

THE AVENGER

APR 2022



Meet the New CSG-10 Commander

George and Barbara Bush Foundation Visits CVN 77

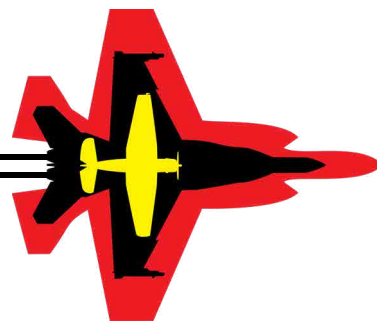
George H.W. Bush Sailors Celebrate Month of the Military Child

Departments in the Spotlight:
Deck
Navigation



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USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77)



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FRONT COVER

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Brittany Berkley, assigned to the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), recreates a photo of her mother in celebration of Month of the Military Child, April 18, 2022. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication 3rd Class Brandon Roberson)

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.

★ COMMANDER, CARRIER STRIKE GROUP 10 ★

Rear Admiral Dennis Velez
Commander, Carrier Strike Group 10
Commander, George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group



Rear Adm. Dennis Velez is a native of Adjuntas, Puerto Rico. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering. He also earned a master's degree in Information Technology Management from Touro University in 2004.

At sea, Velez completed tours aboard USS Stout (DDG 55), USS Carr (FFG 52), USS Gettysburg (CG 64), and USS Donald Cook (DDG 75). He served on afloat staffs with Commander, U.S. Second Fleet/Striking Fleet Atlantic aboard USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) and as the Deputy Commander for Destroyer Squadron Fifteen in Japan. He was the commanding officer of USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) and USS San Jacinto (CG 56).

Ashore, Velez served as Officer in Charge of Western Hemisphere Group Caribbean Area Coordinator; Surface Placement Branch Head, Head Junior Surface Warfare Distribution, Assistant Captain Detailer and Deputy Director for Surface Warfare Distribution at Naval Personnel Command; Joint Staff Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate as Chief, North East Asia Division and Assistant Director for Political-Military Affairs, Asia. He was the Senior Military Assistant to the 76th Secretary of the Navy.

His initial flag officer assignment was as Commander, Navy Recruiting Command.

Velez was inducted in the Puerto Rico Military Hall of Fame in November 2021 and is the recipient of the Navy League's 2016 John Paul Jones Award for Inspirational Leadership. His personal military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He is most proud of his appointment as an Honorary Chief Petty Officer.

Carrier Strike Group 10, GHWBCSG Changes Command

Carrier Strike Group 10, George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group Public Affairs



NAVAL STATION NORFOLK -- Rear Adm. Dennis Velez relieved Rear Adm. Rick J. Cheeseman, Jr. as Commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 10, George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (GHWBCSG) during a ceremony aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) on board Naval Station Norfolk April 6, 2022.

Civilian and military guests gathered to bid fair winds and following seas to Cheeseman and welcome Velez as the new commander.

Rear Adm. Fred Pyle, director, Maritime Operations, U.S. Fleet Forces Command was the presiding officer at the ceremony. Pyle emphasized the importance of the capabilities the strike group brings in today's security climate.

"I truly believe that one of the core strengths of our Navy comes from our commitment to the principles underpinning command," said Pyle. "The authority, responsibility, and accountability of command are absolute, which, in fact, make this ceremony quite distinct."

Pyle emphasized the importance of the capabilities the strike group brings in today's climate.

"A strike group's agility, resilience, and strength, as well as its diverse array of capabilities make it the Navy's premiere unit of issue," said Pyle. "Neither China or Russia can replicate it – they can't train, deploy, and sustain operations with the responsiveness, command and control capability, and multi-dimensional might like that of a U.S. Navy carrier strike group."

Cheeseman, a native of Carney's Point, New Jersey, and 1989 graduate of Pennsylvania State University, assumed command of CSG-10 in December 2020. Throughout his speech, Cheeseman lauded the tenacity and dedication to service of all CSG-10 Sailors under his charge.

"How can I not be emotional after developing such a strong bond with 7,566 Sailors whom I am proud to lead," asked Cheeseman. "Make no mistake, these Sailors understand the challenges ahead and they are neither hesitant nor scared. They are resolute in their preparation for their future mission – whatever that may be."

Velez, a native of Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, and a graduate of United States Naval Academy arrives as the strike group is preparing for a deployment.

