

USS TOPEKA (SSN 754)

CHANGE OF COMMAND

COMMANDER MARK D. PATTON



**BEING RELIEVED BY
COMMANDER JOHN J. LITHERLAND**

**6 DECEMBER 2000
PIER SIERRA ONE BRAVO
NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE, PEARL HARBOR**



COMMAND AT SEA

Only a seaman realizes to what extent an entire ship reflects the personality and ability of one individual, her Commanding Officer. To a landsman this is not understandable, and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend - but it is so.

A ship at sea is a distant world in herself and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of the fleet units the Navy must place great power, responsibility and trust in the hands of those leaders chosen for command.

In each ship there is one man who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who alone is ultimately responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfiring and morale of his ship. He is the Commanding Officer. He is the ship.

This is the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour of duty as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are most ludicrously small; nevertheless command is the spur which has given the Navy its great leaders.

It is a duty which most richly deserves the highest, time-honored title of the seafaring world - "Captain".

-Joseph Conrad-

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY

HONORS

NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION

LT SEAN C. GORMAN, CHC, USN

CHAPLAIN, NAVAL SUBMARINE SUPPORT COMMAND

INTRODUCTION

COMMODORE FRED BYUS

COMMANDER, SUBMARINE SQUADRON SEVEN

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

SECRETARY DANIEL R. STANLEY

SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION, STATE OF KANSAS

REMARKS AND READING OF ORDERS

COMMANDER MARK D. PATTON, USN

READING OF ORDERS

COMMANDER JOHN J. LITHERLAND, USN

BENEDICTION

NAVY HYMN AND SERVICE SONG

**25TH INFANTRY DIVISION LIGHT BAND*

DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL PARTY

*The Army's 25th Infantry Light "Tropic Lighting" Band is led by CW3 Gary W. Dorrell and has earned 32 Battle Streamers.



**SECRETARY DANIEL R. STANLEY
SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION
STATE OF KANSAS**

A fifth generation Kansan and native of Kansas City, Kansas, Secretary Stanley graduated from the State University of New York at Albany with a degree in nuclear technology. He also attended the University of Kansas. He is a twenty-four year veteran of the United States Navy enlisting in 1973 and commissioned in 1980.

A veteran of the submarine force, Mr. Stanley served aboard the USS BATFISH and the USS WOODROW WILSON. Additionally, he served with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon and was responsible for strategic communications systems. Secretary Stanley retired from the Naval Reserve in 1997 with the rank of Commander.

Secretary Daniel R. Stanley was appointed as Secretary of the Department of Administration for the State of Kansas in October 1996. As the senior member of the Governor's cabinet, Secretary Stanley serves as the chief operating officer for the State of Kansas. He provides guidance and leadership for nine divisions of central government services including state personnel, computer systems and telecommunication, purchasing, accounting and financials, as well as printing and state owned facilities.

Secretary Stanley serves on 28 boards and commissions, including Chairman, Capitol Area Plaza Authority, Chairman, Information Technology Executive Council, and Chairman, of the Kansas State Employee's Health Care Commission. Prior to his appointment as Secretary of Administration, State of Kansas, Secretary Stanley served as Administrative Assistant and defense policy advisor to Senator Bob Dole. From 1985 to 1987 Secretary Stanley was Director of Strategic Planning for the McDonnell Douglas Corporation.



**COMMANDER MARK D. PATTON
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS TOPEKA (SSN 754)**

Commander Mark D. Patton, the son of Brigadier General and Mrs. David Patton, USAF(ret), was raised in several states and overseas locations but calls Cheyenne, Wyoming his home. He is a 1981 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Oceanography, and 1988 graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School, where he earned Master of Science Degrees (with distinction) in Acoustic Engineering and in Systems Technology for Anti-Submarine Warfare.

Commander Patton's first submarine assignment was the USS ATLANTA (SSN 712) as a junior officer from 1983 to 1986, where he completed a Mediterranean and three North Atlantic deployments. His Department Head tour was on the USS HAWKBILL (SSN 666) as Engineer Officer from 1989 to 1992, where he made a deployment to the Western Pacific followed by a regular overhaul at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. As Executive Officer on USS JEFFERSON CITY (SSN 759) from 1994 to 1996, he deployed to the Western Pacific with the USS KITTY HAWK Battle Group.

