



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

USS FREEDOM (LCS 1) BLUE UNIT 25601

FPO AP 96601-0101

01 Mar 13

From: Commanding Officer, USS FREEDOM BLUE (LCS 1)

To: Director, Naval Historical Center

Subj: COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT FOR CY 2012

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 2012 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 cursive script, appearing to read "P.C. Thien", is located below the text.

P.C. THIEN

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: Thien, First: Patrick, M.I.: C Rank: CDR

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): 2012-05-01

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations:

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

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: LCS SQUADRON ONE

Administrative: LCS SQUADRON 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): Helicopter Marine Strike Squadron 73 (Battle Cats), Maritime Superiority Detachment 2

Number of Personnel Assigned:

- Crew: Officers: 8 Enlisted: 40

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

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name): LT [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**

Just prior to the new year, BLUE Crew turned the ship over to Gold and FREEDOM continued a maintenance availability that lasted until February. During the first off-hull of 2012, BLUE Crew completed all training requirements necessary to retake the hull during the Rapid Refresh period. This Rapid Refresh also marked a shift in the focus of training from THIRD Fleet to the SEVENTH Fleet Area of Operations in support of FREEDOM'S deployment in March 2013. Overall, FREEDOM Blue repeatedly demonstrated the "Fast, Focused, Fearless" nature of the crew to adapt to a number of different situations.

After executing a change of command in May, the crew completed a Type Commander's Material Inspection and Board of Inspection and Survey Special Trials. Both inspections were instrumental in identifying critical materiel deficiencies that would affect mission readiness. After successful completion of both arduous inspections, the crew shifted focus to carrying out Surface Warfare Mission Package Developmental Testing that culminated in a week-long Quick Reaction Assessment. This assessment integrated core crew, the Maritime Superiority Detachment, and Helicopter Marine Strike Squadron 73. This graduate level exercise demonstrated the full potential of BLUE Crew and the capability of LCS-1 to face various combat scenarios.

FREEDOM BLUE finished the on-hull by taking the ship into a pierside availability that would correct a majority of the issues identified during the aforementioned inspections. During the off-hull, the crew continued to train towards deployment to SEVENTH Fleet, concluding with full rapid refresh certification at the Littoral Combat Ship Training Facility (LTF).

BLUE Crew retook the ship in December, with focus now on the successful completion of various crew certifications, which represented the final hurdle necessary for deployment. Although the certification process for a current warship would take approximately five to six months, BLUE Crew completed nearly all pre-deployment requirements in a matter of weeks, with the remaining requirements scheduled for completion during the off-hull.

2012 afforded BLUE Crew the ability to tackle complex materiel and training requirements with various outside entities providing support and valuable feedback. With our initial deployment to SEVENTH Fleet on the horizon, 2013 looks to be an exciting year for FREEDOM and BLUE Crew.

### 3. Chronology and Narrative

2012-04-11: Crew Turnover: Blue Crew on-hull  
2012-04-17: Aviation 1.4A Certification completed  
2012-04-30: ADM Haney (COMPACFLT) and VADM Hunt (CNSF) visit  
2012-05-01: Change of Command (CDR J.W. Edwards relieved by CDR P.C. Thien)  
2012-05-03: TYCOM Material Inspection begins  
2012-05-05: TYCOM Material Inspection ends  
2012-05-22: INSURV Special Trials begins (VADM Hunt onboard)  
2012-05-24: INSURV Special Trials ends  
2012-06-01: Surface Warfare Mission Package Developmental Testing/Quick Reaction Assessment begins  
2012-06-22: Surface Warfare Mission Package Developmental Testing/Quick Reaction Assessment ends  
2012-07-02: FCC ██████ reenlistment  
2012-07-03: Pierside Post Shakedown Availability 2 begins  
2012-08-15: Crew Turnover: Blue Crew off-hull  
2012-09-26: Hon. Ray Mabus (SECNAV) visit  
2012-11-01: ETC ██████ reenlistment  
2012-11-09: LSCS ██████ CSC ██████ and CS1 ██████ reenlistments  
2012-11-30: Command Holiday Party  
2012-12-03: Crew Turnover. Blue Crew on-hull  
2012-12-06: EOC Engineering Assessment begins  
2012-12-07: EOC Engineering Assessment ends  
2012-12-12: MCPON Steven's visit  
2012-12-14: ATG Damage Control, ATPF, and Aviation 1.4A Certifications completed  
2012-12-17: ATG HELO DAY completed  
2012-12-21: EOC MSFD completed

#### Dates of movements:

2012-04-25: Depart Naval Base San Diego  
2012-04-27: Arrive Naval Base San Diego  
2012-05-01: Depart Naval Base San Diego  
2012-05-02: Arrive Naval Base San Diego  
2012-05-04: Depart Naval Base San Diego  
2012-05-04: Arrive Naval Base San Diego  
2012-05-22: Depart Naval Base San Diego  
2012-05-22: Arrive Naval Base San Diego  
2012-06-01: Depart Naval Base San Diego  
2012-06-06: Arrive Naval Base San Diego  
2012-06-06: Depart Naval Base San Diego  
2012-06-08: Arrive Naval Base San Diego  
2012-06-11: Depart Naval Base San Diego  
2012-06-15: Arrive Port Hueneme Naval Surface Warfare Center  
2012-06-18: Depart Port Hueneme Naval Surface Warfare Center  
2012-06-22: 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: Berthing modification increased total capacity to 98

Class A or B mishaps: Nothing to Report

Port visits: Listed Above

Unit awards received: Nothing to Report

Reserve augmentation: Support from various LCS Reserve Units based out of New Jersey

Significant operational or administrative events: Listed Above

**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 P. C. Thien**  
**United States Navy**

CDR Thien is a native of Seattle, Washington. In 1991, he was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy where he graduated and received his commission in 1995. His first tour of duty was aboard USS SPRUANCE (DD-963), where he served as Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer. In May 1998, CDR Thien reported to USS TYPHOON (PC-5) where he served as Operations Officer and Executive Officer. In August 2002, CDR Thien reported to USS CUSHING (DD-985) where he served as Combat Systems Officer.

CDR Thien reported in June 2004 to USS WHIRLWIND (PC-11) and PC CREW DELTA as Commanding Officer, where he completed a 27 month command tour. During his tour, PC CREW DELTA deployed to the FIFTH Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR) twice, conducting Maritime Security Operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf and throughout the FIFTH Fleet AOR.

In October 2006, CDR Thien was selected to attend the Naval War College, in Newport Rhode Island and graduated with a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. CDR Thien also completed his Joint Professional Military Education Phase One (JPME I) while at the Naval War College.

CDR Thien's tours ashore include Lead Anti-Submarine Warfare Instructor Surface Warfare Officer School Command, Division Officer Course and Knowledge Management/Information Superiority Officer for U.S. Joint Forces Command, Joint Enabling Capabilities Command, Joint Deployable Teams.

CDR Thien's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Joint Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal; Navy Achievement Medal and various unit and service awards.