

USS Spadefish

August 14, 1969 – April 11, 1997



**Sturgeon-class submarine
Workhorses of the Navy's attack submarine
fleet throughout much of the Cold War.**

PROUD SUCCESSOR

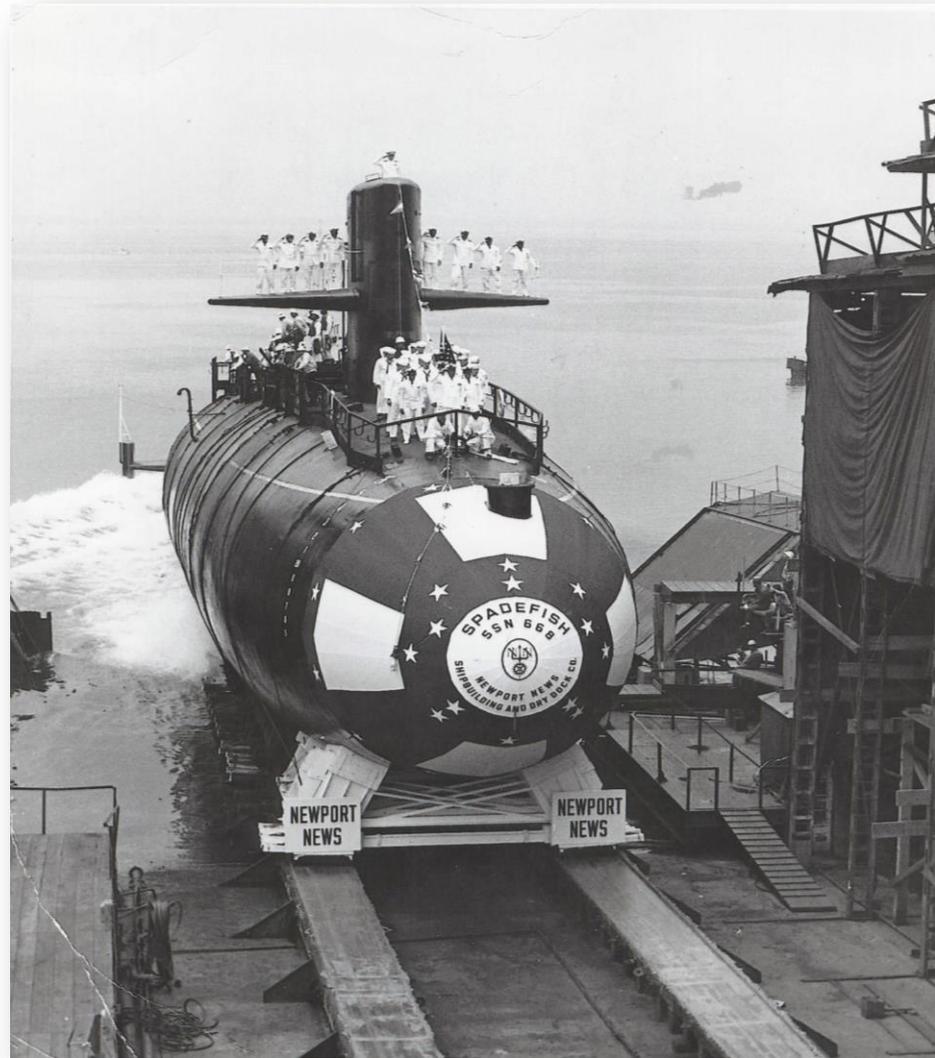
The USS Spadefish SSN-668 was renamed in honor of USS Spadefish SS-411. The SS-411 had an exemplary war record as indicated by their battle flag. The crew of SSN-668 proudly hung the original SS-411 flag in the galley. It was a constant reminder of what commitment meant.

The commissioning crew invited the veterans of SS-411 to our commissioning and all future reunions.



