

# THE AVENGER

JUNE 2022



GHWB News

Every Sailor is a Recruiter

CSG-10 Admiral's  
Daughter Commission

NSETC Visit  
GHWB

June Monthly  
Observances

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) transits the Atlantic Ocean, June 13, 2022. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Novalee Manzella)

*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.*





## CSG-10 PRINCIPLES OF OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE



### Integrity

Do the right thing, adhere to the highest standards at all times.

### Level of Knowledge

Know your job and procedures. Never stop learning.

### Procedural Compliance

By the book procedures. No short cuts. Fight complacency.

### Formal Communications

Speak up, ask and act when you know something is wrong.

### Questioning Attitude

Speak up, ask, investigate when you sense or know something is not right.

### Forceful Backup

Speak up, ask and act when you know something is wrong.

### Risk Management

Identify, understand, and mitigate risks.

These seven principles apply to every activity at all times.

Following and adhering to these principles will ensure safe mission or activity execution no matter your role or experience.

Virtually every mishap, close call or operational failure, both on and off duty, can be traced to a violation of one or more of these principles.



## CSG-10 Enlists Daughter as Navy Nurse Candidate

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

Rear Adm. Dennis Velez, commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 10 and George H.W. Bush CSG, issued the oath of enlistment to his daughter, Madeline, as part of the U.S. Navy's Nurse Candidate Program (NCP) aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), May 14, 2022.

The Navy Nurse Corps provides direct support to Navy and Marine Corps commands, squadrons, battalions and units. Navy nurses deploy in support of combat operations, disaster relief, and humanitarian assistance missions, providing the best care our nation can offer ashore and afloat.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think that Madeline would join the Navy," said Velez, "She has always been very independent, and after seeing a video on YouTube about the Navy Nurse program, she started asking questions, and here we are."

Madeline Velez recently finished her third year as a student at the University of Virginia. She will continue working toward completing her degree and required certifications before transitioning to Officer Development School (ODS) and eventually commissioning as a Navy nurse.

"First year of College I was considering what I wanted to do with my service and who I wanted to help, and when I found the Naval Nurse Corps, I started thinking I could help people who helped me growing up and I could pay it forward," said Madeline Velez. "I was born in a Naval hospital, I've been treated at Naval hospitals, and I just felt like bringing it back full circle."

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

For more information about GHWB, head to the command's Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ussgeorgehwibush](https://www.facebook.com/ussgeorgehwibush)), Instagram ([www.instagram.com/ghwbcvn77](https://www.instagram.com/ghwbcvn77)), and YouTube ([www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/)) pages or head to the official webpage ([www.airlant.usff.navy.mil/cvn77](https://www.airlant.usff.navy.mil/cvn77)).





## Naval Safety and Environmental Training Center visits George H. W. Bush

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

Instructors from Naval Safety and Environmental Training Center (NSETC) provided the Safety Programs Afloat course to 68 prospective divisional safety petty officers aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), May 2, 2022.

Due to Sailors transferring, there was higher potential for a deficiency in qualified Sailors to lead in their respective departments.

Lt. j.g. Joanna Houston, head of fleet training department NSETC said the ship's safety and industrial hygiene officers visited the schoolhouse to see how they could more efficiently get Sailors qualified before deployment.

"Our Skipper quickly saw a golden opportunity to take Safety Programs Afloat, which is one of our most demanded courses, directly to the ship," said Houston.

The course instructors provide a critical educational need for Sailors making final preparations for deployment and ensure each department will have qualified, knowledgeable safety petty officers to promote and maintain occupational safety and health.

Safety Programs Afloat has been offered solely online for the last couple years, providing face-to-face training for Sailors was welcomed by the instructors.

"Bringing Safety Programs Afloat shipboard to the Sailors of CVN 77 was a rewarding experience as an instructor," said Chief Electrician's Mate Enrique Servatico, Safety Programs Afloat instructor/course manager. "To be able to engage with Sailors more personally about the importance of safety and how it's crucial in mission success, really speaks to the heart of what my role is as a Navy instructor."

During the final days of class, Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class Kyle Bailey, George H.W. Bush safety department leading petty officer, and Electronics Technician 1st Class Randall Quintero, provided a tour to three instructors from the environmental and emergency management department within NSETC. The instructors observed shipboard spaces concerning environmental health and safety, such as hazardous material storage.

George H.W. Bush and NSETC worked together and mutually benefitted instructors and students, and ultimately ensured occupational and environmental safety readiness for the ship.

"The ability to equip prospective CVN 77 safety professionals with critical requisite training during a hectic pre-deployment cycle with minimal impact to Sailors' schedules is a testament to the mission of the Naval Safety and Environmental Training Center and its exceptional staff of military and civilian instructors," said Cmdr. Dylan Beyer, the ship's safety officer.

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, head to the command's Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ussgeorgehwush](https://www.facebook.com/ussgeorgehwush)) and Instagram ([www.instagram.com/ghwbcvn77](https://www.instagram.com/ghwbcvn77)) pages or head to the official webpage ([www.airlant.usff.navy.mil/cvn77](http://www.airlant.usff.navy.mil/cvn77)).





## Like Father, Like Son

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Novalee Manzella



As a young man, Lt. Jerry Dome joined the Navy as a Machinist's Mate (Nuclear), to take care of his wife, pregnant with their first child. Twenty-four years later, he is the acting reactor mechanical officer aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77).

"I was initially looking to join the Army," said Jerry. "They weren't in and the Nuke recruiter was. My wife, who was my girlfriend at the time, was pregnant so the money thing was a boon."

That son grew up to be Machinist's Mate (Nuclear) 2nd Class Devon Dome, who now works in George H.W. Bush's reactor propulsion division.

"It was weird, it was really weird," said Devon. "I was scared I would be sent to a different ship. I had been here for a year and a half and already made my roots, but even after that was all cleared up it is still a weird feeling having him here."

