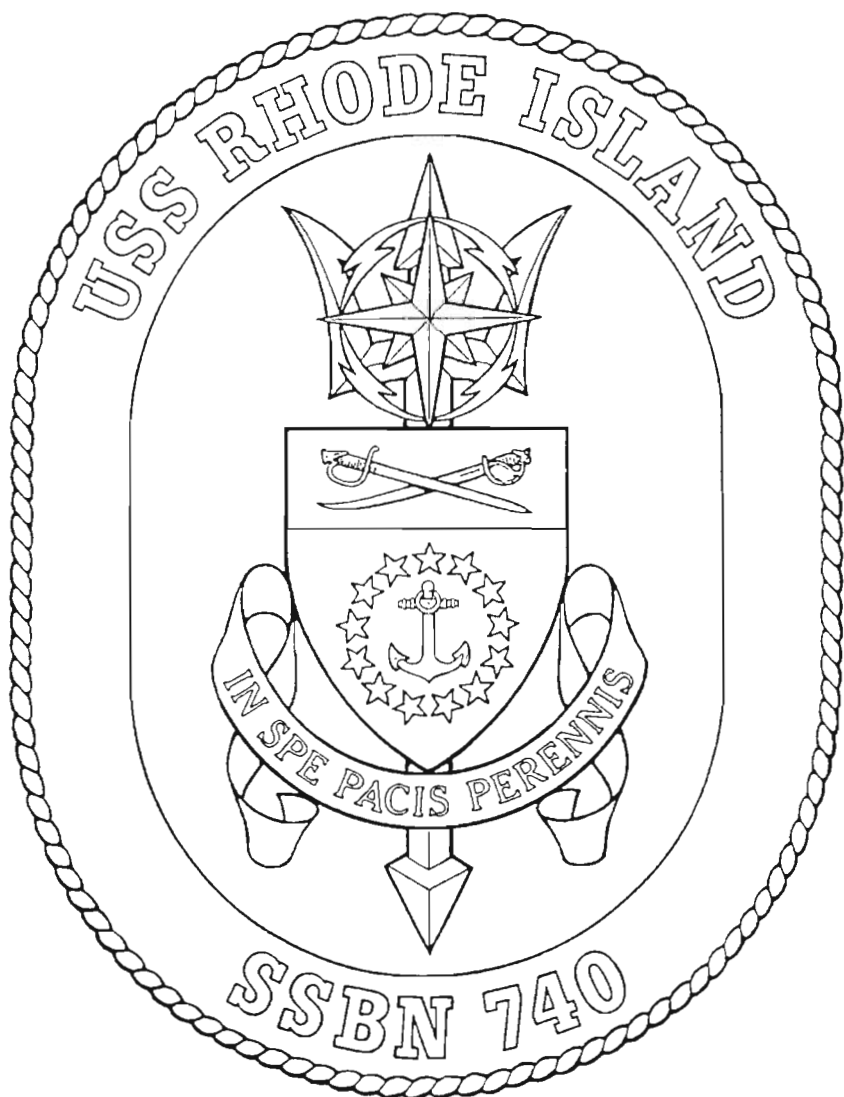
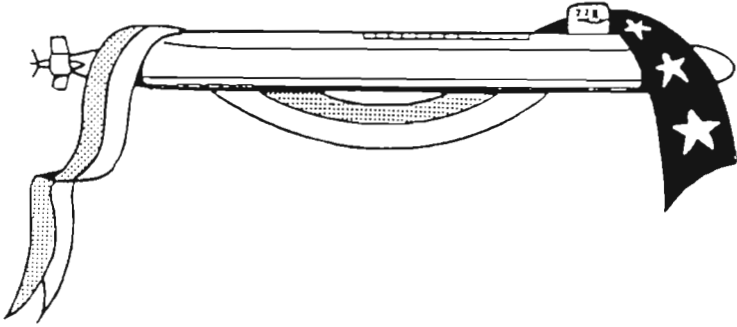


U.S.S. RHODE ISLAND
SSBN 740



Welcome Aboard!



Welcome Aboard!

On behalf of the officers and crew of USS RHODE ISLAND (SSBN 740), we wish to extend a warm welcome to our guests aboard one of America's largest and most sophisticated submarines. We are indeed proud of our ship and want your time with us to be enjoyable.

We invite you to ask questions! You will find the entire crew is ready, willing, and able to explain the details of their operational responsibilities and the routine of submarine life. These men are highly trained and capable of fielding a wide variety of questions. They routinely match their collective skills against the power of the sea and I believe you will be as impressed by them as you will be by RHODE ISLAND herself.

We hope your stay aboard RHODE ISLAND will be a thorough introduction to the best of our nation's "Silent Service".

J. K. ELDRIDGE
Captain, USN
Gold Crew



CHARACTERISTICS

LENGTH:	560 FEET
HULL DIAMETER:	42 FEET
DRAFT:	36 FEET
DISPLACEMENT (SUBMERGED):	18,750 TONS
MISSILE TUBES:	24
TORPEDO TUBES:	4
COMPLEMENT	
OFFICERS:	15
ENLISTED:	150
TOTAL:	165

The RHODE ISLAND is the 15th Trident submarine built and the seventh of the class to be fitted with the Trident II D-5 missile. She is homeported at Kings Bay, GA. With her long-range missiles, advanced sonar, and fire control systems the RHODE ISLAND is the most modern and survivable strategic deterrent in the entire world.

USS RHODE ISLAND has been developed based on extensive considerations of all aspects of survivability and capability required in a sea-based deterrent system and is designed for operations through the next century.

USS RHODE ISLAND incorporates new and quieter machinery that cannot be installed in other fleet ballistic missile submarines because of space and weight constraints.

She has an advanced sonar system comparable to that developed for the United States Navy's newest attack submarines, capable of providing long-range detection and more effective tracking.

Key features of USS RHODE ISLAND include: improved maintainability, reliability, and availability resulting from modular replacement concepts for major equipment, improved design, and incorporation of integrated logistics support.

USS RHODE ISLAND has additional growth potential to accommodate future technology as it becomes available, both in ship systems and in larger missiles.

COAT OF ARMS
USS RHODE ISLAND (SSBN 740)
BLAZON

SHIELD: *Argent, an anchor proper within a circle of thirteen mullets or fimbriated azure; on a chief of the like a U.S. Navy sword and cutlass saltirewise points down proper.*

MOTTO: *A scroll azure doubled gules inscribed "IN SPE PACIS PERENNIS" (IN HOPE OF PERMANENT PEACE) argent.*

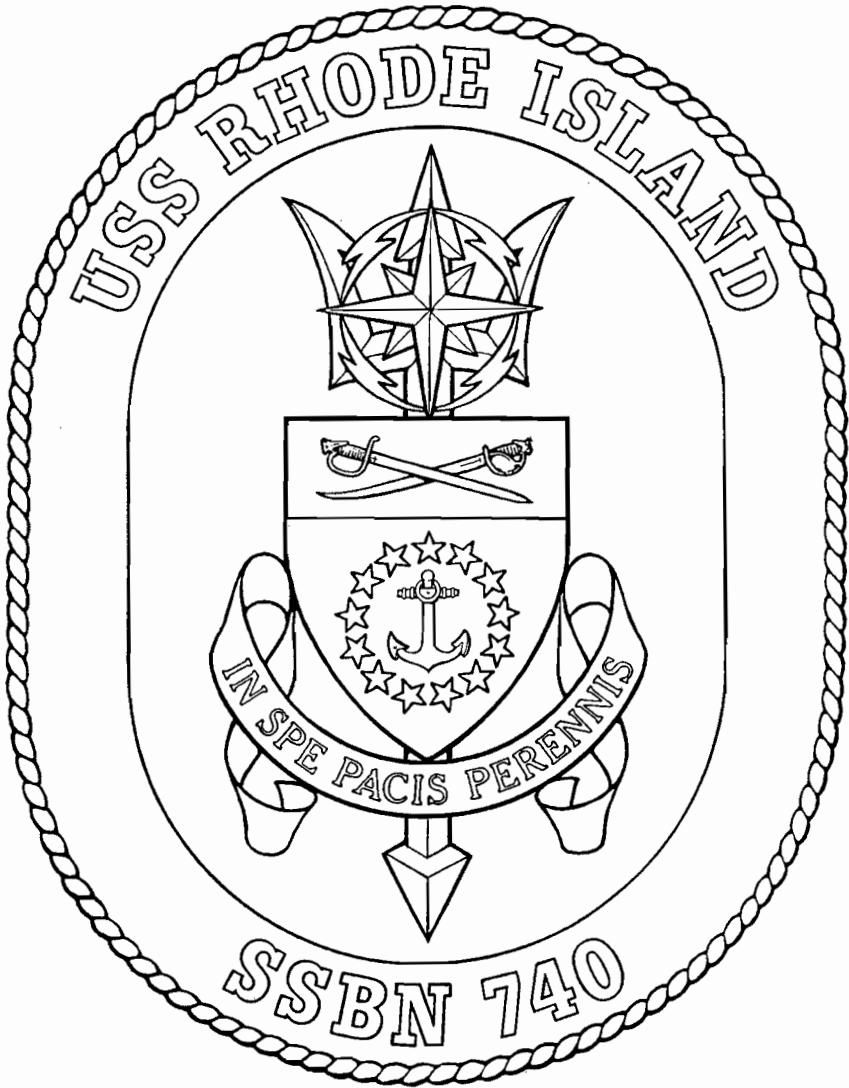
SUPPORTER: *All superimposed upon a trident or bearing upon its tines a compass rose azure with, between its points, four arced lighting flashes gules.*

SEAL: *The coat of arms emblazoned upon a white oval enclosed by a blue collar edged on the outside with a gold rope and inscribed "USS RHODE ISLAND" above and "SSBN 740" below in gold.*

SYMBOLISM

SHIELD: *Dark blue and gold are the colors traditionally associated with the U.S. Navy and symbolize the sea and excellence. Red is emblematic of valor and action. The anchor and circle of thirteen stars are adapted from the Rhode Island state flag highlighting the maritime heritage of the state for which the submarine is named. The two sections of the shield allude to the previous USS RHODE ISLANDS. Dark blue, the Union color during the Civil War, honors the first USS RHODE ISLAND and the white refers to the second ship of that name which was part of the "Great White Fleet" in 1907. The crossed sword and cutlass symbolize strength, cooperation and teamwork between the officers and crew.*

SUPPORTER: *The trident symbolizes Naval weaponry, both past and present, and sea prowess. Its bottom spike points to the ocean depths, USS RHODE ISLAND's area of operation. The compass rose highlights the four major directions and represents navigation and world wide capabilities. The lighting flashes underscore quick response and electronic capabilities while their circular configuration alludes to the globe and the scope of the U.S. Navy's mission.*



HISTORY OF SHIPS NAMED RHODE ISLAND

The submarine USS RHODE ISLAND (SSBN 740) is the third U.S. Naval vessel to be named in honor of the Ocean State, and the fifteenth Trident submarine commissioned.

The first RHODE ISLAND, a wooden, side-wheel steamer, was built at New York, N.Y. in 1860 as the JOHN P. KING; burned, rebuilt and renamed EAGLE in 1861 before being purchased by the Navy on 27 June 1861, renamed RHODE ISLAND and commissioned at New York Navy Yard 29 July 1861, CDR Stephen D. Trenchard in command.

During the Civil War USS RHODE ISLAND was employed as a supply ship, visiting various ports and ships with mail, paymasters, medicine and other supplies. USS RHODE ISLAND gained admirable respect while assigned in direct support of Gulf Blockading Squadrons and captured a total of five British and Confederate blockade running ships.

On 29 December 1862 USS RHODE ISLAND departed Hampton Roads with the famous ironclad USS MONITOR in tow and the USS PASSAIC in company. As the ships rounded Cape Hatteras on the evening of 30 December, they encountered a heavy storm which caused heavy flooding onboard USS MONITOR. Before the MONITOR's crew could be evacuated to USS RHODE ISLAND, the ironclad sank killing sixteen crewmembers. USS RHODE ISLAND endeavored to remain on station throughout the night to fix the MONITOR's location and await daylight to search for survivors.

USS RHODE ISLAND entered Boston Navy Yard in March 1864 for overhaul and was decommissioned on 21 April. Extensive alterations were made, transforming RHODE ISLAND into an auxiliary cruiser. RHODE ISLAND was recommissioned 3 October 1864 and joined the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

Employed in cruising along Confederate controlled coasts, USS RHODE ISLAND's duty was highlighted by the capture of the British blockade runner VIXEN on 1 December 1864, and taking part in attacks on Fort Fisher, the first assault on 24 December and the second, successful attempt of 13-15 January 1865.

USS RHODE ISLAND was decommissioned 1 October 1867 and remained in service as a merchant steamer until abandoned in 1885.

The second RHODE ISLAND (BB 17) was launched 17 May 1904 by Fore River Shipbuilding Co., Quincy, Mass.; sponsored by Mrs. F. C. Dumaine; and commissioned 19 February 1906, CAPT Perry Garst in command.

The battleship was assigned to the Atlantic Fleet and in May 1906 made her first cruise under the command of CAPT C. G. Bowman. In 1907 she was one of the 16 battleships comprising the "Great White Fleet" that made a world cruise which ended two years later. During this cruise, USS RHODE ISLAND was commanded by CAPT Joseph B. Murdock.

USS RHODE ISLAND, serving as the flagship numerous times throughout the period, was attached to the Atlantic Fleet from 1912 until after the outbreak of war in Europe in 1914.

Shortly after the United States entered World War I, USS RHODE ISLAND was assigned antisubmarine patrol duty off Tangier Island, Maryland and remained off the U.S. Eastern seaboard. Remaining ready for overseas deployment, she undertook special torpedo proving trials during June 1918.

Upon the war's end in November 1918, USS RHODE ISLAND was ordered to assist returning U.S. troops from France. Fitted out with hundreds of extra bunks, the battleship made five roundtrip voyages across the Atlantic between 18 December 1918 and 4 July 1919. In all she transported over 5,000 men from France to the United States.

USS RHODE ISLAND was designated flagship of Battleship Squadron ONE, Pacific Fleet in July 1919 at Mare Island Navy Yard and remained there until she was decommissioned and placed in reserve on 30 June 1920. Rendered incapable of any further warlike service on 4 October 1923 and in accordance with the Washington Treaty limiting Naval armaments, RHODE ISLAND was sold 1 November 1923 for scraping.

OHIO CLASS SUBMARINES

OHIO class (TRIDENT) submarines are the largest and most powerful submarines ever built in the free world. At 560 feet in length and displacing 18,750 tons, they are the nation's first line of strategic defense. They are well equipped to accomplish this task. The TRIDENTs serve as undersea intercontinental ballistic missile launching platforms that are virtually undetectable. Their improved mobility, quietness, and speed make them the most survivable of our nation's strategic systems.

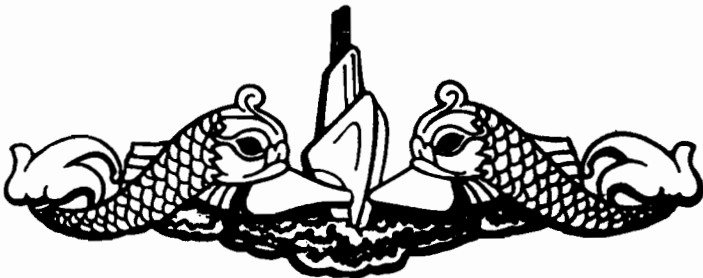
Faster than their predecessors and equipped with highly accurate sensors, weapons control systems, and central computer complexes, TRIDENT submarines are armed with sophisticated MK48 anti-submarine torpedos and TRIDENT I or TRIDENT II missiles, enabling them to operate in 10 times more open ocean area than vessels equipped with Polaris/Poseidon missiles. Each vessel has two separate crews (BLUE/GOLD) of 165 officers and enlisted men — all specialists in their respective fields. The NAVY now has the following OHIO class submarines:

USS OHIO (SSBN 726)
USS MICHIGAN (SSBN 727)
USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728)
USS GEORGIA (SSBN 729)
USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730)
USS ALABAMA (SSBN 731)
USS ALASKA (SSBN 732)
USS NEVADA (SSBN 733)
USS TENNESSEE (SSBN 734)
USS PENNSYLVANIA (SSBN 735)
USS WEST VIRGINIA (SSBN 736)
USS KENTUCKY (SSBN 737)
USS MARYLAND (SSBN 738)
USS NEBRASKA (SSBN 739)
USS RHODE ISLAND (SSBN 740)
PCU MAINE (SSBN 741)
PCU WYOMING (SSBN 742)
PCU LOUISIANA (SSBN 743)

TRIDENT MISSION

Deterrence of war has been the sole mission and fundamental reason for the existence of the fleet ballistic missile submarine since its inception in 1960. This is among the Navy's highest priority programs and is the cornerstone of the national security policy functioning as a survivable and dependable leg of the deterrent Triad.

