

USS Detroit Begins Operational Testing of LCS Surface-to-Surface Missile Module

NORFOLK, Va. – USS Detroit (LCS 7) began initial operational test and evaluation (IOT&E) of the Surface-to-Surface Missile Module (SSMM) Nov. 17, two months ahead of schedule, Naval Sea Systems Command reported in a Nov. 30 release.

The SSMM is the newest addition to the littoral combat ship Surface Warfare Mission Package, designed to counter potential swarms of attacking armed small craft. The Navy's Program Executive Office for Unmanned and Small Combatants accelerated the package's operational testing following successful developmental and integrated testing off the coast of Virginia from July through November.

The test and evaluation plan involves two fast inshore attack craft raid events that utilize the SSMM and Gun Mission Module (GMM), consisting of two 30 mm guns, and 57 mm weapons systems. IOT&E completion is planned for early 2019.

The test and evaluation regime is the next step toward declaring initial operational capability (IOC) and fielding the SSMM with the Surface Warfare Mission Package. Included in the SSMM, are 24 Longbow Hellfire missiles; Gun Mission Module, Maritime Security Module, containing two 11-meter rigid-hull inflatable boats; and the Aviation Mission Module, including an MH-60R Seahawk helicopter and a Vertical Take-Off Unmanned Air Vehicle. It was designed to complement the ship's organic weaponry to counter small-boat swarming threats and provide a visit, board, search and seizure capability.

The Gun Mission Module, Maritime Security Module and Aviation

Mission Module all achieved IOC in November 2014 and have embarked on multiple deployments on both Freedom and Independence LCS variants, providing much-needed visit, board, search and seizure and small boat defense capabilities in the dynamic and congested sea lanes, straits and archipelagos of South and Southeast Asia.