



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



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## Littoral Combat Ship (LCS)

*"The LCS is a major part of our Navy's future and our ability to execute the new defense strategy. Its speed, agility and flexibility are designed to defeat growing littoral threats and provide access and dominance in coastal waters."*

– Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus

### Vital Asset to the Fleet

- The [Littoral Combat Ship \(LCS\)](#) will establish and maintain dominance in near-shore environments (littorals), a critical part of the Navy's ability to provide deterrence, sea control, and power projection around the world.
- Also capable of open-ocean tasking, LCS is equipped to defeat 21<sup>st</sup> century threats such as submarines, mines, and swarming small craft. The diversity provided by an LCS fleet greatly enhances operational flexibility and timely response to emergent tasking.
- By procuring both variants of LCS, the semi-planing monohull and the aluminum trimaran, the Navy is stabilizing the LCS program and the industrial base. The award of 20 ships (10 ships of each variant) increases ship procurement rates to support operational requirements and sustains competition through the program. The December 2010 award of the dual block-buy results in a \$2.9 billion savings to taxpayers.
- Both lead ships, [USS Freedom \(LCS 1\)](#) and [USS Independence \(LCS 2\)](#), are in service undergoing a comprehensive test and evaluation program in preparation for fleet operational tasking.

### The LCS Program Today

- The future USS Fort Worth (LCS 3) successfully completed acceptance trials May 4, testing the ship's major systems and equipment in port and underway in Lake Michigan.
- Modular design and mission packages allow the ship's mission to be tailored and be readily updated with new technology. Ships, mission modules, and mission systems undergoing integrated testing in FY12 include Surface Warfare (SUW) Mission Package testing on board LCS 1 and Mine Countermeasures (MCM) Mission Package testing on board LCS 2.
- [Fort Worth \(LCS 3\)](#), built at Marinette Marine in Marinette, Wis., will be delivered June 6, 2012. [Coronado \(LCS 4\)](#), under construction at Austal USA in Mobile, Ala., is expected to be delivered in 2013. [Milwaukee \(LCS 5\)](#) and Jackson (LCS 6) are both under construction, while Detroit (LCS 7) and Montgomery (LCS 8) are in pre-production stages. On March 16, the Navy provided funds to shipbuilders for the [FY12 ships](#): Little Rock (LCS 9), Gabrielle Giffords (LCS 10), Sioux City (LCS 11), and Omaha (LCS 12).

### Key Messages

- We remain committed to a 55-ship LCS program.
- The LCS acquisition strategy uses competition, fixed-price type contracts, and block-buy procurement in order to meet our overarching objectives of performance and affordability. The dual block-buy results in a \$2.9 billion savings to taxpayers.
- LCS and its mission packages will deliver enhanced capability currently provided by guided-missile frigates, mine-countermeasures ships, and patrol coastal ships – many of which will decommission over the next several years.

### Facts & Figures

- High speed and shallow draft assure access to the littorals.
- At the end of FY12, Navy will have 12 LCSs delivered, under construction, or under contract and 11 mission packages delivered or under contract.
- Engineering: combined gas turbine (2) and diesel (2) engines with steerable water jets; diesel generators (4).
- Read more about LCS at:  
<http://navylive.dodlive.mil/2012/05/04/big-week-for-lcs-program/>