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Ronald Reagan Bound for San Diego

By JO2 Shane Tuck
Staff Writer

Ronald Reagan Strike Group (RGNSG), consisting of Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group ONE (CCDG1), the Navy's newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), and Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN (CVW 11), departed Naval Station Norfolk, Va., May 27, for a two-month transit around South America en route to the ship's new homeport at Naval Base Coronado, Calif.

"This is a proud moment in the ship's history, and a goal we've been working toward since the ship's commissioning just over ten months ago," said Capt. James Symonds, commanding officer, USS Ronald Reagan.

During the transit, RGNSG will conduct bilateral training and air engagement exercises with Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and



PH3 Angel G. Hilbrands
AG3 Otilus Lebedoph mans the rails as USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) pulls out of Naval Station Norfolk, Va. The ship is circumnavigating South America during transit to its new homeport of San Diego.

Peru. These exercises promote greater stability increase readiness, create worldwide greater understanding of tactics and culture and "The transit provides a tremendous opportunity for

the ship and crew to test our abilities while conducting flight operations over an extended period of time at sea," said Symonds.

Ronald Reagan has 17 aircraft embarked from six squadrons including: F/A-18E Super Hornets, F/A-18F Super Hornets, E2-C Hawkeyes, SH-60F Seahawks and C-2As. The airwing consists of the most advanced aircraft in the world, upholding the motto of USS Ronald Reagan -- "peace through strength."

"By training with South American counterparts, the ship secures cooperation in the region and reassures friendly nations of the United States' commitment to peace," said CMDCM (SW/AW) Kathleen Hansen, USS Ronald Reagan command master chief. "The strike group is transiting around South America because the aircraft carrier is too large
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Strike Group Delivers Navy's Premier Ship

By JO2 Paul Simonds
Staff Writer

The world's newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier will not be alone during its momentous voyage around the horn from Naval Station Norfolk, Va., to its new homeport of Naval Base Coronado, Calif.

The Ronald Reagan Strike Group, comprised of Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group ONE (CCDG 1), and Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN (CVW 11), is manned and ready for this historic cruise.

CVW 11, landed 17 aircraft on board Thursday afternoon and conducted flight operations until early the next morning.

Due to the length of the deployment, the air wing, which is normally assigned to the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) Strike Group, embarked only 25 percent of its total strength. Its main purpose while sailing with Ronald Reagan is to complete as many training evolutions as possible.

"My priority is to get some great training for some of my younger pilots," said Capt. Jim

Greene, commander CVW 11. "The opportunity to look at the back end of a ship and land an airplane is a training opportunity we don't want to miss."

Greene also said he is looking forward to working with some of South America's navies during the upcoming UNITAS training exercises.

CCDG 1 is overseeing all the training exercises, as well as the entire transit to San Diego.

Strike ... Cont. on page 3

Personnel: *In the Spotlight*

It Pays to Visit

USS Ronald Reagan's Personnel division is an office of customer-service specialists, which focuses on administratively taking care of the enlisted crew. If you need to update your Page Two or check in to the command, you can expect to visit the Personnel office several times during your tour on the ship.

"Our primary job is to ensure that each and every Sailor's pay is accurate and that their records reflect their entitlements," said Personnelman Chief PNC Michael McCracken, Personnel division leading chief petty officer.

Updates to Sailors pay status or emergency contact information should be submitted to Personnel as soon as possible.

Sailors should submit updates to their Page Two to Personnel as soon as possible.

Only then will the changes take effect. Changes not updated

could cause unnecessary stress to familymembers in the event of an accident.

The Page Two is a very important document to Sailors and their families, stated McCracken. "If your family grows or your martial status changes, we need to know or you won't get the added entitlements you and your dependants deserve."

The office manages and updates more than 3,100 records, each one chronicling a crewmember's career.

Personnel division also manages another document that records the day-by-day advancement of your career.

"We maintain an Enlisted Distribution Verification Report (EDVR), which is basically a day-to-day diary for every enlisted Sailor on board," said McCracken.

The EDVR is updated anytime there is a change in a Sailor's career.



PHAN Konstandinos Goumenidis
PNSN Aaron Alles flips through a drawer service records. More than 3,100 records are verified regularly.

Warfare pins, marriage, advancement, security clearances, housing and other changes affecting pay or opportunities are all examples of items that must be updated on a Page Two.

Personnel's greatest volume of work happens while in port and just before deployments.

"In the last month, we've processed 180 new check-ins," said McCracken. "A normal carrier processes five to 10 new check-ins per month."

Some other office responsibilities

include identification cards, extensions, re-enlistments and transfer orders. Personnel division's three transfer clerks process about 25 sets of orders per week.

"We receive a copy of every Sailor's orders and go over them to make sure they're receiving everything their orders promise," said PNSN Senetta Spicer. "Orders might require a school en route or an extension of enlistment, and you need to know this right away."

Sailors are encouraged to review their orders thoroughly to ensure they understand what is required of them before they reach their new duty station.

