

THE AVENGER

MAR 2022



Meet the Information
Warfare Commander

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Former Chief of Staff and
Navy's Air Boss Visit CVN 77

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www.dvidshub.net/unit/cvn77

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— FRONT COVER —

Operations Specialist 2nd Class Chayil Jacquet monitors a radar system during a combat systems training evolution, March 15, 2022. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Felix Castillo Reyes)

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INFORMATION WARFARE COMMANDER



Greetings Avengers,

It has been great to be aboard this fine warship! Every day, I can see your strength and pride growing as we all put in the hard work needed to work up for deployment. Like many of you, I'm from small town USA, but unlike many I'm from the largest state in our great Nation! Figure it out? Nope...it's not Texas, that's too easy aboard this history rich ship!

Like many of you, I joined the Navy to improve my life, see the world, and be a part of something bigger than myself, and that ultimately led me to join the collective team of Carrier Strike Group TEN as your Information Warfare Commander (IWC). As the IWC, I work to optimize combat power of this flag ship, the guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), the guided-missile destroyers of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 26, and the assets of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7 by leading and integrating the elements of Assured Command and Control, Battlespace Awareness, and Integrated Fires into our warfighting operations.

To do this, the Information Warfare Specialists across our strike group work together to coalesce all elements of the Information Warfare Community — intelligence, meteorology, communications, cryptology, space, and cyber warfare to enhance our collective lethality, defense, and support my fellow warfare commanders. There are a lot of challenges in the Information Environment. The IW Syndicate works alongside all departments in all units - not just combat systems and intelligence like you might assume.

Each and every Avenger and member of the strike group has a role to play in the information environment. You've probably read about the Army having their soldiers leave their personal electronic devices (PED) at home when they deploy – most notably the actions of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division in 2020. They were concerned about PEDs giving adversaries the ability to “be able to determine movement and possible intentions by tracking persons (and their associated units or functions) based on things like social media posts -- for example, pictures or postings including photographs with geo-tagging enabled.”ⁱ This can happen to us too. We all need to remember both the privileges and responsibilities that come with PEDs and other devices - including our personal duty to protect our ship, shipmates, and strike group, every time we get underway.

As we get into COMPTUEX and into deployment, we will take a very constrained warfighting posture where internet and email will not be accessible for multiple days in a row. Further, our use of Personal Electronic Devices will be limited. Please think through what you need to do to prepare yourselves, your shipmates, those you lead, and your families for these unannounced conditions. We need to prepare each other to be ready for these conditions as they'll increase our ability to deliver on our Nation's expectations of the Navy; to fight and win when called upon. I know each of us will do our duty!



Captain Matt Cegelske, USN
Information Warfare Commander
Carrier Strike Group TEN

ⁱ US troops deploying to the Middle East told to leave personal devices at home | ZDNet

GHWBCSG Completes Group Sail

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Bryan Valek

The George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (GHWBCSG) joined forces for Group Sail March 3-11. It was the first time that each element of the strike group worked together since the carrier returned from her last deployment.

"I'm incredibly proud of the work we've done here the past few weeks," said Rear Adm. Rick Cheeseman, commander, Carrier Strike Group 10, George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group. "It's amazing to watch a team work hard and take on the traits that we talk about in the Navy today like embracing the red and 'Get real, Get better.' Constructive criticism of ourselves and our teammates while being collegial and mission focused delivers impressive results."

George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group is led by Cheeseman and his staff, which is supported by the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7 the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 26, an Information Warfare Commander, and the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55).

During Group Sail, the strike group executed command and control of each element to begin the integrated phase of training. This phase of training is an essential element of the force generation and training cycle for carrier strike groups and their supporting commands. It provides needed time for essential communication and interoperability to begin between units and the strike group.

"Down to the newest Sailor within our team of teams, everyone worked very hard during group TSTA/FEP, SWATT, Live Fire With a Purpose and finally Group Sail," said Cheeseman. "I'm sure a lot of our team is tired from

working hard, and that's to be expected during training. But it's important that they know – even if they don't realize it in the moment – that they're an impressive team, and I know we're on a great path as we continue training."

