

# VMFA-314 "Black Knights"



# F-4 Phantom II 1962 – 1982

U.S.M.C. F-4 Phantom II



Squadron History Series, No. 01



APT Collectibles

**U.S.M.C. F-4 *Phantom II***  
**Squadron History Series, No. 01**  
**VMFA-314 “Black Knights”**  
**1962 – 1982**

by  
Lee R. De Haven  
and  
Mike Wanamaker

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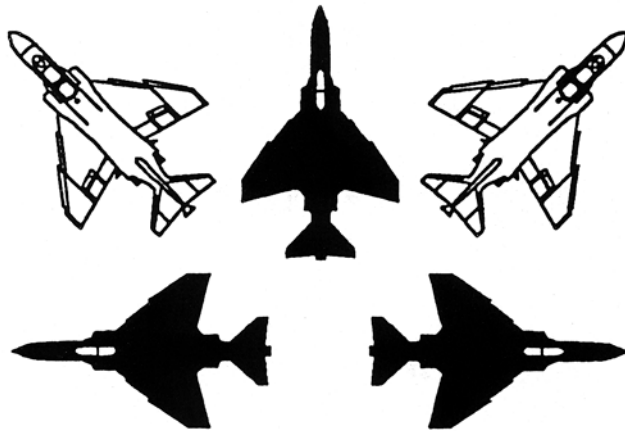
U.S.M.C. F-4 *Phantom II* Squadron Histories, Vol. 01

## Foreword

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.

## Dedication

This history of the VMFA-314 “Black Knights” is dedicated to all of those men and women, be they pilots/RIOs, maintenance personnel or administrative personnel, who made the “Black Knights” the squadron that it was and remains today. A special dedication goes to the families of the men who did not return from combat and to those families of the men who gave their lives at home. We salute you all.



*F-4 Plan View*



*Spook Territory – Beware. (Photo by Unknown Artist)*

## Assignments



*F-4B and F-4N era squadron insignia.*

### VMF-314

01/10/43 – xx/xx/57

### VMF(AW)-314

xx/xx/57 – 01/08/63

### VMFA-314

01/08/63 – Present

NAME: Black Knights  
Tail Code: VW

| <u>Assignments</u>  | <u>Location</u>           | <u>Period (dd/mm/yy)</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| MAG-15/3 MAW        | MCAS El Toro, California  | xx/11/61 – xx/11/63      |
| MAG-11/1 MAW        | NAS Atsugi, Japan         | xx/11/63 – xx/11/64      |
| MAG-15/3 MAW        | MCAS El Toro              | xx/11/64 – xx/09/65      |
| MAG-13/1 MAW (Rear) | MCAS Iwakuni, Japan       | xx/09/65 – xx/01/66      |
| MAG-11/1 MAW        | Da Nang AB, South Vietnam | xx/01 – 14/04/66         |
| MAG-15/9 MAB        | MCAS Iwakuni              | 14/04 – 01/08/66         |
| MAG-11/1 MAW        | Da Nang AB                | 01/08 – 21/10/66         |
| MAG-13/1 MAW        | Chu Lai AB, South Vietnam | 21/10/66 – xx/05/67      |
|                     | MCAS Chu Lai              | xx/05/67 – 17/08/67      |
| MAG-15/9 MAB        | MCAS Iwakuni              | 17/08 – 07/11/67         |
| MAG-13/1 MAW        | MCAS Chu Lai              | 07/11/67 – 12/09/70      |
|                     | Transit                   | 12-29/09/70              |
| MAG-13/3 MAW        | MCAS El Toro              | 22/09 – 23/10/70         |
| MAG-33/3 MAW        | MCAS El Toro              | 24/10/70 – xx/07/71      |
| MAG-11/3 MAW        | MCAS El Toro              | xx/07/71 – 24/05/82      |

Models: F4H-1 11/06 – 18/09/62  
F-4B 18/09/62 – xx/xx/74  
F-4N 24/08/73 – 24/05/82





*VMF-314 patch.*

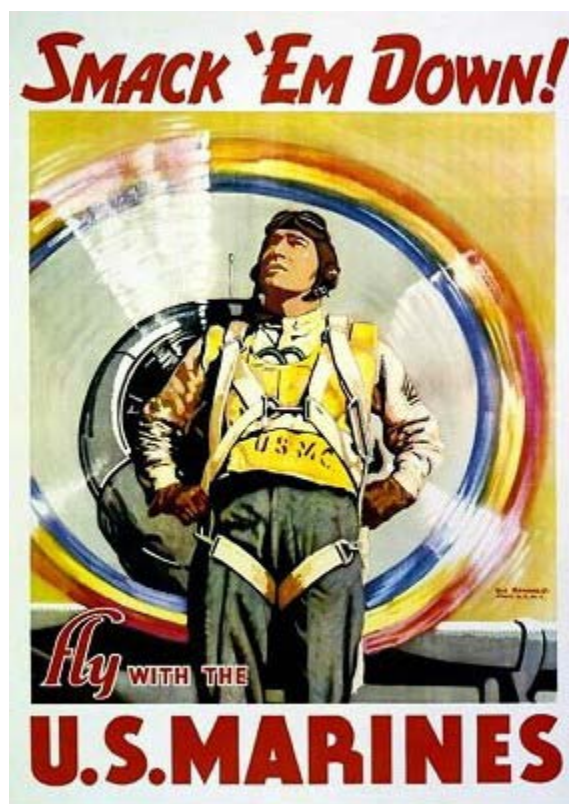


*An overhead photo of MCAS El Toro, 13 August 1964. (Dept. of Defense photo)*

## Background History

The following text in this section was obtained from the official VMFA-314 web site:

Commissioned on 1 October 1943 at Cherry Point, North Carolina, VMF-314 was assigned to MAG-32 flying the F-4U *Corsair* and began training immediately for combat in the Pacific. The squadron was reassigned to MAG-23, 3D MAW upon deployment to Midway Island in June 1944. The Squadron moved to Ie Shima in May 1945 to take part in the invasion of Okinawa. During the ensuing campaign, VMF-314 pilots were credited with 14 kills and the squadron was awarded the PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION. At the conclusion of hostilities, VMF-314 moved to Kyushu, Japan as part of the occupation force. In March 1946 the squadron returned to Cherry Point, was re-assigned to MAG-22, 9th MAW and was decommissioned on 30 April 1947.



*WWII poster, courtesy Marine Corps Aviation Association.*

VMF-314 was again commissioned in February 1952 at Miami, Florida and was assigned to MAG-31, 3d MAW flying the latest version of the *Corsair*. That same year, the squadron transitioned to the new F9F *Panther*. The next three years saw VMF-314 deployed twice, first to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, and then to Atsugi, Japan for an eighteen month tour. In 1955, VMF-314 returned from Japan and was assigned to MAG-15, 3D MAW, now stationed at El Toro, California.

In 1957, the squadron received the new F4D *Skyray* and was designated VMF(AW)-314. During that same year, the squadron officially became the BLACK KNIGHTS, was awarded the

Commandant's Aviation Efficiency Trophy. Additionally they deployed throughout the Far East both on land as well as onboard the fast attack carrier USS *Hancock* and USS *Ticonderoga*.

In 1961, the squadron became the first Marine squadron to transition to the new F-4B Phantom II and was designated VMFA-314. Between 1961 and 1964, the squadron deployed eight times. These included three separate carrier deployments and a single-flight aerial refueling mission spanning the Pacific Ocean from MCAS El Toro to Atsugi, Japan.