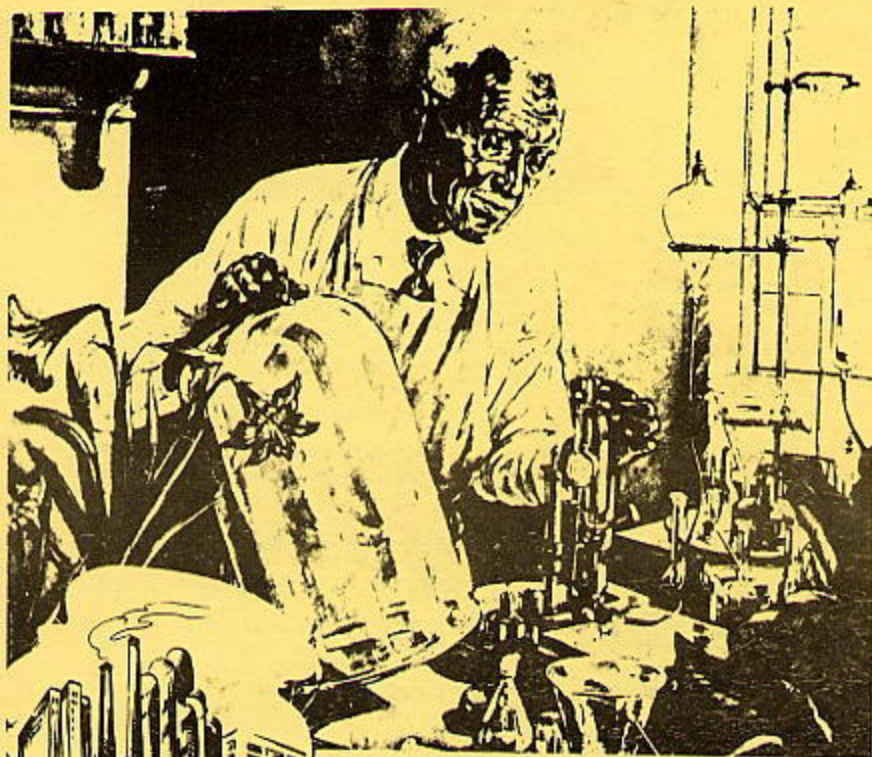


WELCOME ABOARD



USS
George Washington

CARVER

SSBN 656



THE SHIP AND CREW

The USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSEN 656) was the thirty-seventh Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine to join the fleet. Serving as part of the United States Deterrent Force, she has the capability to carry sixteen Navy C-3 Poseidon missiles. The endurance and mobility provided by her nuclear reactor propulsion system enables CARVER to cover almost any target on earth. The ship is four hundred twenty-five feet in length and has a submerged displacement of eighty-two hundred tons, equivalent to a light cruiser. CARVER's complement is twelve officers and one hundred twenty-eight enlisted men.

The keel of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSEN 656) was laid 24 August 1964 at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Newport News, Virginia.

The ship was launched on 14 August 1965, and sponsored by Miss Marian Anderson, the world renowned American opera singer. The launching speaker was W. Willard Wirtz, Secretary of Labor.

In May, 1966, the ship began a series of four sea trials. Riding the ship on the first trial were Vice Admiral H.G. RICKOVER, Director, Naval Reactor Division, Atomic Energy Commission and Deputy Commander, Naval Ship Systems Command, and Vice Admiral V.L. LOWRANCE, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Both proclaimed the trial a success.

The submarine was commissioned on 15 June 1966 with Dr. Luther H. Foster, President of Tuskegee Institute as the principal speaker. Assuming command of the ship was Captain R.D. DONAVAN, Commanding Officer of the Blue Crew. Lieutenant Commander C.J. LIDEL was the first Commanding Officer of the Gold Crew.

After completing a series of shakedown cruises, which included the launching of a Polaris missile more than 1500 nautical miles into an Atlantic Ocean target area, the CARVER commenced her Polaris deterrent patrol cycle in December of 1966.



