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MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

Media Release

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VMA-513 Marines set to return from deployment

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. (May 31, 2013) – Yuma-based Marines with Marine Attack Squadron 513, Marine Aircraft Group 13, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing are scheduled to return to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma on Mon., June 3 at 2 p.m. after a six-month deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. The homecoming will take place at Hangar 109.

This will be the end of VMA-513's (The Flying Nightmares) last deployment, as, in early July, they are set to be the Marine Corps' first AV-8B Harrier Squadron to decommission. The decommissioning of the squadron is part of the grand Marine Corps shift from operating Harriers to relying on the F-35B Lightning II.

While deployed, the VMA-513 Marines provided a vital asset to the MEU's Air Combat Element. Each MEU the Marine Corps and the Navy deploy provide the United States a global military presence at sea – one that is ready to respond at a moment's notice to military aggression, natural disaster, humanitarian catastrophe or any number of other crises. The 31st MEU patrols the Asia-Pacific region.

MCAS Yuma is home to 3rd MAW's MAG-13, which includes four Harrier Squadrons – VMAs - 211, 311, 214 and 513; one Lightning II squadron – VMFA-121; Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 371.

Media are invited to cover the homecoming.

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Media interested in covering the June 3 homecoming must contact 1st Lt. Kathryn Whichard at (928) 269-3609 or kathryn.whichard@usmc.mil by 10 a.m. on Mon., June 3 to confirm attendance for the event.

For the homecoming, confirmed media must meet at the MCAS Yuma Main Gate no later than 1:15 p.m. When reserving a spot, be sure to include name of the organization and the names and phone numbers of reporters attending.

Media that R.S.V.P. will be informed of any changes to scheduled times.

For further questions, please contact 1st Lt. Kathryn Whichard, MCAS Yuma Public Affairs Officer, at (928) 269-3609.