

Contributed by Robert M. Cieri

# Welcome Aboard



**USS MONTICELLO**  
**LSD-35**

The Captain and ship's company of U.S.S. MONTICELLO welcome you aboard. We hope you will find our ship interesting and that you will enjoy your visit aboard.

For your own safety, please observe all caution and safety signs posted and the instructions of the ship's company. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

USS MONTICELLO is the last of eight dock landing ships of the THOMASTON class, built by the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation for the United States Navy.

USS MONTICELLO takes her name from the home of Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States. The name means "Little Mountain" in Italian, and is appropriate for the hilltop site, near Chadottesville, Virginia, where Mr. Jefferson designed and built his home.

Our MONTICELLO is the third U.S. Navy vessel to bear this name. The first ship to carry the name, USS Steamer MONTICELLO, served with Union Fleet during the Civil War from 1861-1865. The second vessel so named, the former Italian Passenger Liner SS CONTE GRANDE, became the troopship USS MONTICELLO in World War II. The present Dock Landing Ship MONTICELLO was commissioned in 1957.



## MISSION

The primary mission of Dock Landing Ship (LSD-35) is to transport amphibious vehicles, troop vehicles, amphibious boats, tracked landing vehicles, tanks, helicopters, guns, combat cargo, and equipment to be landed in early assault waves on enemy beaches. The ship can accommodate up to 250 troop officers and enlisted men comfortably, and many more by using folding cots. In addition to carrying troops and troop vehicles, boats and cargo, the LSD acts as the primary Control Ship or Secondary Control Ship at the Assault beach. The former is responsible for getting troops and cargo on the enemy beach following an intricate time table. The latter acts as a haven for amphibious boats and vehicles when the weather is inclement or when they need repairs. The Secondary Control Ship must also be prepared to assume the duties of the Primary Control Ship at any time.

With her helicopter flight deck, the LSD can land and launch all but the largest of the helicopters now in operational use. Quite frequently during an amphibious operation, helicopters are landed on an LSD to transfer troops, light cargo, and combat casualties.

An LSD has a capacity for emergency hull and engine repairs to landing craft and ships to LCU size.

Its armament, electronic equipment, speed and versatility make the LSD a most sought after ship in the Amphibious Forces. The design concept originated with the U.S. Navy early in World War II and is now used or adapted by several other Navies.

## STATISTICS

Keel Laid	6 June 1955
Launched	10 August 1956
Commissioned	29 March 1957
Length Overall	510 feet
Beam	85 feet
Draft	17-34 feet
Load Displacement	12,100 Tons
Ship's Company	20 Officers
Ship's Company	280 Enlisted
Armament	6 Mounts Twin 3" 50 cal
Shaft Horsepower	24,000 HP
Speed	In excess of 20 knots
Dock well	48 Ft. x 395 Ft.

### Landing Craft or Vehicle Capacity:

3 LCU's  
or 6 BARC's  
or 20 LCM's  
or 40 LCVP's  
or 56 LVT's  
or 59 DUKW's  
or 90 2½ Ton Trucks

Plus 4 Helicopters and 4 Ship's boats