



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



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## Aircraft Carriers: Multi-mission Capable

*"Naval aviation on board our aircraft carriers is a means of projecting that form of combat power anywhere in the world, whereupon we're not reliant on foreign basing in order to project naval aviation power."*

– Admiral Robert F. Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Aircraft carriers and their accompanying strike groups deliver the right balance of presence and power necessary to wage war in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Aircraft carriers continue to be one of our nation's primary on-call assets in times of need, and they enable the Navy to execute the six core capabilities of the Maritime Strategy – forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power projection, maritime security and humanitarian assistance/disaster response.

### Forward Presence

- Aircraft carriers significantly contribute to cooperative security operations through forward presence and sustained, routine engagement with foreign partners and allies.

### Power Projection

- Aircraft carriers have proven they can respond to national crises and provide options when access is not assured. The carrier force provides the unique ability to overcome political and geographic barriers to access critical areas and project power ashore without infringing on a nation's sovereignty.
- Carrier-based aircraft continue to fly combat missions over Afghanistan. Deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, aircraft from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8, the striking arm of USS Theodore Roosevelt, flew more than 3,100 combat sorties totaling more than 18,000 combat hours.

### Maritime Security

- Carriers and their embarked air wings respond to threats including piracy, terrorism, weapons proliferation, drug trafficking, and other illicit activities. Countering these threats far from our nation's shores protects the American homeland, enhances global stability and secures freedom of navigation for all nations.
- Recently, the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group returned stateside after completing a six-month deployment to the western Pacific. This deployment marked the first time the Navy's next-generation, multi-mission helicopters, the MH-60S and MH-60R, were integrated into the carrier strike group, providing a new strategic maritime security capability to warfare commanders.

### Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response

- The human suffering that results from natural disasters moves the U.S. to act, and the expeditionary character of aircraft carriers makes them uniquely suited to provide timely assistance in times of crisis.
- In the wake of Typhoon Fengshen, which hit the Philippines in June 2008, the Navy quickly provided a carrier strike group to assist the Armed Forces of the Philippines in humanitarian relief efforts on Panay Island. USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) served as the flagship, with the embarked aircraft of CVW 14 providing lift to transport badly-needed food, potable water, and medical supplies to sites all over the island.

Key Messages	Facts & Figures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The multi-mission capabilities of aircraft carriers enable execution of the six core capabilities of the Maritime Strategy.</li> <li>• The versatility inherent in carriers allows for flexible, mission-tailored forces, ensuring the nation is prepared for any crisis requiring the supremacy of airpower.</li> <li>• Aircraft carriers can respond to global crises in ways ranging from peacetime presence to full-scale war.</li> <li>• Aircraft carriers serve as deliberate reminders of our nation's resolve to friends and potential adversaries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom aircraft from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8 expended more than 61,000 pounds of precision guided ordnance to support "Troops in Contact."</li> <li>• USS Ronald Reagan was on station off Iloilo, Philippines, within 36 hours of tasking. During eight days of continuous flying, aircraft from CVW 14 delivered 519,000 lbs of supplies, such as rice and water.</li> </ul>