

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON OF THE YEAR



THE LAWSON H. M. SANDERSON AWARD

Presented by THE MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSOCIATION to

Established in Memory of Major General Lawson H. M. Sanderson, a Pioneer in the Development of Dive-Bombing and Close Air Support in Marine Aviation.

In Recognition of The Most Outstanding Marine Attack Squadron in Marine Aviation.

VMA-214



**BAE SYSTEMS
ELECTRONICS, INTELLIGENCE
& SUPPORT**

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2009 VMA-311 | 1993 VMFA (AW)-242 |
| 2008 VMA-231 | 1992 VMA-231 |
| 2007 VMA-211 | 1991 VMA-311 |
| 2006 VMA-211 | 1990 VMA-331 |
| 2005 VMA-542 | 1989 VMA(AW)-224 |
| 2004 VMA-513 | 1988 VMA-311 |
| 2003 VMA-542 | 1987 VMA-214 |
| 2002 VMA-223 | 1986 VMA (AW)-242 |
| 2001 VMA-311 | 1985 VMA(AW)-332 |
| 2000 VMA-223 | 1984 VMA-211 |
| 1999 VMA-223 | 1983 No Award Given |
| 1998 VMA-211 | 1982 VMA-214 |
| 1997 VMA-214 | 1981 VMA(AW)-533 |
| 1996 VMA-211 | 1980 VMA(AW)-533 |
| 1995 VMA-211 | 1979 VMA(AW)-121 |
| 1994 VMFA (AW)-533 | |



Award Citation

Marine Attack Squadron 214 made outstanding contributions to Marine Corps aviation from 1 January 2009, to 31 December 2009. VMA-214 prepared for and executed simultaneous deployments that supported the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade. Dedicating over 22,000 direct maintenance man-hours, completing over 13,000 maintenance actions while flying over 1,500 missions worldwide in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, the squadron flew over 4,500 mishap-free flight hours. While in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, VMA-214 exceeded all statistical records of flight hours, mission readiness and aircraft utilization rates set by other Harrier squadrons to include those involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The squadron's focused dedication to the professional development and the personal well-being of each Marine and sailor resulted in superlative care of over 1,000 family members through a robust and attentive Family Readiness program. Through their devotion and dedication, the Marines and sailors of VMA-214 reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of Marine Corps aviation.



22 May 2010