

**Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation**  
FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
Grapple	T-ARS 53
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
SAFEGUARD (ARS 50) – class auxiliary rescue and salvage class of vessels	ARS 53
Vessel Location	Current Status
Philadelphia, PA	Disposal

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
21 June 2017	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
18 September 2017	Ineligible

**Vessel Snapshot**

<b>Lineage</b>	Third U.S. ship to be named GRAPPLE
<b>Displacement</b>	2,633 long tons (2,675 t) light; 3,317 long tons (3,370 t) full load
<b>Length</b>	255 ft

<b>Beam</b>	51 ft
<b>Draft</b>	17 ft (maximum)
<b>Speed</b>	15 kt (28 km/h; 17 mph)
<b>Propulsion</b>	4 Caterpillar 399 diesel engines
<b>Armament</b>	2 Mk 378 25 mm chain guns; 2 .50 cal machine guns
<b>Laid Down</b>	25 April 1984
<b>Launched</b>	8 December 1984
<b>Built By</b>	Peterson Builders, Sturgeon Bay, WI
<b>Sponsor</b>	Unknown
<b>Delivered</b>	7 October 1986
<b>Commissioned</b>	15 November 1986
<b>Inactivated</b>	n/a
<b>Decommissioned</b>	Decommissioned 13 July 2006 and placed in service by Military Sealift Command (MSC) on 13 July 2006. Was placed Out of Service by MSC on 1 October 2016.
<b>Stricken</b>	n/a

### Vessel History

<b>Deployment Summary</b>	Rescue and salvage ships render assistance to disabled ships and provide towing, salvage, diving, firefighting and heavy lift capabilities.
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<b>Awards</b>	Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund Award (2000)
<b>Noteworthy Events</b>	November 1999, participated in the salvage operation of EgyptAir Flight 990 in the Atlantic Ocean south of Nantucket Island; September 1998, helped in the recovery of Swissair Flight 111 in St. Margaret's Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada.
<b>DANFS* Entry</b>	None

\**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

#### Criteria Evaluation<sup>1</sup>

<b>i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation?</b>	No
<b>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?</b>	No
<b>iii. Was a President of the United States assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?</b>	No
<b>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?</b>	No
<b>v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?</b>	No
<b>Historic Evaluation Conclusion</b>	Ineligible

<b>Sources</b>	Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships
	Naval Vessel Register

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#### Historic Preservation Stakeholder Comment

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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