

# THE AVENGER

AUGUST 2022



Our Ship's Seal

Manning the Rails

GHWB News

Happy Birthday  
Coast Guard

Photos of the Month

MAP Results



PLUS MORE!

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USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77)  
CCSG10



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## FRONT COVER

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), right, operates with the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), Aug. 27, 2022. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Samuel Wagner)

The "Avenger" is produced, edited and approved by the Media Department of USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77). "Avenger" is an authorized publication for the members of USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77) and their families.

# ★ USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) SEAL ★

**E**ach element of the seal is significant for its relevance to the ship's namesake, naval aviation, naval service, and our great nation. There are six prominent features of the seal, beginning with the 41 white stars. These stars symbolize the ship's namesake and the nation's 41st president, the Honorable George H.W. Bush. After taking the executive oath of office, with his hand on the same Bible George Washington used in 1789, Bush inspired the nation to use power to help people.

The rays of light that appear on the seal's horizon represent Bush's concept of a thousand points of light. He urged Americans to find meaning and reward by serving a purpose higher than themselves, to imbue the timeless ideas of "duty, sacrifice, commitment, and a patriotism that finds its expression in taking part and pitching in." The crew of CVN 77 stands ready every day and takes pride in pitching in.

The graphic depiction of the aircraft carrier reflects the carrier as both a symbol and instrument of American strength as "a force for good."

Bridging the past, present, and future of naval aviation are the overhead profiles of the TBM Avenger torpedo bomber, the FA-18 Hornet strike fighter, and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. The Avenger was selected for its relevance to Bush's days as a Navy pilot.

The foiled anchors and shields, as seen centered on naval aviator's wings, honor the ship's namesake's aviation history. The youngest pilot in the Navy when he earned his wings, he later flew an Avenger bomber during World War II. During one combat mission, his aircraft received heavy anti-aircraft fire. Although his plane was afire and severely damaged, he courageously completed his bombing run before heading out to sea, where he bailed out and was rescued by a Navy submarine, USS Finback.

Finally, the motto "Freedom at Work" is adapted from Bush's inaugural speech, during which he said, "We know what works: Freedom works. We know what's right: Freedom is right."

**USS George H.W. Bush and its crew, proud to serve a higher purpose, are the finest examples of  
Freedom at Work.**





# ★ Families at the Forefront ★



## Avengers,

One of the things we've talked about frequently as a family since Jen and I arrived is the importance of your families in our success as a team. Since we departed, the number of Little Avengers coming into the world is skyrocketing. The Avenger family gets stronger by the day.

While your department and divisional teams can help you by providing resources, lending an ear, and caring for you here, we rely on the teamwork and expertise of a special group of people helping our team at home.

Just a few days ago, our Family Readiness

Group and Ombudsmen brought our families together for an Avenger Family Picnic. Since COMPTUEX, the number of family members actively participating in our FRG has more than quadrupled. That's right – quadrupled!

This is the Pollard Family's eleventh deployment, and our experience shows family groups can be an incredible source of strength, connection, and wisdom, providing reassurance, community, and peace for families and Sailors alike.

During the picnic, I was able to speak to the Avenger families on the phone to tell them about the great work you are doing as the Warriors who are the leaders,

teachers, and ambassadors of the United States.

I am incredibly proud of you, and the work our Ombudsmen and FRG volunteers do to support our team at home. It is a labor of love that helps maintain connection from afar. It is not an easy job - our FRG and Ombudsmen are up to the task!

If you have family members who are not currently involved in the FRG and are interested in getting on their email distribution lists, in the FRG Facebook group, or simply want to connect with the Ombudsmen, they can be contacted at: [ghwbombudsman@gmail.com](mailto:ghwbombudsman@gmail.com) or [cvn77frg@gmail.com](mailto:cvn77frg@gmail.com).



CAVU,  
Capt. David-Tavis Pollard  
Commanding Officer





# CONGRATULATIONS



LT CHRISTOPHER BAKER

LT JAMES BARNES

LT TIMOTHY CULLEN

LT SARAH FABER

LT JENNA HILLMAN

LT SARAH HUSTON

LT SAMUEL MARCUS

LT BLAYNE MARTZ

LT ERIK MOLLER

LT HOWARD O'BERRY

LT JOSHUA REED

LT ELIZABETH RETTIE

LT GRANT RUSSELL

LT LUKE WALKER

LT ANDREW WHELAN



## ON SELECTION TO LCDR



**2021 NAVY &  
MARINE  
COPRS ASSOCIATION  
LEADERSHIP AWARD  
WINNERS**



CDR ACKER / CAT IV



LCDR. MILLIGAN / CAT III



ABHCS SMITH / CAT I

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S NMA LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS. YOU ARE ALL TRULY OUTSTANDING LEADERS WHO DEMONSTRATE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP ON A DAILY BASIS.

