



USS Montpelier (SSN 765)

Commander Naval Submarine Forces
Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet

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Commander Mark E. Davis

Commander Mark E. Davis, originally from upstate New York, graduated Maple Hill High School in Castleton in 1978. After completing a four-year enlisted tour as a

Navy Seabee, he received his commission through the NROTC program, graduating as the outstanding student in his department from San Diego University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

After completing the training pipeline, he reported to USS GEORGE BANCROFT (SSBN 643) (GOLD), homeported in Charleston, South Carolina. During his 42-month tour, he served as Main Propulsion Assistant, Reactor Controls Assistant, and Communications Officer. Following this tour, he received a fellowship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, graduating in 1992 with a Master of Science degree in Ocean Engineering.

In June 1993, he reported aboard USS ASPRO (SSN 648) and served 18 months as Navigator, completing a WESTPAC deployment. He then reported aboard USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (GOLD), homeported in Bangor, Washington, as the Engineer, where he served for 28 months. He then served as the Propulsion Plant Executive Assistant at NPTU Charleston, South Carolina from April 1997 through February 1999.

In May 1999, he was assigned as the Executive officer of USS SCRANTON (SSN 756), homeported in Norfolk, Virginia, completing a CENTCOM/Mediterranean deployment during a 22-month tour. In April 2001, he reported to the Commander Naval Submarine Forces staff as the Force Nuclear Power Officer, serving in the capacity for 22 months.

Commander Davis is authorized to wear the Meritorious Service Medal with two stars, the Navy Commendation medal with four stars, and the Navy Achievement Medal with two stars.

Fortune Favors the Bold

The year was 1917, and President Woodrow Wilson had just declared war against Germany. More than 100 German vessels were operating in U.S. waters at the time, and were irerequisitioned by the United States. A steamer named BOCHUM was pressed into service and renamed Montpelier.

After wartime service as a Navy-operated Army transport ship, Montpelier was turned over to the Shipping Board in 1919. It was renamed NEVADAN and continued in merchant service until 1950.

The second Montpelier (CL-57), a Cleveland-class cruiser, was built by New York Shipbuilding Corporation of Camden, NJ, and commissioned in 1942. The cruiser was decommissioned in 1947, and struck from the Naval Register in 1959. Montpelier is a well-known ship, having fought the enemy to their very homeland, earning 13 battle stars in the process.

To this day, former crew members refer to this ship as The Mighty Monty.

Facts and Figures

- **Builders:** Newport News Shipbuilding Co.; General Dynamics Electric Boat Division
- **Powerplant:** One nuclear reactor, one shaft
- **Length:** 360 feet (109.73 meters)
- **Beam:** 33 feet (10.06 meters)
- **Displacement:** Approx. 6,900 tons (7010.73 metric tons) submerged
- **Speed:** 20+ knots (23+ miles per hour; 36.8+ KPH)
- **Crew:** 13 officers, 121 enlisted
- **Armament:** Tomahawk cruise missiles, VLS tubes (719 and later), MK48 torpedoes, four torpedo tubes