Army Aviation Hall of Fame 1976 Induction
(Inducted to represent the 1950-1959 period)

Lieutenant Colonel (later Colonel) Jack L. Marinelli was Chief of Army Aviation at Headquarters, Army Field Forces, when war broke out in Korea in 1950. By his personal leadership and direction, the procurement and training of Army Aviation personnel were greatly accelerated to meet the ever-increasing demands of a rapidly-expanding Army.

With the confidence and support of General Mark W. Clark, he brought together appropriate Army and Air Force elements successfully to accelerate the development and procurement of new aircraft for the Army's inventory. In addition, he coordinated the activation and training of the Army's first Transportation Helicopter Companies and to meet an urgent requirement for observation and medical evacuation, supervised the accelerated activation, training, and deployment of the first Helicopter Detachments, the forerunners of the Helicopter Ambulance Companies.

Lieutenant Colonel Marinelli accompanied General Clark to the Far East where, as Army Aviation Officer at General Headquarters, he directed the employment of all Army Aviation activities in the theater. Under his supervision, the first Division Aviation Company was formed, and the statement of requirement for improved airmobility for Army units initiated, resulting, in part, in the development and procurement of the UH-1 helicopter.

In 1955, Marinelli was assigned to Headquarters, DA as Chief Aviation Staff Officer, ODCSLOG. In this assignment, he successfully coordinated the logistic support of Army Aviation in the mid-'50's; provided direction to the efforts of the Army's Technical Services and Air Force and Navy agencies in the procurement and distribution of Army aircraft and allied equipment; and lent invaluable expert assistance and advice to the then Director of Army Aviation and to other elements of the Army staff.

In 1958, Colonel Marinelli was assigned as President of the U.S. Army Aviation Test Board where he directed the testing and evaluation of aircraft and allied equipment until his retirement.