



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FREEDOM (LCS 1) GOLD CREW

UNIT 40494

FPO AP 96601-0102

1650

Ser LCS1G/022

1 Mar 11

Subj: COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12J, Annual Command Operations Report

1. Command Data:

a. Command: USS FREEDOM (LCS 1) GOLD

b. UIC: 40494

c. Commanding Officer: Weber, Matthew I., CDR

d. Date Assumed Command: 2011-02-11

e. Mission: USS FREEDOM (LCS-1) Gold Crew is one of two crews assigned to operate USS FREEDOM, the first littoral combat ship commissioned. Following the FREEDOM Gold Crew's maiden deployment to 4th FLEET Area of Operations (AOR), the ship returned to homeport on 23 April 2010. The crews executed a crew swap from Gold Crew to Blue Crew. The remainder of 2010 was devoted to crew training off-hull and post delivery trials and testing events. Several first-in-class milestones occurred during Gold Crew's on-hull period from 19 August 2010 until the crew turnover on 23 December 2010. USS FREEDOM participated in her first San Diego Fleet Week during 16-20 September 2010, executed the first mission package swap-out in the dedicated mission support facility at Port Hueneme on 28 September 2010, on-loaded the mine interdiction warfare package for testing, and conducted the first flight of MQ-8B FIRESCOUT unmanned aerial vehicle on 05 November 2010.

f. Home Port: San Diego, California

g. Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC):

(1) Operational: Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron ONE (UIC 39872).

(2) Administrative: Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron (UIC 39872).

h. Task Force/Unit Assigned: Not Applicable.

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- i. Subordinate Command/Units Assigned: 08 SEP - 08 NOV 2010
- (1) MCM Detachment One
- j. Type and Number of Aircraft Assigned: 05 - 24 NOV 2010
- (1) MQ-8B FIRESOULT VTUAV Number 167784
(2) MQ-8B FIRESOULT VTUAV Number 167785
- k. Tenant Activities: None.
- l. Number of Personnel Assigned: 40 core crew.
- (1) Officers: 8
- (2) Enlisted: 32
- (3) Civilian: 0
- m. Command Point of Contact:
- (1) Name: LTJG [REDACTED]
- (2) Title: Navigator
- (3) E-mail: [REDACTED]
- (4) Telephone: [REDACTED]
- (5) Address: USS FREEDOM GOLD CREW
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2. Commanding Officer's Assessment:

2010 marked the continuation of the post delivery trials and testing for the FREEDOM and LCS mission modules. Upon completion of a successful maiden deployment conducting counter-illicit narcotic interdiction in 4th FLEET, Gold Crew began the crew turnover with Blue Crew and prepared for an off-hull rapid refresh cycle. Turnover was completed on 30 April 2010.

The rapid refresh cycle consisted of training in navigation and seamanship, ship-board fire-fighting, and force protection training. The crew recertified in Navigation and Seamanship in the Ship Board Training simulator, a certification normally accomplished underway on a legacy ship. Prior to the crew swap,

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the crew also executed Antiterrorism Force Protection training along with Aviation Firefighting training.

FREEDOM Gold Crew assumed control of USS FREEDOM on 19 August 2010 during a continuous maintenance availability and embarked on a post maintenance shake down underway on 09 September 2010. Following the shakedown cruise, FREEDOM embarked the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference for an underway high speed demonstration on 11 September 2010. The ship then headed north to Naval Weapons Stations Seal Beach for an ammunition offload/onload in preparation for upcoming test events. FREEDOM proceeded to downtown San Diego on 16 September 2010, to the B Street Pier, for San Diego Fleet Week 2010 and a reception attended by Admiral Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). At the reception, the CNO pinned three new Chief Petty Officers, FCC [REDACTED], GMC [REDACTED] and OSC [REDACTED]. As the main attraction at Fleet Week, over 7,500 people visited FREEDOM during the two days of tours. Following Fleet Week, the ship returned to sea to complete several air defense exercises and test events. Following the test events, FREEDOM pulled into the Mission Package Support Facility in Port Hueneme, California to complete three major "first of class" events: offload the Surface Warfare Mission Package, on-load the Mine Warfare Mission Package and removal and installation of one of two Rolls Royce MT-30 Gas Turbine Engines. This major evolution was completed in just one week, validating the mission package swap out capability.

USS FREEDOM was the host for several VIP group tours to include hosting nine admirals and their spouses as part of the Surface Warfare Officer Flag Officer Training Symposium on 26 August 2010. The cast of the TV show, NCIS Los Angeles, along with LL Cool J and Chris O'Donnell visited the ship on 18 September 2010. On 19 September 2010, the Indian Chief of Naval Operations toured the ship. The National Partnerships Advisory Group (NPAG), who is responsible for Continuity of Operations in the event of an emergency, visited the ship on 04 November 2010. The ship also had the distinction of being visited by the Taiwan Commander-in-Chief of the Taiwan Navy and his official party on 09 December 2010.

3. Chronology and Narrative:

2010-04-23	Helo Fly Off/ Return to Home Port - San Diego.
2010-04-24	Start 10A4 Continuous Maintenance Availability (CMAV)
2010-04-30	Crew Turnover Briefs/ Blue CO assumes command
2010-05-01	Start Gold Crew POM/Stand-down
2010-05-07	4 th FLEET Post Deployment Brief

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2010-05-17 Fleet Historian Interviews Start
2010-05-21 Fleet Historian Interviews Concludes
2010-06-01 ATFP Refresher Training Start
2010-06-01 SURFOR Supply Manning Evaluation
2010-06-03 ATFP Refresher Training Concludes
2010-06-04 OC Spray Recertification
2010-06-07 3rd FLEET Post Deployment Brief
2010-06-10 Medical Refresher Training Start
2010-06-12 Medical Refresher Training Concludes
2010-06-16 Shipboard Firefighting DC Trainer
2010-06-21 Physical Readiness Test (Run)
2010-06-22 Physical Readiness Test (Bike/Eliptical/Swim)
2010-06-23 Weapon Qualifications Start
2010-06-25 Weapon Qualifications Conclude
2010-06-30 Gold Crew Moves from Building 55 to Building 57
2010-07-01 Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray Recertification
Make-up
2010-07-06 Bridge Resource Management Start
2010-07-09 Bridge Resource Management Concludes
2010-07-13 SBT Rapid Refresh Start
2010-07-27 SBT Rapid Refresh Concludes
2010-07-27 Weapon Qualification Make-up
2010-07-30 Command Motorcycle Ride
2010-08-04 General Shipboard Firefighting Training
2010-08-04 FASCFAC Facility Tour and Welcome Brief
2010-08-05 ATFP Inport Watchstander Training
2010-08-11 OS1 ██████████ Selected as SOT
2010-08-12 Chief Petty Officer Community Relations (COMREL) at
San Diego Food-bank
2010-08-19 Crew Turnover Briefs/ Gold Crew Takes the HULL
2010-08-20 RDML Moynihan Visit (Chief of Naval Information)
2010-08-24 RDML Cropper Visit (CDR, Strike Force Training-
Pacific)
2010-08-26 Surface Warfare Officer Flag Officer Training
Symposium (SWOFOTS) Visit and Spouse Visit
2010-08-30 Aviation Firefighting Training
2010-08-31 Aviation Firefighting Training
2010-09-07 Fast Cruise/Damage Control Training Team (DCTT)
Drills/Mass Casualty Drill
2010-09-08 SAR Certification
2010-09-09 Underway for post CMAV Shake-down
2010-09-11 Underway for Joint Civilian Orientation Conference
80 Visit and demonstration
2010-09-13 Underway enroute to Naval Weapons Station Seal
Beach
2010-09-13 Inport Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach
2010-09-13 Ammunition Onload/Offload Start
2010-09-15 Ammunition Onload/Offload Concludes
2010-09-15 Underway enroute to B Street Pier, San Diego, CA

