



USS Toledo (SSN 769)

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

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CDR Michael T. Poirier Commanding Officer

Commander Poirier, a native of Fairfax, Virginia, graduated with distinction from the United States Naval Academy in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering.

Following completion of initial pipeline training in June 1985, CDR Poirier completed a 39 month tour aboard USS PARCHE (SSN 683) where he served in a variety of

division officer assignments. This tour included two deployments and the start of an extensive overhaul and conversion process for the ship. Additionally, CDR Poirier conducted a deployment on USS SALT LAKE CITY (SSN 716) from April till July 1988.

CDR Poirier reported to Naval Sea Systems Command (PMS 409) in December 1988 as a Combat Systems Test and Evaluation Officer. While attached to NAVSEA, CDR Poirier was selected as an Olmsted Scholar. After completion of the initial language training, he completed a post-Master's level course of study in Military History and National Defense Studies at the Institute d'Etudes Politiques in Aix-en-Provence, France.

Following completion of the Submarine Officer Advanced Course, CDR Poirier reported as Engineer Officer, USS WHALE (SSN-683). During his 40-month tour, USS WHALE completed an Arctic and an Around the World deployment during which time she was the first 637 class submarine to operate in the Persian Gulf.

From August 1996 till June 1998, CDR Poirier served as Executive Officer, USS GEORGIA (SSBN-729) (GOLD). He conducted four strategic deterrent patrols and the first Trident Extended Refit Period.

In July 1998, CDR Poirier reported to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C. He served as the Assistant for Plans and Liaison to the Director of Submarine Warfare (N87). In addition to his normal duties at N87, he served as the Navy's Submarine Force Centennial Coordinator. CDR Poirier also completed a Masters of Art in National Security Studies at Georgetown University.

CDR Poirier's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (four awards) and the Navy Achievement Medal. Additionally, he is proud to have been a member of submarine crews authorized to wear the Presidential Unit Citation and the Navy Unit Citation (two awards).

A Dynamic Submarine

Construction of the first Toledo (CA 133), a Baltimore Class Heavy Cruiser, began when the United States was in the midst of World War II. The cruiser's keel was laid at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation, Camden, New Jersey, on September 13, 1943, only four days after American forces invaded Italy. She was launched on May 6, 1945, the day before Germany surrendered. The cruiser was moved to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for its commissioning on October 27, 1946, fourteen months after Japan surrendered.

Toledo completed a total of twelve deployments to the Western Pacific during her career. Most of these tours, after the Korean War, consisted of training operations and goodwill tours.

On May 21, 1960, Toledo was placed out of commission and went into storage as a reserve ship for fourteen years. On October 30, 1974, the proud cruiser was sold to National Metal and Scrap Corporation.

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