Weird didn't begin to cover the feelings shared by this father and son duo.

"At first it was a little weird," said Jerry. "I was under the impression that we couldn't do that. Normally family isn't supposed to be in the same department, but because of certain circumstances I am now in the same department as Devon."

There are seven divisions in the reactor department; controls, electrical, mechanical, laboratories, axillaries, propulsion, and training.

"My dad isn't in my direct chain of command, but he does make decisions that can directly impact my division," said Devon. "Because of our relationship he can't put me up for an award or use his rank to protect me from any trouble I could get in to. I wouldn't want him to."

As close as they are outside of work, both Domes made it perfectly clear that the moment work is involved they hold a strictly professional relationship.

"Normally I don't interact with him because his job is standing watch and doing maintenance," said Jerry. "My job is the overarching monitoring of reactor maintenance to make sure the availabilities go well."

On the rare occasion they interact they call each other by the appropriate military titles.

"Once I slipped up and called him Dad," said Devon. "He corrected me immediately. It was awkward." Even in the military there are acceptable forms of more relaxed interactions.

"The random off-the-clock office visits are always fun because he comes to mess with me," said Devon. "We also jokingly bicker with each other."

Professionalism leaves plenty of room for pride, and Jerry has no shortage of pride for his son.

"There have been several occasions where he has been the go-to if something bad happens," said Jerry. "There have been several times he has done something and I just think about how he is keeping our name proud."

As a former Machinist's Mate (Nuclear) himself, Jerry was exceptionally proud when Devon enlisted four years ago.

"A lot of my friends asked how I could let him be a Nuke," said Jerry. "A. He is an adult, I don't let him do anything, and B. Becoming a Nuke is better than any college. Even if you get out after your first tour, you can still step in to some really nice paying jobs where being a former Nuke would give a distinct advantage over people that went to college."

Devon decided to join the Navy in the Nuclear field even though he was accepted in to a college.

"My wife, who was my girlfriend at the time, was pregnant with our firstborn," said Devon. "My Dad who was in the Navy his whole life was able to provide a good life for me and I wanted to do the same for my kids."

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 George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (CSG) is underway completing a certification exercise to increase U.S. and allied interoperability and warfighting capability before a future deployment. The George H.W. Bush CSG 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 the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier George H.W. Bush, CVN-77, Destroyer Squadron 26, the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), and its Information Warfare Commander.



An aerial, high-angle photograph of a US Navy ship's deck. In the foreground, a sailor in a blue uniform and yellow safety harness is lying on his back on a white metal platform, working on some equipment. To his left is a large, white, dome-shaped radar or sensor unit. The ship's deck is cluttered with various pieces of equipment, including boxes and cables. In the background, the ship's hull is visible, with the letters 'PP' and the number '8' on it. The ship is moving through dark blue water, creating a white wake. The overall scene conveys a sense of maritime operations and the demanding nature of naval service.

# EVERY SAILOR IS A RECRUITER

## RECRUIT YOUR RELIEF

AMERICA'S  
  
**NAVY**  
FORGED BY THE SEA



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY *THE USO CANINE COMFORT UNIT***

**TAKE A *"PAWS"* IN  
YOUR DAY AND COME  
GET A PUPPY HUG!**

***EVERY WEDNESDAY IN  
JULY ON THE PIER!  
1100 - 1300***

**CVN**

**77**



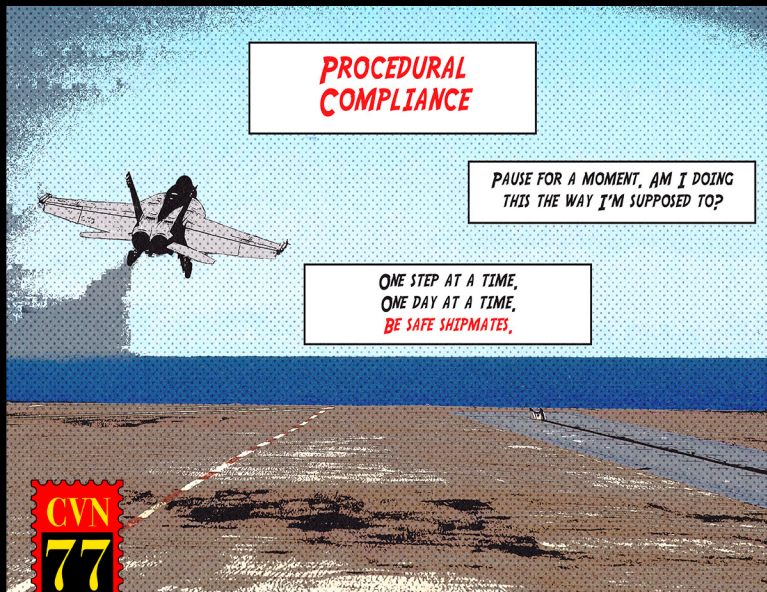
# CVN 77 PRESENTS... AD TIME!



**GENERAL QUARTERS!  
GENERAL QUARTERS!  
ALL HANDS MAN YOUR  
BATTLESTATIONS!**

**CVN 77**

**GQ CAN HAPPEN AT ANY MOMENT.  
ASK YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND IF YOU  
DON'T KNOW YOUR BATTLE STATION.**



**PROCEDURAL COMPLIANCE**

PAUSE FOR A MOMENT, AM I DOING THIS THE WAY I'M SUPPOSED TO?

ONE STEP AT A TIME,  
ONE DAY AT A TIME,  
**BE SAFE SHIPMATES,**

**CVN 77**

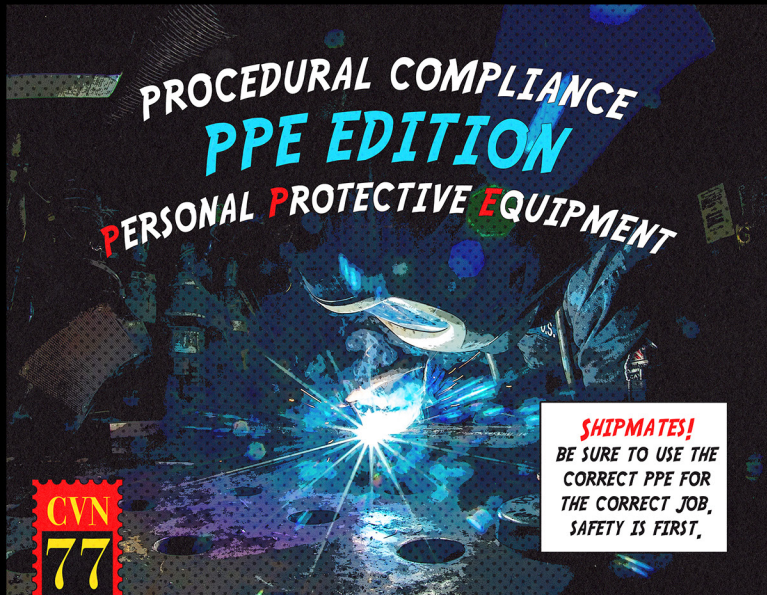


**HOW DO YOU TRANSIT  
THE SHIP DURING GQ?**

**CVN 77**

**DOWN AND AFT  
PORT SIDE**

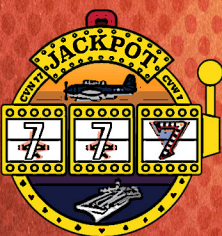
**UP AND FORWARD  
STARBOARD SIDE**



**PROCEDURAL COMPLIANCE  
PPE EDITION  
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

**SHIPMATES!  
BE SURE TO USE THE  
CORRECT PPE FOR  
THE CORRECT JOB,  
SAFETY IS FIRST.**

**CVN 77**



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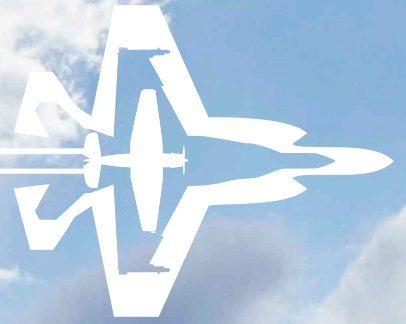


# *PHOTOS OF THE MONTH*

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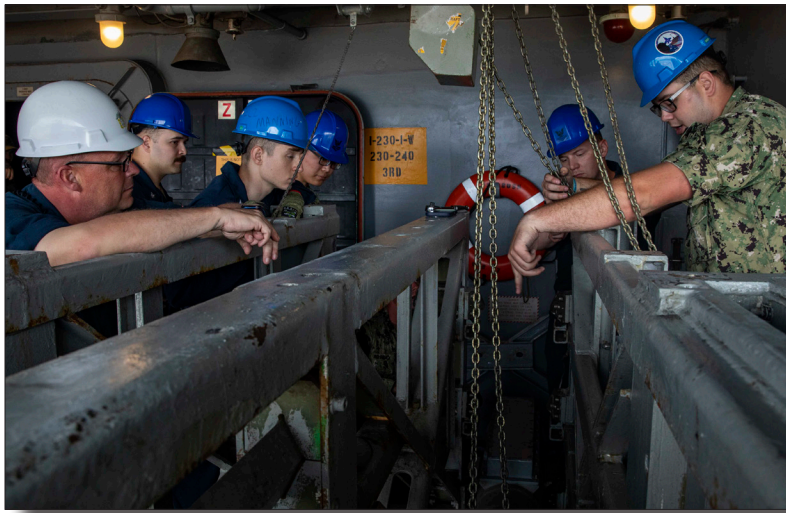


Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class Jihad Lake, assigned to USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), signals an E-2D Hawkeye aircraft, attached to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 121, to a catapult for launch from the flight deck of George H.W. Bush, June 4, 2022. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brandon Roberson)









