

ordnance depots, and a naval shipyard. San Diego is a typical Tidewater Strategy complex with the exception of a naval shipyard, but it has commercial yards capable of performing major overhauls.

The San Diego naval complex includes some eighty-five major commands and activities that literally encircle the city. It is the homeport for over 30 percent of the Navy's total combatants and about half the total of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. These support commands may be grouped into four function areas: 1) Naval Base and Naval Station; 2) Major Special Warfare Bases and Stations; 3) Special Logistic Support Commands; and 4) Training Support Commands. The Naval Base and Station fall into category 1.

Naval Operating Base

In January 1920 the Navy established a Naval Operating Base in San Diego. A year later, on 25 January 1921, it established the Eleventh Naval District, the responsibilities of whose Commandant included those of Commander Naval Base. The first Commandant and Base Commander, with a staff of seven officers, was headquartered in the administration building at the Naval Air Station on North Island. In May 1922 the headquarters was relocated to its present location in the then just-completed Naval Supply Depot complex at the foot of Broadway on Harbor Drive.

With the outbreak of World War II, the district played an important role in coordinating the shipping of vast supplies to the war fronts in the Pacific theater. The number and complexity of support commands and activities throughout the Eleventh Naval District grew accordingly to provide the increased administrative and logistics support to the fleet. Although there was a lull in the tempo of support activity after World War II, it peaked again during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. With the end of the latter came another lull and reorganization.

On 1 January 1978 the Navy disestablished the Twelfth Naval District and changed the territory within the jurisdiction of the Eleventh Naval District to include all of the states of California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. On 1 October 1979, in a further realignment of geographic areas of responsibility, it included the states of Colorado and New Mexico, thereby making the Commandant, Eleventh Naval District and Commander Naval Base, San Diego, responsible for a six-state region. Finally, on 1 October 1980, the Navy disestablished the Naval Districts as such, but retained the concept of area coordinators. Thus, the Commandant, Eleventh Naval District and Commander Naval Base, San Diego became simply the latter—with practically the same responsibilities he had when double-hatted.

The Commander Naval Base San Diego, a flag officer, acts as area coordinator, when necessary, to ensure the maximum possible logistics support for fleet units and their personnel. He also acts as area coordinator for the six-state region that formerly made up the Eleventh and Twelfth Naval Districts to ensure a high degree of administrative support for the fleet, shore activities, and military personnel, both active duty and retired, located in the region. This broad respon-

sibility, encompassing the immediate San Diego area operational complex and the six-state region, includes over 400 Navy and Marine Corps shore commands with about 200,000 active duty personnel and about 100,000 retired persons in California alone. It also includes over 60 percent of all the real estate owned by the Navy.

As coordinator, the Commander represents the Secretary of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), and the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, within the region. As such, he represents the single point of contact for naval affairs and public relations with other government agencies, the public, and the media.

The Naval Base Headquarters staff currently consists of about fifty Navy and civilian personnel located at the foot of Broadway on Harbor Drive in downtown San Diego. One of the most important responsibilities of the Commander and this relatively small staff is to act as coordinator—when directed or requested—for the over eighty commands or activities within the San Diego area complex that provide direct support to the fleet.

Naval Station (NAVSTA)

The station is located on San Diego Bay between San Diego and National City. Its history dates back to 3 September 1919 when the city of San Diego deeded a total of 98.2 acres of marshland and tide flats to the government for the purpose of building a Docking and Fleet Repair Base.

The U.S. Shipping Board Emergency Fleet Corporation first occupied the filled land and built a concrete ship construction plant. However, the operation was cancelled after two ships were completed because of excessive costs.

On 15 February 1921 the Navy acquired the land, buildings, and some machinery from the U.S. Shipping Board, and on 10 June the USS *Prairie*, a destroyer tender, commenced preparations for the arrival of destroyers for mothballing. She was followed shortly by the USS *Buffalo* and the USS *Rigel* as barracks and station ships, respectively.

A 2,500-ton Marine Railway was completed in early 1922, and on 23 February the Secretary of the Navy officially established the U.S. Naval Destroyer Base by General Order No. 78. Its primary mission at the time was the preservation and upkeep of decommissioned destroyers berthed there. On 1 August 1923 the CNO shifted administrative control of the Destroyer Base from Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet (i.e., Commander Destroyer Squadrons, Battle Fleet) to the Commandant, Eleventh Naval District.

By the end of 1929 the main channel to the base had been dredged to 17 feet, mooring dolphins and camels had been placed, and several buildings had been constructed, and the Navy was running out of usable waterfront property. Accordingly, Congress authorized the exchange of 9 acres of inland base property for 6 acres of waterfront land adjacent to the base belonging to the city of San Diego.

In a reversal of policy the CNO returned administrative control of the Destroyer