

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation

INITIAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
Whidbey Island	LSD 41
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
Whidbey Island Class Dock Landing Ship- LSD	N/A
Vessel Location	Current Status
NAVSEA Inactive Ship Maintenance On-Site Office, Philadelphia, PA	Out of Commission, In Reserve

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
21 March 2023	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
	Ineligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	The name ultimately derives from the sailor, explorer and engineer Joseph Whidbey
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Displacement	16790 tons
Length	610 ft.
Beam	84 ft.
Draft	21 ft.
Speed	22 knots
Propulsion	4 x Colt Industries 16-cylinder diesel-engines 33000 shp., total 2 shafts / 2 controllable pitch propellers
Armament	Two 20mm Phalanx CIWS, two 25mm Mk-38 guns, six .50-calibre Machine guns, one Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) system
Laid Down	4 August 1981
Launched	10 June 1983
Built By	Lockheed Martin Shipbuilding Company Seattle, Washington
Sponsor	Mrs. Sally Gorton, wife of Senator Slade Gorton from the state of Washington
Delivered	8 January 1985
Commissioned	9 February 1985
Inactivated	20 August 2022
Decommissioned	20 August 2022
Stricken	20 August 2022

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	<p>1 August 1986, Whidbey Island participated in "leapfrog" maneuvering drills while enroute to NATO exercise Northern Wedding '86. North Atlantic Ocean.</p> <p>Whidbey Island's first major deployment was to the Mediterranean in January 1987 where the ship was involved in seven amphibious landing exercises, as well as carrying out assigned duties as Presidential support ship for the World Economic Summit held in Venice, Italy in May 1987.</p> <p>In February 1987, Whidbey Island with PhibRon 4 (MARG 2-87) 26th MAU embarked, off the coast of Spain.</p> <p>In March 1987, Whidbey Island participated Exercise Sardinia-87, in the Gulf of Teulda, Sardinia.</p> <p>In March 1987, Whidbey Island participated Exercise Sardinia-87, in the Tirreno Sea.</p> <p>In 1987, Whidbey Island underway off Norfolk, Virginia.</p> <p>Whidbey Island Deployed to the Mediterranean for the second time in December 1988 with MARG 1-89, participating in three major landing exercises with the Spanish, French and Italian Navies before returning to homeport in July 1989.</p> <p>Whidbey Island was the first East Coast amphibious ship to deploy to the European Theater with LCACs.</p> <p>In September and October 1989, Whidbey Island participated in Hurricane Hugo Disaster Relief Operations in the Caribbean Sea.</p> <p>In late 1989, Whidbey Island deployed off the coast of Guantanamo Bay Cuba.</p> <p>In August 1990, Whidbey Island deployed again to the Mediterranean as part of MARG 3-90.</p> <p>During the trans-Atlantic crossing, the ship received orders to sail to MAMBA Station off the coast of Monrovia, Liberia to serve as the flagship for the evacuation operations in Operation Sharp Edge, spending 105 consecutive days at sea. By the time Whidbey Island reached its first port; Las Palmas, Canary Islands, the ship had been out to sea 126 straight days.</p>
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	<p>Whidbey Island further steaming around the Western Mediterranean in support of Operation Desert Storm.</p> <p>On 5 December 1992 Whidbey Island deployed with MARG 1-92.</p> <p>In January 1993, Whidbey Island deployed in support of Operation Sea Signal/Able Manner, enforcing alien migration policies off the coast of Haiti. Later that year, she deployed again to the littorals of South America and West Africa during Unitas 34-93/West African Training Cruise (WATC) 93.</p> <p>In 1994, Whidbey Island provided emergent lift services for evacuation of Combined Task Force 160 migrant camps from Grand Turk Island.</p> <p>In February and March of 1998, Whidbey Island conducted LCAC skirt testing in Panama City, Florida.</p> <p>Whidbey Island is deployed to the Mediterranean with the COMPHIBRON SIX and MEU(SOC) serving as MARG 3-99. She participated in Exercise Bright Star and on October 18, with the USNS CONCORD (T-AFS 5), became the first LSD 41 class ship to conduct simultaneous connected underway replenishment for stores and fuel.</p> <p>In June 2006, Whidbey Island deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While in-port Aqaba, Jordan in July of 2006, the ship was recalled through the Suez Canal to support contingency operations due to the crisis in Lebanon.</p> <p>On 1 October 2007, Whidbey Island deployed from Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base to the Horn of Africa.</p> <p>24 April 2011, Whidbey Island transits through the Straits of Gibraltar.</p> <p>2 June 2011, Whidbey Island went underway in the Mediterranean Sea. Whidbey Island is deployed as part of the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group, conducting maritime security operation and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility</p> <p>11 July 2011, Whidbey Island arrives at U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay for a routine port visit.</p> <p>11 August 2011, Whidbey Island transits off the coast of Romania during Summer Storm 2011 in the Black Sea.</p> <p>13 November 2011, Whidbey Island transits to the Arabian Gulf .</p>
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	<p>13 January 2012, Whidbey Island arrived in the port of Valletta, Malta. This was the ship first visit to Valletta.</p> <p>On 24 June, 2016, Whidbey Island deployed from Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, for what would be her final deployment. She conducted eight Theater Security Port Visits; country visits vital to reassuring host nations of the commitment of the United States to their partnership.</p> <p>On 21 July 2016, Whidbey Island transited the Bosphorus Strait during a time of tension following the failed 2016 Turkish coup d'état attempt.</p> <p>On 1 August 2016, Whidbey Island was underway during Exercise Sea Breeze 1 with Ukrainian Naval forces.</p>
Awards	<p>Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation Navy Unit Commendation - Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (2) Navy Battle "E" Ribbon (3) - Navy Expeditionary Medal (1-Liberia) - National Defense Service Medal Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (2) - Humanitarian Service Medal - Armed Forces Service Medal</p>
Noteworthy Events	<p>During June 1992 deployment, Whidbey Island was chosen to represent the amphibious ready group for operations in the Black Sea with a series of port calls there. With members of Sixth Fleet, the USS INCHON Band and representative from the other MARG ships, Whidbey Island made history by making port calls to Samsun, Turkey; Constanta, Romania; and Burgas, Bulgaria. Whidbey Island became the first U.S. amphibious ship and largest U.S. warship to operate in the Black Sea; the first U.S. Navy ship to visit Samsun in 70 years and the first U.S. Navy ship to ever visit Burgas.</p> <p>In January 1993, Whidbey Island deployed in support of Operation Sea Signal/Able Manner, enforcing alien migration policies off the coast of Haiti. Later that year, she deployed again to the littorals of South America and West Africa during Unitas 34-93/West African Training Cruise (WATC) 93. The first Whidbey Island class ship to deploy to this region, Whidbey Island made history by leading the southernmost amphibious exercise ever at Tierra Del Fuego.</p> <p>In 1994, Whidbey Island provided emergent lift services for evacuation of Combined Task Force 160 migrant camps from Grand Turk Island; rescued and transported over 8,100 Cuban migrants from the Straits of Florida during Operation Able Vigil and participated in the restoration of the legitimate government to Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy. For</p>