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2010-09-16 Inport B Street Pier, San Diego, CA
2010-09-16 MQ-8B Firescout Vertical Take-off and Unmanned
Aerial Vehicle (VTUAV) Onload
2010-09-16 Fleet Week Reception attended by FREEDOM, ADM
Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations, Attends
2010-09-17 Fast Cruise, Watch Quarter Station Bill Rehearsal
2010-09-18 General Public Visiting (FLEET WEEK)
2010-09-18 LL Cool J, Chris O'Donnell, cast members of NCIS
Los Angeles Visit
2010-09-19 ADM Verma Visit (Indian Chief of Naval Operations)
2010-09-19 General Public Visiting (FLEET WEEK)
2010-09-20 Underway enroute to Operations IVO of San Diego
2010-09-21 Tactical Air Navigation System (TACAN)
Certification at the Electrical Warfare Range
2010-09-22 Crew Served Weapons Training
2010-09-23 Inport Navy Fuel Farm Point Loma
2010-09-24 Air Defense (AD)-2 30 Millimeter Calibrated Target
Tracking Exercise (TRACKEX)
2010-09-24 AD-4 30 Millimeter Resolution TRACKEX
2010-09-25 30 Millimeter Firing Exercise (FIREX)
2010-09-25 AD-4 30 Millimeter Resolution Phase II TRACKEX
2010-09-26 AD-14 Slow Target TRACKEX
2010-09-26 Helicopter Passenger Transfer
2010-09-27 Inport, Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme, CA
2010-09-27 Surface Warfare Mission Package Swap-out to Mine
Interdiction Warfare Package Start
2010-09-27 Starboard Rolls Royce MT-30 Gas Turbine Replacement
Start
2010-10-01 Surface Warfare Mission Package Swap-out to Mine
Warfare Package Concludes
2010-10-03 Starboard Rolls Royce MT-30 Gas Turbine Replacement
Concludes
2010-10-02 Mine Warfare Package Operational Checks
2010-10-06 Underway enroute to Naval Station (NAVSTA) San
Diego
2010-10-06 Mine Warfare Mission Package Integration Testing
Start
2010-10-08 Mine Warfare Mission Package Integration Testing
Concludes
2010-10-08 Inport NAVSTA San Diego
2010-10-12 Gun Alignment Verification
2010-10-18 Underway enroute to Operations In Vicinity Of (IVO)
San Diego
2010-10-19 57 Millimeter Gun Alignment Verification FIREX
2010-10-20 Gas Turbine Systems Technician-Mechanical Petty
Officer First Class Whitley Re-enlistment
2010-10-21 SUW-8 TRACKEX
2010-10-21 Inport Navy Fuel Farm Point Loma
2010-10-21 Underway enroute to NAVSTA San Diego

