



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

2000 NAVY PENTAGON

WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

5720

Ser DNS-36JP/12U109318

11 Jun 12

Mr. Joe Meadors
c/o Muckrock News
DEPT MR 1338
PO Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Dear Mr. Meadors:

SUBJECT: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CASE DON2012F051176

This is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated May 24, 2012. Your request was received by our office on the same day.

The Navy History and Heritage Command (NHHC) conducted a search that produced one (1) document, totaling four (4) pages. This document is released to you in its entirety.

To aid in understanding this document, please note that NHHC provides guidance to the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) on Ship naming, but the actual naming of ships is at the discretion of SECNAV. Therefore, if any documents exist with regard to the deliberations in naming a ship, they are recommendations from NHHC, along with the reasoning for recommended names.

In this specific circumstance, "Liberty" was one of several names recommended for LCS-2, LCS-3, and LCS-4. In an attempt to be proactive, the Naval Vessel Register listed LCS-2 as USS LIBERTY prior to the actual decision. As currently published in the Naval Vessel Register, the final name of LCS-2 is USS INDEPENDENCE.

Questions regarding the action this office has taken during the processing of your request may be directed to our FOIA service center at (202) 685-0412.

Sincerely,

For M.P. Shaw

ROBIN PATTERSON

Head, DON PA/FOIA Policy Branch

**FREEDOM (LCS-1) Class
Littoral Combat Ships**

1. Class Naming Convention. Named in honor of small and mid-size cities.

2. Existing Ships in Class

FREEDOM (LCS-1)

3. CNO Recommendations

LCS 2 _____

LCS 3 _____

LCS 4 _____

4. Nominations

a. **INDEPENDENCE** - Honors communities in the states of Texas, Oregon, Arkansas and New York and Missouri. In addition to the importance of independence to American history, the term provides an important statement of our national aspirations and character. The largest community honored, Independence, Missouri, lies on the south bank of the Missouri River. It became American territory with the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Lewis and Clark recorded in their journals that they stopped in 1804 at a site later identified as the location of Independence. Famous residents of Independence, MO. include President Harry Truman. Five previous Navy ships have been named **INDEPENDENCE**: a sloop (1776-1778); a ship-of-the-line (1814-1913) that served the Navy for nearly a century; a steamer (1918-1919), an aircraft carrier (CV-22) (1943-1946) that earned eight battle stars in the Pacific theater during World War II, and an aircraft carrier (CV-62) (1959-1998) that participated in the Cuban missile crisis, earned a battle star for Vietnam service, and had the distinction of being the oldest ship in the Navy prior to her decommissioning.

b. **LIBERTY** - Honors cities, towns, and other communities in Missouri, Texas, South Carolina, Kentucky, Indiana, Mississippi, New York, and Pennsylvania. Three previous U.S. Navy ships have been named **LIBERTY**. The first, a schooner (1775-1777), helped give control of Lake Champlain to American forces during the Revolution until she was destroyed by General Burgoyne's forces. The second, a steamer (1918-1919) was assigned to the Navy Overseas Transportation Service (NOTS) at the end of World War I. The third, a technical research ship (AGTR-5) (1945-1968), originally

served as **SIMMONS VICTORY** and frequently provided support and supplies to American forces during the Korean War. In 1963, she was reclassified AGTR-5 and renamed **LIBERTY**. Her commanding officer earned the Medal of Honor and the ship earned a Presidential Unit Citation for their heroic conduct when the ship came under attack by Israeli jets on 8 June 1967, during the Arab –Israeli War between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria.

c. **AURORA** - Honors cities in Illinois; Colorado, as well as 16 other small communities across the nation. Aurora, Colorado, a growing community near Denver, serves as home to Buckley Air Force Base. In mythology, Aurora was the Roman goddess of the dawn. She is often depicted in art as rising from the ocean in a chariot. Auroras are also luminous phenomenon that consists of streams of light in the night sky best observed in the Arctic regions. The auroras are believed to be of electrical origin. One previous ship U.S. Navy ship, a tug (1917-1919) has been named Aurora.

d. **FORT WORTH**: Honors the city in Texas known as “the place where the west begins.” Fort Worth was initially established in January 1849 when U.S. Army General William Jenkins Worth, hero of the Mexican War, proposed a line of 10 forts to mark the western Texas frontier. Upon the death of Worth, Gen. William S. Harney order a new fort be established a new fort site near the West Fork and Clear Fork for a detachment of Texas Rangers near what is now Fort Worth and is named in honor of General Worth. The U.S. War Department officially named the post Fort Worth on November 14, 1849. No previous Navy ship has been named Fort Worth.

