



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

LCS Crew 101
3325 SENN RD, STE 7
SAN DIEGO, CA 92136

5750

LCS101/Ser 111

4 Feb 14

From: Commanding Officer, LCS CREW 101

To: LCSRON Command Historian

Subj: COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12K

Enc: (1) Ships Safety Excellence Award
(2) Engineering/Survivability Excellence Award
(3) Command, Control, Communications and Information Warfare Excellence Award
(4) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(5) Change of Command Pamphlet

1. Command Data

a. Command: Littoral Combat Ship CREW 101

b. Unit Identification Code (UIC): 40511

c. Commanding Officer: CDR Heinken, Roger D.

d. Date Assumed Command: 15 December 2013

e. Mission: USS FREEDOM (LCS 1) Southeast Asia maiden deployment

f. Homeport: San Diego, CA

g. Immediate: Superior In Command (ISIC):

(1) Operational: Commander, Destroyer Squadron SEVEN (While in SEVENTH Fleet); Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron ONE (While in THIRD Fleet)

(2) Administrative: Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron ONE

- (1) Commander Task Force SEVENTY THREE (CTF-73)
 - (a) Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) 2013.
 - (b) Limited Military Response Operations (LMRO)
 - (c) Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Cambodia (2013)/Brunei Passing Exercise (PASSEX)
- (2) Commander Task Force SEVENTY (CTF-70)/3rd Marines Expeditionary Battalion
 - (a) Operation DAMAYAN Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response, Tacloban, Philippines
- i. Type and number of Aircraft Assigned: One MH-60R, BATTLE CAT 707
- j. Detachments onboard: HSM-73 Combat Element ONE and Surface Warfare Mission Package Detachment TWO
- k. Number of Personnel Assigned: 53 Core Crew, 19 SUW Det TWO, 19 HSM-73
 - (1) Officers: 19
 - (2) Enlisted: 72
 - (3) Civilian: 3
- l. Command Point of Contact:
 - (1) Name: LT [REDACTED]
 - (2) Job Title: Navigator
 - (3) E-mail: [REDACTED]
 - (4) Phone number(s): [REDACTED]
 - (5) Command Mailing Address: USS FREEDOM (LCS 1)
LCS CREW 101
FPO AP 96601-0101

2. Commander's Assessment

USS FREEDOM (LCS 1), with Littoral Combat Ship CREW 101 embarked, was tasked with the operational testing of the LCS Concept of Operations while forward deployed to a high tempo, fast and demanding area of operations. The minimal manning concept, requirements for monthly Preventative Maintenance Availabilities and Continuous Maintenance Availabilities, as well as SEVENTH Fleet operational requirements provided an excellent opportunity to validate LCS ships as valued assets in an operational theater.

A key aspect of the deployment was assessing the execution of the rotational 3-2-1 concept in which three LCS crews rotate through rapid refresh ashore, followed by on-hull training and certification in CONUS as preparations for deployment to a forward based ship. LCS CREW 101 completed operational certifications underway in USS FREEDOM (LCS 1) and USS FORT WORTH (LCS 3), as well as completing Off-Hull Certification Training in the Littoral Combat Ship Training Facility. Despite an extended Off-Hull training regimen and short familiarization cruise upon arrival to Singapore, LCS CREW 101 was able to meet all necessary requirements to operate in the SEVENTH Fleet Area of Operations.

LCS Crew 101 admirably demonstrated that LCS can perform as designed while forward deployed. From building overseas partnerships through training exercises like SEACAT and CARAT events to operational tasking with Limited Military Response Operations and forward presence operations, LCS CREW 101 built the foundation for all other LCS Crews. As the LCS program moves forward and grows, only great things will come for both the LCS program office and operational commanders.

3. Chronology:

a. Narrative:

Prior to the first deployed LCS CREW Exchange of Command in Singapore on 6 August 2013, LCS CREW 101 last served on FREEDOM in February 2013. To prepare for the Exchange of Command, an advance party of eleven CREW 101 Sailors flew to

Command, an advance party of eleven CREW 101 Sailors flew to Changi Naval Base in Singapore a week prior to the arrival of the remainder of the crew. Among the turnover items conducted by the advance party were a thorough review of daily operations, SEVENTH Fleet Area of Operation specific items and maintenance/upkeep schedules, along with an underway portion to familiarize the incoming crew with the Singapore operational area. The rest of LCS CREW 101 flew by way of military air on 30 July 2013, and arrived in Singapore on 31 July 2013.

