

# A Personal Adventure in the Defense of Freedom



REMARKS OF CAPTAIN EDWARD A. BOYD, USN UPON TAKING  
COMMAND OF USS TICONDEROGA (CVS-14) ON 14 DECEMBER 1970

*O*ver twenty-five years ago, another generation launched this historic ship to defend our nation's cherished freedoms from the aggressive forces of fascism. Manned by then a "younger generation" TICONDEROGA contributed significantly to the defeat of the axis powers, suffering 345 casualties and 131 killed. In that success, however, a more sinister ideology survived in the form of atheistic communism.

*T*he cumulative history of TICONDEROGA in the years following, clearly details the contribution of this ship and her crew in the continuing struggle to preserve freedom for America and the entire world.

*A*s her capability was upgraded with advancing technology, younger generations replaced older generations as the operators of this Guardian of Freedom.

*N*ow, at this point in the distinguished history of her service, TICONDEROGA undertakes a most dramatic change in capability in the face of one of the most formidable military threats this nation has ever experienced. Coincidental in this challenge to our national security is the demand of the now younger generation for a more meaningful determination of the course of our society, for a greater participation in the rewards, and for more control over their own destiny.

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**I**t is significant to note here that well over half the men who man TICO now had not seen the light of day when this ship was launched twenty-five years ago.

**T**here can be no doubt that a substantial number of this same generation throughout the country seriously question the nature of our military involvement.

**B**ut freedom is not free, and our freedom cannot be secure until all men are free.

**W**e are faced with the question: "Can this nation or any nation, under God, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal," survive the threat of atheistic communism, or some other form of violent revolution? In the cacophony of dissent the basic truths that made our country great are all but lost to our conscious thought.

**T**he founding fathers of this great nation, who fractionalized on many issues — were finally united under the principle that all men were endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights and that these rights were guaranteed by God. Without these principles today we are divided.

**A**s this great ship undertakes the assignment of the Soviet submarine threat, let us all rededicate our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor to these fundamental truths, and preserve our cherished freedoms for all generations that follow.

**A**s Abraham Lincoln said over 100 years ago in a time of great national strife: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with a firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right. Let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nations wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and his widow and orphan — to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

