



The Silver Eagle Family



Welcome to VMFA-115 the “Silver Eagles”!

The Unit, Personal and Family Readiness Program (UPFRP) was officially established by the Commandant of the Marine Corps to support Marines and their families.

The Unit Family Readiness program primarily operates on four pillars:

1. Readiness & Deployment Support – ensures the Marines and their families are empowered to successfully balance the challenges of a military lifestyle, family, career, and mission events.
2. Information & Referral – ensures Marines and their families receive proactive marketing and promotion of programs, agencies, and organizations that are readily available to them.
3. Official Communication – Official communication from the CO or on my behalf to keep the Marines and their families informed and up to date on squadron activities.
4. Volunteers Management – Providing a standardized program developed to effectively recruit and manage family readiness volunteers (FR Advisors & Assistants).

Family Readiness is defined by Marine Corps Order as “families who are prepared and equipped with the skills and tools to successfully meet the challenges of the military lifestyle”. Family Readiness directly affects the fundamental purpose of the Marine Corps – to make Marines and win battles by building commitment and raising morale, thereby increasing unit readiness.

I personally want to thank you for your commitment and sacrifice to our Corps and the mission we have all undertaken together. Our commitment, as Marines and their families, means we are ready to deploy 24/7- 365 days a year. A stable and prepared family is a combat multiplier for the Silver Eagles on a daily basis. Our family extends to our spouses, children, and extended family members of our single Marines as well as those friends we wish to include. If our families are not ready, we are not a force in readiness - every Marine is charged with ensuring his or her family is ready when we are called upon.

My Family Readiness Officer (FRO) is Mr. Jimmie Woods who will be in contact with you. Jimmie will provide you with:

Official two-way command communication provided via the Marine Online communication tool (MOL), the VMFA-115 Family Readiness Toll-free Information

Line, and our official squadron social media links via our website and Facebook account. Additionally, he is a source for Information and Referral services and Readiness & Deployment Support information.

Jimmie stands ready to assist you 24 hours a day, seven days a week with any Family Readiness need you may encounter while the squadron is at home or deployed. Jimmie may be contacted in his office at (843) 228-7129 or via his official cell phone at (843) 476-2964. He is also available via email at jimmie.woods@usmc.mil or from our official squadron website at <http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndmaw/mag31/vmfa115/pages/famreadiness.aspx>.

I need your help too! Please help us help you by encouraging your family to volunteer their time in any of the numerous opportunities we have to build our Family Readiness team. We have vacancies for Family Readiness Volunteers to include Family Readiness Advisors and Assistants. All information is available thru Jimmie or via our website above.

Here at VMFA-115 our official mission is "To intercept and destroy enemy aircraft, under all weather conditions and to attack and destroy surface targets." After flying F-4 Phantoms for more than 20 years, VMFA-115 began the transition to the F/A-18A Hornet on 1 January 1985, and officially stood up with 14 aircraft on 16 August 1985. The following year, the squadron became officially known as the "Silver Eagles."

VMFA-115's achievements have highlighted the history of Marine Corps aviation; the squadron has seen extensive service in nearly every conflict in which Marines have fought. During the past sixty years, it has carried out its assigned missions with distinction in the South Pacific, Philippines, North China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, and the Middle East. Even during peacetime, whether training in the Western Pacific, the United States, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, or Western Europe, VMFA-115 has set a standard of excellence for other Fighter-Attack squadrons to follow.

The squadron's record of exceptional performance is recognized by numerous citations and awards. Today's VMFA-115 Marines look back on the squadron's proud history of accomplishment, and look forward to an even more promising future for the squadron and for Marine Aviation.

In, closing, welcome once again to The Silver Eagle Family. I look forward to getting to know you and your family as we continue to make history each and every day!

M. H. Phares
LtCol USMC