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## Building a Giant: *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78)

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- About 5,000 American shipbuilders are participating in the building of aircraft carrier *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78).
- At completion, *Ford* will weigh nearly 100,000 tons—as much as 400 Statues of Liberty.
- 200,000 gallons of Haze Gray paint cover CVN 78—enough to give the White House 350 coats of paint.
- *Ford* has been called a “floating city,” holding 4,660 personnel and 75 aircraft
- The carrier has a 5-acre flight deck
- *Ford* produces 400,000 gallons of fresh water per day
- The ship produces 15,000 meals a day
- *Ford* can reach speeds in excess of 30+ knots



## Powering the Future

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CVN 78 is the first aircraft carrier to make a significant leap to electrical power, replacing many legacy steam-powered systems and preparing the ship for future technologies.

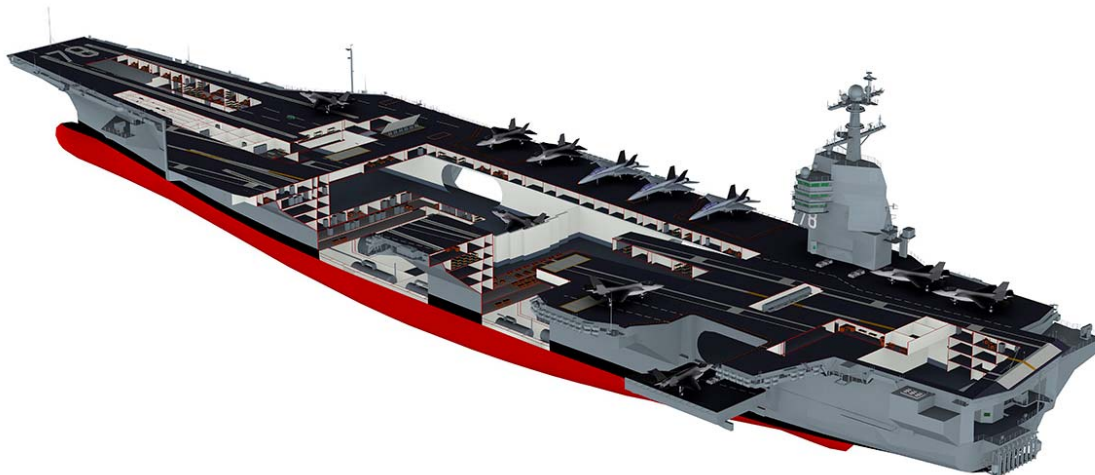
- The new electrical distribution system increases electrical capacity by 250 percent.
- An Electromagnetic aircraft launch system (EMALS), similar to the system that powers many of today's roller coasters, replaces steam catapults, enabling a smoother launch for the airwing of the future.
- Ten million feet of electrical cable is installed on *Ford*, enough cable to span the distance from Washington, DC to Albuquerque, NM.
- Four million feet of fiber optic cable is installed on *Ford*, the length of more than 7,200 Washington Monuments stacked on top of each other.

## Designed for Efficiency

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CVN 78 is the most efficient aircraft carrier ever designed, reducing necessary maintenance by 30 percent.

- The ship's design enables the Navy to operate the ship with less manpower, saving the Navy more than \$4 billion over the ship's 50-year life.
- 9,900 tons of air conditioning reduces maintenance caused by humidity and reduces required manning in hot spaces.
- About 44,000 high-efficiency fluorescent T-8 light bulbs will be used, which produce more light and last nearly twice as long.



## Future Readiness

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- CVN 78 is a flexible platform, ready to meet the operational needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- CVN 78 is capable of generating 25 percent more sorties (flight missions) per day than *Nimitz*-class carriers.
- CVN 78 is designed with flexible infrastructure to quickly adapt interior spaces for new missions.
- The island is smaller and farther aft than the *Nimitz*-class, increasing space for flight deck operations and aircraft maintenance.
- Software-controlled advanced arresting gear increases the ability to recover smaller aircraft with reduced wear.