



## Four ports and seven months ago. . .

BY MC3 GEOFFREY LEWIS  
*Penny Press Staff*

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) returns to its homeport of Everett, Wash., today after a successful seven-month deployment.

While deployed, Lincoln supported Operations Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Iraqi Freedom (OIF), maritime operations, and coalition operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR).

While supporting OEF and OIF from the Persian Gulf and North Arabian Sea, Lincoln and embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 flew approximately 7,100 sorties, including 2,307 combat sorties, providing more than 22,000 flight hours, and dropped 255,963 pounds of ordnance.

Lincoln also re-enlisted more than 180 Sailors, collectively equaling more than 700 years of new service to the Navy. Other individual achievements include 749 Sailors completing 20 different college classes.

Along with five months of combat operations Lincoln hosted Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen, dignitaries and military officials from Cambodia,

Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, France, Bahrain, and Pakistan. Lincoln's embarked distinguished visitors totaled more than 230 visitors from 20 different countries.

During deployment Lincoln conducted two burials at sea for 40 veterans and family members.

After successfully completing operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet AOR where Sailors enjoyed port visits in Arabian Gulf region, Lincoln sailed to the U.S. 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR) and participated in 16 community relations projects with 400 volunteers, contributing more than 2,000 hours to communities in Singapore and Thailand.

The total distance steamed during deployment was 58,370 miles, or approximately 2.3 times around the world. Electrical power generated during deployment totaled 52,000

megawatt hours, enough to power the entire downtown Seattle network for roughly two weeks. Fresh water produced totaled 58,240 gallons, enough to support more than 1 million showers for crew personnel.

With the deployment completed, Lincoln and its crew will enjoy some time off, before heading out to sea again for an upcoming sustainment period.



Photo by MC2 (SW) James Evans

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) leads ships from the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group in formation as they transit the Indian Ocean. Lincoln returns to its homeport of Naval Station Everett today after completing a seven month deployment.

## For the Francks, deployment is a family affair

BY MC2 ARIANNE ANDERSON  
*Penny Press Staff*

One of the biggest challenges Sailors face is deploying for several months at a time away from their families. As USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and embarked Carrier Air Wing 2 head into San Diego with more than 1,000 "tigers" on board, one Sailor has been experiencing a mini Tiger

Cruise for a few months.

Information Systems Technician 3rd Class (SW) Jaron Franck, of Lincoln's Combat Systems Department, got an early taste of homecoming when his father, Chief Gunner's Mate (SW) Arron Franck, currently Weapons Department G-2 Division leading chief petty officer, arrived on the ship's deployment on Aug. 20 as a new crewmember.

Petty Officer Franck said it was awe-

some to see his dad after being away for so long.

"I hadn't seen him in almost six months," he said. "It was a great feeling when he arrived."

"Jaron turned 21 underway so we didn't get that first father-son beer," Chief Franck said. "But, I got on board two days before Lincoln's beer day, so

# Local Stories

## FAMILY

Continued from Page 1

we got to do that together. It was really cool.”

Although the Francks are stationed on the same ship, they don't see each other as much as one might think.

“We are in different duty sections. I was working nights, and with the shifts and watches in my department we never saw each other,” Petty Officer Franck said Monday. “We are having dinner together for the first time today, and it's two days before San Diego.”

The Francks did, however, manage to get together during the ship's port visit in Hawaii, where Chief Franck was stationed in 2000-03 and Petty Officer Franck was 12-years-old.

“Pearl Harbor was the best day we've had,” Chief Franck said. “I was stationed in Pearl, and we revisited all of Jaron's hangouts and saw where we used to live. It was awesome.”

Petty Officer Franck said having his dad on board is great for many reasons. One of them is support.

“He provides a great support system to say the least,” he said. “But, it's not like I get special treatment. A lot of people on board think just because my dad is a chief, I can get away with anything, but it's really the opposite. I have eyes watching me. It's like having your parent as your teacher in high school. He gets reports on what I am doing.”

Chief Franck chimed in and said he hears nothing but good things.

