

COMMISSIONING  
OF THE  
SUBMARINE  
**Sam Houston**



March 6, 1962

NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING AND DRY DOCK COMPANY

NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

COMMISSIONING  
of the  
NUCLEAR POWERED FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE  
SUBMARINE

Sam Houston

SSB(N)609



*6 March, 1962*



MRS. JOHN B. CONNALLY

*Sponsor*







W. P. WILLIS, JR.  
*Captain, USN*  
Commanding Officer, Blue Crew



J. H. HAWKINS  
*Commander, USN*  
Commanding Officer, Gold Crew

## U. S. S. SAM HOUSTON SSB(N)609

SAM HOUSTON, the second ship of the new 608 Class of Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines, adds to the growing deterrent FBM force of the U. S. Navy. The integration of nuclear propulsion; hydrodynamic hull form, and the Polaris missile achieved in the Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine has given our country a weapon of unsurpassed invulnerability and awesome deterrent power. In SAM HOUSTON, these revolutionary developments have been refined to produce an even more potent weapon. Incorporated into the ship's design are new navigation and underwater sound systems which combine with improvements in habitability, atmosphere control, and greater missile range to increase both the capability and habitability of the ship.

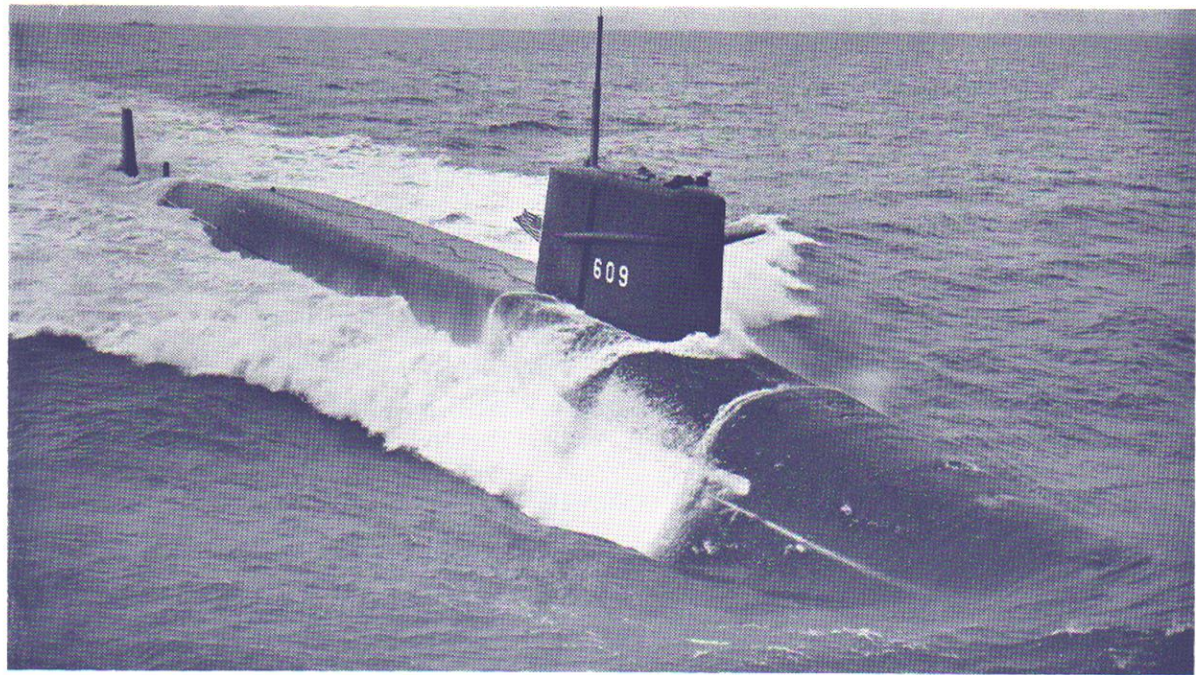
In striking power, SAM HOUSTON and the other Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines have no comparable counterpart. The destructive potential of the missiles carried by one of these ships exceeds that of the total of all bombs dropped by aircraft during World War II. Despite her size, SAM HOUSTON is very quiet, maneuverable, and capable of high submerged speeds.

