

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation
INITIAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
PELELIU	LHA 5
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
TARAWA (LHA 1)-Class Amphibious Assault Ship (General Purpose)	
Vessel Location	Current Status
Pearl Harbor, HI	Out of Commission/In Reserve

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
04 January 2017	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	1 st Navy ship to be named for the island where a heroic battle was fought in the Pacific campaign of World War II.
Displacement	39,925 tons
Length	820 ft.
Beam	106 ft.
Draft	27 ft.

Speed	20+ kts.
Propulsion	2 steam combustion engineering modified super 6 boilers; 2 Westinghouse steam turbines; 2 screws
Armament	Two rolling airframe missile (RAM) launchers; four 25 mm. Mk. 38 <i>Bushmaster</i> gun mounts; two <i>Phalanx</i> CIWS; five .50 caliber (12.7 mm) machine guns.
Laid Down	12 November 1976
Launched	11 November 1978 (christening date: 6 January 1979)
Built By	Litton Industries, Ingalls S. B. Div., Pascagoula, MS
Sponsor	Mrs. Peggy Hayward
Commissioned	3 May 1980
Decommissioned	31 March 2015
Stricken	TBD

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	PELELIU's deployments included a significant role in the 2001 Operation <i>Swift Freedom</i> in which marines from the 15th and 26th MEUs departed the ship — assigned to Naval Expeditionary Task Force 58 — to take and hold one of the first U.S. footholds in Afghanistan as part of Operation <i>Enduring Freedom</i> . Other deployments included assisting in the evacuation of people from the Philippines following the 1991 eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and aided civilians in following the 1989 San Francisco earthquake. The ship returned to San Diego on Christmas Eve 2014 following her final six-month deployment in the Western Pacific with GERMANTOWN (LSD-42) and the Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).
Awards	Joint Meritorious Unit Award

	Navy Unit Commendation Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (6) Navy Battle "E" Ribbon (2) Navy Expeditionary Medal (2) National Defense Service Medal Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (5) Southwest Asia Service Medal (2) Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (3) Humanitarian Service Medal (Boat People -21 July 1979 to 30 June 1984) Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)
Noteworthy Events	None
DANFS* Entry	Yes

**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

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.

v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?	No
Historic Evaluation Conclusion	Ineligible

Sources	Welcome Aboard PELELIU
	Commissioning Booklet USS PELELIU LHA 5 3 May 1980
	USNI News, 31 March 2015 (accessed 28 December 2016)
	<i>Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships</i>
	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 __ written comments.

Comments Received		Comment Disposition