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U.S. NAVY'S FIRST POLARIS MISSILE SUBMARINE, GEORGE WASHINGTON, COMMISSIONED GROTON, CONNECTICUT — Comdr. James B. Osborn, commanding officer of the George Washington, the U.S. Navy's first Polaris missile launching submarine, salutes during commissioning ceremonies here for the revolutionary undersea craft. The 380-foot, 5400-ton nuclear-powered sub, which will have 16 vertical tubes for launching the 1200-mile range missile from beneath the water surface, is expected to begin its shakedown cruise in the spring and to be assigned to sea duty in the fall. The George Washington has four levels and three decks, a single nuclear reactor, an auxiliary diesel engine and electric batteries for emergency power, six forward torpedo tubes, a 50-ton gyro-stabilizer, and, the first of its kind aboard a submarine, a generator to provide oxygen from sea water. Two separate 100-man crews will be assigned to the craft, which was launched from General Dynamics Corporation's Electric Boat Division shipyard here in June. The hull design is similar to that of the Skipjack and Scorpion submarine class, but a 128-foot-long missile compartment was added in the center of the George Washington. The speed of the new craft is less than that of the highly maneuverable Skipjack, but is somewhat faster than that of the Nautilus, first of the nuclear-powered submarines. (60-1444)