

America's last supercarrier

The *USS George H. W. Bush* is the U.S. Navy's newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. Named after America's 41st president, the ship is the tenth and last of the *Nimitz*-class supercarriers, which represent the largest and most powerful warships ever built

USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN-77)

Commissioned	January 10, 2009
Propulsion	2 nuclear reactors, 4 steam turbines
Displacement	88,000 tonnes (fully loaded)
Top speed	Over 30 knots (56km/h)
Crew	Ship's company 3,200, air wing 2,480

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

Four steam catapults
Launch one aircraft every 20 seconds

Four elevators: Move aircraft to flight deck from hangar below

Bow: Bulbous shape below waterline gives buoyancy to forward end of ship and improves hull efficiency

Armament: Three *Sea Sparrow* missile launchers, two *Rolling Airframe Missile* (RAM) launchers, four *Phalanx* 20mm rapid-fire guns

Carrier length 333m

Empire State Building
Height (excluding spire) 381m

AIRCRAFT: About 70 carried, including:

▶ 48 *F/A-18 Hornet* fighter-bombers

▶ Four *EA-6B Prowler* radar jamming planes

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

▶ Up to 15 *Seahawk* helicopters

