

NAS OCEANA

10 March 2006

HOME COMING

The 10th of March was the end of the last cruise of the F-14 Tomcat, Fighter Squadrons VF-31 "Tomcatters" and VF-213 "Black Lions." It was also the end of a 6 month cruise for Strike Fighter Squadrons VFA-15 "Valions" and VFA-87 "Golden Warriors" aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt, CVN 71. This video program is made up of still footage taken by Navy photographers, and video and still footage taken by Hart Aviation Video of the return to Oceana of these aircraft comprising Carrier Air Wing 8 (CVW-8).



Chapter Point 1 Start Program

Chapter Point 2 10 March, 2006 with CVN 71 off the Virginia coast

In this series of stills, you will see photos of the F-18s of VFA-15 and VFA-87 being prepared and launched for their return to Oceana. You will also see Capt. Bill Sizemore, Commander of CVW-8, briefing pilots of VFA-15. Then you see Capt. Sizemore briefing prior to the departure of VF-31 and VF-213. The last 4 photos in this series prior to the flyby of the Roosevelt shows the launch of the last F-14 from an aircraft carrier, VF-213 #201. From above and to the carrier's port side, the last photo of the series shows #201 climbing away. Take note of the vacant flight deck.

Chapter Point 3 NAS Oceana

When we started to shoot video at Oceana on 10 March, VFA-15 had already arrived, and we were able to record only the last of them taxiing to the ramp. Then we see VFA-87's arrival from each of our cameras, and the aircraft landing and taxiing. VFA-87 is named "Golden Warriors"; "War Party" is displayed prominently on the aircraft. The tower operator usually identifies them simply as "Party." After their arrival, Oceana was quiet, anticipating arrival of the Tomcats.

Chapter Point 4 Tomcats Inbound!

You see the flyover of the 22 aircraft formation from each of our cameras. Then we see breaks and 18 of the 22 Tomcat landings. The Tomcats use the call sign "Alpha Juliet" with the aircraft number. Later, you hear the tower operator refer to the last aircraft landing as "Golden Lion" and "Felix." At the assembly, Felix #100, the last to land, is also the last aircraft in position – then you hear the simultaneous shutdown.

Chapter Point 5 Ground Scenes/Closing

This is a mixture of video and still shots taken on the ramp. These scenes are never to be seen again, and we wanted some of these images to be a part of this program.

Note: Conditions on 10 March, 2006 were not conducive to shooting stable video. In one report, you can hear the tower operator report the wind as gusting to 42 kt; during arrival of the Tomcats, we heard a report of gusts to 49 kt. Much of the time, it was difficult to maintain our balance, and the gusts buffeted us incessantly. Nonetheless, we were determined to obtain the best possible record of this historic event.

Jacket photos: Jeff Hart

This program, HA06-3
is Copyright 2006 by



2812 W. George Mason Rd.

Falls Church, VA 22042

info@HartAviationVideo.com

Running Time: 30 Minutes