

1979

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FIGHTER SQUADRON TWO ZERO ONE
NAVAL AIR STATION
DALLAS, TEXAS 75211

IN REPLY REFER TO
AD:CLH:de
5750
Ser:
MAR 27 1980

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

Subj: Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) VF-201 Command History

1. As requested by reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.


C. L. HILL

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)
COMNAVAIRESFOR
CVWR-20

1979 IN REVIEW

CHRONOLOGY

1. 11 February to 21 February: VF-201 conducts flight operations on the Tyndall Air Combat Maneuvering Range (ACMR), Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City, Florida, in preparation for the second annual Naval Reserve Fighter Derby held at Yuma.
2. 10 March to 17 March: VF-201 participates in the Naval Reserve Fighter Derby at Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Arizona.
3. 28 April to 4 May: VF-201 participates in Maple Flag III, a joint Combat Training Exercise at CFB Cold Lake, Canada, involving 11 Canadian, 1 United Kingdom, 10 U. S. Tactical, and 18 SAC Units.
4. 2 June to 5 June: VF-201 conducts Missile Shoot at Naval Air Station, Point Mugu, California.
5. 2 June to 15 June: VF-201 Annual Active Duty Training at Naval Air Station, Fallon, Nevada, involving the entire CVWR-20 Air Wing.
6. 26 August to 28 August: VF-201 sends 2 airplanes to Naval Air Station, Point Mugu, California, for Missile Shoot.
7. 11 September to 28 September: VF-201 conducts Air Combat Training with VC-13 at Naval Air Station, Dallas.
8. 11 November to 16 November: VF-201 deploys to Naval Air Station, Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia, for Carrier Qualifications aboard the USS Eisenhower (CVN-69).

ENCLOSURE (1)

NARRATIVE

1979 was a productive, busy year for VF-201. It started in early February when the squadron began work-ups for the Naval Reserve Fighter Derby held annually at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona. Deploying to Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City, Florida, where an Air Combat Maneuvering Range similar to that used in the Fighter Derby is available for aircrew training, 13 VF-201 Pilots and 11 VF-201 RIO's amassed 99 sorties and 89.2 hours while flying Dissimilar Air Combat Training against TA-4's from VC-12 and F-106's from Castle AFB. From both an operational and maintenance point of view, the training was highly beneficial. At the Fighter Derby held in mid-March, VF-201 had a 100% launch record (43 out of 43 scheduled and practice launches) with 100% radar availability. Amassing 36 hours in the process, VF-201 finished with just 2 A-4 kills less than the winner.

In late April, the squadron was invited for a fifth time since 1974 to participate in Joint Canadian Air Force Exercises (Maple Flag III) held at CFB Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada. These exercises which involved 11 Canadian, 1 United Kingdom, and 10 United States units provided VF-201 with excellent exposure to a variety of dissimilar aircraft. The first and only Naval Reserve Force Tactical Squadron to deploy outside United States territory, Fighter Squadron TWO ZERO ONE has established a harmonious rapport with the Fighter Weapons School of Canadian Forces 417 Squadron over the past five years as a result of these exercises.

Annual Active Duty was held for the seventh consecutive year at Naval Air Station, Fallon, Nevada. A combined CVWR-20 Air Wing deployment, VF-201 accumulated 425.2 hours (368 sorties) for a 29.8 hours per pilot average during the squadron's two weeks at Fallon. In addition to valuable integrated Air Wing training, VF-201 fired 2 AIM 7E2 Sparrow missiles and 3 AIM 9G Sidewinder missiles earning 3 "E"'s and 1 "Q" in the process. Two more missiles were fired in late August in a highly successful two plane deployment to Naval Air Station, Point Mugu during which one of the AIM 7E2 missiles scored a rare "Boola Boola" or direct hit, target destroyed.

In mid-September, VC-13 deployed to Naval Air Station, Dallas to provide VF-201 with dissimilar Air Combat Training. From 11 November to 16 November, VF-201 deployed a final time to Naval Air Station, Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia, for Carrier Qualifications aboard the USS Eisenhower (CVN-69). Twelve squadron pilots, two CVWR-20 staff personnel, and Carrier Air Group Twenty qualified aboard the Eisenhower while amassing 75 arrested landings and 19 touch and go's. During work-ups in October, 157 FCLP sorties (110 hours) were flown.

After CARQUALS, VF-201 was operationally less active but administratively quite busy. A Command Administrative Inspection, Change of Command preparations (February 1980), and maintenance and aircrew training ended a very productive year.