

**Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation**  
FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
CURTIS	FFG-38
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
OLIVER HAZARD PERRY (FFG-7)-class guided missile frigate	
Vessel Location	Current Status
INACTSHIPMAINTO Pearl Harbor, HI	Stricken

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
22 October 2012	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
28 January 2013	Ineligible

**Vessel Snapshot**

<b>Lineage</b>	First U.S.Navy ship named for the late ADM Maurice E. Curtiss, USN (1898-1976), former Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet
<b>Displacement</b>	3,800 tons
<b>Length</b>	453 ft
<b>Beam</b>	47 ft
<b>Draft</b>	25.5 ft

<b>Speed</b>	28+ knots
<b>Propulsion</b>	2 GE LM2500 Gas turbines; 2 350 hp electric drive auxiliary propulsion units; 4 1000 kw ship's service diesel generator; 1 controllable reverse pitch propeller; in addition, as auxiliaries, 4 1000 kW Ship's Service Diesel Generators
<b>Armament</b>	MK 13 Guided Missile Launcher; <i>Harpoon</i> Anti-Ship Missile; <i>Standard</i> Anti-Aircraft Missile; MK 75 76 MM/62 Caliber Rapid Firing Gun; MK 32 ASW Torpedo Tubes (Two Triple Mounts) ; MK 15 CIWS
<b>Laid Down</b>	1 July 1981
<b>Launched</b>	6 March 1982
<b>Built By</b>	Todd Pacific Shipyards, Los Angeles Div., San Pedro, CA
<b>Co-Sponsors</b>	Mrs. Kimbrali Curts Efsaif; Ms. Lucinda Scarlet; Mrs. Martha Curts Hilton
<b>Delivered</b>	6 March 1982
<b>Commissioned</b>	8 October 1983
<b>Inactivated</b>	unknown
<b>Decommissioned</b>	27 February 2013
<b>Stricken</b>	27 February 2013

### Vessel History

<b>Deployment Highlights</b>	The first years in commission were focused on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations as she was the first Pacific Fleet unit with the complete SQQ-89 ASW Suite. CURTS served in Destroyer Squadron 31 from 1985 until mid-1987. She was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for brilliant performance in the tracking of Soviet submarines.
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	<p>Change of homeport from Long Beach, CA, to Yokosuka, JAPAN. Operation <i>Earnest Will</i> in the northern Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman, 1987-1988.</p> <p>In 1990, CURTS joined the MIDWAY (CV-41) Battle Group and deployed to support Operation <i>Desert Shield</i>.</p> <p>On 17 October 1990 while crossing the South China Sea, CURTS rescued 50 Vietnamese refugees from a disabled fishing boat that had been drifting for ten days.</p> <p>The last two months of 1990 were spent conducting Maritime Interception Force Operations in the Gulf of Oman.</p> <p>Assigned to the northernmost group of ships in the Persian Gulf at the outbreak of Operation <i>Desert Storm</i>. On 14 January 1991, CURTS captured the 51-man Iraqi garrison on Qaruh Island. The net result was one island liberated, two mines destroyed, one minelayer sunk, and a wealth of intelligence materials seized. Support of combat helicopter operations during Battle of Bubiyan Island and escort for the battleships MISSOURI (BB-63) and WISCONSIN (BB-64) during Naval Gunfire Support missions. Assigned to mine countermeasures escort force for the amphibious feint off Faylakah Island, then rejoined the MIDWAY Battle Group.</p> <p>In June 1991, CURTS aided the people of the Philippines following the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. After digging out from under about a foot of grit, rocks, and ash she was underway the same day to transport 298 evacuees to the island of Cebu during Operation <i>Fiery Vigil</i>. Another round trip brought 249 additional evacuees to safety.</p> <p>In the latter half of 1992, CURTS completed extensive joint Navy exercises with Korean, Australian, and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) navies.</p> <p>In October 1993, CURTS joined the INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) Battle Group to participate with the JMSDF in the joint anti-submarine warfare exercise MAREX. On November 17, she steamed out of Yokosuka with the CV 62 Battle Group for a Middle East deployment. The frigate was assigned to the Red Sea where she conducted 89 boardings as part of the Maritime Interdiction Force supporting United Nations sanctions against Iraq. CURTS rejoined the battle group in the Arabian Gulf where she continued the enforcement of U. N. sanctions. While transiting the Gulf of Oman, she discovered an adrift livestock vessel, and rendered assistance and the vessel along with her 23 crew members was towed to Oman.</p> <p>On 3 August 2004, CURTS was called upon to support an urgent medical</p>
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	<p>evacuation of a crew member from the U.S. Coast Guard buoy tender SEQUOIA (WLB-214). The call came across during the early morning hours while the San Diego-based guided missile frigate was operating off the coast of Baja California.</p> <p>On 28 August 2004, CURTS rescued 106 passengers of a distressed vessel 300 miles east of Ecuador while deployed to the U.S. southern Command AoR. The rescued passengers were transferred to Ecuadorian coastal patrol ship BAE 27 DE OCTUBRE, to complete their journey.</p> <p>Throughout the end of 2004 to 2007, CURTS supported law enforcement for illegal narcotics smuggling in the eastern Pacific and Gulf of Mexico.</p> <p>In 2010, CURTS completed an independent deployment in the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet Areas of Responsibility (AoR). The ship conducted four Suez Canal transits, two exercises with the Egyptian Navy and participated in Exercise Malabar 2010, a week-long bilateral military exercise which aims to promote the interoperability of the U.S. Navy and Indian Navy.</p> <p>In August 2010, CURTS participated in Exercise <i>Quickdraw</i> with the U.S. Coast Guard and assets from the Mexican navy off the coast of San Diego. <i>Quickdraw</i> is designed to test a ship's response time to a security or Maritime Homeland Defense threat with coordination from Department of Homeland Security and other coalition partners.</p> <p>During 2012, CURTS supported counter-illicit trafficking in the U.S. Southern Command AoO.</p>
<b>Awards</b>	Meritorious Unit Commendation (1987) for performance in tracking Soviet submarines; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Navy Unit Commendation
<b>Noteworthy Events</b>	In 1991, during Operation <i>Desert Storm</i> , CURTS captured an Iraqi garrison on Qaruh Island, liberating the island and capturing 51 prisoners, destroyed two mines, sank one minelayer, and seized intelligence materials (received Navy Unit Commendation). Rescued 50 Vietnamese refugees from a disabled fishing vessel; rescued 106 Ecuadorians from a disabled vessel off the coast of Ecuador; in 2004, intercepted fishing vessel containing 14.5 tons of cocaine. In June 1991, CURTS evaluated 298 persons following volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines.
<b>DANFS* Entry</b>	No entry.

\**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

## Criteria Evaluation<sup>1</sup>

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

<b>Sources</b>	Commissioning Brochure, United States Ship CURTS (FFG-38) 8 October 1983
	<a href="http://www.uscarriers.net/ffg38history.htm">www.uscarriers.net/ffg38history.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 one written comment.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition
Tin Can Sailors—the National Association of Destroyer Veterans, rec'd. 13 November 2012	Concurred with Navy's initial finding that USS CURTS is ineligible as a candidate for listing on the NRHP.

<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.

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**Addendum:** This evaluation modified and updated 6/2/15 and 5/3/17.