CARRIER STRIKE GROUPS

A carrier strike group (CSG) can be tasked to accomplish a variety of wartime missions, as well as missions other than war. During peacetime operations, a CSG typically conducts forward-presence operations to help shape the strategic environment, deter conflict, and build interoperability with allies. The U.S. Navy deploys a regular rotation of CSGs at an interval of six to eight months. The ships in the CSG are often disaggregated (spread out) from the carrier, performing missions hundreds or even thousands of miles away from the other ships. CSG missions include:

1. Power projection ashore against a wide range of strategic, operational, and tactical targets. A CSG has the ability to conduct long range aircraft strikes while land attack cruise missiles degrade and destroy enemy capabilities.

2. Freedom of the seas in international waters is achieved by gaining and maintaining sea control through the presence of and deterrence provided U.S. Navy vessels.

3. Provide long range and area defense for amphibious ready groups prior to and during operations.

4. The humanitarian assistance/disaster relief mission provides immediate and temporary assistance to countries and communities impacted by natural disasters.

5. Build and maintain a coherent and comprehensive common operational picture for government and military decision makers worldwide.

6. Build relationships and increase interoperability between nations by conducting multinational exercises and engagements with global allies and partners.

7. Provide a rapidly deployable combat force, capable of projecting air power at sea and ashore in order to meet specified military objectives.

Carrier Strike Group 11 is based at Naval Station Everett in Washington.  
USS Howard (DDG 83)
The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Howard (DDG 83) namesake is Medal of Honor recipient Marine Corps First Sergeant Jimmie E. Howard for his platoon leadership during the Vietnam War. The 33rd ship in its class, Howard was built by Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine, and construction began Dec. 8, 1998. Howard was launched and christened Nov. 20, 1999. The ship was commissioned Oct. 20, 2001 at Naval Station Galveston, Texas. Every time Howard gets underway from its homeport in San Diego, the ship passes the gravesite of Gunnery Sgt. Howard at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery.
• http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/ddg83/Pages/default.aspx

USS Shoup (DDG 86)
The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Shoup (DDG 86) namesake is Medal of Honor recipient Marine Corps Gen. David M. Shoup, the 22nd commandant of the Marine Corps. The 36th ship of its class, Shoup was built at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The keel was laid Dec. 13, 1999 and the ship launched Nov. 22, 2000. Shoup sailed into the Gulf of Mexico for the first of her sea trials Dec. 11, 2001. Shoup was commissioned June 22, 2002 at Port Terminal 37 in Seattle. The ship is homeported in Everett, Washington.
• http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/ddg86/Pages/default.aspx

USS Pinckney (DDG 91)
The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Pinckney (DDG 91) namesake is Cook First Class William Pinckney, who received the Navy Cross for his courageous rescue of a fellow crew member aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise during the Battle of Santa Cruz. The 41st ship in its class, Pinckney was built at Ingalls Shipbuilding. The keel was laid July 16, 2001 and the ship launched June 26, 2002. Pinckney was commissioned May 29, 2004 at Naval Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme, California. The ship is homeported in San Diego.
• http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/ddg91/Pages/default.aspx

USS Kidd (DDG 100)
The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Kidd (DDG 100) is the third ship named after Rear Adm. Isaac C. Kidd, who was aboard USS Arizona during the attack on Pearl Harbor, and was the first American flag officer to die during World War II. The 49th ship in its class, Kidd was built at Ingalls Shipbuilding. The keel was laid April 24, 2004 and the ship launched Jan. 22, 2005. Kidd was commissioned June 9, 2007 in Galveston. The ship is homeported in Everett.
• http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/ddg100/Pages/default.aspx
USS Princeton (CG 59)
The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59) is named for the Revolutionary War victories over the British by George Washington in and around the town of Princeton, New Jersey. The 13th ship in its class, Princeton was built at Ingalls Shipbuilding. The keel was laid Oct. 15, 1986 and the ship launched Oct. 2, 1987. Princeton was commissioned Feb. 11, 1989 at Ingalls Shipbuilding. The ship is homeported in San Diego.
• http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/cg59/

USS Lake Erie (CG 70)
The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) is named after the U.S. Navy’s decisive victory in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. The 24th ship in its class, Lake Erie was built by Bath Iron Works. The keel was laid March 6, 1990 and the ship launched July 15, 1991. Lake Erie was commissioned July 24, 1993, the first ship to be commissioned in Hawaii. The ship is homeported in San Diego.
• USS Lake Erie (CG 70) http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/cg70/
Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 142 “Gray Wolves”
The Gray Wolves of VAQ-142, based at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington, fly the EA-18G Growler, a two-seat all-weather jet aircraft dedicated to the electronic attack warfare role. Using state-of-the-art transmitters and powerful sensors, the Growler’s mission encompasses the suppression of enemy air defenses, and the disruption, degradation, or destruction of enemy communication assets as well as providing tactical jamming support across many electromagnetic spectrums against targets around the world, ashore and at sea.

Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 146 “Blue Diamonds”
The Blue Diamonds of VFA-146, based at Naval Air Station Lemoore, California, fly the F/A-18E Super Hornet. The Super Hornet is a dual role aircraft and has the ability to strike an enemy with conventional air-to-ground ordnance and also provide close-air support without compromising its fighter capabilities.
- www.vfa146.navy.mil/

Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 147 “Argonauts”
The Argonauts of VFA-147, based at Naval Air Station Lemoore, fly the F/A-18E Super Hornet. The Super Hornet is a dual role aircraft and has the ability to strike an enemy with conventional air-to-ground ordnance and also provide close-air support without compromising its fighter capabilities.
- http://www.vfa147.navy.mil/

Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 154 “Black Knights”
The Black Knights of VFA-154, based at Naval Air Station Lemoore, fly the F/A-18F Super Hornet. The Super Hornet is a dual role aircraft and has the ability to strike an enemy with conventional air-to-ground ordnance and also provide close-air support without compromising its fighter capabilities.

Marine Strike Fighter Squadron (VMFA) 323 “Death Rattlers”
The Death Rattlers of VMFA-323, based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, fly the F/A-18C Hornet, the nation’s first strike fighter designed for traditional strike applications without compromising its fighter capabilities. The single-seat F/A-18C night-attack version has the same capability at night as current aircraft have by day using a thermal imaging navigation set and a night vision system.
Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 121 “Bluetails”
The Bluetails of VAW-121, based at Naval Air Station Norfolk, fly the E-2D Hawkeye, an early warning, all-weather aircraft with a distinctive rotating dome. Specialized computers, radar and communication equipment are used to provide command and control to all air wing assets.
• http://www.public.navy.mil/AIRFOR/vaw121/Pages/default.aspx

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 8 “Eightballers”
The Eightballers of HSC-8, based at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, fly the MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter. Providing vertical lift, search and rescue, logistics, anti-surface warfare, special operations forces support and combat search and rescue.
• http://www.public.navy.mil/airfor/hsc8/Pages/default.aspx

Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 75 “Wolf Pack”
The Wolf Pack of HSM-75, based at Naval Air Station North Island, flies the MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter, which employs a modular design referring to the ability to modify weapon systems to match specific mission requirements. This design gives this single platform the agility to provide greater surveillance and flexible capabilities as well as multiple mission requirements.
• http://www.public.navy.mil/AIRFOR/hsm75/Pages/default.aspx

Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 30 “Providers”
The Providers of VRC-30, based at Naval Air Station North Island, fly the C-2A Greyhound, a twin-engine cargo aircraft used for carrier onboard delivery (COD) missions. This workhorse maintains a battle group’s connection with the outside world by delivering passengers, supplies, and mail to and from the ship.
• http://www.cacclw.navy.mil/vrc30/index.htm