

THE AVENGER

OCT 21

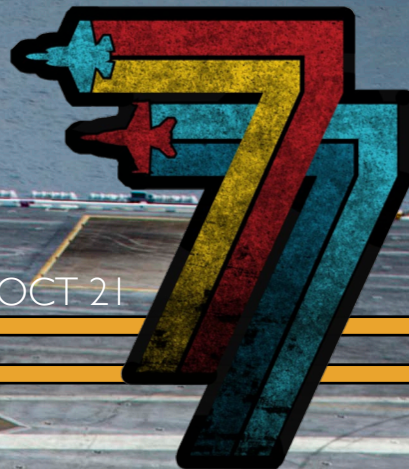


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USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77)



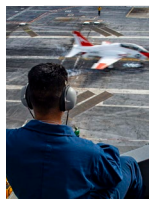
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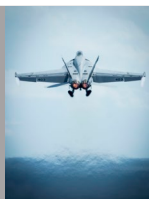


www.airlant.usff.navy.mil/ CVN77



FRONT COVER

Seaman Christian Messa, assigned to Deck Department, stands a lookout watch as a T-45C Goshawk aircraft lands on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). Photo by MC3 Brandon Roberson



BACK COVER

An F/A-18E Super Hornet aircraft assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 136 "Knighthawks" launches from the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). Photo by MC3 Bryan Valek

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A Message from the Commanding Officer

Avengers,

Over the last 35 days, we executed an extraordinary underway period. Most notably we put the shipyard in our wake. I am very proud of what our Crew accomplished as a TEAM. We are all a little saltier, understand what life at sea is like, and appreciate the exhilaration of being a Sailor underway in the world's greatest Navy. Most importantly, you saw firsthand what TEAM work can accomplish.

As you know, we have a full schedule during the month of October filled with certifications, inspections, training, and visits from senior civilian and military leaders. The graphic we generated and published in The AVENGER during the last underway should help you understand the events and timelines over the next 30 days. Your chain of command will also provide more clarity for each department, division, and individual to clearly define everyone's role in our future success.

In order to preserve space in an already busy calendar, our two primary objectives during this period are:

- 1) We achieve first time pass on all certification and inspections that are required for us to complete the basic phase of training.
- 2) We exhibit pride of ownership in our ship, our namesake, and our Navy by achieving a top score in our Material Assist Visits

Achieving of these objectives will require an All Hands effort and some long days. Each person's commitment to success will ensure that we achieve first pass results that give us time in our schedule that we do not have to commit to re-training, re-certification, or re-inspection – all of which would pull us from our families and loved ones. I am asking you to continue to show the same resilience you demonstrated during our first thirty days, and I remain committed to achieving a good work-life balance for the crew by holding weekends and holidays as duty section only. My ability to do so is dependent on our success as a TEAM.

I have high expectations for everyone onboard this mighty warship, and I know that working together, WE CAN DO IT!

Our success - the accomplishment of our objectives and our mission - is a function of our TEAMWORK and our attitude. We will serve, learn, grow, and achieve success together during this time. In doing so, we will accomplish our mission as a TEAM, enjoy well-earned time off with our families and uphold our namesake's often repeated theme of Service and Family. President Bush often said, together we have Ceiling and Visibility Unlimited.

G. R. Aguilar
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

GHWB CONDUCTS FIRST RAS SINCE DPIA

Story by MC3 Bayley McMichael Photos by MC2 Hillary Becke and MC3 Brandon Roberson



The aircraft carrier USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77) completed its first replenishment at sea (RAS) Sept. 8 since entering Drydocking Planned Incremental Maintenance Availability in 2019.

RAS is a method of transferring fuel, munitions, and stores from one ship to another while underway. RAS capability allows GHWB to refuel aircraft at sea, supporting mission capability and flexibility through sea-based logistics.

