

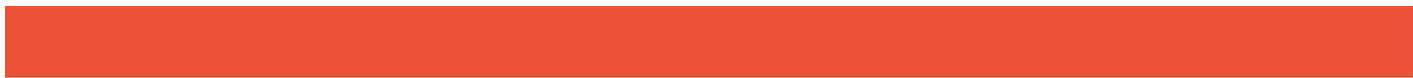
# Navy Hosts Environmental Ship Embark

## Environmental NGOs & Federal Regulators Onboard USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH

**T**he Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division (N45) and United States Fleet Forces (USFF) coordinated an environmentally-focused ship embark and tour which gave representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGO), including representatives from Oceana, Ocean Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund, a firsthand look at the Navy's environmental stewardship efforts while at sea.

"It was the coolest thing I've ever done," said Leigh Henry of World Wildlife Fund—a feeling shared by many after their experience onboard a Navy aircraft carrier on 19–20 May 2010. The embark included an arrested landing onto the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77), where Commanding Officer Captain Chip Miller welcomed the visitors aboard. The group observed a range of operations aboard the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH from daytime and nighttime flight operations to the inner-workings of the ship's "shaft alley."

In addition to the usual carrier tour, the group visited areas housing waste management equipment and storage, including plastic waste processors, a metal-glass shredder, the hazardous material issue room, and an engine room to view an oil-water separation unit. These operations and equipment help the Navy minimize its environmental footprint while at sea. For example, the plastic waste processor allows Navy ships to store massive amounts of plastic waste onboard ship for onshore offloading and management, rather than disposing of such waste at sea.





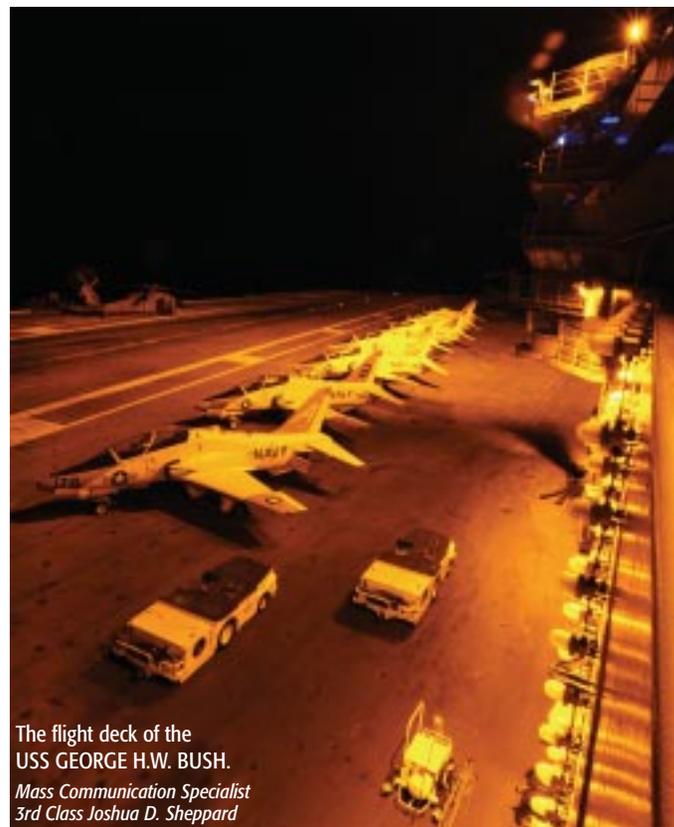
N45 and USFF hosted an environmentally focused ship embark for environmental non-governmental organizations and federal regulators aboard the aircraft carrier USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH. The group was given a firsthand look at Navy operations and environmental stewardship efforts while at sea.  
*Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Nicholas Hall*

Following a night on the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH, the group traveled via helicopter to the USS GONZALEZ (DDG 66) for a different perspective on Navy environmental stewardship. Led by the ship's Commanding Officer, Lynn Acheson, the group observed watchstanders demonstrating marine mammal lookout and reporting measures. The Sailors utilized the Navy's Protective Measures Assessment Protocol—a geographic information system-based program which provides information on species protection for various evaluations such as sonar use, gun shoots, and missile shoots. The group was also invited to the ship's sonar control room, where the crew demonstrated both synthetic training and active sonar transmissions.

**A lot of folks really do care about the ocean environment and it shows in their day-to-day work.**

—Beth Lowell, Oceana

OPPOSITE: The aircraft carrier USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77).  
*Original photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st class Demetrius L. Patton*



The flight deck of the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH.  
*Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua D. Sheppard*



Laura Johnson, EPA



Jennifer Greene, The Nature Conservancy



Susan Olcott, Ocean Conservancy



Beth Lowell, Oceana



Tracey Moriarty, N45



Chris Dettmar, N45

Ron Tickle, Beth Lowell, Lieutenant Francis Tay, and Leigh Henry are all smiles before departing Naval Station Norfolk.



