



USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)



Welcome Aboard !



From the Commanding Officer

Dear Friends of GEORGE WASHINGTON,

It is with great pride and pleasure that I welcome you aboard the Navy's finest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73). We are *The Spirit of Freedom*, home to 3,500 hard-working sailors who comprise the ship's company and more than 2,000 additional sailors who comprise our potent main battery, Carrier Air Wing 7, when they are embarked with their 70+ aircraft. We also serve as the flagship for the Commander, George Washington Battle Group and his staff.

This brochure will introduce you to the missions and capabilities of this formidable warship, the world's largest and most powerful. Representing the high-tech Navy of the 21st Century, GEORGE WASHINGTON is a symbol of American strength, resolve, technology, and quality. She is the first ship to have a ship-wide fiber optic network installed during construction and possesses state-of-the-art weapons, communications, and navigation systems, as well as the most capable, combat-proven aircraft in the world. She is the cornerstone of the Navy's global strategy.

The heartbeat of the ship are the officers, chief petty officers, and enlisted personnel who operate and maintain *The Spirit of Freedom* with professionalism and a total commitment to excellence. They come from diverse ethnic, cultural, and geographic backgrounds. They work long hours at difficult, often hazardous jobs for weeks and months on end. But, regardless of the task or background, the common goal of this team is to meet every operational mission in the safest and most effective way possible.

We thank you for visibly expressing an interest in the United States Navy, GEORGE WASHINGTON, and her crew. Your support is vital to the mission and success of our armed forces. We hope your visit is enjoyable as well as educational. WELCOME ABOARD!

Sincerely yours,


M. P. BRANCH

Captain, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer

THE LEGACY

George Washington served courageously and successfully as Commander of the Continental Army throughout the Revolutionary War. Later, as the first President of the United States, he led the fledgling nation to economic and political stability and international respectability. These accomplishments earned him the popular title of "Father of Our Country."

George Washington was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on February 22, 1732. He began a career as a surveyor, but dreams of adventure and glory inspired him to volunteer for the Virginia Militia. He rose quickly to command the militia and fought in the French and Indian War, barely escaping death on several occasions.

When the American Revolution broke out in 1775, George Washington was selected by his countrymen to command the Continental Army. Under his leadership a professional military was organized, trained and equipped.

During the war, Washington followed a prudent strategy of keeping continual pressure on the British Army and aggressively seizing favorable opportunities to attack. His brilliant victories at Trenton and Princeton bolstered sagging American morale. In 1781 he moved decisively to trap Lord Cornwallis' forces at Yorktown, ultimately prevailing in the decisive battle of the war.

After the war, Washington was again drafted by his countrymen to preside over the Constitutional Convention. In 1789 he was unanimously elected first President of the United States, and in 1792 he was reelected. During the Washington administration, the country's economy was placed on a sound footing, the federal government was strengthened, war was avoided, and the ideals of liberty and equality for which the Revolution was fought were firmly rooted in American political and social life.

George Washington's success and the reverence in which he is held by the nation were derived from his exemplary character as well as his accomplishments. He served without pay during the Revolution, shared the hardships of winter camp with his troops at Valley Forge, and overcame stinging military defeats and seemingly insuperable, practical and political problems that would have discouraged lesser men.

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) "THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM"

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) is the sixth of the NIMITZ-class nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, the largest and most powerful warships in the world. She is the fourth ship to bear the name of the nation's first President and Commander in Chief.

The primary mission of GEORGE WASHINGTON and her embarked air wing is to conduct sustained combat air operations while serving as the flagship for Commander, George Washington Battle Group, Rear Admiral Henry C. Giffin, III.

