

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation
FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
Mobile Bay	CG 53
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
CG – Ticonderoga-class cruiser	N/A
Vessel Location	Current Status
NAVSEA Inactive Ships On-Site Maintenance Office, Bremerton, WA	Decommissioned

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
21 September 2023	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
15 April 2024	Ineligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	N/A
Displacement	9992 tons
Length	529 ft
Beam	55 ft
Draft	23 ft
Speed	32.5 knots (60 km/h; 37.4 mph)
Propulsion	4 × General Electric LM2500 Gas Turbine Engines; 2 × Controllable-Reversible Pitch Propellers; 2 × Rudders
Armament	<p>2 × 61 cell Mk 41 vertical launch systems containing 122 × mix of: RIM-66M-5 Standard SM-2MR Block IIIB; RIM-156A SM-2ER Block IV; RIM-161 SM-3; RIM-162A ESSM; RIM-174A Standard ERAM; BGM-109 Tomahawk; RUM-139A VL-ASROC</p> <p>8 × RGM-84 Harpoon missiles</p> <p>2 × 5 in (127 mm)/62 caliber Mark 45 Mod 4 lightweight gun</p> <p>2 × Mk 38 25 mm Machine Gun Systems</p> <p>2–4 × .50 in (12.7 mm) cal. machine gun</p> <p>2 × Phalanx CIWS Block 1B</p> <p>2 × Mk 32 12.75 in (324 mm) triple torpedo tubes</p>
Laid Down	5 June 1984
Launched	22 August 1985
Built By	Ingalls Shipbuilding
Sponsor	N/A

Delivered	3 December 1986
Commissioned	21 February 1987
Inactivated	10 August 2023
Decommissioned	10 August 2023
Stricken	18 August 2023

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	<p>After commissioning, Mobile Bay joined the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, arriving at Mayport, Florida, her homeport in March 1987. Following a year of crew qualifications, tests and systems trials, Mobile Bay embarked on her maiden deployment on 11 May 1989. During this cruise, Mobile Bay earned her first two awards: the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, for operations conducted in the Gulf of Oman.</p> <p>She deployed in August 1990 in support of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, becoming the first AEGIS cruiser to circumnavigate the globe. In the Persian Gulf, the ship distinguished herself by becoming the first Battle Force Anti-Air Warfare Commander to control a four-carrier Task Force. Mobile Bay launched 22 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missile strikes, and performed as the Battle Force Anti-Surface Warfare Commander targeting Iraqi naval vessels and directing carrier-launched attack aircraft to destroy 38 Iraqi naval vessels resulting in the complete neutralization of the Iraqi Navy. Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 43 (HSL-43) Detachment 2B was assigned with two SH-60B Seahawk helicopters aboard.</p> <p>In May 1991, Mobile Bay was ordered to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, to participate in Operation Fiery Vigil, the evacuation of thousands of people displaced by the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo. In December 1991, Mobile Bay began work-ups for a spring 1992 Persian Gulf deployment.</p> <p>On 15 April 1992, Mobile Bay once again set sail for the Persian Gulf. En route, the ship and crew visited Sydney, Australia, to represent the U. S. Navy at the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Battle of Coral Sea. Sailing through the Straits of Hormuz in late May 1992, the ship began duties as</p>
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	<p>the Persian Gulf Anti-Air Warfare Commander. Mobile Bay also played a vital role in Operation Southern Watch, the enforcement of the U. N.-mandated "No Fly Zone" over Southern Iraq. Returning to Japan in October, Mobile Bay participated in ANNUALEX-92, a major naval exercise involving units of the U. S. Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force. Mobile Bay served as the Anti-Air Warfare Commander for a joint U. S. - Japanese flotilla.</p> <p>Mobile Bay was deployed to East Timor as part of the Australian-led INTERFET peacekeeping taskforce from 20 September to 5 October 1999.</p> <p>As the most capable air defense vessel available, the ship was placed in charge of air defense, although the U.S. requests for screening Mobile Bay necessitated a considerable degree of effort by other ships of the force.</p> <p>Mobile Bay operated in support of the 2003 invasion of Iraq from 17 June to 17 December 2004. The ship was later awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal.</p> <p>In 2006, the cruiser was deployed to the Western Pacific, where she served as the Air Defense Commander for the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group.</p> <p>The ship returned from back to back deployments (2011 and 2012) as the Air Defense Commander for John C Stennis Strike Group. She was awarded the 2012 Battle E and Spokane Award for her service.</p> <p>On 9 May 2022, Mobile Bay transited the Philippine Sea and she steamed into Tokyo Bay on 22 May 2022 as a part of Carrier Strike Group 3 with USS Abraham Lincoln.</p> <p>Mobile Bay also participated in RIMPAC 2022.</p>
<p>Noteworthy Events</p>	<p>In June 1990, Mobile Bay shifted homeports from Mayport to Yokosuka, Japan.</p> <p>In February 1991, the Tactical Information Coordinator (TIC) aboard Mobile Bay, reported SPY-1 Radar acquisitions of what appeared to be SCUD missile launches that were detected over Saudi Arabia. These tracks were reported over Data Systems Administration (DSA) and Anti-Air Warfare Coordination and Reporting (AAWC&R) voice networks and were confirmed to be valid targets by Patriot Batteries who engaged these SCUDs.</p> <p>After participating in SPRING TRAINING-93 off the coast of Australia, she made an historic visit to the Russian seaport of Vladivostok in September 1993. Accompanying her was the USS Bunker Hill.</p>

	<p>In March 2003 Mobile Bay was assigned to Cruiser-Destroyer Group 5.</p> <p>On 16 February 2007, Mobile Bay was awarded the 2006 Battle "E" award. The ship completed a 10-month overhaul in early 2010. On 16 February 2007, Mobile Bay was awarded the 2006 Battle "E" award. The ship completed a 10-month overhaul in early 2010.</p> <p>On 8 April 2011, the ship was given a failing grade of "unsatisfactory" in her INSURV inspection, mainly for problems with the ship's propulsion, operations, aviation, and communications. A remedial inspection was scheduled and passed in June 2011.</p>
DANFS* Entry	https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/m/mobile-bay--cg-53-.html

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

Criteria Evaluation¹

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.)	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? (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.)	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	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.

change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?	
v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?	No
Historic Evaluation Conclusion	Ineligible

Sources	https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3490821/uss-mobile-bay-decommissions-honors-36-years-of-service/
	https://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_CG_53.HTML
	https://www.hullnumber.com/CG-53
	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Mobile_Bay

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