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USS *Taconic*

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USS *Taconic* (AGC-17/LCC-17) was an *Adirondack* class amphibious force command ship of the **U.S. Navy** named after the **Taconic Mountains** in **New York**. She was laid down in December 1944 and decommissioned in January 1969.

Construction [[edit](#)]

Taconic was laid down under **Maritime Commission** contract (MC hull 1710) at **Wilmington, N.C.**, on 19 December 1944 by the **North Carolina Shipbuilding Company**; launched on 10 February 1945; sponsored by Mrs. O. W. Turner; acquired by the Navy on 6 March 1945; converted to an amphibious force **flagship** at the **Atlantic Basin Iron Works** in **Brooklyn, New York**; and **commissioned** there on 17 January 1946,^[1] Capt. C. G. Christie in command.^[2]

She was designed as an amphibious force flagship, a floating command post with advanced communications equipment and extensive combat information spaces to be used by the amphibious forces commander and landing force commander during large-scale operations.^[2]

Service history [[edit](#)]

Upon commissioning, *Taconic* began a long tour of duty with the **Atlantic Fleet**. She served alternately as **flagship** of the Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Force and of Amphibious Groups 2 and 4. Between June 1946 and June 1949, she participated in CAMID I, II, and III, **amphibious warfare** exercises conducted in the **Chesapeake Bay** area and encompassing joint training for **United States Military Academy** cadets and **United States**



History



Name:	USS <i>Taconic</i>
Namesake:	Taconic Mountains
Builder:	North Carolina Shipbuilding Company, Wilmington, North Carolina
Laid down:	19 December 1944
Launched:	10 February 1945
Acquired:	6 March 1945
Commissioned:	17 January 1946 ^[1]
Decommissioned:	17 December 1969
Reclassified:	LCC-17, January 1969
Struck:	1 December 1976
Homeport:	Naval Station Norfolk
Nickname(s):	Mighty "T" ^[1]
Fate:	Sold for scrap, 6 April 1982

General characteristics

Class and type:	<i>Adirondack-class command ship</i>
Displacement:	7,240 long tons (7,356 t) light 13,910 long tons (14,133 t) full load
Length:	459 ft 2 in (139.95 m)
Beam:	63 ft (19 m)
Draft:	24 ft (7.3 m)
Propulsion:	Geared turbine, 1 shaft, 6,000 shp (4,474 kW)
Speed:	16.4 knots (30.4 km/h; 18.9 mph)
Complement:	633
Armament:	2 × 5"/38 caliber guns 3 × twin 40 mm AA guns

Naval Academy midshipmen. Each spring, the amphibious force flagship joined the **Atlantic Fleet** maneuvers carried out in the **Caribbean** area.^[2]

6 × single **20 mm** AA guns

In June 1949, following a yard overhaul at **Norfolk**, Virginia, she took part in Operation "Diaper," the transportation of Navy men and their dependents from the **Canal Zone** to Norfolk. *Taconic* remained in active service for 20 more years. During that entire period of time, she retained Norfolk as her home port.^[2]

In 1951 *Taconic* was featured as the command ship in the **Richard Widmark** film, *The Frogmen*.^[citation needed] In February–March 1953, she sailed from **Camp Lejeune**, North Carolina to **Vieques, Puerto Rico**; **Caracas, Venezuela**; and **Trinidad** before returning to Camp Lejeune.^[1]

She participated in numerous exercises both with the **Second** and **Sixth** fleets, and with units of **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** nations. The amphibious force flagship was deployed to the **Mediterranean Sea** on eight different occasions in those two decades; and, in the summer of 1958 she served as flagship of the Commander, Middle East Force, during the **Lebanon Crisis**. In November 1959, she served as communication and support ship to President **Dwight D. Eisenhower** during the **Pakistan-Afghanistan-India** leg of his visit to a number of European and Asian countries. When not deployed with the Sixth Fleet, she operated with the Second Fleet in the western Atlantic and in the Caribbean. The bulk of those operations consisted of exercises; but, on one occasion in March 1957, she carried President Eisenhower's limousines to **Bermuda** for his meeting with British Prime Minister **Harold Macmillan**.^[2]

In January 1963, *Taconic* patrolled the **Haitian** coast during political unrest in that country. She returned to the Caribbean area for special duty again in May and June 1965 during similar troubles in the **Dominican Republic**. In January 1969, at the beginning of her last year of service, *Taconic* was redesignated LCC-17.^[2]


After 12 months of operations and preparations for decommissioning, the amphibious force **flagship** was placed out of commission, in reserve, on 17 December 1969 at Norfolk, Virginia. She was berthed with the **National Defense Reserve Fleet** on the James River, Virginia.^[2] She was stricken from the **Naval Vessel Register** on 1 December 1976^[3] and was sold for scrap to the Banty Corp on 6 April 1982.^[citation needed]

References [edit]

1. [^] ^{**a**} ^{**b**} ^{**c**} ^{**d**} Ziebarth, Lt. (jg) Thomas A.; Reigner, Lt. P. W., eds. (1953). *Caribbean Log: 16 February to 28 March 1953 U.S.S. Taconic... AGC-17*. New York: US Navy (USS Taconic).

2. [^] ^{**a**} ^{**b**} ^{**c**} ^{**d**} ^{**e**} ^{**f**} ^{**g**} Template:Url=www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/t/taconic.html

3. [^] "USS Taconic (LCC-17) ex USS Taconic (AGC-17) (1945 - 1969)". *Navsource Naval History: Photographic History of the U.S. Navy*. Retrieved 13 February 2015.



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