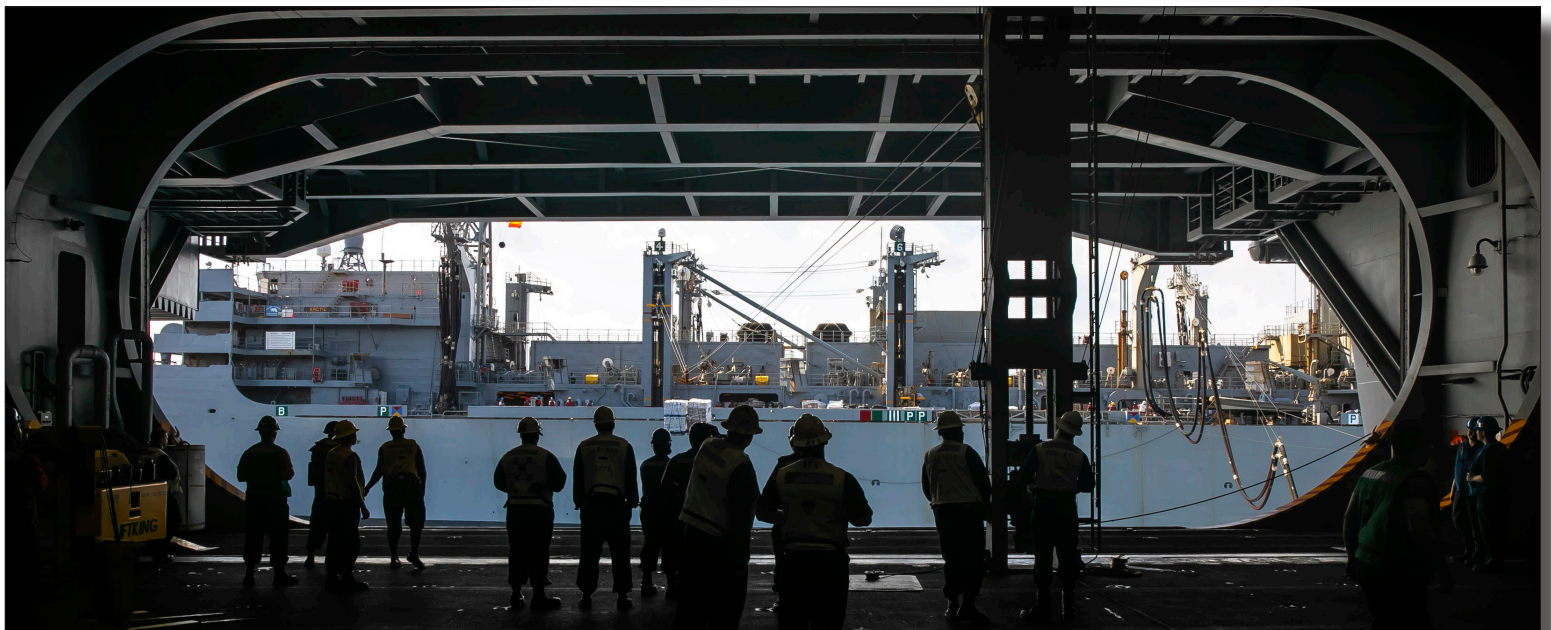
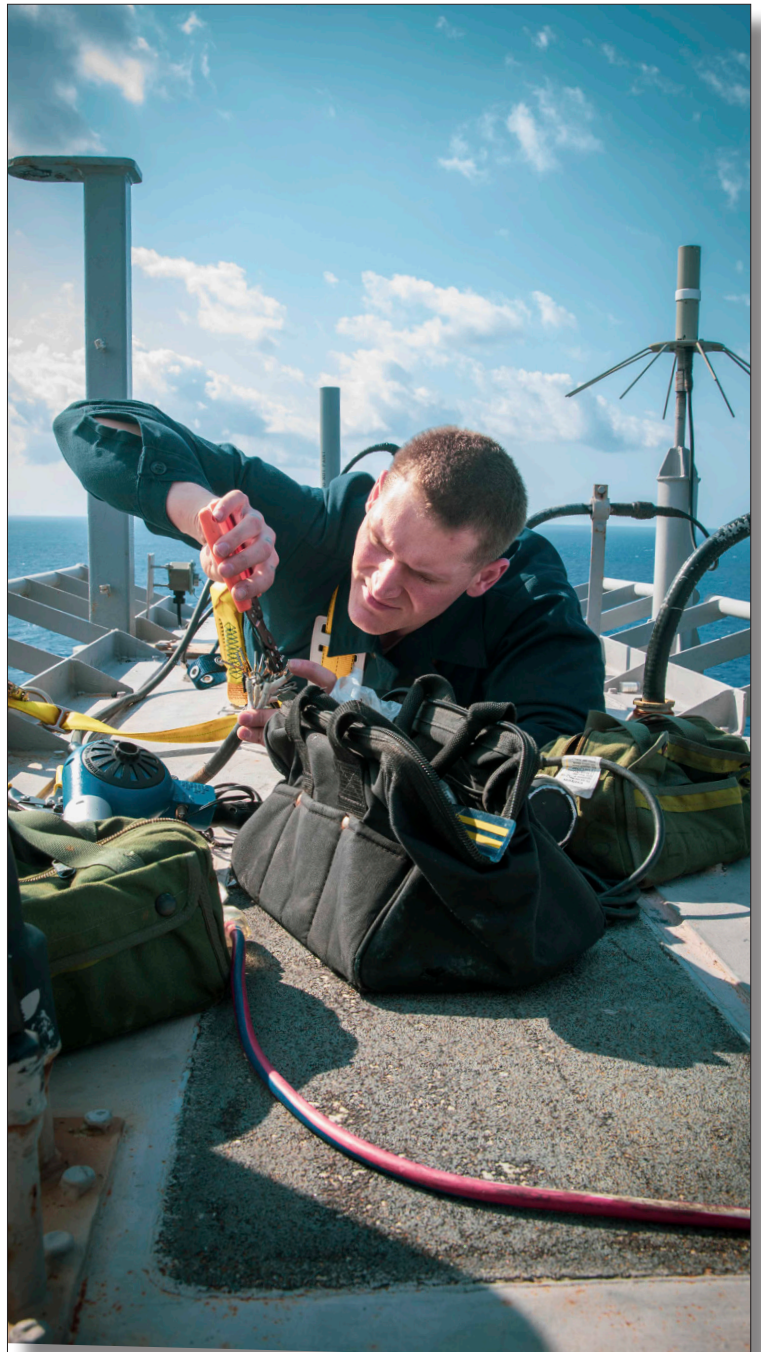
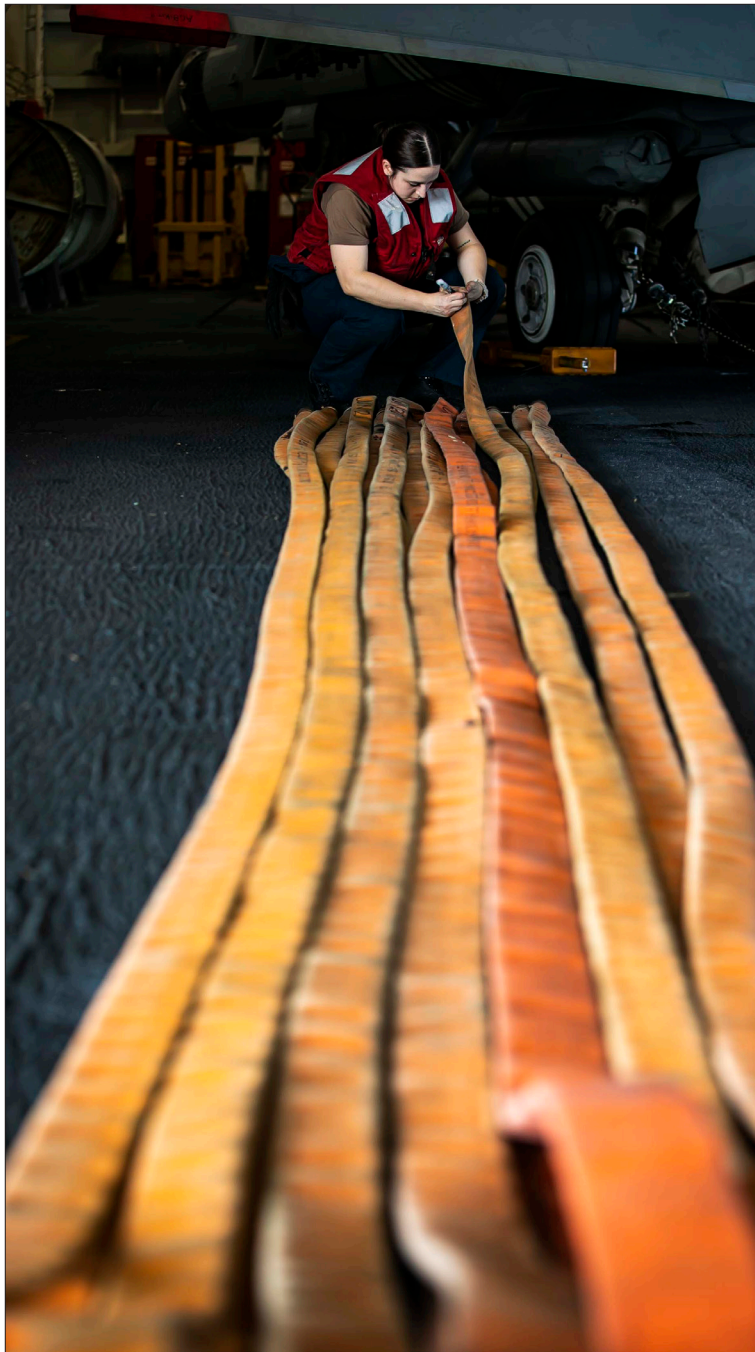


