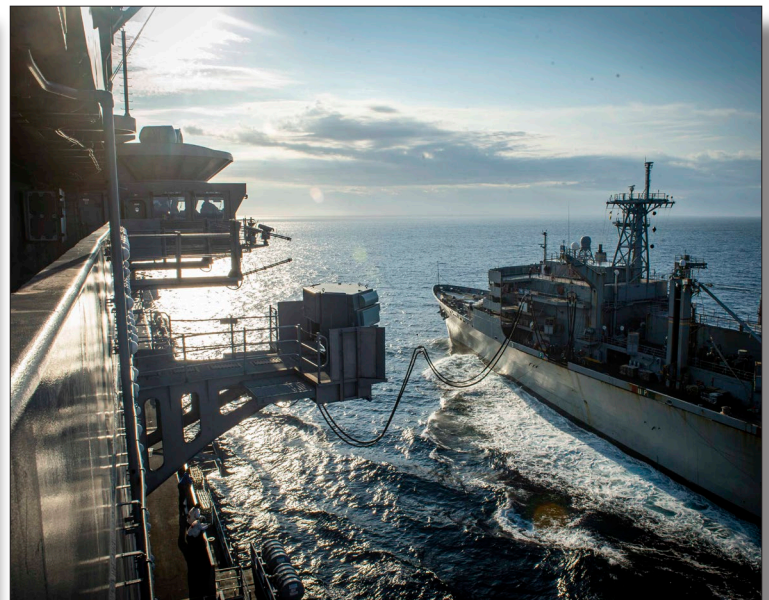
“Being able to flex our seamanship muscles by bringing another ship alongside us, less than 200 feet and with tensioned wires and hoses hooked up, is pretty awesome,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jesse Gazur, GHWB’s assistant first lieutenant. “My Sailors on station come from all over the world and unite as a team to accomplish something both difficult and hazardous. Also, being one of the only navies in the world able to do what we do enables

us to stay out on station and in the fight no matter where in the world we need to be.”

GHWB took on over a million gallons of aircraft fuel from the Military Sealift Command fast combat support ship USNS Arctic (T-AOE 8) during the multi-hour evolution. It provided valuable training and experience for the navigation watch standers.

“It is awesome to be a part of the team that is bringing GHWB back to the Fleet,” said Lt. Cmdr. Jessica Rogers, the GHWB’s officer of the deck during the replenishment. “I was honored to be the OOD for her 1st RAS since DPIA. It was a group effort by all hands involved and safely executed.”

GHWB is conducting flight deck certification, which tests and evaluates equipment and personnel in preparation for future operations.



GHWB COMPLETES FLIGHT DECK CERTIFICATION

Story by MC3 Bryan Valek Photo by MC3 Brandon Roberson



USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77) and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7 completed the ship's post-drydocking planned incremental availability flight deck certification (FDC) on Sept. 10.

The certification was the culmination of more than 28 months of hard work to ensure the GHWB remains combat ready for the next 40 years. GHWB and CVW-7 – Team JACKPOT (777) – commenced a training schedule that will result in worldwide combat capability whenever and wherever needed.

It was the first time that CVW-7 and GHWB worked together at sea as major commanders under Carrier Strike Group 10 after a strike group realignment.

"Flight deck certification means our warship and our flight deck are open for business to support Fleet training, and that we have the level of proficiency required to commence our next OFRP [Optimized Fleet Response Plan] cycle," said Capt. Robert Aguilar, the ship's commanding officer. "The crew is excited to be underway and out of the shipyard environment. Ships belong at sea, and Sailors belong on them. This week was a big step for USS George Herbert Walker Bush and our partners in CVW 7 as we began our relationship Carrier Strike Group 10."

FDC is a requirement for aircraft carriers to complete after a maintenance availability. It is a time of rebuilding the skills, leadership, and proficiency necessary to operate in day or night, all-weather conditions. Integration between the air wing and ship

is crucial to the success of carrier operations. Flight operations take detailed coordination between ship's crew and the squadrons. This FDC was the first step in putting Team JACKPOT back on the line in service to the nation and the Navy.

"Everyone was at the top of their game during this underway," said Capt. Nathan A. Ballou, commander of CVW-7. "The FREEDOM FIGHTERS and ship teams integrated well, and we appreciate the hospitality provided by the GHWB team. The completion of these certifications is a testament to our commitment to excellence and willingness to work hard together to support the strike group."

Commander, Carrier Strike Group 10 is led by Rear Adm. Rick Cheeseman. The ship and air wing will be joined by the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruisers USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), USS Vicksburg (CG 69), and Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 26 to enable the full range of combat capability resident in a Carrier Strike Group.

The squadrons of CVW-7 are Strike Fighter Squadron 143 "Pukin' Dogs," Strike Fighter Squadron 103 "Jolly Rogers," Strike Fighter Squadron 86 "Sidewinders," Strike Fighter Squadron 136 "Knighthawks," Electronic Attack Squadron 140 "Patriots," Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 121 "Bluetails," Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 5 "Nightdippers," Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 46 "Grandmasters."



401

GEORGE H.W. BUSH

V

USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH

TWO AND THE SAME

Story and photos by MC3 Bryan Valek

The crew aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) prepares to launch an F/A-18 Super Hornet aircraft off its deck during a recent flight deck certification. The Weapons Safety Officer inside the aircraft is Lt. Monica Shifflet, from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 103. The ship's reactor plants deliver the steam required to launch a jet. One of the reactor officers on watch, Lt. Natalie Shifflet, closely monitors the steam build-up in one of the plants below decks. The catapult goes off and the aircraft is launched. Monica's plant just provided the power for Natalie's aircraft to become airborne.

