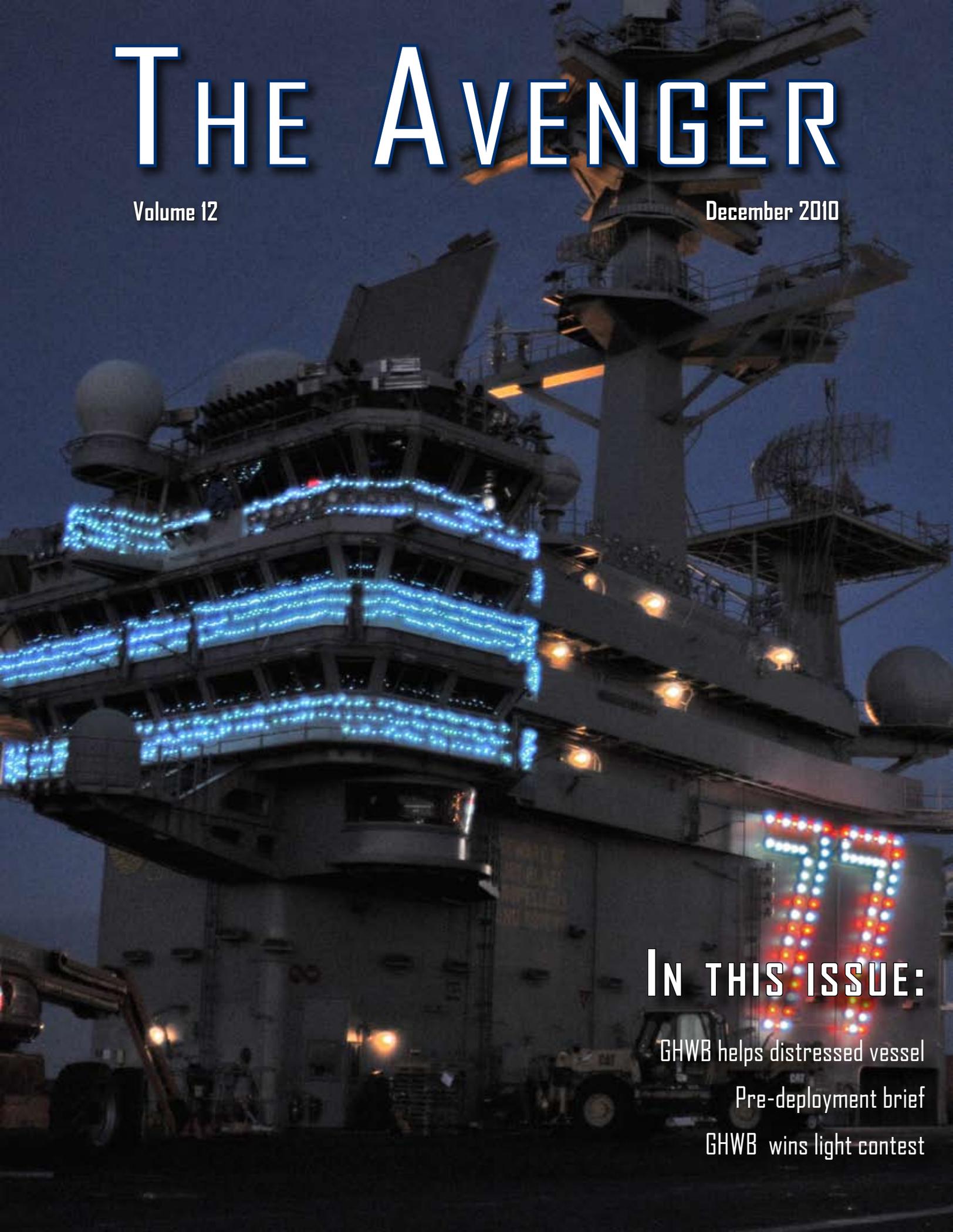


# THE AVENGER

A night photograph of the USS Avenger (LST-1199) with its superstructure illuminated by blue and red lights. The ship's complex structure, including radar masts and various antennas, is visible against a dark sky. The main superstructure is wrapped in blue lights, while a large 'T' shape on the lower right is lit with red and white lights. The ship's hull number '1199' is visible on the side.

Volume 12

December 2010

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Christmas lights shine at night to decorate the flight deck of USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77), Dec. 19. GEORGE H.W. BUSH was decorated by it's many Sailors in remembrance of the holiday season. (Photo by MC3 Kevin J. Steinberg)

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## From the Command Master Chief



Hello, friends and families! Happy Holidays! We are well on our way to completing a successful and safe holiday season, which was boosted with an outstanding two weeks out to sea. On our last night out we frocked more than 175 Sailors, Command Advanced 20 Sailors and announced four stellar individuals for Sailor of the Year.

Keep up the fantastic work!

During our last at-sea period, we demonstrated our ability to respond to other vessels in distress. We successfully helped a stranded sailboat crew re-fuel their boat so they could safely return to shore. We also played a major role in saving a Sailor's life as we turned our great ship around, just as we were pulling into port, to go provide a medical facility for a fellow Sailor to receive treatment, as well as expedite his transfer to the nearest major medical facility. Words cannot express the amount of pride that evolution brought to me, as well as Capt. Miller and many others. It was an outstanding dis-

play of teamwork, sacrificing the plans of many to help one. On another congratulatory note, we demonstrated our great teamwork once again as we came together to decorate the ship with 6.2 miles of lights, during the Holiday lights contest, and brought home the win! Congratulations and a special note of thanks to our JEA, FCPOA and Duty Section personnel for their efforts! Don't forget about our command Pre-Deployment Brief, which will be held in hangar bay two, Jan. 11-12 from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. All Sailors are required to attend one of the two nights. We will have several guests, from the American Red Cross and school liaison officers, to our FRG and OMBUDSMEN to help set everyone (and especially our families) up for success for our upcoming deployment. Our next underway is our longest yet, as well as one of our last before deployment. We will be working with the entire GEORGE H.W. BUSH Strike Group to incorporate our great teamwork skills on a larger scale. Keep up the hard-charging efforts, as usual, and stay alert. We'll soon have yet ANOTHER successful evolution under our belts! Take care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,  
CMDMCM (AW/SW/FPJ)  
John W. Heck Jr.  
Command Master Chief



Christmas lights shine at night to decorate the flight deck of USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77), Dec. 19. GEORGE H.W. BUSH was decorated by it's many sailors in remembrance of the holiday season. Photo by MC3 Kevin J. Steinberg

Looking for our Web site?

It's changed. Please find us here:

[www.cvn77.navy.mil](http://www.cvn77.navy.mil)



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# USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH delivers aid to vessel in distress

Story by MC3 Brian M. Brooks  
Photos by MC3 (SW) Nicholas Hall



USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) delivered aid to a stranded sailboat in distress approximately 90 miles off the coast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., Dec. 3.

The aircraft carrier, which was conducting carrier qualifications in preparation for a 2011 deployment, was approximately 30 miles away from the sailboat Shangri-La when the distress call was received at 4 a.m.

The stranded boat, homeported in Norfolk, Va., ran out of fuel trying to return to Norfolk in high winds and lost its sail. George H.W. Bush assisted the ship by sending fuel over in one of its rigid hulled inflatable boats.

"We were fortunate to be at the right place at the right time," said Commanding Officer Capt. Chip Miller. "Assisting fellow mariners on the seas is one of the many missions Navy ships are always prepared to execute. Every time we go to sea or conduct an exercise, we train for the unexpected, and today we had the opportunity to do just that."

The four crew members of the 65-foot catamaran sailboat left Norfolk on Monday to sail to the British Virgin Islands, but have since returned home.



Engineman 2nd Class (SW) Robert Wittrig from USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) Engineering Department passes fuel to a vessel that was under distress, Dec. 3.

