

Welcome Aboard



WORLD'S FIRST
NUCLEAR FBM
SUBMARINE

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN598)

Length overall - - - - -	381 Feet
Breadth - - - - -	33 Feet
Depth Capability - - - - -	In excess of 400 Feet
Speed Capability - - - - -	In excess of 20 Knots
Displacement (approximate) - - - - -	6150 Tons
Keel Laid - - - - -	01 November 1957
Launched - - - - -	09 June 1959
Commissioned - - - - -	30 December 1959

With almost unlimited cruising range and with endurance limited only by the crew, the FBM nuclear submarine is capable of extended submerged operations in the international waters of the world which comprise about 70 percent of the earth's surface. Free of the need to surface or extend a snorkel above the surface for continuous operation, FBM nuclear submarines remain hidden by an oceanic curtain, their locations unknown to any potential enemy.

POLARIS - This Latin name for the North Star, navigational beacon of seafarers for hundreds of years, since 1956 has taken on new meaning for the United States Navy. POLARIS is the name of the Navy's fleet ballistic missile, a powerful nuclear-tipped rocket whose mission is to help preserve the world from the disaster of nuclear war.

"We owe it to our ancestors to preserve entire those rights, which they have delivered to our care: we owe it to our posterity, not to suffer their dearest inheritance to be destroyed." --Junius

THE FBM SUBMARINE - Submarines of the United States Navy normally are named after fish and other denizens of the deep. The unique purpose of the Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine force prompted a decision to name its submarines after great men of history who, by precept and example, served the cause of freedom and liberty which Americans cherish, and which the FBM fleet helps keep safe from nuclear war.




DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN-598)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

It is our pleasure to welcome you to GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Since her commissioning on 30 December 1959, GEORGE WASHINGTON has established a long list of enduring achievements. While we take pride in our leadership in POLARIS, we know that the new records we set are the by-products and not the mainstream of our mission. In completing our POLARIS patrols, we have contributed to the prevention of war, and in this do we find our greatest pride.

The pride we feel in this ship is not ours alone. It belongs to those in government and service who conceived her, to those who supplied her equipment, and to those thousands who have faithfully supported her. It also belongs in full and equal measure to those who wait at home with patience and courage.

We are especially proud of the men who have served in GEORGE WASHINGTON. Their labor, dedication, and endurance on long patrols can never really be appreciated. Without them and their irresistible spirit, GEORGE WASHINGTON is a hull --with them, she is a ship.


J. B. DROSTE
Commander, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer
Gold Crew

"TO BE PREPARED FOR WAR IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PRESERVING PEACE."-- GEORGE WASHINGTON (1732-1799)



HISTORY OF THE USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN598)

"POLARIS--from out of the deep to target. Perfect". This radio message from Commander J. B. Osborn to President Eisenhower at 12:39 P.M. (EST) on 20 July 1960 marked the culmination of five years of intensive study and work leading to the world's first Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine--the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN598).

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN598) is the world's first nuclear-powered Polaris submarine. It is named for George Washington, the first President of the United States.

GEORGE WASHINGTON's story began in 1955 when a committee headed by Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., recommended to President Eisenhower the development of a self-sufficient undersea shipbased ballistic missile. A revolutionary partnership of nuclear power, missile, and submarine was in the formative stage. On 1 November 1957 the keel was laid for the USS SCORPION at the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation, Groton, Connecticut. In order to accommodate the formulation of this concept in warfare, the decision was made to modify SCORPION. The hull was severed and a 130 foot missile section was inserted to convert it to the GEORGE WASHINGTON.

The ship began her waterborn career on June 9, 1959 when she was launched at Groton, Connecticut. She was placed in commission on December 30, 1955.

On June 28, 1960, after further equipment installation and trials GEORGE WASHINGTON departed Groton for Cape Canaveral, to meet the POLARIS missile. In a submarine roughly the size of a light cruiser (381 feet long by 33 feet in beam, with a displacement of 6150 tons) were loaded two 28 feet long, 15 ton, solid propellant POLARIS Missiles. Then on July 20, 1960, the first successful launching of the POLARIS missile from a submerged submarine occurred. Less than three hours later a second successful missile was launched. Both missiles raced straight and true to the intended impact point 1100 miles down the Atlantic Missile Test Range.