He thanked Cheeseman for his devotion to service.

"I know you hate to go, but hopefully you can find satisfaction in the fact that you are leaving behind a legacy of excellence and combat readiness in the entire strike group."

Velez then addressed the Sailors of CSG-10 for the first time as their new commander.

"I am not sure what the future will bring as we get ready to complete our work ups and deploy overseas, but I know without question that this strike group will be ready to answer our Nation's call," said Velez. "I am ready to go to work."

CSG-10 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 and is preparing to deploy as the George H.W. Bush CSG.

The major command elements are the aircraft carrier USS. George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, Destroyer Squadron 26, the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), and the Information Warfare Commander.

George & Barbara Bush Foundation Leadership Visit Freedom at Work

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



George & Barbara Bush Foundation leadership visited the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) for a distinguished visitor embark April 9-10, 2022.

The embark built on George H.W. Bush and the George & Barbara Foundation's close ties and effort to carry on the legacy of service exemplified in word and deed by the life of President and Mrs. George H.W. Bush.

Despite visiting shore-based events leading up to and including the ship's commissioning in 2009, it was the first visit to an aircraft carrier at sea for many of the guests.

Their visit included many opportunities to interact with the young men and women that bring 100,000 tons of American steel and fire power to life in support of the nation.

"President and Mrs. Bush would beam today if they saw what the men and women aboard the ship do each and every day," said Alexander 'Hap' Ellis, president of the board of directors of the foundation. "Capt. Aguilar's first message to us in the port cabin was to focus less on the machine, and more on the Sailors that bring her to life. The Sailors aboard this ship are truly remarkable."

George H.W. Bush is the only U.S. Navy aircraft carrier named for a naval aviator. Bush flew from the deck of USS San Jacinto (CVL 30) in the Pacific campaign in World War II while assigned as a pilot and photographic officer in Torpedo Squadron (VT) 51.

"The crew works tirelessly to live up to the standard of service before self President Bush exemplified," said Capt. Robert Aguilar, commanding officer of George H.W. Bush and the first Texan to lead the ship and crew. "It's a special honor to serve as the commanding officer of the George Herbert Walker Bush alongside all the men and women who embody the example of our namesake and our Navy's core values."

On Jan. 23, 1988, then-Vice President Bush commissioned the guided-missile cruiser USS San Jacinto (CG 56) during

a ceremony in Houston – a nod to his World War II service where he flew from the decks of the light carrier San Jacinto. The cruiser's sponsor was Mrs. Barbara Bush – a role that her daughter Doro Bush Koch fills today for her father's namesake ship.

Rear Adm. Dennis Velez, who recently became Commander, Carrier Strike Group 10, George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group, was one of CG-56's commanding officers.

"It was incredible to meet with friends and family of President and Mrs. Bush here aboard Freedom at Work," said Velez. "The examples that they both set for their family and the nation –like my parents set for me - were that hard work, setting goals and treating everyone with dignity and respect are fundamental to success. Even for a surface warfare officer like me, the President's favorite aviation term CAVU [ceiling and visibility unlimited] truly resonates and applies."

The George & Barbara Bush Foundation is dedicated to preserving the historic legacies of President and Mrs. Bush by supporting and promoting education and service-oriented programs at the George H.W. Bush President Library and Museum and The Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University.

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.

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. It achieves its mission by projecting the combined power of George H.W. Bush, Carrier Air Wing 7, Destroyer Squadron 26, its Information Warfare Commander, and the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55).

The Lasting Effects of Hemp Use

U.S. Navy story by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brandon Roberson



ATLANTIC OCEAN - Hemp products are not authorized for Department of Defense (DoD) use and will lead to notification of administrative separation, regardless of local legality.

Sailors are not allowed to use hemp products such as cannabidiol (CBD) oil, shampoos, conditioners, lotions, soaps, or other topical products, because these products may cause a Sailor to test positive on urinalysis.

“As service members, we are held to a higher standard than our civilian counterparts,” said USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Command Master Chief Ronald Glass. “Using illegal drugs can not only impact your Naval career, but can leave a lasting effect on your ability to obtain federal and/or state jobs.”

The Navy is updating their drug tests due to the legalization of marijuana and its derivatives

across the nation. Hemp, in particular, is a botanical class of cannabis sativa cultivars grown specifically for industrial or medicinal use. It can be used in a wide range of products such as food, health products, and natural remedies. It is the responsibility of a Sailor to know when hemp can be present in products they may use.

