USS Massachusetts: The New Jewel of the US Navy Enters Service

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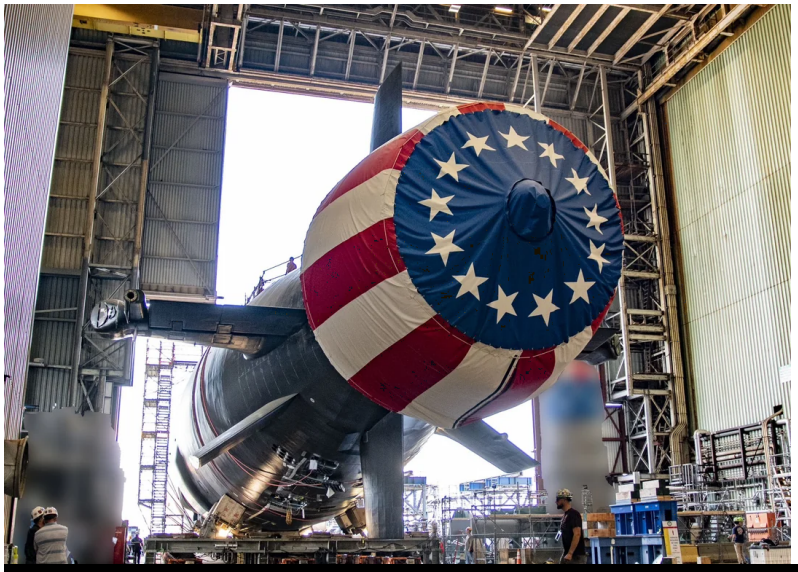
On Saturday, March 28, 2026, the port of Boston hosted the operational christening of the **USS Massachusetts (SSN-798)**. The Virginia-class fast attack submarine officially enters active service, marking a milestone for the US naval program. Built by the synergy between *General Dynamics Electric Boat* and *Newport News Shipbuilding*, the Massachusetts is the 25th example of a class designed to dominate modern conflicts.

The submarine is not just a show of force, but a concentration of high engineering:

- **Dimensions:** Approximately 115 meters in length.
- **Displacement:** Between 7,800 and 8,000 tons.
- **Propulsion:** A nuclear reactor that provides virtually unlimited autonomy (limited only by food supplies for the crew).
- **Speed:** Over 25 knots submerged (about 46 km/h).
- **Depth:** Capability to operate over 240 meters below sea level.



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Versatility and Firepower

Belonging to the **Block IV** configuration, the USS Massachusetts has been optimized for operational efficiency. This specific version requires fewer scheduled maintenance interventions, allowing the vessel to remain at sea for more missions compared to previous models.

The arsenal is lethal and versatile: from **Tomahawk cruise missiles** to strike long-distance land targets, to heavy torpedoes for engaging enemy naval units. All supported by the world's most advanced sonar systems and stealth technologies, making it almost invisible to enemy radars.

A Crew for the Future

Beyond technology, the USS Massachusetts stands out for its human capital. The crew consists of about **150 military personnel**, including a significant female presence (40 women).

> *"The ship was specifically designed to accommodate both women and men," stated the submarine's sponsor, **Sheryl Sandberg** (former COO of Meta). "They inspire every little girl to believe she can do anything."*

Commander **Mike Siedsma** emphasized the pride of leading a unit born in a complex geopolitical context, defining the commissioning as a clear demonstration of the naval power and training capability of the United States.

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Tradition and History

The name *Massachusetts* is not new to the annals of the Navy: it inherits a centuries-old tradition, succeeding the historic battleship of 1942 that fought in the Pacific during World War II. Governor **Maura Healey** hailed the event as a moment of "great pride," renewing the deep bond between the State and national defense.