FREEDOM conducted its first overseas exchange of command on 6 August 2013, as LCS CREW 101 relieved LCS CREW 102. Two days later, the ship set sail for the South China Sea, followed by an inport period for scheduled maintenance. On 2 September 2013, FREEDOM got underway to participate in the 11th annual Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) exercise with navies from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. SEACAT consisted of numerous Visit, Board, Search and Seizure exercises building upon one another to create a storyline of drug interdiction with the assistance of embarked HSM-73 and SUW Mission Package Detachment TWO. In addition to the boarding exercises, SEACAT stressed the command and control abilities for the partner nations as they conducted maritime interdiction operations throughout the South China Sea.

FREEDOM then got underway to show its presence within the South China Sea near the Spratly Islands. Upon the return, FREEDOM plotted a course that brought her close to the Laconia Shoals. Any vessels within these areas were noted and forwarded on to Destroyer Squadron SEVEN.

Due to a casualty to the starboard steerable waterjet hydraulic power unit, FREEDOM was unable to get underway on 21 Oct 2013. The CREW focused on maintenance and replaced torn flight deck nets, and replacing the port and starboard water jet steerable cables.

Following repairs, FREEDOM coordinated a Division Tactics (DIVTACS) exercise with two Brunei Navy Warships as

the Surface Action Group commander. Following DIVTACS, FREEDOM was tasked to deliver humanitarian aid relief to typhoon stricken people in the Philippines. Utilizing FREEDOM's embarked MH-60R, ten pallets of Operation Handclasp supplies were delivered to the town of Tacloban off of Leyte Gulf as part of Operation DAMAYAN on 23-24 November 2013.

On 26 November 2013, FREEDOM participated in one final operational commitment prior to beginning the transit home to San Diego with the Bangladesh naval ship BNS SOMUNDR A JOY (F-28). Crossing paths in the Pacific Ocean, the ships interacted by conducting a personnel exchange, DIVTACS and a fire drill onboard FREEDOM.

FREEDOM continued the transit to homeport with two final stops. Inport Guam, FREEDOM conducted a stores and fuel onload, as well as welcoming newly arriving crew members. Following Guam, FREEDOM's last stop was Pearl Harbor, HI, where CDR Thien was properly relieved following his successful command tour as Commanding Officer by CDR Heinken on 15 December 2013. After this capstone, FREEDOM continued her voyage and arrived to greet family and friends in San Diego, CA on 23 December 2013. Following Christmas and New Year's with friends and families, CREW 101 conducted an Exchange of Command with LCS CREW 102 on 10 January 2014.

b. Dates of events:

27 Jul: Advance Party Arrival to Singapore
31 Jul: CREW 101 Arrival to Singapore
06 Aug: Exchange of Command with LCS CREW 102
08 Aug: Outbound Sembawang Naval Base, Singapore
19 Aug: Inbound Changi Naval Base, Singapore
02 Sep: Outbound Changi Naval Base, Singapore to South China Sea
04 Sep: Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) Malaysia
07 Sep: SEACAT Brunei
10 Sep: SEACAT Indonesia
11 Sep: SEACAT Singapore
11 Sep: Inbound Changi Naval Base, Singapore

23 Sep: Outbound Changi Naval Base, Singapore to South China Sea
26 Sep: Spratly Islands Transit
30 Sep: Inbound Changi Naval Base, Singapore
11 Nov: Outbound Changi Naval Base, Singapore to South China Sea
18 Nov: Inbound Brunei
19 Nov: Outbound Brunei to South China Sea
19 Nov: Passing Exercise Brunei
23-25 Nov: Operation DAMAYAN; Humanitarian Aid Disaster Relief
25 Nov: Passing Exercise Bangladesh
29 Nov: Inbound Apra, Guam
02 Dec: Outbound Apra, Guam to Pacific Ocean
13 Dec: Inbound Pearl Harbor, HI
15 Dec: Change of Command
16 Dec: Outbound Pearl Harbor, HI to Pacific Ocean
23 Dec: Inbound San Diego, CA
10 Jan: Exchange of Command

4. Supporting Reports:

- a. Ship's Safety Excellence Award
- b. Engineering/Survivability Excellence Award
- c. Command, Control, Communications and Information Warfare Excellence Award

5. Published Documents:

- a. Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
- b. Change of Command Pamphlet
- c. USS FREEDOM Facebook fan page located at:
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/USSFreedom>

d. Commander Naval Surface Force, Pacific Fleet Surface Ships, USS FREEDOM:
<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/lcs1/Pages/default.aspx>

6. Photographs:

a. Commanding Officer:



CDR Dale Heinken
December 2013 - Present



CDR Patrick Thien
May 2012 - December 2013

b. Executive Officer:



CDR Michael Atwell
December 2013 - Present




CDR Dale Heinken
May 2012 - December 2013

c. Ship Photo:



USS FREEDOM underway in the South China Sea
11 February 2013


R. D. HEINKEN