

This report documents the methods and findings of RAND research on the adequacy of the defense industrial base to support further construction of aircraft carriers and on the cost, schedule, and technology issues associated with building the next carrier, designated CVN 77. This research was funded by the Naval Sea Systems Command and was coordinated through the office of the Director, Acquisition Program Integration, in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The research was briefed before the Senate Armed Services Committee's Sea Power Subcommittee in April 1997, and the findings were cited in the Committee's version of the FY98 Defense Authorization Bill, whose provisions are consistent with the recommendations made here. The testimony is available as

John Birkler, *Aircraft Carrier Industrial Base*, Santa Monica, Calif.: RAND, CT-142, 1997.

The research documented in this report was carried out within the Acquisition and Technology Policy Center of RAND's National Defense Research Institute, a federally funded research and development center sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the unified commands, and the defense agencies.