

## VA-210

### *Lineage*

Established as Reserve Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED TEN (VA-210) on 1 July 1970.

Disestablished on 30 June 1971. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-210 designation.

### *Squadron Insignia and Nickname*

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 15 April 1970. Colors for the insignia were: sky blue background with three concentric rings of yellow,



*The squadron's one and only insignia.*

dark blue and yellow, all outlined in black; yellow lightning bolt; black aircraft and flag staff; red pennants; dark blue waves; and a white scroll outlined in black with black lettering.

Nickname: Unknown.

### *Chronology of Significant Events*

**1 Jul 1970:** VA-210 was a reserve squadron established as part of a reorganization intended to increase the combat readiness of the Naval Air Reserve Force. Assets from reserve squadron VA-2Z1 were utilized to form VA-210.

**14 Dec 1970:** The squadron conducted its last operational flight.

**30 Jun 1971:** The squadron was disestablished due to its replacement by the addition of two fighter squadrons to Reserve Air Wing 20.

### *Home Port Assignments*

|                    | <i>Location Assignment Date</i> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| NAS South Weymouth | 01 Jul 1970                     |

### *Commanding Officers*

|                     | <i>Date Assumed Command</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| CDR W. M. Hollister | 01 Jul 1970                 |

### *Aircraft Assignment*

| <i>Type of Aircraft</i> | <i>Date Type First Received</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| TA-4B                   | 1970*                           |
| A-4C                    | 1970*                           |

\* These aircraft were operated by VA-210 but may not have been permanently assigned to the squadron.

### *Air Wing Assignments*

| <i>Air Wing</i> | <i>Tail Code</i> | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| CVWR-20         | AF               | 01 Jul 1970            |

## VA-212

### Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron TWO HUNDRED TWELVE (VF-212) on 20 June 1955.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED TWELVE (VA-212) on 1 April 1956.

Disestablished on 12 December 1975. The first to be assigned the VA-212 designation.



The squadron's rampant lion insignia.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 4 September 1956. Colors for the insignia were: a black background outlined in yellow; yellow rampant lion; black scrolls outlined in yellow with yellow lettering.

Nickname: Rampant Raiders, 1956–1975.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**6 Jun 1958:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander G. W. Staeheli, was killed in an aircraft accident.

**Aug-Sep 1958:** VA-212, embarked on *Lexington* (CVA 16), operated in the Formosa Straits due to the tension surrounding the Chinese Communist shelling of the Quemoy Islands.

**Apr 1959:** VA-212 became the first operational squadron to deploy with the Bullpup air-to-ground missile.

**Mar 1961:** *Lexington* (CVA 16), with VA-212 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Thailand as a result of the deteriorating position of Laotian government forces against the Communists. Units of *Lexington's* air group flew reconnaissance missions over Laos while on station.

**15 Apr 1962:** VA-212, embarked in *Hancock* (CVA 19), operated off the coast of South Vietnam during the arrival of the first USMC advisory unit in the Republic of Vietnam.

**16–20 May 1962:** Following the continued successes of the Pathet Lao forces against Laotian government forces, particularly along the border with Thailand, the Thai government requested U.S. support. A unit of U.S. Marines landed in Bangkok and moved by air to Udorn. VA-212, along with other units of CVG-21, embarked in *Hancock*, operated in the area and were available to provide air support for the Marines if required.

**Sep 1963:** VA-212, embarked in *Hancock*, operated off the coast of Taiwan due to increased tensions between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China.

**Nov 1963:** *Hancock*, with VA-212 embarked, operated off the coast of South Vietnam following the coup that overthrew President Diem.

**7 Feb 1965:** Following the shelling of an American advisors' compound at Pleiku by the Viet Cong, VA-212 participated in reprisal attacks against targets in North Vietnam. During the strikes, named Flaming Dart I, VA-212's Skyhawks struck the Dong Hoi Barracks.

**11 Feb 1965:** VA-212's Skyhawks participated in Flaming Dart II operations, reprisal attacks against the barracks at Chanh Hoa.

**Mar-May 1965:** The squadron's Skyhawks participated in special operations in Southeast Asia, including the Rolling Thunder campaign, strikes against designated military targets in North Vietnam.

**Mar 1966:** Squadron aircraft participated in Operation Jackstay, providing combat air support for amphibious operations that cleared the Rung Sat zone southeast of Saigon.

**30 Jun 1966:** Commander H. L. Smith, the squadron's commanding officer, was awarded the Silver Star for leading an air strike against the Bac Giang POL facility.

**Oct-Nov 1966:** During the squadron's training cycle, its aircraft were modified to incorporate the Walleye weapons system, becoming the first fleet unit equipped with the new system.

**11 Mar 1967:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander H. L. Smith, conducted the first combat Walleye attack, striking the Sam Son Army Barracks.

**20 May 1967:** Commander H. L. Smith was awarded the Navy Cross for his action during strikes on the Bac Giang Thermal Power Plant on 19 and 20 May. He was killed in action during the mission on 20 May.

**Feb-Mar 1968:** Squadron aircraft flew combat air support missions for the Marines under siege at Khe Sahn.

**Apr 1972:** With the North Vietnamese invasion of South Vietnam, the Easter Offensive, the squadron concentrated its strikes in the area of An Loc, South Vietnam. It provided combat air support for U.S. and South Vietnamese ground forces defending the city.

**May 1972:** VA-212 participated in Operation Linebacker I, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam.

**25 May 1972:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander H. H. Strong, was killed in action when his aircraft was hit by antiaircraft fire during a strike near Vinh, North Vietnam.

**Oct-Dec 1973:** With the outbreak of war in the Middle East between Israel, Syria and Egypt and the initiation of the Arab oil embargo, *Hancock*, with VA-212 embarked, was ordered to enter the Indian Ocean and operate in the Arabian Sea.



A squadron F7U-3 Cutlass catching the wire aboard Bon Homme Richard (CVA 31) in July 1956 (Courtesy Duane Kasulka Collection).

### Home Port Assignments

| <i>Location</i>   | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| NAS Moffett Field | 20 Jun 1955            |
| NAS Lemoore       | 15 Sep 1961            |

### Commanding Officers

|                        | <i>Date Assumed Command</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| LCDR D. R. Hagood      | 20 Jun 1955                 |
| LCDR T. H. Cooper      | Feb 1957                    |
| CDR G. W. Staeheli     | 23 Apr 1958                 |
| LCDR L. Krupp (acting) | 06 Jun 1958                 |
| CDR Jack C. Stuart     | 13 Jun 1958                 |
| CDR Meryl A. Iiams     | 30 Dec 1959                 |
| CDR Emmett B. Boutwell | 05 Jul 1961                 |
| CDR N. J. Gambrill     | 11 Jun 1962                 |
| CDR Frank T. Hemler    | 22 Jun 1963                 |
| CDR W. B. Muncie       | 09 Jul 1964                 |
| CDR K. L. Shugart      | 01 Jun 1965                 |
| CDR Holmer L. Smith    | 01 Jun 1966                 |
| CDR Marvin M. Quaid    | May 1967                    |

### Commanding Officers—Continued

|                          | <i>Date Assumed Command</i> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CDR Richard R. Allmann   | 09 Jul 1968                 |
| CDR David C. Coe, Jr.    | 21 Feb 1969                 |
| CDR Edwin D. Shropshire  | 22 Dec 1969                 |
| CDR Thomas M. Corkhill   | 13 Nov 1970                 |
| CDR Henry H. Strong, Jr. | 17 Dec 1971                 |
| CDR Robert W. Peacher    | 25 May 1972                 |
| CDR Milton R. Gorham     | 02 May 1973                 |
| CDR James M. Curtin      | 31 May 1974                 |

### Aircraft Assignment

| <i>Type of Aircraft</i> | <i>Date Type First Received</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| F7U-3M                  | Jul 1955                        |
| F7U-3                   | Aug 1955                        |
| F9F-8B                  | Apr 1957                        |
| FJ-4B                   | 19 Jul 1957                     |
| A4D-2/A-4B*             | 20 Jun 1961                     |
| A-4E                    | 02 Jan 1964                     |
| A-4F                    | Oct 1967                        |

\* The A4D-2 designation was changed to A-4B in 1962.

