The LCS 2 Acceptance Trials, Phase II was completed on 10 June 2010. LCS 2 completed her first underway replenishment on 23 September 2010.

The LCS class consists of two variants, the Freedom variant and Independence variant - designed and built by two industry teams, respectively led by Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics, Bath Iron Works. These seaframes will be outfitted with reconfigurable payloads, called Mission Packages, which can be changed out quickly. Mission packages are supported by special detachments that will deploy manned and unmanned vehicles and sensors in support of mine, undersea and surface warfare missions.

Background
Initiated in February 2002, the LCS program represents a significant reduction in time to acquire, design and build ships in comparison to any previous ship class. USS Freedom (LCS 1), was delivered to the Navy on Sept. 18, 2008. USS Freedom was constructed by Lockheed Martin in the Marinette Marine Corporation's shipyard in Marinette, WI. USS Independence (LCS 2) was delivered to the Navy on Dec 18, 2009. USS Independence was constructed by General Dynamics, Bath Iron Works in the Austal USA shipyard in Mobile, Ala..

In 2009, fixed price incentive contracts were awarded to each of the current prime contractors. Lockheed Martin is responsible for the construction of LCS 3, (Fort Worth) which launched in December 2010. General Dynamics, BIW is responsible for the construction of LCS 4, (Coronado).

The Navy's LCS acquisition strategy to down select to a single design resulted in a highly effective competition and an industry response that resulted in significant potential savings in the LCS program. These competitive bids, coupled with the Navy's desire to increase ship procurement rates to support operational requirements, created an opportunity to award each bidder a fixed-price, 10 ship block buy for a total of 20 ships from fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2015.

Contracts were awarded to Lockheed Martin and Austal USA on December 29, 2010, for the construction of up to 10 ships (FY 2010 – FY 2015) each beginning with LCS 5 and LCS 6, respectively.

The Navy made the decision in 2009 to deploy LCS 1 nearly 2 years early and on 16 February 2010, LCS 1 deployed to the Fourth Fleet in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility. She deployed with a Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 22 detachment and a U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment. Freedom successfully conducted four drug seizures, netting more than five tons of cocaine, detained nine suspected drug smugglers, and disabled two 'go-fast' drug vessels.

Additionally, the Navy benefitted from LCS 1's early deployment by bringing operational issues to the forefront much sooner than under the original schedule, some of which would not have been learned until several more years had passed.

Early deployment provided a vital opportunity to collect data in real-world operational scenarios. This data will be invaluable in the ongoing effort to accomplish the larger LCS fleet integration strategy. Early deployment of LCS 1 was a tremendous opportunity to test the ship in a real-world environment and begin integrating this essential ship into our fleet.

The LCS plans to commission LCS 3, Fort Worth in 2012. General Dynamics will launch LCS 4, Coronado in early 2012. Lockheed Martin and Austal USA have started fabrication on LCS 5, Milwaukee and LCS 6, Jackson and are accomplishing pre-production efforts on LCS 7 Detroit and LCS 8 Montgomery, respectively.

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June 16, 2011 marked the first successful launch and recovery of the Remote Multi-Mission Vehicle (RMMV) from a Littoral Combat Ship. The deployment and recovery demonstration of the unmanned, remotely-operated RMMV was conducted from USS Independence (LCS 2) while underway.

The successful deployment and recovery of the RMMV from an LCS class ship while operating underway is a significant program milestone, and brings us one step closer to optimizing the Mine Countermeasure Mission Package. The combined mine hunting capabilities represented by RMS teamed with LCS will provide an advanced capability currently not in the Navy's mine warfare arsenal.

Point Of Contact
Office of Corporate Communication

General Characteristics, **Freedom variant**
**Builder:** Lockheed Martin  
**Length:** 378 ft. (115.3 meters)  
**Beam:** 57.4 ft. (17.5 meters)  
**Displacement:** approximately 3,000 MT full load  
**Draft:** 12.8 ft. (3.9 meters)  
**Speed:** 40+ knots  
**Ships:**  
- USS Freedom (LCS 1), San Diego, CA.  
- PCU Fort Worth (LCS 3), San Diego, CA, (future) - under construction  
- PCU Milwaukee (LCS 5) - under construction  
- PCU Detroit (LCS 7) - under construction

General Characteristics, **Independence variant**
**Builder:** General Dynamics  
**Length:** 419 ft. (127.6 meters)  
**Beam:** 103.7 ft. (31.6 meters)  
**Displacement:** approximately 3,000 MT full load  
**Draft:** 14.1 ft (4.3 meters)  
**Speed:** 40+ knots  
**Ships:**  
- USS Independence (LCS 2), San Diego, CA. (future)  
- PCU Coronado (LCS 4), San Diego, CA, (future) - under construction  
- PCU Jackson (LCS 6) - under construction  
- PCU Montgomery (LCS 8) - under construction

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