The group prepares to depart Naval Station Norfolk for the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH.

The group flew back to the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH for a final tour, including a visit to the tribute room of the 41st President and ship's namesake. A catapult shot off the carrier sent the group home, more aware of the Navy's commitment to environmental stewardship and its overall mission.

Recounting their memories of the trip, all of the guests spoke highly of the Sailors' pride and professionalism. "It was a very well-organized and very thorough tour," said Susan Olcott of Ocean Conservancy. "I was impressed—to a one—with everyone we met." Beth Lowell, of Oceana concurred, "A lot of folks really do care about the ocean environment and it shows in their day-to-day work."

"This was an unforgettable experience," said Tracey Moriarty,

director of outreach for N45. "We were impressed with the enthusiasm and professionalism of the young Sailors on both ships. They are doing great things at great personal sacrifice to protect our nation, while also protecting the marine environment where they spend so much of their time," said Moriarty.

LEFT AND OPPOSITE PAGE: Participants in the May 2010 environmentally focused ship embark sit in the Commanding Officer's chair aboard the aircraft carrier USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH.



President George H.W. Bush's Navy ID card on display in the "tribute room" aboard the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH.

“The pride that these young men and women took in their jobs was amazing,” said Henry, “I think the average age of these folks was 19 and they’re running this massive ship.”

The enormity of the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH surprised and impressed all the visitors. Jennifer Greene of The Nature Conservancy commented, “I was surprised at how huge the ship was and how complicated. You could so easily get lost in that ship. Also there are no windows, which is understandable—but the lack of fresh air and sunlight must really take a toll.”

“The people who were leading us around even had to stop and ask for directions,” said Henry.

Most guests mentioned the C-2 Greyhound takeoff and landing and helicopter rides as high points of their experience.

“The catapult was the thrilling high point for me,” said Olcott.

“From the search and rescue helicopter you could see the whole layout of the ship,” said Greene. She also identified the group’s time with the marine mammal

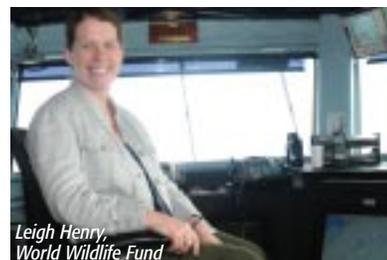


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**—Leigh Henry, World Wildlife Fund**



Brian Rappoli, EPA



Leigh Henry, World Wildlife Fund



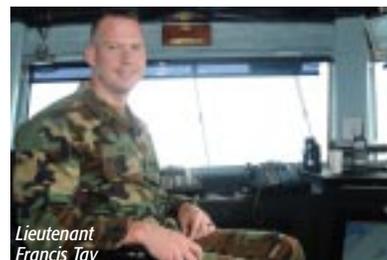
John Quinn, N45



Ron Tickle, N45



Captain Nicholas Cipriano



Lieutenant Francis Tay



A C-2 Greyhound prepares to take the environmental ship embark group from Naval Station Norfolk to the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH.



The guided-missile destroyer  
USS GONZALEZ (DDG 66).  
Paul Farley



The bridge of the  
USS GONZALEZ.

team as one of her most memorable parts of the trip. “Hearing the Captain talking about the marine mammal program and actually seeing the sonar technicians at work gave me a new appreciation for their work.”

Henry echoed those thoughts. “It’s useful for us to understand what the Navy does in terms of mitigation and for us to see the mitigation measures they perform in action,” she said. “It’s very easy to sit here at your desk and dictate how things should be done, but it’s another thing to see what actually goes on.”

Asked whether there was anything they would change about the experience, some mentioned jokingly that they weren’t able to get enough sleep. “I wish there had been an opportunity for us to tell them what we do,” commented Lowell. “It would have been a good opportunity for a knowledge exchange.”

“I think they could continue to work on waste disposal,” mentioned Olcott. “Historically the Navy has been a leader in recy-

## More Insights from Beth Lowell

For more insights from Beth Lowell, read our spotlight interview in the winter 2010 issue of *Currents*. You can browse the *Currents* archives and subscribe to the magazine via the Naval Air Systems Command’s environmental web site at [www.enviro-navair.navy.mil/currents](http://www.enviro-navair.navy.mil/currents).





Ron Tickle, Tracey Moriarty (N45) and the clean wake left by the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH.



cling and waste disposal at sea and should continue to lead in this area. There's always room for improvement."

