

Award Narrative

INTRODUCTION

USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) and her crew of 3,100 Sailors are homeported in San Diego, California. Our mission is to provide a credible, sustainable, independent forward presence and conventional deterrence in peacetime, operate as the cornerstone of joint/allied maritime expeditionary forces in times of crisis, operate and support aircraft attacks on enemies, protect friendly forces, and engage in sustained independent operations in time of war.

BACKGROUND

CARL VINSON successfully faced many environmental challenges in fiscal year (FY) 2015. Through the proactive measures taken by the crew, CARL VINSON lived up to its reputation as the "Greenest Carrier in the Navy!"

The year began with CARL VINSON on an extended deployment in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. CARL VINSON achieved 21,805 fixed-wing flight hours, 10,691 fixed-wing traps, 8,643 helicopter flight hours, 18 sea and anchor evolutions, and 28 replenishments-at-sea. Included in these accomplishments, CARL VINSON successfully completed three precision anchorage evolutions, safely received more than 14.7 million gallons of JP-5 and transferred more than 12,940 pallets of weapons and stores, all without a spill.

After returning from a ten month deployment, CARL VINSON closed 2015 by starting a highly successful six month Planned Incremental Availability (PIA). PIA is an environment that presents a number of potential hazards including lead paint abatement, increased air emissions, and numerous hazardous material transfers. CARL VINSON's team to date has performed flawlessly, completing extensive maintenance on-schedule without any reportable environmental incidents.

Environmental protection is a ship-wide effort on CARL VINSON. It is the result of a shared culture that permeates throughout the command and sets the standard on the waterfront. It starts with the Commanding Officer (CO), who chairs the ship's Environmental Compliance Board (ECB). The ECB includes the Executive Officer and all heads of department, who participate as board members. ECB meetings are used to address our environmental compliance, future initiatives, and any environmental concerns; they were held quarterly in FY 2015.

The shipboard expert on environmental compliance is the Industrial Hygiene Officer, who is assigned the duties and responsibilities of Afloat Environmental Protection Coordinator (AEPC). The AEPC completed the required A-4J-0021 AEPC Course in January 2013. The AEPC informs and advises the CO on all environmental matters. Additionally, the AEPC implemented an aggressive spill prevention and response training program that began at every Sailor's command indoctrination training and continued with yearly training and quarterly duty section-specific training.

CARL VINSON has created the following command instructions to govern day-to-day operations and contingencies:

- 1) USS CARL VINSON (CVN70) Instruction 5090.1B, Environmental and Natural Resources Protection Program, 13 April 2011, reviewed September 2014
- 2) USS CARL VINSON (CVN70) Instruction 5090.2, Oil and Hazardous Material Spill Contingency Plan, 25 September 2014
- 3) USS CARL VINSON (CVN70) Instruction 5090.3C, Plastic and Solid Waste Management at Sea, 25 February 2001, reviewed June 2015
- 4) USS CARL VINSON (CVN70) INSTRUCTION 5100.14, Asbestos Management Plan, 25 January 2013, reviewed July 2015
- 5) USS CARL VINSON (CVN70) INSTRUCTION 5100.9A, Lead Control Plan, 20 March 2014

PROGRAM SUMMARY

CARL VINSON's environmental program complied with all aspects of OPNAVINST 5090.1C during the reporting period. The command's program was formally evaluated by the Commander, Naval Air Forces safety evaluators and the program was evaluated as above average with an impressive score of 97.37 percent during the 2015 Safety and Occupational Health Management Evaluation (SOHME).

CARL VINSON's signature environmental accomplishments are directly attributed to the motivation and leadership of the crew.

Accomplishments

With the ship's force completing a tremendous amount of rehabilitation and maintenance work in PIA, the CARL VINSON team worked closely with contractors and regulatory agencies to ensure that emissions from heavy equipment brought onboard for the maintenance effort complied with local, state, and federal regulations for air quality. Daily inspections were conducted on equipment and local experts were engaged to make sure we minimized our air pollution. This resulted in a perfect compliance record on all shipboard and pier-side inspections. It was also deemed a "Best Practice" by the maintenance team and will be utilized on future availabilities in San Diego.