NOT PICTURED: CWO2 FRANCOIS FOR CAT II





www.history.navy.mil

# MANNING THE RAIL

## A U.S. NAVY TRADITION



### FROM THE AGE OF SAIL

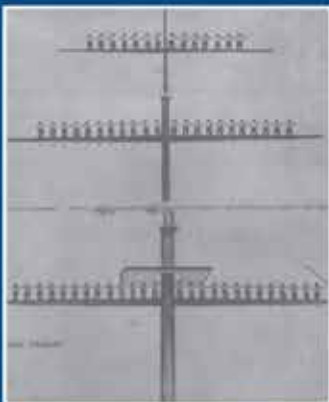
The custom of manning the rail evolves from "manning the yards" (the spars on a mast from which sails are set) and cheering the ship.

*"Naval Ceremonies, Customs, and Traditions," Mack and Connell*

When a ship returned to port and approached the Lord Admiral, those on board would "presently man the ship and place every one of their companies both upon the upper and middle deck and also upon the waist and shrouds and elsewhere to the most advantage they can to make the bravest show and appear the greater number."

*Roger Mearns's 1596 manuscript of the English Cadet Expedition*

### ADOPTED BY THE U.S. NAVY



As the tradition evolved, it became written in U.S. Naval Instruction of 1824 that "In manning the rigging for cheering, the people should be chosen for their size, to stand together or on the same ratlines, observing the space of two or three ratlines between each."

*U.S. Naval Instruction, 1824*

### PASSING HONORS

Today, manning the rail is used in similar fashion in passing honors for:



- President of the United States
- Rulers of foreign nations
- Members of a reigning royal family

*U.S. Naval Instruction, 1824*

### MANNING THE RAIL FOR THE USS ARIZONA

Manning the rail has also become a traditional way to honor the USS Arizona Memorial when all U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Merchant Marine vessels transit Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. A ship passing the USS Arizona Memorial renders honors by sounding, "Attention," and all hands topside render a hand salute until the ship has passed the memorial and "Carry on" is sounded.



*"Naval Ceremonies, Customs, and Traditions," Mack and Connell*

UNITED STATES NAVY





## George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group Completes Fleet Battle Problem

USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Public Affairs



The George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group completed Fleet Battle Problem 22-2, August 18. Led by Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, the focus of this FBP was to test Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) systems in a complex, maritime homeland defense scenario.

This iteration of FBP included a series of experiments testing warfighting concepts, which validated innovative tactics, techniques and procedures for employment in complex operational environments. In addition to testing IAMD in support of maritime homeland defense, the experiment also flexed the strike group's ability to operate with joint forces, specifically the Air Force.

"Fleet battle problem was a great opportunity to work with our joint partners at a high level early in our deployment," said Rear Adm. Dennis Velez, commander, CSG-10, George H.W. Bush CSG. "When you have two carrier strike groups and elements of the joint force competing against one another it brings out the best in our teams, and drives the learning and development in the high-end fight that is critical to our national defense and security."

The Navy's Surface Combat Systems Center on Wallops Island provided live scenarios for the FBP. The Center's efforts enabled warfighter training, testing, and fleet operations development. This battle problem focused on the transformation of the IAMD infrastructure to fuse all sensor data into an integrated, seamless operations and intelligence warfighting network.

Rapidly and consistently integrating fleet feedback on IAMD capabilities tested during the exercise will provide a desired level of control through the air, overland or from the sea in defense of the homeland. FBP 22-2 allowed the Navy to analyze best practices and incorporate them in future training, tactics, and procedures, as well as make recommendations for material improvement and acquisition priorities.

"Sending the Bush Strike Group on deployment following their extraordinary performance during FBP 22-2 is a clear demonstration of the caliber of investments we've made in advanced combat capabilities, responsive tactics, and war fighting integration" said Admiral Daryl Caudle, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. "No doubt the Bush team is ready to compete and win in the high-end fight."

The George H.W. Bush CSG is an integrated combat weapons system that delivers superior combat capability and the ability to deter and, if necessary, defeat America's adversaries in support of national security. Units that participated in the FBP 22-2 are USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, Destroyer Squadron 26, the embarked Information Warfare Commander, and the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55). The Air Force squadrons who participated in FBP 22-2 include the 27th Fighter Squadron, the 94th Fighter Squadron, and the 7th Fighter Squadron. Refueling tankers also supported from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst's 305th Air Mobility Wing, and from Pease Air National Guard Base's 159th Air Refueling Wing.



## George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group Deploys

USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Public Affairs



Commander, Carrier Strike Group 10, George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (GHWBCSG) deployed aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) from Naval Station Norfolk here, Aug. 10.

“We bring the full-range of U.S. and allied maritime power in support of national security and defense objectives wherever we sail,” said Rear Adm. Dennis Velez, commander, CSG-10, GHWBCSG. “Throughout our deployment we will continue to operate with and reassure our allies, maintain open sea lanes for trade and increased prosperity, and deter – or if necessary – destroy our adversaries.”

This marks the first deployment for George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) since 2017. The carrier completed an intensive maintenance availability after the 2017 deployment before she returned to the operational fleet to begin a robust deployment readiness cycle in late 2021.

“George H.W. Bush Sailors are warriors, leaders, teachers, and ambassadors operating forward, representing their families, hometowns, and the American people wherever we operate,” said Capt. David-Tavis Pollard, commanding officer of George H.W. Bush.

“President Bush said, “Let future generations understand the burdens and blessings of freedom. Let them say we stood where duty required us to stand.” We know what an awesome responsibility we have to preserve liberty, justice, and freedom while embodying the principles of service, grit, humility, and resilience our namesake showed throughout his lifetime.”

USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), USS Delbert D. Black (DDG 119), and USS Farragut (DDG 99) recently departed from their homeports as part of GHWBCSG. Notably, Delbert D. Black is underway to begin her maiden deployment.

The GHWBCSG is an integrated combat weapons system that delivers superior combat capability to deter, and if necessary, defeat America’s adversaries in support of national security.

The GHWBCSG is comprised of the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 10 staff, George H.W. Bush, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 26 staff and units, the Information Warfare Commander, and the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55). In total, the strike group is a force of more than 6,000 Sailors, capable of carrying out a wide variety of missions around the globe.

George H.W. Bush provides the national command authority flexible, tailorable warfighting capability as the flagship of a carrier strike group that maintains maritime stability and security to ensure access, deter aggression and defend U.S., allied and partner interests.

The ships of DESRON 26 within the GHWBCSG are USS Truxtun (DDG 103) homeported in Norfolk, Va., and USS Farragut (DDG 99) and USS Delbert D. Black (DDG 119) homeported in Mayport, Fl.

The squadrons of Carrier Air Wing Seven (CVW 7) embarked aboard George H.W. Bush are the “Jolly Rogers” of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 103, the “Pukin’ Dogs” of VFA-143, the “Bluetails” of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 121, the “Nightdippers” of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 5 located in Norfolk, Va.; the “Sidewinders” of VFA-86 and the “Nighthawks” of VFA-136 located in Lemoore, Ca.; the “Patriots” of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 140 based in Whidbey Island, Wa; and the “Grandmasters” of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 46 located in Mayport, Fl.



# Coalition of Sailors against Destructive Decisions

CSADD is a program dedicated to motivating Sailors  
and improving morale in the command.

## *WHY SHOULD I JOIN?*

Meet new people from  
different rates and all  
over the ship!

It's a command  
collateral  
where you can have  
fun and be apart of  
something!

Participate in  
volunteering events and  
other activities!

**CONTACT US.**

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What are you waiting for? Join us now!



# HAPPY <sup>232ND</sup> BIRTHDAY COAST GUARD

ON **AUGUST 4, 1790**, CONGRESS AUTHORIZED SECRETARY OF TREASURY **ALEXANDER HAMILTON** TO CONSTRUCT TEN VESSELS, KNOWN AS "REVENUE CUTTERS," TO COMBAT SMUGGLING AND ENFORCE TARIFF LAWS. FOR THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS, THE COAST GUARD WAS THE UNITED STATES' ONLY ARMED MARITIME FORCE!