e. **PEORIA** - Honors the cities of Peoria, Illinois and Peoria, Arizona. The old saying “see how it plays in Peoria” suggests a product had better be good to be accepted in this heartland community. Four previous U.S. Navy ships have been named Peoria in honor of the city in Illinois: a sidewheel steamer (1866-1867), a converted gunboat (1898-1921) that supported landings in Cuba during the Spanish-American War; a frigate (1945-1946); and a tank landing ship (LST-1183) (1970-1994).

f. **NEWPORT** - Honors the city and port in Rhode Island that is home to several Navy activities, including Naval Station Newport and the Naval War College, as well as 11 other communities across the nation. Three previous U.S. Navy ships have been named **NEWPORT**: a patrol gunboat (PG-12)(1897-1931) that was credited with capturing nine Spanish vessels during the Spanish-American War; a patrol frigate (PF-27) (1944-1952) that served as part of the screen for the landings at Inchon during the Korean War; and a tank landing ship (LST-1179)(1969-1992).

g. **SAVANNAH** - Honors the city of Savannah, Georgia and nine other communities from New York to California. Savannah, Georgia is a major port city with a long history of strong Navy support. Five previous U.S. Navy ships have been named Savannah: a galley (1799-1802); a frigate (1842-1862) that served in the Mexican War and as flagship

of the Pacific Squadron; a submarine tender (1917-1926); a light cruiser (CL-42) that earned three battle stars during World War II in support of Allied landings in North Africa, Sicily, and Salerno; and a replenishment oiler (AOR-4) (1970-1995) that earned a battle star for Vietnam service.

h. **LEXINGTON** – Honors Lexington, Massachusetts where Massachusetts minutemen under Captain Jonas Parker engaged a British force at Lexington Green on 19 April 1776. The brief engagement opened the American Revolution with “the shot heard 'round the world.” Five previous U.S. Navy ships have been named LEXINGTON. A brigantine (1776-1777) preyed on British shipping until her capture; a sloop (1826-1855) participated in the Mexican War and Commodore Perry’s diplomatic expedition to Japan; a sidewheel gunboat (1861-1865) served with distinction on the western rivers during the Civil War. LEXINGTON (CV-2) (1927-1942), built on an unfinished battle cruiser hull, was one of the Navy’s first true fleet carriers. She received two battle stars for her service prior to being sunk by Japanese aircraft at crucial World War II battle of Coral Sea. LEXINGTON (CV-16) (1943-1991) earned eleven battle stars and a Presidential Unit Citation with Fast Carrier Force, served in contingency operations off Taiwan and Laos, and trained student pilots out of Pensacola from 1963 to her decommissioning.

i. **OAKLAND** – Honors the seaport and industrial center on the eastern side of San Francisco Bay. Two previous U.S. Navy ships have carried the name OAKLAND: a cargo ship, Identification No. 2847 (1918-1919), that served with the Naval Overseas Transportation Service in World War I; and the light cruiser, CL 95 (1943-1949), that earned nine battle stars for her World War II service, which included supporting the landings in the Gilberts and Marshalls, the Marianas, the Philippines and Okinawa.

j. **CINCINNATI** – Honors the commercial and manufacturing city in southwestern Ohio known as the “Queen City”. Four previous U.S. Navy ships have carried the name CINCINNATI: a gunboat (1862-1865) that served on the Mississippi during the Civil War; Cruiser No. 7 (1894-1919) that served in the Spanish-American War; the light cruiser, CL-6 (1924-1945), that earned one battle star in the Atlantic during World War II; and the nuclear-powered attack submarine, SSN-693 (1978-1996).

k. **MONTGOMERY** – Honors the capital city of Alabama. Four previous ships have been named MONTGOMERY: a small sailing vessel (1813-1815), named in honor of General Richard Montgomery killed in the assault on Quebec during the Revolutionary War, that served on Lake Champlain in the War of 1812; a steamer (1861-1865), also named for General Montgomery, that served on the blockade during the Civil War; Cruiser No. 9 (1894-1918), named for the city of Montgomery, that served in the Spanish-American War and World War I; and DD-121, later reclassified as a light minelayer, DM-17, (1918-1945), named for RADM John Montgomery (1794-1873), that earned four battle stars in the Pacific during World War II. In addition to these four, MONTGOMERY was chosen as a name for one of the first 13 frigates authorized by the

Continental Congress. She was built at Poughkeepsie and launched late in October 1776 but, because of the British capture of New York City and the closing of the Hudson River, was never finished. The frigate was burned to prevent capture a year later on 6 October 1777.

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LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP

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	LCS 2	LIBERTY

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