



AT SEA WITH IKE

On 3 October 2006, the *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) Carrier Strike Group departed NS Norfolk, Va., for a regularly scheduled deployment. The CSG—which comprises *Eisenhower* with Carrier Air Wing 7 and DESRON-28 embarked, as well as *Anzio* (CG 68), *Ramage* (DDG 61), *Mason* (DDG 87), and *Newport News* (SSN 750)—entered the 5th Fleet area of responsibility on 30 October.

On 6 November an F/A-18F Super Hornet of the VFA-103 Jolly Rogers launched the carrier's first mission as part of Operation Eagle, for which CVW-7 aircraft perform command and control, surveillance and reconnaissance, aerial tanking, and reconnaissance and precision strike missions in support of International Security Assistance Force troops on the ground in Afghanistan. The following pages provide a photographic overview of *Ike*'s first two months of operations in the 5th Fleet AOR.





Previous pages, a sailor from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit 6 Det 16 observes fellow team members during special purpose insertion extraction training on 3 November 2006. Photo by MC2 Miguel Angel Contreras. This page, the approaching dusk casts an eerie glow on an F/A-18F Super Hornet of the VFA-103 Jolly Rogers, above, and an E-2C Hawkeye of the VAW-125 Tigertails, right. Photos by MC3 Jason Johnston and MC2 Miguel Angel Contreras, respectively.







Above, maintainers with the HS-5 Nightdippers work on a squadron SH-60F Seahawk on 5 December 2006. Photo by MC3 Jason Johnston. Left, catapult officer Lt. Shannon Clark signals a launch on 11 November 2006. Photo by MC2 Miguel Angel Contreras. Facing page, a VAW-125 pilot inspects his E-2C Hawkeye on the flight deck prior to launch on 22 November 2006. Photo by MCSN David Danals.

