

**Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation**  
FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hull Number</b>
EL PASO	LKA 117
<b>Vessel Class</b>	<b>Previous Vessel Designation (if any)</b>
CHARLESTON (LKA 113) - Class Amphibious Cargo Ship	AKA 117
<b>Vessel Location</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Philadelphia, PA	Stricken, Final Disposition Pending

<b>Initial Evaluation Date</b>	<b>Initial Finding</b>
28 Jun 2018	Ineligible
<b>Final Evaluation Date</b>	<b>Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places</b>
22 Mar 2019	Ineligible

**Vessel Snapshot**

<b>Lineage</b>	Second ship named for the city of El Paso, TX
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<b>Displacement</b>	18,589 tons
<b>Length</b>	576 ft
<b>Beam</b>	82 ft
<b>Draft</b>	28 ft
<b>Speed</b>	20+ knots
<b>Propulsion</b>	Two boilers, one geared turbine, one propeller shaft, 22,000 shaft horsepower
<b>Armament</b>	Two 20mm Phalanx CIWS
<b>Laid Down</b>	22 Oct 1968
<b>Launched</b>	17 May 1969
<b>Built By</b>	Newport News Shipbuilding, Newport News, VA
<b>Sponsor</b>	Mrs. John G. Tower, wife of Senator John G. Tower of Texas
<b>Delivered</b>	20 Dec 1969
<b>Commissioned</b>	17 Jan 1970
<b>Inactivated</b>	21 Apr 1994
<b>Decommissioned</b>	21 Apr 1994
<b>Stricken</b>	31 Aug 2015

## Vessel History

<b>Deployment Summary</b>	<p>Deployments: Caribbean Amphibious Ready Group 70, 2-72, &amp; 1-73 (3), Mediterranean (5), North Atlantic 80, 84, &amp; 86 (3), Indian Ocean 80 &amp; 93 (2), Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group (5), and CNO Project “K310” 85. Operations: DEEP FURROW 71, COAST GUARD LAW ENFORCEMENT 88, DRAGON HAMMER 88, PROVIDE COMFORT 91, and RESTORE HOPE 93. Exercises: PHIBLEX (11), DORIA SALUTE V 73, RUM PUNCH 73, VERITAS VI 73, DARK IMAGE 74, DAWN PATROL 74, DEEP EXPRESS 70 &amp; 75 (2), DEEP EXPRESS “D” DAY 75, TEAMWORK 80 &amp; 84 (2), UNITED EFFORT 80 &amp; 84 (2), RAWHIDE 84, CRISIS 84, SARDIAN 86, DISTANCE HAMMER 86, GALER 86, TARTAPUGA PHIBLEX 88, TUNISIAN PHIBLEX 89, and DISPLAY DETERMINATION 91.</p>
<b>Awards</b>	<p>Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal – Lebanon (3), Operation Restore Hope Somalia (2), Navy Expeditionary Medal - Iran/Indian Ocean, Lebanon, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy “E” Ribbon (3), Navy Unit Commendation, Coast Guard SOS Ribbon</p>
<b>Noteworthy Events</b>	<p>EL PASO received Golden Anchor award for fiscal year 1975 retention. In 1975, EL PASO was awarded the CIC gold “E” award for winning its fifth consecutive “E” for operational achievements.</p> <p>In 1989, rounds from CIWS strikes the bridge of IWO JIMA (LPH 2) during an exercise, injuring one sailor and killing one officer on the bridge of the IWO JIMA.</p> <p>In 1992, BM2 died when he drove a forklift off the flight deck, removing flight deck nets, landing on a barge approximately 30 feet below. He was pronounced dead at the scene by the ship’s physician.</p> <p>1981 EL PASO was transferred to Naval Reserve Fleet and in 1982 it was transferred back to active fleet.</p>
<b>DANFS* Entry</b>	<p>None</p>

\**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

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

<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.

<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>	U.S. Navy Awards - <a href="https://awards.navy.mil/awards/webapp01.nsf/(frmQUnitAwards)?OpenForm&amp;Search=&lt;UName&gt;EL PASO LKA 117&lt;/UName&gt;&lt;sort&gt;1&lt;/sort&gt;">https://awards.navy.mil/awards/webapp01.nsf/(frmQUnitAwards)?OpenForm&amp;Search=&lt;UName&gt;EL PASO LKA 117&lt;/UName&gt;&lt;sort&gt;1&lt;/sort&gt;</a>
	Naval Vessel Register - <a href="http://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_LKA_117_2288.HTML">http://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_LKA_117_2288.HTML</a>
	Naval History and Historical Command, CORs - Command Operations Reports
	Decommissioning Book

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### 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 0 written comments.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition