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"Where are the Carriers?"...Strategically Based for National Security

"Nothing else compares to the arrival of a new nuclear-powered carrier in our fleet. The impact of a new carrier is global, for no other ship represents to the world the power of the United States."

– Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter

Forward-deploying USS George Washington (CVN 73) in Yokosuka, Japan, homeporting USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) in Norfolk, Va., and deciding to homeport a carrier in Mayport, Fla., are all examples of the Navy strategically distributing our 11 aircraft carriers to be best positioned to support our nation's security. The Secretary of the Navy considers many factors when determining carrier homeports, including national security requirements, port capacity, access to naval training areas and quality of life factors for our Sailors and families.

Strategic Carrier Placement

- USS George Washington's (CVN 73) forward-deployment to Yokosuka, Japan, ensures the U.S. Navy's access to critical sea lanes and demonstrates commitment to protecting our regional security interests and those of our friends and allies in the Western Pacific and Indian oceans.
- USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) relocating to a west coast homeport, upon completion of their maintenance period in 2010, positions the Navy to support the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review's recommending the presence of six of the Navy's 11 carrier strike groups to reside in the Pacific area of responsibility.
- The Navy's [Record of Decision \(ROD\) to homeport a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier at Naval Station Mayport](#) and to complete associated infrastructure modifications provides the advantages of fleet dispersal and survivability without impacting operational availability.
 - No specific aircraft carrier will be identified until approximately one year prior to the ship's transfer. The recently-released ROD does not evaluate or determine the specific ships to be assigned to Mayport. Completion of nuclear maintenance facilities is required prior to arrival of an aircraft carrier. Military Construction (MILCON) projects are not anticipated to be completed prior to 2014.

Ready Fleet, Global Reach

- The proper homeporting of carriers must provide the appropriate level of infrastructure, as well as meet strategic priorities of our Maritime Strategy. This also ensures the Navy's carriers and their exceptional Sailors will be ready to answer the nation's call with unmatched forward presence and strike capability.
- Globally-distributed carriers contribute to homeland defense, foster relationships with international partners and deter potential regional aggressors before they impact regional and global maritime security.
- The Fleet Response Plan ensures the Navy has the ability to provide global forward presence while supporting geographic combatant commanders' requirements across a range of mission areas.

Key Messages

- Determining the homeport of an aircraft carrier is a long-term process that looks over a host of strategic, operational and environmental factors.
- When considering homeporting options, the Navy seeks to maximize infrastructure and facilities to provide responsible investment of taxpayers' dollars.
- Homeporting a carrier in Mayport best supports the Navy's mission and safeguards our nation's security.

Facts & Figures

- Current carrier homeports include Norfolk, Va., with five carriers, San Diego, Calif., with two, Washington state with two, and a forward-deployed carrier in Japan. The 11th carrier is scheduled for a west coast homeport when maintenance is complete.
- Today, four of the Navy's 11 carriers are at sea, forward-deployed or training to deploy.
- The process for homeport selection and approval is described in the Navy's Organizational Change Manual (OPNAVINST 5400.44 series).