“Unfortunately, Sailors must always have their guard up with respect to the products they purchase,” said Lt. Allie Mooney, Assistant Judge advocate aboard George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), “Just last year, I found protein powder in a Navy Exchange that contained ‘hemp’ as an ingredient.”

The Navy has strict policies on drug use and will administratively separate the Sailor if they have used or been found in possession of marijuana and its derivatives.

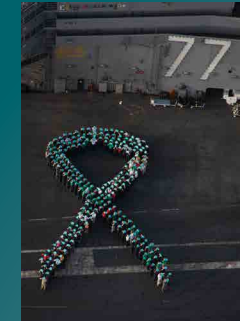
This can result in an other than honorable discharge, which can negatively impact Sailors’ post-Navy benefits.

For more information regarding DoD Hemp policy and for Navy specific guidance, check out [ALNAV 074/20](#).

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 in order to ensure access, deter aggression and defend U.S., allied and partner interests,

For more information about George H.W. Bush, he to the command’s Facebook (www.facebook.com/ussgeorgehwbush) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/ghwbcvn77) pages or head to the official webpage (www.airlant.usff.navy.mil/cvn77).

Protecting Our People, Protects Our Mission



The U.S. Navy's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program is designed to meet the needs of victims. Sexual assaults encompass a broad range of intentional sexual contacts that are unwelcome and without consent. No form of sexual assault is ever acceptable in the Department of the Navy, and all are crimes. Close coordination with law enforcement and legal is essential for successful prosecutions. Active intervention is one key element of sexual assault prevention. It emphasizes the responsibility of all Sailors and Marines to protect each other and to actively intervene in circumstances that may lead up to sexual assault.

Your Reporting Options

UNRESTRICTED REPORTING

AVAILABLE TO ALL VICTIMS

VICTIMS CAN REPORT TO:

- SAPR VA
- SARC
- Supervisor/chain of command
- Medical personnel/FFSC counselors
- Law enforcement/Naval Criminal Investigative Service
- VLC

VICTIM SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Victim advocacy
- Medical attention/forensic exam
- Counseling
- Legal assistance
- Chaplain support
- Investigation by law enforcement
- Military/civilian protective order, if required
- Process for permanent or temporary expedited transfer, or safety transfer

RESTRICTED REPORTING

AVAILABLE ONLY TO MILITARY PERSONNEL AND ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS

VICTIMS MUST REPORT TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- SAPR VA
- SARC
- Healthcare personnel, including clinical counselors

VICTIM SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Victim advocacy
- Medical attention/forensic exam
- Counseling
- Chaplain support
- VLC support consistent with restricted reporting status
- Legal assistance

*The restricted reporting option gives victims the opportunity and the time to get information and professional advice about their rights and available services without triggering law enforcement investigation.

Other Resources

DoD Safe Helpline
Secure, confidential support and referrals to the DoD community:
Toll-free 1-877-995-5247
Text 55-247 (001-202-470-5546 outside the U.S.)
www.safehelpline.org (download the Safe Helpline APP – iOS or Android)

DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO)
www.sapr.mil

★ DECK DEPARTMENT ★



ROLE IN SHIP'S MISSION

Deck department supports the mission by: standing watch, driving the ship and ensuring safe navigation. They also provide a lot of food and sustenance for the ship through refueling and replenishments at sea.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Deck department anchors the ship. So, it'll be deck dropping the anchor and setting up an anchor watch when in port. Deck also steers the ship and stands lookout. All the piping you hear aboard the ship are deck, called Boatswain's calls. Some other evolutions are boat operations and replenishments-at-sea.



PREPARING FOR DEPLOYMENT

Some things Sailors should expect on deployment is a different way of life. We lose a lot of the comforts of civilian life. Once you understand how the military works and learn to not necessarily cope with it but accept it, it's actually a pretty smooth ride.



“Being in one of the oldest rates in the Navy has a lot of meaning to it, because there is a lot of heritage and of tradition. It definitely means a lot, many of our Sailors wear the cross anchors on their hands and other tattoos very proudly, we’re a very proud rate.”

-CW02 Jesse Gazur

★ NAVIGATION DEPARTMENT ★

ROLE IN SHIP'S MISSION

With the assistance of the boatswain's mates, navigation department ensures the ship makes it through the world's oceans, bays, canals and straits safely. They also maintain a proper record of ships events daily.



