



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

5750
Ser N00/089
16 OCT 2001

From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 201
To: Chief of Naval Operations, Director Air Warfare Division
Special Assistant for Publications and Operational
Records (N78H)

Subj: CALENDAR YEAR 2000 COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) STRKFITRON 201, 2000 Command History Report
(2) Social Roster

1. Per references (a), enclosure (1) and (2) are submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. C. Cook".

H. C. COOK

VFA-201 History

Fighter Squadron 201, "The Hunters," were commissioned in July 1970 as part of Carrier Air Wing Reserve Twenty (CVWR-20) during the reorganization of the Naval Reserve Force. The result was a fully operational fighting force consisting of six 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 coupled 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 re-designated, 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.

Encl (1)

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.

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; the 1994/1996 CNO Safety "S" award as the safest Fighter squadron in the Naval Air Reserve; the 1999/2000 CVWR-20 Retention Excellence Award; the 2000 F. Trubee Davison Award, the 2000 Daedalian Safety Award and the Naval Reserve Force Commanders Nomination for the 2000 Phoenix Maintenance Award. VFA-201 is celebrating its 30th year as a Naval Reserve Squadron and we have never been more prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

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 20

Commanding Officer

Commander Hermon C. Cook, USNR

Duty Station:

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

Type and number of aircraft assigned:

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

Personnel Assigned

TAR Officers: 5

SELRES Officers: 18

TAR Enlisted: 114

SELRES Enlisted: 81

2. Chronology.

25 January - 4 February: Savannah Detachment for air-to-air fleet replacement training to complete F-18 transition.

4 March - 2 April: Four week NOX detachment for fleet replacement adversary support with VF-101 and VFA 106.

12-26 May: Two week detachment onboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) for carrier qualifications, air-to-air missile shoot (2 AIM 7 and 4 AIM 9) and all air-to-ground NCEA I MK 82, 83, RE, INERT) and aerial refueling from KC-135.

9-27 JULY: Two week Fallon detachment to augment VFC-13 support of CVW-2 SFARP and VFA-125 FRS detachment

6-20 SEP: Two week fleet replacement adversary detachment with VFA-106, missile X in New Orleans: 2 AIM 7 and 2 AIM 9.

16 October 2000: Squadron participated in Missile Exercise at NAS New Orleans employing live air to air missiles in tactical, real world scenarios over a two day period.

04 November 2000: Change of Command, CDR John C. Sadler relieved by CDR Hermon C. Cook.

05 November 2000: LCDR [REDACTED], LCDR [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED] attended Top Gun school at NSAWC, NAS Fallon, NV.

05-20 November 2000: Six-jet squadron detachment to NAS El Centro, California for strike fighter training. Extensive planning and coordination was required for successful execution, VFA-201 simultaneously ran another detachment to Top gun at NAS Fallon, NV.

3. Narrative.

In January 1999, the Hunters transitioned to the F/A-18 Hornet and were re-designated 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.

4. Supporting Document.

Commanding Officer's biography is included.