

Ship to Shore Connector LCACs Get Lift of Opportunity Aboard Future USS Fort Lauderdale



The Navy's newest amphibious transport dock ship is transporting the Navy's newest connectors to their new homeport, highlighting the significant capabilities being delivered to the Navy from the Gulf Coast. *U.S. NAVY / Ronnie Newsome*

WASHINGTON – The Navy's newest amphibious transport dock ship is transporting the Navy's newest connectors to their new homeport, highlighting the significant capabilities being delivered to the Navy from the Gulf Coast.

Ship to Shore Connector, Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC) 103

and 104, received a lift of opportunity aboard future USS Fort Lauderdale (LPD 28), July 16, Team Ships Public Affairs said July 19.

During LPD 28's transit from Huntington Ingalls Industries' Ingalls Shipbuilding Division in Pascagoula, Mississippi, to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where the ship will soon be commissioned, the newest LPD worked with Assault Craft Unit 4 (ACU 4) as LCAC 103 and 104 entered the well deck. The craft will remain aboard the ship as it transits to its homeport in Norfolk after commissioning.

"As the future USS Fort Lauderdale readies for commissioning, the L00 [lift of opportunity] provides the opportunity to further demonstrate a capability that will be essential to the future amphibious fleet for years to come," said Capt. Cedric McNeal, program manager, Amphibious Warfare Program Office, Program Executive Office Ships. "We welcome the opportunity to bring together key Navy and Marine Corps next generation capabilities as we look to strengthen and advance the amphibious maritime mission."

LCAC 103 and 104, delivered to the Navy by Textron Systems in December 2021 and June 2022 respectively, have been at Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division receiving post-delivery upgrades and participating in test and trials events. Once the craft are in Norfolk, they will proceed to ACU 4 in Little Creek, Virginia, where they will join LCAC 101 and 102 to continue post-delivery test and trials and fleet introduction.

LCACs/SSCs are used primarily to transport vehicles, heavy equipment, and supplies through varied environmental conditions, from amphibious ships to over the beach. Delivery of this craft will significantly enhance the Navy's and Marine Corps' capability to execute a broad spectrum of missions well into the 21st century, from humanitarian assistance and disaster response to multidimensional amphibious assault.