

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation

FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
NASSAU	LHA 4
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
TARAWA (LHA-1) class amphibious assault ship (general purpose)	
Vessel Location	Current Status
Beaumont, TX	Decommissioned; Out of Commission In Reserve

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

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	The second U.S. Navy ship named NASSAU. The first NASSAU (ACV-16) (later CVE-16) was named for Nassau Sound, off the coast of Florida; the second NASSAU (LHA-4) was named for the Continental Navy/Marine Corps' amphibious landing on British-held New Providence, near Nassau, Bahama Islands, 3 March 1776.
Displacement	39,544 tons (full load)
Length	820 ft

Beam	106 ft
Draft	27 ft
Speed	24 knots
Propulsion	two boilers, two geared steam turbines
Armament	two Rolling Airframe Missile Systems (RAM), four 25mm Mk 38 Gun Mounts, two Phalanx CIWS, five .50 Cal. Mounts
Laid Down	13 August 1973
Launched	21 January 1978
Built By	Ingalls Shipbuilding Division, Pascagoula, MS
Sponsor	Mrs. Louis H. Wilson, wife of former Commandant of Marine Corps
Delivered	25 June 1979
Commissioned	28 July 1979
Decommissioned	31 March 2011
Stricken	n/a

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	CINCLANTFLT LHA Caribbean Operations 1980; First Mediterranean Deployment 1981; Mediterranean: Four Operations including DISTANT DRUM, NORTHERN WEDDING and BOLD GUARD 1982; Mediterranean: Part of Embassy's External Security in Beirut, Lebanon; D-Day assault (exercise) in Malangon Fjord 1984;
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	<p>Operations UNIVERSAL TREK and SOLID SHIELD 1985; Classified Operations in the VACAPES OPAREA; Mediterranean: conducted Amphibious Assault at Pian de Spille 1987; Mediterranean: NATO Operations 1989; Operation IMMIDENT THUNDER; Caribbean: Operation TOP KICK 1990; White House support for President Bush for the Drug Summit with South American leaders in Cartagena, Colombia 1990; Middle East: Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM 1990- 1991; Operation SUPPORT DEMOCRACY for United Nations embargo against Haiti 1993; Mediterranean: Operations DENY FLIGHT, SHARP GUARD and SAR/CSAR mission 1995; Operation SILVER WAKE (Albania) and Operation GUARDIAN RETRIEVAL (Zaire) 1996-1997; Mediterranean: Aegean Sea Operation ALLIED FORCE 1998-9; NATO's Operation Allied Force in former Yugoslavia (Liberation of Kosovo) 1999; Operation SAIL; Mediterranean Deployment 2000; Mediterranean: MARG Deployment Operation IRON MAGIC 2002-2003; Operation BLINDING STORM 2004; Middle East Deployment to support Global War on Terror (GWOT): Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM 2005; European Deployment: US Central Command in support of Global War on Terror (GWOT) including Theater of Operations (CENTCOM) Suez Canal, Span, Iraq and Kenya ; Persian Gulf 2008 Haitian Humanitarian Direct Response; Mediterranean Deployment 2010</p>
<p>Awards</p>	<p>Meritorious Unit of Commendation 1980, Battle Effectiveness "E" award 2007,</p> <p>1979, 1984, 1985- Meritorious Unit Commendation</p> <p>1980- Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation</p> <p>1982, 1988, 1989, 1997, 1999, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010- Navy E Ribbon</p> <p>1984- Three (3) Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals</p> <p>1990- Navy Unit Commendation, Southwest Asia Service Medal</p> <p>1991- Combat Action Ribbon</p> <p>1994, 1995- Two (2) Armed Forces Service Medals</p>

	<p>1996- One (1) Armed Forces Service Medal each year</p> <p>2002, 2004, 2008- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal</p> <p>2003- Navy Unit Commendation</p> <p>2010- Humanitarian Service Medal</p>
Noteworthy Events	<p>NASSAU provided relief, supplies/ humanitarian assistance to the people of Jamaica as well as rescued 172 Haitian Nationals from an unseaworthy craft (1989); Thanksgiving Day 1990, President and Mrs. Bush along with leaders of Congress visited NASSAU; NATO Northern Wedding Exercise (1991) - First U.S. AV-8B Harriers to operate in a combat environment from an LHA; NASSAU rescued 29 people in the Mediterranean Sea (2000); NASSAU lost two (2) sailors, Petty Officer 3rd class Dwayne Williams and Petty Officer First Class Shaun Dale (2003); French Vice Admiral Jacques Mazars, Commander Task Force (CTF) 150 visited onboard (2005); NASSAU provided assistance to disabled Cargo Ship off Kenyan coast (2006); Royal Netherlands Navy Commodore, Hank Ort, Commander Task Force (CTF) 150 met with Captain Martin Allard, Commander of NASSAU Strike Group onboard (2006); NASSAU provided Hurricane relief/ humanitarian assistance and supplies to people of Texas and Haiti after Hurricane Ike (2008).</p>
DANFS* Entry	Yes (2014)

**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	No

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.

systems, or other upgrades that represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?	
v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?	No
Historic Evaluation Conclusion	Ineligible

Sources	http://www.history.navy.mil/shiphist/n/lha4.htm
	Naval Vessel Register
	Welcome Aboard brochure (undated)
	https:// awards.navy.mil
	Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships (2014)

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