

LCS Indianapolis Completes Acceptance Trials



LCS 17, the future USS Indianapolis, during Acceptance Trials in Lake Michigan on June 19, 2019. LCS TEAM FREEDOM MARINETTE,

Wis. – Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) 17, the future USS Indianapolis, completed acceptance trials in Lake Michigan, Lockheed Martin said in a June 26 release. This is the ship's final significant milestone before the ship is delivered to the U.S.

Navy. LCS 17 is the ninth Freedom-variant LCS designed and built by the Lockheed Martin-led industry team and is slated for delivery to the Navy this year.

“LCS 17 is joining the second-largest class of ships in the U.S. Navy fleet, and we are proud to get the newest Littoral Combat Ship one step closer to delivery,” said Joe DePietro, Lockheed Martin vice president and general manager, Small Combatants and Ship Systems. “This ship is lethal and flexible, and we are confident that she will capably serve critical U.S. Navy missions today and in future.”

Unique among combat ships, LCS is designed to complete close-to-shore missions and is a growing and relevant part of the Navy's fleet.

- It is flexible – with 40 percent of the hull easily reconfigurable, LCS can be modified to integrate capabilities including over-the-horizon missiles, advanced electronic warfare systems and decoys.
- It is fast – capable of speeds in excess of 40 knots.
- It is lethal – standard equipped with Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) and a Mark 110 gun, capable of firing 220 rounds per minute.
- It is automated – with the most efficient staffing of any combat ship.

The trials included a full-power run, maneuverability testing, and surface and air detect-to-engage demonstrations of the ship's combat system. Major systems and features were demonstrated, including aviation support, small boat launch handling, and recovery and machinery control and automation.

"I am extremely proud of our LCS team including our shipbuilders at Fincantieri Marinette Marine," said Jan Allman, Fincantieri Marinette Marine president and CEO. "These are complex vessels, and it takes a strong team effort to design, build and test these American warships."

Future LCS USS Cincinnati Delivered to Navy



LCS 20's sponsor Penny Pritzker, former Commerce secretary, christens the future USS Cincinnati last May. U.S. Navy via Austal USA

MOBILE, Ala. – Austal USA delivered its 10th Independence-variant littoral combat ship to the U.S. Navy, the company announced in a release, as the future USS Cincinnati (LCS 20) will be the 18th LCS to enter the fleet.

“It’s so exciting to deliver another great warship to the U.S. Navy,” Austal USA President Craig Perciavalle said. “I’m so proud of our incredible team here at Austal USA, our industry and Navy partners for achieving this major milestone for the future USS Cincinnati.”

Five small surface combatants are presently under various stages of construction at Austal’s Alabama shipyard. The future USS Kansas City (LCS 22) is preparing for sea trials. Assembly is underway on the future USS Oakland (LCS 24) and the future USS Mobile (LCS 26), and modules are under construction for the future USS Savannah (LCS 28) and the future USS Canberra (LCS 30) with four more under contract through LCS 38.

“The shipbuilding momentum here is second to none, led by the most talented shipbuilding professionals I’ve ever worked

with,”

Perciavalle said. “This momentum and efficiency continue to result in incredible cost savings ship over ship, enabling us to provide highly capable but very cost-effective solutions to our Navy.”

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Austal USA President Craig Perciavalle

More than 700 suppliers in 40 states contribute to the Independence-variant LCS program. This supplier base supports tens of thousands of small business to large business jobs.

LCS is a highly maneuverable, lethal and adaptable ship designed to support focused mine countermeasures, anti-submarine warfare and surface warfare missions. The Independence-variant LCS integrates new technology and capability to support current and future mission capability from deep water to the littorals.

Austal is also under contract to build 14 Expeditionary Fast Transport vessels (EPF) for the Navy. The company has delivered 10 EPFs while an additional two are in various stages of construction.

Marine Corps Awards BAE Team Contract to Develop ACV Family of Vehicles



Marines from the Amphibious Combat Vehicle new equipment training team complete an operator course in the vehicle. BAE and Iveco Defence Vehicles will team to produce the ACV Family of Vehicles. U.S. Marine Corps/Ashley Calingo
STAFFORD, Va. – BAE Systems along with teammate Iveco Defence Vehicles has been awarded a \$67 million contract modification by the U.S. Marine Corps to develop new variants for the Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV) Family of Vehicles, BAE announced in a release.

“The ACV has proven to be a versatile platform capable of numerous configurations to meet current and future mission requirements,” said John Swift, director of amphibious programs at BAE. “With this award, BAE Systems will be able to develop a family of vehicles that will deliver the technology and capability the Marines require to accomplish their mission in support of our national security.”

The contract calls for the design and development of command (ACV-C) and 30 mm medium caliber cannon (ACV-30) variants. The ACV-C variant incorporates seven workstations to provide situational awareness and control of the battle space. The ACV-30 integrates a 30 mm cannon to provide the lethality and

protection Marines need while leaving ample room for troop capacity and payload.

BAE Systems was previously awarded a low-rate initial production contract last June 2018 for the personnel variant (ACV-P). The Marine Corps announced the ACV had successfully completed anticipated requirements testing and would no longer be pursuing an envisioned incremental ACV 1.1 and ACV 1.2 development approach. The program is now known as the ACV Family of Vehicles, which encompasses the breadth and depth of the vehicle's capabilities and multiple variants.

Mercury Systems Garner \$16 Million in DRFM Jammer Orders from U.S. Navy

ANDOVER, Mass. – Mercury Systems Inc. has received an \$16 million more orders against its \$152 million five-year agreement to deliver advanced Digital RF Memory (DRFM) jammers to the U.S. Navy, the company announced in a release.

The orders were received in the fourth quarter of the company's fiscal

2019 year and are expected to be delivered over the next several quarters.

[#PressRelease](#): Mercury Systems Receives \$16M in DRFM Jammer Orders from [@USNavyhttps://t.co/SmmTwONNCC](#)

– Mercury Systems (@MRCY) [June 24, 2019](#)

Mercury DRFM

jammers are size-, weight- and power-optimized to meet the requirements of airborne pod-based solutions and incorporate decades of DRFM technology development, validated electronic attack techniques and custom RF components.

“Our design and manufacturing teams remain committed to meeting the growing demands for mission-critical components for the U.S. military’s electronic warfare (EW) test and training program,” said Brian Perry, president of Mercury Defense Systems.

“In addition to satisfying current requirements for DRFM technology, Mercury is focused on developing the innovative solutions essential for the next generation of advanced DRFM capabilities to address broader system requirements and a more complex [electronic warfare] concept of operations.”

Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk Returns After 90-Day Eastern Pacific Patrol



Petty Officer 3rd Class Ricky Ogborn helps free an entangled sea turtle in the eastern Pacific Ocean on June 3 during the Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk's just-concluded 90-day patrol. U.S. Coast Guard

KEY WEST,

Fla. – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk (WMEC-913) returned to their

homeport in Key West following a 90-day counter-smuggling patrol in support of

Joint Interagency Task Force-South and operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean,

the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

The Mohawk

crew, along with Coast Guard crews from Tactical Law Enforcement Team-South,

Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron and multiple partner

agencies, interdicted more than 16,500 pounds of cocaine and more than 1,500

pounds of marijuana to counter and disrupt the illegal smuggling operations of

transnational criminal organizations.



Cutter Mohawk patrols the eastern Pacific Ocean in May. U.S. Coast Guard

The cutter

crew also conducted joint operations with crews from the Costa Rica Servicio

Nacional de Guardacostas, in which they assisted in the rescue

of four Costa Rican mariners. The Mohawk crew also rescued four sea turtles entangled in fishing gear.

The Coast

Guard increased U.S. and allied presence in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Basin, which are known drug transit zones off Central and South America. During at-sea interdictions in international waters, a suspect vessel is initially located and tracked by allied, military or law-enforcement personnel coordinated by JIAFT-S. The interdictions, including the actual boarding, are led and conducted by U.S. Coast Guardsmen. The law-enforcement phase of counter-smuggling operations in the Eastern Pacific is conducted under the authority of the Coast Guard 11th District headquartered in Alameda, California.

The cutter Mohawk is a 270-foot medium-endurance cutter, whose missions include search and rescue, maritime safety and security, and maritime law enforcement operations, such as illegal migrant and drug interdiction operations.

Coast Guard Cutter Dependable Returns to Homeport After 62-Day Patrol

PORTSMOUTH,

Va. – The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Dependable returned on June 22 to Little Creek, Virginia, after completing a 62-day Mid-Atlantic fisheries patrol, the Coast Guard 5th District said in a release.

From New

Jersey to South Carolina, the Dependable's boarding teams conducted 39

boardings and inspected the catch, gear and lifesaving equipment of U.S.

fishing vessels to ensure they met all required federal laws and regulations.

During the

patrol, the Dependable's boarding team members identified a variety of

lifesaving equipment concerns on board several commercial and recreational

fishing vessels. The boarding team members helped those mariners fix their

issues on the spot and educated them on the importance of maintaining their equipment.

“Living

marine resource patrols are vital to ensuring the continued stability of the

multibillion-dollar U.S. seafood industry as well as the stewardship and

sustainability of living marine resources, such as fish, turtles and marine protected species,” said Cmdr. Rula Deisher, commanding officer of Coast Guard Cutter Dependable.

“Our boarding team members ensured that the mariners’ safety and fishing gear were fully operational and that they were operating within U.S. fishing regulations. We enjoyed the opportunity to serve the public so close to our homeport.”

The Dependable is a 210-foot medium-endurance cutter homeported in Little Creek and routinely deploys in support of counter-drug and alien migrant interdiction, living marine resources and search-and-rescue missions.

Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant Crew Returns Home After Caribbean Patrol



A Coast Guard Cutter Robert Yered small boat crew gives life jackets to 50 migrants about 46 miles north of Cap Haïtien, Haiti, on May 20. The Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant crew transferred the migrants back to their country of origin. U.S. Coast Guard

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter

Vigilant returned home June 23 to Cape Canaveral after a two-month Caribbean patrol, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

The crew's patrol focused on enforcing U.S. federal laws by conducting boardings of U.S. and international vessels throughout the Caribbean basin while working with other government agencies and international partners to maintain national security.

While on patrol, the crew ensured the safe return of 50 Haitian migrants to their home country after their illegal and dangerous voyage was disrupted by the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Robert Yered, a fast-response cutter homeported in Miami. The crew was also involved in a search for a person reported to be in the water after falling overboard from his sailing vessel.

The Vigilant crew interdicted a go-fast vessel illegally smuggling 7,800 pounds of garlic from Haiti to the Dominican Republic. Garlic smuggling is a global issue on the rise and has had negative impacts on the agricultural industry in the Dominican Republic in the last few years.

Upon hearing of the interdiction, the Dominican navy sent a ship to meet the Vigilant to take over the case for the prosecution. The contraband was valued at about

\$30,000 and was the largest Coast Guard seizure of its kind.

During their 59-day patrol, the crew worked with agencies such as the Jamaican Defense Force, Royal Bahamian Defense Force, Dominican navy, U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and the U.S. Navy.

The Vigilant is a multimission 210-foot medium-endurance cutter whose missions include illegal drug and migrant interdiction as well as search and rescue. The Vigilant patrols throughout the Caribbean basin and Atlantic seaboard to ensure safety of life at sea and enforce international and domestic laws.

Marine Corps Awards Lightweight Body Armor Insert Contract to Point Blank Enterprises

POMPANO

BEACH, Fla. – Point Blank Enterprises Inc. has been awarded a \$215.9 million body armor contract by the Marine Corps Systems Command, the company announced in a June 24 release.

The Marine

Corps Low Intensity Threat Environment (LITE) body armor insert is a new small-arms protective insert that is designed to improve the survivability and mobility of Marines by maximizing ballistic protection at a reduced weight.

“Reducing

Marine burden by providing innovative and lightweight armor solutions along

with our high-quality manufacturing capabilities is our expertise,” said Brian

Kopan, Point Blank’s senior vice president of engineering and technology. “Whether

we are designing armor systems for vehicles or individual protection equipment,

our mission is always focused on saving the life of those that protect us.”

For more than 43 years,

Point Blank Enterprises has provided products and designs engineered to

maximize ballistic protection. Point Blank has shipped body armor solutions to U.S.

servicemen and women, law enforcement, corrections officers, federal agents and

other national and international customers.

Navy Secretary Names Newest

Towing, Salvage and Rescue Ship Cherokee Nation



An artist rendering of the future USNS Cherokee Nation (T-ATS 7). U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Paul L. Archer

WASHINGTON

– Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer has announced the newest towing, salvage and rescue ship will be named Cherokee Nation in honor of the service and contributions the Cherokee people have made to the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, the secretary's public affairs office said in a June 21 release.