With almost unlimited cruising range and with endurance limited only by the crew, the Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine is capable of extended submerged operations in the international waters of the world, which comprise 70 percent of the earth's surface. Because the submarine is nuclear-powered it is free of the need to surface or extend a snorkel above the surface for continuous operation. Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines remain hidden by the ocean, their locations unknown to any potential enemy. The Trident II D-5 missile, powered by solid propellant, is ready to launch within minutes of receiving the command from the President of the United States. The Fleet Ballistic Missile system provides the United States with a powerful deterrent to those who might start a global war.



“THE SUBMARINER”

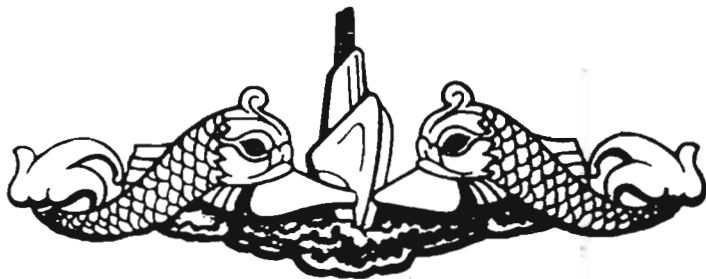
Only a Submariner realizes to what extent an entire ship depends on him as an individual. To a landsman this is not understandable and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend, but it is so!

A submarine at sea is a different world in herself, and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of submarines, the Navy must place responsibility and trust in the hands of those who take such ships to sea.

In each submarine there are men who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to each other. These men are ultimately responsible to themselves and to each other for all aspects of operations of their submarine. They are the crew. They are the ship.

This is perhaps the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during a submarine tour that he can escape the grasp of responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small, nevertheless, it is the spur which has given the Navy its greatest mariners — the men of the Submarine Service.

It is the duty which most richly deserves the proud and time-honored title — “SUBMARINER”.





J. K. ELDRIDGE

**CAPTAIN
U.S. NAVY**

CAPTAIN JOHN KARSON ELDRIDGE, USN

Captain Eldridge entered the U.S. Naval Academy from Clearwater, Florida and graduated in June 1971. He attended Nuclear Power School at Bainbridge, Maryland and completed qualification on the DIG Prototype Plant at Nuclear Power Training Unit (NTPU) Ballston Spa, New York. After Submarine Officers Basic Course in New London, Connecticut, he served on board USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN 663) home ported in Norfolk, Virginia from February 1973 to September 1975. While assigned, he participated in one Mediterranean and two Atlantic deployments.

In October 1975, he reported as leading Engineering Officer of the Watch during new construction of the MARF Prototype Plant at NTPU Ballston Spa, New York. Following Submarine Officers Advanced Course, Captain Eldridge was assigned as Engineer Officer of USS WILL RODGERS (SSBN 659) (GOLD). He participated in six Poseidon strategic deterrent patrols. He subsequently served on the Staff of Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet from October 1981 to October 1983. In February 1984, he reported as Executive Officer, USS JAMES MONROE (SSBN 622) (BLUE). He completed five Poseidon strategic deterrent patrols.

Captain Eldridge was assigned as Commanding Officer, USS LOS ANGELES (SSN 688) from December 1987 to May 1990. As Commanding Officer he completed one western Pacific and three northern Pacific deployments. Following the course of instruction at the National War College in June 1991 he reported to the Joint Staff as Chief Nuclear Plans and Programs Section (J-36). In October 1993 Captain Eldridge reported as Prospective Commanding Officer of USS Rhode Island (SSBN 740) (GOLD).

Captain Eldridge is married to Diana Martin of Aberdeen, Maryland. They have one son, Schuyler.