The Shifflet twins, one assigned to Reactor Department aboard GHWB and one assigned to VFA-103 "Jolly Rogers," a part of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, are working together to get the ship and the airwing ready for deployment.

"I suppose it all started when I was searching for colleges," said Natalie. While applying to the Naval Academy, Natalie learned about the Reserve Officer Training Corps

(ROTC) program. She and her sister both applied to the program, and were accepted into the ROTC program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

While attending MIT, Natalie majored in Nuclear Science and Engineering, and Monica majored in Materials Science and Engineering.

"Four years later, we were both graduating and commissioning in the U.S. Navy," said Monica.

After their commissioning, the twins had very different paths ahead of them.

Natalie was assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Gonzalez (DDG 66) for two years. Then, after completing her first sea tour, she went to Nuclear Power School and Nuclear Prototype in Goose Creek, South Carolina. Natalie was assigned to GHWB upon completion of the nuclear pipeline.

"I can't believe I've only been here a year and seen how far the ship and crew have come since being in the yards," said Natalie.

While Natalie was here for GHWB's Docking Planned Incremental Availability Period and helped get the ship out of Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Monica was training to become a naval aviator.

After graduating and commissioning, Monica reported to Pensacola, Florida for flight training. After earning her wings of gold, she reported to a Naval Air Station Oceana based Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS), the last stop in the Naval Flight Officer training pipeline. After completing

FRS, Monica was detailed to her

first squadron.

"When I found out what squadron I was going to, I texted my sister and was like, 'Hey! I got VFA-103,'" said Monica.

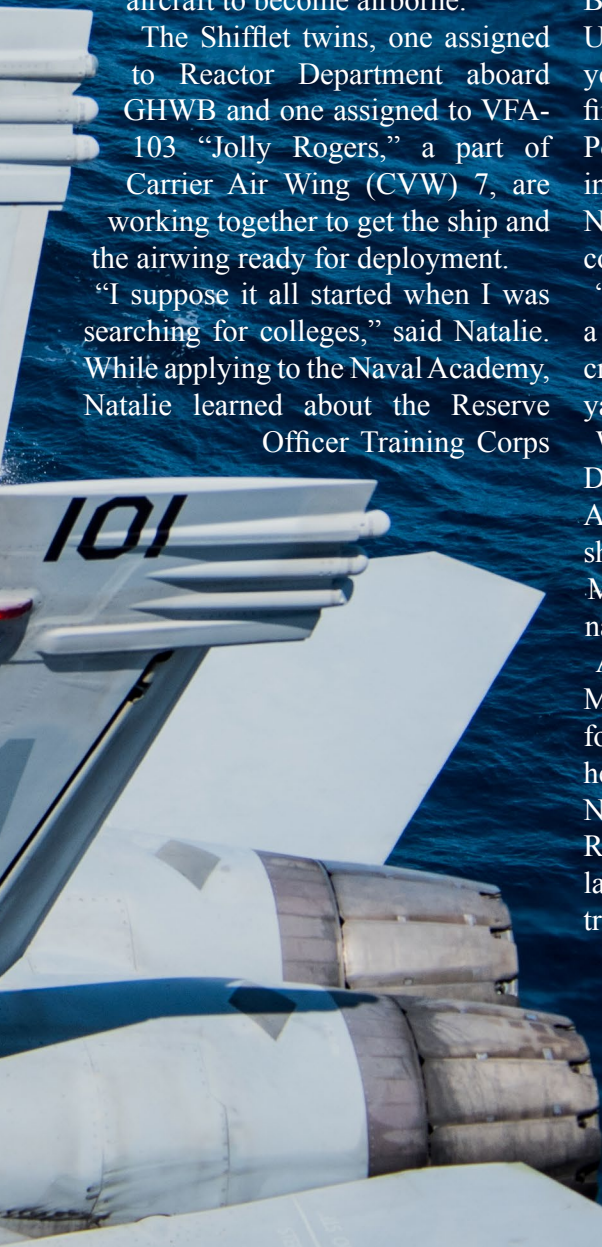
"I was on duty, I had just gotten off watch and went to eat dinner in the wardroom when I saw her text," said Natalie. "I just told a of couple people from my department 'Guess what? My sister is coming to the ship,' to which they instantly started cheering. That made me smile."

As part of Team JACKPOT (CVN 77 and CVW-7), the twins started working towards the same mission. One supporting it from the sky, and one supporting from the belly of the ship. Being together to work towards similar goals, the twins could not help but reminisce on their childhood.

"Growing up with a twin was nice because you already had someone there, someone who shares the same hobbies and interests," said Monica. "Little did we know we'd be sharing the same mission serving side-by-side in the U.S. Navy."

The squadrons of CVW-7 are Strike Fighter Squadron 143 "Pukin' Dogs," Strike Fighter Squadron 103 "Jolly Rogers," Strike Fighter Squadron 86 "Sidewinders," Strike Fighter Squadron 136 "Knighthawks," Electronic Attack Squadron 140 "Patriots," Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 121 "Bluetails," Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 5 "Nightdippers," Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 46 "Grandmasters."

GHWB is in Naval Station Norfolk for a routine maintenance before going back to sea.

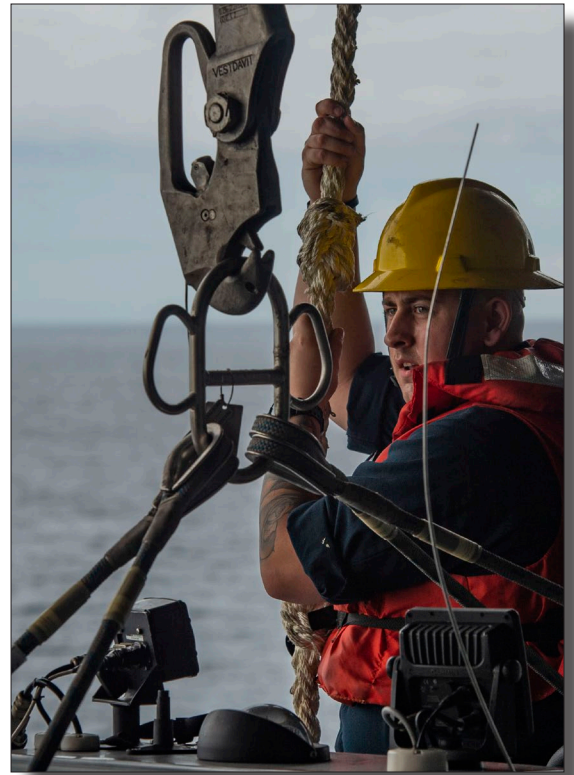


PHOTOS OF THE MONTH





A jet assigned to Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7 flies over the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) during a 9/11 remembrance observance. Photo by MC3 Stuart Posada.









OUR EPIC VOYAGE THROUGH OCTOBER

CART II

COMMAND ASSESSMENT
OF READINESS AND TRAINING

OCT. 4-8

GIVES THE CREW
FEEDBACK ON THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF THEIR
TRAINING PROGRAMS



COLUMBUS DAY

OCT. 11



OCT. 15 AT 1800
THROUGH
OCT. 18 AT 0400



ELECTRICAL POWER
SECURED FORWARD
FRAME 128

SEA OF W

OCT. 1 AT 1800
THROUGH
OCT. 4 AT 0400



ELECTRICAL POWER
SECURED AFT OF
FRAME 128

CPO SEASON BEGINS OCT. 4

SELECTEES BEWARE!

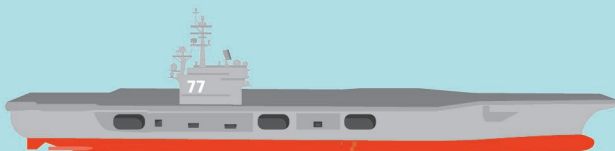
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BEGINS...



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IMPROVE CREW

OCT. 18-22

5M INSPECTON

INSPECTION TO MAKE
SURE OUR 5M
PROGRAM IS RUNNING
CORRECTLY

&

ADV. WARFARE
TRAINING II



PFA
INTERCEPT DATE:
UNKNOWN



DON'T WALK THE PLANK.
LEARN HOW TO PLANK!



NOVEMBER

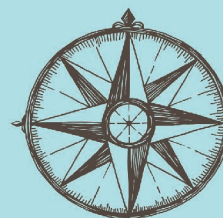
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FLEET FORCES
CHANGE OF COMMAND
OCT. 21

ADM. GRADY TO BE
RELIEVED BY ADM. CAUDLE



N



SEA OF WOO
(WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY)
FOR PIER-SIDE MAINTENANCE



ALWAYS RETTIE

Story and Photos by MC3 Brandon Roberson and MC3 Bryan Valek

“It makes me the
happiest when I
am able to help a
person in need.”
-Lt. Elizabeth Rettie





Lt. Elizabeth Rettie, the family practice physician aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), examines a patient during a drill.

