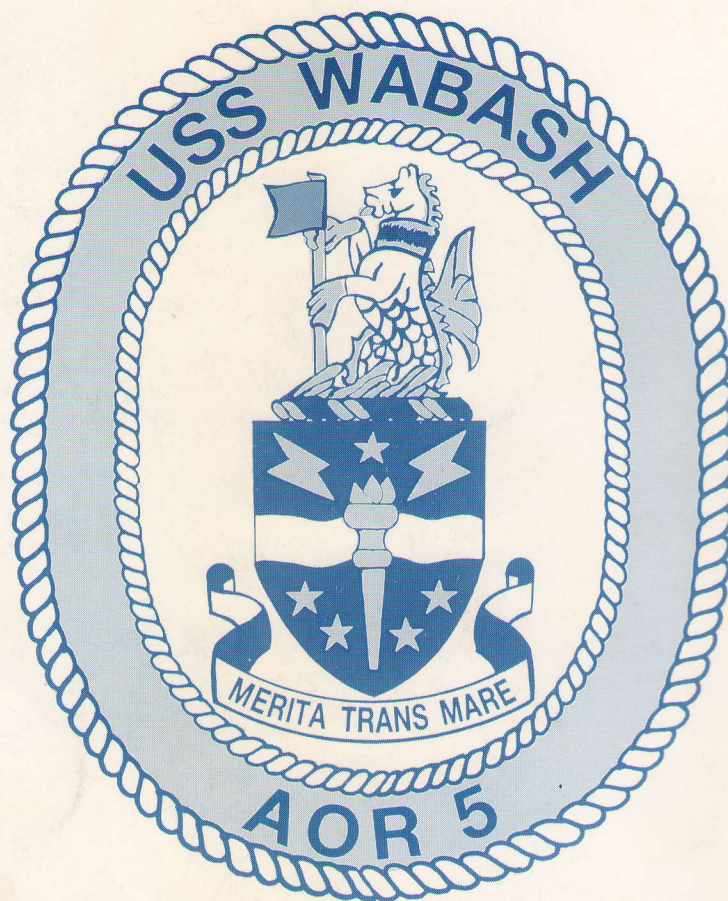




**Refuelling a Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Destroyer during the WESTPAC 92 deployment.**

**Pounding in Heavy Northeast Pacific Seas.**





## THE INSIGNIA

The shield, symbolic of defense, alludes to the WABASH as an element of our national defense system. The colors blue and gold are traditional to the U.S. Navy. The flaming torch and star at center are adapted from the flag of the State of Indiana wherein are located the Wabash River and the City of Wabash, the ship's namesakes. The river, main waterway of the state, is symbolized by the white wavy bar. The City of Wabash, with the distinction of being the world's first electrically lighted city, is indicated by the two lightning flashes in chief. The pierced stars or spur rowels in the base commemorate the exemplary service of three previous ships of the name WABASH throughout four national emergencies; the Civil War, World Wars I and II and the Korean Conflict.

The seahorse amidst waves of the sea is symbolic of a ship with the rigorous mission of performing her services while on the high seas. The "Bravo" flag alludes to her main function of underway refueling. The colors blue and gold are those of the Navy, and blue, gold and white are also used on the flag of the State of Indiana. The white diamonds on the blue collar refer to the meaning of the Indian name Wabash, "water over white rocks", and the number of diamonds indicate she is the fourth ship to carry the name WABASH.