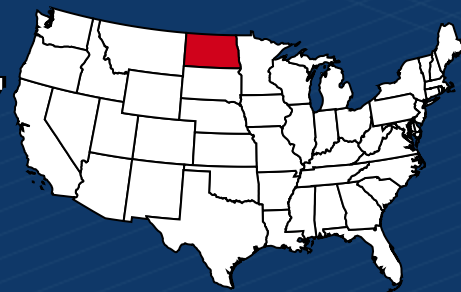




# THE NAVAL HISTORY OF NORTH DAKOTA



www.history.navy.mil

## SHIPS



At least 13 ships have been named after the state of North Dakota, its cities, places, and people. They include:

USS Arikara (AT 98), 1944  
 USS Cavalier (AP 82/APA 37), 1944  
 Dacotah (Steam Sloop), 1860  
 USS Dakotan (No. 3382), 1919  
 USS Dunn County (LST 742), 1944  
 USS Eddy County (LST 759), 1944  
 USS Fargo (CL 106), 1945

USS Grand Forks (PF 11), 1944  
 USS Grant County (LST 1174), 1957  
 USS La Moure County I (LST 883), 1945  
 USS La Moure County II (LST 1194), 1971  
 USS North Dakota I (BB 29), 1910  
 USS North Dakota II (SSN 784), 2014

### USS North Dakota (SSN 784)

The second ship to be named for the 39th state is a Virginia-class submarine commissioned Oct. 25, 2014, in Groton, CT. USS North Dakota's motto is "Strength from the Soil, Reapers of the Deep." The ship's crest is taken from the state's coat of arms and the governor's flag. The ship, the first to carry two Tomahawk payload tubes in its arsenal, each capable of carrying six UGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missiles, can operate in both littoral and deep ocean environments. It offers combatant commanders a unique range of operational capabilities. North Dakota can carry out the seven core competencies of the submarine force: anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface warfare; delivery of special operations forces; strike warfare; irregular warfare; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; and mine warfare.

## PEOPLE



**Willis Winter Bradley Jr.**  
Medal of Honor Recipient

Raised in Forman, ND, Bradley was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor during the time he served on USS Pittsburgh (Armored Cruiser No. 4) during World War I. While onboard the ship, Bradley was about to enter a casemate when there was an accidental explosion inside. After recovering from unconsciousness, he crawled into the compartment, saved a man's life, and then reentered the casemate to extinguish burning gunpowder.



**Jeffrey L. "Jeff" Fowler**  
Vice Admiral

Jeff Fowler, a native of Bismarck, ND, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978. During his career, he took command of USS Charlotte (SSN 766). Fowler also served as Commander, Navy Recruiting Command and the 60th Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy. He had completed 32 years of service when he retired from the Navy in 2010.



**Robert Wefald**  
Captain

Robert Wefald earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Dakota and went on to serve 27 years in the Navy and Naval Reserve. He served as North Dakota Attorney General (1981-1984) and was elected District Judge in 1998 and 2004. He was also appointed to the American Battle Monuments Commission, which commemorates the service, achievements, and sacrifice of the U.S. Armed Forces.

## PLACES



### Naval Radio Transmitter Facility

LaMoure, ND, is home to a naval radio transmitter facility that is part of Naval Network Warfare Command (NNWC). NNWC has a mission to execute tactical-level command and control to direct, operate, maintain, and secure Navy communications and network systems for the Department of Defense Information Networks and to leverage joint space capabilities for Navy and Joint Operations.



### Navy Operational Support Center Fargo

The Fargo NOSC, formerly known as Naval Reserve Center, Fargo, was first established in 1947 and moved into its current location in 1993. The building jointly houses members of the North Dakota Army National Guard and the United States Navy Reserve. The 117,271-square-foot building features traditional classrooms, an indoor shooting range, medical clinic, fitness center, auditorium, four-stall maintenance bay, band rehearsal areas, practice rooms, and a recording studio.

### Did You Know...?

On Nov. 2, 1889, both North and South Dakota were admitted as states to the union. Because of alphabetical position, North Dakota is most often considered the 39th state. Officially, it's known as "The Peace Garden State" due to the International Peace Garden that straddles the international boundary between North Dakota and the Canadian province of Manitoba.