

CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE
NAVAL AIR STATION
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23511

1971

B

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VAW-121/SS/bjc
5750
Ser: C-4

7 APR 1972



Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1)

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE

To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command Histories (OPNAV Report 5750-1) (U)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) CARAEWRON 121 (VAW-121) Squadron History 1971 (C)

1. (U) In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

W. T. Miesse
W. T. MIESSE

Copy to:
Director of Naval History
COMCAEWW-TWELVE

GROUP - 4
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CARAEWRON 121

(VAW-121)

SQUADRON HISTORY

1971

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COMMAND ORGANIZATION

CHRONOLOGY OF CARAEWRON 121 COMMANDING OFFICER'S

Captain Joseph A. PARISEAU, USN, 124265/1310 - 1 April to 9 June 1967
Captain Sheldon L. CORNER, USN, 407279/1310 - 9 June to 1 July 1967
Commander Raymond A. PETTIGREW, USN, 540343/1310 - 1 July 1967 to 10 July 1968
Commander Stuart V. REYNOLDS, USN, 520034/1310 - 10 July 1969 to 16 May 1969
Commander Charles F. ALEXANDER, USN, 581325/1310 - 16 May 1969 to 9 June 1970
Commander Thomas G. EVANS, USN, 565582/1310 - 9 June 1970 to 20 May 1971
Commander Walter T. MIESSE, USN, ██████████ - 20 May 1971 to Present

MISSION OF COMMAND

To provide Airborne Early Warning to Fleet Units involving Intercept Control, Strike Control, Radar and Radio Relay, Search and Rescue, and Radar and Visual Reconnaissance as directed by higher authority.

COMPOSITION OF COMMAND

CARAEWRON 121 is organized according to a Detachment Concept. That is, each detachment functions as a squadron within a squadron. Each detachment has its own departments and divisions as does the squadron.

The Officer in Charge of each detachment is selected by the Commanding Officer. Ashore, the Officer in Charge functions as a Department Head, responsible to the Commanding Officer, CARAEWRON 121. At sea, he is responsible to the Air Wing Commander for operational purposes as well as the Commanding Officer CARAEWRON 121 for Administrative purposes.

The detachment takes its designation from the Hull Number of the ship aboard which it deploys.

COMPOSITION OF DETACHMENTS

As of December 1971, we have three (3) detachments which deploy with the following personnel and aircraft:

Three (3) aircraft detachment, 5 pilots, 4 co-pilots, 6 Naval Flight Officers, 1 ground officer, 5 enlisted aircrewmen and a total of 45 enlisted personnel for a total complement of 61.

Five (5) aircraft detachment, 7 pilots, 7 co-pilots, 8 Naval Flight Officers, 1 ground officer, 8 enlisted aircrewmen and a total of 77 enlisted personnel for a total complement of 100.

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PERSONNEL ASSIGNED

73 Officers - 209 Enlisted

The E-1B "TRACER"

CARAEWRON 121 flies the E-1B Tracer from the decks of Atlantic Fleet Carriers. The aircraft is a twin-engine, high wing aircraft built by the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation. Its primary mission is to provide airborne radar coverage to an assigned area or force at sea. It is equipped for all weather flight and is operated by a crew of four (4), pilot, co-pilot, naval flight officer and enlisted aircrewman. The aircraft features a top-mounted radome that houses a 17 1/2 foot by 4 foot rotating antenna, which provides a search range of approximately two hundred (200) miles.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS 1971

Total Hours Flown-----	2,869
Total Carrier Landings-----	1,214
Total Sorties-----	930

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CARAEWRON 121 1971 CHRONOLOGY

- 11 JAN Detachment EIGHTEEN boards USS WASP (CVS-18) for deployment to the Mediterranean.
- 12 JAN Detachment ELEVEN boards USS INTREPID (CVS-11) for coastal operations.
- 17 JAN Detachment FORTY-TWO boards USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) for participation in Operational Readiness Inspection prior to deploying to the Mediterranean.
- 26-30 JAN USS INTREPID (CVS-11) participates in Exercise SQUEEZEPLAY.
- 1 FEB Detachment ELEVEN returns to Naval Air Station, Norfolk from operations aboard USS INTREPID (CVS-11).
- 1-7 FEB USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) participates in LANTFLEX/RIMEX Exercises.
- 11-15 FEB USS WASP (CVS-18) participates in OPERATION NATIONAL WEEK.
- 22 FEB Detachment ELEVEN loads aboard USS INTREPID (CVS-11) for coastal operations.
- 25-27 FEB USS INTREPID (CVS-11) participates in Exercise RODNEYEX, EXTENDEX and EXTORP DROPS.
- 27-28 FEB USS INTREPID (CVS-11) participates in Operational Readiness Inspection.
- 1-3 MAR Detachment EIGHTEEN returns to Naval Air Station, Norfolk from Mediterranean deployment aboard USS WASP (CVS-18).
- 9 MAR Detachment ELEVEN returns to Naval Air Station, Norfolk from operations aboard USS INTREPID (CVS-11).
- 24 MAR USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) participates in PASSEX with HMS EAGLE.
- 25 MAR Commander Thomas G. EVANS, Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE visits Detachment FORTY-TWO aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) anchored in Naples, Italy.
- 5-6 APR USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) engages in continuous flight operations known as ENDUREX.

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15 APR Detachment ELEVEN loads aboard USS INTREPID (CVS-11) in preparation for North Atlantic deployment.

2-10 MAY USS INTREPID (CVS-11) participates in Exercise RUSTY RAZOR.

3-8 MAY USS WASP (CVS-18) participates in Exercise EXOTIC DANCER IV.

5-12 MAY USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) participates in Exercise DAWN PATROL.

20 MAY Commander Walter T. MIESSE relieves Commander Thomas G. EVANS as Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE.

22-29 MAY USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) participates in Exercise NATIONAL WEEK.

1 JUN Lieutenant Commander Robert F. KREINER relieves Lieutenant Commander John J. DITTRICK as Officer in Charge of Detachment FORTY-TWO.

8 JUN Commander Walter T. MIESSE, Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE visits Detachment ELEVEN aboard USS INTREPID (CVS-11) in the Mediterranean.

12-19 JUN USS INTREPID (CVS-11) participates in Exercise CONSTELLATION.

16 JUN Commander Walter T. MIESSE, Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE visits Detachment FORTY-TWO aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) in the Mediterranean.

24-30 JUN USS INTREPID (CVS-11) participates in Exercise ITASS.

10 JUL USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) participates in PASSEX with USS SARATOGA (CVA-60).

22 JUL Detachment FORTY-TWO returns to Naval Air Station, Norfolk from Mediterranean deployment aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42).

4 AUG Lieutenant Commander Lawrence F. PERMENTER relieves Lieutenant Commander Benjamin G. CAIN as Officer in Charge, Detachment EIGHTEEN

15-21 SEP USS INTREPID (CVS-11) participates in Exercise AGILE WARRIOR.

