

VF-201
1974

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FIGHTER SQUADRON TWO ZERO ONE

NAVAL AIR STATION
DALLAS, TEXAS 75211

IN REPLY REFER TO
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5700
31 January 1975

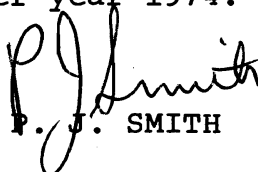
From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron TWO ZERO ONE,
Naval Air Station, Dallas, Texas 75211
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12B
(b) CVWR-20 INST 5725.1A

Encl: (1) Command History of VF-201 with annexes

1. As required by references (a) and (b), enclosure (1)
is hereby submitted for calendar year 1974.


P. J. SMITH

Copy to:
Directory of Naval History (OP009B9)
COMNAVAIRESFOR
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Command History
Fighter Squadron 201
1974

Chronology:

Fighter Squadron 201 has been under the leadership of Commander P. J. SMITH for the entire year of 1974.

January - February	Began 2 week deployment to Tyndall AFB Florida. AK2 PIPER received Navy Commendation Medal. Supported Operation Silver Throat, an Atlantic fleet exercise.
March - April	Second week of Tyndall exercise. Won first place in station volleyball matches.
May - June	Supported CVW-7 exercises, LANT REDEX support. Also served as targets for Task Group Combat Systems exercise at NAS Oceana, Virginia.
July - August	Ten day deployment to Canadian Forces Base, Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada for ACM against the CF-104.
September - October	Navy Achievement Medal awarded to YN2 SMOLINSKI. Two weeks annual active duty with CVWR-20 at NAS Fallon, Nevada. Trained in STRAFE, ACM and STRIKE escort. Supported SRU-1111 cruise from 21 October to 3 November.
November - December	Sent 75 men to Mayport for Firefighting School aboard DC-9. Squadron won 1st place in station football.

ENCLOSURE (1)

Command History
Fighter Squadron 201
1974

1974 was a year of belt tightening for the Naval Reserves and VF-201. Inflation teamed with a lack of appropriations meant that as Reserves we had to stretch our training dollars even further or sacrifice our readiness. By demanding and receiving more from each individual member of the Squadron, VF-201 maintained itself in a high state of training while meeting the stringent requirements placed on it to hold down costs.

From the 24th of February to the 9th of March the BOOMERS of VF-201 were deployed to Tyndall AFB, Florida. The first week of the cruise consisted of air-to-air banner gunnery. Over 9600 rounds of 20mm T.P. ammunition were expended at 13 banners. Over 80 sorties were flown and a complex was held with VC-13 providing an observer.

The second week was spent in Dissimilar Air Combat Maneuvering against USAF F-106's of the 4757th A.D.S. Interceptor Weapons School. Also during this week several high speed low level navigation routes were flown. All pilots had a chance to fly on the Pinecastle Electronics Warfare range utilizing both active and passive ECM equipment. This was the first time a Navy or Marine Reserve Squadron had ever cruised at other than a Navy or Marine Air Station.

Beside the valuable ACM training there were daily AOM's covering air intelligence, electronic warfare, dissimilar ACM tactics and Tyndall course rules. The cruise was highly successful and co-operation with the Air Force was excellent.

In January of 1974 AK2 PIPER was presented the Navy Commendation Medal. A letter of commendation accompanied the award. Also in January the Squadron sent aircrews and aircraft to the East coast to support an Atlantic fleet exercise called Operation Silver Throat.

In March we finished up the Tyndall cruise and also managed a first place in the Volleyball championship staged by NAS Dallas. The Squadron continued its winning ways in athletics throughout the year.

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The months of May and June were spent at NAS Dallas doing regular squadron training and supporting Navy fleet exercises. In May it was CVW-7 exercise LANT REDEX support. In June it was task group combat systems exercise. Both of these operations involved sending aircraft and pilots to the East coast for use as bogey and target aircraft while fleet ships got additional training in Air Intercept and Fleet defense.

On the morning of August 18th two C-118's lifted off the runway at NAS Dallas to begin the first ever cruise for a Navy Reserve Fighter Attack Squadron outside CONUS or the Commonwealth of the United States. Approximately ten hours later VF-201 arrived aboard Canadian Forces Base, Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada to begin a Canadian cruise that was to be the most enjoyable of the year, eight Squadron aircraft, all but two of the squadron's pilots and approximately sixty men deployed to Canada. The primary mission was Dissimilar ACM with the CF-104 and this was an outstanding success. While the Canadian pilots of the 417th T.F.S. were limited in ACM experience they were eager to learn and rapidly picked up on what was happening!

As hosts they tended to put Southern hospitality to shame by providing us with dinner invitations, parties at their Officers' Club and fishing trips to a lake where they were really biting. Athletic honors were divided about evenly with VF-201 taking the baseball game and the 417th T.F.S. winning the broomball game played on a hockey rink.

After returning from Cold Lake the squadron spent approximately a month in Dallas getting re-acquainted with family and friends and then packed up for it's annual two weeks of active duty with the Air Wing at Fallon, Nevada. On 27 September, YN2 [REDACTED] was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal and two days later the squadron was pointed toward Fallon.

After the usual headaches with billeting, every body found a place to sleep and the next morning bright and early the lectures began. Briefs on course rules, targets and ACM rules of engagement highlighted this period. Strafe and Dissimilar ACM were the most important events for the Fighters and VF-201 did well in both. All pilots complexed and three E's and eight quals were awarded. VF-43 and their TA-4's provided an adversary in ACM and due to limited build up sorties, only two pilots complexed but both these pilots qualified.

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During the short weekend liberty many squadron members took advantage of their time to try their luck at the tables. Then it was back to work for another week. The squadron experienced its only accident while at Fallon. LT [REDACTED] was engaged in an ACM hop when he noticed the nose landing gear indicating unsafe. Exhausting all emergency procedures to no avail, LT [REDACTED] made an emergency landing. LT [REDACTED] received no injuries and the investigation revealed material failure as the cause of the accident.

SAREX and ECM training were also conducted which gave every pilot in the squadron a chance to further his experience. After returning to Dallas, October 11th the squadron performed its drill weekend and supported SRU-1111 on its cruise from 21 October to 3 November.

In November our Canadian Fighter Pilots paid us a visit bringing 12 pilots and six aircraft to NAS Dallas for a weekend. They were treated to tours of the LTV plant, Dallas and parties each night of their stay.

December was a rather busy month with the Christmas holidays but the squadron did find time for the regular weekend drills. Also approximately 75 men were sent aboard a DC-9 to Mayport, Florida for firefighting school. In December the squadron played the final football game of the season to give them the championship of NAS Dallas.

In summary the squadron experienced a great year in terms of training accomplished with available assets. The maintenance availability has been excellent. Services were provided in support of Fleet activities and each pilot was managed to meet his currency requirements.