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From: Commanding Officer, Air Antisubmarine Squadron TWENTY-SEVEN  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1); submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 series  
(b) Report of ASW Group FOUR 16 April-15 October 1971 EASTLANT/SIXTH  
Fleet Deployment (S/NF)

Encl: (1) Chronology of Events  
(2) Basic Narrative  
(3) Documentary Annexes

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1), (2) and (3) are submitted.

R. P. CRAWFORD

Copy to:  
-Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)  
COMNAVAIRLANT

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
18 JAN-1 FEB 71	ANTISUBMARINE WARFARE EXERCISE IN THE BERMUDA OPERATING AREA	
	OPERATION SQUEEZE PLAY	USS INTREPID (CVS-11)
22 FEB-11 MAR 71	ANTISUBMARINE WARFARE EXERCISES OPERATIONAL READINESS INSPECTION	
	SINKEY	USS INTREPID (CVS-11)
✓ 16 APR-15 OCT 71	<u>NORTH EUROPE, MEDITERRANEAN, AND NORWEGIAN SEA DEPLOYMENT</u>	
	EXERCISE CONSTELLATION	
	OPERATION ITASS	
	EXERCISE <u>ALERT LANCER</u>	
	EXERCISE AGILE WARRIOR	
	EXERCISE ROYAL KNIGHT	USS INTREPID (CVS-11)
	RUSTY RAZOR	
2 JUL 71	CDR R. P. CRAWFORD RELIEVED R. O. WIRT AS COMMANDING OFFICER AIR ANTISUBMARINE SQUADRON TWENTY-SEVEN	USS INTREPID (CVS-11)

GROUP-4

Downgraded at 3 year intervals; declassified after 12 years

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Enclosure (1)

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NARRATIVE

1. (U) Under the command of Commander Roderick P. CRAWFORD, USN, Air Antisubmarine Squadron TWENTY-SEVEN, is a member of Carrier Antisubmarine Warfare Group FIFTY-SIX which falls under the operational control of Anti-submarine Warfare Group FOUR, RADM George P. STEELE, USN.
2. (U) Air Antisubmarine Squadron TWENTY-SEVEN (VS-27), home based at the U. S. Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, Rhode Island, periodically deployed aboard USS INTREPID (CVS-11) from January 1971 to October 1971. The all weather squadron has seven Gruman S-2E Trackers, 107 enlisted men and 27 officers assigned. These figures include 23 designated Naval Aviators, one designated Naval Flight Officer and 18 enlisted men in flight status. In addition, Capt. Brian F. MAC LEAN, Canadian Armed Forces, served with the squadron throughout the year.
3. (U) During calendar year 1971 Air Antisubmarine Squadron TWENTY-SEVEN deployed aboard INTREPID three times for a total of 223 days and accumulated 716 arrested landings. Operational launches normally consisted of three S-2E Tracker aircraft and a standby. VS-27 and her sister squadron's, VS-31 and VS-24, each provided a mission aircraft and rotated the standby requirement.
4. (C) The squadron's first significant event of the year occurred from 18 JAN to 1 FEB while embarked aboard USS INTREPID and consisted of a simulated opposed sortie, ALPHA services, and round-the-clock operations with USS NAUTILUS and USS SKATE.
5. (C) On 22 February 1971 the squadron embarked aboard USS INTREPID for ASW training in the Bermuda OP AREA. Day and night carrier refresher qualifications were attained for squadron pilots and ASW sorties were conducted with USS TULLIBEE. The Operational Readiness Inspection commenced on 27 February with TULLIBEE followed by a SINTEX with the "X-RUBEN JAMES". ASW operations were conducted with USS NARWHAL during the return transit to Quonset Point. Adverse weather delayed INTREPID's scheduled return to Quonset Point until 6 March 1971.
6. (C) Air Antisubmarine Squadron TWENTY-SEVEN embarked aboard INTREPID on 16 April 1971 for a six month operational deployment. While transitting the Atlantic the squadron conducted carrier refresher landings and ASW exercises with USS GREENFISH. The turnover in flight crews prior to the deployment made the ASW training particularly noteworthy. INTREPID remained in Lisbon, Portugal from 28 April until 2 May.
  - a. The Squadron participated in NATO Exercise RUSTY RAZOR from 2 May-10 May 1971 with units from the United Kingdom, Netherlands, France,