RESPONSIBILITIES

While in port, duty navigation ensures proper military tradition and customs are carried out by closing up and hauling down all flags that notify the waterfront of all the happenings on George H.W. Bush. When a fire or medical emergency is called away, duty navigation reports to Deck House-3 to ensure the ship's deck logs are being managed and updated with the current situation. While underway, their primary responsibility is ensuring the safe navigation of USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) and keeping the ship's deck logs.



PREPARING FOR DEPLOYMENT

Sailors can prepare themselves for deployment by making sure families have a way to contact them, giving family member's Red Cross information for emergency use and writing letters.



“We work closely with and rely on Sailors from many departments across the ship to stand watches that ensure safe navigation. Collectively we make sure our ship, the Air Wing, Destroyer Squadron Staff, Information Warfare Commander, and Strike Group Staff are safely in position when and where the nation needs us to be. It means a lot to each of us that our ability to train, master, and teach seamanship and navigation to Sailors on this ship impacts the lives of all Sailors aboard, their families, and of course, those who our nation offers peace through our naval strength.”

-CDR Patrick Acker



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 JESSE GAZUR



“We’re the ones that get us underway and when we pull back in, we’re the ones that throw the lines over and get us safely to the pier.”



Q: What is your job title and responsibilities aboard George H.W. Bush? How would you describe your Job?

A: I am the Assistant First Lieutenant aboard the ship. I assist the First Lieutenant in a lot of administrative stuff along with briefs, training, and evaluations for the department. We deal with all deck evolutions from anchoring, unrep, boat ops, mooring the ship and getting us underway. But my actual position and what I do in the military is a surface boatswain. I’m a subject matter expert in everything boatswain’s mate and deck related. One word to describe this job is fulfilling.

Q: What are your priorities for our crew?

A: Training. Training is the biggest thing for me. It’s trying to make sure that my Sailors understand why we’re doing certain stuff a certain way. Deck evolutions are some of the most dangerous evolutions you can do on the ship. Bringing a rig across a tight wire that’s tensioned up to almost 25,000 pounds and sending 100’s of pounds of stores over, it’s not an easy feat. I think really instilling in my Sailors to follow proper procedures and to really care about what you do and about the people around you, it’s really important.

Q: Do you have anything specific you want to articulate to the crew about deck department and how they fit into the overall George H.W. Bush/George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group mission?

A: I’d like to say that deck department plays a role in a lot of it. Aircraft carriers usually like to focus on air department and reactor, but we don’t get underway without deck. We take a lot of pride in how our ship looks and how we look to our foes. If we are a really nasty, rusted looking ship, what kind of impression does that give to any country trying to test the United States? We try to take pride in the preservation of the ship and how neat and tight our lines are when you come down the pier.



QUARTERMASTER 1ST CLASS DESMOND MYRICK



“Mentorship is one of those secret weapons most don’t realize they need until they do.”

Q: What is your job title and responsibilities aboard George H.W. Bush? How would you describe your Job?

A: I am the navigation department leading petty officer. My position enables me to work alongside my Sailors with honors and ceremonies (to include up and overs and hangar bay flags) resulting in two chain of command events and six retirement events onboard USS George H.W. Bush. Underway I am one of seven quartermasters of the watch ensuring safe navigation during replenishment-at-sea (RAS), General Quarters as Seamanship Navigation Training Team (SNTT) member and sea and anchor detail monitoring the ship’s total miles traveled as well as accounting for the ship’s evolution.

Q: What are your priorities for our crew?

A: I take accountability for all junior Sailors whether they are navigation department or not...George H.W. Bush/Carrier Strike Group TEN or NOT! These are all my Sailors and I want all of us to eat!



MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

WHAT IS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD?

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. It is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices and the challenges they overcome.

This year we celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Month of the Military Child, which is part of the legacy of former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who established the Defense Department commemoration in 1986.

HOW DO WE CELEBRATE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD?