# A Brief History on Juneteenth

## Story by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brandon Roberson

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States. From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Juneteenth, short for "June Nineteenth," marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops' arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday.

The Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, had established that all enslaved people in Confederate states in rebellion against the Union "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

But in reality, the Emancipation Proclamation didn't instantly free any enslaved people. The proclamation only applied to places under Confederate control and not to slave-holding Border States or rebel areas already under Union control. However, as Northern troops advanced into the Confederate South, many enslaved people fled behind Union lines.

In Texas, slavery had continued as the state experienced no large-scale fighting or significant presence of Union troops.

Many enslavers from outside the Lone Star State had moved there, as they viewed it as a safe haven for slavery.

After the war came to a close in the spring of 1865, General Granger's arrival in Galveston that June signaled freedom for Texas's 250,000 enslaved people. Although emancipation didn't happen overnight for everyone, celebrations broke out among newly freed Black people, and Juneteenth was born. That December, slavery in America was formally abolished with the adoption of the 13th Amendment.

In 1979, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday; several others followed suit over the years. In June 2021, Congress passed a resolution establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday. President Biden signed it into law on June 17, 2021.

Today, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long overdue. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today.





# African Americans in the Service

## That Left a Legacy

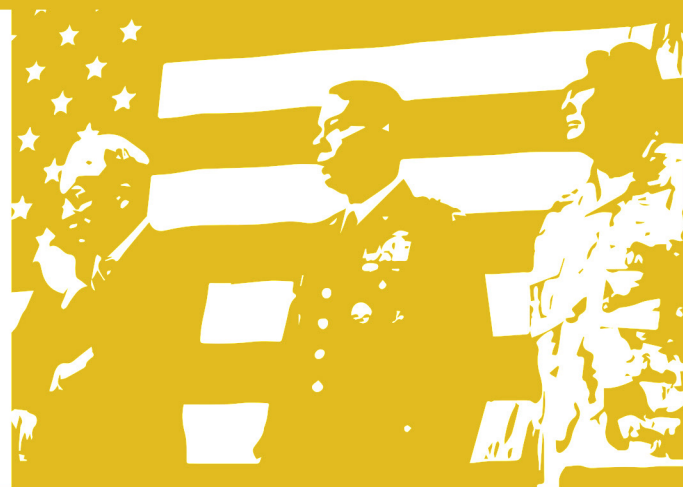
Buffalo Soldiers originally were members of the 10th Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army, formed on Sept. 21, 1866, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. This nickname was given to the Negro Cavalry by Native American tribes who fought in the Indian Wars. Although Native Americans bestowed the name upon the troopers, there are three major theories surrounding the origin of the name. One suggests the name was acquired during the 1871 campaign against the Comanches, when Indians referred to the cavalymen as "Buffalo Soldiers" because of their rugged and tireless marching. Other accounts state that Native Americans bestowed the nickname on the Black troopers because they believed the hair of the Black cavalymen resembled the hair of the buffalo. Another suggests that the name was given because of the buffalo-hide coats worn by the soldiers in cold weather. On Sept. 6, 2005, Mark Matthews, the last living Buffalo Soldier, died at the age of 111. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. is the founder and commander of the Tuskegee Airmen, a 33-year veteran of three wars and son of the Army's first Black general. Davis Jr. was determined to fly, but after four years of being "shunned" (spoken to only for official reasons) as West Point's only Black cadet, he found that even his standing as 35th in the 276-member Class of 1936 could not convince the Army Air Corps to allow him to enter flight training. However, after President Franklin D. Roosevelt promoted the elder Davis to brigadier general, he ordered the Army Air Corps to create a flying organization for colored troops. Davis Jr., the only living Black West Point graduate, was ordered from Fort Benning, Georgia, to Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. Although critics and early reviews reported that "the Negro type has not the proper reflexes to make a first-class fighter pilot," Davis used a combination of political diplomacy and professional action to convince detractors that his men were more qualified than some and braver than most. Their March 24, 1945, escort mission to Berlin, resulting in three direct kills and no loss of friendly bombers, is legendary.



