

SSN 640 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN class

Originally commissioned as ballistic missile submarines, the two remaining members of this class of submarine have been converted to special operations attack submarines, with a capacity for carrying and delivering special operations forces added.

The 'boomers' converted to dual DDS carriers are huge compared to STURGEON SSNs. On the SSBN the SEALs and crew can be berthed without 'hot racking' - three men sharing two bunks on a rotating basis. Enough exercise equipment can be loaded for the SEALs (and crew) to maintain the physical conditioning required for mission success. Mission planning, briefings, and operations can be conducted with minimum crew disruption. Submarine crew training and casualty drills can be conducted with minimum impact on the SEALs. Both the submarine crew and SEAL teams can better maintain operational proficiency.

USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSN 642) is a BENJAMIN FRANKLIN class fleet ballistic missile submarine, built in 1965, recently completed conversion to a drydeck shelter/swimmer delivery platform. USS KAMEHAMEHA is now a very capable attack submarine with extensive modifications to enable her to conduct missions in support of special warfare operations.

In March of 1994 USS JAMES K. POLK (SSN 645) completed a 19-month conversion from ballistic missile submarine to attack/special warfare submarine at Newport News Shipbuilding. She then changed homeports to Norfolk where she was a mainstay at Submarine Squadron SIX. As the only dual dry-deck shelter submarine in the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, POLK made three deployments to the Mediterranean Sea. The submarine held its inactivation ceremony 08 January 1999 at Naval Station Norfolk after nearly 33 years of service.

The inactivation of the POLK leaves the KAMEHAMEHA (SSN 642) as the Navy's only former ballistic missile submarine equipped with Dry Deck Shelters (DDSs).

Specifications

Displacement	8,250 tons submerged
Length	425 feet
Beam	33 feet
Speed	25+ knots submerged
Depth	Greater than 800 feet

Horizontal Tubes	Four Tubes
Vertical Tubes	12 Vertical Launch System Tubes
Special Operations	2 Dry Deck Shelters 2 SEAL Delivery Vehicle [SDV]
Unit Operating Cost Annual Average	~\$13,000,000 [source: FY1996 VAMOSC]

Ships

Name	Number	Builder	Homeport	Ordered	Commissioned	Decommissioned
Kamehameha	SSN 642	Mare Island NSY	Pearl Harbor	01 Aug 1962	12 Dec 1965	
James K. Polk	SSN 645	Electric Boat	Norfolk	01 Nov 1962	16 Apr 1966	08 Jan 1999

Costs (VAMOSC)

- [USS James K. Polk deactivated Navnews for 02/99](#)
- [USS JAMES K. POLK \(SSN 645\) INACTIVATES](#) 6 JANUARY 1999
- [USS Kamehameha deploys for six months Navywire](#) 01 June 1999 - USS Kamehameha (SSN 642), capable of deploying Special Operations Forces, departed May 28 for a six-month deployment.

COMMANDING OFFICERS OF THE USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

BLUE CREW

CAPT D.M. Miller
CDR F.M. Adams
CDR W.J. Herndon, Jr.
CDR R.M. Morrison
CDR F.M. Meredith
CDR D.M. Goebel
CDR E.B.Z. Standrich
CDR R.L. Lowell, Jr.
CDR J.M. Brick
CDR J.A. Sokolowski

GOLD CREW

CDR R.N. Williams
CDR M.P. Alexich
CDR J.D. Leonard, Jr.
CAPT W.H. Purdum
CDR J.N. Darby
CDR R.A. Dunkle
CAPT L.C. Wright
CDR R.C. Reuthinger, Jr.
CDR J.W. Winney, Jr.
CDR F.P. Stagl



Captain Lovell (Center), one of the two Gemini-7 astronauts to observe Franklin's first missile launch from space visits the ship's first Commanding Officers.

INACTIVATION CREW

CDR John A. Sokolowski — Commanding Officer
LCDR Robert M. Robinson — Executive Officer
LCDR Christopher R. Cooper — Engineer Officer
LT David L. England — Weapons Officer
LT Robert J. Weber, Jr. — Navigator
LT David V. White — Supply Officer
LT Mark R. Ruh — Defueling Officer
LT Andrew C. Robertson — Damage Control Assistant
LT Noel A. Pitoniak — Communications Officer
LT Jeffrey A. Dietz — Engineering Assistant
LT Glenn W. Dikeman — Electrical Assistant
LT Robert E. Millott — Chemistry and Radiological Controls
LT Todd R. Gilliam — Reactor Controls Assistant
LT Scott C. Whalen — Main Propulsion Assistant