Wear purple on Purple Up Day, April 19 and throughout the month: Wearing purple is a visible way for everyone to show support and thank military youth for their strength and sacrifices



HM1 BRITTANY BERKLEY

"Ironically I did not want to join any branch of the military. Being a product of two active duty parents, I saw the life that they lived and that wasn't something that I wanted for myself. Come week one of boot camp, my upbringing made sense. The Sunday "field" days, the hospital corners in my bed sheets and my mom's long white socks and scrunchy bottom sweat pants; they were all immediately recognizable, reminiscent and familiar. My mom is and has always been a strong, independent, hard-worker, willing to give you the shirt off her back, take you in if you needed a place, or nurse a wounded animal back to health and she has raised me to be the same. A genuinely decent human being who just wants to make a world the better place."

*Sailor is intentionally out of regulations to recreate photograph.

IC1 ASHLIE LOYER

"My son inspired me to be the Sailor that I am today because he was born 25 weeks premature. For the first five months of his life I watched him fight to live. If someone so small could fight that hard then I owed it to him to be the best leader that I could be to make sure he has the best life possible.

Continue to keep defying the odds that were stacked against you from birth. Mommy loves you and everything I do, I do for you."



IC2 GARRET KNERR

"Everything I do in my life is for my wife Amanda and my baby girl Meredith hoping to make home a little safer and providing for them.

I love you and I miss you both so very much can't wait to spend the rest of my life with you."

CS2 ADRIANA ROBLES

"My son motivates me to be the Sailor I am today by just being born. His dad and I promised to always put him first being that we're both active duty Navy serving at sea. Joaquin is the most positive, empathetic, and energetic tiny human I've met. Coming home to him has always made my job and time away home worth it and reminds me every second counts.

Joaquin, I just want you to never forget how much mommy loves you. Everything I do has a reason and purpose, and soon I'll have you back home in my arms. Thank you for being the best son I could ask for and thank you for being my biggest cheerleader Chaps! "



AS1 JACK PRYDE

"My daughter, Kayleigh, inspires me to keep pushing. It's important for me to show her that when you say you'll do something you complete the task. Your name and your word are what people remember and it's important to protect it.

I know this time apart is difficult right now but I promise it won't last forever. This time apart is for a much bigger picture and this will be worth it in the end."

MCC WILLIAM GASKILL

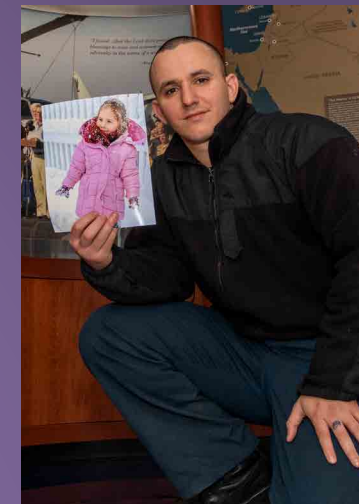
"I can see how much my son looks up to me and how much influence me and his Mom have on him. I keep that in mind in the way I operate and treat others. He has seen three long deployment, and now a cross-country PCS which put the whole country in between us, so I know how important communication is for families. William, my boy, you are an amazing little dude and a great athlete! Keep up the strong work and behave like a young gentleman for Mommy! I LOVE YOU."



MCSN FELIX CASTILLO-REYES

"My daughter means the world to me and is the reason why I get up every morning and do what I do. I hope that at the end of my journey in the Navy she knows her daddy did his best to provide for her and serve his country. After being away at sea I always buy her a kinder egg and the first thing she asks me is "Daddy, me comprastes un huevo?" (Daddy, did you bring me an egg?) I make sure to always have a stash on me.

Athena, I love you with all my heart and I'll be home soon!"



LS1 FATRI CLARKE

"Prior to enlisting, I did not have a child. However, after one year, came the birth of my daughter. Initially, my plan was to get out after my first contract expired, but because of the solid medical benefits the Navy provides, I stayed in. Therefore, my daughter is the reason why I am still a United States Sailor.

Just know that daddy loves his baby girl and that will never change. Naturally, you have made me a better man and you are the best thing that has ever happen to me."

LCDR MATTHEW STROUP

"When Brayden and Luke were very young, I deployed aboard CVN 77 for the ship's maiden deployment. It made me a better officer, leader, and employee because I felt like I had to honor them for the time I wasn't spending with them with my very best effort, and to help them be proud of what we sacrifice in time as a family to the Navy.

I love and miss you boys a ton, and there isn't a day I'm out here where you don't make me laugh or smile. You're wonderful kids and I'm grateful to be your Dad."