Colin Powell was the 10-year-old son of Jamaican immigrants in 1948 when President Harry S. Truman ordered the desegregation of America's armed forces. As the 10-year-old boy would say 50 years later, "This isn't ancient history; this is my generation." Racism was far from gone by the time Powell became an Army officer. But you wouldn't have been able to tell by Powell's meteoric career. After graduating from City College of New York with an ROTC commission as an Army second lieutenant, Powell became an Airborne Ranger and served two tours in Vietnam. His commands included a battalion, a brigade and the Army's V Corps while his awards included two Presidential Medals of Freedom, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), a Purple Heart and numerous decorations from other countries -- even British knighthood. From Oct. 1, 1989, to Sept. 30, 1993, the boy from the Bronx, N.Y., served as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the principal military adviser to presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. In January 2001, Powell again took an oath to serve the U.S. government -- this time as the country's first Black secretary of state. In 2016, while not a candidate for that year's election, Powell received three electoral votes for president of the United States.







From the earliest days of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” we have been on a road toward freedom. The freedom to love who we love. The freedom to serve our nation’s Navy openly.

As these freedoms grow, so too does the strength and diversity of the Navy’s most important asset - its Sailors.

President George H.W. Bush famously said “We know what works, freedom works. We know what is right, freedom is right.” With progress still to be made, we can walk toward expanding the the freedoms of LGBT Sailors.

We are warriors, teachers, leaders, and ambassadors, not because of who we love, but because we too know that freedom works, that freedom is right.

“We know  
what works,  
freedom  
works. We  
know what is  
right, freedom  
is right.”

