



Media Release

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Date Released: February 4, 2021
Release #03-21

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Vikings welcome fifth-generation strike fighter to arsenal

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. – (February 03, 2021) Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA(AW) 225 “Vikings” officially transition to an F-35B squadron, adopting the new designation as Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 225 during their redesignation and assumption of command ceremony.

Last year, VMFA(AW)-225 held a sundown ceremony at their home base, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, concluding flight operations with the F/A-18D Hornet and introducing the F-35B Lightning II as their future fixed-wing aircraft.

“It’s an exciting day for [VMFA-225],” said Lt. Col. Alexander Goodno, the commanding officer of VMFA-225. “We will grow over the next 18 to 24 months to a full, combat-ready capable squadron and be ready to do the nation’s bid in the war.”

In accordance with the 2019 Marine Corps Aviation Plan, VMFA-225 temporarily deactivated for a year to “recapitalize structure and manpower” throughout the tactical aircraft community. The transition to the F-35B is part of the Marine Corps’ Force Design 2030 set in motion by the Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. David Berger, introduced to provide a more potent deterrent to conflict, and a more lethal warfighting capability.

The Marine Corps has prioritized the shift of legacy F/A-18D Hornet and AV-8B Harrier squadrons to the F-35, transitioning to modern technology that is vital to field a lethal, resilient, and rapidly adapting joint force. VMFA-225 will become the fifth Fleet Marine Force F-35B squadron in the Marine Corps, and will join VMFA-211 and VMFA-122 at MCAS Yuma.

“We have aircraft afloat right now from VMFA-122; we’re flying combat missions,” said Col. Benjamin Hutchins, the commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 13. “We have VMFA-211 getting ready to deploy on [HMS Queen Elizabeth]. This is a busy business, this is our nation’s business, this is our Corps’ business.”

Since their establishment in 1943 at MCAS Mojave, California, VMFA-225 has operated the Vought F4U Corsair, AD-4 Skyraider, A-4 Skyhawk, A-6A Intruder, and the F/A-18D Hornet. The Vikings served with distinction for many years, and will continue to do so as a squadron that has been successful in embracing emerging military technology and utilizing it to the fullest potential.



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3rd MAW continues to “Fix, Fly and Fight” as the Marine Corps’ largest aircraft wing, and remains combat-ready, deployable on short notice, and lethal when called into action.

For questions regarding this release, please contact the 3rd MAW Communication Strategy and Operations Office at 3rdmawmedia@usmc.mil.

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