

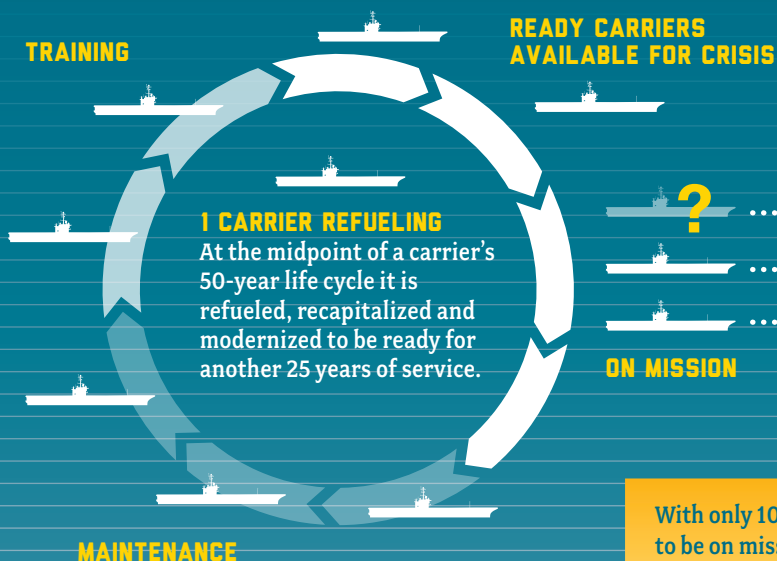
# "...WHEN I LOOK OUT INTO THE FUTURE, WE NEED AT LEAST 11 CARRIERS."

— Adm. Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations  
May 21, 2014

Eleven carriers are the minimum number required to enable 3 of these great ships to be continuously stationed at strategic points across the globe and to rapidly respond to an unexpected crisis. But with the retirement of USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) and until the delivery of *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78), our nation's aircraft carrier fleet is temporarily at 10.

## LIFE CYCLE OF CARRIERS

Maintaining 3 carriers available on station for critical missions around the globe requires 11 carriers in a continuous schedule of deployment, training and maintenance.



With only 10 carriers the number of carriers continuously available to be on mission is reduced to 2. In addition, ships, equipment and crews are severely strained and maintenance costs are increased as deployments and the time crews are away from home are extended and the time between deployments is reduced.

Elements of the 36-month U.S. Navy Optimized Aircraft Carrier Presence Plan used to ensure that carriers and aircraft are properly maintained and crews are ready for their next mission or to respond to crisis:

**8**

Months deployed overseas

**16**

Months of deployable sustained combat readiness

**6**

Months of training

**6**

Months of maintenance