

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation

INITIAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

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| Name | Hull Number |
| Sirocco | PC 6 |
| Vessel Class | Previous Vessel Designation (if any) |
| Cyclone Class Patrol Coastal | N/A |
| Vessel Location | Current Status |
| Egypt | Transfer via Foreign Military Sale to Egyptian Navy |

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| Initial Evaluation Date | Initial Finding |
| 3 April 2023 | Ineligible |
| Final Evaluation Date | Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places |
| | Ineligible |

Vessel Snapshot

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| Lineage | N/A |
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| Displacement | 400 tons |
| Length | 170 ft. |
| Beam | 25 ft. |
| Draft | 9 ft. |
| Speed | 35 knots |
| Propulsion | Four Paxman Diesel Engines, four shafts. |
| Armament | 2 25mm Mk-38 machine guns; 2 .50 cal machine guns; 2 Mk-19 automatic grenade launchers; 6 stinger missiles |
| Laid Down | 20 June 1992 |
| Launched | 29 May 1993 |
| Built By | Bollinger Shipyard, Lockport Louisiana |
| Sponsor | Mrs. Kathleen Smith, wife of RADM Raymond C. Smith, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command. |
| Delivered | 11 March 1994 |
| Commissioned | 11 June 1994 |
| Inactivated | 20 March 2023 |
| Decommissioned | 20 March 2023 |
| Stricken | 20 March 2023 |

Vessel History

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| Deployment Summary | <p>13 June 1994, Anacostia River, Washington, DC</p> <p>22 August 1995, Sirocco returns to its homeport after a four month deployment in the Mediterranean and Baltic Seas where she participated in Multi-National exercises and UN-Sponsored Maritime operations while deployed to Commander Sixth Fleet.</p> <p>8 October 1995, Tampa Bay, FL</p> <p>From November 2001 on, the Cyclone - class ships were temporarily operated under US Coast Guard control for homeland defense.</p> <p>On 7 November 2003 after completing a Coast Guard homeland security inspection of a liquid gas tanker, the sailors involved brought their rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) about, and returned to Typhoon (PC-2). While the RHIB lay alongside the patrol vessel off Cape Henry, Va., at 0355, swells knocked Typhoon's 42-year-old Engineman 2nd Class Douglas Bolles into the water. When the coxswain attempted to grab Bolles the RHIB capsized, throwing him into the water. Typhoon's crew rescued the coxswain, but despite an extensive search by guided missile destroyers Barry (DDG-52), Donald Cook (DDG-75), and Porter (DDG-78), patrol craft Shamal (PC-13), Sirocco, Tempest, and Thunderbolt (PC-12), Coast Guard cutter Albacore (WPB-87309), and aircraft, they failed to find the missing sailor. Some fishermen recovered his body about 18 miles east of Back Bay in the Virginia capes during the afternoon watch on 22 November 2003.</p> <p>On April 30, 2004, USS Sirocco left Little Creek on a 18-month deployment to the 5th Fleet Area of Operations. During the deployment, the ship's crew was swapped out every 6 months. This "crew swap" initiative increases the Navy's forward presence by providing an extra 90 days of on-station time per vessel.</p> <p>13 April 2005, Persian Gulf, Provided support in conjunction with Maritime Security Operations in the Northern Persian Gulf. In 2005, the USS Sirocco was stationed in Bahrain, performing coastal patrol and interdiction surveillance in the Persian Gulf. Its primary mission included maritime security operations, with a focus on anti-piracy efforts.</p> <p>Sirocco was assigned to Commander Fifth Fleet through Destroyer Squadron 50 and is homeported in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. Seven Patrol Coastal class (PC) warships are forward deployed to the Fifth Fleet.</p> |
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PC ships were formerly crewed by one of 13 rotational PC crews and homeported in Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, Virginia.

There, under the auspices of Commander, Patrol Coastal Squadron One/Commander, Patrol Coastal (PC) Class Squadron the crews trained on five U.S. based PC hulls prior to completing a six-month deployment to the Fifth fleet. PC ships such as Sirocco complete a variety of missions that has expanded since the transfer of the ships and associated support structures in naval surface warfare.

8 April 2006, Conducted exercises with USS Dextrous (MCM 13) in the North Arabian Gulf near the Al-Basrah oil terminal.

29 October 2008, Manama, Bahrain, Vice Adm. Bill Gortney, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and the crew of Sirocco, which conducted Maritime Security Operations (MSO) as part of Combined Task Force (CTF) 158, in the North Arabian Gulf. CTF 158 is responsible for ensuring the security of Iraqi Khawr Al Amaya Oil Platform (KAAOT) and Al Basra oil terminals in support of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1790. CTF 158 operates jointly with Iraqi Navy sailors and marines, trained by members of the Navy Transition Team based in nearby Umm Qasr. Over three quarters of Iraqis GDP is generated from the oil that flows through these terminals.