"We understand that there are limitations on what can be done [regarding waste disposal at sea] but we're all hoping this can be improved," said Henry. "Other than that, I'd just like to see them keep an open dialogue with the NGO community about what they're doing," she said. "For instance, one of my colleagues is involved in an undersea sound campaign. Not just sound from sonar but from oil and gas and shipping. An International Whaling Commission workshop was held this June in Morocco about the anthropological impact of sound on cetaceans. It would benefit the Navy to be involved."

Olcott pointed out one mutually beneficial relationship that her organization (Ocean Conservancy) currently shares with the Navy. "Our international coastal cleanup is partnering with the military [including the Navy], which helps to foster good relationships around the world. In these kinds of ways, conservation goals and national security goals can both be met," she said.

"I think there are a couple of areas where more focus could be given," she continued. "In terms of marine spatial planning, the Navy could participate as much as possible in data sharing and collecting while at sea."

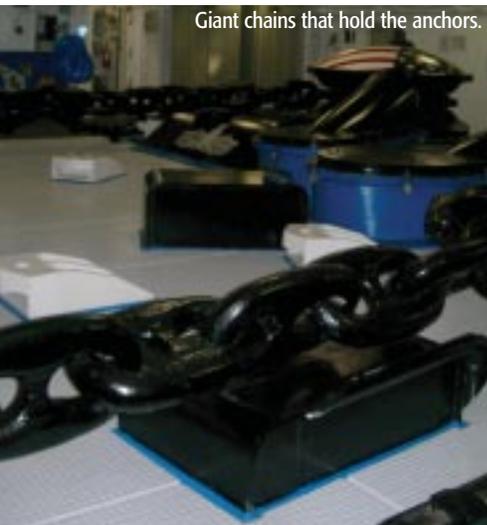
The group walks the flight deck.



The group observes operations from the flight deck.



Giant chains that hold the anchors.





The group tours the oil/water separator room aboard the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH.



The plastic waste processing room.

All the respondents had good things to say about the Navy's environmental efforts.

"It was very relevant and very valuable," said Olcott. "To see what the Navy is doing on a day-to-day basis gives me a context in which to place the work that I'm doing."

"The Navy should just continue down the pathway that they're on," stated Lowell. "For instance, they're embracing the national ocean policy that was [recently] signed into law."

Lowell summed up the trip by saying, "I've been quite impressed with the Navy's environmental programs in the past. I've been on range tours before, but I'm glad to see the same kind of commitment is happening on the seas as well. Everyone was very proud to be conserving the environment as well as doing their day-to-day job. I hope the Navy does more tours with more folks on land and sea." 📍

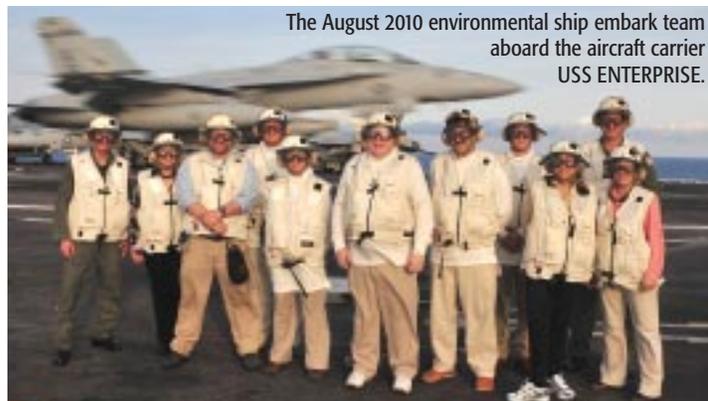
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## SECOND ENVIRONMENTAL Ship Embark Held

Building on the successes of the May 2010 Embark, the Navy hosted a second environmentally-focused ship embark on 4-5 August 2010. Participants included Ms. Sharon Burke, Director, Operational Energy Plans and Programs for the Secretary of Defense; Ms. Jackalyn Pfannenstiel, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment; Vice Admiral William Burke, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics (N4); and Rear Admiral Phil Cullom, Director of Energy and Environmental Readiness (N45). Distinguished visitors also included representatives from the Department of the Interior, Department of State, the Office of Management and Budget, the National Science Foundation, and the Carbon War Room.

The group toured both the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) and USS MASON (DDG 87), observing



The August 2010 environmental ship embark team aboard the aircraft carrier USS ENTERPRISE.

Basic Phase operations of the Carrier Strike Group. The distinguished visitors gained firsthand knowledge about the Navy's commitment to environmental protection and resource conservation while engaging in the training and operations necessary to keep the fleet combat ready.

Tours and briefings covered plastic waste handling at sea, management of hazardous materials, active sonar use, marine mammal sighting protocols, and operational energy considerations.