

OPNAVINST 5750.12J
14 Mar 2005

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Classification (when filled in): UNCLAS

Command Operations Report

1. Command Data

Name of your Command or Organization: USS FREEDOM Blue (LCS 1)

Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL: 40511

Name and Rank of Commanding Officer:

Last: Edwards, First: James, M.I.: W Rank: CDR

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): 2010-07-31

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations: Emergent Dry-docking, RIMPAC 2010, Off-Hull Rapid Refresh Training Period, Sea State Testing, Post Delivery Trials and Testing, Final Contract Trial preparations

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): San Diego, CA

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: LCSRON ONE

Administrative: LCSRON ONE

Identify your assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s). Include OPLAN(s) and or named operations you participated in during Task Force assignment (if applicable): Task Force 151 under IKECSG during COMPTUEX

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable):

-HSC 22 Det 2

-USS FREEDOM (LCS 1) Blue SUW Mission Package

-MSRON NECC

Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes, if applicable:

-HSC 22 Det 2 MH-60S Sin City 11

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable): N/A

Number of Personnel Assigned:

- Core Crew: Officers: 8 Enlisted: 32
- SUW Mission Package: Officers: 1 Enlisted: 13
- Aviation Det: Officers: 4 Enlisted: 19
- NECC Det: Enlisted: 12

Command Point of Contact (required entry, complete in full):

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name): LTJG [REDACTED]

Job Title/Office Code: Navigator

E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available): [REDACTED]

Phone number(s): [REDACTED]

Command Mailing Address: LCS CREW BLUE UNIT 25601 FPO AP 96601-0101

2. Commander's Assessment

2010 was a year of great accomplishment for FREEDOM Blue, as well as the LCS program as a whole. Whether it was preparing for and executing FREEDOM's successful participation in Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2010, or taking the ship to her limits during sea state testing, FREEDOM Blue repeatedly proved that we are truly "Fast, Focused, Fearless".

The early part of 2010 was spent off-hull preparing for RIMPAC 2010. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Operations department, the crew was able to recertify during the rapid refresh period, as well as execute an intensive training plan. The effort invested in this preparation paid large dividends during RIMPAC.

Upon taking the hull in April, efforts intensified to prepare the ship materially for RIMPAC. Preparations were interrupted by the discovery that the hub seal on the starboard boost jet was leaking oil, requiring the ship to enter into an emergent dry-dock period. The combined efforts and expertise of Engineering department, as well as the Material Readiness department of LCSRON ONE ensured the necessary repairs were affected and FREEDOM was ready to sail for RIMPAC 2010.

Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2010 was an outstanding opportunity to test the LCS concept and put the ship and its crew through the paces. FREEDOM performed admirably in the integrated Strike Group and coalition forces environment. During the 26 days underway, Blue crew stretched the limits of the ship's endurance, conducting 13 UNREPS and proving the capabilities of the crew and sea-frame to operate for extended periods. During RIMPAC the crew continued to conduct post delivery trials and testing, mostly geared towards Surface Warfare Mission Package integration and organic weapons and sensor performance. Combat systems department worked around the clock to ensure the tests were executed as planned, culminating in a successful RAM test firing.

Upon return from RIMPAC in August, Blue crew turned over the ship to Gold Crew and began the off hull training cycle, culminating in the three week rapid refresh period in the LCS Shore Based Training Facility.

Taking over from Gold crew in mid-December, the focus was on the continued post-delivery testing and trials schedule, as well as preparations for FREEDOM's Final Contract Trials with INSURV. The PDT&T schedule for the winter consisted mainly of sea state testing, which involved taking the ship into progressively heavier sea states to test the strength of the ship's construction. Throughout all of these trials the crew performed well and greatly contributed to the development of FREEDOM class safe operating envelopes.

Overall, 2010 was a banner year for FREEDOM Blue. Blue Crew continues to prove day in and day out why they were hand-picked to lead the Navy into the 21st century.

3. Chronology and Narrative

2010-02-12: BM2(SW) ██████'s Reenlistment Ceremony
2010-02-18: MOB-N Certification complete
2010-04-09: CS2(SW) ██████'s Reenlistment Ceremony
2010-04-21: EMC(SW) ██████'s Reenlistment Ceremony
2010-05-01: COMNAVSURFOR VADM Curtis Ship Visit
2010-05-02: VADM Lafleur, USN Retired Ship Visit
2010-05-03: Surface Navy Association Open Ship
Promotion Ceremony NCCM(SW/AW) ██████
2010-05-04: MCPON West Ship Visit
2010-05-10: COMTHIRDFLT VADM Hunt Ship Visit
CSCS(SW/SS) ██████ Reenlistment Ceremony
2010-05-11: UNDERSEC Robert Black Ship Visit
2010-06-01 Family Day Cruise
CS2(SW) ██████'s Promotion Ceremony to CS1
2010-06-08: VADM McCoy Ship Visit
RADM McManama Ship Visit
2010-06-09: VADM Haney Ship Visit
Swing Ship NBSD Pier 2 Berth 1
2010-06-16: Underway for RIMPAC
Ammunition Onload (Bravo Pier)
2010-06-17: First UNREP with BONHOMME RICHARD (LPD 6)
2010-06-23: ADM Gay (ESG 3) Ship Visit
2010-06-24: RDML Rowden Ship Visit
2010-06-26: RIMPAC Open Ship
2010-06-27: C3F Luncheon onboard FREEDOM
RIMPAC Open Ship
2010-06-30: Pacific Fleet Ship Visit
2010-07-01: USS CROMMELIN Ship Visit
Marine Corps Forces Pacific Ship Visit
HMAS KANIMBLA Ship Visit
2010-07-02: COMDESRON 31 Ship Visit
2010-07-05: Commander Escort Flotilla One Ship Visit
Captain Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Ship Visit
JS ATAGO Ship Visit
2010-07-13: First CONREP w/ USNS Guadalupe

2010-07-14: RIMPAC Media Visit
2010-07-17: DCC(SW/FMF) [REDACTED]'s Promotion Ceremony to DCCS
Congressional Representatives Ship Visit
2010-07-18: RAM Missile Shoot
2010-07-21: VADM Hunt Ship Visit
2010-07-24: RIMPAC PHOTOEX
2010-07-25: Mission Package Test Events (MP 8, 9, 10, 11)
2010-07-31: Change of Command
2010-07-11: Commenced Continuous Maintenance Availability 10A6
2010-08-19: Crew Turnover. Blue Crew off-hull.
2010-09-09: SAR Certification complete
2010-10-01: FCC Mauldin Commissioning Ceremony
2010-12-21: Crew Turnover. Blue crew on-hull.
2011-01-04: Underway for Sea State Testing (Sea State 3-5)
2011-01-13: Finished Sea State 3-5 Testing
2011-01-20: Air Defense testing
2011-01-24: NMAWC Ship Visit
2011-01-25: RDML Simpson Ship Visit
2011-01-26: Foreign Flag Delegation Ship Visit
2011-01-28: Air Defense testing (AD 16, 9, 10B)
2011-02-03: NATO Parliamentary Assembly Ship Visit
2011-02-04: Congresswoman Davis Ship Visit
2011-02-08: ADM Sullivan, USCG, Ship Visit
2011-02-11: Brief Stop for Fuel in Eureka, CA
2011-02-12: Sea State Testing (Sea State 5-7)
2011-02-28: Mine Countermeasure Mission Package Equipment Offload

Dates of movements:

2010-05-08: Deadstick Naval Base San Diego Pier 2 to NASSCO Floating Drydock
2010-05-15: Deadstick NASSCO Floating Drydock to Naval Base San Diego
2010-05-25: Naval Base San Diego to SOCAL OPAREA
2010-05-28: SOCAL OPAREA to Naval Base San Diego
2010-06-09: Swing Ship Naval Base San Diego Pier 2 Berth 1
2010-06-16: Depart Naval Base San Diego
2010-06-24: Arrive Joint Base Pearl Harbor (RIMPAC)
2010-07-06: Depart Joint Base Pearl Harbor for Exercise RIMPAC
2010-07-31: Arrive Joint Base Pearl Harbor After completing RIMPAC
2010-08-02: Depart Joint Base Pearl Harbor
2010-08-10: Arrive Naval Base San Diego
2011-01-04: Depart Naval Base San Diego
2011-01-13: Arrive Naval Base San Diego
2011-01-18: Depart Naval Base San Diego
2011-01-21: Arrive Naval Base San Diego
2011-01-27: Depart Naval Base San Diego
2011-01-31: Arrive Naval Base San Diego
2011-02-08: Depart Naval Base San Diego
2011-02-11: Arrive Eureka, CA

Depart Eureka, CA
2011-02-17: Arrive Naval Base San Diego

Local operations and training: Listed Above

Exercises and operations: Listed Above

Installation of new weapons systems or changes: Nothing to Report

Major physical changes to ship: Nothing to Report

Class A or B mishaps: Nothing to Report

Port visits: Pearl Harbor, HI (24 Jun 2010-06 Jul 2010), Pearl Harbor, HI (31 Jul 2010-2 Aug 2010), Eureka, CA (11 Feb 2011)

Unit awards received: Nothing to Report

Reserve augmentation: Nothing to Report

Significant operational or administrative events:
MOB-N

4. Supporting Reports

Nothing to Report

5. Published Documents:

Nothing to Report

6. Photographs:

Nothing to Report

A. Photo and biography of Commanding Officer:



Commander James W. Edwards
United States Navy

Commander Jim Edwards was born and raised in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida and graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1993. He has served aboard ships in the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets.

At sea, CDR Edwards was initially assigned to the Mayport, FL based cruiser USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CG 58) as the Assistant CIC Officer and as the Anti-Submarine Officer. His next tour was as the Chemistry and Radiological Controls Officer on the nuclear aircraft carrier USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) based out of Norfolk, VA. His first department head tour was as the Operations Officer onboard USS JARRETT (FFG 33) out of San Diego. Following JARRETT, he served as the Reactor Electrical Assistant on USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75) based out of Norfolk, VA. His deployments included tours of duty on counter narcotic operations in the Caribbean Sea, Baltic Operations, an around the world deployment on NIMITZ, multiple deployments to the Persian Gulf and a Western Pacific engagement.

Ashore, CDR Edwards served as an Associate Professor at Boston University while serving as the Navigation Instructor at the Boston NROTC Consortium. Following Boston University, he taught Electrical Engineering at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston, SC. Following his tour on HARRY S. TRUMAN, he was the Command and Control Systems Branch Chief (J361) at U. S. Pacific Command in Pearl Harbor, HI.

CDR Edwards holds degrees in Mechanical Engineering (B.S., Georgia Institute of Technology) and Manufacturing Engineering (M.S., Boston University). Awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (four gold stars), Navy Achievement Medal, and various unit and campaign awards.