

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation
FINAL DETERMINATION

This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
DUBUQUE	LPD 8
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
AUSTIN (LPD 4) class amphibious transport dock	N/A
Vessel Location	Current Status
INACTSHIPMAINTO Bremerton	Inactive, Naval Reserve Force

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
11 December 2012	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
5 March 2013	Ineligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	Second U.S. Navy ship to be named for the city of Dubuque, Iowa
Displacement	17,252 tons (full load)
Length	570 ft.
Beam	100 ft. (extreme)
Draft	23 ft. (maximum navigational)
Speed	21 knots
Propulsion	steam turbines, two shafts
Armament	Eight 3-inch/50 caliber guns (four twin mounts) as commissioned
Laid Down	25 January 1965

Launched	6 August 1966
Built By	Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, MS
Sponsor	Mrs. Harold Hughes, wife of Iowa Governor Harold Hughes
Delivered	21 August 1967
Commissioned	1 September 1967
Inactivated	30 June 2011 (retention asset)
Decommissioned	30 June 2011
Stricken	

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	<p>Commissioned on 1 September 1967, DUBUQUE completed a number of deployments to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf. From 1968 to 1975, DUBUQUE made five Western Pacific deployments during which she saw extensive duty during the Vietnam War. From 1969 to 1971, the ship conducted ten Operation <i>Keystone Cardinal</i> troop lifts to Okinawa in an effort to reduce the U. S. military's presence in Vietnam. From February to June 1973, the ship operated helicopters which conducted mine clearance operations in Haiphong Harbor. In April 1975, the ship participated in the evacuation of Saigon and the rescue of refugees fleeing South Vietnam.</p> <p>On August 15, 1985, DUBUQUE departed San Diego for her new homeport of Sasebo, Japan. The ship arrived in Sasebo on 4 September 1985, to join the U.S. Seventh Fleet Overseas Family Residency Program. While in Seventh Fleet, the primary mission of the ship was the support of U.S. Marines stationed in the Western Pacific.</p> <p>In May 1988, DUBUQUE deployed to the Arabian Gulf and served as the mother ship for mine sweeping operations to protect U.S.-flagged tankers during the Iran-Iraq War. For her participation in this operation, the ship was awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation. In 1989, the ship participated in the contingency operation to evacuate U.S. personnel from the Philippines during</p>
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	<p>a failed coup attempt.</p> <p>Immediately following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, ex-DUBUQUE received orders to proceed to the Arabian Gulf as part of Operation <i>Desert Shield</i>. The ship was assigned to Amphibious Ready Group Bravo, which transported Marine Regimental Landing Team Four to Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia during the critical early stages of the multi-national buildup. In 1998, DUBUQUE deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation <i>Desert Fox</i>. Later deployments supported Operation <i>Iraqi Freedom</i>, and pursuit of pirates and collecting intelligence on piracy off the Gulf of Oman and the Horn of Africa.</p>
Awards	<p>Navy Unit Commendation (2); Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (4); Navy Battle Efficiency ("E") Ribbon (3); National Defense Service Medal (2); Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (1); Operation Eagle Pull (2) Persian Gulf (1)- Vietnam Service Medal (8) - Southwest Asia Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal - Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal (1-Operation <i>Eagle Pull</i>, 1-Operation <i>Frequent Wind</i>, 2-Eniwetok Cleanup); Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.</p>
Noteworthy Events	<p>On 10 June 1988 <i>Dubuque</i> discovered a boat containing 110 refugees escaping from Vietnam; at least 20 others had already died on the voyage. The Vietnamese refugees had been stranded out at sea for 19 days due to an engine failure, but because of translation errors <i>Dubuque's</i> commanding officer, Captain Alexander Balian, believed the refugees had been adrift for only 7 days and that there were only 60 people on board. He provided the boat with food, water and navigation charts, but did not embark the refugees or render further assistance. The food and water lasted only several days, but the boat continued to drift for a further 19 days. Thirty more people died, and the remaining refugees were forced to engage in cannibalism in order to survive. The boat was eventually rescued by Filipino fisherman. Balian was relieved of command by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. He refused Admiral's Mast and per his rights under the Uniform Code of Military Justice requested court martial, where he was found guilty of dereliction of duty and given a letter of reprimand.</p>
DANFS* Entry	None

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

Criteria Evaluation¹

i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation?	No
ii. Did an individual act of heroism take place aboard the vessel such that an individual was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross?	No
iii. Was a President of the United States assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?	No
iv. Was the vessel was 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 the vessel?	No
Historic Evaluation Conclusion	Ineligible
Assessment of integrity of (as appropriate) design, materials, workmanship, feeling and/or association (only for vessels determined to be eligible)	n/a

Sources	Naval Vessel Register
	www.dubuque.navy.mil
	www.history.navy.mil
	Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships

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.

¹ Evaluation conducted using triggers 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.