



### **Marion M. Magruder, Colonel, USMC (Ret.)**

Dates of Active Duty: July 1936 - September 1961

An honor graduate of the University of Kentucky where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree, he was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in July, 1936.

He attended Basic School in Philadelphia, PA., and was transferred to the Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., where he served for 11 months. His additional duty consisted of being the Social Aide to the White House.

In July, 1938, he attended flight school at Pensacola, FL., and in October, 1939, was attached to Marine Fighter Squadron ONE as a pilot and Squadron Material Officer.

In October, 1941, he reported to the Division of Aviation, Headquarters, Marine Corps, Washington, D. C., serving as the Assistant Material Officer until February, 1943, when he was sent to England to study and train in night fighter tactics with the Royal Air Force, thus to answer an urgent need as a result of the devastating enemy night bombing attacks on Guadalcanal for which we had no defense.

In May, 1943, he returned to Marine Night Fighter Group 53 at MCAS Cherry Point, NC., where he served as Night Fighter Training and Operations Officer. In October, 1943, he organized and became Commanding Officer of Marine Night Fighter Squadron 533, which he took overseas in April 1944. For the first year overseas his squadron maintained the Night Air Defense of Eniwetok, then took his squadron to Okinawa in April, 1945, to bolster the air defense against intensive, nightly enemy bombing attacks. His squadron received the Presidential Unit Citation and the Combat Legion of Merit for establishing a World War II Theater squadron record for shooting down 36 enemy aircraft at night during this last campaign of the war.

In September, 1945, he returned from overseas and assumed command of Marine Aircraft Group 53 at Eagle

Mountain Lake, Texas. He was later the Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of Marine Aircraft Group 31, at MCAS Miramar, CA., until June, 1947. Colonel Magruder decommissioned MAG-31 and took command of Marine Fighter Squadron 542 at the MCAS El Toro, CA. In August, 1947, he was transferred to Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL., where he attended the Air War College.

In July, 1948, he served as instructor in the Aviation Section, Marine Corps School, Quantico, VA., until June, 1950, when he served with the Plans Branch of the Commander in Chief, European Theater Command in Heidelberg, Germany.

He was transferred to Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps in 1952 to serve as the Assistant Operations Officer, Division of Aviation, and in 1954, he attended the National War College in Washington, D. C.

In July, 1955, he assumed command of Marine Aircraft Group 11 in Atsugi, Japan, where he remained until July, 1956, when he arrived at Camp H. M. Smith to serve as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

He was named Deputy Chief of Staff, Headquarters FMFPAC in December, 1957. He retired from active duty in September, 1961.

Colonel Magruder's decorations and awards include the: Combat Legion of Merit; Air Medal with two gold stars in lieu of second and third awards; Presidential Unit Citation; American Defense Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one star; World War II Victory Medal; National Defense Service Medal and the European Campaign Medal with one star.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Magruder of Lexington, KY. He was married to the former Miss Martha Anne Kelly of Lexington, KY. The Magruder's had four boys, Marion M. , Jr., Michael D., Mark A., and Marshall K.