Lineage

Established as Reserve Attack Squadron TWO HUN-DRED 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

	Location Assignment Date
NAS South Weymouth	01 Jul 1970

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR W. M. Hollister	01 Jul 1970

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
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 Assingments

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
CVWR-20	AF	01 Jul 1970

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 seige 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

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Moffett Field	20 Jun 1955
NAS Lemoore	15 Sep 1961

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
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

	Date Assumed Command
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

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
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

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

		wiajor Ov	erseas Depioymen	113	
Date of	Date of	Air		Type of	Area of
Departure	Return	Wing	Carrier	Aircraft	Operation
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

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
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

Unit Award	Inclusive Dates	Covering Unit Award
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

Unit Award	Inclusive I	Dates Covering Unit Award
	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
NUC	06 Dec 1965	25 Jul 1966
	21 Feb 1968	13 Sep 1968
	08 Feb 1972	14 Sep 1972
MUC	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
	27 Jun 1966	29 Jun 1966

Unit Awards Received—Continued

Unit Awards Received—Continued

Unit Award	Inclusive Date.	s Covering Unit Award	Unit Award	Inclusive Dates	s Covering Unit Award
	28 Feb 1967			01 Jun 1967	18 Jun 1967
	07 Mar 1967			27 Jun 1967	31 Jul 1967
	11 Mar 1967			20 Feb 1968	25 Mar 1968
	13 Mar 1967			06 Apr 1968	20 Apr 1968
	16 Mar 1967			09 May 1968	30 May 1968
	20 Mar 1967	21 Mar 1967		04 Jun 1968	05 Jun 1968
	29 Apr 1967	01 May 1967		13 Jun 1968	07 Jul 1968
	16 May 1967	18 May 1967		21 Jul 1968	18 Aug 1968
	21 Feb 1968	25 Feb 1968		27 Aug 1968	14 Sep 1968
	27 Feb 1968	07 Mar 1968		31 Aug 1969	25 Sep 1969
	12 Mar 1968	18 Mar 1968		03 Oct 1969	28 Oct 1969
	22 Mar 1968	23 Mar 1968		23 Nov 1969	18 Dec 1969
	25 Mar 1968			17 Jan 1970	12 Feb 1970
	06 Apr 1968	11 Apr 1968		07 Mar 1970	27 Mar 1970
	13 Apr 1968	14 Apr 1968		18 Nov 1970	08 Dec 1970
	17 Apr 1968	20 Apr 1968			
	13 May 1968	14 May 1968		29 Dec 1970	15 Jan 1971
	26 May 1968	27 May 1968		23 Jan 1971	20 Feb 1971
	04 Jul 1968			09 Mar 1971	15 Mar 1971
	02 Aug 1968	18 Aug 1968		17 Mar 1971	10 Apr 1971
	27 Aug 1968	14 Sep 1968		17 Apr 1971	04 May 1971
	30 Mar 1972	15 Jul 1972		07 Feb 1972	09 Mar 1972
VNSM	17 Dec 1965	23 Jan 1966		25 Mar 1972	02 May 1972
	11 Feb 1966	06 Mar 1966		11 May 1972	01 Jun 1972
	21 Mar 1966	10 Apr 1966		12 Jun 1972	14 Jul 1972
	27 Apr 1966	09 Jul 1966		24 Jul 1972	17 Aug 1972
	25 Feb 1967	21 Mar 1967		27 Aug 1972	14 Sep 1972
	17 Apr 1967	07 May 1967	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.

Lineage

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

It is believed the squadron was disestablished sometime 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

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Seattle	15 Sep 1948

Commanding Officers

Date Assumed CommandLCDR H. Suerstedt, Jr.15 Sep 1948

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
TBM-3E	Jan 1949

Air Wing Assignments

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
CVG-21	aje	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.

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

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Seattle	15 Sep 1948

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LT William H. Bartles (acting)	15 Sep 1948
LCDR Joseph A. Riley	Nov 1948

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
TBM-3E	Jan 1949

Air Wing Assignments

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
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 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: Volun-

teers, 1957-1958.

