USS George Washington departs on Summer patrol

Story and photo by MCSN Justin E. Yarborough, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

USS George Washington (CVN 73) departed Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan June 14, once again getting underway just four days after returning to port.

"Today we will begin our summer patrol where we operate throughout the 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility … fostering understating, cooperation and interoperability," said Capt. David Lausman, *George Washington* commanding officer.

Working with other maritime forces can help increase stability within the region and also decrease misunderstandings and tensions, according to Lausman.

George Washington and its crew of approximately 3,200 Sailors, recently returned from 24 days of training where the crew successfully completed Combat Operations Efficiency (COE) qualifications which included equipment testing and carrier landing qualifications with embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5.

The COE certification, sometimes called a "blue-water certification," allows the ship and air wing team to launch and recover aircraft without the requirement for a divert airfield if operationally necessary.

During that time, the *George Washington* flight deck crew completed 1,300 aircraft launches and more than 1,400 arrested landings.

Sailors assigned to the aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) participate in a replenishment at sea with the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS Walter S. Diehl (T-AO 193) June 5.

Photo by MCSN Justin E. Yarborough

"I'm ready to see what the ship can do," said Aviation Boatwain's Mate Airman Andrew Seals. "Last time we pulled out we were just doing test runs and getting qualified as a ship."

Seals said that even though he has worked hard during the past month he is ready to pull back out again.

"I'm looking forward to going on deployment because even though I was here for the last part of the fall deployment, I really didn't get a chance to experience it fully," said Aviation Structural Mechanic (Equipment) Airman Kurtis Kile.

"So far I have had a good experience working up on the flight deck and even though it is dangerous, it's exciting at the same time and I can't wait to do it again," said Kile.

George Washington is the flagship of the *George Washington* Carrier Strike Group, which is commanded by Rear Adm. Dan Cloyd. The strike group is also comprised of Destroyer Squadron 15, the guided-missile cruisers *USS Shiloh* (CG 67) and *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) and CVW-5.

SECNAV discusses future of alternative energy sources

By MC1 Doug Kimsey, Naval War College Public Affairs

The Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus shared his vision of a greener Navy and Marine Corps team, one that is more energy independent, but still remaining the greatest maritime force in the world, during a keynote address at the Naval War College's 61st Current Strategy Forum in Newport, R.I., June 9.

"It's a matter of energy independence, it's a matter of our security," said Mabus regarding the need for the Navy and Marine Corps to reduce dependence on foreign fossil fuels.

The 2010 conference explored "The Global System in Transition" theme by examining U.S. foreign policy in the emerging global order, the strategic leadership opportunities for the United States and the role of the maritime services in supporting the nation's key objectives.

"It's a matter of making sure that when we need those ships at sea, when we need those aircraft in the air, when we need the Marines on the ground, we have the energy produced right here in the United States to do that," said Mabus.

Mabus, gave examples of efforts to become less dependent on foreign fossil fuels.

"In April (2010), we flew the Green Hornet, an F-18 Hornet. The Green Hornet, a regular off-the-shelf F-18, supersonic, flew on a mixture of regular gasoline and biofuel, biofuel made from camelina," said Mabus. Camelina is a small mustard seed that has the potential to be grown in every state.

Becoming 'greener' serves tactical imperatives, according to Mabus.

"The example that I like to use is getting a gallon of gasoline to a Marine front line unit in Afghanistan," said Mabus. "You have to put that gallon of gasoline on a tanker. You've got to take it across the Pacific. You have to put it into a truck, and truck it over the Hindu Kush and down through Afghanistan. Now, as you do this, you've got to guard it."

Mabus explained that convoy duty for that gasoline takes, "Marines away from what Marines should be doing; fighting, engaging, helping to rebuild that country."

Mabus also talked about the Navy's first hybrid ship, the amphibious assault ship *USS Makin Island* (LHD 8), which sailed from Pascagoula, Miss., to its homeport in San Diego, saving almost $2 million in fuel by using an electric drive for speeds of 10 knots or less.

"Over the lifetime of that ship, if fuel prices remain absolutely the same, we will save about a quarter of a billion dollars in fuel. We're prototyping that engine to be retrofitted onto our guided-missile destroyers so that we can begin to move that further out into the fleet," said Mabus.

Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) the Honorable Ray Mabus delivers the keynote address during the 2010 Current Strategy Forum at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. June 9.

Photo by MC2 Kevin S. O'Brien

SECNAV said that great change is almost always met with great resistance.

"We changed from sail to coal in the 1850s. We changed from coal to oil in the early part of the 20th century. We went to nuclear for our subs and our aircraft carriers in the 1950s," said Mabus. "Every single time that we made one of those changes, there were people that said you are abandoning one source of proven energy for one that you do not know whether it will work, and by the way, it's too expensive."

Mabus is confident that results will show that progress in adopting alternative energy sources will prove yet again to be vital for the Navy's future.

"The Navy and Marine Corps fulfill every mission given to them, including helping us become energy independent," said Mabus.