

BOOK REVIEW

Title: *USS Enterprise CVA(N)/CVN-65:
The World's First Nuclear Powered Aircraft Carrier*

Author: Dr. David McKay

Publisher/Supplier: Willsonscott Publishing, Christchurch, New Zealand

Details: 700 pages and over 700 colored photographs

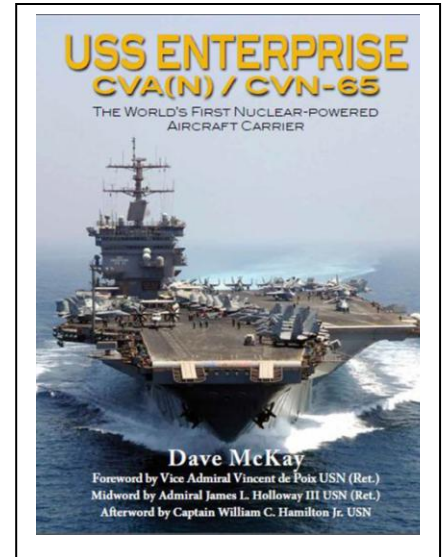
Release date: July 2013

Price- \$125 incl P&P

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Review by Ray H. Godfrey (USS Enterprise CVA9N)/CVN-65)

More than 200,000 sailors have served aboard the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise. They and their families hold a special piece of American history in their hearts. Millions of fans around the world treasure their glimpse of this great warship as it made ports of call for half a century. Those who dared to challenge security of our country and its allies have known, first hand, her defensive fury.

Dr. McKay has written the history book that ties all these fractions into the whole picture, with the passion of a novel and the documentation of a stellar thesis. With a foreword by her first commanding officer (CO), VADM Vince de Poix; the midword by her third CO, ADM James Holloway III; and afterword by her last CO, CAPT William Hamilton, I am privileged to provide my thoughts on this literary masterpiece.

The level of detail in this book makes the reader think that Dr. McKay was on board Enterprise for all of her 51 years and had worked in every division. He has told her story with such skill that the reader needn't be a Navy veteran to understand the events in which she participated and the life and work of her Sailors. Reading this book is almost as if you are right there working alongside each and every Sailor.

An invaluable collection of more than 600 color photos alone, covering a half-century of American and world current events, tell the story of Enterprise. With the 600-plus pages of detailed and documented narrative, this book will be a literary legacy for generations to come, documenting the legend that is and always will be USS Enterprise CVA(N)/CVN-65. This book is a gem for anyone and should be required reading for every bird farm Sailor.

Due to my time-consuming qualification requirements and workload as a Navy nuke and commissioning crew member, I didn't have much time to learn about the other areas of the ship and jobs that other Sailors did. This book has helped me understand the complexity of many of the varied responsibilities and duties of my shipmates.

Dr. McKay's story of his flight to and "trap" on Enterprise puts you in the seat next to him, with factual and emotional details that stimulate your senses. He gives well-deserved credit to the crew for breathing life into Enterprise and maintaining her physical and technical capabilities and her spiritual good health. He goes beyond telling stories by adding facts and details of aircraft on board and their invaluable contributions to ship's operations.

From her inception in Newport News, Virginia, in the late 1950s, to her inactivation in December 2012, this is truly "her" story. It is written by a skilled and thorough storyteller. After reading this book, everyone will know that the hunk of steel named Enterprise and her 50-plus years of crewmembers will always be a major part of not only United States history, but also of world history.

About the Reviewer: Ray H Godfrey, as an Enterprise plank owner on board July 1961-July 1966, was an Engineering Department "Navy nuke" who worked in #2 Auxiliary Machinery Room, and Main Machinery Rooms # 1, 2, & 4 during his five years aboard Enterprise. Godfrey served the USS Enterprise (CVAN/CVN-65) Association from 1986 to 2012 in various leadership positions. He was also a staff member of the Naval Historical Foundation at the Washington Navy Yard for eight years.

Website for USS Enterprise book extracts and additional information

www.willsonscott.biz/uss-enterprise

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www.ussenterprisebook.com



A 1962 photograph of A-4D-2N Skyhawks from VA- 76 fly over *Enterprise* with hooks down in preparation for their approaches and arrested recovery. The *Big E* is steaming into wind at speed, with almost a rooster tail in her wake! (USN photo)