The mission of the ship is to go anywhere anytime to defend this country.

The mission of Personnel division is to take care of every Sailor's needs so that they may focus on the mission at hand.

"There are a lot of hardworking Sailors on the flight deck," said McCracken. "They work and train a lot harder for war when they aren't worried about problems with their pay."



PH3 Robert L. Erb
PN1 Archie Scott helps PN3 Veronica Powell study for her Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) qualification in the Personnel division of the ship.



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Executive Officer
Capt. Andres Brugal

Command Master Chief
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Reader's Choice...

What was the Last Song Playing in Your Head?



ABFAN Jonathan Denzmore
Avent - "Read Your Mind"



IT2 Eduardo Saleco
Kayne West - "Through the Wire"



Midshipman Mark Powers
Animals - "You Gotta Get Outta This Place"



Cadet Anthony Thomas
Kenny Chesney - "When the Sun Goes Down"



ABH1 Kenneth Grant
LL Cool J - "Going Back to Cali"

Reel Time

Remember the Titans

Tonight on Channel 5

by **JO2 Paul Simonds**
Staff Writer

This is the perfect time to watch one of the best football movies of all time. With the NBA play-offs and the Stanley Cup Finals underway, most die-hard football fans begin to yearn for a gridiron fix.

Remember the Titans is a true story about a black football coach (Denzel Washington) in Alexandria, Va., in the early 70's who teaches his newly integrated football team to look beyond skin color in order to achieve greatness.

Disney produces the film, but don't worry this classic raises the bar for Disney pictures. There is a bit of a

ACTING = B
DIRECTING = A-
STORYLINE = A
C-TOGRAPHY = B-
OVERALL = B-

family feel to *Remember the Titans*, but in the end, you'll be glad you watched this one.

Washington's character demands discipline and excellence out of his team, and, as a result, his squad shines as a beacon to a community, which is hesitant to accept peoples of all colors into their society.

By the time this masterpiece ends, you're going to want to cheer, laugh and cry in response to this emotional tale of perseverance. At the very least, your football craving will be nurtured and you will be good for at least a few more weeks.

Today's Movies

Channel 2

French Connection
Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2
Hot Shots: Part Deux
Legend of Bagger Vance
Little Nicky
Mad Max
R.P.M.
Proof of Life

Channel 5

The Score
Hunt for Red October
One Hell of a Guy
Jingle All the Way
Pearl Harbor
Crazy / Beautiful
Planet of the Apes
Remember the Titans

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Everytime the newspaper comes out, I can't seem to get my hands on a copy. Can you tell me where they are distributed and how many are distributed? I was told my picture was in one of the earlier issues so if you can tell me how to get that, I would really appreciate it as well.

— Reagan Reader

Dear Reagan Reader,
We currently publish *The Great Communicator* three days a week while at sea: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. *Steel Horse Imaging* prints 300 copies. My staff delivers 200 copies to the enlisted mess decks, chief's mess and wardrooms during breakfast. One hundred additional copies are placed

on the mess in the afternoon. I encourage people to take copies out of the mess and share the issues with shipmates in their office. We print for 10 percent of the crew, so if you get a fresh copy, it should make it around to at least nine other shipmates. Copy on the Intranet.

— Editor

Thank you for submitting questions to this column. Feel free to send your questions to apao@reagan.navy.mil. If you do not want your name on the letter, feel free to put a catchy nickname. Also, if you would like to be a cartoonist for this paper and have an idea for a weekly at-sea comic strip, drop a line at the e-mail mentioned above and we'll look at your work.

Spanish Lessons...

"A que hora es?"

"What time is it?"

Strike

Continued from front page

"As everyone knows, a major objective of this transit is the inter-fleet transfer of Ronald Reagan from the Atlantic to her new homeport in the Pacific," said Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group ONE, Rear Adm. Robert Moeller.

"Along the way, the strike group has a unique opportunity to operate with South American navies," added Moeller.

Both CCDG 1 and CVW 11 find it rewarding to be sailing around the horn on the Navy's newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

"It is an incredible honor to be the first commander of the Navy's

newest Carrier Strike Group," said Moeller. "I'm privileged to have the opportunity to take the group to sea for the transit of South America."

"It's unlikely I'll have the opportunity to observe Ronald Reagan throughout its 50-year lifespan, but I will always keep a close eye on its activities," said Greene.

The Navy offers Sailors the opportunity to make history. Today, Ronald Reagan Sailors, and those serving with CVW 11 and CCDG 1, are doing just that.

The strike group, as one unit, is ensuring the security of the nation by securely delivering the Navy's newest aircraft carrier to its new homeport in San Diego.

Main Event

by **JO2 Simonds**
and **JO2 Tuck**

Staff Writers

This week's topic will ponder the pros and cons of the Los Angeles Lakers ('00-'04) vs. Chicago Bulls ('92-'94, '97-'99). Topics covered will include dominating players and the best supporting cast. We leave the final decision in your hands!

