

# Marinette-built USS Fort Worth heads to Far East



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(Photo: Keith Heim/Lockheed Martin)

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The second Littoral Combat Ship built at Marinette Marine Corp. is headed to the Far East for a 16-month deployment.

The USS Fort Worth set sail Monday from San Diego for Singapore, where the ship is expected to work with regional navies. The ship will swap crews every four months, allowing it to deploy about six months longer than USS Freedom, according to the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet.

This is the second deployment for a Littoral Combat Ship built at Marinette Marine Corp. USS Freedom deployed to Singapore in 2013 for a 10-month operation that, in part, laid some of the foundation for the operational use of the new ships.

The Littoral Combat Ship is designed to carry out a number of missions — including surface warfare and anti-submarine operations — in shallower coastal waters.

Lockheed Martin is the prime contractor on the ships built at Marinette. Another design of the ship is being built by Austal USA in Alabama.



The USS Fort Worth.(Photo: U.S. Navy)

USS Fort Worth is expected to carry an aviation squadron on the deployment, including a MH-60R Seahawk helicopter and an MQ-8B Fire Scout autonomous helicopter, according to the Navy.

Six Littoral Combat Ships are in production at Marinette Marine.

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