



**CHANGE
OF
COMMAND**



COMMAND AT SEA

"Only a Seaman realizes to what great 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 it is so!

A ship at sea is a different world in herself and, in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of the fleet units, 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 hour 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 obligations, are almost ludicrously small; nevertheless, Command is the spur which has given the Navy its great leaders.

It is the duty which most richly deserves the highest, time-honored title of the seafaring world...CAPTAIN."

CHANGE OF COMMAND ABOARD A NAVY SHIP

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition, solemn and colorful, which formally restates to subordinate commanders and ship's company the continuity of the authority of command. The ceremony is an event conducted by, and in the main interest of, the two officers involved and represents the final act in command of the officer being relieved. The change of command aboard a naval ship is nearly unique in the world today: it is a total transfer of responsibility, authority and accountability from one individual to another.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY

NATIONAL ANTHEM

**REMARKS AND READING OF ORDERS
COMMANDER JOHN F. HOWARD, USN**

**READING OF ORDERS
COMMANDER PAUL K. KESSLER, JR., USN**

RELIEVING OF COMMAND

**PRESENTATION
OF COMMISSION PENNANT
ENCM R.R. ROADES, USN**



**Commander
JOHN F. HOWARD
United States Navy**

Commander Howard graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois and was commissioned through the NROTC program in 1970. He served his first tour of duty as ASW Officer and Navigator and subsequently as Operations Officer in USS JOSEPH K. TAUSSIG (DE 1030). Following a tour as a student at the Naval Destroyer School, he was assigned as Operations Officer in USS BUCHANNAN (DDG 14). Commander Howard's next tour was Aide and Flag Lieutenant to the Commander, Military Sealift Command in Washington DC. He returned to sea duty serving as First Lieutenant in USS FORT SNELLING (LSD 30). This was followed by a tour as a Department Head Course instructor at the Surface Warfare Officer Schools Command at which time he also earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Bryant College. Returning to sea duty, Commander Howard's next assignment was as Executive Officer in USS NEWPORT (LST 1179). His next tour was on the staff of the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic. Returning to Washington DC Commander Howard's next tour was as the Enlisted Community Manager for the Surface Combat Systems ratings on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. Commander Howard assumed command of USS SAGINAW (LST 1188) on 14 December 1988.

Commander Howard is married to the former Nancy Nilson of Wilmette, Illinois. They reside in Virginia Beach, Virginia and have one son, James.

**Commander
PAUL K. KESSLER, JR.
United States Navy**



Commander Kessler was born in Manchester, Maryland on 24 January 1945. After graduating from high school in Bel Air, Maryland, he enlisted in the United States Navy on 24 January 1964. Upon completion of a tour of duty on board USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) in November 1966, and a tour of duty in Washington DC in May 1968, Commander Kessler was accepted into the Navy Enlisted Scientific Education Program at North Carolina State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering.

Commander Kessler attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island and was subsequently commissioned Ensign in the United States Navy in May 1972. In August, he reported to USS CORRY (DD-817) for duty as the Electronic Material Officer. In October 1973, he reported on board USS FARRAGUT (DDG-37) for duty as the Communications Officer.

After completing the Department Head curriculum at the U.S. Naval Destroyer School in October 1976, Commander Kessler was ordered for duty on board USS FORREST SHERMAN (DD-931) as the Weapons Officer. In July 1978, he reported on board USS SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32) for duty as the Operations Officer and later First Lieutenant. Following this assignment in September 1980, he reported to Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet for duty as the Cruiser-Destroyer Scheduling Officer. Completing this assignment in March 1982, Commander Kessler commanded the USS INFLICT (MSO-456) until September 1984. Following his command tour on board USS INFLICT, he completed a tour of duty as the Executive Officer on board USS SUMTER (LST-1181). In May 1986 he reported for duty on board Commander, Amphibious Group TWO staff, and in April 1988, Commander Kessler assumed command of Beachmaster Unit TWO.

Commander Kessler's awards include the Navy Commendation Medal (w/gold star), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal (three campaigns), Marksman Pistol Ribbon, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign award.