# The George H.W. Bush Legacy Continues

From USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) and Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet Public Affairs

Layout by MC3 Joshua K. Horton

An MH-60S Knight Hawk assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 26 transported a Sailor from a U.S. Navy submarine operating in the Atlantic Ocean to USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) for medical evaluation Dec. 16.

A Navy neurosurgeon assigned to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, assessed the Sailor to be in stable condition and both have been transported to the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C., for further evaluation and treatment as necessary.

"Mariners at sea take care of each other," said Vice Adm. Daniel P. Holloway, commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet. "There is no better way to show our Sailors and their families the extent the Navy will go in order to take care of their own."

The Bush legacy of a rescue at sea goes back to Sept. 2, 1944, when former President George H.W. Bush, the namesake of the Navy's newest aircraft carrier Bush, piloted one of four Grumman TBM Avenger aircraft from Torpedo Squadron 51 that attacked the Japanese installations on Chichijima.

During the attack, the Avengers encountered intense anti-aircraft fire; Bush's aircraft was hit by flak and his engine caught on fire. Despite his plane being on fire, Bush completed his attack and released bombs over his target, scoring several damaging hits. With his engine afire, Bush flew several miles from the island, where he bailed out of the aircraft. Bush waited for four hours in an inflated raft, while several fighters circled protectively overhead until he was rescued by the lifeguard submarine USS Finback (SS-230).

Sixty-six years later, the Navy's youngest carrier executes from the sea the same commitment to our Sailors as received by then Lt. j.g. Bush, the Navy's youngest fighter pilot.

"The saying that we never leave a shipmate behind was proved today," said Capt. Chip Miller, George H.W. Bush commanding officer. "There was a Sailor out there who needed our help, and we were honored to receive the call. I am very proud of the professionals on board this ship and our families at home who provide constant support."

Bush was scheduled to return to its homeport of Norfolk Dec. 15 when the ship was tasked by Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet to return to sea.

George H.W. Bush with embarked assets from HSC 26, two C-2A Greyhounds from Fleet Logistic Squadron 40 and Mayport, Fla.-based USS Boone (FFG 28) with embarked assets from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 42 made best possible speed to the rendezvous point for the medical evacuation.

The SH-60B Sea Hawk from HSL 42 provided surface surveillance and search and rescue support during the medical evacuation.

This marks the second time the crew of George H.W. Bush was able to lend a helping hand in December 2010. The ship assisted a sailboat stranded 90 miles off the coast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., Dec. 3 by supplying them with fuel on their return to Norfolk.

"Being extended at sea is something we are always prepared for," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (SW/AW) Caleb Haynie, a member of the George H.W. Bush's Medical Department. "If the roles were reversed, I would want the Navy to do anything and everything to save me. And I'm proud to be part of the medical team that helped this Sailor get home safely for Christmas."

# USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77)

## PRE-DEPLOYMENT BRIEF

DATE: JANUARY 11 & 12

TIME: 7 - 9 P.M.

LOCATION: HANGAR BAY 2

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- REGISTRATION AND MINGLE
- WELCOMING REMARKS: CO, OMBUDSMEN
- FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER, NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY, AND AMERICAN RED CROSS
- NAVY LEGAL SERVICES
- MEDICAL AND TRICARE
- UNITED THROUGH READING
- OPERATIONAL SECURITY/SOCIAL NETWORKING
- GMC AND FAMILY READINESS GROUP (FRG)
- CLOSING REMARKS: CO

## CHILDCARE PLAN

FREE CHILDCARE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE NAVAL BASE NORFOLK CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CDC). THE CDC IS LOCATED AT 1790 LEITZE BLVD, NORFOLK, VA 23511, JUST OFF HAMPTON BOULEVARD, BETWEEN NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION AND THE NAVY LODGE. THE PHONE NUMBER TO THE CDC IS (757) 444-3379. SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED, BUT NOT A FULL MEAL.

## AVAILABLE AT THE PRE-DEPLOYMENT BRIEFS ONLY!

THE FIRST 75 PEOPLE AT EACH BRIEF TO SIGN-UP TO MAKE A UNITED THROUGH READING RECORDING DURING OUR UPCOMING UNDERWAY WILL GET A FREE GIFT - A "RECORD A STORY BOOK" ENTITLED "GUESS HOW MUCH I MISS YOU?" GENEROUSLY DONATED TO THE SHIP BY THE UNITED THROUGH READING PROGRAM.

## PRESENTERS

- AMERICAN RED CROSS
- NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY
- GREDO AND CHAPLAIN SUPPORT
- FAMILY READINESS GROUP
- FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER
- FOCUS (FAMILY RESILIENCY)
- HOUSING OFFICE
- LEGAL
- MEDICAL AND TRICARE
- MILITARY ONESOURCE
- OMBUDSMEN
- OPSEC/SOCIAL NETWORKING
- SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER
- SOAR (STUDENT ONLINE ACHIEVEMENT RESOURCES)
- UNITED THROUGH READING

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CONTACT RPC DAVID AGUIRRE  
AT AGUIRREDM@CVN77.NAVY.MIL  
OR J-DIAL: 5584.

# [OPERATION] JINGLE.



## Assisting service members through the holidays

Story and layout by MC3 Sandi Grimnes

For some Sailors, the holiday season can be a financially stressful time, but a variety of programs are available to help, including Operation Jingle and Operation Homefront.

The Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society has teamed up with the Hotel/Motel Association to assist single Sailors and geo-bachelors, who live either on board USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77), in barracks, or in Public/Private Venture (PPV) housing.

For \$10 a night Sailors can reserve a motel room for family members visiting the Hampton Roads area for Dec. 23-25 in either Norfolk or Virginia Beach, said Chief Religious Programs Specialist (SW/AW/FMF) David Aguirre, GEORGE H.W. BUSH Command Religious Ministry Department's Leading Chief Petty Officer. Reservations must be made by Dec. 14 to take advantage of this offer.

"Most of the Sailors who have come in here have been really excited about being able to spend time with their families," Aguirre said. "Families are important, we need that support. This is a great opportunity to get together if you can't make it home."

For the past 18 years Operation Jingle has been offering reduced-rate rooms for Sailors during the holidays. On average 140 Sailors take advantage of this program each year, said Aguirre. This year,

Operation Jingle had 153 rooms available for Sailors in the Hampton Roads area, and approximately 80 are still available.

"The Operation Jingle program is the best thing the administration on the ship has done for me since I got here," said Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Benjamin Schomburg, a Sailor assigned to Reactor Department's Reactor Electrical Division. "Without that deal, my mother and father may not have been able to come up to visit, and I would go another five months without seeing my family. I'm thrilled that I get to see my father and possibly my mother for Christmas, otherwise I'd be spending the time alone on the ship."

Operation Homefront is another organization that provides emergency financial and other assistance to the families of service members and wounded warriors.

During the holidays, Operation Homefront teams up with Dollar Tree, Inc., to provide toys for children of service members, said Ensign Glen Latona, a U.S. Navy Reserve officer assigned to Navy Public Affairs Support Element West who serves as Vice Chair, for the Operation Homefront National Board of Directors. In 2009, approximately six million toys were dispersed to military families of all services across the globe and they hope to increase the amount of toys dispersed in 2010.

In addition to the toy drive, Operation

Homefront provides year-round support to service members with food assistance, auto repairs, moving assistance, financial assistance and more, Latona said. This year, more than 25,000 backpacks were distributed to school-age children of service members at the beginning of the school year.

They also offer a military child scholarship of \$5,000 to each branch service. Nominations are being accepted now on their Web site. Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, is scheduled to attend the ceremony announcing the winners in Washington April 2011.

Operation Homefront is a non-government organization that works very closely with all branches of the military to assist service members, Latona said. But it is an anonymous program that does not report the service member's request for assistance back to the command. If someone is interested in receiving assistance or would like to register or nominate for the Military Child of the Year Award, they should visit [www.operationhomefront.net](http://www.operationhomefront.net).

The non-profit organization was formed in February 2002 to support the families of deployed service members immediately following 9/11. They have provided more than \$92 million dollars in assistance to and met more than 250,000 needs of military families since they began. †

# CVN 77's all lit up

Story and layout by MC3 Sandi Grimnes

USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) took first place in a holiday light display competition with other ships stationed aboard Naval Station (NS) Norfolk, Dec. 17.

GEORGE H.W. BUSH's First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) and the Junior Enlisted Association (JEA) from USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) coordinated with the crew to decorate the outside of the ship with 6.2 miles of holiday lights.

Hospital Corpsman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Caleb Haynie, GEORGE H.W. BUSH JEA President, said planning for the light display began in November.

"This was a whole command effort," Haynie said. "Every department has been absolutely involved in this, from electricians who ensure electrical safety, Supply [Department personnel] who coordinated the ordering and receiving all the decorations, to Navigation and Air [Departments] who are helping hang the lights. There is no one department that is not involved in some way."

The decorating began while GEORGE H.W. BUSH was underway and included the con-

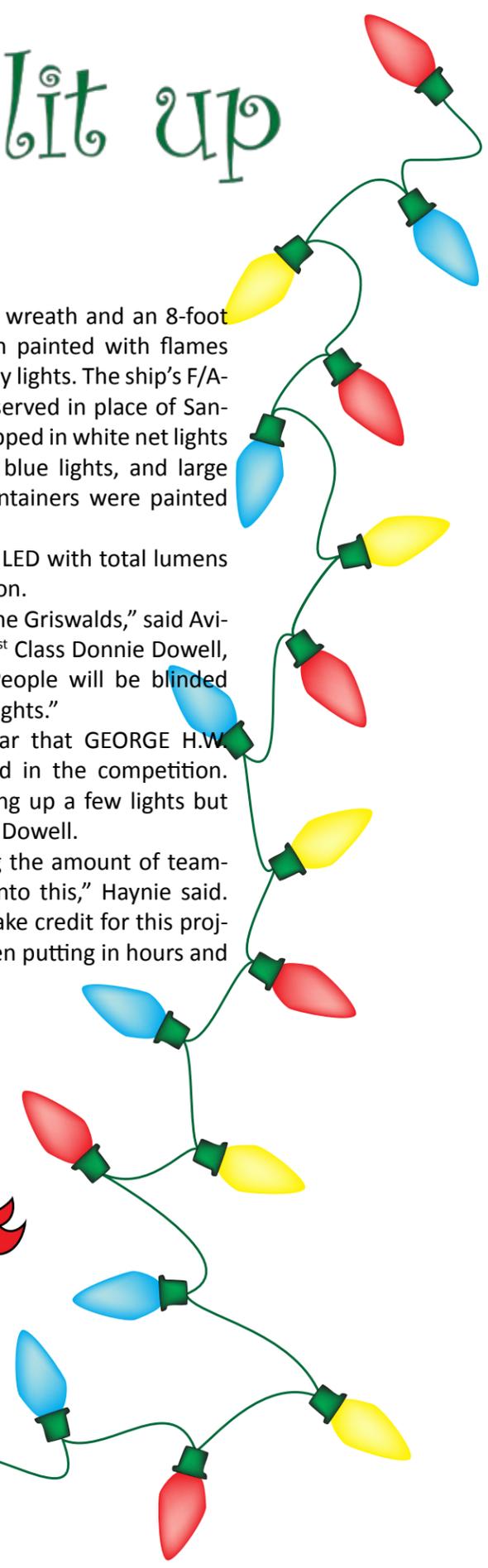
struction of a 25-foot wreath and an 8-foot by 6-foot Santa sleigh painted with flames and strung with holiday lights. The ship's F/A-18 trainer jet, which served in place of Santa's reindeer, was wrapped in white net lights and then outlined in blue lights, and large cardboard storage containers were painted to look like presents.

