



August 26, 2008

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MOFFETT FIELD
SSIC NO. 5090.3.A

Position Statement

re: Preserving Hanger 1 at Moffett Federal Airfield in its Original Condition.

As President and Co-Founder of Pacific Warbirds, Inc., a nonprofit military aviation historical organization, I am speaking in defense of preserving Hanger 1 at Moffett Federal Airfield in its original, and now historical, condition. Our organization is dedicated to preserving military aviation history through aircraft recovery and restoration, flight demonstration, and hands-on public education. As such, it is imperative that as a historical preservation organization we speak out to preserve this Naval Historical Monument in our back yard for present and future generations to view and work in as the United States Navy designed and built it to be 74 years ago.

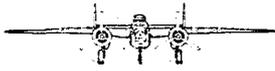
I also speak on behalf of myself, a Veteran US Navy AME2 who served on two Vietnam era WestPac Cruises and one of the many thousands of U.S. Navy Veterans who were stationed at Moffett Field, who were trained to fly and, maintain our P-3 Orions in Hanger 1, and who without this training would have been unable to trust our lives to our crewmates and our aircraft while flying thousands of mission hours in hostile environments.

Personally, I have traveled the world both in and out of the Navy and I always know I'm *home* when the unmistakable structure of Hanger 1 comes into view from the airplane window. Whenever I drive up 101 past Moffett Field, I feel an intangible tug to turn into the main gate and head to the Hanger 1 quarterdeck. I have heard from many other Veterans that I am not alone. They have the same experience on a daily basis and we all consider Hanger 1 more than an American Icon, it is our home, indeed our center, and the symbol of our devotion to home and country. A center that has always been there for us, is unwaveringly there every day of our lives, and one that we trusted would always be there as a center for future generations to ground their foundations in flight.

Besides the strong personal feelings my Navy shipmates and I have for Hanger 1, she has been the home for training Pacific-bound tactical aircrew and maintenance personnel for the Army Air Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, the Marine Corps, and many other services, both domestic and foreign, making Hanger 1 a distinguished veteran of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the two Gulf Wars, and numerous unrecorded engagements in between. Notice that I refer to Hanger 1 as *she*. At a sturdy 1,133 feet long, 308 feet wide, and 198 feet high; Hanger 1 is like a Carrier to those of us who fly Naval Patrol Aircraft. It is indeed our postage stamp on a vast ocean of air when we come home from long patrols at sea. She, has a very distinct and welcoming personality all her own.

From her commissioning in 1934 by the U.S. Navy to house the Goodyear-Zeppelin's ZRS-5 Dirigible, to her current status as a Naval Historical Monument, Hanger 1 has stood solidly in defense of our country. Myself, Pacific Warbirds, and a vast number of my shipmates, past and present, urge you to save Hanger 1 in its full glory. She has never given a half effort to this country and we should not leave her with only half of her beauty and functionality.

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Pacific Warbirds, Inc.

While the harmful effects of PCBs were unknown in the 1930s, we need to restore her and put her back in service in tact, this time without the inherently harmful side effects of last century technology. If we can repeatedly store and restore our battle heroes such as the USS New Jersey for present and future service, lets do the same for Hanger 1. Who knows when she will be needed to again serve her country as a base for servicemen and women as they train and go into harms way. Please preserve Hanger 1 as is - for every American.

Sincerely,

Raymond H. Reck, President/CEO

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