United States Marine Corps

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

PARTICIPATED IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM, JULY-DECEMBER 1965, MARCH-AUGUST 1966, OCTOBER 1966 – NOVEMBER 1967
AND MAY 1968 – JANUARY 1970

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

PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, IRAQ, MARCH-MAY 2003, MAY-NOVEMBER 2004 AND SEPTEMBER 2007 – APRIL 2008

ELEMENT PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, AFGHANISTAN,
JUNE-OCTOBER 2004, SEPTEMBER 2006 AND MARCH-OCTOBER 2008

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 CORPS

NAVMC HQ 617E(5750)

United States Marine Corps

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

NAVMC HQ 617E(5750)