COMMANDER Gregory B. WILLIAMS was born in Floral Park, New York in 1943. He attended high school in Elmont, New York and the University of Notre Dame for one year prior to entering the U.S. Naval Academy in 1963. He graduated and was commissioned in 1966, having earned a Bachelor of Science Degree.

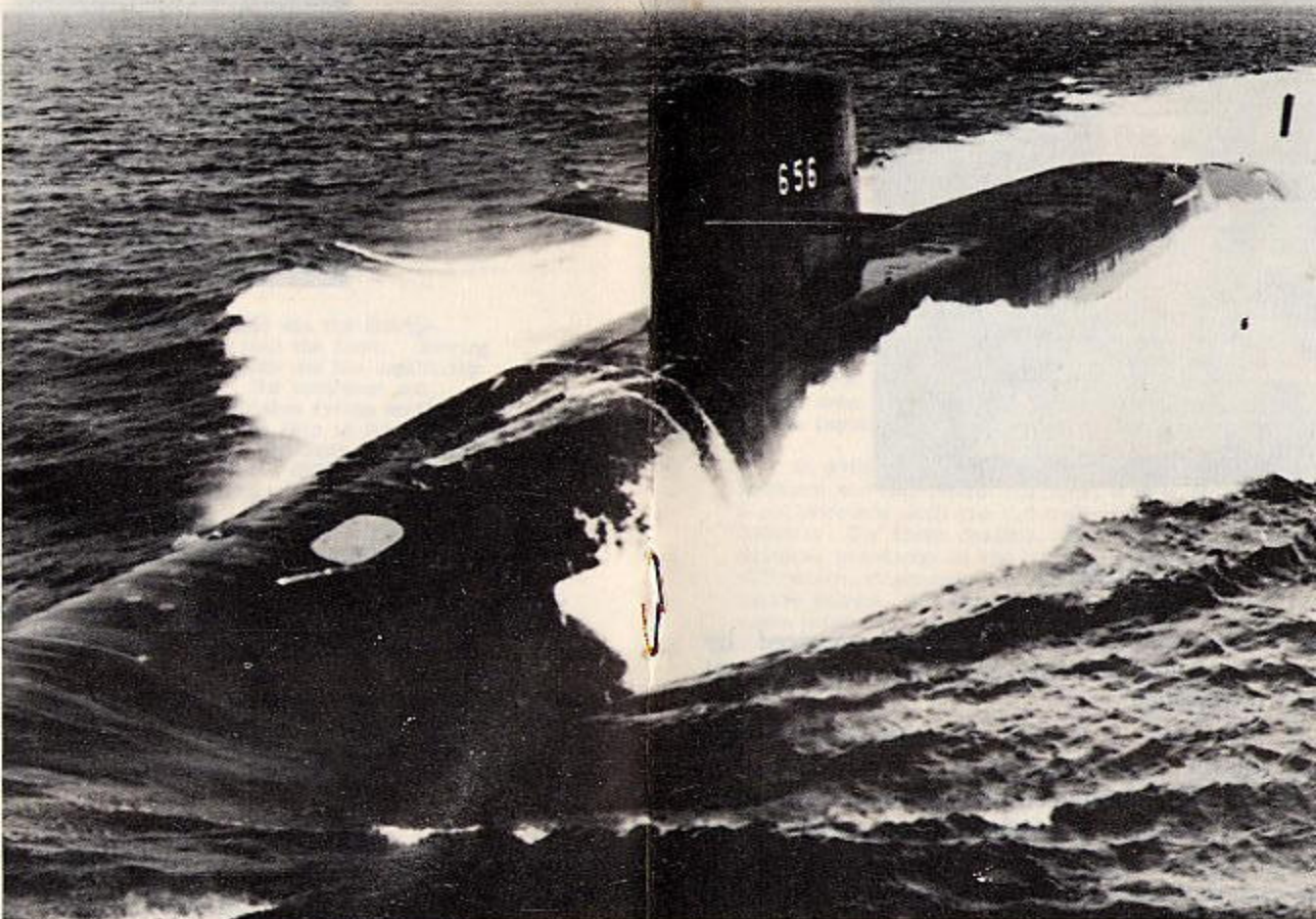
COMMANDER WILLIAMS attended Naval Submarine School after graduation and completed Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program Training in Mare Island, California, and Ballston Spa, New York. He reported to USS DACE (SSN 607) in February 1968 where he served as Communicator and Main Propulsion Assistant.

