



September Activities Farewell the Tomcat

The Tomcat Sunset Committee, Inc., has announced the schedule of events for activities to farewell the F-14, 20–23 September in Virginia Beach, Va. Events are open to all present and former members of the F-14 community, whether officer or enlisted, aircrew, maintainer, or support.

It all starts with an arrival cocktail party at the NAS Oceana Officers Club on Wednesday, 20 September. The Tomcat Sunset Golf Tournament will tee off on Thursday at Oceana's Aeropines Golf Course. Then it's back to the Officers Club for a gala Key West Night. Casual dress is the order of the evening for the deck party featuring music by some local bands.

The official last flight ceremony will be Friday morning on the Oceana flight line. The Tomcatters of VF-31 will man-up and make the final F-14 departure from Fighter Country. The ceremony will be conducted much on the order of a decommissioning ceremony. This event is by invitation only and several senior naval aviators and dignitaries are expected to be in attendance.

The largest activity will be Friday afternoon at the "Salute to the Troops" outing in the park near NAS Oceana's main gate. Food, beverages, and lots of entertainment will be provided to honor the sailors and their families for their devotion to the maintenance and support of the Tomcat for more than 30 years.

The event wraps up on Saturday, 23 September with an aviation symposium featuring some former F-14 aircrews joining the most recent warriors in responding to questions from the audience. A black-tie-optional banquet will be held Saturday evening at the new Virginia Beach Convention Center (seating is limited).

Complete details on all these events, as well as cost and registration information, can be found on the Tomcat Sunset website, www.tomcat-sunset.org.

An F-14D Tomcat, above, prepares for a landing aboard Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) as San Jacinto (CG 56) conducts plane guard duties while deployed in the Arabian Gulf. Photo by PHAA Nathan Laird.

Reunions

Cabot (CVL 28)/Monterey (CVL 26), 20–24 September, Niagara Falls, NY. POC: Ronald Davis, 860-536-1835, cvl28rgd@hotmail.com.

Badoeng Strait (CVE 116), 24–27 September, Las Vegas, Nev. POC: Henry Trotter, 210-658-3447, hctrotter@yahoo.com.

Marine Air Groups, 25–29 October, Branson, Mo. POC: James Jordan, 417-535-4945, james.m.jordan@hughes.net.

Lake Champlain (CV/CVA/CVS 39), 26–29 October, Warwick, RI. POC: Eugene Carroll, 607-532-4735, gcarroll@rochester.rr.com.

VS-26/VS-36, 26–29 October, Kissimmee, Fla. POC: Paul Messina, 631-793-3286, ltpdm@msn.com.