

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation

FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
Mendonca	T-AKR 303
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
Bob Hope Class, Large, Medium-Speed Roll-on/Roll-off (LMSR)	N/A
Vessel Location	Current Status
Norfolk, VA	Disposed of through Inter Agency Transfer to MARAD

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
20 April 2023	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
17 September 2025	Ineligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	Mendonca is named for Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant Leroy A. Mendonca.
Displacement	67513 tons
Length	949 ft.
Beam	106 ft.
Draft	33 ft.
Speed	24 knots
Propulsion	4 Colt Pielstick 10 PC4.2 V diesels, 65,160 hp(m) (47.89 MW)
Armament	N/A
Laid Down	3 November 1995
Launched	25 May 1999
Built By	Northrop Grumman Ship Systems Avondale Operations
Sponsor	Genevieve Gibbons, wife of General Gen. M. Gibbons; named for Gibbons' brother, Army Sgt. Leroy Mendonca, a Korean War Medal of Honor recipient.
Delivered	30 January 2001
In-service	30 January 2001
Inactivated	26 September 2022

Out of service	26 September 2022
Stricken	26 September 2022

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	<p>USNS Mendonca (T-AKR-303) is a Bob Hope-class roll on roll off vehicle cargo ship of the United States Navy. She was built by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems, New Orleans and delivered to the Navy on 30 January 2001.</p> <p>They assigned her to the United States Department of Defense's Military Sealift Command. Mendonca is named for Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant Leroy A. Mendonca and is one of 11 Surge LMSRs operated by a private company under contract to the Military Sealift Command. She is assigned to the MSC Atlantic surge force and is maintained in Ready Operational Status 4.</p> <p>On 24 July 2006, U.S. Army Strykers are off-loaded from Mendonca at Bremerhaven, Germany.</p> <p>From 16 to 20 June 2013, Mendonca participated in a Joint Logistics Over-The-Shore (JLOTS) exercise off Virginia Beach.</p> <p>In 2014, Sailors assigned to Navy Cargo Handling Battalion One lift the US Army's small tug Mulberry (ST-914) from Mendonca during Alaska Shield 2014 as part of Joint Logistics Over-The-Shore operations.</p> <p>29 April 2015, Mendonca departed Honolulu, Hawaii, nearly three weeks earlier with a handful of 25th Infantry Division Soldiers and more than 1,650 vehicles and rolling stock. Having travelled 6,233 miles, passing through the Panama Canal and navigating the final 40 miles up the narrow Neches River channel.</p> <p>On 24 September 2019, Mendonca performed tactical formation maneuvers in the North Atlantic Ocean. This simulated convoy maneuvers were part of U.S. Transportation Command's turbo activation, which was designed to test the surge sealift fleet's material readiness and its crews' ability to sail their ships in a contested environment.</p>
Awards	National Defense Medal

Noteworthy Events	<p>Mendonca brought onboard an F/A-18E Super Hornet from the Augusta Bay Port Facility in Sicily, Italy, 16 August 2022. The aircraft was to be transported back to the United States. The F/A-18E aircraft, assigned to Carrier Air Wing (CVW 1), embarked onboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), blew overboard due to unexpected heavy weather in the Mediterranean Sea, 8 July 2022.</p> <p>“The Mendonca’s crew assisted with planning the lift, landing the aircraft from the salvage barge’s crane, and securing the F/A-18 on deck,” according to Capt. James Gill, USNS Mendonca’s Master.</p>
DANFS* Entry	

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

Criteria Evaluation¹

<p>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.)</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p>
<p>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.)</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>iii. Was a President of the United States assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>No</p>

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.

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.nvr.navy.mil/shipdetails/shipdetail_AKR_303.html
	https://www.navysite.de/akr/akr303.htm
	https://www.dvidshub.net/news/427886/usns-mendonca-transport-recovered-navy-f-18e-aircraft-united-states
	http://www.navsource.org/archives/09/54/540303.htm
	https://man.fas.org/dod-101/sys/ship/docs/990414-takr-303.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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