



DEFENDER CLASS HEAVY CRUISER

Defender Class Production Schedule

USS Citadel
USS Maginot
USS Stalingrad
USS Isle of Britain
USS Axanar
USS Berlin

The Development of Dreadnought class star ships have always been a matter of convention between Starfleet personnel and Federation politicians. While Starfleet Admirals assert the need for large capital ships is to counter the existence of such superweapons by the Federation's belligerent neighbors, diplomats assert that turning Starfleet

into a primarily military force rather than a joint scientific/military force runs counter to the Federation charter. The Defender class is an example of how these two opposing viewpoints can lead to disaster.

Originally conceived as a front-line dreadnought class vessel, the Defender class was to have been a massive Starship capable as serving as flagship for far reaching Starfleet task forces. A second pair of warp nacelles, solely tied into the ship warp shields, would give the vessel unprecedented shielding, making it a truly formidable opponent. However, after the debacle concerning Admiral Rittenhouse's attempted coup of the Federation using the new Dreadnought class, the Federation Council rapidly moved to decrease offensive weaponry spending for the Federation. Although its shield capabilities were retained, the Defender class vessels were not built with any increase in weapons capability. Its lack of heavy firepower, coupled with the vessels inability to achieve a greater speed of warp 5.6 due to the nacelle configuration, relegated the vessel to primarily support functions. In the latter years of the vessels commission, the Defender class was used as the flagship for planetary defense fleets and reserve fleets near the the heart of the Federation, far from its intended goal as the spearhead for tactical assault squadrons at the borders of the Federation.

USS Citadel	It is not unseemly for a man to die fighting in defense of his country. <i>-Homer</i>
USS Maginot	We have to distrust each other. It's our only defense against betrayal. <i>-Tennessee Williams</i>
USS Stalingrad	Wars begin in the minds of man, and in those minds, love and compassion would have built the defenses of peace. <i>-U Thant</i>
USS Isle of Britain	Five thousand balloons, capable of raising two men each, could not cost more than five ships of the line; and where is the prince who can afford so to cover his country with troops for its defense as that 10,000 men descending from the clouds might not in many places do an infinite deal of mischief before a force could be brought together to repel them? <i>-Benjamin Franklin</i>
USS Axanar	Love is much like a wild rose, beautiful and calm, but willing to draw blood in its defense. <i>-Mark A. Overby</i>
USS Berlin	The free expression of the hopes and aspirations of a people is the greatest and only safety in a sane society. <i>-Emma Goldman</i>