

USS Abraham Lincoln

Tiger Cruise 2008

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Abraham Lincoln boasts all the amenities found in any American city with a comparable population. These include a post office (with its own ZIP code), TV and radio stations, newspaper, fire department, library, hospital, general store, barbershops, and more. The ship has enough electrical generating power to supply electricity to 100,000 homes, food and supplies to operate for 90 days, and the capability of distilling more than 400,000 gallons of fresh water from the sea each day.

Keeping the ship ready at all times is critical. This requires repair shops to maintain machinery and aircraft, heavy duty tailor shops to repair parachutes and other survival gear, and electronic shops to keep communication, navigation, and avionics equipment up and running. Of course, there are a few things that are unusual for a city of 5,000 people. For example, Abraham Lincoln is a floating airport, capable of launching as many as four aircraft every minute. In fact, the ship hosts seven different types of aircraft which perform a variety of missions.

During flight operations, the 4.5 acre flight deck is the scene of intense activity, with crew, aircraft, and other equipment functioning as a well-rehearsed and carefully choreographed team to ensure efficiency and safety. The various functions of the flight deck crew are identified by the colors of the jersey they wear. For example, yellow is for officers and aircraft directors purple for fuel handlers green for catapult and arresting gear crews blue for chock and chain runners and red for crash/salvage teams and ordnance handlers. Four aircraft elevators, each the size of two average city lots, bring aircraft up to the flight deck from the hanger bays below. Aviation fuel is pumped from the tanks below and bombs, rockets, and missiles are brought up from the magazines.

Powerful steam catapults (affectionately known as "Fat Cats" can accelerate a 37-ton jet from zero to 180 miles per hour in less than three seconds while traveling nearly the length of a football field. The weight of each aircraft determines the amount of thrust provided by the catapult. In recovery, pilots use a system of lenses to guide their aircraft "down the slope" (the correct guide path for landing). Four

arresting wires, each consisting of two-inch thick wire cables connected to hydraulic rams below decks, snag the arresting hook, stopping the aircraft from 150 miles per hour to zero in less than 400 feet. High in the island, seven stories above the flight deck, the "Air Boss" and his staff coordinate the entire operation, carefully monitored from the flight deck as well as from the Captain on the Navigation Bridge. When deployed, Abraham Lincoln is the nucleus of a carrier battle group which includes guided missile cruisers, destroyers, frigates, replenishment ships, and submarines.

Keel laid: Nov. 3, 1984

Christening: Feb. 13, 1988

Commissioning: Nov. 11, 1989

Complement with air wing: Nearly 5,500

Length: 1,092 feet Maximum

Speed: In excess of 30 knots

Height, keel to mast: 206 feet, 6 inches

Breadth at flight deck: 257 feet, 5 inches

Flight deck area Approximately: 4.5 acres

Displacement: 97,500 tons

Spaces and compartments Approximately: 3,200

Propulsion: Two nuclear power plants

Main engines: Four Propellers Four, five blades each, 21 feet high, 11 tons apiece Rudders

Two, 29-by-22 feet, 45.5 tons apiece Anchors

Two, 30 tons apiece Anchor chains 1,082 feet, 308,000 pounds

Shipboard telephones: More than 1,900

Aircraft Elevators: Four

Catapults: Four

Evaporators: Four (capable of distilling more than 400,000 gallons of fresh water per day, enough for 200 homes)

Air conditioning capacity: 2,530 tons (enough to serve 800 homes)

Meals prepared daily: More than 20,000

Bread baked daily: 600-800 loaves

Sodas consumed daily: 13,000

Milk consumed daily: 600 gallons

Hamburgers consumed daily: 620 pounds

Eggs consumed daily: 180 dozen

Vegetables consumed daily: 800 pounds

Fruit consumed daily: 900 pounds

Laundry cleaned daily: 5,550 pounds

Haircuts given daily: 250