

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation



INITIAL DETERMINATION

This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
CHARLESTON	LKA 113
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
Amphibious Cargo Ship	Launched as AKA 113, redesignated from attack cargo ship to amphibious cargo ship on 14 December 1968
Vessel Location	Current Status
INACTSHIPMAINTO Philadelphia, PA	Stricken

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
18 April 2016	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	Fifth U. S. Navy ship to be named CHARLESTON, honoring the city in South Carolina, with this particular ship honoring the county of that name as well.
Displacement	19,323 tons (full displacement)
Length	576 ft.
Beam	82 ft.

Draft	27 ft.
Speed	20 knots
Propulsion	Steam turbine, single screw
Armament	Two 3"/50 cal. twin mounts; later replaced by <i>Phalanx</i> close-in mounts (CIWS)
Laid Down	5 December 1966
Launched	2 December 1967
Built By	Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, VA
Sponsor	Mrs. John S. Thach, wife of ADM John S. Thach, USN (Ret.). ADM Thach had been Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, when his wife was invited to christen the vessel.
Delivered	5 December 1968
Commissioned	14 December 1968
Decommissioned	27 April 1992
Stricken	31 August 2015

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	CHARLESTON operated in the Mediterranean, Pacific and Indian Oceans, as well in the Caribbean, in the Atlantic, and off the east coast of the United States. Supported the establishment of the U.S. Naval Communications Facility at Diego Garcia, in the Indian Ocean.
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Awards	1 Joint Meritorious Unit Award, 3 Navy “E” Ribbons, 1 award of the Vietnam Service Medal, 1 Humanitarian Service Medal
Noteworthy Events	Circumnavigated the globe in 1971. Participated in evacuation of civilians threatened by strife in Lebanon, June 1976. Also participated in Operation <i>Provide Comfort</i> (caring for Kurdish refugees), 1991.
DANFS* Entry	Place-saver entry in preparation.

**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 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	Naval Vessel Register
	Welcome Aboard brochure (undated)

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 __ written comments.

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.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition