

**Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation**  
FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hull Number</b>
TARAWA	LHA 1
<b>Vessel Class</b>	<b>Previous Vessel Designation (if any)</b>
TARAWA (LHA 1) Class– Amphibious Assault Ship (General Purpose)	None
<b>Vessel Location</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Pearl Harbor, HI	Decommissioned

<b>Initial Evaluation Date</b>	<b>Initial Finding</b>
14 Mar 2019	<b>Ineligible</b>
<b>Final Evaluation Date</b>	<b>Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places</b>
13 July 2019	<b>Ineligible</b>

## Vessel Snapshot

<b>Lineage</b>	Lead Ship of her class and the second ship to be named for the Battle of Tarawa during WWII.
<b>Displacement</b>	39,925 tons
<b>Length</b>	820 ft
<b>Beam</b>	106 ft
<b>Draft</b>	27 ft
<b>Speed</b>	24 knots
<b>Propulsion</b>	2 boilers, 2 geared steam turbines
<b>Armament</b>	4 Mk 38 Mod 25mm Bushmaster Cannon, 5 M2 HB, 50 Caliber Machine Guns, 2 Mk 15 Phalanx (CIWS), and 2 Mk 49 RAM Launchers
<b>Laid Down</b>	15 Nov 1971
<b>Launched</b>	1 Dec 1973
<b>Built By</b>	Ingalls Shipbuilding Pascagoula, MS
<b>Sponsor</b>	Mrs. Audrey Cushman, wife of General Robert E. Cushman former Commandant of the Marine Corps
<b>Delivered</b>	14 May 1976
<b>Commissioned</b>	29 May 1976
<b>Inactivated</b>	31 Mar 2009

<b>Decommissioned</b>	31 Mar 2009
<b>Stricken</b>	31 Mar 2009

### Vessel History

<b>Deployment Summary</b>	West Pac (9), West Pac – Indian Ocean (4), West Pac – Indian Ocean – Persian Gulf (5), Lebanon, Mediterranean, Mediterranean – Indian Ocean – Persian Gulf, RIMPAC (2), Desert Shield / Storm, Operation Sea Angel, Pacific Fleet Exercise (PACEX) 89, amphibious assault exercise SEA Soldier IV, participated in Eager Mace 92 – 93, exercise Indigo Serpent, exercise Infinite Moonlight, Operation Southern Watch, operation Desert Strike, Operation Determined Response
<b>Awards</b>	Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation (3), Navy "E" Ribbon (4), Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Iran/Indian Ocean & Determined Response), Southwest Asia Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Bosnia (2) & Lebanon (1)), Humanitarian Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation
<b>Noteworthy Events</b>	<p>TARAWA can ballast 12,000 tons of seawater for trimming the ship to receive and discharge landing craft from the well deck.</p> <p>TARAWA has a 900 horsepower bow thruster for lateral movement at low speeds that can move the bow with 20,000 lbs. of force - equivalent to half the pulling power of a diesel-electric locomotive.</p> <p>TARAWA has a 300 bed hospital, four medical operating rooms, and three dental operating rooms.</p> <p>TARAWA has 1,200 tons of air conditioning equipment - sufficient to environmentally control a 42 story office building or 500 average size homes.</p> <p>TARAWA has an electrical power subsystem developing 14,000 kilowatts to provide electrical power for the ship - adequate electrical power to light 11,500 homes for 50,000 people.</p> <p>TARAWA has two boilers – at the time of her commissioning the largest ever manufactured for the United States Navy. They can generate a total of 400 tons of steam per hour, and develop 140,000 HP - equivalent to the horsepower of 700 average automobiles.</p> <p>TARAWA has 9 elevators and two horizontal conveyors - more than most major department stores.</p> <p>In 1979, rescued 400 Vietnamese refugees who were adrift in the South China Sea.</p>

	<p>In 1980, a composite squadron of 29 helicopters and six AV-8As, was the first squadron in Marine Corps aviation history to conduct integrated helicopter/fighter operations aboard an LHA for an extended deployment of more than five months.</p> <p>In 1990, deployment to the Arabian Gulf as the flagship of a thirteen-ship amphibious task force in support of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation forces. It was the largest such deployment since the Vietnam conflict. Embarked were the Commander, Amphibious Group Three and the Fifth Marine Expeditionary Brigade.</p> <p>In January 1991, participated in the amphibious assault exercise Sea Soldier IV, as a rehearsal for the proposed amphibious landing into Kuwait. The proposed operation was, in fact, a coalition force deception designed to keep the attention of the Iraqi military focused on potential assault from the sea instead of the real overland thrust. The deception was successful, playing a major role in keeping U.S. force casualties at an historic low for an engagement of that magnitude. On February 24, TARAWA landed elements of the Fifth Marine Expeditionary Brigade into Saudi Arabia just south of the Kuwaiti border; these forces later joined with the First Marine Expeditionary Force which entered and liberated Kuwait.</p> <p>In May 1991, was diverted to Bangladesh to render two weeks of humanitarian assistance to typhoon victims in Operation Sea Angel. Water purification equipment, medical aid and 2,000 tons of rice delivered by TARAWA's helicopters and landing craft helped more than 1.5 million inhabitants of Southeast Bangladesh survive the ravages of the storm's aftermath.</p> <p>In 1997, was the centerpiece for Kernel Blitz, the largest amphibious exercise in the Pacific Fleet in nearly 25 years and involving over 25 ships and 20,000 Sailors and Marines.</p> <p>In 1998, was diverted to the Red Sea African nation of Eritrea to evacuate American citizens from the U.S. embassy there. During the Eritrean-Ethiopian hostilities, more than 200 Americans were safely rescued.</p> <p>In 2000, provided humanitarian relief supplies to the war-ravaged country of East Timor and steamed to the Gulf of Aden in Yemen to provide USS <u>COLE</u> (DDG 67) and United States Government agencies on-site logistics, force protection, and evacuation support following the horrific terrorist attack on the <u>COLE</u>.</p>
<b>DANFS* Entry</b>	Tarawa II (LHA-1)

\*Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships

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

<b>i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation? (A Presidential Unit Citation is awarded to military units that have performed an extremely meritorious or heroic act, usually in the face of an armed enemy.)</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? (The Medal of Honor is awarded for valor in action against an enemy force. The Navy Cross is awarded for extraordinary heroism in action not justifying an award of the Medal of Honor.)</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>	<b>Ineligible</b>

<b>Sources</b>	Naval History and Heritage Command <a href="https://www.history.navy.mil/research/archives/command-operations-reports/ships/t/tarawa-lha-1-ii.html">https://www.history.navy.mil/research/archives/command-operations-reports/ships/t/tarawa-lha-1-ii.html</a>
	<a href="https://www.navysite.de/ships/lha1.htm">https://www.navysite.de/ships/lha1.htm</a>
	U.S. Navy Awards <a href="https://awards.navy.mil/awards/webapp01.nsf/(frmQUnitAwards)?OpenForm&amp;Search=&lt;UName&gt;TARAWA LHA 1&lt;/UName&gt;&lt;sort&gt;6&lt;/sort&gt;">https://awards.navy.mil/awards/webapp01.nsf/(frmQUnitAwards)?OpenForm&amp;Search=&lt;UName&gt;TARAWA LHA 1&lt;/UName&gt;&lt;sort&gt;6&lt;/sort&gt;</a>
	Naval Vessel Register - <a href="http://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_LHA_1.HTML">http://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_LHA_1.HTML</a>

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## Historic Preservation Stakeholder Comment

<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 \_0\_ written comments.**

<b>Comments Received</b>	<b>Comment Disposition</b>