

USS Randolph (CVS-15)  
1966

DECLASSIFIED

CARRIER DIVISION 20  
(TASK GROUP 20.5 AND ASW GROUP 4)

SERIAL 0108

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LANTFLEX 66

REPORT OF PARTICIPATION IN FLEET  
TACTICAL TRAINING OFF NEW ENGLAND  
BY FORCE BUILT AROUND USS RANDOLPH.

DECLASSIFIED

UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET  
NAVAL AIR FORCE  
COMMANDER CARRIER DIVISION TWENTY  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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Ser 0135

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From: Commander Carrier Division TWENTY/CTG 20.5  
To: Commander Cruiser Destroyer Flotilla TWO/CAF 20

Subj: LANTFLEX 66 Post Exercise Report; forwarding of

- Encl: (1) CO, USS RANDOLPH ltr ser 0131 of 16 Dec 66 with FIRST ENDORSEMENT  
(2) COMDESRON TWELVE ltr ser 0139 of 21 Dec 66 with enclosure and FIRST ENDORSEMENT.  
(3) Unit Narrative  
(4) ASWEPS F/O 216 Data  
(5) Additional Comments and Recommendations on Communications

1. The objectives of LANTFLEX 66 applicable to an ASW Group providing ASW support to an Amphibious Task Force, were accomplished. LANTFLEX 66 provided training in many facets of Antisubmarine Warfare and upon completion had enhanced the readiness of ASW Group Four. Canadian - U. S. operational cooperation was enhanced with the integration of CANCELORION FIVE into the ASW Group for a part of the exercise.

2. In addition to the comments and recommendations of enclosures (1) and (2) the following are submitted:

a. Tactical Command Relationship

Comment. Commander Task Group 20.5 by direction of Commander SECOND Fleet supported Task Force 29 under the command relationship Situation CHARLIE. CTG 20.5 elected to operate as a non-integrated tactical unit of TF 29 (Situation BRAVO). The CVS and two DD's were operated generally in the swept waters astern of the Amphibious Task Force utilizing high speed and evasive courses for ASW protection. The remaining destroyers of TG 20.5 were stationed as advanced SAU's 10 to 12 miles in the van of TF 29. Helos augmented both TG 20.6 (the amphibious force screen) and the advance SAU's. The freedom of movement, thus afforded the carrier, greatly enhanced operational flexibility. Flight operations were conducted as dictated by wind conditions, variable flight schedules, replacement of aircraft with inoperative equipment, emergency landings, and COD arrivals. Fueling of destroyers upon short notice and on the best course was easily accomplished.

There are advantages which accrue in the field of electronic radiation control (REPAD) when operating as a non-integrated entity and separate tactical group. The OTC may need to utilize a greater degree of electronic radiation while operating aircraft than that which the supported Task Force Commander is willing to allow for the force being supported. Under these circumstances being separated provides less electronic intercept and position fixing opportunities to the opposition.

Enclosure (3) to CCD 20 ltr  
ser 0135

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j. Coordination of HUK Operations

Comment: CTG 20.5 was assigned the task of coordinating the ASW effort of the two ASW Task Groups to prevent mutual interference. During the 30th of November, 1st of December and a portion of the 2nd of December the ASW forces operated closely enough to test procedures in CTG 20.5 operation order for coordination.

During this period of time there were no known interferences among forces conducting ASW and the concept of dividing areas of responsibilities appears valid.

Recommendation: Conduct exercises with and make plans for the utilization of two ASW Groups in mutual support with emphasis on the continued elimination of mutual interference.

k. Nuclear Weapons Employment

Comment: The use of Nuclear weapons was not exercised during LANTFLEX 66. At no time did the tempo of operations nor the intelligence released appear sufficient to meet the exercise criteria established. Training in the current tactics is required of all units if we are to have a valid capability in the delivery of this potent weapon.

Recommendation: Major exercises such as LANTFLEX 66 should incorporate the use of such weapons. The training of units would be enhanced by exposing the tactical and the command control problems.

1. Exercise Phasing

Comment: Exercise phasing, on occasion, was conducive to mutual interference between readiness training commitments and the requirement to maintain a concurrent ASW defense posture.

It was possible to design a flexible ASW defense during operations in the AOA because the location of the service areas were removed from the areas of ASW action. During this period mutual interference was minimized because of the firm service schedule and the well publicized area locations. The effectiveness of JEZEBEL was degraded, however, by noise generated by transiting friendly surface and out of action sub-surface units and by ASW exercises in progress.

During the transits south and north, however, mutual interference was more prevalent. The dimensions of the areas requested for firing effectively removed possibility of any reasonable air ASW protection