

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation

INITIAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
Portsmouth	SSN 707
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
SSN 688	N/A
Vessel Location	Current Status
Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington	Stricken, Final Disposition Pending

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

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	N/A
Displacement	6129 tons
Length	362 ft. overall

Beam	33 ft.
Draft	32 ft. 15 inches
Speed	15 knots surface, 32+ knots submerged
Propulsion	1 S6G PWR nuclear reactor with D2W core (165 MW), HEU 93.5%. 2 x steam turbines (33,500) shp. 1 x shaft, 1 x secondary propulsion motor 325 hp (242 kW)
Armament	four 21" torpedo tubes aft of bow, Harpoon and Tomahawk ASM/LAM missiles from 12 VLS tubes, MK-48 torpedoes
Laid Down	8 May 1980
Launched	18 September 1982
Built By	Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut
Sponsor	Mrs. Helen Poe Goodrich
Delivered	27 August 1983
Commissioned	1 October 1983
Inactivated	18 August 2005
Decommissioned	18 August 2005
Stricken	18 August 2005

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	<p>Three weeks after commissioning Portsmouth began her first mission, supporting rescue operations in Grenada. She was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for that action.</p> <p>In 1984 Portsmouth entered her homeport of Groton, Connecticut, which she left for her permanent homeport at Ballast Point Submarine Base in San Diego. En route she transited through the Panama Canal and made a quick dash south for her first transit across the equator.</p> <p>Upon completion of a 14 week Post Shakedown Availability in August 1984 she transited the Panama Canal and arrived in her new homeport of San Diego, California on 22 October 1984. Portsmouth has conducted three extended deployments and three mini-deployments to the Western Pacific since 1985. She was awarded two Meritorious Unit Commendations for operations conducted in 1987, 1989 and 1993, the Silver Anchor Award for excellence in retention for 1987, the Engineering Red "E" for 1994, the Supply Blue "E" for 1994 and the Battle Efficiency "E" award for 1988, 1989 and 1994.</p> <p>In 1985 Portsmouth commenced her first Western Pacific operations that included port-calls in Japan and Australia and became the first American nuclear-powered warship to visit Fiji. Years later she became the first to make a liberty call to communist Chinese reunified Hong Kong.</p> <p>In February 1991, Portsmouth entered Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California for a Depot Modernization Period. Upon completion of extensive engineering and weapons systems upgrading, Portsmouth returned to San Diego and commenced operations attached to Commander, Submarine Squadron Three.</p> <p>In 1993 Portsmouth deployed to the Western Pacific with the USS LINCOLN Battle Group. During this time she pioneered new methods of Special Warfare which were put to the test when she conducted an insertion of Army Rangers at night during a Joint Exercise.</p> <p>Portsmouth has been involved in the live firing of exercise torpedoes and missiles and in the testing of the Navy's new Mine Avoidance sonar. In March 1985, Portsmouth transferred to Commander, Submarine Squadron Eleven.</p> <p>USS Portsmouth returned home to San Diego Feb. 11, 2004 following a successful six-month Western Pacific deployment. Upon their return, Portsmouth was awarded the 2003 Commander, Submarine Squadron 11 Tactical White 'T,' Communications Green 'C' and the Damage Control</p>
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	Red 'DC.' While on deployment, Portsmouth conducted operations throughout the Western Pacific. The submarine steamed nearly 36,000 nautical miles and successfully accomplished three missions of great significance to national security for which they were awarded the Navy Expeditionary Medal (two awards). They also participated in various exercises with U.S. assets and allied countries, and enjoyed port visits in Guam; Sasebo and Yokosuka, Japan; Chinhae, South Korea; Singapore; and Oahu, Hawaii.
Awards	The ship deployed to 5th Fleet with the Nimitz Battle Group in 1995–1996. She was awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) and the COMSUBRON 11 Battle "E". The ship deployed to 7th Fleet in 1997. The crew was awarded the Navy Expeditionary Medal. Upon return to homeport, the ship was again awarded the COMSUBRON 11 Battle "E", judged the most battle effective submarine in her squadron.
Noteworthy Events	N/A
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	No

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.

justifying an award of the Medal of Honor.)	
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_707.HTML
	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Portsmouth_(SSN-707)
	https://seaforges.org/usnships/ssn/SSN-707-USS-Portsmouth.htm
	https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/navy/ssn-707.htm

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