Commander Patton took Command of USS TOPEKA (SSN 754) in November 1998. Under his command, USS TOPEKA has twice conducted operations in the Eastern Pacific and deployed to the Western Pacific from November 1999 to May 2000. USS TOPEKA also participated in RIMPAC 2000 and COMPTUEX 99-3 and, while deployed, made an historic crossing of the equator and International Dateline at midnight on the eve of New Year 2000.

Commander Patton's other billets have been as sailing master of the United States Naval Academy yacht HAWKE in 1981, Force Radiological Controls Officer on the staff of the Commander, Submarine Force Pacific from 1992 to 1994, and deputy executive assistant to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations from 1996 to 1998.

Commander Patton's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with three gold stars, and the Navy Achievement Medal with one gold star.

Commander Patton resides in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii with his wife Ellen and their four children, Erik, Michael, Colleen and Claire.



**COMMANDER JOHN J. LITHERLAND
PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER
USS TOPEKA (SSN 754)**

Commander John J. Litherland was born in Landstuhl, Germany and raised on a variety of domestic and overseas army posts before settling in Las Vegas, New Mexico, where he completed high school. He attended the University of Washington in Seattle, graduating in 1982 with degrees in Oceanography, Physics, and Mathematics, and was commissioned from the Reserve Officer Training Corps in June 1983.

Following initial submarine and nuclear power training, Commander Litherland was assigned to the USS OHIO (SSBN 726) Gold Crew from 1984 to 1987, where he qualified in submarines and completed six strategic deterrent patrols. His next submarine was USS LOUISVILLE (SSN 724) where he served as Navigator and Operations Officer From 1990 to 1993. During this tour Commander Litherland deployed twice to the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans, including LOUISVILLE's historic 1991 participation in Operation Desert Storm. As Executive Officer on USS PINTADO (SSN 672) from 1995 to 1997, he again deployed to the Western Pacific, marking PINTADO's final patrol before decommissioning.

Commander Litherland's other assignments have included Operations Officer for Submarine Group Seven in Yokosuka, Japan from 1993 to 1995, and the COMSUBPAC Tactical Readiness Evaluation Team from 1997 to 1999. He holds graduate degrees in Ocean Physics and Electrical Engineering from the University of Washington, where he served as an NROTC instructor from 1987 to 1989, and in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, from which he graduated with distinction in March 2000.

Commander Litherland's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and the Navy Achievement Medal. He also proudly wears the unit commendations and campaign service ribbons earned by the outstanding submarine crews with whom he has been privileged to serve.

Commander Litherland is married to the former Meagan MacLean Gavahan of Montezuma, New Mexico, and they currently reside in Pearl City, Hawaii with their two children, Mairi and Jack.

PREVIOUS COMMANDING OFFICERS OF USS TOPEKA (SSN 754)

COMMANDER T. M. REICHERT

12 DECEMBER 1986 - 8 NOVEMBER 1989

COMMANDER W. O. COOKE

8 NOVEMBER 1989 - 20 NOVEMBER 1991

COMMANDER E. R. JABLONSKI

20 NOVEMBER 1991 - 14 JANUARY 1994

COMMANDER D. A. HAINES

14 JANUARY 1994 - 23 MAY 1996

COMMANDER A. T. CORTESE

23 MAY 1996 - 24 NOVEMBER 1998

COMMANDER M. D. PATTON

24 NOVEMBER 1998 - 6 DECEMBER 2000

COMMAND HISTORY OF USS TOPEKA (SSN 754)

USS TOPEKA is the fourth ship of the improved LOS ANGELES class, the Navy's best nuclear powered attack submarine. These ships are the most advanced undersea vessels of their type in the world. Our mission is to project precise power from the sea in support of naval, joint and combined operations. USS TOPEKA can accomplish this mission through her multiple capabilities including the ability to operate in complete stealth; conduct extended and sustained high speed operations; work with Naval special warfare, surface, aviation, and amphibious forces; perform coastal surveillance; and, if necessary, deploy land-attack, anti-ship and anti-submarine weapons.

