

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation
FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
SIMPSON	FFG 56
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
OLIVER HAZARD PERRY (FFG 7)-class guided missile frigate	None
Vessel Location	Current Status
Homeported at Mayport, FL	Active

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
13 January 2015	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
19 March 2015	Ineligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	Named for the late Rear Adm. Rodger W. Simpson (1898-1964), who distinguished himself during World War II as a destroyer commanding officer and Flotilla Commander, being awarded the Navy Cross, Silver Star, and the Legion of Merit.
Displacement	3,900 tons
Length	453 feet
Beam	47 feet
Draft	24.5 feet

Speed	30+ knots
Propulsion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two General Electric LM2500 gas turbine (40,000 SHP) - Two 360 HP electric auxiliary propulsion units - One controllable reversible pitch propeller
Armament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mk 13 Guided Missile launcher with <i>Harpoon</i> anti-surface and <i>Standard</i> anti-aircraft missile -76mm Mk 75 rapid-fire gun -Mk 32 ASW torpedo tubes Mk 15 Mod 1 Phalanx Close-in Weapon System (CIWS)
Laid Down	27 February 1984
Launched	31 August 1984
Built By	Bath Irons Works Corporation, Bath, Maine
Sponsor	Mrs. Rodger W. [Grace] Simpson Smith, the widow of the late RADM Simpson.
Delivered	13 September 1985
Commissioned	21 September 1985
Inactivated	TBD
Decommissioned	TBD
Stricken	TBD

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	<p>In January 1986, following the Space Shuttle <i>Challenger</i> disaster, SIMPSON participated in search and recovery operations.</p> <p>In January 1988, SIMPSON's first overseas deployment was to the Persian Gulf as part of Operation <i>Earnest Will</i>. On 17 April 1988, the vessel took part in Operation <i>Praying Mantis</i>, the U.S. response to the mining of the frigate SAMUEL B. ROBERTS, which hit an Iranian M-08 mine on 14 April 1988.</p> <p>On 18 April 1988, SIMPSON, along with other U.S. warships, destroyed Iranian naval and intelligence facilities on the oil platform <i>Sirri</i> in the Persian Gulf. The vessel also sank an Iranian KAMAN-Class (Combattante II type) missile patrol boat later the same day.</p> <p>On 20 February 1990, SIMPSON rescued 22 crew members from MV SURF CITY, a reflagged Kuwaiti tanker carrying \$9 million in naphtha and gas oil that exploded near the Iranian Island of Abu Musa.</p> <p>In March 1992, during SIMPSON's third deployment, the vessel along with NORMANDY (CG 60) escorted AMERICA (CV 66) and two supply ships into the Persian Gulf.</p> <p>In August 1993, during SIMPSON's fourth deployment, she was again assigned to escort Carrier Group Six with AMERICA. During the deployment, the vessel participated in Operation <i>Deny Flight</i> and Operation <i>Provide Promise</i> in the Adriatic Sea and supported Operation <i>Continue Hope</i> off Somalia.</p> <p>SIMPSON returned to homeport in February 1994. In May 1994, the vessel was one of the ships enforcing United Nations sanctions on Haiti. In late 1994 and again in February, SIMPSON was deployed to the Caribbean Sea for counter drug operations.</p> <p>In November 1995, SIMPSON deployed to the Mediterranean joining the United States Sixth Fleet NATO's Standing Naval Force Atlantic. The vessel operated in the Adriatic Sea enforcing UN arms embargo against Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. SIMPSON also participated in Operation <i>Sharp Guard</i>.</p> <p>SIMPSON returned to Norfolk 8 May 1996.</p> <p>The vessel moved to Naval Station Mayport in July 2001.</p> <p>SIMPSON deployed with HSL-44, Det. 10 as part of NATO's Standing Naval Forces Atlantic on 22 September 2004, returning 20 December 2004.</p>
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	<p>On 3 January 2006, SIMPSON deployed with HSL-42, Det. 9, joining Standing NRF Maritime Group 1 and participated in a number of international naval exercises in the North Sea, Norwegian Sea and Eastern Mediterranean Sea returning to Mayport 24 June 2006.</p> <p>On 5 October 2007, SIMPSON deployed with HSL-46, Det. 7 and U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) 405, to the eastern Pacific for counter narcotics operations returning April 2008.</p> <p>On 17 January 2012, SIMPSON deployed to the Sixth Fleet Area of Responsibility, participating in <i>Africa Partnership Station 2012</i>, and Operation <i>Active Endeavor</i>. She returned to Naval Station Mayport on 17 July 2012.</p> <p>On 18 September 2013, SIMPSON deployed once more to the United States Sixth Fleet Area of Responsibility. She returned to Naval Station Mayport on 20 March 2014.</p> <p>As of July 2014, SIMPSON is homeported at Naval Station Mayport, Florida, and is part of Destroyer Squadron 14. She is scheduled to be second-to-last OLIVER HAZARD PERRY (FFG 7)-class frigate in the United States Fleet with a planned decommissioning date of 14 August 2015.</p>
<p>Awards</p>	<p>One Combat Action Ribbon; one Joint Meritorious Unit Award; one Navy Unit Commendation; one CG Meritorious Unit Commendation; one Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation; one Navy Battle "E" Ribbon; National Defense Service Ribbon w/ 1 star; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal w/ 4 stars; Southwest Asia Service Medal w/ 2 stars; one GWOT Service Medal; Armed Forces Service Ribbon w/ 1 star; one Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; CG Special Operations Service Ribbon w/ 1 star; one United Nations Medal; one Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia); one Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)</p>
<p>Noteworthy Events</p>	<p>- One 18 April 1988, SIMPSON encountered the Iranian Kaman Class (Combatte II type) missile patrol boat JOSHAN, which launched a <i>Harpoon</i> missile. The SIMPSON returned missile fire and struck the JOSHAN in her superstructure. JOSHAN was then sunk by combined gunfire. SIMPSON is one of two presently commissioned ships in the US Navy to have sunk an enemy vessel with her shipboard weaponry (as opposed to aircraft). The other is the frigate CONSTITUTION.</p> <p>- On 20 February 1990, SIMPSON rescued 22 crew members from MV SURF CITY, a reflagged Kuwaiti tanker carrying \$9 million in naphtha and gas oil. SURF CITY exploded while she was cruising near the Iranian island of Abu Musa; the explosion killed two and forced the remaining crew to</p>

	<p>abandon the ship.</p> <p>- In July 2002, SIMPSON responded to Malpelo Island to medevac a wounded Colombian Marine who had received three gunshot wounds.</p> <p>- During a 2007/2008 deployment, SIMPSON captured 16 metric tons of cocaine. On 29 November 2007, SIMPSON interdicted a self-propelled semi-submersible (SPSS) capable of carrying 5–8 metric tons of cocaine. The sub was sunk by its crew, but the crew was captured and turned over to Colombia.</p> <p>- On 2 June 2009, SIMPSON rescued a stranded fishing vessel whose failed starter left the ship out at sea for 18 days.</p>
DANFS* Entry	Place-holder entry in planning stage

**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

Sources	- USS SIMPSON Commissioning Booklet
	- Various "Navy News" articles
	- USS SIMPSON official website

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.

	- NavSource Online
	- Naval Vessel Register

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