

# USS NORFOLK (SSN 714) CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY



23 JUNE 2000

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, NORFOLK VA



## **CHANGE OF COMMAND THE TRADITION**

The Change of Command Ceremony is a time-honored tradition which formally restates to the members of the command the continuity of command authority. The Change of Command for a naval unit is most unique in the world. It is a transfer, in an instant, of total responsibility, accountability, and authority.

The strength of today's Navy stems in large measure from the observance of such customs and traditions, each founded on need, each contributing to stability, combat effectiveness and the smooth transfer of authority. The Change of Command you witness today is the rich heritage of naval tradition. This simple ceremony passing authority and responsibility from one officer to another reflects the dedication of free men serving their nation proudly.



**CAPTAIN FRANK M. DRENNAN**  
**UNITED STATES NAVY**



Captain Frank M. Drennan, a native of Elberton, Georgia, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1976. After commissioning, he attended nuclear power training at Orlando, Florida and Windsor, Connecticut.

During his career, Captain Drennan served aboard USS JAMES MADISON (SSBN 627) in various division officer jobs, USS BIRMINGHAM (SSN 695) as Engineer Officer, and USS LOUISVILLE (SSN 724) as Executive Officer. His shore tours include positions on the staffs of the Joint Staff C4 Directorate(J6), Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, Submarine Squadron Sixteen, and as an instructor at Naval Submarine School.

Captain Drennan commanded USS PORTSMOUTH (SSN 707) from August 1992 to March 1995. During his tour, PORTSMOUTH completed a highly successful Western Pacific deployment and several groundbreaking tactical development exercises. In 1994, PORTSMOUTH was awarded the Submarine Squadron Three Battle Efficiency "E" for excellence in combat readiness and all-around ship's operations, as well as the Engineering "Red E" and the Supply "Blue E" departmental awards. In 1995, Captain Drennan was selected as the U. S. Pacific Fleet recipient of the James Bond Stockdale Award for Inspirational Leadership.

Captain Drennan is entitled to wear the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (two awards), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal(five awards), and the Navy Achievement Medal. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the U. S. Naval Academy and a Master of Science degree in Engineering Management from The Catholic University of America.





## THE PAST SHIPS

The nuclear powered fast attack submarine USS NORFOLK (SSN 714) is the third naval vessel to be named after the City of Norfolk, Virginia. The first NORFOLK was a brigantine built by the City of Norfolk during hostilities with France in 1798. Captain Thomas Williams was appointed Commanding Officer and reported to NORFOLK ready for sea on 9 September 1798. On October 25, 1798, the NORFOLK and two other vessels sailed from the port of Hampton Roads for the West Indies. Their purpose was to destroy French armed vessels and protect American maritime commerce. The vessel and her crew evaded capture by the French Navy and instead managed to recapture a small American vessel. Shortly thereafter NORFOLK put in at Antigua and continued to sail near St. Kitts. In 1799, NORFOLK escorted several vessels to Philadelphia. After one last patrol on Santo Domingo station in which she captured a small sloop, NORFOLK was ordered to Baltimore where she was decommissioned and sold in November 1800.

The second NORFOLK (DL-1) was a submarine hunter killer ship and was the first major warship built after World War II. Her keel was laid 1 September 1949, launched 29 December 1951 and commissioned 4 March 1953. She was designed to carry the latest radar, sonar, and weapons control systems. As a large destroyer designed on a light cruiser hull, she could carry a greater variety of detection equipment than the true destroyer and was much better suited for operations in all weather conditions. After her Caribbean shakedown cruises, she was assigned to the Atlantic Fleet for Destroyer Flotillas 2, 4, and 6. Between 1961 and 1967, NORFOLK served as the flagship of Commander, South Atlantic Forces during the UNITAS cruises around South American where she performed ASW training exercises with Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. In 1968, NORFOLK was assigned duties as flagship for Commander, Middle East Forces. In October 1968, she returned to Norfolk where she was decommissioned on 15 January 1970.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### *\*ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY*

### *\*THE NATIONAL ANTHEM*

### *\*INVOCATION*

*Lieutenant Commander Ronald D. Craddock, CHC, USN*

### *PRINCIPAL SPEAKER*

*Captain Frank M. Drennan, United States Navy  
Commander Submarine Squadron Six*

