



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

December 20, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: SECNAV VECTOR 3

Thanks to the ingenuity and tireless efforts of thousands of Americans over many years, the USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78) aircraft carrier represents a generational leap in our nation's capacity to project power on a global scale. With the successful completion of CVN 78's Post Shakedown Availability and subsequent Independent Steaming Events, finishing our work and delivering this capability to the fleet as quickly and effectively as possible is one of my highest priorities. The American taxpayers have invested significant capital into this ship, and they deserve nothing less.

We are going to make FORD ready with all hands on deck, as one team, relentlessly focused on achieving the following tasks and timelines:

**Exercise the Full Spectrum of Air Wing Operations**

- We will complete Aircraft Compatibility Testing for all aircraft planned for deployment (Q2FY20).
- We will attain Flight Deck Certification for the planned deployment air wing (Q3FY20).

**Achieve Full Ship Functionality**

- To enable access to magazines, we will complete Lower Stage #5 and #1 elevators (Q4FY20).
- We will complete the remaining five AWEs prior to Full Ship Shock Trials (Q3FY21).
- Then we will complete Combat Systems Testing and Certification (Q3FY21).

**Man, Train, and Certify the Crew**

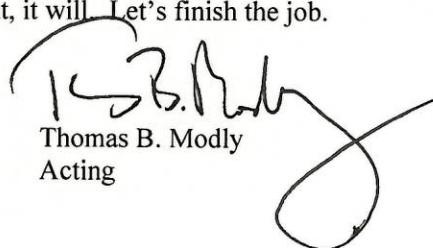
- Our manning levels will support all planned operations for key events and deployment (Q3FY20).
- We will complete training for crew to support certification and deployment (Q1FY22).

**Ensure Material Readiness**

- We will reach and maintain ship visual and material conditions to the highest standards (Q2FY20).
- We will ensure all maintenance documents are delivered (Q2FY21).
- We will deliver the parts needed to enable CVN 78 deployment (Q2FY22).

The Program Executive Office (PEO) Aircraft Carriers, RADM Jim Downey, will be accountable for this Vector as the supported activity. Effective immediately, he will establish a permanent presence in Norfolk to ensure that these efforts proceed expeditiously. Supporting organizations include: PEO Tactical Aircraft, PEO Integrated Warfare Systems, PEO C4I, Naval Reactors, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, and OPNAV N9. Additionally, the U.S. Fleet Forces Commander has assigned RADM Roy Kelley, Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic, as the responsible leader of all fleet-supporting organizations for this Vector.

Our first "Make FORD Ready" summit will occur on January 9, 2020, with every stakeholder in government and industry present. From that point forward, I will receive a monthly status update along with the CNO and ASN (RD&A). My expectation is that we will work with diligence and speed to accelerate each deadline if possible. The FORD is just the first ship of this new class. It must set the standard for those that will follow—and with our diligence and commitment, it will. Let's finish the job.

  
Thomas B. Modly  
Acting

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