**Major Overseas Deployments**

| <i>Date of Departure</i> | <i>Date of Return</i> | <i>Air Wing</i> | <i>Carrier</i> | <i>Type of Aircraft</i> | <i>Area of Operation</i> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 16 Aug 1956              | 28 Feb 1957           | CVG-21          | CVA 31         | F7U-3                   | WestPac                  |
| 14 Jul 1958              | 19 Dec 1958           | CVG-21          | CVA 16         | FJ-4B                   | WestPac                  |
| 26 Apr 1959              | 02 Dec 1959           | CVG-21          | CVA 16         | FJ-4B                   | WestPac                  |
| 29 Oct 1960              | 06 Jun 1961           | CVG-21          | CVA 16         | FJ-4B                   | WestPac                  |
| 02 Feb 1962              | 24 Aug 1962           | CVG-21          | CVA 19         | A4D-2                   | WestPac                  |
| 07 Jun 1963              | 16 Dec 1963           | CVG-21          | CVA 19         | A-4B                    | WestPac                  |
| 21 Oct 1964              | 29 May 1965           | CVW-21          | CVA 19         | A-4E                    | WestPac/Vietnam          |
| 10 Nov 1965              | 01 Aug 1966           | CVW-21          | CVA 19         | A-4E                    | WestPac/Vietnam          |
| 26 Jan 1967              | 25 Aug 1967           | CVW-21          | CVA 31         | A-4E                    | WestPac/Vietnam          |
| 27 Jan 1968              | 10 Oct 1968           | CVW-5           | CVA 31         | A-4F                    | WestPac/Vietnam          |
| 02 Aug 1969              | 15 Apr 1970           | CVW-21          | CVA 19         | A-4F                    | WestPac/Vietnam          |
| 22 Oct 1970              | 03 Jun 1971           | CVW-21          | CVA 19         | A-4F                    | WestPac/Vietnam          |
| 07 Jan 1972              | 03 Oct 1972           | CVW-21          | CVA 19         | A-4F                    | WestPac/Vietnam          |
| 08 May 1973              | 08 Jan 1974           | CVW-21          | CVA 19         | A-4F                    | WestPac/IO               |
| 18 Mar 1975              | 20 Oct 1975           | CVW-21          | CV 19          | A-4F                    | WestPac                  |



A squadron FJ-4B Fury preparing for launch from Lexington (CVA 16) during her 1959 deployment to WestPac.

**Air Wing Assignments**

| <i>Air Wing</i> | <i>Tail Code</i> | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| CVG-21/CVW-21†  | G/NP*            | 01 Jul 1955            |
| CVW-5           | NF               | 01 Oct 1967            |
| CVW-21          | NP               | 01 Nov 1968            |

\* The tail code was changed from G to NP in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

† CVG-21 was redesignated CVW-21 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

**Unit Awards Received**

| <i>Unit Award</i> | <i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i> |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|
| AFEM              | 15 Aug 1958                                | 17 Aug 1958 |
|                   | 27 Aug 1958                                | 16 Sep 1958 |
|                   | 14 Sep 1958                                |             |
|                   | 26 Sep 1958                                | 15 Oct 1958 |

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

| <i>Unit Award</i> | <i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i> |             |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| NUC               | 02 Oct 1958                                |             |             |
|                   | 06 Oct 1958                                |             |             |
|                   | 10 Nov 1958                                | 15 Nov 1958 |             |
|                   | 27 Nov 1958                                | 28 Nov 1958 |             |
|                   | 28 Jun 1959                                | 02 Jul 1959 |             |
|                   | 11 Jul 1959                                | 16 Jul 1959 |             |
|                   | 17 Oct 1959                                | 19 Oct 1959 |             |
|                   | 15 Dec 1960                                | 24 Dec 1960 |             |
|                   | 01 Jan 1961                                | 08 Jan 1961 |             |
|                   | 10 Mar 1962                                | 14 Mar 1962 |             |
|                   | 14 Apr 1962                                | 16 Apr 1962 |             |
|                   | 16 May 1962                                | 18 May 1962 |             |
|                   | 04 Nov 1963                                | 10 Nov 1963 |             |
|                   | 07 Dec 1964                                | 04 May 1965 |             |
|                   | 04 May 1968                                | 07 May 1968 |             |
|                   | 30 Oct 1969                                |             |             |
|                   | 03 Jan 1970                                | 08 Jan 1970 |             |
| 22 Feb 1970       | 25 Feb 1970                                |             |             |
| MUC               | 06 Dec 1965                                | 25 Jul 1966 |             |
|                   | 21 Feb 1968                                | 13 Sep 1968 |             |
|                   | 08 Feb 1972                                | 14 Sep 1972 |             |
|                   | 21 Aug 1969                                | 31 Mar 1970 |             |
|                   | 20 Nov 1970                                | 07 May 1971 |             |
|                   | RVNGC                                      | 26 Dec 1965 |             |
|                   |  | 28 Dec 1965 | 31 Dec 1965 |
|                   |  | 02 Jan 1966 | 04 Jan 1966 |
|                   |  | 09 Jan 1966 |             |
|                   |  | 15 Jan 1966 | 19 Jan 1966 |
| 25 Feb 1966       |  | 26 Feb 1966 |             |
| 28 Feb 1966       |  | 05 Mar 1966 |             |
| 01 Apr 1966       |  | 02 Apr 1966 |             |
| 25 May 1966       |  |             |             |
| 24 Jun 1966       |  |             |             |
| 27 Jun 1966       | 29 Jun 1966                                |             |             |