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2010-10-21 Inport NAVSTA San Diego
2010-10-22 CS1 Henry selected as Sailor of the Trimester
2010-10-25 Underway enroute to Operations IVO San Diego for
Calm Water Trials
2010-10-25 Calm Water Trials Start
2010-10-26 RAS with USNS YUKON
2010-10-27 Inport Navy Fuel Farm Point Loma
2010-10-27 Underway enroute to Operations IVO San Diego for
Calm Water Trials
2010-10-28 RAS with USNS YUKON
2010-10-29 Inport Navy Fuel Farm Point Loma
2010-10-29 Underway enroute to Operations IVO San Diego for
Calm Water Trials
2010-11-02 Calm Water Trials Conclude
2010-11-02 Inport Navy Fuel Farm Point Loma
2010-11-02 Underway enroute to NAVSTA San Diego
2010-11-04 National Partnerships Advisory Group Visit
2010-11-05 VTUAV Onload
2010-11-08 VTUAV Inport Groundturns Start
2010-11-11 VTUAV Inport Groundturns Concludes
2010-11-12 Underway enroute to Operations IVO San Diego for
VTUAV Dynamic Testing
2010-11-12 VTUAV Dynamic Testing Starts
2010-11-15 57 Millimeter Gun Alignment Verification
2010-11-15 Inport, Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme, CA
2010-11-15 Underway enroute to Operations IVO San Diego for
VTUAV Dynamic Testing
2010-11-16 RAS with USNS Yukon
2010-11-19 RAS with USNS Yukon
2010-11-24 VTUAV Dynamic Testing Concludes
2010-11-24 Inport, Navy Fuel Farm Point Loma
2010-11-24 Underway enroute to NAVSTA San Diego
2010-11-24 Inport, NAVSTA San Diego
2010-11-24 VTUAV Offload
2010-11-25 Thanksgiving Meal Onboard
2010-11-29 Underway enroute to Operations IVO San Diego
2010-11-29 SUW-7 TRACKEX
2010-11-30 SUW-4 Gun Alignment Verification FIREX
2010-12-01 Inport, Magnetic Support Facility Point Loma
2010-12-01 Advanced Degaussing System Testing Start
2010-12-02 Underway enroute to Operations IVO San Diego
2010-12-03 RAS with USNS Yukon
2010-12-04 Signature Trials Start
2010-12-05 Signature Trials Concludes
2010-12-05 Radar Cross Section Measurement Start
2010-12-06 Radar Cross Section Measurement Concludes
2010-12-07 Advanced Degaussing System, UEM Sensor Array,
Ballast Point
2010-12-07 Inport Navy Fuel Farm Point Loma

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2010-12-07 Underway enroute to NAVSTA San Diego
 2010-12-07 Inport NAVSTA San Diego
 2010-12-09 Taiwan Naval Commander-in-Chief Visit
 2010-12-13 Physical Readiness Test
 2010-12-14 RADM Burroughs (Program Executive Officer, Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence) and RADM Brady (Commander Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command) Visit
 2010-12-14 EN1 ██████ Selected as Sailor of the Year
 2010-12-16 Awards Ceremony
 2010-12-17 Start Crew Turnover
 2010-12-21 Crew Turnover Briefs/ Blue Crew Takes the HULL
 2010-12-22 Gold Crew Leave Period/Stand-down Start
 2010-12-31 Gold Crew Leave Period/Stand-down Concludes

4. Supporting Reports:

a. None to report.

5. Published Documents:

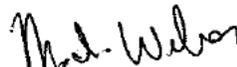
a. Commanding Officer's Biography

b. "LCS Sailor Wins Surface Warfare Excellence Award." *U.S. Navy Hosting*. Navy.mil, 17 June 2010. Web. 28 Feb. 2011.
 <<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/lcs1/pages/lcssailorwinssurfa-cewarfareexcellenceaward.aspx>>.

c. Cavas, Christopher P. "Gas Turbine Engine on LCS Freedom Breaks - Navy News | News from Afghanistan & Iraq - Navy Times." *Navy News, Benefits, Careers, Entertainment, Photos, Promotions - Navy Times HOME*. Navy Times, 23 Sept. 2010. Web. 28 Feb. 2011.
 <<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2010/09/navy-engine-changeout-for-lcs-freedom-092310w/>>.

6. Photographs:

a. Commanding Officer's official photograph.


 M. I. WEBER

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Commander James R. Garner, USN

Commander James R. Garner was born and raised in North Carolina. He received his Bachelor of Science in General Engineering and a commission from the United States Naval Academy in May 1990.

His first sea duty tour was as CIC Officer, Damage Control Assistant, and Main Propulsion Assistant aboard USS HALYBURTON (FFG 40) from 1991 to 1994. While serving in HALYBURTON, Commander Garner completed a deployment to the Mediterranean operating with STANDING NAVAL FORCES MEDITERRANEAN (STANAVFORMED) and participated in two Counter Drug operations in the Caribbean. Commander Garner then reported to Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California where he earned a Master's of Science degree in Systems Engineering.

