

I Missed it!

Me, Watergate, and the Presidency

When Presidential politics are sometimes discussed: [I have said many times](#) that I missed the “whole” Watergate period because I was submerged. That is not entirely true, but for a quick answer or statement - it works. What is true is that I was submerged for significant portions of it. I recently made a video that I call “[SOLID GROUND Thoughts](#)” whose timeline encompasses four missions in particular. One of the four is not mentioned in any reference of SOLID GROUND, as it is a separate story, my time on the USS Pogy (89 Days). It was during the three other missions that a great deal of the critical portions of the Watergate aftermath took place. Particularly the day that I left for the last encompassed run. It was on that day that the Nixon Impeachment process started. Those three missions have a few layers to them (putting it simply), hence the connection to Michael Kiwanuka’s lyrics; another layer significantly different from my own layers, as you must admit the whole Watergate timeline is at a much higher level than my own. And yes, I write about the Pogy separately.

In 1971 I was reporting into my new shop in Pearl Harbor, and I started riding the boats in 1972, both Diesel boats. And because of that familiarity, I was the #1 guy to take “Blackies” place on the Tang, when he had to come home for his family emergency. So that brings us to April of 1973, which is highlighted in blue in the following Watergate Timeline. (Note that the Pogy timeline is in purple.) Then the other two blue highlighted portions are my time on Pintado, with my day of departure for the second run highlighted in red, as are some other notes. What is not shown, but encompassed by the third blue section, is when I submerged on that third run. You can plainly see that when we did submerge on that mission, we had one President, and when we re-surfaced there was another President. And just after our mission ended the new President pardoned the previous. Getting back to my “missing the whole Watergate period” statement, the truth – Yes, when we submerged, we had one President and when we surfaced we had a new President, and NOT because of the mission spanning an election. That change of Presidents was different – and my use of “Watergate Period” offers the needed clarification of timing.

For your perusal, the Watergate Timeline, with some links for other tangents.

- July 1, 1971: White House “Plumbers” created.
- August 21, 1971: Nixon “Enemies” list created.
- September 3, 1971: Watergate Break-in conceived.
- March 21, 1972: Nixon discussed and approves the Break-in.
- May 28, 1972: Break-in takes place.
- June 17, 1972: The plumbers are arrested at 2:30 a.m.
- June 20, 1972: Connection to Whitehouse made.
- June 23, 1972: Attempt to shut down investigation.
- September 15, 1972: Plumbers indicted.
- November 7, 1972: Nixon re-elected.
- January 8, 1973: Five defendants plead guilty.
- January 20, 1973: Nixon is inaugurated for his second term.
- February 28, 1973: Confirmation hearings begin.
- March 17, 1973: Perjury claim leads to Whitehouse investigation.
- March 23, 1973: The McCord letter is made public.

USS TANG

- April 6, 1973: John Dean begins cooperating with federal Watergate prosecutors.
- April 27, 1973: L. Patrick Gray resigns.
- April 30, 1973: Ehrlichman, Haldeman, and Kleindienst resign, John Dean is fired.
- May 17, 1973: The Senate Watergate Committee begins.
- May 19, 1973: Archibald Cox investigation into possible presidential impropriety.
- June 3, 1973: John Dean says he has discussed with Nixon at least 35 times.
- July 13, 1973: Alexander Butterfield reveals conversations, calls in Nixon's office have been taped since 1971.
- July 18, 1973: Nixon orders White House taping systems disconnected.
- July 23, 1973: Nixon refuses to turn over presidential tapes to the Senate Watergate Committee or the special prosecutor.
- Vice President replaced:
 - October 10, 1973: [Spiro Agnew](#) resigns as [Vice President of the United States](#) due to corruption while he was the [governor of Maryland](#).
 - October 12, 1973: [Gerald Ford](#) is nominated as vice president under the [25th Amendment](#).
- October 20, 1973: "[Saturday Night Massacre](#)" – Nixon orders [Elliot Richardson](#) and Ruckelshaus to fire special prosecutor Cox. They both refuse to comply and resign. [Robert Bork](#) considers resigning but carries out the order.

USS POGY

- November 1, 1973: [Leon Jaworski](#) is appointed new special prosecutor.
- November 17, 1973: Nixon delivers "I am not a crook" speech at a televised press conference at Disney World (Florida).
 - November 27, 1973: the Senate votes 92 to 3 to confirm Ford as vice president.
 - December 6, 1973: the House votes 387 to 35 to confirm Ford as vice president, and he takes the oath of office an hour after the vote.
- January 28, 1974: Nixon campaign aide [Herbert Porter](#) pleads guilty to perjury.
- February 25, 1974: Nixon personal counsel [Herbert Kalmbach](#) pleads guilty to two charges of illegal campaign activities.

