

NEW COMMANDING OFFICER CDR. LEE S. GURKE



Commander Gurke began his naval career in 1966, when he enlisted as an Electronics Technician. After attending ET class "A" School, he was assigned to duties onboard the USS Gurke (DD-783), where he was selected to participate in the Navy Enlisted Scientific Education Program (NESEP).

After attending a preparatory school at NTC San Diego, Commander Gurke was ordered to the University of Kansas. In 1971 he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Physics, and was commissioned an Ensign. As a newly commissioned officer, he attended Nuclear Power School, and the Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit, where he graduated in 1972.

His shipboard responsibilities as an officer have been as Auxiliaries Officer, Reactor Training Assistant and Chief Engineer on the USS Enterprise; Assistant Weapons Officer on the USS Downes; Electrical Officer on the USS Long Beach; and Operations Officer on the USS Fox.

Commander Gurke's shore duty responsibilities have included serving as the Assistant for Nuclear Ship Maintenance for the Commander Naval Air Force, Pacific Fleet and as a member of the joint COMNAV-SURFPAC/COMNAVAIRPAC Nuclear Propulsion Mobile Training Team, during which time he earned a Master of Science degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. Commander Gurke also served on the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Surface Warfare), as the Surface Warfare Plans and Requirements Officer.

Commander Gurke's personal decorations include 2 Meritorious Service Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Enlisted Good Conduct Medal.

On December 1, 1987, Commander Lee S. Gurke assumed the duties as Commanding Officer to the USS BUCHANAN.

