

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON OF THE YEAR

For outstanding service and exceeding all expectations in garrison and in combat from 1 January to 31 December 2020. As the COVID-19 Pandemic gripped the Nation, the Marines and sailors of VMFA-323 overcame, adapted, and improvised as they faced multiple unprecedented challenges. The squadron received exemplary results on both their Commanding General's Readiness Inspection and Commander Naval Air Force Aircraft Maintenance Inspection while they executed an extremely rigorous work-up and deployment. As the last F/A-18C squadron to deploy on an aircraft carrier, they led the carrier air wing with over 2,000 sorties and 3,300 flight hours while enduring over 40 weeks deployed from home. For five months the "Death Rattlers" of VMFA-323 supported combat operations over Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria while supporting OPERATIONS RESOLUTE SUPPORT, FREEDOM SENTINEL, and INHERENT RESOLVE and achieving the ground force commander's intent on every mission. VMFA-323 reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and United States Naval Service.



VMFA-323

MAG-11, 3D MAW



ROBERT M. HANSON AWARD



Established in honor of Captain Robert M. Hanson, a Medal of Honor recipient and Ace who shot down 25 enemy aircraft before being killed in action, for the most outstanding fighter attack squadron in Marine aviation.

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