

**Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation**  
FINAL DETERMINATION

This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
TUSCALOOSA	LST 1187
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
NEWPORT (LST 1179)-class tank landing ship	
Vessel Location	Current Status
N/A	Stricken, SINKEX completed on 07/14/14

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
19 June 2013	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
21 October 2013	Ineligible

**Vessel Snapshot**

<b>Lineage</b>	Named after a county and city in Alabama, which in turn were named for a Choctaw Indian warrior. The Choctaw tribal language word “tuscaloosa” translates to “black warrior”.
<b>Displacement</b>	4,992 (light), 8,594 (full load)
<b>Length</b>	522 feet
<b>Beam</b>	69 feet 9 inches
<b>Draft</b>	13 feet 6 inches (forward)
<b>Speed</b>	20 knots
<b>Propulsion</b>	Diesel propulsion, twin screws
<b>Armament</b>	2 × twin 3"/50 caliber guns; later replaced by 2 × single 25 mm Mark 38 guns, 1 × 20 mm Phalanx CIWS, 6 × M2 Browning .50 caliber machine guns
<b>Laid Down</b>	23 November 1968

<b>Launched</b>	6 September 1969
<b>Built By</b>	National Steel and Shipbuilding Corp., San Diego, CA
<b>Sponsor</b>	Mrs. Thomas F. Connolly
<b>Delivered</b>	11 September 1970
<b>Commissioned</b>	24 October 1970
<b>Inactivated</b>	18 February 1994
<b>Decommissioned</b>	18 February 1994
<b>Stricken</b>	1 December 2008

### Vessel History

<b>Deployment Summary</b>	WESTPAC: 1971 (Operation KEYSTONE ORIOLE); Vietnam War Era Experience, June 1971-June 1972; 1973-74 (Exercise PAGASA II, Operation FLY AWAY); 1975 (Operation FREQUENT WIND, Operation NEW LIFE); 1977 (Exercise SANG YONG VI, Exercise BAYANIHAN IV/FORTRESS LIGHTNING; 1979-80 (Exercise FORTRESS GALE, Exercise QUICK JAB, Operation KERNAL USHER 81-1); 1981 (Exercise BELL VOLCANO, Exercise VALIANT FLEX 81-2/TEAM SPIRIT '81, Exercise VALIANT USHER); 1982 (Exercise BELL VOLCANO, Exercise VALIANT USHER 83-4, Exercise BATTLE WEEK II); 1984 (Exercise BELL VOLCANO 85-1, Exercise VALIANT USHER 85-2); 1986 (Exercise KERNEL POTLATCH 86-1, Exercise COBRA GOLD 86, Exercise VALIANT USHER 86-5, Exercise KERNEL BLITZ 87-2); 1988 (Exercise VALIANT USHER 88-5); 1989-1990 (Exercise EAGLE PROVIDER, Exercise VALIANT MARK 90-4, Exercise VALIANT MARK, Exercise TEAM SPIRIT, Exercise VALIANT MARK 90-1); 1992 ( VALIANT USHER 92, Exercise NAUTICAL MANTIS 92, Exercise EAGER MACE 92, Exercise EDGED MALLETT 92, Operation COBRA GOLD 92.
<b>Awards</b>	One Meritorious Unit Commendation, one Navy Expeditionary Medal, one Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, four Vietnam War battle stars, one

	Southwest Asia Service Medal, one Humanitarian Service Medal, two Secretary of the Navy Letters of Commendation.
<b>Noteworthy Events</b>	18 OCT 71- First of LST 1179 class to enter Ora Wan and launch LVT's; 4 JAN 72 – TUSCALOOSA collided with a Japanese Patrol Boat. No damage reported; 21 JAN 75 – Rescued floundering fisherman off San Clemente Island; 1981 – First U.S. Navy Ship to visit Sumatra; 1985 – First U.S. Navy Ship to visit Bangladesh; distributed Project HANDCLASP materials; 1989- TUSCALOOSA aided two injured Chinese merchant seaman by executing what is believed to be the first highline transfer between a U.S. Navy warship and a Peoples Republic of China merchant ship in the high seas; 1991- TUSCALOOSA rescued 12 Mexican fishermen lost at sea from the sinking of their vessel the PAOLA; 1993 – TUSCALOOSA rendered assistance to the Greek merchant vessel STELLA whose first-mate had suffered from cardiac arrest.
<b>DANFS* Entry</b>	Yes, but only a placeholder entry until a full history is written.

*\*Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

**Criteria Evaluation<sup>1</sup>**

<b>i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation?</b>	No
<b>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?</b>	No
<b>iii. Was a President of the United States ever assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?</b>	No
<b>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?</b>	No
<b>v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?</b>	No
<b>Historic Evaluation Conclusion</b>	Ineligible

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<b>Sources</b>	<a href="http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/t9/tuscaloosalst-1187.htm">http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/t9/tuscaloosalst-1187.htm</a> - DANFS entry
	<a href="http://www.nvr.navy.mil/nvrships/details/LST1187.htm">http://www.nvr.navy.mil/nvrships/details/LST1187.htm</a>
	NHHC Archives, Washington Navy Yard
	<a href="https://awards.navy.mil">https://awards.navy.mil</a>
	<a href="http://usstuscaloosa.com/">http://usstuscaloosa.com/</a>
	<a href="http://www.navsource.org/archives/10/16/161187.htm">http://www.navsource.org/archives/10/16/161187.htm</a>

### **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.

**Addendum:** revised and updated on 05.15.15