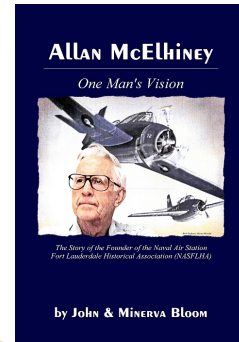




NAVAL AIR STATION FORT LAUDERDALE MUSEUM
- The Only Military Museum in Broward County -

Educating the public about the important role the Greater Fort Lauderdale area performed for the United States during World War II.



Allan McElhiney
One Man's Vision Book

The inspirational story of the founder of the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum

Book available at Amazon & at the Museum
 or order at your local bookstore!
 ISBN: 978-0-557-56814-7

Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum



- A Broward County Military Museum -

The NAS Fort Lauderdale Museum

is dedicated to preserve the history and memory of the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale (NASFL), presently the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The Museum is housed in the *Link Trainer Building #8*, the only remaining building from a vast complex of more than 200 buildings that was the naval base during the period of 1942 – 1946. With determination and the help of an all volunteer staff, the Museum has been instrumental in preserving the memory of *Flight 19 – The Lost Squadron*, one of the great aviation mysteries. Flight 19 flew out of NASFL in 1945, to vanish into the Bermuda Triangle. In addition, a 19 year old future U.S President George H. W. Bush lived at NASFL as a young Ensign, to train as a torpedo/bomber pilot.

- U.S National Register of Historic Places.
- 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.
- Link Trainer on exhibit (Historic Engineering Landmark).
- 25x7 Aviation Mural and other original paintings.
- Recreated Soldier's Barracks: *The George Bush Room*.
- Vintage Models, Photos, WWII memorabilia & Exhibits.
- Research Library available.



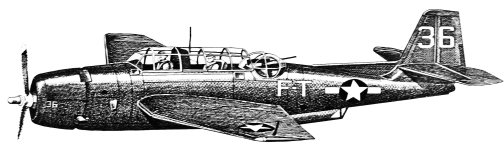
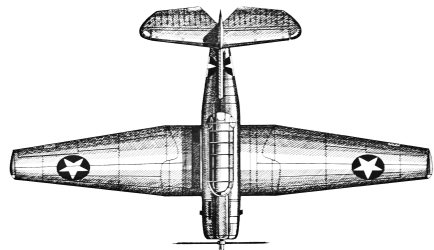
educating
 preserving

NASFL Museum
 4000 West Perimeter Road
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

(954) 359-4400
 For Appointment call:
 754-300-9259

Website: nasflmuseum.com
 Gift Shop: zazzle.com/nasfortlauderdale
 E-mail: nasft.lauderdalemuseum@netscape.com





At the site of the Merle Fogg Field, known now as the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, the NASFL was constructed with great efficiency and then commissioned October 1, 1942 to aid in the war effort. The Navy Boat Facility Port Everglades was established October 1943, and incorporated as part of the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale. This unit was instrumental in providing practical target bombing practice as well as air and sea rescue operations.

The Navy needed land based training facilities and with the close proximity of a protected deep-water port, Fort Lauderdale, a resort town of 20,000 people, was an ideal place. The good weather allowed many hours of flying time, the open sea was good for training, and the Everglades provided a natural bombing range as there was no heavy industry or other military targets to draw enemy fire. Most importantly, was the use of the naval air station for training pilots and air crews on the Grumman Avenger TBF/TBM torpedo bomber, which featured folding wings. The Avenger was one of the largest single engine planes used during the war.

The NASFL was decommissioned October 1, 1946, exactly four years after its commissioning.

The United States did not enter the war until 1941, but the city of Fort Lauderdale felt the effects sooner than most of the rest of the country. In December 1939, a British cruiser chased the German freighter *Arauca* into Port Everglades, where she remained until the U.S seized her in 1941, prior to Germany declaring war on the United States.



25x7 Mural "On Final Approach" by Bob Jenny

EXPERIENCE THE HISTORY!

The Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale served as one among 257 air stations during WWII, and as one of a few Specialty Schools for training on the TBM/TBF Avenger aircraft. Thousands of American & British men and women who went off to war received their training here. Training that led to superior action in combat, as the Radar, Gunnery, Parachuting Schools, and WAVES programs rivaled the best in the United States.



The historic Link Trainer Building # 8, home of the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum.

THE MYSTERY OF FLIGHT 19 "The Lost Squadron"

It was supposed to be a routine navigation exercise and mock bombing run of a concrete shipwreck just south of Bimini (Bermuda Triangle). Five TBM Avenger torpedo bombers carrying 14 men, were to fly to the Hens and Chickens shoals in the Bahamas, to practice and then return to the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station. But 90 minutes after takeoff, the squadron Commander Lt. Charles C. Taylor reported that he was lost. Over the next three hours, he mistakenly led Flight 19 far out to sea where the planes apparently ran out of fuel and crashed. That was December 5, 1945 several months after the end of WWII.

It was one of the largest air and sea searches in history, involving hundreds of ships and planes. For 3 days they searched, but nobody ever found a trace. Also, during the rescue mission a Mariner rescue plane would vanish— with 13 men aboard. Flight 19 remains one of the great aviation mysteries...



Over the Bermuda Triangle "Flight 19" oil painting on exhibit

FLIGHT 19 & NASFL MEMORIAL CEREMONY: 95 young Americans lost their lives at the NAS Fort Lauderdale base during 1942-1945— the three most intensive training years of the war. The Museum's Association was instrumental in building a *Navy Park* next to the FAA control tower of the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. On 5 December of every year, rain or shine, a Memorial Ceremony is held to honor Flight 19 and the service members who died while serving at NASFL. The ceremony is open to the public.