

quality patient care in individual hospitals and overall efficient administration within regions. On 1 October 1982, as part of that restructuring, the Naval Medical Command (NMC), Southwest Region, was established to assume essentially the regional administrative functions of the Naval Regional Medical Center, San Diego, which was disestablished. Concurrently, the hospital itself was retitled Naval Hospital, San Diego, and established as a separate command. As a result, the commanding officer of the hospital was able to focus exclusively on the provision of quality patient care, leaving regional administrative matters to NMC, Southwest Region. Previously both functions were performed by a single commanding officer. Therefore the reorganization should have the desired result—enhanced quality patient care.

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ROLAND A. BOWLING

SAN DIEGO, CALIF., NAVAL REGIONAL DENTAL CENTER, 1 JULY 1967—

Based on the Naval Station in a new building completed in 1977, NRDC consists of a headquarters and eleven dental facilities in San Diego and Branch Dental Clinics at the Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Ariz. (q.v.), and the Naval Air Facility, El Centro, Calif. (q.v.). The center evolved as the result of a series of reorganizations. On 23 July 1965 the additional duty billet of District Dental Officer was changed to a primary duty billet of Director, Dental Activities, Eleventh Naval District, to be filled by a Dental Corps flag officer. Effective 1 July 1967 the Secretary of the Navy established the Naval Dental Center, Naval Base, San Diego, and on the following 22 September it was formally commissioned in Building 267 on the Naval Station. Concurrently, the former Naval Station Dental Department and Dental Technicians School were disestablished and their functions incorporated into the new center. The metamorphosis was completed on 1 January 1975, when the Secretary of the Navy changed the designation of the center to Naval Regional Dental Center, San Diego.

Physical facilities came abreast of organizational changes when the NRDC moved into a new headquarters complex on the Naval Station in June 1977; formal dedication ceremonies occurred the following November. This new, 135,000 square-foot, \$7.1 million complex containing 100 dental operating rooms actually consists of three interconnected buildings housing the headquarters, a Dental Clinic, an Area Dental Prosthetic Laboratory, a Dental Equipment Repair Facility, and the School of Dental Assisting and Technology. The latter, however, is not under the command of the center, but rather under the Health Sciences Education and Training Command in Washington through the Commanding Officer, Naval School of Health Sciences, at the Naval Regional Medical Center, Balboa, San Diego.

The Area Dental Prosthetic Laboratory is one of two such facilities in the country—the other being in Norfolk—and the larger of the two. For example, it produces an average of 500 dental prosthetic appliances a month for personnel on ships and stationed as far off as Diego Garcia.

Today the NRDC provides dental service to the Navy and Marine Corps personnel within its geographical area. This includes active duty personnel on shore stations and ships, and other beneficiaries, such as retirees of the U.S. Armed Forces.

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San Diego, Calif., Naval Communications Station, 12 May 1906—

Navy Radio Point Loma was established on 12 May 1906 in a small frame building on the military reservation on Point Loma as part of the Navy's first radio communications network system. It handled in excess of 3,000 messages during its first year of operation and, during the period 1906 to 1908, participated in a number of projects that contributed significantly to radio broadcasting. Particularly noteworthy was the part it played in Dr. Lee DeForest's experiments in radio telephone communications from the USS *Connecticut*, then part of the Great White Fleet, which added a new dimension to the Navy's tactical flexibility.

On 21 July 1914, in order to increase the transmitting range of the facility, the Navy acquired 73.6 acres of land at Chollas Heights, about fifteen miles east of Point Loma, from Harry Flavel Carling. In 1916 the Navy completed a then modern high-power radio transmitting station on the new site, keyed remotely from Point Loma. The original 600 foot antenna towers are still in use. Further expansion of Navy Radio San Diego occurred in the 1920s, when the original Point Loma facility was converted to a receiver site only while the headquarters and message center functions were moved to their present location in the Naval Base Headquarters building in downtown San Diego.

During World War II Navy Radio San Diego played a vital role in wartime communications. Of particular historical note is the fact that it was by relay from the station's Chollas Heights transmitters that Washington first received word of the Pearl Harbor attack; Hawaii's main transmitters, capable of reaching Washington directly, went down temporarily during the attack.

The station continued to grow in size and capability when in 1941 the Navy acquired an additional 145 acres of land at Imperial Beach, adjacent to Fort Emory, an Army Coast Artillery Station some sixteen miles south of San Diego. In 1943 the Navy completed construction of a new receiver facility at the site and transferred that function from the original Point Loma site. Subsequently, the Navy fell heir to Fort Emory and adapted the facilities as office, maintenance,