

# Farewell to the Tomcat

## Last Flight of the F-14



Photo: David F. Brown

The title and subtitle of this program are taken directly from Admiral Nathman's remarks at the ceremony on 22 September, 2006. The term "Tomcat Sunset"<sup>1</sup> applied to activities over much of the third week in September, 2006 commemorating retirement of the F-14. Many of these activities, organized by the Sunset Committee, were social and recreational in nature and celebrated the friendships and experiences of the people who designed, built, flew and maintained the F-14. This program relates specifically to 1) activities at the Tomcat memorial in Air Power Park on Thursday the 21st and 2) a comprehensive review of the retirement ceremony and "last flight" of the F-14 on Friday the 22nd.

This program also includes video footage of routine air operations at Oceana, including Hornets, Super Hornets, and some of the last operational flights of the Tomcats of the VF-31 Tomcatters - Felix.

The "last flight" was ceremonial and symbolic, but was not the last ever flight of an F-14. The last time a Tomcat flew in the US under its own power was the flight of BuNo 164603 from Oceana to Republic Field on 4 October, 2006.

We are indebted to CDR Richard "Corky" Erie, Asst. Air Operations Officer at NAS Oceana, for his assistance in permitting us to shoot video of the flight operations and for hosting the program. We are also indebted to Mr. Troy Snead, Public Affairs Officer at NAS Oceana, for his support and for making the Navy video of the ceremony available to us. This program would not have been possible without their generous support.

Chapter 1 Start Program

Chapter 2 Begin activities of 21 Sept. 2006 - routine air operations including F-14s

Chapter 3 Scenes at the Memorial, aircraft recovery

Chapter 4 Begin activities of 22 Sept. 2006 - routine air operations

Chapter 5 Farewell Ceremony

Chapter 6 Pre-flight and departure of 102 from the ceremonial site

Chapter 7 Preparation of 107 on the pad, switch aircraft, departure of 107

Chapter 8 Credits

Chapter 9 Short scenes from 6 other available programs from Hart Aviation Video Enterprises

<sup>1</sup> "Tomcat Sunset" is a registered trademark of the Sunset Committee.

Cover and two other photos: JON M HOUGHTALING [www.H2AviationImages.com](http://www.H2AviationImages.com)

Rear jacket and eight other photos: David F. Brown [TOMCATS4AL@AOL.COM](mailto:TOMCATS4AL@AOL.COM)

Three photos: Eric W. Hughes [www.H2AviationImages.com](http://www.H2AviationImages.com)

Well Done...Baby! Logo used by permission of Northrop Grumman Corporation.



This program, HA07-2  
is Copyright 2007 by



2812 W. George Mason Rd.  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
[www.HartAviationVideo.com](http://www.HartAviationVideo.com)

Running Time -  
Program: 1 hour 21 minutes  
Total: 1 hour 33 minutes