FTCS(SS) Warren L. Bruner — Chief of the Boat
YNCM(SS) Herman E. Edwards — Personnel Officer
EMCS(SS) Mike A. Schlitz — Engineering Dept. Executive Assistant
HMCS(SS) William N. Stelzig — Medical Dept. Representative



Mess Management Specialist Division



MSCS(SS) Rainer U. Henke
MS2(SS) Mike W. Taylor
MS2(SS) George Correa, Jr.
MS2(SS) Craig D. Hollerway
MS2(SS) Kenneth H. Lux
MS3(SS) Gerald D. Davis

Fire Control (Gun) Division



FTGC(SS) Matthew S. Evans
FTG2(SS) Glenn W. Kemmerer
FTG3(SS) Emerson E. Viles
SN(SS) Nick A. Freitas

**Interior
Communications
Division**



IC1(SS) Alfred B. Gary
IC2(SS) Michael S. Wilcox
IC3(SS) David D. Stewart
IC3(SS) Greg C. Bakolelis
IC3(SS) Jeffrey A. Starkey

**Navigation
Electronics
Division**



ETC(SS) Richard G. Pleiman
ET1(SS) John R. Crotts, Jr.
ET1(SS) Michael E. Burkland
ET2(SS) Wilbert Lewis
ET2(SS) Charles R. Brodie
ET2(SS) Avery E. Hathaway
ET2(SS) Michael V. Ostrom
ET3(SS) Sandy Geathers III

**Quartermaster
Division**



QMC(SS) Joe D. Kostelnik
QM2(SS) Sandy E. Pettus
QM2(SS) Joel Price
QM3(SS) Bishop L. Nettles
QM3(SS) Marcus D. Noble
QM3(SS) Corey E. Jacobs
QM3(SS) John F. Perkins

**Reactor
Laboratory
Division**



MM1(SS) Darren M. Boone
MM1(SS) Kenneth E. Harrawood
MM2(SS) Allen D. Cain
MM2(SS) Paul M. Palmer
MM3(SS) Joseph B. Marston

**Torpedo
Division**



TMC(SS) Wade Johnson
TM3(SS) Lewis H. Bragg
TM3(SS) Aaron A. Lacey
TM3(SS) Brent A. Cullen
SN(SS) Scottie W. Hamby

**Radio
Division**



RMC(SS) Edward F. Meskel
RM1(SS) Jerry T. Jones
RM2(SS) Roger P. Rogonia
RM2(SS) Danny J. Butcher
RM2(SS) Jeffrey A. Weaver
RM3(SS) Paul A. Wenzel

**Auxiliary
Division**



MMCS(SS) John M. Tillotson
MM1(SS) Eric D. Skunza
MM1(SS) Thomas A. Kramer
MM2(SS) Clinton W. Engledow
MM2(SS) Vincent M. Cruz
MM2(SS) Mike W. Foster
MM2(SS) Timothy E. Hughes
MM2(SS) John P. Devos
MM2(SS) Charles R. Stenger
MM3(SS) Thomas M. Fanelli
MM3(SS) Harry H. Kaneakua
MM3(SS) Thomas G. Neville
MM3(SS) David P. Metzger

**Sonar
Division**



STS1(SS) Ricky S. Tidwell
STS1(SS) Dale M. Schmude
STS2(SS) Leanders Lonzo
STS2(SS) Tim A. Frost
STS2(SS) Charles K. Kelly
STS2(SS) William C. Hairston, Jr.
STS2(SS) Robert J. Towner
STS3(SS) Mark J. Toline
STS3(SS) Craig M. Carter
STS3(SS) Kirk S. Davis
STS3(SS) Aaron L. Martin

**Electrical
Division**



EMC(SS) James A. Wingo
EM1(SS) Glen Davies
EM1(SS) Roger R. Somero
EM1(SS) Richard C. Carmine
EM1(SS) John L. Clark
EM1(SS) Robert L. Simmons
EM2(SS) Jason P. Corrales
EM2(SS) Jimmy W. Gourley
EM2(SS) Anthony R. Reynolds
EM2(SS) Thomas J. Scharmann
EM3(SS) James P. Gee
EM3(SS) John L. Collins

**Machinery
Division**



MMCS(SS) Robert E. Guice
MM1(SS) Timothy M. Lewis
MM1(SS) David M. Pennell
MM1(SS) Stephen K. Prophater
MM1(SS) David A. White
MM2(SS) Jonathan R. Wells
MM2(SS) Ruben Govea
MM2(SS) Mitchel A. Mathews
MM2(SS) Robert D. Mehs
MM2(SS) Lannis D. Miller
MM2(SS) John L. Wilson
MM2(SS) Patrick D. Shafer
MM3(SS) Edward D. Olmedo

**Reactor
Controls
Division**



ETC(SS) Kenneth E. Templeton II
ET1(SS) Mark A. Shepherd
ET1(SS) Doyle C. Young
ET2(SS) Edward W. Prater
ET2(SS) John C. Shoufler
ET2(SS) Michael D. Hamilton
ET2(SS) Ralph S. Hughes
ET2(SS) Larry L. Hershey

**Storekeeper
Division**



SK1(SS) Phillip M. Brown
SK3(SS) James P. Turner
SKSN(SS) Donald S. Hamlin

**Yeoman
Division**



YN3(SS) Michael J. Craffey
YN3(SS) Otha L. Livingston

**Strategic
Weapons
Division**

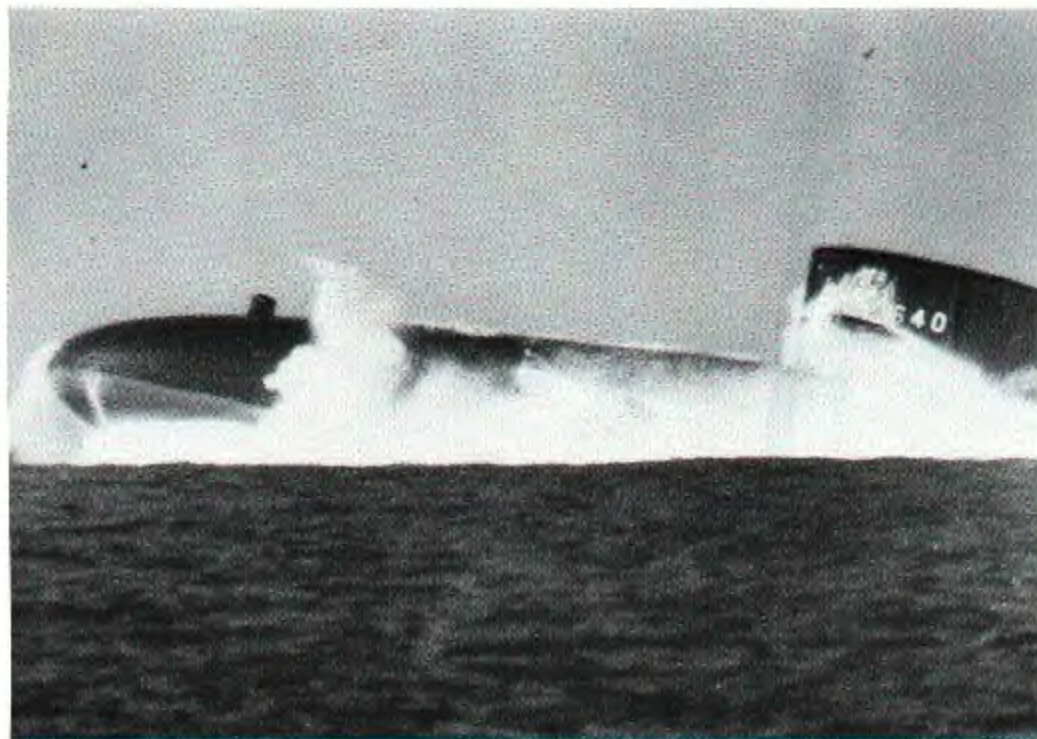


MTC(SS) Kevin J. Kandik
MT1(SS) Gregory J. Brasher
MT1(SS) Woodley E. Frampton
FTB3(SS) Thomas W. Oblinger
FTB3(SS) John W. Belcher
MT3(SS) Kevin L. Aldridge

"Benjamin Franklin would be proud of the fine young men who will sail on this ship. They are our best! They work long, hard hours. They leave their families and friends for months at a time, ready to do whatever is necessary to protect their country and their countrymen — even those who are unwilling to protect themselves. For our part, we have had as our goal a simple purpose — to build a ship worthy of these dedicated men."

— J. William Jones Jr., President Electric Boat, 22 October 1965

VITAL STATISTICS



The first operational test of an "Emergency Ballast Tank Blow" system was made by USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN during sea trials.

Keel Laid	May 25, 1963
Launched	December 5, 1964
Commissioned	October 22, 1965
Poseidon Conversion	May 12, 1972
Trident Conversion	September 25, 1981
Length	425 Feet
Beam	33 Feet
Submerged Displacement	8,200+ Tons
Surfaced Displacement	7,000+ Tons
Submerged Speed	Over 20 Knots
Diving Depth	Over 400 Feet
Built by	General Dynamics, Electric Boat Division