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## USMC F-4 Phantom II VMFA-314 *Black Knights* 1962-1982



**Lee R. De Haven and Mike Wanamaker**



**Squadron History Series, No. 1**

There have been dozens of published works covering the history of the McDonnell Aircraft F-4 Phantom II. Few among these works are in-depth histories about the U. S. Marine Corps aviation fighter squadrons. This work covers the history of Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 314, VMFA-314, while equipped with the F-4B and F-4N models of the F-4 Phantom II between the years 1962 and 1982. Every conceivable source has been sought to locate details, both big and small. Some will think this work as too detail oriented while others will be left wanting to know more. The advantage of publishing in the electronic format is that the reader can select how much detail he/she may wish to view. Our hope is that we have provided some part of the VMFA-314 "Black Knight" history for everyone.

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## A Note from the Author

As a lifelong *phan* of the Phantom II jet I have greatly enjoyed preparing the history of the USMC's F-4 Phantom IIs. This e-book is the culmination of more than two decades of research and is by no stretch of the imagination the finest published work on this piece of Corps history. Being a former enlisted sailor I must admit to a certain degree of pride to be swallowed in order to overcome my prejudices and do the F-4 justice (Go NAVY!) In the late 1970s I worked the flight deck of the USS RANGER, CV-61, and was up close and personal to many of the F-4s flown during CARQUALS. (I was one of the few sailors brave enough to remain deckside when the Marines arrived.)

We sincerely hope that this first squadron history of VMFA-314 will be found accurate, gratifying and a cherished addition to your private collection. At the same time, just because this e-book is finished does not mean we have ended our research. There are thousands of stories yet to be written, photos to be collected, and Cruise Books to be scanned. Don't feel left out, send in your stories and photos to be included in a future publication. Then there is my personal favorite - films/videos. My goal is to add up to sixty minutes of video.

The next generation of history buffs won't be sitting down to heavy, dust covered history 'books'. But give them a DVD they can 'play' with and we will have their attention. We might not want to pander to 'their' wants but that is exactly why we put *on* the uniform in the first place, to make sure each next generation would have a safe and easier life. Mike and I hope you will find the time to sit down and write up your *phavorite* memory - share a story about a *phavorite* or least *phavorite* F-4; people who made your squadron service fun or hell; go into your hallway closet and pull down that shoebox filled with old photos from the mid-late 60s and share them with us. One area we were unable to document in this first edition - stories from mothers, wives, girlfriends, and children of F-4 personnel. A story that was terrifying 30-40 years ago can be worth a chuckle in hindsight today.

What was the dumbest thing you did in or around the Phantom II?

Thanks to those of you already on board. Your stories and photos brought the history to life, added the blood, sweat and tears to the dates, names, and places.

Respectfully,



Lee De Haven