His next sea duty tour was in USS SIMPSON (FFG 56) as Chief Engineer from 1997 to 1999. While serving in SIMPSON, he deployed to the Mediterranean, assigned to the JOHN C. STENNIS Battle Group and completed a second deployment with STANAVFORMED.

Commander Garner subsequently served aboard USS MONTEREY (CG 61) as Chief Engineer from 1999 to 2001. MONTEREY deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH, assigned to the JOHN F. KENNEDY Battle Group. Upon return from deployment, USS MONTEREY executed a complex maintenance period including installation of the Smart Ship system.

His next assignment was to CRUISER DESTROYER GROUP TWO, GEORGE WASHINGTON BATTLE GROUP Staff as Surface Strike Officer from 2001 through 2002. While assigned to CRUISER DESTROYER GROUP TWO, he deployed to the Fifth Fleet and Sixth Fleet in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Southern Watch, and the Global War on Terrorism.

Commander Garner was then assigned to USS SCOUT (MCM 8) as Commanding Officer from 2003 to 2005. During his tour, SCOUT completed a deployment in support of TARAWA ESG COMPTUEX 05-4 and JTFEX 05-4, EXERCISE LEAD SHIELD III, a homeland defense exercise, and EXERCISE FA PANAMAX 05, a multi-national exercise in the vicinity of the Panama Canal. SCOUT was awarded the Battle Efficiency Award for 2003 and 2005, and was recognized by Commander Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic, with the Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund Award as the top Battle Efficiency Award winner for 2003.

Commander Garner reported to Pre-Commissioning Unit FREEDOM Gold in February 2006 where he served as Executive Officer until July 2009. He has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, Navy Commendation Medal with one gold star, the Navy Achievement Medal with three gold stars, and various unit and campaign awards.



LCS Sailor Wins Surface Warfare Excellence Award

By Surface Forces Pacific Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO – The USS Constitution Chapter of the Surface Navy Association (SNA) named Chief Engineman (SW) Corbin Stalcup from USS Freedom (LCS 1), Gold Crew, as the 2010 George Sirian Meritorious Service Award winner today.

The George Sirian Award, now in its eighth year, recognizes Chief Petty Officers (CPO) who demonstrate exceptional seamanship, operational excellence, and inspirational leadership.

"It is an amazing honor to be selected, and I credit the Littoral Combat Ship program for this achievement," said Stalcup, a Goldthwaite, Tx. native who was chosen from 27 nominees from both the Pacific and Atlantic Surface Fleets. "LCS is a command where, due to small crew size, we are all given the opportunity to engage in a wide range of operational activities. We are continually challenged to grow technically and as leaders."

The award is named for George Sirian, who served in the Navy for nearly fifty years in the 1800s. During that time, Sirian rose through the ranks from seaman to master gunner, and eventually warrant officer. He served multiple tours aboard the Constitution during the first half of the 19th century.

Stalcup will receive his award, a replica of a 19th century naval cutlass and a framed citation, aboard the Constitution during a harbor sail in honor of CPO Heritage Week. The ceremony will take place in front of 150 newly selected CPOs.

"We are very excited to reflect the proud heritage and spirit of the early years of the Navy with the George Sirian Award, and to present the eight annual award to such an outstanding sailor such as Chief Stalcup of the USS Freedom," said Capt (Ret). James Alosi, President, USS Constitution Chapter of the SNA.

"No one better embodies the spirit of service, excellence, and tradition represented by this award," said Cmdr. Randy Garner, Commanding Officer, Freedom Gold Crew. "A superior leader and a true 'Sailor's Sailor,' he consistently and successfully leads Freedom's Sailors in setting new records and breaking through boundaries."

Stalcup enlisted in the Navy in 1995. Prior to reporting to Freedom, he served aboard USS Crommelin (FFG 37), USS Black Hawk (MHC 58), and at the Mine Warfare Training Center in Ingleside, Tx.

