

1. **Command Data**

- a. **Command:** USS FREEDOM (LCS 1) GOLD Crew
- b. **Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL:** 40494
- c. **Commanding Officer:** CDR Wilke, Timothy B.
- d. **Date Assumed Command:** 2012-07-27
- e. **Area of Operations:** Southern California Operation Area
- f. **Homeport:** Naval Base San Diego, CA
- g. **Immediate Superior In Command:**
  - 1) **Operational:** Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron ONE
  - 2) **Administrative:** Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron ONE
- h. **Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes:** (1) MH60-R "Battlecat 707"
- i. **Detachments Embarked:** Surface Warfare Detachment ONE; HSM-73 Combat Element ONE
- j. **Number of Personnel Assigned:**
  - 1) **GOLD Crew:** Officers-8 Enlisted-32
  - 2) **Surface Warfare Detachment ONE:** Officer-1 Enlisted-14
  - 3) **HSM-73 Combat Element ONE:** Officers-4 Enlisted-15

2. **Command Point of Contact:**

**Name:** LT [REDACTED]  
**Job Title/Office Code:** Assistant Operations Officer  
**E-mail:** [REDACTED]  
**Phone number(s):** [REDACTED]  
**Command Mailing Address:** USS FREEDOM (LCS 1) GOLD Crew  
3325 Senn Road, STE 7  
San Diego, CA 92136

3. **Commander's Assessment**

FREEDOM has come a long way from the beginning of the year where she was undergoing overhauls and repairs subsequent to a first post-shakedown availability. Now she will deploy in Spring 2013 with a highly trained and confident crew to the Western Pacific. My crew, which includes the core ship's crew, mission package detachment, and aviation detachment, worked extremely hard to ensure the ship will perform on deployment. It is a testament to the dedication and teamwork of my Sailors and the immense pride we take in our ship and profession.

In the span of one and a half months in October and November, my Sailors took the ship from her second post-shakedown availability to fully qualified and ready for deployment. In a three week time period, we successfully executed the ship's second Aviation Certification in a year,

Engineering Light Off Assessment, Damage Control Material Assessment, Combat Systems Equipment Light Off, Dock Trials, and Fast Cruise. Despite the grueling schedule and very little actual operational time, the crew got the ship underway and successfully completed Unit Level Training and the final phase of Aviation Certification. All assessable warfare areas were certified for full operations. We then completed our Advanced Group Sail SUWEX with USS SAMPSON (DDG 102), the first certification event ever conducted by an LCS. This marks the first time the ship has trained and operated extensively with another vessel since RIMPAC 2010. The ship and crew met and completed all tasking on time and in a highly professional manner.

FREEDOM is ready and eagerly awaits her first deployment. I have no doubt that our ship and crew will perform brilliantly.

### **3. Chronology**

05 JAN 2012 - U/W SOCAL OPAREA for post PSA 1 SEA TRIALS  
9-13 JAN 2012 - Aviation Certification  
23 JAN 2012 - AV 1.4A (Aviation Firefighting Certification)  
01 FEB 2012 - U/W SOCAL OPAREA  
23 FEB 2012 - Ammunition Offload  
25 FEB 2012 - U/W from Pier 4 NBSD to Graving Dock NBSD  
01 MAR 2012 - Safety Center Survey  
19-26 MAR 2012 - Operation Citadel Shield/ Solid Curtain  
07 APR 2012 - U/W from Graving Dock NBSD to Pier 4 NBSD  
09-11 APR 2012 - Hull Turnover to (LCS 1) BLUE Crew  
12-29 APR 2012 - Turnover Leave Period  
07 MAY 2012 - U/W SOCAL OPAREA for AV 1.4B (Helo Day)  
29 MAY-01 JUN 2012 - ATFP Training Week  
04-07 JUN 2012 - Damage Control Training Week  
13-15 JUN 2012 - Spring PFA  
25-29 JUN 2012 - Shore Based Trainer Week 1  
02-06 JUL 2012 - Shore Based Trainer Week 2  
09-13 JUL 2012 - Shore Based Trainer Week 3  
13 JUL 2012 - NAVCERT  
16-17 JUL 2012 - Aviation Firefighting Training  
27 JUL 2012 - Change of Command (CDR Wilke relieves CDR Weber)  
06-08 AUG 2012 - ATFP and DC Hull Certifications  
13-15 AUG 2012 - Hull Turnover to (LCS 1) GOLD Crew  
15 AUG 2012 - Post Shakedown Availability 2  
16 AUG 2012 - TYCOM SAR Certification  
05 SEP 2012 - Commander Naval Surface Forces VADM Copeman Visit  
14 SEP 2012 - CPO Pinning  
15 SEP 2012 - SAPR-L Training  
17-21 SEP 2012 - Engineering LOA Limited Team Trainer  
24-28 SEP 2012 - Aviation Certification

24-28 SEP 2012 - EOSS Hot Checks and equipment light off  
24 SEP-04 OCT 2012 - Combat Systems Software Upgrades and Light Off  
26 SEP 2012 - Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, Commander Naval Surface Forces VADM Copeman, and Naval Sea Systems Command VADM McCoy Visit  
01-05 OCT 2012 - Damage Control Material Assessment  
01-05 OCT 2012 - EOSS Cold Checks  
03 OCT 2012 - Commander Carrier Strike Group Eleven RDML Gumataotao Visit  
09-12 OCT 2012 - Engineering Light Off Assessment  
10 OCT 2012 - Commander Navy Regional Maintenance Center RDML Gale Visit  
15 OCT 2012 - Dock Trials  
15 OCT 2012 - Safe to Operate Verification  
16 OCT 2012 - Fast Cruise  
19-23 OCT 2012 - U/W SOCAL OPAREA for Sea Trials  
23 OCT 2012 - Ammunition Onload  
23 OCT 2012 - AV 1.4A (Aviation Firefighting Certification)  
25-29 OCT 2012 - U/W SOCAL OPAREA  
25 OCT 2012 - AV 1.4B (HELO Day)  
31 OCT-02 NOV 2012 - Unit Level Training Week 1 (DC/ATFP)  
31 OCT-04 NOV 2012 - Mission Package Onload  
05-09 NOV 2012 - U/W SOCAL OPAREA for Unit Level Training Week 2  
07 NOV 2012 - Chief of the Republic of Singapore RADM Ng, Singapore Defense Attaché BGEN Tan, and Singapore Head of Naval Intelligence SLTC Leon Visit  
12-16 NOV 2012 - U/W SOCAL OPAREA for Unit Level Training Week 3  
17-18 NOV 2012 - Aviation Detachment Onload  
19-25 NOV 2012 - U/W SOCAL OPAREA for Week One Work Ups  
26-30 NOV 2012 - U/W SOCAL OPAREA for Advanced Phase Group Sail (SUWEX)  
01-03 DEC 2012 - Hull Turnover to (LCS 1) BLUE Crew  
07-10 DEC 2012 - Fall Cycle 2012 PFA  
19 DEC 2012-07 JAN 2013 - Holiday Leave Period

### **Narrative**

USS FREEDOM (LCS 1) GOLD Crew completed her first Aviation Certification in JAN 2012. While underway on 01 FEB 2012, FREEDOM suffered a casualty to the port boost shaft seal, requiring the ship to be placed in the graving dock at Naval Base San Diego on 25 FEB 2012. While in the graving dock, FREEDOM completed a successful Naval Safety Center survey, where she scored well above the fleet average for CRUDES. GOLD Crew and Surface Warfare Detachment ONE, embarked on FREEDOM, also participated in the Navy-wide anti-terrorism/force protection exercise Operation Citadel Shield/Solid Curtain. FREEDOM exited

the graving dock at Naval Base San Diego following repairs and several system upgrades on 07 APR 2012 and conducted hull turnover to (LCS 1) BLUE Crew and SUW DET TWO.

After a post on-hull leave period, BLUE Crew executed the final phase of the Aviation Certification, AV 1.4B and Special Trials assessment administered by the Board of Inspection and Survey. GOLD Crew then entered its rapid refresh training phase which included required General Military Training lectures, basic and advanced damage control training, and anti-terrorism/force protection classroom and practical training. Following the rapid refresh, GOLD Crew completed its Spring physical fitness assessment with a 100% passing rate. From 25 JUN to 13 JUL, GOLD Crew executed the final phase of off-hull training in the shore-based trainer at the Littoral Combat Ship Training Facility. This training consisted of a multi-stage, continuous scenario designed to test watchstanding personnel in LCS specific mission areas and build proficiency. On 08 JUL, FREEDOM commenced Post Shakedown Availability 2. On 27 JULY, CDR Timothy Wilke relieved CDR Matthew Weber as Commanding Officer of GOLD Crew.

GOLD Crew completed ATFP and DC hull certifications 06-08 AUG and the hull turnover from BLUE Crew 13-15 AUG. GOLD Crew completed its TYCOM SAR Certification on 16 AUG, scoring 100%. From 24-28 SEP, GOLD Crew executed its second Aviation Certification of the year and Combat Systems and Engineering equipment light offs. The week of 01-05 OCT saw the crew complete Damage Control Material Assessment and Engineering equipment cold checks, the final steps to full activation of the plant. On 15 OCT, GOLD Crew completed Dock Trials and Safe to Operate Verification and fastcruise on 16 OCT in preparation for underway operations. GOLD Crew got underway for the first time in eight months from 19-23 OCT for sea trials. The crew completed AV1.4A (aviation firefighting certification) inport on 23 OCT and AV1.4B (helo day) underway on 25 OCT.

GOLD Crew executed week 1 of Unit Level Training (ULT) inport and Mission Package onload 31 OCT - 04 NOV. The weeks of 05-09 NOV and 12-16 NOV were spent underway executing ULT weeks 2 and 3. HSM-73 Combat Element ONE embarked 17-18 NOV and Week One Work Ups were conducted 19-25 NOV. GOLD Crew's final pre-deployment underway training, Advanced Phase Group Sail, was conducted with USS SAMPSON (DDG 102) 26-30 NOV. Following the successful completion of the on-hull period, the hull turnover with BLUE Crew was conducted 01-03 DEC.

Crew 102 had completed the following Warfare Mission Area Certifications prior to USS FREEDOM (LCS-1) maiden WESTPAC deployment: Aviation, Navigation, Anti-Terrorism Force

Protection, Damage Control, Engineering Light Off Assessment, IO, CCC, MOB-S, SW and Type Commander Search and Rescue.

#### **4. Supporting Reports**

None

#### **5. Published Documents**

GOLD Crew Change of Command Article:

<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/lcs1/Pages/USSEFreedomholdschangeofcommand.aspx>

Redeeming Freedom:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/Article.aspx?id=/article-xml/awx\\_11\\_30\\_2012\\_p0-523243.xml](http://www.aviationweek.com/Article.aspx?id=/article-xml/awx_11_30_2012_p0-523243.xml)

#### **6. Photographs**

a. Ship's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/USSEFreedom>

b. Commanding Officer's Biography and photo:

<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/lcs1/Pages/GoldBio1.aspx>

c. Executive Officer's Biography and photo:

<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/lcs1/Pages/GoldBio2.aspx>