

# USS NIMITZ (CVN68) FACT SHEET CSG11

## INTRODUCTION

The USS Nimitz (CVN-68) is the lead ship of the Nimitz class nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, representing a pivotal advancement in naval engineering and military capability. Commissioned on May 3, 1975, the vessel was named in honor of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, the U.S. Navy's chief naval strategist during World War II. Over its distinguished service of nearly five decades,

the USS Nimitz has played a crucial role in numerous historical operations, including Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Inherent Resolve. As the cornerstone of U.S. naval supremacy, the Nimitz has consistently demonstrated its readiness, adaptability, and influence on global security and diplomacy.

## NOTABLE OPERATIONS

**Operation Evening Light/Eagle Claw:** Attempted rescue of hostages in Tehran.

**Operation Earnest Will:** Military protection of Kuwaiti-owned tankers from Iranian attacks.

**Operation Desert Storm:** Gulf War between Iraq and 42-country coalition led by United States.

**Operation Southern Watch:** Controlling airspace in Iraq following end of Gulf War until invasion of Iraq.

**Operation Iraqi Freedom:** Removal of Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq.

**Operation Enduring Freedom:** First offensive against Al-Qaeda and Taliban in Afghanistan.

**Operation Inherent Resolve:** Offensive against Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

## HISTORICAL DATES

**June 22, 1968:** Keel laid at Newport News Shipbuilding, Virginia

**May 13, 1972:** Launched and christened by Catherine Nimitz Lay

**May 3, 1975:** Commissioned into active service

**1976:** Completed first deployment to the Mediterranean Sea

**1997:** Set out on an around-the-world cruise

**2001:** Homeport shifted to San Diego, California

**2012:** Homeport shifted to Everett, Washington

**2014:** The Navy's fifth generation Joint Strike Fighter, F-35 Lightning touched down on a carrier at sea for the first time

**2015:** Homeport shifted to Bremerton, Washington

**2020-2021:** Completed one of the longest deployments since World War II



# SERVICE LIFE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Number of Deployments:** Completed 30 deployments over its service life.

- **First of Her Class:** Set the standard for Nimitz-class carriers, emphasizing advanced technology and nuclear propulsion.

- **Global Presence:** Demonstrated U.S. naval capabilities across multiple theaters—Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Oceans, and the Mediterranean Sea.

- **Technological Advancements:** Integrated cutting-edge systems over her service life, including enhanced radar, communications, and aircraft launch technologies.

- **Longevity and Service:** Over 45 years of active duty, showcasing endurance and adaptability in various global missions.

## UNIT AWARDS



- Navy Unit Commendation with two stars

- Meritorious Unit Commendation

- Navy E Ribbon with four Battle "E" Devices

- Navy Expeditionary Medal

- National Defense Service Medal with one star

- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with four stars

- Southwest Asia Service Medal

- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with one star

- Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with eleven stars

## SPECIAL EVENTS

1979: Featured in the film "The Final Countdown," highlighting its modern naval capabilities.

1995: Deployed to support U.S 7th Fleet amid tensions between China and Taiwan, being the first warship to cross Taiwan Strait since 1976.

2001: First reactor overhaul to be completed for a Nimitz Class Carrier.

2009: Hosted President Barack Obama during a visit to Jacksonville, Florida.

2022-2023: Deployed through 3rd and 7th Fleet Areas of Responsibility, completing the Navy's first 350,000th arrested landing.

