

Welcome Aboard

USS BRIDGE
(AOE-10)





**Captain
Robbie L. Williams
United States Navy**

**Commanding Officer
USS BRIDGE (AOE 10)**

Captain Williams is a native of Silver Spring, Maryland. He graduated from the University of Maryland in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Commissioned in December 1972 through the Reserve Officer Candidate Program, Captain Williams was subsequently assigned to USS HALEAKALA (AE 25) where he served as a Deck Division Officer, Navigator, and First Lieutenant. He then attended the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California, earning a Master of Science Degree in Physics.

Following graduation from the Surface Warfare Officers School Department Head Course, he was assigned as Weapons Officer, USS LAWRENCE (DDG 4). Subsequent sea tours included commissioning Operations Officer, USS MERRIMACK (AO 179); Executive Officer, USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178); Executive Officer, USS MILWAUKEE (AOR 2); Flag Secretary on the Staff of Commander Combat Logistics Group TWO; and Commanding Officer, USS MERRIMACK (AO 179).

Shore assignments have included duty on the staff of Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Force and Commander Naval Surface Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, and two tours at the United States Naval Academy as a Physics Instructor and Battalion Officer. Captain Williams graduated with distinction from the Naval War College, as a member of the Naval Command College, earning a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies.

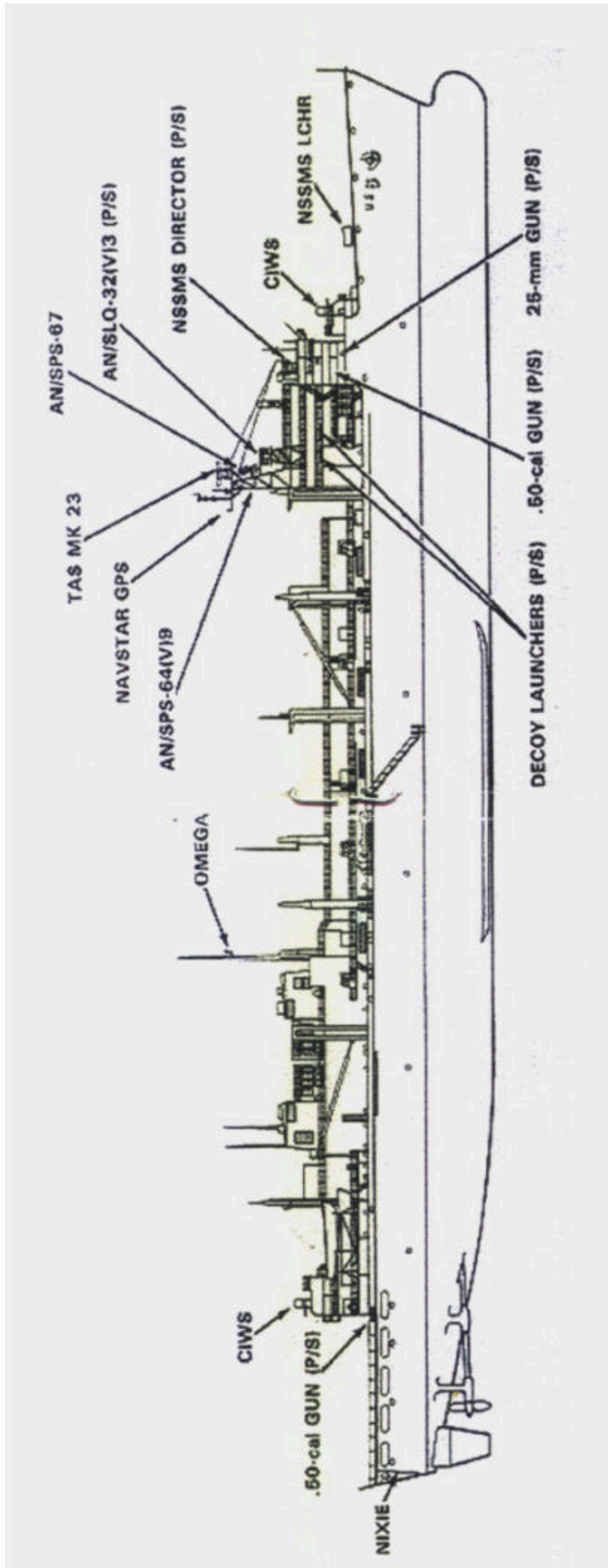
Captain Williams' personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (with three gold stars), the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and various service and campaign ribbons. Captain Williams is married to the former Shearon Anne Sykes of Norfolk, Virginia. They have three children, Amy, Daniel, and Andrew.



Welcome aboard USS BRIDGE (AOE-10), the Navy's newest Fast Combat Support ship. She is the fourth ship of the SUPPLY class AOEs. BRIDGE has been built with the latest technology available, and equipped with state of the art systems to carry out her mission of providing fuel, ammunition, and stores through alongside underway and vertical replenishment in support of fleet operations. BRIDGE and her sister ships are the second largest gas turbine powered ships in the world. She has been designed with the necessary speed to stay with the carrier battle group under all tactical situations, and has been constructed to combatant standards and equipped with a robust self-defense capability.

