The Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) is a high-speed, over-the-beach fully amphibious landing craft capable of carrying a 60-75 ton payload. It is used to transport weapons systems, equipment, cargo and personnel from ship to shore and across the beach. The advantages of air-cusion landing craft are numerous. They can carry heavy payloads, such as an M-1 tank, at high speeds. Their payload and speed mean more forces reach the shore in a shorter time, with shorter intervals between trips. The air cushion allows this vehicle to reach more than 70% of the world’s coastline, while conventional landing craft can land at only about 15% of the coasts.

**SPECIFICATIONS:**

**Class:** LCAC 1  
**Crew:** Five  
**Builder:** Textron Marine and Land Systems and Avondale Gulfport Marine.  
**Power Plant:** Four Avco-Lycoming TF-40B gas turbines (2 for propulsion/2 for lift); 16,000 hp sustained; 2 shrouded reversible pitch airscrews; 4 double-entry fans, centrifugal or mixed flow for lift.  
**Length:** 87 feet 11 inches (26.4 meters)  
**Beam:** 47 feet (14.3 meters)  
**Displacement:** 87.2 tons (88.6 metric tons) light; 170-182 tons (172-185 metric tons) fully loaded.  
**Range:** 200 miles at 40 knots with payload/300 miles at 35 knots without payload.  

**Speed:** 40+ knots (46+mph) with full load.  
**Load Capacity:** 60 tons / 75 ton overload.  
**Military lift:** 24 troops or 1 MBT  
**Armament:** Two 12.7mm Mgs. Gun mount will support: M-2HB .50cal machine guns; Mk-19 Model 3 40mm grenade launcher; or an M-60 machine gun.  
**Radars:** Navigation: Marconi LN 66; I band.  
**Date Deployed:** 1982—as of 1995, 82 LCACs had been delivered to the US Navy.  

**For more info contact the U.S. Navy at:**  
Public Affairs Office  
Naval Sea Systems Command (OOD)  
Washington DC 20362

*more photos on page 9...*