

U.S. Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation

FINAL DETERMINATION

This evaluation is unclassified

Hull Name	Hull Number
NIAGARA FALLS	AFS-3
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
MARS (AFS-1)-class combat store ship	N/A
Vessel Location	Current Status
NAVSEA Inactive Ships On-Site Maintenance Office, Pearl Harbor, HI	Stricken, to be disposed of

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
25 January 2011	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
29 March 2011	Ineligible

Vessel Snapshot

Displacement	17,373 tons (full load)
Length	581 feet
Beam	79 feet
Draft	24 feet
Speed	20 knots
Propulsion	Steam turbines, single screw
Armament	Eight 3-inch guns (four twin mounts, as commissioned)
Aircraft	Two helicopters
Laid Down	22 May 1965
Launched	26 March 1966
Built By	National Steel and Shipbuilding Co., San Diego, CA

Sponsor	Mrs. Jacob K. Javits, wife of Senator Jacob J. Javits (N.Y.)
Delivered	26 April 1967
Commissioned	29 April 1967
Decommissioned	23 September 1994; turned over to MSC
Inactivated	30 September 2008
Stricken	30 September 2008

Vessel History

Deployments	Pacific and Indian Ocean
Awards	3 NUC (incl one for IRAQI FREEDOM), 7 MUC, 1 Combat Action Ribbon, 8 AFEM, 4 NSEM, 1 Joint Meritorious Unit Award), 2 HSM, 1 GWOT, 1 SWASM, Vietnam Service 1968-1973
Noteworthy Accomplishments	Participated in Vietnam War; Operation IRAQI FREEDOM; Operation UNIFIED ASSISTANCE
DANFS* Entry	History (first published in 1970 in <i>DANFS</i> Vol. V, N-Q) requires updating.

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

Criteria Evaluation¹

i. Was the ship awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation? (A Presidential Unit Citation is awarded to military units that have performed an extremely meritorious or heroic act, usually in the face of an armed enemy.)	No
ii. Did an individual act of heroism take	No

¹ Evaluation conducted using criteria established for naval vessels in *Program Comment for the Department of Navy for the Disposition of Historic Vessels*, issued by the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation on 15 March 2010.

place on board the ship such that an individual was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross? (The Medal of Honor is awarded for valor in action against an enemy force. The Navy Cross is awarded for extraordinary heroism in action not justifying an award of the Medal of Honor.)	
iii. Was a President of the United States was assigned to the ship during his or her naval service?	No
iv. Was the ship the first to incorporate engineering, weapons systems, or other upgrades that represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?	No
v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board?	No
Assessment of integrity of (as appropriate) design, materials, workmanship, feeling and/or association	Not applicable
Historical Evaluation Conclusion	Ineligible

Sources	Command History Reports 1967-1994 ; Naval Vessel Registers and Armament Summaries on file in the History and Archives Division, Naval History and Heritage Command. No records held by NHHC concerning MSC operation.

Historic Preservation Stakeholder Comment

Historic preservation stakeholder comments received are considered when preparing final determinations. The initial determination for this vessel was made available for comment by historic preservation stakeholders for 60 days. During that time, the Navy received no written comments.