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**COVER:** *The future littoral combat ship USS Little Rock (LCS-9) underway during a high-speed run in Lake Michigan during acceptance trails on 25 August. (Lockheed Martin)*

**THIS PAGE:** *Amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD-3) transits the Caribbean Sea on 19 September. Kearsarge was assisting with relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma — once again illustrating how rapidly the American military can respond to such disasters. (USN/Dana Legg)*

