

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation

FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
Cowpens	CG 63
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
Ticonderoga Class Guided Missile Cruiser	N/A
Vessel Location	Current Status
NAVSEA Inactive Ships On-Site Maintenance Office, Pearl Harbor, HI	Stricken, Final Disposition Pending

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
1 August 2024	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
13 January 2025	Ineligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	The ship is named after the Battle of Cowpens, a major American victory near Cowpens, South Carolina, in the American Revolution.
Displacement	9992 tons
Length	567 ft.
Beam	55 ft.
Draft	23 ft.
Speed	32 knots
Propulsion	Four General Electric LM 2500 gas turbine engines
Armament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 MK-45 MOD 4 5"/54 caliber lightweight gun - 2 MK-41 VLS for Standard Missiles, Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC) and Tomahawk ASM/LAM (127 Cells) - 2 Harpoon Missile Quad-Canister Launchers (MK-141) - 2 MK 32 MOD 14 Torpedo Tubes - 6 MK-46 torpedoes - 2 MK 15 MOD 25 Close-in-Weapons Systems (CIWS) - 2 MK-38 MOD 2 25mm Machine Gun System (MGS) - 1 MK 36 MOD 2 Super Rapid-Blooming Off-Board Chaff System - 2 50-Caliber Machine Guns
Laid Down	23 December 1987
Launched	11 March 1989
Built By	Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine
Sponsor	Lucy Mustin, wife of Vice Admiral Henry C. Mustin
Delivered	16 November 1990

Commissioned	9 March 1991
Inactivated	27 August 2024
Decommissioned	27 August 2024
Stricken	27 August 2024

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	<p>Cowpens' keel was laid 23 December 1987, at Bath Iron Works; she was launched 11 March 1989, and sponsored by Lucy Mustin, wife of Vice Admiral Henry C. Mustin. Cowpens was commissioned 9 March 1991 in Charleston, South Carolina, in January 1993, Cowpens was one of four ships to launch Tomahawk missiles against a nuclear production facility in Iraq.</p> <p>May 03, 1993 Returned from 6 Month deployment in Fifth/Seventh Fleet</p> <p>In June 1994, Cowpens deployed with USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) and her Battlegroup to the Korean Peninsula during the 1994 Nuclear Crisis in the region. On 12 July 1994, she took part in a search for wreckage from NL-102, an F-14A from VF-51 that crashed the previous night aboard Kitty Hawk. On 30 August, Cowpens was overflown by two ROCAF F-5 Tigers while moving to rejoin the Kitty Hawk Battlegroup following a port visit to British Hong Kong. Between 8-12 November, Cowpens and the Kitty Hawk Battlegroup joined with several JSMDf units to participate in Annual Exercise (ANNUALEX) 06G. The Battlegroup returned on 22 December 1994.</p> <p>Oct 11, 1995 departed for Fifth Fleet deployment with USS Kitty Hawk Battle Group</p> <p>Cowpens made another deployment with Kitty Hawk on 11 October 1996. While making her way to the Persian Gulf in late November, the ship avoided Typhoon Carlo. During mid-December, a visit to Bahrain was cut short as Cowpens was ordered to observe the firing of Iranian C-802 cruise missiles from Jask, Iran. In January 1997, the ship would win her fifth Battle E award.</p> <p>Cowpens's electronic intelligence (ELINT) crew detected a Chinese-flagged vessel on 3 February 1997. The vessel was smuggling Iraqi oil</p>
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	<p>illegally in violation of UN Sanctions and was seized by USS Nicholson (DD-982) and USS Cushing (DD-985) in coordination with HSL-16 Det.8.[8] On 8 February the ship took part in an exercise that successfully integrated the Kitty Hawk Battlegroup into the Theater Ballistic Missile Defense (TBMD), which included MIM-104 Patriot missile sites in Bahrain and USSPACECOM assets in space. The ship returned to San Diego on 11 April 1997.</p> <p>Jun 02, 1999 Departed NBSD to Yokosuka for homeport shift</p> <p>Jun 29, 1999 Arrived at new homeport in Naval Base Yokosuka</p> <p>Jan 20, 2003 Departed Yokosuka with USS Kitty Hawk Battle Group in support of Operation Enduring Freedom</p> <p>Mar 20, 2003 Fired 11 TLAMS in the Arabian Gulf as part of the first strikes in support of Operation Enduring Freedom</p> <p>May 06, 2003 returned from five month deployment supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom</p> <p>Sep 26, 2003 First US Navy ship to visit PRC-Navy South Sea Fleet Headquarters</p> <p>Feb 10, 2005 departed for routine fall patrol with Kitty Hawk CSG</p> <p>Mar 31, 2006 participated in PASSEX with RFN ships</p> <p>Oct 17, 2006 departed for routine fall patrol with Kitty Hawk CSG</p> <p>Mar 27, 2007 created CATF with USS Essex ESG and ROK ESG in support of Foal Eagle 2007</p> <p>Jan 24, 2008 departed Yokosuka for Western Pacific Deployment with USS Essex ESG</p> <p>Sep 03, 2009 returned to Yokosuka with USS George Washington CSG</p> <p>Mar 16, 2011 Provided humanitarian assistance in support of earthquake and tsunami relief operations in Japan with USS Ronald Reagan CSG</p> <p>Jun 12, 2011 Departed Yokosuka for routine patrol with USS George Washington CSG</p> <p>Nov 21, 2011 Returned to Naval Base Yokosuka</p>
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	<p>Aug 22, 2012 Departed Yokosuka for fall patrol with USS George Washington CSG</p> <p>Nov 16, 2012 returned to Naval Base Yokosuka</p> <p>Cowpens was scheduled to be decommissioned on 31 March 2013. However, Cowpens was retained under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.</p> <p>In February 2013, Cowpens was relieved by Antietam in a "hull-swap" at Yokosuka, Japan, in which the two crews swapped ships. Cowpens, previously deployed to Yokosuka, was then homeported at Naval Base San Diego, California.</p> <p>On 5 December 2013, Cowpens was involved in a minor confrontation with a Chinese warship that was escorting the Chinese aircraft carrier Liaoning while conducting surveillance of Chinese ships in International waters in the South China Sea. After Cowpens refused a Chinese demand to leave the area, a Chinese amphibious transport dock crossed directly in front of Cowpens and halted. The two vessels were barely 500 yards (460 m) away when the captain of Cowpens ordered "all stop". Chinese admiral Yin Zhuo said that the Chinese action was intentional and that American ships sent to observe PLAN maneuvers would be "blocked". Pentagon spokesman Steve Warren said that American procedures had not been changed in light of the incident, but defense analyst Tim Brown said that it reflected "a growing willingness by the Chinese to engage in potentially reckless behavior".</p> <p>In September 2015, Cowpens transferred from Naval Surface Forces Command to Naval Sea Systems Command, where she was to undergo a "modernization period", extending the serviceable life of the ship into the 2040s.</p> <p>In the US Navy's 2024 proposed budget, presented in 2023, Cowpens was again proposed for retirement. Navy Undersecretary Erik Raven stated that this was due to the ship's "material condition, life remaining, cost, ... time to upgrade ... and the warfighting value."</p>
Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Navy E Ribbon, for 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2011. -Meritorious Unit Commendation, for service with the Kitty Hawk battle group, November 1992 to April 1993. -Meritorious Unit Commendation, for service with the Kitty Hawk battle group, July to December 1994. -Spokane Trophy as the top operational surface warship in the Pacific Fleet, 1994

	<p>-Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, for service in the Persian Gulf from January to February 1997.</p> <p>-Meritorious Unit Commendation, for service with 5th Fleet and Task Force 50, August 1998.</p> <p>-Meritorious Unit Commendation, for service with Carrier Group 5 in 2001.</p> <p>-Humanitarian Service Medal, March to May 2011, during the time of the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami.</p>
Noteworthy Events	<p>In August 2000, an Aegis fire controlman died when he fell from the main mast of Cowpens</p> <p>In March 2003, Cowpens, assigned to Carrier Group Five, became the first United States Navy ship to launch ordnance in the opening stages of the Iraq War, firing Tomahawk cruise missiles.</p> <p>This ship was one of several participating in disaster relief after the March 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami where the tsunami caused the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, primarily causing the meltdown of three of its reactors, the discharge of radioactive water in Fukushima and the associated evacuation zones affecting hundreds of thousands of residents.</p> <p>In June 2010, a quartermaster fell to his death from the bridge wing of Cowpens while the ship was in dry dock.</p>
DANFS* Entry	

**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	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.

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.)	
iii. Was a President of the United States was 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 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

Sources	https://www.seaforces.org/usnships/cg/CG-68-USS-Anzio.htm
	https://www.navysite.de/cg/cg68.html
	http://www.navsource.org/archives/04/1168/040168.htm
	http://www.uscarriers.net/cg68.htm
	https://www.hullnumber.com/CG-68

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
0	0