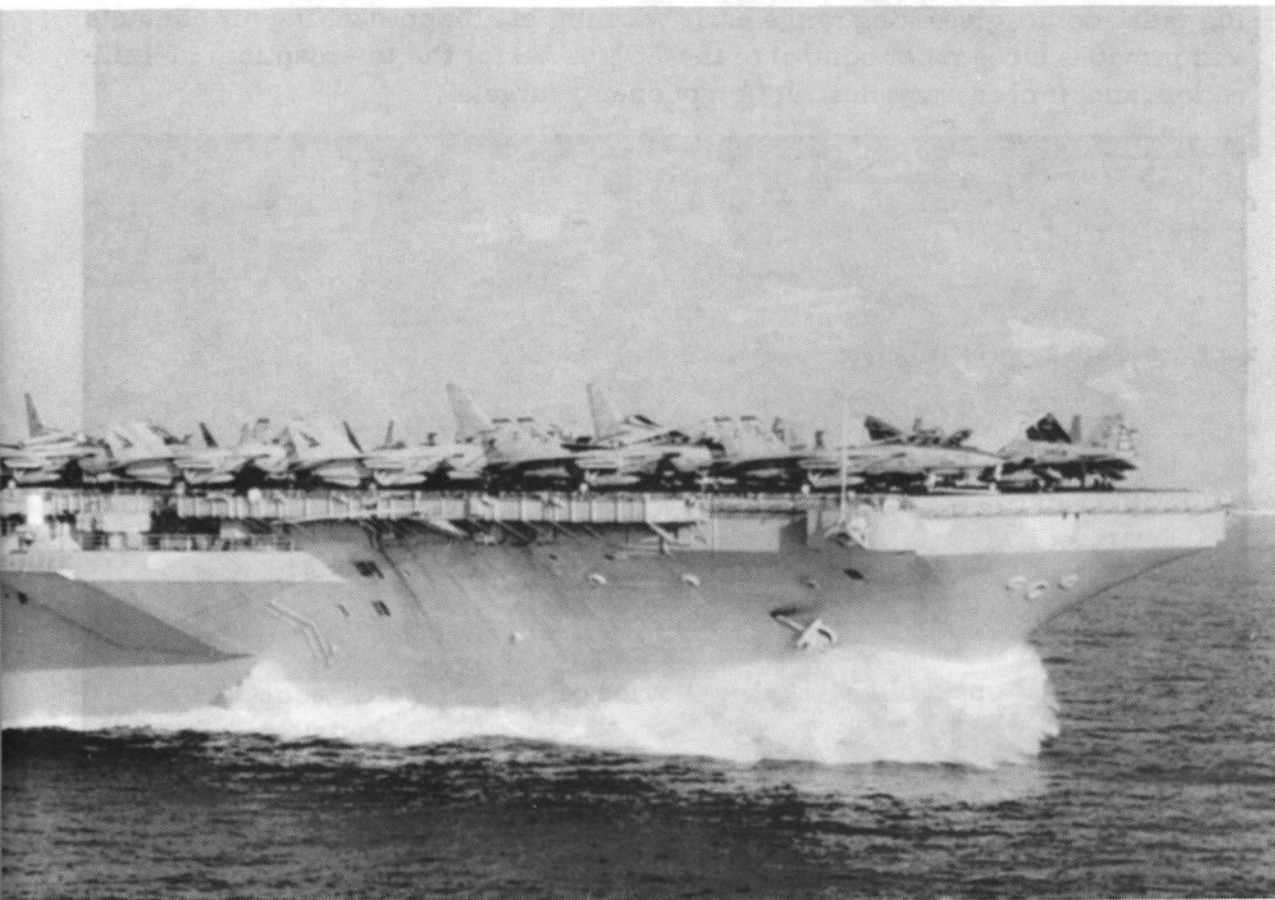
GEORGE WASHINGTON carries a crew of about 350 officers and 5,200 enlisted personnel when the air wing is fully embarked. The ship's two nuclear reactors give it virtually unlimited range and endurance, with a top speed in excess of 30 knots. The ship's four catapults and four arresting gear engines enable it to launch and recover aircraft rapidly and simultaneously. The ship carries a large supply of aircraft fuel and enough weapons and stores for extended operations without replenishment. GEORGE WASHINGTON also has extensive repair capabilities including a fully equipped Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Department and numerous ship repair shops.



In addition to her air wing, **GEORGE WASHINGTON** carries the NATO Sea Sparrow short-range, surface-to-air missile system, the Close-in Weapons System, a 20mm "Gatling" gun, and the SLQ-32 electronic warfare system.

GEORGE WASHINGTON's keel was laid in August 1986 and she was commissioned on July 4, 1992, in Norfolk, Virginia, 217 years after General George Washington was chosen to command the Continental Army. Since her commissioning, she has amassed an impressive list of accomplishments. Departing on her maiden deployment in May, 1994, she served as the country's flagship while the President of the United States was embarked for the 50th Anniversary D-Day Commemoration Sunrise Memorial Service. Of particular note during the deployment was **GEORGE WASHINGTON**'s participation in Operation Deny Flight over Bosnia, and Operations Vigilant Warrior and Southern Watch over Iraq, as well as two round-trip transits of the Suez Canal.

The **GEORGE WASHINGTON** team is the 1994 COMNAVAIRLANT Battle "E" Award winner and is proud of their many precedent setting accomplishments. They are committed to continuing this record of excellence into the 21st century.



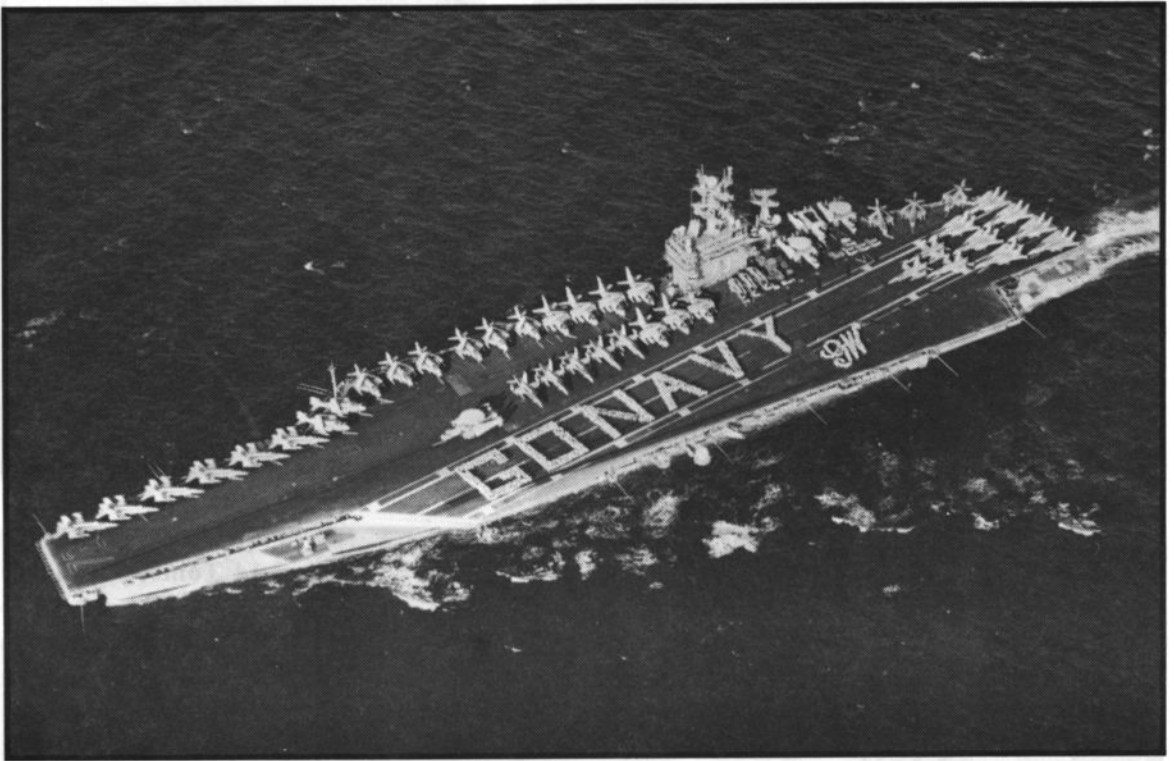
GEORGE WASHINGTON'S STRIKE PACKAGE

GEORGE WASHINGTON's embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing 7, is commanded by Captain Ronald D. McElraft. Its eight squadrons, which normally embark with 70+ aircraft, provide the striking power and flexibility to perform a wide variety of missions. When not embarked, the squadrons operate from their home naval air stations in Virginia, Florida and Washington.

CVW 7's primary offensive striking power is shared by two attack aircraft, the multi-role F/A-18C HORNET strike fighter, flown by the VFA 131 WILDCATS and the VFA 136 KNIGHTHAWKS, and the all weather A-6E INTRUDER, flown by the VA 34 BLUE BLASTERS. The HORNET provides defense against enemy aircraft and also conducts strikes against targets ashore and at sea. The INTRUDER's primary mission is to conduct long-range strikes against targets ashore and at sea.

The principal battle group air defense capability is provided by the E-2C HAWKEYE and F-14B TOMCAT team. The HAWKEYE, with its distinctive rotating radar dome, gives long-range early warning of all approaching air contacts and provides close radar control to the TOMCATS for the interception, identification, and, if necessary, destruction of enemy targets.





The F-14B can also perform air-to-ground missions. The HAWKEYE is flown by the VAW 121 BLUETAILS and the TOMCAT is flown by the VF 143 DOGS.

Airborne electronic defense is provided by a squadron of EA-6B PROWLERS operated by the VAQ 140 PATRIOTS. These aircraft are capable of intercepting and countering a variety of electronic signals and can jam surface-to-air radars to protect strike group aircraft.

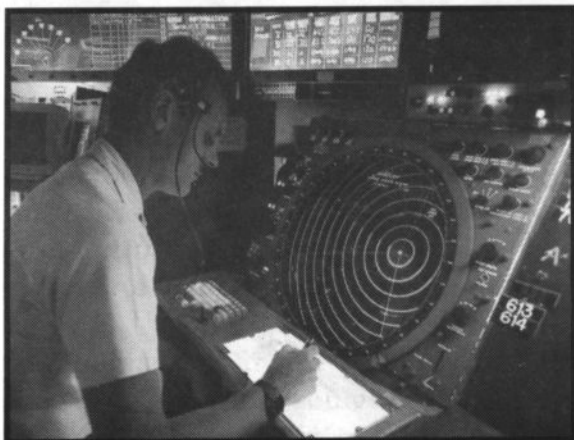
Surface warfare capability is provided by the multi-role S-3B VIKING, flown by the VS 31 TOPCATS. A unique blend of electronic sensors, stand off weapons and long range capability make it an excellent overwater strike platform. A primary mission for the VIKING is aerial refueling of all tactical jet aircraft.

