

Message from the CO

15 March 2024

From: Commanding Officer, USS CHARLESTON (LCS 18)

To: Future Sailors, Friends, and Families of USS CHARLESTON

Subj: WELCOME ABOARD

Greetings and Congratulations on receiving orders to USS CHARLESTON (LCS 18), a ship with a proud history and vast operational experience. If you have received orders to USS CHARLESTON (LCS 18), please email [sponsor@lcs18.navy.mil](mailto:sponsor@lcs18.navy.mil) and we will provide you with a sponsor to help make your transition as smooth as possible. We are excited to have you on board and welcome you to the USS CHARLESTON family!

Named after the great city of CHARLESTON, South Carolina, USS CHARLESTON is eternally linked to a city deeply intertwined with the story of America. Our ship draws its motto from our namesake state, and serves as a testament of the strength and determination and drive of all members of our team.

*“Dum spiro, certo: While we Breathe, WE FIGHT”*

Littoral Combat Ships are outfitted with the latest and most technologically advanced weapon systems at sea today. Powered by a revolutionary new propulsion plant, the LCS-class ships can reach high speeds in order to execute an incredible range of missions. But none of these systems can function without the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm of her crew. As a member of our team, you are essential to the success of our mission, which is to be project naval power aboard, and be prepared to conduct sustained combat operations at sea in support of national tasking.

Your experience aboard USS CHARLESTON will provide many unique opportunities and challenges. As representatives of our crew, the ship as a whole, and the entirety of the United States Navy, I expect all of our Sailors to live by the Navy core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

We look forward to see you joining us among our ranks as a CHARLESTON Sailor, and I am confident this will be an unforgettable tour for you.

## **WELCOME ABOARD**

CDR Matthew T. Knuth  
Commanding Officer  
USS CHARLESTON (LCS 18)