BRIDGE's crew is a motivated and highly trained group of professionals. Each one plays an integral part in the ship's mission and employment of her systems. They excel in what they do, and strive to live out BRIDGE's motto of "Service with Excellence" everyday. We are proud of our ship and hope that you enjoy your visit with us!

Sincerely;
R. L. WILLIAMS
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer



SHIP'S CHARACTERISTICS

Length -----753 feet

Beam -----107 feet

Speed -----30+ knots

Draft (Full Load) -----37 feet

Displacement -----48,500 tons

Accommodations -----40 Officers

36 Chief Petty Officers

591 Enlisted

Propulsion

4 LM2500 Gas Turbine Engines, 26,250 BHP each

2 Reversing Reduction Gear

2 Rudders

Sensors

1 AN/SPS-67 Surface Search Radar

1 AN/SPS-64 Navigation Radar

1 AN/SLQ-32 Electronic Warfare Suite

Weapons

1 NATO Sea Sparrow Missile System

1 TAS MK 23 Air Tracking System

2 Close In Weapons Systems

2 25 mm Gun Mounts

4 50 Caliber Machine Guns

1 NIXIE

SHIP'S MISSION

The USS BRIDGE (AOE-10) is a fast combat support ship with a mission of providing fuel, ammunition, provisions, stores, fleet freight, mail, and personnel through a combination of either alongside or vertical replenishment methods in support of fleet operations.

SHIP'S CAPABILITIES

USS BRIDGE (AOE-10) has the capability to supply other ships for long periods at a time with a variety of ordnance, stores, and fuel. It has four cargo holds each rated with 12,000 LB elevators for dry stores. The main deck has six replenishment at sea, RAS, stations and four 10 ton cargo booms to transfer those stores. In addition, the ship can transfer liquid fuel like JP-5 and F-76 at a maximum transfer rate of 1,440,000 gph using five fueling at sea, FAS, stations.

The propulsion plant aboard the USS BRIDGE is unique compared with most ships. It utilizes a gas turbine main propulsion system and is the first class of ships in the U.S. Navy to employ a Reversing Reduction Gear (RRG) for astern and maneuvering operations. The ship has four LM-2500 Gas Turbine engines each rated at 26,250 BHP along two shafts to provide speeds greater than 30 knots.

The ship also has a highly effective defense system utilizing a NATO Sea Sparrow Missile System, two Close In Weapons Systems (CIWS), a TAS MK 23 system, one NIXIE, and SLQ-32(V)3 with four decoy launchers. NATO Sea Sparrow, CIWS, and TAS MK 23 provide protection from air threats and SLQ-32 detects numerous emission signals from surface and air contacts. NIXIE is a vital counter detection system for underwater threats like submarines. For long range detection of surface contacts USS BRIDGE is complimented with two surface search radars, the SPS-67 and SPS-64.

Total protection from chemical, biological, and radiation attacks is provided for living and messing spaces, and command and control/communications spaces with an advanced Collective Protection System integrated into the ship's ventilation distribution system.



The Ship's Namesake Commodore Horatio Bridge (1854-1869)

To Horatio Bridge goes the honor and distinction of having served as Chief of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing for fifteen years, longer than any man in its entire history. Having been appointed by his former college classmate, President Franklin Pierce, he held this post under various administrations, including the whole period of the Civil War. He also had the distinction of being the first man in the Navy to employ the idea of comprehensive fleet supply. Under his direction the systematic supply of Naval vessels on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts during the Civil War was established and carried out with conspicuous success. It was therefore appropriate that Storeship No. 1, USS BRIDGE (AF-1) was named in his honor on May 19th, 1916. It is even more appropriate that his name continues in the active U.S. Navy Fleet as the newest of the SUPPLY-class combat logistics ships, USS BRIDGE (AOE 10).

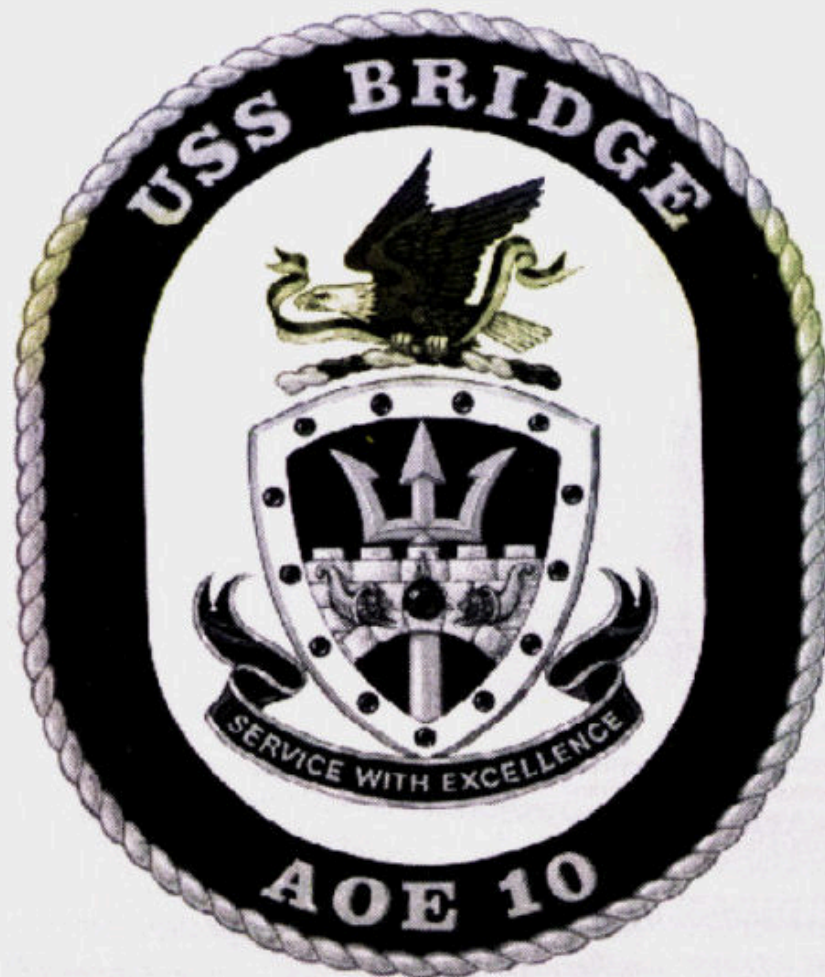
Horatio Bridge, the son of a judge, was born at Augusta, Maine, in 1806. Commodore Bridge graduated from Bowdoin College in the world-famous class of 1825, which included among its members Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. After graduation, he studied law at Northampton Law School; was admitted to the bar, and practiced his profession at Augusta and Skowhegan (then Milburn), Maine. After ten years of practice, he found law distasteful to him and entered the U.S. Navy as a purser in 1838. After several long cruises in African, European, and Pacific waters, he was called to Washington and appointed Chief of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing. In 1869, he resigned his position as Chief of the Bureau and shortly thereafter accepted the position as the first Chief Inspector of Clothing. He detached from duty after serving afloat and ashore for fifty-five years. Upon final retirement, on March 1st, 1871, he went to his country home, "The Moorings", at Athens, Pennsylvania, where he spent the rest of his life with his wife, Charlotte Marshall.

The First Ship Named Bridge

USS BRIDGE (AF-1) was launched on May 18th, 1916 by Boston Navy Yard. She was sponsored by Mrs. Granville Searcy Fleece, a grandniece of Commodore Bridge and was commissioned June 2nd, 1917 with Lieutenant Commander W. K. Riddle in command. Over her first two decades of service, BRIDGE operated in Europe with the U.S. Naval Detachment in Turkish waters; serviced and provisioned the fleet from bases on both the east and west coasts of the United States, the Caribbean, and Canal Zone; and operated extensively between California bases, Pearl Harbor, and the outlying bases of Midway, Guam, and Wake.

With the entry of the United States into World War II, BRIDGE expanded her Pacific voyages to include the furthest reaches of the Pacific such as Fiji, Tonga, the New Caledonia Islands, Alaska, and New Zealand. Between April 1944 and April 1945 BRIDGE operated exclusively between Pearl Harbor and the Marshall Islands. On October 10th, 1945 BRIDGE departed Pearl Harbor and steamed to Japan, via Okinawa, for occupation duty. While operating off Korea, November 1st, she struck a mine and suffered considerable damage but fortunately no personnel casualties. She underwent repairs at Sasebo until January 1946 and remained on occupation duty until June 1946. BRIDGE was decommissioned at Sasebo on June 27th, 1946 and was turned over to the Foreign Liquidation Commission for disposal where she was sold at Manila, Philippine Islands on December 22nd, 1947. BRIDGE received one battle star for her World War II service.





SHIP'S COAT OF ARMS

SHIELD: The bridge, a canting reference to the ship's namesake, denotes USS BRIDGE'S support to the total readiness of the Navy by the efficient and quick distribution of supplies. The bridge also symbolizes the span from the past to the future and a logistics bridge providing sustenance to the Fleet. The bomb represents ordnance, the black pellets represent oil, and the cornucopias refer to stores and perishable cargo. The white border alludes to ice and the importance of refrigeration in the transporting of fresh stores. Horatio Bridge was the first man in the Navy to employ the idea of comprehensive fleet supply including the floating refrigeration concept. The trident signifies Navy strength and resolve and also underscores the fact that the first USS BRIDGE (AF-1) was the first ship to be built from the keel up as a storeship. She served with distinction during WWI and WWII.

CREST: The eagle is adapted from the first USS Bridge's seal to show continuity and a proud heritage of service. The blue and gray ribbon reflects Civil War service and honors Commodore Bridge as Chief of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing during that period.