GW Sailors proud to serve, spend Thanksgiving underway

By MCSA Alysia R. Hernandez,
***USS George Washington* Public Affairs**

USS George Washington (CVN 73) (*GW*) departed its forward-deployed operating port of Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan Nov. 24.

While most Americans gather around the table spending Thanksgiving Day with family and friends, the 5,500 crew members of the Navy's only forward-deployed nuclear powered aircraft carrier are busy underway.

"Being underway this Thanksgiving gives us a different perspective on the blessings we have in our lives; the opportunity to serve our great country and the shipmates we get to work with everyday," said *GW* Commanding Officer Capt. David A. Lausman. "I'm extremely proud of our crew who are enjoying this time together and truly thankful for their professionalism and patriotism."

Chaplains aboard *GW* organized a prayer service to kick-off the Thanksgiving feast. During the service, they invited those in attendance to stand and share what they were thankful for.

Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Jaima Mavity of Williston, N.D., was the first to stand.

"I woke up this morning and I was so excited to come here just to be thankful, there is so much in life to be thankful for, I'm so grateful for all that God has blessed me with," Mavity said.

Other Sailors are proud to be able to serve their country on Thanksgiving.

"I'm thankful that my family is doing well and I'm glad they are able to enjoy their Thanksgiving at home while I'm here assisting in protecting them," said Electrician's Mate Fireman Apprentice Joseph Eversole of Beaufort, S.C.

Sailors give thanks before enjoying their Thanksgiving Day meal aboard *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) (*GW*) Nov. 25. *GW* is currently on patrol in the Western Pacific helping to ensure security and stability in the region.
U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Cheng S. Yang

As the crew knew when the ship was pulling out of port, many took time to celebrate Thanksgiving in the days prior to leaving. And while the actual holiday was spent underway, many looked on the bright side of spending this Thanksgiving with their shipmates.

"I work in a small shop so the people I work with all have a tight bond," said Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Julio Aponte of North Bergen, N.J. "I'm thankful to have good mentors and to be spending this time with these people that are like family to me."

But those getting the most praise from the crew aboard *GW* this holiday are the hard working Sailors in the ship's galleys who spent weeks planning a traditional Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings: turkeys, mashed potatoes, cranberries, sweet potatoes, green beans, pumpkin pies, apple pies, cherry pies, pecan pies and ice cream. All American goodies for the forward-deployed Sailors.

Culinary specialists and food service attendants aboard *GW* worked nearly 12 hours straight cooking, serving and cleaning up after the Thanksgiving feast.

More than 2,500 pounds of turkey, 300 pies and nearly 500 quarts of egg nog were brought to make this holiday meal for the hungry Sailors a reality.

"Seeing all of the smiling faces and watching the lines go down and hearing each person say 'thank you' made it worth all of the time and hard work we put into making today special," said Culinary Specialist 1st Class Wenonah P. Ebreo of Atadena, Calif.

Lines stretched from bow to stern with some waiting more than two hours for their chance to sit down and enjoy the Thanksgiving feast. And every Sailor aboard *GW* said the wait was well worth it.

"The food was delicious, I'm very thankful for anyone that had a hand in putting the Thanksgiving meal together," said Seaman Michael Morris of Suffolk, Va.

Navy test of experimental biofuel boat "a Wright brothers moment"

By Christen N. McCluney,
Defense Media Activity Headquarters

The Navy's recent test of a experimental riverine command boat (RCB-X) is one step the service is taking to create a greener footprint.

"It's not just about natural security, because that's what most people think of when they think of going green. Our energy program also strengthens national security," said Chief of Naval Operations Director of Energy and Environmental Readiness Rear Adm. Philip H. Cullom, during a recent "DoDLive" bloggers roundtable.

"Our goal as a Navy is to be an early adopter of new technologies that enhance national security in an environmentally sustainable way," added Cullom.

According to Cullom, having reliable and abundant alternate sources of energy isn't confining the Navy to any one source, such as petroleum.

Cullom said the secretary of the Navy set out five aggressive energy goals, which include having 50 percent of the total Navy Department energy consumption come from alternate sources by 2020, along with at least 50 percent of shore-based energy coming from alternate sources. The plan also includes reducing petroleum use in the nontactical commercial fleet by 50 percent and evaluating energy factors.

Cullom said one of the ways the Navy can accomplish these goals is by creating a "green" footprint.

The recent testing of the RCB-X using a 50-50 blend of an algae-based biofuel and petroleum was a step in making this new footprint, he said.

"By running that RCB-X at its maximum power and throughout that test, that was a Wright brothers moment for the Navy," said Cullom. "That's one of many tests that we'll be doing over the next year to test and certify all of our ships and all of our type-model series that fly off of aircraft carriers so that we will be able to meet the requirements for this 2012 'great green fleet.'"

Sailors stand their post aboard the experimental riverine command boat (RCB-X) as the boat conducts turning maneuvers. The RCB-X is powered by a biofuel blend of 50 percent algae-based and 50 percent NATO F-76 fuels.
U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Clifford L. H. Davis

The editor asks:

"***Did you know***, on this day in 1955, Elvis Presley's first release on RCA Victor Records was announced? Presley was described by his new record company as 'The most talked about personality in recorded music in the last 10 years.' Also on this day:

"In 1969, The Rolling Stones recorded '*Brown Sugar*' at Muscle Shoals studios. The single went on to be a U.K. and U.S. No. 1 hit.

"In 1976, a giant 40-foot inflatable pig could be seen floating above London after breaking free from its moorings. The pig had been photographed for Pink Floyd's '*Animals*,' album cover. A warning was issued to all pilots that a flying pig was on the run.

"In 1983, Duran Duran scored their first U.K. No. 1 album with their third release, '*Seven And The Ragged Tiger*.'

"In 1994, Boyz II Men knocked themselves off the No. 1 position on the U.S. singles chart when '*On Bended Knee*' started a six-week run at No. 1. The group's '*I'll Make Love To You*' had been at No. 1 for a record breaking 14 weeks.

"In 2007, Diana Ross and the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson both collected awards for contributions to U.S. culture at a ceremony held in Washington."