

Flat Tops: CV-60 to CVN-81

Or

Saratoga to Saratoga



by

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Task for writing this paper

It is just time for me to make some notes and write them down so I can remember about these Flat tops; for sure, the picture with me standing at North Island in front of NIMITZ, back on 24 January 2008, was a very big day. The USS REAGAN (CVN-76) was in the next pier, USS MIDWAY (CV-41) was across the bay in San Diego, and I was just getting ready to ride out to USS LINCOLN (CVN-72) and experience a tail hook landing in a C-2A Greyhound.

Was that a good day or what? I no longer had, nor have, a Bucket list...

United States Navy Aircraft Carriers are an inspiration if (a) you are standing on the dock looking up the Pennant number (like 68 for NIMITZ), (b) standing in the Landing Signal Officer's spot on the flight deck – especially when landing F-18 fighters, (c) watching the ship and sailors at work while sailing, (d) reading about or watching movies about these aircraft carriers while at war, and finally, (e) watching, reading, and seeing how they build these 1000+ feet long ships!

Some numbers

The statistics and numbers for these ships is only exceeded in numbers and statistics for baseball. Just one retired or scrapped ship could be 50 years of sailing, fighting, fixing, flying, re-fitting, training, and defending our country. It is no wonder the pride you see or watch when, at one of the museums (there are five in the US), where someone narrating will say he flew, he fixed, he fought, on that boat. How many days was she at sea? How fast will it go? How many sailors have served on this boat? How many landings have been made on this deck? And of course it goes on and on.

The next pages will show some numbers for the aircraft carriers, where the Navy is going in the future, and then show the five carriers in the museums around our coasts.

My list focuses on CV-60 to CVN-81 as the title says (note: *Saratoga to Saratoga*). The plan now is to name CVN-81 SARATOGA but it may change. The plan now is to refit and extend NIMITZ to keep up a 12 ship fleet mainly to give them time to build KENNEDY and ENTERPRISE. There are some issues with FORD and the FORD Class ships so there is some shifting or adjusting they are working with.

The plan also calls for CVN-79 to use the KENNEDY namesake from CV-67 (also up for maybe being a museum). Lastly CV-65's name will be used in CVN-80 for ENTERPRISE. So,

[CV-60 to CVN-81](#)

[CV-65 to CVN-80](#)

[CV-67 to CVN-79](#)

The task(s) ahead

I should make a list of great movies using great aircraft carriers noting two: **Gary Cooper** (my namesake) starred in *Task Force* being one of the first to fly off of the LANGLEY (Jane Wyatt was a perfect Navy wife...); **John Wayne** in especially *The Wings of Eagles* – think the “Lady Lex” was used in Corpus Christi; and *The Battle of Midway*. Course there are more.

May I suggest watching YouTube and older movies on the birth of CVN-79 KENNEDY? Takes 10 or so years to build these new ships. Watching them bring her to life is worth the time and effort. A big shout out to the people in the ship building industry and to watch the key steps until the ship becomes combat ready.

Lastly, while you go through some of this aircraft carrier review some questions that keeps coming up like Why not build smaller aircraft carriers ? and “Can the enemy (think CCP) sink one of our carriers? If so, how?

Enjoy the numbers/stats and the notes on the museums!

Some count sheep at night to go to sleep, I count aircraft carriers...

The first 10 Aircraft Carriers of the US Navy¹

CV-1	LANGLEY	
CV-2	LEXINGTON	
CV-3	SARATOGA	Major damage in the Pacific in WWII. Was sunk during atomic testing at Bikini Atoll.
CV-4	RANGER	Fought in the Atlantic in WWII. Acquired for scrap in 1947
CV-5	YORKTOWN	Torpedoed in Battle of Midway. <u>Wreck discovered 19 May 1998.</u>
CV-6	ENTERPRISE	"The Grey Ghost." More major actions than any other ship. Scrapped in 1960.
CV-7	WASP	While fighting near Guadalcanal, hit by 3 torpedoes. Scuttled by US. <u>Wreck found in 2019.</u>
CV-8	HORNET	Doolittle's Raid. Battle of Midway. Fought 1 year. Last carrier sunk (1942). <u>Found in 2019.</u>
CV-9	ESSEX	Fought WWII, Reclassified. "Fightin'est Ship in The Fleet." Scrapped in 1975.
CV-10	YORKTOWN	"The Fighting Lady" Midway, Pacific, Vietnam. Stricken 1973. Museum ship in South Carolina.