Simonds: Heralding from the great state of California, I tend to think that my expertise in the world of sports provides an enlightened view of America's athletic landscape. To counter the obvious east coast bias in this country, I will do my best to represent the far superior sports franchises, which reside left of the Mississippi River.

Tuck: As a representative of the ostentatious East Coast, I support the theory of superior sports history descending from the East. My theory is supported by the New York Yankees, 1985 Chicago Bears, Southeast college football, which has clearly dominated, Roy Jones Jr., and National Basketball Association (NBA) legends such as Michael Jordan and Larry Bird.

Simonds: No disrespect to his Airmess, but the league never had to change its rules so opposing teams could guard Michael Jordan. Since no one man can guard Shaquille O'Neal, the NBA allows teams to play zone defense so players can collapse on the big fella'. In fact ... opposing teams have even adopted a unique style of "hack-a-Shaq" defense to contain O'Neal. Jordan was great and is the greatest, but no one could possibly guard O'Neal one-on-one.

Tuck: It's hard to believe we are even comparing these to NBA powerhouses. Yes, O'Neal would be a dominating force in any NBA time period ... but his game has its limits. Is it O'Neal's flawless free throw shooting that makes him such a dependable asset? Can you blame teams for adopting the "hack-a-Shaq" defense? Or maybe it's his stunning three-point percentage or incredible assists that make him such a well-rounded player. All sarcasm aside ... besides a big body and wit, what stick can O'Neal ever hope to wave at Jordan?

The Lakers have one major flaw in their game - team unity! With so many all-stars on the court at one time, no real teamwork takes

place. Too much "gimme, gimme ... I wanna" takes place. It's hard to believe great players would stoop to such levels to win a ring.

Jordan couldn't have carried the Bulls on his back; he needed Pippen to assist in all aspects. Horace Grant is no O'Neal, but his team play and game knowledge made him a necessary asset to the Bulls success. And last but not least, Tony Kukoc was quite a phenom during the Bulls run.

Simonds: This is an easy one. Jordan had Scottie Pippen -- the most overrated player to ever step foot onto a court in the NBA and a whole lot of scrubs. O'Neal or Bryant, whoever's team you may think it is, has each other. Oh, and they have also played with the likes of Ron Harper, Robert Horry, Derek Fisher, Rick Fox, Garry Payton and Karl Malone.

Regardless of your opinion on this society defining issue, I think we can all agree today's Lakers and the Bulls of yesterday are two of the greatest teams to ever lace it up. Tuck and I will continue to debate the hot sports issues throughout the cruise, but we would also like to hear from you. Feel free to send any comments to tuckms@reagan.navy.mil.

Transit

Continued from front page

to transit through the Panama Canal. While this long journey is necessary, it's also an opportunity to promote our nation's goodwill and friendship throughout the southern hemisphere."

Ronald Reagan, with a crew of more than 3,000 Sailors, will conduct exercises with South American navies during the transit.

"Ronald Reagan Strike Group will engage in bi-national and multinational exercises with South American navies, building interoperability and professional relations between the United States and participating South American countries," said Symonds.

San Diego military and local businesses are preparing to greet Ronald Reagan with a homecoming ceremony in late July. Nancy Reagan and son, Michael Reagan, are among the dignitaries expected to attend.

Saturday Sailor of the Day AO3 Jennifer Wilson



Dept: AIMD

Where are you from?

Charles City, Iowa

Why did you join the Navy? To Travel

What did you do before you joined the Navy?

Waitress / Cashier

Your favorite place to visit? Australia

Your favorite movie?

Down to You

Your favorite book?

Any psychology book

What's your favorite song? It varies

What inspires you?

My Grandmother

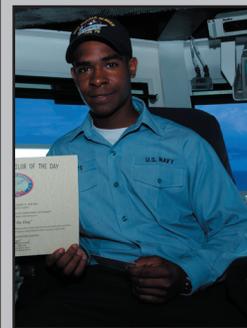
Who do you hold responsible for your success?

My mother and myself

What is your favorite quote?

"Everything happens for a reason"

Sunday Sailor of the Day AR Jamie B. Spears



Dept: Air

Where are you from?

Independence, La.

Why did you join the Navy?

To improve my life

What did you do before you joined the Navy?

Construction work

Your favorite place to visit?

New Orleans

Your favorite movie?

Friday

What inspires you? Music

Who do you hold responsible for your success?

My mom and God

What's your favorite quote?

"Knowledge is power"

What piece of advice would you pass on to others?

God first, others second and self last

Monday Sailor of the Day FA Jacob R. Carl



Dept: Reactor

Where are you from?

Zionsville, Pa.

Why did you join the Navy?

To improve my education

What did you do before you joined the Navy?

School

Your favorite place to visit?

Home

What inspires you?

My Grandfather

Who do you hold responsible for your success?

My family

What's your favorite quote?

"Knowledge is power"

What piece of advice would you pass on to others?

Always look one day ahead because today will have its low point, but there's always a dream of tomorrow.