Commander Kessler is married to the former Elizabeth Kahl of Bel Air, Maryland. They have three children, Sonia Lynn, Tracy Arlene and Adrian Wade, and reside in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

SHIP'S

USS SAGINAW (LST 1188) is one of the 1179 Class Tank Landing Ships designed to replace post World War II LST's. SAGINAW was launched on the 7th of February 1970 and commissioned on the 23rd of January, 1971 at Long Beach, California. After the completion of shakedown training, SAGINAW entered the Atlantic Fleet on 18 August, 1971 as a unit of COMPHIBLANT.

Named after the county seat of SAGINAW County, Michigan, she is the second U.S. Naval Ship to bear the name. The first SAGINAW was a 153 ton side-wheel steamer that saw service in the latter 19th century.

Since commissioning SAGINAW has been involved in routine amphibious operations and deployments, including repeat service as part of the U.S. SIXTH Fleet as a unit of Task Force SIXTY ONE, and various Caribbean deployments. Missions of particular interest in SAGINAW'S history include her assignment to the Apollo 17 Moon Mission in 1972 and contingency evacuation operations off the coast of Cyprus in 1974. In the fall of 1977 SAGINAW escorted the damaged submarine USS RAY back to CONUS after participation in Exercise Display Determination, a major NATO Amphibious Exercise in the Mediterranean. After a brief turn-around period, SAGINAW deployed again to the Mediterranean, returning to the United States in August 1978.

In January of 1979 SAGINAW deployed to the Caribbean for operations with the Amphibious Squadron FOUR. In June of the same year she participated in the inter-fleet transfer of USS PEGASUS (PHM-1); escorting USS PEGASUS from Rodman, Canal Zone to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. SAGINAW deployed to the U.S. SIXTH Fleet in September, 1979 with Amphibious Squadron FOUR and returned to the United States in February 1980.

In May, 1980, SAGINAW participated in Solid Shield. On her way home she was diverted to the Florida Straits to take part in Cuban Refugee Operations, rescuing some 300 people. Also in 1980 SAGINAW participated in READEX 2-80 and NATO exercise Teamwork 80.

On May 24, 1982, the SAGINAW set sail for a five and one half month Mediterranean deployment as a member of MARG 2-82. What was to be a routine MED cruise turned into a high tempo deployment with Lebanese contingency operations.

On 24 June 800 civilians were evacuated from Juniyah, Lebanon by MARG 2-82 ships. On 28 August and 29 September, SAGINAW entered Beirut harbor to provide vehicles and personnel for the Multi-National Force. For her participation in Lebanese operations SAGINAW received three awards: the Navy Unit Commendation, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

In early 1983 SAGINAW participated in Cold Winter 83. The latter part

HISTORY

of 1983 found SAGINAW busy preparing for her first Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) as well as participation in READEX 2-83. In February 1984, SAGINAW departed Little Creek for a seven month deployment with MARG 2-84 and Teamwork 84. These exercises began with a 30 plus ship ocean transit and ended with a mock-up reinforcement of NATO forces in Norway. On 1 April, 1984, SAGINAW arrived in the Mediterranean and found herself again involved in operations off the Lebanese coast. The remaining four months of the cruise were spent providing security for the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

1985 proved to be a busy year for SAGINAW. Prior to a June deployment, SAGINAW underwent an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination, Amphibious Refresher Training, and participated in Operation Solid Shield 85. On 14 June, SAGINAW commenced the 6 month UNITAS XXVI/WATC 85 deployment, making portcalls throughout South America and West Africa. SAGINAW arrived home in December, and commenced a much needed Drydocking and Phased Maintenance Availability in January.

During September 1986, the ship underwent a highly successful INSURV. October saw the ship undergo Intermediate Refresher Training in GTMO where an OPPE certification was achieved. After GTMO, SAGINAW completed a successful Amphibious Refresher Training. It was during AMPHIBREFTRA that she received the highest grades by an LST ever recorded.

