

# Wabash History

USS WABASH, a fleet replenishment oiler, represents a versatile new class of Navy Supply ships. Her primary mission is to replenish operating forces at sea with a variety of provisions from fuel to munitions. She employs modern transfer-at-sea equipment and techniques to supply other ships while underway, including helicopters which operate from her stern platform. WABASH is a large ship measuring 659 feet in length, beam of 96 feet, 36 feet full load draft, three boilers, two propellers, 16,000 shaft horsepower ahead per shaft, 1,500 shaft horsepower astern per shaft, 41,360 tons displacement fully loaded, and maximum speed in excess of 20 knots. WABASH has a complement of 24 officers and 448 enlisted personnel.

WABASH is named after a river (and in this case a city) with a name of American Indian origin. The city of Wabash, Indiana, located 75 miles west of the Ohio state line, derives its name from the river which was formerly called Wa Ba Ski Ki (meaning "white water") by the Indians. The city of Wabash was the world's first city to be lighted electrically.

WABASH was built by the General Dynamics Corporation at Quincy, Massachusetts, and commissioned on 20 November 1971 at the Boston Naval Shipyard. She arrived at her homeport of Long Beach in March of 1972 following a two-month shakedown cruise around South America.

After shakedown, refresher training and a Western Pacific deployment, WABASH returned to the continental United States and in September 1974 shifted her homeport to Alameda, CA. WABASH has served the Pacific Fleet while participating in several multinational fleet exercises; and as duty oiler providing operational and exercise underway replenishment training. WABASH completed a twelve month overhaul in June 1978. WABASH ended a deployment to the Western Pacific on 25 January 1980, which included an extension of the deployment for 70 days in support of the hostages in Iran. In April 1981, WABASH commenced another Western Pacific and Indian Ocean deployment and returned to Alameda in November 1981. WABASH completed a ten month major overhaul in February 1983, which included the addition of a Close-in Weapons System and Sea Sparrow Missile System. WABASH recently completed a six and a half month Western Pacific/Indian Ocean deployment with the USS KITTY HAWK Battle Group Bravo in August of 1984. In October of 1984 WABASH changed homeport to Naval Station Long Beach.

USS WABASH was awarded the prestigious National Defense Transportation Award for 1979. WABASH was also awarded the coveted U.S. Pacific Fleet Battle Efficiency "E" for the period July 1980 through December 1981. USS WABASH is a unit of Service Group One commanded by Captain R.E. Brown, USN.