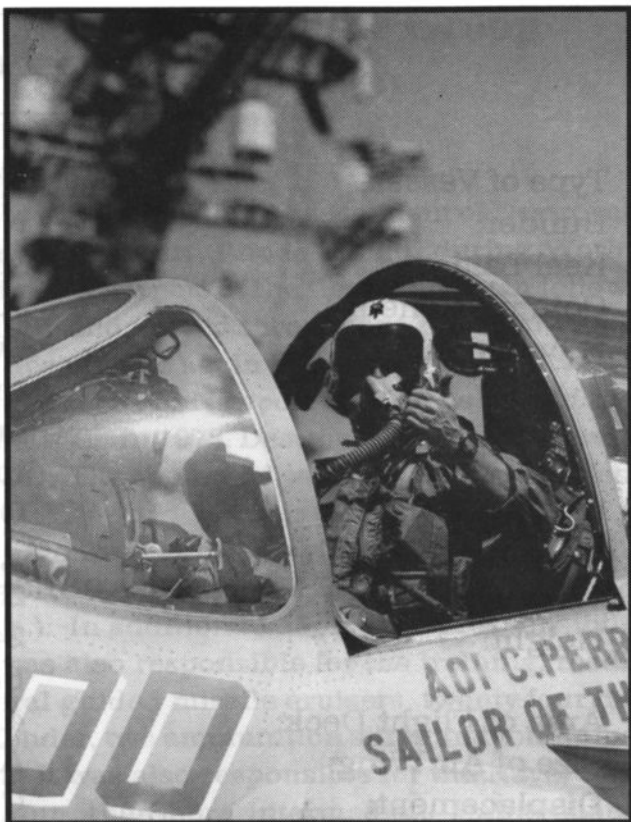
Undersea warfare capability is shared by the SH-60/HH-60H SEAHAWK, flown by the HS 5 NIGHTDIPPERS, and the S-3B VIKING. Working closely with the ship's Undersea Warfare Module, these aircraft are effective in prosecuting hostile submarines. The VIKING also serves as a search and rescue (SAR) and logistics support platform.

Enhancing the CVW 7 team is the ES-3A SHADOW flown by Detachment Bravo of the VQ 6 BLACK RAVENS. The SHADOW provides command and control warfare support and marks the return of organic passive electronic surveillance capability to the battle group.



Top left to right: An F-14 Tomcat launches off the waist cat; An F-18C Hornet is lined up with the catapult in preparation for launch; Keeping a vigilant watch in carrier Air Traffic Control; An E-2C Hawkeye waits its turn to launch as a missile is moved across the flight deck.





Top right to left: The flight deck crew prepare to rig the barricade; a pilot gives the "thumbs up" prior to his flight; launch coordination in Flight Deck Control; Landing Signals Officers grade the approach of an EA-6B Prowler.

CVN 73 Factoids

Type of Vessel:	Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier
Builder:	Newport News Shipbuilding Co.
Keel Laid:	August 25, 1986
Commissioned:	July 4, 1992
Propulsion:	Two nuclear reactors, permitting the ship to steam more than one million miles before refueling.
Speed:	Over 30 knots
Length:	1,094 feet
Width:	257 feet
Height:	244 feet (equal to a 24-story building)
Area of Flight Deck:	4.5 acres
Size of Air Wing:	Approximately 75 aircraft
Displacement:	Combat Load, Nearly 97,000 tons
Crew:	5,500 (including air wing)
Meals Served:	18,000 daily
Compartments:	Over 2,500
Number of Anchors:	Two
Weight of Anchors:	30 tons each
Weight of Anchor Chain:	360 pounds per link
Number of Screws:	Four (each has five blades)
Weight of Screws:	66,220 pounds each
Telephones:	Over 2,000
Aircraft Elevators:	Four (all deck-edge)
Size of Aircraft Elevators:	3,880 square feet
Number of Catapults:	Four
Arresting Wires:	Four
Air Conditioning Capacity:	2,520 tons (enough to cool over 2,000 homes)
Distillation Capacity:	400,000 gallons daily

Commander, George Washington Battle Group

(CRUISER-DESTROYER GROUP TWO)