ON **JUNE 1, 2022**, THE COAST GUARD BECAME THE **FIRST** U.S. MILITARY BRANCH TO BE LED BY A WOMAN WHEN LINDA L. FAGAN WAS SWORN IN AS THE COAST GUARD'S TWENTY-SEVENTH COMMANDANT.

**TODAY**, THE COAST GUARD MAINTAINS A FLEET OF 259 CUTTERS, 200 AIRCRAFT AND 1,602 BOATS. IN A TYPICAL YEAR, THE COAST GUARD WILL RESPOND TO **20,000 SEARCH-AND-RESCUE CASES** AND SAVE MORE THAN **3,500 LIVES**.

## George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group Transits the Strait of Gibraltar

USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Public Affairs



The George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (GHWBCSG), embarked aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), transited the Strait of Gibraltar and entered the Mediterranean Sea as part of a regularly scheduled deployment in the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa (NAVEUR-NAF) area of operations, Aug. 25, 2022.

The strike group ships, squadrons, and staff departed from the United States earlier this month, aggregating as a strike group in the Atlantic Ocean before beginning the transit through the Strait of Gibraltar.

“We are here to provide the flexibility and combat power that only a U.S. Navy carrier strike group can provide combatant commanders,” said Rear Adm. Dennis Velez, commander, George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group, Carrier Strike Group 10. “The Sailors of the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group are clear-eyed about our mission, ready to execute, and prepared to reassure our partners and allies while allowing our diplomats to negotiate from a position of strength, knowing the U.S. Navy is on station.”

While in the NAVEUR-NAF area of operations, GHWBCSG will work alongside allied and partner maritime forces, focusing on theater security cooperation efforts to further regional stability and demonstrate the strong maritime partnership between the U.S. and these allies and partners. This marks the first time that USS George H.W. Bush has operated in the region since its 2017 deployment, after which it entered an extensive maintenance period.

“The Avengers are warriors who are teachers, leaders, and ambassadors operating forward, representing the American people,” said Capt. David-Tavis Pollard, commanding officer of George H.W. Bush. “We will exemplify the principles of service, grit, humility, and resilience throughout our deployment and in our engagements throughout the region.”

Prior to deployment, GHWBCSG completed its final certification exercise with the Italian Navy destroyer ITS Caio Duilio (D 554) as part of the team. Later in the same exercise, the strike group came under the leadership of Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO (STRIKFORNATO) to flex command-and-control between U.S. and NATO chains-of-command, highlighting integration and interoperability between partners and allies.

Carrier strike groups are an inherently flexible naval force capable of deploying across combatant commands to meet emerging missions, deter and defend against potential adversaries, enhance security, reassure allies and partners, and guarantee the free flow of commerce in the region.

GHWBCSG is comprised of the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 10 staff, George H.W. Bush, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 26 staff and units, the Information Warfare Commander, and the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55). In total, the strike group is a force of more than 6,000 Sailors, capable of carrying out a wide variety of missions around the globe. George H.W. Bush provides the national command authority flexible, tailorable warfighting capability as the flagship of a carrier strike group that maintains maritime stability and security to ensure access, deter aggression and defend U.S., allied and partner interests.

The ships of DESRON 26 within the GHWBCSG are USS Nitze (DDG 94) and USS Truxtun (DDG 103) homeported in Norfolk, Va., and USS Farragut (DDG 99) and USS Delbert D. Black (DDG 119) homeported in Mayport, Fla.

The squadrons of Carrier Air Wing Seven (CVW 7) embarked aboard George H.W. Bush are the “Jolly Rogers” of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 103, the “Pukin’ Dogs” of VFA-143, the “Bluetails” of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 121, and the “Nightdippers” of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 5 based in Norfolk, Va.; the “Sidewinders” of VFA-86 and the “Nighthawks” of VFA-136 based in Lemoore, Calif.; the “Patriots” of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 140 based in Whidbey Island, Wash.; and the “Grandmasters” of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 46 based in Mayport, Fla.

For over 80 years, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVEUR-NAF) has forged strategic relationships with our allies and partners, leveraging a foundation of shared values to preserve security and stability.

Headquartered in Naples, Italy, NAVEUR-NAF operates U.S. naval forces in the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) areas of responsibility. U.S. Sixth Fleet is permanently assigned to NAVEUR-NAF, and employs maritime forces through the full spectrum of joint and naval operations.



## We have the watch: George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group relieves Harry S. Truman Carrier

USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Public Affairs

The relief marked the presence of two U.S. Navy aircraft carriers operating with one another in the Mediterranean, as well as GHWBCSG's official assumption of Commander, Task Force 60 responsibilities in the U.S. Sixth Fleet area of operations. HSTCSG's transit through the Strait of Gibraltar on Aug. 30 followed the dual carrier operations.

"We have the watch," said Rear Adm. Dennis Velez, commander, GHWBCSG, Carrier Strike Group 10. "The Truman and Bush Strike Groups represent a force that only a U.S. Navy carrier strike group can provide combatant commanders. The Truman Strike Group executed the mission, reassured our partners and allies, and gave our diplomats opportunities to negotiate from a position of strength. They served our nation and the region well. We are proud of our teammates and wish them well on their return to friends and family."

Velez and Rear Adm. Paul Spedero, Jr., commander, HSTCSG, CSG-8, met aboard USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) to discuss regional maritime security, task force operations, and building relationships with NATO allies to strengthen deterrence and defense efforts.

"This has been a meaningful deployment for our strike group," said Spedero. "We demonstrated our Navy's resounding commitment to the NATO Alliance and to our partners in the region. Our Sailors set the stage for future operations and I look forward to seeing what the Bush's strike group will accomplish during their deployment."

The GHWBCSG will work alongside the Joint Force, partners, and allies throughout the region while in the Naval Forces Europe, Naval Forces Africa, U.S. Sixth Fleet area of operations.

While operating together the CSGs conducted a face-to-face turnover between commanders and transferred ammunition. Additionally, the strike group teams worked together to create a unique opportunity for family members embarked on either carrier to spend quality time with one another aboard George H.W. Bush.

The GHWBCSG is an integrated combat weapons system that delivers superior combat capability to deter, and if necessary, defeat America's adversaries in support of national security. GHWBCSG's major command elements are USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 26, the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), and the Information Warfare Commander.

The ships of DESRON 26 within the GHWBCSG are USS Nitze (DDG 94), USS Truxtun (DDG 103), USS Farragut (DDG 99), and USS Delbert D. Black (DDG 119). The squadrons of CVW-7 embarked aboard George H.W. Bush are the "Jolly Rogers" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 103, the "Pukin Dogs" of VFA-143, the "Bluetails" of Carrier Airbone Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 121, the "Nightdippers"

of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 5, the "Sidewinders" of VFA-86, the "Nighthawks" of VFA-136, the "Patriots" of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 140, and the "Grandmasters" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 46.

Truman serves as the flagship of the HSTCSG and is commanded by Capt. Gavin Duff. Additional units include the nine squadrons of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 1, commanded by Capt. Patrick Hourigan, to include Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 11 "Red Rippers;" VFA-211 "Fighting Checkmates;" VFA-34 "Blue Blasters;" VFA-81 "Sunliners;" Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 137 "Rooks;" Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 126 "Seahawks;" Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 11 "Dragon Slayers;" Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 72 "Proud Warriors;" and a detachment from Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 40 "Rawhides."

The staff and guided-missile destroyers of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 28 commanded by Capt. Blair Guy have included USS Cole (DDG 67) USS Bainbridge (DDG 96), USS Gravely (DDG 107), USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109), and USS Forrest Sherman (DDG 98). The strike group also consists of the Ticonderoga class guided-missile cruiser USS San Jacinto (CG 56), commanded by Capt. Christopher Marvin.

For more information about the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group you can visit its official website, Facebook, or LinkedIn page. For more information about the ship you can visit its Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, or official webpage. For more news from Truman, visit [www.airlant.usff.navy.mil/cvn75/](http://www.airlant.usff.navy.mil/cvn75/), [www.facebook.com/cvn75](https://www.facebook.com/cvn75), [www.twitter.com/ussharrystruman](https://www.twitter.com/ussharrystruman), or [http://instagram.com/uss\\_harrys.truman](https://http://instagram.com/uss_harrys.truman).





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FIND THE RIGHT TOOL  
FOR THE RIGHT JOB.



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NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL  
PROCEDURAL  
COMPLIANCE!

### PROCEDURAL COMPLIANCE



PAUSE FOR A MOMENT. AM I FOLLOWING  
THE PROCEDURE STEP BY STEP?

ONE STEP AT A TIME.  
ONE DAY AT A TIME.

