# Command Ship USS WRIGHT (CC-2)





















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### A Word From The Captain

As commanding officer of USS WRIGHT (CC-2), I welcome you aboard the ship. While aboard WRIGHT, I hope your stay is interesting, informative, and enjoyable.

The WRIGHT is the most modern of the two Command Communications ships now serving the United States. The primary function of WRIGHT is to provide a mobile command post for the National Command Authorities.



Known officially as the National Emergency Command Post Afloat (NECPA), WRIGHT has a sophisticated and extensive communication capability, advanced as as the state of the art can make it, to serve command and control.

Originally constructed as a light aircraft carrier during World War II, WRIGHT was converted and recommissioned later as a command ship in May 1963. Built on a heavy cruiser hull, it was feasible to adapt WRIGHT to meet NECPA requirements because the ship combined the speed, endurance and survivability of a cruiser

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with the space provided by a carrier's hangar and flight decks. The hangar deck has been converted into a modern operational command center, while the former flight deck serves as the 'antenna farm' and helicopter platform.

The WRIGHT is one of a kind and I believe you will find your time on board most interesting. Once again, I wish you a rewarding visit or tour of WRIGHT.

Sincerely, H. E. Thornhill, Jr.

Captain, U.S. Navy

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The ship's plaque and motto, VOX IMPERII, were selected by the officers and crew of WRIGHT to symbolize the ship's mission. The national colors: red, white and blue, on the shield of the United States of America symbolize WRIGHT's pledge to defend our country. The Eagle, grasping a lightning bolt and straddling the globe indicates the worldwide scope of the ship's VOX IMPERRII: VOICE OF COMMAND. The ship's mission is in fact vital to the defense of our country. WRIGHT's communications facilities span the globe to bring far flung forces under a single command. Communications is the voice of command. Without communications YOU CANNOT COMMAND.

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## WRIGHT'S HISTORY

USS Wright has a long and successful history. Her name honors the Wright brothers, who brought our country preeminence in aviation when they made the first sustained powered flight of a heavier-than-air craft in 1903.

This Command Ship is the second vessel to bear the name of the aviation pioneers. The Navy's first aircraft tender was named USS Wright (AZ-1) and was commissioned at the New York Naval Shipyard on December 16, 1921, Orville Wright was still living at the time. Four years later the ship was converted to (AV-1) to accomodate the Navy's first heavier-than-air craft. The conversion was an indication of the growing importance of aviation in Naval strategy.

Wright served continously through the 1930's and the early years of World War II. In 1944 she was redesignated a headquarters ship and her hull number changed to (AG-79). She was later renamed the USS San Clemente so that the name Wright could be assigned to a light aircraft carrier.

Construction of the present Wright was authorized by congress in March 1934, but her keel was not laid until August 21, 1944. The ship was built by the New York Shipbuilding Company of Camden, New Jersey, and launched there on September 1, 1945. Her sponsor was Mrs. Harald S. Miller of Dayton, Ohio, a niece of the Wright brothers.

The ship was commissioned USS Wright (CVL-49) at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on February 9, 1947. During the next eight years and five months Wright saw service in both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets, earning three service ribbons - the Navy Occupation Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal.

On October 17, 1955 Wright arrived at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington for inactivation and preservation. She was decommissioned there on March 15, 1956 and assigned to the Bremerton Group, U.S. Pacific Reserve Fleet. Wright was reclassified an "auxiliary aircraft transport" on May 15, 1959 and her hull number changed to (AVT-7). She remained in the Bremerton Group until March 15, 1962 when she entered the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for conversion to a command ship. The job cost \$25 million and took more than a year to complete.

On May 11, 1963 Rear Admiral William S. Guest, commandant of the 13th Naval District, read the Navy Department orders to recommission Wright. On May 28 the ship got underway under her own power and stood out of the harbor for local operations and sea trials in Puget Sound. Six months later she sailed east to arrive in Norfolk on December 18, 1963.

Wright's operations have included complex high-command exercises as well as the testing and evaluation of new communications systems.

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The first USS Wright (AV-1).



The USS Wright as (CVL-49).

USS Wright (CVL-49) launched at Camden N.J. Sept 1, 1945.



A Navy ship is more than a collection of complex machinery. It is made up of people -- highly skilled and dedicated men, each one doing his part to insure the smooth operation of his ship. The 1200 officers and men who live aboard WRIGHT constitute the population of the floating city. They represent 40 different rates and spe-



cialties which keep the machinery of the city running. But creature comforts and the needs of the individual are not ignored.

WRIGHT generates enough electricity for a city of 10,000 people. The ship's internal dial telephone system contains more than 500 phones and several ship-to-shore lines are available. Every day the ship's commissarymen prepare and serve more than 3000 pounds of the best food in the Navy.

This city has its own barber shops, library, tailor shop, walk-in store, soda fountain and movies. While at sea the ship's entertainment system provides music and keeps the crew informed by broadcasting the news. Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish religious services are held weekly.





















### US NAVY

#### Guardian of our Country

The United States Navy is responsible for maintaining control of the sea and is a ready force on watch at home and overseas, capable of strong action to win in war.

It is upon the maintenance of this control that our country's glorious future depends. The United States Navy exists to make it so.

#### We Serve With Honor

Tradition, valor and victory are the Navy's heritage from the past. To these may be added dedication, discipline and vigilance as the watchwords of the present and future. At home or on distant stations, we serve with pride, confident in the respect of our country, our shipmates, and our families. Our responsibilities sober us; our adversities strengthen us. Service to God and Country is our special privilege. We serve with honor.

The Future of the Navy

The Navy will always employ new weapons, new techniques and greater power to protect and defend the United States on the sea, under the sea, and in the air.

Now and in the future, control of the sea gives the United States her greatest advantage for the maintenance of peace and for victory in war. Mobility, surprise, dispersal and offensive power are the keynotes of the new Navy. The roots of the Navy lie in a strong belief in the future, in continued dedication to our tasks, and in reflection on our heritage from the past.

Never have our opportunities and our responsibilities been greater.