

# Centennial Introduction Seven

Only the very best are chosen to serve in America's submarine force. Only the best of the best are selected to be leaders of these elite Sailors. In the first 100 years of U.S. submarine history there have been seven African American submarine commanders. These seven men have demonstrated through their dedication and skill that they indeed are the very best America has to offer. They have each served with distinction in the face of difficulty. They have each honored their oath of office while they guided the highly trained crews of their ships in defense of American principles.



## C.A. "Pete" Tzomes

Captain C.A. "Pete" Tzomes was born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the son of James C. and Charlotte E. (Hill) Tzomes.

A 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Tzomes reported aboard his first submarine, USS WILL ROGERS (SSBN 659) in February 1969. Tzomes served in various capacities aboard USS PINTADO (SSN 672), USS DRUM (SSN 672), and USS CAVALLA (SSN 684) before reporting to USS HOUSTON (SSN 713) in May 1983 as the first African American to command a U.S. submarine.



After this command tour, he was assigned as the Force Operations Officer on the staff of Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor from June 1986 until June 1988 where he was responsible for overseeing the operations of all submarines in the Pacific theater.

After his retirement from active duty in 1994, Tzomes became a utility manager in the nuclear division of Exelon Corporation and works at its Quad Cities Generating Station.



## Tony Watson

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Tony Watson's career as a nuclear submarine officer included tours aboard USS SNOOK (SSN 592), USS ROBERT E. LEE (SSBN 601), USS ARCHERFISH (SSN 678), USS BIRMINGHAM (SSN 695), and USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN 663). He was Commanding Officer, USS JACKSONVILLE (SSN 699) from 1987 to 1989. He assumed the role as Commander, SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1992. Watson became the first African American in the nuclear submarine force to attain the rank of Rear Admiral.



He was selected as the Black Engineer of the Year, Government, in 1988, received the Order of Lincoln Award, the State of Illinois' highest honor, and was awarded the NAACP Roy Wilkins' Meritorious Service Award for public service. He is Co-Chairman of the Black Engineer of the Year Alumni Association, and in partnership with the Chicago Youth Centers, established the Tony Watson/CYC Math and Science Scholarships for inner-city youth in Chicago, providing cash scholarships for college bound students.

He is CEO of Alliance Leadership Group (ALG), a consulting firm that specializes in development of corporate strategies and diversity focused executive search.



## William F. Bundy

Dr. William F. Bundy is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He enlisted in the Navy in 1964 and served as a Chief Sonar Technician (Submarines) before being commissioned at the Naval Officer Candidate School in 1975. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy Degree at Salve Regina University and is a graduate of the Baltimore City College. Dr. Bundy is the third African American to command a submarine in the U.S. Navy.

Bundy's tours aboard submarines included USS STURGEON (SSN 637), USS SAM HOUSTON (SSBN 609)(Gold), USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL (SSN 687), USS MEMPHIS (SSN 691), USS LAFAYETTE (SSBN 616)(Blue), and USS BLUEBACK (SS 581). He served ashore as the Director, Naval Officer Candidate School and in Submarine Group FIVE, Submarine Squadron THREE, and in the Nuclear Operations Division U.S. Atlantic Command. He assumed command of USS BARBEL (SS 580) in June 1988.



Dr. Bundy was recognized as the 1993 Black Engineer of the Year for Achievement in Government and received the 1994 U.S. Navy League Dalton L. Bough Award for Inspirational Leadership. He is a Professor on the faculty of the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.



## Mel Williams, Jr.

Vice Admiral Mel Williams is the son of Melvin G. Williams, a Submarine Force Master Chief Petty Officer (retired) and Ruth Williams. Although born in San Diego, California, Williams claims the Washington D.C., area as his hometown.

