

GATOR GAZETTE

'editio prima'



ALL THINGS ANCHORAGE



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LSD36 Association?

Mission Statement: "To keep our ship's memory alive for future generations, provide assistance to our crew, and support those still serving" No, we're not a non-profit yet. Your thoughts?

[For more information ...](#)

**USS Anchorage
LSD 36** 
Crew Member Association



Current Amphibious Ships

San Antonio Class LPD (Landing Platform, Dock). Twelve are active (LPD's 17-28); 29 is under construction, 30 keel was laid January 2022 and will be the first Flight II variant, 31 started fabrication September 2022 (first 100 tons of steel has been cut), 32 contract has been awarded, and 33 has been authorized.

Whidbey Island Class LSD's 41-48 and Harper's Ferry Class

LSD's 49-52. Ten are still active; decommissioned and placed in reserve were LSD 43 in 2021 and LSD 41 in 2022. Next to be decommissioned and placed in reserve are LSD's 42, 44, 46, and 48 in 2023 **recent reports state decommissioning these four ships may be postponed*; LSD's 47, 49, 50, and 52 in 2024, LSD 51 in 2025; and LSD 45 in 2026.



LSD Museum?

I am researching what is involved in saving a Navy ship. It would be a massive undertaking, but well worth it. LSD's have been involved in every major conflict since 1943. These great ships need to be remembered. I've thought about trying for the last LSD commissioned, USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52). A static display for every LSD since USS Ashland (LSD 1) would be onboard. Or, how about a LSD 36 memorial on the San Diego waterfront? What are your thoughts? [EMail](#) me.

SHIP'S HISTORY

JANUARY

1970 - USS Anchorage was docked at Berth 19, San Francisco Naval Shipyard, Mare Island, Vallejo, California until January 7. On that day, the ship was moved to Pier 35, Naval Ammunition Depot, Mare Island, where the ship loaded ammunition and ship's vehicles, then set course for San Diego, arriving January 9 and mooring starboard side Pier 5, Berth 55. USS Anchorage took on 255,483 gallons of fuel from fuel oil barge YO-202 on January 12. On January 19, the ship got underway for ballasting operations in international waters, returning to Pier 5, Berth 55, later that same day. The ship took on fuel January 28. On January 29, USS Anchorage loaded 29,820 rounds of .50 caliber linked machine gun ammunition, 25 hand grenades with MK2 fuses, 25 hand grenades with MK3A2 fuses, and 50,000 rounds of .30 caliber linked machine gun ammunition from Naval Supply Center, San Diego, Pt. Loma Annex. On January 31, the ship departed for Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam to transport Marine Corps personnel back to the United States as part of Operation Keystone Blue Jay, a planned withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam.

1987 - USS Anchorage departed Long Beach in January for another WESTPAC deployment. The ship first headed north to Alaska and while with Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 3 in the Bering Sea, she took part in Kernel Potlatch 87. This was the first winter amphibious operation in the Aleutian Islands since World War II, and for this, USS Anchorage earned a Meritorious Unit Commendation.

2003 - On January 17, USS Anchorage departed San Diego Bay for an unscheduled deployment in support of U.S. national interests along with the USS Boxer (LHD 4), USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), USS Dubuque (LPD 8), USS Comstock (LSD 45), USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) and USS Cleveland (LPD 7). Together the 'Magnificent Seven' formed the largest Amphibious Task Force (ATF-W) ever assembled to combat global terrorism.

FEBRUARY

1991 - At 0400 on February 4, ground operations were underway to recapture Kuwait. After a delay due to severe weather and harbor mines, USS Anchorage began offloading at 1400 on the 24th, landing the 5th MEB over the beach at Al Mishab, Saudi Arabia. Offloading continued until February 27. USS Anchorage was backloaded in seven hours (fastest of any LSD) and her LCAC carried the most tonnage of any LCAC and had the fewest breakdowns.

1973 - The ship began overhaul at Naval Base San Diego on February 19. During this yard work, a fire broke out on board and prolonged her stay in overhaul. An inexperienced Sailor had been on fire watch with a welder below deck when a fire broke out. The Petty Officer of the watch at the time, received the call and was

told of a fire; the Sailor hung up before giving the location. An announcement over the PA was made asking for a call back, but when the Sailor called back and was asked for the location, he gave the compartment number where he was calling back from and not of the fire. Until they reached him, they only knew it was below, aft.



1980 - USS Anchorage arrived Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines on February 6. Upon arrival, a refurbished LCU (Landing Craft, Utility) was loaded for transport to the Republic of Djibouti located on the northeast coast of East Africa near the Horn of Africa. The LCU—dubbed Le Bac de la Paix (the boat of peace) was a gift from the United States to Djibouti to enhance the country's inadequate commercial transportation system. USS Anchorage left Subic Bay on February 15.



MARCH

1969 - USS Anchorage was moored starboard side Berth 2 and commissioned March 15 at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia. Commanding Officer is Captain Percy S. Beaman. The ship's first watch was set, and 15-gun salute was fired. Vice Admiral Luther C. Heinz, Commander Amphibious Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet was onboard.

With assistance from Navy tugs YT 365, YT 730, and YT 150, the ship was moved to Dry Dock 4 on March 21 and water started to be pumped out at 0950. It rested on keel blocks at 1059. At 1300, the Hull Board, consisting of Executive Officer CDR Robert F. Connally, LT Robert J. Payne, LT Carl S. Clock, and WO1 Robert T. Finney, convened to inspect the underwater hull. Conditions were satisfactory except for minor scratching starboard side below bilge keel, frames 50-195, disturbed paint only; wood scraps found in No. 2 condenser overboard valve, probable cause of leak; starboard bilge keel indented in two places, approximately three inches in depth, frame 132; and zincs approximately 10 percent deteriorated.

1970 - The ship anchored off Camp Del Mar at 0957 March 12, and while offloading the well deck, a Marine M54 truck and trailer with gears disengaged, was lost in seven fathoms of water after being struck by an LCU (Landing Craft Utility).

1971 - The ship crossed the equator on March 2 at coordinates LONGITUDE 164° 30' 00" W. On March 25 in Perth, CAPT Cyrus A. Rank relieved CAPT Percy S. Beaman as Commanding Officer.

2004 - USS Anchorage formally removed from the Naval Vessel Register by SECNAV on recommendation of CNO. This is a legal preliminary before disposal.

[More History ...](#)

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