Two complete crews, each with twelve officers and one hundred enlisted personnel, are assigned to SAM HOUSTON, and will conduct alternate patrols. The use of two crews, enabling the ship to remain almost constantly within range of targets, provides the maximum deterrent capability with minimum expense.

Those who sail in SAM HOUSTON will always strive to live up to the sentiment expressed by the great man for whom the ship was named:

*"He loved his country,  
he was a patriot;  
he was devoted  
to the Union"*





*SAM HOUSTON underway on the surface at full speed during second sea trial. 25 January, 1962*



# COMMISSIONING

ARRIVAL OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

INVOCATION

Lieutenant Commander Paul A. Johnson, USN, Chaplain Submarine Squadron Fourteen

INTRODUCTION OF THE BUILDER'S REPRESENTATIVE

Captain P. E. Shetenhelm, USN, Supervisor of Shipbuilding

DELIVERY OF THE SHIP

Mr. W. E. Blewett, Jr., President of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SHIP FOR THE NAVY

Rear Admiral W. F. Petersen, USN, Commandant, Fifth Naval District

COMMISSIONING OF THE SHIP

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Commander-in-Chief, United States Atlantic Fleet, Band

ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND AND SETTING OF THE WATCH

Captain W. P. Willis, Jr., USN



NG PROGRAM



BREAKING OF PERSONAL FLAG, AND HONORS TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
The Honorable Fred Korth

BREAKING OF PERSONAL FLAG OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET  
Admiral Robert L. Dennison, USN

ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND OF THE GOLD CREW  
Commander Jack H. Hawkins, USN

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER  
Captain W. P. Willis, Jr., USN

ADDRESS  
The Honorable Fred Korth, Secretary of the Navy

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL PARTY AND SPONSOR

BENEDICTION  
Lieutenant Commander Paul A. Johnson, USN, Chaplain

DEPARTURE OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY





## OFFICERS

CAPTAIN W. P. WILLIS, JR., USN  
Commanding Officer Blue Crew

COMMANDER J. H. HAWKINS, USN  
Commanding Officer Gold Crew

COMMANDER J. P. WISE  
Executive Officer Blue

LT D. F. X. MCPADDEN

LT L. M. MARKAM, III

LT C. L. GOODING

LT J. P. McNICHOLS

LT D. E. MCGLASSON

LCDR R. P. McDONALD

LCDR G. A. HINES, JR.

LT J. E. JONES

LT H. L. MATHIS

LCDR C. A. BARNHILL

ENS R. SHELTON

NAVIGATOR

WEAPONS OFFICER

ASSISTANT WEAPONS OFFICER

COMMUNICATOR

SUPPLY

ENGINEER

MAIN PROPULSION ASSISTANT

E & RC DIVISION

A DIVISION

MEDICAL OFFICER

ASSISTANT LAUNCH OFFICER

COMMANDER F. W. GRAHAM  
Executive Officer Gold

LCDR R. L. ENOS

LCDR R. L. HART

LT C. N. DIESEL

LT D. A. KRATCH

LT W. S. COLE

LT G. N. ARTHUR

LT D. J. OHMEN

LT E. J. COVEY

LT K. T. O'DONNELL

## CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

MARVIN O. SMITH, JR., TMCA (SS)  
CHIEF OF THE BOAT BLUE

Kenneth M. Buss MMCA (SS)	Patrick J. McGee ENCA (SS)
Arthur L. Corten ETCS (SS)	"L" "E" Poe EMCS (SS)
Don C. E. Davis HMCA	Julian R. Powell CSCA (SS)
Alfred P. Day, Jr., FTC (SS)	Edward (n) Seader, Jr., TMCA (SS)
Charles M. Dewey ETC (SS)	Wayne E. Smith YNCS (SS)
Robert L. Foster SOCA (SS)	James E. Vaught FTCA (SS)
Gilvie E. Huntley FTCA (SS)	John J. Wells SOCA (SS)
Robert H. Jones EMCA (SS)	Gustav A. Wendt RMCM (SS)
Lawrence F. Keidel MMCA	Thomas H. Wesley ICCA (SS)
William F. Kline ENCA	Horace E. Williams SMCA (SS)
Herbert W. Lennox HMCA (SS)	Jack B. Wood MMCA (SS)

