

NEW ORLEANS-CLASS

Entered Service: 2332

Overview: The *New Orleans*-class was designed to serve as a support vessel for *Ambassador*-class starships (and their expected replacements), acting as a heavy frigate and occasional scout vessel. The class was criticized as being too large to properly serve the role of frigate, but its design proved maneuverable and responsive. After decades of peace with the Klingon Empire and a generation of silence from the Romulans, the *New Orleans*-class was not designed for offensive missions, and instead planned with defensive roles in mind. During times of peace, ships of the class were expected to protect merchant vessels, accompany ships sent on relief missions, and provide additional security for high value diplomats. At times of conflict, the class was expected to defend larger cruisers.

Capabilities: The frigate is named for the old Earth city; the *New Orleans*-class is crewed by 300 to 400 personnel, with room for up to 1,000 passengers. Alternatively, during an evacuation situation the class could carry 3,000 individuals for a short time. Constructed over a decade after the *Ambassador*-class, the *New Orleans* incorporated several recent design innovations and improvements planned to increase warp efficiency. Most noticeably, the primary saucer hull became ovoid rather than circular in shape, while the the secondary hull was more oblong than cylindrical, with pronounced ridges running along the port and starboard sides. The nacelles were flattened and less rounded than previous classes. This design would prove efficient in maintaining a stable warp field, and would later be refined and used in both the *Galaxy*-class and *Nebula*-class starships. The *New Orleans* used warp engines rated to cruise at warp 5 with a maximum warp factor 9.3 sustainable for 12 hours. Its phaser arrays were capable of firing in a 72-degree arc and two sets of photon torpedo launchers were located in the short neck connecting the saucer section and secondary hull. Three modular substructures were placed on the hull: two atop the saucer section and one beneath the secondary hull. These were designed to be modular, and planned to include scientific probes, small shuttlepods, or even cargo bays. However, following the Federation-Cardassian war and the Borg incursions of the 2360s, external torpedo launchers became the standard load-out in the topmost pods. Following their development, quantum torpedoes were also a common load-out for *New Orleans* vessels expected to see heavy combat.

SYSTEMS

COMMS 09

ENGINES 09

STRUCTURE 10

COMPUTERS 09

SENSORS 09

WEAPONS 10

DEPARTMENTS

COMMAND -

SECURITY +1

SCIENCE -

CONN +2

ENGINEERING -

MEDICINE -

SCALE: 4

WEAPONRY:

- Phaser Arrays
- Photon Torpedoes
- Tractor Beam (Strength 3)

TALENTS

New Orleans-class starships have the following Talents:

- Improved Damage Control
- Improved Reaction Control System

