



## Littoral Combat Ship Fact Sheet

The Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) is a fast, agile, mission-focused platform designed to operate near the shore against 21st-century coastal threats. The LCS is capable of supporting missions, forward presence, maritime security, sea control, and deterrence.

### One class, two variants

- The LCS class consists of two ship designs, or variants, known as the Freedom variant and the Independence variant. The ships are split between two squadrons: Littoral Combat Ship Squadron 1 (LCSRON ONE) in San Diego and Littoral Combat Ship Squadron 2 (LCSRON TWO) in Mayport, Florida. There are currently 22 commissioned LCS in the U.S. Navy (10 Freedom variants and 12 Independence variants).
  - Freedom (Odd-numbered hulls, e.g. LCS 1)
    - Built by Lockheed Martin
    - All but two of the Freedom variants are assigned to LCSRON 2 in Mayport, Florida.
      - Two Freedom variants, USS Freedom (LCS 2) and USS Fort Worth (LCS 3) are in San Diego.
      - Size of a Freedom-class variant
        - Length: 387 ft
        - Beam: 58 ft
        - Draft: 13 ft
  - Independence (Even-numbered hulls, e.g. LCS 2)
    - Constructed by Austal USA.
    - Aluminum trimaran design
    - Assigned to LCSRON 1 in San Diego.
      - Size of an Independence-class variant
        - Length: 418 ft
        - Beam: 104 ft
        - Draft: 14 ft

### What can an LCS do?

- LCS have three mission modules. These mission modules include Surface Warfare (SUW), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), and Mine Countermeasures (MCM). USS Kansas City (LCS 22) is outfitted with the Surface Warfare (SW) module.
- Earlier in 2021, we had six LCS forward deployed to the Fourth and Seventh Fleet Area of Operations: USS Freedom (LCS 1), USS Jackson (LCS 6), USS Gabrielle Giffords (LCS 10), USS Sioux City (LCS 11), USS Wichita (LCS 13), and USS Tulsa (LCS 16)
- LCS Currently deployed to Fourth Fleet: USS Billings (LCS 15)
- LCS Currently deployed to Seventh Fleet: USS Tulsa (LCS 16) and USS Charleston (LCS 18)
- LCS platforms have conducted freedom of navigation operations, theater security cooperation operations, maritime law enforcement operations, maritime counter-piracy operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, search and rescue operations, maritime domain awareness patrols, and maritime security operations during both past and current deployments.



### **How fast can an LCS travel?**

- A LCS can reach speeds faster than 40 knots (roughly 46-50 mph). Most warships in the U.S. Navy can only reach speeds up to 30 knots (36-40 mph).

### **The Ship's Crew**

- Typically, an LCS operates with a crew of 40 people.
- Like submarines and minesweepers, LCS uses a two crew model for every one ship when they are deployed forward. That means every four to five months on average, a new crew comes onboard and relieved the current crew.
- This gives LCS crews the opportunity for more individual Sailor training, advanced qualification completion, and rest and recovery periods.

### **LCS Training**

LCS training is conducted at Littoral Combat Ship Training Facility (LTF). LTF facilitates the two training concepts of Freedom and Independence variants: Train to Qualify (T2Q) and Train to Certify (T2C). T2Q is for individuals at the basic level, and T2C is for watchteams that are training at a more advanced level.

- LCS Training Systems
  - LCS training systems are revolutionary virtual reality environments meant for both individuals and watchteams to obtain immersive training in areas including basic and advanced operations, watchstanding, combat systems, navigation, maintenance, and engineering.
  - The virtual reality training simulators assist in providing LCS Sailors with the knowledge and experience required prior to joining their highly skilled crews.