**Nuclear-powered USS Nimitz**

An important stage in the history of the carrier forces was the creation of an aircraft carrier with a nuclear-powered plant. In 1961, the US Navy got the first nuclear aircraft carrier CVN65 Enterprise,participation of which in the Vietnam War to a large extent determined the direction of the further development of this class ships. On June 22, 1968 the first nuclear multipurpose aircraft carrier Nimitz was established, the transfer of it to the fleer was completed on May 3, 1975. In total, the US Nave includes six aircraft carriers of this type.

Aircraft carrier CVN68 Nimitz is the one of the largest waarships in the world. Its unladen load displacement is 72 916 tons and a full is 91 487 tons, its body length is 332,9 m, the width is 40,8, the draugh is 11,3 m.

A nuclear-powered plant consisting of two A4W pressurized water-cooled reactors has a total capacity of about 280 00 h.p. and can develop the highest speed over 30 knots. There are four diesel engines with a capacity of 10 720 h.p. as reserve ones. The cruising range is from 0,8 million to 1 million miles and the fuel is replaced after 13-15 years.

Ship's own armament consists of three multiple Mk 29 Sea Sparrow point defence missile launchers and four 20 mm Mk 15 Vulcan/Phalanx CIWS guns.