

Contributed by Robert M. Cieri

UNITED STATES SHIP

HUNLEY AS-31

WELCOME ABOARD

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

22-23 JANUARY 1976





Le ROY B. HEBBARD, Jr.
CAPTAIN, U. S. NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER

Captain Le Roy B. Hebbard, jr., received his commission in the U. S. Navy in 1953 upon graduation from the U. S. Naval Academy. His first assignment was aboard the cruiser USS NORTHHAMPTON (CLC - 1). After one and one - half years, he attended Submarine School in Groton, Connecticut and thereafter served aboard USS SEA LEOPARD (SS - 483). He was subsequently ordered to the Staff, COMSUBRON SIX as Staff Secretary. In 1959, Captain Hebbard attended the U. S. Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, California, obtaining a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering in 1961. Captain Hebbard then served in USS SAILFISH (SSR - 572) and USS ALBACORE (AGSS - 569) as Executive Officer. Captain Hebbard was selected for and received nuclear power training in 1964. Subsequently, he attended the FBM Command Course and then served as Executive Officer of the Polaris Submarine USS JAMES MADISON (SSBN - 627). He then commanded the USS HENRY CLAY (SSBN - 625) and USS ROBERT E. LEE (SSBN - 601) successively. In 1970, Captain Hebbard reported to Naval Ship Engineering Center, Hyattsville, Maryland as a Project Director, SSBN Ship System Maintenance, Monitoring and Support (SMMS) Program. On 30 December 1974, Captain Hebbard reported aboard USS HUNLEY (AS - 31) as Commanding Officer.

Captain Hebbard is a native of New Rochelle, New York. He and Mrs. Hebbard, the former Beverly Jane Ellis of South Portland, Maine, reside in Charleston, South Carolina and are the parents of five children, Robert, Jonathan, Thomas, Julie, and Le Roy.

USS HUNLEY AS - 31

1. INTRODUCTION

The ships of the U. S. Navy are frequently the subjects of great public interest, and justifiably so. The powerful battleship, fast destroyer, and sleek nuclear submarines are undeniably exciting and romantic. Too seldom, however, does the equally important, but less glamorous support ship come to the public's attention.

The nuclear ballistic missile submarine tender USS HUNLEY (AS-31) has achieved an enviable record of Navy firsts and unequalled service in the thirteen and one half years since her commissioning on 16 June 1962. Though not often in the public eye, HUNLEY is something of a showpiece for the Navy's Polaris Program, hosting each year numerous American and foreign dignitaries, both military and civilian.

HUNLEY is one of five nuclear ballistic missile submarine tenders stationed around the globe to provide replenishment and repair service to our patrolling SSBN submarines. The importance of these support ships cannot be overemphasized, for they keep the nation's least vulnerable strategic deterrent force in continuous operation, thus providing a powerful incentive for restraint to any potential aggressor.

2. HUNLEY

To accomplish her mission HUNLEY carries a crew of fifty three officers and 1187 enlisted men. Many of these men have attended special schools for the exacting work they do, and they understand fully the importance of the job they perform.

The men are supported by HUNLEY's equipment, which is a complex array of machine shops ranging in capacity from those with huge lathes to an instrument repair facility that can work with almost microscopic machine parts. There are electronics laboratories for the repair of missile guidance systems and submarine detection devices, and many shops of specialized natures such as optical, drafting, printing, woodworking, plastics, engraving, photography and others.

The Supply Department maintains nearly three times the number of items carried by an aircraft carrier and can, without replenishment, sustain the ship's and submarines' needs for extended periods. The latest in electronic accounting equipment is used to keep track of the flow of funds and supplies.

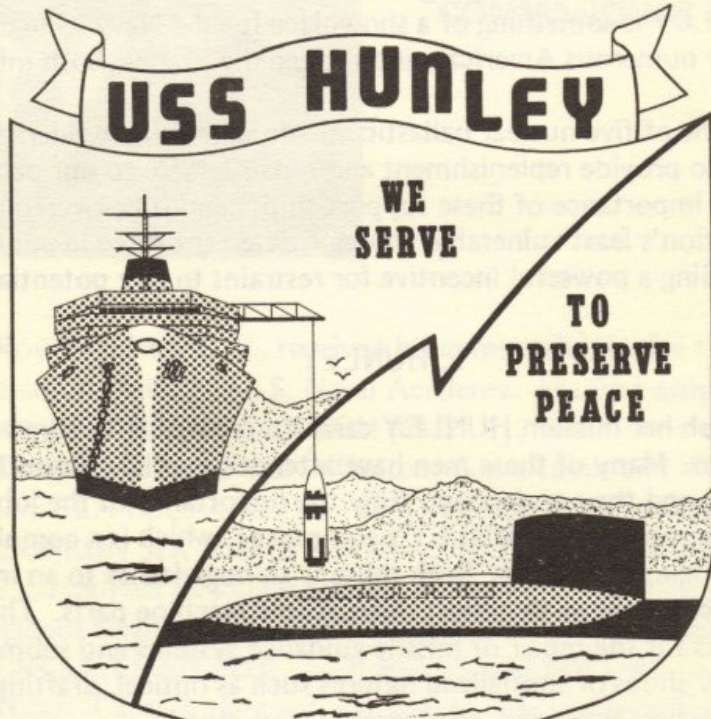
The health of HUNLEY's and the submarines' crews are assured by the Medical and Dental Departments with their modern facilities for emergency operations and minor surgery including prosthetic and bacteriological laboratories which ensure prompt diagnosis and treatment. Spiritual health and comfort are provided by the ship's Chaplain and visiting chaplains who hold weekly services on board and are always available for counselling.

Material comfort and pleasure can be obtained from the ship's store, the excellent galley, the snack bar and vending machines, the barber shop, the library and the television lounges. From inside, HUNLEY gives the impression of a completely self sufficient community, and indeed she can be just that for long periods of time.

USS HUNLEY

**WE
SERVE**

**TO
PRESERVE
PEACE**



AS-31