

Welcome Aboard
USS L.Y. Spear AS-36



Attack Submarine Tender
U.S. Atlantic Fleet

THE SHIP AND ITS CREW

USS L.F. SPEAR is named in honor of Lawrence York Spear, a Naval Academy graduate and former president of Electric Boat Company. Referring to Mr. Spear in 1942, Rear Admiral James W. Liff, then Commander of the Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet, said "Of all those who have contributed to the modern submarine, if the greater portion could be attributed to one man, it would be to Lawrence Spear."

The first of her class, L.F. SPEAR is designed to provide mobile facilities, support and services to nuclear attack submarines and their operational commander and his staff. The ship is equipped with shops, material and technical capabilities to repair and modify submarines requiring any alterations short of shipyard capabilities. The crew provides logistic support, including stocking, maintaining and issuing supplies, spare parts and weapons. Complete medical and dental facilities are available, including a ward for the sick. L.F. SPEAR is like a small city providing logistic support to an entire squadron of nuclear submarines. The ship is a floating industrial maintenance complex, compressed supply center and ammunition depot providing numerous services. Her mobility provides the U.S. Navy with a complete submarine support capability in any area assigned. The officer and crew assigned to L.F. SPEAR are highly trained and include experienced craftsmen who often run their machines in shifts to support around the clock operations and to maintain the necessarily high levels of workmanship and readiness in the Submarine Force.

L. F. SPEAR AWARDS

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION ribbon
BATTLE EFFICIENCY "E" ribbon (FOUR AWARDS)
NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL
SEA SERVICE ribbon
KEY AWARD



THE SHIP AND ITS CREW



WARRANT OFFICER
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER
CAPTAIN
LIEUTENANT
LIEUTENANT
LIEUTENANT
LIEUTENANT
LIEUTENANT
LIEUTENANT
LIEUTENANT

Captain
JOHN FRANCIS WYLLAN, JR.
United States Navy

CAPTAIN JOHN

Captain John F. Whelan, Jr. graduated from high school in Abington, Massachusetts in 1933. He enlisted in the Navy in 1933 and attended the Naval Academy Preparatory School at Annapolis, Maryland prior to entering the U. S. Naval Academy in June 1934.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy in June 1938, he served for three months aboard the destroyer USS KENNETH D. BAILEY (DD-171) prior to entering the Naval Submarine School, New London, Connecticut. Upon graduation he attended the Nuclear Power School, New London in 1942 and completed training at the Nuclear Power Training Unit, West Milton, New York in March 1943.

In April 1943, Captain Whelan was assigned to the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (BBN 402) and completed five Atlantic patrols while serving as Main Propulsion Assistant, Electrical and Reaction Control Officer, Damage Control Assistant, Communicator and Senior Officer. He also served as Communicating Engineer on the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARRIER (BBN 404) (GOLD), Assistant Nuclear Power Officer on the Staff of Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, Engineer of the USS SALISBURY (BBN 403), and Executive Officer of the USS DEW (BBN 444).

In August 1943 Captain Whelan reported to the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia. Upon graduation in January 1944 he underwent training as Prospective Commanding Officer and assumed command of USS TENOGA (BBN 406) on 2 December 1944. Captain Whelan commanded USS TENOGA (BBN 406) through a two and one-half year rotating overhaul in Pascagoula, Mississippi and subsequent Mediterranean deployment from September 1946 to February 1948. He was relieved as Commanding Officer, USS TENOGA on 29 April 1948.

Captain Whelan reported to the Staff of Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet in May 1948 as Operations Officer and was assigned as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations from May 1949 to July 1949.

Captain Whelan has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star, Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy Achievement Medal and authorized to wear the Navy Unit Commendation, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Award and the Polar Service Medal (seven patrols).