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

| <i>Unit Award</i> | <i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i> |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|
|                   | 28 Feb 1967                                |             |
|                   | 07 Mar 1967                                |             |
|                   | 11 Mar 1967                                |             |
|                   | 13 Mar 1967                                |             |
|                   | 16 Mar 1967                                |             |
|                   | 20 Mar 1967                                | 21 Mar 1967 |
|                   | 29 Apr 1967                                | 01 May 1967 |
|                   | 16 May 1967                                | 18 May 1967 |
|                   | 21 Feb 1968                                | 25 Feb 1968 |
|                   | 27 Feb 1968                                | 07 Mar 1968 |
|                   | 12 Mar 1968                                | 18 Mar 1968 |
|                   | 22 Mar 1968                                | 23 Mar 1968 |
|                   | 25 Mar 1968                                |             |
|                   | 06 Apr 1968                                | 11 Apr 1968 |
|                   | 13 Apr 1968                                | 14 Apr 1968 |
|                   | 17 Apr 1968                                | 20 Apr 1968 |
|                   | 13 May 1968                                | 14 May 1968 |
|                   | 26 May 1968                                | 27 May 1968 |
|                   | 04 Jul 1968                                |             |
|                   | 02 Aug 1968                                | 18 Aug 1968 |
|                   | 27 Aug 1968                                | 14 Sep 1968 |
|                   | 30 Mar 1972                                | 15 Jul 1972 |
| VNSM              | 17 Dec 1965                                | 23 Jan 1966 |
|                   | 11 Feb 1966                                | 06 Mar 1966 |
|                   | 21 Mar 1966                                | 10 Apr 1966 |
|                   | 27 Apr 1966                                | 09 Jul 1966 |
|                   | 25 Feb 1967                                | 21 Mar 1967 |
|                   | 17 Apr 1967                                | 07 May 1967 |

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

| <i>Unit Award</i> | <i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i> |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|
|                   | 01 Jun 1967                                | 18 Jun 1967 |
|                   | 27 Jun 1967                                | 31 Jul 1967 |
|                   | 20 Feb 1968                                | 25 Mar 1968 |
|                   | 06 Apr 1968                                | 20 Apr 1968 |
|                   | 09 May 1968                                | 30 May 1968 |
|                   | 04 Jun 1968                                | 05 Jun 1968 |
|                   | 13 Jun 1968                                | 07 Jul 1968 |
|                   | 21 Jul 1968                                | 18 Aug 1968 |
|                   | 27 Aug 1968                                | 14 Sep 1968 |
|                   | 31 Aug 1969                                | 25 Sep 1969 |
|                   | 03 Oct 1969                                | 28 Oct 1969 |
|                   | 23 Nov 1969                                | 18 Dec 1969 |
|                   | 17 Jan 1970                                | 12 Feb 1970 |
|                   | 07 Mar 1970                                | 27 Mar 1970 |
|                   | 18 Nov 1970                                | 08 Dec 1970 |
|                   | 29 Dec 1970                                | 15 Jan 1971 |
|                   | 23 Jan 1971                                | 20 Feb 1971 |
|                   | 09 Mar 1971                                | 15 Mar 1971 |
|                   | 17 Mar 1971                                | 10 Apr 1971 |
|                   | 17 Apr 1971                                | 04 May 1971 |
|                   | 07 Feb 1972                                | 09 Mar 1972 |
|                   | 25 Mar 1972                                | 02 May 1972 |
|                   | 11 May 1972                                | 01 Jun 1972 |
|                   | 12 Jun 1972                                | 14 Jul 1972 |
|                   | 24 Jul 1972                                | 17 Aug 1972 |
|                   | 27 Aug 1972                                | 14 Sep 1972 |
| PUC               | 26 Feb 1967                                | 30 Jul 1967 |



*A squadron A-4E Skyhawk preparing to launch on a combat mission from Bon Homme Richard (CVA 31) during her deployment to Vietnam in 1967.*

## VA-213

### **Lineage**

Established as Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED THIRTEEN (VA-213) on 15 September 1948.

It is believed the squadron was disestablished some-time in May 1949. It was the first squadron to be assigned the VA-213 designation.

### **Squadron Insignia and Nickname**

There is no record of an officially approved insignia for the squadron.

Nickname: unknown.

### **Chronology of Significant Events**

**Sep 1948:** The squadron was established with the mission of being an all-weather attack unit and part of a carrier air group that was to be all-weather capable. Squadron personnel attended instrument training at the Fleet All-Weather Training Unit, Pacific.

### **Home Port Assignments**

| <i>Location</i> | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| NAS Seattle     | 15 Sep 1948            |

### **Commanding Officers**

|                        | <i>Date Assumed Command</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| LCDR H. Suerstedt, Jr. | 15 Sep 1948                 |

### **Aircraft Assignment**

| <i>Type of Aircraft</i> | <i>Date Type First Received</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| TBM-3E                  | Jan 1949                        |

### **Air Wing Assignments**

| <i>Air Wing</i> | <i>Tail Code</i> | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| CVG-21          | *                | 15 Sep 1948            |

\* There is no record of a tail code being assigned to CVG-21 for the period of its existence from 15 September 1948 to 15 March 1949.

## VA-214

### **Lineage**

Established as Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED FOURTEEN (VA-214) on 15 September 1948.

Disestablished on 16 May 1949. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-214 designation.

### **Squadron Insignia and Nickname**

There is no record of an officially approved insignia for the squadron.

Nickname: unknown.

### **Chronology of Significant Events**

**Sep 1948:** The squadron was established with the mission of being an all-weather attack unit and part of a carrier air group that was to be all-weather capable. Squadron personnel attended instrument training at the Fleet All-Weather Training Unit, Pacific.

### **Home Port Assignments**

| <i>Location</i> | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| NAS Seattle     | 15 Sep 1948            |

### **Commanding Officers**

|                                | <i>Date Assumed Command</i> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| LT William H. Bartles (acting) | 15 Sep 1948                 |
| LCDR Joseph A. Riley           | Nov 1948                    |

### **Aircraft Assignment**

| <i>Type of Aircraft</i> | <i>Date Type First Received</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| TBM-3E                  | Jan 1949                        |

### **Air Wing Assignments**

| <i>Air Wing</i> | <i>Tail Code</i> | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| CVG-21          | *                | 15 Sep 1948            |

\* There is no record of a tail code being assigned to CVG-21 for the period of its existence from 15 September 1948 to 15 March 1949.

## SECOND VA-214

### Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron TWO HUNDRED FOURTEEN (VF-214) on 30 March 1955.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED FOURTEEN (VA-214) on 11 October 1956.

Disestablished on 1 August 1958. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-214 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname



*The squadron's thunderbird insignia.*

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 5 December 1955. Colors for the thunderbird insignia were: a light blue background with a yellow border; black stylized thunderbird; yellow and red flame; and white double arrow shafts.

Nickname: Volunteers, 1957–1958.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**6 Jan 1958:** VA-214 was the first squadron on the west coast to make an extended deployment to the western Pacific with the new FJ-4B Fury.

### Home Port Assignment

| Location          | Assignment Date |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| NAS Moffett Field | 30 Mar 1955     |



*The squadron's acting commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander R. M. Soule, delivering the squadron's first aircraft, an FJ-3 Fury, at NAS Moffett Field, California, March 1955.*

### Commanding Officers

|                           | Date Assumed Command |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| LCDR R. M. Soule (acting) | 30 Mar 1955          |
| CDR L. T. Raynor          | 07 Jun 1955          |
| CDR R. D. King            | 21 Sep 1956          |

### Aircraft Assignment

| Type of Aircraft | Date Type First Received |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| FJ-3             | 31 Mar 1955              |
| F9F-8            | Nov 1955                 |
| FJ-4B            | 18 Jun 1957              |



*A squadron F9F-8 Cougar aboard Yorktown (CVA-10), circa 1956 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*



**Major Overseas Deployments**

| <i>Date of<br/>Departure</i> | <i>Date of<br/>Return</i> | <i>Air<br/>Wing</i> | <i>Carrier</i> | <i>Type of<br/>Aircraft</i> | <i>Area of<br/>Operation</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 19 Mar 1956                  | 13 Sep 1956               | ATG-4               | CVA 10         | F9F-8                       | WestPac                      |
| 06 Jan 1958                  | 02 Jul 1958               | ATG-4               | CVA 12         | FJ-4B                       | WestPac                      |

**Air Wing Assignments**

| <i>Air Wing</i> | <i>Tail Code</i> | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| ATG-4           | Z*/ND†           | 30 Mar 1955            |

\* The tail code Z for ATG-4 was assigned on 24 July 1956.

† The tail code was changed from Z to ND in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).



*A flight of squadron FJ-4Bs, circa 1957 or 1958.*

## VA-215

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED FIFTEEN (VA-215) on 22 June 1955.

Disestablished on 31 August 1967. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-215 designation.



The barn owl insignia used by the squadron.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 20 August 1956. The insignia colors are not on record.

Nickname: Barn Owls, early 1960's–1967.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Aug–Nov 1958:** VA-215, operating from *Lexington* (CVA 16), conducted flight operations in the Formosa Straits due to the tension surrounding the Chinese Communist shelling of the Quemoy Islands.

**24 Mar 1959:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander P. Rippa, was killed on a training flight in Yosemite Valley.

**Mar 1961:** *Lexington*, with VA-215 embarked, operated off the coast of Thailand as a result of the deteriorating position of Laotian government forces against the Pathet Lao. Units of *Lexington's* air group flew reconnaissance missions over Laos.

**15 Apr 1962:** Embarked in *Hancock* (CVA 19), the squadron operated off the coast of South Vietnam during the arrival of the first USMC advisor unit in the Republic of Vietnam.

**May 1962:** VA-215 and other CVG-21 squadrons from *Hancock* were prepared to support a U.S. Marine Corps unit that landed in Bangkok and moved by air to Udorn. The Marine landing was at the request of the Thai government because of its concerns surround-

ing the success of Pathet Lao forces along the Thai-Laotian border.

**Sep 1963:** VA-215, embarked in *Hancock*, operated off the coast of Taiwan due to increased tensions between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China.

**Nov 1963:** VA-215, embarked in *Hancock*, operated off the coast of South Vietnam following the coup that overthrew President Diem.

**Dec 1964:** Squadron aircraft participated in its first Barrell Roll operations, armed reconnaissance and strike missions along infiltration routes in Laos.

**Feb 1965:** Skyraiders from the squadron participated in Flaming Dart operations, reprisal attacks against military targets in North Vietnam.

**Mar–May 1965:** The squadron's Skyraiders participated in special operations in Southeast Asia, including the Rolling Thunder campaign, strikes against designated military targets in North Vietnam.

**5 Mar 1966:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander R. C. Hessom, was killed in action during a mission over North Vietnam.

**Mar 1966:** Squadron aircraft participated in Operation Jackstay, providing close air support for amphibious operations that cleared the Rung Sat zone, the river channels, southeast of Saigon.

### Home Port Assignments

| Location          | Assignment Date |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| NAS Moffett Field | Jun 1955        |
| NAS Alameda       | Dec 1963        |

### Commanding Officers

|                                   | Date Assumed Command |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| CDR E. E. Kerr                    | Jun 1955             |
| LCDR W. A. Skon                   | Mar 1957             |
| CDR O. N. Ford                    | Apr 1958             |
| LCDR Peter Rippa                  | Jan 1959             |
| LCDR J. L. Morrison, Jr. (acting) | 24 Mar 1959          |
| CDR H. Broadbent, Jr.             | 03 Apr 1959          |
| CDR G. A. Buckowski               | 04 Apr 1960          |
| CDR L. A. Dewing                  | 12 Jun 1961          |
| CDR F. W. Brown, Jr.              | 12 Jun 1962          |
| CDR Richard J. Licko              | 22 Jun 1963          |
| CDR Donald E. Brubaker            | 03 Jun 1964          |
| CDR Robert C. Hessom              | 01 Mar 1965          |
| CDR Frederick L. Nelson           | 05 Mar 1966          |
| CDR George A. Carlton             | Jan 1967             |

### Aircraft Assignment

| Type of Aircraft | Date Type First Received |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| AD-6*            | Aug 1955                 |
| AD-7*            | Jun 1961                 |

\* The AD-6 and AD-7 designations were changed to A-1H and A-1J in 1962.

**Major Overseas Deployments**

| <i>Date of Departure</i> | <i>Date of Return</i> | <i>Air Wing</i> | <i>Carrier</i> | <i>Type of Aircraft</i> | <i>Area of Operation</i> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 16 Aug 1956              | 28 Feb 1957           | CVG-21          | CVA 31         | AD-6                    | WestPac                  |
| 14 Jul 1958              | 19 Dec 1958           | CVG-21          | CVA 16         | AD-6                    | WestPac                  |
| 26 Apr 1959              | 02 Dec 1959           | CVG-21          | CVA 16         | AD-6                    | WestPac                  |
| 29 Oct 1960              | 06 Jun 1961           | CVG-21          | CVA 16         | AD-6                    | WestPac                  |
| 02 Feb 1962              | 24 Aug 1962           | CVG-21          | CVA 19         | AD-6/7                  | WestPac                  |
| 07 Jun 1963              | 16 Dec 1963           | CVG-21          | CVA 19         | A-1H/J                  | WestPac                  |
| 21 Oct 1964              | 29 May 1965           | CVW-21          | CVA 19         | A-1H/J                  | WestPac/Vietnam          |
| 10 Nov 1965              | 01 Aug 1966           | CVW-21          | CVA 19         | A-1H/J                  | WestPac/Vietnam          |
| 26 Jan 1967              | 25 Aug 1967           | CVW-21          | CVA 31         | A-1H/J                  | WestPac/Vietnam          |

**Air Wing Assignments**

| <i>Air Wing</i> | <i>Tail Code</i> | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| CVG-21/CVW-21†  | G/NP*            | 01 Jul 1955            |

\* The tail code was changed from G to NP in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

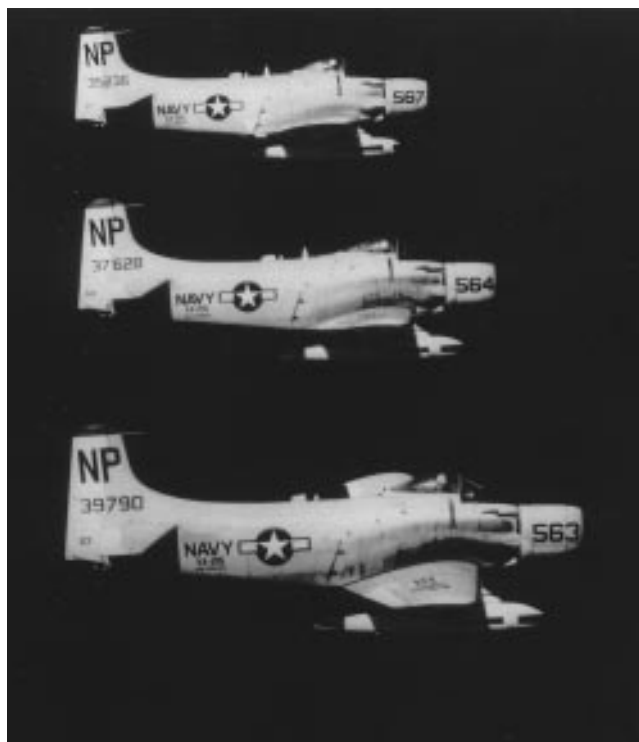
† CVG-21 was redesignated CVW-21 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