ANDREW S. DONALDSON  
TMCA (SS)  
CHIEF OF THE BOAT GOLD

Homer C. Bosley ENCS (SS)	Charles (n) McAtamney ENCA (SS)
John F. Cherry SOCS (SS)	Edward (n) McNair SDC
Gordon T. Dalbol ENC (SS)	George E. Nault EMCS (SS)
Donald E. Dillullo HMCA (SS)	Norwood C. Outten QMCA (SS)
Charles W. Duncan YNCA (SS)	John A. L. Pixley ENC (SS)
Charles T. Edwards TMCA (SS)	Advah H. Reynolds, Jr., MMCA (SS)
Satterlee G. French FTCA (SS)	Calvin K. Shepard ETCA (SS)
Melvin A. Gerfin ENCA (SS)	Peter (n) Stanko RMCA (SS)
Billy W. Garrison EMCA	Clovis H. Tapp SKCA
Edward A. Jones MMCA (SS)	James E. Warren QMCA (SS)
Archie A. Koski ENC (SS)	William J. Wylie ICCS (SS)
Edward F. Mathewson ETC (SS)	

## ENLISTED PERSONNEL

### BLUE

Arthur E. Allum, EM1(P2)(SS)  
 Charles A. Amole, SK1  
 Bernard A. Anulies, FTM2(P1)(SS)  
 Jack E. Baker, CS1(SS)  
 Melvin L. Basler, EN2(P1)  
 Douglas D. Benge, ET1(P1)(SS)  
 Larry L. Bolding, IC2(P2)(SS)  
 Chris E. Boughter, ETR2(P1)(SS)  
 Ronald W. Bradford, MM3  
 Dennison K. Breese, ET1(P1)(SS)  
 John A. N. Burreson, ETR2(P1)(SS)  
 James H. Cannell, ETR2(SS)  
 James E. Carey, MM3(SG)  
 Arnold G. Collins, RM1(P1)(SS)  
 Wendell R. Collins, ETN2(SS)  
 Kenneth E. Combs, SN  
 John (n) Deane, RM1(P1)(SS)  
 Salvador C. De Mesa, SD2(SS)  
 Victor T. Dunn, TM2(P1)(SS)  
 George A. Dyer, EN1(SS)  
 Charles G. Edison, GS3  
 Edward T. Eggers, ETR2(SS)  
 Wayne E. Ellinghausen, QM1(SS)  
 Bruce A. Feezel, GS1(P2)(SS)  
 Jay H. Feimster, YN2(SS)  
 James E. Fish, TM3  
 Terrence H. Flynn, MM2(P1)(SS)  
 Robert M. Folks, QM3  
 Don A. Foster, TM2(P1)(SS)

Herman E. Franzen, FTL3  
 Ronald G. Freehling, EN2(P1)(SS)  
 Gene E. Freeman, EN3(SS)  
 William H. Gignac, EN1(SS)  
 George M. Goodwin, ETR2(P1)(SS)  
 Robert C. Gordy, FTG1(P1)(SS)  
 David A. Hackbarth, ETR3(SS)  
 Larry C. Hardt, ENFN  
 Frank E. Holloman, SD1(P1)(SS)  
 John L. Hoosen, TM2(P1)(SS)  
 Vincent P. Kirk, Jr., ETR2(P1)  
 Charles K. Klein, EN2(P1)(SS)  
 Anthony C. Leone, CS1(SS)  
 Ronald C. Lile, QM1(SS)  
 Lawrence A. Love, EN2(P1)(SS)  
 Robert R. Mahan, GS2  
 Weston C. Marks, GS2(P1)(SS)  
 Robert B. Mayberry, TM1(P1)(SS)  
 David J. McLellan, CS3(SS)  
 Harold D. Metz, TM1(P1)(SS)  
 Robert G. Mick, EM1(P2)(SS)  
 Steven W. Miller, GS1(P1)(SS)  
 Bruce W. Milliken, IC3(SS)  
 Robert F. Moore, FN  
 Thomas J. Mulholland, QM3(SS)  
 Francis X. O'Neil, GS2(P1)(SS)  
 James H. O'Quin, EM1(P1)  
 Thomas J. Owens, ETN2(P1)  
 Gilbert J. Paprocki, EM2(P1)(SS)