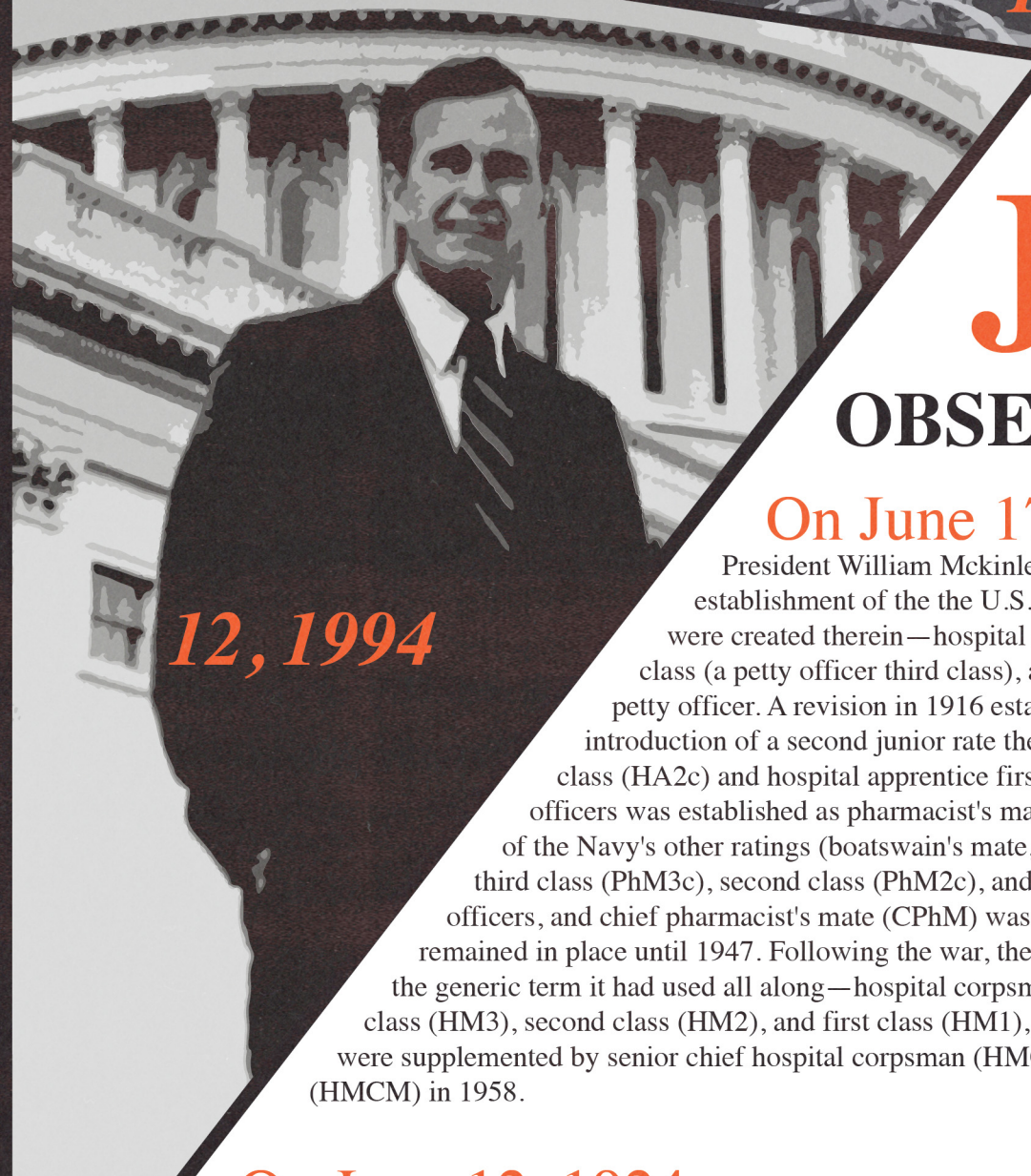








17, 1898



12, 1994

# JUNE

## OBSERVANCES

**On June 17, 1898,**

President William McKinley signs into law a bill authorizing the establishment of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps. Three ratings were created therein—hospital apprentice, hospital apprentice first class (a petty officer third class), and hospital steward, which was a chief petty officer. A revision in 1916 established a new rate structure. With the introduction of a second junior rate there were now hospital apprentice second class (HA2c) and hospital apprentice first class (HA1c). The rating title for petty officers was established as pharmacist's mate (PhM), following the pattern of some of the Navy's other ratings (boatswain's mate, gunner's mate, etc.). Pharmacist's mate third class (PhM3c), second class (PhM2c), and first class (PhM1c) were now the petty officers, and chief pharmacist's mate (CPhM) was the chief petty officer. This structure remained in place until 1947. Following the war, the hospital corps changed its rating title to the generic term it had used all along—hospital corpsman. The rates of hospital corpsman third class (HM3), second class (HM2), and first class (HM1), and chief hospital corpsman (HMC) were supplemented by senior chief hospital corpsman (HMCS) and master chief hospital corpsman (HMCM) in 1958.

**On June 12, 1924,**

George Herbert Walker Bush is born. Raised in Milton, Massachusetts, in 1942 he enlisted in the Naval reserve and reported for active duty. He was honorably discharged in 1943, and was commissioned as an Ensign in the Naval Reserve. His resignation was accepted under honorable conditions in 1955. He was an American politician, diplomat, and businessman who served as the 41st president of the United States from 1989 - 1993.





6, 1994

On  
June 6,

1994, “Operation Neptune”, a part of “Operation Overlord” begins with more than 13,000 Allied aircraft and 5,000 ships, consisting of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Free France, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and Poland all fighting against Nazi Germany. It lays the foundation of the Allied victory on the Western Front. Today the Normandy American Cemetery is the resting place for nearly 9,400 Americans.

On June 4, 1942, Japanese planes attack an American-held island in the Pacific. Thus commencing the Battle of Midway. One of the major naval battles in the Pacific Theater of World War II, it took place between June 1942, six months after Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor and one month after the battle of Coral Sea. i Even though the United States won, it came at a cost. The Americans lost one carrier, more than 200 troops and more than 100 aircraft. Japanese total losses were: four carriers, a heavy cruiser, about 3,000 men and more than 200 aircraft.

4, 1942



## USFFC visits George H.W. Bush during COMPTUEX

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



Adm. Daryl Caudle, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, embarked the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) June 7-8 for the first time since he took command of Fleet Forces during a ceremony aboard the same ship in late 2021.

Caudle visited the flagship and the supporting staffs of Carrier Strike Group 10, George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group while the strike group was underway completing Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX). It is the final certification for deploying carrier strike groups.

"When I took command I said we would own the Atlantic," said Caudle. "The crew of the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group is preparing to carry out that vision. Side-by-side with our partners and allies, they will operate forward, demonstrate sea power, and maintain sea control while keeping the sea lanes open for international commerce."

These Sailors have shown me they have the technical

acumen, the warrior ethos, and the uncompromising commitment to be the Navy the nation needs."

This COMPTUEX features the third iteration of a NATO vignette, the term used for the period of time a CSG has spent training to operate under NATO command-and-control.

The Italian destroyer ITS Caio Dulio (D 554), Brazilian submarine BNS Tikuna (S-34), and Columbian submarine ARC Tayrona (S-29) joined the strike group for the exercise, emphasizing the strengthening of defense partnerships and capabilities between the U.S. and bilateral or multilateral partners.

"There is strength in numbers," said Caudle. "Integrating with our coalition partners – those with the same views and principles – building upon our enduring relationships, and perfecting the seamless integration of combat power will exponentially increase the lethality we already bring to the fight today. Together we will deter and if need be, destroy any opposition who dares to oppose freedom."

During the visit, Caudle hit the deckplates to meet the crew and recognize exceptional Sailors of George H.W. Bush CSG.

"What impressed me the most was the pride and professionalism demonstrated by all the Sailors I met," said Caudle. "The culture of excellence and enthusiasm among them was palpable and contagious. I wouldn't want anybody else playing on America's away team."

The George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group is comprised of George H.W. Bush, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, Destroyer Squadron 26, the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), and it's Information

Warfare Commander.

"The diverse group that makes up the George H.W. Bush CSG – men and women from every state – brings countless different experiences and ideas to the fight," said Rear Adm. Dennis Velez, commander, CSG-10, GHWBCSG. "Fostering a culture that values those differences brings unique innovation. Trust amongst ourselves and embracing our diversity gives us the competitive edge and contributes to our naval superiority."

Once certification is complete, the George H.W. Bush Strike Group will be assignable world-wide.

"We were ready before COMPTUEX, and we are ready now," said Capt. David Pollard, commanding officer aboard George H.W. Bush. "We are the warriors, leaders, teachers and ambassadors ready to deploy and represent the American people. We will represent our families, our communities, and our nation with pride while exemplifying our namesake's legacy of service, grit, humility, and resilience. It is an awesome responsibility; one we will not take lightly."

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 George H. W. Bush CSG 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.





## Second Fleet Commander Embarks George H.W. Bush during COMPTUEX

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

Vice Adm. Daniel Dwyer, commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet and Joint Force Command Norfolk, embarked the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), June 8-10.

Dwyer visited the flagship and the supporting staffs of the George H.W. Bush CSG while underway completing Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX), the final certification for deploying carrier strike groups.

“My mission as commander of 2nd Fleet is to defend the East Coast of the United States from all maritime avenues of approach,” Dwyer said. “To do that, I will use our certified and trained naval forces, which include the center piece of our naval forces, our carrier strike group.”

This was not Dwyer’s first time on the ship. He served aboard George H.W. Bush as a pilot of the attached carrier air wing.

“It seems like just yesterday I was flying from the flight deck from this mighty warship during her maiden deployment,” Dwyer said. “I thought we had our warface on then, but I am incredibly impressed by what I have seen being back with all of you. The enthusiasm, motivation, and warrior spirit that every member of this great team has exhibited has been great to see.”

