

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation
FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
DEFENDER	MCM 2
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
AVENGER (MCM 1)-class mine countermeasures ship	None
Vessel Location	Current Status
Was forward deployed to Sasebo, Japan; Homeport: San Diego, CA	Active

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
8 September 2014	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
12 November 2014	Ineligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	DEFENDER (MCM 2) is the second AVENGER (MCM 1)-class mine countermeasures ship to join the fleet and is the first ship to be named DEFENDER.
Displacement	1,312 tons
Length	224 feet
Beam	39 feet
Draft	11.5 feet

Speed	14 knots
Propulsion	Four Waukasha Motors Co. diesel engines, two controllable reversible pitch propellers, two rudders, two electric light load propulsion motors
Armament	<p>Six M2HB .50 cal. machine guns Four M240B 7.62mm machine guns Two Mk 19 grenade launchers-</p> <p>T- AN/SLQ-37 - Magnetic/Acoustic Sweep System</p> <p>AN/SLQ-38 - Mechanical Sweep System</p> <p>AN/SLQ-48 - Mine Neutralization Equipment</p> <p>AN/SQQ-32 - Minehunting Sonar</p> <p>AN/SQQ-30 - Variable Depth Minehunting Sonar</p> <p>AN/SSN-2 - Navigation/Command and Control</p> <p>AN/SSQ-94 - On board Trainer</p>
Laid Down	01 Dec 83
Launched	04 Apr 87
Built By	Marinette Marine, Marinette, WI
Sponsor	Mrs. Thomas J. [Hazel] Hughes, wife of VADM Thomas J. Hughes, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics)
Delivered	08 Sep 89
Commissioned	30 Sep 89
Inactivated	n/a
Decommissioned	n/a

Stricken	n/a
-----------------	-----

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	<p>SOUTHCOM/Caribbean Operations: 2000 Mine Warfare Readiness Group (MIWRG), (GOMEX) 00-1, GEORGE WASHINGTON Battle Group Composite Task Unit Exercise (GWBATGRU COMPTUEX) 00-1, UNITAS 00-4; Puerto Rican Operations Area during UNITAS 41-00 then transited to the GREAT LAKES for Great Lakes Cruise/ DOMESTIC OUTREACH RECRUITING CRUISE 2000 (GLC 2000)</p> <p>EUCOM: 1993- MCM EURO 93(Oostende, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, France, Portugal, Spain, UK); 1995- MCM EURO 95' Deployment (UK, Denmark, France, Portugal, Spain)</p> <p>Haiti: 2010 OPERATION UNIFIED RESPONSE: HAITI</p> <p>Katrina Relief: 2005 (Gulf of Mexico shipping channels, located dislodged oil rigs)</p> <p>MCMTNG: INTEGRATED OPS (GOMEX 95-1)</p> <p>WESTPAC: 1994; 1995 (Mediterranean – BLUE HARRIER); 2006 (Persian Gulf); 2010 U/W OPAREA (Japan, Busan and Chinhae ROK); 2011 (Singapore, India, Bangladesh – CARAT Training, Malaysia, Philippines)</p>
Awards	<p>Battle “E” - 2009</p> <p>Commander, Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic Fleet, Battle Efficiency "E" award winner – 2000</p> <p>Navy “E” Ribbon – 1994, 1995, 2000, 2009</p> <p>Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation- 1995 (Exercise BLUE HARRIER), 2000 and (10 May 01)</p> <p>Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation Citation (10 May 01)</p>
Noteworthy Events	<p>April 29, 1990: Lightning strikes mast. The master control console sustained damage.</p> <p>1995: DEFENDER had minesweeping gear in the water when wood smoke was smelled in the vicinity of the stack. Investigations revealed a stack fire.</p>

Sweeping operations ceased as the ship dropped anchor to put the fire out. The fire was extinguished in short order and attention was focused on retrieving the magnetic and acoustic sweep gear which had become entangled as a result of the ship losing way through the water. By the next morning all equipment had been restored and DEFENDER returned to port under her own power.