Velton (n) Parker, SD2(SS)  
 John G. Patterson, ETR2  
 John J. Pavel, Jr., EM2  
 Robert S. Pfeiffer, EN1(P1)(SS)  
 James O. Pratt, GS1(P2)(SS)  
 James P. Rabon, BT2(P1)(SS)  
 Byron E. Reagan, FTM2(P1)(SS)  
 James A. Redd, SOS2(P1)(SS)  
 George A. Reynolds, IC1(P2)(SS)  
 Robert G. Reynolds, EN2(P1)(SS)  
 Thomas A. Robertson, IC2(P1)(SS)  
 Robert C. Rourke, SN  
 Edmond C. Sarran, Jr., IC2(P1)(SS)  
 Roger W. Schlieff, ETR2(P1)(SS)  
 Timothy J. Shanahan, Jr., FT2(P1)(SS)  
 Angus J. Smith, III, QM2(SS)  
 William E. Smith, SN  
 Normand N. St. Laurent, IC2(SS)  
 A. R. Teixeira, SN  
 Curtis L. Thomas, SN  
 Charles G. Tyler, FTG2(P2)  
 Robert W. Thompkins, EN2(P1)(SS)  
 Daniel (n) Villegas, RM2(P1)(SS)  
 William (n) Weinstein, EN1(SS)  
 Charles B. Williams, EN1(P1)  
 Richard L. Williams, ET1(P1)(SS)  
 Henry A. Xander, Jr., FN(SG)  
 Karl F. J. Yager, EM3(P1)(SS)  
 Joseph P. Yates, GS2(P1)(SS)



## ENLISTED PERSONNEL

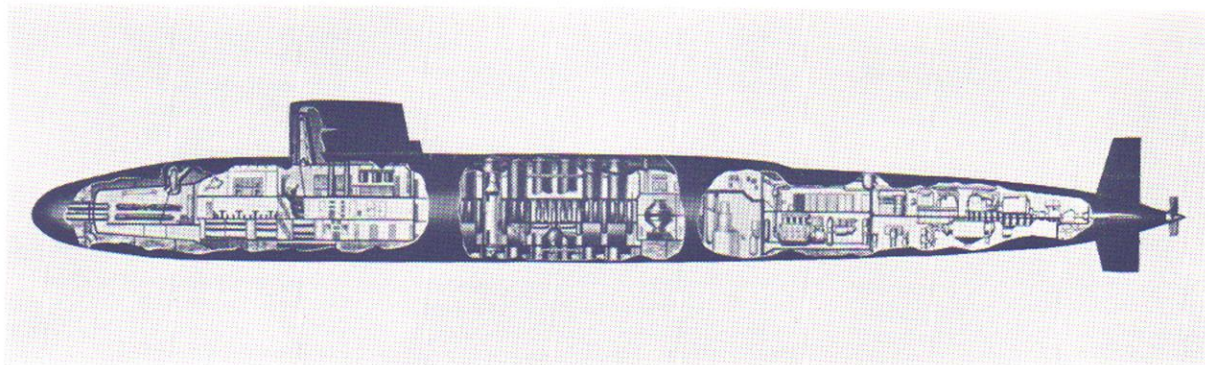
### GOLD

Robin E. Adair, RM1(P1)(SS)  
John E. Adams, ETR2(P1)(SS)  
Donovan L. Ashpole, EN2(P1)(SS)  
Bruce A. Baird, SOS2(P1)(SS)  
Raymond E. Baldwin, CS2(SS)  
Roscoe (n) Barnett, ETN2(P1)(SS)  
Jerry F. Bauman, Jr., IC1(P1)(SS)  
Glen J. Birdwhistell, EN2(P1)(SS)  
Robert L. Bishop, EN2(P1)(SS)  
George R. Board, ETR2(SS)  
Richard D. Brazzale, EN3(SS)  
George V. Brooks, IC2(P1)(SS)  
George S. Brown, III, SN(SG)  
William T. Brown, SA  
David L. Burrows, FT1(P1)  
Edward C. Carbullido, SD2(SS)  
Donald L. Carlson, FT1(P2)(SS)  
Donald S. Cash, TM3  
William H. Chollman, EN2(P1)(SS)  
George W. Clanton, SM1(SS)  
Edwin S. Cope, EM1(P2)  
Ronald G. Corn, IC2(P1)(SS)  
John L. Crockett, RD1(P1)(SS)  
Paul E. Crum, EM1(P1)(SS)  
Charles G. Culver, Jr., ET1(P1)(SS)  
Williard G. Dambach, ETN2(P2)(SS)  
Steven F. Darvill, GS3  
Jesse B. Davis, EM1(P2)(SS)  
James W. Derouin, ET1(P1)(SS)  
Delbert H. Ennis, EN1(P1)

Richard A. Fender, EN2(SS)  
Lonnie L. Flannery, EM1(P1)  
Werner (n) Friedman, FTG2(P1)(SS)  
William G. Gabrio, ETR3(SS)  
Mervin W. Gillespy, TM2(SS)  
David W. Graham, TM2(P1)(SS)  
Luther H. Hager, III, EN2(P1)(SS)  
Eugene R. Harkness, ET1(P1)(SS)  
Stanley (n) Harris, SD3(SS)  
George E. Hogan, FT1(P1)  
Conrad W. Horn, ETR2(SS)  
Earle A. Howard, Jr., QM2(SS)  
Leslie A. Hughes, RM1(P1)(SS)  
Hugh F. Hurtt, TN(SS)  
Eric R. Johnson, YN2(SS)  
Raymond W. Johnson, Jr., EN2(P1)  
Tommie H. Johnson, EN2(SS)  
John E. Kadel, SN(SG)  
David J. Kane, Jr., ENFN  
Valery C. Keaveny, MM1(P1)(SS)  
Randolph H. Kulp, IC2(P1)(SS)  
Shepard K. Linscott, III, HM1(P1)  
Louis P. Llorca, ET1(SS)  
William P. Mahone, SA  
Allyn G. Marbut, IC1(P2)(SS)  
Ronald L. McBurney, FN  
Robert A. McCloy, CS1(SS)  
Thomas J. McGraw, TM2(P2)(SS)  
Robert F. McKinzey, FN

Leon D. Milbeck, SN(SG)  
James W. Mitchell, II, EM1  
Wilburn H. Mitchell, EN1(SS)  
Francis (n) Murphy, EN1(P1)(SS)  
James O. Mustin, TM1(P1)(SS)  
Richard B. O'Keefe, GS2(P1)(SS)  
James G. Phillips, TM2(SS)  
William P. Photinos, Jr., MM3  
Vincent P. Reich, EN1(SS)  
Samuel C. Richardson, Jr., QM2(SS)  
Richard G. Rushlow, RD1(P1)(SS)  
Chester E. Saunders, IC2(P1)  
Clifford J. Sizelove, ETR2(P2)(SS)  
Jim L. Smith, EN2(P1)(SS)  
Thadeus J. Sowell, TM2(P1)(SS)  
Donald L. Stevenson, CS1(SS)  
Edward F. Tetreault, FTG1(P1)(SS)  
Raymond J. Tortorigi, SOS2(P1)(SS)  
Dennis E. Upchurch, ETN2(P1)(SS)  
Maynard L. Ward, RM2(P1)(SS)  
Oliver T. Weis, FTM2(P2)(SS)  
James P. Whitaker, IC2(P1)(SS)  
Columbus (n) Whitehead, FT1(P1)(SS)  
George D. Wilhelm, GS3  
Frank H. Wilkins, TM2(P1)(SS)  
George A. Willard, FTA3  
Brian L. Williams, ETN2(SS)  
James E. Williams, Jr., FT1(P1)  
Larry W. Wolford, FTM3

## SHIPS STATISTICS



USS SAM HOUSTON, SSB(N)609

Keel Laid: 28 December 1959

Launched: 2 February 1961

Builders Trials: 21 January 1962

Length: 410 ft.

Beam: 33 ft.

Submerged Displacement: 7,874 tons

Maximum Depth: In excess of 400 ft.

Maximum Speed: In excess of 20 knots

Ships Complement: 126

Number Missile Tubes: 16

# Autographs