The Auxiliaries Division Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (AC/R) work center is leading the way in air pollution control on CARL VINSON. Old equipment, leaky valves, damaged piping, and irresponsible work practices are all factors that lead to unnecessary refrigerant leakage. In an effort to protect our air quality for the next generation, the AC/R work center identified and replaced 22 valves on refrigeration systems last year, resulting in a 17 percent reduction in refrigerant release to the atmosphere. Additionally, proper supervision and safe work practices during refrigerant transfer evolutions ensured no mishaps and no refrigerant lost during FY 2015.

The Repair Division in the Engineering Department operates and maintains the collection hold and transfer (CHT) system in accordance with the OPNAVINST 5090.1D to prevent any inadvertent overboard discharge of untreated or inadequately treated sewage and any waste derived from sewage. The Repair Division completed 632 preventative maintenance checks and 54 corrective maintenance checks during FY 2015 which allowed the CHT system to operate during the ten month deployment.

For training, the Repair Division ensured all operators and supervisors completed CHT Personnel Qualification Standard prior to duty assignments and conducted overboard CHT spill drills which resulted in a much improved standardized evaluation process. Additional training was conducted with the damage control team in the inport duty sections resulting in 100 percent qualification. While moored, riser-discharge hoses to the pier are monitored hourly during shore transfer to enable duty personnel to immediately secure pumping at a moment's notice. All of the training and preventative maintenance actions over the last year resulted in CARL VINSON conducting six overseas port visits while pumping 4.5 million gallons of CHT with zero spills. The attention to detail and dedication of the Engineering Department personnel ensured CARL VINSON minimized impacts to marine species and the maritime environment.

CARL VINSON's Oily Water Separator (OWS) processed more than 1 million gallons of OW during the 2015 WESTPAC Deployment, reducing the concentration of oil discharged to 2-3 parts per million (PPM), significantly below the 15 PPM limit for overboard discharges. During in port periods, the OWS system flawlessly transferred OW holding tanks to shore processing facilities, eliminating the need to discharge processed OW within restricted waters.

CARL VINSON continues to take a proactive approach to ensure continuous operability of its OWS, including ongoing assessment of the system to identify preemptive maintenance and material support needs. A rigorous personnel certification while continuous training program ensured operators kept the system properly aligned to prevent any oily waste discharges in port and to properly process bilge and oily waste water underway.

In addition, conservation of nuclear fuel is a priority on CARL VINSON. By reducing the rate at which uranium is depleted, the sustainability and range of the ship is extended, ensuring mission readiness until the expected 50 year life of the ship while reducing the need for fossil fueled ships to fill those mission roles. We recognize and capitalize on the long-term benefits to the environment over the short-term convenience of less efficient operations.

Proper disposal of solid waste is critical to maintaining a sanitary working environment for more than 5,000 Sailors as well as ensuring that the world's oceans are kept clean and free of pollutants. The Auxiliaries Division Solid Waste Processing work center is an operational centerpiece to ensure each specific waste type is properly handled and disposed correctly. During the 2014/2015 WESTPAC deployment, the Auxiliaries team processed 28,880 bags of plastic, compressing each bag into a flat disc for easy storage. Each disc was offloaded for proper recycling during underway replenishments or once the ship was in port. Additionally, 8,880 bags of food waste were pulped and composted and 10,520 bags of paper were incinerated until only a fine ash remained. Each disposal process performed on CARL VINSON ensured solid waste was handled correctly, and enabled a safe working environment on the ship while protecting the global marine environment.

Throughout 2015, the Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) Program personnel successfully employed reutilization and inventory management best practices, maintained a robust and highly effective shelf-life program, and implemented cost effective and environmentally conscious policies and procedures. These high standards were maintained during an arduous 10 month deployment in the FIFTH and SEVENTH Fleet Areas of Responsibility and the materials supported multiple Carrier Strike Group assets and Carrier Air Wing squadrons participating in Operation INHERENT RESOLVE.

The HAZMAT Program reduced environmental impact and the ship's overall hazardous waste footprint by aggressively tracking 51,942 HAZMAT containers in order to maximize reuse, meticulously managing Type I materials approaching shelf-life expiration, and extending the shelf-life of Type II materials where applicable. As a result of these efforts, the ship realized a cost savings of more than \$1,016,000. This commitment to excellence was recognized during the SOHME, where the HAZMAT program contributed to an overall grade of 97.37 percent.

