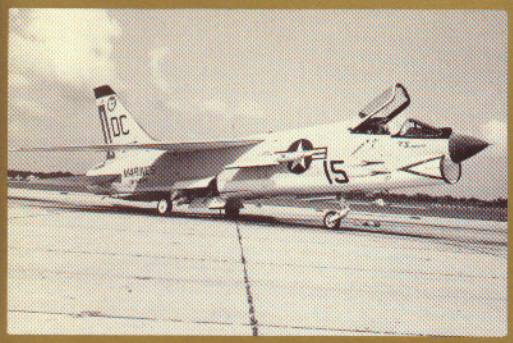

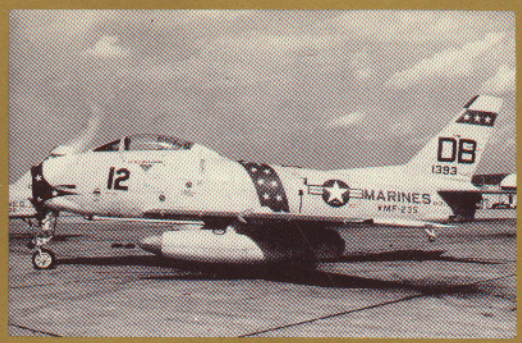

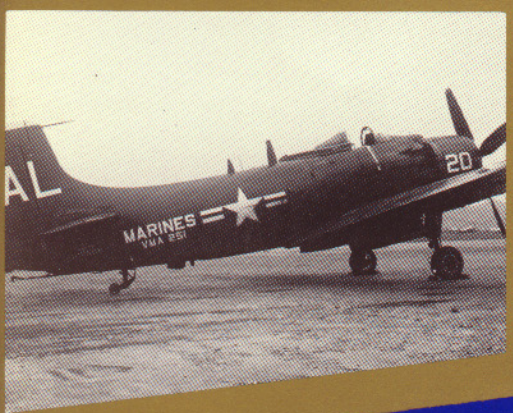

U.S. Marine Corps Aviation

Diamond Anniversary

75th Year of Naval Aviation

Volume Five of a Commemorative Collection

U.S. Marine Corps Aviation

By Major General John P. Condon, USMC(Ret.)
Edited by John M. Elliott

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Introduction

In any historical appreciation of Marine Corps Aviation, there are two factors which make Marine Aviation unique. The first is the close relationship between Marine and Naval Aviation, and the second is the unchanging objective of Marine Aviation to provide direct support to Marine ground forces in combat.

One of the reasons for the parternership between Marine and Naval Aviation is the commonality which they have shared since their very beginnings. Both are under the umbrella of the Department of the Navy and there is an interlocked approach to planning, budgeting, procurement and operations, at all levels from Washington to the major fleet, field and base commands. All aviators of the naval establishment, whether Marine or Navy, are trained in the same training commands, in the same equipment, and by the same instructors and technicians, under the same syllabi. This adds up to the closest bond between two major air forces.

The second factor — the basic objective of Marine Aviation: to support Marine Corps operations on the ground — speaks for itself. While there have been a few variations in some aspects of Marine Aviation planning, there has never been a departure from this objective.

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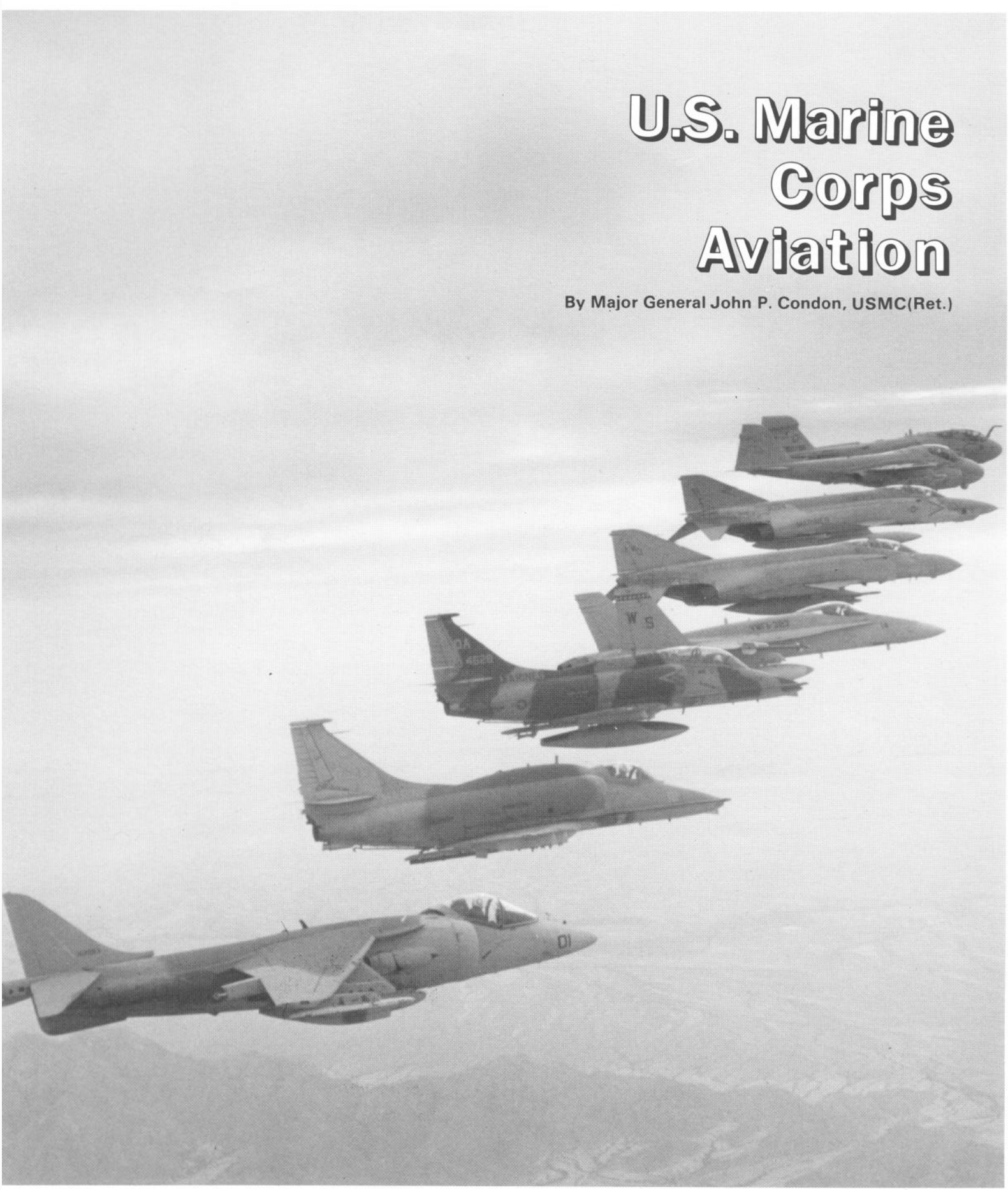

Harry Gann