USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group Departs for 2020 Deployment

Sailors assigned to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 77 prepare an MH-60R Sea Hawk for takeoff from the flight deck of the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jason Tarleton

PACIFIC OCEAN – The Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group is underway, serving as America's strongest symbol of resolve and navigating the global pandemic as its mission endures, in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific, the commander, Task Force 70 said in a June 8 release.

This deployment marks USS Ronald Reagan's (CVN 76) fifth year of service as part of U.S. forward-deployed naval forces. Reagan, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5 and Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15 represent the cornerstone of the strike group.

Following sea trials, Reagan commenced deployment by on-loading more than 1,000 tons of ordnance – enough combat power to cause the ship to sit five-inches lower on the waterline – in addition to personnel and aircraft from aviation squadrons within CVW-5. With more than 5,000 crew embarked, and 60-plus aircraft, Reagan is capable of sustaining around-the-clock maritime operations.

While underway, the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group will work alongside allies and partners to strengthen regional capabilities, further develop warfighting concepts and improve distributed maritime operations that provide layered defense options to protect shared interests.

The Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group is forward-deployed to

the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of the Indo-Pacific region.