LAUNCHED

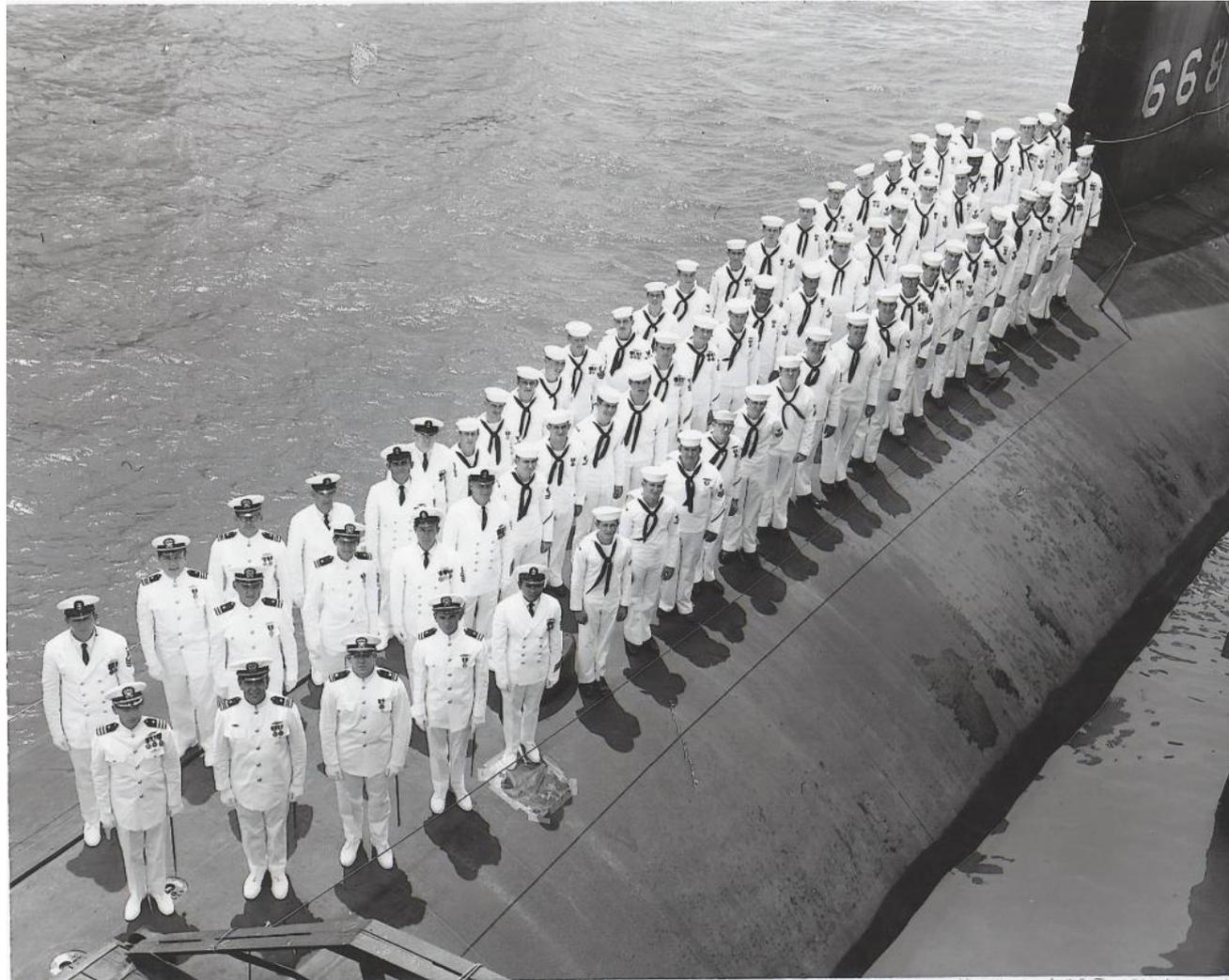
- Launched May 15, 1968
- Builder: Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company





COMMISSIONED

- August 14, 1969
- Under the command of the late Commander George M. Henson
- Assigned to submarine squadron 6, Norfolk, VA
- Compliment: 109 (14 officers and 95 enlisted)



COMMISSIONING



AUGUST 14, 1969
COMMISSIONING OF THE
NUCLEAR ATTACK SUBMARINE

USS SPADEFISH

SSN 668

NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING AND DRY DOCK COMPANY • A MAJOR COMPANY OF  TENNECO INC.

*The Prospective Commanding Officer
requests the honor of your presence
at the
commissioning of the
U. S. S. SPADEFISH (SSN-668)
at
Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company
Newport News, Virginia
on Thursday, the fourteenth of August
nineteen hundred and sixty-nine
at two o'clock*

R.S.V.P.

COMMISSIONING CREW

OFFICERS

COMMANDER GEORGE M. HENSON, USN
COMMANDING OFFICER

LCDR THOMAS C. MALONEY	EXECUTIVE OFFICER	LT CHARLES W. PAGE JR.	WEAPONS OFFICER
LCDR CORBIN A. McNEILL JR.	ENGINEER OFFICER	LT WILLIAM H. HOUSE II	DAMAGE CONTROL ASS'T
LCDR LAWSON E. BRONSON	OPERATIONS OFFICER	LT BRUCE H. PECK	COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
LT JOHN H. FOLSON	SONAR OFFICER	LJTG RICHARD C. L. OLSON	FIRST LIEUTENANT
LT DAVID C. AABYE	MAIN PROPULSION ASSISTANT	LJTG DAVID S. BURNETT	REACTOR CONTROL OFFICER
LT ARLAN D. GADEKEN	ELECTRICAL OFFICER	LJTG RUSSELL C. JOHNSON (SC)	SUPPLY OFFICER



CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

Chief of the Boat, STCM(SS) VIRGIL E. LYNCH

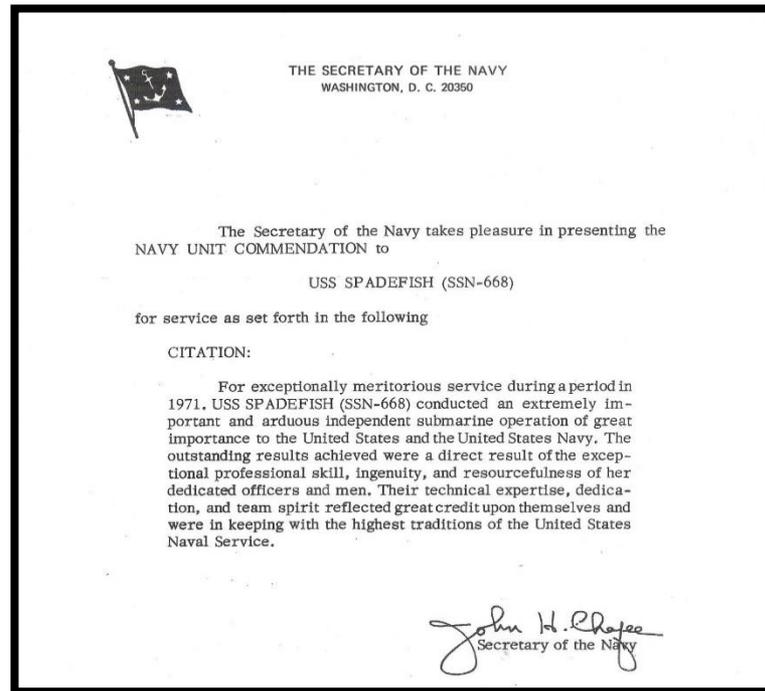
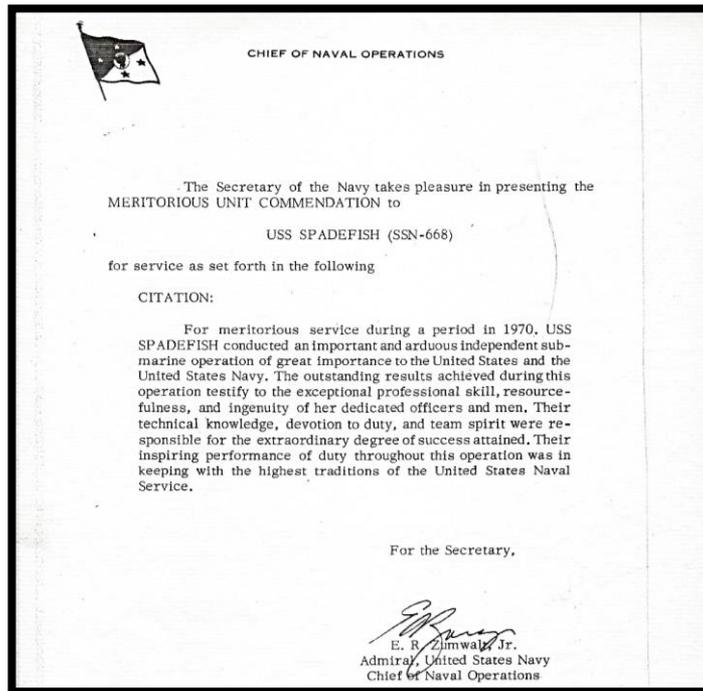
ETC(SS) STANLEY E. COUSINS	STC(SS) ALAN F. LUSBY
TMC(SS) EDWARD W. GARBADE	HMC(SS) BRUCE D. PERRINE
ETCS(SS) LAWRENCE D. GERMAN	EMCS(SS) CARLOS F. PIMENTEL
MMC(SS) CHARLES L. HAMMONDS	MMC(SS) WILLIAM A. QUAILLES JR.
RMC(SS) WILHELM A. HERZOG	MMCS(SS) JIM B. THOMAS

