

# George Washington to replace Ronald Reagan as the forward-deployed carrier in Japan in 2024



190930-N-N0101-122 NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (Sept. 30, 2019) The aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) is helped out of a drydock at Newport News Shipbuilding after completing a refueling and complex overhaul (RCOH). In addition to defueling and refueling its power plant, George Washington completed major structural updates to the island, mast and antenna tower; all aircraft launch and recovery equipment has been upgraded; the ship's hull has been repainted, including sea chests and freeboard; the propeller shafts have been updated and refurbished propellers installed. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of Huntington Ingalls Industries by Ashley Cowan/Released)

[Release from Commander, Naval Air Forces](#)

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In coordination with the government of Japan, Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) will return to U.S. 7th Fleet, replacing USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) as the forward-deployed Naval Forces-Japan (FDFN-J) aircraft carrier, forward-deployed to Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan in 2024.

This marks the second time George Washington has served as the FDFN-J aircraft carrier, arriving in Japan in 2008 as the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to be forward-deployed to Japan before being relieved by Ronald Reagan in 2015.

Prior to George Washington's return to Japan in 2024, Ronald Reagan will depart Yokosuka and relocate to Bremerton, Washington, to conduct a scheduled docking planned incremental availability period at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility after completing nearly a decade of service in the Western Pacific.

More details will be announced closer to the actual movement of the carriers.

The United States values Japan's contributions to the peace, security and stability of the Indo-Asia-Pacific and its long-term commitment and hospitality in hosting forward-deployed U.S. forces. These forces, along with their counterparts in the Japan Self-Defense Forces, make up the core capabilities needed by the alliance to meet our common strategic objectives.

George Washington is currently undergoing refueling and complex overhaul (RCOH) at Newport News Shipbuilding-Huntington Ingalls Industries. RCOH is a multi-year project performed only once during a carrier's 50-year service life that includes refueling the ship's two nuclear reactors, as well as significant repairs, upgrades, and modernization. Ronald Reagan, the flagship of Carrier Strike Group 5, is currently forward deployed to the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet area of operations.