

# U.S. moves forces to Libya

The United States is repositioning air and naval forces, including the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS Enterprise* – one of the world's largest warships – to bolster its military strength in the Mediterranean, in anticipation of plans for a possible no-fly zone over Libya

## USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) – SPECIFICATIONS

Entered service	November 25, 1961
Propulsion system	Eight nuclear reactors
Displacement	85,000 tonnes (fully loaded)
Top speed	Over 30 knots (56km/h)
Crew	Ship's company 3,350, air wing 2,480

**Flight deck area:** 4.5 acres (18,200 square metres) – equal to four U.S. football fields

**Armament**  
*Phalanx* 20mm rapid-fire guns

**Armament**  
*Rolling Airframe Missile* launchers

**Four elevators**  
Move aircraft to flight deck from hangar below

**Four steam catapults**  
Accelerate aircraft to safe flight speed in space of 90m. One aircraft can be launched every 20 seconds

**Arresting wires:** Tailhook of incoming aircraft snags one of four flexible steel cables stretched across deck, bringing plane to instant stop

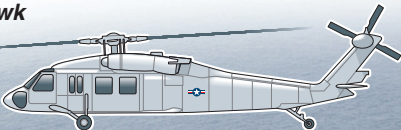
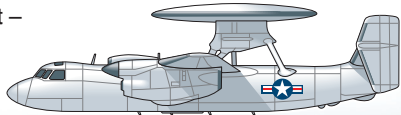
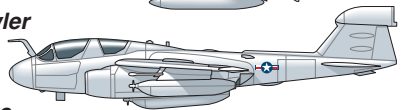
**AIRCRAFT:** About 60 normally carried, but over 90 can be embarked. Typical air wing consists of:

► 40-50 *F/A-18 Hornet* fighter-bombers

► Four *EA-6B Prowler* electronic warfare aircraft

► Four *E-2 Hawkeye* early warning aircraft – can detect enemy aircraft and ships up to 550km away

► Six *SH-60 Seahawk* anti-submarine helicopters



**Armament**  
*Sea Sparrow* missiles

**Island:** Ship's command centre, includes radar and communications antennas, bridge and control tower

**USS Enterprise**  
Length 342m

**Empire State Building**  
Height excluding antenna 381m