

**The original documents are located in Box 122, folder “F-14 (airplane)” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Press Guidance 9/17/76

Recovery of F-14 in the  
North Sea

Guidance:

The President has been briefed on this incident. He is gratified that the crew members escaped injury and he is confident that the Navy will make every possible effort to recover the aircraft.

F.Y.I. You should refer all detailed questions to DOD.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:           RON NESSEN

FROM:                    LES JANKA

SUBJECT:                 Background on the F-14A

The Grumman F-14A "Tomcat" is the Navy's most advanced fighter, and is designed primarily as a fleet air interceptor. The F-14 is a twin-engine, two-seat, variable sweep wing supersonic aircraft capable of attacking multiple targets simultaneously at altitudes from sea level to over 80,000 feet. The Tomcat's advanced radar system can track 24 targets simultaneously and launch its PHOENIX missiles at six individual targets at once.

Over 150 F-14A's are currently in the Navy inventory, and the US has also sold 50 aircraft to Iran. The Tomcat first became operational in April 1973. Cost per aircraft is in excess of \$14 million.

[All of the above is unclassified, and may be used in any form you desire. The following is background only, and should be left entirely to DOD for any press discussion:

The F-14A lost Tuesday off of the carrier JFK can be recovered, although any planning, schedule, or discussion of equipment to be used is, of course, classified. We have a very strong interest in recovering the aircraft intact. George Wilson's story in Friday's Post is not inaccurate.]