

therefore, became necessary to conduct a split operation, by flying jets out of Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, while continuing to fly the obsolete propeller aircraft out of Harbor Field. In this long ordeal—from 1953 into 1955—General Reckord, the Adjutant General of Maryland, battled every inch of the way to save the 104th Squadron.

Then, in July, 1955, when things had begun to look quite hopeless. General Reckord announced that a new home had been found. The Martin Company had agreed to permit the construction of these facilities at its airport. The Department of the Air Force, through the National Guard Bureau, initiated the required construction, which included lengthening of runways and the erection of the beautiful new hangar and administration building which you see here today. . .

It is altogether proper that these splendid National Guard facilities be dedicated to a man who had done so much for the National Guard. And so, it is with deep pride and great pleasure that I dedicate this home of the 104th Fighter Squadron in honor of Major General Milton A. Reckord—our most illustrious civilian soldier.

ADDRESS, ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

BALTIMORE

July 15, 1959

You have paid me a high honor by asking me to come here this evening to extend welcome to the members and guests of the American Legion at this 41st Annual Convention of the Legion's Department of Maryland. In times like these, when we are assailed almost daily by disturbing news of threats from national enemies, it is consoling and reassuring to think of organizations like the American Legion with its relentless dedication to national defense. Reports we receive from responsible sources indicate that we are lagging behind the Russians in the missile race, and Senator Symington, to the consternation of most of us, declared just last Sunday that our "Army is falling to pieces." In the technological race, we are told, we are not as yet excelled by the Russians, but Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., said last week as he left the post of Chief Scientific Adviser to