ENLISTED PERSONNEL

ETR2 Alvin R. Ankrum	IC2 Peter M. Gavesto	ST1(SS) Ronald Payne
QM3 Claxton S. Aycock	MM2(SS) Timothy R. Geithman	MM1(SS) Clyde V. Peters
EM2(SS) Donald K. Baer	MM1(SS) Robert L. Gwaltney	FN Frank D. Phillips Jr.
YN1(SS) Norris W. Bailey	TM1(SS) William E. Gwinn	FA James L. Ragan
IC1(SS) Taylor B. Bain	MM1 Robert W. Heidenreich	EM1(SS) Robert N. Redding
QMSN Thomas W. Barber	RM3 Jack "E" Hildenbrandt	YN3(SS) Michael W. Robinson
MM2 Eric W. Barker	SN John R. Howard	STS3 Philip T. Sealund
TN John C. Belrose	SK2 George P. Keary	FN Samuel I. Shaffer
MM2(SS) Stephen D. Bird	IC3 Thomas C. Kelley	RM2 Nelson J. Shiver
ETR2(SS) Rodger D. Bjerke	CS1(SS) David A. King	ST1(SS) John A. Shook
IC1(SS) Edward W. Bowe	MM2 Richard J. Kleinstuber	MM2(SS) Edwin P. Siemonsma
MM1(SS) Clyde R. Bowyer	MM1(SS) Anthony A. Kovach	SN Edwin M. Singer
MM2 Paul Bradley	ST1(SS) Harold A. Lay	ST2(SS) Denton E. Snider
MM1(SS) Charles H. Brantley	FN Mark A. Lensch	FTG2 Ulrich Stanzick
ETR3 Ronald J. Brown	FTG3 Lawrence A. Meyer Jr.	IC1(SS) James W. Stokes
FIG1(SS) Ronald B. Cavender	TM2(SS) Paul B. McCoy	MM2 Paul L. Strause
MM1 Charles W. Carpenter	TM1(SS) Collin J. McGarry	ETR2 Kenneth L. Strout
STS3 Charles M. Chambers	CS3 Robert McVeigh III	EM2(SS) Ronald E. Teske
ETR2 Roy G. Crawford	MM2(SS) George B. Miller	MM1(SS) Ted C. Tolar
ET1(SS) Robert E. Douglas	SN Dominick Missaggia	ETR2(SS) Fred A. Vanderbell
FN John E. Dunn	STS2 Larry W. Moore	EM2 Robert J. Vanderbye
QM2(SS) Arno J. Ehrlich	IC3 Peter J. Nelson	MM3 Edward E. Vantreesse
STS3 Roy L. Eymann	SD3 George A. Newkirk	MM1(SS) Paul R. Walker
SK1(SS) Wayne N. Ferris	TM2(SS) Kenneth W. Nichols	CS2 Lyle E. Wehling Jr.
ET1(SS) Jimmie L. Fisher	MMFN Wayne E. Nichols	FA Daniel J. Welling
ETR2 Richard L. Force	MM1(SS) Carl H. Niemann	EM2 Michael S. Williams
MM2 Terry W. Ford	QM1(SS) Chester J. Nickowski	IC2(SS) David K. Wilson
	ET1(SS) Thomas R. Nutter	

1970 to 1996

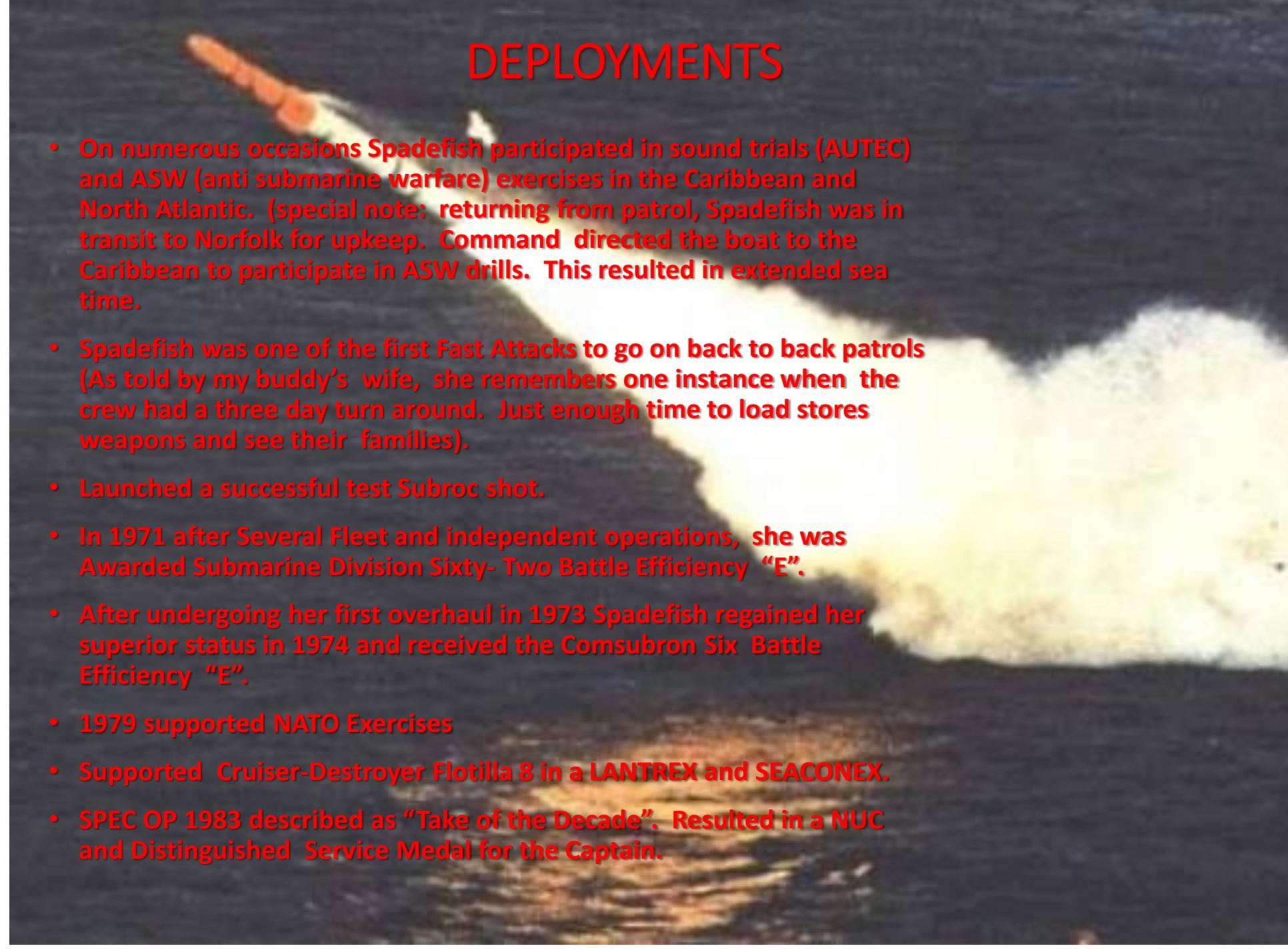
Spadefish received 13 commendations including the Navy Expeditionary Medal (2) and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for “Support Democracy” in Hatti



