

USS Abraham Lincoln returns to San Diego after 10-month combat deployment

SAN DIEGO – Abraham Lincoln departed its homeport on Nov. 21, 2025. The 321 days since casting off lines from San Diego have taken the carrier and its crew across the Pacific Ocean, through the San Bernardino Strait, Surigao Strait, and Strait of Malacca, and into the South China Sea, Indian Ocean, and North Arabian Sea.



The ship steamed more than 93,000 nautical miles, conducted 72 replenishments-at-sea (RAS) and received more than 20.5 million gallons of aviation fuel over the course of their operations. Abraham Lincoln's crew also supported more than 13,000 aviation sorties from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9 aircraft, totaling 28,500 flight hours.

"USS Abraham Lincoln and the entire Carrier Strike Group team set a new standard of excellence through their extraordinary

conduct during this historic deployment,” said Rear Adm. Robert Loughran, commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 3. “I am incredibly proud of each and every Sailor, Marine, and member of this team for what they have accomplished under the most demanding conditions. Their professionalism, resilience, and combat effectiveness have been unmatched. We now look forward with great excitement to their well-earned reunion with family and loved ones.”

After arriving in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) in late January, the carrier and its strike group, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 3, spearheaded the U.S. Navy’s involvement in Operation Epic Fury, taking the lead role on the southern Iranian coast as Commander, Task Force (CTF) 50. CSG-3, with Abraham Lincoln at its center, supported 40 days of major combat operations, involving nearly 4,000 combat sorties from CVW-9. CTF-50 units destroyed more than 100 Iranian drone, missile, and small boat attacks against the force, with CVW-9 delivering more than 1.5 million pounds of ordnance on thousands of targets in support of Epic Fury objectives. This concentrated firepower significantly degraded Iranian Navy capabilities.

Following the April 8 ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran, the strike group shifted gears, leveraging their skill and expertise toward enforcing a maritime blockade. The strike group’s ironclad blockade against Iranian-flagged vessels in the Northern Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman denied the flow of Iranian oil and material, ensuring that U.S. leadership could engage in diplomatic negotiations from a position of strength.

“Conducting major combat operations, enforcing two naval blockades, and demonstrating our presence and power projection capabilities in multiple Numbered Fleets, all while keeping an unprecedented operational tempo for a long period of time, is truly remarkable, and demonstrates the strength and resilience of the 5,000 Sailors and Marines across this strike group,” said U.S. Navy Capt. Dan Keeler, Abraham Lincoln’s commanding

officer. "This team is literally rewriting the book of what an aircraft carrier is capable of, and it has been awe-inspiring to watch them grow as a team through this historic deployment."

In response to Iran's attacks on commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz in July, Abraham Lincoln and CVW-9 supported strikes against Iran's coastal defense systems and cruise missile storage and launch sites. The strike group then bolstered the second naval blockade of Iranian shipping and ports until departing the CENTCOM AOR, Aug. 22, to begin its return transit home.

Abraham Lincoln completed brief, overnight stops for supplies in Guam in December 2025 and September 2026, as well as in Duqm, Oman in July 2026. The ship also conducted a port call in Pattaya, Thailand from Sept. 2-6, 2026. The ship's 208 uninterrupted days at sea between Guam and Oman, and its 286 consecutive days at sea between departing San Diego and arriving in Thailand, are record-breaking marks for modern aircraft carriers.

"I could not be prouder of the group of Sailors and Marines aboard this mighty warship for everything they have accomplished the last 10 and a half months," said Keeler. "We asked a lot of these warfighters, and every time, they rose to the occasion, achieving the mission with pride, professionalism, and expertise."

The Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group consists of flagship Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72); the embarked staffs of CSG 3, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 21, and CVW 9; Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Frank E. Petersen Jr. (DDG 121), USS Spruance (DDG 111) and USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112); and more than 70 fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft.

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) is the fifth Nimitz-class

nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and is named in honor of the 16th President of the United States. Commissioned Nov. 11, 1989, the carrier has deployed multiple times in more than 36 years of service, supporting evacuation efforts in the Philippines after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991, as well as Operations Restore Hope, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Inherent Resolve, and Epic Fury.

An integral part of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. 3rd Fleet leads naval forces in the region and provides the realistic, relevant training necessary to execute our Navy's role across the full spectrum of military operations – from combat operations to humanitarian assistance and disaster response. U.S. 3rd Fleet works together with allies and partners to advance freedom of navigation and overflight, the rule of law, and other principles that underpin security for the region.

For more news from USS Abraham Lincoln, please follow us on DVIDS at <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/USSAL-CVN72>, on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/usslincoln>, or on our official command website at <https://www.airpac.navy.mil/Organization/USS-Abraham-Lincoln-CVN-72/>.

From Chief Petty Officer Joseph Montemarano USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), Oct. 9, 2026