

New Flagship of CSG 2

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SAN DIEGO, CA – In a changing of the flag ceremony in San Diego yesterday, sailors and their families bid a fond farewell to one of the newest members of the Pacific Fleet, the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The Eisenhower moved its home port from Norfolk, VA to San Diego last year to join the Pacific Fleet, while the USS Carl Vinson completes a four-year refit and refueling cycle.

Carrier Strike Group Two, led by the Eisenhower, saw its flag moved to the new Gerald R. Ford-class vessel, USS Enterprise, which just returned from operational trials in May and was commissioned last month.

Enterprise is the latest in a prestigious lineage of Navy ships, and the war in the Pacific is expected to afford the new ship plenty of opportunity to earn her own accolades.

According to Navy officials, conflict and rising tensions in the Pacific have forced Navy strategists to rewrite the playbook for naval warfare. In addition to Enterprise,

Carrier Strike Group Two will also be joined by the amphibious assault ship USS Matthew Barton.

"The escalation in the Pacific and the war with China have necessitated a change to standing Navy doctrine regarding fleet composition," Navy spokesman Lt. Scott Ellwood told MariTimes on Wednesday.

"The addition of an amphibious assault ship will allow CSG 2 the ability to conduct both littoral and inland operations, with a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) integral to their fleet," Ellwood said.



Navy strategists have long-held concerns that the Amphibious Ready Group concept may not be suitable for the sort of large-scale conflict currently taking place around the world. While the Navy was not ready to announce any other changes at this time, it seems clear that more changes are soon to follow.