

History of USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76)

Construction of the ninth Nimitz class ship took place at Northrop Grumman Newport News, Va., starting with the ship's keel laying February 12, 1998, and christened by Mrs. Nancy Reagan on March 4, 2001. USS Ronald Reagan was commissioned during an 11 a.m. ceremony at Norfolk Naval Station on July 12, 2003. Vice President Richard Cheney delivered the ceremony's principal address while Nancy Reagan, wife of the ship's namesake, served as the ship's sponsor. On May 27, 2004 USS Ronald Reagan departed Naval Station Norfolk to circumnavigate South America on its way to its new homeport of San Diego.

USS Ronald Reagan departed San Diego on January 4, 2006 for her maiden deployment to conduct naval operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism. This included supporting the missions Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. By May 29, USS Ronald Reagan and Carrier Air Wing Fourteen concluded military operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations. CVW 14 launched more than 6, 100 sorties, totaling more than 19, 600 flight hours, more than 2, 940 sorties and 14, 200 flight hours have been in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On January 27, 2007 USS Ronald Reagan departed San Diego for a surge deployment in the western Pacific, under the Navy's Fleet Response Plan (FRP), while USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) undergoes scheduled maintenance in Yokosuka, Japan. This is the same year the ship was awarded the 2006 Battle "E" for Pacific Fleet Carriers. USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group and USNS Safeguard (T-ARS 50) arrived off the coast of Philippines to provide Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to victims of the Typhoon Fengshen and to help in salvage operations for the ill-fated MV Princess of the Stars. The 24,000-tonne ferry was carrying 864 passengers and crew when it sank off Sibuyan Island, 300 kilometer south of Manila, at the height of a typhoon. By November, USS Ronald Reagan returned to San Diego after a six- month deployment. The aircraft from CVW-14 launched more than 1150 sorties in support of ground forces in southern Afghanistan. Once again, May 28, 2009 USS Ronald Reagan departed homeport for a scheduled western Pacific and Middle East deployment. This year, the ship won its second Battle "E" for 2008 by outperforming all the Pacific Fleet Carriers. After completing a five month underway in October, the aircraft carrier completed operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet launching more than 1, 600 sorties in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She departed homeport June 2, 2010 to conduct flight deck certification with the CVW-14 and also won its 3rd Battle "E" for combat efficiency in a four year period. On June 9, the Reagan anchored in the approach to Esquimalt harbor, near Victoria, British Columbia, to participate in the Canadian Naval Centennial Pacific Fleet Review, commemoration the 100th birthday of the Canadian Navy. USS Sampson (DDG 102), USS Chosin (CG65) and USS Ford (FFG 54) were also participating. USS Ronald Reagan departed San Diego again on June 16 after picking up members from CVW-14, to conduct Tailored Ships Training Availability (TSTA) and to participate in biennial exercise Rim of the Pacific 2010, off the coast of Hawaii. The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier arrived in Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on 28 June for the first (in port) phase of 22nd RIMPAC. Thirty-two ships, five submarines, more than 1700 aircraft and 20,000 personnel were participating. The RIMPAC exercise allowed Reagan to test its Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) launcher weapons system for the first time since 2007. On November 9 while under way for Composite Training unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) off the West Coast, CVN 76 was diverted to a position south, to facilitate the delivery of needed supplies to the c/v Splendor. The Carnival cruise ship reported it was dead in the water, 150 nautical miles southwest

of San Diego, and requested assistance from the Coast Guard. February 2, 2011 USS Ronald Reagan CSG departed San Diego for a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 5th and 7th fleet Areas. On March 11, USS Ronald Reagan CSG, USS Essex (LHD 2), USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19), USS Germantown (LSD 42) and USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) were order to head to Japan and render disaster relief, if called upon, in the wake of a catastrophic magnitude 9.0 earthquake that left thousands dead. Two days later CVN 76 arrived on station off the east coast of Honshu to serve as an afloat platform for refueling Japan Self Defense Force and other helicopters involved in rescue and recovery efforts ashore. By September USS Ronald Reagan returned to San Diego after a seven-month deployment.

USS Ronald Reagan departed San Diego on January 6, 2012 for a 12-month, \$210 million worth, Docking Planned Incremental Availability (DPIA) at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS&IMF) in Bremerton, WA. In March 2013, she completed her availability and made her way back home to San Diego, CA. Upon Returning to San Diego USS Ronald Reagan entered Her Training and Qualification Cycle. In October 2013 she was named the Surge Carrier and is ready to respond to any call. January 2014 she has been slated/scheduled for homeport shift from San Diego, CA to Yokosuka, Japan in August 2015

On 31 August 2015, the USS Ronald Reagan began its journey to the 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility to take over as the Navy's only Forward Deployed Aircraft Carrier. On 2 October 2015, The USS Ronald Regan arrived at its new homeport in Yokosuka, Japan.