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MUSEUM
MESSAGE
October
2025

Flying Leatherneck
Aviation Museum



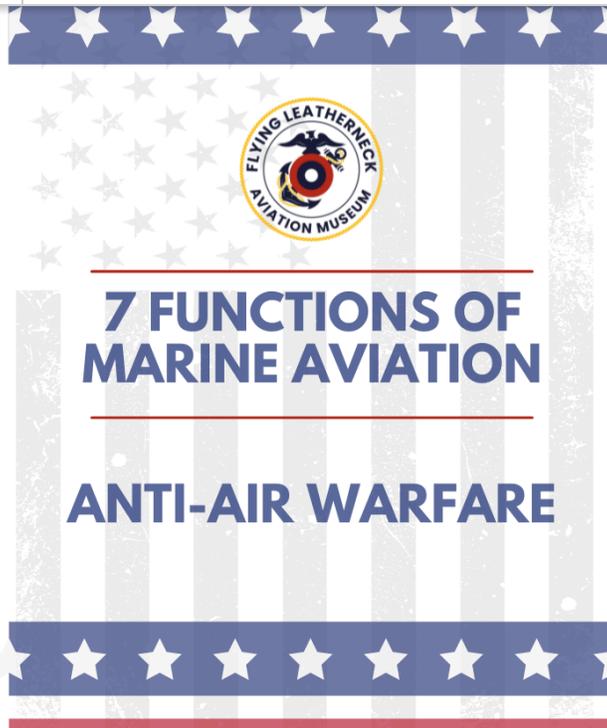
All Eyes on the Jenny: A Rising Star of FLAM



We're proud to be featured yet again by ASME for our collaboration with UC Irvine engineering students building a full-scale replica of the World War I Marine Corps biplane, the **Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny"**. What began with scattered parts, drawings, and blueprints has evolved into a vibrant, student-led restoration effort. Teams of students are organized into fuselage, wing, tail, and engine groups—working side by side with our museum staff to bring this iconic aircraft back to life. The Jenny is slated to hang in the museum's rotunda as one of its first exhibits, setting the tone for more than 18 historic aircraft to follow.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE!](#)

Spotlight on the Anti-Air Warfare one of the Seven Functions of Marine Aviation



In keeping with our promise to increase the awareness and understanding of the reason United States Marine Corps Aviation exists, and building on “The Seven Functions of Marine Aviation” generic article featured in last month’s Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum Newsletter, this month we will provide a glimpse at **Anti-Air Warfare (AAW)**.

By doctrinal definition, AAW entails those actions taken to destroy or reduce the enemy air and missile threats to an acceptable level, ensuring air superiority for the mission. Both fixed wing and rotary wing Marine Corps aviation platforms have and continue to engage in this very important mission set. Equally important in the prosecution of AAW are the ground-based air defense systems and the command and control architecture that integrates all the various AAW capable platforms. Essentially, AAW encompasses Offensive Anti-Air Warfare (OAAW), which targets enemy air defense systems before they can attack, and Defensive Counter-Air activities that protect Marine forces from enemy air and missile attacks. Marine Aviation’s AAW integrates offensive and defensive actions against enemy aircraft, surface-to-air weapons and missiles serving the dual purposes of providing force protection and establishing air superiority thus enabling successful ground and naval operations.

OAAW consists of operations targeting enemy air forces or air defense systems preemptively, usually conducted in or near enemy territory. Defensive Counter-Air

including active air and missile defensive measures in today's environment where Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) are playing an ever-increasing role in warfare, both from a surveillance and attack perspective, OAAW and Defensive Counter-Air operations become even more important to the combatant commander.

Presently, the Marine Corps Aviation assets that conduct AAW operations include, but are not limited to:

F-35B Lightning II-A stealth multi-role fighter capable of air superiority and strike missions, equipped with advanced sensors and weapons for AAW. The F-35B is the primary future fighter of the Marines, replacing older aircraft such as the F/A-18 and AV-8B.

AH-1Z Viper-A state-of-the-art attack helicopter designed mainly for Offensive Air Support (OAS) but can contribute to layered air defense with air-to-ground and air-to-air missile systems and advanced sensors.

Low Altitude Air Defense Integrated System (MADIS)-Comprised of two vehicles (Mk1 and Mk2) equipped with turret-launched and shoulder-fired Stinger missiles, electronic warfare (EW) capabilities, radars, and direct fire weapons to counter aerial threats, including UAS platforms.

Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS)-Shoulder-fired Stinger missiles are widely used for effective short range air defense by Marine ground units.

250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball - November 10th

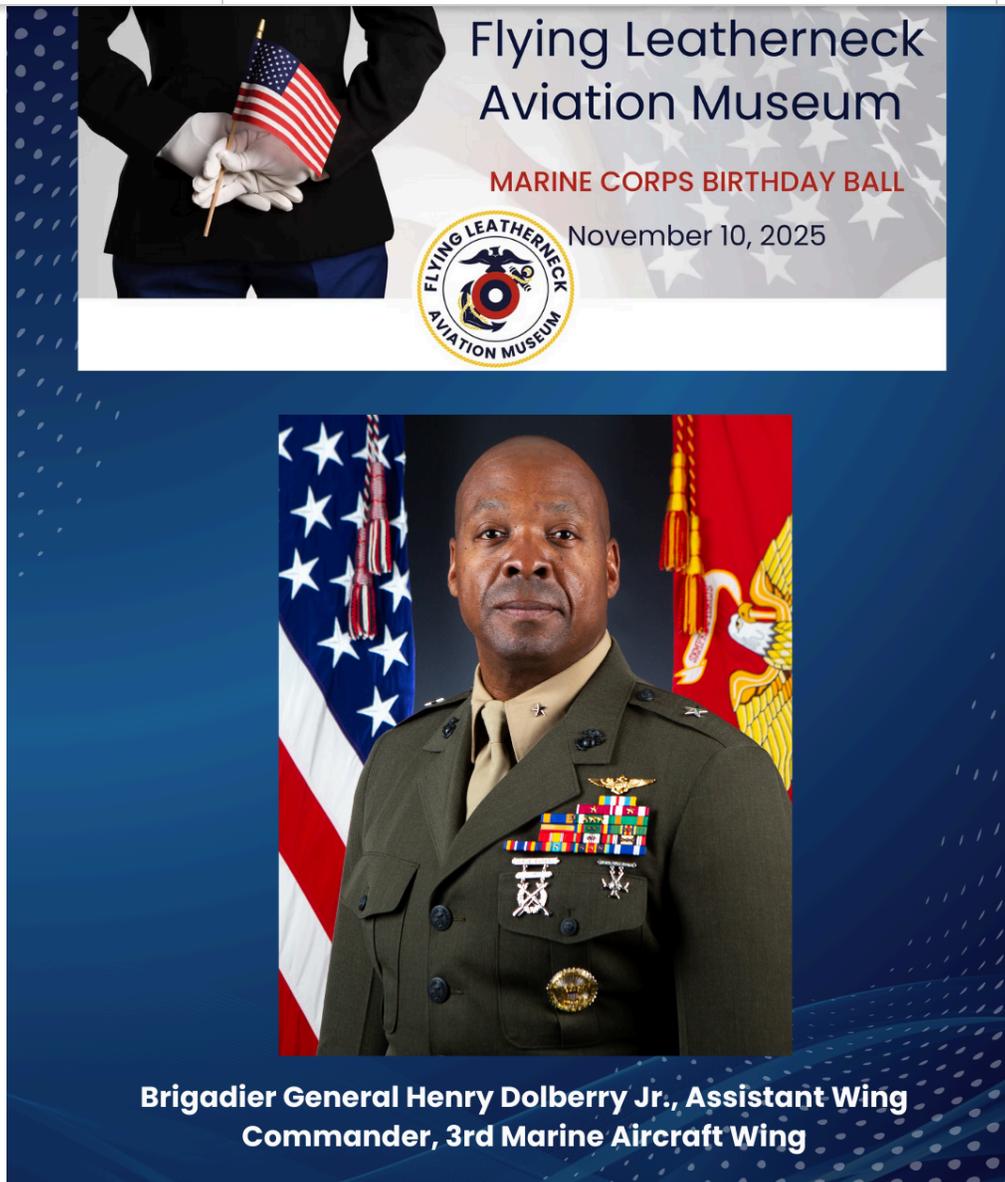
On **November 10, 2025**, the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum will proudly host its **250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball** at the Lyon Air Museum in Costa Mesa. This black-tie event will welcome 300 guests for an unforgettable evening steeped in Marine Corps tradition, including the formal ceremony, the iconic cake-cutting, and the honoring of our Corps' proud legacy.