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- 20-26 SEP Two aircraft detachment deploys aboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVA-67) to participate in operational readiness evaluation. Lieutenant Commander Benjamin G. CAIN designated Officer in Charge.
- 21-29 SEP Detachment FORTY-TWO deploys to Naval Air Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico in conjunction with Exercise RIMEX 1-72.
- 23 SEP Detachment EIGHTEEN deploys aboard USS WASP (CVS-18) for ASW operations in the Atlantic.
- 25 SEP - 4 OCT USS INTREPID (CVS-11) participates in Exercise ROYAL KNIGHT.
- 1-6 OCT USS WASP (CVS-18) participates in Exercise LANT CORTEX II.
- 7 OCT Detachment EIGHTEEN returns to Naval Air Station, Norfolk from operations aboard USS WASP (CVS-18)
- 14 OCT Detachment ELEVEN returns to Naval Air Station, Norfolk from operations aboard USS INTREPID (CVS-11).
- 22 OCT Lieutenant Commander John M. HAGEN relieves Lieutenant Commander Robert F. KREINER as Officer in Charge of Detachment FORTY-TWO.
- 29 OCT-2 NOV Detachment FORTY-TWO deploys to Naval Air Station, Jacksonville for Carrier Qualifications aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42).
- 12-16 NOV Detachment ELEVEN deploys to Grand Turk Island, Bahamas in support of ASW exercises.
- 17 NOV Detachment FORTY-TWO loads aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) in preparation for pre-deployment work-up cruise.
- 3 DEC Lieutenant Commander Douglas J. BALLEW relieves Lieutenant Commander Lawrence F. PERMENTER as Officer in Charge Detachment EIGHTEEN.
- 3 DEC Lieutenant Commander Lawrence F. PERMENTER relieves Lieutenant Commander Michael C. HUPP as Officer in Charge of Detachment ELEVEN.
- 18-20 DEC USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) participates in Operational Readiness Evaluation.
- 21 DEC Detachment FORTY-TWO returns to Naval Air Station, Norfolk from operations aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42).

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NARRATIVE

Activity picked up considerably immediately following the holiday recess. Detachments ELEVEN, EIGHTEEN and FORTY-TWO had commitments at sea and all three were thoroughly involved in the necessary pre-embarkation requirements. Detachment ELEVEN would be deploying for two (2) weeks, while Detachment EIGHTEEN had six (6) weeks of operations planned, with some of them to be in the Mediterranean, and Detachment FORTY-TWO would be leaving on a six (6) month deployment to the Mediterranean. The second week of January saw all three detachments depart for their respective ships; ELEVEN to INTREPID on the 12th, EIGHTEEN to WASP on the 11th and FORTY-TWO to ROOSEVELT on the 17th.

During February, Detachment ELEVEN involved itself with ground training and special schools in preparation for its forthcoming six (6) month cruise commencing a little later in the year. Detachment EIGHTEEN aboard WASP, conducted five (5) consecutive days of 24 hour ASW operations at mid-month while participating in an exercise entitled NATIONAL WEEK. On the 23rd its aircraft 664 suffered a collapsed starboard main landing gear upon touchdown aboard WASP. No injuries were incurred but there was substantial damage to the aircraft. Detachment FORTY-TWO engaged in exercises supporting the Operational Readiness Inspection of ROOSEVELT conducted by Commander, Carrier Division SIX in early February. Shortly thereafter, the ship transited the Atlantic to take up station in the Mediterranean. Detachment ELEVEN deployed for two weeks in late February and early March to participate in various work-up exercises including the Operational Readiness Inspection for INTREPID. On 3 March, Detachment EIGHTEEN returned to Norfolk from its six week deployment aboard WASP. The remainder of the month was spent largely on ground training and proficiency flights. Detachment FORTY-TWO aboard ROOSEVELT in the Mediterranean participated in an extensive number of exercises including an "ENDUREX" during which the detachment maintained an airborne "Round-the-Clock" radar capability for the ship. It was an apparent success. On the 25th the detachment was pleased to have as its guest the Squadron Commanding Officer, Commander Thomas G. EVANS who visited while ROOSEVELT was in port at Naples, Italy.

April was an important month for Detachment ELEVEN since it boarded INTREPID on the 16th and commenced its extended deployment to the North Atlantic and Mediterranean. By month's end, the detachment was heavily involved in ASW operations under the direction of Commander, Anti-Submarine Group FIFTY-SIX. They also launched several times against possible over-flights by Soviet Bear aircraft. Detachment EIGHTEEN was shore-based for most of April and conducted numerous training evolutions including instrument and standardization flights, field carrier landing practice, ground training and special schooling. On the 29th they deployed aboard WASP for two weeks of ASW exercises which included exercise EXOTIC DANCER IV. The detachment was required to supply continuous flight coverage in support of this exercise. Continuous flight operations were also provided by Detachment FORTY-TWO aboard ROOSEVELT in the Mediterranean East of Italy during April.

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After operating in the North Atlantic area for four (4) weeks Detachment ELEVEN aboard INTREPID transited through the Straits of Gibraltar on the 31st of May to conduct operations in the Mediterranean. They remained in the Mediterranean during June as well.

Upon returning from sea on 11 May, Detachment EIGHTEEN resumed proficiency training, flights and lectures as necessary. They participated along with Site Support in ceremonies conducted at the Squadron's Hangar LP-13, Naval Air Station, Norfolk, commorating the Squadron's Change of Command with Commander Walter T. MIESSE relieving Commander Thomas G. EVANS on 20 May. Detachment FORTY-TWO aboard ROOSEVELT was busily engaged in two NATO Exercises designated DAWN PATROL and NATIONAL WEEK during the month and once again round-the-clock operations were included. On 1 June, Lieutenant Commander Robert F. KREINER relieved Lieutenant Commander John J. DITTRICK as Officer in Charge, Detachment FORTY-TWO. A week later, on 8 June the squadrons new Commanding Officer, Commander Walter T. MIESSE began a visit to both detachments at that time on station in the Mediterranean, Detachments ELEVEN and FORTY-TWO. He visited Detachment ELEVEN aboard INTREPID on the 8th and Detachment FORTY-TWO aboard ROOSEVELT on the 16th.

For a short period of 10 days from 27 June to 7 July, Detachment FORTY-TWO maintained a two-plane detachment at Souda Bay Crete in support of special exercises during which time ROOSEVELT anchored in Athens, Greece. After completing her port-call, she anchored at Souda Bay, Crete briefly to embark her shore-based personnel and recover all aircraft that were temporarily based ashore. Her long transit West then began. On the way, Detachment FORTY-TWO aboard ROOSEVELT participated in a PASSEX with USS SARATOGA, which was an exercise to determine which carrier could search, detect, and launch an offensive airstrike on the other. Detailed planning and a smoothly functioning ship/Air Wing team enabled ROOSEVELT to strike the "First Blow". On the 16th ROOSEVELT was relieved on station and continued West to transit the Atlantic. Detachment FORTY-TWO arrived back at the squadron hangar on 22 July and commenced a well deserved maximum leave period.

On 4 August, Lieutenant Commander Lawrence F. PERMENTER relieved Lieutenant Commander Benjamin G. CAIN as Officer in Charge of Detachment EIGHTEEN.

September found Detachment ELEVEN entering its fifth month deployed aboard INTREPID. They were now operating in the North Atlantic off the coasts of England and Norway. Several exercises including AGILE WARRIOR and ROYAL KNIGHT tested their ASW capabilities vigorously. In Norfolk, the squadron was tasked with supplying E-1B support aboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY because of the unavailability of E-2 aircraft due to propeller malfunctions. A two plane detachment was formed with the assistance of a sister squadron, RVAW-120, on extremely short notice. Under the command of Lieutenant Commander Benjamin G. CAIN they deployed aboard KENNEDY on 20 September for a week's participation in her Operational Readiness Evaluation.