MC1 KAYLYN JACKSON-SMITH

"My children give my life a greater purpose. They've helped me learn and understand the meaning of family. I try to treat every Sailor I encounter, especially the ones I work with, the way I would want someone to treat my children if it were them, like family. Every Sailor here is someone's son or daughter. My children helped me realize that I want to be a leader my Sailors are not only proud to have but that they can trust to care about the human wearing the uniform above all else.

Carter and Amira, I love you more than words could ever express. EVERYTHING I do is for the two of you. I appreciate every little smile, little hug and little kiss because they get me through the times we have to be apart. Being your mom is the best thing that ever happened to me. I will live every day of my life pouring all the love the two of you give me back into you both."



CW03 TONYA MCMILON

"My son is the reason I want to make sure the freedoms of our country are protected, and I want him to grow up knowing those freedoms. Without my family and their support I wouldn't have the strength to do what I do for the Navy every day. My dad started instilling me pride and determination early that has carried me through my career. My son is giving me the heart and patience to train those who will replace me in this great Navy one day.

Mommy will always be with you. No matter how many time zones, foreign lands or seas are between us. You are my purpose in life and I will do all in my power to not fail you. I love you and soon I won't ever have to leave you again.

Dad, I hope you're looking down from Heaven and are proud of my military career that I wouldn't have thought even possible without the knowledge you instilled in me."

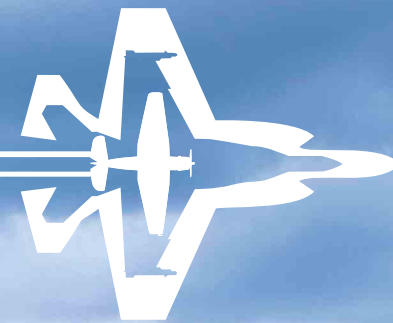


FCCS TIVONA WEBSTER

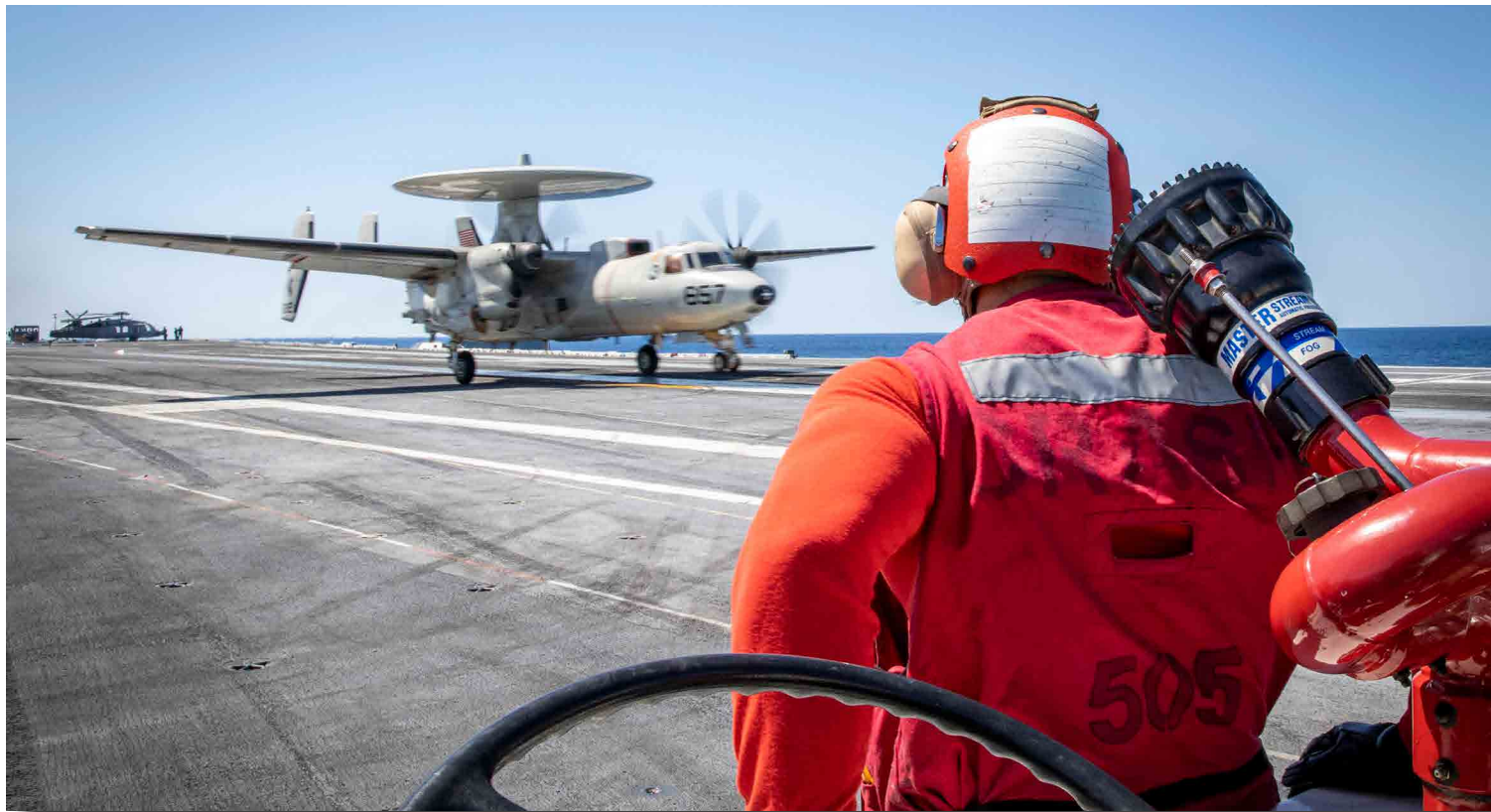
"My daughter, Marcela, makes me want to be a better person and keep doing what we need in order to keep her and the rest of our family safe. She is the motivation that gets me through the day.

