



News Release

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LCS 1 Leaves Marinette, Visits Duluth, Minn.

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Navy’s first Littoral Combat Ship, the future USS Freedom (LCS 1), sailed away from the Marinette Marine Corp., shipyard in Marinette, Wisc., Oct. 24. en route to Duluth, Minn., for a four-day port visit beginning Oct. 27.

The trip from Marinette to Duluth will be the first leg in the ship’s transit to Norfolk, Va., where the ship will undergo fleet testing and evaluation.

“The ship’s designers, builders and crew have done an exceptional job preparing Freedom for sailaway,” said Cmdr. Don Gabrielson, Freedom’s Blue Team commanding officer. “I’m proud to have been a part of this historic milestone.”

Last month, the Navy officially accepted delivery of Freedom from the Lockheed Martin/Marinette Marine/Gibbs and Cox team. Prior to delivery, the Navy’s Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) conducted Acceptance Trials aboard LCS 1 Aug. 17-21. INSURV found the ship to be "capable, well-built and inspection-ready" and recommended that the Chief of Naval Operations authorize delivery of the ship.

Freedom-class ships will help the U.S. Navy defeat growing littoral, or close-to-shore, threats including mine warfare, anti-submarine warfare and surface warfare. Littoral combat ships are fast, easy to maneuver, and are equipped with interchangeable mission modules that allow commanders to meet changing warfare needs.

Freedom is scheduled to commission Nov. 8 in Milwaukee.

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