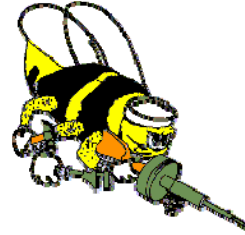


USS Marvin Shields

History



The Ship's namesake

Marvin G. Shields

Marvin Glenn Shields was born December 30th, 1939 in Port Townsend, Washington. After graduating from high school in 1958, he worked in the gold mines of Hyder, Alaska. Shields enlisted in the Navy on January 8th, 1962 and after basic training, trained in construction. His assignments included stations in Glynco (GA), Okinawa, and Port Hueneme (CA). He was sent to Vietnam in February 1965 as a Construction Mechanic Third Class, attached to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), serving with the Mobile Construction Battalion 11, Seabee Team 1104.

When in Dong Xoai the district capital located about 60 miles northeast of Saigon, South Vietnam on June 10th, 1965 the Seabee Team was attacked by a Vietcong regiment. After being wounded, Shields continued to carry up ammunition to the firing line, and after receiving a second wound, insisted on helping a more severely wounded soldier to safety. Refusing to consider himself, he again exposed himself to enemy fire, volunteering to help knock out a machinegun which had the entire camp pinned down. Shields died from wounds he received after he and others "succeeded in destroying the enemy machinegun emplacement, thus undoubtedly saving the lives of many of their fellow servicemen in the compound."

2nd Lieutenant Charles Q. Williams and CM3 Marvin Shields were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their actions. Shields was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on September 13th, 1966. He was the first Navyman to be so honored for service in Vietnam.

"Citation:



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Although wounded when the compound of Detachment A342, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, came under intense fire from an estimated reinforced Viet Cong regiment employing machineguns, heavy weapons and small arms, Shields continued to resupply his fellow Americans who needed ammunition and to return the enemy fire for a period of approximately 3 hours, at which time the Viet Cong launched a massive attack at close range with flame-throwers, hand grenades and small-arms fire. Wounded a second time during this attack, Shields nevertheless assisted in carrying a more critically wounded man to safety, and then resumed firing at the enemy for 4 more hours. When the commander asked for a volunteer to accompany him in an attempt to knock out an enemy machinegun emplacement which was endangering the lives of all personnel in the compound because of the accuracy of its fire, Shields unhesitatingly volunteered for this extremely hazardous mission. Proceeding toward their objective with a 3.5-inch rocket launcher, they succeeded in destroying the enemy machinegun emplacement, thus undoubtedly saving the lives of many of their fellow servicemen in the compound. Shields was mortally wounded by hostile fire while returning to his defensive position. His heroic initiative and great personal valor in the face of intense enemy fire sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

The Ship

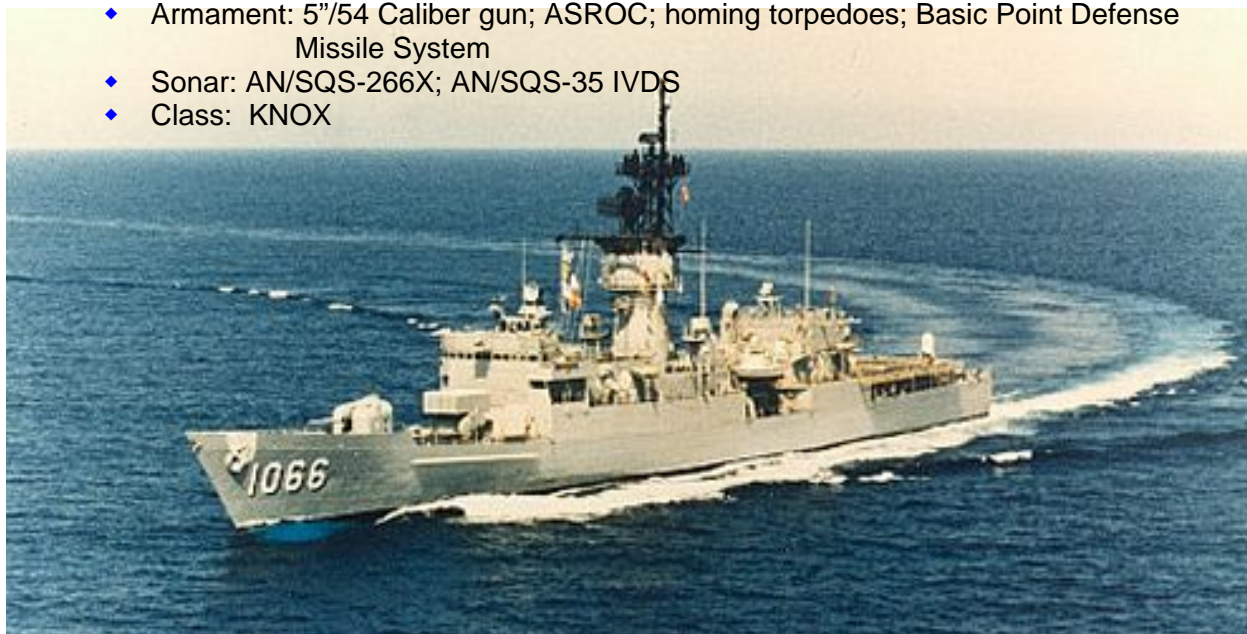


USS Marvin Shields – important dates

- ◆ Awarded July 22nd, 1964
The ship's keel was laid April 12th, 1968 at Todd Shipyard Corp. Seattle, Washington.
- ◆ October 23rd, 1969
The Marvin Shields was launched as DE-1066 and commissioned on April 10th, 1971.
- ◆ June 30th, 1975
The ship was reclassified a frigate and she became FF-1066.
- ◆ July 2nd, 1992
The Marvin Shields was decommissioned and stricken from the Navy Register on January 11th, 1995.
- ◆ January 29th, 1997
She was transferred to Mexico, arriving there on August 16th..
- ◆ November 23rd, 1998
The Marvin Shields was renamed the Mariano Abasolo (FF-212) and after extensive refits, entered active service in the Mexican Navy.

USS Marvin Shields – statistics

- ◆ FF-1066
- ◆ Complement: 230 men
- ◆ Displacement: approximately 4,000 tons (fully loaded)
- ◆ Length: 438 feet
- ◆ Beam: 47 feet
- ◆ Draft: 25 feet
- ◆ Propulsion system: two – 1200 psi boilers; 1 geared turbine,
1 shaft with 35,000 horsepower
- ◆ Speed: 27 knots
- ◆ Armament: 5"/54 Caliber gun; ASROC; homing torpedoes; Basic Point Defense Missile System
- ◆ Sonar: AN/SQS-266X; AN/SQS-35 IVDS
- ◆ Class: KNOX



Information sources:

Department of Navy – Naval Historical Center

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