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Also on the 20th a contingent from Detachment FORTY-TWO under the command of the Squadrons Commanding Officer, Commander Walter T. MIESSE deployed to Naval Air Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico to provide services in Exercise RIMEX 1-72. Detachment EIGHTEEN boarded WASP on the 23rd for ASW exercises in the Atlantic. This was designed to test the susceptibility of the Anti-Air Warfare defensive capability of a group of ships against aircraft and missiles. The following month, on October 22nd, Lieutenant Commander John M. HAGEN relieved Lieutenant Commander Robert F. KREINER as Officer in Charge of Detachment FORTY-TWO. Shortly thereafter the detachment pilots deployed to Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida for Carrier Qualifications aboard ROOSEVELT. They returned on 2 November. Detachment ELEVEN returned to the squadron on 14 October after completion of its six month deployment aboard INTREPID. In mid-November they deployed to Grand Turk Island, Bahamas for six (6) days to support ASW exercises in that area. The remainder of November was spent in requalifying and proficiency training. Detachment FORTY-TWO deployed aboard ROOSEVELT on 17 November for a month of intensive operations culminating in the Operational Readiness Evaluation on 18-20 December. This was a type-training evolution in preparation of ROOSEVELT's next Mediterranean deployment early in 1972. The detachment returned just in time, on 20 December, to celebrate the Christmas Holiday. Detachments ELEVEN and EIGHTEEN were shore-based throughout December and conducted training flights and lectures culminating in a busy and productive year.

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ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS

1. TOTALS

A. Accidents 2
B. Incidents 65

2. ACCIDENTS

A. DET-18 SER 01-71A 23 FEB 71 147236

(1) USS WASP (CVS-18) LTJG [REDACTED]

(2) Failure of starboard main mount

(3) Damage to starboard main mount, sudden engine stoppage, starboard wing, fuselage.

B. DET-11 SER 01-72A 29 JUL 71 147222

(1) USS INTREPID (CVS-11) LT [REDACTED]

(2) Arrested landing accident

(3) Damage port wheel well, fuselage, nacelle, rudder

3. INCIDENTS

A. DET-11

(1) 08-71I 21 JAN 71 CVS-11 148901, Blown tire.

(2) 09-71I 21 JAN 71 CVS-11 148908, Backfires.

(3) 10-71I 22 JAN 71 CVS-11 148906, CSD light.

(4) 11-71I 23 JAN 71 CVS-11 148901, Tailwheel assembly.

(5) 12-71I 26 JAN 71 CVS-11 148901, Tach generator failure.

(6) 13-71I 29 JAN 71 CVS-11 148906, Trailing wire antenna.

(7) 14-71I 11 FEB 71 NAS NORVA 148908, CSD light.

(8) 15-71I 26 FEB 71 CVS-11 148906, Oil leak.

(9) 16-71I 26 FEB 71 CVS-11 147222, MAG drop.

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- (10) 17-71I 18 MAR 71 NAS NORVA 148905, Fuel boost pump.
- (11) 18-71I 25 MAR 71 NAS NORVA 148901, Oil leaks.
- (12) 19-71I 31 MAR 71 NAS NORVA 147222, Fuel quantity indication.
- (13) 20-71I 7 APR 71 NALF FENTRESS, VA. 147222, Chip light.
- (14) 21-71I 21 APR 71 CVS-11 147222, Blown tire.
- (15) 22-71I 23 APR 71 CVS-11 148908, Trailing wire antenna.
- (16) 23-71I 23 APR 71 CVS-11 148906, Blown tire.
- (17) 24-71I 7 MAY 71 CVS-11 148909, Electrical fumes, blown tire.
- (18) 25-71I 5 MAY 71 CVS-11 148901, Tail strut damage.
- (19) 26-71I 15 MAY 71 CVS-11 148908, Unsafe gear indications.
- (20) 27-71I 19 MAY 71 CVS-11 148906, High oil temperature indication.
- (21) 28-71I 19 MAY 71 CVS-11 148905, Generator light.
- (22) 29-71I 31 MAY 71 CVS-11 148906, Fire warning light.
- (23) 30-71I 1 JUN 71 CVS-11 148908, Nose gear indication.
- (24) 31-71I 3 JUN 71 NAF NAPLES, ITALY 148906, CSD light.
- (25) 32-71I 14 JUN 71 CVS-11 148908, Fire on start.
- (26) 33-71I 25 JUN 71 CVS-11 147222, Flap malfunction.
- (27) 01-72I 20 JUN 71 CVS-11 147222, Tach generator failure.
- (28) 03-72I 15 AUG 71 CVS-11 148908, Flap malfunction.
- (29) 04-72I 30 AUG 71 CVS-11 148908, Chip light.
- (30) 06-72I 4 NOV 71 NAS NORVA 148905, Oil leak.
- (31) 07-71I 4 NOV 71 NAS NORVA 148906, Hydraulic fumes.
- (32) 08-72I 29 NOV 71 NAS NORVA 147213, Oil leak.
- (33) 09-72I 7 DEC 71 NAS NORVA 148905, Oil leak.