BE SAFE SHIPMATES.

CVN  
77

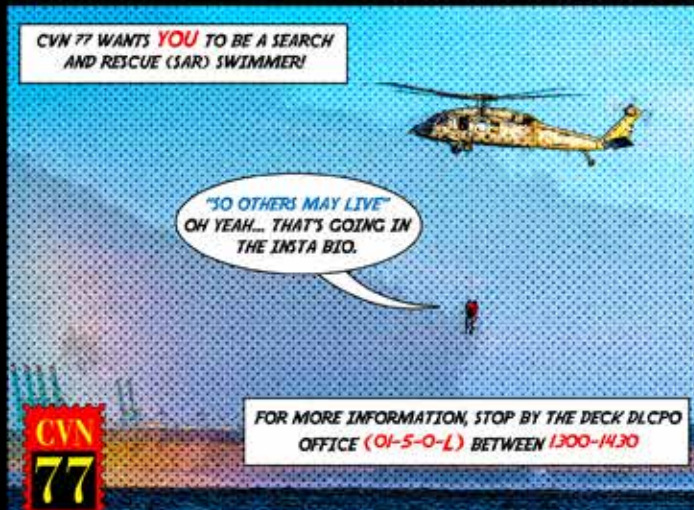
WE HAVE THE  
WATCH

IT'S ALL  
CAVU FROM  
HERE

CVN  
77

SO LONG TRUMAN! TEAM  
JACKPOT HAS IT FROM HERE!

CVN 77 WANTS YOU TO BE A SEARCH  
AND RESCUE (SAR) SWIMMER!



"SO OTHERS MAY LIVE"  
OH YEAH... THAT'S GOING IN  
THE INSTA BIO.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, STOP BY THE DECK DLCPO  
OFFICE (01-5-O-L) BETWEEN 1300-1430

CVN  
77

VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!



CVN  
77

HEY DOC  
SINCE I GOT YOU  
HERE, I GOT THIS  
WEIRD RASH...

SO VOLUNTEERS  
ARE NEEDED FOR  
OUR FLIGHT DECK  
MASS CASUALTY  
DRILL ON  
WEDNESDAY FROM  
1330-1530. ALSO  
CALLING ALL  
SPECIAL EFFECTS  
ARTISTS! MORE  
MAKEUP ARTISTS  
ARE NEEDED TO GET  
THE VOLUNTEERS  
READY FOR MORE  
INFORMATION,  
CONTACT SHIPS  
NURSE AT  
5187/6033



CVN  
77

BULLY JEE  
WILLIERS RAY I'VE GOT  
A DEGREE AND WANT TO BE  
A NAVAL OFFICER! HOW DO  
I START THE PROCESS?

WELL SON,  
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF  
OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL? OR  
MAYBE THE UNRESTRICTED LINE  
OFFICER IN-SERVICE  
PROCUREMENT PILOT  
PROGRAM?



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
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# *PHOTOS OF THE MONTH*

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The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) receives ordnance from the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) during a replenishment-at-sea Aug. 27, 2022. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Samuel Wagner)



























## Strengthening Partnerships, Recreating History: George H.W. Bush Sails Alongside Amerigo

USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Public Affairs



On July 12, 1962, the Forrestal-class aircraft carrier USS Independence (CVA 62) operated in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations when it sailed past the ITS Amerigo Vespucci in the Mediterranean Sea.

Just more than sixty years later, Amerigo Vespucci recreated the moment with the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) in the Adriatic Sea, Sep. 1, 2022.

"This was an amazing opportunity to honor and reinforce the partnership between our two navies, our countries, and the legacy of U.S. Navy aircraft carriers in maritime diplomacy," said Capt. David-Tavis Pollard, commanding officer of George H.W. Bush. "The Avengers are warriors who are the teachers, leaders, and ambassadors of America. We are honored to represent our families, hometowns, states and the nation abroad."

According to Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) website, when Independence encountered the full-rigged ship in 1962, the carrier signaled to ask the vessel to identify itself, "training ship Amerigo Vespucci, Italian Navy," was the response." The Independence reportedly signaled back, "You are the most beautiful ship in the world." An old black and white photo highlighted by NHHC in recent years, as well as on the Amerigo Vespucci's website, marks the encounter six decades ago.

