LINEAGE
OF
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 542

1944 – 1946

ACTIVATED 6 MARCH 1944 AT CHERRY POINT, NORTH CAROLINA, AS MARINE NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON 542, AND ASSIGNED TO 3D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

REASSIGNED DURING APRIL 1944 TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 53, 9TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

RELOCATED DURING AUGUST 1944 TO SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, AND REASSIGNED TO MARINE BASE DEFENSE AIRCRAFT GROUP 45, MARINE FLEET AIR, WEST COAST

DEPLOYED DURING SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1944 TO ULITHI ATOLL AND REASSIGNED TO MARINE BASE DEFENSE AIRCRAFT GROUP 45, 2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

REDEPLOYED DURING APRIL-MAY 1945 TO OKINAWA, JAPAN, AND REASSIGNED TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 31, 2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGN

OKINAWA

PARTICIPATED IN THE OCCUPATION OF JAPAN, SEPTEMBER 1945 – JUNE 1946

RELOCATED DURING JULY 1946 TO SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, AND REASSIGNED TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 31, MARINE AIR, WEST COAST

1947 – 1954

RELOCATED DURING JULY 1947 TO EL TORO, CALIFORNIA

REASSIGNED DURING OCTOBER 1947 TO 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

REASSIGNED DURING APRIL 1948 TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 33, 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

REDESIGNATED 18 OCTOBER 1948 AS MARINE ALL WEATHER FIGHTER SQUADRON 542

REASSIGNED DURING JULY 1950 TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12, 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

DEPLOYED DURING SEPTEMBER 1950 TO KIMPO, KOREA

PARTICIPATED IN THE KOREAN WAR, SEPTEMBER 1950 – FEBRUARY 1951, OPERATING OVER

CHOSIN RESERVOIR
EAST-CENTRAL FRONT

RELOCATED DURING MARCH 1951 TO EL TORO, CALIFORNIA, AND REASSIGNED TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 15, AIR, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC
1955 – 1964
REASSIGNED DURING SEPTEMBER 1955 TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 15, 3D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
DEPLOYED DURING AUGUST 1959 TO ATSUGI, JAPAN, AND REASSIGNED TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 11, 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
RELOCATED DURING NOVEMBER 1960 TO EL TORO, CALIFORNIA, AND REASSIGNED TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 15, 3D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
RELOCATED DURING NOVEMBER 1962 TO ATSUGI, JAPAN, AND REASSIGNED TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 11, 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
RELOCATED DURING NOVEMBER 1963 TO EL TORO, CALIFORNIA, AND REASSIGNED TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 15, 3D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
REDESIGNATED 2 NOVEMBER 1963 AS MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 542

1965 – 1970
DEPLOYED DURING APRIL 1965 TO ATSUGI, JAPAN
REASSIGNED DURING MAY 1965 TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 11, 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
REDEPLOYED DURING JULY 1965 TO DA NANG, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
OPERATING FROM
DA NANG
CHU LAI
REDEPLOYED DURING DECEMBER 1965 TO IWAKUNI, JAPAN
REASSIGNED DURING FEBRUARY 1966 TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 15, 9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE
REASSIGNED DURING NOVEMBER 1967 – MAY 1968 TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 15, 9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE
RELOCATED DURING FEBRUARY 1970 TO EL TORO, CALIFORNIA, AND REASSIGNED TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 33, 3D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
DEACTIVATED 30 JUNE 1970
1972 – 2014

REACTIVATED 12 JANUARY 1972 AT BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA, AS
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 542, AND ASSIGNED TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 32,
2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

RELOCATED DURING AUGUST 1974 TO CHERRY POINT, NORTH CAROLINA, AND REASSIGNED TO MARINE COMBAT CREW
READINESS TRAINING GROUP 20, 2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

REASSIGNED DURING JANUARY 1976 TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 32,
2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM, SOUTHWEST ASIA, AUGUST 1990 – FEBRUARY 1991

REASSIGNED DURING APRIL 1993 TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 14
ELEMENT PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION NOBLE ANVIL, KOSOVO, APRIL 1999

DEPLOYED DURING FEBRUARY 2003 TO THE PERSIAN GULF IN SUPPORT OF
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM


ELEMENT PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, AFGHANISTAN,

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, DECEMBER 2006

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO FLOODING, PAKISTAN, JUNE 2010

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION ODYSSEY DAWN, LIBYA, MARCH 2011

3 JULY 2015
DATE

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE FORCES
HONORS
AWARDED
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 542

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER WITH FOUR BRONZE STARS
WORLD WAR II
OKINAWA – 1945

KOREA
1950
1951

VIETNAM
1965 – 1967

IRAQ
2003

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY) STREAMER
KOREA
1950

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER WITH ONE SILVER STAR
VIETNAM
1965
1967 – 1968
1969

SOUTHWEST ASIA
1990 – 1991

IRAQ
2004 – 2005
2007 – 2008

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER
VIETNAM
1968
ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE STREAMER WITH "ASIA"

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

KOREAN SERVICE STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

VIETNAM SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO SILVER STARS

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO BRONZE STARS

AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

IRAQ CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE STREAMER

KOREAN PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER

VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM STREAMER

3 JULY 2015

DATE

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS