

FLEET FOCUS

William H. Bates inactivates after 25 years of service

By JO3 McClain Shewman
SUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USS William H. Bates (SSN 680) was inactivated after 25 years of faithful service in a ceremony held recently at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The first Commanding Officer of the Bates, Glenn Arthur, retired Navy Capt. and former Connecticut state representative, was the guest speaker.

The submarine force in the Pacific will continue to shrink from as many as 40 in the early 1990's to only 25 early in the next decade. Ironically, demand for submarines in support of specific national tasking has more than doubled since the end of the Cold War.

"The Bates has established an enviable record. The sweat and tears and long separations by each of us who have gone to sea with her have been well spent," said Arthur. "We have operated [William H. Bates] to accomplish many significant events. Each of the crewmembers can stand proud, for they have done their job well - just as the man for whom this ship was named, William H. Bates, did his job well for all of us as a U.S. Congressman," added Arthur.

Arthur served in the Navy from 1955 to 1977 as a graduate from the Naval Academy. After his tour as Commanding Officer of Bates, Arthur went on to become Deputy Commodore for Training Submarine Squadron Ten before becoming a Connecticut state representative.

"With Capt. Glenn Arthur, my Commanding Officer



file photo

USS William H. Bates (SSN 680) was decommissioned after 25 years of faithful service recently. The submarine was named in honor of the late United States Representative William H. Bates of Massachusetts. Rep. Bates was devoted to the vital importance of U.S. seapower and served in the Navy for 10 years.

when I was the engineer on the Bates, we breathed life into this fine ship," said Rear Adm. Al Konetzni, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "He taught me a lot, and I do mean a lot, about being a successful engineer, a profes-

sional naval officer, about being a shipmate, and most of all about being true to yourself and others," added Konetzni.

The Bates recently returned from its final Western Pacific Deployment (WEST-PAC), which was the last

ever for a Pacific-based Sturgeon-class submarine.

The submarine William H. Bates was named in honor of the late United States Representative William H. Bates of Massachusetts. Rep. Bates was devoted to the vital importance of U.S.

seapower, and served in the Navy for 10 years. Rep.

Bates served from 1950 to 1969, becoming the senior Republican member of the House Armed Services Committee and the second ranking House member of the Joint Atomic Energy

Family members cruise around Hawaii with USS O'Kane

By USS O'Kane Public Affairs

THERE wasn't a cloud in the sky and just a slight breeze coming down from the north as more than 100 USS O'Kane (DDG 77) guests and family members boarded the ship to cruise to Lahaina, Maui. This would be the first official family member cruise for O'Kane and the last time she would be underway for more than two months. With that in mind, the crew pulled out all the stops and ensured their guests enjoyed an unforgettable weekend.

The day began with a quick and flawless sea detail out of Pearl Harbor where the first humpback whales were soon spotted off the starboard bow. As if choreographed, there were at least 100 whale sightings between Oahu and Maui.

Within an hour of leaving the channel the guests and crew were enjoying a fantastic cookout on the fantail supplied by Mess Specialist Senior Chief Petty Officer (SW) George Dann's galley team, and music provided by O'Kane's System Test Officer, Lt. Aaron Sterling.

As the afternoon continued the guests were treated to static displays of small boats and damage control equipment, followed by the MK-45 5-inch and close-in weapons system gun shoots.

Lt.j.g. Kevin Hoffman said, "it was great that the family members got to experience the sights and sounds of a war fighting Aegis destroyer."

As O'Kane closed in on the anchorage, guests and Sailors lined the decks to get the first looks at Lahaina, Maui.

Within an hour of anchorage just off the Lahaina waterfront, the family members, guests, and crewmembers were ashore beginning their vacations. Saturday they could be found all over the island hiking, snorkeling, shopping, and enjoying the numerous beaches. Those on duty provided tours for over 500 Maui residents who wanted to get a look at the Navy's newest Aegis destroyer.

Sunday morning started off early with liberty boats ferrying to the ship some very tanned and relaxed people. As O'Kane pulled up the anchor the vigilant watch for humpback whales began again while the family and guests enjoyed brunch on the mess-decks and the fantail.

The cruise back to Oahu was highlighted by some full power maneuvers and an awards ceremony for crewmembers. O'Kane's cruise was a great success and the crew looks forward to another chance to show off their magnificent ship to their families and guests.

Asheville spends day at 'Crossroads International' in Hong Kong

by USS Asheville Public Affairs Office

On a recent port visit to Hong Kong, crewmembers from USS Asheville (SSN 758) took time out from their brief stay to provide assistance to Crossroads International.

The hardworking crewmembers assisted in the move from Crossroads' previous building to its new location. In 1995, crossroads sent off 19 cartons of relief supplies. In 1999, their warehouse held goods equating to 60, 40 foot containers. This monumental increase in relief supplies fueled the

need for a larger operating area. Desiring to "give something back to the community", the community relations project included providing labor for various tasks which normally prove difficult for the small staff of volunteers.

"It was worth all the hard work when I saw the new warehouse full of the relief supplies," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SS) Craig Soleim.

Master Chief Electronics Technician (SS) Robert Ashton added "It was the perfect way to spend the day. We all welcomed the experience and we're glad to have helped with the labor. It was re-

warding both for crossroads and for the crew. The day spent at the crossroads project will be a favorite memory of Asheville's stay in Hong Kong."

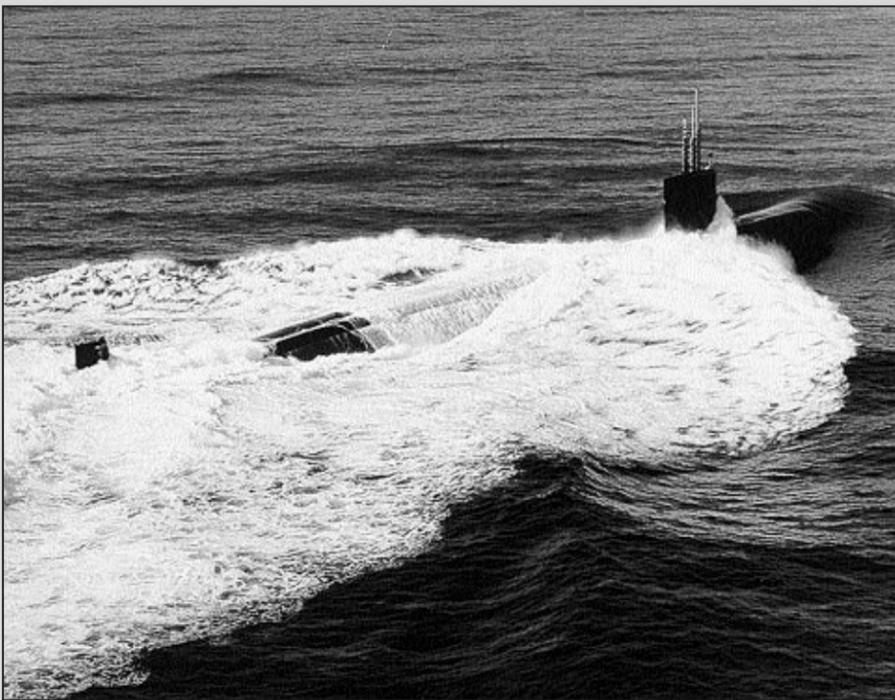
"It is amazing how the crew is always willing to set aside their much deserved liberty to help the less fortunate," reflected Lt.j.g. Shane Strohl, Asheville's supply officer. "The Asheville Sailors work well together both on and off duty. The teamwork and enthusiasm they display in all they do never ceases to impress me."

After the end of the day, Sal Begbie, crossroad's co-founder, surveyed all the relocated relief sup-

plies. She addressed the group, "We just love it when the U.S. Navy comes to town. They always provide the most "muscles" and work so effectively together as a team."

Asheville volunteers and hometowns included Lt.j.g. Shane P. Strohl, ETCM(SS) Robert C. Ashton, Senior Chief Machinist's Mate(SS) Jeffery R. Daue, Master Chief Electricians Mate(SS) Randall E. Mcquiston, Chief Fire Control Technician(SS) Shaun D. Garvin, HM1(SS) Craig R. Soleim, Storkeeper 1st Class(SS) Kevin A. Hunt, and Sonar Technician (Submarine) Seaman (SS) Shawn D. Lewis.

USS Asheville Sailors visit Tokyo Tower, Big Buddha in Kamakura



file photo

USS Asheville (SSN 758) Sailors experienced a variety of Japanese culture while visiting their first port of their western Pacific deployment in Tokyo, Japan. Asheville is currently on a six-month deployment.

By USS Asheville Public Affairs Office

USS Asheville (SSN-758), a 688-I class submarine, visited the first of several ports of call on its Western Pacific deployment.

Crewmembers were afforded the opportunity to experience the local culture of Japan. The Tokyo Tower, shopping and dining were some of the memorable attractions for those who visited Tokyo. "One of the most enjoyable and fascinating cities I have ever visited," exclaimed Lt. j.g. Nathan Temple, Asheville's sonar officer, as he returned from an overnight trip to Tokyo.

Others crew members visited the scenic city of Kamakura, which has many ancient temples, shrines and the world's largest bronze Buddha statue.

Also notable were the support of the Yokosuka base staff and the openness of the host country.

According to many Asheville Sailors, everyone from the staff of Commander, Submarine Group SEVEN, to the employees at the base's new fleet recreation center, provided the ship's crew with much-appreciated assistance.

"The base recreation facilities were exceptional and provided the Sailors with all the comforts of a fully-equipped gymnasium and Internet Cafe," said Storekeeper 1st Class Kevin Hunt, Asheville's leading storekeeper and a native of Tracy, Calif.

Additionally, all services requested for the ship were arranged well in advance and enabled a very smooth mooring and establishment of follow-on services."

Crewmembers found the local citizens to be very proud of their country and enjoyed the opportunity to share their culture and magnificent country with them.

"The people of Japan made this visit most memorable," said Lt. Cmdr. Doug Wright, Asheville's executive officer. "They welcomed us to their country with open arms and hearts."