



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

USS FREEDOM (LCS 1) BLUE CREW

UNIT 25601

FPO AP 96601-0101

EXEC

06 Mar 12

From: Commanding Officer, USS FREEDOM BLUE (LCS 1)  
To: Director, Naval Historical Center

Subj: COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT FOR CY 2011

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12J

Encl: (1) USS FREEDOM BLUE (LCS 1) COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT

1. In accordance with reference (a), USS FREEDOM BLUE (LCS 1) is submitting its 2011 Command Operations Report.

2. Sections 1-6: Command Data, Commander's Assessment, Chronology and Narrative, Supporting Reports, Published Documents, and Photographs are submitted electronically via unclassified email.

3. Fast, focused, fearless.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. W. Edwards".

J. W. EDWARDS

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:

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): N/A

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

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

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

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: USS FREEDOM (LCS 1) FPO AP 96601-0101

## **2. Commander's Assessment**

2011 marked a year of continued focus on preparing FREEDOM for post-delivery testing and trials and hosting distinguished visitors from throughout the Navy and the world. Although the year did not include a significant amount of underway time, FREEDOM Blue Crew repeatedly demonstrated that we are truly "Fast, Focused, Fearless" in our ability to face a number of different situations.

The beginning of 2011 was spent finishing a period on hull that included a number of visits from high ranking Navy and foreign military personnel. Through the tireless efforts of the entire crew, FREEDOM was able to get underway to rehearse a portion of her Final Contract Trials and subsequently turned the ship over to Gold crew in April.

During Blue Crew's period off the hull, the ship began a post-shakedown availability (PSA) at San Diego Dry Dock, BAE Systems which included repairs to several systems. Blue Crew set the standard in the Shore Based Trainer (SBT) during the Rapid Refresh certification, earning the highest marks and compliments of the SBT instructors.

In August, Blue Crew retook the ship with the availability at approximately 30% complete. Within two months of being back on the ship, the crew exercised a focused and forward leaning attitude on completing the time in the dry dock and successfully undocked. Because the availability was still in progress, FREEDOM transited back to Naval Base San Diego solely under tug power towards the end of October.

Blue Crew continued that same determination shown while in dry dock and completed the availability in December. With the directed efforts of the Engineering Department, FREEDOM was able to complete a first of class Light Off Assessment prior to turning the ship over to Gold Crew. 2012 looks to be an exciting year for FREEDOM and Blue crew.

### **3. Chronology and Narrative**

2011-03-03: CAPT Inoue, JMSDF visited  
2011-03-09: MSSR Toniuzzi, head of French ASW group visited  
2011-03-14: RADM Rabago, USCG visited  
2011-03-16: Mr Robert Martinage, Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy for Plans, Policy, Oversight, and Integration visited  
2011-03-17: RADM Bruun-Hanssen, Chief of Naval Staff, Royal Norwegian Navy visited  
2011-03-29: Final Contract Trials Rehearsal  
2011-04-05: Final Contract Trials Underway Rehearsal  
2011-04-13: Crew Turnover. Blue Crew off-hull  
2011-08-17: Crew Turnover. Blue Crew on-hull  
2011-08-17: VADM McCoy, NAVSEA visited  
2011-08-22: Congressional Staff Delegation visited  
2011-09-02: RDML Mehling, USCG Force Readiness Command visited  
2011-09-09: VADM Debbink, Chief of Naval Reserve visited  
2011-09-13: GSM1 ████████ reenlisted  
2011-09-28: RADM Olsson, Head of Swedish Naval Procurement visited  
2011-10-05: VADM Chung-Wei Lee, Taiwan Navy visited  
2011-10-12: Undocked from BAE Drydock  
2011-10-14: ENCS ████████ reenlisted  
2011-10-24: Departed BAE Shipyard  
2011-10-26: Refueled  
2011-10-31: Engineering and Damage Control LTT  
2011-11-01: RADM Shatynski, Deputy Commander Naval Surface Forces visited  
2011-11-07: Refueled JP-5  
2011-11-08: ENC ████████ reenlisted  
2011-11-10: Congressman McIntyre of North Carolina visited  
2011-12-15: Light Off Assessment (LOA)  
2011-12-16: Crew Turnover. Blue Crew off-hull

#### **Dates of movements:**

2011-04-05: Depart Naval Base San Diego  
2011-04-05: Arrive Naval Base San Diego  
2011-10-12: Deadstick from BAE drydock to Pier 3 BAE Shipyard  
2011-10-24: Deadstick to Naval Base San Diego Pier 4 Berth 5

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: Nothing to Report

Unit awards received: Nothing to Report

Reserve augmentation: Nothing to Report

Significant operational or administrative events:

**4. Supporting Reports**

Nothing to Report

**5. Published Documents:**

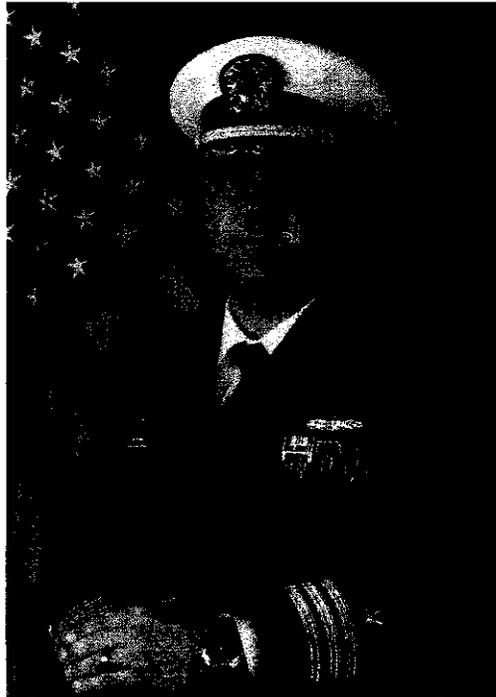
Nothing to Report

**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.