

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation
INITIAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
McKee	AS 41
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
AS – Submarine Tender	N/A
Vessel Location	Current Status
Pending disposal at NNSY Norfolk, VA	Decommissioned

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
21 September 2023	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
	Ineligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	AS 39
Displacement	23,000 long tons (23,369 t) full
Length	645 ft 8 in (196.80 m)

Beam	85 ft (26 m)
Draft	26 ft (7.9 m)
Speed	20 knots (37 km/h; 23 mph)
Propulsion	Steam turbine; 2 × 600psi boilers
Armament	4 × 20 mm AA guns; 5 × 0.5 in (12.7 mm) machine gun
Laid Down	14 January 1978
Launched	16 February 1980
Built By	Lockheed Shipbuilding and Construction Company
Sponsor	N/A
Delivered	27 July 1981
Commissioned	15 August 1981
Inactivated	16 July 1999
Decommissioned	16 July 1999
Stricken	25 April 2006

Vessel History

<p>Deployment Summary</p>	<p>The ship was commissioned on 16 August 1981. After a series of sea trials, McKee replaced the USS Sperry (AS-12) and joined the USS Dixon (AS-37) at Point Loma (San Diego) to support Pacific Fleet submarines. Upon the commissioning of Submarine Squadron 11 (COMSUBRON11) in July 1986, she became the squadron's Command Ship.</p> <p>In March 1990, the McKee continued leading the way for submarine tenders by participating in the first underway fuel replenishment (UNREP) by a Pacific Fleet submarine tender. This fuel was in preparation for deployment to the Persian Gulf in January 1991.</p> <p>When Operation Desert Storm began, the McKee deployed to the Persian Gulf and spent six months providing support to submarines and surface combatants in Jebel Ali, just outside Dubai, United Arab Emirates. McKee was awarded a second Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Southwest Asia Service Medal. Following Desert Storm, McKee was awarded a fourth Battle Efficiency "E" Award.</p> <p>In 1995, after the decommissioning of USS Dixon, McKee provided all support to San Diego based submarines. Assistance was also provided to many Allied submarines while they visited Point Loma.</p> <p>In 1998, McKee earned a third Meritorious Unit Commendation following a six-month deployment to Pearl Harbor. During this deployment, McKee provided services and conducted repairs to both U.S. and Allied submarines and surface combatants. Upon returning to San Diego, the ship took the lead in establishing shore-based services that will support the submarines after McKee's departure.</p> <p>In November 1998, the weapons department of the USS McKee loaded Tomahawk cruise missiles onto HMS Splendid (S106). These were the first of 67 Tomahawk cruise missiles sold to the Royal Navy and the first British submarine to receive the Tomahawk missiles. They were later used by HMS Splendid in offensive operations against Serbian targets during the Kosovo War.</p>
<p>Noteworthy Events</p>	<p>Early in 1984, McKee became the first submarine tender certified to support the new Tomahawk cruise missile system. McKee earned three consecutive Battle Efficiency "E" awards in 1985, 1986 and 1987. In addition to the Battle "E" in 1986, McKee was honored with the Golden Anchor Award for retention excellence and her first Meritorious Unit Commendation.</p> <p>Shellback Initiation - 9 May 1984 - Indian Ocean</p>

	<p>In 1989, the McKee was the first submarine tender to visit Cold Bay, Alaska since World War II, and conducted the first nuclear submarine upkeep at this remote location. 1988 saw McKee become the first submarine tender certified to handle the Tomahawk Vertical Launch System (VLS).</p> <p>In February 1989 the McKee performed the first at-sea weapons transfer to a submarine since World War II, to the USS Ohio (SSBN-726).</p>
DANFS* Entry	

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

Criteria Evaluation¹

i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation? (A Presidential Unit Citation is awarded to military units that have performed an extremely meritorious or heroic act, usually in the face of an armed enemy.)	No
ii. Did an individual act of heroism take place aboard the vessel such that an individual was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross? (The Medal of Honor is awarded for valor in action against an enemy force. The Navy Cross is awarded for extraordinary heroism in action not justifying an award of the Medal of Honor.)	No
iii. Was a President of the United States assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?	No
iv. Was the vessel the first to incorporate engineering, weapons systems, or other upgrades that represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?	Early in 1984, McKee became the first submarine tender certified to support the new Tomahawk cruise missile system.
v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?	No
Historic Evaluation Conclusion	Ineligible

¹ Evaluation conducted using triggers established for naval vessels in *Program Comment for the Department of Navy for the Disposition of Historic Vessels*, issued by the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation on 15 March 2010.

Sources	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_McKee_(AS-41)
	https://www.hullnumber.com/AS-41
	https://www.navysite.de/ships/as41.htm
	https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhhc/our-collections/photography/numerical-list-of-images/nhhc-series/nh-series/NH-107000/NH-107772-KN.html
	https://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_AS_41.HTML

Historic Preservation Stakeholder Comment

Historic preservation stakeholder comments received are considered when preparing final determinations. The initial determination for this vessel was made available for comment by historic preservation stakeholders for 60 days. During that time, the Navy received __ written comments.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition