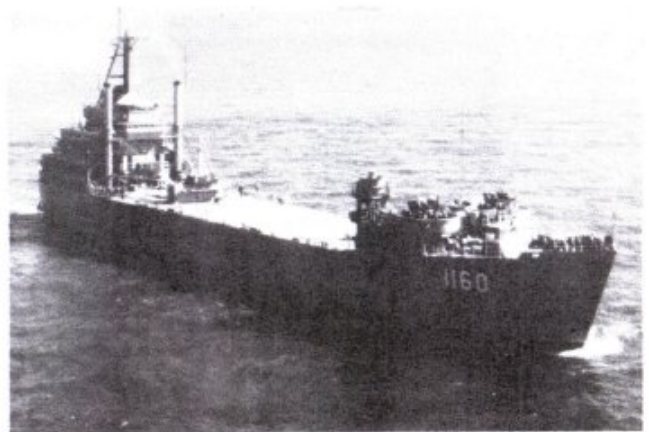


# Welcome Aboard



**USS TRAVERSE COUNTY**  
**LST - 1160**



LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JOHN T. SHERRILL, U. S. NAVY

In 1947 LCDR John T. Sherrill, entered the Navy and commenced a series of promotions from Apprentice Seaman to Chief Petty Officer. Prior to entering Officer Candidate School, Newport, Rhode Island, he had served in the following ships and units: Staff, Commander Naval Air Bases, FIFTH Naval District; USS BEXAR (APA-237); USS HAVEN (AH-12); Recruit Training Command, Bainbridge, Md.; Personnel Research Field Activity, Washington, D. C.; USS AMPHION (AR-13); Flag Administrative Unit, CINCLANTFLT.

Since commissioning in 1957, and prior to assuming command of U.S.S. TRAVERSE COUNTY in August 1967, he has served in the following billets: CIC Officer, Boat Group Commander, and Operations Officer, U.S.S. RANKIN (AKA-103); Gun Battery Officer and First Lieutenant, U.S.S. SPRINGFIELD (CLG-7); Commanding Officer, U.S.S. PORTAGE (PCE-902); Operations Officer, Fleet Training Group, Key West, Florida.

LCDR Sherrill is married to the former Courtney Brauer of Portsmouth, Virginia. The Sherrills have two children: John and Joyce.

#### HISTORY OF USS TRAVERSE COUNTY (LST-1160)

The LST-1160 was constructed by Bath Iron Works Corporation, Bath, Maine. The keel was laid on 18 December 1952, and she was launched on 3 October 1953. The ship was christened "Traverse County" on 1 July 1955 in honor of a county by that name in western Minnesota.

Among Traverse County's many deployments to the Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas were operations with Amphibious Squadron SIX during the Lebanon crisis in July 1958 and duties with COMSERV-FORSIXTHFLT in the fall of 1960. During her service force duties Traverse County received the nickname "Ever Greater Gator Freighter." In the fall of 1962 Traverse County participated in the Cuban Crisis as a fully combat ready unit.

The past year was especially active and busy for the crew of Traverse County. Two troop lifts to and from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, were followed closely by upkeep and reserve training periods. In May 1966, with Seal Team No. 2 and 30 tons of TNT aboard Traverse County sailed for the island of Eleuthra in the Bahama Islands. At the request of the Government of the Bahamas, the ship's crew and seal team combined forces in a channel improvement project at Eleuthra. Traverse County returned to her home port of Little Creek, Virginia via Green Turtle Cay, Great Abaco Islands where she retrieved a civil war cannon for the Navy Museum.

The remainder of June was spent in preparation for overseas movement. With troops and vehicles embarked, Traverse County departed on her seventh Mediterranean deployment which was to last from the end of June until early December. As a unit of Sixth fleet, Traverse County participated in amphibious assault landings at Porto Scudo, Sardinia; Bomba, Libya; Almeria, Spain; and Aranci Bay, Sardinia. The outstanding performances turned in during Underway Replenishment Exercises enabled Traverse County to capture the 6th Fleet record for LST Vertical Replenishment.

On her trans-Atlantic trip home, the ship escorted four minesweepers from Rota, Spain to Bermuda, refueling each five times during the transit and providing personnel, and lightline transfer services as needed. From January through April Traverse County was called upon to participate in FIREX 67, Operation Springboard and CLOVEHITCH III Exercises in the Caribbean Area. Upon returning in May a restricted shipyard availability awaited Traverse County.

Following this RAV period, Traverse County is again ready to undertake any mission which might be assigned to her as the "Keystone" of the Amphibious Force and the "Key Pawn" in the "Chess-Game" of Amphibious Warfare.