"I am grateful to USS George H.W. Bush and the whole US Navy for accepting my invitation to recreate history after 60 years, celebrating the anniversary of the sail past between USS Independence and ITS Amerigo Vespucci, that delivered the iconic label of 'the world's most beautiful ship' to the vessel that I have the privilege to command," said Italian Navy Capt. Max Siragusa, commanding officer of Amerigo Vespucci. "This ship brought me to U.S. for the first time in my life in 1992, as a midshipman; six years later I had the opportunity to work for two weeks on board USS Abraham Lincoln, deployed in the Persian Gulf, while performing a one year Personnel Exchange Program with the US Navy; today, in my last fortnight of Command at Sea I am delighted to put together three significant chapters of my professional life."

When George H.W. Bush hailed Amerigo Vespucci she replied, "This is Italian Navy Ship Amerigo Vespucci, senior national vessel in active duty." George H.W. Bush replied, "Amerigo Vespucci, you are still the most beautiful ship in the world!" Vespucci responded, "We are flattered and with you and the Avenger team fair winds and following seas for your deployment. May your ceiling and visibility remain unlimited."

Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 10, George H.W. Bush CSG, is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa area of operations, employed by U.S. Sixth Fleet to defend U.S., allied and partner interests.

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) is the flagship of CSG-10 and the George H.W. Bush CSG. CSG-10 is comprised of George H.W. Bush, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 26, the Information Warfare Commander, and the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55).

The ships of DESRON 26 within CSG-10 are USS Nitze (DDG 94), USS Farragut (DDG 99), USS Truxtun (DDG 103), and USS Delbert D. Black (DDG 119).

The squadrons of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7 embarked aboard George H.W. Bush are the "Jolly Rogers" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 103, the "Pukin Dogs" of VFA-143, the "Blue-tails" of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 121, the "Nightdippers" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 5, the "Sidewinders" of VFA-86, the "Nighthawks" of VFA-136, the "Patriots" of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 140, and the "Grandmasters" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 46.

For over 80 years, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVEUR-NAF) has forged strategic relationships with allies and partners, leveraging a foundation of shared values to preserve security and stability.

Headquartered in Naples, Italy, NAVEUR-NAF operates U.S. naval forces in the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) areas of responsibility. U.S. Sixth Fleet is permanently assigned to NAVEUR-NAF, and employs maritime forces through the full spectrum of joint and naval operations.





# MAP RESULTS ARE IN!



## First Class Petty Officers

BM1 Jason Wyatt  
ABF1 Keneth McCoy  
MA1 Vernall Smith  
RS1 Kennedy Wesson  
ETN1 Michael Harris

## Third Class Petty Officers

OS3 Maria Oneill  
LS3 Kyle Wills  
AD3 Luke Antes  
BM3 Luis Avalos  
BM3 Jonathan Smallwood  
BM3 Robert Digiantomasso  
CS3 Tamia Baker  
LS3 Brittany Danrea  
LS3 Rachuel McCray  
LS3 Kwesi Asamoah  
CS3 Lyle Alizna  
YN3 Isreal Martinez  
MM3 Eric Archuleta  
MC3 Samuel Wagner  
GM3 Liam Ford  
IT3 Jeremiah Odenat  
EM3 Joseph Trowbridge  
MM3 Jeffrey Dancy  
ABH3 Evangellica Semblante  
ABH3 Timothy Layden  
ABF3 Anthony Kelly  
ABF3 Daniel Devalle  
ABH3 Margaret Furlong  
ABE3 Jesse Head  
MA3 Matthew Tellez

## Second Class Petty Officers

YN2 Adrian Yantis  
EM2 Nicholas Larson  
ABE2 Brianhy Cassillasrodriguez  
MM2 Justin Datcher  
IC2 Ira Patino  
A02 William Walker  
MC2 Brandon Roberson  
MM2 Austin Kreger  
ETN2 Riley Olsen  
MMN2 Sydney Abad  
MMN2 Marivil Salarada  
RS2 Jermel Brewer  
AE2 Toby Hurn  
QM2 Nyre Griffin

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**TO OUR NEWEST PETTY OFFICERS!**





# FREEDOM AT WORK



**HAVE ANY IDEAS ON STORIES/EVENTS YOU WANT US TO COVER?**

EMAIL YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO [AVENGERMAGAZINESTAFF@CVN77.NAVY.MIL](mailto:AVENGERMAGAZINESTAFF@CVN77.NAVY.MIL)