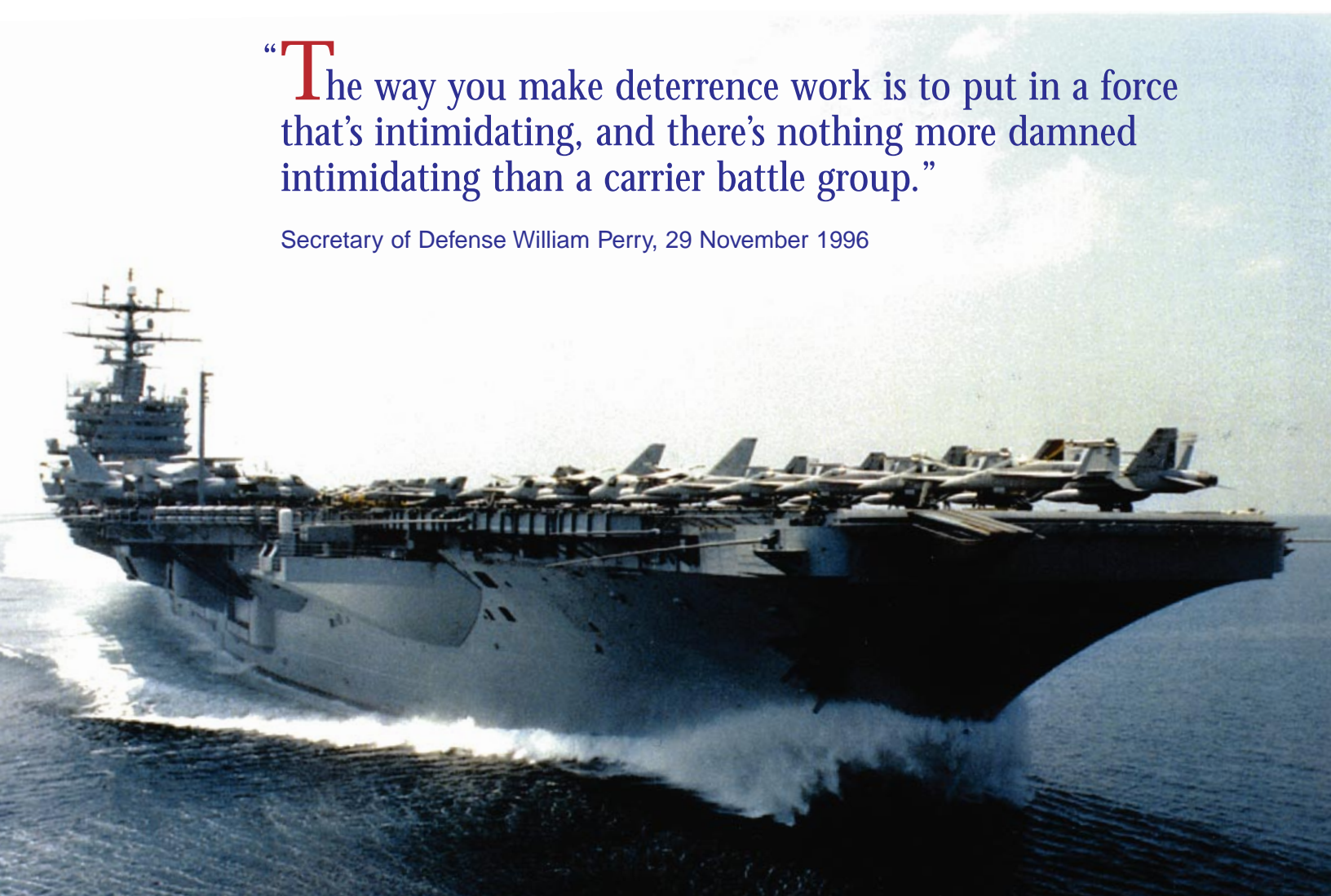


Since its inception, the Aircraft Carrier has combined man's ancient desire for flight with unlimited global mobility.

In this issue we will explore the role of the Navy's most flexible and potent instrument of influence—the Aircraft Carrier.

Above, the Navy's first aircraft carrier, *Langley* (CV 1), puts to sea circa 1923. Below, *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70), under way in 1993, is an example of how far carriers have come in the past 70 years.



The way you make deterrence work is to put in a force that's intimidating, and there's nothing more damned intimidating than a carrier battle group."

Secretary of Defense William Perry, 29 November 1996