Navy's Finest 5-Star Aircraft Carrier and Flagship of Carrier Strike Group Eight

US-Navy image
USS Dwight D. Eisenhower

Carrier Strike Group Eight

• The Carrier’s primary purpose is to deliver offensive striking power to a designated area.
• It is protected by two Cruisers and eight Destroyers. These may be used offensively as well.
• Air Wing 7 provides the primary offensive striking power. In addition, it provides defense, communications and transport.
Members of Carrier Strike Group EIGHT (CCSG8)
Destroyer Squadron TWO EIGHT
(DESRON 28)

- USS NICHOLAS (FFG 47)
- USS RAMAGE (DDG 61)
- USS COLE (DDG 67)
- USS MCFAUL (DDG 74)
- USS DONALD COOK (DDG 75)
- USS PORTER (DDG 78)
- USS FORREST SHERMAN (DDG 98)
- USS JASON DUNHAM (DDG 109)
USS COLE (DDG 67) US-Navy image
Yes, this is that Cole.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nickname</th>
<th>Aircraft</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>VFA-83</td>
<td>Strike Fighter Squadron 83</td>
<td>Rampagers</td>
<td>F/A-18C Hornet</td>
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<tr>
<td>VFA-103</td>
<td>Strike Fighter Squadron 103</td>
<td>Jolly Rogers</td>
<td>F/A-18F Super Hornet</td>
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<td>VFA-131</td>
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<td>VFA-143</td>
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<td>VAW-121</td>
<td>Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 121</td>
<td>Bluetails</td>
<td>E-2C Hawkeye</td>
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<td>Carrier Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 140</td>
<td>Patriots</td>
<td>EA-6B Prowler</td>
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<td>VRC-40</td>
<td>Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 40 Det. 3</td>
<td>Rawhides</td>
<td>C-2A Greyhound</td>
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<td>HS-5</td>
<td>Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron 5</td>
<td>Nightdippers</td>
<td>SH-60F Seahawk</td>
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VRC-40 Rawhides C-2A – This is the type of plane that took me to and from the Eisenhower. It’s also known as a COD for Carrier Onboard Delivery

Fleet Logistics Support Squadron FOUR ZERO (VRC-40), commissioned on 1 July 1960, is tasked with providing Carrier Onboard Delivery (COD) services to the Navy’s Atlantic and Sixth Fleets. VRC-40, homeported at Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia, operates the C-2A "Greyhound" and reports to Commander, Airborne Early Warning Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Photo and text courtesy of
Self-Portrait inside the COD

The inside of the plane was not pretty. It was a functional cargo/personnel transport built for service. The sights, smells and temperature will last forever in my mind.
The tailhook of a KA-6D Intruder aircraft, about to catch an arresting wire on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower

Photo courtesy U.S Department of Defense
This is the actual COD that delivered us to the carrier as it is being stopped by the tailhook and cable. Look at the tail of the plane just below where the water line meets the flight deck to see the arresting wire stretched from the tailhook.
Greeting by the Commanding Officer upon arrival
US Navy E-2C Hawkeye

US-Navy image
Waiting to watch E-2C Hawkeye Take-Off

You can see the catapult track in front of the E-2C’s front wheels. The deck shield plate behind the E-2C will rise shortly before the catapult shot.
F/A-18F Super Hornet

A US Navy F/A-18F Super Hornet conducts a mission over the Persian Gulf US-Navy image
An F/A-18C Hornet from the "Gladiators" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106 prepares to make an arrested landing aboard aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) during flight operations. Dwight D. Eisenhower is currently underway conducting carrier qualifications.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Bradley Evans/RELEASED
F18 in Hangar Deck of USS Eisenhower

Although the Carrier Air Wing 7 fighters left for land based target practice prior to upcoming deployment, this F-18 remained on the carrier for various training drills.
U.S. Navy EA-6B Prowler

US-Navy image
SH-60 Seahawk
US-Navy image
At the Helm

Here I am, sitting in the Captain’s Chair, on the Captain’s Bridge. Not to worry, I’m not touching any of the controls!
View from Bridge – C-2 Greyhound Ready to Catapult – Another C-2 and two E-2C Hawkeyes in Queue