

Super Carrier, AMERICA . . . transits Suez

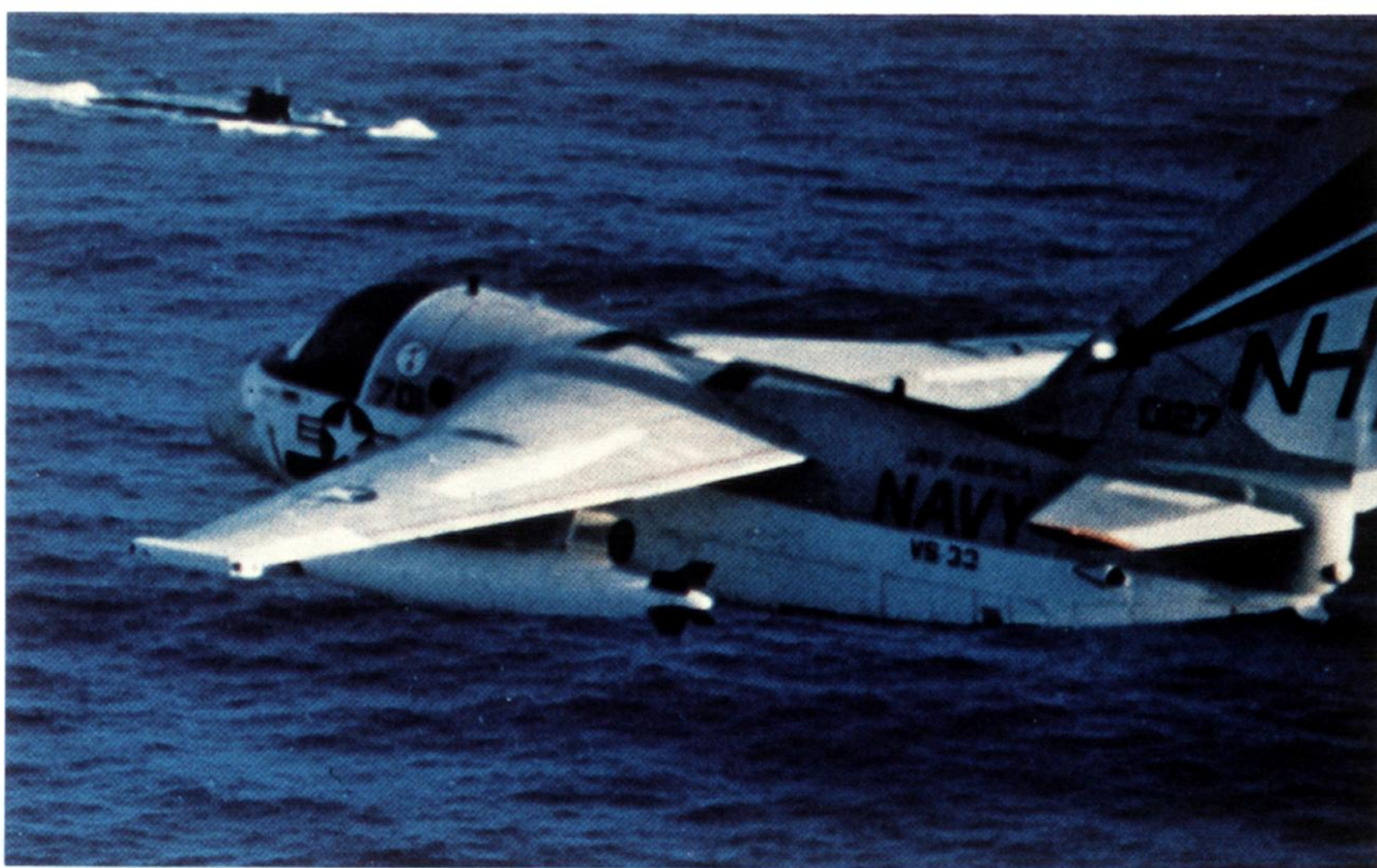
On a gloomy morning, 14 April, 1981, AMERICA departed Norfolk with her escorts. During this deployment, she became the first super class carrier to transit the Suez Canal in both directions. Just by transiting the Suez one way, AMERICA was able to save 900,000 gallons of fuel and reduce 3400 miles and eight sailing days, from the normal 12,000 mile route around the horn of Africa. Total transit time was ten hours and ten minutes for the 104.5 mile route. During her seven month line period, AMERICA operated with the navies of Greece, Great Britain, Australia and Spain, steamed over 60,000 nautical miles in two oceans and visited three countries.

Just prior to returning from her seven month deployment, on 12 November, 1981, the Navy Board of Inspection and Survey team embarked in AMERICA to conduct INSURV. The results of the inspection were deemed outstanding by the board. It was particularly interesting to note that AMERICA was the first carrier ever to pass INSURV.

On 7 December, 1981, AMERICA was back to sea for seven days to conduct fleet carrier qualifications, and a "Tiger Cruise". During this period, she hosted the fathers and sons of AMERICA men and recorded almost 1700 arrested landings.

Following the CQ period, AMERICA entered Norfolk Naval Shipyard for a four month overhaul period. In addition to the normal renovating that took place, she was fitted with two weather satellite receivers and a heads up display unit for the Landing Signal Officer (LSO) platform. AMERICA also spent a short period in drydock for the purpose of reworking shaft cintron seals and refurbishing a tail shaft.

AMERICA departed Norfolk in May, 1981, following sea trials, for pre-deployment training. Her training was exercised in the Carribean operating area and included a four (4) day port call to the tropical paradise, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.



Top (Right): AMERICA departs Suez Canal at Port Said, October, 1981. Above: VS-33, S3-A . . . makes contact on Foxtrot submarine, 1981. Right: Emotions arise as AMERICA departs on Indian Ocean deployment, April, 1981.

