

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation

FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
Chicago	SSN 721
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
SSN 688	N/A
Vessel Location	Current Status
Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington	In Commission, in Reserve (Stand Down), commencement of inactivation availability

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
1 May 2023	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
5 Jan 2024	Ineligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	<p>USS Chicago (1885): A protected cruiser launched in 1885 and active in World War I as a submarine tender, then a barracks ship, finally being renamed Alton in 1928 and lost at sea while under tow in 1936.</p> <p>USS Chicago (CA-29): A Northampton-class heavy cruiser commissioned in 1931 and active in World War II, until lost at the Battle of Rennell Island in January 1943.</p>
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	USS Chicago (CA-136): A Baltimore-class heavy cruiser, commissioned in 1945; later converted to an Albany-class guided missile cruiser and redesignated CG-11, then struck in 1984.
Displacement	6162 tons
Length	362 ft. overall
Beam	33 ft.
Draft	31 ft.
Speed	15 knots surface, 32+ knots submerged
Propulsion	1 SG6 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	5 January 1983
Launched	13 October 1984
Built By	Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Newport News, Virginia
Sponsor	Mrs. Vicki Ann Paisley, wife of Melvyn R. Paisley Assistant Secretary of the Navy.
Delivered	9 October 1984
Commissioned	27 September 1986
Inactivated	24 January 2023

Decommissioned	21 July 2023
Stricken	21 July 2023

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	<p>From 14 October - November 1986, the Chicago was underway for acoustic trials at the Exuma Sound range, off Bahamas.</p> <p>From 17 November - 20 December 1986, Chicago went underway for weapons systems acceptance trials in the Puerto Rican Operation Area and ASW exercises in the Guantanamo Bay Operation Area.</p> <p>From 18-22, 27-31 November, Chicago was underway for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations in the SOCAL Operation Area.</p> <p>From 5 January – 28 February 1990, Chicago was underway for Prospective Commanding Officer (PCO) operations in the Hawaiian Op. Area.</p> <p>On 22 June 1990, Chicago pulled into Esquimalt naval base for a two-day visit to Victoria, Canada, after conducting testing at the Nanoose test range off British Columbia.</p> <p>On 13 November 1990, Chicago pulled into Yokosuka, Japan, for a five-day upkeep. Entered the Red Sea on 3 February 1991 in support of Operation Desert Storm.</p> <p>On 6 May 1992, Chicago arrived in Brisbane, Australia, for a four-day port visit to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Coral Sea.</p> <p>On 16 November 1992, Chicago departed homeport to participate in COMTUEX 93-2T off the coast of southern California.</p> <p>On 14 February 1995, Chicago departed homeport to participate in FLEETEX with the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) BG, off the coast of southern California.</p> <p>From 6-21 March 1995, Chicago was underway for acoustic trials at the Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility (SEAFAC) in Behm Canal off Ketchikan, Alaska.</p>
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	<p>From 18 October- 8 November 1995, Chicago was underway for COMPTUEX 97-1A.</p> <p>From 21 January through 6 March 1995, Chicago was underway for PCO operations in the Hawaiian Operation Area.</p> <p>From 22 September - 6 November 1995, Chicago was underway for local operations and to participate in a joint U.S.-Canadian exercise MARCOT 2-98.</p> <p>On 15 November 2001, Chicago participated in a large bilateral maritime exercise ANNUALEX 14G, off the coast of Japan.</p> <p>On 29 November 2005, Chicago departed Naval Station Pearl Harbor for a western Pacific deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism.</p> <p>On 25 July 2006, Chicago concluded its participation in the world's largest biennial maritime exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2006.</p> <p>On 9 November 2006, Chicago participated in a Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) off the coast of Southern California, with the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Carrier Strike Group, in preparation for their upcoming deployment.</p> <p>On 9 May 2014, Chicago visited Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, for a Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV).</p> <p>On 7 March 2016, Chicago went underway in support of a Multi-Sail 2016 exercise, with Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15 and four Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) ships, in the Guam Operation Area.</p> <p>On 11 November 2016, Chicago participated in a photo exercise (PHOTOEX) with the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), CSG-5, and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) ships, off the southwest coast of Japan, while underway in support of ANNUALEX 28G.</p> <p>On 14 September 2020, Chicago participated in a biennial exercise Valiant Shield 2020 with the USS Ronald Reagan and participated in a sinking exercise (SINKEX) of the ex-USS Curtts (FFG 38).</p> <p>15 August 2021, Chicago participated in a sinking exercise (SINKEX) of the ex-USS Ingraham (FFG 61), off the northwest coast of Kauai.</p>
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	On 6 January 2023, Chicago enroute to Bremerton, Washington, to commence a year-long inactivation process at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.
Awards	Chicago has been awarded the Navy Unit Commendation, three Meritorious Unit Commendations and four Navy "E" Ribbon Submarine Squadron Battle 'E's. Further, Chicago has been awarded several campaign and service awards, including the Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, two Southwest Asia Service Medals, three Sea Service Ribbons, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), and the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)
Noteworthy Events	Early in 1996, an RQ-1 Predator aerial reconnaissance drone was successfully controlled from Chicago. The drone reached altitudes up to 6,000 meters (20,000 ft.) and ranged up to 185 kilometers (100 nmi.) from the submarine, which was operating at periscope depth. In the summer of 2005, Chicago tested the virtual periscope, a system that would allow submerged submarines to observe the surface above them without having to come to a shallower depth, as is required by traditional periscopes. After completing a two-year maintenance and upgrade period at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in October 2011, Chicago arrived in April 2012 at her new homeport, assigned to Submarine Squadron 15, based at Joint Region Marianas on the island of Guam.
DANFS* Entry	N/A

**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
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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.

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://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/USS_Chicago_(SSN-721)
	https://www.csp.navy.mil/Chicago/About/
	https://www.seaforces.org/usnships/ssn/SSN-721-USS-Chicago.htm
	http://www.navsource.org/archives/08/08721.htm
	http://www.uscarriers.net/ssn721history.htm
	https://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_SSN_721.HTML
	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Chicago_(SSN-721)

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 zero (0) comments.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition