

1978

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FIGHTER SQUADRON TWO ZERO ONE

NAVAL AIR STATION
DALLAS, TEXAS 75211

IN REPLY REFER TO
AD:sn
5700
Ser 54-79
20 January 1979

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

Subj: Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 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.


J. H. JORDAN

Copy to:
Directory of Naval History (OP-09B9)
CNAVRES
CVWR-20
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COMMAND HISTORY
FIGHTER SQUADRON 201
Calendar Year 1978

1. Summary of Events:

1st Quarter (Jan - Mar)	1st Annual Reserve Fighter Derby
2nd Quarter (Apr - Jun)	Carrier Qualification aboard USS J. F. KENNEDY
3rd Quarter (Jul - Sep)	1st Place Summer Softball League, NAS Dallas. Deployment to NAS Fallon, Nevada for CVWR-20 ORE. Missile shoot, Carrier Qualification aboard USS NIMITZ. Deployment to NAS Cecil Field, FLA to provide services for USS SARATOGA/CVW-3 ORE
4th Quarter (Oct - Dec)	Deployment of CFB Cold Lake, Alberta Canada. Deployment aboard USS INDEPENDENCE with CVWR-20. 1st Place Fall Softball League NAS Dallas

2. Command Organization

Fighter Squadron TWO ZERO ONE was commanded by Commander G.H. FREEBORN until 16 July 1978 at which time he was relieved by Commander J. H. JORDAN. CDR Jordan joined VF-201 in April 1972.

At the close of calendar year 1978, the total complement of personnel in the squadron includes 17 Pilots, 17 RIO's, 4 ground officers, and 202 enlisted personnel. This is the first time VF-201 has had a full complement of aircrews. 13 F-4N aircraft are assigned to the squadron.

There has been no change in the overall function or mission of VF-201. The command continues to operate from NAS Dallas, Texas. Squadron maintenance spaces have been relocated to trailers while the existing hangar is undergoing overhaul and repair.

3. Summary of Operations

The squadron's first major operation of FY 78 was participation in the Naval Reserve Fighter Derby held at NAS Miramar, CA. in February. Ten pilots and nine RIO's flew a total of 119 hours of dissimilar ACT on the Yuma ACR. The VF-201 Hunters won second place among the four squadrons participating.

Enclosure (1)

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Noteworthy during this cruise was the use of camouflage paint on the squadron's F-4 aircraft. All aircraft were painted flat blue which proved exceptionally effective in the ACM environment.

In April, VF-201 deployed aboard USS John F. Kennedy for carrier qualifications. Eleven pilots and Rio's qualified with a total of 83 traps achieving a 95.5% boarding rate, the highest in CVWR-20. Accompanying the squadron on this deployment was Michael Brown from WFAA-TV in Dallas. Mr. Brown did a 30 minute TV program depicting the Naval Reserve in action. His program enhanced squadron community relations.

In June, our Active Duty for Training took us once again to NAS Fallon, Nevada. Participating were 17 pilots, 16 Rio's, 4 ground officers and 142 enlisted personnel. A CVWR-20 QRE was conducted by COMTACWINGSLANT during this deployment and VF-201 scored outstanding. A total of 383.4 hours and 301 sorties were flown and included both Air to Air and Air to Ground exercises. Of special note was no aircraft hours were lost due aircraft availability or weather. The Fallon cruise continues to be one of our most productive events.

August found VF-201 at NAS Cecil Field, Florida participating in Orange Forces operations. During this evolution 201 provided strike opposition for CVW-3 and USS Saratoga. Four Pilots and five Rio's flew 52.7 hours and 34 sorties providing fighter opposition to CVW-3 forces.

A second carrier qualification of 1978 was conducted aboard USS Nimitz. Eight crews qualified achieving a 100% boarding rate. At the end of the CQ period, a Missilex was conducted where the remainder of FY 78 missiles were expended. Accompanying VF-201 were several airline executives who witnessed pilots in their employ performing Reserve duties. All guests were very impressed by shipboard flight operations and the hospitality extended them by VF-201 and USS Nimitz.

Our most successful and exciting cruise of the year took place in October when the squadron deployed to CFB Cold Lake in Alberta, Canada. This annual event is hosted by the 417th Tactical Fighter Squadron flying the CF-104 Starfighter. The entire DACT exercise was conducted in unrestricted airspace. High ranking Canadian and NATO military officials including Commander, Canadian Forces Europe and Commander, Canadian Air Forces Europe were on hand to view the Naval Air Reserves in action. 145 hours were flown in the most valuable fighter training exercise of the year.

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VF-201's final cruise of the year was once again a carrier qualification aboard the USS Independence in November-December. Three aircrews logged 17 traps and 32 hours in a 4 day deployment which included cyclic operations. Aircrews flew radar and service missions providing training for CIC and CATCC personnel.