

Minneapolis-Saint Paul Wraps Acceptance Trials



The future USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul during acceptance trials on Lake Michigan. LOCKHEED MARTIN

MARINETTE, Wis. – Littoral Combat Ship 21, the future USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul, has completed acceptance trials in Lake Michigan, Lockheed Martin said in an Aug. 24 release.

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.

Now that trials are complete, the ship will undergo final outfitting and fine-tuning before delivery to the U.S. Navy. LCS 21 is the 11th Freedom-variant LCS designed and built by the Lockheed-led industry team and is slated for delivery to the Navy early next year.

"LCS 21 joins a fleet of sister ships delivering unique flexibility and capability to the U.S. Navy," said Joe DePietro, Lockheed Martin vice president and general manager of small combatants and ship systems. "Freedom-variant LCS are inherently capable to serve freedom of navigation, drug interdiction and humanitarian missions, and with additional capabilities onboarded, they can serve further focused missions. On LCS 21's acceptance trials, we successfully tested the ship's maneuverability, automation and core combat capability."

The Freedom-variant has completed four successful deployments, including the USS Detroit's deployment this summer. The Detroit deployed to the U.S. Southern Command supporting the Martillo campaign – a multinational effort targeting illicit

trafficking routes in Central American coastal waters.

Regarding LCS' capabilities, U.S. Southern Commander Adm. Craig Faller recently stated, "LCS has proven to be an effective and adaptable platform capable of multiple missions in our area of responsibility. It has become an end-game enabler for U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement authorities who disrupt transnational criminal organizations and the smuggling of deadly narcotics. Adding the LCS to our enhanced counter-narcotics operation is helping save lives."

Unique among combat ships, the focused-mission LCS is designed to support mine countermeasures, anti-submarine and surface warfare missions and is easily adapted to serve future and evolving missions.

"I am pleased to see another successful acceptance trials on Lake Michigan," said Jan Allman, chief executive officer of Fincantieri Marinette Marine. "Together with our partners, Lockheed Martin and the U.S. Navy, our proud shipbuilding team puts in long hours to deliver a proven warship for the fleet."