Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70), Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2, and embarked Destroyer Squadron (CDS) 1 have been deployed with Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS *Lake Champlain* (CG 57) and Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS *Michael Murphy* (DDG 112) and USS *Wayne E. Meyer* (DDG 108).

While deployed, the Carl Vinson CSG will remain under US 3rd Fleet command and control, including beyond the International Date Line which previously divided operational areas of responsibility for the 3rd and the 7th Fleets. Third Fleet operating forward offers additional options to the Pacific Fleet commander by leveraging the capabilities of the 3rd and the 7th Fleets. This operational concept allows both numbered fleets to complement one another and provide the foundation of stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

Said Commander, CSG 1, Rear-Admiral James W. Kilby: ‘*Our forward presence contributes to freedom of navigation and lawful use of the sea, as well as furthers operational training and enabling the exchange of culture, skills, and tactical knowledge.*’

Homeported in Pearl Harbor, USS *Michael Murphy* will join the Carl Vinson CSG later this month as the strike group makes their way to the western Pacific.

The Carl Vinson CSG deployed with approximately 7,500 sailors and will focus on maritime security operations and theatre security cooperation efforts. The strike group assets will conduct bilateral exercises in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region to include anti-submarine warfare, manoeuvring drills, gunnery exercises, and visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) subject matter expert exchanges.

Carl Vinson also deployed with the embarked aviation squadrons of CVW-2 which include the Black Knights of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 4, the Blue Hawks of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 78, the Bounty Hunters of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 2, the Blue Blasters of VFA-34, the Kestrels of VFA-137, the Golden Dragons of VFA-192, the Black Eagles of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 113, the Gauntlets of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 136, and the Providers of Fleet Logistic Support Squadron (VRC) 30.
This Fleet deployment provides for the promotion of ongoing peace, security, and stability throughout the entire Pacific theatre of operations.

Picture caption

On 5 January sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) man the rails as the ship departs her homeport of San Diego. The Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group is departing on a scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific where it will conduct bilateral exercises in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

(US Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Daniel Jackson Norgart/Released©)