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# RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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## Naming of CVN 78 - USS Gerald R. Ford

*"President Gerald R. Ford provided the United States great leadership at a time of constitutional crisis. I am honored to have the opportunity to name the first ship in the new class of Aircraft Carriers after this great sailor, this great leader, this great man."*

**-- Honorable Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy**

- SECNAV announced today the selection of "USS Gerald R. Ford" as the name of CVN 78 in honor of the 38th President and as a tribute to his lifetime of service in the Navy, in U.S. government and to our nation.
- USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) will be the first carrier in the *Gerald R. Ford-Class* of aircraft carriers.
- USS *Gerald R. Ford* and subsequent *Ford-Class* carriers will balance improved war fighting capability, quality of life enhancements for our Sailors and reduced acquisition and life cycle costs.

## Role of Naval Forces... Carrier Presence

As announced by the President, the Navy will deploy the USS *John C. Stennis* Carrier Strike Group (CSG) to U.S. Central Command in order to **"bolster the security of Iraq and protect American interests in the Middle East."**

- *Stennis* will join the USS *Eisenhower* CSG, already operating in the theater.
- The presence of two aircraft carriers in the CENTCOM AOR, while not unprecedented, demonstrates U.S. resolve to bring security and stability to the region.
- Under the Navy's Fleet Response Plan (FRP), the USS *Ronald Reagan* CSG will surge later this month while USS *Kitty Hawk* undergoes upkeep in Yokosuka, Japan. The *Reagan* CSG will operate in the Western Pacific in support of U.S. commitments in the region.

### U.S. Navy providing "Regional Security/Global Stability"

- Our near-term response: Support OEF, OIF, HOA and conduct Maritime Security operations while contributing to our enduring mission to deter and dissuade others from acting counter to our national interests.
- Our long-term response: The Navy Operational Model – Navy Forces massed for regional security and deterrence, dispersed for maritime security.
- The desired effect: To help bring about **regional security and global stability**.

### Enduring Naval Mission

- Navy's enduring mission of forward presence contributes great value to the strategic landscape by **preventing or pausing disruptive actions** by state and non-state actors that have potential global impact.
  - Emboldened by the perception of the strategic landscape dominated by events in Iraq/Afghanistan... state and non-state leaders think **NOW** is the time to act on their agendas.
  - They possess the **opportunity, capacity and will** to deliver on their ill-conceived threats.
  - When they act, the consequences are immediately dangerous, economically damaging and/or **disruptive to regional security and global stability**.

### Preeminent Naval Forces

- Naval Forces are preeminent to addressing this problem. "Preeminent" because they provide **persistent presence** in an unobtrusive or overt manner **to dissuade and deter** the potential actions of others.
  - Navy Forces are capable of preventing or at least providing a **"pause" to disruptive actions** with potential global effects. Deterrence is one of our key enduring missions.
  - Relative to other options available to the Combatant Commanders, Navy Forces can **operate freely in international waters** – permission/approval not required.
  - For effective deterrence, forward, persistent and powerful Navy Forces, on scene continuously, working with regional allies can make a difference. These emboldened actors won't change overnight, and as history has shown, new ones will emerge. Employment of Naval forces **provides a counterbalance and leads to regional security and global stability**.