

Former II MEF Future Operations Officer takes command of MAG-41

Stories and photos by Sgt. Chris T. Mann (MAG-41 Public Affairs)

Marine Corps guidon flags whipped in the wind, as solemn-faced Marines stood at attention. Family members and friends of Marine Aircraft Group 41, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, gathered on the flight line aboard NAS Fort Worth JRB to watch the commanding officer of MAG-41 change hands to a new commander Saturday, Aug. 20.

Col. Kevin M. Iiams, commanding officer of MAG-41, relinquished his command to Col. Adam P. Holmes, during an official Marine Corps ceremony.

“Wolfy (Iiams), you are a force multiplier; you took a reserve MAG and made them fully capable of going down-range and deploying to combat,” said Maj. Gen. Rex C. McMillian, Commanding General of 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. “This is a sad day because we are losing a commander, but also a welcoming day because we are gaining a great leader.”

Iiams is leaving Fort Worth to take on an active duty command at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.

Holmes was previously assigned as the II Marine Expeditionary Force future operations officer at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and now has command of the reserve Aircraft Group.

Holmes has had previous combat experience in Iraq, where he served as the battle captain in the Tactical Air Command Center for 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. Holmes has also supported operations in Turkey, Kenya, Somalia and Rwanda.

“I have full confidence in your abilities to take control of this command and the fully capable expeditionary ACE (aviation combat element),” Iiams said.



Col. Kevin M. Iiams passes the MAG-4 guidon to Col. Adam P. Holmes during a change of command ceremony aboard NAS Fort Worth

Holmes' personnel decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one gold star, and the Air Medal.

Holmes has an extensive aviation background as a C-130 *Hercules* pilot. He has flown several variants of C-130s and has also flown 40 combat missions while deployed.

"I continually think about our three unique flags flying here at the MAG," said Holmes, referring to the Texas flag, the United States flag and the Marine Corps flag. "We will be ready to move rapidly across the globe, and we will continue to support the values of the Marine Corps."



Maj. Gen. Rex C. McMillian, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing Commanding General, talks with MAG-41's newest commanding officer, Col. Holmes after the change of command ceremony.