

# USS Jefferson City Returns Home to Naval Base Guam Following Successful Indo-Pacific Deployment



Sailors moor USS Jefferson City (SSN 759) as it arrives at Naval Base Guam. (MC1 Justin Wolpert)

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NAVAL BASE GUAM - The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Jefferson City (SSN 759) returned to its homeport of Naval Base Guam after a successful deployment in the Indo-Pacific region, Oct. 27, 2024.

“USS Jefferson City exceeded all expectations on this short deployment,” said Capt. Neil Steinhagen, Commander, Submarine Squadron 15. “The crew’s unwavering dedication to theater security and operational excellence reflects the strength of

our forward-deployed forces. Standing true to their motto, 'When Any Exigence Calls,' the crew met every challenge with distinction, directly supporting our mission in the Pacific. Job well done team – welcome home!"

During this deployment, Jefferson City undertook critical missions that strengthened national security, elevated operational maritime capabilities, and bolstered deterrence within the Indo-Pacific, underscoring the strategic importance of a forward-deployed submarine force.

"No matter the mission or task, my crew rose to every occasion," said Cmdr. Alexander (AJ) Franz, commanding officer of USS Jefferson City. "Their focus, determination, and relentless pursuit of excellence shaped an extraordinary deployment. I couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments, as each Sailor's dedication and resilience shone brightly in our mission's success."

During the deployment, 38 Jefferson City Sailors earned their submarine warfare insignia, the distinguished 'dolphins' or 'fish,' symbolizing their qualification to operate at the highest standards. This emblem represents their mastery and commitment to the submarine force's tradition of excellence.

"The strength of our Navy lies in its true source of power—our Sailors," said Jefferson City Chief of the Boat Master Chief Machinist Mate (Auxiliary) Chris Halamoutis. "The dedication these Sailors have shown to achieve this honor is truly commendable. Their perseverance, hard work, and commitment to our mission reflect the spirit of those who came before them, as they join the ranks of a distinguished community with the privilege of wearing this insignia."

As part of Jefferson City's homecoming celebration, the Navy's cherished "first kiss" and "first hug" traditions took place. The "first kiss" was awarded to Lt. j.g Jonathan Lopez and the

“first hug” was awarded to Senior Chief Machinist Mate (Auxiliary) Timothy Murphy.

Commissioned on February 29, 1992, USS Jefferson City is the only U.S. Navy vessel named for Jefferson City, Missouri. Assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 at Polaris Point, Naval Base Guam, Jefferson City is one of four Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarines forward-deployed in the Pacific. Renowned for their unparalleled speed, endurance, stealth, and mobility, the Los Angeles-class submarine serves as the backbone of the Navy’s submarine force, ensuring readiness and agility in safeguarding maritime interests around the world.