Since 2009, PC ships had deployed in Bahrain primarily conducted maritime security operations in the Persian Gulf with a concentration towards anti-piracy.

In 2009, Sirocco completed phase one of a modernization program to extend the useful lives of the ships. Upgrades included new computer systems and satellite communications, as well as upgraded air conditioning systems and a Rafael Typhoon MK38 MOD II gun weapons system replacing the previously fitted MK96 mount.

On 28 March 2016, Sirocco seized a stateless dhow in the Arabian sea. A boarding party had been dispatched to inspect the suspicious vessel and discovered it had been transporting 1,500 AK-47 assault rifles, 200 RPG launchers, and 21 .50 caliber machine guns. After receiving reports from Sirocco, the destroyer USS Gravely also arrived on the scene to assist. After the weapons were seized and offloaded, the dhow and its crew were released.

16 December 2018, Gulf of Oman, Sirocco patrolled the Gulf of Oman, while deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region,

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| | <p>connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian ocean and the three strategic choke points.</p> <p>9 March 2020, Arabian Gulf, A Mark VI patrol boat attached to Commander, Task Force 56 participated in a joint underway with the coastal patrol ship USS Sirocco. This event highlighted one of the many core competencies that the Coastal Riverine Force provides in support of U.S. 5th Fleet operations. CTF 56 is responsible for the planning and execution of expeditionary missions including coastal riverine operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.</p> <p>On 19 June 2022, Sirocco was involved in a confrontation with patrol craft of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy in the Strait of Hormuz. The U.S. Navy claimed that the Iranian vessels approached Sirocco and the expeditionary fast transport USNS Choctaw County (T-EPF-2) at "unsafe and unprofessional" speeds and "aggressively" sailed to within 50 yards of the American vessels. Sirocco issued warnings over her loudspeaker system and fired a warning flare, and the Iranian vessels departed within an hour without further interactions.</p> |
| Awards | N/A |
| Noteworthy Events | <p>At approximately noon on 1 September 2010, Maltese-flagged merchant vessel Lucky Trader called for medical assistance for a crewman with a severed finger, who had suffered deep lacerations to his hand during a line-handling accident earlier that morning in the Arabian Gulf. Sirocco sped to the scene, and dispatched Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Christopher Robinson, Interior Communications Technician 1st Class Michael Klebak, and Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Alan Bitokhov in a rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) to Lucky Trader. The Sailors treated the mariner, Robinson administering first aid and applying a tourniquet to the wound. "In the past, I've always had the safety net of a medical officer or senior corpsman," Robinson recalled. "Today I felt like I was on a tight rope without a net, but I knew I needed to help him and quickly." The corpsman grew concerned that the tourniquet would ultimately result in the loss of the crewman's hand, so he loosened it periodically over the next four hours, allowing enough blood to flow to the appendage, but not enough to cause serious blood loss. The three Sailors continued to treat and monitor the man until he was transferred to a Kuwait Coast Guard vessel, and from there to a Kuwaiti hospital.</p> <p>On 28 March 2016, Sirocco seized a stateless dhow in the Arabian sea. A boarding party had been dispatched to inspect the suspicious vessel and discovered it had been transporting 1,500 AK-47 assault rifles, 200 RPG launchers, and 21 .50 caliber machine guns. After receiving reports from</p> |

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| | <p>Sirocco, the destroyer USS Gravely also arrived on the scene to assist. After the weapons were seized and offloaded, the dhow and its crew were released.</p> <p>On 19 June 2022, Sirocco was involved in a confrontation with patrol craft of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy in the Strait of Hormuz. The U.S. Navy claimed that the Iranian vessels approached Sirocco and the expeditionary fast transport USNS Choctaw County (T-EPF-2) at "unsafe and unprofessional" speeds and "aggressively" sailed to within 50 yards of the American vessels. Sirocco issued warnings over her loudspeaker system and fired a warning flare, and the Iranian vessels departed within an hour without further interactions.</p> <p>On 21 March 2023, ex-Sirocco (PC 6) was transferred to the Egyptian Naval Forces as the ENS AMR BIN ELAAS (PC 721).</p> |
| DANFS* Entry | https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/s/sirocco--pc-6-.html |

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

Criteria Evaluation¹

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| 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 |

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.

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| 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? | No |
| v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel? | No |
| Historic Evaluation Conclusion | |
| Assessment of integrity of (as appropriate) design, materials, workmanship, feeling and/or association (only for vessels determined to be eligible) | Ineligible |

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| Sources | https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Sirocco |
| | https://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_PC_6.HTML |
| | https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/s/sirocco--pc-6-.html |
| | https://www.navysite.de/pboats/pc6.htm |
| | https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhrc/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/s/sirocco--pc-6-.html |
| | https://www.navsource.org/archives/12/0306.htm |

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 |
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