All of the lights are LED with total lumens of more than 4.5 million.

"We are lit up like the Griswalds," said Aviation Ordnanceman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Donnie Dowell, FCPOA President. "People will be blinded with the 6.2 miles of lights."

This is the first year that GEORGE H.W. BUSH has participated in the competition. Last year the ship hung up a few lights but did not compete, said Dowell.

"It's pretty amazing the amount of teamwork that has gone into this," Haynie said. "No one person can take credit for this project. Everyone has been putting in hours and volunteering." †

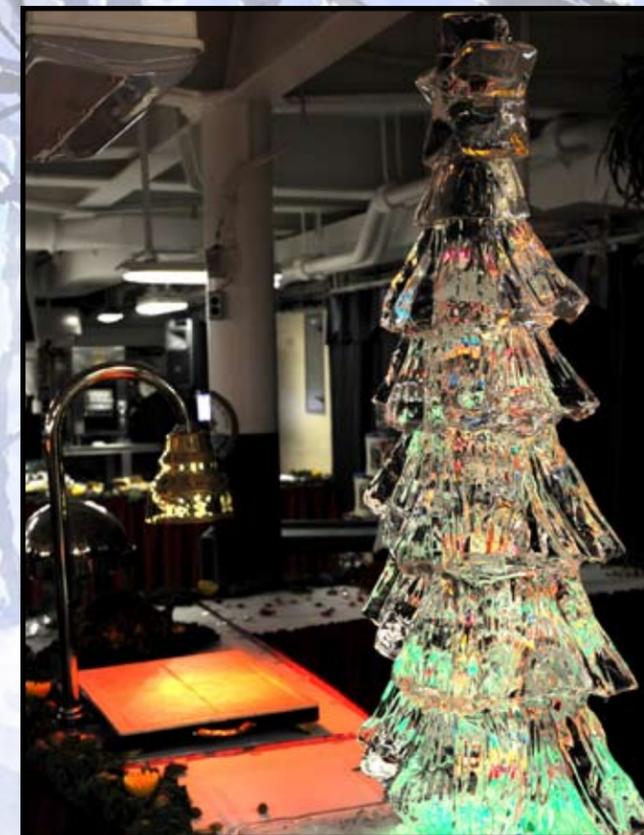


# Christmas aboard USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Photos by MC3 Brent Thacker  
Layout by MCSN Dustin Good



The officers and crew aboard USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) take part in a Christmas dinner on the aft mess deck, Dec. 25. The Sailors were treated to a variety of food and an appearance by Santa Claus.



# Fleet and Family Support Center January 2011 Calendar

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

<p><b>3</b> Art of Money Management Oceana 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Effective Resume Writing Little Creek 9 a.m.-noon</p>	<p><b>5</b> Division Officer Financial Leadership Seminar Yorktown 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Effective Resume Writing-Newport News 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>10</b> CFS Training Little Creek 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>11</b> CFS Training Little Creek 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>12</b> CFS Training Little Creek 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>13</b> CFS Training Little Creek 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>14</b> CFS Training Little Creek 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>
<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b> Couples' Workshop Newport News 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Division Officer Financial Leadership Seminar Oceana 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Career Planning Norfolk 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Home Ownership Little Creek 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>24</b> CFS Training Newport News 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>25</b> CFS Training Newport News 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Car Buying Strategies Norfolk 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>27</b> Consumer Awareness Little Creek 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>28</b> CFS Training Newport News 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>
<p><b>31</b> Division Officer Financial Leadership Seminar Norfolk 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>				

To Register, contact: FFSC Oceana: 443-2923, FFSC Norfolk: 444-2102, FFSC Yorktown: 887-4606, FFSC Northwest: 421-8770, FFSC Little Creek: 462-7563, FFSC Newport News: 688-6289 or register online at [www.cnic.navy.mil](http://www.cnic.navy.mil)