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W. Germany, Portugal and Belgium. The ASW forces sanitized designated areas for later transit by the CVA strike force. Squadron flight crews localized opposing submarines and conducted numerous simulated attacks. INTREPID remained in Plymouth, England from 10 May until 13 May.

b. Carrier refresher landings were conducted enroute to the Baltic Sea. Continuous ASW operations commenced in the Baltic Sea and an ASW demonstration was performed for KONTRADMIRAL KLERKEGAARD, Commander Coastal Fleet and visiting Swedish dignitaries. Numerous Soviet submarines were detected, prosecuted and kept under surveillance. After a port visit in Kiel, Germany, ASW operations were continued in the Baltic Sea. INTREPID transited to the Mediterranean Sea and conducted ASW exercises with USS GREENFISH. An intruder submarine contact was detected, prosecuted for 3 hours, photographed and evaluated as a Soviet Victor Class SSN. INTREPID anchored in Naples, Italy from 4 June until 11 June.

c. The squadron conducted carrier qualifications upon departure from Naples and participated in the Bilateral Exercise CONSTELLATION with the Sixth Fleet units and French forces in the Western Mediterranean Sea. Continuous ASW protection was provided throughout the exercise for two CVA's, INTREPID, and the CVH. INTREPID anchored in Cannes, France from 19 June until 24 June.

d. The squadron participated in coordinated ASW/ITASS operations with USS GREENFISH and patrol aircraft from 25 June-29 June. INTREPID anchored in Barcelona, Spain from 30 June until 6 July.

e. On 2 July, Commander Roderick P. CRAWFORD relieved Commander Robert O. WIRT, USN, as Commanding Officer of Air Antisubmarine Squadron TWENTY-SEVEN. Ceremonies were held aboard USS INTREPID while at anchor in Barcelona, Spain.

f. Enroute to Hamburg, Germany, equipment checks and crew training flights were conducted with an aviation safety standown scheduled from 10 to 12 July. INTREPID moored in Hamburg, Germany from 12 July until 19 July and anchored in Copenhagen, Denmark from 21 July until 28 July.

g. The squadron conducted carrier refresher landings and ASW exercises including MK44 exercise torpedo drops against BLUEFISH and SIRAGO enroute to Greenock, Scotland. INTREPID remained at Greenock, Scotland from 2 August until 11 August.

h. The squadron participated in Exercise ALERT LANCER from 11 August-7 September in the Norwegian Sea with BLUEFISH, SIRAGO, and Soviet vessels of opportunity. The American Ambassador to Norway and Norwegian Minister of Defense officials visited the squadron during this period. The unavailability

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of an oiler caused INTREPID to refuel in Roysth, Scotland on 18 August. During the exercise, squadron flight crews exploring new tactics and equipment gained numerous contacts with Soviet "N" Class and diesel submarines. INTREPID moored at Portsmouth, England from 7 September until 11 September.

1. The squadron participated in the bilateral ASW exercise "AGILE WARRIOR" with Norwegian destroyers, submarines, and USS SIRAGO. INTREPID remained in port Bergen, Norway 22 September-25 September.

j. INTREPID returned to the Norwegian Sea to participate in the NATO Exercise ROYAL KNIGHT from 27 September-4 October. ROYAL KNIGHT was an advanced strike fleet exercise involving three aircraft carriers, six submarines, numerous surface ships and a variety of shore based aircraft. ASW forces sanitized areas to be transited by the USS INDEPENDENCE strike force. Squadron aircraft gained several submarine contacts by Jezebel, radar and visual sightings and conducted numerous exercise attacks on ORANGE SAG units. INTREPID anchored in the Firth of Clyde on 5 and 6 October. No significant flight operations were conducted during the transit to CONUS which began 7 October. The squadron arrived at Quonset Point on 16 October 1971.

7. While ashore, October to December, the squadron utilized local flight operation FAETU weapons system trainers, rooftop, training lectures and films to fulfill its requirements for training pilots and aircrew.

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26 MAY 1971

As we complete this most interesting and challenging phase of our deployment, it gives me great pleasure to reflect on the outstanding performance of all hands in Task Group 100.1.

The proud, successful conclusion of this operation came only through thorough, total attention to detail and a clear understanding of the intent and character of our presence in the Baltic Sea. We have once more declared the peaceful right of free access by all nations to international waters with no requirement for specific justification or authority.

For the fine impression established at sea and ashore with friends and family, my sincere thanks. Well done. Rear Admiral George B. Steele,

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
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