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# UNITED STATES NAVY AND MARINE CORPS BASES, DOMESTIC

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and dynamic commander of the Pacific Fleet Marine Force during World War II. One year later to the day, 31 January 1957, the camp became the headquarters for the Commander in Chief, Pacific.

While relatively small in size (about 250 acres), the camp's mission and responsibility is large. In its capacity as headquarters for the FMFPac, it directs the activities of one-third of all the active duty Marines in the Corps. These men are stationed in units spread throughout the Pacific from Japan to California. Of an even greater magnitude is Camp Smith's function as headquarters for the Commander in Chief, Pacific. That command encompasses an area of 85 million square miles that extends from the Aleutian Islands to the South Pole, and from the Indian Ocean to the West Coast of the American Continent. Thus, Camp Smith has been and remains a vital hub of American military activity throughout the vast reaches of the Pacific Ocean.

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ROGER T. ZEIMET

#### OAKLAND, CALIF., NAVAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, 1942-

Naval Hospital Oakland was commissioned on 1 July 1942 on the site of the former Oak Knoll Golf and Country Club, on the rolling hills on the east side of San Francisco Bay. There were twenty-five barracks-type redwood buildings that formed the nucleus of the sprawling "temporary" hospital the Navy built to receive the thousands of World War II casualties that were to be brought back from Pacific battle zones.

Construction kept pace with developments in the Pacific, and in 1945, at the climax of the war, the hospital was caring for more than 6,000 patients with a military and civilian staff of approximately 3,000. Contractors brought the total number of buildings on the 220-acre compound to 135 including a chapel, Navy exchange, library, and a few sets of living quarters for staff.

With demobilization, both the activity and the population declined, only to rise again during the Korean conflict, when the daily patient census averaged 2,500. This figure fell to a peacetime level of about 600, but with the influx of Vietnam casualties beginning in 1965, the tempo of life at Oak Knoll increased again, both in patient-care requirements and in morale-building activities.

On 7 December 1965 ground was broken for a new sorely needed permanent hospital, and by mid-1968 the new facility was completed and received its first patients. From this 597-bed, fully equipped and staffed modern hospital center, its satellite naval hospital at Lemoore, and its numerous branch clinics, health care is provided throughout the region to nearly 200,000 active duty and retired military personnel and their dependents. Patients live over a 10,000 square mile

expanse of northern California and western Nevada, as well as aboard Pacific Fleet ships homeported in this general area.

On 1 January 1973 Naval Hospital Oakland was consolidated into the existing Naval Regional Medical Center Oakland. The regional concept provides medical service at branch clinics easily accessible to beneficiaries, yet allows centralization and consolidation of health-care resources to ensure a high degree of efficiency and effectiveness.

Facilities at Oakland serve one of the Navy's major teaching medical centers. Additionally, this center maintains a hospital cancer program fully approved by the American College of Surgeons and conducts clinical research in areas having particular impact on the population it serves.

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SUE LEMMON

#### OAKLAND, CALIF., NAVAL SUPPLY CENTER, 1940-

The Naval Supply Center Oakland is located in West Oakland on the east side of San Francisco Bay. It occupies four Bay Area sites, all within a twenty-mile radius. Oakland, the largest, covers 541 acres. The Fuel Department at Point Molate (seventeen miles north) has 410 acres; across the estuary the Alameda Facility covers 107 acres, and the Alameda Annex adds another 100 acres. In total, NSCO's aggregate area approaches 1,150 acres.

The acreage hosts nearly 10 million gross square feet of covered storage space, 3 million more in open storage capacity, and 350 structures of various sizes.

Basically, the business of this multifaced complex is distribution. It manages a \$2 billion inventory of supplies, employs 2,100 civilians, and has eighty military personnel.

Situated at the hub of an unparalleled transportation system, Naval Supply Depot Oakland was established in January 1940, when the city of Oakland sold the 500-acre marshland site to the Navy for one dollar. The Navy immediately began reclaiming the partially submerged tidelands, and on 15 December 1941 was able to propel a supply facility into action and play a vital role in the Pacific Theater of World War II and other conflicts that followed.

Operating on a twenty-four-hour basis, the depot delivered some twenty-eight million tons of material where and when it was needed during the war. As in the Korean conflict, sheer muscle marked Oakland's achievements. Inventory was moved and stored manually. Tons of material were issued and recorded manually.

There have been major changes in the operation of a supply facility during the past three decades. Late in the 1940s the transition was made from a depot