### *REMARKS AND READING OF ORDERS*

*Commander Jeffrey L. Gernand  
Commanding Officer, USS NORFOLK (SSN 714)*

### *READING OF ORDERS AND REMARKS*

*Commander James R. Richter, Jr.  
Relieving Commanding Officer, USS NORFOLK (SSN 714)*

### *\*BENEDICTION*

### *\*DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL PARTY*

*RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AT  
Breezy Point Officers Club*

*\*GUESTS PLEASE RISE*



## OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
LCDR D. FRY

ENGINEER  
LCDR S. COUGHLIN

OPERATIONS OFFICER/NAVIGATOR  
LT R. YOUNG

WEAPONS OFFICER  
LT J. GEARHART

SUPPLY OFFICER  
LT S. SCHULTZ

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER  
LT R. HERRELL

PNEO  
LTJG B. KELSEY

DAMAGE CONTROL ASSISTANT  
LTJG K. LANZER

REACTOR CONTROLS ASSISTANT  
LTJG R. KLEIN

ELECTRICAL OFFICER  
LTJG R. SAVERING

CHEMISTRY AND RADIOLOGICAL  
CONTROLS ASSISTANT  
LTJG C. COWDREY

MAIN PROPULSION ASSISTANT  
ENS B. TURNEY



# LEADING PETTY OFFICER

CHIEF OF THE BOAT  
STSCM(SS) R. FRANKLIN

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT ENLISTED ADVISOR  
ETCM(SS) G. AHRENS

NAVIGATION/OPERATION DEPT. ENLISTED ADVISOR  
ETC(SS) T. KOONTZ

ASSISTANT NAVIGATOR  
ET1(SS) R. LOGAN

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION  
YN1(SS) M. CORNWELL

3M COORDINATOR  
MMCS(SS) T. JACOBS

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE  
HMC(SS) W. WALSH

OPERATIONS (COMMUNICATIONS) DIVISION  
ET1(SS) J. ALMAGUER

NAVIGATION (ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN) DIVISION  
ETC(SS) M. MORRONE