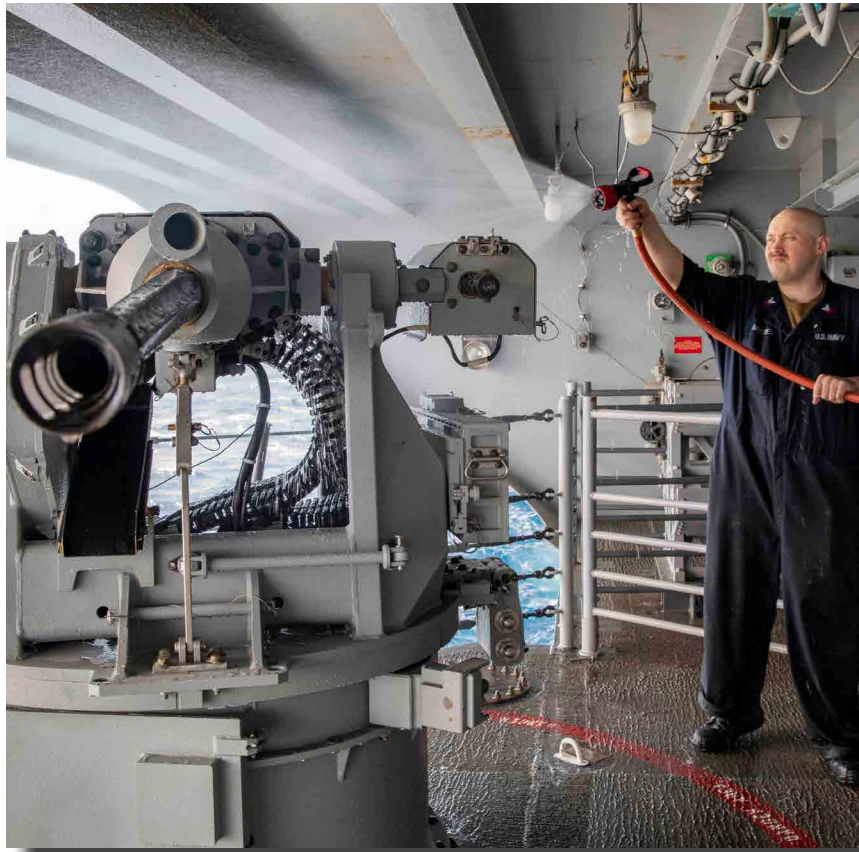
I love you! I can't wait to have you home!"

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



The aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) transits the Atlantic Ocean, April 18, 2022. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Stuart Posada)







BREAKING *NEWS*



CVN 77 HAS A SHIP SHOW!



AIRS ON CHANNEL 77

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

EMAIL YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO AVENGERMAGAZINESTAFF@CVN77.NAVY.MIL!