



**Hugh M. Elwood, LTGEN, USMC (Ret.)**  
 "Hugh"

Date of Designation: 17 March 1941      NA # 7222

Dates of Active Duty: 2 August 1932 - 28 June 1973

Total Flight Hours: 4,050

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 1,500    Prop: 2,000    Helo: 500

VR/VP: 2,500

Combat Tours:

WW II: XO/CO, VMF-212, Oct. 1943 - Apr. 1944.  
 Solomon Islands area.

WW II: Operations Officer, Air Defense Command  
 Marianas, May 1944 - Oct. 1944.

Korea: XO and Tactical Officer, MAG-12, 1st MAW,  
 Aug. 1951 - Jul. 1952.

Vietnam: CoS, III MAF, Dec. 1966 - Apr. 1967.

Combat Awards:

Legion of Merit with Combat "V"

2 Distinguished Flying Crosses

Bronze Star with Combat "V"

3 Air Medals

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

General Elwood was born November 15, 1915, in Pittsburgh, PA., and graduated from Oakmont High School, Oakmont, PA. He enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps, August 2, 1932, for duty as a field musician. After completing recruit training, he served aboard the USS *Antares*, USS *Chicago* and USS *Sirius*, then attended the Naval Academy Preparatory School at Norfolk, VA. He was appointed to the U. S. Naval Academy in July 1934, and was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant upon graduation, June 2, 1938.

Following Basic School at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, Lieutenant Elwood commanded the Marine Corps Institute



Detachment at the Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C., and in 1940 was assigned to flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. He was designated a Naval Aviator, March 17, 1941.

Remaining at Pensacola as an instructor, he was promoted to first lieutenant in June 1941, and to captain in February 1942. Shortly after the outbreak of World War II, he completed the Naval School of Photography and was assigned as communications officer with a Marine photographic squadron. He was transferred overseas in March 1943 to serve as Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General of Marine Aircraft Wings, Pacific. A month later he was promoted to major.

Major Elwood served as Executive Officer and later Commanding Officer of Marine Fighting Squadron 212 in the Solomon Islands area. During this assignment, he shot down five enemy aircraft and was designated a Marine Corps Ace. For heroism in aerial combat from October 1943 to April 1944, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. In May 1944, he was assigned as Operations Officer, Air Defense Command, Marianas. He returned to the United States in October 1944, and two months later was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

Lieutenant Colonel Elwood subsequently completed the Command and Staff School at Quantico, Virginia. From April 1945 until October 1946, he was attached to the Naval Aviation Mission to Peru as Operations Officer and, later, Chief of the Mission and Inspector General of the Peruvian Air Force. On his return to the United States, he commanded the Marine Air Detachment, Marine Air Reserve Training Command, St. Louis, Missouri, until July 1949. He was next assigned to the Naval Academy where he was an instructor in the Aviation Department for two years.

Ordered to Korea in August 1951, he took part in combat as Executive Officer and Tactical Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. He earned a

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### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

Gold-Star in lieu of a second Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism in this capacity on January 26, 1952, when he led his division on a twelve-plane interdiction mission against fifteen hostile tanks, executed a series of devastating bombing and strafing attacks in the face of enemy anti-aircraft fire, then escorted the damaged plane of his wingman safely back to base. He also earned a Bronze Star Medal and a Gold Star in lieu of a second Air Medal in Korea.

Returning to the United States in the summer of 1952, he completed the Strategy and Logistics Course at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, in June 1953, then returned to Quantico where he served for three years as Chief, Air Section, Marine Corps Education Center. While at Quantico, he was promoted to colonel in July 1953.

In the summer of 1956, Colonel Elwood was assigned briefly as Chief of Staff, Amphibious Troops, Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. He then served as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, Cherry Point, North Carolina, and from May 1957 to January 1959 commanded Marine Aircraft Group 32, 2d Wing, at Beaufort, South Carolina. Ordered to the Far East, he joined the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Iwakuni Japan, in March 1959 as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3.

In June 1960, Colonel Elwood began a two-year assignment in the Plans and Policy Directorate, Joint Staff, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, serving as a member of the Basic War Plans Branch, J-5, and later as Chief of the Branch. In July 1962, he was transferred to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans and Programs), Headquarters Marine Corps, as Service Plans Analysis and Review Officer. In January 1963, he was named Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans), at Headquarters Marine Corps, and the following month was promoted to brigadier general.

In October 1963, General Elwood became Commanding General, Marine Air Reserve Training Command, Glenview, Illinois. Ordered to the Far East in April 1966, he served as Assistant Wing Commander, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and the following December, became Chief of Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force. For his service as Assistant Wing Commander, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing from April to December 1966, and as Chief of Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force, from December 1966 to April 1967, he was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V". He also received a Gold Star in lieu of a third Air Medal for his service in Vietnam. He was promoted to major general, March 20, 1967.

Upon his return to the United States, General Elwood served briefly as Assistant Wing Commander, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, Cherry Point, North Carolina, then in May 1967, took over command of the Wing.

In August 1968, General Elwood was assigned duty as Assistant Chief of Staff, (J-3) Operations, Staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific, in Hawaii. He earned the

Distinguished Service Medal for his service in this capacity. While serving with the Commander in Chief, he was nominated for promotion to the three-star rank by President Nixon in October 1970 and his nomination was confirmed by the Senate on December 9, 1970. Upon his return to the United States, he was promoted to that rank, May 1, 1971, on assuming duty as Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans and Programs), at Headquarters Marine Corps. He was awarded a gold star in lieu of second Distinguished Service Medal for service in his latter assignment.

A complete list of his medals and decorations include: the Distinguished Service Medal with gold star in lieu of second award; the Legion of Merit with Combat "V"; the Distinguished Flying Cross with one gold star in lieu of second award; the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V"; the Air Medal with gold stars in lieu of second and third awards; the Presidential Unit Citation with one bronze star; the Navy Unit Commendation; the American Defense Service Medal; the American Campaign Medal; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two bronze stars; the World War II Victory Medal; the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star; the Korean Service Medal with three bronze stars; the Vietnamese Service Medal with two bronze stars; the Peruvian Aviation Cross-First Class; the National Order of Vietnam -5th Class; the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm; the United Nations Service Medal; the Korean Presidential Unit Citation; and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Lieutenant General Hugh M. Elwood retired from active duty on June 28, 1973, ending more than 35 years of military service.

General Elwood and his wife, the former Harriet M. Theobald of Chicago, Illinois, have three children: Barbara, Hugh T., and Nancy.

### **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) Shot down five enemy aircraft and was designated a Marine Corps Ace.