While on patrol the Spadefish detected, recorded and tracked the world's fastest submarine, the Russian Papa K-162 (Golden Fish)



DEPLOYMENTS



- On numerous occasions Spadefish participated in sound trials (AUTEK) and ASW (anti submarine warfare) exercises in the Caribbean and North Atlantic. (special note: returning from patrol, Spadefish was in transit to Norfolk for upkeep. Command directed the boat to the Caribbean to participate in ASW drills. This resulted in extended sea time.
- Spadefish was one of the first Fast Attacks to go on back to back patrols (As told by my buddy's wife, she remembers one instance when the crew had a three day turn around. Just enough time to load stores weapons and see their families).
- Launched a successful test Subroc shot.
- In 1971 after Several Fleet and independent operations, she was Awarded Submarine Division Sixty- Two Battle Efficiency "E".
- After undergoing her first overhaul in 1973 Spadefish regained her superior status in 1974 and received the Comsubron Six Battle Efficiency "E".
- 1979 supported NATO Exercises
- Supported Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla 8 in a LANTREX and SEACONEX.
- SPEC OP 1983 described as "Take of the Decade". Resulted in a NUC and Distinguished Service Medal for the Captain.

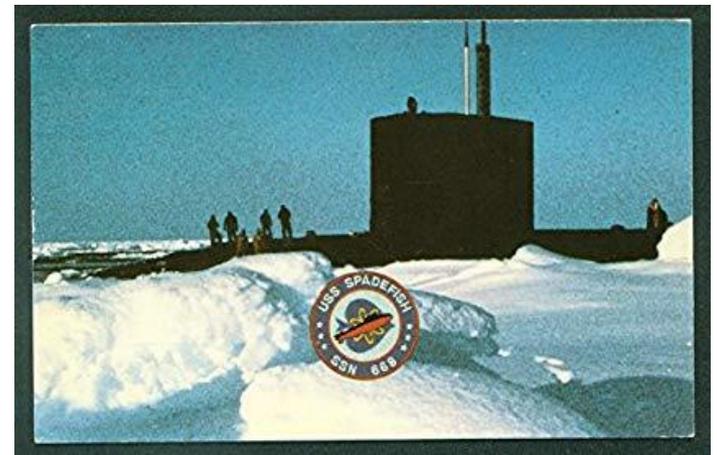
GRENADA



- October 1983 supported urgent fury Grenada invasion with no notice
- March 1986 med deployment supported operation Eldorado Air Strikes against Libya

Spadefish completed ICEX's in 1984, 1992, and 1993

1984 Artic run – joint venture with another submarine to develop attack procedures for ice picked submarines



Persian Gulf

- The Gulf War changed the scope of submarine operations which included Shallow Water Operations. Though 26 years old the Spadefish demonstrated her flexibility and determination by deploying 2 times to the Persian Gulf.

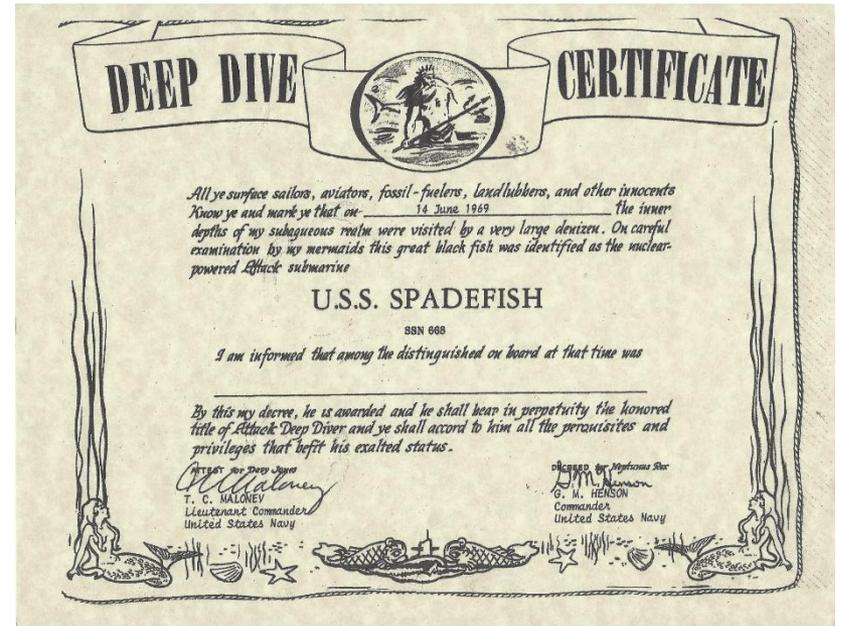
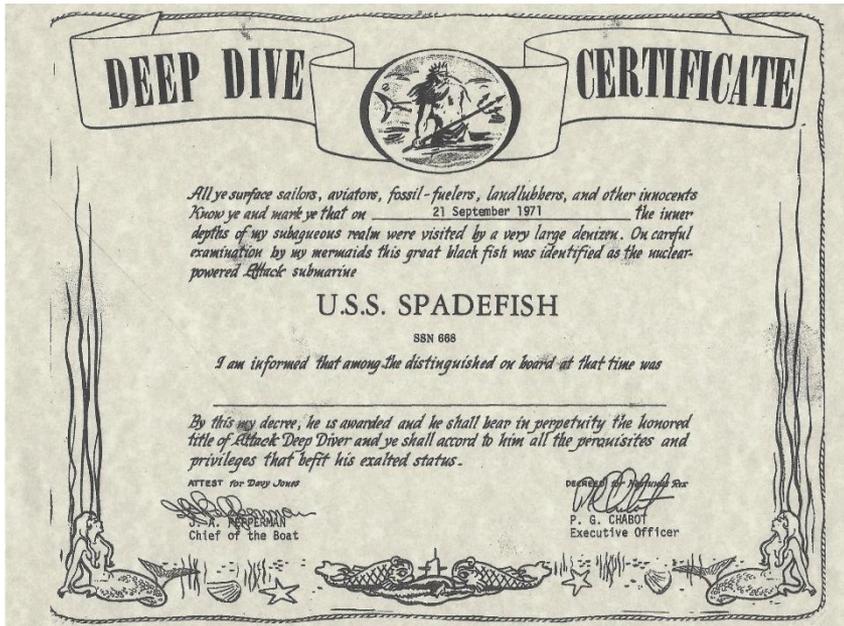


**A special note for those of you who have visited ST. Croix:
The Spadefish was the only boat that supplied its own
bartender at Seven Flags in St Croix. The owner wanted to go
to sleep! gave us the keys! and said lock up when you guys are
finished.**

