



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER

VF-201

NAVAL AIR STATION JOINT RESERVE BASE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76127-5000

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From: Commanding Officer, VF-201
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard ,
901 M Street SE, Bldg.. 57, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) VF-201 Command History

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.


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Fighter Squadron 201 was commissioned in July 1970 as part of Carrier Air Wing Twenty during the reorganization of the Naval Reserve Force. The result was a fully operational fighting force consisting of complete squadrons ready to deploy on immediate assignment to an aircraft carrier in the event of a national emergency. The VF-201 "Hunters" stand today as the cornerstone of that fighting force.

The "Hunters" began their distinguished history flying the F-8 "Crusader". The supersonic "Crusader" had a variable incidence wing that assisted the pilot during carrier landing. VF-201 flew the F-8 "Crusaders" from July 1970 to February 1976 when the "Hunters" began their transition to the F-4 "Phantom II". The "Hunters" flew the supersonic "Phantom II" fighter from 1976 to 1984 in the F-4N variant, and then from 1984 to 1987 in the F-4S. In December 1987, the "Hunters" flew their last "Phantom II", BUNO 155732 to Davis-Monthan AFB, ending an eleven-year history with the versatile and venerable F-4.

In October 1986, aircrew and enlisted training had already commenced for the "Hunters" transition to the F-14A "Tomcat", the fleet's finest fighter. While the enlisted personnel attended F-14 training schools, the aircrew prepared themselves for an intense ground training program at VF-101, NAS Oceana. In early 1987, the "Hunters" accepted their first F-14A, BUNO 158634, making VF-201 an official member of the prestigious "Tomcat" community. Within six months of completing formal transition training, the "Hunters" hit the road running by carrier qualifying aboard the USS FORRESTAL (CV 59). In the ensuing year, VF-201 went on numerous Air Combat Maneuvering (ACM) and Carrier Qualification (CQ) detachments, quickly establishing itself as an exceptional F-14 squadron.

Recently, VF-201 has undergone a significant expansion of their role in the Naval Reserve. In 1993, the aircrew of VF-201 completed Adversary Level II training, allowing the squadron to provide quality adversary fleet support. In early 1994, the "Hunters" expanded their capability again by adding the new F-14 mission of air-to-ground ordnance delivery. VF-201 has taken this new multi-role mission seriously and is now a fully qualified "Bombcat" squadron, having delivered over 400,000 lbs. of air-to-ground ordnance. In October 1994, the "Hunters" became the first F-14 squadron to participate in and pass a mise readiness inspection. To top it off, VF-201 recently acquired the Tactical Air Reconnaissance Pod System (TARPS) and is now able to perform bomb assessment and other reconnaissance missions.

Outstanding performance has brought outstanding recognition to VF-201. The "Hunters" are the proud recipients of the 1992 CVWR-20 Golden Wrench, 1993 and 1996 Battle Efficiency "E", and the 1994 CNO Safety "S" awards. This enviable record resulted in the selection of VF-201 to be the only F14 reserve squadron to survive the Navy's right sizing. As the lone F-14 reserve squadron, VF-201 expanded by 25 percent and has obtained the finest officer and enlisted personnel the original four F-14 reserve squadrons had to offer. Celebrating their 27th year as a Naval Reserve Squadron, VF-201 has never been more prepared to meet each and every challenge the future may offer.