“He stays on the straight and narrow,” he said. “He gets poked fun of a bit and I do hear about what he's doing, but I don't interfere with him and his department. His chief runs the show and I'm not going pull any punches.”

This deployment is Petty Officer Franck's first, and he said it has given him a new perspective.

“Growing up, my dad was gone a lot, and when he was gone, he was just gone,” he said. “Now I understand the stress and stuff he was going through. I have a much better understanding and it's cool to see what he did and what he's still doing.”

Chief Franck, currently on his 10th deployment, said he is proud his son joined the Navy.

“The Navy will help him grow and become more independent,” he said. “I'm also glad that he gets to see what I do -- and I get to keep an eye on him.”

While on board, Petty Officer Franck earned his Enlisted Surface Warfare qualification pin. On Sept. 30 his father was able to do the honors of pinning him.



Photo by MC3 (SW) Rialyn Rodrigo

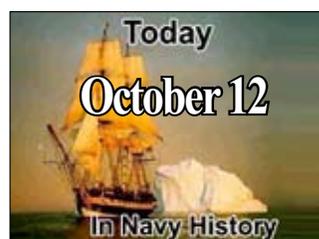
Chief Gunner's Mate (SW) Arron Franck pins an Enlisted Surface Warfare pin on his son, Information Systems Technician 3rd Class (SW) Jarron Franck Sept. 30.

“I know how much work goes into getting your pin,” Chief Franck said. “It was an honor to be able to be the one to pin him, and I am so grateful to Combat Systems for allowing me to do so. Now, I have to get requalified, and he's going to help me.”

The Francks also intend to go up for their Enlisted Aviation Specialist Warfare qualification pin together. Chief Franck will be aboard Lincoln until 2010, while his son, Petty Officer Franck will be on board until 2011.

The Francks both agreed their homecoming in Everett, Wash., would be a good one.

“My wife and my daughter are back at home without us,” Chief Franck said. “It'll be nice to be back doing all the things men do around the house again.”



**1914 - USS Jupiter is the first Navy ship to complete transit of Panama Canal.**

**2000 - Terrorists make a suicide attack on USS Cole while the ship refuels in the port of Aden, Yemen.**

## Local Stories

# Motivated Sailors pursue pins while deployed

BY MC3 GEOFFREY LEWIS

*Penny Press Staff*

Many Sailors throughout the fleet strive to increase their knowledge about their job and the ship. One of the most important ways Sailors on board USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) are doing this by enrolling in the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) and Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) programs.

Three hundred and seventy four members of both Lincoln and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 have earned their ESWS pins and more than 360 personnel from the ship and the air wing earned their EAWS pins during the ship's 2008 deployment.

Chief Electronics Technician (SW/AW) Kathleen Jackson, who earned her pin aboard the USS Frank Cable (AS 40) March, 1997, is the administrative coordinator for the ESWS program on board Lincoln, and has been helping Sailors excel in the program since August, 2005.

First-time qualifiers going up for their warfare pins

are given 18 months to achieve the goal. Personnel who received their pins at a previous command are given one year to re-qualify.

Jackson said there are three key stages to getting a warfare pin. The first is a written test of general knowledge of the ship. The second is the first of two oral boards often referred to as the "murder board," which gives

the Sailors an idea of where they stand knowledge-wise before their final board. The last stage is the final qualification oral board, which covers everything they've learned while enrolled in the warfare programs.

"The best part about the whole program is that you get a lot of networking out of it," Jackson said. "You get to meet a whole lot of people that you'd never meet in your normal job and you learn a lot about the way the ship operates."

Along with wrapping up its deployment warfare programs, Lincoln is returning from a scheduled seven month deployment to the Western Pacific. Soon the ship will commence its post-overseas movement stand down to give the crew some well-deserved time off.