	<p>this, the crew was awarded the Armed forces service Medal and NATO Medal. The ship returned to NAB Little Creek on February 29, 1996.</p> <p>Whidbey Island underwent a condensed training cycle to prepare for the Unitas 38-97/ WATC 97 deployment that started on 1 July 1997. Whidbey Island successfully conducted an unprecedented number of multi-national amphibious assaults.</p> <p>In February and March of 1998, Whidbey Island conducted LCAC skirt testing in Panama City, Florida. During her most recent inter-deployment training cycle, Whidbey Island received Direct-to-Sailors Satellite Television System and completed the IT-21 upgrade providing internet access to Sailors and Marines aboard.</p> <p>Whidbey Island completed deployment to the Mediterranean with the COMPHIBRON SIX and MEU (SOC) serving as MARG 3-99. She participated in Exercise Bright Star and on 18 October 1998, with the USNS CONCORD (T-AFS 5), became the first LSD 41 class ship to conduct simultaneous connected underway replenishment for stores and fuel.</p> <p>In June 2006, Whidbey Island deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While in-port Aqaba, Jordan in July of 2006, the ship was recalled through the Suez Canal to support contingency operations due to the crisis in Lebanon. Whidbey Island subsequently participated in the largest non-combatant evacuation conducted by the US Navy since Vietnam. During July and August, the ship evacuated 817 American citizens via LCAC with personnel transport module.</p> <p>On 16 February 2007, Whidbey Island was awarded the 2006 Battle "E" award.</p> <p>On 1 October 2007, Whidbey Island deployed from Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base. After being deployed to the Horn of Africa, she assisted the M/V AL MARJAN and its crew when they were released by Somali pirates.</p> <p>On 24 June 2016, Whidbey Island deployed from Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, for what would be her final deployment. She conducted eight Theater Security Port Visits; country visits vital to reassuring host nations of the commitment of the United States to their partnership.</p> <p>On 21 July 2016, Whidbey Island transited the Bosphorus Strait during a time of tension following the failed 2016 Turkish coup d'état attempt.</p>
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DANFS* Entry	
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**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 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.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_LSD_41.HTML https://www.navysite.de/ships/lcd41.htm
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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.

	http://www.navsource.org/archives/10/12/1241.htm
	http://www.uscarriers.net/lsd41history.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