Ex-Enterprise CVN Begins Final Voyage



NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – Ex-Enterprise (CVN 65) began its final transit this morning, departing Newport News Shipbuilding for Mobile, Alabama, where the ship will be dismantled.

Commissioned in 1961, the USS Enterprise served the nation for more than 50 years. A technological milestone in naval history, the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier played a central role in U.S. naval operations during the Cold War, Vietnam War, and post-9/11 conflicts, including Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"Enterprise will always be remembered for her proud legacy of service, a legacy made possible by the Sailors and support personnel whose dedication kept her mission-ready," said Kevin Cormier, Deputy Portfolio Acquisition Executive Maritime for Aircraft Carriers. "All who served aboard and sustained this

historic ship should take pride in the vital role they played in supporting the fleet. Their dedication ensured that Enterprise remained a lasting example of naval excellence. Fair winds and following seas.”

Following Enterprise’s inactivation in December 2012, the Navy completed defueling of the ship’s reactor plants in 2017. Enterprise was decommissioned during a ceremony in the ship’s hangar bay on Feb. 3, 2017. The ceremony marked the end of the ship’s nearly 55-year career and the first decommissioning of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

The eighth naval vessel to bear the name Enterprise, the ship was built by Newport News Shipbuilding and christened Sept. 24, 1960, by Bertha Irene Franke, wife of former Secretary of the Navy William B. Franke. The ship entered service in 1961 and safely steamed more than 1 million nautical miles under nuclear power during its operational career. Enterprise’s legacy will continue with the future Ford-class aircraft carrier, Enterprise (CVN 80), the ninth U.S. Navy ship to carry the name.

The Portfolio Acquisition Executive (PAE) for Maritime is the single accountable organization for delivering surface ships for the U.S. Navy. This centralized organizational construct will empower leaders with broader scope and greater authority to accelerate delivery of combat capability and ensure acquisition speed and discipline are driven by what the warfighter needs—when they need it.

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