Photo by YN1 (SW/AW) Kelvin Gumbs

**RADM Scott Van Buskirk, Commander, Carrier Strike Group NINE meets with three Sailors onboard USS Abraham Lincoln who have accomplished the rare achievement of earning Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS), Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) and Submarine (SS). The Sailors are Aviation Structural Mechanic First Class (AW/SW/SS) Thomas H. Bond from Oak Harbor, Wash. assigned to Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 131, Mass Communication Specialist First Class (AW/SW/SS) William J. Kipp Jr., from Sacramento, Calif. assigned to the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and Navy Counselor First Class (AW/SW/SS) Brooks C. Wakefield, from Sarasota, Fla. assigned to Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 47.**

## Naval Station Everett Events

**Car Buying Course- Tues., Oct. 14 from 6-7 pm at Vibes (in the Commons.) Free snacks and soda!**

**Street Magic Class- Wed., Oct. 15 at 6 pm in Grand Vista Ballroom (upstairs in Commons.)**

**Movie @ Pierside- Wed., Oct. 15 from 7-9 pm. Free snacks provided!**

# Carrier Strike Group 9



Sailors from Navy Band Southwest add music to the occasion.

photo by MC3 Geoffrey Lewis



Rear Adm. Scott Swift, left, salutes Rear Adm. ... of Commander, U.S. Navy Third Fleet ... command of Carrier Strike Group 9.



Rear Adm. Scott Swift arrives through sideboys.

photo by MC3 Sean Gallagher



Swift addresses the crowd after taking command of CSG 9.

photo by MC2 (SW) James R. Evans



# Change Of Command



Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, right, in front of Vice Adm. Sam Locklear as he takes command.

photo by MC3 Sean Gallagher



USS Abraham Lincoln's (CVN 72) color guard parades the colors at the commencement of the ceremony.

photo by MC2 (SW) James R. Evans



Van Buskirk, who received a Legion of Merit during the ceremony, speaks about his experiences since taking command as he bids farewell to CSG 9.

photo by MC2 (SW) James R. Evans



Van Buskirk and Swift listen as Locklear delivers opening remarks.

photo by MC2 (SW) James R. Evans

A shooter sends an F/A-18 and its pilot home after a long deployment.



LT Steven Tuck, of Kansas City, Mo., sports a farewell message for the departing aircrews.



Photos by  
MC2 (SW) James R. Fennell, MC3 Geoffrey Lewis

Flight deck shooters wave goodbye to one of the last Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 aircraft.



Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (AB) Corey Cooper, of Palmdale, Ill., spots the last jet on the catapult.



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) 3rd Class Eduardo Fajardo of Las Vegas, Nev., braces against the chilly weather during the final launches.



Off at last, a VFA 2 Super Hornet launches for the last time this deployment.

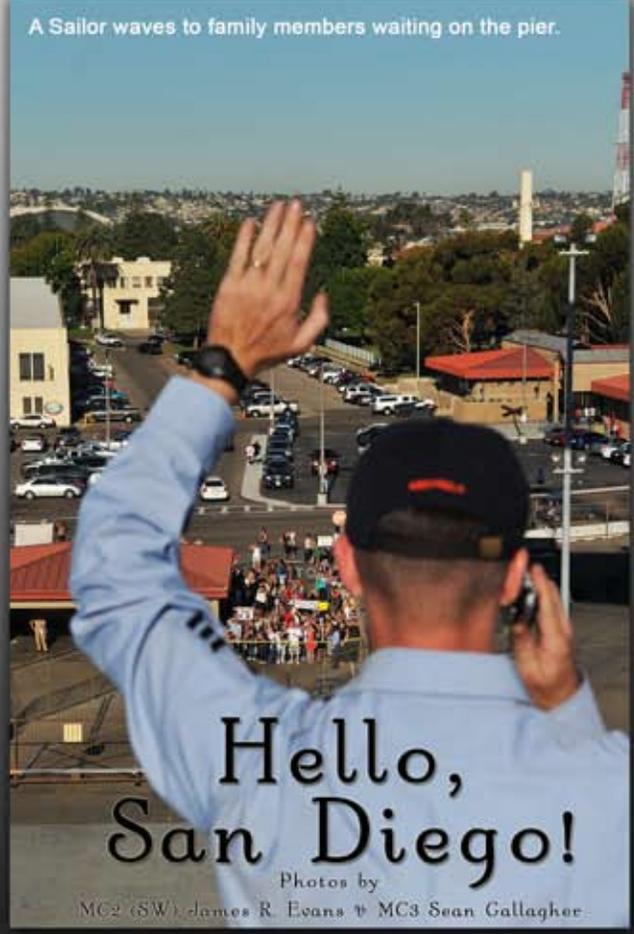




Aviation Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Paul Mayorga, of Corona, Calif., receives a kiss from his fiance, Amanda, on the pier.



Sailors and Tiger Cruise participants watch from the bow as USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) approaches the San Diego skyline to moor at Naval Air Station North Island.



A Sailor waves to family members waiting on the pier.

# Hello, San Diego!

Photos by  
MC2 (SW) James R. Evans & MC3 Sean Gallagher



Chief Aviation Warfare Systems Operator Michael Ousley embraces his daughter after USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) moors pier side in Naval Station North Island, Calif.



An anxious young girl waits for her Sailor to walk off the ship.



Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 Sailors are greeted by excited crowds as they depart the ship.

## Local News

# Lincoln readies for PIA in Spring

BY MC2 BRAD WAGES  
Penny Press Staff

\$4.5 billion dollars. That's how much it costs American taxpayers to build a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier. To make sure such a large investment remains viable for its entire 50-year service life-span, John Simpson, Project Engineering and Planning Manager at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, in Bremerton, Wash., and Brian Fazio, the shipyard's Nuclear Assistant Project Superintendent, are preparing for USS Abraham Lincoln's (CVN 72) periodic maintenance.

Simpson said Lincoln is scheduled to return to the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Spring 2009 for what is known as Planned Incremental Availability (PIA).

"Lincoln's next yard period officially begins May 4, 2009," Simpson said. "But Lincoln has agreed to come over on April 17, so we can start making preparations early."

Fazio said as of now, the ship is scheduled to be in the yards for six months.

"All the work should be done by November 6," Fazio said. "The ship will conduct sea trials to make sure everything is up and running like it should be, and then we will give the final word that's it ready."

"Think of Lincoln as being like your first car in high school," Simpson said. If you want it to last, you have to take it in every so often to get worked on. If you neglect that work, then you're going to have issues."

Simpson said there are many different parts of the ship scheduled for work during PIA.

"We're going to repair the steam plant to like-new condition," he said. "We'll be upgrading two catapults.

The heads will be refurbished, with new paint and tiles. Overall, there are 173 different ship alterations scheduled for USS Abraham Lincoln."

Fazio said that all Sailors stationed on board Lincoln will be impacted by PIA.

"The most immediate impact is going to be the relocation to Bremerton," Fazio said. "A lot of sailors are going to have to make a longer commute to the ship."

"It's going to be an industrial environment for six months," Simpson added. "Safety concerns will be very important in Bremerton. The entire crew will need to be very safety conscious."

"Every time you board the vessel, you're going to have to be mindful of eye, hand, and foot protection," Fazio said. "Safety is everyone's responsibility, and we are committed to a safety-conscious



Photo by MC2 (SW) James Evans

Lincoln is scheduled to undergo maintenance at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyards starting in May, 2009.

work environment."

Simpson emphasized the importance of the role ship's company will play during PIA.

"There are several aspects to how the ship's crew will be involved," Simpson said. "There will be a paint team, a tile team and a door team, among others. And individual departments will also have PIA-specific maintenances during PIA, in addition to PMS."

Simpson added, "Lincoln's crew will have an impact on the appearance and functionality of the ship. They will be an integral part of the availability."

Fazio said the key to making Lincoln's PIA successful is preparation.

"There has to be proper planning," Fazio said. "We have to lay out a good work schedule, and then adhere to that."

Both Fazio and Simpson said such planning will help ensure that Lincoln completes PIA in a timely manner.

## Arts & Entertainment

# Crisis Core: not your ordinary RPG

By MC3 GEOFFREY LEWIS

*Penny Press Staff*

For all you die-hard gamers out there, listen up. Like many of you, I've been a big fan of the Final Fantasy line of games, ever since I discovered Final Fantasy 7. Square Enix's latest chapter in the Final Fantasy story, Crisis Core, is no exception.

