

## Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation

### INITIAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hull Number</b>
Vella Gulf	CG 72
<b>Vessel Class</b>	<b>Previous Vessel Designation (if any)</b>
Ticonderoga Class Guided Missile Cruiser	N/A
<b>Vessel Location</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
NAVSEA Inactive Ship Maintenance On-Site Office, Philadelphia, PA	Stricken, Final Disposition Pending

<b>Initial Evaluation Date</b>	<b>Initial Finding</b>
5 April 2023	Ineligible
<b>Final Evaluation Date</b>	<b>Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places</b>
	Ineligible

### Vessel Snapshot

<b>Lineage</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> ship named for the Battle of Vella Gulf
<b>Displacement</b>	9992 tons

<b>Length</b>	567 ft.
<b>Beam</b>	55 ft.
<b>Draft</b>	23 ft.
<b>Speed</b>	32 knots
<b>Propulsion</b>	Four General Electric LM-2500 Gas Turbine Engines
<b>Armament</b>	Two Mk 41 VLS for Standard missiles, Tomahawk missiles, ASROC missiles; Mk 46 torpedoes, Harpoon missile launchers, two Mk 45 5-inch/54 caliber lightweight guns, two Phalanx CIWS, two Mk 38 Mod 2 25mm machine gun systems
<b>Laid Down</b>	22 April 1991
<b>Launched</b>	13 June 1992
<b>Built By</b>	Ingalls Shipbuilding, West Bank Pascagoula, Mississippi
<b>Sponsor</b>	Mrs. Mary Ann McCauley, wife of Vice Admiral William F. McCauley
<b>Delivered</b>	12 July 1993
<b>Commissioned</b>	18 September 1993
<b>Inactivated</b>	30 September 2022
<b>Decommissioned</b>	30 September 2022
<b>Stricken</b>	30 September 2022

### Vessel History

<p><b>Deployment Summary</b></p>	<p>In the month of February 1998, Vella Gulf successfully completed Sea Trials and took part in the 26th annual maritime exercise U.S. Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) '98 in the western Baltic Sea.</p> <p>In February 1999, Vella Gulf completed JTFEX '9 in Adriatic Sea as part of the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Battle Group.</p> <p>Vella Gulf began the month of August 1999 engaged in multi-ship exercises. She participated in DIVTACS, LeapFrogs, Tomahawk exercises, submarine exercises, Flight Operations, and Gunnery exercises.</p> <p>As part of USS George Washington (CVN 73) Carrier Battle Group (CVBG), and in response to the terrorist attacks of 11 September, Vella Gulf set sail in support of defense and humanitarian efforts off the coast of New York.</p> <p>On 19 September 2001, Vella Gulf departed Norfolk for a scheduled deployment, as part of the USS Theodore Roosevelt Battle Group, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.</p> <p>On 1 March 2002, Vella Gulf boarded and seized the motor vessel Lina, of undetermined registry, in mid-February, as a suspected Iraqi oil smuggler operating in the Gulf of Oman.</p> <p>On 5 June 5, 2003, Vella Gulf pulled into Gdynia, Poland, to kick off the 31st annual maritime exercise Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) 2003.</p> <p>On 20 January 2004, Vella Gulf departed Norfolk for a scheduled deployment, with the USS George Washington Carrier Strike Group (CSG), in support of the Global War on Terrorism.</p> <p>On 17 May 2006, Vella Gulf departed Naval Station Norfolk to participate in the 34th annual maritime exercise Baltic Operations.</p> <p>On 21 October 2006, Vella Gulf participated for COMPTUEX as part of the USS Bataan (LHD 5) Expeditionary Strike Group.</p> <p>On 14 April 2006, Vella Gulf went underway in the North Arabian Sea conducting Maritime Security Operations (MSO).</p> <p>On 30 September 2006, Several U.S. ships, including Vella Gulf, were operating in the vicinity of Motor Vessel Faina, the Belize-flagged cargo ship, which was captured on 25 September.</p> <p>On 11 February 2006, Vella Gulf captured seven Somali pirates after receiving a distress call from the motor vessel Polaris, in the Gulf of Aden.</p>
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This is Navy's first successful interdiction since the establishment of a new anti-piracy force last month.

15 January 2011, Vella Gulf returned to Norfolk after a six-month deployment in support of the ballistic missile defense strategy in the Mediterranean.

On 3 January 2012, Vella Gulf departed homeport for a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet AoR, with the primary focus on Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD).

On 26 January 2012, Vella Gulf pulled into Sevastopol, Ukraine, for a four-day port call. Inport Odessa, Ukraine.