Assignment Date

30 Mar 1955

The squadron's thunderbird insignia.

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 NAS Moffett Field

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
30 Mar 1955
07 Jun 1955
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).

llama David Asalamaan

Major Overseas Deployments

Date of	Date of	Air	Carrier	Type of	Area of
Departure	Return	Wing		Aircraft	Operation
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

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
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.

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

Date of Departure	Date of Return	Air Wing	Carrier	Type of Aircraft	Area of Operation
16 Aug 1956 14 Jul 1958 26 Apr 1959 29 Oct 1960 02 Feb 1962 07 Jun 1963 21 Oct 1964 10 Nov 1965 26 Jan 1967	28 Feb 1957 19 Dec 1958 02 Dec 1959 06 Jun 1961 24 Aug 1962 16 Dec 1963 29 May 1965 01 Aug 1966 25 Aug 1967	CVG-21 CVG-21 CVG-21 CVG-21 CVG-21 CVG-21 CVW-21 CVW-21 CVW-21	CVA 31 CVA 16 CVA 16 CVA 16 CVA 19 CVA 19 CVA 19 CVA 19 CVA 19 CVA 31	AD-6 AD-6 AD-6 AD-6/7 A-1H/J A-1H/J A-1H/J A-1H/J	WestPac WestPac WestPac WestPac WestPac WestPac WestPac/Vietnam WestPac/Vietnam
5	0 ,		-		

Air Wing Assingments

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
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).

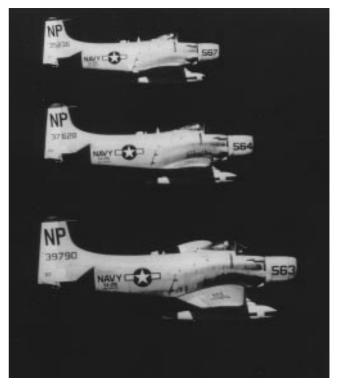
† CVG-21 was redesignated CVW-21 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

Unit Awards Received

Unit Award	Inclusive Dates	s Covering Unit Award
AFEM	15 Aug 1958	17 Aug 1958
	27 Aug 1958	16 Sep 1958
	14 Sep 1958	1
	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
NUC	06 Dec 1965	25 Jul 1966
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

Unit Award	Inclusive Dates	Covering Unit Award
	13 Mar 1967	
	16 Mar 1967	
	20 Mar 1967	21 Mar 1967
	29 Apr 1967	01 May 1967
	16 May 1967	18 May 1967
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
	01 Jun 1967	18 Jun 1967
	27 Jun 1967	31 Jul 1967
PUC	26 Feb 1967	30 Jul 1967
NAVE	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 incorporat-



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

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 conditons 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

Data Assured Comment

	Date Assumea Commana
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 Assingments

29 May 1969

Unit Awards Received—Continued

10 Feb 1973

06 Mar 1973

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date	Unit Award	Inclusive Dates	Covering Unit Award
CVW-9	NG	Sep 1968		15 Jun 1971	10 Jul 1971
CVW-6	AE	Jul 1969		24 Jul 1971	07 Aug 1971
CVW-19	NM	10 Dec 1970		03 Sep 1971	27 Sep 1971
				29 Oct 1971	21 Nov 1971
Unit Awards Pasaivad				26 Jun 1972	23 Jul 1972
Unit Awards Received			16 Aug 1972	01 Sep 1972	
Unit Award	Inclusive Dates	Covering Unit Award		11 Sep 1972	28 Sep 1972
AFEM	20 Apr 1969	11 May 1969		08 Oct 1972	31 Oct 1972
VNSM	30 Mar 1969	18 Apr 1969		24 Nov 1972	18 Dec 1972
V 1 10111	22 May 1969 24 May 1969		27 Dec 1972	31 Jan 1973	
	22 May 1707	21 may 1707		10 Feb 1073	06 Mar 1073

17 Jun 1969



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.



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

The Black Diamond insignia.