USS PINTADO (First Run)

- March 1, 1974: In an indictment against seven former presidential aides, delivered to Judge Sirica together with a sealed briefcase intended for the House Committee on the Judiciary, Nixon is named as an [unindicted co-conspirator](#).
- March 4, 1974: The "[Watergate Seven](#)" ([Mitchell](#), [Haldeman](#), [Ehrlichman](#), [Colson](#), [Gordon C. Strachan](#), [Robert Mardian](#), and [Kenneth Parkinson](#)) are formally indicted.
- March 18, 1974: Judge Sirica orders the grand jury's sealed report to be sent to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
- April 5, 1974: [Dwight Chapin](#) convicted of lying to a grand jury.
- April 7, 1974: [Ed Reinecke](#), Republican [lieutenant governor of California](#), indicted on three charges of perjury before the Senate committee.
- April 16, 1974: Special Prosecutor Jaworski issues a subpoena for 64 White House tapes.
- April 30, 1974: White House releases edited transcripts of the Nixon tapes, but the [House Judiciary Committee](#) insists the actual tapes must be turned over.
- May 9, 1974: Impeachment hearings begin before the House Judiciary Committee.
- June 15, 1974: Woodward and Bernstein's book [All the President's Men](#) is published by Simon & Schuster ([ISBN 0-671-21781-X](#)).
- July 8, 1974: The United States Supreme Court hears oral argument in [United States v. Nixon](#). [Not mentioned above; I was in a factory school in Sunnyvale CA. during the latter part of June and up to mid-July. It was there that I learned about 10-dimensional vectoring from Dr. Jim Moon at ESL. A lead-in to what we now call AI. It was also the first trip I made with Bill Stringfellow who became a lifelong friend.]

- July 24, 1974: [United States v. Nixon](#) decided: Nixon is ordered to give up tapes to investigators.

USS PINTADO (Second Run)

- Congress moves to [impeach](#) Nixon.
 - July 27 to July 30, 1974: House Judiciary Committee passes Articles of Impeachment.
 - Early August 1974: A previously unknown tape from June 23, 1972 (recorded a few days after the break-in) documenting Nixon and Haldeman formulating a plan to block investigations is released. This recording later became known as the "Smoking Gun".
 - Key Republican Senators tell Nixon that enough votes exist to convict him.
- August 8, 1974: Nixon delivers his resignation speech in front of a nationally televised audience.
- August 9, 1974: Nixon resigns from office and Ford becomes president.
- September 8, 1974: President Ford ends the investigations by granting Nixon a pardon.
- October 17, 1974: Ford testifies before Congress on the pardon, the first sitting president to testify before Congress since President Lincoln.
- November 7, 1974: [94th Congress](#) elected: [Democratic Party](#) picks up 5 Senate seats and 49 House seats. Many of the freshman congressmen are very young; the media dubs them "[Watergate Babies](#)".
- December 31, 1974: As a result of Nixon administration abuses of privacy, [Privacy Act of 1974](#) passes into law.
- January 1, 1975: [John N. Mitchell](#), John Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman convicted of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury. [I left Pearl Harbor in May of 1975 for San Diego and ET "C" school.]
- July 27, 1975: [Church Committee](#), chaired by [Frank Church](#), commences to investigate foreign and domestic intelligence-gathering activities.
- November 4, 1975: Ford replaces several Nixon cabinet members in the "[Halloween Massacre](#)", engineered by Ford aide [Donald Rumsfeld](#). [Richard Cheney](#), [George H. W. Bush](#) and [Brent Scowcroft](#) join Ford administration; Rumsfeld becomes [Secretary of Defense](#); [Henry Kissinger](#) remains as [Secretary of State](#) but not [National Security Advisor](#). [I left San Diego for New London/Groton in December of 75.]
- May 5, 1976: Church Committee superseded by [Senate Select Committee on Intelligence](#).
- November 2, 1976: Ford is defeated in the United States [presidential election](#) by [Jimmy Carter](#).
- January 20, 1977: Jimmy Carter is inaugurated as the 39th President of The United States.
- May 4, 1977: Nixon gives his [first major interview](#) about Watergate with TV journalist [David Frost](#). [I departed Groton for San Diego in April of 1978.]
- May 15, 1978: Nixon publishes his memoirs, giving more of his side of the Watergate saga. [I was honorably discharged from the Navy the last week in June 1978.]
- October 25, 1978: [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act](#) enacted, creating [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court](#) and limiting federal government domestic surveillance powers. Recommended by [Church Committee](#).