



Giant
welcoming

May 31, 2012 Vol. 1 Issue 15

NIMITZ NEWS

DAILY DIGEST



Page 4

USS Nimitz departs San Francisco

Story by MC3 Ian Cotter

The aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) steamed out of San Francisco Bay May 30 after a four-day Tiger Cruise and a three-day port visit to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge's opening.

"The Sailors and crew did a great job," said Capt. Jeffrey S. Ruth, Nimitz' Commanding Officer. "The Tigers disembarked safely and the Sailors and crew made an outstanding presentation of the Navy to San Francisco."



Ferries travel back and forth to the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) as it sits anchored in San Francisco Bay. Photo by MC2 (AW/SW) Michael Cole.

Nimitz' Deck Department conducted anchoring exercises recently, but this is the first time in more than

two years they've dropped anchor in port.

"We had to make sure the anchor chain was [vertical] and on the side

it needs to be on so that the anchors could come straight up and not scrape the side of the ship," said Seaman Jake. M. Brill, the Petty Officer in Charge (POIC) of the anchor detail.

Typically, the position of POIC is held by a Petty Officer, but keeping with the Navy tradition of granting positional responsibility to eager junior Sailors, Nimitz' Deck Department granted the position to one of their motivated Seamen.

See HOME page 3

Nimitz Sailors honor former service members

Story by MCSN Christopher Bartlett

Sailors from the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) participated in a community relations project (COMREL) at the Golden Gate National Cemetery located in the city of San Bruno on Memorial Day, May 28.

Twenty five Sailors prepared food and helped set up for the ceremony honoring fallen service members including the ship's namesake Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz and 15 Medal of Honor recipients.

More than 1000 people attended the remembrance

including 100 active duty members. Some of those people included a former Tuskegee Airman and a retired Navy Seal.

"The Tuskegee Airman was such an inspiration," said Intelligence System Technician 1st Class Jesse Anderson. "What they all did was true courage and they allowed other great men and women to enter the service and serve alongside in our nation's battles today."

Adm. Nimitz was buried at the Golden Gate National Cemetery along with members of his staff including Adm. Raymond A. Spruance, See NIMITZ page 3

Sailors man the rails as the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) departs its homeport of Everett, Wash., for a Tiger Cruise with Sailor's family members and friends. Photo by MC3 Jacquelyn Childs.



An F/A-18 Super Hornet assigned to the "Death Rattlers" of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 323 lands aboard the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68). Photo by MCSN William Cousins.



Flight deck personnel watch as two F/A-18E Super Hornets from the Sidewinders of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 86 prepare to launch during an air show conducted by Carrier Air Wing 11 (CVW 11) for family and friends of Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68). Photo by MCSN Christopher Bartlett.



The aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) passes underneath the Golden Gate Bridge. Photo by MC3 Ian Cotter.

HOME: Nimitz underway after first anchoring in two years

Continued from page 1

“We had 285 links in the water, plus the anchor holding us down,” said Brill. “They do get a little mud on them, so we spray them off with a fire hose when they’re up.”

Normally, Nimitz moors to a pier during a port call, but San Francisco was an opportunity for the ship’s crew to experience being at anchor.

“Anchoring out is rare,” said Brill. “All of the people involved have done it during the training in April, and are all qualified. It was a smooth, by-the-book evolution.”

Timing was everything during

this evolution, and the window for Nimitz’ passage beneath the Oakland Bay Bridge and Golden Gate Bridge was quite small. Nimitz’ Navigation Department tackled the challenge of guiding the ship out of the San Francisco Bay.

“We have to hit the tides at the perfect time because of the ship’s clearance,” said Quartermaster 3rd Class (SW) Dustin A. Smith, one of the fathometer operators during Nimitz’ transit. “But, we’ve been blessed with safe waters and we had a lot of leeway.”

In order to leave San Francisco

Bay, Nimitz’ bridge had to be well below the bottom of each bridge. Simultaneously, the underside of the ship’s keel cruised high above the bottom of the bay.