He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978 with B.S. in mathematics and completed Naval Nuclear Propulsion and Submarine Officer Training in 1979. Williams has had a long and varied submarine career beginning with duty aboard USS JACK (SSN 605). He then served aboard USS WOODROW WILSON (SSBN 624) Gold, and USS LOUISVILLE (SSN 724) before assuming command of USS NEBRASKA (SSBN 739) Gold. Williams' other operational tours included Commander, Submarine Squadron 4, Chief of Staff, Carrier Strike Group 5, Commander, Submarine Group 9, and Deputy Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Va.



Williams is Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet. He was presented the 1995 Black Engineer of the Year Award for Professional Achievement in Government, and the 2003 National Society of Black Engineers Golden Torch Award for Lifetime Achievement in Government.

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Phone( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to Call \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Year in College \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Major \_\_\_\_\_ GPA

— Freshman (12) — Engineering

— Sophomore (13) — Physics

— Junior (14) — Math

— Senior (15) — Chemistry

— Graduate (16) — Business Admin.

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Joe Peterson

A native of Bluemont, Virginia, Joseph Peterson served eight years in the U.S. Navy as an Electronics Technician in the submarine force before earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from Rollins College. Peterson returned to the Navy through Officer Candidate School and was commissioned an Ensign in 1980.

Captain Peterson's sea duty assignments include: Navigation Leading Petty Officer and Division Officer on USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN 658), operating from Rota, Spain and Holy Loch, Scotland; second tour as Assistant Weapons Officer on USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN 658), operating from Kings Bay Georgia; Weapons Officer on USS JOHN C. CALHOUN (SSBN 630), and Executive Officer and Commanding Officer on USS DOLPHIN (AGSS 555).



Peterson is currently employed as a Senior Program Manager at American System Corporation (ASC) in support of PEO Submarines' International Programs at the Washington Navy Yard.



Cecil D. Haney

Rear Admiral Cecil D. Haney is a 1978 graduate of the United States Naval Academy where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering.

Haney completed operational assignments in USS JOHN C. CALHOUN (SSBN 630) as Electrical Division Officer, Reactor Controls Assistant, Damage Control Assistant and Main Propulsion Assistant; and in USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40), where he completed Surface Warfare qualifications while serving as Radiological Controls Officer. He served as Engineer in USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER (SSN 709), Executive Officer in USS ASHEVILLE (SSN 758), and Assistant Squadron Deputy at Submarine Squadron EIGHT before taking command of USS HONOLULU (SSN 718) in June 1996. Rear Adm. Haney commanded Submarine Squadron One from June 2002 to July 2004. In July 2004, he reported to Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, as Deputy Chief of Staff for Warfare Requirements Programming, Force Structure and Analysis. Then in June 2005, he assumed the additional responsibilities of the Plans and Policies directorate and served as the Chief of Staff and as the Deputy Chief of Staff of Plans, Policies and Requirements, U.S. Pacific Fleet (N5N8). He next served as Commander, Submarine Group Two from October 2006 to March 2008. Haney is the Director, Submarine Warfare Division (N87).



He was presented the 2006 Black Engineer of the Year Award for Career Achievement in Government.



Bruce E. Grooms

Rear Admiral Grooms, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering. Following completion of nuclear power training, he served in nearly every capacity aboard a variety of submarines including a tour as Executive Officer aboard USS PASADENA (SSN 752). He assumed command of the USS ASHEVILLE (SSN 758) and completed a Western Pacific deployment. During his tour the ship received the Battle Efficiency "E" award, the Golden Anchor and Silver Anchor for the highest retention in the submarine force.



Grooms was selected as the Vice Admiral Stockdale Inspirational Leadership Award winner for 1999. Rear Admiral Grooms served as Commander Submarine Squadron Six. After serving as Commandant of Midshipmen at the U.S.



Naval Academy, responsible for the military and professional development of the Brigade of Midshipmen. He served as Deputy Director and then Director, Submarine Warfare Division (N87B). Grooms is Vice Director, Joint Staff.

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