

## **Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point in eastern North Carolina has played an important role in Marine Corps aviation history.**

And by its close association with MCAS Cherry Point, history also flows into the streets of the City of Havelock. The Havelock Historian, Mr. Eddie Ellis, explained in a 2007 column in the Havelock News ([http://www.havenews.com/articles/miller\\_3000\\_\\_article.html/road\\_havelock.html](http://www.havenews.com/articles/miller_3000__article.html/road_havelock.html)) that Miller Boulevard, one of Havelock's thoroughfares, is named after a former commanding general of MCAS Cherry Point, Brigadier General Ivan W. Miller. Miller commanded MCAS Cherry Point from March 1947 through June of 1950.

The three years of Miller's command was an important period in Marine Corps aviation history. Squadrons were returning stateside from World War II combat duty overseas, many of them to be based at MCAS Cherry Point. The Marine Corps was downsizing and adjusting to peacetime operations, a peace that sadly would barely last beyond Miller's tenure in command.

The Marine Corps—including units from MCAS Cherry Point—would once again find itself engaged in bitter combat operations on the Korean peninsula beginning in 1950, only a short five years after the jubilant VE (Victory in Europe) and VJ (Victory in Japan) celebrations rocked America.

But prior to the Korean "police action" and at the same time his attention was focused on adjusting to a post-war Cherry Point, Miller had to help prepare the Marine Corps for the unceasing march of technology. He ensured MCAS Cherry Point was ready for the coming jet age. Fighter squadrons that had flown propeller-driven aircraft for nearly 40 years were transitioning to the new jets with their much higher speeds, different maintenance procedures, and louder noise. Brigadier General Ivan W. Miller won his "Wings of Gold" in 1920, certifying him as a legitimate Marine Corps aviation pioneer. He was also a World War II and post-war Marine Corps leader.

So the next time you pass by—or better yet drive on—Miller Boulevard, remember Brigadier General Ivan Miller's dedicated service to his nation, Marine Corps, and the important role he played in the history of aviation in eastern North Carolina.

Next: The role Paul Fontana played in making aviation history during World War II and in eastern NC

