

# 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-231



**BAE SYSTEMS  
ELECTRONICS, INTELLIGENCE  
& SUPPORT**

- |              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 2010 VMA-214 | 1994 VMFA (AW)-533  |
| 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    |



### Award Citation

VMA-231 displayed extraordinary dedication from January 2010 to December 2010, producing over 2,600 combat and 4,400 total flight hours. The squadron supported more than 100 named operations, over 750 Joint Tactical Airstrike Requests, fired over 4,600 rounds of 25mm ammunition, and expended five Laser Guided Bombs. VMA-231 conducted 41 Close Air Support attacks during these operations in which all weapons struck their intended targets and caused no instances of civilian casualties or collateral damage. The squadron's transition from combat operations was exceptional, completing 51,369 maintenance man hours and achieving the highest score in the 2d MAW on the Logistics Management Assistance and Training inspection. VMA-231 supported exercise Mojave Viper four months after returning from Afghanistan, flying over 380 flight hours and expending over 115,000 pounds of ordnance. VMA-231's outstanding performance and dedication reflect great credit upon the squadron, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of Marine Corps aviation.



21 May 2011