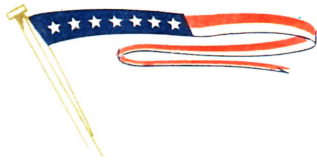


COMMISSIONING OF A NAVY SHIP

The commissioning ceremony marks the initiation of service of a ship in the Operating Forces of the United States Navy. At the moment of breaking her commissioning pennant, USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11) becomes the responsibility of her Commanding Officer, Captain Glen M. Even who, together with the ship's company, then has the duty of making and keeping her constantly ready for any service demanded by our country in peace or war.



THE COMMISSION PENNANT

The origin of the commission pennant is said to date back to the 17th century, when the Dutch were fighting the English. Admiral Tromp hoisted a broom at his masthead to indicate his intention to sweep the English from the sea. The gesture was soon answered by the English admiral who hoisted a horsewhip, to indicate his intention to chastise the Dutch. The British carried out their boast and ever since, the narrow, or coachwhip pennant (symbolizing the original horsewhip) has been the distinctive mark of a ship of war and has been adopted by all nations.