GHWBCSG is an integrated combat weapons system that delivers superior combat capability to deter, and if necessary, defeat America's adversaries in support of national security. It achieves its mission by projecting the combined power of George H.W. Bush, Carrier Air Wing 7, Destroyer Squadron 26, its Information Warfare Commander, and the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55).



A Legacy of Service - President Bush's Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Navy's Air Boss Visit GHWB

USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Public Affairs

President George H.W. Bush's post-presidency chief of staff Jean Becker and Commander, Naval Air Forces Vice Adm. Kenneth Whitesell visited the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) on March 21, 2022. The visit to the ship followed a local gala celebrating the Centennial of U.S. Navy Aircraft carriers the evening prior.

George H.W. Bush is the only U.S. Navy aircraft carrier named for a naval aviator. Bush flew from the deck of USS San Jacinto (CVL 30) in the Pacific campaign in World War II while assigned as a pilot and photographic officer in Torpedo Squadron 51 (VT 51).

Becker, who served Bush from 1994-2018, was accompanied on her visit by former Bush administration alumni, post-Presidency staff, Executive Director of the Bush School DC General Jay Silveria, and senior leadership from the George & Barbara Bush Foundation including the Foundation's Chief Executive Officer, Max Angerholzer.

"Every visit to CVN 77 is emotional for me because I know how much this ship and her crew meant to President Bush," said Becker. "He cherished the time he spent on board and considered it the honor of his lifetime to have his name associated with this living symbol of American freedom."

The group toured the ship and met crew members where they were able to learn about the ship's Sailors and also provide their experiences with President Bush to illuminate the namesake in a personal way.

"Everyone I met aboard the USS George H.W. Bush



projected confidence and great pride in their service to our nation," said Angerholzer. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to have seen first-hand the living legacy of President Bush at work on this magnificent ship."

Vice Adm. Kenneth Whitesell, commander, Naval Air Forces - and former commander of Carrier Strike Group TWO embarked aboard George H.W. Bush - was also on board the ship to meet with the group.

"It is a tremendous honor to be here today with Ms. Becker and to have been a strike group commander aboard this powerful warship with such an incredible legacy," said Whitesell. "President Bush embodied the same grit, professionalism, and resolve that U.S. Naval aircraft carriers, and the Sailors that run them, have demonstrated over the past 100 years. No other force on earth can operate forward with the speed, endurance, and combat capability of an aircraft carrier strike group and its Sailors."

Many of Becker's stories regarding Bush and the ship are also incorporated in her recently published memoir, "The Man I Knew." The book highlights President Bush's focus on service and family after the White House.

"It's an honor to serve as the commanding officer of any U.S. Navy command," said Capt. Robert Aguilar, George H.W. Bush commanding officer. "However, it's a special experience for me and for the rest of the crew to serve aboard the George Herbert Walker Bush - an aircraft carrier named after a distinguished WWII aviator whose legacy of service continued right up to the time of his passing. We work hard to live up to the standard of service before self he exemplified."

George H.W. Bush provides the national command authority flexible, tailorable warfighting capability as the flagship of a carrier strike group that maintains maritime stability and security to ensure access, deter aggression and defend U.S., allied and partner interests.





INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT



ROLE IN SHIP'S MISSION

Our priority is to provide indications and warnings to the decision makers aboard the ship, who can be the CO, XO, the department heads, all the way down to the watchstanders. We provide situational awareness of the environment that we are in, not just in our immediate space but on a global scale as well.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Intelligence's Ship's Nautical or Otherwise Photographic Interpretation and Examination (SNOOPIE) team tracks and identifies all surface and air vessels around the ship. We also provide information to help our command's leaders make decisions that are best for the mission.



PREPARING FOR DEPLOYMENT

The adversary is always watching what you are doing online, what you are texting your friends, what you are posting. They can see any activity. Don't put up anything that can jeopardize the ship in any way.