On 14 February 2012, Vella Gulf along with USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) and USS De Wert (FFG 45), departed Augusta Bay, Italy, to participate in a NATO's largest Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise Proud Manta 2012, in the Ionian Sea to the southeast of Sicily.

On 23 March 2012, Vella Gulf arrived in Souda Bay, Crete, for a three-day port visit before participating in a joint exercise Noble Dina, with the navies of Israel and Greece, in the eastern Mediterranean.

On 14 March 2014, Vella Gulf departed Naval Station Norfolk for a scheduled independent deployment with a primary focus on Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) operations.

On 8 July 2016, Vella Gulf pulled into Burgas, Bulgaria, for a brief port call before participating in exercise Breeze from July 9-11;

On 11 August 2016, Vella Gulf anchored off Constanta to participate in the annual Romanian Navy Day celebration on August 15.

On 5 May 2017, Vella Gulf participated in a cooperation exercise with the RMNS Commandant El Harti (P 306), off the coast of Rabat, Morocco.

From 24-26 July 2017, Vella Gulf participated in a U.S.-Iraq-Kuwait trilateral exercise, while underway in the North Arabian Gulf.

On 24 April 2017, Vella Gulf, cruiser arrived at the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTECE) range, off the east coast of Andros Island, Bahamas, to participate in a Submarine Commander's Course (SCC) with the USS James E. Williams (DDG 95) and USS Truxtun (DDG 103).

On 16 January 2020, Vella Gulf departed homeport for a Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX);

	<p>On 13 June 2020, Vella Gulf conducted a replenishment-at-sea with the USNS Joshua Humphreys (T-AO 188), while underway in the North Arabian Sea.</p> <p>On 9 October 2020, Vella Gulf completed underway for Sustainment Exercise (SUSTEX), as part of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower CSG.</p> <p>On 18 February 2020, USS Vella Gulf departed Norfolk for a surge Middle East deployment.</p> <p>On 5 June 2021, Vella Gulf transited the Strait of Hormuz northbound, escorting the USNS Carl Brashear (T-AKE 7); Participated in exercise Eager Defender 21, with the USS Thunderbolt (PC 12) and USCGC Monomoy (WPB 1326),</p>
<b>Awards</b>	<p>Navy Unit Commendation - Navy Battle "E" Ribbon (10) - National Defense Service Medal (2) - Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal - Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal - Global War on Terrorism Service Medal- Armed Forces Service Medal - Sea Service Deployment Ribbon - NATO Medal</p>
<b>Noteworthy Events</b>	<p>In January 1999, after winning her fifth consecutive "Battle E", CG 72 performed Tomahawk Launch Area Coordinator duties during Tomahawk training exercises.</p> <p>On 4 February 2009, Vella Gulf became the flagship of Combined Task Force (CTF) 151, assuming duties from USS San Antonio (LPD 17), a multinational task force conducting counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Sea.</p> <p>On 10 March 2020, Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Imran Khan died after fell down a ladder well aboard the Vella Gulf, while the ship was underway in the central Mediterranean Sea.</p> <p>On 4 August 2022, Vella Gulf held a decommissioning ceremony at Quay Wall 1 on Naval Station Norfolk, after 29 years of active service.</p> <p>On 30 September 2022, Vella Gulf was officially decommissioned and stricken from the U.S. Naval Vessel Register.</p> <p>On 6 November 2022, Vella Gulf departed Naval Station Norfolk, under tow by offshore tug Gary Chouest, enroute to Naval Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility in Philadelphia, Pa.</p>

<b>DANFS* Entry</b>	<a href="https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/v/vella-gulf-ii.html">https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/v/vella-gulf-ii.html</a>
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\**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 was 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>Assessment of integrity of (as appropriate) design, materials, workmanship, feeling and/or association (only for vessels determined to be eligible)</b>	Ineligible

<b>Sources</b>	<a href="http://www.uscarriers.net/cg72.htm">http://www.uscarriers.net/cg72.htm</a>
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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.

	<a href="https://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_CG_72_5134.HTML">https://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_CG_72_5134.HTML</a>
	<a href="https://www.navysite.de/cg/cg72.html">https://www.navysite.de/cg/cg72.html</a>
	<a href="https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3119398/uss-vella-gulf-cg-72-decommissioned/">https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3119398/uss-vella-gulf-cg-72-decommissioned/</a>
	<a href="https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/v/vella-gulf-ii.html">https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/v/vella-gulf-ii.html</a>
	<a href="https://www.seaforces.org/usnships/cg/CG-72-USS-Vella-Gulf.htm">https://www.seaforces.org/usnships/cg/CG-72-USS-Vella-Gulf.htm</a>

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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 written comments.**

Comments Received	Comment Disposition