

# Are We There Yet?

By G Murphy Donovan

Persian Gulf Shipping News.

Help on the way, or more to the point, underway.

“The USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) is currently in transit as part of Carrier Strike Group 3, heading toward the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area amid heightened tensions in the Middle East. Key recent updates (as of late January 2026). CVA 72 transited the Strait of Malacca westbound around January 19, entering the Indian Ocean. As of January 22, it was reported underway in the Indian Ocean.”



“Official U.S. sources (e.g., via Fox News confirmation on January 24) indicate the strike group has not yet crossed the demarcation line from INDOPACOM to CENTCOM, meaning it’s still in the Indian Ocean and not yet in the Gulf of Oman or closer to Iranian waters.”

“Estimates suggest it remains several days (potentially up to a week) from reaching CENTCOM waters or striking range of key areas like Iran. Some reports point to expected arrival in the

Gulf of Oman or Arabian Sea shortly (possibly by late January or early February), but it's not there yet."

Hat tip to @Grok