(See online list for CV-11 to CVL-49)

Forrestal Class aircraft carriers

CV-59	FORRESTAL	Noted for a fire in 1967. Totally scrapped in 2015
CV-60	SARATOGA	Namesake SARATOGA (CV-3). See CVN-81. Totally scrapped in 2019.
CV-61	RANGER	First designed keel up to have the angled deck. Totally scrapped in 2017.
CV-62	INDEPENDENCE	Port anchor is on the BUSH. Totally scrapped in 2019.
CV-63	KITTY HAWK	Second longest active status. Stricken, to be scrapped .
CV-64	CONSTITUTION	Third ship to have this name. Scrapped in 2017.
CV-65	ENTERPRISE	Had 55 years of service (2012). The Big "E." Awaiting recycling at Newport News.
CV-66	AMERICA	Largest ship ever to be sunk. The Big "A." Was scuttled after live fire testing in 2005.
CV-67	KENNEDY	Discussion on being a museum. Berthed in Philadelphia. See name for CVN-79.

Nimitz Class aircraft carriers (nuclear-powered) All are on active duty

CVN-68	NIMITZ	"Uncle Chester" Oldest US carrier in service and the world. Life time may be extended.
CVN-69	EISENHOWER	"Ike" Has been overhauled twice. Flagship for Carrier Strike Group 10.
CVN-70	VINSON	Named for Carl Vinson from GA. Osama bin Laden buried at sea from her deck in 2011. Unofficially this list is called "Theodore Roosevelt-class"
CVN-71	T. ROOSEVELT	"Big Stick" Based in San Diego. http://www.gonavy.jp/CVLocation71.html
CVN-72	LINCOLN	"Abe" "Lucky Penny" First woman to command a carrier is Capt. Amy Baurenschmidt.
CVN-73	WASHINGTON	Commissioned 1992. In Refueling and Complex Overhaul (RCOH) till Aug 2021.
CVN-74	STENNIS	Commissioned 1995. In Refueling and Complex Overhaul (RCOH) till mid 2020s.
CVN-75	TRUMAN	Commissioned 1998. "The Buck Stops Here" Homeport is Norfolk.
CVN-76	REAGAN	Commissioned 2003. "Gipper" Homeport is Yokosuka.
CVN-77	BUSH	Commissioned 2009. "Avenger" Homeport is Norfolk.

Ford Class aircraft carriers

CVN-78	FORD	Commissioned 2017 by President Trump. Replaced Enterprise.
CVN-79	KENNEDY	Launched 29 Oct 2019, Christened 7 Dec 2019. (See video Bringing JFK to Life.)
CVN-80	ENTERPRISE	Planned commissioned 2028.
CVN-81	SARATOGA ²	Estimated cost of \$15B. Decision on 12 ship fleet. Name is being contended.

¹ For complete list see https://military.wikia.org/wiki/List_of_aircraft_carriers_of_the_United_States_Navy#List

² This name may be changed on some lists...but not mine.



<https://www.jeffhead.com/worldwideaircraftcarriers/Museum-Carrier-Map.jpg>



USS YORKTOWN, CV-10, MUSEUM, CHARLESTON, SC



USS INTREPID, CV-11, MUSEUM, NEW YORK, NY



USS HORNET, CV-12, MUSEUM, ALAMEDA, CA



USS LEXINGTON, CV-16, MUSEUM, CORPUS CHRISTI, TX



USS MIDWAY, CV-41, MUSEUM, SAN DIEGO, CA