March 18, 1996: DEFENDER rescues 8 people in Gulf of Mexico. While underway in the Corpus Christi OPAREA, DEFENDER was requested by the U.S. Coast Guard to respond to a distress call. Executing a full power run, DEFENDER located a small craft, with eight passengers, filling with water. The crew responded quickly to bring the men, women, and children aboard. DEFENDER continued assistance by providing clothes and food to her new, very thankful guests. The families were returned safely to port via small boat. Then, the following week, as the ship was preparing to get underway for training operations, a call came that a T-44 aircraft was down in the local Corpus Christi OPAREA. Once clear of the harbor DEFENDER had every available man onboard continuously searching for any site of the plane or flight crew. Using sonar, DEFENDER was able to locate the parts of the downed aircraft but once her assistance was no longer needed she returned to port letting other resources continue with salvage efforts.

2009: DEFENDER executed a homeport change and was heavy lifted to Sasebo, Japan and became underway in the Sasebo Operating Area (SOA). DEFENDER became part of the U.S. Navy's Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDFN).

2010: DEFENDER was the first U.S. Navy Ship to visit the Japanese Island of Miyako Jima.

May 24, 2010 DEFENDER departed Okinawa, Japan, after a five-day port call. During the visit, the crew conducted personnel exchanges and celebrated the 50th anniversary of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty with Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) counterparts at White Beach Naval Facility; Returned to Sasebo on May 27.

From July 7-8, the DEFENDER was underway for local operations. Underway for routine training from Aug. 20- Sept. 7.

September 21, DEFENDER arrived in Hirara Port, Miyako Jima, Okinawa Prefecture, for a rare port visit. Returned home on Oct. 18 after a month-long underway period.

From July 10 through August 1, 2011, DEFENDER underway for routine training.

	<p>August 14, DEFENDER departed Naval Base Sasebo for her first western Pacific patrol.</p> <p>August 15, DEFENDER moored at White Beach Naval Facility, Okinawa, for a routine port call.</p> <p>September 12, DEFENDER arrived in Port Blair, India, for a two-day visit to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.</p> <p>September 18, DEFENDER pulled into Chittagong, Bangladesh, to participate in Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Bangladesh exercise. Completed at-sea phase on Sept. 23.</p> <p>November 18, DEFENDER returned to homeport after a three-month Fall Patrol.</p> <p>From January 10-16, 2012, DEFENDER underway for local operations.</p> <p>February 27, DEFENDER joined JS AMAGIRI (DD 154) and FNS VENDEMIARE (F 734) for a passing exercise (PASSEX) off the coast of Kyushu, Japan.</p> <p>July 17, DEFENDER returned to Sasebo after a 19-day underway period.</p> <p>October 5, DEFENDER returned to Fleet Activities Sasebo after a four-week western Pacific patrol.</p> <p>November 19, DEFENDER returned to Sasebo after a two-week underway with PATRIOT (MCM 7).</p> <p>December 1, DEFENDER recently commenced a Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) while pierside at Fleet Activities Sasebo.</p> <p>August 26, 2013 DEFENDER moored at Berth 13 in Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan, for a training availability (TRAV) after a two-day transit from Sasebo. Moved to Berth 1 1\2 on Sept. 11; Underway on Sept. 18; Returned home on Oct. 4; Underway for routine training from Oct. 30- Nov. 8; Underway for local operations on Nov. 12.</p> <p>February 19, 2014 DEFENDER departed Fleet Activities Sasebo for a three-day underway. Underway in support of exercise Foal Eagle 2014 from March 21- April 4; Underway again on May 3; Brief stop in Sasebo from May 12- 13.</p>
DANFS* Entry	2006

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. 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	NHHC Archives, Washington Navy Yard
	http://www.nvr.navy.mil/nvrships/details/MCM2
	http://www.hullnumber.com/MCM-2
	http://www.history.navy.mil/shiphist/d/mcm2
	https://awards.navy.mil/awards

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.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition

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.