



USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (SSN 708)

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

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CDR David S. Ratte Commanding Officer



A native of Stillwater, MN, Commander Ratte graduated with merit from the United States Naval Academy in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Engineering.

Following temporary duty at David Taylor Naval Ship Research and Development

Center, Carderock, MD, he entered the nuclear power training pipeline, graduated from the Submarine Officer Basic Course in February 1986, and reported to the Gold Crew of USS FLORIDA (SSN 723). During this tour, he served as Chemistry and Radiological Controls Assistant, Sonar Officer, Damage Control Assistant, and Tactical Systems Officer, completing six strategic deterrent patrols. While attached to the FLORIDA, his ship earned Commander Submarine Squadron Seventeen's Battle "E" award for 1987 and 1988. From July 1989 until August 1991, Commander Ratte was assigned as a Company Officer at the United States Naval Academy. While on this tour he earned a Masters of Science degree in Information Management from The George Washington University.

In April 1992, he reported to his department head tour on the USS ALBANY (SSN 753). During this tour he served as Combat Systems Officer and Engineering Officer and completed a combined North Atlantic/ Mediterranean Sea deployment, where the ALBANY earned a Meritorious Unit Citation, and two North Atlantic deployments. In December 1995 he was assigned to the staff of Commander Submarine Squadron Eight for duties as Material Officer.

In October 1997, Commander Ratte reported for duty as Executive Officer aboard USS L. MENDEL RIVERS (SSN 686), where he completed a deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf. During this deployment, the RIVERS earned a Navy Unit Commendation. He then reported to Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower and Personnel) in June 1999 where he was assigned as the Nuclear Enlisted Program Manager until June 2001.

Commander Ratte's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (gold star in lieu of two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (silver star in lieu of six awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Twice As Good

USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (SSN 708) has been at the forefront of submarine operations and training since being commissioned in 1984. This has included eight major deployments of significance to the national defense of the United States. USS Minneapolis-St. Paul's exceptional performance during these missions resulted in the ship being awarded five Meritorious Unit Commendations in 1985, 86, 87, 88, and most recently 1991 for the ships operations in support of Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

The ship has excelled in many other areas during her years of commissioned service, earning the Battle Efficiency "E" four times for 1986, 88, 89, and 1996. In January 1992, USS Minneapolis-St. Paul was awarded the Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Stars for her deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and was the first submarine to carry Tomahawk Missiles specifically designated for use in strike warfare in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Following the shipyard availability in the Spring of 1992, the ship completed four highly successful deployments to the North Atlantic Ocean.

USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul will continue to be a leader among her peers and a formidable threat to those opposed to the people and ideals of the United States of America.

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