**Unit Awards Received**

| <i>Unit Award</i> | <i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i> |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|
| AFEM              | 15 Aug 1958                                | 17 Aug 1958 |
|                   | 27 Aug 1958                                | 16 Sep 1958 |
|                   | 14 Sep 1958                                |             |
|                   | 26 Sep 1958                                | 15 Oct 1958 |
|                   | 02 Oct 1958                                |             |
|                   | 06 Oct 1958                                |             |
|                   | 10 Nov 1958                                | 15 Nov 1958 |
|                   | 27 Nov 1958                                | 28 Nov 1958 |
|                   | 28 Jun 1959                                | 02 Jul 1959 |
|                   | 11 Jul 1959                                | 16 Jul 1959 |
|                   | 17 Oct 1959                                | 19 Oct 1959 |
|                   | 15 Dec 1960                                | 24 Dec 1960 |
|                   | 01 Jan 1961                                | 08 Jan 1961 |
|                   | 10 Mar 1962                                | 14 Mar 1962 |
|                   | 14 Apr 1962                                | 16 Apr 1962 |
|                   | 16 May 1962                                | 18 May 1962 |
|                   | 04 Nov 1963                                | 10 Nov 1963 |
|                   | 07 Dec 1964                                | 04 May 1965 |
|                   | 06 Dec 1965                                | 25 Jul 1966 |
|                   | NUC<br>RVNGC                               | 26 Dec 1965 |
| 28 Dec 1965       |  | 31 Dec 1965 |
| 02 Jan 1966       |  | 04 Jan 1966 |
| 09 Jan 1966       |  |             |
| 15 Jan 1966       |  | 19 Jan 1966 |
| 25 Feb 1966       |  | 26 Feb 1966 |
| 28 Feb 1966       |  | 05 Mar 1966 |
| 01 Apr 1966       |  | 02 Apr 1966 |
| 25 May 1966       |  |             |
| 24 Jun 1966       |  |             |
| 27 Jun 1966       |  | 29 Jun 1966 |
| 28 Feb 1967       |  |             |
| 07 Mar 1967       |  |             |
| 11 Mar 1967       |  |             |

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

| <i>Unit Award</i> | <i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i> |             |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| VNSM              | 13 Mar 1967                                |             |             |
|                   | 16 Mar 1967                                |             |             |
|                   | 20 Mar 1967                                | 21 Mar 1967 |             |
|                   | 29 Apr 1967                                | 01 May 1967 |             |
|                   | 16 May 1967                                | 18 May 1967 |             |
|                   | 17 Dec 1965                                | 23 Jan 1966 |             |
|                   | 11 Feb 1966                                | 06 Mar 1966 |             |
|                   | 21 Mar 1966                                | 10 Apr 1966 |             |
|                   | 27 Apr 1966                                | 09 Jul 1966 |             |
|                   | 25 Feb 1967                                | 21 Mar 1967 |             |
|                   | 17 Apr 1967                                | 07 May 1967 |             |
|                   | 01 Jun 1967                                | 18 Jun 1967 |             |
|                   | 27 Jun 1967                                | 31 Jul 1967 |             |
|                   | PUC<br>NAVE                                | 26 Feb 1967 | 30 Jul 1967 |
|                   |  | 01 Jul 1965 | 31 Dec 1966 |



*A flight of squadron A-1H Skyraiders during their deployment aboard Hancock (CVA 19) in 1965.*

## SECOND VA-215

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED FIFTEEN (VA-215) on 1 March 1968.

Disestablished on 30 September 1977. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-215 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was not submitted to CNO for approval. The insignia used by VA-215 incorporated a section of the first VA-215's insignia. Colors for this insignia were: a white background outlined by two rows of alternating green and white squares outlined in black; the stylized owl's head was silver with black markings, green eyes, and green plumage and wings, outlined in black; white scroll outlined in black with green lettering and the nickname, Barn Owls, in black.



The squadron's insignia used elements from the first VA-215 insignia and also used the name Barn Owls.

Nickname: Barn Owls, 1968–1977

### Chronology of Significant Events

**1 Mar 1968:** Following establishment, the squadron remained under the operational control of VA-122 during its training in the A-7 Corsair II.

**14 Jan 1969:** The squadron was embarked in *Enterprise* (CVAN 65), conducting operational training in Hawaiian waters prior to deployment when a major fire occurred on the flight deck of the carrier. Several squadron personnel were presented with citations from the Secretary of the Navy and the Commanding Officer of *Enterprise* for heroism during the fire.

**16 Apr 1969:** *Enterprise*, with VA-215 embarked, departed Yankee Station enroute to Korean waters in response to the downing of a Navy EC-121 aircraft by the North Koreans on 15 April. The squadron operated in the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea until 11 May.

**Dec 1972:** The squadron participated in Linebacker II operations, concentrated air strikes against North Vietnam.

**Feb 1973:** Following the cease fire with North Vietnam, the squadron flew combat missions in Laos until a cease fire was signed with that country on 22 February 1973.

**Nov 1973:** *Oriskany* (CVA 34), with VA-215 embarked, departed from operations in the South China Sea to relieve *Hancock* (CVA 19) on station in the Arabian Sea due to the unsettled conditions following the Yom Kippur War in the Middle East.

**Oct 1976–Apr 1977:** This was the twilight cruise of the *Roosevelt*, CVW-19 and VA-215.

### Home Port Assignments

| Location    | Assignment Date |
|-------------|-----------------|
| NAS Lemoore | 01 Mar 1968     |

### Commanding Officers

|                            | Date Assumed Command |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| CDR George E. LeBlanc, Jr. | 01 Mar 1968          |
| CDR D. L. McConnell        | 08 May 1969          |
| CDR W. H. Beck             | Apr 1970             |
| CDR Paul E. Phillips       | 19 Mar 1971          |
| CDR James F. Crummer       | 20 Mar 1972          |
| CDR Douglas E. French      | 04 May 1973          |
| CDR Riley D. Mixson        | 26 Jul 1974          |
| CDR John J. Schultz        | 31 Oct 1975          |
| CDR Gary L. Harter         | 01 Dec 1976          |

### Aircraft Assignment

| Type of Aircraft | Date Type First Received |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| A-7B             | Jul 1968                 |

### Major Overseas Deployments

| Date of Departure | Date of Return | Air Wing | Carrier | Type of Aircraft | Area of Operation |
|-------------------|----------------|----------|---------|------------------|-------------------|
| 06 Jan 1969       | 02 Jul 1969    | CVW-9    | CVAN 65 | A-7B             | WestPac/Vietnam   |
| 02 Jan 1970       | 27 Jul 1970    | CVW-6    | CVA 42  | A-7B             | Med               |
| 14 May 1971       | 18 Dec 1971    | CVW-19   | CVA 34  | A-7B             | WestPac/Vietnam   |
| 05 Jun 1972       | 30 Mar 1973    | CVW-19   | CVA 34  | A-7B             | WestPac/Vietnam   |
| 18 Oct 1973       | 05 Jun 1974    | CVW-19   | CVA 34  | A-7B             | WestPac/IO        |
| 16 Sep 1975       | 03 Mar 1976    | CVW-19   | CV 34   | A-7B             | WestPac           |
| 04 Oct 1976       | 21 Apr 1977    | CVW-19   | CV 42   | A-7B             | Med               |

