

# FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE FIVE ONE



CDR J. J. CHAMBERS, CO



CDR C. R. GILLESPIE, XO

## The "Vigilante" Story

The squadron was first commissioned in 1948 as VF-23 flying the F-4U Corsair with which the squadron distinguished itself during two combat tours in the Korean conflict. This famous WWII workhorse was the first of six fighter aircraft which the squadron has flown in peace and combat in every corner of the Pacific.

In 1949 the squadron transitioned to the F-9F Panther jet aircraft and after one WESTPAC cruise became an all-weather jet fighter squadron whose tasks were as extensive as its title flying in the first of three famous McDonnell jets—the F-2H Banshee. In July 1956, the squadron received its first CNO Annual Safety Award for their outstanding safety record during the preceding year.

After transitioning to the F-4D Skyray, they jetted through one more cruise in Southeast Asia with Attack Carrier Air Wing FIFTEEN.

In 1959 the squadron accepted the McDonnell F-3H Demons and re-designated VF-151. The first Demon cruise in 1960 involved the squadron in one of the first flare-ups in Laos. A second CNO Annual Safety Award was won in 1964 following their last cruise in the "Demon."

Upon completion of the 1964 cruise VF-151 transitioned to the F-4B Phantom II. The task of uniting the members of the new team of 250 enlisted men and 28 flying officers was accomplished in outstanding VIGILANTE fashion.

During their first Phantom II deployment to WESTPAC, the squadron participated in the first major strikes against North Vietnam on 7 February 1965. Many record performances were achieved during that eleven month cruise with Air Wing FIFTEEN.

After a short six month turnaround, the VIGILANTES deployed in May 1966 in USS CONSTELLATION for their second combat cruise with the SEVENTH Fleet, and again continued to compile an impressive combat record. Since the first strikes in February, 1965, VIGILANTE aircrews have flown in more than 2200 combat missions in North and South Vietnam.

As each day passes, the squadron, presently commanded by CDR J. J. CHAMBERS, adds more distinction to an already proud record.

