Welcome Aboard
USS L.Y. Spear AS-36

L.Y. SPEAR

AS-36

Attack Submarine Tender
U.S. Atlantic Fleet
THE SHIP AND ITS CREW

The first of her class, L.Y. 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, repair parts and weapons. Complete medical and dental facilities are available, including a ward for the sick. L.Y. SPEAR is like a small city providing logistic support to an entire squadron of nuclear submarines. The ship is a floating industrial maintenance complex, computerized 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.Y. 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 stands of workmanship and readiness in the Submarine Force.

L. Y. SPEAR AWARDS

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION RIBBON
BATTLE EFFICIENCY “E” RIBBON (FOUR AWARDS)
NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL
SEA SERVICE RIBBON
NEY AWARD
Captain

JOHN FRANCIS WHELAN, JR.
United States Navy
USS L. Y. SPEAR AS-36 is named after a man that former United States President, Harry S. Truman commended for ‘outstanding fidelity and meritorious conduct in aid of the war effort against common enemies of the United States and its allies in World War I.’

Our ship, the submarine tender of SUBRON SIX, and one of the finest in its class of the U.S. Navy is named for Lawrence York Spear (1870 - 1950).

Mr. Spear was born in October, 1870 in Warren, Ohio. He had an early interest in ship construction and with this objective in mind, Mr. Spear entered the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis in 1886 and graduated second in his class in 1890. He served on the Navy cruisers: USS Pensacola, USS Charleston and USS Baltimore in the Atlantic and South Pacific oceans.

His enthusiasm for modernizing the United States Fleet led him to apply and be accepted for the Construction Corps. Because no suitable instruction was available in the U.S., he attended Glasgow University in Scotland, for training in Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture. After serving in various shipyards in the States, he was assigned Superintendent of Construction and Repair at Crescent Shipyard in Elizabethtown, New Jersey. While he supervised there, the Navy’s first submarines were built.

There were five Holland (named after Phillip Holland) submarines of the ‘A’ or adder class, which were under contract from the Electric Boat Company. Mr. Spear saw the potential of these new ‘ships’ and recognized his ability to assist in the development of the submarines. Mr. Spear resigned his commission as a Lieutenant in 1902, to become a technical director for Electrical Boat Company.

May 3, 1904 Mr. Spear replaced Phillip Holland as director and on June 4, 1904, Lawrence Y. Spear became Vice-President of the Electric Boat Company; a position he held for 38 years. He then served as President of the company until 1947, when he became chairman of the board.

Citing Mr. Spear in 1949, Rear Admiral James Fife, then Commander of the Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet said, “Of all of those who have contributed to the modern submarine, if the greater portion could be attributed to one man, it would be Lawrence Spear.” Lawrence York Spear died in 1950. The USS L. Y. SPEAR AS-36 was commissioned February 28, 1970.
LAWRENCE YORK SPEAR
Captain John F. Whelan, Jr. graduated from high school in Abington, Massachusetts in 1955. He enlisted in the Navy in 1955 and attended the Naval Academy Preparatory School at Bainbridge, Maryland prior to entering the U. S. Naval Academy in June 1956.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy in June 1960, he served for fifteen months aboard the destroyer USS KENNETH D. BAILEY (DDR-713) prior to entering the Naval Submarine School, New London, Connecticut. Upon graduation he attended the Nuclear Power School, New London in 1962 and completed training at the Nuclear Power Training Unit, West Milton, New York in March 1963.

In April 1963, Captain Whelan was assigned to the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (SSBN 602) and completed five deterrent patrols while serving as Main Propulsion Assistant, Electrical and Reactor Control Officer, Damage Control Assistant, Communicator and Sonar Officer. He also served as Commissioning Engineer on the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSBN 656) (GOLD), Assistant Nuclear Power Officer on the Staff of Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, Engineer of the USS HALIBUT (SSN 587), and Executive Officer of the USS SEA DEVIL (SSN 664).

In August 1973 Captain Whelan reported to the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia. Upon graduation in January 1974 he underwent training as Prospective Commanding Officer and assumed command of USS TINOSA (SSN 606) on 9 December 1974. Captain Whelan commanded USS TINOSA (SSN 606) through a two and one-half year refueling overhaul in Pascagoula, Mississippi and subsequent Mediterranean deployment from September 1978 to February 1979. He was relieved as Commanding Officer, USS TINOSA on 29 April 1979.

Captain Whelan reported to the staff of Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet in May 1979 as Operations Officer and was assigned as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations from May 1980 to July 1983.

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 Polaris Deterrent Patrol Insignia (seven patrols).
VITAL STATISTICS

The USS L. Y. SPEAR was built in Quincy, Massachusetts by General Dynamics.

Keel Laid ................................................................. 5 May 1966
Launched ................................................................. 7 September 1967
Commissioned ......................................................... 28 February 1970
Sponsor ................................................................. Mrs. Arnold F. Schade
Dimensions (feet) ................................................... Length - 643
Beam-85
Draft-24.5
Displacement ........................................................... 22,600 tons
Propulsion .............................................................. Single engine,
Steam turbine,
Single shaft
Speed ................................................................. 18.5 Knots
Manning ......................................................... 43 Officers
1068 Enlisted

The ship's crest was designed by enlisted personnel of L. Y. SPEAR and symbolizes the mission of sea power (trident) peace (oak leaves), and liberty (torch).