“We’re doing the same thing that we did when we pulled in, only in reverse,” said Smith. “Everybody’s been trained and qualified. We just needed to get underway and steaming so that we can finish up the rest of our qualifications.”

Nimitz will conduct operations while at sea and is expected to return to its homeport of Everett.

NIMITZ: Sailors help get San Francisco ready for Memorial Day

Continued from Page 1

Adm. Charles A. Lockwood and Adm. Richmond K. Turner.

“He was a great leader and helped us win the war, so to see where he was buried was something special,”

said Anderson.

The short time while ported in San Francisco allowed Sailors like Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Fuels) 3rd Class Ricky Wilson the time to get involved in this special project.

“I love getting out to the communities showing the presence of Nimitz,” said Wilson. “It’s good to do and I encourage everyone to do it, plus it makes you feel good inside that you’re helping someone else.”

Sailors from Nimitz were honored by the cemetery’s director and received a standing ovation for their efforts during the ceremony.

“I was very proud to be part of this particular event,” said Nimitz’ Chaplain, Lt. Cmdr. Richard Townes. “Our Sailors were magnificent, they are wonderful people and they represented us very well.”

The ceremony was held on the 70th anniversary of the dedication of the Golden Gate National Cemetery.



A member of the Red Tails, a squadron of all African American pilots during WWII, speaks to a crowd at Golden Gate National Cemetery in commemoration of Memorial Day. Photo by ABH2 (AW/SW) Jerrel McKissik.

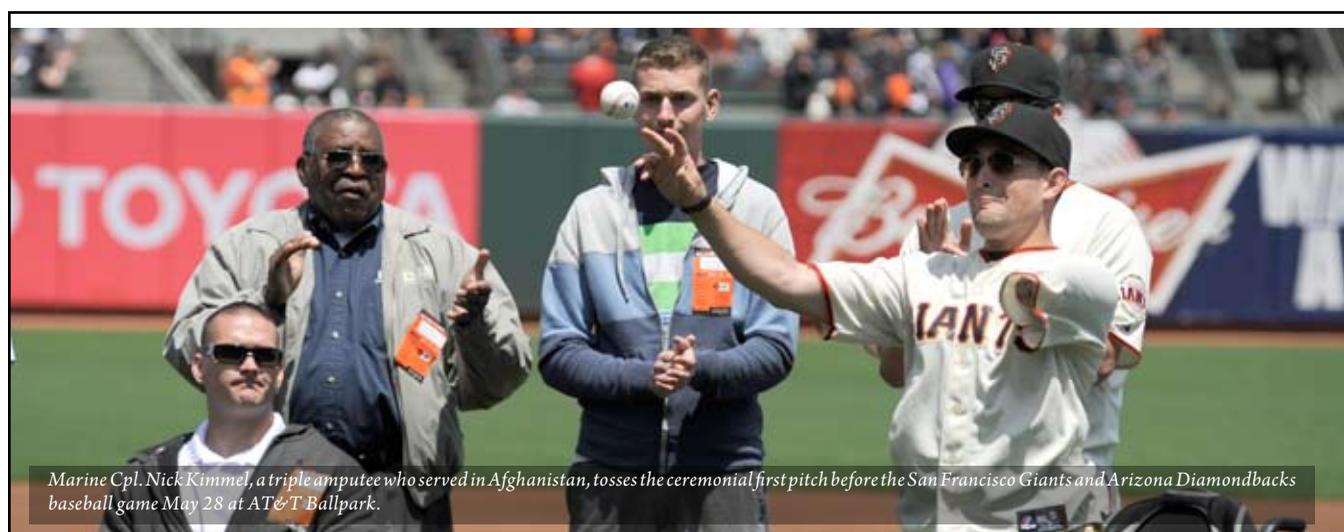
GIANTS MEET

Story by MC2 (SW) Vladimir Potapenko

Photos by MCSN William Cousins



The aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) is seen anchored in San Francisco Bay outside of AT&T Ballpark during a ballgame.



Marine Cpl. Nick Kimmel, a triple amputee who served in Afghanistan, tosses the ceremonial first pitch before the San Francisco Giants and Arizona Diamondbacks baseball game May 28 at AT&T Ballpark.

Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) attended a San Francisco Giants home baseball game at AT&T Park May 28 as part of a Giants Memorial Day salute to the armed services.

A 4-2 Giants victory, the game's highlights were not only scored by the Major Leaguers, but by the hundreds of troops found throughout the ballpark.

As part of the pregame festivities, Marine Cpl. Nick Kimmel, a triple amputee from stepping on an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan, threw the ceremonial first pitch wearing his prosthetic limbs in public for the first time.

Kimmel was one of the injured military veterans who Barry Zito, the Giants starting pitcher, invited to the club's Spring Training this past March as part of his Strikeouts for Troops Foundation that assists disabled veterans after they return from combat.

"He's been in touch with us," said Zito, who keeps up communicated with Kimmel through text message. "He's such an inspiration. We keep cheering him on. The fact that he came up and did this was just awesome."

Capt. Michael Donnelly, Nimitz' executive officer joined Kimmel and others making up a cavalcade of military members representing all of the armed services. The display was meant to show the appreciation San Francisco and the Giants have for the sacrifices of America's service members. The sold-out crowd cheered wildly as each military member and their branch was introduced.

"I wasn't on the field, but just being in the crowd you could feel the excitement ... that energy," said Legalman 2nd Class Michael Lightsey, one of the Nimitz Sailors in attendance. "Not only to be recognized, but being appreciated by those you serve is a wonderful feeling."

Nearly 400 Nimitz Sailors received tickets to the game through the ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreation office, with many of the tickets coming at the personal expense and goodwill of Giants season ticket holders, said John H. Porter, Nimitz' Fun Boss.

Sailors enjoyed views of the field close to the Giants dugout as well as from box seats over left field.

Nimitz visited San Francisco as part of the Golden Gate Bridge's 75th anniversary celebration. Anchored off of San Francisco, Nimitz was visible over right field.



Willie Bloomquist, the short-stop for the Arizona Diamondbacks, plays catch before the game with a teammate in order to warm-up his arm.



THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY

PART 2

Editor's Note: The following is the second in a three-part series about the Battle of Midway: the turning point of the Pacific Theater campaign during World War II.

USS Nimitz (CVN 68) Public Affairs

The intelligence had confirmed it: the Japanese were going to attack Midway. An ambush would certainly give the U.S. the tactical advantage it so desperately needed, but it in no way guaranteed a victory – let alone the military superiority needed to hold off the massive, battle-tested Japanese fleet.

Nimitz realized he had only one

shot to pull this off. The Pacific Fleet's remaining carriers and all available ships needed to be ready. Coral Sea showed just what they were up against: a much larger fleet, including four carriers, each loaded with the same deadly Japanese aircraft that had delivered the crippling blow to Pearl Harbor. The Zeros, which dominated the Pacific skies, were piloted by the fiercest warriors any American aviator had ever faced.

Suffering a heavy beating at Coral Sea, USS Yorktown (CV 5) limped into Pearl Harbor and entered dry dock. Fifteen hundred yard workers toiled around the clock to repair the damage to Yorktown's flight deck. Repairs that would normally take weeks to achieve were completed in a miraculous three days.

Confident she was ready to fight, Nimitz ordered Yorktown to rejoin USS Hornet (CV 8) and USS Enterprise (CV 6) positioned to the northeast of Midway. There they assembled undetected.

Timing would be everything.

Launch an attack too early, and the ships' locations would be revealed to the enemy. Attack too late and it would be impossible to wrestle control of the captured island from the enemy while fighting the Japanese fleet at the same time.

The plan was to draw the Japanese fleet out to attack the island and then catch them completely off guard with coordinated attacks from the assembled carriers. With no protection from above, the Japanese carriers would be at the mercy of U.S. torpedo squadrons from Midway and the carriers Hornet and Yorktown as well as Midway-based bombers. Ensign George Gay, like the rest of Hornet's Torpedo Squadron 8, was more than eager to deliver Pearl's revenge. He joined the rest of his crew topside and prepared to launch.

An eerie quiet blanketed the atoll as the sun rose June 4. That silence was only broken by the sound of crashing waves. They were out there. The Marines manning the island's small coastal artillery defenses could sense



The Japanese carrier Soryu as seen from a Midway-based B-17 bomber June 4, 1942. (Photo courtesy of the Navy History and Heritage Center)

it. The gentle ocean breeze seemed to sharpen the gazes that quietly scanned the Pacific sky and horizon for any sign of the enemy's silhouette. Seventeen-year-old Radioman 3rd Class Harry Ferrier waited with his pilot and turret gunner near their Grumman TBF-1 "Avenger" aircraft.

Enemy forces detected – 150 miles out." Ferrier climbed aboard his plane and took off with the five other Midway-based "Avengers" to engage the Japanese.

The approaching Zero pilots prepared to obliterate the island's inferior air defenses when suddenly attack aircraft from the undetected American carriers burst through the clouds. The sky erupted in a hailstorm of bullets and flak. Out-maneuvered, and out-gunned, the "Avengers" fell from the sky one by one.

Riddled with bullet-holes and suffering mechanical failure, Ferrier's "Avenger" crash-landed back on Midway. His was the only one to return. All 15 from Hornet were shot down – Gay was the squadron's only survivor. At the end of the first wave not a single piece of U.S. ordnance reached the Japanese.



Of the six Grumman TBF-1 "Avengers" to defend Midway June 4, 1942, only this one returned. (Photo courtesy of the Navy History and Heritage Center)

Japanese Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo faced a decision. He could launch a partial assault on Midway with his remaining aircraft. The island's defenses, now surely weakened from the first assault, might still put up a fight. However, if his ships were to recover all the planes, refuel and re-arm them, he would easily crush any possible remaining opposition Midway could offer before defeating the Pacific Fleet once and for all. A successful capture of

the island was guaranteed. Satisfied the American threat was now neutralized, he ordered all aircraft back to the carriers. The flight decks quickly filled with fuel and ammunition. One by one the Zeros landed. Pilots and crew members cheered as the planes were prepared for the sure victory that awaited them.

It was a decision that changed everything.

NO ONE KNOWS THE STORY BETTER
THAN THE MEN WHO LIVED IT.

VOICES OF MIDWAY

JUNE 2012



Movie Schedule

Channel 4 Channel 5 Channel 6 Channel 7

0800 / 2000

The Town Monsters vs. Aliens Knowing Fighting

1000 / 2200

Salt 17 Again Obsessed Crank: High Voltage

1200 / 0000

Easy A Hannah Montana: The Movie State of Play Lara Croft 2

1400 / 0200

Sherlock Holmes Observe and Report The Soloist Last House on the Left

1600 / 0400

X-Men Origins: Wolverine Adventureland Goodfellas The Haunting in Connecticut

1800 / 0600

Star Trek The Ghosts of Girlfriends Past My Life in Ruins Reservoir Dogs

TV Lineup

- 4 – DVD MOVIES
- 5 – 8MM MOVIES
- 6 – 8MM MOVIES
- 7 – 8MM MOVIES
- 8 – ROLLER
- 9 – DVD TRAINING
- 10 – FLIGHT DECK
- 11 –  CNN
- 13 –  ESPN
- 14 –  FX
- 15 –  HISTORY
- 16 –  abc
- 18 –  CBS
- 19 –  TNT
- 20 –  FOX
- 21 –  AMC
- 22 –  NBC
- 23 –  COMEDY TRAINED
- 24 –  FOX 24
- 25 –  DISCOVERY CHANNEL



Commanding Officer
CAPT Jeffrey S. Ruth
Executive Officer
CAPT Buzz Donnelly
Command Master Chief
CMDM Teri McIntyre
Public Affairs Officer
LCDR Karin Burzynski

Editor
MC3 Robert Winn
Lead Designer
MC3 Jacob Milner

Nimitz News accepts submissions in writing. All submissions are subject to review and screening. "Nimitz News" is an authorized publication for the members of the military services and their families. Its content does not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, or the Marine Corps and does not imply endorsement thereby.