<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2010/09/navy-engine-changeout-for-lcs-freedom-092310w/>

Gas turbine engine on LCS Freedom breaks

By Christopher P. Cavas - Staff writer

Posted : Thursday Sep 23, 2010 20:55:07 EDT

A high-speed gas turbine engine on board the Navy's first Littoral Combat Ship broke earlier this month and will need to be replaced, but officials don't expect the mishap to affect the ship's testing schedule.

The incident took place Sept. 12 while Freedom was operating off southern California. The ship shut down its two Rolls-Royce MT30 gas turbines after "high vibration indications" were seen in the starboard engine, according to Cmdr. Jason Salata, a spokesman for the Naval Surface Forces command in San Diego. The ship returned to port using its diesel engines.

Subsequent examination of the broken engine showed that turbine blading had broken off and damaged the unit, Salata said.

The incident comes at an awkward time for Lockheed Martin, prime contractor for the Freedom, which is locked in a competition with Austal USA, the builder of LCS 2.

Later this year, the Navy is expected to choose one of the designs as the basis for 51 more LCS vessels and award a construction contract for a batch of 10 ships.

Freedom was the first of the LCS ships to be completed when it was commissioned in November 2008. The ship is powered by a combination of gas turbines and diesels that can drive it to speeds well over 40 knots.

Freedom's power plant features Rolls-Royce gas turbines, the first to be fitted in a Navy ship. Nearly all Navy gas turbine ships since the 1970s have been powered by variants of the General Electric LM2500, which is also in wide use worldwide. LM2500s often run 15,000 to 20,000 hours before they're replaced.

Both the Rolls-Royce and GE engines are marine versions of well-tried aircraft engines, and the MT30 is part of the Rolls-Royce Trent engine family. Although the MT30 is a new marine engine, Trent aviation engines have achieved more than 30 million flying hours, according to the company. The engine will also be used on the DDG 1000 Zumwalt-class destroyers, and on Britain's Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers.

Lockheed chose the MT30 because it is more powerful than the LM2500, although it is also larger and heavier. The engines on the Freedom each have a nominal rating of 36,000 kilowatts, or 48,280 horsepower. Most versions of the LM2500 are rated at about 26,000 horsepower. The engine turns at about 3,300 revolutions per minute.

Replacing an engine

Removal of the damaged engine will allow the Navy and its contractors to try the ship's engine changeout procedure. All ships have features that allow the engines to be removed and replaced, and

Freedom's design provides for engines to come up through the ship's intake stacks, according to Lockheed.

"The changeout process requires a few days for set-up and removal, and the replacement can be done within 48 hours," said Kimberly Martinez, a spokesperson for Lockheed.

The Navy will allow up to a week for the changeout, Salata noted.

The Freedom, which earlier this year carried out a demonstration deployment to the Caribbean and Central America and took part in its first naval exercises, is designed to conduct engine changeouts while deployed. Eventually, the ships will carry equipment to change the engines, although the Freedom wasn't yet carrying that gear when the engine was disabled. The Navy, rather than performing the changeout operation at the naval base in San Diego or a shipyard, will handle the evolution at Port Hueneme, Calif., a small base that supports warfare, construction and maintenance units.

"Port Hueneme as a port facility has characteristics of the likely locations in which a deployed LCS would conduct an engine changeout," Salata said.

Experts from the Naval Sea Systems Command, Lockheed Martin, Rolls-Royce and the Navy's Ship Systems Engineering Station in Philadelphia will assist in the changeout, Salata added. Philadelphia is home to NAVSEA's land-based test site, which runs various configurations of a number of naval propulsion units, including the MT30.

The LCS already was scheduled to go to Port Hueneme in late September to carry out handling exercises and tests of its mission modules. While the engine is replaced, Freedom's crew will practice removing a mission module — a set of equipment tailored for a specific mission such as mine warfare — and loading another. Because the mine warfare module is not yet ready, "models designed to replicate the space and weight" of the modules will be used "to demonstrate the onload installation and fit of those modules," Salata said.

The damaged engine will be taken by Rolls-Royce for study to determine what caused the problem.

Commander James R. Garner, USN

