

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation
FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
Key West	SSN 722
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
SSN 688	N/A
Vessel Location	Current Status
Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS-IMF) Bremerton, WA	In Commission, in Reserve (Stand Down), commencement of inactivation availability

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
20 Apr 2023	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
15 Apr 2024	Ineligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	N/A
Displacement	5,799 tons
Length	362 ft.
Beam	33 ft.
Draft	31 ft.
Speed	15 knots (surfaced) 32+ knots (submerged)
Propulsion	1 × S6G PWR nuclear reactor with D2W core (165 MW), HEU 93.5% [2][3]. 2 × steam turbines (33,500) shp. 1 × shaft 1 × secondary propulsion motor 325 hp (242 kW)
Armament	12 Mk 36 VLS for Tomahawk missiles 4/533mm TT Mk 67 (amidships) for Mk 48 and Mk 48 ADCAP
Laid Down	13 August 1981
Launched	20 July 1985
Built By	Newport News Shipbuilding Co., Newport News, Virginia
Sponsor	Mrs. Virginia Conn
Delivered	04 September 1987
Commissioned	12 September 1987
Inactivated	21 September 2023
Decommissioned	21 September 2023

Stricken	21 September 2023
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Vessel History

<p>Deployment Summary</p>	<p>Key West was home ported at the Norfolk Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia. She operated out of Norfolk, until 1995. During her Atlantic Fleet service, she completed numerous Cold War deployments and supported operations in the Caribbean, Western Atlantic and Mediterranean.</p> <p>Key West deployed with the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Battle Group in 1995. During that deployment she operated in the Mediterranean Sea and Persian Gulf and was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation, Armed Forces Service, and NATO Service medals. Following the 1995 deployment, Key West underwent an availability in Norfolk, in preparation for her transfer to the Pacific Fleet in 1996. She departed Norfolk, in June 1996, and transited the Panama Canal as part of her transfer to the Pacific Fleet. She arrived in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in July 1996, and began operations under Submarine Squadron One.</p> <p>Key West visited her name sake city in 1987, for a week-long celebration after commissioning, 1992, and 1994. Since reassignment to the Pacific Fleet she has not been able to visit Key West again.</p> <p>On April 1997, Key West conducted her first Pacific deployment with the Constellation Carrier Battle Group. During this deployment, she operated in the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf. Later that year, Key West was reassigned to Submarine Squadron Three. In the next year, she deployed to the Eastern Pacific in support of the Carl Vinson and Abraham Lincoln Carrier Battle Groups, and later supported the 1998 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.</p> <p>From 1998 through 2001, she supported Pacific theater operations in both the Third Fleet and Seventh Fleet area of operations. During this time she participated in numerous bilateral and multilateral exercises with our Pacific Theater partner. Following the 11 September attacks, she was redirected Bahrain to the Northern Arabian Sea where she launched Tomahawk Land Attack Cruise Missiles against Afghanistan in October 2001.</p> <p>In 2003, 2005, and 2007 Key West conducted deployments to the Western Pacific in support of Seventh Fleet operations.</p> <p>In 2012, Key West shifted home port to Naval Base Guam to support Seventh Fleet operations as a forward deployed unit.</p>
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	<p>On 31 October 2022, Key West arrived at Busan, South Korea for a scheduled port visit.</p> <p>Key West returned from her final deployment in November 2022.</p>
Awards	<p>Key West was awarded the "Hook-em" antisubmarine warfare (ASW) excellence award following her 1990 Mediterranean Cruise. She later was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation award for her superior performance in Cold War operations during the 1989 and 1990 deployments.</p> <p>Key West won the "TOP TORP" Torpedo Shooting Competition in 1992, and was later awarded the Submarine Squadron Eight Battle "E" for that year.</p> <p>In 2007, Key West was named "Battle E" for COMSUBRON THREE, given to the best submarine in its squadron, awarded the Arleigh Burke Trophy for the most improved sea command in the Pacific, and awarded the Naval Unit Commendation for its outstanding accomplishments during the deployment.</p> <p>In 2009, Key West was again awarded the "Battle E" award for COMSUBRON Three for outstanding performance during the 2009 WESTPAC deployment.</p>
Noteworthy Events	<p>The newest submarine in the Pacific force, Cheyenne was among four U.S. ships and two submarines to fire Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles on March 19 from either the Persian Gulf or Red Sea. Their target was a bunker in a residential part of Baghdad believed to be occupied by Saddam Hussein.</p> <p>Three other Hawai'i submarines — Columbia, Key West and Louisville — also would fire the low-flying missiles in succeeding days.</p>
DANFS* Entry	

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

Criteria Evaluation¹

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.

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 was 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?	No
v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?	No
Historic Evaluation Conclusion	
Assessment of integrity of (as appropriate) design, materials, workmanship, feeling and/or association (only for vessels determined to be eligible)	Ineligible

Sources	https://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_SSN_722.HTML
	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Key_West_(SSN-722)
	http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2003/Apr/01/In/In05a.html
	https://www.cpf.navy.mil/Newsroom/News/Article/3206660/key-west-visits-republic-of-korea-during-indo-pacific-deployment/

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 0 written comments.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition
