

1999



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
VFA-201  
NAVAL AIR STATION JOINT RESERVE BASE  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76127-5000

5750  
N11  
25 APR 2000


From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron TWO ZERO ONE  
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard,  
805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) VFA-201 CY-99 Command History Report  
(2) Commanding Officer's Biography  
(3) VFA-201 History  
(4) Command History Diskette ✓  
(5) VFA-201 F/A-18 Photograph

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.

  
J. C. SADLER

1. Command Composition and Organization.

Strike Fighter Squadron TWO ZERO ONE  
STRKFITRON TWO ZERO ONE  
UIC: 09309

Mission:

Fleet Contributory Support and Maintaining Strike  
Fighter Mobilization Readiness and Training and  
Administration of the Naval Reserve.

Organizational Structure:

Commander Carrier Airwing Reserve TWO ZERO

Commanding Officer:

Commander John C. Sadler, USNR-R

Duty Station:

Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, TX 76127

Type and number of aircraft assigned:

F/A-18A, 12 aircraft assigned, Tailcode AF

Personnel Assigned:

TAR Officers: 7

SELRES Officers: 20

TAR Enlisted: 125

SELRES Enlisted: 84

2. Chronology.

1 Jan 99: Transition from VF-201 to VFA-201.

10 Jul 99: Change of Command, CDR P.F. Paine relieved  
by CDR J.C. Sadler.

24 Sep-5 Oct 99:

Adversary Detachment in support of CVW-17 NAS  
Oceana, VA

3 Dec 99: Class Alpha mishap. A/C 107 BUNO 163128  
destroyed after out of control flight incident.  
Pilot ejected safely with only minor injuries

3. Narrative.

In January 1999, the Hunters transitioned to the F/A-18 Hornet  
and were redesignated VFA-201, to signify its multi-mission  
capability as a Strike Fighter Squadron. The new moniker  
represents a myriad of changes that have occurred in conjunction

Enclosure (1)

with the Hunters transition to the Hornet. The F/A-18 is the Navy's newest front line multi-mission strike fighter aircraft providing the Naval Air Reserve an expanded war fighting capability with improved integration with the Navy's active duty air wings that will serve the nation well into the new millennium.

4. Supporting Documents.

Commanding Officer's biography is included as enclosure (2).

## VFA-201 History

Fighter Squadron 201, "The Hunters", were commissioned in July 1970 as part of Carrier Air Wing Reserve Twenty (CVWR-20) and given 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 Hunters began their distinguished history by flying the F-8 Crusader. The F-8 was a supersonic fighter with a variable incidence wing that assisted the pilot during carrier landing. VF-201 flew the F-8 from July 1970 to February 1976 and then transitioned to the F-4 Phantom II. The Hunters flew the F-4/N from 1976 to 1984 and the F-4/S from 1984 to 1986. In December 1986, the Hunters flew their last Phantom, BUNO 155732 to Davis-Monthan AFB, ending an almost eleven-year history with the versatile and venerable F-4 aircraft.

In early 1987, the Hunters accepted their first F-14/A Tomcat, BUNO 158634. 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 one of the best F-14 squadrons in the Navy.

In 1993, as a result of the downsizing in the armed forces, the Hunters began providing valuable adversary training to fleet strike fighter squadrons. In early 1994, the Hunters expanded their war fighting capability to include the air-to-ground strike mission. Since accepting the challenging air-to-ground mission, VF-201 has delivered over a million pounds of ordnance. The Hunters also became the first Tomcat squadron to drop mines and to participate in a mine readiness inspection. These accomplishments, in combination with the F-14's air-to-air, air-to-ground, Tactical Air Reconnaissance, and adversary missions, provides a good overview of the squadron's versatile capabilities.

In January 1999, the Hunters transitioned to the F/A-18 Hornet and were redesignated ~~(X)~~ VFA-201, to signify its multi-mission capability as a Strike Fighter Squadron. The new moniker represents a myriad of changes that have occurred in conjunction with the Hunters transition to the Hornet. The F/A-18 is the Navy's newest front line multi-mission strike fighter aircraft providing the Naval Air Reserve an expanded war fighting capability with improved integration with the Navy's active duty air wings that will serve the nation well into the new millennium.

Enclosure (3)

The Hunters are the proud recipients of the 1992/1997 CVWR-20 Golden Wrench Award as the best Air Wing maintenance department; the 1993/1996/1997 Battle Efficiency "E" as the most combat ready Fighter squadron in the Naval Air Reserve; and the 1994/1996 CNO Safety "S" award as the safest Fighter squadron in the Naval Air Reserve. VFA-201 is celebrating its 29th year as a Naval Reserve Squadron and we have never been more prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow.