



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



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## Carrier Programs

*“With the Nimitz class of carriers yet to reach the mid-point of their 83 years of service, all of the nation’s carriers are future carriers. We are aligned within the Naval Aviation Enterprise to maintain the nuclear carriers ready for tasking for their full service life and deliver the Ford Class carriers with reduced ownership costs.”*

– Rear Adm. Michael McMahon, Program Executive Officer for Aircraft Carriers

Aircraft carriers continue to be our nation’s on-call asset in times of need and enable the Navy to execute all six core capabilities of the Maritime Strategy – forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power projection, maritime security and humanitarian assistance/disaster response.

### CVN 78 program – the future USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) and beyond

With the commissioning of USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), the last of the Nimitz class, we look to the future class of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers (CVN). CVN 78 is the first major investment in CVN design since the 1960s. The design changes on CVN 78 will increase the mission capabilities of the platform and reduce total ownership costs.

- Improvements for the class will provide transformational warfighting capabilities and enable reduced manning, thereby resulting in a total ownership cost reduction of approximately \$5 billion over the life of each ship in the class. The design also allows for increased sortie generation by 25 percent.
- CVN 78 also features significantly increased electrical generating capacity able to handle all current and future combat systems needs.

### Nimitz Class- In-service Carriers

The first Nimitz-class carrier entered service in 1975, and the last will leave service in 2058.

- Each ship is built for a planned 50-year service life, with comprehensive upgrades and maintenance to enable the latest aircraft and technology to be carried at all times.
- The Nimitz class is the largest class of aircraft carriers built in any country since the end of World War II, and with an embarked air wing, these carriers are the most powerful warships in the world.

### Maintaining the Fleet’s capabilities and maximizing return on our investment

The Refueling Complex Overhaul (RCOH) is typically a three-year maintenance availability for a carrier providing needed modernization and equipment upgrades.

- RCOH occurs at approximately the 23-year point, with a one-time nuclear refueling, updates to infrastructure, warfighting capabilities and environmental compliance.
- USS Nimitz (CVN 68) and USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) have completed their respective RCOH. USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) is completing its RCOH, and USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) is scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 2009.

### Key Messages

- Aircraft carriers continue to provide the capability to respond quickly to global events.
- We must continue to affordably modernize the fleet. CVN 78 is the first major investment in CVN design since the 1960s.
- Proper maintenance ensures continued warfighting capacity and maximizes return on taxpayer dollars.

### Facts & Figures

- The construction contract for CVN 78 was awarded on Sept. 10, 2008. CVN 78 is named after Gerald R. Ford, the 38th president and naval officer who served on USS Monterey (CVL 26) during World War II.
- Each Nimitz-class carrier is approximately 1,092 feet long, displaces more than 90,000 tons and has a flight deck area of 4.5 acres.
- Pre-Commissioning Unit Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) is under construction at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding-Newport News.