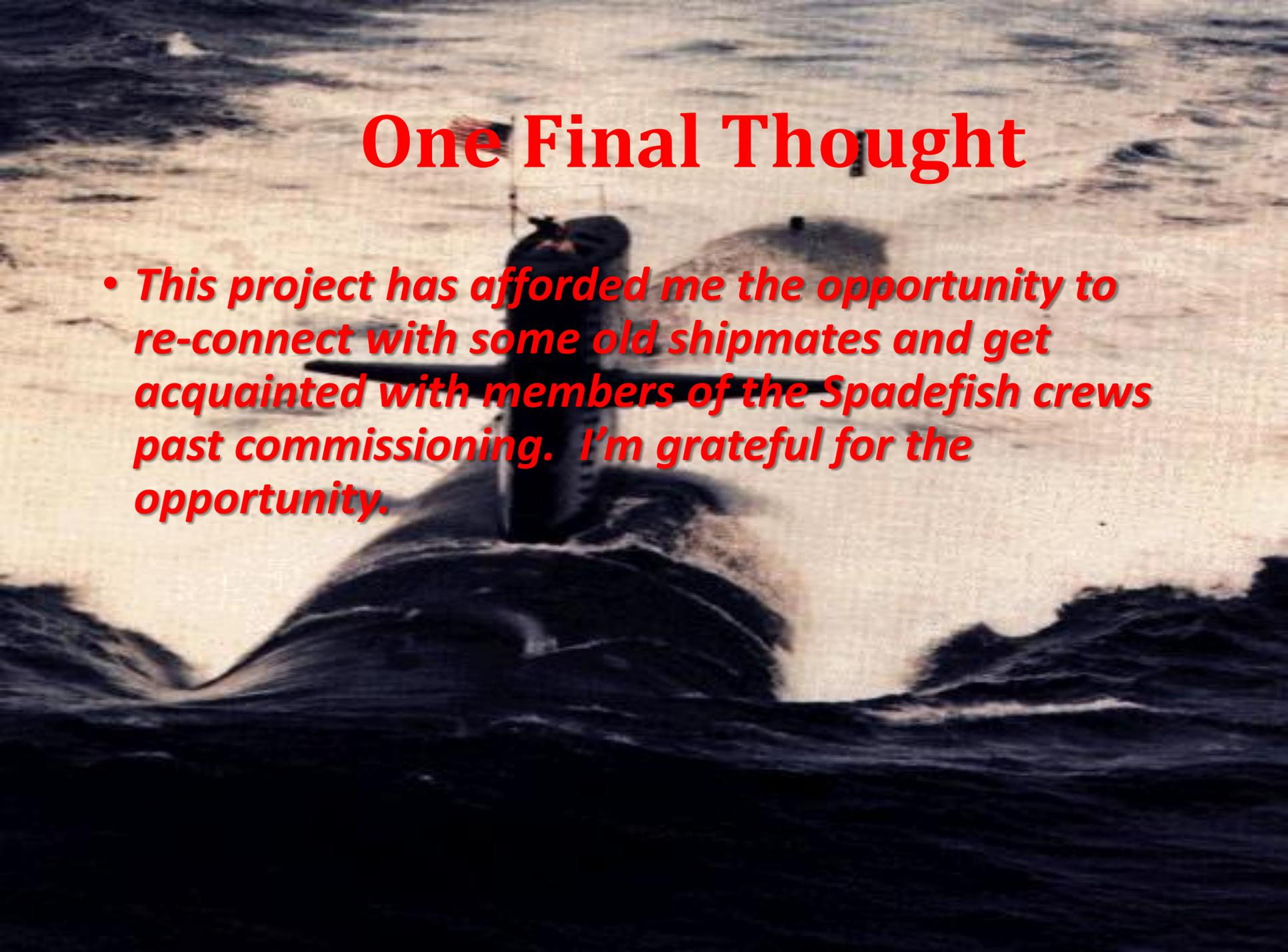


UBI ACTIO EST (Where the Action Is)

After 28 years of service and hundred of thousands of steaming underwater miles, she was finally retired. This is dedicated to the Men of the USS Spadefish who have proudly served their country and the submariners we have lost.



One Final Thought

A photograph of a submarine on the surface of the ocean. The submarine is dark and sleek, with its conning tower and various antennas visible. The water is dark blue with white foam from the wake. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

- *This project has afforded me the opportunity to re-connect with some old shipmates and get acquainted with members of the Spadefish crews past commissioning. I'm grateful for the opportunity.*