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, Jordon. The squadron, along with other units of CVW-17, were available also for air support during the evacuation of Americans from Jordon.



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

Home Port Assingments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Moffett Field	30 Mar 1955
NAS Lemoore	Sep 1961
NAS Alameda	01 Aug 1968

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Frank W. Ault	30 Mar 1955
CDR Hope Strong, Jr.	Sep 1956
CDR W. E. Payne, Jr.	13 Feb 1959
CDR L. F. Baumgaertel	01 Jul 1959
CDR M. E. Stewart	09 Oct 1959
CDR T. M. Smyer	05 Jul 1961
CDR R. W. Gait (acting)	02 Dec 1961
CDR G. W. Bailey	06 Jan 1962
CDR J. R. Anderson	31 Dec 1962
CDR J. W. Miller	10 Nov 1963
CDR R. E. Schwoeffermann	07 Nov 1964
CDR Carl Birdwell, Jr.	1965
CDR Robert S. Moore	21 Oct 1966

Commanding Officers—Continue

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

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
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.

Date of Departure	Date of Return	Air Wing	Carrier	Type of Aircraft	Area of Operation
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

Major Overseas Deployments



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

Air Wing Assignments

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
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

Unit Award	Inclusive Dates	s Covering Unit Award
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

Unit Awards Received—Continued

Unit Award	Inclusive Dates	Covering Unit Award	Unit Award	Inclusive Dates	Covering Unit Award
	25 May 1966			07 Jan 1969	10 Jan 1969
	24 Jun 1966			14 Jan 1969	19 Jan 1969
	27 Jun 1966	29 Jun 1966		22 Jan 1969	
	15 Oct 1968			24 Jan 1969	
	17 Oct 1968	18 Oct 1968		26 Jan 1969	
	21 Oct 1968			09 Feb 1969	20 Feb 1969
	25 Oct 1968	27 Oct 1968		22 Feb 1969	03 Mar 1969
	14 Nov 1968	16 Nov 1968		19 Mar 1969	31 Mar 1969
	23 Nov 1968		VNSM	17 Dec 1965	23 Jan 1966
	25 Nov 1968			11 Feb 1966	06 Mar 1966
	01 Dec 1968	02 Dec 1968		21 Mar 1966	10 Apr 1966
	04 Dec 1968	05 Dec 1968		27 Apr 1966	09 Jul 1966
	30 Dec 1968			29 Dec 1968	30 Jan 1969
	01 Jan 1969	03 Jan 1969		08 Feb 1969	03 Mar 1969
	05 Jan 1969			19 Mar 1969	30 Mar 1969



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

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.



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

The squadron's skull and phoenix insignia.

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 Skybawk, circa 1970 or 1971.

Home Port Assignments

Location NAS Alameda Assignment Date 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

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received	Air W
A-4C	Jul 1970	CVW
A-7A	06 Aug 1971	
A-7B	Sep 1977	
A-7E	Sep 1986	Unit 2
KA-6D	22 Jul 1988	MUC
A-6E	05 Aug 1988	NAV

Air Wing Assignments

Unit Awards Received				
CVWR-30	ND	01 Jul 1970		
Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date		

t Award	Inclusive Dates	Covering Unit Award
JC	01 Nov 1973	30 Nov 1975
VE	01 Jul 1974	30 Sep 1976



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

Lineage

Reserve Attack Squadron SEVEN HUNDRED SEVEN-TY 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



The squadron's liberty bell insignia.

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.

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 Skybawk (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Lineage

Reserve Attack Squadron EIGHT HUNDRED THIR-TY 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

Location NAS New York NAS Cecil Field Assignment Date 27 Jan 1968 30 May 1968

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Raymond Ketcham	27 Jan 1968

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
A-4B	Jan 1968

Air Wing Assignments

Air Wing Ta	uil Code	Assignment Date
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).

Lineage

Reserve Attack Squadron EIGHT HUNDRED SEV-ENTH 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



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

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.

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 Skybawk, circa 1968 (Courtesy Doug Olson Collection).