Environmental awareness is rigorously stressed during all CARL VINSON operations to minimize impacts to the ocean and support Navy mitigation measures. The Protective Measures Assessment Protocol (PMAP) Program was employed to evaluate the location of our anchorages to ensure all protective measures were in place to ensure safe, effective training at sea. PMAP was also utilized prior to gunnery, missile and bombing exercises in conjunction with trained lookouts and avoidance of certain critical areas to help minimize potential impacts to marine species and the marine environment.

SUMMARY

Whether at sea conducting combat operations or in-port during a maintenance period, CARL VINSON maintains a high standard ensuring all activities are completed to minimize environmental impacts while maximizing recycling and conservation. The crew promotes environmental efforts on-board CARL VINSON as well as community projects to support the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste. With energetic leadership and motivated Sailors at all levels, CARL VINSON upheld and improved on its tradition of environmental excellence during FY 2015. CARL VINSON has definitely earned the CNO Environmental Quality - Large Deck Combatant Award!

Narrative Summary

USS CARL VINSON's (CVN 70) exceptional environmental record in fiscal year 2015 is the result of a genuine culture of stewardship that permeates through all operations, whether at-sea or ashore. With top-down leadership and enthusiastic all-hands participation, CARL VINSON has set the fleet standard for responsible environmental practices. CARL VINSON upheld and improved on its tradition of environmental excellence during FY 2015 and is deserving of the CNO Environmental Quality - Large Deck Combatant Award!

- CARL VINSON developed a “Best Practice” by working with contractors and regulatory agencies to minimize emissions from heavy equipment onboard for a Planned Incremental Availability (PIA) maintenance period and ensured compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.
- The Hazardous Material program on CARL VINSON successfully employed reutilization and inventory management best practices, maintained a robust and highly effectively shelf-life program, and implemented cost effective and environmentally-conscious policies and procedures that were recognized as outstanding by the Naval Safety Center and Commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet.
- The Auxiliaries Division Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (AC/R) work center is leading the way in air pollution control on CARL VINSON. The AC/R work center identified and replaced 22 valves on refrigeration systems last year, resulting in a 17 percent reduction in refrigerant release to the atmosphere.
- The Solid Waste Processing work center is an operational centerpiece to ensure each specific waste type is properly handled and disposed correctly. During the 2014/2015 Western Pacific deployment, the Auxiliaries team processed 28,880 bags of plastic, 8,880 bags of food waste and 10,520 bags of paper ensuring solid waste was handled correctly to protect the global marine environment.
- CARL VINSON's Oily Water Separator (OWS) processed more than 1 million gallons of OW during the 2015 WESTPAC Deployment, reducing the concentration of oil discharged to 2-3 parts per million (PPM), significantly below the 15 PPM limit for overboard discharges.

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1. DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

a. TYPE .pdf file	b. TITLE CVN 70 CNO 2015 Environmental Quality-Large Deck Combatant Award
c. PAGE COUNT	d. SUBJECT AREA CVN 70 Safety Programs

2. AUTHOR/SPEAKER

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3. PRESENTATION/PUBLICATION DATA (Date, Place, Event)

Summary of safety and environmental programs and data from 2015 onboard USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70).

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6. REMARKS

Attached file is the CVN-70 submission for the 2015 CNO Environmental Quality - Large Deck Combatant Award.

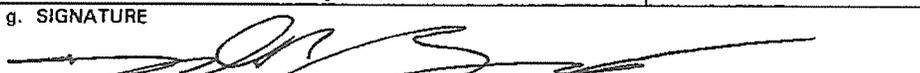
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b. CLEARANCE IS REQUESTED BY 20151201 (YYYYMMDD).

c. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) BENNETT, DAVID A	d. TITLE Public Affairs Officer
e. OFFICE Public Affairs Office, Media Department	f. AGENCY USN / CVN 70

g. SIGNATURE 	h. DATE SIGNED (YYYYMMDD) 20151201
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