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MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

Press Release

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VMX-22 CHANGE-OF-COMMAND, SQUADRON RE-DESIGNATION CEREMONY

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz., -- Marine Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron 22 (VMX-22) is hosting a change-of-command and squadron re-designation ceremony, May 13th, 2016 at 9 a.m. aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona.

Col. Robert L. Rauenhorst, VMX-22 Commanding Officer, will re-designate the squadron as VMX-1 and then will transfer the squadron colors to Col. George B. Rowell who will assume command of the newly re-designated squadron.

"It has been a privilege serving with this fantastic team. You have performed superbly, supporting Operational Test, Tactical Demonstrations, and Experimentation while deploying to almost every climb and place, and operating from the extremes of the desert environment to the arctic conditions at-sea from the Straights of Magellan while embarked on USS America's maiden voyage. Uprooting from MCAS New River and consolidating at MCAS Yuma was no easy task. I am proud of you all," said Rauenhorst.

VMX-22's mission is to conduct operational test and evaluation of U.S. Marine Corps' fixed, tiltrotor, and rotary-wing aircraft, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), and Aviation Command and Control (AC2) systems under the authority of Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force or Director, Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity. As directed by Deputy Commandant for Aviation, support concept development and assist in the creation of Marine aviation tactics, techniques and procedures through experimentation and support to tactical demonstrations, and provide other operational support as directed.

"I am truly honored and excited for the opportunity to serve with this proud team. I look forward to the challenges we will face, together, as we execute our important mission," said Rowell.

VMX-22 relocated from MCAS New River, NC, to MCAS Yuma, Ariz., summer of 2015.

For further questions about VMX-22, please contact Capt. Sarah Burns, HQMC Public Affairs, at 703-614-4309 or sarah.burns@usmc.mil. Media interested in attending the change of command and re-designation ceremony should contact MCAS Yuma Public Affairs at yuma_pao@usmc.mil or 928-269-2275.