



USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN 709)

Commander Naval Submarine Forces

Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet

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CDR Kenneth L. Gray Commanding Officer

Commander Gray, a native of Pennsylvania, graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. He was commissioned in May 1984 after completing Naval

Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island.

Following nuclear power training and the completion of the Submarine Officer Basic Course, Commander Gray's first submarine assignment was aboard the USS SPADEFISH (SSN 668) where he served as Chemistry/Radiological Assistant and Damage Control Assistant until July 1989. During his tour, SPADEFISH completed a Mediterranean Sea deployment and earned the Navy Unit Commendation. It also completed an overhaul at Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Following this assignment, he reported to Naval Reserve Officer Training Unit, Iowa State University, where he served as a Naval Science Instructor and Midshipman Advisor.

After completing the Submarine Officer Advanced Course, Commander Gray reported as Engineering Officer aboard USS HONOLULU (SSN 718) in April 1992. The ship was twice awarded the Submarine Squadron SEVEN Battle Efficiency "E," was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and completed a Depot Modernization Period during this assignment. In July 1995, he was assigned to the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board on the staff of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet through February 1997.

In May 1997, Commander Gray reported to USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762) as Executive Officer. During this tour, the ship completed a Western Pacific Ocean deployment and was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation. He was then assigned to the staff of Commander in Chief, U. S. Naval Forces, Europe where he served as a Command Duty Officer during Operation ALLIED FORCE and later as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Commander in Chief.

Commander Gray's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (four awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards).

Committed to Excellence

USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN 709) is the first United States warship to be named in honor of Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, USN.

USS Hyman G. Rickover is a nuclear powered fast attack submarine of the Los Angeles (SSN 688) Class. She is 360 feet long, displaces 6900 tons, and carries a crew of 14 officers and 120 enlisted. The ship was launched on 27 August 1983 at Electric Boat Shipyard, Groton, Connecticut and commissioned on 21 July 1984 at Naval Submarine Base, Groton, Connecticut. Her principle missions are to: conduct offensive strikes against land targets; operate against enemy submarines and surface ships; conduct mining operations; deploy Naval special warfare teams and conduct covert surveillance.

Surpassing the underwater capabilities of any class of ship before her, Rickover carries detection, communications, navigation, propulsion and computerized weapons systems of the most advanced design. For months, she can cruise quietly submerged with a maximum of comfort for her crew, and with an ever ready potential to deliver any submarine tactical weapon the Navy possesses against submerged or surface targets. When coupled with the talents of a well trained crew, Rickover provides a tactical capability of major importance to our nations defense.

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