With every addition to the Final Fantasy legacy came new characters to play, places to see, better graphics, and often times a deeper mode of thinking as the game progressed. In Final Fantasy 10, the main character had to choose whether to destroy the embodiment of evil (which also happened to be his father ... long story) the result of which would be his own demise. His other option was not to kill him and be with the woman he fell in love with during his journey, causing the suffering of the world to continue ... Tough call, I know, but we all know (at least those of us who've played the game) what the outcome was. Let's face it, what's a good game without some drama and a climactic ending, right? Crisis Core is no exception.

I know several of you gamers out there were looking forward to having an opportunity to play as the famous Cloud Strife from Final Fantasy 7, and I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but you can't. This game is, as advertised, a prequel to 7. During Crisis Core, you play as Zack Fair, a SOLDIER operative who only meets Cloud through his adventures.

If you were expecting this to be a traditional role playing game (RPG), you'll be sadly mistaken. The main focus of this game is the combat system, which has its own issues. You basically go from one place to another as the story dictates, and beat the crud out of whatever monster or enemy stands in your way ... Don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with beating up all these things, but when I hear something's an RPG, I tend to expect a bit more option in how the storyline is affected by the choices I make while playing it.

As great a game as it was, it did have two very distinct differences from the others that were somewhat annoying. One problem I had was the fact that it didn't give you an option to go back after an event and explore all the other games. You got one shot to check things out and get the mission done and often this had to be done at

the same time, which made gameplay even more of a headache.

The other issue I had was the level building and bonus system they tried to incorporate with the game. It was too random. In all the other games, you're shown a counter that tells you how much experience you have and how much you need to get to the next level, but Crisis Core had nothing of the sort. Instead, the brilliant minds at Square Enix put a slot machine in the corner of the screen during combat. If you were lucky enough not to get killed by whatever you were fighting to get the slots to line up, you then had

to hope it gave you something useful to finish off the beasties you were clobbering. I've lost track of how many times I'd be doing just fine (full health and magic points), and the bonus would be to heal me, or have the bonus backfire (using a flame spell on something that regenerates with fire) and actually heal the monster.

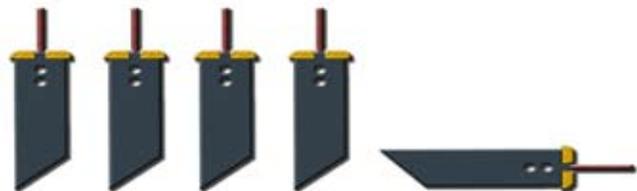
Quirks aside though, this was a halfway decent game. The story line is somewhat coherent, the graphics are outstanding, and the fact that it had a lot of similarities to the

original game was a big plus, such as places to go and creatures you can fight.

One thing I recommend with this game is to play the extra missions offered at save points. These often have items you can't get in the game's normal gameplay, and reveal more of the story behind the game itself.

I feel Final Fantasy fans will find this game somewhat similar to the original Final Fantasy 7, with the background they already have and many other aspects of the game that just scream to try and remind you of the old game. The best part is, you could have no idea what I'm talking about and still enjoy this game with its superb graphics, and side quests and puzzles throughout the game.

If you're looking to give it a shot, I think it's worth the play time. I give it a four out of five.



# Final Thoughts



## Shipmates

The strength of a warship lies in the hearts and hands of its crew.



Photo by MC3 Sean Gallagher

Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SW/AW) Claudetta Rhaburn, of Engineering Dept., receives a Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal from Chief Engineer Cmdr. Bradford Bittle in Hangar Bay 2 Oct. 11.

## Editor's Top 10

### Things we're going to miss about deployment:

10. Hour-long lines for everything.
9. The wonderful odors.
8. Daily helpings of mashed potatoes.
7. Those catchy sweepers songs.
6. Sweepers itself.
5. Fifty people in the gym, sweating and grunting at once.
4. GQ.
3. Showering with 10 other people in the immediate vicinity.
2. Monthly breakouts of the dreaded "VGE."
1. Having trouble coming up with anything I'll actually miss. . .



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