USS Independence Sails Away from Mobile

WASHINGTON -- USS Independence (LCS 2) sailed away from Mobile, Ala., March 26, en route to Norfolk, Va., where the ship will spend approximately one year undergoing scheduled maintenance and certification.

“Sail away is an important milestone for any ship,” said Rear Adm. Jim Murdoch, Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program manager in the Navy’s Program Executive Office (PEO) Ships. “LCS 2 is the first of her kind, so we’re eager to see how the ship performs during an extended period at sea.”

USS Independence, a high-speed aluminum trimaran, is the first General Dynamics-variant LCS and was constructed at the Austal USA shipyard in Mobile. Acquired for the Navy by PEO Ships, the ship was welcomed to the Fleet Jan. 26 during a commissioning ceremony in Mobile. Since commissioning, the ship underwent a period of post-delivery tests and trials, and the crew was officially certified by the Navy to operate at sea.

LCS class ships, like USS Independence, are designed from the keel up to deliver efficient capability, capacity, and flexibility to the warfighter. The ships are designed to defeat asymmetric "anti-access" threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft. The 417-foot USS Independence will be outfitted with reconfigurable payloads, or mission packages, that can be changed out quickly. These mission packages focus on three mission areas: mine counter measures, surface warfare and anti-submarine warfare.

PEO Ships is responsible for the development and acquisition of U.S. Navy surface ships. PEO Ships is working in conjunction with its industry partners to achieve steady production for all programs to increase production efficiencies and leverage cost savings. Delivering high-quality war fighting assets — while balancing affordability and capability — is key to supporting the Navy’s Maritime Strategy and building the Navy’s 313-ship force structure.

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