HISTORY

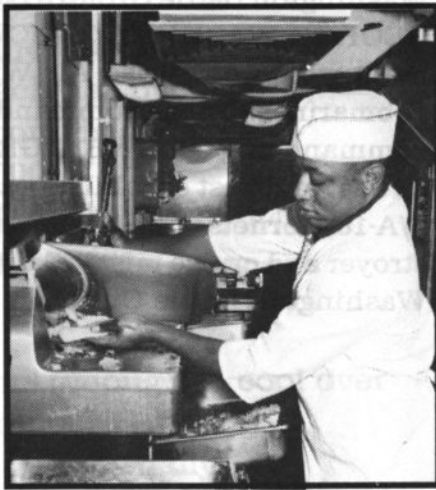
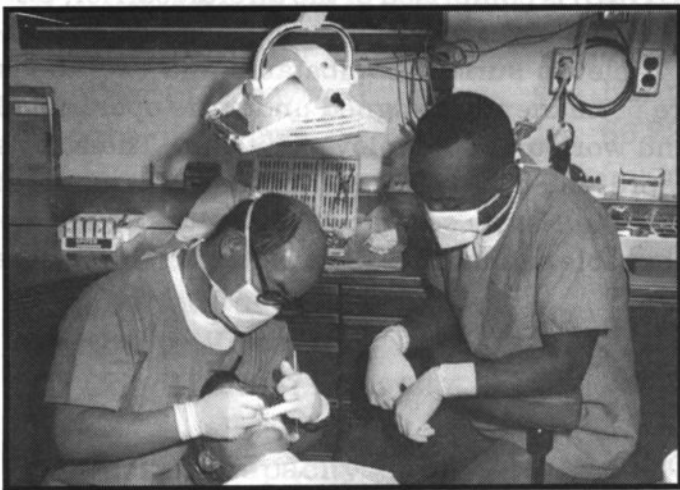
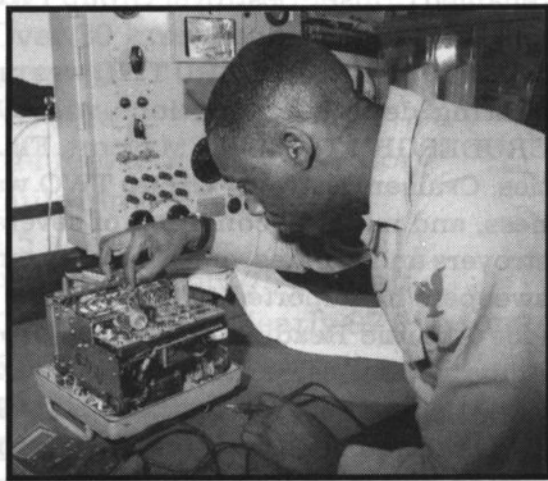
The Cruiser-Destroyer Group TWO staff is the direct descendent of Destroyer Flotilla TWO which was established in Newport, Rhode Island, during World War I. The Flotilla was deactivated in 1922 as part of the fleet drawdown following the war. It was reactivated in 1931 and served throughout the 1930's as a caretaker of reserve destroyers until deactivated again in the early days of World War II. The Flotilla was activated once more in Newport in 1946 as part of the fleet reorganization following World war II. In 1973, Destroyer Flotilla TWO was renamed Cruiser-Destroyer Group TWO. The command was relocated to Charleston, S.C. the following year.

In 1976, CRUDESGRU TWO was organized as a deploying Battle Group Staff, sharing deploying rotations with CRUDESGRU EIGHT (Norfolk, Va.) and CRUDESGRU TWELVE (Mayport, Fla.). In addition to deployment responsibilities, Cruiser-Destroyer Group TWO was also responsible for the training, readiness, and material condition of several guided missile cruisers, twenty-four destroyers and frigates, one destroyer tender, two ammunition ships and four mine sweepers homeported in Charleston. It was also responsible for the Naval Surface Atlantic Readiness Support Group, the Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity, Charleston, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Mobile Unit SIX.

After the fleet reorganization in 1992, Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group TWO relinquished many of his local responsibilities in Charleston and was assigned duties as Commander, George Washington Battle Group. The George Washington Battle Group (GWBATGRU) is comprised of the aircraft carrier, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73), the eight aviation squadrons and detachment which comprise Air Wing 7, eleven surface combatants and two attack submarines. These commands are permanently assigned under the operational command of COMGWBATGRU and work-up and deploy as a team. The Navy's newest and best capabilities are represented. F-14B Tomcats, the latest model of F/A-18 Hornets, two Aegis cruisers, the Navy's second Arleigh Burke class destroyer and cruise missile launch capable submarines are all found in the George Washington Battle Group.



Top, from left to right: Weapon handlers load a missile on an F-14 Tomcat; Sailor's discuss damage control messages during a fire drill; a well trained technician works on a piece of electronic equipment; all dental needs of the crew are professionally handled by the ship's dentist and his staff; a cook slices ham in preparation for one of 18,000 meals served daily aboard ship.



USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)

“A CITY AT SEA”

You have entered a tradition-rich culture of nautical life and a unique way of living and working. The ship is “awake” 24 hours a day. The crew works morning, evening and night shifts, known as “watches”. In addition to working their regular jobs, sailors participate in the ship’s numerous drills, such as man overboard, abandon ship, fire and general quarters. Due to the nature of a ship, every GW Sailor is taught how to help save the ship in the event of fire, flooding or battle damage.

When crewmembers are not working, they can take advantage of many services offered on the ship. Like a small city, it has equivalent services of:

Restaurants (5)
Stores (2)
Bank (with ATMs)
Post Office
Laundry/Dry Cleaners
Library
Photography Studio
Printing Plant
Police Department
Barber Shops (2)

College Courses
Gyms (8)
TV and Radio Station
Medical/Dental Clinic
Chapel
Basketball Court
Chemical Lab
Fire Department
Legal Services
Electrical Power Plant

Among the officers and enlisted personnel, there are chaplains, doctors, dentists, plumbers, mechanics, artists, chemists, weather forecasters, air traffic controllers, radio deejays, news reporters, security guards, and numerous other specialties. The crew is rich with other talents as well. As you tour the ship, you may hear the sounds of a gospel choir group practicing in the chapel or a small rock band working together during off-duty hours. There are even civilian college professors on board to teach college courses.

Take time to visit with the crew during your stay — you will both enjoy the experience.

BEARINGS AND LOCATION

You can always identify your location by the yellow rectangle painted on the bulkheads (walls). Example: 3-100-2-L

FIRST NUMBER (3) IS THE DECK NUMBER

Deck 1 is the main or hangar deck. Decks above the main deck increase in number and are preceded by 0. Decks below the main deck increase in number. Example: 02 indicates two decks above the main deck whereas 3- indicates two decks below the main deck.

SECOND NUMBER (100) IS THE FRAME NUMBER

Frame numbers increase from the front to back of the ship. The foremost point of the ship is frame #1, the after most point frame #260.

LAST NUMBER (2) IS THE COMPARTMENT NUMBER

The compartment numbers relate to the centerline. Zero is the centerline, even numbers are on the port (left) side of the ship and odd numbers are on the starboard (right) side.

LETTERS (L) INDICATE TYPE OF SPACE

The letter L indicates that it's a living space. Thus, 3-100-2-L is on the 3rd deck, frame 100, port side of the ship, and is a living space.

NAUTICAL TERMINOLOGY

What you call...

Halls
Floors
Ceilings
Stairs
Left
Right
Convenience Store
Restroom
Time Off

We call...

Passageways
Decks
Overhead
Ladders
Port
Starboard
Geedunk
Head
Liberty



Our Insignia

Designed by the crew, the ship's insignia includes a classic profile of our first president, a band of 13 stars representing the original colonies, and the crossed flags of freedom, all encircled by an unbroken rope representing the solidarity of the crew. The "Spirit of Freedom" was adopted as the ship's motto. This phrase was used by George Washington in a letter to a fellow patriot during the American Revolution to describe the mood of the American people.



“Under all circumstances, a decisive naval superiority is to be considered a fundamental principle, and the basis upon which all hopes of success must ultimately depend.”

G. W. H. S. T. O. N