



April 1, 2021

General David H. Berger  
Commandant of the Marine Corps  
3000 Marine Corps  
Pentagon, Washington D.C. 20350

General Gary L. Thomas  
Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps  
3000 Marine Corps  
Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear General Berger and General Thomas:

We write to you in the dual capacity as elected leaders of the City of Irvine, California and the Orange County Great Park. It has come to our attention that the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum located at MCAS Miramar is now permanently closed and in the process of offering its aircraft collection to other museums. The City of Irvine is extremely interested in returning the aircraft collection and selected artifacts to the Orange County Great Park, formerly, MCAS El Toro where the museum originated. Our interest is strongly supported by several members of the US Congress.

We have already identified several possible relocation sites, which we are in the process of assessing for refurbishment, with the intent of facilitating a relocation of the Flying Leathernecks museum capable of housing the collection and artifacts. City staff is also in the process of assessing costs and funding sources for the reestablishment and operations of the museum.

The Flying Leathernecks Air Museum Foundation has indicated it is willing to relocate its operations to Irvine to provide continued stewardship for the collection and assist the City with the reestablishment efforts.

We have also secured an affiliation agreement with the San Diego Air and Space Museum, the first aero-themed museum to be accredited by the American Association of Museums, and itself a Smithsonian affiliate, which will assist with fundraising and ongoing operational support.

Considering our interests and congressional support to retain the collection intact and return the museum to the Orange County Great Park, we ask that the Marine Corps

General David H. Berger  
General Gary L. Thomas  
April 1, 2021  
Page 2

suspend the offering and postpone the transportation of aircraft to museums to allow the City of Irvine to develop a plan to move the museum's artifacts and operations to its former home.

We sincerely appreciate your support. Please let us know if you have any questions.



Farrah Khan  
Mayor and Chair, Orange County  
Great Park Board



Anthony Kuo  
Councilmember and Vice-chair,  
Orange County Great Park Board

cc: Tammy Kim, City Councilmember  
Mike Carroll, City Councilmember  
Larry Agran, City Councilmember  
Marianna Marysheva, Interim City Manager  
Lieutenant General Charles G. Chiarotti  
Mr. Robert D. Hogue, SES  
Brigadier General Jay M. Barger