FOOD SERVICE DIVISION  
MSC(SS) P. CHANDLER

STOREKEEPER DIVISION  
SK1(SS) V. BIBY

REACTOR CONTROLS DIVISION  
ETC(SS) A. MCCUTCHEN

AUXILIARY DIVISION  
MMC(SS) C. MCGILVRAY

ELECTRICAL DIVISION  
EMC(SS) D. CHURCHMAN

MACHINERY DIVISION  
MMC(SS) T. KIEVIT

FIRE CONTROL DIVISION  
FTC(SS) G. GROSE

TORPEDO DIVISION  
MMCS(SS) K. SAUNDERS

REACTOR LABORATORY DIVISION  
MM1(SS) D. HURD

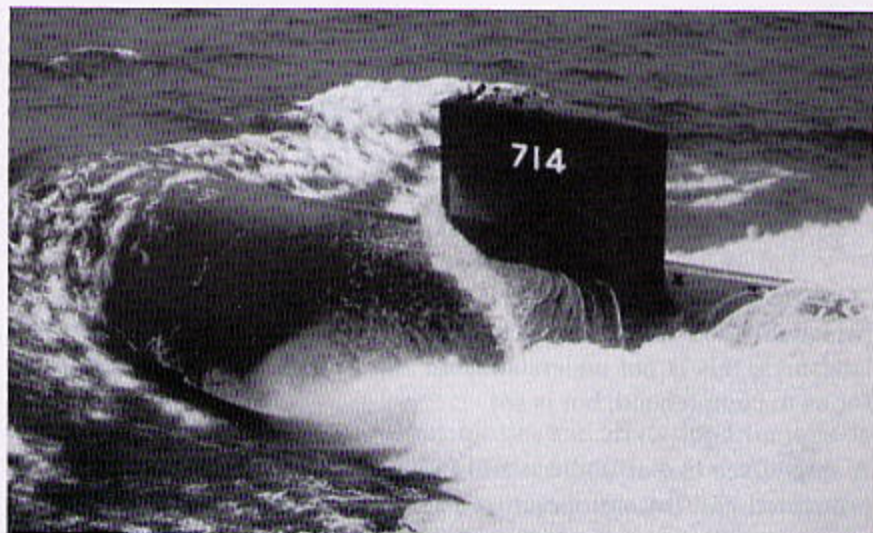
SONAR DIVISION  
STSC(SS) L. BUTTERFUSS



### **Official Emblem**

One of the many tradition associated with men of war throughout time has been the use of a unique emblem to identify the ship. During the initial phases of new construction, the NORFOLK held a competition to select the official emblem. Over 90 entries were submitted by ship's company and the young men and women of the Norfolk city school system. In August of 1982, the official emblem was selected and approved. The winning entry was submitted by John Pollock, a senior at Maury High School in Norfolk and was unveiled at a ceremony during the City of Norfolk's Tricentennial Celebration.

**"VI PER CONCORDIAM"**  
**"STRENGTH THROUGH UNITY"**



The USS NORFOLK (SSN 714) is the United States Navy's 133rd nuclear powered submarine and the 89th of the attack submarine fleet. She is the 24th of the Los Angeles nuclear powered fast attack submarine class to be delivered to the Navy.

NORFOLK began her waterborne career on 31 October 1981 when she was launched at Newport News, Virginia. NORFOLK was christened by Mrs. Jane Dalton Weinberger, the wife of Caspar W. Weinberger, the Secretary of Defense. NORFOLK was commissioned on 21 May 1983 by the Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger in her namesake homeport of Norfolk.

NORFOLK brings to the fleet virtually unlimited endurance in her nuclear propulsion plant, the most advanced sonar and fire control systems on board submarines today and an impressive underwater weapons launch system capable of firing MK-48 ADCAP torpedoes and Tomahawk cruise missiles.

The NORFOLK is capable of sustained high-speed operations in direct support of the carrier task forces of the United States Navy as well as independent operations of critical importance to national security.

NORFOLK'S crew of 15 officers and 127 enlisted men have received extensive training and experience in the complex ship control systems and employment of the sophisticated sensors and weapons systems onboard.



## **THE PRESTIGE, PRIVILEGE AND THE BURDEN OF COMMAND**

"Only a seaman realizes 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 sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend, but is so!

A ship at sea is a different world in herself and in consideration of the protracted and instant operations of the fleet, units of 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 hours of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who alone 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 instant 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 seafaring world...CAPTAIN."

- by Joseph Conrad



Command at sea, with all its responsibilities and all its opportunities, is the goal of every line officer in the United States Navy aspiring to professional distinction. In time of peace, some officers wait and prepare for many years before command comes; in time of war, some find themselves thrust into command almost before they feel equal to its burden. To all, the experience of command is unforgettable - an important chapter in their lives, shared with the past and future generations of ship commanders in the unbroken continuity of the naval service.

### **Commanding Officers of USS NORFOLK (SSN 714)**

CAPT Kenneth R. Karr	21 May 83	25 Jun 83
CDR Joseph J. Krol	25 Jun 83	13 Sep 85
CDR Alfred E. Ponessa	13 Sep 85	20 Aug 88
CDR John K. Harrup	20 Aug 88	19 Jan 89
CDR William Helfen	19 Jan 89	11 Feb 89
CDR Ralph H. Stoll	11 Feb 89	23 Jun 90
CDR Donald W. Randall	23 Jun 90	14 Nov 92
CDR William C. Ostendorff	14 Nov 92	17 Nov 95
CDR George M. Koucheravy	17 Nov 95	3 Apr 98
CDR Jeffrey L. Gernand	3 Apr 98	23 Jun 00

## **The Submariners Prayer**

Almighty, everlasting God, the protector of all those who put their trust in thee: hear our prayers on behalf of thy servants who sail their vessels beneath the seas. We beseech thee to keep in thy sustaining care all who are in submarines, that they may be delivered from the hidden dangers of the deep. Grant them courage, and a devotion to fulfill their duties, that they may better serve thee and their native land. Though acquainted with the depths of the ocean, deliver them from the depths of despair and the dark hours of the absence of friendliness and a good ship's spirit. Bless all their kindred and loved ones from whom they are separated. When they surface their ships, may they praise thee for thou art there as well as in the deep. Fill them with thy spirit and that they may be sure in their reckoning, unwavering in duty, high in purpose, and upholding the honor of their nation, Amen.





"THE SILENT SERVICE"