**Air Wing Assignments**

| <i>Air Wing</i> | <i>Tail Code</i> | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| CVW-9           | NG               | Sep 1968               |
| CVW-6           | AE               | Jul 1969               |
| CVW-19          | NM               | 10 Dec 1970            |

**Unit Awards Received**

| <i>Unit Award</i> | <i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i> |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|
| AFEM              | 20 Apr 1969                                | 11 May 1969 |
| VNSM              | 30 Mar 1969                                | 18 Apr 1969 |
|                   | 22 May 1969                                | 24 May 1969 |
|                   | 29 May 1969                                | 17 Jun 1969 |

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

| <i>Unit Award</i> | <i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i> |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|
|                   | 15 Jun 1971                                | 10 Jul 1971 |
|                   | 24 Jul 1971                                | 07 Aug 1971 |
|                   | 03 Sep 1971                                | 27 Sep 1971 |
|                   | 29 Oct 1971                                | 21 Nov 1971 |
|                   | 26 Jun 1972                                | 23 Jul 1972 |
|                   | 16 Aug 1972                                | 01 Sep 1972 |
|                   | 11 Sep 1972                                | 28 Sep 1972 |
|                   | 08 Oct 1972                                | 31 Oct 1972 |
|                   | 24 Nov 1972                                | 18 Dec 1972 |
|                   | 27 Dec 1972                                | 31 Jan 1973 |
|                   | 10 Feb 1973                                | 06 Mar 1973 |
| MUC               | 28 Jun 1972                                | 06 Mar 1973 |



*A formation of squadron A-7B Corsair IIs in 1972.*

## VA-216

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN (VA-216) on 30 March 1955.

Disestablished on 1 August 1970. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-216 designation.



*The Black Diamond insignia.*

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 28 March 1956. Colors for the insignia were black and white. The background was black with a white and black border; the shield and weapons were white with

black markings; the scroll was white outlined in black with black lettering.

Nickname: Black Diamonds, 1956–1970.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Sep 1958:** VA-216, embarked in *Bennington* (CVA 20), operated in the Formosa Straits during the Chinese Communist shelling of Quemoy and Matsu.

**1 Jul 1959:** A reorganization by the Commander Naval Air Force, Pacific directed VA-216 and VA-192 to swap aircraft and all personnel. Commander Baumgaertel, the commanding officer of VA-192, became the commanding officer of VA-216 and all other personnel assigned to VA-192 were reassigned to VA-216. The FJ-4Bs that had been assigned to VA-192 were transferred to VA-216. This exchange was similar to a redesignation, but for reasons that are not on record, it was officially directed as an "exchange" rather than as a "redesignation."

**Mar 1961:** VA-216, embarked in *Lexington* (CVA 16), was ordered to operate off the coast of Thailand as a result of the deteriorating position of Laotian government forces against the Pathet Lao. Units of *Lexington's* air group flew reconnaissance missions over Laos.

**Apr 1962:** VA-216, embarked in *Hancock* (CVA 19), operated off the coast of South Vietnam during the arrival of the first USMC advisor unit in the Republic of Vietnam.

**May 1962:** The squadron, along with other CVG-21 units embarked in *Hancock*, were prepared to support a U.S. Marine Corps unit that landed in Bangkok and moved by air to Udorn. The Marine landing was at the request of the Thai government because of its concerns surrounding the success of Pathet Lao forces along the Thai-Laotian border.

**Sep 1963:** VA-216, embarked in *Hancock*, operated off the coast of Taiwan due to increased tensions between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China.

**Nov 1963:** Embarked in *Hancock*, the squadron operated off the coast of South Vietnam following the coup that overthrew President Diem.

**29 Dec 1964–May 1965:** VA-216 participated in Yankee Team operations, armed reconnaissance flights over Laos, and Barrel Roll operations, armed reconnaissance and strike missions in eastern Laos covering the infiltration routes used by the Communists.

**7 Feb 1965:** VA-216 participated in Flaming Dart I operations, striking the Dong Hoi Barracks. These reprisal attacks against targets in North Vietnam were in response to the shelling of an American advisors compound at Pleiku by the Viet Cong.

**11 Feb 1965:** The squadron participated in Flaming Dart II operations, reprisal attacks against the barracks at Chanh Hoa, North Vietnam.

**Mar–May 1965:** VA-216's Skyhawks participated in the Rolling Thunder campaign, strikes against designated military targets in North Vietnam.

**Mar 1966:** Squadron aircraft participated in Operation Jackstay, providing close air support for the amphibious operations that cleared the Rung Sat zone, the river channels, southeast of Saigon.

**1 May 1966:** Lieutenant C. O. Tolbert was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during a combat mission over North Vietnam involving the Xom Dom Dien supply area and the sighting of a SAM missile battery which was destroyed in a later mission.

**7 Jul 1966:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander C. Birdwell, was awarded the Silver Star for his actions in a strike against the Haiphong POL storage area.

**Jun 1970:** VA-216, embarked in *Forrestal* (CVA 59), operated in the Eastern Mediterranean after American hostages were taken by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Amman, Jordan. The squadron, along with other units of CVW-17, were available also for air support during the evacuation of Americans from Jordan.



*A formation of squadron AD-4NA Skyraiders, July 1956 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

### Home Port Assignments

| <i>Location</i>   | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| NAS Moffett Field | 30 Mar 1955            |
| NAS Lemoore       | Sep 1961               |
| NAS Alameda       | 01 Aug 1968            |

### Commanding Officers—Continue

| <i>Date Assumed Command</i> |
|-----------------------------|
| 30 Mar 1955                 |
| Sep 1961                    |
| 01 Aug 1968                 |

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| CDR James J. Tyson       | 10 Oct 1967 |
| CDR James B. Busey IV    | 17 Dec 1968 |
| CDR Roger A. Massey, Jr. | 19 Sep 1969 |

### Commanding Officers

| <i>Date Assumed Command</i> |
|-----------------------------|
| 30 Mar 1955                 |
| Sep 1956                    |
| 13 Feb 1959                 |
| 01 Jul 1959                 |
| 09 Oct 1959                 |
| 05 Jul 1961                 |
| 02 Dec 1961                 |
| 06 Jan 1962                 |
| 31 Dec 1962                 |
| 10 Nov 1963                 |
| 07 Nov 1964                 |
| 1965                        |
| 21 Oct 1966                 |

### Aircraft Assignment

| <i>Type of Aircraft</i> | <i>Date Type First Received</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| AD-4                    | Apr 1955                        |
| AD-4NA                  | Apr 1955                        |
| AD-5                    | May 1955                        |
| AD-4B                   | Jul 1955                        |
| AD-7                    | Oct 1956                        |
| AD-6                    | Jul 1958                        |
| A4D-2                   | 16 Feb 1959                     |
| FJ-4B                   | 01 Jul 1959                     |
| A4D-2N/A-4C*            | 04 Sep 1962                     |
| A-4B                    | Aug 1966                        |
| A-4C                    | 1968                            |
| A-4E                    | 13 Jun 1969                     |

\* The A4D-2N designation was changed to A-4C in 1962.

