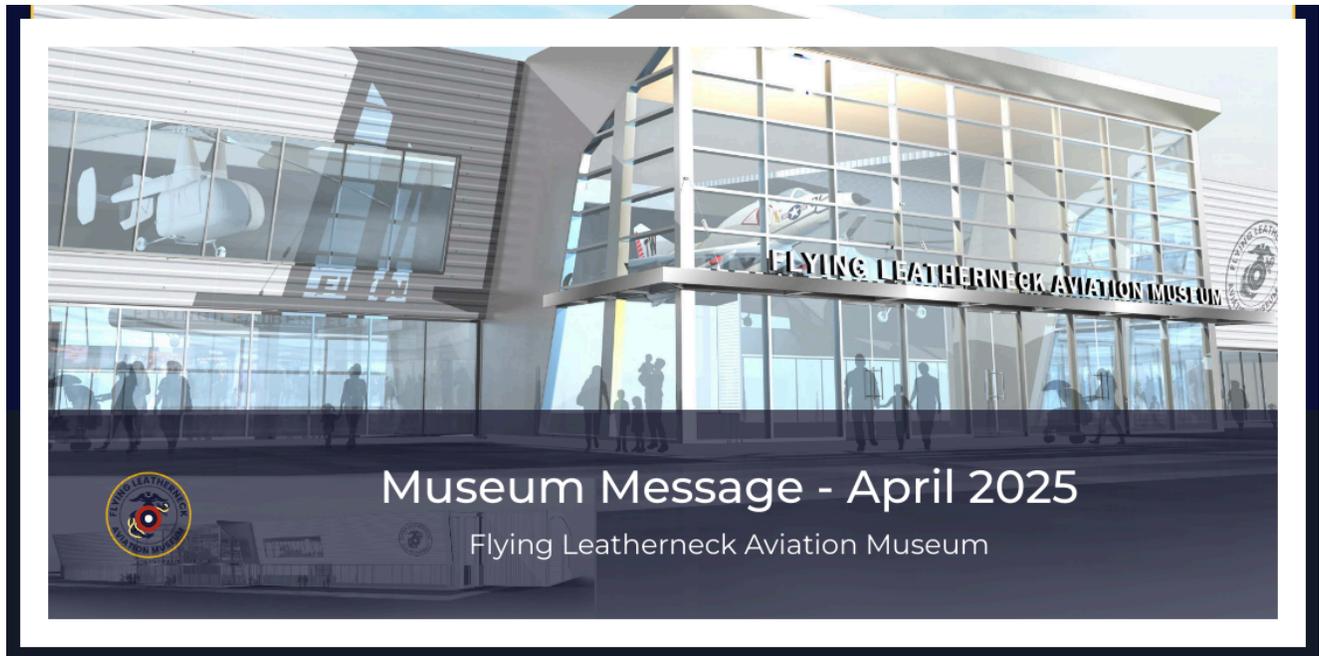


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UCI Students Join the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum to Rebuild History

The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum is proud to partner with the talented students and faculty of UC Irvine's Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering School to bring history back to life. These award-winning students—ranging from freshmen to graduate level—will play a crucial role in the assembly and restoration of the Curtiss Jenny, an iconic plane from the early days of Marine Corps aviation.

With a strong background in drone and fixed-wing competitions, these students bring cutting-edge engineering skills to the meticulous process of aircraft restoration. Their involvement not only preserves aviation history but also strengthens the museum's commitment to education, ensuring future generations are inspired by the legacy of Marine Corps aviation.

Although many of our educational exhibits are still in development, partnerships like this reinforce our dedication to hands-on learning in the Irvine community. This

students in real-world applications of aerospace engineering – an investment that will yield great rewards in the years to come.

Stay tuned for updates on the progress of the Curtiss Jenny and DH-4, and the incredible work of UCI's future aerospace leaders!





Honoring Col D. Charles "Combat" Corbett: A Legacy of Service and Generosity



The **Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum** is honored to recognize **Col D. Charles "Combat" Corbett, USMC (Ret.)**, for his generous sponsorship of the **A-4C**

The lifelong commitment to service made him an inspiring figure in our community. A proud Marine, **Col Corbett's journey began in 1960** when he was commissioned through the **Platoon Leaders Class (PLC)**, earning his **wings in 1962**. His first tactical aircraft? The very **A-4C Skyhawk** he has now chosen to sponsor. **"I chose to sponsor the A-4C because it was my first tactical aircraft!"** he recalls. His first squadron, **VMA-121 Green Knights**, stationed at **MCAS El Toro and MCAS Iwakuni**, played a defining role in shaping his career.

"That tour in '121 and the A-4C set me on course for a 25-year career," Col Corbett explains. He accumulated **1,800 flight hours** across the **A-4C, TA-4, and A-4M**, cementing his place as an **"A-4's Forever" advocate**. His service took him from the **Cuban Missile Crisis to Vietnam**, from flight instructor roles to command positions, culminating in his retirement as a Colonel in 1985.

Beyond his military career, Col Corbett embarked on a **second career as a financial planner**, traveled to **60 countries across all seven continents**, and has been married to his **college sweetheart for 63 years**. Through it all, his Marine Corps experiences remained the foundation of his life. **"My family heritage and values were a perfect match for Marine Corps values,"** he says.

Now, as we build the **Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum** at the former **MCAS El Toro**, Col Corbett feels a **sense of duty** to contribute. **"I am honored to help out as we stand up our Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum. I feel a sense of duty to help with such a noble cause."** His support will help preserve Marine Corps aviation history and inspire future generations.

We extend our deepest gratitude to **Col D. Charles "Combat" Corbett** for his **unwavering dedication to the Marine Corps and his generous support of FLAM. Semper Fi!**

CHECK OUT THE AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE FOR SUPPORT

A Combat Legacy: The Story Behind FLAM's AH-1W Super Cobra



COL. DAVID "SPANKY" MOORE A COMBAT LEGACY



Every aircraft in the **Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum** has a story, but few are as gripping as our **AH-1W Super Cobra**, recently confirmed to have served with **Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 267 (HMLA-267)** during the opening days of **Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF I)**.

During a combat mission, **Col. David "Spanky" Moore** was flying this very aircraft when it was struck by **targeted and effective small arms fire**. A **small-caliber round pierced the rear seat canopy, passing just inches from his face** before exiting the other side. At the time, "Spanky" was the son-in-law of **Lt. Gen. James Conway, USMC (Ret.)**, who was serving as the **Commanding General of I Marine Expeditionary Force (IMEF)**. Upon hearing of the attack, **Lt. Gen. Conway** immediately traveled to **Al Jaber Air Base** with fellow Marine leaders, where they discussed the harrowing event in detail.

... during the time as commanding officer of the camp. His dedication ensured that this battle-proven aircraft—one that played a role in modern Marine Corps aviation history—found a permanent home at FLAM.

Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum is Featured In the Orange County Register Again!

The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum recently received a historic AV-8B Harrier at its restoration hangar in Irvine's Great Park. This legendary aircraft, known for its vertical takeoff and landing capabilities, has logged more combat hours than any other Harrier still in service. It was last flown by the Bulldogs of Marine Attack Squadron 223 at MCAS Cherry Point before making its journey to California.

Museum CEO Brig. Gen. Mike Aguilar (Ret.) welcomed the aircraft, emphasizing its role in Marine Corps history and its significance in the museum's growing collection. The Harrier will undergo restoration before being displayed at the future 100,000-square-foot museum, set to open in late 2026 or early 2027. With over 40 aircraft planned for exhibit, the museum will highlight Marine Corps aviation history and its impact on military operations.

Stay tuned as we continue to bring history to life at the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum!

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL ARTICLE](#)



Great Park Ice Anniversary Event

Our CEO, Brigadier General Michael Aguilar, attended the Great Park Ice Anniversary Celebration, marking an exciting milestone for this growing community hub. As the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum prepares to open its doors at Great Park in 2026, we are honored to be part of its bright future. Just as Great Park Ice has become a center for sports and community, our museum will be a destination for history, education, and inspiration. Stay tuned for updates—exciting things are ahead!



DONATE TODAY

SPONSOR AN AIRCRAFT

The advertisement features four images of aircraft: a white F-4 Phantom II fighter jet with "MARINES" and "7246" markings; a green UH-1 Huey helicopter; a white F-4 Phantom II fighter jet with "MARINES" and "12" markings; and a blue and white F-4 Phantom II fighter jet with "MARINES" and "12" markings. The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum logo is centered in the top half of the advertisement.

Aircraft? Your support can help!

Each of our aircraft has a rich history and a story to tell. By supporting our restoration efforts, you contribute to preserving these flying legends for future generations. Your donation helps cover the costs of materials, labor, and expertise required to bring these historic aircraft back to their former glory.

Your support ensures that these iconic aircraft's legacy lives on. Together, we can honor the past and inspire the future.

Click below to search our inventory of 34 aircraft and make your donation for restoration today!

[CHECK OUT THE AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE FOR SUPPORT](#)

Have you Become a Member Yet?

As we approach our grand opening in 2026, we invite you to join our Membership program. This exclusive group of supporters will play a crucial role in shaping the future of the museum and preserving the storied legacy of Marine Corps aviation. Get exclusive access, discounts and more!



[LEARN MORE](#)

You Won't Want to Miss....

the dedicated individuals making this vision a reality, and get a glimpse of what to expect when we open our doors. Your support and enthusiasm fuel our journey, and we can't wait to share more with you each step of the way.

Thank you for being a valued part of our community. Stay tuned for exciting news and exclusive previews!



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