In January of 1973, the GEORGE WASHINGTON completed her last deterrent patrol in the Atlantic and switched homeports to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Whether in Atlantic or Pacific waters, GEORGE WASHINGTON has continued her role as a valuable asset to the protection of democracy and a deterrent to aggression.

Fast, silent, and virtually immune to surprise attack, GEORGE WASHINGTON combines the almost unlimited endurance of nuclear power with the deterrent might of sixteen Polaris missiles.

To take advantage of this endurance and might, GEORGE WASHINGTON has two completed and equally trained crews (designated Blue and Gold), each of 140 officers and men. While one crew takes the ship on patrol, the other is in the homeport undergoing refresher training, taking leave, training new crew members, and in general, preparing to go back to sea.

In 1978, eighteen years after commissioning, GEORGE WASHINGTON completed her 598th dive and become the first FBM submarine to achieve its hull number in dives accumulating over 77,000 hours of underway time, 72,000 hours submerged and has traveled more than 420,000 miles.

COMMANDER JAMES B. DROSTE, USN - COMMANDING OFFICER
USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN598) (GOLD)

Commander James B. Droste was born in Chicago, Illinois and later settled in Litchfield, Illinois. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in June of 1962.

Following graduation, Commander Droste reported for Nuclear Power Training at Bainbridge, Maryland and Windsor Locks, Connecticut. He then attended submarine school at New London, Connecticut.

In April 1964, Commander Droste reported to the USS VON STUEBEN (SSBN632) (BLUE), at Newport News, Virginia, as a member of the pre-commissioning crew. Upon completion of three Polaris patrols, Commander Droste reported to Polaris Weapons Officer School at Dam Neck, Virginia in August 1966 and then to the USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (SSBN640) (BLUE) at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Commander Droste completed five Polaris patrols, during which time the BENJAMIN FRANKLIN was awarded two Meritorious Unit Commendations. Following detachment from the BENJAMIN FRANKLIN in June of 1969, Commander Droste attended the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California where he earned a masters degree in management. In July 1970 he reported to the pre-commissioning crew of USS DRUM (SSN677) at Mare Island, California.

In March of 1973, Commander Droste reported for duty as Executive Officer, USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (SSBN602) (BLUE), at Mare Island, California. During his service on board, ABRAHAM LINCOLN completed a regular overhaul and four Polaris patrols. Upon detachment, Commander Droste was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal. Commander Droste reported to the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN598) (GOLD) at Mare Island, California in March of 1977 and assumed command of the Gold Crew on 22 February 1978.

Commander Droste is married to the former Anita Anderson of Saint Augustine, Florida. They reside in Honolulu, Hawaii.

THE OFFICERS OF USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (GOLD)

CDR J. B. DROSTE - Commanding Officer
 LCDR E. R. LOSURE Jr - Executive Officer

LT B. ENGELHARDT	LT E. W. FAITH	LT T. J. COLLINS III
LT K. W. FLEMING	LT D. I. JOHNSON	LTJG M. J. MATHEWS
LTJG D. F. HUMENANSKY	LTJG P.M. QUALLS	LTJG T. W. WARD
LTJG D. A. BEARY	ENS B. M. DUSTERHOFT	ENS M. B. ROBINSON

THE CREW OF USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (GOLD)

MSC(SS)W.T. AGUILAR	HM2 P.A. GERRELLS	MM3 G.E. PICKARD
MM1(SS) G.K. ALLEN	EM2 M.P. GOODRICH	RMSA(SU) M.W. POSTON
ETN2(SS) J.R. ALLEN	MM2 J.E. GUNN	ETN2 D.A. PTACEK
IC1(SS) L.A. ALTER	SA(SU) R.G. HAHN	MSSN(SU) D.V. PUSHOR
MT3(SU) J.D. ANDRADE	SN(SU) S.L. HALL	MM1(SS) J.F. REED
STS2(SS) M.E. AUSTRENG	PNSN(SU) R.L. HARLESS	RM2(SU) T.W. REEVES Jr
EM2 E.C. BAATZ	MM3 H.L. HARRIS III	IC3(SU) M.A. RIEB
MMFN(SU) E.D. BAILEY III	EM3 R.L. HARROD JR	MM2 J.M. RODRIGUEZ
MM3(SU) M.L. BAKER	TM2(SS) R.L. HAZEN	QMSN(SU) C. ROLL
IC2(SS) P.E. BARLOW	FTB2(SS) M. HEBERT	SK2(SS) C.R. SANDERLIN
TMC(SS) B.E. BARRITT	ETR2 T. HELLAND	MS1(SS) R.D. SANTOS
MT2(SS) R.S. BARRON	MT2(SS) J.E. HELTON JR	EM1(SS) G.P. SAVAGE
STS1(SS) M.S. BARWICK	MM2(SS) D.C. HENGERER	MMC(SS) G.E. SCHLEGEL
RM3(SU) R.A. BAYER	STS3(SU) D.P. HENRY	YNCS(SS) D.D. SCOTT
MMCS(SS) E.W. BECKMAN	MM2 D.A. HERRING	FTB3(SU) C.E. SEARS Jr
ETN3(SU) R.P. BICEK	MT1(SS) T.W. HOFFMAN	ETN3(SU) K.D. SHAFER
MM3(SS) B.G. BIERMAN	FTB1(SS) M.C. HONECK	QM1(SS) A.G. SHANNON
MM2 W.T. BIVENS	MM1(SS) P.D. HONECK	MM2 J.D. SIMMONS
SA(SS) E.J. BOLLIG	IC3 G.R. HUBER	MT3(SU) D.K. SINGLETON
ETR2 M.R. BONNETT	SKSN(SU) D.M. HUSENITS	ETC(SS) W.F. SKILLMAN
SA(SU) T.E. BOOTH	ETN2(SU) C.C. JACKSON	SA(SU) J.R. SMITH
MSSN(SS) R.L. BRODIE	MM1(SS) D.H. JENKINS	QM2(SU) R.P. SMITH
TMSN(SS) J.D. BROWN	MM2 J.D. JOHNSON JR.	ETR2 R.L. SMOTER
TM2(SS) M.E. BROWN	EM1(SS) L.M. KALKE	MT1(SS) S.A. SPENCE
FTB2(SU) P.K. BROWN, JR.	ETR2 D.A. KINAS	RM1(SS) D.R. SPRADLING
ETN2 S.P. BURGESS	IC2 K.G. KNOX	ETCS(SS) E.J. STANLEY
EM1(SS) J.A. BUSSEN	MSSN(SU) J.G. LAUGHLIN	SN(SU) R.M. STONE
MM2 M.P. CAMPASINO	FN(SU) E.L. LEWIS	ETN3(SU) M.E. STRATHERN
MT3(SU) C. CARR	RM3(SU) S.R. LEWIS	MM2(SU) P.H. STRAUSS
YNSN(SU) B.R. CHAMBERLAIN	STSSN(SU) D.T. MARCUS	FTG2(SS) P.F. STUEVER
FTB3(SU) S.G. COLE	MMFN F.L. MCLAIN	FN(SU) C.W. SULLIVAN
ETN3(SU) J.B. COON	MMFN(SU) M.K. MESSERER	MT2(SS) J.D. THOMPSON
RMC(SS) J.N. CRAPO	FTB3(SU) A.J. MISSANA	FN(SU) S.A. STHOMSON
ETN3(SS) J.M. CROWE	MM1(SS) J.C. MOEHRIG	MT2(SS) D.R. TRINKA
MM2(SS) D.W. CURTIS JR.	STS3(SU) K.T. MOORE	STS2(SS) M. L. VAN SANDT
ET1(SS) J.A. DALPE	MTC(SS) R. MORABITO	FTGC R. W. WALKER
SR(SU) A.L. DAVIS JR.	SN(SU) D.W. MORRISSETTE	SA(SU) D.E. WHITEHEAD
MMC(SS) J.E. DILG III (COB)	MT2(SS) W. NAJERA	MT1(SS) V.D. WILSON
QMSA(SU) M.L. DUFFELL	ETN3(SU) E.J. NOWACKI	FN(SU) S.J. WINNER
MS1(SS) A.E. ENCARNACION	IC2(SS) P.D. O'NEILL	STS3(SU) T.L. WINTERS
MM1(SU) J.E. FLAUGHER	SKSN(SU) W.E. O'NEIL	ET1(SS) S.D. WOOD
QMSN(SU) H.D. FORCE	SA(SU) A.A. OVERBECK	ETR2(SS) WRAY
RM3(SU) R.S. FORSELL	FTB1(SS) S.R. PARRISH	EMC(SS) E. YUSIS
STS2(SS) T.K. GAMBLE	MS1(SS) R.A. PELLOS	MT3(SU) T.L. ZIMMERMAN