“It is my privilege to announce that the many Cherokee Nation citizens who've served throughout the years will be remembered with the highest honor a secretary of the Navy can bestow, the naming of a ship,” Spencer said.

This is the fifth U.S. ship to be named in honor of the Cherokee people.

“The Cherokee Nation is extremely honored that the U.S. Navy is recognizing our tribal nation and the generations of Cherokee men and women who have bravely and humbly sacrificed for our freedom today,” Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker said.

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“Our

Cherokee people have contributed in every major battle and war ever fought in this country and continue to serve in the armed forces in some of the highest rates per ethnicity. Cherokees are a strong, resilient people, and we are privileged to have a U.S. ship at sea that reflects both our country and tribe’s history and values.”

Gulf

Island Shipyards was awarded a \$64.8 million contract option for the detail design and construction of the new Ship, which will be based on existing commercial towing offshore vessel designs and will replace the current T-ATF 166 and T-ARS 50 class ships in service with the U.S. Military Sealift Command. The Cherokee Nation is the second ship in the new class of towing, salvage and rescue ships and will be designated T-ATS 7.

The contract

includes options for potentially six additional vessels, and each additional ship will be named in honor of prominent Native Americans or Native American tribes.

The T-ATS

will serve as open ocean towing vessels and will additionally support salvage operations and submarine rescue missions. The

ship will be built at the company's shipyard in Houma, Louisiana, and is expected to be completed in July 2021.

JLTV Approved for Full-Rate Production for Marine Corps, Army



A Joint Light Tactical Vehicle during a live demonstration at School of Infantry-West, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, in February. U.S. Marine Corps/Sgt. Timothy Smithers

WASHINGTON

– Bruce Jette, assistant secretary of the U.S. Army for acquisition, logistics

and technology, on June 20 approved the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV)

program's transition into full-rate production, the Army Program Executive

Office for Combat Support and Combat Service Support announced in a release.

The

approval follows an Army decision in December to begin fielding the new

platform with the Army's 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart,

Georgia, in April. The 1-3 ID became the Army's first unit equipped with JLTVs

in April after receiving more than 300 vehicles.

Fieldings

to the Ordnance School, Fort Lee, Virginia, the 84th Training Command, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, the Marine Corps' School of Infantry-West at Camp Pendleton, California, as well as the Marine School of Infantry-East, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, have also been completed.

"Thanks

to tremendous teamwork across two services on requirements, resources, program management, testing and other areas, this is a great modernization success story.

JLTV shows how teams focused on stable requirements, mature technologies and the right incentives can deliver meaningful capability advancements in a cost-conscious way," said Jeffrey White, Jette's principal deputy.

The JLTV

family of vehicles is designed to restore payload and performance that were traded from light tactical vehicles to add protection in recent conflict, giving commanders an improved protected mobility solution and the first vehicle purpose-built for modern battlefield networks.

"Getting

an improved capability into the hands of Soldiers and Marines has been our team's driving focus throughout this program," said Michael Sprang, project manager, Joint Program Office, Joint Light Tactical Vehicles.

"We

are also grateful for Soldier feedback on new features and enhancements,” Sprang continued. “The Soldiers of the 1st ABCT, 3rd Infantry Division provided valuable input on enhancements such as increased situational awareness, reduction of system noise, a troop seat kit, and a companion JLTV trailer. Their assessments helped bring us all to a successful Full-Rate Production decision.”

The JLTV program remains on schedule and on budget to replace a significant portion of the Army’s High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle fleet. The JLTV comes in two variants and four mission package configurations: general purpose, close combat weapons carrier, heavy guns carrier and a utility vehicle. The U.S. Navy and Air Force also plan to field JLTVs in much smaller quantities.

“The full-rate production decision is a key milestone for the JLTV program, closing out the low-rate initial production (LRIP) phase, which began in 2015, George Mansfield, vice president and general manager of joint programs for Oshkosh Defense, said in a June 21 statement. “Important insights from manufacturing and rigorous developmental and operational test during LRIP contributed to shaping the vehicle’s current configuration. The program remains on schedule and on budget and ensures our troops have the protection, connection and extreme off-road mobility they need today for

current and future
battlefields. The JLTV is the only light tactical vehicle
being fielded today
that can maneuver within combat formations.”