In May 1970, COMMANDER WILLIAMS returned to the Nuclear Power Training Unit, Ballston Spa, New York as a Staff instructor for two years.

In May 1972, COMMANDER WILLIAMS reported to USS TAUTOG (SSN 639) as Engineer Officer and in December 1975 to USS PLUNGER (SSN 595) as Operations Officer and Navigator completing two Western Pacific Deployments and earning a Navy Commendation Medal.

COMMANDER WILLIAMS served as Executive Officer, USS SCAMP (SSN 588), from July 1977 until August 1980 completing a deployment to South America and earning a Navy Achievement Medal.

COMMANDER WILLIAMS resides in East Lyme, CT.



USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

SSBN 656



THE MISSILE .

POSEIDON, is a two-stage ballistic missile powered by solid rocket motors. The 3,000 nautical mile range operational missile is designated POSEIDON.

The missile is 34 feet long, 6 feet in diameter and weighs 64,000 pounds. Each missile is launched from the submarine by the gas generator method. Once launched, the missile is propelled through the water to the surface where the rocket motor ignites and sends the missile on its way to the target. An automatic water compensating system ensures that the submarine maintains its ballistic trim as each 32 ton missile is fired by flooding in the required amount of water.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER
1864-1943

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSN 656) is the first ship named for Dr. George Washington Carver, the famed American agricultural chemist and educator whose scientific achievements were a vital factor in the economic and social progress of the South.

George Washington Carver was born near Diamond Groves, Missouri, the son of former slaves of the planter Moses Carver. He was only a few months old in the last year of the Civil War when he and his mother were stolen by raiders and carried into Arkansas. His mother disappeared, but he was returned to Mr. Carver in exchange for a horse. He was given the name George Washington Carver, and at nine left the Carver family to make his own way in the world.

Carver educated himself inspite of the obstacles thrown up by racial prejudices, and abject poverty, and advanced to a high place in the scientific and academic world. He received his Master of Science degree from Iowa State College in 1896, and became a member of the faculty. In the same year Booker T. Washington persuaded him to become the Director of the Department of Agricultural Research at Tuskegee Institute.

In 1905 Carver became the Director of the Department of Agricultural Research and Experiment Stations, a post he held until his death. He was a collaborator with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, for three decades. He found numerous ways to improve agricultural practices in the South through soil conservation and crop diversification, discovered new uses for existing crops, widened the use of native plants, and successfully developed methods for the utilization of waste products. His research bore fruit in the form of synthetic products - 300 from the peanut, 118 from the sweet potato, and more than 60 from pecans. His creative touch brought synthetic marble from wood shavings, hundreds of vegetable-based dyes, pigments from clays, rope, cordage, mats, and carpets from okra fiber, and excellent fertilizers from swamp growth and leaf mulch.

Dr. Carver refused staggering sums for the commercial exploitation of his inventions, and instead gave them freely for the use of mankind and the Nation. His distinguished service to humanity continues through the George Washington Carver Foundation which he established in 1940 and endowed with his total life savings. He died, unmarried, in Tuskegee, Alabama, on January 5, 1943. His remarkable contributions to humanity and to the United States of America were recognized by Congress, which passed a resolution fixing the date of his death as George Washington Carver Day.

On July 14, 1953, Dr. Carver's birthplace on the site of the old Moses Carver plantation was made a national monument. Amid the original walnut groves where, as a young boy, he began his botanical studies, the monument is marked by a plaque and a bronze bust of the man who, born a slave, had become a scientist and a benefactor of his country.

