

Navy's Second Next-Gen Landing Craft Exits Acceptance Trials



The first Ship to Shore Connector, Craft 100, has been delivered by Textron Systems. The second, LCAC 101, successfully concluded acceptance trials the week of June 8. Textron Systems

NEW ORLEANS — The U.S. Navy's next-generation landing craft, the Ship to Shore Connector (SSC), Land Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC) 101, concluded acceptance trials the week of June 8 after completing a series of graded in-port and underway demonstrations for the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV), the Program Executive Office (PEO) Ships said in a release.

During the trials, the craft underwent integrated testing to demonstrate the capability of the platform and installed systems across all mission areas to effectively meet its requirements.

These demonstrations are used to validate the quality of construction and compliance with Navy specifications and requirements prior to delivering the craft. As INSURV is the approving authority for ships and craft undergoing acceptance trials, LCAC 101 can now begin preparing for delivery.

"The first operational production unit for the next-generation landing craft, LCAC 101, performed well having incorporated lessons learned from the recent Craft 100 at-sea trials," said Tom Rivers, amphibious warfare program manager for PEO Ships. "LCAC 101 successfully demonstrated the ability to operate both on and off cushion at full load through the full range of speed, payload and maneuvering requirements."

The SSC is the replacement for the existing fleet of legacy LCAC vehicles and will primarily transport weapon systems, equipment, cargo and personnel of the assault elements through varied environmental conditions from amphibious ships to and over the beach.

SSCs are constructed at Textron Systems, Marine & Land Systems in Slidell, Louisiana, and are built with similar configurations, dimensions and clearances to legacy LCAC, ensuring compatibility with existing well deck equipped amphibious ships as well as expeditionary transfer dock and expeditionary sea bases. Textron has delivered Craft 100, has completed testing on LCAC 101 and is in production on 12 craft with an additional 10 on contract.