

**U.S. Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation**  
FINAL DETERMINATION

This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
PONCE	LPD-15
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
AUSTIN (LPD-4)-class amphibious transport dock	N/A
Vessel Location	Current Status
Norfolk, VA	Active, in commission

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
16 May 2011	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
8 September 2011	Ineligible

**Vessel Snapshot**

<b>Lineage</b>	Ponce, Puerto Rico, City in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
<b>Displacement</b>	8,883 tons (light), 16,951 tons (full load)
<b>Length</b>	570 ft.
<b>Beam</b>	84 ft. at waterline
<b>Draft</b>	22 ft. maximum navigational
<b>Speed</b>	21 knots
<b>Propulsion</b>	Two steam turbines, twin screws
<b>Armament</b>	Eight 3-inch guns (four twin mounts) (as commissioned)
<b>Laid Down</b>	31 October 1966

<b>Launched</b>	20 May 1970
<b>Built By</b>	Lockheed Shipbuilding and Construction Co., Seattle, WA
<b>Sponsor</b>	Mrs. John J. Hyland, wife of ADM John J. Hyland, USN, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet
<b>Delivered</b>	25 June 1971
<b>Commissioned</b>	10 July 1971
<b>Inactivated</b>	Scheduled for January – March 2012
<b>Decommissioned</b>	Scheduled for 31 March 2012
<b>Stricken</b>	Scheduled for 31 March 2012

### Vessel History

<b>Deployments</b>	Mediterranean, North Atlantic, Persian Gulf, and Caribbean.
<b>Awards</b>	Two Navy Unit Commendations (one as an element of MARG 2-90 in Operation <i>Sharp Edge</i> and one as an element of U.S. Fifth Fleet Strike Force for Operation <i>Iraqi Freedom</i> ), 2 Meritorious Unit Commendations (one individual, one as element of PHIBRON 4), 5 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals, 1 Navy Expeditionary Service Medal, 7 Armed Forces Service Medals, 3 Humanitarian Service Medals, 1 Joint Meritorious Unit Award (as part of JTF <i>Assured Response</i> ), 6 Navy E Ribbons, 1 Southwest Asia Service Medal, and 1 Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.
<b>Noteworthy Events</b>	Part of Operation <i>Sharp Edge</i> to evacuate U.S. citizens caught in Liberian civil war. Counter-drug operations in the Caribbean and provided over 10,000 man- hours for Hurricane <i>Andrew</i> Relief. Transported marines for invasion of Iraq, then became flagship of the Commander of Mine Countermeasure Squadron Three, designated as Commander, Task Group 55.4 (2003); 2005, deployed with KEARSARGE Expeditionary Strike Group; Persian Gulf; 2011 traveled through Suez Canal in response to Libyan

	strife.
<b>DANFS* Entry</b>	Existing history needs to be updated given the fact that most of the ship's service occurred after publication of <i>DANFS</i> Volume V ( N-Q)

\**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 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>Historical Evaluation Conclusion</b>	Ineligible
<b>Assessment of integrity of (as appropriate) design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and/or association (only for vessels determined to be eligible)</b>	Not applicable

<b>Sources</b>	Naval Vessel Register, 03/07/2011.
	<a href="http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&amp;tid=600&amp;ct=4">www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&amp;tid=600&amp;ct=4</a>
	<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Ponce_(LPD-15)">en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Ponce_(LPD-15)</a>
	<a href="http://www.history.navy.mil/shiphist/p/lpd15.htm">www.history.navy.mil/shiphist/p/lpd15.htm</a>
	USS Ponce Homepage, <a href="http://ponce.navy.mil">ponce.navy.mil</a>

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### Historic Preservation Stakeholder Comment

<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.

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 \_\_\_ written comments.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition