



Lieutenant Colonel Kent W. Hayes

Executive Officer

Lieutenant Colonel Kent W. Hayes is a native of Duncan, Oklahoma. He attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, where he earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology in 1987. Lt. Col. Hayes completed Officer Candidates School and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on Aug. 18, 1989. After completing The Basic School in April 1990, he reported to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he served as Assistant Training Officer until reporting to Flight School in October 1990. While at Pensacola and Milton, Lt. Col. Hayes was a member of VT-3 and HT-18. On Jan. 10, 1992, Lt. Col. Hayes was designated a Naval Aviator and was assigned to HMT-301, MCAS Tustin, Calif., for CH-46E training and served as the Scheduling Officer for the "Windwalkers." Lieutenant Colonel Hayes joined HMM-268 "Red Dragons" in July 1992. He held a variety of billets during two MEU (SOC) deployments. In August 1993, the Red Dragons deployed as the Aviation Combat Element of the 13th MEU (SOC) and subsequently participated in OPERATION Restore Hope/Continue Hope, Somalia. In 1995, the Red Dragons deployed again as the ACE of the 15th MEU (SOC). From August 1996 to June 1997, Lieutenant Colonel Hayes attended the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Virginia. Upon graduation, Lt. Col. Hayes was reassigned to HMM-165, MCAS El Toro, Calif., where he served as the Quality Assurance Officer and then as the Assistant Operations Officer. In 1998, Lt. Col. Hayes attended the Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course, MCAS Yuma, Ariz., and was subsequently designated a Weapons and Tactics Instructor. Upon return to the squadron, Lt. Col. Hayes resumed his duties as the Assistant Operations Officer and later served as the Future Operations Department Head. In June 1999, HMM-165 deployed as the ACE for the 11th MEU in support of the WestPac USS Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group (ARG). While conducting multinational exercises in the CENTCOM area of operations, the ARG was ordered to join operations in East Timor. Lt. Col. Hayes left the ACE en route to East Timor to join United States International Forces East Timor (USINTERFET) headquarters as the 11th MEU liaison officer. He rejoined the squadron upon the Peleliu ARG's departure from East Timor. Upon return from WestPac in December 1999, Lt. Col. Hayes was assigned as the squadron Operations Officer until departing the squadron in June 2000 to join the First Marine Division as the Deputy Division Air Officer. While there, he also served as the Marine Instructor at the Joint Firepower Control Course (JFCC), Nellis AFB, Nev. He instructed Navy/Marine Corps doctrine, Navy Tactical Air Control and Marine Aviation Command and Control Systems until he left 1st Marine Division in June 2001. From July 2001 to June 2002, Lt. Col. Hayes attended the Command and Staff College, Naval War College, Newport, R.I., receiving a Master of Arts Degree in National Policy and Strategic Studies. Upon graduation, Lt. Col. Hayes was assigned to the Aviation Manpower Support Branch, Aviation Department, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. In July 2005, he was promoted to his present rank of Lieutenant Colonel and temporarily

assigned to the Inspector General of the Marine Corps until November 2006. Lt. Col. Hayes joined 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Cherry Point, N.C. in December 2005 and immediately deployed to Iraq and remained with 3rd MAW (Fwd), G-3 Future Operations, Al Asad, Iraq, until Aug 2006. Upon return from deployment, he acted as the 2nd MAW, G-3 Plans Officer until February 2007, when he assumed his present duties as the Executive Officer, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Lieutenant Colonel Hayes' Advanced Flight Designations and Qualifications include Air Mission Commander (AMC), Assault Flight Leader (AFL), Division and Section Leader, Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI), Defensive Measures Instructor (DMI), Night Systems Instructor (NSI), Terrain Flight Instructor (TERFI), Instrument Flight Instructor, NATOPS/Standardization Instructor, and Aircrew Coordination Instructor. He is a mishap-free CH-46E pilot, his primary MOS. He also holds the MOS of 7577, Weapons and Tactics Instructor. Lt. Col. Hayes's decorations include two Meritorious Service Medals, Air Medal (2nd Strike Award), Navy Marine Commendation Medal (4th Award), two Navy Marine Achievement Medals, two Navy/Marine Corps Unit Commendations, two Humanitarian Service Medals and six other personal and unit medals and ribbons.