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B. DET-18

- (1) 08-71I 1 FEB 71 USS WASP 148139, Low oil pressure.
- (2) 09-71I 5 FEB 71 USS WASP 148136, Fuel quantity indicator.
- (3) 10-71I 6 FEB 71 USS WASP 148139, Generator light.
- (4) 11-71I 7 FEB 71 USS WASP 148139, Low oil pressure.
- (5) 12-71I 12 FEB 71 USS WASP 148136, Generator light.
- (6) 13-71I 12 FEB 71 USS WASP 148145, Rough running engine.
- (7) 14-71I 14 FEB 71 USS WASP 148145, Fire warning light.
- (8) 15-71I 8 MAR 71 NAS OCEANA, VA. 148139, Generator light.
- (9) 16-71I 17 MAR 71 NAS NORVA 148139, CSD light.
- (10) 17-71I 18 MAR 71 NAS NORVA 148139, CSD light.
- (11) 18-71I 30 MAR 71 BYRD FIELD, RICHMOND, VA. 148145, CSD light.
- (12) 19-71I 29 APR 71 USS WASP 148902/147237, Crunch.
- (13) 20-71I 28 APR 71 USS WASP 148902, Unsafe nose gear indication.
- (14) 01-72I 23 JUL 71 USS WASP 147213, Crunch.
- (15) 02-72I 24 JUL 71 USS WASP 147213, Low oil pressure/chip light.
- (16) 03-72I 29 JUL 71 USS WASP 147213, Oil leak.
- (17) 05-72I 6 AUG 71 ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. 148139, CSD light.
- (18) 06-72I 9 SEP 71 NALF FENTRESS, VA. 147231, Oil leak.
- (19) 07-72I 4 OCT 71 USS WASP 147213, CSD light.
- (20) 08-72I 5 OCT 71 USS WASP 147213, CSD light.
- (21) 09-72I 5 OCT 71 USS WASP 147237, Chip light.
- (22) 10-72I 13 OCT 71 NAS NORVA 148145, CSD light.
- (23) 11-72I 22 OCT 71 NAS NORVA 148139, CSD light.

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- (24) 12-72I 22 OCT 71 NAS NORVA 147213, Chip light.
- (25) 13-72I 23 OCT 71 NAS NORVA 148139, CSD light.
- (26) 14-72I 7 DEC 71 NAS NORVA 147231, Chip light.
- (27) 15-72I 9 DEC 71 NAS NORVA 147237, Unsafe gear indication.

C. DET-42

- (1) 05-71I 2 FEB 71 USS ROOSEVELT 148904, Fire warning light/
no dump.
- (2) 06-71I 21 MAR 71 USS ROOSEVELT 148913, Prop strike, flight
deck personnel.
- (3) 07-71I 2 APR 71 USS ROOSEVELT 148913, Low RPM on take-off.
- (4) 01-72I 20 OCT 71 NALF FENTRESS, VA. 148904, Fire warning light.
- (5) 02-72I 14 DEC 71 USS ROOSEVELT 148913, CSD light.

D. SITE SUPPORT

- (1) 14-71I 4 JAN 71 NAS NORVA 148906, Fuel pressure drop.

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