



USS KEARSARGE (LSD 3)

Multi-Purpose Amphibious Assault Ship

Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia

www.kearsarge.navy.mil

The principle mission of WASP Class amphibious assault ships is to enable the Navy/Marine Corps team to accomplish a seamless transition from the sea to a land battle, primarily as the command ship of an Amphibious Ready Group (ARG). LHDs are specifically designed to lay off a troubled area of the world and insert forces ashore by helicopters and LCAC hovercraft. The assault forces are provided combat air support by embarked AV-8B Harrier II V/STOL "jump-jets."

USS KEARSARGE (LHD-3) is the third ship of the class and is fully capable of amphibious assault, advance force and special purpose operations, as well as non-combatant evacuation and other humanitarian missions. Since her commissioning on October 16, 1993, she has performed these missions the world over, including evacuating non-combatants from Freetown, Sierra Leone, on May 31, 1997 and rescuing Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady from Serb-controlled territory in Bosnia on June 8, 1995.

Additionally, KEARSARGE is fully equipped with state of the art command and control (C4I) systems for flagship command duty, and her medical facilities are second in capability only to the Navy's hospital ships, USNS COMFORT and USNS MERCY.

In carrying out her mission, KEARSARGE not only transports and lands ashore troops, but also tanks, trucks, artillery, and the complete logistic support needed to supply an assault.

The assault support system aboard ship coordinates horizontal and vertical movement of troops, cargo and vehicles. Monorail trains, moving at speeds up to 600-feet-per-minute, transport cargo and supplies from storage and staging areas throughout the ship to a 13,600-square foot well deck which opens to the sea through huge gates in the ship's stern. There, the cargo, troops and vehicles are loaded aboard landing craft for transit to the beach. The LCAC air cushion landing craft can fly out of the dry well deck, or the well deck can be flooded so conventional landing craft can float out on their way to the beach.

Simultaneously, helicopters are brought from the hanger deck to the flight deck by two deck-edge elevators and loaded with supplies from three massive cargo elevators.

KEARSARGE's armament suite includes the NATO Sea Sparrow point defense system for anti-air warfare protection, the Rolling Airframe missile defense systems, 25mm chain guns and the Phalanx close-in weapon system to counter threats from low-flying aircraft and close-in small craft. Missile decoy launchers augment KEARSARGE's anti-ship missile defenses.

Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi, built KEARSARGE using efficient pre-outfitting and modular construction techniques. Hundreds of smaller subassemblies, containing piping, ventilation ducting and other hardware, as well as major machinery equipment, generators, and electrical panels were constructed. The subassemblies were then joined with others to form assemblies, which were in turn welded together to form five hull and superstructure modules.

These five giant ship modules, each weighing thousands of tons, were joined together on land to form the completed ship's hull. The result of this early outfitting was a ship that was over 70 percent complete at launch. USS KEARSARGE has been awarded the Golden Anchor for Retention Excellence, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the NATO Medal for Kosovo Operations, the Battle Efficiency "E" Award, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (four awards), the Ronald Reagan Distinguished Service Award and the

SHIP'S SPECIFICATIONS:

GENERAL

Length - 844 feet
Beam (Maximum)- 106 feet
Speed: 24+ knots
Draft (Navigational)- 27 feet
Displacement- 40,500 tons full load
Complement- 104 Officers/1,004
Enlisted
Marines: 1,893

SENSORS

AN/SPS-49(V) 7 Air Search Radar
AN/SPS-67 Surface Search Radar
AN/SPS-64(V) 9 Surface Navigation
Radar
AN/SLQ-32 Electronics
Countermeasures Set

AIRCRAFT

CH-46 Sea Knight Helicopters
AV-8B Harrier II "Jump-Jets"
Landing Craft (Air Cushion) (LCAC)

ENGINEERING

Propulsion: 2 main engines producing 35,000
shaft horsepower each
Electrical:

WEAPONS

NATO Sea Sparrow and Rolling Airframe
Missile Systems
Phalanx close-in weapons system
25 mm chain guns
.50 caliber machine guns

Keel Laid: March 26, 1992

Christened: May 16, 1992

Commissioned: October 16, 1993