

Commanding Officer's Greeting

Welcome aboard USS MIDWAY (CV 41), a valiant warrior with an important mission. MIDWAY, the Navy's oldest operational carrier, is a 70,000-ton vessel housing 4,500 crewmembers and up to 80 aircraft. It has been the first line of defense for the United States and its allies, and is the first carrier to be permanently deployed overseas, adding a new dimension to carrier Battle Group readiness.



Captain Larry L. Ernst

For 18 years, MIDWAY served as the flagship of Commander, Battle Force Seventh Fleet, the operational commander of the principle U.S. Navy fighting force in the Eastern Hemisphere.

The advantage of maintaining a floating airfield can be summed up by "versatility." Apart from Midway's role as protector of the freedom of the seas, it has also been a leader in the science of naval aviation. Participation in programs which resulted in the first fully automatic carrier landing and the first heavy rocket launch from a ship at sea rank among MIDWAY's historic achievements.

Another measure of Midway's value is its mobility. Modern aircraft can transport their striking power well beyond the reach of land-locked runways, making MIDWAY an elusive threat to the potential enemy. Armed with new strength and tempered by years of experience, she sails the seas in defense of freedom and in pursuit of a lasting peace.