This COMPTUEX features the third iteration of a NATO vignette, a period of time a CSG trains while operating under NATO command and control.

Italian destroyer ITS Caio Duilio (D 554), Brazilian submarine BNS Tikuna (S-34), and Columbian submarine ARC Tayrona (S-29) joined the strike



group for the exercise, emphasizing the strengthening of defense partnerships and capabilities between the U.S. and bilateral or multilateral partners.

“As we are watching very closely the events unfolding on NATO’s eastern flank with Russia’s illegal military action in Ukraine, it is incumbent upon us, the United States, the United States Navy, and all of our allied partners to show resolve against that illegal aggression,” Dwyer said.

The George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group is comprised of George H.W. Bush, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, Destroyer Squadron 26, the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), and its Information Warfare Commander.

“We are embracing the challenges faced

in this exercise and using them as an opportunity to learn, grow, and develop as a team,” said Rear Adm. Dennis Velez, commander, CSG-10, George H.W. Bush CSG. “Every Sailor in our strike group stands ready to defend our nation anytime, anywhere we are called.”

Once certification is complete, the George H.W. Bush Strike Group will be assignable world-wide.

“This is our final step in being a fully deployable United States warship,” said Capt. David Pollard, commanding officer of George H.W. Bush. “Once we are complete with COMPTUEX, the George H.W. Bush CSG will be certified ready for deployment. But I say, we are ready now. We are ready to answer our nation’s call. We are ready to defend the men, women, and children of the United States of America. We are the warriors, leaders, teachers and ambassadors that represent the American people. We will represent our families, our communities, and our nation with pride while exemplifying our namesake’s legacy of service, grit, humility, and resilience.”

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 George H. W. Bush CSG 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.





## George H.W. Bush Celebrates Flight Deck Milestone

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



USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) celebrated the milestone of 80,000 catapult launches and 80,000 trap recoveries, June 15-16.

Eighty-thousand is a major accomplishment for any aircraft carrier.

“Eighty-thousand, mishap-free launches and recoveries represent the keen attention to detail, unyielding procedural compliance, and the tremendous magnitude of hard work and effort it takes to keep the catapults and arresting gear running, again and again,” said Cmdr. Michael Witt, air boss of George H.W. Bush. “All hands on this ship contribute daily to the safe launch and recovery of aircraft, and we all collectively share a piece of this milestone.”

Flight operations require all hands to be vigilant and situationally aware while working on a dynamic flight deck. It is an inherently dangerous carrier function that is essential

to completing the mission.

“Another fantastic milestone achieved by the warriors and leaders aboard the mighty warship George H.W. Bush,” said Capt. David Pollard, commanding officer of George H.W. Bush. “The tenacity and grit of Team Jackpot never ceases to amaze me. It is an achievement to be proud of as we continue to develop and strengthen as a combat-ready lethal force - ready be ambassadors of our nation and support national security objectives, decisively deter aggression, and defeat adversaries with overwhelming forces as a tactically-sound cohesive team.”

The 80,000th launch was completed by an E-2D Hawkeye aircraft, attached to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 121, and the recovery was an E/A-18G Growler aircraft, attached to Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 140, both attached to Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7 – the air wing embarked aboard George H.W. Bush.

CVW-7 is the offensive air and strike component of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 10 and the George H.W. Bush CSG. The squadrons of CVW-7 are Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 143, VFA-103, VFA-86, VFA-136, VAQ-140, VAW-121, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 5, and Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 46.

The George H.W. Bush CSG is underway completing a certification exercise to increase U.S. and allied interoperability and warfighting capability before a future deployment. The George H.W. Bush CSG 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.





## George H.W. Bush Sets Fleet Standard: Weapons Department Breaks Inspection Record

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



The Weapons Department aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush set a Navy record during a recent Mine Readiness Assessment (MRA) while the ship was underway for the Composite Unit Training Exercise, June 3, 2022.

G-3 Division Sailors assembled ten mines – five Mark 62 Airborne Quick Strike Mines and five Mark 63 Airborne Quick Strike Mines – in two hours and 29 minutes to set the new fleet standard

“At first we just couldn’t make the three hour mark to pass, but every single day we worked to get our time down to two hours and 19 minutes,” said Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Anita Zyskowski, the day check leading petty officer. “We could have gotten it done faster but because of the importance of the assessment we took the extra time to take a second look to make sure every last step was followed. We got an outstanding for it.”

“The MRA is a very stressful assessment,” said Zyskowski. “We are given three hours to assemble 10 mines for the assessment, so every single day we practiced assembling the mines.”

To prepare for the MRA, the division completed more than 35

hours of shipboard training and three separate off-ship classes with Naval Air Force Atlantic’s Mobile Ordnance Training Team.

“G-3 Division was able to execute an aggressive training plan that led to the MRA being completed in an unprecedented 2 hours and 29 minutes,” said Lt. Cmdr. Alexa Sandifer, the Gunboss onboard George H.W. Bush. “They mastered their craft by keeping up with the ‘reps and sets.’ This team is MORE THAN READY to take the fight! I demanded excellence, not perfection and they delivered not only excellence, but ownership!”

Most of the crew never completed an MRA before, Zyskowski being the exception having completed one as an aviation ordnanceman airman recruit.

“I got blessed with the team that I was with,” said Zyskowski. “I had four team leads: Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Amber Davis, Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Beatrice Anima, Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Tyler Fenderson, and Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class David Palomino. These four were able to get everything done perfectly like they have been doing it forever. They led an awesome crew and I am so glad I got to work with every single one of them.”

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The George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (CSG) is underway completing a certification exercise to increase U.S. and allied interoperability and warfighting capability before a future deployment. The George H.W. Bush CSG 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, CVW-7, Destroyer Squadron 26, the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), and its Information Warfare Commander.







# FREEDOM

# AT WORK

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