When a Sailor goes to Medical aboard USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77), they likely will come across Lt. Elizabeth Rettie, the ship's physician. Her welcoming presence and calming demeanor give Sailors a reprieve from the fact that they are there. Rettie's spirit of service comes not only because she is the ship's physician, but because it is ingrained in her.

"I love what I do," said Rettie. "I do this job because I love helping people. It makes me the happiest when I am able to help a person in need."

As long as she can remember, Rettie was around the military. As a military "brat" whose father was a general surgeon in the Navy, her father's and family's service took them around the world to places like Italy and Japan. From an early age, she saw what service and sacrifice in the Navy looks like.

"My dad's job was extremely demanding," said Rettie. "Being a part of a military family is not always easy, but you gain an understanding of the responsibility one takes on when they choose to serve. My dad was a huge inspiration for us in all facets."

Rettie grew up with a great respect for the military, but was undecided whether or not she would follow in her father's footsteps. She gained an appreciation for teaching in her youth and wanted

to pursue a career as a teacher. Understanding that she had more than just one option, Rettie decided to combine the medical knowledge she gained from her parents, with her passion for educating others.

"I understood the opportunity I had at a fairly early age," said Rettie. "I decided in my teens I was going to college for medicine because it gave me the platform to help people and teach others how to help people. At first, I wasn't sure if I wanted to follow my dad into the Navy because I wanted to make my own path. But after much thought and some persuasion from my parents, I realized pursuing a medical career in the Navy was the right path for myself to fulfill my goals."

Rettie joined the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) at the University of Notre Dame while simultaneously attending St. Mary's University to earn her Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology. She then went on to earn her Doctor of Medicine from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Rettie has been aboard GHWB for one year now. Helping injured Sailors is a part of her daily routine, but it's not the only thing she does. Being the officer assigned to GHWB's Aft Battle Dressing Station (BDS) provides Rettie the

opportunity to educate Sailors on topics ranging from basic first-aid to advanced BDS techniques.

"The sense of purpose that I get with taking care of people, making them well and preventing illnesses, fulfills me," said Rettie. "The teaching aspect of what I do is the icing on the cake. Educating my corpsman, educating my patients, I just love what I do. Helping people is what I am here to do."

Rettie's personal approach to her craft translates to both senior and junior Sailors alike.

"When I was assigned to the BDS, I had no idea what I was doing," said Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Bayley McMichael. "I was brand new aboard GHWB and had no formal training in anything related to medical procedures. Lt. Rettie gave me hands on teaching for what to do if I came across an injured Sailor. She's extremely patient and knows what she is talking about."

Rettie's background education, training and spirit of service provides the crew with much more than a ship's physician. Her passion for helping people and her desire to teach go hand-in-hand. Having Rettie aboard GHWB is not only vital to the mission, but vital to all Sailors aboard the ship.

CONGRATULATIONS



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Chief Petty Officer (Selects)



BACK ^{TO}
BLUES

OCT
18

2021-22 HOME SCHEDULE

See MWR for Norfolk Admirals Tickets

OCTOBER

Fri 22 vs Reading

NOVEMBER

Thu 4 vs Orlando

Fri 5 vs Orlando

Wed 17 vs South Carolina

DECEMBER

Wed 1 vs Atlanta

Fri 3 vs Atlanta

Sat 4 vs Atlanta

Wed 8 vs Florida

Fri 10 vs Florida

Sat 11 vs Florida

Wed 15 vs Wheeling

Fri 17 vs Wheeling

Sat 18 vs Wheeling

JANUARY

Wed 5 vs Jacksonville

Fri 7 vs Jacksonville

Sat 8 vs Jacksonville

Fri 21 vs Greenville

Sat 22 vs Greenville

Sun 23 vs Greenville

Fri 28 vs South Carolina

Sat 29 vs South Carolina

FEBRUARY

Wed 16 vs Rapid City

Fri 18 vs Rapid City

Sat 19 vs Rapid City

MARCH

Wed 2 vs Atlanta

Fri 4 vs Atlanta

Sat 5 vs Atlanta

Wed 16 vs Reading

Fri 18 vs Greenville

Sat 19 vs Greenville

Thu 31 vs Jacksonville

APRIL

Fri 1 vs Jacksonville

Sat 2 vs Jacksonville

Wed 13 vs South Carolina

Fri 15 vs South Carolina

Sat 16 vs South Carolina

#WEARE757

All Home Games Start At 7:30PM
Excluding January 23



FREEDOM  *AT WORK*