

NEWS

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

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For Immediate Release

NORTHROP GRUMMAN NEWPORT NEWS CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL CATAPULT TESTING ON THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER *RONALD REAGAN*

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.-- September 19, 2002 – Northrop Grumman Newport News successfully conducted testing today on the number one catapult of the *Nimitz*-class aircraft carrier *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76). This is the second successful catapult to be tested and is an essential part of the process necessary to deliver *Reagan* to the U.S. Navy.

"Today marks a significant milestone in *Reagan's* construction," said Bob Gunter, senior vice president for the Newport News Aircraft Carrier Program. "The hard work and dedication of the catapult team, comprised of Newport News employees, the crew of the *Reagan* and Naval Air Systems Command, has led to a successful start in the catapult testing process."

Nimitz-class aircraft carriers have four steam-powered catapults which launch aircraft from the flight deck of the carrier. These catapults can thrust a 48,000-pound aircraft 300 feet, from zero to 165 miles per hour in two seconds.

Northrop Grumman Newport News is working closely with the *Ronald Reagan* Pre-Commissioning Unit on this testing, which consists of launching large containers called deadloads off the flight deck of the carrier. These deadloads are equal in weight to the planes that will ultimately be launched from *Reagan's* flight deck. Testing of all four catapults will be completed later this year.

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NORTHROP GRUMMAN NEWPORT NEWS CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL
CATAPULT TESTING ON THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER RONALD REAGAN

Ronald Reagan is the ninth ship of the *Nimitz* class. At 1,092 feet long, the *Reagan* will be home to 6,000 sailors, carry more than 80 aircraft and cruise at speeds in excess of 30 knots. The 90,000-ton carrier will tower 20 stories above the water line with a flight deck covering 4½ acres. When *Reagan* joins the Navy's fleet in 2003, it will be the most modern and sophisticated aircraft carrier in the world.

Northrop Grumman Newport News, headquartered in Newport News, Va., is the nation's sole designer, builder and refueler of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and one of only two companies capable of designing and building nuclear powered submarines. Newport News also provides after-market services for a wide array of naval and commercial vessels, and has the capability to design, build and maintain every class of ship in the U.S. Navy's fleet. The Newport News sector employs about 18,000 people.

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