

Treasure Island, Naval Station, 1937-

Located in the center of the San Francisco Bay midway between San Francisco and Oakland, Treasure Island is the largest man-made island in the world. It was created in the fourteen-month period following November 1937 to serve as the site for the 1939-1940 Golden Gate International Exposition. It is connected to Yerba Buena Island by a narrow causeway.

The 403-acre island rests on the Yerba Buena shoals, a one-time navigational hazard that was covered with tons of rock and silt dredged from the bay bottom to build the island.

Originally planned for use as an airport for the city of San Francisco after the fair, the island was leased to the Navy early in 1941. After World War II San Francisco traded the deed to the island for government land south of the city, which is now San Francisco International Airport.

During World War II Treasure Island was built up to a major naval facility, processing up to 12,000 men a day to Pacific area assignments and thousands more in the days and months following the war, as Navy personnel returned from the Pacific. For many years it was the headquarters of the Twelfth Naval District.

Three permanent buildings, at the southern end of the island, remain from the fair. Building 1, the administration building for the fair, now houses the Navy/Marine Corps Museum and serves as headquarters for the Commanding Officer, Naval Station Treasure Island/Chief of Staff, Commandant Naval Base, San Francisco. Buildings 2 and 3, built as aircraft hangars, are now occupied by the Navy/Marine Corps Reserve Center and the island's Public Works Center.

Today Naval Station Treasure Island processes Pacific-bound and homecoming personnel and serves as host to a number of tenant commands. Approximately 3,000 military and 1,000 civilian personnel with a total annual payroll of \$70 million comprise the island's population. There are 704 units of enlisted family quarters at the north end of the island. The following activities are also located on Treasure Island:

- Navy Marine and Coast Guard Museum
- Twelfth Marine Corps District
- Naval Technical Training Center
- Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Training Center
- Naval Regional Dental Center
- Naval Reserve Recruiting
- Naval Investigative Service Office
- Navy Office of Information San Francisco Branch
- Office of Naval Research San Francisco Branch
- Regional Financial Service Department

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SUE LEMMON

San Francisco Bay. Navy Public Works Center, 1974-

The Navy Public Works Center, San Francisco Bay was established on 3 June 1974 at the Oakland Army Base, located on the east side of San Francisco Bay. It is one of nine Navy Public Works Centers serving major shore station complexes and provides logistical support to nearly all Army and Navy sites in the Bay Area plus some forty Navy ships. It has been filling this role since the Department of Defense consolidated the Public Works agencies of various sites into a single, more efficient center.

It serves as a maintenance service company, an engineering company, a public housing agency, a public utilities company, and a transportation company (maintaining a pool of 1,400 vehicles including cars, buses, trucks, and a 100-ton floating crane).

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SUE LEMMON

Yerba Buena Island, Naval Training Station, 1896-1941

Yerba Buena Island is centuries older than its man-made neighbor, Treasure Island, both of which are located in the middle of San Francisco Bay between San Francisco and Oakland. Yerba Buena's history predates the first recorded sighting of Spanish explorers in 1775 by centuries. According to archeological evidence, Indians used the island as a fishing station and as a ceremonial and burying ground.

Mexico ceded the California territory to the United States in 1848, and, on 12 October 1866, the island was "set aside for military purposes" by presidential proclamation. Two months later it was occupied by Army personnel. In 1896 Congress authorized the establishment of a Navy Training Station on Yerba Buena Island, which remained through World War I. During the peak years up to 13,000 men were in training there. When West Coast training was transferred to San Diego in 1923, the island became a Navy receiving station. At the beginning of World War II, naval activities were transferred to Treasure Island, and today Yerba Buena serves as a residential suburb, with 110 units of officer family housing for its neighbor island.

The name Yerba Buena is Spanish for "Good Herb," and was reportedly given to the island for the wild mint growing there and used by Spaniards to flavor their tea. The island has also been known as Wood Island, Bird Island,