We are especially honored to announce our **Guest of Honor: Brigadier General Henry Dolberry Jr.**, Assistant Wing Commander, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. Brig. Gen. Dolberry commissioned into the Marine Corps in 1997 and has since built a distinguished career as both a manpower officer and naval aviator. He has

commanded Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, and served in key leadership positions within 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and at the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller).

A decorated leader, Brig. Gen. Dolberry's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (2nd award), and the Air Medal (10 strike flights), among many others. He also brings a depth of academic achievement, having graduated from the Marine Corps War College, the Senior Planners Course, and the Harvard Business School's Executive Education, Advanced Management Program.

While this event will not open to the public until mid October, we are proud to share this exciting update with our members and supporters. The 250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball promises to be a remarkable evening honoring the legacy of the Corps, and we look forward to celebrating this historic milestone together.



Flying Leatherneck
Aviation Museum

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

November 10, 2025

FLYING LEATHERNECK
AVIATION MUSEUM

Brigadier General Henry Dolberry Jr., Assistant Wing
Commander, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

General Aguilar Shares FLAM's Vision on the *Becoming Irvine* Podcast

General Michael Aguilar, CEO and President of the Flying Leathernecks Aviation Museum, was a recent guest on the *Becoming Irvine* podcast. Hosted by Irvine Councilmember and Great Park Chairman Mike Carroll, they discussed the exciting plans for the museum and its upcoming groundbreaking. General Aguilar also shared his inspiring military journey and how he took on this latest tour of duty at the helm of the museum which honors the legacy of the historic El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. They discuss the profound vision for the museum and how it's coming to life. Hear how FLAM is on track to become the centerpiece of the Great



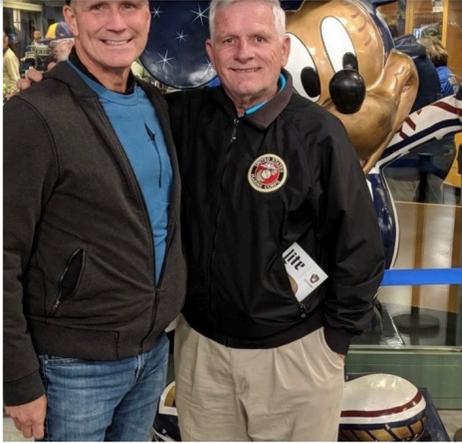
Our COO Grant Williams Speaks at the Nixon Library 9/11 Ceremony



... of the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum, delivered powerful remarks during the 24th Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library & Museum. Speaking on the theme of *duty and selfless service*, Lt. Col. Williams shared his personal experience of being recalled to active duty following the attacks and reflected on how 9/11 inspired a generation of young Americans to answer the call to serve. He reminded the audience of the importance of looking to future generations who will continue to meet our nation's challenges with courage and commitment.

The moving ceremony also featured remarks from Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes and Orange County Fire Authority Chief Brian Fennessy, along with stirring performances by the Orange County Fire Authority Pipes and Drums, the Villa Park High School Band, and the Orange High School Chamber Singers. The event honored the victims, first responders, and all those who embody the spirit of service that rose from the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

Board Member Spotlight: Colonel Bart J. Connolly IV, USMC (Ret.)



This month, we are proud to highlight **Colonel Bart J. Connolly IV, USMC (Ret.)**, a dedicated member of our Board of Directors whose service and expertise continue to strengthen the mission of the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation.

Colonel Connolly commissioned into the Marine Corps in 1971 and went on to serve 30 years, accumulating nearly 5,000 flight hours in both rotary and fixed-wing aircraft. His distinguished career included tactical, operational, staff, and command leadership roles, culminating in his final assignment as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4 Installations and Logistics, where he directed the major base realignment of MCAS El Toro and Tustin to MCAS Miramar. He also oversaw more than \$500 million in capital improvements at Miramar—work that continues to shape Marine aviation today.

Following his retirement from the Corps in 2001, Colonel Connolly brought his leadership and organizational expertise into civilian life. He has held senior executive management positions in federal and state construction programs, international business development, and Department of Defense support roles in

serve the community with the same dedication that marked his military career. We are grateful for Colonel Connolly's insight, experience, and unwavering commitment to honoring and advancing the legacy of Marine aviation. His leadership on our Governance and Nomination Committee plays a vital role in ensuring the strength and future of the Foundation.



Do you have a special connection to a Marine 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 2027, 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....

Each month you'll discover the latest milestones we've achieved, meet some of 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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