

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation
FINAL DETERMINATION

This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
CLEVELAND	LPD 7
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
AUSTIN (LPD 4) class amphibious transport dock, fourth in series	n/a
Vessel Location	Current Status
INACTSHIPMAINTO, Philadelphia	Retention Asset

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	Third U.S. Navy ship to honor the City of Cleveland, Ohio
Displacement	9,734 tons (light), 17,326 tons (full load)
Length	570 ft.
Beam	100 ft.
Draft	23 ft.
Speed	21 kts.
Propulsion	Steam turbines, twin screws
Armament	Eight 3-inch/50 (four twin mounts) guns (as commissioned)
Laid Down	30 November 1964
Launched	7 May 1966

Built By	Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, MS.
Sponsor	Mrs. Thomas H. Moorner, wife of ADM Thomas H. Moorner, USN, Commander in Chief Atlantic and Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet
Delivered	3 April 1967
Commissioned	21 April 1967
Inactivated	30 September 2011
Decommissioned	30 September 2011, at Naval Station, San Diego, planned retention in reserve
Stricken	

Vessel History

History	<p><i>Cleveland</i> first saw action during the Tet Offensive in 1967. After the Vietnam War cease-fire in January 1973, <i>Cleveland</i> joined Task Force 78 in the mine-clearing effort of Haiphong Harbor and Operation <i>End Sweep</i>. <i>Cleveland</i> then began a series of seven Western Pacific deployments between 1974 and 1985.</p> <p>In 1978, portions of the film <i>Inchon</i> were filmed during a practice amphibious assault off the coast of Korea. This is referenced in the ship's logs of 1978.^[1]</p> <p>Assigned duties as Third Fleet flagship from January through November 1988, <i>Cleveland</i> then briefly shifted focus to environmental protection when she deployed to Prince William Sound, Alaska, in support of oil spill cleanup efforts associated with the <i>Exxon Valdez</i> disaster.</p> <p>The ship's next two deployments, in 1990 and 1991, were in support of Operation <i>Desert Shield</i> and Operation <i>Desert Storm</i>. In October 1992 and in March 1993, <i>Cleveland</i> deployed on short notice to Central America in support of law enforcement operations, where she was the first LPD to embark an SH-60 <i>Seahawk</i> helicopter. During the March 1993 deployment <i>Cleveland</i> and the embarked Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment</p>
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(LEDET) played a key role in what was the largest maritime cocaine seizure to date involving the motor vessel *Sea Chariot*. These two deployments included four transits of the Panama Canal and steaming over 20,000 miles.

While deployed to the Western Pacific in 1994, *Cleveland* participated in United Nations relief efforts in Rwanda and the relocation of the United States Liaison office from Mogadishu, Somalia, to Nairobi, Kenya. Following the relocation efforts, *Cleveland* was ordered to steam into the North Persian Gulf to assist in deterring Iraq's massing of troops on the Kuwaiti border as part of Operation *Vigilant Warrior*.

Her next inter-deployment cycle was highlighted by Exercise RIMPAC '96 off the coast of Hawaii, which included the first ever multilateral exercise involving US and Russian forces in US waters. The trip to Hawaii for the exercise culminated in a parade of ships for the 50th anniversary celebration to commemorate the end of the Pacific War. *Cleveland* returned to the North Persian Gulf during her deployment in 1996 and 1997, participating in coalition and bilateral exercises and achieving yet another milestone as the first Amphibious Warship to actively participate in Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) in support of United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

In the summer of 1998, *Cleveland* once again participated in the bi-annual RIMPAC exercise. *Cleveland* then began her sixteenth major deployment in December 1998, embarking Navy SEALs, elements of the 13th MEU (SOC) – Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operation Capable) – and a detachment of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). During this deployment *Cleveland* stood off the Horn of Africa, inserting a military liaison team into Eritrea and remaining ready to conduct a non-combatant evacuation operation. *Cleveland* then returned to the Persian Gulf to conduct MIO where she served as flagship for the commander of all MIO forces in the Persian Gulf. During this period, an embarked UAV discovered an Iraqi surface-to-surface missile site that was threatening coalition forces. Aircraft from *Enterprise* (CVN-65) destroyed this missile site while the UAV transmitted live imagery back to *Cleveland*.

Packing food for distribution to various locations throughout the Cleveland metropolitan area during a Cleveland Navy Week community service event

Cleveland was once again called upon to perform outside her normal realm of operations while participating in recovery and salvage efforts of Alaska Airlines Flight 261 in February 2000, receiving the Coast Guard Unit Commendation with Operational Distinguishing Device. Following a Fleet Week visit to San Francisco, California, *Cleveland* completed her training cycle and deployed for the seventeenth time in March 2001.

	<i>Cleveland</i> (LPD 7) arrived in San Diego, 4 August 2011, returning from <i>Pacific Partnership 2011</i> , concluding the ship's final mission prior to her decommissioning. During the course of the ship's final mission, the medical contingent treated 38,696 patients at medical and dental civic action projects, or MEDCAPs and DENCAPs.
Awards	Navy Unit Commendation, three Meritorious Unit Commendations, two Combat Action Ribbon, Joint Unit Meritorious Award, eight Navy Battle "E" Ribbons, Two National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (1-Operation <i>Sharp Edge</i> , 1-Liberia, 2 -Operation <i>Restore Hope</i> , Somalia), Southwest Asia Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal (Eniwetok Cleanup) , Coast Guard Commendation Ribbon (with Operational Distinguishing device), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), nine battle stars for Vietnam War service.
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	n/a

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.

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Sources	Naval History and Heritage Command files; www.navsource.org ;
	Navy fact Files

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.