



European Union Naval Force - Mediterranean

F 216 SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

Frigate

BRANDENBURG-class



Frigate

Length / Beam / Draft

Displacement

Speed

Propulsive power

BRANDENBURG-class (type 123)

139 m / 16.7 m / 6.8 m

5,500 t

29 kn

38,000 kW (51,600 HP)

Source: German Navy website
www.marine.de

The Ship

The frigate "Schleswig-Holstein" is the second ship out of a series of 4 units of the class 123, in accordance with the name of the type-ship also called "Brandenburg"-class. Her NATO code number is "F 216". She was built at HDW-shipyard in Kiel, where the keel was laid down on July 01, 1993. On June 08, 1994 the hull was launched and baptized at the same time. After completion of sea trials the new frigate was commissioned on November 24, 1995. She is the third naval ship with the same name in line with the battle ship „Schleswig-Holstein“ from the time of the 2 World Wars and her direct predecessor, the destroyer "Schleswig-Holstein".

The frigate has been named after Schleswig-Holstein, the most northern of 16 states forming the Federal Republic of Germany, also called "land between the seas". The crest of the state of Schleswig-Holstein simultaneously is the crest which the frigate is showing on her bow. As already during the time of the former destroyer the state government of Schleswig-Holstein has taken over a godparenthood to ship and crew. So the former Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein, Mrs. Heide Simonis, was named as godmother and celebrated the christening ceremony. The ship belongs to the 2nd Frigate Squadron and is home based in Wilhelmshaven on the North Sea.

Equipped with several different sensors, a modern command system with integrated capability of real time data transfer and a well-balanced weapon mixture the frigate is fitted and suited for every kind of maritime operation. She is armed with 4 ship-ship-missiles MM 38 EXOCET, 16 medium range anti-air-missiles NATO SEA SPARROW in a vertical launch system, 42 short range anti-air-missiles RAM (Rolling Airframe Missile) in 2 launchers, one 76mm (3 inch)-naval gun mount, two 27mm-super rapid firing naval light guns, and 4 tubes for anti-submarine torpedoes. For close-in self defence the ship is also fitted with 4 chaff and decoy launchers and several machine guns. In addition it can embark 2 helicopters MK 88 A SEA LYNX.

The propulsion system consists of a combination of 2 gas turbines and 2 Diesel engines driving 2 shafts and 2 propellers. All together they produce a power of 38.000 kilowatt (or 51.600 HP), which enables the ship with a displacement of 5.500 tons to sail with a maximum speed of roughly 30 knots.

The crew of the frigate consists of 218 male and female soldiers including the technical and the flight crew of the helicopters. Apart from all that the frigates of the 123-class are designed as command ships. So a Force Commander or Task Group Commander and his staff element can be embarked additionally. When the ship is completely manned there will be up to 243 crewmembers aboard.

Since the "Schleswig-Holstein" was commissioned up to now 9 Commanding Officers have commanded ship and crew. The frigate has visited approximately 80 harbours in 4 continents. She participated in many international exercises and missions. She was flagship in Standing NATO Maritime Groups 3 times, flagship in the anti-terrorism-operation ENDURING FREEDOM once and flagship in the United Nations Mission UNIFIL off the coast of Lebanon twice. The frigate "Schleswig-Holstein" looks back on a very successful lifetime history of almost 20 years.

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