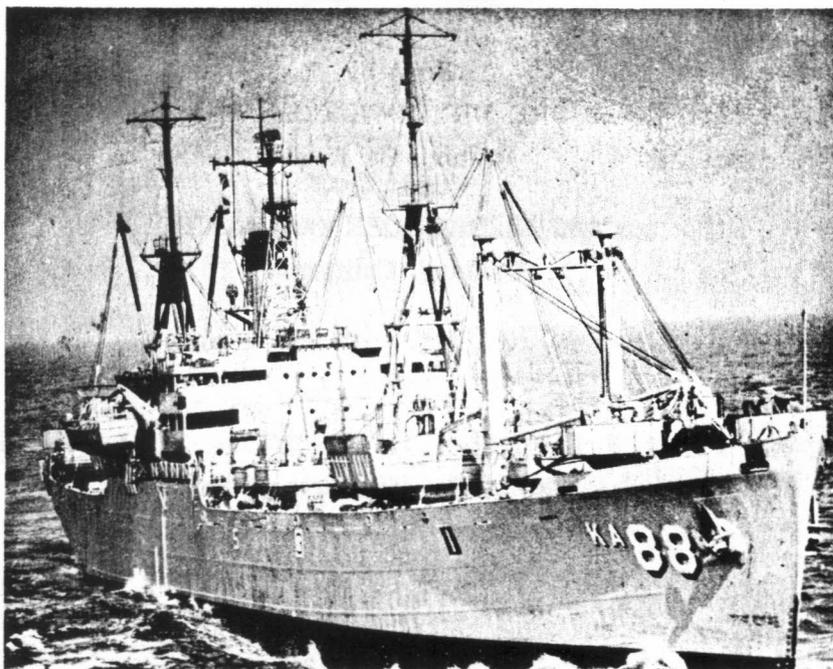# U.S.S. UVALDE
(LKA-88)

DECOMMISSIONING PROGRAM

NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE, LITTLE CREEK
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

29 NOVEMBER 1968

U. S. S. UVALDE (LKA-88)

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Built by
MOORE DRYDOCK COMPANY
Oakland, California

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Keel Laid: 27 March 1944
Launched: 20 May 1944
Commissioned: 18 August 1944

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Sponsor: Mrs. George J. Kern

☆

Decommissioned LKA-88
29 November 1968

VICE ADMIRAL L. C. HEINZ, U. S. NAVY
Commander Amphibious Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet

CAPTAIN R. S. SMITH, U. S. NAVY
Commanding Officer, U. S. S. UVALDE (LKA-88)

SHIP'S HISTORY

The USS UVALDE (AKA-88), formerly SS WILD PIGEON, was built by the Moore Drydock Company, Oakland, California. Prior to her commissioning in August 1944, she was acquired by the Navy and renamed for Uvalde County, Texas, the home of former Vice President John Nance Garner.

World War II found the UVALDE active in numerous Pacific Theatre Campaigns. Her first deployment took her to Manus Island, Admiralty Islands. There on 10 November 1944, after the explosion and sinking of ammunition ship USS MOUNT HOOD (AE-11), UVALDE provided vital assistance to ships in the harbor suffering heavy casualties from the blast.

After several missions in the vicinity of New Guinea she became a part of Task Group 77-9 then deployed in Lingayen Gulf, Luzon. It was here that she first braved the infamous Japanese Kamikaze attacks. Her next port was Biak, in the Southern Group and then Leyte Gulf where she joined Task Group 78-5 headed for Mindoro Island and Leyte. After weeks of detailed preparation and training came Okinawa. During the assault on 3 April 1945 UVALDE was credited with shooting down a Jap suicide plane making an attack on the USS LATIMER (APA-152).

After Okinawa UVALDE shuttled troops and cargo between the Marianas, Eniwetok, Guam and Pearl Harbor. June 1945 found her headed for Everett, Washington and drydock repairs. A scant two months later she was transporting troops and material to the Marianas, Hollandia, New Guinea and Brisbane, Australia. By February 1946, UVALDE was again ready for a states side yard overhaul. From Mare Island Naval Shipyard she returned to serve in parts of the Marianas, Okinawa and China. Up until mid-1950 UVALDE's operation schedule consisted primarily of troop and cargo transport to vital outposts in the Western Pacific.

After the War, the UVALDE joined the United Nations forces for the duration of the Korean conflict. In August 1954,

she participated in the "Passage to Freedom Operations" in which 600,000 Vietnamese civilians were evacuated to South Vietnam in order to escape the Communist regime in the North.

In 1957, UVALDE was decommissioned and in November 1961, she was the first AKA to be re-activated for the Berlin Crisis. After fitting out, she was transferred to the Atlantic Fleet and homeported in Norfolk where she now serves as a unit of Amphibious Squadron Six.

In 1962 UVALDE served as a component of the American Blockade during the Cuban missile crisis and in 1964, while deployed with Amphibious Squadron Eight, she stood by during the Panamanian Riots.

UVALDE was twice called for duty in Dominican Republic, once as bulk fuel control ship in June of 1965 and as a component of units involved in the withdrawal of American Forces in August 1966.

In addition to her operational commitments, UVALDE has been deployed four times to the Mediterranean and three times to the Caribbean since 1961, having returned to the USA in August 1968 from participation in exercises in the Mediterranean.

STATISTICS

Overall Length	459 Feet
Extreme Beam	63 Feet
Speed	16.5 Knots
Standard Displacement	13,910 Tons
Limiting Draft	26 Feet
Complement	36 Officers, 330 Enlisted
Armament	Four Twin 40mm AA Mounts

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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BAND SELECTIONS
Amphibious Force Band

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INVOCATION
Lieutenant Wrex K. Hauth, CHC, U. S. Naval Reserve

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REMARKS AND READING OF
DECOMMISSIONING DIRECTIVE
Captain R. S. Smith, USN, Commanding Officer

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COMMANDING OFFICER DECOMMISSIONS SHIP

COMMISSIONED 18 AUGUST 1944

LCDR William M. McCloy, USNR .... 18 Aug. 1944 - 13 Sep. 1945
LCDR Frank C. Dilworth, USN .... 13 Sep. 1945 - 28 Feb. 1946
CAPT Dominic L. Mattie, USN .... 28 Feb. 1946 - 14 Jun. 1946
LCDR Grady C. Pittard, Jr., USNR .... 14 Jun. 1946 - 20 Jun. 1946
CDR Alfred J. Oxley, USNR .... 20 Jun. 1946 - 5 Sep. 1946
CAPT Elwood C. Madsen, USN .... 5 Sep. 1946 - 14 Jan. 1948
CDR William S. Estabrook, Jr., USN .... 14 Jan. 1948 - 9 Mar. 1949
CAPT Guy P. Garland, USN .... 9 Mar. 1949 - 13 Mar. 1950
CAPT Louis F. Teuscher, USN .... 13 Mar. 1950 - 21 Jun. 1951
CAPT Ralph A. Wilheim, USN .... 21 Jun. 1951 - 25 Sep. 1952
CAPT Frederick S. Steinke, USN .... 25 Sep. 1952 - 18 Dec. 1953
CAPT Roy M. Davenport, USN .... 18 Dec. 1953 - 25 May 1955
CAPT Thomas G. Warfield, USN .... 25 May 1955 - 2 Aug. 1956
CAPT Robert O. Beer, USN .... 2 Aug. 1956 - 13 Aug. 1957
CAPT Benjamin C. Fulghum, USN .... 13 Aug. 1957 - 2 Jan. 1958

DECOMMISSIONED 2 JANUARY 1958
RECOMMISSIONED 18 NOVEMBER 1961

CAPT Charles A. Baldwin, USN .... 18 Nov. 1961 - 19 Dec. 1962
CAPT William D. Owen, Jr., USN .... 19 Dec. 1962 - 20 Dec. 1963
CAPT Frederick W. Pennoyer III, USN .... 20 Dec. 1963 - 4 Dec. 1964
CAPT Francis A. Butler, USN .... 4 Dec. 1964 - 25 Nov. 1965
CAPT John O. Sherman, Jr., USN .... 25 Nov. 1965 - 18 Nov. 1966
CAPT Paul V. Purkrabek, USN .... 18 Nov. 1966 - 14 Jun. 1968
CAPT R. S. Smith, USN .... 14 Jun. 1968 - 29 Nov. 1968

SHIP'S CITATIONS AND MEDALS WON

Assault and Occupation of Okinawa, 1 Star
Communist China Aggression, 1 Star
Second Korean Winter, 1 Star
Korea, Summer-Fall 1953, 1 Star
Navy Occupation Service Medal (Asia)
China Service Medal (extended)
United Nations Service Medal
Korean Service Medal
Korea Presidential Unit Citation Badge
State of Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Vanguard In Peace . . .

. . . Spearhead In War