

USS Albany has new commander

By **TERRY BROWN**
Staff writer

The nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Albany (SSN 753) has a new commander.

Navy Cmdr. **Thad Nisbett** has

DUTY CALLS

Merrick during a ceremony on board the USS Albany at Naval Station Norfolk's Pier 3, Va.

Merrick, an Ohio native, has been assigned to serve as the senior board member of the Tactical Readiness Examination

Team on the staff of Submarine Force commander.

Nisbett was previously assigned to Submarine Development Squadron 12 at Groton, Conn., as the Sea Shield department head.

Nisbett began his naval career at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., where he graduated with distinction in 1989. Following nuclear power and basic submarine training, he served on USS Henry M. Jackson in Bangor, Wash.

Following his first assignment, he reported to the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in

Orlando, Fla., as division director for Enlisted Reactor Plane Technologies. He earned a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Central Florida. He also earned a master's degree in foreign affairs.

After he completed the Submarine Officer Advanced Course, he served as an engineering officer on the USS Atlanta (SSN 712). In 2000, Nisbett was assigned as the engineering officer on USS Virginia (SSN 774). Following that tour, he served as the

Please see **DUTY B7** ▶

DUTY: USS Albany has long history

▼ CONTINUED FROM B1
executive officer on USS Providence (SSN 719), based at Groton.

"With stealth, persistence, agility and firepower, fast-attack submarines like Albany are multi-mission capable — able to deploy and support special forces operations, disrupt and destroy an adversary's military and economic operations at sea, provide early strike from close proximity and ensure undersea superiority," said **Christina Shaw**, a communication specialist with Submarine Forces Public Affairs. The USS Albany is 360 feet long, displaces 6,900 tons of water and can travel in excess of 25 knots.

The USS Albany sub was commissioned in 1990. It's the fifth ship to bear the name of New York's capital.

The first USS Albany was commissioned in 1846 as a 22-gun sloop-of-war and served in the Mexican War. The ship and its crew mysteriously disappeared in 1854 after departing from Colon, Panama, with a destination of New York City. Although a search was conducted, no trace of the ship has ever been found.

The second USS Albany was constructed in 1864. The ship was a 14-gun, power-driven sloop-of-war originally christened USS Contoocook. Her name was changed to Albany in 1869. She cruised the North Atlantic and West Indies before being decommissioned in 1870.

The keel for the third USS Albany was laid in Newcastle, England, in 1897. The cruiser was originally constructed for the Brazil navy. The United States purchased the navy vessel in 1898. Two years later, this ship

was commissioned as the third USS Albany.

At the onset of World War I, the USS Albany served as escort for the first Atlantic convoy under a United States command. During the war, the cruiser helped to protect 11 convoys, which had a total of 224 ships, on voyages to Europe. The cruiser was decommissioned in 1929.

The fourth Albany was originally constructed as a heavy cruiser (CA-123) by Bethlehem Steel Company, Quincy, Mass. She was commissioned in the Boston Navy Yard on June 15, 1946. During her 12 years of service as a cruiser, the USS Albany visited nearly every major Atlantic, Caribbean and Mediterranean port.

In 1958, Albany was placed out of commission for conversion to a guided missile cruiser.

Exactly four years later, that USS Albany emerged from the yards as the world's first guided missile cruiser. She served in the Mediterranean and North Atlantic where the ship became the flagship of the 6th Fleet commander. She was decommissioned in Norfolk in 1980.

Albany crews to reunite

The USS Albany Association will hold a reunion of USS Albany crews from Sept. 11 to 16 at the Crowne Plaza at San Diego.

For information, call **Bill Sperberg** of Oceanside, Calif., at (760) 721-6504 or e-mail schglieg@sbeglobal.net

▶ News of your soldiers and units can be sent to *Duty Calls*, Terry Brown, Times Union, Box 15000, Albany, NY 12212 or by e-mail at brown@timesunion.com.