

PRINCE CONSORT-CLASS HEAVY CRUISER

Ships in Class

Prince Adrian, Prince Justin, Prince Michael, Prince Roger, Prince Stephen, Prince Harold, Princess Adrienne, Princess Angelique, Princess Aoriana, Princess Caitrin, Princess Joanna, Princess Michelle, Princess Samantha, Princess Solange

Expected Service Life

1851 to 1908 PD

Specification

Mass: 246,500 tons

Length: 487 m

Beam: 59 m

Draught: 49 m

Acceleration: 512.1 G

Crew: 856 (49 Officers, 445 Enlisted, 362 Marines)

Power:

2 Isler/Buckley GM-series Fusion Reactors

Electronics:

AN/SPG-23 Gravitic Detection Array

AN/SR-9 Phased Radar Array

AN/SL-12D Lidar Array

AN/CT-6(20/16) Integrated Fire Control System

AN/ELQ-84 Electronic Countermeasure System

Armament:

20 Mod 7 Missile Launchers

2 Mk14 140cm Grasers

4Mk23 120cm Grasers

6 Mk18 96cm Lasers

16 Mod 5a Countermissile Launchers

12 Mk16(5) Point Defense Laser Clusters

Magazines:

300 Mk13 Anti-Ship Missiles

976Mk21 Countermissiles

12 Mk15 Electronic Warfare Drones

Small Craft:

2 Mk25 *Hawk-class* Pinnaces

1 Mk9/V6afross-class Shuttle

4 C3 Da/cofa-class Cutters

Design and Construction

The *Prince Consort* is the largest single class of heavy cruisers in the Royal Manticoran Navy. While the design does have its flaws, it is still regarded as an effective ship overall.

To get as much firepower into space as quickly, and for as low a cost as possible, BuShips' architects omitted a proper flag deck and its support systems. The extra mass freed was devoted to an extra graser and pair of missile launchers to each broadside.

BuShips projected a program which would deploy seven *Prince Consorts* in a squadron with a *Crusader-class* ship providing squadron level flagship support though a shortage of *Crusaders* has forced the RMN to substitute newer *Star Knight-class* units as squadron flagships.

Due to the shortage in flagships of any kind, many *Prince Consorts* have been assigned to task force and fleet formations, where other

ships in the squadron could provide the space for a commodore or admiral and her staff.

The command deck of the *Prince Consorts* was built to unusually austere standards to compensate for the increased armament and magazine space. Instead of the extra, unused bridge volume BuShips normally allocates to new designs to provide room for the proliferation of control systems which has always occurred, the *Prince Consorts* have been given just enough room for their original requirements, which has caused quite a bit of cramping as new displays and controls are added with each successive refit program.

Doctrinal Notes

While the lack of flag facilities limits their utility in squadron based deployments, individually the *Prince Consorts* are powerful and effective units. A recent program has been suggested by BuPlan to allow the *Prince Consorts* to operate in mixed raiding squadrons with *Redoubtable* or *Homer-class* battlecruisers serving as flagships. While not suited for raiding first tier systems, they would be more than sufficient for deep infrastructure raids against Havenite systems far from the front.

They are one of the last major ship classes built before BuShips began the Increased Survivability Program that resulted in the *Star Knight*, *Chanson* and *Illustrious-class*s. Opponents of the program are quick to point out that, offensively, there is little difference between the *Prince Consorts* and *Star Knights*, despite the newer class' twenty percent increase in tonnage.

Like most Manticoran designs, the *Prince Consort* enjoys a healthy advantage in medium to long range missile duels against foreign opponents, where it can make the most out of its superior seeking systems and electronic countermeasures. At closer ranges, where the disparity in missile qualities evens out, much of that advantage dissipates. Its graser armament makes it a adequate combatant in beam range.

Notable Units and Battles

Prince Adrian, the lead ship in the class, is perhaps the best known, especially in the Silesian Confederacy. Under the command of some of the Navy's finest captains, *Prince Adrian* has no less than thirteen confirmed pirate kills to her credit. In 1872 she was crippled in a violent confrontation with two pirate heavy cruisers. Only determined campaigning and a petition by several senior members of the Admiralty kept her from the breakers. Virtually rebuilt from the keel out, *Prince Adrian* is still in service today.