**Major Overseas Deployments**

| <i>Date of Departure</i> | <i>Date of Return</i> | <i>Air Wing</i> | <i>Carrier</i> | <i>Type of Aircraft</i> | <i>Area of Operation</i> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 19 Mar 1956              | 13 Sep 1956           | ATG-4           | CVA 10         | AD-4B/NA                | WestPac                  |
| 06 Jan 1958              | 02 Jul 1958           | ATG-4           | CVA 12         | AD-7                    | WestPac                  |
| 21 Aug 1958              | 12 Jan 1959           | ATG-4           | CVA 20         | AD-6                    | WestPac                  |
| 29 Oct 1960              | 06 Jun 1961           | CVG-21          | CVA 16         | FJ-4B                   | WestPac                  |
| 02 Feb 1962              | 24 Aug 1962           | CVG-21          | CVA 19         | FJ-4B                   | WestPac                  |
| 07 Jun 1963              | 16 Dec 1963           | CVG-21          | CVA 19         | A-4C                    | WestPac                  |
| 21 Oct 1964              | 29 May 1965           | CVW-21          | CVA 19         | A-4C                    | WestPac/Vietnam          |
| 10 Nov 1965              | 01 Aug 1966           | CVW-21          | CVA 19         | A-4C                    | WestPac/Vietnam          |
| 02 May 1967              | 06 Dec 1967           | CVW-3           | CVA 60         | A-4B                    | Med                      |
| 07 Sep 1968              | 18 Apr 1969           | CVW-15          | CVA 43         | A-4C                    | WestPac/Vietnam          |
| 02 Dec 1969              | 08 Jul 1970           | CVW-17          | CVA 59         | A-4E                    | Med                      |



*Two squadron FJ-4B Fury aircraft on Hancock's (CVA 19) flight deck during her deployment to WestPac in 1962.*

**Air Wing Assignments**

| <i>Air Wing</i> | <i>Tail Code</i> | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| ATG-4           | Z*/ND†           | 30 Mar 1955            |
| CVG-21          | NP               | 01 Jul 1959‡           |
| COMFAIRALAMEDA  |                  | 01 Sep 1966            |
| CVW-3           | AC               | 01 Feb 1967            |
| COMFAIRALAMEDA  |                  | 09 Dec 1967            |
| CVW-15          | NL               | 1968§                  |
| CVW-17          | AA               | 1969                   |

\* The tail code Z for Air Task Group 4 (ATG-4) was assigned on 24 July 1956.

† The tail code was changed from Z to ND in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

‡ ATG-4 was disestablished on 19 January 1959. VA-216 was assigned to CVG-21 on 1 July 1959 but was not an active part of the Air Group until its return from deployment in December 1959.

§ VA-216 probably joined CVW-15 upon the air wing's return from its deployment in April 1968.

**Unit Awards Received**

| <i>Unit Award</i> | <i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i> |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|
| NAVE              | 01 Jul 1957                                | 30 Jun 1958 |
| AFEM              | 15 Dec 1960                                | 24 Dec 1960 |
|                   | 01 Jan 1961                                | 08 Jan 1961 |
|                   | 10 Mar 1962                                | 14 Mar 1962 |
|                   | 14 Apr 1962                                | 16 Apr 1962 |
|                   | 16 May 1962                                | 18 May 1962 |
|                   | 04 Nov 1963                                | 10 Nov 1963 |
|                   | 07 Dec 1964                                | 04 May 1965 |
| NUC               | 06 Dec 1965                                | 25 Jul 1966 |
|                   | 10 Oct 1968                                | 31 Mar 1969 |
| RVNGC             | 26 Dec 1965                                |             |
|                   | 28 Dec 1965                                | 31 Dec 1965 |
|                   | 02 Jan 1966                                | 04 Jan 1966 |
|                   | 09 Jan 1966                                |             |
|                   | 15 Jan 1966                                | 19 Jan 1966 |
|                   | 25 Feb 1966                                | 26 Feb 1966 |
|                   | 28 Feb 1966                                | 05 Mar 1966 |
|                   | 01 Apr 1966                                | 02 Apr 1966 |



**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

| <i>Unit Award</i> | <i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i> |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|
|                   | 25 May 1966                                |             |
|                   | 24 Jun 1966                                |             |
|                   | 27 Jun 1966                                | 29 Jun 1966 |
|                   | 15 Oct 1968                                |             |
|                   | 17 Oct 1968                                | 18 Oct 1968 |
|                   | 21 Oct 1968                                |             |
|                   | 25 Oct 1968                                | 27 Oct 1968 |
|                   | 14 Nov 1968                                | 16 Nov 1968 |
|                   | 23 Nov 1968                                |             |
|                   | 25 Nov 1968                                |             |
|                   | 01 Dec 1968                                | 02 Dec 1968 |
|                   | 04 Dec 1968                                | 05 Dec 1968 |
|                   | 30 Dec 1968                                |             |
|                   | 01 Jan 1969                                | 03 Jan 1969 |
|                   | 05 Jan 1969                                |             |

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

| <i>Unit Award</i> | <i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i> |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|
|                   | 07 Jan 1969                                | 10 Jan 1969 |
|                   | 14 Jan 1969                                | 19 Jan 1969 |
|                   | 22 Jan 1969                                |             |
|                   | 24 Jan 1969                                |             |
|                   | 26 Jan 1969                                |             |
|                   | 09 Feb 1969                                | 20 Feb 1969 |
|                   | 22 Feb 1969                                | 03 Mar 1969 |
|                   | 19 Mar 1969                                | 31 Mar 1969 |
| VNSM              | 17 Dec 1965                                | 23 Jan 1966 |
|                   | 11 Feb 1966                                | 06 Mar 1966 |
|                   | 21 Mar 1966                                | 10 Apr 1966 |
|                   | 27 Apr 1966                                | 09 Jul 1966 |
|                   | 29 Dec 1968                                | 30 Jan 1969 |
|                   | 08 Feb 1969                                | 03 Mar 1969 |
|                   | 19 Mar 1969                                | 30 Mar 1969 |



*Two squadron A-4C Skyhawks in flight, circa 1964–1965.*

## VA-304

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron THREE HUNDRED FOUR (VA-304) on 1 July 1970.

Disestablished on 31 December 1994. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-304 designation.



The squadron's skull and phoenix insignia.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 21 January 1971. Colors for the insignia were: a black background with a white border; the outline of the phoenix is red and the claws are black; white skull with shades of gray; and a black scroll with red lettering.

Nickname: Firebirds, 1970–1994.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**1 Jul 1970:** VA-304, a reserve squadron, established as part of a reorganization intended to increase the combat readiness of the Naval Air Reserve Force. Elements of reserve unit, VA-20G3, were used to form the newly established VA-304.

**May 1987:** VA-304 operated from the Canadian Forces Base at Edmonton, Alberta, while participating in exercise Rendezvous 87-Bold Warrior. The exercise was a mock full-scale battle between elements of the Canadian Armed Forces with VA-304 acting as an aggressor force.

**Aug 1988:** VA-304 was the first reserve squadron to receive and operate the A-6E Intruder.



A squadron A-4C Skyhawk, circa 1970 or 1971.

### Home Port Assignments

| Location    | Assignment Date |
|-------------|-----------------|
| NAS Alameda | 01 Jul 1970     |

### Commanding Officers

|                         | Date Assumed Command |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| CDR John H. Thompson    | 01 Jul 1970          |
| CDR Peter L. Hammes     | 01 Jul 1971          |
| CDR Jerry V. Kirk       | 21 Jan 1973          |
| CDR Raymond G. Blake    | 20 Jul 1974          |
| CDR David M. Boaz       | 17 Jan 1976          |
| CDR Matthew A. McCarthy | Jan 1978             |
| CDR Frank J. Bender     | 20 Oct 1979          |
| CDR R. F. Bush          | Jun 1981             |
| CDR D. B. Ashworth      | Mar 1983             |
| CDR Thomas W. Hearn     | Sep 1984             |
| CDR Donald K. Simmons   | 20 Apr 1986          |
| CDR Daniel R. Kestly    | 26 Apr 1987          |
| CDR Michael F. Dibello  | 16 Oct 1988          |
| CDR John R. Hines, Jr.  | 20 May 1990          |
| CDR Robert S. Mull, Jr. | 16 Nov 1991          |
| CDR William A. Roig     | 22 May 1993          |
| CDR Craig C. Groom      | 25 Jun 1994          |



A squadron A-7A Corsair II at NAS Alameda, California, in 1975.

**Aircraft Assignment**

| <i>Type of Aircraft</i> | <i>Date Type First Received</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A-4C                    | Jul 1970                        |
| A-7A                    | 06 Aug 1971                     |
| A-7B                    | Sep 1977                        |
| A-7E                    | Sep 1986                        |
| KA-6D                   | 22 Jul 1988                     |
| A-6E                    | 05 Aug 1988                     |

**Air Wing Assignments**

| <i>Air Wing</i> | <i>Tail Code</i> | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| CVWR-30         | ND               | 01 Jul 1970            |

**Unit Awards Received**

| <i>Unit Award</i> | <i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i> |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|
| MUC               | 01 Nov 1973                                | 30 Nov 1975 |
| NAVE              | 01 Jul 1974                                | 30 Sep 1976 |



*Two squadron A-6 Intruders over the Golden Gate Bridge.*

## VA-776

### Lineage

Reserve Attack Squadron SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX (VA-776) called to active duty on 27 January 1968\*.

Deactivated and returned to reserve status on 18 October 1968.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 21 November 1963. Colors for the insignia were: a blue background outlined in gold; white cloud outlined in black; gold eagle with black markings; gray liberty bell with black markings and the cross bar holding the bell was brown with black markings; orange bombs and the scroll was gold with black lettering.



The squadron's liberty bell insignia.

Nickname: unknown.

\* Few records exist for reserve squadrons prior to 1970. They did not submit history reports until 1970.

### Chronology of Significant Events

27 Jan 1968: The President directed the activation of VA-776 following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by a North Korean patrol boat on 23 January 1968.

### Home Port Assignments

| Location         | Assignment Date |
|------------------|-----------------|
| NAS Los Alamitos | 27 Jan 1968     |
| NAS Lemoore      | 13 Jun 1968     |

### Commanding Officers

|                            | Date Assumed Command |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| CDR Milton E. Johnson, Jr. | 27 Jan 1968          |

### Aircraft Assignment

| Type of Aircraft | Date Type First Received |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| A-4B             | Feb 1968                 |
| TA-4F            | Jun 1968                 |
| A-4E             | Jun 1968                 |

### Air Wing Assignments

| Air Wing       | Tail Code | Assignment Date |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| COMFAIRALAMEDA | NR*       | 27 Jan 1968     |

\* This tail code was also assigned two other activated reserve squadrons, VA-873 and VF-703.



A squadron A-4B Skyhawk (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

## VA-831

### Lineage

Reserve Attack Squadron EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY ONE (VA-831) called to active duty on 27 January 1968\*.

Deactivated and returned to reserve status on 18 October 1968.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

There is no record of an officially approved insignia. Nickname: unknown.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**27 Jan 1968:** The President directed the activation of VA-831 following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by a North Korean patrol boat on 23 January 1968.

**1 Jul 1968:** The squadron was the first activated reserve unit on the east coast to be assigned to an operational air wing.

\* Few records exist for reserve squadrons prior to 1970. They did not submit history reports until 1970.

### Home Port Assignments

| <i>Location</i> | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| NAS New York    | 27 Jan 1968            |
| NAS Cecil Field | 30 May 1968            |

### Commanding Officers

|                     | <i>Date Assumed Command</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| CDR Raymond Ketcham | 27 Jan 1968                 |

### Aircraft Assignment

| <i>Type of Aircraft</i> | <i>Date Type First Received</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A-4B                    | Jan 1968                        |

### Air Wing Assignments

| <i>Air Wing</i>     | <i>Tail Code</i> | <i>Assignment Date</i> |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| COMFAIRJACKSONVILLE | MA*              | 1968                   |
| CVW-1               | AB               | 01 Jul 1968            |

\* This tail code was also assigned two other activated reserve squadrons, VF-661 and VF-931.



*A squadron A-4 Skyhawk, circa 1968 (Courtesy Duane Kasulka Collection).*

## VA-873

### Lineage

Reserve Attack Squadron EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTH THREE (VA-873) called to active duty on 27 January 1968\*.

Deactivated and returned to reserve status on 12 October 1968.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 16 March 1964. Colors for the insignia were: a white and blue background outlined in black; the blue background section had five white stars and the white section had a gold outline of San Francisco's Golden Gate with two blue rows of waves beneath the bridge; separating the two sections was a stylized aircraft in black with a red flame coming from the tail; the scroll was white outlined in black with black lettering.



*The squadron's insignia used a stylized aircraft design with stars in the upper half and the Golden Gate Bridge in the lower part.*

Nickname: unknown.

\* Few records exist for reserve squadrons prior to 1970. They did not submit history reports until 1970.

### Chronology of Significant Events

27 Jan 1968: The President directed the activation of VA-873 following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by a North Korean patrol boat on 23 January 1968.

### Home Port Assignments

| Location    | Assignment Date |
|-------------|-----------------|
| NAS Alameda | 27 Jan 1968     |

### Commanding Officers

|                           | Date Assumed Command |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| CDR Glen W. Stinnett, Jr. | 27 Jan 1968          |

### Aircraft Assignment

| Type of Aircraft | Date | Type First Received |
|------------------|------|---------------------|
| A-4B             |      | 27 Jan 1968         |
| A-4C             |      | May 1968            |

### Air Wing Assignments

| Air Wing       | Tail Code | Assignment date |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| COMFAIRALAMEDA | NR*       | 27 Jan 1968     |
| CVW-2          | NE        | 01 Jul 1968     |
| COMFAIRALAMEDA |           | 01 Oct 1968     |

\* This tail code was also assigned to two other activated reserve squadrons, VA-776 and VF-703.



A squadron A-4 Skyhawk, circa 1968 (Courtesy Doug Olson Collection).