

 **Key Objective:** "We Must Secure Our Future By Meeting Schedule And Budget Expectations."

Lower Bow Unit Of *George H.W. Bush* Moved Into Place

Newport News reached a construction milestone by lowering the final keel section of the *George H.W. Bush* (CVN 77) aircraft carrier into place on March 8. The 700-ton lower bow unit was joined to the other keel sections in the dry dock and completes the length of the carrier, which is as long as the Empire State Building is tall.

"It's an awesome sight to see the lower bow unit join up with the rest of the ship," said **Scott Stabler**, vice president, CVN 77 Program. "It really

starts to take the shape of a carrier now, and this important milestone brings us one step closer to our launch goal."

■ A time lapse video of the lower bow lift is available on [Yardnet](#).

Newport News is building *George*

H.W. Bush using modular construction, a process where smaller sections of the ship are welded together to form units called super-lifts. These super-lifts are hoisted and lowered into dry dock with the sector's massive 900-ton crane. The lower bow unit is the 98th of 161 super-lifts used to build the carrier.

Made up of 13 steel sections, the lower bow is one of the heaviest super-lifts and is the last major section of the ship below the waterline to be lowered into place in the dry dock. *George H.W. Bush* is the second carrier to have the new bulbous bow design that provides more buoyancy to the forward end of the ship and improves hull efficiency. Construction began on the lower bow last March.

Look for more information in the March edition of *Yardlines*.



Newport News' 900-ton crane begins lifting the lower bow unit of *George H.W. Bush* (CVN 77) on March 8. Photo by Chris Oxley