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# UNITED STATES NAVY AND MARINE CORPS BASES, DOMESTIC

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ipated in the Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization (FRAM) Program intended to add five to seven years to the lives of the aging World War II destroyers.

As the FRAM Program phased out, the value of the yard to the Navy declined, and its cramped location and expensive cost of operation drew too heavily on the resources of a service beset with stringent fiscal limitations. On 1 May 1974, despite the efforts of the Massachusetts congressional delegation, the yard was placed in caretaker status. Today, part of the yard functions as the Charlestown Navy Yard portion of the Boston National Historical Park and home for the *Constitution*. The remainder is owned by the Boston Redevelopment Authority. The South Boston Annex, centered on the Commonwealth Dry Dock, continues in operation.

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#### BRIDGEPORT, CALIF., MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, 1951-

The Marine Corps activated the Bridgeport Center as the Cold Weather Training Battalion, Training and Replacement Command, Camp Pendleton, Calif. (q.v.) on 31 August 1951. The cold weather mountain fighting the Marines had experienced in Korea during the winter of 1950-1951 pointed out the need for this specialized training.

The first cold weather training for Korea-bound Marines was conducted out of Camp Pendleton. After early brief training at Big Bear and other sites relatively close to the camp, the Marines decided they needed a year-round site where both cold weather and mountain training could be conducted. They decided upon Pickel Meadows on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, approximately twenty miles northeast of Bridgeport, Calif. Camp Pendleton is 445 miles to the southwest of the center and Reno, Nevada, is 100 miles to the north of the center. Its approximately 60,153 acres are in the Toiyabe National Forest

and are used under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Marines and the U.S. Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, the owner of the land. Because of its location, the Center is sometimes referred to as Pickel Meadows or the Bridgeport Center. Pickel was an early settler in the region.

Under control of the new Cold Weather Training Battalion of the Training and Replacement Command, Marine training began at the site in December 1951. Originally planned as a temporary facility, in its first winter season of training, 23,213 Marines passed through its courses and facilities. Infantry, motor transport and maintenance personnel, and Navy medical personnel all learned how to take care of themselves and their equipment under cold weather conditions.

Over 6,000 feet above sea level, Camp Pickel Meadows, as it is sometimes called, became an all-year mountain as well as cold weather training site in the summer of 1952. Active and reserve Marine Corps units continued to rotate through the installation for mountain, cold weather, survival, and other training, depending on the season, until 1965. Reflecting that changed, broader emphasis, the Corps renamed the Center the Mountain Warfare Center in November 1963.

In November 1965, as the conflict in Southeast Asia began to grow in intensity, the Marine Corps temporarily reduced the staff and reduced or cancelled cold weather, mountain, and selected other courses at the Center in order to meet manpower needs elsewhere and to focus on the hot climate jungle warfare training needed for the new war. However, its Survival, Evasion, Resistance to Interrogation, and Escape School continued to operate and grow. Finally, on 1 September 1967, the Corps placed the Center in a caretaker status.

At least from 1971 on, when the First Marine Division returned from Vietnam to Camp Pendleton, the Marine Corps conducted some cold weather and mountain training at the installation. Its staff grew in the spring of 1976, and on 10 May 1976 the Corps formally reactivated the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center. It teaches a full range of winter and summer mountain operations and survival courses. The Center also does testing and evaluation of cold weather and mountain clothing and equipment. Cooperating with the Forest Service in the maintenance of its environment, the Marines of the Center assist in fighting forest fires and in searches for individuals lost in the forest.

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**BROOKLYN, N.Y., NAVY YARD.** See New York, N.Y., Navy Yard.

**BRUNSWICK, GA.** See Continental Naval Air Patrol Stations, World War I.