In late spring of 1987 SAGINAW again deployed to the 6th and 7th fleets with MARG 3-87. Steaming in both the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean, SAGINAW participated in amphibious exercise EASTERN WIND 87 and BRIGHT STAR 87. Ports visited included Mombasa, Kenya; Alexandria, Egypt; and Naples, Italy.

In 1988 SAGINAW participated in TEAMWORK 88 with NATO forces. Following the exercise SAGINAW conducted a port visit in Rone, Denmark on the island of Bornholm. SAGINAW was the first U.S. Naval ship to visit Bornholm in 26 years.

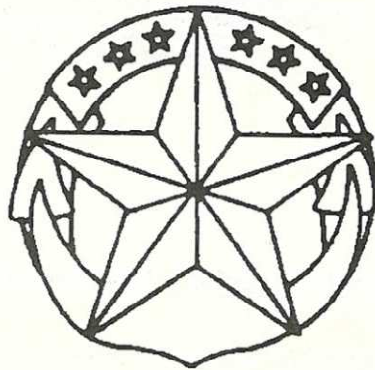
SAGINAW finished 1988 at Jonathan Shipyards in a phased Maintenance Availability. Following PMA, SAGINAW began an extensive work-up schedule to prepare for her fall Mediterranean deployment as part of MARG 1-90. The deployment included many Joint Amphibious Exercises. SAGINAW participated in exercises with troops from the countries of Spain, Tunisia, France and Egypt.

SAGINAW's latest accomplishments are a successful completion of Supply Management Inspection, Operational Propulsion Plant Examination and INSURV Inspection. USS SAGINAW continues to live by her motto "WE SHALL DELIVER."



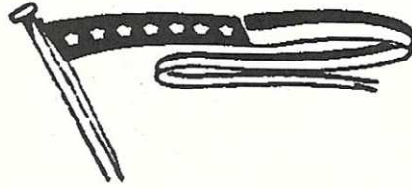
DESCRIPTION OF CREST

The SAGINAW crest embodies the predominant characteristics of her mission and her heritage. The shield design is the heraldic symbol of defense. The upper left section contains the globe, symbolizing the worldwide strategic range of the modern amphibious navy. The upper right segment displays the outline of the state of Michigan with the ship in the silhouette and a star for the city of Saginaw, the name the ship so proudly bears. The crossed rifle and swords is symbolic of the Navy-Marine Corps teamwork inherent in amphibious operations. The ship's motto, "We Shall Deliver," is indicative of the will of the ship and her crew to perform their mission in the highest traditions of the Navy.



PREVIOUS COMMANDING OFFICERS

COMMANDER T. E. BUGARIN, JR., USN	1986-1988
COMMANDER P. M. FAGAN, USN	1984-1986
COMMANDER K. H. JOHNSON, USN	1982-1984
COMMANDER T. P. MCGUIRE, USN	1980-1982
COMMANDER R. M. BRIERLEY, USN	1978-1980
COMMANDER R. A. HARRIS, USN	1976-1978
COMMANDER C. A. MCLAUGHLIN, USN	1974-1976
COMMANDER D. W. MOORE, USN	1972-1974
COMMANDER G. P. BROWN, USN	1971-1972



COMMISSION PENNANT

The origin of the commission pennant is said to date back to the 17th century, when the Dutch were fighting the English. Admiral Tromp hoisted a broom at his masthead to indicate his intention to sweep the English from the sea. The gesture was soon answered by the English admiral who hoisted a horsewhip to indicate his intention to chastise the Dutch. The British carried out their boast and ever since; the narrow or coachwhip pennant (symbolizing the original horsewhip) has been the distinctive mark of a vessel of war and has been adopted by all nations.

The commission pennant, as it is called today, is blue at the hoist, with a union of seven white stars; it is red and white at the fly, in two horizontal stripes. The number of stars has no special significance but was arbitrarily selected as providing the most suitable display. The pennant is flown at the main by vessels not carrying flag officers. In lieu of the commission pennant, a vessel with an admiral or other officer in command of a division, squadron, etc., or a high ranking civil official aboard, flies the personal flag or command pennant of that person.