This 360 foot, 6,900 ton ship is well equipped to accomplish these tasks. Equipped with the highly accurate AN/BSY-1 sonar and weapon control systems, the ship can be armed with sophisticated MK-48 and ADCAP torpedoes as well as HARPOON anti-ship missiles. TOPEKA can also launch multipurpose TOMAHAWK cruise missiles from vertical tubes located in the bow or from torpedo tubes. Other significant capabilities include full under-ice operational capability, over-the-horizon targeting capability, two towed sonar arrays, and a nuclear reactor propulsion system designed to last the life of the ship without refueling.

In August 1992, TOPEKA was the first attack submarine in the Pacific Fleet to deploy in support of a carrier battlegroup and conduct operations in the Arabian Gulf. In January 1995 TOPEKA returned to the Arabian Gulf during her second deployment in support of a carrier battlegroup. In October 1996 and April 1998 TOPEKA deployed for her third and fourth deployments supporting Seventh Fleet operations in the Western Pacific.

In November 1999, TOPEKA again deployed to the Western Pacific in support of Seventh Fleet operations. On 1 January 2000, USS TOPEKA represented the U.S. Navy's journey into the year 2000 and started the Submarine Force Centennial celebration by crossing the equator and International Date Line precisely at midnight New Year's Eve. While at 400 feet, TOPEKA and crew simultaneously experienced two years, decades, centuries, millenniums, seasons and hemispheres.

PREVIOUS SHIPS NAMED TOPEKA

Two previous ships of the fleet have been named for TOPEKA, the capital city of Kansas.

USS TOPEKA (PG 35): The first, a gunboat built under name of Diogenes by G. Howaldt of Kiel, Germany, in 1881. She was purchased by the U.S. Navy on 2 April 1898 from the Thames Iron Works of London, England and placed in commission the same day. On 15 February 1899, TOPEKA was placed out of commission at the Boston Navy Yard. After 18 months of inactivity, the gunboat was recommissioned at Boston on 15 August 1900. In August 1905 she returned to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, was placed out of commission in September 1905 and served as a prison and station ship at the Portsmouth Navy Yard. In June 1916 she was towed to New York where she was recommissioned again on 14 July 1916 and assigned duty as a receiving ship at New York until again being placed out of commission in September 1916. She was recommissioned for the last time at Boston in March 1919 then placed out of commission on 2 November 1919 and put up for sale. TOPEKA was sold in May 1930 to Union Shipbuilding Company of Baltimore, Maryland.

USS TOPEKA (CL 67): A light cruiser built by Bethlehem Steel Company of Quincy, Massachusetts. Her keel was laid 21 April 1943, and she was launched 19 August 1944 under the sponsorship of Mrs. Frank J. Warren, wife of the Mayor of Topeka, Kansas. The ship was placed in commission at Boston on 23 December 1944. TOPEKA was initially used as a ship escort in the Western Pacific and later joined several battle groups operating in the Pacific near the end of World War II. TOPEKA's rescue efforts saved two British pilots downed in Ishinomake Wan during August 1945. She was placed out of commission in reserve at San Francisco, 18 June 1949. On 15 April 1957 she arrived at the New York Navy Shipyard for conversion to a Guided Missile Light Cruiser (CLG-8). Her hull classification and number were changed to CLG-8, effective 23 May 1957. TOPEKA earned two battle stars during World War II and three more during the Vietnam conflict.

THE CITY OF TOPEKA

Indian agricultural community. A primary river crossing point for settlers headed west on the Oregon Trail. A major railroad center.

Topeka, the capital of Kansas, has played all of these roles, thanks to the pioneering spirit of its residents and its strategic location on the banks of the Kansas River. They were roles that paved the way for the Topeka of today-- a thriving retail, financial and industrial center of 121,000 people. Several Fortune 500 companies call Topeka home, and some 13 insurance companies are headquartered there.

The city also ranks high in medical services. The Menninger Foundation, world-renowned center for psychiatric treatment, education and research, is there along with six hospitals which include three medical centers.

Topeka has more than a passing acquaintance with the military. The former Forbes Air Force Base serves as headquarters for the 190th Kansas Air National Guard Refueling Squadron and as a Strategic Air Command refueling stop. However, as in most capital cities, the business of government occupies the largest number of those in the workforce.

Today's Topeka would probably astound the nine men who met on December 5, 1854 on the banks of the Kansas River to draw up an agreement which later became the basis for the Topeka Association. That organization was mainly responsible for the establishment and early growth of the city. When Kansas became the 34th state seven years later, Topeka (an Indian word meaning "A good place to dig potatoes") was chosen as the capital.

It's a capital that has made education a hallmark over the years. The city has one of the few remaining municipal universities in the country-- Washburn University, which, in addition to undergraduate and graduate programs, offers a law school. In addition, the Kaw Area Vocational Technical School, two nursing schools and other training schools provide opportunities for those seeking specific skills.

Cultural activities abound in Topeka. The Topeka Symphony Orchestra and the City's Community Center Association sponsor concerts from October through April. The Topeka Fine Arts Society presents programs of chamber music and a Jazz Workshop provides concerts for jazz buffs. Topekans enjoy the internationally recognized Topeka Civic Theatre, the Washburn University Players and the Showcase Dinner Theatre.

THE USS TOPEKA

MILLENNIA CROSSING SEAL

This design represents the crossing of the equator and International Date Line at exactly 0000, 01 January 2000. At this point, USS TOPEKA was simultaneously in two years, decades, centuries, millenniums, seasons and hemispheres. In the upper left-hand quadrant, winter is symbolized, representing the Northern Hemisphere. In the bottom right-hand quadrant, summer is shown to represent the Southern Hemisphere. In the lower left quadrant, King Neptune, with his trident, represents the Golden Shellback, the traditional Navy designation of all who sail across the equator. The event is considered "golden" if the crossing is conducted at the International Dateline. Also in this quadrant is 1 January 2000, the date on the west side of the International Dateline. In the upper-right hand quadrant, the date of 31 December 1999 for all to the east of the International Dateline. Here also is a symbol representing nuclear power, which allows the flexibility and sustainability of our Submarine Force. Additionally, the use of three orbiting electrons represents the three core values that make up the nucleus of the U.S. Navy – Honor, Courage and Commitment. Finally, USS TOPEKA is depicted in the center, making the crossing exactly at midnight.



SHIP'S ROSTER

OFFICERS

CDR MARK PATTON
LCDR ROBERT PALISIN
LCDR MICHAEL NIKOLICH
LCDR KARL PRIGGE
LT MICHAEL BRATTON
LT TODD HICKMAN
LT WILLIAM POWELL
LTJG ALEXEY ABRAMOV
LTJG JOHN YI
LTJG RICHARD WISE
LTJG SAMUEL MCGOWAN
LTJG PAUL SALEVSKI
LTJG KEVIN MORRIS
LTJG BRIAN REITZ
ENS DAVID WEINICH

CHIEF OF THE BOAT

FTCM RONALD JOHNSON

EXECUTIVE

MMCS JEFFREY BIRCH
MMT WALTER OKUMA
TMM JEFFREY RIFFLE
ETCS PETER BAILEY

YN DIVISION

YMC FELIX RIVERA
YNT TRAVIS CARTER
YNSH JAMES B. HALL

MS DIVISION

MSC MICHAEL RICHARDS
MS1 TODD FRYE
MS2 HARRY ROBINSON
MS3 GARY FARAOH
MS3 TIMOTHY MORAN
MS3 GEORGE CERVENY

SK DIVISION

SK1 KEVIN HUNT
SK2 TEAGUE FOLTZ
SK2 THOMAS JARVIS
SK3 NATHAN SMITH

ET-COMMUNICATIONS DIV

ETC DARREN ROSE
ET1 MICHAEL MURPHY
ET2 WILLIAM FORBES
ET2 JAMES LEVERETT
ET2 CHRISTOPHER UZAR
ET3 PATRICK CONLAN
ET3 DAMON MCMULLEN
ET3 JOSH THOMAS
ET3 JAMAR MCCLINTON

ET-NAVIGATION DIV

ETC SCOTT HILBRICK
ET1 THOMAS GREGORY
ET1 THOMAS KEIGHTLEY
ET2 JASON RICHARDSON

ET2 TROY SULLIVAN
ET2 DAVID MEADVIN
ET2 KEVIN HINES
ET3 STEPHEN BOUNDS
ET3 MICHAEL LURIE
ET3 ADRIAN SORDELET
ET3 JANDOR NELSON
ET3 BRIAN BARRETT
ETSN DANIEL LAMBERT

FT DIVISION

FTC LONNIE CHAVIS
FT1 MICHAEL SKIJA
FT2 DAVID DUDLEY
FT2 THOMAS BELCHER
FT2 KEVIN WILKINSON
FT2 ALLEN COLE
FT3 CHRISTOPHER STEBER
FT3 MICHAEL MEDINA
FT3 JOHN HASSELBRINK
FT3 JOSEPH MCCAMFY

MM/WEPS DIVISION

MMC MARK SEBRING
MM2 LONNIE TODD
MM3 BRANDON MILLS
MM3 CHAUNCEY BROWN
MM3 DANIEL HUANTE

ST DIVISION

STCS LAWRENCE ROACH
STS1 DAVID WHITE
STS1 ROBERT CARLIN
STS2 JOHN VANHORNSTRAND
STS2 MARK WILLIAMS
STS3 SHAWN WILBER
STS3 DANIEL VERMILYA
STS3 JEFFREY SCHREINER
STS3 MICHAEL DUKE
STS3 FARRIN LYLES
STS3 JOSHUA FREDRICK
STS3 DANIEL RICE
STSSH RICHARD PALMER
STSSH CHRISTOPHER BRIGGS

MM (AUX) DIVISION

MMCS AUDE FOUST
MM1 WILLIAM SLOOP
MM2 MARK SOLOMON
MM2 CLEATUS BRIGHT
MM2 RICHARD FUENTES
MM2 CHAD WOODRIDGE
MM2 JAMES YANCE
MM2 JOSEPH IYNCH
MM2 ALEX NAPIER
MM3 KIRK BOALDIN
MM3 DAMIEN BERNAT
MM3 JOSHUA HASSELBACH
MM3 MARQUIS POLLIDORE
MMFN MARC THOMPSON
MMFN MICHAEL DAYTON
MMFN DAVID NIXON

E DIVISION

EM1 FREDRICK TRUJILLO
EM1 ANTHONY REYNOLDS
EM1 CHARLES KUNZELMAN
EM2 THEODORE MOREHOUSE
EM2 JOSEPH RZEPKA
EM2 PAUL GREIN
EM2 KEVIN KELLY
EM2 SCOTT HAGGERMAN
EM2 STEVEN WASSERMAN
EM2 JASON THOMAS
EM2 BENJAMIN EGNEW
EM3 MICHAEL BAKER
EM3 GREG LAVINO
EM3 DANIEL CUMMINGS
EM3 AARON MOYER
EM3 JARRETT CROSSGROVE

RC DIVISION

ETC WILLIAM MILLER
ET1 JOEL WILSON
ET1 BILLY MCCULLON
ET2 EDWARD MORAN
ET2 CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS
ET2 MALCOLM FRAZER
ET2 TODD SCHAEFER
ET2 JOHN FUCHS
ET2 BERT TREDWAY
ET3 JOSEPH DENNIS
ET3 MICHAEL ARCANO

M DIVISION

MMC GARY DUBIN
MM1 FREDERICK SMITH
MM1 EDDIE MORRIS
MM1 GREGORY SLYWYCZUK
MM2 THOMAS REINHART
MM2 JEFFREY ELLINGSON
MM2 YUSEF MYRICK
MM2 JOSHUA LISTER
MM2 JESUS OLIVAS
MM2 WILLIAM LEWIS
MM2 COREY MURPHY
MM3 COLE WEGMANN
MM3 ANDREW JONES
MM3 KEVIN DUMAS
MM3 JOSHUA CROWELL
MM3 MICHAEL AGUILAR
MM3 ERIC HANSON
MM3 MICHAEL POSTON

RL DIVISION

MM1 ROY CORLEY
MM2 KENNETH LISSIMORE
MM2 JERMAINE PICKETT
MM3 EDWARD MONTEZ
MM3 BRYAN TRUCKENHILLER
MM3 JAY MONRALL

Defender of the Heartland
USS
Topeka
(SSN-754)



THE USS TOPEKA MILLENNIA CROSSING SEAL

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