



Lieutenant Colonel Michael K. Hayes Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

Lieutenant Colonel Michael K. Hayes was born in Bellows Falls, Vermont, grew up in Walpole New Hampshire and graduated High School from Fall Mountain Regional High School in Langdon, New Hampshire in 1998. While in college, Lieutenant Colonel Hayes enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserves on 3 June 2002. Following completion of Boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Paris Island and School of Infantry at Camp Geiger, he reported for duty with 1st Bn 25th Marines at Fort Devons, Massachusetts. During this three year tour he was promoted to Lance Corporal and deployed to Okinawa Japan, and the Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines. Upon return, he was accepted in the Platoon Leaders Course, and attended Officer Candidate School while finishing College.

In May of 2005 Lieutenant Colonel Hayes completed college with a bachelor's degree in Aviation Management from Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, Massachusetts and was commissioned to the rank of Second Lieutenant. He reported to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia in November of 2005 for attendance at The Basic School and upon completion reported to Naval Air Station Pensacola for Aviation Preflight Indoctrination. Next, Lieutenant Colonel Hayes reported to Training Squadron 28 at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi for primary flight training. In the fall of 2007, Lieutenant Hayes moved to Meridian, Mississippi where he reported to Training Squadron 7 for advanced flight training. On 3 April 2009, First Lieutenant Hayes received his Naval Aviator wings and then moved to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point for training in the AV-8B Harrier at VMAT-203.

Upon completion of the training at VMAT-203, Lieutenant Colonel Hayes received orders to the Tomcats of VMA-311 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona. While in the Tomcats, he deployed with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit from September 2012 to May 2013 and held the billets of Ground Safety Officer, NATOPS Officer, S-6 Officer-In-Charge, Airframes Division 6 Officer-In-Charge, and Powerline Division 6 Officer-In-Charge.

From July 2013 to June 2016, Lieutenant Colonel Hayes served as an AV-8B Instructor Pilot, VMAT-203 in Cherry Point, Norther Carolina. In VMAT-203 he worked as the S-1/Legal Officer, Replacement Pilot Training Officer, and the Airframes 6 Officer-In-Charge. While at VMAT-203 Lieutenant Colonel Hayes completed the Low Altitude Tactics and Night Systems Instructor curriculum and graduated from MAWTS-1 Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 2-16.

From June 2016 to March 2020 Lieutenant Colonel Hayes served again with the Tomcats of VMA-311 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona as the Operations Officer and Aircraft Maintenance Officer. While with the Tomcats, he deployed twice, once in support of the 31st MEU and once in support of SPMAGTF 19.2.

In March 2020, Lieutenant Colonel Hayes reported to MATSS-Yuma as the AV-8B Simulator Site 6 Officer-In-Charge and in February of 2021 also filled the roles of MAG-13 Assistant Operations Officer and Weapons Tactics Instructor. From November 2021 to June 2022 he served as the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Director of Operations before assuming command of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.

Lieutenant Colonel Hayes completed Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College through the United States Marine Corps' College of Distance Education and Training. He has accumulated roughly 2,500 flight hours in the AV-8B, F-5N and C-12F and has held every major flight-leadership and instructor qualification in the Harrier. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal Strike/Flight and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Lieutenant Colonel Hayes and his wife Tarin have four children: Hannah, Michael, Jack and William.