Press Release

PSNS & IMF returns USS George Washington (CVN 73) to the Fleet

BREMERTON, Wash. – Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) announced, June 10, the return of USS George Washington (CVN 73) to Fleet operations.

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS & IMF) workers, on site in Yokosuka, Japan, completed the carrier’s Selected Restricted Availability on time despite the difficult circumstances following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

“This availability tested our technical and project management skills, our communications, trust, and relationships,” said Capt. Mark Whitney, commander, PSNS & IMF. “The entire team did a phenomenal job completing the most challenging, difficult availability we have seen corporately in a long time.”

Each year, more than 600 PSNS & IMF workers – along with a contingent of Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) staff and Yokosuka Ship Repair Facility personnel – make up a project team that performs annual, on-site planned maintenance to the carrier.

Following the earthquake, the aircraft carrier and crew departed Yokosuka with 460 employees from both PSNS & IMF and NNSY, adding 120 civilian contractors once underway to complete critical work. CVN 73 returned to its homeport, April 21, after 32 days of underway work to complete remaining maintenance.

The team completed more than 26,000 jobs, including ship alterations, upgrades and system capability enhancements.

Once work was complete, the carrier successfully completed sea trials, testing all accomplished work.

“Shipyard team members worked side-by-side with ship’s force, in nearly 24/7 rotations, to ensure success,” said Whitney. “It was a unique opportunity for our workers to experience systems operating underway. We are all better for the experience.”

PSNS & IMF is one of four NAVSEA public shipyards that play a major role in maintaining America's Fleet and providing wartime surge capability to keep the nation's ships ready for combat.

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