"Intelligence is the cornerstone to what we do on a daily basis. We may be behind the scenes, but we're supporting every single mission, making sure that we have situational awareness on our ship at all times."

-ISCS Ashley Gorham



COMBAT SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT



ROLE IN SHIP'S MISSION

Combat Systems Department is a diverse, highly trained team of professionals comprised of many rates responsible for the operation, maintenance and repair of a wide range of electronic equipment installed on George H.W. Bush. Behind closed doors...seven days a week, 24 hours a day combat systems is ready to execute high fidelity integrated warfare capabilities in a maritime environment.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Combat Systems has nine divisions with a collective of Sailors with a variety of ratings from Information systems technicians (IT), Interior Communications Electricians (IC) to Fire Controlmen (FC), and Electronic Technicians (ET). They are responsible for a massive amount of equipment throughout the ship including all telephones, computers, speakers, 1MC, 3MC, 5MC, 6MC, radio communication equipment, radars, antennas and all of the ship's self-defense systems.



PREPARING FOR DEPLOYMENT

People need to be aware that everyone is important in this fight. OPSEC, or operational security, is really important. Our adversaries, specifically the Russians, are really good at social engineering. They can gather information that makes us vulnerable. Things that seem insignificant can become significant quickly because it can add up.



"My department's [Combat Systems] philosophy is all about trust, teamwork and toughness within the department. You need to have each of those things to complete any mission. The goals for the department are to build a foundation of trust, teamwork, and toughness to get through COMPTUEX and deployment and to be known to the crew that we are trustworthy and reliable teammates that are ready to help out and help wherever it is needed."

-CDR Karrie Lang

USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Combat Systems Officer



COMMANDER KARRIE “PANDA” LANG



“For me, diversity should be centered on diversity of thought. It helps us cover down on our blind spots and helps us understand things that I may never think about that a Sailor with a different perspective might see. Getting that perspective helps me get a 360 view and protect my blind spots.”



Q: How long have you been in the Navy?

A: It will be about 18 years in May.

Q: What is your role as the CSO and what are your priorities for the crew/command as the new CSO?

A: I am the combat systems officer onboard USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). The combat systems officer is in charge of nine different divisions across the ship and a massive amount of equipment.

Q: Prior to your assignment here on the ship, you were at Carrier Strike Group 4 – the command that will be assessing our Strike Group’s readiness to deploy during COMPTUEX. What can you share with us about what to expect? What’s one thing that every Sailor can do to be just a bit more ready?

A: Coming from CSG 4, everything there is about integration. One of the biggest and most rewarding things of COMPTUEX from the CSG 4 perspective was being able to watch a group go from being an individual work force to being an integrated team. COMPTUEX is very busy. It helps to familiarize yourself with what COMPTUEX is about. It is a very intense time with a compressed schedule. We are going to do a lot of things in thirty days, and it is going to be fast and furious. If we can get ourselves in the warfighting mindset it will help everybody understand what we are doing and why we are doing it. That will keep us a little more motivated and keep that sense of urgency.

Q: Speaking of integration, why do you feel it’s important for women to be present in the military community?

A: I have been part of the minority throughout most of my career. I never wanted to be thought of as just a female officer or female Sailor, I just wanted to be an excellent officer, an excellent Sailor, an excellent aviator. I wanted to be successful at what I was doing and not have that modified by gender. However, the longer I have been in the more I understand the importance of that diversity. For me, diversity should be centered on diversity of thought. It helps us cover down on our blind spots and helps us understand things that I may never think about that a Sailor with a different perspective might see. Getting that perspective helps me get a 360 view and protect my blind spots. I think that as females, there are different experiences, like being female, being a daughter, being a wife, being a mother provides a different perspective that covers down on the blind spots of our male counterparts. We have experiences they could never have. It helps us become a more effective team.



SENIOR CHIEF INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST ASHLEY GORHAM



Q: How long have you been in the Navy?

A: I have been in for about 17 years, since January of 2005.

Q: What are some of the commands you have served at before coming to GHWB?

A: I was on USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), then I was at the Pentagon. I was also stationed at the National Geospatial Agency.

Q: What initially sparked your interest in the intelligence community?

A: Before I joined the Navy, I was going to college at Louisiana State University and I had a professor who was in Army intelligence and he always had the neatest stories about intel.

Q: What is your role in the intel department?

A: I am the department Leading Chief Petty Officer. I make sure the all the intel briefs and intel daily functions make it to the appropriate leadership. I also help integrate the CSG-10 intel staff and mission with the GHWB intel staff and mission.

Q: What are things the crew should be aware of as we prepare to deploy?

A: The adversary is always watching what you are doing online, what you are texting your friends, what you are posting. They can see any activity. Don't put up anything that can jeopardize the ship in any way.

Q: Why do you feel it's important for women to be present in the intelligence community?

A: I think women need to be present in all communities. Intel has always had a strong female presence because it's more clerical and administrative in nature. Women were allowed to be in more supporting roles much earlier than other areas, so Intel has a long history of that female support.

Q: What was your journey like as a woman in the intelligence community?

A: It was not typical of the military journey because of the strong presence of women. That being said, I have been at commands, especially being a senior female leader, where I've been the only female in a meeting or the only female chief in the Chief's Mess. At one command I was the only female senior leader, officer or enlisted. I think it's important to have representation at all levels in all communities, so I feel honored to be that representation.

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TRAILBLAZING WOMEN IN NAVAL HISTORY



Vice Adm. Nora Tyson

Nora Wingfield Tyson was born in 1957 in Memphis, Tennessee. Upon attending Officer Candidate School in 1979, she was later commissioned into the U.S. Navy in December of that year. Tyson served in a variety of roles including a Political-Military Planner and Assistant for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Director of Staff for Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, and an Executive Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations. She also served aboard various vessels including the aircraft carriers USS Enterprise (CVN 65) and USS Lexington (CV 16), and the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) before being promoted to Rear Adm. (Lower Half) in September 2007. On July 29, 2010, Tyson became the first woman to command a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier task group when she took command of Carrier Strike Group 2 with the nuclear powered aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) as its flagship. In an August 1, 2011, during a ceremony on the Bush, Tyson was promoted to Rear Adm. (upper half) via videolink by late President George H.W. Bush. In July 2013 she was promoted to Vice Adm. and named as Deputy Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. In 2015, Tyson was installed as commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet, making her the first woman to lead a U.S. Navy ship fleet. Tyson implemented the "3rd Fleet Forward" initiative announced by CINCPACFLT Adm. Scott Swift, retaining U.S. 3rd Fleet operational control of forces.

Lt. Cmdr. Brenda "Raven" Robinson

Brenda E. Robinson was born in 1956 in North Wales, Pennsylvania. After high school, Robinson enrolled at Dowling College in New York – one of the best aviation schools on the East Coast – and also earned a pilot's license. Robinson went on to attend the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School in 1977. In 1980, she became the first African-American female pilot in the U.S. Navy to earn her wings. Receiving the call sign "Raven", she went on to become the first woman certified for C-1A carrier landings in 1981. She amassed 115 carrier landings while transporting mail, cargo, and passengers to aircraft carriers. Her entire career is peppered with firsts for African-American women in the U.S. Navy such as flight instructor, evaluator, and VIP transport pilot to name a few. Upon retiring, she became one of the first African-American female pilots for American Airlines, a position she held for 17 years until she retired in 2008. Today, she calls Charlotte home and serves as an instructor at Fly Right in Concord. She's also the founder of Aviation Camps of the Carolinas, where she teaches and offers teenagers hands-on opportunities to learn about aviation at airports around the nation.



Chief Yeoman Loretta Perfectus Walsh

Born on April 22, 1886, in Philadelphia, Walsh had the distinction of being the first woman to enlist in the U.S. armed services in something other than a nursing assignment. Walsh enlisted in the U.S. Navy on March 17, 1917, as a yeoman. The yeoman women primarily served in clerical positions. They received the same benefits and responsibilities as men, including identical pay (\$2.875 per month) and were treated as veterans after the war. On March 21, 1917, Walsh was sworn in as chief yeoman, becoming the first woman chief petty officer in the Navy. She served her active duty at the Naval Shipyard in Philadelphia and when World War I ended, Walsh and all the yeoman personnel were released from active duty. As Walsh had enlisted in the Naval Reserve for a 4-year enlistment, she continued on inactive reserve status receiving a modest retainer pay until the end of her enlistment on March 17, 1921. In 1918, Walsh fell victim to influenza and later contracted tuberculosis. She died on August 6, 1925, at the age of 29 in Olyphant, Pennsylvania.



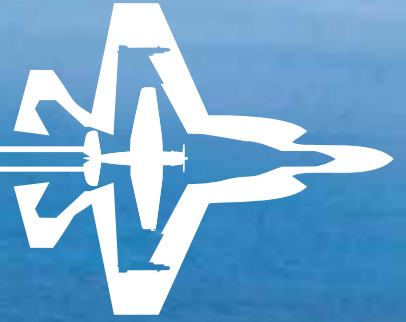
Hull Maintenance Technician 2nd Class Donna Tobias

Donna Tobias, a California native, decided to join the Navy in 1974. When she expressed to her recruiter that she wanted to be a Navy diver, she was simply told that females didn't do that job. She went through with enlisting and became a hull maintenance technician, but then persisted in submitting her application to be accepted into Navy dive school. She received acceptance to dive school, only two days before her class would begin. In 1975, there was much controversy about females in this historically male-dominated field and little faith that a woman would be able to handle the Mark V diving suit that weighed 200 pounds, with each boot weighing 17 pounds themselves. Tobias became the first woman to graduate from the Navy Deep Sea Diving School. Despite this huge achievement, she was not granted sea duty orders due to being a woman – therefore her first duty was becoming an instructor at the Submarine Escape Training Tank at Submarine Naval Base in New London. Tobias was involved in search and salvage operations in Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, and participated in the sinking of a World War II ship to construct an artificial reef in Chesapeake Bay. Donna served eight years and later went on to teach special education. In 2001, she was inducted into the Women Diver's Hall of Fame and in 2018, the Naval Submarine Base New London honored Tobias by naming their dive locker after her.



PHOTOS OF THE MONTH





Ships from the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (GHWBCSG) transit the Atlantic Ocean during a straits transit training event. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Stuart Posada)









PEDCON & EMCON

When Emmissions Condition (EMCON) is called, a Portable Electronic Device Condition (PEDCON) will also be announced to ensure command security. During these conditions, use of portable electronics may not be authorized, including for use as alarm clocks. The following is a guideline on the PEDCON levels and what is authorized for WMS-PED use.

PEDCON 1: Extreme Risk. All personnel shall **POWER OFF** all WMS-PEDs and stow them **INSIDE** their locker or rack.

PEDCON 2: Moderate Risk. All personnel shall ensure all their WMS-PED are in **AIRPLANE** mode and that **BLUETOOTH** is only authorized **BELOW** deck.

PEDCON 3: Low Risk. All personnel shall ensure all their WMS-PED are in **AIRPLANE** mode.



DO BUY A WATCH
OR ALARM CLOCK!




DO KEEP YOUR
PHONE ON
AIRPLANE MODE
AT ALL TIMES!



DON'T USE
YOUR PHONE
DURING
PEDCON 1!

DON'T KEEP
BLUETOOTH
ON AT ALL
TIMES!

IF *You* SAY WHERE
WE'RE
GOING
MAY
NEVER GET
THERE



TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH OPSEC, DOWNLOAD THE NAVAL OPSEC
APP IN EITHER THE APPLE APP STORE OR GOOGLE PLAY STORE!

BREAKING NEWS



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