

# REFUELING AND COMPLEX OVERHAUL

# RCOH

## OPTIMIZING CARRIER PERFORMANCE

Halfway through a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier's 50-year service, it undergoes mid-life Refueling and Complex Overhaul (RCOH), which includes refueling of nuclear reactors, overhauling most machinery, and modernizing warfare systems.

RCOH ensures carriers incorporate improved capabilities needed for success in their remaining 25 years of service.

Continued and steady RCOH multi-year funding provides the aircraft-carrier workforce and industrial base stability that generates efficiencies contributing to strong, on-budget program performance.



“A carrier RCOH may be the most challenging engineering and industrial task undertaken anywhere by any organization.”

—RAND National Defense Research Institute Study, 2002

## IMPORTANCE OF ON-TIME MAINTENANCE

Delaying any RCOH negatively impacts fleet readiness and creates inefficiencies in the program, including increased costs and prolonged learning curves. Delays also threaten an already fragile supplier base. Conducting RCOHs on schedule are necessary to return modernized carriers to active service for another 25 years of operational demands.

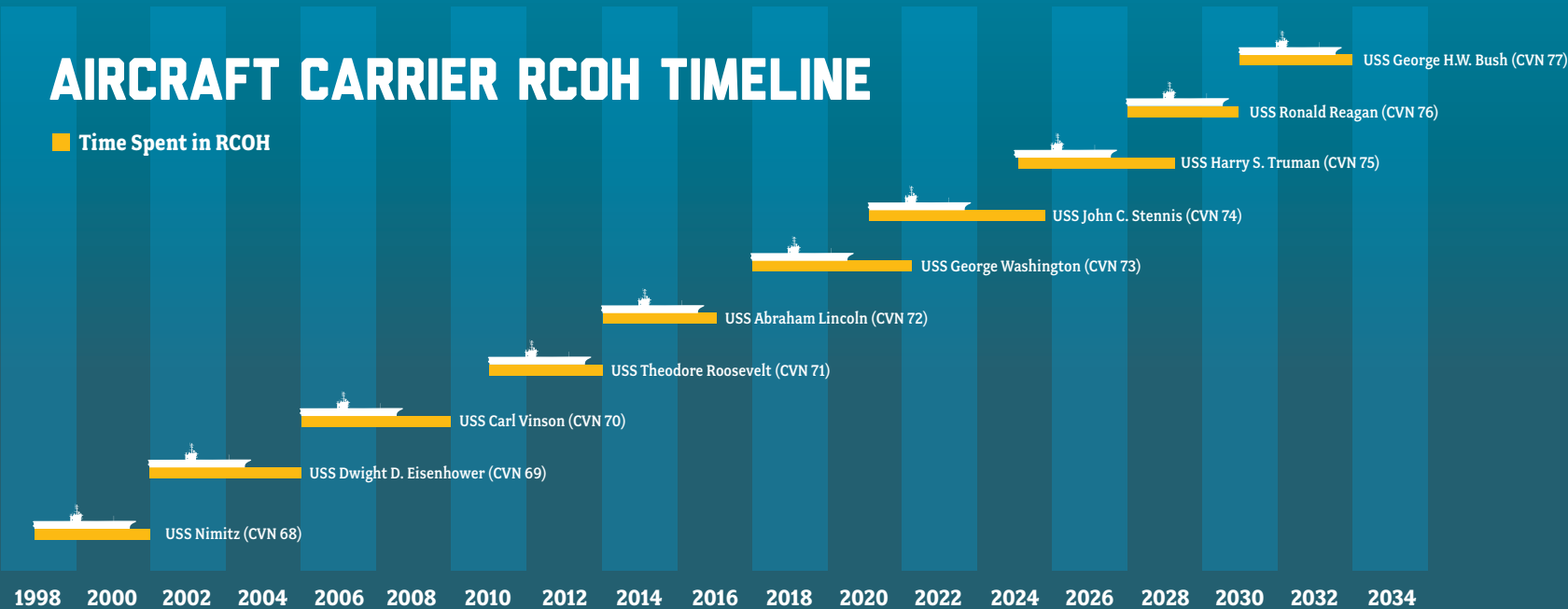
Modern aircraft carriers are in high demand for national defense missions around the world. They allow our nation to position forces for combat operations without the permission or approval of other nations.

Refueling and Complex Overhaul (RCOH) increases the value and recapitalizes the carrier for another 25 years of service, continuing the most modern and technologically advanced *Nimitz*-class carriers in the U.S. fleet, a vital part of our national defense.

Current law prohibits the retirement of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers before the ship's first RCOH.

## AIRCRAFT CARRIER RCOH TIMELINE

■ Time Spent in RCOH



## AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

HAVE A

# 50 YEAR

SERVICE LIFE.

RCOH means availability for an another

# 25 YEARS

TO DEFEND AGAINST NEAR-PEER THREATS AND EVOLVE TO MEET U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY NEEDS.

# 36 STATES

PROVIDE MATERIALS FOR RCOH