

**Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation**  
FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hull Number</b>
USNS Samuel L. Cobb	T-AOT-1123
<b>Vessel Class</b>	<b>Previous Vessel Designation (if any)</b>
Gus W Darnell (AOT 1121)	N/A
<b>Vessel Location</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
MARAD National Defense Reserve Fleet, Beaumont, TX	Disposed of by Navy title transfer to the Maritime Administration

<b>Initial Evaluation Date</b>	<b>Initial Finding</b>
6 Nov 2023	Ineligible
<b>Final Evaluation Date</b>	<b>Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places</b>
15 Apr 2024	Ineligible

**Vessel Snapshot**

<b>Lineage</b>	The ship was named after Samuel L. Cobb, the Master of the SS Alcoa Guide during World War II. Cobb was awarded the Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal for heroism and meritorious service under unusual hazards.
<b>Displacement</b>	32572 tons
<b>Length</b>	615 ft
<b>Beam</b>	90 ft
<b>Draft</b>	36 ft
<b>Speed</b>	16 knots (30 km/h; 18 mph)
<b>Propulsion</b>	Single shaft
<b>Armament</b>	Unarmed
<b>Laid Down</b>	1985
<b>Launched</b>	7 July 1985
<b>Built By</b>	American Ship Building Company
<b>Sponsor</b>	N/A
<b>Delivered</b>	7 July 1985
<b>Commissioned</b>	15 November 1985
<b>Inactivated</b>	30 October 2010
<b>Decommissioned</b>	30 October 2010

<b>Stricken</b>	30 October 2010
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### Vessel History

<b>Deployment Summary</b>	<p>USNS Samuel L. Cobb (T-AOT-1123) was originally named the MV Samuel L. Cobb and used for transport of military assets in various theaters.</p> <p>It was not until the outbreak of the Iraq war in 2003 when the ship was purchased by the United States Navy that it was fully put under the operation of Military Sealift Command.</p> <p>Samuel L. Cobb made frequent deliveries of fuel to the Arctic and Antarctic for resupply. This was the most common route that this ship made delivering a variety of fuel types to the base. It was always escorted by an ice breaker.</p> <p>Samuel L. Cobb was the first U.S. ship to call on Sarajevo during the Balkans conflict delivering fuel to NATO forces.</p>
<b>Noteworthy Events</b>	<p>Long Term Charter by MSC: 15 November 1985 Acquired by US Navy 15 January 2003.</p> <p>USNS Samuel L. Cobb was part of Military Sealift Command's Sealift Program, transporting fuel for the Department of Defense. Samuel L. Cobb had missions including refueling the National Science Foundation in Antarctica and Thule Air Base in Greenland.</p> <p>Was originally constructed in 1985 by American Shipbuilding Company, Tampa, Florida for Ocean Product Tankers of Houston for a long-term charter to the United States Navy under the direction of Military Sealift Command.</p> <p>She was named after Samuel L. Cobb, a Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal recipient.</p> <p>On 22 March 2023, the USNS Samuel L. Cobb, title was transferred by Navy to Maritime Administration (MARAD).</p>
<b>DANFS* Entry</b>	

*\*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>	Ineligible

<b>Sources</b>	<a href="https://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_AOT_1123.HTML">https://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_AOT_1123.HTML</a>
	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USNS_Samuel_L._Cobb">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USNS_Samuel_L._Cobb</a>
	<a href="https://www.freightwaves.com/news/military-sealift-command-upgrades-tanker-fleet">https://www.freightwaves.com/news/military-sealift-command-upgrades-tanker-fleet</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 0 written comments.**

Comments Received	Comment Disposition
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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.
