Commander Naval Air Forces visits *USS George Washington*

Story and photo by MC2 William Pittman, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

Commander Naval Air Forces Vice Adm. Allen G. Myers visited the aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) (*GW*) March 8, to conduct an office call with the ship's leadership, observe routine maintenance taking place aboard the carrier and meet with members of the crew.

Capt. David A. Lausman, *GW* commanding officer, briefed Myers of the ship's accomplishments during the maintenance cycle, giving much of the credit to his crew and civilian contractors.

"We were significantly behind on our maintenance when we pulled back into port, but we recovered because of teamwork," said Lausman. "This ship has both Americans and Japanese nationals working aboard; people from ship's company, from the base and from private companies. Everybody cooperates to accomplish our goals.

"We are ahead because of everybody's communication, cooperation and focus on getting the job done. This is our standard of excellence that is unique to the forward-deployed naval forces (FDNF) and the support of our state-of-the-art aircraft carrier, so we can be ready to answer our country's call," said Lausman.

Lausman also discussed a situation where the cooperation between the diverse workers came in handy to get *GW* combat-ready in a short time.

"As the Navy's only FDNF carrier, *George Washington* has to be ready for sea in 24 hours," said Lausman. "This is not a trivial task for a carrier. But, we had a situation where the ship had to be ready for sea in 24 hours. When the call was given, everybody banded together, communicated with one another and focused on one thing: getting *GW* underway within the specific time frame.

"We were in a ready status well before the 24-hour deadline, and we held that status until we were ordered to stand down. That is a key example of the teamwork that makes *George Washington* the most unique aircraft carrier in the Navy," said Lausman.

After the office call with Lausman, Myers was given a tour of the ship. He visited several spaces and talked with Sailors to gauge the level of quality of life on the carrier.

Commander Naval Air Forces Vice Adm. Allen G. Myers speaks with ICFA Jessica Vazquez during a visit aboard the aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) (*GW*) March 8. Vazquez is a member of the *GW* Habitability Team, which is responsible for renovating several spaces aboard the ship.

"I took advantage of the FDNF opportunity when I served as commanding officer aboard *USS Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) ten years ago, and I am glad to see that the FDNF magic still exists," said Myers. "I am very impressed but we need to stay focused on all of our maintenance objectives and we need to see this through to completion."

GW is the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier, ensuring security and stability across the western Pacific Ocean.

Yokosuka shipboard Sailors hone skills during Deck Mini Camp

Story and photo by MC3 Andrew Smith, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Sailors from various forward-deployed ships including the guided-missile destroyer *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54), the guided-missile cruiser *USS Shiloh* (CG 67) and the aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) gathered on the deck of the guided-missile destroyer *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) to practice deck evolutions.

Representatives from Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Philadelphia traveled to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) to offer training for deck department Sailors in a variety of fields.

"Over the past few years, ship's deck departments have consistently had weak deck department scores during inspections," said Phillip Anshant, program manager for NSWC. "In response to these scores, Rear Adm. David Thomas, commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic, organized the training to focus on underway replenishments, boat davits, lifeline handling and anchoring. The ultimate goal of this training is to better prepare crews for assessments like the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) and unit level training assessments such as ULTRA-E and ULTRA-C (unit level training readiness assessment engineering/combat)."

Representatives from NSWC provided anchoring training and underway replenishment training to Sailors earlier in the week, and then moved their focus to boat davit training.

"Besides the hands-on training, we also review selected PMS (Preventative Maintenance System) cards and the material condition of equipment, which are very important during Navy inspections," said Anshant.

BMSN Steven Marcott, assigned to *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54), observes a boat davit launch assessment aboard *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) during a Deck Mini Camp training evolution March 3. The mini camp is a week-long exercise facilitated by representatives from Naval Surface Warfare Center in Philadelphia.

McCampbell Sailors took full advantage of the opportunity to perfect their craft.

"The training we did today reinforced our normal operating procedures, we are always working to get better and teach the new Sailors something they can use in the future," said Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Victor Esparragoza, deck department leading petty officer.

The representatives from NSWC assessed Sailors on their ability to raise and lower the davit with only emergency manual controls, a rarely used, but necessary skill in many situations. Sailors took the opportunity to learn from experts and expand their own skill sets.

"This was the first time since I have been on board where we have lowered the davit manually," said Boatswain's Mate Seaman Gleny Burgos. "It's good to know how to use manual controls in case of an emergency."

CFAY Sailors are now better prepared to meet the challenges of upcoming inspections and deployments.

INSURV inspections are preformed every 60 months, while ULTRA E and C certifications are conducted yearly for every ship in the Navy.